
HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at

Banbridge Court House

Banbridge

on Thursday, 4th September 2014

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 45)

MS CHRISTINE SMITH, QC appeared as Counsel to the Inquiry.

1 Thursday, 4th September 2014

2 (10.00 am)

3 WITNESS HIA341 (called)

4 CHAIRMAN: Morning, ladies and gentlemen.

5 MS SMITH: Morning, Chairman, Panel Members. We have two
6 witnesses who are going to give evidence by way of
7 Livelink from Australia. The first of those is HIA341.

8 Good morning, HIA341. Can you hear me?

9 **A. Good morning. How are you? Morning.**

10 Q. This first witness is to be known as HIA341, and I have
11 checked with him, Chairman, and he does wish his
12 anonymity to be maintained for the purposes of the
13 Inquiry.

14 HIA341, if you just stay there, the Chairman is
15 going to ask you about taking the oath.

16 **A. Thank you. Sir, can I take the affirmation, please?**

17 **Witness HIA341 (affirmed)**

18 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

19 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

20 MS SMITH: Now, HIA341, you have provided a witness
21 statement for the Inquiry, which can be found at
22 AUS11030. I know that you have a copy of that --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- with you. I am going to ask that we go to the last
25 page of that document and that's 11040.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Sorry. We are just getting it called up on the screen
3 here, HIA341. So --

4 CHAIRMAN: I don't think he can see you, judging by the box.

5 MS SMITH: Can you see me, HIA341?

6 **A. Yes, I can. You're gorgeous.**

7 Q. Thank you very much.

8 If we go to the last page, 11040 --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- and -- sorry. I am just asking them to go to the
11 last page on the screen, HIA341, because we're calling
12 it up on these electronic screens in front of us.

13 I know you have the hard copy there. I just want you to
14 look at the last page and just confirm that you have
15 signed the document and you signed it on 4th June 2014?

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

17 Q. That's great. Can I just confirm that this is the
18 witness statement that you wish the Inquiry to take as
19 your evidence to it?

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

21 Q. If we go back to the first page of that witness
22 statement then, it is 11030.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. And in the first two paragraphs there you set out your
25 personal details.

1 You say when you were born in and you give
2 your mother's name. You say she was 20 when you were
3 born and your father's name doesn't appear on your birth
4 certificate.

5 You then go on to say that you were placed in Manor
6 House Home in Lisburn when you were a baby and you can
7 only recall about 9 or 10 boys being in the home around
8 that time, but you do remember that there was a lady who
9 used to come and visit you and sit -- almost every
10 Sunday and sit on the porch and talk to you, and you --
11 later in life when you met your mother, she confirmed
12 that that was her, that she was actually visiting you
13 when you were in the home.

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

15 Q. Now you go on to talk about the time that you spent in
16 Manor House and about what you say happened to you
17 there. I am going to take through that, HIA341.

18 In paragraph 5 you describe being assaulted by staff
19 and I'm going to ask you rather than me read that out,
20 if you're happy to speak about it in your own words,
21 what you remember about this?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. So can you tell the Inquiry what you say happened to
24 you, HIA341?

25 **A. I certainly can. My memory of it of being in the**

1 orphanage at the time, certainly it wasn't a nice
2 experience. I don't -- I certainly don't recall any
3 loving experiences. I'd like to deny emphatically that
4 I never went to school, never went to school. However,
5 I did go to the -- to the playground of the school.
6 I take it that that's not far from the orphanage,
7 because I remember spending a lot of time on the outside
8 of the school, but when I did go there, I asked the
9 teacher at the time to -- I walked in from every entry
10 of that school and I have no recollection whatsoever of
11 being at that school. So I'd like to make that very
12 clear, firstly.

13 Secondly, in as far as the orphanage goes, most of
14 the abuse that I did get was as a result of wetting the
15 bed, and I wet the bed every day. In fact, I wet the
16 bed every day until I was 18 years old, and they did all
17 sorts of things to me in order to stop me wetting the
18 bed, including putting some sort of liquid or something
19 into my backside -- not so much there, but the same
20 thing happened to me in Australia, and in Australia they
21 seemed to think that if they emptied my stomach, they
22 emptied my bowel, and that was the purpose of doing that
23 and, of course, after they did that, I did suffer a lot
24 of pain emptying my bowel.

25 Q. HIA341, you do describe at paragraph 6 -- you say that

1 you used to wet the bed in the home daily. The staff
2 would strap you to the bed. Sometimes you were left
3 there for days in the wet bed, and they would take you
4 out of the restraints after you were left to lie in the
5 wet bed, and in order to clean you they dropped you into
6 a tin bath of water and held you down in cold water, and
7 you believe that there was another boy, who you name
8 there, who also received the same treatment for wetting
9 the bed.

10 You talk about in paragraph 8 how there was an
11 electrical device used to try to stop you wetting the
12 bed. The idea would be to give you electrical shocks
13 whenever you maybe did wet the bed, and you don't
14 remember which members of staff did that to you, but you
15 remember a similar device being used in a home when you
16 were sent to Australia, and you also describe in
17 paragraph 9 the use of what we would probably know now
18 were enemas to try to prevent you from wetting the bed.

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

20 Q. And those were the treatments?

21 **A. That's correct.**

22 Q. One of the things --

23 **A. Sorry. Not only was I on the bed. I was on the bed on**
24 **some sort of -- well, out here they call it**
25 **a mackintosh. I don't know what it is called there, but**

1 it's like a fabric that the water wouldn't go through or
2 the urine wouldn't go through to the mattress, and
3 I would be left on that mattress for sometimes I believe
4 -- well, at least 24 hours before I would be taken away.

5 Two things happened here. One, they would often
6 dunk my head into what -- some sort of a tin basin or
7 I would be put in a cold bath. Okay? So on both
8 occasions they would -- they would also -- as you can
9 see here, I wear hearing aids. I constantly had my head
10 banged up against the wall or their hands on both sides,
11 they would whack my ears together and my ears were
12 damaged I believe. Most of the damage or the start of
13 the damage was done in Northern Ireland. It affected my
14 hearing.

15 Q. Yes. You describe this treatment in paragraph 10, where
16 you say you always remember:

17 "... being thumped on my head by staff at Manor
18 House."

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You describe the open-handed hitting of your ears and
21 you also recall being punished by the use of a cane, and
22 you remember over --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- with long strings attached, which really hurt on
25 impact, and whenever you were struck, they would say,

1 "Don't cry and don't tell. You cry you get more".

2 **A. Yes. Yes, that's correct. When I did -- I did**
3 **eventually meet my mother and the second question**
4 **I asked her -- the first was, "Were you the lady that**
5 **would come and visit me in the home?" She said, "Yes".**
6 **I said, "The next question I'd like to ask you is why**
7 **would they say to me that they would return me to you if**
8 **I would say anything?" and she just said, "No comment".**
9 **I don't know what that meant.**

10 **Q. I mean, you say in your statement at paragraph 5 that**
11 **you were threatened with return to your mother for**
12 **misbehaviour --**

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

14 **Q. -- and you didn't understand why they would be**
15 **threatening --**

16 **A. No.**

17 **Q. -- that you would be returned to her --**

18 **A. No.**

19 **Q. -- and you never to this day --**

20 **A. That's correct.**

21 **Q. -- have found that out. Isn't that correct, HIA341?**

22 **A. No. I did ask my mother. In my entire life I only**
23 **spoke to my mother for an hour and a half and that was**
24 **the second question I asked her. She didn't respond to**
25 **it and I didn't waste any more time on that, because**

1 **I wanted to hopefully leave her on good terms.**

2 Q. One of the other complaints that you make is that you
3 were punished by being locked in a dark room.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. In paragraph 7 of your statement you name an older boy,
6 and you think that was his name, but you weren't clear
7 on that, and you thought that he might have been
8 an altar boy at the church.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. Now this was -- this was a Protestant home --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- run by the Church of Ireland.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. And we -- you know that I'm going to be asking you later
15 about the response that the Irish Church Missions have
16 put in in respect of what you have said, HIA341.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. But I just want to ask you about this particular boy and
19 why you thought he might have been an altar boy.

20 **A. Well, he was the one that would take me to the church or**
21 **wherever he took me, and I just assumed -- well, I know**
22 **that they were -- they were ministers or they certainly**
23 **wore the collar of being a minister. So he had no -- he**
24 **never actually did anything to me, but he was always**
25 **present.**

1 Q. So you believe that he had some clerical connection. Is
2 that what you're saying?

3 **A. Yes, I do. Yes, I do.**

4 Q. Now one of the other complaints that you make is at
5 paragraph 11 -- paragraphs 11 and 12. In those
6 paragraphs you relate the fact that you were sexually
7 abused by a minister in the home.

8 **A. Yes. Well, when I say sexually abused, I was having his
9 finger -- I believe it was his finger -- in my rectum
10 and also sitting on his knee, not -- not skin-to-skin
11 contact, but I certainly was aware that he had
12 an erection.**

13 Q. And you recall that you were being dressed in girls'
14 clothing by him?

15 **A. Yes. I was -- I was dressed in or covered by fabric
16 that I only found out a few -- quite a few years ago
17 when my wife bought a dress and the fabric I felt -- and
18 it took me straight back to that memory -- was a silky,
19 soft fabric. So there wasn't skin-to-skin contact but
20 I would sit on his knee and he would abuse me that way.**

21 Q. And another, further complaint which I have already
22 outlined to the Inquiry is the lack of education that
23 you feel that you received in Northern Ireland. At
24 paragraph 13 you say that you were described as
25 a retard, because you were small. You would stand up to

1 them and fight back. So they kept you under lock and
2 key, called you retarded:

3 "... and I was not kept at school or given a proper
4 education."

5 **A. That -- that is correct. I would just like to at this**
6 **point say that I'm a very well educated man now. My**
7 **command and understanding of the language I believe is**
8 **above average. I am self-educated, but no thanks to**
9 **either the Irish government or the Australian**
10 **government. I'm purely educated myself, and I have run**
11 **a couple of -- quite a few businesses in Australia where**
12 **I've been Managing Director. So, you know, if they like**
13 **to take me for a fool, they're very welcome to, but I'm**
14 **doing okay. Thank you.**

15 **Q. Well, HIA341, we'll come back to your life -- your later**
16 **life in due course.**

17 **A. Thank you.**

18 **Q. But if I can now turn to discuss what you remember about**
19 **your migration to Australia.**

20 **A. Yes.**

21 **Q. At paragraphs 14 to 17 about -- you talk about this and**
22 **you say you remember the issue of migration to Australia**
23 **being discussed in Manor House.**

24 **A. Yes, I do.**

25 **Q. We know from documentation that there were actually**

1 seven boys went from Manor House --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- at the same time. So there was some discussion --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- in the home about you all going. Is that correct?

6 **A. Yes, there was.**

7 Q. And you say that your mother gave consent to you being
8 sent to Australia. I take it that's something you
9 learned subsequently?

10 **A. To this day I really don't know who gave consent.**

11 I have a document that you people sent to me which says
12 that my mother gave consent, but I don't know any more
13 than that. So that's only in the last few days. Yes.
14 I've never been able to find out who did that.

15 Q. Well, you say in that paragraph that they didn't ask you
16 if you wanted to go, but you were told that you were
17 going?

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

19 Q. And you --

20 **A. I remember that day, strangely enough, very, very,**
21 **clearly. I remember I didn't know Australia was that**
22 **far away, of course. I just knew that we were going to**
23 **Australia. I assumed we were going to a new school or**
24 **another school and Australia was the place to be. So**
25 **that's where we went. I'd no idea where Australia was,**

1 **of course.**

2 Q. And you left Manor House in November 1950, when you were
3 nine years old?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. And you say there were six other boys who went with you
6 and you name those. You travelled to Liverpool --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- where you boarded the MV Cheshire and you --

9 **A. That's correct.**

10 Q. -- went -- were taken to Melbourne?

11 **A. That's correct.**

12 Q. You say you were given the number or . By whom
13 were you given that number, HIA341?

14 **A. I can correct that for you actually. I do have it --**
15 **a copy of that here. Sorry. I've got to correct it on**
16 **that number. Sorry.**

17 Q. Take your time.

18 **A. The actual number is Child Migrant .**

19 Q. ?

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. And who gave you that -- who gave you that number that
22 you recall?

23 **A. I got that from the Heath -- is that the Heath**
24 **Committee -- Health Committee. I don't know who that**
25 **is. I believe it is somewhere over there though.**

1 Q. This would have been the UK Government Health Committee
2 report?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. Is that where you are getting that number from?

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

6 Q. You don't remember before you went being sent for any
7 medical appointment?

8 **A. No.**

9 Q. And you remember there was a photograph taken of all the
10 boys on the ship?

11 **A. Yes, I do.**

12 Q. I'm going to -- I know you brought the Inquiry a copy of
13 that photograph, but another boy who was also in Manor
14 House brought a copy of the same photograph and he has
15 also brought a photograph of Manor House, which is on
16 the same page. So I'm going to call up that page, if I
17 may, HIA341, so that --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- you can look at both. That I think is at 11134,
20 please. Sorry. 11150. I beg your pardon. Wrong
21 photograph. 11150.

22 **A. No, we don't have it.**

23 Q. You don't have that, but you do have -- you should have
24 the photograph there which is -- I'm pulling this one up
25 simply because it is clearer for the people to see here

1 --

2 **A. Yes, yes. That's fine.**

3 Q. -- and it is the second photograph at the bottom.

4 I know you have a copy of the same photograph, which is

5 -- I think it's 11050. Is that right? If you can

6 just -- you have a photograph that was taken on board

7 the ship there with you, HIA341, don't you?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. You have a copy of that?

10 **A. Yes, I do.**

11 Q. Now you are in the row of that photograph and you

12 are the in from the side. Am I

13 right?

14 **A. Yes. The good-looking one. Yes, that's me.**

15 Q. And the two -- there seem to be in this photograph some

16 civilian adults, if I can put it that way, in the row

17 behind you. There's --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- at least three ladies and two gentlemen and then

20 there's what is presumably the ship's captain --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- sitted beside -- seated beside a gentleman in a dog

23 collar, who I believe is the Reverend Boag --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- who travelled out with you.

1 **A. Yes, that's right.**

2 Q. And there seems to be another young man -- a couple of
3 older boys in the background there and one of them,
4 there's a gentleman in a tie, a younger man, who may
5 well also have been accompanying you out. As I say, our
6 version is probably clearer than the one that you have.

7 **A. Yes, yes. I don't -- I don't recognise who that person**
8 **is.**

9 Q. But you were the child in the row from the
10 ?

11 **A. . Yes, that's right. From**
12 **the .**

13 Q. Sorry. From the . I beg your pardon.

14 **A. From the , yes, yes.**

15 Q. And -- sorry. We were just talking about the trip out
16 and you say, as you have indicated, the Reverend Boag
17 travelled with you, going back to your statement at
18 11033 at paragraph 16, and you thought his job was to
19 travel to various countries with children from
20 orphanages to ensure they arrived safely and then he
21 would return home.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. You have no recollection of the Reverend Boag actually
24 being at Dhurringile Home where you sent?

25 **A. I have a slight rec... -- yes, I do, but I don't believe**

1 he was there for very long. I don't believe he was ever
2 acting in a superintendent capacity, but I may well at
3 that stage have already been sent out to a farm.

4 Q. Well -- sorry. In any case you do remember the ship
5 journey as sitting on a bunk bed looking out the window
6 but you say the port holes had been painted over --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- so you couldn't see outside.

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. You were rarely above deck level and you only remember
11 being on deck twice, once when you crossed the equator
12 and the second occasion was because one of the boys you
13 say either died or went overboard.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And apart that you were kept below deck for the entire
16 journey, which lasted seven weeks?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You arrived then in Melbourne on 15th December 1950 and
19 you were taken to Dhurringile, which was run by the
20 Presbyterian Church of Tatura.

21 Now paragraphs 18 through 29 of your statement you
22 describe your time in Australia at the home and, as I
23 have made it plain to you earlier today and you are well
24 aware, that what happened to you there is outside the
25 scope of this Inquiry, but if I can just summarise that

1 in that home you were subject to sexual abuse. You were
2 beaten?

3 **A. Yes, yes.**

4 Q. Again you were treated as a retard and not educated and
5 you were removed --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- from school at an early stage?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. As a result of your time there -- you then went, as you
10 say, to a farm and you left Dhurringile when you were
11 17.

12 If we can go to paragraph 30 in your statement, from
13 there on you talk about the life that you led after you
14 left, and because of the treatment that you had received
15 and knowing no different, you entered into a life of
16 prostitution initially?

17 **A. Yes, I did, yes.**

18 Q. And then when you were 20, you went from trying to find
19 farm work and eventually you joined the

20 --

21 **A. Yes, yes.**

22 Q. -- where a friend actually sat the exam for you, because
23 you felt that with the lack of education you had had you
24 couldn't pass it yourself, but you knew that you --

25 **A. That's right. I was unable to write at all. That's**

1 **right. Correct. He passed very well.**

2 Q. He passed very well and as a result of his passing the
3 test you got into the business that you wanted to get
4 into, which was the business?

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

6 Q. And you worked for a company for about
7 fifteen years?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. And then in the mid-1980s at paragraph 35 you describe
10 ?

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

12 Q. At that time that led to a lot of and resulted
13 in many ?

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. You did a with BBC London in . On that
16 show you said you were a child migrant from Northern
17 Ireland.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. Following on from that you were then contacted by
20 a journalist from London from the BBC who asked you to
21 do more work on the issue?

