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HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at

Banbridge Court House

Banbridge

on Monday, 23rd February 2015

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 96)

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

1 Monday, 23rd February 2015

2 (10.00 am)

3 WITNESS HIA33 (called)

4 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Just before
5 we resume can I remind everyone to ensure that their
6 mobile phones have been placed either on "Silent" or
7 switched off, and that no photography or indeed
8 recording is permitted either in the chamber or anywhere
9 on the Inquiry premises.

10 Yes, Ms Smith.

11 MS SMITH: Morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and
12 gentlemen. The first witness today is HIA33. He is
13 HIA33. He wishes to take a religious oath and he also
14 wishes to maintain the anonymity afforded by the
15 Inquiry.

16 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

17 WITNESS HIA33 (sworn)

18 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, HIA33. Please sit down.

19 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

20 MS SMITH: Now, HIA33, as I explained to you, I'm just going
21 to outline to the Panel Members where there are some
22 documents in our papers.

23 HIA33's statement can be found at SNB-137 to 143.

24 The congregation's response is at SNB-1635 to 1643.

25 There are civil claim papers at SNB-70339 to 70346

1 and there's also police material at SNB-61199 to 61204,
2 which includes a statement that HIA33 gave to the police
3 on 28th April 2010, and, as you will hear, HIA33
4 complains about a particular nun, and police material
5 shows that she died in 1993. A copy of her death
6 certificate is attached to the police material.

7 Now before dealing with HIA33's statement there is
8 also an HSCB response statement at SNB-6282 to 6283,
9 which says that the only record that they have relating
10 to HIA33's time in Nazareth Lodge was a minute of Down
11 County Welfare Committee of 13th January 1951. Now
12 HIA33 himself obtained this from PRONI and it can be
13 seen at SNB-32056.

14 If we could just look at that first, please, you
15 will see here, as I say, it is a meeting of
16 13th November 1951. If we scroll down to paragraph 3
17 there, it said that:

18 "The St. Patrick's Catholic Orphan Society wrote on
19 7th November '51 requesting a grant towards the
20 maintenance of [another boy] and HIA33. The Society
21 stated that these boys were formerly in the care of the
22 late [REDACTED]", and gives her address, "and were
23 removed to Nazareth Lodge at the direction of the
24 Divisional Welfare Officer.

25 The Children's Officer reported that these children

1 were not in the care of the Welfare Committee and were
2 nursed out by Nazareth Lodge. They were returned to
3 Nazareth Lodge on the death of the foster mother.

4 Your committee in the circumstances recommends that
5 no action be taken."

6 Now this piece of paper, as HIA33 will explain, is
7 important to him, because when he originally contacted
8 the Sisters of Nazareth, they said they had no record of
9 him being in the Nazareth Lodge after he had been
10 fostered out as a baby, but clearly there is a record to
11 show that he was in. The dates would appear to be that
12 he was there from March 1951 to May 1953.

13 If we could go back to HIA33's statement, please, at
14 SNB-137, now, HIA33, can I just ask you to confirm that
15 this is the witness statement that you have provided for
16 the Inquiry? If we go to the last page of that, please,
17 at 143, you will see, HIA33, here that there's a black
18 box over your signature, but can I ask you to confirm
19 that you did sign the witness statement on 26th June of
20 last year?

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

22 Q. Can I then ask you to confirm that this is the evidence
23 that you want the Inquiry to take into account together
24 with anything else you say this morning?

25 **A. I do, yes.**

1 Q. If we go back to the first page at 137, your personal
2 details are set out in paragraphs 1 and 2, and it is
3 clear from that that you were put into Nazareth Lodge as
4 a baby, and then shortly after you were fostered out,
5 but sadly after your foster mother died you were taken
6 back to Nazareth Lodge.

7 We were discussing earlier that in your statement
8 you talk about coming home from school, throwing your
9 schoolbag over the chair and being told to change out of
10 your school clothes before -- and put your good clothes
11 on, and then a priest who you name there drove you to
12 Nazareth Lodge.

13 **A. That's right.**

14 Q. Now we discussed that -- you give a slightly different
15 account in your police statement. We can just look at
16 that, if we may, at -- sorry -- page -- I think if I can
17 just get the actual typed version, it will be easier.
18 Yes. It is page 61201. You will see here this is the
19 statement that you gave to police on 28th April of 2010.
20 You say there that:

21 "Around May 1951 the welfare authorities called at
22 the school and I was bundled into a car and brought to
23 Nazareth Lodge on the Ravenhill Road",

24 where you were given a number. Now, HIA33, that's
25 slightly different from what you have told the Inquiry.

1 You have told the Inquiry that you came home from school
2 with your foster brother and then you were both taken by
3 a priest to Nazareth Lodge. Yet in -- when you spoke to
4 the police in 2010, you told them that the welfare
5 authorities came to your school and took you from school
6 to Nazareth Lodge. Is -- you were explaining to me what
7 you meant by that. If you want to explain to the
8 Inquiry just the difference.

9 **A. Yes. The Welfare came along with the parish priest to**
10 **the school on that particular day, and when we knew they**
11 **were out there, we ran home and I ran a bit of the road**
12 **up from the school and my foster brother ran the whole**
13 **way home. Someone came from the school after me and**
14 **asked me to come back again, which I did do. When**
15 **I went back to the school again, I was kept there.**
16 **Meanwhile the parish priest had gone up to my home, had**
17 **taken my foster brother back to school again. That's**
18 **when we both went up to our home and changed into our**
19 **good clothes and was brought to Nazareth Lodge.**

20 Q. So, I mean, it was the priest who actually brought you
21 to Nazareth Lodge?

22 **A. It was the priest who actually brought us, yes.**

23 Q. As I said, you were there from 1951 to 1953. At
24 paragraph 3 of your statement, if we can go back to
25 that, please, at 138, it says here that you were

1 admitted along with your brother, and that was on
2 9th March 1951, when you were 12.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. You say your good clothes were taken off you and you
5 never saw yours again.

6 **A. No.**

7 Q. You were placed in -- and I am going to -- you see we
8 have given the nun a designation as well as yourself.
9 That's SR118. I am going to use the name so you know
10 who we are talking about --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- but, as I have explained to you, HIA33, any of the
13 names we use in this chamber can't be used outside.

14 **A. Okay.**

15 Q. So this was SR118's group. You say:

16 "When she met us, she asked [you] why you were
17 crying and I said because my mother had just died. She
18 gave me a slap round the head and told me not to mention
19 her again. We worshipped our foster mother. I cried
20 every night for about two years after losing her. When
21 we arrived, we were given sofa beds in the attic, as the
22 home was overcrowded. There were children sleeping two
23 to a bed. SR118's group were divided between the attic
24 and the floor below."

25 You say that:

1 "After about six or seven months the numbers reduced
2 and the whole group were moved on to the floor below."

3 You come back to talk about there were a number of
4 boys left and you think that they were sent either to
5 Australia or Rubane, because Kircubbin had opened at
6 that time.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. That reduced the numbers in the home sufficiently for
9 you to move out of the attic and downstairs.

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

11 Q. Now you go on to describe how you were given clothes to
12 wear which had numbers sewn into them. Your number was

13 [REDACTED]

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. You were told by SR118 you would have that number from
16 now on. You said you were occasionally called [REDACTED], but
17 you were usually called by your surname. You were never
18 called by your Christian name.

19 "You were given shorts to wear. You never had long
20 trousers, and she also told us we'd better behave or
21 we'd be sent to Milltown."

22 I was asking you, HIA33 -- the congregation have
23 said to us before that clothes -- numbers were only used
24 in the home as a way of keeping track of laundry and who
25 wore what. Would you accept that as a basis for the

1 numbering?

2 **A. I accept, yes, they were -- that was one of the main**
3 **reasons why they used the numbering is to dish out the**
4 **clothes, and when I spoke of myself being referred to as**
5 **the numbers, when they are giving out the clothes with**
6 **your number on it.**

7 Q. You did say, though, that you did hear other boys being
8 called by a number.

9 **A. Yes, I heard other boys getting called by a number, yes,**
10 **quite apart from giving out clothes, yes.**

11 Q. But that didn't happen to you except at clothes time?

12 **A. It never happened to me. I was always referred to as my**
13 **second name; never called my first name.**

14 Q. Now at paragraph 5 here you describe the routine in the
15 home. You say:

16 "We got up at 6 o'clock in the morning. We kneeled
17 by our bed to say prayers. We then went to mass. Every
18 morning before breakfast we had to polish the long
19 corridors on our hands and knees. We used to do it in
20 lines of five. Five would put the polish on; five would
21 rub the polish in; five would give the first shine; and
22 five would give the final polish."

23 You say:

24 "The class boys would supervise, and if you stopped
25 for any reason, they would hit you. The class boys",

1 you say, "were other residents who were put in charge.
2 They had sticks and were free to hit you any time. If
3 they did not hit us when the nuns thought they should
4 have, they were punished by the nuns for not showing
5 their authority."

6 Can I ask these class boys, as you name them, HIA33,
7 were they older than you, or were they the same age, or
8 what was the position?

9 **A. These boys were around the same age as ourselves. They**
10 **had authority from the nuns to do whatever they want.**

11 Q. You say that the nuns thought that if they didn't --
12 they would have been punished if they didn't punish you.
13 Is that correct?

14 **A. Well, that's the story they told me afterwards when**
15 **I spoke to one of them after I left Nazareth Lodge.**

16 Q. He told you that he would have been punished --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- if he hadn't done what he was asked?

19 **A. Yes. I wasn't aware of that when I was in the Nazareth**
20 **Lodge, but he told me that's one of the reasons.**

21 Q. At paragraph 6 here you go on to talk about how in your
22 first week there you wet the bed, and you were beaten by
23 SR118 and then taken to the bathroom and bathed in Jeyes
24 Fluid. You say:

25 "When you wet the bed, you had to kneel beside the

1 bed on the following night" -- sorry -- "you had to
2 kneel beside the bed the following night so you did not
3 wet it. The nun slept in a cell at the end of the
4 dormitory so she could look out every so often and make
5 sure you were still kneeling there. One of the class
6 boys also had to keep an eye on you to make sure you
7 were still kneeling, and when you thought everyone was
8 asleep, you would then get back into your bed. You also
9 talk about how you were made to sleep in bed with your
10 arms crossed over your chests. You didn't have pyjamas.
11 You slept in your underwear, and if anyone made a noise
12 at night, the Sister would make them kneel in the
13 corridor in their underwear with their hands above their
14 heads. The class boys would supervise, and if anyone
15 dropped their hands, they would hit your fingers and the
16 nuns would hit you with their belt. You were regularly
17 subjected to this type of ill-treatment."

18 When we were talking earlier, HIA33, you were
19 describing how you had to hold your hands above your
20 head.

21 **A. Yes. This could go on for maybe twenty minutes. I am**
22 **not so able to do it now, but they had to stay right**
23 **above your head like that. (Gesturing.) Right? Now it**
24 **was okay maybe for the first few minutes, but after**
25 **twenty minutes it was quite sore, and we were kneeling**

1 down. It was cold as well, because we were got out of
2 bed because maybe one boy or other had made some noise
3 or did something wrong. The whole class -- the whole
4 room suffered for it.

5 CHAIRMAN: HIA33, just so this appears in words in the
6 transcript, because we can see what you are
7 demonstrating, you are putting your hands up in the way
8 that somebody would if they were surrendering.

9 **A. Correct. Right -- you had to put them right up as far**
10 **as they could go and I can't do it now, because --**

11 Q. So it's not that they were stretched as far as you --

12 **A. They were stretched right up, yes.**

13 Q. As far as you could go?

14 **A. As far as you could put them, yes.**

15 Q. But not with your hands on top of your head?

16 **A. No, no, you weren't allowed to rest them, no.**

17 Q. Thank you.

18 MS SMITH: Now, HIA33, you go on then in paragraph 8 here to
19 talk about the food in the home and you say:

20 "For breakfast we had porridge and a round of
21 dripping bread and a cup of tea. We would have got
22 a bottle of milk at school in the morning. We did not
23 get anything to eat until our lunch. I don't remember
24 getting very much for our tea. It was maybe bread and
25 jam or something like that",

1 but you lost a lot of weight in you were in

2 Nazareth Lodge.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. One of the things that the congregation have said to us
5 is that they tried to provide the best food they could
6 for the children in the home, and this would have been
7 a time in the early '50s when there was still rationing
8 in Northern Ireland. So it may have been that there was
9 not quite the food that we would expect to eat today.

10 Would you accept that?

11 **A. I accept that, yes.**

12 Q. I think you also said to me that the best meal of the
13 day was the school dinner that you got.

14 **A. That's correct.**

15 Q. You say then -- in paragraph 9 you go on to talk about:

16 "After breakfast SR118 would shout out the names of
17 the boys who had been bad. There were various crimes
18 that we could have committed that resulted in punishment
19 by the nuns, such as being cheeky."

20 You say:

21 "The worst crime was coughing in church, because the
22 nuns thought that was being disrespectful. If you had
23 been bad, you had to kneel in a line in front of SR118
24 with your hands up in front of everyone else. She would
25 hit you with a spindle from the back of the chair on the

1 hands. Sometimes blood would run out of your hands."

2 You say you were subjected to this type of
3 punishment two or three times a week. You yourself were
4 always being punished for coughing in church. You had
5 a tickly throat, and the nuns would not believe you that
6 you were coughing unintentionally. This was -- it's a
7 bit -- was this a regular -- was this every single day
8 after breakfast?

9 **A. That was every single day. There was different people**
10 **up every single day. We had to witness all this in the**
11 **mornings when we had our breakfast, and we had to kneel**
12 **in front of SR118 and hold your hands out like that, and**
13 **she would hit both hands, not just one. Sometimes she'd**
14 **got into a frenzy and really go to town.**

15 Q. Then on Friday night you say was bath night.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. "There were five baths for about forty boys. The ones
18 at the back of the queue got a dirty, cold bath."

19 You were always nearer the back of the queue than
20 the front.

21 "Jeyes Fluid was put in the bath and carbolic soap
22 was used."

23 You said you never had a toothbrush in the time you
24 were there. You never saw the dentist or a doctor the
25 whole time you were in Nazareth Lodge, and:

1 "If you were sick, they held your nose and gave
2 you a spoonful of castor oil."

3 You remember during bathtime once that SR118 and
4 another nun told you to hold one of the young boys who
5 had spots while they squeezed them. You don't know why
6 he had those spots, but you will never forget his
7 screams while they squeezed the spots.

8 **A. Yes. We had to hold the boy and -- a couple of us, and**
9 **the nuns squeezed the spots out. He'd them all over his**
10 **back and on his neck, and he was screaming at the same**
11 **time as this was going on, and it had a big effect on me**
12 **at the time.**

13 Q. Was this child -- was he older or younger than you? Can
14 you remember?

15 **A. He might have been slightly younger. He might have been**
16 **about a couple of years younger than me.**

17 Q. You go on to talk about another memory you have of
18 playing football in the playing fields and you had to go
19 and retrieve the ball from the fence which ran along the
20 Ravenhill Road. You remember there were two people
21 standing on the other side of the fence, who spoke to
22 you briefly. You say the class boys noticed this and
23 they told SR118, as you weren't allowed to talk to
24 anyone. That evening she made you kneel down while she
25 questioned you about why you had been talking to them

1 and what you were talking to them about. She was
2 preoccupied with what you had said about the home and
3 she hit your two hands.

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

5 Q. Can you remember what conversation you did have them,
6 HIA33?

7 **A. With the people on the road? Yes. In those days people**
8 **were more free to talk to children than what they would**
9 **be nowadays, and people would come along the road.**
10 **Maybe if you were playing football or something, you had**
11 **to retrieve the ball against the fence. They would**
12 **maybe ask you, you know, maybe "Why" -- you know, "Are**
13 **you happy?" or "Why are you here?" and things like that,**
14 **or what your name is, you know, just simple little**
15 **things like that, you know, but other than that, you**
16 **know ...**

17 Q. That was the kind of conversation that you had?

18 **A. That was what it was, yes.**

19 Q. You go on here at paragraph 12, HIA33, to talk about
20 when you had been in Nazareth Lodge you think for about
21 seven months, all the boys were lined up along both
22 sides of the corridors. They called out numbers and
23 told you whether to stand on the right or left-hand side
24 of the corridor. The ones on the right-hand side were
25 told to go down to the main hall. You think there were

1 about sixty of these boys.

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

3 Q. You were on the left-hand side and:

4 "We were told to go and sit in another room for
5 a while",

6 and eventually you were taken to the front door and
7 you saw the other children getting on to buses. You say
8 you are not sure where they went, but you think it was
9 either Australia or Kircubbin. When we were talking
10 earlier, you think that it is most likely they went to
11 Australia.

12 **A. It was most likely Australia, yes, because we were**
13 **talking among each other at the time and it was**
14 **suggested that it was Australia, yes.**

15 Q. This is you and the boys who were left behind talked --
16 talked about it?

17 **A. Yes, we were all talking among each other and, you know,**
18 **saying it.**

19 Q. Do you ever remember anybody suggesting to you about
20 going to Australia or any discussion about going to
21 Australia before these boys went?

22 **A. No, it wasn't mentioned before. It just came out of the**
23 **blue. We were just lined up on both sides of the**
24 **corridor. That's the only time they used the numbers,**
25 **if you know what I mean, in my -- for me and [REDACTED]**

1 Told to -- then they'd call your number and your name
2 and you had to stand on one side while the ones who were
3 going to Australia had to go to the other side. Then
4 they were all -- when they all got on the bus, we went
5 all downstairs and waved them off and away they went.
6 We never saw them again.

7 Q. You say this was about seven months after you came in.
8 Might that have been in or around Christmas time of
9 1951?

10 A. Well, it was either late '51 or maybe early '52. I am
11 not too sure now. I believe it may have been 1951,
12 around about that time, yes.

13 Q. Okay. You also have another memory of your time there
14 at paragraph 13. When you were about 14, you say SR118
15 came and told you there was someone there to see you.
16 She told you it was your mother. You thought your
17 mother was dead and you knew nothing about your
18 biological mother, as your foster mother had never
19 mentioned her to you. The Sister said you were to give
20 her a big hug and tell her that you loved it in the
21 home. You went up to see your mother and she said she
22 would come and visit you again another time. She came
23 back about six months later, took you out and bought you
24 some new clothes. You put those clothes under your bed
25 as usual, as you had nowhere else to put your clothes,

1 and when you got up the next morning, somebody had
2 ripped them. You think that -- a razor blade.

3 **A. It was a razor blade, yes.**

4 Q. That was -- was that the only time your mother came to
5 visit you in the home on those two occasions?

6 **A. She only came twice, yes. Only had a year after that
7 again.**

8 Q. Can I just ask, HIA33, when you were in the home, did
9 anybody else come to visit you? For example, did
10 anybody from the Welfare Authority come to visit you?

11 **A. Nobody ever came and spoke to me, no, or visit, no.**

12 Q. Or the priest who brought you to Nazareth Lodge, did he
13 ever come back to check on you?

14 **A. Never came back near me again. Never saw him again.**

15 Q. Do you ever remember any inspections taking place in the
16 home at all?

17 **A. No, no inspections, no.**

18 Q. You did go to school in Nazareth Lodge. You said you
19 had to walk across the playing fields to get to the
20 classroom.

