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HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at

Banbridge Court House

Banbridge

on Thursday, 12th February 2015

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 95)

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

1 Thursday, 12th February 2015

2 (10.00 am)

3 WITNESS HIA197 (called)

4 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Before we
5 start may I just remind everyone, as usual, that mobile
6 phones must be either turned off or placed on
7 "Silent"/"Vibrate" and that no photography or indeed
8 recording is allowed anywhere in the chamber or the
9 building.

10 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and
11 gentlemen. The first witness this morning is HIA197.
12 She is "HIA197". HIA197 wishes to affirm and she wishes
13 to take advantage of the anonymity afforded her to the
14 Inquiry (sic).

15 Now I should say that we have changed the running
16 order of the witnesses this morning and Mr O'Hare is
17 here for the witness who was due to start first and he
18 will announce his appearance after this witness.

19 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

20 MS SMITH: HIA197, just before -- the Chairman is now going
21 to ask you to affirm.

22 WITNESS HIA197 (affirmed)

23 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, HIA197. Please sit down.

24 **A. Thank you.**

25

1 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

2 MS SMITH: HIA197, just before we come to talk about your
3 evidence, I'm just going to tell the Panel Members where
4 certain documents are in the bundle.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. HIA197's statement can be found at SNB-691 to 699.

7 The congregation's response is at SNB-2047 to 2049,
8 and the Health & Social Care Board response is at 6155
9 to 6156, indicating they have no records in respect of
10 HIA197 and that they believe she was privately placed in
11 Nazareth House.

12 HIA197, you will see here on the screen --

13 **A. Can I just ask you that? Sorry. When you said I was**
14 **privately placed, what does that mean?**

15 Q. HIA197, the Health & Social Care Board are the body
16 which represents what would have been the welfare
17 authorities --

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. -- and some welfare authorities put children into
20 institutions --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- and they have records, social work records, in
23 respect of them --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- but because there are no records in respect of you,

1 they believe that you would have been placed privately
2 either by your mother --

3 **A. Okay. Right.**

4 Q. -- or by somebody.

5 **A. Okay.**

6 Q. That's really what that means. I should have explained
7 that to you earlier.

8 **A. Okay.**

9 Q. I apologise. Your personal -- this is your -- first of
10 all, HIA197, you can see that it says "The witness
11 statement" --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- "of HIA197" here instead of your name.

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. If we can just go to the last page of your witness
16 statement -- that's at 699 -- and you'll see, HIA197,
17 there there's a large block in place of your name --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- if we could just scroll down.

20 **A. "Statement of truth"?**

21 Q. Yes.

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. Can I just ask you to confirm you signed this witness
24 statement on 9th July 2014?

25 **A. Yes, I did.**

1 Q. Is this the statement of evidence that you want the
2 Inquiry to take into account --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- together with anything else you say this morning?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. Now if we go back to the first page of your statement at
7 691, your personal details are set out there in
8 paragraph 1.

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. This is what we mean by a private placement. You were
11 put in by your family into the home.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. You were in Nazareth House from 1949 to 1967.

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. You were there for your entire childhood until you were
16 18 years of age.

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. You think that your earliest memory was of being in
19 a children's nursery and rocking on a chair.

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. You have a memory of falling backwards and hitting your
22 head on a radiator and you think you might have been
23 about 4 or 5 at that stage.

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. That's the only thing you can remember about that time.

1 **A. The nursery.**

2 Q. You do remember then you moved from the nursery into the
3 house proper. You were in -- I am going to use names.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. You will see we have given designations for the nuns --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- just like we gave you a designation. I am going to
8 use the names, but no-one is allowed to use the names
9 outside this room.

10 **A. Okay.**

11 Q. You were put into SR134's group.

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. There were no other staff members, just her in charge of
14 the group.

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. You say:

17 "Life in her group wasn't good" --

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. -- "but she wasn't the only nun who made life hard."

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. You describe her as a bit of a bully --

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. -- but you say she could also be fair at times.

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. You name another nun there, SR31, who is SR31 -- and

1 again I am using names which shouldn't be used outside

2 --

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. -- and SR116.

5 "However, they were very hard."

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. You say:

8 "They tended to have their favourite girls and there
9 always seemed -- they always seemed to favour the girls
10 who had families outside of the home."

11 So although you had nobody coming to visit you, you
12 were aware that other girls had families?

13 **A. Yes, yes.**

14 Q. It seemed to you that those girls who didn't have any
15 family always got it hardest from the nuns, probably
16 because they had no-one to turn to.

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 CHAIRMAN: HIA197, can I ask you, so it is clear later on
19 when somebody reads this, to say either "Yes" or "No",
20 if you wouldn't mind --

21 **A. Oh, sorry. Say "Yes" or "No".**

22 Q. -- otherwise it might appear to be a bit neutral.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. Thank you.

25 MS SMITH: You say that you were also punished more often

1 than the children who had family to come in to see them.

2 "They were very harsh on us and slapped and picked
3 on us for very minor things. They were always crushing
4 us. I believe the nuns knew they had to be more careful
5 and they couldn't be as hard on the girls with families
6 in case they were caught out."

7 That's certainly how you believed you were treated
8 in preference --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- sorry -- in comparison to these other girls in the
11 home?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. You go on to say in paragraph 4 here that SR134 had
14 a cell in your dormitory.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. She would get you up in the morning. You had to tell
17 her if you wet the bed, and you say that bedwetters were
18 degraded by her in front of everyone else.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. You were told that you were dirty.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. You had to pull your dirty sheets off the bed and take
23 them to be washed. You remember one occasion when you
24 wet the bed and SR134 rubbed your nose in the sheets.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. "We were then sent down to the bathroom where we bathed
2 in cold water. There was Jeyes fluid in the bath water.
3 You would be degraded again in the bathroom. I believe
4 we were wetting the bed because we were a bundle of
5 nerves. We were being constantly humiliated. At one
6 stage we got rubber sheets and there was an alarm
7 attached. If we wet the bed, an alarm would sound to
8 wake us up and the nun would come out and make us go to
9 the toilet."

10 You say:

11 "It was an awful way to treat a child."

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. HIA197, you will know from our discussion a short time
14 ago --

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- that the congregation have provided a statement in
17 response to the allegations you make.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. While they accept that children who wet the bed were not
20 dealt with appropriately --

21 **A. Uh-huh.**

22 Q. -- they don't accept that your nose would have been
23 rubbed in a sheet.

24 **A. I would have to say my nose was rubbed, and I remember
25 it clearly and distinctly being rubbed into the sheet**

1 **and smelling the urine. I was told to smell the urine**
2 **and walloped till I went down to the bathroom and put**
3 **into a bath of cold water with Jeyes fluid.**

4 Q. Thank you, HIA197. Paragraph 5 here you go on to
5 discuss the clothing that you all wore, the same linen
6 dress, which was like a uniform.

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. "We had to go to church early in the morning before we
9 went to school."

10 You say:

11 "SR134 had long fingernails and she would pinch you
12 on the arm really hard if you weren't paying attention."

13 The other two nuns whom you name, SR116 and SR31:

14 "... would nip us as well. Sometimes we got a knock
15 to the head instead or a nip at the back of the head. I
16 didn't" --

17 **A. Sorry. It wasn't a nip at the back of the neck. It was**
18 **with the hands taking you up by the back of the neck and**
19 **lifting -- literally lifting you out of the pew that you**
20 **were kneeling on. That's what I remember happened to me**
21 **--**

22 Q. You think this was at the nape of the neck.

23 **A. -- and the pain at the nape, the nape, the hairline.**

24 Q. And --

25 CHAIRMAN: Does that mean, HIA197, that the person grasped

1 the skin, as it were, not the hair?

2 **A. Well, the finger going up to the back of your neck like**
3 **that and grabbing you up. (Gesturing.)**

4 CHAIRMAN: Yes. I think you would normally say lifting you
5 by the --

6 **A. I remember that dis... -- pardon?**

7 CHAIRMAN: -- lifting you by the nape of the neck really?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

10 MS SMITH: You go on to say you didn't really understand
11 about church. It was just a drill that you were going
12 through.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. Paragraph 6 you say:

15 "There wasn't an education at all. The school was
16 non-existent in terms of teaching. All I can remember
17 about the school is the religious aspect of the
18 teaching. It was an education of religious -- religion
19 and fear."

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. The three nuns that you have named, not only were they
22 caring for you in the home, but they were also teachers
23 in the school.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. You say --

1 **A.** Well -- excuse me -- we didn't know them as teachers.
2 We just knew them as nuns. They didn't tell us that
3 they were teaching us. We were just there in the class.
4 We wouldn't have had the understanding of what they were
5 teaching us.

6 Q. They were just the same people --

7 **A.** **Yes.**

8 Q. -- who you were with you all day?

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

10 Q. You say that there was a kind of hierarchy. SR31 had
11 the top group with the cleverest children, SR116 had the
12 second group and you were in SR134's group. You say you
13 were not stupid, but you were brainwashed into thinking
14 you were stupid.

15 **A.** **Yes.**

16 Q. You say:

17 "A child in SR134's group was presumed to be
18 a dunce" --

19 **A.** **Yes.**

20 Q. -- "and it was put across that we just couldn't be
21 taught."

22 **A.** **Yes.**

23 Q. "The children who weren't good at school lived in fear."

24 I am going to read the rest of the paragraph in
25 a moment, HIA197, but I was asking you where in the home

1 was the school?

2 **A. The school was, as I was trying to explain to you -- I'm**
3 **trying to figure the layout in my mind. The school --**
4 **the assembly hall was on the ground floor. Then up**
5 **there was the dormitory, and the school -- where the**
6 **church -- where I said the church was, the school would**
7 **have been under that level.**

8 Q. So the school was on the ground floor. The church was
9 on the second floor level.

10 **A. No. The convent was shaped like that, an L-shape.**
11 **(Gesturing.) So this particular shape would have been**
12 **the dining room area.**

13 Q. Sorry. Sorry, HIA179. Can you just move the microphone
14 --

15 **A. Sorry. Sorry.**

16 Q. -- because we have to ...

17 **A. This particular L-shaped area would have -- the lower**
18 **level had the dining room area, the kitchen area. Then**
19 **above there were the classrooms and then above the**
20 **classrooms was where the church was. This is my**
21 **recollection of how I remember the convent and I've got**
22 **quite a good memory.**

23 Q. Did you have to actually go outside from where the
24 dormitories were to get to the school or could you just
25 go in -- travel through inside the school -- or inside

1 the home?

2 **A. What do you mean? You mean --**

3 Q. Did you go --

4 **A. Oh, no, no. It was in the convent itself. It wasn't --**

5 **there was no sort of going out. There is all within the**

6 **--**

7 Q. The same building?

8 **A. -- the same building, yes.**

9 Q. You say here:

10 "We would be called a dunce" --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- "and put in the corner in front of the whole class

13 with a dunce's hat on."

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. "I remember being pulled up in front of the class

16 feeling so bad and being made to feel as if I was the

17 most stupid person while the other children would be

18 laughing."

19 **A. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. You go on to say that:

21 "We were punished a lot in school."

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. "The nuns would hit us with rulers and pull us by the

24 hair."

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. "They would make us squeeze our knuckles into a fist and
2 then they would hit us on our knuckles with the side of
3 the ruler."

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. You recall all of those three nuns whom you have named
6 before --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- doing that to you at one stage or another.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. Now the congregation have said a couple of things, and
11 I should have said that they also said that you didn't
12 have to go to mass every day, that you would have been
13 encouraged to go to daily mass during Lent, but mass
14 wasn't a daily event.

15 **A. I didn't actually say we went to mass every day.**

16 **I think I was referring that we went to mass on a rota**
17 **basis, but I know we would go to Benediction and Rosary**
18 **in the afternoon maybe about 4 o'clock before our**
19 **supper. I mean, this is only what I remember, but**
20 **I didn't say mass every day, but it seemed to be the**
21 **church was like the centre in our lives.**

22 Q. Well, the other thing that they have said about the
23 school is that they tried to provide an adequate
24 education. They are disappointed that you believe the
25 nuns were not interested in your education and they do

1 condemn the punishments that you describe that were
2 meted out to you.

3 A. Excuse me, Christine. I mean, I am telling the truth as
4 to what I experienced in the convent and in the
5 classroom. I was a very shy person and I think that was
6 very noted by people, that I couldn't stand up for
7 myself. So that was taken from what I remember as being
8 a dunce, because if you were shy, obviously you are not
9 going to learn. You are going to be frightened, and
10 that's what I was living under, fear, and if I didn't --
11 wasn't very good at picking up, the same said nun,
12 SR134, would come along to where we were sitting at the
13 desk with this ruler in her hand and bang that ruler
14 with such an almighty bang that would you jump with
15 fright, and then would come and say, "You're a dunce.
16 Do this", and speak to you with such a sort of
17 terrifying way. I'm only a child, you know, and then,
18 "Get up into the front of the class there. You're
19 a dunce. Stand in that corner and put that hat on your
20 head", and make an absolute mockery of me and this
21 didn't happen once. This happened several times to me.
22 I have lost my confidence. I mean, I have learned since
23 then, but it took me a long time to believe that I could
24 really do things for myself, ie by reading and writing,
25 but that wasn't through the convent. That was from my

1 **husband, who helped me.**

2 Q. You say you went on to St. Monica's Secondary School.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. You say that wasn't much good either.

5 **A. It was non-existent there. They weren't interested in**
6 **us at all.**

7 Q. There were lay teachers in the school --

8 **A. Yes, I think so.**

9 Q. -- St. Monica's. You think they weren't as -- they were
10 just as bad as the nuns, because they knew your
11 background. So they were the interested in you or your
12 education.

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

14 Q. You say you were basically non-existent. You weren't
15 allowed to contribute in class, because it was presumed
16 that you didn't have anything worthwhile to say.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. So if you put your hand up, you were just told to put it
19 back down.

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. You feel you may as well not have been in the class for
22 all the attention that you got.

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. You do know that there were some girls, a couple of
25 girls from the convent, who did do well at school --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- but you felt that they were generally the ones who
3 had family and someone to give them some encouragement.

4 **A. They did have family, but also they were probably what**
5 **you would call clever. So the nuns took an interest in**
6 **the clever ones. The ones who -- just because we -- how**
7 **should I say -- we weren't quick at picking up. I would**
8 **think -- I would put -- stem that down to fear more than**
9 **us being stupid. It was fear and for making a mistake.**
10 **I mean, it is hard for me to explain, but this is**
11 **what -- how I remember it.**

12 Q. You say that you weren't able to write or read properly
13 when you left school, but as you've just explained --

14 **A. Very, very, very, very, very basic.**

15 Q. As you have just explained, you were then able to --

16 **A. Yes, yes.**

17 Q. -- rectify that in later life.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. You say the food was basic, but you can't say you were
20 hungry.

21 **A. Uh-huh.**

22 Q. You loathed some of the food --

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. -- the tapioca pudding in particular, and I don't think
25 you would have been alone in that.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. You did witness girls being made to eat food.

3 "They were told that they weren't allowed to move
4 from the table until they finished the food in front of
5 them and the girls would be retching trying to eat it."

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Now again the nuns have said in a response statement
8 that they tried to provide the best food they could, but
9 they don't accept that children would have been retching
10 trying to eat the food.

11 **A. Well, I beg to differ. I seen it with my own eyes.**
12 **They were told, "You stay at that table and you eat**
13 **that" and the girl would be sitting there, trying put it**
14 **in her mouth and that was their ... (gesturing) and it**
15 **did happen. It did happen.**

16 Q. At paragraph 9 here, HIA197, you go on to talk about the
17 chores you were allocated.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. You had to do chores every day.

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. You say again you felt that it was the girls who had no
22 families who seemed to be left with all the hard work,
23 such as scrubbing floors, whilst the favourite girls
24 might have dusted.

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. "We worked in the kitchens peeling potatoes. We had to
2 scrub the floors and there were lots of areas and
3 passageways and a huge hall."

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. "The nun would stand at the far end of the hallway to
6 inspect it, and if it wasn't done right, we were hit.
7 We were slapped or grabbed by the hair at the back of
8 the neck, which was so painful. They would lift us up
9 by the hair" --

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. -- "and pull us up from the nape of the neck until we
12 were standing on our tiptoes."

13 **A. That is true.**

14 Q. "They would intentionally pinch us under our arms, where
15 the marks wouldn't be seen",

16 and you believe that all of the nuns would have
17 done that.

18 **A. That's true.**

19 Q. You were describing how if -- the nun -- when you were
20 talking earlier, you were describing how the nun would
21 look down the corridor --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- and check the polish on the floor --

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. -- and if there was a bit missed or something, this was

1 what she would have done to you --

2 **A. Yes, yes.**

3 Q. -- and made you go back to do it again.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Now the congregation don't accept that they had
6 favourites or that some children were given lighter
7 chores and they don't believe that the chores that were
8 given to children were excessive, HIA197.

9 **A. Well, I would have to say that is not true. There was**
10 **a -- there was a notable difference from the children**
11 **who didn't have anybody. I'm not saying that because**
12 **the children who had parents were looking for that type**
13 **of favouritism. I think it was because we -- they could**
14 **be -- they were able to go and maybe have somebody to**
15 **talk and say, "Well, this is un... -- this is -- I am**
16 **being treated unfairly". We didn't have nobody. So we**
17 **just had to take what was given, the punishment that was**
18 **given to us.**

19 Q. In paragraph 10 here you go on, HIA197, to talk about
20 how from about the age of 11, although when we were
21 talking, you are not clear exactly how old you might
22 have been --

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. -- but you say:

25 "We worked hard in the laundries mainly at the

1 weekends."

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. "We did the washing for the entire convent, including
4 the old people's home."

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. "If they were soiled, we had to stand over the sink
7 scrubbing them on washer boards before they went into
8 a big industrial machine" --

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. -- "and then into the huge industrial pressers.
11 I remember I had to stand on a stool so that I could
12 reach the sink and use the washboards. My fingers would
13 be raw from rubbing them on the boards and from the
14 carbolic soap."

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. "There were two ladies in the laundry",
17 whom you name there.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. I am just going to give the names as ^{NHB 32} and .