22 **A. That's right.**

23 Q. And that helped other child migrants to find their
24 families. Now if I can just pause there --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- to make it absolutely clear we have got -- in the
2 bundle of material in relation to you we do have the
3 newspaper reports and articles, and I'm not going to
4 call them up, but they can be found at pages AUS11051
5 through to 11056 in the bundle, and I know you have
6 copies of those there with you, HIA341, but I want to
7 make it quite clear to -- the fact that you were
8 identified in those newspaper articles does not take
9 away --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- from the fact that you wish to maintain your
12 anonymity in respect of --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- these proceedings. Isn't that correct?

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

16 Q. Now you talk about at paragraph 36 returning to Northern
17 Ireland for the first time in the 1980s, and again this
18 was as a result of _____ and your
19 _____ and being picked up by _____,
20 and the BBC had actually done some research into your
21 background story. They took you back to your old school
22 in Lisburn and --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- there you were able to ask the headmaster at the time
25 if he would let you see the old records, and he gave you

1 access to any records that were of interest to you.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. There you say there was a record of you having been at
4 the school for four years.

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

6 Q. That is a record that you completely dispute. Isn't
7 that correct, HIA341?

8 **A. Emphatically.**

9 Q. You also say that your research made clear to you that
10 you could not be deported to Australia -- as you put it,
11 deported to Australia if you hadn't been to school, and
12 you hadn't been at school. So essentially what you are
13 suggesting is that in order for you to travel to
14 Australia the school records were falsified to allow
15 that to happen?

16 **A. Yes. I do.**

17 Q. At paragraph 37 you also noticed that certain boys'
18 names had been changed or letters in their names had
19 been changed and it's your view that this was done to
20 frustrate the process of enabling former child migrants
21 to find their families and relatives?

22 **A. Yes, I do.**

23 Q. Now paragraph 38 -- paragraphs 38 to 40 you talk about
24 the efforts that you made to find your own family, and
25 how things were complicated by the fact that your mother

1 had changed the date of birth and name of your brother
2 to hide the fact that he also was born out of wedlock,
3 and you found out where your mother was living when you
4 were on holiday in . So you then went to go to
5 see her and actually turned up on her doorstep knocking
6 on her door.

7 **A. That's correct.**

8 Q. And it wasn't -- it is related there in your statement,
9 but if I can put it in fairly neutral terms to say the
10 reunion with your mother was less than successful?

11 **A. Yes, that's correct --**

12 Q. And you also --

13 **A. -- but I did -- I did -- I did -- she gave me her phone
14 number, which I already had anyway, but the number she
15 gave me confirmed it was her number, and I rang her and
16 spoke to her for an hour and a half that night in
17 London.**

18 Q. But thereafter she then changed her number and wouldn't
19 take --

20 **A. Yes, she did.**

21 Q. -- any calls from you?

22 **A. Yes, she did.**

23 Q. You found out you had a brother, half brother?

24 **A. I was -- when she changed her number, I returned from
25 Northern Ireland back to London and she wouldn't open**

1 the door. A lady walked into the driveway and I said,
2 "Oh, you know _____?", as her name was, and
3 she said, "Yes". I said, "I'm actually her
4 illegitimate son from Australia". With some shock she
5 said, "I only know her other son, _____". I said,
6 "Where does _____ live?" She told me and I walked down
7 and met my brother, whom I didn't know I had, and we
8 have had a good relationship ever since then.

9 Q. And you --

10 A. My mother is now deceased.

11 Q. From your brother you also discovered that, in fact, you
12 had had a sister, who had sadly died as a baby?

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. And you in paragraph 41 talked about after you left the
15 _____ business you engaged in a
16 company in _____ Melbourne?

17 A. Yes, yes, I did, yes.

18 Q. Despite efforts on your own part and your brother's part
19 your mother really wanted nothing to do with you?

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. And sadly -- sadly she then died. Isn't that correct?

22 A. Yes. She also -- she did say to me that -- I asked her
23 about _____ and she did say, "Well, she died and you
24 were very small anyway, so you were going to die". That
25 was her words.

1 Q. Now you mention in -- I have mentioned the newspaper
2 articles and you talk about in paragraph 42 the visit to
3 Northern Ireland and the then that was
4 attendant on that, and that you yourself

5

6

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. That made a huge change to your life. It was only -- in
9 paragraph 44 you talk about the Child Migrants Trust,
10 and you didn't initially seek their help, but you did do
11 so in the mid-1990s. You found their assistance --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- invaluable and you wish you had actually gone to them
14 many years earlier?

15 **A. Yes, I do. I do. The reason for that was I hadn't**
16 **really been open. I was worried about the prostitution.**
17 **I wasn't ready to come out, but since I found my mother**
18 **and it really in all honesty is only in the last twelve**
19 **months that I have decided to lay it on the line.**
20 **Having said that, in the last fifteen years it's been**
21 **very prominent throughout all Australian media about the**
22 **child sexual abuse. As a result of that eight months**
23 **ago my wife terminated our 48 year marriage, because**
24 **I was unable to just cope with what was going on. So**
25 **once I decided to lay it all on the table and be honest**

1 **it cost me my marriage. So I really hold them**
2 **responsible for that.**

3 Q. Yes. You do say in paragraph 45 that you married and
4 had three children and four grandchildren.

5 **A. Yes, yes.**

6 Q. You got your birth certificate from Northern Ireland
7 when you got married and you were 21?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. You talk about your grandson there. Then you say that
10 as a result of you opening up to your wife about what
11 had happened to you and the life that you had had that
12 that has now cost that marriage?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. And that's -- so the consequences, if I may say so,
15 HIA341, are still continuing for you even today?

16 **A. Oh, yes, yes. I'm just so sad that it's taken so long**
17 **to get to where we are now and I'm really sad but I'm**
18 **also really happy that I'm where I am and able to move**
19 **on I hope.**

20 Q. Paragraph 46 you say that even after 60 years living in
21 the country you are not an Australian?

22 **A. No.**

23 Q. You travel on a British passport but consider yourself
24 to be Irish. You have applied unsuccessfully to the
25 Australian government for citizenship and the last

1 government official made the comment to you, "Let me
2 tell you, HIA341, reckon that by 2040 you will all be
3 dead and it won't be a problem anymore."

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

5 Q. You say:

6 "In this country I could just disappear, as I don't
7 really belong here."

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Now when I asked you about the reason that your
10 applications for citizenship in Australia were
11 unsuccessful, what you have told me is that there is no
12 record of you having arrived into the country.

13 **A. The answer to that is, "Yes, we know you're here. We
14 don't know how you got here". So there seems to be some
15 sort of correlation between the British government and
16 the Australian government. At some point they don't
17 want to talk to one another or they don't want to
18 recognise that they were -- they were involved. I don't
19 understand it. I really -- I don't see why -- sorry.
20 You go.**

21 Q. No. I was going to say that we have seen what is
22 a PHIND document, a personal history index, in respect
23 of other child migrants. You don't feature on the
24 database that allows that document to be produced to
25 your knowledge?

1 A. No, no. Well, no, because I'm still travelling on
2 a British passport. I'm unable to get Australian
3 citizenship. I'm an Australian resident. So if I was
4 deported, it would be very interesting if they deported
5 me back to my own country, but I'm not entitled to
6 anything from there at this stage. I can't return to my
7 own country to live. The British government, in fact,
8 said to me I wouldn't be able to do that because
9 I hadn't paid any taxes in that country, in my own
10 country. So I wouldn't be entitled to receive a British
11 pension.

12 Q. So you're in essentially a limbo position. You have
13 been tax -- paying taxes --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- nonetheless in Australia over the years. Isn't that
16 correct?

17 A. Yes, it is correct. It is only a situation whereby if
18 I found myself in a situation where I was deported,
19 I would be getting back to where I was deported from.
20 So -- but that's where I am. It doesn't make sense to
21 me. I can't -- I don't belong anywhere. Very
22 frustrating. Mind you, Ireland will always be my
23 country, but I love Australia.

24 Q. Well, HIA341, as I explained to you this morning,
25 whenever we receive allegations about abuse in one of

1 the institutions here, we invite the body responsible
2 for that institution to respond to those allegations,
3 and the Inquiry --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- has received a written submission from Irish Church
6 Missions, who were the body responsible for running
7 Manor House Home in Lisburn. That is at AUS5941. I'm
8 just going to read to you certain parts of that which
9 I have already discussed with you this morning about
10 what they say about the claims that you have made about
11 what happened to you in Manor House.

12 If we go to the second paragraph, please, and just
13 highlight that, it says:

14 "In regard to the claims of HIA341 we find these
15 impossible to reconcile against his previous claim in
16 the documents he submitted to the Inquiry. On
17 page AUS11049 he is quoted in the ,
18 "'I have no memory of my life before I was 10', says
19 HIA341".

20 You were aged at the time that article was
21 written. You are now . Isn't that correct, HIA341?

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

23 Q. "He left Manor House home for Australia when he was 9.
24 This is inconsistent -- consistent with all the
25 newspaper articles that HIA341 has submitted to the HIA

1 Inquiry. In all of them he makes no mention whatsoever
2 of abuse in the Manor House Home, let alone the kind of
3 abuse he is now submitting to the Inquiry as having
4 experienced.

5 Furthermore ... the names he -- claims he is making
6 about Manor House Home, the only name he mentions in the
7 alleged abuse is of an older boy 'who might have been
8 an altar boy at the church'. Manor House Home is
9 a Protestant home attached to a Church of Ireland
10 church, Christ Church, Lisburn, where there were no such
11 things as altar boys. Such abuse could not therefore
12 have happened in Manor House Home. HIA341's recent
13 recollections are therefore not accurate."

14 I am inviting you, HIA341, to make any comment to --
15 about the response we have received from Irish Church
16 Missions.

17 **A. Firstly, I haven't received a copy of any of those**
18 **documents. What I would like to say is at the time**
19 **I was making those allegations I would like to make it**
20 **very clear I was desperately trying to find my family**
21 **and didn't wish to make any comment in relation to**
22 **anything. So it was far easier for me to just say**
23 **I don't know anything. However, my mother is now**
24 **deceased. So I now choose to make those allegations**
25 **that are a known allegation. They are a truth. They**

1 are a fact. It did happen. Okay? Now with my mother
2 being deceased I have -- and I have a wonderful
3 relationship with my mother -- with my brother and my
4 brother's family. I've made them aware of that before
5 I made it public. I don't have a problem with that.

6 Q. So essentially when you were speaking to
7 before, you were not in a position to divulge what you
8 say happened to you?

9 A. Well, I was in a position, had I chosen to, but
10 I desperately wanted to find my mother and have
11 a relationship with her, and as the memory of me -- or
12 their reference to, "If you don't shut up, we'll return
13 you to your mother", and I wanted to find out, "Why did
14 you ..." -- what reference was that, and I did get to
15 ask my mother that and she never responded to me. So
16 I still don't know.

17 Q. They talk -- they also say in reference to the
18 allegations made ---they talk that -- they say that in
19 the next paragraph:

20 "Corporal punishment was administered in the 1940s
21 by institutions and Manor House Home was no exception."

22 They also go on to quote minutes, committee minutes,
23 where they say that they took seriously any such
24 punishment -- sorry -- investigated any claim of
25 excessive punishment and they relate an incident where

1 they say they did do so. This is nothing to do with you
2 but just in respect of other boys complaining about
3 being excessively punished.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. They investigated that and they say that that shows that
6 any report of excessive punishment was taken seriously
7 by the Manor House Home Committee and the children were
8 not permitted to be subject to the kind of harsh
9 treatment which has been alleged by you.

10 Is there anything you want to say about that?

11 **A. Well, all I'd like to say to you is that we had -- at**
12 **Dhurringile there were seven paedophiles that went**
13 **through there in the time I was there. Every one of**
14 **those were charged with sexual assault. Unfortunately**
15 **almost every one of them died before we got them into**
16 **court, but we did get them charged with sexual abuse.**
17 **That's all I have to say. I don't see them as being any**
18 **different.**

19 Q. When we were talking earlier -- you are saying that you
20 expect them to deny what they say -- what you say
21 happened?

22 **A. Oh, absolutely. Why wouldn't you?**

23 Q. The one other thing that they say is that you later
24 wrote looking for information for your parents -- this
25 is the penultimate paragraph on this page -- and that

1 they enthusiastically endeavored to help you. They
2 actually wrote back to you in what they describe as
3 "a warm and sympathetic reply".

4 We looked at the document that they refer to, which
5 is at 11046, and this is a letter from the Reverend
6 George Thompson, to whom you had written. His reply is,
7 if I can just go to the fourth paragraph:

8 "I have endeavoured to contact your mother but
9 unfortunately I have not made any progress. I have
10 enquired at the address that appeared in our books but
11 she is no longer there and also the residents who have
12 been in that district for a long time have not been able
13 to help me. Regarding your father I am afraid I do
14 not -- I know absolutely nothing and I am very sorry
15 that I do not seem to be able to trace anything in this
16 connection.

17 I must apologise for the delay in replying to your
18 letter but this was due to the fact that I wanted to
19 explore every possible avenue of information regarding
20 above."

21 What is your response to that, HIA341?

22 **A. My first trip back to Northern Ireland I went to that**
23 **address. He did tell me, in fact, by phone, "As you**
24 **know, HIA341, in the Second World War, you know, we had**
25 **a lot of bombs and all of that area has now been**

1 rebuilt". My mother's address is still there. You only
2 had to walk 500 metres to find my mother hadn't, in
3 fact, left there very long and went to London, and
4 certainly my mother's sister, , didn't live very
5 far from her. So that to me -- they were just lying and
6 conniving. They never ever did tell me -- they were
7 able to tell me a number of ways of how my mother died.
8 They told me she was a nun. She had been killed in the
9 war. She died a number of ways, but I was never able to
10 find my mother's death certificate. They were never
11 able to produce my mother's death certificate. They, in
12 fact, did nothing to help me find my family.

13 Q. So essentially what the Irish Church Missions in the
14 final paragraph of their submission again at page 5941
15 are saying, that the claims are contradictory to your
16 earlier claims, in other words, they are saying that
17 because you didn't raise these issues and you say you
18 had no memory -- you told the you had no
19 memory of your life before you were ten, they say that
20 that is contradictory and therefore your claims are not
21 true.

22 A. Well, that was the only term that I -- that I felt
23 I could use. I didn't want to say anything. As I said
24 to you before, to find my mother and have a relationship
25 with my family was far more important to me than to

1 be -- than to make that public, particularly in the
2 sense that they referred to me many times as a child in
3 there, "You will be returned to your mother if you keep
4 this up". So that's all I have to say.

5 Q. Well, HIA341, one of the things that we also discussed
6 this morning and I want to raise with you is the fact
7 that you know that this Inquiry has to make
8 recommendations to the Northern Ireland Executive about
9 what should happen now, whether there should be redress,
10 a memorial, a monument or what really should happen to
11 deal with the allegations and findings that they arrive
12 at.

13 You have had some experience of the Redress Scheme
14 in Western Australia and I want to know what your view
15 is, what has been of benefit to you, has helped you, or
16 what you feel should happen now.

17 A. Okay. I did have redress but it wasn't with the
18 Australian government. It was directly against the
19 Presbyterian Church. Okay? Nothing to do with the
20 government. I think yes, there should be redress.
21 I really do, but more to the point I think that there
22 should be recognition. I think there should be
23 a monument of something -- right -- stuck in the middle
24 of Belfast that every paedophile walks past can see what
25 happened. I just want people to start believing what

1 happened to us. So I'd like to see that, but I wouldn't
2 like -- I would like to see the word "story" not be on
3 there anywhere, because this is not a story. This is
4 reality. This happened. It is not only happened to me.
5 It happened to hundreds and hundreds of children and,
6 yes, very much some sort of a monument somewhere in
7 Belfast.

8 Q. Well, thank you, HIA341. I'm just going to ask you if
9 there's anything else that you want to say to the
10 Inquiry or are you content that we have covered all the
11 matters you wish to raise with us? They obviously have
12 all the details in your statement, but I just want to
13 know if there's anything further you would like to say
14 at this point.

15 A. Yes, I would. I would like to thank the HIA in
16 particular for the work you guys have done. I would
17 also like to thank the Irish media while I was over
18 there and, Ian, my geologist, who looked after me whilst
19 I was there, and I love your country, and that's all I'd
20 like to say. Thank you very much. Thank you.

21 Q. Thank you very much, HIA341. I'm going to hand you over
22 to the Panel, who may have some questions for you.

23 A. Thank you.

24 **Questions from THE PANEL**

25 MR LANE: HIA341, thank you for your evidence. One of the

1 things which I would be interested to know, do you
2 recall taking any intelligence tests or anything like
3 that before you went out?

4 **A. No, but I -- they did attempt to give me an intelligence**
5 **test over here. They were unable to do so because I am**
6 **not able -- whilst I am an above average reader and my**
7 **command and understanding of the language is certainly**
8 **above average, but I am unable to write. That's due to**
9 **the fact that my hearing -- I don't hear I, E, C, P, H,**
10 **S, C. I don't hear those letters. So -- I would very**
11 **much like to have that done to me to find out, because I**
12 **have been Managing Director of not one company in**
13 **Australia but a number of companies in Australia. So**
14 **I'm quite -- I'm very intelligent. Thank you.**

15 **Q. Clearly you have demonstrated your competence in running**
16 **the businesses and so on, but at that time you had the**
17 **label of being retarded and I just wondered --**

18 **A. Yes.**

19 **Q. -- because Australia seems to have been fairly selective**
20 **in who it allowed in, and I'm interested that they let**
21 **you in if you had that label.**

22 **A. I can't answer your question. I really don't know or**
23 **I don't understand the question.**

24 **Q. Right. Okay. That's fine. Thank you.**

25 **A. Thank you.**

1 CHAIRMAN: HIA341, I just want to ask you one question about
2 your experience of school in Northern Ireland. You say
3 that when you came back, you went to the school in
4 Lisburn that you were supposed to have gone to.

5 **A. Yes, I did, yes.**

6 Q. And they did have a record of you being there. Isn't
7 that right?

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

9 Q. And can you remember what the details of the record was?
10 I mean, did they have copies of your annual school
11 report or anything like that?

12 **A. From memory it showed the process of when I went to**
13 **school and when I left school. Having said that, when I**
14 **arrived in Australia, I distinctly remember being put in**
15 **the fifth grade in Australia and very smartly went down**
16 **to the first grade and then back to the third grade.**
17 **The fact is I never, ever, ever went to school, nor**
18 **there or here. I think I was an embarrassment to the --**
19 **to the home. So rather than keep me at school they --**
20 **well, I was removed from school, because I hit the**
21 **headmaster because he was attempting to sexually abuse**
22 **me in Australia, and I was removed from there.**

23 I think the , if you like
24 to read that, that was one day of my life and that was
25 the start of my life. I was removed from school and

1 I chose to just write and hope one day I'd
2 very much like to make a movie of what really happened
3 and what a disgrace, what a disgrace these people are,
4 and all they did over here was just simply move them
5 from one institution to another institution.

6 I'm also very pleased that I was able to track every
7 one of them down except one and all I did was go up and
8 say to them, "Remember me? I'm little HIA341. I'll
9 never forget you" and walk away. It meant a lot to me
10 to be able to say that to them. Every one of those
11 people were charged with sexual abuse.

12 Q. Well, thank you very much indeed, HIA341, for speaking
13 to us about these matters.

14 A. Thank you.

15 Q. We're very grateful. I know it's probably quite late
16 now in Australia where you are, but again thank you for
17 speaking to us.

18 A. Thank you very much. Thank you.

19 MS SMITH: Thank you, HIA341.

20 Chairman, we will need just a very short break so
21 that the next witness can be brought into the room in
22 Melbourne.

23 Thank you, HIA341.

24 (Witness withdrew)

25 CHAIRMAN: Would you like us to rise for five minutes?

1 MS SMITH: Yes, please.

2 (10.50 am)

3 (Short break)

4 (10.55 am)

5 WITNESS HIA346 (called)

6 MS SMITH: Chairman, Panel Members, the witness -- next
7 witness from Melbourne is HIA346 and his name is HIA346.
8 Again he wishes to maintain his anonymity and he,
9 Chairman, is aware you're going to ask him about taking
10 the oath.

11 CHAIRMAN: Does he wish to take the oath or to affirm?

12 MS SMITH: I haven't asked him, Chairman.

13 CHAIRMAN: HIA346, you may take either a religious oath or,
14 if you wish, you may affirm, which is a non-religious
15 statement, but they have the same legal effect. It's
16 entirely a matter for you to choose whichever you wish.

17 **A. The religious one.**

18 CHAIRMAN: Very well.

19 WITNESS HIA 346 (sworn)

20 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

21 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

22 MS SMITH: HIA346, can you hear me okay?

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. Good. HIA346, you are now aged . Is that correct?

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. And if we could just go to your witness statement, which
2 is at AUS11117.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. I'm just asking that to be pulled up on our electronic
5 screens here. It just takes a little bit longer. This
6 is the witness statement of HIA4... -- sorry -- 346. If
7 we could go to the last page, which is 11124, and you
8 have signed the witness statement there on 28th
9 October 2013, HIA346. Is that correct?

10 **A. Yes, yes.**

11 Q. And can I just confirm with you that this is the
12 evidence that you wish the Inquiry to consider as part
13 of your account to it?

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. And can I just say, Chairman and Panel Members, there is
16 some documents in relation to HIA346, some of which
17 I will be referring you to, but the full body of
18 documents can be found at 11125 through to 11172.

19 CHAIRMAN: Does HIA346 wish to maintain or waive his
20 anonymity?

21 MS SMITH: Yes, he does.

22 You do wish to maintain your anonymity. Isn't that
23 correct, HIA346?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Now if we could go back to the first page of your

1 statement, which is 11117 --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- at paragraph 1 there you set out your personal
4 circumstances and how you came to be placed at Manor
5 House Home in Lisburn, and that was as a result of your
6 mother being advised by the local Church of Ireland
7 minister that that's where she ought to place you after
8 she couldn't look after you herself.

9 **A. No. My mother was working at the time and I was in the**
10 **care of someone. I don't know where it was,**
11 **an institution or something, but she told me that I was**
12 **getting belted there, and she went and seen the minister**
13 **and he advised her to put me in the Manor House Home**
14 **until she could get back on her feet again, until her**
15 **circumstances changed.**

16 Q. And you then stayed in Manor House until you were eight
17 years of age, but you have memories of your mother
18 visiting you regularly in the home and bringing you
19 chocolate, and you used to look forward to her visits.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. You describe that in paragraph 2. You describe in
22 paragraph 3 what life was like for you in Manor House.
23 You say it was a mixed home. There were boys and girls
24 of all ages and there were about four and five in each
25 room. You remember that you were beaten a couple of

1 times by staff but you can't recall their names. Then
2 you describe an incident where you were carrying a brick
3 and you dropped it on your toe and you were hit by the
4 staff member for carrying the brick. You say that you
5 later found out that the brick was attached to a rope.
6 It was tied to you to stop you from running away.

7 Have you any recollection, HIA346, of trying to run
8 away from the home?

9 **A. No, but I didn't get hit for carrying the brick. I got**
10 **hit because I dropped the brick on my foot and my**
11 **toenails nearly disappeared. I didn't get hit for that**
12 **and, no, I didn't remember going -- all I can remember**
13 **there was no fences around the place, because we used to**
14 **walk across the paddock to school, and there was no high**
15 **fences or anything.**

16 Q. So you think that is why they attached a rope, so that
17 you wouldn't leave the premises?

18 **A. Yes, yes.**

19 Q. And you say that you were also tied to your bed at
20 night?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. And you say that you were beaten, and you think it was
23 by way of disciplining you, and that after being beaten
24 you were put into cold water baths and you assume that
25 was to prevent bruising?

1 **A. Well, I'm only guessing that, but I remember we were put**
2 **into cold water. I don't know what the -- it was for**
3 **punishment.**

4 Q. But you do say if you ever played up, the staff
5 threatened your mother wouldn't come and visit you.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. And you do remember going to school. You remember going
8 to the public elementary school, which was just down the
9 road.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. And you remember going to church every Sunday, Church of
12 Ireland church.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. And you -- this was the life that you had and you didn't
15 know any different.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. And in paragraph --

18 **A. I --**

19 Q. Sorry.

20 **A. I was just going to say when I went back, I went back**
21 **and got my school records for my years attending there.**

22 Q. But do you yourself have recollection of being at the
23 school?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. And you say in paragraph 5 your mother subsequently

1 married in 1949.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. And years later she said she told her husband about you
4 and that they came to Manor House to take you home, but
5 that she was told you were adopted by a wealthy family
6 in Dublin.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Now you also say, as you have said, that you did get
9 your school records, and those records show that you
10 were taken out of school for a period of about a month,
11 and you believe that that was when your mother and her
12 husband and his children went to the home to collect
13 you.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. But you weren't at school and you certainly didn't see
16 your mother come before you went to Australia. Isn't
17 that correct?

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. Your mother then didn't -- though she didn't have any
20 more children, she looked after her husband's children
21 and they continued to live in Belfast until her husband
22 retired and they went then to live in England.

23 **A. Yes. He had I think it was one girl and one boy and**
24 **they lived with him, but they weren't really close to my**
25 **mother.**

1 Q. Well, can I just then take you to paragraphs 6 to 8
2 where you talk about your migration to Australia? You
3 don't remember what you were told about going, but you
4 do remember some of the older boys in Manor House saying
5 you would come back black because of the sun and you
6 didn't want to go when you heard that.

7 **A. They told me if I went out -- they told me if I went out**
8 **there, I'd be black, because -- like the aboriginals.**
9 **I didn't want to be black. I didn't want to go.**
10 **I didn't want to leave my mother, because she used to**
11 **bring me chocolates.**

12 Q. But you don't remember anybody ever asking you if you
13 wanted to go?

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. You were one of seven boys who were sent to Australia in
16 December 1950. You went on the MV Cheshire, which is
17 a former troop ship.

18 CHAIRMAN: Eight boys.

19 MS SMITH: Sorry. Eight boys. I beg your pardon. Eight
20 boys in total left from Manor House, although I think it
21 is true to say that there were only seven of you who
22 were actually living in Manor House. Isn't that
23 correct, or do you remember?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. There was another boy who came --

1 **A. No.**

2 Q. -- about a week before you left.

3 **A. He come and joined -- come and joined -- he come and**
4 **joined us.**

5 Q. You remember that there were 29 boys in total that went
6 on the ship, eight from Ireland and 21 from Scotland and
7 England.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. And you had to share clothes from a small suitcase. You
10 weren't allowed to wear your shoes on the ship and you
11 remember --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- a minister called Boag being on the ship with you.

14 **A. Yes. That suitcase was only for the boys from Ireland.**
15 **We didn't have many clothes between all of us.**

16 Q. Do you remember that you were starving for the first
17 three or four days because no-one told you where you
18 were supposed to go to eat? You weren't allowed in the
19 dining room of the ship. You had to eat in a separate
20 area. So you missed out on meals for the first few
21 days.

22 You were allowed to run around the ship with little
23 supervision and you think that you had lessons on board.

24 **A. Yes. We had some lessons, and because we were eating**
25 **separate to all the other passengers, I didn't know**

1 **where we were supposed to be going.**

2 Q. Now there's some documentation that we received in
3 respect of you. If we just look at 11163, please, this
4 is a document which has been compiled by someone on
5 behalf of the Manor House Home. You should have a copy
6 of that. Do you have that with you?

7 **A. Got it, yes.**

8 Q. That's great. It says there that there's a minute of --
9 there were two -- it gives the names of two boys and it
10 says:

11 "These were two of seven boys from Manor House Home
12 who went to Australia under a child migrant scheme of
13 the Presbyterian Church."

14 It refers to the minute book of the committee of the
15 home and it names the other five boys who went. It then
16 summarises:

17 "The Presbyterian Church approached Manor House in
18 1950 to ask for boys to go to Australia under their
19 migrant scheme. The Manor House Home Committee meeting
20 on 16th June 1950 decided to obtain further information
21 on the scheme, asking the matron to find out more and
22 refer it to the superintendent of the Irish Church
23 Missions."

24 Then it tells -- the minute of 2nd November 1950,
25 which tells the committee that seven boys had been

1 selected, and it has no records of how the selection was
2 made, if parental consent was sought and if any medical
3 examination was carried out.

4 "The minute simply states that the seven boys would
5 be fully cared for, educated and given the best possible
6 start in life under this scheme."

7 Now if I can pause there and refer to another
8 document, which is 11126, this is, in fact, the medical
9 examination that is recorded in respect of yourself,
10 HIA346, but you yourself --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- have no memory of undergoing that medical
13 examination?

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. And it's dated -- it's dated 14th September 1950, if we
16 can just scroll down, please --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- and it seems to have been signed by it looks like
19 Walter E. Dick, who may well have been a doctor situated
20 on the Lisburn Road in Belfast, because he is certified
21 as being the medical examiner, but you don't remember
22 that in any event.

23 Then if we could look at another document, which is
24 your child migration form, which is at 11128, and --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- we will see this is completed in respect of yourself,
2 giving your address and so forth. If we go down where
3 it is the section that is the "Parent's or guardian's
4 consent", it is signed by the matron of Manor House
5 Home, Lisburn --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- and she's described as your guardian, and it's dated
8 20th July 1950. Your date of birth is recorded on that
9 migration certificate, but you say that that is
10 incorrect. Now can we just scroll back up again?

11 **A. In some -- in some of the certificates it's right. In
12 some it's changed. I can't see where this one is signed
13 (inaudible).**

14 Q. It is blocked out. It's very difficult even on the
15 document that you have. The redaction policy that we
16 have applied to it makes it difficult for you to see,
17 but it's given a date as the -- in of .

18 **A. Yes. Well, my birthday is .**

19 Q. So the date on your child migration scheme -- form,
20 rather, is incorrect?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. You also believe that that's when people started calling
23 you HIA346 instead of by your first name, your given
24 name, which again I'm going to use but it's not to be
25 used outside this chamber, and your first name was

1 HIA346. You were actually HIA346.

2 **A. My mother called me HIA346 and I don't know if you've**
3 **seen that one in the diary I got, the photo. It was**
4 **every year from 1949 she put in her diary "**
5 **birthday", because she didn't want anyone to see it, but**
6 **she always called me HIA346.**

7 Q. Can I then -- there's a couple of photographs that you
8 have also given to us. One is at 11134. I think this
9 was actually taken when you were in Australia. That is
10 the Dhurringile pipe band. Is that correct?

11 **A. Yes, that's the pipe band we were in.**

12 Q. Are you in that photograph?

13 **A. I'm the bloke in the , the from the**
14 **on the back.**

15 Q. Then if we can also look at 11150, now there are two
16 photographs here. The top photograph, can you explain
17 what that is?

18 **A. That's a picture of Manor House.**

19 Q. And you will see it is actually "Photo by courtesy of
20 the Belfast Telegraph". So it was obviously a photo
21 that was published in the Belfast Telegraph, and it is
22 described as "Open day June 18th, 1960. Some of our
23 visitors (our children like to invite their friends
24 sometimes)".

25 You obviously weren't there in 1960, having left ten

1 years previously.

2 **A. No. They shipped me out. I'm not. Yes.**

3 Q. -- but I just wanted to ask you did the home look like
4 that? Is that how you remember it?

5 **A. I don't remember the size so much. I remember the
6 front, because I used to meet my mother in the front
7 area, in the hall there. That was the drive going up.**

8 Q. The drive up to it?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. If we just scroll down that page, there's a second
11 photograph which we've looked at with the last witness,
12 but this is a photograph that was taken on board the
13 ship that took you to Australia, and we've identified
14 the captain and the Reverend Boag. Where are you in
15 that photograph, HIA346?

16 **A. I'm the from the on the .**

17 Q. So you're in the row, the from the ,
18 the little boy with hair, and a
19 ?

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. Now when you arrived in Australia in Melbourne on 15th
22 December 1950 you were taken to Dhurringile --
23 Dhurringile -- Dhurringile. I am never getting this
24 pronunciation right I'm afraid.

25 **A. Dhurringile.**

1 Q. Dhurringile.

2 **A. Dhurringile.**

3 Q. You record your life there in paragraphs 9 to 15. If I
4 may say -- you are aware what happened to you in
5 Australia is outside the scope of this Inquiry, but what
6 you describe is a regime that is very regimented, a home
7 which was strong on discipline, but you yourself,
8 although you know other people have complained about
9 what happened to them there, you have no major
10 complaints about abuse that you suffered there. Is that
11 correct?

12 **A. Not sexual abuse or anything, but you got a hiding if**
13 **you had done something wrong, but you brought up the**
14 **point about not affected after we left the home in Manor**
15 **House, but that affects your whole life, doesn't it?**
16 **It's -- I'd like to point out a few points about what's**
17 **happened to me since I left Manor House, about my**
18 **mother, telling her I was --**

19 Q. Sorry. Sorry to interrupt you, HIA346. We are going to
20 come to talk about the effects of what happened to you.
21 When I say that we're not looking at what happened to
22 you in Australia, because the Inquiry simply cannot look
23 at -- I'm talking about what happened to you in the care
24 of Dhurringile. We can't look at that institution,
25 because that institution is outside our terms of

1 reference. I don't mean to say we are not looking at
2 how your life was affected by your life in --

3 **A. That's what I was thinking, because if I hadn't been**
4 **sent here, my life would have been different. You**
5 **wouldn't be talking about it, but because I was -- my**
6 **birthday was changed, my name was changed, it affects my**
7 **whole life even from I was -- it has affected right**
8 **through into Australia. So you sort of can't ignore**
9 **that.**

10 Q. Forgive me. I've maybe confused you, HIA346. I didn't
11 for one minute suggest that the Inquiry was going to
12 ignore that. All I was trying to make plain was that
13 your life in Dhurringile, what happened to you, we have
14 heard from some children that they were abused in
15 institutions in Australia and we can't investigate their
16 allegations of abuse in those homes, and that's really
17 all I'm trying to say is that we're not looking at that
18 aspect of your account, but certainly the rest of it is
19 indeed a matter that the Inquiry will have regard to.
20 So it's not being ignored. So forgive me if I have
21 misled you. I didn't mean to.

22 **A. All right. Yes.**

23 Q. There is and I should have said that there is
24 a newspaper report which I think is probably -- it's
25 found at pages 11143 to 44, which is an interview that

1 you have yourself given to a newspaper in Australia --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- where you do quite graphically talk about the effect
4 of what happened to you on your life, and I'm not going
5 to open that, but that is there to be read, and I just
6 want to make clear that although you have been named in
7 that newspaper article, you nonetheless wish to maintain
8 your anonymity for the purposes of this Inquiry?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. Now, as I've said, I was just coming on to talk to you
11 about life after care, but one of the things that
12 I wanted to highlight, in your statement at paragraph 12
13 you talk about when you were in the home in Australia,
14 you were told to write letters home to Ireland and you
15 asked to whom you were supposed to write, as you were
16 an orphan, and the staff --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- told you to write to Manor House. Now can I just
19 pause there? But you remember your mother coming. When
20 were you told that you were an orphan?

21 **A. They were trying to tell us all the time. When they
22 told us to write letters to Manor House, I says, "What
23 about my mother?" and they says, "Well, you're
24 an orphan", because that was put on our papers.**

25 Q. Well, did you write to Manor House?

1 **A. I did, but I don't think the letters were ever posted.**

2 Q. Do you ever remember receiving any communication
3 yourself from Manor House?

4 **A. Nothing at all.**

5 Q. Now just in respect of -- we discussed earlier -- I am
6 going come on to talk about the effect of all of this on
7 you shortly, but you are aware the Inquiry has received
8 a written submission from the Irish Church Missions,
9 which is the group that deals with or was responsible
10 for, I should say, Manor House Home at the time that you
11 were there. They have -- it can be found at AUS5941.
12 I am just going to read you a few passages from that.
13 I know you don't have that document with you, because we
14 only recently received it and didn't have the
15 opportunity to send it to you, but it says:

16 "In regard to HIA346, the tenor of the claims are
17 vague with no staff named in the couple of times he says
18 he was beaten by staff. Certainly corporal punishment
19 was administered in the 1940s by institutions and Manor
20 House Home was no exception. However, the Manor House
21 Home noted and took seriously any such punishment and
22 indeed investigated any claim of excessive punishment."

23 It then quotes an example from their
24 committee minutes of such an investigation and says
25 that:

1 "All this shows that any report of excessive
2 punishment was taken seriously by the Manor House Home
3 Committee and the children were not permitted to be
4 subjected to the kind of harsh treatment alleged by ..."
5 you and another person.

6 It also goes on to say:

7 "Children were free to question the ... physical
8 punishment."

9 Can you -- can I ask you what you want to say about
10 that, HIA346? What is your reply to their comments on
11 what you have said?

12 **A. Well, I just -- I was -- between -- my school record**
13 **shows 1947 I was in the home up to 1950, and I wouldn't**
14 **know any of the people that were in the home. I hardly**
15 **know any of the people in the home or at the school that**
16 **were supposed to be looking after us. I just don't**
17 **remember the names. It's been a long time.**

18 **Q.** And then what -- have you any comment to make about the
19 fact that they took any report of excessive punishment
20 seriously and that you were not permitted to be subject
21 to the kind of harsh treatment that you describe?

22 **A. Well, I don't think you have to be beaten up in a home**
23 **to be chastised for anything, because we were just**
24 **getting hit and that was it.**

25 **Q.** Can I -- they also say that -- further down:

1 "The material submitted by HIA346", that's yourself,
2 "clearly shows that the proper procedures concerning the
3 certificates of migration and medical examinations were
4 followed by Manor House Home. Furthermore, the minutes
5 show that the committee took the initiative to write to
6 the boys."

7 And do you remember -- you have already said you
8 don't remember ever receiving any letter from Manor
9 House Home.

10 **A. No. Got nothing from Manor House Home since 1950 when**
11 **I left.**

12 Q. Even --

13 **A. Nothing at all.**

14 Q. Even as an adult, as an ex-boy from -- after you left
15 Dhurringile you never received any communication?

16 **A. No. Got nothing. Got nothing. No birth certificate,**
17 **nothing.**

18 Q. Can I then just ask you about -- sorry. You talk then,
19 if we can move back to your statement, please, at 11121
20 -- page 11121. If we can scroll on down to paragraph 16
21 --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- you talk about meeting your wife in 1960 and marrying
24 in 1966.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. And a local minister was able to get a copy of your
2 birth certificate. That's when you discovered that your
3 name had been changed and that the HIA346 had been
4 dropped from the usage of your name, and you noticed
5 also --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- you were aware that your date of birth had been
8 changed. How did you become aware? Was that from this
9 birth certificate or how did you know that your birth
10 date had been changed from to ?

11 A. Well, again when I was -- I thought my birthday was in
12 and then I got to Dhurringile and they says,
13 "Oh, it is your birthday in ". I says, "No,
14 I don't think so". I says, "I thought it was in
15 ." I suppose all kids know when their birthday
16 is, but you probably didn't receive anything, and that's
17 when I found out, when the minister -- I had to get the
18 minister to write to try to get a birth certificate for
19 us, otherwise he wouldn't perform the ceremony.

20 Q. So it would appear because your date of birth was given
21 incorrectly on your child migration form, those people
22 who looked after you in Dhurringile took that as your
23 date of birth, even though, in fact, when you got your
24 birth certificate, you were right and you were born in
25 ?

1 **A. Yes, yes. It was changed a couple of times there.**

2 Q. You go on to talk about your married life, having two
3 children and a grandchild, being very close to your
4 children and having a great relationship. You are very
5 protective of your family.

6 In paragraph 17 you say you didn't do anything about
7 finding out about your family for years, because you
8 thought they knew you were in Australia. They sent you
9 out there so they could find you if they wanted to. It
10 was only when you saw the documentary about the Child
11 Migrants Trust that you contacted them in Melbourne in
12 2000 -- sorry -- you contacted them, and in 2000 they
13 contacted you to say they had found your mother.

14 They arranged for you to travel to England to meet
15 her and they paid for that trip. Her husband had passed
16 away and she was living alone. She was in ill health
17 and needed a wheelchair, and you describe it as the
18 worst day of your life when you met her, because you
19 were a stranger to her. You describe the conditions in
20 which she was living. She showed you the diaries that
21 you have been talking to us about where she had kept
22 entries marked "HIA346's birthday" every year, but
23 hadn't told anyone else about your existence except her
24 mother, who had long since passed away, although I think
25 you told us earlier in your statement her husband knew

1 about it and he had come to the home looking for you
2 with her.

3 **A. That was the idea, to put me in a home until she got**
4 **back on her feet. When she got married in July, she**
5 **went back to the home to pick me up, and they told her**
6 **I was adopted by a wealthy home -- family in Dublin, and**
7 **the records show for that -- in July I was taken out of**
8 **school for about a month, and also she was charged a sum**
9 **of money when she was there, and she didn't know why she**
10 **had to pay the money. She didn't know why she had to**
11 **pay the money.**

12 **Q. She told you she had to pay for you?**

13 **A. She had to -- the home wanted her -- some money out of**
14 **her, and she said she didn't know what the money was**
15 **for, but she paid it anyway.**

16 **Q. I should say that -- I will come back to that in**
17 **a moment, but you then describe in paragraphs 18 and 19**
18 **the difficulty that you had dealing with the situation**
19 **that your mother was in, and your stepbrother didn't**
20 **allow you to have any contact with her -- with your --**
21 **sorry -- with your mother, and it was only after again**
22 **engaging the help of the Child Migrants Trust that they**
23 **engaged a solicitor on your behalf and you were able to**
24 **reestablish contact with her. There are -- in the**
25 **documents that you have provided to us there are letters**

1 from the solicitor to that effect.

2 You say your mother didn't want you to go to Ireland
3 and your relations because she hadn't told any of them
4 about it, but you wanted to find out where you came
5 from. You found out you had an extended family and
6 visited them in 2000, 2003 and also 2007 and they were
7 very welcoming. You are still in regular contact with
8 your cousins. You visited your mother again in 2007
9 while she was in a nursing home.

10 In paragraph 20 you talk about going back to Manor
11 House in 2000 and you say that's where you spoke to
12 a gardener who was at the home. You got in contact with
13 him, and you he told you that he thought that the home
14 received £30 for each child that they sent to Australia.
15 You said you didn't think there were any other children
16 from Ireland other than the group that you travelled
17 with ended up in Dhurringile.

18 Can I just pause there to say that the submission
19 that the Irish Church Missions has sent to us is to the
20 effect that they never got any money for any of the
21 children that they sent out to Australia. So what the
22 gardener has said to you they dispute.

23 Then in February 2010 you were part of a group that
24 was present when Gordon Brown, the former Prime
25 Minister, attended -- gave an official apology on behalf

1 of the UK government.

2 You then -- I will come back to that shortly, but
3 you talk about your mother dying, and there were still
4 difficulties with your stepbrother, and you then talk
5 about your own personal health difficulties in recent
6 years.

7 You are still in contact with some of the boys who
8 were with you in the home in Australia, and when you get
9 together, you talk about happy times and try to forget
10 the times that were not so good.

11 If I can just read your last paragraph, you say:

12 "People say 'You are lucky that you are here' and to
13 some extent I am, but I feel hurt at being taken away
14 from my family and what I have missed out on, being told
15 that I was an orphan, my mother being told that I had
16 been adopted out, having my name and date of birth
17 changed so that she would have no way of tracing me.

18 I missed out on fifty years of special moments that only
19 a family can provide. I was taken away from my mother
20 and family as a child and that also cannot be filled."

21 Now that's a statement you have made in your witness
22 statement, HIA346, and I think it sums up what you were
23 trying to say to me earlier about how -- the effect of
24 being a child migrant has had on your life.

25 I am going to ask you if you want to add anything to

1 that or if there's anything else that you wish to say to
2 the Inquiry and want them to know at this stage, this is
3 your opportunity to do so.

4 **A. Yes.** In 2000, when I went over I took with me my wife
5 over there, and I went to the house and I went
6 inside and the smell was that bad I couldn't believe it.
7 There was no hot water. The house was filthy. The
8 fridge was opened that much that all the food had been
9 put in -- a bloke came around every week and just stuck
10 more food in the fridge. It was chockers. It wasn't
11 working properly. She was getting one day a week for
12 four hours a day on Fridays for a person to come in,
13 take her for a walk, do her banking and clean the house
14 up.

15 Well, that was wrong. I went there. The wheelchair
16 was flat, the tyres. It was perished. We had three
17 bins of rubbish to get out of the house.

18 I went to see if I could get a doctor to her.
19 I went into the doctor's surgery. I was told I could
20 not get a doctor to see my mother because her name was
21 and my name was HIA346 and I am not on the next
22 of kin list. So he would not go and see her and she was
23 in bad health.

24 Then I was trying to look around what to go and
25 I went and see an MP, Mr Blizzard, and I spoke to him

1 about it. She used to sit in front of the heater all
2 day watching TV and she'd put a blanket on her lap in
3 front of a gas heater and the blanket was nearly burnt
4 to pieces. I said to him -- I says, "There is going to
5 be an accident here". I says, "Can I get someone to go
6 in there?" He went and seen the people in care of the
7 -- that does the looking after the people and I got four
8 days -- four afternoons.

9 After that I had trouble with her. She had a fall
10 on a Friday or something or on the week-end she had
11 a fall after this person had left, and she was taken to
12 hospital, and they put her in hospital, and the
13 stepbrother took her Power of Attorney. He got two
14 nurses to sign the form. I went to see ,
15 who was in charge of the hospital. He was on the board
16 of the hospital and he says, "Two nurses cannot give
17 Power of Eternity -- Power of Attorney". He says, "You
18 can't do anything about that, but it shouldn't be done".
19 I asked to talk to one of the nurses who signed the
20 Attorney -- Power of Attorney, and she says -- I says,
21 "Did you sign that?" and she hung up. She wouldn't talk
22 to me.

23 Then after that we had a lot of trouble and the
24 stepson says, "I am going to put her in a home where you
25 won't even see her". After she got out of hospital he

1 put her in a home in . I tried to get calls
2 there to her. I couldn't call her, because all calls
3 from Australia were blocked, because he had the Power of
4 Attorney and I wasn't next of kin, so I couldn't talk to
5 her.

6 In 2010 she passed away. I wasn't allowed to attend
7 the funeral. It had to be a private funeral. I tried
8 to get a person from Child Migrants Trust to go along to
9 represent me. They were not allowed. So he went ahead
10 with the wedding (sic). I talked to the funeral
11 director. He said, "He's paid for the funeral and you
12 can't do anything about it", and as far as I know he's
13 still got the ashes there. They haven't been scattered
14 -- I don't think so -- as far as I know. I don't even
15 know what has happened.

16 Q. Clearly the difficulties that you have had since you
17 were able to find your mother have caused you some
18 distress.

19 A. Well, when we went over there, what we were doing was
20 trying to fix things up for her, make life easier for
21 her. It was not a holiday. It was just trying to look
22 after her in the best possible way.

23 Q. And certainly the steps that you took seem to have made
24 her life certainly more comfortable in the last stages
25 when you got in touch with her MP, HIA346. I can see

1 that this --

2 **A. Well, it improved her health anyway a little bit.**

3 Q. One other thing that -- I have indicated that you were
4 there present when Gordon Brown made his apology, and we
5 have -- this Inquiry has to make recommendations
6 ultimately to the Northern Ireland Executive as to what
7 should happen, whether there should be memorials, or
8 whether there should be apologies, whether there should
9 be redress. Those of you who have been child migrants
10 in Australia have some experience of this. As you've
11 said, you were present in London when that apology was
12 made, and I want to know and the Inquiry wants to know
13 from you what your views are about what should happen
14 now and what you might feel was beneficial, what isn't
15 beneficial and what your views are.

16 **A. Well, the only part I liked about the apology was that**
17 **they were going give \$6 million to us to visit over**
18 **there, but I don't think that's enough. It might be**
19 **enough money, but it is the way it is distributed.**
20 I wanted to take my family over there. They are part of
21 my whole life, like. If I get over there -- I went over
22 there. I had to pay for my wife, but she was part of
23 the family, and I think my son and my daughter would
24 want to go over there as well, and I don't think it's
25 enough, two weeks. When we went over there to visit

1 her, we were just running around chasing, looking after
2 her. We weren't sightseeing or anything. I think that
3 families need to be -- the whole family needs to be
4 going over, the immediate family.

5 Q. You would have liked the opportunity to have funding to
6 bring your son and your daughter to visit your mum
7 and --

8 **A. Yes. Immediate family, yes.**

9 Q. So, HIA346, that is essentially all that I want to ask
10 you about. The Panel Members may have something that
11 they would like to know more about from you. So I'm
12 going to hand over to them now. If you just stay there,
13 please.

14 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA346, you may or may not be relieved to
15 know that we don't have any questions. Thank you very
16 much for taking the time and the trouble to come to
17 speak to us from Australia. I know it's probably
18 getting on a bit there now at night, but we are very
19 grateful to you for speaking to the Inquiry both today
20 and in the past. Thank you very much.

21 **A. Thank you.**

22 MS SMITH: Thank you, HIA346.

23 (Witness withdrew)

24 Reading of documents from IRISH CHURCH MISSIONS

25 MS SMITH: Chairman, the Irish Church Mission had been

1 informed of the witnesses who were going to give
2 evidence today, and certainly I am unaware of any
3 representative, either legal or otherwise, from that
4 body present in the chamber. We have checked those who
5 are present and there doesn't appear to be anyone from
6 them, but I am going to take the -- take you to some
7 documentation that we have received from them.

8 The first is a response to the Solicitor to the
9 Inquiry's letter setting out a number of queries. That
10 can be found at 11057. If I can just read this to the
11 Inquiry, you will see that they answer the questions
12 asked which were set out (a), (b), (c), (d) and so
13 forth. Some of the answers I think should be read into
14 the record, and it says -- answer (a) is -- I don't have
15 unfortunately Mr Butler's original letter, but it is in
16 the Inquiry papers and that can be added to, but some of
17 the answers are here.

18 "(a) Irish Church Missions was not involved in the
19 Child -- Australian migrant schemes except for the
20 one-off sending of seven boys in 1950.

21 This was in response to a request from the
22 Presbyterian Church in Australia and Ireland."

23 They have appended -- they have added certain
24 documents in appendices, and they refer to this as
25 Appendix A and C. They are in the bundle, and if we

1 could just go to those, first of all.

2 Appendix A is at 11059. This is a handwritten
3 committee minute dated 16th June 1950. If we could
4 scroll to the bottom of that page.

5 CHAIRMAN: Just take it slowly.

6 MS SMITH: Sorry. It talks about the registration as
7 a voluntary home on 16th June 1950.

8 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

9 MS SMITH: But the relevant section is the last
10 paragraph, which is -- you can see there is a yellow
11 post-it just marking it and above that it says:

12 "Matron reported that the Presbyterian authorities
13 in Belfast had been in communication with her and wished
14 to introduce one of the representatives of that church
15 who were at present on a visit to Ireland from Australia
16 and Canada for the purpose of procuring boys as
17 emigrants. MH 1 to obtain further information and
18 submit to for his suggestions."

19 CHAIRMAN: And the date of that is?

20 MS SMITH: That is 16th June 1950.

21 If we could go then to 11061, which is another
22 extract from their committee minute books, and this is
23 dated 2nd November 1950. Again the yellow post-it marks
24 the relevant -- the commencement of the relevant
25 section, and it says:

1 "Matron reported that the seven boys selected for
2 migration to Australia under the Dhurringile Rural
3 Farming Scheme in connection with the Presbyterian
4 Church at Victoria would shortly be leaving and will
5 travel via Liverpool to", I think that's, "Tatura, about
6 100 miles from Melbourne in the beautiful district of
7 the Goulburn Valley. They will be educated at a local
8 state school, high schools and technical school and be
9 trained in farming, and if any boy desired to enter
10 a trade or profession, the church will provide them with
11 every facility to do so and will sponsor them through
12 his apprenticeship or course."

13 The minute is actually signed. Although the date of
14 the committee meeting is 2nd November, there's
15 a handwritten date and signature of someone -- Bannister
16 I think it is, G.S. Bannister, 7th December 1950.

17 CHAIRMAN: Can I just interpose? This refers to seven boys.

18 MS SMITH: Yes. The eighth boy would have been --

19 CHAIRMAN: I'm speaking from recollection, but does the
20 passenger manifest not list six boys?

21 MS SMITH: I'd have to check that, Chairman. I have not
22 looked at it. Perhaps Miss Dougan can check that for me
23 now, but certainly there were eight boys in total left
24 --

25 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

1 MS SMITH: -- because there were the seven Manor House boys,
2 two of whom we have heard from today, and yesterday's
3 witness, who travelled with them and he -- he remembers
4 being for a short period in Manor House.

5 CHAIRMAN: Yes, but there were according to some documents
6 two from Coleraine where this portion of evidence we
7 have heard today would suggest there is only one. It is
8 not terribly significant.

9 MS SMITH: As we're discovering, some of the records are --

10 CHAIRMAN: But the Coleraine boy would have --

11 MS SMITH: -- hard to put together to get precise numbers --

12 CHAIRMAN: Yes. The --

13 MS SMITH: -- but certainly there were --

14 CHAIRMAN: -- Coleraine boys would have been under the
15 jurisdiction of the County Londonderry County Welfare
16 Committee.

17 MS SMITH: So they therefore may not have been living in
18 Manor House at the time.

19 CHAIRMAN: Well, they wouldn't have been, but the impression
20 I have, rightly or wrongly, at the moment is that they
21 used Manor House as a staging post before they went to
22 Australia, because the passenger manifest that I have in
23 mind I think shows two boys and there's an address which
24 is probably the County Londonderry County Welfare
25 Committee headquarters on Strand Road in Coleraine.

1 MS SMITH: We can certainly look through the bundle --

2 CHAIRMAN: So 6 and 2 or 7 and 1.

3 MS SMITH: We will look through the bundle and I can perhaps
4 maybe check that over the lunch break and see if we can
5 find the document.

6 CHAIRMAN: I think in -- certainly this speaks of seven boy.

7 MS SMITH: It does, yes.

8 Then if I can go back to 11057, please, we will see
9 that the answer to the question (b) that was posed says
10 that:

11 "The Presbyterian officials explained about the
12 training farm the boys were going to. The initial
13 request was followed by a few months of referral to the
14 superintendent and the trustees ..."

15 That is would be the superintendent and trustees of
16 Manor House:

17 "... before the decision was given. The trustees
18 seemed satisfied that this was a good opportunity for
19 them. (See appendix D)."

20 Appendix D is AUS11062 and it is dated 10th May 1951
21 and again it is an extract from the committee minutes,
22 and if we look at the yellow post-it, it just starts
23 there:

24 "Letters -- letters were read from the Society for
25 the Irish Church Missions, London intimating their

1 pleasure that the friends in Australia had taken such
2 a keen interest in the boys from this home and the
3 wonderful opportunity to start in a new country.
4 Information had been given to the editor of the Banner
5 of the Truth in Ireland and would likely appear in the
6 forthcoming issue."

7 If we can move on to the following page, which is
8 appendix (e), you can see that it, in fact -- this is
9 an extract from the Banner of Truth, which is a church
10 publication, and under "Manor House Home, Lisburn", if
11 we move to the second page of that document there where
12 the asterisk is, it reads:

13 "Early in November seven of our boys sailed away to
14 Australia. They are going to a training school from
15 which there will be opportunities for them to enter
16 secondary schools and the universities. Writing from
17 Port Said, they were evidently enjoying the trip. But
18 they were missed very much at the Manor House.

19 News of the arrival of the seven boys in Australia
20 has reached us and we have been asked to include the
21 letter which has been received at the Manor House Home.
22 It was written from Melbourne on January 12th last and
23 comes from Reverend A.G. Harrison of the Presbyterian
24 Church of Victoria. He says:

25 'On behalf of our Dhurringile rural training farm

1 committee I have to thank you for your cooperation and
2 help in arranging for the migrants from the Manor House
3 Home to come to Australia with our representative, the
4 Reverend A. Boag.

5 The boys arrived safely and are settling down to
6 Australian conditions. Arrangements are being made for
7 their primary, secondary or technical education for 1951
8 according to each boy's inclination.

9 Great interest has been shown in the boys throughout
10 the whole district and there have been many offers of
11 help in the surrounding towns and countryside that, when
12 the boys are ready to leave the home, many good friends
13 will offer the lads a home and positions. Each boy will
14 choose his own job in life.

15 Meanwhile with abundance of milk, butter, cream,
16 fruit and meat, etc, all the boys appear to be happy and
17 putting on weight.'

18 We know that our friends will remain (sic) to pray
19 for these lads as they begin life in a new land."

20 Obviously in 1951 the position in Australia would
21 have been different from the rationing position as
22 pertained in Northern Ireland at that time.

23 Going back then, Chairman, to AUS11057, at answer
24 (c) it says:

25 "There is no extant record of how the particular

1 seven boys in the one-off scheme of 1950 were selected.

2 There is no extant record from the 1950 period as to
3 whether the parents of the seven boys were contacted.

4 There is no extant record of the 1950 period on the
5 basis of their selection."

6 I am not quite clear what the questions at (d) and
7 (e) were, but whatever:

8 "No record exists of this regarding the 1950 one-off
9 event."

10 I have already indicated they did receive
11 information from the seven boys after their arrival, as
12 I have just outlined from appendix E.

13 If we could just scroll on down to the next
14 page please, it says:

15 "No other record exists until 1961 when Manor House
16 Home received a letter from the Belfast Welfare
17 concerning the boys. However, we have a record of the
18 Manor House Home Committee writing to the boys.

19 There is more correspondence in 1961. (See appendix
20 B)."

21 But if we could go to appendix F, first of all,
22 and that is at AUS11064, by this stage the committee
23 minutes are starting to be typed rather than
24 handwritten, and if we could scroll down that page, we
25 will see that there is a report of Dhurringile Training

1 Farm, Murchison, Victoria. It says:

2 "This report had been received per the Belfast
3 Welfare Committee from Mr R.J. Read, superintendent of
4 Dhurringile Training Farm. Mentioned in this report
5 were five of the six boys who left the Manor House Home
6 for Australia in December 1950.

7 It was decided to send a circular letter to each
8 ex-Manor House Home boy whose address it was possible to
9 get giving such news of the home as might be thought
10 interesting.

11 It was suggested that a similar circular letter be
12 sent to any ex-Manor House Home children whose addresses
13 could be found."

14 We know from the last witness and I didn't ask but
15 I think we might have heard if either of those two
16 ex-boys had received any communication.

17 Appendix B can be found at 11060. At the bottom of
18 that page where it is headed "Correspondence" it reads:

19 "The secretary read a copy of a letter which had
20 been sent to the boys whose addresses could be obtained
21 in Australia and a letter which had been received from
22 ...", and the name is given there, who was the Acting
23 Superintendent at Dhurringile Rural Training Farm,
24 "giving accounts of the boys named ..."

25 I should say that both the last witness, as you will

1 see, HIA346, and 341 were also -- the accounts were
2 given about them in that report.

3 "... who (all around 20 to 21 years old) seemed to
4 be doing very well. One boy had got himself into a spot
5 of bother (sic) but was understood to be doing better
6 now and all except one boy seemed to have substantial
7 bank balances."

8 If we go back to the letter of AUS11058, there -- it
9 goes on to say that:

10 "There is no extant record concerning this in regard
11 to the seven boys.

12 Essentially they have no record about the
13 Presbyterian scheme and its relationship with the
14 Northern Ireland government",

15 and the other questions were:

16 "Not known."

17 Then the Superintendent of Irish Church Missions has
18 sent the letter indicating they have made a complete
19 search of the records in their custody and to the best
20 of their knowledge:

21 "... the enclosed response is the extent of our
22 information on the boys named. I have come across no
23 other names of children involved in an Australian
24 migrant scheme with Irish Church Missions."

25 I have already referred, Chairman, to the written

1 submission we have only just received from Irish Church
2 Missions when I opened it to the two witnesses this
3 morning and I have said that can be found at AUS5941.

4 As there is no representative here for the committee, it
5 may be that you feel, Chairman, that the entire document
6 ought to be read into the record.

7 CHAIRMAN: Well, I think so. It would be preferable, since
8 they are not represented, although they have been told
9 that these matters would be dealt with today.

10 MS SMITH: Yes, indeed. With your permission, Chairman,
11 I will read those sections that I haven't already read
12 and put to the witnesses. It says:

13 "Irish Church Missions welcomes and supports the
14 work of the HIA inquiry and utterly condemns all and any
15 kind of child abuse. It is also the firm view of ICM
16 that the Manor House Home, Lisburn, which closed in
17 1984, endeavoured to nurture and protect the children
18 under its care over the 55 years of its existence. It
19 is our contention in relation to the applicants of the
20 Australian module that this was indeed the case.

21 In regards to the claims of HIA341, we find these
22 impossible to reconcile against his previous claim in
23 the documents he submitted to the Inquiry."

24 Then they quote from the newspaper article.

25 "He left Manor House Home for Australia when he was

1 9. This is consistent with all the newspaper articles
2 that HIA341 has submitted to the HIA Inquiry. In all of
3 them he makes no mention whatsoever of abuse in the
4 Manor House Home, let alone the kind of abuse he is now
5 submitting to the Inquiry as having experienced.

6 Furthermore, in the claims he is making about Manor
7 House Home the only name he mentions in the alleged
8 abuse is of an older boy 'who might have been an altar
9 boy at the church'. Manor House Home is a Protestant
10 home attached to a Church of Ireland church, Christ
11 Church, Lisburn, where there were no such things as
12 altar boys. Such abuse could not therefore have
13 happened in Manor House Home. HIA341's recent
14 recollections are therefore not accurate.

15 In regard to HIA346, the tenor of the claims are
16 vague with no staff named in the couple of times he says
17 he was beaten by staff. Certainly corporal punishment
18 was administered in the 1940s by institutions and Manor
19 House Home was no exception. However, the Manor House
20 Home noted and took seriously any such punishment and
21 indeed investigated any claim of excessive punishment.
22 In the minute of the Manor House Home committee of 9
23 August 1946 the alleged excessive physical punishment of
24 two boys by the assistant matron was immediately
25 investigated by the committee, who sent for the local

1 doctor to examine the boys. The doctor's report is
2 quoted dismissing any claims of excessive punishment.
3 The assistant matron was brought before the Manor House
4 Home Committee and questioned why she had administered
5 physical punishment. Because of the doctor's report her
6 description of what had happened was accepted.
7 Furthermore, the committee was reminded of the policy of
8 the ICM on the matter of physical punishment, which was
9 that punishment with a cane was only to be given on the
10 hands and that the open hand may be used on the
11 buttocks. All this shows that any report of excessive
12 punishment was taken seriously by the Manor House --
13 Manor House Home Committee and that children were then
14 not permitted to be subjected to the kind of harsh
15 treatment alleged by HIA346 and 341.

16 Not only that; children were free to question the
17 administration of physical punishment. A minute of the
18 Manor House Committee meeting on 25th July 1947 shows
19 that the matron", who is named MH1, "reported that she
20 had to administer punishment to one boy and that some of
21 the boys questioned her on this. They went before the
22 Manor House Home Committee where the Chairman explained
23 to them that the matron had their support. The fact
24 that the Manor House Home Committee even talked to the
25 boys is indicative that they took the administration of

1 physical punishment seriously and that children could
2 complain to the highest -- certainly could complain to
3 the highest level, contrary to the claims of the
4 applicants.

5 In regard to the seven boys from Manor House Home
6 sent on the Presbyterian Church scheme to Australia in
7 1950 the record of the Manor House Home, pages 11057 to
8 11071, clearly show that this was regarded as a great
9 opportunity for them by the Manor House Home and ICM.
10 Indeed, the correspondence surrounding the emigration
11 of", another boy, "HIA354 from Tyrone in the bundle at
12 pages 11259 to 11264 indicates that the Ministry of Home
13 Affairs at Stormont also thought that this scheme of the
14 Presbyterian Church of Victoria was in the best
15 interests of the children and that the Presbyterian
16 Church was regarded as a responsible body.

17 The material submitted by HIA346 clearly shows that
18 the proper procedures concerning the certificates of
19 migration and medical examinations were followed by
20 MHH." That's Manor House Home. "Furthermore, Manor
21 House Home minutes at page 11064 show that the Manor
22 House Home Committee took the initiative to write to the
23 boys, and when one of them, HIA341, later wrote looking
24 for information on his parents, the Manor House Home
25 Committee enthusiastically endeavoured to help him

1 (page 11065), which is immediately apparent in their
2 warm and sympathetic reply.

3 In summary, the claims of the applicants do not show
4 systemic abuse on the part of the Manor House Home,
5 firstly because the claims are contradictory to earlier
6 claims made by one applicant, HIA341, and, secondly, the
7 records of Manor House Home show that they consistently
8 had the best interests of the children at heart in
9 dealing with the matters of discipline and also in the
10 matter of emigration."

11 Chairman, I have just been shown the passenger list,
12 which can be found at AUS11041. That's for the name of
13 the ship MV Cheshire. It is in the Orient Steam Line.
14 If we look down the list of names there, just counting
15 them, there is two, four, six, eight names.

16 CHAIRMAN: It is not very easy to make out --

17 MS SMITH: No.

18 CHAIRMAN: -- but you need to go right down to --

19 MS SMITH: There are seven --

20 CHAIRMAN: Sorry. If you look --

21 MS SMITH: -- Manor House boys and there are two boys from
22 Coleraine on that ship, but they don't appear to have
23 come from Manor House. They are further down in the
24 manifest.

25 CHAIRMAN: One, two, three.

1 MS SMITH: The seven designations there represent the --
2 sorry -- the eight designations represent the seven
3 Manor House boys and HIA354, who we know came from
4 Tyrone County Welfare.

5 CHAIRMAN: Well, if we run down to the bottom, please --

6 MS SMITH: Yes. At the bottom there are two names there.

7 CHAIRMAN: See, if you look -- just a moment.

8 MS SMITH: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN: C.O. McCausland.

10 MS SMITH: County Londonderry.

11 CHAIRMAN: County Londonderry, Strand Road, Coleraine.

12 MS SMITH: Strand Road, Coleraine, Ireland.

13 CHAIRMAN: That's a reference to County Londonderry County
14 Welfare Committee.

15 MS SMITH: Yes, but it is not clear from this --

16 CHAIRMAN: They are described as students.

17 MS SMITH: Yes, which is --

18 CHAIRMAN: I must say my interpretation --

19 MS SMITH: -- the same description as -- but they wouldn't
20 appear to have gone from Manor House.

21 CHAIRMAN: Yes. I must say my impression was that they were
22 also child migrants.

23 MS SMITH: It would have been their ages I think. Are their
24 ages in there? No.

25 CHAIRMAN: However, we are not in a position to resolve that

1 today.

2 MS SMITH: No. This is quite difficult to make out.

3 CHAIRMAN: Well, I think we need to look at this further
4 with the Trusts.

5 MS SMITH: Yes.

6 CHAIRMAN: We can take that up with Miss Smyth.

7 MS SMITH: I will ensure that's done, Chairman.

8 Essentially, Chairman, that is all the information
9 that we have about the involvement of the Irish Church
10 Missions in the child migrant scheme and it seems to
11 have been a one-off venture on its part.

12 Chairman, I realise that it is only 12 o'clock, but
13 there are obviously a number of statements which I will
14 be reading, and it may be an appropriate time not only
15 to take a break but perhaps an early lunch and commence
16 earlier than usual.

17 CHAIRMAN: Shall we stop now? We will start at 1 o'clock.

18 We will rise now and start then.

19 MS SMITH: Thank you.

20 (12 noon)

21 (Lunch break)

22 (1.00 pm)

23 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA240

24 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, Chairman, Panel Members. I am
25 going to read a series of eight statements this

1 afternoon, the first of which is that of 240 and it can
2 be found at AUS11553. I should say that there are no
3 other papers in respect of this applicant that we have
4 received either from him or from anyone else.

5 CHAIRMAN: I suppose I perhaps should ask you to confirm
6 I take it none of these eight individuals or indeed
7 anybody else you are reading out has agreed that their
8 identities should be revealed?

9 MS SMITH: I have worked on the basis they have not to be
10 revealed, Chairman.

11 CHAIRMAN: I think that's the only sensible basis to work
12 on.

13 MS SMITH: I mean, the issue of anonymity may well have been
14 addressed with them when they were interviewed in
15 Australia, but as we can't confirm today the position,
16 I think they should all be granted anonymity.

17 CHAIRMAN: They all have it automatically.

18 MS SMITH: It should not be removed.

19 CHAIRMAN: We are not waiving it for anybody.

20 MS SMITH: No.

21 CHAIRMAN: If they want to waive it, they will have to waive
22 it themselves.

23 MS SMITH: The statement reads:

24 "I was born", and it gives a place and date of
25 birth. "I was from a gypsy family. I had three other

1 sisters", whom he names, one of whom is one of our
2 applicants, HIA323.

3 "I am unsure of exactly how I ended up in care.
4 I believe that two sisters were placed in Nazareth House
5 and my brother (sic) took the other sister and I home to
6 get them back -- to the home to get them back. The nuns
7 would not let him have the girls back as they said he
8 was not fit to look after them. He said, 'Well, you
9 might as well take these two as well'.

10 I am not sure which of the Sisters of Nazareth
11 institutions I was in in Belfast. I remember being in
12 a babies' department to begin with and then I was moved
13 to another building when I was 2 years old. The nuns
14 I remember were SR121 and SR181. There is a photograph
15 of me with a group of boys outside Nazareth Lodge taken
16 before we went to Australia.