21 **A. Correct.**

22 Q. The classes were separated into older boys and younger
23 boys, and you name the teacher who taught the younger
24 children.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. You were taught by SR118, who was the same nun who was
2 caring for you in the home --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- and then a male teacher, who you describe as a good
5 man. You say you were doing well academically, because
6 you'd received a good primary education before you went
7 into Nazareth Lodge and you were coming top of your
8 class.

9 When you were about 14, SR118 came over to the
10 school and told you that you were leaving school to work
11 at the front door of the Lodge. You were upset by this,
12 as you were doing well academically and you were
13 enjoying school. You were taken to another nun, whom
14 you name there, SR157, who is SR157. She told you that
15 your duties would be to scrub the front steps every
16 morning, clean the floors and windows of the corridor
17 which led down to the nursing home and the playing
18 fields, clean around the front door, admit any visitors
19 that came and make them tea.

20 "She also told me that I was to go down to the
21 kitchen every morning and get a big pot of soup and keep
22 it warm and feed the tramps that came into the garden."

23 Your work was inspected by SR157 and by class boys.
24 You say you did that job for a year and you didn't
25 receive any payment for doing it.

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

2 Q. 14 would have been the school leaving age, would it have
3 been, at this --

4 **A. Yes, 14, yes.**

5 Q. Then just going on to talk about -- paragraph 15 here
6 you talk about some what might have been good memories.
7 You were taken to Ballyhornan for a day just.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Some boys have said they went there for a month during
10 the summer, but you only remember going on a day trip?

11 **A. No, I went there for a day, one day, yes.**

12 Q. You do remember going to the pantomime at Christmas.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. Do you remember what the pantomime was, HIA33?

15 **A. I can't remember now.**

16 Q. But you didn't go out to any Christmas parties as such?

17 **A. No.**

18 Q. But you remember after this pantomime getting presents,
19 but your presents were mixed up with those for the girls
20 from Nazareth Lodge and you were all given the girls'
21 presents.

22 **A. I ended up with a doll.**

23 Q. You don't remember getting anything special on Christmas
24 Day?

25 **A. No.**

1 Q. What about your birthday? Do you remember it being
2 celebrated?

3 **A. No. In actual fact I thought my birthday was on [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED] till I went to join the forces and I had to get my
5 birth certificate and discovered my birthday was [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED]. So I had the wrong birthday when I was a child.**

7 Q. But you did... -- was there ever a birthday celebration
8 in Nazareth Lodge when you were there?

9 **A. No.**

10 Q. You left Nazareth Lodge in May 1953, when you were
11 15 years of age, and you describe your life after you
12 left there in paragraphs 17 through to 23.

13 Now, HIA33, I have discussed with you the fact that
14 the congregation have put in a response statement to the
15 things that you have said and that they have said that
16 while they had a policy of no physical punishment, they
17 would accept that that wasn't always stuck to by some of
18 the nuns. Is there anything you want to say about that?

19 **A. That the policy, if they had a policy like that, it was
20 definitely broken every day, because SR118 was quite
21 fierce and a very wicked person, especially to the
22 younger children.**

23 Q. They would also accept that they didn't deal
24 appropriately with children who wet the bed. They do
25 say that SR118 is now deceased, but they offer you

1 an apology for any treatment that you received which
2 fell below the acceptable standard. Is there anything
3 that you want to say about that apology at all, HIA33?

4 **A. Well, it's nice to get an apology, you know, I suppose.**

5 Q. Well, at paragraph 24 of your statement you describe
6 there the difficulties that you had in trying to get any
7 records of your time there. You contacted Nazareth
8 Lodge, but they told you they had no record of you being
9 there.

10 **A. Okay.**

11 Q. You went to the care village and they told you that they
12 had records of you being in the Lodge as a baby but no
13 records of you returning when you were 12. Eventually
14 you yourself managed to go to the Public Records Office
15 and found the minute that I read out earlier, which
16 shows that you were there certainly in November of 1951.
17 That was the only record you have ever been able to get
18 of your time in the institution. Is that right?

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

20 Q. Now one of the questions that we ask everyone who comes
21 to speak to the Inquiry, HIA33, is about the fact that
22 this Inquiry has to make recommendations to the Northern
23 Ireland Executive about what should happen, whether in
24 terms of recompense or a memorial. In paragraph 25 here
25 you have said that you believe there should be

1 a memorial at each home to the residents that suffered
2 abuse in that home. You also believe that the victims
3 of abuse deserve an apology and compensation from the
4 people who run the home they were in as well as from the
5 State. That is your view of what the recommendations of
6 this Inquiry should be. Is that right, HIA33?

7 **A. I stick to that view, yes.**

8 Q. As I said, you did make a statement to the police in
9 2010 and you have got a civil claim in against the
10 congregation, but is there anything you feel that we
11 haven't covered, HIA33, that you want to say about your
12 time in Nazareth Lodge? Now is the opportunity for you
13 to add to anything that we haven't covered in going
14 through your statement this morning.

15 **A. No. Just when I left Nazareth -- when I was leaving**
16 **Nazareth Lodge, we actually had the clothes we stood up**
17 **in. We had no money leaving the Lodge, and we had to**
18 **more or less, you know, the first week or so make do**
19 **with nothing, you know, and other than that, you know**
20 **...**

21 Q. There was no preparation for you leaving?

22 **A. No preparation whatsoever for leaving, no. I don't**
23 **think the lodgings were as well -- I don't think they**
24 **were properly vetted as well.**

25 Q. Well, HIA33, thank you very much. I have nothing

1 further that I want to ask you. The Panel Members may
2 have some questions that they want to ask you.

3 Questions from THE PANEL

4 CHAIRMAN: HIA33, can I just ask you to think back to what
5 you have told us about lining up and these boys who went
6 away in a bus?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. You said that at the time you -- that is presumably the
9 older boys, because you were -- this was 1951. You
10 would have been about -- well, it's the end of 1951.
11 You would have been 13.

12 **A. 13, yes.**

13 Q. Before those children left had there been discussions
14 amongst the boys about children going to Australia in
15 earlier years?

16 **A. No.**

17 Q. In other words, did you know before that that other
18 children had gone to Australia?

19 **A. No, I had never heard nothing about it. All the boys
20 who went to Australia at that time were younger than me.**

21 Q. Yes.

22 **A. Most of them were a lot younger than me at the time.**

23 Q. You see, the records that we have been given would
24 suggest that only three boys from Nazareth Lodge went
25 during the years that you were there. Now in your

1 statement you also discuss the possibility that these
2 boys may have been going to Rubane, Kircubbin. Is it
3 possible that they were amongst the early boys who went
4 off to Kircubbin?

5 **A. Well, I know the people who left in the year I was**
6 **talking about, 1951, there was two buses outside and**
7 **they were both full. Now they were big buses.**

8 Q. So you are talking about dozens of children, are you?

9 **A. As I say in my statement, I wasn't too sure whether it**
10 **was Rubane, but at the time we all said it was**
11 **Australia, you know. There was definitely two buses**
12 **outside.**

13 Q. Because we do know that I think it was about 1951
14 children started to be moved from Nazareth Lodge --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- down to Kircubbin. So ...

17 **A. Yes. Well, those boys --**

18 Q. However, you just saw the boys leave anyway. Isn't that
19 right?

20 **A. We saw them leave, yes.**

21 Q. Yes. Thank you very much.

22 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA33. Can I just ask after
23 breakfast when there was the public beatings with SR118,
24 were other staff around at that time? Did they observe
25 the beatings?

1 A. There was no -- there was no staff in there. It was
2 completely run by the nuns and the class boys. The only
3 two people that I knew were outsiders were
4 [REDACTED] -- one of the teachers. Can
5 I mention her name? It was [REDACTED], which taught
6 the younger boys, and a [REDACTED], which taught us,
7 the older boys.

8 Q. Older boys.

9 A. Those are the only two outside people I knew of in the
10 Nazareth Lodge at the time.

11 Q. But would the other nuns have been around? Would the
12 other nuns have observed the beatings after breakfast?

13 A. There might have been another nun there occasionally,
14 but not all the time. SR118 seemed to be there most of
15 the time.

16 Q. Were there other occasions -- apart from the after
17 breakfast routine were there other occasions you would
18 be brought together to observe children being punished?

19 A. Well, as I said, like, kneeling in the corridor, this
20 involved nearly everyone, you know. Maybe -- you are
21 talking about maybe twenty young boys in the one -- you
22 know, from the one room, and whatever you can call that,
23 you know, it's other children involved, you know.

24 Q. Okay. Thanks very much, HIA33.

25 MR LANE: Did you ever see the Mother Superior? Did she

1 come round and visit your group?

2 **A. There was -- when I went there at the start there was**
3 **a Mother. Then there was a new Mother came in. Can**
4 **I mention her name?**

5 CHAIRMAN: Yes, if you wish.

6 **A. Mother Otteran you called her. I never saw her round.**
7 **She never --**

8 Q. **SR 104** ?

9 **A. That was her name, yes.**

10 Q. Yes.

11 **A. She never bothered much. You never saw her much except**
12 **at the chapel in the mornings. The nuns, they all kneel**
13 **at the back of us, you know, and we'd all be at the**
14 **front, you know, and the nuns would all be at the back**
15 **singing whatever, you know. The only time you would see**
16 **the Reverend Mother then.**

17 MR LANE: Okay. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA33, I am sure you will be glad to hear
19 that those are the last questions we want to ask you.
20 Thank you very much indeed for coming to speak to us
21 today.

22 **A. Thank you.**

23 Q. We are very grateful to you for doing that. Thank you.

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

25 Q. So if you would like to go with Ellen now, we are

1 finished as far as you are concerned. Thank you.

2 (Witness withdrew)

3 MS SMITH: Chairman, I am not sure -- Mr Aiken will be
4 taking the next witness. I am not sure whether he is
5 ready to start.

6 CHAIRMAN: Well, we will rise for a few minutes until we
7 know that he is ready.

8 (10.45 am)

9 (Short break)

10 (11.35 am)

11 WITNESS HIA124 (called)

12 CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr Aiken.

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

14 The next witness today is HIA124, who is HIA124 in the
15 documents that the Inquiry has received from the Social
16 Services' period. She is HIA124. HIA124 is aware,
17 Chairman, you are going ask her to take the oath.

18 WITNESS HIA124 (sworn)

19 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, HIA124. Please sit down.

20 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

21 MR AIKEN: HIA124, on the screen --

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. -- is hopefully the first page of your witness
24 statement. If you can just check the hard copy that you
25 have in front of you on the desk --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- just to make sure it matches the one on the screen.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. Then if we can go through to 846, please, and again if
5 you just check the hard copy matches the one that's on
6 the screen, and you can see that you've signed your
7 witness statement.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. You want to adopt it as your evidence to the Inquiry?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. From our discussion earlier you are aware the black
12 marks are part of the Inquiry's anonymity policy --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- and you want to keep your anonymity?

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. If you just bear with me for a moment until I give some
17 references to the Panel as to where material relating to
18 you can be found in our electronic bundle.

19 In addition to your witness statement, HIA124, you
20 made a statement to the police on 29th June of 2011.
21 That can be found at 61454 through to 61457.

22 The replying statement from the Sisters of Nazareth
23 that we were discussing, HIA124, can be found at 2092 to
24 2094. You are aware that paragraph 12 of that statement
25 contains an apology to you --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- for any occasion whenever the treatment that you
3 received fell beneath a reasonable standard.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. The Health & Social Care Board replying statement can be
6 found at 6346 through to 6351. That contains exhibits
7 that run from 6352 to 6402, which are a selection of
8 relevant entries from HIA124's Social Services' files
9 that -- some of which have been made available to the
10 Inquiry and we are pursuing the remainder of them.

11 HIA124, there is one -- before I get into the
12 background with you, if we go back to 836, please,
13 there's one point in your statement when you were
14 re-reading it that you wanted just to correct and that
15 is we can't see the last -- in paragraph 4 the name that
16 appears --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- at the very right-hand side --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- is .

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. You want to correct that was already born and
23 that that shouldn't have appeared --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- there.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- has had seven grandchildren.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. In paragraph 2 of your witness statement at 835 you
5 explain in summary form very difficult home
6 circumstances --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- that characterised your initial few years of life,
9 and -- including serious physical and sexual abuse.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. You are aware from our discussion -- we discussed that
12 background in detail. I am not going to go into that
13 today --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- because it is beyond the Inquiry's remit --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- but you -- your parents were known to the
18 authorities, had been to court, and then the
19 difficulties continued despite that and eventually you
20 and three of your sisters, the oldest, , then
21 you and and went to Nazareth House it
22 appears first on 29th September 1965. You were just 7
23 at the time, just before [REDACTED] [REDACTED], and it
24 appears that you remained there for almost a year until
25 3rd July 1966, when you were aged [REDACTED] 8.

1 Q. I was saying to you that the records show that
2 a discussion did take place about how she wasn't really
3 in a position --

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

5 Q. -- to take any more --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- than just your oldest brother.

8 The -- it appears then that in '66 you go back to
9 live in your home again. I am not sure what memory you
10 have of that, but the next time that you come into
11 Nazareth House appears to be in September 1969. There's
12 a Welfare Officer's report about the circumstances,
13 which I am not going to bring up -- I will just give the
14 Panel the reference to it -- which is at 6353 and 6354.
15 It explains the circumstances of again a breakdown in
16 the relationship at that point between your mum and dad.
17 You are re-admitted it seems on 3rd January 1969. So
18 the report is from September '69 recording what
19 happened. It was on 3rd January 1969 you go back into
20 Nazareth House now for the second time. There was
21 difficulty trying to work out how long did that period
22 last? We think we have found the answer to that. If we
23 look at 4159, it appears that it lasted until 18th April
24 1969, so this time for a four-month period. This time
25 it is and you and and HIA 163. That's

1 because had sadly passed away.

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. She was one of the initial four from the '65 period.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. She passed away in [REDACTED]. Right?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. This time HIA 163 has been added that makes the four of
8 you --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- who were in.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. We can see in the bottom left corner 18th April '69 is
13 the period -- the date given for you going back out into
14 the care of Belfast Welfare.

15 There are records, as we were discussing, that
16 suggest that two of your brothers were in Nazareth Lodge
17 for the same period of time, that four-month window in
18 '69.

19 That appears to be the position until the third
20 occasion, which is in September 1970. On 16th
21 September 1970 you are 12 and the records show -- and
22 I think you have some recollection of this -- that your
23 mum had left and your dad thought you knew where she was
24 and threatened you, and you took refuge in a hospital.
25 It seems he came to the hospital with a social worker

1 and things got out of hand and you went and spent the
2 night, but this time in Nazareth Lodge.

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. You remember going and spending the night in Nazareth
5 Lodge.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. The reference to that, Members of the Panel, is at 6360,
8 but the following day then your parents have resolved
9 their issues and they come and talk to you and you agree
10 with them to come home and you go back. That's the
11 position until 13th November, when you have now just
12 turned 13, and you and I looked at the record earlier
13 today, and I am not going to go into the detail of that
14 with you, but because of what you explained your dad had
15 done, the police were involved, doctors were involved,
16 and you were removed along with your brothers and
17 sisters --

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. -- from the home, and you were placed in a family group
20 home at with your sisters going to Nazareth
21 House, and the admission -- there was an admission to
22 care form that explains the background to that, which
23 I am not going to bring up, at 6364 and 6365. One of
24 the issues that you have raised -- the Inquiry can see
25 from the records, as I was discussing with you, that on

1 14th December 1970 you and your brothers and sisters
2 were returned to your parents. The reference to that is
3 at 6367 and at 4160, but the issue you raise at the end
4 of your Inquiry statement at paragraph 37 is you want to
5 understand why you were brought back, given what had
6 happened and what then subsequently happens. I will
7 just touch on that briefly in a moment.

8 So you go back home and then on 18th June 1971 --
9 you are still 13 -- your mother reports to Social
10 Services that again your father has been interfering
11 with you.

12 You were then removed to the Good Shepherd, but you
13 did go as part of that move to the Good Shepherd to
14 Nazareth Lodge for a few days, but that didn't work out
15 and you went back to stay in the Good Shepherd, where
16 you remained then for a number of years.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. I am not going to go into the detail of it, but the
19 Inquiry has been provided with at least part of the
20 social work papers that relate to you. It shows the
21 Social Services regularly visiting and working with you
22 in the Good Shepherd in '71, '72, '73 and '74.

23 One of the issues, as I said, that you have raised
24 with the Inquiry is, "Well, given that I was put back to
25 my parents and abused again by my father, how did that

1 come to pass?" As I explained to you, the Inquiry can't
2 get into that, but the Health & Social Care Board have
3 been asked to and will reflect on, if it was helpful to
4 you, some form of communication that would allow you to
5 understand with them from the material that's available
6 how that came about. I understand that's something you
7 would find helpful.

8 **A. Yes. Yes.**

9 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

10 MS HANNON: On that Mr Aiken has kindly informed me of the
11 position, and I can on behalf of the Health & Social
12 Care Board perhaps let the Inquiry know that I will take
13 instructions in that regard and try to move that forward
14 in respect of the applicant's request. I just wanted to
15 note that, the position.

16 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I think I can say on behalf
17 of my colleagues and myself that, although this is
18 outside the terms of reference of the Inquiry, which is
19 why we are not going into it, the material we have seen
20 and Mr Aiken has described would suggest that it would
21 be very humane and helpful for HIA124 if this material
22 could be made available to her, but I think in what
23 I would describe perhaps as somebody assisting her,
24 because the material, you know, she might well find it
25 upsetting and rather than just dump it in her lap if

1 somebody could take her through it in the way that
2 Mr Aiken is trying to would, I am sure, be appreciated
3 by her.

4 MS HANNAN: Certainly that point has been raised and we will
5 certainly do what we can.

6 Sorry. I didn't make my mention. I am Caroline
7 HANNAN, Directorate of Legal Services on behalf of the
8 Board.

9 CHAIRMAN: You are quite right to make that point to us and
10 thank you for doing so.

11 MR AIKEN: Hopefully that's something, HIA124, that after
12 today can happen and you will find helpful outwith the
13 Inquiry process.

14 **A. Okay. Thank you.**

15 Q. What I want to do then, having set that background and
16 the difficulties that were present in it the Panel is
17 aware of, having read the material that you and I were
18 discussing this morning, you go and spend a year in
19 Nazareth House in '65/'66, aged 7, and then in '69
20 a four-month period whenever you are 12. So those are
21 the two periods that we are talking about, plus a few
22 days the next year in both Nazareth Lodge, and then it
23 seems to be Nazareth Lodge perhaps for the second few
24 days.

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. You don't remember it as clearly --

2 **A. No.**

3 Q. -- but your time in Nazareth House you explain to the
4 Inquiry in paragraph 10. If we can look at 838, please,
5 that -- if I can characterise it in this way, HIA124,
6 from the discussion you and I were having this morning,
7 your memory of Nazareth House is of a harsh, regimented
8 regime, where you didn't feel loved and didn't feel
9 comfortable. You had to keep your head down.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. When you didn't keep your head down, there were
12 consequences to that.