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. "They were quite elderly and I believe they may have
22 been brought up in the convent themselves. One of them
23 had a stick, which she would hit us with if we weren't
24 doing the washing properly. The other was a terrifying
25 lady, but that was all she knew. She also worked in the

1 sewing room. She hit us as well and we would be
2 terrified if she caught us doing anything, because she
3 was always threatening to tell the nuns on us."

4 **A. That is true.**

5 Q. Again just to be clear that the nuns don't accept that
6 a child of 11 would have been asked to do this kind of
7 heavy work, but you may have helped or assisted the lay
8 staff in the laundry, but that would have been it.

9 **A. Yes, but as I explained to you, , at the time I was**
10 **giving the statement I probably thought it was 11, but**
11 **it was in definitely in the laundry, and I would have to**
12 **say it was probably about 14, but I definitely worked in**
13 **the laundry. I remember it as clear as daylight,**
14 **working in the laundry with the soiled sheets coming**
15 **down from the old people's place, us, us -- a few of us**
16 **girls having to rinse out all of the soiled sheets, then**
17 **take them over to go into a big industrial machine.**
18 **They would go through that, taken out, put through**
19 **a wringer, a mangle type thing, and then after that we**
20 **would have to stand by the pressers, fold them all up**
21 **and get them all pressed ready to be taken back up.**
22 **I done that work. I can assure you of that.**

23 Q. In paragraph 11 here, HIA197, you go on to say:

24 "The whole environment of the home and the school
25 was fear."

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. "To my mind if we were ever caught doing something, it
3 would only have been something minor. The punishment
4 seemed unnecessary for some things. It was just a way
5 of frightening us and keeping us down."

6 You say that:

7 "SR134 had a particular ..."

8 Sorry.

9 "SR31 had a particular room upstairs" --

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. -- "where we were brought to if the nuns were going to
12 cane us. If we backchatted, tutted or showed an
13 expression that they didn't like, they would take us
14 upstairs and say that they would beat the stubborn
15 streak out of us. We never used foul language and we
16 weren't rude children, but the nuns saw it as us
17 standing up for ourselves, so they would make an example
18 of us."

19 You say --

20 **A. That is true.**

21 Q. Was the room upstairs -- can you say --

22 **A. It was quite high up. As I was sort of giving you where
23 the classrooms were, we had to go up another little
24 windy step. So it was quite sort of up to what you
25 would call like the attic side of it. So it wasn't**

1 a room that was sort of accessible. You were only
2 brought up there to be caned and it was quite out of
3 sight, so people wouldn't hear the punishment, and
4 I experienced that.

5 Q. You say that on one occasion she was hitting you across
6 both hands with a large stick.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Now this is in this room. Is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You wouldn't cry. So she just continued to hit you,
11 because she saw you as being defiant.

12 A. Uh-huh.

13 Q. You had no idea how long the beating went on for. You
14 were at St. Monica's at the time. So you would have
15 been over 11.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You had to be kept off school, because your hands were
18 black and blue and swollen.

19 A. Uh-huh. Yes.

20 Q. You were constantly in fear of the nuns.

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. Now the congregation again have said that they tried to
23 provide a safe and loving atmosphere in the home. They
24 can't comment on this allegation and they don't have any
25 school records to see if you were kept off school.

1 Paragraph 12 you talk about being punished for
2 picking pears --

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. -- which grew on the other side of the wall, the side of
5 Holy Rosary Church.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. The nuns would accept that you would have been punished
8 for picking those pears.

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. You say on one occasion you recall being locked in
11 a room as punishment.

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. "The room was somewhere upstairs. It was small and
14 pitch black",

15 and you say:

16 "There was a nun outside the door making bogeyman
17 noises."

18 You were absolutely terrified and screaming to get
19 out. By the time you did get out you were in such
20 a state you were in convulsions.

21 Now again the congregation have said that they
22 regret that the policy they had of not physically
23 punishing a child was not always stuck to. They don't
24 accept that a child would have been punished in the way
25 you describe by being locked in a room.

1 **A.** Well, it's a memory that I remember going through and
2 it's what I experienced and it's what -- I'm telling the
3 truth.

4 **Q.** Paragraph 14 here, and I am just going read out what's
5 written --

6 **A.** Right.

7 **Q.** -- and then we will discuss it, HIA197, because you say:

8 "If we were trying to have fun, the nuns would
9 immediately calm it down. Laughing, singing and fun
10 weren't allowed. We were afraid to play games. We were
11 always afraid of what would happen. There was no love.
12 There was nothing other than constant fear."

13 **A.** Uh-huh.

14 **Q.** When we were talking about this --

15 **A.** Yes.

16 **Q.** -- you wanted to correct --

17 **A.** Yes, what I'd said.

18 **Q.** -- what you think might be a wrong impression.

19 **A.** What I have said is:

20 "If we were laughing -- if we were trying to have
21 fun, the nuns would immediately calm it down. Laughing
22 and singing and fun weren't allowed freely."

23 When I mean freely, it was like they -- whatever
24 they said -- you had to do what they said. You couldn't
25 do things of your own free will --

1 Q. When you were --

2 A. -- and if you were sort of maybe over-boisterous, then
3 that's when you got the punishment or -- of some sort.
4 So it was a kind of a fear that you weren't allowed to
5 express yourself in any way.

6 Q. The way I think we were discussing it, HIA197 --

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. -- was that you felt restricted in how you could behave
9 --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- because you never knew whether you were going to be
12 punished for behaviour or not.

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. You say that you yourself felt -- you were a timid and
15 shy person --

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 Q. -- and you felt that that made you more likely to be
18 punished.

19 A. Well, I would say so. I mean, I'm not just only talking
20 about me, but there were other girls. We're all of
21 different characters and some are more boisterous -- not
22 boisterous -- when I say more sort of outgoing and other
23 girls would be sort of shy, and I felt to myself that if
24 they found that you were that kind of person, that would
25 be picked upon, because it felt like you wasn't able to

1 stand up for yourself. It seemed to me like they liked
2 to see you crying. They got something out of that by
3 seeing you crying. It made them feel like they had
4 a power over you.

5 Q. Paragraph 15 of your statement, HIA197, you go on to
6 say:

7 "The nuns told us that we were dirty and worthless
8 and that nobody would want us."

9 **A. Yes, that's true.**

10 Q. You say:

11 "They always said that to the children who had no
12 families. They made us feel like we were nothing at
13 all. Sometimes people would have come up to the convent
14 to take children out for a day."

15 You remember standing at the gates and hoping to get
16 picked, but this particular nun would say, "Who would
17 want you? You're nothing", and tell you to get to the
18 back of the queue, and you never got chosen to go out
19 for the day.

20 "Sometimes we put on concerts, but I would never get
21 picked for any roles. I was never good enough. One of
22 the nuns told ..." --

23 **A. I was -- sorry. I was told I was never good enough.**

24 Q. You say:

25 "One of the nuns told me that I was ugly and just to

1 get to the back."

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. You say the fact she told you and called you ugly has
4 never left you.

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. You always remember the expression of disgust on her
7 face when she said that to you --

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. -- and said you were nothing.

10 **A. And I would like to say who the nun was. It was SR31.**

11 Q. You say:

12 "There was never any praise or encouragement."

13 **A. No.**

14 Q. On one occasion when you were aged about 16 you were
15 told by a nun, whom you name there, that you were damned
16 in hell. That was SR122.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. She was threatening to punish you for something and you
19 were standing up for yourself and you tugged her veil.

20 SR134 and Sister --

21 **A. Christine, can I just say something?**

22 Q. Yes, of course.

23 **A. When you say -- you are saying like standing up for
24 myself. I mean, I wasn't standing up for myself in an
25 aggressive manner. I was just standing up for myself.**

1 **I wasn't showing her any rudeness.**

2 Q. She had accused --

3 **A. Do you understand what I am saying?**

4 Q. If I've got this right, HIA197 --

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. -- she'd accused you of something --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- and you were saying you didn't do that --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- and that was the way you were standing up for
11 yourself.

12 **A. We were definitely not rude girls by any way at all. We**
13 **might have tutted, shuffled our feet if we sort of felt**
14 **we were being unfairly picked upon. I mean, how can you**
15 **call that bad manners? That's every -- every child goes**
16 **through something like that.**

17 Q. You go on, HIA197, to say then that SR31 and SR122 then
18 marched you up to the Mother Superior's room when you
19 did this --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- and the Mother Superior told you that you were going
22 to be damned in hell.

23 **A. Absolutely.**

24 Q. Can you even remember the name of the Mother Superior?

25 **A. There was a -- I think her name was SR 215 ,**

1 some name -- there was a name like that. I might not be
2 pronouncing it right.

3 Q. But it's something along those lines?

4 A. I'm sure that was her -- she was the highest -- she was
5 the Mother Superior of all the nuns. So, I mean, that
6 was the first time probably and the only time that
7 I really had any sort of dealing with her.

8 Q. So you wouldn't have seen her on a daily basis or she
9 wouldn't have come to speak to you at all?

10 A. Well, I mean, if you'd seen her, you probably would have
11 seen her in the church and that would be as far as you
12 would see her.

13 Q. You talk about Christmas time here.

14 A. Uh-huh.

15 Q. You say you used to be brought to the Courtaulds factory
16 for a party that they put on for the homes. I take it
17 you enjoyed those parties --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- but you couldn't say that Christmas was made
20 a wonderful experience in the home?

21 A. Not really, no, no.

22 Q. The nuns would say they did try to give as normal
23 a Christmas as possible to children, but you don't have
24 particularly good memories of it?

25 A. I don't, and particularly the birthdays, I do not ever

1 **remember receiving any acknowledgment of a birthday.**

2 Q. You say that in your statement --

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. -- that there were never any celebrations, such as cake
5 or cards, for birthdays.

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. You do go on then to speak about who you remember coming
8 to the home.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. You don't remember ever seeing any social workers or
11 inspectors.

12 **A. No.**

13 Q. You do remember going to the dentist, though.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. You had to have a tooth extracted, which is why you
16 particularly remember that, and the name of the dentist.

17 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. You do remember getting inoculations, being vaccinated
19 when you were in the home.

20 **A. Yes, I do, yes.**

21 Q. Was there a regular medical inspection?

22 **A. I think when I say inoculations, that would have been
23 the one up here in the arm and the one ...**

24 Q. The sugar lump?

25 **A. The sugar lump, yes.**

1 Q. For polio.

2 A. Uh-huh. What was you saying, regular?

3 Q. Yes. Did you -- was there -- did you see a doctor every
4 year?

5 A. Do you know I really couldn't -- I couldn't really say
6 definitely. Probably, but I just really couldn't say
7 100%.

8 Q. You do remember when you were about 13 or 14 a lady
9 coming to visit you.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. That was the only visitor you ever had in your entire
12 time.

13 A. In the whole ...

14 Q. You think it might have been your mother or your aunt.

15 A. Well, I was such a timid person, shy person and just to
16 be told out of the blue, "Put your best -- put some
17 dress", which I'd never wore. It was always uniform
18 type, and to be dressed in this lovely fancy dress and
19 taken up to this place called the Sister -- it was the
20 parlour, which was right at the very top near the
21 garden, and to be taken into this room, petrified, and
22 seeing this person there trying to talk to me. I'm
23 terrified, because I don't know what I'm supposed to
24 say, and the nun was there beside me when I was in the
25 room, but, as I said, I don't even remember if I even

1 **communicated with this person or not, because I was that**
2 **frightened.**

3 Q. It was never explained --

4 **A. I wouldn't have known how to communicate for starters.**
5 **You didn't know how to communicate in the convent.**

6 Q. It was never explained to you who this person was,
7 HIA197?

8 **A. No, no.**

9 Q. You do remember her mentioning .

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. You never had any sort of indication of connection which
12 indicated that you belonged to anybody such as visitors
13 or cards.

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. That's the first acknowledgment of any kind --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- that you belonged to somebody --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- and that's -- you never saw that person ever again?

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. You say that you left school when you were 15 and moved
22 into the dormitory for older girls.

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. So you were no longer going to school, but you were
25 still living within the convent.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. SR122 was in charge of the dormitory for older girls.

3 You say:

4 "Some of the other girls were let to live in a house
5 in a street in Belfast" --

6 A. Uh-huh.

7 Q. -- but it was generally the girls with families again
8 who you thought went to that house.

9 A. Well, that's how it come across to me at the time.

10 I mean, we're really talking about things a long, long
11 time ago. I mean, I can't say, but to me if I look at
12 it, the people who did -- and I am not picking on them
13 girls, because they weren't asking to be treated
14 differently to me. That's just the way it was --

15 Q. Uh-huh.

16 A. -- and, as I said -- sorry, Christine.

17 Q. No. You're okay. Sorry. Go on.

18 A. They went to , and to me it seemed to me
19 like the people who did have a family -- when I keep
20 saying the people who did have families, I mean it
21 seemed to me like the girls who were -- these particular
22 girls who I am talking about who were clever, they are
23 the ones who were in , and I suppose
24 when I come to the age that I was allowed to leave the
25 convent, I went to for a very, very

1 **brief time, and decided to go over to London, and I was**
2 **in London from I think it was 1967 -- I really --**
3 **'67/'68 up to 2009.**

4 Q. You just -- I mean, you didn't go to
5 immediately. You went to work in the sewing room in
6 Nazareth House.

7 **A. Yes, I did, yes.**

8 Q. You were given some money --

9 **A. Pocket money. I do remember that.**

10 Q. -- for working there.

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. Then, as you say in paragraphs 20 to 21 -- sorry. You
13 talk about in 21. This was a house.
14 You don't know who owned it or what the set-up was.
15 Isn't --

16 **A. I really -- I really don't know honest. I couldn't**
17 **really give you any information on that.**

18 Q. Can I take it, HIA197, from what you have said to us
19 that the only people who lived in that house were girls
20 who had been in the convent?

21 **A. Oh, yes, yes.**

22 Q. Now in paragraph 21 you talk about going to London. You
23 do say that the nuns supplied you with clothes for
24 going.

25 **A. Yes, they did.**

1 Q. You say they gave you a case and you think they must
2 have given you permission to go to London. So there
3 must have been some discussion about it with them.

4 A. Yes, but, as I said, I really can't recall, but I do
5 remember when we said we were going to London, they did
6 supply us with clothing, suitcase and I think it was
7 a bit of money, but unfortunately, as I explained to you
8 in the room, we were waiting for somebody at

9 , and I can't -- that was the reason why we were
10 allowed to go to London, because it was agreed that we
11 would meet up with this person and this person would set
12 us up in a -- I can't remember the name of the person;
13 I wish I could -- and set us up in a -- where she was
14 living and get us a job, but unfortunately this person
15 never turned up. We were stranded in
16 being accosted I mean by men, but luckily for us at the
17 time -- we didn't think it was lucky at the time -- but
18 when I look back, it was lucky for us the Transport
19 Police must have realised the situation that we were in
20 and came and questioned us and asked us where we came
21 from. We said "From Ireland". Of course, we were very
22 sort of naive and not able to answer questions.
23 Probably the first time we really spoke to a strange
24 man, if you can understand.

25 So they didn't like the situation that we were in,

1 took us to the police station, asked us our names, took
2 our fingerprints. We explained where we come from.
3 They must have got in touch with the Nazareth House
4 convent is what I said. So there was a choice of us
5 either returning back to Belfast or going to the Irish
6 Centre in Camden Town, which we decided to do.

7 Q. From there the nuns in the Irish Centre were able to get
8 you jobs --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- and you spent some time in London.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Now the -- your life after care, as we have said, is
13 discussed here in paragraphs 21 to 27, HIA197, and I am
14 not going to go into the details of that with you --

15 **A. Okay. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- but you are aware that the Panel are aware of what
17 happened.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. One final thing about the congregation. In their
20 statement to you they have -- in their statement --
21 response statement they said that they offer you
22 an unreserved and sincere apology for any treatment you
23 received which fell below the acceptable standard.

24 I was discussing with you earlier that we ask
25 everybody who comes to speak to us about the

1 recommendations that this Inquiry has to make at the end
2 of its work --

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. -- and what, if any, views you have on that. I know,
5 talking to you and talking to your partner, that isn't
6 why you are here. You didn't really think about that at
7 all.

8 **A. No. I've just come to explain what had happened to me,
9 and I sincerely am so glad a situation like this will
10 never arise again. I know it happened in other
11 children's homes, but I pray to God these situations
12 like we went through don't happen in other children's
13 homes, because children have a right to be treated
14 right.**

15 Q. Well, HIA197, is there anything you want to say about
16 whether there should be redress, or an apology, or a
17 memorial or anything like that or do you really --

18 **A. I just really am not really --**

19 Q. Not really interested in it?

20 **A. -- bothered.**

21 Q. Well, that's all I want to ask you.

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. Is there anything that you feel in our discussion this
24 morning that we haven't covered about your time in
25 Nazareth House or anything more that you want to say?

1 Please do take the opportunity now to do so.

2 **A. Well, I think you've -- what I have told you is the**
3 **honest truth and nothing but the truth, and whatever the**
4 **Nazareth Lodge say is different, well, I can only say,**
5 **"Well, it's what I experienced. It's what I know".**

6 Q. Well, HIA197, thank you very much. I've nothing further
7 to ask you, but the Panel may have some questions for
8 you.

9 Questions from THE PANEL

10 CHAIRMAN: HIA197, can I ask you about two things?

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. First of all, you described the experience that you and
13 others who wet the bed went through.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. Can you remember even in a general way what age you were
16 when this type of --

17 **A. The bedwetting?**

18 Q. -- alarm type gadget was used?

19 **A. I would say -- when that was brought in, the alarm**
20 **system, I would say -- I'm just trying sort of --**
21 **probably maybe 13 or 14.**

22 Q. Yes.

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. The other thing I wanted to ask you is about the
25 experience you had in the laundry.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Now you've told us that you left school at 15 --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- and when you were talking about the laundry, you said
5 you thought you were perhaps, thinking about it now,
6 that you were 14 or thereabouts.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Does that mean that you were doing this work in the
9 laundry before you left school?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. When you did the work, was it normally mostly at the
12 weekends or would you do some in the evenings after
13 school, or both after school and weekends?

