
HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at
Banbridge Court House
Banbridge

on Thursday, 16th April 2015

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 110)

MS CHRISTINE SMITH, QC and MR JOSEPH AIKEN appeared as
Counsel to the Inquiry.

1 Thursday, 16th April 2015

2 (10.00 am)

3 (Proceedings delayed)

4 (10.35 am)

5 WITNESS NL63 (called)

6 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Before we
7 start, can I remind you, as always, to ensure your
8 mobile phones have been turned off or at least placed on
9 "Silent"/"Vibrate" and also remind you that no
10 photography or recording is permitted either in the
11 chamber or anywhere on the Inquiry premises.

12 Good morning, Mr Aiken.

13 MR AIKEN: Good morning, Chairman, Members of the Panel.

14 The first witness today is NL63, who is NL63. He is
15 aware, Chairman, you are going to ask him to take the
16 oath.

17 Before you do that, there is an appearance from
18 Mr Higgins on his behalf.

19 MR HIGGINS: Chairman, Members of the Panel, I appear on
20 behalf of NL63, instructed by Liam Vallely & Co.
21 Solicitors.

22 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

23 MR AIKEN: NL63 is going to take the oath, Chairman.

24 WITNESS NL63 (sworn)

25 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Please sit down, NL63.

1 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

2 MR AIKEN: NL63, coming up on the screen will be a copy of
3 your statement. If you just can have a look at that and
4 make sure that is the statement that was prepared with
5 your legal representatives, and can you confirm that you
6 have signed the statement?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. You want to adopt that as your evidence to the Inquiry?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. I was explaining to you that black marks would be
11 applied to that statement blocking out the personal
12 information. That's part of the Inquiry's anonymity
13 policy. Would you like to keep your anonymity?

14 **A. Yes, please.**

15 Q. The statement deals with some particular matters that
16 the Inquiry brought to your attention that were said of
17 you in relation to evidence that has been given, but
18 I wanted to ask you some background questions from our
19 discussion this morning and hopefully assist the Panel
20 with their consideration of the issues that arise in
21 respect of Nazareth Lodge.

22 You were born on _____ and are now aged 72.

23 You went to _____ Teacher Training College, where
24 you did your educational training.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. Your first posting
2 work in the Nazareth Lodge school.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. You were explaining to me earlier that that involved
5 four classrooms along a corridor, of which you were
6 assigned to one.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Your recollection is that you essentially taught the
9 P6/P7 age group, the 10/11-year-olds, and that was
10 before then they moved on to Rubane.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. That was the position up until essentially 1973 --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- whenever children stopped going Rubane and the
15 Nazareth Lodge and Nazareth House schools amalgamated in
16 and around '74 to become St. Michael's.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You then transferred over as a teacher into
19 St. Michael's and there was a fairly major change in
20 approach and direction of the school at that point of
21 time, a Board of Governors involved and less focus on
22 the religious life, and you continued in that role then
23 until you retired .

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. I want to just cover some of the things you addressed

1 with me this morning. Whenever you were doing the
2 teacher training, corporal punishment was part of the
3 fabric of how children were managed in schools.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Were you taught how to deal with children in the
6 classroom in terms of corporal punishment and management
7 of difficulty during your teacher training?

8 **A. No, corporal punishment wasn't on the curriculum, if you**
9 **like, but there was plenty of work on classroom**
10 **management to try and ensure the children learned as**
11 **effectively as possible.**

12 Q. So was it discussed in terms of, "Well, don't be doing
13 it", or was it just something that was known that
14 happened, but not talked about?

15 **A. It was probably discouraged.**

16 Q. Whenever you took up your post in Nazareth Lodge, SR34
17 would have been the principal . She had taken
18 that role on from 1960. Did she tell you what the
19 Sisters of Nazareth position was about the physical
20 punishment of children?

21 **A. No.**

22 Q. Was there any discussion about, "We don't do corporal
23 punishment here" --

24 **A. No.**

25 Q. -- or that you should use corporal punishment? Was it

1 simply there was no discussion about the physical
2 chastisement of children?

3 **A. I think it was just -- I think it was just accepted.**
4 **There was no discussion.**

5 Q. You were explaining to me -- and perhaps you can
6 articulate it to the Panel -- that you went in hoping
7 that you wouldn't be someone who used corporal
8 punishment.

9 **A. I had expected that I would be able to manage to teach**
10 **these boys without any physical punishment, yes.**

11 Q. That's not how it transpired. You would have used the
12 leather strap.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. I was asking you how one acquired a leather strap to do
15 that. You were saying the person you lived with was
16 able to give you one of their selection.

17 **A. I don't how big the selection was, but yes, someone**
18 **I shared a house with gave me a strap.**

19 Q. That was another teacher --

20 **A. Another teacher, yes.**

21 Q. -- working in the school. What I want to ask you about:
22 what explanation were you given -- can you remember
23 roughly how many children were in your class each year?

24 **A. I can remember very precisely. The first year there**
25 **were 33.**

1 Q. Did that -- did it stay around that level or did it --

2 **A. Yes, I think it would have been.**

3 Q. What information were you given about the backgrounds of
4 the children that you were being asked to teach?

5 **A. Very, very minimal. Probably their date of birth. I --**
6 **no, I don't think I had any -- any information on their**
7 **background or their achievements.**

8 Q. Were you -- was any particular difficulties any of them
9 might have had brought to your attention?

10 **A. No.**

11 Q. What -- I think from our discussion earlier you were --
12 you weren't entirely sure, but your recollection was
13 that when you began, SR156 taught P1/P2, and SR34 P3/P4
14 and SR47 maybe P4/P5. What handover of information
15 happened? Did the children just arrive in your
16 classroom in the September and you didn't really know
17 anything about where --

18 **A. No.**

19 Q. -- they were at?

20 **A. No, I didn't.**

21 Q. You were saying to me earlier that you spent
22 an inordinate amount of time on teaching reading in
23 P6/P7.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Is that what you expected to have to do in P6/P7?

1 **A. Well, I would expect to spend a lot of time on reading,**
2 **but maybe more for higher reading skills, comprehension**
3 **and appreciation and so forth rather than just the nuts**
4 **and bolts of deciphering text.**

5 Q. So by the time you were teaching the P6/P7s it was still
6 a basic level that you were having to work through?

7 **A. There was spread, but yes, there were a lot of children**
8 **who would still have needed a lot of help in reading.**

9 Q. You were explaining to me that what would have been
10 known as ESN at the time, it came in, and a class to
11 help --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- with those with particular difficulties --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- happened three or four years into your time.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. So that would have been '68/'69.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. Can you remember who then took the -- was that another
20 teacher came in to take the --

21 **A. Well, I actually took that class, the special needs**
22 **class.**

23 Q. So that became your responsibility?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Was that still P6/P7?

1 **A. It would have been pretty much from that same age group.**

2 Q. Did that then become a smaller-sized class?

3 **A. Yes. There would have been fifteen or sixteen children**
4 **in that class.**

5 Q. You were explaining to me that there was also -- in
6 addition to the four classrooms there was a staff room
7 --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- but you wouldn't have -- the three nuns who taught
10 used the staff room and you were brought your tea and
11 coffee by another member of the Lodge staff to your
12 room.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. There wouldn't really have been an interaction between
15 you and the nuns in that way.

16 **A. Not really, no.**

17 Q. I was asking you in terms of discipline was there
18 a system where you would have sent the children to the
19 principal, those who were out of hand, to SR34? Your
20 recollection was no, you don't recall ever having to do
21 that.

22 **A. No.**

23 Q. I was asking you -- we will look at some of the
24 particular incidents where you have come up in the
25 evidence shortly, but you don't recall any of the

1 children talking to you about being mistreated by some
2 of the nuns who were looking after them.

3 **A. No, I don't.**

4 Q. You did draw my attention to the fact HIA132, his
5 evidence indicated that they knew not to complain. That
6 might be why then, if somebody was unhappy, they weren't
7 talking to you or anyone else about it.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. But you did say to me that you did take the children
10 swimming.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Therefore if anyone had been visibly marked through that
13 swimming -- sorry. You might have become aware of it
14 from just the dent of swimming and their only wearing
15 swimming trunks.

16 **A. Yes, I did.**

17 Q. But that's not something you ever noticed, marks on
18 anyone that caused you any concern?

19 **A. No.**

20 Q. "Why is he marked like that?"

21 **A. It's something I would have remembered and I don't**
22 **remember any unnatural looking bruises. Boys tend to**
23 **have bruises, but nothing unusual.**

24 Q. Yes. There was nothing that came to your attention --

25 **A. No.**

1 Q. -- that caused you any concern?

2 Whenever the amalgamation occurred in '73/'74 and
3 St. Michael's was formed, I was asking -- you can
4 characterise it for the Panel in your own words -- but
5 did the teaching -- the school and the teaching in the
6 school become a lot more professional after or as part
7 of that amalgamation process?

8 **A. Well, I certainly worked equally hard when I was in**
9 **Nazareth Lodge as afterwards, but the level of resources**
10 **and support for teaching improved dramatically. The**
11 **environment in the new school improved dramatically and**
12 **there was a wider range of abilities amongst the**
13 **children that we had. So, yes, it was a more positive**
14 **experience I think for everybody.**

15 Q. Prior to that point, as I understand it, once
16 St. Michael's came into existence, then there was a lot
17 more recording and writing reports on children and so on
18 and so forth. Were you aware of any recording as to how
19 children were getting on taking place before your time
20 in St. Michael's?

21 **A. Not formally, no.**

22 Q. We were discussing earlier that the children went on to
23 Rubane. I was saying to you that BR2, when he gave
24 evidence to the Inquiry at the end of last year, was
25 saying when the children came, the boys came to Rubane

1 from Nazareth Lodge, very little information travelled
2 with them. Were you ever asked to record about how the
3 children were getting on so that that could be passed on
4 when they moved down to Rubane?

5 **A. No. I remember once meeting up with one of the**
6 **Christian -- one of the Brothers. He visited the**
7 **school, and I told him, you know, which children were**
8 **doing well, but there was no formal handover of**
9 **information.**

10 Q. There was no requirement on -- you weren't being asked
11 to --

12 **A. No.**

13 Q. -- prepare handover communications to the Brothers who
14 were then going to take over looking after the children
15 and teaching them?

16 **A. No.**

17 Q. You explain in your statement -- you respond to some of
18 the information that came out in the evidence before the
19 Inquiry. I am going to deal with this briefly in this
20 way.

21 You are aware from our discussion this morning there
22 is essentially four individuals who have spoken to the
23 Inquiry who describe their experience and by and large
24 contrast you as a very strict but fair teacher with
25 others that they came into contact with, but I am just

1 going to in fairness to you -- the first witness, HIA21,
2 who was HIA21 -- and these first three, HIA21, HIA132
3 and HIA225, were all in the same class essentially and
4 would have been taught by you in around 1967/'68 and in
5 August '68 then each of them moved to Rubane.