17 I did not have a good experience in the home in
18 Belfast. I remember a lot of physical punishment by the
19 nuns. I was beaten for trivial things like wetting my
20 pants or messing myself. I was slapped with a strap
21 most days by different nuns. I remember the Superior
22 nun was the worst. I was called 'Scabby' and 'Leopard'
23 by the nuns because of the wounds that I had from being
24 hit. I was told for years that my parents were dead but
25 they were still alive.

1 When I was five, I was sent to Australia. I was
2 taken to my sister's and a priest told us that we were
3 going on holiday to England for three weeks. Instead we
4 were sent to Australia on the SS Asturias on 29th
5 August 1947. I remember a big ship and having to wear
6 a badge and follow the leader.

7 Apparently my father signed the permission form for
8 me to go to Australia but, like most gypsies, he could
9 not read or write, so I do not believe that he did."

10 He then talks about landing in Fremantle in Western
11 Australia on 22nd September 1947 and recounts his
12 experiences in Australia between paragraphs 14 -- 7 to
13 14, and essentially he talks about being set to work to
14 build the orphanage in Clontarf, being beaten for
15 singing Irish songs, and he describes both severe
16 physical abuse and sexual abuse at the hands of the
17 Brothers, and he also complains that he received no
18 education.

19 Paragraph 15:

20 "I ran away from Clontarf in 1955 and was never
21 returned. I survived by stealing and I was arrested and
22 sent to Hillston Reformatory, Stoneville until I was 18.
23 I served time in Fremantle Prison in Australia and was
24 transferred to Claremont Mental Hospital.

25 I came back to England in 1963. I was arrested

1 again and have several convictions. I have spent most
2 of my adult life in and out of secure mental health
3 facilities. I am detained in a psychiatric hospital.

4 I attribute the criminal activity which has led to
5 my permanent detention to my childhood and the
6 atrocities I was subject to."

7 He has signed his statement on 16th August 2014.

8 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA274

9 Q. The next statement is that of HIA274 and the statement
10 can be found at -- before we pull up the statement --
11 well, it can be found at 10082. There is a suite of
12 documents that have been provided in respect of this
13 applicant and they are found at 10087 and 10127. Before
14 commencing to read her statement I think it is
15 appropriate to look at some of those at this stage,
16 Chairman.

17 The first is her child migration form, which is at
18 AUS10089. I'm drawing attention to this as this is the
19 first form in this format. This is a form dated 1950,
20 by which time we can see that the child migration form
21 in layout has changed and is divided into sections,
22 section A with the details of the child, section B
23 dealing with the consent and section C, if we could
24 scroll down, please -- the following page -- sorry. It
25 seems to end at that page. We don't have section C on

1 that.

2 If we could just go back, please, to 10089, you will
3 recall yesterday when I opened some of the child
4 migration forms, the signature of the person consenting
5 to the child being taken was usually of a priest, and we
6 will see some more of those later today, but you will
7 see at the bottom of this new form:

8 "The witness to the parent's or guardian's consent
9 must be one of the following",

10 and it lists:

11 "A mayor, magistrate, provost or justice of the
12 peace, a barrister, advocate, solicitor, notary public,
13 a minister of religion, a registered medical
14 practitioner, an officer on the active or ..."

15 I can't make out the rest of that, but it's --

16 CHAIRMAN: "Active or", probably, "reserve list of any of
17 the military forces."

18 MS SMITH: Yes. In this case her migration form is, in
19 fact, signed by a solicitor who is based in Chichester
20 Street in Belfast, John Moss, but the -- the signature
21 was witnessed by him, but the actual signature was of
22 the Mother Superior of Nazareth Lodge in Belfast.

23 There is also some documents at 10090 through to
24 10097. This was a report of Rosemary Keenon, who was
25 described as -- if you just call that up, please -- who

1 is described as the Deputy Director of the Catholic
2 Children's Society in Westminster. It is a third
3 edition, dated August 1996. In the body of this, if we
4 scroll down, it gives details of the child migrants who
5 went from the UK. I am not going to open it fully, but
6 it bears some reading.

7 You see there that it sets out the age -- the
8 average age of the children sent to Australia. Now this
9 was throughout the UK, not just from Northern Ireland,
10 and it says:

11 "The majority of children sent were between the ages
12 of 5 and 13, the Australian Catholic Church preferring
13 younger children to be sent, and the highest single
14 percentage of children sent were 8 years, with about
15 half of all children aged between 7 to 10 years of age,
16 and there are 99 children for whom the date of birth and
17 age is not given in the records."

18 I just pause there before we scroll down. It says:

19 "The work undertaken by the Poor Sisters of
20 Nazareth, who have cross-checked every entry on the
21 original database of migrants, has revealed new
22 information and additional papers which have been added
23 to the files kept by the Welfare -- Westminster Welfare
24 Council."

25 Scrolling on down through this report, you will see

1 that the gender of the children is set out there, but
2 then at:

3 "Consent to migration.

4 Consent by birth parents was given to the migration
5 of children in 216 instances, which is about 19%. In
6 913, 80% instances, it is unknown whether or not
7 parental consent was given, as the documentary evidence
8 remains unfound."

9 There are further statistics given in the course of
10 that report. If we could scroll down:

11 "Destination of which homes the children were sent
12 to in Australia",

13 and you will see there the third name down is
14 Father Stinston -- Stinson, to whom reference has been
15 made already in the course of the opening to the Inquiry
16 and about his involvement in the emigration to
17 Australia.

18 Just go back, please, to the page we were at in the
19 document. If we could carry on down. Then if we could
20 go -- keep going, please, and the following page. You
21 will see there were some deaths recorded in either the
22 register or in supporting correspondence. Two girls who
23 died within months of arrival. The remainder were boys,
24 mostly in road accidents. We have heard that there was
25 the road accident at the home that one of our applicants

1 himself was injured in.

2 Then there is various supporting paperwork.

3 "Aside from the entry in the migrants register
4 additional papers kept by the council were found for 789
5 migrants",

6 and it describes the kind of paperwork that they
7 had. It then goes on to discuss inquiries by or on
8 behalf of former child migrants, and it gives
9 an analysis of the inquiries, but the important
10 paragraph there is that:

11 "The preceding figures are an underestimate of the
12 total number of migrants that have made contact. Until
13 recently the council did not record all inquiries made
14 by or on behalf of former migrants. Inquiries to
15 religious orders and other childcare agencies in the UK
16 have now been added to the database."

17 If we can scroll on down through the report, please,
18 and you will see that it is dated by Rosemary Keenan in
19 September 1996 and she acknowledges the help that has
20 been by several workers but in particular Sister John
21 Ogilvy of the Poor Sisters of Nazareth:

22 "... who spent a considerable amount of time
23 cross-checking the references to children sent by the
24 Order against extant records from the 26 Nazareth House
25 homes across the UK which sent children to Australia."

1 I make reference to this, Chairman, because you will
2 recall there was a document in relation to the second
3 applicant from whom you heard in this Inquiry where it
4 suggests that his father consented to his and his
5 brother's going to Australia and nowhere in the suite of
6 documents that we have in relation to him is there any
7 mention of that consent, but it may be that Sister John
8 in checking records in 1996 found some such consent and
9 it is recorded on the document that she compiled, which
10 I believe -- and can be confirmed I am sure by the
11 representative of the Sisters of Nazareth -- I see
12 Mr Montague nodding -- that that was the document that
13 we have in the bundle and that was the purposes --
14 purpose of its provenance, as it were, that she analysed
15 the homes in alphabetical order and how many children
16 went from each home, and where consent was recorded, it
17 was recorded on that form.

18 MR MONTAGUE: Yes. Chairman, we are seeking at the moment
19 to see if we can obtain the root documentation in
20 respect of that entry. Sister John has been on a
21 retreat for a month, but I understand she has either
22 just returned or is due to return. I hope she will be
23 able to assist. It is being proactively looked into.

24 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

25 MS SMITH: It's -- the other documentation -- there is

1 certain documentation which I don't propose to open that
2 this applicant has brought to our attention, and there's
3 pages at 10098 through to 10104, which seem to be
4 documentation which she has obtained from the Public
5 Records Office in Australia, which includes passenger
6 lists from ships, and there is a blog that she has
7 written, some photographs and papers regarding a body
8 with which you will hear she became involved, which was
9 effectively a -- could be described as a survivors group
10 in Australia. I'll tell you more about that as I go
11 back to read through her statement, which is at 10084.
12 I should say that it is likely that this document came
13 from her involvement with that organisation. Her
14 statement reads:

15 "I was born ...", and she gives her date of birth.

16 "I was born in a mother and baby home called Manor
17 House in County Westmeath. My mother was
18 a single parent and was helped to go there to have her
19 baby by the nuns from the Sacred Heart Convent in
20 Armagh, where she was from.

21 I was placed in Nazareth Lodge, Belfast on
22 1944, when I was three weeks old. My
23 mother called me X but the nuns changed my name to Y.
24 I was called Y until I was 17 years old. I do not know
25 why or when this was done. My mother told me my real

1 name when I was 17 and had started to correspond with
2 her.

3 I was then placed in Nazareth House, Belfast on
4 3rd February 1948 when I was three years old.

5 My mother paid for my upkeep while I was in care in
6 Nazareth House."

7 I should say the Sisters of Nazareth are checking
8 their records to find out if there is any record of
9 that, Chairman:

10 "My mother often visited me, as did my stepfather.
11 It was her intention to come back for me when she got
12 herself established and was able to care for me. When
13 my mother came to collect me, she was informed that
14 I was no longer there and that I had been sent to
15 Australia. My mother told me this in her correspondence
16 when I was older.

17 I was deported to Australia without my mother's
18 consent or knowledge in 1950 when I was five years old.
19 The Nazareth House records show that I was sent to
20 Australia in November 1950, but I know from receiving my
21 documents from the Australian authorities that I landed
22 in Perth on the SS Asturias on 6th March 1950. The ship
23 left Southampton on 8th February 1950. Even though my
24 mother was alive, the consent form was signed by the
25 Mother Superior of Nazareth Lodge", and the name is

1 given.

2 "As I was born in the south of Ireland and I am
3 therefore an Irish citizen, I do not understand how the
4 Sisters of Nazareth and the government had the authority
5 to send me to Australia.

6 Because I was so young, I have no memories of my
7 time in Nazareth House. My grievance is that I was sent
8 to Australia without my mother's consent or knowledge
9 and from that day I lost my identity and all connections
10 to my family, my home and my country."

11 She then relates being taken to St. Joseph's
12 Orphanage in Subiaco in Perth in Australia, Western
13 Australia, but you see at paragraph 9 she says:

14 "Luckily for me my mother was a very determined
15 woman and she eventually got the name of the home I was
16 sent to in Perth."

17 To her surprise she received a letter from her
18 mother, but until then she had never allowed herself to
19 think of having a mother. She found out her mother had
20 got married and had had another baby. She was still
21 living at her mother's house. She had more children --
22 she had six more children.

23 "I wrote back and replied to her letter, but I doubt
24 the letter was ever posted to her. That was the only
25 letter I received from my mother. I kept that letter

1 for years, but it got lost at some point. As far as
2 I know I was the only child migrant to receive such
3 a letter."

4 In the next section she talks about her life after
5 care. She says that:

6 "The Welfare Officer in Australia gave me my
7 mother's address and I started to regularly correspond
8 with her and my stepfather and three of my siblings.
9 A friend I was working with wanted to go travelling and
10 to visit relatives in Holland. I wanted to go to visit
11 Ireland. However, because I was a ward of state, I was
12 not allowed to go until I was 21. We finally went by
13 boat in 1967. On finally meeting my family I found it
14 very difficult to make conversation. I was introduced
15 as a cousin from Australia. I was unable to call my
16 mother 'mum'. I started to call her 'Mrs' and her
17 married name. She told me to call her by her first name
18 if I wasn't able to call her 'mum', but we had been
19 taught to always address our elders by their married
20 title. My mother passed away in 1985 and I was never
21 able to call her 'mum'. I have no doubt that the lack
22 of bonding when I was a child impacted on our
23 relationship.

24 I moved to London and lived there for two and a half
25 years, going to Ireland for Christmases and long

1 weekends. I now live in Australia.

2 In 1997 a group child migrants flew to London to
3 commemorate 50 years of being sent to Australia. It was
4 a very rewarding trip for a lot of people and a few of
5 the girls even found relatives they never knew about.
6 Those who were from England, Scotland and Wales received
7 a lot of press coverage on their return. A trip to
8 Belfast was arranged for the migrants from Ireland, but
9 we were not greeted by anyone from the government or the
10 press on our return. It was such a let-down. I felt as
11 though Northern Ireland was refusing to accept our
12 experiences. A couple of days after we arrived in
13 Belfast some of the other girls were contacted by the
14 press.

15 In February 2010 I attended a reception in Downing
16 Street for child migrants, when Gordon Brown delivered
17 his apology in the House of Commons for the United
18 Kingdom's involvement in sending children to former
19 colonies. There were almost 100 child migrants there
20 from Australia, New Zealand and Canada. When Gordon
21 Brown came over to shake my hand, I showed him a picture
22 of my family to show him the people he was apologising
23 to."

24 I should say in the bundle of materials in relation
25 to her that photograph is there.

1 "I became very angry about my emigration when I had
2 my son. My partner was out at work for long hours and
3 I found it difficult to bring up my son on my own
4 without the support of an extended family. I would cry
5 in anger at all the things he would miss out on growing
6 up, such as family get-togethers, playing with cousins,
7 going away for family weekends. Birthdays and
8 Christmases were very quiet and not events that I looked
9 forward to.

10 In the late 1980s my friend set up a group
11 called ICAS (Institutional Child Abuse Society), which
12 was a support group for survivors of institutional child
13 abuse. She had a breakdown when she received her papers
14 from the Australian authorities and she had decided that
15 the way to get through everything was to set up this
16 group to make sure that child abuse in institutions was
17 brought to light. The group was in existence for just
18 under one year. We received a lot of calls from boys
19 who had been abused in their institutions and they went
20 on to set up their own organisation. I still keep in
21 touch with other survivors through a support group in
22 Perth called Tuart Place. I sing in their choir.

23 I am very grateful that this Inquiry is being held,
24 as I think that the terrible things that happened in the
25 past should never be forgotten. I would like to see

1 a memorial of some sort dedicated to the children who
2 through no fault of their own were sent away from their
3 families and homeland."

4 She has signed that statement and dated it 19th June
5 2014.

6 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA302

7 Q. The next statement is that of HIA302 and his statement
8 can be found at 105 -- sorry -- 10451. There are a set
9 of documents relating him to be found at 10458 through
10 to 10470, but there is no child migration form included
11 in those documents.

12 His statement reads:

13 "I was born in Strabane, County Tyrone. My mother
14 was", and he names her, "and she was not married when
15 I was born. I do not know who my father was. My mother
16 was unable to care for me and I was placed in Nazareth
17 House in Sligo when I was a baby.

18 I was placed in Nazareth House in Sligo as a baby.
19 I was very young and do not recall my time there. When
20 I was five years old, I was taken from Nazareth House in
21 Sligo to St. Joseph's Children's Home in Derry.

22 I was taken to Termonbacca from Nazareth House in
23 Sligo when I was five years old. I was only in
24 Termonbacca for a number of weeks.

25 As I was so young, I have just a few memories of

1 institutional life in Ireland, but I am not sure whether
2 my memories are from Termonbacca or Sligo. I remember
3 being terrified of loud voices. The nuns were always
4 shouting and I remember cowering in fear and trying to
5 cover my head in bed at night so they couldn't see me.
6 I remember some older boys used to hit me around the
7 head with their hands and fists, which made me fall to
8 the ground. Some of the nuns hit me too, but I cannot
9 remember the nuns' names. The nuns always looked scary
10 to me. It was their harsh voices and shouting that was
11 the worst.

12 After a short time I was taken from Termonbacca to
13 Southampton by train. I do not remember the journey to
14 Southampton because I was so young. I sailed to
15 Australia on 29th August 1947 on the SS Asturias."

16 He would have been aged 5 at that time.

17 He then recounts arriving in Fremantle on
18 22nd September 1947, being taken to Castledare, where he
19 describes being physically abused at that home and also
20 to being sexually abused by an older boy and by the
21 Brothers.

22 He says that although he had some fun times there,
23 he suffered brutality and abuse at the hands of the
24 Brothers, and suffered anxiety and fear throughout his
25 life.

1 Again at Clontarf, he moved there when he was ten,
2 and again he was subject to sexual abuse by an older
3 boy, sexual abuse by Brothers and physical abuse by the
4 Brothers.

5 At the end of his statement at paragraph 23 he
6 states:

7 "As a result of the way I was treated I am cynical
8 of the Catholic Church and its teachings. I suffer from
9 anxiety and depression. These conditions have plagued
10 me throughout my life. I was a small boy who was
11 bullied and fearful and could not protect myself.
12 I always tried to disappear and hide away from the
13 bullies and paedophiles, but sometimes they caught me.
14 No-one in my family gave consent for me to be deported,
15 and if that hadn't happened, I would have been able to
16 find my mother before we were both too old to be
17 properly reunited."

