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HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY  
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being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at  
Banbridge Court House  
Banbridge

on Thursday, 7th January 2016

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 175)

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

1 Thursday, 7th January 2016

2 (10.00 am)

3 WITNESS HIA366 (called)

4 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. As always,  
5 can I ask anyone who has a mobile phone to ensure that  
6 it has either been turned off or placed on  
7 "Silent"/"Vibrate", and may I also remind you that no  
8 photography is permitted here either in the chamber or  
9 on the premises.

10 Yes, Ms Smith?

11 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and  
12 gentlemen. Our first witness today is HIA366. She is  
13 "HIA366". HIA366 wishes to take a religious oath, and  
14 she has spoken to the press in the past. So she is  
15 happy for her name to go into the public domain,  
16 Chairman.

17 WITNESS HIA366 (sworn)

18 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please sit down.

19 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

20 MS SMITH: Now, HIA366, as I have explained to you, I am  
21 just going to tell the Panel Members where there are  
22 some documents relevant to your evidence in our papers.

23 **A. All right.**

24 Q. HIA366's statement can be found at 076 to 083.

25 The Irish Church Missions' response is at 133 to

1 155.

2 The Health & Social Care Board have given a response  
3 at 29... -- sorry -- 239 to 251. They accept that the  
4 family was known to the Antrim Welfare Authority, but  
5 they have not found any file, and they note that  
6 admission to care was a voluntary one. What Social  
7 Service papers there are are at 2955 to 2960.

8 There is police material at 6188 to 203 -- that's  
9 61203.

10 Newspaper articles can be found at 2558 to 2560, and  
11 HIA366 herself brought some material to the Inquiry, and  
12 they can be -- that can be found at 12040 to 12055, and  
13 that consists of statements about her childhood  
14 experiences provided to the Inquiry. One was  
15 handwritten and the others were typed.

16 So, HIA366, if we could look at your statement,  
17 please. That's at 076. Now I explained to you, HIA366,  
18 you'll see that although you are happy for your name to  
19 go into the public domain, we have given you anonymity  
20 and blocked out your name from this statement, but if  
21 you could look through that just and confirm it is your  
22 witness statement and that you then, in fact, signed  
23 that on 11th November of last year -- sorry -- yes, last  
24 year, 2015, just last year. Is that correct?

25 **A. (Nods.)**

1 Q. I can see you nodding at me, HIA366, but we have to  
2 actually ask you to speak. If you maybe just pull the  
3 microphone towards you, that would be helpful.

4 **A. Okay.**

5 Q. Thank you. That is your statement. Is that right?

6 **A. Yes, yes.**

7 Q. Okay. So your personal details are set out there in  
8 paragraph 1.

9 We can see in paragraph 2 that you spent some time  
10 in Lissue, because you were ill. You were diagnosed  
11 with coeliac disease. That was as a very young child.  
12 You feel you might have been there for as long as two  
13 years, but you don't really remember --

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. -- because you have no real memory of your time there.  
16 Isn't that right?

17 **A. No.**

18 Q. Then you go on to talk about another place that you  
19 lived for a while. That was Mayflower House in Belfast.  
20 You talk about your experiences there in paragraphs 3  
21 and 4.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. But, as you know, the Inquiry today is looking at what  
24 occurred when you were in Manor House Children's Home.  
25 We know from the record of admission, which we can see

1 at 137, please -- if we can just invert that, we will  
2 see here that your maiden name is given there, HIA366,  
3 together with your brother's name and your dates of  
4 birth. You were both Church of Ireland religion. You  
5 were admitted you will see there on 8th December 1972  
6 until 21st December 1973, when you went to live with  
7 your father. The remarks, the reasons for you being  
8 brought into the home were that you were in need of  
9 protection and parents separated.

10 "Mother has been in ..."

11 I think she was in hospital. She had had  
12 difficulties at that time. So those are the dates that  
13 we know that you were actually living in Manor House,  
14 HIA366.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. You yourself thought you had been there for a longer  
17 time, because as a child it can seem a lot longer --

18 **A. Yes, yes.**

19 Q. -- but we know those were the dates you were actually  
20 there. So you were 9 when you came to live in Manor  
21 House and we know you left aged 10.

22 Now paragraph 5, if we can go back to that, in your  
23 statement, please. That's at 077. As you say, you went  
24 into Manor House with your brother. You were upset  
25 because you couldn't find your sister. You didn't know

1 where she went to after you left Mayflower House.

2 You remember that the home had bars on the windows.

3 You describe it as being like a prison.

4 "We each had to wear a uniform. We were made to  
5 march and we had to keep our heads down. We used to  
6 attend a club on Monday nights and on certain Sunday  
7 nights we went on a bus run."

8 Now we were talking about this earlier. I was  
9 explaining to you that we have received a statement from  
10 the Irish Church Missions --

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. -- about some of the things that you have said. They  
13 explain that the bars on the windows were there because  
14 the previous matron before your time in the home had  
15 asked for these when a young child had climbed on to the  
16 window sill. In fact, that was recommended by the  
17 Ministry of Home Affairs. I am not going to call their  
18 statement up, but the Panel can see that at page 145.

19 I was wondering -- when we were talking, you  
20 actually now remember you didn't actually wear  
21 a uniform, but the uniform -- there might have been  
22 a Girls' Brigade uniform --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- or something like that --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- rather than a uniform you wore on a daily basis. Is  
2 that right? Although you each had to look the same on  
3 Sunday going to mass. That's the kind of uniform that  
4 you were talking about also?

5 **A. Yes, yes.**

6 Q. The Monday night club you were talking about might have  
7 been something like the Girls' Brigade?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. The bus runs on Sunday nights, that was only  
10 occasionally?

11 **A. That was occasionally. It wasn't all the time, no.**

12 Q. The marching that you talk about, I will come back to  
13 that, because you were saying to me that MH9 actually --  
14 you say that you were marched to the front door and you  
15 were checked to see what you were wearing at the front  
16 door. That is what you meant.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. It wasn't a case of being made to march around the house  
19 or anything like that?

20 **A. No, no, no. Just march for church.**

21 Q. It was just when you were going somewhere?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. Going to church on a Sunday. You marched then from the  
24 home to church in convoy, as it were?

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. Paragraph 6 there you say:

2 "The canteen was full of cockroaches and it was in  
3 a very old building. MH9 ...",

4 and you will see we have given her a designation.

5 As I was explaining to you, HIA366, although we are  
6 using people's names inside the chamber, they are not to  
7 be used outside.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. You can certainly use your own name, but you are not  
10 allowed to use anybody else's.

11 **A. All right. All right. Thank you.**

12 Q. You say:

13 "She worked in the home and she was like a sergeant  
14 major. I kept being sick and MH9 would have hit me."

15 The reason you were sick was because you were given  
16 the wrong type of food in Manor House. You say you used  
17 to hide under the table, but she would have got you and  
18 pulled you by the ear:

19 "I had been diagnosed as suffering from coeliac  
20 disease when I was in Lissie. I was given the wrong  
21 type of food at Manor House. This is why I was always  
22 sick. I have always wanted to know why they did not  
23 have my medical records, which should have showed that  
24 I had coeliac disease. When I was being fed the wrong  
25 food, my stomach would have become very swollen. I had



1 to attend the hospital to get my stomach retrained to  
2 stop the swelling."

3 Now you were not attending hospital when you were in  
4 Manor House; this was something later in life. Is that  
5 right?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Now you describe her there -- sorry. I should have just  
8 said the Irish Church Missions accept that the minutes  
9 show there were -- certainly the cockroaches were  
10 a problem in the house. Certainly the minutes show that  
11 in 1963 and 1970. While we don't have any minutes for  
12 1973 during your time there, it is entirely possible  
13 that they might have come back.

14 Paragraph 7 here you describe MH9. You say:

15 "She was a big lump of a woman and we were all  
16 terrified of her. . She made us  
17 march. She would have pulled us by the ear and we would  
18 have been squealing. She always had a wooden brush like  
19 the type of brush you would use on clothes. She beat me  
20 with this wooden brush. I think she just picked on me.  
21 She hit me that hard that on some days I was going to  
22 school black and blue with bruises. I remember on one  
23 occasion I was given porridge with salt in it and I felt  
24 sick. I ran behind ..."

25 The name of the cook I think was MH10?

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. "... so that MH9 would not hit me. MH9 was  
3 terrified" -- sorry -- "MH10 was terrified of MH9."

4 Now I think if we just look at 2565, please, this is  
5 what I was telling you about. This is MH9's obituary,

6  
7 . Is that how you remember  
8 MH9, HIA366? That's what she looked like?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. That's the person you are talking about?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. One thing that you were always saying is that she wore  
13 in the home --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- sort of like a hospital .