6 What HIA21 said, as you know, in his witness
7 statement in paragraph 14, if we can look, please, at
8 635, you will see the reference to NL63. He refers to
9 the three nuns and then to you:

10 "All were good teachers. NL63 was strict and he
11 would have used a leather strap."

12 That is an accurate memory on his part. That is
13 what you would have done in the class to keep control.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. Can you explain to the Panel what the benefit of doing
16 that was seen as at the time? Why did you do that?

17 **A. Use the strap?**

18 Q. Yes.

19 **A. I know it sounds really awful, but it was so that**
20 **I could get on with teaching. If children are talking**
21 **or not focusing on what the task is, you could spend the**
22 **entire day asking them to sit down, asking them to do**
23 **this, but a quick reminder with the strap and we were**
24 **able to get on with what we were there to do.**

25 Q. I was asking you earlier, Well, was it in your

1 experience an effective way of getting control back?"

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. What he -- he repeated whenever he was giving his
4 evidence on Day 84 -- and I just give the Panel the
5 reference at 90964 -- saying that you were quite strict
6 and would have used a strap. You would agree with that.
7 You feel you were very fair to the children you were
8 looking after, but you would have been strict and would
9 have used the strap when you deemed it appropriate to
10 return control.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. HIA132, who was HIA132, he was the same class. I think
13 he left in August '68 to go to Rubane as well. In his
14 Inquiry statement, if we can look at 585, please, and
15 down to paragraphs 6 and 7, there are three things that
16 he says. He refers to you -- colloquially describes you
17 as "very fond of the strap". You would agree you
18 utilised the strap, but he then describes:

19 "... would pull you up by the hair if you got
20 anything wrong."

21 Now what he was describing to the Panel whenever he
22 gave his evidence was this: taking the hair at the side
23 of the head alongside the ears and lifting up by that,
24 not trailing around off the chair and down the
25 classroom, which is something that perhaps has been said

1 of others, but that process of lifting up.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. You were saying to me you can't remember doing that.

4 **A. No, I can't. I genuinely can't remember doing that.**

5 **If -- if it did happen, it would have been very**

6 **infrequent, but I don't remember doing it.**

7 Q. But what he does say in paragraph 7 -- and this perhaps
8 will resonate with you and something you have -- he
9 said:

10 "The education was bad. They didn't treat you well
11 because they thought we were orphans and wouldn't get
12 anywhere in life anyway. They were right. Without
13 an education you can't get anywhere and you end up in
14 low paid jobs."

15 Each of these four individuals have got on
16 subsequently, but made this point about education. You
17 have made the point that you were working hard, doing
18 your best and that's how you operated, but can you
19 understand this type of communication that's being said
20 and would you, looking back, share that view of --

21 **A. Yes. I am not trying to cover for myself, but having so**
22 **many children in residential care with a variety of**
23 **problems all being educated in one small school was not**
24 **a very good idea. So if society had been able to**
25 **provide alternative facilities for these children, I do**

1 **believe their outcome would have been much better.**

2 Q. HIA132 in his evidence effectively said the same. He
3 talked about the strap and the pulling of the locks, and
4 for the Panel that's at 91026 and 7. He gave evidence
5 on Day 91.

6 The third individual, HIA225, who is HIA225 -- these
7 are all children you remember.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. You remember HIA225. Again he was the same year as
10 HIA132 and HIA21. He explains -- if we look at 534,
11 please, paragraph 22 of his statement, he records
12 a particular incident, and I know it made you smile,
13 because you were saying to me earlier that this incident
14 reads very well up to the last line, where he records
15 you as having given him six of the best. You -- your
16 recollection -- you can't remember this particular
17 incident, but you were pointing out to me that that
18 phrase, "six of the best", would have been a colloquial
19 phrase, and you don't think you would have been giving
20 children three straps on each hand --

21 **A. No.**

22 Q. -- but, as you look at this, it might well have been
23 that you punished him for what you caught him doing.

24 **A. Yes. I thought up to that last bit it was a beautiful**
25 **story, that he felt that he was being encouraged, that**

1 I was able to set them a piece of work and that they did
2 it and then they discussed their answer. I thought that
3 was brilliant, but, as I say, the last little bit,
4 I don't honestly think that I could have given him six
5 very powerful blows for an error of judgment.

6 Q. In fairness to you if we look at what he said to the
7 Inquiry when he gave his evidence on Day 87, if we can
8 look, please, at 91062, because what he was explaining
9 to the Panel, NL63, was that:

10 "There were particular cruel ways of disciplining us
11 and one would have been where the side of your lock was
12 pulled, and one would have been a crack on the ear, if
13 you call it that, pull your ear, but the worst of them
14 was when you got by the cheeks, and if anybody was to
15 squeeze their own cheeks and see how hard they could do
16 that, it is very, very painful, but one of the ways that
17 would have happened was if you squeezed and move your
18 arm up, you kind of go up on your toes, your tippy-toes,
19 and someone then got a slap across the face. That is
20 something that happened to a number of young people.
21 I hadn't been aware of others being force fed, for
22 example.

23 So I wouldn't -- so I would have been caned in
24 school, for example. Others were caned. So it didn't
25 matter a great deal to me. It's the things that stood

1 out in my mind."

2 He's asked about the type of punishment.

3 "Q. You give two names.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. I am going to ask you to give those names to the
6 Inquiry."

7 Then he does that. If we scroll down, please, then
8 he says in terms of contrasting that with being caned:

9 "One of the teachers I held in very high regard and
10 still do, NL63.

11 Q. We will come on to speak about NL63 shortly."

12 I am going to now turn to the person he makes the
13 most complaints about.

14 If we move through to 91070, he then explains --
15 91070 -- he explains this incident in slightly more
16 detail about the copying. If we just scroll down then
17 on to the next page, he talks about having been
18 encouraged and the reference to maths. If we just
19 scroll on down, please, he says that he found what
20 happened to him a learning experience. So he was saying
21 to the Panel, "Although I am describing this, I am not
22 making a complaint about NL63". He was contrasting what
23 you did with some of the other behaviours that he had
24 witnessed, which may have happened by others.

25 I was asking you this earlier. I just ask you at

1 this point for more clarity for the Panel. Were you
2 ever aware that other teachers, so the nuns who were
3 teaching, might have had a more aggressive way of
4 disciplining than you were engaging in?

5 **A. As I said to you earlier, the school was actually four**
6 **little boxes, and when people were in their classroom,**
7 **that's pretty much where they were, you know. I didn't**
8 **see much of teachers with groups of children outside the**
9 **classroom. The only hall that we had access to was at**
10 **the back of Nazareth Lodge, was about 200 yards away**
11 **from the school. So if there was movement up and down**
12 **to that or -- I wouldn't have seen it, because of the**
13 **angle that the school sat at compared to Nazareth Lodge.**
14 **So I really didn't see any of the sort of punishments**
15 **that are mentioned.**

16 Q. He says -- if we move on to the next page, in fairness
17 to you, he says:

18 "I have no complaint at all about this man. I mean,
19 I certainly don't -- I wouldn't have wanted to be caned,
20 but we were caned in those days. Corporal punishment
21 wasn't illegal as far as I'm aware, and that was really
22 to -- that was where I learned a massive lesson, and the
23 incident that happened in Rubane, you know, that's maybe
24 helping put that in context."

25 Can I ask you this, NL63: if he is right and the

1 others are right that this occurred, were you required
2 to tell the principal that you had hit the children?

3 **A. No.**

4 Q. The last person that I am going to deal with is DL40,
5 who was DL40. He came forward to the Inquiry in
6 a slightly different way in response to a lot of what he
7 had been hearing. He is from a different era. He was
8 in Nazareth Lodge at a later stage and it was
9 September 1977 whenever he left, aged 12. I think from
10 recollection he spent a year in high school in Belfast
11 and then moved to Rubane because his other friends had
12 gone to Rubane, but you would have been teaching him
13 around '75/'76 or perhaps maybe slightly before that.

14 What he said to the Inquiry in his statement -- I am
15 not going to bring his statement up, but it is at 1874,
16 Members of the Panel, for the record -- in paragraph 18
17 he said you were a very strict man but very fair, but
18 then in his evidence as a result of a conversation we
19 were having -- if we can look at the transcript of his
20 evidence, which I know you only saw this morning as we
21 were discussing it. It is at 91203, please.

22 I begin this exchange, NL63, by asking him about his
23 reference to you in his statement. I indicate at that
24 point we had not become aware as to where you lived in
25 order to get in touch with you and let you have

1 an opportunity to respond to what was being said, but
2 I set out -- if we just move slightly further on down:

3 "I was explaining that some of the evidence that the
4 Inquiry has received would suggest that there was
5 physical punishment that NL63 was involved in, which
6 included using a ruler on the hands, taking people by
7 the cheek or the sideburns and lifting them up, or
8 perhaps hitting them on the back of the head, a cuff
9 round the ear, and I was asking you whether you were
10 aware that this is the type of punishment he would have
11 been engaged in, although perhaps not with you, given
12 what you have said."

13 He said:

14 "That's correct. NL63 was a very strict man, yes.

15 Q. So would you have been aware of him doing those
16 three types of things that I have described?"

17 He said:

18 "Two of them.

19 Q. Which two would you have --

20 **A. Not that one.**

21 Q. Not that one."

22 I think I was demonstrating them to him at the time.

23 "Q. The cuff around the ear?

24 **A. Yes."**

25 **He says he would have seen you do that:**

1 "Q. Hitting with a ruler?"

2 I was asking you: that would have been a wooden
3 ruler and presumably it was turned on its side and
4 someone got rapped on the hand with it?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I asked him then did you use the cane as well.

7 A. No."

8 He said you didn't use the cane. It was a ruler was
9 his recollection.

10 Then he said that he hadn't been treated in that
11 way. He explained something that I think made you
12 smile, which was that, in fact, you had dated his mother
13 at a time. We will not go into that in any more detail.
14 He is accurate about that, but you feel you wouldn't
15 have treated him any less favourably than anyone else
16 and you would have been fair to him regardless.

17 A. I would like to think that I treated him very fairly.

18 Q. If we-just scroll on down, because we talk about then
19 this incident of the cheeks. You will recall HIA225
20 talking about, you know, that was a particularly sore
21 thing when you were picked up by the cheeks. He was
22 saying that you did not do that, but that was the type
23 of punishment that was handed out by SR34, who was the
24 principal. He remembered an occasion whenever she did
25 that, lifted him by the cheeks. A particular individual

1 was lifted and swung round was what he goes on to say.

2 Were you aware of -- presumably from what you have
3 said you were not aware of that type of punishment going
4 on in the school?

5 **A. No, I wasn't.**

6 Q. Again DL40 was saying -- "strict but fair" was his
7 summary of you.

8 NL63, I am -- unless there is anything else you
9 think that you can assist the Inquiry with, I am not
10 going to ask you any more questions. Is there anything
11 else you want to say at this point?

12 **A. I would just like to thank the Inquiry for giving me the**
13 **chance to respond to these statements.**

14 Q. Well, it may be the Panel will want to ask you some
15 matters about your general time in Nazareth Lodge. So
16 if you bear with us for a few moments. Thank you.

