

*** IN OPEN SESSION ***

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HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

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being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at

Banbridge Court House

Banbridge

on Monday, 7th April 2014

commencing at 10.30 am

(Day 23)

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

1 Monday, 7th April 2014

2 (2.35 pm)

3 (In open session)

4 MENTION RE ABSENCE OF WITNESS HIA436

5 CHAIRMAN: Mr Aiken, now that we are back in open session

6 I just want to take the opportunity to put on record for
7 the benefit of those who have an interest in the
8 evidence that was to be given this morning by HIA436.

9 I hope you have all been given, ladies and gentlemen,
10 the correspondence the Inquiry has had with the witness
11 concerned explaining why he did not feel able to give
12 evidence today. We will come back to his evidence and
13 the evidence of others who have not come to give
14 evidence at a late stage to give you the opportunity to
15 make whatever comments you wish about either whether the
16 Inquiry should look at them or, if so, what weight
17 should be attached to some or all of the things they
18 say. I will not go into that any further at this stage.

19 Since we have been in closed session, I didn't think
20 it appropriate to mention that until now.

21 WITNESS SND484 (called)

22 MR AIKEN: Thank you. Mr Chairman, Members of the Panel --

23 CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr Aiken?

24 MR AIKEN: -- this afternoon's witness is **SND 484**, who
25 is the first social worker or now retired social worker

1 to give evidence to the Inquiry. She has a designation
2 of "484", that's "SND484", and before I ask her anything
3 she's aware, Mr Chairman, you're going ask her about
4 taking the oath or affirming.

5 CHAIRMAN: **SND 484**, do you wish to make either
6 a religious oath or to make an affirmation, a solemn
7 promise? They have the same legal effect. It is
8 entirely for you to choose which you are most
9 comfortable with.

10 **A. I am happy to take the oath.**

11 CHAIRMAN: Very well.

12 WITNESS SND484 (sworn)

13 CHAIRMAN: Is it **SND 484** ?

14 **A. It is, yes.**

15 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Very well.

16 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

17 MR AIKEN: If we can bring up SND-5632, please. **SND 484** ,
18 coming up on the screen is a copy of your witness
19 statement. I trust you will confirm and accept where
20 you would have seen your name on the original version
21 you can now see a black rectangle with a number in it in
22 place of your name and that's your designation. So can
23 I just ask you, first of all, to confirm that does
24 mirror the hard copy version that you have of your
25 statement?

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. If we just move through to the next page, please?

3 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. And to the third page?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. And just scroll down a little further, please. Now can
7 I just ask you to confirm, **SND 484**, that -- the one on the
8 screen obviously we can't see a signature, but can I ask
9 you to confirm you have, in fact, signed your statement
10 and you want to adopt that as your evidence before the
11 Inquiry?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Now, in addition, the designation that one can see on
14 the screen is because the Inquiry has given you, like
15 others, anonymity at present in terms of your name not
16 being known in the public domain, so if your evidence is
17 reported later on today, that your name won't be
18 associated with that. Now anonymity is a matter for you
19 ultimately and I want to ask you do you wish to keep
20 that anonymity and want to remain unidentified at
21 present until the Inquiry decides otherwise?

22 **A. Yes, I would prefer that.**

23 Q. Now there is a lot of material to cover, as you are
24 aware from the lengthy discussion that we have had.

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. I want to try to summarise that as much as I can. So
2 anywhere where I am saying something you don't agree
3 with, don't let that pass. You stop me and say, "No,
4 that's not right. You have misunderstood" and whatever
5 the appropriate response is to what I'm saying as I try
6 to wrap a number of issues up if I can.

7 What I want to do, first of all, **SND 484**, is try and
8 understand the framework that you operated within. I am
9 going to use a table that I know you have a lot of
10 issues with. I am going to bring it up at SND-16577,
11 which is an attempt by another individual to try and
12 explain the structure that existed within the Western
13 Health & Social Services Board post-1973.

14 Now you began working for what was the **[REDACTED]**

15 **[REDACTED]**.

16 **A. Yes. It was the [REDACTED].**

17 Q. So that's the one that dealt with outside of **[REDACTED]**
18 itself?

19 **A. Yes, yes.**

20 Q. And you worked in that Welfare Authority up until the
21 reorganisation in **[REDACTED]**?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. And you began in around **[REDACTED]**?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. At which point you were **[REDACTED]**?

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. At that point you were not a qualified social worker,
3 but you'd gone into work and you were given the title
4 then of a welfare officer?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. And what I'm going to do, because this plan doesn't show
7 it, but I am going to use my hand and you can tell me if
8 I'm right. I'm going to start from the top and work to
9 the bottom, and I know you have agreed to help us with
10 mapping out after today a much clearer delineation of
11 the roles that existed, but within the Welfare Authority
12 you had the Chief Welfare Officer at the top?

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. And then you had beneath them a Deputy Welfare Officer?

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. Then you had in terms of the ranking a specific role of
17 Children's Officer, but beneath the Deputy Welfare
18 Officer -- because the Children's Officer sort of stood
19 aside from the structure --

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. -- if I have understood you correctly -- beneath the
22 Deputy Welfare Officer you had a Divisional Welfare
23 Officer. Then you had the Senior Welfare Officers, who
24 were the team leaders within each district?

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. And then you had the Welfare Officers?

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

3 Q. And you were a member of that I am going to call it the
4 bottom rung and that's not what I mean --

5 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. -- in terms of your role. You may say that's where all
7 the hard work was done on the ground. Is that right?
8 You were the one carrying out the actual visiting?

9 **A. Yes, the direct work with the families.**

10 Q. So that was your position within the [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]. So outside [REDACTED] it was the [REDACTED]
12 County Borough prior to [REDACTED].

13 **A. Yes. That part of [REDACTED] was linked in with [REDACTED]**
14 **[REDACTED]. We were at -- because the County**
15 **[REDACTED] Welfare Committee was at the top of it all.**
16 **You know, the Chief Welfare Officer was accountable to**
17 **the committee, and the committee looked after [REDACTED]**
18 **and [REDACTED] and the parts of [REDACTED] that were not**
19 **within the borough, which was the centre of the town.**

20 Q. Yes. I should have -- I have got that the wrong way
21 round.

22 CHAIRMAN: So we know this is absolutely right, you are
23 talking about all the rural areas in [REDACTED]
24 outside the city --

25 **A. Outside the city.**

1 CHAIRMAN: -- because the city I think at that stage had
2 gone under the [REDACTED] --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 CHAIRMAN: -- which had replaced the County Borough
5 structure at least on the top.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 CHAIRMAN: Probably the same people doing the work
8 underneath.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 CHAIRMAN: You are out in the country and the rural towns
11 like [REDACTED]?

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 MR AIKEN: And you had a generic case load. By that I mean
14 you covered not only children but also older people,
15 people with disability.

16 **A. Mental health as well.**

17 Q. Mental health problems. So your case load was varied --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- prior to [REDACTED] and indeed for a period post [REDACTED] that
20 we'll come to.

21 **A. Uh-huh.**

22 Q. But your first occasion visiting Termonbacca was in [REDACTED]
23 --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- when you were a welfare officer within the

1 [REDACTED] --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- Welfare. Can you tell the Inquiry a little bit about
4 how you came to be going to Termonbacca in [REDACTED]?

5 A. Well, the context for that was that although my base, my
6 office was in [REDACTED], the person in charge of
7 [REDACTED] was also in charge of [REDACTED], and at that time
8 there were a lot of difficulties politically going on
9 and there was a shortage of staff there, and they asked
10 some of the [REDACTED] staff to cover some of the work,
11 the statutory work, that was going -- you know, that
12 had -- should be in relation to the Children & Young
13 Persons Act, for example, and they asked me would I go
14 and cover some of that work as a kind of emergency. So
15 I did do that.

16 We had a little outline of us in the middle of the
17 [REDACTED] and I went there some afternoons to
18 cover emergency duty, and I had a client there who came
19 in who was very distressed and said she couldn't cope
20 with her family, her two boys. I remember around -- the
21 whole discussion around that and with her grandparents
22 who were trying to help look after these boys; that the
23 oldest boy then said to me he couldn't cope with home
24 either. It was too distressing, and following that --
25 discussions with my senior, then we decided that we

1 would have to find a place for him, and the only place
2 then at that point was Termonbacca.

3 So I took him there under a voluntary admission to
4 care and, as we hoped at the time, maybe a temporary
5 admission to care while his mum maybe got a bit better
6 or found herself in a more supported situation.

7 Q. I want to just unpack that a little with you. The
8 individual you are talking about will actually be known
9 to the Inquiry, and his name shouldn't be reported, but
10 it is HIA60, later HIA60.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So you were involved with him and him ending up in
13 Termonbacca?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Now the type of difficulty that was being created that
16 meant you were having to do emergency cover, was that
17 because of violence on the streets and political unrest,
18 or why was there a problem and the need to shift you
19 into [REDACTED]?

20 A. Yes. It was to do with the political problems and the
21 violence, because it was -- I mean, it was just very
22 difficult. I don't know if you want me to go into any
23 details about that, but I think --

24 Q. If I summarise it this way: was it hard to get staff to
25 work in [REDACTED] at the time?

1 **A. Yes, yes, it was.**

2 Q. And that was because of those two main reasons: the
3 violence on the streets and the political unrest that
4 existed in the country?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. And you got on with it and went in and did your work and
7 were involved with this particular placement?

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. And you mentioned you discussed it with your senior and
10 Termonbacca was the place identified to take him to.
11 Now what I want to ask you is: what role did you play in
12 assessing where this individual should go, ie was it you
13 who decided, "Right. I know. We will put him in
14 Termonbacca" or was that information that was conveyed
15 to you, a decision having been taken by someone else?

16 **A. Well, that decision was taken by -- you know, it
17 wouldn't have been taken by me, because I wouldn't have
18 been in a position to know what places were available.
19 That would have been done by my senior -- by my team
20 leader, and they would have been the person also doing
21 the negotiation with -- making the contact with the
22 children's home and, you know, talking with them as to
23 when they could receive him, and then conveying back to
24 me, you know, when that could happen, and that would
25 have -- I would have been the person then discussing**

1 **that with his mother particularly and his grandparents.**

2 Q. The actual arrangements -- and you have described them
3 as negotiations -- for a place --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- for in this case HIA60 to go to Termonbacca was not
6 in your remit. That was somebody above you in the
7 chain, as it were?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. And the assessing whether that was a suitable place for
10 HIA60 or not was not a decision for you, but a decision
11 that was being taken above you?

12 **A. Well, I think that at that time places would have been
13 very scarce, you know. There would not have been many
14 options.**

15 Q. Well, at that point in time, [REDACTED], am I right in
16 saying you had Mourne Drive, which had six to eight
17 places, and Fort James, which had twenty to thirty
18 places?

19 **A. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. And at that point that's all -- I appreciate Harberton
21 House comes later, but that's really all there was in
22 the [REDACTED] --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- in terms of children's homes at that point in time?

25 **A. Uh-huh, and I think that sometimes we might have had to**

1 fall back on placements in Nazareth House in Belfast,
2 for example. Maybe the odd placement had to be made
3 there temporarily.

4 Q. There was a shortage of places. Is that fair?

5 A. In [REDACTED], yes. Uh-huh.

6 Q. The decision having been taken it was to Termonbacca
7 that HIA60 was to go, you then take him there?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And had you ever been in Termonbacca before or was this
10 your first visit?