14 **A. Do you know, that's very, very hard to sort of really
15 answer, but I would probably say it would be more than
16 likely the weekends.**

17 Q. What the nuns have suggested is that you might have been
18 helping out in the way I suppose that a daughter might
19 help her mother with the ironing --

20 **A. Well --**

21 Q. -- but the description you have given --

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. -- would suggest a much heavier and longer --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- spell of work. Is that what you mean?

1 A. Yes. Most definitely, yes. It wasn't just light work.
2 It was physical, heavy, actual heavy work, ie when
3 the -- particularly from the old people's home, which
4 was in the convent, and the old men's place, when their
5 stuff came down to be laundered, even now when I talk
6 about it, I can still remember the smell of the urine.
7 You would be sort of, you know, wanting to feel sick --

8 Q. Yes.

9 A. -- and you would have to take these sheets and put them
10 into like a big butler sink with a scrubbing board, with
11 carbolic soap, and scrubbing to get the muck off before
12 they would go into the industrial washer; from there
13 into the wringer, which we would take from the big, big
14 machine, industrial machine -- it was quite a big
15 machine -- and put into a wringer like a mangle they
16 used to call it in them days, and from there into the
17 pressers, and we would have to stand there, ,

18 . I cannot think of this lady's -- I can only think
19 of her -- describe her. She had a goitre, but at that
20 time we didn't know that's what she had wrong with her.

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. But she had a goitre and her hair was always in plaits
23 and she walked with a stick, and if she seen we wasn't
24 doing the work the way she thought it should be done,
25 she would whack us with her stick, and when I say whack

1 us, she would whack us around the legs with her walking
2 stick, and we were petrified of her.

3 Q. You said a moment ago "we". Were there other girls as
4 well --

5 A. There were other girls, not just me.

6 Q. -- not just yourself?

7 A. No, not just me. Other girls.

8 Q. What sort of number of girls would there be? Just one
9 or two of you at a time or a larger number?

10 A. Well, I'm just trying to sort of place my -- imagine
11 where I was. I would say there would be at least a good
12 eight to ten girls. I wouldn't be able to tell you
13 who -- which girls, but I know there was about eight to
14 ten girls, and we were actually helping NHB 32
15 and who worked in the laundry. There were no other
16 people, not to my recollection, that were in the
17 laundry.

18 Q. Thank you very much, HIA197.

19 A. Uh-huh.

20 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA197. That has been really
21 helpful.

22 A. Uh-huh.

23 Q. Can I just ask about older girls in the home? In your
24 experience were they involved in the discipline of
25 younger girls?

1 **A. When you say "older girls" --**

2 Q. Uh-huh.

3 **A. -- what do you mean?**

4 Q. Like older girls being in charge of younger girls and
5 the younger children.

6 **A. In the groups?**

7 Q. Yes.

8 **A. Because that's what -- we were all divided into groups.
9 What was your ...?**

10 Q. Well, other people have talked about older girls
11 supervising the polishing and the cleaning. You don't
12 remember that?

13 **A. I probably -- yes, but I don't sort of really -- I can't
14 remember it clearly to be able to tell you.**

15 Q. So it wasn't an issue for you? The behaviour of older
16 girls wasn't a --

17 **A. Do you know I just really can't answer that question.**

18 Q. Okay, and can I just ask about when the nuns would
19 punish you?

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. Would that be done in front of each other? Would there
22 be other nuns around?

23 **A. Yes, yes.**

24 Q. So it would be kind of in public that it would happen?
25 It wouldn't --

1 A. Yes, it would in public or in private --

2 Q. In private.

3 A. -- you know.

4 Q. Okay. Thanks very much.

5 MR LANE: I would just like to go back to the question of
6 this system of the plans for dealing with bedwetting.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Did -- were there a number of these or was there just
9 one set of equipment that got used for different girls?
10 Do you remember at all?

11 A. What do you mean? When we wet the bed, do you mean that
12 the alarm ...?

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. Oh, I think it would have been different girls -- it
15 would have been used by -- for all -- other different
16 girls, because it wasn't just me was wetting the bed.
17 There was other people in the group that I was in,
18 particularly in SR134's group, who wet the bed. It
19 seemed to be -- it's an embarrassing thing to say, but
20 it seems to be within that group, SR134's group, that
21 that would have been where the most bedwetting went on
22 to my recollection.

23 Q. So would you have this system for a few weeks or what
24 happened?

25 A. I would think when they brought it in, I suppose it

1 would be a few weeks. It's not something I can really
2 remember quite clearly --

3 Q. No.

4 A. -- but I do remember the alarm. It was like on
5 an electric system. If water hit it, it would trigger
6 off this "Eeeee" and you would have to get up.
7 I remember it clearly.

8 Q. Did you see a doctor at all about that at the same time?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Okay. Just generally you mentioned the way you got
11 treated. Do you think the Sisters were afraid that they
12 would lose control of the girls in some way?

13 A. I would say so. I think they could easily have lost
14 control.

15 Q. Did --

16 A. One or two of them could. Well, when you say control,
17 when they were hitting us, yes, easily, like, as
18 I explained, when SR31 had hit me, I mean, that's losing
19 control, leaving you with black and blue hands. That's
20 losing control. That's not just hitting you.

21 Q. Did some of the girls misbehave seriously so that --

22 A. Honest -- in all honesty when you say misbehave --
23 misbehaviour, it is just normal -- it wasn't like we
24 were -- when you say misbehave, I mean, we were in the
25 convent. We weren't really able -- misbehave is by

1 **talking and stamping your feet? That's not misbehaving.**

2 **Q.** Yes.

3 **A.** That's ridiculous when you think about it, but it seemed
4 to me that was classified as misbehaving. That's just
5 a normal reaction, not something was wrong in that. So
6 because of the way that you -- if you responded -- if
7 you -- the nuns might say, "You have got to go and scrub
8 that floor" and you might go, "Tut! Why is it me
9 again?", like that.

10 **Q.** Yes.

11 **A.** That would be your reaction and consequently that was
12 showing defiance.

13 **Q.** That's what you were hit for?

14 **A.** So you were picked out for showing -- standing up for
15 yourself. It is not defiance. It is standing up for
16 yourself.

17 **Q.** Thank you very much indeed.

18 **CHAIRMAN:** Well, HIA197, I'm sure you will be glad to hear
19 those are the last questions we want to ask you today.

20 **A.** Okay.

21 **Q.** Thank you very much for coming to speak to us,
22 particularly as we know you have had to come from
23 England quite a long way to speak to us.

24 **A.** Yes.

25 **Q.** We are very grateful to you for taking the time to come

1 and tell us your experiences. Thank you very much.

2 **A. Uh-huh. I wished I could have explained myself more**
3 **clearer than what I have.**

4 Q. I think you have explained yourself very clearly, if I
5 may say so.

6 **A. Okay. Thank you very much then.**

7 Q. Thank you.

8 **A. Thank you.**

9 (Witness withdrew)

10 MS SMITH: Chairman, the next witness is to be taken by
11 Mr Aiken. I am sure he will be ready very shortly, if
12 he isn't already. So maybe a very short break.

13 CHAIRMAN: Yes. We'll just rise for a few minutes.

14 (11.05 pm)

15 (Short break)

16 (11.58 pm)

17 WITNESS DL40 (called)

18 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

19 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

20 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, good morning or
21 almost good afternoon. The next witness today is DL40,
22 who is "DL40". He gave evidence to the Inquiry on Day
23 70 of the public hearings on 20th November of 2014. His
24 evidence begins for the record at page 53 of the
25 transcript on Day 70. He took the oath when he appeared

1 and tell us your experiences. Thank you very much.

2 **A. Uh-huh. I wished I could have explained myself more**
3 **clearer than what I have.**

4 Q. I think you have explained yourself very clearly, if I
5 may say so.

6 **A. Okay. Thank you very much then.**

7 Q. Thank you.

8 **A. Thank you.**

9 (Witness withdrew)

10 MS SMITH: Chairman, the next witness is to be taken by
11 Mr Aiken. I am sure he will be ready very shortly, if
12 he isn't already. So maybe a very short break.

13 CHAIRMAN: Yes. We'll just rise for a few minutes.

14 (11.05 pm)

15 (Short break)

16 (11.58 pm)

17 WITNESS DL40 (called)

18 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

19 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

20 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, good morning or
21 almost good afternoon. The next witness today is DL40,
22 who is "DL40". He gave evidence to the Inquiry on Day
23 70 of the public hearings on 20th November of 2014. His
24 evidence begins for the record at page 53 of the
25 transcript on Day 70. He took the oath when he appeared

1 before you on the last occasion and is aware that he
2 remains under oath today, and he confirmed then, as he
3 does now, that he wishes to keep his anonymity. If we
4 can bring up, please, his statement at 1781.

5 MR O'HARE: Just before that's done, Chairman --

6 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

7 MR O'HARE: -- I announce my appearance on behalf of witness
8 NL122, instructed by McCoy Steele Solicitors.

9 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr O'Hare.

10 MR AIKEN: Sorry. My apologies. 1871. DL40, you can check
11 and confirm for me that that's the first page of your
12 statement in relation to your time in Nazareth Lodge.

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

14 Q. If we go through, please, to 1876, and can you confirm
15 that's the last page of the statement and that you have
16 signed it?

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

18 Q. You want to adopt the contents as your evidence before
19 the Inquiry today?

20 **A. Yes, I do.**

21 Q. As you know, when it is published on the website, it
22 will have the black redactions applied so that your
23 identity won't be known from the document.

24 **A. Thank you.**

25 Q. In addition, DL40, you made a statement to the police

1 that's relevant to your evidence relating to Nazareth
2 Lodge on 20 -- 10th August of 1995. That, Members of
3 the Panel, is from 62044 to 62047. We will look at that
4 again slightly later in the evidence.

5 Chairman, Members of the Panel, I wonder could I --
6 there is an issue that has arisen. If we could just
7 rise for a few moments so that I can resolve it, that
8 would be ...

9 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Very well.

10 MR AIKEN: DL40, I apologise to you. Just bear with us for
11 a few moments. We are just going to rise momentarily
12 and we will return and continue on.

13 **A. Okay.**

14 **(12.04 pm)**

15 **(Short break)**

16 **(12.21 pm)**

17 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, I am grateful for
18 the time, and, DL40, apologies for the running around we
19 had to do just to resolve an issue that you are aware of
20 and we will come to that as we go.

21 I was mentioning to the Panel you had adopted your
22 witness statement and I had referred to the police
23 statement that you gave in August of 1995, which relates
24 to Father Brendan Smyth, and we will look at that
25 towards the end of your evidence briefly for the reasons

1 that we discussed.

2 Just by way of background you were born on

3 are now aged 50.

4 **A. That is correct.**

5 Q. You are the father of three sons and living and working
6 in London, having obtained I think it is two Masters.

7 Is that right?

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

9 Q. So you have done very well for yourself educationally.

10 I know that's a major issue that we're going to come and
11 talk about slightly later in your evidence. You were
12 explaining to me this morning that you were in
13 St. Joseph's Babies' Home before you moved into Nazareth
14 Lodge to the nursery wing, as it were, the Bethlehem
15 group as it was known, and you moved into Nazareth Lodge
16 on 15th September 1968, which was shortly before your
17 fourth birthday. You remained in Nazareth Lodge until
18 19th September 1977, when, aged 12, you moved to Rubane
19 House, Kircubbin, run by the De La Salle Order. It was
20 that that we were speaking about when you gave evidence
21 to the Inquiry in November.

22 **A. That's correct.**

23 Q. Unusually you stayed an extra year in Nazareth Lodge, if
24 I can put it that way, and went to secondary school in
25 Belfast --

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

2 Q. -- for a year before deciding that you'd rather --
3 rather than stay as an older boy on your own effectively
4 in Nazareth Lodge, you wanted to go and be with boys of
5 your age in Kircubbin.

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

7 Q. As a result of the records that you gave to me this
8 morning kindly, and we have taken copies and the Panel
9 have the relevant extracts for the purposes of your
10 evidence today, it appears that you were formally taken
11 into care by what would have been the Eastern Health &
12 Social Services Board on 21st August of 1973.

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

14 Q. At that stage you would have been 9 years of age. It
15 appears from the material that the Panel have that part
16 of the reason for that decision-making happening was
17 that you'd been through a number of foster placements
18 and there was an effort to arrange adoption for you.

19 **A. That's correct. For whatever reason it just never --**
20 **just never --**

21 Q. Didn't work out.

22 **A. -- didn't work out, no.**

23 Q. But that was part of the thinking. As a result of that
24 from the material that you have made available to us it
25 appears that social workers then began to visit you in

1 Nazareth Lodge from time to time and prepared the
2 various report documents that you have kindly given me
3 access to this morning.

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

5 Q. It is clear that what was under consideration was
6 whether -- what was going to be the best arrangement for
7 you growing up from that point on was what they were
8 looking at and looking to make arrangements that were
9 best suited to your needs.

10 **A. Correct.**

11 Q. It appears that, in fact, a Parental Rights Order, or
12 you described it as a Ward of Court, was taken in 1975,
13 and that appears to have been with a view to an adoption
14 process taking place, but, as you say, ultimately it
15 didn't work out, and you carried on living in Nazareth
16 Lodge and then went to live in Kircubbin.

17 **A. That's correct.**

18 Q. What I want to do to begin with, DL40, is go back to
19 your time in the Bethlehem group. If we look at
20 paragraph 6 of your statement at 1872, please, you
21 describe here having a very warm memory of SR71, who was
22 the nun who looked after the younger children in the
23 Bethlehem group.

24 **A. SR71 was a lovely, nun, very, very, very kind, very**
25 **gentle and a fantastic painter.**

1 Q. You were explaining to me that during your time in
2 Nazareth Lodge the structural arrangements were
3 changing, and the Bethlehem group you actually remained
4 in your entire time in Nazareth Lodge, so right up until
5 you were leaving at the age of 12, and essentially
6 during your time Bethlehem became another full age range
7 group alongside the other dormitory groups that there
8 were in the home.

9 **A. That's correct. The Bethlehem group then was split into**
10 **two groups and they were just normal groups associated**
11 **with the Lodge.**

12 Q. I think in the end SR62 was in charge -- the nun in
13 charge of your particular group. Would that be right?

14 **A. Yes. SR62 headed the group, yes.**

15 Q. We will come back to her later on, but your memories of
16 SR 71 were of a very positive, warm
17 relationship and a good memory that you have of your
18 time connected to her.

19 **A. One of the kindest persons I have ever known on this**
20 **earth, a lovely person.**

21 Q. On the subject of adoption, DL40, you mention in
22 paragraph 8 a particular incident that I want to raise
23 with you, because it appears to date it may be a unique
24 arrangement that took place. A family was looking at
25 adopting you. For whatever reason that didn't come to

1 pass, and you explain in paragraph 8 how that family
2 did, in fact, adopt another child, a girl who was in the
3 Babies' Home --

4 **A. Correct.**

5 Q. -- and they then moved to --

6 **A. Correct.**

7 Q. -- but they made arrangements for you to go and spend
8 the summer with them in in the summer of 1977
9 before you moved to Kircubbin later that year. So you
10 would have been 12 years of age essentially when this
11 was happening.

12 **A. That's correct. I can remember that experience very,**
13 **very fondly.**

14 Q. This was the first time you had been on a plane?

15 **A. First time on a plane, yes.**

16 Q. Probably the first time you had been outside the
17 jurisdiction?

18 **A. Correct, yes.**

19 Q. That is a very positive relationship that you built with
20 that family?

21 **A. Yes. I mean, they're a great family, so they are, and**
22 **I still maintain contact with them today, and I've been**
23 **to , oh, it must be about 25 times.**

24 Q. You were explaining to me that because by this time you
25 were in the care of Social Services, they had to -- they

1 were asked for and had to give approval to you going.

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

3 Q. They had to check with the authorities, who
4 checked on their behalf that this was a suitable family
5 for you to go and live with.

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

7 Q. That's what took place then in advance of the trip in
8 the summer of '77.

9 **A. Correct.**

10 Q. You discuss at various points in your statement positive
11 memories that you have of your time in Nazareth Lodge.
12 In paragraph 9 you describe the events associated with
13 Christmas and holidays, and you discuss in paragraphs 15
14 and 16, if we just scroll down, a particular reference
15 to the holidays that you spent in Ballyhornan, County
16 Down. Those are very positive memories that you have of
17 your time in the Lodge.

18 **A. I was very, very, very grateful for the -- the factories**
19 **in west Belfast. They really looked after us children**
20 **at Christmas time, took us all out. Just going in**
21 **a minibus leaving the Lodge was a great experience and**
22 **it was just lovely to be in the care of lovely people**
23 **from west Belfast, who gave us presents and gave us**
24 **food, and we played games, sang. We just had -- it was**
25 **a wonderful experience.**

1 **If I can refer to Ballyhornan, one of the --**
2 **Ballyhornan, it's in my -- it's in my heart. I was just**
3 **there in the summer, as I said previously. The holidays**
4 **that the nuns gave us down in Ballyhornan were just**
5 **a wonderful, wonderful experience, and I have told my**
6 **family that, when I die, I want my ashes to be spread on**
7 **the rocks in Ballyhornan. I just want to put it in that**
8 **context. That's what it means to me. I love the place.**

9 Q. In paragraph 11 of your statement, DL40, you speak of
10 very fond memories you have of two particular civilian
11 staff, but by this stage there was more civilian workers
12 working in Nazareth Lodge, and you talk about both
13 NL 196 and NL 197 as showing you a lot
14 of love and care.

15 A. Yes. NL 196 lives in and, as
16 I say, I visited her this August, and NL 197 ,
17 Yes, she used to take me out to her farm
18 on several occasions, and I had a fantastic experience
19 with both of them people.

20 Q. So what you're describing, if I can bring it together in
21 this way, DL40, there are many examples that you have
22 during your time in the Lodge when through going with
23 civilian staff and through arrangements that were made
24 for you to go with other families who were not working
25 on the staff and through the holidays in Ballyhornan

1 where you weren't closed in in Nazareth Lodge, if I can
2 put it that way. You were getting out to other places.

3 **A. Oh, very much so, yes. We did get out.**

4 Q. Now you do in paragraph 12, if we scroll down, talk
5 about two civilian staff who didn't treat you very well,
6 and you name them, and the Inquiry hasn't been able to
7 find them as yet. Their names won't be reported beyond
8 the chamber in any event, but you explain how one of
9 them was just, if I can characterise this way, not
10 a terribly happy person and that then was reflected in
11 how they dealt with the children, but another one you
12 felt particularly picked on you and was heavily down on
13 you, distinguishing you from the other children.