18 He has signed the statement on 19th December 2013.

19 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA326

20 Q. The next statement is that of HIA326. It can be found
21 at 10763, but her child migration form can be found --
22 if we can call that up first. It is 10772. Again we
23 can see that she left from Nazareth Lodge, Belfast. The
24 Mother Superior of that home has signed the consent.
25 Also it was witnessed by the same solicitor from

1 Chichester Street in Belfast, John Moss.

2 If we scroll down to the next page of that, we do
3 have a second page here, which is signed by section C.
4 You will recollect that in documentation yesterday it
5 was -- Reverend Boag was advising people that they would
6 sign the section C on the form. It says here:

7 "In the event of this child named in this
8 application leaving Australia before the completion of
9 two years' residence (unless he or she is repatriated
10 for medical reasons within 12 months of arrival)" in
11 this case "the Australian Catholic Migration Committee
12 ([which is the] name of sponsoring organisation) agreed
13 to repay the financial assistance granted in respect of
14 an assisted passage."

15 That's dated 20th January 1950. So the form has now
16 evolved into a three-section document with the details
17 at section A, the consent in section B and the
18 sponsoring organisation completing section C.

19 There are documents relating to this applicant which
20 can be found, other documents, from 10772 to 10782.

21 If we could go back to her statement then at 10763:

22 "I was born on [a date] in . My mother
23 was called", and her name is given. "She was unmarried
24 when I was born. My Father was a wealthy businessman.
25 He was well respected in the Catholic Church and my

1 mother's family were poor, so they were never going to
2 be together. My mother went to court when I was five
3 months old to fight for me, as my father's family wanted
4 me, and her last words to my father were 'You will never
5 see this child again'. When she walked out of the
6 court, a nun said to her that they would give her child
7 a good home. They agreed to take me until she got
8 herself sorted out and then she could come back and get
9 me.

10 My mother placed me in Nazareth House when I was
11 about five months old on the understanding that she
12 would come back for me when she was established and
13 working in England.

14 My name was unlawfully changed from X to Y and my
15 birth date was changed from one date in the month of
16 August to another date in the month of August. I did
17 not discover this until I was 21 years old and received
18 my papers from the Child Welfare Department.

19 My mother went to England after she left me in the
20 home. She was going to set up a new life in England and
21 then come back and get me. My mother returned to
22 Nazareth House to take me home when I was 12 months old.
23 She was told by the nuns that I had been adopted and was
24 living in England. My mother had not signed any papers
25 authorising my adoption, but she was pleased that I had

1 been sent to a good home.

2 In March 1950 I was sent out to Australia on the SS
3 Asturias. My mother did not sign any papers consenting
4 to my migration.

5 I remember being terribly sick on the boat. I don't
6 recall who was looking after us on the boat. It must
7 have been nuns. I recall live music on the boat. There
8 would have been a lot of children on the boat, although
9 I cannot recall how many came from Belfast. I think
10 there were about half a dozen children from Nazareth
11 House, Belfast on the ship. There were boys on the boat
12 travelling with us. The younger ones were sent to
13 Castledare and the older boys went to Clontarf or Tardun
14 upon arrival in Australia.

15 I came off the boat with my coat and my suitcase in
16 my hand and some shoes on my feet. I recall those
17 things being taken from me when I arrived and I never
18 saw them again."

19 She then went to St. Joseph's Orphanage in Wembley
20 and describes her time in the home in Australia. She
21 described physical abuse. Paragraph 10 said:

22 "The American and Australian nuns were more
23 understanding but the Irish nuns were brutal."

24 She was beaten for wetting the bed. She also
25 describes emotional abuse that she suffered in the home

1 and said she had to engage in excessive labour. She
2 recounts her time there until paragraph 20 in her
3 statement, where she says that at age 16 she left the
4 home and she met her husband around that time.

5 "He worked for the railways and then joined the
6 police force. We married in our early 20s and we have
7 been married 47 years.

8 My husband and I had three children, and when my
9 youngest girl was 12, I decided to look for my birth
10 mother. It took 20 years, however, to find her."

11 Part of the reason for that, as she relates, is the
12 change in her name from X to Y and the date of birth
13 being changed:

14 "When I met my husband, I was known as Y. When we
15 wanted to get married, I had to send to Ireland to get
16 my birth certificate and my mother's birth certificate
17 and that is when I saw a different name and a different
18 date of birth."

19 She talks about a lack of contact from the Welfare
20 Department in Australia.

21 Then at paragraph 23 she said:

22 "A friend of mine, HIA274, who had also been in the
23 orphanage, was travelling to Ireland in 1986. So she
24 put an advertisement in the local paper for me asking
25 for anyone with any information on the whereabouts of my

1 mother to get in touch with her. She was contacted by
2 a cousin and she told her that my mother's daughter
3 lived in Australia and was trying to find her. This
4 cousin was nine years old when I was born and recalls my
5 mother having me in her house. She said my mum and
6 I stayed at her house for a while and then my mother
7 disappeared and never brought me back, so they had no
8 idea what happened to me, and no-one asked any questions
9 after I had been placed in the home."

10 She then talks about some more experiences in
11 Australia, about people who looked after her there.
12 Then at paragraph 26:

13 "I had already been trying to locate my mother via
14 the Salvation Army and they had forwarded a letter to
15 her telling her that I was trying to contact her. My
16 cousin also told her that I had been trying to get in
17 touch. She rang me during July 1986 and she commented
18 that I sounded very Australian. She asked if my
19 adoptive family in England had brought me to Australia.
20 I told her that she put me in a home and that I had not
21 been adopted. She said she came back to get me after
22 twelve months and was told I had gone to a lovely
23 family.

24 My mother had had another child after me but never
25 told her about me at any stage. My sister was 35 years

1 old when she found out about me. She was going to take
2 that secret with her to the grave. No-one other than my
3 aunt knew she had a child out of wedlock. I wanted to
4 meet her and my sister, but she got cold feet and asked
5 me if she could just describe me as her niece from
6 Australia. I said I had nothing to hide and she could
7 not describe me as her niece. I said I would not come
8 to visit her if she was going to pretend that I was not
9 her daughter. My sister then took the phone and said
10 that my mother was finding it very difficult and asked
11 me if I could be described as her cousin. I refused not
12 to be acknowledged, so they reluctantly agreed to accept
13 me as my mum's daughter. I was annoyed that the focus
14 was on hurting my mother's feelings and no-one seemed to
15 be at all worried about me.

16 I went on my first visit to in England during
17 December 1986 to meet my mother on my own. I met my
18 mother at the airport and she asked me if I had brought
19 any cigarettes for her from duty free. She could not
20 accept that I had been brought up in an orphanage. She
21 kept saying that nuns would not do that. I struggled to
22 explain to her what my life in care was like and to
23 convince her that I did not have a lovely life, as she
24 had thought, over the years. She was a Catholic and
25 therefore struggled to accept that the nuns would have

1 been responsible for the treatment I received during my
2 time in care."

3 She then goes on to describe that first trip to
4 England was not good timing as there were difficulties
5 with her own family, her own children in Australia, and
6 in particular her daughter. Then at paragraph 30 she
7 says:

8 "My family would say that for the duration of their
9 childhood I was with them physically but not mentally or
10 emotionally. I was never shown how to be affectionate
11 or loving, and my family had to teach me how to show and
12 accept love. My daughter would always (sic) say that
13 she always felt as if I was a million miles away.
14 However, my family realised that I needed to go on that
15 trip. They noticed a difference in me as soon as
16 I returned. I had found my voice and that trip enabled
17 me to do that.

18 I went on a second trip called 'The Sentimental
19 Journey' in 1988. The Catholic Church paid for this
20 trip. We went to Ireland and visited the Sisters of
21 Nazareth, Belfast on this trip. One nun said to me when
22 I went there, "My God! You are your father's side of
23 the family. You look like him. If you were to walk
24 down the road, someone would say, 'Yeah, that's his
25 daughter'." I do not recall the identity of this nun.

1 It was during this visit to Nazareth House, Belfast
2 that one nun showed me a register entry where it noted
3 that my mother had made one payment towards my upkeep to
4 the nuns after she placed me in the home, but that was
5 the only payment she made to the nuns. My name appears
6 in the register entry as X.

7 I went to look for my father in during
8 this trip, but we just missed him by ten minutes. I had
9 returned to my cousin's house to see where I was born
10 and my cousin said she used to work with him. So she
11 took me to the markets to see him and we had missed him
12 by ten minutes. I went on television when I was in
13 Ireland and made an announcement asking if anyone knew
14 the whereabouts of my father. A man rang me in response
15 to this announcement and said he knew my father and he
16 would tell me about him when I returned home to
17 Australia. He said he would call me but he never did.
18 I think it was my father who made this call. I never
19 got to meet my father, so when I returned to Australia,
20 I wrote to him. I enclosed photographs of my children.
21 I sent the letter by recorded delivery so I know it was
22 signed for upon receipt. I think he received the
23 letter, but I think it was his wife who signed for it.
24 He never wrote back to me."

25 She goes on to talk about her own daughter and she

1 said:

2 "I am now a grandmother and I am
3 a great-grandmother."

4 She has been able to heal the relationship that she
5 had with her own daughter in adult life. She said:

6 "My mother died from cancer in February 1989, only
7 a few years after we met each other. We had kept up
8 good correspondence with each other from the date we
9 met. However she repeatedly refused to accept that the
10 nuns could have treated me cruelly or lied to her about
11 my whereabouts. I got on well with my sister until that
12 year, but after my mother died she wrote to me and said
13 she did not need to have me in her life anymore.

14 I can show love to my family in certain ways, but I
15 am not really a very demonstrative person. I struggle
16 to show affection, as I never knew what affection was
17 and it was never shown to me.

18 I have kept in touch with a lot of girls from the
19 orphanage, but we have all closed off our memories. It
20 is our only way of coping with our past. We are very
21 close friends."

22 The statement is signed 19th June 2014.

23 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA330

24 Q. The next statement is that of HIA330 and in her case the
25 child migration form can be found at 10794. This is the

1 old style of form again. It was signed by a sister who
2 was the Superior in Nazareth House in Bishop Street in
3 Derry and it was witnessed by a priest from St. Columb's
4 College. You will see that Brother Conlon has also
5 signed it as being a migration organiser.

6 The documentation relating to this lady can be found
7 at 10790 to 10807 and her statement can be found at
8 10783. It reads:

9 "I was born in Magherafelt. My mother was from
10 Strabane, County Tyrone. My father was from Donegal.
11 My mother told me that she had me when she was in the
12 Good Shepherd workhouse, but I am not sure where this is
13 located. It was wartime and people did not have much,
14 so my mother could not afford all she wanted for me and
15 the sisters helped young mothers that could not support
16 their children. When I was born, the parish priest and
17 a social worker became involved and I was brought to
18 Nazareth House in Derry and I was only one day old.

19 I was told by my mother in later years that I was
20 placed in care on the instructions of my grandmother.

21 I have two sisters. One is four years younger than
22 me and the other is one year older than me.

23 I remember very little about my time in Nazareth
24 House. I know I have a scar on my leg from when I was
25 little but I do not know exactly what happened to cause

1 the scarring. I thought I fell into the back of a fire,
2 but I am not sure if it was a burn or a cut, or if it
3 happened at Nazareth House or at home.

4 I think my sister was also in care with me, as she
5 told me that she could recall one day in Nazareth House
6 when I would not share a bicycle with her. I was a very
7 determined child and I wanted the bicycle to myself. So
8 one of the nuns, SR83, beat me with her belt on my legs
9 for not sharing. My mother's brother, uncle X, took my
10 sister to England when she was 14 and set her to work in
11 convents as a cleaner and a cook.

12 I recall being taken by the nuns on holiday to Sligo
13 and Fahan. They had a place there and they would take
14 the children on holiday there once or twice a year by
15 bus.

16 I went to school in Bishop Street.

17 I do not recall being asked whether or not I wanted
18 to go to Australia. I just remember being told I was
19 going there. My mother told me in later years that SR84
20 signed me out, giving authority for me to go to
21 Australia, but no-one ever asked my mother for
22 permission. SR84 completed the relevant paperwork,
23 including the relevant medical documentation, but I do
24 not recall receiving a medical examination prior to
25 departure.

1 I sailed on 29th August 1947 on the SS Asturias.
2 I recall there were hundreds of people on the ship and
3 there were only two nuns to look after us and one nurse.
4 So it was chaotic on board the ship at times. We used
5 to run off and hide in the picture theatre on the ship
6 just to get away and have a bit of fun. I recall a lot
7 children were seasick on the ship."

8 She then was taken to Nazareth House in Geraldton
9 when she arrived in Fremantle on 22nd September 1947,
10 and she describes receiving herself one beating at
11 Geraldton but saw others being beaten and having to
12 intervene when that happened. She also describes being
13 involved -- being sexually abused by a priest while she
14 was at Geraldton and as a result of that ongoing
15 relationship that developed as a result of the abuse it
16 resulted in a nervous breakdown and she received
17 psychiatric treatment.

18 At paragraph 18 she describes treatment that she
19 received.

20 At paragraph 20:

21 "I married in 1971 when I was 30 years old. We had
22 three children, two daughters and a son. My husband had
23 a drink and a gambling problem. In the end he gambled
24 all of our savings and we lost our family home because
25 of his addiction, so I now live in a smaller property.

1 I started looking for my mother in 1978. I wrote to
2 the Sisters of Nazareth in Derry and advised that I was
3 trying to get in touch with my family. I then got
4 a letter from my sister. I cried upon receipt of this
5 letter.

6 I visited my sister and my mother in Ireland in
7 1984. My mother and I both cried when we met again, but
8 I told her that I did not mean to hurt her or cause her
9 any upset. I asked her why she had given me up and she
10 said it was not her decision but that my grandmother
11 decided to put me in care. She was embarrassed by my
12 turning up and she did not want anyone to know that
13 I was her daughter. She told me to tell people that we
14 were just friends. I refused and said I wanted people
15 to know the truth and to know that she was proud of me,
16 as I had come a long way to see her.

17 My sister welcomed me with open arms when I returned
18 to Northern Ireland. As she was caring for my mother
19 and I was there for six weeks, I was able to help out
20 and give her a break. I then went to England to visit
21 my other sister on this trip, but she was less welcoming
22 when I met her for the first time. She was always
23 quieter and more reserved than the other sister, but we
24 still correspond with each other and keep in touch.

25 I have been over to meet my relatives five times.

1 On one occasion I had won 1000 AUD on the lottery, so
2 this helped to pay for one trip. Another trip was
3 funded by the UK government. It is always a good
4 reunion when I visit, but I don't think I will go again
5 as it would be too much for me now. I would love my
6 sister to visit me in Australia.

7 I visited Nazareth House when I was in Ireland.
8 I cried during the visit as I felt very emotional. The
9 nuns were great and made us feel very welcome when we
10 paid them a visit. In my view they were really heroes.
11 They were hard and tough. They themselves worked long
12 hours and they had to cater for children, babies, the
13 elderly and themselves, so they had to cater for many
14 different needs.

15 My mother had five brothers",
16 and she talks about one of them giving her a ring
17 when he -- and he died when he was 94. She also talks
18 about another -- her mother having a twin sister:

19 "My mother did not want me to know my father. Her
20 twin sister told me one day that she wanted to tell me
21 who my father was. She said it was a brother of someone
22 and gave a name. She sent me to discuss it with that
23 person and said that if he -- the person said that if he
24 was my father, he never told anyone and he took it to
25 his grave with him. He is deceased now and buried in

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All my trips to Ireland were for six weeks, but the last time I visited was in 2012 with my daughter and we went for four weeks. The purpose of the visit was to find my father's grave. I visited his grave and felt overwhelmed when I was there. I would have loved to have met him. My daughter and I also visited Scotland and England during that trip and we stayed for two days with the nuns at Hammersmith."

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She says about her poor treatment since leaving care and continues to suffer and receive psychiatric treatment, and she says she suffers from bipolar disorder which is kept under control by injection.

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"My memory of being in care is that I longed for someone to cuddle me but the reality is that there was no-one there to do that. I craved affection, but there was no-one there throughout my time in care to show me any affection. I keep in touch with the ex-Geraldton girls and they are a real lifeline for me. They are like sisters."

21

22

23

The statement is signed and dated 23rd October and I think that should be 2013. I think there's an extra zero there.

24

Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA334

25

Q. The next statement is that of HIA334. Documentation in

1 respect of this applicant can be found at 10946 to
2 10953. The child migrant form is at 10949. If we could
3 call that up, again this is the old style of form, and
4 we see again Brother Conlon on behalf of the Catholic
5 Child -- sorry -- Catholic Council for Child Welfare at
6 Coleshill in Birmingham has signed the form. The
7 consent is signed by the Superior of St. Joseph's Home
8 in Derry. It is dated 19th December 1946 and it's
9 witnessed by a priest from St. Columb's College in
10 Derry.

11 The statement then, if we could go back to that,
12 please, at 10939, and it reads:

13 "I was born in Coleraine. My mother was a single
14 mother and she had me when she was 18. My father was
15 a Protestant from Belfast. My grandmother told my
16 mother that she was not to marry a Protestant.

17 I believe I spent a few months with my mother in
18 a workhouse in Coleraine. My mother was then sent off
19 to England and I was put into care. I was placed in
20 Nazareth House in Bishop Street for two years and then
21 I was recommended to Termonbacca by SR89 from Nazareth
22 House.

23 I was placed in Saint Joseph's Home in Termonbacca
24 on 30th August 1943. I was in Termonbacca from when
25 I was two years old until I was six years old. I do not

1 remember anything about my time in Termonbacca.

2 I was never told I was going to Australia. My child
3 migration form was signed by SR81, the Mother Superior
4 of Termonbacca, and it is dated 19th December 1946.

5 I have a medical certificate dated 16th July 1947, but
6 I do not remember having a medical. I sailed on 29th
7 August 1947 on the SS Asturias from Southampton. On the
8 ship we were never allowed on the deck because we were
9 too small. I don't remember anything about the journey.

