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HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

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being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at

Banbridge Court House

Banbridge

on Tuesday, 10th February 2015

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 93)

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

1 Tuesday, 10th February 2015

2 (10.00 am)

3 WITNESS HIA439 (called)

4 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Before we  
5 start can I again remind everyone to ensure their mobile  
6 phones are either turned off or placed on  
7 "Silent"/"Vibrate" and also to remind you that no  
8 photography is permitted, nor indeed any recording  
9 either, in the chamber or anywhere on the premises.

10 Yes, Mr Aiken.

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

12 The first witness this morning is HIA439, who was born  
13 HIA439, who is "HIA439". She is aware, Chairman, you  
14 are going to ask her to take the oath.

15 WITNESS HIA439 (sworn)

16 CHAIRMAN: Please sit down, HIA439.

17 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

18 MR AIKEN: HIA439, we are going to bring up on the screen  
19 your witness statement.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. Can we bring up, please, 203? HIA439, if you just look  
22 at the version that's on the screen and just check apart  
23 from the black marks it's the same as the one you have  
24 in your hand.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. If we go to the last page at 210 and if you turn to the  
2 last page in the one you have in your hand --

3 **A. The last one?**

4 Q. -- just to the very last page and just check that the  
5 one on the screen again is the same as the last  
6 page that you have in your hand.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. The one you have in your hand, can you confirm that  
9 you've signed it?

10 **A. Yes, I did.**

11 Q. And you want to adopt that as your evidence before the  
12 Inquiry?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. I was discussing with you this morning about the black  
15 marks being the Inquiry's anonymity policy at work, and  
16 you want to keep your anonymity?

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

18 Q. Just bear with me for a moment then, HIA439, till I give  
19 the Panel some of the references for material that  
20 relates to you.

21 The -- in addition to HIA439's witness statement the  
22 Sisters of Nazareth response statement is at 2042  
23 through to 2044, and HIA439 is aware that paragraph 16  
24 of the statement, 2044, contains an apology to her for  
25 any occasion whenever her treatment fell beneath the

1 standard that should have been.

2 The Health & Social Care Board statement can be  
3 found at 5737 to 5738. That simply records that HIA439  
4 was a privately arranged placement into Nazareth House  
5 and the Welfare Authority were not involved in her care  
6 at any stage.

7 HIA439, you were born on --

8 **A. Yes, correct.**

9 Q. -- and are now aged 81.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. You were one of eight siblings --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- five of whom ultimately went into care in Nazareth --

14 **A. House.**

15 Q. -- House or Nazareth Lodge --

16 **A. Lodge.**

17 Q. -- depending on if they were boys or girls.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. You are yourself married and have five children.

20 **A. Five children.**

21 Q. You were explaining to me this morning that you have ten  
22 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

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

24 Q. You were in Nazareth House between 2nd May 1942, which  
25 was during the war --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- when you were aged 8 --

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. -- until 18th April 1950, when you were aged 16.

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. If we go back to 203, please, you explain in paragraph 3  
7 of your witness statement, HIA439, that your home  
8 circumstances were not good and that the -- you remember  
9 the master of your school --

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. -- was involved with taking you to live with the Sisters  
12 of Nazareth.

13 **A. That's correct.**

14 Q. I was showing you the admission record from the Sisters  
15 of Nazareth that shows that the parish priest from  
16 , where you grew up, was also involved in your  
17 admission --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- but you remember it was your headmaster that drove  
20 you to Belfast.

21 **A. Took us into a home, yes.**

22 Q. was your home where you'd spent the first  
23 eight years --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- of your life. We were talking about your [REDACTED] son,



1 **A. 142.**

2 Q. 142. In paragraph 5 you explain that SR112 -- to begin  
3 with, it wasn't too bad, but as time went on, then the  
4 head nun, SR112, was bad to you. You say she battered  
5 you stupid. She couldn't hit you hard enough. So she  
6 would take your shoes off and hit you with -- hit you on  
7 the feet.

8 **A. With the cane.**

9 Q. And it was always the cane that she used?

10 **A. She used mostly. She kept it hung round her big belt.**  
11 **She had a belt on her habit and she always kept the cane**  
12 **hanging.**

13 Q. When you talk in your statement about slapping, that's  
14 the cane you're talking about --

15 **A. I'm talking about the cane.**

16 Q. -- being slapped with the cane?

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. You talk about how she would have given you a whack with  
19 it.

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. I'm right in saying it wasn't just on the hands; it  
22 could be on the legs?

23 **A. Legs, anywhere.**

24 Q. In fact, if we look at -- you describe a particular  
25 incident in paragraph 32 right at the end of your

1 statement. If we go to 209, please, you describe to the  
2 Panel how one day you were walloped by SR112 with a cane  
3 and there were wallops all over your legs.

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

5 Q. You met NHB18 , who you have a good word  
6 for.

7 **A. He came in for mass just. He wasn't belonging to the**  
8 **convent, but he came in to say mass and he played with**  
9 **the children.**

10 Q. He is someone you have a good memory of.

11 **A. Great memory.**

12 Q. You mentioned to me you named one of your sons after  
13 him.

14 **A. I did.**

15 Q. On this occasion you came across him after you got the  
16 walloping with the cane --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- and you -- he talked to you about it --

19 **A. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. -- and wanted you to go and get the cane that you had  
21 got the walloping with.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. So do you want to just explain to the Panel when you  
24 went back into SR112 what happened?

25 **A. She was sitting doing -- correcting the homeworks or**



1           their sums or what, and when I went in, she looked up  
2           and I said -- I had to tell her what I was in for and  
3           I said, "           NHB18           sent me in to get the cane that  
4           marked my legs". So she brought the cane with her and  
5           out we came, and he asked her why, but she didn't really  
6           give an answer and he said, "I never want to see a child  
7           marked like that", and that was it, and she promised no,  
8           but when she got him away, she dug her knuckles into my  
9           head. She says, "I'll mark you where it will not show".

10    Q. So she told you there'd be a way round walloping you on  
11       the legs and that was the use of her knuckle?

12    A. Oh, she had a terrible habit of banging her knuckles  
13       into your head.

14    Q. So for SR112, she was the worst nun that you remember?

15    A. She was the hardest on us, yes.

16    Q. The two things that you remember her doing most were  
17       using the cane a lot on you --

18    A. I got caned a lot.

19    Q. -- and other children and using her knuckle?

20    A. Uh-huh.

21    Q. You explain in paragraph 6 of your statement, if we go  
22       back to 204, some other examples of things that caused  
23       you to end up getting hit or others getting hit. You  
24       talk about when you were going to sleep at night --

25    A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. -- you had to lie with your hands --

2 **A. The sign of the cross, yes.**

3 Q. -- crossed. You were saying to me at 81 you're still --

4 **A. Well, we thought in case we touched our bodies.**

5 Q. I was asking you is that because you were told that by  
6 them or --

7 **A. No, we just took that. It was the only reason why.  
8 I still sleep like that.**

9 Q. You explain in paragraph 6 that if the nun pulled the  
10 sheet down and you didn't have your hands crossed --

11 **A. Oh, you would have got a -- yes, she would have give you  
12 a crack. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. What was that with?

14 **A. Pardon?**

15 Q. What would she have given you the crack with?

16 **A. It could have been her hand or anything, whatever she  
17 had.**

18 Q. So there was physical punishment if you weren't  
19 sleeping?

20 **A. Aye. You had to keep your hands ...**

21 Q. In that way?

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. In paragraph 9, HIA439, you talk about running away.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. You explain to the Inquiry that you ran away just once.

1 Am I right in saying that?

2 **A. Yes, yes.**

3 Q. The point you made to me earlier was you come from

4 . You didn't know Belfast.

5 **A. Oh, I didn't know where I was from. We didn't know.**

6 Q. You run off and you were brought by the police back to

7 the home.

8 **A. Back, yes. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. You then had your head shaved --

10 **A. I did. That was my punishment.**

11 Q. -- and --

12 **A. We were christened -- we were called "The Runaways".**

13 **I was called "The Runaway".**

14 Q. I was asking you, "How did you know that the head

15 shaving was ..." -- I was saying to you sometimes they

16 --

17 **A. Because they told us we'll not -- that was our**

18 **punishment.**

19 Q. Sometimes they shaved heads to deal with nits --

20 **A. No, no, no.**

21 Q. -- or that type of --

22 **A. No. Any dirty head had to stand and somebody had to**

23 **stand and clean and take their nits out of them. They**

24 **never cut them. Well, they kept our hair short anyway,**

25 **but not that short, but anybody had a dirty head, they**

1           **were put in a line and there was a list of dirty heads,**  
2           **but somebody had to stand -- it should have been a clean**  
3           **one -- they had to stand and take the nits out.**

4    Q.    So you were told that the head shaving was punishment  
5           for running away?

6    **A.    Was punishment for running away.**

7    Q.    As I said to you, the Sisters of Nazareth, those who are  
8           speaking today for the nuns, have said that -- in  
9           paragraph 4 of their statement that they don't accept  
10          that someone's head would have been shaved --

11   **A.    Uh-huh.**

12   Q.    -- for running away as a punishment.  You are saying  
13          that is what happened to you.

14   **A.    Yes, that did happen me.**

15   Q.    And you never ran away again?

16   **A.    No, no, I did not.**

17   Q.    You give another example.  In paragraph 10, 205, you  
18          talk about communion.  When you were at mass, if you  
19          didn't go to communion, then you'd get slapped --

20   **A.    Yes, yes.**

21   Q.    -- and by "slap" you're talking about the cane?

22   **A.    Caning.**

23   Q.    I was asking you, "Who did that?" and you said, "That  
24          was SR112 would have done that".

25   **A.    She would have.  Uh-huh.**

1 Q. "In what way was she slapping you with the cane?" and  
2 you said, "She just hit you wherever".

3 **A. You had to hold out your hand, but I would have pulled**  
4 **it away sometimes and you would have got it down the**  
5 **legs when you slid your hand away.**

6 Q. I was explaining to you again the nuns from the  
7 congregation today, they don't -- they would have  
8 encouraged -- they believe the nuns at the time would  
9 have encouraged children to go to communion.

10 **A. We had to go.**

11 Q. They don't accept they would have -- children would have  
12 been slapped for not going to communion --

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. -- but at the time you were there you're saying that is  
15 what happened. You were --

16 **A. Yes, that did happen.**

17 Q. You talk about bedwetting in paragraph 19 of your  
18 statement on 206. You say that the children who wet the  
19 bed were routinely slapped.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. So --

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. -- they were physically hit for wetting the bed?

24 **A. For wetting the bed.**

25 Q. You mention that you were put in charge at one stage of

1 the bedwetters?

2 **A. The bedwetters in the dormitory.**

3 Q. Your job was to get them up, and you mentioned to me  
4 earlier you didn't want them to wet the bed, because you  
5 couldn't get the sheet dried.

6 **A. You couldn't get them dry and they didn't give you other  
7 sheets to put on the bed.**

8 Q. You mentioned to me something about the sheets that  
9 happened to some of the children. Can you tell the  
10 Inquiry what --

11 **A. They would put the sheets over their heads, the  
12 wet-beds.**

13 Q. I want to ask you about having a bath in the home. If  
14 we go back to paragraph 11 at 205, you explain the  
15 bathing processes, the various baths that there were and  
16 the Jeyes fluid that was used, but one thing you  
17 mention, because it is an issue that came up for the  
18 Inquiry recently, you talk about a sheet being held.

19 **A. You got into the bath and there was a girl at one side  
20 of the bath and girl at the other. They held the sheet  
21 up till you washed yourself. They weren't allowed to  
22 look near you.**

23 Q. I was asking you more generally about immodesty, the  
24 suggestion that the nuns might have let you run naked --

25 **A. Oh, no, no, no.**

1 Q. -- with no clothes on.

2 **A. You daren't have been seen naked, no.**

3 Q. So when you had your clothes --

4 **A. When you had your bath, they wrapped this sheet round**  
5 **you.**

6 Q. So that you wouldn't be seen?

7 **A. So as you wouldn't be seen. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. Now, as I said to you earlier, I am sorry to discuss  
9 this with you, but you mention in paragraph 14 how  
10 dealing with periods was dealt with.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You weren't given any explanation about that?

13 **A. No. You were given a book. You were supposed to read**  
14 **what was happening, but you really didn't understand.**

15 Q. You say that it was made feel as if it was shameful for  
16 that to happen to you.

17 **A. Pardon?**

18 Q. That you were made feel like it was shameful.

19 **A. Yes, yes, you thought it was, uh-huh.**

20 Q. You were describing to me earlier, as you have in your  
21 statement, that these thick pads were made and you were  
22 given those.

23 **A. They made these thick sanitary pads and you wore**  
24 **a little belt round your waist and a wee thing and**  
25 **hooked them on and they done you and you washed them.**

1           They were very thick too, and you washed them, but you  
2           had to wash them away late when the wee -- there was no  
3           young ones going into the bathroom. They weren't to be  
4           seen, and you dried them. The only way you could have  
5           dried them, put them over your shoulders and wear them  
6           maybe for a week till you dried them or else we lay on  
7           them, put them under our bottom sheet to dry them out.

8    Q.   Now again the nuns of the day have said to the Inquiry  
9           in paragraph 8 of their statement at 2043 they accept  
10          they didn't deal properly with puberty --

11   A.   **No.**

12   Q.   -- or didn't deal sufficiently with it, but they don't  
13          accept you were just given one pad that had to be  
14          reused, but you said to me earlier that this was  
15          something that you used month after month.

16   A.   **Yes, yes. You washed them and dried them and kept them  
17          away till the next month. You didn't get new ones.**

18   Q.   Now in paragraph 15 of your statement, if we scroll  
19          down, please, to 206, you talk about the food not being  
20          great or healthy, and you talk about a particular old  
21          nun, that was SR183, and you say she was from [REDACTED], and  
22          if you dropped any porridge back on to your plate, she'd  
23          spoon it up and force feed you.

24   A.   **Spooned it into you again. Uh-huh.**

25   Q.   Again you talk in paragraph 17 about being anxious to



1 get the bread cuttings that were coming from the old  
2 people.

3 **A. Old people. The crusts.**

4 Q. Just explain what you mean by that.

5 **A. Well, there was somebody worked up -- some -- some of**  
6 **the girls, older girls would have worked up in the old**  
7 **people's, and we -- everything went in the convent by**  
8 **time. You knew what was happening every -- every hour,**  
9 **you know, what you were supposed to be doing and that,**  
10 **and they would have brought down -- they must have cut**  
11 **the crusts off the old people's bread before they gave**  
12 **it to them, and she would have brought down the tray of**  
13 **crusts, and we would have all been waiting and run up**  
14 **the passage and grabbed the -- grabbed the crusts,**  
15 **knocked the tray up in the air and grabbed the crusts.**

16 Q. The Sisters of Nazareth, as I was explaining to you  
17 earlier, those of today, were saying to the Inquiry they  
18 don't accept someone would have been force fed porridge  
19 that --

20 **A. Well, she force fed me and I vomited it and she put it**  
21 **back in again.**

22 Q. So you were made -- the food had to be --

23 **A. You were made eat it. You were made eat it.**

24 Q. The food had to be eaten.

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. You describe in paragraph 19 of your statement that you,  
2 as you got older, were given responsibility for various  
3 things.

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. We mentioned earlier bedwetting, but you also had to --  
6 you were put in charge of particular girls, and you also  
7 worked with the old people.

8 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. I was asking you, "Was working with the old people  
10 a relief, a distraction?"

11 **A. It was a wee bit of a relief. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. You were saying the older nun who looked after the old  
13 people wasn't as cruel to you.

14 **A. No, no, she only looked after the old people. She  
15 didn't be hurting me, no.**

16 Q. That was SR185.

17 **A. SR185. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED].**

19 Q. I was asking you then about the issue of bullying,  
20 because you describe in paragraph 18, if we just scroll  
21 up a little, that there were bullies in the home.

22 **A. Oh, yes. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. You say then you're not sure if the nuns knew the extent  
24 of the bullying, but you give an example in  
25 paragraph 19 -- sorry -- paragraph 18 of being sent over

1 the wall --

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 **Q. -- into the Holy Rosary to the orchard.**

4 **A. Canon O'Neill, he -- that was his place, and there was**  
5 **pears and apples grew on the trees, and they would have**  
6 **lay rotten before they would have given them to us, but**  
7 **the bullies -- I could always climb. So you had to get**  
8 **over the big wall with the glass and the barbed wire,**  
9 **and the bullies sent you over to -- they weren't for**  
10 **you, but for the bullies, and get them the apples and**  
11 **the pears.**

12 **Q. On one occasion --**

13 **A. I would have climbed the tree and shook the tree and**  
14 **somebody else would have been down gathering them up,**  
15 **putting them in the pillowcase.**

16 **Q. On one occasion you got badly cut by the --**

17 **A. We got caught. I think the nun, where the nuns'**  
18 **dormitory was, where her cell was, she likely heard us**  
19 **talking and rattling the trees, but anyway we were**  
20 **missed anyway. We saw the lights going on in the**  
21 **dormitory and we knew we were caught. She opened the**  
22 **window and she shouts, "Yous thieves, are you out**  
23 **there?" So we knew we had to go in. We were caught.**

24 **Q. So that getting over the wall didn't work so well.**

25 **A. I think Canon O'Neill came up at that time and gave us**

1           **-- talking to us.**

2    Q.    About stealing?

3    **A.    About stealing.  Uh-huh.**

4    Q.    You describe in paragraph 20 at 207 an older girl  
5           bullying you, making you say a certain thing in  
6           confession that you set out in your statement.

7    **A.    Uh-huh.**

8    Q.    And Father --

9    **A.    And they would listen.  I had to talk out loud so they  
10          would know I said it.**

11   Q.    Then     NHB34     was not at all happy.

12   **A.    No.  He flung open the confession box and marched me up  
13          the aisle to kneel on the altar rails where the other  
14          nuns -- there was benediction on and the other nuns  
15          could all see me and knew I was up for something.**

16   Q.    You say they were shaking their fist.

17   **A.    Oh, what I got when I came out!**

18   Q.    You describe in paragraph 21 a particular incident about  
19          snow.  You say:

20                "I remember it snowing and they took our shoes off  
21                and put us out in the snow."

22   **A.    Yes, because we were putting our hands out the window  
23          and -- the windows were all bars, but you could have got  
24          your wee hand out to lift the snow and she says, "I'll  
25          give you your fill of it".  So she put us out, but we**

1           **didn't mind. We enjoyed it.**

2    Q.   The nuns of today were saying children wouldn't have  
3           been put out in the snow with no shoes on --

4    A.   **Uh-huh.**

5    Q.   -- but this was a particular incident in response to you  
6           having put your hand out to grab the snow.

7    A.   **Yes, it was just a punishment. Uh-huh.**

8    Q.   I wanted to ask you then about your contact with your  
9           brothers and sisters, because a number of them were in  
10           Nazareth Lodge --

11   A.   **Nazareth Lodge.**

12   Q.   -- the boys. In paragraph 24 you talk a bit about this,  
13           but I wanted to ask you was there any arrangement made  
14           for you to see your brothers or sisters?

15   A.   **Never, never, no. All the girls were took down maybe in  
16           the summertime an odd day down into Nazareth Lodge.**

17   Q.   And you would have seen them?

18   A.   **Well, they were out -- the boys would have been out in  
19           the field --**

20   Q.   Why --

21   A.   **-- kicking football or something.**

22   Q.   Why had you been taken to Nazareth Lodge in the summer?

23   A.   **I don't know. I don't know the reason, whether it was  
24           even to meet our brothers. I wouldn't have thought so.  
25           Maybe the nuns were -- sat up on the big -- on the field**

1           on chairs, and they knew each other likely, whether it  
2           was to contact -- I don't know -- each other.

3   Q.   But other than the summer there was not a contact?

4   A.   Oh, no, no, not in the winter, no, no.

5   Q.   The congregation has said to the Inquiry that it did try  
6           to foster brothers and sisters --

7   A.   Never, never.

8   Q.   -- seeing each other.

9   A.   No. My young brother,                   , never knew that           and  
10           were his brothers till he -- till he was a big  
11           lump in Nazareth Lodge, never knew. He went in as a wee  
12           baby. So therefore they never -- he didn't know them.

13   Q.   Well, in paragraph 35 of your statement just towards the  
14           end at 210 you make the point that other people have  
15           said to the Inquiry that not seeing their siblings meant  
16           they were never really able to form a relationship with  
17           them, but you are different. You have formed strong  
18           relationships with your brothers and sisters.

19   A.   Aye, after we got out of the home. I went up and got  
20           out of the home and I took           and           to Bangor one  
21           day, and they had big holes in their socks, and, of  
22           course, I was chasing boys likely, and I made them take  
23           their socks off and hide them, because I didn't want, if  
24           I got a boyfriend, to see holes in their socks.