17 Questions from THE PANEL

18 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, NL63. That was very helpful.

19 Can I just ask about homework, because one of the
20 witnesses talks about the lack of homework.

21 **A. Sorry. My hearing -- my hearing is dreadful this**
22 **morning.**

23 Q. Is this -- is that better now?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Okay. Thank you. Thank you, first of all, for your

1 testimony. Can I just ask about homework, because
2 one -- a number of witnesses have talked about the fact
3 that they didn't receive any homework.

4 **A. Yes. I think I did say that I was obsessive about**
5 **reading. So most of the work that people had been given**
6 **would have been reading. Sometimes people believe that**
7 **the only homework is written homework.**

8 Q. Okay, but you would have given them reading to do in the
9 evening --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- and then expected to check that the next morning with
12 them?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. Okay. Thank you.

15 MR LANE: Did you ever meet any of the families of the
16 children?

17 **A. Did I have any ...?**

18 Q. Meet any of the families of the children, the parents?

19 **A. Of the children who were in care?**

20 Q. Yes.

21 **A. No. I'm not aware that I did.**

22 Q. You didn't have open days or evenings when individual
23 children were discussed or anything of that sort?

24 **A. No. I didn't know anything about their background.**

25 Q. Right. Okay. You mention that you were working in four

1 little boxes in a way, working separately. How would
2 the principal have known if your work was not up to
3 standard?

4 **A. Probably through school inspectors.**

5 Q. Right, and they came round regularly?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Okay. Thank you very much.

8 **A. Okay?**

9 CHAIRMAN: Well, NL63, those are all the questions that we
10 want to ask you. Thank you very much indeed for coming
11 to speak to us today. We are grateful to you for doing
12 that. Thank you.

13 **A. Right. Thank you.**

14 **(Witness withdrew)**

15 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Ms Smith is taking the next witness and
16 I think she will be ready to do that very shortly, if
17 you want to just take a short break.

18 CHAIRMAN: Very well. We will rise just for a moment or
19 two.

20 (11.15 am)

21 (Short break)

22 (11.25 am)

23 WITNESS NL187 (called)

24 MS SMITH: Morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and
25 gentlemen. Our next witness is NL187. She is NL187.

1 NL187 wishes to affirm and she also wishes to maintain
2 her anonymity.

3 WITNESS NL187 (sworn)

4 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, NL187. Please sit down.

5 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

6 MS SMITH: Now, NL187, I am just going to tell the Panel
7 there are some documents relevant to you.

8 Your statement can be found at SNB-7179 to 7205,
9 which includes exhibits.

10 There is a statement in the bundle at SNB-435 to
11 463, which is the statement of HIA41.

12 The transcript of his evidence in this module, which
13 was given on Day 89, 26th January of this year, can be
14 found at SNB-90253 to 90340.

15 I will make reference to some other page references
16 as we go through NL187 evidence.

17 NL187, you will see on the screen in front of you
18 there is the witness statement that you have provided to
19 the Inquiry that's dated 27th March of this year. I am
20 just going to ask you to confirm that that is the
21 witness statement you provided.

22 **A. Yes, it is.**

23 Q. Although we can clearly see your name here, I just
24 wanted to assure you before that goes on to the Inquiry
25 website it will be properly redacted.

1 It is clear from paragraph 1 here -- you set out
2 your qualifications. You are still employed as a social
3 worker by the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust --

4 **A. Yes, I am.**

5 Q. -- but between 1975 -- October 1975 and August 1977,
6 when you were a newly-qualified social worker, you took
7 over, as I understand it, from a NL252 , who had
8 taken over from NL186, as the social worker for the
9 [surname redacted] family.

10 **A. That's correct, yes.**

11 Q. Eventually you handed over to NL253 .

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. That would have been when you left in August '77.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. At the time you were the [surname redacted] family
16 social worker three of the children, HIA41, NL57 and
17 NL56 , were in Nazareth Lodge. NL127 , an older boy,
18 was in .

19 **A. That's correct, yes.**

20 Q. We were talking earlier there was also a girl called
21 , who was placed in foster care. She never
22 actually went into the institution. Isn't that right?

23 **A. That's right, yes.**

24 Q. During that time you were visiting the siblings who were
25 in Nazareth Lodge monthly. I was wondering if you might

1 describe what Nazareth Lodge was like at that time.

2 **A. Yes. Well, when I visited, rang the bell at the door,**
3 **it was always opened by an elderly nun, who showed me**
4 **into a waiting room just on the left. Then usually one**
5 **of the nuns, either SR180 or SR30, would come to the**
6 **waiting room and speak to me. We would have some**
7 **discussion about the children. Then I was brought down**
8 **the corridor to another larger room, quite a formal**
9 **sitting room, but it had a large table, almost like**
10 **a boardroom table. It was quite a kind of formal**
11 **setting. The children were then brought to me there and**
12 **I was able to spend time with them alone. The nun who**
13 **had spoken to me had by that stage left and I spoke to**
14 **the children on their own usually for about an hour or**
15 **so.**

16 **Q. You say you spoke to them on their own. HIA41 would**
17 **have been quite a bit older than the other two.**

18 **A. Well, it would have been the three of them together**
19 **rather than -- not separately.**

20 **Q. Not individually?**

21 **A. No, no.**

22 **Q. Now you also mentioned to me that at that stage,**
23 **certainly until May 1976, you weren't a driver. So you**
24 **really could not have taken the children out of the home**
25 **at that time.**

1 **A. That's correct, yes. We -- we always remained within**
2 **Nazareth Lodge at that stage, but once I learned to**
3 **drive I did take them out to a few places. We went**
4 **swimming and different -- different places.**

5 Q. I was asking if, apart from that formal room where you
6 saw the children, did you see much else of the home?

7 **A. At that stage I never saw anything else within the home.**
8 **I never saw where the [surname redacted] children slept**
9 **or their living quarters or anything beyond there.**

10 Q. Did you -- as you said, you were newly qualified. Did
11 you ever think to ask, "Can I see where the children
12 sleep, Sister?", or anything like that?

13 **A. I have to say I didn't. I didn't have any other**
14 **children in residential care in my case load at this**
15 **stage, and I didn't understand that that would have**
16 **happened in other situations. So I just thought it was**
17 **the norm that I saw them there.**

18 Q. You certainly had nothing with which to compare Nazareth
19 Lodge?

20 **A. No, nothing at that stage.**

21 Q. I think you did say to me, though, in later years you
22 did get to see where they were sleeping and things.

23 **A. Yes. In the 1980s I had a young -- a teenage girl who**
24 **was in Nazareth Lodge, and I do recall going to her**
25 **bedroom to talk to her. So, yes, subsequently I did see**

1 **that.**

2 Q. So there was certainly a change in the procedures --

3 **A. Yes, yes.**

4 Q. -- if I can put it that way, by the 1980s.

5 **A. Yes, there were.**

6 Q. Can I just confirm, NL187, when you did go to speak to
7 the children, how did the nuns make you feel?

8 **A. I always felt very welcomed by them. They were not
9 unpleasant to me at any stage. They made me feel
10 welcome. I was offered tea or coffee when I arrived and
11 I was always -- I was generally made to feel quite
12 welcome.**

13 Q. Now in paragraphs 1 to 5 -- sorry. It's not actually 1
14 to 5. If we can just -- 2 to 5 really you deal with
15 HIA41. You say that he -- you remember Social
16 Services -- you've obviously looked at the records here
17 and the Inquiry has looked at them, but you say they
18 indicate -- the records indicate for most of the time he
19 was settled in Nazareth Lodge and you say was visited
20 regularly by his mother, although I think he would
21 dispute that. He preferred to stay in the unit rather
22 than visit her at home.

23 We have looked at your three-monthly reviews. I am
24 just going to look at those again, if I may, very
25 briefly. The first is 41767. This would have been the

1 first three-monthly review that you would have compiled,
2 because it is dated 31st December 1975. If we can maybe
3 just enhance that, please. We can see there -- I don't
4 know if we can make it larger. We can certainly see the
5 date at the bottom is 31st December 1975.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. The typed signature is yours, NL187 You just have
8 recorded there the visits that you made to see HIA41 at
9 that time. Yes. I think that's much clearer. Thank
10 you.

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. 30th October, 25th November, 22nd December. If we can
13 scroll down, please. 17th November, in fact, and 15th
14 December. So you actually saw him twice a month.
15 Effectively there were five visits between you starting
16 in October '75 until December '75. It records that:

17 "He had settled well in and SR180
18 states that he works quite hard. Friendly boy. Relates
19 well to other people. HIA41 is very fond of his mother
20 and he enjoys her visits to Nazareth Lodge, which are
21 quite frequent."

22 Now when we were talking earlier, you were saying
23 you really did enjoy your engagement with the [surname
24 redacted] children. You found them friendly and
25 personable children.

1 **A.** **Very much so. I was very fond of HAI41, HIA41, and his**
2 **two -- and his sister and brother. They were chatty,**
3 **open children. They engaged very well. We talked about**
4 **different things, about school, about their life in the**
5 **unit, and about their visits from their mum or if they**
6 **went to visit her. So, yes, I felt we had a very good**
7 **relationship.**

8 **Q.** If we can just look then at 41768, which is another
9 three-monthly review dated 1st April '76. Again the
10 number of visits that you are making are recorded there
11 and your entry is on this:

12 "HIA41 still working reasonably hard at school ..."

13 Can you scroll on down?

14 "... and appears to be happy at . He
15 enjoys all kinds of sports, especially football, which
16 he is able to play at the school. He has been less keen
17 to go home to his mother every other Sunday, but prefers
18 to stay at Nazareth Lodge. Although he is very fond of
19 his mother, he prefers to stay with his friends at
20 Nazareth."

21 Again that's 1st April '76. So that would have been
22 the next three-monthly review.

23 **A.** **Yes.**

24 **Q.** Now unfortunately I could not find anywhere in the
25 papers, and I don't think you have seen, your next

1 three-monthly review, but there is one of October '76,
2 7th October '76, at 41769. Again if we can just scroll
3 on down:

4 "HIA41, who is in a different group at Nazareth than
5 his brother and sister, spent the month of August at
6 Ballyhornan. He also enjoyed his holiday.

7 It was suggested to HIA41 that he could spend some
8 weekends at Kircubbin with his brother NL127 but the
9 two boys do not have a close relationship, and HAI41 was
10 not keen to do this.

11 He is still reluctant to go home to his mother on
12 Sundays, but prefers to stay at Nazareth where he
13 receives a small amount of pocket money for acting as
14 doorman and answering the telephone."

15 I was asking you if you recalled him acting as
16 doorman and I think you said he actually opened the door
17 to you on occasions.