14 **A. Yes, that's correct, yes. One thing I will say about**
15 **them as lay staff is that they were all very young**
16 **girls. They came from the country. The majority of**
17 **them came from the countryside. They were very young.**
18 **They were 16, maybe -- one of them I even know was 15 --**
19 **16, 17, 18, and the ratio of one member -- sorry -- the**
20 **ratio of one nun at the head of the group and two lay**
21 **members of staff looking after 20 -- up to 22, 23**
22 **children, you know. It was a big, big ask.**

23 Q. As we were discussing earlier, the irony of the period
24 earlier to yours, when it might have been just one nun
25 and then -- looking after all of those children, and

1 then one nun and one member of the staff, which improved
2 the ratio, and now in your time the ratio has improved
3 a bit better, but once of the consequences of the ratio
4 improving a bit better, which is the point you are
5 making, the staff were young and unqualified, and if
6 I take what you're saying correctly, although you don't
7 hold it against them, they were, some of them, not best
8 suited to looking after younger children.

9 **A. As I say, I am going to repeat myself and just to**
10 **clarify what you're saying is they were untrained young**
11 **staff, young girls, and I don't even know if there was**
12 **any education available to train them in child care in**
13 **that particular area.**

14 Q. You then in paragraph 13 talk about a different -- not
15 a member of the child care staff. That's NL 122 You
16 say he was one of the handymen. You say:

17 "He was a nasty person and a real bully."

18 The Inquiry has now a statement from NL 122 that the
19 Inquiry has been able to trace him. He explains, as you
20 did to me earlier, that he was, in fact, someone who
21 went through Nazareth Lodge and then went on to
22 Kircubbin in the typical fashion and then came back to
23 work alongside NL 198 and then eventually took
24 over his job as a handyman, but your experience of him
25 was not positive.

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

2 Q. There is one particular incident -- if I can just ask
3 you to explain in your own words the incident where he
4 struck you -- that particularly stands out in your mind.

5 **A. Absolutely. It was up near the garages, and that was a**
6 **designated area that was out of bounds, and I was up**
7 **there playing and he says, "DL40, what are you doing?"**
8 **and he called me over and he hit me an almighty bang on**
9 **the side of the face on the -- on my right ear, and from**
10 **that there day onwards I have had trouble with my ears,**
11 **and I don't know if he contributed to it or not, but he**
12 **was a real bully and the children were terrified of that**
13 **man, particularly if you went out of bounds.**

14 Q. So he was someone you knew to avoid. Is that fair?

15 **A. Yes, that's very fair.**

16 Q. When you say the children knew to avoid him, do you have
17 other examples of either to you or others that -- can
18 you explain why that was how you perceived him? What
19 was it about him that made you -- other than this one
20 occasion when he struck you, what else was it about him
21 that caused the children to be of that view?

22 **A. It's just when we went out of bounds, everybody was wary**
23 **not to get caught by NL 122. If you got caught by**
24 **anybody else, it was not an issue, but if you got caught**
25 **by NL 122 he took it upon himself to hand out**

1 **punishment.**

2 Q. Now can I ask you this: why did you not feel able to go
3 and see one of the nuns or the head nun and explain this
4 had happened?

5 A. **Because what I done was wrong. It was out of bounds and
6 I shouldn't have been out of bounds and ...**

7 Q. So you just accepted --

8 A. **I just accepted it, yes.**

9 Q. -- and got on with it?

10 A. **And got on with it. Correct.**

11 Q. As you said, you don't know whether ultimately that's
12 part of the problem you've had with your hearing or not,
13 but you associate it in that way. You have had to have
14 various medical treatment on your hearing.

15 A. **Correct. From that time, yes. I have had infected
16 ears. I have had three operations on my ears, and even
17 the nuns know -- there should be some records. The nuns
18 used to have to take me up to the ENT on the Falls Road
19 in the Royal Victoria Hospital.**

20 Q. As you know, we were discussing earlier -- I hope I will
21 not get into trouble with Mr Montague for putting it
22 this way -- record-keeping was not the strongest point
23 and it seems that there isn't material on you
24 unfortunately that -- whether there might be some
25 separately in your medical records -- but in any event

1 you had hearing difficulty and you associate it with
2 this. Whether or not that's right, that's how you
3 perceived it.

4 Now, as you know, and I was discussing with you most
5 recently as a result of this issue, if we bring up,
6 please, 80093 and paragraph 4 -- and obviously this
7 statement will be redacted in due course -- but you --
8 there are -- as you can see from paragraph 4, there are
9 other individuals who have made allegations and NL 122 is
10 dealing with each of those, but he includes you in
11 respect of your allegation that he struck you in the
12 head in the way that you described. He says -- he
13 denies the allegation or suggestion made by you that he
14 assaulted you. So he says that didn't happen. Is there
15 anything else you want to say about that?

16 **A. All that I'll say is that it did happen and that can**
17 **rest on NL 122 conscience, but it did happen.**

18 Q. I want to turn to paragraph 18 of your statement at
19 1874, please.

20 **A. Sorry. Can I just come back to NL 122**

21 Q. Yes, indeed.

22 **A. Sorry about that there. I mean, I don't want to take**
23 **this any further -- any further. You know, it happened.**
24 **I am not looking for any sort -- anything to come out of**
25 **this criminally or anything like that there. As far as**

1 **I am concerned the matter is dealt with.**

2 Q. That's fine. If we look at paragraph 18, DL40, if we
3 can highlight that, you -- we get on to the subject of
4 school and education, and I want to look at some of the
5 issues that arise from this and our earlier discussion.

6 The first is that you talk in paragraph 18 about
7 NL63. Now he is not -- again his name won't be used
8 outside the chamber. The Inquiry has not yet been able
9 to trace NL63, but what we understand to be the position
10 is he taught in the Nazareth Lodge school for a long
11 period of time, including before you were there, and the
12 Inquiry has heard other evidence about him. You
13 describe him as a strict man but very fair.

14 I was explaining to you that some of the evidence
15 the Inquiry has received would suggest that there was
16 physical punishment that NL63 was involved in, which
17 included using a ruler on the hands, and taking people
18 by the cheek or the sideburns and lifting them up, or
19 perhaps hitting them on the back of the head, a cuff
20 round the ear, and I was asking you whether you were
21 aware that that is the type of punishment he would have
22 engaged in, although perhaps not with you, given what
23 you have said?

24 **A. That's correct. NL63 was a very strict man, yes.**

25 Q. So is it -- you would have been aware of him doing those

1 three types of things that I have described?

2 **A. Two of them. Two of them.**

3 Q. Which two would you have ...?

4 **A. Not that one.**

5 Q. Not that one?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. But with the cuff round the ear --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- or hitting with the ruler?

10 **A. Correct.**

11 Q. Did he use the cane as well?

12 **A. No, I don't think it was canes. It was rulers.**

13 Q. So the ruler and just a cuff round the ... Do you know
14 why -- given you were in a class where others received
15 that treatment, why did you not receive that treatment?

16 **A. Northern Ireland is a very, very, very small country and
17 my mother dated NL63 when they were younger. They came
18 from the same part of the country. So he may have known
19 who I was.**

20 Q. So you think that might have caused a slightly different
21 reaction with you than perhaps others?

22 **A. That's --**

23 Q. You -- the discussion we were having about the modes of
24 punishment led us on to the gesture I was making of the
25 cheeks, and that is a form of punishment that you are

1 aware of, though not from NL63. Can I ask you to
2 explain to the Inquiry where you did come across that
3 type of punishment?

4 **A. Yes. That type of punishment was handed out by SR34,**
5 **who was the principal of the school, and there was one**
6 **time I remember being in her classroom and she was**
7 **teaching us -- her along with SR71 were teaching**
8 **"Morning has -- Morning has broken", and I remember one**
9 **of the guys for whatever reason -- I don't know why it**
10 **was -- but SR34 went over to him and lifted him up by**
11 **the cheeks.**

12 **Q.** There has been suggestion to the Inquiry that as well as
13 the lifting up by the cheeks, there was a swinging round
14 went with it.

15 **A. That's correct. I mean, what I will say about her is**
16 **she was of the wrong temperament, and we did discuss**
17 **that in there. You know, she was working 24/7, and when**
18 **she did calm down, she was a lovely person, and I think**
19 **deep down she regretted what she did.**

20 **Q.** So to try and -- she was also someone who utilised the
21 ruler?

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

23 **Q.** She was also someone who utilised the cane?

24 **A. More the ruler.**

25 **Q.** More the ruler?

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. If I've understood you correctly, if I can summarise it
3 in this way, she had the capacity to be kind, though
4 strict, but had a propensity to lose the temper.

5 **A. That's correct, but, as I say, she was working 24/7.**
6 **She was teaching. She was principal of the school, and**
7 **then she was going back into Nazareth Lodge to look**
8 **after 20-odd children. It's really, really unfair to**
9 **put that person in that situation, looking back now.**

10 Q. That's, as you know, a systems issue that the Inquiry is
11 primarily focused on, but it's -- you don't talk about
12 her in your statement and you have the reason you have
13 explained for understanding her behaviour, but that is
14 behaviour that you witnessed during the period that she
15 was there?

16 **A. On the odd occasion, yes.**

17 Q. If I have understood correctly, Nazareth Lodge
18 eventually became St. Michael's, and she by that stage
19 had -- I think she left in '73 and St. Michael's began
20 around that time, '73/'74. So your recollection of her
21 will have been in that period in school from perhaps
22 '68, '69, '70, '71, '72.

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

24 Q. When we are on the subject of education, DL40, I know
25 that the paragraphs that are here at 18, 19 and 20 don't

1 really do justice to the discussion we were having
2 beforehand this morning. I know that this is a subject
3 that is a source of deep regret for you. I want to ask
4 you to explain in your own words about the education
5 that you received when you were in Nazareth Lodge --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 **Q.** -- and then, because we have discussed it, there were
8 various issues that I'll pick up with you, but just if
9 I allow you in your own words to explain what it was
10 about the education that you want to say to the Inquiry.

11 **A. Okay. In a nutshell, and I'll elaborate a wee bit more,**
12 **we never received any education, and I don't know the**
13 **reason for that. I mull it quite often and I just don't**
14 **know the reasons, but what I would say is we were never**
15 **formally taught any primary education, and it was**
16 **particularly hard in Nazareth Lodge. It got a wee bit**
17 **better when it went over to St. Michael's. There was no**
18 **set work. There was no set homework.**

19 At the age of 7 when I went out to see a family --
20 at the age of 7 I'm talking about I went out to see
21 a family and I was taught the alphabet and I was taught
22 how to do the time -- how to read the time. There was
23 no school reports. I have never seen one school report
24 of my primary education whatsoever. Basically what was
25 happening is we were occupied, and when I say occupied,

1 just kept busy.

2 But one thing I will say is that there was other
3 children that came to the school that weren't residents
4 in Nazareth Lodge, and this is a very, very, very strong
5 word, but I'm going to use it. There was definitely
6 an apartheid system within the education system. There
7 was the education for the people who came outside and
8 then there was the non-education for the residents in
9 them early years, and I just do not know why that was
10 the case.

11 Q. Now I know it is something you feel strongly about.

12 I want to unpack it with you a little. I am going to
13 pick up the last point you have mentioned first in terms
14 of the educational apartheid. What I understand you to
15 be describing is at a certain point during your time in
16 the Nazareth Lodge school the school started to take in
17 children who were not living in the Lodge.

18 A. **That's correct.**

19 Q. When they did that, a distinction was made between the
20 children who came into the home and those who were
21 living in the home, and that distinction took two forms,
22 if I've understood from our discussion previously. The
23 first form of that was that the children who came into
24 the home sat at the front closest to the teacher. Is
25 that right, that those who were -- who had come in from

1 outside sat at the front of the classroom next to the
2 teacher and those who were living in the Lodge sat at
3 the back of the room?

4 **A. That was my experience, yes.**

5 Q. The second aspect of it was -- and I am going to ask you
6 to explain what you mean by this -- that those who were
7 at the front, who had come in from outside, were taught
8 and those who were living in the Lodge, who were sitting
9 at the back, were not taught. Now I am sure it is not
10 quite as straightforward as that, but can you explain
11 what you mean by that difference in approach?

12 **A. Again this is my own experience. All the engagement**
13 **with the teacher happened with the children that weren't**
14 **in the Lodge, and probably the reason why that there**
15 **happened was because they knew the answers whereas, you**
16 **know -- it breaks my heart to think of it today -- but**
17 **the majority of us just -- we weren't stimulated. We**
18 **were just left to do whatever, and I can't even tell you**
19 **today what that ever was, but all the engagement**
20 **happened with the children that were non-resident.**

21 Q. You make reference -- and, in fact, it is one of the
22 documents that you have brought along that the Panel
23 have access to and we will add to the bundle so it can
24 be seen by the other core participants that are involved
25 with the Inquiry -- but you quote from an educational

1 psychologist's document, which described you as a lovely
2 person but deeply retarded. From our discussion that
3 was something that stung you quite a bit whenever you
4 were obtaining your records and trying to get a handle
5 on what happened to you as a child.

6 A. That's correct, because, I mean, we did have the
7 discussion you can talk about nature versus nurture.
8 The reason why I was retarded is because we were never
9 taught. It's as simple as that, and I'm not being
10 boastful, please, not being boastful. I was just not
11 given the opportunity, and as soon as I was given that
12 opportunity when I went to a special needs class at St.
13 Augustine Schools -- as you talked about earlier, I done
14 that one year gap year -- the special needs teacher just
15 took me underneath his arms and just says, "DL40, you've
16 got it. We just need to ignite what we need to ignite
17 in you and get you through basic numeracy and
18 literature". In that one year -- I learnt more in that
19 one year than I did from my previous primary education,
20 and then with the experience of going to Canada and
21 people sort of getting confidence in you just ignited
22 me, and I also alluded to the fact here -- I know we are
23 not talking about De La Salle here, but I left that
24 there school, that's Rubane House, with one CSE in Irish
25 history. Then from I left the institutions I said to

1 **myself, "The first thing I'm going to do is educate**
2 **myself", and that's what I achieved through the vocation**
3 **of** .

4 Q. I know that was something that you recognise
5 a particular brother as having ignited in you when you
6 were in Rubane, that particular interest.

7 **A. Exactly, yes.**

8 Q. Now you -- you said, and maybe you have therefore
9 already answered this question, but I want to ask you
10 whether it was ever explicitly said to you why your
11 experience with this different treatment between you who
12 lived there and those who were coming in -- whether it
13 was ever said to you in some way why that difference was
14 being made, as you saw it?

15 **A. I honestly do not know, but, you know, what I would like**
16 **to get to the bottom of is the nuns are just one cog in**
17 **this here massive, massive wheel of institution.**

18 **I don't know. Where was the Belfast Education & Library**
19 **Board? What part did they play in maintaining that**
20 **school? I don't know what the status of the Nazareth**
21 **Lodge school was, but surely the Education Department**
22 **had a role to play?**

23 Q. You mentioned in paragraph 21 a particular Sister, SR62,
24 and you say she took charge of your group over SR71 and:
25 "Like any other child growing up, I had my fair

1 share of run-ins with her."

2 You describe her as a "one-off nun". Now I was
3 reading into that when we were discussing earlier that
4 fair share of run-ins meaning there must have been some
5 trouble, but you were explaining your engagement with
6 her was as puberty was coming on and you were
7 challenging her authority a little bit. Having read the
8 material you have provided us with, I can see what you
9 are referring to in that, but actually what you want to
10 say about SR62 is that she was someone who went the
11 extra mile and engaged in -- you mentioned to me sending
12 you to elocution lessons --

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

14 Q. -- although you smile at that, because you make the
15 point you were sent there even though you couldn't read
16 and that was a problem in and of itself.

17 **A. That's correct. They used to give us poems as homework
18 to read and we just couldn't read them.**

19 Q. We will come back to the subject of poetry for the
20 reason you raised with me about NL5 later, but in
21 addition to elocution lessons she sent you to Irish
22 dancing.

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

24 Q. You also made the point to me -- and I want to ask you
25 a little bit about this, given some of the evidence the

1 Inquiry has said -- has heard -- she challenged the nuns
2 when you weren't getting enough food.

3 **A. She challenged the nun that was in the kitchen. You**
4 **know, if there was times that in her opinion -- and she**
5 **was right -- we weren't getting enough food, she would**
6 **send me back -- I was one of the older boys -- to go**
7 **and get more food and SR62 made sure that we got it.**

8 I remember one fond occasion very fondly, that for
9 about five weeks we were sent chocolate ice-cream. We
10 were all getting sick of chocolate ice-cream, and SR62
11 took the chocolate ice-cream back to the kitchen nun and
12 got us vanilla and strawberry. So she was really,
13 really out sticking -- sticking for her group.

14 Q. You have a particular example where she disclosed that
15 mucking-in attitude, being a bit closer to the boys than
16 perhaps some of the others were.

17 **A. Boys and girls.**

18 Q. You mentioned to me that when you were in Ballyhornan,
19 she stripped off and went -- I mean that in the pure
20 sense -- she stripped off and went swimming with you.

21 **A. Absolutely. She just wanted to muck in with the group.**
22 **No other nun would have done that there. SR62 took us**
23 **away along the beach towards the RAF radar tower. She**
24 **just said, "Come on! We'll all go in swimming" and we**
25 **had a fantastic time.**

1 Q. She taught you how to play the piano.

2 **A. Well, she tried.**

3 Q. She tried.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. You mentioned to me she had a penchant for rebel songs
6 that she liked to sing with you.

7 **A. She did. Yes, she did, yes.**

8 Q. But she was someone -- because of the interaction that
9 she had with you during your time, she is someone that
10 you had a very positive relationship with and you
11 maintained that right up until she died?

