
HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at

Banbridge Court House

Banbridge

on Wednesday, 9th September 2015

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 140)

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

1 Wednesday, 9th September 2015

2 (10.00 am)

3 WITNESS HIA374 (called)

4 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. May I before
5 we start just remind everyone, as always, that their
6 mobile phone must either be turned off or placed on
7 "Silent"/"Vibrate" and that no photography is permitted
8 either in the chamber or anywhere on the Inquiry
9 premises.

10 Yes, Mr~Aiken.

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

12 The first witness today is HIA374, who is "HIA374".

13 Chairman, he is aware you are going to ask him to take
14 the oath and he wants to preserve his anonymity.

15 WITNESS HIA374 (sworn)

16 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, HIA374. Please sit down.

17 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

18 MR AIKEN: HIA374, coming up on the screen is, all being
19 well, the first page of your witness statement and just
20 if you can confirm you recognise it save for the black
21 marks that are part of the Inquiry's anonymity policy --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- in operation. If we look at the last page, please,
24 at 125, can you just check, HIA374, and confirm that
25 that is the last page of your witness statement?

1 **A. Yes, it is, yes.**

2 Q. And although there's a black mark over the signature on
3 the screen, you confirm you've signed the witness
4 statement?

5 **A. I have, yes.**

6 Q. And you want to adopt it as your evidence before the
7 Inquiry?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. And, HIA374, you were born on

10 **A. I was.**

11 Q. So you're now aged ?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. And you were one of siblings?

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. And you have explained in the "Life after care"
16 section that your adulthood you had significant
17 difficulty with --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- and the that have flowed from that and the
20 effect that has on your memory as well?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. And the Panel is aware of that. I am not going to go
23 into that in any more detail.

24 You and I were having a long discussion this morning
25 to clarify the sequence of events.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Hopefully what we will be able to do is get that right
3 in terms of what we can see happening is in
4 St. Patrick's in before being moved and
5 having four weeks in Lisnevin?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. You don't -- you didn't remember --

8 **A. The one day, no.**

9 Q. -- the in St. Patrick's? Then in
10 weeks in St. Patrick's before moving to borstal.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. I'll work through why we are clear about that now as we
13 go, but that's what we are talking about. We have
14 a four-week period in Lisnevin in --

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- and then a -week period effectively in St.
17 Patrick's in .

18 Bear with me just for a moment while I identify the
19 core documents that relate to you to the Inquiry Panel.

20 In addition to HIA374's statement he spoke to the
21 police on 18th February of 2014. That police statement
22 can be found at 25566 through to 25568. At that time he
23 had prepared in advance some handwritten notes, which
24 then are reflected in his statement, and those
25 handwritten notes are at 25557 to 25563, and the

1 confirmation they were obtained by the police on 18th
2 February 2014 is at 25569.

3 The De La Salle response statement is at 376, with
4 the addendum at 734.

5 The Health & Social Care Board response statement is
6 at 774 through to 777.

7 Then the Department of Justice response statement is
8 at 1532 to 1533, with exhibits from 1535 to 1538.

9 Then, as I was discussing with HIA374 this morning,
10 the Department of Justice had been in a position to
11 produce HIA374's file as far as it related to
12 St. Patrick's and Lisnevin, and that runs from 50011 to
13 50112. I know, HIA374, you found some of that
14 interesting to clarify when certain things happened.

15 In addition to that, in HIA374's police statement in
16 terms of the one incident he describes in St. Patrick's
17 he said he didn't know the name of the Brother involved.
18 The police -- because he named _____, the police
19 interviewed BR26, who was one of _____, and
20 he was interviewed on 14th May of 2014. His police
21 interview can be found at 25570 to 25575. In that
22 police interview he deals with the allegations, says he
23 doesn't remember a HIA374, but he certainly never did
24 anything like what was being described on any boy, never
25 mind HIA374, and whenever HIA374 has come to the

1 Inquiry, you have said, HIA374, that the names that you
2 associate with this event were either a BR89 or you
3 mentioned to me a ?

4 **A. Yes. It's a long time ago.**

5 Q. But definitely not a BR26?

6 **A. No.**

7 Q. And -- but because we have the material of BR26 before
8 the Inquiry then, in his Inquiry statement, which runs
9 from 2191 to 2197, and deals with the police inquiry
10 about HIA374 in paragraph 25 of his statement, which is
11 at 2196, and in that statement he reiterates that he had
12 no memory of HIA374 and that the person HIA374 was
13 describing doesn't describe him in that he had
14 at the time and wasn't someone , and
15 in any event had never engaged in that type of behaviour
16 with any boy on arrival.

17 He also explained in the police interview that the
18 where a boy might have been taken
19 to explain the running of the school and how things
20 would be done and so on was an open office that other
21 people could come in and out of. It wasn't that BR26
22 had his own office to take someone to.

23 Then in order to help the chronology of this,
24 HIA374, as you know, the criminal record is available.
25 That's at 26280 to 26285. I am not going to open that

1 any further than utilising it to understand the
2 chronology of what occurs.

3 In order to do that, HIA374, because, as you know,
4 you have made the point you were remembering back doing
5 the best you could and some of the sequencing in the
6 Inquiry statement isn't quite on the money, so I am
7 going to try and help clarify that this morning. What
8 the papers that are available, bringing them together,
9 show is that on a series of days in , when
10 HIA374 was almost , he was involved in several
11 burglaries around the area where he then lived,
12

13 **A. Okay.**

14 Q. And he was given -- when he came before the court in
15 respect of those burglaries in he was
16 given two years' Probation Order. So that had happened
17 in your life, and the point you were making to me
18 earlier, which is shown through the documents, is that
19 by that point, HIA374, your parents were -- their
20 relationship

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. And, in fact, shortly after the burglary I think your
23 dad and went to work in --

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. -- and also in , and in then he was

1 injured in an explosion that he was in --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- and he then suffered serious injuries as a result of
4 that --

5 **A. Yes. Right.**

6 Q. -- which marred the rest of his life.

7 **A. Oh, yes.**

8 Q. What then happens in the , on
9 there are another series of burglaries and thefts,
10 including the --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- on , and however it came about, and it
13 may well be it was to do with the issuing of summonses
14 and how that process would have worked, you come before
15 the court first -- the Court in in
16 respect of those matters it appears on
17 , when you are , and the
18 records show, if we look at 50019, please, show you
19 being remanded to St. Patrick's.

20 So this is the record showing you being remanded to
21 St. Patrick's. If we just scroll down, please, so the
22 matter is being adjourned to and we can see at the
23 top in handwriting it is said -- written:

24 "For assessment",

25 but if we scroll on down, please, to the next page,

1 so it is referring to:

2 "For conditions to commitment to special reception
3 centre."

4 But if we scroll further down, please, on to the
5 next page, this document then shows the transfer to
6 Lisnevin, which happens the next day, .

7 So if we look, please, at 50062, we can see a letter
8 being written and it is to the manager of the training
9 school:

10 "Please find attached remand warrant in respect of
11 HIA374.

12 The defendant has been remanded to enable
13 an assessment report to be made from Lisnevin and it is
14 hoped that this report can be available for the Juvenile
15 Court.

16 In the meantime it is the court's intention to
17 remand the defendant weekly (in his absence) until that
18 date."

19 The transfer then happens the next day. So there is
20 in St. Patrick's according to the records --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- and then Lisnevin for four weeks, but you don't
23 remember --

24 **A. No.**

25 Q. -- the in St. Patrick's.

1 **A. No, I don't remember the , no.**

2 Q. And what then takes place -- and you and I were looking
3 at this -- over the four weeks in Lisnevin is a series
4 of reports, which include the social worker, who was
5 recommending probation.

6 If we look at 50033, please, so this is a report,
7 HIA374, looking at the family background and the type of
8 accommodation at home, and if we just scroll down,
9 please, towards the end, if we move on down to the next
10 page, we can see:

11 "Although currently on probation ..."

12 So this is because there had been the offending in
13 and a Probation Order was made --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- although you hadn't, according to the records, seen
16 anybody, you then have burglaries the following year in
17 the and now you are being assessed in
18 , and Mr McManus, the social worker, is
19 saying:

20 "Although currently on probation, he has not
21 actually been supervised by a probation officer",
22 and -- but he is recommending probation.

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

24 Q. Then you have a series of remands that are extended each
25 week before the court without you needing to attend, so

1 you can finish this assessment in Lisnevin, and the
2 assessment report, if we look, please, at 50035, so this
3 is the type of report that was produced by the staff
4 working with you in Lisnevin. So they talk about your
5 background and how you were integrating with the group
6 around you and the sort of things that you liked. You
7 were into sports and so on. If we scroll down, this
8 covers three pages setting out how you got on, then
9 giving a record of your personal history and the type of
10 matters that you and I were just talking about in terms
11 of burglaries.

12 If we can move down, you then get a record of
13 a meeting that takes place, a case conference about you,
14 in order to decide what would be best, having looked at
15 the various reports that are available. You can see
16 that at paragraph 6 they are recommending that probation
17 might be a way of keeping you on the straight and narrow
18 and, all being well, that would work.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. That's what was suggested, and when this decision was
21 being taken, the people who were forming the view also
22 had access to education reports. So if we look at
23 50051, this is an educational report and it runs over
24 several pages looking at how you have been getting on at
25 school and expressing a view about that, and then in

1 addition you were psychologically assessed, as we were
2 looking at that document --

3 **A. Yes, yes.**

4 Q. -- earlier at 50065, please, and the psychologist is
5 recording how you were very cooperative and expresses
6 various views about you and concludes:

7 "Quiet individual, who is confident in himself, and
8 who says he is keen to get a trade qualification
9 eventually",

10 because you had been working --

11 **A. Yes, yes.**

12 Q. -- . So that's an example of the type of
13 documents that were amassed in the assessment process
14 and ultimately then there is a final assessment report
15 of . That's at 50035, 50039 and 50040.

16 The result of all of that assessment and the reports
17 then comes before the Juvenile Court on

18 , and you were you released from Lisnevin
19 that day on another two-year Probation Order, and that
20 can be followed through on the record, which is at
21 26281.

22 Now it is while you were there in that four-week
23 period that the one matter you recall in terms of being
24 mistreated potentially, although we were talking about
25 it more this morning --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. In paragraph 2 of your statement, if we look, please, at
3 119, you describe this incident where a man -- you don't
4 remember who it was --

5 **A. No.**

6 Q. -- you can't identify him -- comes into the shower area
7 where you were showering, puts his hand on your private
8 part and tells you not to be masturbating?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. When you were speaking to the police about that in
11 February of 2014, you said to them you weren't sure if
12 there was anything sexual about it, and that's at 25566.
13 You were saying to me this morning more it was -- as you
14 think back on it now, it was just an inappropriate thing
15 for someone to do?

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. But you don't think there was anything sexual to it?

18 **A. No, I don't, no.**

19 Q. But nothing like that ever happened again in Lisnevin?

20 **A. No. I didn't witness anything happening in Lisnevin.**
21 **I didn't -- nothing else happened to me there at all.**

22 Q. And then you come out of Lisnevin and you go back home
23 and you are doing --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- , but unfortunately on ,

1 by which time you are --

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. -- there is an assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. You explain -- you were explaining to me this morning
6 there was a fight

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. And you explain in your statement that it was with, as
9 it turned out, off duty soldiers?

10 **A. Yes, yes.**

11 Q. As a result again it looks like you -- we were having
12 this discussion, because the records show that you
13 aren't remanded for that assault until

14 , and we were trying to understand why
15 that would be, because you were saying to me that you
16 were arrested for it pretty quickly afterwards --

17 **A. Yes, yes.**

18 Q. -- because you told your mum and --

19 **A. And she told the probation officer.**

20 Q. She told the police.

21 **A. -- and I admitted it to the police when they came.**

22 Q. Yes, and what we think probably happened was that you
23 were released back to your mum then pending a summons
24 being issued to deal with the matter, and that
25 eventually led to you coming before the court on

1 . By that time you are

2 .

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. So you are heading towards , and if we look at 50045,

5 please, we can see that on then you

6 were remanded to St. Patrick's. It's the third entry:

7 " . Readmitted on remand."

8 You can see the reference above to the one day:

9 "Admitted on remand, .

10 Transferred to Lisnevin",

11 the next day. Then this record showing:

12 " . Readmitted on demand",

13 and then:

14 "Committed to borstal, ."

15 That's one document that assists with confirming it.

16 At 50089 then, please, that's an occurrence sheet.

17 So that's another example of the type of document that

18 kept records of who was coming in and going out. If we

19 can maximise that and, HIA374, you will see yourself

20 just at the -- fourth up from the bottom.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. Bear with us, HIA374, for a moment. There we go. We

23 are getting bigger. ,

24 , was your pal who was involved you were explaining

25 to me with the burglaries --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- and also in the assault --

3 **A. The same as me.**

4 Q. -- with you. He was remanded to St. Patrick's with you
5 and you can see that the writing is very small, but if
6 you follow the dates through, you can see

7 to and then there's a similar

8 sheet that covers the days from to ,

9 and ultimately it records you over on the right-hand

10 side going to borstal, , --

11 and this is something that has rankled with you over the

12 years -- .

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. . So that shows the weeks

15 in St. Patrick's --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- when you're heading towards your birthday.

18 I was saying to you for wider interest to the Panel, in
19 addition to your own story, what has been found in terms

20 of records relating to you demonstrates that there was

21 a nurse's diary that was kept. If we look, please, at

22 50097, we can see it is labelled "Nurse" and the entry

23 that relates to you we can see on , so

24 in, if we move through to the next page,

25 50098. You were saying, HIA374, you have no

1 recollection whatever about this, but you had apparently
2 been up all night with toothache and you had gone in to
3 see the nurse. So it shows that there was medical
4 treatment available.

5 **A. Oh, yes, yes. There was, yes.**

6 Q. You were saying to me that, bar this one incident that
7 you remember, that you had never any problem in
8 St. Patrick's and it wasn't somewhere you kept your head
9 down and got on with --

10 **A. Well, I had no problems in St. Patrick's whatsoever only**
11 **for that one incident, yes.**

12 Q. We were also looking together at what's called a marks
13 book, which the Panel will --

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. -- has heard lots about, the rewards and privileges
16 system, and in your case that's available. If we look
17 at 50111, please, we can see the cover that shows it's
18 the St. Patrick's marks book that covers the period
19 to . If we move on to the next page, and again we
20 will need to do a bit of computer work, if we can, to
21 maximise the size, and, HIA374, you're -- you have
22 looked at this with me before, but you are just short of
23 halfway down.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Just maybe beyond a third --

1 **A. That's it.**

2 Q. -- you can see you and your pal above you on the record,
3 and I was pointing out to you that it looks like the
4 total awards available in the four sections each week
5 were 10, 10, 20 and 35, because there doesn't seem to be
6 anybody on the list that's getting more than that. So
7 you seem to have got maximum awards during your period.

8

9 and then there are others who performed
10 somewhat worse than you did, but can you remember that
11 normally would have generated money for you. If you
12 were on remand, you may not necessarily have been
13 allowed home.

14 **A. No, never allowed home.**

15 Q. But it would have generated money then for you to spend.

16 **A. Pocket money.**

17 Q. And then the record shows the moving to borstal on
18 just before your birthday.

19 In respect of St. Patrick's the only issue that you
20 had, if we look at paragraph 5, please, at STP102, you
21 describe this incident where you had arrived and this
22 person was being extremely nice to you in a room, that
23 was explaining to you to your recollection how the place
24 was going to run.