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. Like a blue dress you described it.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. Going back, if we may, to your statement at page 078,  
20 you say that MH9 at paragraph 8 here kept you and your  
21 brother apart. You kept asking for your brother and she  
22 would throw you:

23 "... into the cellar with teenagers who were in and  
24 around 19 years of age when I was only 6 or 7."

25 We know that you were a bit older.

1 **A. That's the wrong age, yes.**

2 Q. That's the wrong age.

3 "My mother visited Manor House to spend time with me  
4 and MH9 would not let her see me. On one occasion she  
5 hit me hard across the head and I had to go to  
6 Lagan Valley Hospital. I can recall that I was crying  
7 all the time in Manor House. I was shouting out for  
8 help as a ... child. I even ran to the police station  
9 and they returned me to Manor House."

10 Now the Irish Church Missions have said that this  
11 was a home for about 20 people and it wasn't really  
12 possible to keep brothers and sisters apart and others  
13 have told the Inquiry that they were able to mix with  
14 their siblings, HIA366, but that's not your  
15 recollection. You feel that either you were in a cellar  
16 or MH 8 , your brother, was in the cellar and you never  
17 really got to see much of each other --

18 **A. No.**

19 Q. -- although you did meet at meal times.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. Isn't that right?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. But I was asking you about play time. You don't  
24 remember seeing him then?

25 **A. No.**

1 Q. Paragraph 9 you talk about the school that you went to  
2 when you were in the home. You used to cry to the  
3 teachers. You thought they would do something to help  
4 you, but the abuse just kept going on. You say the  
5 headmaster in school used to beat you. You still have  
6 a scar on your hand from one of those beatings. I take  
7 it you are talking about being caned in school?

8 **A. Yes, yes.**

9 Q. Paragraph 10 here you go on to discuss the sexual abuse  
10 that you say you suffered at the hands of MH9. You say  
11 she used to make you go to her bedroom. She took your  
12 clothes off, made you lie on the bed beside her and made  
13 you do things to her. You did not know about the  
14 different parts of the body and asked her, "What is up  
15 there?" She said it was her wee lost forest and made  
16 you do things with the hairbrush, which at the time as a  
17 child you thought was normal.

18 At paragraph 11 you said that you thought the  
19 teenagers in the home were members of staff. Is that  
20 because they were asked to help out and do things like  
21 homework with you younger children or what?

22 **A. They -- the 19-year-olds would have, you know, helped**  
23 **out, but I thought they were staff, because I actually**  
24 **was in the bath with a 19-year-old, like, and I thought**  
25 **he was the staff. So ...**

1 Q. You didn't know.

2 There was an older boy who you name here. I am just  
3 going to use the first name, which is MH13. You can  
4 remember him and you remember two -- three other  
5 families, whose surnames you give here. You can recall  
6 MH9 beating -- sorry. There was another boy. It was  
7 MH12, who was MH12, that you remember. Another boy,  
8 MH13, who is MH13, you remember MH9 beating him.

9 "The older boys bullied us, but I think that MH9 was  
10 bullying them and that is why they then bullied us. If  
11 we went into the playroom, the bigger children would  
12 have locked us in there. We then screamed to be let  
13 out. I can recall that on one occasion ...",

14 as you were just telling us, you were put into the  
15 bath with a 9-year-old (sic). Again you thought you  
16 were younger than you actually were. You say:

17 "It was horrifying the way we were abused by the  
18 older children."

19 One point that the Irish Church Missions have made  
20 in their statement to the Inquiry, HIA366, is that time  
21 you were in the home in the early '70s corporal  
22 punishment was something that was allowed and was used  
23 by MH9 on children at the time you were there, but the  
24 records would suggest that this wasn't the normal type  
25 of punishment of children; that, in fact, children were

1 either sent to bed early or they were denied going on  
2 an outing, and that pocket money might have been  
3 deducted if damage was caused by children in the home.

4 Do you remember that type of punishment?

5 **A. No. I was just always put in the cellar or -- you know,**  
6 **I have never been put to bed; just threw into the**  
7 **cellar, you know.**

8 Q. We have heard there was a basement in the home. That's  
9 what you mean by the cellar?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. That lower -- that lower level of the home?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. When you were put in there, HIA366, what was it like?  
14 I mean, was it a particular room that you were put into  
15 or was it --

16 **A. It was real old and wet and dark and it was just a --**  
17 **it's horrifying, you know. It's so dark and ...**

18 Q. Was there a bed or a chair --

19 **A. No, no.**

20 Q. -- or anything like that?

21 **A. The floor was wet. Real old, you know.**

22 Q. We have seen photographs of Manor House that suggest it  
23 was an old Victorian type building.

24 **A. Yes, yes.**

25 Q. Paragraph 12 you go on to talk about:

1 "On Sunday we were all marched to Christ Church. We  
2 were not allowed to enter through the front door. We  
3 were sneaked round the side of the church. When we were  
4 in the church, we were not allowed to move. I was not  
5 happy when the MH19", who again is a name that we have  
6 given a designation to, "referred to us as 'children  
7 from the orphanage'. I felt we were being discriminated  
8 against. I just wanted to be like the other children.  
9 I could not understand why we were not allowed to enter  
10 the church through the front doors. It was humiliating.  
11 One Sunday I stood up while the MH 19 was giving his  
12 -- doing the and I shouted 'Help'. MH9  
13 put me into a cellar in the church. I was then brought  
14 back to Manor House, beaten again and thrown into the  
15 cellar as further punishment."

16 Now the Church Missions would say that bringing up  
17 children in the Christian faith was a key component of  
18 the home's care and going to church on Sunday was simply  
19 part of that. They say that going in through the side  
20 door was not in any attempt to hide you from the rest of  
21 the congregation, but was simply to avoid you having to  
22 go through a throng of people --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- on the main aisle, because it was a very well  
25 attended church in that period of time. They say there

1           were actually three entrances to the church. You would  
2           have been using the entrance closest to the seats that  
3           were sort of reserved for you, as it were, and it wasn't  
4           designed to make you feel bad, but that wasn't how you  
5           felt, HIA366. Isn't that right?

6     **A. I felt humiliated. That's all.**

7     Q. You said that you saw other children coming through the  
8           main doors. You couldn't understand why you couldn't  
9           use that door.

10    **A. Yes.**

11    Q. I think when we were talking earlier, you felt  
12           discriminated against --

13    **A. Yes.**

14    Q. -- and made to feel lesser than these other children.

15    **A. Yes, I did, yes.**

16    Q. The other thing that the Church Missions have said is  
17           that they have no records of any complaint about MH9  
18           from any of the children or anybody else or any record  
19           ever having to be disciplined or reprimanded by the  
20           Board of Management.

21           Social Service papers record her as having had  
22           a close relationship with the children, and she was  
23           described by the Social Work Advisory Group in a report  
24           that they did as being quite protective of the children.  
25           Now that dated from about ten years after you had left



1 the home.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. But, you know, they also made the point in their  
4 statement that you weren't there in the 1960s, when you  
5 were talking about her.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. But you can only speak, HIA366, to what you remember --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- and you remember her as someone who scared you.  
10 Isn't that right?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Paragraph 13 you said that you always felt that the  
13 church humiliated you. You cried to the MH19 and told  
14 him what MH9 was doing to you, but he did not believe  
15 you. On another occasion he slapped you across the head  
16 because you had the wrong socks on and told you that you  
17 were a bad girl.

18 "When I was punished, I kept asking if I had done  
19 anything bad. I felt like I had lost my family and my  
20 childhood."

21 You thought that Manor House was run by the Church  
22 of Ireland, but you realised -- you found out later that  
23 it was the Church Missionary Society that ran the home.

24 Now we were talking a little more about this  
25 incident involving the MH19. You were telling me he

1 used to come and inspect you before you left the home  
2 for church on a Sunday. It was at this stage you were  
3 supposed to wear a little dress and white socks. You  
4 were wearing a different colour of socks. Is that  
5 right, HIA366?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. When I asked you about how he hit you, what you  
8 described was he clipped you across the ear really.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. It wasn't --

11 **A. No.**

12 Q. -- something so bad it knocked you off your feet or  
13 anything like that. Then you were sent to get changed  
14 and put the right socks on by MH9.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. I was asking was there anybody else who was treated by  
17 him in that way? The boy MH12, whom you have already  
18 made reference to, you told me that he had --

19 **A. The wrong trousers on.**

20 Q. And he again got the same treatment?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. Would have had to go and get changed before going to  
23 church?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. I was asking, you know, what you had actually said to

1 him, I mean, what you had actually told him, because in  
2 the statement that you had prepared for your solicitor  
3 and given to the Inquiry you say that you tried to talk  
4 to him and he wouldn't listen. I am not going to call  
5 it up, but it is at 12051. I mean, did -- can you  
6 remember the conversation or where it took place or how  
7 you said to him or ...?