18 **A. Yes, he did. On at least two occasion I remember him**
19 **answering the door to me, yes.**

20 Q. Now those -- this particular three-monthly review --
21 HIA41 has given evidence to the Inquiry and the
22 transcript of what he said can be found at 90322
23 onwards. His view is that -- and I am going summarise
24 it essentially -- but his view is that the two nuns who
25 by this stage had responsibility for him, and those were

1 SR46 and SR156, they did not like him and they were
2 pressurising you to have him moved from Nazareth Lodge.

3 I went through you this review of October '76 with
4 him. His view was that the suggestion that he spend
5 weekends with NL127 in Kircubbin was the start of that
6 conspiracy to move him, because he and his brother
7 didn't get on. So why was it even being suggested he
8 would go and see NL127 ?

9 I went through the history sheets that were prepared
10 by you at the time with him. I will give the page
11 reference numbers for those again, although I am not
12 going to call them all up, but they are 63 -- sorry --
13 60 -- I beg your pardon -- 30664 and then they go
14 backwards to 30662, 30661, 30660, 30659, 58 and 57.
15 That's just simply the way the file was compiled.

16 But he felt that -- when we went through this, he
17 felt it was all part of the conspiracy to move him from
18 (sic) Kircubbin. Whenever I went through all of that
19 with him, if we just look at his response at SNB-90330,
20 please, we see here, if we scroll down to the bottom of
21 that page, I said:

22 "Now I know that you feel this is all part of a
23 conspiracy to move you from Nazareth Lodge to ...",

24 and that should be "there". He answers:

25 "There are also written documents there from NL187

1 totally opposing the Sisters of Nazareth sending me to
2 Nazareth -- to Kircubbin. As I explained to you
3 earlier, I never knew that Social Services ever knew or
4 spoke with the Sisters of Nazareth or the De La Salle
5 Order. That was something I have only learned three or
6 four years ago from reading these. I never knew that
7 existed. So when they were having conversations and
8 meetings, it was -- it was a three-way system. So they
9 were talking and then NL187 would say something to me or
10 "...", and he names the three nuns, who would have been
11 SR30, SR46 and SR156, "... but at no time -- but there
12 are records which I have here ...",

13 and those were those history sheets and social work
14 records:

15 "... which I have here where they oppose the nuns
16 attempting -- because I lived in the all my
17 life. So what was the sense of sending me thirty miles
18 away to Kircubbin? So that's -- those are there for you
19 to be copied if you don't have them, but this conspiracy
20 seemed to start long before running away. I was
21 a deeply traumatised child, been sexually abused by
22 a priest and, you know, one of the boys suggested going
23 to the police, which we did in ...", the place they had
24 run away to. "So those were the contexts of all of
25 those things, but, you know, it led to what it led to

1 and that was it, but I think the social worker should
2 have give me some good advice and told me to behave
3 myself and to not get upset about it and deal with the
4 things, but I had that, and I had Brendan Smyth to deal
5 with, and SR30 was now gone, but she always worked as
6 a teacher and our housemother. So that's sort of the
7 context and the deep trauma and upset in which I was
8 moved, but it's a clear scheme and plan long before
9 I mitched ever. My records are exemplary from the
10 Sisters of Nazareth before this happened."

11 Now, NL187, a couple of things I wanted to ask you
12 about that. The first is until the time he started to
13 run away and truant from the home it is true to say that
14 his records with the Sisters of Nazareth were exemplary.

15 **A. That's right, yes. They were.**

16 Q. Certainly whenever you first encountered him, he seemed
17 to be happy and settled in Nazareth Lodge and seemed to
18 take pleasure from the responsibilities he was getting
19 with regard to the door and answering the telephone.

20 **A. Yes, yes, he did.**

21 Q. Things did change in his behaviour during your time
22 looking after him.

23 **A. Yes. It wasn't until March 1977 that he started**
24 **mitching from school and absconding from the unit. When**
25 **I asked him why he was doing that, he told me that he**

1 wasn't happy in Nazareth and that he wanted to move to
2 Rubane and that behaviour -- he felt by behaving badly
3 that that would happen then as a result of that. His
4 behaviour continued between March and May 1977. That's
5 the truanting and the absconding.

6 Q. Can I ask you -- he says he feels you ought to have said
7 to him, "Look, you have got to do something about this
8 behaviour, HIA41". Did you think of doing that or did
9 you have that kind of conversation with him?

10 A. I didn't at the time, because he was very clearly saying
11 he wanted to move to Rubane. By that stage he was one
12 of the oldest boys in Nazareth. He told me that he felt
13 the nuns treated him like a child and that he felt he
14 would be better in Rubane and he wanted to go. So
15 I respected his wishes in that respect.

16 Q. Now that wasn't always the case. He didn't always want
17 to go to Rubane. Isn't that so?

18 A. No, he didn't. I mean, up until March 1977 he didn't
19 want to go. It was looked at as an option from --
20 I think from 1976, but it was felt it wasn't appropriate
21 at that stage, because HIA41 didn't want to move, and
22 I knew that he didn't have a close relationship with his
23 older brother, NL127 . So we respected his wishes and
24 he remained in Nazareth at that stage.

25 Q. What do you think brought about the actual move?

1 I~mean, you have said he said he wanted -- he was
2 behaving badly because he wanted to move, but I suppose
3 I am asking did the nuns put any pressure on you to move
4 him?

5 **A. No, I don't recall any pressure from the nuns at all.**
6 **I think by that stage SR46 and SR156 were finding it**
7 **difficult to cope with HIA41. I think they didn't know**
8 **how to deal with his truanting and absconding. They**
9 **really were at a loss and I feel they felt he would be**
10 **more appropriately placed in Rubane.**

11 **Q.** In fact, I think you record in your notes that by the
12 time you contacted Rubane to speak to BR2 SR156 I think
13 it was had already been in touch with him to see if
14 there was a place for him there.

15 **A. That's correct. She had spoken to BR2 just a few days**
16 **beforehand and knew there was a place available, and**
17 **I think she had talked to BR2 about HIA41's behaviour**
18 **and the fact that they weren't able to manage him within**
19 **the unit.**

20 **Q.** So again you will appreciate that HIA41 sees that as
21 part of the nuns' conspiracy to get him moved out.

22 **A. I suppose I didn't feel -- I don't feel it was**
23 **a conspiracy at all. I think it had come to the stage**
24 **where Sister -- SR156 and SR46 could not cope with HIA41**
25 **and they didn't have as good a relationship as SR30 had**

1 had beforehand. I think the other thing was HIA41
2 missed SR30, who had been the housemother for the first
3 year or so that I was their social worker, and he
4 clearly had a very good relationship with her. I don't
5 think he ever had the same relationship with SR46 and
6 SR156.

7 Q. Thank you. Paragraph -- going back to your statement,
8 if we may, which is at paragraph -- page 7178 -- sorry
9 -- 7180, paragraph 6 to 9 in your statement you deal
10 with matters relating to HIA41's NL57 , and her
11 time in Nazareth Lodge.

12 If we can just scroll down to paragraph 6, please,
13 you say that during your time NL57 , who was born in
14 1965, told you that she was unhappy in Nazareth Lodge:

15 "In June 1976 she told me that SR180 had hit her
16 shortly before [your] arrival in the home. She was not
17 upset at the time. She told me that she had been
18 disobedient and I thought that she may have said this to
19 deflect from her behaviour, as she had not previously
20 reported SR180 hitting her. I recorded this ..."

21 We can look at the record in a moment:

22 "... and advised my line manager. I had not
23 recorded advising my line manager, but can recall doing
24 so. On reflecting on this incident, I realise that this
25 would now be dealt with in a very different manner. At

1 the time, however, I did not believe that SR180 would
2 have hit NL57 and thought that she had a good
3 relationship with her."

4 If we just look, please, at SNB-30687, and this is
5 your handwriting, NL187.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Is that correct?

8 **A. Yes, it is.**

9 Q. If we go to the entry "April - June 1976", just the
10 paragraph beginning:

11 "On my last visit to Nazareth NL57 told me that she
12 is unhappy at Nazareth. She said that SR180 was cruel
13 to her, often made her look after younger children and,
14 in fact, had hit her just about one hour before
15 I arrived. I had never heard NL57 complain about SR180
16 before. In fact, I know that the Sister is very fond of
17 her and I had thought the feeling was mutual. I asked
18 why SR180 had hit her, thinking that NL57 had been
19 disobedient and had deserved it. NL57 admitted that
20 she had been disobedient. I felt that NL57 was just
21 complaining because of this and decided to leave the
22 matter unless she ..."

23 Unfortunately we can't find the continuation page of
24 that. So I wanted to know "unless she" what? Can you
25 recall?

1 **A. I don't recall, no. I suppose unless she spoke to me**
2 **again about it or had anything further to add to it at**
3 **a later stage.**

4 Q. At the time you say you told your line manager. You say
5 that things would on reflection be dealt with -- should
6 have been dealt with differently.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. What was your gut feeling at the time?

9 **A. At the time I didn't believe that SR180 would have hit**
10 **NL57 . I just didn't think that a nun would hit**
11 **a child, and I didn't believe it had happened, and until**
12 **then I had genuinely believed that NL57 and SR180 had**
13 **a good relationship. So this came as quite a surprise.**

14 Q. Just going back to your statement at 7181 to continue on
15 with your encounter with NL57 , you say that:

16 "In May 1977 SR180 contacted [you] to say that NL57
17 was being very cheeky and had absconded from the home
18 the previous Saturday, not returning until the evening."

19 You visited to discuss this with SR180 and NL57 and
20 noted in your records that:

21 "SR180's attitude towards NL57 was punitive. She
22 remained present with NL57 and I was therefore unable
23 to speak to NL57 alone.

24 A few days later I did speak to NL57 alone. She
25 told me that she was happy in Nazareth Lodge but that

1 sometimes she did not like SR180. She stated that SR180
2 gave her too much responsibility looking after younger
3 children, but at other times treated her like a child.

4 On 17th August NL57 told me that she was very
5 unhappy in Nazareth Lodge and that SR180 often hit her
6 or shouted at her for trivial reasons. I asked NL57 if
7 she wanted to move to another group within the home and
8 she was keen to do this."

9 You then left Health & Social Services Board at that
10 stage and passed the information on to the social worker
11 who became responsible for the family, who was NL253
12 NL253.

13 You have exhibited to your statement certain
14 documents that he has compiled, the history sheets. If
15 we look at those, please, at 7197, first of all, we will
16 see here that he records in October 1977 that he
17 actually had a visit to the [surname redacted]
18 children's mother, [surname redacted]:

19 "I confirmed with Mrs [surname redacted] that she
20 would have to visit Nazareth Lodge to collect NL57 and
21 NL56 , so we did not feel -- we did not feel it
22 appropriate to just send them out, as she requested.
23 She complained of difficulties with SR180, who
24 complained to her about the company she keeps, etc."

25 I wonder did Mrs [surname redacted] ever complain to

1 you about how SR180 treated her or anything she said to
2 her?

