
HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at
Banbridge Court House
Banbridge

on Tuesday, 5th January 2016

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 173)

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

1 Tuesday, 5th January 2016

2 (10.00 am)

3 Opening remarks by CHAIRMAN

4 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. As always,
5 may I remind anyone who has a mobile phone to ensure
6 that it is either switched off or placed on
7 "Silent"/"Vibrate", and may I also remind you that no
8 photography is permitted anywhere on the premises and
9 certainly not within the chamber itself.

10 We are about to embark upon the next module, Module
11 9, of the Inquiry's work, and in a moment I will invite
12 Ms Smith to open this module to the Inquiry, but for the
13 benefit of anyone who has not been here before or who
14 may not be familiar with our practices, may I remind
15 everyone that names which are mentioned in the course of
16 the opening, and indeed later on during the module, may
17 not be used outside the chamber -- where that name has
18 been given a designation by the Inquiry, it may not be
19 used anywhere or reported anywhere, although from time
20 to time the names will be mentioned freely here in the
21 chamber for everyone's ease of reference.

22 Now, Ms Smith.

23 Opening Remarks by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

24 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and
25 gentlemen. This morning, as you have said, Chairman, we

1 will commence our public hearings into our ninth module
2 of evidence, which relates to Manor House Home, which
3 was a voluntary children's home located in Lisburn in
4 County Antrim. The children's home existed from 1927
5 until 1984, with gaps in operation at the outset and in
6 the mid 1950s, something I shall say more about shortly.

7 The Inquiry has received complaints about Manor
8 House from six people. Two of those already gave
9 evidence in Module 2, which you will recall dealt with
10 the child migrant schemes. They were HIA346 and HIA341.
11 Both gave evidence on Day 45. That was 4th September
12 2014, and transcripts of their evidence are in the
13 bundle at MNH11001 to 11068. They were resident in the
14 home in the 1940s.

15 In addition, the Inquiry will recall that another
16 boy who gave evidence in Module 2 was in Manor House
17 briefly en route to Australia. He was HIA354, and his
18 evidence was heard on Day 44, which was 3rd September
19 2014. He did not complain about the home, and was
20 placed in Manor House in November 1950 in order for him
21 to travel to Australia with the boys who were being sent
22 from there.

23 The evidence of the remaining four will be heard
24 this week. Three of those, two of whom we will hear
25 from tomorrow, were resident in the home in the mid to

1 late 1960s, and the other person was there for a year in
2 the early 1970s. As in other modules, the Inquiry will
3 hear complaints of physical and sexual abuse from those
4 who give evidence: physical abuse by staff and sexual
5 abuse by visitors to the home, as well as one allegation
6 of sexual abuse by a staff member, who is now deceased.
7 In addition, the Inquiry will learn that the issue of
8 peer abuse was a feature in this home, as it was in
9 others that have been looked at in previous modules.

10 I am going to say a little about the history and
11 background of Manor House, but before I do I should like
12 to thank the Reverend Eddie Coulter, who is
13 Superintendent of Irish Church Missions, and who has
14 provided the Inquiry with the information it has sought
15 for this module from that organisation. He has provided
16 helpful statements and will give evidence later this
17 week. I should make it clear at the outset that the
18 Reverend Coulter had no involvement whatever in the
19 running or operation of Manor House and simply speaks to
20 those records which still exist in relation to the home
21 on behalf of the Irish Church Missions. He is present
22 today, together with the Reverend Courtney, who
23 represents that organisation.

24 As I have said, Manor House Home was a voluntary
25 children's home and the voluntary organisation

1 responsible for running Manor House Home was The Society
2 for the Irish Church Missions to the Roman Catholics.
3 Many may not have heard of the organisation and so I am
4 briefly going to say a little about it. I am sure that
5 if I get anything wrong, when he gives evidence later
6 this week, the Reverend Coulter can correct me.

7 The organisation was founded in March 1849 with the
8 aim of converting the Roman Catholics of Ireland to
9 Protestantism and was supported by over 200 Irish
10 clergy. Originally the society was based in London and
11 it was to London that the home had sometimes to look for
12 funds. Bishops and archbishops of the Church of Ireland
13 were constant patrons of the society until 1984, when
14 growing ecumenism made many see gospel outreach to Roman
15 Catholics as politically incorrect.

16 Irish Church Missions as it exists today is
17 a registered charity. It is governed by a body of
18 trustees comprised of Anglican evangelical clergy and
19 laity who are concerned for gospel growth in Ireland.
20 It is a recognised mission agency within the Church of
21 Ireland with offices in Belfast and Dublin and, as
22 I hope I have made clear, it has had no involvement in
23 the provision of residential childcare in the north of
24 Ireland for over thirty years.

25 Turning to the history of Manor House Home, in 1927

1 a Miss Louisa Stannus was operating a home for orphaned
2 and disadvantaged children on her Manor House estate at
3 Lisburn. She then donated the Manor House estate to
4 Irish Church Missions with the object of that
5 organisation running a children's home from there. The
6 home, as you will hear, operated on the site until 1984,
7 apart from the period of four years in the 1950s,
8 something which we will look at and I shall say more
9 shortly.

10 Extracts from the Irish Church Missions' minutes can
11 be found at MH... -- MNH2323 and these show that the
12 home closed in 1929 due to inadequate finances. The
13 children were moved to Dublin to a home run by the
14 organisation there and I shall say a little more later
15 about how the home was funded.

16 There also appear to have been issues about the
17 transfer of property, and proceedings were held in the
18 High Court in Belfast when Miss Stannus sued the ICM for
19 compensation for monies she spent on repairs made after
20 the closure. We see some documentation in relation to
21 that at MNH2326 and 2327.

22 Eventually the home reopened in 1932 once the
23 Northern Committee of ICM agreed to take over
24 responsibility for running the home. We can see
25 a minute here on the screen in front of us. Just if we

1 can scroll down through that, there should be a minute
2 on this page to the effect -- yes:

3 "The house is in need of repairs to the extent of
4 about £200. Mr Bannister has nearly £100 in hand, the
5 balance of the late legacy to the Manor
6 House Home for that purpose, and the committee decided
7 to give £100 towards the repairs on the understanding
8 that the Northern Committee took over the entire
9 liability for the running -- of running the home."

10 While the property was owned by Irish Church
11 Missions it was managed by a local Management Committee.
12 The Management Committee comprised clergy and lay people
13 from the Church of Ireland, including doctors and
14 solicitors, some local to the Lisburn area. It was
15 elected by the Belfast Committee of ICM and approved by
16 the London headquarters of the organisation. The London
17 committee was made up of clergy from both the Church of
18 England and Church of Ireland, and this was historical,
19 as both churches had been one under the 1800 Act of
20 Union, when ICM was originally founded.

21 Prior to registration as a children's home in
22 accordance with the provisions of the Children and Young
23 Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1950 the children
24 admitted to the home were largely private placements,
25 generally on the application of a local clergyman.

1 We can see an example of this if we look at MNH3194,
2 which is a minute of the management committee meeting of
3 18th December 1945. I think it is 28th December --
4 I beg your pardon -- 1945. It reads:

5 "An application re admission of child six weeks old
6 was received per Reverend W.D. Evans-Derry. It was
7 agreed that as no question of religion existed in the
8 case and as it was impossible to board out children, the
9 request could not be granted."

10 Some of the children admitted were illegitimate.
11 Some were there due to the incapacity of their parents
12 to care for them because of illness or for other reason.
13 Some were the product of mixed marriages, which had
14 broken down, and the parent wanted the child raised in
15 a Protestant home.

16 The home did not initially cater for very young
17 children, although the minutes of the management
18 committee throughout 1946 and 1947 make reference to
19 plans for a creche. We can see this at MNH3220, where
20 the refusal of an infant is recorded, and on the
21 following page. If we can just scroll back up for
22 a moment, please, it says:

23 "MH1 reported ..."

24 Just at the top there, on 11th April 1947:

25 "MH1 reported having received an application from

1 the Reverend Canon Rooney of Armagh for the admission of
2 a child three months old, but as infants could not
3 possibly be admitted, his application had to be
4 refused."

5 In May 1947 we see on the next page, if we scroll
6 down it, the committee were still planning to raise
7 funds of £6000 to open a creche for younger children.
8 I am not quite sure I have highlighted that, but it is
9 somewhere in that minute that that is recorded. It
10 might be on the next page.

11 Ultimately in October 1947 it was agreed to admit
12 babies and to accommodate them in the room where the
13 committee held its meetings, and that can be seen --
14 I don't know that we need to call up these pages -- but
15 it is MNH3229.

16 When the home registered in 1950, the age group
17 range was recorded as from 0 to 16 on the list of the
18 voluntary children's homes kept by the Ministry, which
19 can be seen at MNH2520. The age range of the children
20 did vary over the years and the maximum accommodated was
21 22.

22 MNH2562 gives a history of Manor House Home as
23 recorded when it closed in 1984. This is published in
24 The Banner, which was a newsletter of ICM, in the spring
25 of 1985. You can see that it includes a photograph here

1 of the house. I am not going to read through that, but
2 it sets out the history of the home. If we can just
3 scroll down I think to the next page, please, you will
4 see here that there is accommodation which was built
5 later in the operation of the home for staff on the
6 site.

7 I am going to say a little bit about how the home
8 was funded. The Management Committee of Manor House
9 raised money through a variety of means, including
10 payments by parents.

11 If we look at MNH3200, we see that there is an entry
12 here of a MH 42 paying for his children. I am
13 trying to find it. Yes.

14 "MH1 referred to two children named , whose
15 relations appeared to be very -- in very good
16 circumstances and asked if the children could not be
17 given into their custody. It was pointed out that the
18 father of the children had placed them in the house and
19 was paying for their maintenance. His was the authority
20 and we dare not interfere."

21 At MNH3237, where it is unanimously resolved in
22 April 1948 to have arrangements in place for the
23 maintenance costs of a child before admittance. You can
24 just see there:

25 "Payments for maintenance of children admitted to

1 home. It was proposed by Mr Forsyth, seconded by
2 Mr Gurd and resolved unanimously that previous to
3 children being admitted to the house arrangements should
4 be made for payment towards the cost of their
5 maintenance."

6 Funds were raised by flag days, for example, at
7 MNH2673, where an advertisement appeared in the Northern
8 Whig newspaper in August 1956 for a Manor House flag
9 day. Just -- it is dated 25th August 1956:

10 "Sir,

11 Once again I appeal through the hospitality of your
12 columns for the Manor House Home (Lisburn) for which
13 a flag day will (Deo volente) be held today.

14 The voluntary home for destitute Protestant
15 children, which is run by The Society for Irish Church
16 Missions, has been completely modernised. Three years
17 ago it was estimated that £12,000 would cover the cost
18 of the work, but owing to rising costs the sum needed
19 for complete rehabilitation (including new furniture and
20 furnishings) will be in the region of £16,000. More
21 than £10,000 of this has been paid by voluntary
22 subscription and collections and it is hoped that this
23 week's collection will greatly reduce the amount
24 outstanding."

25 It goes on to say the home will be reopened and

1 a number of children who are in MH 43 Homes in
2 Dublin will be brought back, and all cheques to be sent
3 to Dr McCann at the office in Donegall Square East.

4 Now I am going to say something more about what was
5 happening in around 1956, but this is an example of the
6 type of fundraising that was carried out by the Irish
7 Church Missions for Manor House Home.

8 There is also -- donations were made voluntarily to
9 the home. For example, at MNH3192 we see that Mackie's,
10 who seem to have supported a number of children's homes
11 in Northern Ireland, pay the sum of £30:

12 "A cheque for £30 was received from Messrs Mackie's
13 Factory, Albert Foundry Welfare and Recreation
14 Association, Springfield Road, Belfast. The money was
15 part of the fund raised at the time of The Blitz and was
16 now being disbursed to charities."

17 That's from 1945.

18 Funds were often solicited by way of newspaper
19 advertising. For example, in May 1949 a letter of
20 appeal for publication in the press was drafted and
21 discussed by the Management Committee at MNH3266. It is
22 sometimes difficult to find just the location where --
23 it is in the letter of appeal that this is said:

24 "Canon O'Connor submitted his letter of appeal for
25 funds to carry out the very necessary repairs to the

1 house -- to the home."

2 Sorry.

3 "The committee were grateful for the help Canon
4 O'Connor had given in this matter and it was proposed by
5 MH46 , seconded by Mr Gurd, and unanimously
6 resolved that the letter of appeal be accepted, as it
7 was decided to instruct ", I think that is, "in
8 Belfast to make copies of this letter and with
9 a photograph of some of the children enclosed send to
10 those on her lists who receive such appeals. Canon
11 O'Connor agreed to make the necessary arrangements with
12 ."

13 MNH2911 shows an example of an advertisement in 1951
14 in the Lisburn Herald urgently appealing for funds. You
15 can see it is headed:

16 "Manor House Home."

17 It is 15th December 1951:

18 "Funds urgently needed. Subscriptions will be
19 thankfully received and acknowledged.

20 Today we make an appeal on behalf of the Manor House
21 Home, Lisburn, which was established in 1927",

22 and so it goes on. Yes, that is certainly clearer.

23 "It is pleasing to note that the home has had
24 an influence for good in the case of large numbers of
25 young people who have subsequently found honourable

1 positions in life. From the Commonwealth of Australia
2 a very encouraging report has recently been received
3 that seven boys, formerly in the care of the home, sent
4 there towards the end of last year soon settled down
5 under the new conditions and that great interest has
6 been taken in them throughout the district in which they
7 are being trained.

8 To enable the work of the home to be carried on
9 successfully and without any retrenchment the Management
10 Committee feel that if the financial position, also the
11 aims and objects of the home, were more widely known
12 throughout this country, there would be a speedy and
13 willing response to the appeal now being made for
14 additional funds in the advertising columns of this
15 issue. The matron of the home will welcome visits by
16 any interested persons."

17 When I come to look at the events of 1950, you will
18 see that in 1951 the state of the home was such that
19 finances were not in a very healthy situation.

20 The ICM also employed people specifically to collect
21 on its behalf. If we look at MNH3188, we see an advert
22 in the Church of Ireland Gazette from some date between
23 1945 and 1956 for:

24 "Lady collector wanted for Northern Ireland.
25 Salary and commission with board and residence."

1 gambling machines and his Playfair in Lisburn was
2 closed. Mr Bannister said he would vote against the
3 proposal, but he felt grave doubts when he considered
4 the acceptance of money by the churches from publicans
5 and brewers without demur. Mr Doran thought from
6 a Christian standpoint we should not take tainted money.
7 Eventually it was agreed that in view of the diverse
8 opinions the matter should be referred to the head
9 office of ICM for their view on the principles
10 involved."

11 Further funds were obtained from rental of land on
12 which the home was situated. If we look at MNH3199 and
13 3200 from 1946, we see -- and there is also a further
14 entry at MNH3202 -- we see rent was provided from
15 Lisburn Golf Club and it is recorded here as being
16 outstanding.

17 At MNH3220 the Orange Order was allowed to use the
18 field in July, subject to half of the proceeds of its
19 charitable collection going to the home. We see that
20 various Loyal Lodges of the Orange Order were
21 subscribers to the ICM and to the home in the accounts
22 -- recorded as being subscribers in the accounts.

23 Although the property was owned by ICM, it would
24 appear that the Management Committee was expected to be
25 self-sufficient, not unlike what we saw previously with

1 the way the homes run by the Sisters of Nazareth in
2 Northern Ireland were operated.

3 Some funds, which the Departmental papers which we
4 will examine shortly described as negligible, were
5 provided by London headquarters, primarily it would seem
6 for repairs to the property rather than for the running
7 of the home.

8 MNH3281, if we look at that, we can see that the
9 Management Committee at that time in September 1950 --
10 October 1950 were applying to ICM for payment for
11 a grant for repairs. It says:

12 "Mr Gurd had applied to ICM London for a payment of
13 £125, balance of the grant for repairs, but had not
14 received a reply to his application."

15 In June 1950 -- 5 -- sorry -- 1955, while the home
16 was undergoing renovation, the Committee are writing to
17 ICM to ask for a reduction in interest paid on a loan
18 from the parent society of £500.

19 According to the Committee minutes, finances were
20 healthy in 1947, MNH3218. The treasurer's report showed
21 that expenditure was less than income, although, as we
22 shall see, that does not appear to have lasted for very
23 long.

24 In October 1951 the Management Committee held
25 a special meeting to respond to questions posed by the

1 Ministry. The minute of the meeting is at MNH2029, and
2 it is clear that finances had taken a downturn due to
3 the illness of the collector, which suggests the
4 important role played by this person in the way the home
5 was funded. I will just read this minute. It says:

6 "A special meeting of the Committee of Manor House
7 Home, which was opened and closed with prayer, was held
8 in Manor House on Thursday, 18th October 1951. Present:
9 The Reverend Thompson, MH46, Mr Weir,
10 Messrs Gurd", I think that's, "Creggan, Forsyth, MH48
11 and the secretary, Mr Creggan, presided.

12 The Committee meeting was called to consider and
13 reply to questions submitted to the Committee at their
14 meeting on 11th and concerning the management finances
15 re the home"-- sorry -- "finances", something, "of the
16 home. The questions by Reverend McLeod and the replies
17 by the Committee follow herewith."

18 The questions:

19 "Who the local committee is, how it is composed and
20 the members.

21 There were five members of the Church of Ireland,
22 two members of the Methodist Church and two members of
23 the Presbyterian Church.

24 How were they ever appointed?

25 New members are appointed by existing committee and

1 names of committee are submitted annually to the General
2 Committee of the Church Missions in London.

3 Is the local committee subject to London or Dublin?

4 Subject to General Committee of Irish Church
5 Missions London only.

6 What is the present financial position of Manor
7 House Home?

8 At the present time the bank account shows a debit
9 balance against the home owing to the illness of our
10 principal collector, who has been off duty for a period
11 of six months and has now been forced to resign because
12 of ill health.

13 Is there a report and financial statement for 1950?

14 The reports for the years 1950/51 are being combined
15 and will be issued in 1952."

16 If we can scroll on down, the questions continue
17 about:

18 "If the local committee is independent and free to
19 run Manor House Home as it decided",

20 and it says:

21 "It is subject to the General Committee of the Irish
22 Church Missions in London."

23 It goes on to:

24 "Is it a Church of Ireland institution?

25 The answer to that:

1 "Yes.

2 Does it run on interdenominational lines?"

3 The answer appears to that to be "no", because they
4 are asked to look at (a) above:

5 "Has the committee made regulations securing a
6 Church of Ireland matron?

7 It is not possible to secure the services of
8 a Church of Ireland matron, as no applications were
9 received from suitable persons."

10 Then:

11 "The children have always been educated in the
12 Church of Ireland catechism",

13 and it goes on to talk about which churches the
14 children are sent to. That alternated between the
15 cathedral and Christchurch. Scroll to the next page,
16 please.

17 "On what conditions are children received into the
18 home and what age limits there are."

19 It says:

20 "The", something, "years exception special cases
21 ..."

22 I think that's maybe:

23 "Three years exception special cases which require
24 sympathetic consideration by the committee. Where
25 parents means permit a maintenance fee is asked but very

1 rarely secured.

2 Inspection by health and other authority."

3 It says:

4 "Registered under welfare authority, who have the
5 right to inspect when they so desire. Dr Johnston is
6 the medical officer for the home and gives every
7 attention to the health of the children."

8 He will feature in a later minute, which I will be
9 referring to you when we look at the events in the
10 coming years after this minute.

11 "Mrs Weir, having enquired regarding the possibility
12 of Miss Jamieson undertaking Miss Johnston's duties as
13 collector for Manor House, was informed it was not
14 possible for her to do so.

15 The Committee agreed that an advertisement for
16 a collector for the home be inserted in the Belfast
17 Newsletter and Northern Whig, the name of the home to
18 appear in the advertisement to read 'for a Christian
19 charitable institution'.

20 This concluded the business of the meeting."

21 It is clear from this minute that the finances had
22 taken a downturn due to the illness, as I said, of the
23 collector, and it is also clear that the parental
24 contributions were sought, but they were rarely secured,
25 a situation the Inquiry will remember was not dissimilar

1 to the position of the other voluntary homes that we
2 have looked at in previous modules.

3 By December 1951 the Committee are clearly concerned
4 about the financial situation, having failed to secure
5 the services of its collector, if we look at MNH3308,
6 and we will see here that:

7 "As no ..."

8 Just at the bottom there where it says:

9 "Collector to succeed MH44 .

10 As no replies had been received to our advertisement
11 in the Newsletter and Northern Whig, appointment of
12 a collector had to be deferred. Mr Horan was of the
13 opinion -- was of" -- yes -- "the opinion that our
14 advertisement should be inserted in the principal
15 religious papers, and it was decided to advertise in The
16 Church of Ireland Gazette, The Witness, The Christian
17 Advocate and The", something, "and Protestant", Manor
18 House Home to be mentioned in the advertisements",

19 and the treasurer's report goes on:

20 "Mr Gurd reported that our debit balance in the bank
21 was now £470 -- ...57, but we have to our credit
22 a deposit receipt for £300. We are still in debt to
23 Mr~McHenry for £664 for repairs and renovations. In
24 addition too the accounts for the past two months had
25 not been discharged. The offer of the trustees of

1 £1,150 for the Manor House field has, it is understood,
2 been accepted by the government, but a deposit has not
3 yet been made. Mr Horan thought an appeal for funds
4 should be made and suggested that a brief statement of
5 our accounts should be forwarded to ICM London and he
6 would do what he could on our behalf."

7 If we can scroll down, please, we then see that on
8 the next page it is recorded that:

9 "Miss Pattisson, Financial -- Mr Horan intimated
10 that Miss Pattisson, Financial Secretary to Irish Church
11 Missions London, would probably be visiting Ireland
12 shortly, and if the Committee so desired, would call at
13 the home and perhaps have advice in" --

14 CHAIRMAN: "Her advice."

15 MS SMITH: -- "and perhaps her advice in financial matters
16 would be helpful. The Committee hoped so and the group
17 would be very glad to see Miss Pattisson."

18 We see then at -- so while ICM in London were
19 certainly not providing funds, they were willing to
20 provide some advice through the auspices of
21 Miss Pattisson. If we look at MNH330... -- sorry. That
22 is -- that's 3309.

23 If we look then at 3310, someone was appointed in
24 February 1952 to the position of collector on an
25 experimental basis for six months.

1 "Several replies have been received to our
2 advertisements, only one of which appeared to be of
3 a promising nature, that from a MH45 , to
4 whom MH46 had written. MH45 in reply
5 stated ..."

6 Scroll on down, please, to the next page:

7 "... she would not be free to take up until 1st
8 April 1952. From enquiries made it would appear as if
9 she would probably be a successful successor to
10 MH44 , having had previous experience as
11 collector in Northern Ireland for the Deaf and Dumb
12 Mission for a period of five years. After full
13 discussion it was proposed by Mr Gurd, seconded by
14 MH48 , and agreed unanimously that we wait until
15 1st April for MH45 and in the meantime
16 Mrs Bannister to arrange an interview if when on a visit
17 where her friend resides she could conveniently call and
18 if not ..."

19 Sorry. I can't -- this is just --

20 CHAIRMAN: "A visit to Dunmurry where her friend resides."

21 MS SMITH: "... to Dunmurry". Sorry. Yes.

22 "... and if not convenient to do so, perhaps she
23 would meet the Committee on Thursday, 14th February at
24 their next monthly meeting."

25 It goes on to say somewhere she was appointed on

1 an experimental basis for a period of six months.

2 I think that's at 3313. Yes.

3 "Appointment of MH45 as collector to succeed
4 MH44 .

5 On the proposal of MH46 , seconded by
6 Mr Gurd, it was resolved unanimously to appoint
7 MH45 as collector for the house for
8 an experimental period for six months, her salary to be
9 £3 per week, with a commission of 10% on her takings.
10 Payments to be made monthly and collections to commence
11 on 10th March 1952."

12 After 1958 the majority of children who were placed
13 in Manor House appear to have come from the Welfare
14 Authorities rather than by way of voluntary placement,
15 which had been the position previously, and as a result
16 the home then received per capita maintenance payments
17 from the Welfare Authorities.

18 The amount payable to the home varied over the
19 years. For example, there is documentation which shows
20 that in 1964 the sum payable by Welfare Authorities to
21 Manor House was increased to £5 per week. We see at
22 MNH2506 the Secretary of Londonderry Welfare Authority
23 approving that increase to £5.

24 Like other voluntary homes, once registered as such
25 under the provisions of the Children and Young Persons

1 Act (Northern Ireland) 1950, the home became eligible
2 for Ministry grants under section 118.

3 I am now going to turn to consider events in the
4 life of the home in the 1950s, which led to the home's
5 closure and as far as the Inquiry is aware is the only
6 instance where steps were taken by the Ministry of Home
7 Affairs to remove a home from the register of children's
8 homes.

9 As it transpired no home was ever, in fact,
10 deregistered according to evidence given by Mr Buchanan
11 from the Department to the Hughes Committee on
12 February -- sorry -- on Friday, 29th June 1984,
13 an extract of which can be found at MNH2242, although
14 periodic reviews of registration were being considered.

15 You will see that Mr Buchanan is being examined by
16 Mr Kerr, QC, and if we can scroll down -- as he then was
17 I should say -- it says:

18 "Q. Are there any records of registration having
19 been withdrawn by the Ministry or latterly the
20 Department over that period?"

21 That's between 1974 and '78 -- sorry -- between 1960
22 and '63, if we go right back. He said:

23 "No. There are no instances of that happening. If
24 there had been inadequacies, if they had been not of a
25 kind that would have -- they would not have been of

1 a kind that would have called for that sort of action.

2 Q. If there had been inadequacies which do not call
3 for withdrawal of registration, what action, if any, is
4 taken? What is done? Is there any contact with the
5 governing body at the homes to try to correct those
6 inadequacies?

7 A. This is the sort of matter that might be covered
8 in an inspection report and recommendations and advice
9 would be given to the voluntary body about what was
10 needed and what sort of rectification was needed to
11 correct a situation.

12 Q. Under the current legislation is registration
13 something which is a once for all event or is there any
14 provision for review of registration?

15 A. No. Once a registration is made it can, of
16 course, be withdrawn if something were unsatisfactory,
17 but apart from that there is no specific provision for
18 review.