11 A. That was my first visit.

12 Q. And if I was to ask you -- most of the witnesses have
13 been asked their first impression whenever they were
14 there. What was your first impression as a young
15 welfare officer taking a child to this place?

16 A. Well, I think, looking back, I -- it's a very, very
17 large house. It is enclosed in large grounds. It has
18 a very -- probably still has a very strong gate, very
19 high gate, you know. It would be a bit like
20 approaching -- well, it could be -- it could be very
21 intimidating to a young child. Now HIA60 wasn't a young
22 child. As far as I can remember he was a young
23 teenager. So maybe he would have seen it differently,
24 but it wouldn't be the ideal place to bring a child.

25 Q. Can you remember now -- and if you can't remember, just

1 say so -- bringing him there for the first time you have
2 got -- if I describe it to you, you have got the
3 frontage of a stately home type structure --

4 **A. Uh-huh. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. -- the front of the house. Do you knock on the door or
6 how do you get in, and who meets you, and where do you
7 go?

8 **A. Yes. Well, I -- on my first visit to Termonbacca**
9 **I would have knocked on the front door and it would have**
10 **been opened by either maybe the caretaker -- not the**
11 **caretaker but the housekeeper, and then you would have**
12 **been shown into the parlour or the good room or the**
13 **formal sitting room. Then maybe the nun -- one of the**
14 **nuns would have come and would have greeted you and**
15 **asked you some things, and then I would have -- I can't**
16 **remember exactly, you know. I really can't, but I think**
17 **that HIA60 would have been taken then to the place at**
18 **the back where the children were and where they had**
19 **the -- both the living and the sleeping accommodation.**

20 Q. Can you remember on that occasion you took HIA60 there
21 being taken to the living area, to the sleeping area or
22 was it a case simply of handing him over to whichever
23 sister had greeted you, having been brought into the
24 parlour?

25 **A. No. I don't recollect being shown where he was to go.**

1 **I can't remember that. I don't think it happened.**

2 Q. And that's your only recollection of Termonbacca pre the
3 ██████ reorganisation --

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. -- that we're going to come to?

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. Do you remember discussing Termonbacca when you got back
8 to the office about your first impression or first
9 experience there? Was that the first time, for
10 instance, you had been in a home that was run by nuns?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Did you discuss it when you went back? If you don't
13 remember now, just say -- say so.

14 **A. No, I don't remember.**

15 Q. You don't remember?

16 **A. No.**

17 Q. But your impression was of somewhere that was
18 potentially intimidating to a child?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. The position was there were not really any other
21 options?

22 **A. No, there wouldn't have been any other options.**

23 Q. Now we then have the reorganisation that occurs in ██████
24 You become part of the ██████ Health & Social Services
25 Board.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Now I want to try and get the structure of this from
3 you, if I can --

4 **A. Right. Okay.**

5 Q. -- because it's very different from what's on the screen
6 to a degree, but you have -- if we're looking at the
7 very left-hand side -- and perhaps a circle can be put
8 round this for me -- the District Social Services
9 Officers [REDACTED], standing for [REDACTED] and
10 [REDACTED], on the very left-hand side.

11 **A. Yes, yes. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. We now have a circle round it.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. Then you have got teams of residential and fieldwork
15 staff. Ultimately you were a member of the fieldwork
16 staff beneath the District Social Services Officer for
17 [REDACTED]?

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

19 Q. But what you were explaining to me before we came in was
20 there was the District Services Officer and then beneath
21 him or her was the Principal Social Worker.

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. Beneath the Principal Social Worker potentially was
24 an Assistant Principal Social Worker. Then beneath the
25 Assistant Principal Social Worker, if there was one, was

1 the Team Leader or the Senior Social Worker. Then you
2 had the social workers --

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. -- which you would have come into the category of, and
5 then beneath you now you had the category of assistant
6 social workers.

7 **A. Yes, yes.**

8 Q. And that's the structure that existed by the time you
9 came back to work in [REDACTED]?

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

11 Q. Now in between if I can just set the -- you went off to
12 do your qualifications in [REDACTED]?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. And spent two years doing -- and what qualifications did
15 you do? Can you explain?

16 **A. Well, I did the qualifying course in social work. It
17 was a two-year course, and it was called The Certificate
18 of Qualifying Social Work, which is long, but now they
19 do degrees in social work, but that's what I did at that
20 time.**

21 Q. And you already were a university graduate?

22 **A. Yes, I was. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. You had done a degree, but at that time there was no
24 degree in social work. It was -- yours was in --

25 **A. Well, the degrees in social work were just beginning.**

1 **It was the very beginning of social work as**
2 **a profession.**

3 Q. So you had done a degree in [REDACTED] story?

4 A. **And [REDACTED].**

5 Q. And [REDACTED]?

6 A. **Uh-huh.**

7 Q. So you had done the qualification that was available to
8 you in social work. Did you say that took one year or
9 two years?

10 A. **That was two years.**

11 Q. Was that a residential course? Can you remember whether
12 you lived in or ...?

13 A. **No. We did placements. My placements were all in the**
14 **community. I did a probation placement and one with the**
15 **-- [REDACTED], a voluntary organisation. The last**
16 **placement -- I did a placement in hospital, and I think**
17 **I had four altogether. I did a community placement as**
18 **well.**

19 Q. Again this was generic?

20 A. **Yes.**

21 Q. So it covered a whole range of social services care that
22 was provided?

23 A. **Yes.**

24 Q. Having done your qualification, then you worked in --
25 connected to [REDACTED] for two years?

1 **A. No, just for six months.**

2 Q. Then you were off for family reasons for a period of
3 time?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Then you begin in [REDACTED] towards the end of

6 [REDACTED]

7 **A. Yes. I think to be very exact it was [REDACTED]**
8 **I started.**

9 Q. [REDACTED] you start in the --

10 **A. In [REDACTED].**

11 Q. -- were asked to work in the [REDACTED] area?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. That places you now within the [REDACTED] -- as a social
14 worker working in [REDACTED]

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. And above you, just so we have this clear, your team
17 leader -- because it will become relevant for some of
18 the discussions we will have in due course -- was **SND 468**

19 **[REDACTED] SND 468?**

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. Then above him the Principal Social Worker was
22 eventually you think **[REDACTED] TL 19**?

23 **A. Yes, yes. I think that might be that, yes.**

24 Q. And above him the District Social Services Officer was
25 **[REDACTED] SND 469**?

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Eventually when **SND 468** was promoted from Team
3 Leader to Assistant Principal Social Worker, **SND 491**
4 **SND 491** became the team leader?

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

6 Q. As I understand it, the structure -- that's the
7 fieldwork team that I have described, and you had
8 an equivalent team on the residential side --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- with again the District Social Services Officer at
11 the top, **SND 469** ?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. And a similar team structure leading down to the social
14 workers based in residential work?

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

16 Q. But at this point in time the residential work covered
17 not just residential children's homes, but, in fact, all
18 residential care --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- that was provided by social services?

21 **A. Yes. That included all the old people -- all the homes**
22 **for the older people, residential homes for older**
23 **people.**

24 Q. And equally your work on the fieldwork side covered not
25 just children, whether fostered or in residential homes,

1 but also older people --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- people with mental health difficulties, that type of
4 work?

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. In [REDACTED] then, when you begin in [REDACTED], is that
7 still the structure or has it by that stage moved to
8 a more children's work delineated differently? When did
9 that change take place?

10 **A. Well, I think that change took place about [REDACTED]**

11 Q. So for [REDACTED] years while you are in [REDACTED]
12 your case load as a [REDACTED] social worker isn't just
13 dealing with children?

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. It's dealing with all of the social services' cases --

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. -- that fell to a fieldwork officer?

18 **A. Uh-huh. Exactly, yes.**

19 Q. Now you say, **SND 484**, in your statement, that in [REDACTED] -- we
20 just can see this at SND-5632, please. You confirm most
21 of the details in the second paragraph. We have
22 amplified a little.

23 On the next page, SND-5633, you begin to talk about
24 some specific involvement you had that took you back to
25 Termonbacca. I am going to look at that with you for

1 a little while --

2 **A. Right. Okay.**

3 Q. -- and look at some documents connected to it. Again
4 the "HIA69" refers to HIA69. Again his name should not
5 be published. Just to assist you, that's HIA69 and his
6 sisters and brothers. There are four of them. You are
7 given the [REDACTED] case --

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. -- in [REDACTED]. Do you remember the family?

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

11 Q. And again at the time you are given the case they are
12 already placed in Termonbacca. Isn't that right?

13 **A. Uh-huh. Uh-huh. They had been there for a few years.**

14 Q. So again you had no involvement in the decision to place
15 children in Termonbacca?

16 **A. No, I didn't.**

17 Q. Is it fair to say that was simply one of the locations
18 that children could go to and whether they went there or
19 not was not something you ever decided?

20 **A. No, because I think, you know, children generally didn't
21 come into care on a planned basis. It was generally as
22 a result of an emergency or, you know, a court order or
23 something like that.**

24 Q. And the bias from the statute was in favour of
25 fostering, boarding out?

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. So going into a residential children's home was when you
3 couldn't --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- manage to sort fostering out?

6 **A. Yes. Exactly. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. And who would have decided within your organisation,
8 "Right. We have got this family. We need -- we can't
9 find fostering for them. We need to get them into
10 a children's home. Therefore we will put them in X home
11 or Y home"? Who made that decision?

12 **A. Well, I think when we needed a place, because we were
13 still divided into fieldwork and residential, we had to
14 go to the residential section to ask them what places
15 they had available. Now they did have a specialist
16 officer who was in charge of fostering, and that would
17 have been someone who would have known all the foster
18 homes available, would have been in charge of recruiting
19 fostering, for example. So your first choice was to go
20 to him to see did he have any foster places. If not,
21 then the AP for residential would have been the person
22 then to find you the place, as it were, and tell you
23 where that was.**

24 Q. Let me just clarify. The AP is the Assistant Principal
25 Social Worker in charge of?

1 **A. Residential.**

2 Q. Residential care?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. And who was that during the period that you were dealing
5 with this in the late '70s? Who was performing that
6 role?

7 **A. Well, my immediate thought is it was [REDACTED] TL 4 [REDACTED], but**
8 **I'm not sure if it was, because it was a developing**
9 **situation, and there were some APs who mostly dealt with**
10 **the places for elderly people --**

11 Q. Yes.

12 **A. -- but I'm not sure whether they combined that role or**
13 **not. It may have been [REDACTED] TL 4 [REDACTED]. It may have been some of**
14 **the other APs.**

15 Q. You are not entirely sure --

16 **A. I am not entirely sure.**

17 Q. -- at this remove who it was, but it may have been [REDACTED] TL 4 [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED] TL 4 [REDACTED]. His -- the director above him at that point in
19 time was a [REDACTED] TL 20 [REDACTED].

20 **A. Was [REDACTED] TL 20 [REDACTED], yes.**

21 Q. What was his -- was he a director of a particular part?
22 Can you remember what his ...?

23 **A. His title was Principal Social Worker.**

24 Q. So he was the Principal Social Worker?

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. He reported up to one of the directors?

2 A. He reported to the -- the -- just I have lost track of
3 the thing there, but I think his title at that time was
4 DSSO.

5 Q. So he reported up to **SND 469** ?

6 A. To **SND 469** , yes.

7 Q. Right. So the position was those in the fieldwork team
8 would have gone to the residential team to ask, "What
9 places have you?"

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. At that stage we were still talking about either Mourne
12 Drive or Fort James?