12 **A. Yes. I mean, she came over here then -- she came over**
13 **here -- I'm sorry. I am in Ireland. She went over then**
14 **to England, and obviously I was based over in England,**
15 **Scotland and Wales, but I followed SR62 through all the**
16 **different Nazareth Houses. So she was based down in**
17 **Lancashire. So I went to see her in Lancashire. She**
18 **went up to either Middlesborough or Newcastle. I can't**
19 **remember which one, but I went to visit her there in**
20 **Newcastle or Middlesborough. Then she retired at**
21 **Nazareth House in Kilmarnock and I made sure I went and**
22 **visited her in Kilmarnock. She sadly -- she sadly**
23 **passed away and I wasn't aware she passed away, but**
24 **I did go and visit her grave. The Reverend Mother gave**
25 **me her purse with a pair of rosary beads and there's**

1 a 50p coin in it and I've maintained that.

2 SR62 was a one-off nun and I'm very, very, very,
3 very grateful. "One-off" is probably wrong, but she
4 was -- she wasn't a stereotypical Sister of Nazareth
5 nun.

6 Q. You are aware from our discussion that there are others
7 who have complained about things she might have done and
8 I was asking you about one particular example. If we
9 can bring up, please, 60054, this is a statement that
10 the -- was in the police material the Inquiry received.
11 If we just scroll down, this is a girl that you know,
12 NL57. Again her name won't be used beyond the chamber
13 and the material will be redacted, but she describes
14 an occasion -- she was the oldest girl in her group of
15 thirteen children and the oldest boy was a boy called
16 DL40. Now I take this to be -- this is the Bethlehem
17 group, but by this stage you and her are the oldest
18 members of it, if you like --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- and you are probably 12 or 13 years of age that this
21 incident refers to.

22 **A. That's correct.**

23 Q. She says:

24 "SR62 used to make us both take a bath together and
25 that was something I didn't like."

1 I was asking you about that and you were explaining
2 to me that it wasn't the two of you put in the bath
3 together in the same water at the same time, but that
4 you would have seen each other naked. You were coming
5 in to get into the bath after she got out and vice
6 versa.

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

8 Q. Obviously she is expressing the view here twenty years
9 on that that's something she was not keen on. She would
10 have been 12 or 13 I suppose, developing as a girl at
11 the time.

12 Now, as said to you, SR62 was interviewed about that
13 issue where you are identified on 19th June 1996. If we
14 just look at 60080, please. We went through as we were
15 talking earlier, DL40, the police made sure she knew
16 exactly who you were talking about. If we just scroll
17 down, please, so she discusses a bit about the bath.

18 "Q. She was made to bath together with DL40.

19 **A. That's ridiculous.**

20 Q. She was concerned she was made to bath with
21 the child and she was saying around this time she would
22 have been 13 years of age, that kind of age.

23 Oh, no, never. They had separate ladies' toilets
24 and separate boys' bathrooms, you know. They bathed
25 them separately."

1 So the Sister's recollection is slightly wrong in
2 that you have a clear memory of while you weren't in the
3 bath at the same time, you did see each other without
4 any clothes on as you were coming out and she was going
5 in?

6 **A. That's correct, but we might have had towels round us or**
7 **something like that. I don't think we would have been**
8 **bollock naked, but obviously she was a developing young**
9 **girl. So maybe she didn't have the appropriate**
10 **clothing.**

11 Q. In paragraph 23 of your statement, if we look at 1875,
12 you talk about the redevelopment of Nazareth Lodge.
13 I just want you to assist the Inquiry to put that in
14 context. This is around about 1972/'73, as I understand
15 it, and structural changes were taking place then which
16 also changed the nature of the care.

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

18 Q. What was happening was the dormitories were being split
19 into rooms of various sizes. So you very quickly had
20 a single room to yourself and then there were some other
21 bedrooms where there were three or four beds in the
22 room.

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

24 Q. Then there was a -- bedrooms were separated by the nun
25 having a bedroom along this new corridor that was

1 established.

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

3 Q. That same model was rolled out across the various
4 dormitories that there had been?

5 **A. Yes. I remember it. I mean, it was lovely to get
6 smaller rooms away from these here big dormitories, and
7 one of the big things was there was actually carpet. We
8 got carpet. The place got carpeted. So long gone were
9 sort of the tile floors and the wooden floors. We were
10 all -- it was lovely to have carpeted floors, and at the
11 same time the kitchens were getting refurbished, and
12 they were becoming more a small family unit.**

13 Q. I suppose the addition of carpets meant no more floor
14 polishing.

15 **A. There was no more floor polishing, but what I can say
16 about floor polishing, I loved it. I loved working that
17 big buffer and sitting on it and mucking around with it.**

18 Q. By your time it was the machine version that you
19 could -- it was electric and moved across the floor, and
20 I think you describe in your statement you were able to
21 ride along on it.

22 **A. Absolutely. What fantastic play equipment!**

23 Q. You also said to me that as part of this remodelling
24 sitting rooms were developed.

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

1 Q. As I gather -- was that each group who had the group of
2 bedrooms had their own sitting room or was there one
3 sitting room that everybody made use of?

4 **A. No. We all had -- each of the groups had their**
5 **individual sitting rooms and dining rooms.**

6 Q. So the idea of this -- the Panel have seen this before
7 elsewhere -- was to create a sort of unit of
8 accommodation for each group of thirteen, twenty,
9 twenty-five children, whatever the number was, where you
10 had your bedrooms and you also had a living room that
11 you shared and they were sort of self-contained, because
12 they each had their own kitchen for you to eat together
13 as well.

14 **A. That's correct, and we even had a verandah to play in.**

15 Q. Now, DL40, I want to talk to you about Father Brendan
16 Smyth. I am aware, as we discussed this on the last
17 occasion, this is a difficult issue for you and
18 I explained to you the systems issue that I want to
19 discuss with you. You talk about this in paragraphs 27
20 to 29 of your statement.

21 The first thing I want to do is just to establish
22 with you the time at which as best we can that Brendan
23 Smyth began his abuse. You made your statement to the
24 police in 1995. If we can bring up 62044, please, and
25 here you explain, if we just maximise that and scroll

1 down -- thank you -- that you associate -- you became
2 an altar boy at 7 or 8 --

3 **A. That's correct.**

4 Q. -- and that would have been 1971/1972.

5 **A. That is correct, yes.**

6 Q. Then you associate his involvement -- I think you wanted
7 to clarify something. You are not saying he took mass
8 on a regular basis --

9 **A. No, he didn't.**

10 Q. -- but you remember him starting to come into the home
11 and be a regular visitor from you were -- you believe
12 the age of 8 or 9.

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

14 Q. That would have been -- if that recollection is correct,
15 that's 1972/1973, that period of time.

16 **A. That -- I do not know the exact dates --**

17 Q. Yes.

18 **A. -- but, you know, if you're talking to me and you're
19 putting that in, then it must be round about that time,
20 yes, but I can't be exact.**

21 Q. You were also able to say to me that your recollection
22 is that the year before you moved to Rubane, which was
23 September '77, you hadn't seen him as much that year
24 where you went to Is that -- am I right about
25 that?

1 **A.** You are right, because -- the reason being is if he had
2 abused me then, I was a lot, lot older, and like I --
3 like I should have did, in Rubane House, as we sort of
4 said, I talked to BR1. So if he had done that there, if
5 he had abused me when I was 11, so I was there 11, 12,
6 I would have definitely told somebody. So ...

7 **Q.** Yes. Just to assist, whatever you gave your evidence
8 about Rubane, you explained that when he started to
9 visit Rubane to see you and others after '77, you told
10 BR1 about what he was doing. We went over that during
11 your Rubane evidence.

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

13 **Q.** The point you are making is that at 11 or 12 you were in
14 secondary school in that year leading up to the
15 trip and the move to Rubane. If you had had engagement
16 with him then, your feeling is you would have been
17 likely to have done something about it.

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

19 **Q.** Whereas the abuse that you recall from him you explain
20 in your police statement and in your Inquiry statement
21 that it was at a time when you knew it was wrong, but
22 you were young and confused by it and what he was doing.

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

24 **Q.** You explain -- and I am not going to go into the detail
25 of it -- you explain how in Nazareth Lodge the abuse was

1 of him kissing and touching you --

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

3 Q. -- and then in Rubane it moved on a stage beyond that.

4 **A. It escalated, yes.**

5 Q. There are a number of questions that I was discussing
6 with you earlier that I just want to deal with now to
7 assist the Panel with its work. I am just going to
8 summarise what you said to me and you tell me where
9 I get it wrong, but he did abuse you in the chapel in
10 Nazareth Lodge --

11 **A. That's correct.**

12 Q. -- and also in a dark corridor that you remember. Where
13 did the corridor lead to? Can you remember where it led
14 to? If you can't, just say.

15 **A. No, I do. I know exactly where it was. It was the dark**
16 **corridor that -- there was a hatch to go into the**
17 **kitchen, where everybody came down to see the hatch, and**
18 **that -- there was a long dark corridor that led into**
19 **the main corridor going down to the parlour, and it was**
20 **in that dark corridor that Smyth abused me on many**
21 **occasions.**

22 Q. I want to ask you about the parlour, because your
23 recollection is he had a bedroom that he stayed in in
24 Nazareth Lodge.

25 **A. Yes. If you went in the front door in the parlour, he**

1 **was on the right-hand side. That was his bedroom.**

2 Q. I was discussing with you earlier you were in his
3 bedroom, but you were in his bedroom with other children
4 and him.

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

6 Q. He never abused you in the bedroom that he utilised in
7 Nazareth Lodge.

8 **A. The abuse for me always took place in isolation.**

9 Q. That's another issue that I'm going to come on. Just
10 when you have mentioned it, what he did to you was never
11 done in the presence of others.

12 **A. No.**

13 Q. It was always something that he made sure that he was
14 alone with you.

15 **A. That's correct.**

16 Q. That was the same modus operandi -- the same -- he
17 conducted himself in the same way in Rubane. It was
18 getting you on your own.

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

20 Q. Now I was raising with you, DL40, earlier a particular
21 paragraph in a witness statement that the Inquiry has
22 received. This person wasn't available to give oral
23 evidence, but their statement was considered by the
24 Inquiry. If we can bring up 229, please, and
25 paragraph 19 of the statement, this person has said to

1 the Inquiry -- and we don't need to identify who he is;
2 the Panel will be able to know who it is, HIA397 -- that
3 he says, in addition to something else he says about
4 Father Brendan Smyth in paragraph 18, that he remembers
5 coming along the corridor to the chapel and looking in
6 and seeing a with Smyth. Now can I
7 just check: at the time were you the only
8 in Nazareth Lodge?

9 **A.**

10

11

12

13 Q. So it's possible -- if this is an accurate reflection,
14 it's possible that it's you that he's making reference
15 to, but what he's saying is that he remembers seeing you
16 crying and the tears tripping down your face, and then
17 he says he remembers thinking to himself he knew why you
18 were crying and that was because you were alone with
19 Smyth. He just walked on, and that was a memory that he
20 continues to have today. Do you ever remember him
21 making you cry that you can recollect?

22 **A. I don't remember him making me cry. No, I don't. He**
23 **had the persona of a man of kindness. You know, he'd be**
24 **-- so he'd be hugging you and he'd be a jolly type of**
25 **person, and he'd be a person that always fed you sweets**

1 **and gave you money. So I don't -- crying -- I don't**
2 **think he ever made me cry. He certainly confused me,**
3 **but I don't think he made me cry.**

4 Q. You certainly weren't aware -- if this is a reference to
5 you and if this person's recollection is right, you
6 don't remember -- ever remember being aware of anyone
7 seeing you with Smyth in this way?

8 **A. Well, that's me. It could be nobody else. Maybe just**
9 **the crying bit. Maybe confused, yes, but I don't think**
10 **crying.**

11 Q. The other question I wanted to ask you about it is
12 whether -- did Smyth ever go into your -- you were in
13 the Bethlehem dormitory, as it were. Do you ever
14 remember him being in the dormitory with you?

15 **A. Smyth could go wherever he wanted to. I can't really**
16 **remember any exact -- in my dormitory, but he was -- you**
17 **know, he could go -- he was just given free range to go**
18 **to any room he wanted to go into.**

19 Q. Can I ask you this: can you remember, and just to the
20 extent that you can, because I appreciate now it is
21 a long time ago, but how often would he have been around
22 during your time in Nazareth Lodge as a -- we are
23 talking about the period '72/'73. You are 9. You
24 become an altar boy in the year before. How regularly
25 would you see him?

1 **A. Smyth came -- Smyth came to Nazareth Lodge I believe to**
2 **do a retreat for the nuns and he befriended all the**
3 **children, as we know, and -- so after that there retreat**
4 **I would have seen him -- he'd have come on a bi-monthly**
5 **basis, but what he was very cunning at doing is he**
6 **maintained contact with you on a regular basis, you**
7 **know, through writing letters to you and giving you**
8 **money; I remember bothered you and stuff.**

9 Q. Would you have received letters from him?

10 **A. I did, yes.**

11 Q. Were those addressed to you at Nazareth Lodge?

12 **A. They were addressed to me at both Nazareth Lodge and**
13 **Rubane House.**

14 Q. And Rubane. In respect of the letters at Nazareth Lodge
15 presumably you didn't collect the post. Somebody gave
16 you the letters that were being sent to you.

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

18 Q. Was that one of the nuns?

19 **A. Counsel, I can't recall.**

20 Q. You don't know. I'm just wondering whether -- whether
21 it ever occurred to someone why were you getting
22 letters, because the point you make, and we are going to
23 come on to it, you didn't have any contact from your
24 family, and here you were. You were getting letters
25 from someone. Was it ever discussed with you, "Oh, you

1 have got a letter from Father" or was there ever any
2 mention of the fact he was writing to you at Nazareth
3 Lodge?

4 **A. No. I think the nuns were glad that people were writing**
5 **to us. No, there was no discussion.**

6 Q. It just didn't come up as an issue as to --

7 **A. We all know it was off everybody's radar.**

8 Q. So the Inquiry has heard some evidence to date, and
9 there is more and, as I have said to you, it is
10 something we are going to continue to investigate, that
11 there was an uncomfortableness amongst some of the
12 adults about his presence. Is that something that you
13 were ever made aware of? Did anybody ever say to you,
14 "Look, don't be alone with him" or "Make sure you're
15 together in groups when he's around", that type of
16 warning?

17 **A. Regrettably not.**

18 Q. It's not a subject that was ever discussed?

19 **A. Correct.**

20 Q. When you were meeting him in the chapel, is that
21 a circumstance where a group was brought to the chapel
22 and then he was able thereafter to isolate you and
23 anyone else he was abusing, or was it -- were there no
24 other adults involved in bringing you to that location?

25 **A. Counsel, as I have already says, Brendan Smyth had free**

1 run of Nazareth Lodge. He could do whatever he wanted.

2 Q. So it was himself was bringing you to those locations
3 rather than -- it wasn't part of confession or mass or
4 anything of that nature?

5 A. Brendan -- spiritually Brendan Smyth didn't engage with
6 us whatsoever.

7 Q. There is one issue that you identified with me this
8 morning, DL40. I am not going to ask you any more about
9 Brendan Smyth.

10 A. Can I just say something about Brendan Smyth --

11 Q. Yes.

12 A. -- is -- I mean, when it all came to light, I was over
13 in Somerset, and I don't know how I got -- I don't know
14 how Chris Moore from UTV got hold of me, but I have --
15 I have it on the record and one of his TV programmes is
16 that Smyth was a sad person, a very, very, very, very
17 sad person, and I am just stating this for the Inquiry
18 to hear, and that is, but unfortunately you get
19 paedophiles in society, and you'll get them until man
20 becomes extinct, but it was the way that he was handled
21 was just absolutely shocking, and I am on the record as
22 saying that there, that we should never have been put in
23 the position that there guy put us in, and the
24 collateral damage he has caused is unbelievable.
25 I point all my blame to the Norbertine Order for the way

1 **they handled that sick man.**

2 Q. As you know, I was explaining to you that the Inquiry is
3 going to look further into who knew what and when about
4 his activity. That's something we will do later in our
5 programme of work.

6 **A. I welcome that.**

7 Q. You raised an issue with me this morning, DL40, that
8 I just want to -- if we can bring up, please, on the
9 screen 80039, and you will be pleased to know we are
10 shortly finished. So bear with me just for a short
11 while. If we scroll down to paragraph 68, NL5 has given
12 a witness statement to the Inquiry. As yet she has not
13 given oral evidence. She is referring here to
14 responding to a statement where someone has said that
15 her group was called "the Whippets". She then said to
16 the Inquiry:

17 "The story about the Whippets arose in this way.
18 There was a boy called DL40, a lovely boy and an Irish
19 dancer. He made up a rhyme about my group: 'Seven
20 little whippets great and small, and NL5 owned them
21 all'. DL40 was about 11 or 12 and he made that up
22 himself, since I had seven boys at the time."

23 Now you became aware of that being said and wanted
24 to say to the Inquiry something about that.

25 **A. Yes. I just want to put the record straight is that**

1 I didn't -- I didn't make that there poem up. The first
2 time I have ever heard of whippets -- and whippets was
3 a derogatory word used to describe the children under
4 NL5's care -- the first time I ever heard of whippets
5 I remember it was out in the playing fields when we were
6 playing football and whippets was -- the author of the
7 whippets was NL 14 one of the older Lodge boys,
8 and we just laughed because -- in the summer evenings
9 each group was called in by their -- by their religious
10 order names, the Marions, Sacred Heart or whatever.
11 NL5's group were always the first group called in and we
12 used to -- NL 14 then just laughed, "There's NL5's
13 whippets running after her".

14 Q. So you were not the -- you were not a budding poet other
15 than in elocution lessons.

16 A. Exactly, yes.

17 Q. The last two -- if we can go to paragraph 31 of your
18 statement, please, which will be on 1875, you explain
19 in -- in fact, if we move on to 1876, you explain in
20 paragraphs 31 to 34 -- and in 30 you mention a phrase
21 you used previously to the Inquiry, that you dealt with
22 the hand that you were given, and you after leaving care
23 got well educated and a good job and built a family.
24 The point that you are making in 31 through to 34 is
25 that you have a lot of thanks for the Sisters of

1 Nazareth having the home for you to go and live in and
2 for taking you in.

3 A. I -- I see Sister Brenda there at the back. I just want
4 to tell you this little story. It was about seven years
5 ago, eight years ago myself and my two boys at that
6 there time were in Southend, and we were just walking
7 along the pier and I recognised -- I saw these two nuns
8 and I recognised they were Sisters of Nazareth. So
9 Sister Brenda was one of them, and we talked, and I must
10 have spent about twenty minutes talking to the two nuns.
11 I have got absolutely -- my heart is open to them. What
12 them ladies gave up to look after us unfortunate
13 orphans, I am so grateful for them, and I look upon the
14 congregations of the poor Sisters of Nazareth as my
15 mother.