3 **A. No, I don't recall her ever complaining about SR180.**

4 Q. Then if we scroll on down to 15th October '77, NL253
5 has recorded:

6 "Visited NL57 and NL56 . NL57 complained
7 bitterly about SR180, who she felt was too demanding of
8 her. Was unhappy to have me discuss with her. NL56
9 hardly said anything. I talked to SR180 and found out
10 that it was in the best -- pointed out that it was in
11 the best interests of all concerned if she tried to
12 develop a good relationship with Mrs [surname redacted]
13 and suggested she encourage her to be friendly when she
14 calls for the children, and she promised to do this."

15 If we then go on to 7199 -- scroll down to the next
16 page -- there is an entry there -- yes. He is clearly
17 making arrangements for the children to go home to their
18 mother at Christmas, but on 8th December he records:

19 "Visited NL57 and NL56 . Explained to them and
20 SR180 Christmas arrangements. SR180 had some notion
21 about sending them to a family for Christmas without our
22 approval. Explained situation to her and warned against
23 precipitous action. My relationship with SR180 is
24 breaking down already. Contacted NL257 and asked
25 her to talk with SR180."

1 Now I had assumed NL257 was a senior social
2 worker for the Board, but that isn't the case.

3 **A. NL257 was a senior social worker working for Down**
4 **& Connor. She was in a position of advising the nuns in**
5 **Nazareth Lodge and would be sometimes called in for**
6 **reviews and things like that, but also I think they**
7 **would have sought advice from NL257 about**
8 **managing behaviour and different day-to-day things.**

9 Q. So they had effectively their own independent person
10 they could turn to for advice --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- and who could have acted as liaison between the
13 Congregation and Social Services?

14 **A. Yes, yes.**

15 Q. That was the role you understood she played?

16 **A. Yes, it is.**

17 Q. Did you have any dealings with her yourself?

18 **A. I would have met her from time to time, yes. She --**
19 **I think we had two case conferences on the family while**
20 **I was their social worker, and NL257 attended**
21 **those case conferences.**

22 Q. Would she have had any direct interaction with the
23 children to your knowledge?

24 **A. Not that I am aware of. I think she would have been in**
25 **the role of giving advice to the nuns.**

1 Q. Then if we move on to 7201, an entry of 24th
2 January 1978. These are again NL253 notes. Yes.
3 Just at the top of that page:

4 "Visited NL57 and NL56 . We went out in the car
5 for a talk, as it is difficult to be alone with them in
6 the Lodge with SR180 constantly butting in to see what
7 is going on."

8 Now your experience was that you were left alone
9 with the children.

10 **A. Yes. I don't remember SR180 butting in, as NL253 has**
11 **said, no.**

12 Q. Then if we go on to 7204, this is the -- the date is not
13 clear, but it is clearly October 1978. Now it is
14 recorded here that:

15 " NL258 ran away from Nazareth following an alleged
16 row with SR180",

17 but, as you were aware, NL258 never actually went
18 into Nazareth Lodge.

19 **A. No. I'm certain NL258 was never in Nazareth Lodge.**

20 Q. It is clear from the succeeding entry really who is
21 being spoken about here is NL57 .

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. So:

24 " NL57 ran away from Nazareth Lodge following an
25 alleged row with SR180. The duty senior was called.

1 NL57 eventually turned up late in the evening with her
2 mother, who had brought her back. SR180, evidently
3 anxious through the situation, found it difficult to
4 understand NL57 motivation for running away and was
5 upset by the suggestion that Mrs [surname redacted] made
6 that NL57 wished to move. The senior social worker
7 reported that she had spoken to Mrs [surname redacted],
8 who suggested that NL57 wasn't happy and felt
9 restricted."

10 Then the next day:

11 "Nazareth. Joint visit with NL253 . SR180 was
12 evidently upset by the incident the previous evening and
13 was rather subdued. She indicated that she felt NL57
14 had always been very happy ..."

15 and, as we have said, it is clearly NL57 here they
16 are talking about:

17 "... in Nazareth and she should -- she could not
18 understand why her mother had suggested otherwise. It
19 was agreed that the mother -- the matter would be
20 discussed with NL57 tomorrow."

21 Then if we scroll down:

22 " NL57 was seen by NL253 . It was felt that the
23 introduction of a new social worker would not
24 be appropriate at this particular time. NL253
25 reported that NL57 was offered the opportunity to move,

1 but indicated that she would -- she wished to remain
2 with SR180. She stated that her major complaints were
3 that she was not allowed to entertain her friends in the
4 house and that she was not permitted to go out with
5 them. SR180 was approached and agreements were made
6 that both these wishes would to some extent be
7 fulfilled."

8 So clearly NL57 was having some sort of difficulty
9 with SR180, but you don't recall any difficulties other
10 than what you have recorded in your own notes about
11 NL57 complaining about being hit by her?

12 **A. No.**

13 Q. You thought they were fond of each other?

14 **A. No. I don't recall anything else, no.**

15 Q. Just for the benefit of the Inquiry, NL57 subsequently
16 in the mid-1990s complained to police about SR180.
17 There is a summary of her complaint, which I will look
18 at, which is at 62431, but for the benefit of the Panel
19 the -- NL57 statement is in the bundle at 62435 to 36
20 and SR180's interview in respect -- the extract in
21 respect of NL57 can be found at 6245574.

22 Now this is an outline of the police case. Just if
23 we go down to -- scroll down, please, to "Allegations".
24 You will see there it says:

25 " NL57 was a resident of Nazareth Lodge Children's

1 Home in Belfast from March '71 until 1981. When
2 interviewed in January '96, she stated that she had been
3 assaulted a number of times within the home by SR180 for
4 smoking and not doing her duties.

5 She further stated that when she asked SR180 why
6 she, NL57, was in the home, she was told by SR180 that
7 she wasn't wanted by her mother, that she" -- that's the
8 mother -- was a 'drunken whore'. She alleges that on
9 one occasion she was smoking in one of the staff
10 bathrooms when she was discovered by SR180. SR180
11 lashed out at her, punching her on the eye and mouth.
12 Her lip was cut and started to bleed.

13 The following day NL57 eye had blackened and she
14 had a cut to her lip. SR180 observed NL57 injury.
15 She told her that if she knew what was good for her, she
16 should say that she fell. NL57 states that she told
17 none of the children within the home what had happened
18 to her and that none of the staff asked her how she got
19 any injuries. NL57 did not receive any medical
20 attention for her injuries."

21 Now obviously this is -- you had no longer any
22 involvement with NL57 at this stage. I am simply
23 highlighting the fact she was complaining about her
24 treatment in 1996 at the hands of SR180. She had
25 complained to you and you had not believed her that she

1 was hit. Isn't that correct, NL187?

2 **A. That's correct, yes, yes.**

3 Q. Now SR180 -- I am not going to go to her interview --
4 but she denies the allegations that she assaulted -- she
5 admits to punishing one child on one occasion, but she
6 denies assaulting NL57 , and said she never punished her
7 in any way certainly physically, but she does not
8 actually comment on whether or not she made any
9 reference to NL57 mother in that interview and the
10 way it was conducted.

11 Certainly your experience of SR180 did not lead you
12 to suspect she may have behaved in an inappropriate way
13 towards NL57 . Is that correct?

14 **A. I think when NL57 spoke to me again in August 1977**
15 **about SR180 hitting her, I think I did feel at that**
16 **stage that there was truth to it, but I was leaving**
17 **a few days later, and that information was all passed to**
18 **NL253 to deal with, but I think by August 1977**
19 **I did feel that there was truth to what she was saying.**

20 Q. Well, thank you, NL187. I don't have any further
21 questions for you, but if there's anything else that you
22 want to say or feel might be of assistance to the
23 Inquiry at this stage, then now is your opportunity to
24 do that.

25 **A. I don't think I have anything else at this stage. Thank**

1 **you.**

2 Q. Well, thank you.

3 **A. Thank you.**

4 Q. The Panel may have some questions for you.

5 Questions from THE PANEL

6 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, NL187. Can you hear me okay?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Thanks. Can I just -- going back to your handwritten
9 notes, you actually refer to saying that you asked NL57
10 why SR180 had hit her, thinking that NL57 had been
11 disobedient and had deserved it, which sounded a wee bit
12 as if you thought, "Well, maybe it did happen, but maybe
13 she did deserve it".

14 At that time would there have been an acceptance
15 that children would have been disciplined physically in
16 children's homes?

17 **A. Well, as I said earlier, I have nothing to compare**
18 **Nazareth Lodge with. I don't think it was acceptable,**
19 **and I think, looking back on it now, you know, it does**
20 **sound terrible, and, you know, I really am embarrassed**
21 **by what I have written about her deserving that. I did**
22 **feel at the time that she had been disobedient and that**
23 **she -- that SR180 had not hit her but she was saying**
24 **that to deflect from her own behaviour.**

25 Q. But that if she had hit her maybe, if she was

1 disobedient -- I know it is a long time ago, so it's not
2 about putting -- but, you know, just trying to get that
3 sense of whether it would have been seen by you at that
4 time as acceptable, if she had been disobedient, that
5 she would have got ...

6 **A. I don't think it would have been acceptable, but I don't**
7 **have any other instances of that happening in residence**
8 **care at that stage, but it certainly -- there wouldn't**
9 **have been a board policy at that stage preventing**
10 **corporal punishment. So, you know, I don't think**
11 **I would have seen it in the same light that obviously**
12 **I do today.**

13 Q. Okay. Thanks very much.

14 MR LANE: Where did you do the CQSW, please?

15 **A. From 1973 to '75.**

16 Q. Whereabouts was that?

17 **A. Oh, where. Sorry. In .**

18 **Institute of Technology in .**

19 Q. Oh, right. Did you do any placements in children's
20 homes as part of the CQSW?

21 **A. I did one in a residential unit, but it was more -- it**
22 **was kind of -- it was a locked unit. It was kind of**
23 **comparable to somewhere like Rathgael now.**

24 Q. Yes.

25 **A. So I didn't have any experience of a residential unit**

1 not sure whether he will be ready to proceed before
2 lunch or not, but I would -- I know that the witness
3 certainly has been in attendance this morning. So he
4 may well be.

5 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Very well. Well, hopefully we will be in
6 a position to start within a few minutes, ladies and
7 gentlemen, but we will let you know.

8 (12 noon)

9 (Short break)

10 (12.10 pm)

11 WITNESS HIA270 (called)

12 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, the next witness
13 today is HIA270, who is HIA270. HIA270 is aware,
14 Chairman, you are going to ask her to affirm.

15 WITNESS HIA270 (affirmed)

16 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please sit down, HIA270.

17 **A. Thank you.**

18 **Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY**

19 MR AIKEN: HIA270, coming up on the screen will be a copy of
20 your witness statement. 346, please. If you can just
21 check, HIA270, that the copy you have in front of you,
22 the hard copy, is the same as the one on the screen
23 except for the black marks.

24 **A. Yes, absolutely.**

25 Q. Then if we can move through to 351, please, and again,

1 HIA270, if you can check that the one on the screen
2 matches the last page of the hard copy that you have --

3 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. -- and that you have signed your witness statement?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. You want to adopt the contents of your witness statement
7 as your evidence before the Inquiry?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. As I was explaining to you, HIA270, I am just going to
10 give the Panel some references to material that is
11 relevant to you which they have had access to in advance
12 of you giving evidence in order to reduce the time that
13 it requires you to sit in the witness box.

