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HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at

Banbridge Court House

Banbridge

on Monday, 9th February 2015

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 92)

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

1 Monday, 9th February 2015

2 (10.00 am)

3 WITNESS DL269 (called)

4 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Before we
5 start can I just remind, as always, everyone to please
6 ensure that their mobile phones have been switched off
7 or at the very least placed on "Silent"/"Vibrate" and
8 also remind you that no photography is permitted
9 anywhere in the premises, that is within the chamber or
10 indeed anywhere in the building; nor is any recording
11 permitted. Yes.

12 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members. There is
13 an appearance to be announced this morning.

14 MR LAVERY: Yes, indeed, Mr Chairman. My name is Finbar
15 Lavery. I appear on behalf of DL269, instructed by
16 Mr Denis Moloney from Donnelly & Wall Solicitors.

17 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Lavery.

18 MS SMITH: Chairman, the first witness this morning is
19 "DL269". He is DL269. DL269 wishes to take the
20 religious oath and he also wishes to maintain the
21 anonymity afforded to him by the Inquiry.

22 WITNESS DL269 (sworn)

23 CHAIRMAN: Please sit down, DL269.

24 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

25 MS SMITH: DL269, just before I come to talk to you about

1 your evidence I am just going to tell the Panel Members
2 where some documents are in the bundle in relation to
3 it.

4 DL269's statement can be found at SNB-80070 to
5 80073.

6 The statement of HIA56, which relates to DL269, is
7 at SNB-464 to 477, and the transcript of his evidence
8 can be found at pages SNB-90210 to 90211 and 90231 to
9 90233.

10 There is also a congregation response. That is
11 actually in response to HIA56's statement however.

12 There is also police material at SNB-61022 to 61032
13 and 62055 to 62061.

14 Now if we could put up, please, page 80070 and,
15 DL269, although your name is given here, I just want to
16 remind people that that name cannot be used outside this
17 chamber, and before it is published on any web -- on our
18 website at all your name will be redacted.

19 Can I just ask you to confirm, however, that this is
20 the statement that you prepared for the Inquiry?

21 **A. It is, yes.**

22 Q. You signed that statement on the last page -- well, you
23 signed it at the bottom of each page, but you signed it
24 on the last page on 30th January 19... -- sorry -- 2015.
25 Is that correct?

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

2 Q. Now your personal details are set out there, DL269, in
3 paragraph 1. You yourself were in Nazareth Lodge from
4 about 1959, when you would have been about aged 5, and
5 you had gone there from the Babies' Home. Isn't that
6 correct?

7 **A. That's -- yes, that's true.**

8 Q. You were there until approximately 1965, when you were
9 moved with a group of other boys to Rubane in Kircubbin.

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

11 Q. Now paragraph 2 here you say that when you were in
12 Nazareth Lodge, you were split into groups, and the
13 group you were in was known as Our Lady's group. A nun
14 whose name you give there -- and again I'm using nuns'
15 names that aren't to be used outside this chamber --
16 SR47, you say she looked after you. All the nuns were
17 very good to you, such as another nun you remember,

18 **SR 151 .**

19 "I am very grateful to them and how they looked
20 after me."

21 You say you never witnessed any physical violence or
22 abuse from the nuns towards any of the children, but you
23 do recollect being beaten by domestic workers that would
24 have come in to look after you.

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

1 Q. These were lay staff people. Is that correct?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. You do remember one particular occasion when you were
4 about 8 or 9.

5 "The nuns had gone to prayer and we would have gone
6 to bed about 6.00 pm in the evening."

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Can I just pause there, DL269? Was that the normal bed
9 time for you?

10 **A. It was, yes.**

11 Q. You remember being in bed and some of the other boys
12 were talking and the domestic worker accused you of
13 talking also.

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

15 Q. Now you don't name this person here, but you gave a name
16 to me when we were speaking earlier.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Do you want to give that name to the Inquiry? Again it
19 is not to be used outside this room, but --

20 **A. The name was NL 192.**

21 Q. NL 192?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. Can you remember anything in particular about this
24 person at all?

25 **A. Just that she was cruel. That's ...**

1 Q. What about her height, or how she looked, or anything
2 like that? Can you describe her?

3 **A. It's hard to tell, you know, the height. I was only**
4 **a young kid. So just taller than me. That's all I can**
5 **say. Dark coloured hair.**

6 Q. Well, you go on to say on this occasion when she accused
7 you of talking, you denied that you were talking and you
8 were hit repeatedly with a solid plastic racquet.

9 "I was brought out to the passageway. I was made to
10 kneel with my hands over my head, which seemed to go on
11 for hours, and I remember nuns coming back and being
12 told to go to bed."

13 I am just going to stop there for a moment. Can
14 I ask you to describe what you remember about the layout
15 of Nazareth Lodge? You were in the dormitory when this
16 happened?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Where was your dormitory? Where was the -- Our Lady's
19 group dormitory in relation to other places in the
20 house?

21 **A. We were on the top floor. There was about -- it's hard**
22 **to say. You had the bottom floor. Then you'd the**
23 **second one, you know, the church was on. The third was**
24 **Sacred Heart and Marion group, and we were above them,**
25 **Our Lady's and St. Joseph's.**

1 Q. Can you even remember how many boys might have been in
2 your group at the time?

3 **A. Possibly about ten to fifteen.**

4 Q. You were looked after by SR47 in your group?

5 **A. Yes. There was two bedrooms, two large dormitories
6 consisting of Our Lady's.**

7 Q. Who looked after the other dormitory?

8 **A. No, it was -- you know, it was a walk-through. You
9 know, it was just a door separating them. The same SR47
10 looked after both rooms.**

11 Q. Here -- going back to your statement here, you say that
12 she would have slept at the end of the dormitory in
13 an area that was cordoned off, and heard you crying in
14 the middle of the night with pain, and she came out to
15 you, put ointment on you and comforted you.

16 **A. Yes, that's correct.**

17 Q. You believe she spoke to the domestic worker involved in
18 relation to this incident.

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

20 Q. Was that the only incident that you ever had involving
21 this woman who you name as NL 192?

22 **A. It's the one that I remember most of all. The other
23 times wouldn't have been as bad.**

24 Q. You do talk here in paragraph 4 of your statement about
25 some other lay staff in the home. You say:

1 "There would have been incidents where I was beaten
2 as well. I remember NL5 being rough with the kids and
3 being violent. Also NL4 would have been cruel and
4 violent to the children. I do not believe that the nuns
5 knew that the domestic workers were being violent to any
6 of the children."

7 Now can I just pause there again? You are aware,
8 because I have told you, that we have received -- the
9 Inquiry has received statements from the two women that
10 you name here in paragraph 4, and I am just going to
11 outline what they say, but can I just be clear? You
12 describe NL5 as being rough with the kids and being
13 violent.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. Did she ever hit you?

16 **A. A couple of times.**

17 Q. Again NL4 is described as being cruel and violent to the
18 children. Did she ever hit you?

19 **A. Yes, a few times, yes.**

20 Q. Now in their Inquiry statements and in respect, first of
21 all, of NL4, she has given a statement which can be
22 found at 80079. That's SNB, and at paragraph 10 at
23 80080, if we can just go to 80080, she specifically
24 addresses the allegations you make there at paragraph 10
25 at the bottom -- if we could just scroll down, please --

1 to say:

2 "In his statement he has stated he was in Nazareth
3 Lodge from approximately 1959 to 1965 and he makes
4 a specific allegation against unnamed domestic workers
5 that he was repeatedly beaten with a solid plastic
6 racquet. I have no recollection of seeing any such
7 racquet in the home while I was there and I certainly
8 did not use one to beat children with. I remember",
9 your name, "but have no personal recollection of him and
10 I deny using excessive force on him at any time."

11 She has said in another statement that she gave to
12 the Inquiry that on occasions she would have slapped
13 children and she may on some occasions have used
14 a ruler. Can you describe how she hit you, DL269?

15 **A. It was just basically getting whacked, you know.**

16 **I couldn't necessarily, you know, remember. All the**
17 **boys of my age, you know, or my time there always knew**
18 **these two girls or two women were always, you know,**
19 **heavy-handed with kids.**

20 Q. If we could look at NL5's statement at 80091, from
21 paragraph 4 there she addresses the allegations that you
22 make and she says that you weren't in her group. That
23 is correct. Isn't that so?

24 **A. Yes, that's correct.**

25 Q. "By his statement he indicates he was in SR47's group.

1 So I would have had very little to do with him.
2 I cannot put a face to this boy and I am sure I have not
3 met him since he left Nazareth. I absolutely deny that
4 I was rough or violent. I know I was fussy and strict
5 about manners and morals and boys being clean and
6 behaving well, but I truly do not believe any more than
7 a natural mother would have been. I took very little
8 notice of boys not in my group, as I had enough to do
9 with NL 28 and another boy and my own boys. Again
10 I would emphasise that I received a standing ovation at
11 the last reunion of children who visited" -- sorry --
12 "who lived in Nazareth and many have stayed in touch
13 with me over the decades and visited me in my home."

14 Then she goes on to say that you didn't report the
15 allegations that you now make to the police. She says
16 she notes the allegations are very generalised. You
17 don't in the statement that you gave to us accuse her of
18 striking you, although in evidence you have said that
19 she did hit you.

20 **A. Yes, she did.**

21 Q. She says it remains her position that she "did not
22 strike this or any boy". She also says that she never
23 saw NL4 "strike this or any boy". She says she believes
24 corporal punishment may have been administered by the
25 nuns in the school, but she never saw it, and she is

1 "sorry if this boy was struck as he alleges", but it was
2 not something she did or was aware of others doing. She
3 is not surprised that you or other boys remember her
4 name, as she was staff,
5 and whilst other boys have said the nuns were abusive,
6 she is pleased to note that you don't say that, and she
7 records the fact that her time in Nazareth was the
8 happiest of times in her life.

9 Now those are allegations that you make about your
10 time there, DL269.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. I am going to turn now to talk about the allegations
13 that have been made against you, but you are aware of
14 those and I'm not going to repeat them.

15 **A. Right.**

16 Q. You deal in paragraph 9 -- 5 to 9 of your statement, if
17 we could go back to that, please, which is at page 80071
18 -- you are aware that a boy, HIA56, makes allegations
19 against you, and the allegation can be found at state...
20 -- in his statement at SNB-466 at paragraph 8. What he
21 said in evidence can be found at 90211 and 90231, but
22 essentially he makes allegations that you address in
23 your own statement here at paragraph 5.

24 You say that you:

25 "... have read the statements and transcript of the

1 evidence given by him and the allegations he has made
2 and in particular the allegations he made against me.
3 I knew him and had always got on well with him. He also
4 mentions another boy who I knew, who was roughly the
5 same age as me. I do not know why HIA56 is making these
6 allegations. I was not given an opportunity to
7 challenge his evidence or make representations before it
8 was said at the Inquiry, but I would now make some
9 points.

10 I have read the transcript of his evidence and
11 I note that he mentions what he calls charge boys.
12 These boys he talks about being 16 or 17 years of age.
13 He also makes allegations that when I was 16 or 17, I am
14 alleged to have abused him together with another boy,
15 and we would have been 16 or 17. I can say that in my
16 time at Nazareth Lodge that there were never boys of 16
17 or 17 years of age. I have never heard of these charge
18 boys. There would not have been people staying at
19 Nazareth Lodge of 16 or 17 years of age. All staff
20 working at Nazareth Lodge would have been females.
21 I left Nazareth Lodge for Rubane in approximately 1965,
22 when I would have been 10 or 11 years of age."