8 **A. I just -- when we were marching up, I just said to him,**  
9 **you know -- I was asking him, you know, to help me and**  
10 **I did say to him, "Look, please help me, because you**  
11 **don't know what's happening in the home", because we**  
12 **were all confused, because there was 19 -- I thought**  
13 **they were staff, but they were just -- it was**  
14 **terrifying, like, you know, standing there and marching.**  
15 **You were not allowed to put your head up or anything.**  
16 **So it was really bad on us, like.**

17 Q. When you said to him "Please help me. You don't know  
18 what's happening in the home", what was --

19 **A. He just said to me I was a bad girl and I went ...**  
20 **(gestured). You know, I didn't know. I just said**  
21 **standing, marching, you know, and standing to attention.**

22 Q. That was the only time you tried to tell anybody --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- about what your complaints were, HIA366?

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. Paragraph 14 you say:

2 "At Christmas we all received toys."

3 You remember one Christmas Rolf Harris came to visit  
4 Manor House.

5 "All of the other children went home at Christmas  
6 and I can remember [your brother] and I just stayed in  
7 the home."

8 You don't have any memories of the home being  
9 inspected. You remember going to the local health  
10 centre during your time in Manor House, but you do not  
11 remember a doctor coming to visit the home.

12 Now just about the business, that had to  
13 be in 1972 --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- because we know that was the only Christmas --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- that you were in the home. You said more about this  
18 when you spoke to the , if we look at that at  
19 MNH2558. This is from last -- sorry -- two years ago  
20 now I suppose, HIA366.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. This is the . You talk  
23 here -- it just says that you told -- you said that:

24 " , who at that time had been convicted  
25 and put in jail, "came to visit us for a Christmas

1 party. He put me on his knee and sang  
2 and drew me a picture with two little birdies and  
3 . He was jiggling me on his knee  
4 and she" -- and this is MH9 you are talking about --  
5 "got in a rage and pulled me by the ear. He got up to  
6 protect me and cuddled me in and put me back on his  
7 knee" -- can we just scroll on down, please -- "because  
8 I was crying."

9 Now that's -- your complaint is not about anything  
10 that did to you, HIA366. Isn't that right?  
11 It is really what MH9 did when she saw him giving you  
12 some sort of preferential treatment --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- as -- making a fuss of you in some way. Now  
15 the minute books for the period after 1970, as I have  
16 explained, have unfortunately been lost when they were  
17 given over to the police for another matter. So there  
18 is no record of him having actually visited the home,  
19 but in another that we can look at -- and  
20 I will just get the page reference for that. It is at  
21 2559. This was another time that you spoke to the  
22 press. I think this is the ,  
23 HIA366.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. You see in the course of this article, just if we can

1 scroll on down, it is talking there in the middle column  
2 about and it said that:

3 "While he was visiting Manor House Home in Lisburn,  
4 arranged for the children who lived there to  
5 attend a concert he was giving for the soldiers at the  
6 nearby Thiepval Military Barracks."

7 **A. Thiepval Barracks.**

8 Q. You remember actually going to that concert at the  
9 barracks. Isn't that right, HIA366?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. So it would appear that he was over in Northern Ireland  
12 for this concert and then in the course of that visit to  
13 Northern Ireland he then came and visited Manor House.  
14 At least that seems to be the suggestion from the

15 .

16 CHAIRMAN: Scroll on down, please. I can't see all of this  
17 report. Scroll down, please.

18 MS SMITH: Scroll down.

19 CHAIRMAN: This is HIA366's account?

20 MS SMITH: Yes. Did you tell the paper that he had been  
21 giving a concert for the barracks in Thiepval? So that  
22 wasn't something that they found out themselves? That's  
23 something you told them.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Is that right?

1 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. We can come back to the -- the continuation, I should  
3 say, of this account in the is then on  
4 page -- the next page actually, 2560, I think. Yes. It  
5 was spread over pages. If we can scroll on down, that's  
6 the final part of that article.

7 Just going back to your statement, HIA366, at the  
8 bottom of page 079, at paragraph 15 there you said that  
9 you had hearing problems. I know you haven't brought  
10 a hearing aid today with you, but you are not having any  
11 difficulty in hearing us. You think you were maybe born  
12 deaf in one ear. There is certainly some medical  
13 evidence in the police papers that show that you did  
14 have a difficulty with your ear. You had a hearing aid  
15 as a child. You say MH9 jumped on the hearing aid and  
16 told you that you wouldn't need it.

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. You have a fear as a result of people touching your  
19 ears.

20 You then go on to say in paragraph 16 you were sent  
21 home to your dad's house at the weekends. So you and  
22 your sister -- your brother, your sister and you all  
23 stayed in the house with your father at the weekends.  
24 Now that wasn't every weekend. It was just some  
25 weekends. Isn't that right?

1 **A. (Nods).**

2 Q. You are nodding away, HIA366. I know that you are  
3 agreeing with me, but because we are trying to get  
4 a record of your evidence, if you could maybe just even  
5 say "Yes", that would be helpful.

6 **A. Okay. Sorry.**

7 Q. You are okay. Thank you. Then you also used to cry to  
8 your sister and ask her to get you out of Manor House.  
9 Your other sister used to come and visit you at the  
10 weekends when you weren't going home.

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

12 Q. You left Manor House we know in December 2... --  
13 sorry -- 1973, when you were aged 10, and went to live  
14 with your father.

15 Now paragraphs 17 to 19, which I am not going to go  
16 through, you talk about living with your father and we  
17 know he subsequently sexually and physically abused you,  
18 HIA366, and you ran away and ended up in a training  
19 school. At paragraphs 20 to 21 you describe your time  
20 in the training school. As I have indicated to you, the  
21 Inquiry has read your entire statement and knows what  
22 you are saying about that.

23 Paragraph 23, you then went to Navara House, which  
24 was somewhere that was to prepare you for living on your  
25 own in the community.



1    **A.   Yes.**

2    Q.   You were happy there.

3            You describe in paragraphs 24 to 27 how -- the  
4    course that your life took after you left care.  Again  
5    I have told you that the Panel has read all of that and  
6    knows what you say there.

7            You talk about having -- we know that from the  
8    papers, HIA366, you spoke to a solicitor.  You have  
9    spoken to the            .  You spoke to the police and you  
10   thought you told them at the age of 10 an occasion that  
11   you recount in your statement about running away from  
12   home and going to a neighbour's house.  You thought you  
13   had made a statement to the police when you were aged  
14   about 10, but you know from your contact with them that  
15   they have no record of that.

16           You contacted them again in 2014 and the account of  
17   their interaction with you is at 6191.  They were  
18   contacting you and you told them -- if we just look at  
19   6191, please.  If we can scroll down to -- it says there  
20   they spoke to you at            .  You made a statement of  
21   complaint alleging that -- again the dates are incorrect  
22   -- when you were in Manor House, you were sexually and  
23   physically abused by a MH9, whom you described as the  
24            of the home.  You also alleged you were slapped  
25   on the head once by the MH19 and alleged that you were

1 abused by your father as a child. That happened when  
2 you went home for weekends. You wanted to make  
3 a statement, but didn't want to do so on Thursday, as  
4 you felt doing that was too much for you at that time.  
5 They arranged to contact you. They were getting details  
6 and they discovered that both MH19 and MH9 were dead --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- at the time that you went to the police in 2014.

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

10 Q. Now you never, in fact, made a statement of evidence to  
11 police, HIA366 -- isn't that right -- at this time in  
12 2014 other than going and talking to them? You never  
13 made a formal written statement. The only police file  
14 the Inquiry has seen related to the abuse on you by your  
15 father, which, as you know, is not within the terms of  
16 the reference of the Inquiry, but he was convicted after  
17 he admitted abusing you, HIA366.

18 **A. (Nods).**

19 Q. As we have already been looking at, you spoke to the  
20 . That was the , and  
21 again in , that , and there  
22 was another time that you spoke to the press, which is  
23 at 6203. This is undated. It came from the police  
24 material, but reading the above it, which  
25 relates to somebody giving evidence to the Inquiry, by

1 the process of working out who was speaking to the  
2 Inquiry at that time, it is clear that this article  
3 either dates from either ,  
4 because it was around the time that we were dealing with  
5 people who had been in Manor House and who had emigrated  
6 to -- been part of the Child Migrant Scheme and gone to  
7 Australia. That's how you then came to be speaking to  
8 the again then. It is not clear even what  
9 . Can you remember?