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. You have named BR89 to the Inquiry. I was explaining to
2 you that from the material that's available there was
3 one BR89 who was in St. Patrick's, but he didn't work
4 .

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. He was essentially. He came -- he was
7 born on . He came to St. Patrick's in
8 , and he remained there until
9 So he worked in St. Patrick's essentially for
10 years.

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. There's been no other complaint by anybody --

13 **A. Right.**

14 Q. -- about him, and what the Order has said to the Inquiry
15 in its statement is those who remember him remember him
16

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- , and that's not at all the person --

19 **A. It's the wrong man.**

20 Q. -- that you're describing.

21 **A. No, no.**

22 Q. And therefore you are quite happy to accept --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- BR89 is probably not the right person?

25 **A. It's not the right name.**

1 Q. Whenever you spoke to the police about this -- because
2 in your Inquiry statement you mention it being, HIA374,
3 the week after arrival you went to an office and you had
4 been there for approximately a week, but when you spoke
5 to the police in February of 2014, if we look at 25566,
6 and it's just at the bottom of the page, if we scroll
7 down, please -- the date is not quite right. Do not
8 worry about the date:

9 "The following year, I think , I was charged with
10 assault and sent to St. Patrick's. On arrival I was
11 brought into the office to meet one of the Brothers.
12 I~don't know what his name was. In fact, I can't
13 remember any names from that time. I think this Brother
14 was . He was with
15 . Very nice to me. Stroked my
16 face and hair, told me everything would be okay and he
17 would look after me."

18 Then he got you to rub the front of his trousers and
19 that went on for a number of minutes you were saying to
20 me.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. When you were speaking to the police, HIA374, your
23 recollection was that this was really the first day you
24 arrive.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. You are in this office meeting and there
2 that person is comforting you and then gets you to rub
3 them. So it was -- and you weren't clear --

4 **A. I am not too sure whether it was the first day or the**
5 **first week, but it was soon after being there, like.**

6 Q. And that's the only thing -- you never were interfered
7 with by that man again?

8 **A. No, no.**

9 Q. No.

10 **A. No.**

11 Q. And --

12 **A. I avoided him.**

13 Q. You avoided him?

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. And, as I was explaining to you this morning, I know you
16 speak about other places that you have been. The
17 Inquiry takes steps to refer various matters --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- to the police, and it is Lisnevin and --

20 **A. Borstal.**

21 Q. You referred to the borstal and matters relating to that
22 have been referred to the police.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. So the matters that we are looking at in terms of
25 St. Patrick's and Lisnevin --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- those are the matters that you wanted to bring to the
3 Inquiry's attention in respect of what happened to you
4 there?

5 **A. Aye. Well, my main -- the main place that gave me any
6 problems in life was actually borstal. So ...**

7 Q. Yes. So these -- those are the incidents in terms of --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- Lisnevin and St. Patrick's?

10 I was saying to you, HIA374, that the last two
11 questions that we ask every witness, the first of them
12 is that at the end of the Panel's work it has to
13 consider what recommendations it might make to the
14 Northern Ireland Executive --

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- about three areas: some form of apology, some form of
17 memorial or some other means of redress.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. We ask each witness whether there's anything they want
20 to say to the Panel that will assist the Panel's
21 thinking with recommendations. Some people do; some
22 people don't.

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. Is there anything you want to say to the Panel about the
25 recommendations it might consider?

1 A. Well, I really don't want anybody taken to court or put
2 in prison because of any of this here, because that's
3 not going to help me or anybody.

4 A memorial, no, I don't think that would be a good
5 idea at all, because every time I would look at it,
6 there would just be memories and I wouldn't want them
7 memories dragged up all the time the way they are now,
8 you know. I'm trying to get on with my life.

9 An apology would go a long way I suppose, but these
10 people, a lot of them are probably -- I don't mean to be
11 ignorant, but they are probably dead, some of these
12 people.

13 So I think the State -- the State should apologise,
14 not just the churches or -- it was the State care I was
15 put into, and I think they should be giving apol... --
16 should apologise and should acknowledge the hurt and
17 pain they have caused people right throughout their
18 whole lives right into adulthood. I am and I am
19 still living with this and I will be living with the
20 consequences until the day I die.

21 I have never been able to give my family -- I have
22 a . I have

23 . I have never been able to give them nothing. So
24 I think compensation for them, not for me, some sort of
25 redress for them that they can get on with their lives,

1 **because it's affected them. My life has affected other**
2 **people.**

3 **A memorial, no, I wouldn't -- I wouldn't even go and**
4 **look at it. So it's pointless.**

5 Q. HIA374, the last question that we ask each witness is
6 whether there's anything else about their time in the
7 place --

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. -- that we're looking at that they have come to speak to
10 us about today, so anything to do with Lisnevin or
11 St. Patrick's, that I haven't covered.

12 **A. Right.**

13 Q. I think you were saying to me that other than those two
14 incidents, one of which you don't think was sexual, and
15 the other you don't know who that was --

16 **A. No. The incident in Lisnevin as far as I -- my**
17 **recollection is it was just like man to man. You know,**
18 **you are in the adult world now, and it wasn't -- I still**
19 **to this day don't class it as being sexual. I don't**
20 **think the man was getting gratification out of it, but**
21 **St. Pat's was a different story and borstal was**
22 **a different story, but Lisnevin, no, I can't -- I didn't**
23 **witness anybody else in Lisnevin getting abused, hurt,**
24 **harmed, shouted at, nothing.**

25 **St. Pat's, I never seen the staff lift their hand to**

1 anybody. Well, again, I was only there , but
2 I still didn't witness anything bad happening in
3 St. Pat's to anybody else, and that's all I can say
4 about them two places, whereas again, as I say, borstal
5 is a completely different story, completely different
6 story compared to Lisnevin and St. Pat's for me. So
7 that's -- that's really all I can say about the two
8 places, you know.

9 Q. HIA374, I'm not going to ask you any more questions. If
10 you bear with me for a moment, the Panel Members may
11 want to ask you something.

12 A. Yes.

13 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA374, you will be relieved to hear
14 I think that we don't have any more questions for you,
15 but thank you very much for coming to speak to us today.
16 We are very grateful.

17 A. Well, thank you, Judge Hart, for letting me come and
18 tell my side of the story.

19 Q. Yes. That's why we are here.

20 A. Well, thank you.

21 Q. Thank you very much. Well, we will rise for a few
22 moments until we can have the next witness. So if you
23 you'd like to go with , she will take you
24 out back.

25 (Witness withdrew)

1 (11.20 am)

2 (Short break)

3 (11.30 am)

4 WITNESS HIA162 (called)

5 CHAIRMAN: Yes, Ms Smith.

6 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members. Our next
7 witness this morning is HIA162, who is "HIA162". He
8 wishes to affirm and he also wishes his anonymity to be
9 preserved.

10 WITNESS HIA162 (affirmed)

11 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, HIA162. Please sit down.

12 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

13 MS SMITH: HIA162, as I explained to you, I am going to go
14 through some of the documentation we have in the bundle
15 and tell the Panel where those documents are in relation
16 to you and your time in St. Patrick's.

17 Your witness statement is at SPT106 to 112.

18 There is a response from the De La Salle Order at
19 SPT373 to 375 and a supplementary response at 743.

20 The Health & Social Care Board have put in
21 a response at 590 to 591, which indicates that there was
22 no Social Services' involvement in respect of HIA162
23 during his time in St. Patrick's.

24 The Department of Justice response can be found at
25 1407 to 1419 and they indicate that they had no

1 knowledge of the allegations prior to seeing HIA162's
2 Inquiry statement.

3 There is a bundle of material in -- from the
4 Department of Justice, which can be found at 47407 to
5 47653, and I am just going call up a couple of those at
6 this point in time -- very shortly actually, but just to
7 let you know there is some police material, which is at
8 26180 to 26185 and 27340 to 27377.

9 HIA162's name appears on the quarterly absconding
10 records that we obtained from the Public Records Office
11 and you can see an example of his name at 18202.

12 I am going to ask -- HIA162, I am going to come on
13 to your witness statement in a moment, but when we were
14 talking earlier, I showed you a couple of letters that
15 were written to you when you were in St. Pat's. I am
16 just going call those up now. They are at 47462 and go
17 through to 47465.

18 Now this is clearly a letter that's written to you
19 and it appears to have been received in
20 , which is -- when we look at the contents
21 of the letter, that would be right, given that it
22 appears to have been written on and
23 it's obviously written -- I am not going to go through
24 it all, but if we can just scroll down through it, it is
25 obviously written by a girl who you knew from home.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Just scroll on down through it, please. She is writing
3 to you and then she says:

4 " 'Bye.

5 Lots of love",

6 and she signs it with her name. She talks about
7 waiting for the postman. The postman missed her and she
8 didn't get her and so forth, but she
9 says the trust is she forgot all about

10 . So being received the next day would have been
11 right if she was writing it in class to you.

12 There is another letter if we can just scroll down
13 to the next page, and again it's addressed to you:

14 "Sorry I didn't write, but I've been very busy,
15 although I haven't been about the area where you lived
16 for a long time, because I am working at the weekends.
17 Tell all the boys I was asking for them. Even is
18 included in that, because to tell the truth, hadn't
19 finished with me -- if hadn't finished with me,
20 I wouldn't have met Oh, he's the boy who I'm
21 going out with. Sorry, HIA162, but I can't accept your
22 offer. I would like to be able to only I couldn't do it
23 on "

24 She goes on to talk about other things in it and
25 talking about going to see a film, The Exorcist, with

1 a girl. If we can just scroll down to the next page,
2 she also says that she went to somewhere with
3 a couple of times:

4 "By the way, why did you say you and had
5 fell out? I have just heard you haven't, so even though
6 I'm going with if I wasn't, I couldn't go with
7 you because of ",

8 and that was received in . Now she
9 hasn't signed the letter. You don't ever remember
10 seeing those?

11 **A. No.**

12 Q. Yet when we were talking there just before the Panel
13 came in, I'd asked you, "Did you get letters from family
14 members or anything?" You do remember getting letters
15 from your family, but these letters seem to have been
16 opened and marked as "Received" and certainly put on
17 your file, but they don't appear to have been given to
18 you or you don't certainly remember seeing them at any
19 stage?

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. If we could then look at a different document. That's
22 SPT47539. You will see -- we had mentioned about the
23 recording of punishments and this seems to be an example
24 of the punishment record book. It is obviously for
25 St. Patrick's Industrial School, which was certified in

1 August 1869.

2 If we could scroll down to the next page of that,
3 please, it is quite difficult to see, but you will see
4 the entries here start in . If we could
5 just scroll up, please, at the top right-hand corner we
6 can see a signature that the Inquiry will recognise,
7 that of Miss Forrest, who was the Ministry of Home
8 Affairs Inspector, and she has dated that on --
9 I think it is -- it's quite hard to make out
10 -- I think it is , which clearly shows
11 that this book was kept, and certainly in
12 was inspected by Miss Forrest.

13 Just if we can look down there, HIA162, it is
14 recorded that on I think it's

15 "HIA162 absconding.

16 By whom reported: The housemaster"

17 and the punishment was:

18 "Two strokes."

19 We have had some discussion in the Inquiry, HIA162,
20 about punishments that were meted out to children.

21 First of all, do you ever remember being punished in
22 this way by being given strokes for running away?

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. And can I ask you what was used to give you the strokes?

25 **A. A strap.**

1 Q. A strap. I'm just going to look at a photograph of you,
2 HIA162, probably taken just as you went into St. Pat's,
3 which is SPT47411, and you confirmed to me that that is
4 you in younger days. You make the point that when we
5 talk about -- we will come on to talk about something
6 about having longer hair, and certainly you did have
7 hair that would have been sort of below the collar, as
8 it were, at times in -- when you were in St. Pat's.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. If we could then just go to your statement, HIA162,
11 which is at SPT106, now your personal details are set
12 out in paragraphs 1 to 3. You are now aged . Is that
13 correct?

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. And you were saying that you were getting into trouble
16 from an early age, the age of , and you were expelled
17 from your school for fighting. You appeared in court,
18 and when you were years old, you received a Training
19 School Order. You served that at St. Patrick's Training
20 School. We can see -- I don't know if it is necessary
21 to call it up -- but the Training School Order is at --
22 well, there's a record of it at 47459. You seem to have
23 gone into St. Pat's on , which was
24 actually , and you were there until
25 , when you moved briefly to the

1 Crumlin Road before moving on to Millisle Borstal on

2 .

3 In paragraph 4, if we scroll down through your
4 statement, you essentially indicate that you thought it
5 was going to be fun in St. Patrick's, because you knew
6 some people who had been there, and your parents were
7 very strict, and from what you were being told about
8 St. Pat's, it sounded as if there was going to be fun,
9 because there were pillow fights and other sorts of
10 games there.

11 At paragraph 5 you said you:

12 "... absconded from St. Patrick's at every
13 opportunity I could. I was there for

14 in total, but I believe that during my time there
15 I probably absconded between ten and fifteen times.

16 I used to try to get back to", where you lived, "and
17 would hitch lifts. Sometimes even the police would have
18 brought me home, thinking I had no way home. There were
19 gangs in St. Patrick's and there was a lot of bullying.

20 The Brothers knew what was going on and they watched
21 from the sidelines. They only intervened if things got
22 very serious. I never told my parents what was going on
23 in St. Patrick's. I just told them that I did not want
24 to go back. My parents held me until one of the
25 Brothers came to collect me and drive me back.

1 On other occasions when I ran away, I would hang
2 around in certain areas of Belfast, because I knew the
3 police were unlikely to come into those areas to look
4 for me due to the political situation at the time. Then
5 I would make my way home. I knew that if I stayed away
6 from the city centre, I had a better chance of not being
7 located."

8 And just to be clear, there are records of you
9 absconding, a number of records, but if we just look at
10 47434, that would seem to indicate the number of times
11 between , not long after you went in --
12 that's three days -- four days after went in you ran
13 away that day -- if we could scroll on down then, please
14 -- right through to when you were missing
15 there for a period of three days. So that seems to have
16 been the record that was kept of all the times that you
17 ran away and you would accept that you did do that,
18 HIA162. Isn't that right?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. If we look at 47445, when you did run away, you seemed
21 to be causing some problem at home which caused the
22 training school to write to the Social Work Department
23 where you lived, and there is obviously some connection
24 between them, and the training school and the social
25 worker expressed the view that you were running wild in

1 the town and were responsible for leading other boys
2 into serious trouble. She cited instances of you
3 involved in the bullying of boys much younger than
4 yourself, and she stated that your behaviour was having
5 an adverse effect on the boys at your former school:

6 "... and before we left we had a telephone call from
7 the police stating they would make an effort to locate
8 the boy within the next few days."

9 So when you ran away, you were getting into trouble
10 when you got out. Is that right?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Now if we look -- go back to your own statement at
13 paragraph 6 at 107, you say that you are aware from news
14 reports, if we scroll on down, please:

15 "... that there are allegations of child abuse, but
16 in my time at St. Patrick's I was molested by some of
17 the older boys, but not by the Christian Brothers."

18 A know a lot of the boys called the De La Salle
19 Brothers Christian Brothers, but it was the De La Salle
20 Order --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- and you know that now.

23 "A couple of the Brothers did beat me, but I was
24 used to that, because I was beaten at home and at school
25 because of my hyperactivity. Things did happen that as

1 a young boy I didn't understand at the time. Some of
2 the Brothers would rub themselves up against the boys.
3 At the time we didn't know what this meant.

4 used to push up behind us as we bent
5 over and then laugh it off. He did this to me
6 and I saw him do it to other boys, although we didn't
7 speak about it."

8 I was asking you whether you remembered the name of
9 who the was and you thought it was
10 a Brother and not a lay teacher. Is that right?

11 **A. It was a Brother, yes.**

12 Q. And you thought it might have been BR86?

13 **A. It was BR86. It just comes back to you, you know.**

14 **There was two Brother [name redacted]. That was the**
15 **thing.**

16 Q. There were two Brother [name redacted] in there at the
17 time --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- but one of them taught

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. Now the Order have said in response to your statement,
22 HIA162, that they accept that there were fights, but
23 they say that fights and bullying were not tolerated or
24 condoned by the Brothers, and would you accept that,
25 that the Brothers didn't -- they would have intervened

1 if the boys were fighting or bullying other boys?

2 **A. They didn't. There was a pecking order, you see, and**
3 **the older -- you know, the geysers at the top would**
4 **control them for them to save them having to do it then.**
5 **Like if you lined up to the canteen, there was a pecking**
6 **order with the tough guy and then go right down. If**
7 **somebody was just new in and went to -- was stupid**
8 **enough to go to the front to the queue, he would get**
9 **slapped. The Brother would be standing there when he**
10 **was getting slapped. Then he would get -- after a while**
11 **he would get smart and go back down and everybody would**
12 **go back into line again.**

13 Q. So that was the kind of thing that went on in view of
14 the Brothers?

15 **A. Queues, queues especially going to the canteen.**

16 Q. So there was -- if I have understood you correctly, that
17 when you -- you all had to queue up to get into the
18 canteen and everybody had their place in that queue --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- and if somebody tried to bunk the queue --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- or get out of his place, he got slapped down by the
23 older boys?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. And that -- the Brothers could -- would have witnessed

1 that and not intervened?

2 **A. Yes. The Brother would have been standing facing. You**
3 **couldn't not have seen us.**

4 Q. They do say they were unaware that there was an issue of
5 peer sexual abuse, sexual abuse by other boys, in the
6 home, but they now accept that that might have been
7 a problem in St. Pat's that they were unaware of that.
8 I will come back to talk about that a little more when
9 we go through that in your statement.

10 Paragraph 7 of your statement you relate an incident
11 where you say that the major problem you had during your
12 time was with the IRA. You know that:

13 "On one occasion the nightwatchman allowed
14
15
16
17

18 There were never any Brothers around
19 when this was happening. The nightwatchmen later told
20 me that they would say I was found wandering outside the
21 dormitory."

22 You ran away.

23 "I absconded that night and walked to the house of
24 ...",

25 a boy whom you name in your statement.

1 "He was also in St. Patrick's, but was on a period
2 of home leave",

3 and his mother allowed to you stay that night, but
4 when you went to bed, she phoned the training school to
5 let them know where you were. You understand she was
6 only doing what she thought was best for you, but you
7 left the next morning as soon as you could. So you were
8 brought back and then you ran away again the next day.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. Now I wanted to go into this in a little more detail
11 with you. We have heard that there was a room at the
12 end of the dormitory where a Brother would have slept.
13 Now is that your recollection?

14 **A. There was a room where a Brother would have slept, but
15 I have never known anybody to have ever slept in that
16 room.**

17 Q. And what did you think the room was used for when you
18 were there?

19 **A. It was like an office for the nightwatchman.**

20 Q. So he might have used that room at the end of the
21 corridor?

22 **A. But, you know, just to go in and do whatever, you know.
23 Maybe stay there ten, fifteen minutes and gone.**

24 Q. You were saying that -- I mean, this is coming -- when
25 we were talking earlier, you were talking about the fact

1 that you had long hair and why you think that the
2 nightwatchman allowed these men into the dormitory to
3 attack you in the way you say happened. Can you tell us
4 a little bit more about that, HIA162?

5 **A. Well, I couldn't sleep. So at night I would start**
6 **turning up beds and I'd wake up the whole school.**

7 Q. You were causing difficulties at night --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- for those night supervisors?

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. In fact, we will look at it, but there is an entry where
12 it is recorded that you and some others were bullying
13 some of the younger boys at night-time. Do you accept
14 that?

15 **A. Well, if throwing them out of their bed in the middle of**
16 **the night, yes.**

17 Q. That's the kind of --

18 **A. I mean, not physically hitting them or anything. It was**
19 **fun.**

20 Q. You were just messing about as you saw it?

21 **A. It was fun if you were the guy throwing them out of bed.**
22 **It wouldn't be fun for the kids in the bed. Do you know**
23 **what I mean?**

24 Q. Well, you were when you went into the home. Were you
25 one of the older boys in the dormitory?

1 **A. At that stage, yes.**

2 Q. You were saying about there was a new nightwatchman
3 came.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. And he had an issue with your behaviour at night.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. That hadn't been just so much a problem for the others.
8 Is that -- for the other nightwatchmen. Is that right?

9 **A. No, I would have been trouble for all the night... --**
10 **because I was making their job hard, but I didn't**
11 **realise this at the time. Do you know what I mean?**

12 Q. Uh-huh. This particular nightwatchman, you say that
13 there was something in his background that -- what --
14 can you just explain, HIA162, what then happened?

15 **A.**

16

17

18 Q.

19

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- to attack you, and you also make mention of the fact
22 you feel there was another boy who was attacked --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- because he looked like you physically?

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. And on this incident there were other boys apart from
2 you who were attacked in the dormitory that night. Is
3 that right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Just explain what happened then.

6 A. Well, they came into the dormitory and started -- said
7 my name first out in the corridor, and when you went out
8 to the corridor, they put a pillowcase over your head.
9 They were all standing there with hoods, balaclavas on.
10 They called about another two or three out. Then they
11 called somebody out from the side dormitory, and when he
12 came out and they tried to put the pillowcase over his
13 head, he started to struggle, and in that struggle
14 everybody started to panic and everybody started to run,
15 and they run up the stairs and up into the top
16 dormitory. For them to get in and out of that top
17 dormitory they had to come through three locked doors
18 and there was no doors broken to get in. So somebody
19 had to open the door to let them in and I -- as the
20 nightwatchman then agreed to bring me back from that
21 house and say -- for me to say that I was only wandering
22 round the dormitory, you had to think that they had
23 something to do with it. They were the only ones that
24 could have let them in. There would be no Brothers in
25 the school. The Brothers lived in the house beside the

1 **school.**

2 Q. There was another -- I mean, another reason why you ran
3 away was out of the fear, because you had been in the
4 home the same time as . Isn't that
5 correct?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. And you also mention another boy who had been in the
8 home whom you named to me, and I will just use his first
9 name, and he had disappeared,

10

11 --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- but at the time nobody knew what had become of him.

14 **A. Rumour in the home was that he was shot dead by Dublin**
15 **criminals.**

16 Q. So for all of those reasons and being attacked that
17 night, that's the reason you ran away that particular
18 night?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. Now I am just going look at a couple of document before
21 going on with your statement, and it is the entry
22 that -- it is not very clear, but it is 47544, which is
23 the night supervisor -- this is very unclear, but just
24 down at the bottom, if we can scroll down, it says that
25 you and another boy were holding a kangaroo and bullying

1 younger boys. Excuse me. Then there was someone else
2 that was up at 3.30 in the morning with toothache.

3 If we can scroll down to the next page, please, we
4 can see that that was obviously around
5 because the next nights are recorded on the next page in
6 it, and it said that:

7 "HIA162 and another boy mopped up toilet and
8 dormitory, which were flooded owing to a leak in the
9 drinking water apparatus. I feel they should be
10 rewarded for their good work."

11 Then there were three boys out to the toilet at
12 12.30 that night. So you might have been causing some
13 trouble, but you were also helping out at night it would
14 appear.

15 Then if we can just scroll on down to 47547, there's
16 an entry. It says -- just it's:

17 "[Someone] is up. Put out for throwing slippers.
18 HIA 162 out for constantly talking after lights out.
19 Although the above three named were -- were the only
20 boys to be put out, the behaviour of all the boys in
21 this dormitory leaves a lot to be desired."

22 That's signed by -- looks like -- I think the
23 signature might be . I was asking if you
24 remembered a nightwatchman by that name, but you didn't
25 remember any of the names that are recorded in these

1 notes. Is that correct, HIA162?

2 **A. No.**

3 Q. Can I just ask about what was meant by being put out?
4 What happened when you were put out?

5 **A. You were made to stand in the corridor, stand down the
6 stairs in the corridor.**

7 Q. And for how long would you have been made to stand
8 there?

9 **A. An hour or two.**

10 Q. And then what happened?

11 **A. You were allowed to go back into the dormitory.**

12 Q. Now just in relation to the incident that we were
13 looking at about the masked men coming in, the Order
14 have said that they had no recollection of any
15 punishment beatings, and they felt that the Brother
16 would have been sleeping there and would have been woken
17 by the commotion, but you are saying at that stage they
18 were out living in the house.

19 **A. No. That would have been at his door.**

20 Q. If we go back to your statement, please, at paragraph 8
21 on 108, you say:

22 "The training school had a number of boys who had
23 been remanded there due to suspected involvement with
24 paramilitaries. There was a lot of Republican
25 involvement in the school at the time and the Brothers

1 seemed to let them do what they wanted and seemed to
2 support them."

3 I was asking if you could give me an example of what
4 you meant by that. So if you could tell us a little bit
5 more about why you felt the Brothers supported this
6 activity.

7 **A. Well, say if an army foot patrol came past, we would all**
8 **start throwing stones and they would encourage us to**
9 **attack them. In some cases windows were kicked out in**
10 **front of them as they're, you know -- in the common room**
11 **there is like big windows and wee windows at the bottom**
12 **but you could stand on the sill. As the foot patrol**
13 **went across the bottom of it, all the kids would jump on**
14 **to the sills and they might kick the windows out in**
15 **front of them.**

16 Q. And this was in view of the Brothers in the home?

17 **A. Yes. This -- we were inside.**

18 Q. You go on to say that you:

19 "... had the impression that they were treated a lot
20 better than the people such as myself who were not
21 involved in that type of activity."

22 You are aware that explosives were found in the
23 grounds:

24 "... and I remember that I was arrested with a
25 number of other boys and taken to Fort Monagh for

1 interrogation. I had absolutely nothing to do with that
2 sort of thing, and the Brothers became very anti-IRA
3 after a while."

4 Now the Order have given a statement and they say
5 that it is correct that there were such boys in the
6 school and they gave an example of 23 boys who were --

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. -- on explosives charges being brought in on one
9 afternoon. They say they did not condone any sort of
10 political supporting behaviour or support the actions of
11 these boys themselves, and they say that the explosives
12 were found on a number of occasions, and in their
13 response statement at paragraph 9 they make the point
14 that -- that the Brothers had to learn to cope with the
15 complexities of the civil unrest, but they didn't
16 support or condone violence or take any view on the
17 political aspirations of the residents. It is
18 correct -- accurate that explosives were found within
19 the grounds of the school. It happened on a number of
20 occasions. The grounds were extensive and obviously
21 considered by the paramilitaries as offering
22 opportunities for concealment of weaponry. Extensive
23 searches for arms were not uncommon",

24 and I think you told me you remember the army
25 coming in and searching the training school itself --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- on occasion.

3 "Surviving Brothers recall that on two occasions
4 soldiers left their weapons behind and they were handed
5 in by residents and returned to the military. Army foot
6 patrols from Fort Monagh regularly passed through the
7 school grounds and that generally took place during the
8 residents' 11 o'clock break time, which invariably led
9 to tension between the residents and the military, and
10 BR26

11

12

13 So would these incidents of throwing stones at the
14 foot patrols or kicking the glass out at them, would
15 that have been at the break time from school? Do you
16 recall?

17 **A. It could have been any time.**

18 Q. At paragraph 9 here of your statement you talk about:

19 "Two boys beat me regularly and once they took me to
20 Black Mountain and tortured me for five or six hours."

21 You give the names of the boys and where they were
22 come.

23 "They made me stand with my hands out holding rocks
24 and hit me. They said they were from the IRA and I had
25 been an informer, and because of me, the uncle of

1 another boy had been interned. It was all nonsense, and
2 I do not believe that the boys were actually part of the
3 IRA, and they were just pretending that they were.
4 I was taken back to St. Pat's that night and was
5 bleeding and bruised."

6 You say you never received any medical treatment for
7 the injuries you received that day. When I asked you
8 about that, you said you didn't complain to anybody
9 about it. So it is not surprising that nobody -- if
10 nobody knew about it, they weren't going to get you any
11 treatment, HIA162. Would that be right?

12 **A. Well, I had two black eyes and I was bleeding. I never**
13 **reported it, but, I mean, it was obvious.**

14 Q. Nobody asked you about it?

15 **A. No.**

16 Q. You remember that night the Irish National Anthem was
17 played and all the boys stood to attention. You
18 remember a housemaster saw that and was annoyed at the
19 other boys.

20 Just -- the Order would say if there was any obvious
21 injury on a child, that he would have been referred to
22 the nurse. We know that certainly there are records
23 which show you having been -- seeing the doctor, for
24 example, on _____ at 47531. I am not going
25 to call these up, but the Panel Members can have a look

1 at them.

2 For example, there is also a record of you having
3 an injury to your thumb at 47533, and the doctor records
4 that there was "NAD", which is shorthand doctor speak
5 for "nothing abnormal detected".

6 It's also recorded that the junior boys saw the
7 dentist on and that's at 47525. It
8 is recorded on that that you had two extractions and
9 four flgs, which presumably is fillings. You tell me
10 that you never had a filling?

11 **A. I've never had a filling in my life.**

12 Q. But you do remember seeing the dentist in St. Pat's and
13 getting a tooth out?

14 **A. Once.**

15 Q. Now paragraph 10 here you go on to talk about the sexual
16 abuse that you suffered when you were in St. Pat's. You
17 say that that was at the hands of the older boys and it
18 happened when on holidays in Cushendall.

19 "Every summer a group of boys would go to this house
20 in Cushendall which was owned by the Brothers. There
21 were six or seven boys sharing a bedroom. I had
22 terrible experiences there, because I

23 at that time. I believe that due
24 to this I got more abuse than anyone else. The group of
25 older boys made me give them oral sex and masturbate

1 them every night during my first week there. There were
2 more than four boys in that group. I ran away after
3 this first week and never returned to Cushendall.
4 I believe that the Brothers and staff must have been
5 aware of what was going on and I would be shocked if
6 they were not aware."

7 When we were talking earlier, you were saying that
8 it was a big house and any noise that came from the
9 bedrooms the Brothers walked in to check --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- what was going on, and that's why you think that they
12 must have been aware that there was something untoward
13 happening?

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. I asked: did anybody ever walk in when this was
16 happening to you?

17 **A. No.**

18 Q. You remember that -- when you actually ran away, you
19 were telling me that you got into more trouble when you
20 ran away after the first week there. You and two other
21 boys ran away. Is that right?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. And you say that you went -- there were two boys from
24 Belfast and three of you tried to steal a car, even
25 though you couldn't drive and didn't know how to?