23 Now just to be clear, we talked about this earlier,
24 that in his transcript he --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- in his evidence to the Inquiry he said that he
2 thought the boys who abused him were much older and, in
3 fact, the ages of 16 and 17 were the ages he gave when
4 he complained to the police about the matter, and I know
5 you were interviewed by police about that --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- but he would say at one point in his evidence that --
8 when I put it to him, that he was, in fact, 8 and you
9 were maybe about 11 --

10 **A. Right.**

11 Q. -- which would be consistent with the age difference.
12 Isn't that right?

13 **A. Yes, that's correct.**

14 Q. He also went on to give other details about the abuse,
15 which I will come back to. You said you've read the
16 allegations that he has made that boys would be made to
17 take their trousers and underpants down, that a face
18 flannel would then have been placed on their penis.

19 "I can say that I never witnessed anything like this
20 ever happening at Nazareth Lodge and it would not have
21 happened.

22 HIA56 makes an allegation in relation to abuse that
23 took place by myself and the other boy in a hall with a
24 stage in Nazareth Lodge. I remember the area that HIA56
25 is talking about."

1 abusing him."

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

3 Q. You do go on to talk about you do remember his mother
4 coming to visit him and he does give evidence about this
5 --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- and how his mother, as he put it, humiliated him by
8 making him change his clothes -- you say that included
9 his underwear -- in front of the other boys. The boys
10 would make comments, teasing him for having to get
11 changed in front of you, and it was just boyish
12 behaviour in your view.

13 "There was always banter going on with people
14 teasing and making comments between the boys. None of
15 this was done with malice or with any other motivation
16 or intent, and I do not understand why HIA56 keeps
17 referring to me allegedly telling him that he had the
18 nicest bum in the home."

19 Just to be clear about his statement of evidence,
20 when he was asked about this, and I put your statement
21 to him, he said that you weren't telling the truth; that
22 it did happen. This is the incident involving the
23 penises and the flannel.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. He said:

1 "The whole group wasn't lined up; the selected few,
2 if you know what I mean."

3 I asked him:

4 "They picked people out of it?"

5 He said:

6 "If there was about thirty boys in the group, there
7 was about -- a selection of them taken out and lined up
8 and stripped. I don't know how they got the erections,
9 but some of them did and some of them didn't. They put
10 the wee loops on you on the flannel. You had to dance
11 and sort of swing it around, you now."

12 Then I put to him what you told police in interview.
13 He said -- you'd said to police in interview that you
14 remembered him from Nazareth Lodge but denied ever
15 touching HIA56's penis or testicles. You said:

16 "I think ..." --

17 HIA56 said:

18 "I think he was more interested in bottoms, so he
19 was",

20 and I said:

21 "Those were the investigations police had carried
22 out."

23 He said:

24 "To make me the winner of the best one how many do
25 you go through to come to that conclusion? I know what

1 he said. He always reminded me of it afterwards."

2 I said:

3 "After you met him?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. After you had left Nazareth Lodge?

6 A. Even when he was put into ,

7 I always had the best bum. How many do you have to go
8 through to come to that conclusion? No, he's lying
9 then. He's lying about that."

10 I just -- that's basically what he said in response
11 to the fact that you denied ever having touched him or
12 ever having said anything about his bottom or his bum.
13 Is there anything you want to say to the Inquiry about
14 that, DL269?

15 A. Regarding me saying to him I liked his bum, the only
16 thing I could ever relate that to is when he was getting
17 changed in front of, do you know, all the boys who were
18 lining up to go to the dining room to have their dinner.
19 His mother would, you know, undress him in front of
20 everybody, and that's where the bum bit comes into it.
21 That's all. It's a bit of banter. That's all it was.

22 Q. You think you might have said something in that context
23 that he has then taken through life?

24 A. Well, I may have, you know, referred to it, you know,
25 the ongoing years, you know, because it was a banter,

1 **but I totally refute, you know, the facecloth and all**
2 **that. That's all nonsense.**

3 Q. Well, you were, as I said, interviewed at the time by
4 the police and you denied any abusive --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- behaviour towards HIA56 in any way, and certainly you
7 weren't -- you attended voluntarily to speak to the
8 police at the time --

9 **A. I did, yes.**

10 Q. -- and there's -- it has never resulted in any
11 prosecution. Isn't that correct, DL269?

12 **A. That's correct.**

13 Q. Now you do talk there in the rest of your statement --
14 paragraph 10 you describe leaving Nazareth Lodge for
15 Rubane and you talk a little bit about your life after
16 you left Rubane, and at paragraph 11 you do say that you
17 were comfortable in Nazareth Lodge with the nuns and you
18 think very fondly of them. You would have sent them
19 Christmas cards, and you are grateful for the care and
20 support that they provided to you --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- during your childhood.

23 Now is there anything else that you want to say
24 about your time in Nazareth Lodge or anything more about
25 either what happened to you there or what HIA56 has said

1 that you want to let the Inquiry Panel know? This is
2 your opportunity to say it, DL269.

3 **A. No. The only thing is I would say I was cared for and**
4 **looked after by the nuns and I have had a good life.**

5 Q. Well, the one final question that I want to ask you is,
6 as you have described some unhappy times there,
7 obviously not at the hands of the nuns, but at the hands
8 of others, is there -- this Inquiry has to make
9 recommendations about what happened to children in
10 institutions, and is there anything -- do you have
11 a view about what you think should happen?

12 **A. Well, just tighten up procedures. That's all, you know.**
13 **In my case, you know, I never knew if there was any**
14 **inspectors or anything ever come, you know, to visit to**
15 **find out what was happening. It was just, you know, the**
16 **domestics, when they were working there, had a free run.**
17 **You know, the nuns were always away at prayer or**
18 **something like that when all this happened.**

19 Q. Well, thank you for that, DL269. I have nothing further
20 that I want to ask you, but the Panel Members may have
21 some questions for you.

22 **A. Okay. Thank you.**

23 CHAIRMAN: I will just ask you, Ms Smith, do we have a more
24 detailed record of dates for DL269 being in Nazareth
25 Lodge? I note it just says "about 1959".

1 MS SMITH: No. We have tried to get them, but we haven't
2 got anything more accurate, Chairman.

3 CHAIRMAN: Well, no doubt, Mr Montague, your clients could
4 look at their records.

5 MR MONTAGUE: Yes. Sister Brenda is in the chamber today.
6 So she will pick that up.

7 CHAIRMAN: It would be helpful just to have exact dates, if
8 at all possible.

9 Well, DL269, I am sure you will be relieved to hear
10 we don't have any questions other than trying to find
11 out exactly dates you were there. I quite appreciate
12 you can't remember them --

13 **A. Well --**

14 Q. -- but we will have a look at the records to see if we
15 can get a more exact date.

16 **A. Well, the dates -- I know I left in '65 and left Rubane
17 in '69.**

18 Q. Yes, but it's to try and get the exact dates, you know,
19 just in case you are a year or two out, but that's --

20 **A. Oh, no. I'm definitely 100%.**

21 Q. -- not a significant issue. It's just to try and tie up
22 that loose end, but thank you very much for coming to
23 speak to us today. We are very grateful to you.

24 **A. Thank you very much. Thank you.**

25 **(Witness withdrew)**

1 MS SMITH: Chairman, the next witness is to be taken by
2 Mr Aiken, but if we take a short break, I am sure he
3 will be ready shortly.

4 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Well, we will rise just for a minute or two
5 I hope.

6 (10.50 am)

7 (Short break)

8 (11.05 pm)

9 WITNESS HIA192 (called)

10 CHAIRMAN: Mr Aiken.

11 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, good morning.

12 The second witness today is HIA192. I am going to call
13 him HIA192. He is "HIA192". He is aware, Chairman,
14 that you are going to ask him to take the oath.

15 WITNESS HIA192 (sworn)

16 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, HIA192. Please sit down.

17 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

18 MR AIKEN: Can we bring up on the screen, HIA192, your
19 witness statement, and you've got a hard copy in front
20 of you where you can see what's underneath the black
21 markings. I will just get you to check for me that's
22 the same document as the one where you can see
23 underneath the black marks.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. It is, and if we move through to page 303, please --

1 that's 299 and 303 -- and if you go to the last page in
2 the hard copy that you have, HIA192, and just check that
3 that's the same last page --

4 **A. Yes.**

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

6 **A. I have.**

7 Q. You want to adopt the content of it as your evidence to
8 the Inquiry?

9 **A. I do.**

10 Q. As we discussed, the black marks are the anonymity
11 policy of the Inquiry at work, and you want to keep your
12 anonymity?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. In addition to that statement, because of an allegation
15 that has been made in relation to you, you have provided
16 a second statement. If we can bring up, please, 80074,
17 and again when this is published, it will be redacted in
18 the same way, HIA192, but you have signed this
19 statement, and that was prepared through McAteer &
20 Company --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- your solicitors, who are present with you in respect
23 of this allegation. Mr McAteer is present this morning,
24 Members of the Panel.

25 The allegation that HIA192 is responding to is one

1 made by HIA87, who is HIA87, and he -- his Inquiry
2 statement is at SNB-253 through to 262, and the
3 allegation relating to HIA192 is at paragraph 17 of that
4 statement at 258.

5 HIA87 also gave evidence to the Inquiry on Day 83,
6 which was 7th January of 2015, and the relevant part of
7 the transcript relating to the allegation against HIA192
8 is at the bottom of page 43 of the transcript through to
9 page 46.

10 The response statement from the Sisters of Nazareth
11 can be found at SNB-1599 through to 1600, and there are
12 exhibits that run from 1600 to 1617. We will look at
13 that account in relation to particular matters that
14 HIA192 raises.

15 The Health & Social Care Board statement is at 5672
16 to 5673, and that records that HIA192 was a private
17 placement into Nazareth Lodge, and the admission record
18 seems to verify that in terms of the priest
19 being involved in the admission of HIA192 and his
20 brothers.

21 There then is a police statement that HIA192 made to
22 the Police Service on 13th December of 2010, and that
23 police statement can be found at 61218 to 61219, and
24 there was no prosecution of the individuals referred to
25 in that statement, who are all deceased.

1 HIA192 has an ongoing civil claim against the
2 Sisters of Nazareth congregation, and the medical report
3 from the consultant psychiatrist,
4 can be found at 1611 to 1617.

5 HIA192, having gone through all of that, as to where
6 the material can be found in the electronic bundle I was
7 describing to you, you were born and
8 are now [REDACTED] years of age. Isn't that right?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. You are the second oldest of four boys: your older
11 brother, who is now deceased, , and then there was
12 you and then and , and , he -- the
13 three oldest children went into Nazareth Lodge.
14 was fostered and ultimately adopted. You have provided
15 a photograph to the Panel, which they have had the
16 opportunity to see, of the four of you reuniting, as it
17 were .

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. You yourself have a wife, three children -- I believe
20 one of your daughters is with you today -- and four
21 grandchildren.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. You entered Nazareth Lodge as a [REDACTED]-year-old,
24 June 1945. I was saying to you earlier that
25 was -- the World War II ended on 8th May 1945. So about

1 five weeks after the end of the Second World War you
2 entered Nazareth Lodge. You went there with , your
3 older brother, and , who was the brother next to
4 you, the third in the family, and , he went in
5 a different direction. As I said, the admission record,
6 which can be found at 4462, was brought -- you were
7 brought by the parish priest.