10 **A. (Shakes head).**

11 Q. That would have been .

12 **A. No.**

13 Q. You can't remember. Okay.

14 Well, paragraph 28 of your statement, HIA366, which  
15 is at page 083, you essentially sum up I think what you  
16 want the Inquiry to hear. You say:

17 "I feel like I have been crying for help for  
18 40 years. I really want answers from the Church  
19 for the physical, sexual and mental abuse that  
20 I suffered in Manor House. I was in danger as a child  
21 and I feel that I was put in even more danger by the  
22 relevant authorities. All I ever wanted as a child was  
23 to be protected and I never got that."

24 HIA366, that's all that I am going to ask you about  
25 your time in Manor House. I know I have done most of

1 the talking and, as I discussed with you earlier, that  
2 was to try to make the process of getting what you  
3 wanted to say easier for you, but is there anything that  
4 you feel that we haven't covered or anything more that  
5 you want to say about your time in Manor House? If  
6 I might summarise your complaint, your complaint is  
7 largely about your treatment by MH9 --

8 **A. (Nods).**

9 Q. -- and also about the fact that you were made to feel  
10 lesser by the Church of Ireland --

11 **A. Yes. That's it.**

12 Q. -- when you attended church services --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- and ignored when you tried to complain to them. Is  
15 that a fair summary of your complaint, HIA366?

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. Thank you. I have nothing further. Oh, one further  
18 question. I beg your pardon. Everybody who speaks to  
19 the Inquiry about their time in children's homes is  
20 asked about this, because at the end of its work the  
21 Inquiry has to make recommendations to the Northern  
22 Ireland Executive, to the Government, about what should  
23 be done to --

24 **A. Protect.**

25 Q. -- deal with what happened to children, whether that

1 should be by way of compensation, recommendations for  
2 change or whatever it might be, and the Inquiry is  
3 interested in hearing from you what you feel those  
4 recommendations ought to be.

5 **A. Just protect children more better and don't have kids**  
6 **the way we were brought up and reared; that I hope the**  
7 **government and the system should, you know, just look**  
8 **after the children far better than what they done in our**  
9 **day. We never got the help. So that's all I can say.**

10 Q. Okay, HIA366. Thank you.

11 **A. I am too nervous.**

12 Q. The Panel may have some questions for you. Okay?

13 Questions from THE PANEL

14 CHAIRMAN: HIA366, can I just ask you to go back to what you  
15 were telling us about the 19-year-olds? You remember  
16 that? You said there were 19-year-olds who helped out  
17 and you thought that they were staff.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. Then you said there was an occasion when you were in the  
20 bath with a 19-year-old.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. Does that mean there was a 19-year-old who bathed you,  
23 put you in the bath --

24 **A. (Nods).**

25 Q. -- or does it mean a 19-year-old boy got into the bath

1 with you?

2 **A. Yes. He washed me. I thought it was staff, but it was**  
3 **actually a fella that lived in the home.**

4 Q. So I take it from that what you mean is he was outside  
5 the bath washing you and you were inside the bath?

6 **A. He was in the bath with me too.**

7 Q. He actually got into the bath with you?

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. That's what I wanted to be clear about. Was this  
10 a normal sized bath?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. The other thing I wanted to ask you is about your  
13 speaking to MH19. Now was he somebody you were speaking  
14 to in the home or was this at Christ Church?

15 **A. I pulled him at the door when we were marching.**

16 Q. Yes, but was this -- did this happen in Manor House or  
17 did it happen at Christ Church?

18 **A. For me to shout "Help"?**

19 Q. Yes.

20 **A. I was -- in Christ Church I shouted "Help".**

21 Q. And is that the same occasion that you've described to  
22 us as pulling; in other words, trying to get the  
23 attention of the MH19?

24 **A. (Nods). Yes.**

25 Q. You are nodding your head. So you are saying "Yes". Do

1 I take it from what you have said earlier that your  
2 objection that you were trying to convey to him was you  
3 didn't like the way you were all being lined up and  
4 taken in a crocodile -- you said being marched -- but  
5 made all go together into church?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Was that your --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- complaint to him?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. And is that what you meant by saying, "You don't know  
12 what's happening in the house. There's just marching  
13 and standing to attention"?

14 **A. (Nods).**

15 Q. So your complaint was you didn't want to be taken into  
16 the church in this way?

17 **A. No. We shouldn't. We should just have to be like**  
18 **normal wee kids, like, and just -- you know, kids would**  
19 **play or carry on, but we weren't -- we had to be marched**  
20 **up and that was it. I felt discriminated. Like we had**  
21 **to keep our head and everything down. Like, it's -- the**  
22 **church was outrageous to treat us like that, you know.**

23 Q. So was your objection to being made to go to church at  
24 all?

25 **A. Sorry?**

1 Q. Was your objection being made to go to church at all?

2 **A. No. I -- we were -- we were made to go to church.**

3 Q. Did you not want to go to church yourself?

4 **A. (Shakes head). No, because of the way -- because MH19**  
5 **didn't believe me.**

6 Q. I see. As far as the visit to Manor House by  
7 is concerned do I understand that he came to  
8 Manor House after or at the same time as he visited  
9 Lisburn to go to this army concert?

10 **A. Yes. He come to the playroom to ...**

11 Q. Yes. He actually came into the building?

12 **A. Yes. He was in, yes, and then that evening we went to**  
13 **Thiepval Barracks.**

14 Q. I see. Later on that time?

15 **A. That evening, yes.**

16 Q. You don't seem to be making any complaint about the way  
17 he behaved to you.

18 **A. No.**

19 Q. Is that right?

20 **A. That's true.**

21 Q. Thank you very much.

22 MS DOHERTY: Thanks, HIA366. Can I just check: in relation  
23 to the behaviour of the older children, do you think  
24 staff were aware of that? Were they around?

25 **A. (Nods).**



1 Q. Did they see ...?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. And, what, that was acceptable --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- in relation to that?

6 When you were put into the cellar as a punishment,  
7 can you remember how long you would stay, be kept in the  
8 cellar?

9 **A. I stayed there for hours and a couple of days even, but,**  
10 **you know, I got up and got my lunch and then put back.**  
11 **I only took it it was just punishment and that was it.**

12 Q. Okay, but you are saying that you would actually for  
13 a number of days -- be brought up for your food and to  
14 go to bed presumably --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- be kept in a ...?

17 **A. Kept in a cellar.**

18 Q. Just finally can I ask: can you remember when you came  
19 into the home was there any type of medical at that  
20 time?

21 **A. (Shakes head).**

22 Q. None. So you didn't see a doctor when you arrived in or  
23 ...?

24 **A. No, no, no.**

25 Q. There was none there. Okay. Thanks, HIA366.

1 **A. All right. Thank you.**

2 MR LANE: You have described the things -- the abuse that  
3 you are alleging very clearly, but were there any good  
4 aspects to the home at all?

5 **A. I don't remember anything good.**

6 Q. Were there any staff that you got on well with?

7 **A. There was a woman, but -- she was nice, you know. She**  
8 **was nice, but no, not -- I hadn't good memories of that**  
9 **home.**

10 Q. And any friends among the children?

11 **A. Oh, yes. There was** MH41 **and the**  
12 **, you know.**

13 Q. Are you still in touch with them?

14 **A. Yes.**

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

16 **A. All right. Thank you.**

17 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA366, that's the last question we want to  
18 ask you. Thank you very much for coming to speak to us  
19 today.

20 **A. Thank you.**

21 Q. Thank you.

22 (Witness withdrew)

23 MS SMITH: Chairman, there is one other witness today, but  
24 I am going to need some time to consult with him before  
25 we call him.

1 CHAIRMAN: Yes. I understand that. We will start again in  
2 due course when we're ready.

3 (10.50 am)

4 (Short break)

5 (11.45 am)

6 REVEREND EDMUND COULTER (called)

7 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members. Our next  
8 witness today is the Reverend Edmund Coulter, who is  
9 content for me to call him "Eddie". He would like to  
10 take the religious oath unsurprisingly.

11 REVEREND EDMUND COULTER (sworn)

12 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please sit down.