13 A. Well, we couldn't consider Mourne Drive, because Mourne
14 Drive was called a family group home. That was
15 a limited number of places for a specific family.
16 Although it was run like a children's home, it was
17 geared around them and it was to do with their parents
18 having died. So we didn't have access to Mourne Drive.

19 Q. So it was Fort James?

20 A. Just Fort James.

21 Q. If there were no places there, then you had to turn to
22 voluntary homes like Termonbacca and Bishop Street?

23 A. Yes. Uh-huh.

24 Q. But that was a decision taken by who?

25 A. That would have been taken by **TL 20** I imagine, by

1 [REDACTED] TL 20 [REDACTED] .

2 Q. Ultimately --

3 A. Uh-huh, or perhaps --

4 Q. -- the Principal Social Worker?

5 A. -- or perhaps the AP. It might have been delegated down
6 to the AP.

7 Q. Either he or, if it was [REDACTED] TL 4 [REDACTED] .

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. -- him make that decision? So in terms of the funding
10 of the child who was placed in the voluntary home you
11 had no involvement in working out what the funding
12 should be and how it was administered?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Do you know who was responsible for working out -- you
15 were talking about earlier negotiating the place. This
16 time negotiating the funding and working out what was to
17 be paid, when, how, who did that type of engagement with
18 the voluntary home?

19 A. Well, I think that would have been done either at the
20 level of the Principal Social Worker or maybe indeed
21 higher up with the DSSO.

22 Q. So we're talking about either [REDACTED] SND 469 [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] TL 19 [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED] TL 19 / [REDACTED] TL 20 [REDACTED] ?

24 A. No, it wouldn't have been [REDACTED] TL 19 [REDACTED] . I don't think so.
25 I don't think so.

1 Q. So more [REDACTED] TL 20 [REDACTED] done on the residential side?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. Now you have been to Termonbacca once before.
4 That was your first involvement with a voluntary home.
5 You are now going back in, having been assigned the
6 [REDACTED]. Had you been in a voluntary home since
7 the visit to Termonbacca in [REDACTED]?

8 A. Well, yes, incidentally I did. I -- because I did
9 a placement with [REDACTED] --

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. -- I had a chance to be in some of their children's
12 homes.

13 Q. And were they children's homes that were operated in
14 a similar way to Fort James in terms of their size or
15 were they larger institutional type places like
16 Termonbacca?

17 A. Well, no. They were more like our own homes, and they
18 would have been smaller, more geared to the individual
19 needs of children I would say now, yes.

20 Q. So this return you are making to Termonbacca, you hadn't
21 been -- you hadn't had experience of other similar sized
22 places to Termonbacca since you visited Termonbacca in
23 [REDACTED]?

24 A. Sorry. Just ask me that again.

25 Q. You are going back into Termonbacca in [REDACTED]

1 **A.** ██████ **yes.**

2 **Q.** You had been there in ██████

3 **A.** **Uh-huh.**

4 **Q.** In between you hadn't had experience of any larger type
5 homes similar in size to Termonbacca?

6 **A.** **No, no.**

7 **Q.** Nor had you experience of any homes run by nuns --

8 **A.** **No.**

9 **Q.** -- other than Termonbacca?

10 **A.** **No.**

11 **Q.** Now whenever you are being given a case like the ██████
12 family --

13 **A.** **Uh-huh.**

14 **Q.** -- are you handed a file?

15 **A.** **Yes.**

16 **Q.** How do you get up to speed with the family that's
17 already been part of the board's care?

18 **A.** **Well, my recollection is that I was given a case load**
19 **and given a number of files, and that would have been --**
20 **I think I would have had an induction of maybe a week or**
21 **something and then -- to familiarise myself with my new**
22 **area, and then I would have just been expected to get on**
23 **with making my introductions. I didn't have joint**
24 **visits with a previous social worker or anything like**
25 **that that you might have had in more recent times.**

1 I just would had to have gone out and got familiar with
2 my case load and done -- that would be on my own
3 initiative.

4 Q. And this case load was you visiting all types of --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- individuals?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Both children and adults?

9 A. Yes. Uh-huh.

10 Q. In the case of Termonbacca then you're going to see the

11 [REDACTED] -- and we will look at some of the records

12 shortly for different reasons -- but you are going to

13 see the [REDACTED] in Termonbacca. Can you just explain

14 how did that work? Did you again go to the front door

15 and knock the front door, or what was the atmosphere

16 like in terms of how you got in and how you interacted

17 with people when you were there?

18 A. Well, it was a very long time since I had been there.

19 So, yes, I mean I knew where I was going, but I would

20 have gone to the front door again and knocked on the

21 door and been received, you know, and explained why

22 I was there, and then I would have been taken round to

23 the side door to where the children were and I --

24 I think I would have made contact with the social worker

25 there.

1 Q. Now this was -- again his name is not to be reported --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- SND332 --

4 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. -- was employed by the Sisters of Nazareth?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. And had an office in Termonbacca itself?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. I think from his statement he says he was there from

10 [REDACTED]. So he would have been there --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- by the time you were passing through in [REDACTED]

13 **A. Yes, and his office was situated along the corridor as**
14 **you went up to where the children were. So it was -- it**
15 **was very convenient, you know, to assess how things were**
16 **going with him, you know, both before you would visit,**
17 **introduce yourself to the children or afterwards.**

18 Q. Now what I want to do is ask you about the typical visit
19 you would have had. As I understand it, while there
20 wasn't a statutory requirement, the expectation was you
21 as a social worker would visit someone in your care
22 every month?

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. And the nature of these visits in terms of Termonbacca
25 was you went to Termonbacca, and you mentioned in

1 passing SND332's office. Where were you taken to in
2 order to conduct the visit with whatever child you were
3 going to meet?

4 **A. Well, my recollection is that I went on past SND332's**
5 **office and went into a little like passageway to the**
6 **left off that corridor, and that there were like**
7 **a kitchen area to the right I think and like a cloakroom**
8 **area to the left or something like that, and that in**
9 **front of us was a large sitting room, and it was like**
10 **a room where all the children just mingled about and did**
11 **everything, and like -- you'd just call it like a living**
12 **room basically, but it was very much larger than**
13 **a living room in your own home. It was enormous.**
14 **That's my recollection anyway, and that the children**
15 **were all there. So if you wanted to speak with a child,**
16 **what you did was you took them to one corner of that**
17 **room, a bit like a hospital ward, for example, and just**
18 **chatted to them there.**

19 **Q. You mention in your statement, and it is still up on**
20 **screen actually, as we can see, in the second**
21 **paragraph down, so the middle paragraph that we are**
22 **looking at on the screen, and four lines from the bottom**
23 **of that:**

24 "However, it was not easy to make anything other
25 than a superficial relationship. There was no privacy

1 to chat to them or to spend a lot of time with them."

2 How do you -- what do you mean by that? Perhaps if
3 you could contrast what a visit was like in, for
4 instance, Fort James with what it was like in
5 Termonbacca, if that assists in explaining what you
6 mean?

7 **A. Right. Well, I suppose the lack of privacy was just to**
8 **do with the fact that there was no room designated or**
9 **set aside like a little sitting room or anything like**
10 **that. If you think about Fort James or Harberton, there**
11 **was -- there was a room that was -- it was called --**
12 **I think they called the sitting room there too, but it**
13 **was kind of cosy and, you know, easy chairs and maybe**
14 **playing material about if there was younger children.**
15 **You could have done something with the child, you know.**
16 **In Termonbacca that wasn't there.**

17 **Q. Did you feel able or did you raise with somebody, "Look,**
18 **is there nowhere else I can use to meet the child rather**
19 **than in here?"**

20 **A. No, I did not do that, no.**

21 **Q. Why did you not do that? If you are reflecting on it**
22 **now, can you think of why you might not have?**

23 **A. Well, it is very hard to answer that why I didn't.**
24 **I can only think that I was pushed for time and the**
25 **weight of the rest of the, you know, clients on my case**

1 load -- I mean, I had -- I think I recollect at times
2 having 60 to 70 or 80 cases on my case load at any one
3 point in time. As I say, it was a mixed case load.
4 Every day you were balancing what was the most awful
5 thing, you know, urgent thing that needed to be done
6 that day, and the children, I could only see them
7 between 3.00 and 5.00, because otherwise they were at
8 school. So there were lots of restrictions as to why
9 you couldn't take the time to make a more worthwhile
10 visit I suppose.

11 Q. Just you were mentioning the different priorities that
12 were on you. If I can just unpack that a little and
13 then come back to the visit in terms of, as you saw
14 things, the hierarchy of safety or importance, and by
15 that I mean you were seeing children who were in
16 Harberton and Fort James, in Termonbacca, children who
17 were in foster care --

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. -- and then children who were not in any of those places
20 but were with their --

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. -- parents or parent or guardian --

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. -- but at risk, as it were --

25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. -- which is why you were involved. So how did -- how
2 did you view -- in the context of your overall case
3 load, which I appreciate carried more than children, but
4 for that part that dealt with children, and you've got
5 these different classes --

6 A. Uh-huh.

7 Q. -- if you saw them as classes, different classes of
8 interaction with children on your books, how did you
9 view the children who were in the likes of Harberton,
10 Fort James, Termonbacca compared to those who were not
11 in those places but on your books?

12 A. Well, I think that -- I think if I had to compare, say,
13 Fort James or Harberton with Termonbacca, I would say
14 that -- I would have thought the children in Fort James
15 or Termonbacca -- children in Fort James or Harberton
16 would be having a better experience of being in
17 residential care, because residential care was not
18 the -- we knew, you know, the best option for children
19 was not residential care, although having said that,
20 maybe it was the only care that suited some children,
21 but as a big general statement foster care would have
22 been what we were aiming for in terms of alternative
23 care to family. So I think that I would have wanted for
24 children to be somewhere where there was a smaller
25 number of children, because they were going to need

1 individual attention and, you know, paying attention to
2 their individual way of coping and problems that would
3 come up for them. So I think at that time anyway
4 I would have felt that they were -- had a better chance
5 to get that at Fort James or Harberton.

6 Q. But is it fair to say you regarded Termonbacca as safe?

7 A. Yes. Uh-huh.

8 Q. And the children appeared well cared for?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you had no concerns about them appearing
11 malnourished?

12 A. No.

13 Q. So your issue about Termonbacca compared to the other
14 facilities that were available to you to visit was about
15 its size?

16 A. Well, yes. I suppose I would have looked at children as
17 having all sorts of needs and those basic care needs,
18 physical, you know, their being well dressed and having
19 food and having a roof over their head and having some
20 sort of stability, that would have been -- that would
21 have been considered good, you know, that that was
22 there, but then I think I would be concerned about their
23 emotional welfare and also how they were going to
24 develop as -- as people who would be able to cope with
25 life after care, and I probably thought that the

1 **children in Termonbacca were very, very**
2 **institutionalised children and that it was going to be**
3 **difficult for them in their later life.**

4 Q. Now let me -- you are aware of me saying to you
5 beforehand let's imagine we are sitting in Cafe Nero and
6 you said to me, "They are very institutionalised". What
7 do you -- can you unpack -- can you explain -- what --
8 when you say they were very institutionalised, what did
9 that look like? What was the concern that you could see
10 in them that had you not really wanting them there,
11 wanting them somewhere else preferably? What did it
12 look like to be institutionalised, as you saw it?

13 A. Well, I think that because they were part of a very
14 large group, they didn't have the chance to experience
15 themselves as having individual, you know, needs and
16 to -- you know, maybe to relate to others in a more
17 personal way. I thought that -- maybe this is based on
18 only one family now. I thought that they found it hard
19 to relate to me, because they'd been involved with so
20 many different people, although, having said that, the
21 children in our own children's homes would have had that
22 turnover of staff as well, but I just felt they hadn't
23 experienced close interpersonal relationships.

