
HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at
Banbridge Court House
Banbridge

on Tuesday, 28th April 2015

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 112)

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

1 Tuesday, 28th April 2015

2 (10.00 am)

3 (Proceedings delayed)

4 (11.00 am)

5 WITNESS SR208 (called)

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

13 Good morning, Ms Smith.

14 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and
15 gentlemen. Our first witness today is SR208. She has
16 been given the designation "SR208". She wishes to take
17 a religious oath and she also wishes to maintain her
18 anonymity.

19 WITNESS SR208 (sworn)

20 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Sister. Please sit down.

21 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

22 MS SMITH: Sister has given three statements to the Inquiry.

23 They can be found at SNB-1862 to 1865 and then two
24 response statements in respect of two applicants to the
25 Inquiry, which are at 1866 to 186... -- sorry -- 1866 to

1 1868 and another statement at 1869.

2 Now, Sister, I know that some of your Sisterhood
3 don't appreciate that you have some hearing difficulties
4 and we talked about whether or not it was appropriate
5 for me to mention that, but I am going to simply because
6 I want to make sure that you can hear me. Please
7 interrupt me if there's something that you don't hear
8 correctly.

9 **A. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you, Christine.**

10 Q. And you can hear me all right?

11 **A. Thank you. I can, yes, definitely, yes.**

12 Q. Sister, you are now aged You were professed in
13 November 1954, when you were aged 19, almost 20. You
14 were in Nazareth Lodge between 1965 and 1966.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. You went there when you were aged 30. If we can just
17 call up your statement, please, at 1862, and you will
18 see, Sister, that although your name is given here in
19 full, before this is put on to our website I can assure
20 you that the names given in these statements will be
21 redacted. So they won't go into the public domain. You
22 will be aware, as is everybody, and I will remind them,
23 that any names we use in this chamber are not to be used
24 outside.

25 Sister, you say in your statement that you came in

1 1965 on a temporary basis and that was prior to you
2 starting your nursery training in That was
3 nursery nursing.

4 **A. Nursery nursing training, yes.**

5 Q. You then returned to live in the convent at the Lodge
6 from 1975 to 1983, and at that stage you worked in
7 St. Joseph's Babies' Home, but you had no involvement
8 with the children in the Lodge itself.

9 **A. No. That's right, yes.**

10 Q. And I was asking you when we were speaking a little
11 while earlier, Sister, about whether you could assist
12 the Inquiry with some general information about what
13 community life was like at that time in the 1960s and
14 earlier, in fact, but so that the Inquiry can better
15 understand the life of the community and how that
16 related to looking after children.

17 You yourself trained as a nursery nurse and then
18 that became your role, but there were others who lived
19 in the community who didn't have any role with the
20 children at all. Isn't that so?

21 **A. Yes. There will be Sisters who would be in charge of**
22 **catering and there will -- of course, with the children**
23 **there were the Sisters who taught in the school, and**
24 **they also had groups. Then there would be sisters**
25 **engaged in linen work, church work, various activities**

1 **within the home fortress, yes.**

2 Q. Sorry, Sister. I didn't mean to interrupt you, but what
3 was the priority for the Sisters, for the Congregation?
4 Was it the work that they were doing within the homes in
5 their various jobs or was community life your priority,
6 your vocation and your sense of community?

7 A. **No. It would be an intertwining of community and**
8 **apposite work with the children as it was in Belfast,**
9 **yes, and speaking from my own experience, I would have**
10 **found my community life would have helped my life and my**
11 **work with the children. Basically I was approaching it**
12 **from a Christian point of view. I come from a Christian**
13 **family, and knowing -- and coming from a big family and**
14 **knowing -- being familiar with the needs of children and**
15 **family life, and trying to do what was the best possible**
16 **in the situation that they were in and we were in.**

17 Q. You were explaining to me, Sister, that you were, in
18 fact, the eldest in your own family and therefore before
19 you entered the convent you had experience of how
20 younger children behaved and you would have helped out
21 at home with them.

22 A. **Yes, I wouldn't -- and I wouldn't --- my expectations**
23 **wouldn't have been over. You know, they wouldn't have**
24 **been --**

25 Q. You wouldn't have expected too much from the children?

1 **A. Yes, I think, I think.**

2 Q. Can I just ask a little bit more about the community
3 life? How separate was community life within the
4 convent from the children? For example, we were talking
5 about you ate your meals apart from the children. Isn't
6 that correct?

7 **A. Yes. Our actual living -- well, actually we slept --**
8 **the Sisters of us engaged with the children slept in**
9 **small, little box rooms off the dormitory. Our meals**
10 **would have been with the community and our recreational**
11 **time would have been with the community when that was --**
12 **you know, which we rotated with each other. The**
13 **actual -- there would have been a physical difference**
14 **between the actual -- our accommodation and the**
15 **children's. It would be -- it would have been**
16 **a physical demarcation line, yes.**

17 Q. There was a compartmental -- a compartment, if you like
18 --

19 **A. Exactly.**

20 Q. -- of the convent --

21 **A. Convent, yes.**

22 Q. -- that was solely for the use of the Sisters.

23 **A. The Sisters, yes, and those approp...**

24 Q. Sorry.

25 **A. You know, anybody else, you know, who worked in -- such**

1 **as -- you know there was -- who deemed it necessary to**
2 **be there, yes. (Inaudible.)**

3 Q. You were saying if a Sister was sick, then the doctor
4 might go into that part of the convent.

5 A. **Yes, he would. Oh, yes, they would be now.**

6 Q. Other than that it was simply --

7 A. **Yes, it would, yes, unless they just -- yes, yes.**

8 Q. But other than that it was simply for your use and
9 no-one else's?

10 A. **Yes, exactly, our, yes.**

11 Q. You were saying that you, in fact, would have cleaned
12 that area yourselves --

13 A. **Yes, in that area.**

14 Q. -- and looked after that area yourselves.

15 A. **Quite definite, yes.**

16 Q. We were also talking in general terms, Sister, and
17 forgive me. I am not going to go into a great deal of
18 detail. I am just going to use you giving evidence to
19 highlight for the first time what the Inquiry has
20 discovered about how you were governed, as it were, by
21 the rule of St. Augustine and the constitutions of the
22 Congregation and how they would have had a bearing on
23 your behaviour and the behaviour of the Sisters and
24 that's -- those have been updated. The constitutions
25 have been updated over the years. Isn't that correct?

1 **A. That's correct.**

2 Q. As far as we're aware they were last updated in the year
3 2000, but obviously the rule of St. Augustine was in
4 existence long before that.

5 **A. Long before that.**

6 Q. There are certain pages that I am just going to make
7 reference to. For example, just to give an example, one
8 of the rules of St. Augustine is at SNB-19219. Perhaps
9 actually just if we go to 19212, first of all. This is
10 just the cover page of the rule. This is a book that
11 I~take it every member of the Congregation has --

12 **A. That's right.**

13 Q. -- or is certainly in every house?

14 **A. Yes, that's right, yes.**

15 Q. If we can just go then just scrolling on down through
16 the page -- I'm not going to stop in any great detail,
17 but just to give an idea of the -- the first part of
18 this is The Rule of St. Augustine for Sisters. Then if
19 we just pause here, the rule covers matters such as
20 religious union and peace, humility, prayer, fasting,
21 modesty, voluntary confession of faults, custody of the
22 clothing, care of the sick, distribution of books,
23 clothing, etc, mutual charity, obedience and the duties
24 of superiors and on observance of the rules.

25 Every girl who joined the convent would have been

1 aware of these from the outset, that this was the rule
2 by which you had to live?

3 **A. Yes. That's right, yes. That would be part of the**
4 **training, yes.**

5 Q. Just -- I'm just going to highlight a couple of them,
6 Sister. If we go to 19232, and these -- this -- I've
7 moved on now to the constitution. At paragraph 10 here
8 it says:

9 "Candidates make profession of chastity only when
10 they have given evidence of test of virtue, emotional
11 maturity and growing mastery of mind and body. They are
12 put on guard against dangers that threaten chastity in
13 contemporary society, especially false doctrines which
14 allege that total continence is impossible or harmful to
15 human development. By certain spiritual instincts
16 Sisters reject whatever endangers chastity."

17 I was wondering about that. Is that rule, Sister --
18 did that affect how the community would have interacted
19 with the outside world so that you were always on guard
20 against the dangers of an attack on your chastity, as it
21 were? I mean, I am putting that in dramatic language
22 and I don't mean to, but was the case -- we were
23 discussing a book with you about an account that has
24 been given by ten Irish nuns called "For God's Sake"
25 written by someone called Camillus Metcalfe. I know you

1 are not familiar with the book, but some of the nuns in
2 that would talk about being very much cut off from
3 society when they entered the convent and they would
4 have been of your generation. I wondered if that had
5 been your experience.

6 **A. No, I can honestly say I would never felt that,**
7 **I suppose possibly due to the fact that, you know, we**
8 **did go amongst the people to -- and depended on their**
9 **charity at that point, and I would have -- you know,**
10 **certainly, you know -- and we have felt, I mean, that,**
11 **in fact, that the chastity would have been -- our**
12 **emphasis on chastity would be to free us to be --**
13 **embrace the wider number of people. Now that would be.**

14 Q. So you weren't tied to one individual --

15 **A. Yes, that's it. Yes, that's what we -- certainly**
16 **putting it right, yes.**

17 Q. Another vow you would have taken was the vow of poverty.
18 If we just scroll to the next page at 14(b) there, it is
19 said:

20 "The vow of poverty entails the renunciation of the
21 human right to use temporal things freely and
22 independently, be such things one's personal property,
23 the Congregation's property or anyone else's property."

24 So, in other words, you weren't allowed your own
25 individual things --

1 **A. No. That would have been --**

2 Q. -- as it were?

3 **A. Yes, that would have been that, yes.**

4 Q. I take it -- can I -- we have heard from a number of
5 people who have spoken to us, Sister, that, you know,
6 gifts and things were given to them and were taken off
7 them. There was a sense that the children weren't
8 allowed to have something more than other children would
9 have. Would that have been a reflection of this vow,
10 this part of your vow of poverty, do you think?

11 **A. No. I could -- you know, I quite, quite strongly, you**
12 **know, would deny that, because, you know, I find it very**
13 **hard to believe that Sisters would take things from the**
14 **children by reason of the fact that we were depending so**
15 **much on getting stuff, you know, books, toys, etc,**
16 **donated for the children. We would have been absolutely**
17 **delighted to get them. So, you know, taking them away**
18 **from them, you know, was pointless really. It doesn't**
19 **-- it doesn't make sense.**

20 Q. Just one other, if we can move to 19235. This is
21 talking now about the third vow, the vow of obedience.
22 At 19235 just at 22 there:

23 "They are subject to the local bishop according to
24 the norms of canon law and are to show special reverence
25 to him as head of the diocese."

1 Now we were discussing this and essentially the
2 bishop couldn't -- had no authority over the
3 Congregation, but you would have asked his permission
4 before you did anything in the diocese. Is that
5 correct?

6 **A. Well, there would be goodwill and there would be his --**
7 **you know, his blessing, but strictly speaking we were**
8 **economical -- we were governed by Rome, and, you know,**
9 **we wouldn't have been moved from convent to convent by**
10 **the bishop or we wouldn't have -- he certainly wouldn't**
11 **have had --**

12 Q. He didn't have any control in that sense.

13 **A. The day-to-day running of the convent would not have**
14 **been his.**

15 Q. Just again on the point of obedience, just at 19246 this
16 is -- it's recorded here that novices were to be
17 prepared to be moved wherever -- right from the outset
18 when you were in the novitiate you had to acknowledge
19 your willingness to be sent anywhere by the Mother House
20 essentially. Isn't that correct?

21 **A. Yes, that would be so.**

22 Q. That again was part of the vow of obedience.

23 **A. Yes, yes, within the British Isles, but Sisters who**
24 **would be -- they were considering posting abroad would**
25 **have been asked or maybe have volunteered.**

1 Q. So could you -- within the British Isles you could have
2 been put in any convent?

3 **A. Any, yes, yes.**

4 Q. But if it was considered that you were going to go to
5 Australia, for example, you would have been consulted
6 about that before you were moved there?

7 **A. Yes, they would have been, yes, quite.**

8 Q. Just at 1241 -- I think we have discussed this -- there
9 was reference to enclosure and we have discussed there
10 was a separate part of each convent --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- set aside for the use of the Sisters and only the
13 Sisters.

14 **A. Quite.**

15 Q. You were saying that that separation continues to this
16 day in convents, that there's always a part set aside
17 for the Congregation.

18 **A. Yes, there would be and, you know, that would be to our
19 advantage as regards, you know, our free time or, you
20 know, just getting away from work.**

21 Q. We discussed --

22 **A. It would be the equivalent of our personal ground
23 really.**

24 Q. Just as you left work to go home if you were in the --
25 outside working in the community, you would leave your

1 work to go into the enclosure?

2 **A. Quite, yes. It is -- you know, it was necessary really**
3 **to-- you know, to -- for your own well-being really and**
4 **for ...**

5 Q. One of the things we were discussing, Sister, you said
6 to me that you could see from a child's perception that
7 might have given you an air of aloofness from them --

8 **A. Yes, I did. I mean --**

9 Q. -- that separation.

10 **A. -- certainly it would. Could do. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. There is also mention -- and I will deal with it with
12 another Sister -- about the Superior had two local
13 counsellors to help her with the running of the home and
14 still does I presume. I may have said "did", but still
15 does. Anything that they were aware of they could
16 discuss with her. Any problems within the home they
17 could discuss with her.

18 There were also mention of local meetings at 19270.

19 You see here:

20 "Council -- community meetings are to be held from
21 time to time in order to consider matters of common
22 interest and to explore what is in the common good. The
23 Superior will encourage the Sisters to present their
24 ideas, opinions and personal contributions with candour,
25 conviction and trust, so that what is desirable and

1 better will be made manifest. The Superior above all
2 will give attentive hearing to what is said so that,
3 aided by her sisters' wisdom, she will more ably carry
4 out the duty which is hers alone of deciding and
5 prescribing what is to be done."

6 Now I was asking about these local meetings, Sister.

7 **A. I misunderstood that to begin with. Sorry. As I sit**
8 **here, they are the meetings that she would have with her**
9 **local counsellors --**

10 Q. So it wasn't --

11 **A. -- not with the entire community, you know. Meetings --**
12 **later on in our life the communities would have local**
13 **meetings to discuss various things, but this would have**
14 **been economical, because it would be held with her two**
15 **counsellors.**

16 Q. I want to make sure I've got this clear, Sister. You
17 are talking about in the 1960s --

18 **A. Quite, yes, yes.**

19 Q. -- when you were in Nazareth Lodge. The meetings would
20 just have been between the Superior and two local
21 counsellors.

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

23 Q. There wouldn't have been a formal meeting of the whole
24 community --

25 **A. No, no.**

1 Q. -- about matters relevant to the home at that stage?

2 **A. No, and those meetings would still be relevant today,**
3 **you know, as regards the actual running of the home or**
4 **the incurring of expenses or --**

5 Q. Yes. They essentially -- those meetings would have been
6 about administrative matters?

7 **A. Administrative matters with -- there's the proviso there**
8 **that they would be able to bring other matters to her**
9 **attention and would be expected to.**

10 Q. There's just one other matter -- sorry. Just before
11 I move on from that, you did have local meetings of the
12 community much later on than the 1960s, though, and
13 nowadays you would have sort of group meetings of the
14 whole community. Is that right?

15 **A. Yes, it would be, yes. It would be, yes.**

16 Q. That would be a development over the years?

17 **A. Yet again that is changing with our advancing years.**
18 **They tend to be.**

19 Q. One other matter just we dealt with in the constitution.
20 There's talk in there of temporalities, which
21 essentially was finance. Each house was expected to
22 contribute to the general administration of the
23 Congregation and to have regard to the vow of poverty so
24 that financial and material resources were used
25 sparingly but efficiently. I am afraid I don't have the

1 actual page reference, but it is in there under the
2 heading of "Temporalities".

3 I just wanted to be clear, Sister, that not only
4 were you -- you might have got the -- it is coming up
5 now there at 19272. The position was that not only were
6 you not necessarily getting money from the Mother House
7 in Hammersmith, but you were expected to give money to
8 Hammersmith. Isn't that correct?

9 **A. Yes, but that would have been because of loans made to**
10 **the foundation of the place. Yes, it would have been.**

11 Q. It was the repayment of that.

12 **A. The repayment, yes.**

13 Q. That was how it worked on an informal basis.

14 **A. Informal basis, yes.**

15 Q. The word you used was that you would have had
16 stewardship of the convent --

17 **A. Quite.**

18 Q. -- for the Mother House.

19 **A. Mother House, yes. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. I was also asking that this vow to use financial and
21 material resources sparingly but efficiently meant that
22 there was no luxuries involved and no extravagance in
23 the homes.

24 **A. Well, there was no money to be extravagant really. You**
25 **know, those days there wasn't really. The income was**

1 **sparse really.**

2 Q. Some other general points, Sister, before I come on to
3 your statement. The Inquiry has been told in response
4 statements from the Congregation that the Congregation
5 had a policy of no physical punishment of children.
6 I was wondering were you aware of that policy, first of
7 all?

8 A. **I would not have -- I would have been aware -- I would**
9 **not have seen -- been presented with a written policy as**
10 **such, but I would -- there would have been the unwritten**
11 **policy that I would have gathered from the people who**
12 **I worked with or -- you know, that would have been**
13 **an unspoken policy.**

14 Q. But there was never a formal making aware of whenever
15 you came to take over childcare, "You know, Sister, we
16 don't hit children. We're not going to do anything like
17 that". There was never any discussion --

18 A. **No. Yes, yes.**

19 Q. -- in those terms. It was just something that you
20 didn't do and you instinctively knew not to.

21 A. **And wouldn't have been accepted and all.**

22 Q. Just to be clear that I've got the facts right, children
23 were -- who were taken into St. Joseph's Baby Home as
24 babies, if they weren't adopted or fostered, they stayed
25 there until they were 2.

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

2 Q. They moved from there until they were 5 into the
3 Bethlehem nursery, which was a separate wing of Nazareth
4 Lodge.

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

6 Q. Then when you -- I'm talking in '65/'66 when you were
7 there. The 5 to 11-year-olds then went into the Lodge
8 proper, as it were.

9 **A. Quite, yes.**

10 Q. There were four groups --

11 **A. That's right.**

12 Q. -- of children.

13 **A. Of children, yes.**

14 Q. And we were talking and you think there was about twenty
15 in each group at that time.

16 **A. Yes, from my thinking, yes, that's right. (Inaudible.)**

17 Q. As best you can remember you certainly felt you had that
18 number?

19 **A. There certainly wouldn't have been more than twenty, but
20 it would have been twenty.**

21 Q. Then at 11 those boys, because they were only boys in
22 the mid '60s, they then left for Kircubbin --

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

24 Q. -- if they hadn't either gone home to their own family,
25 been adopted or fostered.

1 **A. That's right, yes. That would have been the position.**

2 Q. It was the position -- sorry, Sister. I didn't mean to
3 interrupt you.

4 **A. That had been the position for some years previous.**

5 Previous to that the children in Nazareth Lodge had
6 stayed on at the school leaving age, but previous --
7 some years previous to my coming to Nazareth Lodge this
8 had developed, that the boys went to Kircubbin, and the
9 idea would be, you know, as they reach adolescence and
10 -- you know, they would be -- would have a male
11 influence in their lives, which they really didn't have
12 up until then. We didn't have male staff at that point.
13 Uh-huh.

14 Q. Certainly in the 1960s as well families were separated
15 according to age group and gender, because the girls
16 went to Nazareth House. Isn't that right?

17 **A. That's right, yes. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. Now coming to your statement, Sister, and I'm going
19 deal, first of all, with one response statement that you
20 gave, which is at 1867. At paragraph 5 you refer to a
21 particular boy, and I am just going to use his first
22 name, HIA 16 You know who we are talking about. In
23 paragraph 5 here you say:

24 HIA 16 had older sisters who were in Nazareth House
25 and although they were in the same area, they were

1 physically apart. At one point the Sister with them
2 took them to the Lodge on a few Sundays to meet with
3 ^{HIA 16}. We both thought it would be a good idea.
4 However, it didn't seem to be of much concern to them
5 and it didn't become a regular thing. ^{HIA 16} wanted to
6 be with the boys and the sisters had their own
7 interests. The Sisters had the support of each other.
8 Sadly there was no family contact to keep the
9 relationship going on a realistic level."

10 You make the point that:

11 "By 1965 ^{HIA 16} had been parted from them for some
12 years."

13 He, in fact, had gone straight into the Baby Home.
14 Isn't that right?

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

16 Q. You do remember an older brother coming to visit him and
17 spending some time with ^{HIA 16} but you had subsequent
18 contact with ^{HIA 16} so you know that contact didn't work
19 out.

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. Sister, I just wanted to explore a little bit more about
22 this bringing together of the family. When we were
23 talking earlier, you said that the nun who brought the
24 girls down to Nazareth Lodge was SR116.

25 **A. That's right, yes. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. You and she had talked about bringing them down --

2 **A. Quite, yes.**

3 Q. -- and it was never an option to bring the boys up to
4 the house, because of their boisterousness?

5 **A. Well, that would be, yes, fair comment, yes.**

6 Q. It only happened a couple of times.

7 **A. Yes. I can -- as I say, I wasn't there that long, but
8 it certainly, you know, didn't -- petered out before
9 I left there actually.**

10 Q. Sister, one of the points HIA 16 had been in the home
11 since he was a baby. So he had no bond with these
12 girls. Isn't that right?

13 **A. And it wasn't as if either side were asking about it or
14 if HIA 16 was saying, "Are my sisters coming?" They were
15 almost a bother, you know.**

16 Q. I think the point I am making is by the time you and
17 SR116 got together to arrange this, it was really too
18 late by that stage.

19 **A. Oh, it was quite definitely, yes, quite too late, yes,
20 definitely too late.**

21 Q. Just to be clear that when HIA 16 gave a statement to the
22 Inquiry, he said that he was never allowed to visit his
23 sisters or to see them. Can you remember in 1965 --

24 I should have checked this -- can you remember what age
25 he would have been at that point. If you can't, Sister,

1 don't worry about it.

2 **A. He was born**

3 Q. So in 1965 he would have been about --

4 **A. 9.**

5 Q. -- 9.

6 **A. 8, 9. Yes, he was, yes.**

7 Q. So he had been separated from his sisters that period of
8 time.

9 **A. That period of time, yes.**

10 Q. He was old enough, though, to have remembered if this
11 happened.

12 **A. Oh, he would. Oh, I don't -- I don't, yes, contradict
13 that now at all. It definitely did.**

14 Q. One of the things just in exploring this separation of
15 families as well, Sister, I was asking you about what
16 contact there was between older siblings who were in
17 Nazareth Lodge and the babies who were in Bethlehem
18 nursery or in the babies' home, you know, the brothers
19 or sisters in the baby home or other brothers in the
20 nursery. What contact would there have been between
21 those older siblings and the younger ones?

22 **A. Now dealing with the group that I was with at that
23 particular time, there wasn't any of them who had
24 younger brothers or sisters. So, you know, I don't --
25 so I wouldn't -- there wasn't any contact made --**

1 Q. Between your group --

2 A. -- at that particular time, but I would be aware of
3 another family who had older brothers and in a situation
4 like that that child could well say that he didn't see
5 them. You know, if he says he didn't see them, well,
6 then I couldn't say categorically he must have seen
7 them, because --

8 Q. There was no formal arrangements.

9 A. There was no -- there was no formal arrangements.
10 Anything that would have been done would have been done
11 informally. As I say, mostly it would have been -- it
12 wasn't a big issue for the simple reason that those who
13 had -- it was only an issue for those who had no family
14 and were not bringing them together or they were not
15 brought out to a family, you know, to their actual
16 family.

17 Q. So if I have understood you correctly, Sister, what you
18 are saying is that this issue of separating families up
19 really only became an issue for those who were either
20 not fostered or didn't have a family to go home to. Is
21 that what you are saying?

22 A. Quite, yes, yes. Later on with the introduction of
23 social workers that would have been part of it. They
24 would have taken --

25 Q. That changed later on.

1 **A. There was a big change and they would be responsible for**
2 **that.**

3 Q. Just -- again just exploring a little bit more about
4 this separation of siblings, and you are aware the
5 Inquiry has heard from a number of people about this
6 issue, and I was wondering was there any policy about
7 that. Did the Congregation feel that it was appropriate
8 to separate the younger children from perhaps the bad
9 influence of their older siblings?

10 **A. No. I could say definitely not. It would be a question**
11 **of vacancies in the different groups, yes, and there**
12 **would have been an awareness amongst us that it really**
13 **wasn't the best way to have things, and I do remember**
14 **speaking about it at what we would have called**
15 **a visitation from our Mother Superior in Hammersmith,**
16 **and consequently that came about, but, I mean,**
17 **I don't -- you know, she certainly took it -- didn't --**

18 Q. She didn't dismiss your complaint.

19 **A. She dismissed me, yes, and that's why I didn't, you know**
20 **... But it came about and, you know, I wouldn't say it**
21 **came about because of that particular incident, but**
22 **I would say there was an awakening of it. It would have**
23 **been there, but then there was an awakening of it, and**
24 **then with the introduction of groups then it became**
25 **physically possible to do that, yes. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. Just moving on from that, we were talking about the
2 entries the registry that we have seen about how
3 children -- there were some entries that we were
4 discussing, for example, children put into the home:
5 "Father dead" or "Father alcoholic", "Mother
6 irresponsible" and certain information that was recorded
7 in the registers. You made the point to me that the
8 nuns only recorded what they were told by whoever was
9 bringing the child to the home --

10 **A. Yes, that would be --**

11 Q. -- whether that was the NSPCC or the parish priest, for
12 example.

13 **A. Yes, because ...**

14 Q. We have heard from a number of people that their parents
15 were -- the nuns were judgmental about their parents and
16 their parents' lifestyle and that. Is there anything
17 that you could say about that, Sister? Was that your
18 experience of how parents were treated by the nuns when
19 they came to visit their children?

20 **A. I wouldn't have thought they wouldn't have had that**
21 **feeling, no, because those that did come, that came to**
22 **see the children, and it would have been welcomed that**
23 **they came, and, you know, there was -- whilst there**
24 **wasn't separate visiting rooms, they would have come to**
25 **the big dining hall -- not during meals. It would have**

1 been -- you know, there would have been facilitates were
2 there. So I don't know that that would have been --
3 but, you know, society in general was more judgmental
4 then than it is now and, you know, the -- you know, the
5 -- and a lot of children in care really are very
6 judgmental --

7 Q. But certainly there wasn't --

8 A. -- issues really.

9 Q. -- a view of, for example -- if I can go back a step,
10 what information were you given about the children's
11 backgrounds?

12 A. I wouldn't have known -- the actual register -- the
13 actual information would have been kept by the Sister in
14 charge at that point. I wouldn't have been given
15 specific information, but then I have -- I'm aware now
16 that there was very, very little given to her as well.
17 So it would only be basic facts of date of birth and
18 when they came -- left St. Joseph's and when they came
19 to live with us. So, you know, they were actual -- the
20 actual -- so really we were depending on information
21 that was given to us, you know. We didn't go out to
22 interview the children -- the children. We were asked
23 to take these children. So the information that came
24 with them was the information we were left with.

25 Q. Forgive me, Sister, but what I was wondering was -- and

1 we were talking about this earlier -- you had this group
2 of children in your charge and were you ever at any
3 stage said, "This is Billy. Billy has -- his mother is
4 dead or his father is working -- away working in
5 England"? Were any of those sort of background details
6 first of all ever given to you about the child?

7 **A. It wouldn't be done in a formal way, no. It wasn't done**
8 **in a formal way. It was certainly not done in a written**
9 **way, but, you know, I would have been -- yes, I would --**
10 **in a general way I would have picked it up, but, as**
11 **I say, there wasn't any --**

12 Q. There was no formal --

13 **A. It wasn't -- it wasn't -- yes.**

14 Q. -- information given other than --

15 **A. No, it wasn't formal.**

16 Q. You were saying to me you gleaned a lot of information
17 from the children themselves.

18 **A. Yes, they would have been talking about it, yes.**

19 Q. Or some of the staff members may have told you, for
20 example, "This boy wets the bed", that kind of thing.

21 **A. Yes, that's exactly it.**

22 Q. Now the -- there had been a degree of separation from --
23 into groups certainly when you were in Nazareth Lodge.
24 There were four groups at that time.

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. You yourself were in charge of one group, Marions group,
2 if I've got that right.

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. And I was -- we talked that there was up to about twenty
5 boys in the group.

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. Each group would have had a similar number of boys.

8 **A. It would have done, yes. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. There were two dormitories on one floor with, say, ten
10 boys in each or twenty boys in each dormitory split into
11 two.

12 **A. No. Actually the two -- Marion and the Sacred Heart**
13 **groups were on the one floor with -- there would just be**
14 **the dormitories as such were on that floor with the**
15 **washing facilities across from the dormitory.**

16 Q. Yes.

17 **A. And --**

18 Q. I think --

19 **A. -- I would have -- that would have been on the one**
20 **level, one floor, yes.**

21 Q. Yes, but within that, if I've got this right, and please
22 correct me if I've got it wrong, Sister, but there was
23 a long corridor.

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

25 Q. On one side of the corridor there was the dormitories.

1 On the other side there were the bathrooms, the washing
2 facilities.

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

4 Q. And am I right in thinking that there were four rooms --

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

6 Q. -- split between the two groups?

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

8 Q. One group had two rooms --

9 **A. And the other had two.**

10 Q. -- and the other had two.

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

12 Q. Then the floor above had the same.

13 **A. The same, yes.**

14 Q. Those were the other two groups of children. Then you
15 talked about the attic. At one stage there were boys
16 who were in the attic.