14 **A. Thank you.**

15 Q. So the replying statement from the Sisters of Nazareth
16 can be found at 2121 through to 2122.

17 I have explained to HIA270 that the Congregation has
18 explained that because the diocesan authorities were
19 responsible for St. Joseph's Babies' Home, they
20 therefore don't hold any records on HIA270, but I have
21 also made her aware of paragraph 5 of that statement
22 where the Congregation offer HIA270 an unreserved and
23 sincere apology for any treatment she received by any
24 Sister of Nazareth which fell below the acceptable
25 standard.

1 Then, in addition, the Inquiry has a statement from
2 the Health & Social Care Board at 6795, which runs
3 through to 6800, with exhibits from 6801 through to
4 6881.

5 As the Panel is aware and I was explaining to
6 HIA270, the Health & Social Care Board have drawn to the
7 Inquiry's attention that they don't seem to have had any
8 involvement with HIA270's care during her time in
9 St. Joseph's Babies' Home. It does appear from a record
10 I have seen that the Welfare Authority was involved in
11 approving the home of the foster parents that HIA270
12 refers to subsequently to leaving St. Joseph's Babies'
13 Home, and that reference is at 32076, but HIA270 did not
14 formally come into the care of the Welfare Authority,
15 which would then have been the Health Trust, until
16 December of 1978. By that stage, HIA270, you were
17 heading towards 18 years of age.

18 You explain, HIA270, in your statement, if we go
19 back to 346, that you were born on -- and we are just
20 going to correct the date. It is .

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. And are now aged 51 --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- years old.

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. You explain to the Inquiry in your statement -- and
2 because the Panel has read it already, I am not going to
3 go through the detail now -- but you explain the
4 background that led to you coming into St. Joseph's
5 Babies' Home, which was on the Nazareth complex adjacent
6 to the Nazareth Lodge building. That was on 8th
7 August 1963, when you were essentially 3 months old.

8 You explain in paragraph 2 of your statement that
9 initially, as you now understand it, your mum was going
10 to have you adopted --

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. -- but then changed her mind and decided that you were
13 not to be adopted. Therefore your time in St. Joseph's
14 Babies' Home ultimately led to a long-term foster
15 placement --

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. -- rather than being adopted.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. You explain in paragraphs 4 -- if we move on to 347,
20 paragraphs 4 through to 11 of your statement on 348 the
21 period of time that you had in the St. Joseph's Babies'
22 Home.

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. What you remember about that as you got older -- you
25 were there until just after your 4th birthday.

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. As an older member of the St. Joseph's Babies' Home you
3 remember the process of families coming in and taking
4 children. You explain in paragraph 4 and 5 on occasions
5 taking you out on a Sunday --

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. -- for the day --

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. -- and then coming back in --

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. -- and then the more elaborate process then of
12 ultimately going to have a long-term foster placement --

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. -- where you had interaction with the family --

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- over a more sustained period.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You explain in paragraph 6 that you have a particular
19 fond memory of a member of staff there called NL 251
20 NL 251 .

21 **A. Uh-huh.**

22 Q. Ultimately, as it turned out, she was the
--

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. -- if I have understood the relationship correctly.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. That's how you came to meet your foster placement --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- initially.

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. You explain a little bit in paragraph 8 about

7 a particular phrase that was used called

8 . That was to denote you said to me there
9 were a number of children .

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. I was asking you, "Were you aware of that phrase, as to

12 how it came to be used?" You weren't really aware of

13 the origin of it.

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. Just it was a phrase used by the nuns.

very similar to that phrase --

18 **A. Yes, yes.**

19 Q. -- and whether that was the origin of it.

20 **A. Uh-huh. Yes. The you called them. They**
21 **were kids, yes.**

22 Q. So whether that was the cause of it or not --

23 **A. I don't know.**

24 Q. But you explain in paragraph 8 that -- there was

25 reference to your foster mother being told not to pick

1 you.

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. You were explaining to me you would have been high
4 spirited, you said quite wild --

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. -- uncontrollable and that might have presented some
7 difficulties then --

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. -- for the nuns and better that they pick someone else
10 other than you --

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. -- but your foster mum didn't agree --

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. -- and it was her that you ultimately then went with.

15 **A. Well, just to clarify, if you don't mind, Joe, it is**
16 **just because every time I went down to my foster mother,**
17 **like, I got very attached and every time they had to**
18 **bring me back -- you know, they would maybe have me down**
19 **a couple of weekends -- I would be screaming down the**
20 **place and I would run out the front door and the nuns**
21 **would have to pursue me. So it took quite an effort,**
22 **because, you know, then I would be screaming and crying**
23 **and, you know, kicking out and stuff. So, you know,**
24 **this was part of the whole process I had to go**
25 **through -- my foster parents had to go through every**

1 time I was taken back and the nuns, you know. So, you
2 know, this was part of -- the nuns felt was contributing
3 -- you know, a bad effect, you know, on me -- my
4 behaviour was, you know, something to be worried about
5 or, you know, not to be approved of.

6 Q. Yes. You explain then in your statement in paragraph 11
7 one of the things that you were concerned about --

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. -- was trying to find out did your mum get back in
10 contact --

11 A. Uh-huh.

12 Q. -- with the home. I was explaining to you --

13 A. Uh-huh.

14 Q. -- that the home was ultimately run by the Diocese of
15 Down & Connor --

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 Q. -- rather than the Sisters of Nazareth Congregation?

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. I know you have brought along to the Inquiry some
20 information that you got from --

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. -- the Family Care Society --

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. -- which was the sort of successor of the organisation.

25 You have done a lot of research yourself --

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. -- to try and understand your background --

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. -- and how these things came about. You were wondering
5 could your mum get back in touch?

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. I was saying to you it appears from the material --

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. -- that you don't formally come into the care of the
10 State until --

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. -- you were much older.

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. I think around about the age of 16.

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. So it may have been your mum was in a position to be
17 involved --

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. -- if her circumstances allowed that to happen.

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. You were saying you had been aware of some letters or
22 were told there were letters --

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. -- that had been written by her to St. Joseph's. Is
25 that -- is that --

1 **A.** Uh-huh. Well, I mean, it was actually the Family Care
2 site told me, you know, and I thank them for that,
3 because they told me that she would send me, which was
4 lovely, a Christmas card I've noted here and birthday
5 cards, you know, always when it was my birthday or
6 Christmas, you know, and that, you know, but my only
7 gripe is I wish I'd known this sooner, you know.
8 I didn't learn this until I was what? I don't know.
9 49, you know. So ...

10 **Q.** Yes, when you began the researching --

11 **A.** Uh-huh.

12 **Q.** -- that you have been able to achieve.

13 **A.** Uh-huh.

14 **Q.** Obviously because -- you go on in your statement then to
15 talk about experiences beyond --

16 **A.** Uh-huh.

17 **Q.** -- your time in St. Joseph's Babies' Home and beyond
18 Nazareth, which the Inquiry is presently investigating.
19 The Panel have read the content of that material --

20 **A.** Uh-huh.

21 **Q.** -- and are aware of the content of -- as you know,
22 I have a significant social work file that relates to
23 the time after the home that we are looking at. So I am
24 not going to go into those matters with you today --

25 **A.** Thank you.

1 Q. -- but your time ultimately in St. Joseph's Babies'
2 Home, you have some pleasant memories of some of the
3 nice people that you met.

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. Then that led to the foster placement with the lady that
6 you have got a high regard for.

7 **A. Uh-huh. Yes.**

8 Q. HIA270, I am not going to ask you any more questions.
9 If you just remain there for a short while, the Panel
10 Members may want to ask you something. So just bear
11 with us for a short time, please.

12 **A. Okay. Thank you.**

13 **Questions from THE PANEL**

14 CHAIRMAN: Can I just ask you about one very small point,
15 HIA270? You agreed with Mr Aiken that was the
16 , but it was
17 her -- it was was , was it not?
18 That's what the documents seem to suggest.

19 **A. No. Sorry. Just to clarify, the lady was NL 251**
20 **, who worked in -- it is maybe the best way to do**
21 **it this way -- in St. Joseph's Baby Home.**

22 Q. Yes.

23 **A. She was 18.**

25 Q. Yes. It is just that the documents say at the time that

1 she was NL 251 sister, not sister.

2 **A. No.**

3 Q. But that's not correct, is it?

4 **A. No, that's not correct.**

5 Q. I see. Thank you very much. That's the only thing
6 I wanted to ask.

7 **A. Thank you. Thank you.**

8 Q. Well, you will be relieved to hear we don't have any
9 other questions, HIA270. As Mr Aiken has explained to
10 you, what we are required to look at is what happened in
11 Nazareth House and Nazareth Lodge in this particular
12 instance. So we do not look at what happens during the
13 time people are fostered, but thank you very much for
14 coming to speak to us today.

15 **A. Thanks for your time. Thank you.**

16 Q. Thank you.

17 (Witness withdrew)

18 MR AIKEN: Chairman, I think Ms Smith is taking the next
19 witness, but it will probably be after lunch before that
20 can happen.

21 CHAIRMAN: Yes. I think the witness has been asked to come
22 for 2 o'clock. Isn't that right?

23 MR AIKEN: Or possibly ...

24 CHAIRMAN: Well, we will see what -- we will try and start
25 at, say, at 1.45, if possible, ladies and gentlemen.

1 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

2 MS SMITH: NL122, as I explained to you, I am just going to
3 tell the Panel Members where there are some documents
4 relevant to your evidence in our bundle.

5 NL122's statement can be found at SNB-80093.

6 There is a statement of HIA48, an Inquiry statement,
7 which I haven't actually got the reference for. Sorry.
8 It is at SNB-860.

9 There is also a statement from DL40, which is at
10 SNB-1871.

11 There is also police material relevant to NL122,
12 which is at SNB-60549 to 60552.

13 Now if we could have NL122's statement on the
14 screen, please. It is SNB-80093. Now, NL122, I know
15 you need your glasses to see this. When we were talking
16 just a short while ago, NL122, we were looking at your
17 statement, and I was explaining to you how, when we
18 brought it up on the screen, instead of your name there
19 would be a big black block with the letters and number
20 "NL122" instead of your name to protect your identity.

21 You will see, if you look at it there on the screen,
22 we have blocked out the names of other people. While
23 I am going to use the names to make it easier for you to
24 understand who we are talking about, those names are not
25 to be used anywhere other than in this room. All right?