10 We arrived in Fremantle on 22nd September 1947.

11 I remember we had our photo taken. Once we got off the
12 ship about eight to ten of the boys were taken by van to
13 Castledare Boys' Home.

14 He then describes his time in that home and recounts
15 episodes of physical and sexual abuse, and he stayed
16 there for five years before going to Clontarf in 1952,
17 and again he relates both physical and sexual abuse at
18 the hands of the Brothers.

19 Then we go to paragraph 19 at 10943:

20 "When I turned 21, I did not receive a letter from
21 the Welfare Department stating that I was no longer
22 under their guardianship, nor did I receive any money
23 which other boys received on their 21st birthday.

24 After I finished my apprenticeship as a baker
25 I worked as a cook for an oil company in the desert.

1 That is where I met my wife. We have two sons and
2 a daughter, who I named after my mother. We also have
3 five grandchildren. We eventually moved to Perth where
4 we have stayed. I was a baker until I retired about
5 twelve years ago.

6 We were brainwashed in the homes into thinking that
7 cuddling was a sin and so I never cuddled my children.
8 I couldn't, as I didn't know how to show affection.
9 I was never shown any love or affection as a child. It
10 is different now I am older and I find it easy to cuddle
11 my grandchildren. I enjoy a good relationship with my
12 children and we are close."

13 He talks about making a meal for the boys with whom
14 he was in homes in Australia. He says:

15 "I have been back to Ireland four times. In 1994,
16 with the assistance of the Child Migrants Trust, I found
17 out my mother was living in in England and
18 that she was called by a different name to her proper
19 name. I wrote to her and we exchanged correspondence.
20 She married shortly after coming to England and she
21 never told her husband or seven children about my
22 existence.

23 I met her for the first time in 1996 when she was in
24 her 70s. My mother was frightened when I first got in
25 contact as she knew I would be delving into the past

1 and wanting to know more about my family. She didn't
2 want me to go back to Ireland, but I was determined to
3 find out where I came from. I was worried how her
4 children would react, but we get on well and they have
5 been very good. Five of my half siblings are still
6 alive. My brothers have visited me in Australia in the
7 last two years. My mother died in 2003. When I was in
8 Ireland in 1996, I visited Termonbacca and Nazareth
9 House, Bishop Street. I asked SR2 in Nazareth House for
10 information about my family and she gave me a piece of
11 paper with my mother's name and that was all the
12 information she said she had.

13 I visited Ireland again in 2000 and met my cousins
14 for the first time. My mother was one of sixteen
15 children. Only one uncle is still alive, but I have
16 plenty of cousins. It was great to meet them. I was
17 also back in 2007 and 2011. Three of the trips were
18 paid for by the British government, the Christian
19 Brothers and I think by the Catholic Migration
20 Association.

21 Years later I found out from my cousin that my aunt,
22 who was my mother's sister, had telephoned Nazareth
23 House in Belfast to find out where I was. The nuns told
24 her that I was adopted out to a nice family in Ireland.
25 However at that time I was already in Australia. My

1 cousin also said he asked the nuns in Belfast for
2 information and they told him he wasn't a relation and
3 they couldn't help him, even though he is my cousin.

4 I obtained a copy of my birth certificate when I was
5 getting married in 1967. However, I never had one as
6 a child. About four or five years ago the Welfare
7 Department wrote to me and forwarded letters relating to
8 me as a child, including my certificate of migration.

9 I received 45,000 AUD from the Australian Redress
10 Scheme and 60,000 AUD from a civil claim taken against
11 the Christian Brothers.

12 Since I was moved to Australia as a child I have
13 always had the feeling of loneliness -- that I had
14 people who I belonged to in Ireland and I was taken away
15 from them. I had a loss of identity. I was deprived of
16 having a relationship with my family."

17 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA349

18 Q. The next witness statement to be read is that of HIA349.
19 The documents in relation to this witness will be found
20 at AUS11178 through to 11200 and the child migration
21 form is at AUS11185. Again it's an old style form
22 signed again by Brother Conlon and by the Mother
23 Superior, SR81, of Termonbacca. It's dated 7th May 1947
24 and again witnessed by one of the priests from St.
25 Columb's College in Derry.

1 If we go to the statement then, which is at 1173 --
2 sorry -- that should be 11173 -- the statement reads:

3 "I was born in Londonderry. My mother was a single
4 mother when I was born. I think I was born in
5 a workhouse in Derry.

6 To the best of my knowledge I was placed in a baby
7 home with the Sisters of Nazareth in Bishop Street,
8 Derry until I was two years old and then I was
9 transferred on 4th June 1942 to St. Joseph's Children's
10 Home, Termonbacca. My mother had me when she was
11 43 years old and she died in 1945 when I was only five
12 years old. She had suffered for a period with chronic
13 colitis and her death certificate notes that she died
14 from cardiac failure.

15 I remember only a few things about my time in
16 Termonbacca. I recall often being locked out in the
17 cold as punishment for wetting the bed. I was freezing
18 and my feet hurt, as I had to stand out in the cold hard
19 ground. I also recall that we were bathed in very cold
20 water in the home.

21 I remember walking from Termonbacca to school at
22 Bishop Street, although I cannot recall very much about
23 my time at school. I do not recall the names of any of
24 the teachers or the individual nuns in the home, as it
25 was so long ago.

1 I do not recall any discussions regarding Australia
2 prior to our departure and I do not have any memory of
3 being asked whether or not I wanted to go. My child
4 migration form was signed by the Mother Superior of St.
5 Joseph's Home, Termonbacca, SR81, as my guardian and is
6 dated 7 May 1947. I do not recall having a medical
7 examination, but I have obtained a copy of my medical
8 examination form, which is dated 10th July 1947.

9 I do not recall how many boys came on the sailing
10 from Termonbacca or who we picked up along the way, but
11 we sailed on the SS Asturias from Liverpool to Fremantle
12 on 29th August 1947. We arrived on 22nd September 1947.
13 I have few memories of the journey to Australia other
14 than being seasick a lot during the trip. We did not
15 have females looking after us but I think a few
16 Christian Brothers came to look after us. I recall
17 during the trip we stopped at Port Said in Egypt and
18 I saw people from the ship throwing pennies down into
19 the water and natives diving in to get them. We were
20 allowed to run around the ship at times."

21 When he arrived in Fremantle, he was taken to
22 Castledare Boys' Home where he then moved from there
23 when he was ten to -- he talks about punishment for bed
24 wetting in Castledare and then being transferred to
25 Bindoon when he was ten, where he was subjected to

1 physical and sexual abuse, sexual abuse by older boys
2 and physical abuse by Brothers, and also complains of
3 the work he had to do there and of receiving no
4 education.

5 At paragraph 17 at 11176 he says that:

6 "In 1997 I liaised with a social worker in relation
7 to tracing my birth mother. An Irish friend that I
8 worked with had obtained a copy of my birth certificate
9 for me before I retired and it made me curious to find
10 out more about my past.

11 I married my wife when I was 45 years old and we
12 have two sons who are now 23 and 28 years of age. I was
13 put in touch with my cousin by the Catholic Migrant
14 Centre in Victoria Square, Perth. Her mother and my
15 mother were sisters, but she was unaware of my
16 existence. I visited her for the first time in 2003 and
17 she was very welcoming. She gave me photographs of my
18 mother who had died by the time I made contact with my
19 cousin. Unfortunately my relatives could not tell me
20 a great deal about my mother. My cousin lives in
21 Donegal. She has two daughters and four sons, so I now
22 have a lot of family in Donegal. I visited Nazareth
23 House in Bishop Street during this visit. I spoke with
24 a young nun, but she was too young to even recall that
25 it had been a boys' home in the past.

1 I was assisted financially by the Australian
2 government to pay for my trip to Ireland in 2003.
3 I returned to visit my relatives in Ireland in 2011 and
4 2..." -- sorry. "I returned to visit my relatives in
5 Ireland in 2008 and this trip was funded by the
6 Christian Brothers. My last two trips to Ireland in
7 2011 and 2003 -- 13 were assisted by the British
8 government following their apology to the child
9 migrants.

10 My wife and I visited Nazareth House, Bishop Street.
11 My cousin's son was driving us around that day and we
12 spoke to a nun and she told us that the home was, in
13 fact, closing down in the very near future. We also
14 visited Termonbacca but I did not recognise the exterior
15 of the building.

16 In my view my time in care left me awkward around
17 women and I lacked social skills. I think it is the
18 reason why I married very late in life. I would have
19 liked to have had the opportunity to marry much earlier
20 in life and to have grandchildren now. I also keep in
21 close contact with all my Irish relatives. My cousins
22 have grown-up families and every time I visit there are
23 more relatives to meet and they welcome me with open
24 arms. I often wonder how life would have been if I
25 could have been close to my family and extended family

1 throughout my childhood. I acutely feel the pain of
2 that separation throughout my life and that is why
3 I keep going back to visit my relatives regularly. It
4 saddens me when I think that access was denied me for so
5 many years."

6 It is signed on 23rd October 2013.

7 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA350

8 Q. The final witness statement that I wish to read today is
9 that of 350, HIA350. Chairman, this is the lady about
10 whom Bishop Daly spoke in module 1 when he said that he
11 was contacted by a lady from Australia in relation to
12 her search for her brother. Her documents can be found
13 at 11208 to 11243, and if we could just pull up at this
14 stage AUS11219, which is, in fact, the letter from
15 Bishop Daly to her. You will see that he says:

16 "I found your letter deeply moving and I will do all
17 I can to see if I can trace your brother. [Someone] is
18 in County Donegal. I do not have any relatives in that
19 area. Nor do I know anybody with the surname she gives
20 there. However I will make inquiries, and if I can find
21 out anything, I will get in touch with you.

22 It is sad that you were separated from your brother
23 in this manner. I suppose that the people concerned
24 meant well, felt that you might have more opportunity in
25 Australia than you would have here. I had heard about

1 a number of children being moved in the 1940s from
2 Nazareth House in Derry to Australia. I can understand
3 how deeply felt is your desire to be reunited with your
4 brother. I hope that I will have some success in my
5 search."

6 If we could go back to her statement, it's AUS11201,
7 and I should say we do not have a child migration form
8 in respect of this applicant.

9 It says she was born in 1940 in County Derry.

10 "I lived with my mother and older brother.
11 I remember having a warm and loving relationship with
12 both of them. My father did not live in the family
13 home. My brother and I were placed in care when I was
14 nearly six years old and he was nine years old. Our
15 mother died in 1946.

16 I was sent to Nazareth House when I was nearly six
17 years old. I remained there until I was seven.

18 During the day I often spent time going to school,
19 doing prayers, playing in the playground and playing
20 games such as skipping and hopscotch. Sunday was treat
21 day and we would get to see our families. My uncle
22 would bring my brother over to visit or take me to visit
23 him. After my first communion in May 1947 all contact
24 with my family stopped. I was devastated and constantly
25 asked where my brother was.

1 I ran away from Nazareth House on two occasions back
2 to my house, which was close by. Someone always found
3 me and took me back. Once I was put into a dormitory
4 without a meal for that day as punishment for running
5 away.

6 I took an IQ test while in Nazareth House and
7 Brother Conlon, a nun and a government official were
8 there. I was patted on the head and told I was a clever
9 and smart girl and was going to go on a trip to
10 Australia. There were five junior children and a few
11 aged 14 years old. We were given the impression that
12 life was going to be like a fairytale with lots of
13 fruit, sunshine and kind people.

14 I left on 18th August 1947 when I was taken to
15 Australia. I sailed on 29th August 1947 on the SS
16 Asturias. We realised we weren't going back home and we
17 were not allowed to send letters back to our families.
18 I was denied any effort to see my family and my brother
19 was unable to locate me.

20 I was medically examined before I left Northern
21 Ireland. I was seen by a British medical officer and
22 I recall injections which left scabs on my arms. Sister
23 140 helped to clean this.

24 SR132 and SR133 accompanied us to Australia and from
25 the beginning I suffered pain at the hands of the

1 Sisters of Nazareth. The voyage was really difficult.
2 SR133 was kind and good, but SR132 threw me across the
3 ship's deck for talking to boy migrants. This happened
4 on a couple of occasions and I was thrown into items on
5 the ship, which I remember was very painful. The first
6 time this happened was shortly after disembarking from
7 Northern Ireland. I was ..."

8 I think she probably means embarking.

9 "I was speaking to the boys trying to find out some
10 information about my brother. SR132 beat me with her
11 belt when I asked where my brother was and she hit me
12 with her leather strap numerous times over my body. She
13 did this to some of the other girls too.

14 I arrived in Fremantle on 27th September 1947 and
15 I was taken to Nazareth House in Geraldton, Western
16 Australia. The home was run by the Sisters of
17 Nazareth."

18 The two nuns that accompanied her also went to
19 Nazareth House. She describes being severely beat in
20 that home. She also described being punished for being
21 left-handed. She says despite being bright and
22 intelligent, she was not encouraged in her education.

23 She says at paragraph 18 that her years there were
24 very unhappy.

25 "The Sisters of Nazareth denied me any contact with

1 my family and constantly told me I was an orphan.
2 I pleaded to be allowed to see my brother AU 97 but
3 I was forbidden to speak of him or Ireland. Trying to
4 deny my memories of my family gave me nightmares."

5 She also describes that she was sexually abused by
6 a family to whom she went to on holiday.

7 At paragraph 22 she says:

8 "I was sent away from Ireland when I had already
9 formed loving memories with my family. I remembered my
10 family home, the street where are lived and many of my
11 extended family. Most of all I remember my big brother
12 whom I adored. I wrote letters in my school book
13 pages but I am sure they were never sent."

14 Then at paragraph 25 she says that she left Western
15 Australia when she was 19 years of age, went to
16 Melbourne, but spent her time looking over her shoulder,
17 because she was still a ward of state until she was
18 21 years old. Then she says she left care. She found
19 a job in a hospital and met her husband there. When she
20 was 21, she wrote requesting her birth certificate and
21 got no reply. She attended a business college and
22 eventually got a good job. She got married and had two
23 sons.

24 "These were life-affirming events for me, but
25 I never gave up hope of finding my brother AU 97

1 I wrote to the Child Welfare Department in 1956 and
2 a letter to Mrs McFadden, Bishop Street, Derry. My
3 aunt" -- sorry. That name should be not repeated.

4 "My aunt replied to me in 1957. I learnt that my
5 mother had died in 1946 and I was unable to make contact
6 with my father. I sought all the help I could to locate
7 my brother. I contacted the family, Father
8 Owen O'Connor and the Department of Health and Social
9 Services in the United Kingdom with no success in
10 finding my brother.

11 My mental health was suffering as a consequence and
12 I was treated for an anxiety and nervous disorder.
13 I was prescribed tranquillisers and antidepressants over
14 a long period of time. In 1976 I suffered a serious
15 breakdown and was admitted to hospital.

16 In 1978 I contacted SR133 and begged her to find out
17 what she could about my brother. She gave me
18 a handwritten note which she had discovered in Nazareth
19 House. All formal requests to the Sisters of Nazareth
20 and the Church of Ireland for information were not
21 responded to. I attended Sisters of Nazareth's head
22 office in London with my husband, where I met a nun who
23 had been at Geraldton. I refused to meet with her and
24 I was told that the order could not be of any assistance
25 in my search.

1 In 1979 my mental health deteriorated again.
2 I tried the Salvation Army investigation unit to help me
3 locate my brother but to no avail. In 1981 I came back
4 to Nazareth House, Derry and had a heated confrontation
5 with one of the sisters. They refused to help me. My
6 cousins helped me to check every parish, and we
7 approached priests in Derry to assist us, but to no
8 avail. I have even contacted Canadian authorities in my
9 search.

10 I continued to search from 1981 to 1991 and
11 I eventually received a letter from SR2 dated
12 7th February 1992. It gave me my brother's details and
13 where he had gone to find work. I then received
14 a letter from the Bishop of Derry telling me my brother
15 died in 1989. I became unwell again as I realised that
16 the records had been available but prevented me finding
17 my brother before his death.

18 I discovered that my brother had a hard upbringing.
19 He was mistreated by the family he lived with and he was
20 sexually abused while in the care of the church. I am
21 overwhelmed with grief that I did not find my brother
22 before his death. I blame the Sisters of Nazareth
23 entirely for this. I requested information from them in
24 1956 and I have no explanation as to why there was such
25 a delay in providing this. SR133 was able to give me

1 some information in 1978 and this indicated that records
2 were available at that time.

3 I cannot accept the denial of contact with my
4 brother. This was clearly with the powers of the
5 Sisters of Nazareth and it would have spared my brother
6 and I considerable anguish and suffering."

7 That's the final statement to be read today,
8 Chairman, and I appreciate it is earlier than on other
9 days, but I think this brings the week to a close.

10 CHAIRMAN: We will resume on Monday of next week at
11 10 o'clock.

12 I think I should give you advance warning,
13 Mr Montague, that we will be looking at some of the
14 documents in greater detail that were referred to in the
15 opening some afternoon next week.

16 MR MONTAGUE: I am grateful for that.

17 CHAIRMAN: Ms Smith will keep you informed about that.

18 MR MONTAGUE: Thank you very much. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN: So you need not count on any early afternoons.

20 MR MONTAGUE: No, I am not counting on any at all. Fully
21 committed.

22 CHAIRMAN: Very well. 10 o'clock on Monday morning.

23 MR MONTAGUE: Thank you.

24 (2.10 pm)

25 (Hearing adjourned until 10 o'clock

1 on Monday, 8th September 2014)

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