13 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

14 MS SMITH: Now, Eddie, you have provided the Inquiry with  
15 a number of statements on behalf of Irish Church  
16 Missions, those responding to individuals from whom the  
17 Inquiry has heard evidence this week, and indeed in  
18 response to evidence that was given in Module 2 of this  
19 Inquiry, which dealt with the Child Migrant Scheme, you  
20 provided written material to the Inquiry at that time  
21 and also information about the individuals who were  
22 speaking to us at that time.

23 However, at that stage you yourself were unable  
24 personally to attend the Inquiry, and no-one else was in  
25 a position to be able to speak to the material as you

1 had examined it. I know you wanted the Inquiry to have  
2 it on record that it was meant as no personal disrespect  
3 or disrespect on the part of the organisation --

4 **A. That's correct.**

5 Q. -- to the Inquiry.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Having spoken to the Panel, if I can give you the  
8 assurance that certainly there was no disrespect taken  
9 or no offence taken --

10 **A. Thank you.**

11 Q. -- at the non-attendance at that time, but in any event  
12 also in addition to those statements and that material  
13 you have given a statement to the Inquiry which is at  
14 156 to 236, which includes exhibits from the records  
15 dealing with a number of specific queries that were put  
16 to the ICM by the Inquiry, and I just ask you to  
17 confirm, Eddie, that that is the statement or the start  
18 of the statement there on the screen?

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

20 Q. Now you are now Superintendent of Irish Church Missions,  
21 but you yourself had no involvement whatever in the  
22 running of Manor House Home during its existence --

23 **A. No, no.**

24 Q. -- until it closed in 1984, and any statement that you  
25 have provided to the Inquiry has been compiled from

1 those records which are still in existence. Isn't that  
2 correct?

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

4 Q. Now at paragraphs 1 to 11 here you set out what you have  
5 been able to glean from those records about the history  
6 of Manor House, its layout, what accommodation was  
7 provided, funding and who was responsible for running  
8 the home.

9 Now at paragraph 9 of the statement you say there  
10 that the care staff numbered around five, but from the  
11 records that we have seen that really would have only  
12 been from about 1958, when the home reopened. Isn't  
13 that so?

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

15 Q. In the earlier years the documents suggest that there  
16 would have been less staff --

17 **A. Yes, that's correct, yes.**

18 Q. -- and often too little to deal with the numbers in the  
19 home.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. You were saying to me that -- you were present -- sorry  
22 -- when I went through documentation earlier this week  
23 about the closure of the home in the early 1950s, and it  
24 is clear that conditions in the home at that time were  
25 extremely poor. You would accept that on behalf of the

1 Irish Church Missions?

2 **A. Yes. The minutes seem to and the evidence seems to**  
3 **certainly back that up, yes.**

4 Q. Would you accept also the assessment that the Management  
5 Committee, as it was then constituted, appear to have  
6 been ill-equipped to run a children's home?

7 **A. Yes, I think so. I think it looks that way from the**  
8 **records.**

9 Q. I think you, when we were talking a short while ago, say  
10 the quotation of "well-intentioned but inept" was  
11 probably accurate.

12 **A. Yes. I think that was a quote at the time. I think**  
13 **that seems true on a reading of the minutes when you**  
14 **read up the history of what it was going on.**

15 Q. You did want to say something more about the funding of  
16 Manor House, however.

17 **A. Yes. The fact that, you know, more funding wasn't**  
18 **available from the main headquarters, I think that was**  
19 **-- I was thinking about that, looking at that, thinking**  
20 **that, well, apart from the fact that the home was told**  
21 **to raise its own funds in the 1930s, there was -- in**  
22 **a mission agency there is always -- general funds always**  
23 **need to be looked at as well as specific funds. So --**  
24 **and also the funds -- the areas of support that they**  
25 **were looking for were from the same churches. I mean,**

1 the Church of Ireland basically is two-thirds, maybe  
2 more than two-thirds now, in the north of Ireland. All  
3 the mission agencies within the Church of Ireland look  
4 to the North really for their support and that would  
5 have been the case then. So they were going to the same  
6 churches for support. So the Irish Church Missions'  
7 funding was looking for support from the same churches  
8 for two different things. Money that went to the home  
9 then wouldn't go to the main organisation, which was  
10 spending its money, as it always has done historically,  
11 on funding people rather than buildings. It was always  
12 its main aim.

13 Q. Certainly The publication --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- that I referred to makes reference to people being  
16 trained --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- and that kind of thing.

19 A. Yes. We have extensive records of and stuff.  
20 Just around about the 1950s they seem to hit a time when  
21 funding was quite low for some reason and it was  
22 difficult to get funding, and therefore I don't think  
23 they felt that they -- they left the responsibility to  
24 the home to raise its own funding.

25 Q. You were saying that you felt that the fact that

1 I pointed out that the collector at that time --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- had been unable to carry out her duties was a major  
4 factor in the downturn in finances from the late '40s to  
5 the early '50s.

6 **A. Yes, I think that was quite significant. I think it was**  
7 **spot on actually. It was the fact that the financier or**  
8 **the collector had taken ill and wasn't able to go round**  
9 **the churches, round the various Church of Ireland groups**  
10 **that would have normally supported it. So once it is**  
11 **off a church's radar, it is off their radar. Running**  
12 **any mission organisation you need to be advertising**  
13 **yourself all the time to raise finance. So that seemed**  
14 **to be a main --**

15 Q. Major factor.

16 **A. -- major factor, yes.**

17 Q. Well, just -- I mean -- can I just say and put it on the  
18 record, Eddie, that I know that you personally have gone  
19 through all of these records and have provided not just  
20 the statements but the information to the Inquiry and  
21 that has been something that you yourself have done.  
22 Can I just say that the Inquiry has found that  
23 incredibly helpful and thank you for that publicly.

24 **A. Okay.**

25 Q. But in examination -- in your examination of the minutes



1 of the Board of Management prior to 1950, and we know we  
2 still have some of those, did you come across any  
3 reference to the home being visited or inspected by  
4 anyone from the Ministry of Home Affairs?

5 **A. No. I don't recall reading -- reading that.**

6 Q. Can the Inquiry assume that if such visits occurred,  
7 that they were likely to have been minuted?

8 **A. Yes. I think they would have been minuted if they had  
9 occurred, yes.**

10 Q. So the reality would seem to be that until Manor House  
11 sought to be registered first of all as an adoption  
12 agency and then as a voluntary children's home in 1950  
13 that it really wasn't on the radar of the Ministry of  
14 Home Affairs until that time?

15 **A. From my reading of the minutes and what I can remember,  
16 yes, I think that's reasonable to assume, yes.**

17 Q. Coming back to just about the minutes prior to 1950,  
18 prior to registration, did you ever see any reference in  
19 the minutes to concerns about inappropriate sexual  
20 behaviour of children prior to 1950?

21 **A. Not prior to 1950, no.**

22 Q. You do talk in paragraphs 78 to 87 of your statement --  
23 you address two incidents of sexual behaviour by  
24 children that are recorded in the minutes. I am going  
25 to look, first of all, to an entry from 1966, which was

1 about a boy called MH 59 , who was then aged 8 --

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. -- and who was in Manor House Home. If we look, please,  
4 at page 104, these are just two entries about this  
5 particular child there. If we scroll down, please, to  
6 the asterisk, it says:

7 "Dr McCann reported that MH 56 " -- and someone has  
8 written in "aged 8 years" -- "had shown serious -- signs  
9 of serious sexual precocity and homosexuality on  
10 a number of occasions recently. The secretary stated  
11 that there had been signs of mental trouble in the past.  
12 He apparently -- had apparently deteriorated since  
13 commencing to attend . On his  
14 first day at the school he had taken a hammer to another  
15 child. Dr McCann considered that Dr Burns should be  
16 allowed to act in this matter and that was" -- I beg  
17 your pardon -- "this was generally agreed.

18 MH3 reported that the children were all well  
19 physically, but MH 59 was a serious problem. On being  
20 advised by Dr McCann to keep a strict watch on him, she  
21 stated that that was being done."

22 If we can just look at page 106, please, it is there  
23 recorded that:

24 "As directed by the Committee at its previous  
25 meeting, the secretary had written to ...", MH 59

1 mother I think that might have been, "on 26th April  
2 1966, requesting her to make arrangements for MH 59 to  
3 be cared for elsewhere, as owing to his mental state, he  
4 needed skilled psychiatric attention. He reported that  
5 he had been in touch with Dr Moffett, Assistant Medical  
6 Superintendent, Eastern Special Care Committee, who was  
7 in charge of ..."