8 You remained in Nazareth Lodge until 8th July 1953
9 when you left aged ■ ,
10 and you moved into digs, as you explain,
11 and began work in a timber yard. Those
12 were things organised for you by your recollection is
13 the Nazareth Lodge Welfare Committee, the aftercare
14 committee --

15 **A. Yes, yes.**

16 Q. -- for boys leaving. The discharge record is at 4466.
17 We will come back to that, as it refers to you attending
18 a reunion, as you know, and we will talk about that
19 towards the end of your evidence.

20 In your statement, HIA192, you describe the physical
21 abuse that you suffered at the hands of the nuns. If we
22 can look at paragraph 4, please, at SNB-300, you have
23 a particular recollection of an incident involving SR101
24 over the -- someone having bit into the backing of
25 a jotter. It was -- it had backing over it and someone

1 had sunk their teeth into it, and she decided that --
2 she asked you to bite into the same place and decided
3 that you were responsible for having done that. I think
4 you know it was another older boy, but you weren't
5 prepared to tell on him.

6 **A. Can I just say something?**

7 Q. Of course.

8 **A. I was asked to collect the jotters.**

9 Q. Yes.

10 **A. I didn't know that had been done --**

11 Q. Yes.

12 **A. -- and when it went up, she asked me did I do it. She**
13 **asked the boy did he. "That's your jotter. Did you do**
14 **it?" He said, "No". So -- I said, "No". I knew**
15 **nothing about it.**

16 Q. But she decided --

17 **A. She said, "I'm going to beat you till you tell the**
18 **truth".**

19 Q. She decided you were responsible and told you that she
20 was going to hit you until you admitted that it was you.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. You explain in your statement how you were beaten in
23 front of the entire class --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- and how she used a hurley stick to beat you on the

1 hands.

2 **A. Yes. You had better say "handle of a hurley stick".**

3 Q. I'm going to --

4 **A. Hurley stick is a bit awkward.**

5 Q. I'm going to come to that. Don't worry. What you
6 describe happening is you were on your knees. Is that
7 right?

8 **A. Yes, kneeling down with my hands out, and then the more
9 she hits, the more your hands drop and the fingers turn.**

10 Q. On the subject of the hurley stick you are aware --
11 I was saying to you earlier -- that the Sisters of
12 Nazareth have said sometimes physical punishment went
13 beyond what it should, but they aren't aware of others
14 complaining about hurley sticks being used, and they
15 don't accept hurley sticks were used. What -- as
16 I understand it, what you are explaining is it was the
17 handle of a hurley stick.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. It didn't have the playing end on it --

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. -- but you are very clear for you it was a hurley stick
22 --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- handle part --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- and that that was used to hit you on the hands.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. You explain in your Statement of Claim -- I am not going
4 to bring this up -- it is from 2011 -- but at 1606 --
5 that you counted 66 strikes --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- before you lost count of the number of times you were
8 being hit.

9 **A. Yes, because I was -- I was fighting a battle in my**
10 **mind: "I can't say I done that", because I hadn't done**
11 **it. So it became just me and her sort of thing.**
12 **Actually I didn't feel the physical pain, because it was**
13 **so -- so much thinking, "I'm going to win this. I'm**
14 **going to win this".**

15 Q. You explain in paragraph 4, HIA192, that you lost over
16 the next few weeks five fingernails --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- as a result of that particular beating.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. You say in your police statement -- I am not going to
21 bring it up for this reason -- but at SNB-61219, which
22 you made in December 2010, you say that that was the
23 worst beating that you had when you were in the home.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. There are other beatings that we are going to talk about

1 --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- but this was the worst occasion for you --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- that you remember.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. I was asking you where the piece of wood, the stick, the
8 hurley stick, whatever is the right way to describe it,
9 where it was kept.

10 **A. It was kept in a drawer. You know their desk?**

11 Q. And was it -- what sort of length? If you used your
12 hand, can you remember what sort of length it was?

13 **A. It would be about 2 foot. That's 2 foot.**

14 Q. So whatever that is.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. That's a foot and a half probably you are showing.

17 **A. Maybe.**

18 Q. Maybe two feet, and was it --

19 **A. That was only the end that was -- the foot of it that
20 was off, you know, the big wide part on it.**

21 Q. The part where you would have hit with --

22 **A. Hit the ball.**

23 Q. -- it was not there?

24 **A. No.**

25 Q. I was asking you, "Was it flexible like a bamboo cane?"

1 **A. No, no.**

2 Q. You were saying, "No, it wasn't flexible".

3 **A. No.**

4 Q. It was a solid --

5 **A. Piece.**

6 Q. -- piece.

7 **A. Hash, yes.**

8 Q. The Sisters draw attention to -- and this is in the
9 Sisters' statement at 1599 -- a hurley stick is not
10 something that has been often described before to the
11 Inquiry as a particular weapon, and the question I was
12 asking you was whether it could have been something
13 other than a hurley stick, a stick but just not a hurley
14 stick, but you feel no, it was a hurley stick --

15 **A. A hurley stick, yes.**

16 Q. -- but just without the playing end on it.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. I was asking you, "Was there just one of these?" and you
19 were saying, "No, there was sticks everywhere". They
20 were in the dormitory --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- in the refectory, in the school room --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- and they were used commonplace for punishing.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. You then in paragraph 5 describe SR118. You say that
2 she made you a class boy. You were in charge of
3 cleaning a room.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. You then say she beat you every day for various reasons
6 like not putting her inkwell in the right place or
7 leaving dust in the classroom.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. So these were trivial things that, because you hadn't
10 got it right, you were punished.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. How -- what were you hit with by SR118?

13 **A. I was hit by a hurley stick, basically the handle of
14 a hurley stick.**

15 Q. So it's the same type of device --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- as SR101 used?

18 **A. I never seen a cane all the time I was there.**

19 Q. And in your police statement at 61218 you say that she
20 would frequently get you to put your hands on the desk
21 --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- and then hit you with a stick.

24 **A. You were getting hurt from both sides.**

25 Q. Was that a ruler that she was using --

1 **A. No.**

2 Q. -- or was it this stick?

3 **A. All the time it was a stick.**

4 Q. In addition, HIA192, you explain in paragraph 6 that she
5 also eventually put you in charge as a charge boy of her
6 dormitory, St. Joseph's dormitory.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. You point out in paragraph 6 that if someone in your
9 group had stepped out of line, then you got punished as
10 well as them.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. I was asking you, "What sort of things did boys do to
13 get punished?" and you mentioned if they lost a sock, or
14 they weren't on time for something, or they wet the bed
15 --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- those were all things that they got punished for.
18 Were they hit for these things? How were they punished?

19 **A. They were hit as well, like --**

20 Q. But --

21 **A. -- but when --**

22 Q. -- the point you make --

23 **A. -- when you get --**

24 Q. -- is the charge boy, the person who was placed in
25 charge --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- he then got punished as well.

3 **A. Did indeed, yes.**

4 Q. I was asking you, "Were you always hit on the hands or
5 ...?" You mentioned you got hit on the backside at
6 times.

7 **A. Yes. After the cold bath you would be made to lie down.**

8 Q. I am going to deal with that particular incident now,
9 HIA192, because it is one that sticks in your mind that
10 you want to share with the Inquiry, and that's you as
11 a charge boy were blamed because another boy had wet the
12 bed.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. You were put in a bath of cold water and older boys
15 poured buckets of cold water over your head.

16 **A. Yes. That was the recognised thing for wetting the bed.
17 That was the cure.**

18 Q. The cold bath --

19 **A. Cold bath, yes --**

20 Q. -- and the water being poured over?

21 **A. -- and then I was trying to explain things were
22 multiplied. You know, if somebody had done something
23 wrong in my class, then somebody else had done
24 something, do you remember I said if you done something
25 at 9 o'clock in the morning, you were still getting hurt**

1 at 6 o'clock, because the same nun in charge was -- she
2 was in charge of you in the classroom and then she was
3 in charge of you out of the classroom. So you could be
4 getting beat for the same thing at 6 o'clock at night
5 that you were getting beat for at 9 o'clock in the
6 morning.

7 Q. What you describe happening here with the cold bath --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- is then you were taken out of the bath and SR118 was
10 again hitting you with this stick.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. The point you make is that you turned over, saying,
13 "That's sore, Sister", and she continued to hit you --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- but now she was connecting with you in the groin
16 area.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. As I said to you, you record that it was about six times
19 in total, and you have always regarded subsequent
20 difficulty, which I am not going to go into with you,
21 that you have had in that area as related to what she
22 did.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You also mention in paragraph 7, if we scroll down on to
25 the next page, please, at 301 that she would have woke

1 you in the mornings by hitting you on the legs with this
2 stick --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- the handle of the hurley stick, to get you up, so
5 that you could get the other boys up.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. I was asking you was that on the -- were you under the
8 covers at the time this was happening or --

9 **A. Yes, or trying to get out of bed some mornings.**

10 Q. And she --

11 **A. She just --**

12 Q. -- came up the separate area --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- between the beds --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- and struck you on the legs?

17 **A. Legs, yes.**

18 Q. I was asking you where did she keep the stick that she
19 used in the dormitory and you thought it was in the cell
20 that she kept it.

21 **A. Yes. She -- she slept in a little -- little room at the
22 end, the end of the dormitory.**

23 Q. In paragraph 8 you relate, HIA192, a particular incident
24 involving a radiator that broke in the dormitory and
25 leaked water. SR118 punished all the boys in the

1 dormitory. You were the first to be beaten by her.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. So were you -- can you remember -- and if you can't,
4 just say so -- were you the charge boy at that
5 particular point in time when this incident happens?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. She said -- you mention that when she got tired, she got
8 another boy -- and we don't need to mention his name --
9 but you remember her getting tired doing the hitting and
10 he was required to take over and continue hitting.

11 **A. Yes. He didn't want to do it, and he was told he would
12 be beat if he didn't do it.**

13 Q. He then -- was he using the stick on the --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- younger boys?

16 You describe in paragraph 9 then an occasion
17 whenever you got into difficulty with her through you --
18 as I understand it, there was a light in the chapel.
19 The Bishop is laying the foundation stone. The light is
20 near the altar area, and with the Bishop's crozier the
21 light has got knocked, which you were responsible for --

22 **A. Responsible.**

23 Q. -- and the result of that was when you returned to the
24 refectory later, you were hit in front of all the boys.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. Was this just your dormitory were in the refectory or
2 was this all of the boys?

3 **A. All of the boys. See, it was teatime.**

4 Q. Yes. So this wasn't just the St. Joseph's boys that
5 this was in front of. This was --

6 **A. No, there was about 200 boys.**

7 Q. As I said to you, the Sisters make the point that they
8 don't believe a hurley stick was used on children, but
9 for you it was a piece of wood that you believed --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- was the handle of a hurley stick.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Another point -- it is not in your Inquiry statement --
14 but in the Statement of Claim -- it is at 1607 at
15 particular (k) -- you mention SR118 hitting with keys on
16 the head. If we just bring that up so you can see it,
17 1607, please. Just maximise that for me. You mention
18 you were struck with large keys on one occasion. If we
19 just highlight (k) so that HIA192 can see exactly what
20 is said. That's great. Thank you. You can see,
21 HIA192, (k) -- forget about "the plaintiff" -- you were
22 struck with large keys on one occasion by SR118, cutting
23 your head.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Now the point you were making to me was the doors in

1 Nazareth Lodge were thick wooden doors.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. Therefore the keys were long keys.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. On occasion the keys would be used to hit.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. I was asking you were there any other items and you
8 mentioned there was a leather strap that you remembered
9 being used.

10 **A. Yes, only one time.**

11 Q. Only once?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. And not on you?

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. You remember it being used on another boy?