25   Q.   So you were able to keep those relationships going?

1 A. I -- we kept together. Uh-huh.

2 Q. We've mentioned -- in paragraph 25 and 26 of your  
3 statement you talk about -- if we go back to 208 -- you  
4 talk about NHB18 and how kind he was --

5 A. He was.

6 Q. -- to you, and how at age 14 you were sent to St. John  
7 of God in Newry, which was a hospital, but you weren't  
8 staying there and you came back to Belfast.

9 A. I stayed one night. I didn't unpack the case, because  
10 I saw it was nuns. It must have been a private  
11 hospital, and I saw it was nuns, and I said, "No way am  
12 I staying", and they lifted the case. Well, they always  
13 gave you a few shillings when you were getting out, when  
14 you were leaving the convent, and I watched what way he  
15 took me. It was just the man at the gate at the convent  
16 that took you to that hospital, and I got up the next  
17 morning when the nuns were at mass, and I lifted the  
18 case and walked back to the train and got the train into  
19 Belfast and went straight up -- I knew to go to the  
20 Ormeau Road and up the -- and I went up there to NHB18  
and I told him what had happened and I hadn't  
22 stayed and he said, "Well, we'll have to get you a job.  
23 We'll have to get you somewhere". I had nowhere to go,  
24 and there was another girl worked -- she worked with  
25 Dr Daly, if you know Dr Daly. Well, she worked,

1                   , and                   said yes, she knew a minister,  
2           Presbyterian minister was looking for somebody, and his  
3           wife was a [REDACTED],                   , and they lived in the  
4                   . He was the Presbyterian church, and  
5           I went there, and that's the first bit of a home I ever  
6           knew. They were brilliant, brilliant. He knew I was  
7           out of the convent. He took -- he would have drove me  
8           down to mass on a holiday of obligation to the Holy  
9           Rosary. Marvellous.

10    Q. He treated you very well?

11    A. Pardon?

12    Q. He treated you very well?

13    A. Oh, great. Like one of their own, like a child.

14    Q. If we can look at paragraph 37, HIA439, of your  
15           statement, 210, I was discussing with you earlier the  
16           issue of perspective, because you make the point in  
17           paragraph 37 that for all the bad things that happened  
18           --

19    A. Uh-huh.

20    Q. -- there's part of you that forgives the treatment that  
21           you got, because you say your "father and mother didn't  
22           want us".

23    A. No.

24    Q. So what else could be done?

25    A. That's it.



1 Q. So you are able to see --

2 **A. I do.**

3 Q. -- that it wasn't straightforward.

4 **A. I don't hold it now against them, but just I would give**  
5 **it as so it never happen to anybody else, but my sister**  
6 **in [REDACTED] never forgave. It really preys on her mind.**

7 Q. As I was explaining to you earlier, towards the end of  
8 someone's evidence we ask them two questions, HIA439.

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. The first is at the end of the Panel's work it has to  
11 consider what recommendations it might make to the  
12 Northern Ireland Government about maybe some form of  
13 apology, or a memorial of some kind, or some other form  
14 of redress. We ask each person whether there's anything  
15 they want to say to assist the Panel's thinking about  
16 that.

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. You were saying to me earlier the ability to come and  
19 share your story --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- has been a positive thing for you.

22 **A. Uh-huh. That's it. That's all.**

23 Q. There's nothing else that you want to add?

24 **A. No, nothing at all. Forget about it.**

25 Q. The last question that we ask each witness is whether --

1 and we are looking at Nazareth House -- whether there's  
2 anything else about their time that they could say that  
3 might assist the Inquiry. Maybe it's something  
4 I haven't covered in enough detail, or haven't covered  
5 properly, or didn't cover at all. Now is your  
6 opportunity to say anything else that you want to say  
7 about Nazareth House. Is there anything --

8 **A. No.**

9 Q. -- I have left out, HIA439?

10 **A. No, nothing at all.**

11 Q. You're happy we've covered everything you wanted to say?

12 **A. Everything.**

13 Q. Well, I'm not going to ask you any more questions, but  
14 if you just stay where you are for a moment, the Panel  
15 Members may want to ask you something about your time.

16 Questions from THE PANEL

17 CHAIRMAN: HIA439, can I ask you just to go back to what you  
18 told us about children wetting the bed at night?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. You said that you would get up and take them to the  
21 toilet so that they wouldn't wet the bed.

22 **A. So as they wouldn't wet the bed.**

23 Q. Was that --

24 **A. Then that would give us less sheets to worry about.**

25 Q. Was that something you worked out that you should do for

1           yourself or did the nuns tell you to do that?

2   **A. Oh, the nuns didn't tell us, no. We did it ourselves.**

3   Q. So it was just something you'd worked out?

4   **A. Aye. We knew the ones -- you knew the ones -- the**  
5       **wet-beds were put in a list and you knew the wet-beds.**  
6       **That was to -- for our own sake so as we wouldn't have**  
7       **the sheets to worry about.**

8   Q. Thank you very much.

9   MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA439. That has been very  
10       helpful. Can I just ask -- you talk in your statement  
11       about some of the nuns saying that you would be  
12       a streetwalker like your mother. Was that sort of thing  
13       said to you often?

14   **A. Excuse me. I can't hear you properly.**

15   Q. I am sorry. Can you hear me now?

16   **A. Yes.**

17   Q. I am saying in your statement it says that the nuns used  
18       to say you would be a streetwalker like your mother.

19   **A. Oh, yes, yes, yes.**

20   Q. Can you say a wee bit about that? Did that happen  
21       often?

22   **A. She told me I'd be a streetwalker like my mother.**

23   Q. Who? Was that SR112 or ...?

24   **A. Yes, SR112, aye.**

25   Q. Would that happen often, HIA439?

1 A. Well, I don't know. My [REDACTED], she was only in  
2 the babies, and seemingly my mother came up once.  
3 I didn't see her --

4 Q. Right.

5 A. -- and [REDACTED] had the -- she had the [REDACTED]. Well, when  
6 you had the [REDACTED] then, you were [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]  
8 [REDACTED] Uh-huh.

9 A. -- and seemingly -- this is what my mother told us in  
10 later years -- they told her not to come back, but  
11 whether that was ...

12 Q. True, yes.

13 A. But she never ever came back.

14 Q. Uh-huh. I was going to ask you about that. Can I ask  
15 when SR112 used to hit you and cane you, would there be  
16 other nuns around? Would she do it --

17 A. Oh, no, no, no. She'd be on her own. She'd be -- there  
18 would only be one nun in charge at the time even in the  
19 -- where you were getting your lunch or dinner or  
20 whatever you got.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. You got an egg once a year on Easter Sunday, a boiled  
23 egg.

24 Q. Just the last thing: can you remember which nun put you  
25 out into the snow?

1 **A. It would be SR112.**

2 Q. SR112?

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. Thanks very much, HIA439.

5 MR LANE: I'd just like to make sure I've understood things  
6 properly about the way you dealt with the children who  
7 wet the bed. Are you saying you only dried the sheets;  
8 you didn't wash them at all?

9 **A. No, we dried them out and put them back on their beds**  
10 **again.**

11 Q. Right. So how often would sheets be changed normally?

12 **A. I wouldn't know that --**

13 Q. No. Right.

14 **A. -- how often they changed.**

15 Q. You mentioned about using numbers and not names.

16 **A. Oh, yes. You were called by number.**

17 Q. Was that all the time that you were called by number?

18 **A. No, all the time. [REDACTED] I was called.**

19 Q. So what were -- that would be, what, when you got clean  
20 clothes or what --

21 **A. Your number was on your clothes.**

22 Q. Uh-huh.

23 **A. You have everything in your number.**

24 Q. If the nuns wanted to speak to you, would they call out  
25 your number or call out your name?

1 **A. Call out, "142, come up here, please".**

2 Q. Right. Okay. Thank you very much.

3 **A. All right.**

4 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA439, you'll be pleased I'm sure to hear  
5 those are the last questions we want to ask you. Thank  
6 you very much indeed for coming to speak to us today.

7 **A. You're welcome.**

8 Q. Thank you.

9 **A. Thank you.**

10 **(Witness withdrew)**

11 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, Ms Smith will be  
12 taking the next witness. Perhaps if we take a short  
13 break for that to be readied.

14 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Very well. Thank you.

15 (11.10 am)

16 (Short break)

17 (11.20 am)

18 WITNESS SR46 (called)

19 MS SMITH: Morning, Chairman, Panel Members. The next  
20 witness today is "SR46". That's SR46. She wishes to  
21 take the religious oath and she also wishes to maintain  
22 the anonymity afforded by the Inquiry.

23 WITNESS SR46 (sworn)

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

25

1 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

2 MS SMITH: Now, Sister, if you bear with me, I'm just going  
3 to let the Panel know there are a number of documents  
4 relating to you in the bundle. You have made a number  
5 of statements, some short: SNB-1583, SNB-1584, SNB-1585  
6 and then SNB-1586 to 1588, SNB-1590, SNB-2131 to 2133  
7 and 2134 to 2135.

8 There is also a bundle of police material, which can  
9 be found at 60174 to 61639, which relates to the 1996  
10 investigation by police, and includes an interview with  
11 Sister at 60203 to 60248, and there are also documents  
12 at 61628 to 61639.

13 So, Sister, you came to Nazareth Lodge we believe in  
14 around January 1977.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. First of all, I am not going to call up all of the  
17 statements, Sister, but can I just ask you to confirm  
18 this is one short statement that you have given to the  
19 Inquiry and it relates specifically to a particular girl  
20 who was in Nazareth Lodge. You will see that we have --  
21 excuse me -- blacked out the names. Sorry.

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. Can I just ask you to confirm that you did provide the  
24 Inquiry with a series of witness statements which you  
25 signed --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- on the dates and this is one of them?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. Now, as best we can ascertain, you came to Nazareth  
5 Lodge we think in January 1977 --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- and you were there until November 1985.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Can I just ask some general questions, first of all,  
10 Sister, about your background? Where had you been  
11 before you went to Nazareth Lodge?

12 **A. I was in Nazareth House, Bishop Street, questing.**

13 Q. Questing is?

14 **A. Or collecting.**

15 Q. That was collecting funds for the home?

16 **A. Yes, yes.**

17 Q. When were you asked or how were you asked to come to --  
18 go to Nazareth Lodge?

19 **A. I was asked would I fill a vacancy in Nazareth Lodge in  
20 the beginning of January that year.**

21 Q. Did you have yourself any qualifications in child care?

22 **A. Not in child care, but I'm a trained NNEB.**

23 Q. Just for those of us who don't know --

24 **A. Up to 7-year-olds.**

25 Q. That's a nursery nurse qualification. Is that correct?



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

2 Q. When did you qualify?

3 **A. 1964.**

4 Q. Before you were questing in Bishop Street had you been  
5 working with children and babies?

6 **A. I had, yes.**

7 Q. Where was that, Sister?

8 **A. In Fahan, Donegal, the adoption centre, and in  
9 Lancaster, which was the NNEB training centre, and in  
10 Birkenhead.**

11 Q. Those were all --

12 **A. Under 5s, yes.**

13 Q. -- homes run by the congregation?

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. Now can I just ask in 1590, if we can just call that up,  
16 please, you give a brief general statement about your  
17 memories of Nazareth Lodge here. I am going to ask you  
18 some -- I am going to go through this as well, but I am  
19 just going to ask you if you could describe when you  
20 came in 1977 what the home was like, what the buildings  
21 were like, how many groups there were and what you can  
22 remember about your own group.

23 **A. We had five groups in the house. I was on the top  
24 floor, which had been recently renovated, and we had  
25 converted a lot of the dormitories into single rooms,**

1           and some were -- there was a couple of shared rooms with  
2           three beds in them and we had a dining room and kitchen  
3           on the floor.

4    Q.   You were in charge of this group on the top floor?

5    A.   **Yes.**

6    Q.   Can you recall how many children you had in your group?

7    A.   **Usually from twelve to fourteen.**

8    Q.   How -- apart from yourself who else would have cared for  
9           those children?

10   A.   **We had some lay staff. I can't remember the names of  
11           those who were there when I first went there.**

12   Q.   But how many lay staff would you have had?

13   A.   **There were two there and a cleaner as well.**

14   Q.   Then I think -- we were speaking earlier. You indicated  
15           that there was -- the lay staff complement expanded to  
16           three in the later years.

17   A.   **It did later on, yes.**

18   Q.   You say you had a cleaner who also looked after your  
19           unit and was simply assigned to your unit. Is that  
20           right?

21   A.   **Yes.**

22   Q.   I think you also said that you had SR156, who came --  
23           who taught in the school but came to help you out with  
24           the children's homework.

25   A.   **She helped with the home... -- helped with the homework,**

1           **yes.**

2    Q.   Now can I ask whenever you did come to Nazareth Lodge,  
3           were you given any guidance by the congregation  
4           regarding the undertaking of child care duties?

5    **A.   No.**

6    Q.   What was the routine in the home like?  You do mention  
7           this a little bit in one of the other statements.  I am  
8           just going to go through the statement that's on the  
9           screen in front of us, Sister.  You say:

10                "At times it was difficult but well worth the  
11                effort.  In Nazareth Lodge the worries were when the  
12                children were out and not on time."

13                We will come back to that in a moment.  You say:

14                "I was maybe too strict at times, mostly so after  
15                a child had a bad accident on me."

16    **A.   Yes.**

17    Q.   That accident happened when you were on holiday.  Is  
18           that correct?

19    **A.   It did, yes.**

20    Q.   Do you recall when that was, Sister?

21    **A.   I can't.  It was probably the '80s.**

22    Q.   As a result of -- do you want to tell us a little bit  
23           about that, what happened?

24    **A.   Two of the boys had gone to the shops to buy some  
25           fishing bait, because we had planned to go fishing that**

1        **night, and they decided to take a shortcut and climb the**  
2        **rocks in Portrush, and one of them fell 70 feet and**  
3        **received brain damage and was unconscious for six weeks.**

4    Q.    As a result of that you felt that your reaction to that  
5        --

6    A.    **I felt that I became more restrictive on the children,**  
7        **knowing where they were.**

8    Q.    You say:

9            "The children seemed to be happy. Sometimes if they  
10          were due to go home for the week-end, the children would  
11          request to stay, depending on what was on in the Lodge."

12          You were giving me an example of one girl who  
13          actually locked herself in the toilet rather than go  
14          home.

15   A.    **Yes. Uh-huh.**

16   Q.    You say:

17          "The children were quick to play a joke on you.  
18          They were relaxed and very chatty after school and when  
19          they returned back after the week-end.

20          They enjoyed plenty of activities ...going swimming  
21          a few evenings ... attended the local youth club,  
22          Brownies, Scouts ... They would go to the pictures and  
23          have annual holidays."

24          Now one of the things we were talking about, Sister,  
25          was a number of people have told us there were group

1           holidays. The entire home went to Ballyhornan for the  
2           summer months.

3   **A. Originally, yes, and in latter years we started going to**  
4   **Portrush or Portstewart and staying in a guest house.**

5   Q. I think you've --

6   **A. Then we went to Butlins.**

7   Q. You have given us some photographs that show certainly  
8       a holidays in Butlins, which I will refer to later,  
9       Sister.

10           You also said there was a youth club which the  
11           children attended. Is that correct?

12   **A. Local youth club on Ormeau Road.**

13   Q. There was a disco that would have been held once a month  
14       for them to go to as well.

15   **A. That's right, yes.**

16   Q. You go on to say that:

17           "They were encouraged to save some of their pocket  
18           money each week",

19           which suggests each child did get pocket money.

20   **A. That's right. They were encouraged to save it as well.**  
21   **They used to have a post office savings book. So they**  
22   **saved to buying maybe a gift for Mother's Day or that.**

23   Q. Do you recall how much pocket money they were given,  
24       Sister?

25   **A. It was allotted according to their age groups, but**

1           **I can't recall the amounts.**

2    Q.   Just that is some of the general things you talked  
3           about.  Also at 1587, paragraph 6, you talked a little  
4           bit about the routine in the home.  Now this was  
5           a statement in response to what someone has said about  
6           you, but you did say in that paragraph 6 there that  
7           children didn't go to church at 7.00 am, as some people  
8           have said, because that was your breakfast time.

9    **A.   Yes.**

10   Q.   "Staff would come on duty at 7.30 in the morning, called  
11           the children to get them washed or dressed, had their  
12           breakfast and get ready for school.  Breakfast was at  
13           8.00 am, with a choice of cereals, grilled bacon and  
14           sausages."

15           Then you go on to talk about something else, which  
16           we will come back to, but you say:

17           "Some children needed to be at the gate in time for  
18           the school bus or taxi.  Some children remained at  
19           school in Belfast."

20           When you say that, there was a school, St. Monica's,  
21           adjacent to Nazareth Lodge --

22   **A.   Right.**

23   Q.   -- but if a child was at a school before they came into  
24           the home, they stayed at the school they were at.  Is  
25           that right, Sister?

1 A. If they were at a local school, they were maintained at  
2 the local school and a taxi picked them up or a bus.  
3 There was a bus for special education kids, which picked  
4 them up at the gate.

5 Q. You go on to say -- just I was asking you earlier about  
6 the nature of the breakfast and whether there was  
7 a cooked breakfast every morning or whether it was at  
8 the weekends or what the position was and what your  
9 recollection of that is, Sister.

10 A. Originally we would just have cereal and toast in the  
11 morning and then latterly we changed it to bacon --  
12 grilled bacon and sausage in the morning for those who  
13 wished to have it.

14 Q. Again some general questions, Sister. Did the  
15 congregation have a policy on discipline of children  
16 and, if so, what was that policy?

17 A. The usual policy was for withdrawing privileges for  
18 misbehaviour, such as being grounded or restricting some  
19 of their pocket money, going to their room, or if it was  
20 boys or girls had misbehaved, the opposite would have  
21 the choice of television.

22 I remember on one occasion I had grounded the boys  
23 and a very irate neighbour rang to say that the boys  
24 were in the garden. So I said to him -- I said they  
25 couldn't possibly be, because they were grounded that

1       **night.**

2       Q. This was someone was complaining that boys who they  
3       thought were from the Lodge were there?

4       **A. Yes. They were in their garden, yes.**

5       Q. I also wanted to know if you or the congregation had any  
6       policy on bedwetting and how that was dealt with in the  
7       home.

8       **A. No, we didn't, but there was a few children I knew who  
9       did wet their beds. One was particularly a teenager.**

10       **I used to call her last thing at night before I went to  
11       bed myself, and when I got up the morning I used to ask  
12       her did she want to go to the bathroom and she would go  
13       and have a dry bed. There was one or two younger ones  
14       I used to just lift and put them on the toilet to save  
15       them -- they would have their beds dry then to save them  
16       embarrassment.**

17       Q. Did you or anyone who was in the home when you were  
18       there ever punish a child for wetting the bed?

19       **A. Not to my knowledge and I certainly wouldn't have  
20       punished somebody for a wet bed.**

21       Q. One of the things I asked you, Sister, was during your  
22       time there were you aware of the legislation and  
23       regulations governing the conduct of children's homes,  
24       such as the Children & Young Persons Act (Northern  
25       Ireland) in 1950 and '68?



1 **A. Not really.**

2 Q. Again a similar question in relation to the Voluntary  
3 Homes Regulations from 1952 and '72. Were you aware of  
4 those regulations at all?

5 **A. Vaguely.**

6 Q. How were you aware of those?

7 CHAIRMAN: A little bit more slowly.

8 MS SMITH: Sorry.

9 **A. I picked up points at regular case conferences with the**  
10 **social workers.**

11 Q. I'm just -- Sister, as I indicated to you, you were  
12 worried about how quickly you spoke and I also speak  
13 very quickly, and we have just both been asked to take  
14 things a little more slowly if we can.

15 **A. Sorry.**

16 Q. No, no. I'm the one who tends to go too quickly.

17 You had regular case conferences for the children.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. One of the things that you told me earlier was that  
20 during your time from 1977 to 1985 all of the children  
21 that you were looking after had an assigned social  
22 worker.

23 **A. Had their own social worker.**

24 Q. Were you aware from what you did know of the regulations  
25 that corporal punishment could only take place in

1           prescribed circumstances?

2   **A. I was more aware that there should be no corporal**  
3   **punishment.**

4   Q. You said -- I think you said you also picked that up  
5   from your nursery training.

6   **A. Yes.**

7   Q. One of the other things that I just wanted to check with  
8   you was that the Inquiry has heard about a Home Office  
9   circular that went round to every home in Northern  
10   Ireland in 1952, which included advice on a number of  
11   matters, including things like bedwetting. Did you ever  
12   see that document or were you aware of its existence at  
13   all?

14   **A. No, I didn't.**

15   Q. Can you say just a little bit about what the role of the  
16   Mother Superior in Nazareth Lodge would have been? What  
17   exactly would she have done in the home in relation to  
18   the children?

