
HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at
Banbridge Court House
Banbridge

on Wednesday, 6th January 2016

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 174)

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

1 Wednesday, 6th January 2016

2 (10.00 am)

3 WITNESS HIA365 (called - by video link)

4 CHAIRMAN: Well, ladies and gentlemen, as always, can

5 I remind you if you have a mobile phone, please ensure
6 it is either turned off or placed on "Silent"/"Vibrate",
7 and also that no photography is permitted either in the
8 chamber or anywhere on the premises.

9 MS SMITH: Chairman, we have had some technological
10 difficulties this morning and our first witness is on
11 the screen in double vision I am afraid. He is HIA365.
12 He is "HIA365". HIA365 wishes to take a religious oath
13 and he will also wishes to maintain his anonymity.

14 HIA365, can I ask you to speak into the microphone
15 when you are speaking to us, because we have to get
16 a note of all that you say.

17 **A. I'll try.**

18 Q. Thank you.

19 WITNESS HIA365 (sworn)

20 CHAIRMAN: Thank you have very much.

21 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

22 MS SMITH: Now, HIA365, as I explained to you earlier, I am
23 just going to tell the Panel Members where some
24 documents are in our bundle of papers relevant to your
25 evidence.

1 HIA365's statement can be found at MNH007 to 012.

2 The Irish Church Missions' response is at 053 to
3 067.

4 There's a Health & Social Care Board response
5 statement at 08... -- sorry -- 068 to 069 indicating
6 that they have no records in respect of HIA365 or his
7 family, as this was a private placement in Manor House.

8 There is also a letter from the Health & Social Care
9 Board in the bundle at 13001, which is in response to
10 a query about a minute in the -- sorry -- a minute of
11 the Management Committee that the advice of the Welfare
12 Authority was sought in relation to these children.

13 Now, HIA365, can I just confirm that you have now
14 got a copy of your statement of evidence?

15 **A. I do, yes.**

16 Q. Right. Okay. Well, I am going to ask that it be called
17 up on our screen here, HIA365. That's 007, please.

18 HIA365, can I just ask you to confirm that you
19 signed the statement I think it is on 27th June 2014?

20 **A. That is correct.**

21 Q. And this is the statement of evidence that you have
22 given to the Inquiry that you want them to consider
23 together with anything else that you talk about with us
24 today. Is that correct?

25 **A. That is, yes.**

1 Q. Well, your personal details are set out in paragraph 1
2 of your statement, HIA365, and I am just going to ask
3 that we look at another statement or -- sorry -- another
4 document, which is at 042, and I know that you have
5 a copy of that, which is the record -- if we could just
6 invert that, please, this is the record of the admission
7 of you and your family to Manor House. I am just going
8 to remind people here that there are details that we can
9 see on the screen that are not to be repeated outside of
10 this chamber.

11 Your father -- the name of you and your two brothers
12 are recorded there together with your father's name,
13 your dates of birth, your religion, the date that you
14 were admitted to Manor House, which -- sorry. This is
15 actually the second document. If we could go to 057 and
16 invert that, please, and again if we just go -- there is
17 **MH 4**, HIA290 and HIA365, your dates of birth, your
18 religion, your date of admission, which was 17th
19 February 1964.

20 Can I just pause, because I am having the same
21 problems as I had yesterday with my screen and I think
22 there's -- we have discovered that there's a loose wire
23 that needs to be sorted. So hopefully that can be done,
24 but I'll carry on in the meantime.

25 CHAIRMAN: Well, perhaps can you use this screen.

1 MS SMITH: Yes. That might be -- that might be easier while
2 it is being sorted. Thank you very much. Yes.

3 HIA365, it is recorded that this was a divorce case.

4 "Father has custody of the children. Father will
5 pay for the children £2.10.0 each per week. Father
6 consented that boys attend the Church of Ireland."

7 Then there's a handwritten or -- sorry -- a more
8 lightly written total of it looks like £41 was paid
9 maybe at the outset of your entry into Manor House.
10 I am just using this to show the kind of record-keeping
11 that was kept by the home in respect of you and your
12 family, HIA365.

13 But we also have a minute from the Management
14 Committee about your admission, and we can see that at
15 2036, please. You will see there it says that:

16 "MH 4 , HIA290 and HIA365, aged 10 and twins 9 years
17 respectively, had also been admitted on the day of the
18 meeting at their father's request. As a result of
19 the divorce the father had been given custody of the
20 children and it was therefore necessary for the boys to
21 be taken into care. The father promised to contribute
22 the sum of £2.10.0 per child per week and had given
23 permission for the boys to attend the Church of Ireland,
24 although members of the Baptist Church. They had
25 arrived from two weeks prior to admission."

1 Now we know that you were almost 10 when you went to
2 Manor House. At paragraph 3 of your statement at 008
3 you say that when you arrived, you were very ill, as you
4 had come from a hot climate to a bitterly cold one. You
5 say you were dark skinned children and you developed
6 chronic asthma and spent a lot of time in MH3's, who was
7 the matron of the home, in her bed, as she was looking
8 after you. She was good to you from what you can
9 remember. You weren't allowed out to play with the
10 other children very often, because you were sick all the
11 time and you were segregated from the other children
12 because of that. You can't recall how many children
13 were in Manor House when you were there. Now we know
14 that the maximum there would have in the home around
15 that time was twenty. Would that be roughly about the
16 numbers that you could remember, HIA365?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You talked about MH3. We have seen documentation that
19 has been provided by the Irish Church Missions, which
20 shows that she actually drove you to school on
21 occasions, but when I was talking to you earlier, you
22 don't actually remember her doing that. Isn't that
23 right, HIA365?

24 **A. No, I don't remember that.**

25 Q. We also know that you spent some time in Lissue Hospital

1 here in Northern Ireland, where investigations were
2 carried out in respect of your asthma. and again you
3 don't remember that, although you do remember being in
4 and out of hospital quite a lot.

5 **A. That's correct.**

6 Q. Now paragraph 4 you go on to talk about what happened to
7 you when you were in Manor House. You say:

8 "On the few occasions I was allowed out to play
9 I used to see a man from the army that often visited the
10 home. The staff at the home must have given him
11 permission to visit. I do not recall his name. He came
12 dressed in his green army uniform and he wore a long
13 coat and a beret. He always brought a big bag of
14 lollies with him."

15 We know from talking to other people in Australia
16 that by lollies you mean what we would call sweets.

17 **A. That's correct.**

18 Q. "In the playroom on the ground floor there were toys and
19 a television. The man used to sit in a chair in this
20 room and get children to sit on his knee. While I was
21 sitting on his knee, he had an erection. After a while
22 he would put his coat around me and get me to masturbate
23 him. He had a button fly on his trousers. This
24 happened on a number of occasions. I still remember the
25 stinky smell of his clothes. He smelt of cigarettes.

1 Other children were playing in the room at the same
2 time. The staff came in and out of the room, as they
3 were always busy. I saw HIA290" -- that's your brother
4 -- "on his knee and I believe he abused him. I think
5 HIA290 and I were more vulnerable than other children,
6 as we came from another country and were naive."

7 Now I was asking you -- the Inquiry has been told
8 that the only soldier who visited the home at that time
9 was someone called **MH 49** and I wondered did that
10 name ring any bells with you, but it doesn't. Isn't
11 that correct?

12 **A. That is correct. I don't remember his name.**

13 Q. Paragraph 5 you go on to say that he bought you a mouth
14 organ as a gift. He would often take you upstairs to
15 a bedroom in the home.

16 "He sat on the bed and made me sit on his knee.
17 While I was playing with the mouth organ, he put his
18 hands down my trousers and fondled me. He then made me
19 masturbate him. He used the sweets and gifts as bribes
20 so we wouldn't tell anyone what he was doing. He
21 manipulated us children. I think he may have abused
22 other children in the home."

23 Now the Irish Church Missions, as I have explained
24 to you, have given us a response statement. They say
25 that the fact that staff were coming in and out was in

1 accordance with the policy in the home that visitors
2 were supervised, and at paragraph 4 of their response
3 statement they said that unfortunately such supervision
4 was not enough to prevent what they describe as
5 "an opportunistic, determined and devious abuser".

6 Paragraph 6, HIA365, you go on to talk about the
7 effect that the abuse had on you. This is something
8 that we did talk about earlier and I knew that I had
9 seen it somewhere in your statement, where you say that
10 your son is 28:

11 "... and I have never been able to cuddle him or
12 tell him that I love him. I do not allow men to touch
13 me, not even my brother. Any time I go to the doctor
14 I request a female GP. These emotional issues relate to
15 the abuse I suffered as a young boy and that I never got
16 over."

17 When we were talking earlier, HIA365, you wanted the
18 Inquiry to know that because of what happened and the
19 effect that that had and how you were unable to express
20 your love for your son appropriately, that is one of the
21 biggest effects that this abuse had on you and one of
22 the things that you have had to live with throughout
23 your life. Isn't that correct?

24 **A. It most certainly is.**

25 Q. Paragraph 7 you go on to talk about school and you think

1 that your brother may have been abused at school, but
2 you didn't think that he had a normal relationship with
3 the teacher there.

4 You talk about attending church every Sunday when
5 you were at Manor House and being able to play with your
6 brothers when you were there.

7 You said that your father rarely visited and you
8 don't remember anybody else, other relations, visiting.
9 You do remember your mother came from to
10 Northern Ireland, but you do not remember her visiting
11 in the home. I was explaining to you, and you have seen
12 a record about -- it is at 064. It is from the -- 064.
13 It is from the records of the Manor House Home, where it
14 is recorded that:

15 "The secretary reported that [your mother] had
16 returned from , met with her husband to
17 discuss the possibility of a reunion. She and her
18 husband had taken out the boys, but it was feared that
19 the discussions might not prove successful and it seemed
20 likely that she might return to after all.
21 This had been rather an upset to the boys, especially
22 HIA365, whose health had formerly improved but seemed to
23 have deteriorated again."

24 You don't actually remember her ever taking you out
25 of the home or at least you didn't until you saw this

1 entry. Isn't that right?

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

3 Q. And when we were talking, you do remember her coming and
4 taking you to a park you think with your brothers.

5 **A. Yes, I think so, yes.**

6 Q. But you don't -- as you said to me, you didn't remember
7 being particularly upset, although you do remember
8 crying a lot as a child.

9 **A. Yes, I do. I wanted to be with my mother.**

10 Q. Well, we know from paragraph 10 that your father came in
11 1968 and took you all -- in fact, I think it was '69
12 that he came to take you back to live with him after he
13 got accommodation in Belfast. We were looking earlier
14 at the record of that second admission, because that
15 didn't work out, at 055. If we can just invert that and
16 you will see here it is recorded that there was no
17 maintenance paid on this occasion and that your father
18 had paid a total of £41 for your keep in Manor House
19 Home.

20 You then emigrated to Australia. You were there --
21 placed by your father in the Fairbridge Farm in Western
22 Australia. You were there for about a year or so.

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. As I've discussed with you, what happened in Australia
25 is outside the terms of reference. You talk about your

1 life in Fairbridge in paragraphs 12 to 15, and as we
2 were saying, you don't really have any complaint about
3 your time there. It was a strict enough place, but you
4 don't have -- you weren't abused in the way that you
5 were in Manor House or anything like that there. Isn't
6 that correct?

7 **A. That is correct, yes.**

8 Q. Your life after care is recorded in paragraphs 16
9 through to 20, and I discussed with you, HIA365, that
10 the Panel are well aware of what you describe there and
11 I am not going to go into the details of that, but at
12 paragraph 21 you say that:

13 "As children we were always told to never open your
14 mouth, that children should be seen and not heard. So I
15 didn't tell anyone about the terrible things that were
16 done to me. As I child I felt I wasn't allowed.

17 I believe we were just pieces of meat to the man that
18 abused me. For the last fifty years I have kept the
19 abuse I suffered a secret. I have only told my children
20 recently. Although my brother and I are twins and we
21 are close to one another, we have never really spoken
22 about our experiences. It is something we have kept to
23 ourselves. I have tried to get on with things and make
24 the best life I can. I have tried to forget about my
25 experiences, but I can't. The memories remain with me."

1 Now I was explaining to you that in their response
2 statement the Irish Church Missions have said at
3 paragraph 11, which is at page 054, that it is their:
4 "... strong belief that the Manor House Home
5 Management Committee and staff of the 1960s endeavoured
6 to put in place systems of care to protect all the
7 children of the home. That the horrible, opportunistic
8 and devious abuse to which to which you refer took
9 place would we believe have devastated the staff and
10 management of Manor House Home, had they known. Their
11 endeavour to give children a safe and secure home was
12 their priority and the events which you describe would
13 have torn their world apart, even as it did for the
14 members of your family.

15 For our part, Irish Church Missions utterly condemns
16 all and any kind of child abuse and we wish to
17 unreservedly apologise to you and your family for the
18 pain and suffering you have obviously endured as
19 a result of this terrible episode in your time at Manor
20 House Home."

21 Now we were talking -- you were saying, HIA365, that
22 as children you weren't allowed to speak out. The Irish
23 Church Missions have said that children were encouraged
24 to talk about their problems. I was wondering was it
25 the case that if you had, say, problems at school or

1 anything like that, that you could have talked to staff
2 about it or what was your experience? What do you
3 remember about that?

4 **A. Well, we were never allowed to say anything. We were**
5 **too scared to say anything in case we got smacked or got**
6 **the strap, just kept it to ourselves, because the person**
7 **that was doing the nasty deeds to us was bribing us with**
8 **sweets and harmonicas and so forth, thinking that**
9 **everything is going to be all right.**

10 Q. Do you -- do you think that staff in the home were aware
11 of what this man was doing at all?

12 **A. Yes, I do.**

13 Q. Why do you think that, HIA365?

14 **A. Well, he used to come regularly, as I believe, and he**
15 **was friends with the staff there.**

16 Q. And you think they must have known. Is that the
17 position?

18 **A. I think so, yes.**

19 Q. Well, HIA365, is there anything else that you want to
20 say to us about your time in Manor Home? If I've
21 understood you correctly, apart from what this man did
22 to you, you have no real complaints to make about how
23 you were cared for in Manor House Home. Is that right?

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

25 Q. And certainly MH3 went out of her way to look after you

1 when you were ill and to take care of you.

2 **A. She did.**

3 Q. Well, is there anything else that you want to say that
4 you feel we haven't covered or that I haven't read from
5 your statement of evidence, or anything more that you
6 want to tell us or say that you feel you haven't had the
7 opportunity to say yet?

8 **A. No. I think I've said enough. Thank you.**

9 Q. Well, there's just one final question that I want to ask
10 you, HIA365, and that's about -- a question that we ask
11 everybody, and I know -- we were talking earlier -- that
12 you received a questionnaire from the Inquiry about
13 this, and that's at the end of its work the Inquiry has
14 to make recommendations to the Northern Ireland
15 Executive, to the government here, about what should
16 happen in recognition of what occurred in children's
17 homes here, and I was wondering what you felt those
18 recommendations might be.

19 **A. What do you reckon? Compensation? I'd like an apology
20 and some compensation for the abuse that I suffered.**

21 Q. Well, thank you very much, HIA365. I have nothing
22 further that I want to ask you, but the Panel Members
23 may have some questions for you and they will ask them
24 now.

25

1 Questions from THE PANEL

2 CHAIRMAN: HIA365, can you see and hear me all right?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. Can I just ask you something more about the way this
5 visitor in army uniform treated you? You have described
6 two separate sets of things happening, one in the room
7 that was used as a playroom or television room. If
8 I could just ask you something more about that. Did
9 that happen just on one occasion or more than one
10 occasion, more than one visit, in other words?

11 **A. More than one visit.**

12 Q. I see, and then you have described how sometimes he took
13 you upstairs to a bedroom.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. Was that a bedroom that was in use that you stayed in,
16 or was it an empty room, or what was the position as far
17 as you can remember?

18 **A. As far as I can remember it was a bedroom that was in
19 use.**

20 Q. Was it your bedroom?

21 **A. The dormitory. I beg your pardon?**

22 Q. I was going ask you was it your bedroom or was it used
23 by some of the other children?

24 **A. I think it was just a dormitory.**

25 Q. I see. So there were a number of beds in it anyway?

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. And again, although I think it is clear from your
3 statement what you are saying, just to have it
4 confirmed, when the things that you have you described
5 happened in the bedroom, did that happen on more than
6 one occasion, more than one visit?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. And I appreciate it is very difficult to be accurate
9 about this, but in general terms how often did this man
10 visit the home that you can remember? Was it every week
11 or just now and again?

12 **A. It was now and again.**

13 Q. So there wasn't a regular pattern to his visits that you
14 can remember; for example, he came every Sunday
15 afternoon, or something like that?

16 **A. No. There was no regular pattern.**

17 Q. I see. Thank you very much. My colleagues may have
18 some questions to ask you.

19 MS DOHERTY: Thanks, HIA365. Can you hear me okay?

20 **A. Yes, I can.**

21 Q. Thank you. Can I just check was the gentleman allowed
22 access to all areas of the home? There was no -- was he
23 able just to move around the home at will?

24 **A. I believe so.**

25 Q. Okay, and so in terms of going up the stairs there was

1 no question of what he was doing up the stairs or why he
2 was taking you up the stairs?

3 **A. No question.**

4 Q. And did other people visit? Were there other people
5 that visited and spent time with the children?

6 **A. There was other children's parents used to come and
7 visit their kids, but HIA290 and I didn't have very many
8 visitors.**

9 Q. Okay.

10 **A. Our father was never around.**

11 Q. Right, and in relation to other visitors, apart from
12 parents or relatives, was there other people that you
13 can remember visiting?

14 **A. There was a family there called the MH5 family. I can
15 remember their parents coming occasionally.**

16 Q. Okay, and we have heard about Committee members, that
17 there was a Committee for the home and sometimes
18 Committee members would come and talk to the children.
19 Do you remember that? Do you remember any ...?

20 **A. I remember them bringing people to the home, yes, but
21 I didn't have any idea what they were doing there.**

22 Q. So they would be -- they would be around, but they
23 wouldn't engage with the children? They wouldn't talk
24 to you?

25 **A. No, not that I can recall anything, no.**

1 Q. Okay. Thank you very much.

2 MR LANE: I have just two or three clarifications, if I
3 might. First of all, you mentioned just now that you
4 were frightened you might get the strap. Was the strap
5 used a lot in the home?

6 **A. I believe so. I never myself got the strap, because**
7 **I was always sick.**

8 Q. Right, and so you were protected a bit because of being
9 unwell?

10 **A. I think so, yes.**

11 Q. Yes. On that point you mentioned how you were allowed
12 to rest in MH3's bed. I would just like to be clear.
13 There was nothing improper about that at all, was there?

14 **A. Not that I believe, no. When I was sick, I used to**
15 **sleep -- when I was sick, I used to sleep with her.**

16 Q. Right. We have heard evidence to suggest that staffing
17 levels were not very high. Were there many staff around
18 when you were there?

19 **A. No, there wasn't.**

20 Q. So when you mention them coming in and out of the room
21 while you were watching television with this visitor who
22 abused you, would they just put their head round the
23 door or walk through or what -- did they ever sit there
24 and join in, or what was the position?

25 **A. I think they used to sit behind him and watch TV.**

1 Q. So they were present while he was abusing?

2 **A. I am pretty sure they were, yes.**

3 Q. Right. Okay. Thank you very much.

4 **A. Thank you.**

5 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA365, thank you very much for coming to
6 where you are to speak to us today. I realise that it
7 is probably quite late where you are now, but thank you
8 again for taking the trouble to come and speak to us.
9 We are very grateful to you for doing so. Thank you.

10 **A. Thank you very much.**

11 MS SMITH: Thank you, HIA365. I know we are going to have
12 to ask you to leave the room. So we will probably take
13 a short break at this end and allow our next witness to
14 come in.

15 **A. Thank you.**

16 Q. Thank you.

17 (Witness withdrew)

18 Q. I don't know. We are going to try, Chairman, if we can,
19 to do away with the double vision. So it may be if we
20 took five minutes --

21 CHAIRMAN: I don't think it worries me.

22 MS SMITH: We will certainly have to wait until he comes
23 into the room in any event.

24 CHAIRMAN: Well, we'll rise just for a moment.

25 (10.40 am)

1 (Short break)

2 (10.50 am)

3 WITNESS HIA290 (called - by video link)

4 MS SMITH: Chairman, our next witness is HIA290. He is
5 "HIA290". He also wishes to take a religious oath and
6 to maintain his anonymity.

7 WITNESS HIA290 (sworn)

8 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

9 **A. Thank you.**

10 **Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY**

11 MS SMITH: As I explained, HIA290, I am just going to tell
12 the Panel Members page references for some papers in our
13 bundle.

14 HIA290's statement can be found at MNH001 to 006.

15 The ICM response is at 040 to 052.

16 The Health & Social Care Board response is at 070 to
17 071 and there's also a letter from them at 13001.

18 The letter I should say was in response to a query
19 that the Inquiry put to the HSCB which was in relation
20 to the children -- the Welfare Authority being asked for
21 advice in relation to the children and that's -- there's
22 a minute extract at 052 in respect of that.

23 Now, HIA290, your statement should be on the screen
24 here in front of me shortly, which is at 001. You have
25 a copy of your statement there, HIA290, do you?

1 **A. Yes, I do.**

2 Q. And can I just ask you to confirm that this is the
3 statement of evidence that you wish the Inquiry to
4 consider together with anything else that you tell us
5 this morning, and you signed that on 27th June 2014?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Now you are now aged 61 and the Inquiry has already
8 heard this morning from your twin brother. You also
9 have a half-brother, and all three of you were placed in
10 Manor House Children's Home here in Northern Ireland in
11 the 1960s.

12 Your personal details are set out here in
13 paragraphs 1 to 3 of your witness statement. What you
14 remember is that you were placed in Manor House by your
15 father. You recall that the matron during your time
16 there was MH3 and you describe the director of the home,
17 who we would describe as the chairman of the board of
18 management, was the MH7 .

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

20 Q. Paragraph 5 of your statement you talk about the fact
21 that your brother was ill when you arrived in the home,
22 because he had chronic asthma, and you had moved from
23 a very hot climate to Northern Ireland, which was
24 somewhat different, and you said that he spent a lot of
25 time in his bed due to his illness and, in fact, he was

1 allowed to stay in MH3's bed and she was good to him and
2 treated him very well.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. Now the Inquiry has seen some records that, apart from
5 looking after him when he was ill, on occasions she
6 sometimes drove him to school. Do you remember that
7 happening at all?

8 **A. No. I'm sorry. That was too long ago. I don't recall
9 that.**

10 Q. But you certainly remember her treating him well and
11 being good to him?

12 **A. Definitely, yes.**

13 Q. You describe school at paragraph 6 of your witness
14 statement, and the fact that you had to go to church on
15 Sundays and were in contact with your brothers
16 throughout your stay in Manor House at paragraph 7.

17 At paragraph 8 you say that your father rarely came
18 to visit you in the home and you didn't get visits from
19 any other relatives. We were looking at a document
20 earlier, which is at 064, which is a record of your
21 mother coming back and attempting a reconciliation with
22 your father and taking you and your brothers out of
23 Manor House. You have no recollection of that visit at
24 all, HIA290. Is that right?

25 **A. No. I'm sorry. I don't.**

1 Q. Paragraph 9 of your statement you go on to describe the
2 sexual abuse that you suffered at the hands of a visitor
3 to the home and you say:

4 "There was a frequent visitor to the home" -- that's
5 at page 002 -- "who came from the local army barracks.
6 I do not know his name. He always came to visit the
7 children at the home on weekends and he brought us
8 lollies, sweets and treats when he visited. He wore
9 a long trench coat and he was dressed in army uniform.
10 His visits must have been allowed by the staff at the
11 home.

12 10. I think there was a TV room in the home with
13 a black and white television. I think we were allowed
14 to watch television at the weekend. This man used to
15 get me on his knee. He would sexually abuse me under
16 his trench coat with bribes and sweets. He made me
17 masturbate him. I was a child and I did not know
18 anything about sex. He would stick his hand down my
19 pants and start playing with my penis and then he would
20 take my other hand and make me touch him and rub his
21 penis. He made me masturbate him to the point where he
22 would ejaculate and he did this many times. He was a
23 middle-aged man and his clothes stank of cigarette
24 smoke."

25 Now there is a document that the Inquiry has seen

1 and it is at 045. If we could look at that, please.

2 This is an entry relating to -- again it is from the
3 Management Committee minutes. It is from March 1967.

4 It says:

5 "The secretary reported that a letter had been
6 received from **MH 49** (who was one of the
7 boys removed from the Manor House Home to **MH 43**

8 Homes in July 1953 when the home was closed for
9 renovation). He is now in the army, stationed in

10 . Correspondence had been started some years
11 previously (1962). ^{MH 49} had visited the Manor House when
12 in Ireland on leave. He had further sent a Christmas
13 card to the matron, staff and children, which had been
14 acknowledged. His recent letter was in reply to our
15 acknowledgment. The Committee were pleased to hear the
16 letter, which was full of praise for the home and of
17 interest in all that went on in it."

18 Now you do remember -- we provided you with that
19 extract, HIA290.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. And that then -- that name then rang a bell with you.

22 **A. Yes, it did.**

23 Q. And you said to me that you believe that he is the
24 person who abused you.

25 **A. Excuse me. I'll correct that. Okay? I thought that he**

1 **was the person. Okay? Let me see. I have to think**
2 **about this. By the description is by way I thought,**
3 **yes, that was the person.**

4 Q. Okay, and you say it wasn't the name, but the fact that
5 this is someone who had been in the home himself and who
6 was in . Is that how you thought that might be
7 him?

8 **A. No. By his clothing, his uniform I would guess.**

9 Q. Well, the Irish Church Missions have told us that this
10 is the only record they have of a soldier visiting the
11 home during the time you and your brothers were living
12 there. So --

13 **A. That would be correct.**

14 Q. So it may well be --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- that this was the person who abused you in the way
17 that you describe, HIA290.

18 **A. That would say "Yes" to me.**

19 Q. When we were talking earlier, you wanted to make the
20 Inquiry aware about what you described as his modus
21 operandi.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. The fact that his actions you say were covert. He
24 groomed the children. You described him as cunning,
25 that he was able to mask and hide what he was doing to

1 you by the wearing of this trench coat.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- and by using a chair away from others in the room
4 where he could have you sit on his lap.

5 **A. That's correct.**

6 Q. And I was asking you were -- would the staff have
7 realised what was going on?

8 **A. Not necessarily so. He always turned out the lights.**

9 Q. When the television was on?

10 **A. Okay? Yes. He would get up -- I recall that he would
11 get up and -- the television was on -- turn the lights
12 off.**

13 Q. Were staff coming into the room or were they present in
14 the room when he was there?

15 **A. Yes. I always recall at least one staff member, maybe
16 two.**

17 Q. Being in the room at the time?

18 **A. Yes. You see, I'm not quite sure how many staff were
19 available to watch the children. Maybe they might be
20 doing other duties.**

21 Q. And do you think that he maybe had been asked by staff
22 to keep an eye on children in the television room while
23 they were doing other things or what's your memory of
24 that?

25 **A. That's very possible, but no, I can't say "Yes,**

1 **exactly".**

2 Q. Well, I was asking you that -- you confirmed to me that
3 all the staff in the home, apart from the gardener, were
4 female.

5 **A. As far as I recall, yes. There were no other men.**

6 Q. And apart from matron, they were fairly young girls. Is
7 that correct?

8 **A. I think so.**

9 Q. Well, the Irish Church Missions have said that there
10 were, in fact, staff coming in and visitors weren't left
11 unsupervised, and -- but they say that unfortunately
12 what supervision they were given was not enough to
13 prevent an opportunistic, determined and devious abuser,
14 as this person was.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. Would you accept that, HIA290, that that was probably
17 the position?

18 **A. Yes. I think that's right. Yes. That's correct.**

19 Q. Can I just explain, HIA290? I know you turned to talk
20 to someone who is sitting beside you, and you have with
21 you a counsellor provided by the Australian Commission.
22 Isn't that correct?

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. She has been supporting you --

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

1 Q. -- through this process.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. I met her when we spoke earlier.

4 Well, going back to your witness statement at
5 paragraph 11 on page 003, HIA290, you say that this man
6 did this to other children. You recall one family, who
7 you name in your statement, and you say that there
8 was -- the oldest boy, you had a nickname for him, and
9 there was another boy and they also had a sister. You
10 remember that this particular family had learning
11 difficulties and you felt sorry for them. You saw this
12 man make them sit on his knee on occasions. So you knew
13 that he was abusing them too.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. You say he also abused your brother and you know that he
16 bought your brother a mouth organ as another bribe so
17 that he could abuse him.

18 In paragraph 13 you say that as you grow up and get
19 into adolescence you only begin to understand what he
20 was doing to you was wrong. At the time you didn't
21 discuss it, as children were seen and not heard.

22 Can I just pause there to say the Irish Church
23 Missions have said the children were encouraged to speak
24 to staff and to discuss any problems that they might
25 have. Was that your experience at all?

1 **A. No. The staff were fine, but adults had that attitude,**
2 **adults that not were -- that weren't within the**
3 **children's home, like my father, yes.**

4 Q. So the attitude --

5 **A. Perhaps yours.**

6 Q. Sorry?

7 **A. Pardon?**

8 Q. Sorry. I don't mean to speak over you, HIA290, and
9 perhaps -- I just want to understand what you are saying
10 correctly. Are you saying that you could have talked to
11 the people in the children's home if you had any
12 problems, but not to your father? Is that what you are
13 saying?

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. And you say that you and your brother didn't discuss the
16 abuse with each other and have only recently told your
17 children about the abuse that you suffered in the home.
18 You and your twin stuck together most of the time and
19 you say that your sons were horrified when they heard
20 about your time in care and don't want to discuss it
21 with you, because they find it too upsetting.

22 You go on to talk in paragraph 14 about your
23 half-brother, who you say was also abused by this man.
24 You go on to describe what you feel were the effects on
25 that half-brother by what happened to him.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. You can't remember an awful lot more about Manor House,
3 but in paragraph 15 you say that you do recall that the
4 staff were nice. If I have understood you correctly,
5 apart from what this man did to you, HIA290, you have no
6 complaints to make about how the staff in Manor House
7 treated you or cared for you during your time there. Is
8 that correct?

9 **A. That is correct.**

10 Q. Now we know that you were taken out by your father to
11 live with him, but that didn't work. He then put you
12 back into Manor House until he made arrangements for the
13 family to emigrate to Australia. I am not going to look
14 at it, because the Inquiry has already seen it when
15 I was speaking to your brother, but there is a record of
16 that second admission at 055.

17 Then at paragraphs 17 to 20 you speak about your
18 time at Fairbridge Farm in Australia. That is obviously
19 outside the terms of reference of this Inquiry. In any
20 event you don't have any real complaint about that place
21 except that you were separated from your twin there. Is
22 that right?

23 **A. Yes. That's correct.**

24 Q. I wondered if you are remembered undergoing medical
25 tests and exams before you went to Australia that took

1 place when you were still in Manor House.

2 **A. No. I didn't recall that, but when I read the**
3 **statement, I thought that only referred to HIA365,**
4 **because of his asthma.**

5 Q. You think that he maybe was the only one who had
6 a medical examination?

7 **A. Only because I read it, yes.**

8 Q. Well, there's -- I just let the Panel know that is at
9 2050.

10 You go on to describe, HIA290, your life after care
11 in paragraphs 21 -- sorry -- from 20 on to 25 really.
12 You go right through to talk about that. As I have
13 discussed to you, the Panel have read your statement in
14 its entirety and I am not going to open up how you
15 describe the course that your life took.

16 The Irish Church Missions in its response statement
17 to the Inquiry has offered an apology to you and your
18 family for the hurt that you suffered in their response
19 statement to you, which I read to you when we were
20 speaking earlier.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. The only other -- the other question that -- well, apart
23 from I just want to check with you, HIA290, are you
24 happy that we have covered what you want the Inquiry to
25 know about your time in Manor House or is there anything

1 else that you want to add to what we have covered this
2 morning or this evening for you?

3 **A. No. That's everything. Thank you.**

4 Q. One other question then is that at the end of its work
5 the Inquiry has to make recommendations as to what
6 should happen in respect of the abuse that children
7 suffered in children's homes in Northern Ireland to the
8 Northern Ireland Government and I wondered what you felt
9 those recommendations might be.

10 **A. Excuse me one minute.**

11 Q. Yes.

12 **A. No. I have no -- nothing further to say.**

13 Q. Okay. Well, thank you very much --

14 **A. Sorry. I can't help with that again.**

15 Q. Well, HIA290, thank you very much for speaking to us.
16 I am going to hand you over to the Panel, who I am sure
17 will have some questions for you.

18 **A. Sure.**

19 **Questions from THE PANEL**

20 CHAIRMAN: HIA290, can I ask you something more about this
21 visitor from the army barracks? Before I do that, you
22 were in Manor House for a number of years, really almost
23 five years. Isn't that right?

24 **A. Yes, yes.**

25 Q. And when you left, you were about 14, 14 or 15?

1 **A. 14 to 15, yes.**

2 Q. Can you remember how old you were when this man was
3 abusing you in the way you have described?

4 **A. No. I'm sorry. I can't.**

5 Q. Might it have been a year or so before you left Manor
6 House to go to Australia or can you not help us at all?

7 **A. No. I'm sorry. I can't help you at all. No, I have no
8 idea.**

9 Q. Thank you very much.

10 **A. Thank you.**

11 MS DOHERTY: Thank you, HIA290. Can you hear me okay?

12 **A. Yes. Fine.**

13 Q. Okay. Can I just ask was it usual to have visitors
14 around the home apart from family members? Did other
15 outside people come to visit the home?

16 **A. I'm sorry. Not that I'd noticed. Yes, there would have
17 been people I'm sure, but I guess because of what
18 happened this other person is the only one that
19 I ever really, really recall being there, and I am sure
20 there would have been visitors, yes, but no, I am not
21 quite sure who visited at a point in time.**

22 Q. Okay. He obviously stands out for you. In relation
23 to -- you talk about the director. Do you remember did
24 he -- was he around? Did members of the Committee spend
25 time with the children?

1 **A. I'm sorry. That's too long ago. I can't remember that.**

2 Q. Okay. Thank you very much.

3 **A. I'm sorry.**

4 Q. That's fine. That's fine. It's a long time ago. Thank
5 you very much.

6 **A. Yes. Thank you.**

7 MR LANE: We have heard that MH3 was in charge of the home.
8 Do you remember any of the other staff at all?

9 **A. I remember MH 50 , yes.**

10 Q. And did you -- sorry. Go on.

11 **A. He used to keep the lawns very nice and sometimes he'd**
12 **take us in and show us veggies. He was a keen gardener.**
13 **He was a nice man.**

14 Q. Did the children help him at all in the gardening?

15 **A. Possibly. I don't -- I'm not quite sure.**

16 Q. You don't remember. Did you get to know --

17 **A. I'm sorry.**

18 Q. Sorry. We have heard that a lot of the other staff were
19 fairly young women. Did you get to know any of them as
20 well?

21 **A. No.**

22 Q. And so did you think of telling any of the staff at all
23 about the abuse?

24 **A. No. This person that was the supposed perpetrator used**
25 **to bribe us with things and, you know, "Don't tell**

1 **anybody or I won't come and visit you anymore". He**
2 **would brings us lollies and sweets and he promised me**
3 **a pocket knife or a penknife, "but don't tell anybody or**
4 **I will not come and see you anymore and I'll not be able**
5 **to bring you lollies".**

6 Q. All right. If most of the staff were young women, were
7 there ever any problems about the control of the
8 children, behaviour problems?

9 A. I'm too -- I was too young to understand all of that --

10 Q. Right.

11 A. -- as to whether there were problems with children or
12 not, no.

13 Q. You didn't notice any bad behaviour anyway generally
14 among the children?

15 A. Oh, children are children. They all play together and
16 they play up together and -- yes.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. No, no, nothing -- nothing like that.

19 Q. Were the older children ever left in charge of the
20 group?

21 A. I'm sorry. I don't remember.

22 Q. No. Okay. Thank you very much.

23 A. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA290, I am sure you will be relieved to
25 hear that's the last question we have for you. Thank

1 you very much indeed for coming to speak to us. We know
2 not only that it is quite late now in Australia where
3 you are, where you are speaking to us, but I think I am
4 right in saying you and your brother have had to travel
5 some distance perhaps to speak to us, but in any event
6 we are very grateful to you for taking the trouble to do
7 so. Thank you very much.

8 **A. Thank you very much.**

9 MS SMITH: Thank you, HIA290.

10 **A. Thank you.**

11 **(Witness withdrew)**

12 CHAIRMAN: Again just before we lose the link can I express
13 the thanks of myself and my colleagues to those in
14 Australia to have facilitated this for us today. Thank
15 you.

16 (Video link terminated)

17 Summary of evidence of WITNESS HIA289 by COUNSEL TO THE
18 INQUIRY

19 MS SMITH: Chairman, the other piece of evidence to put
20 before you today is in respect of a witness who has been
21 unable to come. I don't think we need the link with
22 Australia any longer. That is HIA289. There is no
23 reason to suggest that he doesn't wish to maintain his
24 anonymity. His first name is HIA289. The Inquiry
25 received a medical on 14th December 2015 and has

1 accepted that HIA289 is unfit to travel to give evidence
2 to us.

3 His statement is at 084 through to 092. We can put
4 that up on the screen.

5 The ICM response is at 093 to 132. That includes
6 a number of appendices, which I know you will have read
7 in reading the statement.

8 The Health & Social Care Board response is at 237 to
9 238. It indicates that HIA289 was placed privately in
10 Manor House and they don't have records in respect of
11 him.

12 He is a man now aged 60, one of a large family, and
13 how he came to be in Manor House is set out in paragraph
14 1 of his statement. He was in Manor House with
15 a brother, who was a year older. The admissions
16 register can be seen at 2033. He was in Manor House
17 from 4th June 1965 until 22nd March 1968.

18 At paragraph 3 of his statement he describes what he
19 remembers about the home and the routine there in both
20 paragraphs 3 and 4. He says:

21 "I went into Manor House when I was 9 years of age.
22 The first thing I can remember is that I was taken to
23 a bathroom, made to strip and have a bath. I was then
24 dressed. Each morning we were given breakfast in a big
25 communal ..."

1 Sorry. Just a moment.

2 "... a big communal primary school. At the weekends
3 we all attended the Boys' Brigade. We went to
4 Christchurch on Sunday. We were made to go whether we
5 wanted to or not. We had to attend Sunday School as
6 well. I can remember on one occasion I was dragged to
7 church, as I did not want to go. I held on to the
8 railings as I was being brought up the road. My fingers
9 were prised off the railing and I was dragged into the
10 church service. My mother was a religious thinking
11 person but we never went to any church service, so this
12 was all new to me. I think my parents came to visit us
13 when we were in the home maybe once or twice. I found
14 the home to be regimented, but it was not harsh."

15 The Irish Church Missions say that -- in their
16 response statement that going to church was part of the
17 way the home had of trying to fulfil the goal of
18 providing a stable home in a Christian atmosphere.

19 Paragraph 4 he describes that he shared a room with
20 his brother. He then remembers being moved to another
21 room upstairs in the house. He thinks there were about
22 six beds in a single room:

23 "We never had a television before, so when we
24 arrived at the home, it was like we had arrived at
25 a posh hotel. It was like paradise having people look

1 after you. We walked around turning the lights on and
2 off. The food in the home was probably better than what
3 we ate before. We were given porridge or cereal for
4 breakfast. If we wanted more food, we could have it.
5 There was a regular cook. I am not sure of her name.
6 There was also a gardener called **MH 50** . The
7 vegetables that we ate at the home were from the garden.
8 There was a playing field out the back through
9 an opening in the wall and we used to go there to play.
10 There were plenty of games that we could play if the
11 weather was poor. You were left to keep yourself
12 amused.

13 We went to bed each night at approximately 7.30 pm,
14 and if you were older, you were given an extra hour.
15 I cannot remember the exact time, but I do remember that
16 they were strict about bedtime. If it was bedtime, you
17 were sent straight to bed, no matter what you may have
18 been doing or watching on TV."

19 He says that:

20 "The home was run by female staff. The lady who was
21 in charge was called MH3. I found her approach as
22 a headmistress to be firm but fair. The members of the
23 staff in the home were fine to get along with. I can
24 only recall one incident when a member of staff acted
25 inappropriately and she was warned about her behaviour.

1 I think her name was ...",

2 and he gives the name.

3 "One of the children had done something and she
4 wanted to find out which of us did it. She lined us all
5 up and asked each of us one at a time if we had done it.
6 Each child said that they did not do it. She then
7 proceeded to get a bible and make each of us swear on it
8 that we did not do it. When every child confirmed again
9 that they did not do it, she said that one of us had
10 sworn on a bible and then told a lie and that we would
11 burn in hell. This was very harsh, as we were only
12 children. This was the only incident like this. She
13 was fine the rest of the time. I think she was then
14 reprimanded for doing this."

15 The Irish Church Missions in their response say, in
16 fact, that this member of staff was there for a period
17 of time before she went to be trained at Rupert Stanley
18 College and was reprimanded, and the fact that that
19 happened showed that the Management Committee took such
20 allegations seriously.

21 Paragraph 6 and 7 he goes on to say that:

22 "There was a mixture of boys and girls in the home.
23 We all got on well together."

24 He thought there were about a dozen children in the
25 home.

1 "Different people came into the home and mixed with
2 the children."

3 He remembers one man in particular and he thought
4 his name was ... and he gave a nickname.

5 "I think he would have been in his 30s at the time.
6 I cannot be sure of his age, as when you are young all
7 adults look so much older to you. I remember he had
8 a slim build and was of average height, about 5'8" or
9 5'9". He would take us out to the back field and play
10 football with us. If we were playing a game that
11 required physical contact, his hands seemed to be always
12 all over your groin area. I believe that he did this on
13 purpose. If we were playing chase or catch, he would
14 chase us and wrestle us to the floor. As a child
15 I remember that he always rubbed his unshaven face
16 against my cheek. I saw him do this to other boys as
17 well as me. I think he was a smoker."

18 He goes on to say:

19 "We used to watch television in the communal room.
20 There were benches in this room. Children would sit on
21 these benches while watching television and the lights
22 would be switched off. This man would come into this
23 room some evenings. He would then pick a particular
24 child to come and sit on his knee. At this time we
25 would have been in our pyjamas and he would have put his

1 hand down our pyjamas and masturbate us. He then took
2 your hand and he would put it down his trousers. The
3 first time that he did this to me I tried to pull my
4 hand away, because as a child if you felt something, you
5 were terrified and so you pulled your hand out. He then
6 pushed my hand back in and then he put his hand around
7 mine to keep it there. I saw him doing this to other
8 boys. I do not remember any specific day he came. He
9 would just arrive on random evenings."

10 He goes on to say:

11 "The other children knew what was happening. They
12 would just stare ahead at the television. All the
13 children would dread this man calling their name and
14 asking them to come and sit on his knee. He would
15 even -- they would even push and shove each other on the
16 bench so that they would always be towards the end of it
17 and he might not pick on them. Sometimes if you had
18 been on his knee the other children would ask if he had
19 touched you. You might have answered 'Yes' or 'No', but
20 no-one would say much more than that. It was never
21 talked about generally. He never bothered with the
22 girls. I used to dread him visiting. I do remember one
23 child informing the staff of this man's behaviour.
24 I think that the child was just told that they were
25 wicked for making up such stories.

1 There were never any members of staff in the
2 communal room with us when this man was in the room with
3 us. It was known as the TV room or the children's room.
4 So we would be left alone to watch TV or play games
5 until bedtime. Although it was unsupervised, a member
6 of staff might pop their head in occasionally to make
7 sure everything was okay. The home and the facilities
8 were good, and I do not have anything against the people
9 that ran the home."

10 The Irish Church Missions dealt with the issue of
11 visitors to the home in paragraphs 10 to 15 of their
12 response statement, which is at MNH094, please. If we
13 could look at that. It says there that:

14 "The home encouraged the general public particularly
15 through its open days to take an active interest in the
16 work of the home and the children. It encouraged
17 sympathetic visitors and supporters, but the records
18 also show that not everyone who called to visit or
19 volunteer help with the children were accepted."

20 Reference is made to an extract from the Management
21 Committee reports appended to the -- appended to the
22 statement.

23 "Evidence from the home to the Hughes Inquiry shows
24 that there was a desk diary to record visitors. Whilst
25 extant records do not contain a written down procedure

1 for visits, the minutes of the home indicate that there
2 was such a procedure for vetting of visitors.
3 Permission had to be given by staff in consultation with
4 the secretary if visitors were to get to know the
5 children."

6 It goes on to say that:

7 "Staff did supervise such visits to the home.
8 The minutes indicate that visits to any particular child
9 were with the staff in attendance. All such visits were
10 then reported to the Management Committee on a monthly
11 basis so that the Committee was constantly informed of
12 visitors to the children.

13 The minutes of the home indicate that the only
14 people who had permission to access all areas of the
15 home apart from the staff were workmen employed from
16 time to time to renovate or refurbish the bedrooms,
17 playrooms and other rooms of the house. The 1981 SWAG
18 report shows that even parents were not allowed access
19 beyond a public hallway area and their recommendation of
20 a more suitable environment for visiting relatives and
21 friends was implemented by the home by the provision of
22 a sitting room. It should also be noted that Mr William
23 Johnston, secretary to the home when it closed in 1984,
24 in his witness to the Hughes Commission that members of
25 the Management Committee could visit the home and that

1 he himself did so weekly to talk with, play with, watch
2 TV with and join in board games with the children."

3 They make the point that there was intermittent
4 refurbishment and redecoration going on during the
5 period that HIA289 was in the home.

6 The policy of the home -- the Management Committee
7 said that the policy was that staff should be seen
8 around and be with the children as duties permitted:

9 "... and given the home's strict policy on access to
10 the children and on supervision of the children, we
11 believe that there were systemic safeguards in place for
12 the protection of children."

13 Going back to -- I should say that the response goes
14 on to state that if a member of staff had been told
15 about abuse and acted in the way described by HIA289 in
16 his statement, that member of staff would have been in
17 breach of the home standards, and contrary to what
18 occurred in a case -- another case that is referred to
19 on the next page in paragraph 095, that that member of
20 staff would have been subject to criticism and
21 disciplined by the Management Committee.

22 HIA289 goes on in paragraph 11 of his statement at
23 087 to say that:

24 "There was an older boy in the home",

25 and he gives his name. He remembers that he was

1 a few years older than him and would have been between
2 13 and 15 years old and that he had a younger brother,
3 whose name was also given. He had no issues with the
4 younger brother, but the older boy had problems and he
5 was very aggressive.

6 "He performed oral sex on me and he did this to
7 other boys as well. I said 'No' to him once and he went
8 into a rage. He was quite frightening. This sort of
9 thing happened in the fields that ran against the golf
10 course. We used to make dens and this is where this
11 sort of thing happened. I do not recall being
12 supervised when we were playing outside in the fields.
13 I can recall the staff supervising us in the playground,
14 but I do not think that we were supervised during all
15 play times.

16 I remember on one occasion the staff allowed a few
17 boys to go and stay with a man in the Boys' Brigade so
18 that we could play with his children. I cannot remember
19 his name. We stayed overnight and were put in a bedroom
20 together. He had come into the bedroom to warn us to be
21 quiet on three occasions. On the third occasion he took
22 the duvet off us and laid into us with a leather belt.
23 I was really shocked, because we were not his children.
24 The next day he brought us to church."

25 Now the ICM in their response statement indicate

1 that the records relating to the boys named by HIA289 --
2 what the records show in respect of those children, and
3 they confirm the view that the boy named by HIA289 did
4 have problems.

5 In respect of being beaten by the man from the Boys'
6 Brigade the response statement outlines what the minutes
7 show about the policy of allowing children to stay out,
8 and I don't propose to read that out, but it is
9 paragraphs 29 to 33 of the response statement.

10 In paragraph 13 HIA289 goes on to talk about the
11 pocket money that they received and being brought to
12 Lisburn to spend that pocket money. That was a new
13 thing for him, as he was from a poor family. He
14 remembers being taken on holiday to Bangor and
15 Newcastle. That was a good thing for him again, as he
16 hadn't had holidays as a child. He said it was like
17 a big jamboree. He recalls that there were disabled
18 children who went on those holidays as well.

19 He recalls Christmas in paragraph 14, where they got
20 a bag of toys and were taken to a post office workers'
21 party for children in Belfast, children from other homes
22 at the party, and Santa Claus would turn up. You would
23 be sitting on the floor. Your name was called out and
24 you would be given a present.

25 In paragraph 15 he talks about punishment in the

1 home and he said:

2 "If any of the children misbehaved, they would have
3 been disciplined. Their privileges may have been taken
4 away or they may have been sent to bed early. I do not
5 remember anything like solitary confinement. If the
6 behaviour was seriously bad, the staff member would have
7 brought the child to matron's office. They would have
8 explained what the behaviour was and matron would then
9 have determined whether to hit you on the hand with the
10 ruler. I do not remember any of the children being
11 terrified of her. I had nothing against any of the
12 staff who ran the home. I believe they treated us
13 correctly and fairly. I do not remember at any time
14 being hit with the ruler."

15 In paragraph 16 he talks about his departure from
16 the home as being very sudden and not being given any
17 notice of the fact he was being returned to his parents
18 and taken to the airport to meet them.

19 He then describes his life after care, paragraphs 17
20 to 21. At paragraph 22 he describes engaging with the
21 Inquiry and he says:

22 "After I saw the posters advertising the HIA
23 Inquiry, I completed a form online and I left it on the
24 computer for ages, as I didn't know whether to just
25 leave it. I went on to a website for people who used to

1 live in Ireland and I saw that someone was referring to
2 Manor House in Lisburn. I then felt that it was my duty
3 to come forward in order to corroborate the stories of
4 others."

5 In paragraphs 23 to 25 he describes some of the
6 difficulties that he has experienced since. He talks
7 about his brother and the fact that he hasn't been able
8 to ask his brother about whether or not he was abused.

9 At paragraph 25 he says that -- he concludes by
10 saying that he would have enjoyed his time in Manor
11 House but for the abuse that he suffered, a comment
12 which the Irish Church Missions believe to be consonant
13 with the systemic care that the home and its staff
14 offered the children that they cared for.

15 Chairman, that concludes today's evidence. Tomorrow
16 we will hear from another former resident and then we
17 will hear from the Reverend Coulter from Irish Church
18 Missions.

19 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Well, we will adjourn now and resume
20 tomorrow morning.

21 (11.35 am)

22 (Inquiry adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning)

23 --ooOoo--

24

25

I N D E X

1

2

3 WITNESS HIA365 (called - by video2

4 link)

5 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY2

6 Questions from THE PANEL16

7

8 WITNESS HIA290 (called - by video21

9 link)

10 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY21

11 Questions from THE PANEL33

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Summary of evidence of WITNESS37

HIA289 by COUNSEL TO THE

INQUIRY