

- - - - -  
HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY  
- - - - -

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at  
Banbridge Court House  
Banbridge

on Monday, 9th March 2015

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 99)

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

1 Monday, 9th March 2015

2 (10.00 am)

3 WITNESS HIA61 (called)

4 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. May I start,  
5 as always, by reminding everyone to ensure that their  
6 mobile phones are either turned off or placed on  
7 "Silent"/"Vibrate" and to remind you that no photography  
8 nor any recording can be performed either in the chamber  
9 or indeed anywhere on the Inquiry premises. Good  
10 morning, Ms Smith.

11 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and  
12 gentlemen. Our first witness today is HIA61. She is  
13 HIA61. HIA61 wishes to take a religious oath and she  
14 also wishes to maintain her anonymity.

15 WITNESS HIA61 (sworn)

16 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please sit down, HIA61. Now, HIA61,  
17 if at any stage you have difficulty hearing what anybody  
18 is saying, please tell us.

19 **A. Okay.**

20 **Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY**

21 MS SMITH: Now, HIA61, just before we come to your evidence  
22 I'm going to tell the Panel Members where certain  
23 documents relevant to your evidence are in our bundle of  
24 papers and just give them page numbers.

25 HIA61's statement can be found at SNB-766 to 778.

1 The congregation's response is at SNB-2148 to 2151.

2 The Health & Social Care Board have a response in at  
3 5667 to 5668. They indicate that they have no records,  
4 and although HIA61 refers to a social worker in her  
5 statement, it is unclear as to the -- who that person  
6 was.

7 There's a Letter of Claim at SNB-70570.

8 HIA61 brought some photographs along to the Inquiry,  
9 which can be found at SNB-18406 to 18413, and she also  
10 provided us with some medical records, which are at  
11 SNB-32040 to 32052.

12 Now if we could put up HIA61's statement on the  
13 screen, please, at 766 and, HIA61, you recall see here  
14 that this is the witness statement that you provided for  
15 the Inquiry, and you will see that instead of your name  
16 it says "The Witness Statement of HIA61", and you're  
17 aware that that's the reference number we have given to  
18 protect your identity.

19 If we could just go to the last page, please, at  
20 778, and, HIA61, can I ask you to confirm that this --  
21 you signed this statement on 22nd October 2014?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. And this is the statement of evidence that you wish the  
24 Inquiry to consider together with anything else you tell  
25 us this morning?

1   **A.   Yes.**

2   Q.   If we just go back to the first page, page 766, now your  
3       personal details, HIA61, are set out here in  
4       paragraphs 1 and 2.  You were taken to Nazareth House  
5       when your mother sadly died.

6   **A.   Yes.**

7   Q.   I know you talk about your sisters in this statement,  
8       but it is true you also had a brother who was also taken  
9       into care --

10  **A.   Yes.**

11  Q.   -- at the same time.

12  **A.   Yes.**

13  Q.   You believe that he went to Kircubbin.

14  **A.   Yes.**

15  Q.   You yourself were in Nazareth House you believe from  
16       1961 to 1971 --

17  **A.   Yes.**

18  Q.   -- or thereabouts.  Now the congregation's registers  
19       show that certainly you went in in June 1961.  They  
20       don't have you leaving the home, but they have your  
21       older sister, HIA63, leaving in 1967 and your younger  
22       sister, HIA62, leaving in 1974.

23  **A.   Yes.**

24  Q.   But they think that you might have left in about 1970.  
25       Would that --

1 **A. '70, yes, when I was 16.**

2 Q. You were 16. You are now aged 60. Is that -- that's  
3 correct, isn't it?

4 **A. Well, I was born in . So I think I left about a year**  
5 **just before my 16th birthday.**

6 Q. Well, in paragraph 3 here you talk about being taken to  
7 Nazareth House and your younger sister being put in with  
8 the babies, and then just a day or two later you and  
9 your older sister were taken you think it was to  
10 Glenariff, but somewhere in the countryside. When you  
11 came back, you went to see your younger sister:

12 "... but there were rails between us."

13 You say:

14 "In the garden there were big metal railings between  
15 the nursery and the older girls' section. So if we were  
16 all out in the garden at the same time, we could see  
17 each other, but we weren't allowed to touch apart from  
18 our hands."

19 You say:

20 "She was crying when we left her and we didn't want  
21 to let go of her hands."

22 You say:

23 "She remained in the nursery until she was aged  
24 about 5 and we didn't have any contact with her other  
25 than when we were in the garden."

1           You remember being pulled away from her on one  
2 occasion by a nun, who you think was -- and you will see  
3 that we have given the nuns designations -- SR31, but  
4 from your own statement there you can see that that was  
5 SR31.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Now, HIA61, I'm going to use the names of people,  
8 because it's easier, but those names are not to be used  
9 outside this room. They're not to be identified outside  
10 of this room.

11           Now -- excuse me -- the congregation have said that  
12 -- they apologise for the separation of families. They  
13 say that families were grouped according to age rather  
14 than family groups, or the children were, I should say,  
15 but they say that it was common for siblings to visit  
16 each other. Do you ever remember being able to visit  
17 your younger sister?

18 **A. I don't remember ever going to see her. I remember**  
19 **playing in the garden when she came out. She put her**  
20 **hand through the railings, but I don't ever remember**  
21 **going to the nursery to visit her.**

22 Q. Paragraphs 4 and 5 here you describe that:

23           "There were three groups in the home with a nun in  
24 charge of each group."

25           You name the three nuns as SR116, SR134 and SR31.

1 That's SR116, SR134 and SR31.

2 "Each group had approximately 33 children and each  
3 group was on a different floor in the home and had its  
4 own dormitory."

5 You go on to say that:

6 "We were all given numbers which the nuns would use  
7 to identify us, but at a later stage they started to use  
8 our surnames."

9 You do say that your sister, your older sister,  
10 remembers being called by a number, but you would be  
11 more familiar -- you remember being called by your  
12 surname rather than a number. Is that correct?

13 **A. Yes, my surname. More so SR116. She would call me by**  
14 **my -- I don't remember her ever calling me by my full**  
15 **name.**

16 Q. You say that you were in SR 194 group, of  
17 which she was in charge. That's SR116.

18 **A. No. SR31 was in charge of SR 194 and then**  
19 **I got put into SR116's -- SR134's group, but for some**  
20 **reason I don't -- SR116 was just always there. Whenever**  
21 **I looked she was at the back of me. It was ...**

22 Q. Well, the nun, whoever it was was in charge of your  
23 group, had a cell in your dormitory.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. You say:

1 "She would keep watch on us and make sure we were in  
2 bed."

3 You say:

4 "The dormitories were like hospitals with about  
5 thirty wee iron beds and you had to paint your beds  
6 cream every summer."

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. You say SR116 taught the infants and you were in her  
9 class.

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. Now the congregation have said that the children  
12 wouldn't have been expected to paint their beds every  
13 summer, HIA61. Is there anything you want to tell us  
14 about that?

15 **A. To my knowledge I remember we had to wash them and then  
16 we used to paint them cream. That's what I remember.**

17 Q. I think you said you actually enjoyed doing it.

18 **A. Yes, I liked doing it, yes. It was nice, just fun to  
19 have a bit of paint. Just it was something different.**

20 Q. The congregation have also said that names were only  
21 ever used for laundry in the home, that children were  
22 called by their first names, and that while a particular  
23 nuns might have called you by your surname, that wasn't  
24 the common practice in the home. Is that your  
25 recollection?

1    **A.**  I can't ever remember, to be honest, people using my  
2           full name a lot.  I always remember just, "HIA61", "Come  
3           here, HIA61", "Do this, HIA61".  I don't remember really  
4           a lot of them using my name, my first name.

5    **Q.**  Well, paragraph 6 of your statement here you talk about  
6           the routine.  You say you got up at 6.45 in the morning.  
7           You had to pull your bedsheets back and the nuns would  
8           come round to inspect the beds.  You yourself only ever  
9           wet your bed once and that was at a time when you were  
10          in Sister -- sorry -- I beg your pardon -- SR134's  
11          group.

12   **A.**  **Yes.**

13   **Q.**  You remember sweating and hoping SR134 would pass you  
14          by.  You say she pushed you out of the way and felt your  
15          bed.  She then grabbed you by the back of your head and  
16          stuck your nose in the bedsheets and rubbed your face in  
17          it and then pulled you back by your hair.  You said if  
18          you had to wet -- if you wet the bed, you had to take  
19          your sheets off and leave them on the floor.  You say  
20          that it was as if you were being marked out so everyone  
21          would know what you had done and you would be teased by  
22          the other girls.  You had to make your beds after they  
23          were inspected.

24                 Now you know that we have asked the congregation for  
25                 their response to things that you have said and they

1 have said that they cannot accept that this, having your  
2 nose rubbed in the wet sheet, happened, and they have  
3 also said that wet sheets were put on the floor not to  
4 humiliate children, but simply for laundry purposes, so  
5 they could be brought to the laundry to be cleaned.

6 **A. Well, I mean, the sad thing is about it the nun that**  
7 **actually did it isn't alive today, but that did happen**  
8 **and, you know, I'll never forget it, because even now,**  
9 **like, sometimes at night if I'm in bed, if I feel I need**  
10 **to go, I run out, and I am still sort of scared I might**  
11 **wet myself, but it was SR134 obviously. From what**  
12 **I remember then, you know, it wasn't so much like the**  
13 **girls teased each other, but children are cruel, aren't**  
14 **they? They'd walk by and say, "Oh, yeah" and you'd**  
15 **know, you know, people would know I'd wet my bed. It's**  
16 **humiliating. That's the way that I remember it.**

17 **Q. You do talk in a later paragraph about the effect that**  
18 **that particular incident has had on your life.**

19 You go on to say that:

20 "After the beds were inspected you then had to wash  
21 and SR134 would inspect you. She would point at you and  
22 you would have to put out your hands, turn them over so  
23 she could look at your arms and then show your necks.  
24 If you had a mark on your neck, she would scrub it  
25 again, but she would use a scrubbing brush meant for the

1 floor and your neck would bleed."

2 Now again the congregation have said that they don't  
3 accept that that would have happened.

4 **A. The congregation obviously they won't, because there was**  
5 **only SR134 that was there at the time. SR134 had**  
6 **something about -- I don't know -- you had a dirty neck,**  
7 **and I do remember to this day scrubbing my neck and it**  
8 **was like a hand scrubbing brush, and my neck was all**  
9 **bleeding from it. Even now, like, when I shower, I**  
10 **always sort of look in the mirror and make sure my**  
11 **neck's clean.**

12 **Q.** They also -- you go on to talk about the fact that you  
13 were only given a certain number of sanitary towels when  
14 you had your periods and that there was an underwear  
15 inspection every week.

16 Again the congregation don't -- they say that  
17 they're sorry that children weren't provided with  
18 sufficient sanitary protection, and they don't accept  
19 that this was a common practice, this underwear  
20 inspection, but you certainly remember it?

21 **A. I remember, because we went to St. Monica's and some of**  
22 **the girls would come by and they'd go, "Phew! Can you**  
23 **smell them? Convert girls". They knew us because we**  
24 **all wore the same shoes. It was like we were picked**  
25 **out.**

1 Q. You go on to talk about the religious devotion in the  
2 home both here and in paragraph 8 and later in  
3 paragraph 27. You said:

4 "There was mass every morning at 7.15 am. We also  
5 had to say the rosary most evenings before bed and we  
6 would take turns saying the decades. We had to go to  
7 mass twice on Sundays in the morning and again in the  
8 afternoon for benediction. Sometimes you would even  
9 have to go to mass three times in the one day, but that  
10 was infrequent. On occasions the nuns would want music  
11 for their mass and some girls would be brought up to  
12 sing for them or to pump the organ."

13 The congregation have said mass was not a daily  
14 requirement for children. They might have been  
15 encouraged to go every day during Lent but not every day  
16 in the home. Is there anything you want to say about  
17 that, HIA61?

18 **A. I don't ever remember having a choice of not going. You**  
19 **always had to go to church. You had to go to mass when**  
20 **mass was happening. There was like there was a mass**  
21 **every day. There'd be one, like, for Our Lady's group,**  
22 **Sacred Heart's group and St. Anne's. They would rotate**  
23 **it. Sometimes, like, if -- for instance, if SR134 or**  
24 **any of the nuns would come by and say, "Right. You can**  
25 **go today as well. You can go the rest of the week". If**

1           **they thought you had been naughty or something, you**  
2           **would go every day.**

3    Q.    So they -- if I have got this right, HIA61, what you are  
4           saying is the three groups would have taken it in turns  
5           to go to mass?

6    A.    **St. Anne's and Our Lady's and Sacred Heart's.**

7    Q.    Was that one day at a time, or one week at a time, or  
8           how did that rota work?

9    A.    **That was every day. It would be like St. Anne's group**  
10           **today and Our Lady's tomorrow and then Sacred Heart the**  
11           **next day, and then it would go again. Then everybody**  
12           **went on Sunday. Then sometimes on Sunday afternoon,**  
13           **like, we'd have Benediction and then in the evening we'd**  
14           **have more prayers, because it was Sunday.**

15   Q.    What you are saying is that if the nun felt that you  
16           needed to go more often than every other day --

17   A.    **If she thought you'd been naughty.**

18   Q.    -- she would tell you to go all week?

19   A.    **Yes, yes.**

20   Q.    Paragraph 9 here you talk about the food in the home.  
21           You say that you remember one occasion you were trying  
22           to eat the burnt porridge that was given for breakfast.  
23           Another nun whom you name there, SR116, grabbed your  
24           hair and started feeding you the porridge with a spoon.  
25           You say she just kept pushing it into your mouth:

1           "... even though I hadn't finished what I was  
2           eating",

3           and you were nearly sick.

4           "She just kept scraping the porridge and feeding it  
5           to me until the plate was clean."

6           She did that to you on more than one occasion. We  
7           were talking earlier. I said to you that the  
8           congregation don't accept that any child was ever force  
9           fed food in the home.

10   **A. The sad thing about this was it is SR116 and I remember**  
11   **it as clear as day. All my life I've suffered with**  
12   **food, because when she fed me, I had long hair, and she**  
13   **was feeding me and I couldn't eat it. I was being sick.**  
14   **She pulled my hair back, and the porridge was lumpy and**  
15   **it was a bit burnt, and I remember going like that**  
16   **(gasping). It was SR116 all the time. So all the**  
17   **congregation can't have been there at the same time.**  
18   **Normally there might be one or two nuns in the dining**  
19   **room, but SR116 she did it, and I remember, and all my**  
20   **life now -- even then -- I struggle with food. I won't**  
21   **eat any food that's thick or fat. It has to be thin**  
22   **food so I know I'm going to swallow it.**

23   **Q. You say that you do remember Sunday dinners being quite**  
24   **nice.**

25   **A. Yes, it was, yes.**

1 Q. You talk about sometimes getting a bowl of chicken soup,  
2 chicken and vegetables and Sunday evening there was spam  
3 salad.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. You do remember getting a fried egg on Christmas  
6 morning, which you all looked forward to.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. But don't remember the Christmas dinner.

9 **A. I have to be honest. I don't, no. I mean, we did go**  
10 **out to a lot of Christmas parties. You know, like**  
11 **people from charity places would have parties and we'd**  
12 **go to Christmas parties.**

13 Q. I take it they were good fun?

14 **A. They were good fun, yes. Everybody wanted to go to**  
15 **Mackie's I think it was or Mackie's, because they were**  
16 **the most generous. They used to give us nice food and**  
17 **presents.**

18 Q. Did every girl in the home get to go to these parties,  
19 HIA61, or were there just certain people who got to go?

20 **A. I think there was so many parties and so many of us went**  
21 **to so many.**

22 Q. You talk here in paragraph 10 about you did get to play  
23 a bit, but most of your spare time was spent doing  
24 chores. You say:

25 "After school we would be sent to sweep the

1 corridors, clean the bathrooms or wax and polish the  
2 floors."

3 You say that you worked in the old people's home  
4 from about the age of 7. You would have to set the  
5 tables for their meals, and you liked it, because the  
6 old people shouted, and you didn't have to worry about  
7 your poor hearing. I am going to come back to the issue  
8 of your hearing in due course.

9 You said sometimes you were sent to work with the  
10 old men, but you didn't like that, because they tried to  
11 touch you, and none of the girls liked being sent to the  
12 old men. You say that another nun whom you name here  
13 knew that you preferred working with the women. So she  
14 would send you back over to the women's section. Did  
15 she know because you told her? Did this nun know you  
16 preferred to work with the women or how do you know that  
17 she knew you preferred women?

18 **A. Well, there was an old men's part and then St. Basil's**  
19 **was another ladies' part. It hadn't been long built and**  
20 **was all new there and it was nice. There was just**  
21 **something about the old men -- the men's. I didn't get**  
22 **a nice feel. When you walked by, they would just touch**  
23 **your leg. I just asked if I could work in the -- you**  
24 **know, in the other part with the old ladies.**

25 **Q. You also say that once a week you had to clean the organ**

1 in the church and polish the chalice. You say:

2 "SR134 would look after the children cleaning the  
3 first six rows, SR31 would supervise the children on the  
4 next six rows",

5 and you say:

6 "Sometimes if the nuns left their glasses sitting  
7 down, we would peek into it to find out their real  
8 name."

9 Those of us I was saying who are old enough to  
10 remember when the optician gave you glasses with  
11 a little white strip --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- where the name could be written, and that's where you  
14 found out the names from, that strip. Is that correct?

15 **A. Yes, because you could be in the church a long time and,  
16 you know, we knew where all the nuns sat. We'd just  
17 have a peek. You know, I mean, I did get caught and  
18 caught smacked, but yes.**

19 Q. You were saying you were on one occasion caught by  
20 SR134. She nipped you on the neck. You give what you  
21 believe the real names of the nuns were there in that --  
22 the rest of that paragraph.

23 You also talk about having to do gardening in the  
24 autumn. You enjoyed that. You were kicking up the  
25 leaves, but if that -- if you were seen doing that, you

1 were clapped over the head.

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. You say you weren't really allowed to laugh or ...

4 **A. Yes. It depends sometimes which nuns were out, you**  
5 **know. Some would just leave us to it and if some of**  
6 **them thought you were having a good time, you'd just get**  
7 **a smack and tell you to stop laughing.**

8 Q. Just to deal with these paragraphs, the congregation  
9 have said that the children would have had to do chores,  
10 but they would have been age-appropriate chores, and  
11 that children who worked in the old people's home would  
12 be merely helping out the lay staff and the Sisters who  
13 worked there. Would you accept the chores you were  
14 given were appropriate for your age?

15 **A. Sorry. Can you read that statement?**

16 Q. Sorry. Would you accept that the chores that were given  
17 to you as a child in the home were appropriate for the  
18 age you were at that time?

19 **A. Can you read that paragraph again, Christine, where you**  
20 **said --**

21 Q. Sorry. I will read it from what the congregation said  
22 exactly, so that you know what I'm saying.

23 What the congregation say is that they accept that  
24 the children were given chores to do within the home.

25 "However, these chores were not considered

1 excessive. Whilst HIA61 might have helped in the old  
2 people's home, she would have been merely assisting  
3 a lay staff member or Sister in carrying out their  
4 duties."

5 **A. Many a time you weren't. You were on your own. The**  
6 **nuns weren't always there. You had to do things by**  
7 **yourself, you know, the chores. There wasn't always**  
8 **somebody to supervise you.**

9 Q. You talk here in paragraph 13 about how the nuns used to  
10 frighten you when there was a thunderstorm. You  
11 remember being told that there was no point in trying to  
12 get you to listen to -- one nun telling another nun  
13 there was no point trying to get you to listen, because  
14 you wouldn't be able to hear the thunder.

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. When you were talking earlier, you said that this  
17 happened after an incident in the bathroom --

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. -- which I'm going to come to in a moment.

20 You say you were always picked on by SR116 for some  
21 reason.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. You say that she really took against you and as far as  
24 you were concerned she was the worst nun. You say:

25 "She was always beating you over the head and

1 smacking you across the ear. Sometimes she just hit you  
2 with her hand and sometimes she used the metal crucifix  
3 of her rosary beads, her big leather belt or a big bunch  
4 of keys."

5 You say that the would be around the  
6 home, but you don't ever remember her being there  
7 whenever SR116 was beating you.

8 You describe SR31 as being quite sly when she was  
9 being cruel.

10 "She would do things, give you a smack over the head  
11 when there was no-one else around."

12 You go on to talk about the incident I have been  
13 referring to in the bathroom. You were standing in the  
14 bathroom and you didn't hear SR116 when she spoke to  
15 you. You got a whack to the side of the head and you  
16 fell to the floor after hitting your head off the metal  
17 part of the mirror. Your head was bleeding, and you  
18 remember waking up in bed with a bandage over the left  
19 side of your head. You say you started to have  
20 difficulties with your hearing after this.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. Now that's not quite right, HIA61, because when we were  
23 talking earlier, what you have since learnt --

24 **A. Yes. It is obviously out of sequence in this statement,**  
25 **isn't it?**

1 Q. Yes, but what you were saying earlier was you had  
2 a hearing difficulty that was progressive, but that this  
3 particular incident made it much worse.

4 A. Yes. The hearing -- I didn't have a hearing problem  
5 when I went into the convent. I got it sort of over  
6 time I think with the beatings from SR116. When I went  
7 to the Royal Victoria Hospital to have a hearing test,  
8 the first thing he said to me was, "Who has been -- have  
9 you fallen? Have you banged your head? Has somebody  
10 beat you over the head?" and then gradually from then  
11 I had a hearing test, and I had to go back again in  
12 a few months, but because of the beatings, it got worse,  
13 and now obviously I'm left with two hearing aids.

14 Q. You talk about this and what happened about getting  
15 treatment while you were in Nazareth House for the  
16 hearing difficulties. You said that -- excuse me -- at  
17 paragraph 16 there you were -- excuse me -- you couldn't  
18 ever hear at school and it was because you couldn't hear  
19 in school you were actually sent to the Royal Victoria  
20 Hospital about your hearing. You think you were about  
21 age 8 or 9. You were brought by a lady who always took  
22 you for your medical appointments. You think she may  
23 have been called \_\_\_\_\_, but you have no idea who that  
24 lady was.

25 A. No. Sometimes people used to come in and help out, you

1       **know, and they would take us just for, like,**  
2       **appointments anywhere we had to go.**

3    Q.   You talk here about the conversation you had with the  
4       doctor.  You actually told the doctor that one of the  
5       nuns did hit you over the head.

6    A.   **He asked me and I just said,"Yes.  One of the nuns hit**  
7       **me, has been hitting me over the head".**

8    Q.   You said when you got back to the convent, you were told  
9       that you had to go back to the hospital and tell the  
10      doctor that you'd been telling lies.

11   A.   **Uh-huh.**

12   Q.   You were told that by SR116.  You said you weren't  
13      telling lies and she was always hitting you.  You  
14      remember going back for tests and operations and always  
15      wearing bandages and the doctors would say they would  
16      ring the convent with results.  You knew that when you  
17      went down for supper, you were in trouble, because SR116  
18      would point at you.  You had to wait in her cell.  You  
19      remember one night you had to wait -- kneel outside her  
20      cell all night, because she forgot about you.

21   A.   **She forgot about me, yes.**

22   Q.   When you say that you knew you were in trouble -- HIA61,  
23      are you okay?  Do you need to take a break?

24   A.   **No.  I'm all right.**

25   Q.   Okay.  When you say you knew you were in trouble, why

1 were you in trouble? Is it because you weren't doing  
2 well in these hearing tests?

3 A. I don't know. She just like -- SR116 sort of I felt had  
4 been sent there just to sort of beat me and abuse me.  
5 Wherever I went, wherever I looked she was there. She  
6 just sort of -- I don't know. I asked her once why she  
7 hit me and she was hitting me more. I just tried --  
8 I knew -- sometimes when none of the children were  
9 around I would go down and knock on her cell and see if  
10 I could do anything nice for her and maybe she would  
11 leave me alone. She never did.

12 Q. You talk about at 19 the fact you were so fearful of  
13 trying to do well in the tests that you then tapped  
14 everything. The doctor said the nuns wouldn't be happy  
15 because you were lying during the test. So you felt you  
16 were in a catch-22 situation, if I can put it that way.  
17 You couldn't -- you just couldn't win with these hearing  
18 tests.