1 **A. Right.**

2 Q. Now in the statement you give your date of birth.

3 I know you are now 64 years of age, NL122. Is that
4 right?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. You say where you were born. You changed the name of
7 your family name slightly in later life. You believed
8 you were placed as a baby in the nursery at St. Joseph's
9 Baby Home before you moved across to Nazareth Lodge when
10 you were 5 years of age, and you remained there until
11 you were 11. You then moved to Kircubbin until you were
12 some time around the age of 16 years, and while you said
13 in your statement that you had no wish to discuss your
14 own experiences of any of those homes, whenever we were
15 talking in the room outside, you did give me some
16 details, which we will come back to. All right?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Now when you left Kircubbin, you returned on occasion to
19 Nazareth Lodge on Saturday mornings. You sometimes
20 helped out a man there, who was NL198. He worked as
21 a there. He retired and you got his job.
22 I was checking with you. When you left Kircubbin, you
23 moved into digs in .

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. So you were quite nearby Nazareth Lodge at that time.

1 You were working during the week, but you called up on
2 a Sunday to see the nuns and just to visit the place.
3 Isn't that right?

4 **A. Yes, yes.**

5 Q. I was asking you also -- when you were working there,
6 you said that you remember there were -- there was
7 a whole lot of you went up on a Saturday. You were all
8 boys --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- who were ex-home residents living in digs together.
11 It wasn't just you who went up. There was a group of
12 you.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. There was other boys who would have gone up during the
15 week, because they weren't working. Is that right?

16 **A. Yes, yes.**

17 Q. You remember when you were working there seeing them
18 calling up during the week.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. They would have come and chatted to you and probably
21 kept you back a bit from your work maybe.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. You also talked about going to the youth club. You used
24 to meet them up in the youth club --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- which was initially in before
2 it moved, probably because of the Troubles, to the
3 .

4 A. .

5 Q. Now you say they were all -- your duties when you were
6 working at Nazareth Lodge was to
7 . There was also some
8 . Your immediate
9 supervisor was a man called NL151 . There were other
10 employees there as well as you who did the same work and
11 you name them. There was a NL259 and a NL201 Their
12 surnames are given there. There was another person
13 called NL151 with a different first name who you
14 never had any -- didn't remember him or knew about him
15 --

16 A. No.

17 Q. -- or had any dealings or anything with him. You said
18 you never had any dealings or supervisory roles in
19 respect of the children at the home.

20 A. Uh-huh.

21 Q. "I have never chastised or punished any child at the
22 home. I have read the allegations apparently naming me
23 and I deny them absolutely."

24 I was asking you -- I am going to come on to the
25 allegations and we will look at them in a little bit

1 more detail. One of the things I was asking you, NL122,
2 was would you have ever been inside the convent inside
3 the children's home part in your role as a ?

4 **A. No, no; only the odd time to**

5 . We would only be in there about five
6 minutes.

7 Q. Sorry. NL122, you see the microphone in front of you?
8 Could you maybe lower that and pull it towards you,
9 because it is quite hard sometimes to make out what you
10 are saying. That's great. Thank you.

11 So you were saying that you were only in maybe to
12 ?

13 **A. Aye. Yes.**

14 Q. I take that would have been at the request of the nuns?

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. There was never any other reason for you to be inside?

17 **A. No.**

18 Q. Now I am going to discuss -- there are three people that
19 -- as you know, who have made allegations about you.

20 The first of those is DL40. I am going to use his name.
21 That's DL40, but you don't -- that name means nothing to
22 you?

23 **A. No, no.**

24 Q. You don't remember him, and I was discussing that he is
25 . He is a ,

1 I think, but that didn't ring a bell --

2 **A. No.**

3 Q. -- with you either --

4 **A. No.**

5 Q. -- although you did remember some children who were

6 --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- but he -- that wasn't a name that rang a bell.

9 **A. No.**

10 Q. Well, in his Inquiry statement at paragraph 13 at
11 SNB-1873 he said about you that -- and he named you:

12 "NL122", and he gave your surname, "one of the
13 , was a nasty person and a real bully. He
14 frightened all of us children, and if you went out of
15 bounds on the grounds, he would hit you. He hit me
16 several times for being up near the garages. However,
17 his work colleague, , was a great man."

18 Now he, as you know --

19 **A. ?**

20 Q. Sorry?

21 **A. No . There was no worked**
22 **there.**

23 Q. I think that's where you're saying you had no knowledge
24 of a .

25 **A. No, NL151 .**

1 Q. NL151 . So it is possible that he might have
2 got the name wrong but the surname is right?

3 A. Yes, yes.

4 Q. You know from when I was talking to you that DL40 came
5 and he spoke to the Inquiry and sat where you are
6 sitting. The transcript of what he told the Inquiry
7 about the allegation made about you can be found at
8 SNB-91148.

9 Now he was being questioned by my colleague,
10 Mr Aiken, about what he was saying about you. He was
11 told that we had got the statement that you have
12 provided for the Inquiry and that was being read to him.
13 If we can just scroll on down, please, just to where it
14 starts:

15 "You then in paragraph 13 ...",

16 and then if we can go over to the next page, you
17 see -- if you can see this, this is what I was reading
18 out to you earlier, NL122. It is on the screen in front
19 of you there. If we can scroll on down, about --

20 "There is one particular incident. If I can ask you
21 to explain in your own words the incident where he
22 struck you. That particularly stands out in your mind."

23 DL40 -- the dark writing is what DL40 was saying to
24 the Inquiry, NL122. He said:

25 "Absolutely. It was up near the garages, and that

1 was a designated area that was out of bounds, and I was
2 up there playing."

3 Now can I just check with you, NL122: the garage
4 area in Nazareth Lodge was out of bounds?

5 **A. I don't know, but if they say it was out of bounds --**
6 **I don't know if it was out of bounds. The only place**
7 **that I knew was out of bounds was in the gardens**

8 .

9 Q. Okay. So they should never have been near you in the
10 gardens. Is that right?

11 **A. No.**

12 Q. But they did come?

13 **A. Aye, out at the hedging. They didn't come into the**
14 **gardens. They were at the hedging.**

15 Q. They were on the other side of the hedge. Is that what
16 you are saying?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Okay. He says he was up there playing and you said to
19 him -- by the garages this is. You said, and named him:

20 "... 'What are you doing?' and he called me over and
21 he hit me an almighty bang on the side of the face on my
22 right ear, and from that there day onwards I have had
23 trouble with my ears, and I don't know if he contributed
24 to it or not, but he was a real bully and the children
25 were terrified of that man, particularly if you went out

1 of bounds."

2 It was put to him that you were somebody the
3 children knew to avoid. He said:

4 "Yes, that's fair."

5 Mr Aiken then goes on to say:

6 "Well, what else was it about him, other than this
7 occasion that he struck you, that caused children to be
8 of the view that ..."

9 you were someone to be avoided. His answer was:

10 "It is just when we went out of bounds, everybody
11 was very wary not to get caught by NL122. If you got
12 caught by anybody else, it wasn't an issue, but if you
13 got caught by NL122, he took it upon himself to hand out
14 punishment."

15 DL40 was then asked if he didn't feel able to go and
16 tell that you had done this and he said:

17 "Because what I done was wrong. It was out of
18 bounds and I shouldn't have been out of bounds, and so
19 I just accepted it and got on with it."

20 He said that from that time he has had difficulties
21 with his ears. On page 91151 he said that -- sorry --
22 it was put -- your statement then was put to him. Yes.
23 If we can just scroll on down, please, Mr Aiken read out
24 from your statement to him, and he says:

25 "He denies the allegation or suggestion made by you

1 that he assaulted you. So he says that didn't happen.

2 Is there anything else you want to say about that?"

3 DL40 said:

4 "All that I'll say is that it did happen and it can
5 rest on NL122's conscience, but it did happen."

6 He then goes on to add:

7 "Sorry about that there. I mean, I don't want to
8 take this any further. You know, it happened. I am not
9 looking for any sort -- anything to come out of this
10 criminally or anything like that there."

11 So that is what DL40 told the Inquiry about his
12 allegation. Do you understand, NL122?

13 **A. I understand, but I don't care where they were playing.
14 It is nothing to do with me. They are in the home. The
15 home is nothing to do with me. They can play anywhere
16 they want, you know, as long as I am not bothered, you
17 know, with standing asking me questions and holding me
18 back from my work.**

19 Q. Uh-huh.

20 **A. I don't care if they are kicking football all round the
21 place. Nothing to do with me.**

22 Q. You certainly didn't --

23 **A. I don't hit the people and I don't chastise people if
24 they are out of bounds or anything, because I don't even
25 know half of the out of bounds. The only place where**

1 **they shouldn't be is in the gardens .**

2 **That's it. They can go anywhere they like in the home,**
3 **because I did when I was in the home.**

4 Q. Can I just check, NL122, just to be clear: you say the
5 only place you knew was out of bounds was in the garden.

6 A. **In the garden.**

7 Q. I want to be clear: you didn't hit DL40 in the garden?

8 A. **I never hit anybody anywhere.**

9 Q. Thank you. Now the --

10 A. **I am in shock, by the way, listening to this here,**
11 **because I wouldn't hit any child. I wouldn't even hit**
12 **my own children, never mind their children.**

13 Q. NL122, I mean, clearly these allegations have upset you
14 greatly.

15 A. **They have, yes.**

16 Q. When we were talking earlier, you really became quite
17 upset talking about them. When we talked, it was the
18 first time you knew what DL40 had said to the Inquiry.

19 A. **Yes.**

20 Q. That caused you to be very --

21 A. **I always helped children when I was in the home myself.**
22 **I was always the protector of the weak in the home**
23 **against bullies too.**

24 Q. This is when you --

25 A. **There is no way I would do anything like that in my**

1 **life.**

2 Q. You are talking about when you were actually in the home
3 as a child, as an older child?

4 **A. Yes, when I was in the home as a child myself.**

5 Q. Okay. Well, just to move on to the other allegations
6 and then we will come to talk a little bit about your
7 own time in the homes, but the next person who spoke
8 about you or made any complaint about you was HIA9. She
9 is HIA9.

10 In her police statement at 61061 -- and we don't
11 need to call it up. I will just read it out. It was
12 just one line, because she was talking about somebody
13 else and then she said:

14 "NL122 was the and he was just as bad",
15 although she gave your full name. "He used to chase me
16 and beat me, even when I was nice to him."

17 **A. Untrue.**

18 Q. She in her Inquiry statement had said that there was
19 a number -- another member of staff -- other people --
20 sorry. She said:

21 "NL122 hit me as well. He was also
22 a ."

23 That's what she told the Inquiry about you. Now
24 I took her through her evidence just earlier this week.
25 She told the police, as I say -- she didn't add anything

1 in her evidence. In the way DL40 did respond to when
2 I put -- when your statement was put to him, when your
3 statement was put to HIA9, she did not add anything or
4 respond to that. All right?

5 The other third person who has complained about you
6 is someone who has not spoken to the Inquiry, but she
7 was a girl called NL8 , who spoke to police. She
8 has made two statements to the police. The first of
9 those was from 1996 -- sorry -- 1995. I beg your
10 paragraph. That's at SNB-60487. This was a statement
11 that she made to the police back in 1995. Now I am not
12 going to -- I will pull it up on the screen, but I am
13 not going to read out what's said there. I have
14 a reason for not doing so, which I will explain. If we
15 can just scroll on down, please, you will see here that
16 there is an incident where she talks about:

17 "... ...