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. There is an entry in the papers that we were talking
3 about, and I wondered had that been related to this, but
4 it would appear to have been another occasion from
5 , which is at 47558 in the papers, and it is
6 a nightwatchman's entry again for the night of
7 , where it records that you were brought back from
8 camp following an incident in Ballymena swimming pool.
9 When we were talking about this -- I mean, it basically
10 records that you were caught trying to steal money, put
11 your hand in the till, at Ballymena swimming pool, and
12 you absolutely accept that was something that you did,
13 and you made the point to me that every opportunity you
14 and other boys -- when you ran away, you were -- or even
15 when you hadn't run away and you were maybe out for the
16 day, you took the opportunity for petty thieving, if
17 I can categorise it as that.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. And that would have been even when Brothers were with
20 you and in your company?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. And I think from talking to you you don't shy away,
23 HIA162, from the fact that that was the kind of
24 behaviour that you were engaged in?

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. And I think you would probably accept that it made it
2 difficult for the Brothers to control you and the other
3 boys at times?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. You made the point that you feel that you caused the
6 Brothers hassle as well, because you wouldn't do what
7 they expected you to do in terms of addressing younger
8 boys' behaviour.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. Can you just explain a little bit more about that,
11 please?

12 **A. Well, say if a young lad ran away, older boys were**
13 **allowed to go after them, and I wouldn't do that for**
14 **them, and, you know, you were sort of expected to keep**
15 **younger boys in control -- you know, in control, and**
16 **I wouldn't do that.**

17 Q. You mentioned to me that -- and I will come back to it
18 when we look at paragraph 13 -- but you mentioned that
19 older boys would volunteer to go and look for absconders
20 and then they would take themselves -- they would see
21 that as an opportunity to take themselves into town for
22 a few hours and then just come back and say they
23 couldn't find them.

24 **A. Anybody who wanted could run after somebody. So if**
25 **somebody run away and you wanted to go down the town,**

1 you would pretend you were running after them and just
2 go on down the town, and come back later on and say you
3 couldn't find them.

4 Q. Just in your statement on the screen here you say:

5 "The Brothers always seemed to have their favourite
6 boys and those boys got whatever they wanted. If they
7 didn't like the food, for example, they could get
8 something else that they did like."

9 You didn't get that option, but you were happy
10 enough with the food that you did get --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- and said that there was always enough. You said:

13 "On Sunday there was always a fry, but if you left
14 anything on your plate, you were in trouble and got
15 slapped, and sometimes the Brothers would kick you on
16 the back of the ankle with their big heavy brogues. It
17 was very painful and took a few days to heal."

18 Now can I just examine this a little bit? You were
19 telling me that you could eat as much as you want
20 provided you cleared the plate?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. You were certainly threatened with being punished if you
23 didn't do that, but you never actually were punished or
24 you don't remember anybody being punished for not
25 clearing their plate. Is that right?

1 **A. No, I can't remember. I would always clear my plate.**

2 Q. You say:

3 "Sometimes the Brothers would kick you on the back
4 of the ankle with their big heavy brogue shoes."

5 Was that in relation to not clearing your plate or
6 was that generally?

7 **A. That was generally, like.**

8 Q. You say you had some chores to do, but they were usually
9 just shining the floors. We have heard that you might
10 have had to do that on Saturday morning, a group of
11 maybe six or eight of you, to polish the dormitory
12 floors before you went to the cinema.

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. Would that be your recollection of that?

15 **A. I never went to no cinema.**

16 Q. You didn't go to the cinema?

17 **A. Nobody did.**

18 Q. Nobody?

19 **A. That's years earlier they went to the cinema.**

20 Q. By this stage this would have been the height of the
21 Troubles. It might have been more difficult.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. Or I'm not even sure if the Broadway cinema was still
24 open.

25 **A. It was. I remember going once to the Broadway cinema,**

1 but that's when I was what's called stewed, which means
2 you didn't get out when everybody else was out. So
3 there was only five of us there and they brought us to
4 the picture house.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. That's the only time I remember going to the pictures.

7 Q. And did you usually get home at the weekend?

8 A. Well, you see, for the first year I was there you only
9 got out at Easter, Hallowe'en and Christmas. This was
10 all -- this was near the end they started letting you
11 out every week. The Belfast guys could get out from
12 Saturday morning to Sunday night, but the country people
13 didn't.

14 Q. You also go on there to say that:

15 "We were allowed to smoke, which we thought was
16 strange. We also got pocket money to spend in the
17 internal shop in the tuck shop."

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. Can you remember -- we have heard that the pocket money
20 was given out on a Sunday morning in accordance with how
21 well behaved the boys had been during the week. Is that
22 your memory of it?

23 A. First of all, everybody got the same, but then they put
24 it into the behaviour system, and your teacher gave you
25 so many points and the housemaster gave you so many

1 **points, and that's how they worked your -- I mean,**
2 **I think it was only 30 pence anyway like as much as --**
3 **was the most you could get.**

4 Q. Which in old money would have been about 6 shillings, 30
5 pence?

6 A. **It was in new money 30 pence. Do you know what I mean?**

7 Q. Yes. By the time -- decimalisation had occurred by the
8 time you went into St. Pat's?

9 A. **Yes. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. But we have heard from some of the boys who were there
11 earlier that they got half a Crown, which would have
12 been 5/6.

13 A. **Uh-huh.**

14 Q. So obviously there had been an increase --

15 A. **Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- in the pocket money rate over the years.

17 CHAIRMAN: 2/6.

18 MS SMITH: Sorry. 2/6. Did I say 5/6? 2/6. Quite a big
19 increase then, but ...

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

21 Q. Anyway you go on -- sorry -- here to say that sometimes
22 you were humiliated in St. Patrick's. You said:

23 "The toilet paper you were given to use was like
24 tracing paper. Every week the laundry was washed and if
25 there any marks on your underwear, it was hung on top of

1 the television so that everybody could see."

2 You were the subject of ridicule about this and the
3 other boys called you names throughout your entire time
4 in St. Patrick's.

5 You remember being given clothes from the clothes
6 store, clothes -- they weren't clothes you would have
7 chosen, but they were fine, although they were sometimes
8 a bit big.

9 When we were talking about this, the -- first of
10 all, about the eating, first of all, the Order have said
11 that boys were encouraged to eat but they were not
12 punished for not doing so. I think you would agree they
13 were threatened with punishment but not actually
14 punished if they left something on the plate.

15 Then you say -- said -- when you were talking to me
16 about this incident about the soiled underwear, you say
17 it wasn't just you that that happened to --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- because the Order have said that they don't believe
20 that that would have happened, but you say it did?

21 **A. It did, yes.**

22 Q. And it happened to other boys as well as yourself?

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. Paragraph 13 you say you found St. Patrick's boring,
25 because there was so little to do. You remember there

1 was an old pool table, but it did not have any felt on
2 it, just slate and six pockets. A table-tennis table
3 that boys could use.

4 You say some of the older boys were given the power
5 and were able to leave the grounds to look for people,
6 as you have described. You say:

7 "If they found a boy who had absconded, they were
8 allowed to beat him and they were never reprimanded by
9 the Brothers."

10 Now the Order would say that certainly older boys
11 might have sought absconders, but they would not have
12 condoned them assaulting or in any way encouraged them
13 to assault these younger boys. Is there anything you
14 want to say about that?

15 **A. Well, if you didn't like somebody who ran away, that was**
16 **your chance to get him back.**

17 Q. So the older boys basically you are saying took the
18 opportunity --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- to mete out vengeance on younger boys --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- or any boy who had run away?

23 **A. The chances is the kid would be running away because he**
24 **had grassed him up for hitting him. So now the guy can**
25 **get a chance to get him up now for grassing on him when**

1 **he runs away by catching him.**

2 Q. Paragraph 14 you say:

3 "You went to school for a few hours, but it was
4 poor. There was one English composition to be done on
5 each week and a prize for the best one. There were no
6 books in maths or English lessons and there was never
7 any homework."

8 You remember one Brother, whom you name there, and
9 it is BR87, BR87, just sat at the top of the classroom
10 and read the paper.

11 "The teachers did not really teach anything, and if
12 I complained about the poor standards, I was beaten."

13 We were talking about this. You recall BR87 as
14 a nice man.

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. You didn't have any complaint about him other than the
17 fact that he wasn't doing anything --

18 **A. Teaching anything.**

19 Q. -- by way of teaching you?

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. I asked about who you complained to and you gave a name
22 which I am going to use in full. It is a

23 You explained to me that she was someone who
24 came just about the last six months of your time in
25 St. Patrick's.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q.

3

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. She was somebody you could have gone to talk to about
6 family difficulties or something like that. Is that
7 right?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. And you felt that there was -- before you left there was
10 a change taking place in St. Patrick's.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Not only was she there , but there were
13 more lay housemasters coming in to look after the boys.
14 Is that right?

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. And you saw this as a good thing?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. The complaint that you made to her, can you just
19 explain? I think you say a little bit about this in
20 paragraph 16 here. You say your parents came to see you
21 whenever they could:

22 "... but as they lived in the country, it wasn't
23 easy for them to visit at the time. I didn't tell my
24 parents what was going on in St. Patrick's, but I do
25 remember that I made a complaint to one of the welfare

1 staff."

2 You thought -- you give a name there which is
3 different to the name that I have just given --

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. -- but you are saying that you might have made a mistake
6 in this Inquiry statement, because the name that's
7 recorded there is the name of a person you actually
8 know.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. And you think that maybe when you were speaking about
11 this, you remembered the first name, which was the same
12 --

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. -- but the surname was different. You say that:

15 "I remember within an hour of making the complaint
16 I was beaten and taken to the punishment cell."

17 I am going to come back to that in a moment, but you
18 are saying it wasn't even that you went to her to
19 complain?

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. So what exactly happened?

22 **A. I can't even remember what I went to see her for or
23 whether she wanted to see me. I can't remember which
24 was which, but I mentioned to her that when we are at
25 school, we don't learn anything. We don't -- we just**

1 **sit there all day. At the start it was great not having**
2 **to learn anything, but see after a month or two, this**
3 **was really hard to sit in a room and not even have**
4 **a book like.**

5 Q. And as a result of that you felt that she must have said
6 something to somebody?

7 **A. Yes, she definitely did. I know she did.**

8 Q. And you say you got a beating and were beaten -- you
9 were beaten and taken to the punishment cell. By whom
10 were you beaten, first of all?

11 **A. It was one of the housemasters and this is where the**
12 **brogues came in. He was kicking me on the ankles on the**
13 **way to the -- on the way to the cell.**

14 Q. This is when a housemaster -- a De La Salle Brother
15 housemaster or a lay housemaster?

16 **A. A lay housemaster.**

17 Q. Lay housemaster, and you say that the cells at
18 St. Patrick's were the worst cells that you had ever
19 experienced.

20 "The cell was inside a cupboard with no windows,
21 just bricks made of glass, and a hard bed. There was
22 only half a mattress on the bed and no food",

23 and you were kept there for three or four days.

24 "It was solitary confinement and it didn't matter
25 how loud I shouted, because no-one came to help me."

1 Now the Order have said that -- well, first of all,
2 they thought that this person you were naming might have
3 been a social worker, but they said that this -- there
4 were cells that were used for absconders and that they
5 were converted bedrooms at the top of the stairs. Now
6 that's not your memory of them.

7 **A. They were cells built to be cells, but they were**
8 **inside -- if you walked past, it would just look like**
9 **a cupboard door like that there, but insides there was**
10 **two more doors and that's where the cells were. So even**
11 **if you shouted through the cell door and that there, it**
12 **is not even going to be heard in the corridor, not that**
13 **-- there'd be nobody in the corridor anyway, because the**
14 **corridor was outside the dormitory.**

15 **Q.** They have also said that boys would have been there for
16 one night at the most and they wouldn't have been kept
17 there -- they were actually kept to put boys who had
18 absconded and were put into the cells. Now did you --
19 you were clearly an absconder. Were you ever put in the
20 cells for absconding?

21 **A. Never, and I have never known anybody put in the cells**
22 **for absconding.**

23 **Q.** Was there another converted bedroom where you might have
24 been put if you were brought back in the middle of the
25 night or anything like that that you remember?

1 **A. No.**

2 Q. And they also say that there would have been a log kept
3 of the use of the punishment cell, but you don't
4 remember?

5 **A. I wouldn't know about that.**

6 Q. You wouldn't know about that. Well, paragraphs 17 and
7 18 here -- sorry. Just paragraph 15 you mention
8 birthdays. There was an occasion -- sorry. If we just
9 scroll -- yes, on your birthday the routine was that the
10 boys sang "Happy birthday" to you and then you were
11 beaten up.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. I take it that's by the boys?

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. And was that sort of -- when you say "beaten up", was
16 that sort of part of the birthday celebrations or was it
17 more vicious than that?

18 **A. Well, everybody started singing "Happy birthday" and
19 they slowly but surely come closer and closer round you
20 until -- and when they got -- you know, when they all
21 got in close beside you, then you just got a kicking.**

22 Q. You went home at Christmas and other holiday times.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. Paragraphs 17 to 18 you say that about six months after
25 this incident where you were in the punishment cells you

1 were sent to borstal in Millisle. First of all, we know
2 you went to the Crumlin Road gaol for a short period and
3 then to Millisle. You were visited in the Crumlin Road
4 you say by two Brothers whom you name here, BR20 and
5 BR87.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. And they -- you say that they told you not to say
8 anything about St. Pat's.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. You go on to say that it was well-known that BR20 and
11 BR46 molested boys, but they did not molest you?

12 **A. No.**

13 Q. Now let's sort of scroll down to there to the end of
14 paragraph 18. I was asking you well, what -- how can
15 you say it was well-known these two Brothers molested
16 other boys? What can you tell the Inquiry about that?

17 **A. You know, I never seen this. So this was rumour in the**
18 **school, but, you know, BR46 only came in once a month I**
19 **think it was and he would always be walking round with**
20 **children, you know, younger boys, in his hand. BR20**
21 **always had a young boy in his hand, which -- it wasn't**
22 **doing them no good, because they were getting bullied**
23 **over this. You know, they were called "crawlers", even**
24 **though at the time we thought it would have been -- you**
25 **know, you can't really -- you know, it's a bit like --**

1 **how would you explain this? We thought the boy probably**
2 **wanted to be, you know. If he wouldn't be so nice to**
3 **the Brother, he wouldn't be molested, you know, that**
4 **sort of a way.**

5 Q. So when we were talking earlier, you say that rumour had
6 it --

7 **A. Aye, rumour had it.**

8 Q. -- that the -- that something untoward was going on
9 between these young boys who --

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. -- you saw being held by the hand by these Brothers, and
12 that there was talk among the boys that, "Oh, well, he
13 is his favourite. He is being molested by him", or
14 something like -- along those lines.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. You also mentioned to me that BR46 basically allowed you
17 to do whatever you wanted.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. You give an example of the swimming pool.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. If you could just tell us about that.

22 **A. Well, he would sort of go offside with the younger boys**
23 **and he'd leave us. We could throw the benches into the**
24 **pool. The bins were going into the pool and he didn't**
25 **seem to mind.**

1 Q. He wasn't basically physically present when you were
2 doing this then?

3 **A. No.**

4 Q. Now the Order have -- say that, first of all, they doubt
5 you would have been threatened by these two Brothers not
6 to say anything and, secondly, that they deny that
7 either of these two men were abusers. Both are now
8 dead.

9 The only information that we have been able to
10 receive is an interview of BR20 before he died

11 which can be seen at SPT27348. I am
12 not going to call it up, but in that interview -- it was
13 an interview by Gardai in relation to another complaint,
14 and he said that he never touched any boys when he was
15 in St. Patrick's.

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. When -- you said to me that you would be shocked if he
18 didn't, because of what you saw and perceived to be
19 happening and what was the talk among the boys. Is that
20 right?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. And you described him actually as about
23 and that these were the very youngest boys that you saw
24 in his company.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. Now paragraph 19 to 20 here, HIA162, you talk about your
2 time in Millisle and in another institution where you
3 ended up. I am not going to go into the details of
4 that. You know that we are looking at St. Pat's and the
5 Inquiry is aware of the issues that you had and the
6 account that you give of your experiences in Millisle.

7 Your life after care you relate in paragraphs 21 and
8 22, and again I am not going to go into the details of
9 that, but I am going to ask you a question that I did
10 pose earlier this morning and that is that at the end of
11 our work the Inquiry has to make recommendations to the
12 Northern Ireland Government about what should happen and
13 I wondered -- I know when we spoke earlier you said you
14 hadn't given any thought to what those recommendations
15 might be. I wondered if you had in the time since
16 I spoke to you and now had any other ideas.

17 **A. No.**

18 Q. The one thing you said you wouldn't like to see was
19 a statue.

20 **A. Statue.**

21 Q. Indeed, I think you remember particularly when you were
22 being brought back, having run away, that there was
23 a statue in the grounds of --

24 **A. It was my first day there. Because I was in ,**
25 **I didn't get into the home until 10, 11 o'clock at**

1 night. When you were coming up the avenue, there was
2 a statue with a Brother holding a ruler, but it looked
3 like a stick in the dark, and there was a kid there, and
4 it looks like he is hitting the kid with the stick, but,
5 you know, in the daylight it is a ruler or I think it's
6 a ruler, you know.

7 Q. And so, therefore, you certainly wouldn't want to see
8 any sort of statue?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Well, HIA162, thank you very much. Those are all the
11 questions I have for you. The Panel Members may have
12 some things they would like to ask you.

13 Questions from THE PANEL

14 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA162. Can I just clarify
15 one thing? The issue about the masked men coming in,
16 did you -- did you think they were coming in because you
17 were causing trouble to the nightwatchmen or were they
18 coming in for something else?

19 A. No, for the nightwatchman. Sure, what else -- sure, we
20 were rarely out of the school. It had to be something
21 to do with inside the school.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. The nightwatchman would threaten you with the IRA. This
24 -- you know, this is -- it wouldn't be un... -- you
25 know, it wouldn't have been uncalled for a nightwatchman

1 **saying, "I'll get the RA on you". Do you know what**
2 **I mean? "I've mates in the RA. I'll get them to sort**
3 **you out", you know.**

4 Q. So they would say that to you and then --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. Okay. Thanks very much.

7 **A. Other boys would say it too like.**

8 Q. Oh, I know. It's different. Okay. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA162, that's the only question we have
10 for you today. Thank you very much indeed for coming to
11 speak to us and help us in our work. Thank you.

12 **A. Okay.**

13 **(Witness withdrew)**

14 MS SMITH: Chairman, I'm not sure whether Mr Aiken is in
15 a position to take our third witness today or whether
16 he, in fact, has attended. I know the fourth witness
17 has attended, but I would need to consult with him
18 before taking him.

19 CHAIRMAN: Well, we will rise for a few minutes. If we are
20 not ready to start the next witness, we will take
21 an early lunch. So perhaps if the -- if everyone would
22 just wait for a few minutes and the Inquiry team will
23 tell them what's happening.

24 (12.20 pm)

25 (Short break)

1 (12.40 pm)

2 WITNESS SPT125 (called)

3 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

4 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, the next witness
5 today is SPT125 -- I've got that right, SPT125,
6 haven't I --

7 **A. Close.**

8 Q. -- close -- who is SPT125, and, Chairman, he is aware
9 that you are going to ask him to take the oath and he
10 wants to preserve his anonymity.

11 WITNESS SPT125 (sworn)

12 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, SPT125. Please sit down.

13 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

14 MR AIKEN: SPT125, coming up on the screen will be your
15 statement at 833, please. Obviously, as we were
16 discussing, SPT125, in terms of anonymity when the
17 statement is published, it is redacted so that
18 information from which you could be identified won't
19 appear, and we move through to page 835, please, which
20 is the final page of the statement, can you just confirm
21 for me that is the final page?

22 **A. Yes, I can confirm that.**

23 Q. And that you have signed the statement?

24 **A. Yes, I have signed it.**

25 Q. And you want to adopt it as part of your evidence to the

1 Inquiry?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. And in addition, SPT125, I was showing you that after we
4 received this statement we endeavoured to obtain the
5 personal file that would have existed for you in
6 St. Patrick's, and the Department of Justice to whom
7 those files ultimately ended up holding were able to
8 produce. It runs, Members of the Panel, from 19238 to
9 19258.

10 SPT125, you were born ?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You are now aged ?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. And you, having left St. Patrick's in the summer of
15 aged --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- began as at , working
18 in

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

20 Q. And you worked your entire working life ,
21 moving right the way up --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- working in ?

24 **A. That's right.**

25 Q. And the Panel are aware, SPT125, and I am not going to

1 go into the detail of it, but you came to be in
2 St. Patrick's in on remand arising from
3 a tragic incident .

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

5 Q. And you were ultimately then sentenced in respect of
6 that incident on , when you were ?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. And you were made the subject of a Training School
9 Order. The Training School Order, Members of the Panel,
10 runs from 19253 through to 19256, and in keeping with
11 others at the time that the Training School Order was
12 made a social work report was provided to the court, and
13 the reference for that is at 19246 and 19247. I am not
14 going to bring that document up, Members of the Panel,
15 but what I will say is that it is clear from the content
16 of that report that the author, the senior probation
17 officer, who was writing it had a very high view of
18 SPT125 and was expressing the view and concluded that
19 although in terms of his educational prospects -- by the
20 time the report has been written in SPT125 has
21 been in St. Patrick's since , and it records that
22 the manager of the St. Patrick's Training School states
23 that SPT125 had settled well in the school and had
24 integrated well with other boys very well and also

25

1 that very week of the report in , and

2 arrangements had been made

3 --

4 Then he

5 concludes by saying:

6 "Although this youth has stated he is

7 , I feel that he should be held in

8 custody for any length of time

9 and

10 at a later date, should he qualify for this type of

11 education."

12 So the probation officer was expressing a view very

13 strongly that they wanted you to avail of any

14 opportunity you got to improve your education

15 , which wasn't in your thinking at

16 the time when this incident occurred or when you ended

17 up in St. Patrick's?

18 **A. No. At that time I wouldn't have been considering**

19 **in any shape or form. It was a bit**

20 **like school, something you go through and then move on,**

21 **and I was looking to move on as quickly as possible.**

22 Q. And the -- ultimately, SPT125, you spend years in

23 St. Patrick's until , when you are --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- by which time . In fact,

1 you make the point in your statement you maybe stayed on
2 a little longer than you had to, because you were being
3 released on licence, as with the pattern, and it seems
4 that would have been available from , but you
5 were licensed to go back to your home, and you began
6 a job as at ,
7 which then turned into a full-time career?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. The reference, Members of the Panel, to the licensing is
10 at 19245.

11 What I would like you to do, SPT125 -- as you know,
12 you and I had a conversation beforehand about the
13 matters in your statement. It is important that you
14 explain to the Panel your best recollection of what life
15 was like in St. Patrick's, because you went there, just
16 to put this in context, as a -year-old with -- having
17 been convicted of , and therefore
18 although there were 150-odd boys, if one were to rank
19 them on the basis of their record, you would have been
20 near ?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. And yet you are going into this group of boys. There
23 would have been a lot from Belfast, a group from Derry.
24 You are going in in when the Troubles are really
25 starting to take a grip and you are there through

1 and , and you leave shortly before, as the Panel has
2 learned,
3 . So life was not straightforward in terms
4 of what was going on around you.

5 Can you try and give the Panel some understanding of
6 what it was like going into St. Patrick's, how you found
7 it in comparison to the environment that you'd come from
8 in terms of the and
9 going into somewhere which was surrounded by --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- or being engulfed by the Troubles?

12 **A. I suppose it was traumatic being the first time that**
13 **I would have left home and obviously having been**
14 **convicted of . So I wasn't looking**
15 **forward to it, I have to say, going into a place like**
16 **that, but I have to say that my induction into**
17 **St. Patrick's was very good in the sense of it's my**
18 **recollection that it was BR26 who gave me some very good**
19 **advice about just being myself, keeping my head down,**
20 **not getting involved in what was going on within the**
21 **place or any groups or anything within St. Patrick's,**
22 **and I must admit I suppose in many ways I was surprised**
23 **that when -- that I didn't feel intimidated, you know,**
24 **because I realised where I was going was a place where**
25 **people who commit crimes go to and I would have had**

1 views of what people who commit crimes are like and, you
2 know, I found it not to be an intimidating environment.
3 I did keep myself to myself, as advised, and I really
4 tried not to engage in the wider issues that were going
5 on. It was very, very difficult, and I have to say it
6 would have been very easy for me to have been sucked
7 into all that was going on in that, as you say, the
8 place was surrounded by all the Troubles that were going
9 on. As time went on, the people coming into
10 St. Patrick's were more connected to that side of -- the
11 military side of it than the civil disorder side of it,
12 and I have no doubts that if I had -- hadn't listened to
13 the advice and hadn't been given the support by BR26, my
14 life could have gone differently.

15 Q. And I know this is difficult, and we will get through
16 it, because it is important that you share what you have
17 to say, but you -- when you go in, you explain in
18 paragraph 6 and paragraph 2 -- and I will do it in that
19 order for the reason -- the subject that comes up --
20 when you go in initially, you go into the senior side --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- and the Panel has heard some evidence about the
23 distinction between the junior side and the senior side,
24 and you describe going into the dormitory structure --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- to begin with, and I don't have the reference to
2 hand, but it was that L-shape type idea with a room for
3 the Brother --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- to keep an eye on both dormitories.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. I want to ask you first about the time you spent in the
8 dormitories.

9 **A. Okay.**

10 Q. We were discussing earlier there were approximately
11 roughly twenty, but you are doing your best to visualise
12 the beds in the room?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. I was asking you about was there someone who was put in
15 charge, one of the boys, and you were saying yes, his
16 bed would have been near the end and it would have been
17 his bailiwick to keep an eye and --

18 **A. Yes. I'm not even sure whether it was a formal**
19 **arrangement, you know, when I reflect on it, but**
20 **certainly I do have a recollection of that would have**
21 **been the guy who would have been trying to keep order or**
22 **trying to make sure things don't get out of hand,**
23 **because inevitably a room full of young men are going to**
24 **do a bit of slagging and a bit of horseplay going on,**
25 **but I do recollect that that person in that bed near the**

1 entrance was the guy who tried to keep things from
2 getting out of hand.

3 Q. And there are two aspects about the dormitories that
4 I want to ask you about. The first is about the
5 Brothers and the nightwatchman in terms of there was
6 this room at the corner --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- of the L --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- where the Brothers would have resided. I am even
11 more impressed with , who has managed to pull it
12 up on the screen for me. So thank you for that. You
13 can see where the Brother's room is marked --

14 A. Uh-huh.

15 Q. -- and this probably matches your recollection of it.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Would you have seen the Brother during the night?

18 A. To be honest, my recollection really was that -- and
19 again it tends to be BR26 is in my head -- you know,
20 that once the thing -- lights were off, the place was
21 settled down, you know, that was -- to me was the end of
22 it. My recollection is you would have heard the
23 watchman going down the centre of the dormitory, and
24 I think it was some sort of key or he'd put a key in
25 somewhere to I assume record the fact he had been there

1 **at whatever time he had been there, and then walking**
2 **back out again and going on about his rounds, but**
3 **I don't recall any Brothers patrolling around or coming**
4 **in and out or anything like that, certainly not in my**
5 **recollection.**

6 Q. And the second aspect of it that I want to ask you about
7 is the Inquiry has heard some evidence about behaviour
8 at night-time generally in two sorts of areas. One is
9 boys potentially interfering with other boys at
10 night-time or, of perhaps greater import, Brothers
11 coming in and taking boys out maybe to the Brother's
12 room, where they would then be interfered with.

13 Before I ask you the question about your
14 recollection of any activity of that kind, what I want
15 to ask you about, first of all, without going into any
16 of the detail of it, you were going in at 16.

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. Now there are all sorts of -year-olds in terms of
19 their knowledge of sexual matters. Would you, looking
20 back, have been someone who would have had sexual
21 knowledge going in so that you would have known what two
22 boys were up to when you saw them together or would you
23 have been naive in that sense so that men and men or men
24 and women wouldn't necessarily have been something on
25 your radar?

1 A. No. I feel I was a mature -year-old and I would have
2 been sexually aware and would have been, you know, tuned
3 in, if I could put the that way, to things like that.
4 You know, I suppose -- I was an avid reader of books,
5 and sometimes I read the books that my elder brothers
6 had, and, you know, they probably weren't of a style
7 that my parents might have wanted me to be reading at
8 years of age, but they certainly were
9 an education in that respect. So, yes, I think I would
10 have been aware of what was happening.

11 Q. So in that context that's who you were --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- going in. Can you recall any activity connected to
14 the dormitory at night-time in this type of area of
15 sexual interference going on or conversation about it
16 going on?

17 A. No. I can only say from my own experience in all the
18 time I was in the dormitory I never had any -- never
19 witnessed any of it, nor had I heard of it going on, and
20 I suppose I find it difficult because, you know, the
21 dormitory is open plan obviously. So I would -- I would
22 have expected that if two guys were sharing a bed
23 together, that I would have been aware of it, you know,
24 because it's the sort of thing, you know, if you turn
25 over in your bed at night, you could waken people. It's

1 that sort of thing, or if there was somebody down the
2 dormitory coughing, it's likely to have kept the whole
3 place awake. So I have never witnessed and I have no
4 knowledge of anybody even saying to me that anything
5 like that was going on.

6 Q. And I was saying to you, SPT125, that it's clear from
7 the material the Inquiry has gathered that there was at
8 various times boys with homosexual tendencies, boys
9 interacting with each other, sometimes coming to the
10 attention of the Brothers, sometimes not. Do you
11 recall -- obviously it's a big place. People can find
12 places and ways to do whatever they want to do
13 ultimately, but do you recall, you know, that being
14 an issue that you were aware of during the day, for
15 instance, in toilets or just --

16 A. No.

17 Q. -- around the place that there was this common issue?

18 A. No. You know, I didn't go round the place thinking,
19 "I daren't go round that corner" or "I daren't go into
20 that toilet or into those showers because, you know,
21 someone may be there who may want to attack me either
22 physically or sexually", you know. That wasn't part of
23 how I experienced it, you know. I wasn't aware, nor did
24 I hear any, you know, chit-chat among the boys about
25 "Look out for ..." or that type of thing, you know. So,

1 you know -- and I think, as I say, I was mature enough
2 I think that I would have realised it was going on if it
3 had been going on, and certainly it was not something
4 that I -- sort of would have been in the forefront of my
5 mind in my decision making as to what I did around the
6 building, where was safe to go and where wasn't. That
7 wasn't an issue.

8 Q. And the move to , , doing the best you
9 can, were under construction at the time you went to
10 St. Patrick's, but not yet being lived in?

11 A. **That was my recollection, yes.**

12 Q. But the arrangement then when they were available was --
13 and you lived with , and they
14 had -- we don't have a drawing for this, but maybe this
15 one on the screen will help to some extent. It was
16 a rectangle and at the end of the rectangle was the part
17 of the building where lived?

18 A. **Yes.**

19 Q. And then from -- moving from the rectangle, you had the
20 area where the boys lived?

21 A. **Yes.**

22 Q. And there was also a room for a Brother who lived in
23 ?

24 A. **Yes.**

25 Q. Was the Brother's room in the middle or was it more --

1 A. I --

2 Q. If you can't remember, you can't remember.

3 A. I can't remember, to be honest. I think -- my
4 recollection of the building was it was one big long
5 building, two sides to it, two different , and
6 the centre bit I think was the sort of entrance to it,
7 and then you turned one way for one and one way
8 for the other, and I think there was a Brother on the
9 other side as well, the Brother on each side --

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. -- as far as I recall, but to be honest I was even
12 trying to recall where my room was in relation to the
13 you know. If I was being -- you know, having to
14 do best guess, I would have thought my room was at the
15 sort of start of the bedroom area, and I can't even
16 remember the bedrooms themselves, whether they were all
17 single rooms or whether there were shared rooms, double
18 rooms or whatever. I can't remember that detail, and
19 I don't really remember where the Brother's room --
20 I would again suspect that it would -- might have been
21 close to my end, because it wasn't -- to me it doesn't
22 strike me as being a terribly big building --

23 Q. Yes.

24 A. -- you know, in that sense of needing to be sitting in
25 the middle.

1 Q. But it had a television --

2 **A. It had a television.**

3 Q. A living room, as it were --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- with a television, and you took your meals there?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. So there was a kitchen and dining table --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- where -- and can you remember the number -- was it
10 ten boys roughly?

11 **A. It wouldn't have been -- yes, because if I think back
12 about the number of tables in that end of the thing, you
13 know, three or four tables. So, you know, it wasn't
14 a big crowd and that's why I say it wasn't a -- I don't
15 recall it being an awfully big building.**

16 Q. And when you were in _____, that was a mix of boys.
17 So it was _____ which on your
18 _____, and then some junior boys?

19 **A. Yes. I think _____ were designed for the juniors
20 is again my recollection.**

21

22

23

24 Q. You were saying to me that there was _____ --

25 **A. There was another --**

1 Q. -- .

2 A. -- . So, you know, I think -- I think

3

4 from any sort of decision that

5 --

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. -- but, you know, that would be my assessment rather
8 than any knowledge.

9 Q. And you talked -- just when we were talking about
10 school, you describe at various locations in your
11 statement that --

12 ?

13 A. I went out to the School. I think
14 it was probably , and,
15 you know, with the
16 school.

17 Q. And obviously at when you were
18 coming to St. Patrick's or you had been a few months but
19 you were going to be staying in St. Patrick's for the
20 next ,

21

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. Can you explain to the Panel who was involved and how
24 did you come to then, "Right.

25 because

1 you had said that before the incident happened that
2 wasn't on your radar --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- as a thing you'd be doing.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. So how did that come about?

7 A. Well, you know, I think and probably
8 surprisingly enough , which was
9 probably beyond my expectation at the time, given that

10

11 -- well, not having
12 classes. So I suppose the fact that

13 was a bit of a surprise to me, and

14 I think it was between , who was -- I am

15 not quite sure -- to me in those days probably it was

16 called or something, and BR26.

17 I think the encouragement was, "Look, you can do it.

18 You should do it", because, you know, at the end of the

19 day I was going to be there for years, but then

20 that would only leave me . I still had my life to

21 live, and I think their idea was, " ,

22 you still have a chance to make something of your life",

23 and so to me it was probably a case of, "Well, you know,

24 ?", which was the

25 other bit, which would have meant being in St. Pat's in

1 to be. That was a common part of life, but you never
2 read anything into any of those conversations that gave
3 you the suggestion that there was actually something
4 that lay behind it beyond --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- just slugging abuse?

7 A. No. I think, you know, I went to

8 and, you know, that would have been common there
9 as well for people to be slugging off, as we would
10 probably call them our day, pansies, you know, somebody
11 who perhaps just didn't fit in with the rest, and
12 certainly in St. Pat's there would have been an element
13 of that, you know.

14 I think -- I was recollecting I think there was one
15 guy whose nickname was and, you know, I often
16 thought, "Well, it must be because he is a bit
17 effeminate or ...", but, you know, there was nothing
18 other than that. I didn't sort of see him as being the
19 -- you know, having a gay relationship and that's why he
20 was called . He might have been called for
21 many another reason which I never found out.

22 Q. You talk in paragraph 8 of your statement at 834 about
23 corporal punishment. I want to just ask you a little
24 bit about this, because there clearly was corporal
25 punishment taking place in St. Patrick's and logs were

1 being kept and they cover your period of time, but to
2 help the Panel with some context, the point you were
3 making to me beyond paragraph 8 of your statement is
4 that you saw far worse in the school you came from?

5 **A. Yes. You know, I have to say I was -- when I was making**
6 **the statement, when I was asked about corporal**
7 **punishment, I had struggled to actually recall any**
8 **incident or indeed see anything around that, and whilst**
9 **I am not casting any sort of -- throwing dirt at my**
10 **previous school, but to me in those days the use of the**
11 **strap was very liberal, and that -- the**
12 **standards in those days of discipline in school, that's**
13 **how it was enforced. Now it's seen as abuse today,**
14 **okay, and we accept that, but the standard in those**
15 **days, that was what was going on in school. You know,**
16 **I recall in primary school being slapped by a teacher**
17 **with a cane and slapped by a teacher with a short wooden**
18 **stick. You went to and you graduated to the**
19 **leather strap, and to me that -- I witnessed more**
20 **corporal punishment in and more of**
21 **an atmosphere of corporal punishment than I ever saw in**
22 **St. Pat's and didn't even sense it in St. Pat's.**

23 **Q. You were saying to me -- you used the word "liberal" in**
24 **a different context in St. Pat's. You were saying to me**
25 **earlier, much to your surprise, the atmosphere in**

1 St. Patrick's appeared to you less punishment-orientated

2 --

3 **A. Yes, yes.**

4 Q. -- than you had come from --

5 **A. Absolutely.**

6 Q. -- which was exact opposite of what you expected to
7 find?

8 **A. Absolutely, you know, because I was going to**
9 **an institution to be punished for something I had done.**
10 **So you expect then punishment equates to straps, because**
11 **that's my experience , and, you know, as**
12 **I say, I never sensed the -- I just don't know how to**
13 **describe it -- I never sensed that, you know, that was**
14 **a big issue or it was a big thing around the school.**
15 **Discipline was a big thing, but to me the discipline**
16 **came because I think people, well, in many occasions**
17 **respected the people they were dealing with and**
18 **therefore kept in line or, you know, the consequences**
19 **perhaps of stepping out of line to me were not about**
20 **being strapped or beaten or anything. They were**
21 **probably more to do with I might have to stay on**
22 **an extra few weeks if I misbehave, because, you know,**
23 **the chance of getting out early I assume would have --**
24 **if you didn't behave, would have been a consequence.**

25 Q. Some of the witnesses who have talked to the Inquiry

1 have talked about the assembly meeting would have been
2 on a Sunday morning and the rewards and privileges
3 system of recording marks and how you'd got on, and
4 stewing, of being kept back so you weren't getting
5 you weren't
6 getting out for the weekend leave, and then some have
7 gone further to talk about how if they had been
8 absconding, for instance, they might have been strapped
9 with their trousers down, just in their boxer shorts, in
10 the gym or the assembly room in front of other boys as
11 a lesson to the others not to behave as they had just
12 done.

13 Can you -- can you remember the reward system and
14 the assembly hall, and the stewing exercise, and the
15 going further then to the public strapping type
16 exercise?

17 **A. You know, as you started to talk about the reward**
18 **system, yes, I've a vague recollection of this**
19 **happening, but, you know, I don't -- certainly, yes, and**
20 **I do remember the idea is I suppose a bit like**
21 **I described. If you misbehave, you lose privileges. So**
22 **I would recall that as being the thing, but the public**
23 **strapping of boys, I have no recollection of that**
24 **whatsoever.**

25 **Q. The -- ultimately you are there after your**

1 birthday.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. You turned .

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. And you make reference in your statement at paragraph 14

6 to having been organised for you and you

7 got

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Can you -- how did that come about? Can you recollect

10 how you came -- because you were obviously in the

11 training school. were not necessarily

12 part of the --

13 **A. The curriculum, yes --**

14 Q. -- curriculum.

15 **A. -- and again, you know, I put this down to in my**

16 **situation the supportive nature of what I was**

17 **experiencing. I put it down to the fact that again**

18 **I would have been keen on the idea and**

19 **I think really the --**

20 **would be another step on the road to success in your**

21 **life, particularly where I came from. It's a**

22 **area. So, you know,**

23 **anywhere. It was that way, and I think this was the**

24 **Brothers actually saying, you know, "This is a guy here**

25 **who we think can do something with his life. Let's**

1 equip him with it". Now I have no recollection -- you
2 know, I think I was saying to you I probably had a few
3 pounds from family, but I
4 , and indeed if I had been at home,
5 there wouldn't have been any I would
6 have been from big brothers or friends
7 or whatever. So, you know, I think this was almost
8 like, "Here's another thing we need to do
9
10 ", and ...

11 Q. I want to ask you about -- your record going there may
12 not have been indicative of the person who held it.
13 Equally, if you take the corollary of that, there were
14 150 boys in the place,
15 , but who were of a different order to how
16 they approached life and their skirmishing with one
17 another and with others, bullying type behaviour, the
18 being involved in absconding, troubles --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- and so on. You gave me one example -- maybe you can
21 amplify this a little -- of being approached by the
22 tough guy. Do you want to just explain to the Panel?

23 A. Yes. I suppose when I went in, as I say, BR26 gave me
24 a few bits of advice. One is not to talk about why
25 I was there

1 and the other was just, you know,
2 "Keep your nose clean. Keep out of it, you know. Just
3 behave and this will be okay. This will work out", and
4 I -- I am an avid reader, and so I would have had books
5 with me.

6 So when there was down time and people were
7 congregating around the corridors, you know, in those
8 first few weeks I was there I would have just sat up on
9 a radiator and got the book out and sat and read, and
10 I'm sure it probably was an oddity to most of the guys
11 around -- around me, and I suppose it's one of the
12 things -- as I said to you, it was the first time
13 I realised that there was people in life who couldn't
14 read or write. That's my first experience. You know,
15 I just assumed everybody read and could write. So
16 I would sit up and just keep myself to myself while all
17 this was going on around me and just ignore it all.

18 One of the guys who, as I describe him, was reckoned
19 to be the hard man of the senior side came up and sat up
20 beside me and asked me what I was at and I said, "Well,
21 I'm just reading this book" and he went, "Why?", you
22 know, and I said, "Well it's a great old story and
23 I love reading and I love ...", you know, and he sat
24 there and chatted for five or six minutes with me and
25 then left me and, you know, I never had any bother with

1 him or anybody else after that, you know. So I just --
2 you know, I think it was a case of he probably
3 recognised that, you know, I wasn't going to be anybody
4 who is going to engage in any bother or get involved in
5 gangs or anything like that. So, you know, that was
6 probably him vetting me, but after that ...

7 Q. You describe, SPT125, obviously there were boys who were
8 in bother and that was their way of going and gangs --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- that -- groups of gangs --

11 A. Groups, yes.

12 Q. -- just as it would have been in any school --

13 A. Any other.

14 Q. -- but the reason I asked you to give that illustration,
15 am I right -- and just if you would explain this -- it
16 wasn't that it was all pervasive in that there was no
17 ability to be apart from being bullied, being constantly
18 afraid. One of the matters that the Panel have heard
19 about, whether it was the Brothers creating fear or just
20 the environment created fear, did you have that sense of
21 wariness or being afraid?

22 A. No, none whatsoever. I suppose I would have recognised,
23 you know, what was going on in relation to who was who
24 and would have steered clear of anything that might have
25 been happening, but I wasn't wandering the corridors

1 worrying about bumping into people or worrying about
2 going to the toilet in case two for three guys came in
3 and gave me a hiding or -- you know, I have no
4 recollection of walking around on egg shells just in
5 case something happened me. I just went up, got on with
6 it and did what had to be done, and, you know, it --
7 again I have no real recall of lots and lots of fights
8 and -- any more than what there would have been

9 , you know, but, you know, it's not that sort of
10 sense of, you know, here they were and there were gangs
11 of boys and there was fights on every corner and you
12 daren't go anywhere in case you bumped into the wrong
13 people. I just don't have that recollection at all.
14 I don't have a sense of it.

15 Q. I want to ask you about two Brothers that you talk about
16 in your statement. If we can look at paragraph 7,
17 please, at 833. Am I right in saying that until you
18 were in you wouldn't really have had anything
19 to do with BR86?

20 A. No. You know, I think that would have been the first
21 time I would have come across him. I don't recall many
22 of the Brothers. I couldn't even tell you in many ways
23 which side they were on, if you were to give me a list
24 of them, but yes, that would have been the first time
25 I would really have much contact with BR86.

1 Q. And what you were explaining to me and what your
2 statement intends to convey is that you had this
3 scenario where the group maybe after the sporting
4 activities would have been in the -- in the living room.
5 BR86 would have been there. Then at a certain point --
6 you said to me maybe 9.30 or 9.00 --

7 **A. I just have a vague recollection it was somewhere around**
8 **there.**

9 Q. At a point in time --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- the guys would have went to bed?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. And you and BR86 would have sat on and watched
14 television?

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. And you were reminding me -- you rightly presumed
17 perhaps I wasn't having this experience myself -- but
18 the nature of televisions at the time were that you
19 would have had the lights off. They weren't -- you were
20 pointing out to me they weren't HD televisions.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. And the reason you were setting this down, the shock to
23 you of --

24 **A. Absolutely.**

25 Q. -- the suggestion of BR86 interfering with someone. Can

1 you just explain to the Panel how you interacted with
2 him in terms of getting to know him and why you find the
3 suggestion being made about him difficult?

4 **A.** I suppose I always found BR86 to be a very -- it's hard
5 to describe. He was always very happy. He had always a
6 smile for everybody and a chat and, you know, a bit of
7 craic with him and in the evening -- as I say, in the
8 evening, once the other boys went to bed,

9

10 , you know, I would have probably been coming
11 down the stairs shortly before the rest of them were
12 heading back up the stairs to the bed, and BR86 would
13 tend to go and settle them in and then he would come
14 down again and we would sit and we would maybe be
15 watching football, if there was football on, or watching
16 the news, or maybe just watching a film and, as you say,
17 you know, in those days the television, you know, the
18 quality, lights off, sitting side by side, watching
19 and enjoying whatever it was and having a bit of craic,
20 and I suppose when I reflect on it, I never felt
21 anything, no sort of apprehension about doing that or
22 never felt in any way under any sort of threat with him
23 being that close to me, and certainly, you know, there
24 was never any behaviour on his part that would have
25 suggested that he would have wished to have sexual

1 relations with me in any way. So I don't know. I just
2 from my experience I have to say I was probably in --
3 well, I was probably someone who gave him most
4 opportunities, if I could put it that way, because
5 a spent of lot of time late at night in the dark with
6 him, and I -- there was nothing ever and I just find it
7 --

8 Q. Difficult?

9 A. Yes, yes.

10 Q. The next part I appreciate you are going to find more
11 difficult, but we are going to deal with it, and you
12 want to say what you want to say. In paragraphs 4 and 5
13 of your statement you talk about BR26 and you describe
14 him as like having a big brother, and what you were
15 explaining to me earlier, just if I set the scene for
16 this --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- and then you amplify it, please, that we were talking
19 about how boys would talk about --- and I use the word
20 -- "bum boy" was a word that the Panel had heard being
21 used towards people, and you were laughing at me and
22 saying, "Well, no doubt that's what they called me with
23 BR26". I was asking you to explain to me what you meant
24 by that, and you were -- we don't have the plan to show
25 you, but you were trying to illustrate to me the

1 significant size of this place and the weaving paths and
2 how the Brothers would have not -- they would have been
3 walking around keeping an eye --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- but not in an austere way was what you were
6 explaining to me.

7 **A. Yes. You know, in my recollection really, when**
8 **I reflect on it with the maturity of now, they were**
9 **patrolling probably is the term you would use to keep**
10 **an eye on things, but it wasn't being -- they patrolled**
11 **in a sort of guard-like way, and I would often have**
12 **joined BR26 in his wanders around the place, quite often**
13 **probably -- I couldn't put a number on, but, you know,**
14 **of all the people in the institution I am sure I spent**
15 **more time with BR26 than any of the other people there,**
16 **and we would often have wandered around of an evening**
17 **and through the grounds and we would have chatted. We**
18 **would have chatted about school. We chatted about**
19 **football. We would have chatted about home, chat... --**
20 **and just generally having a conversation about current**
21 **affairs, and it was in those times when he was obviously**
22 **giving me the support I needed and the advice and so on,**
23 **and just over time it became a pattern with us, and**
24 **I would have spent a lot of time in BR26's company.**

25 Q. You make the point in paragraph 18 of your statement

1 that in addition to the encouraging you and
2 giving you advice that helped you get through being in
3 St. Patrick's he was someone that you continued to have
4 a friendship with, would have exchanged Christmas cards
5 and visited, but he was also .

6 **A. He was a big part of my life at that time. Just give me**
7 **a moment.**

8 Q. You're all right. Let me --

9 **A. No. It's just that he would have been a big influence**
10 **on me, and I thought it was only fair when I was taking**
11 **an important step in my life, , that**
12 **I should have people there who played a big role, and**
13 **that would have been BR26 and it would have been**
14 **, and so, you know, I had no hesitation.**
15 **I counted them as friends, and, as I say, to me they**
16 **were --**

17

18

19 **So, you know, that's to me why they were there. They**
20 **were important to me.**

21 Q. And you, I am sure, were not delighted about potentially
22 coming to talk to the Inquiry and share your experience,
23 because there was not a necessity for you to come
24 forward, because you weren't claiming to have been
25 abused, but what you found particularly difficult was

1 the suggestion that this particular man that you got to
2 know very well would have been interfering with
3 children.

4 **A. Yes. I find that incredible both from the time that**
5 **I would have been in St. Pat's, because if I can put it**
6 **into today's parlance, BR26 had ample opportunity to**
7 **groom me, because he was dealing with me at probably the**
8 **most vulnerable time in my life, and if he wanted to, he**
9 **could have, as I say, groomed me, and we spent a lot of**
10 **time together, and I have to say I never ever sensed**
11 **that there was anything other than concern and support**
12 **from him, and I find it very hard to believe that he**
13 **would have interfered or in any way abused anyone else,**
14 **because to me that was not the man that I knew and it's**
15 **not the man I know.**

16 **Q. SPT125, one of the questions I was asking you at the end**
17 **of our conversation, we all hear and the Panel has heard**
18 **much criticism about juvenile justice systems and the**
19 **system letting people down and not providing for people**
20 **or helping them back on their feet, and I was discussing**
21 **with you that you are probably from your own words**
22 **an example that that's not always the case.**

23 **A. No.**

24 **Q. It is not always bad news. Can you explain to the**
25 **Panel, reflecting back, how the Training School Order**

1 that was made, albeit in circumstances

2

3 **A. Yes, yes.**

4 Q. -- but that the Training School Order for you was not
5 a negative thing ultimately?

6 **A. No. I think that if I hadn't gone to St. Pat's,**
7 **I think -- I know my parents would probably have wanted**
8 **me to have gone on and**

9 but I don't think I was going to go there,
10 because I didn't -- , it was not something that
11 I was particularly keen on. I went. You know, don't
12 get me wrong, I am smart enough, but I probably didn't
13 want to spend the time or the application of energy.
14 I would rather play football or mess about with cars or,
15 you know, those sorts of things that you do.

16 So in one respect going to St. Pat's forced me to
17 take a different route, but I think it's also just that
18 whole supportive nature about trying to I suppose turn
19 a life around in the sense that I think I said earlier
20 it would have been very easy for me to have gone into
21 St. Pat's and said, "No, I don't particularly want to go
22 . I will go to this workshop or that
23 workshop", and put in a couple of years and then, you
24 know, mess around, go off and join the IRA or whatever
25 it is was happening at the time and get involved in The

1 Troubles, because. as you said, I was totally surrounded
2 by it, but to me I think they -- in St. Pat's the system
3 that I experienced was one of total support and trying
4 to ensure that I could achieve my potential that they
5 saw that I probably didn't.

6 So I think my life would have been totally different
7 if I hadn't gone that way. In the past I have reflected
8 that it was an awful thing, but I probably came out of
9 it better than I would have if it hadn't happened. So
10 I live with it, but I can only say that St. Pat's
11 ensured that I came out the other end in a better way --
12 better place to get on with my life than I could have
13 been.

14 Q. Okay. SPT125, I am not going to ask you any more
15 questions. If you just bear with us for a short while,
16 the Panel Members may want to ask you something.

17 A. Okay.

18 Q. So just bear with us for a short time.

19 A. Sure.

20 **Questions from THE PANEL**

21 MS DOHERTY: SPT125, thanks very much. That was very, very
22 helpful. Can I just ask, on reflection now, looking
23 back, do you think that the interest that the Brothers
24 had in you, , lent you some
25 degree of protection in terms of the other boys?

1 A. No. I never sensed it in that way. In fact, I would
2 have probably been conscious of being accused of being
3 a pet around the place, you know. I would have been
4 conscious that that was probably one of the
5 ramifications of spending time with and being associated
6 with the Brothers, but I never saw it as being me
7 getting protection --

8 Q. Protection.

9 A. -- because I think at that stage, you know, when I'm
10 saying being friendly and all, I think I had already
11 been there long enough that the other guys had accepted
12 me --

13 Q. For who you were.

14 A. -- for who I was. It probably helped that I was pretty
15 good at football as well. So, you know, once you start
16 playing football with guys, you earn a bit of respect
17 from them. So I never saw it as being something that
18 kept the bullying at bay or any other activity at bay.

19 Q. Okay. Thanks very much.

20 MR LANE: How much contact was there between the senior and
21 the junior sides of the school?

22 A. Well, my real -- none, not very much in the main school
23 you know. I think, as I recall it, you know, there was
24 two sides to the school. There was the junior side and
25 the senior side and the senior side was almost

1 self-contained in terms of the workshops and so on --

2 Q. Uh-huh.

3 A. -- and I don't have any great recollection of having
4 spent -- when I was in the senior side, I don't have any
5 recollection of actually mingling with the junior side.

6 Q.

7

8 A.

9

10

11 Q. You went to the at Did
12 many boys do that out of the hundred and something there
13 were

14 A. There was I think and .

15 Q. Just the .

16 A. I think he might have already been before
17 I arrived.

18 Q. And did you experience any sort of
19 discrimination for being from

20 A. No. I think

21 , because again on advice
22 from I am assuming it was BR26 again was, you know,
23 "If anybody asks you where you live,
24 tell them you live on ".

25 Q. Yes.

1 A. "You are not lying. You do live , and,
2 you know, don't make an issue of it and just carry on",
3 and, as I say, I am not -- I am not sure how many of
4 them , but no-one ever
5 asked me about it or, you know, nobody ever drew it to
6 my attention.

7 Q. You mentioned that you did a lot of reading. Was there
8 a library at St. Pat's or did you -- where did you get
9 the books from?

10 A. Yes, I think I probably got them mainly from my family.

11 Q. Right.

12 A. I don't recall the library.

13 Q. Did they visit fairly regularly?

14 A. Well, I would have had visitors, yes. Again it's --
15 I can't put detail on it. It's ...

16 Q. Okay. Thank you very much.

17 A. Okay.

18 CHAIRMAN: Well, SPT125, thank you very much indeed for
19 coming to speak to us today about your time in
20 St. Patrick's. It's been very helpful indeed. Thank
21 you.

22 A. Can I just finish off and say one thing? Coming down
23 here today, I was reflecting, and all I have is happy
24 memories of my time in St. Pat's, which I was saying
25 earlier seems rather peculiar to me, having been

1 deprived of my freedom years, that
2 I end up thinking that it was a happy time in my life,
3 and I just feel that that couldn't have been the case if
4 St. Pat's was an environment which was intimidatory or
5 predatory in any way. So, you know, that's my
6 impression and that's what I leave you.

7 Q. Thank you very much.

8 (Witness withdrew)

9 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, Ms Smith will be
10 taking the next witness, but perhaps ...

11 CHAIRMAN: 2.45, please.

12 (1.40 pm)

13 (Lunch break)

14 (2.45 pm)

15 WITNESS HIA227 (called)

16 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, Chairman and Panel Members. Our
17 last witness today is HIA227. HIA227 is "HIA227". He
18 wishes to affirm and he also wishes to maintain his
19 anonymity, Chairman.

20 WITNESS HIA227 (affirmed)

21 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, HIA227. Please sit down.

22 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

23 MS SMITH: Now, HIA227, as I explained to you, I am just
24 going to tell the Panel Members where there are
25 documents in our bundle of papers the page references in

1 respect of those that relate to your time in St. Pat's.

2 HIA227's witness statement can be found at 126 to
3 131.

4 The Order's response is at 2... -- sorry -- 387 to
5 388 and then at 752.

6 There is a Health & Social Care Board response which
7 can be found at 1127 to 1129 and a further statement at
8 1130 to 1137.

9 The records -- they haven't got records, but they
10 confirm that St. Pat's -- sorry -- HIA227's placement in
11 St. Pat's was by Social Services in , but his later
12 placement there was not at the behest of Social
13 Services.

14 The Department of Justice response can be found at
15 1433 to 1438, and the material from the Department of
16 Justice is at 48078 to 48189.

17 I am just going to look at a couple of those
18 documents in a moment.

19 There is also police material in the bundle, which
20 can be found at 26294 to 26295, 21319 --

21 CHAIRMAN: Sorry. Just give me the police again.

22 MS SMITH: 26294 to 26295.

23 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

24 MS SMITH: Then 21319 to 21549 -- sorry -- 45. I beg your
25 pardon. Another block at 21546 to 21774, 24933 to 24949

1 and 26854 to 26881.

2 There is a statement -- a police statement of
3 HIA227's which can be found in that bundle of material
4 at 21436, which relates to the chef DL137 and also
5 a complaint about a Brother who he talks about in his
6 Inquiry statement.

7 The certificate of conviction is in that bundle of
8 material at 26294 to 26... -- that can't be right --
9 26.. -- I think that's -- I think I have written this
10 down wrong, 26444, the Northern Ireland Court Service,
11 but I think -- I think it should just be two
12 pages really to 295.

13 There is civil claim material, which can be found at
14 30156 to 30157.

15 There is -- if we could just put HIA227's statement
16 up, please. It's at 126. Now, HIA227, as I explained
17 to you, instead of your name there you will see that the
18 reference number "HIA227" is given, which is the
19 reference number the Inquiry has given to protect your
20 anonymity, and your personal details are set out there
21 in paragraphs 1 and 3.

22 You are now aged , and you recount the fact that
23 you were in a children's home called ,
24 although you don't know why you were put there. You
25 were about , and you speak about your time there

1 in paragraphs 4 to 8. You were there for about eight
2 months, and the Inquiry is aware of the issues that you
3 raise about the way you were treated.

4 Now you are aware, as I said to you, it is not
5 a home that the Inquiry has been looking at, but by
6 chance a person that you name there, and I am just going
7 to use his first name, , he became aware that you
8 had a complaint about him and by chance the Inquiry has
9 received a statement from him. In that statement he
10 said he remembered you as HIA227. He did not remember
11 any particular incident at the children's home involving
12 you. He denied the allegations you made in
13 paragraphs 10 and 11 of his statement, and I should have
14 said that the statement can be found at 1130 to 1137,
15 and he further said that he didn't remember having
16 denied knowing you when he was spoken to you about the
17 police (sic) and he had no recollection of seeing you
18 later in life.

19 Now I am not going to go into any more detail about
20 that, HIA227, but because we had received the statement,
21 I felt it appropriate to let you know what he had said
22 about what you had said about him.

23 Now if we look, please, at SPT48084, this is
24 a document which -- I think there is an earlier one
25 perhaps at 48118, just if we can look at that. Yes.

1 This is a document and it is and it's
2 a record that St. Pat's kept about children who were
3 coming in and out, and you will see there that your name
4 is on that:

5 "Admitted on remand",
6 and that was in , but, in fact, we know that
7 you were actually in there because the Social Services
8 had placed you in St. Pat's initially. Is that correct,
9 HIA227?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. Then the other document showed that you were then --
12 just in relation to that you speak about this at
13 paragraph 9 in your statement at 128 where you said that
14 you believe you were sent there under a Care and
15 Supervision Order. You initially were taken to Rubane
16 House, but refused to go inside, and that's why you went
17 to St. Patrick's --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- because it was very unusual for a child of your age
20 to have actually been in the training school.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. But at that stage they didn't know what else really to
23 do with you.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. You don't remember your time there in

1 **A. No.**

2 Q. You thought that you absconded and spent most of your
3 time outside, but you certainly don't have any
4 complaints about your time there --

5 **A. No.**

6 Q. -- in . So, as you say in paragraph 10, you
7 returned to St. Patrick's in , as you received
8 a Training School Order for one to three years. The
9 document that was on the screen there a short while ago
10 at 480... -- 48084 records the fact that you were, in
11 fact, given a Training School Order for a period of one
12 to three years after being convicted of offences.

13 You think that you were there longer than that and
14 you thought in your statement that that might have been
15 because your home life was unstable.

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. In fact, the -- it would appear that you were
18 readmitted, because you were let out on licence and you
19 were then readmitted and a further Training School Order
20 was made in respect of you.

21 If we look that document again, please, just to make
22 it clear. It is 48084. In fact, I think it --
23 apologies, but if we could just actually go to the
24 preceding page, where this is a record essentially of
25 your time in the institutions, which makes it quite

1 clear that you were admitted on a remand order for care
2 and protection when you wouldn't go into Rubane on
3 , and as you say yourself there, you did abscond on
4 and didn't come back in until , and you
5 might have absconded again on . The Order expired
6 on . You were then admitted on the
7 Training School Order on and there was
8 a further Training School Order made in
9 so a year later, which would explain why you actually
10 spent longer than just the initial period in the
11 training school.

12 You were licensed and released to the care of your
13 mother in , but that licence was then
14 revoked in and you were brought back to the
15 training school in . Then in
16 you were relicensed to live with your sister. You were
17 admitted on a short-term remand to St. Patrick's on
18 You received a six-month sentence to the
19 YOC on , but as it records here, you were
20 released on bail pending appeal. So you never ever
21 actually went to Hydebank. Isn't that right, HIA227?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. In fact, whenever your appeal was heard, you were given
24 a Community Service Order.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. So there was no need for you to go back into any
2 institution at that stage.

3 There are some other documents that I am just going
4 to look at briefly here, if I may, because in
5 paragraph 10 -- sorry. There was -- just some of the
6 documents -- it's 48144. This is another entry that was
7 recorded by this training school. You will see here
8 that it's recorded that you knocked a teapot round your
9 chest and were scalded and it records the treatment, the
10 cream I think that was applied to you at that time.