8 I am assuming it is his mother, but it may not have  
9 been:

10 "Dr Moffett immediately saw to it that MH 59 was  
11 brought to the Lisburn Juvenile Court on 2nd May 1966  
12 and was committed to Malone Training School. [His  
13 mother] appeared to be satisfied with this arrangement,  
14 as she had lately begun to worry about the effect of  
15 MH 59 behaviour on the other children."

16 Now reading between the lines, it is not clear from  
17 those two excerpts, but is my interpretation correct and  
18 is it also yours that the suggestion is that MH 59 was  
19 interfering with other children in the home?

20 **A. I think that would be my reading of it as well, yes.**

21 Q. Now the reason I raise this, Eddie, is that the Inquiry  
22 has heard in other modules that the issue of sexualised  
23 behaviour by young children and peer abuse was not on  
24 the radar of child care professionals before the 1980's.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. Yet it is clear that Manor House was aware of the issue  
2 of sexualised behaviour in such a young child in 1966.

3 **A. Yes, I think the minutes show that they were.**

4 Q. It looks like the authorities in some form might have  
5 been involved and knew something about this when they  
6 brought him before the Juvenile Court to have him  
7 transferred.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Now I just should tell the Inquiry that I have checked  
10 with the HSCB and they say they have not as yet been  
11 able to locate any papers that would allow them to  
12 confirm any Welfare Authority involvement in MH 59  
13 care. It may be, given that the person who is being  
14 spoken to seems to be his mother, they may not have  
15 actually been involved, but it is certainly of interest  
16 to the Inquiry from what we have heard in other modules.  
17 That's why I am highlighting that.

18 But it is also clear from these entries that he  
19 Manor House did what they could to stop this child  
20 behaving in the way he did and to protect other  
21 children.

22 **A. Yes. I do think that the records show that where they  
23 knew anything untoward like this was going on, they  
24 pretty much acted very swiftly to do something about it,  
25 obviously where they knew that these things were**

1 **happening, and I think those minutes show that.**

2 Q. I mean, you do talk about this in paragraphs 26 to 29 of  
3 your statement, Eddie, where you indicate that where any  
4 complaint was received about staff behaviour, for  
5 example, the records suggest that it was taken seriously  
6 and investigated, and that goes right back to records  
7 that we have seen --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- in 1946 --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- where MH 56 was obviously --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- writing complaining about children being beaten in  
14 the home.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. In conversation with yourself and the Reverend Courtney  
17 that's -- MH 56 you think might have been  
18 a neighbour --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- to the home back in those days.

21 **A. I think he was -- he was a neighbour, and from the**  
22 **readings I remember of the 194... -- whatever that was**  
23 **-- the early/mid '40s, they probably knew the neighbour**  
24 **and probably told him about it and he had complained,**  
25 **but the fact was the home acted immediately to ascertain**

1       **what did happen.**

2       Q.   If I can turn to another matter, one of the things that  
3       the Inquiry were wondering about -- because, as you are  
4       aware, the people who have complained to us about Manor  
5       Home this week have complained about the 1960s and early  
6       1970s.

7       **A.   Uh-huh.**

8       Q.   There is no direct evidence of what staffing levels were  
9       at that time, but there's a minute, and I think it might  
10      have been from 1956, that I referred to where the new  
11      Management Committee, who were set up around that time,  
12      were asking Ms Forrest what the appropriate levels of  
13      staff were in the home and she gave them an indication  
14      according to the age group of the children, if you  
15      remember.

16      **A.   That's correct.**

17      Q.   Can we assume that they would have probably acted on  
18      that advice?

19      **A.   Yes, absolutely, because reading the minutes, they were  
20      constantly aware of the staffing levels they were trying  
21      to always get to. Because of what had happened in the  
22      '50s they were very much aware of that. I think that's  
23      what also led them to make sure staff got in-service  
24      training and things like that, which from time to time  
25      left them short-staffed, because some of the training**

1           **was a year away or whatever, but certainly that seemed**  
2           **to be something they were always particular about from**  
3           **the '60s onwards.**

4    Q.    Just to -- two of the new Management Committee were  
5           Dr McCann --

6    **A.    Yes.**

7    Q.    You were saying that he -- you think he worked in the  
8           Royal Hospitals and would have been alert to what was  
9           going on --

10   **A.    Yes.**

11   Q.    -- generally in terms of the overhaul of social welfare,  
12           if you like, at that time.

13   **A.    Yes.    I didn't -- I have never met and didn't know**  
14           **Dr McCann, but from what I have heard of him he was**  
15           **an eminent consultant I think in the Royal -- Royal**  
16           **Victoria Hospital, but certainly he was the driving**  
17           **force behind the whole renewal of the home after the**  
18           **'50s closure and certainly he and other doctors and that**  
19           **were --**

20   Q.    Yes.    Dr Burns who is referred to in this.

21   **A.    Yes.    They kept up-to-date with things.    Like, for**  
22           **example, with the whole bedwetting thing, they kept**  
23           **up-to-date with the latest things that were going on.**  
24           **So, yes, they were the driving force, you know.**

25   Q.    This new Committee was an entirely different animal, as

1 it were, compared to the MH46 era.

2 **A. Yes, it seemed to be, yes.**

3 Q. They tried to maintain standards, as you say, as much as  
4 they could.

5 One other matter that -- there's -- as I was  
6 explaining to yourself when we were speaking, the  
7 Children and Young Persons Voluntary Homes Regulations  
8 (Northern Ireland) from 1975 required the administering  
9 authority of any voluntary home arrange monthly visits  
10 by someone to ensure that the home was conducted to  
11 further the well-being of children and that there was  
12 a record to be kept of those visits. That's regulation  
13 4. I am not going to call it up, but the --

14 **A. Yes, yes.**

15 Q. -- Inquiry has looked at all of this legislation in the  
16 past. Now you are aware Dr Johnston -- sorry --  
17 Mr Johnston, not Dr Johnston --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- gave evidence to the Hughes Inquiry --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- in 1985, April 1985. We can look at a couple of  
22 documents around that. He gave certain documents over  
23 to the Hughes Inquiry. If we look at 10070, you will  
24 see this is a:

25 "Note for the record."



1 This comes from the Hughes Inquiry material:

2 "Mr Johnston attended to hand over certain records  
3 of the Management Committee. These are.

4 1. Minutes of the Committee from 1977 to date."

5 I am just going to pause there, Eddie. Those are no  
6 longer available to you or the Inquiry. Isn't that  
7 correct?

8 **A. No. We haven't -- the minutes from 1971/2 I think are**  
9 **missing up to when it closed. We don't have those.**  
10 **I think that was the ones that the police lost.**

11 CHAIRMAN: I might just point out my recollection is that  
12 Hughes concerned itself only with events from 1977  
13 onwards --

14 MS SMITH: That's correct.

15 CHAIRMAN: -- which is why that date would appear there.

16 MS SMITH: That is correct, Chairman, yes. So that's why  
17 they were specifically asking for those documents --

18 **A. Okay.**

19 Q. -- as opposed to anything previous to that date, but the  
20 ICM handed over material to the police when they were  
21 carrying out an investigation --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- and we think that was in and around 2000.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. You kept asking for them back and you never got them.

1 You kept writing and asking for them back and never got  
2 them.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. Then ultimately the police confessed and said, "We've  
5 lost them"?

6 **A. Yes. We got a letter of apology from the Chief  
7 Superintendent, yes.**

8 Q. So those are somewhere, probably in some archive  
9 somewhere buried.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. They may some day turn up, but to date they haven't.

12 He also handed over:

13 "Reports written by staff on the two incidents  
14 involving the children",

15 that the Inquiry has looked at.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. That would have been MH28's memo to MH9 about the events  
18 involving children who are referred to in that. He also  
19 left in a:

20 "Desk diary [which was] kept in the home."

21 From another document that we can see he got  
22 certainly the minutes and the desk diary back, because  
23 he signed a receipt for that. I am just going to make  
24 sure that I have got the actual page reference of where  
25 he signed the receipt, and that's at 10233. You will

1 see that he says:

2 "I have received the following from the Inquiry  
3 Secretariat:

4 Manor House Home diary for 1982."

5 So although in the original memo it is not clear  
6 what year is covered, it was 1982:

7 "Manor House Home minutes of meetings."

8 Now he, as I say, gave evidence. He said that  
9 members of the Management Committee visited the home.  
10 He visited usually at least once a week and before the  
11 monthly meeting he did that, and he spoke informally to  
12 the Chairman before the meeting, and he reported orally  
13 to the Management Committee if he discovered anything  
14 untoward. I am not going to call up his evidence again,  
15 but that's at 10144. He also indicated that he was the  
16 person responsible for reporting to the Management  
17 Committee, and at 105... -- sorry. That's at 10152 to  
18 10153.

