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HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

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being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at

Banbridge Court House

Banbridge

on Tuesday, 24th February 2015

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 97)

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

1 Tuesday, 24th February 2015

2 (10.00 am)

3 WITNESS HIA84 (called)

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

11 Yes, Ms Smith.

12 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and
13 gentlemen. The first witness this morning is HIA84.
14 She is HIA84. She wishes to take a religious oath and
15 she also wishes to maintain her anonymity, Chairman.

16 CHAIRMAN: Very well.

17 WITNESS HIA84 (sworn)

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

19 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

20 MS SMITH: HIA84, just before we come to your evidence I am
21 going to tell the Panel where some documents are in our
22 papers.

23 **A. Okay.**

24 Q. HIA84's statement is at SNB-721 to 729.

25 The congregation's response is at SNB-4112 to 4117.

1 There is a response from the Health & Social Care
2 Board at SNB-6331 to 6345, which includes exhibits,
3 which indicates that HIA84's placement in Nazareth House
4 was a private placement and Social Services only became
5 involved and aware of her when the family -- when she
6 was placed with a family with a view to adoption.

7 There are civil claim papers at 70573 to 70574, and
8 Social Services' papers, which are also exhibited to the
9 response statement, can also be found in the bundle at
10 48486 to 48497.

11 Now if we could call up HIA84's statement, please,
12 which is at 721. Now, HIA84, I am just going to ask you
13 to scroll down through this statement and confirm that
14 this is the statement that you signed for the Inquiry on
15 the last page at 729.

16 CHAIRMAN: Sorry to interrupt. What do you say is the
17 citation for the congregation's response?

18 MS SMITH: I might have given it wrong. 4... -- sorry.

19 CHAIRMAN: The one I have is 2129.

20 MS SMITH: 2129. I beg your pardon. I have given the
21 extract register by mistake.

22 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

23 MS SMITH: 2129 to 2130.

24 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

25 MS SMITH: Apologies.

1 Sorry, HIA84. Can I just ask you to confirm that
2 you signed this witness statement on 20th September
3 2014?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Would you also confirm then this is the evidence that
6 you want the Inquiry to consider together with anything
7 else you tell us today?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Thank you. Now going back to the first page, your
10 personal details and how you came to be in care are set
11 out in paragraphs 1 to 5 of your statement. I am not
12 going to go into those details --

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. -- HIA84, but if we go then to paragraph 6, we see you
15 were in Nazareth House between June 1965 and March 1969,
16 when you were placed for adoption aged about 6 and
17 a half.

18 **A. Uh-huh. Yes.**

19 Q. In paragraph 7 here you say that most of your memories
20 from Nazareth House are from when you were aged between
21 5 and 6 years old. The main person who sticks in your
22 mind is a nun, and you will see that we have given her
23 a reference number here, SR31. I am going to use her
24 name, but it's not to be used outside this chamber, and
25 that was SR31.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. You describe her as a very cruel nun. You said you used
3 to tell your adoptive parents she was cruel, but you
4 wouldn't tell them why.

5 "She would beat you for any little thing. You
6 didn't have to do anything wrong. She beat me for no
7 reason. She was a bully. She beat me with her hands or
8 with a cane and she pulled my hair."

9 Paragraph 8, HIA84, you talk about the fact that
10 there was an old people's section in Nazareth House and
11 you remember an old resident there and I am just going
12 to give the first name, which is the only name that you
13 knew, again not to be used outside, NHB49. That's
14 NHB49. You can't remember his surname. He used to take
15 you on walks around the grounds on your own. He would
16 put you sitting on his knee and would feel your legs and
17 up around your stomach:

18 "... and he put his hand between my legs as well.
19 At the time I didn't know this was wrong, but looking
20 back, it should never have happened. I told SR31 once
21 about NHB49 touching my legs, and she trailed me by the
22 hair and locked me in a cupboard as punishment. She
23 said I was telling lies."

24 You say:

25 "The cupboard was small and dark and there were

1 brooms and brushes in it. I don't know how long she
2 left me in there for, but it was long enough. To this
3 day I am afraid of the dark and have to sleep with the
4 light on."

5 You were saying that certainly you have no real
6 sense of the size of this cupboard. What -- your
7 abiding memory when we were talking earlier is the
8 brushes and the brooms in it --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- HIA84. Paragraph -- first of all, can I just say
11 that, as we discussed earlier, the congregation have
12 given a response statement to what you have said about
13 your time in Nazareth House and they are -- they said
14 that:

15 "It was uncommon for the elderly residents to
16 interact with the children or to walk them about the
17 grounds."

18 Is there anything you want to say about that, HIA84?

19 **A. No. NHB49 was just the only one I seemed to build**
20 **a relationship with. For the time I was there I mean he**
21 **was often with me. I can remember him. I can even see**
22 **him today, you know, see his face now.**

23 Q. Certainly the congregation are appalled and shocked to
24 learn of what you say happened to you and they offer you
25 and anyone else who suffered the kind of treatment that

1 you did a profound apology, HIA84.

2 Paragraph 9 here you talk about SR31 being wicked in
3 her sense of punishment. You said you remember there
4 was a sewing room and you were down there once when you
5 ought not to have been. There were wee milk bottles
6 outside it and you fell and split your whole right knee
7 open. You never got any stitches or anything.

8 "Instead I got trailed and beaten by SR31. SR31
9 was -- she was so cruel. She had no sympathy
10 whatsoever. I still have a big scar on my knee from
11 this fall."

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Did -- when you say that you didn't get any stitches,
14 was the wound at least cleaned or did someone look after
15 you in that sense?

16 **A. SR122 afterwards helped clean it up, so she did.**

17 Q. You say that you used to get beatings from SR31 for
18 wearing your pants in bed. You said you weren't
19 supposed to wear our pants in bed, but you didn't like
20 not wearing them, so you always tried to keep them on.
21 You think there must have been a count done and that's
22 how you came to be found out.

23 **A. I was always caught out.**

24 Q. When you say a count done, were the pants supposed to be
25 somewhere when you went to bed?

1 **A. Well, I'm only assuming that. All I know is I was**
2 **always caught with mine on and it wasn't allowed.**

3 Q. You say that she would trail the pants off you and beat
4 you on your bare bum in front of the whole room. This
5 is the dormitory?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. You say:

8 "We slept in dormitories with big rows of beds.
9 They were like hospital wards from years ago."

10 You say:

11 "Years later I went up to Nazareth House to leave
12 some toys for the children and it had totally changed.
13 It was all smaller rooms and it was nothing like what we
14 grew up in."

15 **A. Right.**

16 Q. When you say "years later", I take it you mean as
17 an adult?

18 **A. As an adult, yes.**

19 Q. You also in paragraph 11 here say that you remember SR31
20 taking you to the chapel after somebody had died and
21 made you stand beside the coffin for ages. You say that
22 was a punishment, but you can't remember what for.

23 **A. I know I was left on my own and I was told not to move.**

24 Q. This was in the chapel?

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. You say:

2 "The person who had died was one of the people from
3 the old people's part of the home. To this day I can't
4 look at a dead body as a result of this experience."

5 You also remember that you used to go to the cinema
6 every other Saturday. As you walked down the Ormeau
7 Road you used to rub your hand along the walls. You
8 said the skin on your fingers would come off. You don't
9 know why you did that.

10 **A. No. I did it all the time.**

11 Q. You said SR31 would always beat you for doing that.

12 **A. Well, she kept telling me not to do it, but when I kept
13 doing, then obviously I got beat for it, for doing it so
14 many times.**

15 Q. Did you go -- it was every other Saturday you went to
16 the cinema?

17 **A. It was every other Saturday that we took our turns
18 going.**

19 Q. You go on to talk about another nun coming to Nazareth
20 House while you were there and that's SR134. Again I am
21 going to use the name. That's SR134. You say she was
22 a hard woman as well, but you didn't have much contact
23 with her --

24 **A. No.**

25 Q. -- as much contact as you had with SR31. You also say

1 there was another nun, SR11... -- sorry -- 122, and
2 that's SR122, who was lovely. She worked in the sewing
3 room, and you say she took a liking to you and she knew
4 that SR31 was doing wrong. You said:

5 "You could see the sympathy in her eyes, but she was
6 powerless, because SR31 was above her. She wasn't
7 outspoken. She just did as she was told. You always
8 felt safe with this particular nun. She was an angel.
9 She tried to pamper you, and if you were in tears, she
10 would try to comfort you."

11 So your memories of the nuns are not all bad?

12 **A. No.**

13 Q. You told me that after -- many years later, when you
14 were adopted, you discovered that this particular nun
15 came from the village where you lived as an adopted
16 child.

17 **A. Where I had been adopted into, and I often went to visit
18 her when she was on a home visit to her own village.**

19 Q. You even kept up a relationship with her many years
20 later.

21 **A. Uh-huh.**

22 Q. Paragraph -- I should say that again the congregation
23 have said that -- repeatedly that they had a policy that
24 children would not be physically punished, but that not
25 every nun stuck to that. What was your experience of

1 the physical punishment? How often would it have
2 happened? Can you remember, HIA84?

3 A. Well, I took it in my case maybe I was just one of these
4 children that was hard to maybe put up with and just
5 seemed to get it quite a bit, you know, quite a lot of
6 punishment. I seemed to do wrong all the time. So you
7 just thought it was part and parcel of what your life
8 was about. You got punished for everything you done.

9 Q. When you say you seemed to do wrong all the time, what
10 kind of things might have led to you being --

11 A. Like going to the sewing room. I shouldn't have been in
12 that place in the first place. Obviously going to bed
13 with pants on when you knew you shouldn't have. You
14 know, maybe I asked for these punishments, you know.

15 Q. Well, coming back to paragraph 13 of 6 your statement
16 here, you say that your biological mother came to visit
17 you a couple of times. You remember her as an old lady
18 and wore a yellow and brown check coat. You saw her as
19 quite old-fashioned and shabby looking. You would be
20 brought into a room to see her and SR31 would always be
21 there too. You say:

22 "It was a big room and was beautifully furnished.
23 The visits only lasted about five minutes and then she
24 would be gone again."

25 She never took you out of the home and she only

1 visited two or three times in the years you were there.

2 I asked a question: did you ever remember any
3 children coming from outside the home in to play with
4 the children in the home or anything like that?

5 **A. No, I can't remember, no.**

6 Q. You go on to talk about other people's visitors in the
7 next paragraph. You say when there were visitors for
8 other girls, you remember begging to be allowed to bring
9 them tea, and when you brought the tea in, the visitors
10 would give you a thrupenny bit. You say it was like
11 winning the lottery.

12 "I don't remember anybody from Social Services or
13 Welfare ever visiting the home or offering any support."

14 Do you ever -- apart from -- you wouldn't have had
15 a social worker yourself visit, but do you ever remember
16 any inspections of the home during your time there?

17 **A. No, no.**

18 Q. Or what about visiting nuns? Do you ever remember any
19 more senior nuns coming to visit, HIA84?

20 **A. No. Probably I was so young I wouldn't have been
21 involved in that part of it I wouldn't have thought, you
22 know, to know that.**

23 Q. Paragraph 15 here you say that you remember that there
24 was a priest who would take you and other children out
25 in his car:

1 "... take us in groups of one or two."

2 You can't remember his name:

3 "... but he would give you sweets and hug and kiss
4 you. He was affectionate towards us, but we didn't
5 realise it was inappropriate. We thought it was
6 brilliant getting out of the home."

7 So you are saying as you sit as an adult looking
8 back you feel that his behaviour was inappropriate, but
9 at the time you didn't realise?

10 **A. Well, in this day and age it probably wouldn't be
11 appropriate. Then we knew no different.**

12 Q. Uh-huh. You don't remember the name of this priest?

13 **A. No, not his -- or something. I can't -- I know
14 it as -- I think it was something, but I can't
15 remember his last name. Father -- no, it would only be
16 guesswork.**

17 Q. Well, you describe bathtime here in paragraph 16 and you
18 say that you had to line up and the older girls took
19 charge of the younger ones. The girl who was in charge
20 of you would trail your hair and check for nits with
21 a fine toothcomb. You say you nearly got the scalp
22 taken off you. You were bathed once a week with
23 carbolic soap. You can't remember if the water was
24 warm, but it was never changed. You just took turns
25 getting in and out. Some of the older girls were

1 treated very badly over the years and then they were bad
2 to the younger ones, but you say they were only
3 repeating what had happened to them.