19   **A. She was head of -- she was head of the home, the**  
20   **management of the home, and she would have visited the**  
21   **units on a regular basis and at a case conference would**  
22   **have filled in if anything untoward had come up.**

23   Q. I think you said she actually did attend some case  
24   conferences herself. Is that right?

25   **A. She would attend some of them herself.**

1 Q. Do you recall visitations from the congregational  
2 hierarchy, from Mother Regional, Mother General?

3 **A. Mother Regional would come every year, but she also**  
4 **visited on a regular basis every few months, and the**  
5 **headquarters from Hammersmith would come every couple of**  
6 **years.**

7 Q. Now you mentioned, Sister, that when you were in Bishop  
8 Street you would have been questing; you would have been  
9 collecting funds. Were you aware of how Nazareth Lodge  
10 was funded at all?

11 **A. Well, all the children in Nazareth Lodge came under the**  
12 **care of Social Services. So they would have been paid**  
13 **for to Social Services.**

14 Q. In your time in the Lodge were the nuns involved in  
15 collecting around the doors at that time?

16 **A. No, they weren't.**

17 Q. Now you've said that you took part in case conferences.  
18 What other contact did you yourself have with Social  
19 Services in relation to the children?

20 **A. Social workers would visit the children, the families**  
21 **quite regular, and the children were free to ring the**  
22 **social workers if they wished, or if I had a query, I**  
23 **would ring the social worker myself.**

24 Q. In preparation for the case conferences did you do  
25 anything, Sister?

1    **A. We had to do a report from the last how things were,**  
2       **like family visits and how the children were**  
3       **progressing.**

4    Q. Can you say what happened to that report?

5    **A. The social worker took a copy of the report and we kept**  
6       **the report filed in each child's file.**

7    Q. I'm just going -- I'm just pausing, Sister, because I am  
8       conscious that I am going quite quickly with you through  
9       matters. If we can just explore a little bit more about  
10      the child's file, what did that consist of?

11   **A. Sorry. I missed the question.**

12   Q. Sorry. Forgive me. Just explore a little bit more  
13      about the files, the child's file that you were talking  
14      about. What records were actually kept in respect of  
15      the child?

16   **A. Their medical records would have been kept, and, I mean,**  
17       **if they had to see the doctor, we'd put a report in, and**  
18       **misbehaviour, if there was something major, and family**  
19       **visits would have been recorded as well.**

20   Q. In what -- what form were these documents? How did --  
21      how were they kept physically? What did they physically  
22      look like?

23   **A. Well, A4 sheets we would have written reports on and the**  
24       **doctor -- we had a form the doctor would have filled in.**

25   Q. The -- each child -- each individual child had its own

1 file. Is that right?

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

3 Q. These were kept --

4 **A. They were stored in a locked filing cabinet.**

5 Q. Where was the locked filing cabinet, Sister?

6 **A. In the office.**

7 Q. That wouldn't have been in each unit.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. This would have been a general unit.

10 **A. No, there would have been one in each unit.**

11 Q. Just we were speaking earlier. We got an indication the  
12 congregation believe that all of those individual files  
13 were ultimately given over to Social Services, but you  
14 can't assist with what happened to them, can you?

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

16 Q. Do you ever remember -- I am going to come on later to  
17 talk about the allegations that people have made against  
18 you, Sister, but do you ever remember any child  
19 complaining to you about anything when you were in the  
20 home?

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

22 Q. If they had done, what would your reaction have been?

23 **A. We'd sit down and talk to them and ask them and  
24 investigate it.**

25 Q. Do you know what the system was or was there a system

1 with regard to children being allowed to complain or  
2 ...?

3 **A. Well, because they had -- because they had a social**  
4 **worker, they were also free, if they had a complaint, to**  
5 **ring their social worker.**

6 Q. Can I just be clear: there was no sort of formal  
7 procedure within the home itself?

8 **A. No, or they could have talked to any member of staff in**  
9 **the unit.**

10 Q. Thank you. I just wanted to be clear also, Sister.  
11 I did ask you this. During your time there -- and we  
12 know you left in 1985 -- you weren't aware of  
13 a monitoring team being involved with regard to  
14 complaints or anything like that?

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

16 Q. Now, Sister, if we can come on to specific matters in  
17 relation to what some of the people who have spoken to  
18 us have said about you, you talk at SNB-1584 of  
19 a particular -- you give a reaction to a particular  
20 person, who is HIA397.

21 In his statement -- at paragraph 6 in his statement  
22 he said that he remembered you being charge -- in charge  
23 of him at a later stage. Now he was there from 1973 to  
24 1978, but you have no recollection of him being in your  
25 unit at any time.

1 **A. No, I haven't.**

2 Q. In fairness, Sister, he wasn't complaining about you.  
3 He just said you were in charge of him, but you don't  
4 remember him.

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

6 Q. There is another statement we have at HIA14... --  
7 sorry -- a statement of HIA141. I will just give her  
8 first name, which is HIA141. You talk about her at  
9 1583. What she said at SNB-109, paragraph 4 of her  
10 statement, she said that three of her sisters and  
11 a brother were in your group. She was in SR29's group  
12 and two brothers and a sister were in SR62's. Now you  
13 don't believe she was in Nazareth Lodge. She wasn't in  
14 your group, although you had her sister in your group.

15 **A. I had her older sister in my unit.**

16 Q. You also don't think that there were three of her  
17 sisters and a brother in your group. There was just one  
18 child.

19 **A. Just the one sister.**

20 Q. You say two older boys I think you told me were in  
21 SR139's group.

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

23 Q. It's clear from what she was telling the Inquiry that  
24 there were eight children in all in that family and  
25 obviously they were -- they were split up into different

1 units when they came into Nazareth Lodge. Can you  
2 assist as to why the family group was split up, Sister?

3 **A. Because of the -- where we -- the only place we had the**  
4 **vacancies was some in each unit.**

5 Q. And it wouldn't have been possible to keep them all  
6 together?

7 **A. Well, we didn't have any vacancies in the unit.**

8 Q. I didn't actually ask you this, Sister, but I was just  
9 wondering as I stand here is it -- I take it it would  
10 have been too disruptive to move children around a unit  
11 rather than -- and to keep one family all together.

12 **A. I don't know, because I think some of them had been**  
13 **there -- maybe if they had been in a unit for a long**  
14 **time, rather than disturb their lives --**

15 Q. Yes.

16 **A. -- left them where they were.**

17 Q. Thank you. Now in paragraph -- sorry. Just coming on  
18 to -- there is HIA10. I will give her name as HIA10.  
19 Now she made a statement both to the Inquiry and to the  
20 police. Her police statement can be found at SNB-60190  
21 and her Inquiry statement at SNB-747 indicates that she  
22 was there, in Nazareth Lodge that was, from 1977 to  
23 1981, which coincides with you looking after that group.  
24 She says that you and SR30 were in charge of her group.

25 Now there is an issue as to whether or not SR30 and



1           you were working together.

2   **A. No, SR30 and I never worked together.**

3   Q. You took over.

4   **A. I replaced SR30.**

5   Q. I'll come back to that, Sister, in due course, but she  
6       certainly says that the two of you were in charge of her  
7       group, and she said -- in her Inquiry statement she says  
8       that you nipped her arm for fainting in mass.

9           At paragraph 7 she said you hit children with what  
10       she described as a ruler strap, and that the nuns hit  
11       children with bamboo canes.

12           She also said at SNB-750 that you once took her to  
13       see Father Brendan Smyth. She said that at paragraph 12  
14       of her statement.

15           At paragraph 13 she says that you beat her with  
16       a metal spatula for running away, and that when her  
17       sister tried to stop you with a mop, she ended up  
18       breaking a glass window and a door.

19           She also makes a comment in paragraph 15 of her  
20       statement that when she came back to Nazareth Lodge,  
21       having been re-admitted in 1982, that you were in charge  
22       there. Can I just ask, Sister, were you ever in charge  
23       of the Lodge as Mother Superior?

24   **A. No, I wasn't, no.**

25   Q. But by that stage, 1982, SR30 had left. Isn't that

1 correct?

2 **A. SR156 had gone to the States.**

3 Q. Sorry. SR30 would have left. The best -- our records  
4 show that she left in 1980. That's what she says. She  
5 left in 1980.

6 **A. I honestly don't know.**

7 Q. So it may be that what HIA10 is saying is you were in  
8 sole charge of the group, because she thought that both  
9 you and SR30 were in charge earlier.

10 **A. No. SR156 used to help -- it was SR156, not SR30 --**  
11 **SR156 used to help with the homework, and she went to**  
12 **the States in the '80s.**

13 Q. Yes, but I'm talking about SR30.

14 **A. SR30 and I never worked together.**

15 Q. Okay. Well, as I say, she made a statement to the  
16 police in 2010. That can be seen at 62066 to 63070.  
17 The allegations she makes there are that if you  
18 didn't -- if she didn't get up out of bed straightaway,  
19 you would grab or pinch her hard on to her ear lobe or  
20 the hair on her arms. You would pull her out of bed;  
21 that she fell on the floor bruised and bleeding  
22 sometimes. You slapped her hard on the head or hit her  
23 with a wooden stick, leaving a mark, a bruise, which  
24 sometimes caused bleeding.

25 She also said that she had to clean the entire third

1 floor of the building and doesn't remember going to  
2 school.

3 Now in that -- in respect of that particular aspect  
4 of her allegations to the police, Sister, you have said  
5 that NL 195 was the cleaner for your unit.

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

7 Q. You say that she came there how many days a week?

8 **A. Monday to Friday from 9.00 till 1.00.**

9 Q. She was responsible for cleaning your unit?

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

11 Q. You say -- sorry -- this girl, HIA10, says that she was  
12 slapped on the head if she didn't eat her food quickly  
13 enough; that you scrubbed her with a yard brush in the  
14 bath, which was full of disinfectant, leaving her skin  
15 raw and bleeding. She says that she and her sisters ran  
16 away and you hit her in the kitchen on the back of her  
17 legs with a metal spatula over ten times, leaving her  
18 legs red and bleeding.

19 She says she was taken by you to Father Brendan  
20 Smyth in the parlour, where she was indecently  
21 assaulted. I pause there to say that in her police  
22 statement in August 1995 she told police that she  
23 wasn't, in fact, abused by Brendan Smyth.

24 Now you were interviewed both about her statement  
25 that she gave in 1995, and you deal with that at

1 SNB-60219 through to 60221. Perhaps if we just have  
2 a look at that. You say -- if we can just scroll down,  
3 the police put to you the allegations that she makes  
4 about being beaten with kitchen utensils such as a soup  
5 ladle and being locked in a room for punishment. If you  
6 can scroll on down, you say that you didn't lock any  
7 child in their bedroom, because there were no keys for  
8 the bedroom. Is that correct, Sister?

9 **A. No, we didn't, no.**

10 Q. Were there locks on the doors in the bedroom?

11 **A. There were, yes, but the keys were kept in the**  
12 **storeroom.**

13 Q. Who would have had access to the keys then in the  
14 storeroom?

15 **A. I would.**

16 Q. But you say:

17 She wouldn't have been locked in a room and she  
18 wouldn't have been beaten",

19 and the police ask you:

20 "She wouldn't have been beaten per se or beaten  
21 using an instrument?"

22 You say:

23 "Either way."

24 They ask you what the procedure was for a  
25 misbehaving child and you say:

1           "Withdrawal of privileges, maybe not -- miss your  
2 night out at the youth club and made to go to your room  
3 and read for a while. Basically withdrawal of  
4 privileges or maybe earlier to bed one night."

5           You say --

6           "Q. There was no physical punishment at all?

7           **A. No, there wasn't.**

8           Q. Certainly no occasion where you would -- you  
9 would either beat this child or any other child with an  
10 instrument?

11          **A. No."**

12          Again it just goes on. Then they go on to move on  
13 to another complaint. So essentially that's what you  
14 were telling the police when they interviewed you in  
15 1995.

16          When you were interviewed in 2012 about these  
17 allegations, you said that you never had occasion to use  
18 physical chastisement when you were in Nazareth Lodge.  
19 If I can just look at that, it's 61639, please. This is  
20 a summary of what you said, Sister. We have not been  
21 able to get the actual interview that you gave to police  
22 at that time, but it just says during interviews you  
23 were asked if you had grabbed or pinched any part of  
24 HIA10's body and pulled her out of bed.

25          "She denied this allegation and advised she'd never

1 had the occasion to used physical chastisement. When  
2 asked if she'd hit HIA10 with a wooden stick, she stated  
3 she did not have a wooden stick and that this had never  
4 happened. Asked if she'd scrubbed HIA10 with a yard  
5 brush using disinfectant, she replied that she didn't  
6 scrub her with a yard brush and that bubblebath was used  
7 in the baths. Asked if she had taken her to Father  
8 Brendan Smyth, she again denied this had happened and  
9 advised she had little knowledge of Brendan Smyth."

10 Then the matters were reported to the Public  
11 Prosecution Service.

12 Now, Sister, no prosecution arose out of the  
13 allegations that were made against you in 1995 or indeed  
14 as a result of these allegations from 2010, when you  
15 were interviewed in 2012.

16 Is there anything that you want to say about HIA10  
17 or about the allegations that she has made, Sister, that  
18 you haven't already said to the police that you want to  
19 say to the Inquiry?

20 A. No, there isn't. I've said it all.

21 Q. If we can move on then to deal with allegations of HIA5,  
22 and he makes these at SNB-1587 -- 86 and 1588. This is

23 HIA 5 I am just going to use the first name, Sister,  
24 but I think you know who we are talking about.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. In paragraph 4 of his statement at SNB-033 he said that  
2 you were in charge, that you were elderly and you had  
3 a walking stick. I know from what you say, Sister, you  
4 would have been in your 30s when you would have looked  
5 after this child.

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

7 Q. We know that you haven't walked in here today with  
8 a walking stick, but did you ever have a walking stick?

9 **A. Never.**

10 Q. Was there anyone in the home, any other nun in the home,  
11 at the time that you were there who might have --

12 **A. We had an old sister who was almost 100, who slept**  
13 **downstairs, and they might have seen her in the**  
14 **corridor, and she did have a walking stick.**

15 Q. But she wouldn't have been involved in caring for the  
16 children at all?

17 **A. No, she wouldn't. She would only have been walking from**  
18 **her bedroom to the church.**

19 Q. Well, your statement where you deny his allegations, if  
20 we could just look at that, it is 1586, please. This  
21 is -- you remember him as a frail-looking child. You  
22 comment on what he says in the paragraphs about the  
23 layout, and you said -- he actually said that there were  
24 green blankets, and you knocked on the wall of the  
25 bedroom, telling them to be quiet. You dispute that,

1           because you say he shared a room with his brother. You  
2           didn't have green blankets and you didn't walk -- knock  
3           on the wall of the bedroom at night; that his bedroom  
4           was down on the corridor on the right-hand side while  
5           yours was on the opposite side at the other end.

6   **A. Yes.**

7   Q. Just how many bedrooms in total were there in the unit,  
8       Sister? Can you recall?

9   **A. About ten bedrooms.**

10   Q. They would have been off either side of the corridor?

11   **A. That's right, yes.**

12   Q. There would have been like a living room in the unit.

13   **A. Which was at the beginning of the corridor. It was  
14       a very big, large dining room, because we had a snooker  
15       table and a table tennis table in it as well.**

16   Q. That would have been -- if we just -- because  
17       unfortunately Nazareth Lodge is no longer in existence,  
18       we have been trying to get a visual image of just what  
19       the layout was like. So you came in. There were two  
20       units on the floor.

21   **A. You came up the front stairs and you went in what was  
22       a fire door, and on the right-hand side there was this  
23       large playroom/sitting room, and then we had a little  
24       room next door, which was a study room, and then we had  
25       a -- next door we had a three-bed room, and then we had**



1 a two-bed room, and then we had two two- -- two  
2 three-bed rooms, dining room, office. We had another  
3 small dining room and we had a storeroom, and then you  
4 went round the corner. You had the kitchenette and  
5 bathrooms. On the left-hand side we had a shower and  
6 toilets and a row of single bedrooms down on the  
7 right-hand side -- on the left-hand side, depending  
8 which end you were coming from.

9 Q. Thank you for that, Sister. That is helpful. What  
10 he -- you go on in your statement to say that you didn't  
11 use a walking stick and don't use one now.

12 You didn't wear steel rosary beads, as he alleged,  
13 and they weren't worn on duty, and rosary beads were  
14 made from light wood.

15 You didn't have a particular Sister working with  
16 you, but there was a Sister who helped you with the  
17 homework, who you said was SR156.

18 You confirm that each unit had its own dining room.  
19 You had four tables and four children at each table in  
20 the dining room.

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

22 Q. The Sisters didn't feed the children, certainly not  
23 those who were able to feed themselves, although you may  
24 have helped I presume with the younger children.

25 **A. Rarely would we have had somebody to be fed.**

1 Q. You say:

2 "The children had their own toys in their bedrooms.  
3 There was a large sitting room with a snooker table and  
4 table tennis", as you described, "and also a TV in the  
5 corner. Larger toys were kept in a room at the top of  
6 the stairs."

7 If we just scroll on down, please, and this is the  
8 paragraph that I was indicating about the breakfasts,  
9 and you said:

10 "In regards to the children being nipped, I have not  
11 nor did I see anyone being pinched or nipped as **HIA 5**  
12 describes."

13 You say:

14 "Some children needed to be at the gate in time for  
15 the school bus or taxi. Some children remained at  
16 school in Belfast. Some children went to St. Monica's,  
17 St. Augustine's and Cairnmartin Secondary."

18 You are not sure which school he went to.

19 Father Brendan Smyth, you refer to him here and say:

20 "He did not say mass on Sunday mornings, as we had  
21 a chaplain. He would only have said mass if he visited  
22 when on holiday. There were no confessions on Sunday  
23 morning, as sometimes Father would be saying a later  
24 mass."

25 You don't have any recollection of the punishment to

1 lock a child in a room. You are aware there was a room  
2 at the side of the church in which two sisters slept  
3 across from the lift. Is that on the same floor as --

4 **A. The same floor as the church and one of them would have**  
5 **been the Sister who was nearly 100.**

6 Q. You say that -- he said that on one occasion he jumped  
7 out of the bathroom window and was brought back inside  
8 by another nun. You say that that couldn't have  
9 happened, because the bathroom was on the fourth floor  
10 and the building was very high. You say:

11 "See attached photograph."

12 I have spoken to Mr Canavan about this photograph.  
13 We are going to certainly locate it, Sister, because it  
14 is not actually attached to the statement, but I know  
15 you did give it to them, and we will have a look at  
16 that, but it may well be that it is very much  
17 a photograph we already have in our bundle, because you  
18 say that it just shows the front door of Nazareth Lodge  
19 -- is that correct --

20 **A. Yes --**

21 Q. -- and the number of floors?

22 **A. -- and also because we were on the fourth floor, we had**  
23 **blocks nailed into either side of the windows, so they**  
24 **could only open them about 2 inches to air the rooms and**  
25 **that to prevent accidents.**

1 Q. So you are basically saying the window wasn't able to be  
2 opened out fully to allow a child to jump out of it?

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

4 Q. You say:

5 "Children were invited to a number of parties over  
6 the Christmas period. They received gifts and Santa  
7 also came and toys were left under the tree in the  
8 sitting room for them on Christmas morning."

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. I'll come back -- I know you have brought us some  
11 photographs. I'll come back and look at those in due  
12 course.

13 You don't remember any family visits for **HIA 5**, but  
14 you do remember his social worker visiting and regular  
15 case conferences. Then there is reference to his  
16 brother and him being transferred to a group downstairs  
17 due to a baby being admitted into the Lodge, and you  
18 were the trained NNEB on staff. So that child came into  
19 your unit.

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

21 Q. As there were no empty beds, these two Brothers had to  
22 go downstairs to allow this child to come into your  
23 unit.

24 **A. Because they were the last admissions and it was easiest  
25 to move.**

1 Q. If we just scroll on down, I think that just concludes  
2 that statement about what he says.

3 Now you put these denials in your statement to him,  
4 Sister, and in evidence his response to that was:

5 "She's a liar. That's what I'll say."

6 He said that his brother was in the same bathroom  
7 when he did jump out of it.

8 He also spoke to the police in January 2013 and said  
9 that you hit him with a walking stick on the back of his  
10 head and middle of his shoulders; that you would have  
11 given him three to four slaps with your hand two or  
12 three times a week, and you slapped him to the back of  
13 the head and to the backs of his legs. I am not going  
14 to look at the statement, but it can be found at  
15 SNB-61631. I just wonder, Sister, is there anything you  
16 want to say about what **HIA 5** has said both in his  
17 evidence and in what he said to the police in 2003?

18 **A. I never slapped him. I only had him for a very short**  
19 **period in my unit.**

20 Q. Sister, moving on to HIA41, who is HIA41, now HIA41 has  
21 given evidence, but in his Inquiry statement at  
22 paragraph 29 he described you as horrible. I am going  
23 to summarise some of the things that he said.

24 He said that you, SR30 and SR156 beat him after he  
25 ran away. You deal with his allegations. You, first of

1 all, say at 1585 that -- in a very short statement you  
2 say that you remembered him as a quiet but serious child  
3 and you say at his own request he went to De La Salle,  
4 Kircubbin. I am going to come back to that, Sister.