19 Q. Is there presently any consideration being given
20 to any provision nationally to have a review of
21 registration?

22 A. Yes, there is some thinking being given to that
23 as a possibility, an annual review, which will obtain
24 information from each voluntary body governing certain
25 specified types of information and this information

1 would come to the Government Department concerned and
2 would enable the -- enable the registration issue to be
3 considered on a regular basis in the light of the
4 information."

5 It goes on to discuss what type of information would
6 be required and the proposals under discussion that were
7 merely initially proposals for England and Wales, not
8 covering Northern Ireland, but Mr Buchanan says:

9 "I think that, although they do not cover us, we
10 would want to take account of these possibilities of
11 looking at the registration information on a regular
12 basis. I will be saying later that the approach which
13 has been applied to monitoring is to cover a regular
14 examination of information for monitoring purposes and
15 that the same approach should apply to registration
16 would mean that if the Department were to obtain on an
17 annual basis information from voluntary homes, then this
18 would allow the registration arrangement to be looked at
19 on an annual basis. I should say that this has not yet
20 been taken up with the voluntary bodies or the interests
21 concerned, but it would be looked at in terms of being
22 an annual review."

23 We see from later documents that certainly this was
24 in and around the time when the Department was setting
25 up more regular inspections of children's homes as a

1 result of all that happened around the time of the
2 Hughes Inquiry.

3 The events of the time -- and I'm going back to the
4 1950s now -- can be followed through a suite of
5 documents from the Ministry of Home Affairs' papers that
6 were filed in the Public Records Office for Northern
7 Ireland.

8 Dr Harrison has provided the Inquiry with
9 a statement of evidence, which can be found at MNH296.
10 She has annexed thereto a detailed chronology of the
11 Ministry's involvement with Manor House at MNH308
12 compiled from those documents. I think it is necessary
13 that -- rather than relying on Dr Harrison's very
14 helpful chronology, we will actually have to look at the
15 documents in some detail.

16 If we take the effective date of operation of Manor
17 House as 1932 after the initial closure, Manor House
18 Children's Home had been in operation for some eighteen
19 years when the Children and Young Persons Act (Northern
20 Ireland) 1950 was passed.

21 The Management Committee initially applied to become
22 an adoption agency and in connection with that
23 application Ms Forrest first visited the home on 8th
24 June 1950 with Miss Harrison. The Inquiry is aware that
25 both women were Ministry Children's Inspectors.

1 Ms Forrest's report, which is at MNH2939, if we
2 could look at that, please, records what she found and
3 gives an account of her meeting with MH46 , who
4 was a member of the Management Committee, and the then
5 matron, MH1. She records on 8th June 1950:

6 "Miss Harrison and I visited Manor House Home,
7 Lisburn, and met the matron, MH1, and a member of the
8 Committee, MH46 ,

9 . The home does not profess
10 to deal with adoptions unless with children of the home
11 itself and even that is exceptional. MH46 is
12 opposed to the Committee of the home becoming
13 an adoption society. They have no outside", something
14 -- I can't quite decipher that word -- "who could
15 investigate -- init... -- initiate enquiries into
16 proposed adopting homes and the matron has her hands
17 full with her own work. 20 children: 17 at school, 3
18 toddlers." Something, "staff is matron, assistant
19 matron, nursery assistant aged 16 and cook live in.
20 Domestic staff living out. We think the question of the
21 necessity of registration should be taken up with the
22 Ministry's solicitor -- sorry -- with Mr Merrick,
23 solicitor. We reminded MH1 and MH46 of the
24 obligation to register as a voluntary home. MH1 thought
25 that they had been told at a meeting of the Council of

1 Social Welfare that ..."

2 Unfortunately we don't have the next part of her
3 report. Mr Merrick, who is referred to here, was
4 a member of the Management Committee. As you can see
5 he, and as appears from other entries in the minute
6 book, to have been a solicitor acting for Manor House
7 Home. He was in contact with the Ministry about the
8 appropriate registration of the home. We can see
9 correspondence at MNH2938. It says:

10 "Mr Jackson,

11 Apparently the organisation should have applied for
12 registration as a voluntary home and not as an adoption
13 society.

14 Should we write to Mr Merrick, as Ms Forrest
15 suggests?"

16 That is signed by initials, which I believe are
17 W.D., and that would have been a Mr Duff, and then:

18 "Mr Willis,

19 Please ..."

20 -- or it might even have been Mr Willis' initials:

21 "Yes, please proceed accordingly."

22 Those are the initials of Mr Jackson. Then if we go
23 to the preceding page, please, we see a memo:

24 "Mr Merrick is desirous that Manor House be
25 registered as an adoption society, and if this is not

1 favoured by the Ministry, that the reasons for the
2 Ministry's attitude be made clear to him.

3 He sees no reason why joint registration as
4 an adoption society and a voluntary home should not be
5 possible.

6 If, however, arrangements can be made with the
7 Welfare Authority to undertake the work involved in the
8 few adoptions with which Manor Home -- Manor House is
9 likely to be concerned, he would be glad to", something,
10 "accordingly and as fully as possible."

11 CHAIRMAN: "Glad to be informed accordingly."

12 MS SMITH: "... informed accordingly and as fully as
13 possible.

14 Spoke to Merrick. He agrees that the
15 appropriation -- the application for ..."

16 CHAIRMAN: "Registration as an adoption."

17 MS SMITH: "... registration as an adoption society may be
18 ignored. Forms for registration as a voluntary home
19 sent."

20 That's in June 1950. We can see that Mr Merrick
21 subsequently recommended to the Management Committee
22 that it withdraw the application to be registered as
23 an adoption agency and apply to be registered as
24 a voluntary home. The minutes of the Committee of 16th
25 June 1950 record this at MNH2378.

1 In passing, if we just look at that minute, I should
2 say that it also records contact having been made with
3 the home by the Presbyterian Church authorities about
4 securing boys for migration to Australia. Then at
5 MNH2386 it is recorded that seven boys would shortly be
6 leaving for . The Inquiry knows that they
7 did, in fact, leave in November 1950.

8 The application for registration as a voluntary home
9 can be found at MNH2933 to 2936. If we could call that
10 up, please, you will see this is a letter from
11 Mr Merrick and it says:

12 "Dear sir,

13 I enclose application for registration on behalf of
14 the above home.

15 As I understand that the home can arrange for
16 adoptions of children through various adoption societies
17 or welfare societies, it would not appear to be
18 necessary that the home should be registered as
19 an adoption society and further to be so registered
20 would involve a considerable amount of trouble to the
21 authorities of the home. In the circumstances you may
22 treat the application under the Adoption Act as
23 withdrawn.

24 Please return the documents of title which I sent to
25 you.

1 Can you please indicate what conditions are attached
2 to the making of a grant to a voluntary home referred to
3 in sections 118 and 119 of the Children's Act?"

4 If we can scroll on down, please, we see here the
5 application for registration of a voluntary home. The
6 name of the organisation responsible for the home is The
7 Society for Irish Church Missions. The Chairman is then
8 the Reverend Canon Henry O'Connor and the secretary
9 Mr Barclay. It is described as an orphanage. The usual
10 length of stay in the home is to the age of 14 or 15.
11 Religious denomination is the Church of Ireland. The
12 children are described as:

13 "Children illegitimate and unwanted by parents or
14 ill-treated or destitute."

15 The matron in charge at the time was MH1. There
16 were no men employed except that during vacation a
17 university -- a divinity student sometimes acts as
18 a games master. There were five women. The total
19 number including staff for whom accommodation was
20 available was 22 and the number of children present then
21 was 19. You will see there was no-one under the age of
22 2 present and one over the age of 17, and no children
23 were boarded out from the home at that time. 14 of the
24 children were attending school and one was on vocational
25 training.

1 "Parents and friends may visit the children between
2 3.00 and 5.00 pm on Saturdays.

3 Children are free to send and receive letters.

4 It is unusual for children to go away during
5 holidays.

6 Children usually go to their parents at about the
7 age of 15 -- 14 or 15, so that the question of
8 employment rarely arises, nor of supervision. When it
9 does arise, every means is used to give training or find
10 work. At present one boy is apprenticed as
11 an electrician.

12 There is a medical inspection on admission and the
13 honorary medical officer inspects about every two months
14 and in the case of illness is in contact -- is in
15 contact attendance -- constant attendance", I think that
16 is. "This is in addition to the usual inspection at
17 school. Weights are taken, but heights aren't, and
18 their general health is examined.

19 The routine is that the children get up at 7.00 am,
20 breakfast at 8.00. For the -- those not at school milk
21 at 10.00 am, lunch at 12.30, afternoon tea 3.30, younger
22 children supper at 5.30 and bed 6.15, older children
23 supper at 8.00 and bed by 8.30. Weekdays and Sundays
24 the same timetable except that" -- I think that --
25 "except that ..."

1 CHAIRMAN: "Rising hour".

2 MS SMITH: "... rising hour is 7.45 on Sunday. Children not
3 at school are free for recreation morning and afternoon,
4 school children when they return from school."

5 There is no uniform worn, and it is signed by
6 Mr Merrick on behalf of the Committee.

7 Now even though the Department was unimpressed by
8 the application, the home was nonetheless registered,
9 pending an inspection, on 29th June 1950. This appears
10 to have been the process adopted in respect of all
11 voluntary homes. If we look at 2733, we will just see
12 here:

13 "The facts of this case are as follows.

14 Immediately after the passing of the Act all these
15 homes applied, as they were bound to do, for
16 re-registration and we had to adopt the usual course in
17 such circumstances -- that is to register them all
18 pending inspection.

19 We were not terribly impressed with this application
20 when we got it. References in the report to 'the need
21 for more prayer interest and financial support' and to
22 'our wonderful matron battling bravely against all
23 difficulties and achieving under God a marvellous
24 measure of success' scarcely suggested a hard-headed and
25 businesslike committee running a well-organised home,

1 and when we were able to inspect the home, our worst
2 fears were realised."

3 The registration certificate -- I will come back to
4 this document in due course, but the registration
5 certificate can be seen at MNH2929, which you will see
6 is dated 29th June. It was accompanied by a letter
7 indicating that an early inspection could be expected by
8 the home. That's at MNH2927. You will see here that:

9 "I am directed by the Minister of Home Affairs to
10 refer to your letter of 21st and to inform you that the
11 home has been registered as a voluntary home in
12 accordance with section 99. A certificate of
13 registration is enclosed."

14 Informing them that regulations for the conduct of
15 voluntary homes are to be made and:

16 "The Ministry's power to inspect voluntary homes
17 will be put into force straightaway and the Department's
18 inspectors will carry out their first inspection within
19 the next few weeks.

20 The Ministry will be prepared to consider an
21 application for a grant towards the improvement of
22 premises or the equipment of the home or securing that
23 the home is better provided with qualified staff. If
24 your committee propose to apply for a grant, I am to
25 suggest formal application therefor, stating the purpose

1 for which the funds required should be made to the
2 Ministry and the matter can be discussed with
3 representatives of the committee.

4 The document of title which accompanied your letter
5 of 26th May is returned."

6 The Management Committee of the home then applied
7 for a grant in 1952. We see that -- there's
8 correspondence at, first of all, MNH2918. It is to the
9 Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs. It says:

10 "Dear sir,

11 Reference is made to the letter from your Ministry
12 dated 13th August addressed to MH46 , who is
13 Chairman of Manor House Committee, and in compliance
14 with the conditions of the memorandum enclosed therewith
15 under which a grant may be obtained by a voluntary
16 institution such as Manor House Home attached hereto is
17 certified copies of income and expenditure accounts for
18 years 1950 and '51, also a signed statement by the
19 Chairman and treasurer that the organisation is unable
20 to pay any portion of the cost of the work for which
21 a grant of £1,000 is now respectfully requested.

22 Details are as follows.

23 Northern Ireland Fire Authority's requirements:
24 estimated £400.

25 New sewer: £300.

1 Playground for children: £300.

2 The Committee would be most grateful for your kind
3 help and sincerely hope favourable consideration will be
4 given to their application.

5 Yours faithfully for Manor House Home Committee."

6 It is signed by Mr Barclay, who is then secretary.

7 If we go then to 2919, which I think is the next
8 page, we have a certification by the Chairman and
9 treasurer that:

10 "The above voluntary organisation, having expended
11 £1,000 in the last five years towards necessary repairs
12 and improvements, now finds itself unable to pay any
13 portion of the cost for work for which a grant is now
14 being asked for.

15 There is a debt of over £600 due to bank."

16 Then if we go back to 2917, this is a memo,
17 an internal departmental memo, which says:

18 "The Manor House Home, Lisburn has now applied for
19 a grant of £1,000 under section 118(1) of the Children
20 and Young Persons Act for fire protection work, a new
21 sewer and a playground. Section 118(1) empowers us to
22 pay grants 'for improving premises in which voluntary
23 homes are being carried on or for the equipment of
24 voluntary homes'.

25 This is a small home established in 1927 by the

1 Irish Church Missions. Its purpose is to provide for
2 illegitimate, destitute, ill-treated or neglected
3 children and to bring them up in the Church of Ireland
4 faith. This is the only such home in the province. It
5 provides accommodation for 22 children and the number of
6 staff employed is five.

7 This application arose when at our request the Fire
8 Authority carried out an inspection of the premises.
9 Their report recommended extensive improvements in the
10 fire protection arrangements, including the provision of
11 a new fire escape. The Committee say they are unable to
12 afford the cost of these works, having spent some £1,000
13 in the last five years on improvements and repairs and
14 being £600 in debt.

15 There seems to be no doubt that this is the type of
16 case section 118(1) is designed to help, but we shall
17 have to decide whether we would be justified in giving
18 the whole £1,000 the Committee ask for. It looks as if
19 once the idea occurred to them of getting us to pay for
20 the fire protection work, they cast around for some
21 other things it would be nice to have and which would
22 bring their application up to a nice round figure.

23 I suggest we ask one of our inspectors to report as to
24 whether the playground and the new sewer are really
25 necessary."

1 That's dated 25th November 1952.

2 Now the application for a grant was made by the
3 Committee following an inspection which was carried out
4 by the medical officer, Dr Johnston. I will come to it.
5 You will see here that there is a reference here to a --
6 there's a handwritten note at the bottom which refers to
7 Ms Forrest's report, which I will come back to, to ASC,
8 who we have been unable to confirm. We think it might
9 be Assistant Secretary to the Committee, but we aren't
10 entirely clear on that. We are trying to ascertain
11 whether we can find out whether these -- this was just
12 someone's initials or whether the ASC actually stands
13 for Assistant Secretary to the Committee, but it just
14 reads:

15 "Judging from X in Ms Forrest's report, this home is
16 controlled by the Irish Church Missions whose
17 headquarters are in London, with a sub-headquarters in
18 Dublin. Therefore under the terms of paragraph 2 in
19 the", I think that's probably the schedule to the Act,
20 "we would require to have information about resources of
21 the organisation before a grant be considered.

22 Statements of accounts in the file", something, "in ..."

23 CHAIRMAN: "Each of the years."

24 MS SMITH: "... each of the years 1945, 1950 and 1951."

25 I will come back to Ms Forrest's --

1 CHAIRMAN: "1948."

2 MS SMITH: '48. Sorry. Did I say ...? '48, yes. I will
3 come back to Ms Forrest's report in due course, but if
4 we just look, first of all, at the report of
5 Dr Johnston. We see this in the minutes of
6 14th May 1952 at MNH3319. It says:

7 "Dr Johnston's report (excerpts therefrom).
8 Dr Johnston's report on the state of the home was read."
9 You will see this is, as I say, 1952.

10 "In a general way according to the finding he found
11 little to criticise, yet there were changes that should
12 be made. A little boy, who because of an infirmity was
13 accommodated in a small room in the basement, he would
14 suggest should be moved nearer to the ordinary bedrooms.

15 The dining room tables were in bad repair and if
16 supplied with smooth tops that could be scrubbed would
17 be more sanitary and healthful. The back kitchen is in
18 bad repair and is not a good place to keep food. It
19 requires more light and ventilation, replastering and
20 a good coat of whitewash.

21 The floor in the children's cloakrooms is in bad
22 repair and could easily be put right. No", something,
23 "are on two lavatories used by the children on this
24 floor -- on this floor. It", something, "in cold
25 weather to make the children avoid having this

1 accommodation.

2 The staff of the home, the matron, her assistant and
3 one daily worker from 9.00 am until 3.30 pm for a large
4 house, 16 children, seems to me to be very inadequate.

5 In a general way I thought the bedclothes too light
6 and before another winter would suggest something more
7 be added to the night covering of the children.

8 Most hospitals and homes have a visiting committee.
9 My suggestion is that such a committee be formed from
10 a few selected members of General Committee, their duty
11 to pay a visit of inspection over once a month or more
12 often, if necessary, and report to General Committee at
13 their monthly meeting.

14 Most of the children were at school, but the few
15 I saw were playing happily in the open. Two who had
16 colds were indoors. They all seemed healthy and I feel
17 a very good job is being done for their poor unfortunate
18 -- for these poor unfortunate mites to render them
19 useful citizens and to fit them to face the rigours of
20 a hard world."

21 It is signed by Mr Johnston.

22 Then if we look, please, then at 3322, this is a
23 minute -- a committee minute of 29th August 1952. Can
24 I find the part in this where it says -- yes,
25 Dr Johnston's recommendations there in the margin:

1 "After having received our treasurer's report for
2 1952 it was realised that owing to our unfortunate
3 unsatisfactory financial position, without help we could
4 not undertake to carry out the agreed alterations,
5 renovations because of heavy expenditure that would be
6 incurred, and it was decided to share particulars and
7 request assistance from ICM London consideration of
8 extra -- in consideration of extra expenditure."

9 That's in March 1953.

10 Following receipt of the grant application in 1952,
11 the Ministry of Home Affairs arranged to meet with the
12 Management Committee to explain what grants could cover
13 and what they could not.

14 Inspections were arranged but deferred in
15 January 1953, as at that time the Ministry had received
16 an adverse report on the home from Antrim Welfare
17 Authority and that required investigation. Ms Forrest
18 spoke to the Welfare Authority officer and a note of
19 what she was told can be seen at MNH2908. You will see
20 that this memo is to PC:

21 "I understand -- understand Antrim Welfare Authority
22 have an adverse report on this home. We will defer our
23 inspection until we see what they have to say."

24 That's 13th January 1953.

25 "Ms Forrest, to see."

1 I think the second signature is that of Mr Jackson.

2 "D/PC,

3 I have talked to Mr Niblock and to Mr Hilditch,
4 Antrim Welfare Authority. It appears there was a rumour
5 about children having ..."

6 CHAIRMAN: "Being -- having been beaten."

7 MS SMITH: "... having been beaten, but the children's
8 mother subsequently denied this and denied having
9 started the rumour. The children -- the children did
10 find the food monotonous and dull, though not
11 insufficient in quantity. This is believed to have
12 improved since MH46 is aware of all -- since
13 MH46 is aware of all this I believe. The
14 complaint is of insufficient staff. Mr Hilditch on one
15 visit found only a senior girl in charge."

16 She obviously spoke to them and made that note on
17 4th February 1953.

18 Two days later on 6th February 1953 Manor House was
19 inspected by Mr Jackson and Ms Forrest together with a
20 Ministry architect. They were critical of what they
21 found. If we look at their reports, they are at, first
22 of all, MNH2894. This is Mr Jackson's report. He says:

23 "I visited this home on Friday afternoon last in
24 company with Ms Forrest, the Children's Ministry
25 Inspector, and Mr Gibbs, an architect on behalf -- an

1 architect on the staff of the Ministry of Health and
2 Local Government. The object of the visit was to survey
3 the premises and take stock of the general situation,
4 especially with regard to the children in the home and
5 how they fared, so as to form an idea whether or not the
6 Ministry would be justified in making a grant towards:

7 (a) fire protection works -- estimated cost £400.

8 (b) a new sewer -- estimated cost £300, and

9 (c) the surfacing of the playground -- estimated
10 cost £300,

11 as requested recently by the Board of Management.

12 MH46 and MH48, both of whom are
13 members of the Board, met us upon our arrival at the
14 home and conducted us on a tour of the premises. We
15 were taken, first of all, into a large room on the left
16 of the hall, a room which MH46 explained served
17 as a boardroom and also as a dining hall on occasions
18 such as Christmas, when special parties were held for
19 the children. There was a musty odour in this room,
20 which suggested that it was rarely used. It was also
21 rather untidy and appeared to me in need of cleaning or
22 at least dusting. A large sized black dog on wheels
23 stood at one side of the room and it seemed rather
24 strange that it was not more readily accessible to the
25 children.

1 The playroom on the opposite side of the hall was
2 our next port of call. This room, equally large and
3 inadequately heated, was occupied by a dozen or so
4 children seated at old school desks. They were all very
5 much engrossed in dog-eared comics. All were
6 comfortably clad, had pleasant manners and looked
7 reasonably well nourished. Their ages ranged from 2 to
8 11 or thereabouts, with a sturdy looking girl of 14, who
9 had been reading or explaining the comics to five or six
10 of the younger ones. There was a stove at one side of
11 this room surrounded by a fireguard. It seemed to me to
12 give insufficient heat, but the children did not look
13 cold and were apparently content to sit at the desks
14 some distance from the stove. No toys or play things
15 were available in the room at the time of our visit.

16 From what I saw of the remainder of the home
17 conditions are far from good. The entire premises are
18 very much in need of cleaning and renovation. The
19 dormitories and staff quarters with their shabby and
20 sagging beds present a most unattractive appearance and
21 there is a general untidiness, if not dirtiness, which
22 suggests that the staff is insufficient, incompetent or
23 lazy.

24 In one room there is a number of toys of all kinds
25 piled in a large heap and in several others children's

1 books, many of them much dilapidated, are stacked in
2 disorderly array on shelves.

3 Worst of all perhaps is the children's dining room,
4 which has two stout plain wooden tables, more like
5 carpenters' benches than dining tables. Tablecloths
6 I was informed are never used.

7 In an icily cold dormitory we found a young girl in
8 bed. Her face was flushed and she obviously had a high
9 temperature. In reply to a query from Ms Forrest she
10 said she had a hot water bottle in bed beside her.
11 A young boy was asleep in another room, but we were
12 informed that he was merely resting.

13 The whole house was very cold except in the kitchen,
14 where a well tended stove was burning. It was here that
15 we discovered the members of staff, the matron, the
16 assistant matron and the resident domestic. The first
17 two were -- the first two were standing on their feet
18 beside a table darning children's socks while the
19 domestic was busying herself at a sink. All three
20 seemed determined to avert their eyes from strangers.
21 It occurred to me that either the matron or the
22 assistant matron would have been better employed with
23 the children in the playroom.

24 Ablution facilities for the children consisted of a
25 large sink such as is used for cleaning vegetables or

1 saucepans. For sanitary purposes there are two small
2 sized WCs without seats. There are no urinals as such.

3 At the rear of the house there is a fair sized
4 playground, which MH46 would like to have
5 surfaced with concrete or tarmacadam. She also -- she
6 would also like to provide play equipment such as
7 swings, seesaws, etc. MH48 , however, was opposed
8 to a concrete surface on the grounds that it would
9 injure the children's knees.

10 MH48 also referred to the sewer, which he said
11 was broken at a point in a hollow about 150 yards from
12 the home. He based his statement on the soggy condition
13 of the ground in this hollow, but said later that the
14 hollow was originally the bed of a lake or pond. He
15 complained that the local authority had been informed of
16 the defective sewer, but had shown no interest in the
17 matter. In his opinion the home should be disconnected
18 from the existing main sewer and be linked up with the
19 mains which have been laid to accommodate several new
20 houses in the laneway leading to the home. It seems
21 desirable, however, that the Board of Management before
22 incurring any expenditure on a scheme of this kind
23 should obtain the advice of the local authority about
24 the efficiency or otherwise of the present sewerage
25 arrangements.

1 Neither MH46 nor MH48 impressed me
2 favourably. They are both too old for the job of
3 managing a voluntary home, and quite apart from being at
4 their wits' ends -- wits' end to know how to raise money
5 by voluntary subscriptions, they have very little idea
6 of the standards required in homes of the kind.

7 MH48 admitted to me that he had never been in any
8 other children's home. He also told me that he had been
9 found a place on the Board of Management so that he
10 would be in a position to give advice on gardening. As
11 for MH46 , her experience is limited to a visit
12 to a home run by the Irish Church Mission in Dublin and
13 to Glendhu. If these two persons are the leading lights
14 of the Board of Management, then it is understandable
15 that the home should lack funds. A live, energetic,
16 go-ahead body would soon find ways and means of
17 stimulating interest in the home and secure for it
18 adequate financial support without recourse to
19 government grants.

20 As far as I can gather the Irish Church Missions
21 with headquarters in London and a sub-headquarters in
22 Dublin is associated with the Church of Ireland. This
23 at least is MH46 belief, although she admits
24 that a lot of their financial support -- of the
25 financial support they get nowadays comes from

1 non-conformists. If the Irish Church Missions is worth
2 its salt, it should be able to maintain this home on
3 a proper footing and it seems to me high time that they
4 faced up to their responsibilities.

5 In the course of conversation with MH46 she
6 revealed that they recently lost the services of
7 a collector who regularly brought in about £1,000
8 a year. This person has not yet been replaced and it is
9 indicative of MH46 plight that she should
10 enquire of us if we knew of anyone who would take on the
11 job.

12 So far from recommending a government grant in this
13 case I would suggest that we should seriously consider
14 the transfer of the children to the care of the Welfare
15 Authority if the Irish Church Missions cannot rise to
16 the occasion within a reasonable time."

17 Mr Jackson signed that report on 11th February 1953.

18 If we go to 2892, we see Mrs -- Ms Forrest's report.
19 She says that she has read Mr Jackson's memo, having
20 previously made her own notes in rough and she agrees
21 with what he has written. She goes on:

22 "There is insufficient and unsuitable staffing. The
23 matron, MH47, is apparently untrained and
24 inexperienced. The assistant matron's experience is
25 I think solely in this home. The matron has only been

1 there a few months and she and the assistant matron, who
2 has been there longer, do not hit it off together.

3 There is also a resident domestic, who is stated to be
4 a good worker, and a sewing woman, who comes on three
5 mornings a week and makes and mends clothes for the
6 children.