16 Q. You have explained in 31 through to 34 your attitude
17 towards them and how you have then brought your own boys
18 up. They go to a De La Salle school.

19 A. No.

20 Q. Have I got that wrong?

21 A. You are right. One goes to School,
22 which is a fantastic Roman Catholic school in
23 -- sorry -- and my other
24 boy goes to , which is a former De La Salle
25 provate (sic), and that's in London.

1 Q. There are two questions, DL40, as I said to you, we ask
2 each witness. The first is the Panel at the end of its
3 work has to consider what recommendations it might make
4 to the Northern Ireland Government about the matters
5 that it has been investigating in three areas: some form
6 of apology, some form of memorial, or some other means
7 of redress of some kind. I just ask the witness whether
8 there's anything they want to say that might assist the
9 Inquiry Panel's thinking about that. Is there anything
10 you want to say about that?

11 A. Well, I know -- I have to get this into perspective is
12 that the nuns were just one cog in a mighty wheel. The
13 sisters have made an apology and I accept that there
14 apology. There's other people that need to make
15 apologies also, the Education Department, to some extent
16 Social Services, although I did say that my social
17 worker at the time, NL 199, was a great man.

18 As part of redress, I mean, the thing that's closest
19 to my heart is to do with education and I already
20 alluded to it earlier on is there's nature versus
21 nurture. Maybe for the younger -- maybe for the younger
22 members that have gone through the institutions maybe
23 some sort of centre for education could be sort of set
24 up or their educational needs be met and maybe brought
25 up just to basic standards.

1 One thing I would also love is -- when I came to
2 this here Inquiry, I was completely ill prepared on
3 November, but I am more prepared now and I have read
4 other people's statements, but one of the things that
5 I am picking up is -- and I am recognising people's
6 names, and there is an awful lot of nice people out
7 there, and maybe -- once you leave the institutions you
8 lose really contact with all of them. So maybe a sort
9 of -- if somebody could manage a database of everybody
10 that went through the institutions and whether we want
11 to meet up through filtering it out through a
12 third party. I would like that there, because there is
13 a lot of people I recognise, and I don't know how to get
14 in contact with them.

15 Q. Am I right in saying, DL40, you have begun that process
16 to some extent with some of the individuals that the
17 Inquiry has heard from and will hear from, and there is
18 a particular issue you were discussing with me
19 yesterday -- discussing with me this morning that arose
20 yesterday when you attended the Inquiry and you came
21 with your mum.

22 A. Uh-huh.

23 Q. I know -- and I said to you just to be careful, because
24 obviously your mum is involved in this as well, but
25 there is something you wanted to say to the Inquiry how

1 the process has helped you in a perhaps unexpected way
2 with her. Do you want to say a little bit about that?

3 A. Yes. I mean, what I will say is that, you know, there's
4 other people that -- I don't want to use "the victims"
5 -- but are affected by, you know, us growing up in care,
6 and that there person is my mother. She's -- you know,
7 she was a in
8 , and for whatever reason --
9 it's a societal thing -- but for whatever reason when
10 I became a (inaudible) court order in -- when I was 10
11 or 11 years old, my mother still rejected me then. She
12 just couldn't -- for whatever reason she just couldn't
13 handle me.

14 One of the nicest things is -- you know, we are
15 building on that relationship, but one of the things was
16 I was here, as you know, yesterday, and my mother wanted
17 to come and hear the work of this here Inquiry. She was
18 able to meet Sister Brenda and we had a lovely time.
19 I didn't want her to be here today just because it's
20 just a wee bit too personal, but, you know -- and for
21 the first time when I came over -- I came over here on
22 Tuesday -- but my mother apologised for not acting
23 sooner to get in contact with her son at the age of 10
24 and take him out of care. So that's -- I am delighted
25 with that.

1 Q. So your effort to engage in the process in the way that
2 you have has had some unexpected benefit that hopefully
3 will continue to progress.

4 **A. Absolutely.**

5 Q. DL40, I'm not going to ask you anything else. The Panel
6 Members may want to ask you. There's something you
7 want -- there is one other thing you want to say. Go
8 ahead and do that.

9 **A. All that I want to say is, Sir Anthony, Mrs Doherty,**
10 **Mr Lane, thank you very -- and counsel and the support**
11 **victims, thank you very, very, very much -- and all the**
12 **background staff, thank you very, very, very much for**
13 **the professional manner in which you have carried out**
14 **this here Inquiry. I'm very, very, very grateful and**
15 **I am very, very, very, very grateful to the nuns and**
16 **indeed the De La Salle Brothers for engaging with the**
17 **process, and hopefully when the report is published --**
18 **I know you have got an extension -- I look forward to**
19 **reading it.**

20 Q. DL40, I'm not going to ask you anything more. If you
21 remain where you are for a short time, the Panel Members
22 may want to ask you something.

23 Questions from THE PANEL

24 MS DOHERTY: DL40, thank you very much. That was really
25 helpful. Can I just ask, if we go back to SR62, when it

1 became clear the elocution lessons were a bit difficult
2 because of the reading, did she identify that? Did she
3 help with the reading? Did she ...?

4 **A. Sister -- not in that particular -- not in that**
5 **particular incident, but SR62 then did -- she was very**
6 **interested in that we had books in the group and we were**
7 **given every opportunity to sort of readdress our**
8 **sub-standard education.**

9 Q. But did you have to keep on going to the elocution
10 lessons without --

11 **A. I went -- it was not me. There was a group of us. No,**
12 **we dropped out very, very quickly.**

13 Q. Okay. Can I just ask -- I mean, the conduct about SR34
14 is about what happened in school, and I know school was
15 a part of your experience, but that type of physical
16 chastisement, did you observe that in the home, when the
17 children were in the home?

18 **A. I mean, the people that sort of carried out punishment**
19 **at home was actually the lay staff, but they would --**
20 **they would smack you on the bottom, smack your legs and**
21 **stuff like that there, but that was just really to keep**
22 **you in order.**

23 Q. Would the nuns have observed that?

24 **A. No.**

25 Q. The last question I have is about Brendan Smyth.

1 I heard you say that he didn't engage with you
2 spiritually, but in relation to -- did he engage with
3 the nuns spiritually? He went first for a retreat.
4 I mean, I am just trying to work out why -- what was the
5 rationale for him being there. Did you understand what
6 he was there for if he wasn't saying mass regularly or
7 ...?

8 **A. Mrs Doherty, I'd love to get to the answer to that.**

9 **I just do not know the answer to that.**

10 Q. Okay, and just the last one: did you see him engage with
11 the nuns while he was there?

12 **A. I did. He done the retreat and he did say one or two**
13 **masses, but it wasn't on a regular basis. He was a sort**
14 **of a -- he was a sort of a man that was like a superior**
15 **priest in the clothing that he wore. I remember lovely**
16 **big white orders and lovely gold and lovely purples. So**
17 **he wasn't the normal run-of-the-mill -- he didn't**
18 **perceive himself to be the normal run-of-the-mill**
19 **priest.**

20 Q. His engagement was mostly with children when he was at
21 the Lodge as opposed to --

22 **A. Well, it was a retreat for the nuns and then going round**
23 **befriending all the children.**

24 Q. Okay. Thanks very much.

25 **A. You're welcome.**

1 CHAIRMAN: Well, DL40, thank you very much for coming back
2 to speak to us, because, as you have mentioned, we have
3 heard and we know you were here before. It's very good
4 of you to take the trouble to come back to Northern
5 Ireland to speak to us. As we explained on the last
6 occasion, it is difficult to deal with two institutions
7 at the same time. That's why we've asked you to come
8 back today, but thank you very much for doing so, and we
9 are encouraged to hear that it has had another
10 unexpected benefit for you. Thank you very much for
11 what you have said today. It has been very helpful.

12 **A. Thank you, Chairman.**

13 **(Witness withdrew)**

14 Q. Chairman, Members of the Panel, Ms Smith is taking the
15 next witness and I just notice the time. So perhaps ...

16 CHAIRMAN: 2.30.

17 (1.30 pm)

18 (Lunch break)

19 (2.30 pm)

20 WITNESS HIA223 (called)

21 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, Chairman, Panel Members. The
22 next witness today is HIA223. She is "HIA223". HIA223
23 wishes to affirm and she also wishes to maintain her
24 anonymity.

25 WITNESS HIA223 (affirmed)

1 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Please sit down, HIA223.

2 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

3 MS SMITH: Now, HIA223, just before I come to talk about
4 your evidence I am just going to tell the Panel Members
5 where some documents are in our papers.

6 HIA223's statement can be found at SNB-314 to 322.

7 The congregation's response is at SNB-2062 to 2064,
8 and the Health & Social Care Board response is at 6145
9 to 6146. It indicates that they have no records
10 relating to HIA223's time in Nazareth House and they
11 believe she was a private placement.

12 Now if we could pull up SNB-314, please, now,
13 HIA223, on the screen in front of you there is a witness
14 statement and you will see that instead of your name it
15 says "Witness statement of HIA223". If we could go to
16 the last page of that, 322, HIA223, you will see that
17 there's a block over your signature there, but can you
18 confirm that you signed the statement on 4th July 19...
19 -- 2014?

20 **A. Yes, I did.**

21 Q. This is the statement of evidence that you want the
22 Inquiry to consider together with anything else you tell
23 us this afternoon?

24 **A. I do.**

25 Q. Thank you. If we go back to the first page of your

1 statement at 314, in paragraph 1 you set out your
2 personal details there, and I know you don't mind me
3 telling people that you are now aged 66.

4 **A. No.**

5 Q. You went into Nazareth House -- we don't know how young
6 you were, but we know from records that you were there
7 from July 1951 until February 1965. You were 3 years of
8 age when you first went into the house. You say in this
9 paragraph that you found out later that your mother had
10 been paying the sum of 15 shillings a week for your
11 keep.

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

13 Q. That was something she told you. Is that correct?

14 **A. Yes, she told me that when I came back to Ireland and**
15 **. I was with two other girls and we were**
16 **talking to her, and I got this other girl to ask her**
17 **questions, my questions, because I didn't know what to**
18 **say, and then the lady asked her about -- I'm getting**
19 **nervous.**

20 Q. Don't worry.

21 **A. The lady asked --**

22 Q. Take your time.

23 **A. The lady asked her did she keep in contact with Nazareth**
24 **House and she said "Yes" and then she said, "I paid 15**
25 **pound a week for you being there", you know.**

1 Q. 15 shillings?

2 **A. 15 shillings it was, yes.**

3 Q. What the congregation would say is that they have no
4 records of any payments. That's not to say your mother
5 didn't make the payments. They just simply have no
6 records of any payments being made by anybody at this
7 point in time.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Paragraph 3 and 4 here you describe your first memories
10 of being in Nazareth House. You don't remember anything
11 you say until you were about 6 or 7. You were in Our
12 Lady's group and you say that SR31 was in charge of your
13 group. I am using the nuns' names, but, as you will see
14 here, we have given them designations and those names
15 are not to be used outside this room, HIA223.

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. SR31 was in charge. SR134 and SR116 were in charge of
18 the other groups.

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

20 Q. You were woken by SR31 each morning. You had to get up
21 at 6.30 am and go to mass. You don't remember what you
22 got for breakfast but after breakfast you got ready for
23 school. You all had chores to do.

24 "We had to clean everything, every room we went
25 into. We had to scrub all the passageways. We were

1 always on our hands and knees. I was in charge of
2 cleaning the big hall before we went to school. We all
3 had our jobs to do and when we came back from school as
4 well. At weekends we had to scrub the top kitchen and
5 the top passage. When I was a bit older, I was sent to
6 work in the kitchen and I didn't mind it."

7 You go on to talk about a particular incident.
8 There was a nun up there, that's in the top kitchen,
9 that you liked and that was SR187.

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

11 Q. You went up one day to help her to fill the fires, but
12 you must have got there too early. The kitchen was in
13 darkness, and the Mother Superior, who at that time was
14 SR 176 , was there, and told you that if she saw
15 you in the kitchen again, she would send you to the Good
16 Shepherd, which was the home across the road for
17 unmarried mothers. That terrified you and you never
18 went back up to the kitchen. You didn't want to go over
19 to the Good Shepherd and spend the rest of your life in
20 another home. You go on to say:

21 "We were glorified slaves for the nuns. We were
22 exhausted and we got nothing for all the work that we
23 did."

24 **A. That's true.**

25 Q. HIA223, I told you that the congregation have given

1 a witness statement and they don't accept that you had
2 to go to mass every morning.

3 **A. Christine, we did, because I was there, and each morning**
4 **-- SR31 was in charge of my group and she'd come -- we**
5 **would hear her coming out of the cell and she was heavy**
6 **on her feet, and she used to tell us to get up, and we**
7 **were so tired. We used to have to go to church, and we**
8 **used to always -- when we went to mass, we used to sit**
9 **and half of us used to sleep in church, because we**
10 **weren't interested in going to mass every day, you know,**
11 **but that was for a couple of years, and then maybe**
12 **they've stopped it, but as far as I was concerned I went**
13 **to mass every single day the same as the other kids.**

14 **Q. Was it all of the children in the home who had to do**
15 **this or was it just your group?**

16 **A. Oh, every one of us did it.**

17 **Q. They also say that the chores that you were asked to do**
18 **weren't excessive and they don't accept that you were**
19 **treated as glorified slaves. Is there anything you want**
20 **to say about that, HIA223?**

21 **A. Christine, again we were glorified slaves, because as**
22 **soon as we got up we went to mass and then we did our**
23 **breakfast and then we had to do chores before going to**
24 **school, and we were exhausted, and that was every single**
25 **day we all had jobs to do.**

1 Q. You talk in paragraph 5 here about going to school. You
2 went to the primary school in Nazareth House, and I was
3 asking you earlier the school was within the convent.
4 You didn't have to go outside the door to get to school.
5 Isn't that right?

6 **A. That's right. It was in Nazareth House, yes.**

7 Q. You say you didn't learn anything. You think that you
8 were taught by SR134.

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

10 Q. You couldn't read or write or tell the time.

11 **A. That's right, because there was -- Christine, there was**
12 **so many of us. The ones they thought -- they thought**
13 **had no brains, we were all put into one class, and there**
14 **was too many of us. None of us took interest. It was**
15 **only certain ones that the nuns took interest in, and**
16 **the nuns who took interest in the ones in my class, we**
17 **were called "backward crowd", which I think was very**
18 **unfair, and the ones who had parents, family, they sort**
19 **of took more notice of them than us. We were just left**
20 **at the back sitting and they didn't give a damn.**

21 Q. You then -- you say you couldn't read or write or tell
22 the time when you left primary school. You then went to
23 St. Monica's. You say at that stage you were dumped in
24 all class -- one class, because you were from Nazareth
25 House.

1 A. Christine, that's true. Even when I went to
2 St. Monica's, I couldn't read, couldn't write, couldn't
3 do arithmetic. We were all thrown in . It was
4 because we were in Nazareth House, because nobody took
5 interest in us. We were all dumped in the one class and
6 left there.

7 Q. You say you were in the lowest stream, given no
8 education and, as you say, there were some lucky girls
9 who were picked to go into a different class, as you
10 thought because they had sponsors or family. You also
11 say you were easily picked out as Nazareth House girls,
12 because of the blouses that you wore.

13 A. Yes, Christine. They had a workroom in our place down
14 where we got ready for school and there was a nun and a
15 wee woman -- NHB 32 they called her -- and they
16 used to make our blouses. Instead of having, you know,
17 nice blouses our blouses were criss-cross (gesturing)
18 and they were as yellow. As soon as we went down to St.
19 Monica's everybody knew who was from Nazareth House. It
20 was so embarrass ring.

21 Q. How were the other girls who weren't from the House, how
22 did their blouses differ to yours?

23 A. Oh, theirs were white and lovely. They looked smart and
24 everything, neat and tidy.

25 Q. The congregation have said that they tried to provide

1 an adequate education for children. Children were
2 classed according to their age rather than according to
3 their ability.

4 **A. I don't think that's true. Age didn't -- right enough,**
5 **when we went to St. Monica's Secondary School, I was 11,**
6 **and I don't think my age came into it, because in**
7 **St. Monica's there was , and then it went up to ,**
8 **, and then up to the A stream, but we weren't -- we**
9 **weren't picked out. "Oh, they are Nazareth House girls.**
10 **Throw them all in ", and that's where we stayed.**

11 Q. In paragraph 6 here you talk about the uniforms and you
12 say you think you had to change them twice a week.

13 "We had to show our knickers to the nuns for them to
14 inspect. It was very embarrassing."

15 Were you ever -- was there ever any explanation
16 given to you, HIA223, as to why you had to show your
17 underwear?

18 **A. Nothing at all. I think it was to -- for the nuns to**
19 **show they were in charge of us and we did what they**
20 **wanted us to do. It doesn't matter how embarrassing it**
21 **was.**

22 Q. You say:

23 "You got bathed in Jeyes Fluid and the same water
24 was used for everybody, so that by the time it came to
25 the last few girls the water was freezing."

1 You say:

2 "Bathtime took place twice a week",

3 and you were talking about this earlier with me and

4 you were saying that there would be one child in the

5 bath, one waiting to go in and one getting dried --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 **Q.** -- and that was how it operated. Is that right?

8 **A. Yes. Christine, what happened, the first one went into**

9 **the bath. We sat down. The next -- no. The first one**

10 **went in. She was washing her feet at the side of the**

11 **bath. Then she moved up to the bath, sat in the bath**

12 **and the bath was full of water. The water was freezing**

13 **anyway and Jeyes fluid stung you right around you**

14 **(gesturing). They didn't care. I don't know who put**

15 **the Jeyes fluid in, but the Jeyes fluid was in the bath**

16 **when we went into the bathroom, and then the girl who**

17 **was finishing with her bath, she had to get out and**

18 **stand in the corner and dry herself. She dried her...**

19 **-- she must have dried herself with the soaking towel**

20 **that everybody else used.**

21 **Q.** There was another child waiting to get into the bath

22 after her. Is that right?