5 You also made a fuller statement at 1590 I think.  
6 Sorry. It wasn't -- sorry. I beg your pardon. It's at  
7 2134 to 2135, where you deal with the allegations that  
8 HIA41 makes, but what he said in evidence was that he  
9 was fond of SR30, that she was replaced by you and  
10 SR156, but that at one time all three of you looked  
11 after him together, which, as I said, Sister, is like  
12 the girl HIA10 said, that you and SR30 -- I beg your  
13 pardon -- SR30 were in charge of the unit together. You  
14 say that wasn't the position?

15 **A. Yes, that's right.**

16 Q. SR30, though, was in the home at the same time?

17 **A. That's right. She was a member of our community.**

18 Q. I know -- and we will look at a photograph of  
19 an occasion where you, SR30 and SR156 were all together  
20 with a group of children, and that was -- you think that  
21 was taken when you invited her back up?

22 **A. We had some -- we had some kind of entertainment or  
23 something on and Sister came up to visit.**

24 Q. So she was certainly about at the same time?

25 **A. She lived in the house, yes.**

1 Q. Now she had -- HIA41 has said she had a job -- he had  
2 a job which SR30 had given him at the front door and  
3 that that led him into the clutches of Father Brendan  
4 Smyth.

5 What he goes on to say, Sister, is that you and  
6 SR156 were determined to get rid of him and that you set  
7 in train a series of events involving his social worker  
8 to have him removed to Rubane, where he was further  
9 abused. Now at the time he was moved to Rubane he was  
10 13 and that was past the age of going to Rubane. So he  
11 had been kept on in Nazareth Lodge longer than most boys  
12 had gone and certainly at this time boys were still  
13 continuing to go in groups.

14 **A. Prior to I going there, when they were 11, ready for**  
15 **secondary school, they went to Rubane House, but they**  
16 **had started keeping the boys on --**

17 Q. Keeping them at Nazareth Lodge?

18 **A. -- and letting them go to secondary school from the**  
19 **Lodge.**

20 Q. So the practice of them going to Rubane was dying out?

21 **A. It was, yes, unless some -- some boys wanted to go. We**  
22 **gave them -- the choice was theirs.**

23 Q. They didn't automatically transfer then?

24 **A. No.**

25 Q. Now he was certainly 13 at the time he was transferred,

1 and I am going to look at some of the things that he has  
2 said.

3 Your denial here sort of -- if we can just go --  
4 sorry -- please, to 2134, this is your response to  
5 HIA41's allegations. You say that -- you deny that you  
6 ever beat a child in your care and you specifically deny  
7 that you and the two other sisters beat HIA41 in the  
8 parlour at Nazareth Lodge as described by him in  
9 paragraph 28 of his statement. You say:

10 "SR30 and I did not work together in the unit at  
11 all. When I replaced SR30 in the unit, she continued  
12 her role as a teacher only. She continued to live in  
13 the community, but she didn't work in the unit."

14 You say that you weren't aware of any relationship  
15 with HIA41 and SR30 and can't comment about being  
16 jealous about it. She wouldn't have been involved in  
17 the unit once you took over. She would have had  
18 full-time teaching responsibility and no responsibility  
19 for children in the unit.

20 I am going to come back in a moment to the issue  
21 about the pressurisation to take him to Rubane, but if  
22 I can just look, first of all, at 90318. This is --  
23 after I put your denial to HIA41, this is what he said  
24 in evidence, Sister. If you could scroll down, please,  
25 he says:



1           "First of all, they were brought in, like, as two  
2           apprentices" -- if you could scroll on down to the next  
3           page -- "on to the group. SR30 was still the head  
4           honcho. So they were getting used to the group. They  
5           were getting used to the children. So the three of them  
6           were there in the group together."

7           He goes on to say it wasn't -- what you say about  
8           SR30 going to work full-time in the school, he is saying  
9           that:

10           "She came into the home. She worked in the primary  
11           school and she was in sole charge over our group. So  
12           SR156, SR46 and SR30 ran the group between them. So  
13           this was an apprenticeship for two nuns to get to know  
14           everybody. You know, they were abusive, as an earlier  
15           witness has described. So she was there and SR30 just  
16           didn't leave. It was all of a sudden that she did  
17           leave."

18           This is what he is saying is that the three of you  
19           were there together, that SR30 was actually introducing  
20           you to the children gradually before you took over. Did  
21           that happen at all, Sister?

22           **A. No, it didn't, no.**

23           Q. Now coming on, you know that -- you are aware that he  
24           feels you pressurised Social Services to take him to  
25           Rubane. I am just going to look at some of the social

1 work records that we went through with him.

2 There was an entry at SNB-41769. This is from  
3 October 1976, Sister, and it's -- this is the  
4 three-monthly review on HIA41. You will see that it  
5 gives the address and how he came to be in care.

6 "He was in a different group at Nazareth to his  
7 brother and sister, spent the month of August at  
8 Ballyhornan and enjoyed the holiday. It was suggested  
9 to HIA41 that he could spend some weekends at Kircubbin  
10 with his brother **DL 87**, but the two boys do not have  
11 a close relationship and HIA41 was not keen to do this."

12 What HIA41 makes the point of, Sister, is that this  
13 entry shows that from October 1976 there is  
14 a conspiracy, as it were, to get him to leave Nazareth  
15 Lodge to go to Kircubbin and that's where it starts in  
16 October 1976, because what he says is that he and his  
17 brother hated each other, and the very suggestion that  
18 he would go and want to go to spend time with his  
19 brother is -- you know, it just really wasn't  
20 appropriate, if I can put it that way.

21 Then we looked at a number of documents with him,  
22 which is 30664, and moved backwards to 30657, which is  
23 an entry on 29th April 1977. So if we could just look  
24 at those, please.

25 When we were talking earlier, Sister, you said that

1 HIA41 had never given you any trouble in Nazareth Lodge.

2 Isn't that right?

3 **A. No, he hadn't, no.**

4 Q. He certainly -- I mean, there were -- at this stage he  
5 had been running away. Do you remember him running  
6 away?

7 **A. I have a vague recollection he did once, but other than  
8 that I can't say.**

9 Q. Certainly the records would show -- and I don't need to  
10 open them up to you, Sister -- certainly he and a group  
11 of boys, or at least one other boy, ended up in  
12 Warrenpoint and were out for some nights. Do you --  
13 I mean, he would say that when he came back from that,  
14 that's when he was beaten by you and the other two nuns.

15 **A. I certainly didn't beat him.**

16 Q. Here you will see that in March '77 SR156 is phoning to  
17 say that he had been mitching school.

18 "He was found in Bangor after having stolen some  
19 chewing gum along with two other boys from Nazareth. He  
20 was ashamed of that."

21 If we can just scroll on down through this document,  
22 please, it is said here, if we just stop there:

23 "Spoke to SR156 about this. She said that HIA41's  
24 housemother, SR30, had recently taken up a full-time  
25 teaching post and HIA41 rarely sees her now. He had

1 a very close relationship with her and misses her very  
2 much. He doesn't have a particularly good relationship  
3 with either her or SR46, who are now in charge of his  
4 group."

5 So the social workers are suggesting that both you  
6 and SR156 were in charge of HIA41's group and that's  
7 what SR156 was saying. Would that be correct, Sister?

8 **A. SR156 helped to do the homework and that.**

9 Q. She goes on to record that:

10 "She and SR46", that's SR156 and SR46, "had been  
11 discussing his going to Kircubbin and they feel that  
12 this may be an appropriate time."

13 If you can scroll on down. I think we actually have  
14 to go backwards to the preceding page, which will be --  
15 yes.

16 "The policy is to send boys when they are ready  
17 rather than splitting up the family, and as HIA41 is now  
18 anxious to go, they feel they should not go against his  
19 wishes and perhaps have to force him to go later when he  
20 is less willing. I agreed ..."

21 The social worker agreed to discuss that with her  
22 senior and find out about the availability of places in  
23 Kircubbin.

24 So there is a body of material here from the Social  
25 Services report, Sister, which -- HIA41's interpretation

1 of that is that as early as October 1976 steps were  
2 being taken to persuade him to go to Kircubbin, if you  
3 like, and to -- and that you -- in April of 1977 you and  
4 SR156 are saying it is an appropriate time for him to  
5 go. You are also saying -- there is an entry -- I think  
6 it is at 30658 it might be. Can we just scroll back up  
7 to that? There is an entry from 29th April 1977 in the  
8 Social Services reports. I might have got the wrong  
9 date, but -- yes. I think this is from that date. It  
10 says:

11 "Feel that the nuns are just not able to cope with  
12 HIA41 now and is certainly at an age when he needs  
13 a man's touch."

14 So there are entries like this in his Social  
15 Services' reports whereby he says that you were  
16 pressurising Social Services to take him away and take  
17 him to Kircubbin. Is that a fair assessment of what was  
18 happening at that time, Sister, or not?

19 **A. I didn't realise I had put pressure on social workers  
20 until I see the statement.**

21 Q. But your recollection is that he just wanted to go and  
22 that's why he went?

23 **A. It is my recollection. I may have got it wrong.  
24 I don't know.**

25 Q. Certainly your memory is of him not having presented you

1 with any problems and he would say he was actually  
2 behaving well in Nazareth Lodge at the time.

3 Your statement again at 2131, if we can look at that  
4 then, relates to police material, and this is -- sorry.  
5 If we can just look at one other statement, Sister. It  
6 is at 2131. That's the page I have got up, isn't it?  
7 Yes. Sorry. I beg your pardon, Sister. I am just  
8 confusing myself now. This relates to police material  
9 that we provided to you and these are records of  
10 investigations that were carried out, as you say, some  
11 time ago. They were carried out in the mid-'90s. There  
12 were a number of allegations made to you in that police  
13 material. You were interviewed about that. We have  
14 already looked at a section of your police interview,  
15 where you deal with a number of complaints.

16 Now I am going to look at the complaints that were  
17 made to the police, first of all, at that time. The  
18 first of these is by a girl called **NL 58** Her police  
19 statement can be found at 60185. I should say here in  
20 paragraph 2 of the statement that we have just gone you  
21 address this. Now you see in the box at the bottom  
22 there, if we can just scroll down, she complains in the  
23 first part of this statement about treatment that she  
24 received at the hands of Father Brendan Smyth and  
25 culminating in him groping her -- at her breasts and

1 telling her that she needed to get a bra. She said:

2 "I did report to a nun, SR46, what Father Smyth had  
3 said to me in the lift, but not what he had done.

4 I didn't tell her what he had done, as I didn't think  
5 she would believe me. She told me not to be silly. She  
6 just dismissed it. Soon after that all the eldest girls  
7 were gathered together from SR46's group and SR46 told  
8 us that if any of us were in Father Smyth's company, we  
9 were to stay in twos. We were not to be alone with him.  
10 I am aware that staff within SR46's group were  
11 instructed to keep an eye on him when in the flat."

12 Now, Sister, in your police statement you tell  
13 police that the first time you heard of this was  
14 whenever they put this to you.

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

16 Q. Again you say the same thing in your Inquiry statement  
17 that I had up there at paragraph 2.

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

19 Q. I asked you was there any way you may have -- she may  
20 have made a comment to you that you dismissed lightly as  
21 something -- but you have no recollection of her ever  
22 saying anything to you?

23 **A. No, I haven't, no, no.**

24 Q. Then if we can look at 60188 -- we can just probably  
25 scroll down to that page very quickly -- this is

1 a statement of another girl, **NL 88** Just scroll back  
2 up to the preceding page, please. She again is talking  
3 about Father Brendan Smyth and how he arranged to see  
4 her in the vestry after mass and what he did to her.  
5 She goes on to say on the next page, if we can scroll on  
6 down, please:

7 "I knew that this wasn't right and I told SR46 and  
8 another lay staff member, **NL 114** , that this was  
9 happening to me. I think they said something like,  
10 'Stay away from him'."

11 She goes on to say that -- give more details of the  
12 abuse that was recorded. She said:

13 "Any time he took me out a record would have been  
14 made of it on my personal file. This would have been  
15 done by SR46."

16 Then she goes on to make some other allegations  
17 there.

18 Now you spoke to police at interview at 60211  
19 onwards. If we could just look at that, please. Now if  
20 we can scroll down, what you told police is that you did  
21 remember **NL 88** coming to you:

22 "... and saying that she didn't like Father Smyth  
23 and that he'd rubbed against her breasts and I said,  
24 'Well, in future when you see him around, stay out of  
25 his way', and at the time that was all she had said to



1 me."

2 If you can scroll on down:

3 "She did say that to me, because I remember when  
4 I saw and heard on the radio about Father Smyth,  
5 I remember **NL 88** saying this to me. All she said was  
6 that he didn't like him. When he came, he rubbed  
7 against her breast and she didn't go into any more  
8 details. I don't know, but she may have said to the  
9 member of staff. At the time I said to her, 'Stay out  
10 of his way if you don't like meeting him', but I do  
11 remember I used to wonder why he wrote quite regularly  
12 to the family and sent them letters and money. I did  
13 wonder, being a religious priest with a vow of poverty.  
14 I wondered, but I probably was too innocent to realise  
15 what it entailed."

16 Police then asked you:

17 "Did you do anything about reporting it?"

18 You said you didn't at the time.

19 "I just kept extra observation to see if he was  
20 hanging around the place."

21 You were asked if you discussed it with anyone.

22 "A. No, I didn't.

23 Q. Any of your colleagues?

24 **A. No.**

25 Q. It must have surprised you",

1 the police said.

2 "A. It surprised me, but being one incident, and  
3 she didn't go into any more detail."

4 You were asked if you warned any of the other  
5 children off.

6 "A. No, I didn't.

7 Q. When you say you kept an eye on him yourself ...

8 A. Because she was always very friendly with him  
9 and she would talk to him and come in and always speak  
10 to the family and her brothers would have been around as  
11 well."

12 The police asked you whether you believed her.

13 "A. I wouldn't say -- I didn't doubt her, because  
14 I had no reason to doubt NL 88 because she was  
15 always quite honest."

16 The police asked you:

17 "Q. Did you then become suspicious of Father  
18 Smyth?"

19 and you say:

20 "Well, I wasn't always happy with him being around.  
21 He kind of -- you know, it's my way of saying that he  
22 kind of just made me -- kind of gave me the creeps, if  
23 I may just use that. Just -- it was just me."

24 You were asked:

25 "Was that because he was over-familiar with the

1 children?"

2 and you said:

3 "It's just something I can't explain. I can't  
4 explain, but I just -- I did wonder why he would come  
5 when the sisters would be at prayers or at supper time.  
6 He would you be hanging around, which was another query  
7 in my mind."

8 You were asked:

9 "Did you know how he came to be there and who was  
10 responsible for inviting him?"

11 You don't know. You thought that the family  
12 NL 88 was from seemed to know him and they used to  
13 talk about him, and he would have been coming -- so he  
14 wouldn't have been coming for a -- or he wasn't  
15 transferred there.

16 So" -- you can scroll on down -- "so really you  
17 agree with NL 88 , what she has said?

18 A. Yes."

19 You think that she said it to you one night when  
20 everybody was going to bed. She kind of hung back to  
21 talk to you. You have no recollection of anyone else  
22 being there when she spoke to you, but you would agree  
23 she may have spoken to the lay staff member, because she  
24 was quite close to that staff member.

25 Now, Sister, at paragraph 4 again you say that you

1 do remember NL 88 speaking to you. That was at  
2 SNB-2131. You say you do recall the incident where  
3 NL 88 complained about Brendan Smyth.

4 "Again my memory is now pretty much what I recalled  
5 in my police interview. I recall NL 88 complaining  
6 on one occasion that she didn't like Brendan Smyth and  
7 that he had rubbed against her breasts. She did not  
8 appear upset in any way and was actually just reporting  
9 it to me. I think I probably did just tell her to stay  
10 away from him if she didn't like him. I did not report  
11 this to anyone and in hindsight that was a mistake on my  
12 part. I did not report it, as NL 88 was not upset  
13 and I thought it was just a minor incident rather than  
14 the actions of a paedophile, as we now realise it was.  
15 The way it was reported did seem like an inadvertent  
16 contact, not as a deliberate act. We were so naive in  
17 those days and we did not have the knowledge and  
18 training that we have now. It is possible that my view  
19 was tainted by the fact that he wrote regularly to

20 NL 88 family -- the children in her family and had  
21 done so from before I took over the unit. I probably  
22 assumed there was some sort of family relationship with  
23 him. It may be that this influenced how I saw the  
24 events."

25 You do recall Brendan Smyth as a visitor to the

1 house.

2 "In my time I would say he visited between six  
3 and ten times in all. I do not recall him ever staying  
4 in our house. My memories of him are his coming along  
5 to mass. I would have seen him in the halls going to  
6 and from mass only. I only spoke to him a few times and  
7 did not really ever have a conversation with him."

8 Then you go on to deal with another matter.

9 Sister, there has been suggestion in another  
10 statement that we have received from SR156, and I will  
11 ask SR30 about this, but her recollection is that SR30  
12 had met Brendan Smyth either -- outside of the home and  
13 thought this was a good man to come and provide  
14 a retreat to the nuns. Do you remember him providing  
15 a retreat at all?

16 A. Not in my time.

17 Q. But certainly when he came to visit during your time, he  
18 was familiar with the home and he had been there before?

19 A. I just seen him coming to say mass. That's all I ever  
20 saw of him.

21 Q. You felt uncomfortable in his presence yourself?

22 A. I think the best way I can describe you meet people and  
23 sometimes you don't feel relaxed or comfortable with.  
24 That's how I felt.

25 Q. Thank you, Sister. Going back to the police

1 investigation in 1995 now, if I may, at 60192, this is  
2 a statement of a girl called NL 87 and she said  
3 that she can remember:

4 "If we misbehaved, the nuns would have hit me with  
5 a metal serving spoon or a wooden spoon. One of the  
6 nuns who did this was called SR46. SR62 would also have  
7 slapped people about a bit."

8 Then at the next statement, please, if we look at  
9 that, if we scroll down to the next page, this is  
10 a statement of NL 90 who says that:

11 "On occasions I was physically abused by SR46, who  
12 would slap with her hand, a wet towel or other items for  
13 no reason. I do not wish to make a complaint about  
14 this. I am only telling you so that you know about it."

15 Then at 195, 60195, this is NL 90 sister, who  
16 is recorded here as NL 91 but is known as NL 91  
17 She talks there -- she makes a number of complaints, but  
18 she says that -- if we can just scroll on down:

19 "On many occasions SR46 was also violent.  
20 I remember on one occasion me and another girl took her  
21 hat out of her room, because we thought she wouldn't  
22 come out without it. She was just so violent. We  
23 thought this would keep her in her room. She also  
24 slapped and battered me on many occasions."

25 You talked -- the police interviewed you about these

1           allegations, Sister, and at 60227 you say about

2           NL 91    -- you said, if we can just scroll on down --  
3           she describes you as being violent.  You slapped and  
4           battered her on many occasions.  You say:

5                 "Yes, I did slap her, but I wouldn't say I battered  
6           her."

7           You say:

8                 "It would be slaps on the bottom.  I know on one  
9           occasion I did slap her with my slipper one night  
10          through the bedclothes.  She was up and some of the  
11          others had been complaining they couldn't sleep.  So  
12          I gave her two or three slaps through the bedclothes  
13          with my slipper.  She was up pulling out drawers and  
14          that, but other than that the older children would be  
15          complaining they couldn't sleep, and that went on  
16          quite -- maybe a few nights.  There would be  
17          a complaint."

18          You were asked about the type of slipper.  You said  
19          it was like a canvas slipper.

20          If I move on now to                 NL 92                 .                 NL 92  
21          was a sister of NL 91    If we can just stop there for  
22          a moment, please, she made a statement at 60197 to  
23          60199.  Sorry.  60197.  This again is all part of the  
24          same investigation.  She said that:

25                 "She used -- SR46 used to punish me for minor

1 things. On occasions she would beat me with a wooden  
2 shoe, like a school sandal. She used to hit me on the  
3 heads, arms, legs and back. She did this for laughing,  
4 failing to walk in a straight line and not eating my  
5 food. SR46 used to keep our food on the table until it  
6 was eaten, even if it took days. I started to wet the  
7 bed and I was made to take a cold bath and they wouldn't  
8 give me any supper. Because of the beatings SR46 gave  
9 me, I had bruises on my legs, and one time I had  
10 a bruise over my right eye. On one occasion a member of  
11 Social Services came to the home and asked me and my  
12 sisters if we were happy there. At this time I had  
13 bruising on my legs and I don't understand how she  
14 failed to notice them. We also told her -- we told her  
15 that we were very unhappy and wanted to go home. We  
16 also told her that SR46 was beating us."

17 She goes on:

18 "We were beaten by Sister -- whenever the social  
19 worker left, we were beaten by SR46, who told us it was  
20 for the sins we'd committed that day, but I believe it  
21 was for telling the social worker what was happening to  
22 us within the home."