24 Q. You mentioned staff. In terms of -- how did the ratios
25 of staff to children compare between -- you had Fort

1 James and Harberton eventually to talk about and compare
2 with Termonbacca. How did the staff ratios appear?
3 Were they the same? Did there seem to be more staff in
4 one place than the other? Did one place seem to have
5 plenty of staff and another place not? What was the
6 staffing like?

7 **A. Well, if we are sticking to, you know, the 1970s or**
8 **maybe early '80s, I think my impression was in**
9 **Termonbacca there weren't that many staff. There was**
10 **one nun in charge of each family group and then there**
11 **would have been some ancillary staff, like maybe people**
12 **to clean or cook, and maybe one or two houseparents, and**
13 **there was a residential social worker, which was a very**
14 **good -- very good thing, but my feeling is that there**
15 **were -- there was less help around and a lot of it maybe**
16 **fell on that -- a lot of responsibility fell on that one**
17 **nun, who was like the parent substitute for the whole**
18 **group.**

19 **Q. And how did that compare with your experience in Fort**
20 **James or Harberton?**

21 **A. Well, I think there would have been a lot more people**
22 **around.**

23 **Q. That's a lot of more staff you're talking about?**

24 **A. A lot more staff, yes. Uh-huh. Even at that stage**
25 **I think they were called residential social workers and**

1 **as such would have had, you know, access to more**
2 **training than in the voluntary sector.**

3 Q. Now there are a number of -- in terms of your concerns
4 about -- you have mentioned staffing, institutionalism
5 as you were describing it. If I was to say to you,
6 "You've got a child to place and you've got a choice of
7 Fort James and Harberton and Termonbacca", where are you
8 going to choose and why?

9 **A. Well, my first choice would not have been Termonbacca.**

10 Q. What was it about Termonbacca that leads you to say
11 that?

12 **A. Well, I think it would have been to do with the fact**
13 **that I think in Fort James or Harberton there would have**
14 **been more emphasis on trying to see, "How do we move**
15 **this child on?" There would be an awareness probably**
16 **there about residential not being the best choice for**
17 **children and how can we make plans and how can we cater**
18 **for their individual needs and how can we even**
19 **facilitate them going back to their family? I mean,**
20 **I seem to remember in relation to Harberton and Fort**
21 **James that we -- there was an openness about family, you**
22 **know, staying in touch and facilitating, you know, that**
23 **contact with family, which I don't remember --**
24 **I remember that -- I don't remember that in Termonbacca**
25 **at all. In fact, maybe the very opposite. There might**

1 **have been a discouragement about family. Maybe that's**
2 **just a feeling I have.**

3 Q. If I was to try and bring that together and summarise
4 it, Termonbacca as far as you were concerned appeared to
5 you to be safe. They catered for the children. They
6 were fed and clothed, but it was not the ideal place for
7 a child to discover and learn what it needed to learn --

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. -- to get on?

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. Is that a fair summary of what you're saying?

12 **A. Yes, that's a fair summary. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. Now what I do want to ask you to try to balance that, if
14 we could bring up, please, HIA -- so not SND-- HIA-1464.
15 I know this is a document that I showed you earlier on
16 today and this was -- if we just extend the page out,
17 please -- this was [REDACTED], who you are aware
18 of from the Ministry of Home Affairs, writing in April
19 [REDACTED]. I am just going to read this passage to you and
20 then I am going to ask you some questions about it. She
21 has listed it "St. Joseph's Home, Termonbacca" you can
22 see at the top of the page and then "Nazareth House,
23 Derry", but she has actually named two more prior to
24 that, which are the Nazareth homes in Belfast:

25 "The children in these four homes have nothing like

1 a normal upbringing. They must feel unloved as it is
2 just not possible for the number of staff to show
3 affection to such large numbers of children. They can
4 know little or nothing of the world outside (as with one
5 exception school is on the premises)" -- the exception
6 is definitely Termonbacca -- "and must be completely
7 unprepared for it either in character or knowledge.
8 I find these homes utterly depressing and it appalls me
9 to think that these hundreds of children are being
10 reared in bleak lovelessness. This is not meant
11 entirely as criticism of the staff, but their task is
12 impossible. Some of them have, however, little idea of
13 what a child's life should be. They have got used to
14 their own institutional set-up. For example, when asked
15 about the children going out, one replied, 'Oh, yes,
16 they go to the circus at Christmas'. If this is their
17 sole contact with the world, they must have a distorted
18 idea of it! Even their godparent scheme is unreal, as
19 instead of getting ordinary folk somewhere near the
20 children's own level to be uncles and aunts, they have
21 looked for businessmen who will give the boys jobs on
22 leaving -- regardless of whether the business is likely
23 to suit the boy.

24 In short, I think we must press for complete
25 overhaul of the whole set-up of these homes, and assist

1 them in every way possible."

2 Now that's written in [REDACTED].

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. You were visiting Termonbacca in [REDACTED].

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. Do you recognise the place that [REDACTED] was
7 talking about in [REDACTED]?

8 **A. Well, no, I wouldn't, you know -- I think from my**
9 **perspective that seems a very extreme, you know,**
10 **statement, and obviously that's what, you know, was**
11 **found at that time. So I think by [REDACTED] things had**
12 **changed. You know, I thought it was very institutional**
13 **at the time, but then my standards of what**
14 **an institution were were probably very different, you,**
15 **know, but I -- I think that's -- I wouldn't have written**
16 **that in [REDACTED].**

17 Q. So whatever it was like in [REDACTED] that led [REDACTED]
18 to describe it in this way --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- that was not -- while there were issues that you have
21 explained, you did not view it in these stark terms?

22 **A. No, no, no. I would have said it was more benevolent**
23 **than that, you know.**

24 Q. And do you point to the social worker that you talk
25 about as an example of that, SND332, working there and

1 the interaction you had with him?

2 **A. Yes. I mean, I think that having a social worker there**
3 **was -- was quite an enlightened thing to do, because**
4 **I think he was very child-centred -- is a very**
5 **child-centred person and, you know, totally -- integrity**
6 **as well, and he would have been part of influencing**
7 **a different regime for children and it is possible to**
8 **make a change over a period of time.**

9 Q. So, to summarise, if this is what it was like in [REDACTED],
10 it had changed by the time you were there in [REDACTED]?

11 **A. Yes, I would say so.**

12 Q. It still had the issues that you saw --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- for you, but not what [REDACTED] was
15 describing?

16 **A. No, I wouldn't describe it that way.**

17 Q. Now I want to go back then to the nature of your visits
18 and I want to do this in the context of HIA69, because
19 from the documents we discussed earlier there are
20 a number of issues around that that will be useful as
21 hangers to let you explain generally how matters
22 operated.

23 You kept -- if I can just bring up SND-2231 as
24 an example, because we need it for a different purpose.
25 This is SND-- my apologies -- SND-2231. I think I saw

1 2331 coming up. 2231. Thank you. If you just maximise
2 the size of that, please. So as part of when you were
3 visiting monthly, whether it was to children in
4 residential care or foster placements, you kept these
5 case reports?

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. You'd a -- there was a typist -- a pooled typist back in
8 the office who compiled these on foot of your
9 instructions, as it were, summary of what had taken
10 place?

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. And this would have been kept -- I think you said
13 initially there were files that were sort of family
14 files --

15 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- and then there was a change. I am not sure if you
17 can date the change when it moved to keeping individual
18 files for children.

19 **A. No, I don't remember.**

20 Q. You don't remember precisely when that was?

21 **A. No.**

22 Q. So that was one aspect, and the visit you have explained
23 was conducted in the living room. Then you recorded any
24 significant events as well as the visit afterwards on
25 forms or sheets like this. Is that right?

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. In addition to that you talked about in your statement
3 a lack of privacy. SND-5633. We will come back to that
4 particular page shortly, but if we can go to SND-5633
5 and the second paragraph, just the end of the second
6 paragraph, this is -- in addition to the privacy point
7 you say there was -- in terms of getting to know the
8 children and assisting their development you say:

9 "There was no custom or practice of taking children
10 out to get to know them and in retrospect this might not
11 have been a wise thing to do."

12 You will recall I asked you was that a typo? Were
13 you saying it would have been a wise thing to do to take
14 the children out so you could get to know them better?

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. But you corrected me and said, no, this is what you
17 mean?

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. Can you explain to the Panel why -- on one view, you
20 know, someone could say if you took them out of the
21 home, that would be helpful and you would get to know
22 them better and so on. Why do you say that wouldn't
23 necessarily have been a wise thing to do, reflecting on
24 it?

25 **A. I think it is just to do with different decades of --**

1 because I suppose I was in social work for nearly four
2 decades. At one time I think we would have been
3 thinking ourselves and be encouraged to make very close,
4 strong relationships with children, and then I suppose
5 a couple of things might have happened, that because
6 there was such a -- came to be a very vast turnover of
7 social workers maybe over a very short period of time.
8 It wouldn't have been fair to them to do that, because
9 you weren't going to be with them long enough to fulfil
10 your commitment to them, and the other reason was that
11 with a greater knowledge of child abuse, particularly
12 child sex abuse, it wouldn't have been thought wise to
13 be -- to be very often taking a child out absolutely on
14 your own in a situation that wasn't supervised or in
15 some way contained within a more people around kind of
16 situation. So for those two reasons really.

17 Q. That knowledge comes in terms of child sex abuse later
18 in the '80s?

19 A. Yes, much later.

20 Q. If I can characterise it this way, you were guarding
21 against two things: the prospect of the social worker
22 abusing the child --

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. -- or the prospect of being the subject of a false
25 allegation. Either was provided for if you were taking

1 a child out.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. So is that what you're getting at when you say that in
4 retrospect you wouldn't advocate what was in your mind
5 there, which was you could have got to know them better
6 if you took them out on your own. It carried risks?

7 **A. It carried risks. Exactly. That's what I'm getting at.**

8 Q. Now whenever you were visiting in your monthly visits --
9 you talked about the first time you went, but am I right
10 in saying on subsequent visits you simply -- the nuns
11 never prevented you from entering Termonbacca?

12 **A. No.**

13 Q. You could come and go as you pleased?

14 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. You didn't see a lot of the nuns or you didn't spend
16 a lot of time with them. Is that fair?

17 **A. Yes. That's fair.**

18 Q. But you came and conducted your visits and you would
19 have seen SND332 --

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. -- and spoken to him both coming and going.

22 **A. Uh-huh. Uh-huh. If possible, yes, I would have.**

23 Q. You could have come within the confines of the time you
24 are talking about, between 3.00 and 5.00 --

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. -- but whenever you like. You didn't have to make
2 an appointment necessarily to come to the home?

3 A. No, but I had a system whereby I had a -- like a brought
4 forward system in my diary. So if I saw them on
5 a certain day of a certain week, you know, I would try
6 and put it forward in my diary for the next month so it
7 was roughly around the same time. So if I could plan it
8 that way and something -- emergency didn't come up, it
9 meant they kind of knew when they would see me again.

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. At least I don't know whether they ever experienced that
12 was a regular thing, but that is what I did for my own
13 organisation.

14 Q. They were certainly not insisting to you you can only
15 come on a certain day?

16 A. No.

17 Q. You can only go to a certain place?

18 A. No.

19 Q. You are aware I asked you about whether you did get the
20 chance to go into their bedrooms and so on and so forth.
21 That wasn't something that you had a chance to do?