16 **A. Yes. He must have been soft, kitten.**

17 Q. In the -- in your police statement you mention -- at
18 61219 you talk about the polishing of the floors.
19 That's not something in your Inquiry statement, but you
20 mention getting splinters in your feet --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- from the work on the floors. I was asking you, "Was
23 that using your feet to push a cloth to polish?", but
24 you were explaining to me -- in fact, you demonstrated
25 to me it was actually you were on your knees and

1 polishing using your hand, but because you had nothing
2 on your feet, as you went backwards, occasionally you
3 got splinters round your toes.

4 **A. In your toenails, yes.**

5 Q. You make the point in your police statement that SR118
6 would have hit you if she considered the floor wasn't
7 polished properly.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Can you remember what she used to hit on that occasion
10 or those occasions?

11 **A. Whatever she had to hand. It could be the keys. It**
12 **could be the brush handle or whatever.**

13 Q. Now if we can bring up, please, 61218, you mentioned to
14 the police, HIA192 -- it is not something that's in your
15 Inquiry statement -- you mentioned to the police about
16 older boys touching younger boys and trying to interfere
17 with them. If we just scroll down, please, there's
18 a section just at the bottom. You say:

19 "The older boys would often have put their hands
20 down the younger boys' trousers ..."

21 You think that should have said "up".

22 **A. Yes, we were wearing short trousers.**

23 Q. "... including mine" -- if you just scroll down a little
24 further -- "when we were play wrestling. If the nuns
25 caught you, they would have been beaten -- they would

1 have beat both of the boys for it",
2 not just the older boy who was doing the messing
3 about. Is that ...?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Then you were explaining to me earlier that there was
6 more of this type of activity going on of the older boys
7 interfering with the younger boys.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Do you want to just tell the Panel something briefly
10 about how that came about?

11 **A. Well, if a young boy was on his own and a bigger boy was**
12 **that way inclined, he sort of took advantage.**

13 Q. And --

14 **A. Another -- sorry -- another thing was if you had been**
15 **taken advantage of, they passed it round to other**
16 **deviants.**

17 Q. So this type of touching was going on at times.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. Do you know whether the nuns knew that that was going
20 on?

21 **A. They must have been aware of it, because they never just**
22 **beat the one boy that was the bad boy. They beat the**
23 **little fella that -- he had no chance. So the two were**
24 **getting beat.**

25 Q. I was asking you earlier, HIA192, whether you remembered

1 who the Sisters were involved in punishing for that type
2 of interfering behaviour. Do you remember --

3 **A. It was nearly all SR118.**

4 Q. I was asking you what you had been taught about anything
5 to do with sexual matters while you were in the home.

6 **A. Never.**

7 Q. I was asking you how many times you remember this coming
8 across in terms of involving you. You felt it was only
9 once that you remember somebody trying to do this --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- to you and then both of you --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- were punished --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- which is that incident you relate in your police
16 statement --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- but you are aware of it happening to others.

19 **A. Of course, yes.**

20 Q. In paragraph 10 of your statement, HIA192, if we go to
21 301, please, you talk about the food, and you recount
22 a particular occasion when you remember bags of peas
23 with maggots in them.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. I am right in saying you worked in the kitchen --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- at a certain point --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- perhaps when you were a bit older.

5 **A. When I was about 14 and a half, 14.**

6 Q. The point I made to you was that the Sisters of Nazareth
7 have explained to the Inquiry that they did their best
8 to get the best food that they could in the
9 circumstances that they had, and they don't accept there
10 were maggots in the food, and that the Sisters ate the
11 same food as the boys in the home. That's not something
12 you accept.

13 **A. No.**

14 Q. Why do you say -- can you explain to the Panel what you
15 say it was like?

16 **A. Everything they got was special. There was a firm**
17 **brought special**
18 **cream. The nuns got cream tea. There was a butcher**
19 **-- I can't remember the name of**
20 **the butcher's -- and they only brought special meat for**
21 **the nuns.**

22 Q. So --

23 **A. Everything they got was special.**

24 Q. So this is just one particular incident you remember of
25 maggots in the peas, but your general impression was the

1 food wasn't as good as the nuns were getting.

2 **A. Exactly. The spuds the boys got -- and to this day**
3 **I only love champ. I only take mashed potatoes, because**
4 **if you got three potatoes, one of them was rotten. So**
5 **what you done was broke them up and you mashed them and**
6 **you didn't -- well, they didn't taste as bad, you know,**
7 **mixed.**

8 Q. Well, you make a point in paragraph 11, HIA192, about
9 a relief nun who forced you to eat fat that was cut off
10 the meat.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Do you want to just explain to the Panel how that came
13 about?

14 **A. I put a piece of meat -- you see, these are different**
15 **age groups. I was only about 11 or 12 I think when that**
16 **happened, and I put the fat to the side of my plate.**
17 **She came along behind me, lifted the fat and pushed it**
18 **into my mouth, saying, like, "There's a war on".**

19 Q. You were blocked by your hand there. You were saying
20 she said, "There's a war on" --

21 **A. Yes. Sorry.**

22 Q. -- and forced it into your mouth.

23 **A. Yes. I don't eat a lot of meat to this day.**

24 Q. You explain in paragraph 13 about how your brother, your
25 older brother , [REDACTED].

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED]

4 --

5 A. Well, it was about the [REDACTED]

6 Q. [REDACTED]

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. The result of you doing that was when you came back,

9 [REDACTED] --

10 A. [REDACTED] You see, you had to
11 go up with a plate to get your dinner.

12 Q. And --

13 A. [REDACTED]

14 So --

15 Q. The Sisters who are commenting today, going back, they
16 are saying it wouldn't have been deliberately not you
17 having your dinner, but your recollection is there just

18 [REDACTED] --

19 A. Yes. That would happen maybe two or three times a week.

20 was in that place. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 Q. In paragraph 14, if we just scroll down, you recount
2 a particular incident where during the summer holidays
3 someone put newspaper into two pails of milk --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- that were to be brought out to the boys to have
6 a drink of milk, and you were all punished by not being
7 allowed outside to play for three weeks.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Was this just your St. Joseph's group?

10 **A. No. This was the whole school basically, the whole**
11 **senior boys. By that time I think I was a senior. So**
12 **the whole senior class. It's hard to explain, because**
13 **there was a class inside school and there's classes**
14 **outside school, but the classes, the school classes --**
15 **that would be 6th or 7th grade; I don't know what**
16 **they're called now -- were kept in until the boy that**
17 **done that owned up.**

18 Q. As I said to you earlier, the congregation have said to
19 the Inquiry that they find it very unlikely -- this is
20 in paragraph 7 of the replying statement; if we just
21 bring it up at 1600 -- they find it very unlikely that
22 they would have kept -- just maximise that:

23 "... not accept that the boys were kept indoors for
24 three weeks. It is unlikely, as the Sisters have to
25 supervise them, and it was likely to be easier to let

1 them run around outside."

2 So the point that the Sisters are making is that it
3 would have been pretty counter-productive to ban the
4 boys from going out, because if they were in, they would
5 have to do a lot more supervising of them. Do you
6 understand what I mean?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. It would be more convenient to let them be outside.

9 **A. Yes, but when you were inside, we were in the**
10 **classroom again. See, there was a partition that opened**
11 **up, you know, in the classes. So we were kept inside**
12 **and the one nun could read -- read a story. It was**
13 **religion or something, you know, a religious thing or**
14 **something.**

15 Q. You remember being read a book that you didn't like
16 a lot.

17 **A. Yes. By Cardinal Newman I think it was.**

18 Q. What I want to do now, HIA192, is just deal with the
19 allegation that was made against you while you were in
20 the home as a charge boy --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- and that related to HIA87, who gave evidence to the
23 Inquiry, and he is "HIA87". He was born .
24 So he was a little over a year younger than you. You
25 and he were in Nazareth Lodge at the same time between

1 about '46 and '52. He appears to agree with you about,
2 as he explained to the Inquiry, SR118 and her beating
3 the children and also he agrees with you about this
4 hierarchical structure of SR118 --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- appointed older boys to keep the younger boys in
7 line, and you agree with that in your statement in
8 paragraph 6 at SNB-300. We discussed that you were
9 required to keep the younger children in line otherwise
10 when they stepped out of line, you got beaten as well.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. The point, as you know, I was making to you earlier was
13 the example that you saw from SR118 was one of keeping
14 in line, and if you didn't keep in line with whatever
15 the rules were, then you were hit. You saw others being
16 hit for not being in line.

17 What HIA87 said to the Inquiry, if we just look at
18 paragraph 17 of his statement at 258, please -- and this
19 is something that you have talked through with
20 Mr McAteer and you have done your replying statement to
21 that -- he makes the point:

22 "The older boys must have felt that they were
23 getting glory from hitting us, because they acted like
24 they had power over us. Some of these boys had been
25 institutionalised since they were infants, so they did

1 not know any different. It was a way of life for them."

2 He recalls one of the older boys, and that's you, an
3 evil boy who regularly hit him. As I said to you,
4 I asked him during his evidence, "Well, what were you
5 hit with?" and -- page 44 of the transcript -- he said
6 it was a brush shaft. That is, as I said to you,
7 an item that others have mentioned being used --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- as the thing that was -- the stick type thing that
10 was used to hit. He said -- page 44 of the transcript
11 -- that you would go up the line making sure everyone
12 was behaving themselves and using the brush shaft to
13 keep them in line. He described you as a bit like the
14 school bully. Then he said, as he has done at the end
15 of -- he has done in this paragraph, he said in his oral
16 evidence at the bottom of page 45 that he can't really
17 blame the older boys -- so he is including you in that
18 -- as they didn't know any better, ie they were meting
19 out what they were themselves seeing or receiving. He
20 makes the point at the top of page 46 of the transcript
21 that he makes here in paragraph 17 about the
22 institutionalised nature of the boys and how they didn't
23 know any different.

24 But you have said to the Inquiry, if we just look at
25 80074, please, and it is really the last paragraph, you

1 are aware of the complaints and they have been shown to
2 you and discussed with you, but you don't recollect
3 a HIA87 being in Nazareth Lodge.

4 **A. No.**

5 Q. You make the point in the statement, and you were
6 showing a photograph, that there were other
7 and you wonder whether he had confused you
8 with them.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. But you are aware as well I was making point to you that
11 your brother, for instance, that you referred to, ,
12 was a charge boy before you.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. I was asking you, "How did he keep order?" and there was
15 a physical element to keeping order.

16 **A. Of course, but he was big.**

17 Q. That's the point you make. You were smaller than he
18 was.

19 **A. I only got the thing by default, the fact that he --**
20 **when he went away, there was nobody in charge, and one**
21 **of the nuns -- it wasn't SR118; it was SR9 I think they**
22 **call her, SR9 -- she just says, "Who was in charge**
23 **before?" They said, So they pointed to**
24 **me -- she pointed to me and said, "Well, you take over",**
25 **but I was only the same as all the other boys. I wasn't**

1 **a big boy.**

2 Q. The point you made in your statement to the Inquiry
3 before we had to deal with this particular aspect --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- was that there was consequences for you if the boys
6 you were in charge of --

7 **A. Oh, of course, yes.**

8 Q. -- stepped out of line --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- and often for trivial things --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- as you pointed out, like losing a sock or things like
13 that.

14 Well, going back to your own experience, HIA192, the
15 discharge record, if we just look at 4466 -- and this is
16 a point that the congregation noted -- that this records
17 you attending what's described as a reunion and doing
18 well. Do you remember

19 So that's about six or nine months after you
20 had left.

21 Do you remember formal reunions as such?

22 **A. No.**

23 Q. But you do recollect you would have been back on
24 occasion kicking football in the field or --

25 **A. Yes, with the older boys, some of them maybe my own age,**

1 **like.**

2 Q. That was because the digs that you were in, which the
3 Aftercare Committee had organised, the landlady didn't
4 want you in the --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- building all the time --

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

8 Q. -- and this was the place that you would have
9 congregated.

10 **A. Yes. We had nowhere else to go. We didn't have money.**
11 **In fact, we used to have to sneak into the pictures if**
12 **we wanted to see the pictures.**

13 Q. This is obviously -- this is the home where you grew up.
14 So this is what you knew --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- but I think the point that I was asking you about was
17 whether, you know, you continued to have a relationship
18 with the nuns.

19 **A. No, we never seen the nuns. You see, it's a big field.**
20 **We weren't near the nuns then.**

21 Q. You were giving me an example of a nun visiting your
22 house subsequently --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- and you making the point that you weren't a fan of
25 nuns.

1 **A. And I still didn't like her either.**

2 Q. You mention -- and, as I said to you, we are not going
3 to go into the -- the Panel have read your statement in
4 terms of what happened to you after you left Nazareth
5 Lodge -- but if we look at paragraph 20 of your
6 statement at 303, you just set out some of the
7 consequences that you feel arise from the way in which
8 you were brought up by the congregation. That's about
9 how you react with others and the lack of confidence and
10 you are perceived as being very negative. Of course,
11 you will recall me pointing out to you that lots of us
12 know negative people who have never been in a care home
13 --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- but that is how you feel your upbringing altered who
16 you might have been.

17 **A. Yes. I would never take a job with authority. You
18 know, working on building sites, I wouldn't be a ganger
19 man or that.**

20 Q. As you know, HIA192, as I was explaining to you earlier,
21 there's two questions that we ask everybody towards the
22 end of their evidence. The first is that at the end of
23 its work the Panel has to consider what recommendations
24 it might make to the Northern Ireland Government about
25 the matters that the Panel is dealing with. That's in

1 three areas. One is whether there should be some form
2 of apology in some form; secondly, whether there should
3 be some form of memorial; thirdly, whether there should
4 be other -- some other means of redress, and we ask each
5 witness whether there's anything they want to say to
6 assist the Panel with their thinking about what
7 recommendations they might make. Is there anything you
8 want to say about that?

9 **A. Well, I think our family, they should be compensated for**
10 **what they have had to put up with.**

11 Q. By that you mean as a result of how you were brought up,
12 you then --

13 **A. Our behaviour.**

14 Q. And how you brought your family up?

15 **A. It's not natural, a lot of it.**

16 Q. The last question, HIA192, that we ask each witness is
17 whether there's anything else they want to say about
18 their time in Nazareth Lodge. It might be something
19 that I touched on, but didn't cover in enough detail.
20 It might be something I didn't touch on at all or it may
21 be something else about your time in Nazareth Lodge that
22 you want to share with the Inquiry. Is there anything
23 else you want to say that we haven't already covered?

24 **A. No. I can't think of anything. Thank you.**

25 Q. HIA192, if you stay where you are for a few moments, the

1 Panel Members may want to ask you something to clarify
2 something that you've said, but just bear with us for
3 a short time, if you would.

4 **A. Okay. Thank you.**

5 **Questions from THE PANEL**

6 CHAIRMAN: HIA192, can I ask you to think back to something
7 you said earlier this morning about a nun who had beaten
8 you in the morning might be the same nun who beat you
9 again in the evening?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. I'd just like to ask you a bit more about that. Do you
12 mean that you were being punished twice for the same
13 thing or just it so happened that the Sister who
14 punished you for something in the morning would be the
15 same Sister who would punish you again for something
16 else at night? Do you see the difference I mean?

17 **A. No. They could be punishing you for the same thing
18 again at night --**

19 Q. Right?

20 **A. -- or for something trivial just because you have done
21 that early in the morning.**

22 Q. Does that mean that if you did something trivial early
23 in the morning, the punishment would be held over to
24 night-time?

25 **A. Of course it would. They seemed to have that down on**

1 **you all the time.**

2 Q. Or was it that --

3 **A. There was never --**

4 Q. -- you were actually punished twice. You were struck or
5 whatever in the morning and again in the evening for the
6 same thing --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- or did they just say, "Well, I'll deal with this
9 tonight" and you would have it hanging over you, as it
10 were, all day?

11 **A. No, you got beat there and then. That's what I say
12 about, you know, the keys. They had a bunch of keys.**

13 Q. Yes.

14 **A. It was whatever was to hand. They'd just hit you.**

15 Q. Thank you very much.

16 **A. Thank you.**

17 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA192. Can I just check:
18 did SR118 say to you directly if -- the wee boys you
19 were in charge of, if they misbehaved, you were going to
20 get it as well? Was it said as direct as that?

21 **A. No. I was always there, because I was in charge of that
22 wee -- that -- I was in charge of about twelve or
23 fifteen other boys.**

24 Q. You knew from what you had seen around you --

25 **A. If we --**

1 Q. -- if they misbehaved, you would get it as well?

2 A. Yes. If he -- you see, if he was -- his sock was
3 missing, he's not able to go wherever, maybe to church
4 in the morning like. So he's there looking for that,
5 but he might take somebody else's, and it carries on
6 down the line. He might take from somebody else's
7 class. I'll have to -- this is a class outside the
8 school room.

9 Q. Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

10 A. So if his sock is missing, he will pinch somebody else's
11 and it's an ongoing thing.

12 Q. But finally somebody gets in trouble for it and gets --

13 A. Of course.

14 Q. Always if you were in charge of the boys, you'd get hit
15 as well?

16 A. I would indeed.

17 Q. If one of them got hit, you would get hit?

18 A. Pardon?

19 Q. Would it always be the case that if one of the boys you
20 were looking after got hit, you'd get hit as well?

21 A. Of course, yes --

22 Q. Thanks very much.

23 A. -- because I was to blame for him not having his sock on
24 or whatever. Thank you.

25 Q. Thanks very much.

1 **A. Thank you.**

2 MR LANE: When you became a charge boy, were you the only
3 charge boy for that twelve to fifteen boys or was there
4 another one as well alongside you?

5 **A. I was in charge of them twelve, fifteen boys.**

6 Q. Right.

7 **A. You see, there was different classes. So there could be**
8 **another boy in charge of another fifteen, another boy in**
9 **charge of another fifteen.**

10 Q. Right. Were you actually called charge boys when you
11 were there? Was it a known term?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Right, and did you get any privileges or rewards for
14 being a charge boy as well?

15 **A. Yes, you'd get hit.**

16 Q. Only getting hit?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. I mean, you didn't get any extra food or stay up later
19 or anything like that?

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. Okay. Thank you very much.

22 **A. Thank you.**

23 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA192, I'm sure you'll be pleased to hear
24 we're not going to ask you any more questions, but thank
25 you very much for coming today to speak to us.

1 CHAIRMAN: So I see.

2 WITNESS HIA387 (sworn)

3 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, HIA387.

4 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

5 MR AIKEN: HIA387 is "HIA387". She has travelled

6 , where she has spent the vast majority of her
7 life, to talk to the Inquiry today.

8 If we bring up 384 on the screen, please, HIA387,
9 you will you see what will be the front page of your
10 witness statement, but with the black marks that we
11 talked about. So if you just check the statement you
12 have just to make sure it is the same except for the
13 black marks.

14 **A. Correct.**

15 Q. If we look at the last page then on 395, please --

16 **A. Correct, yes.**

17 Q. -- if you just look at the last page, and you can
18 confirm you have signed your witness statement?

19 **A. I have.**

20 Q. You want to adopt the contents as your evidence to the
21 Inquiry?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. As we discussed, the black marks are the Inquiry's
24 anonymity policy in operation, and you want to keep your
25 anonymity?

1 Q.

3 Q. And are now aged 65?

4 **A. Correct.**

5 Q. You have a brother, , who you mention in your
6 statement, because he goes into care at the same time as
7 you.

8 **A. Correct.**

9 Q. You mentioned in your statement, if we go back to the
10 first page, please, to 384, that you thought he was
11 looked after by the Christian Brothers, but you also
12 mention Nazareth Lodge. Clarifying that with you, he
13 went into Nazareth Lodge for a period of time, looked
14 after by nuns in the same Order as looked after you, but
15 then you think he went to the De La Salle Brothers.

16 **A. I'm not 100% sure on that, but I think it was.**

17 Q. Yes, and I will come back on the issue about sibling
18 contact with you later, but in addition to your brother
19 then you have latterly discovered that you have
20 a sister and then a series of half brothers and sisters.

21 **A. Correct.**

22 Q. You yourself have two children, and your first husband
23 passed away, and you have then two stepchildren as well
24 --

25 **A. Correct.**

1 Q. -- and six grandchildren.

2 **A. Correct.**

3 Q. You are working, as you said to me earlier, with
4 adolescents with drug difficulty --

5 **A. Correct.**

6 Q. -- and other problems through a charity organisation.

7 **A. Correct.**

8 Q. You were in Nazareth House from 9th November 1953 to 1st
9 July 1961, so between the ages of 4 and 12. You explain
10 in paragraph 2 of your statement at SNB-384 that you
11 know very little about your family background or when
12 precisely you came into care, and it is possible that
13 you were in the St. Joseph's Baby Home before you came
14 to Nazareth House --

15 **A. Correct, yes.**

16 Q. -- before, but you aren't sure about that.

17 **A. No.**

18 Q. To this point the Inquiry hasn't any records from that
19 period that would allow me to assist with that, but you
20 think that may have been your path.

21 **A. Yes, I believe that.**

22 Q. We looked together earlier at the admission record, for
23 which I will just give the Panel the reference at 4258
24 and 4259, which identifies your parents and then the
25 potential involvement of a priest in you coming into

1 care.

2 What I am going to do, as we discussed earlier,
3 HIA387, is cover a series of issues in a thematic way.
4 The first of those is physical abuse that you describe
5 in your statement. Obviously, as you know, the Panel
6 have read your statement in advance of you giving your
7 evidence. So I am going to summarise that content as we
8 go and then draw out some matters that I am going to ask
9 you some further questions about.

10 You describe in paragraph 3, if we scroll down to
11 the next page, please, whenever you were arriving, you
12 remember being dragged along the hall by your hair and
13 you remember a nun in a white dress being involved in
14 that, telling you you weren't a baby anymore. You think
15 you were 4 at the time, and you were handed over then to
16 another nun. Your doll was taken from you. You found
17 it very intimidating. Was that really your arrival at
18 Nazareth House that you are describing in that
19 paragraph?

20 **A. Yes. I just remember a woman or a nun in long white**
21 **clothes and she passed me over to one of the nuns in the**
22 **black dresses.**

23 Q. You are not clear on the names of these nuns --

24 **A. No.**

25 Q. -- that were involved in this. Then in paragraph 6 --

1 I will come back to some nuns that you talk about -- in
2 paragraph 6 you describe general hitting and some other
3 matters that went on at the hands of the nuns. There
4 are no nuns in this category that you remember the names
5 of --

6 **A. No.**

7 Q. -- but what you describe in paragraph 6 is you would
8 have been slapped on the head and on the neck for doing
9 something wrong. You describe how you would have been
10 picked up by your ears. I was asking, "Was that picked
11 up off the ground?" You couldn't remember whether you
12 were picked up off the ground physically, but that's --
13 it felt like being dragged up.

14 **A. That's what I remember what it felt like, that you were**
15 **lifted off the ground. They would just get hold of your**
16 **ears.**

17 Q. You describe being hit on the hands with a ruler.

18 **A. Correct, yes.**

19 Q. Was that a -- was that a wooden ruler --

20 **A. Yes --**

21 Q. -- you remember?

22 **A. -- or a plastic. I think it was a wooden one.**

23 Q. Was it the side of the ruler that was used?

24 **A. The side of the ruler on the back of your hands.**

25 Q. But you then describe a further incident involving your

1 hands about halfway down that paragraph, where you
2 describe how your hands were tied behind your back --

3 **A. Correct.**

4 Q. -- at school. Now I appreciate this is all Nazareth
5 House. The school in the same building as the
6 dormitories, but this is an incident that is happening
7 in the school.

8 **A. Correct, yes.**

9 Q. Who tied your hands behind your back?

10 **A. Well, the nun that was teaching us.**

11 Q. What did she use to tie your hands?

12 **A. String.**

13 Q. What led her to be doing that?

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

15 Q. Had you done something that you were being punished for?
16 Can you remember what the cause of the tying was for?

17 **A. I don't know. I probably couldn't spell or probably
18 couldn't do something she asked me to do.**

19 Q. So it was as some form of punishment --

20 **A. Punishment, yes.**

21 Q. -- that your hands were tied? Did this happen to other
22 girls as well as you?

23 **A. Sometimes, yes.**

24 Q. You describe how on one of the occasions whenever your
25 hands were tied you would have got slapped on the back

1 of the head by the nun who was passing you.

2 You also describe being hit on occasion with leather
3 belts from around the waist.

4 **A. They used to have like a rosary bead and a brown or**
5 **black belt and they would sometimes take it off and hit**
6 **you on the legs with it.**

7 Q. Then you make reference in this paragraph also to being
8 made to stand in the corner and to wear a dunce's hat.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. Was that for something you got wrong during the school
11 day that you were asked about?

12 **A. More than likely, yes. Probably.**

13 Q. The point you were making to me was it's since known you
14 are dyslexic --

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

16 Q. -- but that wouldn't have been known necessarily at the
17 time. You are made stand in the corner. Can you just
18 describe this hat that was --

19 **A. It had a "D" on it and it was like a pointed -- like**
20 **a clown's hat.**

21 Q. Were there others who had to wear that on occasion as
22 well as you?

23 **A. Yes, sometimes.**

24 Q. Another incident that you describe in this paragraph,
25 just five lines up from the bottom you say you were put

1 in a dark room for talking out loud. Can you remember
2 was that during the school hours? Was it a room off the
3 school classroom or was that somewhere else in the
4 building?

5 **A. I think it was in a room off the school rooms.**

6 Q. Was it dark in the sense of there was just no window in
7 it?

8 **A. No window, yes.**

9 Q. You were put out of the way for a period of time?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. Presumably you don't remember precisely how long that
12 would have happened for?

13 **A. No.**

14 Q. You also mention then in paragraph 6 that -- just at the
15 bottom of paragraph 6 that you were at one stage then
16 asked to act as a charge girl for the younger children.
17 I was asking you about that earlier. You were
18 explaining to me that that was a -- you were given
19 really one girl to be in charge of.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. So lots of the other girls were given a younger girl to
22 be responsible for --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- and -- but if that younger girl stepped out of line,
25 then you got punished as well as the girl herself?

1 **A. Correct, yes.**

2 Q. Can you remember at what age you were given that
3 additional responsibility of the younger child?

4 **A. About 11 or 12 years of age, 10, 11 or 12.**

5 Q. There's one particular incident you mention in
6 paragraph 15, if we move through to paragraph 389,
7 please. This is an incident involving the Reverend
8 Mother, where you are talking about the Reverend Mother
9 coming to the classroom with a visiting priest. You
10 were asked a question on the bible and you said, "Well,
11 if Jesus was a view, God was a Jew, why are we
12 Catholics?" You don't want to be a Catholic anymore.
13 You want to be a Jew. You were dragged by the hair and
14 you say they shouted -- was this -- can you remember was
15 this the nun in charge of the class or was this the
16 Reverend Mother with the priest?

17 **A. No, it was the actual nun who was in charge of the**
18 **class.**

19 Q. "How dare you with a name like that!" as in that's your
20 surname they were referring to].

21 **A. Yes, that I wasn't worthy to have such a beautiful name.**
22 **How dare I.**

23 Q. I am going to come to that with a slightly different
24 incident in a moment. You describe then being slapped
25 and made to kiss the priest's feet.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Was this in the classroom in front of others?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. Then on a slightly different area for a moment, HIA387,
5 you describe in paragraph 7, if we look at 386, please,
6 that in terms of chores that you were given different
7 chores to engage in. You say:

8 "We were worked as children like little slaves. We
9 would clean and polish the floors and stairs, which we
10 did with cloths tied to our feet. We had to polish the
11 church, do the washing, gather wet sheets up, take them
12 to the laundry, put them in hot tubs, kneel at the top
13 of the dormitory darning socks."

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. There was a bucket of socks for you to work through.
16 You mention:

17 "I believe I might have been made do these chores
18 because the nuns saw me as being defiant."

19 I will come back to that, but you felt:

20 "They were trying to break us down."

21 I was asking you, "Did you feel this work was
22 excessive?", because one of the points that the
23 congregation has made to the Inquiry and make in your
24 case at paragraph 5 of the replying statement at 1989 is
25 that everybody was made do chores. That was part of

1 living in this home and they weren't excessive.

2 Everybody had to do their bit to keep the place well.

3 Is that how you perceived it?

4 **A. No. I understand that children even today, that you ask**
5 **them to do little chores at home, like clearing their**
6 **plates and stuff like that, but not to scrub floors and**
7 **polish them with rags on your feet and on your arms and**
8 **brush floors in big halls and stuff.**

9 Q. In paragraph 8 of your statement I want to talk to you
10 about bathing, HIA387. You say that you were made --
11 I am going to break this down into different parts.
12 When it came to bathing, you were made walk down the
13 corridor from your dormitory to the bathroom, where
14 there would have been, as I understand it from you, four
15 or five tin baths.

16 **A. I don't know whether they were actually tins, but there**
17 **were baths, and we were made to walk down with no**
18 **clothes on.**

19 Q. Was that you had your vest and pants on or literally
20 nothing?

21 **A. Naked, sometimes naked.**

22 Q. Sometimes naked. As I said to you beforehand, the
23 Sisters of Nazareth made the point that nobody would
24 have been made walk naked, that nuns whatever were
25 certainly not keen on immodesty like that and you

1 wouldn't have walked down the corridor with nothing on,
2 but your recollection is that is what happened to you.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. Did that happen at a certain age or was it throughout
5 your time?

6 **A. More or less. Sort of like most of the time I remember
7 it.**

8 Q. You go on then to describe the process of washing.
9 There's one aspect of this where you talk about washing
10 outside.

11 **A. Yes. Some... -- we used to have to get -- there was --
12 the tin baths were outside in a courtyard and they used
13 to fill it up and they used to put Jeyes fluid in it,
14 and you would have your hair washed one after the other
15 in the same -- you would go from one tin thing to the
16 other to get washed and rinsed.**

17 Q. I just want to clarify, because this is in the same
18 paragraph as the naked going to the bath. You are not
19 saying you were naked --

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. -- when you were going outside to ...?

22 **A. No.**

23 Q. What would you have been wearing?

24 **A. Probably pants and a vest.**

25 Q. So the naked part is just in relation to --

1 **A. Exactly.**

2 Q. -- going to the baths that were in the building?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. You mention how you would have had your hair checked for
5 nits --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- and the hair would have been cut off if you --

8 **A. Had nits.**

9 Q. -- were found to have nits.

10 **A. Correct.**

11 Q. In paragraph 8, HIA387, you also deal with the issue of
12 bedwetting and how you were made to walk -- those who
13 had wet the bed were made to walk around the yard with
14 sheets on their head.

15 **A. If you wet the bed, yes, to show you up.**

16 Q. The Sisters of Nazareth, as I was discussing with you
17 earlier, have said in their statement at paragraph 7 at
18 1990 that they accept they didn't deal properly with
19 bedwetting, as I was explaining to you, but they don't
20 accept that you had to walk around outside with a sheet
21 on your head, but your recollection is that is --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- what you had to do?

24 **A. Yes. I remember that quite well.**

25 Q. Was this --

1 **A. Sometimes it was very, very cold and you had the sheets**
2 **wrapped round you. Sometimes you had to hold them up.**

3 Q. Was this just those who had wet the bed?

4 **A. More or less, yes.**

5 Q. It wasn't -- you didn't get punished like this --

6 **A. Oh, no.**

7 Q. -- If you hadn't wet the bed?

8 **A. No.**

9 Q. In paragraph 8, HIA387, we can see -- you will see the
10 section there that begins:

11 "On a Friday night",

12 which is the last eight lines of paragraph 8.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. I am going to talk to you about the underwear checking.
15 You mention in this paragraph at that point that on
16 Friday nights you were asked or made to go into a hall
17 naked for checking of your underwear. Now we were
18 discussing that earlier --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- and you were saying you would have been wearing your
21 vest.

22 **A. Probably a vest on top. You had to take your pants off**
23 **and turn them inside out to see if you had soiled them**
24 **or anything.**

25 Q. So the actual going to the hall, which I think you

1 thought was an assembly hall -- it had the stage in it

2 --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- the actual walking there wouldn't have been naked --

5 **A. No.**

6 Q. -- but it was when you were made take your pants off?

7 **A. Pants off.**

8 Q. There were then a lot of and this might have been your
9 dormitory's worth of girls being checked --

10 **A. Checked.**

11 Q. -- in this way --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- because I think there were well over 100 girls, maybe
14 more, in Nazareth House at the time. Your dormitory had
15 you thought between thirty and forty in it.

16 **A. Yes, something like that.**

17 Q. So that group would have been having this experience of
18 having their underwear checked?

19 **A. Checked, yes.**

20 Q. Was there a punishment for whatever the failure was
21 regarded as being?

22 **A. They just slapped you. You got slapped around the face
23 or the head and you were called dirty names. You were
24 a dirty, horrible, smelly child.**

25 Q. I'm going to -- I should say the Order doesn't accept

1 that they had these getting a group together to have
2 their underwear inspected like this in an assembly hall,
3 but that's your recollection of how --

4 **A. That's correct.**

5 Q. If we go back to paragraph 5, please, at 385, you --
6 I am going to talk to you just about the subject of
7 emotional abuse for a short while. You say in
8 paragraph 5 that the nuns told you that no-one wanted
9 you because you were bad. I was asking you how did that
10 type of conversation come about? Was it specific to
11 something? Was that just generally what was said to
12 you?

13 **A. Well, it was said so many times to me as I was growing**
14 **up there, that I was an orphan. Nobody wanted me,**
15 **because I was bad.**

16 Q. You're okay. Take your time. There's some water there
17 in front of you, if that helps. Take your time. There
18 is a particular example you give, HIA387, associated
19 with your name. That's that you were born on a Holy
20 Day, as it were.

21

1 Q. That's a --

2 **A. Something that has always stuck in my mind, because it**
3 **was said to me so many times.**

4 Q. As a form of words that you learned --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- about the day of your birth?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. You -- the play on your surname then of [name redacted]

9 --

10 **A. Correct, yes.**

11 Q. -- and how that was turned round, as it were, that that
12 was not an appropriate name for you --

13 **A. Correct, yes.**

14 Q. -- and you weren't worthy of it, as it were.

15 You mention, just if we look at the last two
16 lines of this paragraph, that you, as in more than just
17 you:

18 "We called the nuns 'the dark shadows'."

19 **A. Dark shadows, because they wore black, and at night-time**
20 **when the place was dark, you only saw shadows of them,**
21 **but you always -- more or less recalled who was coming,**
22 **because you knew -- you learned -- you learned to know**
23 **who it was by the tinkering of their rosary beads and**
24 **the way they walked.**

25 Q. That's how --

1 **A. The pressure -- yes.**

2 Q. -- the girls characterised them. If we look at
3 paragraph 8 just on this subject of emotional abuse
4 please, at 387, just towards the end of the
5 paragraph you talk about how you were called evil,
6 wicked child because of what the devil had done to you
7 over having your period.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. I was asking you whether you had been given any
10 explanation about --

11 **A. I was never --**

12 Q. -- that change.

13 **A. -- never told anything; as you are growing up, your body**
14 **changes or anything. So it was just a shock when it**
15 **happened. You just thought the devil had got you, like**
16 **the nuns used to say.**

17 Q. You describe -- in addition, if we scroll up just
18 a little bit on the subject, that soap was used --
19 carbolic soap was used to wash your mouth.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. Was that just part of the cleaning process or was that
22 some part of punishment?

23 **A. I don't know whether -- I don't know whether I was**
24 **messing about or what I was doing, and if you didn't**
25 **clean your teeth or whatever, and they used to do it**

1 **with carbolic soap.**

2 Q. If we look at paragraph 11, please, at 388, you explain
3 how when you went to bed, you were made cross your hands
4 and legs, and you were told so that the devil couldn't
5 get to your body.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. I was asking you did you ever understand what the real
8 -- was that to try to keep you still so you got to sleep
9 quicker, or was that ever explained in any other way
10 other than the devil being after you?

11 **A. No, no.**

12 Q. I want to just touch on the subject of neglect with you
13 for a moment. You mention in paragraph 9, if we scroll
14 up to 387, about the clothing. You say that, you know,
15 your clothing was not warm enough for the winter days.
16 You were sent out essentially in inadequate clothing.

17 I was making the point to you that the Sisters of
18 Nazareth say in their statement at paragraph 8, 1990,
19 they would have given appropriate clothing, that they
20 got the best clothes they could in the circumstances
21 that existed.

22 **A. I can honestly never remember having a coat.**

23 Q. They accept there would have been hand-me-downs, yes,
24 but that, you know, adequate clothing was given for the
25 conditions that they -- for the seasons basically, but

1 that wasn't your recollection?

2 **A. No.**

3 Q. In paragraph 10 then you describe to do with the food,
4 that the food was inadequate and you didn't feel you
5 were fed properly. You were always hungry. You
6 describe how:

7 "If I didn't eat my dinner because it was fatty, the
8 nuns would hold my mouth until I swallowed it."

9 **A. Correct.**

10 Q. So that was a force feeding type --

11 **A. You could put it like that, yes.**

12 Q. -- activity. The point you made to me earlier was you
13 are obsessive as an adult about there being no fat on --

14 **A. On all food. No, I can't bear it. Even on bacon or
15 anything I have to cut everything off.**

16 Q. But there is one incident where you recount when I think
17 -- it says here:

18 "If I was sick, the nuns would make me eat my
19 vomit",

20 but this is one occasion that you remember.

21 **A. Just one, yes.**

22 Q. What you remember occurring -- was it at breakfast time
23 with --

24 **A. It was -- it was in the -- well, if you call it lunch or
25 dinner. It was fatty stew and stuff and I couldn't**

1 **swallow it.**

2 Q. And you --

3 **A. The nun was just holding my mouth up till I swallowed**
4 **it.**

5 Q. Having made you eat it, then you vomited it back up --

6 **A. It came up again.**

7 Q. -- on to the floor.

8 **A. Yes. It dropped on the floor.**

9 Q. Do you just want to explain to the Panel what you
10 recollect happening to you then? What were you made do?

11 **A. I was told to scoop it up in a bowl and re-eat it.**

12 Q. Is that what you did?

13 **A. Well, I didn't have any choice. I had to.**

14 Q. Was that -- not to be -- was it the -- obviously just
15 the stew that had fallen out or was this vomit as in
16 sickness that you were being made to scrape up? Do you
17 understand what I mean?

18 **A. Yes. It probably could have been just what I had**
19 **swallowed. I don't know. I can't remember. I just**
20 **remember that I had eaten it -- swallowed it and I was**
21 **just sick after it and I was told to scoop it up.**

22 Q. Well, we were discussing earlier the Sisters of Nazareth
23 in -- don't accept that there was inadequate food
24 provided. They did the best that they could. I was
25 asking you, "Did they eat with you?" You don't remember

1 them eating --

2 **A. No.**

3 Q. -- with you. I think you reacted, "Well, they would say
4 that", because their food wouldn't have been the same as
5 yours.

6 **A. Same as us.**

7 Q. You don't know what food they had --

8 **A. No.**

9 Q. -- because they didn't eat with you --

10 **A. No.**

11 Q. -- but your presumption is they had different food from
12 you --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- but you don't yourself know that. They say they
15 didn't force feed children or wouldn't have -- people
16 wouldn't have been made to eat their own vomit, but
17 that's your experience of what happened to you on one
18 occasion --

19 **A. Correct.**

20 Q. -- certainly with the sickness.

21 Another point that you make in paragraph 10 is that
22 occasionally you had to eat standing up, because there
23 wasn't enough chairs in the refectory for everyone to
24 sit.

25 **A. Correct, yes.**

1 Q. You were describing to me how it would have been a melee
2 to get into the --

3 **A. Yes. Everybody would run in to grab a chair.**

4 Q. Now what I am going to talk to you about now, HIA387, is
5 sexual abuse. That's two different aspects, as you
6 know, from our discussion earlier.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. The first, if we look at paragraph 12, is -- involves
9 nuns. Now I am right in say, am I, that you did not
10 appreciate at the time that there was anything sexual to
11 what you describe in paragraph 12 --

12 **A. No.**

13 Q. -- and that it is you reflecting back as an adult that
14 your understanding well, it must have been sexual that
15 was behind this activity.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. To summarise it, basically what you are saying is at
18 night-time after you had either -- you were in bed or
19 had gone to sleep in bed either a nun or an older girl
20 would bring you to the bathroom -- the nuns' bathroom,
21 which was down the corridor --

22 **A. Correct.**

23 Q. -- where there were two nuns present --

24 **A. Correct.**

25 Q. -- and you would have been told to get up on a table and

1 spread your legs and then you would be touched by one of
2 these nuns --

3 **A. Correct.**

4 Q. -- who would put her fingers inside you.

5 **A. Correct.**

6 Q. I was asking you, "Did they explain in any way what they
7 claimed to be doing when they did this?"

8 **A. No.**

9 Q. Do you know if it happened to anyone other than you?

10 **A. I know there was other girls that were told to stand**
11 **outside the bathroom and I'm assuming the same thing**
12 **happened to them.**

13 Q. Because to date this is the -- the congregation would
14 say this is the only time someone has made this type of
15 allegation about nuns doing this, and it is obviously
16 more than one nun, and there are others involved in
17 bringing you and other children, if it was happening to
18 other children, to the nuns, whether they might have
19 known or not what was going on in the bathroom, but you
20 say also in -- it is about eight lines from the bottom
21 of paragraph 12 -- she would have hit you in that
22 part of your body with a brush.

23 **A. A hairbrush.**

24 Q. I was asking you what type of brush that was and you
25 said it was a hairbrush.

1 **A. Hairbrush.**

2 Q. Do you know why she hit you?

3 **A. No.**

4 Q. I was asking you what age you were when this type of
5 activity started and you said to me you thought you were
6 7 or 8.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. So it wasn't -- it didn't begin when you first came into
9 the home --

10 **A. No.**

11 Q. -- at 4, but you think you were 7 or 8 --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- and it carried on until you left.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. You left aged 12. So that's three or four years
16 potentially this was going on. It happened every couple
17 of weeks or perhaps every month.

18 **A. Something like that, yes. These were nuns. They**
19 **weren't doctors or nurses. So why should they have been**
20 **doing what they did to me?**

21 Q. You mention that you had conversations -- in the last
22 sentence:

23 "I only realised after I left the home through
24 conversations with other people that what the nuns did
25 to me was wrong."

1 Now this was not a conversation with someone who was
2 in the Nazareth House. This was a friend of yours that
3 you met , who had been in other --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- convents. She was basically teaching you the facts
6 of life.

7 **A. Correct, yes.**

8 Q. That's when you realised that something had been
9 happening to you in Nazareth House that must have had
10 a sexual element to it.

11 **A. Correct.**

12 Q. If we just can bring up -- as I said to you, the Sisters
13 of Nazareth don't accept that this occurred. If we look
14 at, please, 1990 and paragraph 10 -- HIA387, this is
15 something we discussed earlier. Just scroll down,
16 please:

17 "With regard to paragraph 12 ..."

18 That is the paragraph we have been looking at with
19 the reference to this incident:

20 "... we are very upset and deeply concerned by this
21 allegation. As a congregation we absolutely and totally
22 reject this allegation."

23 **A. I don't care if they reject it or not. I know what
24 happened to me.**

25 Q. You have described it in paragraph 12 --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- and to the Inquiry in your oral evidence. I was
3 asking you earlier whether you could assist with
4 identifying any of the nuns who were involved in this.
5 If we go back to paragraph 12 at 388, the only thing you
6 can remember about them is that one of them involved
7 wore a white dress.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Was that one -- the one who wore the white dress, to the
10 extent you can remember, was that white-dressed nun
11 always involved in this or --

12 **A. No, not always, no.**

13 Q. So were there other occasions when it was just two black
14 --

15 **A. Nuns.**

16 Q. -- two nuns wearing black --

17 **A. Black dresses.**

18 Q. -- dresses or robes, habits?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. Now the other sexual abuse that I want to talk to you
21 about then, HIA387, is set out in paragraph 13. You
22 were asking me, "Do we have to go over this in detail?"
23 So, as I said to you, I'm going to summarise it for you,
24 because you describe here in paragraph 13 being raped by
25 a priest at you believe around -- you were 10 years of

1 age.

2 **A. Something like that, yes.**

3 Q. You thought you might have been 11.

4 **A. About 11, 11.**

5 Q. That would have been in and around 1959/1960. This was
6 happening -- you had come over to say confession.

7 **A. Correct, yes.**

8 Q. You describe how you were one of the last to come out of
9 the confessional and the priest took you by the ears,
10 pushed you to the floor and dragged you into the
11 sacristy.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. There you describe in paragraph 13 how he raped you.
14 With that he was also telling you at the same time that
15 you weren't worthy and to beg for forgiveness --

16 **A. Correct.**

17 Q. -- and that you had the devil's eyes. You point out in
18 paragraph 13 that you don't recall this priest's name

19

20 I was asking you
21 then, "Could you try as best you could to describe this
22 person?" I'm just -- I will summarise what you said to
23 me earlier, and then if there is anything I left --
24 I leave out or I don't get quite right, you can correct
25 it for me.

1 He was someone who was between 40 and 50, although
2 the point you made to me is when you are a child, you
3 can't really tell.

4 **A. Because everybody looks old to you when you are a child.**

5 Q. Yes. He had white or grey coloured hair.

6 **A. Correct.**

7 Q. That's what leads you to believe he was older, because
8 of that hair colour, which was that of an older person
9 or an older man's hair. Is that accurate?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. He was overweight, stocky type build, but of average
12 height.

13 **A. Correct, yes.**

14 Q. I was asking you about his complexion. You don't
15 remember anything particular about his complexion in
16 terms of whether it was very pale or very swarthy,
17 darker. You don't remember anything about that.

18 **A. No.**

19 Q. You do have two distinct memories of two smells. One is
20 -- you do mention in paragraph 13 about the smell --
21 this person smoked --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- and you remember the smell of smoke off him --

24 **A. Smoke off him.**

25 Q. -- and the other smell is like an old person's smell --

1 **A. Like mothballs --**

2 Q. -- like mothballs or --

3 **A. -- or something, yes.**

4 Q. It was a distinct smell to him that wasn't fresh.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. But there was nothing distinctive about his accent. He
7 was from the island of Ireland and nothing stuck out to
8 you about his accent.

9 **A. Well, I didn't really know anything about accents then.**

10 **So ...**

11 Q. Yes. There's nothing in particular that jarred with you
12 --

13 **A. No.**

14 Q. -- about his accent. I was asking you, "Do you remember
15 were there still other people in the church at the time
16 you are dragged into the sacristy?"

17 **A. Yes. I don't think so. I can remember being more or
18 less the last girl.**

19 Q. You mentioned that you did talk to a nun about what
20 happened. If we look at paragraph 20, please, at 390,
21 you think you were about 14. You told the nun about
22 what the priest had done to you in the sacristy. Now do
23 you remember who this nun was?

24 **A. No.**

25 Q. But you -- can you remember what you told her?

1 A. I just told her what the priest had done and I just felt
2 it was so wrong, and she just called me a liar and
3 slapped my face.

4 Q. You believe that it was after that that you were moved?

5 A. It wasn't long after that that I was moved over to the
6 Good Shepherd Convent.

7 Q. You have explained how -- in paragraph 22 of your
8 statement how another similar incident happened to you
9 involving a different priest when you were in the Good
10 Shepherd.

11 Now, as I said to you, HIA387, we try where we can
12 to track down the individuals who are the subject of
13 allegations. You just don't know the name of this
14 priest, but we have been able to at least take
15 a statement from priest

16 NHB84.

17 We've given him, like you, a designation.

18 What he describes, if we can look at 80077, please,
19 just there's a passage -- I think, HIA387, you are
20 concerned about your friend who is with you. I see --
21 she is okay. You say here:

22 "I do recall ..."

23 Sorry. This priest makes the point:

24 "I recall all the children making confessions and
25 this would have been reasonably regularly as would have

1 been the practice at the time, maybe once a month, that
2 sort of time period. My recollection is that the
3 children would have come over in their group with the
4 Sister who was in charge of their group. They would
5 each have said their confession and then would have
6 waited in the church and then returned to the residence
7 in their group as a unit.

 So what he's describing, HIA387, is, you know, your
11 dorm's worth, as it were, or a smaller group than your
12 dorm's worth, a class's worth, would have come over with
13 a nun and been in the chapel. Each person would have
14 taken their turn to make their confession, and then once
15 everybody had finished, everybody would leave.

16 **A. We did not always come in groups. Sometimes you**
17 **would -- they would send you -- you'd run up yourself or**
18 **a couple of you would go. Sometimes in groups, but not**
19 **always.**

20 **Q.** Are there occasions whenever you would have gone
21 yourself just on your own to make confession or was it
22 always there were at least some other people involved?

23 **A. I would say there was always either one or two other**
24 **people, but then as soon as they did their confession,**
25 **they would just run off, run back to their dormitory or**

1 **whatever.**

2 Q. So there wouldn't always have been a nun present?

3 **A. No.**

4 Q. If you were the last girl, then you would be the last
5 one --

6 **A. Person there.**

7 Q. -- as it were, left with the priest.

8 What he -- this particular priest, NHB84,
9 , says, if we look, please, at 80078, as
10 I was discussing with you earlier, HIA387, he -- just
11 scroll down, please, to paragraph 12:

12 "I have been asked to comment on ..."

13 what you have described, HIA387. He

14 simply denies

15 that the event that you describe could have happened as
16 far as he is concerned. He says:

17 "The children attended their confession in groups
18 and would not have been left on their own but would have
19 remained in the church until all of the children had
20 finished confession and would have left together."

21 He says:

22 "It is inconceivable that an event of this nature
23 could have happened without there being a witness to
24 it."

25 I presume by that he means the --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- dragging of you into the sacristy

3

4

5 Now you are not saying that it was him, because you
6 can't remember the name of the priest, and you have
7 given a description as best you can of the priest
8 involved, but what this person is speaking to is the
9 process by which you would have given confession,

10 , but is there anything more you can tell the Inquiry
11 about this person and who they were?
12

13 **A. All I know what happened to me and I have kept that
14 secret for so many years. I never told anybody.**

15 Q. Just take your time. There's water there. As I said to
16 you before, if we need to take a break, we can do that.
17 Hopefully we are nearly through in any event, but just
18 take your time. Are you okay to carry on, HIA387?
19

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. Yes? Just to pick up the point you were making there,
22 this is something that you have not felt able -- apart
23 from the nun that you told, which resulted in you being
24 moved, it is not something that you -- you have never
25 told the police about this and you haven't really talked

1 to other people about it and you have come forward and
2 explained to the Inquiry what happened to you.

3 **A. Because I always felt ashamed. I thought maybe it was**
4 **my fault, that I had done wrong.**

5 Q. I am going to leave that issue and just observe that you
6 make the point in paragraph 4 of your statement that
7 there is one nun's name that -- you remember two nuns by
8 name, SR134 and Sister .

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. Sister was a fairly common name within the
11 congregation, but the Sister you recollect you
12 remember being kind.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. So it wasn't -- while they were -- the regime you felt
15 was cruel, there was at least one nun that you remember
16 that was not cruel.

17 **A. Correct, yes. She was -- she was a bit younger than all**
18 **the other nuns.**

19 Q. You talk about her in paragraph 4 of your statement at
20 385. I was asking you earlier, as you know, in
21 conjunction with your companion, your friend who has
22 come along -- you mention in various places in your
23 statement, HIA387 -- and I am not going to pull them up
24 -- you talk about describing yourself as stubborn or
25 defiant. You are smiling, because I think your friend

1 said, "Yes, she's definitely stubborn", but --

2 **A. I wouldn't say I was defiant, but definitely stubborn,**
3 **yes.**

4 Q. I was asking you whether you thought that if you were
5 perceived in that way, was your treatment from the
6 nuns -- would you have noticed a difference between how
7 you were treated and how other girls were treated or was
8 how you were treated generally that's how you were all
9 treated?

10 **A. More or less in general.**

11 Q. You mention a particular incident in paragraph 17, if we
12 look at 390, where you describe a girl was given
13 a beautiful gift of beads by her mother and that seemed
14 to have been taken off her. When you went to see Father
15 Christmas, you received that set of beads.

16 **A. Correct, yes. To a child we never saw really pretty**
17 **things. They looked like diamonds, you know, to**
18 **a child, and I knew it was given to her and she wanted**
19 **them back, and the nun came and took them off me, and,**
20 **of course, I never got a present. So obviously**
21 **everybody else did and I was cross. So I went up and**
22 **threw the Christmas tree down, and I never believed in**
23 **Father Christmas after that.**

24 Q. That was the end of Santa Claus, as it were.

25 **A. That was the end, yes.**

1 Q. Another thing that you mention, if we look at
2 paragraph 2 of your statement at 384, and this just
3 relates to your brother , because I was asking you
4 what arrangements were made -- he obviously went to
5 Nazareth Lodge. You were in Nazareth House. They are
6 not far away from each other, but what arrangements were
7 put in place for you to continue to have a relationship
8 with him, even though he was in the Lodge rather than
9 the House?

10 **A. Well, I only remember seeing him a couple of times and**
11 **I never saw him for years and years and years. I only**
12 **got in contact with him twenty years ago.**

13 Q. You are all right. Just take your time. There were no
14 arrangements --

15 **A. No.**

16 Q. -- during your time in Nazareth House to regularly see
17 your brother and have contact with him, and he has had
18 his own difficulties since leaving care.

19 **A. Well, it's affected him very, very badly. He's in**
20 **supported lodgings and he never ever wants to put a foot**
21 **back in Ireland again.**

22 Q. One of the -- another issue connected with this of
23 family and contact, and you describe this at various
24 points in your statement, is the lack of information
25 about your family history and --

1 **A. I knew nothing other than my name, my date of birth.**

2 **I knew I had a brother. Other than that I knew nothing**
3 **and I only found out last year.**

4 Q. That's when you discovered there was more --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- parts to your family. The point you make, grounding
7 this, is about medical history. It has meant, you know,
8 whenever you are asked medical questions about your
9 background, you are not really in a position to answer
10 that.

11 **A. Yes, I can't answer them, because I have no history.**

12 Q. HIA387, as I said to you, the last two questions that we
13 ask anyone when they are giving their evidence -- the
14 first is about recommendations. At the end of the
15 Panel's work the Panel has to consider what
16 recommendations it might make to the Northern Ireland
17 Government about some form of apology, memorial or some
18 other means of redress. We ask each witness whether
19 there is anything they want to say that will assist the
20 Panel with their thinking about recommendations. Is
21 there anything that you want to say about that?

22 **A. I just recommend that any child that goes into their**
23 **care is well looked after and supported, and all their**
24 **background information, everything about them, wherever**
25 **the devil they come from, that they know exactly who**

1 **they are and they haven't just been landed on a planet**
2 **not knowing anything.**

3 Q. The last question that we ask each witness, HIA387, is
4 whether there's anything else they want to add. By that
5 I mean perhaps it is something to do with your time in
6 Nazareth House that I haven't covered in enough detail,
7 or I didn't get quite right in some way, or something
8 that we haven't touched on that you want to say about
9 your time in Nazareth House. Now is the time to do
10 that.

11 **A. No. I think I've written it all in my statement.**

12 Q. There's nothing else you want to add at the moment. I'm
13 not going to ask you any more questions. If you just
14 remain where you are for a short period, the Inquiry
15 Panel may want to ask you something by way of
16 clarification or maybe something I have not touched on.
17 So bear with us just for a short time, if you would.

18 Questions from THE PANEL

19 MS DOHERTY: HIA387, thanks very much. That's okay. Thank
20 you very much. Can I just ask: you mention in your
21 statement about being brought over to the section for
22 the older people.

23 **A. Oh, yes.**

24 Q. Can you just talk a bit more about that? How --

25 **A. We used to do Irish dancing and the -- if you did well,**

1 they used to bring you over to the other side where
2 there was older people, and they used to ask you
3 sometimes to sit on the old men's knees, and they would
4 touch you and stuff, and sometimes you would stand back
5 and wouldn't want to do it and the nuns used to push you
6 forward, "Don't be so silly".

7 Q. Did you have any other contact with the older people?
8 Were you involved in their care or --

9 **A. No, nothing.**

10 Q. Okay. Thanks very much.

11 MR LANE: You mentioned the scramble to get chairs in the
12 dining room when it was very, very full. Was that
13 lunchtime that you were talking about or was it all the
14 meals round about then?

15 **A. Just more or less all the meals I think.**

16 Q. So do you know any reason? Was the home too full at the
17 time?

18 **A. I was a child. I wouldn't know whether it was too full.**

19 Q. Okay, but it was just for a limited period, was it, or
20 was it always like that?

21 **A. It seemed always like that to me.**

22 Q. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA387, thank you very much indeed for
24 coming to speak to us. That's all we want to ask you
25 about today. We appreciate particularly not only is it