23 Then she talks about going home at the weekends:

24 "On one of these weekends when my mother was beating  
25 me" -- sorry -- "bathing me, she asked how I had got



1 a bruise on my back. I told my mother that SR46 had  
2 been hitting me with a wooden sandal. I remember that  
3 night a friend of my mother's coming to the house and  
4 looking at my back. As this person was looking at my  
5 back, she asked me how I had got the bruise and I told  
6 her. My mother told me she intended to phone SR46 to  
7 ask why I had been beaten."

8 She said:

9 "During the remainder of my -- our time within the  
10 home SR46 continued to beat us as before with the wooden  
11 sandal. Sometimes she would use a towel she would flick  
12 at us. She once locked NL 90 and I in a storeroom  
13 all night for laughing at her and on occasions she would  
14 make us sleep outside her bedroom on either side of the  
15 door with no blankets or pillows. All of the children  
16 had to sit and pray for two hours every day, and if you  
17 did anything they considered to be bad, you would spend  
18 more time praying. I saw no point in telling my mother  
19 that SR46 was still beating us, as I believed it would  
20 be even worse for us. Because of these beatings  
21 I always had bruises of one type or another, and SR46  
22 told us that if I was asked about them, I was to say  
23 I had fallen in Nazareth Lodge."

24 She goes on to make another allegation there. She  
25 says:

1           "The thing that really annoyed me was SR46 was so  
2 vicious throughout the week, but whenever my mother came  
3 at the week-end, she was so nice."

4           Now if we can go back to what the police put to you,  
5 Sister, about this, that's at 20... -- sorry. Just to  
6 be clear, Sister, there is a statement then from

7           NL 91 -- sorry -- NL 92 mother. If we can  
8 just scroll on down to the next page, we will find it  
9 there. Yes. This is the statement of her mother. If  
10 we can just scroll on down, she said:

11           "On a number of occasions whenever I left them back,  
12 I would leave with SR46" -- just scroll on down -- "a  
13 large bag containing sweets, fruit and comics. I wanted  
14 the children to eat lots of fruit, so it was mostly  
15 fruit."

16           Then she goes on to say here:

17           "One Friday night I was giving NL 92 a bath  
18 whenever I noticed a large reddish mark on her right  
19 side up towards her shoulder. It appeared to be a burn  
20 with the skin hanging off. I asked NL 92 what on  
21 earth it was and she told me SR46 beat her with a wooden  
22 shoe. I was quite alarmed and I left the house and went  
23 to my friend's house, who lived three doors from me.  
24 Her husband was a male nurse and I wanted to ask her  
25 advice on the injury. She came to my house and looked

1 at it. She asked NL 92 how she had got the injury  
2 and NL 92 told her. Later -- as a result of what  
3 NL 92 told her she told me it should be reported.  
4 Later on I telephoned the Social Services and a girl  
5 came out to the house. I believe she was the call-out  
6 girl. I cannot remember her name. I asked this girl to  
7 examine the injury to NL 92 back, which she did,  
8 and NL 92 told her what SR46 had done to her. She  
9 informed me that she would look into the matter for me.  
10 I was so upset I went to my friend's house and  
11 telephoned Nazareth Lodge asking to speak to SR46. When  
12 she came to the phone, I told her that I had been  
13 examining NL 92 back and discovered the injury.  
14 I told her that NL 92 had told me that she, SR46,  
15 had beaten her with a wooden spoon (sic). I asked SR46  
16 if what NL 92 had told me was true. SR46 told me  
17 it was true, that she had lost her temper and had indeed  
18 beaten NL 92 with a wooden shoe. I told her I was  
19 very unhappy about it, that it was quite a mark and  
20 asked her why she had to use a wooden shoe on a child.  
21 I don't remember what she said in reply, but she  
22 appeared to be very embarrassed about the whole thing,  
23 as if she'd been caught out. I informed her that this  
24 type of thing was unacceptable and that I had contacted  
25 Social Services regarding the matter."

1           Then, Sister, what happens is we have two documents  
2           from Social Services, and if we look at those now. They  
3           are 60249. You will see this is a report from a standby  
4           social worker,     **NL 195**     , on 9th November 1979 at  
5           approximately 6.00 pm. She goes on to say that:

6           "She was alleged --     **NL 92**     was alleged to have  
7           bruising on her arm."

8           Sorry.

9           "Mother alleging that nuns, naming SR46, was ill  
10          treating     **NL 92**     for four successive weeks.

11          **NL 92**     had bruises on her body. She could not  
12          believe the nuns would do such a thing.     **NL 92**     was  
13          alleged to have bruising on her arm.

14          Examining     **NL 92**     , I found a mark about an inch  
15          long by about a quarter of an inch on her shoulder,  
16          which certainly was not caused by the nun's fingers or  
17          hand, a very small, mild bruise just above the elbow.  
18          I questioned     **NL 92**     alone. She said the incident  
19          had happened on Tuesday.

20          Mother stated that she had rung SR46, who said that  
21          she may have pushed     **NL 92**

22          Mother also stated that she had seen SR46 trailing  
23          the children when she had been at the home.

24          I called the standby duty GP."

25          He agreed to examine     **NL 92**

1           "His findings were that the mark was not consistent  
2           with alleged bruising. He also said that his own  
3           children had more bruises. Talking to him outside, he  
4           said there was no evidence of earlier bruising.  
5           Previous bruising would have been more than two weeks  
6           past.

7           An investigation will need to be made into the  
8           alleged bruising to clarify the matter."

9           So that was the duty social worker's report of what  
10          she did about bringing the doctor out to look at

11          NL 92       on that night.

12          CHAIRMAN: Just scroll up to the top of that, please. Yes.

13          MS SMITH: Then if we look at -- if we scroll down to the  
14          next page, please, this is the extract from the social  
15          worker's notes. You will see here that on 9/11, which  
16          is the Friday:

17                 "I spoke with       NL 93       when she called to the  
18          office today. She is on her way to bring the children  
19          home for the week-end. She is looking forward to it  
20          very much."

21          Then on 12th November it records:

22                 "SR46 phoned me early this morning. Apparently when

23          NL 93       took the children home on Friday, she  
24          discovered a bruise on       NL 92       shoulder.

25          NL 92       told her mum that SR46 did it. This upset

1 Mrs -- NL 92 mother greatly and she contacted the  
2 duty social worker -- see NL 195 report. SR46  
3 told me that she did grab NL 92 earlier in the week  
4 to prevent her from stepping on pieces of broken  
5 crockery. SR46 was concerned about the incident and  
6 asked if I could visit her today to talk about it.  
7 I arranged to call later this morning.

8 Shortly after SR46's call NL 92 mother phoned  
9 me. She was upset about what had happened, saying that  
10 the children had never received rough treatment from  
11 herself. She was concerned about the fact that although  
12 the incident happened on Tuesday, the mark on the  
13 child's shoulder was still quite large by Friday.  
14 Apparently NL 92 said that SR46 has hit her before  
15 with a slipper. NL 92 mother cannot understand  
16 why this has happened since NL 92 has never posed  
17 any behavioural problems with her. I told her that  
18 I was going to see SR46 this morning, but from what  
19 I gathered SR46 was trying to prevent a nasty accident.

20 NL 92 mother said she felt no malice or anger  
21 towards the nun. She was just upset. I put it to her  
22 that it would probably not be in the children's best  
23 interests for them to be moved and any such action would  
24 be rather drastic. She agreed with this. In the end we  
25 arranged to speak again probably on Wednesday when she

1 returned from Belfast and I had the opportunity to speak  
2 to SR46."

3 If you scroll on down:

4 "When I called with SR46, we discussed the incident,  
5 which occurred last Tuesday. SR46 had to grab

6 NL 92 by the shoulder and pull her to the side to  
7 prevent her from cutting her feet on broken pieces of  
8 a mug which she had just dropped. NL 92 had not  
9 complained about an injury and it was to SR46's surprise  
10 when she learned about the mark from NL 92  
11 mother. One of the girls who works in the unit later  
12 mentioned that she noticed a graze on NL 92  
13 shoulder and thought that the child had fallen against  
14 something. I looked at the mark on NL 92 It is  
15 more of a scab than a bruise. It is possible that the  
16 child had rubbed at it and her clothes might have added  
17 to the friction.

18 I mentioned to SR46 NL 92 mother's concern  
19 about previous incidents and slapping -- of slapping and  
20 hitting with a slipper. She said that she finds

21 NL 92 more difficult than NL 90 to cope with at  
22 times. She can be rather stubborn. On one particular  
23 day she had been quite naughty and SR46 had to reprimand  
24 her several times. After she was in bed she continued  
25 to be disruptive and SR46 slapped her with a slipper.

1 She noted this incident in her daily report. However,  
2 she does feel now that it was wrong to have punished the  
3 child in that manner.

4 After this discussion I felt that no further action  
5 needed to be taken. SR46 acted on impulse to save

6 NL 92 from a nasty accident and cannot really be  
7 held to blame. I tactfully advised her that it would be  
8 best to refrain in the future from hitting the children  
9 with a slipper, shoe, etc. She agreed."

10 Now if we can just go back to what you told the  
11 police when they put -- now, Sister, it is true to say  
12 that these two documents you became aware of for the  
13 first time when I spoke to you today. The police don't  
14 appear to have had them when they interviewed you back  
15 in the mid-'90s, but what they did say to you and what  
16 you told them can be seen at 60230 and onwards. They  
17 asked you basically about what you would have worn  
18 shoe-wise. You said:

19 "Something -- usually a lace shoe. I used to wear"  
20 -- and I think that should be a "Scholl" rather than a  
21 "school -- "during -- when the children would be in  
22 school just to relax the feet."

23 You then go back into walking shoes. The police put  
24 to you that:

25 " NL 92 would say it was a wooden shoe, like



1 a Scholl sandal, that would have been used."

2 You said you had a leather strap sandal.

3 "Q. You wouldn't -- you would have had something  
4 similar?

5 **A. Probably, yes.**

6 Q. She is saying she was beat by that.

7 **A. No.**

8 Q. Is that no, it didn't happen or no, you've no  
9 recollection of it?

10 **A. No, I would not have hit her with a hard  
11 scandal.**

12 Q. And she said this would have happened for minor  
13 indiscretions such as laughing, failing to walk in a  
14 straight line or not eating up her food.

15 **A. Definitely not."**

16 **The police ask:**

17 **"Were they -- if they didn't eat, were they beaten?**

18 **A. No."**

19 **They ask you if you have any recollection of her  
20 having a problem with bedwetting. You remember her  
21 younger sister bedwetting, but not her.**

22 **Then there is a discussion here, Sister, about the  
23 fact that the police haven't got records -- you are  
24 saying that there would have been things recorded in the  
25 records. Now by this stage in the mid-'90s you were no**

1 longer in Northern Ireland. You had moved to  
2 a different home in [REDACTED]. You certainly had no  
3 access to the records, but you are saying to them there  
4 would have been -- you would have recorded things in  
5 those records, and if the police could access them, they  
6 would see that.

7 If we can just scroll on down. Go to maybe,  
8 please -- just there is discussion here and I don't  
9 think we need to open it all up. If we go to 60239,  
10 this was -- sorry. Maybe go up to the preceding page.  
11 Just scroll back up. Yes. Right on up. Sorry. I have  
12 gone too far forward. Yes. At 235 -- if we can go to  
13 60235, this is where you are telling the police about  
14 how NL 92 came to have an injury to her shoulder  
15 and you say there that -- just scroll on up, please:

16 "We had one incident with NL 92 which  
17 I'll always remember and regret was she was standing in  
18 the kitchenette one evening having soup. The cauldron  
19 she was eating out of before she went home for the  
20 week-end and I could see the soup going. So I just put  
21 my arms out, pulled her away. As a result she had her  
22 shoulder skinned and the mother rang that night and  
23 reported to the social worker ..."

24 So this wasn't to do with her feet or broken. This  
25 was to do with soup in a cauldron, Sister:

1 "Q. Yes.

2 A. ... who came in, and we explained what had  
3 happened, but I didn't realise I had skinned her  
4 shoulder until the mother rang, because she went home."

5 I suppose there is a difference here, Sister, in  
6 whether it happened earlier in the week or you are  
7 saying here to the police it just happened that night  
8 before she went home.

9 Then they say:

10 "We are actually going to come to that in a wee  
11 minute."

12 Then if we can scroll down, they are asking you  
13 about other beatings and there had been marks on

14 NL 92 . You say:

15 "That's not true at all."

16 You are asked:

17 "Did a social worker ever question you about a child  
18 alleging that they would have been beaten by you?"

19 A. No."

20 You say:

21 "The social worker would pick them up to take them  
22 home, so if there were any bruises or whatever, they  
23 would have seen them, and the doctor visited every  
24 week."

25 Scroll on down, please. They talk about how the

1 mother was washing the child and noticed a bruise and it  
2 was kind of -- you were then describing to the police  
3 where you thought this was. You say:

4 "I can still see, because when she came back, I made  
5 a point of checking for bed that night to see what I had  
6 done."

7 They say:

8 "You were contacted by NL 92 mother.

9 A. That's right.

10 Q. And questioned you about it.

11 A. At the time I didn't know, but then I realised  
12 that it probably did happen.

13 Q. Do you know what you said to her first of all?

14 A. I don't.

15 Q. You're saying this was the result of a thing in  
16 the kitchen where there was a hot soup and you pulled  
17 her away?

18 A. Yes, because I saw the soup going and I pulled  
19 her out of the way. As a result I must have caught the  
20 flesh with her clothes.

21 Q. When her mother rang you up, did you explain to  
22 her about the soup?

23 A. I did, yes, and we rang the social worker, but  
24 she was back on duty on Monday and she came in.

25 Q. When you specifically -- when you spoke to

1 NL 92 mother, you explained all that about it?

2 A. I told her I didn't know anything about it, but  
3 at the time I didn't know what she was talking about."

4 Then:

5 "Q. NL 92 would say that it was the result of  
6 the wooden sandal."

7 You say:

8 "Her mother actually rang a member of staff. I was  
9 off duty at the time and I said -- I rang the mother  
10 back and said she should have rung me or my Superior,  
11 and I did explain the bruise, that it was the soup.  
12 Well, I didn't know -- she said she was skinned and  
13 I said -- presume that is when I came back and when she  
14 came back, I looked at it and saw."

15 Then they put to you what NL 92 mother  
16 actually said, that you conceded when she spoke to you  
17 that it was true and you said you lost your temper:

18 "Do you recollect saying that to NL 92 mother  
19 --

20 A. No.

21 Q. -- on the telephone?

22 A. No.

23 Q. She said that you appeared embarrassed about  
24 it."

25 You say:

1           "Well, I was very hurt, because I always remember --  
2           no, I was very hurt. I've always remembered this  
3           incident of the skin off the shoulder and something has  
4           always bugged me."

5           You were asked then:

6           "This is -- is there a note of that in the records?"

7           **A. Well, it was reported to her social worker.**

8           Q. Yes. You've examined the records about  
9           different children?

10          **A. Well, somebody examined the records for me."**

11          You are in Scotland at that stage. Then there is  
12          that discussion about the records of the incident.

13          Then there is a discussion about:

14          "Who reported it to the social worker?"

15          Then they haven't got the records at that stage.  
16          That might help if they were -- they got those. If we  
17          can scroll on down, then they said -- you say:

18          "The social worker did come in and see me in the  
19          afternoon."

20          They say:

21          "We haven't got those records. We cannot confirm  
22          that, and if we had them, they may assist us, but  
23          I would say to you that        NL 92        mother was  
24          distressed and actually contacted a social worker and  
25          the emergency social worker was sent out."

1           You say:

2           "I think that's right."

3           Just scroll on down, please. You say that you rang  
4           their social worker, but you couldn't remember her name.  
5           Scroll on down. Then there's a discussion about when  
6           you phoned them on the Monday, they obviously knew  
7           already about it, because the family had contacted them  
8           on the Friday night. Can you scroll on down? Then  
9           there is discussion about the name of the social worker  
10          and so forth. Then they said they are trying to get the  
11          records and it may clarify the matter, but they didn't  
12          have them at that stage. So obviously what the social  
13          worker had recorded was not put to you, Sister, in the  
14          police interview.

15          Now is there anything, Sister -- those are the  
16          complaints that were made in those investigations by  
17          police in the mid-1990s. Apart from what you told the  
18          police in your interview and apart from what you have  
19          said in your Inquiry statements about those allegations  
20          is there anything further that you want to say about  
21          those matters to the Inquiry today?

22    A. Other than the incident of pulling    NL 92    out of the  
23    way from the hot soup, she had tender skin, because  
24    I think she -- as far as I remember she had had a very  
25    bad burn at one time. So when I pulled her, I obviously

1       **skinned her shoulder, but I certainly never beat her**  
2       **with a Scholl or beat her at any time.**

3   Q. That is certainly in relation to       **NL 92**       and about  
4       any of the other allegations that were made by the  
5       police, you are just relying on what you say, that you  
6       didn't beat the children in any way?

7   **A. That's right.**

8   Q. Now just -- we were talking about photographs, Sister.  
9       I am going to have a look at some of those. You took  
10      these photographs from an album of photographs that you  
11      maintained.

12            If we just look at the first one, SNB-2203, please,  
13      now you have written on this, Sister, and we have  
14      enlarged it as best we can, but it is hard to see, but  
15      you are actually shown with a child on your lap there  
16      just to the right-hand side of the photograph. Isn't  
17      that correct? No, to the far side there, the third  
18      Sister over. Just there is a child in a white top.

19   **A. Yes.**

20   Q. That's you there?

21   **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

22   Q. Then the Sister in the middle?

23   **A. Is SR30.**

24   Q. And then that's SR156 to the far side?

25   **A. On the left-hand side is SR156.**



1 Q. Can I just ask where was this photograph taken?

2 **A. In the sitting room upstairs, the large sitting room**  
3 **upstairs.**

4 Q. That would be your unit sitting room?

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

6 Q. You were saying earlier about how SR30 would have come  
7 back up for a concert.

8 **A. Yes. We had been doing some kind of a get-together and**  
9 **a concert and we invited Sister up for it.**

10 Q. That's one photograph, and you thought that might have  
11 been your first Christmas in the home maybe when we were  
12 talking earlier.

13 **A. It was just -- I think it was shortly after I went**  
14 **there.**

15 Q. Then there's another photograph at the next page, if we  
16 just scroll down, please, which shows a visit of a mayor  
17 to the home. You can see him there in the front with  
18 his chain of office. You believe it is Mayor Bell you  
19 think might have been his name.

20 **A. Yes, that's right.**

21 Q. There are two other nuns shown at the back there --  
22 three nuns shown at the back. There's you say SR52.

23 **A. The Superior at the time is the middle one.**

24 Q. That's SR63?

25 **A. SR63.**

1 Q. Then there's SR156 again, isn't it?

2 **A. SR156, yes.**

3 Q. That's to the Mother Superior's left-hand side and to  
4 her right-hand side is SR52.

5 **A. Yes. Uh-huh --**

6 Q. And then you name --

7 **A. -- and SR52.**

8 Q. Okay. You name various children there in that  
9 photograph.

10 **A. The one in the front group -- the two of the children at**  
11 **the very front just beside the mayor's knee are the two,**  
12 **the** NL 90, NL 91, NL 92

13 Q. Then there is some of the other children who's given  
14 statements. NL 88 , the girl NL 88 we were talking  
15 about --

16 **A. NL 88 in the school uniform.**

17 Q. -- is there also.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. Then there is another photograph which is --

20 CHAIRMAN: Hold on.

21 MS SMITH: Sorry. It's just on the same page, Chairman.

22 CHAIRMAN: I see you've noted it was:

23 "Day history was made. The first time the Lord  
24 Mayor of Belfast visited the Lodge."

25 Is that right?

1 **A. Sorry?**

2 Q. You have noted that it's -- this is your writing,  
3 Sister, is it, on the ...?

4 **A. Yes. It's atrocious.**

5 Q. Don't worry about that. You have noted:  
6 "Day history was made. First" --

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

8 Q. "First time the Mayor visited the Lodge."  
9 Is that right?

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

11 MS SMITH: I think we discussed this also, Sister, and it  
12 may be certainly in your memory that that was the first  
13 time any dignitary --

14 **A. Well, I heard others talking about it that had been**  
15 **there saying that was history. That's as far as**  
16 **I remember, yes.**

17 Q. We have some records from the foundation books that  
18 suggest certainly many years prior to that there would  
19 have been some --

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. -- other mayors who visited the home.

22 CHAIRMAN: That looks like Councillor Bell.

23 MS SMITH: Yes, indeed. In fact, Sister told me that it was  
24 Mayor Bell.

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

1 CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry. You were going to scroll down to  
2 another photograph.

3 MS SMITH: It's just the photograph below, Sister, you have  
4 marked this as "On holiday, Portrush". This would have  
5 been an example of whenever the practice of taking  
6 children to Ballyhornan changed --

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

8 Q. -- and you went off to a guest house.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. You would have just gone in your group unit. Isn't that  
11 correct?

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

13 Q. I am going to -- we can scroll through these. There are  
14 a number of photographs. This is just one -- an example  
15 of -- is this the living room in the unit, Sister?

16 **A. It was downstairs, because we closed the one on the top  
17 floor, because we had less children, and we amalgamated  
18 two units and that was downstairs.**

19 Q. So this would have been later on perhaps --

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

21 Q. -- in your time there, and there is a member of staff  
22 there that you identify, a lady called NL 98

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. Then there are some photograph on the next page that  
25 look like what are school photographs of children that



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

2 Q. -- who you say was formerly known as SR 29

3 SR 29

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

5 CHAIRMAN: Just a moment.

6 MS SMITH: I take it, Sister --

7 CHAIRMAN: Just while we are looking at that, Sister, I see  
8 the two nuns seem to be wearing what I would describe as  
9 a white habit as opposed to a dark --

10 **A. We wear white working. I just wore this when I was  
11 travelling. We normally wear white.**

12 Q. I see. Is that a completely white habit or a white  
13 over-garment?

14 **A. Complete white -- complete white habit.**

15 Q. Thank you.

16 MS SMITH: If we just scroll on down, there is a child  
17 making his confirmation, and then at 2213 this is  
18 a photograph of yourself, Sister --

19 **A. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. -- and this is described as "Christmas party at Shamrock  
21 Club", which you told me was in the Ardoyne area of  
22 Belfast.

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

24 Q. This is when children were taken out for Christmas  
25 parties.

1 **A. Yes. They would have been invited. One of many.**

2 Q. If we just go to the next page, we can see this is  
3 a photograph that's described as "One Christmas  
4 morning". This would have been the living room of your  
5 unit. Is that right?

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

7 Q. I know -- we will discuss -- you weren't able to  
8 recognise any of the children, but it is quite clear  
9 that the children have got some blow-up toys and some --  
10 what looks like a tricycle there on the front, a little  
11 boy on a tricycle and then the girls seem to have baby  
12 dolls. There is a television and Christmas tree in the  
13 background.

14 Then there is another photograph down below which is  
15 of another holiday on the north coast.

16 Then on the next page we can see a trip to Dublin  
17 Zoo. That was taken in Phoenix Park. That's yourself  
18 again, Sister, is it?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. And the gentleman in the photograph?

21 **A. He was one of the old boys and he was driving for us  
22 that day.**

23 Q. Was that -- was that a common practice? Did the old  
24 boys come and help out?

25 **A. Well, he always helped out with driving, because I don't**

1        **drive. So I let others drive, because I hadn't the**  
2        **eyesight to drive. So we always got somebody to drive.**

3    Q. Then t here is some more photographs that you received  
4        from a girl that you looked after on the next pages.  
5        Then someone's confirmation again.

6            Then there is another -- 2219, there is an example  
7        of a trip to Butlins, where you say that there are two  
8        children there who were dressed as Tom and Jerry for the  
9        fancy dress, which they won, and the rest of the  
10       children were other holidaymakers.

11    **A. Yes.**

12    Q. I think that's Tom and Jerry at the front being spoken  
13        to by the person with the microphone.

14            Then there is another photograph of the holiday at  
15        Butlins just down below that with yourself there, and  
16        then the other photographs are again of -- there is  
17        another page.

18            If we look at 2221, you describe -- 2221 is your  
19        last week with the children in Belfast. That was just  
20        taken before you left --

21    **A. Yes.**

22    Q. -- Nazareth Lodge. Now I pointed this out, Sister, and  
23        nothing maybe turns on it. They probably just came in  
24        from outside. The children are all wearing -- some of  
25        them are wearing short-sleeved items and you would have



1 left in November. So --

2 **A. No. I left -- I left the unit in August, but I didn't**  
3 **leave Belfast till November.**

4 Q. Okay. So this might have been taken in August, the last  
5 time you were looking after the children.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 CHAIRMAN: Scroll up again, please, and again. Just stop  
8 there. Yes. That young man seems to have had a rather  
9 colourful history. Yes. Thank you.

10 MS SMITH: Sister, thank you for the photographs, because it  
11 is helpful for us to get an idea of what Nazareth Lodge  
12 was like at the time from them.

13 Is there -- those are -- you will be glad I am sure  
14 to hear that's all the questions I have to ask you, but  
15 I wondered if there's anything else that you wanted to  
16 tell us about the time that you were in Nazareth Lodge  
17 that you think is of use to the Inquiry or anything more  
18 that you want to say.

19 **A. I can't remember really.**

20 Q. You rely on what you told the police about the  
21 allegations that were made to you --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- and the Inquiry statements that you have given us.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Now the Inquiry Panel may have some more questions for

1           you, but that is certainly all I am going to ask you  
2           today.

3   **A. Thank you.**

4                                   **Questions from THE PANEL**

5   CHAIRMAN: Sister, could I just ask you to think back to  
6           what you were telling us at the start of your evidence  
7           about where you had been and the work you had done  
8           before you arrived in Nazareth Lodge?

9   **A. Yes.**

10   Q. You have told us that you were qualified as an NNEB  
11       worker and that's for very young children, babies  
12       really. Isn't that right?

13   **A. Babies to up to 7 years, yes.**

14   Q. Was that all the work then that you did in Fahan, which  
15       we know was the babies --

16   **A. Well, in Fahan we had an adoption centre. So we had  
17       very young babies in Fahan --**

18   Q. Yes.

19   **A. -- and I was in Lancaster, where we had an actual NNEB  
20       training centre for a couple of months, and I worked in  
21       Birkenhead for a while, where we had 2 to 5-year-olds.**

22   Q. So all of your experience was with children --

23   **A. With younger children.**

24   Q. -- of that very young age group?

25   **A. That's right.**

1 Q. When you were asked to go to Belfast, you said that you  
2 had no guidance in child care.

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

4 Q. That's no training or any form of instruction about  
5 dealing with older children --

6 **A. No --**

7 Q. -- than those you had dealt with?

8 **A. -- but I knew there were staff there who were working  
9 before me. So they would help.**

10 Q. But you were really being asked to take on a different  
11 type of work and learn on the job. Is that right?

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

13 Q. You have described in that context that there were some  
14 children who wet the bed, and you remember calling one  
15 last thing at night and lifting the younger children.  
16 Was that something that you had been taught or just  
17 picked up?

18 **A. I just did it -- I picked it up myself, because it would  
19 save them being embarrassed just in the morning if  
20 they'd to get up in front of others with a wet bed. So  
21 I prevented that happening.**

22 Q. So, if I followed correctly, it wasn't the case that  
23 a more experienced Sister had said to you, "This is how  
24 you should deal with it". It's just something you  
25 worked out for yourself?

1 **A. I did it myself, yes.**

2 Q. Thank you very much.

3 MS DOHERTY: Thanks, Sister. Can I just follow on? Did you  
4 ever receive any supervision while you were working?  
5 Did anybody ever take time out to discuss your work with  
6 you and how you were getting on with it?

7 **A. No. We had regular inspections from headquarters.**  
8 **They'd ask you how things were going.**

9 Q. But not on a weekly basis?

10 **A. No.**

11 Q. Nobody sat down?

12 **A. No.**

13 Q. Were there any staff meetings? Did you come together as  
14 a staff group?

15 **A. Yes, we would have our staff meetings, and if something**  
16 **major came up, we would have them more often.**

17 Q. Okay, and at the staff meetings would you discuss the  
18 care of the children, how you were approaching it or --

19 **A. Any problems that had come up and if there was anything**  
20 **that you had been notified by social workers, you would**  
21 **inform them of the information.**

22 Q. Okay, and in relation to monthly visitors was there any  
23 independent monthly visitor that came into the home, can  
24 you remember?

25 **A. I can't, no.**

1 Q. You can't remember that, anybody coming in. Or  
2 inspections? Can you remember formal inspections?

3 **A. We had -- we had inspections all right, yes, because**  
4 **I remember one Inspector coming and telling me when he**  
5 **moved to Belfast, he couldn't get into a school, and his**  
6 **mother got him into a school in Nazareth Lodge, and he**  
7 **said he used to line up with all the other kids for**  
8 **everything.**

9 Q. In the inspection can you remember if the inspectors  
10 talked to you as workers or ...?

11 **A. They spoke to everyone. They spoke to the children as**  
12 **well.**

13 Q. Okay. Would the inspections be a one-day event or  
14 longer?

15 **A. I remember having one for -- one three-day inspection.**

16 Q. Three days' inspection. Again any recommendations  
17 coming out from that? Do you remember people -- any  
18 talk about the outcome of inspections or ...?

19 **A. They probably sent a report, but I can't remember.**

20 Q. Can't remember. Thanks very much, Sister.

21 CHAIRMAN: Well, Sister, you will be relieved to hear I am  
22 sure that we have no further questions to ask you.

23 **A. Thank you.**

24 Q. Thank you very much for coming to speak to us today.  
25 Most helpful.



1 I get any -- sorry. Please correct me if I get any of  
2 these details wrong, Sister, but in 1960.

3 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

4 MS SMITH: Took your final vows in 1965.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. You qualified as a teacher in 1966, and until 1973 --  
7 between qualification as a teacher and 1973 you worked  
8 in [REDACTED] in a home run by the congregation there  
9 --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- as a teacher. You then left [REDACTED] in 1973 and  
12 you came to Bishop Street in Derry, where you taught  
13 there for a year.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. When we were --

16 CHAIRMAN: Slowly, please. Yes.

17 MS SMITH: When we were speaking, I asked whether or not you  
18 had any role in child care in Bishop Street, and what  
19 you told me was that you had to help out in the  
20 evenings.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. You -- Sister -- SR 9 was principal at that time  
23 in Bishop Street?

24 **A. SR9, yes.**

25 Q. SR9. Sorry. It was SR59's group that you helped out

1 with?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. Now you were there just for the year and then in August  
4 1974 you moved to Nazareth Lodge in Belfast.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. You stayed there until 1980. Is that correct?

7 **A. Yes, in the Lodge.**

8 Q. In the Lodge. Now I was asking you whether or not you  
9 had any say in any of those assignments, Sister.

10 **A. Not really.**

11 Q. How did your move to Nazareth Lodge come about, for  
12 example?

13 **A. I was just told -- I think the Sister who was there,  
14 SR153, had to go to [REDACTED] or somewhere. So I was asked  
15 to go from Derry to the Lodge to take her place.**

16 Q. You took her place in charge of a group in the Lodge at  
17 that time?

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. But you were also teaching in the primary school?

20 **A. I was, yes.**

21 Q. Can you say when you arrived in Nazareth Lodge in 1974  
22 how many groups or units were there within the Lodge?

23 **A. At that time I think there were two -- groups  
24 altogether, there were about five, five groups.**

25 Q. You were saying two. Were you about to say on the floor



1           you were on there was two?

2   **A. The floor that I was on was just a couple of big**  
3       **dormitories. I can't remember whether it was two or**  
4       **three.**

5   Q. Those dormitories were during your time transformed into  
6       small bedroom units, weren't they?

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

8   Q. Can you recall when that happened, Sister, how long  
9       after you came to the Lodge or ...?

10 **A. It was shortly after I came. I think it could have been**  
11 **the following Christmas, around Christmas time or over**  
12 **Christmas. It would have taken a while, maybe six**  
13 **months.**

14 Q. Now when you took up your role in Nazareth Lodge, what  
15       guidance, if any, were you given by the congregation  
16       regarding the undertaking of child care duties?

17 **A. I hadn't any qualifications specifically in relation to**  
18 **child care except what I had learned during my teacher**  
19 **training.**

20 Q. Apart from yourself -- you were put in charge of what  
21       had been SR153's group. Is that right?

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

23 Q. Apart from yourself how many other people looked after  
24       that group of children?

25 **A. There were three lay people helping. I can't remember**

1           **if they were all together, but there were three, roughly**  
2           **three.**

3   Q.   They weren't all full-time.  Is that correct?

4   **A.  No.  One lady came in the morning and went home again**  
5           **and came back in the evening when the children came home**  
6           **from school, and one of them I think was full-time.**

7   Q.   Now we have heard that there were two girls from [REDACTED]  
8           [REDACTED] who came to the home at one point.  I think their  
9           names were NL 51  and  NL 50  .

10   **A.  That's right.**

11   Q.   If I have got -- if I have got this correct, those were  
12           two girls who were brought up by the Sisters of Nazareth  
13           in the home in [REDACTED] --

14   **A.  That's correct.**

15   Q.   -- and who, when they came to the end of their time in  
16           care, basically came on something of an extended holiday  
17           to visit you.  Is that right?

18   **A.  Yes, sort of work experience before they went on to**  
19           **further education, yes.**

20   Q.   You think they stayed there for about [REDACTED] ?

21   **A.  That's right.**

22   Q.   Apart from yourself and the lay staff that you've told  
23           us about and then these two girls who came in for  
24           a short period were there any other nuns who were  
25           looking after your group of children?

1 A. Not initially, but I think towards the end of my time  
2 there there was a SR156 came to help me in the evenings,  
3 help mostly with homework.

4 Q. Then we have heard that you, SR156 and SR46 were all  
5 looking after the group at one stage together. Is that  
6 correct?

7 A. No. SR46 and I never worked together in the group.  
8 SR46 replaced me.

9 Q. At what stage did she replace you? Do you remember?

10 A. Do you mean what year?

11 Q. Yes.

12 A. Probably -- it was probably at the end of 1976 or  
13 January '77.

14 Q. When she replaced you, we know that you stayed there  
15 until 1980. So where did you go at that point?

16 A. There were two older -- elderly Sisters who had to be  
17 looked after, and they were on the second floor, and  
18 I moved down there and I slept there and I looked after  
19 them in my time out of school.

20 Q. Sister, it is something that we will come on to, but one  
21 of the things I was asking you about was whether or not  
22 you recalled congregational visits to the home, and you  
23 said that -- I asked you were you spoken to as part of  
24 such visitations and you said that you actually asked if  
25 you could be relieved of one of the duties, either

1 teaching or child care, because you felt it was a little  
2 bit too much for you. Is that correct?

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

4 Q. It was as a result of that then that SR46 came to look  
5 after the children that you had been caring for and you  
6 moved down.

7 **A. Well, I'm not sure of that, but I presume it was.**

8 Q. That certainly was your belief --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- that that's how she came to take over?

11 **A. To take my place, yes.**

12 Q. You then just moved downstairs to look after these two  
13 elderly nuns?

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

15 Q. But you remained certainly living within the community  
16 until 1980?

17 **A. Until 1980, yes.**

18 Q. Now when you were in the home and when you were in your  
19 child care role, can you say whether the congregation  
20 had a policy on how children should be disciplined?

21 **A. If they had, I can't remember it myself. I don't  
22 remember sitting down and studying it at any time.**

23 Q. How would you have disciplined children, Sister?

24 **A. Well, normally it wouldn't have been -- you wouldn't --  
25 they were a good group of children. You wouldn't have**

1 had to do much disciplining, but should you need to, you  
2 put them to their room, or ask a child to go to their  
3 room, or on the odd occasion I might give them a smack  
4 or whatever, but apart from that, apart from that -- or  
5 you'd deprive them of something, maybe not going out  
6 to -- you know, going out.

7 Q. When you say you might have given them a smack, how  
8 might you have done that, Sister?

9 A. Just on the hand. Mostly on the hand.

10 Q. With your own hand?

11 A. Just with your hand, yes. Uh-huh. It wouldn't have  
12 happened every day. It wouldn't have happened even  
13 every week, but it would have happened on occasion.

14 Q. Can you even give us an example of what -- something  
15 that might have provoked that kind of behaviour?

16 A. Well, one of the children had a hamster and another  
17 child flushed it down the toilet. So I -- I did tell  
18 him and I said, "Now I am going punish you for that" and  
19 I slapped him.

20 Q. Well, one other thing that we have heard a lot about in  
21 the Inquiry is about children who wet the bed. Do you  
22 remember whether there was any policy about how to deal  
23 with such children?

24 A. We didn't make a big issue. I can't remember the  
25 policy, but I certainly didn't make a big issue of it.

1           **If children wet the bed, they took their sheets in the**  
2           **morning, put it into the laundry basket and that was it.**  
3           **Staff washed them and they got a bath and that was it.**

4    Q.    Just some general questions also about legislation and  
5           regulations which governed the conduct of children's  
6           homes.  Were you aware of such legislation or such  
7           regulations during your time involved in the child care  
8           end of the home?

9    A.    **Well, had they been presented to me, I can't remember**  
10           **reading it.  I just don't remember.**

11   Q.    Were you aware of the fact that the Voluntary Homes  
12           Regulations provided that corporal punishment could only  
13           take place in certain circumstances?

14   A.    **Again that was probably policy that I either -- I can't**  
15           **remember reading it.**

16   Q.    What about when you were -- the children that you looked  
17           after, we have heard certainly from SR46 this morning  
18           that those she cared for would all have had their own  
19           social worker at that stage, which would have been from  
20           1977 onwards.  What about in the three years that you  
21           looked after them prior to that?  Did each child have  
22           a social worker or were some private placements?

23   A.    **I can't remember every child having a social worker, but**  
24           **I know some had, and they would have visited on**  
25           **occasion, but I mightn't have met them, because I was in**

1 school all day, and it probably was somebody from the  
2 house who would have met them, either the Superior or  
3 some other Sister with another group.

4 Q. You were saying that you certainly have no recollection  
5 of attending any case conferences on behalf of any of  
6 the children that you cared for?

7 A. No, no.

8 Q. When we were discussing this earlier, you also said that  
9 you weren't aware of the backgrounds of the children  
10 that you cared for or weren't privy to that knowledge.

11 A. No. I didn't know now -- I didn't know then what I know  
12 about some of the children and, you know, I don't know  
13 if that would have made -- I don't think it would have  
14 made any difference to the way I looked after them, but  
15 if would have been nice -- it would have been nice to  
16 have known something about them.

17 Q. Can I ask, Sister, did you ever think of saying, you  
18 know, "Look, what is the background with this child,  
19 because I need to know a little bit more about him?"  
20 Could you have approached the Mother Superior, for  
21 example, to find out?

22 A. I suppose I could have and should have, but I suppose my  
23 life was so full. There were other things, and I know  
24 -- but, you see, there weren't any big issues that arose  
25 that I might need to. You know, the children that

1           **I looked after were good children.**

2    Q.   Just I was asking you earlier about the role of the  
3           Mother Superior and it would appear that she maybe took  
4           over your place in regards to any case conferences that  
5           there were with social workers, but what involvement did  
6           she have with the children?

7    A.   **Well, she would have met them on a daily basis, you  
8           know, and she would have spoken with them and she would  
9           have been friendly with them, but she left the running  
10          of the unit to me.**

11   Q.   I think certainly in your time there were two different  
12          Mother Superiors, and I think it might be fair to say  
13          that one might have been more amicable towards the  
14          children and the other maybe had a more managerial role.  
15          Would that be a fair comment?

16   A.   **Yes. I think one Superior was more involved with the  
17          children on that side and she loved nature and she loved  
18          the garden. The other Superior mostly stayed in her  
19          office a lot.**

20   Q.   One other document that we have heard about in the  
21          course of the Inquiry is a Home Office guidance document  
22          that was issued to all Northern Ireland voluntary homes  
23          and indeed non-voluntary homes in 1952, which included  
24          advices on a number of things, including bedwetting.  
25          Was that ever brought to your attention, Sister?



1 **A. Not that I can recall.**

2 Q. During your time -- I know you were a qualified teacher,  
3 but were you ever asked to attend any courses on child  
4 care, specific to child care?

5 **A. The only courses that I attended in my role as teacher**  
6 **was child abuse courses, how to diagnose or how to, you**  
7 **know --**

8 Q. To recognise the signs.

9 **A. Recognise is the word, yes, how to recognise child**  
10 **abuse.**

11 Q. When would that have taken place, Sister? At what point  
12 in your career?

13 **A. It would have taken place probably in the early '70s.**  
14 **I can't remember exactly when, but it was -- it did take**  
15 **place and known to them.**

16 Q. And that was as -- that was as a teacher you were --

17 **A. As a teacher, yes.**

18 Q. But was there any -- was there any such course or  
19 anything -- any other course that you might have gone on  
20 as a child carer?

21 **A. No. I can remember going on no course. I can't**  
22 **remember going on any course for child care.**

23 Q. Did you in your time have any knowledge of how Nazareth  
24 Lodge was funded?

25 **A. No. I never gave it much thought. I would have got the**

1 children's pocket money each week and gave it out to  
2 them and that was it.

3 Q. Who gave you the children's pocket money to give out to  
4 them?

5 A. The Superior.

6 Q. Have you any recollection of what that amounted to or  
7 how much it was?

8 A. I can't remember. I think it was sort of adequate  
9 compared to what children outside got, because I would  
10 know from school what children got. I can't remember at  
11 the time whether -- what it was.