7 Mr Jackson has described how the staff were
8 congregated in the kitchen. The atmosphere was most
9 peculiar. MH46 made no attempt to introduce
10 the matron, whom we now saw for the first time. I went
11 forward and spoke to her and shook hands, but had the
12 same impression that the staff were averting their eyes
13 from us and dissociating themselves from our visit. Why
14 any person, let alone two persons, should be standing up
15 to darn a pile of children's socks I cannot imagine.
16 The whole episode had a most unreal air as if they were
17 protesting, 'This is the way we have to work'. Why
18 shouldn't one of them take her darning and sit with the
19 children? There was formerly a daily domestic. In
20 order to economise MH46 cut her down to three
21 days per week, after which she couldn't -- she wouldn't
22 do any work properly.

23 There seemed little evidence of any standard of
24 child care, although MH46 says the assistant
25 matron is good with the children. I think she may be

1 and she certainly looked more alive and interested than
2 MH47 . Also her young man was chopping sticks in
3 a shed with two of the boys -- with two of the boys
4 helping him and he seemed on friendly terms there and is
5 probably helpful in providing a man's interest about the
6 place.

7 The children, though not unhappy looking, seemed
8 dull and I thought them unresponsive and not so much
9 ill-mannered as unmannered. They are just untrained.
10 One good point is that they attend outside organisations
11 such as Scouts and Guides and have the appropriate
12 uniforms. Their clothing seemed comfortable and
13 sensible, but some outdoor clothing seen in the
14 cloakroom was a bit shabby.

15 The building and equipment conveyed a most
16 depressing impression of dilapidation and dirt.
17 Practically every part of the home needed a really
18 thorough cleaning and polishing. The kitchen and dining
19 room were the only places that looked at all clean. The
20 domestic hot water boiler is very old, wasteful as doors
21 are missing -- and wasteful as doors are missing from
22 it. It heats the kitchen instead of the water I should
23 imagine. The gas stove in the kitchen seemed very small
24 to cook for such numbers, but we did later smell
25 something being fried for tea. Mrs Bannister asked

1 whether I thought there ought to be tablecloths. She
2 seemed not to have given it a thought before we
3 mentioned it. I suggested seersucker, which is quite
4 cheap and doesn't need ironing.

5 There are no WCs, basins or baths for children's use
6 on the first floor where the bedrooms are. The toilets
7 used by the children are those furthest from them and
8 are extremely cold. Two WCs open off the room where the
9 bath and sink are. The pans are in bad condition and
10 should be replaced. The sink is too high and too big.
11 The two other combined bath/basin WC rooms are used one
12 by the matron or assistant matron and the other by the
13 maid. I think that the one on the ground floor might
14 well be used by all three staff and the one upstairs be
15 used by children for bathing, washing and night WC.

16 The bedrooms were as described, cold and bleak and
17 drab and the beds looked most uncomfortable. In one
18 room was an iron bedstead with a broken spring drooping
19 on the floor. It looked very slummy. I suggested
20 removing it, as it was obviously no use there, but
21 Mrs Bannister said that it would have to be repaired and
22 didn't seem to see any point in moving it meanwhile.
23 The bedclothes looked drab -- poor and drab. However,
24 the children have got individual lockers. New stair
25 lino and safety edges have been supplied.

1 There were a lot of toys in a room in a basement,
2 but all in a jumble, probably gifts at Christmas time.
3 Quite a lot of things might well have been used -- been
4 in use in the playroom.

5 The bedwetters had been sleeping in an awful little
6 room in the basement quite away from everyone, but had
7 been brought back to sleep with the others after we
8 protested to MH46 when she visited Stormont.
9 Apparently their condition has improved since.

10 There is a good vegetable garden, which looked quite
11 well kept, and MH46 says they are able to sell
12 vegetables and tomatoes as well as supplying all the
13 needs of the home.

14 MH46 does not seem to have heard of the
15 regulations and asked would I send her a copy. The
16 register is not kept up to date as far as discharges are
17 concerned. There is no other record book as far as we
18 could ascertain. The medical officer does examine the
19 children and gives attention also to the general
20 condition of the home, as he has reported to the
21 Committee that it is dirty.

22 It would be interesting to know whether the home can
23 be regarded as complying with regulation 6."

24 Again that's signed by Ms Forrest on the same date,
25 11th February 1953.

1 The report of the architect is at MNH2897.

2 Essentially his view was that:

3 "Although structurally sound, the premises were very
4 delapidated, certain halls and ceiling -- walls and
5 ceilings needing replastering and the stucco rendering
6 outside starting to break away in large sections. The
7 wooden fire escape appears to be both very insecure,
8 treads becoming rotten and covered with green moss. The
9 outbuilding in a very bad state of repair, and I think
10 the local sanitary inspector should know about the
11 drainage leaks",

12 which he was told about by the Committee.

13 Chairman, I am going to go on to look at some more
14 documents.

15 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

16 MS SMITH: It might be an appropriate time for a short
17 break.

18 CHAIRMAN: Very well. We will break for some ten minutes or
19 so.

20 (11.40 am)

21 (Short break)

22 (11.50 am)

23 MS SMITH: As I was saying just before we took a break, the
24 inspection of Manor House took place on

25 6th February 1953. The Ministry then learned that the

1 Superintendent of Irish Church Missions had visited
2 Belfast when they saw a newspaper report in the Northern
3 Whig of 10th February 1953. If we look, please, at
4 MNH2898, there you see:

5 "Irish Mission asks for more support.

6 The colporteur of The Society of Irish Church
7 Missions while carrying on his work in a remote district
8 in the South, when told by a rector that the Society
9 workers were not popular because they were too
10 controversial, retorted that Jesus Christ was one of the
11 most controversial figures of all time."

12 Then it goes on down. I am not going to read the
13 whole thing, but it is reported that:

14 "Speaking at last night's session, the Reverend T.R.
15 Horan, Irish Superintendent, said that with the single
16 object of spreading the gospel among the Roman Catholics
17 of Eire, the ICM had made -- had many wonderful cases of
18 conversion in recent years",

19 and so it goes on. So I think this is -- it talks
20 somewhere in the body of that about the meeting having
21 taken place in Belfast. You will see then that there is
22 a note here from Ms Forrest where she records:

23 "I spoke to MH46 about this, as she had
24 suggested we might go to see Mr Horan if we were in
25 Dublin and had not mentioned that he was coming here.

1 He attends the home committee quite often. She had some
2 general conversation with him about the home but
3 apparently did not tell him particularly about our visit
4 or of our criticisms. She did tell me, however, that
5 this had been a committee meeting -- that there had been
6 a committee meeting -- has been a committee meeting
7 since our visit and all the members are confident that
8 they can still ..."

9 CHAIRMAN: "They can" --

10 MS SMITH: "... they can ..."

11 CHAIRMAN: -- "and should carry on the home" --

12 MS SMITH: Yes.

13 "... they can and should ..."

14 CHAIRMAN: -- "and they can bring it up to scratch."

15 MS SMITH: Yes.

16 "The matron, MH47, leaves tomorrow. So the
17 assistant matron will be", something.

18 CHAIRMAN: "Carrying on."

19 MS SMITH: "... carrying on responsibility, with a daily
20 domestic added to help her. MH46 also said she
21 herself would go in and give as much help as she could.
22 She hopes to get two", something, "missionaries ..."

23 CHAIRMAN: "Retired missionaries."

24 MS SMITH: "... retired missionaries, not retired because of
25 age, over from England to run the home, and has written

1 to headquarters about this a week ago."

2 That's signed on 10th February 1953.

3 Two days later Ms Forrest returned to Manor House in
4 the company of Dr Simpson and his report can be seen at
5 MNH2877. It says:

6 "As Mr Jackson and Ms Forrest visited this home on
7 6th February and have written a full description of the
8 conditions in the home on that day, I do not propose to
9 write a detailed report. Ms Forrest stated that the
10 home had obviously been thoroughly cleaned since her
11 last visit and it appeared to me to be reasonably clean.

12 MH46 , a member of the Committee, arrived at the
13 home shortly after our arrival and showed us round the
14 premises. She stated that she was visiting the home
15 every day and sometimes twice a day. She also stated
16 that she had helped in cleaning the home. The premises
17 obviously require redecoration and renovation, which
18 will involve considerable expenditure.

19 There were fourteen children resident on the day of
20 our visit, one of whom was a 16-months-old baby and
21 another a 4-year-old girl. The remainder were children
22 of school age. The children were all well nourished and
23 I thought happy and active. Their clothing was
24 comfortable, although one or two of the boys were
25 a trifle ragged.

1 Since Ms Forrest's previous visit the matron had
2 left and the staff consisted of the assistant matron and
3 a resident domestic servant. There is clearly
4 insufficient staff to care for fourteen children, some
5 of whom are under 5 years of age.

6 I noted that pillows were not provided on the beds.
7 Some new bedclothes had been acquired and Ms Forrest
8 stated that the appearance of the beds had been
9 improved.

10 I agree with Ms Forrest's comments about the
11 bathroom accommodation. It was not a cold day but
12 I think that in cold weather the rooms, apart from the
13 kitchen, would be exceedingly cold and if the premises
14 are to be used, some form of additional heating will be
15 required. However, it was clear that a very
16 considerable attempt had been made to improve the
17 conditions as far as this was possible without the
18 expenditure of any considerable sum of money.

19 MH46 I think has been responsible for the
20 improvements and has clearly devoted personal time and
21 effort to this end. However enthusiastic her efforts,
22 it is obviously impossible to run a children's home on
23 these lines. Some younger and more active committee
24 members should interest themselves in the home. The
25 main lack obviously -- the main lack is obviously money

1 and in my opinion a considerable sum of money will be
2 required. Additional staff, for example, a matron and
3 at least one other addition to the present assistant
4 matron, will be necessary. Given money and additional
5 staff, it would be possible to convert the premises into
6 a satisfactory children's home.

7 The assistant matron appeared to me to be naturally
8 good at looking after children, but obviously one person
9 cannot run a children's home with the help of one
10 domestic -- one resident domestic.

11 I understand that as a temporary measure a daily
12 help is also employed."

13 That was dated 17th February 198... -- sorry --
14 1953.

15 Also in February 1953 the ICM provided accounts to
16 the Ministry, which were attached to the Society's
17 publication entitled "The Banner of the Truth in
18 Ireland". See -- if we look at MNH2878, please, and you
19 will see here that there's a letter accompanying this.
20 It says on 10th February 1953:

21 "I have been asked by MH46 , who is
22 connected with the Society's Manor House Home at
23 Lisburn, to send you the Society's income and
24 expenditure accounts for the past two years and I have
25 pleasure in enclosing these for your perusal.

1 I understand that you are seeking information
2 regarding the number of homes of the Society. We have
3 none in England but two in Ireland, the Manor House Home
4 mentioned above at Lisburn, a nursery for children from
5 birth up to three years at Boley, Monkstown, Eire.

6 The Society is also interested in educational work
7 in Dublin and supplies the teaching staff for
8 Mrs Smyly's homes, consisting of The Boys' Home, Grand
9 Canal Street, Dublin, The Elliott Home, Dublin, The
10 Bird's Nest, Kingstown. In addition, we supply the
11 teaching staff for two outdoor schools, one at Mountjoy
12 Street and the other at Grand Canal Street, Dublin. The
13 Society has been doing work amongst children for almost
14 100 years and thousands of them have passed through our
15 hands in the course of the years. Many have attained to
16 positions of trust and eminence.

17 If we can give you any further information, I shall
18 be glad to hear from you."

19 It is signed by Mr -- I think that's Ms Pattisson,
20 who you will recall was the person who was being sought
21 to give advice to the Manor House Committee about
22 finances.

23 Then if we look at 2889, which is at the back of
24 "The Banner of the Truth in Ireland" publication, and if
25 we could turn that round, please, you will see the

1 income -- the account of income and expenditure for the
2 Irish Church Missions. If you look just where it is
3 highlighted there, Manor House Home, 1950 and 1951, per
4 local Committee, and there's a sum of I think it is
5 36... -- if we maybe can just enlarge that a little bit,
6 please -- 3669.11.0. It is recorded that due to
7 treasurer is 377.14.0. So the total contributions to
8 the Irish Church Missions is 4047.5.9. Just go out
9 again, please.

10 CHAIRMAN: I am not sure that's the right way to put it. It
11 looks as if the money was being largely raised locally
12 to run Manor House.

13 MS SMITH: Yes. Yes. The contributions to the Irish Church
14 is a different sum. Sorry. I beg your pardon. If we
15 can just go out again, please. Then you will see that
16 there is records of the -- those are -- that is
17 basically the balance sheet showing the income and
18 expenditure for the year for the entire organisation.

19 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

20 MS SMITH: But that is the income that Manor House received.
21 Essentially there were still monies owed to it of £377,
22 but it had received a total, including those monies, of
23 over £4,000 to run the home.

24 CHAIRMAN: If we look at the expenditure, it shows that the
25 London office was only contributing £52.

1 MS SMITH: £52, yes.

2 CHAIRMAN: So it looks as if the burden fell almost entirely
3 on the local committee.

4 MS SMITH: That is correct, Chairman. As I indicated, the
5 -- it seems to have been that the home was expected to
6 be essentially autonomous. That might date back to the
7 time when it closed down in the early 1930s and Irish
8 Church Missions agreed, provided the Northern Committee
9 took over liability for the home, to keep it open.

10 As you have rightly said, the sum paid by Irish
11 Church Missions of £52 was seen by the Department as
12 negligible. Mr Jackson concluded that there was little
13 prospect of help for the home from the Society. We can
14 see this in his memo at MNH2875. Again it's addressed
15 to ASC. It says:

16 "Dr Simpson's report on this home is not so
17 condemnatory as those made less than a week earlier by
18 Ms Forrest and myself. Nevertheless I am ..."

19 MR LANE: "Far from."

20 MS SMITH: "... far from satisfied with the general
21 conditions and am still of the opinion that the
22 Committee if it is to -- if it is to ..."

23 CHAIRMAN: "Do a worthwhile job for the children."

24 MS SMITH: "... for the children must have an infusion of
25 new blood.

1 Information now to hand from the London headquarters
2 of the Irish Church Missions insinuates that they have
3 two children's homes -- indicates that they have two
4 children's homes, one in Lisburn and the other at Boley,
5 Monkstown, Eire. Other inst... -- activities include
6 the supply of teaching staff for three additional homes
7 and two schools in Eire."

8 CHAIRMAN: "Schools."

9 MS SMITH: "Statements of account received ..."

10 MR LANE: "Covering."

11 MS SMITH: Sorry.

12 "... covering the Mission work in 1950/51 and
13 1951/52 have now been furnished", something.

14 CHAIRMAN: "Which show."

15 MS SMITH: I am having real difficulty reading this. Maybe
16 it is the handwriting:

17 "... which show that there have -- there is little
18 prospect of financial assistance being available to
19 Manor House to carry out any of the much needed
20 improvements. In a way this is important since the
21 home, if it were doing it ..."

22 CHAIRMAN: I think:

23 "In a way this is unfortunate."

24 MR LANE: "Unfortunate."

25 MS SMITH: "... unfortunate since the home, if it were doing

1 its job well enough, would be eligible for a grant, but
2 as I do not see that we could possibly consider making a
3 grant now, at least not until there is some evidence
4 that the Committee of Management is fully capable of
5 helping itself.

6 It seems to me, therefore, that we should have
7 a heart to heart talk with the Committee at an early
8 date and endeavour to make the members realise that it
9 is not a government grant they need so much as a series
10 of schemes which would ensure the home", something,
11 "large annual income" -- something "larger annual income
12 than is ..."

13 CHAIRMAN: "Which would secure for the home a much larger
14 annual income than is being raised at present."

15 MS SMITH: "... at present."

16 That's dated 19th February 1953.

17 A meeting was arranged -- in April 1953 I should say
18 the Committee write wanting to know about the progress
19 of their grant application and that letter is at
20 MNH2872. A meeting was arranged between the Committee
21 and the Ministry for 17th April 1953. That took place
22 at Manor House. Mr Jackson's memo of that meeting is at
23 MNH2865 and it says:

24 "Mr O'Neill and I travelled to this home on Friday
25 afternoon, 17th April, where we met the Management

1 Committee by appointment for the purpose of discussing
2 the question of a grant under section 118 of the
3 Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1950.

4 Immediately prior to the meeting we availed
5 ourselves of the opportunity for a quite -- quiet survey
6 ..."

7 CHAIRMAN: "Quick survey of the premises."

8 MS SMITH: "... quick survey of the premises and found
9 conditions reasonably clean, if somewhat spartan,
10 especially on the matter of floor coverings. A young
11 man whom I know to be the matron's fiancé acted as our
12 guide.

13 A girl of 13 was in bed in the sick bay suffering
14 from mumps. She", something.

15 CHAIRMAN: "She said Dr Johnston."

16 MS SMITH: "She said Dr Johnston of Lisburn was attending
17 her. When we were admitted to the boardroom, there were
18 five ladies and four gentlemen present. Our guide
19 formed one of the latter group.

20 One of the gentlemen who acted as chairman explained
21 he was doing so ..."

22 We can scroll on down I think to the next page:

23 "... at the request of MH46 , who, although
24 present at the meeting, was not fully recovered from
25 a recent illness.

1 Mr O'Neill was then invited to address the meeting.
2 In his remarks he drew attention to the regulations
3 which voluntary homes are required to observe and to the
4 conditions under which grants can be made available to
5 voluntary organisations. He mentioned particularly that
6 before making any grant the Minister would require to be
7 satisfied that the finances of the organisation were
8 such as would enable it to carry on its functions as
9 regards general maintenance and management.

10 Some discussion then took place about the home's
11 connection with the Irish Church Missions and that
12 body's inability to make sufficient grants for the
13 upkeep of the home. At this stage the young man who had
14 earlier acted as our guide made some remarks which
15 indicated his dissatisfaction with the present state of
16 affairs. He alleged that if, say, £20 were raised in
17 Lisburn, only a small proportion of this sum would
18 accrue to Manor House Home.

19 One of the ladies, a youngish woman, then stated
20 that she had -- she had only recently become a member of
21 the Committee, and that when she first visited the home
22 after her appointment, she was shocked by the conditions
23 obtaining there. She also declared that she along with
24 other members of the Committee were completely in the
25 dark about the regulations and other conditions

1 mentioned by Mr O'Neill. This lady apparently had the
2 support of some of the other ladies who were present.
3 It was evident that they were critical of the general
4 system of management, since there is some reason to hope
5 that they have sufficient energy and initiative to
6 remedy the position.

7 The Chairman made notes of the regulations in
8 general -- in question and also of the Home Office memo
9 on the conduct of children's homes with a view to -- to
10 ..."

11 MR LANE: "Ordering."

12 MS SMITH: "... ordering copies for the Committee. He also
13 stated that consideration would be given to the
14 appointment of an architect to prepare estimates of the
15 cost of the Fire Authority's requirements to",
16 something, "the resurfacing of the playground with the
17 intention of making a renewed application for government
18 grant.

19 Mr O'Neill and I withdrew. Another lady member of
20 the Committee escorted us from the premises and made it
21 quite clear that she", something, "realised the need for
22 the Committee to pursue a more live policy than had been
23 the case hitherto. We both wished her good luck in her
24 efforts.

25 The following points were noted during the

1 discussion with the Committee.

2 Manor House is the only ICM home in Northern
3 Ireland.

4 It is intended mainly for children of mixed
5 marriages if the father is Protestant and consents to
6 the children being received into the home.

7 The consent of parent or guardian is always obtained
8 before a child is admitted.

9 No Roman Catholic children are received.

10 No medical officer has been appointed, but
11 Dr Johnston of Lisburn is called upon when the necessity
12 arises.

13 The present staff comprise the matron, a resident
14 maid and a gardener. An assistant matron, who is said
15 to be very capable, is due to take up duty shortly.

16 There are fourteen children in the home at present.

17 It has accommodation for a total of thirty.

18 There are now two collectors in the service of the
19 Committee.

20 The sewage -- sewerage system has been declared
21 satisfactory by the local sanitary authority."

22 That's dated 20th April 1953.

23 The meeting is, in fact, also recorded in Manor
24 House minutes at MNH3333. You will see -- it is
25 interesting to see the different take on the meeting.

1 It records that:

2 "Present were MH46 , , -- two
3 , -- , MH 10 ,
4 , and MH48 , and a
5 secretary. An apology for absence was received from the
6 Reverend Horan, and Messrs Neill and Jackson attended as
7 a deputation from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Stormont
8 in connection with our application for a grant
9 principally to enable the Committee to comply with the
10 requirements of the Northern Ireland Fire Authority and
11 to provide a proper children's playground.

12 It was explained by the deputation that the giving
13 of grants was ..."

14 CHAIRMAN: "Governed."

15 MS SMITH: "... governed by certain principles and there are
16 conditions laid down, which have to be observed.

17 Answering questions put by Messrs O'Neill and Jackson,
18 it was stated that the Committee managed the affairs of
19 the home for the Irish Church Missions and received £52
20 per annum from Dublin as a part payment of the matron's
21 salary."

22 So that explains the £52 that is in the accounts.

23 "The house was non-sectarian and there were two paid
24 collectors for", something, "in Ireland. Several other
25 questions were answered to the apparent satisfaction of

1 the Stormont officials, who seemed to be of the opinion
2 that our application for a grant would receive
3 favourable consideration, and suggested the Ministry's
4 architect should attend to immediate needs and the
5 children's playgrounds have attention" -- sorry -- "to
6 attend to immediate needs and the children's playground
7 have attention and that he should have a consultation
8 with the officials of the authority responsible for the
9 instructions given -- given regarding alterations to the
10 house -- home." Sorry.

11 "Messrs O'Neill and Jackson were of the opinion that
12 Committee should decide what staff is adequate for the
13 home and advise the government, who if we have any
14 further suggestions to make, will give whatever
15 assistance they can.

16 The deputation on leaving were thankful -- thanked
17 for their visit and they expressed their thanks to the
18 Committee for the information given.

19 suggested we should have an architect to
20 look after our interests and make our own estimate of
21 what it would cost to comply with the requirements of
22 the Fire Authority and to provide a playground for the
23 children and recommended of -- be employed.
24 The minutes of the", something, "Committee meeting held
25 on 20th March were then confirmed and signed."

1 So clearly there is a somewhat divergence of view as
2 to how successful or otherwise the meeting with the
3 Ministry was.

4 Then I should say this is the last minute of the
5 Management Committee until July of 1953, but then in
6 May 1953 a deputation of three committee members met
7 with Ministry officials without the knowledge of the
8 rest of the committee.

9 If we look at MNH2855, you will see that this is:
10 "Notes of discussion at the Ministry on
11 22nd May 1953.

12 Present: Mr O'Neill, Mr Dunlop, Mr Jackson and
13 Ms Forrest for the Ministry of Home Affairs, Mrs -- the
14 two MH 51 and MH 53 from the Committee of
15 Management of Manor House Children's Home in Lisburn.

16 MH 52 made it clear at the ..."

17 CHAIRMAN: Outset.

18 MS SMITH: "... outset that ..."

19 This is quite difficult to read.

20 "... that she and her two colleagues were
21 approaching the Ministry without the knowledge of their
22 fellow members of Committee. She also stated that the
23 members of Committee were in agreement that the
24 deplorable state of affairs ..."

25 CHAIRMAN: "At the home."

1 MS SMITH: "... at the home that they had ..."

2 CHAIRMAN: "Travelled to Dublin."

3 MS SMITH: "... travelled to Dublin ..."

4 CHAIRMAN: "Recently."

5 MS SMITH: "... recently to discuss the position with the
6 Superintendent of the Irish Church Missions."

7 CHAIRMAN: "Travelled to Dublin especially" --

8 MS SMITH: "... especially ...", yes.

9 CHAIRMAN: -- "to discuss the position with the
10 superintendent."

11 MS SMITH: "... with the superintendent. This gentleman it
12 appears disclaimed any responsibility for Manor House
13 and declared that ICM could not afford to keep the home
14 in being.

15 On the question of transferring the home as a going
16 concern to the local Welfare Authority, ACS" -- and
17 I think this actually might now be Mr O'Neill or -- it
18 is either him or Mr Dunlop, but I think it is then
19 Assistant Secretary of Committee -- "explained this,
20 that since the house had been bequeathed by Miss Stannus
21 to the ICM for use as an orphanage, a court order would
22 be necessary if the ICM wished to transfer their
23 responsibility to another organisation such as the
24 Welfare Authority.

25 MH 51 stated that a report had been sent

1 by the Management Committee to headquarters in London on
2 15th March 1953 (a copy of report attached) over the
3 consideration of further grants. Nothing further had
4 been heard from headquarters, but their plea hitherto...
5 their pleas hitherto had been", something, "that their
6 ..."

7 CHAIRMAN: "They have no money available for the home."

8 MS SMITH: "... no money available for the home.

9 MH 53 raised -- said that approximately one half
10 of the Management Committee's attitude considered --
11 think the house is quite satisfactory, the other half
12 being most dissatisfied with the situation. Only the
13 matron, a", something, "woman, is present in the home at
14 night. The other members of staff consist of two daily
15 helps.

16 MH 52 explained that this home was already
17 £800 in debt, and that she recently organised a coffee
18 party which raised £30 for the purpose of buying clothes
19 for the children. Many of this -- many of their",
20 something, "have been destroyed by storage in the
21 damp -- previous garments", I think that is, "had been
22 destroyed by damage in the damp basement.

23 All the members of the deputation", something.

24 CHAIRMAN: "Favoured transfer."

25 MS SMITH: "... favoured transfer to the Antrim Welfare

1 Authority -- of the premises", I think that is, "to the
2 Antrim Welfare Authority.

3 Ultimately it was agreed that extracts from the
4 inspectors' reports should be sent to the Committee ..."

5 CHAIRMAN: "Addressed to Mr Gurd."

6 MS SMITH: "... addressed by -- to Mr Gurd until -- with
7 a stiff warning letter intimating that registration of
8 the home would have ..."

9 CHAIRMAN: "To be withdrawn."

10 MS SMITH: "... to be withdrawn if the conditions there were
11 not ..."

12 CHAIRMAN: "Made right within a reasonable time."

13 MS SMITH: I think it is "time", yes. I think if we can
14 look in this -- if we can look at the inverted note
15 alongside, then ...

16 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

17 "Reasonable period."