13 **A. Very much so, yes.**

14 Q. Two particular nuns that you remember -- you remember
15 a third one, which was SR116, but you don't have any
16 complaint about her. You remember SR31 and SR134.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. In paragraph 10 of your statement you say that you were
19 terrified of her and she would have hit you all the
20 time.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. I was asking you this morning, "Can you remember any
23 particular examples of that?" When you say she hit you
24 all the time, are there any examples that stick out to
25 you? You remember on one occasion standing up for your

1 older sister, , who had [REDACTED] --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- and that's an occasion when you got hit.

4 **A. Yes. SR31 would have used her -- just the middle**
5 **knuckle and hit you on the side of the head. That was,**
6 **you know, the thing for SR31. So if you spoke back to**
7 **SR31, or in the case of , was slow in**
8 **her movements, because she had [REDACTED] difficulties as**
9 **well as [REDACTED], and she wasn't fast**
10 **enough in her movements for SR31, and I -- she pushed**
11 **and I says to her, "Don't push my sister", and**
12 **she hit me in the head with her knuckles and told me not**
13 **to speak to her or answer her back or -- you know, that**
14 **was -- SR31 just used her knuckle. That was how, you**
15 **know, she was ...**

16 Q. Would I be right in saying, HIA124, and this comes
17 through all of the examples that you give in your
18 statement, that the physical response from the Sister
19 was normally because of something that had been said or
20 was perceived to have been said or done as opposed to
21 just randomly thumping you with a knuckle?

22 **A. Yes. You know, it was always if you -- you know, if you**
23 **had -- had something to say or objected to something**
24 **that was done, you know, like, you know ...**

25 Q. So it wasn't a situation where she just passed you in

1 the corridor and thumped you for no reason.

2 **A. No.**

3 Q. Whether it was justified or not --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- it came in response to something you were said to
6 have done that was unacceptable or you were being
7 punished for something you had actually done.

8 **A. Well, yes, you know, if that's how she seen it, but it**
9 **was just -- SR31 just looked cross all the time, you**
10 **know. You couldn't -- you couldn't -- if you were seen**
11 **speaking to somebody beside you, you know -- say we were**
12 **lined up at the bottom of the beds and you were seen**
13 **speaking to somebody, she'd hit you for that. You know,**
14 **it wasn't -- it wasn't like answering her back. She was**
15 **just an angry woman.**

16 Q. It was a very -- that's what I mean by describing it as
17 a regimented approach.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. There was a way to do things and if you did those, you
20 wouldn't get into difficulty, but if you didn't operate
21 the way you were supposed the to operate, whether that's
22 standing quietly at the end of the bed or other
23 examples, lining up to go into the dining room or
24 whatever, then difficulty would follow.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. You give one particular example in paragraph 10 of
2 speaking back over her actually hitting your younger
3 sister, --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- and being put in a dryer. Now I said to you I think
6 this is the first time the Inquiry has heard about the
7 dryer as opposed to the washing type machines.

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. Can I just ask you to explain in your own words where
10 the dryer was and what you mean by "dryer" when you say
11 that word?

12 **A. Yes. It wasn't a dryer as we know a dryer today. It**
13 **was like a room, but it was like thin doors and the**
14 **doors pulled out individually, and there was racks went**
15 **from one end of the room to the other. It was to hold**
16 **sheets, to dry sheets. That's why it was called**
17 **a dryer, because it was to dry sheets, which was**
18 **permanently warm. It was the dry room. It was a dryer.**

19 Q. The doors, as you described them to me, they came out
20 a certain distance --

21 **A. They came out a certain distance.**

22 Q. -- which revealed these bars then within that the sheets
23 would be on.

24 **A. Yes. So the door -- it was almost like a filing**
25 **cabinet, you know. The doors -- they were thin doors.**

1 So they opened, pulled out like a filing cabinet. So
2 there was room for somebody to stand just at the
3 beginning of the door and push the sheets down. Do
4 you -- do you understand? So --

5 CHAIRMAN: It was like an enormous drying room or hot
6 clothes press --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- with racks in it?

9 **A. Yes, for sheets.**

10 Q. There was some sort of space left. If you pulled the
11 racks out, put the sheets on and then pushed them back
12 in, some sort of space was left?

13 **A. Yes. There was space for, you know, obviously somebody**
14 **to stand sideways, you know, to push the sheets down**
15 **along the racks.**

16 Q. You are describing a space that's big enough for you as
17 a smallish child --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- or early teenager to be in there for --

20 **A. Well, you wouldn't be able to move -- you wouldn't be**
21 **able to move in it freely, but you could stand.**

22 Q. No, but the space is big enough to allow the door to be
23 closed?

24 **A. Yes, yes.**

25 Q. I see.

1 MR AIKEN: This was something that as a result of your
2 behaviour you were -- the door was closed over on you.

3 A. Yes, I was put into this dryer. I'm calling it a dryer,
4 because that's what we knew it as, the dryer, and I was
5 put in there and told to stay there till she came back
6 for me. I remember it being just totally black and
7 being afraid, and, you know, what seemed like a long
8 time to me. I don't know actually how long it was, but
9 it seemed a long time to me, and I remember wetting
10 myself, because I remember being worried about wetting
11 myself, because when I came out, SR31 would know I wet
12 myself and there'd be consequences to that, do you know.
13 So ...

14 Q. I was asking you do you -- have you a memory of this
15 happening to you more than once or was this one
16 particular occasion that you remember being closed in in
17 this dryer?

18 A. It's one I remember, but I do remember it happening to
19 some -- two other people -- well, one in particular. We
20 talked about it as children, but I do know it happened
21 to somebody else as well.

22 Q. So it wasn't something that was happening day in, day
23 out?

24 A. No, no.

25 Q. I was asking you could you remember whether any of the

1 other sisters would have known that SR31 closed you in?

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

3 Q. You did give the example, and we will come to it, that
4 others would have known about how she might have behaved
5 in the dining room --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- because the others were there --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- but you are not sure whether anyone would have known.

10 **A. I don't know. I don't know. That's how she reacted**
11 **that day to me saying to her about hitting my sister.**
12 **That's how she reacted and that's what I remember,**
13 **because I -- I don't know how long I was in there, but**
14 **it was long enough obviously to leave, you know, that**
15 **I still don't sleep in the dark, you know. So it's left**
16 **a ...**

17 Q. I was asking you earlier whether -- you know, was it
18 a case where she would have, because of something you
19 had done, lost her temper a little and, you know,
20 engaged in the punishment, but then when she came back
21 to you later, having calmed down, was her attitude
22 different, and you were saying to me that her attitude
23 wasn't really different when --

24 **A. No, no. That she was sorry or -- no, definitely not.**
25 **She -- it was almost she had justified herself, you**

1 know. "You will not do that again. You will not speak
2 to me again", you know. "Who do you think you are?",
3 you know, but no -- no -- no remorse or -- that was your
4 punishment and that is what you got.

5 Q. Am I right in saying that she -- I was asking you about
6 -- having wet yourself, obviously there's evidence of
7 that potentially there. Had she actually been aware
8 that that's what had happened afterwards and had you got
9 beaten again for that, but you don't think she was
10 aware?

11 A. I don't think she was aware, because she just opened the
12 cupboard and just ordered me out, you know. So I don't
13 think -- it was never mentioned if she did.

14 Q. Now I said to you that the Sisters of Nazareth have in
15 their reply at paragraph 7, which is at 2093 -- while
16 they accept they didn't keep their own rule about
17 physical chastisement, and at times the physical
18 chastisements engaged in weren't acceptable, the
19 congregation doesn't accept that any Sister would have
20 put a child in a dryer. I explained to you obviously
21 the Sisters today who are trying to assist the work of
22 the Inquiry were not the Sisters who were in the home at
23 the time you are describing, but what they are saying is
24 they just can't accept that a nun would do that to
25 a child, put them in the type of mechanism that you are

1 describing and close them in. Is there anything else
2 you want to say about it?

3 **A. Well, the Sisters of today, I don't know that they would**
4 **know the regime of Nazareth House at that time, but that**
5 **happened to me. That's very, very vivid in my mind.**
6 **I remember the day. I remember the incident.**
7 **I remember the feeling. I remember crying. I remember**
8 **wetting myself. That clearly happened to me. Whether**
9 **the Sisters accept that or not I can't really do**
10 **anything about that. I know it happened to me.**

11 **Q.** You also in your statement talk about SR134. If we look
12 at paragraph 12, you mention a particular incident where
13 you were crunching leaves outside and she came down and
14 hit you with a bunch of keys. I was asking you was the
15 bunch of keys something that she was more prone to make
16 use of than --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 **Q.** You mentioned SR31 more with the knuckle. Was SR134's
19 approach more with the bunch of keys?

20 **A. Yes, SR134 would have known -- would have been known to**
21 **carry this bunch of keys, and the bunch of keys wasn't**
22 **like a bunch of keys I have for my house. The bunch of**
23 **keys was a big bunch of big keys and there might have**
24 **been fifteen, twenty keys in that. So they would have**
25 **been quite heavy, you know. So we are not talking about**

1 a bunch of keys and somebody hitting you with, you know,
2 a wee bunch of keys on the head. These were heavy --
3 heavy keys, and, I mean, she didn't just walk down the
4 stairs and hit me with the keys. Her temper started
5 from the top of the fire escape, shouting at me the
6 whole way down, although I wasn't aware it was me she
7 was shouting at, and coming at me so angry and hitting
8 me over the head with these bunch of keys, shouting at
9 me, which I didn't understand why she was hitting me,
10 and I later was told that she didn't like the sound of
11 rustled leaves. So that was, you know -- I was told to
12 go away then and get away from her and whatever, you
13 know, but to me that was totally irrational behaviour.
14 I don't -- I wouldn't have known that at the time, but
15 I didn't know why I got hit. I didn't know why she was
16 being so vicious with me.

17 Q. Was that another child told you later that she didn't
18 like leaves or is that something you've learned as
19 an adult from discussion?

20 A. No, I was told that day.

21 Q. That day?

22 A. I was told that day that that's why I got hit, that she
23 didn't like the sound of the leaves being rustled.

24 Q. Can I ask you -- you have described how those two nuns
25 had a physical approach. Did you ever feel able to say

1 to anyone else, "Look, this one is hitting me with
2 a knuckle. This one is hitting me with keys"? Did you
3 ever feel able to do that?

4 **A. In -- to go to another nun or ...?**

5 Q. Yes.

6 **A. No, no, no, because you didn't know -- I mean, they were**
7 **the -- they were in charge. So where else do you go?**
8 **Who else do you go to? They ruled. So there was nobody**
9 **else, no.**

10 Q. You mention in paragraph 12 the nuns would have hit you
11 with the knuckle, but I think we have covered that.
12 That was mostly SR31 used the knuckle.

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. In paragraph 14 you describe a particular incident of
15 force feeding.

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. You mention both SR134 and SR31 in connection with this,
18 that -- an issue with the food. You talk about carrots.

19 **A. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. You would have had your -- you refer here to I think
21 that's SR31 used to come over and pull you by the back
22 of the hair and say, "You're going to eat that". She'd
23 lift a fork and put it in your mouth and you tried to
24 spit it out. Then SR134 would come over --

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. -- and hold your nose while SR31 held your head.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. She'd be putting carrots in your mouth and holding your
4 chin until you swallowed them.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. You say that that happened regularly. If you weren't
7 getting force fed, somebody else was.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. I was mentioning to you in your police statement, if we
10 can just look at 61455, which is of 29th June 2011,
11 I think you are recounting the same incident --

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. -- but it was:

14 "SR134 came over to me and said, 'You don't like
15 carrots' and, in fact, she stuffed the carrots into my
16 mouth and she grabbed the back of the hair and chin and
17 kept my mouth closed until I swallowed the carrots."

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. So was it SR134 that is the main person in your mind as
20 far as the force feeding is concerned or was it both of
21 them that were --

22 **A. It was both of them, because in the dining area -- in
23 the dining area was -- you were put into your groups.
24 Our Lady's would have been here (gesturing).**

25 Q. You were in the Our Lady's group.

1 A. St. Joseph's -- yes -- would have been there. So they
2 circulated their own area, and if there was what they
3 perceived to be a problem, then I don't know whether
4 they nodded at one another or called one another --
5 I can't remember -- but SR31 would have said, "Eat the
6 carrots". "No, I don't like carrots". "Eat the
7 carrots." "No, I don't like carrots", and she would
8 have pulled your hair. "Eat the carrots." "No", and
9 she would have tried to get a fork into your mouth, and
10 that's when SR134 or SR116 or -- I just remember --
11 I can't say SR116 -- SR134 would have come over and
12 SR134 would have been aggressive. Yes, she would have
13 been the one to force the fork into your mouth and force
14 your jaw closed, you know, while SR31 held your head and
15 your hair back.

16 Q. Now the -- again, as I said to you earlier, the Sisters
17 in their statement, if we just look at paragraph 8 of
18 their statement, 2093, please -- while we are bringing
19 that up, they essentially say -- we can see paragraph 18
20 -- paragraph 8:

21 "In the interests of the child the Sisters would
22 encourage them to eat the meals provided."

23 That obviously makes sense. If you don't eat, then
24 there is going to be other problems flow from that, but
25 they say, "It's not -- we can't accept that the children

1 would be force fed by the Sisters". So they are saying
2 they would have definitely encouraged children to eat
3 but not the force feeding you are describing.

4 **A. Well, their encouragement was force feeding, so if**
5 **that's what they call encouraging a child to eat, but**
6 **they forced -- a lot of -- a lot of us didn't like**
7 **porridge. We were forced to eat the porridge in the**
8 **same way. I didn't like carrots. I didn't like --**
9 **there was sausages I didn't like, because I always felt**
10 **the sausages were off. Things that I didn't like wasn't**
11 **an option of leaving on your plate. It wasn't**
12 **an option. It wasn't a choice. It wasn't something**
13 **that you could say, "Well, I'll eat this, because if**
14 **I don't eat it, I will be hungry later". There was no**
15 **choice in it. You ate it or it was forced down your**
16 **throat. So I'm sorry that they don't accept that, but**
17 **that's the way it was.**

18 Q. In paragraph 11 of your statement at 838, please, you
19 mention -- I'm characterising it as emotional abuse to
20 try to summarise what you are saying --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- but that you were made feel or words were said that
23 caused you to believe or feel that you weren't worth
24 anything, that you weren't loved. Is that the harshness
25 that you -- I was saying at the beginning that

1 summarises your experience, that there just wasn't
2 warmth?

3 **A. No, there wasn't. There was no warmth and they felt it**
4 **was okay to -- I don't know -- they felt it was okay to**
5 **treat you the way they thought was okay. You know, they**
6 **felt it was okay to tell you that nobody else loved you,**
7 **you know. "Sure, your parents don't love you. Nobody**
8 **loves you, and you are smelly and you are dirty. So how**
9 **can anybody love you?" You know, it wasn't, "How could**
10 **anybody out there love you? We love you". They didn't**
11 **-- it wasn't like that. "How can anybody love you?**
12 **You're smelly", you know, and particularly if you wet**
13 **the bed, that was -- you know, that was very loud and**
14 **clear.**

15 Q. I am going to come to the bedwetting --

16 **A. Yes. Do you know, that was ...**

17 Q. -- in just a moment, but that's what characterised --
18 the overarching atmosphere was you didn't feel loved or
19 valued --

20 **A. Definitely not.**

21 Q. -- while you were there.

22 **A. Definitely not.**

23 Q. In paragraph 11 you talk about items being removed from
24 you and whether that was that you got -- you said it was
25 never explained to you that you couldn't have something

1 because the other children didn't have anything. Is
2 that your assumption as to why things were removed? You
3 can see if there were 100 children and five of them had
4 a -- something --

5 **A. That was my assumption, but I was never told that.**

6 Q. That wasn't explained to you.

7 **A. Just the stuff was taken off you. If you came through**
8 **the door with something, which we did -- if we went out**
9 **to a family, they would have sent us back with stuff,**
10 **and as soon as they were gone the stuff was taken off**
11 **us, never to be seen, no explanation, no -- you know ...**

12 Q. As I understand it, what you are saying is you can
13 rationalise if that's the explanation, that it was to
14 make sure there wasn't differences between some children
15 --

16 **A. Well, that's how I would see the situation.**

17 Q. -- but if it had been explained to you --

18 **A. Yes, yes.**

19 Q. -- it might have been easier understood than --

20 **A. Yes. Well, that's how I would rationalise that taking**
21 **away everything.**

22 Q. You give a particular example in paragraph 16 in your
23 statement at 840. You got to make the first communion
24 with your sister.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. We were looking at the record from that and you were
2 pointing out you were making it much older --

3 **A. Older.**

4 Q. -- than you normally were. You were saying that may be
5 because you parents hadn't organised it.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. The record shows you doing it on the same date in June
8 of '66 --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- along with your younger sister. You had been out for
11 the day, as it were, and had money and had got sweets.

12 **A. See, on that occasion both and I had said, because**
13 **we got half a Crown, which was loads of money, and we'd**
14 **buy sweets for everybody in the group, that we had loads**
15 **of money, and we bought -- we spent all our money on**
16 **sweets, which was tonnes of sweets, like, 2s 6d each.**
17 **It was taken off us. No explanation. No -- you know,**
18 **we didn't understand why, because we were bringing it**
19 **back to share, you know.**

20 Q. So, to characterise, this is another example of
21 something you are saying across your evidence, which is
22 that the reasons for things being done, maybe there were
23 very good reasons for them being done, but you weren't
24 explained to as to what they were.

25 **A. No.**

1 Q. You mentioned bedwetting and I am going to deal with
2 bedwetting. In paragraph 6 at 836 you explain
3 bedwetting and give two examples of what appears to be
4 medical treatment to try and deal with the problem.
5 I mentioned to you -- maybe it's a problem of
6 recollection of me, but I think this is the first time
7 that someone has mentioned being given medicine for --
8 to try and deal with bed wetting, and you remember being
9 lined up --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- those who wet the bed --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- to receive --

14 **A. Wet the bed medicine.**

15 Q. -- this medicine.

16 **A. It was called "wet the bed medicine".**

17 Q. That's how it was known to you?

18 **A. That was the terminology used by all the children. You
19 know, "Do you get wet the bed medicine?"**

20 Q. You mention -- I will not bring it up -- you mention in
21 your police statement -- I will just give the Panel the
22 reference, 61455 -- that it was purple coloured.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. I was saying to you it brought Calpol to my mind.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. Is that -- as you reflect back on it, was that what it
2 was like?

3 **A. It was thick. It was thick like Calpol, but it didn't**
4 **taste like Calpol. Calpol is sweet. This wasn't sweet.**
5 **It wasn't disgusting either, but, you know, it wasn't**
6 **sweet. It wasn't like Calpol. I just never knew what**
7 **it was.**

8 Q. Is this at night-time this would be administered?

9 **A. Yes, yes.**

10 Q. You mention the second form of attempt to try and deal
11 with the bedwetting problem in paragraph 7, which is --
12 and obviously this is either '65 or '69 is the period we
13 are talking about -- which is the buzzer system on the
14 bed --

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- which the Panel has heard from -- heard about before.
17 You were -- you put it that you were about 6. If --
18 that probably suggests it was the earlier time in
19 Nazareth.