22 A. No. It wasn't offered to me, but I suppose on
23 reflection I should have done that, you know, but
24 I didn't do that.

25 Q. Why do you feel now that's something you should have

1 done?

2 **A. I suppose just knowing what I know now about how not to**
3 **take everything for granted and you need to sort of see**
4 **everything around the child and they won't always feel**
5 **able to tell you things they are unhappy about, I should**
6 **have done that probably.**

7 **Q. Is that based on hindsight --**

8 **A. Yes.**

9 **Q. -- rather than you knew to do it at the time and just**
10 **chose not to do it?**

11 **A. No, it wasn't -- I didn't know. I assumed that the**
12 **children were well cared for and safe and that their**
13 **physical care was -- I made those assumptions at the**
14 **time.**

15 **Q. And that's because that's how they appeared to you?**

16 **A. Yes.**

17 **Q. And in addition to doing the monthly visits then**
18 **eventually -- and you name TL17, TL17, just slightly**
19 **further down at the bottom section of your statement.**
20 **You mention -- just on SND-5633. I think we are on the**
21 **right page, yes.**

22 **A. Yes.**

23 **Q. You mention TL17 coming along and introducing a system**
24 **of six monthly reviews.**

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. That's TL17, members of the Panel. That's TL17. He was
2 the Assistant Director for Children.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Now trying to do the best we can with the structure,
5 that was somebody above **SND 469**, who was the
6 District Social Services Officer.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. This was someone slightly higher up again.

9 A. Well, he wasn't line manager. It was a sort of sideways
10 system. It was an advisory system --

11 Q. Right.

12 A. -- and I think that **SND 469** was responsible to
13 a bit of the organisation called the DET, which was
14 an attempt to join up all the different bits of the
15 health service, and had people responsible for health
16 and so on on it. That in turn -- that committee was
17 responsible to the Area Committee, the AET, the Area
18 Executive Committee. At that stage that's why I think
19 there is something not just quite right about that
20 diagram, because we didn't have a general manager at
21 that time. General management came in the late '80s.

22 Q. Am I right in saying TL17 was quite high up in the
23 structure, however we get it right eventually with maybe
24 a mapping system or a tree?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. He was quite high up in it. What he brought in, as
2 I understand it, was -- you were explaining was six
3 monthly reviews, which already existed as routine in
4 foster placement scenarios --

5 **A. Yes, yes.**

6 Q. -- were brought in and were executed now as part of
7 visiting children in residential homes?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. We have an example of the review system hopefully if we
10 look at SND-2213. Now the Panel has seen these
11 documents before. There was some -- it is unclear as to
12 how they came about, but they are described in the top
13 right corner as the WC/10/10s.

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. These are the forms that TL17 introduced. If I can
16 summarise it -- we will not go through the various
17 pages, but it was an attempt to comprehensively record
18 the circumstances of each individual child --

19 **A. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. -- and how they had got on since the last time they were
21 reviewed. Is that fair?

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

23 Q. Was this the first time you had seen this sort of
24 approach in terms of residential care?

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. How -- was this a breath of fresh air, if I try to
2 paraphrase it?

3 **A. Yes. You know, it was an attempt to take**
4 **a comprehensive look at what was going on for all**
5 **aspects of the child's life and to see if any -- you**
6 **know, it was also about trying to plan for them. It was**
7 **the first time I think really that there was**
8 **a systematic approach to, "We'll have a positive plan**
9 **for this child. We won't just leave him to be in what**
10 **seems to be, you know, a calm situation. We will try**
11 **and see what their needs are and then try to see can we**
12 **possibly go about purposefully meeting those needs".**

13 Q. So this was a positive change that he introduced?

14 **A. Yes, yes.**

15 Q. Do you know whether that was also being introduced
16 across the other boards?

17 **A. I don't know that, but it may have been part of**
18 **a regional policy, you know, and that he may have been**
19 **in touch with other Childcare Assistant Directors.**
20 **I don't know that.**

21 Q. So you've got these two types of -- and the people who
22 attended the review were you going Termonbacca. You
23 would have had SND332?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. And you would have had the nun in charge of the unit?

1 **A. Yes, and also my team leader.**

2 Q. So **SND 468** went as well?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. So you've got **SND 468**, you, SND332 and at the time
5 SR2, who -- again her name should not be published --
6 was in charge of one of the units up until **█** when she
7 left and possibly **SR 14** or SR14. Do you
8 remember any of those names?

9 **A. Yes, I remember SR14, but I don't remember her really**
10 **very well.**

11 Q. Can I just ask you at that point -- SR2 left in **█**,
12 and I will come on to talk about her in the context of
13 Bishop Street, but what was your impression of her when
14 you were there in **█**

15 **A. Well, I thought highly of her. I thought that she was**
16 **very caring. I thought that she did try to look --**
17 **although she did have a lot of children in her care, but**
18 **I thought she did try to see them all as individuals and**
19 **I thought she wanted the best for them.**

20 Q. So you were impressed by her?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. Was there any other member of staff that impressed you
23 as much as her?

24 **A. Well, I had total confidence in SND332 and the only**
25 **other person I can recall there was SND21. I thought**

1 highly of her. I am not sure what her title was, but
2 I think she would have been like a houseparent at the
3 time. That might have been her role.

4 Q. Those are people who stand out to you as people who
5 impressed you?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Now another nun who was there -- and we are going to
8 look at again, please, SND-2231 -- was SR6. Again her
9 name shouldn't be published, but she was "SR6". I am
10 going ask you to put this in context. You had been
11 given the [REDACTED]

12 A. Uh-huh.

13 Q. We can look at the page before to see the build-up to
14 you interacting, but I think there was a suggestion --
15 if we just stop there, please. Just scroll down
16 a little, further. Just scroll up to the next page,
17 please. Just in fairness to you there was a suggestion
18 from HIA69 when he gave his evidence that he hadn't
19 really been seen until a certain incident that we are
20 going to come to --

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. -- but, in fact, you appeared there in January '78. You
23 met HIA69, which is HIA69, at Termonbacca. You seem to
24 have discussed with him.

25 "He has done well. He has passed the 11 Plus. He

1 is now at [REDACTED] and has got a good
2 report.

3 SR14 is leaving" -- that's SR14 -- "and we both went
4 to the parent teacher meeting and talked to HIA69's form
5 teacher, who thinks quite highly of him."

6 He had an issue about ultimately nuns going to the
7 parent teacher ...

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. So you went to the parent teacher meetings. Is that
10 right?

11 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. What was his issue? Can you recall?

13 **A. I think he just felt embarrassed that -- it drew
14 attention to the fact that he was in care, you know, and
15 I think he just felt it was very abnormal compared to
16 the other children in his class.**

17 Q. I know you dealt with the whole family, but in
18 particular him. He was an intelligent child?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. If we just scroll down, please, then. So we are in
21 [REDACTED] If we just scroll down a bit further to
22 the next page, please. So we have had some difficulty
23 dating when nuns were there, but we can see -- there's
24 a suggestion from the employment registers the Panel may
25 recall SR6 arrived in [REDACTED] but this document certainly

1 places her already in Termonbacca in [REDACTED]

2 The incident I want to talk to you about now, and
3 I know you got to see this document earlier, but you
4 will see on [REDACTED] SND332 contacted you re
5 HIA69 running away last Friday. You called at his
6 mother's.

7 "HIA69 was there, but very unhappy about the idea of
8 going back to Termonbacca. Has been getting on badly
9 with SR6" --

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. -- "culminating in an incident where he alleges she
12 caught him by the throat. However, eventually agreed to
13 go unaccompanied" -- sorry -- "accompanied by ..."

14 **A. It was his mother.**

15 Q. That's his mother.

16 "We talked to SR6, who said that she understood that
17 HIA69 was unhappy, but that she felt he was quite
18 insolent to her and that she had lost her temper with
19 him. His mother agreed that we should try to find a
20 placement for him in the family."

21 Now this record appears to suggest that SR6 was
22 accepting that she had, in fact, done what HIA69 claimed
23 she had done.

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. Do you remember this now when you read this document?

1 **A. Yes, I do. Uh-huh. I do.**

2 Q. And was that what she was doing? She was, in fact,
3 accepting she had grabbed him by the throat?

4 **A. I mean, yes. She did agree that she had done wrong, if**
5 **you like, and, you know, from my record it would seem**
6 **that we did spend time trying to see what was the best**
7 **thing to do in the situation, because HIA69 was in care**
8 **under a court order and he -- he couldn't just go back**
9 **home just like that, you know. So --**

10 Q. I think there had been a number of occasions trying to
11 have him live with family. We can see that -- I will
12 not go back through the records now, but [REDACTED] there
13 were occasions he was living at home along with brothers
14 and sisters and -- or whether it was him, but certainly
15 brothers and sisters living at home, and that was
16 breaking down, which is why there was toing and froing
17 back to care and out of care and so on.

18 But what I want to ask you about this, and I
19 appreciate this is difficult now looking at this at this
20 remove from [REDACTED], but this was a care worker in
21 a children's home accepting that she had, in fact,
22 assaulted a child.

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. He was [REDACTED] at the time.

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. Can you remember what you did, having had this
2 conversation with her? For instance, was this not a red
3 lights incident, if I can put it that way? You have got
4 a child who is saying at ■ with all of the difficulties
5 of being in care, "This woman put her hand round my
6 throat."

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. SND332 is obviously aware of that --

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. -- because he contacts you and he can be asked about
11 that when he gives evidence, and then there is
12 an intervention or an engagement with SR6 about the
13 allegation that was made --

14 A. Uh-huh.

15 Q. -- and she accepts it.

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 Q. Did that not set off alarm bells for you and the
18 structure you were part of about this having happened?

19 A. Well, yes, I think with hindsight, you know, obviously
20 you would do -- we would -- I would have done something
21 different, because now we have whole structures and
22 protocols and policies in relation to what would have
23 been regarded as an untoward incident. I mean, there
24 would have been a medical to see had anything happened,
25 any medical evidence of, you know, any harm done and

1 there would have been, if possible, a referral to
2 police. If it had been one of our homes, there would
3 have been -- the member of staff concerned would have
4 been suspended until investigation. There would have
5 been a whole lot things done, but at that point in [REDACTED]
6 I suppose I might have been balancing things like where
7 was he to go? There was nowhere for him to go. He
8 might have been taken here to Nazareth House in Belfast.
9 The fact that SND332 was there on the spot, the fact
10 that SR6 admitted it and then discussed, you know, how
11 she couldn't manage him, the fact that at [REDACTED] he was
12 quite a big, strong boy. My recollection is she was
13 quite a small, little nun, you know. I don't --
14 I suppose all these things -- I am not making excuses,
15 you know, but I am just thinking in the round we might
16 have made a decision he was safe enough there and then,
17 but we would have to get a plan for him as quickly as
18 possible to -- to not have him, you know, in the same
19 group at least anyway.

20 Q. Can I ask you this, [REDACTED] SND 484: with the intervention that
21 took place with SND332 reporting to you, you and him
22 meeting the sister with the mum --

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. -- her admission about it, did you form the view that it
25 was unlikely to re-occur, given the exposure that it had

1 got, or is this how -- I appreciate we are now looking
2 in 2014, trying to look back to ■■■, but in ■■■ would
3 these things not have escalated in the way that you have
4 described now, which is, as you say, she would have been
5 suspended.

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. The police would have been contacted.

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. There would have been interviews done.

