
HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at

Banbridge Court House

Banbridge

on Monday, 19th May 2014

commencing at 10.30 am

(Day 35)

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

1 Monday, 19th May 2014

2 (10.30 am)

3 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS RE TIMETABLE

4 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Just before
5 we start the formal part of the public session this
6 morning I want to take this opportunity to say something
7 about the timescale and programme of the Inquiry over
8 the coming months.

9 As you will be aware, today is the 35th day of the
10 public hearings devoted to St. Joseph's Home,
11 Termonbacca and Nazareth House Children's Home, both in
12 Derry/Londonderry, and we expect that the public
13 hearings in relation to these institutions should be
14 completed by the end of this month or at the latest by
15 early June.

16 As anyone who has been following the public hearings
17 since they started in January this year will realise,
18 the Inquiry has so far heard from seventy witnesses and
19 the statements from many of those witnesses have been
20 given to the Inquiry as the public hearings have been
21 taking place.

22 In addition, so far over 18,000 documents have been
23 placed before the Inquiry in this module alone.

24 However, the Inquiry staff had to consider a great many
25 more documents than that to decide which were relevant.

1 I mention these matters to demonstrate that, as the
2 public hearings take place, there is a great deal of
3 preparatory work that continues to be done in order to
4 take statements from witnesses and gather documents.
5 All of this material has to be considered, collated and
6 processed by the Inquiry before the public session in
7 which a witness gives evidence.

8 This involves an enormous amount of work behind the
9 scenes by the Inquiry staff to prepare the necessary
10 material for each day of public hearings in the current
11 module. At the same time they are also pursuing
12 investigations into other institutions and preparing the
13 necessary material for the Inquiry Panel to consider in
14 future modules. This work will continue over the summer
15 months after the present module finishes.

16 After the present module the Inquiry will examine
17 the operation of the Child Migrant Scheme in the context
18 of children from Northern Ireland institutions who were
19 sent to Australia. Before that module can start we have
20 to complete our preparatory work for it, and a major
21 part of that involves a second team from the Inquiry
22 going from Northern Ireland to Australia to speak to
23 those applicants who were not seen during last year's
24 trip. Some of them will only speak to the
25 Acknowledgment Forum, but a significant number have to

1 be seen by the Inquiry team. Altogether this will tie
2 up a significant number of Inquiry staff for all of
3 June.

4 That module will then start on Monday, 1st September
5 and, whilst the detailed timetable will not be finalised
6 until nearer that time, we are setting aside three weeks
7 for public sessions for that module.

8 It will then be followed by the third module, which
9 will consider the experiences of children who were
10 placed in the home run by the De La Salle Order at
11 Rubane, near Kircubbin, County Down. We anticipate that
12 the public hearings relating to that module will start
13 on Monday, 29th September.

14 The actual dates of these modules may be varied
15 slightly as circumstances dictate and, as we do at
16 present, a more detailed programme showing actual
17 sitting days will be posted on our website from time to
18 time. Nevertheless I hope that this advance notice of
19 the next part of our programme will help all of those
20 involved with the work of the Inquiry in any capacity to
21 make whatever arrangements are necessary to engage with
22 the Inquiry.

23 Mr Aiken.

24 WITNESS SND463 (called)

25 MR AIKEN: Morning, Chairman, Members of the Panel. The

1 first witness this morning is SND463, who is "SND463",
2 and SND463 is aware, Chairman, that you are going to ask
3 her about taking the oath or affirming.

4 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. SND463, do you wish to make either
5 a religious oath or make an affirmation, which is
6 a solemn promise? They have the same legal effect.
7 It's entirely a matter for your choice.

8 **A. I'll take the solemn oath.**

9 CHAIRMAN: Very well.

10 WITNESS SND463 (sworn)

11 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Can I just remind you to
12 try and keep your voice up and speak towards the
13 microphone so that we can all pick up what you have to
14 say?

15 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

16 MR AIKEN: Bring up on the screen, please, SND-18050.

17 CHAIRMAN: Just while that's being done can I take this
18 opportunity to remind everybody that while the Inquiry
19 is sitting please ensure your mobile phones are turned
20 off or at least switched to silent, and in particular
21 that no photography is permitted anywhere on the
22 premises, and certainly not in the Inquiry chamber or
23 indeed anywhere inside the perimeter wall of these
24 premises. Thank you.

25 MR AIKEN: SND463, on the screen is I trust the first

1 page of your witness statement of 6th February. Can you
2 just check that the version that's on the screen is the
3 same as the hard copy that you've got apart from the
4 black marks that we talked about?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. Then can we go, please, to SND-18052? SND463, if you
7 look at the last page of the hard copy that you have,
8 can you just make sure that that's the same as the
9 page that's on the screen except for the black marks?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. Can you confirm that you've signed your witness
12 statement?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. And you want to adopt the contents as your evidence to
15 the Inquiry?

16 **A. I do.**

17 Q. If we can go back, please, to SND-18050, we discussed
18 beforehand the reason for the marks, which is the
19 operation of the Inquiry's anonymity policy, and I want
20 to ask you to confirm that you want to keep your
21 anonymity for as long as the Inquiry has that in
22 operation?

23 **A. I do, yes.**

24 Q. Now you were born in 1937 and are now aged 77.

25 **A. Yes. That's right.**

1 Q. You lived in Bishop Street between 1940, when you were
2 aged --

3 **A. That's right.**

4 Q. -- and 1954, aged ?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. The Inquiry Panel have had the opportunity to consider
7 your witness statement already and are aware of the
8 nature of the assaults that you describe --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- and I am going to talk to you about those shortly.
11 What I want to ask you about, first of all, from our
12 discussion earlier you were explaining to me about the
13 regimental routine that operated during your time living
14 in Bishop Street. Can you explain to the Panel what
15 life was like? How -- what was the routine that
16 operated?

17 **A. Well, we got up early in the morning. First thing you**
18 **knelt down beside your bed, said your morning offering,**
19 **went out and got yourself washed, came back, went down**
20 **for your breakfast, said your prayer before breakfast**
21 **and after breakfast, and then we went to school, broke**
22 **in the middle of the day for lunch and -- till 4 o'clock**
23 **in the evening, I think 4 o'clock in the evening,**
24 **came -- went out then for our tea in the evening, then**
25 **went out to the garden to play for a few hours.**

1 **6 o'clock we went to bed. That was it.**

2 Q. You mentioned to me that at 9 o'clock --

3 **A. Oh, yes.**

4 Q. -- the nuns would come up and --

5 **A. The children went to bed at 6 o'clock and then the**
6 **Sisters would come up at 9 o'clock to see everything was**
7 **all right before they went to their bed, and we had to**
8 **get up out of our beds to go to the toilet.**

9 Q. Now you described to me -- it's not something you've
10 covered in your witness statement, but I want to ask you
11 about it now -- about the practice in relation to
12 children who wet the bed. Do you recall that was
13 a problem that existed in Bishop Street?

14 **A. Yes. Whenever any -- we got up in the morning. Sisters**
15 **come round, waken us up in the morning. They go round**
16 **and anybody who wet the bed was taken out to the**
17 **bathroom and had a cold bath, and then --**

18 Q. Just allow me to interact with you. You mentioned the
19 cold bath. Am I right in saying that that was a bath
20 specific for children who wet the beds?

21 **A. Just for children who wet the beds, yes.**

22 Q. When you had your normal Saturday bath, while you shared
23 it with others, it was a warm bath?

24 **A. Yes, yes.**

25 Q. So the people who wet the bed have had a cold bath.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. What happened to them then?

3 **A. Then we all got dressed and went downstairs for our**
4 **breakfast. The children who wet the bed were made stand**
5 **in the corner of the refectory, as we called it, the**
6 **refectory all during the meal so the rest of the girls**
7 **would know that they had wet the bed.**

8 Q. Now the context of this, SND463, is at this time in
9 Bishop Street you are talking about in excess of 100
10 girls --

11 **A. 108 girls.**

12 Q. -- in the refectory at breakfast.

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. Roughly can you give an idea of scale? Was it one
15 person was made stand in the corner generally or was
16 it --

17 **A. The most standing ever would be three, three at a time,**
18 **three.**

19 Q. They were made stand there and was that throughout the
20 period of breakfast?

21 **A. Throughout the breakfast, yes.**

22 Q. When did they get to eat?

23 **A. Well, they got their breakfast brought over to them or**
24 **they come up and got their breakfast and went over and**
25 **stand -- stood in the corner again and had their**

1 **breakfast there.**

2 Q. So they had their breakfast standing?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. Was the subject of bedwetting and the reasons why it was
5 happening ever a topic of conversation?

6 **A. No, no. Just if you wet the bed, that was your
7 punishment. You got punished for wetting the bed and
8 that was it.**

9 Q. What did you understand was the thinking behind having
10 the girl stand in front of everyone else?

11 **A. Well, we didn't think about it. It was just a normal
12 thing that happened, you know. You saw somebody
13 standing in the corner of the room. You knew they wet
14 the bed. That was it.**

15 Q. Did you have a name for those people?

16 **A. Bed wetters.**

17 Q. They were know as bed wetters.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. Do you recall were they teased by other children then
20 for having wet the bed?

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

22 Q. You don't remember?

23 **A. Not that they were, no.**

24 Q. Now you describe in -- was there ever physical
25 punishment for having wet the bed?

1 **A. No. I don't remember them being beat or slapped for**
2 **that. The punishment was being -- the cold bath and**
3 **then would stand in the corner of the dining room,**
4 **refectory.**

5 Q. Now in your statement then, SND463 -- and in discussion
6 with me you explained in much greater detail -- you
7 describe physical violence --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- that was perpetrated on you.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. Did you know, just so we set the scene for this, that
12 the Order's position was always that children should not
13 be hit, that there was to be no physical violence
14 towards them?

15 **A. No, we didn't know that. Just if we were punished, we**
16 **were punished, but we didn't think we shouldn't -- that**
17 **shouldn't be happening or there's a law against it. We**
18 **didn't know anything about the law or anything else**
19 **outside of Nazareth House. What was in the Nazareth**
20 **House was the Nazareth House law.**

21 Q. In paragraph 2 of your statement you describe two
22 particular nuns that were in charge during most of your
23 period --

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. -- in Bishop Street and that's SR139, who is "SR139" --

1 and her name shouldn't be mentioned outside the chamber
2 and for the purposes of the transcript she should
3 remained redacted -- and SR24, who is "SR24" -- and the
4 same should apply to her.

5 SR139 from the information that we have to date was
6 in Bishop Street -- we are not clear when she began, but
7 she was in Bishop Street until 1951, when she left, and
8 you at that stage were aged I'm not going to bring
9 it up, but for the Panel the reference that shows she
10 left in '51 is SND-6284.

11 As far as you recollect, SND463, she was in charge
12 during your period growing up until she left?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. You also then mention SR24. She, in fact, continued to
15 be there after you left --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- in 1954. She was there until 1962. Again the
18 reference for that is at SND-6294.

19 You explain the change when SR9 arrived. She
20 arrived in 1952. We'll come to talk about that, but
21 I want to ask you, first of all -- you describe SR139.
22 Her weapon of choice, as it were, was the cane.

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

24 Q. In what circumstances would you be caned?

25 **A. Well, if you told a lie, or if you were cheeky, or did**

1 anything wrong, you were punished, you know. That was
2 the way. She had a cane -- she always had a cane and
3 that was her way of punishing. She used a cane.

4 Q. You describe in paragraph 2 of your statement that black
5 tape was added to it --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- to prolong its life.

8 A. One of the teachers would be asked to bring in the
9 canes. The first thing that happened was the nun
10 would -- SR139 would seal it up with black tape for
11 whatever. Whether it was to keep it stronger, keep it
12 from breaking, or whether to make it harder I don't
13 know, but that was the routine she did, and the canes
14 then were used. They were hung on the wall, and when
15 she wanted, she lifted it off and used it.

16 Q. Now you described to me, and I am going to ask you to
17 explain to the Panel, some of the more serious instances
18 that you recall of the cane being used. You mention in
19 your statement -- in fact, you refer to it -- it is down
20 at paragraph 7. You say:

21 "On another occasion I recall SR139 slapping another
22 girl constantly with a cane as a punishment ..."

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Now you described that to me as taking place in the long
25 corridor.

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. Can you just explain what was the girl made do before
3 the caning began?

4 A. If you were -- if you were to be punished, if you done
5 something wrong, you would be punished. You were told
6 to kneel outside the cookery room. This was a room that
7 we used when we were at school for cooking -- learning
8 to cook, but if you were being punished, you were told
9 to kneel outside there until you got your punishment.

10 This girl -- am I allowed to ...?

11 Q. Yes. Her name for the transcript will be redacted.

12 A. She was kneeling there, waiting for punishment. The nun
13 came along. She lifted her cane off the hook and
14 started to slap the girl. The girl was on her knees on
15 the passage. Do right hand, left hand slap, slap. As
16 she got slapped, the girl would move back and back and
17 back down the corridor, but because the girl wouldn't
18 cry, she got slapped more and more and down the length
19 of the corridor and back down again still being slapped.
20 The girl's hands were raw by the time she was finished,
21 but that -- because she didn't cry, and she still didn't
22 cry, I think that the nun maybe was angry and this was
23 driving her more to slap -- keep slapping her.

24 Q. Now I have had the opportunity to be in I think the
25 corridor you're talking about, but this is a long

1 corridor.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. What you're describing is a beating, as it were, with
4 a cane that continued the length of the corridor.

5 **A. The length and back down again, yes.**

6 Q. The girl retreated each time she was hit and the hitting
7 continued.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Now you were lined up to see this happen.

10 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. Why do you -- was that always what happened when
12 punishment was being administered?

13 **A. I think that -- at that one occasion. I remember that**
14 **one occasion just that we were lined along the corridor**
15 **while the girl was being punished, but whether we were**
16 **going to school or what, I just can't remind that, but,**
17 **as I say, I just remember the girl being punished and**
18 **going the whole length of the corridor and back again**
19 **while we stood there.**

20 Q. This was SR139 did this?

21 **A. Uh-huh.**

22 Q. She was at that time the head of the --

23 **A. She was the head sister in the school.**

24 Q. When you say "school", you mean school --

25 **A. School and the children' department.**

1 Q. -- and where you lived with the children?

2 **A. Yes, yes.**

3 Q. Now what was -- you have mentioned the cane, and was
4 getting slapped with the cane a routine?

5 **A. It was, aye. If you were being punished, she used --**
6 **SR139 used the cane a lot. It was always her way of**
7 **punishing. Other girls have said about a strap, she**
8 **wore a strap, but I've never ever seen -- I don't**
9 **remember seeing anybody getting slapped with a strap.**

10 Q. You mention at paragraph 2 of your statement that on the
11 habit was a strap. You mention:

12 "They used the straps and canes regularly",

13 but you don't remember the straps being used --

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. -- but others --

16 **A. I don't remember ever seeing the strap being used.**

17 Q. But it is others have said to you they recall the straps
18 being used?

19 **A. The stories that have come up have said about the strap**
20 **being used.**

21 Q. Yes, but you don't remember that?

22 **A. No, I don't remember the straps being used.**

23 Q. Was the hand used --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- to hit?

1 **A. Yes. We would have been slapped across the face or**
2 **maybe tugged by the hair, pulled by the ear, you know,**
3 **this kind ...**

4 Q. Were we talking about the same two nuns doing that type
5 of behaviour?

6 **A. Yes, yes, and SR24, she had a bunch of keys which she**
7 **would have --**

8 Q. I am going to come to --

9 **A. Are you going to come to that?**

10 Q. -- the bunch of keys, because that's something the
11 Inquiry has heard about before as well --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- at a much later period of Bishop Street's history.
14 So the use of the hand on the face --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- rather than the hands or arms?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. And what would have -- is that because the cane wasn't
19 nearby --

20 **A. The cane was always --**

21 Q. -- and you were slapped there and then?

22 **A. -- kept over at the school end of the house on a hook**
23 **there. So we would maybe have been slapped -- are you**
24 **coming to the occasion of the girl?**

25 Q. We will come to -- what was the instance that you are

1 thinking of, SND463?

2 **A. The girl .**

3 Q. I'll come to her shortly, but you -- the slapping, was
4 that just a routine? Did you react to it when it
5 happened or ...?

6 **A. Well, you got a slap and that was it, you know.**

7 Q. It was just something you accepted as normal?

8 **A. Aye. Aye. Aye.**

9 Q. The particular incident that you are recollecting with
10 the slapping is at paragraph 6 of your statement. It is
11 the paragraph that begins:

12 "One thing that sticks in my mind as being very
13 cruel was one Saturday when we were out playing in the
14 fields one of the girls ate berries, and when she got
15 back to Nazareth, she was very sick."

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. "She went to SR139 ..."

18 Do you want to just explain what happened?

19 **A. Right. As I say, it was a Saturday, and we would have
20 our bath on a Saturday evening before supper. We would
21 go down then to the fields to play for a while, come up
22 then for our supper. This girl , got
23 very sick and she was vomiting.**

24 CHAIRMAN: Her name again?

25 **A. .**

1 MR AIKEN: That's

2 A.

3 Q. Again for the transcript and for anybody who is in the
4 building her name shouldn't be discussed outwith the
5 building.

6 A. Right.

7 Q. But was the person who had ate the berries
8 --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- and was feeling unwell.

11 A. She was very sick at the refectory table. She came up
12 to tell SR139 that she was sick. She said, "What made
13 you sick?" and she says, "I was eating berries" and she
14 got a slap across the face for eating berries. She
15 shouldn't have been eating berries. That girl died that
16 night. It was poison berries. She died that night.

17 Q. That's a memory you yourself have --

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. -- because -- it is a matter that Mr Montague will look
20 into, because we have been given a list of those who
21 died in the home. That's not a name that appears on the
22 list. So that's something that will have to be ...

23 A. I remember it as well. The night that she died we were
24 all in our beds and SR 131, she was in
25 the sister in charge of the nursery. was in this

1 infirmary, which was a room off where SR139 slept they
2 called the infirmary. was in there, because she
3 was very sick. I don't know if the doctor was there.
4 He obviously was. The nun came out then and she said,
5 "She's gone. She's gone. She's gone to heaven". So
6 that's how -- it is vivid in my memory that died.
7 I don't know what age. She was very young anyway, but
8 -- I mean, it sticks -- her name sticks in my mind.

9 Q. Do you remember approximately what age you were? Were
10 you a teenager when this happened?

11 A. No, I was a youngster. I don't know what age. I was --
12 I don't know -- maybe 10 or 11. I don't really know.
13 I don't remember what age I was.

14 Q. So this is probably late '40s/ --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- early '50s possibly?

17 A. It would be late '40s anyway, before SR9's time.

18 Q. Before -- she comes in '52.

19 A. Uh-huh.

20 Q. So it is before 1952.

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. And the slap, why does the slap stick out in your mind?

23 A. Because I thought it was cruel, because the girl was
24 sick and had been vomiting, that she would get slapped
25 rather than being attended, you know, put to bed or

1 **whatever. She got slapped for eating the berries. That**
2 **seemed to be the main point: because she ate berries,**
3 **she got slapped, not the fact that the berries made her**
4 **sick and she died later.**

5 Q. Now you say in paragraph 2 that these two nuns were very
6 cruel, but you also said to me that you recollect, for
7 instance, SR139 had a love of music --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- and therefore when that was happening --

10 **A. She was a different person.**

11 Q. -- she was a different person.

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. But you described for me -- and perhaps you would
14 explain to the Panel -- an incident where part of the
15 home was said to be haunted --

16 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. -- and a reference to a ghost. Can you just explain to
18 the Panel --

19 **A. Right.**

20 Q. -- what you recollect about that?

21 **A. As I say, we used to clean around the place. We all**
22 **had different parts of the house -- of the school to**
23 **clean, and it got out that part of the house -- the**
24 **back stairs was haunted by a ghost, but it was the shape**
25 **of an egg. So we called "The Egg Ghost", but anyway**

1 going to the toilets -- when the sisters came up this
2 night to go to their beds, as I say, they got us out of
3 our beds to go to the toilets before they went to their
4 beds, and we had to go down to the corridors to go to
5 the toilet. The girls would go in four or five at
6 a time -- I don't know how many toilets there was -- but
7 four or five at a time.

8 One of the girls when they went into the toilet --
9 went into the toilet shouted, "A ghost". So we all came
10 screaming out again down the corridor up to the
11 bedrooms, back into the bedroom. So the girl who
12 shouted the "Ghost", she was made stand out in the
13 corridor and -- while we all finished going to the
14 toilet. We went all back to our beds again, and the
15 sister, SR24, she went in and she put a chair into the
16 toilet with a white sheet over the top of it, took the
17 bulb out of the -- out of the switch -- switched off the
18 light, took the bulb away and locked -- put the girl in
19 and locked the door and kept her there all night.

20 Now at the time, I mean, it was terrible, but
21 afterwards when we talked about it a few years or a year
22 after maybe, we laughed about it, because we thought it
23 was funny because of the ghost thing, but, I mean, it
24 wasn't funny, but, as I say, that was another thing that
25 sticks in my mind.

1 Q. You -- we were having this discussion. The caning, the
2 being hit, the likes of this was normal for you --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- and that's how you understood life operated.

5 A. Well, we didn't know any different. The place -- it was
6 strict. That is the way we were. We didn't know any
7 different and we didn't -- I mean, the nuns didn't talk
8 to us. Just there was rules, but we didn't talk, we
9 didn't interact with nuns until SR9 came. It was
10 different then.

11 Q. I'm going to ask you a bit about the interaction, but
12 just going back to the girl who was locked in the toilet
13 --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- do you remember her being released the following
16 morning?

17 A. She was terrified, terrified the next morning. She was
18 crying. She had been crying all night. She just said
19 how she fell asleep in the toilet, just fell asleep.

20 Q. And --

21 A. But that was it. It was over and done with. You know,
22 there was nothing that was ever followed up on or
23 whatever. If there was law or if there was rules,
24 I~don't know. I mean, we wouldn't have the known about
25 police or anybody being brought in for certain things

1 **that happened or whatever. Just whatever happened**
2 **happened and we got on with it.**

3 Q. Now you mention SR24 in connection with keys.

4 A. **Uh-huh.**

5 Q. I want to ask you a bit about that. You describe in the
6 last sentence of paragraph 2 that some girls were
7 sometimes hit on the head with a bunch of keys, and you
8 recollect that was for you once.

9 A. **Yes.**

10 Q. Now I want to ask you, first of all, these are not a set
11 of keys we'd have today, a set of Yale keys.

12 A. **No. They were big.**

13 Q. Can you describe what they were like?

14 A. **They were big keys. Like in those days there wouldn't**
15 **have been Yale locks or things like that. There was all**
16 **big heavy keys. So these were on a ring, a big ring.**

17 Q. So this was a much bigger metal ring than you would have
18 nowadays on a key ring?

19 A. **Oh, aye. Aye. There would be three or four keys to**
20 **different rooms -- I don't know what rooms -- but big**
21 **keys on this ring, but they hung -- the sister would**
22 **have hung it on her belt around her waist.**

23 **As I say, at night time before we went to bed we**
24 **would be lined up in, as we called it, the washing**
25 **lavatory, which was a whole lot of sinks around the**

1 place and so many girls lined up behind each other to
2 wash before -- their hands and face before they go to
3 bed. Of course, we were talking and whispering. I felt
4 the keys on my head where she was clobbering me.
5 I shouldn't have been talking. It was a sin to talk,
6 you know. So I wasn't -- I was talking so I got ...
7 (gesturing) ... and that was it.

8 Q. Was the use of keys to the head, was that a routine
9 thing that just happened?

10 A. Well, she -- I mean, SR24 did. She -- that was her
11 keys. I mean, SR139 had the stick. SR24 had the keys.

12 Q. Do you recall -- you recall yourself seeing others being
13 hit with the keys?

14 A. Oh, aye, yes, but I only got once now, as I say, once.

15 Q. Now you won't know this, but the -- the Inquiry has
16 heard, for instance, from another nun who witnessed --
17 SR139 you say was in charge then. SR9 becomes the head
18 from 1952 through until she leaves in -- she left in
19 1976, and then SR59, who had been there under SR9 for
20 a period --

21 A. Um.

22 Q. -- she becomes the head.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. This nun, SR147, who has given evidence, describes
25 seeing SR59 in around 1974 using the keys to the head.

1 Now what I am trying to see if you can you assist
2 with is whether the use of the keys was so ingrained or
3 routine as a means of discipline.

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. Was it something that just happened constantly to your
6 recollection or --

7 **A. Yes. In SR139 -- in SR24's time, when I was there in**
8 **SR24's time. SR59, now I would be surprised now,**
9 **because I thought she was always a gentle person. She**
10 **was there after I left.**

11 Q. Yes. You remember her when you --

12 **A. Coming up to -- coming up to visit --**

13 Q. Yes?

14 **A. -- I would have found she was very -- a gentle person.**
15 **I would find that hard to believe, although some --**
16 **another person whom I came in contact with since this**
17 **all started said to me that at school she thought SR59**
18 **was cruel, but she wouldn't go any further on that. So**
19 **I don't know what -- I can't say that SR59 used the keys**
20 **because I never ever -- I didn't -- I wasn't there in**
21 **her time, only to visit.**

22 Q. No, but what I am trying to understand is was the
23 practice of the keys something that was just -- it
24 happened all the time in your time --

25 **A. No, not all --**

1 Q. -- under SR24.

2 **A. No, not all -- I wouldn't say it was all the time. You**
3 **know, an odd time that's what she used. I mean, she**
4 **didn't go round with a bunch of keys walloping**
5 **everybody. If, you know, you were doing something wrong**
6 **in the vicinity, she hit you with them, but I only got**
7 **hit the once, but I wouldn't say it was used all the**
8 **time. No, I couldn't.**

9 Q. Now you then describe in your statement -- and you have
10 touched on it already, and I want to try to handle this
11 sensitively -- but you have mentioned the fact you
12 weren't really given -- there was no interaction as such
13 --

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. -- no conversation and no explanation about your
16 development personally.

17 **A. No. That's right. No.**

18 Q. You explain in paragraph 5, which is the paragraph that
19 begins:

20 "As far as ...",
21 and "SR34" is SR34.