12 Q. Well, I was asking you earlier also what -- during your  
13 time in the mid-'70s life in Belfast was particularly  
14 difficult. It was quite a trying time in the Troubles.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. I was wondering how that impacted on how you looked  
17 after the children.

18 A. Well, it did, because if you were aware of trouble in  
19 the vicinity, you would certainly not allow the children  
20 to go out, and that could have caused a bit of friction,  
21 because they might have wanted to go here, there or  
22 wherever, and if you knew there was trouble, you  
23 wouldn't let them go --

24 Q. And --

25 A. -- but -- yes.

1 Q. Sorry. You were also saying that you yourself  
2 instigated a rule whereby if you weren't present, no-one  
3 was allowed to leave or even come in.

4 A. Yes, because with the staff children used to  
5 sometimes -- sometimes they said, "Oh, Sister said we  
6 can go there or we can go there". So when I wasn't  
7 there, I sort of made the regulation that, "If I'm not  
8 here, you don't go anywhere. You wait until I get to  
9 come back", because otherwise they would play up the  
10 staff. Then I got -- I also made a stipulation that  
11 nobody would come into the group when I wasn't there.  
12 That was mainly to protect the children maybe from some  
13 of the children's visitors who might not have been in  
14 a fit state to come into the group. So --

15 Q. You said --

16 A. -- I had a partition put up at the top of the stairs  
17 just to -- not to allow anybody in when I wasn't there,  
18 any visitors.

19 Q. I know you said there were some difficulties with some  
20 of the children's parents, for example.

21 A. Yes, and if parents came to see children, they saw them  
22 in the parlour downstairs.

23 Q. Well, can you assist the Inquiry, Sister, as to what  
24 records were kept on each child?

25 A. Personally I don't remember keeping records on any of

1 the children. They only got their school reports and --  
2 you see, it was like a family home. You just didn't  
3 write down everything that happened. At least I didn't  
4 write down everything that happened. Maybe I should  
5 have, but I didn't.

6 Q. You don't remember a file being kept on each child, for  
7 example?

8 A. Not at that stage I don't unless their social worker --  
9 they would have kept files on them, but I wouldn't have  
10 kept files.

11 Q. Do you ever remember being asked to write a report for  
12 a social worker?

13 A. I can't.

14 Q. One of the things that we also talked about was did the  
15 children ever complain to you?

16 A. They complained all the time about everything, but apart  
17 from that -- they didn't make any big complaints, you  
18 know. They just -- there was no -- nobody complained to  
19 me on major issues.

20 Q. What, for example --

21 A. It might be school or it might be whatever, but not ...

22 Q. I think the example I gave to you is what might happen  
23 if a child said, "I'm not going to eat that. I don't  
24 like that food. I'm not eating it"?

25 A. "You can do it without it then, if you're not going to

1           **eat it."**

2    Q.   I think you said that if there'd been -- you didn't  
3           receive any serious complaints, but that if you had  
4           done --

5    **A.   Well, I did. I got a complaint once I remember about**  
6           **the secondary school. The children, some teacher said**  
7           **to them, "The home children can pick up the rubbish in**  
8           **the playground". So I marched up there and sorted that**  
9           **one out and there was never any issue anymore. They**  
10           **were never called "the home children" after that.**

11   Q.   That would have been St. Monica's. Is that right?

12   **A.   Or St. Augustine's, yes.**

13   Q.   I did ask you if there was any system in relation to  
14           complaints for children in the home. Not in your time?

15   **A.   No, not that I can remember.**

16   Q.   You also were -- you were there before the monitoring  
17           team was set up to deal with children's complaints.

18   **A.   Yes.**

19   Q.   Now, Sister, if I can turn to specific matters that you  
20           have addressed in your statements. The first of these  
21           is in relation to HIA397. Now we were discussing this  
22           earlier, because he makes an allegation at paragraph 17  
23           of his statement, which is at SNB -- his statement is at  
24           SNB-225. It is paragraph 17 of the statement, which is  
25           at 228. I will just read the paragraph out. I don't

1 think we need to put it up on the screen, but it says:

2 "On one occasion I was scratching my head and SR30  
3 told me it was bad manners. I spoke to another staff  
4 member, I think to ask her if it was bad manners, and  
5 she busted me with her hand right across the side of my  
6 face and she busted me so hard she burst my lip."

7 Now I know that you have dealt with this in your own  
8 statement to the Inquiry at 2184 and said this child was  
9 not in your group.

10 **A. No.**

11 Q. Certainly it is not entirely clear, but I think what he  
12 is suggesting is that you said something -- that it was  
13 bad manners to scratch your head. Might you have made  
14 such a comment to a child?

15 **A. I could have, you know, if somebody was going round  
16 scratching, "You know, it is bad manners now to be  
17 scratching your head like that". I could have. I don't  
18 remember the occasion, but I could have said it.**

19 Q. He is not suggesting that it was you who hit him,  
20 Sister, from my reading of that paragraph. What he's  
21 suggesting is that he then went and asked somebody else,  
22 who struck him as a result of him asking the question.  
23 You certainly didn't witness that?

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

25 Q. Now the other person who -- about whom I am going speak

1 to you is HIA41. That's HIA41.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. HIA41 has given us a statement and he has also given  
4 evidence to the Inquiry. I am not going to go through  
5 everything. I know you address what he says in your  
6 statement at 2161 and onwards, but if I can summarise  
7 some of the things with you. We were looking at this.

8 In paragraph 16 of his statement, which is at  
9 SNB-439, he describes physical and psychological abuse  
10 by you. He said that he was put to bed without food.

11 I know in your statement at paragraph 3 you say  
12 that:

13 "It is possible he might have been sent to bed."

14 You say:

15 "That was a punishment for children, but that  
16 doesn't mean that he would have missed meals or have  
17 been there for the rest of the day or night."

18 You say this in paragraph 3 there of your statement.

19 He goes on to say in the same paragraph I think that  
20 you slapped him on the face and from behind. He called  
21 you a bad tempered woman.

22 He also made that complaint to the police in  
23 September 2010. Again I am not going to call up his  
24 statement, but it can be found at SNB-61001.

25 You in paragraph 4 do not accept that you slapped

1 him from behind. You are not and would not describe  
2 yourself as being a bad tempered woman, nor have you  
3 ever been so described by others. You say here that he  
4 said in the course of conversation with you that you had  
5 hit him once, to which you replied that you had no  
6 recollection of doing so, but you apologised if it had  
7 happened. He said he was glad to hear that. You say  
8 that his version when you spoke to him -- and just to be  
9 clear, Sister, this was a discussion that you had with  
10 him in and around 2009 when you met with him --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- when he told you that you had hit him. At this stage  
13 what he said to you was that he and three or four other  
14 boys were messing around in the bathroom, and while you  
15 were chastising them, he burst out laughing and you  
16 slapped him across the face.

17 "He said that he was laughing at another boy and  
18 that I thought he was laughing at me."

19 You said:

20 "The same incident has been reported in other media  
21 with the narrative changing and taking on a more  
22 aggressive portrayal of the incident on each occasion",

23 but you have absolutely no recollection of ever  
24 having done so.

25 To be clear, Sister, he has given evidence to the



1 Inquiry about that incident. Let me just get the right  
2 page reference number here. That's at 90261. He goes  
3 on to give more details here. the dark -- the bold  
4 writing:

5 "In the context of that it was dinner time on  
6 a Saturday and the home had been renovated in our group,  
7 SR30's group. There were a couple or three bedrooms,  
8 three three-bedded rooms and some single rooms. She  
9 came up into the group, and I don't know what the issue  
10 was, but she sent everybody to their bed to stand beside  
11 their bed."

12 So it is possible that if they were messing about in  
13 the bathroom, that you sent them to their bedrooms.

14 "This was like 12.30, when we get our dinner on  
15 a Saturday. There were three beds. Mine was the first,  
16 DL55 and DL20. So we were standing at the bed. He was  
17 making faces at me and I laughed, but I didn't know she  
18 was standing there at the door. So she just came in  
19 behind me, which is ten times worse than getting a punch  
20 in the face from somebody in front of you, and she  
21 knocked me into the wardrobe. She then put me to bed  
22 and she left me there for the day. She put the rest of  
23 the children back to the canteen and gave them their  
24 dinner. That's exactly what happened."

25 I then put to him what you had said about that.

1       There was a misunderstanding about whether or not you  
2       were denying this incident had happened at all, but  
3       essentially what you had been saying and what I was  
4       explaining to HIA41 was that you have absolutely no  
5       recollection of this incident or of slapping him, but  
6       that if you did do it, that you were sorry you had done  
7       it, but you don't remember doing it. Isn't that right?

8       **A. That's what I said when you told me. The other point is**  
9       **that if I were -- he told me that I was reprimanding**  
10       **them for whatever they were doing, messing around.**  
11       **I would have been in front of them. So I don't know how**  
12       **I could have come from behind and hit him, but that's**  
13       **what he told me, and I did apologise if it should have**  
14       **happened. I don't remember it happening.**

15       **Q.** Well, he also says that you beat him for swapping altar  
16       duty on one occasion and that you cut his hair to  
17       humiliate him.

18                You say that didn't happen in paragraph 5 of your  
19       statement:

20                "It most certainly did not happen under any  
21       circumstances whatsoever."

22                If we can go just while we have this on the screen  
23       to 90262, which I think is probably the next -- sorry --  
24       90263:

25                "Q. You talk about being beaten for swapping altar

1 duty."

2 The questioner is myself, Sister. I said:

3 "Other Sisters have said that there were barbers who  
4 came to the home to cut hairs."

5 He said:

6 "No, never. I was walking down the back stairs to  
7 go out to play football after school and the first floor  
8 was the chapel floor. DL55 and DL31 were standing  
9 there. DL55 was a very intelligent fella, who  
10 deliberately failed his 11 Plus, so he wouldn't be split  
11 up with us. The priest was in the chapel talking to the  
12 nuns. So I didn't know what was going on. They were  
13 standing out at the stairs. DL55 convinced me to get  
14 the altar gear on and he would head on out to football.  
15 So when I went out on to -- the priest came out to get  
16 them. The priest was obviously talking to them about  
17 something, the nuns. This was about 3.30 or so in the  
18 day, 3.45. When I changed into the altar clothes with  
19 DL31, went on in and done the mass, I could see from her  
20 face, you know, and I knew what was coming. So that's  
21 exactly what happened. She pulled me up the stairs.  
22 She beat the crap out of me and she cut my hair in the  
23 bathroom, and I will take a lie detector test on  
24 anything that I have had to say here, you know, but she  
25 wouldn't stand here and deny it in front of me."

1 I put to him that the congregation accepted your  
2 account, Sister, rather than his. He said:

3 "They probably would, like, you know, because it's  
4 all going to the same place in the end."

5 So that's what he had to say about this incident.  
6 He was giving more details about how he said you came to  
7 cut his hair. Is there anything you would like to say  
8 about that, Sister?

9 A. Well, there are few small issues there. One is -- that  
10 I would like to mention. One is I don't know what we  
11 would be doing having church in the middle of the day.  
12 We never did. So I don't know what -- we wouldn't have  
13 mass at 3.30 in the afternoon. That's number one.

14 Number two, I don't know how I could have pulled him  
15 up four flights of stairs when I was a little more  
16 slender than I am now, but I can't imagine myself  
17 pulling him up four flights of stairs. He was a big  
18 boy.

19 I certainly would not have under any condition cut  
20 his hair as a punishment. There could have been  
21 an occasion when I might have -- I wouldn't dream of  
22 cutting anybody's hair, because I cannot cut hair.  
23 I mean, I wouldn't know how, but I might have cut  
24 a fringe now and again, you know, if there were long  
25 girls' fringes or even boys, but also I cannot remember

1       -- I could not imagine HIA41 sitting there and allowing  
2       me -- sitting or standing or whatever way it would be,  
3       allowing me to cut his hair if he didn't want it cut.  
4       That's all I have to say on that one.

5       Q. Well, paragraph 16 in his statement again he talked  
6       about the chores he was asked to do and talked about  
7       working on the front door and said he was there  
8       full-time after school. He describes in paragraphs 22  
9       and 25 of his statement the duties that he had at the  
10      front door.

11       You at paragraph 6 of your statement at 2161 say  
12      that:

13       "The description of the chores that HIA41 would have  
14      carried out is factually incorrect. The children did  
15      help out with -- out around the unit with duties such as  
16      helping with the dishes, tidying the tables, dusting,  
17      polishing and chores such as this, while janitorial  
18      duties around the outside of the house would have been  
19      carried out by adult staff. HIA41 did help with tasks  
20      such as answering the door or phone and handing out  
21      sandwiches through a hatch to poor people between 4.00  
22      and 6.00 pm, activities which were normally and which he  
23      appeared to enjoy."

24       He spoke to us in his evidence again about this at  
25      90266, where he -- I was reading out this extract from

1           your statement to him and I asked him were those the  
2           kind of things that he did do and he said:

3                 "Yes, empty the bins, clean the budgie cages, done  
4           things like that. Quite happy with that, you know."

5           Then when I said to him, he said that it was longer  
6           than 4.00 to 6.00 that he would have carried out these  
7           duties at the front door. He said:

8                 "No. Well, you see, the nuns would have been away  
9           having their meetings and prayers. They all left the  
10          group, say, from around 4 o'clock to 7 o'clock. So if  
11          anyone in this room came to Nazareth Lodge, he spoke to  
12          me first."

13          Sorry. I should say this is 90267 I am at now. It  
14          started on the preceding page, but at the top of 90267:

15                 "I designated you to a room and then went and got  
16          the person you came to see. So they then had their  
17          dinner and whatever up in their flat quarters. There  
18          was a black phone, which had a buzzer on it, which would  
19          have buzzed the quarters. If I didn't get an answer,  
20          I would have run up the stairs and rang the bell and  
21          waited till one of them came out. So it was that, and  
22          at 10 o'clock I put a chain and lock around the gates  
23          and left the key in a right-hand side small drawer,  
24          where the entry books of children going in and out of  
25          Nazareth Lodge was also kept."

1           Now, Sister, can I just ask: I mean, are these the  
2           kind of things that HIA41 did do at the front door?

3   **A. He did, but he didn't -- he did some of them, but he**  
4           **wasn't there full-time. There was another girl who**  
5           **helped with the front door as well, and he might have**  
6           **been there, say, from 4.00 to 6.00 to give out the**  
7           **sandwiches to the poor people, but he wouldn't have had**  
8           **to do -- you know, there was also a Sister who was in**  
9           **charge of the front and NL5 helped as well. So there**  
10           **were different adult people there. He might have helped**  
11           **out on occasion, but it wasn't -- he certainly wasn't at**  
12           **10.00 -- he wasn't there till 10 o'clock. We were all**  
13           **in bed by 10 o'clock, everybody. The whole house was in**  
14           **bed by 10 o'clock.**

15   **Q. So he wasn't expected to put the lock on the door at**  
16           **10 o'clock at night then?**

17   **A. He might have done it occasionally, but it wasn't every**  
18           **day or every way.**

19   **Q. Then, Sister, he -- in his statement again he said that**  
20           **he was asked to go out on a week-end out with a family,**  
21           **who took him to           He complained about what**  
22           **happened there. That's on pages 441 to 442 of his**  
23           **witness statement.**

24           In evidence he said that he was persuaded to go in  
25           the place of another boy just an hour before the family

1 arrived to take that other boy, because the other boy  
2 wouldn't go. Have you any recollection of that, Sister?

3 **A. I have. When he talked -- well, I mean, only from what**  
4 **he told me himself in 2009. I wasn't aware of it before**  
5 **that. It could have happened like. The other child**  
6 **mightn't have wanted to go, and from reading his reason**  
7 **why he didn't want to go back there now, I can see why,**  
8 **if that did happen, but at the time I wasn't aware of**  
9 **it.**

10 Q. You deal with this in paragraph 7 and 8 of your  
11 statement and you say:

12 "The children did go out at weekends to stay with  
13 families."

14 That's page 2161. I appreciate I am jumping  
15 backward and forward between documents here. At 2161 at  
16 paragraph 7 at the bottom of that page you say that:

17 "Children did go out at weekends to stay with  
18 families. These were families who wanted to assist by  
19 giving children a sense of a normal life.

20 Retrospectively we now know that some of these families  
21 mistreated the children, but the vast majority were  
22 loving, charitable people, who genuinely desired to help  
23 children in care."

24 You say:

25 "I accept that HIA41 did go out with families. He



1 told me in or about 2009 that on one occasion I asked  
2 him to go in place of another child to a couple", you  
3 have said, "who lived in ."

4 He was quite adamant that they actually lived in  
5 Belfast, but took him to :

6 "I cannot recall the names of this couple. While he  
7 was getting ready for bed he said that ..."

8 He goes on to say what happened to him. You say:

9 "For the avoidance of doubt HIA41 did not inform me  
10 of this until our meeting in late 2009. Had he done so  
11 at the time it happened, I would immediately have  
12 reported it to the appropriate authorities, both police  
13 and Social Services."

14 Now what he said to us in evidence, Sister, is that  
15 he came back to the home and he told you that he wasn't  
16 going to go out with that family ever again. From  
17 talking to you you would accept he may well have said  
18 something like that?

19 **A. He could have, but, I mean, I would have asked why and**  
20 **I think I would have got from him, you know, the reason**  
21 **why, but it didn't -- that didn't happen.**

22 **Q.** When he was giving evidence, when I asked him if he  
23 hadn't said why he wouldn't go again, he said that you  
24 weren't interested.

25 **A. Of course I was interested. I was interested in all the**

1 children and in everything that happened to them, good  
2 and bad, you know. I don't know why he didn't say.

3 Q. Well, paragraph 17 of his statement he talks about you  
4 again, and says that you and he got on well, but he  
5 describes you as having a vicious temper. He also in  
6 paragraphs 18 and 19 said more about looking after the  
7 front door.

8 Now paragraph 20 he says that there was -- that you  
9 had an intercom system installed, which he said meant  
10 that if your brother called you, you could be contacted  
11 as soon as possible. Now is that correct, Sister?

12 A. Well, I would be lucky if my brother called, because  
13 apart from that it was really to prevent the children  
14 having to climb four flights of stairs to give a message  
15 or to say, "You are wanted on the phone". It really had  
16 nothing to do with my brother, but ...

17 Q. But would accept that there was --

18 A. There was a little -- like a little -- yes, there was  
19 a small -- where he would call up and say, "So-and-so is  
20 wanted" or whatever.

21 Q. He describes it as a sort of a walkie-talkie system that  
22 was set up, a little grey box.

23 A. Could have been something like that, yes.

24 Q. I mean, I don't -- I know I have gone over exactly what  
25 he said with you in evidence, but for the benefit of the

1 Panel it can be found at 90296, where he was giving --  
2 because the congregation has said there wouldn't have  
3 been such an intercom system set up, but you accept that  
4 there was?

5 **A. It wasn't a proper intercom. It was more, you know,**  
6 **these things you can buy, a walkie-talkie thing that you**  
7 **can speak from one room to another, but it wasn't**  
8 **a proper intercom. It was just to save them coming up**  
9 **four flights of stairs.**

10 Q. I think he would accept that that is the reason for it,  
11 and also because it would be left in the living room in  
12 case you were nowhere near the living room, that one of  
13 the other children who were there could go and get you.  
14 You would accept that was -- that was correct.

15 **A. Uh-huh. Okay.**

16 Q. But you say that it wasn't -- the purpose of it was  
17 simply in ease of the children running up and down the  
18 stairs rather than because you really wanted to hear  
19 from your brother?

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. Paragraph 26 of his statement, Sister, he described  
22 being allowed out to school friends on Saturdays.

23 In paragraphs 8 and 9 here of your statement --  
24 sorry -- 9 and 10 you say that:

25 "Children would have gone to clubs and sports events

1 after school. The fact that I would have let HIA41 go  
2 to judo classes after school would be in keeping with  
3 the activities that the children would have attended.  
4 So I can accept that he may well have been a member of a  
5 judo club. I cannot remember the specific clubs which  
6 each child would have attended, but in general children  
7 took part in swimming, dancing, music classes, Scouts  
8 and other activities. They would also have gone  
9 shopping on Saturdays when they were older and would  
10 have enjoyed parties at Christmas time organised by  
11 benefactors and staff from various businesses."

12 He likened you to a character from "The Godfather"  
13 and you say that you have not seen "The Godfather":

14 "... but being likened to such a character doesn't  
15 sound too complimentary and is personally hurtful.

16 I loved the children for whom I cared and defended them  
17 against unjust blame or ridicule on every occasion."

18 I think you have given the example of going up to  
19 the secondary school.

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. "We had many happy times together and at night we sat  
22 around watching television or talking while I and some  
23 of the older girls took the smaller children on our lap.  
24 I tried to make the unit as homely as possible to the  
25 best of my ability."

1           You go on there to say that -- sorry. Just before  
2           coming on to that, he also said in paragraph 26 that you  
3           made a girl smoke a whole packet of cigarettes when you  
4           caught her smoking. He told us in evidence that that  
5           happened in Ballyhornan. Have you any recollection of  
6           that at all, Sister?