19 A. When I went for the hearing test, you got a pencil and  
20 you have to tap the desk every time you hear a noise.  
21 When the doctor came out, he said, "This is not very  
22 good. I will have to see you again". When I went back  
23 to the convent, SR116 and SR31 were waiting for me.  
24 I don't know whether -- he must have rang them, and  
25 SR116 just said to me that I would have to go back next

1 time and do better. So when I went back the next time,  
2 I just tapped the pencil a whole lot of times and  
3 I didn't really hear the noise, but I thought, "Well,  
4 I'm trying to do it right so I won't get smacked again",  
5 and then when I went back to the convent, Sister -- he  
6 said to me, "The nuns are not going to be happy, because  
7 you're telling lies. You're tapping the desk when  
8 you're not hearing anything". SR116 said, "When you go  
9 back again, the ..." --

10 Q. Sorry, HIA61. Just take your time. If you want to take  
11 a break, HIA61, just say. We can take a short break if  
12 you feel you want to.

13 A. Then I'd get beat again, and I had to --

14 Q. HIA61, do you --

15 A. -- I had to try and -- I was trying to make things  
16 better for myself, but I just made it worse, because  
17 I thought if I tapped the pencil, like pretend that I've  
18 heard it, she might leave me alone.

19 Q. HIA61, you talked in another paragraph, paragraph 20,  
20 about being given a hearing aid --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- and about how this particular nun -- you tried to  
23 hide the hearing aid. You had long hair and we can look  
24 at a photograph which shows that you had long hair and  
25 you tried to hide it.

1 **A. SR116 again.**

2 Q. Again she made you pull your hair back and made you pull  
3 your jumper back so that all the other girls in class  
4 could see the hearing aid. That you felt humiliated  
5 you. You said that she used to say -- she did it  
6 intentionally to embarrass you. Your nickname then was  
7 -- when you were little was . You said she  
8 described you as hopeless. She told you that you'd go  
9 nowhere in life. She used to threaten you with the Good  
10 Shepherd across the road.

11 **A. She said I'd go over there where all the backward girls**  
12 **were.**

13 Q. You say that the difficulty -- the hearing then caused  
14 a difficulty, because you had a lovely singing voice,  
15 which -- you then weren't able to sing, because you  
16 couldn't hear the music --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- and you couldn't come in at the right time. So you  
19 missed out on that pleasure in life as a result.

20 Paragraph 22, as I say, you said about how SR116  
21 made your life hell. On one occasion you say that you  
22 were in the bathroom and she called you. You didn't  
23 hear her. So she just came in behind you and pulled you  
24 by the hair. You told her that you couldn't hear her,  
25 but she just told you to wait in the corner and she

1 would give you your punishment later. You had to go  
2 over to the old people's part of convent where one of  
3 the residents had died. You were fond of this -- it was  
4 an old lady who had died. You weren't aware that she  
5 had passed away, and your punishment along with another  
6 girl whom you name there was to lift this lady's body in  
7 and out of the bath, bathe her with cotton wool. Then  
8 she was laid out on a table, and you had to comb her  
9 hair, put powder on her face and put a shroud on her.  
10 You remember that the girl that you were with wanted --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- her glasses and you wanted her hearing aid, but it  
13 didn't fit you.

14 **A. The girl I had to help me with, NHB 126 , she**  
15 **was . She was really, really bad tempered,**  
16 **and sometimes she would get really cross with the nuns,**  
17 **and she once lifted a chair up, you know, in anger. We**  
18 **went over here. We just didn't know what to do. It was**  
19 **the one and only time that I had to do it, but**  
20 **I remember , because she was 99 and she had no**  
21 **legs. She had just two stumps up to here. We had to go**  
22 **over and bathe her. On the side was this big thing with**  
23 **a radio. NHB 126 said, "You can have that as**  
24 **a hearing aid and I'll have her glasses", because she**  
25 **was waiting<sup>1</sup> for some new glasses. Then they gave us**

1 (inaudible) powder to put on her and lay her out, but  
2 then she came over, and because we hadn't put any cotton  
3 wool in the other places -- we didn't know -- we got  
4 beaten again.

5 But we had to pray every day, because we used to  
6 call it the dead house where the bodies used to be when  
7 the old people died. It was in the garden, but it was  
8 like a dead -- like, they called it the dead house, and  
9 we had to pray every day when we went by there, if any  
10 of us were outside, had to pray for which --  
11 I liked , because I knew her when I was in the old  
12 people's. I was only little -- I don't know -- 9 or 10,  
13 but to this day I still remember.

14 Q. You go on to talk in the next paragraph about how, you  
15 know, you did try to get on to SR116's good side, as  
16 you've described. You say that you find it difficult to  
17 talk about her and you always wondered how holy people  
18 could act in the way they did, especially when they were  
19 looking after children. You say she was always in your  
20 head. So you tried to find out about her.

21 Now what you relate here in paragraph 25, I asked  
22 you when we were speaking earlier how you learned what  
23 you did about this particular nun, HIA61.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You say that your sister was friendly with another nun,

1 SR153.

2 A. Yes. Our HIA62 -- SR153 had came just as I was leaving,  
3 I think about 1970. She was like a breath of fresh air.  
4 Our HIA62 always got on well with her. She's kept in  
5 touch with her. She lost touch with her for a lot of  
6 years, but then she found out that she was in  
7 , Nazareth House in , and she went  
8 to see her down there. She said that if we were ever in  
9 London, we could go in and see her and stay with her for  
10 a week-end or -- so I did go down and see her, and after  
11 a few times I mentioned it, because she was talking to  
12 me, and she said to me, "Are you a bit deaf?" and  
13 I explained everything what had happened. She was  
14 obviously very, very shocked. She didn't -- wasn't  
15 aware things like that went on, but it was before her  
16 time. I told her it was SR116. She said she would  
17 speak to the Reverend Mother there. When she came back,  
18 she said she spoke to the Reverend Mother and the  
19 Reverend Mother would try and contact SR116 and find out  
20 a bit more about this.

21 So the time that I was there the Reverend Mother  
22 didn't come to see me, but I went back down to see  
23 SR153. She said she had some information. SR116 had  
24 been entered as a novice into the convent at 18 by her  
25 German father, who had a problem. So

1 I just -- and she had been all around the world. She  
2 had been to nearly every Nazareth House in the world,  
3 because everywhere she'd went she has had problems and  
4 they have had to move her all the time and they have had  
5 to change her name. So right now, to be honest, I don't  
6 know what her name is.

7 Then I'd got a card in the post and it said --  
8 I tried to find it and I can't. It just said, "Dear  
9 HIA61, I'm very sorry for what happened to you as  
10 a child. I don't remember any of this, but if you said  
11 it happened, then it must be true. I hope in your heart  
12 you will forgive me and maybe some time in the future  
13 I will see you again."

14 Q. Did you ever see SR116 again?

15 A. I've never, no.

16 Q. Going back to your statement here, you say that you  
17 rarely had visitors, but there was an elderly couple who  
18 came to see you in the home. Although you thought at  
19 the time they were your grandparents --

20 A. Oh, yes, yes.

21 Q. -- it actually turned out they were actually a great  
22 aunt and uncle.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You say you were punished after they left, because you  
25 would ask for things in front of them, because you felt

1 the nuns couldn't say "No", like could you go out into  
2 the garden, but that that had consequences afterwards.

3 Now the congregation have said that:

4 "The girls were given privacy for visits, that they  
5 were left alone either in a reception room or out in the  
6 grounds."

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Is that your memory of these visits?

9 **A. A few times of my -- that they came to see us, which**  
10 **wasn't often, because they were very old, I just**  
11 **remember seeing them in a room.**

12 Q. You do remember -- paragraph 28 there you talk about how  
13 you pinched apples from the Holy Rosary next door.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. You were punished for that, and how you had to be  
16 careful when you ate the apples, because you had nowhere  
17 to hide the core afterwards.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. You remember one girl who put the -- she tried to throw  
20 the apple core down the toilet, but got caught, because  
21 it didn't flush obviously. She got a beating for that.

22 You talk in paragraph 29 about the fact that there  
23 were people who came to the home who were prospective  
24 adopters, but you and your younger sister refused to go,  
25 because you had an older sister still in the home and

1 you didn't want to leave her.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. You also -- you say -- when we were talking earlier, you  
4 said that they particularly wanted you two, because you  
5 were good singers.

6 **A. Yes. HIA62 and me liked to sing and they said it would  
7 be nice if they took us, because we could sing, you  
8 know, for the families, but we didn't want to go without  
9 HIA63, because we thought, "If we go, we mightn't see  
10 her again".**

11 Q. But you did go out to a family for the holidays, and you  
12 talk about this here in paragraph 30 and 31. You say  
13 that you were -- there was a family who lived in .  
14 You were about 8 or 9. They were very good to you when  
15 they took you out and gave you nice food and sweets, but  
16 as you didn't know you were supposed to share sweets,  
17 you wouldn't give any of their own children --

18 **A. We were selfish, because we didn't get them. We used to  
19 hide them, because we would make them last for a week.**

20 Q. You say that the woman of this home took you to  
21 to see her brother-in-law, was it,  
22 or her brother?

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. He was a . You think he was in his 30s. You didn't  
25 really know what you were doing there. He would take

1 you in one at a time. The first time you went in to see  
2 him he put you on his knee, talked to you. The second  
3 time he touched your legs and you describe what he did  
4 to you in the rest of that paragraph. You say that  
5 every time you pulled away, he took your hand and held  
6 it tighter.

7 You remember one occasion when your sister went with  
8 you. You remember that he tried to abuse her in the way  
9 he had been abusing you. You told him not to do it and  
10 pushed him away. This happened over a period of two or  
11 three years in respect of yourself, HIA61.

12 Now just to be clear, HIA62, your sister, does  
13 remember going to the , but has  
14 no memory of this at all.

15 **A. I think she was only about 4. She was only little,**  
16 **because the people that took us out of Newry, they just**  
17 **took HIA62 and me. They didn't take HIA63, because**  
18 **HIA63 was older. She went to someone else.**

19 Q. You talk here about another girl who you were in the  
20 home with, who years later told you that this particular  
21 had been arrested for abusing boys. That's where  
22 you got the information that you have recited in this  
23 paragraph --

24 **A. Um.**

25 Q. -- but, as I have explained to you, the Inquiry has

1       tried to find out who this man was, and to date we  
2       haven't been able to find out any more information about  
3       him. You have given another name and we will pursue  
4       that to see if we can find out that the name you had  
5       given initially was wrong or not.

6                What the congregation have said about this is that  
7       they are very shocked to learn that children who were in  
8       their care were abused in the way you have described and  
9       they offer you a sincere and profound apology for the  
10      fact that you suffered that type of abuse in their care.

11              You do have some good memories of your time in  
12      Nazareth House.

13   **A. Sorry?**

14   Q. You do have some good memories of your time, HIA61.

15   **A. Oh, yes, yes, yes.**

16   Q. You say birthdays weren't celebrated, but you remember  
17      feast days for the saints for whom the nuns were named  
18      after being celebrated. You remember the feast of  
19      St. Anthony of Assisi or would that be St. Francis of  
20      Assisi?

21   **A. Yes. SR31 and SR134, that was their feast day, 12th**  
22      **October, because they were like joined at the hip, them**  
23      **two. You know, they were really very close. They had**  
24      **the same birthday, same feast. They loved .**  
25      **Every time it was their feast day we always used to get**

1 to watch that film "Reach for the Sky" or "The 39  
2 Steps". I remember that.

3 Q. Do you remember was there any group celebration for  
4 girls' birthdays in the home?

5 A. I don't remember.

6 Q. You talk in paragraph 33 about doing Irish dancing, but  
7 say that if you didn't stand up straight, then the nuns  
8 would put a big black stick through the sleeves of your  
9 outfit across your back to make you stand up straight.  
10 You say that if you didn't, you were struck by SR134  
11 again with a -- across the knuckles with a metal spoon.

12 You remember a man who used to come into the home to  
13 teach you drama. He was a nice man?

14 A. NHB 127 , yes.

15 Q. The nuns have accepted -- they don't accept that this --  
16 as you describe it, that the black stick was put across  
17 your back to keep you standing up straight.

18 A. There again that was in a room just with SR134, because  
19 we had to practise the Irish dancing, you see, and you  
20 had to -- you had to stand up like that. She would say,  
21 "Right. Stand up. Stand straight", but if you went  
22 like that -- you had to close your feet, open your foot  
23 full and point your toe too, and if you weren't  
24 straight, then you got a black pole. So you have to be  
25 straight, and then if you don't, you didn't get -- if

1           **you did it again, then you got smacked with the spoon.**

2    Q.   Well, I mentioned the fact that you brought us some  
3           photographs and you brought some of a reunion that was  
4           organised by someone who was in the home at the same  
5           time as you were.

6           You also -- if I can just look at SNB-18413, this is  
7           a photograph we have seen before. You are actually in  
8           this photograph, HIA61.

9    **A.   Yes.**

10   Q.   Sorry. There should be a little cursor moving around.  
11           You are just to the left-hand side there. I think  
12           that's -- the little cursor is over you now. Isn't that  
13           correct?

14   **A.   Yes.**

15   Q.   We can see that you had long hair, as you were  
16           describing, to try to hide the hearing aid. You never  
17           put it back behind your ears. You always had it --

18   **A.   Because my hearing aid was like a transistor radio. It**  
19           **would go in my pocket and all the wire would be hanging**  
20           **down. I would try and push it back behind my hair and**  
21           **wear my jumper so nobody would see it, but then, like,**  
22           **SR116 made me take it off and tie my hair back and ...**

23   Q.   There is no hearing aid visible in this photograph,  
24           HIA61. Would you have been wearing it this day?

25   **A.   Yes.**

1 Q. You would have been?

2 **A. I can't remember.**

3 Q. The three nuns that we see in the photograph, can you  
4 remember who is who? The first one there just where the  
5 cursor is?

6 **A. SR134.**

7 Q. And the second one?

8 **A. SR31 and SR116.**

9 Q. So it's SR134, SR31 and SR116. You remember the names  
10 of some of the other children as well.

11 **A. Some of the children, yes.**

12 Q. We went through them. You think your sister HIA62 is  
13 right at the far side of the photograph.

14 **A. Yes. She just got in on the end there.**

15 Q. The one that we only see just sort of cut off at the  
16 edge.

17 You also brought to the Inquiry your medical notes  
18 and I am not going to go into those, but it is clear  
19 from those that as long ago as 1997/'98 --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- you were complaining about your time in Nazareth  
22 House to the doctors who were seeing you at that time.

23 **A. Yes. The first time I went for counselling was 1974.**  
24 **That was because of the sexual abuse, because I didn't**  
25 **sort of want to do anything, have sex or anything, and**

1       then because I got married, my husband had an affair  
2       within weeks of the marriage, and I was quite relieved,  
3       because I thought, "Well, he won't have to sleep with me  
4       and I can just, you know, have my house nice and clean  
5       and just ..." That was the first time. Then all  
6       through the years then I think just to -- just to  
7       survive life really I chose to go with counselling.

8    Q.   You talk about your life after care. I am not going to  
9       go into the details in paragraphs 32 to 44 of your  
10       statement, HIA61, but just in respect of paragraph 34 at  
11       776 you talk about your time when it came -- when you  
12       had left school and it came time to leave Nazareth  
13       House. You say that a social worker came to visit you  
14       --

15   A.   **Yes.**

16   Q.   -- when you were aged round 15. You say she got  
17       an interview for the Ormeau Bakery, but they wouldn't  
18       take you because you were Catholic. You got a job in  
19       another bakery, which, as you were describing to me,  
20       ironically was run by a Protestant family as well.

21   A.   **Yes.**

22   Q.   After you settled into the job the nuns helped you find  
23       accommodation.

24   A.   **Yes.**

25   Q.   But you felt that there was no preparation for leaving

1 Nazareth House.

2 **A.** I think what it was, when we got the cream bun in the  
3 convent, I just thought, "I am going to work in a bakery  
4 when I leave", so -- and I asked if I could work in the  
5 Ormeau Bakery and they said, "No", because it was  
6 a Protestant bakery. So then I got the job in the other  
7 bakery. I was left not very long. I was struggling  
8 with life on the outside. As much of -- we had been in  
9 the convent all them years. You don't think about when  
10 you get out. When you do get out, "I am scared out  
11 here. I want to go back". I do remember going back  
12 once and SR31 coming and I said to here, Could I come  
13 back?" and she said, "No, you have to make your own way  
14 now in life".

15 **Q.** As I say, you go on then to talk about what happened to  
16 you after that. This social worker who came to visit  
17 you in Nazareth House --

18 **A.** Now I am saying a social worker, Christine. Could be  
19 a woman. I'm just -- today it's a social worker. It  
20 might have been a social worker. It might have been  
21 a lady.

22 **Q.** It might have been the same lady who took you --

23 **A.** Yes.

24 **Q.** -- to the medical appointments or something like that.

25 **A.** Yes.

1 Q. You just don't know who she was.

2 **A. Yes. I can't remember. Just she would come and ask**  
3 **what you wanted to do when you were old enough to leave**  
4 **school. I just said I wanted to work in a bakery.**

5 Q. Well, HIA61, you will be glad to know there are very few  
6 questions left to ask you, but one of the things that we  
7 ask everybody who comes to speak to us is about the  
8 recommendations that this Inquiry has to make at the end  
9 of its work, whether that should be by way of some form  
10 of compensation, whether there should be a memorial,  
11 whether there should be an apology.

12 When we were talking earlier, I read out to you the  
13 apology that the congregation have offered to you for  
14 your time in care --

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- for anything that any Sister did to you that fell  
17 below the acceptable standard. So the Inquiry is very  
18 interested to know what you would like to see happen,  
19 HIA61.

20 **A. Well, I mean, I know we have had the apology. You know**  
21 **what I mean? I am 60 now. It's a bit late. I do feel**  
22 **there should be some kind of compensation, because, you**  
23 **know, my son is 28 and he has attempted suicide. He has**  
24 **had mental health problems all his life, which I think**  
25 **because of me, I have sheltered him, you know, and**

1 sometimes he will even say to me today, "Mum, if you go,  
2 I'm going too", but I feel sometimes if anything happens  
3 to me, you know, it would be something for him to help  
4 him to have a better life.

5 Q. HIA61, I don't mean to make this more difficult for you,  
6 but you have been talking about the effect that your  
7 time had. One of the things that's not in your  
8 statement but you told me was about the fact that you  
9 were never allowed to get your clothes dirty or soiled  
10 in any way in the home and even today that presents you  
11 with difficulties.

12 A. Yes. It is a bit problematic. You know, I love -- the  
13 one good thing I remember about the convent was SR190  
14 sometimes would let me help in the kitchen when I got  
15 a bit older. Marks & Spencer's were very good. They  
16 would give us all the food, and after that I thought,  
17 "When I get bigger, I am going to shop in here. I am  
18 going to buy some nice food here, nice clothes", and  
19 today to this day I am obsessed with Marks & Spencer's,  
20 but I can tell you I have got like probably two  
21 wardrobes of clothes that I have never worn, because I'm  
22 scared of getting them dirty. Like, you know, ,  
23 my son, said to me, "Mum" -- I mean, if I do wear them,  
24 I will go out and I'll be really careful and I'll come  
25 back and put my old clothes on. Then I'll think, "Well,

1 I am not going to get dirty now".

2 Then when I am in the car, which I told you, which  
3 I shouldn't do, I don't always wear my seatbelt, because  
4 I don't want to crease my clothes. said to me,

5 "Mum, if you ever went and I was here, what would you  
6 like me to put on your headstone?" You know, "Here lies  
7 HIA61 that died because she wouldn't wear a seatbelt,  
8 because she was scared to crease her blouse", and

9 is the same. He has two coats. He won't wear  
10 them because of me. We won't -- so sometimes like  
11 during the day if we get off, if I'm not working, we  
12 just stay in the house and close the blinds. You know,  
13 he has since been diagnosed as well with body  
14 dysmorphia, because he won't look in the mirror.

15 "I don't like the mirror. I don't like the way I feel."  
16 As he has got older and all this has come out, I thought  
17 it was like sort of reliving my life again with him and  
18 what he is going through now and I just feel so  
19 powerless. That's the only way I feel. If there was  
20 any kind of compensation would maybe help him if I'm not  
21 here.

22 Q. Okay. Well, HIA61, there's nothing else that I want to  
23 ask you, but is there anything that you feel we haven't  
24 covered about your time in Nazareth House or anything  
25 else that you want to say? Now is your opportunity to

1 say that. Certainly I have no further questions for  
2 you.

3 A. Not really. The only other thing was like I remember  
4 when I had gone to the hospital, you know, for my ears,  
5 and when I came back, SR116 said to me, "You have to do  
6 better next time", and then when I came back and they  
7 said that I was telling lies, and she made me kneel  
8 down. She'd throw half a bottle of holy water over me.  
9 She said, "You will stay there until I get the devil out  
10 of you". So I thought, "I am telling lies that I can  
11 hear and I can't, but I am trying to make her happy".  
12 Whatever I did was never right, but yet to this day  
13 I will go into church all the time. Any time if I go to  
14 church, I go when I need to go and I'll go in and I'll  
15 put holy water all over me and I will do it on my face  
16 as well. I still bless myself, every part of my face,  
17 and also because of , you know, with what happened  
18 with , if I'm out and about now, if I'm a bit fed  
19 up at home, I'll take a flask and I go to the graveyards  
20 where I live, because that's where I feel comfortable.  
21 I just like to sit there, just walk round the graves,  
22 and I know I shouldn't do it, but sometimes I take  
23 flowers off the rich graves and put them on the poor  
24 graves.

25 Q. Well, HIA61, I have nothing else that I want to ask you

1           today. The Panel members may have some questions for  
2           you. So just stay there.

3   **A. Thank you.**

4                                   **Questions from THE PANEL**

5   CHAIRMAN: Could we have the photograph at 18413 again,  
6           please? HIA61, would you just have a look at that?  
7           Judging by the tinsel we can see up in the corners, it  
8           looks as if it might have been about Christmas time or  
9           something.

10   **A. It looks like tinsel, doesn't it?**

11   Q. Yes. Can you remember roughly what age you are in that  
12           photograph?

13   **A. I think about 7 maybe.**

14   Q. About 7. Can I ask you something about the photograph  
15           itself? Do you remember that occasion? Was it  
16           a special day --

17   **A. No, I don't.**

18   Q. -- for some reason?

19   **A. No. I can't remember.**

20   Q. Do you have any idea who the gentleman is standing at  
21           the back looking up at the children on the slide between  
22           the nuns?

23   **A. No. I don't remember him.**

24   Q. No.

25   **A. I don't think it's        NHB 127        either, you know, our**

1 **drama teacher.**

2 Q. Yes.

3 **A. I don't think it's him. I can't remember really.**

4 Q. I suppose it might have been somebody who'd presented  
5 the slide, for example, but if you look at all the  
6 children, do you remember anything about the way you  
7 were normally dressed? I mean, were those special  
8 clothes for that occasion or was that just the way you  
9 were normally dressed when you weren't in school?

10 **A. We are all different clothes, aren't we?**

11 Q. Yes. It is not -- all the girls aren't wearing the same  
12 uniform, for example.

13 **A. No, they're not really uniforms. They are clothes,  
14 aren't they?**

15 Q. That's really what I want to ask you. When you weren't  
16 at the school, you know, when you came back, did you  
17 change into ordinary clothes?

18 **A. Sometimes we changed into play clothes --**

19 Q. Yes.

20 **A. -- to play out.**

21 Q. And --

22 **A. Do you know when we're in the garden, we have to tidy up  
23 the garden and things, we'd put on old clothes. I think  
24 we must have been dressed here for a special day for  
25 that photograph.**

1 Q. That's just what I wanted to ask you.

2 A. Yes, because we weren't normally always dressed as nice,  
3 and I remember that dress that I've got on me, because  
4 a lady bought me that. She used to know my mummy. She  
5 had a shop in . There was three sisters.  
6 They were called , and . They knew my  
7 mummy and they just came up one time and bought us all  
8 a new dress and then I never seen them after that  
9 anymore.

10 Q. So the dress you are wearing there you didn't see again,  
11 did you, once --

12 A. No.

13 Q. What do you think happened to it? Did you grow out of  
14 it or was it something else?

15 A. I can't remember.

16 Q. Can I ask you about something quite different? In your  
17 statement -- and if we can look at SNB-773, please --  
18 right at the bottom of the page, please, paragraph 28,  
19 HIA61, you see there you say there was a wall with  
20 barbed wire separating the home from the Holy Rosary.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Now we know the Holy Rosary was the church --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- just next to the --

25 A. Right next door, yes.

1 Q. -- Nazareth House going down towards the river on the  
2 same side. Isn't that right?

3 A. The river was a long way down.

4 Q. Yes, but it is the river side, not the country side --

5 A. Right.

6 Q. -- of the Nazareth House. Isn't that right? Was that  
7 barbed wire only just on that part of the wall?

8 A. I can't remember that, but I know the convent was sort  
9 of here and the barbed wire was there. We climbed over  
10 to get the apples.

11 Q. How did you manage to get over the barbed wire?

12 A. Well, we just pulled it down and we lifted -- we were  
13 only little. We were only wee. We were only children.  
14 We might climb -- we did climb over it and we got apples  
15 off the tree. We would come in with them all. We had  
16 nowhere to hide them. We used to put them down our  
17 knickers and we had to empty our knickers out in the  
18 dining room, because SR31 would see us coming back.

19 Q. You obviously remember the barbed wire. You mightn't be  
20 able to answer this question, but was there barbed wire  
21 round the rest of the Holy Rosary site?

22 A. I only remember the barbed wire on the left where I --  
23 where we climbed over to get apples, because sometimes  
24 we wouldn't have to go right over the barbed wire,  
25 because the apple tree would be -- and we'd just pull



1 MS SMITH: Chairman, if we take a short break, the next  
2 witness will be taken by Mr Aiken.

3 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Very well.

4 (11.30 am)

5 (Short break)

6 (11.40 am)

7 WITNESS HIA62 (called)

8 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

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

10 The next witness today is HIA62, originally HIA62, who  
11 is HIA62. She has travelled from to speak to  
12 the Inquiry along with , . She is  
13 aware, Chairman, you are going to ask her to affirm.

14 WITNESS HIA62 (affirmed)

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

16 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

17 MR AIKEN: HIA62, as I said to you beforehand, the Panel  
18 regularly deal with people who find it the subject of  
19 nervousness or occasionally have some difficulty. There  
20 is no problem about that.

21 **A. Okay.**

22 Q. We will work our way through this, and if there's any  
23 point when it's difficult, we will deal with that and  
24 take a break if we need to or there's water with you.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. So we will begin. If we bring up on the screen, please,  
2 669, and, HIA62, if you just confirm for me that this is  
3 the same as the first page of the hard copy --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- that you have in front of you.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. If we go to 680, please, which hopefully is the last  
8 page of your witness statement, and if you just check --  
9 if you look at the last page of your hard copy --

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. -- and just check that it's the same.

12 **A. Yes, yes.**

13 Q. Can you confirm then that you've signed the witness  
14 statement that you have?

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. And you want to adopt it as your evidence to the  
17 Inquiry?

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. As we were discussing earlier, the black marks are part  
20 Inquiry's anonymity policy in operation --

21 **A. Yes.**

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

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. If you just bear with me for a few moments, I'm just  
25 going to give the Panel some references in the

1 electronic bundle to material that relates to you.

2 The Sisters of Nazareth replying statement is at  
3 SNB-2111 to 2113, and HIA62 is aware that in  
4 paragraph 19 that contains an unreserved apology to her  
5 for any treatment that fell beneath the acceptable  
6 standard.

7 HIA62, during your evidence we will talk about two  
8 nuns. One is SR153, and there is a short statement from  
9 her at this point at SNB-1565. It doesn't deal with  
10 HIA62's evidence, but it is from SR153.

11 Similarly SR18 or SR18, as she was known to HIA62,  
12 there is a general statement from her at SNB-1580 to  
13 1582. Then there's a particular statement dealing with  
14 what HIA62 has had to say and it's at SNB-1589. We will  
15 return to that.

16 The Health & Social Care Board statement is at 6506  
17 to 6509. That, as we were discussing earlier, HIA62,  
18 confirms that there was a private arrangement that saw  
19 you and your siblings placed in Nazareth House, but that  
20 you did formally come into the care of the Belfast  
21 Welfare Authority in September 1973, by which time you  
22 were 15. You had been in Nazareth Lodge from --

23 **A. Nazareth House, yes.**

24 Q. Nazareth House -- apologies -- from 2 and  
25 three-quarters, and September '73 seems to have been

1 a period when the social work aspect of the Down &  
2 Connor diocese, the Down & Connor Family Welfare  
3 Society, was asking Social Services in effect or the  
4 Welfare Authority, as it was known, to assume financial  
5 responsibility for those voluntary children who were in  
6 Nazareth House and Nazareth Lodge.

7 Before we move on to the background, there is just  
8 one -- the Panel were looking at a photograph just with  
9 your -- with the previous witness.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. I am just going to bring that up -- 18413 -- because you  
12 do have some memory of the circumstances of this  
13 photograph. Am I right in saying that you are on the  
14 ?

15 **A. , yes. -- you can just about**  
16 **see me here.**

17 Q. Where the cursor is on the screen --

18 **A. Yes, yes.**

19 Q. -- that's you.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. The Chairman was noting there appears to be tinsel --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- which I'm assuming is Christmas tinsel up in the top  
24 two corners of the photograph.

25 **A. Yes, yes.**

1 Q. Can you remember the circumstances of when the photo  
2 came about?

3 **A. Very, very vaguely. At the time I seemed to be under**  
4 **the impression that this was a benefactor who had given**  
5 **the slide as a Christmas present.**

6 Q. That's likely to be that (inaudible) the man in the  
7 middle?

8 **A. That seems to have been my memory of that, yes, yes.**

9 Q. The slide -- can I ask you -- obviously people were on  
10 it for the purposes of the photograph.

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

12 Q. Was it something that was used then in the hall from  
13 time to time? Can you remember?

14 **A. I don't remember that. I don't remember that.**

15 Q. So you remember it for the purposes of this photo --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- but you don't remember yourself using it?

18 **A. I think it would have been outside maybe, because we**  
19 **had climbing bars outside. I don't remember the actual**  
20 **hall being used for the purposes of the slide.**

21 Q. So it may have been placed out --

22 **A. I think the slide was outside maybe.**

23 Q. -- with the other play material?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. To the extent that you can do you know what age you

1 would have been when this photo was taken, even  
2 an approximate --

3 **A. 6, 7 maybe.**

4 Q. If that's right, this would have been possibly 1974 --  
5 1964, '65 --

6 **A. Maybe, yes, yes.**

7 Q. -- '66, something like that.

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. Mid '60s.

10 **A. Yes. I'm assuming that I'm maybe 6 or 7, because this**  
11 **is the hall in the older girls' part.**

12 Q. Yes.

13 **A. I was in the nursery prior to that.**

14 Q. Yes.

15 **A. So I'm assuming I must have been 6 or 7 to be down in**  
16 **the older girls' part.**

17 Q. Yes. You'd have moved from the nursery --

18 **A. The nursery.**

19 Q. -- about 4 or 5 years of age. So you would have been at  
20 least -- you were one of --

21 **A. To the older girls' part, yes.**

22 Q. You are one of the smaller --

23 **A. Yes, yes.**

24 Q. There are other girls who are taller than you, as it  
25 were.

1 **A. Yes, yes.**

2 Q. If this was your -- can you remember who the nuns are  
3 that are in the photograph?

4 **A. I do. SR134 to the extreme left, SR134 --**

5 Q. Yes.

6 **A. -- and SR31 and -- I need my glasses actually I realise.**  
7 **I thought I could see it without my glasses, but I think**  
8 **it's SR116 there. I think it's SR116.**

9 Q. On the right-hand side?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 CHAIRMAN: Just when you're looking at it, HIA62, can I ask  
12 you to look at the extreme left?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. The child in the we have been told is your  
15 sister.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. There seems to be a taller grown-up, if I may use that  
18 expression, a young lady standing behind her. Have you  
19 any idea who that is?

20 **A. Directly behind her?**

21 Q. Directly behind her.

22 **A. I can't remember the girl's name. I do know the girl to**  
23 **the extreme left.**

24 Q. No, no. I'm just -- the taller girl.

25 **A. Behind?**

1 Q. Is she a lay staff member, anything like that perhaps,  
2 or --

3 **A. I can't remember.**

4 Q. Maybe you just don't know.

5 **A. I can't remember.**

6 Q. Yes. Sorry to interrupt.

7 MR AIKEN: HIA62, thank you for the assistance with the  
8 photo.

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. Just by way of background you were born on

11 .

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. You are now 56.

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. You were one of four siblings who went into care at the  
16 same time. There were three girls --

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. -- and one boy. You were the youngest.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. There was HIA63, HIA61, NHB 117 and then you --

21 **A. Uh-huh.**

22 Q. -- in the age bracket.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. The reason for you going into care through this private  
25 arrangement it seems was you had lost both your parents

1 through illness --

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. -- by the time that you were 2.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. I mentioned you have with you and you are  
6 also a grandmother --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- to two grandchildren.

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. You were in Nazareth House from 3rd June 1961, which was  
11 aged 2 and , and you were there until  
12 15th March 1974, when you were aged 15. As you know  
13 from material we were looking at --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- from the Social Services, it postdates '73 --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- when you came into care. We will look in particular  
18 --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- at your leaving of Nazareth House. The register  
21 entry at 4103 records that you have gone in on the  
22 recommendation of Father Fitzpatrick. So that seems to  
23 have been the involvement with a parish priest perhaps.

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. You explain that ultimately after you move from the

1 nursery into the main part of house you are in SR134's  
2 group, which is the Sacred Heart group, as I understand  
3 it.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Your recollection is that after you went to that group  
6 then your two older sisters joined you in that group.

7 **A. Yes, yes.**

8 Q. I was asking you, "Do you think that was a deliberate  
9 decision?" You don't know whether it was a deliberate  
10 decision or not, but that's what happened.

11 **A. Yes. That's what happened, yes.**

12 Q. Then they left Nazareth House before you and you  
13 continued to live there.

14 **A. Yes, yes.**

15 Q. We will come back to look at the records around you  
16 coming into care in '73.

17 So in paragraph 4 of your statement at 670 you do  
18 recount your time in the nursery in paragraphs 4 and 5.  
19 In paragraph 4 you refer to your older sisters being in  
20 the house, the main part --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- and these railings that separated you from them when  
23 you were outside.

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. Can you just explain to the Panel a little bit about how

1 that was structured, that you could hold hands --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- through the railings --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- but you weren't together as such?

6 **A. Yes. The actual physical building separated obviously**  
7 **the nursery from the older girls' part, but we had like**  
8 **a kind of playground for the nursery and the older girls**  
9 **had a larger play area as well, and on Saturdays we**  
10 **would actually come together, because quite often the**  
11 **nursery children were kind of out when there wasn't**  
12 **anybody else in the other garden, but we could stand and**  
13 **hold your sibling's hands through the railings on**  
14 **a Saturday for a short time.**

15 Q. But there wasn't a -- any attempt as far as you can  
16 recollect to having you spend time with your older  
17 siblings?

18 **A. No, no, no. I don't remember that at all.**

19 Q. Your brother had gone to Nazareth Lodge --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- and during your time both in the nursery and beyond,  
22 when you are in the Nazareth House proper, as it were --

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. -- was there arrangements put in place for you to spend  
25 time with NHB 117?

1 **A. The only time I recall seeing NHB 117 was at Christmas**  
2 **parties just coincidentally really. So no, I don't**  
3 **remember seeing NHB 117 very much at all in my childhood.**

4 Q. You talk in paragraph 5 of an incident that you can  
5 remember from your time in the nursery --

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. -- involving SR180. She is SR180. You had got clouted  
8 for you had looked at the contents of your handkerchief  
9 after you had sneezed.

10 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

11 Q. You say your hand banged off the radiator. You remember  
12 being in the isolation room.

13 **A. Uh-huh. Waking up in the isolation room, yes.**

14 Q. You think you were only 3 or 4 at the time.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. Now I was asking you -- because the Inquiry has had  
17 a number of individuals who say positive things about  
18 SR180.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. I was asking you whether this was a one-off type  
21 incident --

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. -- that occurred, because I appreciate you talk about  
24 other nuns --

25 **A. Yes, yes.**

1 Q. -- and they are not one-off incidents. For you this was  
2 a one-off incident?

3 A. It seemed to me to be a one-off. I don't have any  
4 recollection of anything else negative around the  
5 nursery in terms of any sort of physical abuse or  
6 anything. So I think something -- anything significant  
7 like that that affected me, I think I would have  
8 remembered if there had been other instances.

9 Q. So whatever happened that day --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- I think you said to me you don't think -- while you  
12 were maybe getting clouted deliberately --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- you don't think there was an intention for you to  
15 bang your head off anything?

16 A. I don't. I don't think there was an actual intention to  
17 do that. I just think the force of the whack --  
18 unfortunately the metal radiator was there and it  
19 happened, but I don't think there was any intention to  
20 do that.

21 Q. That's the only negative recollection you have --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- of your time in the nursery?

24 A. Of the nursery, yes, yes.

25 Q. You do go on then when you move to SR134's group at 5,

1 if that's the age that you move into the house proper --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- and you give various references to her. I am just  
4 going to work through them.

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. In paragraph 7 you talk about how she would have nipped  
7 your neck in church --

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. -- if you were doing something wrong. What do you --  
10 did she sit behind you?

11 **A. Yes. The nuns always sat behind. St. Anne's group were**  
12 **at the forefront of the church, the Sacred Heart group**  
13 **would be in the middle and Our Lady's would be at the**  
14 **back. The nuns would sit behind the group of children**  
15 **in their group, so that they could sort of oversee, if**  
16 **you like. Invariably over the years when children came**  
17 **into the convent, they would have head lice. Some**  
18 **children didn't live in the best conditions at home.**  
19 **When new children came into the convent, there would be**  
20 **infestation on a very large scale. So if you were**  
21 **scratching your head or anything like that, you would**  
22 **get nipped on the back of the neck, because it didn't**  
23 **fare well for that nun. I don't know what the reasons**  
24 **were. The children were scratching. It didn't fare**  
25 **well for that group or maybe it wasn't managed well.**

1 I don't know, but if you were scratching, yes, you did  
2 get punished, yes.

3 Q. Nobody ever told you that it didn't fare well. That's  
4 just how it felt to you, that --

5 A. How it felt to me, but as I got older as well, and we  
6 have had reunions, as you know. As the years have gone  
7 by we have had reunions. You have discussions with  
8 people who have been in the convent with you. You try  
9 to make sense of things as an adult. You know, that  
10 sort of thing came out from the older girls trying to go  
11 in some way to explain the justification for this. They  
12 were older and realised what was going on whereas we  
13 didn't. You know, a lot of discussion has come out  
14 during the reunions to try to make sense of some things.

15 Q. In paragraph 9 you talk about your sister HIA61 being  
16 beaten for not washing properly.

17 A. Uh-huh.

18 Q. You say that:

19 "Generally the nuns would come round checking your  
20 ears and neck to see if they were washed properly, and  
21 if they weren't, you'd be beaten and punished. My  
22 sister HIA61 sustained a horrendous injury as punishment  
23 for not washing properly."

24 A. Uh-huh.

25 Q. You saw that happen.

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. Her head was banged against the tiles.

3 A. Uh-huh.

4 Q. Was this in the bathroom this took place?

5 A. It was in the bathroom. Yes, it was in the bathroom.

6 Because it was a contrast of the red against the white  
7 tiles, it was -- it was something that stuck in my head

8 that I could remember, but it wasn't that the nuns went

9 round. There was a nun in the doorway that would check

10 the ears and neck in the morning, you know, as you are

11 coming out, when you were supposed to have washed

12 yourself. For the children who didn't wash themselves,

13 sometimes they would get the sponge saturated with soap

14 suds. It would be rubbed up and down children's faces

15 who didn't do it properly. So this was I suppose

16 a deterrent to wash properly. I remember HIA61's head.

17 She got a whack and her head bounced off the wall and

18 I remember seeing the blood on the wall. That has

19 been -- yes, that has stuck in my head.

20 Q. You mention that in this paragraph you saw this happen

21 -- I presume that's being disciplined for non-washing or

22 not washing properly --

23 A. Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

24 Q. -- to other girls. You don't mean you saw their head

25 being hit off the tiles. You are talking about them

1 being punished?

2 **A. I seen them being punished, but I seen various assaults**  
3 **on other children, but not to that degree.**

4 Q. What was the -- I think you mentioned to me earlier the  
5 -- it was cold water --

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. -- and therefore you as a young -- you just didn't want  
8 to --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- you didn't want to use it.

11 **A. You didn't want to get cold and use it properly, yes,**  
12 **yes.**

13 Q. But they were trying to get you to clean yourselves.

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

15 Q. So you can see the -- maybe not --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- from your perspective the rationale of how it was  
18 done --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- but you can understand the desire to have everyone  
21 clean.

22 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

23 Q. You mentioned then in paragraph 13 a particular form of  
24 punishment, which --

25 "One of the punishments for talking in the dormitory

1 was being forced to kneel on the floor" --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- "in your nightdress", and you mention, "with your  
4 nose pushed up against the cold wall."

5 You were talking one night after lights out and  
6 SR134 came out and made you do that.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Was that something that happened to other people as well  
9 as you?

10 **A. Yes, yes. It was quite commonplace, yes.**

11 Q. Do you know how long you it tended to last?

12 I appreciate as a child you're trying to remember back  
13 now. It probably seems like a long time, but do you  
14 have any --

15 **A. It's difficult to put into context the concept of time,  
16 but it seemed to be a very, very long time to me,  
17 because the cell light -- because there was a cell in  
18 the middle, you know, where the nun would go to sleep.**

19 Q. Where the nun slept in the corner.

20 **A. Yes, and the light would go out with the intention of  
21 her going to sleep, and then you might have fallen  
22 asleep and slumped on the floor, and then the light  
23 would come on again and she would come out and  
24 straighten you up again and then go away again. It  
25 seemed to go on for a long time actually, yes.**

1 Q. In paragraph 19 you talk about being hit on the head  
2 with either a crucifix or keys.

3 A. Uh-huh.

4 Q. Just move down on to the next page. Now this is in the  
5 context of talking about adoption, and you explain in  
6 this paragraph that -- in fact, do you want to just  
7 explain it in your own words?

8 A. Yes, yes.

9 Q. You were explaining to me earlier how this worked.

10 A. Generally on Sunday mornings we would have people from  
11 the outside coming in with the intentions of adopting  
12 a child. I wasn't privy as a child to -- maybe the  
13 priest was maybe asking the congregation to come forward  
14 because of the vast numbers in the convent. So I am  
15 aware that the nuns were probably under huge pressure to  
16 maybe rehouse some of the children. You know,  
17 I completely understand that. On a regular basis myself  
18 and my sister were picked out to come up to the parlours  
19 whereby people would be waiting to --

20 Q. Let me just pause you for a moment.

21 A. Sorry.

22 Q. When you say you were picked to come up to the parlour,  
23 you were viewed from the play area outside?

24 A. The people would walk round, the man and woman would  
25 walk round and they would point -- they would point at

1           **people. You were asked to go and wash your hands and**  
2           **come up to the parlour. They would actually walk round**  
3           **and point at people.**

4    Q.    So you would then be brought up to the parlour?

5    A.    **You would be brought up to the parlour. The person who**  
6           **pointed at you would be sitting at the table with one or**  
7           **two nuns sitting there. There would be a discussion,**  
8           **a little bit about the people, what the intentions were**  
9           **in terms of adopting and going to live with them and**  
10          **that sort of thing.**

11   Q.    The question I was asking you earlier was the way you  
12          describe it in the statement --

13   A.    **Yes.**

14   Q.    -- it was a choice for you. You weren't simply being  
15          told, "You're now going to be" --

16   A.    **Uh-huh.**

17   Q.    -- "now living with these people" --

18   A.    **No.**

19   Q.    -- but what you're characterising, what you were  
20          describing to me earlier --

21   A.    **Yes.**

22   Q.    -- was it was a choice that wasn't a choice as in it  
23          carried consequences for not choosing the right answer.

24   A.    **Yes. It appeared to be a choice.**

25   Q.    So do you want to just explain what the consequences

1 were for not --

2 A. What that means, yes, yes. So I should imagine a lot of  
3 these people came up. They were clearly very affluent  
4 and very well off. I don't know. There may have been  
5 donations made to the convent. I'm not sure about that.  
6 So in front of the people you were given the choice,  
7 "Would you like to go and live with this person? Would  
8 you like to give this a go? Would you like to try  
9 this?" They were people I had never seen before.  
10 I didn't want to go, and I would quite often speak on  
11 behalf of my sister, who had a hearing problem.

12 Q. Take your time. You take your time. Why did you not  
13 want to go, given that, you know, some of the things  
14 that were happening there weren't ideal? Why did you  
15 feel, "Well, better stay here than go somewhere else"?

16 A. Because -- because it was an unknown thing. It was  
17 an unknown thing and it was fear of the unknown. Would  
18 it be worse? I don't know, but at least the thing is  
19 when I was growing up as a child, I didn't realise how  
20 bad it was for me, because I had nothing to compare it  
21 to. Do you see what I mean? So it was almost -- it was  
22 almost the norm, because I had nothing to compare it to.  
23 So for me going somewhere that I didn't know, I didn't  
24 know the people, it was just quite scary to do that.

25 Q. You explain at the end of paragraph 19 that you would

1 get hit on the head by SR134 --

2 **A. Yes, yes.**

3 Q. -- with a bunch of keys or a crucifix.

4 **A. Well, the keys and the crucifix were all attached,**  
5 **because the nuns quite often had a belt with keys and**  
6 **crucifix as part of the habit. It was part of the whole**  
7 **bunch of stuff was there. So when I used to come out,**  
8 **I used to get bashed on the head with the keys and the**  
9 **cross and I was told I was very ungrateful, and**  
10 **thankfully HIA61 didn't get hit because of her hearing.**  
11 **She was in and out of hospital all her childhood. So**  
12 **I was quite often picked to go up to the parlours for**  
13 **some reason.**

14 Q. I think without -- the social work records, when we get  
15 to them --

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. -- after '73, they describe you as a very attractive  
18 child. So that may be part of the -- part of the  
19 reason.

20 **A. Um.**

21 Q. If you look at paragraph 22 with me, HIA62, you explain  
22 -- and we will come back to how this comes about shortly  
23 -- but you had been out with a family on one of your  
24 visits out --

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. -- to various families. You had learned the value of  
2 coke bottles --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- out with that family. You think you were about 10 at  
5 the time. You and a friend, NHB 118 --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Of course none of names we use here will be used outside  
8 the chamber in any event --

9 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

10 Q. -- but you want to correct that, that it is not NHB 118  
11 NHB 118, as it says in the statement.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. It is NHB 118 . You -- as a result of what you  
14 learned about the value of coke bottles, you took them  
15 to the shop. You got sweets. You got caught by SR134  
16 when you came back. You were taken to the fire escape  
17 or near the fire escape and other children, presumably  
18 from your group, if I understood you correctly --

19 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

20 Q. -- were brought and you then had your head shaved --

21 **A. Uh-huh. Yes.**

22 Q. -- along with NHB 118.

23 **A. Yes, yes.**

24 Q. You were explaining to me that the nuns cut your hair in  
25 the home normally.

1 **A. Normally, yes, yes.**

2 Q. They would shave you hair --

3 **A. Yes, with the shavings things, yes, yes, yes.**

4 Q. -- into the shape of a bob or whatever --

5 **A. Yes, yes, yes, yes.**

6 Q. -- the normal hair style was, but on this occasion your  
7 hair was shaved off.

8 **A. It was shaved off completely. We were told to repeat  
9 whilst the shaving was going on that, "I'm guilty of  
10 greed and gluttony", and I had to keep repeating it and  
11 repeating it and repeating it.**

12 Q. You were explaining to me -- take your time, HIA62. You  
13 were explaining to me this morning that -- you don't  
14 mention it in your statement -- but one of the  
15 outworkings of this was in the Nazareth House school you  
16 --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- took hold of a --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- tea cosy. Do you want to just explain what you did?

21 **A. Well, in a weird sort of way I didn't want to mention  
22 anything, because I thought it was a vanity thing,  
23 because when I went to school the next day, my head was  
24 very, very cold, and I know that some of the teachers  
25 used to go into a little room and have tea at**

1 11 o'clock. So I knew there was a tea cosy on the  
2 teapot and it was like Joseph's technicolour dream coat.  
3 There was all colours round the tea cosy. I thought,  
4 you know, the handle and spout being for my ears because  
5 my head was cold. It sounds really weird, but I thought  
6 I could just slip back into class and be invisible with  
7 this thing on my head. You know, looking back, it is  
8 just preposterous, isn't it, but I did do that, yes.  
9 I did put this tea cosy on my head, because I was cold.

10 Q. You were reflecting that, you know, as an adult you,  
11 looking back, can't understand why you ever thought that  
12 would work out --

13 A. Would work, yes.

14 Q. -- but that's what you did.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You -- that's the various incidents that you recollect,  
17 the specific incidents involving SR134.

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. I just wanted to ask you -- you know, you were saying of  
20 SR101 there was just that one particular incident and  
21 you had no other -- obviously SR134 you spent a number  
22 of years with before SR153 replaced her in around 1970.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So you were about 12 when that happened.

25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. Were these instances of losses of temper or how did you  
2 generally find her? What brought these about or was  
3 this her general demeanour with you?

4 A. SR134?

5 Q. SR134.

6 A. She was very, very changeable. Sometimes she did show  
7 kindness. I can't deny that. She was very quick to  
8 change her personality, very, very quickly would go from  
9 one extreme to the other. The slightest thing would set  
10 her off. The slightest thing would set her off.

11 Q. Were there children who didn't see the bad side of her?  
12 Can you remember was there -- or was it just generally  
13 she could go off with all the children in the group, or  
14 were there distinctions made? If you can't remember,  
15 you just say you can't remember.

16 A. Well, I know her nickname was . So temperament  
17 of a . So that was quite prevalent. So I know  
18 it wasn't just me.

19 Q. You then talk about some general issues that I want to  
20 deal with. In paragraph 15 of your statement, which is  
21 on 673, you talk about bedwetting.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You say that there was humiliation as a result of  
24 bedwetting.

25 A. Yes, yes.

1 Q. You remember SR134 putting a sheet over a girl's head  
2 who'd wet the bed.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. She had to kneel with the sheet over her body. You say:

5 "She said, 'Yes, you can smell that for the rest of  
6 the night'",

7 and she was left there, which to you seemed like  
8 hours.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. You don't remember her name.

11 **A. I don't remember her name, but I wanted to include this  
12 in my statement hoping that I could give some credence  
13 or credibility or validation to somebody else's  
14 statement, because it wasn't me, but I wanted to say  
15 that I had witnessed that. I don't remember the girl's  
16 name, but if someone has made a statement, I witnessed  
17 that, that it was something that did go on.**

18 Q. You mention that there were alarms used --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- on the bed. I think they were an early, quite  
21 advanced for its time --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- attempt to medically deal with the problem. Do you  
24 remember how many there were in your group of these  
25 devices on the bed?

1 **A. There was a lot. There was a lot of them, yes. I think**  
2 **they replaced the brown mackintosh things they used to**  
3 **put on beds, and then these alarms were introduced, but**  
4 **there was a lot of alarms I seem to remember, yes.**

5 Q. The Order has said to the Inquiry that while they accept  
6 they didn't deal appropriately with bedwetting -- this  
7 is in paragraph 10 of their replying statement --

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. -- they don't accept that a Sister would have put a wet  
10 sheet over someone in this way. That's your  
11 recollection of what -- what occurred?

12 **A. It very, very definitely occurred, because it's a memory**  
13 **that haunts me. It didn't happen to me, but it was the**  
14 **shivering, because the sheet was over her head, and it**  
15 **was the shivering of this person really, really got to**  
16 **me, because I couldn't help her. I couldn't do anything**  
17 **for her, but she was shaking, and she was shaking**  
18 **because she was cold. That's in my head now.**

19 Q. You explain in the last two lines of paragraph 15 the  
20 stigma that bedwetting carried and you refer to someone  
21 who wet the bed being called a "Fish". Then there were  
22 some who soiled the bed and they were called "Messy  
23 Bum".

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. I was asking you and you were explaining to me those

1 were really sort of bullying behaviours from older  
2 girls.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. It wasn't the nuns calling those names. It was older  
5 girls who were --

6 **A. Yes.** I understand it was -- it was a stigma which was  
7 created by the older girls. However, when something did  
8 happen to someone whereby if they soiled the bed, there  
9 was no attempt made to protect that child from the  
10 potential stigma. There was no sensitivity. You  
11 were -- it was for everybody to see that you had done  
12 that. So although the bullying had been instigated by  
13 the older girls, the nuns knew the repercussions of  
14 making that public.

15 Q. So it wasn't dealt with in a subtle --

16 **A. No.**

17 Q. -- sensitive way.

18 **A. No.**

19 Q. In paragraph 16 of your statement then you talk about  
20 school. You say that you -- depending on how you got  
21 on, you either went to SR31's class --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- or SR134's class. SR134's class was the remedial  
24 class --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- and SR31's class did the 11 Plus.

2 **A. Or prepared people for the 11 Plus, yes.**

3 Q. You say that your sister HIA63, your older sister, was  
4 in SR31's class, but she had a habit of, as you describe  
5 it, challenging the status quo.

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. As a result of her challenging the status quo you became  
8 seen as the sister of --

9 **A. Very much so.**

10 Q. -- HIA63. You feel that you went to SR134's remedial  
11 class as a result of the bad relationship between SR31  
12 and your sister HIA63.

13 **A. And I also felt that negativity as well from SR31.**  
14 **I felt that as well.**

15 Q. The reason you say that is you can remember a particular  
16 girl whose ability was similar to yours --

17 **A. Yes, yes.**

18 Q. -- and she was in SR31's class doing the 11 Plus  
19 ultimately.

20 **A. Yes, because we were both in class,**  
21 **which was the class before you either went to SR134 or**  
22 **SR31. Most people went to SR31's class, because the**  
23 **vast majority of people were hopefully going to be**  
24 **prepared for the 11 Plus. Am I allowed to name names?**  
25 **No?**

1 Q. Yes.

2 **A. Okay.**

3 Q. The names won't be used beyond the chamber.

4 **A. Yes, yes.**

5 Q. So if you just explain --

6 **A. NHB 119 , but she was also in SR31's group as**  
7 **well, just went straight into SR31's class and I went**  
8 **straight into SR134's class.**

9 Q. And the reason you remember her is you remember both of  
10 you being --

11 **A. The same level.**

12 Q. -- similar intellectual level?

13 **A. Yes, yes.**

14 Q. You -- HIA63 -- the point you make, though, HIA63 did  
15 get the 11 Plus. Whatever the problem between her and  
16 SR31, she got the 11 Plus, but for you you say, you  
17 know, you spent effectively two years -- you  
18 characterise it, those two years' teaching as doing  
19 jigsaws.

20 **A. I was mainly doing jigsaws and playing games, yes, yes,**  
21 **very much so.**

22 Q. You didn't sit the 11 Plus?

23 **A. No, because I wasn't ready. I wasn't prepared.**  
24 **I hadn't had that education for two years.**

25 Q. You went on to St. Monica's.

1 **A. Yes, yes.**

2 Q. We'll come back to your time in St. Monica's, because  
3 that relates to when you were leaving as well.

4 **A. Yes, yes.**

5 Q. But you seem to have done well in St. Monica's. There's  
6 a reference to you doing extra evening classes in  
7 English at Rupert Stanley. I was talking to you about  
8 that earlier.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. You can't remember doing those evening classes.

11 **A. I don't remember -- I don't remember doing the extra**  
12 **classes, but I did -- I did have a natural interest in**  
13 **books and I did try to read a lot just naturally. I'm**  
14 **interested in books. I always have been. We did have**  
15 **second-hand books. We had books donated to the convent.**  
16 **So maybe that in some way helped me, because I just had**  
17 **a genuine interest for reading, yes, yes, yes.**

18 Q. We'll come back to the time in St. Monica's, but the  
19 point you're making, if I can try to summarise it for  
20 you --

21 **A. Yes, yes.**

22 Q. -- and you can tell me if this is correct --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- you feel that as a result of personality clashes that  
25 were occurring you suffered in terms of how --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- you got limited, less opportunity than might  
3 otherwise have been the case.

4 **A. Absolutely, yes, yes.**

5 Q. In paragraph 17 you talk in the context of going to  
6 St. Monica's for that first day an issue -- I appreciate  
7 it is a personal issue --

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. -- how periods were dealt with. You weren't prepared  
10 for that to happen.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You recount the particular assistance given to you by  
13 someone who recognised what was happening.

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. You were brought back to the convent and you went to the  
16 isolation room, if I'm --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- right.

19 **A. When -- sorry.**

20 Q. You go ahead. Can you explain it just to --

21 **A. When the lady -- it was just a member of the public**  
22 **basically had seen me walking to school with blood**  
23 **trickling down the back of my legs and had tapped me on**  
24 **the shoulder. She said, "Do you just want to come in,**  
25 **dear, and clean yourself?" and I said, "What do you**

1           **mean?" When I seen the blood, because I didn't have any**  
2           **pain or anything, and I thought I was injured, and ...**

3    Q.   Just take your time. She brought you --

4    **A. She brought me --**

5    Q.   -- back up.

6    **A. She brought me into her house --**

7    Q.   Into her house.

8    **A. -- actually and made me a cup of tea. I told her I was**  
9           **more concerned about being late for school and I told**  
10          **her that I was living in the convent. She brought me**  
11          **back to the convent, and one of the nuns gave me a blue**  
12          **book called "My Dear Daughter" and brought me into the**  
13          **isolation room and closed the door. She closed the door**  
14          **and left me there.**

15   Q.   Just take your time. There was no -- nobody explained  
16          things to you as to what was happening --

17   **A. Nothing.**

18   Q.   -- and why it was happening. Hopefully it is some  
19          comfort to you to know in paragraph 12 of the replying  
20          statement from the Sisters, which is at 2112, they  
21          indicate their regret at not dealing with this issue  
22          properly, and recognise it was probably because of the  
23          embarrassment and discomfort of those who were there.

24                You did say to me earlier when we were speaking,  
25                HIA62, that you remember earlier evidence the Inquiry

1 has heard --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- of a particular type of pad that was washed and  
4 reused. You described having Dr White's that were  
5 incinerated.

6 **A. Yes, yes.**

7 Q. You remember the smell of the incinerator.

8 **A. Yes, because when I first came down from the nursery,**  
9 **periodically you would have this burning smell**  
10 **permeating throughout the whole of the convent. I had**  
11 **actually asked one of the nuns what this burning smell**  
12 **was and I was just told to mind my own business.**  
13 **I think the whole thing around menstruation and periods**  
14 **was quite taboo really. So when I did eventually get my**  
15 **period, I was brought up to a place where I'd never been**  
16 **before. This door was locked, and there was a little**  
17 **shutter thing that you had to put your sanitary towels**  
18 **in. Then it made sense to me what this burning smell**  
19 **was. It made sense then, but at my time I didn't have**  
20 **to wash them, no, but things had moved on gradually**  
21 **I suppose.**

22 Q. You talk in paragraph 14 of your statement at 672 about  
23 -- you characterised it to me earlier as what became  
24 known as the morgue.

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

1 Q. Initially you said it was a gatehouse.

2 A. There was like a little gateway at the front door that  
3 initially was the morgue, but --

4 Q. If you just turn the microphone round to you so it's --

5 A. Right.

6 Q. So initially there was this gatehouse that you would  
7 have gone to. Then later --

8 A. I didn't go to the gatehouse. That was before my time,  
9 because when I moved down to the older girls' part, that  
10 little gatehouse was used for people of the road who  
11 used to come in for some bread and water. That had  
12 changed, the purpose of that place, and the morgue had  
13 moved inside. I can't remember which floor it was.  
14 I think it was a short time after I had left the nursery  
15 to go down to the older girls' part.

16 Q. What you recollect is this practice of being taken to  
17 say a prayer at the body of someone who had died.

18 A. Yes, yes. I remember -- I remember one of the nuns  
19 saying to me, "Have you been up to the morgue?" So  
20 I said, "What is the morgue?" She said -- because there  
21 was old men and old women's department as well. She  
22 said, "Well, someone's died. You need to go up and say  
23 a Hail Mary". I was told to go into the lift. I can't  
24 remember what button I had to press. I can't remember  
25 what floor it was on.

1 Q. And that practice you found --

2 **A. And the lift just opened up and the person was there,**  
3 **and I sort of remember walking over and this person had**  
4 **actually got pennies in the eyes, and the smell it**  
5 **unleashed, yes.**

6 Q. Very difficult experience.

7 **A. I was completely by myself, yes.**

8 Q. Was that something then that became a regular --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- thing --

11 **A. Yes, it did.**

12 Q. -- whenever somebody died?

13 **A. Yes, whenever anybody died. There was two pools**  
14 **actually, and as people died, you were just encouraged**  
15 **to go up and say a Hail Mary and -- yes, for a long**  
16 **time, yes.**

17 Q. In paragraph 9 of your statement, if we go to 671,  
18 please, you talk about the practice of bathing.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. Initially you describe tin baths that were outside.

21 Then paragraph 10 the baths that were then indoors.

22 **A. Uh-huh. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. You explain in paragraph 10 how -- because I was saying  
24 to you --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- the Inquiry has heard some evidence to suggest  
2 nakedness, but you are saying to the Inquiry that no,  
3 there was a major issue for the nuns about modesty --

4 **A. Absolutely, yes, there was.**

5 Q. -- and about the need to keep yourself covered.

6 **A. To the point that the bathrobes that we had, they must**  
7 **have been starched, because they were like a hospital**  
8 **gown almost, but when you got into the bath, they became**  
9 **buoyant. So I'm assuming there must have been starch on**  
10 **them for that to happen.**

11 Q. So you were able to effectively wash yourself within?

12 **A. You were to wash yourself in private with that buoyancy,**  
13 **yes, yes.**

14 Q. In paragraph 11 --

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- you talk about how underwear was then changed on  
17 a Saturday.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. You describe how you had to queue up and show the gusset  
20 of the underwear to SR122.

21 **A. SR122, yes.**

22 Q. I was asking you, "Do you know why you had to do that?"

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

24 Q. Did you ever understand why?

25 **A. No. I never -- never -- I don't know what that was**

1           **about. I just don't know what that was about.**

2    Q.    You recall you could have got a crack around the head if  
3           they were marked.

4    **A.    Yes.**

5    Q.    You then describe how this exchange programme, as it  
6           were, on a Friday night of --

7    **A.    On a Friday -- on a Friday night I do remember hearing**  
8           **the scuttle of feet all around the dormitory, because**  
9           **people were swapping underwear, because of the level of**  
10          **marks on your underwear would determine whether you got**  
11          **hit round the head or not. I do remember that very,**  
12          **very clearly, yes, and obviously because of the bullying**  
13          **culture that was in the convent, quite often the older**  
14          **girls would take the younger girls', and knickers were**  
15          **always big. It didn't matter whether you were young or**  
16          **old. You had these big knickers, but yes, I do remember**  
17          **that very clearly, yes.**

18   Q.    But what I wanted to ask you was you didn't -- there  
19          wasn't a practice of you showing them every day. It was  
20          only on this Saturday occasion whenever --

21   **A.    They got changed.**

22   Q.    -- you were going to get a change?

23   **A.    When the underwear was changed, which was once a week.**

24   Q.    Yes.

25   **A.    Uh-huh.**

1 Q. The Sisters have said to the Inquiry in paragraph 7 of  
2 their replying statement at 2112 that they find it  
3 difficult to accept that -- the Inquiry has heard  
4 a number of people describe this practice of showing.  
5 Some have described it as a daily requirement; others,  
6 like you, saying it was on a Saturday. The Order don't  
7 accept this was a common practice.

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. Did that happen right through your period in the home?

10 **A. Yes, yes. It was a common thing, yes.**

11 Q. You describe in paragraph 12 then the cleaning. You  
12 describe polishing while kneeling. Others have talked  
13 about using their feet, but you were describing to me it  
14 was done with your hands.

15 **A. We were all down on our knees. It was a motion that we**  
16 **had. So you'd go back and forth on your knees, yes,**  
17 **yes.**

18 Q. You recall a particular type of -- I think it was  
19 NHB 102 you said his name was. He was the handyman.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. Occasionally you helped him cleaning in the furnace area

22 --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- where there were cockroaches on the wall.

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. Do you want to just describe the furnace --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- that you remember to the Panel?

4 **A. Yes. Where the backyard was there was some little**  
5 **steps, about five steps, and you turned left and the**  
6 **furnace was there, very hot, but there was cockroaches**  
7 **all over the wall, and you would be asked to help**  
8 **NHB 102 sweep down the cockroaches.**

9 Q. The Order has said to the Inquiry at paragraph 8 of  
10 their replying statement that they are not aware that  
11 cockroaches were an issue.

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. I think you are not saying they were an issue. They  
14 were simply in that furnace area.

15 **A. They were, yes.**

16 Q. Not anywhere else, but they don't believe that children  
17 would have been given the job of sweeping the  
18 cockroaches. How often would you have gone to help  
19 **NHB 102 ?**

20 **A. It was a very, very regular thing. Not just me. We**  
21 **took it in turns. It wasn't just me. It was other**  
22 **people as well.**

23 Q. So that was just part of the --

24 **A. Yes, yes.**

25 Q. -- various cleaning type roles that you had?

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. You describe then the food in paragraph 6 of the  
3 statement at 670. For not eating the food you would be  
4 made stand outside.

5 "They tried to make you swallow it, and if you  
6 didn't, you had to go and stand outside."

7 Was this outside the refectory?

8 **A. It was outside in the play area. I wouldn't --**  
9 **I wouldn't swallow the meat quite often, because I am**  
10 **sure they didn't have much of a budget for food and it**  
11 **was probably quite gristly. I couldn't swallow it.**  
12 **I couldn't actually swallow it. So you would be told to**  
13 **stand outside and come back in again when you'd**  
14 **swallowed your food, which for me was fairly -- not just**  
15 **me -- but I couldn't do it. I do -- I do remember that**  
16 **when visitors used to come up on a Saturday, I was**  
17 **allowed to spit it out and come in.**

18 Q. The Order has said to the Inquiry they don't believe  
19 children would have been made stand outside --

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. -- until they ate, but that's your recollection of how  
22 it was dealt with.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. I think others have claimed they were force fed or hit  
25 to make them eat, but --

1    **A. I have actually seen people force fed. I don't remember**  
2       **it happening to me, but I did witness it in the big**  
3       **dining rooms. Yes, I did.**

4    Q. But for you it was you stood outside and then --

5    **A. I stood out, yes, yes.**

6    Q. -- when you were prepared to eat, then you ...

7    **A. Yes.**

8    Q. Now you do -- in paragraph 23 and 24 of your statement  
9       you do talk about positive experiences that you have and  
10       remember in the home. You talk about the Christmas  
11       parties --

12   **A. Parties.**

13   Q. -- at Christmas time --

14   **A. Yes, yes.**

15   Q. -- and also going out to parties that were -- the  
16       children of the home were invited out to.

17   **A. Uh-huh. Uh-huh.**

18   Q. You give two examples of the places where -- where that  
19       happened. You talk about the concerts that were put on  
20       that you were involved in and that was a good escape for  
21       you.

22   **A. Yes.**

23   Q. You talk I think in paragraph 24 about getting presents.  
24       I think if I describe you as being a bit mortified  
25       earlier when you were explaining to me this. Do you

1 want to just explain to the Panel what you mean by what  
2 was happening over the ...?

3 **A. Well, like I say, we did -- we did go out to Christmas**  
4 **parties. Everybody wanted to go to Mackie's parties**  
5 **because the presents were the best. You know, over the**  
6 **years you come to know, but Mackie's used to have this**  
7 **big stage with all the toys displayed and everything.**  
8 **I remember feeling really, really bad, because disabled**  
9 **children from other establishments would get first**  
10 **choice, because it depended on the severity of their**  
11 **disability, which was quite right, but I remember**  
12 **feeling really, really guilty that people in wheelchairs**  
13 **were picking roller skates and scooters and things which**  
14 **they could never ever use. By the time it came to the**  
15 **able-bodied children it was, you know, talcum sets and**  
16 **things. Not that I wasn't grateful for that, but**  
17 **I remember feeling really guilty. Why would somebody in**  
18 **a wheelchair be able to have some roller skates and**  
19 **stuff? You know, I did feel that. At the time I felt**  
20 **bad about that.**

21 Q. So you can understand the -- looking back as an adult --

22 **A. Absolutely, yes, yes, yes.**

23 Q. -- you can understand giving priority makes sense --

24 **A. Absolutely. Absolutely.**

25 Q. -- but just the consequence of it made you resentful

1 that you were getting talc --

2 **A. Yes, yes, as a child.**

3 Q. -- and they were getting something else.

4 **A. Yes, yes.**

5 Q. One of the things I wanted to ask you then was you  
6 appear to have --

7 "Even the talc sets were a big deal to us."

8 You seem to have got to keep the gifts. Other  
9 people have talked to the Inquiry about their presents  
10 being confiscated effectively from them. That wasn't  
11 your experience?

12 **A. I don't really know what happened there, but I can't say  
13 hand on heart that they were taken away, because I don't  
14 remember actually. I remember the event and the events  
15 surrounding and the circumstances how we obtained them.  
16 That's very prevalent in my mind, but what happened  
17 after them I don't remember.**

18 Q. In paragraph 18, if we go up to 674, you describe -- and  
19 you also cover this in paragraph 21 -- going out to  
20 people's homes for holidays. You -- in this particular  
21 paragraph you are talking about a family called

22 NHB 120 .

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. You had a very positive experience with them. In fact,  
25 that's where you learned about the coke bottles that we

1 covered, when talking about SR134.

2 **A. Because her daughter and I used to take the coke bottles**  
3 **up to the local shop.**

4 Q. In paragraph 21 you talk about another family that you  
5 went out to who were very kind to you, but they had 18  
6 children of their own.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. That caused its own difficulties, albeit your experience  
9 with them was a positive one.

10 **A. It was, yes, but although they had so many children, the**  
11 **little girl -- because they were mainly boys, and the**  
12 **older girl was like 20, but the daughter was my age,**  
13 **which I think is why she wanted -- wanted me to go out**  
14 **to her during the summer holidays. She was a very**  
15 **devout Catholic and, you know, the children and what**  
16 **have you. You wouldn't think they would want another**  
17 **mouth really to feed, but very, very kind family, yes.**  
18 **It was a nice experience.**

19 Q. Then in paragraphs 26 and 27 you talk about SR153.

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. Now this is SR153, who you describe essentially as she  
22 was the mother you didn't have.

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

24 Q. You continue to have a very positive relationship with  
25 her to this day.

1 **A. Yes, yes.**

2 Q. She was born on -- just so we can put this in context,  
3 because we are going to look at what happened, she was  
4 born on . She was in Nazareth House  
5 from to 1973. So she  
6 would have been young, between 25 and 28.

7 **A. Yes, yes.**

8 Q. During that period you are between 12 and 14.

9 **A. Yes, yes.**

10 Q. Just if I give the panel the reference to SR153's CV or  
11 record that records those dates is at 10281. Then you  
12 mention this in your statement in a different context,  
13 but she then moves from the house to the lodge from  
14 7th October '73 to August '74. The reference for that  
15 is at 12164. Then she moves on to Derry. You express  
16 your views about the reasons for that. You say in your  
17 statement that she was a ray of sunshine for you.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. If I just summarise it by she had a warmth --

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

21 Q. -- that wasn't something you have got from others.

22 **A. I had never experienced that kind of kindness and warmth**  
23 **and acknowledgment and validation, if you like. Never**  
24 **had anything like that. It was quite unique, yes.**

25 Q. She had essentially taken over your group --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- and you were also explaining to me -- it doesn't  
3 appear in your statement, but you were explaining to me  
4 that one of the changes that she brought to the way  
5 things were in your group was you talked about the drab  
6 walls then had art put all over them.

7 **A. She just was so creative and put all this lovely artwork**  
8 **on otherwise very, very drab walls. She painted fish**  
9 **and flowers and it was just so refreshing to see that.**  
10 **It was just lovely, and also she done charts of our**  
11 **birthdays as well and put them up, and actually**  
12 **acknowledged our birthdays. She was just a very, very,**  
13 **very warm, compassionate, caring person, and to me,**  
14 **because it was in such contrast to the reception that**  
15 **I'd had through all of my life, in fact, in the convent,**  
16 **that she was just a shining star for me.**

17 Q. You say that the dynamic --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- between her and other nuns in the home were not good.

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. Now why do you say they weren't good and how would you  
22 have known that, because you were just a young girl in  
23 the home?

24 **A. Yes. I felt -- I felt that. The nuns used to go up**  
25 **into the church and they would sing. Any time they got**

1 together SR153 would come back and she would have red  
2 swollen eyes. She would be wiping tears away. There  
3 was older girls than me as well who would have had a bit  
4 more perception as to what was going on. We used to ask  
5 SR153 what the matter was and she would say, "I'm fine.  
6 I'm absolutely fine", but we would -- also as well there  
7 was raised voices sometimes in the corridor as well,  
8 which I haven't actually mentioned, but there was raised  
9 voices. We knew -- I just can't describe and put into  
10 words why I came to that conclusion, but I knew that  
11 SR153 was not going to bode well or fit in, because she  
12 was completely different to the normal way of life. It  
13 just -- and later on when we've gone over the statement  
14 that we did go over, it's clear then and it kind of  
15 confirms my feeling and feelings of others that that  
16 was, in fact, the case.

17 Q. What you're talking about there --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- is there are references in the contemporaneous social  
20 work file of the views of other nuns --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. --about SR153 --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- being recorded at the time.

25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. We are going to come to that.

2 **A. Yes, yes.**

3 Q. You explain she was the nearest to a mother that you  
4 had. In paragraph 28 you give an example of her  
5 operating some freedom for you in that you were allowed  
6 to go to the church disco. Now the church disco, as  
7 I understand it, we are talking about was not run by the  
8 church. It was in the hall next door over a wall in  
9 effect. It was only girls went to that.

10 **A. Yes, yes.**

11 Q. The arrangement with her was that if you did the things  
12 that you had to do in terms of your chores and  
13 everything was in order --

14 **A. Yes, we could go.**

15 Q. -- then you were -- the three of you were allowed to go  
16 to that.

17 **A. This was quite new and, you know, quite radical**  
18 **actually. It is something that she had introduced, but**  
19 **it was only for two hours, you know. It was only from**  
20 **7.00 to 9.30 or something, but it was a degree of**  
21 **freedom that we had never experienced before.**

22 Q. It is during this period -- she is there until  
23 August/September '73 -- you are first visited then by  
24 NHB 121 , who is the social worker from Belfast  
25 Welfare-- if we can bring up, please, 44648 -- and this

1 was on 25th September. Some of this can be hard to  
2 read. So if we just maximise that as best we can. You  
3 can see:

4 "Visited. Met SR153, who has been dealing with  
5 HIA62's age group. She introduced me to HIA62, who is  
6 an intelligent, attractive girl, mature for her years.  
7 I explained the purpose of my visit, to formally accept  
8 her into the care of the Welfare Committee, filled in  
9 the admission to care forms and told her that a social  
10 worker would visit her at least once each month to  
11 discuss whatever problems she might have or just to chat  
12 with her. SR153 seems to fulfil this role."

13 Then it goes on to talk about you having been in  
14 care since you were 3, the circumstances of that. If we  
15 just scroll on down, your other family members had moved  
16 out. Then it says:

17 "HIA62 attends St. Monica's School and is in a ..."

18 It reads as "commercial". I can't imagine it is  
19 meant to say "commercial". Perhaps "communal class".

20 CHAIRMAN: Commercial. Teaching commercial subjects.

21 MR AIKEN: There it is. It is a commercial class.

22 CHAIRMAN: Things have changed.

23 MR AIKEN: Things have changed. I am showing my age now,

24 HIA62.

25 "She is very keen to get on and is especially keen

1 on nursing. After our interview she was going to Rupert  
2 Stanley College for extra English classes."

3 Now you know, because we talked about --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- you went to Rupert Stanley after you finished at St.  
6 Monica's to take on the secretarial course that you  
7 qualified for. You don't remember the extra English  
8 classes.

9 **A. I don't remember. I don't remember that, no, no.**

10 Q. I suppose one of the things -- you talk in your  
11 statement about education not being well done and the  
12 Order would point to here is an example of, albeit this  
13 is SR153's time --

14 **A. Yes, yes.**

15 Q. -- that something more was being done --

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. -- which was -- or facilitated, if not being done.

18 **A. Yes, yes.**

19 Q. You don't yourself remember that?

20 **A. I do remember attending Rupert Stanley College purely**  
21 **for shorthand and commerce and secretarial-related**  
22 **stuff, because I wanted to get a job in an office --**

23 Q. Yes.

24 **A. -- but I don't remember -- yes.**

25 Q. It appears that this record is a combination of you --

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. -- and SR153 --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- talking to NHB 121 . You will see:

5 "SR153 spoke very well of HIA62."

6 So this is a positive --

7 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

8 Q. -- exchange --

9 **A. Yes, yes.**

10 Q. -- that has taken place. We know that SR153 then leaves  
11 one month later in October '73.

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. You talk about that in paragraph 28. You felt there was  
14 an overlap with SR31. I was saying to you I think SR31  
15 was 75 --

16 **A. Yes, yes.**

17 Q. -- before she moved to the lodge, by which time SR153  
18 had already moved on --

19 **A. Uh-huh. Yes.**

20 Q. -- but that was your belief because of the vibes, as it  
21 were.

22 **A. Sequence, yes, yes.**

23 Q. What you do explain is that she was replaced -- in  
24 paragraph 30 of your statement you talk about her being  
25 replaced by SR18, who was now known as SR18. Again no

1 name should be used beyond the chamber. She was as  
2 young, as it were, as SR153 --

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. -- but was more like the other nuns in terms of her  
5 demeanour and strictness.

6 **A. Absolutely, yes.**

7 Q. You've -- you make the point that you feel SR153 was  
8 ostracised in some way --

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. -- by the other nuns. You see from records we looked at  
11 this morning some corroboration of that --

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. -- but the Order has said to the Inquiry that they don't  
14 accept that she was ostracised by others, but your  
15 belief is that is what was taking place.

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

17 Q. Just before I move to -- just bear with me for a moment.  
18 HIA62, in -- you describe in paragraph 29 -- before  
19 I move on to the leaving of the home --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- you describe the changes that took place --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- in -- paragraph 29 is at 677, if we go back to that  
24 -- that took place in 1972/'73.

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. I am not precisely sure of the dates, but the changes  
2 were to the structure, as it were.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. The dorms were broken down into smaller rooms.

5 **A. Yes. It was a huge, huge, thing, yes, yes.**

6 Q. There was better quality mattresses and so on available.

7 **A. In actual -- sorry to interrupt you.**

8 Q. No, no.

9 **A. In actual fact this is where the coke bottles came from,**  
10 **because we had to -- all the children were asked to**  
11 **bring all the plasterboard -- and we were like little**  
12 **ants really -- a bit of plasterboard up into the**  
13 **dormitory. So we were going up like little ants with**  
14 **these plasterboard, thin bits of plasterboard to help**  
15 **the builders. It was the builders' coke bottles.**

16 Q. That you'd lifted.

17 **A. That came to be there. That's how ...**

18 Q. Yes. Okay. I suppose what I take from this is you are  
19 saying that the facilities when this change occurred --

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. -- were much better --

22 **A. Amazing, yes, yes.**

23 Q. -- and a huge change from your --

24 **A. Dormitories.**

25 Q. -- what had gone before for you --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- but changing the building is one thing.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. The mind set is of whose you were dealing with is the  
5 problem.

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

7 Q. What I am going to do, if you don't mind, HIA62, Members  
8 of the Panel, there is an issue that has arisen that  
9 Ms Smith is kindly highlighting to me. I wonder could  
10 we take a short break now before I move into the next  
11 part of HIA62's --

12 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Five minutes or so.

13 MR AIKEN: It may take a little longer than that, Chairman.

14 I'll try to be as quick as we can.

15 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA62, if you don't mind just staying there  
16 for the moment, please.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 CHAIRMAN: We will start again as soon as we can.

19 (12.50 pm)

20 (Short break)

21 (1.00 pm)

22 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, I am going to  
23 just deal with two things, if I may.

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. HIA62 --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- on the birth certificate it has HIA62, but HIA62 is  
3 how you have always been known.

4 **A. I have always been known as HIA62 and I didn't realise**  
5 **I was HIA62 until I got my birth certificate when**  
6 **I left. For official documents now obviously it is**  
7 **HIA62.**

8 Q. So I think we probably got it right. We got the  
9 official name --

10 **A. Yes, yes.**

11 Q. -- but it is HIA62 you are known by.

12 **A. Yes, yes.**

13 Q. We will roll with that.

14 **A. Right. Okay.**

15 Q. HIA62, can I apologise that you had to be disrupted as  
16 you are giving your evidence? Sometimes things happen  
17 that we just need to deal with.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. We are going to test our efficiency with our systems,  
20 but if I can explain to the Panel that there is another  
21 witness statement from SR153 that I think Mr Montague  
22 wanted to acknowledge had he believed been sent, but the  
23 Inquiry had not received it, but I have it now. I have  
24 had the opportunity to speak to HIA62 about it. It's  
25 going to be -- if Mr Magee and our operator Siobhan are

1 happy, it's going to be at SNB-2223 through to 2225.

2 There is just two paragraphs in that statement that

3 I will deal with you as we go.

4 HIA62, it is 1 o'clock and you have been giving  
5 evidence for some time, but if we're happy, we'll try  
6 and continue and complete this portion --

7 **A. Yes, yes.**

8 Q. -- rather than -- if the Panel are happy for us to do  
9 that.

10 We had touched on your time with SR153 and then  
11 she'd moved on. If it's possible if we can bring up SNB  
12 -- it's not quite possible as yet. It may come up as we  
13 talk. I am just going to read it to you --

14 **A. Okay.**

15 Q. -- because this is what SR153 has had to say to the  
16 Inquiry about you, HIA62 --

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. -- that she's gone through your witness statement. At  
19 the time when she came you were 12 years old. You had  
20 started to attend St. Monica's.

21 "She had plenty of intelligence, did well at  
22 secondary school, despite missing out on a period of  
23 primary education."

24 So I think that's a reference to your two years --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- in the remedial class.

2 "She was a polite, friendly, well-behaved girl. She  
3 had great sense of humour, was very popular with the  
4 rest of the group. HIA62 was musically gifted, had  
5 a beautiful singing voice. She played guitar and led  
6 other girls whenever we'd sing songs in the evenings."

7 So she's told me a little bit more about you than  
8 you told me. So you can play the guitar.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. It's clear from the warmth of that that she had a very  
11 high regard for you.

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. She goes on to say, despite those gifts, you were very  
14 sensitive and felt perhaps you didn't have much  
15 confidence in yourself, but with encouragement and  
16 affirmation that was a ...

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. She reflects that -- she says there was a certain air of  
19 sadness about you, which probably was the background  
20 that you'd come from.

21 In paragraph 11 of her statement, which is at  
22 SNB-2225 -- and I'm very grateful to those involved with  
23 the technology, who have quickly dealt with this for me  
24 -- she is talking about your reference to her being  
25 ostracised and shouted at.

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. I know you have had an opportunity to read this and I  
3 know why you think she said what she said here and we'll  
4 come and look at some of the social work stuff, but she  
5 says:

6 "I don't know how HIA62 got the idea I didn't see  
7 eye to eye with the other sisters and that I was  
8 ostracised by them and shouted at. I had a very good  
9 relationship with all the Sisters and we were a very  
10 united community."

11 I think you described her to me just now as she is  
12 a saint to you --

13 **A. She would never --**

14 Q. -- and wouldn't want a bad word said about anybody.

15 **A. No, she wouldn't. No, she wouldn't.**

16 Q. She says:

17 "She may have overheard another Sister (since  
18 deceased)", who -- you think she is talking about SR31,  
19 "who had a group of children in the flat raising her  
20 voice when complaining to her that one of the children  
21 in her group had done something which displeased her.  
22 HIA62 maybe presumed I was getting a telling off, as the  
23 children often used the word 'shouted at' when they  
24 meant 'corrected'. I certainly was never crying."

25 So she is saying to the Inquiry, "I had a good

1 relationship with the other Sisters".

2 That's how she characterised you.

3 **A. Yes, yes.**

4 Q. She left in October '73. Then SR18 takes over. Now  
5 she, when she came in '73, was 27 years old.

6 She had been born on . She stayed in  
7 Nazareth House until 1977, when she was aged

8 30, and went to . Essentially -- the record that  
9 explains that is at 10282 -- what seems to happen is she  
10 arrives and the next day SR153 moves. That's the  
11 sequencing when one puts the documents together.

12 **A. Yes, yes.**

13 Q. She later comes -- SR18 goes off then to Derry after  
14 1977 and eventually comes back to Nazareth Lodge and  
15 works there for another ten years from . That  
16 can be found at 12174.

17 But in your statement at paragraph 30, if we can go  
18 back to 677, please, and paragraph 31, you describe this  
19 deal you had where you got to go to the disco if you had  
20 done your work. You had you felt the same deal arranged  
21 with SR18 and then she didn't honour it.

22 **A. Yes, yes.**

23 Q. You describe how you went on anyway --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- you and two others and you got into difficulty with

1 her. She told you that you'd be leaving the next week  
2 or at the end of the week.

3 **A. "You'll be out by the end of the week." That's what she**  
4 **said, yes.**

5 Q. "You'll be out by the end of the week."

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. There's a statement from -- SR18 is SR18.

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. If we could bring up 1589, please, if we just scroll  
10 down, please, and it's paragraph 4 she says:

11 "I have absolutely no recollection of the incident  
12 ... I have never asked any child/children to scrub  
13 bathroom tiles with a toothbrush."

14 That's something else you describe her requiring you  
15 to do.

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. "Regarding my saying that the three girls concerned  
18 would be out of the home at the end of the week, I don't  
19 have any authority -- I would not have had any authority  
20 to carry this out."

21 She doesn't remember when these girls were  
22 discharged from Nazareth House.

23 The congregation has said, if we can go to 2113,  
24 please, paragraph 18, that they don't accept that the  
25 three girls -- that was you, NHB 22 and HIA 117 -- were

1 discharged from the home because they sneaked out to  
2 attend the disco.

3 "Most children would have left the congregation at  
4 this age."

5 Now all of this would have been said --

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. -- before the social work material would have been  
8 available, but if we look, please, at the social work  
9 record at 44649, this is of 28th March 1974, by which  
10 point you are 15 . We can see here that

11 **NHB 122** , who was one of the Down & Connor social  
12 workers, telephones **NHB 123** , who was the Assistant  
13 Principal Social Worker in the Belfast Welfare  
14 Authority, and now shortly to become, if it has not  
15 already become, the Belfast Health Board, and it says:

16 "HIA62 is being difficult to cope with at Nazareth  
17 House and SR18 would like her removed tomorrow."

18 So that's what the social worker, who at this point  
19 appears to be a **NHB 115** --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. And you remember **NHB 115** ?

22 **A. I do.**

23 Q. You record her having some physical --

24 **A. A disability. I do remember the thing on the steering**  
25 **wheel of the car. So she did have disabilities. I do**

1           **remember her.**

2       Q.   It appears from this record it was agreed that HIA62  
3           should be kept at Nazareth until 5th April -- so that's  
4           the end of the week -- until alternative accommodation  
5           could be sought.

6           Now the background to that reference is that earlier  
7           that day on 28th March   **NHB 122**    had been asked to go  
8           to Nazareth House to see SR18 and SR199.  You remember  
9           SR199?

10       **A.  I do, yes.**

11       Q.   And they reported, if we just bring up 44682, please --  
12           and this is the record -- and you and I looked at this  
13           earlier --

14       **A.  Uh-huh.**

15       Q.   -- HIA62 -- this is the record of what   **NHB 122**  , the  
16           social worker, was told the problem was.  The instances  
17           seem to be the previous night SR18 was awakened to  
18           discover that you and two other girls had left the house  
19           and had gone to the Starlight ballroom.  Now that, as  
20           I understand it, is not the disco over the wall.

21       **A.  Uh-huh.**

22       Q.   That is in the city centre.

23       **A.  Uh-huh, yes.**

24       Q.   It is a dance type band would have been taking place.

25       **A.  Yes.**

1 Q. This says you did not return until 3.30. There is  
2 another record which says you didn't return until 10.30  
3 pm.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. But, whatever, you weren't supposed to be there. You'd  
6 gone.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Gave great cause for concern, especially in the troubled  
9 times that they were.

10 Then the second issue is that your language has not  
11 been good to the nuns, presumably SR18, in front of the  
12 other group and that was having -- the other members of  
13 the group. That was having a detrimental effect. If we  
14 just scroll down, SR18 is said to feel that you were  
15 beyond her control and:

16 "They don't have adequate facilities to control her  
17 influence on the other members of the group, and that  
18 they are most anxious she be moved out of Nazareth House  
19 as soon as possible. Although her attendance at school  
20 is very good, her application to work is said to be poor  
21 and her teachers agree that she is very wayward."

22 Then there is reference to some man speaking to the  
23 nuns about a boy you kissed on the street. You remember  
24 who that was.

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

1 Q. He used to be in Nazareth Lodge possibly.

2 A. Uh-huh.

3 Q. You were saying to me that's part of wanting to be seen,  
4 recognised.

5 A. Yes. Because when SR153 left and SR18 came, because the  
6 report that SR18 has just written is in stark contrast  
7 to the report SR153 had written, and what you're not  
8 reading here is the provocation -- provocation that I  
9 was getting from SR18 as well. So I was at an age,  
10 adolescence, and yes, I did rebel, because my whole  
11 world had turned upside down basically, and I did want  
12 to provoke a reaction in her. So I purposely kissed  
13 this person, knowing that that was going to reverberate  
14 back to the convent.

15 Q. This was done near the convent.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. It seems somebody did go --

18 A. Go, yes.

19 Q. -- and tell her about that.

20 A. Uh-huh.

21 Q. The concern was that -- you understand -- as an adult  
22 you recognise the concern.

23 A. Yes, yes.

24 Q. Well, what if that got further?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. The concern recorded here in the last line is you could  
2 end up pregnant and ...

3 **A. Yes, yes.**

4 Q. Now the result of that -- that's a record of what led  
5 NHB 122 --

6 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. -- having been told that, to talk to NHB 123 in the  
8 Welfare, and then we have NHB 115 getting involved. As  
9 I was saying to you, in fairness to the social workers,  
10 NHB 115 seems to have been all over this like a rash.

11 **A. Very proactive, yes.**

12 Q. We can see if we go back, please, to 44649, and you can  
13 see on 29th -- so this has all happened on 28th.

14 NHB 123 has clearly passed it to NHB 115 .

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. NHB 115 then arrives with SR18 the next day, 29th.

17 "She says she is finding HIA62 very defiant and  
18 a bad example towards the younger children in the group.  
19 HIA62 has a boyfriend of 23 years. He was brought up in  
20 Nazareth Lodge and is an undesirable influence. When  
21 HIA62 was questioned about the boy by the Sisters, she  
22 said she liked a more experienced boy."

23 Is it likely you probably --

24 **A. I said that to provoke them.**

25 Q. I think your said to me earlier that's likely

1 the type of remark you might have made.

2 **A. I would very definitely have wanted to fire it back**  
3 **actually, yes, yes.**

4 Q. "HIA62 stayed out late, having gone to the Starlight  
5 without permission. She stayed out and was brought home  
6 by a married couple in a car. Stayed out late. On  
7 another occasion stayed out late."

8 Reference to going to your grandmother's. Then this  
9 reference to the man from the Errigle pub saying he had  
10 seen you with the boy.

11 If we then move over on to the next page, you can  
12 see that on the same day then **NHB 115** went to  
13 St. Monica's, where she talked with SR192, who was the  
14 headmistress in St. Monica's, and HIA62's form  
15 instructor.

16 "They were surprised to learn of the difficulties  
17 felt in Nazareth House, as they felt that HIA62 was  
18 settling well in school and her work has improved. Saw  
19 HIA62 and discussed with her the feelings of Nazareth.  
20 It seems that it had not previously been discussed with  
21 HIA62 ..."

22 What you are saying was discussed with you is when  
23 you were caught, you were told --

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

25 Q. -- you were told that you were going to be put out.

1 **A. Yes, yes.**

2 Q. "... and told her of the suggestion of the Good  
3 Shepherd, at which she was very upset."

4 Now can I just -- would you explain to the Panel why  
5 the reference to the Good Shepherd would cause upset?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. How was it seen?

8 **A. Well, during my time at Nazareth House any reference to**  
9 **the Good Shepherd, whether it be in Belfast or whether**  
10 **it be in Derry, it was considered a place for**  
11 **delinquents. It was a very serious threat and we were**  
12 **always intimidated by the threat. There was another**  
13 **place called -- I think it was Middleton, another place**  
14 **that people were constantly threatened with, and you**  
15 **never seen them people again. You don't know what**  
16 **happened to them people. So to me as a child to suggest**  
17 **that I was going there, a proper delinquent, and what**  
18 **I consider what was going on here was a huge personality**  
19 **clash with this particular nun, you know, and I didn't**  
20 **consider myself a delinquent as such. That's what upset**  
21 **me, yes.**

22 Q. Well, it records here that it was seen as a step  
23 downwards for girls who were out of control.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Then:

1 "HIA62 spoke to SR153, who previously -- who she had  
2 previously been with, now in Nazareth Lodge, and asked  
3 if it would not be possible for her to go there. I said  
4 I would enquire about it."

5 NHB 115 then goes to Nazareth Lodge on the same  
6 day, visits SR153 and said:

7 "SR153 said she would love to have HIA62, as she was  
8 very fond of her and missed both her and her sisters.  
9 She said she would enquire from the Mother if" -- and  
10 that's the Mother Superior -- "if that would be  
11 possible",

12 and it seems that on 1st March, maybe two days  
13 later, there's a phone call from SR153 to say that they  
14 would be able to house HIA62. Then NHB 115 goes to see  
15 SR18 in the house, who was not very happy about the idea  
16 of Nazareth Lodge, feeling that HIA62 should go to the  
17 Good Shepherd in Derry.

18 "I was totally against this, because of HIA62's  
19 schooling and her sisters in Belfast. SR199 then joined  
20 us and, like SR18, was not happy about HIA62 going to  
21 the lodge. She talked of SR153 not having control over  
22 the girls and was almost scathing in her comments about  
23 her. I talked of St. Monica's reports having been  
24 favourable, but again I was told that one could not  
25 always believe what they said."

1           Then there was a phone call from SR31 on the same  
2 day asking **NHB 115** to go and see her.

3           "SR31 said she had been in touch with the superiors  
4 of Nazareth and they were agreed that a move should not  
5 be made from one institution to the other, namely the  
6 house to the lodge."

7           Then **NHB 115** having not succeeded in getting  
8 agreement, phoned the Good Shepherd, who it seemed were  
9 going to be able to give you a place after Easter.

10           Then the next day **NHB 115** arranges to see you and  
11 takes you out of school to Barnett's Park away from your  
12 friends. You have a long talk. You were very upset  
13 about the whole affair. She says:

14           "I feel there's been a personality clash between the  
15 Sister and HIA62, as there are so many conflicting  
16 reports as to her behaviour.     **NHB 124** , the Principal  
17 Social Worker, also saw     **SR 220**     ..."

18           Now she was the Mother Superior in the Nazareth  
19 House, not the Lodge.

20     **A. Uh-huh.**

21     **Q.** "... but was unable to change the decision."

22           On 3rd she meets you from school and brings you up  
23 to see SR153 as promised. Then this is recorded:

24           "It seems according to Nazareth House that SR153 was  
25 too lax with the girls and this is the reason for the

1 girls wanting back to her."

2 Then:

3 "Ettaville has agreed to take HIA62 on a temporary  
4 basis at first."

5 That was a hostel run by a **NHB 125** . You then were  
6 taken there. As part of that SR18 agreed to let you  
7 stay until after Easter.

8 Now perhaps -- you probably didn't know some of what  
9 was being said to **NHB 115** at the time --

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. -- but it obviously was this. You being put out, as it  
12 were, was something you weren't looking forward to.

13 **A. Well, no. I was -- I was petrified of moving out.**  
14 **I had no preparation for moving out. You know, I'd**  
15 **grown up in an environment where it was very insular and**  
16 **secular and I didn't know what was out there, if you**  
17 **know what I mean.**

18 Q. Had you any connection to Derry?

19 **A. No, no, none whatsoever.**

20 Q. Now there's a social work report which I showed you  
21 earlier --

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. -- and I just want to bring it to the attention of the  
24 Panel publicly. It is at 44708. So in addition to  
25 keeping the notes this was a report of 9th April. If we

1 just scroll down, we can see the date in the bottom left  
2 corner. It is from **NHB 115** .

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. So this records the various incidents that we have  
5 looked at as told through the handwritten note. You can  
6 see this is where the time I was saying of 10.30 comes  
7 from. That may be a typo. She records:

8 "Unfortunately it is said at Nazareth House to be  
9 the policy not to move children between the house and  
10 the lodge."

11 That's something the Inquiry may need to look into  
12 further, but this having been recorded, the notes show  
13 then in fairness the social worker getting your medical  
14 card and your birth certificate from Nazareth House,  
15 taking them to you in Ettaville. There is reference to  
16 you being an amenable girl and getting on well initially  
17 in Ettaville.

18 It seems, if we look, please, at 44654, that on  
19 2nd July -- so you have now been away, as it were, for  
20 three months -- if we scroll down to 2nd July entry, we  
21 can see:

22 "SR153 ..."

23 Do you see where it begins:

24 "SR153 is taking a group of Nazareth Lodge children  
25 to Ballyhornan and asked **NHB 125** if HIA62 could go

1 with them. NHB 125 contacted and it was agreed that  
2 she would go from 29th July."

3 So SR153 appears to have been trying to keep in  
4 touch with you. Can you remember did you continue to  
5 see her?

6 **A. I didn't continue to see her. I think she sent me  
7 a letter.**

8 Q. I think you were explaining this to me earlier. Can you  
9 tell the Panel what she said in the letter?

10 **A. I can't -- I can't remember all the contents of the  
11 letter, but she -- she had said that -- I specifically  
12 remember her saying, "You have weathered many storms  
13 that have been out of your control" and --**

14 Q. Was this letter essentially apologising that she  
15 couldn't take you to be in --

16 **A. Yes. She apologised for not being able to take me, but  
17 --**

18 Q. You said to me earlier she said there were obstacles.

19 **A. Yes. "Obstacles in my way that are preventing this from  
20 happening", yes, yes.**

21 Q. But you continued then to have a relationship with her  
22 --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- because this is her asking that you be taken --

25 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

1 Q. -- you get the opportunity to go on the Lodge holiday to  
2 Ballyhornan.

3 **A. So I think SR153 was probably trying to be very creative**  
4 **in terms of wanting to rescue me in some way rather**  
5 **than -- I think she was being resourceful and creative**  
6 **in trying to have some impact on my life at that time.**

7 Q. I think you are aware from our discussion earlier I was  
8 explaining that from the nuns' perspective obviously  
9 they've got a large group of children.

10 **A. Yes, yes.**

11 Q. You're causing as far as they're concerned some  
12 difficulty.

13 **A. Yes, yes.**

14 Q. Something has to be done. Their way of doing that --

15 **A. Is to remove me.**

16 Q. -- is to remove you.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. The difficulties were there, perhaps not untypical --

19 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

20 Q. -- of a 15-year-old. An older boyfriend --

21 **A. Yes, yes.**

22 Q. -- and I think, you know, when you are staying with  
23 NHB 125 --

24 **A. Yes, yes.**

25 Q. -- there are various other problems that arise of

1 a similar vein --

2 **A. Yes, yes.**

3 Q. -- you going somewhere you weren't supposed to go --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- and with someone they'd rather you weren't with  
6 ultimately, but it seems that on 9th August, if we look  
7 at 44656, please, and a third of the way down, that  
8 you -- if we just maximise that, we can see:

9 "HIA62 returned ..."

10 There is references, you know, to the boyfriend  
11 having a particular connection. SR153 said she would  
12 talk to you. Then:

13 "HIA62 returned from Ballyhornan and stayed with  
14 SR153 until 28th August."

15 Do you remember was that in the lodge you stayed  
16 then for a week or two weeks?

17 **A. I can't actually remember that.**

18 Q. You don't remember?

19 **A. I can't remember that.**

20 Q. It certainly gives that impression --

21 **A. Impression.**

22 Q. -- that you went with her on holiday to Ballyhornan and  
23 then you stayed with her.

24 **A. It must have been the lodge. It must have been the**  
25 **lodge. I can't quite remember.**

1 Q. It looks like you continued to stay involved with SR153

2 --

3 **A. Yes, yes.**

4 Q. -- because in June of '75 -- I'm not going to bring this  
5 up, but I'll give the Panel the reference at 44662 --  
6 there's a new social worker. **NHB 115** moves on in terms  
7 of her involvement with you in September '74, but in  
8 June '75 SR153 has continued to be involved and her  
9 views were being sought about you.

10 In fairness to the Health & Social Care Board,  
11 standing now for their predecessors, there's a lengthy,  
12 detailed involvement with you up until 1976, when you --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- and a friend leave for .

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. This is a -- the issue of you leaving is something the  
17 Inquiry will look into with other witnesses.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. There's two questions that we ask each witness towards  
20 the end of their evidence, HIA62. The first is that  
21 when the Panel completes its work, it has to consider  
22 what recommendations it might make to the Northern  
23 Ireland Government in the form of potentially  
24 an apology, some other memorial or maybe some other  
25 means of redress. We ask each witness whether there's

1 anything they want to say to help the Panel's thinking.

2 Is there anything you want to say about those

3 recommendations?

4 **A. I've tried to think about this. I haven't got**  
5 **a definitive answer really, but I think a memorial would**  
6 **be a lovely thing to have. However, I do think that**  
7 **given some of the -- some of the psychological effects**  
8 **it has had overall on people and consequently the**  
9 **choices, the life choices they have made as a result of**  
10 **their upbringing, I think a lot of people would be**  
11 **benefitted very much from some financial help, because**  
12 **they weren't given the opportunities to make the**  
13 **decisions that they would have made had they been**  
14 **brought up in a nuclear 2.5 family.**

15 Q. Yes. Now just as to that, as you know, you went to  
16 Rupert Stanley --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. This is one of the points I should have covered. You  
19 went to Rupert Stanley, but then you chose not to  
20 proceed with that.

21 **A. Yes, yes.**

22 Q. What you are describing, you feel a lot of your choices  
23 were affected by --

24 **A. Well, when I was older, I went back as a mature student**  
25 **to University to try to pursue a career in**

1 counselling, therapeutic counselling. Now the first two  
2 years of that course is all about personal development.  
3 You can't heal others unless you're healed yourself, but  
4 during my personal development I had to stop the course,  
5 because you have a lot to bring, a lot to share with  
6 other people who are on the course with you, and the  
7 sharing was for me -- it was a spectacle. It was  
8 a spectacle of what I had to share. You have various  
9 graphs to do of your ups and downs of your childhood and  
10 there was too many downs there for me and it was  
11 bringing everything up to the surface for me, and I know  
12 it was a journey that I was expected to go through, but  
13 it was -- I felt as if I was a spectacle in the class  
14 and I couldn't, because I didn't think -- these people  
15 are going to think I'm making this up, because some of  
16 it is quite bad. "That can't really have happened to  
17 somebody", and my self-doubt. "Is she an attention  
18 seeker? Surely that didn't happen", and more. I mean,  
19 it is just so far removed that I pulled myself out of  
20 that and I could not do it.

21 Q. The last question that we ask each witness is whether  
22 there's anything else that they want to say about their  
23 time in the institution we are looking at, which for you  
24 today is Nazareth House.

25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. It might be something I missed or I didn't cover in  
2 enough detail --

3 A. Uh-huh.

4 Q. -- or there's something else about your time there that  
5 you want to say. This is your opportunity to do that if  
6 there's anything else you want to add from the material  
7 that we've been looking at.

8 A. Looking back at my experience and the experience of  
9 a lot of people, I think -- I think the aim and the idea  
10 was good, to try to salvage some casualties, children of  
11 circumstance, now quite a charitable idea. However, the  
12 people who ultimately had responsibility for people's  
13 lives, there was no barring system. It was a culture.  
14 There was no barring system, and I think now in my  
15 56 years of life some women who choose to go into  
16 Sisterhood or going to go on to be a nun are made for  
17 the wrong reasons. I think sometimes it can be  
18 a sanctuary, it can be a life choice for people for the  
19 wrong reasons, but I think people who -- in fact, I know  
20 that some of the nuns that I had experience with had  
21 mental health problems quite clearly. Excuse me.

22 Q. Based on what you know now of human behaviour, looking  
23 back, you can recognise --

24 A.

. I'm very, very aware of the traits

1       that some of these conditions exhibit in people, and  
2       when I look back now at some of the nuns and how they  
3       portrayed themselves and how they could switch from one  
4       mood to another, I can see a lot of personality traits.  
5       There were a lot of people with mental health problems,  
6       which didn't help the overall situation.

7    Q.   So it's the point, if I summarise it in this way, HIA62  
8       --

9    A.   **Yes, yes.**

10   Q.   -- characterised by good people like SR153, but a number  
11       of unsuitable people --

12   A.   **Yes, yes.**

13   Q.   -- who were able to carry on without difficulty -- carry  
14       on untouched, as it were.

15   A.   **Absolutely, with no governance or no control really. It**  
16       **was going on on a very large scale. I think in my**  
17       **experiences, albeit some of them were bad, people who**  
18       **went before me I know had far, far worse experiences**  
19       **than me, and I just want to validate that as well,**  
20       **because I have an older sister. Her story is quite**  
21       **different to mine, but I just think it was -- the**  
22       **concept, the idea of it was good, but ultimately it was**  
23       **very, very, very damaging, because there was no control**  
24       **over the people who would ultimately have control of**  
25       **children, and we now know today that it was disastrous**



1 Q. So could you go and help yourself to them and read them  
2 and stuff?

3 **A. Yes, they were there -- they were there for people to  
4 help themselves to, yes.**

5 Q. They would change from time to time with people  
6 donating?

7 **A. There weren't a lot. There was maybe only three or four  
8 books, but people would donate second-hand toys and  
9 there would be the odd book in there, yes.**

10 Q. Okay. My other question is thinking back to that  
11 photograph we looked at --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- at the beginning --

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. -- a lot of the girls seemed to have tops that were very  
16 similar. Would they have all been from one house group  
17 with the same colour?

18 **A. Yes, we did. We had gingham to distinguish one group  
19 from another. Sacred Heart was red.**

20 Q. Uh-huh.

21 **A. I think Our Lady's was blue and St. Anne's was green  
22 gingham, yes, yes.**

23 Q. That's the dresses you are talking about there.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. The tops, the jumpers looked all the same as well.

1           Would they have been similar, those clothes?

2   **A. I can't remember about the jumpers. I just know that we**  
3       **had the gingham to distinguish one group from another.**

4   Q. Right. Okay.

5   **A. I don't quite remember the jumpers.**

6   Q. Were those dresses made at the -- at the home?

7   **A. I think they were, because we had a workroom there.**

8       **There was a lot of -- yes, there was a lot sewing going**  
9       **on, because we had aprons and everything. So I assume,**  
10      **yes, they probably were.**

11   Q. Okay. Thank you very much.

12   **A. Right.**

13   CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA62, thank you very much indeed for  
14       coming to speak to us. We can see it wasn't all that  
15       easy for you at times, but we are very grateful for what  
16       you have been able to tell us, particularly since you  
17       have also made a                    journey to get here.  
18       Thank you very much for coming.

19   (Witness withdrew)

20   MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, Ms Smith is  
21       taking the next witness. If we take a break ...

22   CHAIRMAN: Yes. We will sit again at 2.40.

23   (1.40 pm)

24   (Lunch break)

25   (2.40 pm)

1 WITNESS HIA63 (called)

2 CHAIRMAN: Yes, Ms Smith.

3 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, Chairman, Panel Members. The  
4 first of our witnesses this afternoon is HIA63. She is  
5 HIA63. HIA63 wishes to take the religious oath and she  
6 also wishes to maintain her anonymity.

7 WITNESS HIA 63 (sworn)

8 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, HIA63. Please sit down.

9 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

10 MS SMITH: HIA63, before I come to your evidence I'm just  
11 going to outline to the Panel where there are certain  
12 documents in our bundle of papers.

13 HIA63's statement can be found at SNB-681 to 690.

14 The congregation's response is at 2126 to 2128.

15 The Health & Social Care Board response is at  
16 SNB-6445 to 6246. That can't be right. 6245 to 6246.

17 The civil claim papers -- it's a Letter of Claim at  
18 70572.

19 There are photographs at 18403 and 18404.

20 Now there's a document being pulled up on the screen  
21 here, HIA63. I just want you to confirm that this is  
22 the witness statement that you prepared for the Inquiry  
23 and you signed it on 28th August of last year. Instead  
24 of where it says "HIA63" your signature is underneath  
25 that black rectangle. Is that correct?

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Can I ask you to confirm that this is the statement of  
3 evidence that you want the Inquiry to consider together  
4 with anything else that you say this afternoon?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. If we go back to the first page, please, at 681, and  
7 your personal details are set out here in the first  
8 three paragraphs. You are the eldest of the three  
9 sisters who were taken into care when your mother died.  
10 That's yourself, HIA61 and HIA62. We have already heard  
11 from your two sisters this morning, HIA63. You had  
12 a brother who also -- he was an older brother than you.  
13 He went into Nazareth Lodge, first of all, and then from  
14 there he went on to Kircubbin. Is that correct?

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

16 Q. Your younger sister -- your mother died sadly in 1963.  
17 You and your sisters were taken to Nazareth House. You  
18 were aged 9 at the time and you stayed there until you  
19 were almost 16 in October 1967. Your younger sister  
20 went into the nursery and yourself and HIA61 were put  
21 into SR116's group. You later then moved to SR134's  
22 group. You discuss this in your statement there at  
23 paragraph 4. You say that:

24 "We were given numbers in the home",  
25 and you were number [REDACTED] I was asking you about

1 this, because, as you are aware, the congregation have  
2 said that numbers were only used for putting out laundry  
3 to make sure that you got the items back that were the  
4 items that you normally wore.

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. Would you accept that?

7 **A. Well, for myself, yes, because I was addressed by my**  
8 **name or "Miss HIA63", whatever the case may be, but I**  
9 **can't speak or I don't know about other people, but for**  
10 **myself I was addressed by my name.**

11 Q. But you remember the number ■ being used?

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

13 Q. You would accept that was used when laundry was being  
14 distributed?

15 **A. Yes, yes.**

16 Q. You said there that, depending on what the circumstances  
17 were, you were either called "HIA63" or "Miss HIA63".  
18 Is that right?

19 **A. Yes. If you had been naughty or done something wrong or**  
20 **in trouble, it was "Miss HIA63".**

21 Q. Now paragraph 5 here you say when you first arrived, you  
22 and your sister HIA61 went off to Glenariff, because the  
23 children were due to go on a holiday just as you arrived  
24 in June. So you went with them. You say you were away  
25 for two weeks. You remember that you didn't want to

1 leave HIA62 in the nursery, but you had no choice, and  
2 as soon as you came back, the first thing you did was to  
3 ask one of the nuns if you could see her in the nursery.  
4 You were allowed to go up, and when HIA62 saw you, she  
5 ran to you crying and threw her arms around you. She  
6 hugged you tightly and wouldn't let you go. You felt so  
7 guilty, because she was so young she wouldn't have known  
8 what was happening. You say in 24 hours she had lost  
9 her mother, her brother and then her two sisters were  
10 gone too and she probably thought she wouldn't see any  
11 of you again. You say that she was in the nursery for  
12 a few years. You used to go up and see her sometimes,  
13 but it just depended on the nuns' mood whether they  
14 allowed you to go up or not. HIA61 has said that she  
15 didn't see her except in the playground, which was  
16 through the railings. Do you ever remember HIA61 going  
17 with you to visit HIA62 in the nursery?

18 **A. No, I don't ever remember HIA61 going with me. I used**  
19 **to go up on my own. I don't know why HIA61 didn't go**  
20 **with me. I would ask permission. I would be allowed to**  
21 **go up occasionally.**

22 Q. You say that the nursery was separated from the older  
23 children's part by railings.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. You would sometimes see her and hold her hands through

1 the railings.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. So there was never any opportunity for her to come down  
4 and play with the older girls?

5 **A. No, she wouldn't have been allowed to come down there.**

6 Q. You say it was really hard being separated from her and  
7 you never got to see your brother, even though he was  
8 just down the road in Nazareth Lodge.

9 **A. Never seen him when he was in the lodge, no.**

10 Q. You did, however, tell me when we were speaking earlier  
11 that you did manage to see him when he was in Kircubbin.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. You are not sure how that came about. You think it  
14 might be the couple who came to visit you and your  
15 sisters in the home might have taken you to see him in  
16 Kircubbin.

17 **A. Yes, I think it might have been them that brought us  
18 down there.**

19 Q. Would that have been once or more than once that you  
20 would have been able to visit him?

21 **A. About two or three times I did see him.**

22 Q. Now paragraph 7 here of your statement you talk about  
23 the routine and the religious routine that there was in  
24 the home. You say that Nazareth -- the routine was you  
25 got out of bed in the morning. You were straight on

1 your knees saying your prayers. Then you washed and  
2 dressed. There were three groups in the home: St.  
3 Anne's, Our Lady's and Sacred Heart. On a Sunday we all  
4 had to go to mass but during the week the groups took it  
5 in turns at going to mass. You'd go to mass when it was  
6 your group's turn and then you'd go down for breakfast.  
7 Just to be clear on this, you would say it was every  
8 other day you went to mass. So each group would have  
9 gone to mass two times per week and every Sunday.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. You say:

12 "There was a lot of indoctrination in the home. You  
13 said the Rosary and Benedictions every night.  
14 Encouraged to confess your sins."

15 You say:

16 "It was all fire and brimstone."

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. "On Christmas Day we had to sit through three masses in  
19 a row and if any children got tired or fidgety, then  
20 SR134 would nip your neck in the church."

21 Now I should say, HIA63, that I am using the names  
22 of the nuns, but as you can see, they have been given  
23 a designation as well.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. So the names are not to be used outside this chamber.

1 **A. Okay.**

2 Q. Now the congregation would say that children weren't  
3 expected to go to mass as frequently as you've described  
4 and certainly would not have been expected to sit  
5 through three masses. Is there anything you want to say  
6 about that, HIA63?

7 **A. All I can say is I remember very clearly sitting through  
8 three masses on Christmas Day and being very bored and  
9 we had no choice. We had to sit there. As I say, it  
10 was every other day -- every third day the groups took  
11 turns on week days and every Sunday. So I remember very  
12 clearly sitting through three masses.**

13 Q. You go on in paragraph 8 here to describe the food,  
14 which you say was pretty much a mixed bag. Some of it  
15 would have been all right. Some of it was horrible.  
16 You always remember eating horrible lumpy porridge and  
17 you had to finish it or it would be spoon fed to you.

18 "The nuns took it in turn in supervising meal times.  
19 There were three main nuns",  
20 whom you name here. Those are SR116, SR134 and  
21 SR31.

22 Now I am just going to pause here and look at  
23 a photograph that we looked at when we were talking  
24 earlier. It is at 18413.

25 **A. This is not the photo I looked at earlier.**

1 Q. It's just going to be pulled up. Sorry. 18413. I'll  
2 come back to those photographs shortly. It's 18413.  
3 There it is now. This is a photograph that we have been  
4 looking at with your sisters, HIA63. You are not in  
5 this photograph. Isn't that correct?

6 **A. That's right. I am not in it.**

7 Q. But your sisters are. We can see the girl with the long  
8 dark hair in the foreground there on the left-hand side  
9 is HIA61 and to the far side on the right-hand side we  
10 can just see HIA62. Is that right?

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

12 Q. You obviously are not in that. First of all, can I just  
13 ask you if you can identify the nuns in the photograph?

14 **A. Yes. To the very left it's SR134 and in the middle it's  
15 SR31 and to the right SR116.**

16 Q. Now have you -- we know that you left in October 1967.  
17 Might that be the reason why you are not in this  
18 photograph?

19 **A. It's possible, me being the oldest, yes. It's possible.**

20 Q. Have you any idea what age your sisters were at this  
21 point?

22 **A. Well, I can see HIA62 is very young. I would say HIA62  
23 is round about -- I don't know -- 5 or 6 there and HIA61  
24 could be around 9 or 10. That's just a guess.**

25 Q. But certainly you recognise obviously your sisters and

1           rhe nuns in it?

2   **A. Yes.**

3   Q. It would seem to have been Christmas. So if you left in  
4       October, this might be Christmas 1967?

5   **A. Yes, it's possible.**

6   Q. If you had been in the home, would you have expected to  
7       have been in this photograph?

8   **A. I'm not really sure. I mean, I'm just not sure at all**  
9       **I would have, because there's only so many children.**  
10   **That's not all the children in the convent.**

11   Q. Just coming back to your statement -- maybe if we just  
12       look at those two other photographs while they are  
13       pulled up on the screen there. That was 18403. Now  
14       it's obviously not as clear as the last one, but we can  
15       see in the middle just in front of the television there  
16       is a nun in this photograph. Do you remember who that  
17       is?

18   **A. SR134.**

19   Q. Are you in this photograph, HIA63?

20   **A. No.**

21   Q. Then the next one, if we just scroll down to the next  
22       photograph. Sorry. That's another version of the one  
23       with the slide in it.

24                As I say, going back to paragraph 8 of your  
25       statement where you were talking about the food, you say

1 that:

2 "Sometimes we would get what we called slop for  
3 dinner. I don't know if it was leftovers or what.  
4 I wouldn't say we were starved in the home, but there  
5 were times I remember being hungry. It wasn't like you  
6 could get yourself a biscuit if you were hungry. You  
7 were fed when you were fed and that was it."

8 So there was no snacking in between meal times  
9 effectively?

10 **A. No, there was no snacking.**

11 Q. You remember at Christmas you would get an orange and  
12 a fried egg at breakfast and that was a big deal. You  
13 say:

14 "I know the nuns ate better food than us, because  
15 I worked in the kitchen for a short time and I saw there  
16 food. The ate very well. There was no fat on any of  
17 their food and they ate omelettes and things like that."

18 Now the congregation have said that they ate exactly  
19 the same food as the children ate, but you say that  
20 isn't the case?

21 **A. No, I would disagree with that, because -- only because**  
22 **I did work in the kitchen and I did see their food being**  
23 **prepared. It was all very lean meat and omelettes were**  
24 **made whites separated from the eggs. I seen that**  
25 **first-hand.**

1 Q. You remember Christmas parties outside the home, which  
2 you say was one of the few things you had to look  
3 forward to. You were waiting to see if your name was  
4 called and it was exciting getting out of Nazareth  
5 House.

6 "I remember we would be given presents like talc  
7 sets or something like that and that was nice."

8 Were you able to keep the presents that you were  
9 given at these parties?

10 **A. I think sometimes you were, but not always. Sometimes**  
11 **it would just be taken from you.**

12 Q. You say that people used to come to the home and take  
13 you out for the day. You remember with fondness one  
14 particular lady, who you say was:

15 "... a lovely woman, who was good to us."

16 You say:

17 "She was very wealthy, used to bring us somewhere  
18 for the day and then bring us to her house for tea  
19 before dropping us back to the home."

20 Now when you say "us", would that have been you and  
21 both of your sisters or one of your sisters or what?

22 **A. It was the three of us.**

23 Q. The bedding you describe as basic. You say that you  
24 slept in rows of little iron beds, and when you first  
25 arrived, the night you first arrived, you and your

1 sister had to top and tail because there weren't enough  
2 beds. The dormitory was certainly warm enough. The  
3 only time you were really cold was when you were forced  
4 to play outside in the garden on cold days and you had  
5 to keep your sleeves rolled up to your elbows.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Why did you have to keep your sleeves rolled up, HIA63?

8 **A. It was just their policy. We had to keep them rolled**  
9 **up. I don't know whether it was just to save on the**  
10 **clothes or what, but we had to keep our sleeves rolled**  
11 **up.**

12 Q. We have heard from one of your sisters that you had to  
13 paint the beds during the summer. Do you remember doing  
14 that?

15 **A. Yes, that's right. We had to. Just the -- I don't know**  
16 **if we all had to do it, but I remember doing it.**

17 Q. You go on then to talk about your schooling at  
18 paragraph 12. You say it was the same nuns who cared  
19 for you also taught in the school. Again you give their  
20 names: SR116, SR31 and SR134. You say that when you  
21 were 11, you remember thinking you'd be doing your 11  
22 Plus, but then SR31 told you that you weren't 11 and  
23 that you were only 10, and you thought that that was  
24 deliberate on her part, that she didn't like you and you  
25 thought it was about control. You were made to stay an

1 extra year in her class and you never, in fact, did do  
2 the 11 Plus.

3 Now we were looking at this earlier and you say you  
4 were born in . Isn't that right?

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

6 Q. I am presuming from you telling us that that's what's on  
7 your birth certificate?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Although if we look -- I looked at this with you. There  
10 is a register entry at SNB-4109, and you'll see here  
11 that just where there's an asterisk over at the side,  
12 the third block along it says "HIA63,  
13 , which is a year later than your actual date of  
14 birth. Isn't that right?

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. This is taken from the Sisters of Nazareth register. So  
17 that's what they had down as your date of birth.  
18 Whether that was given to them wrongly or what, that's  
19 when they believed you were born.

20 **A. Yes. Well, I can say now today that was maybe the case,**  
21 **that they were given the wrong date of birth for**  
22 **whatever reason, but at the time to me it was very**  
23 **deliberate, because I knew what age I was. I remember**  
24 **my mother. I remember going into the home and I was**  
25 **very clear about my age. So maybe that was a genuine**

1 **mistake, but at the time to me it was very deliberate.**

2 Q. You felt this was a deliberate --

3 **A. On SR31's part.**

4 Q. -- yes, to keep you back a year?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. But looking at it today, you would accept that maybe it  
7 was just an error on the part of the congregation?

8 **A. Looking at it today, I think it was an error now.**

9 Q. But that's not how you felt at the time?

10 **A. No.**

11 Q. But in any event you went to St. Monica's. You say the  
12 nuns never encouraged education. This is going back to  
13 your statement at 684, please. You believe if you had  
14 stayed in school longer and got some qualifications, you  
15 might have had a different career. It would have been  
16 better for your career.

17 You go on to talk about the chores you had to do in  
18 the home. You say it wasn't just a bit of cleaning or  
19 tidying-up after you. You describe it as excessive  
20 manual labour. You talk about a huge hall that had to  
21 be waxed and polished every week-end.

22 "There was a line of us. One girl would put the wax  
23 on, the next would polish it and so on."

24 You say:

25 "The floor was gleaming by the time we were

1 finished. In the mornings after breakfast we had to go  
2 and mop and clean the landings. SR116 would come along  
3 with her finger to see if you'd missed any dust and it  
4 was hard work and too much for small children."

5 The congregation would say yes, children were  
6 expected to do chores in the home, but they wouldn't  
7 accept that those chores were excessive.

8 **A. Well, I disagree with the congregation. The chores were**  
9 **very excessive for young children and it was waxing and**  
10 **polishing. It was cleaning -- mopping, cleaning,**  
11 **dusting landings. So I disagree with the congregation**  
12 **there.**

13 Q. You go on in paragraph 14 here to talk about bedwetters.  
14 You yourself didn't wet the bed, but you did see what  
15 happened to those girls who did. You say that before  
16 they got the buzzers for the beds -- now do you remember  
17 the buzzers then coming into the home?

18 **A. I do remember the buzzers, yes, because they used to**  
19 **waken -- they used to waken everyone else.**

20 Q. You remember one nun, who you think might have been  
21 SR134, putting a wet sheet over a girl's head as  
22 punishment for wetting the bed.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. That happened to a few different girls.

25 **A. Correct, yes.**

1 Q. Now did that happen once the buzzers came along or did  
2 things change?

3 A. I can't really remember if it happened after the  
4 buzzers. I think it would have been before the buzzers,  
5 because when the buzzers went off, it did -- the  
6 children -- you know, when they were activated, the  
7 children did get up. They were supposed to be activated  
8 as soon as there was any liquid there and it was wet.  
9 So I don't think it happened after the buzzers. That's  
10 only my thought. It may well have done. I don't  
11 remember.

12 Q. You talk in paragraph 15 about bath time in the home.  
13 You said:

14 "There was a bath once a week. There were three tin  
15 baths for washing our hair out in the yard, one for each  
16 group. We had to queue up and take our turn. The water  
17 was warm but it was never changed, so you were lucky if  
18 you got washed first and got the clean water, but if go  
19 washed last, the water was filthy. We were bathed in  
20 Jeyes Fluid, which should never have been used. When it  
21 was put into the bath, the water turned white. The  
22 Jeyes Fluid made my skin red and inflamed. We had to  
23 wear a pinafore in the bath to protect our modesty, and  
24 when you got out, you had a sheet to put around you."

25 Now I was saying to you earlier when we were talking

1 that Jeyes Fluid was something that the nuns would say  
2 was used head lice, for the treatment of head lice, but  
3 you say there was something else used for the treatment  
4 of head lice.

5 **A. Yes. It wasn't Jeyes Fluid. The Fluid was used for the**  
6 **bath. For the head it was used DET and a fine comb.**  
7 **Each -- older children would look at other children's**  
8 **hair. We done each other. So the Fluid was definitely**  
9 **for the bath.**

10 Q. You say the older girls would have treated the younger  
11 girls' heads.

12 **A. Yes, yes.**

13 Q. Then at paragraph 16 here you talk about what sex  
14 education you got in the home, which was when you were  
15 going to get your period, you were given a book called  
16 "My Dear Daughter" and told to say a prayer to Our Lady.  
17 That was the extent of any sex education you received.  
18 Anything you learned was from the older girls. If you  
19 needed a sanitary towel, you had to go and ask the nuns.  
20 They never just handed one to you. They made you leave  
21 the dormitory and then they would leave one under your  
22 pillow. The sanitary towels were limited to one a day  
23 and you never had enough. The congregation have  
24 accepted that this is a complaint that a number of girls  
25 have made and they apologise for any unnecessary

1 suffering that was caused as a result of this.

2 You say:

3 "We used to get our underwear changed once a week.  
4 We had to go down to the nun SR122, who was in charge of  
5 the sewing room, show the gusset of our underwear, and  
6 if there were marks, you got a clout. That was awful.  
7 Children were so frightened we'd be running around --  
8 they'd be running around trying to swap their pants."

9 Another time when you were coming out of the  
10 classroom, SR122 was there, and you say you must have  
11 been playing up. She hit you on the knuckles with the  
12 site of a ruler and it really hurt.

13 "She could be very wicked sometimes and she did  
14 whatever would hurt you the most."

15 Now the congregation have said that they don't  
16 accept that this -- these underwear inspections, but you  
17 remember them every week?

18 **A. I remember them every week very clearly, yes.**

19 Q. They said they wouldn't have been a common occurrence at  
20 all, but you say it was a weekly occurrence?

21 **A. It was a weekly occurrence.**

22 Q. In paragraph 18 you talk about the clothes that you got  
23 and you said they were hand-me-downs, but you do  
24 remember on one occasion when everybody got new jelly  
25 shoes. You said it was great to get something new, but

1       yours ripped before anyone else's, and you were accused  
2       by SR116 of cutting the shoes with scissors, which you  
3       hadn't done. As a result she -- you think you were  
4       about 10 or 11 -- she told you to go into -- she hit you  
5       over the head with the shoe, told you to go into her  
6       classroom, kneel down and not to come out until you said  
7       that you had cut them. You didn't know what to do,  
8       because you were in a catch-22 situation. If you told  
9       the truth, you would get into trouble. If you lied and  
10      said you cut them, you would get beaten too. So you  
11      knelt down and you spent the whole day crying, too  
12      frightened to come out and say that you had cut the  
13      shoes. You never, in fact, did say that you cut them.  
14      Eventually she had to tell you to come out of the  
15      classroom, and you say that after that the other  
16      children's shoes started to rip as well as yours, but  
17      that's a particular memory that you have --

18   **A. Yes.**

19   Q. -- of getting new footwear and yours breaking before  
20      anyone else's did.

21   **A. Yes.**

22   Q. You go on to talk about what you say was a lot of  
23      physical and mental abuse in Nazareth House. You say  
24      that you and your sister were moved from St. Anne's  
25      group into the Sacred Heart, because of the shortage of

1 beds. SR134 was in charge of Sacred Heart. You say you  
2 were about 13 or 14. You must have done something  
3 naughty, and SR31 brought you into her store room. She  
4 started slapping you with a stick. Then she pulled up  
5 your nightdress and started hitting you on the backside.  
6 You say you were so embarrassed because it was at  
7 a tender age, but she just said, "This is where you need  
8 it". You have no recollection of what caused her to  
9 mete out this punishment to you?

10 **A. I don't remember what the reason was. I just remember**  
11 **it happening. I can't remember the reason.**

12 Q. You talk about going to the dentist. When he asked you  
13 why you hadn't been cleaning your teeth, you told him  
14 because you didn't have any toothpaste. You say you  
15 would have been given toothpaste in the home, but yours  
16 must have just run out. He then phoned the nuns,  
17 because the next thing you knew is that SR116 came in  
18 and made you go into the hall and -- sorry -- it was  
19 SR134 -- I beg your pardon -- made you go into the hall  
20 and stand on a chair in front of all the other children.

21 "She humiliated me in front of everyone, saying,  
22 'Oh, HIA63 told the dentist she had ...'"

23 In fact, her words were, "Miss HIA63 told the  
24 dentist she had no toothpaste".

25 "I don't know how long she made me stand on that

1 chair, but it was for hours."

2 You remember another time when a few other girls ran  
3 up to the serving table in the dining room to see what  
4 was for dinner.

5 "SR116 came in and said whoever was up at the server  
6 had to go and wait outside her classroom. You had to  
7 stand there and wait until she was ready to come and  
8 slap you. It was a form of mental cruelty.

9 On another occasion I was standing on a swing and  
10 SR116 told me to get up to her classroom. She came at  
11 me with a bamboo cane and it snapped in half and flew  
12 across the room. She just said, 'There's plenty more  
13 where that came from',

14 got another stick and continued to beat you.

15 You describe her as a very physical woman, more so  
16 than the other two. You say she was the youngest of the  
17 three nuns and you later heard that she had psychiatric  
18 problems, but you say:

19 "She should never have been in charge of children as  
20 she had no compassion whatsoever. She would  
21 spontaneously grab your forearm for no reason  
22 whatsoever, take her hand back as far as it would go and  
23 slap you, leaving imprints of her hands. It was always  
24 at least six slaps, three on each forearm, and that was  
25 when she wasn't using sticks."

1           You go on to describe in paragraph 23 here SR134,  
2           who you say was a cruel, mocking woman.

3           "She would always say derogatory things to you. One  
4           day when I was about 14, I was wearing a black dress  
5           with a white-collar and she said, 'Get that dress off  
6           you. It's too short with your fat legs'."

7           When you were at secondary school, she and two other  
8           girls -- you and two other girls truanted for the day,  
9           mitched school.

10          "We were sitting in the dormitory chatting to a girl  
11          who was sick in bed." You say that that's -- if you  
12          were sick, you were just told to stay in bed for the  
13          day. When you heard someone coming, you ran and hid,  
14          two of you in the wardrobe and one under the bed. When  
15          SR134 found you, she banged and shut the door of the  
16          wardrobe half a dozen times and shouted, "I have a good  
17          mind to leave you there". Then she took you down to her  
18          classroom and made you stand there in front of the class  
19          all day as punishment.

20          You say that you lived in fear of the home. SR31  
21          was always threatening you with Middleton or the Good  
22          Shepherd. The Good Shepherd was across the road and it  
23          was like a Magdalene Laundry for wayward girls. You  
24          were terrified, because you had heard of girls going to  
25          Middleton and never being seen again. You lived in fear

1 of being sent away and it was awful, especially if you  
2 had siblings in the home, because you didn't want to be  
3 separated from them.

4 Now at paragraph 25 you go on to describe the fact  
5 that you were -- when you were moved into Our Lady's  
6 dormitory, but you were still in the Sacred Heart group.  
7 Do you know why you were moved or why that kind of  
8 happened?

9 **A. I don't know if it was a shortage of beds, but I know we**  
10 **were still in the Sacred Heart group, sleeping in Our**  
11 **Lady's dormitory.**

12 Q. You say:

13 "There were two older girls in Our Lady's group",  
14 whose names you give there. I am just going to  
15 give their first names, NHB 25 and .

16 "They were constantly getting beaten in the home."  
17 You think they were about 14 at the time. You say:  
18 "Every single night one of those two got beaten by  
19 SR31. They didn't have to do anything. She targeted  
20 those two girls. I remember feeling bad for them".

21 but you were also glad it wasn't you.

22 "You were constantly thinking about who was going to  
23 be beaten next." You say:

24 "SR31 would take girls individually into the  
25 storeroom. So you never actually witnessed her beat

1 anyone, but the girls would come back crying."

2 You say that:

3 "One time SR31 found in the garden mitching  
4 school and she brought her up to her classroom. She  
5 told her to kneel down and then she started chopping off  
6 her hair with scissors. It was awful. head was  
7 bleeding and SR31 was just cutting chunks of hair off in  
8 front of the whole classroom."

9 You say it was humiliating for .

10 You don't ever remember anyone coming from the  
11 Welfare Authority to inspect the home. You do remember  
12 benefactors, who were people who donated money to the  
13 home, but they didn't come that often, although you knew  
14 when they were coming, because you had to be neat and  
15 tidy and the place had to be tidied up. You say one of  
16 the nuns would say, "Stand up for your benefactors", but  
17 you didn't know what that meant. They never spoke to  
18 you. They just came in, had a look round and they might  
19 have nodded at you.

20 You talk about leaving school at 15 and working on  
21 in Nazareth House for about a year after that. You  
22 actually got one of the better jobs you say. You were  
23 working in the parlours, which involved answering the  
24 door, answering the telephone, cleaning and serving the  
25 priest his meals. You remember a priest coming in to

1 say mass every day, and you give his name. You also  
2 remember Bishop Daly sometimes coming in to say mass.  
3 You served him his breakfast. You remember you actually  
4 got paid money for this job, which was £4 a month. On  
5 top of that you got your food and board. I was asking  
6 you if you were allowed to keep the £4 you were given  
7 each month.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. You left Nazareth House on 1967, a few  
10 weeks before your 16th birthday. You also -- the first  
11 job that you got after you left the home was organised  
12 by the nuns. It was working for a nanny in Belfast, but  
13 you didn't like it. You got a nanny -- job as a nanny  
14 for another family. You enjoyed that. You worked as  
15 a waitress in a cafe for a while. That's, as you say,  
16 all you were qualified to do, domestic work. You had  
17 left school with no qualifications and your education  
18 was poor.

19 You go on to describe your life after care in the  
20 following paragraphs through to paragraph 37, but if we  
21 just pause here at paragraph 31, you say you used to  
22 visit your brother in Kircubbin as well, and when -- yes  
23 -- when HIA62 was about 15, she got into trouble and was  
24 thrown out of Nazareth House. I think the Panel have  
25 heard the circumstances of that this morning. You say

1 she was put under the care of Social Services and she  
2 was allowed to come and live with you, and the social  
3 worker had been involved with you and she knew you, and  
4 you used to get the cheque from the Welfare Authority  
5 for looking after HIA62, who would still have been under  
6 age at that time.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. The -- as I say, I am not going to go into the details  
9 of what's in the remainder of your statement about your  
10 time in care, and you say that you never --in the very  
11 last paragraph you say you never reported the abuse you  
12 suffered to the police.

13 "The thought never crossed my mind, as I didn't  
14 think of it as abuse."

15 I just wanted to explore that with you a little bit,  
16 HIA63. What -- how did you view the treatment that you  
17 received while you were in the institution?

18 **A. Well, it wasn't very good. I think for young children**  
19 **they should have been treated much better, with much**  
20 **more care and sensitivity. I just feel the**  
21 **congregation, the ones that were in charge of the**  
22 **children, they didn't have the experience of looking**  
23 **after children or how to treat them. So it wasn't -- it**  
24 **wasn't good treatment.**

25 Q. You know that I have told you in their response

1 statement the Sisters of Nazareth have offered you  
2 an unreserved apology for any treatment that you  
3 received at the hands of any of the nuns that fell below  
4 the acceptable standard.

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. I wanted to know how that -- does that apology mean much  
7 to you or how do you view that?

8 **A. Not really at this late stage in my life now. I am over  
9 60 now and it's a bit late in the day coming.**

10 Q. The final question I wanted to ask you -- two final  
11 questions I should say is that this Inquiry has to make  
12 recommendations about what should happen next about  
13 those, like yourself and your sisters, who have spent  
14 time in the institutions --

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- and those recommendations could encompass redress,  
17 they could encompass a memorial or some form of apology.  
18 I would be very interested to know what your views are  
19 as to what you think should happen.

20 **A. Well, the main thing is for the congregation to accept  
21 ownership and to acknowledge that they were the  
22 perpetrators that inflicted this abuse on young  
23 children, young vulnerable children with no voice, and  
24 obviously redress for the children that were there and  
25 badly treated.**

1 Q. Well, HIA63, I know I've done a lot of the talking and  
2 I've gone through your statement in some detail, but is  
3 there anything that you feel that we haven't covered  
4 this afternoon about your time in Nazareth House that  
5 you would like to say? Now is your opportunity to do  
6 that.

7 **A. No, I don't think I've anything else to say. I think**  
8 **it's all been covered in my statement.**

9 Q. Thank you, HIA63. I've nothing further that I want to  
10 ask you, but the Panel members may have some questions  
11 for you.

12 **A. Thank you.**

13 **Questions from THE PANEL**

14 CHAIRMAN: HIA63, can I just ask you something about what  
15 you told us about painting the beds in summer?

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. Was this something that happened each summer or do you  
18 just remember it happening once?

19 **A. I remember it happening more than once, but I can't**  
20 **honestly say it happened every summer. I think it was**  
21 **just when the paint would chip off the beds and when**  
22 **they needed to be done.**

23 Q. But certainly more than once?

24 **A. Oh, yes, yes.**

25 Q. Can you remember even approximately what age you would

1 have been done -- you would have been when you did this  
2 painting?

3 **A. Probably maybe 12 or 13.**

4 Q. Yes. Was this during the summer holidays?

5 **A. It would have been probably during the summer, yes.**

6 Q. Well, looking back on it now -- and I appreciate I'm  
7 asking you to put yourself in the minds of the Sisters  
8 at the time -- might it have been as much to keep you  
9 all occupied as anything else if you were that age?

10 **A. It could have been to keep us occupied, but at the same  
11 time it was a job that needed to be done.**

12 Q. Yes.

13 **A. So it would have been more cost effective for them to  
14 have the children do it than pay somebody to come in and  
15 do it.**

16 Q. Of course, and was this one of the old-fashioned steel  
17 framed beds --

18 **A. Yes, yes.**

19 Q. -- that we've heard about?

20 **A. Yes. The paint would peel off them.**

21 Q. Yes. Thank you.

22 **A. Okay.**

23 Q. Well, HIA63, thank you very much indeed. Those are the  
24 last questions, in fact, that we do have for you. Thank  
25 you for coming, particularly since I know that you and I

1 think each of your sisters have come some considerable  
2 distance --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- with I think the daughter of one of them to speak to  
5 us today, and we're very grateful to you and to them for  
6 doing so. Thank you.

7 **A. Thank you.**

8 **(Witness withdrew)**

9 MS SMITH: Chairman, the final witness this afternoon is to  
10 be taken by Mr Aiken. I'm not sure whether he's ready  
11 to start yet, but if we take a short break.

12 CHAIRMAN: We will rise for a few minutes until we see when  
13 we can resume.

14 (3.20 pm)

15 (Short break)

16 (3.30 pm)

17 WITNESS HIA103 (called)

18 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, the next witness  
19 today is HIA103, who is HIA103. Chairman, she is aware  
20 you are going to ask her to take the oath.

21 Before she does can I indicate that she makes  
22 allegations against HIA430, who is HIA430, whose name  
23 won't be used beyond the chamber. Mr Cleland of counsel  
24 appears for her and I just ask him to give his  
25 appearance.

1 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

2 MR CLELAND: Yes. Mr Chairman, Members of the Panel,  
3 I appear on behalf of HIA430, witness 430. I am  
4 instructed by Ian Mallon Solicitors and I am attended  
5 today by Mr Neil Deery of that office.

6 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Cleland.

7 MR CLELAND: I'm obliged.

8 MR AIKEN: HIA103 is aware, Chairman, that she is going  
9 to take the oath.

10 WITNESS HIA103 (sworn)

11 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, HIA103. Please sit down.

12 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

13 MR AIKEN: Coming up on the screen, HIA 103, if you just  
14 compare the first page of the statement that you have in  
15 front of you with the one on the screen, you will  
16 hopefully recognise that as the first page of your  
17 statement.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. If we move through, please, to 074, and that's the last  
20 page of your statement, if you just check the hard copy  
21 that you have and confirm that you have signed your  
22 witness statement?

23 **A. I have.**

24 Q. And you want to adopt this as your evidence to the  
25 Inquiry?

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. As you know from our discussion, the black marks are  
3 part of the Inquiry's anonymity policy, and you want to  
4 keep your anonymity?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. So, therefore, while we use names in the chamber, they  
7 won't be used outside of the chamber and won't be  
8 reported in connection with the evidence that you give.

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. Chairman, Members of the Panel, in addition to the  
11 witness statement from HIA 103 she also made  
12 a statement to the police on 21st June of 2010. That  
13 can be found at 61716 to 61719 in the bundle. I will  
14 turn to it briefly on a number of occasions.

15 The reply statement from the Sisters of Nazareth can  
16 be found at 2035 through to 2037 and HIA 103 is aware  
17 that paragraph 12 of that statement contains an apology  
18 to her for any failing on behalf of the Sisters in terms  
19 of how they looked after her. That's at 2036 and 7.

20 The Health & Social Care Board statement is at 6557  
21 through to 6558, with exhibits from 6559 through to  
22 6566. That statement essentially says that HIA 103 was  
23 a private placement during her time in Nazareth House.  
24 We will look at that a little more shortly, because  
25 that's different from her recollection of someone

1 reporting her family to Social Services.

2 There are extensive Social Services papers all from  
3 after HIA 103's time in Nazareth House, which chronicle  
4 the involvement between her family and Social Services  
5 from 1966 on. Those run from 43459 through to 43498 and  
6 then from 44719 to 44752.

7 The two final matters are the statement of HIA430,  
8 which we'll turn to shortly. It is at 80094, and then  
9 a wider statement covering her time in care at 801  
10 through to 807. We'll be touching on two paragraphs  
11 relating to that as we go.

12 HIA 103, you were born on ?

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. Are now aged 62?

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. You were the oldest of four children?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You were in Nazareth House from 22nd January 1960, aged  
19 7, until 8th May 1965, aged 12. In paragraph 25 of your  
20 statement, if we just look at 074, please, you say that  
21 Social Services put you in Nazareth House to be looked  
22 after, but you weren't. You know you and I were having  
23 a discussion about this earlier on today. The Health &  
24 Social Care Board have pointed out to the Inquiry that  
25 they didn't -- their predecessor, the Welfare Authority,

1 didn't become involved with your family until 30th  
2 August 1966, by which time you had been in Nazareth  
3 House and then were back out living with your dad --

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. -- although your youngest sister was still in Nazareth  
6 House. That appears to be borne out by two documents  
7 that the Inquiry has received. The first is the Sisters  
8 of Nazareth register that they maintained. If we can  
9 just look, please, at 4141, and we just highlight that,  
10 please -- just scroll down -- we can see those that are  
11 marked. So:

12 "HIA 103 admitted 22nd January '60. The mother has  
13 left the family."

14 It is described as "on the father's application".  
15 So that's the first document that allows the Health &  
16 Social Care Board to say that it appears to have been  
17 a private arrangement that your dad reached with the  
18 Sisters who were running the home.

19 Then the second document is at 43466 -- if we can go  
20 to that, please -- which is the first entry on what  
21 I have described as the social work file. You can see  
22 in the top left corner that it's dated 8/66. So August  
23 '66.

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. If we just highlight that first section, if we can, and

1 blow it up as much as we can, you can see:

2 "Referral made initially by Father [REDACTED], Holy  
3 Rosary Church regarding this family. was  
4 deserted by his wife six (?) years ago when she went to  
5 live with another man. He works as a and  
6 the children (now almost all teenagers) are at St.  
7 Monica's Intermediate School and St. Augustine's."

8 Just take it back out, please. It goes on -- the  
9 note goes on to describe the condition of the home.  
10 Then as we go down your dad makes particular reference  
11 to the fact that those of you who are living with him  
12 are pulling their weight. He describes you as  
13 an excellent cook. That record seems to imply that this  
14 is the first time that the Social Services have got  
15 involved.

16 Now you have a recollection of a neighbour reporting  
17 your dad for leaving you while he goes out to work.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. You felt that was in 1959 --

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. -- but I was saying to you it may be possible it was in  
22 '66, or it may be it wasn't the Welfare Authority, but  
23 it appears that those two documents put together that  
24 your dad arranged for you to go and live in Nazareth  
25 House, and then the third element to that is, as you go

1 on to explain and we will come to towards the end of  
2 your evidence, you used to regularly go out to your dad  
3 at the weekends --

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. -- and then in the summer.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. You describe, if we go, please, to 071, various elements  
8 of physical abuse that took place during your time in  
9 Nazareth House. In paragraph 6 you describe how you  
10 were often hit while you were being disciplined and you  
11 refer to keys being used on the head. I was asking you,  
12 "Who did that?" You said that was SR134 used to use the  
13 bunch of keys.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. You also said to me that she was the nun who primarily  
16 grabbed you by the --

17 **A. Locks.**

18 Q. -- locks, the sides of the hair, and would have lifted  
19 you up using the locks. You do describe her  
20 particularly in paragraph 6, as you say she was the  
21 person who was in charge of your dormitory that you  
22 resided in. She was the worst nun to you. You refer in  
23 paragraph 6 to SR31, because she taught you and might  
24 have used -- as I understand it, you were describing  
25 a wooden pointer --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- or a ruler possibly to strike you, but SR134, because  
3 you spent most of your time with her, most of your  
4 difficulty was with her?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. You also mention in the same paragraph SR122, who worked  
7 in the laundry, as I understand it.

8 **A. No, in like a sewing room.**

9 Q. In the sewing room?

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. Okay. In paragraph 6 you say that she was wicked.

12 I think you were pointing out to me -- I was saying it  
13 says:

14 "... was wicked too, but if you had sores, she would  
15 have bathed you in Jeyes Fluid and iodine."

16 You think the "too" shouldn't really be there --

17 **A. The "but".**

18 Q. -- and the "but" shouldn't be there and it really should  
19 read:

20 "She was wicked too. If you had sores, she would  
21 have bathed you in Jeyes Fluid and iodine."

22 I was saying to you it appears that at the time  
23 Jeyes Fluid and iodine were ways to try and make things  
24 better.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. You I think -- is it fair to say you recognise that as  
2 it was not meant as a punishment itself?

3 **A. On some occasions I think it was meant as a punishment.**

4 Q. But on others you can recognise it --

5 **A. Yes. She tried to help to clean your sores up.**

6 Q. -- trying to clean the sores. The sores would have come  
7 from -- you mentioned using --

8 **A. Boiling hot water on my head, Jeyes Fluid and being fine  
9 combed.**

10 Q. To deal with --

11 **A. Head lice.**

12 Q. -- potential head lice. You then describe, if we move  
13 through to paragraphs 11, 12 and 13 of your statement,  
14 difficulty that you had with another girl in the home  
15 and this is HIA430. Again her name -- I am going to use  
16 it for your ease, but her name shouldn't be used  
17 outside. She was HIA430 at the time you knew her in the  
18 home, now HIA430. She was born in . So  
19 she was four years older than you. It appears she left  
20 in December '63. So she left after you had already  
21 left.

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. You describe in paragraph 11 an occasion -- your bed was  
24 next to hers in the dormitory.

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. Am I right in saying you were always in SR134's  
2 dormitory?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. What you're describing here is that she got  
5 a group of you round the bed telling stories and tried  
6 to get you to touch her.

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. Your recollection is that that happened on a number of  
9 occasions.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You kept pulling your hand away. On one occasion you  
12 were crying as a result of this having happened. SR134  
13 became aware of it, and you say in paragraph 12 she beat  
14 you and took you out of the dormitory, put you in  
15 a storeroom on the landing which had a small camp bed in  
16 it. She then moved you to outside her cell ultimately  
17 I think to sleep.

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. Your bed position moved so that you were then sleeping  
20 closer to her cell than where you'd been before.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You say in paragraph 13 that HIA430 continued to hit you  
23 after this incident, because she knew you had told  
24 SR134. So there is a number of things you are saying  
25 happened. There is this particular incident with the

1 girl. Then you have told the nun but been punished for  
2 what you had to say, and then you continued to be  
3 bullied by the girl after having told SR134 about it.

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. Does that summarise --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- what you're saying? You did speak to the police  
8 about these issues. I am just going to bring that up so  
9 the Panel can see it. 61716, please. About halfway  
10 down the page you describe the incident involving --

11 "There was one night one of the girls, HIA430, older  
12 than us, I remember four or five younger girls round the  
13 bed, trying to get us to touch her."

14 You think it was the pretext of telling a story.

15 "HIA430 was lying on the bed and we were kneeling  
16 around."

17 She grabbed your hand and tried to make you touch  
18 her down below.

19 "I can't remember what she was wearing. I remember  
20 her pulling my hand in under the covers and me pulling  
21 my hand away before I touched her. I was crying. SR134  
22 heard all the commotion. I told SR134 that HIA430 had  
23 been trying to make me touch her. SR134 started  
24 punching me on my back, pushing me up out of the  
25 dormitory. She took me up past the sitting room to the

1 corner of the stairs and locked me in the cupboard  
2 there. The cupboard was like a store, but there was  
3 a bed in it. She locked me in the cupboard alone and  
4 left me there all night."

5 I was asking you earlier, "Did you -- was it all  
6 night or was it just it seemed a very long time to you  
7 as a child that you were there?" and you thought maybe  
8 it was all night.

9 **A. Uh-huh. I think it was all night.**

10 Q. "The bed was like a wee camp bed."

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. "I can't remember if there were any covers for it.  
13 I remember my back being very sore from her punching me,  
14 but I don't know if there were bruises, because we  
15 weren't allowed to look at our bodies and there weren't  
16 really any mirrors about."

17 Then the context of that is, as you explain in your  
18 Inquiry statement, your bed position is moved.

19 **A. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. So you are no longer sleeping beside HIA430 --

21 **A. No.**

22 Q. -- but you continue to have difficulty with her after  
23 this particular incident.

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. You mentioned in paragraph 27 of your statement at 074

1 that the police hadn't been able to trace her. As  
2 I said to you, the Inquiry has. She has provided  
3 a statement dealing with your allegation. If we look at  
4 800... -- 80094 -- yes -- in paragraph 5, if we just  
5 scroll down, please, she says:

6 "I have read the statement of HIA 103. This  
7 statement is also totally untrue."

8 So she simply says, "This didn't happen". Is there  
9 anything else you want to say about that?

10 **A. I would like to say it did happen.**

11 Q. You -- in addition, there's two matters that I want to  
12 allow you just to say whatever you want to say about,  
13 HIA 103. If we can bring up, please, 804, paragraph 15  
14 of HIA430's statement, she says:

15 "All the girls slept in a big dormitory in rows.  
16 There were about forty girls in each dormitory. I was  
17 on the very top level where SR31 had a room. She was in  
18 charge of our group. Her room was off the dormitory and  
19 you had to pass it to get to the dormitory. She would  
20 bring us there to do the beatings."

21 She goes on to talk about SR31. What she is saying  
22 is she was in SR31's group and therefore the dormitory  
23 she was in charge of. You are clear you were in SR134's  
24 group.

25 **A. Yes. She was in SR134's in the dormitory. Her bed was**

1       **beside mine. There was three in a row. She was there,**  
2       **I was there and another girl -- I will not mention her**  
3       **name -- was there and three other beds in front and**  
4       **twelve over there and then a partition, some beds down**  
5       **each side and then SR134's cell was down at the bottom.**

6       Q. Was that on the same floor can you remember --

7       **A. Yes, yes.**

8       Q. -- as SR31's?

9       **A. No, SR31's was on up.**

10      Q. She was on another floor up?

11      **A. Uh-huh.**

12      Q. Then if we look at paragraph 5, please, at 802, she says  
13      to the Inquiry:

14                "I remember lying in bed going to sleep and if SR31  
15      caught us with our hands under our sheets, we got  
16      walloped across our face. She thought we were  
17      interfering with ourselves, even though as young girls  
18      this wouldn't have crossed our minds."

19      **A. It's crossed hers all right.**

20      Q. The point I think she is making is this requirement to  
21      -- did you have to sleep like that?

22      **A. Yes, folded or like that (gesturing).**

23      Q. Did you know why you were being asked to sleep like  
24      that?

25      **A. No, no.**

1 Q. Well, you can see she's saying, now she looks back, it  
2 wouldn't have occurred to anyone to be interfering with  
3 themselves.

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. But you are saying that's not what happened with the  
6 incident that you're describing.

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. In paragraph 14 of your statement, if you look at 072,  
9 please, you say that there was no-one to tell about --  
10 if we just scroll down to 14 -- there was no-one to tell  
11 about these incidents.

12 "The nuns wouldn't have believed you and they would  
13 have beaten you."

14 I think you're making reference there -- am  
15 I right -- to the one occasion you did tell SR134 --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- and that's exactly what happened to you.

18 **A. I did get beaten. I was beaten when I told her.**

19 Q. You make -- and we will come to it -- comment about you  
20 did see your dad a lot.

21 **A. Uh-huh.**

22 Q. You didn't feel able to tell him about --

23 **A. No.**

24 Q. -- what had happened? In paragraph 19, if we scroll  
25 down to 073, you mention an inspector coming to the

1 home.

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. You had been warned not to tell him anything. Who  
4 warned you not to tell him anything?

5 **A. SR134 and SR31; to be on our best behaviour.**

6 Q. So you took that to mean you certainly weren't to be  
7 telling him anything that was --

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. -- going on. I want to just mention some more general  
10 matters with you, HIA103.

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. You mention in paragraph 7 of your statement about  
13 bedwetting. If we go back to 071, please, you say that  
14 although you were not a bedwetter, and you didn't,  
15 therefore, have this difficulty yourself, you remember  
16 the children having to wash their own sheets in the  
17 laundry. I was asking you, "Did you see that physically  
18 yourself or was it just that was the conversation from  
19 the other girls? That's what they said they had to do?"

20 **A. Just the conversation, and you knew that if they had  
21 wet, their bed was stripped --**

22 Q. Yes.

23 **A. -- and the sheet was probably thrown at them or on the  
24 floor. They were told to wash it, but I didn't see them  
25 washing it.**

1 Q. Yes, because the congregation have said to the Inquiry  
2 in paragraph 5 of their replying statement at 2035 they  
3 don't accept -- they accept they didn't handle  
4 bedwetting very well, but they don't accept that  
5 children were made clean their own sheets. You did not  
6 see that, but you remember that being the conversation  
7 that you heard.

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

9 Q. Then in paragraph 8 you describe the underwear  
10 inspection that you were made -- this was on a Saturday.

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. You would take your underwear off and you had to stand  
13 naked in front of everyone and show your underwear front  
14 and back. Now as a result of the discussion we were  
15 having today --

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. -- you don't think you were naked.

18 **A. No. I might have like a slip on.**

19 Q. Because one of the things -- and you mention this in  
20 your police statement -- the nuns were very clear about  
21 was modesty.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. You didn't have -- for this to be right you would have  
24 to have a group of girls with all not wearing underwear  
25 in a hall --

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. -- and that would be -- would you agree with me -- the  
3 opposite of how the nuns would want girls to be?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. So as you think about it, whatever -- you remember  
6 showing your underwear --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- on a Saturday. You don't think you were naked when  
9 you were doing that.

10 **A. I think we might have been wearing a slip now and we**  
11 **might have had to remove them and then -- I remember**  
12 **showing them front and back and putting them in a pile.**

13 Q. Then at some stage -- you weren't necessarily clear on  
14 when -- you would have got the set for the next week.

15 **A. I can't remember. Probably after the bath later on.**

16 Q. I am not going to bring it up, but you mention to the  
17 police in your statement this issue about modesty and  
18 how you weren't allowed to look at your own body.

19 **A. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. That's at 61717, Members of the Panel. You describe  
21 this also in your police statement at 61718. I'm not  
22 going to bring it up now, but this washing of the  
23 underwear, because you explain at paragraph 8 that you  
24 wore the same pair all week and one of the ways of  
25 dealing with that was that you washed them and tied them

1 in the bed to dry.

2 **A. Tied them in -- wrung them out in a towel and then put**  
3 **them in the bedding to dry.**

4 Q. I was asking you that meant when you slept at night they  
5 were like that being dried.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Then you put them back on the next morning.

8 **A. They were clean for the Saturday.**

9 Q. In paragraph 5 of your statement at 071 you talk about  
10 the polishing -- various chores that had to be done, one  
11 of which you describe as polishing the chapel floors and  
12 waxing the benches.

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. Then -- this was sort of before breakfast in school --  
15 sorry -- between breakfast and going to school. I was  
16 asking you was the chapel floor waxing, was that  
17 something that was more at the week-end --

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. -- or was it something that was happening every day?

20 **A. Probably weekends and then dusted throughout the week --**

21 Q. Because the Order has --

22 **A. -- because they were wooden floors.**

23 Q. The Order has said to the Inquiry at paragraph 4 of the  
24 statement at 2035 that you wouldn't have had to do this  
25 type of work every day before school. I think you

1 probably agree with that in that it's more at the  
2 weekend that this more intense polishing was done --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- before school. In paragraph 18 of your statement at  
5 073 you talk about presents that you were receiving, the  
6 Christmas parties, huge bakery in Mackie's. You  
7 remember getting a doll, but then it was taken off you  
8 when you came back to the home, taken off you by the  
9 nuns. You think they sold the presents. Did you ever  
10 see the gift again that you got?

11 **A. No.**

12 Q. But you yourself don't know whether they sold them or  
13 not?

14 **A. The girls used to talk about it.**

15 Q. Because the Order has said to the Inquiry, paragraph 9  
16 of their replying statement, 2036, that children's toys  
17 would have been tidied away, but that they weren't  
18 maliciously taken from the children and they weren't  
19 sold. You don't know whether they were sold or not, but  
20 you didn't see them again.

21 **A. No. There were a few toys in a cupboard like the**  
22 **Mr Potato Head. It was a real potato and you put wee**  
23 **ears and eyes on to it. The like of those things were**  
24 **there, but any good stuff we got from presents you never**  
25 **seen it again.**

1 Q. Now in paragraph 20 you talk about -- you say you  
2 weren't really educated, but you mention you were picked  
3 to play the violin.

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. A music teacher called \_\_\_\_\_ came in to teach it. The  
6 violin was taught you were saying to me earlier in  
7 SR31's classroom.

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. One of the points that the nuns make to the Inquiry in  
10 paragraph 10 of their replying statement was this -- for  
11 instance, this opportunity to learn the violin is  
12 something that perhaps the vast majority of children in  
13 Northern Ireland at the time wouldn't have had the  
14 opportunity to do --

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- and this was a good thing.

17 **A. Yes. It was a few lessons we had.**

18 Q. Did you see it in that way as a positive thing that you  
19 were getting the chance to do this?

20 **A. Yes. I liked it. I liked it.**

21 Q. You -- I want to talk to you about the contact you had  
22 with your dad, HIA 103.

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. You mention in paragraph 3, 070, please, that you had  
25 regular contact with him --

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. -- and he took you out at the weekends. Am I right in  
3 saying there was no restriction on, you know, if he  
4 wanted to bring you out at the weekend, that's fine;  
5 that's what happened?

6 **A. Yes. We didn't get out every weekend, but it suited him  
7 with work and whatever.**

8 Q. Yes.

9 **A. Then he went to be a . So he had different  
10 shifts and whatever.**

11 Q. So the weekends that worked for his work pattern you  
12 went out and stayed with him?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. Then you mention also that in the summer you would have  
15 gone to your granny's house with him -- I think it was  
16 in --

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. -- with him for a holiday.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. In paragraph 4 then you recall him coming to a wall at  
21 the side of I think you said the Good Shepherd chapel.  
22 I am not sure whether that's --

23 **A. No. Holy Rosary.**

24 Q. Holy Rosary. He would hand over a bag of oranges. You  
25 say:

1 "He was never made to feel welcome in the home by  
2 the nuns."

3 Can I just check with you this is -- he takes you  
4 out for the weekend. He takes you out at holidays.  
5 This is him calling, if you like, during the week --

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. -- when passing the home.

8 **A. Passing. He jumped out of his . He must have**  
9 **brought us oranges down at the fruit shop and just left**  
10 **them in.**

11 Q. It was the reaction to him popping over the wall with  
12 the oranges --

13 **A. No. He just stood up on the wall and leaned over.**

14 Q. Okay. I think you described it as a grey wall --

15 **A. A (inaudible) wall.**

16 Q. -- this sort of height. He was able to stand up on it  
17 and hand over the oranges. A nun reacted badly to  
18 seeing a man -- I was saying to you you can probably  
19 understand a nun not being too happy at a man coming  
20 over the wall into the girls' home.

21 **A. Uh-huh. They just told him to get down, you know.**

22 Q. But other than that --

23 **A. He probably hadn't time to come to the gate to hand them**  
24 **in. He was working.**

25 Q. Yes. No, I am not -- don't get me wrong. I am not

1           criticising him. I am saying you would understand the  
2           nun, if they saw a man coming over the wall, might be  
3           concerned about that, but that's the only thing that  
4           they did in connection with your dad that you felt made  
5           your dad unwelcome?

6   **A. Uh-huh.**

7   Q. They didn't stop you going out to stay with him?

8   **A. No.**

9   Q. No. You mention that, if we just move -- yes. We can  
10       see it now. You mention being asked for an envelope and  
11       money. That was when you came back after staying with  
12       him for the weekend.

13   **A. Uh-huh.**

14   Q. Am I right in saying -- I think you mention this in your  
15       police statement -- that he would have given you  
16       an envelope to give to the nuns --

17   **A. Uh-huh. Yes.**

18   Q. -- and you would have done that.

19   **A. Yes.**

20   Q. Did he ever tell you why he was doing that?

21   **A. It was just to help with our keep, you know --**

22   Q. Because presumably if he'd made --

23   **A. -- because he was working at the time.**

24   Q. If he had made this arrangement for you to stay there --

25   **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. -- then he wanted to contribute to the care that was  
2 being provided.

3 In paragraph 17, if we go through to 073, please,  
4 you mention your dad bringing you things, but you  
5 weren't allowed to keep them. While you don't mention  
6 the Littlewood's dress specifically, which we were  
7 talking about earlier -- you mentioned to the police the  
8 Littlewood's dress that the ribbon and the different  
9 four types of cards on it as a design. You remember  
10 having it once or twice --

11 A. Uh-huh.

12 Q. -- but then not seeing it again.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Do you remember what happened to it?

15 A. I don't know.

16 Q. You also remember him complaining on one occasion about  
17 a bruise that your sister had, and you were saying to me  
18 he went to the Mother Superior's room.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Is that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Do you remember anything more about it than that or just  
23 that's -- he was unhappy about a bruise and went and  
24 spoke to the Mother Superior?

25 A. Uh-huh. Yes.

1 Q. There's nothing else you remember about it than that?

2 **A. Just a bit of commotion about it. That's it.**

3 Q. On page 3 of your police statement, if we look, please,  
4 at 61718, you talk about the feeling of constant fear.

5 I'm just want to see if I can find the -- scroll down  
6 a little further, please. Yes. The third line down  
7 from the top, if we just scroll up, you also mention an  
8 occasion there where SR134 hit you when you had your  
9 BCG.

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. You see there the third line:

12 "There was just constant fear in there. You used to  
13 do your best not to get in trouble."

14 That's one of the prevailing memories. You said to  
15 me earlier you just tried to forget all of this.

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. The memory you have is just of constantly being afraid

18 --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- and wanting to blank out the memory of your time  
21 there. I think you mention on page 4, if we go through  
22 to 61719, that there are certain things -- if we just  
23 scroll on down -- certain things that sometimes bring  
24 you back or bring the memories back. You were  
25 mentioning to the police one was HP Sauce, which was

1 something put out at Christmas.

2 **A. Christmas.**

3 Q. That takes your memory back to the time in the home, but  
4 otherwise you just try to leave it behind.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. There's two things that we ask each witness, HIA 103,  
7 towards the end of their evidence. The first is that at  
8 the end of the Panel's work the Panel consider what  
9 recommendations they might make to the Northern Ireland  
10 Government in some form of apology, memorial or some  
11 other means of redress. We ask each witness is there  
12 anything they want to say to the Panel to help the Panel  
13 with their thinking about recommendations. Is there  
14 anything you want to say about that?

15 **A. No. I'm just glad I came and told my story and it's  
16 over and done with now and ...**

17 Q. That is really what you --

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. Got it -- got it out, and that has been of assistance to  
20 you.

21 The last question that we ask each witness,  
22 HIA 103, is whether there's anything else they want to  
23 say about the time in the home that we're looking at.  
24 We're looking at Nazareth House. Maybe it's something  
25 that I have missed, or haven't covered in enough detail,

1 or something else just that you want to say to the  
2 Inquiry to assist with its work about thinking about  
3 Nazareth House. Is there anything else you want to say  
4 beyond what we've covered already?

5 **A. No.**

6 Q. No. I am not going to ask you any more questions,  
7 HIA 103. If you just stay where you are for a moment,  
8 the Panel may want to ask you something.

9 Questions from THE PANEL

10 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA103. Can I just ask: do  
11 you have any memory of whether SR134 punished HIA430 on  
12 that occasion? I know she took you out, but did you  
13 have any sense that there was --

14 **A. I was locked in the cupboard that night. So I don't**  
15 **know if anything happened at that point.**

16 Q. And what about the story telling? Did that continue  
17 with HIA430 after that?

18 **A. No.**

19 Q. So that --

20 **A. I was moved bed down to the partition into the front of**  
21 **her.**

22 Q. So you wouldn't have seen what was going on. The last  
23 thing was were you allowed to keep the oranges?

24 **A. Yes. We ate skin and all.**

25 Q. Good.

1 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA103, you'll be relieved I'm sure to hear  
2 we don't have any more questions for you after that.  
3 Thank you very much indeed for coming to speak to us  
4 today.

5 **A. Thank you.**

6 Q. Thank you.

7 (Witness withdrew)

8 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, that concludes  
9 today's oral evidence.

10 CHAIRMAN: Very well. We'll adjourn now and sit again  
11 tomorrow morning at the usual time or as soon thereafter  
12 as we can manage.

13 (4.07 pm)

14 (Hearing adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning)

15 --ooOoo--

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

I N D E X

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

WITNESS HIA61 (called) .....2  
 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY .....2  
 Questions from THE PANEL .....43

WITNESS HIA62 (called) .....48  
 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY .....48  
 Questions from THE PANEL .....129

WITNESS HIA63 (called) .....132  
 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY .....132  
 Questions from THE PANEL .....159

WITNESS HIA103 (called) .....161  
 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY .....162  
 Questions from THE PANEL .....188