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. Now just -- we set the scene. SR34 of the three nuns
24 who looked after you --

25 **A. She was there, yes.**

1 Q. -- was the kinder.

2 A. Yes, although she was strict, a wee bit stricter. She
3 was strict, not as strict as SR139 and SR24, but she was
4 strict, but she was also soft -- a wee bit soft natured
5 and, as I say --

6 Q. When you say strict, that's the slapping again from her?

7 A. Aye. You know, she would have slapped you, but no canes
8 or no -- you know, she didn't use a cane or the keys,
9 but, as I say --

10 Q. What you are describing here is the first time that you
11 had your period.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And --

14 A. We hadn't -- I didn't know -- we didn't know anything
15 about growing up or what would happen us and all this
16 kind of stuff, but, as I say, that day I was very -- had
17 terrible cramps, terrible stomach cramps and I started
18 bleeding, and I thought because I told a lie in the
19 morning, that this was my punishment, and I was praying,
20 "If You take this away, I won't ever tell another lie",
21 but, as I say, as the day went on, I got talking to
22 another girl and she said to me, "No. Go and talk to
23 ...", naming another girl. "Talk to her. She's got the
24 same as you. You have got your", as they called it,
25 "your monthlies". When I went to this other girl and

1 told her, she said, "You will have to go and tell SR139.
2 She is the head nun. You'll have to tell her. You are
3 now becoming a senior girl". So I went up to SR139 and
4 I said to her, "I have got my monthlies" and she says,
5 "Well, you're fat enough for it", and that was the way.
6 That's the way she told it, "You are fat enough for it".

7 Q. She made this cruel remark --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- but SR34's response --

10 A. Aye. SR34 -- as I say, because I was sick, I was very
11 sore and very crampy, she took me aside and she said,
12 "Look" -- she put me to bed and she gave me a hot water
13 bottle. She said, "Put that against your tummy". She
14 says, "Every month now whenever that happens you come to
15 me and I will see -- get you a hot water bottle".
16 That's the reason -- as I say, when I made my
17 confirmation, I took my name for her. SR34 -- SR34 or
18 SR34 was my middle name -- SR34 was my middle name for
19 her because of -- she just was that wee bit softer than
20 the other two, you know. I mean, I know other girls who
21 said when they took their period as well, she was good
22 to them at that time. She put you to bed and she made
23 sure you were comfortable.

24 Q. She displayed compassion --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- that you didn't receive from --

2 **A. Yes, from the other, from SR139.**

3 Q. Who was in charge.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Do you recall SR139 ever being compassionate to you?

6 **A. No, no. She was just strict. She was a strict nun.**

7 **Maybe that is the way the Sisters were there. I mean,**

8 **when we came out of the Nazareth House and talked to**

9 **different people, they'd say, "But sure that's the way**

10 **things were. We got slapped and our fathers and mothers**

11 **slapped us and did that", but it was, you know ...**

12 Q. You just got on with it?

13 **A. Aye.**

14 Q. Now you then mention in your statement that --

15 paragraph 9, this is the paragraph that begins:

16 "SR9 came about the 1950s."

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. So SR9.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. You were there for two years after she arrived. She

21 came in 1952. You are there until 1954.

22 **A. '54, yes.**

23 Q. You remember a considerable change.

24 **A. It took her a while to get used to us, as I say, because**

25 **if we did anything wrong, "Oh, the boys ..." -- she came**

1 from the boys' home in Belfast, Ormeau Road. If we did
2 anything wrong, "Oh, the boys wouldn't do this and the
3 boys wouldn't do that". Then, as I say, she softened to
4 us. She got used to us. I mean, imagine 109 girls, 108
5 girls all together, you know. They are harder to look
6 after than boys I think.

7 Q. Had she effectively taken over as --

8 A. She was the head nun.

9 Q. She was now the head of the children?

10 A. She was the head nun, yes.

11 Q. I think whenever she began in Derry she was only 33. So
12 she takes over, but the atmosphere is very different
13 from SR139.

14 A. The atmosphere changed. Things get lighter and bright.
15 Children are playing then again. They are laughing.
16 They are playing out in the garden. There was noise in
17 the house. We could talk to SR9. You know, if you had
18 something you wanted to talk about, you could talk to
19 her. She would have sat down and talked to you and you
20 had a conversation with her.

21 Whenever I started going with a boy -- my husband
22 , she would say, "Bring him up. Bring him up to
23 the house". We would go up and have our tea there on
24 a Sunday. Then when and I got married, SR9 and
25 SR128, who was the sister of the house, in charge,

1 overall sister of the house, they came out to our
2 wedding in the Chapel, and SR163 in the
3 kitchen, she baked our cake, a three-tier cake for the
4 wedding.

5 As I say, after we were married we came back up to
6 Nazareth House. and I came up and our best man
7 back up and we went round the school so the children
8 could all see us there and then and had photographs
9 taken with them.

10 That's the way it was. SR9 was that good. You
11 know, she was just like a mother to us. She was
12 a mother to us and, as I say, then when our children
13 came along, my first son we called -- called him
14 after SR9, and every Sunday and I would bring
15 up and then when our next son and our next son
16 bring them. We spent the weekends up at Nazareth House,
17 which was a second home to us. You know, it was happy
18 times. I never ever seen any children unhappy when we
19 visited. I mean, we visited for years and then we had
20 our daughters, two daughters and --

21 Q. You yourself have five children --

22 A. We have five, three boys and two girls.

23 Q. -- three boys and two girls. You would have -- despite
24 the things you describe happening you would have gone
25 back?

1 **A.** Oh, aye. I was always happy to go back to Nazareth
2 House. Nazareth House was my -- I was never ashamed of
3 being brought up in Nazareth House. That was my home.
4 Although it was strict and all that, I still was proud
5 of being brought up in Nazareth House. If people met
6 you and went to speak to you, and they would say, "Oh,
7 you have a different accent", I would say, "That's the
8 nuns. I was brought up by the nuns. I was brought up
9 by the nuns". I wasn't afraid to say it. Some girls
10 didn't like to say it, but I was proud of it. I am glad
11 I was brought up by the nuns.

12 **Q.** You also continued to have a relationship with SR139 --

13 **A.** Yes. I know she was cruel.

14 **Q.** -- despite all of the things you --

15 **A.** Well, it was because my childhood years she was there.
16 When she left and went to -- I can't remember where she
17 went to. It was Hammersmith -- wherever she went to
18 anyway, I would keep writing. Her Feast Day was 17th
19 March. I would send her a Feast Day card. I would send
20 her a Christmas card and she would write back. So
21 I~kept in touch. It was Nazareth House, you know.

22 **Q.** So despite -- you have described some very cruel
23 treatment --

24 **A.** Yes.

25 **Q.** -- but that connection --

1 **A. Was still there.**

2 Q. -- was still there.

3 **A. Aye, aye.**

4 Q. Despite not needing to have any more to do with this
5 lady --

6 **A. Yes, yes.**

7 Q. -- you still did.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Now SR9 you describe -- it is on -- if we can move
10 through to paragraph 21, which is on SND-18051 -- it is
11 not numbered, but it is four up from the bottom -- you
12 describe how SR9 was known as "Mammy SR9".

13 **A. Yes, a lot of the children called her "Mammy SR9",**
14 **because that's what she was. She was a mother to us**
15 **all. Some of the children were brought in there as**
16 **infants. She brought them up. She was "Mammy SR9" to**
17 **them.**

18 My son -- actually, as I say, when we went up on
19 Sundays -- we used to go up every Sunday. My third son,
20 he used to always look forward to going up. He would
21 say -- she would say, "What do you want for your tea
22 today?" "Me bucker and dam." He wanted butter and jam.
23 That's what she called him, "There is my wee bucker and
24 dam today". That's the way it was with her.

25 Q. I'm not sure that's --

1 **A.** I mean, we were never afraid -- we were never afraid to
2 talk to her. As I say, do you see in the days if she
3 slapped me, whenever -- I mean, I got slapped at times
4 because I was cheeky or whatever. As I say, she would
5 slap me with a wee ruler but -- and then she mightn't
6 speak to me, but it hurt me more she wouldn't speak.
7 I didn't mind the slap as long as she would speak to me.
8 You know, I would apologise that night and then she was
9 speaking to me the next day. So everything was grand
10 again, but I never liked to be not speaking to SR9.

11 **Q.** So what your -- that may have been a development of
12 Derry rhyming slang --

13 **A.** **Yes.**

14 **Q.** -- I think if you -- the example you gave, but what you
15 are describing, if I can try and summarise it, is under
16 SR139 it was simply cold routine --

17 **A.** **We didn't talk.**

18 **Q.** -- with violence.

19 **A.** **Yes.**

20 **Q.** Under SR9 there was much more warmth --

21 **A.** **Yes.**

22 **Q.** -- and compassion --

23 **A.** **Uh-huh.**

24 **Q.** -- and communication --

25 **A.** **Yes.**

1 Q. -- but on occasions you also got hit?

2 A. I got a slap. Oh, aye. I got a slap if I needed it.

3 I mean, if you were at home with my own -- you would

4 give them a clout, you know, whenever they needed it.

5 So you got -- you know, she wasn't -- I don't -- I mean,

6 these stories that you are coming up -- I will not get

7 excited about it, but these stories coming up of the

8 terrible things that happened and there are no names

9 coming forward, that I hope SR9 isn't one of them,

10 because I would find it very hard to believe that from

11 when I went into Nazareth House at the beginning and how

12 strict it was then, and then SR9 came and everything

13 changed, that it would go back to these horrible stories

14 that are coming in the paper.

15 As I say, I wasn't going to come forward for any of

16 this -- these meetings until I say a few weeks when it

17 came into the paper that all the vile nuns, and

18 I thought, "No, I'm not having that. There might have

19 been a few that were strict and whatever, whatever they

20 did, but they weren't all vile nuns, and I am not having

21 that", because I was waiting for -- speaking up for SR9,

22 because she certainly changed -- she changed the whole

23 air in the Nazareth House, and the whole -- even the

24 nuns who were there in SR9's time -- beforehand in

25 SR139's time I mean at Christmas -- if there were Feast

1 Days -- the nuns all had their own Feast Days. You
2 wouldn't have heard any music or anything, but whenever
3 SR9 came, and we would have our nights -- in the summer
4 time we would have our nights with -- where she'd the
5 radiogram on, dancing and singing, and if the sisters
6 had a Feast Day, some of the girls would carry the
7 radiogram over -- you know, six of us I think would
8 carry the radiogram over to the Sisters' department, and
9 you would hear the Sisters singing at night time when we
10 were in our bed, singing. That would never have
11 happened in the earlier years. So the Sisters
12 themselves were happy then as well.

13 I mean, I was happy -- I even came back when my
14 children were reared. SR9 got me a job back in Nazareth
15 House working at the front reception area. I worked
16 there until I retired at 60. I met all the nuns who
17 were there, friend... -- really friendly nuns and the
18 girls I worked with. I made some really good friends.

19 Q. How long did you work there, SND463?

20 A. I worked there it must have been 15 -- must have been
21 15 years.

22 Q. 15 years.

23 A. You know, when the children started -- when the boys
24 went to college, and I went there until I was 60.
25 I left when I was 60, but, I mean, I was there and it

1 **was a happy time. Even when I was working, it was**
2 **a happy time. I loved working there.**

3 Q. The -- one of the issues that -- I don't want you to go
4 into the -- it is a matter for the Panel to decide on
5 the evidence it has heard --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- but one of the issues that struck you and why you
8 came forward was the suggestion that girls were made
9 clean out the toilets with their hands.

10 **A. No way. No way is that true. I mean, that -- the age**
11 **of that person was 8 years of age when she was sent to**
12 **clean the toilets, and there's no way anybody of 8 years**
13 **of age would have been doing anything like that.**

14 Q. Well, can I just -- let me ask you it this way, because
15 what may have happened to one particular person may not
16 have been the standard practice. I want to ask you what
17 was the practice of girls cleaning toilets?

18 **A. No. There was -- in our time the 15 year olds, 16 year**
19 **olds would have been in charge of the toilet, cleaning**
20 **the toilets, mopping out the toilet, making sure -- the**
21 **way you would do in your own house, and if there was**
22 **a blocked toilet, there was a plumber on hand. There**
23 **was electricians on hand when things went wrong with the**
24 **electrics. There was a plumber. No way would a child**
25 **be asked to clean -- unblock toilets and scrape the ...**

1 off with their fingers, no way, no matter what nun was
2 -- even in our olden time with the old nuns and SR139
3 there no way would they ask them then. There was older
4 girls cleaning the toilets then, but no way. I would
5 find it very, very hard to believe that that's true.

6 Q. As a result of hearing things like that you have come
7 forward --

8 A. **Yes.**

9 Q. -- and the Panel have the benefit of hearing the
10 evidence that you've given --

11 A. **Uh-huh.**

12 Q. -- about what occurred for you.

13 A. **Yes.**

14 Q. But what I want to ask you in the end you are describing
15 a substantial change in atmosphere. There was still
16 some strictness --

17 A. **Yes.**

18 Q. -- and some hitting, but now that was the exception
19 rather than the rule. Is that a fair description of
20 when you were hit by SR9, it was now --

21 A. **It was a tap, you know. I wouldn't say it was a clout.**

22 Q. You are pointing to your head each time.

23 A. **No, but I am just saying you got a slap. You know what**
24 **I mean? You know, but, as I say, it wasn't -- it wasn't**
25 **a --**

1 Q. Well, did you get -- because this is important for the
2 Inquiry to understand, given some of the other evidence
3 it's heard --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- but are there occasions when the slap was to the
6 face?

7 **A. Oh, aye. Aye. You know, a clout on the ear, you know.
8 You know the way (inaudible).**

9 Q. That's even in SR9's time?

10 **A. Well, SR9 slapped me once but it was a ruler on the
11 hand, a wee tap.**

12 Q. Yes, but what I am asking you is are you aware that
13 others did get slapped in the face with the hand even
14 then?

15 **A. No, not with SR9, no, not on the face.**

16 Q. You don't remember that?

17 **A. No, no, no way.**

18 Q. For you it was only the ruler on the hand?

19 **A. Aye.**

20 Q. Now you then wanted to show the Panel -- because of your
21 strong relationship with SR9, whenever she passed away
22 --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- the girls -- there were 30 I think you said --
25 travelled to her funeral --

1 **A. Yes. (Inaudible.)**

2 Q. -- and a poem was written --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- which your daughter then kindly --

5 **A. She stitched it into a -- into a picture, yes.**

6 Q. -- made permanent for you in a stitching. You have got
7 that with you and perhaps if Catherine can let the Panel
8 see that. So this is what was ... (Shown)

9 So this is the --

10 **A. This is -- the funeral -- at the funeral in Scotland --**

11 **SR9 died in Scotland. So we all went over for the**

12 **funeral. At the mass the girls -- one of the girls,**

13 **she got up and she read this out for us, the --**

14 **what do you call it -- the eulogy?**

15 Q. The eulogy.

16 **A. Eulogy. As I say, some us asked for copies of it and**

17 **I got a copy in the paperwork, and , my daughter,**

18 **she then put it into the -- she stitched it for me, and**

19 **that has a permanent place in our house, in our home.**

20 Q. So the connection --

21 **A. And you read the heading on that -- you read -- if you'd**

22 **like to read the heading, it was "my mother". All the**

23 **girls now -- that's from girls who were a lot younger**

24 **than I who were still in the Nazareth House and who we**

25 **got to know when we went up there visiting with**

1 children. You know, we got to know them.

2 Q. So you are talking about girls who were children in the
3 home in the '60s?

4 A. Yes, and at the funeral -- they are working girls now,
5 away nursing or teaching or doing whatever. As I say,
6 SR9 helped them along the way. If you had a talent, she
7 pushed that in you. You know, she helped you out with
8 that.

9 So they made up this poem and , as I say, my
10 daughter, she sewed it into that for me, a picture, and
11 it's in our house, pride of place in our home.

12 Q. So for you, if I can put it -- try and summarise it in
13 this way, if it is the case that the Inquiry Panel has
14 heard evidence about SR9 hitting children on occasions,
15 for you that would be very much the exception --

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. -- compared to SR139 --

18 A. Oh, definitely.

19 Q. -- for whom it was the rule.

20 A. I couldn't -- I couldn't compare -- I'd be very
21 surprised -- and I am not saying -- maybe if she lost
22 her temper or anything -- I mean, she was human. If she
23 lost -- after we left now, as I say, but any time coming
24 up to visit with the -- with our children we never ever
25 seen unhappy children. They were all jumping around,

1 singing, playing, swinging, whatever, on the swings. We
2 never seen unhappy children sitting around in the
3 corners moping or whatever. We didn't see that. So,
4 you know, I don't know. I am not saying some of the
5 stories aren't true or whatever. Who am I to judge, but
6 for SR9 and what I know of Sister and what I know of the
7 place before she came and what it was whenever she --
8 before she left again, I would say it's different -- two
9 different places and life changed altogether.

10 Q. Now can I ask you, SND463, whenever the Inquiry finishes
11 its work the Panel have to make recommendations to the
12 Northern Ireland Government, the Executive, about
13 whether there should be an apology of some kind, whether
14 there should be some form of memorial and whether there
15 should be some other form of reparation that might be
16 considered. We have asked each of the witnesses who
17 have come forward who have explained what happened to
18 them to give a view, if they have any, about what the
19 Panel might consider recommending. Some have said they
20 are sick of seeing memorials around this country; they
21 don't want any more. Some have thought a statue would
22 be an idea. Some have thought counselling. Have you
23 any views that you want to express to the Panel about
24 what the Panel might consider recommending?

25 A. Just an apology for -- for all the bad things that have

1 been said about the nuns -- well, SR9's time, you know.
2 I don't know about memorials and all them kind of
3 things. I don't know, but, as I say, I have my own
4 opinion of SR9 and whatever, and we all -- we all have
5 our own story and our own view of a person, but I don't
6 know about memorials and all this kind of thing, you
7 know, but an apology for all the cruel things that were
8 said about the good nuns. Now I am not saying all the
9 nuns -- and I am not saying SR9 was a saint. She was
10 human like the rest of us and she maybe lost her temper.
11 As I say, who wouldn't with 108 children to look after,
12 you know? If she did lose her temper -- in my day she
13 didn't do anything cruel or whatever, but I am not
14 saying -- maybe something later on that the girls then
15 maybe thought what happened then was cruel.

16 Q. SND463, can I ask you about whether there's anything
17 else that you want to make the Panel aware of, given
18 that the Panel is investigating abuse that happened in
19 children's homes -- we have covered examples of that in
20 your evidence this morning -- whether there's anything
21 else you can remember that would assist the Inquiry with
22 its work that you want to say? Now's the time to say
23 it.

24 A. Well, what I am saying is -- what I would want to say is
25 when I left the Nazareth House -- my mother came up --

1 mother came up for and I whenever I was 17,
2 was 15 and we went out to live with my mother.
3 I had no happy times at home and , my sister, got
4 a hiding from my mother, which led her back to Nazareth
5 House again to stay there until I went and got my job.
6 I got a place of my own and brought her out again and
7 looked after her. My mother wasn't at our wedding. SR9
8 was. Whenever we went to America with the Gaelic
9 singers and came back again, my mother didn't see me off
10 and come back. SR9 was there. So, as I say, for me all
11 I want is to let people know that SR9 was a good person.
12 If she made any mistakes in years after I left,
13 I apologise for that, but I am finding some of them very
14 hard to believe, and the fact that she is not here to
15 talk for herself or speak up for herself, you know,
16 people can say whatever they like and make their stories
17 as bad as they like, but I know what I thought of SR9
18 and of the nuns and what it was beforehand and what it
19 was after she came, and that's all I am going to say.
20 As I say, I just hope there would be an apology if her
21 name -- if she has been named as being a cruel person.

22 Q. SND463, there's nothing else that I am going to ask you,
23 but if you just stay where you are, the Members of the
24 Panel may want to ask you some questions. So just bear
25 with us.

1 Questions from THE PANEL

2 MS DOHERTY: SND463, thanks very much for your evidence
3 today -- it's been very helpful -- and for bringing
4 along the plaque.

5 Can I just ask you -- the wee girl that was hit
6 going up and down the corridor --

7 **A. She wasn't kicked. She was slapped.**

8 Q. No. "Hit" I said.

9 **A. Sorry.**

10 Q. No. "Hit". My Derry accent mustn't be as good as it
11 used to be! What age was she? Have you got a --

12 **A. I'd say she must have been 11, 10 or 11, about that age,
13 because I mean -- I'm thinking back to my own age.**

14 **I mean, she was in the same class as I was. So about
15 10, 11 around that time I think.**

16 Q. Can I ask -- one of the things we have heard from other
17 people is about that the older girls were often left to
18 supervise and could be quite kind of strict and maybe
19 a bit easy with their hands as well. Do you have
20 anything --

21 **A. There was three sisters who were like that we were kind
22 of afraid of, but I am not going to mention them,
23 because there is a couple of them still alive.**

24 Q. But were they left -- did they -- were they left in
25 charge?

1 A. No, they weren't in charge. They just bullied when the
2 sisters weren't about --

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. -- as far as I can -- as far as I can remember, you
5 know. It wasn't -- the nuns wouldn't have known they
6 were bullying, know.

7 Q. And would that be -- when the Sisters weren't about,
8 would that be in the evenings when they were praying or
9 ...?

10 A. This was at bedtime when you were in bed maybe. I know
11 one of them would have -- by the way she would go round
12 calling your name and if you got up -- you were supposed
13 to have been sleeping. I mean, I didn't bring this out
14 in my story, because I didn't think, you know. Anyway
15 there were three sisters and, as I say, the eldest one,
16 she would have called your name, and if you sat up, you
17 got --

18 Q. You got hit?

19 A. -- pulled out of the bed, you know. By the way she was
20 calling your name to give you a sweet, you know. So
21 that was that, but that was ...

22 Q. But that was the -- that was the extent of it?

23 A. Aye. Then there was two older girls. I am not going to
24 name them either, because I think they are still alive,
25 but, as I say, they are -- I mean, when I was out with

1 , my husband, one day shopping, I thought this
2 other older girl was dead and gone, but I saw her in
3 a wheelchair, and do you know I actually said, "You
4 deserved that", because she was a bully, you know.
5 I would love to -- says, "Don't even look at her".
6 She would have pulled you by the hair and everything,
7 you know, but, as I say -- but that wouldn't have
8 happened -- that wouldn't have happened when the sisters
9 were about and all.

10 Q. The older girls, one of the things was about supervising
11 the bathing and supervising the hairs.

12 A. Aye, about that Jeyes Fluid and stuff. I mean, the
13 Jeyes Fluid -- it was a spray of Jeyes Fluid. I mean,
14 in those days there was no disinfectant or whatever.
15 I mean, we use shampoo and everything now and bubble
16 bath and all that. There wasn't anything then. It was
17 a spray of Jeyes Fluid for I suppose -- what would you
18 say -- disinfectant, you know, and when you got your
19 hair washed, the nuns would tell you, "Hold your eyes
20 tight" in case it stung. I know friends of mine would
21 say to me, "I remember my eyes getting all burnt", but
22 you were told to hold your eyes, but that was to
23 preserve -- you know, keep you from the nits, spreading
24 nits and things like that like. You know, imagine that
25 many girls together with long hair and the nits and

1 stuff. So you got your hair washed. That's the only
2 thing going then was Jeyes Fluid, but it was only
3 a sprinkle. I mean, listening to those stories, you
4 would think it was full of Jeyes Fluid. There is no way
5 they would have got out of the bath alive again if it
6 was.

7 Q. Okay. Thanks very much. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN: Can I just ask one or two things? First of all,
9 you mentioned that -- more than once I think that SR9
10 had 108 girls to look after.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Was she the only nun responsible?

13 A. No, no. There was SR9, SR59 and -- I can't remember the
14 other nun -- SR24. I thought she'd gone, but ...

15 Q. Yes, but there were normally two looking after 108?

16 A. Three. There was always three.

17 Q. Oh, as many as three?

18 A. I remember three in my day, in our day, but, as I say,
19 it was SR9 and Sister -- when I left the home, it was
20 SR9 and SR59. SR24 must have been the other one, but
21 I didn't remember SR24 being still there, but according
22 to ... she was.

23 Q. At your time there were possibly two or maybe three at
24 most looking after --

25 A. There was always three. There was always three.

1 Q. Always three?

2 **A. Uh-huh. They taught us as well as being with us**
3 **after -- you know, they taught in the school as well as**
4 **after school.**

5 Q. I take it the -- your daughter who is with you today is
6 the one who did the embroidery.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Just for the benefit of those who won't have seen this I
9 want to highlight some of the things you have said so we
10 all know what it is, but before I point out these things
11 you said that there were a number of the girls who were
12 there went to SR9's funeral --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- in Scotland.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. Were they all of your age group or were they --

17 **A. No. They were younger -- they were younger girls, girls**
18 **that were there after I left Nazareth House, but I got**
19 **to know them through visiting all the time, you know.**

20 Q. So they covered, did they, the whole age range that SR9
21 would have looked after?

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

23 Q. The things which this poem refers to, did they all
24 happen in your time or did some of them happen later on?

25 **A. Must have happened later on, some of them.**

1 Q. Just to pick one out almost at random, there is
2 a reference to trips to Mosney. That's the Butlins at
3 Mosney, near Dublin.

4 **A. Yes, that's right. Went to Butlins.**

5 Q. Was that in your day or afterwards?

6 **A. Yes, we went there, yes.**

7 Q. She seems to have been particularly enthusiastic about
8 music and Irish music in particular.

9 **A. Yes. She had the ceilidh band and she had the**
10 **orchestra. Then, as I say, the Gaelic singers came**
11 **from -- you know, the Gaelic -- I was working at the**
12 **time the Gaelic singers but she phoned me and asked me**
13 **would I like to go with them. I mean, I was 19 then but**
14 **I was still kind of green. As I say, we went to America**
15 **and met Elvis, Elvis Presley and all. How stupid we**
16 **were! We didn't make something of it. As I say,**
17 **I would never have got to America and met Elvis Presley**
18 **if it wasn't for SR9. I say ten weeks that was and**
19 **I say music -- she loved music. There was the ceilidh**
20 **band. There was the feis --**

21 Q. That would be somewhere --

22 **A. -- and that was through --**

23 Q. Just taking it, that would be somewhere in the late
24 '50s/early '60s you are talking about?

25 **A. Yes. Aye. '56. '56 we went to America. '56.**

1 Q. Yes. You maybe hadn't been to Germany with the American
2 Army by that stage.

3 A. No.

4 Q. Well, other things that are referred to here is --
5 amongst the things that are referred to are that she
6 seems to have been always on the go. Is that right?

7 A. Aye. Electrics, plumbing. She knew -- she could
8 work -- maybe with working the boys beforehand --
9 I don't know -- but she could -- knew everything. You
10 know, she could work at anything. I mean, she taught --
11 I mean, I was a knitter -- I was a good knitter and we
12 entered competition. I used to do fair isle knitting
13 and then I got on to aran knitting through her. I
14 taught -- she taught me how to knit. As I say, she used
15 to make rugs. You know, we would sit down at night-time
16 making rugs. She would show us how to do them and then
17 sell them off and make money for the house. You know,
18 she was good -- she was -- I'm not -- I shouldn't say
19 she is good at everything. People will say she was like
20 a saint, but, no, as I say, she was human. I mean, she
21 had her faults and whatever. Who doesn't have faults,
22 but, no, but I won't -- some of the stories that are
23 said I won't sit back -- I mean, I wasn't going to come
24 forward, but some of the stories coming forward, and
25 names were mentioned, but in the years -- the times --

1 the years that were mentioned it would have been her
2 years, and I thought, "Well, no, I have to come forward
3 and speak for SR9".