23 **A. Once they moved up, the other child moved in, sat at the**

24 **-- sat on the edge of the bath and scrubbed her leg and**

25 **waited till the other girl who was in the bath to get**

1 **out, and that's how it would worked.**

2 Q. Okay. You said that as you got older, you were taking
3 more pride in your appearance and you used to wash your
4 clothes yourselves at night so you weren't going to
5 school with dirty clothes.

6 **A. That's true.**

7 Q. The skirts which were supposed to be pleated, but
8 weren't, you used to soak the skirts in a bath of water
9 and then put them under a mattress at night. You had to
10 wash your own socks and put them on to the radiators so
11 that you weren't wearing dirty socks every day. Anybody
12 who wet the bed had to take their bed sheets down to the
13 laundry to be washed. It only happened to you twice,
14 that's bedwetting --

15 **A. Ah, yes.**

16 Q. -- but you remember feeling very embarrassed about
17 having to do that.

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

19 Q. Now the congregation have said that they find it
20 difficult to understand that -- why you would have been
21 asked to show your underwear, why there would have been
22 such an inspection, and find it difficult to accept it
23 was a commonplace practice or common practice.

24 **A. No, I think the nuns just wanted to let us know they had**
25 **power over us and kept us under their finger, and if we**

1 said "Boo", God help us. That's what it was, power all
2 the time. They are the bosses and we were just rubbish.

3 Q. Well, they also say that Jeyes fluid may have been used
4 on a girl's hair in order to prevent head lice in the
5 home, but you are saying it was actually used in the
6 bath itself.

7 A. Oh, it was used in the bath. I think we got bathed
8 twice a week and every time we went into the bath the
9 bath was stinking with Jeyes fluid, and the water was
10 freezing. We never had hot water by the time it got to
11 the other children.

12 Q. One thing they do say is that they accept they didn't
13 deal appropriately with those children who wet the bed,
14 but they don't accept that children were made to bring
15 their wet sheets to the laundry.

16 A. Aye, we did, because I was one of them. I wasn't as
17 bad. Some of the children wet their beds nearly every
18 day -- God love them -- but I wet mine about twice. We
19 had to carry our sheet in our hands like this
20 (gesturing) and run down to the laundry, and it was
21 a long way down to the laundry for a child, but they
22 didn't care.

23 Q. Well, paragraph 7 here, HIA223, you talk about the food
24 in the home. You say:

25 "It was absolutely rotten. We were starving. We

1 used to eat the grass in the garden."

2 **A. That's true.**

3 Q. Now one of the things that I ought to mention to you is
4 that -- have you -- the Inquiry is aware that a lot of
5 people who were in the homes have been on various chat
6 forums on the internet and some people there have made
7 comments that they had to eat grass, but others have
8 said that that simply wasn't true, that nobody had to
9 eat grass and that they were never left to be hungry.

10 **A. No. Christine, I'll tell you what it was. In my**
11 **generation -- I was born in '48 -- but my generation --**
12 **I don't know what it was. There was too many of us in**
13 **the home for a start. There was over 100 kids in the**
14 **home, and when the food came down, there wasn't enough**
15 **food, and we were lucky if we seen a loaf of bread,**
16 **because one girl seen a loaf of bread -- no, one girl**
17 **told a nun she was hungry and the nun said, "Are you**
18 **hungry?" She got up. The nun ran into the kitchen,**
19 **brought the loaf of bread and threw it right in front of**
20 **us and said, "There's the bread", but in a second the**
21 **nun took the bread away again.**

22 We were starving and I -- not only me, but everybody
23 -- I know quite a few girls of my age group ate grass
24 and, Christine, can I tell you something? See when
25 I was put -- you know the way we all had jobs to do?

1 I was put up to the top kitchen, and the first time
2 I went up to the kitchen I couldn't believe what was
3 going through the wee square shelf. All the food that
4 was going in for the nuns, I couldn't believe it, and
5 there was the kids starving, including myself.

6 I couldn't believe what the nuns were eating. I just
7 couldn't believe it.

8 Q. What kind of things were they eating that you weren't
9 eating?

10 A. Oh, they were eating lovely bread. No, potatoes. We
11 got potatoes. They were eating lovely meat. They were
12 eating big pots of lovely mashed potatoes, lovely
13 vegetables, trifles. I didn't even though what a trifle
14 was or cake. When I went up to the kitchen, I thought,
15 "Jeez, what's all this?" and the nuns were getting all
16 this and we were barely getting anything. We were
17 starving, Christine. I don't care.

18 Q. The congregation have said that they tried to do their
19 best to provide food for the children in their care and
20 that they regret that any child ever went hungry.

21 A. Well, why didn't they think of that?

22 Q. Paragraph 8 here, coming back to your statement, HIA223,
23 you say that:

24 "You spent a lot of time in the garden when the nuns
25 wanted rid of us. We were freezing. We had climbing

1 frames to play on. When children came in who weren't in
2 the home from birth, they would teach us new games. So
3 we were able to make our own fun and we had good times."

4 **A. Well, we -- Christine, we had brilliant times with all**
5 **the children. The girls that weren't in the home when**
6 **they were -- they came in about 10 or 11, they taught us**
7 **games that really kept us happy. They were our best**
8 **friends. They were friends with us and we were friends.**
9 **We learnt so many games with the new girls coming in.**
10 **We loved it. That's what kept us happy.**

11 Q. You say:

12 "We all supported each other."

13 **A. Oh, yes.**

14 Q. "We were all innocent. We just made our own fun",
15 but you say:

16 "The nuns didn't like to see us make friends and
17 they couldn't handle it and they tried to split us up."

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

19 Q. You go on in paragraph 9 here to say that you had one
20 particular friend, whom you name there, and I am just
21 going to give her first name, which is NHB
52

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. You said that SR31 didn't like the fact that you made
24 friends with this child. You say:

25 "Her family weren't that well off, but we didn't

1 know about things like that at that stage."

2 You say:

3 "SR31 noticed I had become good friends with her and
4 on one occasion whilst we were getting ready for bed
5 SR31 told me to stand outside her cell."

6 You didn't know what she meant. So she came back,
7 pulled you from your bed and made you wait outside the
8 storeroom. She then brought you into the storeroom,
9 where she slapped you and told you she wanted you to
10 stay away from NHB and she slapped you a couple of
11 times.
52

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. You said NHB was your friend and you didn't know why
14 SR31 wanted you to stay away from her. The next day you
15 went to school together as normal and that night you
16 were again pulled out of your bed and slapped and
17 reminded not to go near NHB, but you took no heed of
18 SR31 and you were beaten for a third night. You were
19 told that you needn't go to school the next day and you
20 believe this was because your hands were black and blue,
21 but you wanted to get out, so you went to school anyway.
22 You think the nun who was then in charge of St. Monica's
23 knew that there was something wrong with you, and you
24 were late into school, and instead of making you stand
25 at the front of the assembly hall, as was normal when

1 you were late, she told you to head on up to your class.

2 **A. Yes.** Christine, know what I couldn't understand, why
3 the nuns slapped you for having friends, because that's
4 what that we were. We were all friends together, but
5 each night she kept coming out and strip... -- I was
6 half -- I was sleeping, in fact. She used to come up to
7 my bed and pull the clothes off me. "Get out to my
8 storeroom", because the storeroom was just down the
9 edge. She put me into the storeroom and she would whack
10 me and whack me, but I didn't know why I was getting
11 whacked, because I was with ^{NHB} 52 . I seen nothing wrong
12 with the child, you know, because we were children
13 ourselves, but she just kept slapping me. It never
14 registered to me why I was getting slapped.

15 **Q.** Looking back now, we were talking earlier and you think
16 that the nuns knew something about that child's
17 background.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 **Q.** That was why they didn't want you to be friendly with
20 her?

21 **A.** I think so, because I think that -- I think ^{NHB 52} --
22 because there was a whole lot of brothers and sisters.
23 There was about four or five sisters in the home with me
24 -- with us, and I think what I know now and didn't know
25 then, SR31 knew about background, and she didn't

1 like the girl, but that wasn't fault if she was
2 from a poor family, and it wasn't my fault if I liked
3 . You know what I mean? Why cane a child for
4 having a friend?

5 Q. Well, the congregation in their statement have said that
6 it's a matter of deep regret to them that you felt you
7 couldn't make friends and that they did try to provide
8 a safe and loving home for children, and they would have
9 encouraged children to play amongst themselves?

10 A. Well, I think they could have done a lot more for the
11 children, which they didn't.

12 Q. You talk here in the next paragraph -- you describe the
13 nuns in paragraph 10 as cruel. You say that Sister --
14 you describe the nicknames that they had.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You say SR31 was called -- and I am not going to use it
17 here, but it was because you could hear her trot along
18 your dormitory in the morning to wake you up.

19 A. That's right, yes.

20 Q. Then you say SR116 was given another nickname, because
21 she reminded you of an attacking dog. When she first
22 came to the home, you all loved her, because she was
23 young and she would walk with you round the garden, but
24 you say that changed after about a week and she, in
25 fact, ended up being the cruelest of the nuns that you

1 have had dealings with.

2 **A. Christine, she was the cruelest of the nuns, because**
3 **some of the girls even -- I don't know if you will come**
4 **to this story. One time we were all going to bed or in**
5 **bed. We heard this singing downstairs, you know, and**
6 **naturally children want to know who is singing, you**
7 **know. So we all got out of bed from different groups.**
8 **We all ran down the stairs. We were all in -- outside**
9 **this classroom where the nuns were singing, having**
10 **a good old singsong. We were all listening. SR116 got**
11 **up and she spotted all the girls, all the children. We**
12 **all ran back to our beds and got down on our beds, and**
13 **she came round to every room -- every group, her group,**
14 **SR31's group and our group, and called all -- says, "Get**
15 **out of bed whoever who -- who are the ones who were down**
16 **listening", and she knew who they were.**

17 We all got out of bed. She had us all in this -- in
18 this storeroom again and she whacked us. She whacked
19 us. I remember when she whacked me -- I think it
20 happened to the other girls as well -- when she whacked
21 me, she'd whack you across here, she'd whack you across
22 there, and even on the knuckles, and one time -- the
23 time she did it to me I screamed and screamed and
24 screamed. SR134 from downstairs in her cell, she heard
25 me screaming. She came up, pulled SR116 off me and she

1 says to me, "Get out" and I got out and I don't know
2 what happened then, but it happened to quite a few of
3 the girls as well.

4 Q. You do talk about that incident later in your statement,
5 HIA223, but going back to just where we were in the
6 statement, and we were talking about this particular
7 nun, as you say, who was the cruelest. You say:

8 "She would make an example of you if you didn't do
9 exactly as you were told."

10 You go on to then give the nickname that SR134 had.
11 You didn't have as many dealings with SR134. Is that
12 right?

13 A. **That's right.**

14 Q. But you don't think that she was as bad as SR116.

15 A. **Christine, I will tell you why we gave SR116 the name of**
16 **Am I allowed to say that?**

17 Q. You are.

18 A. **Oh, sorry.**

19 Q. Don't worry about it. No problem. That's fine, HIA223.

20 A. **Because we used to get films. I remember one time we**
21 **got a film of the Germans, and the police had Alsatian**
22 **dogs. We used to see -- in the film it showed you the**
23 **dog going berserk ready to bite. That's how we gave**
24 **SR116 the nickname " ". I know. I am**
25 **sorry for saying it, but ...**

1 Q. That's fine. You say that:

2 "You were slapped for no reason at all and you were
3 never praised."

4 You again say that:

5 "SR116 had bamboo canes and she would hit you with
6 those. We were hit on the front and back of our
7 fingers. She would just keep on hitting until we cried.
8 If there was a child that SR31 didn't like, that child
9 was in trouble."

10 You remember one particular girl -- I am just going
11 to use her first name, -- who was a bit wild. You
12 all liked her, but SR31 hated her and she cut hair
13 and left her bald.

14 "I remember coming out of the room crying."

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. Do you remember why she cut her hair? Was this as
17 a punishment for something or was there --

18 **A. Oh, Christine, it is an awful thing to say, but if a nun**
19 **didn't like you, God help you, and was one of them**
20 **girls. She was a real wee tomboy. She had her own**
21 **personality, but the nuns didn't like anyone having**
22 **a personality, because was in my group and I knew**
23 **NHB 40 very well and I played with her as well, but for**
24 **some unknown reason the nuns didn't like her and she was**
25 **always getting slapped, and I remember -- I didn't see**

1 her getting her hair cut. I seen her coming down --
2 I seen her in the garden with her hair all shaved off
3 and she was crying. She was embarrassed.

4 Q. You also -- one thing that the congregation have said is
5 that they had a policy of no physical punishment of
6 children, that they accept that wasn't always adhered
7 to, that some nuns did not actually stick to that
8 policy.

9 A. Christine, there was nobody in -- there was nobody there
10 to see what the nuns that were looking after us were
11 doing. We never seen anybody coming down, looking at,
12 seeing what the nuns were doing to us.

13 Q. You never saw anybody coming to inspect the home at any
14 stage?

15 A. Oh, never, never.

16 Q. What about -- I mean, you've mentioned the incident in
17 the kitchen with SR 176 , the SR 176 .
18 How often would you seen her? Would she have spoken to
19 the children at all?

20 A. The only time I seen SR 176 when I went up to
21 the top kitchen and she threatened me to go to the Good
22 Shepherd's. That's the only time I seen her. I seen
23 her another time, but I can't say now, because you're in
24 the -- it's in here.

25 Q. That's okay. You can say it. It doesn't have -- we

1 don't have to stick to this order, HIA223. So that's
2 fine.

3 **A. The only time -- the other time I seen her was when**
4 **I was sent down to . I didn't see her, but**
5 **I heard of her. You know, she had the authority to put**
6 **me in , but other than that I never seen her.**

7 Q. Would you have seen her in church in mass, for example?

8 **A. Oh, no. The nuns had -- say the children went up to the**
9 **church. There was all pews wherever -- what do you call**
10 **them -- all down one --**

11 Q. One side.

12 **A. -- and the nuns were over here and they were cornered**
13 **off. All we knew about -- we knew they were there,**
14 **because all you could hear was them praying. I don't**
15 **know why they were praying, but they were praying all**
16 **the time.**

17 Q. You go on to say here that there was a girl in the home
18 who had an illness which caused her to suffer from fits
19 and you give her name there as well --

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. -- you think what her name was. You remember her --
22 seeing her being dragged the whole way down the stairs
23 by SR189 and SR134, one dragging her by the leg and the
24 other dragging her by the hair, and you were terrified
25 about how the nuns were treating her and you felt that

1 the nuns weren't able to handle the fact that she was
2 having these fits, but that there was no harm in this
3 particular girl.

4 **A. No. Christine, I didn't know about the fits till later**
5 **on, because somebody was talking about her and said that**
6 **she took fits. I remember seeing the nuns pulling her**
7 **down the stairs, because she had something wrong with**
8 **one of her legs. So the nun must have grabbed one leg**
9 **and the other one was pulling her down the stairs, and**
10 **we were all so frightened, because we were on the**
11 **stairs. We weren't watching obviously what was**
12 **happening, but we seen the girl screaming, you know.**

13 Q. You also have a memory of your own time, that you were
14 hospitalised at one stage, because you suffered from
15 scarlet fever.

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

17 Q. Your memory is just of being in the hospital and --

18 **A. Nothing else.**

19 Q. You say -- this is incident there at paragraph 14. You
20 talked about the incident involving the singing there.

21 At paragraph 15 you are talking again about SR116
22 and you say that one thing that has never left your mind
23 was the way she treated the dog that you had.

24 **A. Yes. Christine, as I said, the once I seen her doing**
25 **it. We were all in the garden. We all did like SR116**

1 when she first came, because we thought she was
2 brilliant, because she was young, you know, like that.
3 Then two weeks she changed and we all noticed it.

4 There was a dog called Nicky. She had the dog and
5 for some unknown reason she just grabbed the dog and she
6 was beating the dog like that. We couldn't believe it,
7 and see today -- you know that day -- see the next day,
8 she came into the yard and she was hoping all the
9 children would run round her. All the children stayed
10 away from her, and know when she was beating that dog,
11 the impression I got, and I bet you the kids got it too
12 was -- she was beating the dog like that there, and the
13 impression I got was, "I can do what I like. If you
14 don't behave, if you don't do what I do, that's what
15 you will get", but we couldn't stop the nun from
16 hitting him, Christine, hitting the dog. We were so
17 scared we would get the same.

18 Q. Well, the congregation have said in their statement that
19 they cannot accept that this particular nun would have
20 acted in this way towards the dog. Is there anything
21 you want to say about that?

22 A. They did not know what the nun was like. There was
23 nobody -- nobody supervising the young nuns when they
24 came into the home. They were left to do what they
25 wanted to do and they did do what they wanted to do.

1 Q. You also talk in paragraph 16 here about the fact that
2 you lost your shoes one time in school and you were
3 terrified of what might happen if you didn't find them,
4 but eventually -- as a result you didn't go back into
5 the home. Was this when you were at St. Monica's?

6 A. Yes. When I was in St. Monica's, one time I got a new
7 pair of shoes, because I must have -- I don't know what
8 happened, but they gave me a new pair of shoes, and when
9 I went into St. Monica's, you changed your -- you know
10 when you went into St. Monica's, you changed your shoes
11 into your gutties, plimsolls. You put your shoes under
12 a locker or something. I put mine under a locker.
13 At -- when we were finished school, I went back to get
14 my shoes and my shoes weren't there. I was so terrified
15 I wouldn't go home. I stayed in and they sent another
16 girl down to get me. I was so scared I told her
17 I wasn't going home. I thought I was going to get
18 a real beat. I probably did get a beating, but I can't
19 remember, because we got so many beatings, and I went
20 back to the home, but nothing was done. Nothing was --
21 I don't know. I probably got beaten anyway.