4 Now the congregation have said that the Sisters
5 wouldn't accept bullying or the older girls being cruel.
6 Did the nuns know that the older girls were being cruel
7 to the younger ones?

8 **A. Yes, I -- well, I felt -- I felt they did, yes.**

9 Q. You go on to talk about the food, HIA84, at paragraph 17
10 here. You say you can't really remember the food except
11 one occasion when SR31 force fed you onions. You
12 wouldn't eat your dinner because there were onions in
13 it. So she stuffed them in your mouth and made you
14 violently sick. You say:

15 "To this day I won't touch onions because of that
16 memory."

17 **A. No, I won't put one near my mouth or eat anything with
18 onion in it.**

19 Q. The congregation have said that they don't accept that
20 there was force feeding in the home by any nun or lay
21 staff member.

22 **A. I don't -- I wouldn't have said it was force feeding.
23 What I'd have said was it was hard to believe somebody
24 couldn't eat onions. So you were meant to take them.**

25 Q. You had to eat whatever you were --

1 **A. You had to eat what you were set down and it would be**
2 **ungrateful if you didn't, but I am afraid onions was**
3 **something I couldn't eat.**

4 Q. Well, you can't remember much about school, but we know
5 you were very young when you left the home, but you do
6 remember three friends that you had there and you name
7 them. One of -- I am just going to give the first names
8 of the girls. you say was one of your best
9 friends; was another close friend; and you also
10 remember a girl called , who you learned has died
11 recently.

12 Then you also have a memory of being sent on a train
13 to Dublin once, where there was a nun waiting for you at
14 the other end, but then you were sent straight back to
15 Nazareth House, and you don't understand what that was
16 about.

17 **A. No, I never understood why.**

18 Q. You later found out from your father's family that they
19 had tried to get you out of the home, but were turned
20 down, because they were the wrong religion. You can't
21 remember anyone from your father's family ever visiting
22 you, but they say that they did, and your father's
23 sister, who lived in , she said that she
24 tried to visit you and take you out, but wasn't allowed
25 to by the nuns, but certainly during your time there you

1 had had no contact with them at all?

2 **A. No, no.**

3 Q. You talk about your life after care in paragraphs 22
4 through to 38. You were adopted and taken to County
5 , where you were adopted and where you lived.
6 I think it is fair to say, reading through your life
7 after care, that there were difficulties with the
8 adoption and certainly in your teenage years you had
9 difficulties, and you talk here at paragraph 24 about
10 you even ran back -- you ran away a few times from home,
11 but one time you even ran back to Nazareth House,
12 because you thought it couldn't get any worse there.

13 Now can I just explore that a little with you,
14 HIA84? When you ran away and you went to Nazareth
15 House, why was it there that you felt you wanted to go?

16 **A. I didn't actually want to go back to Nazareth House.**
17 **I thought if I went back there, I'd find out my -- you**
18 **know, my real existence. Maybe they could tell me who**
19 **my real parents were and I could find them. You know,**
20 **in that sense, get back and see if it was any different.**
21 **Would it be different for me if I found them?**

22 Q. That was the motivation for going back to Nazareth
23 House?

24 **A. Yes, hoping to find something out.**

25 Q. Did you actually get back to Nazareth House?

1 **A. No.**

2 Q. How far did you get?

3 **A. Musgrave Police Station.**

4 Q. You were then taken back to your adoptive parents?

5 **A. No, I refused to go back and was put in Middletown for**
6 **six weeks.**

7 Q. You say you have no complaints about your time in
8 Middletown.

9 **A. No, they treated you very well.**

10 Q. You actually remember some of the girls that you'd known
11 from Nazareth House were actually there?

12 **A. I met a couple of girls that were there but were a lot**
13 **...**

14 Q. Now the congregation in their response statement to you
15 have offered you an apology and they have said that they
16 apologise -- an unreserved and sincere apology for any
17 treatment you received by any Sister which fell below
18 the acceptable standard.

19 I mentioned to you when we were taking earlier that
20 one question we ask everybody, HIA84, is about what you
21 feel this Inquiry should make recommendation -- what the
22 recommendations should be, because we have to make -- at
23 the end of the work the Inquiry has to make
24 recommendations to the Northern Ireland Executive,
25 whether by way of an apology such as that you have just

1 heard from the Sisters of Nazareth or from someone else,
2 whether there should be some sort of redress scheme type
3 of compensation or whether there should be some sort of
4 memorial. Is there anything that you want to say about
5 that, HIA84, or have you any views on it?

6 **A. Well -- you know what I mean -- all I would say is that**
7 **for children coming into the world now it's just make it**
8 **a safer environment for them, and the apology is a start**
9 **for everybody and -- you know what I mean -- I am**
10 **willing to accept the apology. You have to live your**
11 **life no matter what and get on with it, but, you know,**
12 **an apology is a start from what we have been through.**
13 **You know what I mean? People have been through worse**
14 **than me -- you know what I mean -- but for my case I am**
15 **happy to accept an apology.**

16 **Q. You did talk about your own experience and about the**
17 **fact that you have a grandson who you care for.**

18 **A. Yes.**

19 **Q. One of the things you said to me, HIA84, was whenever**
20 **there were difficulties with your daughter looking after**
21 **him, you were determined that child was not going to be**
22 **put into the care system.**

23 **A. Oh, no, no, no. He was to go into care and that.**
24 **I~have had him from he was a week old and he is now**
25 **coming 6. I have full residency of him and he is loved**

1 and cared for. That's all that matters. He is healthy.

2 That's all that matters.

3 Q. You were determined that he wasn't going into care?

4 A. No, he wasn't going into care.

5 Q. Well, thank you, HIA84. There is nothing else that
6 I want to ask you, but is there anything you felt you
7 haven't had the opportunity to say either about your
8 time in Nazareth House or about anything else you feel
9 we have not covered in your evidence?

10 A. I think the one thing I just want to say is whenever
11 I got adopted when I was 11, the sexual abuse started
12 again with another man, a fella that lived down the
13 road. That's when I realised then that it was the same
14 thing I had been getting when I was 6, 7 years of age
15 and I realised that -- I couldn't tell anyone, because
16 then I thought when I was 11, I attracted that sort of
17 attention. I knew at 11 -- I was old enough then to
18 know that it was wrong, but I felt I had nobody I could
19 turn to, because at this stage my adoptive mother was
20 drinking very heavy. So I just say that anybody that's
21 getting adopted to me it should be carefully scrutinised
22 now, because then it wasn't. I mean, my adoptive mother
23 had had electric shock treatment before I got adopted,
24 you know. So I am just saying it needs to be checked
25 thoroughly now.

1 Q. Thank you for that, HIA84. As I say, I have nothing
2 further I want to ask you, but the Panel Members may
3 have some questions for you.

4 Questions from THE PANEL

5 CHAIRMAN: Could you just ask you one thing, HIA84, so that
6 it is clear? I think it is perhaps obvious to most from
7 what you have said, but your parents' family was what we
8 would call a mixed marriage in Northern Ireland I take
9 it. Is that right?

10 **A. My blood parents?**

11 Q. Yes.

12 **A. Yes. One was from the and one was from**
13 **the**

14 Q. Because you said that when your father tried to take you
15 away from the home --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- the nuns wouldn't allow that, because presumably he
18 was a Protestant.

19 **A. There was a barrier out there, yes.**

20 Q. Do you think that may have been the reason why your
21 father's sister, your aunt on his side, wasn't
22 encouraged to visit you?

23 **A. Well, there were -- from what I -- I never remember them**
24 **visiting me, but when I met them several years down the**
25 **line, she had a long discussion with me about they had**

1 **tried in vain many ways to get me out, but because they**
2 **were -- of the religious barrier, the doors were shut.**

3 Q. Yes. Thank you very much?

4 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA84. Can I just check:

5 I heard you say about being beaten in front of the other
6 children in the bedroom, but one of the things we have
7 heard is about children being brought together to
8 observe a child being beaten. Do you have any memories
9 of that?

10 **A. The only thing I remember is we slept -- it was like**
11 **hospital wards, like dormitories, only a lot bigger.**
12 **When I got beat, I just know people woke up and they**
13 **would just watch when I got beat at the end of the bed?**

14 Q. Okay, but you don't remember anybody being brought --

15 **A. No, no.**

16 Q. Okay. Thanks very much.

17 MR LANE: You mention these thrupences you got for doing the
18 teas. I just wondered were you able to spend money?

19 Did you have money with you? Could you go out to shops?

20 **A. No. See every -- there was a thing they done every --**
21 **which actually was a joyous occasion, to be honest with**
22 **you. We -- every sort of Easter, Christmas there was**
23 **a big hall and it would be filled with confectioneries,**
24 **whatever, for the children, and you had so many minutes**
25 **to go in and lift as much as you could and get out.**

1 I don't actually know -- I know I came home -- I still
2 have at least seven thrupence bits in my home that
3 I've kept from I took out of the orphanage, which I have
4 never ever got rid of, but where we spent it, I can't
5 honestly remember going to shops or that, but it is
6 possible we did, you know.

7 Q. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA84, I'm sure you will be relieved to
9 hear we don't have any more questions for you now --

10 A. Thank you.

11 Q. -- but thank you very much indeed for coming to speak to
12 us today.

13 A. Thank you for seeing me. Thank you.

14 MS SMITH: Chairman --

15 CHAIRMAN: Yes. If you would like to just go with
16 . Thank you very much.

17 A. Thank you.

18 (Witness withdrew)

19 MS SMITH: The next witness is to be taken by Mr Aiken.

20 I am sure he will be ready shortly.

21 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Well, we will rise until we are ready to
22 deal with the next witness.

23 (10.35 am)

24 (Short break)

25 (10.56 am)

1 WITNESS HIA95 (called)

2 CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr Aiken.

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

4 The next witness today is HIA95, who is HIA95.

5 Chairman, she is aware that you are going to ask her to
6 take the oath.

7 Before she does that, Mr McLaughlin is appearing
8 today on behalf of the Sisters of Nazareth. He is
9 another partner in Jones & Company along with
10 Mr Canavan. He is making his first appearance before
11 the Inquiry this morning.

12 CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr McLaughlin.

13 Just before this witness is sworn, we have a number
14 of students who are here this morning. May I just
15 emphasise one thing to you all? It may well be the case
16 that although we normally refer to people by the
17 designation, that means the number that we give them to
18 preserve their anonymity, their first name or the names
19 of other witnesses may well be mentioned. Those names
20 cannot under any circumstances be disclosed outside the
21 Inquiry chamber. That means you mustn't talk about them
22 to your friends or anybody else and it means, for
23 example, you don't put them on Facebook or something
24 like that. It is something we say to everybody and we
25 remind people, but since there are so many of you here,

1 I am making this point to you specifically. It's not
2 a criticism. It's just so you are aware of what our
3 procedures are. Thank you.

4 MR AIKEN: HIA95 is aware, Chairman, you are going to ask
5 her to take the oath.

6 WITNESS HIA95 (sworn)

7 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, HIA95. Please sit down.

8 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

9 MR AIKEN: If we can bring up on the screen, please,
10 SNB-660. HIA95, you will hopefully see on the screen
11 the first page of your witness statement.

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. If you can just check the hard copy that you have with
14 you that they match, save for the black marks, with the
15 one on the screen.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. If we can move through, please, to 668, and if you just
18 check that this is the last page of the witness
19 statement, and if you go to the last page of the hard
20 copy you have --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- and can you confirm that you have, in fact, signed
23 your witness statement --

24 **A. I have, yes.**

25 Q. -- and that you want to adopt the contents of your

1 witness statement as your evidence to the Inquiry?

2 **A. I do.**

3 Q. As we were discussing earlier, HIA95, the black marks on
4 the screen are the operation of the Inquiry's anonymity
5 policy, similar to what the Chairman was just saying
6 publicly, and you want to keep your anonymity?

7 **A. I do.**

8 Q. That means, as the Chairman was explaining, that while
9 here today we may use names to allow you to give your
10 evidence, nothing that's said about you or you say about
11 others can be discussed beyond the Inquiry chamber from
12 which you might be identified.

13 If you just bear with me for a few moments, I want
14 to give the Panel the references in the electronic
15 bundle to where material relating to you can be found.

16 The Sisters of Nazareth replying statement can be
17 found at 2116 through to 2118 and, as you know, HIA95,
18 that contains at paragraph 14 an apology specifically to
19 you for any failing by the Sisters during the time that
20 you were in Nazareth House.

21 The Health & Social Care Board statement can be
22 found at 5797 to 5798 and, as we were discussing
23 earlier, that statement suggested that the Probation
24 Service were somehow involved in your placement in
25 Nazareth House and we will come to talk about that just

1 a little bit. I am not sure it is as simple as that.

2 We will deal with that shortly.

3 You were born on ?

4 **A. I was.**

5 Q. And are now aged 69?

6 **A. I am.**

7 Q. You were one of nine siblings?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. You have six children of your own?

10 **A. I have, yes.**

11 Q. You have been married to for 32 years?

12 **A. I have.**

13 Q. You describe later in your statement how he was the life
14 saver of you in effect. You and he are in charge now of
15 thirteen grandchildren --

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

17 Q. -- and four great grandchildren?

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

19 Q. You have travelled from [REDACTED] with to give your
20 evidence today?

21 **A. I have.**

22 Q. You describe at the start of your witness statement, if
23 we can go back to 660, the difficult home circumstances,
24 HIA95, that led to you ending up living in Nazareth
25 House --

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. -- and the breakdown of the relationship between your
3 mum and dad. You describe in paragraph 4 your
4 recollection that a social worker called and you give
5 her name as **NHB 110** took you into care, because you
6 weren't being looked after properly at home. We were
7 discussing this morning if we can bring up, please,
8 4133, the register entry that was maintained by the
9 Sisters of Nazareth. If we can scroll down to the
10 bottom of the page, we can see you were making the point
11 to me that there's three sisters named, but NHB6 is, in
12 fact, NHB6.

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

14 Q. So it should be:

15 "NHB6, NHB3 and NHB5 were admitted on
16 13th November 1953, recommended by **NHB 110** ,
17 probation officer."

18 The HSCB in their statement suggested the Probation
19 Service must have been involved, but in checking with
20 you, as I suspected, there was no -- you weren't ever
21 before the court for any criminal offending. You
22 weren't -- your parents weren't before the court in that
23 sense either, and I was explaining to you that some of
24 the research that we have done suggests that there was
25 a voluntary aspect to some probation officers' work

1 where they tried to work with families whose
2 relationship was breaking down, and it may that that is
3 why **NHB 110** is recorded as having been involved
4 with the family and recorded as being a probation
5 officer.

6 Your recollection is that your dad expressed the
7 view that he wasn't in a position to look after you all
8 after your mum had left and that's ultimately part of
9 why you ended up in Nazareth House.

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

11 Q. So it may be that her involvement wasn't so much as
12 an official probation officer but that more charitable
13 aspect that used to form part of the origins of the
14 Probation Service.

15 You entered, as the record shows, on
16 13th November 1953. You were aged █, █
17 █.

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

19 Q. You go in with your older sister, **NHB6**, and **NHB5**. At
20 least two brothers, and , went to Nazareth
21 Lodge at the same time.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. You remained in Nazareth House until 19th February 1962,
24 when you were aged 16. The reference for that, Members
25 of the Panel, is 4131. The point you were making to me

1 earlier is after you left, your younger sister continued
2 to live on in the home for a period.

3 **A. She did, yes.**

4 Q. I want to go back to your witness statement then at 661.
5 As I was doing when we were discussing matters earlier,
6 HIA95, I am going to try to deal with these as groups of
7 issues.

8 You describe in paragraph 8 and a series of other
9 paragraphs various difficulties you had at the hands of
10 SR134. I am going to talk to you, first of all, about
11 SR134.

12 In paragraph 8 you say that she -- you remember her
13 thumping your younger sister --

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

15 Q. -- because she wouldn't stop crying. You say that she
16 was someone who would grab you by the ears. Can you
17 just explain to the Panel what you mean by she would --
18 did she just --

19 **A. She used to get you by your ears and then whatever was
20 closest to her, be it the wall, the door, you got
21 slammed back into it, not more -- more than once.**

22 Q. What -- can you remember what you had done or were
23 perceived to have done to be treated in that way?

24 **A. You may have done -- you weren't doing your work
25 properly, whatever was allocated to you. You weren't --**

1 sometimes I couldn't even think why I was being hit, but
2 that was one of the reasons, and another time was
3 a friend I got, she -- we -- as a --

4 Q. This is one we are going to come to I think --

5 A. Okay.

6 Q. -- that we discussed earlier. So there were times
7 whenever it happened and you weren't really sure, but it
8 seemed to be something that had --

9 A. It was something very simple. It never was anything
10 really major that -- depending on her mood I would say
11 that day.

12 Q. You talk in paragraph 10 of a particular incident. You
13 describe yourself as [REDACTED] and you are talking
14 about that [REDACTED]

15 A. Yes. I used to sit [REDACTED] I wasn't aware
16 I was doing it and mostly when you were still that would
17 happen in church.

18 Q. That had the effect of [REDACTED]

19 A. It did. It used to [REDACTED], but obviously, as
20 I say, I wasn't really aware of it, and then she
21 would -- SR134 -- she would always sit behind you,
22 SR134, and then she'd come at you with a knuckle in your
23 spine, or I don't know what she was pricking me with.
24 She'd prick you with something, but I'm never sure
25 whether they had a little -- you know, with their habit,

1 I am never sure whether she had a pin that held in here.
2 I know it was something sharp she was pricking me with
3 and she'd do that to you quite often right into your
4 back.

5 Q. So it may -- it mightn't be a pin as we understand it
6 today.

7 A. No, no, but I don't know. I know it was sharp. Let's
8 put it like that.

9 Q. But it was you think something that helped secure --

10 A. That's what I always thought, because I don't know how
11 they kept this on. They obviously don't wear the same
12 habits as they did then. They don't wear them today.
13 They had a kind of a thing across here and the veils
14 came down here. I am sure it was something that must
15 have held on here to hold it in place.

16 Q. This poking would be to get you to stop?

17 A. To stop, yes.

18 Q. You mention in the same paragraph the crunch in the
19 back, which I presume was a knuckle to your --

20 A. Yes. She'd get her knuckle like that and come at you
21 quite hard right into your spine.

22 Q. You describe in the same paragraph her throwing the
23 blackening brush that was used for polishing the shoes.
24 Now was that -- you mentioned to me earlier that was on
25 Saturday.

1 A. Yes. It's usually on a Saturday we had to polish our
2 shoes ready for -- your school shoes and they would mend
3 your school shoes as well, and if you were doing
4 something down the bottom of the hall -- you were
5 a crowd of girls -- you would get the blackening brush.
6 They were quite a big brush, hard, and she fired and,
7 boy, did she have some throw, and she would -- you had
8 to learn to duck because more than once you got hit with
9 it, if you weren't aware, but you had to learn to duck.

10 Q. In paragraph 10 you also describe how she dealt with you
11 in the refectory when you didn't want to eat the food.
12 You describe two ways. You were made to sit on in the
13 refectory --

14 A. Uh-huh.

15 Q. -- after everyone else had left the meal, because you
16 wouldn't eat the food, and you had to stay there until
17 you did eat the food.

18 A. I didn't eat it. I just -- yes, I had to sit there and
19 sit there all day, all evening. Turned out the lights.
20 You were in the dark. Left you sitting there, and then
21 when she couldn't get her own way -- I didn't like
22 porridge and I just couldn't eat it -- she brought my
23 head down into the plate, which broke the plate and gave
24 me the eye.

25 Q. You make a point you have a mark.

1 **A. Yes, I have still got the little lump here.**

2 Q. How many times would she have made you sit through meal
3 time like that in the room in isolation until the next
4 meal time and so on?

5 **A. That -- that's one occasion that I remember. There were**
6 **certain things you didn't like. You had to have other**
7 **things, but that was one particular thing that**
8 **I remember, because she hurt me on that occasion. If**
9 **you didn't eat something, you would sit there, but she**
10 **didn't always keep you there, but that was one**
11 **particular time she did and really was vicious about it.**

12 Q. In paragraph 11 of your statement you talk about playing
13 with a friend. That's HIA85.

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

15 Q. Again her name shouldn't be used beyond the chamber.
16 She -- on that occasion I was asking you what the two of
17 you were doing that came to SR134's attention. You
18 thought you were probably throwing each other around.

19 **A. The way girls play rough. We were running round in**
20 **circles. holding each other's hand. She slipped, fell**
21 **and obviously she cried out. SR134 came over. SR134**
22 **came over, and she did it to her as well. She got me**
23 **and she I know several times bumped your head against**
24 **that wall (inaudible).**

25 Q. The wall you are talking about is the external wall --

1 **A. The external wall that's still there.**

2 Q. -- that's still there round Nazareth House.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. You remember your head being --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- pressed up against the wall?

7 **A. Not just pressed. You felt it, each blow, as she**
8 **brought you forward and brought up back.**

9 Q. You also in the same paragraph, HIA95, talk about being
10 hit with your own hand. Now I want to ask you can you
11 just describe to the Panel how -- the mechanism by which
12 SR134 achieved that? How did she grab you?

13 **A. She grabbed you -- well, she grabbed your wrists. She**
14 **was quite a strong lady. She was a big woman. She**
15 **grabbed you wrists and she hit you so hard with yourself**
16 **and whatever you were near, you would get hit with the**
17 **side of door, but her, she'd hit you with your hands so**
18 **hard and she could bring each hand forward. Then she'd**
19 **tell you she didn't hit you. You hit yourself.**

20 Q. What -- can you remember what the catalyst for that was?
21 Why was she --

22 **A. You could have done anything silly. You dropped a dish**
23 **or anything at all. If you didn't do something in --**
24 **you weren't doing what you were doing properly or**
25 **I could never -- she used to want you to polish -- you**

1 had certain things to do and that was polishing the
2 floor. I never could get down like that and do it and
3 mine never came up clean enough.

4 Q. That is the next point I'm going to make to you, in
5 fact, because in paragraph 16 of your statement, which
6 is on 664, you say that if you didn't do the chores
7 properly, one of the things that SR134 would do would be
8 to what you describe as dump you in the cubbyhole.

9 A. Well, that's where the cleaning materials were held, and
10 she'd close the door on you, and then because you
11 couldn't -- you weren't doing the job to her
12 satisfaction, it would be, "Go in there and find the
13 elbow grease". Well, you were a child. You were
14 looking for the bloody elbow grease, you know. Then you
15 were in there and then she'd close the door on you.
16 That's frightening, very frightening to be closed in
17 a place that has no windows.

18 Q. That was the phrase you recall her -- it was, "Go and
19 find the elbow grease"?

20 A. Elbow grease, yes.

21 Q. But you said to me she didn't close you in for long.

22 A. No. Obviously she wanted you to finish the job.

23 Q. You made the point to me that you today still don't like
24 closed doors.

25 A. No. I close no doors in my house. Never have done.

1 Q. In paragraph 23 at 665 you explain that she also was one
2 of your teachers during your period of time in the home
3 and going to school, and she used to hit you on the
4 knuckles with a ruler.

5 A. Not a ruler.

6 Q. You were explaining -- do you want to just explain to
7 the Panel how that was done?

8 A. Well, it wasn't just a little one of those rulers. It
9 was a long one she'd point to the board with. Then
10 she'd put your hand down like that there. She'd bring
11 it down not flat on your hand. She'd bring it down
12 sideways and hit you like that. That was on several
13 occasions. Obviously if you didn't get something right,
14 whatever you were doing, maths, English, whatever, made
15 a mistake, or at one stage I remember one that -- on the
16 cross is INRI and I didn't understand what it meant and
17 I was supposed to know that. I do now.

18 Q. And the ruler was used --

19 A. Yes, and she did. She used to bring the ruler down flat
20 on your hand like that long ways. She didn't only just
21 bring it down like give you a little -- quite hard down.

22 Q. You say in the same paragraph that she also used the
23 bamboo cane.

24 A. On several occasions we got that. I think that was in
25 schools, but we got that a lot, but at one time you

1 **didn't -- I didn't used to cry when you got it and she'd**
2 **keep going if you didn't cry. I soon learnt to cry.**

3 CHAIRMAN: Sorry to interrupt, HIA95. You say she brought
4 it down long ways. Do you mean the flat of the ruler or
5 the narrow edge?

6 **A. No. If you turn a ruler round and it is quite a thick**
7 **one --**

8 Q. The narrow edge?

9 **A. -- she brought it down like that. She didn't bring it**
10 **down flat.**

11 Q. Thank you.

12 MR AIKEN: I want to talk to you now, HIA95, about SR189.

13 You talk about her in paragraph 9. Just to set the
14 scene, you say that -- you make the point that she ends
15 up becoming the Mother General of the Order --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- but you say that even though SR134 gave you many more
18 beatings than SR189, you describe her as having been the
19 worst. What was it about her that -- given she didn't
20 hit you as often as SR134 did, what was it about her
21 that you regarded as making her the worst?

22 **A. She was a frightening person. She'd come right up into**
23 **your face and she'd almost spit in your face with anger,**
24 **and I used to hate -- when you came out of church if she**
25 **would have caught you talking in the line on the way out**

1 I would hate to be -- we had to come down a fire escape
2 from the church, and I would always be afraid. She's
3 had me up against it before and I was always afraid of
4 her, because you would -- if you went through -- it
5 wasn't all that high -- you would have been over.

6 I think she couldn't control. That's what I felt. She
7 lost control. SR134 would just hit you. She was
8 a natural bully, but SR189 was -- she was another kettle
9 of fish. I just -- it's hard to explain to people
10 sitting here what you felt as a child. You were more
11 afraid of her, because of that spitting anger.

12 Q. You describe in various parts of your statement that you
13 were a feisty child --

14 A. I think that's right, yes.

15 Q. -- who tried to stand up for yourself. Did that mean
16 that you were more likely to come into conflict with
17 SR134 and SR189 than perhaps those who were less feisty?

18 A. You didn't conform really. You didn't -- you weren't --
19 it wasn't as if you were doing anything really bad or
20 you were being extremely naughty. You just felt even as
21 a child what was happening to you was wrong and they had
22 no right to do it, that you -- you were sort of in
23 control in a way and they didn't like that, especially
24 SR134 and SR189. SR189 was worse. She just didn't like
25 that, that you -- because on several occasions I said to

1 them, "I'm going to tell my dad", because my father used
2 to come and see us, and maybe that -- I don't know
3 whether it had any effect or whatever, but ...

4 Q. But you say that she was someone who would have bashed
5 your head off the wall. Was that the same exterior wall
6 that you are thinking of?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Is there a particular incident that sticks in your mind
9 or just you have that memory of her behaving in
10 a similar way?

11 A. Yes. You can do nothing really wrong. You were -- you
12 were shouting or you were doing something silly as
13 a child, but I couldn't put a finger on -- you know,
14 you'd be playing. You'd be doing the wrong thing in
15 their eyes. I often wondered why we were getting hit.

16 Q. You describe her also as being someone who squeezed you.

17 A. Oh, she did. She used to grab you here and hold you.
18 I'd love to have been able to -- I wish the marks had
19 stayed on. They really stayed on. The colour of what I
20 am wearing, you were like that for a long time
21 afterwards. She'd squeeze you hard. That's the way she
22 would get you. She was the one that always held you
23 under the arms and battered you, or else you were in the
24 doorway for SR134. You know, SR189 used to do it, but
25 SR134 did it more, but SR189 was the one that used to do

1 **the squeezing.**

2 Q. The third nun that you name in terms of physical abuse
3 was SR116. If we look at paragraph 13, you say that she
4 did not physically abuse you, but you remember her
5 beating other children.

6 A. **Yes. Yes, I did. It is true. She never seemed -- she**
7 **would hit them there, but there were certain children**
8 **she used to take away to -- whatever she did with them,**
9 **and she'd take them upstairs, and they either came back**
10 **crying or they came back with sweets. Now I can't say**
11 **-- I couldn't say to somebody why, but there was**
12 **an awful feeling that you had that something wasn't**
13 **quite right. They wouldn't tell you why they were**
14 **crying.**

15 Q. So you -- that's just your --

16 A. **Yes.**

17 Q. -- interpretation of --

18 A. **Yes.**

19 Q. -- that memory that you have of seeing her --

20 A. **Why did she take them away? The others would give you**
21 **a hiding there.**

22 Q. So the punishment that you describe from SR189 and SR134
23 was quite open.

24 A. **Yes, it was.**

25 Q. It was being done routinely in front of whoever was near

1 at the time.

2 **A. Um.**

3 Q. There was no attempt to hide it, but your impression if
4 SR116 was hitting the children, that was more done
5 subtly or privately than the other two?

6 **A. Yes. Well, she took them away. You would get little
7 ones would come back crying. You'd wonder why, what she
8 had done to them. You would wonder why if she took them
9 away for a punishment, why did they come back with
10 sweets?**

11 Q. You describe in paragraph 13 then a nun called SR145.
12 You say that she put the fear in you. She was someone
13 who worked in the sewing room I think.

14 **A. Um.**

15 Q. She never actually hit you.

16 **A. No, she didn't.**

17 Q. So what was it that caused you to be in fear of someone
18 that hadn't actually done anything on you?

19 **A. I think because when you are with a crowd of girls,
20 obviously they had been down there before I was, and
21 some of them may have been hit, some of them may not
22 have, but there was always -- you always had a fear of
23 her. There was something about her that you were afraid
24 of, but you couldn't put it into words. You couldn't --
25 you couldn't describe why you were afraid.**

1 Q. You just found her an intimidating type of person?

2 **A. Very intimidating, yes, yes.**

3 Q. Then you contrast those nuns that you have identified
4 with nuns like SR190.

5 **A. She was lovely.**

6 Q. You say she was -- as you've just said, she was lovely.
7 She was the cook.

8 **A. Cook, yes, in the top kitchen.**

9 Q. She has given a statement to the Inquiry -- it is at
10 SNB-1861 -- where she just explained, as I was
11 discussing with you earlier, that she did the cooking
12 and didn't really have specific involvement with the
13 children --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- but any time you came across her that was a positive
16 experience?

17 **A. Yes, and I have been to see her since I have come here,
18 since I found my brothers and sisters and things, and
19 I have come over here and I've been over to see her.**

20 Q. You mention in paragraph 11 a particular incident that
21 I want to ask you about. It's -- I have characterised
22 it as a group punishment, where you are describing
23 a particular girl, and we don't need to name her. You
24 describe that she had.

25 **A. Yes, she did.**

1 Q. You have a memory of punishment being given to her in
2 the assembly hall, as it were, the main hall in the home
3 where you would have played or had stage performances.
4 You remember her being punished in front of the large
5 group of girls.

6 A. They put her over what we called the stage. You had the
7 main hall. You had -- if we did any performances or
8 anything, there was a stage. That's where they would
9 throw you over to pull down your knickers and use the
10 cane on her and she couldn't fight. She was paralysed
11 down one side. What she had done I couldn't tell you,
12 because I couldn't see what she would have done.

13 Q. Do you -- did that type of punishment that took place in
14 front of other people, had that happened to more than
15 just her?

16 A. Yes, yes. She wasn't the only one, but she stuck in my
17 mind because, being in the position she was in, she
18 couldn't fight anyone off even if she would have wanted
19 to, but even if you were never beaten, the fear was
20 awful, what you saw happening to another girl, you know.

21 Q. You describe in paragraph 12 then, HIA95, the system of
22 older girls being placed in charge of the younger girls.
23 As I understand what you were explaining to me earlier,
24 it was really one older girl was given the job of
25 looking after another younger girl --

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

2 Q. -- to make sure that they did what they were supposed to
3 do, but you were saying to me something that's not in
4 your statement, that there was a consequence for the
5 older girl if there was a problem with the younger girl.

6 **A. Younger girl, yes.**

7 Q. Can you just explain to the Panel what that entailed?

8 **A. If they got into trouble, you were their charge. SR134**

9 -- SR134 used to give you a good hiding and then you

10 would in turn go and slap that child, because, like

11 sisters, you would slap a child when you -- say mum had

12 told you off. You'd go and slap your sister because she

13 didn't tell her and she was doing the same thing.

14 That's exactly what they made you do, and, you know, it

15 was wrong. I can tell you it only happened once that

16 I~slapped that girl. I slapped her because I got into

17 trouble and I was angry, but that was the wrong thing to

18 do, because those nuns were doing that to me and I had

19 no right whatsoever to do that to somebody else, and, as

20 I say, I only gave her a slap, but that was still wrong.

21 Q. So you got punished because your charge had not done
22 something?

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

24 Q. What you are describing then is you remember on one
25 occasion hitting your charge?

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

2 Q. That's because that is what you had learned to do, but
3 you recognised that was not appropriate --

4 **A. No.**

5 Q. -- and not something you then did?

6 **A. It's not a nice thing to hit somebody else and to this
7 day I've never slapped anyone, not even my own children.**

8 Q. I think you made the point to me you have spent your
9 life working with children in various capacities --

10 **A. I have, yes.**

11 Q. -- since you left care.

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. In paragraph 12 -- I was saying to you earlier when we
14 were discussing this that -- you talk about the
15 underwear being checked. I was saying to you that other
16 people have talked about that. It has been difficult to
17 understand why that would be done. I said to you
18 earlier leave aside the mechanism that it was done,
19 which was a different issue that we will talk about, but
20 the reason why it might have been done is something that
21 you say. You got a clean pair of underwear once a week.

22 **A. Yes. That's my recognition -- recognition of what
23 I remember. It was once a week, because we used to wash
24 our socks and things as well and put them under our
25 mattress to dry or flatten out.**

1 Q. That fact of only getting a clean pair of underwear each
2 week --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- might explain -- regardless of the appropriateness of
5 how it was done -- might explain the checking to see was
6 the underwear okay each day.

7 A. Um.

8 Q. You found the experience of how that was done
9 humiliating.

10 A. Yes. So would you if you were sitting in a circle and
11 you had to turn your knickers inside out for someone
12 else to look at. It is degrading. Whether it was done
13 for one reason or another, it was done.

14 Q. You made the point to me arising out of that discussion
15 this morning that there was a similar experience with
16 sanitary towels --

17 A. That's right.

18 Q. -- or it wasn't a sanitary towel. It was a --

19 A. They used to make them. That's what I asked you, "When
20 did sanitary towels come into being?", if you like. We
21 used to make them with a piece of material of several
22 layers. They obviously made some and sewed them in the
23 sewing room with two loops on them. When you used
24 those, you put them into a special box. They were taken
25 down to the laundry and washed. Your name was on them

1 and you got them back again. That's what you used, but
2 then maybe -- I don't understand why. I didn't know
3 about sanitary towels until much later, because
4 I started very early. I started at 9 years old, which
5 was very young.

6 Q. I was asking you whether you had been -- whether there
7 had been any discussion with you to explain the changes
8 that were going to happen.

9 A. No, nothing at all. We didn't know what had happened to
10 us. It was frightening to know you were bleeding and
11 you didn't know why.

12 Q. In paragraph 14, HIA95, you talk about the bedwetting --

13 A. Uh-huh.

14 Q. -- and the wet beds, as they were known to you. You
15 explain that SR134 made those who wet the bed walk with
16 the wet sheets round them to the bathroom.

17 A. Uh-huh. That's true. She'd make -- you would have to
18 pull them off, because I was the one that used to get
19 them up in the middle of the night. You'd sleep under
20 her cell window, your bed. You'd have to get up and get
21 what they called the wet beds up. When they wet the bed
22 in the morning, their sheets were -- they had to carry
23 them. That is how they carried them down to the room
24 after that. Then they would go to the laundry.

25 Q. The Sisters have said to the Inquiry they did not deal

1 with bedwetting properly. They don't believe that the
2 nuns would have made the children wear the wet sheets.
3 Your recollection of that is --

4 **A. I was there. They -- I mean, how many of the nuns are**
5 **around today? They are dead for goodness sake. They**
6 **are older than I was. They are -- the younger ones,**
7 **obviously they don't -- they may not -- they probably**
8 **don't know that. They are probably perfectly good**
9 **people now, but nuns did do that years ago. They used**
10 **to make them wear their sheets round their neck, take**
11 **them down to the wash room. What happened to them after**
12 **that, they obviously went to the launderette, because**
13 **that's where they went.**

14 Q. In paragraph 15 you talk about bathtime.

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. I want to ask you, because the Inquiry has heard various
17 evidence about bathing, but you describe how a sheet was
18 held up and I want to ask you about the issue of
19 modesty. Did the nuns allow your body to be seen?

20 **A. No. Can I explain how we first did it?**

21 Q. Yes.

22 **A. You'd -- one person would go in. There's your bath.**
23 **(Gesturing.) One person would sit sideways on the bath**
24 **with your legs in the bath scrubbing your knees.**
25 **I don't understand why, but you did it. Another person**

1 would be in the bath. Two girls would hold a sheet up,
2 a proper sheet, and you wore a thing round you to go
3 into the bath to sit down in the bath. Obviously being
4 girls, they'd lift the sheet just to annoy you. You
5 would get down into the bath. Then when you were
6 finished, you got out and climbed into -- literally into
7 the corner and had the sheet round you to dry yourself.
8 Everybody used that same sheet and it was soaking wet.

9 Q. The -- if I suggested to you that nuns were happy for
10 people to run along the corridors not wearing anything
11 or --

12 A. No, no, no. You couldn't even undress. You had to put
13 your hand inside your -- what they called the petticoat.
14 You had to have your hands inside there and take all
15 your clothes or anything off like that and drop them on
16 floor.

17 Q. So there was a mechanism of undressing that made sure
18 your body wasn't exposed to view?

19 A. That's right.

20 Q. You mention in paragraph 14 about sleeping with your
21 hands crossed over yourself and you explain how that
22 learned behaviour is something you still do.

23 A. I still do to this day. I sleep like that. That's how
24 we had to sleep, because when you fall asleep -- and
25 they'd waken you if they were passing your bed and you

1 had your hands away from there down there. Now you
2 didn't think of it as a child, what they were thinking,
3 but obviously now I know. They didn't want you touching
4 yourself.

5 Q. Well, can I ask you about that? Why do you think that
6 was the reason that they had?

7 A. Well, what she'd say to you, "HIA95, what are you doing
8 with your hands down there?" That's the kind of
9 questions they would ask you. Now you didn't think of
10 anything like that, but as you grew up and understood
11 your body and understood what things were about, then
12 you had no other option but to think that, you know.
13 I often wondered.

14 Q. You made the point about in terms of learned behaviour
15 you still sit on your hands.

16 A. Yes. We weren't allowed -- I still -- my children have
17 a -- whenever they come in and I am sitting and have
18 fallen asleep on the sofa, I'm sitting on my hands and
19 I've had -- I've done that all my life. We weren't --
20 it was I suppose a thing like keep your stands still.
21 You are not getting into any mischief when you have got
22 your hands underneath for any reason. Even if it was
23 during the day, you know, and they wanted you to sit
24 there and you had to be quiet, and I still sit on my
25 hands.

1 Q. In paragraph 21 on 665 obviously you had siblings in
2 Nazareth House and then you had siblings in Nazareth
3 Lodge. You do mention that you got to see at least one
4 brother that you recollect, and I was asking you can you
5 remember were -- you know, arrangements. Were you taken
6 down to see your brothers? Were they brought up to see
7 you? Can you remember that happening?

8 A. I remember some of the boys came up, as I say, to do
9 something. It would maybe be altar boys or something,
10 but my brothers didn't. We went down to see -- and
11 I only ever saw one brother, . I don't know why
12 wasn't brought to us, and I only ever saw ,
13 and even when he went to Kircubbin, when I went to see
14 -- when I found out where he was, because once he left
15 the home nobody explained to you they were going to
16 somewhere else, but I did find out that he went to
17 Kircubbin. We'd go and see him. I went to see him, but
18 there was no -- I didn't see at all. As a matter
19 of fact I lost my family for fifty years before I found
20 them.

21 Q. So you do have a memory that -- because the Sisters have
22 said to the Inquiry, you know, they did not actively
23 discourage family relationships, that they would have
24 facilitated siblings seeing each other. That seems to
25 have happened at least with one brother that you can

1 recollect.

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. You don't remember how that came about?

4 **A. No, no. I mean, I had -- can I say something else?**

5 I don't even know if I put this in my statement, but

6 I have another sister, . When she was coming

7 into the home obviously after us -- she was born after

8 us -- the nuns came to us and told us, "There is a girl

9 coming in called [name redacted]. She is not your

10 sister". She was my sister and she got adopted and we

11 have since found her. She was my sister.

12 Q. It may be then that because the plan was to adopt, then
13 they were keeping that from you, but you found after the
14 event that she was, in fact, your sister?

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. In paragraph 18 of your statement, HIA95, 664, you talk
17 about visits from your dad. The sweets he gave you were
18 taken from you.

19 **A. Yes. When he came to see us, obviously he brought us
20 things. He brought us sweets, and as soon as he'd gone
21 the nuns took them away.**

22 Q. Can you remember, you know, was there any explanation as
23 to why they were doing that?

24 **A. No. They would hover. You know, when we were having
25 a visit, they would hover, because you'd want to say**

1 things but you couldn't say them. Anyway over time you
2 learned not to say certain things, because it wasn't
3 going to do you any good anyway. It was going to come
4 back on you.

5 Q. In paragraph 19, HIA95, you describe this mechanism, the
6 system of sending children who were in the home out to
7 families. I think you used the word to me earlier
8 "farming", although they were not necessarily farms you
9 were going to, that going out. You describe on one
10 particular family a father of the family trying to
11 interfere with you.

12 A. Yes. I was supposed to look after the new baby. That's
13 what I was there for, and I wasn't much of a child --
14 more than a child myself, but he'd come in in the middle
15 of the night and try -- try his luck. When I --
16 I managed to stop him, but he took me back to the home
17 the next day -- well, after he had done -- tried it
18 several times he took me back to the home and told the
19 nuns I wasn't doing the job properly. I tried telling
20 SR134 what had happened and she didn't want to know and
21 I got slapping for it.

22 Q. Can you remember -- and if you can't, just say so -- can
23 you remember the nature of the conversation when you
24 tried to tell SR134 what had happened? Can you remember
25 what you said to her and what she said to you?

1 **A.** Well, she said I was showing the home up by not doing
2 the job properly and I wasn't having it. I told her,
3 "I was doing all the work that they gave me to do, but
4 that wasn't why I was sent back. He wanted to do
5 something with me and I wouldn't let him", words to that
6 effect.

7 **Q.** Did she believe -- she obviously didn't.

8 **A.** No, of course, she didn't. No, she didn't. She told me
9 I was the devil's child, and he was a married man and he
10 wouldn't be doing anything like that.

11 **Q.** In paragraph 24 of your statement you explain how after
12 you got expelled from -- you went to St. Monica's after
13 the Nazareth House School --

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

15 **Q.** -- and got into various scrapes with the head nun there.

16 **A.** She wanted to give me the Cat o' Nine Tails and we were
17 getting enough of it in Nazareth House and I wasn't
18 going to let her.

19 **Q.** You in the end got expelled.

20 **A.** She told the nuns she didn't want me there.

21 **Q.** Instead the nuns got you to work in the nursery part of
22 Nazareth House.

23 **A.** That's right, in Nazareth House, yes.

24 **Q.** Your memory there is very positive, that the children
25 were very well looked after.

1 **A.** Oh, they were in the nursery. It was a lovely place to
2 be, such a contrast to what we knew down in -- with the
3 bigger girls.

4 Q. Your recollection is that it was SR180 you think?

5 **A.** I think it was SR180 that I worked with. I know there
6 was two nuns that worked there, but I think
7 I recognise -- I remember that it was SR180.

8 Q. We will be able to check up on the dates as to which nun
9 it was.

10 **A.** Yes. One did, yes, one of them.

11 Q. You loved it there --

12 **A.** I did.

13 Q. -- and you thought that they did look after the children
14 very well.

15 **A.** Oh, they did indeed.

16 Q. You explain -- and we are not going to go into the
17 detail of it -- but as a result of your own
18 circumstances through an arrangement that was made the
19 first child that you had went into that part to be
20 looked after.

21 **A.** Not in Nazareth House. In Nazareth Lodge, St. Joseph's
22 Baby Home. I had a child and my father threw me out.
23 I was living with my father by then after I had left the
24 home, and my child, I took him down to St. Joseph's Baby
25 Home. I couldn't walk the streets with him, and I --

1 the arrangement was until I found a place, and I would
2 visit every Saturday. That was when we visited.

3 I would visit there, and when I first went in, they made
4 you sign a paper to say -- now I always thought it was
5 in my head, but I have since found out there is a NHB 111

6 . He got me to sign this paper and he said, "If
7 your child needs medical attention or whatever, I have
8 to -- you know, you have to give your consent". So
9 I signed this here. That's not what I was signing.

10 I was signing adoption papers.

11 Q. You have explained that --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- in the statement, but what I wanted to ask you was
14 about the -- from what you had seen of how the young
15 children were treated you were comfortable with --

16 A. I was comfortable with the fact that it is what we knew.
17 We didn't know anything else outside a home, what we
18 would call a home, Nazareth House, Nazareth Lodge,
19 whatever. The -- that's why I put my son in there,
20 because I felt he would be looked after and he wouldn't
21 be given the same treatment as me, because he was so
22 little anyway, and that was the reason why I put him in
23 there. People would wonder why you put your child in
24 when you'd been treated the way you were yourself, but
25 I never saw that in the nursery. So I took it that

1 **St. Joseph's Baby Home -- and having visited there,**
2 **believe me, they were nice with the babies.**

3 Q. You -- in your statement you have a positive
4 recollection of **SR 219** , **SR 219** .
5 She didn't arrive, as I was saying to you earlier, until
6 1963. You left in '62.

7 **A. Uh-huh. I used to visit.**

8 Q. She said in her statement to the Inquiry -- it is at
9 1578 -- that she recollects you as someone who would
10 have come back to the home to visit the girls who were
11 in the home, and the point you were making to me was
12 well, your sister was still there. So --

13 **A. Yes, my younger sister was, NHB5, and I came back with**
14 **the baby anyway to show her, but she didn't have a very**
15 **nice life after that, because I brought the baby to the**
16 **home.**

17 Q. Your sister didn't have a --

18 **A. No. The nuns had --**

19 Q. It wasn't a positive reaction to you having --

20 **A. No, it wasn't.**

21 Q. In your statement in paragraph 20 in terms of positive
22 experiences that you had in Nazareth House you have very
23 fond memories of the holidays in Glenariff.

24 **A. I have indeed. I always thought it was fantastic to get**
25 **away from Nazareth House to somewhere different and we**

1 enjoyed ourselves in Glenariff. We had a lot more
2 freedom and we were a bit bigger anyway. Well, a couple
3 of times we sneaked out at night and we were met at the
4 thing and shouting down at us, "You will know the
5 consequences in nine months' time". We didn't even know
6 what she was talking about, you know.

7 Q. You say you loved it. Was that your most positive
8 memory, that time of --

9 A. I think so, yes, it was, and working with the children,
10 I loved that.

11 Q. So the time where you were -- getting you expelled from
12 school had a positive outcome in the sense that that
13 time you spent in the nursery then led to you working as
14 a classroom assistant --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- and various other roles with children as you --

17 A. And I did one on one with a little boy who had Down's
18 Syndrome that I worked with in the school.

19 Q. You attribute that to after life had settled down,
20 having met .

21 A. , yes. That was the best experience of my life.

22 Q. You explain in paragraph 33 of your statement at 668,
23 HIA95, that you never felt able to report the matters
24 that you have come forward to speak to the Inquiry
25 about. You certainly didn't feel able to talk about

1 them at the time to anybody.

2 **A. Who were you going talk to?**

3 Q. You gave me an example that when you ran away, you were
4 always brought back to the home by the police. They
5 were not inclined to be asking you, "Well, why were you
6 running away?"

7 **A. No, no, they never did, and there wouldn't have been any**
8 **point in saying anything anyway.**

9 Q. Why do you say there wasn't any point in saying
10 anything?

11 **A. You learnt over the years that whatever you did or said**
12 **you weren't believed, and there was no -- they were**
13 **going to believe the nuns. They weren't going to**
14 **believe us, and there wasn't -- you just learned not to**
15 **say anything. You learned to keep quite, although you**
16 **wanted to scream out, but who were you going to scream**
17 **to? The police were authority. The nuns were**
18 **authority.**

19 Q. HIA95, there are two questions, as I explained to you
20 beforehand, that we ask each witness at the -- towards
21 the end of their evidence. Before I ask you those two
22 questions, there is something you did say to me earlier
23 as you reflected on your time. You made the point to me
24 that it was somewhere, Nazareth House, that you couldn't
25 escape from, that it was a closed-in environment, but

1 you were also asking yourself the question: what caused
2 the nuns that you had difficulty with to feel that they
3 would act like that? You wondered what had happened to
4 them in their background --

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

6 Q. -- that led them to be that way.

7 **A. Yes. You think about things as you grow older. You**
8 **know, a bully's a bully because they have been bullied.**
9 **What happened to the nuns that bullied us and really**
10 **severely bullied us? What happened to them in their**
11 **lives? Why were -- they were shoved in because of**
12 **religion into whatever they were, nuns or priests or**
13 **whatever. They were pushed in by their parents or**
14 **pushed in by society or whatever way it goes, but I just**
15 **feel that they were bullied or something happened to**
16 **them. It must have had to for them to do what they did**
17 **to us.**

18 Q. So as you've tried to understand why women with
19 a calling of that type would behave in that way, you
20 reflect on it must have been to do with how they came to
21 be in --

22 **A. Well, something happened, yes.**

23 Q. -- their circumstances to try and understand their
24 behaviour towards you.

25 **A. Well, you have got to as you -- when you are younger,**

1 you don't think like that. You are just angry. As you
2 grow older, the reflection comes and you start thinking
3 about it.

4 Q. The last two questions that we ask each witness, the
5 first of them is about recommendations. As I said to
6 you, at the end of the Panel's work the Panel has to
7 consider what recommendations it might make to the
8 Northern Ireland Government about maybe some form of
9 apology, some form of memorial -- I said to victims and
10 you corrected me, survivors --

11 A. Uh-huh.

12 Q. -- that's how you regard yourself -- and some other
13 means of redress. We ask each witness whether there's
14 anything they want to say to the Panel to assist the
15 Panel's thinking about the recommendations that the
16 Panel has to consider making. Is there anything you
17 want to say about that?

18 A. Just to say that you must have interviewed an awful lot
19 of people. So my only rec... -- thing to say is
20 whatever the majority of people feel should happen,
21 maybe that's what should happen. I don't know. I just
22 don't know. I mean, it's the ones who are left behind,
23 nuns and everybody else, have to apologise, and it is
24 not the ones who are gone. They are the ones -- you
25 can't go back, because you have no-one to say, "Why did

1 you do it to me?", but whatever the majority of people
2 have said they want done, then I think that's what we
3 should go with.

4 Q. The last question that we ask each witness is whether
5 there's anything else -- in this module we are looking
6 at Nazareth House -- whether there is anything else
7 about your time in Nazareth House that perhaps I haven't
8 covered in enough detail, perhaps I didn't get it right,
9 or perhaps we haven't covered it at all that you want to
10 say about your time there. Now is your opportunity to
11 say if there's anything else you want to add.

12 A. **No. Just the fact that they took you from -- someone**
13 **took me from one bad situation that I could escape from**
14 **a drunken mother to put me into another situation where**
15 **I couldn't escape. I was stuck there and I had to take**
16 **what was coming, and, I mean, I know things have changed**
17 **over the years. There's nothing much else I can say.**
18 **That's how I feel.**

19 Q. HIA95, I'm not going to ask you any more questions.

20 A. **Okay.**

21 Q. If you remain where you are for a short time, the Panel
22 Members may want to ask you something.

23 A. **Okay.**

24 Q. Just bear with us for a short time.

25

1 Questions from THE PANEL

2 CHAIRMAN: HIA95, can I ask you just to think back to what
3 you have told us about seeing your brother and not
4 seeing your other brother? Now before he went to
5 Kircubbin were you brought down from Nazareth House to
6 Nazareth Lodge where he was in order to see him, or was
7 it an accidental meeting, or how did it come about?

8 A. No, I think we were brought down there. It must have
9 been, because quite a few girls went down. So I just
10 remember that we'd see our Brother there and I only saw
11 and that's all, that we were brought down, but
12 whether we were brought down to play with the boys or
13 whatever I don't know.

14 Q. But it wasn't just you on your own being brought down?

15 A. No.

16 Q. A group of girls in the same position all were taken
17 down together?

18 A. Well, what I recollect is that a crowd of girls went
19 down. So either we went down for some reason, but we
20 saw our brother. I only remember seeing a couple
21 of times --

22 Q. Yes.

23 A. -- and then I lost contact with him for all those years,
24 45 years I think, but I've since found him.

25 Q. Did I understand you to say that he, like many of the

1 other boys, of course, we have already heard about
2 in other modules, moved on to Rubane probably when he
3 was about 11 or 12?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Were you taken down to see him in Rubane?

6 **A. No. We didn't even know where he'd gone to from
7 Nazareth Lodge.**

8 Q. No, I wasn't sure whether you had been taken to see him,
9 but not at all.

10 **A. No. I found out myself when I was a little bit older
11 and went to see him, and I only saw him, and yet now
12 I know that was there as well and I think our
13 was as well.**

14 Q. But you didn't know where they had gone --

15 **A. No.**

16 Q. -- in case?

17 **A. No. I know now.**

18 Q. Thank you very much.

19 **A. Thank you.**

20 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA95. Can I just ask the
21 time that you ran away, when you came back, what
22 punishment, if any, did you get for that?

23 **A. Just the beatings.**

24 Q. Just the beatings, but more cruel beatings for that?
25 Was there more --

1 **A.** I think so, yes, because you were letting people know --
2 by running away you were letting people know something
3 was wrong.

4 Q. Okay. Thanks.

5 MR LANE: You mentioned that SR116 took girls upstairs
6 perhaps to punish them or whatever. Did she have a room
7 up there?

8 **A.** There was like at the top -- I'm trying to -- I try
9 to -- it is a long time, but I am trying to walk through
10 the home --

11 Q. Uh-huh.

12 **A.** -- and remember what was on each floor, but I know there
13 was a kind of a room. It was like what we would say
14 like -- what we called the cubbyholes. You called
15 anything that hadn't got windows cubbyholes, you know.
16 So --

17 Q. Was that like her office?

18 **A.** No, no, it shouldn't have been. I couldn't understand
19 why anybody was even put in there or taken in there.

20 Q. Was it far enough away so that if anybody was crying or
21 anything --

22 **A.** On the top floor.

23 Q. -- they wouldn't be heard? On the top floor. Right.
24 Thank you very much.

25 **A.** Okay.

1 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA95, thank you very much indeed for
2 coming to speak to us today. I am sure you will be
3 relieved to hear we don't have any more questions for
4 you. We understand you have come quite some distance to
5 speak to us and we are very grateful to you for taking
6 the time to do so. Thank you very much.

7 **A. Can I say thank you for listening?**

8 Q. Thank you.

9 (Witness withdrew)

10 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, Ms Smith is
11 taking the next witness. If we take a short break, it
12 may be possible to begin that.

13 CHAIRMAN: I should explain to those who are present today
14 that, although we on our published timetable show one or
15 more witnesses giving evidence in the afternoon each
16 day, if it is possible to deal with them earlier in the
17 day, we do that, and that's what may well happen this
18 morning. Indeed, I should say that the fourth person
19 who was due to give evidence today due to a mishap on
20 their part will not be here today. So it may well be
21 that if Ms Smith is ready, we will complete our three
22 witnesses before lunch time. We will not therefore need
23 to sit in the afternoon. We will see how things go. So
24 we will rise for a few minutes.

25 (11.50 am)

1 (Short break)

2 (12.20 pm)

3 WITNESS HIA52 (called)

4 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies
5 and gentlemen. The next witness today is HIA52. She is
6 HIA52. HIA52 wishes to affirm and she also wishes to
7 take advantage of the anonymity afforded by the Inquiry.

8 WITNESS HIA52 (affirmed)

9 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, HIA52. Please sit down.

10 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

11 MS SMITH: Now, Chairman, I just want to indicate that there
12 is a difficulty with HIA52's statement. So I am not
13 going to call it up on the screen in the chamber. We
14 will work from hard copies going through her evidence,
15 but her statement can be found at SNB-808 to 817.

16 The congregation's response is at SNB-2138 to 2141.

17 There is a Health & Social Care Board response at
18 SNB-6235 to 6236, which indicates that HIA52 was placed
19 in Nazareth House as a private placement and they have
20 no Social Services' records relating to her.

21 Now, HIA52, if you have a copy of your statement in
22 front of you --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- can I just ask you to check through it and go to the
25 last page and if you would confirm that you signed the

1 statement on 13th November of last year.

2 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. Can I ask is this the statement of evidence that you
4 want the Inquiry to consider together with anything else
5 that you tell us today?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Okay. Now, HIA52, your personal details and how you
8 came to be in care are set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 of
9 your statement.

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. You were placed in Nazareth House in June 1951 and you
12 stayed there until May 1968, when you were aged 18.

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. So you spent your entire childhood in the home.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. Your first memories are, as you say in paragraph 4, of
17 the beatings. You say that until you spoke to the
18 Inquiry you had never really spoken about your time in
19 the home. Is that correct?

20 **A. Correct, yes.**

21 Q. Now you also there talk about the fact that you were
22 placed in -- and I am going to use the nuns' names, but
23 I just remind everyone present that the names are not to
24 be used outside this room.

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. The first of those was SR116. You remember being in her
2 group.

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

4 Q. You say you were known as Our Lady's groups, and the
5 other nuns you remember being there during your time
6 were SR134, SR31, SR59 and SR189.

7 **A. Correct, yes.**

8 Q. Now you also have a memory of being frightened in the
9 home.

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. You talk about this in paragraph 5, where you say that
12 as a punishment you would be -- sorry -- as a punishment
13 you would be locked in a room and they would get a
14 man from the old people's home to bang on
15 the door. As a result of this you say you are now
16 claustrophobic and suffer a lot from panic attacks. You
17 say you wouldn't have -- you wouldn't have to do very
18 much before you would be punished in this way. You say
19 that if the nuns could take your breath away, they
20 would. They took everything else away.

21 **A. Correct, yes.**

22 Q. Now I've spoken to you earlier and you know that the
23 congregation have given us a statement in response to
24 what you have said about your time in Nazareth House.
25 They don't accept that punishments as you describe where

1 someone is locked in a room and this old man would
2 have -- man would have knocked on the door, they
3 don't accept that that would have happened. Is there
4 anything you want to say about that, HIA52?

5 **A. Well, it did happen. It happened to me and that is one**
6 **of my first memories as a very young child. I was very,**
7 **very young, and it was -- I think the room was kind**
8 **of -- we were kind of in a nursery and further down**
9 **there was another room where they would put you in there**
10 **and turn out the lights and close the door and scare you**
11 **with the bogeyman, and then every now and then you would**
12 **kind of hear tapping at the door like someone was trying**
13 **to come in the door. It is only in later years that it**
14 **come to my attention that there was a man**

15 **in the old folks' home and it came to my attention**
16 **that it was probably him they got to do it to scare us.**

17 **Q. When you say, HIA52, it came to your attention, is that**
18 **because of conversations you have had subsequently with**
19 **people who were also in the home with you or how did you**
20 **know this?**

21 **A. Yes, because another person experienced the same thing**
22 **and had mentioned -- I mentioned it was man**
23 **that they'd used to -- and he played with the door knob**
24 **-- do you know what I mean -- to make you think someone**
25 **was coming in.**

1 Q. So another girl who was in the home at the same time as
2 you --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- told you that that's who was doing that?

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

6 Q. Excuse me. Now, as I was indicated, they didn't accept
7 that that happened.

8 Paragraph 6 there, you yourself didn't wet the bed,
9 but you describe what happened to those girls who did.
10 You said that they were made to stand with their wet
11 sheets and then go down and wash the sheets themselves.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. You actually saw that happen to them, HIA52?

14 **A. Yes, that is correct.**

15 Q. The congregation would say that girls would not have had
16 to wash their own sheets.

17 **A. Pardon. We did. We done a lot of washing of sheets.**

18 Q. You then go on to talk about having to get up early in
19 the morning, you say about 6 o'clock, and if you didn't
20 make your bed, you would get a clip around the ear.

21 That was sort of the norm, was it, getting up at that
22 time in the morning?

23 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. You also go on to talk about working in the laundry here
25 at paragraph 7 of your statement. You say you remember

1 working in the laundry from about 9 or 10. They were
2 big deep sinks. You think they were called Belfast
3 sinks.

4 "Everything had to be washed by hand. I had to wash
5 them, rinse them, wring them out and hang them. If the
6 clothes weren't washed properly, they would be thrown
7 back in again. I remember washing lots of sheets, and
8 looking back now, I think the nuns were taking in
9 laundry from outside and getting us children to wash it.
10 We got 3 pence pocket money. We had to line up to get
11 this, but if you did something bad during the week, you
12 never got it. You had to wash your own clothes, but
13 you'd nowhere to dry them. So you'd lay the clothes --
14 the wet clothes on your bed under the blanket and dry
15 them with your body heat. You remember it being very
16 cold and the dormitories were freezing.

17 **A. Correct.**

18 Q. Now the congregation would say that while you may have
19 had actually to help out in the laundry on occasion,
20 they don't accept that as a 9-year-old you would have
21 had to work in the way you describe in this paragraph,
22 HIA52.

23 **A. I worked in every part of that building from the top to**
24 **the bottom. I done all kinds of work and laundry was**
25 **one I definitely remember. Because we were so tiny,**

1 they would have to put kind of like a bench along with
2 the sinks, and we had to stand up on that, because the
3 sinks were very deep, and we would practically be in the
4 sink, because we were so tiny. Yes, we done a lot of
5 laundry.

6 Q. You describe bathtime in the home and say that while the
7 water would be hot for the first girl, after that they
8 never added hot water. You were bathed in Jeyes fluid,
9 which burnt your skin, and you had to use carbolic soap.
10 There was one sheet to dry you, and if you were unlucky
11 and you were the last girl, that sheet would be soaking
12 wet.

13 You also describe having your underwear inspected,
14 having to turn your underwear inside out to show whether
15 or not they were soiled, and if they were soiled, you
16 would be humiliated and have to wash them, and you say
17 you would probably have got a hiding after that.

18 Now the congregation would say that they don't
19 accept that it was common practice to inspect your
20 underwear.

21 **A. That was done on a daily basis.**

22 Q. They also say that Jeyes fluid might have been used for
23 head lice, for treating head lice, but wouldn't have
24 been used for daily bathing or for weekly bathing.

25 **A. Jeyes fluid was used for every bath that we had. You**

1 **would sit in the bath. There was so much Jeyes fluid in**
2 **the bath you would end up with a ring around your**
3 **stomach and would you be scratching, itching with the**
4 **Jeyes fluid.**

5 Q. At paragraph 9, HIA52, you talk about your time in
6 school and you said you went to a primary school which
7 was in Nazareth House. You remember you were called
8 a dunce and were made to stand in the corner with your
9 hands on your head. You were always put down and told
10 you were good for nothing. You were always told you
11 were stupid, that your mother never wanted you and that
12 you were left on the doorstep. Those are your memories
13 of school, although you go on to talk about later, and I
14 will come back to moving on to secondary school, but
15 that was your memory of the primary level education.

16 **A. Uh-huh. Correct.**

17 Q. You also go on then to talk about food in the home,
18 which you describe as basic. You said there had to be
19 silence at meal times, that you couldn't even talk to
20 each other. You describe the food there, but said if
21 you didn't eat your meal, you were made to sit there
22 until you did eat it. If you didn't, it would be put
23 back in front of you for your next meal. You could be
24 vomiting and retching, but if you vomited the food up,
25 you had to pick it up and eat it, and that the nuns did

1 not care.

2 Now the congregation would say that they, first of
3 all, tried to provide the best food that they can for
4 the children, but they don't accept that any child was
5 given food to eat from a previous meal and that they
6 would say that no-one was ever force fed or made to eat
7 their own vomit. What do you want to say about that,
8 HIA52?

9 **A. Well, the food was very basic, as you say. Everybody**
10 **has different likings to what food that they can eat and**
11 **say, for instance, if they put -- I'll just give an**
12 **example -- Brussels sprouts, for example, I probably**
13 **didn't like Brussels sprouts. The person next to me**
14 **probably liked them. If the nuns weren't looking, you**
15 **would quickly pass your Brussels sprouts on to the next**
16 **one, if they liked it, but if you couldn't do that, them**
17 **Brussels is still in front of you and you had to eat**
18 **them, and you would be actually retching, because you**
19 **just couldn't stomach it, and you had to eat it.**

20 **Q. You also go on to talk about what happened if you**
21 **misbehaved during meal times. You had to stand in the**
22 **passageway outside the dining room --**

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

24 **Q. -- the doorway to the dining room. You say that**
25 **happened to you many times if you shared your food, for**

1 example, or if you were talking in the dining room.

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. You say you were often hungry. You said you used to eat
4 grass and you said it was actually quite nice.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. Now one of the things, and we discussed this, is that
7 the congregation have said that no-one was ever that
8 hungry that they had to eat grass. Some other girls who
9 were in the home have put entries on chat forums. Can
10 I just ask you, first of all, do you use a computer,
11 HIA52?

12 **A. I am computer illiterate. I wouldn't even know how to
13 turn a switch on.**

14 Q. I can take it from that then that you yourself have
15 never been on a chat forum or social networking site or
16 anything like that?

17 **A. No, no.**

18 Q. Some of the people who have -- the Inquiry is aware that
19 there are people who have put entries on to it and they
20 have said that no child was ever -- some of the girls
21 have said no child was ever that hungry that they had to
22 eat grass.

23 **A. Well, I was hungry and I ate grass. I can only speak
24 for myself. I can't speak for other people, and that
25 would be -- eating the grass, it would be just like you**

1 are out in the playground. You know what I mean? You'd
2 be sitting on the grass and you would just kind of pick
3 at the grass and eat it and that's what I done.

4 Q. You also go on in the same paragraph, HIA52, to say
5 that:

6 "If you were bad, they never told what you'd done
7 wrong. They said that we never" --

8 You say:

9 "We never got any luxuries like cake or sweets."

10 You remember once when the nuns were on retreat one
11 of the girls got the keys to the pantry and you raided
12 it. You knew you would get into trouble, but you didn't
13 care. You hid apples and other food down your pants,
14 and you said that they were fun times when you got into
15 mischievous. You had fun doing that.

16 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. Paragraph 12 you said that:

18 "You didn't really make friends in the home, because
19 you couldn't get too close to someone and you weren't
20 allowed to have friendships. You never knew anything
21 about love or comfort. If you saw another child crying,
22 your instinct would be to go and put your arm around
23 them, but if the nuns saw that, you would get a hiding.
24 You were never shown any love. You were completely on
25 your own. There were no social connections at all. It

1 was just work, work, work."

2 **A. Correct.**

3 Q. That's your abiding memory of your time in the home?

4 **A. Uh-huh, yes.**

5 Q. You go on in paragraph 13 to describe and you have
6 already told us a little bit about the fact that you did
7 do a lot of work in the home and you worked in the
8 laundry. You said you must have scrubbed the whole of
9 that building. You used to have to scrub the big
10 corridors on hands and knees.

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. You would have them all in a line. You say you were
13 only little kids about 8 or 9. A nun would be
14 supervising, and if it wasn't shiny enough, you had to
15 go back again and start again. You said you were
16 practically slipping on the floor it was so shiny.

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. The floors were scrubbed every day. For the big hall
19 downstairs you had to throw tea leaves on it, sweep it,
20 scrub it, wax it, polish it and you also scrubbed the
21 church as well as that corridor.

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

23 Q. Now the congregation have said that while children were
24 given chores, they weren't excessive chores and they
25 would have been age appropriate. So, for example, a 9

1 -- an 8 or 9-year-old wouldn't have been expected to
2 scrub the floors. What do you want to say about that at
3 all?

4 **A. Well, I remember scrubbing floors all my life when I was**
5 **in there from any age.**

6 Q. You say you were never given a break. It was just
7 constant work. Even if you were sick, you still had to
8 do the cleaning. If you had been beaten, your hands
9 would be sore and blistered, but you still had to put
10 your hands in water and scrub when you were in pain.

11 You describe always being -- often being beaten by
12 the nuns. You said they would tell you to hold your
13 hands out and slap you on the knuckles with the side of
14 a ruler. I was asking you was this in the home itself
15 or did this happen in school?

16 **A. This was in the home.**

17 Q. How was this done? You were describing to me when we
18 were talking earlier, HIA52 -- perhaps if you could
19 maybe demonstrate what you were talking about, how they
20 would hit you with the ruler on the hand.

21 **A. They would ask you to put your hand out, and if you put**
22 **your hand out like that, that wasn't good enough.**

23 **(Gesturing.) So that ruler that they were using, they**
24 **would use the ruler to raise your hand so as you could**
25 **have it like a level to them, and if it wasn't straight,**

1 they would actually -- sometimes they would hold your
2 hand straight and make sure that it came -- the side of
3 the ruler, it would go right down on the hands.

4 Q. So it wasn't the flat part of the ruler?

5 A. No, it was always the side of the ruler, and you would
6 get -- sometimes you would get it on the knuckles.

7 Depending what mood they were in, they would slap you on
8 the hand -- on the palm, but if they were probably in a
9 worse mood, wanted more punishment, then you got it
10 right across the knuckles.

11 Q. You said another thing they used to do was to pull you
12 by the ear lobe so that you would be on your tiptoes and
13 your feet were practically off the ground.

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. You also describe SR134 in particular used to dig in the
16 soft flesh under your arms with her fingers.

17 A. Uh-huh.

18 Q. You say the nuns would hit you on the head as well
19 either with their knuckles or these big set of keys they
20 carried around.

21 A. Yes. They would kind of go like that to you, you know.

22 (Gesturing.)

23 Q. You are just demonstrating there that you are being
24 punched in the head with the knuckle.

25 A. Well, a knuckle like, you know, would be -- sometimes be

1 ...

2 Q. What kind of behaviour might have led to this treatment
3 by the nuns, HIA52?

4 A. **Practically none. You didn't do -- maybe -- maybe --**
5 **give an instance. They might have said -- asked you**
6 **a question or tell you -- if you just went like "Tut",**
7 **as much as tutted, then you got punished. You didn't**
8 **have to do anything wrong. We got punished so many**
9 **times that we didn't even know why we were being**
10 **punished.**

11 Q. You say that the beatings happened pretty often. If it
12 wasn't you, you saw somebody else being beaten.

13 A. **Uh-huh.**

14 Q. You say you couldn't express yourself at all or you
15 would get battered. You say SR134 would have given you
16 a box on ears but you don't ever remember her using
17 a weapon against you. SR116 would have beaten you the
18 most, because you were in her group. You describe her
19 as a very wicked woman.

20 A. **Uh-huh.**

21 Q. You say in the next paragraph that you always felt that
22 those children who had families were better treated than
23 those of you who didn't have families to look after them
24 or to go out to or to visit.

25 A. **That's correct. Well, that was my perception of what**

1 **happened, yes.**

2 Q. One of the reasons you have that perception is because
3 you remember saying to one of the nuns you were going to
4 tell someone about the beatings, and she said "Who are
5 you going to tell? You've got no-one to tell. You were
6 left on the doorstep."

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

8 Q. You -- certainly no-one ever visited you in your time in
9 the orphanage.

10 **A. No.**

11 Q. Isn't that right? You never saw anybody visit from
12 Social Services at all?

13 **A. Never.**

14 Q. You also go on there at paragraph 18 to say that you
15 remember benefactors coming to visit the home. You say
16 that those times you had to work even harder cleaning.
17 You were dressed in your Sunday best and looking pretty
18 so that the benefactors would think you were all well
19 looked after. You say it was all a show.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. As soon as the benefactors left you were told to get out
22 of your good clothes and back into your scrubbing
23 clothes, as you describe them.

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. The congregation would say that the fact -- yes,

1 benefactors did visit the home, but these were
2 pleasurable occasions not just for the benefactors but
3 for the girls themselves and they were always fun
4 occasions for the girls, and there was never any
5 pretence put on. Is there anything you want to say
6 about that, HIA52?

7 **A. Well, I have to disagree with them.**

8 Q. You do remember going out to the dentist and you give
9 his name there. You say he was a horrible man. You
10 were petrified of him. You felt that he took your teeth
11 out just so he could get his money. You also remember
12 a doctor who visited, although you didn't see much of
13 him. You also remember an illness, an epidemic of 'flu
14 or something in the late '60s, but you didn't get it.

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. You had to actually do extra work, because you had to do
17 the work of those girls who were ill as well.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. Even if you were ill, you say you were expected to work,
20 unless you were really ill, in which case you were just
21 left in the dormitory all day on your own.

22 You talk in paragraph 20 about how -- what happened
23 when you got your first period. You remember being
24 embarrassed and having to ask for a sanitary towel and
25 you felt that was degrading. You weren't given

1 a packet. There were just one or two, and things for
2 you were so bad that you actually had to wash them out
3 to re-use them.

4 One of the things the congregation have said is that
5 they have heard this complaint from people like yourself
6 and other girls and they apologise for any undue
7 suffering caused as a lack -- by their lack of provision
8 of appropriate sanitary wear.

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. You then mention that you believe at some time when you
11 were in the home you must have had an operation, but --
12 and you relate what that was -- how you found out that
13 you had an operation, because there was a scar when you
14 went to the doctor in later years, but you have no
15 recollection of ever being in a hospital when you were
16 in the nursing -- in Nazareth House --

17 **A. No.**

18 Q. -- or ever having an operation.

19 You talk about going to St. Monica's Secondary
20 School. You say:

21 "We stuck out like a sore thumb. Everyone knew we
22 were from the home."

23 How did they know that, HIA52? What was there about
24 you and the other girls from the home that made you
25 different to the other children in the school?

1 **A. Probably our behaviour, you know, because we didn't know**
2 **how to interact with the outside world. Do you know**
3 **what I mean? We did. We stuck out like sore thumbs.**
4 **They could tell even by how we were dressed and things**
5 **like that, you know.**

6 Q. You, in fact, got -- as you described it to me earlier,
7 you were a bit of a rebel and you got into trouble in
8 school.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. The nuns in the home would beat you. Were there nuns
11 in -- who cared for you in the home who were also
12 teachers in the school or was that just in the primary
13 school?

14 **A. That was just the primary school.**

15 Q. You, in fact, got expelled from St. Monica's when you
16 were about 13 for throwing a snowball at the house of
17 the headmistress.

18 **A. Correct.**

19 Q. You got told you were the worst girl in the school and
20 you were given a hiding by SR116 when you got back to
21 the home for being expelled.

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. You say that you normally were given beatings in a room
24 upstairs, but you once remember getting a bad beating in
25 a room downstairs beside the dining room from SR116, who

1 lost her temper and lashed out at you. You remember you
2 ended up black and blue from the hiding and that was
3 extremely painful. Was that in relation to you being
4 expelled can you remember or was this just a memory that
5 you have of one time being beaten in that way?

6 **A. It's a memory, but it kind of connects around about the**
7 **age I would have been and getting expelled from school**
8 **and stuff like that.**

9 Q. You do, however, remember one teacher who you name in
10 paragraph 23 of your statement

11 . She actually let you back into her
12 class, but that was the only class you were able to go
13 to then in school.

14 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. You remember that one time you were making a dress which
16 you were supposed to try on, but you refused to try it
17 on, because you knew that this teacher would see the
18 marks on your back from the beating. So it must have
19 been around that time as well then?

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

21 Q. The congregation have said that they tried to provide
22 children with the best education that they could, with
23 at least an adequate education. You certainly feel that
24 your education was lacking. Isn't that right, HIA52?

25 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. You go on to talk in paragraph 24 about running away
2 when you were 14 and going to Manchester with three
3 other girls, but your memories of this are very hazy.
4 You don't even remember how you got there --

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

6 Q. -- or how you got back, because you had no money or
7 anything. You were telling me you have subsequently met
8 one of the girls who you did run away with --

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

10 Q. -- and she named the other girls that you ran away with
11 too.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. So you are quite satisfied that this is an actual event.
14 This did happen --

15 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- even though you don't remember how you got there and
17 how you got back to Nazareth House.

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

19 Q. The congregation I should say is -- have said they have
20 no record of this event of you running away or -- and
21 they say that they don't know how you could have managed
22 this, because you wouldn't have had any money or
23 anything to go.

24 **A. Correct. I mean, even I myself cannot remember, but**
25 **I do remember 100% that there was four of us. How I got**

1 to Manchester I honestly cannot say. How I got back
2 I honestly cannot say, but one of the girls that was
3 with me -- sorry -- she had a sister in the home and it
4 was the priest that come and took her back, but to this
5 day I can't recall how I got to Manchester, how
6 I returned, but I can honestly put my hand on my heart
7 100% and say that I did go to Manchester, because it's
8 always stuck with me, but I just couldn't remember who
9 the girls were.

10 Q. You talk about then you left school when you were 15,
11 which would have been the school leaving age. You say
12 you then worked full-time for the nuns until you were
13 18. You worked in the old people's home and in the
14 kitchen. You never saw any wages and didn't even know
15 you should be getting paid.

16 Now the congregation have said you would have been
17 paid for this work, but they would have taken monies
18 back by way of -- money would have been deducted for
19 your keep.

20 A. So if they were paying me a wage, how much were they
21 deducting from my wage for my keep and then what were
22 they giving me in my hand?

23 Q. Did you ever receive any money for this work?

24 A. Not a penny.

25 Q. At the same time as you were working there you were --

1 the nuns were threatening you with moving you to the
2 Good Shepherd. You were petrified of going there,
3 because you believed it was a terrible place. You were
4 told if you were sent there, you would die there. They
5 also threatened you with Muckamore and with Purdysburn.

6 **A. Yes. I mean, that was their figure of speech really**
7 **when they would threaten you, like Muckamore and**
8 **Purdysburn. That was kind of more held a threat over**
9 **you, because, you know, that would be their figure of**
10 **speech at times, you know, if they were angry with you**
11 **or something, you know, think you're --"We'll get rid of**
12 **you. We'll send you over to the Good Shepherd Convent"**
13 **or one of these places, Muckamore or Purdysburn. They**
14 **were the three places we were actually threatened with**
15 **was Good Shepherd Convent, which was across the road and**
16 **then there was Muckamore and Purdysburn, and a few of**
17 **the kids did end up in those three places. So that was**
18 **always a threat over you. That was -- you know, it was**
19 **bad enough living there where you was, but to think you**
20 **are going to go to a worse place than what you're**
21 **actually in now, you thought you ain't going anywhere**
22 **worse, because nothing can be worse than here, you know.**

23 **Q. Paragraph 26 you talk about not having had any**
24 **birthdays.**

25 "We were told if it was our birthday but you never

1 received any presents and you never owned anything."

2 You said:

3 "At Christmas some of us were picked to go to
4 parties. We were given a present from Santa. Then it
5 was taken away from us."

6 You think the nuns then gave out the presents on
7 Christmas morning.

8 You do remember being taken to Glenariff Forest Park
9 on holidays, but even there you had to work by washing
10 and cleaning the beds, and you remember being very
11 hungry and cold during those trips to Glenariff.

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. We were talking and, you know, I have already
14 established from you, HIA52, that you yourself have
15 never been on a social network, but, as I said, the
16 Inquiry are aware that certain things have been posted
17 by others about their time in Nazareth House.

18 One person -- and I am just going to use her first
19 name -- someone called posted something on one of
20 these forums when she was relating her
21 memories of Christmas in the home.

Do you ever remember that?

25 **A. I have got no recollection of that at all.**

1 Q. You do, though, remember the girl that I am talking
2 about?

3 **A. Yes, yes.**

4 Q. You do remember her being in the home with you?

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

6 Q. Would you have been friendly with her?

7 **A. Probably. You know, we were all in one big place. So**
8 **you were friendly with everyone. You know what I mean?**
9 **You knew everyone, but I don't recall that --**

10 Q. You don't remember that at all?

11 **A. No. I don't recall that at all.**

12 Q. I was asking you if you had any other good memories of
13 your time in the home --

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. -- and you were talking about the black taxis that took
16 you --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- for a day trip --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- that that was an enjoyable episode.

21 **A. Yes, that was. That was one of the memorable ones when**
22 **the taxis used to come and take us in taxis to the**
23 **seaside, and we all went. There wasn't certain people**
24 **picked for that. All of the children went. So you**
25 **didn't feel that you were being left out, because we**

1 were all there. It was only on other occasions when
2 there was other outings, then they picked certain
3 children, and it just seemed that I was never really one
4 that got picked a lot, but the taxi one we all went.
5 There was no saying, "You can't go and you can go".

6 Q. One of the other things that I have to put to you,
7 HIA52, is that again -- and I know that you haven't
8 yourself been on the social networking, but one of the
9 things that has been said by people who have put posts
10 on the social network is that there has been
11 an exaggeration by some people about their time in
12 Nazareth House. Is there anything you want to say about
13 that?

14 A. Well, I can only speak for myself and give my
15 experiences and what I recall, you know. I can't say
16 for what other people said did happen or didn't happen,
17 you know. Maybe what happened to me didn't happen to
18 them. Whatever happened to them didn't happen to me.
19 We all have our own memories, you know.

20 Q. Well, you left Nazareth House in 1968, when you were 18,
21 and you went to live in [REDACTED] From paragraphs 28
22 onwards in your statement you talk about your life after
23 care. As I have indicated to you, I am not going to go
24 into the details of that.

25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. But you describe the effect of your time in care,
2 paragraph 34, and you say that:

3 "Growing up in the home had a big impact on your
4 life. We weren't prepared for the real world at all.
5 We weren't taught how to communicate or socialise. We
6 weren't shown any love or affection. I am not an
7 affectionate person because of that, and I feel my
8 children missed out in that regard. My children missed
9 out on a lot of things, having a family, aunt and uncles
10 and cousins. I'm a bit of a loner, and even if I am in
11 a room full of people, I feel alone."

12 You go on to then talk in paragraph 35 about how you
13 tried to obtain your records of your time in care and
14 you instructed a solicitor in [REDACTED] to try to get your
15 records, but you have never ever been able to get any
16 records and I have shown you what little records the
17 Inquiry have --

18 **A. Yes, uh-huh.**

19 Q. -- of your time there, HIA52, and I know for you one of
20 the issues that you have is, as you came into the home
21 at age 14 months, where were you before that?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. Unfortunately no-one has ever been able to tell you
24 that.

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. I have indicated to you that in their final paragraph of
2 their statement the congregation have said that they
3 offer you a profound -- unreserved and sincere apology
4 for any treatment you received by any Sister which fell
5 below the acceptable standard. I know you have a view
6 about such an apology, HIA52.

7 **A. Well, I don't accept an apology. I mean, you know,
8 "sorry" is just words. They're cheap, you know.**

9 Q. That brings me on to the question that we ask all of
10 those who come to speak to the Inquiry. We have to --
11 at the end of the Inquiry's work the Panel has to make
12 recommendations as to -- to the Northern Ireland
13 Executive about what should happen in respect of those
14 children, like yourself, who spent time in institutions.
15 That may well be by way of an apology, or a memorial, or
16 some sort of redress, compensation or the like. What
17 are your views about that, HIA52?

18 **A. I don't accept an apology. I actually think the
19 memorial, no. No-one remembered us as kids. Why do
20 a memorial now when we're all big people? I think the
21 congregation should be named and shamed. I would prefer
22 that. Name and shame these people that done these
23 things to us.**

24 Q. There was one other thing that you felt was important,
25 because I was asking about -- you felt about the lack

1 education that you were saying --

2 A. Oh, yes, yes, because, you know, the lack of education
3 did affect the rest of my life, because we all know if
4 you've got a good education, you can go -- you can be
5 whatever you want to be. I have always wanted to be
6 either a journalist or an archaeologist and I never got
7 the opportunity to even try and do that because of my
8 lack of education. I didn't have the funds myself to
9 even put me through even if I wanted to educate myself
10 and be what I wanted to be in my life.

11 Q. You feel that compensation would help redress that. Is
12 that correct?

13 A. Yes. I think compensation would be a good thing -- do
14 you know what I mean -- because I didn't get -- I didn't
15 get a good job, you know. I have done a lot of menial
16 jobs, which I felt through the lack of education that's
17 where I ended up, you know, and so I wasn't able to earn
18 a good living, you know. I just lived from day to day,
19 and, you know, if they were able to take for my keep out
20 of thrupence and not give me the change, I think they
21 owe me something now.

22 Q. Well, HIA52, I have nothing else that I want to ask you,
23 but is there anything that you feel you haven't covered
24 as we have gone through your statement or is there
25 anything else that you'd like to say? Now is the

1 opportunity for you to do that.

2 **A. Oh, God! My mind's gone blank. Oh, I think that's it.**
3 **I can't think straight.**

4 Q. Okay. Well, thank you, HIA52. The Panel may have some
5 questions for you.

6 Questions from THE PANEL

7 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA52. That was very
8 helpful. Can I just ask: one of the things we have
9 heard is about children being brought together to
10 observe a beating, not just seeing children being beaten
11 as it happened, but actually being brought together into
12 a hall to see that. Do you remember that?

13 **A. Yes. You would often see children being beaten, yes.**

14 Q. But as opposed to seeing them being beaten, do you
15 remember actually being brought together specifically to
16 see a child being beaten as opposed to just seeing it
17 happening around you? If you don't, it's fine. It is
18 just if you're --

19 **A. No.**

20 Q. No. That's great. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA52, those are all the questions we have
22 to ask you today. I'm sure you will be relieved to hear
23 that.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. We can gather from what you have said you have obviously