11 That was in Do you remember that happening
12 --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- when you were in St. Pat's? There are other entries,
15 which I am not going to look at, but they record that
16 you had appointments at the Royal Victoria Hospital and
17 at Musgrave Park.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. I think you saw -- you were telling me that you saw
20 an orthopaedic --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- specialist in Musgrave Park, because you had
23 a . Isn't that correct?

24 **A. Yes, yes.**

25 Q. There is also an entry at 48166, where there was

1 an incident involving you and another boy, where you
2 collided in the swimming pool, resulting in both of you
3 having to get stitches. You were saying yours were in
4 your chin.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. So it is clear from the records that we have seen
7 certainly if you needed any medical attention, that was
8 being addressed by St. Patrick's, and you would accept
9 that, HIA227?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. Paragraph 11, going back to your statement at 128, you
12 say that you were placed in a chalet in the grounds
13 rather than the main building and you name

14 there who were I am
15 not going to give their names, but you know who I am
16 talking about --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- and you say really nice people. You felt
19 safe when you were in the chalet. There were
20 dormitories as well as two single rooms in the chalet
21 and you slept in one of the single rooms.

22 You go on to describe the daily routine, and that
23 was that you got up about 7.30, washed, dressed, had
24 breakfast and then went to school over on the main
25 training school site. You say there were about fifteen

1 boys in your class and you moved from class to class for
2 different lessons. There was only one Brother called
3 BR86 who taught classes and the rest of the teachers
4 were civilian staff.

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. You go on to say that there was no real education and
7 the teaching was very basic. You never had to do
8 homework, and after school there were activities until
9 around 5 o'clock, and then there was free time until you
10 got your tea served at 6 o'clock. In the evenings the
11 boys went back to the chalets and played football or
12 pool if they wanted and there was also a gym on site,
13 which you went to from time to time. You went to bed
14 about 9.30 or 10 o'clock and during summer you went down
15 to a holiday home in the Glens of Antrim, at Waterfoot
16 you thought.

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. You go on in paragraph 12 to describe the point system
19 that operated in the training school for good work and
20 good behaviour. If you received enough points, you were
21 allowed to go home to your family for the entire
22 weekend. You always had enough points, but sometimes
23 you chose to stay in the chalet because of the
24 circumstances at home. You didn't see your brother. He
25 was actually , and that was part of the reason

1 that Social Services were taking you to at the
2 time, and you don't remember ever seeing a social worker
3 during your time in St. Patrick's.

4 You describe there was a lot of bullying during your
5 time in St. Patrick's. I was asking you who was
6 bullying whom? Was it housemasters, was it boys or what
7 was the situation, HIA227?

8 **A. It was just, just stepping out of line.**

9 CHAIRMAN: Sorry. I have to go back a bit. Did you say,
10 HIA227, that you never got to see your brother --

11 **A. No, not --**

12 Q. --

13 **A. No, not in about -- my family wasn't together for about**
14 **-- about five years.**

15 Q. Yes. You were never taken down from St. Pat's --

16 **A. No.**

17 Q. -- to see your brother?

18 **A. No.**

19 Q. I thought perhaps inadvertently you said he was,
20 Ms Smith.

21 **A. No.**

22 MS SMITH: Did he ever come up from to see you?

23 **A. No, I haven't seen him.**

24 Q. So just going back to the issue of bullying during your
25 time in St. Patrick's, when we were talking earlier,

1 I asked you if this was -- you go on to say the
2 housemasters would shout at you and metally torture you
3 although there was no physical abuse from them.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. I was asking did you mean by housemasters lay staff or
6 Brothers?

7 **A. Housemasters.**

8 Q. You say it was a very strict regime and they used the
9 leather strap from time to time.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. I asked you: when would the strap have been used?

12 **A. When you stepped out of line.**

13 Q. And I --

14 **A. Petty things.**

15 Q. Pardon?

16 **A. Petty things.**

17 Q. Such as? Can you give an example?

18 **A. Just -- just carrying on with other people in the home
19 itself.**

20 Q. I was asking -- we have heard from various people
21 different accounts of where the strap was kept.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. Your recollection is that --

24 **A. It was --**

25 Q. -- it was kept in the headmaster's office.

1 **A. -- the head office. The head office.**

2 Q. The head office?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. I asked had you ever yourself been sent to the
5 headmaster to be strapped and you recall --

6 **A. Once.**

7 Q. -- that there was one occasion --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- where you were messing about --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- and you were sent --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- and I asked how that was administered.

14

15 **A. Yes, yes.**

16 Q. What exactly did he do?

17 **A. He strapped me on the hand a few times, so he did.**

18 Q. And can you -- I think you thought it might have been
19 three times that you were --

20 **A. Aye. Two or three times he strapped me.**

21 Q. And it was one on each hand --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- and maybe an extra one?

24 **A. Yes, yes.**

25 Q. And you say that there was also bullying from older

1 boys?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. That they would slap you, verbally abuse you. It was
4 hell at times, because you were one of the youngest boys
5 in the school.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. But you never considered telling the staff what was
8 going on, because you thought it would only make things
9 worse if the boys found out that you had told anybody on
10 them.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Paragraph 14, HIA227, you go on to describe when you had
13 been there for about years, you were abused by the
14 , and his name was DL137.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. You reported him to the police about 1997 you think it
17 was.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. He was convicted of abusing you and three other boys,
20 and he only abused you once, but you knew he was abusing
21 other boys in the home.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. And you go on -- I can see that you are slightly upset
24 by this, so I am not going to go into the details, but
25 it is recorded there as to what he did, HIA227, and --

1 but you recall being frightened and you did what he
2 asked to you do because he was a member of staff. At
3 the end of it he gave you 50 pence and told you not to
4 tell anyone what had happened.

5 **A. Yes, correct.**

6 Q. You then left the room, because you were in a panic and
7 afraid he was going to try something or suggest doing
8 something else, and on a few occasions after that he
9 suggested that you both go back to where he had abused
10 you, but you knew what he wanted to do and you refused
11 and tried to avoid him as much as you could. You never
12 reported it to anyone because you were afraid that
13 no-one would believe the word of a child over that of
14 a staff member, and you think that ultimately he got
15 fired because of it --

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. -- and the housemasters had to know what he was doing
18 because all the kids in the place knew and were talking
19 about it. I was asking you what kind of things were
20 being said, and you said that some boys were, as you put
21 it, slagging off other boys for going to the kitchen --

22 **A. Yes. Correct.**

23 Q. -- to go near him. Isn't that right?

24 **A. That's correct.**

25 Q. Now the Order have accepted that they did not deal

1 appropriately with this man's behaviour when it did come
2 to their attention, and they say in their response
3 statement that:

4 "It is with sadness and regret that he abused
5 children in St. Pat's",

6 and that is in their response statement that they
7 gave to the Inquiry.

8 You also talk about BR4, you said
9 was the only other person who abused you when you were
10 in St. Pat's. You thought he was about

11 You
12 said he frequently felt your backside through your
13 trousers and he did that no matter where you met him or
14 whether there were people there as well. You also saw
15 him do this on numerous occasions to other boys. You
16 believe he must have been getting a sexual thrill from
17 this behaviour, and you told police about it at the same
18 time as you made your statement about the chef, but he
19 wasn't prosecuted, and you know someone obviously told
20 you -- probably the police -- that he had died in

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. Now the Order I should say don't accept this particular
23 Brother was abusive. I know that what you said to me is
24 that he was -- all the time it was just him doing this
25 to you. No other Brothers did it to you. It was just

1 this one Brother.

2 **A. No, just him.**

3 Q. Now paragraph 17 there you recount being released, as
4 you say. You go on to describe your life after care in
5 paragraph 19. What you were telling me about -- sorry.
6 Just I will come back to it in a moment. Paragraph 19
7 you talk about your life after care and I know when we
8 were talking earlier, you say you are still experiencing
9 problems today --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- because of what happened to you. I am not going to
12 go into the details there, but one question that we ask
13 people when we come to the end of dealing with their
14 evidence, HIA227, as I said to you, is that we ask them
15 what their view is and what recommendations the Inquiry
16 should make at the end of their work, and you talk about
17 this in paragraph 20, if we can scroll down, please.

18 You say that you want an apology from St. Patrick's,
19 the Catholic Church and the State and you also believe
20 you deserve compensation for what you suffered.

21 Now if I can deal with the first sentence there,
22 first of all, you were telling me that in 1996 you took
23 steps to try to get an apology from St. Patrick's.

24 Isn't that right?

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

1 Q. You wrote to the person who had been your housemaster,
2 who you talked about

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. You wrote to him.

5

6 **A. Yes,**

7 Q. He never replied to you?

8 **A. No.**

9 Q. So you then took yourself up to St. Pat's.

10

11 **A. No.**

12 Q. And he was able to show you the letter that you had
13 written to him?

14 **A. From prison.**

15 Q. But said to you that he wasn't able to offer you
16 an apology.

17 **A. No.**

18 Q. Is that correct?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. And what you said to me was that that made you even
21 angrier?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. Just in respect of the compensation issue, it is
24 correct, HIA227, that you did take a civil claim and
25 that was settled. Isn't that correct?

1 **A. Yes, out of court.**

2 Q. Out of court. One of the things you said to me was that
3 you would have preferred the opportunity to go into
4 court --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- because you felt you hadn't been given the
7 opportunity and hadn't --

8 **A. Hadn't a voice.**

9 Q. -- you hadn't a voice.

10 HIA227, there's nothing else that I want to ask you
11 about, but if there's anything else that you feel you
12 haven't had the opportunity to say either through the
13 statement that we have been looking at on the screen or
14 through the things that I have put to you about the
15 conversation we had, now is the opportunity -- if
16 there's anything more you want to say about your time in
17 St. Patrick's, now is your opportunity.

18 **A. All this -- so it**
19 **has. . I'm still suffering to this**
20 **day. I just keep thinking about it.**

21 Q. Well, HIA227, thank you for that. I have nothing
22 further that I want to ask you, but I'm sure the Panel
23 Members may have some questions for you.

24 Questions from THE PANEL

25 CHAIRMAN: HIA227, can I just ask you to tell us something

1 more about the chalet that you were in?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. Now --

4 **A. It was --**

5 Q. -- I am not asking about your experience. As

6 I understand what you've said, you got on well there --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- and you were well looked after. What I'd like to ask

9 you about is if you can remember anything about the

10 layout of the structure.

11 **A. It was like a home. It was like a family home.**

12 Q. Yes. Was it a single -- like most family houses, just

13 a single block?

14 **A. Yes, just with, yes, about thirteen -- thirteen kids in**
15 **it.**

16 Q. Yes. Someone described it to us earlier this morning as

17 being a bit like two structures that were joined

18 together.

19 **A. Yes, there were two houses together.**

20 Q. Yes.

21 **A. They were like a semi-detached house together, but there**
22 **was two chalets, one on each end.**

23 Q. I see, and then something joining them together in the

24 middle?

25 **A. Yes, in the middle --**

1 Q. Yes. So --

2 **A. -- for chalet 1 and chalet 2.**

3 Q. So there was a common entrance --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- and then presumably you went --

6 **A. Communal entrance.**

7 Q. -- one way to chalet 1 --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- and the other way to chalet --

10 **A. Chalet 2.**

11 Q. And how many people roughly in terms of boys --

12 **A. I would say there was about --**

13 Q. -- would be in the block that you were in?

14 **A. About 13 or 14.**

15 Q. In your side of the house, so to speak?

16 **A. Yes, yes.**

17 Q. And then presumably roughly the same number on the other
18 side?

19 **A. Yes, on the other side.**

20 Q. Yes, and the houseparents, who looked after
21 you, they were responsible therefore for somewhere
22 around 13 children?

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. Did a Brother live on each side of the house?

25 **A. No, one Brother lived on our side.**

1 Q. Was there one on the other side as well?

2 **A. No, no.**

3 Q. Just your side of the house had a Brother in it?

4 **A. Yes, yes.**

5 Q. Was that his room where he --

6 **A. That was his residence in it. He lived there. He**
7 **worked in the chalets as well, so he did.**

8 Q. Yes. So was he somebody who worked in the chalets and
9 didn't work in the school?

10 **A. He worked in the school as well. He worked everywhere**
11 **about St. Patrick's.**

12 Q. Fine. Thanks very much.

13 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA227. That has been really
14 helpful. Can I just ask about the issue to do with
15 bullying? Did the Brothers or any of the lay staff
16 intervene to stop the bullying between the boys?

17 **A. Sometimes. Sometimes it went on -- it went on, but they**
18 **seen it. They seen the bullying going on. It just kept**
19 **going on and going on, and they would do it behind their**
20 **backs, behind the housemasters' backs, and you wouldn't**
21 **go to the housemasters and tell them that you were being**
22 **bullied --**

23 Q. You would be too scared.

24 **A. Because you were too scared and plus you would probably**
25 **get another beating for doing that.**

1 Q. Was it mainly behind their backs then that the boys
2 wouldn't be --

3 **A. The majority of times --**

4 Q. Okay.

5 **A. -- was behind their backs.**

6 Q. Okay. Thanks very much.

7 MR LANE: Just to ask you another question about the chalets
8 --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- was it a privilege to go there?

11 **A. Yes, it was a privilege.**

12 Q. So did you --were you in the main house and then you
13 earned that privilege?

14 **A. I was -- you see, in the**
15 **training school. I was only in about four or five weeks**
16 **and I asked to be there --**

17 Q. Right.

18 **A. -- because I didn't -- I didn't like the look of the**
19 **main school itself. I was only**

20 Q. We've heard quite a lot about boys running away from
21 St. Pat's.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. Did that happen more in the main house or did it happen
24 --

25 **A. Yes, in the main building. That's -- the majority of**

1 **people in the chalets never absconded. Not in our**
2 **chalet they never absconded. It was always in the main**
3 **building.**

4 Q. Right. Thank you. Thank you very much.

5 CHAIRMAN: HIA227, can I just come back to the chalets
6 again? I gather from what you said there was more than
7 one chalet?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Can you remember how many there were even approximately?

10 **A. There was three chalets, but one was for senior side and**
11 **that was -- that was down -- that was on the senior**
12 **side. There was the two chalets for junior.**

13 Q. When you say on the senior side, somewhere else on the
14 site?

15 **A. Yes, on the site. There was three chalets altogether --**

16 Q. Yes. So --

17 **A. -- one for seniors and two -- two chalets for juniors.**

18 Q. Two chalets for juniors?

19 **A. For juniors, yes.**

20 Q. And the junior chalets were in a different part to the
21 senior chalets?

22 **A. Yes, they were out of the road, yes.**

23 Q. Thank you very much indeed.

24 Well, HIA227, those are the only questions we want
25 to ask you. Thank you very much for coming to speak to

1 us today. We are very grateful to you.

2 **A. Thank you.**

3 Q. Thank you.

4 (Witness withdrew)

5 MS SMITH: Chairman, that completes today's evidence.

6 CHAIRMAN: Very well. Thank you. We will resume tomorrow
7 morning as usual.

8 (3.15 pm)

9 (Inquiry adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning)

10 --ooOoo--

11

12

13

14

15

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 HIA374 (called)2
 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY2

WITNESS HIA162 (called)26
 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY26
 Questions from THE PANEL69

WITNESS SPT125 (called)71
 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY71
 Questions from THE PANEL105

WITNESS HIA227 (called)109
 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY109
 Questions from THE PANEL127