18 MS SMITH: "... period."

19 CHAIRMAN: "Copies of the correspondence would also be sent
20 to ..."

21 MS SMITH: "... be sent to ICM headquarters in London."

22 CHAIRMAN: "Ms Forrest was instructed to pay a further visit
23 to the home and furnish another report on the present
24 state of affairs."

25 MS SMITH: "... affairs", yes.

1 If we just scroll back up to the top, please,
2 there's -- I think -- I thought there might be another
3 note on that. So it's clear that the three women
4 indicated that half the Committee felt conditions were
5 deplorable while the other half were quite satisfied
6 with them. That meeting concluded with an agreement to
7 send a letter warning that registration of the home
8 would be withdrawn if conditions were not rectified.

9 Then on 22nd May 1953 Ms Forrest again visited Manor
10 House together with Mr Dunlop and her report is at
11 MNH2852 to 2854. She arrived at 2.30 pm:

12 "The matron, MH 54 , was not in when we arrived
13 but expected soon. We explained to the part-time
14 domestic who admitted us who we were and while waiting
15 for MH 54 we walked through the ground floor rooms
16 and out to the yard where three or four children were
17 playing, some back from junior school, one little girl
18 not yet attending school. MH 54 arrived later and
19 took us all over the premises. We found that she had
20 been back a little while and apparently did not know we
21 were there, as she had gone straight into the boardroom
22 to see a man who was waiting for her there.

23 Although the premises were generally cleaner than
24 previously and a certain amount of painting had been
25 done, the state of disorder and untidiness was

1 appalling. The standard of housekeeping was extremely
2 low. My view is that the matron's own personal
3 standards of hygiene and orderliness are low and this is
4 reflected in the home. Her own bedroom, into which
5 I only glanced when she opened the door at my request,
6 was incredibly untidy, the dressing table cluttered and
7 the bed not made.

8 1st floor children's bedrooms.

9 Floors were clean and beds made. New quilts had
10 been supplied. Loose mattresses were thin and sagging
11 and springs sagging. Some mattresses had been remade
12 and springs repaired and matron told us they were all
13 being sent in sequence. Not all the children have
14 lockers. There are only one or two in each room. No
15 chairs -- no chairs. Sheets appeared to be clean.
16 There did not seem to be any underblanket between the
17 sheet and rubber sheet. This would be very cold and
18 clammy. There are no pillows. There is no floor
19 covering except an odd piece of lino here and there.

20 I had suggested verbally to MH46 that the
21 children should be allowed to use the matron's bathroom
22 and WC which is nearest their dormitories or else the
23 maid's bathroom which is on the ground floor and not at
24 present in use, as there no resident maid, but this had
25 not been done and the children's bath and WCs and basins

1 are still as far as possible almost from their bedrooms.

2 On this floor there is also the collector's room
3 (not seen) and an assistant matron's bedroom not in use
4 and calculated to put off anyone who might apply for the
5 post -- dirty and untidy and utterly comfortless.

6 Matron's quarters.

7 The matron's sitting room was untidy and her bedroom
8 as described. Her kitchen, which is not in use,
9 provides yet another dumping ground for rubbish. The
10 two little rooms behind her quarters were also untidy.
11 One of them in which the baby", whose name is given
12 there, "formerly slept is now used by the sewing woman.
13 It is cramped and untidy and has in it a bed and two
14 cots, one of them broken. We saw two mattresses which
15 had come back from remaking, but had not yet been put
16 into use.

17 The ground floor boardroom was not seen."

18 The playroom is described as:

19 "Very untidy, though floor clean. I would not mind
20 an untidiness of toys, but this was littered with torn
21 paper. A bleak room with no chairs. In fact, there is
22 hardly a chair anywhere in the children's quarters.
23 Hardly any play material in this room.

24 The maid's bedroom.

25 This is not in use, but was clean and tidy. I dare

1 say it might be used instead of the room upstairs for
2 an assistant matron.

3 The maid's room was not in use.

4 Store room.

5 A room with cupboards and a sink. Not in use, very
6 shabby and dilapidated.

7 Children's bath, etc.

8 One WC is being replastered and is not in use. The
9 other is still very disagreeable, although some effort
10 has been made. A new seat has been fitted, but the WC
11 pan is disgusting looking. There is one sink for all
12 the children to wash in and we were told that three of
13 them wash in it at once. No individual towels are
14 issued unless a child has a skin infection. We saw two
15 towels hanging there, one filthy and one just dirty.
16 The children have their own toilet bags with facecloth,
17 soap and toothbrush and paste. They are said to have
18 one bath per week, but it was said rather doubtfully.
19 Hair is washed once a week too.

20 Cloakroom.

21 Very untidy, partly because ill-equipped. Outdoor
22 clothes flung just anyhow on to a shelf and some hung
23 up. We saw a boy sitting on the floor changing his
24 shoes. Everything was in a muddle.

25 Wash place beside the cloakroom.

1 There are two basins here not in order. There
2 appears to be replastering going on. The WC has had
3 a new seat fitted.

4 Clothes store.

5 Indescribable. There are large cupboards filled
6 with old clothing in a wild jumble as if stirred with
7 a stick. The dog appears to make his bed in one
8 cupboard on ground level on a pile of children's
9 clothing. The general impression given by this space
10 and by the clothing seen on the children is that a child
11 or someone on his behalf dives into the jumble, ferrets
12 about for a garment that fits and pulls it out and puts
13 it on.

14 Some clothing and blankets which had come from the
15 laundry were in opened parcels on the floor. The top
16 few garments didn't look as though they had been worth
17 sending to the laundry. The Sunday clothes are hung in
18 a cupboard off this room and are not well kept either.

19 Basement -- dining room.

20 They now have tablecloths on the tables but no
21 chairs, only backless forms to sit on. The tablecloths
22 were fairly clean.

23 Kitchen.

24 Reasonably clean, but untidy. A saucepan of liquid
25 (possibly stock) was on the floor without a lid. The

1 kitchen sink is apparently used by MH 54 to do
2 whatever washing is not sent to the laundry, and as this
3 will usually be the bedwetters' sheets and nightwear, it
4 is not a very hygienic arrangement. She says she does
5 this because she has to keep an eye on the dinner at the
6 same time. She prepares all the meals. She told us
7 they had had champ for dinner and she would give them
8 either baked beans or scrambled eggs for tea. Breakfast
9 is porridge and tea and bread and butter.

10 There is inadequate and unsuitable storage space for
11 food. The so-called pantry, which leads into what was
12 formerly a laundry, was just chaotic. The impression
13 was of a collection of rubbish with odds and ends of
14 food, for example, a bowl of dripping.

15 The cooking stove is too small for these numbers.
16 It was formerly in the matron's kitchen upstairs and has
17 been used to replace a large stove not yet sent for
18 repair.

19 Staff dining room.

20 There is a suggestion to turn a small basement room
21 into a staff dining room. There are one or two bits of
22 furniture in it and a new -- a small new piece of lino
23 on the floor.

24 Toy store.

25 This is in an even worse jumble than before. It

1 would not be possible to get to the far side of this
2 room without removing the contents, which are mixed
3 together, one thing on top of another. Some quite nice
4 things, but will soon be destroyed if left.

5 Staff.

6 At present there is the matron as the only resident
7 member of staff. There are two part-time domestics.
8 Once works from 9.00 till 1.00, the other from 2.00 to
9 6.00. The sewing woman is said to come every morning.

10 Children.

11 The children looked well and healthy. They seemed
12 quite happy, because -- perhaps because they are left
13 very much to their own devices. They were untidy in
14 their clothes, buttons off and jerseys frayed and torn.
15 The younger ones are said to start for bed at about
16 7.30, the eldest about 9.30 to 10.00. The eldest girl
17 , who is about 13, sees to the younger ones as
18 regards washing and undressing.

19 They still attend Girl Guides and Boys' Brigades."

20 Mr Dunlop agreed with her report and his comments
21 are at MNH2848:

22 "ASC ..."

23 This again is why I think it is Mr O'Neill, because
24 this appears to be Mr Dunlop's:

25 "To see attached report with which I agree.

1 This was my very first visit and I was amazed at the
2 condition of the premises both inside and out. No
3 attempt had been made to make the best of what they had.

4 The furniture, such as it was, was in bad condition
5 and I did not see a chair in any of the rooms used by
6 the children.

7 I was surprised at the way the clothing was thrown
8 on the floor in the cupboard -- or in the cupboards, all
9 mixed together, old and new.

10 In my opinion the home should be closed until it is
11 in order by the -- is put in order by the present
12 organisation or taken over by some responsible body."

13 A letter was drafted to be sent to Manor House and
14 we can see this at 2846 to 2847, but this was amended to
15 be a more lengthy and sympathetic letter, which we can
16 see at MNH2843. It says:

17 "Mr O'Neill,

18 Have suggested a more length -- a more lengthy and
19 sympathetic letter, which I would like to discuss with
20 you."

21 This signature may well, in fact, Chairman, be the
22 Minister's signature.

23 CHAIRMAN: It looks like "BM", Brian Maginess.

24 MS SMITH: Yes. He was the Minister for Home Affairs at the
25 time. His initials -- he would have been W.B. Maginess,

1 but that may well have been his initials. This may be
2 the first evidence we have of the Minister taking an
3 interest in the matter.

4 If we actually then go back to look at the amended
5 letter at 2837, this is the letter that Mr -- a copy of
6 the letter that was actually sent. I should say the
7 actual letter can be found in the Manor House minutes in
8 their minute book, but it says:

9 "Sir,

10 The Ministry has been giving careful consideration
11 to the question as to whether it would be justified in
12 continuing to register the Manor House in Lisburn as
13 a voluntary home for the purposes of the Children &
14 Young Persons Act 1950.

15 As your Committee is aware, when an application was
16 received at the end of last year for a grant from the
17 Ministry to enable the Committee to carry out certain
18 improvements to the home, an inspection of the home was
19 carried out by the Ministry. This inspection revealed
20 that not only was the home very inadequately staffed but
21 that the conditions in the home were extremely
22 unsatisfactory. An informal discussion of the position
23 was held with certain members of the Committee and
24 subsequently a visit was paid to the home by officers of
25 the Ministry, who attended a meeting of the Committee.

1 At that meeting the Ministry pointed out to the
2 Committee that an application for any grant from
3 government sources could not be entertained until the
4 Ministry was satisfied that the home was being
5 satisfactorily run as a voluntary home for children. It
6 was explained to the Committee that it was their
7 responsibility to satisfy the Ministry that they were
8 financially able to run and administer the home, to
9 provide the necessary equipment and adequate staff for
10 looking after the children. The Committee promised to
11 consider the Ministry's representations.

12 The Ministry has not received any further
13 communication from the Committee and a further
14 inspection of the premises was made on 22nd May 1953.
15 This report, while it reveals certain very minor
16 improvements, disclosed that the conditions in the home
17 are very far from being satisfactory."

18 This is where the amendments to the original letter
19 appear:

20 "The Ministry appreciates the work that has been
21 done by the Committee in the past and is aware that the
22 present conditions are no doubt due to lack of funds and
23 to other circumstances not within the Committee's
24 control. At the same time the Committee will appreciate
25 that the Ministry has to perform its functions as set

1 out in the appropriate Acts of Parliament and that it
2 cannot maintain on the register of voluntary homes any
3 home in which conditions are as unsatisfactory as they
4 are in this case, despite what the Committee has done.

5 Extracts from the officers' reports of the
6 inspection are attached and the Ministry would be
7 obliged if the Committee would give these their
8 immediate attention. The Ministry understands that some
9 members of the Committee are anxious to see the children
10 cared for by a body with funds sufficient to maintain
11 the home in good condition and able to provide adequate
12 care and maintenance for the children whilst others are
13 reluctant to see any change in the management.

14 Reluctantly, therefore, in view of the amount of
15 voluntary work which has in the past been devoted to the
16 upkeep of the home and to the care of the children, the
17 Ministry considers that changing conditions have made
18 and will continue to make a satisfactory condition of
19 affairs under the present system almost
20 an impossibility. Unless the Committee can assure the
21 Ministry that the immediate steps -- that immediate
22 steps will be taken to bring the home up to the
23 necessary standard, I am afraid that the Ministry will
24 have no alternative but to withdraw the home from the
25 register.

1 The Ministry is sure that the Committee will
2 consider this letter immediately and will reply as
3 quickly as possible."

4 It is signed by the Assistant Secretary, J.B.
5 O'Neill, who I think is ASC.

6 Now, as I have indicated, Dr Harrison suggested that
7 the memo was perhaps a more senior official of the
8 Ministry. She thought maybe it was the Permanent
9 Secretary, but it may well have been the Minister
10 himself. This letter was also copied to ICM
11 headquarters in London. That body replied at MNH2830:

12 "Thank you for your letter of 8 instant together
13 with copy of your letter to the Manor House Home
14 Committee.

15 At a meeting of our Committee recently it was
16 decided that the Irish Church Missions as such could not
17 offer any financial help to the local Committee."

18 There then is a further letter at 2828 where there
19 seems to have been a change of heart on behalf of the
20 headquarters in London and they say:

21 "Further to my letter of 10th June, I am instructed
22 to say that since writing my committee has further
23 considered the matter of the Manor House Home at
24 Lisburn.

25 They are trying to see if fresh arrangements can be

1 made for the home and are going into the possibility of
2 reconstituting the trust.

3 This will, of course, take some time and we shall be
4 glad if in the meantime no action is taken by you."

5 Now we see that the Ministry's attitude to this
6 letter is on the handwritten notes attached to it. You
7 see, first of all, it is seen by Mr Willis, who says:

8 "We may have -- we may take -- we may take -- we may
9 have to consider closing this home in the meanwhile."

10 says:

11 "This might drag on for years and I agree with
12 Mr Willis."

13 Ms Forrest writes:

14 "I wonder what they mean by 'reconstituting'? Does
15 it mean an approval to -- an application to the
16 courts -- an approach to the courts to get rid of
17 this -- their responsibility for the home?"

18 Then if we just go up to:

19 "PC,

20 I think we must concede to this request and give
21 these people a chance to put the house in order, but we
22 should ensure ..."

23 MR LANE: "Impose."

24 MS SMITH: "... impose a time limit of, say, two months."

25 So it is clear that Mr Jackson, who is I think more

1 senior to the other people who have written on this, who
2 feel that, "This could drag on. We should close this
3 home down", Mr Jackson is saying, "Well, I think we have
4 to give them another chance". That may well be as
5 a result of the intervention by the Minister. I am
6 speculating, but if I am correct in thinking that the
7 Minister has already spoken about the amendment of
8 approach to the letter, then that might be the case.

9 Two days later, however, the Ministry writes to
10 Manor House Committee after it failed to hold a special
11 meeting indicating the Ministry would be withdrawing the
12 certificate of registration effective from 1st
13 August 1953. If we look at 2822, and it is 22nd June:

14 "The Ministry was pleased to receive your letter of
15 10th instant informing it that a special meeting of your
16 Committee was being called for Friday, 19th instant to
17 deal with the position of Manor House Home, Lisburn. It
18 has since learnt, however, that this meeting did not
19 take place and that no arrangements have been made for
20 any meeting to consider the Ministry's report on the
21 home. The Ministry views the position at the home as
22 extremely serious, for not only is the home in very
23 great need of redecoration and reconstruction, but the
24 staff is totally inadequate to deal with the children.
25 Your Committee does not seem to realise that there is

1 only one adult person resident in the home at night.
2 I must therefore request you to convene a meeting of
3 your Committee immediately to deal with the matter, as
4 the Ministry cannot continue to permit of any such
5 children being accommodated in a home under such
6 unsatisfactory conditions.

7 A letter has been sent to the Financial Secretary of
8 The Society for Irish Church Missions ..."

9 Can you scroll down?

10 "... stating the present intentions of the Ministry
11 to withdraw the certificate of the home as from 1st
12 August next and a copy of this letter is attached for
13 your information."

14 As it is indicated in this letter, it was writing to
15 the Irish Church Missions headquarters in London telling
16 them of that. That can be seen at MNH2824. I don't
17 think I need to read it, because it is pretty much in
18 the same terms as the letter that I've just read out,
19 but it is clear that the Ministry was planning to recall
20 the registration certificate for Manor House Home -- and
21 if we look at 2822 -- sorry -- I think that's the
22 letter, yes, that we have just looked at -- as and from
23 1st August of 1953, but, as I have indicated, it would
24 appear that the then Minister of Home Affairs, who was
25 William Brian Maginess -- and he was a native of

1 Lisburn. He had served as Member of Parliament for the
2 area and it appears that he had taken pity on the
3 Management Committee and asked that the matter be dealt
4 with in such a way so as not to cause the Management
5 Committee or the home public embarrassment. That led
6 obviously to the amended letter.

7 If we look at 2730, this is an extract from the --
8 a document which I will look at more fully in due
9 course, but it just says:

10 "Our then Minister felt, however, that the local
11 committee was a well-meaning and kindly body of persons
12 (as indeed they certainly were) and their lack of
13 failings (sic) were due to utter ineptitude rather than
14 lack of good intentions and he instructed the division
15 not to withdraw the certificate in any way that would
16 bring scandal upon them.

17 Accordingly it was arranged that the
18 Committee should themselves close the home, at least
19 temporarily, and surrender the certificate to us on
20 their own volition and that we would give them some
21 advice as to what would be required to be done before we
22 would consider allowing the home to reopen."

23 So the Ministry agreed to ICM closing the home
24 voluntarily and returning the registration certificate
25 of its own accord.

1 Prior to closure Ms Forrest appears to have
2 inspected the home weekly. If you look at 2813, this
3 is:

4 "Everything in the ground and first floor was
5 reasonably clean but untidy and drab as here -- and here
6 as before. I think most of the beds have remade
7 mattresses on, but they look lumpy, because they are too
8 big for the springs and hang over the edges. Some of
9 the springs have been replaced. The", something, "is
10 still untidy."

11 CHAIRMAN: "Basement."

12 MS SMITH: "The basement is still untidy. There was
13 clothing lying under the kitchen sink, shoes and socks
14 in several places lying about and the cloakrooms are as
15 before. One change is that the girls now use the
16 bathroom on the ground floor.

17 I asked to see records. None were available. The
18 only record they keep is the admission register and
19 Mr Gurd has taken it away. All the children are still
20 there and MH 54 says the proposal is to send them
21 all to Dublin. She herself is leaving on 1st August.
22 The children looked well and healthy with the exception
23 of one girl, who was not very robust looking. They
24 certainly do not seem repressed, but are no good at
25 talking to strangers, with the exception of one boy of

1 10, a bolder spirit. They are tidy and better dressed.

2 tells me ..."

3 CHAIRMAN: "No approach."

4 MS SMITH: "... tells me no approach has been made to
5 Antrim -- an approach -- no approach has been made to
6 Antrim about the disposal of their children. I think we
7 should enquire from Fermanagh about their child there."

8 Then:

9 "Mr Brown, the Child Welfare Officer Fermanagh, is
10 aware of the position about the Fermanagh child and is
11 arranging for it to be placed elsewhere."

12 That's 5th -- 4th and 5th July 1953.

13 So the idea was that ICM subsequently satisfy the
14 Ministry that it could run the home satisfactorily and
15 then it could apply to be re-registered and avail of
16 such grants as the Ministry approved. The letters at
17 MNH2817 and 2807 and then a memo to a subsequent
18 Minister of Home Affairs at MNH2730 show this. Sorry.
19 If we could just go to 2817, first of all, please, you
20 will see:

21 "Sir,

22 In reply to your letter of 22nd inst. I am to inform
23 you that an emergency meeting of our Committee was held
24 on 25th inst.

25 At that meeting it was resolved to close the home as

1 soon as arrangements satisfactory to the Committee can
2 be made for the reception of the children elsewhere. No
3 further children are to be admitted.

4 We should be glad if you will please take no further
5 steps regarding the withdrawal of registration, as after
6 these arrangements have been made we will ask you to
7 accept a voluntary surrender of our registration until
8 such time as we are in a position to carry on again."

9 If we look at 2807:

10 "Sir,

11 Further to my letter of 29th ult. I have to advise
12 that all of the children at the above home have now been
13 removed. No further children will be admitted.

14 In due course our certificate of registration will
15 be returned to you until such time as we are in
16 a position to reopen."

17 Then, as it said, at 2730 the -- if we can just
18 scroll on down a bit:

19 "In the event the -- it was arranged that the
20 Committee should themselves close the home at least
21 temporarily and surrender their certificate to us on
22 their own volition and that we would give them some
23 advice as to what would be required to be done before we
24 could consider allowing the home to reopen.

25 In the event the home was closed with due despatch,

1 but the certificate was not -- has not so far been
2 returned."

3 I will look -- as I say, there are other aspects to
4 this memo which I will look at in due course, but the
5 ICM's response to the letter informing it of the
6 intended withdrawal of the registration can be seen at
7 MNH2811. It says:

8 "I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 22nd
9 June last which has received the careful consideration
10 of my Committee. We note that it is the intention of
11 your Ministry to withdraw the certificate of
12 registration on 1st August.

13 In the circumstances we are arranging to have the
14 children transferred to Homes, , and
15 meanwhile have provided for additional staff to be
16 engaged at the home.

17 My Committee hopes within the next few months that
18 it may be found possible to reconstitute the Manor House
19 Home on a basis satisfactory to your Ministry."

20 Then you will see that there are two handwritten
21 notes, one from Mr Jackson:

22 "To see together with Ms Forrest's report of 4th
23 July '53. Nothing further is necessary at the moment in
24 view of our letter of 3rd July '53. Ms Forrest to" --
25 something, "to visit the home again -- is due to visit

1 the home again on 10th July."

2 Then:

3 "ASC seen", something, "thanks. If our Children's
4 Act has done -- has done ..."

5 CHAIRMAN: "Done nothing else."

6 MS SMITH: "... nothing else, it has at least cleared out
7 this dump."

8 Now it is not clear whose signature that is. It is
9 certainly not Mr Jackson's. It may be Mr Dunlop's.

10 In the event while ICM did voluntarily close the
11 home, it did not return the registration certificate of
12 its own volition and the home remained a registered
13 children home -- children's home, albeit one that was
14 not in operation.

15 ICM then set about overhauling the Management
16 Committee of the home, and because they were still
17 technically registered as a children's home, that
18 Committee then sought grants from the Ministry to bring
19 the home up to the requisite standard.

20 If we look at MNH336 and 337, we can see the
21 first minute -- no -- sorry -- 3336, 3336. Now there is
22 a page over this, but the next page has that piece of
23 white paper transferred over to the other side of the
24 page, but this is a meeting of the Committee of Manor
25 House Home which took place on Monday, July 6th, 1953:

1 "The Committee had been newly appointed by the
2 Belfast Auxilliary Committee at the request of the
3 General Committee of the Society of Irish Church
4 Missions London."

5 It names those people present:

6 "The question of the appointment of a Chairman was
7 postponed until some future meeting, which it was hoped
8 would be more fully attended. The Reverend Lowe was
9 unanimously asked to occupy the chair for the time being
10 and he agreed to do so. The Chairman explained to a
11 ..."

12 CHAIRMAN: "Explained that a ..."

13 MS SMITH: "... that a warning had been received by the
14 General Committee, of which he was a member, that unless
15 conditions were immediately improved in several
16 important respects chiefly as regards staffing and the
17 state of the building and equipment, the Ministry of
18 Home Affairs, Stormont felt it their duty to withdraw
19 the certificate of registration of the home. As the
20 Committee had not the necessary money available to carry
21 out the improvements, it was necessary to evacuate the
22 House temporarily. Mr Gurd substantiated his statements
23 ..."

24 If we could just scroll to the next page, please, we
25 can see then this white piece of paper is flicked over.

1 I will come back to it in a moment, but it says:

2 "Mr Gurd substantiated his statements by reading
3 some letters received from the Ministry of Home Affairs
4 relevant to the matter. Homes, , were
5 willing to take the children temporarily for as long as
6 this Committee might need to send them. The Belfast
7 Auxilliary Committee, of which the Manor House
8 Committee is a subcommittee, had been advised by the
9 General Committee that this offer should be accepted and
10 has decided that on account of its urgency the business
11 should be set on foot immediately. This Committee then
12 unanimously approved of this action of the Belfast
13 Committee. MH10 reported that she had been looking
14 after the business side of the transfer and would see to
15 the arrangements for the actual journey to Dublin in
16 consultation with the acting matron. It was reported
17 that -- " , something, "with
18 an address in" -- it's " , , had
19 been kind enough to arrange a camp at with the
20 help of Girls' Club, to which she invited the
21 children of the home. The Committee fully discussed
22 this, but came to the conclusion that while the members
23 greatly appreciated the offer, on account of the urgency
24 of the situation, the sooner it could be reported to the
25 Ministry of Home Affairs that the children were under

1 the care of Homes the better, and consequently
2 it would have to be declined. The children would be
3 unable to attend the Boys' Brigade and Girl Guide camps.
4 The acting matron gave a report and stated that
5 preparations for the transfer of the children to Dublin
6 were being made. She mentioned that as she intended to
7 be married soon, she wished to give notice that she
8 would be leaving the employment of Manor House from 1st
9 August.

10 MH45 , who had recently taken work as
11 a collector on behalf of the home, also appeared. She
12 stated that she was sleeping on the premises and that
13 she would be more than -- there would be more -- there
14 would be more than one member of staff in the home at
15 night, as requested by the Ministry of Home Affairs, and
16 also she informed in her collecting -- she found in her
17 collecting that she met with an encouraging response
18 from supporters. This statement was noted with
19 satisfaction and there was no further business. The
20 meeting was closed with prayer."

21 If we just scroll back up, please, you can see that:
22 "The members of the newly appointed Manor House Home
23 Committee are as follows:

24 MH46 , MH10, Mrs Lundy, Dr McCann, Mr Gurd,
25 The Reverend Lowe, Reverends Jamieson, Frizelle, Horan

1 and Thompson."

2 Further meetings of the new committee took place in
3 July and then not until November 1953, after which we
4 can see from the minutes that the Committee meets
5 a couple of times a month. Correspondence between the
6 Ministry and the newly constituted Manor House
7 Committee is in the bundle and is referred to at
8 paragraph A35 of the Appendix A to Dr Harrison's
9 statement.

10 If we look at MNH3347, this is a meeting --
11 a Management Committee meeting it had with Ministry
12 officials in January 1954, where it is said there,
13 Thursday, January 15th:

14 "A meeting was arranged for this date at 4.00 pm at
15 the CIYMS rooms in Donegall Square East between the
16 members of the Committee of the Manor House Home and
17 a deputation from the Ministry of Home Affairs."

18 It records who is present, including Mr Dunlop and
19 Ms Forrest:

20 "The Chairman having introduced the various members,
21 he invited Mr Dunlop to explain the point of view of the
22 Ministry regarding the future of Manor House Home and
23 the possibility of a grant towards the cost of repairs,
24 etc.

25 Mr Dunlop then explained the feeling of the

1 Ministry, which he said was not -- was not
2 an unreasonable one. The Ministry, recognising the good
3 work done by the home in the past -- recognising the
4 good work done by the home in the past and were willing
5 to cooperate under certain conditions. If the grant
6 were to be given, they would need first an assurance
7 that the home can be continued by means of adequate
8 financial support; secondly, a guarantee the -- in the
9 care of the home being -- in the case of the home being
10 closed the money or a suitable proportion thereof
11 according to a sliding scale of reductions would be
12 refunded.

13 On being questioned regarding the Ministry's
14 standard in the ratio of children and staff, Ms Forrest
15 replied that while this was not a rigid rule, the
16 following may usually -- was usually regarded as
17 necessary.

18 Babies, 5 to 2 staff.

19 Toddlers, 3 to 5 years, 3 or 4 to" -- I think that
20 might be "7" or "1".

21 CHAIRMAN: "3 or 4 to 1."

22 MS SMITH: "3 or 4 to 1. 3 or 4 toddlers to 1 member of
23 staff.

24 Over 5 years, about ..."

25 CHAIRMAN: "6 to 1."

1 MS SMITH: I think that's "6 to 1".

2 "There -- these figures were exclusive of kitchen
3 staff. Mr Dunlop mentioned that there would be a
4 possibility of the Ministry sending children to the home
5 and the Chairman said that the home would not place
6 undue difficulties in the way of such an arrangement.
7 Mr Dunlop asked if it was considered that in view of all
8 that was being done by the Ministry such a home were
9 really needed and he was assured that the Committee
10 composed -- considered that it was."

11 CHAIRMAN: "The Committee were persuaded."

12 MS SMITH: "... were persuaded that it was. Ms Forrest
13 mentioned a regulation that children should be brought
14 up in the religion laid down by its parents and it was
15 stated that this was always observed by ICM homes.
16 Asked what he considered was the usual all round average
17 cost of maintaining such a home, Mr Dunlop replied that
18 the figure of £3 per week per child or perhaps a little
19 more sometimes was about the average.

20 In reply to a question regarding the training
21 necessary for the matron, Ms Forrest stated that
22 a matron needed practical training in children's work,
23 SRN an advantage perhaps, though not essential.
24 Certificate of nursery nurses would be ideal.

25 The plan submitted by Mr Lucy", which from other

1 documents was an architect employed by the Manor House
2 Committee, "was then discussed, together with the
3 possibility of a building -- of building a new home,
4 which was not ruled out. As Mr Dunlop stated, no grant
5 would be considered for this -- which was ruled out,
6 because Mr Dunlop stated no grant would be considered
7 for this.

8 In answer to the questions whether the government is
9 sympathetic regarding the continuation of the home,
10 Mr Dunlop said it was difficult to say, as the
11 government prefers smaller homes housing about ten
12 children. Mr Lucy undertook to interview the Ministry's
13 architect and submit the plan to him for his
14 consideration."

15 In February 1954 it would appear that ICM were
16 willing to dispose of the home. We see this in this
17 next minute here at 3349. It said:

18 "The Reverend T. Horan stated that he knew that the
19 General Committee of The Society for Irish Church
20 Missions were willing and anxious to hand over the home
21 to suitable trustees if such could be found in Northern
22 Ireland. The Reverend Jamieson said that that would not
23 be acceptable to the Committee, as it was generally felt
24 that the name of Irish Church Missions was a help in
25 appealing for funds. In any case the house, being

1 a valuable property, could always be sold by the
2 Missions in case of financial collapse. Those present
3 were generally in agreement.

4 MH46 raised the question if in the event of
5 the Ministry of Home Affairs refusing to give a grant
6 ..."

7 If we can scroll down to the next page, please:

8 "... towards the cost of repairs, the Committee
9 would consider offering the house to the Church of
10 Ireland. This was discussed and it was felt that this
11 was hardly likely to be possible as there was no
12 official organisation in the Church of Ireland which
13 deals with orphanages, and that even if machinery were
14 created for the purpose -- for the purpose, the home
15 might not be ..."

16 CHAIRMAN: "Run on truly Irish Church Missions lines."

17 MS SMITH: "... run on truly Irish Church Missions lines."

18 So it would appear that ICM were willing to dispose
19 of the home. However, the new committee wished to
20 reopen and a decision was made in March 1954 that it
21 would do so. In the next -- on this page here we see in
22 June 1954 the decision to reopen the home.

23 "The meeting having been opened with prayer, the
24 Chairman has called for a decision as to whether the
25 home should be reopened or finally closed. Introduced

1 a discussion on the finances of the home. The situation
2 was thoroughly discussed and viewed from the most
3 pessimistic angle. It was considered that if the home
4 should have to be closed finally, even after commencing
5 repairs and expand... -- expending some money thereon,
6 the Society could recoup its losses by the sale of
7 ground rents and land for building purposes. Dr McCann
8 accordingly moved that the Committee is in favour of
9 continuing the home and advises The Society for Irish
10 Church Missions accordingly. Mr Jamieson second, and
11 the motion was also supported by and passed
12 unanimously. The secretary was requested to write to
13 the General Committee of the Society explaining that it
14 was considered most essential that this Committee -- by
15 this Committee that the house be continued as an
16 integral part of The Society for Irish Church Missions
17 and an account of the present constitutional position in
18 the Southern Republic an Irish Church Missions Home is
19 more needed in the north of Ireland -- on account of the
20 constitutional position is more needed in the north of
21 Ireland than ever."

22 Now at 3352, having made the decision to open the
23 home, it is decided to write to the Ministry enquiring
24 about grants.

25 CHAIRMAN: Might this be a convenient point?

1 MS SMITH: Yes, Chairman. I am going to want to go and look
2 at departmental memos in more detail.

3 CHAIRMAN: 2 o'clock.

4 (1.00 pm)

5 (Lunch break)

6 (2.00 pm)

7 MS SMITH: Good afternoon. The documents which the Inquiry
8 has obtained from the Public Records Office clearly show
9 that the plan in 1953 was to deregister the home, which
10 was found to be unfit for purpose, and which plan
11 eventually -- essentially failed due to the Minister's
12 intervention.

13 If we could look, please, at MNH2738, this is a memo
14 to the ASC. I think this memo is actually from Mr Duff,
15 which has set out a bit of the background to the whole
16 incident. It says:

17 "Just over a century ago there was founded The
18 Society for the Irish Church Missions to the Roman
19 Catholics and since then the Society has devoted its
20 efforts and such money as it can raise to the holy task
21 of plucking brands not from the crackling fires of
22 heathenism but from the blue and sulphurous flames of
23 Roman Catholicism in Ireland. As an offshoot of this
24 main activity the Society nominally maintains a nursery
25 in Dublin and a children's home in Lisburn. Ostensibly

1 these institutions are for the bringing up of
2 illegitimate, orphaned or unwanted children, but there
3 is an indication in the papers on the file that they are
4 designed specially to deal with children from mixed
5 marriages.

6 The Society seems to have an income of about 15,000
7 to 17,000 per annum and seems to spend more than its
8 income more years than not. From this headquarters
9 appears to contribute the miserable sum of £52 per annum
10 towards the expenses of Manor House Home, Lisburn. The
11 rest of the money needed to run the home has to be
12 raised as a separate effort by the Local Committee of
13 Management. The amount thus raised has in recent years
14 been between £2,000 and £3,000 per annum. It is
15 difficult to give a significant figure. In the calendar
16 year 1951 it was under 1600. In 1952 it was 2778, plus
17 1150 from the sale of a field. In 1953 it was again
18 about 2750.

19 The next point of interest is how Manor House came
20 -- Home came to be started. It seems that the house
21 belonged to and was occupied by a rather eccentric lady
22 called Miss Louise Fitzgerald Stannus, who handed over
23 her house and grounds to the Society. It was opened as
24 a home by Sir Robert Kennedy in 1927, and when it first
25 came to the notice of the Ministry in 1950 housed

1 fourteen boys and four girls, ranging from toddlers to
2 teenagers.

3 The home was licensed as a voluntary home under the
4 1950 Act but shortly afterwards was the subject of so
5 unfavourable inspection report that the Ministry told
6 the Management Committee that unless they did something
7 about it, the licence would be withdrawn. From lack of
8 funds they were unable to take rapid action and after
9 some further inspection, consultations and
10 correspondence, into which last mentioned the London
11 headquarters were drawn, the Management Committee
12 emptied the home of children, most of the children going
13 to the other home in Dublin. The then Minister of Home
14 Affairs intervened to prevent the Ministry from actually
15 cancelling the registration and the Committee did not
16 carry out their expressed intention of voluntarily
17 handing the licence back until they could reorganise and
18 improve the home, so that technically the home remains
19 a home for the purpose of the Act, although no children
20 have been in it for a year now, and because of this
21 technicality it is held to be eligible to receive
22 a grant under section 118 of the Children and Young
23 Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1950.

24 Meantime there have been technical consultations
25 between the Committee's architect, Mr Lucy, and

1 Mr Wright, our architect, about the structural work",
2 I think, "remodelling of the premises and a measure of
3 agreement has been reached on a scheme, which the local
4 organising secretary of the Management Committee, which
5 has itself been reorganised in the meantime, has stated
6 is estimated to cost £10,000 together with £2,000 for
7 new furniture. Full details of how these estimates have
8 been made up have not yet been furnished, but it is
9 probable that the figures mentioned are fairly nearly
10 correct and that the works are not likely to cost less.
11 The annual cost of running the home properly staffed
12 with 19 children in it, the number for which the scheme
13 provides, would be between £3,500 and £5,000. The
14 Committee have applied for a grant of 50% of the cost of
15 remodelling and re-equipping, that is a grant of up to
16 £6,000, and have a stated that they will find the other
17 6,000. They have not specifically stated that they can
18 count on being able to raise up to £5000 per annum for
19 running the home, nor have they contributed any estimate
20 of the cost of such running. They got an announcement
21 in the local press recently and I understand that they
22 recently ran a flag day.

23 Personally I view the whole affair with considerable
24 unease. In the first place our experience, such as it
25 is, of their running of the home, even when one makes

1 allowance for their lack of funds, does not encourage us
2 to believe that they have the proper ideas on how to do
3 the job. It is true, of course, that the old committee
4 has been replaced by a new one. This new committee is
5 almost exclusively clerical, which may or may not be
6 a guarantee of its capacity to run a children's home.

7 Secondly, there is no indication that the committee
8 have yet faced up to the financial problems of the year
9 to year running of the home, and there is nothing
10 whatever in the accounts so far submitted to give us the
11 slightest confidence that they will be able to meet this
12 annual cost.

13 Thirdly, we have received no indication as to how
14 they are going to find the £6,000 needed for their share
15 of the capital expenditure.

16 If the Society or even the local management
17 committee were an integral of what the BBC calls 'the
18 mainstream of Christian religion' in the sense of being
19 actively sponsored by the Church of Ireland or by
20 a combination of the Protestant churches in Northern
21 Ireland, one could have a very good measure of
22 confidence both about the ability of the managers to
23 cope with the financial problems and about the
24 probability that sooner or later a really energetic,
25 intelligent and experienced committee would get on the

1 job, but that is not the case. The Society is a crank
2 society, independent of the church, though it seems to
3 have wheedled or blackmailed most of the top dignitaries
4 of the Church of Ireland into associating their names
5 with it as Vice Presidents. Incidentally there is no
6 indication of who the President -- who is President.
7 Presumably, judging by the design and wording of the
8 cover of the magazine, the Society claims divine
9 Presidency.

10 It is extremely desirable that there should be
11 a good Protestant voluntary home. Manor House as
12 premises offers a site with good possibilities, but
13 whether we should by financial support encourage the
14 redevelopment of the home by its present sponsors is
15 a different question. Personally I don't think we
16 should, but if the Society would be prepared to ..."

17 CHAIRMAN: "Rid itself of the obligation."

18 MS SMITH: "... rid itself of the obligation to run the home
19 and assuming that any necessary court permission enable
20 ..."

21 CHAIRMAN: "Could be obtained."

22 MS SMITH: "... could be obtained, would hand the permission
23 -- the premises over either to the Welfare Authority or
24 to some ..."

25 CHAIRMAN: "Some preferably non-sectarian Protestant

1 committee."

2 MS SMITH: "... non-sectarian Protestant committee of ..."

3 MR LANE: "Energetic."

4 MS SMITH: "... energetic ..."

5 CHAIRMAN: "And expert."

6 MS SMITH: "... and expert ..." -- thank you very much --

7 "then I think we should help from ..."

8 CHAIRMAN: "Experienced" I think rather than "expert".

9 MS SMITH: "... and experienced persons, then I think we
10 should help from public funds to the extent the Act
11 permits."

12 That's -- I have deciphered the signature to be that
13 of Mr Duff, W. Duff. That is dated 24th August 1954.

14 At MNH2771 we can see a memo of grants to voluntary
15 homes, which is undated, but which Dr Harrison states is
16 from in or around June 1954. At paragraph 3 there:

17 "Manor House, Lisburn.

18 The Ministry is in a rather peculiar position in
19 regard to this voluntary home. When I visited last year
20 with other Ministry officials and had discussions with
21 the Committee of the home, we came to the conclusion
22 that very drastic alterations would have to be made
23 before we could continue to recognise it as a home fit
24 for children. The majority of the Committee agree with
25 us and expressed their willingness to remove the

1 children temporarily from the home until the necessary
2 alterations had been effected. On the Minister's
3 instructions we did not cancel the registration of the
4 home, so that to all intents and purposes it is
5 an existing voluntary home and can, of course, be given
6 a grant. Before, however, any grant can be given we
7 must be satisfied that the new committee, which
8 I understand has been formed, will be able to run the
9 voluntary home. The cost of the running of the home
10 would probably be in the neighbourhood of £5000 a year
11 and I personally do not think we would be justified in
12 making any grant until we are satisfied that the
13 Committee can raise this amount each year.

14 I understand that the present proposed alterations
15 may cost something between £10,000 and £15,000, but, of
16 course, we could not pay anything like this amount by
17 way of grant. At the very most I think we could ask
18 finance to approve and persuade the Welfare Authorities
19 to pay their share of expense -- something up to £6,000
20 or £7,000."

21 That's signed by J.B. O'Neill, who I think was the
22 ASC.

23 The application for grants, as you can see, caused
24 the Ministry some difficulty. One official, who, as
25 I said, was Mr Duff, was clearly unhappy with what had

1 occurred. If we look at 2745, he says:

2 "In July 1953 the Secretary in a note to ASC said,
3 'If our Children's Act has done anything else, it has at
4 least cleared out this dump'. The occasion of the
5 writing of that note was the receipt of a letter from
6 ICM headquarters making our intention -- noting our
7 intention to withdraw the certificate of registration
8 and informing us of the closing of the home. The letter
9 added, 'The Committee hopes that in the next few months
10 that it may be found possible to reconstitute Manor
11 House Home on the basis satisfactory to the Ministry'.

12 I suggest that despite, in fact -- despite ..."

13 CHAIRMAN: "Despite its."

14 MS SMITH: "... in fact", something, "by delaying
15 indefinitely -- by delaying the -- indefinitely the",
16 something, "and undertak... -- the", something, "of
17 their undertaking -- the carrying out of their
18 undertaking to surrender voluntarily the certificate,
19 the Committee have managed eventually to hang on to
20 their registration. The Manor House Home does not, in
21 fact, exist as a going concern and it is therefore not
22 eligible for grant. If you can prove me wrong, go ahead
23 and do so as I shall make my recommendations -- and
24 I shall make my recommendations accordingly.

25 The second point about which I am going to take

1 a lot of ..."

2 MS DOHERTY: "Convincing."

3 MS SMITH: "... convincing is about the Committee's
4 financial ability to run a home, even if they had one to
5 run.

6 It is quite clear that headquarters in London are
7 already running at a loss and cannot be expected to
8 secure their miserly ..."

9 CHAIRMAN: "Increase their reasonably small contribution."

10 MR LANE: "Contribution."

11 MS SMITH: "... increase their miserly small contribution
12 of" I think that is "£2 -- £1 per week towards the
13 matron's salary to the cost of running Manor House Home.
14 As for the local committee services, in 1951 they went
15 back by -- they went black by about ..."

16 CHAIRMAN: "Went back."

17 MS SMITH: "... back by about £350, although they don't seem
18 where it had ..."

19 CHAIRMAN: "To have had", something.

20 MS SMITH: "... to have had", something.

21 Again some of these documents you will appreciate
22 are very elderly and I think the blank pages were to try
23 to keep the curling edges down so that they could be
24 properly scanned. Unfortunately some has been lost in
25 that process, but this is from Mr Duff. I think maybe

1 if we scroll down to the next page, we might just see
2 the end of it:

3 "In these circumstances it does seem to me that the
4 Committee -- it does not seem to me that the
5 Committee can possibly satisfy us that:

6 (a) they have a home in being.

7 (b) they can find 50% of the cost of renovating --
8 remodelling of the home.

9 (c) they can persuade the necessary -- they can
10 provide the necessary funds to run the remodelled home
11 sufficiently ..."

12 CHAIRMAN: "Satisfactorily."

13 MS SMITH: "... satisfactorily."

14 (d) they have had the necessary experience to give
15 us confidence in their administrative ability to run
16 a home,

17 and if they cannot satisfy us at (a), (b) and (c),
18 I feel that -- I fail to see how we can give them
19 a grant, nor do I think it would be in the interest of
20 any section of the public that we should do so.

21 I gather you have contrary views. Now is your chance to
22 state them and I can always -- I am always open to
23 convincing argument."

24 That's dated 30th July 1954.

25 However, Mr Jackson, who seems to be the ASC at this

1 point, to whom that memo was addressed, clearly feels
2 that the previous Minister has tied his hands. If we
3 look at MNH2744, it says:

4 "When the rumpus about Manor House Lisburn was at
5 its height, it was undoubtedly the Ministry's intention
6 to withdraw the certificate of registration falling --
7 failing surrender of the document by the Management
8 Committee, but neither of these events developed, mainly
9 because of intervention by the Minister at that time,
10 who it is understood directed that the home should not
11 be completely closed down in view of the possibility of
12 necessary improvements, which would enable it to
13 function again on more satisfactory lines. This as far
14 as I know was the reason why the home continued to be
15 registered as a voluntary home and this -- and the fact
16 that it is so registered is sufficient in my opinion to
17 entitle it to ..."

18 CHAIRMAN: "Rank."

19 MS SMITH: "... rank for grant."

20 As for the new committee's ability to run the home,
21 I agree generally with your remarks in this situation",
22 perhaps. "At the same time I feel very strongly that
23 given an energetic and capable committee", something,
24 "not only to give their own monies but also to enlist
25 the -- their own services."

1 CHAIRMAN: "Energetic committee performance not only."

2 MR LANE: "Committee prepared."

3 MS SMITH: "... committee prepared not only to give their
4 own services but also to enlist the use of prominent
5 local persons -- the ..."

6 CHAIRMAN: "The aid."

7 MS SMITH: "... the aid of prominent local persons, such as
8 has been done satisfactorily -- successfully at
9 and to organise matters that the right approach is ..."

10 CHAIRMAN: "Made to the Protestant."

11 MS SMITH: "... is made to the Protestant community for
12 support, there would be sufficient money forthcoming in
13 the way of charitable contributions to make this home
14 for twenty children a", something, "viable concern" or
15 something, "if not superior to Macedon, where the
16 standards are satisfactorily high. The onus is on the
17 Committee, however, and it is up to them to satisfy us
18 of their ability to do the job in the way it accepts to
19 be -- it needs ..."

20 MR LANE: "It ought to be done."

21 CHAIRMAN: It might be: "a model equal, if not superior, to
22 Macedon, where the standards are extraordinarily high."

23 MR LANE: "Exceptionally."

24 CHAIRMAN: "Exceptionally high."

25 MS SMITH: "... exceptionally high", and then --

1 CHAIRMAN: "The onus is on the Committee, however" --

2 MS SMITH: "... and it is up to them to satisfy us ..."

3 CHAIRMAN: -- "and it is up to them to satisfy us of this --
4 of their ability to do the job in the way it ought to be
5 done."

6 MS SMITH: yes. That is 5th August 1954.

7 Another memo to the ASC from Mr Duff sets out the
8 history of the home and reiterates his view that he
9 feels the Ministry should be loathe to offer financial
10 support.

11 Interestingly the views of these men are clear to
12 the Management Committee, if we look at the minutes at
13 3353, when they meet in September 1954. You will see
14 here that it says that -- yes, at the bottom:

15 "Arising out of the minutes the Secretary reported
16 conversations with Mr Jackson -- one with a Mr Jackson,
17 one with a Mr Duff, both of the Ministry of Home
18 Affairs, and a third with Mr G.B. Hanna, QC, the
19 Minister, regarding the question of whether it was
20 likely that the Manor House Home would receive
21 a government grant. Mr Jackson was encouraging, but
22 Mr Duff's remarks seem calculated to persuade the
23 Committee to close the home. As a result of this
24 seeming difference of opinion the secretary felt it
25 necessary to seek an interview with the Minister. After

1 a frank discussion he was given to understand that if
2 the Committee could find £7,000 of the", I think that
3 might be, "£18,000 needed for reconstruction and show
4 evidence that they could augment the regular income
5 considerably, that is to about £5000 per annum, the
6 Ministry of Home Affairs would be likely to give a grant
7 of something in the region of £5000. On hearing this
8 report the reaction of the Committee as a whole was that
9 while it was real... -- it was re..."

10 MR LANE: "Recognised."

11 CHAIRMAN: "Recognised."

12 MS SMITH: "... recognised that costs have risen, yet
13 an income of 5000 per annum was far more than was likely
14 to be needed, and it was decided that the secretary and
15 treasurer should endeavour to work out what they
16 considered was a more reasonable estimate of the running
17 costs."

18 CHAIRMAN: I think if we go back to the figures, it is
19 probably find 7,000 out of 12,000. That would mean the
20 Ministry would then contribute 5,000 out of 12,000.

21 MS SMITH: Yes. It is quite hard to make out.

22 CHAIRMAN: It is.

23 MS SMITH: But it is clear that the Management Committee are
24 aware of the differences of opinion and decide to bypass
25 the Ministry officials and go direct to the then

1 Minister, Mr Hanna.

2 CHAIRMAN: Yes. It makes it clear there's a difference of
3 opinion between Jackson and Duff.

4 MS SMITH: Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN: So it is referred to the Minister for decision.

6 MS SMITH: Yes, who by this stage was Mr George Hanna.

7 Another factor that was causing concern to the
8 Ministry officials was the issue that the Inquiry has
9 been aware of from module 1, and that is the objection
10 from the Welfare Authorities that they had to contribute
11 50% of such grants as the Ministry approved for
12 voluntary homes and often did not use the services of
13 those homes receiving the grants. The Ministry were
14 concerned that in this instance what had happened would
15 be seen as sharp practice by the Welfare Authorities and
16 was, in fact, straining the interpretation of its powers
17 under the Act to grant aid to Manor House. We see this
18 at 2732 to 2733. Again this is part of the lengthy memo
19 that was directed to the Minister, and it said:

20 "This is a question of whether we make a grant to
21 a certain children's home. I have no doubt whatever
22 that we cannot properly do so ..."

23 This again comes from Mr Duff I should say:

24 "... and my official conscience is the more alive by
25 reason of the fact that the Public Accounts

1 Committee has got a thing about these particular grants.
2 I think, however, that I should put the matter up to you
3 as you are likely to be approached from one or more
4 directions.

5 Here is the position.

6 It is the responsibility of the Welfare Authorities
7 to make whatever provision is necessary in the way of
8 children's homes and they have all necessary powers to
9 do so under the Children's Act of 1950.

10 But section 118 of the Act provides that the
11 Ministry ... may pay grants towards expenses incurred or
12 to be incurred by any voluntary organisation ... for
13 improving premises in which voluntary homes are being
14 carried on, or the equipping of voluntary homes, or for
15 securing that voluntary homes will be better provided
16 with qualified staff.

17 It is to be noted further that under section 90 of
18 the Act all places used as voluntary homes have to be
19 registered, that is to say approved, by the Ministry
20 within three months of the passing of the Act.

21 You will note that section 118 restricts grants to
22 premises in which voluntary homes are being carried on
23 and must be paid in respect of improvements and the
24 intention of the provisions of the Act in regard to
25 these homes is I suggest perfectly clear.

1 Primarily, as I have said, this provision is the
2 duty of the Welfare Authorities, but if there is in
3 existence at the passing of the Act a reasonably decent
4 and well run home which is paying its way, then it is
5 not desirable that it should be allowed to fall below
6 the standard of a Welfare Authority home, and so the
7 Ministry may make it grants for certain stated
8 improvements, but not for the purpose of keeping it from
9 going bankrupt, and quite clearly we cannot make anyone
10 a grant to enable them to set up a new home, nor to meet
11 or help with the cost of running and maintaining it in
12 the condition it was when registered.

13 So much is I think clearly implied by the wording of
14 the section, and it is as an administrative measure
15 necessary to preserve the spirit of the provision.

16 I feel we must add the requirement that the body to whom
17 the grant is paid must be one that in the words of the
18 draughtsman has had experience and shown capacity in the
19 administration of a voluntary home. If we don't keep
20 such a requirement before us, we may find that we have
21 sunk public money in capital grants to an institution
22 which has folded up owing to incompetent management.

23 We have got to be particularly careful about these
24 grants, because while Ministry of Finance approval is
25 required, only one half comes from the Exchequer and the

1 other half comes from the local authorities. It would
2 be quite impractical -- impracticable to consult the
3 local authorities about each individual grant, but we do
4 consult them about policy, and as a matter of fact we
5 have had great difficulty with them. They have twice
6 been to see me and they wanted to see you during the
7 time you were out of office. I have got them more or
8 less satisfied now, but their general attitude is that
9 they themselves are doing all that is necessary in the
10 way of providing voluntary homes, and they dislike
11 having to pay these grants. The argument I eventually
12 sold them at all events for the time being is that these
13 grants are only paid to homes that were functioning
14 satisfactorily before the Welfare Authorities were set
15 up, and if we allowed such homes to close down, it would
16 only mean in the long run that welfare authorities would
17 have to provide and run additional homes themselves,
18 which would be quite uneconomic.

19 The authorities who are the hardest to satisfy are
20 the outlying ones, Londonderry County Borough and
21 Londonderry County, Tyrone, Armagh, etc. This is
22 understandable, as they feel that the majority of these
23 voluntary homes are around about Belfast and County
24 Antrim and therefore those counties only get any benefit
25 there is to be had from them. The fact that Belfast and

1 Antrim are much less whole-hearted in their objections
2 to the scheme only increases the suspicion of the
3 outside authorities.

4 The facts in this case are as follows.

5 Immediately after passing of the Act all these homes
6 applied, as they were bound to, for re-registration and
7 we had to adopt the usual course in such circumstances,
8 that is to register them all pending inspection.

9 We were not terribly impressed with this application
10 when we got it. References in the report to 'the need
11 for more prayer interest and financial support' and to
12 'our wonderful matron battling bravely against all
13 difficulties and achieving under God a marvellous
14 measure of success' scarcely suggested a hard-headed and
15 businesslike Committee running a well-organised home,
16 and when we were able to inspect the place, our worst
17 fears were realised.

18 The following extract from Mr Jackson's report gives
19 the general picture."

20 I am not going to read that as I have read the
21 report. If we can scroll on down, please. Sorry. Then
22 I think we need to go to -- the next page is -- sorry.
23 I think it actually goes back to the preceding page,
24 which would be 2731 or 30, 2730. There should be
25 a blank page at 2731 and then 2730 is the continuation.

1 Yes. He quotes Mr Jackson's report. Then:

2 "Ms Forrest's report heightens the Charles Dickens'
3 atmosphere."

4 He quotes from that report also:

5 "From a rather different point of view we find the
6 Fire Authority regarding the premises with some concern.
7 On 15th May 1953 they wrote to the Ministry enclosing
8 copy of second follow-up fire protection report on Manor
9 House Home and saying that, 'The authority is seriously
10 disturbed to find that at this late date little or no
11 effect has been given to the recommendations' and the
12 authority 'express the hope that the Ministry will
13 pursue the matter with the voluntary Committee ...'

14 It is therefore quite clear that we could not for a
15 moment claim that this was a reasonably well run
16 voluntary home paying its way when the Act came into
17 operation and on these grounds justify to the local
18 authorities our paying grants to it from their funds.

19 There is, in fact, little doubt that the correct
20 course for us to have taken, having regard to the terms
21 of the section and our understanding with the local
22 authorities, would have been to have withdrawn the
23 certificate of registration forthwith.

24 Our then Minister felt, however, that the local
25 Committee was a well-meaning and kindly body of persons

1 (as indeed they certainly were) and that their failings
2 were due to utter ineptitude rather than lack of good
3 intentions and he instructed the division not to
4 withdraw the certificate in any way that would bring
5 scandal upon them.

6 Accordingly it was arranged that the Committee
7 should themselves close the home, at least temporarily,
8 and surrender their certificate to us on their own
9 volition, and that we would have -- and that we could
10 give them some advice as to what would be required to be
11 done before we could consider allowing the home to
12 reopen.

13 In the event the home was closed with due despatch,
14 but the certificate has not so far been returned.

15 I do not wish to occupy your time with further
16 details of forecasts.

17 Whether, assuming that the Committee could raise
18 funds sufficient to put the place in reasonable (if not
19 entirely satisfactory) structural and decorative order,
20 and to run the place in that condition, employing
21 a reasonably satisfactory (if not really adequate)
22 staff, we could then re-register the home and pay grant
23 towards improvements would depend in practice on the
24 extent to which the local authorities maintain their
25 present critical attitudes. Even at that it would be

1 somewhat sharp practice on our part vis-a-vis the local
2 authorities and a considerable straining of our powers
3 under the Act. We might, however, be able to do
4 something for them.

5 But unless and until the Committee accomplish the
6 foregoing and show us that they have a reasonable
7 prospect of being able to meet the running costs,
8 I submit that no question of a grant could be considered
9 and the time has now come when they must be told that."

10 That's from 1st September of that year, 1954 I think
11 it was.

12 You will see at MNH2300 an extract from minutes of
13 Antrim County Children's Subcommittee from November 1954
14 about enquiries with the Ministry about the proposed
15 grant to Manor House. You will hear that it was Antrim
16 Welfare Committee who raised concerns with the Ministry
17 about Manor House which were discussed with Ms Forrest,
18 and I will come to that later.

19 But you will see here that they say that in respect
20 of Manor House Children's Home there's a proposed
21 payment of £5,200 in November 1954. That letter is sent
22 to the various welfare committees. If we can scroll on
23 down, please, you will see here:

24 "Reference: Grants to voluntary homes.

25 The Committee directed that enquiries be made with

1 the Ministry regarding the proposed grant to Manor House
2 Children's Home, Lisburn."

3 Fermanagh County Welfare Committee Finance and
4 General Purposes Committee, which met the same month, in
5 November 1954, accepted the Ministry's proposals for
6 payment. I don't think we need to look at it, but it is
7 at MH... -- MNH2302 to 2303.

8 In August 1954, going back a bit, Mr Duff clearly
9 feels that he needs direction before proceeding to deal
10 with the application that has been placed before him.
11 If we look at 2734, I think you'll see this is the -- it
12 is to the Secretary:

13 "Please see below this paper.

14 A minute from me to the ASC dated 24th August.

15 His note dated 26th August '54 on the covering chit
16 attached thereto.

17 Copy of the relevant part of a reply made by him on
18 11th August to a note of mine relating to grants to
19 voluntary homes in general, which is I think what he
20 suggest attaching.

21 The matter has reached a stage at which I cannot
22 very well proceed further without very definite guidance
23 from higher level and I should accordingly appreciate
24 such guidance."

25 There is a note:

1 "Please speak. I have a feeling that this place" --
2 (inaudible) this before -- "that this place", something,
3 "keeps satisfactory and ..."

4 I am finding it difficult to decipher this writing
5 and I am not quite sure whose it is, in fact:

6 "I have a feeling that this place could keep going
7 satisfactorily and", something, "right to ..."

8 CHAIRMAN: Well, it looks, "satisfactory and was unfit to"
9 -- "unfit" or ... It's very difficult to read.

10 MS SMITH: It is. I just wondered -- it might be "unfit".
11 "... it was unfit or", something, "right to ..."

12 MS DOHERTY: "Be careful."

13 MS SMITH: It is very difficult to make out what that is.

14 CHAIRMAN: Well, we'll just let it stand.

15 MS SMITH: Yes. In any event this is Mr Duff writing to the
16 Secretary, who then writes to the Minister, and I just
17 read the memo that he sent to the Minister.

18 Someone responds at 2728 and this I take it is the
19 Minister Mr Hanna's response. I will say why I think
20 that in a moment, but it reads:

21 "I am not happy about this matter. Following
22 reports warranting the closing of the home ('warranting'
23 appears too -- is perhaps too mild) an arrangement was
24 made of a face-saving nature under which arrangement the
25 registration was to be surrendered. This promise was

1 not kept. The Ministry did not act. Instead of
2 insisting upon the bargain being kept, the Ministry
3 seems to have condoned the whole business ..."

4 If we can scroll on down, please:

5 "... seems to have condoned the whole business,
6 because our architect entered into communic... --
7 consultations with the Committee's architect regarding
8 remodelling. In my view these consultations commit us
9 to the course of reestablishing this home unless we can
10 find some change in circumstances or other reason for
11 saying 'no'.

12 Two possibilities occur to me. In the ..."

13 Unfortunately we don't have -- sorry. Yes, we do:

14 "In the light of present information regarding civil
15 defence matters it seems to me -- it seems to be very
16 shortsighted to foster a children's home inside the area
17 of probable inescapable damage."

18 MR LANE: "Irreparable."

19 MS SMITH: "... irreparable damage. In the event of",
20 something, "the home and all ..."

21 CHAIRMAN: "Associated therewith."

22 MS SMITH: "... associated therewith would have to be ..."

23 CHAIRMAN: "Evacuated."

24 MS SMITH: "... evacuated. Again the Home Office cannot
25 contribute to capital expenditure unless and until

1 satisfied that (a) the remaining monies required are
2 presently available and (b) the funds required for
3 reasonable annual expenditure are or certainly will be
4 available.

5 I am not greatly enamoured of the purpose of this
6 home and regret that I cannot direct the recall of the
7 registration. My hands have been effectively tied in
8 this respect. On the other hand, I cannot allow my lack
9 of approval of the 'object' to ...",

10 and it is not clear what the next bit is. Then
11 there is entries up the side:

12 "And until the", something, "of liability is ..."

13 MS DOHERTY: "The limit."

14 MS SMITH: "... the limit of our liability is found, this --
15 because of necessary ..."

16 Can you just scroll on up, please?

17 "... capital ..."

18 Perhaps -- can we maybe just invert that? Yes.

19 "... the balance of necessary capital ..."

20 It might be easier if we just -- yes.

21 "And the limit of our liability is final, the
22 balance of necessary capital ..."

23 CHAIRMAN: Well, there is no point in trying to interpret
24 this.

25 MS SMITH: No.

1 CHAIRMAN: We will just get the pages with the bits taken
2 off in due course and carry on.

3 MS SMITH: But certainly this is likely to have been the
4 response of the Minister, Mr Hanna. The reason I say
5 that is because if we look at a memo of
6 23rd November 1956 at MNH2661, and again I think this
7 might be Mr Duff, it's a -- says:

8 "For years before 1950 there existed in Lisburn
9 a children's home called The Manor House Home. The home
10 was owned by the Society for Irish Church Missions",
11 and it goes on. The --

12 CHAIRMAN: It is simply a resumé of what we have seen
13 before. Perhaps we could go to the conclusion.

14 MS SMITH: Yes. If I can just go to -- scroll on down to:

15 "The position ..."

16 There, just that second paragraph:

17 "The position, as we saw it in the autumn of 1954,
18 is set out in the paper flagged A in red on the file and
19 it is suggested that it would be worthwhile for the
20 Minister, who necessarily knows little or nothing about
21 the background of this case, to read this and other
22 documents on the file to which special reference will be
23 made rather than to depend entirely upon this present
24 summary. He will, for example, find very interesting
25 the papers flagged at B and B1, which are the review of

1 the case submitted by the Secretary to Mr Hanna on 1st
2 September 1954 and the Minister's reaction thereto."

3 It is that line that leads me to the conclusion that
4 this was the Minister himself writing to say that his
5 hands had been tied by the actions of the Ministry.

6 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

7 MS SMITH: And it goes on to then talk about what happened
8 next, as it were, in that:

9 "Around this time a very important event for the
10 home occurred. A really -- a new, really energetic
11 Committee was appointed. By whom or in what manner
12 I have never been able to find out, although the minutes
13 of the Committee seem to suggest that it was by the
14 Belfast Committee with the approval of London.

15 However, they were appointed, and they began in a
16 most energetic manner to raise money and to plan for the
17 future. Our first contact with this development is
18 indicated in a note of an interview I had with the
19 Secretary on 13th September 1954. At this stage -- it
20 will be seen that at this stage we did not fully
21 appreciate the change that had occurred in the
22 situation, because we anticipated that the case would go
23 into abeyance for an extended period. However,
24 immediately afterwards proposals for some further
25 improvements were submitted by the architect and

1 received our approval."

2 Then it goes on to talk about the -- in May -- 25th
3 May 1956 the secretary of the Committee put forward an
4 appeal to the Ministry for a substantial grant. The
5 Maconachie Committee was in existence at that time.
6 There is a note of a meeting between The Reverend
7 Thompson and Mr Duff about the grant application that he
8 refers to there. I am not going to call it up, but it's
9 at MNH2725, where Mr Duff thought he deflected the Manor
10 House Committee by his comment about putting the grant
11 file away, but, as Dr Harrison makes quite clear in her
12 statement, he'd underestimated this new Management
13 Committee and some six weeks later the Welfare
14 Authorities were informed that the Ministry intended to
15 make a grant of £5,200 to Manor House. That letter to
16 the Welfare Authorities is at 2723. Again I don't think
17 we need to call it up. There were correspondence
18 dealing with plans and amendments to them, as has been
19 discussed. You can see those in the documents at 2716.

20 In August 1955 a story on the renovations to the
21 home was printed in the Belfast Newsletter, which can
22 also be seen at 2716.

23 By this memo of 10th May 1956 there is -- it is
24 clear that the Ministry are seeking to be sure that the
25 home will be a financially viable operation.

1 By letter of 25th May 1956 at 2683, if we could look
2 at that, please, Manor House provides sufficient details
3 to enable the Ministry to refer the application for
4 grant to the Maconachie Committee set up to review and
5 make recommendations on all applications for grants to
6 training schools. Details of that -- I don't think we
7 need to look at them, but they are at 2681 and 2676 to
8 2678. You will recall that the Maconachie Committee was
9 an independent body set up to approve and review such
10 grants.

11 They approved a grant on 30th October 1956. Their
12 approval is at 2671, and then Mr Duff is writing
13 the memory -- memo that we were looking at there to ASC
14 saying that, "The Minister now needs to make
15 a decision". We will see that at 2661. That's the
16 document that I was going through. It then goes on to
17 2663, where he is explaining that:

18 "In the course of the matter Captain O'Neill", who
19 succeeded Minister Maginess, "was approached by a member
20 of the Children's Home Committee, Dr McCann, and had
21 an interview with him, at which I was present. He was
22 successful in exciting the Minister's sympathetic
23 interest and when he was able to convince the Minister
24 that in its new guise the home would not be so much of
25 a closed establishment but would be available for needy

1 and suitable Protestant children originating otherwise
2 than in broken mixed marriages and that indeed they
3 would be prepared to accept children through Welfare
4 Authorities, the Minister promised him substantial
5 financial assistance. At that moment most or all of the
6 gap between the 10,000 that the Committee had been able
7 to raise and the expected total cost of about 16,000 was
8 what was contemplated as grant."

9 Then:

10 "Captain O'Neill is still very interested in this,
11 and following a further telephone conversation he had
12 with Dr McCann after leaving this Ministry, he had me
13 down at his office very recently to tell him what the
14 latest position was. I gave him the latest details as
15 revealed by the Maconachie Committee and told him of its
16 recommendation. I gather that he is hopefully waiting
17 to have the satisfaction of approving an appropriate
18 grant at an early date.

19 So the position now is therefore we have
20 an application from the managers of the home. We have
21 certain plans furnished to us in 1954, which may or may
22 not represent the work that has been done since, and
23 a recommendation by the Maconachie Committee. The next
24 stage must necessarily be a decision at Ministerial
25 level as to whether or not the Committee's

1 recommendation is to be given effect. If such
2 a decision is given in the affirmative, we shall have to
3 refer the matter to our technical advisers with a view
4 to ascertaining whether or not the place is now
5 satisfactory and, if so, what expenditure can be classed
6 as approved expenditure for the purpose of grant. Then
7 we shall have to get the Ministry of Finance approval
8 for whatever grant is assessed and finally we shall have
9 to break the news to the Welfare Authorities (through
10 their association) since one half of whatever grant we
11 pay has to be recouped to us by the local authorities
12 under the Act."

13 He goes on to say that there is not enough money to
14 pay out both Manor House and Nazareth Lodge in the
15 financial year and Nazareth Lodge has a longer
16 outstanding application, and then if we go back
17 a page to the conclusion of that memo:

18 "A number of things have to be done which will
19 occupy a considerable amount of time. It is essential,
20 however, that the crucial Ministerial decision should be
21 available as soon as possible."

22 Then:

23 "Secretary,

24 Mr Duff's minute sets out the position very clearly.

25 If the improvements have been carried out satisfactorily

1 and the Committee is able to raise annually the money
2 necessary to carry on the home, there is no doubt at all
3 that Manor House will be an asset, as there are all too
4 few Protestant voluntary homes available. I have also
5 seen Reverend Thompson and to his proselytising zeal he
6 brings real organising ability. From every point of
7 view, not least the political, I can support Mr Duff's
8 proposals."

9 That's 24th November 1956.

10 The then newly appointed Minister, Mr Topping, is
11 apprised of the situation on 27th November by a minute
12 sheet which is seen at 2659. You will see there that:

13 "The file ..."

14 This is just -- there are two applications, but it
15 says:

16 "The file relates to the Protestant home, which is
17 the Manor House Home in Lisburn.

18 The difficulty here is that, strictly speaking, we
19 can only pay grants in respect of improvements to
20 existing voluntary homes."

21 It goes on:

22 "On the other hand, our argument to the Welfare
23 Authorities has always been that the purpose of these
24 grants is to prevent a home which was running at the
25 passing of the Act closing up with the consequence that

1 the Welfare Authority would have to provide another
2 home in place of it.

3 The facts in regard to this home are set out in
4 detail on the papers in the file to which Mr Duff refers
5 in his minute, but when boiled down, what they come to
6 is that the condition of the home when it came up for
7 inspection was such that we couldn't possibly approve it
8 and in the ordinary course we would have refused it
9 a certificate and thereby wound the place up. As,
10 however, it was on the doorstep of the Minister of Home
11 Affairs, that wasn't a feasible course, and accordingly
12 we let them send the children away to a home in
13 until such time as they were able to improve the
14 amenities of the home there.

15 I don't see that there was anything illegal in this
16 course, but a flavour of illegality arises now that we
17 are asked to pay grants in respect of the money expended
18 in putting the home in order, because we are clearly not
19 entitled to pay grants to enable bodies to set up
20 an approvable home, but only to improve a home.

21 However, all this means in practice is that if the
22 proceeding was to be kept within the letter of the law,
23 what should have been done was the Committee should have
24 done barely enough work to secure that the home would be
25 registered, then brought the children back into it and

1 then proceeded to carry out improvements (to bring the
2 place into the state in which it is now) in respect of
3 which they could have applied for and been given grant,
4 and I really very much doubt whether there is very much
5 to choose from the point of view of strict legality
6 between such a course and the more straightforward one
7 which has been taken.

8 We have not yet inspected the home since these
9 improvements have been carried out and the children are
10 not yet in it, but I think it would be as well that you
11 should be informed of the position before we do this.

12 Assuming then that the home is now fit for children
13 (as it most certainly is) the question then is what part
14 of the expenditure since -- that has been incurred on it
15 since we found it unsatisfactory can be regarded as
16 expenditure."

17 Then there is a discussion about how much should be
18 paid:

19 "I would recommend, therefore, that we take the
20 following steps. In the first instance that we should
21 inspect the home and, if satisfied that it is good
22 enough, to tell the committee that they can start using
23 it as a home and that we will approve it.

24 This having been done, we could then get our
25 architect to look at it and satisfy ourselves that the

1 money spent on the property -- spent on it was properly
2 and economically laid out and ask them to let us know
3 what we might take to be the expenditure that has been
4 incurred over about £10,000 and then pay the grant on
5 that.

6 Secretary, I approve the two recommendations above.
7 I would like to see the papers again before payment is
8 finally authorised.

9 Please see my remarks on another file",
10 which unfortunately we don't have. That I think
11 was the Minister's signature on 3rd December 1956.

12 Dr Simpson, Ms Forrest and the Ministry architect
13 then inspected the home in January 1957 to check the
14 condition of the home and to be sure that money had been
15 properly spent and to advise what amount should be
16 regarded as in excess of £10,000, which would be then
17 the subject of a grant as recommended by the Maconachie
18 Committee. Mr Jackson reported that all three
19 inspectors assured him the home was suitable for
20 occupation and how much had been incurred in excess of
21 £10,000. I am not going to call that up, but there
22 is -- it is at MNH2635 to 2638.

23 Mr Duff sent a memo dated 30th January 1957 at
24 MNH2633 where we see from handwritten notes that his
25 proposed course of action was agreed.

1 The Manor House Management Committee were advised in
2 principle of payment of a grant of 6th February 1957 in
3 accordance with the recommendation of Mr Duff and on
4 15th October 1957 at MNH2605 wrote again asking for
5 a complete statement of expenditure and an update on the
6 progress of the home so that it might be inspected.

7 When it was inspected, it was still being furnished, but
8 by early December the home was ready for reopening and
9 formal approval to reopen the home was given in a letter
10 of 24th December 1957 at 2584. On the same date all the
11 Welfare Authorities were notified of the home being
12 reopened. You will see that subject to adequate
13 staffing arrangements being made, they were authorised
14 to reopen the home for not more than twenty children.

15 Dr Harrison addresses the issue of Ministerial
16 intervention at paragraph 2.10 to 2.17 of her statement
17 at MNH303. She indicates that:

18 "There were four different Ministers ..."

19 This is in response I should say to a question
20 whether the Department accepted -- if we just scroll up
21 slightly, please -- that intervention by the Minister of
22 Home Affairs prevented the recommended deregistration of
23 this home and what more could the Department say about
24 that. She said:

25 "There were four different Ministers for Home

1 Affairs, each from the then Ulster Unionist Party,
2 responsible to the Northern Ireland Parliament for their
3 policies and the decisions of their Departments and
4 hence the decision made in respect of The Manor House
5 Home during the period 1952 to 1957."

6 She sets out the terms of office of the four men
7 whose names have come up in the papers.

8 Paragraph 2.11 she says:

9 "Officials may advise Ministers, but ultimately they
10 are accountable to and required to take instructions
11 from the Minister."

12 She goes on to say the first communication to the
13 Manor House Committee warning that they would have no
14 alternative but to withdraw the home from the register
15 was sent on 8th June. She goes on to talk about the
16 steps taken after that.

17 "Whether as a result of the representations of the
18 new committee or solely because of its own concerns, it
19 would appear that it may have been around the late
20 summer of 1953 that Brian Maginess, the then Minister,
21 instructed officials not to withdraw the certificate.
22 Ministry officials expressed satisfaction that the
23 Children's Act 'had at least cleared out this dump', but
24 by November '53 they're processing a grant application
25 and recognising that a strategic decision had to be

1 taken about the future of the home. By this time Brian
2 Maginess had moved on and a new Minister was in post.
3 Various reasons were attributed to the Minister's
4 decision not to withdraw the home's registration by
5 officials writing at later dates."

6 We have covered those in the documents we have been
7 looking at:

8 "A further consideration is that in the 1950s there
9 continued in Northern Ireland to be sensitivity to the
10 desire for children to be placed within same faith
11 institutions. This is evidenced in the communications
12 of Ministry officials and an example reflected in
13 statute is found in section 72 of the 1950 Act with
14 respect to training schools.

15 If Manor House had closed permanently, the numbers
16 of fully functioning voluntary children's homes in
17 Northern Ireland would have reduced to six Protestant
18 institutions in contrast to eleven Catholic homes. The
19 provision of homes of differing religious persuasion was
20 a relevant consideration. That is not to say a Minister
21 would not also have been mindful of any perceived
22 imbalance in public funding being made available by way
23 of grants to institutions of differing religious
24 persuasion.

25 Although the Minister's decision may well have been

1 influenced by all of these factors, the questions are
2 whether the decision not to withdraw the home's
3 registration or demand the return of its certificate was
4 reasonable and whether his decision had any adverse
5 impact on the lives of children within the home.

6 With regard to the first issue, whilst Ministers
7 must have regard to the advice given by officials, it is
8 the Minister who ultimately has to make the decision,
9 taking into account all relevant factors. These factors
10 would include any view expressed by officials. It is
11 evident that Ministry of Home Affairs officials were not
12 themselves in agreement about what should happen,
13 although Ms Forrest appeared to have remained neutral
14 throughout.

15 With regard to the second question, it is noted that
16 the children in the home were removed to suitable
17 alternative placements within five months from the
18 inspection visit which had highlighted the problems.
19 During these months there was close supervision of the
20 home by the Ministry and standards improved, although,
21 as a result of lack of funds and ineffective management,
22 not sufficiently so to warrant the children remaining
23 there.

24 It should also be noted that whilst George Hanna,
25 Mr Maginess' replacement as Minister, might have had

1 reservations, successive Ministers, Terence O'Neill and
2 Mr Topping, were content to support in principle the
3 re-establishment of Manor House and the Committee's
4 grant application, with Terence O'Neill taking
5 a personal and supportive interest in the matter.
6 Whilst there were considerations about the Ministry
7 acting ultra vires in relation to its ability to provide
8 grants to a children's home that was not a going
9 concern, the fact that it technically retained its
10 registration by not returning the certificate enabled
11 the home's grant application to be considered ultimately
12 by the Ministry of Home Affairs and then by the
13 Maconachie Committee.

14 Having approved the eligibility of the home for
15 grant, the Maconachie Committee suggested that anything
16 spent by the Manor House Committee in excess of 10,000
17 might be regarded as improvements rather than initial
18 expenditure to provide a registerable voluntary home.
19 It therefore recommended grant aid of 70% of the
20 approved costs exceeding £10,000 of the expenditure
21 incurred in the modernisation of the home.

22 The new committee rose to the challenge and against
23 most expectations were able to raise the required
24 funding and recruit suitable and sufficient staff to
25 enable the Ministry of Home Affairs in December 1957 to

1 authorise the Manor House Committee to reopen the home
2 for the reception of not more than twenty children.

3 Following the reopening of the home at the end of
4 1957, papers show that the Management
5 Committee cooperated with Welfare Authorities. Social
6 workers paid visits to those children for whom they had
7 responsibility, and later in its existence the home was
8 inspected by the Social Work Advisory Group. The
9 Management Committee, as you will hear, certainly
10 considered any recommendations made, but did not always
11 follow them, as we shall see when we look at the
12 evidence given to the Hughes Committee.

13 The minutes of the Management Committee from 1956 to
14 1960 are in existence -- sorry -- which would cover the
15 re-opening of the home -- I beg your pardon -- do not
16 appear to be in existence, and I confirmed that with
17 Mr Coulter today. Two minute books were provided to
18 police in 19... -- sorry -- in 2001 and unfortunately
19 lost by the police. They did not, in fact, cover that
20 period, but covered the period from 1970 to closure in
21 1984, but the Inquiry has been provided with minutes
22 covering the period 1960 to 1970, which are in the
23 bundle at MNH3390 to 3867.

24 We could look at some random examples of those, but
25 I am going to leave it to the Panel to examine them

1 themselves, but I would just look at one entry on 19th
2 November 1962 at 3514. You will see that these are now
3 typewritten detailed minutes similar to those that we
4 have seen in some other institutions. It is recorded --
5 the reason I am highlighting this, if we can scroll
6 down, please, through it, there is reference here -- if
7 we can scroll on down to the next page. Yes.

8 "Secretary's house.

9 letter of 10th ..."

10 No, it is not that actually. Somewhere in
11 this minute in any event the tables appear to have been
12 turned somewhat in that we see Manor House Home
13 Committee making a loan to the Irish Church Missions.
14 I think it is at 3515. Yes.

15 " letter was read thanking the
16 Committee for assisting the Irish Church Missions with
17 a temporary loan to tide over the period of a sale of a
18 property and enclosing a cheque for 2727.2.3 in
19 repayment of this amount. This was quite separate from
20 the loan of £2,000 free of interest given by the
21 Committee to the Society for as long as a deputation
22 secretary for the Irish Church Missions was resident in
23 Belfast area. A formal document had been drawn up by
24 Mr Gardiner in conjunction with Mr Merrick. This was
25 now signed by the Chairman of Irish Church Missions and

1 the Chairman of the Manor House Home."

2 At 3806 the minutes record MH9's arrival at Manor
3 House. You will see here that there is reference to her
4 predecessor, MH3:

5 "... who had been in hospital from 2nd November
6 until 21st September, and had written on 4th October
7 a letter of resignation by reason of health, which was
8 further confirmed by another in October '69. Certain
9 problems which had arisen were being dealt with by
10 a subcommittee consisting of the Chairman, Vice
11 Chairman, honorable treasurer and secretary.

12 MH9, on the suggestion of a subcommittee comprising
13 the Chairman, had been released by the Reverend Coates,
14 and had taken over temporarily as acting matron from 4th
15 October 1969. It was proposed that MH9 -- in order
16 to -- at the request of the committee the Vice Chairman
17 and treasurer retired to interview MH9 in order to
18 ascertain if she would be willing to take up the post of
19 matron subject to her being released by the
20 superintendent, and her reply was that she would
21 prayerfully consider accepting the position."

22 We know she does, in fact, accept the position and
23 takes over from MH3 as matron. She remains in that post
24 until she herself becomes ill and dies a short time
25 before Manor House closes in 1984.

1 Now in refers to MH3, who had resigned through ill
2 health, it would appear from other minutes that she had
3 been misappropriating funds. A subcommittee was formed
4 to deal with that matter. The minutes of that can be
5 seen -- I don't think I need to call them up, but they
6 are at 3810, 3815, 3820, 3829 and 3844, which is the
7 last mention of the matter in mid-1970, and the ultimate
8 outcome of whether or not MH3 was pursued through the
9 courts for the monies which it is claimed she owed is
10 not known.

11 Chairman, I am going to move on to talk about the
12 complaints that were received in respect of the home and
13 how they were dealt with.

14 CHAIRMAN: I think we will take a very short break just at
15 this moment. No more than ten minutes.

16 (3.05 pm)

17 (Short break)

18 (3.15 pm)

19 MS SMITH: Chairman, I was going on to discuss the
20 complaints that were received in respect of the home and
21 how they were dealt with. That's discussed at
22 paragraphs 25 to 38 of the Reverend Coulter's statement,
23 which can be seen at MNH161 onwards. The bundle of
24 material shows that prior to the passage of the Children
25 and Young Person's Act in 1950 there had been complaints

1 about how the home was run.

2 If we could look, please, at 2... -- sorry -- 3204,
3 now this is a minute of the Management Committee and it
4 relates to a complaint from 9th August 1946 that two
5 boys had been excessively punished by the

6 , MH 55 . You will see there it says:

7 "A letter was read from MH 56
8 complaining that about 10 o'clock on the night of" -- it
9 gives his address I should say -- "on the night of
10 7th August two boys were -- two boys were lashed with
11 a cane in their beds by MH 55 -- Mrs --
12 MH 55 , . He phoned Canon Taylor
13 and Reverend O'Connor that same evening and to Mr" --
14 I think we are having difficulties with the equipment --
15 "same evening and to Mr O'Connor the statement was made
16 that two boys had been beaten to -- were being beaten to
17 death. He threatened if assurance ..."

18 CHAIRMAN: "Assurances."

19 MS SMITH: "... were not given -- assurances were not given
20 that someone would be kinder to the children, he would
21 send a copy of his letter to the bishop. Mr O'Connor
22 promised to have this matter investigated by the
23 committee and phoned Dr Johnston to examine the boys,
24 which was done on the following morning. Dr Johnston's
25 report was, "No serious injury. No undue violence

1 used". The children had not suffered in any way.

2 MH 55 appeared before the Committee and explained
3 the boys were disobedient, unruly and behaved in a very
4 objectionable manner. She had no option but was
5 reluctantly compelled in the interests of discipline to
6 administer punishment" -- if we can scroll on down,
7 please -- "which was within -- which was" -- yes --
8 "which was neither violent nor unnecessary --
9 unnecessarily severe and should not be judged and
10 condemned according to the outcry made by the children.
11 This explanation, taken in conjunction with
12 Dr Johnston's report, was quite satisfactory to the
13 Committee, who were now convinced that MH 55 was
14 in no way to blame for what had happened. The secretary
15 was directed to reply to MH 56 letter pointing
16 out that no undue punishment was received and marks
17 referred -- and make reference to Dr Johnston's report."

18 Ultimately, as you can see, the Committee decided
19 the complaint was not upheld. It is not clear who
20 MH 56 was.

21 At the October meeting the ICM resolution on
22 punishment was read to the assistant matron, MH1, at
23 2307 -- 3207. Sorry. 3207. You will see here it says:
24 "Punishment.

25 The resolution of ICM regarding the punishment of

1 children was read to MH1 by the -- but the Committee was
2 agreed that this matter could be left to her discretion.
3 MH1 asked for a supply of notepaper with the Manor House
4 heading and it was agreed to order from

5 ."

6 Interestingly, the following January, 1947, the
7 assistant matron, MH 55 , the subject of the
8 original complaint, indicated her intention to resign
9 due to overwork. That's at 3214. She did resign
10 effective from March. That's at 3217. I don't think we
11 need to call it up.

12 If we look at 3226, there is another reference to
13 MH 56 .

14 CHAIRMAN: Just you before we go on to that, at 3207 do we
15 anywhere have an indication of what the resolution said
16 about the punishment of children?

17 MS SMITH: I don't believe so. I would have to go back to
18 the minute book and check through it and pages in and
19 around there. It may well be --

20 CHAIRMAN: Is that something we can look at again?

21 MS SMITH: Yes. As I indicated, the reference to
22 MH 56 , if I can find it on this page ...

23 MS DOHERTY: Towards the end of the second page.

24 MS SMITH: Yes. Yes.

25 "For the preservation of obedience and discipline

1 the matron was lately obliged to administer punishment
2 to one of the boys. The remarks made by the recipient
3 were to the effect that MH 56 did not allow the
4 children to be so chastised. The boys were now brought
5 before the Committee and the Chairman explained that
6 MH 56 had nothing whatever to do in the affairs of
7 the house and the matron being in sole charge, in whom
8 the Committee had every confidence, and no interference
9 by any outsider would be tolerated."

10 So, in other words, MH 56, who from this minute
11 appears to have been someone whether as a visitor to the
12 home or in some way involved with one of the children in
13 the home, has complained about and obviously spoken to
14 the boys about them not being allowed to be beaten, and
15 then that has been cast up to the matron, who then
16 reports to the Committee and the Committee bring the
17 boys in to tell them that matron can administer
18 discipline and no outsider has any role to play in the
19 home.

20 At 2908 there is a note on the departmental file
21 from 13th January 1953 that Antrim Welfare Authority
22 have an adverse report on the home. You will see here
23 it says:

24 "I understand Antrim Welfare Authority have an
25 adverse report on this home."

1 You will understand this is what I was referring to
2 earlier when I was looking at the fact that Antrim
3 Welfare wanted to make sure they were happy with this
4 home before paying any contribution to the grant aid:

5 "We will defer our inspection until we see what they
6 have to say."

7 That's 13th January. Then we have Ms Forrest's note
8 -- I think I maybe have actually looked at this earlier
9 when we were going through that -- who investigated and
10 noted what she was told by the welfare officers.

11 The material that the Inquiry has received from the
12 police discloses that, as I said earlier, in this
13 institution, as in others the Inquiry has been
14 investigating, there was a problem with peer abuse.
15 Pages 6001 to 6189 are the police investigation file
16 into a case of aggravated burglary. I am not sure it is
17 necessary to go into the details. I leave it to the
18 Panel to look at these themselves, but you will recall
19 that the home closed in 1984, and on 20th June 1985
20 a former resident of Manor House, who has been given the
21 designation MH31, who was then aged 17, broke into the
22 home of another ex-resident and assaulted him it
23 transpired in revenge for the fact that that person had
24 repeatedly sexually assaulted him when they were both in
25 Manor House between 1975 and 1980. The boy, MH12, was

1 five and a half years older than MH31, the other boy,
2 and ultimately MH12 himself was the victim of abuse by
3 William McGrath, when he was a resident in Kincora.

4 Police felt that the allegations of sexual activity
5 might impinge on the Kincora Inquiry and directed a full
6 investigation. That can be seen at page 6167. It
7 appears that the boy MH31 spoke to his social worker
8 about the abuse, and in October 1985 the Assistant
9 Director of the Eastern Health & Social Services Board
10 wrote to police asking to be advised of the outcome of
11 the case. We see that at 6015 and again -- they wrote
12 again in January of 1986 at 60112.

13 Now without going into the file police
14 investigations revealed that other former residents were
15 involved in what police described as sexual misbehaviour
16 in the home. They determined that it initially took the
17 form of experimentation and on some occasions progressed
18 as far as buggery. The summary of the investigation and
19 what former residents who spoke to the police said can
20 be found at 6031 to 6043. The DPP directed that no-one
21 should be prosecuted in respect of what had happened in
22 Manor House or in respect of the aggravated burglary due
23 to the lapse of time, the interconnection between the
24 aggravated burglary and the allegations of abuse and the
25 reluctance of anyone involved to pursue the allegations.

1 It is true to say that, when interviewed by police,
2 a number of boys accepted that they had been involved in
3 sexual activity with other boys in the home.

4 In February 2013 MH31, the boy who had spoken to his
5 social worker and who had broken into the older boy's
6 home, contacted police to report the abuse he suffered
7 in Manor House from 1975 to 1980. Police tried
8 unsuccessfully to speak to him and then discovered in
9 June that he had taken his own life in March of that
10 year. That's 2013. That's at 6183.

11 David Jarvis, whose criminal record is at MNH6204,
12 was convicted of indecent assault on a male child in
13 Newtownabbey Magistrates' Court on 2nd December 1982.
14 That related to offences of 22nd January 1982 involving
15 a resident of Barnardo's. He was then subsequently
16 convicted at Lisburn Magistrates' Court on 18th
17 March 1983 and that offence related to the indecent
18 assault of a child who was resident in Manor House and
19 was committed in May 1982 when he was on bail for the
20 offence involving the child who was in the care of
21 Barnardo's.

22 The Department of Health and Social Services wrote
23 to police to ascertain the procedure about disseminating
24 information as to investigations by police to those
25 charged with the care of the child. We can see that at

1 6239 and at 6234 and the police reply then at 6230.
2 Essentially there was discussion -- I am not going to go
3 through these -- there was discussion in the Department
4 of Health & Social Services obviously because of the
5 concern that someone who was on bail for committing
6 offences against one child in a children's home was able
7 then to go on and commit offences in respect of another
8 child who was also resident in a different children's
9 home and what information the police would have been
10 able to provide about that.

11 As you can see, the offences only came to the
12 Department's attention during The Hughes Inquiry and
13 6264 is the letter to police from the Committee of
14 Inquiry and the response at 6263. You will see this
15 is -- just scroll down, please -- it's a letter to
16 Superintendent Caskey, who was involved in
17 investigations into a number of the matters that arose
18 around the time of the Kincora Home incidents coming to
19 light. You will see here that:

20 "The Committee will in due course be dealing with
21 matters arising from offences committed against
22 residents of Barnardo's and Manor House Home, Lisburn",
23 and gives the details there.

24 The police response is at 6263. Sorry. It's going
25 backwards. You will see that police have investigated

1 the offences concerned. There were other offences
2 involving Jarvis which did not relate to children who
3 were in children's homes, but he was ultimately
4 convicted of a more serious offence at Newtownards
5 Magistrates' Court in May 1983 against another boy.

6 The facts of the incident involving the child from
7 Manor House can be seen at 6277 and the child's
8 statement is at 6293. What is clear is that the boy was
9 approached outside the home and indecently assaulted
10 outside. The man then turned up subsequently at Manor
11 House and wanted the boy to go with him some days later.
12 When the child told a staff member what had happened,
13 police were contacted immediately, and that staff
14 member's statement can be seen at 6295.

15 Now I will return to say something more about the
16 boy concerned and other evidence relating to the time he
17 and his family were resident in Manor House shortly, but
18 there's a further file obtained from police which
19 relates to MH20, a man who was a serving soldier and
20 became a voluntary helper at Manor House prior to his
21 discharge from the regular army. He subsequently
22 volunteered at Barnardo's. While police were carrying
23 out investigations in the year 2000 into allegations of
24 abuse at Macedon Children's Home allegations were made
25 against MH20. In the course of their investigations

1 police carried out enquiries to try to identify others
2 who may have been abused by this man and allegations
3 were made by MH41 that he had been abused by MH20 at
4 Manor House when that man visited Manor House over
5 a period of five or six years. He also claimed that the
6 man's wife had had sexual intercourse with him. The
7 police summary of their investigations is at 6343.

8 MH41's statement is at 6379, and he recites a number
9 of instances of sexual abuse by MH20 both in Manor House
10 and at [name redacted] home in Lisburn. It would appear
11 that [name redacted] -- sorry. I inadvertently have
12 used the name, which I will just remind people is not to
13 be used outside this chamber. The man also appeared to
14 have involved his wife in the abuse, and MH41 did not
15 tell anyone of the abuse, and it would seem that he was
16 in -- a resident in Manor House from around 1972.

17 When he was interviewed by police on 12th June 2002,
18 MH20 said that he had come to Northern Ireland in 1969
19 as a soldier. The transcript of his interview is at
20 6401. In 1977 he joined the . He told police that
21 children from Manor House came to visit his home. He
22 admitted visiting Manor House when he had spare time for
23 a couple of hours. He said that he talked to MH9, who
24 was then matron, took children on day trips, played
25 football and admitted that he had feelings for MH41. He

1 admitted abusing MH41 in Manor House and at his own
2 home, although he did not accept all that the boy had
3 alleged happened. His wife was also interviewed and her
4 interview is at 6499. She claimed that she was made to
5 do things by her husband. Ultimately no prosecution was
6 directed on this file on 18th December 2004 and that's
7 at 6334.

8 Now I said I would return to speak about other
9 matters that involved the boy MH23, who was the victim
10 of David Jarvis, and his family. Following receipt of
11 a letter from Social Services at 6567, police
12 interviewed MH25 in October 1985. She alleged that her
13 brother, MH23, had sex with her when both were resident
14 in Manor House. Further questioning by police revealed
15 that what she was actually describing was sexual
16 touching. Her brother was spoken to and he said he had
17 sex once with her in Manor House and his description of
18 what occurred amounted to touching her genitalia. Now
19 these descriptions given by the two when interviewed by
20 police are inconsistent with what each child described
21 to Social Services, which suggests that more than just
22 touching took place in the bedroom at Manor House.
23 Police considered what occurred amounted to sexual
24 exploration and the DPP directed no prosecution on
25 9th January 1986. That's at 6553. Police informed

1 Social Services that that was the position on 23rd
2 January 1986 at 6550.

3 Both this case and that involving MH31, who was the
4 boy who was charged with aggravated burglary, are
5 referred to in a statement provided to the Inquiry by
6 Miss Fionnuala McAndrew, which is dated 22nd December
7 19... -- sorry -- 2015, which is at 329, and
8 specifically from paragraphs 13 onwards. Miss McAndrew
9 exhibits pages from the family's social work statement
10 -- papers to the statement, and in addition to the
11 incident investigated by police in respect of MH23 and
12 MH25 it would appear that MH26, the children's mother,
13 had complained to Social Services in 1980 that her
14 children were being victimised in Manor House, that
15 another child had tried to drown MH25 in a bath, that
16 MH23 had marks on his legs inflicted by a member of
17 staff, MH28, and that the boys, that's MH25 and his
18 brother, alleged they were beaten if they refused to eat
19 food they didn't like. According to his mother, MH23
20 also alleged that staff pulled his hair.

21 Social Services made the home aware of these
22 complaints and investigations were carried out, which
23 are recorded in the exhibits to Miss McAndrew's
24 statement at 343, relating to the drowning incident, and
25 346 in relation to the allegation against the member of

1 staff.

2 I should say that MH9 investigated. If I may just
3 paraphrase and summarise what those investigations were,
4 MH9 spoke to the children about bath time. It
5 transpired that they had been involved in play whereby
6 one child pushed the others underneath the water and
7 none of the children seemed to be upset or distraught by
8 this, and MH9 then advised the other child of the
9 seriousness of such behaviour and the fact that it was
10 dangerous, and Social Services were satisfied and the
11 children's mother seemed satisfied with the explanation
12 ultimately.

13 But it is clear there was a further incident
14 involving MH23 and another child, MH38, which was
15 reported by a third child to staff in the home, who then
16 investigated. At the time, which was September 1982,
17 MH28 compiled a note of the incident for MH9, who was on
18 holiday. We can see this at 10115 to 10123. I think it
19 is worth going through this. Although I will use the
20 names, I just, as I say, remind people they are not to
21 be used outside and before this document is put on to
22 our website it will be redacted. It says:

23 "On Saturday, 4th September was helping
24 in the laundry about 11.00 am and during general
25 conversation mentioned that she had seen MH39 and MH25

1 messaging about in the study on Thursday evening at about
2 6.30 pm. The study door was open a little and therefore
3 saw MH39 on top of MH25. asked ,
4 'Were MH39's trousers and pants down?', to which she
5 replied, 'Yes, miss, and also MH25's'. said she
6 heard MH25 saying, 'Stop it, MH39. It's sore'.
7 waited until they came out of the room and asked them,
8 "What were you two doing in there?" and no reply was
9 given. reported the incident to MH28 at 1.45 pm
10 on Saturday afternoon. At 3.00 pm we discussed the
11 incident with MH35. We all agreed to leave it until we
12 found out more information."

13 and MH35 are other members of staff:

14 "On Sunday, 5th September the staff who were on
15 duty, MH35, MH28 ... got together for a meeting at 3.00
16 pm. We informed other staff about the incident and
17 discussed what had said and wondered if there
18 was any truth in it. We all decided to leave it until
19 Monday morning when we would be able to contact MH39's
20 social worker.

21 MH28 telephoned MH57 at 9.00 am" -- that's
22 the social worker -- "at 9.00 am on Monday morning,
23 informing her about the incident. MH57
24 immediately said it was a serious matter and arranged to
25 visit MH39 at 10.30 am at Manor House.

1 MH57 and I brought MH39 into the office
2 and MH57 talked generally to MH39 about his
3 current family problems. When things got a bit heavy,
4 MH39 said he didn't want to hear any more and got up and
5 stormed out of the office before MH57 was able
6 to mention the incident with MH25. MH39 disappeared for
7 about an hour on his bike. MH57 and I then
8 decided that I should question MH25 to hear her story.
9 We also decided to leave discussing the incident further
10 until MH39 had cooled down. MH57 said she
11 would phone at 4.00 pm.

12 At 3.15 MH25 returned home from school.
13 I immediately brought her into the office and asked her
14 if it was true that MH39 had been messing around with
15 her. She replied quite nervously, 'Yes, miss. How do
16 you know?' I said, 'Well, MH25, we heard that MH39 was
17 messing around with you in the study room. Just tell me
18 what happened'.

19 'Well', she said, 'it happened on Thursday,
20 2nd September at approximately 6.30 pm in the study
21 downstairs. MH39 forced -- forced me down the stairs
22 and into the room. He told me to pull my pants down and
23 then he pulled me -- his down. He then lay on top of
24 me, pushing his thing into me, hurting me'. I then
25 asked her if she enjoyed him doing it to her. She said,

1 'No. It was horrible. I tried to push him off me and
2 told him to stop it'. I then asked her if she was wet
3 or messy. She said, 'Yes, miss. There was a gooey mess
4 on the floor and on my trousers'. I also asked MH25 if
5 MH39 had done this to anyone else in the house. She
6 replied, 'Yes, MH58 '. I asked her, "When did he do
7 it to her?" She said, 'A few months ago'. I then asked
8 if MH27", who would have been MH25's sister, "had been
9 touched by MH39. She said, 'No, but MH38 did it about
10 two years ago to MH27'."

11 Then it is noted:

12 "MH28 phoned Dungannon Social Services leaving
13 a message for someone to get in touch with Manor House."

14 If we can scroll on down:

15 "At 9.00 pm when we hadn't heard from the social
16 worker we decided to phone the senior social worker,
17 informing him about the incident. I asked if we should
18 get MH25 examined by the family doctor, but he thought
19 it best to leave it for the time being. He contacted
20 Mr Leslie Johnston. Mr Forbes phoned back to say they
21 discussed the incident with the police, who said it
22 would be best for social workers to investigate the
23 incident before involving the police. Mr Forbes said he
24 would be in touch in the morning.

25 We then telephoned Mr Johnston", who was

1 a Committee member, "at 10.30 pm and informed him as to
2 what had taken place and he said to phone him if we
3 needed him. He then telephoned Dr McCann, who phoned us
4 at 11.30 to find out what had happened. He felt that
5 MH25 should have been medically examined, but I told him
6 Mr Forbes said to leave that until tomorrow.

7 Tuesday morning 9.00 am this is the boy MH39's
8 social worker arrived to speak to MH39. She chatted
9 with him. MH35 sat in also. MH39 admitted doing this
10 to MH25. He swore he hadn't done this before, but MH25
11 said he had done it at least once before.

12 MH57 explained to MH39 that this was a serious
13 offence he had committed and that he would have to
14 explain things to police. MH39 was upset a bit that it
15 had happened and could give no reasons for doing it.

16 Mr Forbes arrived at 10.00 am. Chatted with MH25.
17 He explained the situation to her. MH 37 ", who
18 would have been the social worker, "spent all day
19 looking for the child's mother and couldn't find her.
20 She arrived at 4.00 pm. Also Mr -- Dr McCann. Police
21 arrived shortly after. MH25, the social worker and
22 member of staff went to the police station to write
23 a statement. She then was medically examined by the
24 police doctor, who said MH25's hymen was not broken but
25 was stretched. There was no bruising that could be

1 seen. MH25 arrived home at 8.30 pm. Mr Forbes had been
2 in touch with MH57 and was pressing for MH39
3 to be removed immediately. If not, he was prepared to
4 take both girls to their home area. Dr McCann said he
5 felt that MH39 was a danger to have around and agreed
6 that MH39 should leave. Army phoned that evening to say
7 that MH39's music audition would be on Thursday morning.

8 MH57, Mr Forbes and staff here all came to the
9 agreement that MH39 stay here until after the interview,
10 but only with great supervision from all staff.

11 Wednesday morning Dr McCann, MH57 and
12 I accompanied MH39 to the police station. MH39 gave
13 police the statement as to how it happened. MH39 stayed
14 around the house and was happy enough about having to
15 leave on Thursday. He packed his things into boxes and
16 had an early night.

17 MH57 felt that the army should not be told
18 about the incident until such time as when it would be
19 necessary. We assured MH39 about this and he seemed
20 happier.

21 MH39 went for interview and medical examination at
22 9.30. At 12.30 the barrack phoned for MH39's medical
23 number. He also said MH39 had done well and had passed
24 both. He has still one more interview to sit later on.

25 At 4.30 MH57 arrived to take MH39 to

1 another children's home, which was only temporary
2 accommodation. MH57 phoned to say MH39 was
3 settling in well. She will be in touch. Mr Forbes and
4 MH 37 found the child MH25's mother, who said
5 that -- Mr Forbes told her about the incident. She said
6 she was in a very -- she was in a very jolly, excitable
7 form, but said she would be -- would have it sorted out.
8 She may be here on 18th.

9 PS. MH9, a similar report has been given to
10 Mr Forbes, who is having it photocopied. He will
11 forward us copies."

12 That's signed by a member of staff. Now this is
13 a longer and different version to that which was given
14 to Mr Forbes and which is annexed to the statement of
15 Miss McAndrew. It is only when one reads the longer
16 version that the memo from Mr Johnston, the Assistant
17 Principal Social Worker, to Mr Moore annexed to Miss
18 McAndrew's statement makes sense in relation to the
19 attitude taken about the boy and that's at 396.

20 The boy's social worker appears to have been the one
21 involved first and it is only later that the social
22 worker for the girl MH25 was contacted or, in fact, her
23 senior was contacted. This seems to be indicating inter
24 alia the attitude of the home that the boy was the
25 injured party rather than the girl. That may be

1 supported by the comment that was made to the child when
2 this member of staff questioned her.

3 The matter appears to have been brought to police
4 attention. MH25 was medically examined. There are
5 papers at 10120 to 10121, but to date the Inquiry has
6 not received any police papers relating to this
7 investigation. So I cannot say exactly what happened,
8 although when giving evidence to the Hughes Inquiry,
9 Mr Johnston, the Honorary Secretary of the Management
10 Committee, agreed with counsel to that Inquiry,
11 Mr Kennedy, QC, that police said to leave it to the
12 social worker.

13 Now as Miss McAndrew recounts at paragraph 13.5 of
14 her statement, in 1984 police in Lisburn contacted
15 Social Services to check whether Social Services had
16 heard anything about MH27, another child of the family,
17 whose name I am going to use, MH27, being sexually
18 abused while in Manor House. The indication given by
19 Social Services was not to the knowledge of the Senior
20 Social Worker, who was Mr Forbes.

21 However, looking at the document that we have just
22 gone through, it is clear that MH25 was making
23 an allegation that MH27 had been involved in something
24 inappropriate with the brother of the other boy, MH38,
25 in 1980.

1 MH28, the member of staff, makes it clear in this
2 postscript that the person to whom she gave a similar
3 report was, in fact, the same Mr Forbes. So Social
4 Services had some information that there was
5 an allegation involving MH27, but did not, in fact,
6 remember that when they were asked by police some years
7 later.

8 There is no evidence that the Inquiry has seen to
9 determine whether any investigations were carried out on
10 foot of the comment by MH25 about MH27 and it appears
11 that it was three years later when MH27 herself was in
12 another children's home that she first made a disclosure
13 herself relating to her time in Manor House.

14 Now I can turn to say something about inspections of
15 Manor House and hopefully I can deal with those before
16 we finish today, but minutes of the Management
17 Committee meetings do make the occasional reference to
18 visits by people from ICM in London, but it is unclear
19 whether these were in any way seen as inspections by
20 either the home or the ICM headquarters or were simply
21 courtesy visits.

22 The statement of Dr Hilary Harrison, to which I have
23 already referred, addresses the issue of what
24 departmental inspections were carried out in respect of
25 Manor House. Prior to the registration of the home in

1 1950 there is no formal evidence by way of inspection
2 reports that the home was inspected at any time by
3 anyone from the Welfare Authorities or Ministry of Home
4 Affairs. As Dr Harrison points out at paragraph 2 of
5 her statement at page 300:

6 "There is no reason to suppose that inspections were
7 not done."

8 While departmental records do not exist anymore to
9 say what occurred when Manor House reopened in 1958, the
10 Inquiry may think it unlikely, given the events that led
11 to its closure, that the Ministry did not continue to
12 take an interest in the home.

13 Dr Harrison at paragraph 1.7 makes reference to
14 entries in the minutes of the Manor House Management
15 Committee and diary which clearly show there was
16 interaction and inspection between the Ministry and the
17 home. I am not going to read it out, but it is there on
18 the screen.

19 Further, in evidence to The Hughes Inquiry, to which
20 I shall turn shortly, the suggestion is that Ms Forrest
21 was a regular visitor to the home over the years. The
22 Hughes Report referred to the home having been inspected
23 by the Social Work Advisory Group twice in 1978, once in
24 1979 and then in 1981. It is clear that Manor House
25 along with other children's homes was inspected in 1981

1 by the Social Work Advisory Group following on from the
2 plan for more regular inspections. That's at 2147. You
3 will see -- sorry. At 2147 to 2151 we see the timetable
4 for inspection of those homes and that for Manor House
5 is at 2151.

6 Further, we can see a memo at 2250 to 2251 from C.C.
7 Walker, who was a departmental official in 1984, to
8 Mr Kevin McCoy, where he details the visits he made to
9 Manor House as well as to other homes between 1980 and
10 1984. I think if we scroll down, we can see -- maybe it
11 was further up -- Manor house, yes. You will see that
12 he was there throughout a number of occasions in '82,
13 '83 and '84.

14 The SWAG report of 1981 can be found at 10194 to
15 10232. The inspection was carried out in late
16 September 1981 and this was just three years before the
17 home closed. We can see from the evidence given to the
18 Hughes Inquiry, to which I shall refer shortly, some
19 changes were made on foot of the recommendations made in
20 this report. As this report seems to be the only one
21 still in existence, I think it is appropriate to look at
22 certain sections of it.

23 If we look at 10198, paragraph 2.2 there shows that
24 the inspectors had full access to all records and the
25 opportunity to speak informally with the children.

1 Paragraph 3 of the report describes the physical
2 layout of the home in 1981 and suggests that, with the
3 exception of the improvements which were grant aided in
4 the early 1950s and the provision of staff
5 accommodation, the structure of the home had changed
6 very little during its period of operation.

7 At paragraph 3.5 it is described as being rather
8 austere.

9 Paragraph 5 outlines how the home is run and managed
10 by the ICM and in paragraph 5.3 reference is made to the
11 role of the official collector, the person who was paid
12 on a commission basis for raising funds for the home,
13 and we have already seen how important this person was
14 in funding the home. The members of the Committee are
15 outlined there.

16 Paragraph 5.5 discusses the separation of the
17 Management Committee and matron and the impact this has
18 on the operation of the home.

19 "The management subcommittee interviews and appoints
20 the home's staff, and although matron's opinion about
21 a prospective employee may be sought informally, she
22 does not participate directly in the staff selection
23 procedure. We were surprised to find that MH9 was not
24 consulted about or given copies of the information which
25 was made available to us prior to the inspection. She

1 told us that she had not seen the statement of the aims
2 and objectives of the home. We formed the impression
3 that the division of responsibility between MH9 and the
4 Management Committee was rather unclear and there was
5 a blurring of their respective roles. It is our view
6 that as the functional manager responsible for the
7 running of the home the matron should be a full
8 participant in all policy discussions relating to the
9 home. Failure to recognise her responsibility for the
10 professional work in the home tends to result in
11 an encroachment by the Management Committee into the
12 care giving function. The reaction of the matron to
13 this intrusion is demonstrated by her
14 over-protectiveness towards the children and her
15 favourable disposition towards the ancillary staff."

16 In 1981 it is clear that all the staff, with the
17 exception of the gardener, were female.

18 Paragraph 6 of the report highlights the need for a
19 review of the staffing structure while recognising
20 management's commitment to staff training. It is noted
21 that staffing levels fell well below the Castle Priory
22 standard.

23 The home's aims and objectives are set out in
24 paragraph 7 and at paragraph 7.2 it was recorded that:

25 "It was a pleasure to meet children whose good

1 manners would have done credit to many adults. The
2 staff influence is such in the best sense that
3 organisational controls are seldom required."

4 Paragraph 8 goes on to describe the routine in the
5 home, some of which was subject to comment by the
6 inspectors at paragraph 8.3 onwards, and we see things
7 that they commented upon were the use of a whistle to
8 summon children at meal times, waking children at night
9 to avoid bedwetting, seating children according to
10 portion size and controlling the pocket money
11 allocation. Paragraph 8.9 deals with the issue of
12 punishment and 8.10 refers to the last use of corporal
13 punishment recorded and the need to strictly observe the
14 voluntary homes regulations.

15 In passing I should say in the bundle at 2541 to
16 2543 we can see examples of quarterly returns re
17 corporal punishment that were made in 1978, some
18 examples, '78, '81 and '80. It includes the one that is
19 referred to by the Social Work Advisory Group in its
20 paragraph 8.

21 Record-keeping is discussed in paragraph 9 and:

22 "While the statutory records were kept
23 satisfactorily, there was room for improvement in
24 keeping case files and personal records on the children
25 and allowing access to information to the staff."

1 The involvement of Social Services in the home is
2 recounted at paragraph 10, which again suggests that
3 there was room for improvement.

4 Paragraph 11 describes the contact children had with
5 the local community. The inspectors comment in
6 paragraph 5 about the fact that the children in Manor
7 House were there long-term and that the future of Manor
8 House depended on its ability to cater for the trend of
9 older and more difficult children being received into
10 care. The Inquiry has been told that the reason for
11 closure was because of the downturn in admissions,
12 thereby rendering the home financially unsustainable,
13 and the Inquiry may consider that part of the downturn
14 may have been in part due to an inability to change with
15 the times.

16 Paragraph 13 sets out the inspectors'
17 recommendations.

18 The layout of the home is seen in the appendices to
19 this report at 10227 to 10229. Appendix 4 at 10230 sets
20 out the staff complement together with the experience
21 and qualifications. I see the plans of the home are
22 there on the screen. Appendix 5 shows the ages of the
23 children and how long they had been resident.

24 The social work advisory report was provided to the
25 Hughes Inquiry by the Chairman of the Management

1 Committee when he was asked for a written submission.
2 If we look at 10063 and 10065, that's the letter to
3 Dr McCann from The Hughes Inquiry and the next -- second
4 page then at 65, 10065, is his response, which is to the
5 effect that as a voluntary home they don't have
6 secretarial staff to undertake the work involved in
7 providing the required information.

8 "My committee will be happy to meet and discuss the
9 situation. We don't have authority to make files
10 available as the children concerned were placed in our
11 care by Eastern and Southern Health & Social Services
12 Boards, to whom we are responsible.

13 While a child in our care was subjected to
14 homosexual advances outside our home, it was due to the
15 vigilance of our caring staff that the matter was
16 promptly reported to the RUC, who apprehended the man in
17 question. The Southern Health & Social Services Board
18 were fully informed of this incident and are in
19 possession of the details.

20 Due to the present policy to foster children rather
21 than place them in care, our numbers have declined and
22 our future as a children's home is uncertain.

23 I enclose a copy of the report of the Social Work
24 Advisory Group on the home and I trust that this will
25 meet with your requirements."

1 A written submission, however, dated 28th April 1984
2 was, in fact, provided and it is at 10074.

3 At 10076 it is clear that following the death of MH9
4 in April 1983, the Management Committee were unable to
5 find a suitable replacement. She had been employed as
6 matron from 1969, as we have seen, and had worked in
7 that role until she became ill.

8 At 10079 the submission states that what, if any,
9 action was taken on the recommendations of the Social
10 Work Advisory Group. Interestingly the committee
11 decided to maintain the whistle for calling children to
12 meals and to continue to wake the bedwetters. If we
13 scroll down to paragraph 15, it says:

14 "It was found to be impossible to summon the
15 children for meals by means other than the use of
16 a whistle. Assembling outside the dining room, however,
17 was discontinued. After much deliberation by staff and
18 Committee it was decided not to make this arrangement.
19 The children were usually unaware that they had been
20 taken to the toilet."

21 The home did, in fact, close on 1st November 1984.
22 We can see that at 10068. The Inquiry may wonder
23 whether this was purely due to a decline in the numbers
24 or whether there were any other factors that led to the
25 decision to shut the home. As I suggested, an inability

1 to modernise may have led to a downturn in placements.
2 Another factor may well have been the difficulty in
3 replacing MH9.

4 One other matter that may have affected the view of
5 the Management Committee may well have been the adverse
6 publicity that arose in March 1984. You will recall the
7 social work papers involving MH26, the mother of the
8 children MH23, 25 and 27, about whom I spoke a short
9 time ago when outlining police material. She contacted
10 Jack Hassard, who was her local Justice of the Peace.
11 He then wrote to the then Secretary of State, Jim Prior,
12 about the cases of the boy and his sister, MH23 and 25.
13 If we look at 10132, this is his letter to Mr Prior
14 where he says that -- having spoken to the children's
15 mother, he says:

16 "The boy's sister was raped a couple of months later
17 by an inmate."

18 He says:

19 "
20 ."

21 He, in fact, spoke to the , which

22

23 , and you will see that Mr Hassard is reported as
24 calling for the home to be shut down and a full inquiry
25 held into how it was run.

1 An extract from the Belfast Telegraph in October
2 1984 at 10260 simply states that the home was no longer
3 financially viable.

4 Mr Hassard also wrote to Judge Hughes in June 1984
5 enclosing his file on this particular case. That's at
6 10129. The reason for including Manor House in its
7 investigations are clearly stated in
8 a Committee briefing note at 10258 and you will see
9 related to the issue of David Jarvis' abuse of MH23.

10 On 2nd November 1984 the Secretary to the Hughes
11 Inquiry wrote offering to meet Dr McCann, then Chairman
12 of the Management Committee, an offer that appears to
13 have been accepted according to a file note of same at
14 10244, and that was followed by a letter of
15 22nd March 1985 at 10242.

16 Evidence was given orally by Mr William Johnston,
17 who was the Honorary Secretary of the Management
18 Committee, to the Hughes Committee on 18th April 1985
19 and the transcript of his evidence is at MNH10137 to
20 10165. If we could go to that, please. I am not going
21 to go through all of this, but he was asked about the
22 respective roles -- the transcript of his evidence, as
23 I say, are on these pages. He was asked about the
24 respective roles of the Management Committee and matron
25 and about the qualifications and recruitment of staff.

1 In answer to Mr Fee, who was then junior counsel to
2 the inquiry, at 10144 Mr Johnston indicated that the
3 home was unable to improve the staff/child ratio due to
4 financial difficulties and stated that the home was
5 running at a loss of some £30,000 per year. If we can
6 just scroll down, I think it is at letter F or G. Yes.
7 He indicates that the Management Committee would have
8 liked to improve it, but they weren't able to do so,
9 because they were running at a loss of something like
10 30,000 a year.

11 Then at -- from Mr Johnston's evidence it is clear
12 that MH9, who was matron for a large period of the
13 home's operation, had a great degree of control over the
14 running of the home. If we look at 10146 at letter H
15 onwards, there is discussion about the types of files
16 that were kept and about the inspection by the Social
17 Work Advisory Group and the only person who would have
18 access to the files was MH9 up until that time. He is
19 asked then:

20 "Q. Was there any change in that system between the
21 time of the SWAG report and the time of the home
22 closing?

23 **A. Yes. MH9 was persuaded to open the files and**
24 **also we opened, as I say, a small personal file. She**
25 **thought junior members of staff should not -- she at**

1 first conceded to senior members of staff having it, and
2 then we opened a personal file to be kept by junior
3 members, and then eventually files were opened up to all
4 members.

5 Q. In other words, prior to the home closing down
6 the situation was that the personal file in relation to
7 any particular child was open to any member of caring
8 staff?

9 A. It was opened up and especially to the key
10 worker."

11 He goes on to ask that any information the
12 Management Committee got was from MH9, about personal
13 files and what other records. There was a desk diary
14 kept. Then he goes on to talk about the designation A5
15 and that was MH23.

16 He also indicates that -- essentially he is
17 indicating that MH9 had to be persuaded into changing
18 her practices with regard to who should see the files on
19 the children and he also advised that on closure of the
20 home records were destroyed by the acting officer in
21 charge.

22 At 10148 he describes how complaints were dealt with
23 in the home and again matron seems to have had a large
24 degree of autonomy:

25 "Q. What about complaints by children? Was there

1 any formal procedure in relation to complaints?

2 A. Any complaint that the children made to me was
3 investigated first of all with matron and then brought
4 to the Chairman and the Committee.

5 Q. If a child made a complaint to you, for example,
6 about having been struck by a member of staff, what
7 would your normal procedure have been in relation to
8 a compliant like that?

9 A. The first thing would be that I would approach
10 matron and ask matron was she aware of it, and we would
11 then have spoken to the member of staff concerned and
12 investigated there to see what actually happened.

13 Q. Would there have been a report to the Management
14 Committee ...?

15 A. If the thing was found to be proven, yes, we
16 would have gone to the Management Committee and reported
17 to them."

18 There was no written procedure in respect of
19 complaints before the SWAG report.

20 At the bottom of the page he is asked about visitors
21 to the home and indicated that a child would not be
22 permitted to leave the home without the approval of the
23 Committee and Social Services.

24 At 0151 Mr Johnston is questioned by Mr Kennedy, QC
25 on behalf of the Committee of Inquiry and gives some

1 more information about MH9 and her interaction with the
2 Management Committee, describing her as "a very auocratic
3 (sic) person -- autocratic person". I beg your pardon.
4 That's page 10151. This is it right from the start. It
5 says:

6 "The Social Work Advisory Group seems to have found
7 their -- that there seemed to be some confusion in the
8 interrelation between the Management Committee and the
9 matron. Could you explain how that might have arisen?
10 First of all, do you accept that there was some sort of
11 confusion in it?"

12 His reply is:

13 "I don't think there was as much confusion as the
14 Social Work Advisory Group thought.

15 Q. Do you accept that they did think there was
16 some?

17 A. Yes. I think possibly matron was a very
18 autocratic person, a person of strong personality, and
19 I think whenever I took over as honorary secretary, she
20 ran the home and the Committee were on the sidelines
21 almost at that time. She did not I think feel that the
22 Committee should be interfering with the care of
23 children.

24 Q. Is that because she felt through her experience
25 she knew about it?

1 **A. That she knew better.**

2 Q. Did you find that situation entirely acceptable?

3 **A. No, I did not.**

4 Q. Were there any difficulties in policy as between
5 the late MH9 and yourself in the administration of the
6 home because of that?

7 **A. At times, yes.**

8 Q. Did that mean really that through the force of
9 her personality she was effectively the managing
10 authority of the home and the Committee were put very
11 much in the position of an advisory body?

12 **A. I think she would have tried to do this.**

13 CHAIRMAN: And that was part of the complaint of
14 SWAG, wasn't it?

15 **A. Yes.**

16 MR KENNEDY: And she had succeeded largely?

17 **A. I think possibly at one time she had, yes.**

18 Q. I take it that ..."

19 The technology is not playing ball this afternoon.

20 "Q. I take it that the Committee didn't formally
21 delegate to her any powers in that regard? They
22 regarded her as their appointment, they the appointees?

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. In your submission you said the Committee had
25 the administration authority to administer the home and

1 you gave examples in your submission. I was wondering
2 why you gave those examples."

3 Mr Kennedy was asking was it right that everything
4 else had been delegated to matron, but he disputed that
5 and said those were just things that he thought of on
6 the next page.

7 The report -- exchange goes on to discuss findings
8 in the SWAG report and Mr Johnston conceded that some of
9 the Management Committee were not sufficiently modern in
10 their approach to child care. That's at 10155.

11 "Q. How can I best put this? They weren't
12 sufficiently modern -- sufficiently modern in their
13 approach to child care to appreciate?

14 **A. Some of them, yes, possibly.**

15 Q. Was it your experience that once people had been
16 appointed to the Committee, because they were people of
17 undoubted generosity and generally very respectable
18 people, that they tended to serve on the Committee for
19 a very lengthy period?

20 **A. I suppose the majority of them did, yes.**

21 Q. Even though some of them, with the best will in
22 the world, might not have been the most sensitive to
23 modern child care needs -- some, not all?

24 **A. Possibly, although I know of one or two who**
25 **dropped from the Committee, because I think their views**

1 **were not the views of modern child care.**

2 Q. That is something of difficulty, is it, in
3 a voluntary home where you get very well intentioned,
4 very devoted people sincerely holding views which could
5 be regarded as misguided?

6 **A. Possibly, yes."**

7 Then there is a discussion about the lack of reviews
8 that were held in respect of the children placed in
9 Manor House by Social Services and responsibility for
10 sorting this out appears to have been left to MH9.
11 That's at 1058 and 1... -- sorry -- 10158 and 10159,
12 just at the bottom there about:

13 "Q. Was there a six monthly review of each child in
14 the home?

15 A. Not always. MH9 did complain in earlier years
16 of a lack of review insofar -- that Social Services did
17 not manage to.

18 Q. Whose responsibility was it to set up the review
19 meeting?

20 **A. Social Services. It was their responsibility.**

21 Q. Is that the field social worker?

22 **A. Yes. Then we were notified and it was held in
23 the premises in general working hours."**

24 **Scroll on down:**

25 "Q. SWAG reported that the files in the homes did

1 not seem to contain up-to-date information from the
2 Boards. Do you accept that seems to have been so?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Did your Committee make it your business to ask
5 the various Boards for up-to-date information or just
6 rely on the Board to provide it?

7 A. No. MH9 was asked to follow this up and get the
8 information."

9 This is somewhat at odds with the SWAG report at
10 paragraph 10.1, where it is recorded that matron was
11 generally being satisfied with this report being
12 provided by the Boards, because she seems to have been
13 unhappy about the lack of six-monthly reviews.

14 At 10160 it is recorded that corporal punishment
15 effectively ceased in the home after the SWAG report.

16 Then at 10162 Mr Johnston is cross-examined by Mr
17 Weir, QC, as he then was, on behalf of the Heath and
18 Social Services Board. We learn more about the
19 departmental interaction with the home. That's at
20 101... -- yes. Mr Johnston is reluctant to criticise
21 the Department in any way. He goes on to say that
22 Ms Forrest was a regular visitor to the home. Mr Weir
23 says:

24 "We have heard a lot about Ms Forrest over the
25 years. Tell me, did Ms Forrest ever produce to you

1 a document with --

2 A. I should say that Ms Forrest did not deal with
3 the Committee.

4 Q. Who did she deal with?

5 A. MH9.

6 Q. In other words, she came and chatted to MH9?

7 A. I think from what MH9 said that she criticised
8 quite a lot at times.

9 Q. Then MH9 told you what Ms Forrest had
10 criticised?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And then what did the Committee do?

13 A. If we felt that there was something we could
14 change, we did it.

15 Q. But if you felt it was something that was a bee
16 in Ms Forrest's bonnet you didn't necessarily change it?

17 A. No. I think we felt that if we agreed with it,
18 we would change it, or if we disagreed with it, we would
19 ..."

20 It goes on then:

21 "Q. To my view there is a most bizarre
22 recommendation or response to a recommendation in the
23 SWAG report at page 6 of your document. It appears that
24 your method of calling people for their meals was to
25 blow a whistle, and when you got everybody assembled,

1 they all lined up outside the dining room and they
2 trooped in. When they got inside, they all sat at
3 tables according to who ate what quantities of food. In
4 other words, those who ate large helpings sat at one
5 table and those who ate more modestly sat elsewhere.

6 A. That was vaguely what happened.

7 Q. With great respect, it does not seem to me as
8 though that approximates in the least to any sort of
9 ordinary family atmosphere.

10 A. I think MH9's idea was that she did not give a
11 large helping to a very small child. Therefore she felt
12 that if a small child sat next to a large child with
13 a large helping, that wasn't very pleasing, whereas if
14 the child was sitting at a table where everybody had
15 small helpings, it was happier.

16 Q. It looked as though the Committee endorsed that
17 point of view?

18 A. Yes. I think we did not see any real problem
19 about it."

20 In typical form Mr Weir then says:

21 "There wasn't a man dressed in a uniform ladling out
22 food in a big kitchen?

23 A. Not at this stage, no. Maybe in earlier years
24 there was."

25 If we can scroll on down:

1 **"Q. There is the other habit of lifting children in**
2 **the middle of the night.**

3 **A. Not in the middle of the night, no. At about**
4 **11.30 at night.**

5 Q. May I ask you in your own family would you think
6 of doing that except with a small child?

7 **A. It was everybody that was lifted. It was only**
8 **those who wet the bed who were lifted and given the**
9 **opportunity to go to the toilet.**

10 Q. Even after the Social Work Advisory Group drew
11 your attention specifically to the possibly damaging
12 consequences of pursuing this policy, the Committee in
13 its wisdom decided it would carry on as it had been
14 going?

15 **A. Correct. We felt that while the Social Work**
16 **Advisory Group felt it was damaging possibly, we on our**
17 **own Committee had two doctors and we asked them what**
18 **they felt, and they had done the same with their**
19 **children at some stages, and most of the children did**
20 **not even remember being lifted."**

21 Then there is talk about carpets instead of
22 linoleum. Then:

23 **"Q. So far as relations between social work staff**
24 **and the caring staff in the home were concerned, were**
25 **the social workers encouraged to make direct contact**

1 with the caring staff or was all their contact
2 channelled through matron?

3 A. Originally it was all channelled through matron.

4 Q. Why was that?

5 A. Because matron felt that, as I say, there were
6 secrets in the children's files that should not be made
7 known to junior staff.

8 Q. It is jolly difficult for junior staff?

9 A. Correct. Yes, I agree."

10 Then Mr Weir says:

11 "It sounds really as if matron is not altogether to
12 the forefront of modern thinking in child care,
13 Mr Johnston. Would that be fair? One hesitates to
14 criticise the lady in her absence, but just from what
15 you have said and reading between the lines.

16 A. As I say, she was one of the old school in child
17 care.

18 Q. Was it the old unqualified school?

19 A. Well, unqualified on paper, yes."

20 The Chairman intervenes to say:

21 "19th century it sounds to me."

22 Then there is no cross-examination.

23 The Committee of Inquiry dealt with Manor House in
24 chapter 12 of its report, which can be found at 10275 to
25 10277. The chapter deals with the incidents involving

1 the two children, the victim of David Jarvis and
2 , and commends the staff for acting appropriately
3 in each case, that neither incident -- and says that
4 neither incident could have been foreseen or prevented
5 by staff.

6 The report then goes on to consider the management
7 and monitoring of the home, visits on behalf of the
8 administering authority and inspections by the Social
9 Work Advisory Group at paragraph 12.17, if we can scroll
10 down, please. That's at 10277. It says:

11 "But we find that the Management Committee did not
12 comply with the letter of the 1975 regulations in
13 respect of visits and reports. The reports required by
14 the regulation should have been formally minuted.
15 However, it was clear from our scrutiny of the
16 Management Committee's minutes that it did take
17 an active, continuous and detailed interest in the
18 running of the home. The minutes dealt not only with
19 issues relating to the physical conditions and amenities
20 of the home, but also with individual children resident
21 in it."

22 It goes on to say:

23 "In the period 1978 to '83 SWAG inspected Manor
24 House on two occasions, in July '78 and September '81.
25 The first inspection was carried out by Mr O'Kane and

1 the second by Messrs Armstrong, O'Brien and O'Kane. In
2 addition, Mr O'Kane visited the home in January and
3 August '78 and in July '79 and Mr Walker of SWAG made
4 a follow-up visit to the 1981 inspection in
5 December 1982. The 1978 report followed the pattern
6 established in 1976. The 1981 report reflected the
7 greatly extended scope of inspections from 1980.

8 We find the frequency of SWAG inspections for the
9 1978 to '83 period to be no more than adequate. The
10 substantial development of the inspections as reflected
11 in the December '81 report predated the incidents to
12 which we have referred. In any event SWAG's inspections
13 could have had no direct bearing on the prevention of
14 such incidents."

15 Chairman, Panel Members, that concludes what I wish
16 to say about Manor House in opening this module of
17 evidence. It only remains for me to thank those members
18 of the legal team and the administrative staff involved
19 in the preparation of the bundle of evidence for this
20 module.

21 In that regard I would like to pay particular credit
22 to Miss McGrenaghan, who has sat beside me throughout
23 today and who virtually single-handedly has taken
24 responsibility for this module of evidence.

25 Tomorrow we will hear from two witnesses who no

I N D E X

1	
2	
3	Opening remarks by CHAIRMAN2
4	Opening Remarks by COUNSEL TO THE2
5	INQUIRY
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	