4 Q. In this poem there are references to movies being shown.
5 Was that in your time?

6 A. What's that?

7 Q. Movies being shown on a screen.

8 A. Oh, yes. That's what I am saying. You would have
9 nights -- we would have nights where she would have a
10 music night when you would be dancing and singing. She
11 would put films on, aye.

12 Q. I see.

13 A. Yes, and if you had a talent, if you had a talent, if
14 you were any -- I mean, I probably -- had my mother not
15 turned up to take us away, I probably would have been
16 teaching, because I wanted to teach, but then because my
17 mother came on the scene for the age when you were going
18 to high school or whatever, my mother came and took me
19 home, you know, so I didn't -- I couldn't -- she didn't
20 push that, but other girls -- I mean, my best friend,
21 she is in America now where she went on to
22 nursing. She worked in one of the big hospitals in
23 London -- I can't remember the name of it -- and worked
24 her way up to matron there and went all over the world
25 nursing, and then settled -- met an Italian boy and

1 married him and went to America and they've opened a big
2 restaurant and all in America. So, you know, she pushed
3 you. If you had anything, she pushed you, but if you
4 were lazy, she let you know you were lazy as well.

5 Q. Well, SND463, thank you very much for coming to speak to
6 us and bringing this. I am not sure -- have we had
7 a copy of it made yet, Mr Aiken?

8 MR AIKEN: No, but we will take some steps to deal with
9 that, Chairman.

10 CHAIRMAN: We will try to take a photograph of this before
11 you go so we have a record of it, if you don't mind.

12 **A. That's lovely. No, I don't mind.**

13 CHAIRMAN: In the meantime I will give it back to you, if
14 I may. Thank you very much for coming to speak to us.

15 **A. Right. Okay.**

16 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Ms Smith is taking the next witness.
17 Perhaps a short break to allow her to indicate where
18 she's reached.

19 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Very well. I think we should have our --
20 give our stenographer a break in any event. We will try
21 and start as soon after 12.00 as Ms Smith is ready.

22 (Witness withdrew)

23 (11.52 am)

24 (Short break)

25 (12.00 noon)

1 WITNESS SR6 (called)

2 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, Chairman, Panel Members. The
3 next witness will be "SR6", who is to be known as SR6.
4 There are some appearances to be announced.

5 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

6 MR LAVERY: Chairman, my name is Michael Lavery. I appear
7 -- I am a barrister and I appear with Mr Finbar Lavery,
8 who is a barrister, on behalf of SR6. I am instructed
9 by Mr Denis Moloney from Donnelly & Wall.

10 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Lavery.

11 MR McATEER: Mr Chairman, my name is McAteer. I appear on
12 behalf of HIA69 with my learned friend Mr Toner. We are
13 instructed by Mr Kevin Casey of McCartney & Casey.

14 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr McAteer.

15 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, SR6. Can I just confirm, first
16 of all, that you are happy for me to call you SR6?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You have, as you know, been afforded anonymity. In the
19 papers you are known as SR6. That's because you were
20 formerly known by your religious name, which is why you
21 have been given the "SR" designation. You were known as
22 SR6. I'm going to use that name, but you will be aware
23 it will not be used outside this chamber.

24 Now the Chairman is going to ask you about taking
25 an oath or affirming. So if you just remain there for

1 a moment.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 CHAIRMAN: I take it you wish to make a religious oath?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 **WITNESS SR6 (sworn)**

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

7 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

8 MS SMITH: Now, SR6, you have provided a statement for the
9 benefit of the Inquiry. If we could pull that up on the
10 screen, please. It is SND-18138. You will see there,
11 SR6, that it says "The Witness Statement of SR6", and if
12 we could go to the last page of the statement, which is
13 SND-18147, although it -- that version is unsigned, this
14 was the version that was sent to the Inquiry a week or
15 so ago, but you have, in fact, signed the statement
16 yourself this morning --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- and did so, in fact, in my presence --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- and you have dated it with today's date. Isn't that
21 correct, SR6?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. It doesn't appear to have made its way into the
24 bundle as yet, but it will be -- this document will be
25 replaced with the signed version, which you checked and

1 confirmed that it is the same as what we see on the
2 screen. Isn't that so?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. This is the document that you wish the Inquiry to
5 consider as your evidence.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Can I just ask you about some of the general details,
8 SR6, of your time in the congregation of the Sisters of
9 Nazareth and your time when you were in Termonbacca? If
10 we could look at another document, please, which is
11 SND-17202, I explained to you this is a document that we
12 have received from the Sisters of Nazareth. It is
13 a register that they kept of the Sisters who were in the
14 congregation. You will see that where we have -- just
15 stop there, please -- we have large black rectangles,
16 that is blocking out the names of people, but you have
17 seen this document without these redactions.

18 It gives the names of your parents, your date of
19 birth and where you were born. You entered the
20 religious life on August 22nd, 1962. You were professed
21 in May 1965. You took the name SR6 and your final
22 profession was in 1972. You came to Termonbacca on 20th
23 February 1978 and you left there to go to Swansea on
24 9th September 1981.

25 Now you saw this document for the first time this

1 morning. Isn't that correct, SR6?

2 **A. Yes, yes.**

3 Q. Before that the documentation that you had received from
4 the Order and to the best of your recollection you had
5 thought that you had only gone to Termonbacca about 1979
6 --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- but you accept that this being --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- a contemporaneous document shows you were actually
11 there earlier than that?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. You, in fact, from other documentation that we have seen
14 -- if we look at SND-6390, this is a letter that was
15 written by the Sisters of Nazareth to the Pope
16 requesting that you be dispensed from your vows, and you
17 will see there that it gives the reasons for that, but
18 in the second paragraph it says you went to the
19 juniorate in Ireland when you were only 13 years of age.
20 You entered the novitiate in Hammersmith when you were
21 17. So from a very young age you were with the Sisters.
22 Isn't that correct?

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. You, in fact, left after a period of some three years
25 exclaustation in 1998. Isn't that so?

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. When you left at that time, you received a sum of
3 £20,000 from the Order --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- although you had to wait some years to receive that
6 money. Isn't that correct?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Having spoken to the Order, the information that we have
9 been given is that that money was given to you in lieu
10 of what you might have earned or what pension
11 contributions you might have received had you stayed in
12 the Order.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. It was essentially a sum of money to help you start up
15 in life once you left.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. Could we also look at SND-6385, please? Now this is
18 an incorrect document in that it is described as
19 a curriculum vitae which was prepared by the Sisters of
20 Nazareth, which supposedly sets out your career until
21 you left the Order in '95, but if you look at that
22 document, it says that between 1971 and 1972 in Aberdeen
23 you did a child care course.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Is that, in fact, correct?

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. And can you confirm just what that childcare course was?
3 Do you recollect?

4 **A. It consisted really of lectures on the different aspects**
5 **of child care from 0 to 17 years of age. We had**
6 **a number of lectures from different people during the**
7 **day time. The main man was a**

8 Q. When you say "we", were there other Sisters of Nazareth
9 there with you?

10 **A. There was -- there was another sister doing the training**
11 **with me, a .**

12 Q. Where was this course held?

13 **A. To the best of my ability it was in an annexe of the**
14 **university and I think the name of it might have been**
15 **Gilroy's College. I am not 100% sure of that.**

16 Q. You did achieve a qualification as a result of this
17 course?

18 **A. We got a certificate, yes, in child care.**

19 Q. Now after that we know that you were in Cardiff --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- and Swansea, where you were engaged in looking after
22 children. Is that right?

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. And Sligo also.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. Then in 1980 according to that, but we know that, in
2 fact, it was 1978, you went to Termonbacca. Can I ask
3 how that assignment came about?

4 A. Well, normally we were shifted about from house to house
5 where the need was, and at that particular time I had to
6 be -- I was stationed in Nazareth House, Sligo with
7 a group of kids and was asked to go to Termonbacca, and
8 that was just what we did. You didn't question it. You
9 had a vow of obedience and you went where you were sent.

10 Q. Can you remember what Termonbacca was like when you
11 arrived?

12 A. Termonbacca was a very new style of building, two
13 groups, separate in a sense with just entrances, but
14 they had mostly single -- single rooms. When I say
15 single rooms, you could get three beds in one room. You
16 might get two in another, and you'd have a single room
17 as well, and I think there was six of those in my group
18 on the top floor.

19 Q. Your role you describe in paragraph 2 of your statement,
20 if we go back to that, at SND-1818... -- SND-18138.
21 Sorry. At paragraph 2 there you describe:

22 "My role at Termonbacca was that of housemother
23 which took in the duties of the full-time care of
24 children from broken homes due to a variety of
25 circumstances. I took over from", another nun, "SR14

1 when she left. This would have meant that I was in
2 charge of a group of between 16 to 18 children. There
3 were two distinct units in the home and the other unit
4 was run by SR2 when I arrived. The two units were
5 separated to give the idea of two households in order to
6 make it feel more like a natural home environment."

7 Can I just ask you at that time apart from yourself
8 and this other sister who was in charge of the other
9 group of children what other staff were there in the
10 home?

11 **A. I had three to four staff, and if I can recall rightly,**
12 **a SND57, a or , a SND21 and an**
13 **.**

14 Q. So that would have been four people --

15 **A. Four, yes.**

16 Q. -- as well as yourself looking after 16 to 18 children?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Were those people full-time workers in the home?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. And would they have been there -- would they have lived
21 in, for example?

22 **A. lived in.**

23 Q. And the other ladies?

24 **A. The other ladies, two of them were married with families**
25 **in the Creggan. They came down in the morning or in the**

1 evening shift and went back at night-time, and SND21
2 stayed in sometimes, but just the one staff room.
3 would be off. SND21 would stay in.

4 Q. You describe in your statement at paragraphs 3 and 4
5 what the daily routine was like in the home. You say
6 that that would involve waking the children about 7.30.
7 They would be encouraged to wash, brush their teeth and
8 dress. Sometimes they would have been woken by a lay
9 staff member. A lay member of staff would have stayed
10 over each night and there was always a member of staff
11 around to the best of your knowledge.

12 Can I just ask you at that point before I go on to
13 read out something else that is in your statement did
14 the congregation or the home have a policy on the
15 discipline of children, first of all?

16 A. Well, first and foremost from my training we would be
17 given great -- in great depth what to do with children
18 if they misbehaved and certainly hitting was completely
19 out of the question in those years. The policy of the
20 Sisters, if I can remember rightly, was that anyone who
21 was working with the children were to look upon them as
22 if it was the child Jesus you were looking after. If it
23 was the old people and gentlemen, you looked after them
24 as you would St. Joseph, and if it was the old ladies,
25 you looked after them as if it was Our Blessed Lady that

1 you were looking after. They were -- that was my dear
2 ethos and what I carried very much through life.

3 Q. That was the ethos that you as a Sister of Nazareth were
4 taught by the Order?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Can you recall how that was communicated to you?

7 A. It would be in my first years of training as a novice
8 getting ready to go out to the branch houses.

9 Q. Well, what about bedwetting? Did the congregation have
10 a policy on how to treat a child who wet the bed?

11 A. No. I think because the spiritual aspect of our life
12 would cover that, you would never think anything of
13 a child wetting their bed. It was to be expected,
14 number one, coming from broken homes. Secondly, on the
15 religious side you just wouldn't do -- you just wouldn't
16 do that to a child.

17 Q. You say you wouldn't do that, but you are aware of the
18 complaints that the Inquiry has heard --

19 A. I am, yes.

20 Q. -- about how children who wet the bed were treated --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- and I will come back to that in due course, but you
23 are saying that because of the training that you had
24 received in child care --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- and also because of the ethos --

2 **A. Of the spiritual, yes.**

3 Q. -- of the Sisters that that would not have happened?

4 **A. No.**

5 Q. Well, a couple of general questions again, SR6. During
6 your time in Termonbacca would you have been aware of
7 the legislation and regulations which governed the
8 conduct of children's homes?

9 **A. You mean the public legislation?**

10 Q. Yes.

11 **A. Yes, I would be.**

12 Q. The legislation would be, for example, the Children and
13 Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1950 --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- and the 1968 Act which succeeded that.

16 **A. Yes, I would.**

17 Q. Where would -- how would you have been aware of that?
18 How did you come to be aware of the legislation?

19 **A. Well, because coming up to those years children came in
20 mostly through the local authorities. Any new
21 legislation that came out would have been sent to every
22 Nazareth House and therefore we would have read it to
23 keep up-to-date with what was going on.**

24 Q. So by corollary you would have been aware then of the
25 Voluntary Homes Regulations that were passed in Northern

1 Ireland in 1952 and 1975?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. Can I also ask then if you were aware of those
4 regulations, that you would have been aware that they
5 proscribe the circumstances in which corporal punishment
6 was allowed.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. I also asked you this morning about a document which
9 I showed to you, which was a 1951 Home Office Guidance
10 on the Conduct of Children's Homes, a memorandum, which
11 was sent by the Ministry of Home Affairs in Northern
12 Ireland to all children's homes in Northern Ireland in
13 1952. Were you aware of that document?

14 **A. I wouldn't have been with the Order in 1951, but I would
15 be very much aware of the document after I was
16 professed.**

17 Q. So when you came to Termonbacca in 1978, you would have
18 been aware -- you would have seen that document prior to
19 that --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- and you would have been aware of what it contained --

22 **A. I would have.**

23 Q. -- and the advice that was given in it?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Can I take it that any Sister who had done any child

1 care qualification would equally have been aware of it?

2 **A. Any Sister that would have done her qualifications, yes,**
3 **and any Sister that didn't, that hadn't done would still**
4 **have to read those documents, any of them that came in**
5 **from the health boards or the local authorities --**

6 Q. So --

7 **A. -- working with children.**

8 Q. So if -- even though there might have been a child
9 working with the nuns (sic) who at that stage --
10 sorry -- working with the children who at that stage,
11 unlike yourself, hadn't done the certificate in child
12 care --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- or any certificate in social work, for example, would
15 nonetheless have been made aware of that --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- the existence of that document and its contents?

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. How would that have come about? Were there meetings
20 about such things in the home?

21 **A. Not -- not meetings as such, but the legislation would**
22 **be sent in to the Superior of the house, who would read**
23 **it and then hand it on to the Sisters in charge of the**
24 **children in the groups.**

25 Q. And would the documentation then have been kept in

1 a file somewhere for a consultation?

2 **A. I would imagine yes, it would, yes.**

3 Q. But do you ever yourself remember having to go back and
4 look something up?

5 **A. I often did. I often did.**

6 Q. From that particular document?

7 **A. Yes. From any of the documents that would come in.**

8 Q. Can I ask during your time in the home in the course of
9 your duties how often would you have seen the Mother
10 Superior?

11 **A. Well, the Mother Superior really wasn't -- she didn't**
12 **have anything physically to do with the children, but,**
13 **I mean, she always visited the group homes, as we called**
14 **them, if not every day, every second day anyway.**

15 Q. And would she have spoken to the children when she did
16 this?

17 **A. Oh, yes, yes, she would.**

18 Q. What about visitations from the congregational
19 hierarchy? Do you recall those?

20 **A. Yes, I do, yes.**

21 Q. As part of that were you spoken to?

22 **A. Yes, we would be -- I would be.**

23 Q. What kind of things would have been discussed at those
24 visitations?

25 **A. Well, how I was getting on with the children; how I was**

1 **getting on actually in the home itself; was I happy in**
2 **the situation that I was in.**

3 Q. Did you ever express any dissatisfaction?

4 **A. No, because I have to say I was very, very happy in**
5 **every Nazareth House I was placed in.**

6 Q. Do you yourself have any knowledge of how Termonbacca
7 was funded?

8 **A. In my day Termonbacca would mostly be funded by the**
9 **Social Services' finance -- the children coming into**
10 **care would be financed by the Social Services.**

11 Q. We have heard that there were some children who had been
12 placed there on foot of a private arrangement, as it's
13 been described. To your recollection did any of the
14 children you had to look after -- were they in that
15 position?

16 **A. I think there might have been maybe one or two, and if**
17 **I can remember rightly, I think Social Services after**
18 **discussions with them, not me particularly, but the**
19 **social worker that we had in the home, got funding for**
20 **them as well.**

21 Q. We have seen a letter -- do you remember a lady called
22 SND 483

23 **A. Sorry?**

24 Q. Do you remember a lady called SND 483 at all who was
25 -- no, you don't remember that?

1 **A. I kind of remember the name, but I don't remember her.**

2 Q. I didn't show this to you earlier, SR6, but there was
3 a letter the Inquiry has seen where she wrote to the
4 Western Health & Social Services Board asking that
5 certain boys be taken into care so that the home could
6 get the funding. That's the kind of situation you are
7 talking about. Is that correct?

8 **A. Well, I was thinking more about the children in my group
9 that would have been there when I went and weren't
10 funded, that steps would have been taken to see if we
11 could get funding for them from Social Services, which
12 I think happened.**

13 Q. That's fine. That's the best that you can remember.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. You don't remember any specific children in that
16 position?

17 **A. I don't.**

18 Q. You talked about the social worker in the home, SND332.
19 We are using names here, which -- to make it easier for
20 everybody to understand who we are talking about, but
21 just to remind people that those names are not to be
22 used outside this chamber and designations must be used
23 at all time to protect people's anonymity.

24 I think I did confirm with you that you wish your
25 anonymity maintained. Isn't that correct, SR6?

1 **A. Yes, please.**

2 Q. Well, SND332 has spoken to the Inquiry as well as
3 several others. Can you remember what you can about
4 what his role was in the home?

5 **A. SND332 was employed, paid staff, and to speak for us as
6 well on behalf of anything regarding the finances of the
7 home, and also was there for the children if they wanted
8 to go over and talk to him about anything, probably when
9 would they be going home and things like that.**

10 Q. He has told us that he, in fact, ended up effectively
11 looking after the ex-residents more than the children in
12 the home.

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

14 Q. Do you remember that?

15 **A. A lot of the boys had been out in the Creggan in the
16 flats and that. SND332 would keep an eye on them to see
17 how things were going.**

18 Q. Can I just ask about what life was like in Derry and in
19 and around Termonbacca at the time that you were there?
20 What were the social conditions like? What were the
21 political conditions like that you remember?

22 **A. Well, from what I can remember I think they were pretty
23 hot actually now with bombings and car bombs and
24 different activities that was going on at that
25 particular time.**

1 Q. In what way would the -- what was happening outside
2 affect what was happening in the home?

3 **A. Well, I think, to be honest, if I can think back, all of**
4 **the children -- yes, I'd say nearly all of them in my**
5 **group had somebody -- father, brother, uncle -- somebody**
6 **inside Long Kesh, Magilligan.**

7 Q. Can I then move on to a different topic, SR6? As part
8 of your training did that make you aware of the issue of
9 peer sexual abuse --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- if I can describe it. That was part of your training
12 back in the early '70s?

13 **A. 1971 I did my training in that.**

14 Q. As a result of that then when you came to Termonbacca,
15 you would have known what to look out for --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- in terms of peer sexual abuse? I will come back to
18 specific instances shortly, but just how were you
19 trained to deal with those sort of problems?

20 **A. Well, I think mostly would be to observe the child that**
21 **had tendencies towards that and try to keep them away**
22 **from little ones really. I didn't come across much of**
23 **it in my life with the children, but I did come across**
24 **a little bit of it in Termonbacca.**

25 Q. I will come back to that, SR6.

1 **A. Right.**

2 Q. We will deal with that in due course. Again on
3 a separate topic -- and again I am just dealing with
4 some general matters at this stage -- can you assist the
5 Inquiry as to what records were kept on each child?

6 **A. Certainly the records that would come in with the social**
7 **workers giving you a bit of a history on the background**
8 **of the children and why they were -- you know, why they**
9 **were coming in, and then in our own way we kept a little**
10 **file as well regarding their day-to-day running, you**
11 **know, the day-to-day getting on of the child, how they**
12 **were progressing maybe in school and things like that.**

13 Q. Yes. We will look again at the document we were looking
14 at earlier, but certainly the evidence has been from
15 some of the people who have spoken to us that there was
16 a little exercise book kept with a daily record of the
17 child, and if there was a major event in the child's
18 life, such as a birthday, that would have been recorded,
19 and there were some photographs placed in some of these
20 exercise books. Did you ever do that?

21 **A. I don't think -- I can't recall myself keeping**
22 **an exercise book, but I can recall myself keeping files,**
23 **A4 papers.**

24 Q. An A4 sheet?

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. This was -- this was what was described as an internal
2 case report?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. It was a typewritten template on which you would have
5 answered the typewritten questions. Is that correct?

6 **A. Quite possible, yes.**

7 Q. We will look at one shortly.

8 **A. Right.**

9 Q. We can talk about it in relation to that, but did you
10 keep -- apart from those internal case reports did you
11 yourself keep any other kind of record that you remember
12 --

13 **A. I don't --**

14 Q. -- on an A4 sheet you were saying?

15 **A. I think most of the reports were kept in a file, in
16 a locked file. Everything that you had corresponding to
17 each child that you had would go into a bigger file and
18 go into a locked ...**

19 Q. Locked filing cabinet?

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. Where was that kept?

22 **A. Probably in my office and quite likely might have moved
23 over to the social worker's office when I remember now.**

24 Q. You think it might have moved to SND332's office?

25 **A. Yes, but I did have my own little filing cabinet in the**

1 **office.**

2 Q. Well, during your time in Termonbacca did the children
3 ever complain to you about their care or about any
4 aspect of their care at all?

5 **A. No, no.**

6 Q. If they had done, what might you have done?

7 **A. Well, I'd probably have to discuss it with SND332.**

8 Q. Was there a formal system in relation to complaints and
9 how children could complain or were they -- was there
10 anything like that?

11 **A. Well, SND332's door was always open and he was there for**
12 **their convenience just as much as anything really and**
13 **they thought nothing of popping over to his office.**

14 Q. So you think that the children were aware that --

15 **A. Well, I think they should be. Oh, the children knew**
16 **they could go to SND332 at any time.**

17 Q. Well, I am going to move on, SR6, to deal with a number
18 of general complaints that the Inquiry has heard and ask
19 for your comments. Some of these you have dealt with in
20 your statement.

21 One of the things there has been a complaint about
22 is the lack of supervision that there was in
23 Termonbacca. Now the Order has certainly accepted that
24 up until 1972 that was the position. How do you feel
25 the staff ratios were in your time from '78 to '81?

1 **A. I think they were adequate for the age group of the**
2 **children that I had.**

3 Q. Can I just confirm what age group that was?

4 **A. Well, about 3 to about 15.**

5 Q. Another complaint that there has been is that there was
6 physical abuse on younger children by older children, by
7 older boys in particular. Can you -- were you aware of
8 that, first of all?

9 **A. No, I wouldn't --**

10 Q. I don't mean were you aware of the complaint. Were you
11 aware of that happening at all during your time?

12 **A. I don't think that would have happened.**

13 Q. Did you ever see anything like that happening?

14 **A. No. If I saw older ones maybe being a bit rough with**
15 **the little ones, they got a telling off.**

16 Q. And sexual abuse by older boys is another issue that has
17 been brought to the attention of the Inquiry. Were you
18 aware of it as an issue?

19 **A. I could nearly say 100% there was no sexual incidents**
20 **during my time in my group in Termonbacca.**

21 Q. Another matter, one of the things that people have
22 complained about is the clothing that was provided for
23 them. We were talking earlier about what your
24 recollections are of how children were clothed and
25 perhaps you'd like to explain what you remember.

1 **A.** I don't think there was any problem regarding the
2 clothing of children. I read in the report that they
3 were all supposed to be dressed alike. Well, if they
4 claim that school uniform is part of that, yes,
5 otherwise the Social Services gave a fee, a certain
6 amount of money for every child that came into care in
7 order to rig them out, because they came in with what
8 they stood up in, and my recollection is of not sending
9 the children to school for a couple of days and then we
10 would take them down the town and they were rigged out,
11 and I'm nearly certain that I went anyway to Marks &
12 Spencers and there was -- because you got a variety of
13 shirts and trousers and things like that.

14 **Q.** You recollect taking children down to get them clothing?

15 **A.** I did like taking them to Marks & Spencers because you
16 got nice, modern, posh stuff.

17 **Q.** One of the other things that we have heard complaints
18 about is the food that was provided for the children.

19 **A.** Was?

20 **Q.** The food.

21 **A.** Yes.

22 **Q.** Can you hear me okay?

23 **A.** Yes, I can.

24 **Q.** I am maybe not speaking into the microphone.

25 The food that was provided, and you have said that

1 -- both boys and SND21, who we will come back to talk
2 about again --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- and you have seen her statement -- said that the nuns
5 did not eat with the boys.

6 **A. No, we didn't.**

7 Q. They felt there was different food provided.

8 **A. No. That's definitely not true.**

9 Q. Can I just ask the fact that the nuns didn't eat with
10 the children, might that have led to the perception that
11 you were getting something better than them?

12 **A. That's quite possible.**

13 Q. Another issue that we have heard complaints about is the
14 fact that denigrating remarks about children or about
15 their families were made. Did, first of all, you ever
16 make any such remark or see any other sister do so?

17 **A. Definitely not.**

18 Q. You are aware that and I will come back to again what
19 SND21 does say --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- that nuns commonly said things like, "I am in charge
22 of you because you have no-one else".

23 **A. No, no.**

24 Q. You don't remember ever saying anything like that to
25 a child?

1 **A. I don't remember, nor don't remember ever hearing**
2 **a sister in any house I was ever in degrading them or**
3 **humiliating them with those words.**

4 Q. In paragraph 9 of your statement you deal with the issue
5 about chores the children had to do. Some people have
6 complained that they were asked to do excessive chores,
7 but you say -- this is in response to a statement that
8 was provided to you by one of the people who have
9 complained -- you say:

10 "The allegation that children had to clean the
11 floors, brush them and scrub them before they got ready
12 for school is untrue."

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. "All the floors were carpeted except the bathrooms and
15 staff would have hoovered the whole unit after children
16 had gone to school. There would not have been even time
17 for the children to do this after they got up and were
18 ready for school. This allegation is completely
19 untrue."

20 You go on to say that:

21 "No child was obliged to go to mass every day."

22 **A. Yes, that's true.**

23 Q. So essentially you are saying that, while children were
24 made to do things, they weren't excessive chores. Is
25 that right?