22 Q. Did the shoes ever turn up, HIA223?

23 A. No, they didn't. I don't think so.

24 Q. Well, paragraph 17 here you say the nuns had a retreat
25 during which time you were looked after by a woman.

1 I am just going to give her first name, NHB 32.

2 **A. Oh, yes.**

3 Q. "We had to sit in the hall in our groups and be quiet.
4 If the woman heard us talking, she would hit us on the
5 back, head or back of the head with a stick. She didn't
6 care where she hit us. I thought it was very unfair.
7 She should have given us books to read. We just had to
8 sit on the floor for hours, do nothing and keep quiet
9 until they returned from the church."

10 You believe that this woman NHB 32 had grown up in
11 the home herself and that she knew nothing else other
12 than the cruelty of the nuns.

13 **A. Yes. Christine, look, I don't think it was very fair**
14 **for us children, because when the nuns had -- when they**
15 **had their retreat, I don't know why it should have**
16 **affected us. When they went up and been quiet -- they**
17 **weren't quiet up in church, but they used to be -- used**
18 **to have to keep quiet at certain times, but yet we were**
19 **made to sit on the floor in circles in our groups and**
20 **daren't any of us opened our mouths to say -- talk.**

21 This woman NHB 32 -- I won't say her name -- NHB 32, she
22 had this stick, and if she heard someone saying
23 or , she would come along. She didn't care where
24 she hit you. She hit you on your back. She sit you on
25 the head. We had to shut up. We were sitting. I don't

1 know how long the nuns were up at the church, but it
2 seemed hours for children, and not even a book to read
3 or nothing. Why didn't they give us something to read?
4 We had to shut up, because the nuns were up in the
5 church and they probably had to shut up as well.

6 Q. The congregation have said that they employed staff in
7 good faith, HIA223, and they would not accept that any
8 abuse of a child by a staff member was in any way
9 defensible. So they are saying for a member of staff to
10 have done this to you was not acceptable.

11 A. But the only -- there was no staff. There was only the
12 nuns that looked after us and ^{NHB 32} only looked after
13 us when the nuns went up to church, and I will give
14 you -- Christine, you know what happened, you know the
15 way children have accidents, you know? Well, I was
16 working up in top kitchen. I was after coming home from
17 a holiday or something. I caught my thumb -- this is
18 what the woman did. I caught my thumb in the door.
19 Somebody in the top kitchen says, "Go down to SR122".
20 SR122 wasn't a bad nun. We didn't mind her. So I went
21 down to look for her. SR122 wasn't there. ^{NHB 32} was
22 there. So ^{NHB 32} -- I says, ^{NHB 32}, my finger's sore".
23 You know what? She got a bowl of boiling water and
24 thumped my finger right in the bowl of boiling water.
25 I passed out. God, I couldn't believe it. I was --

1 **that just shows you who was looking after us.**

2 Q. Well, coming back to your statement here, you say that
3 you -- before SR31 came to the home you used to go out
4 with a family. SR31 wasn't looking after you then
5 initially. Is that right?

6 A. **No. SR189 was looking after us and then she had to go**
7 **to -- you know the way they sent them all over the**
8 **place. I think she went her to -- I am not too**
9 **sure -- and they always had a new nun taking their**
10 **place. Well, SR31 came in after SR189 left and SR31 was**
11 **in charge of our group.**

12 Q. So you say that you used to go out to this family and
13 there was a nun who arranged for you to go out with
14 them. That was SR189 --

15 A. **Yes.**

16 Q. -- who had arranged this when she was looking after your
17 group.

18 A. **Yes.**

19 Q. They were very good to you and you thought you were
20 going to be adopted by them, but you think she went to
21 and SR31 took over. Suddenly your visits to
22 this family stopped. You remember getting dressed and
23 waiting for the family to arrive and SR31 told you that
24 you weren't going out with anybody. She didn't explain
25 why that was the case and you felt it was very hurtful.

1 At a later time another couple whom you name would take
2 you out from the home, but those visits were also
3 stopped by the same nun, and you think she did it out of
4 badness.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. Now the congregation would say that they can understand
7 how hurt you must have been for these visits to have
8 stopped, but they would not have been stopped
9 maliciously, but that was certainly how you felt at the
10 time --

11 **A. Oh, yes, definitely.**

12 Q. -- that this was something SR31 was doing to you.

13 **A. Yes. She was letting me know that she was the boss.
14 She was the boss and what she says goes and she can do
15 what she likes. That's the way I felt.**

16 Q. You say sometimes other children would receive visits
17 from their family members. You talk about a particular
18 girl's mum, who would come up to the home and give you
19 sweets, but you say the nuns hated her, because she
20 wasn't well off.

21 There was another girl whose mum would visit, but
22 the nuns would send the child away so that the mother
23 couldn't see her. You say:

24 "Her mother wore a headscarf and brought a little
25 blue basket, which had perfumes in it. Once in a while

1 this child would get to see her mother and we would all
2 crowd round her",

3 because you all wanted some of the perfume.

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

5 Q. Now can I just explore that a little bit more with you,
6 HIA223? How did the nuns prevent the mother from seeing
7 the child? How did that happen?

8 **A. What the nuns was do, sometimes the children would go**
9 **out with families, you know, for their summer holidays,**
10 **but this particular young girl, [REDACTED] -- I will just**
11 **say her name is -- SR31 knew -- SR31 used to**
12 **know who to get people to go out with. All of a sudden**
13 **-- started going out to , to**
14 **a family in , and every time mum came**
15 **up, was away, and, of course, mum**
16 **used to say -- mum used to say, "I want to**
17 **see my daughter" and then her mum -- sometimes her mum**
18 **used to come down to the garden where we were playing**
19 **and she was hoping she would see , but**
20 **was never there. Every Christmas or every Easter, any**
21 **holidays we had, was gone, and I don't think**
22 **that was fair.**

23 Q. It would seem that her mother didn't know that she had
24 gone out to another family.

25 **A. Oh, she found out.**

1 Q. Yes, but not initially?

2 **A. Oh, no, no, no.**

3 Q. Now the congregation would say that all families could
4 visit when they wanted and they wouldn't discourage
5 anybody coming to see their child. Were their other
6 families who came to visit and was there any particular
7 time when they would have come to visit or what can you
8 remember about that?

9 **A. I think they used to come at weekends I think, Saturday
10 and Sunday.**

11 Q. Now you talk in paragraph 20 about the fact that you
12 yourself didn't have any visitors the entire time that
13 you were in Nazareth House. You say the nuns didn't
14 like male visitors coming to the home.

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

16 Q. In later years you met your own father and mother. He
17 advised you that he tried to visit you in Nazareth
18 House, but the nuns had told him you had been adopted.

19 **A. Yes. Christine, do you know what happened? Know when
20 the nuns found out where my parents were and they told
21 me and then I went out to meet them? My father told me
22 when I was in -- told me that he came up to the
23 Nazareth House and he asked one of the nuns where I was,
24 and the nuns told him that I was adopted, and at that
25 time -- because my dad was thinking of emigrating to**

1 and I think he wanted to take me with them, but
2 the -- but the nun says no, I was adopted. I am very
3 annoyed about that.

4 Q. You later met up with your parents in . Isn't
5 that right?

6 A. I did. I did.

7 Q. Then your mother came back to Northern Ireland. At this
8 meeting that you've described having with her and with
9 another girl who you got to ask questions of your mother
10 on your behalf, she told you something about the fact
11 that she knew that you had been mitching school.

12 A. Yes. See, that's what I can't understand, Christine.
13 The nuns -- the nuns said they didn't know where my
14 parents were, but yet how come my mum could tell my
15 friend -- and I was there -- that the nuns wrote to her
16 and told her I was mitching school? So my mother must
17 have known all along what was going on, but my nuns
18 never told me that my mum existed -- do you know what
19 I mean -- or my father.

20 Q. In paragraph 21 here you go on to say that you never saw
21 any social worker and the nuns you felt then could do
22 what they wanted.

23 "I didn't even know what a social worker was."

24 You think the nuns were frustrated because they
25 didn't know how to handle all of the kids. They were

1 young themselves.

2 "We were told in the old days one person from each
3 family had to become a priest or a nun. So they might
4 not have chosen to end up where they did end up."

5 **A. That's what we were told.**

6 Q. You've described that there were over 100 children in
7 Nazareth House while you were there.

8 **A. Oh, yes. There was so many.**

9 Q. You have talked about three groups. Were there only
10 three nuns looking after 100 children?

11 **A. Christine, it used to be four, four groups, but then --**
12 **all the groups had saints' names, but number four group,**
13 **they found out the nun, whoever it was, wasn't a saint.**
14 **So they put us all into three groups. There was only**
15 **three nuns that looked after us, SR31, SR189 and HIA116**
16 **and over 100 kids. How could they cope?**

17 Q. Now you talk about the fact you didn't know when your
18 birthday was until you were about 10. That came about
19 because it was [REDACTED] and SR31 asked who wanted
20 to be [REDACTED]. Every girl put her hand
21 up, but then SR31 said you could do it, [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
■ [REDACTED]

■ ■ **Yes.**

25 Q. None of the other girls knew their birthdays and you

1 don't ever remember singing "Happy Birthday" or
2 celebrating birthdays in the home during your time.

3 **A. We never -- I never knew my birthday until that time off**
4 **the nun.**

5 Q. When you were 10, even then did -- [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED] **Nothing, nothing.**

9 Q. You said you didn't get birthday treats, but you didn't
10 mind, because nobody else was getting them.

11 **A. None of the rest of us were getting them.**

12 Q. But you do remember Christmas time as a time when you
13 were often taken out of the home to attend parties in
14 places like Mackies. You say you would be given
15 presents at these parties, but they were then taken off
16 you as soon as you got back to the home and you wouldn't
17 see them again.

18 **A. That's true, Christine, because we did -- we got nice**
19 **presents from these parties we went to, but as soon as**
20 **we got back to the home -- I don't know; I am not saying**
21 **the nuns took them -- somebody took the presents off us.**
22 **We never seen anything.**

23 Q. Now the congregation would say that they don't accept
24 that girls didn't know when their birthdays were or that
25 the presents were taken off them, but certainly your --

1 A. Oh, no, Christine. That's true. It is true. I never
2 knew my birthday till I was 10 years of age and there's
3 a whole lot of other girls.

4 I will tell you one story, Christine. It's a wee
5 sorry. I won't be long. This girl went up to a nun
6 and she says to her, "Sister, when is my birthday?"
7 SR134 says, "Oh, your birthday is in February", and this
8 wee girl says, "Oh". She thought the whole of February
9 was her birthday. When anyone asked her when her
10 birthday was, she says, "The whole" -- she used to said
11 "February". We didn't know anything like that.

12 Q. Well, I'm going to just move away from your statement
13 for a moment --

14 A. Okay.

15 Q. -- and look at a photograph, HIA223, that we looked at
16 earlier. It is 18417, SNB-18417. Now I know, HIA223,
17 you think this isn't the photograph you brought to the
18 Inquiry. We are trying to find the one that you
19 brought, but this is -- you brought one similar to this.
20 This you think was on the summer holidays.

21 A. Yes, I think that is the summer holiday, yes.

22 Q. You can see and -- just you talked about the gingham
23 dresses or someone has talked to us about gingham
24 dresses that were a uniform that you wore generally in
25 the home. Is that right?

1 **A. Yes. We all wore the same.**

2 Q. There's little -- it looks like little aprons covering
3 the dresses.

4 **A. Yes. They gave -- Christine, can I tell us this.**

5 **Christine, they gave us dresses and then they gave us**
6 **aprons and the aprons were to protect our dresses, but**
7 **see when we went up to show our clothes, when we went up**
8 **to show our aprons, if our aprons were dirty, we got**
9 **whacked for it. That's what the aprons were, to provide**
10 **our clothes clean.**

11 Q. You are not actually in this photograph but a friend of
12 yours is the child drinking from the bottle at the back.

13 **A. Oh, yes.**

14 Q. Coming back just to your statement then, when you were
15 16, HIA223, you were taken from Nazareth House in
16 Belfast and you were brought down to Portadown on the
17 train.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. You were sent there basically to work. There was
20 never -- was there ever any explanation or any
21 discussion with you about what you wanted to do when you
22 left school?

23 **A. Nothing, nothing. We -- I mean, I was 16 when I left**
24 **school. I worked round different parts of Nazareth**
25 **House, but one day the nun SR122 says -- she used to**

1 say, "Girlie, come down to -- you have to come
2 downstairs" and I went down to where she worked. She
3 had a case. I don't know what she put in the case but
4 she says, "You're going to ". There was no
5 explanation. I didn't even know who I was. I'd nothing
6 -- no proof who I was.

7 I was put on the train with this other woman,
8 -- you called her -- and I was brought down to
9 and that was run by nuns, but the runs were
10 all right there, but I cried for days and days and days,
11 because I didn't know anybody, and it was the same
12 routine: go to church every morning, and we worked from
13 6.30 till about 6 o'clock at night. That's what -- and,
14 of course, we got our lunch and that, but it was hard
15 work, but I didn't understand why they were putting me
16 down there and there was no explanation.

17 Q. Then you used to go back to Nazareth House in Belfast
18 for your holidays, because you had nowhere else to go.
19 Then eventually the work -- the nuns sent you out to
20 work for a family initially.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Then they got you a job in .

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. So they did arrange these employments for you.

25 A. Yes, yes.

1 Q. You then talk about your life after care in paragraph --

2 A. Christine, see about getting me a job -- putting me in
3 a job with a family? They were all right, but when they
4 gave me a job in , there was a man and woman. It
5 was a , and .
6 I was put in the and the other wee girl was put --
7 but they didn't check the records of the people that
8 owned that place, because your man was a dirty old man.
9 He was trying to get off with everybody. So we ran away
10 from there, but the nuns should have checked that out,
11 which they didn't.

12 Q. You do talk about running away. You actually stayed --
13 there was a house in Belfast that was owned by the
14 congregation you think where girls stayed.

15 A. Oh, no. There was older girls than us. I don't know
16 how they got it, but they had this wee flat in
17 . All the girls that left the home ended up going
18 there, but the girls in that place had nothing. They
19 were starving. So I went there. I stayed there about
20 two or three days, but I went out, because I was
21 starving. Then I ended up on the streets, but
22 I couldn't go anywhere.

23 Do you know what we used to do, Christine? I know
24 I would never do it now. We used to go into a cafe in
25 Bangor. I found a job in Bangor with another girl.

1 you called her. You know the way you used to have to
2 work a week or something. We used to go into cafes.
3 This is what I had to do. I am not ashamed of saying
4 it. We were starving. We used to sit at the bottom of
5 the cafe and the customer (sic) would come down and ask
6 us what we want to order. We ordered big stuff because
7 we were starving. As soon as we ate when the woman went
8 up behind the thing, we ran out of the cafe. We had no
9 money. We were starving.

10 Q. You talk in paragraphs 24 to 26 about the life after you
11 left the home, and then at paragraph 27 of your
12 statement on page 321 you say that your abiding memory
13 of your time in Nazareth House is of the physical
14 cruelty, and that your biggest complaint would be the
15 lack of education. You say that you love your life now,
16 but you would have liked to have been better educated.
17 You never got any encouragement, were never told how
18 important it was to learn, how to read and write, and
19 you are constantly worrying about losing your job and
20 ending up on the streets again. You suffer from
21 claustrophobia -- I can't say it -- and panic attacks
22 and you are quite insecure. You feel you were deprived
23 of a lot because of your upbringing.

24 HIA223, you are aware that the Inquiry has to make
25 recommendations to the Northern Ireland Executive about

1 what should happen with regard to those people who were
2 mistreated in institutions, and one of the things I was
3 explaining to you is in their statement to you the
4 congregation offer you an unreserved and sincere apology
5 for any treatment that you received by any Sister which
6 fell below the acceptable standard. So they have
7 offered you that apology. Is there anything you want to
8 say about that or about any other recommendations that
9 you feel that the Inquiry should make?

10 **A. I think the Inquiry -- I can't understand why the nuns**
11 **weren't supervised and why us all were treated -- we**
12 **weren't treated right. We should have been treated with**
13 **respect. Education was awful. I never had an education**
14 **and I do hold that against the nuns, and the treatment**
15 **of not me but other children. Some children were**
16 **murdered for no reason at all. Why wasn't there any**
17 **supervising over them three nuns while they were in**
18 **charge of us? We got nothing.**

19 Q. Well, just in regard to that, the recommendations that
20 the Inquiry might make, is there anything else that you
21 want to say about what those should be?

22 **A. Pardon?**

23 Q. About what recommendations the Inquiry should make.

24 **A. Just make sure the homes weren't opened again and make**
25 **sure that they were properly supervised.**

1 Q. Well, is there anything else that you feel that we
2 haven't covered in your evidence, HIA223, or anything
3 else that you want to say? Now is your opportunity to
4 do that if you'd like to.

5 **A. I think I would like all the children to be compensated**
6 **and just make sure the nuns don't do things like that**
7 **again. That is what I really want, and children of --**
8 **if there's any homes ever opened again, the children are**
9 **properly educated and well looked after and no slapping**
10 **or no nuns hating certain people over their background.**

11 Q. Thank you very much, HIA223. I have nothing further
12 that I want to ask you about, but the Panel Members may
13 have some questions for you.

14 Questions from THE PANEL

15 MR LANE: This, if I may. You mentioned that the nuns made
16 blouses for you. Did they make other clothes as well or
17 was it just the school blouses?

18 **A. I think it was just the school blouses, because I think**
19 **the skirts came in.**

20 Q. Right, and you mentioned how poor the education was, but
21 when you were actually in class, what did you actually
22 do?

23 **A. I can't remember doing anything. Just sitting. There**
24 **was too many of us.**

25 Q. So you were just sitting there, doing nothing?

1 **A. I might have been doing something, but it wasn't much.**

2 **It hasn't given me an education.**

3 Q. Okay. Thank you.

4 **A. All right. Thank you.**

5 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA223, I'm sure you will be pleased to
6 hear we don't have any more questions for you. Thank
7 you very much for coming to speak to us today. Thank
8 you.

9 **A. And thank yous for listening to me. Thank you.**

10 **(Witness withdrew)**

11 MS SMITH: Chairman, that concludes today's evidence. There
12 was to be a fourth witness, who is unwell today. We
13 will try to reschedule her.

14 CHAIRMAN: Well, ladies and gentlemen, we will resume on
15 Monday week.

16 (3.30 pm)

17 (Hearing adjourned until 10.00 am

18 on Monday, 23rd February 2015)

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