19 Now there is an internal memo from the Hughes  
20 Inquiry. If we look at that at 10234, please. It is  
21 just the next page. You will see it says:

22 "Manor House Home -- 1982.

23 .

24 I checked through the Committee minutes of Manor  
25 House and could find no record of Mr Johnston or any of

1 the other Committee members reporting on visits to the  
2 home.

3 I also checked the home's diary for 1982. There are  
4 only a few references to Mr Johnston or members."

5 The dates are recorded here:

6 "19th February. Mr Johnston meeting with Manpower  
7 Services.

8 22nd February. Committee 7.45 pm.

9 15th March. Committee 7.45 pm.

10 29th April. SM Committee meeting  
11 (no minutes -- minutes for 19th April).

12 17th May. Committee.

13 20th May. Mr Johnston and Dr McCann meeting Mr  
14 O'Brien and two", others presumably.

15 "20th September. Committee.

16 19th December. Mr Johnston for 3.00 pm meeting.

17 14th December. Committee.

18 Minutes"

19 then record:

20 "22nd February -- note of meeting Johnston and  
21 Manpower Services on 19th February."

22 So this suggests that regulation 4(2), which was  
23 about record-keeping of monthly visits, was not being  
24 complied with. So either Mr Johnston wasn't doing what  
25 he told The Hughes Inquiry that he was doing or else the

1 record wasn't being kept of that.

2 **A. Yes. I would agree with that, yes.**

3 Q. In paragraphs 106 to 111 of your statement, Eddie, you  
4 address the question of systemic failure. If I have got  
5 what you have said to the Inquiry in that statement  
6 correct, you accept on behalf of the Irish Church  
7 Missions that they failed to provide proper care in and  
8 around 1953 --

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

10 Q. -- when the home closed. You have heard evidence --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- from those former residents this week. From what you  
13 have heard and from the response statements it would  
14 appear that the Irish Church Missions accept some of the  
15 allegations of abuse, but not all of them, and they  
16 don't accept that as a -- those -- that abuse occurred  
17 as a result of systems failures on behalf of the Irish  
18 Church Missions. Is that a fair summation?

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

20 Q. Well, Eddie, that's as much as I want to ask you. The  
21 Panel may have some questions for you in due course, but  
22 is there anything more, other than what is in your  
23 statement, which I can assure you has been read in its  
24 entirety together with all the exhibits, that you want  
25 to say either with regard to the evidence that you've

1 presented to us, the evidence that you've heard, or on  
2 behalf of the Irish Church Missions?

3 **A. No. I don't think so. I can't remember what I said.**

4 Q. Well, when we were talking earlier, you did -- you were  
5 talking about the fact that we ask those people who were  
6 in the institutions about recommendations.

7 **A. Oh, yes.**

8 Q. You felt that there was something that the Church  
9 Missions might want to say.

10 **A. Yes, certainly, yes. I do think they should receive**  
11 **an apology. I do think there should be compensation,**  
12 **and I do think that, you know, a lot of -- more**  
13 **investment and help and social work and homes today**  
14 **should be -- should be looked at as well, that, you**  
15 **know, children don't have as an unhappy experience,**  
16 **let's say, and for some of them an awful experience that**  
17 **some of them did have. Certainly we deeply regret that**  
18 **any child had an unhappy experience in the Manor House**  
19 **Home because, you know, that was -- it was meant and**  
20 **I think it was for most of its entire existence a loving**  
21 **home, but unfortunately in some cases that seemed to**  
22 **fail, but I do think that there should be a lot -- you**  
23 **know, consideration about how children are looked after**  
24 **in these places today. I am sure it is going on.**

25 **I don't know enough about it, but if that comes out of**

1           **the Inquiry, I hope that's a good thing.**

2    Q.   Well, Eddie, thank you very much.  As I say, there is  
3           nothing else I want to ask you, but the Panel Members  
4           may have some questions for you.

5    A.   **Yes. Thank you. Thank you.**

6   **Questions from THE PANEL**

7    CHAIRMAN:  If I can just ask you, first of all, Reverend  
8           Coulter, the reality of the situation appears to be that  
9           if the home had not agreed to close voluntarily, it  
10          would have been closed down by the government in the  
11          1950s.

12   A.   Well, there seems to have been some debate amongst  
13          themselves from reading the evidence.  Maybe I am  
14          reading it wrong, but there seemed to be some debate  
15          among the civil servants and the Minister whether it  
16          would close down.  I think the home -- from the point of  
17          view of the home, the home -- ICM I think -- I think too  
18          debated whether to keep it going from what I could read,  
19          but Dr McCann and others in the North really wanted to  
20          make a go of it and to address the issues and to have  
21          a home for children.  So I think there was a debate  
22          about that time, yes, both in -- from what I can read  
23          anyway, and I may be reading it wrong -- within the  
24          Civil Service or the Welfare Services and the Minister  
25          and also within ICM itself I think, but the debate was

1 I think settled when a new, energetic -- a new and  
2 energetic committee set about renewing the home.

3 Q. Well, there certainly was an extended period of some  
4 years --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- when the home did not operate while --

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. -- efforts were made to put its affairs --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- on a more appropriate --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- and effective footing. Isn't that right?

13 A. Yes. I would agree with that.

14 Q. Part of which involved completely reconstituting --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- the Management Committee. Thereafter its finances  
17 appear to have been on a rather more stable basis.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Isn't that right?

20 A. Yes, yes. From what I could read, the -- there was  
21 an energetic campaign of fundraising in the North,  
22 advertisements, and there was a new collector. I think  
23 a lady called MH45 I think was brought on board.  
24 You could see from -- you could see from reading the  
25 minutes the income going up monthly almost and certainly



1           yearly. There seemed to be a very marked improvement in  
2           that. The fact that they were able to raise 10,000  
3           I think towards the cost of the home was amazing at that  
4           time. So, yes, there was an improvement, Mr Chairman,  
5           yes.

6    Q. Of course, as the years went on, progressively more and  
7           more children were placed by Welfare Authorities.

8    A. Yes. That's correct.

9    Q. Eventually all the children who were there I think were  
10           placed by Welfare Authorities --

11   A. Yes, correct.

12   Q. -- who were paying per capita amounts and so on. I am  
13           sure my colleagues will have questions, but there is one  
14           small point where I would be grateful if you would  
15           explain what the word means. In some of your documents  
16           there is a reference to people acting as a colporteur.

17   A. Colporteur. They would have been --

18   Q. What does that mean?

19   A. They would have been people that was on -- they would  
20           have brought bibles, hymn books, brought them round from  
21           villages to towns, sold them, that kind of person, yes.

22   Q. I see.

23   A. There was -- that was part of the work in the early part  
24           of the -- late part of the 19th century.

25   Q. So they were effectively travelling representatives of

1 the Irish Church Missions --

2 **A. Yes, they would have been, yes.**

3 Q. -- trying to --

4 **A. Promote the material.**

5 Q. -- encourage -- promote a particularly evangelistic  
6 approach to Christianity?

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

8 Q. I see. Thank you very much.

9 **A. Thank you.**

10 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, Reverend Coulter. Can I --  
11 just two questions. One is when we were talking about  
12 yesterday's witnesses --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- and trying to identify who the person might have been  
15 --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- that came into the home, there is a suggestion it  
18 might be a MH 49 , that there is the  
19 reference in the minutes --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- to him actually visiting. Did you find any other  
22 reference to him in the minutes? Was that the only one  
23 that you found?

24 **A. Yes. That's the only one I found, yes, just to that  
25 particular visit and -- yes, that was the only one.**

1 Q. The only one, and there is no reference to him when he  
2 was a child? There is no records that exist in relation  
3 to the time that he was a child in the home?

4 A. **Pre-1950s? No, I don't believe we have any record of**  
5 **him when he was a resident in the home apparently.**

6 Q. Okay. The other one was just to ask in relation to the  
7 visit clearly what you are indicating is  
8 that the dates that were suggested, that wasn't a time  
9 when he visited the home, but is there a record of  
10 actually being in the home in 1972/73?

11 A. **The minute books from that era are the ones that are**  
12 **missing.**

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. **So he may have been in the home, but I looked up the**  
15 **microfiche records, the Lisburn Star, and they don't**  
16 **indicate that -- they indicate in previous years famous**  
17 **people like and visited the army**  
18 **barracks in '69 and '70 I think, but there is no**  
19 **indication in 1972 at the Christmas or even the**  
20 **following Christmas period that any celebrity visited**  
21 **the town. Now I could have missed those, but I did**  
22 **check them twice, and they do report on every small**  
23 **Christmas children's party in the local town, and**  
24 **there's no record of him having done that, but I could**  
25 **be wrong on that obviously.**

1 Q. Okay. Thank you very much.

2 MR LANE: In your evidence you said that there was no  
3 records of absconding, but from other witnesses we've  
4 heard of odd occasions when children were running off.  
5 Were these things not recorded do you think?

6 A. I couldn't answer that. I wasn't aware on reading  
7 the minutes which ones were saying they were absconding.  
8 I know the last witness said they did, but I wasn't  
9 aware that the others had said that, but there is no --  
10 I didn't come across anything in the minute books  
11 referring to it anyway.

12 Q. Okay, but you are not aware of it being a problem  
13 therefore?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Do you know what the practice was of religious  
16 observance within the home? We have heard that the  
17 children went to church on Sundays, but what happened  
18 within the home? Do you know?

19 A. No. I'm not sure. Maybe my colleague might be able to  
20 answer to that, but I am not sure. I don't have any  
21 information or insight into the home. I think -- I just  
22 don't know. I would just be guessing really, but  
23 I would imagine they would have been catechised  
24 according to the Church of Ireland service book.  
25 I imagine there would have been daily prayers, but again

1           **I'm conjecturing. I don't know.**

2    Q.    Okay. One last question. Obviously the period we are  
3           covering in the allegations that have been made range  
4           from the 1950s to 1970s roughly.

5    **A. Yes.**

6    Q.    The evidence you've presented presents the ICM as being  
7           essentially a very mainstream under the Church of  
8           Ireland --

9    **A. Yes.**

10   Q.    -- with the bishops as the patrons --

11   **A. Yes.**

12   Q.    -- and so on --

13   **A. Yes.**

14   Q.    -- but clearly its origins were really rather different.

15   **A. No, not the case.**

16   Q.    So what were things like in the '50s to '70s in terms of  
17           what the children would have experienced?

18   **A. Oh, sorry. I thought you were going to talk about the**  
19           **history of the Irish Church Missions, which is set up as**  
20           **the counsel said, and I was amused at the comment by**  
21           **Mr Duff about being a crank society, but quite honestly**  
22           **at the stage he was talking about, 1950, the Irish**  
23           **Church Missions had as its patrons in 1949 marquises,**  
24           **lords, earls, Members of Parliament, generals -- General**  
25           **Kitchener was one vice-president -- archbishops and**

1       bishops of the Church of England, archbishops and  
2       bishops of the Church of Ireland, who were still the  
3       vice-presidents of the home right up until it closed.  
4       The retired Archbishop of Dublin, Dr George Otto Simms,  
5       was a vice-president of the home right up until it  
6       closed. So it had -- there was still a close connection  
7       with the Church of Ireland. All mission agencies in the  
8       Church of Ireland are independent of the Church of  
9       Ireland. They are not governed by the General Synod --

10    Q.   Yes.

11    A.   -- or the House of Bishops, but they all have, as we  
12       still have, you know, members of the clergy, bishops and  
13       that on the Committee.

14    Q.   Thank you very much.

15    A.   Thank you.

16    CHAIRMAN: Well, Reverend Coulter, that's all that we want  
17       to ask you. Thank you very much. I should acknowledge  
18       again that you have provided a great deal of written  
19       information and documentary information, which we are  
20       very grateful for, and I also just want to make it  
21       clear, lest there is any misunderstanding, that although  
22       you were not able yourself to attend personally when we  
23       were dealing with the Australian Child Migrant Scheme in  
24       2014, we did receive a considerable amount of material  
25       from you --

1 **A. Thank you.**

2 Q. -- on behalf of the Irish Church Missions, which was  
3 very useful to our work then.

4 **A. Thank you.**

5 Q. So I don't want anyone to think that you have been  
6 ignoring us, because that's clearly not the case.

7 **A. Right. Thank you.**

8 Q. Thank you very much.

9 (Witness withdrew)

10 MS SMITH: Chairman, there is one further witness just to  
11 call today. That is the Reverend Courtney. If he would  
12 just come up. He wants to speak to one particular  
13 matter.

14 REVEREND BRIAN COURTNEY (called)

15 Q. Reverend Courtney, I take it you would wish to take the  
16 religious oath?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 REVEREND BRIAN COURTNEY (sworn)

19 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please sit down.

20 **A. Thank you.**

21 **Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY**

22 MS SMITH: Reverend Courtney, you have also been here all  
23 week and you are also involved in Irish Church Missions,  
24 which we have just heard is still affiliated with the  
25 Church of Ireland.

1           You yourself grew up in the area in which Manor  
2           House Home was situated and attended Christ Church as  
3           a child. I know that you wanted specifically to say  
4           something to the Inquiry about your memories of the  
5           MH19, who our witness this morning spoke about.

6   **A. Yes.**

7   Q. Perhaps if you would just like to say what it was you  
8       wanted the Inquiry to know.

9   **A. Thank you. I would have been I would think in my teens**  
10   **when the MH19 came to be           of Christ Church,**  
11   **Lisburn. He was I would think from an 9-year-old's**  
12   **point of view an austere man, a serious man. He wasn't**  
13   **a touchy kind of man. I have no wish to denigrate**  
14   **anyone. I can't imagine him clipping a child on the**  
15   **ear. He was a serious minded person. I would imagine**  
16   **if someone came to him with a complaint, they would not**  
17   **be too sure just how he was reacting to it, but I would**  
18   **-- I would believe if he heard something of a very**  
19   **serious nature, he was a man of character that would**  
20   **have done something about it.**

21   Q. I know that you felt particularly that you wanted to let  
22       the Inquiry know, because he is obviously no longer with  
23       us --

24   **A. Yes.**

25   Q. -- and cannot speak for himself, and the congregation of



1 Christ Church have been aggrieved somewhat

. Is that correct?

3 A. Yes. I grew up in Christ Church. I attended Central  
4 School, Lisburn. Youngsters from Manor House also  
5 attended the same school, would have been in the same  
6 class. Our church at harvest time, at Christmas time,  
7 we would have encouraged to bring gifts and those would  
8 normally be for Manor House, for the youngsters in Manor  
9 House.

10 With regard to where they sat in the church, I don't  
11 honestly remember, but I do -- I have been a parish  
12 rector and rector of a church that had a residential  
13 grammar school. The children from that school who came  
14 to our church always went in by a particular door, which  
15 wasn't, as it happened, the main door. They had seating  
16 allocated for them in the gallery, the same kind of  
17 thing that seemed to happen in Christ Church.

18 Q. You felt that was just a practice and it was not in any  
19 way designed to denigrate anyone.

20 A. No. I don't think it was meant to belittle the boys and  
21 girls that came from the home.

22 Q. Well, thank you. I have nothing further that I want to  
23 ask.

24 A. Thank you.

25 Q. I am not sure if the Panel Members have any questions

1 for you.

2 Questions from THE PANEL

3 CHAIRMAN: I think, Reverend Courtney, although I can't just  
4 put my hand on it at this moment, there is a reference  
5 in the response from the Reverend Courtney (sic) that  
6 says that in the late 1960s/early 1970s there were very  
7 large congregations at Christ Church.

8 **A. Yes. On a Sunday morning I mean I can remember chairs**  
9 **being brought in at times, and it is a church, while**  
10 **I can't be -- my accuracy may not be complete, but it**  
11 **would hold 500 or 600 people I would think.**

12 Q. And the point was being made in the response that it may  
13 well have been the case that for purely practical  
14 reasons, as you have indicated in a different context,  
15 the children would have been brought in by what I think  
16 was referred to as the Nicholson doors.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Does that mean anything to you?

19 **A. Yes. There's a Nicholson aisle in Christ Church and**  
20 **there is a door there. It could well be it was that**  
21 **door. There is a transept to the left as you would look**  
22 **towards the communion table and there's a door there,**  
23 **and I got the impression at one stage that the children**  
24 **sat in that aisle and -- but I can't be sure.**

25 Q. Yes. Nicholson being the famous soldier --

1 **A. That's him.**

2 Q. -- who was a native of Lisburn.

3 **A. I don't know what they have done with him. He used to**  
4 **stand in the square.**

5 Q. I think he is still there. Yes. Thank you. Thank you  
6 very much, Reverend Courtney.

7 **A. Thank you very much.**

8 **(Witness withdrew)**

9 MS SMITH: Chairman, that concludes our evidence today.

10 There is one witness who will give evidence tomorrow and  
11 that's Dr Harrison.

12 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Well, we will adjourn now and resume  
13 tomorrow morning.

14 (12.25 pm)

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

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