1 A. Children didn't have time to do any chores whatsoever
2 before school. There wasn't any big deal about it. You
3 ran a Hoover around the carpet tiles and one of the
4 staff did that, and if they had dropped a bit of
5 porridge or a bit of -- cornflakes or something, you
6 just -- you just swept it up with a hand broom and that.

7 Q. What about weekends when the children weren't at school
8 or on holidays?

9 A. Weekends were very lax actually. We got up late. They
10 got up late. No.

11 Q. Were the children ever asked to do anything by way of
12 chores?

13 A. Yes, as -- not as chores, but my punishment was if they
14 did something wrong, they had to go upstairs and tidy
15 their wardrobes and tidy their dressing tables.

16 Q. But they didn't --

17 A. There wasn't really -- there wasn't really much chores
18 to do. It was quite a new building. There was -- you
19 know, it was ...

20 Q. What about doing dishes or anything like that? Were
21 they asked to do that?

22 A. I think they might have come into the kitchenette and
23 helped the staff to wipe up the dishes and stuff like
24 that and they might be asked to set the tables for the
25 next meal.

1 Q. A further complaint that we have had is the use of Jeyes
2 Fluid. Do you have anything to say about that?

3 **A. Certainly Jeyes Fluid was never used in my time and**
4 **I hate the smell of it.**

5 Q. Generally there are some other issues which I will
6 explore with some of the more specific allegations that
7 have been made, but if I can just ask generally about
8 striking children. It has been said certainly by SR2
9 that while no canes or sticks or belts or anything like
10 that would have been used to strike a child, and she
11 doesn't have any particular recollection of striking
12 a child herself, she accepts she might have slapped one
13 on the hand or the bottom. First of all, have you any
14 such memory of striking a child yourself?

15 **A. No, and I certainly can't see SR2 even smacking them on**
16 **the hand.**

17 Q. And you --

18 **A. There was one occasion -- there was one occasion where**
19 **I~smacked --**

20 Q. Yes. In paragraph 11 of your statement there you do
21 recall one occasion where you did strike a child.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. You say that you found a boy interfering with another
24 younger boy in the toilets.

25 "I smacked his hand with a wooden spoon" --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- "but that's the only time I ever reacted in that
3 way",

4 and you go on to say that the allegation that you
5 would have hit a child because they wet themselves is
6 untrue.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. I mean, I will come back to the specific allegations
9 that are made about you there, but certainly that's the
10 only time that you ever recall striking a child?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. If I can just pause there, and again I am going to ask
13 you for the names, because I think it is important that
14 we understand what this incident was about. The two
15 boys that you are talking about, who were they? Again
16 the names aren't to be used outside the chamber, SR6,
17 but ...

18 **A. One was SND33, about 10 or 11. One was HIA69, and
19 I might be wrong with his age, but I thought he was
20 about 12 or 13.**

21 Q. And what did you do when you came across the two boys?

22 **A. The first -- the first instance I saw of it was I think
23 it was SND33 and HIA69, and I thought it was SND33 that
24 was instigating it, and that was the time that I smacked
25 him on the hands and I said to HIA69, "Get outside and**

1 go out and play. Out", and the second time that
2 I caught HIA69 doing it, I just shouted at him to get
3 out.

4 Q. Can I just explore that briefly with you? You say that
5 there were two incidents then that you -- I mean, you
6 talk about this in your statement also and we will come
7 back to it, but as you raised it, we will deal with it
8 now. You say that there were two incidents, both of
9 which involved HIA69.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. One involved SND33, and if I am clear on what you have
12 just said, you told HIA69 to get out and go outside --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- and you smacked SND33.

15 A. I did, because I thought it was SND33 that was enticing
16 it.

17 Q. Did you report those observations to anyone?

18 A. I have no knowledge of it, but I probably would have
19 been upset and I probably would have said it to SR2,
20 probably to SND332. I probably would have.

21 Q. But you don't actually remember doing so?

22 A. I don't. No, I don't.

23 Q. What about either of the two boys' social workers? Do
24 you ever remember telling them?

25 A. No, I don't think I mentioned anything to them.

1 Q. Did -- you did say earlier that you do remember telling
2 your staff --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- that --

5 A. Yes, I did tell the staff, yes, to keep an eye on them,
6 because it was serious enough and I didn't want little
7 ones interfered with.

8 Q. So you did tell your staff to keep an eye out for these
9 boys, as it were?

10 A. Yes, and they were not to be left on their own with the
11 little ones at any time.

12 Q. Other allegations, and again we will deal with these in
13 respect of the specific allegations, but what about
14 bathing in the home? How were the children bathed?

15 A. Little ones were bathed by a member of staff or myself.
16 The big ones showered themselves and that.

17 Q. And I take it there was no supervision of the showers or
18 was there?

19 A. Oh, there would be, yes, the shower room anyway. The
20 showers were quite near to the sitting room and also to
21 the wash place and to where I had my little office.
22 Yes, there would have been, and the normal procedure
23 would be in the evening you put your head round and
24 said, "Come on, . Go and get a shower" or,
25 " , go and get a shower", whoever it was. There was

1 **always somebody --**

2 Q. In the vicinity.

3 A. -- either in the wash place, or in the office, or in the
4 **sitting room.**

5 Q. So they might not have been actually been in where the
6 shower was taking place?

7 A. **No, they wouldn't be in the actual shower room itself,**
8 **because, well, you are talking about boys of 11, 12.**

9 Q. So they would have been left to shower themselves --

10 A. **Yes.**

11 Q. -- but there would have been somebody nearby if they
12 needed help with anything?

13 A. **Yes, and only one ever went into a shower together, you**
14 **know. It wasn't a regime of four or five into the**
15 **showers or something like that. There was only two**
16 **shower heads anyway. So they just used to go in one at**
17 **a time.**

18 Q. Just about bedwetting, SR6, for example, some of the
19 boys have complained that they were humiliated when they
20 wet the bed, that they were shouted at and that they had
21 to do, as one boy described it, the walk of shame with
22 his sheets. What do you want to say to the Inquiry
23 about that?

24 A. **Of course I never heard of the walk of shame until**
25 **I read it in the documents that I got over. Certainly**

1 **that would never ever have happened. Bedwetting was not**
2 **a big thing. You expected it.**

3 Q. Some further general allegations. Some children have
4 alleged they were treated differently, for example, if
5 they were illegitimate or where their parents were
6 showing an interest in them. During your time, first of
7 all, was that the case?

8 **A. Definitely not, no.**

9 Q. It has been said that, you know, they were not given
10 proper medical attention for injuries or illness.

11 **A. No, that wouldn't be -- that's not true.**

12 Q. Can I just ask you after you left Termonbacca and even
13 after you left the Order did some of the children keep
14 in touch with you that you remember?

15 **A. Yes, not on a regular basis, but there -- one of two of**
16 **them came to see me in Oxford.**

17 Q. I think you remember SND76 was one of those --

18 **A. Yes, yes.**

19 Q. -- and I think SND65. Is that correct?

20 **A. That's right.**

21 Q. Can I -- another complaint that has been made and
22 certainly you have seen SND21's statement where she says
23 that the nuns were more interested in appearances than
24 in looking after the children.

25 **A. No, definitely not. That wouldn't be the case. No way.**

1 Q. And what about the allegation that the nuns had
2 favourites?

3 **A. No. That's wrong. That's not true.**

4 Q. Were any of the children treated differently from other
5 children in any way?

6 **A. The only time that you might see favouritism was if
7 a child, a little one was very sick or something. You
8 would spend more time comforting them and looking after
9 them, but other than that the normal routine of the
10 group was every child was loved just as much as each
11 other.**

12 Q. Coming back to the issue of SND332 and the ex-residents,
13 and we know from SND332 he tried to help them in the
14 community by finding housing --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- and so forth for them, at paragraph 20 of your
17 statement, if we could just scroll down to that, you
18 talk about the -- again this is in response to
19 a statement that has been made -- you say that:

20 "No ex-residents would have been in charge of the
21 groups."

22 I mean, one of the allegations that has been made is
23 that the ex-residents were sometimes left to supervise
24 while the nuns were at office or they would have looked
25 after the younger boys. You say that it was only paid

1 members of staff who would look -- looked after the
2 children --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- when you were there.

5 **A. Definitely.**

6 Q. You do recall at paragraph 27 that they did -- the
7 ex-residents did visit the home.

8 **A. Yes. The ex-residents visited mostly on a Sunday**
9 **afternoon, and when I say ex-residents, you are not**
10 **talking about seven and eight of them together. You**
11 **might be talking about two or three at the most. There**
12 **might be one or two over in SR2's group, one or two over**
13 **-- one over in my group and vice versa, and they'd have**
14 **dinner there with the kids.**

15 Q. You say they would have all gone by the time the older
16 children in the group would have gone to bed, which
17 would have been about 9 or 10 o'clock.

18 **A. Yes, definitely.**

19 Q. You say the oldest boys in your group was 15.

20 **A. About -- about that anyway.**

21 Q. Paragraphs 29 and 30, if we just scroll down to that,
22 this is where you say that you are aware of
23 an allegation, a specific allegation that's made in
24 relation to sexual abuse occurring when residents have
25 baths or showers, and you say:

1 "That couldn't be true, because the ex-residents
2 would never have been near the showers if children were
3 showering. The showers were located on the ground room
4 beside the sitting room, opposite the ironing room and
5 laundry room where a member of staff or myself would be
6 ironing, washing or getting clothes ready for school.
7 No ex-boys would have been allowed to shower or indeed
8 be in the home after", you say, "about 8.30 or 9.00."

9 You say the ex-residents did not oversee any of the
10 dorms, and this is in relation to the allegation about
11 this particular boy's bedwetting.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. You continue with that in that paragraph, but -- so
14 essentially what you are saying is while the
15 ex-residents did come back to visit in the evenings and
16 at the weekends and they might have come and had a meal
17 with yourselves --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- or with the children, they would not have been
20 allowed into the shower area?

21 **A. They would never be allowed upstairs and they certainly
22 would never be allowed near the showers when some of
23 them was showering. Definitely not.**

24 Q. If I can now move on, SR6, to some of the specific
25 allegations that have been made about you and you

1 address a number of these in your own statement. What
2 I am proposing to do is summarise the allegations --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- summarise your response and allow you to add anything
5 further that you want to say to the Inquiry about them.
6 We will just take them one by one.

7 So the first person -- and this is in no particular
8 order -- but the first person who makes allegations
9 about you is HIA126 or HIA126, as she was as a child.
10 She is "HIA126". Her statement can be found at SND-2403
11 through to SND-2408. Your response can be found in
12 paragraphs 7 to 14 of your statement.

13 If I can summarise her allegations, she alleges that
14 you and SND57, who worked with you, force fed her. At
15 paragraph 7 of your statement, if we just go back to
16 that, you say that you deny ever force feeding or
17 keeping food to be eaten later. You said -- I think it
18 must be in paragraph 8, the next statement really:

19 "In relation to paragraph 4 of the statement I can
20 say that porridge was part of what was served at
21 breakfast. I would never have forced a child to eat
22 anything. The allegation that I would have forced
23 a child to eat something that would have made them sick
24 is untrue. I also would never have kept the food until
25 the child came home from school and made them eat the

1 food at that time. No child would have been deprived of
2 food for not eating food until the next day."

3 You were explaining to me how the food was served at
4 breakfast time. If you would maybe like to explain that
5 to the Inquiry.

6 **A. During those years we were trying to make the group**
7 **homes as much of a home as possible, and for porridge it**
8 **would be served in a larger dish, say with three or four**
9 **children around the table, and it was put in the middle**
10 **of the table, or the Cornflakes, the box of Cornflakes**
11 **or Rice Krispies. If it was a fried breakfast, we'd**
12 **share it out and again the bacon and sausage and eggs**
13 **would be put on a plate where the child could take, just**
14 **getting them used to serving, you know, themselves.**

15 **Q. And would this variety of food, as you describe, would**
16 **that have been available every breakfast time or ...?**

17 **A. The fried breakfast mightn't be available certain**
18 **mornings of the week, but it certainly would be**
19 **available four to five mornings a week along with**
20 **porridge or cereal.**

21 **Q. And a child could have helped him or herself to**
22 **whichever ...?**

23 **A. There would be no reason why they would have to be force**
24 **fed in anything. There was a variety there for a child**
25 **to choose from.**

1 Q. One of the allegations -- the further allegation she
2 makes was about scrubbing and polishing the floors or
3 brushing and scrubbing floors before school. Again we
4 looked at paragraph 9 of your statement where you say
5 that that was impossible.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. I should tell you that in oral evidence, which can be
8 found at SND-18189 -- we don't need to call it up -- she
9 said she had to scrub the stains off the carpet.

10 **A. No, definitely not.**

11 Q. She also -- sorry.

12 **A. I can also think she would have been no more than about**
13 **5 or 6, maybe 7. No.**

14 Q. She also alleged that you picked favourites to take to
15 school in the minibus and that those were people that
16 could you manipulate and that didn't include her.

17 You respond at paragraph 10 in your statement to
18 that. You say that you couldn't drive until just before
19 you left Termonbacca. You say that you, in fact, failed
20 your driving test I think it was three times. Is that
21 right, SR6?

22 **A. Yes. I tried my utmost when that question -- when that**
23 **came up in the papers that I received in Nottingham and**
24 **I phoned the DVLA in Derry to see if they could give me**
25 **the correct date of when I passed my test, because my**

1 **only recollection of driving a minibus -- excuse me --**
2 **was when I was in Oxford.**

3 Q. There should be water there in front of you if you need
4 some, SR6.

5 **A. Thank you -- was when I went to Oxford in 1983 or**
6 **something, '84, and I have no recollection of ever**
7 **driving a minibus in Termonbacca, St. Joseph's.**

8 Q. We certainly know that you couldn't drive before 12th
9 February 1979, as the Inquiry has received a diary that
10 was compiled by SND76, and in that on that date he
11 records you failed your driving test on
12 12th February 1979. So whenever you passed, it must
13 have been some date after that.

14 **A. After that, yes.**

15 Q. HIA126 also alleges that you hit her on the head with
16 knuckles and you would crack her head with your stump.
17 You beat her and her sisters for playing at --
18 pretending to perform mass in the chapel. She said you
19 hit children with the curtain rod, and when she gave
20 evidence to the Inquiry, she described it as a thin
21 plastic length. She said that she was hit on the arms,
22 legs or back, wherever you could reach. You said things
23 to her such as, "You are getting fed. You are getting
24 a roof over your head. Your mother and father didn't
25 want you. You would have been God knows where out in

1 the streets", and you respond to these allegations in
2 paragraphs 11 to 13, where you deny that you ever hit
3 children except for the one occasion which you related
4 and you wouldn't have said such things.

5 **A. Definitely not.**

6 Q. I know there was something else you wanted to say and
7 you have said this again in paragraph 11:

8 "The allegation about hitting children with the
9 stump of my finger and part of my hand is untrue."

10 **A. Yes. That came up a few times in the papers that I had**
11 **in Nottingham, and although I had a stump at the**
12 **beginning of my religious life when I lost a finger,**
13 **that was removed in 1966 in Scotland. So from 1966**
14 **onwards I never had a stump. That is -- that is -- that**
15 **is what --**

16 Q. The stump would have been between your finger and --

17 **A. It would have come to about there from this finger**
18 **missing.**

19 Q. It was your forefinger that was the stump effectively.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. But that was in removed in 1966?

22 **A. In 1966, definitely. So I had never a stump.**

23 Q. Can I just ask -- you say that you wouldn't have said
24 the kind of things either that she reports you as having
25 said.

1 **A. I definitely wouldn't, no.**

2 Q. You have also I know seen the police statement that she
3 gave to police last year. She described you as sneaky
4 and said that you hit when other people weren't looking.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. Is there anything you want to say about that?

7 **A. No. I read that and I -- I disagree with that.**

8 Q. If I can move on, that's -- those are HIA126's
9 allegations. If you are happy for me to -- I have
10 covered what you want to say about those. If there's
11 anything else you want to say ...?

12 **A. No.**

13 Q. Then we'll move on to HIA40. He is "HIA40". His
14 statement can be found at SND-4570 through to SND-4579.
15 He says that he was beaten for wetting the bed by you or
16 SR59, and when he was questioned about this at the --
17 when he was giving his oral evidence, he described you
18 as having a missing finger. It is quite clear from his
19 evidence that he was confusing his time in Bishop Street
20 and his time in Termonbacca, but you certainly have no
21 recollection of him at all. Isn't that right?

22 **A. I can't remember that young lad. No, I can't.**

23 Q. And you were never in Bishop Street?

24 **A. No, I was never stationed in Bishop Street.**

25 Q. And again talking about driving the minibus, you don't

1 remember doing that. I mean, he talks about an incident
2 involving himself where the minibus crashed.

3 **A. That's right.**

4 Q. Do you have any memory?

5 **A. No memory of that whatsoever. I did ask the police in**
6 **Westbridge for it. If I crashed the minibus, there must**
7 **be -- the police would have come surely and there must**
8 **have been some ...**

9 Q. Certainly he does say that the police came.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. He had actually had an accident. He'd had an injury and
12 the police thought this was as a result of the minibus
13 crash, but you have no recollection of that? He got
14 hurt in Donegal and this was on the way back.

15 **A. None whatsoever.**

16 Q. If I can move on then to HIA92, who is "HIA92", and his
17 evidence can be found at SND-14923 through to SND-14934.
18 He alleges that you tried to force feed him, that he was
19 hit a crack on the back or side of the head with a
20 closed fist every morning for a week or over a period of
21 days. He said you hit him with the brush shaft, the
22 dust pan brush. He recalls in particular what he
23 describes as two main whippings for bed wetting. He
24 said he was whipped -- you whipped him with the top of
25 the fishing rod in Donegal when you were on holiday

1 there. You beat him and his brother HIA 86 with a branch
2 that they had broken off a tree. You called him a brat
3 and you battered him for using a bad language. When he
4 gave evidence, he gave evidence to that effect also.

5 Your response at paragraphs 16 to 17 is that you
6 have read his statement. You do not remember him being
7 in care in Termonbacca at all. You deny all of the
8 allegations.

9 "He talks about being in another, SR59's, group and
10 that would mean he was not in my group and wouldn't have
11 been in my group for breakfast. SR59", you say, "would
12 not have tolerated any child being treated in the way he
13 describes."

14 **A. Definitely not.**

15 Q. You also say it would have been extraordinary if she --
16 there is no way she couldn't have known about it if this
17 treatment was being meted out. Is that correct?

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. Now I am conscious of the time. I am going to move on
20 to HIA69, and that might take a little time, Chairman.
21 So I am happy to go on, but I am just conscious that it
22 is lunch time.

23 CHAIRMAN: I see there are four more individuals.

24 MS SMITH: There are actually more than that, Chairman.

25 CHAIRMAN: We will rise now then and sit again at 2 o'clock.

1 (1.00 pm)

2 (Lunch break)

3 (2.00 pm)

4 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, SR6. We were talking this
5 morning about various people who had made specific
6 allegations about you, and were just going on to speak
7 about one boy called HIA69, who is "HIA69". Again
8 I just reiterate for anybody who was not here this
9 morning that the names are not to be used outside this
10 chamber. His statement can be found at SND-2188 to
11 SND-2197. In summary what he alleges is that he was
12 beaten by you. He claimed that the level of cruelty he
13 experienced at your hands hit the ceiling when he

14 You said you hated him. He was
15 an abomination to you and everyone around him. You beat
16 him with your fists in Donegal when two girls called at
17 the house where you were all staying. He claimed SND21
18 had to pull you off him. He also said he threw stones
19 at you when you wouldn't let him go to the beach and he
20 had to be restrained by other ex-residents who were
21 there and thrown into a stream. He said that you beat
22 him for wetting the bed. You used your fists and the
23 flex of a kettle to beat him, although he gave some more
24 details about those beatings.

25 If we can pull up, please, SND-18171, this is what

1 he said when he came to speak to the Inquiry, SR6. If
2 I can just pause there, we will come back to that in
3 a moment. Another allegation he makes, and we need to
4 deal with that in some detail, is you grabbed him around
5 the throat. He ran away and SR2 agreed to have him
6 transferred to her group.

7 Now if I can just ask you -- you deal with his
8 allegations in your own statement at paragraphs 18 to
9 33. So if we could go back to your own statement, which
10 is SND-18140 -- SND-18142. Sorry. SND-18142. You say
11 there at paragraph 18:

12 "I have read the statement of HIA69. I remember
13 HIA69 was about 13 to 14 years old when I took over at
14 housemother at Termonbacca. I remember he had two
15 sisters and I think he had a little brother."

16 You name the sisters in that paragraph. Now can I
17 just pause there, SR6, because you say he was about 13
18 or 14 in 1978. He has talked about
19 which would have made him younger than that, and I think
20 this morning you had a recollection of him being about
21 12. So --

22 **A. I am not 100% sure how old he really was, but he**
23 **probably looked to me to be about maybe 12 or 13 when**
24 **I went there.**

25 Q. Well, certainly the details of his date of birth would

1 tally with what you are saying in your statement, that
2 he would have been about 13 or 14 in 1978. He would
3 have been 13 in 1978 --

4 **A. Right.**

5 Q. -- and might have been 12 in the earlier part of that
6 year, because I can't actually remember the month of his
7 birth from the papers, but that can be checked from his
8 statement.

9 You say:

10 "There would have been staff in the morning, during
11 the day and evening and there would always have been
12 children that needed looked after who were not of school
13 age."

14 That would have been the younger ones.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. Can I just clarify with you also we heard that there
17 were two groups and there was a nursery.

18 **A. That's right.**

19 Q. We have heard there was another nun in charge of the
20 nursery.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. Do you remember who that was in your time?

23 **A. SR 18 .**

24 Q. So she would have looked after --

25 **A. She would have looked after from 0 to maybe 2 years.**

1 Q. You also said that no ex-residents would have been in
2 charge of the groups, and you go on -- you deal
3 specifically with allegations that he makes in his
4 statement. If we could scroll on down, please, at
5 paragraph 23 you say that:

6 "I would never have discouraged a child from doing
7 well at school and I totally deny that I said anything
8 or did anything to him in the way he alleges. It is not
9 clear from the statement when he was under my care. He
10 refers to the fact that his treatment from me got worse
11 after he He refers to allegations
12 of cruelty against me both before and after he
13
14

15 I was not in Termonbacca until ...",

16 you say there 1979 but it was 1978, but in any
17 event he would have before you came in
18 '78 if those figures -- dates are right.

19 "I am unsure if he was ever in my group. My
20 recollection is that I met him -- when I met him, he was
21 already

22 which again would tie in with him
23

24 "I totally deny the allegation that I beat HIA69 as
25 he makes out or at any other time. The allegation is

1 just untrue, and I refer to the paragraph of SND21 which
2 refers to HIA69 and where she denies pulling me off
3 him",

4 and it is true to say that SND21 does not have any
5 recollection of the incident that he describes happening
6 in Donegal happening at all.

7 Then you go on to talk about SND21, but I will leave
8 that for the moment, because you are aware, and we have
9 looked at documents this morning, and I am going to pull
10 some of these up. The first document that I am going to
11 pull up, SR6, is SND-223 -- no -- SND-2223, SND-2223.
12 This is described as an internal case review. We were
13 talking this morning about record-keeping and, first of
14 all, can I -- you have looked at this and you confirm
15 that that is, in fact, your handwriting. The
16 handwritten sections are yours. Isn't that right?

17 **A. Yes, it is.**

18 Q. We will see it is dated April 1978, which would have
19 been about two months after you came to Termonbacca.

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. It's -- this is the template that I was talking about
22 with the typewritten questions.

23 "To be completed by a member of staff responsible
24 for the child.

25 Name of the child",

1 and HIA69's name is there, his date of birth, his
2 date of admission, which was 1973.

3 "The responsible local authority",
4 where you have recorded:

5 "Western Health Board (Derry). Referred by Welfare.
6 Responsibility: SND 484

7 He was in St. Gerard's house or group. Now the two
8 groups had a name --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- name after a saint and St. Gerard's was yours. Is
11 that right?

12 **A. Yes, yes.**

13 Q. And SR2's --

14 **A. Sacred Heart was it?**

15 Q. -- was St. Joseph's? Was it St. Joseph's? No?

16 **A. I thought it was Sacred Heart, but it may have been.**

17 Q. You are probably more right than I am on that one. St.
18 Joseph's, of course, was the whole house, Termonbacca.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. You talk about:

21 "The relationship with the child's own family."

22 You say:

23 "He visits his mother but there are no visits from
24 her to the children."

25 You describe on:

1 "With siblings or other relatives: Continual fights
2 between him and his older sister."

3 Now he made the point to us that he has two younger
4 sisters, but not an older sister.

5 "With other outside contacts."

6 He had no contact with outside.

7 "Emotional development and behaviour."

8 You record him as:

9 "Appears to be a very disturbed lad. Loathes any
10 form of correction."

11 Then if we can scroll on down:

12 "The relationship in the children's home with
13 residential staff:

14 Cannot bear to be corrected. In conflict most of
15 the time in staff (residents). With other children not
16 liked very much. Very aggressive unless they fall in
17 with HIA69's wishes."

18 His health was good. No serious illness. His last
19 medical inspection was March '77. If we can just keep
20 on scrolling down through this, please. Education is
21 excellent.

22 "General comments and relationship with teachers:

23 Stares into space at times but on the whole
24 excellent relationship with teachers and pupils.

25 Religious development and education is excellent."

1 Reading and planting shrubs are his hobbies.

2 "Other remarks."

3 You put:

4 "At the moment HIA69 is causing great concern. He
5 is most insulting to members of staff when corrected,
6 quite nasty with younger members of the groups unless
7 they do as he wants them. Appears to be only happy if
8 allowed the attitude of doing as he pleases and coming
9 and going when he likes.

10 1. HIA69 returning to his mother."

11 This is your recommendations.

12 "2. Suitable couple found who would take him for
13 weekends and short breaks.

14 3. Foster home within an area where he could still
15 visit his mother."

16 Now can I just pause there and ask you have you --
17 this is the kind of document you were talking about
18 filling in for the children. That is the file you would
19 have kept on them?

20 **A. Yes, something similar to that, yes, yes.**

21 Q. So this document then formed part of their overall
22 Social Services file and would have been handed
23 I presume to the social worker when she came to visit.