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. You would have been about 8 then, 7 or 8 in '65.

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. The buzzer on the bed, but the problem for the buzzer
24 was that it didn't wake you, but it did wake the others.

25 **A. It woke everybody else.**

1 Q. That got you into difficulty with SR31.

2 A. Well, SR31 came down, dragged me out of the bed, which
3 if I didn't hear the buzzer, I certainly wasn't aware
4 somebody was calling me, if I didn't hear the buzzer.
5 SR31 dragged me out of the bed, and this was a regular
6 occurrence, because she insisted that the buzzer go on
7 every night, even though I wasn't wakening and everybody
8 else was, and dragged me out of the bed and hit me and
9 was I stupid. Was I deaf. Was I -- you know, because
10 it had woke everybody else and not me.

11 Q. Can you remember was there more than one buzzer system
12 in your group or was it just one and you used it for
13 a period and then someone else might have had it for
14 a period?

15 A. I can't remember.

16 Q. You can't remember?

17 A. No, no.

18 Q. You mention her making you kneel outside your -- her
19 cell.

20 A. She made me kneel outside her cell and that was
21 a regular occurrence as well for bedwetters, to pray
22 there all night that maybe you wouldn't wet the bed the
23 next night.

24 Q. You describe in paragraph 8 that you had to bring the
25 sheets out to a linen basket in the landing.

1 **A. uh-huh.**

2 Q. I was mentioning to you others have talked to the
3 Inquiry about a laundry room where they had to take
4 sheets. This was a linen basket that was in the hall on
5 the floor --

6 **A. This was at night.**

7 Q. -- where your dormitory was.

8 **A. Yes, but this was at night. If -- because the beds --**
9 **I don't know how often she attacked people for wetting**
10 **the bed at night, but yes, the laundry -- the laundry**
11 **itself would have been in the morning, but at night,**
12 **yes, you brought the sheets out to the linen basket.**

13 Q. Were there clean sheets then in the dormitory that could
14 go on the bed? Can you remember --

15 **A. Yes, there was clean -- there was clean sheets put on**
16 **the bed I think. I can't remember. I can't remember.**
17 **Well, actually I actually don't remember, because**
18 **I never got back into the bed. So maybe that's why**
19 **I don't remember, but she just -- she was very angry**
20 **that you had woke everybody up. So I couldn't see past**
21 **that either.**

22 Q. You describe those type of incidents about bedwetting in
23 pages 2 and 3 of your police statement, which are at
24 61455. I was saying to you that the Sisters have
25 accepted that they didn't deal appropriately with

1 bedwetting. I was mentioning to you the Inquiry is
2 aware from 1927 of the Sisters being told punishment was
3 not the way to deal with people who were wetting the
4 bed, but this -- your account does disclose two attempts
5 from a medical perspective to try and remedy the
6 problem, and if I understand it, what you are saying is
7 well, they might have tried to do that, but SR31's
8 response to the outworking of that --

9 **A. Well, at 8 years of age I wouldn't have been aware of**
10 **the medical -- you know, them trying to fix it**
11 **medically. I wouldn't have been aware of that, but**
12 **I certainly was aware of getting dragged out of bed, out**
13 **of a sleep and hit and then told to kneel outside the**
14 **bed, because the medical intervention didn't work.**

15 Q. I was asking you, HIA124, you -- you have the insight of
16 being able to contrast two other sets of nuns that you
17 lived with during your time in care. In your statement
18 later on you talk about the different approach --

19 **A. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. -- towards bedwetting, especially in St. Joseph's in
21 Middletown --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- where you were on a Training School Order.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. You explain there that you were not made -- you were not

1 punished for wetting the bed, just that someone got
2 alongside you and they --

3 **A.** It actually took me a while to accept that, because
4 I was terrified of the whole bedwetting situation. So
5 I actually told lies when I went and they asked me did
6 I wet the bed and I said "No" and convinced myself that
7 I would stay awake every night so as I didn't, but
8 obviously I did go asleep, but their approach to it was
9 totally different, that -- I just thought something was
10 going to happen, you know. I was always waiting on
11 them, you know --

12 **Q.** Punishing you.

13 **A.** -- acting the same way as Nazareth House had done, but
14 they didn't. They were -- helped me to be discreet.
15 They showed me how they would help me to be discreet
16 about it as in getting up early before everybody else
17 and showering and having the bed, you know, just made up
18 like everybody else. So the contrast was so different
19 like.

20 **Q.** At that point when you are in St. Joseph's you were a
21 much older teenager --

22 **A.** Uh-huh.

23 **Q.** -- than in this period of time --

24 **A.** Yes.

25 **Q.** -- but that sticks with you in terms of the different --

1 **A. Yes, because I still wet the bed.**

2 Q. -- way of dealing with it. In paragraph 8 of your
3 statement you mention that every morning SR31 and SR134
4 would check your underwear.

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. You thought it was a humiliating thing to happen, but
7 you never really understood its purpose. I was saying
8 to you, you know, as I look at this, I don't really
9 understand its purpose either. Can you speculate now as
10 to what was the point of this?

11 **A. I have always wondered about that. You know, I don't**
12 **know whether anybody will ever be able to answer that**
13 **question, you know, but I could never figure it out. It**
14 **was every morning and you stood and held the gusset of**
15 **your knickers open and SR31 walked down and inspect**
16 **them. I don't know. There was nothing done about it.**
17 **There was nothing -- to me it still -- I don't**
18 **understand what it was about or what it -- but I do know**
19 **it was humiliating for me and everybody else that it**
20 **happened to. You know, I still don't to this day**
21 **understand what it was.**

22 Q. What the purpose of it was?

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

24 Q. The Sisters of Nazareth have said in reply about that,
25 if we look at 2093, please, paragraph 5, that:

1 "The Sisters are aware of allegations that
2 children's underwear would have been checked. However,
3 we don't accept that this was a common practice."

4 I don't think the congregation can understand why
5 this would be done either.

6 **A. Well, it was a daily practice with Sister HIA34. It was**
7 **daily practice and it was daily humiliation, you know.**
8 **Very much so.**

9 Q. You talk in paragraph 9 of your statement at 837 and I
10 was asking you, "Was it like a mentor scheme?", where
11 an older girl was asked to look after, be involved with
12 a younger girl.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. What was that -- how did that work, that interaction?
15 What was it designed to do?

16 **A. It was to -- the older girl would get everybody up out**
17 **of the beds as in before SR31 came in to call you. They**
18 **would bring you to the bathroom. Not everybody had one.**
19 **Not everybody had somebody older to look after you, but**
20 **whoever did -- my sister did and would have**
21 **brought her to the bathroom, made sure she was washed,**
22 **dressed and ready for inspection.**

23 Q. That would you accept or do you consider that was quite
24 a good idea? I suppose if you have a limited number of
25 nuns, then if you could create a scenario where an older

1 girl was close with --

2 **A. Well, it was -- in theory that sounds brilliant in**
3 **theory, and lucky had . She was a nice girl.**
4 **That wasn't always the case. Most of the older girls**
5 **were -- bullied the younger ones, you know, or because**
6 **they were given charge of a number of people, you know,**
7 **it was an opening for an older girl to bully, you know,**
8 **which happened regular.**

9 Q. In paragraph 15 -- I want to talk to you about family
10 contact. In paragraph 15 at 839 you essentially say
11 that, although your sisters were there, contact between
12 you wasn't encouraged.

13 **A. No.**

14 Q. If you were in the same group as one of your sisters --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- that was fine --

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. -- but those who were in a different group, you might
19 have come across them at meal time, but just by sight,
20 because you were sitting in your group and they were
21 sitting in theirs.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. I was asking you was it not possible just to choose to
24 sit together?

25 **A. No, no. You weren't encouraged to wave. You weren't**

1 encouraged to ask or to go over. You weren't free to
2 walk over in the dining area. Anything that happened --
3 like when I said to SR31 about , that was
4 passing on the stairs, you know, and that's because
5 I seen her doing something on , you know. So,
6 no, we weren't encouraged to talk to one another or --
7 and unfortunately that's made a big gap today in us as
8 sisters, because we were afraid to speak to each other.
9 We are still very much afraid to say things to each
10 other, because we don't know -- we still have -- you
11 know, it's almost like a secret that you have family
12 there. You know, don't go near them.

13 Q. Were arrangements made for you to see your brothers, who
14 were -- if you are right, in the '65 period were in
15 Nazareth Lodge? They certainly appear from the records
16 to have been there during the '69 period. Do you --

17 A. No.

18 Q. You don't remember arrangements being made?

19 A. No, no.

20 Q. You do talk in paragraph 16 of your maternal aunt
21 , whom one of your sisters was named after --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- coming to visit you in the home, but you say that
24 SR31 sat in on the visit.

25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. I was asking you, "Did she do that every time?", because
2 the Sisters have said in paragraph 9 of their replying
3 statement, 2093, the Sisters wouldn't have stayed during
4 visits. Routinely, you know, they would have
5 facilitated the visit and the Sister wouldn't have been
6 there. I was asking you, "Can you remember was it the
7 case that SR31 was there every time your aunt was
8 visiting?" and you thought probably not.

9 A. She -- most times I remember her there. Most times I do
10 remember SR31 sitting in the room, because the visits
11 were very, very strained, and that's quite abnormal if
12 you knew my aunt , because she was a character,
13 you know, and she was funny, but she got then that the
14 visits were quite strained, you know, because SR31 was
15 there. Like, she would have made a few faces as if to
16 say, "You know, your woman -- your woman's there.
17 I can't laugh", you know, things like that, but most
18 times SR31 was there.

19 Q. You then -- as you know, the Panel have the information
20 that charts your time after your period in Nazareth
21 House --

22 A. Uh-huh.

23 Q.

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10 Q. There's two things I want to just clear up. You have
11 an ongoing civil claim, and in the Letter of Claim that
12 was written in April of 2012 -- if we just look that,
13 30247 -- and this, of course, is after your police
14 statement --

15 **A. Right.**

16 Q. -- where you talk about SR134 and SR31.

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. If we just scroll down, this was drawn to the Inquiry's
19 attention, that the Letter of Claim refers to SR34 or
20 a .

21 **A. Uh-huh.**

22 Q. I think you looked quizzically at me when I said that,
23 because two sisters had nothing to do with you.

24 **A. No, no.**

25 Q. So that's an error?

1 it was my fault that these things happened to me. You
2 know, I felt that I was bold, that I was -- you know,
3 I was smelly. "Nobody -- how could anybody like you?",
4 you know. No social media was going to, you know,
5 remind me of what SR31 did that day with the dryer,
6 remind me SR134 forcing me. No social media was going
7 to make any difference to my memories, you know, of what
8 happened to me. You know, so I think using the social
9 media is maybe -- I don't know -- maybe the Order's way
10 of saying, you know, "Maybe these are not all truths".
11 I don't know what they are trying to say, but for the
12 first time in our lives we have been able to talk about
13 this, you know, in an open -- that everybody
14 understands, you know. So, no, I don't think it has any
15 impression or effect on what people has experienced.

16 Q. So for you the account that you have given is your
17 memory as best you can of what occurred for you?

18 A. It's my memory. It's very true for me and, you know,
19 I can't let somebody else's experience -- because it's
20 not my experience.

21 Q. I want to ask you then two questions that we ask,
22 HIA124, each witness towards the end of their evidence.
23 The first is that at the end of the Inquiry's work the
24 Panel have to consider what recommendations they might
25 make to the Northern Ireland Government in three areas:

1 some form of apology, some form of memorial or some
2 other means of redress. We ask each witness whether
3 there is anything they want to say to the Panel to
4 assist the Panel with its thinking about those areas.
5 Is there anything you want to say about that?

6 **A. What was the first one-- sorry -- again?**

7 Q. An apology, a memorial or some other means of redress.

8 **A. Well, the apology, you know, they're doing individually,**
9 **you know, by ways of you read out to me today.**

10 The memorial I don't -- I would just go back to one
11 day there that I was actually meeting up with people to
12 come to one of the meetings at the HIA and I was asked
13 to meet outside Nazareth House -- to meet up with people
14 outside Nazareth House. Within fifteen minutes of
15 standing outside Nazareth House I -- you know, things
16 were coming back that I didn't like in my head and
17 I didn't like being there at that spot. So, no, I don't
18 want no memorial. I don't want Nazareth House to be
19 remembered. You know, I think if we remember
20 an individual, we remember it in our head, you know.
21 You know, we remember that person in our head. We don't
22 need a memorial to Nazareth House for what it stood for.
23 You know, I don't want a memorial for that.

24 Any other form of -- of helping or -- you know, it's
25 been skirted around -- like redress or whatever, I don't

1 know. I don't know about that, you know. That's
2 something that will have to come from the Inquiry, you
3 know, but I know that from the long-term things of --
4 and the impact of things that has happened, you know --
5 and I did also have an issue with Social Services, you
6 know. Like why was I keep putting back in, you know,
7 because that's gone towards how I am today as a person,
8 you know, and all these have had an impact. Therefore
9 I feel that I didn't do a job -- my children have
10 suffered because of feelings of inadequacy, you know,
11 that I feel the nuns unnecessarily -- you know, like
12 I still feel smelly today, still feel, you know, not
13 a nice person. I still feel nobody likes me, you know.
14 So they're all things that have lasted well after I've
15 left Nazareth House, you know. So I would like to be
16 able to do something for my children, you know, in some
17 way, you know. I leave myself open for babysitting for
18 my grandchildren, but my children, you know, have been
19 misplaced in all this as well, do you know.

20 Q. So you mean some form of compensation --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- that would allow you to do something for them?

23 A. Yes, because that's the only thing I have in my life,
24 you know, to be able to say I'm sorry. I don't know how
25 else, do you know. I am not saying money -- I am not

1 saying money does all that, but -- and it doesn't, but
2 in another form of acknowledgment, if you like.

3 Q. The last question that we ask each witness, HIA124, is
4 whether there's anything else they want to say about
5 their time in the home we are looking at, which is
6 Nazareth House for you. It may be that it is something
7 I haven't covered at all, or something I haven't covered
8 in enough detail, or something I haven't got quite
9 right. Now is your opportunity if there's anything else
10 you want to say about your time in Nazareth House to say
11 that to the Panel.

12 A. No. Just that Nazareth House -- you know, I have
13 always -- I have always argued with the thing that, you
14 know, these were educated women, you know, and I just
15 don't understand how you can make an 8-year-old feel so
16 bad about themselves or treat them for -- you know,
17 obviously if they felt there was a medical intervention
18 say in bedwetting, then there's obviously a medical or
19 psychological problem why that child is doing that. You
20 know, I am not a medical person, but as a parent, as
21 a person with feelings, I would know how to -- I would
22 know how to deal with somebody wetting the bed and
23 that's me not having any experience, you know. Just
24 I think the whole regime was -- was -- was bad. I'm not
25 going to -- I'm not going to say, you know, any other

1 **words. It was bad and it left a very big impression,**
2 **not good.**

3 Q. I'm not going to ask you anything else, HIA124.

4 **A. Right.**

5 Q. It may be the Panel Members want to ask you something.
6 So if you just bear with us for a short time --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- while we do that.

9 Questions from THE PANEL

10 MR LANE: You mentioned this drying room. Where in the
11 building was it?

12 **A. As far as I remember it was on the middle floor --**

13 Q. Uh-huh.

14 **A. -- because I remember being on the stairs. There was**
15 **three floors --**

16 Q. Yes.

17 **A. -- and I was on the stairs when this thing took place**
18 **about my sister, and she just dragged me into -- you**
19 **know, pulled this door open.**

20 Q. So it just happened to be to hand at the time? It was
21 a handy place for her to put you?

22 **A. Yes, I think she just acted to what was near her. You**
23 **know, I don't think it was -- like, that day I don't**
24 **think it was -- you know, she didn't drag me up any**
25 **stairs or, you know ...**

1 Q. It wasn't near your group and used regularly in that
2 way?

3 **A. I don't know. I don't know. I just know that day for**
4 **me.**

5 Q. My other question is about this medicine and the other
6 treatment and so on. Did any of the girls do you
7 remember benefit from it and stop wetting the bed?

8 **A. Nobody has ever benefitted from wet the bed medicine and**
9 **I don't know about the buzzer, because I don't know how**
10 **far that went or how much it was used, you know, but I**
11 **know -- maybe I always felt that it was me that stopped**
12 **it, but maybe everybody else feels that way too, because**
13 **SR31 hadn't got the patience, you know, because I woke**
14 **everybody else up. So maybe everybody else woke**
15 **everybody else up.**

16 Q. Did other girls use the system other times?

17 **A. The buzzer?**

18 Q. Yes.

19 **A. I've known -- I've known a few of them to use the**
20 **buzzer, yes.**

21 Q. Okay. Thank you very much.

22 **A. No problem.**

23 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA124, those are all the questions we want
24 to ask you today. So thank you very much indeed for
25 coming to speak to us. We are very grateful.

1 There are civil claim papers at SNB-70938 to 70977
2 and there are a bundle of social work papers which are
3 in two places in the bundle, but they can best be seen
4 at 41939 to 41960.

5 There is also police material at 60289 to 60408,
6 which includes an interview that took place with SR31 on
7 19th June 1996.

8 Now if we could look at HIA117's statement, please,
9 at SNB-872. I think we have actually gone to the last
10 page. This doesn't appear to have been redacted unlike
11 as I described to you, HIA117, but I can assure you that
12 before this statement is put on to our website the
13 redactions will be done, so that no-one's name will be
14 shown that ought not to be shown. I just remind people
15 that any names that are seen on this document before us
16 or any names that are given in the course of your
17 evidence are not to be used outside this chamber without
18 written permission.

19 **A. Okay.**

20 Q. Okay. So, HIA117, if we could just go to the last page,
21 which is 878, please, and can I just ask you to confirm,
22 HIA117, that you signed the witness statement there on
23 17th December 2014?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. This is the statement of evidence that you want the

1 Inquiry to consider together with anything else that you
2 tell us this afternoon?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. If we go back then to the first page. It is 872. Now
5 your personal details are set out here on this first
6 page, HIA117. You are the second eldest of a large
7 family, all of whom who were living at the time you were
8 taken into care -- all six of you were taken into care
9 at that stage. Isn't that right?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. You and your sister were taken to Nazareth House. You
12 were split up from your brothers.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. You know from what I have discussed with you earlier
15 that the congregation apologise to you for the fact that
16 your family was split and say that they did try to keep
17 children together as far as they could and the children
18 were encouraged to visit their siblings whenever
19 possible. Was that the position --

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. -- for you and your sister?

22 **A. No. We never -- we never seen them again.**

23 Q. Just -- this is for the benefit of the Panel now rather
24 than yourself, but Social Services' records show that
25 you were initially taken into care by the NSPCC. There

1 was a Place of Safety Order obtained and then a Fit
2 Person Order was granted on 9th August 1965. We can see
3 this if we look at SNB-41939, please. You will see,
4 HIA117, that your maiden name is given there and the
5 date that you were admitted to care, 3rd August 1965.
6 You were taken into Nazareth House. If we can just
7 scroll on down, there are details given here of your
8 parents and of your siblings, who were all taken into
9 care at the same time as you were. If you can just
10 scroll on down through the document, please, your family
11 doctor's name is given there. You had had the measles
12 and had had whooping cough. Just scroll on down. You
13 will see here it is ticked that the reason you were
14 taken into care was because of unsatisfactory home
15 conditions. You were taken in under a Place of Safety
16 under section 70 of the Children and Young Persons Act
17 1950. You see it is recorded here that it was a report
18 by Inspector of the NSPCC North to follow. If
19 you can scroll on down just through this, it says there
20 was a copy of this document was sent to Nazareth House
21 on 17th August 1965.