7   **A. You know, children always -- often smoked when they got**  
8   **the chance and whatever. I don't think I would have --**  
9   **I would be stopping her from smoking rather than making**  
10 **her smoke. I don't know. Probably. I don't know.**  
11 **I could have slapped her for that. I don't know now.**  
12 **I can't remember it.**

13 Q. He said they were smacked for talking at night.

14 **A. No, they were not slapped for talking at night.**

15 Q. I think you made a comment to me that you threatened  
16 them with --

17 **A. Yes. I would say, you know, "If I hear another sound in**  
18 **that room, there will be wigs on the green", and then**  
19 **there would be silence for a while, but, you know, that**  
20 **was children.**

21 Q. In paragraph 7 he described getting beatings from you  
22 for nothing, as he saw it. He said that even though  
23 they were for nothing, he felt bad that he had  
24 disappointed you in some way. He went on in that  
25 paragraph to talk about -- he said that you left and

1        what he described as two bad nuns arrived. Then he  
2        talks about being conned into going to De La Salle.

3                Now you say in paragraph 11 here, Sister, that you  
4        are disappointed that he recalls ever having beaten  
5        (sic), as this would not have happened. You say:

6                "Yes, children were disciplined in the home, but  
7        they would not have been beaten. I note with some  
8        sadness that he recalls that he was disciplined or  
9        punishment (sic) when he was innocent of any wrongdoing  
10       and this would not have happened under my watch."

11               Whenever I put that to him, that paragraph to him,  
12       he said in evidence at SNB-90302 that you were the only  
13       one that done it.

14    **A. Yes. I did ask the lay staff not to slap any child and,**  
15    **I mean, I wouldn't -- it wouldn't have happened every**  
16    **day. It wouldn't have happened every week. An odd slap**  
17    **now and again, yes, but apart from that, no, it**  
18    **wouldn't, and certainly not -- you see, there's**  
19    **batterings and beatings and clobbering and whatever,**  
20    **but, you know, a slap is a slap and that was it. It**  
21    **wouldn't have been anything vicious.**

22    **Q.** Well, in his evidence at 90304, Sister, he describes his  
23       relationship with you. What he has said is, if we can  
24       just go to that, 90304 -- I was coming back to your  
25       statement and I just said:

1           "Q. This is the nun who, despite what you say about  
2 her, you've a lot of time for her?",

3           and he said:

4           "Yes. I mean, this was the first sort of mother  
5 that I had and I had a very close relationship. There  
6 was no part of her day that I wasn't involved in, and  
7 anything that needed done I done it. I took another boy  
8 from primary school during the day and walked him to the  
9 clinic at the bottom, way down past Paisley's church.  
10 So I was given the responsibility to go to his class in  
11 primary school, because I could be trusted to do that,  
12 and take him to the clinic appointment and bring him  
13 back home. So you can check that out. Was there  
14 any" -- he gives another name -- "went to an ear clinic  
15 away down the bottom. So that was the way it was.  
16 There was no need -- there was no violence in the home  
17 amongst the boys. There was no sexual talk. There was  
18 no such thing as bullying. They were all family,  
19 brothers and sisters that lived in the group, and all of  
20 that was great, was pleasant and it was renovated to  
21 hotel standard.

22           Now I think she said somewhere that I got a single  
23 room, but I was in two three-bedded rooms first, which  
24 is where NL7 -- I would have dressed him and put his  
25 ..."

1           This was a child I think who had           Sister.

2   **A. Uh-huh. Yes.**

3   Q. So he helped to

4   **A. The           Uh-huh.**

5   Q. He said:

6           "Then I was in another room with DL20 and DL55,  
7           which -- I have a photograph here of us in the bedroom,  
8           which she gave me in 2009."

9           Do you remember giving him a photograph of himself  
10          and other boys?

11   **A. I do. When I met him in 2009 -- it was about the only**  
12    **one I had. When you are going from place to place,**  
13    **you can't be carrying all these things with you from**  
14    **year to year. So I had that one and I gave it to him,**  
15    **and that was typically him. It was a happy photograph,**  
16    **but I don't think it was -- I think he had his own**  
17    **bedroom at that stage, and that might have been taken in**  
18    **the other boys' rooms. I thought he had his own bedroom**  
19    **from the time the place was renovated.**

20   Q. He says then that he got a single room after that  
21          anyway.

22   **A. Yes.**

23   Q. "So no, I suppose I can only look at it that it was just  
24          too good to be true. There was that schizophrenic side  
25          to her and there was no let-up or no mercy when she



1       decided to punish. She flew into rages like  
2       schizophrenic. She didn't go about beating the kids or  
3       doing anything like that. She was quite -- as I say,  
4       she was a Julie Andrews character. She would have done  
5       wee plays in the sitting room with us. She would have  
6       played football with us.

7             Then one time I remember we were at the beach and we  
8       didn't want to play football with the girls. So we got  
9       out a big bag of Easter eggs -- she got out a big bag of  
10      Easter eggs and she said, 'Well ...' -- she got me and  
11      another boy to pick teams of girls and boys. So she was  
12      very, very clever and the winner got a bag of Easter  
13      eggs, but we didn't know that there was Easter eggs for  
14      everybody, you know. So there was that side to her.  
15      I would say 80% of her was fantastic, but I am not going  
16      to sit here and tell lies, because most of my abuse led  
17      to the deception that -- that she played a major role in  
18      in just dumping the children and going to ..."

19             the place where you carried out further studies.

20             "She did work in the school, in the primary school  
21      when she came, and she was mother over our group."

22             So essentially what he's describing here, Sister, is  
23      that he had a very close relationship with you and that  
24      for 80% of his involvement with you he was very happy  
25      with that, but that there was this other side to you, as

1 he is describing it, this 20%, where you were  
2 schizophrenic, to use his word. Is there anything you  
3 would like to say about that, Sister?

4 **A. Well, first of all, I have no recollection of that**  
5 **occasion, the chocolate, the Easter eggs. I have no**  
6 **recollection of that, but I think there's a bit in all**  
7 **of us that's a little bit maybe different when, you**  
8 **know, we are off colour or whatever, but I doubt it**  
9 **would be 20%, but anyway.**

10 **Q. He talked -- also talked about running away from the**  
11 **home and being beaten by you, by SR46 and by SR156 on**  
12 **one occasion when he was brought back. Is that correct,**  
13 **Sister? Did that happen?**

14 **A. That's definitely not correct. Now he reminded me of**  
15 **that again when I was speaking with him, and he said**  
16 **that he came back having had -- run away, and SR46 and**  
17 **SR156 brought me down to speak with him, but there was**  
18 **nothing -- no mention of beating or anything. I know**  
19 **for a fact that that didn't happen. As far as I'm**  
20 **concerned it didn't happen. Now whether it happened**  
21 **with the others I don't know, but it didn't happen when**  
22 **I was there.**

23 **Q. Do you remember coming to speak to him after he ran**  
24 **away?**

25 **A. No. He reminded me of it, yes.**

1 Q. But you don't have a memory of it yourself?

2 **A. I can't remember. I can't remember. I couldn't, no.**

3 **I can't remember whether it was what he told me or**

4 **whether what I remember myself.**

5 Q. Well, in response to SR46's statement he described you  
6 as the head honcho basically training up SR156 and SR46  
7 and introducing them to the other children, so all three  
8 of you were there looking after this group of children  
9 at the one time. Is that correct?

10 **A. That's not accurate, no. I was -- at no time was SR46**  
11 **there with me. She took my place and I was gone when**  
12 **she was there. SR156 sort of, you know, was there with**  
13 **me and with SR46.**

14 Q. Paragraph 30 of his statement he talks about contact  
15 with you and later wrote to you. He said that came  
16 about whenever he was trying to get -- sorry. In his  
17 evidence he said he was trying to get hold of his  
18 records, and you first made contact with him after he  
19 had been searching for these records and had spoken to  
20 someone in Nazareth Lodge Care Village. From talking to  
21 you, Sister, you would accept that maybe you did ring  
22 him up after you had been told that he was looking to  
23 get in contact with you. Is that right?

24 **A. I can't made -- I can't remember if I made the first**  
25 **move, but we got in touch. I think he said he would**

1       like to meet with me again or something when he had  
2       called and the Sisters got in touch with me when I came  
3       back from wherever I was. I can't remember, but we got  
4       in touch anyway.

5    Q. He said -- I put -- he wrote -- there's a lengthy  
6       handwritten letter that he wrote to you in 2009, which  
7       you gave to the Inquiry.

8    A. Yes.

9    Q. When I put that to him and asked him about it, he said  
10       that you were very Roman Catholic and that he was  
11       counteracting the religious instruction essentially that  
12       you had given him by saying that it wasn't in the bible  
13       and that that was the nature and content of this letter  
14       that he was writing to you. That was the context.

15       He also said that his wife knew you and SR149 from  
16       her Nazareth House days, and that you denied knowing his  
17       wife when you met her later. Is that correct?

18   A. I didn't deny knowing her. I just said, "I can't  
19       remember you,       ". She would have been working with  
20       the residents in Nazareth House and I moved to Nazareth  
21       House in 1980 and I was in school all day. So I would  
22       have very little contact. She probably would have known  
23       me easier than I would have known her, because she was  
24       a member of staff, but a lovely girl. I have no reason  
25       to deny knowing her at all.

1 Q. Well, he also explained that there was an e-mail that  
2 you also had a copy of and gave us -- to the Inquiry.  
3 He explained that he had sent that e-mail out of anger  
4 when he was drunk, because he was dissatisfied with how  
5 things had gone between you and him at the second  
6 meeting. I think this was when you went to his home.

7 **A. Yes. Yes. At that stage the issue changed from what**  
8 **had happened in Nazareth Lodge to his new life as**  
9 **a Christian, born again Christian, and I think he wanted**  
10 **me to -- you know, he wanted -- he had my best interests**  
11 **at heart I think, and he wanted me to be a born again**  
12 **Christian, but ironically, I mean, he gave me a bible,**  
13 **and right now I have a born again Christian working with**  
14 **me in the office, and every morning -- she is there**  
15 **three mornings a week -- and we open HIA41's bible every**  
16 **morning and say a prayer or psalm from it before we**  
17 **start work, the two of us. So I don't have anything**  
18 **against born again Christians.**

19 Q. Well, he -- you deal with this in paragraph 12 of your  
20 statement, Sister.

21 Paragraph 30 of his statement he said that you knew  
22 that Father Brendan Smyth was abusing him, and he also  
23 made mention of you flogging a boy for pulling down his  
24 pyjamas. Did you ever punish a boy for pulling down his  
25 pyjamas that you can remember?

1   **A. Probably. I don't know. Children jump around and they**  
2       **pull down their own pyjamas. I have never pulled down**  
3       **anybody's pyjamas.**

4   **Q. No, no, he wasn't suggesting you had. The child had**  
5       **pulled down his own pyjamas and you had punished him for**  
6       **doing so.**

7   **A. No. They were probably jumping round on the beds.**  
8       **I wouldn't have beaten him. I mean, I wouldn't have.**  
9       **I probably -- I could have slapped him. I don't know,**  
10      **but I certainly didn't beat anybody with anything.**

11   **Q. He also said that you, as did most nuns, at paragraph 63**  
12      **of his statement, knew that Father Brendan Smyth was**  
13      **abusing children in Nazareth Lodge. Did you know,**  
14      **Sister?**

15   **A. Well, I can emphatically deny that. That's definite.**  
16      **I never ever knew Father Smyth was doing anything from**  
17      **that.**

18   **Q. In fact, you talk about this in paragraph 13 of your**  
19      **statement at 213... -- sorry -- 2162. You say there, if**  
20      **we can scroll down to paragraph 13:**

21            **"I provided a statement to the police many years ago**  
22            **and I would be happy to supply a copy of the statement**  
23            **to the Inquiry, but unfortunately have not been able to**  
24            **procure a copy of the document despite my best efforts**  
25            **and I cannot recall signing the statement."**

1 I can tell you, Sister, that our investigations with  
2 the police have failed to deliver such a statement to  
3 the Inquiry also. We are still pursuing it, but the  
4 latest we have is that there isn't one, but --

5 **A. Well, two police came to interview me and to ask was**  
6 **I aware -- you know, because of my relationship with**  
7 **HIA41, had he ever said to me about Father Smyth, and**  
8 **I said "No" and -- but I didn't -- I was absolutely**  
9 **unaware of what he was up to -- what Father Smyth was up**  
10 **to.**

11 Q. You mentioned NL5 as someone who worked in the home.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. I was saying to you that she has given a statement to  
14 the Inquiry where she said that it was who you'd met  
15 Father Brendan Smyth when you were doing what she  
16 describes as vocation work and suggested that he might  
17 be a good priest to do a retreat in Nazareth Lodge. Is  
18 she correct in that, Sister?

19 **A. I think she might have -- I never did vocation work.**  
20 **I think she might have meant another Sister, SR71.**

21 Q. But you don't know for sure?

22 **A. I'm nearly sure it was SR71, because she did the**  
23 **vocation work --**

24 Q. And you believe --

25 **A. -- but it definitely wasn't me.**

1 Q. And you believe that SR71 might have met Father Brendan  
2 Smyth outside?

3 A. I can't -- she could have. I can't speak for her.  
4 I really can't.

5 Q. But when you arrived in Nazareth Lodge, was he already  
6 visiting the home?

7 A. I think he was. I think he was. I shook hands with him  
8 once, and then I remember him coming at other odd times,  
9 but I had no direct dealings with him, and I had sort of  
10 -- long before he ever came on the scene -- long before  
11 I knew about him I had said, you know, nobody was coming  
12 up to our group unless I was there myself, and that sort  
13 of protected me from a lot of people, including him.

14 Q. Well, finally in HIA41's statement he said at  
15 paragraph 62 he met you in 1982 after he had left Rubane  
16 when he was about 17. He thought that the person he met  
17 you with was SR149, but he accepted he might not -- it  
18 might not have been her, but that he met you in the  
19 Ormeau Road and you offered him a job in Nazareth House.  
20 Now in 1982 you were living in Nazareth House. Isn't  
21 that right?

22 A. I was. I had gone there in 1981.

23 Q. Do you remember meeting him at that stage in '82?

24 A. I don't remember meeting him, but I also wasn't in  
25 a position to offer anybody a job. So that's all I have





1

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

3 Q. Now, Sister, as I say, that's all I want to raise with  
4 you. There may be questions that the Inquiry Panel want  
5 to ask you when I hand you over to them, but is there  
6 anything else that you want to say either about the  
7 allegations that have been made about you personally or  
8 about your time in Nazareth Lodge? This is your  
9 opportunity to say that now.

10 **A. Good. Well, as he said in one of his statements there,**  
11 **HIA41, it was a happy group, and I thought it was**  
12 **a happy group, and I was happy there, and I regret if at**  
13 **this stage people are still hurting because of memories**  
14 **of there, and I did the best I could at the time.**  
15 **That's all I want to say, and thank you.**

16 Q. Thank you, Sister.

17 Questions from THE PANEL

18 CHAIRMAN: Sister, can I just ask you to go back to  
19 something you said about the -- about not allowing  
20 people to come into your dormitory if you weren't there  
21 --

22 **A. The group, yes.**

23 Q. -- and not allowing people to go out unless you were  
24 there, because children might play one member of staff  
25 off against another? You've also referred to HIA41

1 acting at the door from time to time.

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. He made reference -- I think it was him; possibly  
4 yourself -- to entry books. Was there any form of  
5 signing in or signing out if a child went, say, to  
6 a judo class or was allowed to go out to buy sweets or  
7 do anything that took them out of the grounds of  
8 Nazareth Lodge?

9 **A. Not if I knew they were going. They wouldn't have to  
10 sign anything, but if -- you see, when I wasn't there,  
11 I sort of made the stipulation that they wouldn't go.**

12 Q. But if somebody said to you, "I need to go down to the  
13 dentist" or "I want to go down to buy sweets"?

14 **A. They wouldn't have to sign anything.**

15 Q. Provided the security situation allowed it, were they  
16 allowed to go out freely?

17 **A. Oh, they were allowed to go out freely and come, yes.  
18 It was -- each individual group was autonomous. So they  
19 got permission from whoever was in charge of their group  
20 to go wherever. Like if I saw another child going down  
21 the avenue, I wouldn't question, "Where are you going?"  
22 because it is none of my business. He would have got or  
23 she would have got permission from the person in charge  
24 of their group.**

25 Q. I see.

1 A. It wasn't like a Fort Knox situation, you know. It  
2 was -- they came freely and went freely.

3 Q. Thank you. A quite different question. You referred to  
4 an episode once when you were in school in Belfast where  
5 one of the children made it known to you that a teacher  
6 in the school had made a comment about the home children  
7 picking up the rubbish. You have told us that you went  
8 down and I think what you are implying is you sorted it  
9 out and that expression was not used again. Was it  
10 an expression which you had heard before?

11 A. Yes. You would have heard people talk about "the home  
12 children", "the children from the home" or whatever.  
13 Now they didn't stand out, you know, in the sense that  
14 they had all the same uniforms or clothes or anything  
15 like that. We tried to make everything as normal as  
16 possible for them, and even when -- like for the girls  
17 especially, when they were doing home economics, you  
18 made sure they had every single thing they needed so  
19 that they weren't standing out, you know, as children  
20 from the home. Same with their uniforms. They were  
21 always the best, best kept, but you didn't --  
22 I didn't -- I was very protective of the children in the  
23 group.

24 Q. That expression clearly in some people's minds would  
25 carry a derogatory implication. Isn't that right? Some

1 people would see it that way.

2 **A. As the home children?**

3 Q. Yes.

4 **A. Yes, they would, they would and they would -- and**  
5 **I don't blame them for resenting it --**

6 Q. Did you ever hear --

7 **A. -- because -- sorry.**

8 Q. Did you ever hear that expression being used about  
9 children when you were in Bishop Street?

10 **A. I was in Bishop Street. I lived in the house and**  
11 **I taught in the house and I was there in the evening.**  
12 **So I wouldn't have come across it.**

13 Q. Yes. Thank you very much.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, Sister. Can I just ask --  
16 I understand from you that each unit operated as its,  
17 you know, own unit and you were in charge of it, but  
18 were you conscious of any other staff being overly  
19 physical with the children?

20 **A. When I was there, when I was present, I didn't --**  
21 **I didn't witness anything. Oh, they would have**  
22 **corrected them and put them to their rooms or whatever**  
23 **and maybe raised their voices or whatever, but not**  
24 **physically hitting them, no, because that wasn't**  
25 **allowed.**

1 Q. And you weren't conscious of any children being  
2 chastised for bedwetting in any of the other --

3 **A. Definitely not.**

4 Q. Okay. Can I ask, Sister, about inspections? Do you  
5 remember inspections from the Department when you were  
6 there?

7 **A. I can't remember inspections from the Department in the  
8 home, in the Nazareth Lodge, but I can remember them in  
9 school, but, you see, I wasn't there all day. So  
10 whether they came and went round with a member from  
11 another group or from the Superior, but nothing came to  
12 my attention that needed to be rectified.**

13 Q. Right, and in relation to the staff working as a group  
14 together, were there staff meetings? Were there  
15 discussions about the care of the children?

16 **A. There would have been staff meetings among the four of  
17 us, but not the other groups, and they wouldn't have  
18 been minuted or anything like that. They would have  
19 been -- we would maybe at the beginning of a week look  
20 through the week, what was coming up, or if some  
21 incident arose, we would discuss that and see how best  
22 to handle it, but there wouldn't have been set meetings,  
23 you know.**

24 Q. As the Sister in charge of the unit you weren't involved  
25 in reviews -- was that right -- that you know?

1    **A. No, I wasn't.**

2    Q. Okay. Thanks very much, Sister.

3    **A. Yes. Okay.**

4    MR LANE: The -- you said how each unit was more or less  
5           autonomous.

6    **A. Yes.**

7    Q. Did this lead to very different ways of working then?

8    **A. I doubt if it did, because we would be -- it would be**  
9           **the same circumstances that governed all the groups, but**  
10          **at the same time each individual person might have**  
11          **a different approach in her group as to how much freedom**  
12          **she gave the children or didn't give the children as the**  
13          **case might be.**

14   Q. Were you ever aware of any tension between the groups,  
15       like one of them standing out because less freedom was  
16       given?

17   **A. No. I wouldn't take it very kindly if somebody**  
18          **corrected one of the children from my group when they**  
19          **were in the other group. Nor would I have corrected**  
20          **a child from another group. So no.**

21   Q. While you were there over the years that you were there  
22       did the nature of the children or the problems that they  
23       had change at all?

24   **A. I suppose -- well, from listening to other evidence from**  
25          **previous years they changed a lot. There was a lot more**





1 Well, usual time tomorrow, ladies and gentlemen.

2 (4.02 pm)

3 (Hearing adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning)

4 --ooOoo--

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I N D E X

WITNESS HIA439 (called) .....2  
    Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY .....2  
    Questions from THE PANEL .....26  
  
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