24 **A. Yes. If she had any questions to ask about a child and**
25 **I had any comments to make, she would read those in the**

1 **files.**

2 Q. So the file -- she would look at the file before she
3 maybe chatted to you about any of the difficulties?

4 **A. Well, if she came particularly over a problem, if she**
5 **came particularly over a problem, she would just discuss**
6 **that child with me and then look at the reports.**

7 Q. So we know this was April -- do you remember writing
8 this about HIA69 at all?

9 **A. I don't. I'll be honest. I don't, but I know it's my**
10 **writing.**

11 Q. Well, if we can look at other documents that I showed to
12 you this morning, which is SND-2231, and we looked at
13 this. You will see it is "Western Health & Social
14 Services Board, Londonderry, Limavady and Strabane
15 District, case report" on HIA69's entire family, and
16 just scrolling down there to the entry on 15th
17 March 1978, you will see:

18 "SND332 contacted."

19 He was contacted -- you will see -- just if you look
20 on the right-hand side of the page, you will see ^{SND 484}
21 SND 484 social worker" has recorded all of these
22 entries on this record and she has confirmed she did do
23 that.

24 "SND332 contacted re HIA69 running away last
25 Friday."

1 First of all, Sister, have you a recollection of
2 HIA69 ever running away from the home?

3 **A. I haven't, no.**

4 Q. He gave evidence that he ran away on at least three
5 occasions. You don't remember that?

6 **A. I don't, no.**

7 Q. "Called at Mother's. HIA69 there but very unhappy at
8 idea of going back to Termonbacca. Has been getting on
9 badly with SR6, culminating in an incident where he
10 alleges she caught him by the throat. However,
11 eventually agreed to go accompanied by his mother. We
12 talked to SR6, who said that she understood that HIA69
13 was unhappy, but that she felt he was quite insolent to
14 her and that she had lost her temper with him."

15 Then:

16 "Mother agreed they would try to find a placement
17 for him in the family."

18 If we may scroll down then, when we get to April, on
19 3rd April, which is around the same time as you were
20 filling in the last document or certainly the same
21 month:

22 "Talked to SR6 about HIA69. Feels she still cannot
23 make any kind of relationship with him and that he is
24 still defying her authority, although not overtly."

25 If we can then scroll down to the next page, on 24th

1 April, if you could just stop there, please -- first of
2 all, 21st April:

3 "Talked to HIA69 and SND332. HIA69 says he
4 definitely wants to leave Termonbacca."

5 That was then about one of his siblings. Then
6 24th April:

7 "SR2", who is SR2, "phoned. Says she has talked to
8 HIA69 and has agreed to have him transferred to her
9 group."

10 So those are records that were being made by the
11 Social Services in and around March/April 1978 about
12 an incident involving HIA69 where he alleged you had
13 taken him by the throat and as a result he ran away, and
14 that was certainly the evidence he gave to the Inquiry.

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. Now do you remember that at all?

17 **A. I don't remember -- I remember HIA69, but I don't
18 remember him running away.**

19 Q. Did you ever grab him by the throat, sister?

20 **A. No, definitely not.**

21 Q. Would you accept that the entry of 15th March, if I can
22 go back to that just on the previous page -- what it
23 says is you were spoken to by SND332 and SND484:

24 "We talked to SR6, who said she understood that
25 HIA69 was unhappy but that she felt he was quite

1 insolent to her and that she had lost her temper with
2 him."

3 Do you remember that conversation at all?

4 **A. I don't, no.**

5 Q. When SND484 gave evidence to the Inquiry, she was asked
6 were you accepting that you had done what was alleged
7 effectively and she said, "I mean, yes", that you were.
8 I don't want to mislead you. So if we could look at
9 page SND-18226 -- I think it is -- I think it is
10 actually a later point. SND-18228, if we can just go to
11 that page, please. This is where -- if we can just
12 scroll on down, this is where this paper I have just
13 read from to you is being read out to SND484. Now if we
14 can scroll on down to where Mr Aiken was putting to her:

15 "Now this record appears to suggest that SR6 was
16 accepting that she had, in fact, done what HIA69 claimed
17 she had done?

18 Answer: Uh-huh.

19 Question: Do you remember this now when you read
20 this document?

21 Answer: Yes, I do. Uh-huh. I do.

22 Question: And was that what she was doing? She
23 was, in fact, accepting that she had grabbed him by the
24 throat?

25 Answer: I mean, yes. She did agree that she had

1 done wrong, if you like, and, you know, from my record
2 it would seem that we did spend time trying to see what
3 was the best thing to do in the situation, because HIA69
4 was in care under a court order and he -- he couldn't
5 just go back home just like that, you know."

6 So what SND484 is saying is that you were actually
7 accepting the allegation. She remembered when she
8 looked at this document that -- she remembered the
9 incident and remembered speaking to you and speaking to
10 you about HIA69, but she is also saying you were
11 accepting you had grabbed him by the throat at that
12 conversation with her and SND332.

13 **A. Well, I have no recollection of the incident at all**
14 **actually. I don't even recollect having any meeting**
15 **with SND484, but what can I say?**

16 Q. You do certainly -- even if you don't remember that --
17 and, you know, this is what SND484 said in her evidence
18 to the Inquiry, but she also talks about you admitting
19 losing your temper. Did you lose your temper with the
20 children?

21 **A. Well, if shouting at them when they were fighting or**
22 **doing anything wrong, if that -- if that is the same as**
23 **losing my temper, but I never beat them because I lost**
24 **my temper. I never beat them with flexes of kettles or**
25 **anything like that that has been said. Definitely not.**

1 **I did shout at them.**

2 Q. Just going back to your own statement at paragraph 25,
3 which is on page 18143, you do actually in that
4 paragraph say you admit you would have shouted at the
5 children at times, as you imagine most people would
6 dealing with children from time to time.

7 "I was aware that most of these children were from
8 very unhappy homes and backgrounds and there is no way
9 I would have bullied them or added to their
10 difficulties. The nuns or social workers would not have
11 tolerated such conduct. I doubt if any child could
12 stand in a corner all day without collapsing."

13 This is in relation to something that SND21 speaks
14 about later, and I will come back to that. You say:

15 "As stated earlier, I really cared for the children
16 and did my best to care for the children."

17 You have no recollection of the incident that we
18 have described.

19 **A. I have not.**

20 Q. One of the things you do say in your statement at
21 paragraph 33, and we touched on this this morning, is
22 that you say that there were two incidents when you
23 found HIA69 interfering with smaller children in the
24 toilets. You related that one of those was SND33.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. You say:

2 "He would always have been given a stern telling off
3 and was not allowed to be on his own with children less
4 than five years of age. My recollection is that he
5 resented this and this resentment reflected on to me."

6 It is fair to say, Sister, from the document you
7 completed about HIA69 that the relationship that you and
8 he had was far from amicable, if I can put it that way.
9 Would that be a fair comment?

10 A. Well, I wouldn't go out of my way to show any diffidence
11 to HIA69, but he knew that I would not let him out of my
12 sight because of the actions that I caught him doing.
13 He was -- he knew that. He knew that he couldn't go
14 anywhere with the little ones without supervision and he
15 knew why he could not do it and I think he probably did
16 resent that.

17 Q. But certainly you describe him as insolent and not
18 getting on with the other staff members, not getting on
19 with the other children. You describe him as aggressive
20 and that. I mean, is that your recollection of him as
21 a child?

22 A. Well, there must be incidents when I felt that about
23 him, but my long-term memory of him isn't at all like
24 that. I thought -- apart from the problems I had
25 watching him with the little ones I thought he was quite

1 **a shy lad really and didn't really cause me much**
2 **trouble, but ...**

3 Q. Well, we have talked about SND33. One of the things
4 that SND33 has said -- sadly he is no longer with us,
5 but he did speak to the police, and in his police
6 statement he claimed that he told both you and SR2 that
7 HIA69 was abusing him. We can find that at SND-18112.
8 Just if we can scroll down, I have -- you see there:

9 "Around this time I went to SR6 and SR2 and told
10 them what was going on in the home."

11 This was about an older boy in the home and what he
12 can remember being done there.

13 "The only thing that appeared to be done about it
14 was that HIA69 was moved away from me and over to
15 St.~Gerard's part of the home. When I seen that nothing
16 more than that was being done about it, I started to
17 abuse the younger children."

18 Do you remember SND33 saying to you -- I mean,
19 I know you have described the incident where you
20 effectively caught HIA69 and SND33 together --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- but did ^{SND 33} complain to you?

23 **A. He didn't say to me when I slapped him on the hand with**
24 **the wooden spoon, "It is not my fault. HIA69 is doing**
25 **it to me". He didn't. As I say, I thought it was**

1 SND 33 doing. That's why I shouted at HIA69 to get out.
2 I didn't think HIA69 was doing it at this stage, but he
3 certainly never said to me.

4 Q. You do say in your statement -- you say there was
5 another incident involving HIA69. What can you tell us
6 about that?

7 A. That was the incident of HIA69 and I think it was the
8 younger brother of the ^{SND 197, HIA 126} HIA127. He was only
9 a little thing of about 3 I think and I certainly caught
10 him in the act with the little boy.

11 Q. And do -- where was this, Sister?

12 A. In the toilet downstairs and I just opened the door and
13 I said, "Get out" and just picked up little HIA127.
14 I think it was HIA127.

15 Q. I am just going to ask you about another incident that
16 the Inquiry has heard about and it doesn't -- well,
17 HIA69 was involved in the police investigation, but it
18 related to someone called SND23. There are certain
19 police documents that we have received in relation to
20 that. That can be found at SND-18331. Now you see this
21 is -- just this section of the material that I wanted to
22 ask you about is, Sister, SND23 is being interviewed by
23 police about allegations that had been made about him
24 and allegations that had been made that he was teaching
25 children in Termonbacca -- now I should -- just for

1 clarity's sake, the papers disclose at this stage this
2 was a man of 22 and he -- it is being alleged he was
3 teaching children about sexual activities in
4 Termonbacca. He is being asked about this and he is
5 being pressed about how he knew about the rumours. He
6 said:

7 "I was asked to leave Termonbacca. I will tell --
8 if I tell you who told me about the rumours, that person
9 will be asked to leave."

10 He does go on and he said that he was told by
11 someone called SND14.

12 "SND14 was told by SND57, who works in Termonbacca
13 in the other children's group, and presumably she got it
14 from SR6. How exactly SND57 found out I don't know."

15 Really what I wanted to ask you about, Sister, is do
16 you remember -- I should say this is 1980; this document
17 dates to 1980 -- do you remember any incident or any
18 rumour in Termonbacca in 1980 about SND23, about him
19 being -- you know, teaching other children -- teaching
20 children to engage in sexual activity or anything like
21 that?

22 **A. No, definitely not.**

23 Q. You don't remember any --

24 **A. I don't remember. No, I don't. I do remember SND23**
25 **just vaguely actually, but I never once suspected SND23**

1 **of doing anything immoral to the children.**

2 Q. I should also explain that SR1, who had replaced SR2 --
3 isn't that correct -- when SR2 moved on from
4 Termonbacca?

5 **A. That's right.**

6 Q. She was in charge of the other group to yourself in
7 1980.

8 **A. That's right.**

9 Q. She actually brought this -- an incident involving SND23
10 and a boy called SND35 -- do you remember SND35?

11 **A. I think I remember SND35. I didn't have him in my**
12 **group. I think he was in Sister's group actually.**

13 Q. Certainly she thought --

14 **A. I don't know what the incident was, but I do remember**
15 **that little lad.**

16 Q. Do you remember any discussion in the home about
17 reporting an incident to the police --

18 **A. No.**

19 Q. -- or anything like that?

20 **A. No, definitely not.**

21 Q. If I can just then move on from HIA69 to another person
22 who makes complaints about you, sister, and that's
23 HIA113, who was HIA113 to her own name.

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. Her statement can be found at SND-22... -- SND-2334 to

1 SND-2340. She also gave a statement to police, which
2 can be found at SND-15325. Again I am not going call up
3 the documents, but I will summarise what she was saying.
4 She is "HIA113".

5 She said that she was hit when her sister wet the
6 bed after the first night that they were there. She
7 said she was hit on the head with the knuckles. In her
8 evidence to the Inquiry at SND-18185 she thought that
9 she was the only one getting hit with knuckles and then
10 she was told others were getting hit that way too. She
11 said you took her to your room to hit her harder. In
12 evidence she gave a description that your bedroom was
13 across the hall from the bedroom where she slept with
14 her sisters. That is correct, isn't it, SR6?

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. She says she was beaten for playing mass and she was
17 beaten with a curtain rail. She said she had her mouth
18 washed out with Fairy Liquid for using bad language. In
19 her evidence to us she says that was either the kitchen
20 or the bathroom that this would have occurred. You said
21 that -- you accused her of putting on her stammer. Yet
22 despite that there was something about you that she
23 liked. She said she was force fed lumpy polish --
24 porridge. Sorry. She vomited it and you made her eat
25 the rest of the porridge.

1 Now in paragraphs 34 to 43 of your statement, which
2 is SND-18145, if we could just go back to that, please,
3 you respond to the allegations that HIA113 makes about
4 you, and you deny beating or hitting children with or
5 without any plastic curtain rail, and I should say she
6 described that as a swish type rail. You say
7 withholding pocket money or being disallowed TV was the
8 actual punishments that you would have used against
9 children who were misbehaving or not doing what they
10 were supposed to.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You say that the abuse that she alleged occurred in that
13 bedroom could not have happened -- you say it in
14 paragraph 38 -- because your room was opposite. You
15 were a very light sleeper. Your light was always on
16 during the night, and the boys would have slept at the
17 lower end with the door closing off the girls'
18 section from them, which they would have had to open and
19 pass beside your bedroom door, and you feel what she
20 alleged happened in that bedroom simply could not have
21 happened without your knowing of it.

22 **A. That's the sexual allegation?**

23 Q. Yes.

24 **A. No, definitely nothing like that could have happened.**

25 Q. You say you never force fed any child and the idea that

1 you would have cleaned up vomit from a child and then
2 made her continue eating the same food is just untrue.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. Can I just pause, SR6, to make it quite clear that the
5 Panel have your entire statement, and although I am only
6 referring to certain parts of it --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- they will have read it all and will have considered
9 it all.

10 **A. Right.**

11 Q. So I don't want you to think that I am glossing over
12 anything.

13 You said also that you don't remember any children
14 attending any schools except the Creggan, because one of
15 the things that was said was that you drove your
16 favourites in the minibus to school, but did any -- the
17 children not attend Bishop Street School?

18 **A. Not in my time, and the statement said four miles they**
19 **had to walk. Well, I can't think of any school where**
20 **they had to walk four mile, and to the best of my**
21 **knowledge my kids just went out from Termonbacca and**
22 **straight up the hill to the schools there in the**
23 **Creggan, which would be about a ten-minute walk at the**
24 **most, but I can't remember -- I am not saying they**
25 **didn't, but I can't remember any of mine going to any**

1 **other schools other than at the Creggan.**

2 Q. Might it be about four miles approximately from
3 Termonbacca to Bishop Street?

4 **A. Oh, no, not even that. I doubt it very much.**

5 Q. But you -- in your time you don't remember any of your
6 children going --

7 **A. None of mine -- none of ours -- at the time I was there**
8 **none of the two groups went to Bishop Street. That's**
9 **definite.**

10 Q. Now another person who has spoken to you was HIA381. He
11 is "HIA381". His statement can be found at SND-11496 to
12 SND-11501. He said that you beat him on the back of the
13 head with the knuckle for moving a knife at a table and
14 when your knuckle got sore, you then hit him with
15 a knife handle. He said he was humiliated for bed
16 wetting. He was shouted at in front of the other
17 children. He said when he stayed for Christmas you said
18 to him, "The only reason your mother is keeping you in
19 here is so you can get your toys and clothes". He said
20 you belittled him and made him feel like a beggar. In
21 evidence he said he felt small, like dirt and wouldn't
22 take any of the Christmas presents or the stuff that was
23 brought for Christmas.

24 At paragraph 44 of your statement your response is
25 that you don't remember him.

1 **A. I can't remember him. No. I'm sorry. I can't remember**
2 **him.**

3 Q. You say you've read the allegation that you are supposed
4 to have hit him on the back of the head and you totally
5 deny that and you wouldn't have done that to any
6 children --

7 **A. No.**

8 Q. -- or children in your care. You don't -- I take it,
9 although you haven't addressed it, SR6, do you accept
10 you would have made any such comment to --

11 **A. Oh, definitely not, no, and regarding toys and clothes**
12 **like that, there was no reason why we would keep stuff**
13 **like that from them. In actual fact they went home with**
14 **bag loads of stuff. We had -- we were not short of**
15 **clothes, nor food, nor indeed toys.**

16 Q. In fairness he is not complaining about the lack of
17 toys. What he's saying is that he was being told --
18 they were supposed to go home before Christmas and that
19 the only -- they weren't then able to go home because of
20 some family difficulty. So they had to stay in
21 Termonbacca, and the comment was made to him that, "The
22 only reason your mother is keeping you in here is so you
23 can get the toys we are going to give you" effectively.

24 **A. No, that would never have been said to any child.**

25 Q. Now those are the people who make complaints about you

1 and who you have had the opportunity to address in your
2 witness statement and respond to what they say.

3 I am going to move on to some other people who have
4 complained, and we covered this this morning when we met
5 earlier, and I believe -- I hope the papers have now
6 been provided to your legal representatives, but
7 certainly they -- again I am going to go to do the same
8 thing and summarise what has been said.

9 HIA382, who was HIA381's brother -- I take it you
10 don't remember the family at all?

11 **A. I don't remember the boys at all, no.**

12 Q. He is HIA382 and his statement can be found at SND-5643
13 through to SND-5648. He alleges that you beat him, that
14 you used your knuckle to hit him on the back of the
15 head. He said you belittled him, made him feel
16 worthless and said things like, "Your mother couldn't
17 cope and couldn't feed you and that is why you're in
18 here".

19 In evidence at SND-18225 he said:

20 "'Your mother doesn't want you. Your family doesn't
21 want you', and things of that nature."

22 He said you took him into the launderette to hit him
23 with your knuckle. I am just asking you and giving you
24 the opportunity now, SR6, what you would like to say
25 about those allegations?

1 **A. I don't remember the [REDACTED] boys and certainly I would**
2 **never abuse children like that.**

3 Q. Another person who is a sister of the boy HIA69 we were
4 talking about, that's HIA352, and she is "HIA352", her
5 statement can be found at SND-2130 to SND-2136. She
6 said that you replaced SR14, which is correct. Isn't
7 that so? SR14 was in the home before you went there.

8 **A. Yes, she was, yes.**

9 Q. She said you hit her brother ^{SND 309} with a stick for
10 wetting the bed. She talks about the incident where
11 HIA69 ran away. She said she was told he had gone
12 missing and that the incident was reported in the Derry
13 Journal. She heard that you had tried to strangle HIA69
14 and that he had bruises on his neck. She said you had
15 called him "a queer boy". She said you would warn girls
16 to be aware of the boys, that you hated men. That was
17 her opinion. She said that in Shrove you called HIA69
18 queer in front of a girl he liked. She recalls him
19 throwing stones at ex-residents who came on the trip.

20 In evidence to the Inquiry at SND-18220 she gave
21 more detail about ^{SND 309} and the bed wetting and she said
22 she remembered SND21, who is now SND21, sitting on
23 a piece of wood to stop you hitting ^{SND 309}. It is fair to
24 say, and I will come to what SND21 says also, she
25 doesn't have any recollection of any such incident.

1 First of all, can I -- did ex-residents go on the
2 trip to Donegal?

3 **A. Not to my knowledge. One came and he drove the minibus,**
4 **and he would stay and bring back the laundry to St.**
5 **Joseph's every two or three days, but no number of**
6 **ex-residents. SND122 is the only one I can remember**
7 **coming on holidays, not the whole of the holidays. He**
8 **would come down and he'd bring the laundry back and stay**
9 **up in Termonbacca or stay in his flat and then bring the**
10 **dry laundry down when it was done.**

11 Q. And would he -- when he would come down, he would then
12 have spent the days with the boys?

13 **A. He would. He would, yes.**

14 Q. Well, those are the allegations that SND352 makes
15 against you, SR6. I just wonder what you want to say to
16 the Inquiry about those allegations.

17 **A. They're not true.**

18 Q. Another person you may remember is HIA60 or he was known
19 as HIA60 at the time.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. He is "HIA60" and his statement can be found at S... --
22 I think it is a transcript rather than a statement --
23 SND-110... -- sorry -- SND-10070 through to SND-11079.
24 At SND-10075 he says that you slapped him and threatened
25 him. He said that he didn't go back to school after his

1 'O' levels, having done particularly badly in Latin and
2 French. He moved to your group and he believed that he
3 was sent there as a punishment, as your group were less
4 well-behaved than the group that he had been in. Can
5 I ask you, first of all, do you remember him?

6 **A. I do remember a boy HIA60. He was with SR2. He was**
7 **never in my group and I think he went to the college.**

8 Q. You don't remember him ever being moved into your group
9 even for a short period?

10 **A. No, I don't, and I wouldn't have any reason to raise my**
11 **hand to him anyway. He wasn't -- as I say, he wasn't in**
12 **my group, but --**

13 Q. But would it be a fair comment that your group was less
14 well behaved than SR2's group?

15 **A. No, I would think my group was very well behaved.**

16 Q. Another person is HIA113 (sic). That's SND149, and his
17 statement can be found at SND-14866. He was referring
18 particularly to what HIA113 had said about how children
19 were hit and he said he did get hit in the way described
20 by HIA113 by you, that is hit on the head with the
21 knuckles once for talking back to a nun in the kitchen,
22 and he says he saw you hit other children in the same
23 way, that is on the head with the knuckles. Is there
24 anything you want to tell us about that or what do you
25 want to say about it?

1 **A. I don't think that's true and I would have to reach very**
2 **high to hit HIA 321. HIA 321 was a very, very tall boy**
3 **for his age.**

4 Q. The Inquiry has also heard -- and we talked about this
5 this morning -- from HH 5 , who was a social
6 worker working in Fort James and Harberton House.
7 Obviously you don't know the man or anything about him,
8 but what he told the Inquiry was that SND33 told him
9 that a nun had taken a curtain or a shower rod -- he
10 couldn't be sure -- beaten him with it, and when asked
11 if he had been given -- when HH 5 was giving
12 his evidence, he was asked if SND33 had given a name of
13 the nun. What HH 5 said was that the name
14 that came to mind was SR6. He couldn't be 100% certain,
15 but that was the name that came to mind as he sat
16 reflecting on what SND33 had told him.

17 Obviously you can't comment on that, Sister, but in
18 fairness to you I am just making you aware that's
19 something else that the Inquiry has heard said about
20 you. SND33 is dead, but in his police statement at
21 SND-18111 he says that you physically assaulted him, and
22 it is correct that you were actually interviewed by
23 police in 1991. We can see this at SND-18114. If we
24 could put that up, please. SND33 had been making
25 allegations about a number of things that he said had

1 happened to him in Termonbacca involving other boys, and
2 the police came to you and interviewed you, and you will
3 see -- he had also alleged that you had physically
4 abused him and that's why you were being interviewed by
5 police about that. You will see just about ten
6 lines down or so it says:

7 "On Wednesday, 17th July 1991 ... I saw the
8 accused", that was you, "SR6. We introduced ourselves
9 to her and explain the nature of our inquiries, ie
10 sexual abuse against SND33, which occurred at
11 Termonbacca home, Londonderry between 1970 and 1980."

12 You were then cautioned and you replied, "I'll tell
13 you all that I can remember". You were asked if you
14 remembered SND33. You did. You were asked when you
15 were there. Again you thought it was from '79 until
16 '82.

17 "Question: Was SND33 in your group?

18 Answer: He was."

19 Then the allegations were read out to you and you
20 were asked a series of questions. You were asked if you
21 ever assaulted ^{SND 33} in the way he described.

22 "Answer: No, never. The children were in our
23 charge, but there was a social worker also in charge."

24 I take it you mean SND332 by that?

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. "They had meetings with their social worker frequently.
2 I would also say that the Department of Health & Social
3 Services paid for their stay with us. So in that sense
4 I could not see that anything of a sexual nature could
5 have occurred.

6 Question: He also alleged that you physically beat
7 him whilst in the home.

8 Answer: I can say that nothing like that occurred.
9 SR2, who was the senior nun, would not have allowed it.
10 She was like a mother to the ..."

11 If we could keep scrolling down, please, to the next
12 page:

13 "... to the children.

14 Question: He further alleges that you stripped him
15 and beat him with a curtain rail.

16 Answer: I can honestly say that didn't happen.
17 I wouldn't treat a dog like that."

18 Then you were asked:

19 "Sister, whilst you were there did you see anything
20 of a sexual nature occur between the children?"

21 Your reply is:

22 "I can say that they were always supervised very
23 closely and nothing of a sexual nature occurred in the
24 home.

25 Question: Would you have heard or noticed anything

1 of an indecent nature taking place in the home?

2 Answer: I would have. I was always very quick and
3 would have known if there was anything of an indecency
4 nature taking place in the home."

5 You are then asked why SND33 might make the
6 allegations and this -- you go on to explain that
7 because he had been caught doing something untoward, he
8 was blaming other people and naming other people and you
9 felt that that was why he was saying these things, but,
10 Sister, can I ask you -- and we talked about this this
11 morning also -- it's clear from that that you told the
12 police in 1980 that you had never seen anything of
13 a sexual nature happening in Termonbacca during your
14 time there --

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- and that is at odds with what you are telling the
17 Inquiry today and what you have said in your statement
18 about what you witnessed involving SND33 and HIA69 and
19 HIA69 and a boy you think may have been HIA127.

20 **A. All I can think of there was my impression was that when**
21 **they said about sexual nature, that would be**
22 **ex-residents and the children. That's all I can fathom**
23 **why I made that. Now the allegations of SND33 and the**
24 **little -- and HIA69 and the little lad, I knew it wasn't**
25 **going to happen again and I didn't put a great deal of**

1 **heed on it.**

2 Q. So is that why you feel you didn't say to the police?

3 **A. That's the reason I think that -- I knew it wouldn't**
4 **happen again with HIA69, SND33 and any of the children**
5 **in my group, and the incident, I didn't think that it**
6 **was strong enough to report or anything like that.**

7 **I thought it was going to be a one-off incident and**
8 **I just didn't make a big thing of it. I did make a big**
9 **thing of it to HIA69 and to SND33 as well, but I can't**
10 **think of any other reason.**

11 Q. Sister, I am going to go on to SND21's statement now,
12 which can found at SND-17859 through to SND-17865.

13 Sorry. If you can just bear with me, I am just trying
14 to find ... You will be aware that SND21 worked with
15 you. Isn't that correct?

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. She was one of the people working in your group. She
18 made a number of comments in her statement that I am
19 going to address with you, if I can just find where
20 I put it. If we could call it up on the screen in any
21 event. It is SND-17859, please.