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. There would have been a big reporting up through Social
12 Services.

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. So none of that happened, and is that because in ■■■,
15 trying to look back, things were dealt with or
16 approached differently from we would approach them
17 today?

18 **A. Well, undoubtedly things were very different then in**
19 **terms of, you know, procedures and what would be**
20 **considered within -- I mean, the incident shouldn't have**
21 **happened, but it might have been considered sort of**
22 **normal within the context of, you know, obviously a very**
23 **factious relationship and an unhappy boy and, you know,**
24 **the need to do something about him and his situation,**
25 **but no immediate risk to him, because it had been, you**

1 know, brought into the open, but, you know, no, I mean,
2 it obviously should have been -- maybe even then --
3 I don't know. It's too hard to say, because policies
4 changed as years and decades went on.

5 Q. Well, as part of this discussion with you when we were
6 talking about it earlier what you did say was you would
7 have reported it to **SND 468** --

8 A. **SND 468** .

9 Q. -- **SND 468** --

10 A. Yes. Uh-huh.

11 Q. -- and he would have been aware of it, just as you say
12 he would have been aware of what Termonbacca was and
13 what its deficiencies were?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. I was asking you about surely there would be a document
16 just to keep yourself right, "Here's what happened.
17 Here's what I've done".

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. You mentioned supervision files --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- that might shed some light on that. Those are not
22 documents that the Inquiry has received to date.

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. So, just to explain, there was a constant monitoring in
25 the line, as it were. So you were being monitored by

1 **SND 469** ?

2 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. And supervision files in your name --

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. -- would have been created recording what's going on
6 with you --

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. -- and in particular potentially incidents like this?

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. And you think those files should still exist?

11 **A. I think -- I think they should do. There's a policy**
12 **about retention of files, and I'm not sure what**
13 **categories supervision files fall into, but I know there**
14 **was a supervision file for me. It was my file and that**
15 **every time I met with **SND 468** and brought up with**
16 **him the situations or the children or the clients that I**
17 **was worried about, we would have discussed them and**
18 **I would have shared my worries or whatever they were,**
19 **and then we would have had, you know, action against**
20 **what should happen until the time we would meet again.**

21 Q. And that would be recorded --

22 CHAIRMAN: I am sorry to interrupt. May I just ask here,
23 because I am not sure I am completely clear about this
24 --

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 CHAIRMAN: -- there's been an incident which, whichever way
2 you looked at it even at the time, was a matter of
3 concern --

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 CHAIRMAN: -- to put it in a neutral way. Do I understand
6 what you mean by a supervision file is that rather than
7 your superior or even somebody above that having
8 a separate file for each individual in respect of whom
9 there's been some significant episode they were grouped
10 together under the heading "Social worker" such as
11 yourself, so that the next time **SND 468** wanted to know
12 about --

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 CHAIRMAN: -- HIA69 he would go to your file to find out
15 what the position was rather than having an HIA69 file,
16 if you see what I mean?

17 **A. Uh-huh. Yes, I think I understand. Well, there was my
18 case file which my senior -- we worked in the same
19 place.**

20 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

21 **A. He would have access to that file any time he wanted to
22 check something up on it. So if he was thinking and
23 I wasn't around and he thought, "I want to see what's
24 happened with HIA69", he could get that file right away
25 and check up on HIA69's notes, but independently of that**

1 **every time I met with him he had a file with my name on**
2 **with all the things I was bringing up.**

3 CHAIRMAN: Which were of particular significance for
4 whatever reason.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 CHAIRMAN: So he could look at it and say -- let's say you
7 have five problems cases.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 CHAIRMAN: He would say, "What's happening about HIA69?
10 What's happening about so-and-so?"

11 **A. Well, it was just to remind him and also to be there**
12 **I suppose to see that -- it was accountability. You**
13 **know, it was to see that the next time he would meet**
14 **with me that he would say, "I see last month you were**
15 **worried about HIA69. You know, what have you done**
16 **since?", you know.**

17 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. That's a lot clearer to me anyway.

18 MR AIKEN: Ms Smyth from the -- representing the HSCB is
19 going to have a search undertaken to see do these files
20 still exist and to produce them if they do.

21 So you would expect that file potentially to contain
22 a record of your interaction with **SND 468** about
23 this incident?

24 **A. Yes, although I have to qualify it by saying that there**
25 **were quick consultations with your senior maybe on**

1 a daily basis, a quick word to say, "I'm worried about
2 something" and you would have got a quick word of
3 advice. Now I can't imagine the team leader would have
4 had time to record all of that. The supervision I am
5 speaking of was a planned monthly meeting, you know,
6 where you brought a number of things you were worried
7 about and those were the things that were recorded.

8 Q. Can I ask you this, **SND 484**, just cutting right to it: how
9 likely is it you didn't tell **SND 468** about this
10 incident?

11 A. I think it's unlikely. I think I would have told him
12 about this.

13 Q. And would -- in addition to you telling him about what
14 had happened would you have told him about how you
15 proposed or were dealing with it?

16 A. Yes, I would. Uh-huh.

17 Q. And he would he have given you -- would he have
18 questioned -- would he have challenged you about, "Well,
19 what about this? What about that? Have you thought
20 about ...?" or "I don't think that's a good idea", or
21 was he the sort of person who simply said, "Right.
22 Grand. Get on with it"?

23 A. No, he is the sort of person -- he is a very
24 conscientious person. He would have been thinking about
25 the best, you know, thing for the children as well and

1 he would challenge, if you want. He wouldn't have -- he
2 wouldn't have just said, "Get on with it". He wouldn't
3 have done that.

4 Q. Just in fairness to you if we just follow this story
5 through for a short period, we can see a couple of days
6 later HIA69 is out spending the day with his mother, and
7 you then see him on 22nd at Termonbacca, and then in
8 April you talk to both SR6 -- you talk to SR6 about
9 HIA69:

10 "Feels she still cannot make any kind of
11 relationship with him and that he's still defying her
12 authority, although not overtly."

13 Then you call with HIA69's mum. She thought the
14 visits were going all right. You asked her why she
15 never called to see the children at Termonbacca. She
16 said she didn't feel welcome and the nuns made her feel
17 guilty.

18 Do you remember that as an issue, whether with this
19 lady or others?

20 A. I don't recall this conversation, but I do feel that was
21 genuine. Because HIA69 was so attached to his mother,
22 you know, and she was his -- his whole -- at that time
23 and even for quite a number of years his whole idea was
24 that he wanted to be at home with his mother. So
25 I think in a way that increased his unhappiness with

1 Termonbacca, because all the time he was thinking, "Why
2 can't I be at home with my mum?" So I did I am sure
3 have conversations with her could she herself, you
4 know -- he would go to her, but could she go there and
5 she would see all of them, but I think if she told me
6 that, that was probably true.

7 Q. But might this have been the nuns' way of trying to not
8 add to his -- if he couldn't live with her, if him
9 seeing her was an upsetting thing, might this have been
10 their way to try to avoid causing him further upset or
11 unsettling him? The more she was around, the more
12 unsettled he would be?

13 A. Well, yes, it could be.

14 Q. You don't know?

15 A. I can't say.

16 Q. So if we scroll further down then. On to the next
17 page, please. If we just stop there, by -- this is all
18 happening quite quickly. We are in the middle of March
19 when this incident happens. By four weeks Fort James
20 had agreed to take him. However, that's two days after
21 if we see the entry of [REDACTED]:

22 "Phone call from SR6. HIA69 -- cannot cope with
23 him -- wants him removed."

24 Do you remember -- perhaps you don't -- looking at
25 this record now, does it jog your memory about that call

1 from her saying basically, "He's got to go"?

2 **A. No, I can't -- I don't remember that really, no.**

3 Q. Now it seems that you then worked to get him or were
4 involved in or the Board got him -- got Fort James round
5 to taking him, but then on [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] --
6 on [REDACTED] you talked to HIA69 and SND332.

7 "HIA69 says he definitely wants to leave
8 Termonbacca."

9 You saw I think that's his sister who wanted to see
10 her mum.

11 On [REDACTED] then SR2 -- that's SR2 -- phones. She says
12 she has talked to HIA69 and has agreed to have him
13 transferred to her group.

14 Then if we scroll further down, we can see that he
15 certainly seems then to continue in Termonbacca for
16 a further period. Just scroll a little further down,
17 please.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. So you are taking HIA69 out on [REDACTED] to visit his
20 mother. If we just move on down, please. So again you
21 were collecting him on [REDACTED] and then later in [REDACTED].

22 So if we stop there, there seems to have been a --
23 the way this was resolved was SR6 would try and work
24 with him for a period. She then indicated she wanted
25 him removed. SR2 --

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. -- took him into her group. So by this stage there were
3 the two group structures, as I understand it, and he
4 continues then to live in Termonbacca. Do you remember
5 any of that now?

6 **A. Not really, no.**

7 Q. You don't.

8 Chairman, I am just wondering whether a short break
9 might be of assistance.

10 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

11 MR AIKEN: There is a section of material that relates to
12 Bishop Street, but perhaps a short period might be of
13 help.

14 CHAIRMAN: No more than five minutes. Very well.

15 (4.10 pm)

16 (Short break)

17 (4.20 pm)

18 MR AIKEN: **SND 484**, I am just going to round off talking to you
19 about Termonbacca by asking you some final questions and
20 then we can move on to Bishop Street.

21 **A. Okay.**

22 Q. In terms of complaints you had the **██████████** and
23 I am aware from speaking to you there was one other
24 family of two girls that you had.

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. Did -- are you aware of them complaining, any of them,
2 to you about their time in Termonbacca?

3 A. Well, no, they didn't complain about their physical
4 care. They were just very maybe overwhelmed by the
5 emphasis on religious things, because what I am guessing
6 is they were from a home where there wasn't a lot of
7 religious activity, but they seemed to feel oppressed by
8 the regime in terms of, you know, times for prayers, and
9 they had never -- no other children ever mentioned to me
10 about that, but that was just their impression, that
11 there was -- there was too much religious expect... --

12 Q. Emphasis?

13 A. -- emphasis, yes.

14 Q. But nobody complained to you about sexual abuse?

15 A. No.

16 Q. And other than this incident when SND332 brought to your
17 attention about HIA69 nobody complained to you about
18 physical abuse?

19 A. No.

20 Q. You mention in your witness statement, if we just bring
21 it up at SND-5633, that you worked hard to try to get
22 the [REDACTED] foster placements. This is the third
23 paragraph down and the fourth line of that third
24 paragraph:

25 "I worked hard to try and get long-term foster homes

1 for them."

2 In addition to that being the statutory bias, that
3 was the aim that everything child would be fostered --

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. -- what was the advantage going to be for you if you
6 could get the children in Termonbacca fostered?

7 **A. Well, I think that my own belief would have been that**
8 **every child needed the chance to experience being part**
9 **of a family, a smaller unit, and, you know, experience**
10 **the kind of day-to-day every -- you know, sense of being**
11 **important and being able to just have someone to share**
12 **the things that would come up in their life, and in**
13 **order to be able to do that again for themselves in**
14 **terms of their future relationships that they needed**
15 **somewhere where they could learn all those life skills**
16 **they would need like cooking and learning about money**
17 **and about how family life worked. So that would have**
18 **been why I would have been trying to see that they would**
19 **have some time of their life experience to do that,**
20 **although in HIA69's case it was very late. The smaller**
21 **children in the family would have had a better chance.**

22 Q. Just on that subject, using HIA69 as an example, you did
23 get him a foster placement and it broke down.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. What do you associate -- what were the reasons why that

1 was not going to or it was more difficult for it to work
2 for someone with HIA69's background?

3 **A. Well, what the foster parents would have said was they**
4 **found it very difficult to have someone in their family**
5 **that they had tried very hard to integrate into their**
6 **family, and they weren't attributing blame to him, but**
7 **they felt that he had been very used to an institutional**
8 **life, and in particular that he wasn't able to share**
9 **with them, that he kind of kept himself aloof from the**
10 **family, and that although they did their best to**
11 **encourage him with his school work, that he would have**
12 **maybe been quite secretive and not allowed them, not**
13 **allowed them to, you know, offer him everything that**
14 **maybe would have been in his good -- best interests.**

15 Q. If I try to summarise it this way, **SND 484** if this is
16 fair: they couldn't successfully break down the
17 institutional barriers --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- that were put up.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. Is that fair?

22 **A. I think that's very fair, yes. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. Is that what made it difficult, that those institutional
24 barriers or baggage that came with a child who had spent
25 a long time in an institution like Termonbacca -- it

1 became more difficult or it was difficult to sustain
2 a normal foster type placement?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. Now we touched on a number of the nuns from Termonbacca
5 and dealt with one in particular, but what I just want
6 to ask you is: did those nuns ever complain to you? You
7 were coming in and out as the face of the board at the
8 time.

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. You were interacting with SND332, who was their social
11 worker, but did any of the nuns at any stage ever
12 complain to you, "Look, we don't have enough funding.
13 You are not giving us enough support. You are not
14 visiting enough". Were there complaints from them to
15 you or to the board through you about things from their
16 perspective?

17 **A. No. I don't recall any complaints. I might have had
18 requests to see if I could get additional money for
19 special things like school trips or something unusual,
20 but no, I didn't have complaints or constant, you know,
21 requests or anything like that.**

22 Q. They didn't complain to you about the staffing levels
23 and ask you to do something about that?

24 **A. No, no.**

25 Q. Just on that subject of the special things, the type

1 of -- did you then try to get money for their birthday
2 or Christmas allowance or special trips they were going
3 to go on or that sort of thing?

4 **A. Yes, I would have done that.**

5 Q. The way that was administered, as I understand it from
6 you, is that the money was paid over to the home to then
7 be given to the child for the thing --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- that we're talking about. That was something within
10 your gift to advocate for on their behalf?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. They never -- for instance, the nuns never told you they
13 were having any particular problems with bullying or
14 supervision issues or ...?

15 **A. No.**

16 Q. For instance, the Inquiry has heard a number of
17 individuals complain or indicate that at a particular
18 time of the day when they were left perhaps in the
19 charge of older children or ex-residents who had come
20 back, because it was the home they knew, and those
21 ex-residents or older children performed the supervision
22 function --

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. -- instead of staff. Was that something you were ever
25 made aware of?

1 **A. No.**

2 Q. I think you had indicated -- and I just want to finish
3 Termonbacca by asking you this, and perhaps you can
4 elaborate on it as much as you can. You had three
5 children's homes available to you, if you like. One you
6 have said was less available --

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. -- which was the Mourne Drive. You had the Fort James,
9 later Harberton and Termonbacca. Would you have wanted
10 a child placed in Termonbacca?

11 **A. No.**

12 Q. Right. Why was that?

13 **A. Well, I think, you know, to go back to what I said**
14 **earlier about it being a limited -- you know, it was**
15 **limited. For me it was somewhere they could be**
16 **physically safe, but emotionally and in terms of their**
17 **whole development and having a sense of attachment to --**
18 **to a significant person in their life it wouldn't have**
19 **been somewhere that they could have had the chance to do**
20 **that, because at least in our system they had like key**
21 **workers assigned to them. You know, in the statutory**
22 **homes they would have had a key worker assigned to them,**
23 **but, you know, that wasn't -- to me they were just like**
24 **a non-differentiated group of children.**

25 Q. Can I ask you this: did you feel able to say to the

1 people above you, "You do realise this isn't ideal?", as
2 any -- going into any children's home to the extent that
3 is ever ideal, but in terms of going into a children's
4 home, "Do you realise this is not ideal?" Did **SND 468**
5 **SND 468** know? Did the people above **SND 468** know of
6 the type of issues that you are describing?

7 **A. Well, I feel sure they must have known. I mean, **SND 468****
8 **certainly would have known from his own contact as**
9 **a social worker with Termonbacca before he became a team**
10 **leader and so on. He would have known that. The people**
11 **above him, I mean, surely they would have -- they would**
12 **have known that, but we were just limited in what we**
13 **could offer, because we only had a finite number of**
14 **places in our own homes. So we had to -- we had to use**
15 **them.**

16 Q. Now what I want to then do, **SND 484**, is move to think
17 a little bit about Bishop Street with you, if we may.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. I just want to talk you to **SND-5634**, just to the next
20 page in your statement. You say in the second
21 paragraph on **SND-5634**:

22 "I subsequently had responsibility for children in
23 Nazareth House, Bishop Street, over a number of years
24 ..."

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. I am not going to go through the detail of those cases
2 with you, but what I want to do is ask you, given all
3 you've said about Termonbacca, how does Bishop Street
4 sit? Was it the same? Was it different in some way?
5 If it was different, how was it different?

6 A. Well, this was in the '80s and I think that what I would
7 say is that Nazareth House seemed -- it was still
8 an institution and you still went in through the front
9 door, which was quite, you know, a big imposing place,
10 but the actual place where the children were at this
11 stage, they were divided up into two groups, which were
12 a lot smaller than the groups had been in Termonbacca.
13 There did seem to be a lot more staff -- a lot more lay
14 staff. It wasn't always the nuns, although you did have
15 contact with the nun in charge, but there seemed to be
16 an awful lot more staff around, and I can't be sure
17 about this, but I think I seem to feel that you had
18 somewhere where you could talk to the children more
19 privately.

20 Q. You mention in the same paragraph SR2.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. I want to just try to use that to ground the time we are
23 talking about.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. SR2 -- and I am not going to pull them up, but the Panel

1 will have the references at SND-11644 in her statement
2 at paragraph 6 -- she says that she went there in [REDACTED].
3 She is on the employment register there -- reference
4 SND-6322 -- in [REDACTED]. So is the time that -- your memory
5 of working in Bishop Street involve SR2?

6 **A. Yes. I have to say, to be very precise, at that stage**
7 **I had left being a social worker -- childcare social**
8 **worker, and the capacity I would have been relating to**
9 **SR2 was because I was involved -- I was in a [REDACTED]**
10 **[REDACTED], and we had a lot of children who had**
11 **various referrals for mental health problems, and**
12 **I would have been relating to her in relation to them.**

13 **Q.** Can you date the period that you're talking about that
14 had you interacting with SR2 in Bishop Street?

15 **A. It would have been between [REDACTED] probably, [REDACTED], and**
16 **then [REDACTED] maybe -- [REDACTED] I am not sure when she**
17 **left exactly, but those are the two periods when I would**
18 **have had most contact with her.**

19 **Q.** So I am just wondering has two matters become conflated
20 in the statement in that you had -- when you say you had
21 responsibility for children in Nazareth House over
22 a number of years, is that in your position with this
23 health team as opposed to as a social worker or did you
24 have both an early period as a social worker and then
25 a later period interacting with SR2 as part of this

1 child medical team?

2 **A. Yes, I think you are right. I think the earlier period**
3 **was the one where I was still a social worker and it**
4 **wouldn't have been SR2 at that stage I think.**

5 Q. But your recollection of Bishop Street was as somewhere
6 where by then they had got two units --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- which were more like -- I appreciate it is in a big
9 building, institution --

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. -- but it was a children's home being run on one floor
12 and another children's home being run on another --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- albeit in a massive big building.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. And you found that more normal --

17 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. -- to the extent that it's ever normal. Is that fair?

19 **A. I mean, I suppose the impression I carry with me from**
20 **comparisons with those two times was the earlier time in**
21 **Termonbacca the children did seem quite subdued --**
22 **that's the best word I can say -- subdued whereas in**
23 **Nazareth House at the stage I was visiting it later in**
24 **the '80s the children seemed to be more spontaneous and**
25 **more like enjoying themselves; as we would say in [REDACTED],**

1 **having a bit of craic. You know, it seemed more normal.**

2 Q. The atmosphere --

3 **A. The atmosphere.**

4 Q. -- was better?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. What I want to ask you about then specifically is you
7 mentioned SR2 twice.

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. You mentioned her in the context of Termonbacca.

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. She left in [REDACTED] Do you have a memory of the reaction
12 to her leaving Termonbacca?

13 **A. Yes. I remember that, you know, ourselves in the team,
14 we were -- we were -- we were sad that she was leaving,
15 because, I mean, I knew she was really good with the
16 children and I think the children, you know, were upset
17 as well.**

18 Q. Well, you may not know this, but if I were to tell you
19 that a number of individuals have claimed that she
20 struck them -- now it covers a wider period than your
21 involvement; it is from [REDACTED] onwards -- would that
22 surprise you?

23 **A. That would surprise me. I mean, I know she was very
24 firm and might have believed physical punishment was
25 what you should do, because I think in the [REDACTED] it was**

1 **still permissible even in schools, but it does surprise**
2 **me. Yes, it does.**

3 Q. But by the time you are seeing her in 19... -- late [REDACTED]
4 --

5 A. **Yes.**

6 Q. -- early [REDACTED] in this medical care capacity --

7 A. **Uh-huh.**

8 Q. -- you describe her as someone who impressed you by her
9 kindness --

10 A. **Yes.**

11 Q. -- and care she seemed to have for the welfare of each
12 child.

13 A. **Yes. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. Can I ask you to unpack that a little? What was it
15 about her manner or her method of operating that caused
16 you to form that view?

17 A. **Well, in the work that we were doing it was very**
18 **important that you had a plan, you know, of the therapy**
19 **that was needed for the child, but equally important**
20 **there had to be like an understanding on the part of the**
21 **person caring for them that they were very much a part**
22 **of that plan. So we would have had a lot of discussion**
23 **with her about the best way to manage some of the**
24 **difficulties that the young people were presenting, and**
25 **she was very ready to sit down with you, spend, you**

1 know, as long as was needed, maybe an hour at a time, to
2 agree the best way to manage these problems, and she
3 always seemed to be interested in -- in -- and worried
4 -- worried about the young person's welfare and their
5 mental health and so on. So I would have had no idea
6 that she had anything other than their welfare at heart.
7 She acted like a parent would, like, you know.

8 Q. That was the impression you had?

9 A. Yes. Uh-huh.

10 Q. That was your experience of her?

11 A. Yes, that was my experience.

12 Q. Now I just want to ask you -- we have covered the issue
13 of how records were kept by you. You have got the case
14 reports, which were the -- recording what happened. You
15 then had the introduction of these monthly -- sorry --
16 six monthly review forms.

17 A. Uh-huh.

18 Q. Then you have this third limb, supervision files. Was
19 there anywhere else where material relevant to the type
20 of issues that you understand we are looking at would
21 have been recorded by you or colleagues in the health
22 board?

23 A. I don't know about the voluntary children's homes, but
24 in the residential statutory homes they had records and
25 anything that was unusual they definitely had what was

1 called an untoward incident. They had day books where
2 they entered in things that happened, but an untoward
3 incident I think had to be sent -- you know, had to be
4 filled in separate -- it is a separate sheet and sent
5 off to -- I'm not sure exactly -- perhaps [REDACTED] TL 4 ,
6 perhaps someone higher up. I don't know.

7 Q. And I want to just ask you about -- to the extent you
8 can date when you and your colleagues around you gained
9 knowledge about the problem of sexual abuse occurring in
10 children's homes. If I can help you with that, the
11 Kincora scandal broke in the Independent newspaper in
12 1980.

13 A. Uh-huh.

14 Q. Was it ever on your radar before that time?

15 A. I would say not, you know, and I think we were very
16 concerned in the late '70s and '80s about physical abuse
17 and had procedures to follow up and investigate and
18 report on physical abuse, and sexual abuse I think as
19 a concept and -- as a general concept probably came on
20 our radar in the later '80s, and I think that was the
21 start of training, specific training, and trying to
22 understand sexual abuse.

23 Q. In fact, if we just bring up SND-184, please,
24 paragraph 3.10, [REDACTED], who has given a statement
25 to the Inquiry, I just want to ask you about this by the

1 time it permeated its way to you. He says:

2 "Prior to the 1980s there was a lack of awareness
3 about the sexual abuse of children. Child protection
4 had until the Hughes Inquiry been focused on physical
5 and emotional abuse and neglect following the deaths of
6 children in England. No guidance had been issued by the
7 DHSS to the boards on sexual abuse at the beginning of
8 the 1980s -- and at the beginning of the 1980s there was
9 no cases of sexual abuse on the child abuse register."

10 He goes on to talk about the impact of the Hughes
11 Inquiry. What I want to ask you is: do you remember
12 guidance about this ever being issued to you, about this
13 problem and how to look out for it, and what the signs
14 might be, and how you might combat it or take away the
15 risk of it being perpetrated by individuals?

16 **A. I don't think I remember any specific guidance. My mind**
17 **is a blank on that. You know, I think there would have**
18 **been training sessions set up. I'm trying to remember**
19 **having been to any. This is the '80s.**

20 **Q.** If I put it this way, it's something that post-Kincora
21 or Kincora breaking you and all your colleagues would
22 have been aware of. There might have been you think
23 possibly some training. Perhaps the board as it now is
24 can follow up and see if there's any material that
25 suggests that did take place, but there's no formal

1 guidance that you are aware of or certainly none

2 [REDACTED] is aware of being issued to you about this
3 type of issue?

4 **A. No.** I think there was -- at a certain stage we had what
5 we called child protection proceedings, and instead of
6 child protection being limited to physical and emotional
7 abuse and so on I think sexual abuse was just added as
8 another category to discuss and think about, so that it
9 would come up, you know, as a trigger --

10 **Q.** Yes.

11 **A.** -- but I don't -- I don't think that it -- I don't think
12 there were specific -- I'm trying to remember the
13 guidelines we had. We had -- we had guidelines in the
14 '80s. You see, we went into programmes of care which
15 were specialised in children around 1982 or so. After
16 that then there was no mixing up with all other
17 categories of mental health or older people. Children's
18 departments, you know, concentrated on children, and
19 I think it would have been during that period that, you
20 know, sexual abuse would have come up as another
21 category to be concerned about.

22 **Q.** Yes. So 1982 -- along with '73 being a watershed in
23 terms of structures --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 **Q.** -- '82 was a watershed in terms of within the Board --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- things changed so that your focus then became solely
3 on children --

4 **A. On children.**

5 Q. -- because children was the area you were in?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. But you are not aware of any formal guidance. Within
8 that can I ask you, **SND 484**, a particular aspect of
9 potentially sexual abuse that the Inquiry has been
10 hearing about is peer abuse, abuse of an older boy on
11 a younger boy in sexual form.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Can you remember when that first came on to your radar
14 as a social worker on the ground as something to be
15 aware of, guard against, watch out for, try to manage?

16 **A. I don't think so. I can't remember. I really can't.**

17 Q. You don't recall being given guidance about that as
18 an issue?

19 **A. No.**

20 Q. Now ultimately if we can just take a look at HIA,
21 please, rather than SND, HIA-372. Now I just want to
22 ask you to reflect on this particular obligation that
23 was the duty you and your colleagues were all under. If
24 we can just enhance the size of that, please. Just
25 stop, please. This is section 113 of the Children &

1 Young Persons Act 1968 --

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. -- or the Children & Young Persons Act (Northern
4 Ireland) 1968. It is the first subsection I want to
5 look at with you:

6 "Where a child is in the care of a Welfare
7 Authority, it shall be the duty of that authority to
8 exercise their powers with respect to him/her so as to
9 further his best interests and to afford him opportunity
10 for the proper development of his character and
11 abilities."

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. So that's the -- whatever word one would like to use --
14 prism --

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- lens --

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. -- that one assesses all of this through in terms of the
19 statutory duty that you were under.

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. What I want to ask you in concluding is you've described
22 Termonbacca and your involvement with it in the late
23 [REDACTED]. Reflecting on it now, how does placing a child in
24 Termonbacca in the late [REDACTED] fit with what's being
25 described as the notion in section 113?

1 **A.** Well, I think at the time and given the norms of the
2 time and because "best interest" is -- is a very general
3 statement, I think the only bit that I would have felt
4 that we weren't in -- you know, in proper -- "the proper
5 development of his character and abilities". I feel for
6 me personally even then I would have thought because of
7 that whole lacking in terms of understanding of the
8 child's need to be a person rather than part of a big
9 crowd and also their emotional development and their
10 need to be part of a family and need to belong with
11 their siblings and the need to have really regular
12 contact with their family of origin, I think that was
13 all missing, you know, but at the time that -- I would
14 have been aware of that, but I wouldn't have been so
15 exercised as I would be now, you know, because --
16 I don't know why really. It was because I think that if
17 the first needs were being met, those secondary needs,
18 like, they weren't maybe just in the right balance. We
19 weren't concentrating so much on them at that time.

20 **Q.** If I help you put that in context by asking you to think
21 about Fort James, for instance, and apply the same
22 question I asked you --

23 **A.** Uh-huh.

24 **Q.** -- to the wording in the legislation looking at Fort
25 James --

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. -- would your reaction be different?

3 **A. Well, you see, I think that a child in any children's**

4 **home was going to be disadvantaged, you know. You**

5 **couldn't say that Fort James -- Termonbacca wasn't so**

6 **good in many ways and that Fort James was wonderful.**

7 **You couldn't say that. It would be a matter of degree,**

8 **and, you know, I think that what I have said already is**

9 **that there would have been maybe a freer atmosphere in**

10 **Fort James or Harberton, but still that close link with**

11 **someone who would see you through lots of difficulties**

12 **was probably missing there as well, although maybe not**

13 **to the same degree.**

14 Q. So if I put it this way, being in a children's home is

15 suboptimal, full stop.

16 **A. Absolutely. Absolutely.**

17 Q. The question is where on that scale from suboptimal down

18 to the very, very bottom you fit.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. What I'm trying to just understand is are you placing

21 Termonbacca beneath the likes of your experience of Fort

22 James and Harberton in terms of meeting the obligation

23 that's in the legislation?

24 **A. Well, probably, probably, yes.**

25 Q. In fairness to you can I also put that in context by

1 saying is it the case that you in the circumstances you
2 found yourself in and your colleagues found yourself in
3 you did what you could do and with the resources and
4 places that were available?

5 **A. Yes, I think -- I think -- I definitely think we did the**
6 **best we could at the time, given everything, the context**
7 **and the restraints within which we worked. I think we**
8 **did our best.**

9 Q. **SND 484**, you will be pleased to know after the endurance
10 you have gone through that I have no more questions for
11 you. If you just wait where you are for a moment or
12 two, the Panel may want to ask you one or two questions
13 that you could assist them with.

14 **A. Okay.**

15 **Questions from THE PANEL**

16 MS DOHERTY: **SND 484**, thanks very much. That was really very
17 helpful testimony. It gives a clear picture. I have
18 just one wee question. Are you aware at the time if
19 there was a unit within the Board that looked at
20 inspection and regulation of homes, voluntary homes that
21 were being used?

22 **A. Well, I am not really aware of that, but I think at the**
23 **time I would have been making assumptions that someone**
24 **somewhere was -- was, you know, making inspections, but**
25 **I can't say, you know, clearly who or what that would**

1 **be, but I know at the time I spoke about TL17 coming to**
2 **the Board --**

3 Q. Uh-huh.

4 **A. -- tL17 definitely came personally to Termonbacca. He**
5 **was very keen that those reviews would start happening**
6 **and that they would have structure, and I think I am**
7 **right in saying he chaired the first reviews probably to**
8 **give an example of how these should be carried out.**

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

10 MR LANE: Just one point of clarification. The [REDACTED]

11 I think you said were placed under an order --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- and therefore the local authority would have paid for
14 their care?

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. You said that HIA60 was placed voluntarily. Because it
17 was arranged through you, did the local authority also
18 pay for his care?

19 **A. Yes, I would -- I would say yes, because we were the**
20 **authority requesting the care. It didn't really matter**
21 **that there wasn't a court order. We were the --**

22 Q. No. That contrasts then with the other voluntary cases
23 which were arranged directly by the home with the
24 parents.

25 **A. With the family, yes.**

1 Q. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN: Would it be fair to say that when you start off
3 with the position that you as a social worker were faced
4 with on the ground, and accepting, of course, that in
5 many instances you may not have had a choice in the true
6 sense of the word, because resources were limited,
7 places were limited, very often things were happening no
8 doubt in an emergency, maybe not always, and so on, but
9 if you had a free choice, my impression from your
10 evidence is that you would have approached the placement
11 of an individual child, all other things being equal, on
12 the basis that the child would have a better chance of
13 developing as a rounded child --

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. -- in somewhere like Fort James, because there was a
16 higher staffing ratio, a freer atmosphere --

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. -- than they would have had in Termonbacca, where it was
19 almost regimented --

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. -- for whatever reason. Is that a fair way of putting
22 it?

23 **A. Yes, that is fair. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. Of course, in many instances the choice isn't really
25 there -- isn't that right --

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. -- because you either send a child to Termonbacca or ask
3 them to take a child or you might have to send a child
4 to somewhere in Belfast, which is even less desirable.
5 Isn't that so?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. And whenever you had any dealings with Termonbacca you
8 had a free hand to go in when you wanted to?

9 **A. Uh-huh. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. But other than the first instance, which wasn't perhaps
11 typical -- it was your only experience -- later on the
12 person you probably dealt with I take it is SND332?

13 **A. Yes, I would have most dealings with SND332.**

14 Q. I think you used the expression that it was quite
15 a progressive or far-sighted thing --

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. -- for the institution --

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. -- to have its own social worker --

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. -- on site.

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. And you had clearly a good working relationship with
24 him?

25 **A. Uh-huh. I did.**

1 Q. But it was still an institution in the sense of some of
2 the things that go with an institution rather than
3 a home --

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. -- with some of the connotations that a home carries --

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. -- because of that regimented way of doing things.

8 **A. Uh-huh. I think that's very fair comment, yes.**

9 Q. Thank you very much.

10 Well, we are very grateful to you coming for what
11 I am sure has been not altogether an experience you
12 would have chosen to indulge in, particularly when it
13 went on for so long, but it's been very helpful to us to
14 have the insight you have given us into all these
15 matters.

16 **A. Thank you very much. Thank you.**

17 MR AIKEN: That concludes today's evidence.

18 (Witness withdrew)

19 CHAIRMAN: 10.30 tomorrow, ladies and gentlemen.

20 (5.00 pm)

21 (Hearing adjourned until 10.30 tomorrow morning)

22 --ooOoo--

23

24

25