17 **A. At one stage, but I'm not specific about that. I don't**
18 **know if -- I don't think it was actually in use in the**
19 **'60s --**

20 Q. At the time?

21 **A. -- at the time. I really don't.**

22 Q. But you were aware it had been used as accommodation for
23 children?

24 **A. I was aware. It actually was called an attic but really**
25 **it had windows in either side. You know, from the**

1 **outside of the building it actually is -- you know, it**
2 **is a floor, you know, yes.**

3 Q. Well, you mention -- just these groups, Sister, we were
4 talking about some of the boys have said to us that
5 there were colours for each group. Each group had its
6 own colour. Is that correct?

7 A. **Well, that would be in relation to towels and clothes**
8 **and, you know -- yes. It would be put on their -- a**
9 **little tab would be sewn on.**

10 Q. So would you know a blue group was Sister So-and-So's
11 group?

12 A. **Yes. Blue pyjamas would be definitely ... yes.**

13 Q. The crockery was coloured coded as well.

14 A. **The colour the same.**

15 Q. The boys were split into their groups in the dining
16 room.

17 A. **That's right. That's quite definite, yes.**

18 Q. In paragraph -- going back to your statement at 1866,
19 paragraph 2 of that, you say that:

20 "Each group had a young member of staff. There were
21 other ancillary staff. They were pleasant, easy to
22 manage children. Many had been in the care of the
23 Sisters since the very early years and they had been in
24 the care of Sisters since their very early years."

25 Now just if I can ask a little bit about the staff

1 that you remember, Sister. A young member of staff.
2 Now two of the people who would have been there at the
3 same time as yourself are two ladies called NL4. Now
4 she was, in fact, three years younger than you. There
5 was another lady, NL5, who was, in fact, nine years
6 older than you. Do you remember either of them in the
7 home when you were there?

8 **A. I do not remember NL4 being with the group. In fact,**
9 **I don't remember her being there with the children in**
10 **general, and I think I should have seen her. We shared**
11 **the one dining hall.**

12 Q. So you just have no memory of her?

13 **A. No memory of her. So ...**

14 Q. But you do remember NL5?

15 **A. Oh, I quite definitely remember NL5, yes, and**
16 **I certainly wouldn't remember ^{NL 5} as a cruel person.**

17 Q. Yes. You know from information that has been given to
18 the Inquiry that a number of people have complained
19 about her treatment of them.

20 **A. Yes, yes. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. But that doesn't accord with your memory of her.

22 **A. That certainly doesn't. I could, you know, be quite**
23 **strong on that point really.**

24 Q. Did you actually work with her, Sister?

25 **A. She would have actually worked with the Sister who was**

1 in charge in her group.

2 Q. SR 34

3 A. SR 34 and Sister -- who is now dead. Both are
4 dead actually, and I would have -- all of us would have
5 had contact with NL 5 because she would -- through the
6 dining room, because she had been there quite a while,
7 and she would have taken on duties as regards going to
8 the kitchen, seeing that things were right, seeing that,
9 you know, food -- she had extra duties as regards --
10 that she took on herself as regards (inaudible) and
11 I have never -- I certainly -- I mean, she certainly --
12 there was never any child in my care that I would have
13 had occasion to -- she wouldn't have had occasion to.
14 That was the idea of having Sisters in each group, that
15 they would ...

16 Q. The Sisters were in charge of discipline. Is that what
17 you are saying?

18 A. Discipline. Yes, that was really, yes.

19 Q. I was wondering, Sister, about the relationship between
20 the Sisters and the staff. I mean, what -- was there
21 a hierarchy that the staff would have deferred to the
22 Sisters?

23 A. I don't agree with that that there would have been, no.
24 I can't -- you know, that would surprise me.

25 Q. That wasn't your experience.

1 **A. Naturally we were part of the establishment and, you**
2 **know, they would have seen it as such, but as regards,**
3 **you know, being high-handed or feeling that they weren't**
4 **part of the group was just ...**

5 Q. Well, paragraph 7 of your statement, Sister, you say at
6 186... -- sorry -- ..63, going back to the earlier
7 statement if we may, 1863, you say that the Sisters and
8 staff were responsible for the general care and
9 behaviour of the children, and you talk about breakfast
10 and supper. In paragraphs 8 and 9 you give a bit more
11 detail about the staffing, and you say:

12 "That there were four units with a Sister and staff
13 in each one."

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. "Three of the teachers taught in the school whilst I was
16 with what was called the Marion group. As I did not
17 teach, I would have spent time in the dining hall and
18 after school in the playing field and recreation hall."

19 Then you go on to describe the layout there.

20 Now one of the things I was wondering, I was asking
21 about, do you ever remember medical treatment and dental
22 treatment for the children?

23 **A. I remember children being taken to clinics.**

24 Q. And I think you made mention of one --

25 **A. HIA 16 would have been taken for speech therapy.**

1 Q. You remember there was another boy.

2 **A. And there was another boy whose mother had died and he**
3 **had a bad knee, which would have been, you know,**
4 **something congenital.**

5 Q. And he was taken out?

6 **A. He have would have been taken to ...**

7 Q. It wasn't nuns but the members of staff who took them
8 out, was it?

9 **A. Yes, always a member of staff, yes.**

10 Q. You also make mention at paragraph 4 about the practice
11 of going out to families. You make a comment there that
12 these contacts were notified to the authorities, the
13 families the children went to. I was asking you what
14 authorities were notified?

15 **A. Well, at that time I don't know any particular name. It**
16 **would be what they refer to as the Welfare.**

17 Q. The Welfare --

18 **A. Welfare Officer I think would be fair comment, yes.**

19 Q. I think -- we had a discussion around this. There was
20 no system from the nuns of vetting these families as
21 such.

22 **A. No. They would be known to them and probably would have**
23 **been -- they would have requested or, you know, made**
24 **themselves amenable to having a child, but the actual --**
25 **there was no -- we had no process of vetting other than**

1 **what -- you know, community knowledge or probably parish**
2 **knowledge really. So ...**

3 Q. You were also mentioning that there was a child who
4 sadly drowned when she was with one of these families --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- and that after that --

7 **A. That's --**

8 Q. -- that was some sort of investigation by the Welfare.

9 **A. Yes. I'm quite clear on that, because it was very -- it**
10 **had happened previously and, you know, it was very clear**
11 **in people's minds that, you know, a child goes without**
12 **being, yes.**

13 Q. Some people have said after that happened the nuns
14 stopped sending children out to families. Do you
15 remember that happening?

16 **A. Well, I don't know actually when that happened, but in**
17 **'69 they were still -- the boys were going out at that**
18 **point.**

19 Q. So it may have been -- may have stopped for a while.

20 **A. I can understand it, because it was quite a shock at the**
21 **time and it was just -- so I could understand it. So I**
22 **don't know what -- what the policy in the house was as**
23 **regards it.**

24 Q. Well, Sister, I wanted to move on to talk a little bit
25 about the relationship between the Sisters and the

1 children themselves. I was asking you: did Sisters have
2 their favourites? Were there pets?

3 A. Well, human nature would -- you would -- you know, you
4 do like people (inaudible), but it wouldn't have been in
5 the children's interests, you know, to -- but it could
6 be seen by other children if you were trying to help
7 a child to develop its self-confidence or, you know,
8 just, yes. Then I suppose some children are naturally
9 precocious and they do get attention really.

10 Q. Sister, you were saying that the nuns were responsible
11 for disciplining the children rather than the staff.
12 I was wondering what type of discipline you would have
13 used. I mean, how -- if a child had disobeyed you or
14 not done something wrong -- right or had misbehaved in
15 some way, what would you have done to discipline the
16 child?

17 A. Yes. I was saying that -- but, like, it is not
18 really -- I suppose it is a reflection of the upbringing
19 they had had actually, that they were so used to the
20 system that you got up, you do things, that they weren't
21 a difficult bunch of children. They were a very easy
22 bunch of children to care for, and they were -- so just
23 disapproval really or, you know, just annoyance, you
24 know. A raised voice would be sufficient really, you
25 know, and they had -- remember they were -- did go to

1 **Kircubbin before they reached their adolescence and**
2 **rebellious stage. So ...**

3 Q. You didn't really have to deal with any challenging
4 behaviours that puberty brought?

5 A. **No, definitely not. There's no -- no ...**

6 Q. You have also said you didn't yourself see any child
7 beaten by anyone, whether that's a member of staff or
8 any nun.

9 A. **I can quite honestly say that, you know.**

10 Q. Just to be clear, Sister, no-one who has spoken to the
11 Inquiry has complained about you. In fact, the boy
12 HIA 16 who we were talking about said that you were in
13 charge of Marions and that you were very good, although
14 he and others, as I have said, have complained about
15 abuse by lay staff, but you were never aware of anything
16 untoward there?

17 A. **No, and I would, you know, feel that the lay staff**
18 **wouldn't have been given the opportunity. You know, it**
19 **wouldn't have been their remit to be punishing the**
20 **children really, yes.**

21 Q. It wouldn't have been their remit to do that?

22 A. **No, it wouldn't have been. It wouldn't have been their**
23 **--**

24 Q. Is it possible --

25 A. **You know, of course, they could have been, like all of**

1 us, in a situation where -- that they couldn't control.
2 That's -- you know, they were, you know, in that
3 situation, but I never saw it. So I can't say, you
4 know, (inaudible).

5 Q. One of the things that children have said is that this
6 was done out of sight of the nuns. Is that possible?
7 Are there times when the staff would have been left with
8 the children?

9 A. Not at that particular time. I mean, I only can speak
10 for that very small window of time and they definitely
11 would not have been for the simple reason their lives
12 were very clear-cut and systematic really, you know, and
13 ours were clear-cut as regards the time we spent with
14 the children, when we were away with them, when we were
15 replaced by each other. There were the two Sisters and,
16 you know, I think we would ...

17 Q. Can I just explore that a little bit more, Sister, if
18 I may? What about the time when you as a community went
19 to pray? Do you remember that?

20 A. We never -- that is one thing I do find very hard to --
21 because for the simple reason we did -- those of us who
22 were with the children had -- took it in turns to go to
23 prayer.

24 Q. So there was always a nun available --

25 A. Yes --

1 Q. -- during that evening prayer time?

2 A. -- and took it in turns to have our supper, which would
3 have been around the time, so that, you know ...

4 Q. One -- I've said there were complaints about the lay
5 staff. You have mentioned SR 34 and you said
6 that she could exercise control without any effort. Now
7 a number of people have complained to the Inquiry she
8 would pull them by the cheeks or by the sideburns.
9 I was asking you if you had ever seen her do anything
10 like that. You did demonstrate when we were talking
11 earlier what you recall her doing.

12 A. Yes. I would have done -- she would do this
13 (gesturing), "Look here, my boy, you know, that's not
14 on. I told you not to do that", but I certainly,
15 certainly never saw her lift a child. I mean, I cannot
16 be responsible for her actions.

17 CHAIRMAN: We can see what you are doing, Sister, but just
18 for the record what you are demonstrating is someone
19 taking the person by the --

20 A. Jowl really.

21 Q. -- jowl and pulling the jowl --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- in the way the Emperor Napoleon was supposed to do as
24 a mark of affection to his soldiers. Not lifting the
25 child, though. Pulling the jowl.

1 **A. No. I find it (inaudible).**

2 MS SMITH: The other thing just in relation to that, Sister,
3 she was in charge of the school or she was teaching in
4 the school. Is it possible some of the things we have
5 heard about might have happened while she was at school
6 and you wouldn't have seen?

7 **A. Well, I can't -- I mean, school would have been**
8 **a different -- totally out of my -- yes, yes.**

9 Q. I also just was wondering about -- we have had
10 complaints about children being given excessive chores
11 to do. Have you anything to say about that or what's
12 your recollection?

13 **A. Not -- I mean, they would have tidied up. They would**
14 **have made their beds in a sort of the way but they would**
15 **have -- and they would have cleared the tables, taken**
16 **the stuff to the scullery, somebody done the washing up**
17 **and maybe somebody (inaudible) sweep the floor or two of**
18 **them sweep the floor around their own area, but**
19 **certainly it wasn't excessive, because -- and previous**
20 **to my coming there there had been floor covering put on.**
21 **You know, it wasn't -- the Superior who had come there**
22 **had done some work previous (inaudible.)**

23 Q. You said there were renovations done.

24 **A. It's renovations. So it wasn't -- it wasn't a huge --**
25 **it wasn't a huge big area when you think of just the two**

1 **dormitories, two bedrooms really, and the dining room**
2 **would have been communal really. So there would be**
3 **a number, you know, each one doing a bit or something,**
4 **yes.**

5 Q. Just one other person just for completeness, Sister.

6 The only other person to mention you to the Inquiry was
7 HIA41. He said in his statement that he'd met you and
8 SR30 on the Ormeau Road in 1982. Now in 1982 you were
9 still living in the community -- isn't that right -- in
10 the convent?

11 A. **That's right. I would have been, yes.**

12 Q. You said he is mistaken about that. In his evidence he
13 seemed to accept that he may have got the wrong person.

14 A. **All right. (Inaudible.) Yes, yes.**

15 Q. But he thought that it was you, because you he thought
16 were particularly friendly with SR30. I was asking you;
17 were you particularly friendly with SR30?

18 A. **Not any more than anybody else. We lived together and,**
19 **I mean, I was friends with them all.**

20 Q. Just about the relationships between Sisters, again the
21 book that I was referring to earlier would suggest that,
22 you know, you weren't -- the nuns who were relating
23 their time in various convents were saying that
24 relationships and friendships between Sisters was
25 somewhat frowned upon, because it could be seen as

1 undermining the community as a whole. Was that your
2 experience, Sister?

3 **A. In fact, no. Definitely not, no. I mean, friendship**
4 **would be a Christian virtue really. You know, to be**
5 **kind and charitable to each other would be what you**
6 **should be. We are not always, of course, as human**
7 **beings, yes, but the same -- you know, there wouldn't --**
8 **certainly wouldn't have been a problem for me.**

9 Q. Well, coming back to SR 34 , as well as being
10 headmistress of the school, she had overall charge of
11 childcare in the home. Is that right?

12 **A. Yes. When I say that, it would be she would have charge**
13 **of the register, the admission of children and the**
14 **actual -- you know, and probably -- I don't -- I didn't**
15 **see any welfare officers coming, but no doubt there was**
16 **-- there would have been some, some.**

17 Q. And she would have been the person who dealt with them?

18 **A. Yes, when that would have been.**

19 Q. If I have got -- the impression the Inquiry has got,
20 Sister, from evidence is that although the -- you and
21 the rest of the Sisters who were looking after the
22 children were answerable to the Superior, the Sister who
23 was in charge of the group was left very much to run the
24 group as she saw fit.

25 **A. Yes, that would be fair, yes.**

1 Q. There were never -- sorry.

2 **A. There would be confines, as I said to you. It would be**
3 **voluntary confines, because we had no money. So you**
4 **couldn't just suddenly say, "We will go to the seaside**
5 **for an afternoon", you know. It was still very much --**

6 Q. There was a routine and a regimen.

7 **A. A routine. That was -- you know, that was ...**

8 Q. But there were no meetings about how things should be
9 done or to ensure there was a consistency of approach by
10 the nuns across the groups. There was nothing like
11 that? Perhaps I could explain that a bit better. You
12 four Sisters who were in charge of different groups of
13 boys, you didn't get together and say, "Look, I think we
14 might want to do this with the boys" or, you know, "How
15 are you dealing with such and such a problem in your
16 group?" There was nothing like that?

17 **A. No. I think everything was -- certainly there was -- we**
18 **were within confines of what was available and what**
19 **could be made available and was the money there to do**
20 **anything different. Really that was the thing.**

21 Q. You talk in paragraph 10 in your statement about good
22 times, about the trips to Ballyhornan, and you describe
23 the summer fare, as it were, that you ate when you were
24 in Ballyhornan. This was the only time that you ate
25 with the children -- isn't that right -- because in the

1 home you ate as a community.

2 **A. Yes, that's right. (Inaudible) otherwise I did tell you**
3 **we did have a portion of -- what do they call them?**

4 **(Inaudible), which are quite nice really, but there was**
5 **a portion that we had allocated to ourselves just as a**
6 **--**

7 Q. Community.

8 **A. -- community.**

9 Q. It was the equivalent of the enclosure in the convent.

10 **A. Exactly, and more -- it was never called enclosure, but**
11 **it would have been more a place to chill out really when**
12 **we got a chance.**

13 Q. You made the point, Sister, about the development of
14 Nazareth Lodge when we were talking earlier. You were
15 saying in the older days when it was an industrial
16 school there was actually a farm on the site.

17 **A. That's right. That would have been, which is now the**
18 **land that is used for the two schools. St. Joseph's**
19 **Baby Home, the nursery school and the St. Michael's**
20 **School would all have been fields.**

21 Q. They were built on site of the farm.

22 **A. On the farm.**

23 Q. In fact, where the care village now is was also part of
24 the farm.

25 **A. It was a very big field, yes. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. We did talk a little bit, Sister, already about the fact
2 that the boys left at 11 to go to Kircubbin when you
3 were there in the '60s --

4 **A. Uh-huh. Yes.**

5 Q. -- and how they needed male contact in their lives. You
6 talk about this in paragraph 12 of your statement. Can
7 I suggest to you, Sister, that it was not only for the
8 boys' sake that they would get the male influence, but
9 it would have benefitted the Sisters who might have
10 found it difficult to deal with the pubescent boys and
11 their behaviours at that time?

12 **A. Yes, quite possibly. I'm sure there was a lot of**
13 **factors at the time. I don't -- wouldn't know what led**
14 **to it, but I'm sure that would --**

15 Q. That was a factor.

16 **A. Yes. It could be a factor, yes.**

17 Q. Although the homes in England, there was no such move.
18 Isn't that right?

19 **A. Yes, that's right. No. The homes in England and**
20 **actually the home in Sligo, the children stayed on until**
21 **they left school, yes.**

22 Q. Although you made the point that in England there would
23 have been more social work involvement at that time.

24 **A. Quite definitely. We have to be definite on that one,**
25 **yes.**

1 Q. One thing just we were talking about, Sister, is I was
2 asking you what was done to prepare the boys for this
3 major change in their lives, this move from Nazareth
4 Lodge to Kircubbin, what preparation there was?

5 A. Now as regards the boys themselves they knew it was
6 coming. It was something that they were growing up to,
7 like, just a growing up phase -- age, but there wasn't
8 any -- at that point they weren't taken to visit
9 Kircubbin before. Now those that had -- there were only
10 really a few actually that might have had brothers there
11 that might have been, but there certainly was no
12 definite taking them or explaining or saying, "You'll be
13 ..." -- you know, (inaudible). On the other hand, there
14 was no definite coming back to visit afterwards until
15 they left. Now there could have occasional -- different
16 Brothers would have taken a few in to visit, but it was
17 never done on a -- there was nothing on a formal --

18 Q. Formal basis.

19 A. There was no formal acknowledgment that, you know --
20 that Nazareth and the other -- that area had been their
21 home from babyhood really. That was a -- yes.

22 Q. Sister, you talk -- sorry. I didn't mean to interrupt.
23 There was certainly no formal arrangement by taking the
24 children to visit where they were going to live or
25 anything like that set up. They just simply went and

1 excessive.

2 **A. Yes, it was in that, you know, they'd teach through the**
3 **day and they'd be with children at night. I know there**
4 **are married women who do it actually, but really -- yes**
5 **-- but it was -- it wasn't -- it wasn't easy. You know,**
6 **there really needed to have been a gap between their**
7 **schooling and their actual living so -- which would be**
8 **--**

9 Q. And they didn't have that gap.

10 **A. They didn't have that, yes. I say that wasn't good.**

11 Q. Was there any respite for them at all from this day
12 essentially from the work at school and the work in the
13 home? Did they ever get any respite?

14 **A. They went -- on a Saturday they went fund... --**
15 **collecting really, begging around the estates.**

16 Q. So that was another job they would do.

17 **A. So that would be -- that would have been counted.**

18 Q. And mentioned that there was a holiday home.

19 **A. Holiday home we did have at that point, yes. There**
20 **would be the holiday at that point, which was ten days**
21 **to a fortnight -- ten at that point.**

22 Q. Well, Sister, you'll be glad to know that I'm almost
23 finished with you. I just wanted to check was there
24 anything that you wanted to say that you haven't had the
25 opportunity to say, to give you that opportunity to do

1 that now, or if there's anything else that you feel
2 would be of help for the Inquiry to hear, if you would
3 like to tell us, that would be helpful.

4 **A. I would hope that whatever help that's given is given**
5 **with the acknowledgment knowing that these boys at that**
6 **particular stage -- I mean, I can't -- you know,**
7 **circumstances changed later and children had the**
8 **opportunity of negotiating with their -- negotiations**
9 **with their social workers, but I think anything in mind**
10 **that -- also bear in mind that they really, having gone**
11 **from babyhood up through our home into Kircubbin, that**
12 **they were used to operating in a group and that, you**
13 **know, that -- I don't know really. You know, I would**
14 **say housing is probably a big issue, you know. I feel,**
15 **you know, that --**

16 **Q. This is the kind of thing that you feel the Inquiry**
17 **should be recommending?**

18 **A. I mean, I don't know situations there either. I don't**
19 **know, but, I mean, housing is -- would be very -- would**
20 **be very necessary to feel that there's some place that**
21 **is really their own or that was -- you know, that they**
22 **could consider their own really. Yes. (Inaudible.)**

23 **Q. Okay. Thank you very much for that, Sister. The Panel**
24 **Members may have some questions for you.**

25

1 Questions from THE PANEL

2 CHAIRMAN: Sister, could I just ask you one or two questions
3 about some of the things you have told us about? The
4 first relates to the unwritten or unspoken policy, as
5 you understood it to be, that you could not physically
6 chastise any child. What would you have done if you saw
7 a nun strike a child?

8 **A. It would have been open for me to tell the Mother**
9 **Superior and it would have been done. It's not**
10 **something -- you know, thankfully I never did have to do**
11 **it, yes.**

12 Q. The second thing I wanted to ask you about was the
13 relationship between the Sister who was in charge of one
14 group and the Sister in charge of the other groups,
15 because the groups were quite large. Each of you had up
16 to twenty children to look after at that time. Isn't
17 that right?

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

19 Q. Fairly young boys up to the age of 11 I imagine could be
20 quite a handful at times. Then there was the time in
21 the day when you went off, as I understand it, in turn
22 to either have your evening meal or your -- to go to
23 your devotions, but you have described how one of you
24 would take it in turn to remain with the children. Is
25 that right?

1 **A. Sir, I did make it clear that the staff belonging to the**
2 **other group would be with the person.**

3 Q. I see.

4 **A. Yes. That would be so, yes.**

5 Q. There would be one nun in overall charge, as it were, of
6 up to about sixty boys assisted by the lay staff in each
7 group. Is that the position?

8 **A. Well, it would be -- it would be -- it wouldn't be**
9 **sixty. It would only be thirty -- thirty-five to forty**
10 **--**

11 Q. Yes.

12 **A. -- because the other group would be in the same**
13 **position. Two groups would be in the same position,**
14 **that they would have gone at different times and the**
15 **staff would have stayed, yes.**

16 Q. So as far as you were concerned on your floor there was
17 the Marion group, your group --

18 **A. That's right.**

19 Q. -- and the Sacred Heart group?

20 **A. The Sacred Heart, yes.**

21 Q. So do I understand from that that yourself and the
22 Sister in charge of the Sacred Heart group would
23 alternate?

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

25 Q. But it wasn't just that you were on your own with forty

1 children --

2 **A. No.**

3 Q. -- because you still had the lay staff.

4 **A. We did. That's right, yes. That would have been, yes.**

5 Q. But apart from that time when in rotation you had some
6 responsibility for in your case the boys in the Sacred
7 Heart group, apart from that would you have any
8 knowledge of or insight into how the Sister in charge
9 let's say of the sacred Heart group dealt with her
10 children?

11 **A. Actually I suppose it was a lucky situation in that we**
12 **both got on well. She taught. I didn't. We were of**
13 **a mind. It was also a fact they did have -- when they**
14 **came to the school, they had the big playing field.**
15 **They had a play in the big hall which was distinct from**
16 **the dining hall. So they really -- you know, by the**
17 **time they went up to their bedrooms, you know, they had**
18 **had plenty of scope for letting off steam, if you like.**

19 Q. Yes.

20 **A. And, you know, there wasn't -- and they were up -- you**
21 **know, there wouldn't have been ...**

22 Q. When the children were out playing in a field or playing
23 in what for that purpose was a recreation hall --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- was one of your fellow Sisters with you?

1 **A. That was the same system.**

2 Q. Same system. So from time to time there would be more
3 than one Sister --

4 **A. Oh, yes.**

5 Q. -- present?

6 **A. Oh, definitely. Definitely. That is quite definite,**
7 **yes. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. I see. Thank you very much, Sister.

9 MS DOHERTY: Thank you very much, Sister. Can you hear me
10 okay?

11 **A. I can, yes.**

12 Q. One of the things that we have heard is about how
13 children that wet the bed were treated. Can you say
14 anything about that during your time at the Lodge?

15 **A. I don't remember it as being a big issue quite honestly.**
16 **I don't even remember who were bedwetters, to put it**
17 **like that, but I do know that the sheets would have been**
18 **-- and I am not quite sure. I have no memory of**
19 **children struggling down to the laundry, because we were**
20 **on -- there was the ground floor, the first floor -- we**
21 **were on the first floor -- second floor actually at that**
22 **point. I do know there was a lady who worked full time**
23 **in the laundry and she may have collected them, because**
24 **she was certainly very good, you know, in her work in**
25 **the laundry and she was very territorial about her work**

1 and just there. So there's ...

2 Q. You don't remember children being punished or ...?

3 A. No, I don't remember children being and I don't remember
4 children struggling down the stairs. Now I accept the
5 fact that, you know, my recollection may not be, but I
6 don't -- it doesn't stand out in my mind as this awful
7 thing that happened, you know. I am not minimising it
8 for the child who was -- who wet their bed, because that
9 is big. That was big for them, and I have this feeling
10 that the sheets were just put in what were in the
11 bathroom were -- there were some footbaths there and the
12 wet sheets would be put there. Now whether it was the
13 girl -- the girls who worked with the group or the lady
14 from the laundry who took them downstairs, but I would
15 be almost certain that no child ever went to the laundry
16 with their wet clothes.

17 Q. Can you --

18 A. You know, I am open to -- to contradiction on that, you
19 know, but it is not certainly.

20 Q. That's your memory.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Can you talk about bath time, Sister, what bath time was
23 like for the boys?

24 A. I'm hazy a bit. From what I gather I know the bathrooms
25 upstairs had been refurbished at that point, but there

1 were bathrooms downstairs, and my thinking of it was
2 that bathing was on a Saturday afternoon downstairs in
3 those -- and the same system would prevail, that there
4 would be a Sister and a girl, and a staff, but they were
5 old enough. They were all children that would jump into
6 the bath on their own. There was no -- you know, there
7 was no need to be ...

8 Q. We have heard, you know, the same bath water being used,
9 that, you know, if you got to the end of the queue, it
10 was a wee bit cold.

11 A. I wouldn't -- you know, I find it hard to subscribe to
12 that now, because that would have been -- well, it would
13 have defeated the object of bathing them anyway, you
14 know, really, wouldn't it?

15 Q. Just the final thing. One of the things was about
16 children being made to lie with their hands across their
17 chest and getting punished if they didn't do that.

18 A. Now getting punished if they didn't do that, I find
19 it -- I mean, I don't want to, you know, say it didn't
20 happen if that child is saying it, but I find it very
21 hard to believe it. I mean -- and that would have
22 been -- it was a Catholic practice that it was done, you
23 know, but I've never -- it was never something that was,
24 you know, considered -- you know, never.

25 Q. I mean, the view of some of the witnesses was that the

1 punishment was about the fact that there was some view
2 that they might have been, you know, masturbating or
3 playing with themselves or whatever.

4 **A. If that were the case, it would be the same in Catholic**
5 **but there's Catholic families all over the country. You**
6 **know, in my age group that wouldn't have been -- it**
7 **wouldn't have been something would have been done by**
8 **Catholic children. You know, it would be something --**
9 **they would have been probably -- it was something**
10 **probably that they grew up with from babies really --**

11 Q. Okay.

12 **A. -- but it wasn't ...**

13 Q. Okay. Thanks.

14 **A. I've seen -- I've looked after elderly people. I have**
15 **seen elderly old ladies who put their hands like that.**
16 **So it's -- you know, certainly it would be wrong to --**
17 **to punish a child for not doing it.**

18 Q. Okay.

19 **A. But, you know, it wouldn't be (inaudible).**

20 Q. Thanks very much, Sister.

21 MR LANE: I'd just like to ask you one or two things about
22 St. Joseph's. Was that a completely separate community
23 from Nazareth Lodge?

24 **A. No. St. Joseph's was a diocesan home --**

25 Q. Yes.

1 A. -- managed -- staffed by our Sisters and we who worked
2 there lived within the Nazareth community, yes.

3 Q. Right.

4 A. So that -- actually, you know, the history, as you
5 probably know of really, that -- of a home run by women
6 on the Antrim Road and then our Sisters started taking
7 babies and then St. Joseph's as it was was built.

8 Q. It didn't have a separate Mother Superior then?

9 A. No. They had a Sister in charge --

10 Q. Ah, right. Who --

11 A. -- and she -- we were told who was -- the actual running
12 of it was under the diocesan welfare -- family welfare.
13 They have changed these names so often, but it would
14 have been.

15 Q. Right. Would she have been accountable to the Mother
16 Superior of the Lodge then or to the --

17 A. No.

18 Q. -- Regional?

19 A. Definitely not.

20 Q. Right.

21 A. Quite definitely not.

22 Q. When it was decided that it was ready -- it was time for
23 a child to move from there to the older home, would they
24 decide that -- would the Sisters meet together?

25 A. There would have been -- yes, there would have been a

1 lot of, you know, discussion between the Sister in the
2 Lodge -- in charge of the Lodge and the Sister with the
3 children, and there would always have been that
4 closeness as regards the children, because those who had
5 them in the Lodge from babyhood would consider them
6 still as their -- their children really. You know,
7 there would have been a certain possessiveness of the
8 children that they had in the Lodge. So there would --
9 yes. So -- and there would have been -- I know from
10 my -- I can say from experience that the Sister in the
11 baby home at that particular time -- at that particular
12 time would have one great thing in mind: to get a home
13 for every child. It wasn't possible and it didn't
14 always happen, but it was something that she really had
15 a big, big thing about, and when she -- I know -- I
16 mean, I can say this, that when she saw children leave
17 Kircubbin, come up to Belfast, a bit rudderless really
18 at that stage, you know, to be honest, she always said
19 -- she says, "When I see my babies, I want something
20 more stable for them". So that would be quite
21 (inaudible). I can acknowledge that, yes.

22 Q. When the boys moved on to Kircubbin, they went in
23 a group each autumn we have heard.

24 A. That's right, yes.

25 Q. But presumably they moved as individuals from

1 St. Joseph's into the Lodge?

2 **A. They moved -- yes, definitely. Oh, yes. They would and**
3 **they would have been -- and the Sisters in St. Joseph's**
4 **would have -- they would have seen them and spoken to**
5 **them and, you know, this would have happened because we**
6 **would have gone -- when we were in Kircubbin, the**
7 **Sisters would have been there not all -- they didn't**
8 **take as long a period in Kircubbin, but they would have**
9 **been there for a short period with their -- some of the**
10 **younger children, not the babies, but some of the**
11 **younger children, and there would have been a lot of --**
12 **you know, there would be contact, yes, in fact.**

13 Q. Okay. Thank you very much.

14 **A. Thank you.**

15 CHAIRMAN: Well, SR208, I'm sure you'll be very relieved to
16 hear those are the last questions we want to ask you.
17 Thank you very much for coming to speak to us today. We
18 are very grateful to you. Thank you.

19 **A. I am grateful for being given the opportunity. Thank**
20 **you.**

21 Q. Thank you.

22 (Witness withdrew)

23 MS SMITH: Mr Aiken is taking the next witness, but if we
24 take a short break, Chairman.

25 CHAIRMAN: Yes. We'll rise just for a few moments.

1 (12.15 pm)

2 (Short break)

3 (12.25 pm)

4 WITNESS SR153 (called)

5 CHAIRMAN: Mr Aiken.

6 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, good afternoon.

7 The next witness today is SR153, who is "SR153".

8 Chairman, SR153 is aware you are going to ask her to
9 take the oath.

10 WITNESS SR153 (sworn)

11 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Sister. Please sit down. If you
12 can't hear anything that's being said to you, please put
13 up your hand and say. Don't be shy about saying you
14 can't hear.

15 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

16 **A. Yes. All right. Do I sit or stand?**

17 MR AIKEN: Now, SR153, you have already pointed out to the
18 Chairman, as I was going to now, that you have some
19 difficulty with hearing.

20 **A. Yes. That's right.**

21 Q. And if at any stage, as the Chairman has said to you,
22 you are not clear about what I have said, then just say
23 so --

24 **A. Yes. Thank you.**

25 Q. -- and we will keep going until we get that remedied.

1 **A. Thank you. Yes. Thank you.**

2 Q. I am going to bring up on the screen now -- SR153, you
3 have provided the Inquiry with six statements.

4 **A. Right.**

5 Q. I'm going to bring each of them up for you to identify
6 and then to confirm you want them to be adopted as your
7 evidence before the Inquiry.

8 **A. Right.**

9 Q. The first of those, please, is at SNB-1565. Can you
10 just have a look at that statement --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- and just confirm that that looks like your first
13 statement and we'll move on then to the second page of
14 it, SR153 --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- and you'll see that -- you can't see it with the
17 signature, because of the black box, but you've signed
18 the statement.

19 **A. That's right.**

20 Q. And you want to adopt it as your evidence?

21 **A. That's right.**

22 Q. Then if we can move, please, to SNB-2223, this is your
23 second statement and you can again see it begins:

24 "I, SR153, ..."

25 It is referring specifically to HIA62 , as

1 would have known her.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. Then the sixth statement is at 2231. This is one
4 referring to HIA41.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. It runs through to 2232 -- in fact, 2233. Again you
7 have signed that and you want to adopt that as your
8 evidence to the Inquiry?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. The Panel have had access to your statements, SR153, and
11 have had the opportunity to consider them. So I'm not
12 going to spend time going through those statements.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. From our discussion earlier, in order to minimise the
15 length of time --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- that you have to sit where you are --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- I'm going to just go to the core issues that I want
20 you to deal with today.

21 **A. Fine.**

22 Q. Before I leave the statements, the black marks that you
23 can see on the first statement are our anonymity policy
24 where we black out personal information.

25 **A. Right.**

1 Q. You want to keep your anonymity?

2 **A. Right.**

3 Q. In addition to the six statements, just for the Members
4 of the Panel's record, SR153, so just bear with me,
5 there is -- SR153 was the subject of a single allegation
6 during the Operation Overview investigation, which was
7 file 29 of 41. That file can be found at 60255 to
8 60287. That involved a girl who, Sister, whenever you
9 were speaking to the police, you explained to them in
10 1996 that you think she had got the wrong nun --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- because --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- the particular girl had never been in your group --

15 **A. Uh-huh. That's right.**

16 Q. -- and she was not a girl that was known to you, and you
17 were able to explain to the police --

18 **A. No.**

19 Q. -- the names of all of the children who were in your
20 group.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. The DPP directed no prosecution in respect of that
23 matter and that reference is at 60287. The interview
24 that you gave, as you know from our discussion earlier,
25 I'm going to be coming to for other reasons shortly.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Then, SR153, you are aware that in March of 2014 a girl
3 called NHB90 --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- made an allegation about you amongst other nuns --

6 **A. That's right.**

7 Q. -- to the police.

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. That Achieving Best Evidence interview, Members of the
10 Panel, can be found at 61642 through to 61699. Now the
11 allegation, as you know, that affects you, SR153, is
12 that on an occasion whenever this girl, who was
13 an older -- you do recall her and she was in your group.
14 NHB90 was in your group.

15 **A. Oh, she was, yes. Yes, she was.**

16 Q. You know the allegation she has made --

17 **A. That's right.**

18 Q. -- is that she had consumed alcohol and was in her room
19 --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- and you caught her. She used foul language towards
22 you and as a result you used your hand and hit her on
23 the face and bled her lip.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. You have said to me this morning that you didn't do that

1 at all --

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. -- although you know who NHB90 is.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. You also explained to me that you have been interviewed
6 by the police about that.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. I know that our Inquiry staff have been frantically
9 trying to get hold of a copy of that interview. It may
10 be we will have to do something more about that perhaps
11 by correspondence in the future, but your position is
12 that you didn't ever hit any child.

13 **A. No.**

14 Q. I'm going to look at what you say in your 1996 interview
15 shortly about punishments in the home.

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. Before I do that can I just set the scene in this way,
18 SR153? You were born on .

19 **A. That's right.**

20 Q. You are now 79 years old.

21 **A. 78 , yes.**

22 Q. 78 .

1 Q. If at any stage you feel unwell or in any way having any
2 difficulty, if you just make us aware of that, then
3 we'll take a break if that's necessary.

4 **A. Yes. Thank you. Thank you.**

5 Q. You came to Nazareth House first --

6 **A. That's right.**

7 Q. -- and you came there September 1970.

8 **A. That's correct.**

9 Q. At that stage you would have been 33 years old.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. And you'd spent ten years in South Africa --

12 **A. Right.**

13 Q. -- in Johannesburg.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. You hadn't worked with a group of children there --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- and you very much looked forward to and enjoyed
18 working with a group of children --

19 **A. Yes, I did.**

20 Q. -- in Nazareth House?

21 **A. I did, yes.**

22 Q. You stayed in Nazareth House until October 1973.

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

24 Q. So you were there for three years.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. Then at the age of 36 you moved to Nazareth Lodge.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You spent essentially a year in Nazareth Lodge --

4 A. Right.

5 Q. -- between 7th October 1973 --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- through to 27th August 1974.

8 A. Right. Yes.

9 Q. Then you were moved to Nazareth House in Derry.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. We will cover that just a little bit at the very end,
12 because you wanted to say something about your time in
13 Derry.

14 A. Yes. All right.

15 Q. The references, Members of the Panel, to where the
16 corroboration for those dates can be found from the
17 records is at 10281 and 12164.

18 As you know, SR153, as I work through a particular
19 issue with HIA62 , I'm going to ask you to
20 explain to the Panel or I'll summarise for you how you
21 came to be moved after three years in Nazareth House and
22 then a year in Nazareth Lodge.

23 A. Yes. All right.

24 Q. I appreciate you don't want to speak ill of any of your
25 colleagues, whether dead or alive, but you know that the

1 Inquiry needs to get --

2 **A. Yes. Okay.**

3 Q. -- to the bottom of some issues that it's having to deal
4 with.

5 **A. Yes, yes.**

6 Q. That children, now adults, have come forward.

7 **A. I appreciate that. Yes. Thank you.**

8 Q. I want to ask you first what life was like when you came
9 to Nazareth House. You came in 1970 when there was
10 major civil disturbance going on in Northern Ireland --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- and in Belfast in particular.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. When you came, you -- the way of life for you was that
15 you got up at 6.00 am --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- and went to mass. At that stage your recollection
18 from your time in Nazareth House was that the children
19 went at the weekend --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- but not during the week.

22 **A. Yes, that's right. That's correct.**

23 Q. After mass you would have got children up.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Your group that you were responsible for was on one

1 particular floor in the house.

2 **A. That's right.**

3 Q. There were two other groups at the same time as you.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. SR31 or SR31 was in charge of another group --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- and SR199 --

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. -- was in charge of the third group.

10 **A. That's right.**

11 Q. The way the building was set up was you had a dining
12 area where your group of children would eat --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- and they didn't any longer eat with the other
15 children.

16 **A. That's right.**

17 Q. Your recollection is that you ate the same food as your
18 children that you were responsible for were eating --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- and that you regarded the food in the home as of good
21 quality --

22 **A. I did, yes.**

23 Q. -- and that there was plenty of food to eat.

24 **A. There was, yes.**

25 Q. At the time that you were in Nazareth House you've got

1 two colleagues who are looking after groups of children

2 --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- and then the Mother Superior in the house was [REDACTED]

5 **SR 152**.

6 **A. That's correct.**

7 Q. She arrived shortly before you --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- did her three years and round about the same time as
10 you were moving to Nazareth Lodge she was moving on from
11 her post.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. You had a warm view of **SR 152**, that if you
14 needed something for the children, you would go to her

15 --

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. -- and she would provide the funds for you to go and get
18 what you felt you needed.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. You described to me in terms of you had two children
21 that you recollect -- if we just set the scene of your
22 group, the group was of different ages --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- but your recollection was you had brothers and
25 sisters together in your group.

1 **A. I'm sorry. It was all girls in the Ormeau Road. It was**
2 **all girls.**

3 Q. So the brothers and sisters -- it was the sisters
4 together --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- in the groups --

7 **A. Oh, yes.**

8 Q. -- in Nazareth House?

9 **A. That's right.**

10 Q. Then we'll come to Nazareth Lodge, but again it was --

11 **A. Boys and girls.**

12 Q. -- a spectrum of ages in your -- there were older girls
13 and younger girls --

14 **A. That's right.**

15 Q. -- that you were looking after.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. You recall -- you were explaining to me two girls that
18 you remember having bedwetting difficulty.

19 **A. Oh, yes, yes.**

20 Q. You were explaining to me that **SR 152** gave you
21 medicine to give them.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. That was a red substance you remembered.

24 **A. I can't remember the name of it, but it was a red -- in**
25 **a bottle, a red -- actually she said, "We'll ask the**

1 doctor for something". That was it and this was
2 recommended. I do remember the younger little one. She
3 was about maybe seven. I do remember giving her that at
4 night and she was delighted, because she knew what it
5 was for and she took it without any hesitation, yes.

6 Q. Can you just explain to the Panel how you dealt with the
7 children who had a bedwetting problem and how you dealt
8 with the practicalities --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- of their bedwetting problem?

11 A. Yes. Well, those children who wet the bed with their
12 third sister -- there was one family, but the third
13 little girl, the older one, didn't wet her bed. So they
14 were sleeping in the room next to me. I deliberately
15 put them there so I could get them up first in the
16 morning, because I knew they would wet the bed quite
17 frequently in the beginning, so that their sheets could
18 be taken down to the bathroom and put in a container
19 there, and then they could get washed and get bathed or
20 whatever they did, you know, before coming up and
21 getting dressed, and the laundry would have been done
22 during the day by the girl who helped and their beds
23 would have been made up. You know, sometimes they would
24 help to make it up as well, but there was no punishment
25 whatsoever. It was really a concern as to why --

1 I expect these children were emotionally very deprived
2 really. I felt that, and one of them was a very, very
3 intelligent little girl and she used to be quite
4 embarrassed about this, but we were -- she would, you
5 know, that -- "Not to worry", I said to her. "It's
6 a chill in your kidneys", I used to tell her. I didn't
7 know whether I was right or not, but I said that and it
8 pleased her it wasn't deliberate. Neither was it at all
9 in any case. So it passed off without anyone making any
10 comment whatsoever, and it was just a thing well, if
11 your bed is wet ... Then we got those plastic sheetings
12 to put under the -- under the sheets. I don't remember
13 now what effect that had, how it preserved -- protected,
14 but I suppose the sheets needed to be washed anyway and
15 their nightwear, but it was no big issue. I assure you
16 it wasn't.

17 Q. But you don't know how -- because the Inquiry has heard
18 lots of evidence about how other colleagues might have
19 dealt with bedwetting.

20 A. No, I would have no idea who, if any -- I had a sense
21 that somebody upstairs was, because I used to see their
22 sheets in the dryer, see sheets in the dryer and I knew
23 they weren't ours, but I had no idea who it was and it
24 was never discussed at all.

25 Q. The upstairs you are referring to is SR31's group.

1 **A. That's right. Her group is upstairs, like a double**
2 **flight of stairs up, yes.**

3 Q. So that's how you dealt with bedwetting.

4 **A. Yes. It is, yes.**

5 Q. You weren't given any advice to do things any
6 differently from --

7 **A. No, no.**

8 Q. You dealt with it as you felt it should be dealt with.

9 **A. I just did what I felt one should do, yes.**

10 Q. You then having -- the children having had breakfast --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- they went to school.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. You, like SR31 and SR199, then taught in the school.

15 **A. That is right.**

16 Q. SR31 had the 11 Plus class.

17 **A. That's right.**

18 Q. You had P5/P6.

19 **A. That's right.**

20 Q. And then SR199 had the younger children.

21 **A. That's right. Sorry. Excuse me. There was another**
22 **teacher as well . She had the children**
23 **above the age group that SR199 had.**

24 Q. So SR199 had the youngest and then there was a --

25 **A. She had the very youngest.**

1 Q. -- a lady who was --

2 A. There was another teacher there for
3 a while. I know she was an English girl, a lovely
4 English girl for a while. Then I had the next group up,
5 and the children that I had then would be transferred up
6 to SR31's group, which was the 11 Plus group age area --
7 age I mean. Sorry.

8 Q. After you had spent the day teaching the children --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- who weren't all from your group -- some of them might
11 have been from your group, but they were not all your
12 group that you were teaching. You were teaching
13 children who would have been staying in other groups.

14 A. Oh, yes. Actually they were nearly all parish children.
15 There were about one, two --

16 I can't
17 recall. They were the three children. They used to
18 come down with me every morning, you know, get ready for
19 school and come down. The others went out to the local
20 St. Monica's School. St. Monica's? Yes. Then all the
21 other children I had were from round about, local parish
22 children, yes.

23 Q. So you had a mix of children from your group --

24 A. Yes. That's right.

25 Q. -- and from other groups in the home, and then who were

1 also coming in from outside.

2 **A. Oh, yes. I'm sorry about that. I forgot there was**
3 **a little girl from the group downstairs .**
4 **She was in my class as well now that I think of it, yes.**

5 Q. We'll come back to look at what one of the witnesses to
6 the Inquiry has had to say about your approach in
7 teaching shortly, but after school then you would have
8 had some time off?

9 **A. Yes, yes. You would have -- maybe go for a cup of tea**
10 **and then, yes, we would be back with the children again**
11 **literally really. You would have a bit of time really**
12 **if you wanted to do, collect something from the**
13 **classroom or that, but you would be with the children**
14 **again, yes.**

15 Q. You looked after the children again and their needs --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- until bedtime.

18 **A. That's right. There would have been supper and --**
19 **homework and supper and time for them to look at**
20 **television, play games or whatever. You know, it**
21 **varied, yes.**

22 Q. One of the -- you had a civilian lay worker who came in
23 who also helped you with your group.

24 **A. That's right. I did. There were two -- in Nazareth**
25 **Lodge -- Nazareth House there were three. There was**

1 , and I can't remember the name of the second
2 lady -- she wasn't there long -- and then , who
3 had been an older girl in the group when I went there.
4 She'd finished at school and I think she was interested
5 in doing childcare. So she said she would love to just
6 help me with the children, which she did. She used to
7 take the little boy that we had -- -- a
8 little boy who had -- he was only 2 and a half when he
9 came to us from . She would take him down to
10 the nursery school Lodge every day in a buggy, but he
11 was in our group with the group of girls.

12 Q. Yes, and you had --

13 A. then would come back up and she would be --
14 she was marvellous really. She would help and do all
15 sorts of things. She would do any -- whatever it was
16 and she was there, be with the children in the evening.
17 She had lots of time off. I gave her time off when
18 I was there.

19 Q. The boy you mentioned, he was someone you took special
20 care of during your time.

21 A. Oh, yes. A little boy. Is that what you mean? Sorry.

22 Q. You looked after -- I think he was called .

23 A. Yes. **SR 152** said, "There's a little boy. He is
24 2 and a half and he is in the nursery in ". At
25 that stage like he wasn't adopted. His mother had said

1 she'd come and pick him up when she got married and take
2 him back to the family, but she never did turn up. They
3 lost her address. However, -- SR 152
4 said to me, "This little boy, you know, he must go
5 somewhere. Would you mind taking him in with your
6 group?", and we were delighted really, because he was a
7 pure novelty to the girls and they were so good to him.
8 They actually taught him to how to speak and everything,
9 how to speak well. Then he went down to school every
10 day. Yes, he got special treatment, but he wasn't
11 spoilt we hope. He developed really well. Then when
12 I went down -- three years later when I went down to the
13 Lodge, he came down with me, and so did , and
14 they talked about me going with my retinue --

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. -- down to the Lodge. Anyway, yes, then became
17 one of the group, a child in my group --

18 Q. Yes.

19 A. -- in the Lodge and he was there until I left, until
20 I was sent to Derry. That was it, and he came once --
21 they brought him down to visit me once in Derry and
22 I just remember it. I didn't hear any more about him
23 except to say he was at school at Nazareth Lodge and did
24 quite well. Somebody said they thought he went to
25 university. I have never been able to succeed in

1 **contacting him again, yes.**

2 Q. Just on that subject, a number of girls that you formed
3 a relationship with have kept in touch with you over the
4 years.

5 A. **Yes, yes. Well, they have, yes.**

6 Q. And you --

7 A. **But then, of course, yes, when I was changed -- I was in
8 America for six years as well with the novices. You
9 know, they wouldn't have the address or anything, yes.**

10 Q. What I want to -- so to bring that all together, you
11 were doing a very full-time job.

12 A. **Yes, yes, I was actually.**

13 Q. You were caring from you got up until the children went
14 to bed for that group of I believe there were about
15 fourteen children in your group.

16 A. **That's right. That's right. Then, you see, we would
17 have time for our meals obviously and our prayers.
18 Well, the girl who -- the assistant, like the care
19 helper, she would be back with the children. You would
20 never leave the children on their own. It was like
21 taboo to leave the children on their own. You wouldn't
22 do it anyway. You wouldn't want to, but it was
23 regulation. The children must never be left on their
24 own, and I always had somebody, and I can remember one
25 occasion this girl wasn't there and so -- and I hoped it**

1 **would be all right and it was. This girl, I asked her.**
2 **She was about, oh, maybe 16. I said, "When I am down at**
3 **supper tonight, would you mind just taking the**
4 **responsibility of checking the children are all right?"**
5 **They were doing their homework, and she did and that was**
6 **it. Otherwise they were supervised, yes.**

7 Q. I want to ask you, SR153, about punishment. I am going
8 to show you what you said to the police in 1996 about
9 this issue.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. If we can look, please, at 60282, you were being
12 asked -- having been interviewed about this allegation
13 that was made by the girl that you don't -- you believe
14 has mistaken you for a different nun --

15 **A. Yes, yes.**

16 Q. -- that you were then being asked:

17 "Well, just getting back" -- if we scroll down,
18 please -- "just getting back there just for a general
19 thing" --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- "would you ever have hit any of the kids at all and
22 how would you have chastised them?",

23 and you say:

24 "I used to deprive them of maybe television and
25 there again sometimes I'd find myself bringing them back

1 in halfway, you know."

2 I was saying to you that's a suggestion of you being
3 soft, that you punished them by stopping them watching
4 TV but you relented halfway through.

5 **A. When it came to the time, I probably said, "For goodness
6 sake, it's not that serious. Come on!" Yes.**

7 Q. You used to do that or you say:

8 "... forfeit a little something or other, but it was
9 mostly -- and that was my belief. Talk to them, you
10 know" --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- "and say 'I'm surprised now that you would do that
13 sort of thing. Come on!' Yeah. That was how I had --
14 I didn't touch them at all, though I believe we were" --
15 if we scroll down, please -- "I believe we were allowed
16 to give them a slap, but I didn't like to do that ever."

17 Now you go -- you are then asked:

18 "Where did you get the belief from about -- about
19 the slapping?"

20 **A. Well, it was in instructions. I remember
21 reading some instructions, but I would never have
22 touched them.**

23 Q. Right."

24 Then you say:

25 "I wouldn't have wanted to.

1 Q. You wouldn't have done so?

2 A. I would hate myself if I had touched them.

3 Q. So these allegations --

4 A. I'd feel sorry for them, you know.

5 Q. -- are totally unfounded ..."

6 What I want to ask you about, you weren't prepared
7 you have said to the police to slap a child --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- but you understood that that was permissible, that
10 was one of the things that you could do.

11 A. Yes. If you -- if you -- if it was something quite
12 serious, but only the person in charge, and I have that
13 in my mind from being -- if I may return to South
14 Africa, there were three of us there. We had a large
15 group of children. It was taboo to touch the children.
16 You just didn't hit the children, but if there was
17 something seriously children needed a little reprimand
18 for, they were sent to Sister . Sometimes she
19 wouldn't even, you know. They could have -- she had
20 this cane. She would give them a slap or two on the
21 hand and that was the end of it, but there was nothing
22 like that in -- in Belfast.

23 Q. When you say there was nothing like that, you didn't do
24 that in your group --

25 A. No, no.

1 Q. -- but am I right in saying you don't know what, if
2 anything, SR31 might have been doing in her group?

3 A. I'd no idea what the other Sisters did. Although we
4 were like in three different flats, three different
5 levels -- SR199 was two down really -- really we'd have
6 no idea really, because it was -- the flat itself, the
7 way it was constructed made for privacy. You know,
8 there was a big double doors, glass granted, leading up
9 to the passageway and that was that group, and then two
10 flights down, like two stair flights, was my group in
11 the same entrance there, yes.

12 Q. So the written instructions that you're talking about --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- about hitting, you're not referring to those in the
15 context of Belfast?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. That was part of your training earlier in your -- in
18 your work --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- about how you might discipline a child.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Were you ever given instructions in Belfast about
23 disciplining children?

24 A. Well, nobody ever explicitly said to me, "Look, you
25 don't touch the children", but I knew that from reading

1 and I cannot say from where that was -- there was a
2 reg... -- it was understood you didn't touch the
3 children, and I would have read about it. It could have
4 been in my training, because when I was training for
5 teaching, I did a special module on children in care.
6 We were allowed to do it, because they knew we had
7 children in care, and I did case studies and all that,
8 and I -- that would have been a very big thing. We
9 brought up, you know, how -- corrective measures for
10 children, that sort of thing, but it would have said --

11 Q. So --

12 A. -- and that was quite early on, you know. That was in
13 the '60s. So they probably would have said, "Yes, you
14 don't -- there is a time when somebody can get a big
15 reminder like a slap or something", yes.

16 Q. But that -- that -- what you are talking about is them
17 being hit on the hand with a cane or a strap?

18 A. That would condition my idea of how you correct children
19 -- not that I used it, yes.

20 Q. Because that was -- that was not an approach that you
21 felt was appropriate.

22 A. Yes, yes.

23 Q. What I want you to look at then in the context of what
24 you've said, HIA62 , as you would have known

25 her -- oh, sorry -- HIA62 --

1 **A. Oh, HIA62 , yes.**

2 Q. Yes, as you would have known her. She was

3 HIA62 .

4 **A. Oh, yes.**

5 Q. She entered Nazareth House on 3rd June 1961. She was

6 2 .

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. She stayed there until March 1974, when she was aged 15.

9 **A. Right.**

10 Q. So you're dealing -- she was in your group.

11 **A. She was.**

12 Q. Your dealing with her would have been between the ages

13 of essentially 11 and 14.

14 **A. That's right.**

15 Q. You left Nazareth House slightly before she did --

16 **A. I did, yes.**

17 Q. -- as we'll come to see.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. It's clear -- and I'm going to try to just summarise

20 this down -- but it is clear in the evidence she had

21 a very special relationship with you and found you

22 leaving a difficult thing for her.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. She gave evidence to the Inquiry on Day 99, which was

25 10th March of 2015. The transcript relating to that can

1 be found at 91797. I'm just going to summarise what she
2 said to the Inquiry about you. She said you were the
3 mother that she never had.

4 **A. My goodness! Yes.**

5 Q. That she'd never experienced the kind of warmth and
6 kindness that you displayed to her and she talked about
7 you doing a particular thing. I just want to bring that
8 up for us to look at at 91799 --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- because it's one of the things that led you into --
11 whatever word we want to put on it -- difficulty,
12 conflict, unhappiness that you were receiving from
13 another Sister. You have -- here she is saying to the
14 Inquiry:

15 "She just was so creative and put all this lovely
16 artwork on otherwise very, very drab walls. She painted
17 fish and flowers and it was just so refreshing to see
18 that. It was just lovely, and also she done charts of
19 our birthdays as well and put them up, and actually
20 acknowledged our birthdays",

21 because one of the things the Inquiry has heard
22 about --

23 **A. Well, yes.**

24 Q. -- is birthdays not being acknowledged.

25 **A. Of course, yes.**

1 Q. "She was just a very, very warm, compassionate, caring
2 person and to me, because it was in such contrast to the
3 reception that I'd had through all of my life, in fact,
4 in the convent, that she was just a shining star for
5 me."

6 **A. Goodness!**

7 Q. Now can you just explain what was it you were doing with
8 artwork that she's -- do you remember that?

9 **A. Yes, yes. Well, we moved into the new flat and it was**
10 **very nicely decorated I must say, but I remember**
11 **thinking one day there was a room at the end which had**
12 **no daylight coming in, but there was a panel of glass**
13 **about that width (gesturing) and maybe a foot down, and**
14 **it looked black from the outside. It looked black and**
15 **I thought -- if the light was on. I thought -- because**
16 **with the children I used to love doing this sort of**
17 **thing in the school in London. I thought, "It calls for**
18 **something". So I did an underwater scene on that. It**
19 **was very simple, just with powder paint, and it was very**
20 **effective. I was amazed. I'm not a -- I'm not trying**
21 **to say I'm an artist. It was just like basic, if you**
22 **like, and then the windows likewise all along the**
23 **passageway -- maybe not all along, but most of the**
24 **passageway -- they looked very bare. They are the kind**
25 **of windows you couldn't put curtains on, because they**

1 were so small. Schooldays again. I made mobiles. The
2 children helped me, little horses and -- I can't
3 remember what else -- butterflies, coloured. We had
4 them hanging, you know, and it was very effective
5 actually. I think that's what she's referring to.

6 Q. Did you realise that you may have been the only person
7 doing that sort of thing?

8 A. No, I didn't. Sure I didn't know. I thought that is
9 what you do. Having come from, if I may mention, South
10 Africa, where we had -- where we had institutional care,
11 but in a sense it was slightly different, because the
12 children there were from -- they were from poor homes
13 mostly and they would have -- a lot of them would have
14 gone home for holidays with their parents, who could
15 afford to keep them for the holiday at least. They
16 would come. They had a visiting Sunday. Parents came.
17 Most of them had visitors. So, yes, I was delighted
18 just to have a group on my own so I could do something,
19 be in charge and look after them and try and -- this is
20 what I understood was expected -- you were expected to
21 do as Sister in charge of the group, the responsibility
22 to make it home-like for them, yes.

23 Q. You were given freedom in Nazareth House.

24 A. I didn't think I was doing anything exceptional, to be
25 honest, yes.

1 Q. But you had the freedom to look after the children as
2 you saw best for them.

3 **A. Yes, exactly.**

4 Q. She went on to say, and I am just going to summarise it,
5 that you were -- she saw you as someone who was trying
6 to rescue her. Now what she did say to the Inquiry, as
7 you know, is that she felt you were ostracised by others
8 in the home. I know you find that difficult.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. Before we -- before I answer it with you we are going to
11 look at some of the material we were looking at earlier
12 --

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. -- so that you can see what she was talking about, but
15 one thing that she referred to you doing, which you
16 mention or she mentions in her statement, was you let
17 the older girls go to the disco.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. The disco was next door in the Holy Rosary church.

20 **A. That's right.**

21 Q. You let a number of them go.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. I just want to -- because I was saying to you earlier
24 about the irony of things coming together, because in
25 your police interview in 1996 the police were asking you

1 -- if we can just bring up, please, 60275, they were
2 asking you, "Well, how did you deal with children?"
3 Could you give them an example of when things, you know,
4 did get out of hand and how it was managed. If we just
5 scroll up to the page before, you've -- just keep going
6 up a little, please, just up to the -- just up a little
7 so you can see the question being asked. Just stop
8 there:

9 "Well, did you experience any problem at all with
10 any of the kids that you were in charge of at that
11 time?"

12 This is -- you are not being asked about HIA62

13

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. You are simply -- a particular girl has made
16 an allegation, which you've dealt with.

17 **A. Yes, yes.**

18 Q. Then you're being asked about your experience of
19 problems that you had looking after the children --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- when you had the group, and you say:

22 "No. The only -- as I said, they weren't -- they
23 weren't a very bright group. There's the usual little
24 squabbles, you know, among themselves, and I've this
25 policy that I would talk to them and get them to

1 apologise to each other."

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. Scroll down, please. You make the point that:

4 "We really moved into a new flat. It was all sort
5 of very nice and they were involved in the setting up of
6 it. We got them started on the Cubs and Brownies and
7 music and all. It was very good. I do remember that
8 they started going out to discos then. Everything was
9 going fine, and then one night they came home almost two
10 hours late. I was really almost demented."

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. "They knocked at my door when they were in and I said,
13 'Look, I'll see you in the morning'. Look, I wasn't
14 going to be, you know ..."

15 I presume that was you thinking, "If I slept on it,
16 I'll deal with this better".

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. "They told me where they were and so on, and the next
19 morning was Saturday morning, and I thought, 'I'm not
20 going to say anything during breakfast', because the
21 other children were there."

22 That is there were younger children --

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. -- as well and you decided you weren't going to deal
25 with this issue in front of the younger children.

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. You say then:

3 "Breakfast was as usual. They said afterwards they
4 thought I was furious. So I brought them into the
5 sitting room and talked about the danger of that sort of
6 thing and advised them, but I said, 'Look, I'm sorry.
7 You will not be able to go next week. You'll have to
8 forfeit next week', and they -- we did, but continued
9 after that, and I don't remember any trouble after that.
10 That seemed to, you know ..."

11 I presume sort the problem out.

12 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. Then you were asked:

14 "Who were the particular kids?"

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. And, lo and behold, the first name there was yet
17 HIA62 and HIA117 , who is another
18 girl that HIA62 mentioned in her statement,
19 and NHB133 and .

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. was the girl who ultimately became
22 someone who worked alongside you --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- helping you with the children.

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. So that was the group of five who had abused your trust.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You had punished them by stopping them going to the
4 disco the next week.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. They took that punishment. The disco was reinstated and
7 there was no further problem.

8 A. Well, it's strange, but I don't remember that at all.

9 It probably did happen, but I really don't have any
10 recollection. It's like a thing I would do really, but
11 I have no recollection of they -- of them coming in so
12 late or anything. They always knocked at my window
13 about 11 o'clock was when the disco was over, but they
14 could have been. I'll be honest. There could have been
15 an occasion when they were late. I just can't remember.

16 Q. What I would say to you --

17 A. If there was, I would have dealt with it in the way
18 HIA62 has said there, yes.

19 Q. This is actually what -- and this shows you the
20 difficulty of memory.

21 A. Yes. Okay. Yes, of course, of course.

22 Q. This is you in 1996, which I appreciate now is almost
23 twenty years ago --

24 A. Yes. Okay. Right.

25 Q. -- explaining what you did twenty years before.

1 **A. Right. Right.**

2 Q. What I am saying to you is the account that you give of
3 HIA62 and the disco --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- is an account that she then gives to the Inquiry,
6 which you knew nothing about.

7 **A. Yes, yes.**

8 Q. So the two things sort of come together and the Panel
9 are able to look at that --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- linkage between --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- what she had to say and what you're describing.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. What I take you to be saying now is you don't today
16 remember this incident.

17 **A. Exactly. I don't remember the incident, but it is very
18 possible it is --**

19 Q. You don't remember telling the police about it either.

20 **A. I don't, to be honest, no.**

21 Q. But if that's what's there, that's what you must have
22 done.

23 **A. I don't. No, I don't at all.**

24 Q. As you know, HIA62 -- after you left -- you went to
25 Nazareth Lodge --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- in October 1973.

3 **A. Yes. That's right.**

4 Q. If we can bring up, please, 44648. As I was saying to
5 you, I'm going to try to summarise most of this, SR153,
6 to save you having to go through it, but this record is
7 the first occasion -- HIA62 has just been taken
8 into care by the Welfare Authority, which was happening
9 to all of the children who were in the home in 1973.

10 **A. Yes, yes.**

11 Q. This is the first meeting that's taking place --

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. -- between her new social worker and her and you, who is
14 facilitating the meeting.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. As we scroll down the document, the social worker is
17 recognising that having a social worker will be of
18 benefit to HIA62, and she says about ten
19 lines down:

20 "SR153 seems to fulfil this role."

21 So she's commenting on how you appear to her to be
22 looking after HIA62.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. Then the last line on the page is about her getting
25 extra English classes and then:

1 "SR153 speaks very well of HIA62 ."

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. Then just shortly after that -- that was 25th
4 September -- then you moved to Nazareth Lodge --

5 **A. That's right.**

6 Q. -- in October.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Thereafter the Inquiry through hearing HIA62 's
9 evidence is aware of her getting into difficulty between
10 her and SR18 and the record suggesting that SR18 phones
11 the social worker to say she'll have to move.

12 **A. Yes, yes.**

13 Q. Then if we can please look at 44650, this is all
14 happening in March 1974 --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- by which time you've spent six months in Nazareth
17 Lodge.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. You are teaching there and looking after a group of boys
20 and girls.

21 **A. Yes. That's right.**

22 Q. About halfway down the page, please, if we can find
23 there's a sentence that begins -- yes. It is now five
24 lines up from the bottom:

25 "HIA62 spoke of SR153 ..."

1 So the social worker has had to go and tell her that
2 she is being -- she has to leave Nazareth House --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- and it records her -- the level of her upset about
5 that, and then she says:

6 "HIA62 spoke of SR153 where she'd -- who she'd
7 previously been with. She is now in Nazareth Lodge, and
8 asked if it would not be possible for her to go there.
9 I said I would enquire about it."

10 Then it says this. The social worker you remember,
11 NHB115 .

12 **A. Yes, I do remember NHB115 , yes.**

13 Q. Well, NHB115 records that she came to see you and she
14 said:

15 "Visited SR153 and she said she would love to have
16 HIA62 as she was very fond of her and missed both
17 her and her sisters. She said she would enquire from
18 the Mother if there would -- that would be possible."

19 Now the Mother in the home was Mother .

20 **A. That's right.**

21 Q. Then the next day we can see on 1st March:

22 "Phone call from SR153"

23 This is NHB115 recording this in her notes.

24 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

25 Q. A phone call from you to say that they would be able to

1 have HIA62 .

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. Then she records she went to see SR18, who was recorded
4 as being:

5 "... not very happy about the idea of Nazareth
6 Lodge, feeling that HIA62 should go to the Good
7 Shepherd in Derry."

8 I know from speaking to you earlier you recoiled at
9 the thought of that happening.

10 **A. No. (Inaudible.)**

11 Q. It is recorded then as the social worker saying:

12 "I was totally against that because of HIA62 s
13 schooling and her sisters in Belfast."

14 Now then this is recorded, and I appreciate this was
15 difficult for you, SR153, but for the reasons
16 I explained to you we've got to deal with these things
17 as they are in the documents.

18 **A. Of course.**

19 Q. It says:

20 "SR199 then joined us and, like SR18, was not happy
21 about HIA62 going to the Lodge. She talked of
22 SR153 not having control of the girls and was almost
23 scathing in her comments about her."

24 **A. Uh-huh. I don't -- yes.**

25 Q. I'm sure that's difficult for you to deal with.

1 A. Well, they're entitled to think what they want to.

2 I wouldn't have known that. I would have no idea. That
3 was a perception possibly. I don't know why, but ...

4 Q. Did you view yourself as not having control over the
5 girls?

6 A. No, I didn't, to be honest. I felt -- yes, I had --
7 I always told the children I trusted them, older ones,
8 any of them. I felt they were free to come to me at any
9 time. They did make quite free with me, but, you know,
10 they knew their boundaries. Yes, I didn't feel that
11 I lacked control, to be honest. I would say if I did,
12 but I knew -- goodness me! They were just fourteen
13 youngsters and I was used to having seventy while I was
14 in charge abroad, so there wasn't -- it was a different
15 situation really. I can't compare, but yes, to answer
16 your question, I didn't consider that I didn't have
17 control. I had a different way of controlling them
18 maybe from the way that was expected. I don't know.

19 Q. I'll pick up on that sentence a little later, if I may.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. But just to follow this story through, if we scroll
22 down, you -- so SR199 and SR18 are not happy, the view
23 they have expressed. Slightly further down then it
24 says -- this is on 1st April. So this is SR31 then, and
25 she was -- although she had a group the same as you --

1

3 **A. She was.**

4 Q. -- and she was also what's described the LC on the
5 documents that we've seen, the local counsellor.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. And she was beneath the Mother Superior and then there
8 was two --

9 **A. In the house she was.**

10 Q. -- local counsellors in the house:

11 "SR31 said she'd been in touch with the Superiors of
12 Nazareth and they were agreed that a move should not be
13 made from one institution to the other, namely the House
14 to the Lodge."

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. Now I know when I said that to you this morning there
17 was some surprise from you.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. Were you ever aware of such a policy?

20 **A. No, no. Even when I think now that little boy,**
21 **he was up in the House. There was no problem for him to**
22 **come down to the Lodge. So you'd think it should be the**
23 **same situation. I don't know. I wasn't ever aware of**
24 **any regulation like that, to be honest.**

25 Q. Well, if we just scroll further down the page, and

1 I suppose this demonstrates in fairness to the Health
2 & Social Care Board the extent of them trying to make
3 this happen. You were willing. It was HIA62 's
4 desire, and it seems that your Mother Superior in your
5 house --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- was happy.

8 **A. She was. In fact, she had a room ready, not for**
9 **HIA62 , but there were two spare rooms at the end of**
10 **the dining room, two lovely big rooms, spacious and**
11 **bright, and she said to me one day, "Look, I think we'll**
12 **do up these rooms for the girls, because -- for when**
13 **they are a bit older". She got them carpeted and got**
14 **them nicely done up and was waiting for an occupant.**

15 So therefore when I approached Sister -- Mother
16 about the possibility -- NHB115 was desperate
17 as to where she would put her. I said, "Well, I will
18 ask Sister . Maybe there is a possibility of her
19 going to the Lodge". That was it. She said "Yes". She
20 said, "We should be happy actually". She said, "This is
21 a use for the room now and it will be to help the girl",
22 you know. I didn't know any more than that, yes.

23 Q. Well, what the record shows at the bottom is that
24 NHB115 's boss -- possibly, if I've got the hierarchy
25 right, several layers above NHB115 -- NHB124 ,

1 the Principal Social Worker, also saw SR220. Now as we
2 were looking at the records earlier, I was showing to
3 you SR220 had taken over --

4 **A. That's right.**

5 Q. -- from **SR 152** --

6 **A. She had, yes.**

7 Q. -- as the Superior in Nazareth House.

8 **A. That's right.**

9 Q. So it seems that NHB124 , this Principal Social
10 Worker, has gone to see SR220, but was unable to change
11 the decision. Now I appreciate this is looking back
12 a very long time ago. Can you remember being told by
13 anyone, "This isn't going to happen"?

14 **A. No, but the reason that we didn't get her then, that she**
15 **didn't come then, we were told it was the policy not to**
16 **have her removed, but you didn't question it anymore.**
17 **That's it then. It doesn't seem to happen. It's not**
18 **going to happen that we'll get her transferred to the**
19 **Lodge.**

20 Q. Then if we move on to the next page, this is what's
21 recorded by NHB115 at the time. She says:

22 "It seems regarding ..."

23 MR MONTAGUE: "... according to ..."

24 MR AIKEN: "It seems according to Nazareth House that SR153
25 was too lax with the girls and this is the reason for

1 the girls wanting back to her."

2 A. Oh! I wouldn't have thought that. I know the school
3 they went to was just next door to the Lodge and very
4 often -- I mean, in the beginning on their way home to
5 the House up the road they used to pop in to say
6 "Hello". Wouldn't stay a minute. I knew they should go
7 straight home, you know. It didn't happen often and it
8 was mostly the little ones, you know, only the twelve or
9 that pop in, a few of them, not often at all.

10 You know, I think -- I mean, they knew there was
11 good -- they knew that I cared for them as the other
12 Sisters did and like at that time in a child's life when
13 they've got used to somebody being -- you know, that
14 they are responsible for them, they can relate to like
15 to any other Sister, it is very difficult for the
16 children suddenly to switch. It's like if your
17 stepmother came in. It is kind of natural you want to
18 say -- make a small connection. Maybe that was it.
19 I don't know.

20 Q. I'm going to come back to that issue with you shortly,
21 but I want to just finish this story, because, as we
22 were speaking earlier today, you have no recollection of
23 the -- what might be seen as a kind act that you did,
24 because if we move through, please, to 44... --

25 A. Excuse me. I'm sorry. What was the last thing you

1 **said? I'm sorry.**

2 Q. I said I am just going to finish this story of your
3 involvement with HIA62 as far as it relates to her
4 time as a child --

5 **A. Yes. All right.**

6 Q. -- before the Inquiry --

7 **A. Right.**

8 Q. -- because I showed you the records today and you had no
9 recollection of the kind acts that are in the records.

10 **A. Yes, yes.**

11 Q. If we look, please, at 44654, and just about six
12 lines up from the bottom, and I'm just going to fill in
13 the gaps for the Panel Members by saying HIA62 was
14 not permitted to move to Nazareth Lodge. The social
15 workers were not prepared to send her to the Good
16 Shepherd in Derry. She went to live in a hostel known
17 as Ettaville --

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. -- and that was run by a Mrs . It seems according
20 to this -- and I know you have no recollection of it --

21 **A. I haven't. (Inaudible.)**

22 Q. -- on 26th July 1974 --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- NHB115 writes down in her record that she got
25 a phone call from Mrs , who was the head of the

1 hostel Ettaville:

2 "I was ..."

3 It says:

4 "I was ..."

5 Sorry.

6 "SR153 is taking a group of Nazareth Lodge children
7 to Ballyhornan and has asked Mrs if HIA62
8 could go with them."

9 Then Mrs contacted -- you have no recollection
10 of it.

11 **A. I haven't, but, as I mentioned, you know, I'm not**
12 **infallible as regards my memory. So it could have**
13 **slipped my memory, but I'm not likely to forget a thing**
14 **like that, because I know the set-up down there, and**
15 **came, the girl, and SR184, who was -- I am**
16 **getting mixed up now with the Lodge. I'm sorry.**

17 Q. Sister --

18 **A. Yes. SR184 in the Lodge came with me as well. She had**
19 **her group.**

20 Q. Let me pause there and say it is no criticism of you if
21 you can't remember. What this is showing is although
22 HIA62 had moved on, you clearly kept in touch with
23 her.

24 **A. Well, yes, yes. To a certain extent, yes.**

25 Q. It appears that you got permission to take her on

1 holiday down to Ballyhornan. Now you don't remember
2 that.

3 **A. I don't remember it. It's possible it could have**
4 **happened. I don't remember it.**

5 Q. That's fine. If we move on to the next page --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- we can see -- and this is why I'm doing this with
8 reasonable certainty, SR153, because slightly further
9 down, if we move to the entry of 29th July, we can see
10 that NHB115 writes that she took HIA62 down to
11 Ballyhornan. She then records what happens thereafter.

12 If we move on to the next page and the passage that
13 begins:

14 "HIA62 returned from Ballyhornan and stayed
15 with SR153 until 28th August."

16 So --

17 **A. Where would she stay? I don't remember.**

18 Q. You don't remember it?

19 **A. I don't and I still think that I would remember her**
20 **going into one of those rooms. I don't remember.**
21 **Honestly I really don't.**

22 Q. That's -- I'm not asking you to remember, SR153 --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- because what this is showing is that you kept in
25 contact with her.

1 **A. Yes, absolutely. Yes, yes, yes, yes.**

2 Q. It appears, if NHB115 note, which was written at the
3 time, is right --

4 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

5 Q. -- that you gave her a place to stay until a particular
6 point in time --

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. -- whenever she then had to go elsewhere again.

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. So just finishing that story --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- this type of activity is maybe why HIA62 speaks
13 of you in the way that she does, but what I want to ask
14 you about, which we were talking about earlier, SR153,
15 you can see what happened to HIA62 .

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. There's another side to the story about her having
18 a boyfriend that wasn't good for her and wanting to
19 separate her from that boyfriend and whatever reasons
20 were being given for SR18 having the approach that she
21 had and --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- SR31 having her approach, but -- and I appreciate
24 this is extremely difficult for you, but it's important
25 for the Inquiry --

1 **A. Of course.**

2 Q. -- that you explain how you came to be moved from
3 Nazareth House to Nazareth Lodge.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Then I'm going to ask you after that -- because you've
6 only found -- you didn't know at the time necessarily --

7 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

8 Q. -- although you had suspicions, but you found out
9 subsequently from things that were said to you, and then
10 I'm going to ask you again about how you were moved from
11 Nazareth Lodge to Nazareth House in Derry.

12 **A. Derry. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. So can we take the first one? How did you come to leave
14 Nazareth House to move to Nazareth Lodge?

15 **A. Yes. Well, it would be 1974 I think it was -- 1974? --**
16 **anyway at the end of my three years up there I think it**
17 **would have been [REDACTED] SR 152 [REDACTED] said to me, "SR34, who is**
18 **the head of the school in the Lodge, the small school**
19 **down at the Lodge" -- and we had another one in Ormeau**
20 **Road -- she said, "SR34 is made Superior in Sligo. So**
21 **SR31 is going down to the Lodge". She'd been asked to**
22 **go down to the Lodge to be the head instead of Sister**
23 **, and that meant that I would take over Sister's**
24 **class, the 11 Plus class.**

25 Q. In the House?

1 A. In the House, yes. Well, I didn't see anything --
2 I said, "Okay. Right", because I'd been used to
3 teaching older children. So it didn't matter to me
4 much. Yes.

5 Q. And --

6 A. Then after some time, yes, I was told that SR31 didn't
7 feel comfortable about handing over her 11 Plus class.
8 She'd been very good at teaching. She did. She was
9 a real good teacher. I'll say that, and she didn't feel
10 comfortable about leaving her children, let's put it
11 that way, her 11 Plus class at that late stage. So she
12 asked or whoever decided okay, that I would go down
13 instead, and SR31 stayed on in Nazareth House for that
14 year with her class, and then by the end of that year --
15 let's see now -- yes, I was that year teaching in the
16 Lodge, which was the old school, you know, and by the
17 end of that year the new school was ready for
18 occupation, amalgamation. You know the old school?

19 Q. Yes. This is St. Michael's, St. Michael's Primary
20 School as it became?

21 A. That's right, and I was down in the Lodge, you see, and
22 I was looking forward to teaching in the new school, as
23 anybody would, and I had everything ready and Sister had
24 already decided which classes. She got all the staff
25 together, the amalgamated school, and I had already been

1 given a class to teach. Sister said to me, "You know,
2 I'm giving you the infants, children", and that was
3 fine. I didn't mind who I had really. So I had my --
4 everything ready, because I had the school holidays,
5 part of it, to go down to the new school and get books
6 sorted out, names. We were given a register of who we
7 would have in the class. Yes, I had everything ready.
8 SR30 took my place and she was saying -- thanking me for
9 having the names on the books, etc, etc, and yes, and
10 I was looking forward to that. Then it came the school
11 holiday and, as I said, that was a time I took the
12 children to Ballyhornan. I drove down with a group of
13 children and the van came with all the other equipment
14 for cooking and all that, and came with us,
15 you know, that really nice girl.

16 Q. , yes.

17 A. She was a marvellous help. Anyhow that was fine.

18 I came back then some time the end of August I think it
19 was. The keys of the car were kept in the Superior's
20 room, you know. So I remember saying, "We're back now
21 and the children have gone upstairs and I'll be up in
22 a minute", and Sister says, "I have news for
23 you" and I said, "Well, what is it?" I was expecting
24 something interesting. She said, "You're changed to
25 Derry", and I said "Oh, my goodness! Why is that?" and

1 she says, "Well, I don't know. You're changed to Derry"
2 and well, so be it for me. I thought, "Well, that's
3 it", you know. I was just getting used to the Lodge.
4 It didn't matter to me like where I was teaching in a
5 way really. You just do what you're told with us. You
6 are transferred and that's it. That's how I came to be
7 moved from the Lodge to Derry.

8 Q. So you'd done three years in Nazareth House --

9 A. That's right.

10 Q. -- and over arrangements over the teaching you are asked
11 to go down and start working in the Lodge.

12 A. That's right.

13 Q. After a year in the Lodge you're told that you're going
14 to Derry.

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. You weren't given an explanation at the time.

17 A. Well, no, no. I did ask and somebody said, "Well,
18 you're just changed and that's it". You think, "That's
19 strange", but you just leave it.

20 Q. And you -- but you did find out at a later date.

21 A. Many years later somebody said to me, "Did you ever find
22 out why you were changed?" and I said, "I didn't really.
23 I just thought, 'I'm changed' and that is basically it".
24 A bit strange really, because I was all set to start my
25 new school, my new class and so on, and they said,

1 "Well, it was requested that -- that you go to Derry, go
2 to Derry", that there's another teacher coming and that
3 this teacher would -- I didn't know who it was.
4 Somebody else coming, and "You're going to Derry" and
5 I said, "That's it", but she said, "No". She said --
6 I'm mixing it up now. This Sister who said to me,
7 "I'll tell you now I can tell you, put you out of
8 concern". I said, "I am not concerned about it really".
9 She said, "Yes, it was request for you to be changed,
10 because", as I said, "there's another Sister taking --
11 coming in your place" --

12 Q. Yes.

13 A. -- and I accepted it.

14 Q. And who had made the request for you to be changed?

15 A. Sorry?

16 Q. Who had made the request for you to be changed to Derry?

17 A. I wouldn't know. I imagine it would be the head
18 mistress, SR31. It would be, because nobody else would
19 be interfering with school really.

20 Q. You were recounting to me, and I am just going to
21 summarise it, a number of occasions in much later life
22 and towards the end of her life --

23 A. Oh, yes, yes.

24 Q. -- she asked you about--

25 A. Then I didn't -- you know, you say, "Oh, so be it".

1 I can remember then back in Hammersmith and we went down
2 to Nazareth House, Southend on retreat and SR31 happened
3 to be the Superior there. She was really, really nice
4 to me and kept asking me, "Did you ever find out why you
5 left, why you were changed?" I said -- I thought, "I am
6 not going to say anything", although I knew then.
7 I said, "Well, no. It's all right. I just was told to
8 go and I went", and she was very nice to me and she gave
9 me a box of chocolates coming away. That was all right.
10 As the others would say, "You're special, you know. Why
11 are you getting a box of chocolates?" I said, "I'm
12 special", and that was it.

13 Then later on Sister was in -- let me think now --
14 Sister was in Bexhill, yes, Bexhill-on-Sea and I was up
15 with the novices. They were on holiday. She asked me
16 a couple of times about that, which was quite strange,
17 wasn't it? I said, "Well, I don't know". I was
18 thinking, "Oh!", but I thought, "No, I won't say
19 anything now. It doesn't matter really".

20 Then again when I went to Nazareth House -- I came
21 with Sister -- was it -- or Sister
22 . There was a visitation on and I came with her,
23 you know, to do the report and all that. SR31 was in
24 quite a state, poor state of health at the time. She
25 wasn't able to see really well at all, but she was very

1 concerned about me, that I would be okay and, "Are you
2 all right?" and "How are you getting on?" and she asked
3 me once again. She started praising me. "You were this
4 and you were that." I thought, "For goodness sake", you
5 know. That was the last recollection I have of her,
6 yes.

7 Q. I want to ask you, SR153 -- I prefaced all of this by
8 saying I appreciate this is difficult for you.

9 A. I am sorry? Sorry?

10 Q. You don't want to talk of your colleagues, but you will
11 recall that HIA62 , for instance, said to the
12 Inquiry that her belief was you were ostracised --

13 A. Oh, yes.

14 Q. -- and moved on and you -- there obviously was
15 an attitude towards you about your approach to the girls
16 --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- that was expressed to the social workers.

19 A. Yes. Well --

20 Q. Then you said in your Inquiry statement about what
21 HIA62 had perceived as you being ostracised --

22 A. Yes, yes.

23 Q. -- that perhaps she'd overheard you getting told off
24 about maybe how some person in your unit had behaved.

25 A. Right.

1 Q. I was asking you who were you referring to.

2 **A. I was just speculating, to be honest, because I couldn't**
3 **think of how a child would -- you know, did I interrupt**
4 **you? Sorry.**

5 Q. No. When you look at the social work records --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- HIA62 seems to have certainly as an adult
8 said to the Inquiry about something she picked up on as
9 a child --

10 **A. Oh, yes. All right.**

11 Q. -- about how you were treated.

12 **A. Uh-huh. Yes, yes.**

13 Q. You gave an example of maybe you'd been told off at one
14 point by -- when we were speaking earlier it was SR31
15 you were talking about.

16 **A. Oh, yes, yes.**

17 Q. You said to me she has a very forceful manner.

18 **A. Yes. Authoritative really. Big strong voice, yes.**

19 Q. Authoritative and perhaps --

20 **A. But that was okay. I mean, that wasn't a problem to me.**
21 **Well, yes.**

22 Q. Perhaps that's what you were speculating HIA62
23 had noticed.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. But you got to the bottom of it in the end.

1 **A. I did.**

2 Q. And you went off to Derry and you enjoyed teaching there

3 --

4 **A. I did, yes. I did indeed.**

5 Q. -- and you had warm memories of your period --

6 **A. I have.**

7 Q. -- working there.

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. I'm just going to show you -- I'm only going to give
10 a couple of examples, because -- in fact, I'm just going
11 to give one example, but the Inquiry has heard from
12 a number of individuals who have spoken very warmly of
13 you. So another one who --

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. -- you recall being in your group was HIA257
16 or HIA257 .

17 **A. Oh, yes, yes, yes.**

18 Q. She said to the Inquiry on Day 100 on 10th March --
19 that's at 91629 at the bottom of the page -- that you
20 were a lovely nun.

21 **A. Gosh!**

22 Q. That's a sentiment -- your humility doesn't want you to
23 acknowledge it, but that's an expression that the
24 Inquiry has heard a number of times --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- about how the children you were looking after
2 perceived your attitude towards them.

3 **A. Oh, thank you. It's nice to hear that.**

4 Q. The reason I raise HIA257 is the point you
5 made to me that that was -- you were surprised to hear
6 her say that, because she was not in your group.

7 **A. Oh! Sorry. Who wasn't?**

8 Q. HIA257 --

9 **A. Oh, yes.**

10 Q. -- was not a child in your group.

11 **A. When I went to Derry, she was there. She was one of the**
12 **older children going out to school. She was in my group**
13 **really.**

14 Q. But in Nazareth House --

15 **A. Oh, not at all, no, she wasn't.**

16 Q. -- she wasn't a child in your group.

17 **A. No, she was never in Belfast, no.**

18 Q. What I want to ask you then about finally, SR153, is
19 a witness that Ms Smith took through her evidence --

20 **A. Oh, yes.**

21 Q. -- who was a sister of HIA62 .

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. That was HIA61 --

24 **A. HIA61, yes.**

25 Q. -- or HIA61, who is HIA61. What she said, if we can

1 bring up, please, SNB-91837. That's 91837. This was on
2 Day 99 on 10th March. I am just going to summarise
3 this. If I can explain the context, Sister, HIA61 was
4 someone who kept in touch with you and would have
5 visited you in Hammersmith?

6 **A. That's right.**

7 Q. And you extended an invitation to her and her husband to
8 come and stay any time they wanted.

9 **A. That's right.**

10 Q. They took up that invitation.

11 **A. She did.**

12 Q. What she said to the Inquiry was that eventually during
13 one of her visits she -- you commented to her, "Are you
14 a bit deaf?"

15 **A. Sorry?**

16 Q. That you had said to her -- she was struggling to hear.

17 **A. Oh, yes. That's right. I did too, yes, yes.**

18 Q. You said to her, "Are you a bit deaf?"

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. And she said then that she explained to you what had
21 happened to her she said at the hands of SR116.

22 **A. Yes, she did.**

23 Q. SR116 was the nun who was there before you.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. You said to me today she didn't go into a tremendous

1 amount of detail, but she was telling you that she'd
2 been hit around the head by SR116.

3 **A. Yes, yes.**

4 Q. You she says were very shocked by that, that you said to
5 her you weren't aware that things like that went on --

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. -- although it was before your time, and she told you it
8 was SR116. If we just scroll down, please:

9 "She said she would speak ...",

10 ie you would go and talk to the Reverend Mother --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- or the Mother General in Hammersmith.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. You did go and do that and you came back and were in
15 a position to tell her that the Reverend Mother would
16 try and get in touch with SR116 --

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. -- and find out a bit more about this --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- that you had been told.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. Now can I just check with you before I go on that HIA61
23 or HIA61, as you knew her, is right about that, that she
24 did stay with you and she did tell you about what SR116
25 was alleged to have done?

1 A. Yes, she did, because she was explaining to me why she
2 was deaf, because I knew she was quite deaf in one ear
3 and I wouldn't really have known, would I? Yes.

4 Q. You did speak to the Mother Superior or the Mother
5 General about it?

6 A. The thing was HIA61 said that when situations -- when
7 cases came up of girls complaining, she said to herself,
8 "Oh, dear. This is my hearing. I could have been ...",
9 you know, whatever it was, and she decided, "No, we
10 won't -- I won't make a fuss, because the Sisters were
11 very good to us when we had nobody to take us in". The
12 parents died before the eldest one was 8 or something.
13 She thought of Sisters who were good to her in the
14 house, Sisters she liked. She named SR190
15 and a few more. I can't remember and she, "We won't"
16 and there's -- but at the same time she told me then
17 that it bothered her a bit, a good bit, and her husband
18 noticed her becoming not herself and with depression.
19 He insisted that she would tell him what happened and
20 that she was quite distressed. I would have -- forgot
21 to mention to you he paid for her to have counselling
22 and that was the time that she told the counsellor,
23 "Yes. I won't -- we won't make a fuss", but the
24 counsellor said, "You must get an apology from that
25 Sister". So that was the time then that I took action

1 and thought, "I must get in touch with SR116 to tell her
2 that this girl will be getting in touch with her to give
3 an apology -- to accept an apology -- to give
4 an apology" and yes, I was waiting for an opportunity to
5 see SR116. I didn't know SR116 well at all. She passed
6 through Hammersmith one day and I didn't know she was
7 there. I was going through. It was on a Saturday.
8 I said, "Oh, SR116, by the way", this, this and this,
9 and I said, "This family, the [name redacted]". She
10 said she didn't really remember them, but then she said,
11 "Well, if they want to -- if they want to write to me,
12 if they want to contact me, I will be happy about it".
13 So I gave -- or was it the other way round? I gave
14 anyway HIA61's address up in to SR116, and the
15 thing was she sent a card or something to them, whatever
16 it was, to invite them to come down and to say she was
17 sorry if it happened and she didn't remember, something
18 like that, and we didn't know any more about what
19 happened then with regard to that. Oh, yes. Sorry.
20 Then HIA61 said to me -- I said, "You didn't -- you
21 didn't go to , did you, next time?" She said,
22 "No", she said, "I got card and I thought I'd just leave
23 it" and that was it.

24 Q. If we scroll just on to the next --

25 A. She said, "I'm not going over to . I'll just

1 **leave it".**

2 Q. If we scroll on to the next page, you can see she said:

3 "I got a card in the post and it said -- I tried to
4 find it and I can't. It just said, 'Dear HIA61, I'm
5 very sorry for what happened to you as a child. I don't
6 remember any of this' ..."

7 In fairness I think SR116 has memory difficulties.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. "... but if you said it happened, then it must be true.
10 I hope in your heart you'll forgive me and maybe some
11 time in the future I will see you again."

12 So you didn't see the note --

13 **A. Oh, no, I didn't, not at all.**

14 Q. -- but you are aware of this, and you were involved in
15 it, that led to SR116 --

16 **A. Yes, I was just involved in relating to SR116 what --
17 you know, what she -- would be the thing for her to do
18 to get in touch, yes.**

19 Q. I was discussing with her earlier, SR153, that you don't
20 recall ever seeing a nun being violent to a child in
21 either Nazareth House or Nazareth Lodge.

22 **A. No, I didn't. No, I didn't at all.**

23 Q. And children didn't complain to you --

24 **A. No.**

25 Q. -- about how they were treated.

1 A. No, they didn't, no. Well, although we were separate,
2 we were not in close proximity with the next group. In
3 a sense each one had their own loyalty. You know how it
4 is.

5 Q. So it was quite self-contained --

6 A. Self-contained.

7 Q. -- your group and you dealt with them.

8 A. I suppose that was a good thing really. The little
9 group, they were all quite close I am quite sure. The
10 group I had seemed to be quite close, look out for each
11 other. They were nice to each other, yes, and I am sure
12 like as far as I know it would have been -- I know
13 a little bit more about SR199's, because I had some of
14 her children -- two of them, little ones, in my class.
15 I know they all got on very well with SR199. I do know
16 that, and I could never see SR199 in 1000 years, you
17 know, being nasty with anybody. She's dead now. She
18 died young.

19 Q. I don't believe --

20 A. She left the Congregation. She left.

21 Q. I don't think the Inquiry has received any allegations
22 against SR199.

23 A. No, no, but I don't remember Sister upstairs ever -- had
24 no idea what punishment she meted out to her group.

25 I wouldn't have known, no.

1 Q. You wouldn't have known what. When you refer to the
2 Sister upstairs, you are talking about SR31.

3 **A. No. I would be minding my own business. No, I wouldn't**
4 **know. No, I wouldn't.**

5 Q. SR153, I'm not going to ask you any more questions. If
6 you just stay where you are for a short while --

7 **A. All right.**

8 Q. -- the Panel Members may want to ask you something.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. So just bear with us for a short time, if you would.

11 **A. Of course, yes.**

12 CHAIRMAN: Well, SR153, I'm sure you'll be very relieved to
13 hear, because it is now nearly 1.50 -- after 1.50, that
14 we don't have any questions at all for you. Thank you
15 very much for coming to speak to us today.

16 **A. Oh, thank you.**

17 Q. We are very grateful to you for doing so.

18 **A. Yes. Thank you very much. Thank you.**

19 Q. Thank you.

20 MR AIKEN: Chairman, I know that Ms Smith will be taking the
21 next witness at whatever time you want.

22 CHAIRMAN: Not before 2.30.

23 (1.52 pm)

24 (Short break)

25 (2.55 pm)

1 WITNESS SR52 (called)

2 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

3 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, Chairman, Panel Members. Our
4 next witness today is SR52. She is "SR52". SR52
5 previously gave evidence on 30th April 2014, Day 29 of
6 the Inquiry in relation to Module 1. She took the oath
7 on that occasion. So there's no need for her to be
8 sworn today.

9 SR 52 I just want to confirm that we gave you
10 anonymity on the last occasion and you want to retain
11 that. Is that correct?

12 **A. Yes, please.**

13 Q. Now Sister has given us a statement at SNB-1591 to 1595.
14 In Module 1 she gave two statements, which can be found
15 in the SND bundle. They are at 4150 to 4157 and 19263
16 to 19264. There's an extract of her evidence in
17 relation to that which I'll come to in a moment or two.
18 It's at SNB-91589 to 91595, and there are seventeen
19 individual statements which SR52 has given us on behalf
20 of the Congregation addressing complaints made against
21 those nuns who are no longer living. I'll come to those
22 and give you the page reference numbers about those in
23 turn when we deal with them. There's also some police
24 material which can be found at SNB-60436 to 60446.

25 Now, Sister, after all of those preliminaries,

1 coming back to your evidence, you can see here on the
2 screen is the statement that I was referring to just
3 a short while ago. You are now aged 70 and you entered
4 the Congregation when you were -- sorry -- in 1961.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. You were professed in 1963, taking your final vows in
7 1978.

8 **A. That's right.**

9 Q. You have previously given evidence about your time in
10 Nazareth House in Derry. You moved from there to
11 Nazareth Lodge. Isn't that right?

12 **A. That's right.**

13 Q. That was in the mid-1970s, in 1975, and you stayed in
14 that community until 1999.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. So a total of 24 years, over which you saw a great deal
17 of changes.

18 **A. I did, yes.**

19 Q. Now just -- you spoke about your time in Nazareth Lodge
20 when you gave evidence the last day in 1972, how when
21 you were training as a nursery Sister, you were taken to
22 visit Nazareth Lodge and it was set up as an example of
23 good practice and how a nursery should be run. Isn't
24 that right?

25 **A. That's right.**

1 Q. I'm not going to go back over your evidence. I have
2 told the Panel the page references for that if they need
3 to look at it again, but going back to your statement
4 here of your time when you came to Nazareth Lodge, in
5 paragraph 5 you talk about your memory -- sorry. Just
6 before I go to paragraph 5 there, paragraph 3 you talk
7 about your memory of the children generally is that they
8 come from broken homes for many reasons and some of them
9 were very disturbed and many had very varied behavioural
10 problems and difficulties, coming from troubled areas of
11 Belfast or unstable backgrounds, and they therefore
12 needed a lot of attention and understanding. You felt
13 that the children seemed to respond well to the peace
14 and care provided by the Congregation. You were trying
15 to protect them from the worst of the Troubles as best
16 you could. In the mid-'70s things were particularly bad
17 in the Belfast area.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. You don't recall any incidents of a child being abused
20 or unduly punished and you never saw anyone being
21 punished for bedwetting.

22 **A. No.**

23 Q. Now you go on to say in paragraph 5 that you had
24 responsibility for the nursery school --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- and that was the age 2 to 5 group.

2 **A. No. The 3 -- 3 and 4-year-olds.**

3 Q. 3 and 4-years-old. So this was a different age group
4 whenever you came in the 1970s than had been in the '60s
5 in the nursery. Is that right?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. There were a total of 58 children in the nursery --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- although there were 69 in the Lodge --

10 **A. In the Lodge.**

11 Q. -- at that time. In the nursery section, 3,
12 4-year-olds, you had an assistant teacher and three
13 nursery assistants helping you.

14 **A. That's right.**

15 Q. So that would have been a ratio of almost 1:12 children
16 -- 1:11.5 child, if my maths is right, which I wouldn't
17 guarantee.

18 But in addition to that responsibility in 1975, when
19 you arrived, you had group of 16 children to
20 look after.

21 **A. Look after.**

22 Q. What staff did you have to help with that group?

23 **A. I had one full-time girl in the caring side of it and
24 one cleaner and she also did the washing as well.**

25 Q. You describe in paragraph 7 here that, you know, there

1 were -- sorry. In 6 there you said there were four
2 bedrooms in the unit, a large sitting room, study room,
3 dining room, kitchen, bathrooms, toilet and a store
4 room, which -- later they were divided into single and
5 double bedrooms --

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. -- but that was after you ceased caring for this group.
8 Isn't that right?

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

10 Q. You say the older children would help with the washing
11 up and tidying of their rooms. You talked about the
12 cleaner.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. Right up until 1977 the boys who were aged 11 went on to
15 Kircubbin --

16 **A. Went on to Kircubbin.**

17 Q. -- but after that the families were kept together. I'll
18 come to discuss a little bit about that in due course,
19 Sister, but from the Congregation records and my
20 discussion with you you've confirmed that you were only
21 looking after a children's group as opposed to the
22 nursery school --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- for less than a period of two years. Isn't that
25 right?

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

2 Q. You say from September 1975 until January 1977.

3 **A. '77.**

4 Q. You were replaced by _____, who was then

5 _____ ?

6 **A. _____, yes.**

7 Q. _____. Then she was only there for a very brief
8 period of time, a matters of months, before SR202 took
9 over that group.

10 **A. That's right.**

11 Q. Nonetheless you still had some contact with the
12 children, because you helped out with homeworks.

13 **A. In the evening, yes.**

14 Q. And you went on holiday when the group went to
15 Ballyhornan or wherever you went on holiday.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. Now just coming back to the Congregation's records, if
18 we look at SNB-10425 -- yes. Sorry. This was 1976
19 where -- scroll down to the bottom, please. It's
20 recorded there that SR52 was the nursery school and
21 group.

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. That was the responsibility that you had in 1976.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. But there were sixteen in the convent at that time --

1 **A. Right.**

2 Q. -- in total of all the nuns there when you arrived.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. I just wanted to check with you. These lists that we
5 have seen in respect of the homes, they were compiled at
6 the start of every year. Isn't that right?

7 **A. On -- no, it was the other way round. 31st December of**
8 **that year that they were compiled really.**

9 Q. Well, I ask that, Sister, because you don't appear on
10 the list for 1975 at all.

11 **A. Well, I should have.**

12 Q. You should have?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. So it's the end of the year these lists are compiled?

15 **A. Well, they are now. Maybe -- maybe at that time it**
16 **might have been the 1st January, but certainly now it's**
17 **31st December.**

18 Q. And it says who has been there for the entire year
19 effectively.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. Well, in any event, Sister, if we can go on then to the
22 next -- 10426 is the next one. This is 1977, and you'll
23 see there that in respect of yourself, SR52, you were
24 nursery school and Second LC, which stands for local
25 counsellor. Isn't that correct?

1 **A. That's right.**

2 Q. From this time onwards you had a group responsibility,
3 responsibility for a group of children, or certainly
4 from 7th January of that year.

5 **A. That's right.**

6 Q. Can I just ask what the role of counsellor entailed? We
7 were discussing this earlier. We will see here SR31 was
8 the first local counsellor.

9 **A. It usually was a senior Sister, an older Sister who was**
10 **first counsellor. She really would have been consulted**
11 **by the Superior on a lot of topics or what was happening**
12 **in the home, but the second counsellor really was --**
13 **attended the meetings, the monthly meetings, and would**
14 **have taken the minutes of the meetings, but there was**
15 **very little consultation really.**

16 Q. You would have at this stage been a much more junior
17 member of the Congregation?

18 **A. Yes, I was only a young Sister at that stage.**

19 Q. Was that the norm, that the first counsellor was
20 a senior nun and the second counsellor was a junior nun?

21 **A. Yes, at that stage it was, but it changed really towards**
22 **the '80s.**

23 Q. I was asking -- you heard -- you were here this morning
24 when I went through SR208's evidence with her and opened
25 up some of the constitution and the rule of St.

1 Augustine that guide the Congregation.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. You made the point to me that what I was looking at with
4 SR208 was, in fact, the latest iteration of the
5 constitution that was --

6 **A. They were revised in 2000, but before that it would have
7 been very different. They would be much more
8 prescriptive really, but I think after -- after the
9 Second Vatican Council they would have changed
10 considerably, because we had an Extraordinary Chapter in
11 1968 and that's when a lot of changes came about really
12 for the Sisters.**

13 Q. And that coincided with you taking your final vows.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. One of the changes that you mentioned to me was that
16 prior to Vatican II and this Extraordinary General
17 Chapter of the Congregation a Sister was only permitted
18 to go and visit her home every seven years.

19 **A. Yes, and after that then after that Chapter we were
20 allowed home every four years, and then it changed to
21 every two years and then every year.**

22 Q. So you're allowed to go back visit your family every
23 year currently?

24 **A. Every year now.**

25 Q. Going back to your statement, Sister, at paragraph 6 you

1 were talking about -- we were talking there about what
2 staff you had. Paragraph 9 you mention the Sisters that
3 you remember. That's at page 1592. You say you don't
4 recall all of the staff you worked with in Nazareth
5 Lodge, but you tried to provide a list of those you can
6 remember to the Inquiry. That list is in the bundle.
7 I will come back to it in a minute or two. In fact, it
8 is at 12188. We may as well just look at it now.
9 12188.

10 Now this is a document that was provided by the
11 Congregation, your solicitors to us, which says:

12 "Nazareth Lodge staff I can remember from the '70s
13 and '80s who were employed."

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. Now it is not signed by you, Sister, but you compiled
16 this document. Isn't that right?

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

18 Q. There are a number of names there. When we were talking
19 about this earlier, I asked you what -- "Was this the
20 whole of the '70s and '80s?", and you think really this
21 list, these people would have been employed between the
22 mid-'70s and '80s.

23 **A. Yes. I wouldn't have remembered really the early '70s,**
24 **because I wasn't there, but certainly from '75 to**
25 **probably late '80s.**

1 Q. So maybe a period of fifteen years?

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. And these were simply people who were engaged in
4 childcare. Is that correct?

5 **A. Yes, or some of them would have been the domestic staff.**

6 Q. But over that fifteen-year period there seems to have
7 been quite a high turnover of staff.

8 **A. There were, yes.**

9 Q. We were discussing this. You said that part of the
10 reason for that is that some of these people would have
11 effectively been using the convent as a means of work
12 experience before going on to do maybe nursing or obtain
13 social work qualifications. Is that right?

14 **A. Or a lot of them decided childcare wasn't for them
15 really.**

16 Q. Well, I was just wondering do you remember in particular
17 any of the names? I know we have heard that was
18 someone who maybe took a child to the clinic if it's the
19 same person, if it's the same .

20 **A. ? I wouldn't have remembered a .**

21 Q. Just on your list here there is a person just in the
22 third column the, Sister.

23 **A. Oh, . No, it was NL114 I would have
24 remembered.**

25 Q. She is certainly the first name on the list.

1 **A.** -- I do recall **bringing children down to**
2 **school, but I really ...**

3 Q. You wouldn't have had any interaction with her yourself?

4 **A. No, no.**

5 Q. Forgive me. I maybe didn't make myself clear. What
6 I was saying is that those were the kind of -- bringing
7 children to school, that's some of the duties that the
8 staff would have had?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. But can you remember in particular -- you have mentioned
11 NL114. Was she involved in the care of children?

12 **A. She was very directly in SR46's group.**

13 Q. What about any of the others there, just looking over
14 the list that you have provided, who you can be sure
15 were involved in childcare?

16 **A.** and were the two who would
17 **have worked in the group, you know, after I left it.**
18 **They would have been there when I went up to do**
19 **homework. NL150 had been a child in care, but she was**
20 **also -- she became a member of staff and she would have**
21 **worked in SR46's group. was in SR18's**
22 **group. NL 32 and NL 146 , they would have been**
23 **SR62's group. and would have**
24 **been two of the cleaners really who would have worked in**
25 **SR194's group. NL66, I just vaguely remember her, and**

1 **the other** NL 32 NL 32 **and** NL 146 **I know they**
2 **all were in SR62's group, but the others I really would**
3 **have only known them to see and to greet really.**

4 Q. Were any of these -- sorry. Just to be clear, did any
5 of these help you out in the nursery school?

6 A. **No. None of them, no.**

7 Q. These were just in the Lodge itself?

8 A. **Yes.**

9 Q. Paragraph 6, going back to 1592, and you were describing
10 there about there being a cleaner in the group. I was
11 asking about what other helpers you had in the group.
12 You were saying that most of the groups at that time
13 when you arrived had two assistants. Isn't that right?

14 A. **Yes.**

15 Q. But there had been one girl who had just arrived --
16 sorry.

17 A. **Just left.**

18 Q. When you arrived -- just left before you arrived. So
19 you only had one assistant for your group.

20 A. **That's right, until the second one was appointed.**

21 Q. I was just asking you a little bit about how that girl
22 came to be appointed. You were saying that the
23 Superior, the Sister in overall charge of childcare and
24 the one who looked after the group would have
25 interviewed --

1 **A. Would have interviewed.**

2 Q. -- and the advert for candidates --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- would have been placed in the parish bulletins --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- and that's how you came to employ?

7 **A. To employ.**

8 Q. -- staff to assist with the child groups.

9 **A. That's right.**

10 Q. Please correct me. I know I'm putting -- I'm doing
11 a lot of the talking. Please interrupt or correct me if
12 I get anything wrong, Sister.

13 **A. Sure.**

14 Q. I was also -- you made the comment to me that when you
15 arrived, it took quite a while for a second person to be
16 appointed --

17 **A. Yes --**

18 Q. -- to help out in that group.

19 **A. -- because some of the candidates were most unsuitable
20 really.**

21 Q. When you say unsuitable, Sister, I didn't explore this
22 with you, but I'm just wondering in what way were they
23 unsuitable?

24 **A. Well, either they hadn't the education really or they
25 didn't have the love of children really. They were just**

1 really, but as for the care -- you know, they would have
2 seen to the physical needs of the children really, and
3 because there were sixteen and only two of them, and
4 sometimes there was only one staff on duty with the
5 Sister, you know, your whole time was occupied really
6 with caring for them.

7 Q. Just going down there to paragraph 9, you say that you
8 knew the name of NL4 and that's NL4 --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- but you didn't know her and you say she had left the
11 Lodge before you arrived in 1975.

12 A. She had.

13 Q. You don't believe you ever met her or don't know her
14 personally.

15 A. No.

16 Q. You do believe NL5 worked with SR34 and you think she
17 took care of a small group of younger children in the
18 late '70 when you were there.

19 A. She did.

20 Q. You also knew that she looked after a particular boy who
21 had very particular needs --

22 A. Yes, very deprived.

23 Q. -- you set out there in your statement. What you
24 remember about NL5 was that she was -- when you were
25 first in the nursery school in 1975, she was one of the

1 nursery assistants there.

2 **A. She was, yes.**

3 Q. You describe her as a gentle, efficient lady who was
4 generous with her time. You say she was very good at
5 settling the new children, especially those who were
6 coming into the care of the Sisters.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. You were saying she had been you thought with SR47 at
9 one point.

10 **A. She did. When I first went there, she had a group of**
11 **children. She worked with SR47 with the group of**
12 **children and then she came to the nursery school as**
13 **an assistant.**

14 Q. When she came to the nursery school as an assistant, her
15 group of children diminished.

16 **A. There were only seven in it and one family of three were**
17 **being fostered out. So she was left with just four and**
18 **they were divided up between the four groups.**

19 Q. Did she stay as a nursery assistant or did she come back
20 later to work --

21 **A. She was made redundant really, because they were cutting**
22 **back really. Belfast Education & Library Board were**
23 **cutting back and just leaving two nursery assistants,**
24 **and we weren't to have any more than 52 children then.**
25 **So we had to reduce our intake from 58 to 52 and --**

1 Q. So her services weren't needed in the nursery school,
2 but did she go back into the Lodge to help?

3 **A. Oh, she was still in the Lodge, yes, but she did**
4 **reception work.**

5 Q. Did -- apart from doing the reception work did she also
6 look after children at that stage, when she went back in
7 after being a nursery assistant?

8 **A. No. I think the group had been disbanded at that stage.**

9 Q. Well, we talked there, Sister, about the boys going to
10 Kircubbin and that occurred right up until 1977.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. I asked you: "Did they have any preparation for going?"
13 Like SR208 said, there really wasn't any preparation for
14 their leaving Nazareth Lodge. Isn't that right?

15 **A. I don't ever remember them being prepared other than**
16 **they knew when they were going. Some of them were**
17 **excited, because they were going, you know, to join**
18 **their brothers, but there were others then when it came**
19 **to the day, they went off in the minibus in tears.**

20 Q. And you particularly remember in the summer of 1976 when
21 yourself and SR30 you said witnessed this and you did
22 something. Isn't that right?

23 **A. We felt really they were much too young to be going off,**
24 **you know, to -- it was out in the country really, so far**
25 **away from their younger brothers and sisters, and so it**

1 was at that stage we decided really, because we had two
2 secondary schools, St. Monica's and St. Augustine's,
3 right next door to our driveway, that we could
4 accommodate them really in the groups, but not -- not
5 all the Sisters agreed at that stage. They felt that we
6 had an entire female staff really looking after the
7 children and being responsible for them and that these
8 boys of 11 needed a role model, a male role model in
9 their lives.

10 Q. Eventually your view and SR30's view prevailed, however.

11 A. We did. We didn't send any more after that.

12 Q. You remember that there was only occasionally you said
13 a child might have been sent if they were being
14 particularly troublesome rather than the groups going --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- as a routine?

17 A. Yes. It wasn't automatic anymore once they came 11 that
18 they were transferred.

19 Q. I put this to SR208 and to you, Sister, the impression
20 the Inquiry has got from evidence, that although the
21 Sister in charge of the group was answerable to her
22 Superior, she was left very much to do her own thing
23 with the group and to run it as she saw fit. You would
24 agree with that.

25 A. I agree with that, yes.

1 Q. There weren't any formal meetings about how things
2 should be done or consistency of approach between the
3 groups or anything like that.

4 **A. Not while I was with them.**

5 Q. But you do make the point that in the 1970s by this
6 stage the children you were caring for had social worker
7 involvement in their care.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. And you would have had meetings with the social workers
10 and the six-monthly reviews were taking place.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. And I asked --

13 **A. And they would have visited a lot more often than that.**
14 **About every two months they would have seen their social**
15 **worker.**

16 Q. And when they saw the social worker, where did the
17 children's visits with the social worker take place?

18 **A. Oh, they came to the unit really, but if it was a case**
19 **conference, they were held down on the ground floor in**
20 **a conference room really.**

21 Q. Yes. I think some people have described a large formal
22 room with like a boardroom table or a large dining room
23 table, and that's where those took place.

24 **A. That's correct.**

25 Q. Were the children ever involved in those reviews at that

1 point in time?

2 **A. Not at that point, but later on they were. They used to**
3 **go into the review.**

4 Q. At the stage when you came you were saying that in 1977
5 SR30, her group had single rooms on her floor, but you
6 were a floor below.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. That second floor wasn't refurbished, if I can put it
9 that way, until after you had left looking after that
10 group.

11 **A. As soon as they finished the rooms on the third floor,**
12 **they started making single rooms then for the older**
13 **children on the second floor, but I had left the group**
14 **at that stage.**

15 Q. Paragraph 11 here you talk about the younger children
16 went to bed at 8 o'clock and the older children stayed
17 up until 9.00. You go on to talk about -- we have heard
18 from some people that they were actually sent to bed
19 much earlier than that at 6.00 or 7.00, but certainly
20 not in your time?

21 **A. No, never, never as early as that.**

22 Q. Paragraph -- sorry. You talk about you also accompanied
23 SR31 I think it was --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- to North Belfast where you went house-to-house

1 collecting in order to subsidise the weekly amount
2 received from the Health Boards at that time.

3 **A. On Saturdays.**

4 Q. So you had the nursery school to look after when you
5 went there. You had the group to look after, and then
6 on Saturdays you also had to go out, take your turn
7 collecting. That reduced for you when -- when the group
8 was taken off you after just over a year.

9 **A. Yes. I think everyone thought I was a workaholic at
10 that stage. I needed to be relieved of some of the
11 duties.**

12 Q. And that's why you were taken off the children and
13 took over.

14 **A. That's right.**

15 Q. Was this -- at this stage was it becoming -- in the mid
16 to late '70s was it becoming aware it was too much for
17 people to have to look after a group of children and
18 teach?

19 **A. Oh, yes. I think our Superior saw that really it was.
20 We weren't doing the children or ourselves justice
21 really by trying to teach and also care for them, for
22 the children.**

23 Q. You talk about there were two non-teaching Sisters here
24 in 1977 were appointed to take charge of two of the
25 groups --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- to relieve those responsible for the children's
3 education. I think these -- I think the nuns you named
4 were Sister -- was it SR 222 , SR148 and SR2 who
5 were looking after them at this stage or was maybe that
6 a bit later?

7 **A. That was later on. It was . She replaced**
8 **me. SR46 replaced SR30 and Sister -- the other two**
9 **groups, SR62, she was a non-teacher, a non-teaching**
10 **Sister, and SR29.**

11 Q. And they had the responsibility for the four groups?

12 **A. Four groups.**

13 Q. Those were the four. None of them were teaching then?

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. Paragraph 13 you talk about the qualifications of
16 non-teaching Sisters and the two -- I think this was
17 SR46, was it?

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. I'm not sure who the other one was who had the nursery
20 nurse qualifications.

21 **A. yes.**

22 Q. . There were three other children who were
23 undergoing treatment. Sorry. Those are the names.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. That's SR 222 , SR148 and --

1 **A. They were only training.**

2 Q. -- SR2 were starting to get training at that stage
3 before coming to Nazareth Lodge in the early 1980s.

4 **A. That's right.**

5 Q. I was asking from you the 1970s onwards who attended the
6 case conferences with the social workers? Can you
7 remember who would have done that?

8 **A. Usually the Sister in the group really, and if we**
9 **weren't available, whoever was -- one of the girls who**
10 **was in charge. The senior girl with the group would**
11 **have attended, but nearly always it was the Sister in**
12 **charge of the group.**

13 Q. You mentioned SR202 and her typewriting skills. You
14 said that that had an effect. She was a very organised
15 person. That's when documents started to become
16 organised --

17 **A. Yes, she was very --**

18 Q. -- in the home.

19 **A. It's the first time I remember documentation being so**
20 **detailed really --**

21 Q. And that was --

22 **A. -- and that was because she had been working in England**
23 **and they were well ahead really, and, you know, she'd**
24 **a lot of experience and it made a difference really.**

25 Q. You say that she came in 1977.

1 **A. 1977.**

2 Q. That made a difference to the entire record-keeping of
3 the home.

4 **A. It did.**

5 Q. SR194, she was the first nun who was a qualified social
6 worker to come and work in Nazareth Lodge. Is that
7 right?

8 **A. That's right.**

9 Q. You talk about her in paragraph 17 and you talk about
10 how in 1980 with her appointment things changed. She
11 took on a monitoring, mentoring role and was great
12 support to the staff in each of the groups. You said
13 that there were serious efforts then to improve the
14 practice and planning for the children.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. Documentation and communication with SR202 had improved.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. And there was a greater effort to release Sisters and
19 staff for professional qualifications and social work
20 and that continued.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. You say that the issue of staff ratios and qualification
23 was inextricably linked to the question of finance. Now
24 you thought as early as this each child had a key
25 worker, but from documentation we have seen that seemed

1 to come later on --

2 **A. Right.**

3 Q. -- but may well have been introduced by SR194.

4 **A. I thought it was, but I may be mistaken there, because**
5 **my memory is not that great, but it's clearer in the**
6 **earlier years than it is in the '80s.**

7 Q. You say Sister had a lot of contacts with Social
8 Services. You name a lady here. I am going to use her
9 name. That was a NL 257 from the Down & Connor
10 office.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You say the latter received half her salary from
13 Nazareth Lodge. I was asking you who this lady was and
14 how she came to be employed partially by the Lodge, the
15 Congregation.

16 **A. She worked really for St. Joseph's Babies' Home and for**
17 **Down & Connor office. She was a Senior Social Worker**
18 **with a number of qualifications, and her hours were**
19 **being cut really in St. Joseph's, and I don't know who**
20 **suggested that she would be a great asset really to**
21 **Nazareth Lodge in an advisory capacity. So she was**
22 **employed really and she would have attended all the case**
23 **conferences now as well after that.**

24 Q. I'm going to use her name, Sister, but obviously her
25 name cannot be used outside. That was NL 257 . We

1 heard from some of the social workers who gave evidence
2 to us a week or so ago they recall her involvement with
3 the Nazareth Lodge children --

4 **A. Right.**

5 Q. -- and being at those review meetings you've discussed.
6 In fact, there was a note where one social worker was
7 having a particular difficulty with I think it was SR62
8 actually --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- but I could be corrected on that, and he had made
11 a note to himself to speak to NL 257 to see if she
12 could help.

13 **A. Right.**

14 Q. Was that the kind of liaison role that she would have
15 had --

16 **A. Yes, it was. It was.**

17 Q. -- between Social Services and the Congregation.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. I was also asking the Congregation could have turned to
20 her if they wanted some advice as to how they might deal
21 with a problem?

22 **A. Yes, or if there was a problem child really who was**
23 **unsuited or we couldn't meet his or her needs, she was**
24 **the one we would have turned to.**

25 Q. In paragraph 18 here, Sister, you go on to discuss

1 a committee of volunteers, which you say included a QC,
2 a doctor, a social worker and a teacher, who carried out
3 regular inspections, monitored the operation of the home
4 from '80 until its closure.

5 **A. I should correct you there, because it was nearer the**
6 **'90s really, the late '80s.**

7 Q. Yes. Well, we were talking about this. Certainly there
8 has been various bodies, which I think may be all
9 confused in one here, but there was a monitoring
10 committee that was set up in October 1984.

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. There were three people on that.

13 **A. Right.**

14 Q. There was a social worker, a NL 35.

15 **A. Right.**

16 Q. There was the GP of the home and there was the local
17 headmaster.

18 **A. Right.**

19 Q. Those were the three people on that from October '84.
20 Two of them obviously have close connections with
21 Nazareth Lodge. The QC appears to have been a later
22 addition. Then there was a Management Committee was set
23 up in 1987 --

24 **A. Right.**

25 Q. -- which was a more formal body. There was a gentleman

1 called Pat Kinder on that. You may remember that name.

2 **A. Yes, I do remember his name.**

3 Q. And various people on that committee.

4 **A. Right.**

5 Q. So that was a later thing, but was there also a group of
6 volunteers then aside from that who just came and
7 visited the children.

8 **A. There were Friends of Nazareth. They were called**
9 **Friends of Nazareth and they were really a group who met**
10 **usually about every six weeks and really it was**
11 **a fundraising group.**

12 Q. You remember that -- I was asking you -- you say here in
13 paragraph 18 about there was a written report of the
14 visits which was submitted to the Sister in charge.
15 I know you weren't the Sister in charge --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- but we have seen some documents after 1984 which --
18 there was a complaint book, record kept after that time
19 --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- and, for example, **NL 35**, the social worker that
22 I mentioned, we have seen some examples of her having
23 signed underneath that she had read the complaint as it
24 was recorded. Is that the group you are thinking of?
25 Is that the people --

1 **A. No. The group I was thinking of was more the doctor and**
2 **the headmaster who used to come in. They were allocated**
3 **to visit the groups, and they would have come in I think**
4 **about on a monthly basis and sometimes they would sit**
5 **and have a meal with the children. Sometimes it was**
6 **later on really in the evening and I understood then**
7 **that they made a report.**

8 Q. I was asking you whether you'd ever seen any of the
9 reports. You have some memory of a doctor's report.

10 **A. Just a doctor's report.**

11 Q. Visiting, having spent some time with the children and
12 just recording that everything was well and nobody
13 complained to him --

14 **A. Exactly.**

15 Q. -- something. A sort of fairly informal --

16 **A. Very informal.**

17 Q. -- report, totally separate from any formal inspections
18 of the home.

19 **A. Sorry?**

20 Q. Totally separate from any formal inspections.

21 **A. Oh, totally separate, yes.**

22 Q. Paragraph 19, you were talking about the families coming
23 and visiting the children. You say:

24 "Some were allowed home occasionally at weekends or
25 during part of the school holidays with the approval and

1 under supervision of social workers."

2 The Inquiry has certainly seen records bearing that
3 out.

4 "Children were placed with families recommended by
5 Social Services."

6 This was for holiday periods and that kind of thing.
7 Is that --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. I was asking about -- SR208 had indicated this morning
10 that there had been an unfortunate death when a child
11 had gone to a family.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Do you have any recollection of that incident?

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. Or do you have any recollection -- this was before your
16 time?

17 **A. It was before my time.**

18 Q. But certainly you don't -- you think it was about 1976
19 when the Congregation would have stopped organising
20 families for children to go to themselves?

21 **A. That's right.**

22 Q. Paragraph 20, you talk about the Nazareth Lodge
23 Aftercare Welfare Committee and make reference to its
24 work. I was asking you if you remembered when the
25 Aftercare Committee stopped operating, because the boys

1 certainly didn't transfer after 1977. Do you remember
2 when it would have stopped operating?

3 **A. No, but I think it went on really until about the**
4 **mid-'80s. I can't say exactly what year.**

5 Q. Paragraph 11, you were talking about the late '80s --
6 scrolling back up to that -- I know I jumped a little
7 bit. There you were saying:

8 "In the late '80s some of the older children were
9 trained in independent living. They did their own
10 budgeting, cooking, etc, in a separate section of the
11 house set up for this purpose."

12 I was asking when would children have gone into this
13 independent living unit, first of all?

14 **A. At what age?**

15 Q. Yes. Sorry.

16 **A. Usually they had had their 16th birthday and they were**
17 **-- if they were at secondary school, they were ready to**
18 **leave secondary school really. They would have been**
19 **there for about eighteen months really.**

20 Q. Where was the independent living area in the home?

21 **A. It was between Bethlehem House -- well, it was part of**
22 **Bethlehem House really, but it was the wing -- Bethlehem**
23 **was an L-shaped building and it was the wing that went**
24 **between Bethlehem and the main three-storey Lodge**
25 **building, or four-storey it was.**

1 Q. How long would they have stayed in that unit, Sister?

2 **A. Usually until they were 17 and a half, 18.**

3 Q. Who would have looked after them there?

4 **A. There was a Senior Social Worker, one of the residential**
5 **social workers who looked after them.**

6 Q. Just talking about the relationships with Sisters and
7 children, and I was asking, you know, as I asked SR208,
8 did Sisters have their favourites and, if so, was that
9 obvious or what was the position?

10 **A. It was never noticeable really, but I'm sure Sisters**
11 **probably liked one more than the other, but it was never**
12 **made obvious, nor were they singled out for preferential**
13 **treatment, but there was one Sister who was supposed to**
14 **have pets. At least the children perceived that they**
15 **were the pet, but, I mean, I never saw any -- any reason**
16 **to believe it, but ...**

17 Q. The other children certainly had that view.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. Obedience was expected from children, Sister --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- and I was asking you about what form of discipline
22 was used in the home if children were disobedient or had
23 behaved badly in some way.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. You were telling me there was various sanctions.

1 **A.** Depending on what their misbehaviour had been or what
2 fault they had committed really, but it was more -- if
3 it was something very minor, they might have been
4 deprived of a favourite television programme or
5 sometimes it could be that they were sent to bed maybe
6 with the younger children. Instead of getting --
7 staying up to 9 o'clock, they went at 8 o'clock, or
8 sometimes it could be they were kept back from Irish
9 dancing or from Brownies or football training, but then
10 if it was something very serious, it might have been
11 their pocket money not completely taken off them but --

12 Q. Withheld?

13 **A.** **Sorry?**

14 Q. Withheld, Sister?

15 **A.** **Yes.**

16 Q. Just on the subject of pocket money, did every child in
17 the home get pocket money?

18 **A.** **Every child got pocket money according to their age.**

19 Q. That was obviously from you went in the mid-'70s.

20 **A.** **Yes.**

21 Q. You don't know what the position was before that time.

22 **A.** **I don't know really.**

23 Q. You weren't -- as I say, in 1983 at that stage your
24 responsibility was the nursery school and you weren't
25 yourself in charge of any group of children. I think

1 the three at that time would have been SR46, SR194 and
2 SR2 --

3 **A. That's right.**

4 Q. -- who would have had charge. There were only three
5 groups by this stage. Isn't that right?

6 **A. That's all by then.**

7 Q. We were discussing earlier that there was -- the Social
8 Work Advisory Group or SWAG prepared a report --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- after an inspection of the home in October 1983.
11 There were two people who carried out that inspection,
12 Mr Norman Chambers and Mr Victor McElfatrick. Do you
13 remember the inspections taking place?

14 **A. I remember meeting Mr Chambers, because I was coming up
15 from school and I was going in the door and he said,
16 "Who are you coming to visit?" and I said, "I live here.
17 I live in the convent here", and he just had a short
18 conversation and said to me he was one of the inspectors
19 really.**

20 Q. I was -- we can look at this. There seems to have been
21 a draft report prepared. Mr Chambers refers to a draft
22 report in his statement that he's given to the Inquiry.
23 The draft report can be found at SNB-14316. I am going
24 to just look at one paragraph of that, Sister. This is
25 what was being recorded in 1983 just at the final

1 paragraph there. It says:

2 "The management style in the home is rigidly
3 hierarchical. The Sisters do not consult the staff on
4 matters of policy and practice and an atmosphere of
5 their authoritarianism prevails. In only one of the
6 groups has staff had access to children's records,
7 although in another the Sister has recently told the
8 staff that they may have access to the children's files.
9 In only one group do staff attend case reviews. They
10 have all limited, if any, contact with social workers.
11 Just as the Sisters do not consult with the staff nor
12 involve them in decision-making, so the lay staff do not
13 acknowledge the Sisters as being members of the caring
14 staff. They perceive them as authoritarian background
15 figures, who absent themselves from the group,
16 particularly during periods when their help is needed.
17 The Sisters do not socialise with the staff. They eat
18 separately and have their own living quarters. The need
19 for the Sisters to attend to religious duties throughout
20 the day is considered to be intrusive, and while it is
21 understood that they may occasionally be late for
22 office, their religious duties are considered to be
23 paramount."

24 Now that's obviously what Mr Chambers -- he has
25 signed this document, I should say, Sister, and he will

1 be able to give evidence when he comes to speak to us
2 shortly, but he is recording what he was being told by
3 the staff in October 1983. When I read that to you, you
4 expressed a degree of surprise.

5 A. I'm very, very surprised really, especially when it was
6 1983, because I really felt there was terrific
7 interaction between staff and sisters. Now the staff
8 were well aware that the Sister was the person in charge
9 of the group all right, but as to them being unavailable
10 and not part of the caring team, I mean, even at that
11 stage we -- we got up early in the morning and we had
12 early mass at 6.30 really and 7.15 or 7.30 you were --
13 the Sisters were on the floor to call the children.
14 I~don't know what happened during the day when, you
15 know, I was at school, but certainly in the evening they
16 never left the units, only to go to evening prayer,
17 which was half an hour, and their evening meal, which
18 was another half hour. So other than that they were on
19 the floor all the time and they were there with the
20 children, and as soon as the children came in from
21 school they went looking for the Sister, because very
22 often if it was the staff member's day off, they
23 wouldn't have been there, but Sisters were always,
24 always very available. That really does surprise me and
25 I'm just wondering was it one or two members of staff,

1 **because I think it's generalised really, because it**
2 **wouldn't have been my impression, and I suppose these**
3 **inspectors were only there for maybe two days or so.**

4 Q. That's correct. In fairness, Sister, this was a draft.
5 Mr Chambers -- sorry. The actual report, the final
6 report was submitted as part of the evidence to the
7 Hughes Inquiry?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. At page 9155 Mr Chambers summarises the contents of the
10 report at paragraph 2.4 there. I will just read that
11 out. He says:

12 "The report of the inspection portrays the home in
13 very institutional terms.

14 Staffing arrangements were very hierarchical in
15 character, with minimal communication/consultation
16 between religious and lay staff.

17 Staff had little time to spend with the children and
18 were required to do routine cleaning in the home.

19 There was no policy in place to promote the
20 professional development of staff.

21 Staff worked long hours even by the standard of the
22 1980s and they were required to work split shifts, which
23 meant they had a break of few hours before going back on
24 duty in any 24-hour period."

25 **A. And they never did night duty at that stage. So it**

1 **would have been a 12-hour period.**

2 Q. So they would have worked --

3 **A. Sorry?**

4 Q. So the split shift was 12-hour split shift. Is that
5 what you are saying?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. I think the actual report, Sister, has the rotas
8 attached to it. I'm not going to look at it now, but it
9 is appendix -- there is an appendix to the back of the
10 report that was submitted which shows the rota for
11 staff.

12 **A. Right.**

13 Q. "Religious staff had responsibilities to the Order which
14 appeared to take precedence over the childcare duties in
15 the home.

16 Staffing levels were unacceptably low.

17 Staff complained about the standard of food served
18 in the home.

19 The number of children accommodated was high
20 relative to numbers accommodated in most other homes.

21 The physical condition of the premises required
22 investment, but the Order was not in a position to carry
23 out any upgrading without assistance by the Department
24 or the Board.

25 The level of maintenance payment by the Board, the

1 main user, was low relative to some other voluntary
2 children's home and substantially lower when comparable
3 costs in -- than comparable costs in statutory homes at
4 that time.

5 While the Board offered staff training opportunities
6 to the staff of voluntary children's homes, Nazareth
7 Lodge did not appear to avail of these facilities."

8 Now in fairness SR143 and SR220 both gave evidence
9 to the Hughes Inquiry and took issue with a number of
10 these findings, --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- but in her response SR143 has said Nazareth Lodge was
13 generally a stable environment. There were no
14 discipline problems to any significant degree.
15 Reasoning and talking was used. That was in respect of
16 punishment, but she took -- she did take issue with
17 a number of things, but I think it is true to say here
18 it's being recognised that the resources of the home
19 were an issue.

20 **A. The lack of funding really would have prevented**
21 **employment of more staff and certainly more qualified**
22 **staff.**

23 Q. I was -- there were -- at the time -- sorry -- in 1982
24 and 1983 the Inquiry is aware of a number of complaints
25 that were made about Nazareth Lodge over the period from

1 the '80 onwards. Apart from anything, it's heard from
2 people who have spoken to it.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. But there were certainly complaints involving a child
5 called NL 157 , which were investigated by the
6 Department of Health and Social Services in 1982/'83.
7 Do you have a recollection of that yourself, Sister?

8 **A. I do recall the child and I do recall an investigation
9 and I think it was something to do with soap really.**

10 Q. Were you yourself spoken to at that time about that?
11 Did anybody speak to you about anything at that time?

12 **A. No, not directly to me, no.**

13 Q. There was some sort of -- you say you thought the report
14 of that investigation was read at a counsel meeting.

15 **A. At a counsel meeting. That was the first time I was
16 made aware of it really.**

17 Q. And that counsel meeting would have just involved the
18 Superior and her two local counsellors.

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

20 Q. So the rest of the community might not have been aware
21 of it.

22 **A. Oh, they wouldn't have been aware.**

23 Q. There were also complaints, and I am not going to go
24 into any details, but there were complaints in 1983 from
25 a former member of staff, a NL 269 . Do you remember

1 anything about that or were you informed about that at
2 that stage?

3 **A. I don't remember that.**

4 Q. There was also complaints in 1985 about SR18. Were you
5 ever aware of any complaints about her in 1985 -- '95?
6 Sorry.

7 **A. No, I don't remember. All I recall is it was around
8 1996 that she was changed and changed quite quickly
9 really, but I thought -- you know, she'd been asked if
10 she would go to Australia and I thought she had gone to
11 London really to await her visa, but --**

12 Q. It wasn't normal -- although we know you were moved from
13 home to home, you were given a little bit of notice. Is
14 that right?

15 **A. Yes. Usually we knew beforehand.**

16 Q. In this case nobody knew SR18 was being moved until she
17 suddenly went?

18 **A. Well, I would say the Sisters with the children probably
19 knew, but the rest of us really didn't.**

20 Q. I just wanted to be clear. There is documentation
21 referring to a SR121 involved in that complaint, but
22 that was not you.

23 **A. No, no, that's not me. That was SR121, SR121, who was
24 Superior at the time.**

25 Q. She was Superior from 1989?

1 **A. Until '96 -- well, until the Lodge closed really.**

2 Q. I just wondered in respect of those -- clearly you are
3 saying in respect of the NL 157 investigation,
4 if I put it this way, it was a need-to-know basis. It
5 wasn't -- did the childcare Sisters know about this
6 complaint and the investigation? Well, obviously they
7 were spoken to about it.

8 **A. Oh, yes, they would have known and the staff in the unit**
9 **would have known.**

10 Q. But beyond that, no.

11 **A. No.**

12 Q. Again you didn't know anything, even though you were
13 living in the community in 1993 --

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. -- that there was another complaint coming up?

16 **A. No, but SR194 would have known, because she was overall**
17 **really in charge.**

18 Q. Right. Well, in 1995, Sister, you are aware there was
19 a police investigation --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- which was a wide-ranging investigation not just into
22 Nazareth Lodge but into other children's homes at the
23 time.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. You yourself were the subject of complaint in that

1 investigation by a girl called NL 1

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. She complained after she was looking out the window for
4 her brother you came to her room and you punched her.
5 Her statement is at 60440. You were you interviewed by
6 police. You just see there she says -- it's dated 5th
7 May 1995:

8 "I recall when I was in the home I was about 8 years
9 old. I was looking out of the window looking at my
10 brother."

11 The wrong designation is given here. That should be
12 52 and not 25:

13 "... came to my room shortly afterwards and punched
14 me around the room for nothing except looking out the
15 window to see if our ...", her brother, "was all right."

16 Her brother was called . Now she goes on to
17 complain about a civilian worker in the home, but you
18 were interviewed by police about that, Sister.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. That interview can be seen at 60442. Essentially you
21 denied the allegation.

22 **A. Yes, because the girl was never in my unit, never in the**
23 **group. Her brother was and, I mean, I wouldn't**
24 **have been disciplining somebody from another unit**
25 **really. If there was any reason for it, I would have**

1 **complained to the Sister in the unit, who was SR18 at**
2 **the time, but I have no recollection of ever, ever**
3 **punching anyone.**

4 Q. You were saying that you could have smacked a child on
5 the hand --

6 A. **A young child, yes.**

7 Q. -- if there was -- I mean, I was wondering if --

8 A. **If she was climbing up really and, you know, was**
9 **a danger to herself, but at 8 or 9, as she said she was,**
10 **there's no way I would have punched her.**

11 Q. And you told police in this interview that you were, in
12 fact, inclined to spoil the children, if anything?

13 A. **That's correct.**

14 Q. Now, Sister, just to be clear, this is the only
15 complaint that the Inquiry is aware of in relation --
16 about you in relation to your time at Nazareth Lodge.
17 You know from giving evidence on last occasion there
18 were three girls who came forward to the Inquiry to
19 complain about how they say they were treated by you
20 when they were in Nazareth House in Derry, but that --
21 in all -- although you only had care of children for
22 a year in Nazareth Lodge, in the 24 years you were there
23 this is the only time your name came up in any
24 investigation.

25 A. **And at that interview I gave the police a list of all**

1 **the children who were in my group. They interviewed all**
2 **of them except one child who had died and another child**
3 **whom they couldn't locate really and none of them made**
4 **any -- had any complaints really.**

5 Q. Well, Sister, you have given a number of statements, as
6 I indicated earlier, about individual nuns who have
7 died.

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. I am not going to call them all up, but I am going to
10 give the page references and I am going to just
11 summarise. Please correct me if I've got anything wrong
12 or add anything that you want to.

13 The first was in relation to SR31, and that's at
14 SNB-1882 to 1883. I was explaining now we have had --
15 there were 36 people who complained to police about
16 SR31, 19 of whom have complained to the Inquiry about
17 her. In the statement on behalf of the Congregation --
18 and I just want to be clear all of these statements are
19 on behalf of the Congregation --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- you accept some of the allegations made against her
22 in that statement.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. I am not going to go through the details, but correct me
25 if I've got any of this wrong.

1 an explanation of what she saw SR34 do to children,
2 grabbing them by the cheeks. Did you ever yourself see
3 her do anything?

4 **A. I never witnessed it, no, no.**

5 Q. SNB-1904 to 1905 you deal with SR118. We have come
6 across a name in police material of a different SR201.
7 There is a SR201, but this is SR118, who was the only
8 one you knew of being in Nazareth Lodge. Is that right?

9 **A. There was another SR201, but I'm not really sure if she**
10 **was ever in either Belfast, Nazareth House or the Lodge.**

11 Q. Was she maybe a nun who was in Scotland, because there
12 was some people who felt there was a nun who might have
13 moved to Scotland?

14 **A. SR118, this SR118, she died in Scotland. She was in**
15 **Scotland.**

16 Q. Your statement in relation to SR118, there is partial
17 acceptance of the allegations there.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. There were ten people who complained to police and all
20 of them came forward to the Inquiry --

21 **A. Right.**

22 Q. -- about SR118.

23 The next person was SR180. That's at SNB-1906. You
24 refute any of the allegations about her.

25 **A. Yes, because I lived with her in Hammersmith as well.**

1 Q. Then SR189 at SNB-1907 to 1908.

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. You accept that Sister may have used corporal
4 punishment, but you say that she wouldn't have done so
5 excessively.

6 **A. I can't see her using it excessively. She was a teacher
7 as well as looking after the children.**

8 Q. Then at 1913 to 191... -- sorry -- 1912 to 1913 SR 62
9 SR 62 . You say she would not have hit children
10 in the extreme. Just to be clear, we have had ten
11 complaints to police, including two of whom spoke to the
12 Inquiry. In respect of one of the people who spoke to
13 the police the Inquiry has seen documents and heard from
14 a social worker to say that that child, had
15 complained to her that SR 62 had hit her.

16 **A. Right.**

17 Q. As I was explaining to you, the social worker had
18 recorded from her notes that she didn't believe the
19 child. She didn't believe a nun could do this, and she
20 also recorded that if she did it, might have
21 deserved it.

22 **A. But I think she did use the wooden spoon.**

23 Q. She did do that. Did you see her do that ?

24 **A. I didn't see that, but I knew there was a wooden spoon
25 in the drawer in the kitchen, and I only heard children**

1 **say that, but I never actually saw her use it.**

2 Q. Can I just explore that a little bit more, if I may?

3 Did the children say to you that they were hit by SR 62
4 SR 62 with a wooden spoon?

5 **A. One of them -- one of them did one day say it.**

6 Q. A girl did that.

7 **A. I did -- I did say it to SR 62 herself, and she**
8 **asked me how did I hear that and she did say to me,**
9 **"Well, I was driven to it". So ...**

10 Q. SR183, SNB-1914 to 1915. You say that she may have hit
11 a child.

12 Again you refute the
13 allegations. That is at SNB-1916 to 1917.

14 At 1918 to 1919 you talk about SR112. You say --
15 you accept that she hit children with a cane, but you
16 say acceptable corporate punishment of the time.

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. There were five complaints to police about SR112 and all
19 of them came to the Inquiry.

20 1920 to 1921 you talk about SR177 and partially
21 accept the allegations in respect of her.

22 SR122 at 1922 to 1923, again there's partial
23 acceptance and we have come across eleven complaints to
24 police. Nine of those complainants came to the Inquiry.

25 SNB-1924 to 1925, you address an allegation about

1 SR200 --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- and I'm making the distinction because there were two
4 Sister [name redacted].

5 **A. That's right. She was one to worked in St. Joseph's
6 Baby Home and she became Superior for one year in the
7 Lodge in 1977.**

8 Q. To 1978. In fact, coinciding with your time --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- in childcare.

11 **A. She was there just -- no. When she came really, she
12 didn't come until October and I --**

13 Q. So you had moved on to the nursery --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- at that stage? Now I was discussing this with you,
16 Sister, and I was talking about evidence that the
17 Inquiry heard yesterday from Robert Moore, who was an
18 Eastern Health & Social Services Board official. He
19 said he recalled some time between 1967 and 1971 he had
20 visited the nursery --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- and he had offered to SR200 more money so that she
23 could get more staff --

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. -- and she declined that offer. You are somewhat

1 surprised by that.

2 **A.** Oh, I would have been very surprised. You know, I don't
3 know why she would do that really when they were short
4 staffed for a start. They had quite a lot of voluntary
5 workers went into St. Joseph's Babies' Home really
6 because there were so many children coming in just
7 a couple of days old and they were usually only there
8 until -- a lot of them were there only until they were 6
9 to 8 weeks when they were adopted really. She at that
10 point was in charge of the adoptions. So I'm amazed to
11 think that she wouldn't accept the money.

12 **Q.** Certainly his view was -- sorry. Just before I go on to
13 say what his view was, he does talk about offering free
14 training for Sisters --

15 **A.** Uh-huh.

16 **Q.** -- in another home in Portadown when he was in that
17 Board area. I was asking you -- he gave a description
18 of the room in which the children were looked after, of
19 having a central station in the room --

20 **A.** That's right.

21 **Q.** -- with cots around the central station.

22 **A.** Station, yes.

23 **Q.** He said that he had been told this had been
24 an adaptation from a home that the Congregation ran in
25 Australia. Now he himself could not remember what

1 Congregation was running the home in Portadown.

2 **A. It was our St. Charles Street in Portadown.**

3 Q. You recognise it from the description?

4 **A. Yes. I've been in it. I was in it many a time.**

5 Q. He has said that the Sister there, Sister in charge
6 there, turned down the offer of free training for staff.

7 **A. Maybe she wanted to maintain the control herself.**

8 Q. That certainly was his view, Sister, that he felt that
9 there was an element of that in the refusal of help from
10 the Boards, that the Congregation through the Superiors
11 wished to hold on to their control. Would you accept
12 that may have been the case in the late '60s/early '70s?

13 **A. That's all I can think really.**

14 Q. Just coming back to your statements, you deal with SR145
15 at SNB-1929 to 1930. You say she possibly did hit
16 children.

17 Now that completes the statements that you provided
18 to the Inquiry, SR 52 We have received in documents
19 that we have seen -- SR28, I don't know if she was at
20 your time.

21 **A. SR28. She had left -- she had left the Congregation
22 before I went to the Lodge.**

23 Q. There was one complaint to police about her. SR194 will
24 give evidence in due course. I will deal with what was
25 said about her then.

1 **A. Right.**

2 Q. Now you -- in the 24 years that you were living in the
3 community in Nazareth Lodge there were massive changes
4 within that time period, SR 52 Isn't that true?

5 **A. Oh, yes, definitely.**

6 Q. Particularly after the Hughes Management Committee was
7 set up in 1987.

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. In 1989, for example, the number of children being cared
10 for in Nazareth Lodge was reduced from 40 to 30?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. We will hear evidence about that later this week from
13 a Social Services Inspectorate Inspector.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. One document, though, that -- there's -- we can just
16 have a look at it briefly. It is SNB-14282. This is
17 headed "Nazareth Lodge Children's Home, Procedures for
18 Handling Complaints". It is an appendix to a report.
19 I was wondering if you remember when this complaints
20 procedure was set up at all, SR 52 ?

21 **A. I don't, but I'd say it was in the '80s some time, but
22 what year I really -- I really can't say.**

23 Q. Might it have coincided with the Hughes investigation at
24 that time do you think?

25 **A. Yes, I imagine it would be then. It probably was**

1 a recommendation of one of the inspections.

2 Q. Well, you -- the home itself closed its doors completely
3 in 1999, but the children had left by 1998. Isn't that
4 right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You were actually there right at the end when --

7 A. I was there when the key was turned in the door on 28th
8 October 1999 and the four of us who were -- walked up to
9 Nazareth House, because we were going to remain in
10 Ormeau Road until the new care village was built, which
11 was built within the year, and the residents moved in
12 November 2000, and the convent wasn't ready until
13 December 2000, and that's when we came back to the site
14 again.

15 Q. We know that thereafter Nazareth House itself was
16 demolished and new apartments were built after you had
17 all moved from the house and moved the elderly down to
18 the care village.

19 A. Yes, and the children -- children in the nursery school
20 and the primary school were very upset by it all,
21 because they could actually see the building being
22 demolished, and Bethlehem House came down just like
23 a pack of cards so quickly, but Nazareth Lodge, the
24 four-storey building, it took ages to demolish. One
25 little girl came in crying after break time and said she

1 **just didn't know where I was going to get dressed and**
2 **brush my teeth, because I'd no house anymore.**

3 Q. Well, SR 52 thank you for that. You'll be glad to
4 know I have nothing further that I want to ask you.
5 Before I hand you over to the Panel I just wanted to
6 check -- just want to check with you and be sure that we
7 have covered everything that you wanted to tell the
8 Inquiry. I haven't opened every paragraph in your
9 statement, but you can be sure that the Inquiry have
10 read all of the statements that you have provided to us,
11 but if there's anything else that you'd like to add or
12 say, now's your opportunity.

13 A. **Thank you very much, Christine. I just thank you for**
14 **the opportunity really of speaking here today and**
15 **clarifying a few points and I think it has been**
16 **an education for myself really, because so many of these**
17 **things really are written down I had never been even**
18 **aware of. So thank you very much indeed.**

19 Q. Okay. Thank you very much, SR 52 The Panel might
20 have some questions for you.

21 Questions from THE PANEL

22 CHAIRMAN: SR52, you have been asked to cover an awful lot
23 of ground this afternoon, but can I take you back to
24 something you said at a relatively early stage of your
25 evidence and that related to the sort of pattern of your

1 working time in the early period --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- that you were in Nazareth Lodge? You may remember
4 telling us that on Saturdays, not every Saturday, but
5 the Sisters would take it in turns to go collecting --

6 **A. Correct.**

7 Q. -- up in

8 **A.**

9 Q. There are a number of things I'd like to ask you about
10 that. Was it just the Sisters went? In
11 other words, were there sort of accepted areas of the
12 city that one Order would fundraise in and you had
13 or --

14 **A. We had Sisters who were living in Nazareth House, Ormeau
15 Road and their main occupation really was six days
16 a week.**

17 Q. I see.

18 **A. Four of them went out questing, collecting, and they
19 chose whether it was the city they were going to collect
20 in or whether they were going out to the countryside.
21 Two of them usually went out of the city and two stayed
22 in. It was only on a Saturday that the Sisters from the
23 Lodge went out really collecting. We were given the
24 area. It was called the
25 really where we would have called on the same people**

1 **each time we went.**

2 Q. I see. So if I may call them the working Sisters as
3 opposed to the collecting Sisters had a particular beat
4 they did in turn --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- on Saturdays.

7 **A. On Saturdays.**

8 Q. Another question I'd like to ask you relates to your
9 role as the junior of the two local counsellors.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. As I understand it, it was certainly at that time common
12 practice presumably not just in Nazareth Lodge but in
13 all the Nazareth homes --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- that one of the two local counsellors, who were not
16 elected by the Sisters but nominated I think by the
17 Mother Regional. Is that correct?

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

19 Q. One was always a relatively junior nun in terms of her
20 length of time in the Order.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. Was the purpose behind that, as you saw it, to ensure
23 that there was an understanding of all the issues which
24 the Sisters had to face in terms of administration and
25 so on?

1 **A. Possibly that was the reason for the appointment of**
2 **a junior Sister and a more senior Sister.**

3 Q. Yes, but as I understand it, as a junior Sister your
4 views weren't sought very often in these discussions.

5 **A. Not really, no.**

6 Q. So --

7 **A. But that was now in the '70s. It did change after that**
8 **really.**

9 Q. Yes. Would it be fair to say that perhaps you were
10 there to learn and to listen?

11 **A. Well, exactly.**

12 Q. Yes. In that capacity did you have any insight, which
13 the other Sisters may not have had, into the financial
14 positioning of the house?

15 **A. Oh, you would have been very aware of the financial**
16 **position really, because at that meeting -- we had**
17 **monthly meetings then and there would have been -- it**
18 **was more like -- it wasn't a spreadsheet, but there was**
19 **a book really where the expenditure and income would**
20 **have been laid out and any -- any funds received or**
21 **benefactors giving donations.**

22 Q. Yes.

23 **A. That would all have been detailed really. So the two**
24 **counsellors along with the Superior would have been very**
25 **aware of the financial position of that particular**

1 **house.**

2 Q. In that context you made a point in your statement that,
3 if I may just find it, that the weekly amount or the
4 amount that was paid by the Health & Social Services
5 Board for the children was low compared to what was,
6 first of all, paid for children in other voluntary homes
7 --

8 **A. That's correct.**

9 Q. -- and even more so for other children in the State-run
10 homes, the State-funded homes. Is that right?

11 **A. That had been brought to my attention by a Senior Social**
12 **Worker. He just couldn't understand that we were**
13 **getting £15 and the others were getting £50 per week per**
14 **child.**

15 Q. And when did that come to your knowledge?

16 **A. In '76.**

17 Q. As early as 1976?

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. And did you remain a counsellor throughout your years in
20 the Lodge?

21 **A. I think I did, but I became First Counsellor at some**
22 **stage, but while I was there I was counsellor, yes.**

23 Q. Well, was that -- what appears from what you say to be
24 a very radical differential between something one would
25 have expected to have been more or less the same for

1 everybody, was that changed soon after 1976 or did some
2 time go by?

3 **A. I think it was about 1979 when it changed and the per**
4 **capita was increased and they realised really at the end**
5 **of each financial year we were in such deficit that very**
6 **often we had to borrow money from Hammersmith really**
7 **to -- to pay the bills.**

8 Q. Was this deficit increasing cumulatively or was it being
9 paid off at the end of each year by the Board for you?

10 **A. They did -- they did -- yes, the Board paid off most of**
11 **it.**

12 Q. Yes. I mean, I don't expect you to be able to remember
13 after this length of time --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- how much it was in that year and how much it was in
16 the other, but if you had a deficit at the end of one
17 year of, let's say for argument's sake, £10,000 --

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. -- as a matter of principle would the Board not pay 100%
20 of that money? Were you expected to bear a certain
21 amount of the burden yourselves?

22 **A. Well, I think we still were -- at that stage we were**
23 **still expected to bear some of the -- some of the**
24 **shortfall.**

25 Q. Yes, but did there come a time at which in your view

1 personally at least the funding you received from the
2 Board or whatever succeeded --

3 **A. Was sufficient to cover the costs.**

4 Q. -- was sufficient?

5 **A. Yes, definitely. In the '80s that would have happened.**

6 Q. So would it be fair to say it took a number of years --

7 **A. Oh, it did.**

8 Q. -- before the Congregation in Nazareth Lodge received
9 what you would regard as an appropriate amount --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- sufficient to cover all the costs that related to
12 looking after the children?

13 **A. Yes, I would say so.**

14 Q. A number of witnesses who have given evidence to the
15 Inquiry from what one might call the Board in its most
16 general sense have made the point that they often had to
17 press money on the Order in the sense that they would
18 say, "Here you are" or alternatively what you need and
19 you asked for, you got it without question. Would that
20 represent your view of the position or not?

21 **A. Certainly it never was brought to my knowledge, because
22 I would have been the first one to accept whatever was
23 being offered.**

24 Q. I see. Thank you very much.

25 **A. Thank you.**

1 MS DOHERTY: Thank you, SR 52 . Can I just ask in your
2 statement about SR122 you talk about the checking of
3 underwear and accept it may have happened, but it wasn't
4 to humiliate children. Can you explain what you thought
5 it was for? What are you ...?

6 **A. I would imagine if they were -- she was with the older**
7 **girls really. She was in the linen room and she would**
8 **have been responsible for the clothing really of all the**
9 **children, including the adolescents really. Possibly it**
10 **may be because maybe monthly they may have not rinsed**
11 **out, you know, their underwear before bringing it to the**
12 **laundry or to her. I honestly can't say really.**

13 Q. But would you accept that adolescent girls would find
14 that humiliating?

15 **A. Oh, I would think so, yes.**

16 Q. And in relation to SR 134 you accept that
17 she may have hit children with her knuckles and nipped
18 them, but not to excess. I was just wondering did you
19 ever see her doing that? Was that --

20 **A. No, because I never actually lived in the same house.**
21 **She was in Nazareth House, Ormeau Road where I was in**
22 **Nazareth Lodge.**

23 Q. So is your acceptance of this on the basis of something
24 somebody else has said.

25 **A. It is just from hearsay really --**

1 Q. Okay, but you were --

2 A. -- especially the nipping. Some of the older girls
3 would have said especially if they were in church that
4 if they were distracted or looking round, she might have
5 given them a nip.

6 Q. Okay. Thanks, SR 52 The last thing is just about
7 bedwetting, because clearly we have heard a lot about
8 bedwetting.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You have been there -- you were there for a long period.
11 Can you talk about that, about how bedwetting was dealt
12 with?

13 A. Well, I can recall about bedwetting we always had
14 a certain number of children who would have wet the bed,
15 and all they were expected to do was to bring the sheets
16 -- their sheets as far as the bathroom, and the lady who
17 came in really to do the cleaning and the washing of the
18 small, you know, underwear and that, she would have
19 taken them to the main laundry for laundering. So the
20 children -- I never ever witnessed a child, you know,
21 other than coming with the sheets in their hand, but
22 I never would have witnessed a child coming with sheets
23 on their head or being humiliated about it.

24 Q. And you never witnessed a child being hit for --

25 A. No, never, never.

1 Q. Just finally the issue about baths and what bathing was
2 like, how that was organised.

3 A. Well, we -- because when I went to Nazareth Lodge the
4 children were already in groups and they all had their
5 own bathrooms, and the older children, they were
6 responsible for -- you know, for bathing themselves, but
7 the younger ones would have been bathed really three or
8 four times every week.

9 Q. And in fresh water or ...?

10 A. Now I do remember two little girls and one was only two
11 and a half and the other one was four, and the younger
12 one cried if her sister couldn't get in beside her, but
13 they were the only two I ever remember seeing being
14 bathed in the same water.

15 Q. Okay. Thank you very much, Sister. Thank you.

16 MR LANE: You have reported the Congregation's views on the
17 allegations against quite a number of Sisters --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- and former Sisters. I wonder could you just say
20 is -- are those views based upon knowledge of specific
21 incidents or a judgment on the personalities and the
22 likelihood they would do that sort of thing, and was it
23 your views or was it after a lot of discussion between
24 colleagues?

25 A. Well, eleven of the eighteen I would have known myself

1 personally. Seven of them I would never, because they
2 were much older really, would never even have met. It
3 was really after consultation with Sisters who knew them
4 and also reading what was written up about them in their
5 files. That was the only way I was able to do it
6 really.

7 Q. Thank you very much.

8 A. Thank you.

9 MS SMITH: Chairman, just before SR 52 leaves, the document
10 I was referring to, the draft report that was provided
11 by Mr Norman Chambers at page 14321 mentions something
12 about funding and he says that:

13 "The Eastern Board has recently increased the weekly
14 payment from £90" -- sorry -- "£80 with effect from 1st
15 April 1983."

16 He doesn't say what it was increased by, but he
17 says:

18 "We did not see any documentation on this matter,
19 but were advised that a condition of the increased
20 payment was that two additional staff would be employed
21 in each group. By making this a condition, the Board is
22 effectively imposing a staffing level on the home and
23 their action in this matter needs to be clarified.

24 Prior to this decision being made the home was incurring
25 a substantial deficit and the Board agreed to a deficit

1 payment of £45,000 for the year ended 31st March 1982,
2 and the capacity of the home has now been reduced to 40
3 and the fourth group has been closed down."

4 So there was some mention of funding in the 1983
5 draft SWAG report.

6 CHAIRMAN: Yes. I was aware of that. Thank you, but it's
7 very helpful to have it put on record in this context.

8 Well, thank you very much indeed, SR 52 --

9 **A. Thank you.**

10 Q. -- for coming to speak to us in such detail about so
11 many different aspects of the work of the Congregation
12 in Nazareth Lodge during your time. I'm sorry we have
13 kept you here so long.

14 **A. That's fine.**

15 Q. It's taken so long. Thank you for coming to help us
16 today.

17 **A. Thank you very much.**

18 Q. Thank you. I think we still have one more to do.

19 (Witness withdrew)

20 MS SMITH: We do have another witness today. Mr Aiken is
21 taking that witness, Chairman. I'm not sure if he has
22 concluded consulting.

23 CHAIRMAN: We'll rise just for a moment or two and start
24 again as soon as we can.

25 (4.15 pm)

1 (Short break)

2 (4.30 pm)

3 WITNESS SR29 (called)

4 CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr Aiken.

5 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, the next witness
6 this afternoon is SR29, who was formerly SR29 or SR29,
7 as she would have been known at the time period we are
8 going to talk about in Nazareth Lodge. She is "SR29".
9 She is aware, Chairman, you are going to ask her to take
10 the oath.

11 WITNESS SR29 (sworn)

12 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Sister. Please sit down.

13 **A. Thank you.**

14 **Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY**

15 MR AIKEN: SR29, I am going to bring up the statements that
16 you have given to the Inquiry, of which there are four.
17 1561, please. I am just going to ask you to quickly
18 identify them for me, and that this is the first that
19 you've given, which was a general statement about your
20 time in Nazareth Lodge. If we just scroll on to the
21 next page, SR29, you can confirm you have signed the
22 statement.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. There's a black box over it at the moment. I'm just
25 going to come back to it. You want to adopt the

1 contents of this statement as part of your evidence to
2 the Inquiry?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. Then there's a second statement at 1881, which relates
5 to HIA10 or HIA10. It is in slightly different format.
6 I will just get you to confirm again that you have
7 signed this statement. Basically you are saying you
8 never had this girl that you could recall in your unit.

9 **A. No.**

10 Q. We looked at a document that shows she might have been
11 there for a very short period just as you were leaving.
12 We will come to that slightly later.

13 Then a further document statement is at 1926. This
14 relates to HIA149, who was a witness to the Inquiry.
15 Then -- you want to adopt it as your evidence to the
16 Inquiry as well.

17 **A. Yes, I do.**

18 Q. The fourth statement then is at 1927, if we just scroll
19 on to the next page, which is a statement in relation to
20 the evidence of HIA141. Again if we just move slightly
21 further down, please, we can see on the second page you
22 have signed this statement, and you want to adopt it as
23 your evidence to the Inquiry.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. You saw in one of the earlier versions the black marks

1 which are part of the Inquiry's anonymity policy. You
2 want to keep your anonymity?

3 **A. I do.**

4 Q. In addition, you were interviewed by the police, SR29,
5 in September of 2012, on 11th September, and that was
6 dealing with the allegation made by HIA149, by HIA141
7 and an important aspect relating to NL20 ,
8 which we'll come back to shortly.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. That interview can be found at 61163 through to 61170.
11 SR29, you were born on .

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. You have now reached the age of 70.

14 **A. I have. I have.**

15 Q. There's no need to smile. At home I'd get to say you're
16 wearing well.

17 **A. Thank you.**

18 Q. So you don't need to be embarrassed about that. You
19 were in Nazareth Lodge between 7th October 1976, when
20 you were 31 --

21 **A. Uh-huh.**

22 Q. -- and you were there until 18th August 1983, when you
23 were 38.

24 **A. That's right.**

25 Q. For the Panel the evidence of that is at 12166 in the

1 bundle. So you were there for seven years and I was
2 asking you prior to that where had you been. You said
3 you had spent some time moving around --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- as you gained experience in [REDACTED] --

6 **A. That's right.**

7 Q. -- [REDACTED], [REDACTED], where you did some childcare
8 courses --

9 **A. Yes, I did, yes.**

10 Q. -- and [REDACTED]. Then you were in Derry for two years
11 --

12 **A. Yes, yes.**

13 Q. -- before you came to Nazareth Lodge in 1976.

14 **A. That's correct.**

15 Q. After that you spent time in [REDACTED] --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- and latterly based in [REDACTED].

18 **A. Yes, uh-huh.**

19 Q. What I first want to ask you about is SR62, who died in
20 2001. SR62 worked in Nazareth Lodge from 1965 through
21 to 1984. So she was there when you arrived --

22 **A. She was.**

23 Q. -- and she was still there after you left.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. The records suggest that she looked after children from

1 1974. So she didn't begin looking after children in
2 1965 when she began in Nazareth Lodge, and it was
3 a period of nine years before she was given
4 responsibility for a group of children. That was in
5 1974, and, as you know, the Inquiry heard evidence
6 earlier today from SR153, who went to Nazareth Lodge for
7 a period between '73 and '74 and then left or was moved,
8 and it seems that SR62 then took over a group of
9 children which she hadn't hitherto done. She does that
10 for seven years between '74 and '81, and then after
11 a period away, which we are going to come to, she moves
12 back to what's described on the central register as the
13 parlour or reception duties.

14 SR62 was the subject of an investigation as part of
15 Operation Overview which happened in 1995. That was
16 file 27 of 41, and the file runs in the bundle from
17 60046 through to 60173. I am not going to open that
18 today, SR29, but to summarise it, there is a significant
19 number of complaints made by various children about the
20 behaviour of SR62 generally in terms of physical
21 assaults.

22 Then as part of the same Operation Overview
23 investigation a file 34 dealt with a lady called
24 NL20 or NL20 or
25 NL32 or NL32 . I am not quite sure which she

1 went by. Do you remember was it NL3 --

2 **A. at the time.**

3 Q. NL32 , and was it NL3 or NL32 she went by?

4 **A. NL3 I'm sure.**

5 Q. NL32 . That file runs from 60619 through to
6 60671. What I'd like us to do, please, is to bring up
7 her statement at 60631, please. This is 4th June 1996.
8 She explains initially how she'd done childcare at
9 Rupert Stanley and then taken up a job in Nazareth
10 Lodge. If you just scroll down, please, it says:

11 "In September '79 I commenced work at Nazareth
12 Lodge."

13 So that was in your period. You were already there.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. "You weren't allowed to reside outside the building."

16 She explains:

17 "My duties in the home were getting the children up
18 for school, preparing their breakfast, helping them with
19 their homework" -- just scroll down, please -- "and
20 looking after their needs."

21 I suppose all of those you would recognise as part
22 and parcel of what had to be done?

23 **A. Yes, part and parcel.**

24 Q. "I worked in a group headed by SR62 along with two other
25 girls called NL147 and NL146 ."

1 So she's saying there are three --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- lay staff, who presumably did shifts of assisting --

4 **A. That's right.**

5 Q. -- the person who was in charge of the unit.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. At that time there were four units in Nazareth Lodge.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. There had been the significant move to a much more
10 family structure --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- where you had siblings kept together in groups and
13 you had a nun as the head of the unit and then civilian
14 staff helping --

15 **A. That's right.**

16 Q. -- to cater for the children. She is describing that
17 process:

18 "After I was in the home for approximately two
19 months" -- so she's describing late 1979 -- "I became
20 aware that SR62 would beat the children. She was in
21 charge of discipline and you had to report any
22 wrongdoing by the children to her."

23 Can I ask you: do you remember was there just one
24 nun who was in charge of discipline for the whole
25 establishment or was the head -- the nun who was the

1 head of the unit responsible for the discipline of that
2 unit of children?

3 **A. Yes. There'd be a Sister in each unit, but discipline,**
4 **yes, we had a punishment book and if anybody had to be**
5 **disciplined, it would be do extra chores and wash-up and**
6 **polish shoes and be deprived of going to the pictures or**
7 **going swimming or whatever. So those were the**
8 **punishments that I knew about, yes.**

9 Q. So you dealt with the punishments --

10 **A. In my own ...**

11 Q. -- in your own unit.

12 **A. My own unit, yes.**

13 Q. So, therefore, we can take that that what the reference
14 here is that when any of the children in NL32 's
15 unit had to be punished, she had to refer them to SR62.

16 **A. Yes. That would have been the norm, yes.**

17 Q. She then says:

18 "The children were reluctant to tell us what she was
19 doing to them, as she was always about, but I was aware
20 she was beating them. One night I walked into the
21 bedroom to check on a young boy called NL56 who
22 was having a bath." Sorry. "... walked into the
23 bathroom ... He had his back to me and he'd several
24 welts on his back. They were red lines on his back with
25 the flesh slightly swollen. It was obvious to me these

1 were causing his discomfort. I asked NL56 how he got
2 the marks and he told me he had been bad and that SR62
3 had beaten him.

4 In 1982 ..."

5 So that's a period between the end of '79 and now
6 '82. So she's describing a long period of time:

7 "In 1982 a number of children told NL146 ", who
8 was one of her civilian colleagues, "SR62 had been
9 walking through the dorm naked in the middle of the
10 night. NL14 subsequently discussed the matter with me
11 and we both felt that there was something badly wrong
12 with this and something should be done. What with the
13 beating of the children and her violent temper and now
14 walking through the dorm in the nude we both felt that
15 something needed to be done. , myself and NL147 ",
16 so the three who were part of that group, "went -- NL1,
17 myself and NL147 went to SR29" -- so that's you --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- "and told her of our fears for the children regarding
20 SR62. SR29 told us that we should go back to our work,
21 that the matter would be dealt with. Within the matter
22 of a few days SR62 left the home. We were told she was
23 going away for a 'holiday' for an unspecified period.
24 We were further told that she was tired and needed
25 a break. A couple of months later SR62 returned and

1 started to work in the reception area of the home with
2 no access to the children. It was felt by the staff
3 that whenever a nun was put into reception, she was
4 'done'. With SR62 gone, the staff had access to the
5 clothing store. In fact, all the rooms were opened up.
6 Previously the children had to wear clothing which was
7 quite obviously too small for them. Whenever we got
8 into the store, we found lots of new clothes and in
9 another store we found toys which the children had not
10 been permitted to use. We got into SR62's office where
11 we were able to see files relating to each of the
12 children. We had never been given any background
13 information of the children in our care and we were not
14 allowed to attend any care conferences. We were not
15 allowed to discuss the children with any of the visiting
16 social workers and at no time was our opinions sought
17 regarding the children. On occasion ex-children of
18 Nazareth Lodge would visit the home to see the nuns and
19 they would play football with the kids. Around '79
20 Nazareth stopped sending boys to De La Salle."

21 Then they go on to talk about experience in De La
22 Salle.

23 So what she was saying in essence, SR29, was that
24 they had witnessed various things that were of concern
25 to them about the welfare of the children to do with

1 SR62 and come and tell you, who is the head of another
2 unit.

3 **A. Yes. That's right. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. You are saying to me, "That's right".

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. In fact, for whatever reason, although Sister --
7 although NL32 's statement forms part of the file
8 that relates to SR62, so the police were aware of the
9 content, that was never asked of you. You were never
10 asked about that statement back in '95 --

11 **A. No.**

12 Q. -- '96.

13 **A. No.**

14 Q. But whenever you were interviewed in 2012, however they
15 joined up the thinking, the police did ask you about
16 what NL32 had said in this statement. If we can
17 bring up, please, 61169. So this is your interview of
18 11th September of 2012. You are asked about halfway
19 down:

20 "Questions asked about NL20 .

21 SR29 states she remembers her.

22 Statement of NL20 is read",

23 just as I have just done for you:

24 "SR29 remembers the fears that NL20 and two

25 others had regarding SR62 -- " --

1 NL32 as you knew her, NL20 -- "and two
2 others had regarding SR62 and the welfare of the
3 children.

4 Question asked about what she did about it.

5 SR29 states she reported it to SR63. States ..."

6 Now that, just to be clear, is not the SR116 we have
7 heard about in Nazareth House. This is SR63 --

8 **A. SR63.**

9 Q. -- SR63 --

10 **A. SR63, yes.**

11 Q. -- who is a different lady.

12 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. She was the Superior in Nazareth Lodge at the time.

14

15 **A. At the time, yes.**

16 Q. And you went and reported it to her:

17 "States she told her verbally. She states she
18 believes SR63 spoke to SR62 and she was then taken away
19 and released of her duties. She states that SR62 is now
20 deceased."

21 As you know, you and I were talking about this
22 earlier, and I want to just truncate what you said to me
23 to assist the Panel. You explained to me that someone
24 like that who was the head of a particular unit -- the
25 units were self-contained and you would not necessarily

1 have known how anyone in one of the other units was
2 behaving towards the children they were caring for.

3 **A. No, I wouldn't, no.**

4 Q. The children were together in one group and eating
5 together in one group.

6 **A. That's it, yes.**

7 Q. As a result you wouldn't and weren't aware of what SR62
8 had been doing until NL20 came and spoke to you
9 with her two colleagues.

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

11 Q. Do you have a memory of them coming to tell you about --

12 **A. Yes, I do. I remember them coming through the door and
13 saying, "SR29, do you have a few minutes?", yes.**

14 Q. Did they explain to you broadly speaking what's in the
15 statement that I've read to you from NL20 ?

16 **A. I don't think they explained it to explicitly, but they
17 told me they had concerns for the well-being of the
18 children.**

19 Q. Is that the first time anybody had come to you in that
20 type of way to say that type of thing?

21 **A. Yes, yes.**

22 Q. Their recollection or her recollection is you said you'd
23 go and talk to SR63.

24 **A. Yes, I did straightaway.**

25 Q. And that's what you did. I was asking you earlier: did

1 SR63 then tell you the outcome of what she had done?

2 You thought she probably would have said something in
3 fairly measured terms about having dealt with it.

4 **A. Yes. That's correct, yes. She was dealing with the**
5 **incident -- the situation and that things would be**
6 **happening very soon. So yes.**

7 Q. I'm going to paraphrase it in this way, SR29, and if
8 I've been unfair in how I'm characterising it, you
9 please correct it for the Panel, but at the time we are
10 talking about the Congregation would have had a rigid
11 hierarchy of where a nun was, as it were. You were
12 a young nun --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- in the home and SR62 was a much older nun, who had
15 been there for much longer.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. There wouldn't have been expansive communication
18 necessarily about events that were taking place.

19 **A. No. There wasn't too much discussed about things that**
20 **happened, you know, because the Superior, SR63, who was**
21 **pretty vigilant and kept a check, walked through the**
22 **units maybe twice a day and you'd run into her, you**
23 **know. So she was very observant and a bit quick to pick**
24 **up things if they weren't correct.**

25 Q. I was asking you earlier you have no reason to believe

1 that SR63 reported these matters to the police?

2 **A. No, I have no idea what she did regarding the police,**
3 **no.**

4 Q. What I can say to you is that the Inquiry has not
5 received any material that suggests these matters were
6 reported to the police, but you are not aware of that --

7 **A. No.**

8 Q. -- either.

9 **A. No.**

10 Q. What happened to SR62 as described by NL32 ,
11 that's accurate. She went away for a period of time and
12 eventually came back and was on reception?

13 **A. Yes, that's correct, yes, but not dealing in any way**
14 **with the children.**

15 Q. Yes. So she was -- she didn't leave the home as such.

16 **A. No.**

17 Q. At least she might have been away for a period and came
18 back --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- but she was relieved of looking after the children.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. At the time, as you reflect on it now, was it just not
23 the done thing that you would have involved the police
24 in these type of things or gone outside the Order in
25 terms of, "Hold on. The kids we are looking after here"

1 -- because this is a period of time when there are
2 social workers --

3 **A. Yes, that's right.**

4 Q. -- now involved with the children. There's nothing that
5 we know of that suggests they were told or knew about
6 what had happened. Based on the information we have was
7 that just not the way things were done then in terms of
8 reporting outside of the Congregation?

9 **A. I think if there was a social worker involved at the**
10 **time or if the child -- if the school or anybody had**
11 **noticed the marks, or NL32 , I'm sure they would**
12 **have some -- they would report to the police, but**
13 **I wouldn't think -- I didn't know about the scars on the**
14 **child's back and I don't think SR63 did either, you**
15 **know. There were concerns. They said they were**
16 **concerned for the children when they came to me, but**
17 **they didn't give me the detailed report on how serious**
18 **the incidents were.**

19 Q. Okay. Then I want to talk to you about HIA141, because
20 matters relating to her demonstrate the point we were
21 making about the social workers being involved.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. She was in the home between 1977 and 1981 and between
24 the ages of 1 and 5. As you know -- and I am going to
25 summarise this -- she was 1 year old whenever a lay

1 worker called NL19, however it came about -- wasn't
2 noticing, or didn't notice, or stepped away from or
3 however it had happened -- resulted in burning tea being
4 poured over HIA141, who was only 1, a baby. You were
5 involved then in the aftermath of that.

6 **A. I was, yes.**

7 Q. She was taken for medical treatment --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- and the social worker has prepared the report.

10 I just want to bring up one page of this document, which
11 is a document of 26th April 1977. So she'd only been in
12 a month when this happened. HIA141 -- the [name
13 redacted] family were nine children who came to Nazareth
14 Lodge together. That presented it own difficulties.

15 **A. Problems, yes, indeed.**

16 Q. In fact, a 1-year-old would not normally have been in
17 Nazareth Lodge, but because her oldest Sister was there
18 --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- and you were keeping them together, the baby came
21 rather than going to St. Joseph's.

22 **A. That's correct.**

23 Q. If we can bring up, please, 46622. This is a report
24 that runs from 46620 to 46623. It is just the
25 section at the top. The suggestion, as you know, from

1 earlier in the document is NL19 and the oldest sister,
2 HIA93, had had difficulty and that had been reported to
3 SR63, and earlier the same day that this happens to
4 HIA141 SR63 had had words with NL19. You can see that
5 at the top saying:

6 "... towards the girls in her care and reminding her
7 that she was employed to help them and to set them
8 an example.

9 Then later that evening NL19 was detailed to give
10 HIA141 her evening meal and put her to bed and it was
11 then that the accident occurred. SR29 was aware of the
12 arrangement and mentioned it was her intention to look
13 in on HIA141, but as she was called to deal with another
14 problem, she had to be content with the knowledge that
15 in the absence of the older girls" -- I presume you mean
16 the older sisters of HIA141 --

17 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. -- "NL19 could cope alone. SR29 then accompanied me to
19 the nursery",

20 and reference is made to the extent of the burns.

21 Then:

22 "I said to SR29 that I was not entirely happy with
23 the explanation given by NL19 re the accident as it
24 seemed to me that if the child had pulled the teapot
25 from the table she would almost certainly have had burns

1 on her legs and hands. It appeared to me that the
2 teapot had been placed against the baby's cheek or that
3 the tea had been poured from a height, and as the child
4 pulled her head away to avoid burning, the tea trickled
5 over her nose, thus accounting for the scald marks on
6 her left cheek. Sister and I discussed the
7 possibilities of this happening by someone carelessly
8 looking away from the table while pouring the tea.
9 I gathered that Sister was also doubtful of the
10 explanation given by NL19, but she was not present at
11 the accident. She can't be positive of how this
12 happened."

13 **A. That's correct.**

14 Q. So does that match your recollection that you and the
15 social worker -- and I was clarifying this with you
16 earlier. Neither of you were, as you recall it,
17 thinking it had been done deliberately?

18 **A. No, I wouldn't ever have thought so, no.**

19 Q. But that the explanation as to how it accidentally had
20 happened wasn't entirely convincing for you or as to
21 just what was being described to you was entirely
22 accurate. Is that fair? Is that how you recall it?

23 **A. Well, I would say I recall it, but I could never --**
24 **I wouldn't want to believe that NL19 would be negligent**
25 **and let -- pour the tea on the child's face, knowingNL32**

1 **as I did.**

2 Q. What then happens --

3 **A. An accident.**

4 Q. -- is you have Mrs [name redacted] taking the children
5 out and there's a few days of a stand-off --

6 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. -- and they come back in.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. The report concludes on 46623 that NL19 was given
10 a week's leave and then she would be moved from that
11 unit. So she no longer worked with you in your unit in
12 the aftermath of this incident.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. You do a report, which we are not going to open -- I am
15 just going to give the Panel the reference -- of
16 23rd May 1977, 46628, where you explain how she was
17 taken and treated over a series of days in the City
18 Hospital.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. Thankfully was left without scarring.

21 **A. That was the good -- good news, yes. Uh-huh.**

22 Q. Now I am going to do this part quite quickly, SR29,
23 because HIA141 has given evidence to the Inquiry. She
24 provided her statement. She gave evidence orally and,
25 as you know, she made -- while she was there between the

1 ages of 1 and 5, she said of you in paragraph 6 of her
2 statement that you force fed her. She made specific
3 reference to Brussels Sprouts and that she was sick over
4 your habit when she referred to the -- told the police
5 about this, but you have said to the Inquiry you didn't
6 force feed children.

7 **A. I never did, no.**

8 Q. It's not something that you did.

9 **A. No.**

10 Q. And she is not correct to say that of you.

11 **A. No, no. Never did it, no.**

12 Q. Were you aware of that as a practice from colleagues,
13 that they would have -- presumably it is important to
14 try to get the children to eat food. Some children
15 don't want to feed. You have got to get them to eat.

16 **A. But not to force feed. You'd make it nice for them to**
17 **eat and encourage them to eat as best they could, but**
18 **not to force feed. No. Never did it.**

19 Q. Then she accused you in the Inquiry statement of putting
20 her over your knee and using a leather strap to hit you,
21 which you were said to have kept this leather strap in
22 your drawer. I know you're shaking. You were
23 explaining to me earlier your position is you never had
24 a leather strap.

25 **A. Never.**

1 Q. That by your time in Nazareth Lodge there was no
2 corporal punishment of any sort --

3 **A. No.**

4 Q. -- being carried out in the units --

5 **A. No.**

6 Q. -- that you know of.

7 **A. Not at all, no.**

8 Q. It was also not how you would behave towards children --

9 **A. No.**

10 Q. -- in any event.

11 **A. Certainly not. It wasn't allowed.**

12 Q. She talked about hair cutting in paragraph 6 of her
13 statement, which for the Panel is at 110, and felt that
14 was identity being taken away, that hair was being cut.

15 You were explaining to me the home did have -- it
16 wasn't done by you --

17 **A. No.**

18 Q. -- because you were left-handed.

19 **A. That's right.**

20 Q. You didn't regard it as one of your qualities to cut
21 hair.

22 **A. Certainly not, no.**

23 Q. But there were others who did cut hair.

24 **A. Yes, trim it.**

25 Q. You felt it was done to make them look in keeping with

1 children who didn't live in the home.

2 **A. That's right, yes, and staff would take them to the**
3 **hairstressers if they were needing it to be styled or**
4 **whatever, you know. So, yes, it made them feel as**
5 **though they were the same as every other child going out**
6 **to school or in the home, yes.**

7 Q. She also talked about bedwetting. I was -- she said
8 that she was trailed out of bed and -- as a result of
9 having wet the bed, and to the police she described it
10 as having been slapped for wetting the bed and "Whatever
11 SR29 could reach was what was done". You said to me you
12 wouldn't have hit her with your hand never mind with
13 anything else, but that you did have people who wet the
14 bed in your unit.

15 **A. Children, yes.**

16 Q. But they were dealt with in a --

17 **A. Sensitive manner.**

18 Q. -- sensitive way.

19 **A. Yes, yes.**

20 Q. You can't speak for how things might have been done in
21 the past --

22 **A. No.**

23 Q. -- prior to that. Do you just want to explain to the
24 Panel how you would have dealt with bedwetting in your
25 unit?

1 **A. Yes, and again I wouldn't always be there. There would**
2 **be a member of staff who would take maybe the laundry,**
3 **the wet sheets off the bed and place them in the laundry**
4 **basket in the bathroom across the corridor, and for**
5 **a little one they would take the laundry away and place**
6 **it again in the laundry basket, and they would do the**
7 **laundry later on in the day once the children were all**
8 **off to school and have the beds made up for them when**
9 **they'd come in, or maybe if they were senior girls, they**
10 **would be encouraged to make up their own bed when they**
11 **came in from school. So that was sort of the way we**
12 **operated.**

13 Q. Did you see it as part of how you were to deal with the
14 children that you should punish them in some way for
15 having wet the bed?

16 **A. No, they were never punished for wetting the bed, no.**

17 Q. Another issue that was raised by HIA141 and is relevant
18 to an incident that she describes not involving you but
19 involving more girl in the home, she said to the police
20 that when you were put to bed, your doors would be
21 locked. I was asking you about that. You said when you
22 were interviewed by the police in 2012 that doors would
23 be shut.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. The children's bedroom doors would be shut --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- but not locked.

3 **A. Not locked, no.**

4 Q. What would be locked was the major doors at either end
5 of the unit.

6 **A. Yes, and the outer doors, yes.**

7 Q. So at night-time one couldn't get out off the unit
8 without opening the doors by key, which you would have
9 had or the civilian staff member would have had. Is
10 that right?

11 **A. Well, the unit was fairly open, you know. Anybody can**
12 **come through the doors, but the door leading out to the**
13 **yard, the front door would be locked and the back door**
14 **would be locked, but there was no locked doors, no.**
15 **There'd be no --**

16 Q. So it is not that the unit doors were even locked?

17 **A. No, no.**

18 Q. So you could get from one unit to the other?

19 **A. Yes, you could.**

20 Q. But you couldn't get out of the building?

21 **A. No, no.**

22 Q. But you weren't locking children in the bedroom at
23 night?

24 **A. No, no.**

25 Q. Because there's definitely another -- the girl that's

1 involved with HIA141 over this incident, one of the
2 reason she says it couldn't happen is she says she was
3 locked in at night-time. We were talking about a girl
4 that you remember.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. Her suggestion was that her room was locked. Was it
7 possible to lock the bedrooms?

8 **A. I can't recall, but bedrooms wouldn't have been locked,**
9 **because they would need to go in and out to the toilet**
10 **anyway during the night if they wanted to. So I can't**
11 **remember any doors being locked.**

12 Q. What I want to deal with now is a particular matter that
13 involves a sister of HIA141. I didn't deal with it as
14 part of HIA141's evidence, but it's material that's
15 available to the Inquiry. It raises a very serious
16 incident that you know happened in September 1977.

17 If we can look, please, at 44637. Again none of the
18 names that we use, SR29, will be used outside the
19 chamber and everyone involved with the Inquiry who is
20 here is aware of that requirement, but 46637. Evidence,
21 SR29, that we are all fallible. I have a wrong number.

22 46637 is a report that has been penned by NL5, who
23 had NL30] in her group. What is
24 described here -- and I am just going to summarise it,
25 but the Panel are in a position to read the document --

1 what happens, men would be able to come on the site, and
2 if they came to the back door of the kitchen, they would
3 be fed. It was one of the services you did to the poor.

4 **A. Sister -- the catering Sister or the catering staff**
5 **would give them a sandwich or a cup of tea, yes, outside**
6 **the back door.**

7 Q. Unfortunately that seems to have been the genesis of
8 this incident, where one of those individuals then
9 appears to have lured two girls away and sexually
10 interfered with them. This is a report of that. If we
11 just scroll down, please, there's a report of that
12 incident happening. Then there is a substantial report
13 from the social worker. If the Panel are content,
14 I will ...

15 The social worker who was involved with the children
16 at the time then penned a report of 28th September 1977.
17 If we can bring, please, up 46638, again what's recorded
18 is an interview taking place with NL5, who is the person
19 in charge of this particular group.

20 **A. That's right.**

21 Q. The incident is recorded. If we just scroll down
22 a little, please, what is said to have happened is the
23 police are then called. Unfortunately we haven't -- and
24 it seems NL5 made a statement to the police as
25 a response to this having happened, and the police can't

1 find any papers in connection with it, but it appears
2 that from discussion that was taking place it was
3 possible to identify perhaps not by name but by identity
4 the person who was said to have done this, and it is not
5 clear whether he was ever found and dealt with for it.

6 One of the consequences that flows from it, if we
7 just scroll down, please, if you just stop there:

8 "The circumstances on Monday night appear to have
9 been rather exceptional. Normally the younger children
10 wouldn't be outside on their own. On this occasion the
11 older children had all been taken to a display in the
12 Ormeau Park. They would normally have been in the next
13 field playing. A member of staff was close by in the
14 kitchen and thought the children would be safe for
15 a few minutes."

16 Then they say this:

17 "Nazareth is an extremely extensive building with
18 large grounds. A lot of people are coming and going as
19 people come to the door to beg and free meals are given
20 to the poor. Also the home had no control over who is
21 using tennis courts, as this is let."

22 That was part of where this event began.

23 "Apparently it's used a great deal, especially
24 during the summer. Children are not allowed to go on to
25 the tennis courts. The fact that older children and

1 staff were away on this occasion was rather exceptional.
2 However, it has shown the staff how necessary it is to
3 supervise the children at all times.

4 NL5 and the Sisters were quite shocked by what had
5 happened, but those that I spoke to felt it would lead
6 them to be much more careful in the future."

7 So this is NL232 , the social worker, who is
8 writing this report, having spoken to various people,
9 and I then -- I raised the issue with you today because
10 it was obviously a very serious issue that happened, and
11 you had had some involvement with the [name redacted]
12 family --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- prior to this.

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. You were saying to me that you -- the first time you
17 knew of this was when the Inquiry produced these papers
18 to you.

19 **A. Yes, yes.**

20 Q. That you had never been made aware --

21 **A. No.**

22 Q. -- that this had happened. I was asking you was it
23 possible that simply you had known and had forgotten but
24 it's not the type of thing that you would --

25 **A. You wouldn't forget.**

1 Q. -- forget.

2 A. I wouldn't. I certainly wouldn't forget. I have to say
3 there was always supervision with the children and
4 people toing and froing through from the main building
5 through to Bethlehem wing, and my unit that I was in,
6 the back door was always open. So you could see exactly
7 what was going on outside, and we were pretty well
8 staffed. So there was always somebody there and they
9 were observant, you know.

10 Q. I think this event obviously happens --

11 A. It must have, yes, but I can't recall.

12 Q. -- in the way that's described, but the systems issue
13 which the Panel might be more interested in, SR29 --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- is despite the seriousness of this --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- some of the staff in the home at the very least were
18 not told --

19 A. No.

20 Q. -- that another child, maybe not in your unit, but they
21 had been sexually abused by somebody on the premises.
22 That was something you were never told.

23 A. No, I wasn't, no, no.

24 Q. Even though the police had been called and clearly were
25 involved, that fact wasn't shared with you either.

1 **A. No, no.**

2 Q. You don't have any recollection, because you weren't
3 told about the event itself, of being brought together
4 and said, "Look, we have had a serious incident here.
5 A child has been sexually interfered with. We are going
6 to have to be more careful and more vigilant about what
7 happens in terms of looking after the children".

8 **A. No, no. I was never involved in any meeting or**
9 **discussion, but, I mean, the staff and ourselves in each**
10 **unit were -- well, we were told at the beginning to make**
11 **sure that there was always somebody around with the**
12 **children and that they'd be safe --**

13 Q. Yes.

14 **A. -- because you would never know who's around. So there**
15 **was good supervision I have to say, you know.**

16 Q. The reason I am asking the question, SR29, is not to
17 that end. It is despite you being of the view that
18 there was good supervision already taking place --

19 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. -- even with that on one occasion --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- something has gone badly wrong and that's not shared
23 with you.

24 **A. No, no, it wasn't.**

25 Q. Then by October 1977 NL232 writes another what

1 is a lengthy document about -- as you know, there was
2 four incidents involving different members of the [name
3 redacted] family: HIA141's teapot incident; this
4 affecting NL30 ; another brother fell from a fire
5 escape; someone else injured themselves, and a report
6 was written that went up the chain. It is something the
7 Health & Social Care Board are looking into, but at
8 46608 through to 46611 that report of NL232
9 looks at the various incidents that have happened, sets
10 out what they knew, what they didn't know, that they
11 weren't aware of the soup kitchen and the risks they
12 perceived that to pose. They say in the report children
13 shouldn't be allowed out of the building unattended at
14 any time.

15 What I want to -- if we can bring up just one
16 page at 46610:

17 "Having made these points ..."

18 They talk about the various incidents and then say:

19 "Having made these points, one appreciates the added
20 strain that this must put on the staff, that it would
21 seem that the children should not be allowed outside the
22 building unattended at any time."

23 Then she says this:

24 "I have a high regard for the staff in general and
25 some of the Sisters appear to have good insight into the

1 problems of all the children and the [name redacted] in
2 particular. SR202 has spent a great deal of her time
3 with NL109 and has uncovered hidden resentment and fears
4 that he has never expressed to anyone else. SR62 is in
5 charge of the younger children and has been very helpful
6 and understanding. She has difficulty in coping with
7 Mrs [name redacted] and says she is a disruptive
8 influence. She remarked that the mother undoes all the
9 good in one afternoon that she tries to do all week.
10 I'm sure that this is true, but I pointed out that the
11 mother must have access to her children and tried to
12 show her that if she gives Mrs [name redacted] more of
13 her time and attention, she won't be so disruptive."

14 I think your experience, SR29, was Mrs [name
15 redacted] was a very forthright person and was not
16 behind the door in expressing her views --

17 **A. No, no.**

18 Q. -- and could be difficult --

19 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

20 Q. -- if she perceived her children as not being looked
21 after in the way that she would prefer?

22 **A. Yes, surely.**

23 Q. Then she says this of you:

24 "SR29 is very gentle and kind and of all the Sisters
25 I feel she can bring the best out of Mrs [name redacted]"

1 as she listens and has the utmost patience with her."

2 When I was asking you earlier about your -- when you
3 were younger --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- were you more authoritarian whenever the regime might
6 have been more authoritarian, and you describe yourself
7 as being gentle was more your way.

8 **A. Yes, that's my nature, yes.**

9 Q. It seems that's certainly the impression you gave
10 NL232 , the social worker --

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. -- who in fairness to her she was fairly heavily
13 involved --

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. -- visiting and liaising about the [name redacted]
16 family.

17 **A. Yes, indeed, yes. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. Now, SR29, you are aware that HIA149 made allegations to
19 the police. Those were allegations made latterly to the
20 police and the Inquiry that he had been abused by Father
21 Brendan Smyth and a fairly graphic account about the
22 hallway --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- and falling over the railing --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- and that all of this would have been -- you are aware
2 of.

3 **A. Never -- never happened during my time there, no.**

4 Q. You made it clear to the police --

5 **A. I did.**

6 Q. -- as you do to the Inquiry he didn't tell you anything
7 of the sort --

8 **A. No.**

9 Q. -- and that you know nothing --

10 **A. No.**

11 Q. -- of the things he speaks of.

12 **A. No.**

13 Q. The Panel are aware of the chronology of material
14 relating to HIA149 --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- before the point when he described these matters in
17 2012 and then to the Inquiry.

18 I want to then mention HIA10, who was HIA10 -- is
19 now HIA10, was HIA10. She was again born in and was
20 in the home for two periods, but which included your
21 period. I am going show you just two records that
22 exist.

23 If we can look, please, at 62278, because what this
24 document suggests is -- this is a review that's taking
25 place in August '83:

1 "HIA10 was very unhappy when SR205 was transferred.
2 It was a very sudden transfer and HIA10 had no
3 preparation for the feeling of loss she experienced nor
4 for the depth of her emotions as she naturally functions
5 at a very superficial level. She appears to have
6 settled very well with SR29, but for a fortnight she was
7 very unhappy and unsettled."

8 In fairness to you, SR29, you can't remember --

9 **A. No.**

10 Q. -- this girl.

11 **A. I can't and I've tried hard, no.**

12 Q. But what -- assuming this record to be correct as
13 written at the time, it seems she had a good
14 relationship with SR205.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. She's gone. You have -- she has moved into your group.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. It took her a while to settle but she now seems to be
19 settled. Then there is a record of November 1983. If
20 we can bring up, please, 62293, this is a record of 24th
21 November. It's another case review and then it says
22 this at the end. So this is the two months later after
23 the August record:

24 "HIA10 is now settled with SR52SR22 after her
25 disappointment over SR29 being transferred so quickly.

1 She was upset over the sudden communications from her
2 mother ...", and so on.

3 The issue this raises, as well as showing that at
4 the time the record seems to suggest you were missed by
5 her, she's moved through three pairs of hands --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- in a short space of time.

8 **A. Uh-huh, yes.**

9 Q. In terms of the system that's operating I was asking you
10 was your potential for being moved on something that you
11 knew well in advance and therefore could prepare the
12 children who you'd -- for instance, if you had looked
13 after a child for five/six years --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- in the way that the social worker describes in terms
16 of gentleness and kindness --

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. -- the likelihood is a close relationship forms between
19 you and that child.

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

21 Q. What type of notice would you get that you were going to
22 be moving on?

23 **A. A month's notice, yes. A month, yes.**

24 Q. So it's something that in the terms of the life of a
25 -- is going to happen quite quickly?

1 **A. Yes, yes.**

2 Q. That was just one of those things. That's how the
3 Congregation operated.

4 **A. That's the way they operated, yes. The social workers
5 and relatives would be informed, you know, and the
6 school as well. So -- of our transfers and the
7 children. It was difficult on both sides. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. Somebody, whoever made these decisions, had identified
9 another post --

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

11 Q. -- that you were deemed --

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

13 Q. -- necessary to fill and as a result you moved on.

14 **A. Yes. That's how the system operated, yes.**

15 Q. It seems this is an example with this girl of it
16 happening. She's had it twice, as it were, in the space
17 of a very short space of time. Maybe that's unusual --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- but it perhaps illustrates the issue--

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- that's there. One last individual. HIA363 has said
22 to the Inquiry, if we look at paragraph 22 of her
23 statement, please, at 888 -- I'm just going to use her
24 number for now, if you don't mind, SR29 --

25 **A. Thank you.**

1 Q. -- HIA363. She says, if we scroll down, please, to
2 paragraph 22, she says she was physically abused. She
3 talks about another Sister. Then she says on one
4 occasion you hit her quite severely as well. She says
5 she was about 8 years old. So that would have been
6 about 1978. She saw you without your veil and you
7 shouted at her and slapped her across the face. You
8 were -- she was really shocked, because it wasn't her
9 fault and she thought you got on well.

10 **A. Never happened.**

11 Q. You recoiled at that suggestion you had slapped a girl
12 across the face. What you did say to me, that this was
13 a particularly lovely girl.

14 **A. She was, yes. HIA363 , yes.**

15 Q. You have given the Inquiry a photograph --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- you have.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. I hope I have given you back the original.

20 **A. You have.**

21 Q. I think I have. Good.

22 **A. You have. Thank you very much.**

23 Q. It is now on record I have returned it.

24 **A. Thank you.**

25 Q. But you simply say that's not an accurate memory.

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. That's not what you did.

3 **A. No way. No way.**

4 Q. Then there is reference in paragraph 23 to a suggestion
5 that you used to entertain the priest in the parlour and
6 the two of you would have had a glass of alcohol of some
7 kind.

8 **A. Oh!**

9 Q. That caused some humour. You may well have entertained
10 the priest --

11 **A. Yes, yes.**

12 Q. -- but it would have been tea.

13 **A. Yes. A few of us there, yes.**

14 Q. It would have been after mass?

15 **A. Yes or some (inaudible).**

16 Q. There is a suggestion here in paragraph 23 that perhaps
17 you and the priest had a fondness for each other.

18 **A. Oh, gosh!**

19 Q. You laughed at that and pointed out to me that SR63--

20 **A. SR63 --**

21 Q. -- wouldn't have permitted that type of warmth to be
22 expressed.

23 **A. No, no. She would have moved me quicker than -- if she
24 had, yes, witnessed anything like that, yes.**

25 Q. You wouldn't have sat on the seat for long.

1 **A. No, no, no, no.**

2 Q. So whatever the particular individual thought, your --
3 this is definitely right, that after mass the local
4 priest would have been entertained --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- in the parlour with tea.

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. But it was nothing more than -- nothing more than that.

9 **A. No, indeed.**

10 Q. Again what I want to do -- if we just take that
11 statement down, please -- you were explaining to me
12 earlier, and I want to just try and bring it together,
13 SR29, if I can, that at the time you are working in
14 Nazareth Lodge the point that you would make is that by
15 that stage the building had been and the institutional
16 nature had been improved by breaking down into the
17 units.

18 **A. Yes, very much so, yes.**

19 Q. That efforts were being made to try and keep families
20 together.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. We were looking at one particular example of that,
23 because, as the Panel may recall, the Northern Board
24 were struggling to know what they were going to do with
25 nine children.

1 **A. Nine children, yes. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. But the family was kept together in that way.

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. You point also to the fact that by this point in time,
5 by your period, there was extensive social work
6 involvement --

7 **A. Oh, very much so.**

8 Q. -- in the lives of the children.

9 **A. Yes, yes.**

10 Q. You saw that as a positive thing --

11 **A. Oh, very much so, yes.**

12 Q. -- that they were heavily involved --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- with the -- with the children.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. You also made the point to me that social work training
17 for staff was now a much more commonplace thing.

18 **A. Training, yes.**

19 Q. And it meant the quality of care you felt was on the up.

20 **A. Improved. That's definitely, yes.**

21 Q. There were various courses to attend.

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. You describe to me that as far as your unit was
24 concerned punishment -- I think you touched on this
25 earlier -- you know, was maybe --

1 **A. Yes. Just menial things.**

2 Q. -- banning them from going somewhere.

3 **A. Yes, yes.**

4 Q. But not taking to them with your hand --

5 **A. No, no.**

6 Q. -- or some other implement.

7 **A. No.**

8 Q. They had pocket money that they then get out to spend.

9 **A. That's right, yes. Uh-huh. They were allocated -- each**
10 **age group had an allocated amount of money, you know.**

11 Q. Am I right in saying that you -- your time spent in this
12 unit, whatever might have been going on elsewhere in the
13 same home, was a positive experience, that you enjoyed
14 tough work?

15 **A. Tough work.**

16 Q. You were working all day?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. But a positive approach?

19 **A. Yes, definitely. I was very happy in the Lodge and**
20 **enjoyed every minute of it and was sorry to leave it,**
21 **I have to say, and staff were great as well. Good**
22 **support from all the Sisters as well as our Superior,**
23 **you know. Uh-huh --**

24 Q. Other than --

25 **A. -- and good --**

1 Q. Other than the incident with SR62 that you took action
2 about --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- you were not aware of adults hitting children or
5 putting them in cupboards or that type of --

6 **A. No, no. I have to say I didn't witness anything like**
7 **that, no, because, you know, in the units there was**
8 **another senior staff always there who was very vigilant**
9 **and would be looking out for anything that would be**
10 **going on that wasn't right. So ...**

11 Q. In terms of record-keeping, SR29, by this point in time
12 were you being required to keep notes on the children --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- in files?

15 **A. Yes. Uh-huh, yes.**

16 Q. I think one of the problems the Inquiry has had is that
17 unfortunately the Congregation has not been in
18 a position to provide that material, but you were
19 keeping --

20 **A. It was just coming -- it had just come in, because the**
21 **social workers were involved, and they would have to**
22 **have a record of how things were going with each family**
23 **and child, yes. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. And you had the six-monthly reviews that were taking
25 place.

1 **A. That -- oh, yes, yes.**

2 Q. You would have prepared an internal case review --

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

4 Q. -- which would have fed into that case review that
5 involved the social workers as well as yourself.

6 **A. How the children or each child was getting on in the**
7 **home and in the school and with their friends around,**
8 **you know, and if -- as they were getting older, if they**
9 **weren't fitting in, then the social worker would be**
10 **maybe talking to the family and the child, you know, and**
11 **looking to see what further help or whatever, maybe**
12 **another placement for them. So there was a great**
13 **support work going on and every help I think was being**
14 **made available for the well-being of the children.**

15 Q. I think if I summarise what you were saying to me
16 earlier, this was not easy work to do --

17 **A. No, no.**

18 Q. -- and it could never be carried out with perfection.

19 **A. No, no, not to the -- yes, but ...**

20 Q. But as far as you were concerned in your group you were
21 doing your best for the children --

22 **A. I was. I was. We loved them, yes, yes.**

23 Q. -- that you had to look after.

24 **A. It was a pleasure to look after them, you know. I was**
25 **younger then and able, yes. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. SR29 --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- I'm not going ask you any more questions. If you
4 just stay where you are --

5 **A. Thank you.**

6 Q. -- the Panel Members may want to ask you something. So
7 just bear with us for a short time if you would.

8 **A. Okay. Thank you.**

9 **Questions from THE PANEL**

10 CHAIRMAN: Sister, could I just ask you to go back to this
11 matter that was raised with you earlier this afternoon
12 where the lay staff from the other unit came and spoke
13 to you about their concerns relating to the other
14 Sister? First of all, was that an unusual event for
15 people from another -- the lay staff from another group
16 to come to you to raise their concern?

17 **A. Yes, it would be. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. Was there any other occasion when anything like that
19 happened other than this one?

20 **A. No, because they'd maybe go to the Superior of the house
21 at the time, you know. This was just ...**

22 Q. But in any event they spoke to you and, as you put it,
23 expressed their concerns about the welfare of the
24 children, but you said they didn't go into details and
25 weren't perhaps as explicit as is said in the statement

1 that was examined, but what did they say to you, because
2 it must have been pretty serious for you to go straight
3 to the Superior and tell her about your concerns instead
4 of saying to them, "Well, you go and speak to the
5 Superior". I mean, how -- how much did they tell you?

6 **A. I can't recall all, but they did say they were worried**
7 **for the well-being of the children in the unit.**

8 Q. Did they say there was some reason for them to believe
9 that the Sister had beaten one of the children to
10 an extent of leaving welts on his back?

11 **A. No, I don't -- I can't recall them telling me that,**
12 **because I'm sure that would have been picked up by his**
13 **family or by the social worker. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. But in any event their concern was sufficiently strong
15 and I presume appeared well-founded to you for you
16 immediately to go and speak to the Superior about it?

17 **A. Yes. I think they really wanted me to take it on board**
18 **and go and have a word with her, yes.**

19 Q. And the Sister concerned was ultimately relieved of her
20 duties of looking after children in the home.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. Were you ever aware of any other occasion during your
23 time in the Lodge when a Sister was removed from her
24 duties with children in that way?

25 **A. No.**

1 Q. I see. Thank you.

2 MS DOHERTY: Thank you, Sister. Can I ask when SR63 walked
3 round the unit, you know, had her walks, did she engage
4 with the children?

5 **A. Oh, if she met them, she would, yes.**

6 Q. And she would have interacted with them?

7 **A. She would, yes.**

8 Q. And would she have had an eye to the quality of work
9 that the nuns and lay staff were having with the
10 children?

11 **A. Oh, yes.**

12 Q. Would that result in her ever commenting or giving
13 guidance or --

14 **A. Well, I suppose when she would talk to them, she might
15 say, "How is everyone? Is everybody all right?"
16 Especially if the Sisters were away, she would maybe
17 talk to the staff on duty and ask how things were and
18 she would be happy. She would always make sure the food
19 was good for the children. You know, she would come
20 along into the dining areas to make sure the food was
21 good. It was one thing she always said: make sure the
22 children were well fed.**

23 Q. Was she unusual in that, because I don't know we have
24 heard of other Mothers actually going round amongst the
25 children?

1 **A. Uh-huh. She would come through on the -- not on**
2 **a regular -- you know, just on occasions.**

3 Q. Yes. Okay. In relation to your (inaudible) with the
4 lay staff, was there ever any discussion about the
5 approaches to be taken with children, any discussion
6 about the right way of managing them or ...?

7 **A. Oh, yes. I think we would talk about, you know, how**
8 **such one was, you know, if there was any misbehaviour,**
9 **the reason for it, or if they were sent home from school**
10 **or there was problems in school, yes, we would talk and**
11 **discuss, yes.**

12 Q. Would that be within the unit?

13 **A. Within the unit, yes.**

14 Q. Within the unit?

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. But in relation to kind of chat or discussion between
17 the units, you know, the Sisters getting together to
18 talk about general childcare practice?

19 **A. No. It wasn't the norm, no. We didn't.**

20 Q. There wasn't that?

21 **A. No.**

22 Q. Okay. Can I just ask finally about when you were told
23 you were going to be moved, was -- is there any
24 opportunity for discussion there, any explanation of the
25 rationale for your move?

1 **A.** Well, you'd be told, you know, "We want you to go to
2 such a house" and name it and say, "You're needed there
3 now. We're sorry to tell you, you know, that you have
4 to go" and, you know, they'd give you time and that was
5 it.

6 **Q.** That was it.

7 **A.** So you talked to the staff and you'd tell them and then
8 talk to the children and, yes, prepare them as best you
9 could.

10 **Q.** Okay. Thank you, Sister.

11 **A.** Okay.

12 **CHAIRMAN:** Well, Sister, you will be relieved I am sure to
13 hear at this very late hour, just after 5.30 --

14 **A.** Thank you.

15 **Q.** -- we don't have any further questions for you.

16 **A.** Uh-huh.

17 **Q.** Thank you very much for coming to speak to us today and
18 I am sorry we have kept you here for so long and so
19 late. Thank you for coming.

20 **A.** Thank you. Thank you.

21 **(Witness withdrew)**

22 **MR AIKEN:** Chairman, Members of the Panel, that I am pleased
23 to say concludes today's oral evidence.

24 **CHAIRMAN:** Thank you.

25 Well, ladies and gentlemen, we will adjourn now and

1 resume tomorrow at the usual time.

2 (5.35 pm)

3 Hearing adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning)

4 --ooOoo--

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