22 She confirms she was a houseparent for about a year
23 and a half between '77 and '79. So she would have been
24 there when you were there. She said she had done
25 voluntary work in the home before that. The voluntary

1 work involved making tea, washing clothes, etc. She
2 said during the time she was working in Termonbacca she
3 attended Rupert Stanley College and completed
4 a certificate in residential care.

5 Was that the same certificate that you got in
6 Aberdeen?

7 **A. Quite possibly.**

8 Q. Then she said she was houseparent in St. Gerard's group.
9 You replaced SR14. SND57 she said worked as a cleaner
10 in the group and SR2 was in charge of the other group.
11 She thinks there were approximately 17 children in the
12 group. She said, just going down to the bottom of that
13 paragraph 4:

14 "My course in residential child care introduced me
15 to child care theory. When I tried to implement some of
16 the theories, SR6 said to me, 'You are not coming here
17 to introduce any theories to us'. When I tried to apply
18 my training in any way, the nuns did not like it and
19 resisted it."

20 **A. That wouldn't have happened, and may I just add that**
21 **I think it was myself encouraged SND21 to go on and do**
22 **training.**

23 Q. She talks about an incident involving another of the
24 [REDACTED] children who took a biscuit from the kitchen.
25 You caught him. He was about 5 or 6 years old, and as

1 punishment you made him stand in the corner of the
2 corridor all day.

3 "I stood up for him and told Sister not to punish
4 him in that way. I told her I would not take the other
5 children to the civic parade that day without him. She
6 then conceded and allowed him to go."

7 She says she started to stand up for herself and to
8 challenge certain practices in the home.

9 Now you deal with what SND21 says in your statement,
10 and I will come back to that. She also said that you
11 appeared -- when you first arrived, you appeared to be
12 a get up and go nun. This is at paragraph 7. You were
13 full of fun, always smiling, but very controlling and
14 everything had to be spick and span.

15 "She was cross with children and often threatened,
16 'I will give you a kick up the ass'. I did see her kick
17 children on the bum with her boot but this was more to
18 move them along rather than to hurt them."

19 Can I just pause there and ask: did you ever do
20 that, Sister?

21 **A. I'd never use that language in the first place and I'd
22 never raise my feet to a child.**

23 Q. She said that you shouted at children, but she never saw
24 you hit a child with your hand or with anything else,
25 although she said she sensed from the children that they

1 were uneasy in your company. She said when you were at
2 prayer, which usually lasted a few hours, she was in
3 charge and let them watch TV. She goes on to say that
4 -- at paragraph 8 she said that:

5 "SR2 was in charge of the other group. I did not
6 think she was very nice. On one occasion I saw her and
7 SR6 talking about people who donated money and were
8 visiting the home saying, 'I wish they would go now'."

9 Do you ever remember any incident where SR2 said
10 something like that to you?

11 **A. No, definitely not.**

12 Q. She said it was a very regimented life in Termonbacca.
13 Uniforms had to be neat and shoes had to be polished.
14 She said:

15 "The nuns were very concerned about portraying a
16 good image to the outside world."

17 Is that a fair comment?

18 **A. No, definitely not.**

19 Q. She talks about the older boys coming back. She also
20 talked about in paragraph -- sorry. She said -- she
21 talks about SND33 I should say in paragraph 10, but one
22 thing she said about you in relation to SND33 was that
23 SND33 told her that you didn't like him and that you
24 shouted at him and roared at him when SND21 wasn't
25 about.

1 **A. No.**

2 Q. She says:

3 "There wasn't enough staff for the ratio of children
4 in Termonbacca."

5 She said:

6 "If the nuns had had their way, I would have been on
7 duty every night, but I had other commitments."

8 **A. That's not true.**

9 Q. She talks about on some occasions taking the children
10 home to her own family. She said that she recalls that:

11 "HIA126 felt that SR6 wasn't nice to her at times
12 and I think SND197", who is HIA126's sister, "was
13 a favourite of SR6."

14 **A. I didn't have favourites amongst the children.**

15 Q. She also describes that there was an SR64 in charge of
16 the kitchen. Is that correct?

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

18 Q. She describes her as bad tempered and the children had
19 said that SR64 would have hit them.

20 **A. No, definitely not. She wouldn't have any -- there
21 wouldn't be any reason for her to hit them. She was in
22 a separate building, a separate unit altogether down in
23 the kitchen. The children didn't go near the kitchen
24 nor did Sister actually come over to the groups really.
25 So that's not a fair statement to say there about her.**

1 Q. She said there were a few children in her group -- this
2 is at paragraph 15 -- that wet the bed.

3 "When this happened, SR6 would have told the child
4 off and make them take the sheets down and put them in
5 the washing machine. I told SR6 that bed wetting was
6 the result of feelings of separation and loss, which
7 I had learned from my course. She just looked at me and
8 wasn't interested in what I had to say."

9 She said on occasions she washed the children's
10 sheets, showed them how to do it so they wouldn't get
11 told off again. She said when you were on holiday, she
12 made the children's beds and helped them as much as she
13 could. She is saying you shouted at the children for
14 wetting the bed.

15 **A. No, definitely not. The children didn't have to wash
16 their sheets either. Staff did that.**

17 Q. At paragraph 16 she said -- I raised this with you this
18 morning:

19 "The nuns commonly said to children, 'I am in charge
20 of you because you have no-one else'. I thought this
21 was a cruel thing to say."

22 **A. No, I deny that.**

23 Q. She says the children were made to do chores in the
24 home, including washing dishes, cleaning the kitchen,
25 Hoovering, making beds and cleaning floors, and that

1 they had to do those chores from a young age.

2 **A. No, definitely not.**

3 Q. Her view is that --

4 **A. They didn't have to do them. None of those things that**
5 **she mentioned, they wouldn't have to do them, but they**
6 **were encouraged to go and dry the dishes with the staff**
7 **and that, but they wouldn't have to do them.**

8 Q. So there wasn't like a rota, "It is your turn to do the
9 dishes today" or anything like that?

10 **A. No, no, no.**

11 Q. She does say at paragraph 18:

12 "I do not think poverty was the reason why the nuns
13 ran Termonbacca in the way they did. I was of the view
14 that the nuns were money led rather than needs led. One
15 time I was in the convent and the nuns used the best
16 china and had excellent furniture. They didn't eat with
17 the children. They ate in their own dining room and
18 I believe they ate better food than the children."

19 **A. That is wrong. That is not true.**

20 Q. She talks then about SND332 and she does mention
21 an incident involving -- a different incident to what
22 you have related. At paragraph 20 she said:

23 "I had a room in the home when I was staying
24 overnight. One day while I was off duty in my room
25 I~heard a child crying at the end of the corridor where

1 the toilets were. I went to see what was going on.
2 Outside the toilets I found SND197 with her pants down
3 at her feet. She was about 5 or 6 years old at the
4 time. HIA69 came out of the toilets and scarpered.
5 HIA69 was about 9 years old at the time. I lifted
6 SND197 into my arms and comforted her. She said that
7 HIA69 was touching her. I reported this to SR6."

8 Is that possibly the same incident you are talking
9 about, Sister, relating to HIA127?

10 **A. HIA127 is definitely -- was one of them. I don't**
11 **remember this incident definitely with SND197.**

12 Q. You don't remember being told about that at all?

13 **A. No, no, no.**

14 Q. Her understanding is you then told SND332 about what she
15 told you --

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. -- and she thought HIA69 was removed because of the
18 incident in 1980.

19 **A. No, no.**

20 Q. She also said at paragraph 22 that:

21 "I believe that SR6 had to leave Termonbacca and go
22 to England but I do not know why. I believe complaints
23 may have been made to the Mother General about her.
24 I think she left child care."

25 Were you -- were there ever any complaints made

1 about you?

2 **A. That I don't know. That I don't know. I think I was**
3 **just automatically changed to Swansea. Yes, I was**
4 **a driver and they were short of a driver in Swansea, but**
5 **I don't know whether that's -- whether my Mother General**
6 **had other reasons or not. She certainly didn't tell me.**

7 Q. Well, certainly she talks about the allegations that
8 were made by HIA352 at paragraph 23. She says:

9 "I do not recall the incident she described. SR6
10 may have had a stick and she could have threatened
11 children with it."

12 Did you ever do that, Sister?

13 **A. No.**

14 Q. "However, I never witnessed SR6 hit a child whilst I was
15 in Termonbacca."

16 HIA69 she talks -- I. mean, the incident he talks
17 about pulling you off -- him off you or you off him:

18 "I recall HIA69 in Termonbacca and being at Shrove
19 during the holidays. I was only there once. However,
20 I~do recall the incident" -- sorry -- "I do not recall
21 the incident which HIA69 describes. I would have
22 remembered if I had pulled SR6 off him."

23 She goes on to say that she got increasingly
24 frustrated with the system in Termonbacca. She was
25 young. She had learned new theories and she left. She

1 felt the nuns weren't interested in her views or
2 implementing her ideas despite her best efforts. She
3 said the nuns did not seem to want change.

4 She then said that in Termonbacca, at paragraph 26,
5 the nuns were very into praying and following their own
6 rules.

7 "I used to go home and vent my frustration to my
8 mother. I told her, 'The nuns are supposed to be with
9 God and I had not seen any proof of that in
10 Termonbacca'. The gentleness, kindness and compassion
11 which the children needed wasn't provided by the nuns.
12 I learned a lot from my time in Termonbacca. I learned
13 how to be a better social worker."

14 Now you talk at paragraphs 24 and 25 of your own
15 statement -- you address SND21's statement and that's at
16 page SND-18143. You say in relation -- 24 and 25. In
17 relation to -- I think we have probably read both of
18 these out before. That's the allegation about HIA69 --
19 beating HIA69 and denying that, and you say that SND21's
20 statement refers and she denies pulling him off and then
21 you refer to her statement. Admit shouting at the
22 children.

23 "I imagine most people would have done that."

24 You say at the bottom you really cared for the
25 children and did your best to care for the children.

1 Now in fairness to you, Sister, the Inquiry has
2 received statements very recently. They are unsigned,
3 but no doubt that can be rectified. They are from SR2,
4 they are from SND76 and from SND194. They have also --
5 the unsigned versions have been put into the bundle.
6 Each of them speaks about you.

7 The first is SND194 and it is at SND-18321. She
8 talks about going to Greencastle for a month's holiday
9 with your group. She does actually say that SR2's group
10 was called St. Joseph's group. So I might have got that
11 actually right. She said:

12 "Both groups were together in the Old Fort Hotel.
13 I~worked in close proximity with SR6 and SR2 and I think
14 there were three other staff members. During this time
15 SR6 gave of her best to ensure the children had a good
16 time. She played the accordion. We would often have
17 sing-songs in the evening. I got to know her very well.
18 She was always smiling and was a kind and understanding
19 person."

20 She also said when SR2 had to leave, you were there
21 to comfort the children who were upset at her leaving.
22 During her time she didn't hear any complaints about you
23 from children or staff.

24 SND76 talks about you in his statement. Again he
25 describes you in terms of being pleasant and considerate

1 and understanding. He describes you as a no nonsense
2 sort of person. You tended to be more down to earth
3 than some of the older sisters and you tended to keep
4 very much religious belief as a personal matter and was
5 more focused on interacting with people. He thought
6 people found your approach refreshing. He does talk
7 about remaining in contact with you long after you had
8 left Termonbacca. He said he had never heard of any
9 complaints about you either.

10 Then, finally, SR2 found you to be a kind,
11 considerate sister who contributed a lot to the
12 children. You were very cheerful and sisterly and would
13 always do your best by the children, and talked about
14 the holiday being a great success.

15 "We all had a great time together."

16 She said she could not fault you during the time in
17 Donegal and never heard of any child complain of any of
18 the problems with you.

19 "I am aware that when I left Termonbacca, SR6 did a
20 great deal to comfort the children and I am very
21 grateful for this, as the children were very dear to
22 me."

23 So essentially they are giving a different picture
24 of you than has been presented by the specific
25 allegations that have been made, Sister.

1 Now you moved from Termonbacca to Swansea and we
2 think that was in 1981. Termonbacca we know closed in
3 1982. Did you know at the time when you were leaving
4 that it was closing?

5 **A. No, I didn't, no. When I heard it was closing down,**
6 **I wasn't surprised, because the numbers of sisters**
7 **were -- was decreasing, you know, and we didn't have**
8 **a big number of sisters, and I think -- I thought that**
9 **that was the reason. I certainly didn't know that when**
10 **I was leaving, because I thought, "Well, they'll replace**
11 **me with another Sister", and if that was on their mind**
12 **at that particular time, it seemed a bit foolish to send**
13 **on another sister to close it down, you know. I don't**
14 **know. I really don't know the reasons.**

15 **Q. You then went from there to Swansea.**

16 **A. I did.**

17 **Q. Isn't that correct? In Swansea you were involved in**
18 **collecting as a collecting sister.**

19 **A. Uh-huh.**

20 **Q. Then after that am I correct -- and correct me if I have**
21 **got this wrong -- you then moved to caring for the**
22 **elderly?**

23 **A. I did.**

24 **Q. You, in fact, left the Order after an incident in 1995**
25 **where one of the Sisters of Nazareth care homes for the**

1 elderly closed. Is that right?

2 **A. Yes, the one in Oxford.**

3 Q. The one in Oxford. Then for three years you worked
4 in -- with elderly residents until you were eventually
5 given dispensation from your vows.

6 **A. I went home on holidays and then I made my mind up, and**
7 **I didn't think I could go through the same procedure of**
8 **closing down another home of the elderly, and I made my**
9 **views known, and I came back to Oxford that I had known**
10 **for a long time, for fourteen years, and I went to work**
11 **in the Alzheimer's home I had watched being built for**
12 **four and a half to five years. During that time then**
13 **I got my dispensation.**

14 Q. That was in 1998?

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. You talk about that in paragraph 45 of your own
17 statement. You, in fact, had to close the home for the
18 elderly yourself.

19 **A. I did.**

20 Q. You were Superior at that time and responsible for that
21 closure -- not responsible but responsible for the
22 overseeing of it.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. That's what caused you the distress that you felt you
25 could not do that another time.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Sister, those are the matters that I want to cover with
3 you. Now we have covered a lot of ground, and is there
4 anything that you feel that we haven't covered that you
5 want to say to the Inquiry at this stage or any points
6 you want to make about anything that we have covered?
7 Now is your opportunity to do so.

8 **A. No, I think -- yes, I think there's no more I can say
9 other than I gave my -- the best part of my life to
10 caring for the kids in Nazareth House and I loved
11 every minute of it and I loved them and I can't --
12 I can't undo what people have said about me just.**

13 Q. Well, thank you very much, SR6. I think I might have
14 called you "Sister" there, but that's old habits dying
15 hard. The Panel Members may have some questions that
16 they want to ask you. If you would just stay there for
17 a minute.

18 Questions from THE PANEL

19 MR LANE: When you did your training, did you go on
20 placements to see other children's homes and so on?

21 **A. I did.**

22 Q. What sort of places did you go to?

23 **A. I went -- my first placement was to Dunfermline and that
24 was a local authority small group home. My second
25 placement was to a hostel for girls from 13 to 16 run by**

1 the Plymouth Brethren in Aberdeen. My third placement
2 was -- was up in Bowie I think in the north of Scotland.
3 That was a children's home and that was from 3 I think
4 to about 16 years of age.

5 Q. Were you staying at the Aberdeen house at the time?

6 A. I was.

7 Q. How did the sort of work that you saw in those
8 placements compare with the sort of work that you saw
9 within the Sisters of Nazareth?

10 A. Well, I didn't -- the only difference I saw was that
11 their numbers were smaller, you know. Their numbers
12 were smaller and then, of course, when I finished, we
13 started using the small numbers as well.

14 Q. Was the Aberdeen house using smaller numbers or was that
15 still large at that time?

16 A. Aberdeen house was a very, very big house, but they
17 were -- I think there was four sisters in different
18 sections with four groups.

19 Q. Were there any ideas you picked up on the training
20 course that made your practice change when you went back
21 to working with the children for the Sisters?

22 A. Well, one of the practices was that I began to put the
23 food in dishes on the tables and let the families sit
24 together around the tables and help themselves, you
25 know, small little things like that that I had seen done

1 **in the local authority home that I had been in in**
2 **Dunfermline.**

3 Q. Was that with a view to making it more homely?

4 **A. Yes, it was.**

5 Q. Okay. Thank you very much.

6 CHAIRMAN: Well, thank you very much, SR6. That's all we
7 have to ask you. Thank you for coming to tell us about
8 your experiences today. Thank you.

9 (Witness withdrew)

10 MS SMITH: Chairman, there is a further witness who is
11 speaking on behalf of the congregation, Sister Brenda.
12 I haven't had the opportunity to speak to her yet today.
13 I would be grateful if we could maybe start at, say,
14 3.30.

15 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Very well.

16 (3.10 pm)

17 (Short break)

18 (3.30 pm)

19 SISTER BRENDA MCCALL (called)

20 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, Chairman, Panel Members. The
21 next witness is Sister Brenda McCall. She knows she
22 will have to take the oath, Chairman.

23 SISTER BRENDA MCCALL (sworn)

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

25

1 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

2 MS SMITH: Now, Sister, I know that, having spoken to you,
3 that you are extremely nervous, but if you need a break,
4 just let us know. There should be some water there in
5 front of you.

6 **A. Thank you.**

7 Q. You have provided on behalf of the congregation of the
8 Sisters of Nazareth a number of statements. I am just
9 going to refer to them and say where they are in the
10 evidence bundle and the dates that there are on them.

11 The first is a statement dated 31st October 2013,
12 which can found at SND-408 through to SND-4112 -- sorry
13 -- SND-412. There's another of the same date dated --
14 and it is at SND-437 through to SND-443. On
15 22nd December of last year of 2013 we received
16 a statement which is at SND-13939 to SND-13944. We then
17 received an unsigned and undated statement at SND-18148
18 to SND-18152, and that appears to have been dated both
19 on 15th May and I think 28th May. That can't be right
20 -- we haven't got there yet -- of this year. It
21 certainly was unsigned and undated, but it seemed to
22 have been prepared on 15th May. The -- an undated
23 statement at SND-13945. We then have a dated statement,
24 which is effectively a duplicate of that undated one,
25 but it is dated 9th May 2014. When I say it is

1 effectively a duplicate, you added in some things to the
2 statement that you then signed. That's at SND-18044
3 through to SND-18049. There was a statement which is
4 dated 28th February 2014, and I think that's probably
5 the statement that was dated 15th ought to originally
6 have been dated 20th February '14. It is at SND-15845
7 through to SND-158... -- sorry -- SND-15845 to SND-15840
8 (sic). Again on 9th May you updated that statement and
9 that's at SND-18040 to SND-18043. We also have two
10 further statements dated 28th February 2014. They are
11 at SND-15848 and SND-15839m and that -- we also received
12 an unsigned statement from someone who was dealing with
13 the Inquiry at the outset, which is Sister Cataldus.
14 She appendice (sic) -- there were a number of appendices
15 attached to her statement, which is dated 17th May 2013,
16 and it can be found at SND-077 to SND-161. It is
17 unsigned and it largely relates to the Belfast home. So
18 I will -- but just to be sure what we have received by
19 way of statements addressing issues from the
20 congregation. There was also a statement from Sister
21 Cora at SND-14219 where she sets out the difficulties
22 that the congregation had in finding documentation, and
23 she also refers to your appointment to act on behalf of
24 the Order in relation to the work of the Inquiry.

25 Now can I just pause there? I will be referring to

1 parts of these statements in due course, but can I -- in
2 SND-15848 to SND-15853 you talk about the set-up of the
3 congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth, and maybe if we
4 could just call that document up, please. That is
5 SND-15848. Yes. This is a much easier way of reading
6 it than in the hard copy because the hard copy was
7 minimised for some reason.

8 You say the statement is to give some general
9 background assistance to the Inquiry. You talk about
10 the foundation of the congregation there at paragraph 2.

11 You go on to say about the first home being set up in
12 Hammersmith and how the Order is governed. At
13 paragraph 4 you say:

14 "The congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth is
15 governed by a Superior General with the assistance of
16 her council. The council itself is made up of four
17 senior sisters who are appointed as councillors at the
18 general chapter. The Superior General and her four
19 councillors reside in the mother house in Hammersmith
20 but conduct their responsibilities by visiting the
21 various houses around the world.

22 The present Superior General is Sister Mary Anne
23 Monaghan, who was elected in 2006 and ultimately
24 re-elected in 2012 at the general chapters held in those
25 years. General chapters were held from the beginning of

1 the congregation usually every six years with
2 intermediate chapters being held between the general
3 chapters. In the 1950s only general chapters were held
4 every six years with the exception of an extraordinary
5 chapter in 1968, which was convened in response to
6 Vatican 2.

7 From the beginning there were visitations to each
8 branch house made from the mother house in Hammersmith.
9 Between 1960 and 1970 seven regions were created to
10 assist with the administration of the organisation.
11 There was an Australasian region, Southern African,
12 American, Irish, Northern UK, Eastern UK and Western
13 UK."

14 So it is fair to say that the bulk of the work of
15 the congregation was in Ireland -- in Great Britain and
16 Ireland?

17 **A. Yes, yes.**

18 Q. "Due to the shortage of Sisters and the closure of some
19 homes it was decided at the chapter in 2000 to have only
20 two regions instead of three in the UK and in 2009 it
21 was further decided to have only one region in the UK.
22 Each region is governed by a Regional Superior aided by
23 her council, which amounted to two senior sisters within
24 a region, and a Regional Superior is appointed for
25 a period of three years and has a duty to visit each of

1 the houses within her region on a regular basis. She
2 also has duties to visit the Sisters personally and in
3 particular to visit the sick sisters to ensure that they
4 are aware of the ongoing consideration of care felt
5 towards them by the congregation."

6 You say:

7 "The Regional Superior is responsible for keeping
8 the Superior General informed of all affairs ongoing
9 within her region."

10 Now the Regional Superiors were created between '60
11 and '70 according to this, sister. So can one accept
12 then -- you talk in the present tense, but can one
13 accept that from the outset of the Regional Superiors'
14 appointment, as it were, when the regions were created
15 in the 1960s and 1970s, that she was responsible for
16 keeping the Superior General informed of all affairs
17 ongoing within her region?

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. That's not something new; that happened from the outset
20 when the regions were set up?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. You say:

23 "The Regional Superior must also make one formal
24 visitation to each house every three years."

25 Again, just to be clear, she would have had to do

1 that from the 1960s on?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. "A general visitation from the mother house in
4 Hammersmith occurs once every three years as well as
5 a regional visitation also once every three years."

6 Would those two visitations be in the same year?

7 **A. No, no, never. Different years.**

8 Q. So -- and, I mean, how would they be worked out? Would
9 it just be if a home is visited by the mother house in
10 1960, then it might be 1961 that the Regional Superior
11 would visit?

12 **A. Or '62, yes.**

13 Q. Then --

14 **A. They would work it out between them, the Superior
15 General and the Regional Superior.**

16 Q. And so it is, "Are you going this year or will I go?"
17 Is that how it happened?

18 **A. Something like that.**

19 Q. "So guidelines for the visitations are set out in the
20 constitutions and the visitor must move around all
21 areas of the house, speak with residents, including",
22 depending on what type of home it is obviously,
23 "elderly, children, staff and any visitors in the house
24 when they meet. The visitor will also check the
25 documentation held by the house, such as registers and

1 other documentation required and held to be relevant,
2 including inspection reports, and if any recommendations
3 or requirements are made at any inspection, the
4 visitorator will check as to whether these requirements or
5 recommendations have been followed up, whether they are
6 being implemented or, in fact, have been implemented.
7 If there are any areas of concern, the visitorator will
8 carry out and give direction about further steps to be
9 taken."

10 Again, just to be clear, Sister, I know you are
11 speaking in the present day, but in the period the
12 Inquiry is looking at would that have been the case?
13 Would those have been the duties of the visitorator?

14 **A. Yes. According to canon law, they have to do that, yes.**

15 Q. Now I am not going to go through the rest of it. I may
16 come back to certain parts of it. Essentially what I
17 wanted to ask, you talk about the constitutions and
18 canon law, and can I ask for those who maybe don't
19 understand what exactly was the ethos or is the ethos of
20 the Sisters of Nazareth?

21 **A. Our ethos when we were founded was to care for the needy
22 and the poor of the area at the time and from the outset
23 our work was with children and elderly.**

24 Q. You talk in some statements about the rule. For those
25 who don't understand what you mean by that could you

1 please explain that?

2 **A. When a foundation is made, any new congregation, they**
3 **all have a rule to live by, the rule of one of the great**
4 **saints, St. Benedict, St. Augustine. We use St.**
5 **Augustine's rule and live by that rule.**

6 Q. What in a nutshell, if I can ask you to -- what does
7 that rule involve?

8 **A. It's very lengthy. It just outlines the spiritual life**
9 **of a Sister in a congregation.**

10 Q. And can I ask how the obedience to the rule and the
11 ethos of the Sisters of Nazareth would affect the
12 running of a home, in particular in the case of the
13 Inquiry a home for children?

14 **A. Well, we sisters take three vows, poverty, chastity and**
15 **obedience, when we are professed, and the love that we**
16 **have for our vocation, the love we have for God is**
17 **manifested or portrayed in the love that we put into our**
18 **ministries. Whether it be care of the elderly, care of**
19 **the children, hospital visitation, whatever we do is**
20 **an outpouring of that love we have for our vocation.**

21 Q. Thank you, Sister. You heard today -- you were present
22 when SR6 gave evidence this morning --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- and she talked about how part of her training as
25 a Sister of Nazareth was to treat the elderly -- if it

1 was an elderly man or a man she was looking after or
2 a woman or a child effectively as Jesus, Mary or Joseph,
3 one of the Holy Family, and that was how the people you
4 were caring for were to be viewed. Is that your
5 recollection?

6 **A. That's our emblem. That's what we live by, the Jesus,**
7 **Mary and Joseph, the home of Nazareth. That's why our**
8 **founders took in the children off the streets in London**
9 **and also the elderly destitute poor. That's where**
10 **Nazareth House got its name, the house of Nazareth.**

11 Q. In another statement, which is an undated one, and it is
12 found at SND-18148, although it may since have been
13 dated, but I will just go from the copy that I have in
14 the bundle, you talk about your own role within the
15 congregation and the background and experience. You say
16 that:

17 "For the avoidance of confusion", at paragraph 2
18 there, "I should make it clear that I have no direct or
19 personal knowledge of any of the significant and serious
20 matters of complaint which lie at the heart of this
21 Inquiry.

22 I have, however, had access to such records and
23 documents that still exist relating to the houses which
24 are being looked into as well as other material which
25 has been gathered in the course of this and related

1 investigations and have tried to speak to as many
2 sisters and others who might have information or even
3 relevant experience to help the Inquiry."