18 During all the time in care I recall one incident
19 ."

20 She talks about someone -- seeing someone called
21 , who was a member of staff.

22 Now can I just check with you, NL122: did you ever
23 get anything other than "NL122"? Were you ever called
24 ?

25 **A. No, I was always called "NL122". I was called "NL122"**

1 **when I was in the home too -- in both homes.**

2 Q. That was always how you were known?

3 **A. That's always how I was known, "NL122".**

4 Q. Then if we can move on, please, to page 61042. In fact,
5 if we go to 61044, now this is a statement that the same
6 girl, NL8 , made in May of 2010. If we go down
7 through that down to -- there was a line there:

8 "There was a called NL122 and
9 I always saw him in the , never inside the home,
10 and one day I found an old dressing up dress like
11 something from the Victorian days. I put the dress on
12 and remember trying to walk in it, as it was too long.
13 I thought I was really pretty and went to show NL122.
14 He became so angry that he kicked me so hard between my
15 legs that I fell on to the ground screaming in pain and
16 he just walked away laughing."

17 NL122, you are shaking your head.

18 **A. That's a terrible thing. I would never do anything like**
19 **that in my life to any child. It's all lies as far as**
20 **I'm concerned.**

21 Q. Well, NL122, just to -- if we can scroll on to the next
22 page of this girl's police statement, because there's --
23 she relates this incident about what happened in the
24 there:

25 "One night me and another girl were being silly in

1 the

2 Again she talks about a member of staff called
3 " ". Now I know you were asked to respond to this
4 in your witness statement, but I can tell you that it is
5 quite clear to me, looking at this, that she was talking
6 about somebody else, and certainly when you were
7 interviewed by the police, they never put anything to
8 you about girls in the .

9 **A. No.**

10 Q. Isn't that right?

11 **A. No.**

12 Q. In fact, if we just go to -- you did speak to the police
13 in your statement. You were interviewed by the police.
14 We have a statement from the detective constable who
15 spoke to you, which is at 61046. You will see here that
16 he spoke to you in February of 2012. You remember
17 speaking to the police, NL122, don't you?

18 **A. Yes, yes.**

19 Q. If we can just scroll on down. You didn't have
20 a solicitor with you and you confirmed that you didn't
21 want a solicitor.

22 **A. I had no need for one.**

23 Q. Pardon?

24 **A. I had no need for one, because I didn't do nothing.**

25 Q. "During the interview NL122 confirmed that he was placed

1 into Nazareth Lodge from the age of 3 months. He
2 resided there until he was 11 years of age before moving
3 to Kircubbin. He left Kircubbin at 15 years of age to
4 go to digs in . He started working at
5 Nazareth as in '71/'72 and remained
6 there for eight years."

7 When you were talking to the police, you weren't
8 sure if it was NL198 or somebody else you had taken over
9 the job from.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. "NL122 was asked outright did he kick NL8 between
12 the legs when she appeared in a dressing up dress. He
13 said he did not. He didn't have a clue about that. He
14 was asked outright did he ever chase and beat HIA9. He
15 said he did not. He strenuously denied the allegation.
16 He confirmed that he worked there
17 , but had very little to do with the children and
18 had no contact with them."

19 Then the interview ended. Is that -- that accords
20 with what you told the police, what you remember about
21 telling the police when they asked you?

22 **A. Yes, yes. I remember the interview.**

23 Q. It is clear from that he was not asking you about any
24 incident in the .

25 **A. That's --**

1 Q. So he obviously didn't think you were the same person.

2 **A. That's the only incidents that I was enquired -- asked**
3 **about.**

4 Q. We know -- if we just go back to your statement at
5 80093, NL122, at paragraph 3 there, if we can just
6 scroll down, you do say that you were asked to appear
7 and the allegations were put to you, and you didn't --
8 as you have just said to us, did not bring a solicitor
9 as you had nothing to fear from the investigation and
10 denied the allegations.

11 "The only explanation I can make is that the
12 complainants are making a mistake over identification.
13 I also believe that I never worked into nights. The
14 children at the home would have been at school when
15 I was at work, as I finished normally between 4.30 and 5
16 o'clock Monday to Friday. I had no connections to any
17 of the children and would not even have known them
18 during my employment."

19 You go on in paragraph 4 to deny either sexually or
20 physically abusing any child at any time in any way.
21 You deny the allegations and suggestions made by the
22 three people I have just dealt with, and you say:

23 "There is simply no truth in this and the incidents
24 as described never occurred."

25 **A. Correct.**

1 Q. Now, NL122, I know you said in the first paragraph that
2 you didn't want to speak about your own experiences in
3 the home, and whenever we were talking, I asked you
4 whether or not you accepted that some children who were
5 in the homes that you were in, Nazareth Lodge or
6 Kircubbin, had bad experiences, and you did accept --
7 not in respect of Nazareth Lodge.

8 **A. No, not in Nazareth Lodge.**

9 Q. You said that you never saw anybody being punished
10 there.

11 **A. No, no.**

12 Q. But you said yes, there were punishments in Kircubbin.

13 **A. Correct.**

14 Q. You thought that the punishments were horrendous.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. You yourself were whipped there.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You also then went on to tell me a little bit more about
19 Kircubbin. Please correct me. I am just going to
20 summarise what we were saying, and if I have got
21 anything wrong, please correct me or interrupt me, but
22 you said that most of the -- you yourself were never
23 sexually abused, but that there were -- most of the
24 sexual abuse that you knew about was between boys
25 between themselves.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. You said that there were older boys --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- who would have abused younger boys.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. Somebody did try it on with you and you ended up
7 fighting him.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. You never saw the Brothers abuse anybody sexually --

10 **A. No.**

11 Q. -- but that other boys talked about it.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. You yourself were called a pet and you got into a fight
14 over that.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. You were called a particular Brother's pet --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- and you got into a fight with a boy about that. Have
19 I got that wrong?

20 **A. I wasn't called a pet. My brother was called a pet. He**
21 **was in the home before me.**

22 Q. Okay.

23 **A. He left before I went to Kircubbin. He is nine years**
24 **older than me.**

25 Q. So somebody said to you, "Your brother was so-and-so's

1 pet"?

2 **A. Yes, yes.**

3 Q. You got into a fight with that boy because he called
4 your brother that?

5 **A. Because he said he was sexually a pet with BR14**

6 **- Brother -- maybe I shouldn't mention names.**

7 Q. That's fine.

8 **A. He said they were at it, you know, and he was BR14's**
9 **pet. That's BR14's pet.**

10 Q. So you got into --

11 **A. I was in a fight, yes.**

12 Q. You also mentioned to me that you -- your brother was
13 a good bit older than you and he wasn't in the homes
14 when you were there.

15 **A. No.**

16 Q. He wasn't there at the same time.

17 **A. No.**

18 Q. He used to actually come and take you out of Kircubbin

19 --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- and take you to live with him in his digs for the
22 weekend and that kind of thing.

23 **A. Yes. That's correct.**

24 Q. You said you had three sisters who were actually in
25 Nazareth House.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. You said they used to come and visit you when you were
3 in the Lodge.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. The nuns would have brought them down.

6 **A. Yes, brought them down on a Sunday.**

7 Q. On a Sunday. Was that every Sunday or just --

8 **A. Yes. Maybe every second Sunday or one Sunday a month.**

9 **I can't remember really.**

10 Q. But you remember them coming on a Sunday?

11 **A. On a Sunday.**

12 Q. I was asking where you met up with them.

13 **A. In the playground.**

14 Q. You played with them there?

15 **A. Yes. Never met them in the house itself. It was always**
16 **in the playground, because they came down to play too**
17 **probably, seeing -- there was probably other ones that**
18 **had family there as well. Their sisters probably came**
19 **down to them as well.**

20 Q. Okay. Well, that's what you told me when we were
21 talking earlier.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. I just want to then ask you whether there is anything
24 else that you want to say to the Inquiry about your time
25 in either of the two homes that you were in as a child,

1 or if you don't want to, that's fine, but if there's any

2 --

3 **A. No, not really, you know. I was in a fight the first**
4 **week I was down in Kircubbin. I would like to bring**
5 **that bit up, because there was weaker lads from Nazareth**
6 **Lodge went down with me when I went down when I was 11.**
7 **They were picking on them, and I was in a fight the**
8 **first day, because they were bullying them. The bullies**
9 **started the first day we were down and I intervened and**
10 **I was in a fight with the bullies the first day I was**
11 **down, and I got punished for that.**

12 Q. Is that the kind of thing that you did get punished for
13 in Kircubbin?

14 **A. Yes. I stuck up for the weak, the ones I went down**
15 **with, and any weak person, I always stuck up for them.**

16 Q. Well, NL122, you have accepted that some children didn't
17 have maybe as positive an experience or as happy
18 an experience. I mean, you did say to me when we were
19 talking that you were happy with the care that was
20 provided --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- for you when you were in those two homes --

23 **A. Yes, yes.**

24 Q. -- but you do accept that some boys, in Kircubbin
25 particularly, got punished horrendously.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. I was saying to you that at the end of its work the
3 Inquiry has to make recommendations about what should
4 happen in respect of children who maybe didn't have as
5 happy an experience as yourself in the homes.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. I wondered if you had any view about that.

8 **A. What I mean by whipping, there was electric wire, you**
9 **know, the electric wire you put in the ceilings, brown**
10 **stuff, which was doubled up and all, and they used to**
11 **get --**

12 Q. Like a flex cable?

13 **A. Put them over a bench, their hands, and they were**
14 **whipped that way. Well, I used to put books and comics**
15 **down behind in them when I was getting it and a whole**
16 **lot of them used to do it. I used to tell them to do**
17 **that as well.**

18 Q. To protect yourself from the whipping?

19 **A. To protect yourself, but you still felt it, like, but**
20 **some of them were badly marked, you know. That's the**
21 **only thing I think was bad that happened to me.**

22 Q. Well, NL122, I appreciate that. Thank you for that,
23 because I know that you were reluctant and you would
24 rather put that behind you. The Inquiry does appreciate
25 that you felt able to even say that to us today.

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. Can I also just check with you in respect of that bad
3 thing or bad things that happened to other children, is
4 there anything that you want to say about what the
5 Inquiry should recommend?

6 **A. Not really, no.**

7 Q. Well, you will be glad to know that I have nothing
8 further that I want to ask you. The Panel Members may
9 have some questions for you. Thank you again.

10 **A. Thank you.**

11 CHAIRMAN: Well, NL122, we don't, in fact, have any
12 questions for you. So thank you very much indeed for
13 coming to speak to us today.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. Thank you.

16 **A. Thank you very much. It's a great experience. I have
17 never been in court before.**

18 Q. Thank you.

19 Now, ladies and gentlemen, that I think concludes
20 our business for today.

21 MS SMITH: It does, yes, Chairman.

22 CHAIRMAN: Therefore, we will resume on Monday, 27th April.
23 Thank you very much.

24 **A. I would like to thank you for your help.**

25 **(Witness withdrew)**