22 Then there's a history sheet here, where it
23 indicates that you and your siblings:

24 "... were committed to the care of the committee by
25 the Juvenile Court on 9th August 1965 under section 63

1 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1950 on
2 an application by the NSPCC. Contribution orders of 5
3 shillings per week in respect of each child were made
4 against the father. (Further investigations are being
5 carried out in respect of the parents.)"

6 Then someone was transferred to Nazareth Lodge in
7 January of 1967, more likely your youngest brother, who
8 was put into the Babies' Home with your young sister --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- when you went into care.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. That transfer was reported to the committee on
13 7th February 1967.

14 Now going back to your own statement, HIA117, you
15 were in Nazareth House from 1965, August 1965, until
16 July 1975, between the ages effectively of 7 and 17.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You are now aged 56. Isn't that right?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. At paragraph 7 of your statement you set out here the
21 nuns whose names you remember, SR31, SR134, SR116 and
22 Sister You say you were in SR31's group.
23 You have given her a nickname.

24 "She was known as ' '. She was always
25 knocking you on the head with her knuckles. SR134 was

1 called and I can't remember the Mother
2 Superior's name. I had a doll when I went into the home
3 and SR31 took it off me. She said she would keep it
4 safe, but I never saw it again."

5 You just -- you describe here about SR31 knocking
6 you on the head with her knuckles, HIA117. I was
7 wondering if you might be able to give us an example of
8 why she might do that. What would you have been doing
9 that would cause her to do that?

10 **A. We were probably just talking, or when we were lined up,**
11 **it wasn't in a straight line and she would have come**
12 **down to me, so there is.**

13 Q. That's the kind of behaviour that would have led her to
14 do this to you?

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. Paragraph 8 here you talk a little bit about the routine
17 in the home. You got up you say about 5 o'clock in the
18 morning, went straight to the side of your bed to say
19 your prayers. You wet the bed. So you were beaten
20 regularly, and you say that SR31 or SR134 would push
21 your face into the wet sheets.

22 You say they got alarms then for the wet-the-beds
23 and yours always went off first. SR31 would come out of
24 her cell and give you a terrible hiding. By the time
25 she was done with you she was too tired. So the other

1 girls could fall asleep and if they wet the bed, all
2 they would get is a smack the next morning.

3 "I used to have to wash my sheets in the middle of
4 the night. I had to bring them down to the bathroom and
5 wash them, even though they had a launderette. SR31
6 would leave me down there on my own until they were
7 washed and by the time I was finished it was morning.
8 My sleep was disturbed almost every single night. It
9 was cruel."

10 Now you know from what I was telling you earlier
11 that the congregation have said that you wouldn't have
12 been wakened this early in the morning, and while they
13 accept that they didn't deal with bed wetting
14 appropriately, they don't believe that you would have
15 been made to wash your sheets in the middle of the
16 night. Is there anything you want to say about that,
17 HIA117?

18 **A. Yes. Just that I was made to wash them. I was always**
19 **the first all one that got caught, you know, as -- she**
20 **would come out when the alarms were fitted and trail me**
21 **to the bathroom, made me stay there on my own and wash**
22 **them.**

23 Q. Well, you know also that SR31 was interviewed by police
24 about your -- the statement that you have given to the
25 police and also by a number of other people. She said

1 -- and I am not going to pull this up, but it is at
2 page SNB-60348 -- she said that lay staff slept close to
3 the dormitory and they would be there in the middle of
4 the night. Can I ask you, first of all, about lay staff
5 in the home, HIA117?

6 **A. There was women came in. We just knew them as "miss",**
7 **but they were only there during, you know, the nuns'**
8 **prayers, devotions, holy times, you know, when the nuns**
9 **had to go, but I never ever remember them staying over.**
10 **All I remember was the nun's cell, you know, in the**
11 **corner of the dormitories, and then when they changed it**
12 **and partitioned it, it was like a corridor and the nun's**
13 **cell was at the top. I have never -- I have no memory**
14 **of the misses staying.**

15 Q. You did say to me that you felt that the lay staff only
16 were a feature in the home from about the 1970s.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. They weren't there when you first went there.

19 **A. They weren't there when I first went in, no. It was in**
20 **the '70s they would have come in.**

21 Q. She also said that she never remembered a child ever
22 wetting the bed in the middle of night and it was only
23 the next morning that bedwetting would have been
24 discovered.

25 **A. No.**

1 Q. That's SR31 said that.

2 **A. No. They would have know, so they would. She would**
3 **even -- before we got the alarms fit, she would have**
4 **come out and wakened me, and naturally my bed was wet,**
5 **so it was, but once the alarm were set -- were fitted to**
6 **the bed, she would have been out straightaway, so she**
7 **would have.**

8 Q. Well, coming back to your statement, HIA117, here at
9 paragraph 9, you say that:

10 "After prayers we went down for breakfast. You used
11 to get lumpy porridge and cornflakes on Sunday as
12 a treat. We had no milk, though. We had to eat the
13 cornflakes with black tea because milk was too dear. We
14 never got toast. For dinner we got sausages and
15 potatoes with lumps. The food was rotten, but you
16 couldn't complain. You were that hungry that you had to
17 eat it or you'd starve."

18 Now the congregation have said that the food that
19 they provided was the best that they could in the
20 circumstances that they had and the resources that they
21 had, but your memory of the food certainly is that it
22 wasn't good.

23 **A. Never. The food was never good, so it wasn't. For the**
24 **cornflakes we used tea. To this day I still would**
25 **take -- because we never had milk. So ...**

1 Q. Well, paragraph 10 here you say that:

2 "After a few months I ran away from the home. It
3 was just hell and I wanted my parents. I jumped on
4 a bus and went to C&A",

5 which is a shop in the centre of Belfast or was.

6 CHAIRMAN: Some of us remember it.

7 MS SMITH: Yes, some of us do indeed, Chairman. It no

8 longer exists. For those who are not from this

9 jurisdiction, it would have been in the centre of

10 Belfast next door to Marks & Spencer's, if my memory

11 serves me right, which is still in existence.

12 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

13 MS SMITH: "The police picked me up and dropped me back to

14 the home. The nuns were really nice in front of the

15 police, but then I was stripped and beaten by SR31 in

16 front of all the other children as a punishment for

17 running away. She was making an example of me. SR31

18 put me on a stage and beat me with these black sticks

19 they used to keep in a container. I got beaten with a

20 belt that night as well -- the nuns used to wear big

21 black belts -- and I got hit with rosary beads too."

22 The congregation have said on a number of occasions

23 that they had a policy of no physical punishment for

24 children, HIA117, and they accept that some nuns didn't

25 actually stick to that policy. Is there anything you

1 want to say about that?

2 **A. All my experience growing up it was all punishment from**
3 **them, SR31, SR134, so it was.**

4 Q. And by punishment you mean physical punishment?

5 **A. Physical, sticks, knocking, slapping you, belts, and**
6 **real severe, so it was, and the belts were -- or the**
7 **sticks were black. Depending on your size, they used**
8 **the sticks.**

9 Q. You talk about a container that the sticks were kept in.
10 What kind of container was that, HIA117?

11 **A. Well, I now know it to be like an umbrella holder, you**
12 **know, and the sticks were kept in that, so they were.**

13 Q. Do you remember where they were kept, where the
14 container was?

15 **A. When you was -- when you were getting punished, like**
16 **I was, for running away, they would have been brought to**
17 **the stage. On a Saturday when we were getting bathed**
18 **and checking our clothes, they would have been there,**
19 **and if you had any plucks or holes, then the stick was**
20 **used to punish you.**

21 Q. Yes. You talk about this actually in the next
22 paragraph, HIA117 --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- where you say that:

25 "Every Saturday tin baths were put out in the yard."

1 You say you were dipped in them in Jeyes fluid.

2 "They washed our bodies and hair in Jeyes fluid. It
3 burnt the eyes out of your head and on occasions you
4 couldn't avoid swallowing it. I can remember bathing,
5 washing and feeding the wee ones in Nazareth House. We
6 had to change our clothes every Saturday too, and you
7 went up with your pinafore, and if there was a pluck in
8 it, you would get a beating, or if there was a pluck in
9 your tights, you would get beaten."

10 Now the congregation have said that Jeyes fluid was
11 used, but it would have been used for the treatment of
12 head lice rather than for any other purpose.

13 They have also said that they don't accept that you
14 would have been expected to bathe and wash and feed the
15 younger children in the home.

16 **A. Well, I had to do it, so I did, and Jeyes fluid was**
17 **used. We were bathed in it. When there was an outbreak**
18 **of nits, our heads were shaved, so they were.**

19 **Q.** You talk about school here in paragraph 12. You said
20 you went to school on site in the convent. The same
21 nuns, SR134, SR31, SR116, who were looking after you in
22 the home, also taught in the school. You say you never
23 really had much contact with SR116. She taught Primary
24 1 and 2. SR134 taught Primary 3 and 4 and SR31 taught
25 5, 6 and 7. You say:

1 "SR31 would think nothing of coming into SR134's
2 class and giving you a whack."

3 You said you have been a career minded woman all
4 your life and you think that education was beat into
5 you. You say you were due to sit the 11 Plus and you
6 were all queuing up and the nerves got the better of you
7 and you began to laugh because you were nervous. SR31
8 grabbed you, gave you a beating and said you weren't
9 doing the 11 Plus, and you all then went to St. Monica's
10 Secondary School, but you don't remember anybody going
11 to a school outside of that.

12 **A. Yes. We all went to St. Monica's.**

13 Q. One document that Social Services' record showed to us
14 can be found at SNB-441942. I am putting this up not
15 just because it relates to you, HIA117. I think it is
16 the first example of this type of document we have seen
17 in the Social Services' record. So it is 441942.
18 41939. Oh, sorry. I maybe added an extra digit. Yes.
19 41942. Yes. If we could just go to 41942. Numbers and
20 I don't sit very easily together.

21 You see this is a document of Belfast Welfare
22 Authority. It is a School Attendance Record of a
23 Boarded Out Child. Your name is there, maiden name is
24 there, HIA117. We see that there are just three entries
25 on this from 31st March '68, 30th June '68 and 30th

1 September '68. It seems to be "QE" might be some sort
2 of examination.

3 CHAIRMAN: It is more likely "quarter ending".

4 MS SMITH: "Quarter ending". Yes, that would make more
5 sense. The number of attendances -- actually your
6 attendance at school was good during this period of time
7 and it remarks -- has you down as your progress poor.
8 Now it may well be this was prepared by the nuns who
9 were teaching you for the Belfast Welfare Authority or
10 whatever returns they were giving to the Belfast Welfare
11 Authority, that's what's was recorded on this sheet.
12 That's something the Inquiry can look into, HIA117, but
13 certainly that was what was being recorded. There only
14 seems to be these three entries on this, despite the
15 fact it's a lengthy sheet. There's only three entries
16 put down there.

17 Now in 1968 you would have been around 10. Is that
18 right?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. So this is around the age of 9/10 or so that this is
21 being recorded.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. I know you felt -- you had a comment to make about the
24 fact it is recording that your progress is poor.

25 **A. Yes, because I was up during the night washing my sheets**

1 **and by that time I was made to go over to the old people**
2 **and look after them. So I probably was tired.**

3 Q. I'm going to come over to that in a moment, but
4 certainly this is a document that is useful for Inquiry
5 purposes as well as showing something about your time at
6 school.

7 Paragraph 13, going back to your statement, HIA117,
8 at SNB-875, paragraph 13 there you talk about your
9 mother's family always came to take your sister out but
10 not you. They'd take her out on a Sunday. You say the
11 family blamed you for being taken into care and that's
12 because of an incident you related in the earlier
13 paragraphs of your statement.

14 "They used to say if I hadn't gone out and got
15 attacked, we wouldn't have been taken, but I was only 6
16 or 7 at the time. My mother should have been looking
17 after me",

18 and you believe the man who attacked you was
19 convicted and served time in prison. How do you know
20 that, HIA117? Is there -- is that just something you
21 have been told by someone?

22 A. **Yes. That -- SR31 would have -- you know, when she was**
23 **being nasty, you know, "If you hadn't been out of your**
24 **home, all your brothers and sisters wouldn't be in**
25 **care", and when they took NHB 107 out then, I just**

1 **accepted that that's why they didn't take me.**

2 Q. Now we looked earlier, and I am going to call it up
3 here, that there's a document which shows that --
4 there's -- Social Services have a record of family
5 members visiting both you and your sister in the home.
6 It is attached to the Health & Social Care Board
7 response at 6293. It's quite difficult to read this,
8 but you will see there that it is again -- now that we
9 know that QE is "quarter ending" -- 31st December '65 it
10 says:

11 "Mother visits frequently. Mother has returned from
12 ██████████. Father in ██████████

13 March '66. Mother visits weekly. Grandmother
14 visits frequently.

15 June '66. Grandmother visits occasionally.

16 September '66. Grandmother visits frequently."

17 Reading on down, your mother and grandmother are
18 visiting.

19 "Parents visit frequently.

20 Mother visits frequently and father occasionally.

21 Aunt and grandmother visit occasionally."

22 Then something:

23 "If there's any change of circumstances, then full
24 details of this should be given."

25 I'm not quite sure what that relates to.

1 "Grandmother and mother visit all children
2 occasionally."

3 Now do you have any memory -- you talked about
4 knowing your grandmother came to visit your sister and
5 take your sister out with her. Do you have any memory
6 of your grandmother and mother coming together or of
7 your father coming to the home?

8 **A. I never seen my mother and father again after I went**
9 **into the home. I have vague memory of the grandmother**
10 **and an aunt that came in, but, as I say, it was NHB 107**
11 **they took out. I never was -- not -- not -- you know,**
12 **in '66, any of that time, I was never out.**

13 Q. Going back to your own statement at paragraph 14 on 875,
14 this is -- we were just going on to talk about this is
15 one of the reasons why you felt your progress at school
16 might not have been so good, because you say that when
17 you were about 9:

18 "... they made me start looking after the old people
19 in Nazareth House after school and at the weekends.
20 I was the only one sent over to do it. I did it until
21 I was 14 or 15. SR31 said it was to get the devil out
22 of me and keep me away from the other children."

23 Can I just ask, HIA117, were you -- if I might pick
24 -- use the word "feisty", were you a feisty child?
25 Would you have been --

1 **A. Yes. Going by my personality, yes.**

2 Q. So SR31 said it was to keep you away from the other
3 children.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. You say you:

6 "... used to have to bathe the old ladies, change
7 their nappies, and if they were dying, I had to sit up
8 all night with them and then wash their dead bodies."

9 You say a civilian woman you called matron and two
10 Scottish girls worked there and they were very good to
11 you. They were in their early 20s and they used to buy
12 you sweets with their wages.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. Now again you know from what we have discussed earlier
15 that the congregation say that you may have been asked
16 to help out in the old people's home, but you wouldn't
17 have been expected to do this kind of work, changing
18 their nappies or washing dead bodies. Is there anything
19 you want to say about that, HIA117?

20 **A. I was -- I was made to do it. I was sent over and the**
21 **two Scottish girls, you know, one would have helped me,**
22 **you know, when you were changing the old people, when**
23 **you were bathing them, but I would have been with the**
24 **matron in the morgue, and, you know, the dead or if they**
25 **were dying, I had to sit beside their beds from 2.00 to**

1 4.00 if they were going to die during the night. This
2 is when, you know, they would pass it on.

3 Q. You had to sit with them --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- in their last hours?

6 A. Yes, because the girls would be and the matron would be
7 round -- the two Scottish girls wouldn't be up working
8 during the night. They were working during the day, and
9 this matron, she'd come on and I would have helped her,
10 so I would, and if there was one dying, I would have
11 been in and she attended the rest of them.

12 Q. Well, coming on to -- sorry -- back to your statement
13 here, at paragraph 15 you talk about what happened when
14 your period started and how you felt you didn't -- you
15 had no preparation for this at all, and you also
16 complain that you were given little sanitary protection
17 during the times of your period.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. The congregation have said that it would have been
20 difficult for the nuns to discuss puberty or sex
21 education with young girls. They do apologise for this
22 complaint that they have received about not providing
23 adequate sanitary protection for people and people
24 suffering as a result of that. There was no discussion
25 about what was happening to you or what was likely to

1 then into the place to look after the old people.

2 I could never have been there on my own. That was out
3 of bounds. The door into -- after the classrooms, we
4 were never allowed beyond them doors. So if I wanted to
5 go and help, how would I have known? You know, I was
6 made to do it.

7 Q. I think, HIA117, what the congregation -- they are
8 saying you may have helped out. They are not saying you
9 volunteered to do it, but they say you may have helped
10 out but wouldn't have had to do the kind of work that
11 you have described as having to do, but you are saying
12 you were actually brought there by one of the nuns. Is
13 that right?

14 A. Yes, so it is, and I was told then -- because it was
15 only the matron and I on at night-time, so it was, and
16 I can always remember when the first one died and
17 I probably, you know, was sort of shocked, she said,
18 "HIA117, don't worry about the dead. They'll not hurt
19 you. It's the living that's hurting you", and then
20 I grew up with that.

21 Q. Well, paragraph 16 here of your statement you talk about
22 the older girls. You say they used to try and bully
23 you, but they picked the wrong girl. That's -- you got
24 in trouble for standing up for yourself. That's why
25 I was saying were you somewhat feisty.

1 **A. Yes, yes.**

2 Q. You talk about an incident where:

3 "A woman who used to look after us when the nuns
4 were away praying ..."

5 I take it by this you mean one of the lay staff that
6 you talked about?

7 **A. Yes, the miss.**

8 Q. You said she got into your bed and tried" to touch you,
9 but you beat her out of your bed. You were about 8 or 9
10 you think at that time.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Now this -- just to be clear, age 8 or 9 would still
13 have been in the 1960s and this -- you were saying the
14 lay staff didn't come until the 1970s. So ...

15 **A. I was a bit older, so I was.**

16 Q. You say that:

17 "She was an adult civilian worker the nuns brought
18 in to keep an eye on us when they were at prayer."

19 You don't remember her name. You just knew her as
20 "miss".

21 **A. They were always just "miss".**

22 Q. You told me earlier that you actually went to bed quite
23 early in the day. Is that right?

24 **A. Yes, yes.**

25 Q. So this would have been around early evening time maybe?

1 **A. Yes, daylight was -- you know, in the summertime we**
2 **could hear -- we could hear the children in, you know,**
3 **the streets around us. We could hear them out playing**
4 **and we were in bed, so we were. Our windows -- you**
5 **know, we could see on to the Ormeau Road, so we could.**
6 **You know, we climbed up and the children were all --**
7 **people out walking. We'd been in bed.**

8 **Q. Paragraph 18 here you talk about remembering -- you do**
9 **remember someone from the Welfare visiting the home on**
10 **one occasion, but you couldn't say anything, as SR31 was**
11 **sitting right there, and you knew that if you did say**
12 **anything, you would get a hiding. You said you never**
13 **had a social worker assigned to you or anything like**
14 **that, and certainly when you were making your Inquiry**
15 **statement, that was your memory?**

16 **A. Yes.**

17 **Q. Now I have discussed with you and I am going to look at**
18 **some documents here that we have received from Social**
19 **Services. First of all, again SR31 when she was**
20 **interviewed by police at SNB-60353 -- we don't need to**
21 **pull it up -- she would say when a social worker came to**
22 **the home, that social worker would see a child on her**
23 **own, not without -- you know, there was no nun there**
24 **that -- is that your memory?**

25 **A. The only ones that I can remember is SR31 was there, so**

1 **it was, and I was took in to this woman.**

2 Q. Well, Social Services' records show that there was
3 a social worker, whose name I am going to give again --
4 not to be used outside -- a **NHB 112** , who visited
5 you in the home between 1975 right through to '76 it
6 would appear.

7 If we could just, for example, look at 41944. Now
8 if this could be highlighted. Again your name is there
9 and I will repeat the fact for anyone who wasn't here
10 when you started giving your evidence, HIA117, that none
11 of these names are to be repeated outside this chamber.

12 If we can scroll on down, please, it is recorded
13 here -- the dates of visit to the child are recorded,
14 January '74 and March '74. It says:

15 "HIA117 is still enjoying her course at
16 Rupert Stanley College, although she is rather short of
17 money on occasions. Because of this she likes to work
18 in the holidays. She goes out quite a lot at nights
19 from some of her friends from Nazareth. She relates
20 well to her peer group, but on occasions resents
21 authority."

22 If we can scroll on down, you will see the social
23 worker's name is recorded there as **NHB 112**

24 On down to the next. These are three-monthly review
25 records that were kept by Social Services. Again scroll

1 on down, please. It says:

2 "HIA117 is still enjoying her course at
3 Rupert Stanley, although at times is rather short of
4 money and for this reason would like to obtain
5 employment in the summer.

6 She had hoped to get a job in Limerick, but when
7 this arrangement fell through, she thought of working in
8 Belfast for the summer and is now considering
9 a temporary job in where her sister
10 works."

11 Again then if we look to the next one, another
12 three-monthly review. Scroll on down:

13 "HIA117 is still progressing well at Nazareth and
14 did well in her end of term examinations. She also had
15 a job in the summer holidays and this enabled her to buy
16 herself some extra luxuries and save some money for the
17 beginning of the new term.

18 At times HIA117 finds life at Nazareth rather
19 restrictive and would prefer to be in approved lodgings.
20 So far, however, no decision has been made about this."

21 This takes us right up to August 1974, HIA117. This
22 report is written in September. Can -- have you -- when
23 we look at these documents, have you any memory of
24 a social worker coming to visit you around the time that
25 you were starting your course or anything like

1 that?

2 **A. Only once, that one. That would have been in and around**
3 **the time that I had been starting college, but**
4 **nobody after that.**

5 Q. So you have only one memory of one occasion when
6 a social worker came?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Going back to your statement at paragraph 20 on SNB-876,
9 now you talk here about your sister -- your older sister
10 having left the home a few years before you, and then
11 you then went to where she was living, where you met
12 your then husband. You were 16 and you became pregnant,
13 and you said that when the nuns found out, they wanted
14 you to go to England, but you refused. So they threw
15 you out. You say you left Nazareth House in 1975 a few
16 days before your 17th birthday.

17 Now the congregation have said that they have no
18 record of your pregnancy, but if we look at another
19 document here, which is SNB-6300, and this is part of
20 a report -- in fact, it probably is -- there's probably
21 a better version of this, but it is here. If we just
22 look at the top part where it says "The foster parents
23 (relationship with child, his own family and social
24 worker)", it says:

25 "Relationship with staff at Nazareth House has

1 deteriorated since HIA117 has told them of her
2 pregnancy."

3 So clearly the social worker, who you don't
4 remember, is recording that you had told the nuns and
5 told the staff in Nazareth House that you were pregnant,
6 even though they don't have any record of their own
7 about it. This would show that you did tell them. Your
8 future plans were marriage to your boyfriend. We see
9 then that because you were still a minor at this stage,
10 you were still under age, Social Services -- you needed
11 permission of the Eastern Health & Social Services Board
12 to get married.

13 There was a report prepared for that purpose, which
14 we can see at 41952. This is the Request for Consent to
15 Marriage of a Minor. Again the family background is set
16 out there. If we can scroll down through this, please.
17 Scroll on down.

18 "HIA117's behaviour since admission to care."

19 It's recorded that:

20 "Although all the children were initially quite
21 disturbed on their admission to care, they settled down
22 quickly and responded to the care and affection given to
23 them. HIA117 progressed well both academically and
24 socially and there were no complaints from the staff
25 about her behaviour."

1 You attended Nazareth Primary School and then at the
2 age of 11 transferred to St. Monica's.

3 "On finishing her leaving examination there, she was
4 admitted to Rupert Stanley College for a
5 course."

6 Scroll on down:

7 "She is now in the process of finishing the second
8 part of the course at the
9 and does her final examinations this month.

10 She is an extroverted girl who enjoys good
11 relationships with her peers. Recently, however,
12 relationships with the nuns have deteriorated slightly,
13 as HIA117 resented their authority and tried to assert
14 their independence."

15 Then it talks about how you came to be pregnant and
16 about yours and your boyfriend's plans for where you
17 were going to live after marriage and so forth. Can we
18 just scroll on down through that, please? Right on
19 down. On the next page it is recorded:

20 "In conclusion, HIA117 and seem to have
21 formed a reasonably stable relationship, and although
22 they are now in a situation of stress, they are coping
23 sensibly, have thought seriously about the future and
24 are quite realistic in their outlook. Therefore I would
25 respectfully ask that they be given consent to marry."

1 We know, HIA117, that you did receive that consent
2 and you did go on to marry --

3 **A. I did, yes.**

4 Q. -- and had a life with him.

5 Now the congregation in its response statement to
6 you have said that they offer you a sincere and
7 unreserved apology for any occasion when the standard of
8 care provided by them fell below an acceptable standard.
9 So it's a personal apology to you for anything that fell
10 below the acceptable standard, HIA117.

11 Going back to your own statement, you describe your
12 life after you left Nazareth in paragraphs 21 through to
13 25. I am not going to go into the details of that, but
14 you can be assured that the Panel have read it and are
15 aware of the difficulties that you had, but if we could
16 just go to paragraph 26, please -- sorry. There was one
17 other matter. Yes. Just paragraph 26. Yes. That's on
18 page 877. You say here:

19 "I have come to the Inquiry because I need closure.
20 I need somebody to be held accountable for what happened
21 to me and I want to make sure it never happens to
22 another child. They haven't just ruined my life;
23 they've ruined three generations. My two daughters
24 don't speak to me, because they say I gave them
25 everything they needed in a material sense, but I never

1 showed them love. My sister is the same as me. She was
2 unable to show love to her children, and my other sister
3 lost six children through neglect. It was a case of
4 history repeating itself."

5 You go on in paragraph 27 to talk about the effect
6 on your brothers and the difficulties that you have
7 there. You say that essentially when you were taken
8 into Nazareth House, that's when you lost contact with
9 your brothers and you didn't have any contact with them.

10 Now we looked at some documents. The Social
11 Services suggest -- the records relating to your brother
12 suggest that he spent one weekend a month with his three
13 sisters in -- where you were living in County Down.

14 Now I just want to -- in your life after care
15 section you talk about how your younger sister allegedly
16 came to live with you.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You effectively fostered her --

19 **A. I fostered her.**

20 Q. -- just a year after you got married. Isn't that right?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. So you, she and your older sister were all living in the
23 same area.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Social Services have said that their records show -- can

1 we just look at this, please? SNB-6311. These are from
2 your brother NHB 113 records. If we can just scroll on
3 down, please, to:

4 "Family situation.

5 NHB 113 has had no contact with his parents for some
6 time. He spends one weekend per month at holidays with
7 his three sisters in and presents no problems
8 during these visits. He has infrequent contact with two
9 brothers in Belfast."

10 If we can scroll on down through the next pages, it
11 says here -- there:

12 NHB 113 has only recently begun to visit his sisters
13 in and has responded well to this new dimension
14 in his life. He has settled better into De La Salle and
15 very much looks forward to these home -- to home
16 visits."

17 Now do you -- have you ever any recollection of NHB 113
18 coming to visit you and your two sisters?

19 **A. No, I never seen NHB 113 again after the day we went into
20 the home, into care.**

21 Q. Just to be clear, there is another entry, if we can just
22 scroll on down. It might be on the next page. It might
23 be even further down. It might be on -- scroll on down
24 through this page, please.

25 CHAIRMAN: 6314.

1 MS SMITH: Yes, 6314. If we can just go down to the --
2 scroll on down, please. "Family situation", it says:
3 NHB 113 has had no contact with his family for several
4 years. He spends occasional weekends and holidays with
5 two married sisters in with whom he appears to
6 be close. He has infrequent contact with a brother and
7 grandmother in Belfast and erratic contact with a sister
8 in Derry."

9 Now did you ever have a sister who was in Derry?

10 **A. No, never had a sister in Derry.**

11 Q. So this seems to suggest that that is certainly
12 an error?

13 **A. Yes. We have no sisters in Derry. There's me, NHB 107**
14 **and NHB 92**

15 Q. Is it possible -- I know that your parents went on to
16 have other children after you went into care. Is it
17 possible one of those might have ended up in Derry?

18 **A. No. They never -- they've never -- they're [REDACTED] and**
19 **they've never been over here.**

20 Q. Okay. So this is definitely wrong?

21 **A. Yes, and regards NHB 113 when the police investigation**
22 **started, they had traced the boys and they said to me**
23 **that if I want to contact, they would give the details.**
24 **I never made contact, but I got a phone call one night**
25 **from a fella and he just says, "Is that HIA117?" and**

1 I said, "Yes". He said, "This is NHB 113 your brother",
2 and I just says, "Right", blah, blah, and I never
3 heard -- seen him again, and then I got a phone call
4 through my son. He died just before Christmas.

5 Q. That's just last Christmas?

6 A. Yes, but I never had no more contact after we went into
7 care.

8 Q. Well, HIA117, one other thing. The Inquiry is aware
9 that there are various chat forums and things, social
10 networking, where people like yourself have met
11 online and talked about your time in the care, and we
12 know that certainly you in late 2010 were trying to make
13 contact with some former residents in that way.

14 Is it possible that you may have been influenced in
15 any way by what you read on the social networking sites
16 or from what -- you know, the contact you made with
17 other people about your time in the home?

18 A. No. All that I have told in this Inquiry and to the
19 police, which was, what, '94 -- '96 --

20 Q. I am going to come on and look at that in a moment or
21 two.

22 A. No. HIA43 got in contact with me and they were going to
23 get us heard and at the time I thought "Yes". You know,
24 I was under psychiatric care and they kept saying about
25 closure, closure. I did meet up with HIA 43 and went

1 to Stormont to get this Inquiry, but I since have cut
2 off all contact, so I have.

3 Q. Well, you were just talking there about making
4 a statement to the police. That can be seen at
5 SNB-60374. Sorry. I beg your pardon. Your statement
6 is at 60309. If we look at that. This is an undated
7 statement, HIA117. You did say -- we discussed about
8 this -- you did say that you didn't tell the police
9 about the abuse you suffered, which is not correct,
10 because this statement talks about the abuse that you
11 suffered --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- but what you said you meant by that was that you
14 never went yourself to the police.

15 A. No.

16 Q. They came to you as part of their investigations --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- when they were looking into what was happening in the
19 De La Salle home in Kircubbin and so forth, and they
20 then started to investigate what happened in the
21 Nazareth homes in Belfast.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. So that's how this statement came to be made. Just one
24 thing here it says:

25 "During my stay at Nazareth House, I took the role

1 as the mother figure and protected the other members of
2 my family. This brought me into constant conflict with
3 the nuns."

4 Now what members of your family were you talking
5 about there?

6 **A. NHB 107 and NHB 92 As I say, NHB 107 is the older,**
7 **ten months, but NHB 107 would be classified like a slow**
8 **learner --**

9 Q. Yes. I think you did discuss that in your statement.

10 **A. -- and I would always have sort of protected her, so**
11 **I would. Then when NHB 92 then came up from**
12 **St. Joseph's and then -- you know, she was grew up by**
13 **then, you know; she was 5 -- then I would have looked**
14 **after her, so I would.**

15 Q. That is what you meant by this comment in your police
16 statement?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You talk about the incident where you ran away and you
19 go on to talk about being beaten for nothing, being
20 washed in Jeyes fluid and the effect of this has haunted
21 you all your life. You go on to talk about the
22 difficulties that you had. You said the nuns were very
23 cruel to you and you have no respect for the church now.

24 "Also some of the houseparents were very bad to us."

25 That isn't an expression you were using,

1 "houseparents", is it, HIA117? Was this a term the
2 police were using?

3 **A. Yes, they were using that. We just knew them as "miss".**
4 **That's how we identified them, "miss".**

5 Q. Because you go on to say:

6 "I remember now that it was SR31 that beat me on the
7 stage. I called her because she had
8 We were made clean and polish the home when
9 we were very young."

10 To this day you say you are aggressive and you put
11 it down to the fact that you were -- your stay in the
12 home.

13 Now SR31 was interviewed about what you had said to
14 the police in -- she was interviewed in 1996. What she
15 says can be seen -- about your statement can be seen at
16 SNB-60374 onwards. She essentially said that you
17 weren't in her group or class and she had nothing to do
18 with you. Is there anything you want to say about that?

19 **A. When we first went in, it was dormitories, rows and rows**
20 **of beds and in the corner was the cell, as we called it,**
21 **where the nuns slept. SR31 slept in that one. In the**
22 **early '70s it was then partitioned, so it was, and was**
23 **made into three groups. Instead of the big dormitories**
24 **(inaudible) was the position, and there was three to a**
25 **room, and I was put into SR134's.**

1 Q. From the early '70s. So in the early years you were
2 with -- in SR31's group --

3 **A. SR31, yes.**

4 Q. -- and the later years SR134's.

5 **A. SR134.**

6 Q. She has also said -- well, she said she didn't know that
7 she had a nickname and had never heard of it. She said
8 that Jeyes Fluid was used for washing hair sometimes and
9 that no child would ever have had to wash dead bodies.
10 That's what she told the police when they interviewed
11 her about what you had said in your statement. So is
12 there anything else you want to say about that at all?

13 **A. Just, as I said, I was took over to the old people and
14 that's what I was expected to do: feed the inferred
15 (sic) ones and change their nappies. Then, as I say,
16 when they were dying, I had to sit in the room with
17 them, their breathing, and if they passed on, then
18 matron, and then we would have got them washed and then
19 over to the mortuary.**

20 Q. We'll come back to the final paragraph of your statement
21 at 878. You name two priests whom you remember visiting
22 Nazareth House when you were there and the names are
23 given here. One is Father Brendan Smyth. You say that
24 you believed that these two priests were sexually
25 abusing children. You talk about one of the priests

1 having his favourites, but that you weren't one of them.

2 He used to and take children out

3 in it, but you were never taken out in that car.

4 **A. No.**

5 Q. Can I just ask, HIA117, we know that certainly Father

6 Brendan Smyth has been convicted of abusing children,

7 but in respect of the other priest, was this just

8 something that you are now looking back and thinking

9 there must have been something untoward because he took

10 children out? Is that really what you are looking at,

11 or was there any feeling you had at the time, or

12 anything like that?

13 **A. Just had -- must have had that feeling, you know.**

14 **I don't know, you know.**

15 Q. But no-one ever said to you they were abused by that

16 priest or --

17 **A. No, no.**

18 Q. Never said anything like that?

19 **A. No.**

20 Q. Well, (sic), there's just a couple of other

21 questions that I want to ask you. Sorry, HIA117. Did

22 I call you Apologies.

23 **A. No problem.**

24 Q. One is that you are aware that this Inquiry has to make

25 recommendations to the Northern Ireland Executive about

1 what should happen in respect of those children like
2 yourself who spent time in institutions, and I wondered
3 what your views were, what recommendations you feel that
4 the Inquiry should make in terms of either an apology,
5 compensation or a memorial of some sort.

6 **A. I feel that's why that I have told and come to the**
7 **Inquiry, that it should never happen to any more**
8 **children. That was, you know -- and I never really**
9 **thought -- I just wanted closure, so I do, and somebody**
10 **to be answerable that it happened.**

11 Q. Well, HIA117, thank you very much for that. If there's
12 anything else that you want to say or you feel we
13 haven't covered in terms of your statement or in terms
14 of anything else that you want to say about your time in
15 Nazareth House, now is your opportunity to say whatever
16 else you would like to say.

17 **A. It should never have happened, you know. I know my**
18 **parents were as much to blame, you know, but they**
19 **probably thought we were being looked after well by**
20 **nuns. They were great people, the church people, but it**
21 **has since come out how bad things were and it should**
22 **never have happened.**

23 Q. Well, HIA117 --

24 **A. I hope it never happens to any other children again.**

25 Q. Thank you very much, HIA117. I am going to hand you

1 over to the Panel. They may have some questions for
2 you.

3 **A. Okay.**

4 **Questions from THE PANEL**

5 CHAIRMAN: HIA117, can I just ask you to go back to what you
6 told us happened to you when you ran away from the home
7 and then you were brought back? You described how you
8 were punished.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. You said you were brought up on to the stage.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Were you punished in front of --

13 **A. The other children.**

14 Q. -- other children?

15 **A. Yes, yes.**

16 Q. Was it just one or two children or all -- a lot of
17 children?

18 **A. A lot of them. They were all called into the hall, so
19 they were.**

20 Q. Did other people run away when you were there?

21 **A. Not that I can remember.**

22 Q. Does that mean as far as you can remember you were the
23 only person who was treated in this way by being
24 punished for running away in front of everybody or might
25 it have happened to other people?

1 **A. I never seen another child getting beat on the stage,**
2 **you know.**

3 Q. I see.

4 **A. That would have been the big punishment, because all the**
5 **children were called in, and I never experienced, you**
6 **know, another child being on the stage getting beat like**
7 **that.**

8 Q. So as far as you know you're the only person who was
9 ever beaten on the stage in front of a lot of other
10 children for anything. Is that right?

11 **A. Oh, no. There would have been other -- on the stage,**
12 **but they were only by the hands.**

13 Q. Oh, I see what you mean. The way you were treated on
14 the stage --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- was more severe than others --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- but there were other people who were brought up on
19 the stage --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- to be punished in front of everybody else?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. What would they have done? You made a gesture showing
24 you were hit on the hand. Was that with a cane or a
25 strap or something?

1 **A. Black sticks.**

2 Q. What would they have done to bring this down?

3 **A. Probably fighting, running through the corridors,**
4 **climbing and, you know, just ...**

5 Q. Anything that was regarded as bad behaviour?

6 **A. Yes. Just children's things, you know, that -- so, you**
7 **know ...**

8 Q. Was this done on a particular day of the week? You said
9 a Saturday I think it is.

10 **A. Saturday was the day we got bathed in the Jeyes fluid**
11 **and then our clothes were examined.**

12 Q. If punishment was taking place, was it on a Saturday as
13 well?

14 **A. Yes. The sticks were there. So if you had a pluck or**
15 **you put a hole in your tights, well, that's -- you got**
16 **the stick by the hand.**

17 Q. Thank you very much.

18 **A. Okay.**

19 MR LANE: Just to clarify one or two things, you mentioned
20 about how the various sisters had different class
21 groups, P1 and P2 or whatever it was. What did the P
22 stand for? What sort of group was that?

23 **A. Primary 1 and Primary 2.**

24 Q. Did they each then have two or three different classes
25 to be responsible for?

1 **A. It would be more the age group, you know. Like P1s and**
2 **P2s would be in SR116's.**

3 Q. They would be brought together for that?

4 **A. Yes --**

5 Q. Right.

6 **A. -- and it would be sort of like an age group.**

7 Q. So would there be about thirty or forty girls together
8 or what?

9 **A. Yes, yes, big classes, yes.**

10 Q. Right. Okay. The next one I was wanting to ask about,
11 you mentioned about how for the time they had the Jeyes
12 fluid you had these tin baths which were outside. Was
13 this in a courtyard did you say?

14 **A. Yes, the play area when we were allowed outside.**

15 Q. Was it totally enclosed by buildings?

16 **A. Oh, no. Just the wall, you know.**

17 Q. Right.

18 **A. It was the entrance into the Children's Department.**

19 **Then there was walls.**

20 Q. So people coming past would be able to see what you were
21 doing there, would they?

22 **A. Not so much them. The buses --**

23 Q. Right.

24 **A. -- would have seen or the children on the walls, you**
25 **know, outside, you know.**

1 Q. Do you know why they ask this outside in the courtyard?

2 **A. Well, only experience, but the water. Like if you are**
3 **getting dipped in Jeyes fluid, you're not going --**
4 **you're going to splash, you know. So if you did it on**
5 **their wooden floors, they wouldn't have liked that.**

6 Q. So how were you dressed when you were having the Jeyes
7 fluid like that?

8 **A. These wee white cotton things, so it was, just -- you**
9 **know, they were just --**

10 Q. Like a shift sort of thing?

11 **A. -- something like, you know, a hospital gown, but there**
12 **was no sleeves, you know.**

13 Q. Right.

14 **A. There was no sleeves and it was very, very thin, so it**
15 **was.**

16 Q. Thank you very much.

17 **A. Okay.**

18 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA117, I'm sure you will be glad to hear
19 we don't have any more questions for you. Thank you
20 very much indeed for coming to speak to us today. We
21 appreciate it. Thank you very much.

22 **A. Thank you.**

23 Q. Now we do have another witness. I don't imagine we are
24 ready just yet. So we will rise now for a while, but
25 thank you, HIA117.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. You want to adopt it as your evidence to the Inquiry?

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. Then there is an addendum statement which you've
5 provided to the Inquiry. That's at 879, and at the
6 moment it isn't redacted, but it will be when it's
7 published. Again you recognise the first page of that,
8 and if we move through to 881, please, and can you
9 confirm, HIA43, you have signed that addendum statement
10 on 19th February?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You want to adopt that as your evidence to the Inquiry
13 as well?

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. The Inquiry also has a letter -- let me just pause
16 there, HIA43, if I may. The version that had the
17 redactions on it, the original version, that's the
18 Inquiry's anonymity policy in operation and I spoke to
19 you about that.

20 you'd prefer to keep your
21 anonymity in respect of your evidence to the Inquiry?

22 **A. Yes, as I said to you earlier, just so that nobody just
23 looking in at home or wherever can just see everything
24 about you, you know.**

25 Q. Just bear with me for a few moments, HIA43, while I give

1 the Panel some references to material that relates to
2 you in the bundle.

3 There is a letter from HIA43 that she wrote to the
4 Sisters of Nazareth in June of 2009, which can be found
5 at 30158 through to 30166.

6 HIA43 then made a statement to the police about her
7 experiences on 6th May of 2010. That can be found at
8 61720 to 61724.

9 In recent days HIA43 has shared her psychiatric
10 report from Dr Best, which appears to have been prepared
11 as part of an ongoing civil claim, and that's at 15th
12 September of 2011. That can be found at 32993 through
13 to 33003. As we discussed, HIA43, there is material in
14 that statement -- in that report that the Panel are
15 aware of. There is no need for me to get into that with
16 you today.

17 The -- you also brought some photographs to the
18 Inquiry.

19 **A. Uh-huh.**

20 **Q.** They can be found at 18414 through to 18416.

21 As I was discussing with you earlier, the Sisters of
22 Nazareth as part of the way the Inquiry operates have
23 provided a replying statement, which can be found at
24 2097 to 2099. As we will discuss as we go, they don't
25 accept some of the specific detail, but they do at

1 paragraph 17 make an unreserved and sincere apology to
2 you for any occasions whenever your treatment fell
3 beneath a reasonable standard.

4 The Health & Social Care Board replying statement
5 can be found at 6316 to 6317 and there are exhibits that
6 run from 6318 to 6330.

7 Then a large volume of social work material is found
8 at 43459 to 43500 and 44719 to 44752.

9 Having said all of that, HIA43, you were born on
10 and are now 58 years of age?

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. Now 58?

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. You have four -- you were one of four siblings?

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. You have three children of your own?

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. Now one grandchild?

19 **A. Yes, .**

20 Q. You were mentioning earlier
21 .

22 You explain in your Inquiry statement, if we go back
23 to the first page, please, at 710, that the catalyst to
24 you going to live in Nazareth House was your -- the
25 breakdown of the relationship between your mum and dad

1 in and around 1959/1960, when you were just 2 or 3 years
2 of age. You went into Nazareth House on
3 22nd January 1960. The reference for that, Members of
4 the Panel, is at 4076. At that stage you were aged 3,
5 and you were there for seven and three-quarter years
6 until 18th October 1967, when you were aged 10.

7 When you went in, you went in along with your older
8 sister HIA 103, who was 7. So she was roughly four
9 years older than you, but she stayed for a shorter
10 period than you. She went home to live with your dad in
11 May 1965 whereas you continued to live in Nazareth House
12 for another two years thereafter. The reference for
13 that again is at 4076.

14 You said in paragraph 3 of your statement at 710,
15 HIA43, that you thought a neighbour had called the
16 Welfare --

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. -- and you were taken into care in January 1960. If we
19 can bring up 4078, I was explaining to you earlier,
20 HIA43, from the information the Inquiry has been able to
21 gather it appears that the congregation -- if we just
22 maximise the bottom part of the page for me, please --
23 that when you were -- if we just scroll down and
24 maximise the size. That's great. Thank you. It
25 records your mum having left and you have come in under

1 what's described as a "father's application". That sits
2 with the Health & Social Care Board pointing out that it
3 appears their first engagement with the family was not
4 until the summer of 1966. At that point you would have
5 been 9 and would still have been in Nazareth House, but
6 your family -- and I am not going to bring up the
7 record, but you and I were looking at the record
8 earlier, and the Panel are aware of it -- that the
9 Welfare Authority had received a referral from a parish
10 priest in the area, and had then begun to get involved
11 with your dad and the children who were in the home and
12 together with various steps that the priest was taking
13 to assist your dad. So it appears that at the time you
14 go into Nazareth House the placement is a private one
15 arranged by your dad with the congregation. Your
16 recollection was different from that.

17 **A. Yes. My father told me in later years that he went on**
18 **out to work and --- as he was a proud -- very proud man**
19 **and he always worked, and he said there was a neighbour**
20 **a few doors up who was a policeman, and because he had**
21 **seen the children playing in the street and my older**
22 **sister looking after us, that he phoned the Welfare,**
23 **because there was always ongoing difficulties with this**
24 **policeman and him.**

25 **Q. As I said to you, that -- what I have been able to**

1 explain when we were speaking earlier --

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. -- is what the material available appears to show, and
4 it seems that the first record begins in 1966. That for
5 the Members of the Panel is at 43466. I am not going to
6 bring that up now.

7 **A. Can I say, Joseph, would that have been a father's**
8 **application on behalf of -- with working with the**
9 **church, because I know the church were trying to get my**
10 **father and mother to go back with each other because of**
11 **the children. There was ongoing consultations there,**
12 **which my mother did go back -- come back to the house**
13 **and that was the church were the mediators there, you**
14 **know. So --**

15 Q. So it may have been there was interaction with the local
16 priest --

17 **A. Yes, absolutely.**

18 Q. -- and your parents.

19 **A. Yes. It just wasn't him on his own, no.**

20 Q. So it appears then that it was -- from the record if we
21 look at 30186, please, this is the type of collated
22 information that you have seen before, HIA43, and it
23 talks about you being released to your -- have I the
24 wrong reference -- it seems that -- yes:

25 "Taken by her father 18th October 1967."

1 So the record that the Sisters of Nazareth are
2 working off was that whenever you were leaving the home,
3 you were being taken by your dad, and we will come to
4 you in your statement have a different recollection --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- about what took place, that you were told you were
7 going back to your dad and were left to walk back to his
8 house.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. It was in the I think at that stage.

11 **A. Yes. Uh-huh. Near .**

12 Q. You were left to walk back to his house?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. What -- I am not going to go into it today, HIA43, but
15 as I was discussing with you earlier then, the Inquiry
16 has received the social work material that flows from
17 1966 onwards, and that demonstrates the significant
18 involvement that there was, and the Panel has had the
19 opportunity to consider and will have the opportunity to
20 consider that material. There's no need for me to get
21 into that with you today.

22 In paragraph 10 of your statement, if we go back to
23 712, please, you have a memory, HIA43, of the --
24 whenever you first went into Nazareth House, you were in
25 the more junior wing with the sort of older toddlers, as

1 I understand it, babies and toddlers. Is that -- is
2 that right?

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

4 Q. You would spend time there until you were about 4 or 5.

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. You describe in paragraph 10 a particular incident where
7 you soiled your underwear and it has been -- you've put
8 it under a child's bed thinking that would hide the fact
9 it was you, and because everything was identified in
10 terms of numbers being sewn in, it was then attributable
11 to you. You were laughed at as a result of that.
12 That's a memory that you have --

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. -- of your time in the -- so was nun -- you don't
15 remember who the nun was who was in charge of that --

16 **A. No.**

17 Q. -- part?

18 **A. No.**

19 Q. Was it more the other children then --

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. It was the nun?

22 **A. Yes. I can just -- I can just -- I'm in that moment**
23 **when I think about that. There's so much that I don't**
24 **want to remember. I really don't want to remember, but**
25 **when I do remember things, I can just see the vision**

1 there and then, because I can still see the cot over
2 here and me standing here and these figures, tall,
3 beside me, and that was in the young dormitory, and the
4 humiliation and that pain just sticks to you, you know,
5 every fibre of your being, that that will never leave
6 you. So ...

7 Q. What was it that they did that made you feel humiliated?
8 What had the nuns done?

9 A. I think it was the shouting and the pulling at you, you
10 know, and stuff. It was just the hurt and the pain and
11 you're in tears. You know, it will just stay with you,
12 you know, whatever else, knowing that that -- "Look what
13 you've done". Made you feel filthy, dirty, you know, as
14 a young child, that you just -- that will always stay
15 with you, you know.

16 Q. After -- that's the memory that you have of the nursery
17 wing, if I can call it that. When you move into the
18 main part of Nazareth House, if we look at paragraph 19,
19 please, at 714, you describe being beaten by both SR31
20 and SR134.

21 In paragraph 19 you talk about:

22 "SR31 would beat me" -- that's SR31 -- "would beat
23 me with a bamboo cane in the classroom and SR134",
24 SR134, "would hit me on the head with her keys."

25 Then you say you were terrified of SR134. You were

1 told by her never to tell lies, but when you told the
2 truth, she would whack you over the head with her keys
3 or whatever was in her hand.

4 "The nuns used to lock me up in a dark cupboard and
5 leave me lying there the whole day or even overnight."

6 I was asking you earlier can you remember where the
7 cupboard was that they would put you in and you weren't
8 clear about -- couldn't remember where the cupboard was.
9 Is that --

10 **A. Well, that's my choice. I don't want to remember.**

11 **I don't want to remember. All I remember is being in**
12 **it, you know. Sorry. I just remember being in it and**
13 **the dark place and cleaning stuff all just all on**
14 **shelves, mops and buckets all around. So ...**

15 Q. In paragraph 20 of your statement, HIA43, you mention
16 a particular occasion whenever your dad was visiting you
17 and he became aware it appears you had been grabbed by
18 the arm by SR31, who then left marks on your arm.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. He saw the marks on your arm and asked you what had
21 happened and you told him what had happened.

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. Then when you came back to the home, he asked to see one
24 of the nuns. I take it you weren't there when the
25 conversation took place, but he had a conversation with

1 them about the marks on your arms --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- and you were then punished by SR31 for having told.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. You say that she beat you the whole way to the cleaning
6 cupboard --

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. -- and beat you with a stick on the tops of your legs
9 under your dress --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- and called you evil and a liar. I thought crying
12 would cause her to stop, but it didn't cause her to
13 stop. Was that the main incident which involved the
14 cupboard or --

15 **A. Oh, no.**

16 Q. -- was the cupboard a punishment that SR31 used more
17 than this one occasion?

18 **A. No, they used it often, quite often, but that sticks out**
19 **in my mind, because that was the more horrible and**
20 **horrific beating and it went on for such a long time,**
21 **and it was just because even the memory of my father**
22 **saying, you know, that he seen bruising on me -- I was**
23 **probably always bruised, you know, but for one moment**
24 **that someone cared that I was bruised, you know, and**
25 **so -- and to question someone about it was -- you know,**

1 it made me I suppose feel that somebody actually cared
2 about you, you know, and that was even my father, you
3 know, and then for telling the truth there you were
4 beaten and beaten again. So can you imagine how that
5 messed with your mind, you know, from people who are
6 supposed to be in authority, and not only that, from
7 Christian authority, you know? So it messed you up so
8 much, you know. That's -- that's why that sticks in my
9 mind, you know. There were so many other instances
10 about that, but I don't want to remember. You know,
11 there's a lot of -- all my years in there I really don't
12 know where they've gone. I don't want to remember, but
13 yet I know they're in there somewhere, you know.

14 Q. What I want to talk to you about now, HIA43, you mention
15 at various occasions in your statement what I am going
16 to characterise as the emotional abuse. You -- if I
17 were to summarise it this way, you describe a harsh and
18 unloving environment and that's how you characterise
19 your time in Nazareth House. I will just summarise
20 a series of these that you mention.

21 In paragraph 6 you talk about the loneliness and the
22 lack of warmth and affection. In paragraph 9 you say
23 they didn't care. In paragraph 12 that they didn't want
24 to listen to you. You were shushed, and what you had to
25 say was unwelcome. In paragraph 13 that the nuns had

1 favourites. In paragraph 22, which is at 715, that
2 degrading language was used.

3 I wanted to ask you if we look at paragraph 22,
4 HIA43, you mention that you felt you had it worse
5 because you had a father and were not an orphan.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Some others have given evidence to the Inquiry that they
8 thought it was the other way round, that because someone
9 had an outside reference, they perhaps weren't treated
10 as badly. Your experience was different.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Do you want to just explain why you felt that having --

13 **A. No.**

14 Q. -- not being an orphan was worse?

15 **A. Yes. I think there was a certain clique of people if**
16 **they were even born there, you know. I wasn't born**
17 **there and I didn't want to ever fit in. Maybe**
18 **I isolated myself even there from that young age, but**
19 **I was made to feel as if I wasn't a part of even at that**
20 **time and I felt that, you know. It's as if, "Well, you**
21 **see your father now and again" or he would come up now**
22 **and again, and I was just made to feel that, and maybe**
23 **they didn't care about my father, because he was**
24 **a simple countryman -- and nothing against anybody in**
25 **the country, you know -- but he was quite a vulnerable**

1 **nobody's child. Nobody wants me. I'm nobody's child".**

2 **You know, how insensitive is that?**

3 Q. So this was when dignitaries might have been in --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- the group of children sang for them --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- and one of the songs they would have sang was this
8 one?

9 **A. Yes, and I have discussed that now with others even from
10 Derry, Termonbacca and other homes. It was the same.
11 They sang it in front of the priests and bishops and
12 dignitaries, you know.**

13 Q. You say in your addendum statement at paragraph 17 at
14 881, please, that you were made to feel you were never
15 good enough.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. That has rolled on for you into your adult life of
18 feeling that nothing you do is ever good enough.

19 **A. (Nods.)**

20 Q. So that type of what you are describing, and I have gone
21 through that series of references, HIA43, to bring that
22 all together, it was a cold place where you didn't feel
23 loved or valued. Is that a fair summary of --

24 **A. Yes, absolutely.**

25 Q. -- what you are describing?

1 **A. Yes. No, we were just continually bullied and brought**
2 **from one room to another and stayed there. Then put out**
3 **to the yard like a dog, stayed there in the freezing**
4 **cold, and, you know, I don't know if you've got that**
5 **part where I said I'd been put out on the fire escape**
6 **for many, many hours, and that was always, you know --**
7 **sometimes that's just worse, that rejection. It's bad**
8 **enough being rejected from your parents and your family,**
9 **but even rejected from the people who were supposed to**
10 **be looking after you there and separated even from the**
11 **children, which was quite often.**

12 **Q. If we go back to the paragraph 8 of your initial**
13 **statement at 711, you explain that the older girls were**
14 **put in charge of the younger girls.**

15 **A. Yes.**

16 **Q. I wanted just to ask you about that. Was that that**
17 **an older girl would have had two or three younger girls**
18 **to look after or was it one older girl in charge of**
19 **a large swathe of girls? Can you remember what the**
20 **structure of this was?**

21 **A. No, I don't know. I don't know. I can just remember**
22 **the bullying. As I told you, I remember the very people**
23 **who did it. I think they were in charge of a few, but**
24 **I always got the tail end of that too, you know.**

25 **Q. So if you happened to have a nice older girl who was**

1 looking after you, that was okay --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- but those who weren't nice --

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. -- then there was a bullying element to that that --

6 **A. Yes. I never had any nice, because the older ones were**
7 **all given that power or whatever, and I'm sure they came**
8 **through the bullying too, you know, and they were**
9 **bullied at one stage, and then they went on to carry on,**
10 **but it was horrifying and awful for a young child.**

11 Q. Now there's one particular thing you mention in the
12 psychiatric report that doesn't appear in the Inquiry
13 statements or the police statement and I want us just
14 to -- if we can bring up 32995, please, and just go
15 straight to the bottom of the page. If you just
16 maximise the bottom of the page for me very quickly,
17 please. Just down. In the last paragraph but one,
18 HIA43, and you will recall us discussing this earlier:

19 "HIA43 recalled having her hair cut with black
20 scissors. It made a mess. They deliberately cut the
21 girls with nice hair. They tried to sell the hair. It
22 was a business. Our clothes and toys were taken, sold
23 at jamborees to raise money for the Poor Sisters of
24 Nazareth."

25 Now what I wanted to ask you, you obviously said

1 that to Dr Best in 2011. Is that something that you
2 know from your own direct experience happened, ie that
3 somebody took your hair and sold it?

4 **A. I'm not sure what I know. I found that out afterwards.**
5 **I knew that was an ongoing occurrence, that it did**
6 **happen in them years, that hair was cut and it was sold,**
7 **and then I heard other ones, and, you know, it was quite**
8 **knowledgeable people, who even had these discussions**
9 **with Sister ██████ in Hammersmith, that she went to visit**
10 **her and asked about her hair. Did she sell it?**

11 Q. So this knowledge comes from other people --

12 **A. Other people.**

13 Q. -- speaking to you --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- about --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- this being an issue --

18 **A. Yes, yes.**

19 Q. -- but it's not something from your -- that you yourself
20 knew of happening to you?

21 **A. Well, I wouldn't know, because if they were cutting your**
22 **hair, I wouldn't have seen them going to somewhere and**
23 **collecting it and selling it, you know, but I've heard**
24 **about that afterwards, yes.**

25 Q. The people that you talked about discussed it with the

1 Mother General --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- in Hammersmith.

4 **A. Went right in, yes.**

5 Q. The second part of this then is about the clothes and
6 toys, and the Inquiry has heard various occasions when
7 individuals have said an item they had was taken away.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. You are saying that that material, those toys and so on,
10 were sold at jamborees to raise money for the Sisters of
11 Nazareth?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Again is that information that you have gleaned from
14 talking to other people about this or that you knew that
15 happened, something that you know directly about?

16 **A. Yes. I've seen lots of newspaper cuttings, because**
17 **we've did a lot of research ourselves and seen that,**
18 **that the Sisters of Nazareth and others had many**
19 **jamborees in the country towns and villages where they**
20 **sold quite a lot of items at the church fairs,**
21 **jamborees, and I now know from doing the petition and**
22 **talking to many, many people from various areas that**
23 **they said they sent in clothes, toys, money; that there**
24 **was money boxes, and I can even say that myself for the**
25 **De La Salle order, the poor orphan boys and girls. In**

1 every shop, pub, every street corner they were always
2 collecting. When I meet people now and they say, you
3 know, "We sent this in and sent that in", you know, we
4 didn't get any of that, you know. So where did it go,
5 one wonders.

6 Q. Well, let me just take you back to the particular issue
7 about the gifts that was being given to the children
8 that were then being sold at the jamborees.

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. Is that something that other people have talked to you
11 about --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- since? It's not -- you're not aware of something of
14 yours or something of someone you knew at the time
15 actually being sold at one of the -- whatever they were
16 selling at these fairs --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- you're not -- you don't know about whether that was
19 something of yours or not?

20 A. Yes. Well, I wouldn't know, because I wasn't at the
21 jamboree or at the fair. I wasn't there to buy
22 anything. I wouldn't know if it was mine, but I know
23 they held a lot of them, you know.

24 Q. That's something you have found out from --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- discussion with these people?

2 **A. Yes, and various discussions with people in country**
3 **towns and villages.**

4 Q. You give a particular item in paragraph 13 of your
5 statement at 712 that your dad gave you that you
6 remember being taken away that you found very difficult
7 and that was a yellow jumper with a teddy bear on it --
8 if we just scroll down a bit further -- thank you --
9 that was taken off you and you never saw it again.

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. Was any explanation given to you as to why it was being
12 taken away?

13 **A. No, no. I think it was in a side locker at one stage,**
14 **you know. Maybe -- that memory goes that I think it was**
15 **actually just taken off me and I remember maybe the next**
16 **day it disappearing and I tried -- I know I cried a lot**
17 **looking for it and I never seen it again, though, and**
18 **also photographs were taken, photographs of my family,**
19 **my brothers and sisters.**

20 Q. That's another item that you mentioned to me when we
21 were speaking earlier --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- that you had photographs of your family --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- and those -- do you remember who took those away?

1 **A. They did. They were in my possession one minute and**
2 **I know my father had given me them, you know, just as**
3 **a keepsake and then they are just taken off you. So ...**

4 Q. Was that a nun did that?

5 **A. Oh, that would be the nuns, yes, absolutely.**

6 Q. The Sisters have said to the Inquiry that -- and this is
7 in paragraph 9 of the replying statement, 2098 -- that
8 they don't accept that toys were and items were
9 confiscated from children, and I assume they will
10 suggest to us that they didn't take children's items and
11 then sell them at jamborees or anywhere else, but your
12 experience was that things were taken from you --

13 **A. Absolutely.**

14 Q. -- and you didn't get them back.

15 **A. Absolutely. Sure, they took them at Christmas time.**
16 **You got something maybe at Christmas and they all**
17 **disappeared that night. That's something maybe was in**
18 **your locker there, just like the jumper or your**
19 **photographs, and they were away in the middle --**
20 **spirited off in the middle of the night, Christmas.**

21 Q. Those are particular memories you have of them doing
22 this activity.

23 **A. Absolutely.**

24 Q. Was it ever explained to you -- perhaps there was some
25 reason for it, but was it ever explained to you what

1 that reason was?

2 **A.** No, nothing was explained to you, because nobody ever
3 spoke to you. The only time we got spoken to was spoken
4 down to, shouted at. Nobody wanted to talk to us. You
5 know, you were told not to -- keep your mouth shut and
6 don't each speak. You know, I'm lucky I'm talking now.
7 You know what I mean? I don't know how we've got on in
8 life, but it took me to educate myself to be able to
9 speak now, and it's only recently I've been speaking up
10 for myself, because I had a life then that I didn't
11 speak at all to people. I isolated myself when I got
12 out there. Then I was told I spoke gibberish, you know.
13 So there you go. Sorry.

14 **Q.** It's all right. In paragraph 11 of your statement at
15 712 you speak of an occasion whenever your dad would
16 come to visit you and there was then a gap in his
17 visits. On one occasion SR31 deliberately wouldn't let
18 him visit you. How did you come to know that?

19 **A.** Well, she used to, as I said earlier, deliberately taunt
20 me, and I could see her even laughing through the veil
21 or that white thing on her head and chin, and that's all
22 I can see, them laughing eyes, you know, deliberately
23 not letting you out and -- you know, and then other ones
24 in the playground would have said, "Your father's
25 ..." -- he would have tried to put sweets over the wall

1 where the Holy Rosary was and stuff, you know. Oh, and
2 you asked the question. Yes, he would have told me that
3 the next time he visited, you know, "They wouldn't let
4 me in", and I know that he was humiliated and ashamed by
5 them as well, you know.

6 Q. You were saying to me earlier, though, in a slightly
7 different context that you did get out for the summer --

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. -- to go with him to live with your granny --

10 A. Granny, yes.

11 Q. -- for a -- was that most summers that happened?

12 A. No, I think it was quite sporadic, because my granny --
13 it was only a small cottage, you know, and, you know,
14 I think sometimes the boys went or else we couldn't go.
15 So it was just few and far between really, but ...

16 Q. The Sisters, as you know, have said to the Inquiry they
17 wouldn't have prevented -- if a parent was coming to
18 visit a child, that's not something they would have
19 prevented. I wanted to ask you then was any reason
20 given for the occasion that you remember of your dad not
21 being allowed to see you?

22 A. Oh, they would have done all right. They would have --
23 did they give me a reason?

24 Q. Did they give you --

25 A. No. As I say, they wouldn't have spoke to me, you know.

1 **They didn't -- I was nothing in their eyes, you know.**

2 **They'd better things to be doing than talk to me or**

3 **explain anything to me, no.**

4 Q. In paragraph 5 of your statement, HIA43, if we go back
5 to 710, you talk about the contact with your sister.

6 A. **Uh-huh.**

7 Q. Now HIA 103 was four years older than you. So when
8 you were in the nursery end, she was in the normal part,
9 if I can describe it that way, of the Nazareth House.

10 You talk about a segregated playground. Was that when
11 you went out into the yard, the part that you had
12 available, was it fenced off from the older area?

13 A. **Yes. I was talking to my sister then that she even told**
14 **me all about that, you know, about trying to reach**
15 **through, because I can remember the adult playground all**
16 **right, you know, beside the Holy Rosary and then I think**
17 **the open part where the nursery was was where the old**
18 **people's home was as well, yes, and there's railings**
19 **there.**

20 Q. Were arrangements ever arranged at for you to spend time
21 with HIA 103 --

22 A. **Never.**

23 Q. -- that you remember?

24 A. **No, never.**

25 Q. Your brothers --

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. -- was arrangements ever made for you to ...?

3 **A. Never, never, no.**

4 Q. Now you talk about the food in the home at paragraph 14
5 on 713. You were not impressed with the food that was
6 available --

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. -- and in your addendum statement you described it as
9 pig swill.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. That's at paragraph 6 of 879. I was saying to you
12 earlier you were using that as a descriptor for the
13 quality of the food as opposed to saying it was actually
14 pig swill.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. The Sisters have said to the Inquiry that the nuns ate
17 the same food as the children and they produced the best
18 food they could in the circumstances that they were, but
19 that wasn't your experience?

20 **A. No, no. They had the front of the house. We had the**
21 **back end, you know. It was like "Upstairs, Downstairs",**
22 **you know, and we were in the dungeon.**

23 Q. You describe -- so you were in your refectory eating and
24 then they ate in a separate part of the house?

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. You mention Marks & Spencer's, and I was saying to you
2 I don't think Marks & Spencer's came to Northern Ireland
3 until 1967, which is -- September '67. You were leaving
4 in October.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. Is that knowledge of Marks & Spencer's giving food to
7 the congregation something that came later to you?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. It wasn't your experience while you were there?

10 **A. No, no. I -- that was a lot -- many years later that**
11 **I knew from the Good Shepherd's, because I got talking**
12 **to a few nuns in there and I seen the stuff in the**
13 **fridges and stuff that Marks gave, always out of date.**

14 Q. In paragraph 16 of your statement you talk about the
15 work that the children were made do in the home. In
16 paragraph 17 you say that the children were treated like
17 slaves.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. Was it ever explained to you why the cleaning was being
20 asked of you, that it was important to keep clean
21 because ... and if everybody did a bit, then that
22 helped?

23 **A. No. There was never a discussion with people. You just**
24 **do that and do that and it was get into line and get**
25 **down on your knees and you knew what to do. It was just**

1 that's all there was to do. The very walls of the place
2 as well. You know, you were standing on top of each
3 other's shoulders and beds and doing the walls, washing
4 the walls down. It was like a spring clean. It was
5 just all of us.

6 Q. Was that type of spring clean something that the nuns
7 oversaw?

8 A. Oh, they were there, yes. They were there, but we did
9 it.

10 Q. Yes, but just in terms of being up on someone's
11 shoulders and so on, the nun was there to --

12 A. Yes, yes, I can remember that. I can remember that
13 especially, because it was just near time when I was
14 leaving and there was like a box of Flash and it was
15 a lovely lemon smell. That was something strange to see
16 something so nice, you know. So it was just when I was
17 leaving I would say, Flash.

18 Q. The Sisters have said to the Inquiry that they don't
19 accept that the chores that children were asked to do
20 were excessive and they don't accept that they treated
21 children as slaves, but that's how you --

22 A. Of course.

23 Q. -- viewed it.

24 A. Of course. That's all -- that's all we did.

25 Q. In paragraph 9 of your statement, HIA43, you talk at 711

1 about the taking of you in for money. We have touched
2 on that just a little bit, about the selling of items,
3 but you refer here to what your sister said. I think
4 she said it in her police statement. I will just give
5 the reference to the Panel. It is at 61717. She just
6 says in one sentence that her dad gave her an envelope
7 for the nuns, but if it is right that your dad arranged
8 for you to go into the home and if he paid money, then
9 he presumably thought it was the appropriate thing to do
10 for to give money to the people who were looking after
11 his children.

12 **A. But I'm sure it was asked of him, because I remember**
13 **being asked for it, me being asked for money.**

14 Q. The nun asking you for money?

15 **A. Yes, yes, SR134.**

16 Q. SR134.

17 HIA43, there's an item that we were discussing
18 earlier about the --

19 **A. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. -- . I was discussing
21 and you were saying it was a site you quickly stopped
22 part participating in --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- but in you had an exchange with another
25 lady --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- who was expressing the view that stories were being
3 exaggerated from what actually was the position.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. To summarise her sentiments, she was suggesting that
6 that exaggeration was to do with getting money.

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. She says -- and I will not bring up the material -- she
9 says the nuns did beat the children, but you had to do
10 something or be blamed for doing something. It wasn't
11 just done gratuitously. That's -- this desire for money
12 was at the bottom of all the complaint that was being
13 made. So I suppose if I break that down a little, there
14 are some who were expressing the view in those types of
15 social media communications that had a different
16 experience -- expressed a view that they had a different
17 experience in the home as others.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. The point you made back to her then in the exchange was
20 that how dare she! She had no right to undermine what
21 other people were saying.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. You felt she had no right to be -- to be doing that.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. I think you said to me you quickly then --

1 **A. Yes, yes.**

2 Q. -- stayed off those type of --

3 **A. Yes. There was --**

4 Q. -- exchanges.

5 **A. -- tittle-tattle and nonsense going on, you know, but**
6 **she was a younger person, you know, and she was trying**
7 **to bully a lot of people and say, you know, "These**
8 **things didn't happen. You are all after money", and her**
9 **and her friends are now I think I believe taking part in**
10 **the Inquiry, you know.**

11 Q. So you -- in November 2009 we were discussing earlier,
12 HIA43, you had a meeting with SR52 and Aileen Boats,
13 which was the beginning of you trying to get information
14 and documentation.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. I think you mentioned to me that was the safeguarding
17 people, as you understood them. They were encouraging
18 you to take various steps. One of those was you went
19 then and engaged with the police, and I think initially
20 in December '09 and then you made your statement in May
21 of ' 2010. The Inquiry has been given the documents
22 showing you have an ongoing civil claim that is part of
23 your time in Nazareth House.

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. The Inquiry has that material and I am not going to go

1 into it in any more detail than that.

2 **A. The meeting, it wasn't a meeting as such, as I say,**
3 **Joseph. That was just me going up asking, "Have you any**
4 **records?" and when SR52 and SR121 looked me up and down**
5 **and asked, "What would we want to keep records of you**
6 **for?" SR121 said this with SR52. "We don't keep**
7 **records." You know, that's all I wanted. Then there**
8 **was someone from safeguarding in, you know, preparing**
9 **everything and covering themselves, you know.**

10 Q. The Panel can look at that exchange. It is at 30199 and
11 following.

12 The last two questions I want to ask you, HIA43, we
13 ask each witness, as you know. The first is at the end
14 of the Inquiry's work the Panel has to consider what
15 recommendations it might make to the Northern Ireland
16 Government --

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. -- in terms of recognising the abuse that's occurred.
19 That's in three areas. One is an apology, the other is
20 some form of memorial, and the third is some other means
21 of redress --

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. -- which might be compensation or some other mechanism.
24 We ask each witness whether there's anything they want
25 to say to the Inquiry Panel to assist them with their

1 thinking about those issues and reflecting on them. Is
2 there anything you want to say about that?

3 A. Uh-huh. Well, I understand they have apologised, and as
4 for a memorial, we don't want to be reminded of anything
5 that's happened to us. So that is not befitting. As
6 for redress, yes, financial redress, not like in any
7 type of services under the name maybe of a foot massage
8 or a head massage. It is financial redress, which is
9 deserved and is needed for every one of us, you know,
10 and if there's other people -- one person who may decide
11 that it goes into a type of pension. Well and good for
12 that one person. He can have a pension, you know. We
13 I think know how to deal with our own financial reward
14 and we need rewarded and the pay -- as somebody earlier
15 said, yes, it is to reward my family for what I have put
16 them through because of my mental health problems and
17 I will carry them for the rest of my life, you know, but
18 that is needed, yes, and I would just like you to note,
19 you know -- you know, how damaging this has all been for
20 everyone, you know, and it will continue to damage us
21 all, because we will get no healing, and the support
22 services that they've put out for now have been very
23 unsupportive. You know, for the first time
24 is coming to our drop-in centre on Friday with to
25 meet us and that's after chasing them for long enough,

1 you know, but it's all many -- much too late, you know.
2 This has just damaged so many of us here, you know, and
3 myself, you know, I haven't got it all together. Maybe
4 I seem to have
5 but it has been a complete mess and breakdown in our
6 lives altogether.

7 Q. You have explained in your statement to the Inquiry the
8 effects that you feel your time in care has had, and in
9 addition, HIA43, the last question that we ask each
10 witness is whether there's anything else about -- in
11 this case we are looking at Nazareth House -- anything
12 else they want to say to the Inquiry about their time in
13 Nazareth House. Maybe it is something I didn't get
14 quite right, or didn't cover at all, or maybe you felt
15 I didn't go into enough detail about. Now is your
16 opportunity to say to the Panel whatever you want to
17 about your time in Nazareth House. Is there anything
18 else you want to add to what we've said already?

19 A. Well, I think there really should have been more
20 inspections carried out, you know, for -- because we
21 should never have been in the care of the Sisters of
22 Nazareth or in that type of setting, because that was
23 more like something out of Colditz or something. It was
24 four red brick walls with barbed wire and it was such
25 a small area that we were confined to, you know. You

1 experiences in the way that you have. Can
2 I just trouble you to ask you about just one thing you
3 have spoken briefly about? You said that or you have
4 reminded us that your sister spoke about giving
5 an envelope in that your father had given. In your
6 statement you mention that you remember giving a 10
7 shilling note that he gave you to give to the nuns.

8 **A. Yes, yes.**

9 Q. Have you any recollection as to how often that would
10 have happened? Was it just now and again or every week
11 or somewhere in between?

12 **A. I think it was quite often, you know, and then**
13 **I remember giving her money, and then what struck me and**
14 **reminded me -- it sticks in your head -- is because she**
15 **asked you again, but I know then, talking to my sister,**
16 **yes, that my father gave the money to her and she would**
17 **have give it over to the nuns, and I think it was quite**
18 **a regular occurrence that you had to give -- not think;**
19 **I know.**

20 Q. When you say "her", which nun do you mean?

21 **A. SR134.**

22 Q. From what you have said, therefore, you are saying that
23 if you didn't -- when you'd been to see your father or
24 he'd come to see you, if you didn't hand over some
25 money, she would have asked you about it. Is that

1 right?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. I see. Thank you very much, HIA43.

4 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA43. Can I just ask one of
5 the things we have heard from other people is about
6 children being brought together to observe punishments.
7 Do you have memories of that?

8 **A. Oh, yes. I mean, it was -- it wasn't done always in**
9 **secret, you know. The humiliation was awful and**
10 **embarrassing, you know, and then the sniggering and the**
11 **laughing of all the other children, and that's what**
12 **sticks and remains with you, you know, and that is what**
13 **you carry to the outside, because you imagine -- and**
14 **I still have that -- that everybody is sort of laughing**
15 **at you, and that's why I react in a lot of ways too, you**
16 **know. So that remains with you, yes. That's done in**
17 **front of the children.**

18 Q. Thank you.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 MR LANE: Were nuns aware that other nuns were punishing you
21 like that?

22 **A. I'm sure -- they all acted like that, you know.**

23 Q. So it was a general atmosphere?

24 **A. Yes. That was it. It was just living in fear and**
25 **terror and there was no -- there was no laughter and it**

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I N D E X

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