4 It is clear from that, Sister, that you have no
5 direct or personal knowledge of either Bishop Street --
6 Nazareth House, Bishop Street or Termonbacca. Isn't
7 that correct?

8 **A. No. I have visited on several occasions, but I have**
9 **never lived there or worked there, no.**

10 Q. When you say you visited, is that in your role as
11 a visitator?

12 **A. Oh, no, no, no. As a sister.**

13 Q. In paragraphs 17 and 19 of the statement you set out
14 some of the difficulties that you have had in trying to
15 provide information to the Inquiry. That's at
16 SND-18152. You say that you freely acknowledge that in
17 many cases you cannot answer the searching questions
18 posed by the Inquiry:

19 "... and I have found that there are neither
20 witnesses left nor documentation available to help."

21 You continue to review the archive material and to
22 seek information from within the congregation to try to
23 respond as best and as fully as you can.

24 "Sisters who could have helped are deceased or so
25 ill and infirm that they can no longer recall their

1 lives at that time. Some records were not to be kept
2 beyond statutory time limits because of the meagre
3 resources of the congregation and a lack of storage
4 space. Houses have closed and memories have faded.
5 Some documents have been moved and we continue to check
6 records and files to locate material to assist the
7 Inquiry.

8 Often I am obliged to rely on a collective memory or
9 confused recollection or the general sense of how things
10 must have been in the light of our guiding principles
11 and the common practice of our houses in the age in
12 which they operated.

13 As a member of the congregational leadership group
14 I have been asked to be the spokesperson for the
15 congregation and hope to fully -- to cooperate fully
16 with the Inquiry on behalf of the sisters."

17 You set out your assignment to the Inquiry and
18 essentially the steps that you have taken, as you have
19 outlined there, to provide information and assist. That
20 -- essentially, if I have got what you are saying right,
21 sister, is that the information that you have acquired
22 that you feel may be of use to the Inquiry has come
23 about by talking to those sisters who are still alive
24 and who are in good enough health to be able to speak to
25 you and also from what you can gather from the

1 documentary evidence. Is that right?

2 **A. Yes, and working with archivists as well, yes.**

3 Q. Now there is one matter that I want to raise with you,
4 sister, and that's the issue of funding. You say in
5 paragraph 9 of the statement, which is SND-18149 -- you
6 say that:

7 "The congregation has always been a small community
8 of limited funds and resources, heavily reliant on
9 charitable donations and alms collected by the Sisters,
10 guided by faith and spiritual commitment."

11 In another statement you talk about under-staffing
12 in terms of lack of resources and so forth, but I am
13 going to ask you to look at a couple of documents which
14 I am going to pull up on the screen now. Unfortunately
15 they are in the bundle in reverse order, as it were. So
16 if I can tell the Panel Members that these can be found
17 at SND-78110 going back to SND-7794.

18 The first document that I am going to talk to you
19 about if I can find it -- yes. It is at SND -- if we
20 can just go to SND-- sorry. I am not sure I have got
21 them in the right order. SND-7796, first of all. You
22 will see here that this is -- there was a letter
23 accompanying this, which can be found at SND-7794.

24 Sorry. No. It is SND-9... -- there is a letter -- this
25 is a questionnaire -- if I explain it better, sister,

1 there is a questionnaire which was sent out by the Child
2 Welfare Council to all of the voluntary homes in
3 Northern Ireland. This was sent out in 1964. It asks
4 a number of questions, and we have both this document,
5 and I know you have seen these and we have looked at
6 them before. This is one relating to Nazareth House,
7 Bishop Street, and there is a further document relating
8 to Termonbacca, but if we just go through these quickly,
9 the questionnaire asks for a brief description of the
10 home and how it is governed.

11 "Give categories of membership of the governing
12 body."

13 It indicates there that they are:

14 "Superior and sisters (teachers, cook, etc) all
15 members of the congregation of the Poor Sisters of
16 Nazareth.

17 What relation (if any) has your home with other
18 children's homes or child care organisations?

19 It has relationship with other homes under the same
20 congregation of sisters.

21 Do you receive children on transfer from other
22 homes?

23 Occasionally. No.

24 Link with any adoption society?"

25 It says:

1 "We are an adoption society."

2 If we can scroll on down, basically just through
3 this there is a series of questions, but if I continue
4 to scroll down:

5 "Age limits for children in the home.

6 Provides from age 2 up to 18 for girls and 2 to 5
7 for boys."

8 This was again in 1964.

9 "If admission -- if the decision to admit is based
10 on information given by the applicant only, what
11 additional information is gathered?

12 It is usually on a priest's recommendation or that
13 of welfare. That information is collected by the member
14 of staff."

15 If we can just scroll right down, please, to the end
16 of this document. If we can just go on over the next
17 page. Hopefully it will be in order. It talks about
18 children, and if we can go right down to "Contact", it
19 talks about contact with the Welfare Authority:

20 "Very few -- in many cases contact with parents have
21 been lost. Very few have no real contact."

22 If we can scroll on down, it says:

23 "What is the total staff establishment?"

24 It says:

25 "24."

1 It asks for the categories of staff. It says there
2 are 20 full-time and 4 part-time. Then it says there is
3 one nursery nurse who has a qualification and one person
4 who has a catering qualification.

5 If we can scroll on down, please, right the way
6 through, it talks about schooling and chaplaincy and
7 then asks about the interest that outside organisations
8 take in the children and about holidays:

9 "What holidays away from the home do the children
10 have in the year?

11 All the summer and it is arranged by local priests."

12 It goes on about the activities, but if we can just
13 keep on going, it says:

14 "There is an adequate library.

15 What opportunities for quiet reading?"

16 It is quite a detailed questionnaire. If we can
17 scroll right down, it talks about finding employment.
18 If we could just stop there at paragraph 17 or question
19 17, it says:

20 "Are your financial resources sufficient to meet
21 your ordinary day-to-day expenses and to enable you to
22 employ all the staff you think should be employed and to
23 have premises adequate for modern standards of child
24 care?",

25 to which the answer is:

1 "Yes.

2 Are there any desirable developments which you are
3 unable to undertake for reasons of financial difficulty,
4 for example:

5 Improvement of premises and staffing.

6 Employment of a fieldworker to investigate
7 applications for admission and aftercare work?"

8 The answer to all of those is:

9 "No."

10 At 19:

11 "If your financial resources are insufficient, it
12 would be of assistance to the council if you could give
13 information on the following:

14 Annual running costs of the home.

15 Capital funds."

16 It simply says:

17 "Our financial resources are sufficient."

18 So in 1964 it would appear that Nazareth House did
19 not feel that it was in any way short of money to meet
20 the needs of what it had to do both in terms of looking
21 after the elderly and in looking after the children.

22 If we can move on then to how the questionnaire was
23 filled out for Termonbacca, and that's SND-4803. No, it
24 is not. Sorry. It is SND-7803. SND-7803. Apologies.
25 I keep calling up the wrong number documents. This is

1 again exactly the same questionnaire. It is filled in
2 in relation to St. Joseph's Home, Termonbacca,
3 Londonderry.

4 "This home is run by the Sisters of Nazareth, whose
5 head house is in Hammersmith, London. Superior sisters
6 and all members of the congregation of the Poor Sisters
7 of Nazareth are the governing body. It has
8 a relationship with other homes under the same
9 congregation of sisters.

10 Do you receive children on transfer from other
11 homes?

12 Occasionally.

13 Do you transfer children to other homes?

14 No."

15 Again this is in 1964.

16 "The geographical area from which children are
17 admitted?

18 Usually Ulster but from other parts if application
19 is made."

20 CHAIRMAN: Is this the manuscript copy from which the typed
21 copy was made?

22 MS SMITH: No, Chairman.

23 CHAIRMAN: It is not?

24 MS SMITH: This relates to Termonbacca. The typed copy
25 related to Nazareth House.

1 CHAIRMAN: I do beg your pardon.

2 MS SMITH: It goes -- so the details are different. Again
3 the age limits for the children in Termonbacca were boys
4 only at this stage in 1964 from 2 to 16.

5 "Exceptional cases are kept until 18 years.

6 Children must be mentally sound.

7 Decision to admit: usually on a priest's reference
8 or that of the Welfare Authority. Person in charge of
9 the home takes the decision to admit."

10 It goes on through these questions, and if I could
11 come down right to question 17 again, which relates to
12 the financing and funding, page SND-7808. It is the
13 next page, please. Well, it does say there -- I mean
14 there is a difference there in regard to library
15 facilities. Termonbacca says it has a library but it is
16 barely adequate whereas Nazareth House seemed to have
17 a library they felt was adequate.

18 It is asked about -- "We find" -- about employment
19 for children.

20 "We find employment suitable to their abilities and
21 tastes. In finding lodgings we have very capable
22 people. The services are provided by voluntary help
23 only.

24 Are your financial resources sufficient to meet your
25 ordinary day-to-day expenses and to enable you to employ

1 all the staff you think should be employed and to have
2 premises adequate for modern standards of child care?",
3 to which the answer different to Nazareth House.

4 Clearly here:

5 "No.

6 Are there any desirable developments which you are
7 unable to undertake for reasons of financial difficulty,
8 for example, improvement of premises, staffing,
9 employment of fieldworker?

10 Yes. We badly need sleeping accommodation
11 organised, more play space, etc, at an estimate cost of
12 £50,000 to replace old corrugated iron structures."

13 Then in answer to:

14 "If your financial resources are insufficient,
15 please tell us the annual running costs of the home and
16 capital fund",

17 it says:

18 "The annual running costs are 11,000 and subsistence
19 from farm. The capital fund is none save perhaps the
20 value of the farm itself."

21 If we could scroll to the next page:

22 "Last year's capital expenditure: £1687 spent on
23 roads.

24 Received in grants: £766.

25 Actual weekly cost of maintaining a child in the

1 home".

2 and I think this is 3 pounds, 10 shillings in
3 cash:

4 "... but this, of course, is an absolute bare
5 minimum, remembering that the services of the community
6 are free and because of the considerable donations in
7 kind outside voluntary services, etc.

8 Government grants: Nil except farm roads grants as
9 above.

10 Local authorities: 13,062."

11 Parental contribution seems to be 399.

12 "Alms: 9,000 alms collection, concerts, donations,
13 etc, etc.

14 We consider our home and services absolutely
15 necessary to child care."

16 So there's clearly a distinction, sister, to be
17 drawn between in 1964 in any event what Nazareth House
18 was saying they needed in terms of help for funding and
19 what Termonbacca were saying.

20 **A. I think Bishop Street probably had sisters out**
21 **collecting. I think there was three sets of sisters out**
22 **collecting in Bishop Street as opposed to Termonbacca.**
23 **Maybe that's why they had got more money, because**
24 **I believe they -- Bishop Street used to send £1,000 up**
25 **to Termonbacca every month and also £1,000 to Fahan in**

1 **Donegal to help subsidise their finances.**

2 Q. So the alms, donations or subscriptions, the £9,000
3 would probably have included what was being sent from
4 Bishop Street --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- up to Termonbacca?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Although if it was £1,000 a month, they seem to be
9 short-changing them if they were only giving 9,000
10 perhaps. That also includes the concerts and donations.
11 So it may be that in 1964 it was less than £1,000 and it
12 might be that went up later on.

13 **A. I don't know. I am just going by what we are told.**

14 Q. I appreciate we are speculating, sister. I appreciate
15 you don't have all the information to hand about that.
16 However, I just want to look at another document here,
17 which is SND-5815. Again we looked at this when I met
18 with you earlier. If that could be enlarged, please.
19 This, sister, is a document that has been received by
20 the Inquiry. It was in documents that were held in the
21 Public Records Office in Northern Ireland. It is a memo
22 made by a member of the Ministry. It is to the Ministry
23 of Home Affairs in Stormont and it says that -- it is
24 about St. Joseph's Home, Termonbacca:

25 "Mr Jackson and I saw Mr Patrick Maxwell, solicitor,

1 in the Law Courts yesterday afternoon."

2 Now this is dated 1959, some five years before the
3 questionnaire was filled in. Mr Maxwell would have been
4 the then solicitor for the congregation in Northern
5 Ireland or certainly in Derry, and it says:

6 "A lengthy discussion on the Nazareth organisation
7 developed which would be pointless to record here.

8 I doubt if Mr Maxwell or indeed any of the people in the
9 local Nazareth homes are fully aware of the set-up,
10 financial and otherwise, of the central organisation.
11 It was clear, however, that the central organisation
12 does exercise considerable administrative control over
13 the satellite homes. Mr Maxwell quoted one instance
14 where in the early days of St. Joseph's the organisation
15 of the home had become extremely defective,
16 misappropriation of home funds by members of staff, etc,
17 and the central organisation stepped in with very
18 drastic action, including discharge of employees. On
19 the financial side Mr Maxwell said that while each
20 separate home was expected to stand on its own feet
21 financially, the mother home in London could and would
22 help with cash advances in years in which local income
23 was inadequate. We told Mr Maxwell that we were already
24 aware of these advances from an examination of the
25 accounts of St. Joseph's, in which the transactions

1 appeared as loans, and that as far as we could see no
2 attempt was being made to repay. Mr Maxwell explained
3 this by saying that the home had been told that these
4 advances were not to be regarded as out-and-out grants
5 and that the mother house would expect repayment if the
6 resources of the home in any year would permit of this,
7 for example, if they got a substantial legacy. I told
8 Mr Maxwell that all the information he had given us
9 merely confirmed in my mind the rightness of the
10 Ministry's attitude in insisting that for purposes of
11 determination of financial need and the resources of the
12 organisation -- that the resources of the organisation
13 as a whole should be taken into account, and that as far
14 as the Ministry was concerned the matter must be
15 regarded as resting with the Ministry's request for a
16 sight of the accounts and balance sheets of that
17 organisation. I also mentioned that in England the Home
18 Office took the same line and that, in fact, no grant
19 had ever been paid to a Nazareth home there, because the
20 Home Office had never managed to persuade the central
21 organisation to produce accounts.

22 My impression is that Mr Maxwell felt that he had no
23 case to press if we were going to regard the
24 organisation as a whole for grant purposes, and he left
25 us saying that he would return to Derry, inform the

1 local people of his discussion with us and tell them
2 that he thought they had better step up their efforts
3 locally to raise money."

4 Now there are a couple of points that I want to
5 explore with you, sister, in respect of that. In
6 your -- in your statements to the Inquiry you have said
7 that, you know, the congregation had limited funds and
8 resources. The Inquiry -- this document suggests that
9 Termonbacca was not being given funding by the Ministry
10 of Home Affairs because it would not produce the overall
11 accounts of the entire congregation and that was the
12 reason why that was not happening, and that was exactly
13 the position that was taken in England with the
14 congregation. Can you assist in any way with whether or
15 not that is your understanding of how grants were dealt
16 with in England or whether there were ever any
17 applications for grants in England?

18 **A. Well, I wasn't even in the Order in those days, but**
19 **I believe the Order was very guarded as regards opening**
20 **up to the public any of their finances or even any**
21 **information. They were almost secretive and in no way**
22 **transparent and open as we are today, so that we would**
23 **all be -- even the Sisters would hardly know what was in**
24 **the bank. Only the Superior General and her council**
25 **would know of those finances, and for whatever reason**

1 **that's just the way they operated in those days. They**
2 **didn't want anybody to know.**

3 Q. Would you -- I mean, you are talking about things being
4 different today then I take it from that?

5 **A. Absolutely. Total transparency and openness.**

6 Q. When would that have changed, Sister?

7 **A. I'd say the biggest change came probably about -- after**
8 **the 2000 chapter, certainly 2006. Our present Superior**
9 **General is all for openness and transparency.**

10 Q. I am going to talk to you -- we did talk about
11 a Spotlight programme and there's a transcript of that.
12 It was a programme that was broadcast on 6th
13 October 2009, and there's a transcript, which can be
14 found at SND-17652 to SND-17663. I know from speaking
15 to you you have had the opportunity now to view that --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- that television programme, but the point that I want
18 to make about that is there's a suggestion made there
19 that the Order has substantial assets and is not, in
20 fact, being open and transparent even today about those
21 assets.

22 **A. Well, I think we are open and transparent today for**
23 **sure. That programme refers to Nazareth Hammersmith**
24 **having on the site of the value of 40 million plus. All**
25 **our site -- that's where our assets are, all in**

1 **property. The liquid assets we have is very small and**
2 **has to be shared where the Superior General and her**
3 **council feel that they should be shared. So, in other**
4 **words, they prioritise where the needs are throughout**
5 **the congregation. So even although we may have lots of**
6 **properties, they are full of elderly people for the most**
7 **part these days.**

8 Q. Can I just ask if we -- you are talking about the
9 secrecy that would have been surrounding the issue --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- of finances back in the '50s and '60s.

12 **A. Excuse me. I wouldn't just say about finances. I think**
13 **there was secrecy about a lot of things in days gone by.**

14 Q. So the secrecy didn't just cover the funding and
15 financing?

16 **A. No.**

17 Q. If I might just stick with the financing thing for the
18 moment, sister, I mean, it is clear from this letter
19 that's on the screen that back in May of '59 the
20 Ministry of Home Affairs or someone who is involved in
21 consideration of an application by Termonbacca
22 presumably for a grant is saying, you know, "Well, until
23 you give us your details, we are not going to consider
24 it. You may go back to Derry and you may see what money
25 you can raise yourself". Would you accept then by

1 surrounding the finances in such secrecy that that
2 appears to have delayed the provision of state funding?

3 **A. Without a doubt. Sure.**

4 Q. I am going to now -- you do try in one of your
5 statements which I will move on to, which is SND-437 --
6 you try to address a number of the matters that the
7 Inquiry has heard complaints about, and I am going deal
8 with them individually, if I can just go back to the
9 other file.

10 The first of these is -- I think that's the right
11 page. Is it? SND-437. Yes. In this statement,
12 sister, at paragraph 5 you talk about one of the things
13 that we have heard complained about, which is the
14 practice of calling children by numbers. You deal with
15 this in paragraphs 5 through to 8 of this statement.
16 I think also just before I go there at paragraph 4 of
17 your statement you say that:

18 "It is difficult, bearing in mind the period of time
19 covered by the Inquiry, to deal with a number of these
20 issues accurately for each and every period which has
21 been identified. Understanding of the issues faced by
22 the children, the availability of food and clothes and
23 society in general at the various times means that
24 practices could change constantly. We are limited in
25 some respects in replying as there is a restricted pool

1 of memory available to us in trying to deal with these
2 issues. In regard to the investigations that have been
3 conducted by the Sisters and the documentation provided
4 to the Inquiry there are a number of things that can be
5 said."

6 That's -- essentially what you are saying, Sister,
7 is what might have been the case in the 1940s was not
8 necessarily the case in the 1970s. Therefore we are
9 limited in what we can say about the earlier periods
10 perhaps, because you will not have the memory bank or
11 the documentation perhaps to deal with those. Would
12 that be fair?

13 **A. That's fair, yes.**

14 Q. Then you try from what you have -- I mean, can I just be
15 clear? This statement you have compiled then from the
16 information you have been given from the sisters who do
17 have some memory --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- of time in the homes and also from what you have seen
20 from the documentation?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. Are those the two sources for what you say here or is
23 there anything else which is --

24 **A. No, that's the sources.**

25 Q. So numbering at paragraphs 5 through to 8, you do not

1 accept that there was ever a practice of calling a child
2 by a number, that that was a demeaning and unfair way of
3 treating them. There is no record anywhere it was
4 a specific policy or that such a policy was used by the
5 Sisters. Then you do talk about the Sisters'
6 understanding:

7 "... accept that many items belonging to
8 a particular child would have had a number placed on
9 them. The child's uniform, clothes or other items may
10 have had a number attached to ensure the child's items
11 were always returned to the same child from the laundry.
12 There is no memory among any of those we have spoken to
13 of children actually being called by a number. It is
14 possible and accepted that when items were returned,
15 a number may have been called out rather than a child's
16 name, but that would simply reflect the fact that it was
17 a number written on the child's clothing rather than
18 a name."

19 In fairness, sister, some of the people who have
20 spoken to the Inquiry would accept that that was the
21 practice.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. You say:

24 "If such a policy had existed, this would be
25 a demeaning practice and is not one which we would

1 approve of today. However, we do not believe there was
2 such a policy and practice at any time and we believe
3 that children would have been known by name, not by
4 a number."

5 You go on to the Sisters that you have spoken to
6 cannot -- I take it when you say:

7 "The Sisters cannot accept ...",

8 that's not just those you have spoken to but the
9 Order as a whole?

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

11 Q. "... cannot accept that the use of a numbering system
12 for identifying items of laundry was a deliberate
13 intention to make a child feel less loved or cared for
14 than they actually were."

15 Can I just explore that slightly with you? Is it
16 possible that those children who were called by numbers,
17 even if it was not the intention to make the child feel
18 less loved or cared for than they actually were, they
19 might have perceived it as a slight in some way? Is
20 that possible, sister?

21 **A. Well, it could be possible, but that's not -- that
22 wasn't the intention of the sister calling out number.**

23 Q. You say that:

24 "Sisters tried at all times to maintain a homely
25 environment. ... evident that the learning of a number

1 to identify a child would be more difficult than
2 actually trying to learn a child's name. The children
3 would have called each other by their names. Therefore
4 the staff and sisters would have known the children by
5 their names and not by any particular number. no
6 indication of this being a specific policy or practice,
7 nor is there any suggestion that it was implemented or
8 discontinued at any particular time."

9 **A. I think probably it was definitely a practice to put**
10 **numbers on their clothes, because even in the noviceship**
11 **we had numbers. I was number 11. So that was just the**
12 **practice at the time.**

13 Q. It was a pragmatic way of dealing with laundry
14 essentially?

15 **A. Absolutely, but now they would have names on.**

16 Q. Bathing you talk -- you address this in paragraphs 9
17 through to 11 there. You say that:

18 "A number of allegations were made -- are made
19 concerning bathing ... suggested children were demeaned
20 in various ways because of bathing. These contentions
21 have been made on a number of aspects. There is no
22 memory or recollection of children being required to
23 line up naked, wait for their bath in a line of naked
24 children. Children would have been bathed on a single
25 child basis and it may be that one child was ready

1 before another was finished and had to wait to have
2 their bath. ... not a regular occurrence, not a planned
3 procedure. Never done deliberately to humiliate or
4 embarrass a child. Sisters would not accept that there
5 was any deliberate practice or policy of requiring
6 children to stand in a line with other children without
7 clothing. Sisters would accept that at certain times,
8 more likely in the early days, that once a bath was
9 filled more than one child may have had their bath in
10 the same bath water. Nothing intentionally demeaning
11 about any such practice and would reflect the sort of
12 practices that would have been seen in ordinary homes
13 around the country where children were regularly bathed
14 together or where one child would bathe in the water
15 left by another sibling. It would also reflect the
16 costs of heating bathing water. In more recent years
17 children would have been encouraged to bathe on their
18 own and they would also have had access to a bathroom
19 without any restricted bath time."

20 Then we go on to the issue of Jeyes Fluid in respect
21 of bathing. You say then that:

22 "Another major contention is the Sisters would have
23 used Jeyes Fluid or perhaps some other similar strong
24 disinfectant as a bathing agent. The Sisters accept
25 that Jeyes Fluid or other such strong disinfectants

1 would have been used in the homes as a cleaning agent
2 and the bathrooms themselves would have washed and
3 cleaned using these substances. These substances may
4 have had an extremely strong smell and it is accepted
5 that children may well have felt that the bath water was
6 mixed with Jeyes Fluid as a cleansing agent for them
7 because of the lasting smell."

8 They do not accept it was a general practice to use
9 Jeyes Fluid as an alternative for soap or other bathing
10 agents.

11 "It is accepted that on occasions Jeyes Fluid may
12 have been used to prevent an outbreak of head lice, body
13 lice and scabies. In a situation where a large number
14 of children shared facilities an outbreak of any of
15 these parasitic lice could have been very common and
16 distressing. In these particular circumstances it may
17 you be that a small amount of Jeyes Fluid was used
18 occasionally for the purpose of dealing with such
19 conditions, but under no circumstances as an alternative
20 standard bathing agent."

21 So is there anything you want to add to that at all,
22 sister, about --

23 **A. I think we do accept that Jeyes Fluid was used in the**
24 **early days certainly, but they also talk about having**
25 **bars of soap, and there was no bubble bath as we know it**

1 today. So obviously that was the in thing at the time,
2 to use the Jeyes Fluid, a spray of Jeyes Fluid, and also
3 for the head lice as well, but certainly that practice
4 died out I'd say in the '50s. Having spoken to the
5 sisters, the Sisters I spoke to certainly said they
6 didn't use Jeyes Fluid.

7 Q. After the '50s, but the congregation accepts that it may
8 have been used --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- in a bath prior to the '50s --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- or at some stage --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- before it stopped in the '50s.

15 One of the other matters -- you deal here at
16 paragraphs 14 and 15 about the issue of toys and:

17 "Children are aware of the suggestions that toys
18 given to the children by parents, families or other
19 agencies were removed from children by the Sisters.
20 They do not accept that this was a practice in any
21 institution operated by them. To a large degree
22 children did not receive gifts, as few received visits
23 from family. Most families would not have been in a
24 position to give the children gifts if they did, in
25 fact, visit. There were gifts at Christmas, whether

1 from families, St. Vincent de Paul or other charitable
2 organisations ... would have been given to the children
3 and would not have been removed from them by sisters or
4 any staff. Sisters do not understand where this memory
5 comes from."

6 I discussed with you, sister, and I apologise,
7 because I can't put my hand on the document, but I did
8 discuss with you that certainly material that has been
9 received by the Inquiry in relation -- from Social
10 Services in relation to one person we have spoken to,
11 who is HIA40, suggests even in later years the Sisters
12 were taking personal possessions from boys. HIA40 and
13 his brother -- the context of it is that HIA40 and his
14 brother were moving to another home, and his social
15 worker, whose name is Griffith, had recorded she asked
16 where their toys were and the sister had informed the
17 social worker that, in fact, there was another family
18 had come in and that they needed the gifts more -- the
19 toys more and they had given them away to that family.
20 So it would seem there is some independent record, if
21 I can put it that way, for a practice of not allowing
22 a child to keep his or her own possessions.

23 **A. I don't think it was a policy or practice that the**
24 **Sisters would do that, and I can only surmise that maybe**
25 **the children -- I mean, children grow out of their toys.**

1 **Maybe they didn't want them and so, therefore, she gave**
2 **them to another family, but that's an assumption.**

3 Q. I apologise, because I can't actually pull up the actual
4 document, and I will try to find where that is for you,
5 but it may be -- I think it was documentation that came
6 in somewhat belatedly from Social Services. It may not
7 even yet be in the bundles. So I can certainly -- if we
8 finish today, I will get it for you for tomorrow so we
9 can be clear on that.

10 One of the other things just about the toys and
11 that, children who were placed there by Social Services,
12 there would have been funds provided by Social Services
13 for things like birthday gifts and Christmas gifts.
14 Isn't that correct?

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

16 Q. So there would have been more than just the St. Vincent
17 de Paul --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- in the later years for those children who were placed
20 by the welfare authorities?

21 **A. Yes, and they would have got donations as well from**
22 **other people.**

23 Q. In paragraphs 16 to 20 of the statement you deal with
24 the issue of the disclosure of siblings. You say:

25 "There was never any policy of not disclosing the

1 existence of siblings in any house. There may have been
2 occasions when the existence of siblings was not known
3 to the sisters, as it may not have been in the
4 information given when a child was brought to our care.

5 In some cases, for example, Termonbacca and Bishop
6 Street, a boy could have been brought to Termonbacca and
7 his sister to Bishop Street by different people. As we
8 did not have central registers or computers, it is
9 possible that the two houses did not know of the
10 siblings.

11 If children were admitted to the same house, then
12 they would almost certainly have known their siblings.
13 They may in earlier years have been separated into age
14 groups, but they would not have been kept hidden from
15 each other.

16 In later years the arrangements changed to have
17 children of the same family placed in the same groups
18 within the home to try to keep them together and
19 maintain a more family atmosphere.

20 It is accepted that as a result of communication
21 difficulties at the time and possibly as a result of
22 inadvertent error in registers some children may not
23 have known of siblings. In the instances where this
24 occurred the Sisters apologise to these children."

25 So if I am summarising what you are saying there,

1 Sister, and I don't want to put words into the mouth of
2 the congregation through you, but while you are saying
3 there was never a deliberate policy to separate
4 children, do you accept that there appears to have been
5 no steps taken to encourage familial relationships?

6 **A. In the early days I would say yes, but in practicalities**
7 **the boys would go to the boys' home and the girls would**
8 **say at the girls' home and maybe the Sisters didn't know**
9 **there was siblings in the other home.**

10 Q. I suppose that brings me on to a discussion of what
11 contact there would have been between the two homes.
12 What have you been told about that from the Sisters that
13 you have spoken to or ...?

14 **A. Do you mean by Sisters or by the chosen or who do you**
15 **mean?**

16 Q. Yes. For example, you have been here when I have been
17 asking people questions and some of the Sisters I was
18 asking what contact there would have been between
19 Nazareth House and Termonbacca. Subject to the
20 transcript, but my recollection is that those who spoke
21 to us said there really wasn't much. There may have
22 been some of the nuns coming up from Bishop Street to
23 bring the alms up or whatever, but there was no getting
24 together of the children or anything like that.

25 **A. No. I would agree.**

1 Q. I just wondered from the congregation's point of view is
2 that how homes operated generally, that there was no
3 contact between individual homes and children in
4 individual homes?

5 **A. In the early days, yes, certainly, but in latter days**
6 **Sisters visit other Nazareth Houses very frequently,**
7 **yes.**

8 Q. And what about -- it comes on to something we may
9 explore in a bit more detail, but if I can just while
10 I~am on the point ask you about practices in one home
11 informing what happened in another home. For example,
12 we have heard from -- SR2 was saying that when she moved
13 from where she was in England to Termonbacca, then to
14 Belfast and then back to Nazareth House, that she
15 noticed a vast difference in how -- in the practices in
16 each of those children's homes. I suppose I am
17 exploring with you if the homes were being visited by
18 the Regional Superior and by the --

19 **A. Visitor.**

20 Q. -- visitor from the mother house, would those
21 practices that were taking place, perhaps more advanced
22 practices, in those homes not be told about to the other
23 home?

24 **A. They probably would have been told, but each house was**
25 **semi-autonomous. So it was up to that house to pull up**

1 their practice, or they may have found reasons why they
2 didn't practise in such a way. So each house was
3 different, but they would have been told or advised, "In
4 that house they are doing this. In that house they are
5 doing this".

6 Q. So there would have been -- in these visitations,
7 whether by the Regional or by Hammersmith, there would
8 have been some discussion with the Mother Superior and
9 with those people in charge of the children, "You know
10 in Aberdeen they are doing this" --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- "and it has worked really well" or --

13 A. They would have to be very careful in case the Sisters
14 thought, "Oh, she thinks that house better than our
15 house", you know. So that kind of thing would go on
16 too. So it would be done very tactfully.

17 Q. Was there ever at any stage a getting together, as it
18 were, of the Mother Superiors of children's homes to
19 sort of have a discussion about what best practice might
20 be that you can recollect?

21 A. I can't talk for Ireland really. It is something
22 I didn't actually ask the Sisters, but certainly in the
23 UK we got together every couple of years. The group of
24 catering Sisters would get together. The group chosen
25 with the -- the Sisters with the children or the Sisters

1 **with the elderly would get together, yes. We would have**
2 **meetings. Whether it happened in Ireland or not I can't**
3 **really say.**

4 Q. Okay. Thank you. Discussing about the disclosure of
5 siblings, there is a separate issue with the separation
6 of siblings. Again you address this in paragraphs 21 to
7 23 of this statement. You say that:

8 "It is noted that there is a suggestion that
9 siblings were separated within the institutions.

10 It was not a specific policy as far as any
11 investigation can ascertain to separate the children
12 from their siblings. In earlier years the children
13 would have been managed in age-related groups and
14 therefore were placed in different areas ... In later
15 years they strived to ensure all families were kept
16 together ...

17 In regard to the separation the children would not
18 have been separated at all times and would have been
19 able to mix at the different socialising times in the
20 home. However, as would have been the case in normal
21 society, it was typical that different age groups would
22 not merge. This would have included not mixing with
23 siblings during those activities. Activities did take
24 up a large part of the day and it is possible that
25 siblings would not have mixed for protracted periods.

1 However, this would not have been a deliberate intention
2 of these arrangements or an objective of the Sisters to
3 separate families."

4 Again it comes back to the question that I asked you
5 with regard to disclosure of siblings, that there
6 wasn't -- there doesn't appear to have been steps taken
7 to encourage familial relationships and you are
8 accepting on behalf of the congregation that may well
9 have been the case in the early days?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 **Q.** You talk about family letters at paragraphs 24 there and
12 25. You say:

13 "Very few children would have received letters from
14 their families. The circumstances in which they came
15 into the care of the Sisters of Nazareth were not happy
16 and often there would be no contact at all."

17 Certainly people who have spoken to us have
18 indicated they did not know who their family was or
19 anything about them. It is more than just family
20 letters, though, sister. They were never -- they
21 complain that they were never told about their
22 background and, in fact, on occasions were told, "Oh,
23 you don't want to know about her". You say:

24 "In some cases letters may have been received where
25 a family have moved away, a mother or father may have

1 remarried or for some other reason they were not in
2 a position to maintain or re-establish a relationship
3 with a child. If a letter was received along those
4 lines, it may have been withheld from a child to avoid
5 causing pain or upset to the child. It was never policy
6 or practice to withhold correspondence from a child. It
7 may be that a letter would be read to a smaller child
8 and then kept by the Superior or the Sister responsible
9 for a unit. Nevertheless this can be considered to be
10 speculation to some degree."

11 You seem to be accepting in this -- these two
12 paragraphs, Sister, that the Sisters determined whether
13 a child would see or receive letters, and indeed if
14 I can extend that to the complaints we have had, or
15 information about their families. Would -- are you
16 accepting that?

17 **A. Well, I think that's a really general statement and**
18 **I think each child and each Sister, you know, you'd have**
19 **to really go each one separately, because we don't know**
20 **the circumstances, and if, as I have said here,**
21 **a child's parent had moved away and didn't want any more**
22 **contact with that child, the sister that was looking**
23 **after that child would -- would be able to -- I am sure**
24 **she discussed it with either the senior sister or the**
25 **Superior, "Would we tell that child or not? Would it**

1 **cause the child more upset?" I presume.**

2 Q. One case -- I mean, I appreciate you weren't in either
3 of these homes and you can't speak directly to any of
4 these things, but if someone came back and said, you
5 know, "I need my personal information. I want to try
6 and contact my mother", people have complained they were
7 not assisted with that process.

8 A. **Well, all I can say is now we go out of our way to give
9 them any information we've got. Our archivists are very
10 busy in passing out information all the time. What
11 happened in those days I really can't answer for.**

12 Q. Bedwetting in paragraphs 26 to 30 is addressed here.
13 Various complaints. Now you say at paragraph 27 that:
14 "The causes of bedwetting were not known and the
15 connection between bedwetting and psychological trauma
16 suffered by these children were also not fully
17 appreciated. The anxiety felt by the children as
18 a result of their home history, the reasons leading them
19 to coming into care and the separation from their home
20 life may have collectively contributed to bed wetting
21 within the homes."

22 You say that:

23 "As time went on the Sisters have realised that this
24 was not rebellious, mischievous, or misbehaviour and
25 medical advice was sought. There are clear memories of

1 a buzzer alarm being obtained to try to prevent bed
2 wetting and to help the children to stop this occurring.

3 When considered in today's society, the childrens
4 (sic) accept that to embarrass or humiliate a child who
5 had wet the bed was not helpful and may have led to the
6 prolonging of the issue. This was done out of ignorance
7 of the issues behind this problem and a belief that the
8 child could just stop the bedwetting if he or she
9 wished."

10 You go on:

11 "There is an overlap with an issue concerning
12 bedwetting and bathing and some former residents
13 describe being washed in cold water as a punishment for
14 wetting the bed. The sisters would not let a child go
15 to school without making sure they were washed. To
16 allow the child to go out unwashed risked bullying and
17 abuse, because they might smell. It is possible there
18 was little hot water but the use of cold water is not
19 recalled as a punishment for bedwetting."

20 You are aware, sister, we have had a lot of children
21 complain they were punished for wetting the bed, that
22 they were either beaten or they were humiliated, and
23 while accepting there are different periods of time that
24 is being covered here, do you accept on behalf of the
25 congregation that children were humiliated for

1 bedwetting?

2 **A. I think it's -- has been proved that, yes, at different**
3 **periods of time going back in history, yes, that they**
4 **were humiliated.**

5 Q. Now you suggest in this paragraph that Sisters did not
6 have the requisite knowledge of how to treat children
7 who were bedwetting and deal with them appropriately,
8 and you said also -- I mean, I can pull up SND-13939,
9 which is another statement that you provided. If we
10 could just look at that briefly, please. It is at
11 paragraphs 3 to 7. It says that -- again this is on the
12 issue of bedwetting:

13 "The Inquiry has sought clarification in regard to
14 the Sisters' understanding of bedwetting incidents and
15 how attitudes altered or changed through the years.
16 Clarification is sought on what advice the Sisters
17 received in respect of this, when that advice was
18 received and from whom that advice was received.

19 To the best of my knowledge and from the information
20 available to me there was no one piece of information or
21 advice that changed or altered the understanding of
22 bedwetting. Sisters would have been trained in the
23 latter years and therefore would have a better knowledge
24 and understanding of bedwetting.

25 Throughout the periods in which the Sisters provided

1 care to young people and more recently to the elderly,
2 they maintained a close working relationship with the
3 relevant statutory agencies and local medical
4 practitioners. The Sisters would always have spoken to
5 their colleagues from the statutory agencies, inspectors
6 (whether it be the children's home inspectors or the
7 education inspectors in respect of the schools ...) or
8 more latterly in regard to the ... care to the elderly.

9 Over time information was passed to the Sisters via
10 statutory agencies, doctors attending at the homes and
11 from other visitors to the homes like the charitable
12 organisations such as St. Vincent de Paul. The
13 information obtained by Sisters would have developed
14 throughout this time by speaking with these particular
15 agencies, doctors and visitors.

16 There is no-one incident or contact that any sister
17 can specifically address with me. A number of the
18 sisters have spoken of waking children who were known to
19 wet the bed when sisters were going to bed to try to
20 encourage those children to go to the toilet or reduce
21 the potential for an incident of bedwetting during the
22 night."

23 You apologise for not being more specific about
24 a particular incident:

25 "... as there is no information available about

1 a particular course, communication, conference or
2 documentation provided by any third party which can
3 highlight or indicate a particular piece of knowledge
4 having been passed on. I can, however, say that the
5 sisters would always have listened to their advisers and
6 would have taken into account any information passed on
7 to them."

8 Now you are aware where I am going with this,
9 sister, because we have had great discussion, including
10 this morning, with SR6 about the memorandum of 1951, the
11 Home Office Memorandum, which can be found at SND-13438
12 through to SND-13498. SR6 as was, SR6, who spoke this
13 morning, indicated that when she did her training, she
14 was aware of that memorandum. Were you yourself aware
15 of the memorandum?

16 **A. Yes, yes.**

17 Q. What is your recollection of where -- where you would
18 have become aware of that? How did you know about that
19 memorandum?

20 **A. During my training in 1974.**

21 Q. 1974. Now in another statement to the Inquiry you had
22 been asked to provide information about SR1. You talked
23 about her and you found out about what you could about
24 her history and the statement in relation to her is
25 SND-15839. You say that you discovered that she went

1 for training in the area of child care in 1958 when she
2 received a formal qualification in child care.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. Now in 1958 this memorandum would have been very
5 current. It would only have been out seven years. So
6 is it safe to assume that SR1 would have had that
7 brought to her attention during that child care
8 training?

9 **A. I would certainly think so, yes.**

10 Q. Certainly you were aware in 1971?

11 **A. '74.**

12 Q. '74 -- sorry -- and I think it was maybe Sister --
13 sorry -- SR6, who trained in 1971, and she was made
14 aware of it.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. So it certainly was being brought to people's attention
17 some twenty years after it was produced and therefore it
18 is highly likely that, when it was current, it was part
19 of the training.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. Clearly that deals with the issue among other things of
22 bedwetting and how to treat children and be
23 understanding for those children who wet the bed.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. So can I ask when you are saying that you accept on

1 behalf of the congregation that children were humiliated
2 for bedwetting are you saying then that that happened
3 prior to that memorandum?

4 **A. I think yes and also I think maybe some sisters still**
5 **didn't understand fully why children wet the bed and**
6 **I think -- I can't just generalise, because every sister**
7 **is different, and some sisters that hadn't done formal**
8 **training were very kind to the children and would**
9 **understand why children wet the bed, especially if they**
10 **had just first come into the home, but generally I would**
11 **say yes.**

12 Q. Can I ask you -- I mean, SR6, who spoke this morning,
13 indicated that if there was material came in from Social
14 Services, from the Welfare Authority, the most
15 up-to-date advice or whatever was passed down to those
16 in charge of child care. Do you know if that was always
17 the practice?

18 **A. I wouldn't think so. I think sometimes maybe it came in**
19 **and the Superior read it and maybe she didn't always**
20 **pass it to the sisters.**

21 Q. I know this is speculation, sister, but might that have
22 been because she didn't necessarily agree with the
23 advices contained in it or might have felt that was too
24 difficult to implement in her home?

25 **A. I don't know. I think sometimes Superiors had a lot of**

1 power and they thought, "Well, they don't need to know
2 that". I don't know, but sometimes Superiors had a lot
3 of power and they would have kept it and not given it to
4 the sisters for whatever reason.

5 Q. Is it fair then to say that how a home was run and the
6 practices that pertained there would depend very much on
7 who was in charge of it?

8 A. Yes, yes.

9 Q. Again just on another issue that you deal with in your
10 statement, and we will have to go back to that one,
11 which is SND-441, please. This is in relation to the
12 issue of supervision and staff ratios, sister. At
13 paragraph 31 you say that:

14 "The solicitors -- the Sisters provided 24 hour care
15 with a sister being responsible for individual groups of
16 children. She would have been assisted by lay staff to
17 aid in the care for the children. We are continuing to
18 seek the existence of any relevant documents in order to
19 make direct comment on the supervision and staff ratios,
20 as these would have changed over the periods depending
21 on the number of children in a particular house and the
22 regulations which were in place at any particular time."

23 Now if I can just ask you to look at a couple of
24 documents. I should say that at SND-13940, paragraphs 8
25 to 10, you again explain difficulties with records. If

1 we can just go to that. Paragraph 8. You discuss staff
2 rotas:

3 "We continue to check all our records to see if
4 staff rotas and records have been maintained. ... not
5 an easy task bearing in mind the period covered ...

6 These homes have now ceased child care over that
7 period. Sisters, however, have spoken of times when
8 there would have been very small numbers of staff, if
9 any, in their houses. I have spoken to sisters who
10 would have said that particularly in the '60s and early
11 '70s there would have been two sisters caring for 60 or
12 70 boys, leaving one sister responsible for somewhere in
13 the region of between 30 to 40 boys. Staff were
14 employed in the early '70s when the family group homes
15 commenced. In hindsight this was clearly
16 an unsatisfactory situation. However, it was the
17 practice at the time. If this practice resulted in some
18 children not having the oversight, care and affection
19 needed by them in the houses, this was not deliberate.
20 The Sisters simply did not have the funding to provide
21 for significant numbers of children. The Inquiry has
22 been provided with copies of the financial registers
23 showing the shortfall in the funding care provided.

24 The Sisters relied very heavily on charity, the
25 goodwill ... and the local communities' yearly church

1 collections to aid them in the provision of their work."

2 If I pause there again, sister, to say that clearly
3 in 1964 Nazareth House were saying it didn't need any
4 funding for staff. Termonbacca were saying that they
5 needed funding for building infrastructure for bedroom
6 accommodation, but they weren't saying that they needed
7 money for staffing.

8 **A. That is true.**

9 Q. If I can just look at a couple of other records here,
10 this is SND-6046. This is not very clear, I am afraid,
11 but we can try and enlarge it, but this is a -- this
12 seems to be a rating valuation, and information is being
13 provided to the rating authority by the -- in relation
14 to the rating of Termonbacca townland. If we just read
15 there, it is saying:

16 "Inspected 17th December 1974."

17 If I can just scroll down that page, please, it
18 says -- it talks about the actual building itself. If
19 you just go down to the third paragraph there, it says:

20 "The orphanage has a total of six nuns working
21 full-time caring for children. A total of 78 children
22 can be accommodated at any one time, but generally the
23 number is around 60. The children's age ranges -- ages
24 range from weeks -- even in some cases days old to
25 16/17. They come mainly from broken homes so that

1 a number of full families are resident."

2 So in 1974 it is suggested in that document that
3 whoever the sister in charge -- and I think from
4 recollection of the designations that was actually SR7
5 -- was saying to the rating inspector that there were
6 six nuns working full-time for up to 78, but usually 60,
7 children, which would be a staffing ratio of 1:10.

8 Can we also then just look at SND-5784, please,
9 which is the Sisters' own records about who was in
10 charge of child care? You will see in that document in
11 1974 it is recording that there was one nun who was both
12 the bursar and in charge of group, another nun in charge
13 of group and laundry and nursery and girls. So there
14 appear to be three sisters in charge of usually 60
15 children in 1974 according to the Sisters' records,
16 which would have been a ratio of 1:20.

17 Now I have to ask, Sister, one has to be wrong.
18 There were certainly six nuns in the home, recorded as
19 being in the home, but not in full-time childcare
20 according to that document.

21 **A. Well, I assume -- it is an assumption -- that the**
22 **Superior when she filled it in would count the catering**
23 **sister as working for the children and the laundry**
24 **sister. They weren't working directly but indirectly**
25 **and maybe that's the way she looked at it.**

1 Q. Although that would only still have given four if we
2 discount the --

3 **A. Well, the linen room, that would be indirectly with the**
4 **children as well, because she would have looked after**
5 **their clothes.**

6 Q. And she would have been -- the Superior having overall
7 charge, she would include herself in that?

8 **A. I presume so.**

9 Q. In any event in 1974 we are talking 1:10 according to
10 that -- both that -- if we take that as being full-time
11 care of the children and the information given by SR7 to
12 the rating valuation.

13 There is -- the 1952 memorandum, as you are aware,
14 would have recommended a much higher ratio of child to
15 -- staff to children than that.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. You say in paragraph 9 of SND-13945 that -- and this was
18 a statement that you subsequently amended -- but you say
19 there that:

20 "The sisters always tried to provide the best care
21 with the staff and resources available to them in both
22 Termonbacca and Bishop Street. They provided the best
23 level of supervision and constant monitoring of the
24 children as best they could. It is clear in some
25 circumstances peer abuse and bullying may have occurred

1 without the knowledge of the Sisters. While the Sisters
2 cannot confirm or deny any specific allegations, it is
3 dreadful to consider the allegations that had occurred
4 while under the care of the Sisters. At no stage do the
5 Sisters accept or condone any type of abuse by way of
6 bullying or sexual abuse."

7 Now if I can just go to -- you amended this
8 statement, and if we can go to that. It is SND-18044,
9 paragraph 9. You will see here that you say that:

10 "Before 1972 we accept that staffing in Termonbacca
11 was inadequate.

12 Before 1977 we accept that staffing in Bishop Street
13 was inadequate."

14 Then you say:

15 "The consequences of inadequate staffing would
16 diminish the level of supervision and constant
17 monitoring of the children as the Sisters would have
18 hoped to achieve."

19 Then you go on to reiterate that:

20 "In some circumstances quite clear that peer abuse
21 and bullying may have occurred without the knowledge of
22 the sisters. Whilst they cannot confirm or deny any
23 allegations, it is appalling and shocking to consider
24 the allegations at hand under the care of the sisters."

25 Just if I might examine that, sister, from the

1 unsigned statement was submitted to the Inquiry you
2 would have attended here and would have heard a number
3 of people give evidence. On reflection it appears to me
4 that you seem to have then accepted that the staffing
5 was inadequate in Termonbacca on behalf of the
6 congregation in 1972 and Bishop Street in '77. However,
7 there are a couple of things about that. Those two
8 documents that I just pulled up suggest even in 1974 the
9 staffing was inadequate in Termonbacca. So I am curious
10 to know why the point of 1972 was arrived at or how that
11 was arrived at.

12 **A. Well, when I got these statements to fill in, not**
13 **knowing the houses, I would contact sisters who actually**
14 **lived there and went by what they told me and that is**
15 **how these are filled in.**

16 Q. It may be it was 1972 when there was the move to the
17 family groups and to the new building, as it were.

18 **A. It could have been.**

19 Q. That may be where that date has come from, but certainly
20 would you accept that the documents would show that it
21 may well have been later than that before staffing in
22 Termonbacca was adequate?

23 **A. Yes, yes.**

24 Q. '77 again would perhaps tally with the family groups,
25 because I think somewhere either in your statement or

1 somewhere else we were told, in fact, Termonbacca had
2 the family groups before Nazareth House had theirs.

3 **A. That's right, yes, when they got the new build.**

4 Q. But again 1977 you are being told that by other sisters
5 is when they felt the staffing was adequate?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. But you weren't getting that from any documents?

8 **A. No, no, no, no.**

9 Q. Given that certainly before 1972 in Termonbacca and '77
10 in Bishop Street the staffing ratios were inadequate,
11 can I ask did -- are you aware of any steps that the
12 congregation took to refuse to admit children?

13 **A. Well, it stems from our ethos not to -- not to refuse
14 a child and it would have been going against their ethos
15 if they had. So I don't think there was any steps taken
16 to stop children coming in.**

17 Q. Even though you weren't really able to cope with the
18 children? When I say "you", obviously I am meaning the
19 Sisters --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- who were there at the time.

22 **A. Well, I think they did the best they could.**

23 Q. Can you in your discussions with the sisters -- are you
24 aware of why there wasn't any attempt earlier to refer
25 those children to the statutory sector?

1 **A.** Having listened to the sisters -- and it is very
2 difficult for me, because I didn't live here and I don't
3 know the politics about Northern Ireland -- but some
4 sisters told me that when children were placed in their
5 care by families, the families didn't want to go to
6 Social Services. They wanted their child to be brought
7 up in the Catholic faith. So therefore maybe the
8 sisters didn't ask Social Services for money for fear
9 that their voluntary status might be taken off them or
10 that children may not be brought up in the Catholic
11 faith, and also they respected the wishes of the person
12 that brought the child into care, that they didn't want
13 Social Services to know.

14 **Q.** We do know that certainly there was a Diocesan Child
15 Welfare Society was formed and we have seen
16 documentations in relation to that, and a name I am sure
17 you have heard as you have been sitting here, sister,
18 was a lady called Rose Black. She seemed to have
19 commenced work with the Diocesan Child Welfare around
20 1975. I am sure you have seen a document where she was
21 asking for three boys to be taken into care in 1976. So
22 do you -- given what you have just been saying to me, do
23 you think that once that Diocesan Child Welfare Society
24 was formed that that made a difference to the
25 relationship between the homes and the welfare

1 authorities, because there was this intermediary body?

2 **A. It could have helped. I really don't know enough about**
3 **that to answer properly.**

4 Q. Okay. There may be another witness from the diocese who
5 might be able to assist, Sister, with that, but in any
6 event the Sisters were never going to turn away a child
7 who they felt needed their care. Is that really
8 essentially why --

9 **A. Correct.**

10 Q. -- they were not -- they were happy to take -- maybe not
11 happy but they certainly were taking in children even
12 though they didn't have the resources necessary to look
13 after them?

14 **A. That was our ethos, yes.**

15 Q. I am conscious of the time, Sister. We still have quite
16 a number of things to cover with you, and I see that it
17 is now 4.50 in what has been quite a long day for
18 everyone. I did ask you earlier -- I know "happy"
19 wouldn't be the right adjective to use, but you are
20 content to return tomorrow to continue your evidence.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. So that might be an appropriate time, Chairman, to ...

23 CHAIRMAN: Yes, I think it is an appropriate time. As you
24 say, there are I imagine quite a number of things you
25 wish to raise with Sister Brenda. We will resume

1 tomorrow morning, Sister, as near 10.30 or after it as
2 we can manage.

3 **A. Thank you.**

4 MS SMITH: I am just wondering, Chairman, it might be --
5 subject to the Panel's view, we could maybe start
6 a little earlier at 10 o'clock tomorrow, since we could
7 go straight in with Sister's evidence.

8 CHAIRMAN: I am impressed by your enthusiasm. We do have
9 other things to look at as well.

10 MS SMITH: Very well. 10.30 then.

11 **A. Thank you.**

12 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

13 (4.52 pm)

14 (Hearing adjourned until 10.30 tomorrow morning)

15 --ooOoo--

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

I N D E X

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS RE TIMETABLE2

WITNESS SND463 (called)4

 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY5

 Questions from THE PANEL46

WITNESS SR6 (called)55

 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY56

 Questions from THE PANEL144

SISTER BRENDA MCCALL (called)146

 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY147