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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, 24th February 2014

commencing at 10.30 am

(Day 11)

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

1 Monday, 24th February 2014

2 (10.30 am)

3 WITNESS HIA7 (called)

4 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, ladies and gentlemen.

5 Chairman, the witness -- the first witness to give  
6 evidence this morning is given the reference "HIA7", and  
7 HIA7 is present in the chamber and ready to be sworn.

8 CHAIRMAN: Very well. Do you wish to take the religious  
9 oath or to make an affirmation? They have the same  
10 legal effect. It is a matter entirely for your choice.

11 **A. It doesn't matter.**

12 CHAIRMAN: Well, you have to make the choice.

13 **A. Well, the affirmation.**

14 CHAIRMAN: Very well.

15 WITNESS HIA7 (affirmed)

16 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

17 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

18 MS SMITH: Thank you, HIA7. Are you happy to be called  
19 HIA7?

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. I have explained to you that you have been given  
22 anonymity through the Inquiry and you will decide later  
23 today whether or not you wish to waive that anonymity.  
24 Is that correct?

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

1 Q. Well, HIA7, can I, first of all, say that if you can  
2 speak into the microphone so that everyone can hear you.  
3 If you need to pull it towards you a little bit, that's  
4 fine, and if you need to take a break at any time, just  
5 say and we'll take a short break.

6 **A. Okay.**

7 Q. First of all, can I ask that SND-2032 be put up on the  
8 screen, please? Page 2032. HIA7, if you can just look  
9 at the document that's before you on the screen and you  
10 will see that it says at the top "HIA reference 7".

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You'll appreciate that's the designation that we have  
13 given to you to protect your anonymity. You will see  
14 that it says on that page that it is the witness  
15 statement of HIA7, which is yourself.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. Then if we could go to the last page of the statement,  
18 which is SND-2039, you will see there that it is signed  
19 by HIA7 in a big black box at the bottom.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. But you can confirm that you have signed that witness  
22 statement, which is dated 23rd August 2013.

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

24 Q. Can I confirm then, HIA7, that is the statement of  
25 evidence that you wish this Inquiry to consider?

1 **A. That is.**

2 Q. HIA7, can I now -- you are now aged [REDACTED] Is that  
3 correct?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] you were resident in Termonbacca  
6 in Derry?

7 **A. I was.**

8 Q. Then subsequently you were resident in other  
9 institutions, but if we could look at SND-14093, this is  
10 a document that you received from the Sisters of  
11 Nazareth, which indicates that you were put into -- it  
12 gives your name and your date of birth and where you  
13 were baptised and your parents' names. It says that you  
14 were recommended by Rose Black, Derry County Borough  
15 Welfare. You were admitted on [REDACTED] You  
16 were discharged on [REDACTED], when you were taken  
17 home by your mother.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. There's a written observation which says:

20 "Miss Rose Black recommended this family. The  
21 father is constantly drinking. He abuses the children.  
22 The mother has a history of co-habiting and is presently  
23 living at ..."

24 There is an address given. It says:

25 "There are [REDACTED] children in this family."

1           Now I have spoken to you about this document and  
2           there are two comments you wish to make about that. Is  
3           that correct?

4     **A. The first comment is my father never abused us or lifted**  
5     **his hand to hit us. My father did take a drink, but he**  
6     **never abused us, and the second one is there is only [REDACTED]**  
7     **of us, not [REDACTED] of a family. There was [REDACTED] girls and**  
8     **[REDACTED] boys.**

9     Q. Just to make things clear, that's -- that typewritten  
10     document was taken from the Sisters of Nazareth register  
11     --

12     **A. Uh-huh.**

13     Q. -- which was a handwritten document and we can see the  
14     details at page SND-2042. You will see there the name  
15     of your siblings are there. Then if we can turn the  
16     page to SND-2044, and you see the detail, the  
17     handwritten detail, there:

18           "Miss Rose Black recommended this family. The  
19     father is constantly drinking."

20           That's where that observation is taken from.

21     **A. Uh-huh. Yes.**

22     Q. You were discharged, as I said, in [REDACTED]. So you spent  
23     a period of two years --

24     **A. Yes.**

25     Q. -- almost entirely two years in Termonbacca.

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. Can I ask you, HIA7, what your earliest memory of the  
3 home was?

4 **A. The earliest memory was the day we went in, being took**  
5 **into the home, and totally confused, just totally**  
6 **confused.**

7 Q. You talk about being taken to the home in your witness  
8 statement and you talk about it was the five youngest of  
9 the family that were taken into care --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- at that time.

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. Yourself and two of your sisters and two brothers.

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

15 Q. You are the youngest in the family.

16 **A. I am.**

17 Q. You went in when you were six years of age you believe.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. It was in [REDACTED], and you remember being taken from school  
20 in a car --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- getting your hair cut --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- and then arriving and being split up from your  
25 brothers --

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. -- when you arrived at the home.

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. You go on in your statement at paragraphs 3 and 4 to  
5 describe the layout of the home --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- as you remember it. You were taken into -- you say  
8 there was the baby end was in a building to the left of  
9 the convent.

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. Sorry. If we just take back to -- put it up on the  
12 screen, it might be easier for people. If we could go  
13 to SND-2032, and you see at the bottom of that page you  
14 describe the layout of Termonbacca and over the  
15 following page. You say that you remember being in --  
16 there was a large table -- there was a dining area with  
17 tables, a large table at the top where you sat, and that  
18 was next to a playroom. You say that someone had made  
19 an ice-cream van which you recollect in the playroom.

20 **A. Yes. I remember the ice-cream van coming. It was very**  
21 **detailed and sort of we wanted to all play with this**  
22 **ice-cream van and it was in the big playroom.**

23 Q. You do remember also that there was a large dormitory.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. On the right-hand side there was a bedroom which had

1 a glass window and a door and that's where you slept.

2

3 **A. That's where I slept with my sister.**

4 Q. That's your eldest sister.

5 **A. Eldest sister, yes.**

6 Q. Your other sister, who was older than you again, she  
7 slept out in the dormitory in her own.

8 **A. Out in the big dorm on her own.**

9 Q. Next door to that there was a bathroom --

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. -- and toilets.

12 **A. Toilets.**

13 Q. You say there were a lot of cots on the first dorm.

14 **A. As you came into the dorm it was all cots and then when**  
15 **you went into the second part of the dorm, it was single**  
16 **beds, and our room was on the right-hand side, and the**  
17 **bathroom was next to our room where me and my older**  
18 **sister slept.**

19 Q. You do remember that there were a lot of empty beds in  
20 the dorms as sometimes families would come and go from  
21 the --

22 **A. Families would come and go, yes.**

23 Q. You describe -- can I ask you: did your parents ever  
24 visit you when you were in the home?

25 **A. Once my father come to see us and then my mother come.**



1 I'm not quite sure was it a few days, maybe a week  
2 later, but after that we didn't see them.

3 Q. Until you were taken home?

4 A. Taken home.

5 Q. You talk about that in paragraph 10, but you do say that  
6 after a period of time you were also allowed to go and  
7 visit your older sister.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. She would have been substantially older than you and  
10 would have had her own home at that stage.

11 A. She was the eldest and she was married with a family,  
12 and we were allowed to go visit her on a Sunday.

13 Q. Now you say that you -- when you arrived at Termonbacca,  
14 your sisters were split up -- you and your sisters were  
15 split up from the boys.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did you see the boys during your time there?

18 A. The only time that I seen my two brothers would have  
19 been at mass in the morning or when we were going out  
20 school, walking down the lane to go to school. The boys  
21 got the bus. We didn't. Myself and my two sisters had  
22 to walk to school, and on occasionally I would have seen  
23 my brothers if they were showing a picture on a Sunday  
24 night, and we would have been took up to see -- watch  
25 the picture.

1 Q. Did you form any friendships in Termonbacca when you  
2 were in there?

3 **A. No, I did not. I found it very hard to make friendship,**  
4 **but I stayed close to my two older sisters, especially**  
5 **the -- both my sister a year above me, we stayed closer**  
6 **to the older sister.**

7 Q. And you just talked there a moment ago about going to  
8 school. Where did you go to school?

9 **A. [REDACTED] Street, which was down in the town.**

10 Q. Was that the -- it has been described by others as  
11 Nazareth House, Bishop Street.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. It is the same school?

14 **A. No, not Bishop Street. [REDACTED] Street --**

15 Q. [REDACTED] Street.

16 **A. -- and it was run by nuns as well.**

17 Q. You say that in paragraph 6 you felt that you were  
18 picked on at school because you were in care.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. You describe an incident there: a nun whom you name and  
21 you say she was very violent and you used to get hit  
22 every day --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- with a bamboo stick across the back of your legs.

25 **A. Back of my legs, yes.**

1 Q. Now can I just confirm, HIA7, was that nun a member of  
2 the Sisters of Nazareth congregation or was she  
3 a different congregation?

4 **A. I don't know what congregation she was. I just know**  
5 **that she was the [REDACTED] of the school at that**  
6 **time.**

7 Q. Now the name that you have given in that paragraph is  
8 the same as the name of a nun who was with the Sisters  
9 of Nazareth at the time, and she has given an account  
10 where she says that she has no recollection of you,  
11 first of all, and denies ever hitting a child with  
12 a cane, but it is possible from what you have said that  
13 it might not be a Sister of Nazareth nun who hit you in  
14 school?

15 **A. Well, I don't know if she is a Sister of Nazareth. All**  
16 **I know, she was [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Street**  
17 **Primary School, which was run by the Catholic Church.**

18 Q. Now you also say that in regard to when you came back to  
19 the home that there was no help with homework.

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. I have been asked to point out to you that your sister,  
22 who will be giving evidence later this morning, in her  
23 account it says that there was time set aside for  
24 homework in the home.

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. Have you any comment to make about that?

2 **A. Well, I have no recollection of being sat down with**  
3 **anybody to do homework or helping me to read or write.**

4 Q. And you have indicated that you now are aware that you  
5 are actually dyslexic. Is that correct?

6 **A. Yes, I am.**

7 Q. We have received and I will explain to you that we have  
8 received a number of documents and some of those  
9 documents are from Social Services and they indicate  
10 that you would have been in 1978 absent from school --

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. -- and that there was poor school attendance in 1979.  
13 Have you any comment to make about that?

14 **A. I was rebelliant (sic). I was rebelliant because what**  
15 **was going on, because I was being put into the system,**  
16 **in and out, and I was rebelliant all the time.**

17 Q. That's why you were not going to school?

18 **A. I was acting out.**

19 Q. We will come back to what was happening in your life at  
20 that time, HIA7, but can I just concentrate for a moment  
21 on your experiences of Termonbacca and ask you: did you  
22 feel that the clothing that you received in Termonbacca  
23 was adequate or what comment do you make?

24 **A. No, they were not. They were not adequate. I never**  
25 **remember getting new clothes, anything like that.**

1 Q. But certainly you would have had sufficient clothes --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- to -- shoes and things. You were not deprived of  
4 clothing in any way?

5 **A. No, no.**

6 CHAIRMAN: Ms Smith, you asked HIA7 about a reference to  
7 school attendance. Did you say 1979?

8 MS SMITH: '78 and '79, yes.

9 CHAIRMAN: She was only in Termonbacca between '69 and '71.

10 MS SMITH: Indeed, yes. That's correct, Chairman.

11 CHAIRMAN: I see.

12 MS SMITH: I will come back to what was happening in her  
13 life in '78 and '79, but I~have been asked to draw to  
14 her attention that there was poor school attendance.

15 CHAIRMAN: No. I was concerned lest there had been an  
16 inadvertent error in relation to the dates. That's all.

17 MS SMITH: Sorry, HIA7. We were just talking there -- one  
18 of the things that you do complain about in Termonbacca  
19 was the food. You say that -- in paragraph 5 you  
20 describe breakfast, which you describe was lumpy  
21 porridge.

22 **A. Lumpy porridge, yes. Made to eat it, and a nun standing  
23 over me making me eat it and me trying not to gag, to  
24 throw up.**

25 Q. You say that you were always hungry in the home.

1 **A. Always, always hungry.**

2 Q. You talk about this at paragraph 7. It is your  
3 evidence, therefore, that you don't feel that you were  
4 properly fed --

5 **A. No.**

6 Q. -- in Termonbacca.

7 **A. I was not.**

8 Q. Can I ask about bathing in the home? What was the  
9 situation with regard to the bathing of yourself and  
10 your sisters?

11 **A. The bathroom was next door to the room that we stayed in  
12 on the main -- on the dormitory, and we were bathed  
13 together and you had no privacy. You were stripped, and  
14 on one occasion I remember sitting on the bed after  
15 getting bathed with no clothes, and a man and woman was  
16 on the dorm and looking and ...**

17 Q. I think you describe this incident in paragraph 20 --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- of your witness statement. You say that you had  
20 a medical condition which you say you didn't receive any  
21 medical treatment for at that time.

22 **A. No.**

23 Q. You, in fact, were what has been described as  
24 a bedwetter. Is that correct, HIA7?

25 **A. I would have wet the bed occasionally, but not as much**

1 as my older sister, because she had a kidney problem at  
2 the time, which we didn't know then, but I did wet the  
3 bed, and my older sister, the oldest of the three, would  
4 have covered up us wetting the bed and she would have  
5 took a lot of beatings for us.

6 Q. And you say that -- in fact, in paragraph 14 you  
7 describe what happened and you say that when you wet the  
8 bed, you got beaten.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. Can you recall who beat you?

11 **A. SR3.**

12 Q. You say you had to strip the bed and then you go on to  
13 say that your other sister who covered for you --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- you say she took a beating for you, and you actually  
16 remember one occasion when you describe a nun as giving  
17 her a black eye.

18 **A. That is correct. I remember her hitting my older sister**  
19 **and leaving her with a terrible black eye, and my sister**  
20 **going to school with the black eye, and me and my other**  
21 **sister in tears seeing our older sister getting hit like**  
22 **this, which -- it shouldn't have happened. It**  
23 **shouldn't.**

24 Q. You talk in paragraphs 5 and 8 about work that you  
25 carried out in the home, and you say that you were woken

1 up. You had to make your bed. You were dressed and you  
2 went to mass, and then after that you had to go back to  
3 the dormitory and get children washed, dressed, put on  
4 potties and bring them down to the dining room and get  
5 them seated.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Now I take it from what you are saying these were  
8 children who were younger than you.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. You had to give them their breakfast, and when they had  
11 eaten theirs, you were allowed to go and eat yourself.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. You took them out into the play area and then you went  
14 on to school.

15 **A. Uh-huh. That is correct.**

16 Q. You talk again about this at paragraph 8, where you say  
17 that after the evening meal you had to take them up the  
18 stairs again, potty them, put their nappies on, put them  
19 in their cots and put them to bed.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. The children were babies and toddlers. What age were  
22 you at this time?

23 **A. Well, I was between 6 and 7. I was still a child  
24 myself.**

25 Q. You talk about one of the helpers there in that



1 paragraph, and I'll come back to that, but you talk at  
2 paragraph 9 that on a Saturday morning you collected  
3 little mats, about 20 or more, went down to the yard  
4 where the boiler house used to be, and you had to beat  
5 the mats and bring them back upstairs and put them  
6 beside each cot or bed.

7 **A. Every Saturday I picked all the little mats up -- and**  
8 **they were actually remnants of carpets -- took them**  
9 **round -- down round the side, the back of the boiler,**  
10 **and beat them, cleaned them, and then carried them all**  
11 **upstairs and put them all back beside the cots and**  
12 **beside the beds, and that was one of the things that**  
13 **I had to do.**

14 Q. Now one of the nuns that you name in your statement --  
15 in your witness statement has given a statement to the  
16 Inquiry herself. I am going to come back to that in  
17 more detail in due course, but she would say that you  
18 were never required -- that no child was required to do  
19 this, the kind of work that you describe in your witness  
20 statement. What comment do you wish to make about that,  
21 HIA7?

22 **A. Well, she's a liar. I'm telling you what I had -- what**  
23 **I had to do, and it's like yesterday. So I'm telling**  
24 **you what happened and what I had to do.**

25 Q. Well, can I ask you about do you recall special

1 occasions being celebrated in the home, Christmas or  
2 Hallowe'en?

3 **A. No.**

4 Q. You do talk about Christmas at paragraph 21 in your  
5 witness statement. You describe it as being just  
6 a show. You say that:

7 "People came from outside the home and were invited  
8 to fancy parties in Termonbacca and they had a feast  
9 while we were upstairs starving and I was always  
10 hungry."

11 **A. That's right. There was parties. I remember on**  
12 **occasionally doing the butter, curling the butter with**  
13 **like a fork and putting it on the plates and all the**  
14 **tables were set out, myself and my sisters doing that,**  
15 **and then we were upstairs and people was downstairs**  
16 **having a party.**

17 Q. But you don't necessarily know if that was at Christmas  
18 or ...?

19 **A. No.**

20 Q. What about your birthday? Was that ever celebrated in  
21 the home?

22 **A. No. Birthdays was never celebrated. I never remember**  
23 **having birthday cakes or a birthday card or anything**  
24 **like that.**

25 Q. Do you remember there being music being a big feature of

1 life in the home?

2 **A. No.**

3 Q. What about pocket money? Do you recall ever getting any  
4 pocket money?

5 **A. Well, if you went down the town on a Saturday -- I think**  
6 **it was about 2 pence then -- we got 2 pence or something**  
7 **like that, and we would have bought broken biscuits out**  
8 **of one of the supermarkets.**

9 Q. During your two years there do you ever remember anyone  
10 from Social Services visiting the home?

11 **A. Never. Never remember seeing anybody from Social**  
12 **Services at all, never.**

13 Q. It is -- I mean, you had said that you were put in there  
14 by Rose Black. Do you remember --

15 **A. I remember Rose Black taking us, but I never remember**  
16 **Rose Black coming to see us or check us or anything like**  
17 **that.**

18 Q. What about any visits by senior nuns during the two  
19 years you were there?

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. Or do you remember anybody else visiting the home?

22 **A. People outside. I remember people outside coming in,**  
23 **people that actually fostered me out coming, and then**  
24 **I was fostered out with them.**

25 Q. Right. I'll come back to that in due course, but can

1 I~just take you to some of the specific allegations that  
2 you make in your witness statement, HIA7?

3 You talk about the nun in paragraph 12. You say  
4 that this particular nun wasn't very nice. When you  
5 went in, your hair was short and they let your hair grow  
6 long, and when you couldn't remember what you had done  
7 with elastics for your hair, you got hit over the head  
8 with a glass hairbrush almost every day.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. You didn't get any injuries or receive any treatment as  
11 a result of this.

12 **A. No, I did not.**

13 Q. As I indicated earlier, that particular nun has given  
14 a witness statement to the Inquiry, which can be seen at  
15 SND-4146. Sorry. It is SND-4144 is where the witness  
16 statement commences, but she talks about what she  
17 recalls about you at SND-4145. If we could just pull  
18 that up on the screen, please. If we could highlight  
19 from paragraph 12, you will see there that it says:

20 "I have seen the statement from this lady."

21 That's your witness statement, HIA7. She says:

22 "I do not remember her or her sister (who has also  
23 provided a statement) at all. I have looked at the  
24 names of the other siblings and they do not bring back  
25 any memories for me of this girl or her family at all."

1 She goes on to say that she agrees that she did work  
2 in the younger end of the home and that she did work  
3 with a lady called SND59 and that she is still in touch  
4 with that person and that she exchanges Christmas cards  
5 with her.

6 She says she doesn't recall there being rugs or mats  
7 around. She definitely does not recall children having  
8 to collect and beat them.

9 You describe in your witness statement that when you  
10 came back from foster parents, this particular nun would  
11 have taken the clothes that they would have given you  
12 and money that they would have given you from you.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 **Q.** Her response to that is that she doesn't -- she does not  
15 recall ever recall removing sweets, toys, clothes or  
16 money from a child, and it is possible that a child may  
17 have had sweets refused to them as a punishment for  
18 misbehaviour, as the removal of privileges was used as  
19 a punishment. However, the picture of them habitually  
20 removing gifts when a child returned from a visit to  
21 a local family is not something that she accepts. She  
22 says this generally, because she repeats that she does  
23 not remember you personally.

24 She says that she does not recall there ever being  
25 a glass or similar hairbrush in the home, that she has

1 never struck a child with a hairbrush of any kind and  
2 denies that allegation completely. She says you as  
3 children would have brushed your own hair mainly, as the  
4 nuns would not have had time to brush the hair of all  
5 the children in person.

6 What would you like to say about that, HIA7?

7 **A. Well, she didn't brush my hair. She hit me because**  
8 **I couldn't find my elastics to fix my hair, and I got**  
9 **hit every morning. To deny, to say that she doesn't**  
10 **remember, she's a liar. She doesn't remember myself and**  
11 **my two sisters? We were there from 1969 to 1971, and**  
12 **when I was fostered out, it still sticks in my mind like**  
13 **it was yesterday being brought back by my foster father**  
14 **in the car and set up on a bench and the money and**  
15 **whatever these people gave me was took off me and never**  
16 **seen it again.**

17 **Q.** You talk in your own witness statement about an incident  
18 when you were at school and you wanted to take part in  
19 a school play. This is at paragraph 13. If we can  
20 just -- I am going to have to jump between your  
21 statement and that of this particular nun, but if we can  
22 look at your statement at paragraph 13 on page SND-2035,  
23 you say that one time you were doing a play in school  
24 and this particular nun came to the school and said you  
25 had to leave because Termonbacca had organised a day

1 out. You wouldn't go, because you wanted to be in the  
2 play on the stage, and she then gave you what you  
3 describe as the biggest beating of your life.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. She hit you with the back of her hand and you say she  
6 always went for your hair. She hit you on your arms,  
7 shoulders and back.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Now can you recollect what the play was?

10 **A. I can't remember what the play was, but the school**  
11 **always done things musical, and I wanted to do it, and**  
12 **that day my older sisters kept saying to me, "You have**  
13 **to go" and I didn't want to go. So I stayed. They went**  
14 **on, and she landed at the school to take me back.**

15 Q. And can I just tell you that she denies that absolutely  
16 and she speaks about this at paragraph 17 of the  
17 statement that she's provided, which is SND-4146. If  
18 that could be just pulled up, please. Go to  
19 paragraph 17. Now in that paragraph she says:

20 "I have never been inside any school in Derry.  
21 I was not inside the school in Bishop Street where the  
22 Sisters worked and have never been in any other school.  
23 I did not remove any child from a school for a day trip,  
24 nor would I remove a child from performing in a play.  
25 I~did not do this. I definitely would not have beaten

1 a child for wanting to be in a play and deny that this  
2 happened. It is unlikely that a child would have been  
3 at school if they were going on a day trip. The  
4 children would not have been on many trips, as these  
5 would have been organised for periods when they were not  
6 in school."

7 So she denies let alone having beaten you, but she  
8 says that she was categorically not in any school in the  
9 city.

10 **A. That's not true. That's definitely not true. She come**  
11 **down into the school. She come to the school and took**  
12 **me out of the school. That is a total lie.**

13 Q. You then also talk then if we can move on from -- just  
14 while we are with that statement it might be proper to  
15 go through some of the other things that she does say.

16 She does accept that there was a small room off the  
17 main dormitory, if we can just scroll on down that, but  
18 doesn't recall it being specifically used for families  
19 or recall sisters being in the room, although she does  
20 remember a particular traveller family being placed  
21 there for a short time. She says that it is possible  
22 that your older sister was in the small room and then  
23 moved into the dormitory area, as you describe in your  
24 statement, but it's only a suggestion, because she has  
25 no actual memory of that happening.



1 She does recall working with a girl called SND55.  
2 Now you talk about SND55 in your witness statement and  
3 you talk about her in paragraph 16 of your statement at  
4 page SND-2036. You say that:

5 "There was a worker in Termonbacca called ...",  
6 and you give her name, but you have told me this  
7 morning that you are not exactly clear as to what her  
8 surname was.

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

10 Q. You say:

11 "She made us do her job for her and she ordered us  
12 about."

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. "She pretended to be this great person but didn't tell  
15 the truth that the children were doing her job and were  
16 getting frequent beatings by the nuns."

17 You say that she was a bully when another worker  
18 wasn't about. She would not have addressed you by your  
19 first name but called you by your surname.

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

21 Q. You felt there was no point in complaining as she was  
22 very close to this particular nun who has given the  
23 witness statement.

24 **A. That's correct.**

25 Q. You say she still is living in [REDACTED] somewhere.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Now in her statement this nun has said that she doesn't  
3 accept the description that you have given of this  
4 particular worker, that it certainly doesn't meet with  
5 the -- her recollection of this person, who she  
6 describes as a volunteer, and said that her family were  
7 very good to the sisters and regularly helped them out.  
8 She disputes the surname, but you accept that that is --  
9 was your best recollection of the surname.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. She said that she was a generous and hardworking girl  
12 and nothing about her or her relationship to the  
13 children ever gave the sister cause for concern.

14 **A. Well, she was there every day. She was there every day  
15 from we went in until we left. She was there. That  
16 lady was there.**

17 Q. You have said that there was another worker there who  
18 you describe and you give her name as SND59. Is that  
19 correct?

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. You talk about her in warm terms as she -- you talk  
22 about her in paragraph 8. You say:

23 "There was one lady called SND59 and she was  
24 an angel."

25 **A. She was.**

1 Q. You are still in contact with her, and you say that she  
2 had arguments with the nuns about you.

3 **A. Yes, about the three of us and she stood up for us.**  
4 **SND59 was very, very kind, very, very good. SND59 would**  
5 **have took us to her brother's and sister-in-law's house**  
6 **when they lived down the town. She was more than kind,**  
7 **more than good to us.**

8 Q. That's -- SND59 is an example of someone positive that  
9 you remember from your time there.

10 **A. Yes. That's just one -- that's just one -- one**  
11 **positive.**

12 Q. Now you have said in -- we talked about the incident  
13 where you were sitting on the bed outside the bathroom  
14 --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- and people walking through, and you say in that  
17 paragraph in your statement that you didn't receive any  
18 medical treatment --

19 **A. No.**

20 Q. -- for the condition you had then. In fact, can I --  
21 I~have told you this this morning and I just want to  
22 show you some documents which suggest that you were --  
23 in fact, during your time in Termonbacca you were seen  
24 by medical professionals.

25 If we could pull up, please, SND-2052, this is your

1 medical record. This, I should indicate, is a document  
2 we have received from Social Services records. It goes  
3 through -- it shows -- again says there were [REDACTED] in the  
4 family and you were the [REDACTED]th, when, in fact, we know  
5 there were only [REDACTED] of you. It goes on to say that your  
6 condition on admission -- and the date of admission is  
7 given at the top of the page -- was fair.

8 If we can go over to the next page, you will see  
9 there that there is detailed a medical examination where  
10 various examinations of your eyes and ears and so forth  
11 are carried out, and the only thing that seems to be of  
12 concern to the doctor who carried out this examination  
13 is your teeth --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- which are described as abnormal; probably in need of  
16 some treatment at that time.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Do you ever remember seeing a dentist at any stage?

19 **A. Never seen a dentist, never seen a doctor, never was at  
20 an optician's in all the time I was in it, never.**

21 Q. Well, would you accept that they suggest that you were  
22 seen by a doctor on your admission to --

23 **A. No, I don't accept that at all.**

24 Q. Well, if we can go on to the page SND-2055 -- sorry --  
25 2055. Is that right? You will see here there is

1 a weight and height record. This is a continuation of  
2 that medical record, HIA7. It suggests that you were  
3 seen on three occasions during your time in Termonbacca:  
4 on 29th March, which we have indicated was the date of  
5 admission in 1969, then 22nd May 1970 and 4th  
6 December 1970, and your ages are given there as 7, 7 and  
7 a half and 8. Your weight is given, and there seems to  
8 be a second weight given without a date between March  
9 '69 and May 1970. Then your height is also given during  
10 that time, which seems to suggest that certainly your  
11 weight in the second year was static, but that you were  
12 growing in height during that time.

13 **A. I never remember seeing a doctor or any of this while**  
14 **I was in there, never.**

15 Q. Was -- do you ever remember anyone else taking your  
16 height or weight?

17 **A. No, never.**

18 Q. Did any of the nuns or the workers ever do that?

19 **A. Never, never. Never remember getting my height, weight**  
20 **or anything like that done to me.**

21 Q. Is it possible that it was done and you simply just  
22 don't remember?

23 **A. No, I would remember. It wasn't done. It just wasn't**  
24 **done.**

25 Q. Well, you've talked about foster placements and you talk

1 about this in your witness statement, if we could go  
2 back to that. In paragraph 11 you talk about being  
3 fostered during the school holidays. You first went to  
4 a family whose names are given in that paragraph, and  
5 you say that the gentleman who you went to has passed  
6 away some years ago, but you were told by him that they  
7 wanted to adopt you but that there was an issue, as your  
8 mother wouldn't give permission. They never saw you  
9 again, and then you were fostered out to a second  
10 couple.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You ended up going to school near them. You say that  
13 they took you at Christmas and you remember getting  
14 a doll.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. The second time they took you and your sister -- one of  
17 your sisters.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. That went on through Easter and summer holidays --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- but then suddenly stopped --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- without any explanation as to why it had stopped.

24 **A. There was no explanation given why. Myself and my**  
25 **sister used to really look forward to going with these**

1 people in the summer and Christmas and Easter. We just  
2 couldn't wait. We knew that the lady was coming to get  
3 us, and -- but then all of a sudden everything just  
4 stopped. You were never -- nobody told you why.

5 It leaves -- it has left a rejection, you know. As  
6 a child you were rejected, and the rejection would carry  
7 on. I have took it with me all my life, rejection, that  
8 you weren't wanted, but it wasn't the family's fault.  
9 It wasn't there. They were more than good. They gave  
10 us love, kindness, fed us, could not do enough for me  
11 and my sister.

12 Q. Certainly your memories of those people -- both sets of  
13 foster parents are very positive?

14 A. Yes, and I'm still in contact with one of my foster  
15 family, with my foster mother to this day.

16 Q. You were there for a period of two years. Is it  
17 possible that because you were returned home that the  
18 foster arrangement might have ended because of that?

19 A. I don't know. I don't know. I know speaking to my  
20 foster father, my first foster parents, years later he  
21 told me that they wanted to adopt, but because there was  
22 an issue with my mother, it didn't happen.

23 Q. You were there, as I say, for a period of two years, and  
24 have you any recollection of things changing during that  
25 short period of time?

1 **A. No, nothing changed. It was just the same from the day**  
2 **we went in until the day we left. Nothing changed.**

3 Q. Can I take you on? As I have indicated, you were taken  
4 back by your mother in 1971, and subsequently, five  
5 years later, you talk about how in [REDACTED] you were sent to  
6 the Good Shepherd.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. That was a Magdalene Laundry in Derry.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. You would have been aged 14 at that time.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Your understanding, and certainly the Inquiry's  
13 understanding, HIA7, that the Magdalene Laundries were  
14 for adult women rather than for children.

15 **A. That's right.**

16 Q. Were there any other children in the Magdalene Laundry  
17 when you were there?

18 **A. No. When I first entered the Magdalene Laundry, the**  
19 **Good Shepherd's, I was the only [REDACTED] in it at that**  
20 **time when I first went into it.**

21 Q. You have indicated in your statement that it was your  
22 mother who put you in there.

23 **A. It was. It was my mother.**

24 Q. This was a voluntary thing; this was nothing to do with  
25 Social Services?



1 **A. Nothing to do with Social Services. My mother put me**  
2 **in.**

3 Q. You at that stage were having difficulties with your  
4 mother.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. And it's -- as I have indicated, we have received  
7 a number of documents from Social Services and I showed  
8 you those this morning.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. We can look briefly, although this won't be shown  
11 publicly on the website, but if we could look at  
12 SND-2063, you will see that this is a social report from  
13 Londonderry, Limavaday and Strabane District Social  
14 Services Board dated 22nd November 1978. Without going  
15 through that in any detail what it does show is that  
16 there were difficulties in your relationship with your  
17 mother.

18 **A. That's correct.**

19 Q. That you were absent from school.

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

21 Q. That she was describing your behaviour as deviant.

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. That Social Services suggest that she was having  
24 difficulty in handling what they describe as normal  
25 adolescent behaviour.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. That there were certainly difficulties between the two  
3 of you --

4 **A. There was.**

5 Q. -- which you -- she put you into -- not only did she put  
6 you into the Magdalene Laundry --

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. -- but she also put you into Fort James and she also put  
9 you into Gransha Psychiatric Hospital.

10 **A. That's correct.**

11 Q. Isn't that correct?

12 **A. That's correct.**

13 Q. That is at page -- we see a report from Gransha at  
14 SND-2065, which I am again not going to open in any  
15 detail, but that suggests the reason that you ended up  
16 in Gransha was because of an action you had taken.  
17 Isn't that correct?

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. Are you happy to discuss that, HIA7?

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. Well, if I can just briefly say that you were admitted  
22 to the hospital in [REDACTED] because you had  
23 attempted to take your own life --

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

25 Q. -- and had taken an overdose.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Certainly in your spell there in Gransha they didn't  
3 feel that there was any psychiatric issues --

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. -- with regard to you, and that the difficulties were  
6 between you and your mother.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Now the reason I am raising these matters with you,  
9 HIA7, is because I have been asked by the congregation  
10 to suggest to you that the problems that you experienced  
11 in your life were complex and that they were not all to  
12 do with the Sisters of Nazareth. Would you accept that  
13 or what do you want to say about that?

14 **A. What I -- what happened to me as a child I have carried**  
15 **it on, and the rejection, and then not being wanted by**  
16 **anybody, not being loved, being totally pushed --**  
17 **feeling pushed away. So I -- what I -- as a teenager**  
18 **I rebelled, but it had a certain part to do what**  
19 **happened me when I was a child, when I went in those**  
20 **four walls.**

21 Q. One of the things that did happen to you when you were  
22 in Termonbacca I haven't discussed as yet, but it was --  
23 you describe that in your witness statement and you  
24 describe it at paragraph 15, when some other girls came  
25 into the home.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. If we can just briefly go back to that, please. It is  
3 at SND-2035, just at the bottom of that page, where you  
4 say there were two sisters from -- well, you describe  
5 them coming from [REDACTED]. You don't remember their names,  
6 but the nuns took your sister out of the room that you  
7 shared with her --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- and put one of the girls into the room with you.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. Your two sisters -- you were then on your own with this  
12 girl in that room and you describe what she did to you.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. Essentially she touched your private parts and made you  
15 touch her in the same way.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. You didn't want to do it --

18 **A. No.**

19 Q. -- but you were too scared, and that went on for  
20 a couple of months you say.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. You never told anybody about that, though. Is that  
23 right?

24 **A. Never. I never told anybody until the day I gave my**  
25 **statement. Never told anybody. I just wanted my big**

1           **sister back in the room. I didn't want that girl to be**  
2           **near me.**

3    Q.   If I can move on briefly again to your time in the  
4           Magdalene Laundry, you talk about SR49 --

5    **A.   Yes.**

6    Q.   -- who was in charge of the laundry or certainly was  
7           working there at the time, and you describe her as being  
8           very nice and good to you.

9    **A.   SR49 was a lovely person. She was like a mother. She**  
10           **listened. She was more than good and kind to me, but**  
11           **the Good Shepherd itself, the institution itself, it was**  
12           **like being in jail, locked up, escorted if you were**  
13           **going out. I have nothing bad to say about SR49, but**  
14           **the institution itself wasn't -- wasn't good. Every**  
15           **door you went through it was locked. You had to be --**  
16           **you weren't allowed out on your own. The only time**  
17           **I would have got out on my own was when I was going to**  
18           **school and coming back -- coming back. That was it, and**  
19           **when you went in, you didn't get back out again.**

20   Q.   Now after -- what happened to you then was you would be  
21           put into the Good Shepherd for a while. Your mother  
22           would take you out.

23   **A.   Yes.**

24   Q.   Put you back in.

25   **A.   Yes.**

1 Q. Take you out again.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. That went on for a spell.

4 **A. It went on right up until 1979.**

5 Q. In 1978 you moved -- you were taken to Coneywarren  
6 Children's Home.

7 **A. Yes, I was.**

8 Q. What do you want the Inquiry to know about Coneywarren?

9 **A. Coneywarren was a total different institution. It  
10 wasn't even an institution. It was like a holiday camp.  
11 You had your -- you were loved. You were treated well.  
12 You had your freedom. You were allowed to go out  
13 shopping in the town, and everybody was so kind, so  
14 nice. I worked -- I loved working with the babies and  
15 I loved working in the kitchen, and I actually didn't  
16 want to leave it.**

17 Q. You did leave it and where did you go when you left?

18 **A. My mother decided I was ready to leave school, and  
19 Coneywarren was arranging for me to work in a hotel.  
20 They were getting me a job, but my mother decided to  
21 bring me back. I was back home not very long and  
22 I ended up on the streets.**

23 Q. Now can I ask: your life after care, how has that been  
24 for you, HIA7?

25 **A. From I left the institution? There was no aftercare, no**

1           aftercare at all, nobody to say, "This is what happens.  
2           Do you need counselling? Do you need help? Do you need  
3           anything?" I didn't get it. I actually in my 30s --  
4           I am 51 now. In my 30s, my late 30s, I went for  
5           counselling myself, and it took me five years, five  
6           years, to deal with -- to get my counsel... -- to get my  
7           counselling, but I have survived it, and I made myself  
8           a stronger person, but the institutions didn't give that  
9           to me. I had to do that myself.

10       Q. Can I ask you how you feel today about those who cared  
11       for you?

12       A. Pardon? I didn't ...

13       Q. Sorry. Can I ask you how you feel today about those who  
14       cared for you --

15       A. Those who cared --

16       Q. -- particularly in Termonbacca, if I may?

17       A. There was no care. There was no love. If it wasn't for  
18       my older sister, I don't think myself and my other  
19       sister would have survived it, if it wasn't for her,  
20       because the day -- the day that we went in there the  
21       child -- this child here was left at the gate and had to  
22       become an adult. That shouldn't have happened. It  
23       shouldn't have happened. We should have had love,  
24       kindness, protection. Everything that you're supposed  
25       to get we didn't get.

1 Q. HIA7, you are aware that this Inquiry has to make  
2 recommendations to the Northern Ireland Executive as to  
3 what should happen --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- and whether that should be a memorial, redress of  
6 some sort or an apology. I just want to know what your  
7 views are, what you feel should happen as a result of  
8 this Inquiry.

9 **A. I think we should have our justice, our voices heard.**  
10 **We have come this far, the majority of us. There are**  
11 **some of us that's not here today. They're gone. This**  
12 **is the voices for us all, all, to let the world, let the**  
13 **people know what happened in those institutions that**  
14 **shouldn't have happened; that the children should have**  
15 **been loved, cared for, not treated the way they were.**  
16 **They were only children.**

17 I have children myself. I have grandchildren.  
18 I give my children, my grandchildren all the love that  
19 I can, more so, because I didn't get it. It was took  
20 away from me.

21 Q. HIA7, is there anything else that you feel you haven't  
22 -- we haven't covered or that you wish to say at this  
23 point?

24 **A. I think I've covered what I have to -- what I have to**  
25 **say I've said it, and I thank this for doing and helping**



1           **and letting us use our voices and speak and let us tell**  
2           **our stories, what happened to us, because at the end of**  
3           **the day we were only children, not adults. We were**  
4           **children.**

5    Q.   HIA7, thank you for that. Now the Panel members may  
6           have some questions that they wish to ask you. So if  
7           you'd just stay there.

8                               Questions from THE PANEL

9    CHAIRMAN: HIA7, can I just ask you one question? You may  
10           remember talking about a lady who you described as being  
11           very kind.

12   **A. Yes.**

13   Q.   You don't need to give her name. You said that she  
14           stood up for you and "She was more than good to us".

15   **A. Yes.**

16   Q.   Then you said, "There was just one positive". I am not  
17           clear whether you mean she was the only person who was  
18           positive or was she one of a number of people who you  
19           remember as positive?

20   **A. No, she was the only one.**

21   Q.   She was the only one?

22   **A. She was the only one.**

23   MS DOHERTY: Thank you for your testimony, HIA7. Can I just  
24           ask: one of the things we have heard from other people  
25           in Termonbacca was about the influence of older boys or

1 older girls and people coming in. Do you have anything  
2 to say about that? Do you have any memory of ...?

3 **A. Well, we were the only [REDACTED] girls at that time to be**  
4 **put into Termonbacca. We were the [REDACTED] girls ever to**  
5 **be put into Termonbacca.**

6 Q. But the older boys, do you remember any --

7 **A. The boys were -- we only seen the boys at mass, walking**  
8 **down to school, but the boys would have been sort of --**  
9 **because our two brothers was up with the boys. The**  
10 **older boys sort of were -- because we were three**  
11 **sisters, those boys sort of looked out for us, you know,**  
12 **but we never were in contact with the boys in the upper**  
13 **end, because we were always kept down at the nursery**  
14 **end.**

15 Q. Okay. Thank you very much.

16 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for coming to speak to us  
17 today, HIA7.

18 **A. Thank you.**

19 **(Witness withdrew)**

20 MS SMITH: Chairman, HIA7's sister, who is the next witness  
21 to give evidence, is actually in the chamber, but  
22 Mr Aiken will be taking her through her evidence and it  
23 may be we have a very short break just to allow him to  
24 ...

25 CHAIRMAN: Well, we will start again at 11.45.

1 (11.40 am)

2 (Short break)

3 (11.45 am)

4 WITNESS HIA8 (called)

5 CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr Aiken.

6 MR AIKEN: Good morning, Chairman, Members of the Panel.

7 The second witness this morning is present in the  
8 chamber, HIA8, who is the sister of HIA7, who was the  
9 first witness, and HIA8 obviously got to sit and hear  
10 her sister give her evidence. So she's some idea of the  
11 process that we're going to go through.

12 The first thing that's going to happen, HIA8, is the  
13 Chairman is going ask you about taking the oath or  
14 affirming.

15 CHAIRMAN: Now, HIA8, which would you prefer to do?

16 **A. The oath.**

17 Q. You wish to take the religious oath.

18 WITNESS HIA8 (sworn)

19 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please sit down.

20 **A. Thank you.**

21 **Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY**

22 MR AIKEN: Now, **HIA 8**, as I was explaining to you this  
23 morning, the Inquiry has given all of the individuals  
24 who are coming forward to give evidence anonymity.

25 **A. Aye.**

1 Q. So you will see coming up on the screen now -- if we can  
2 bring up your witness statement. That's page SND-2069.  
3 All the references will be SND references this morning.  
4 So SND-2069. You will see that you are given the  
5 reference "HIA8".

6 **A. Aye.**

7 Q. Your sister earlier was "HIA7". One of the matters that  
8 I was asking you to consider is whether you wanted your  
9 anonymity to remain.

10 **A. No, no. It doesn't bother me. Drop it. It is nothing**  
11 **important, that.**

12 Q. So you don't mind your identity being known?

13 **A. No, I do not.**

14 Q. I think I overheard your sister saying she was going to  
15 consider that further. So perhaps before any reporting  
16 of your name is done that's a conversation you and her  
17 could have about it.

18 So you have got on the screen a copy of your witness  
19 statement, but I know you have in front of you --

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. -- a version where you can see what's under the black  
22 redactions.

23 **A. Oh, aye. That's it.**

24 Q. I'd just like you to look for me at the first page  
25 that's on the screen and the first page that you have on

1 your hard copy and just make sure that it is your  
2 statement.

3 **A. Oh, aye, it is.**

4 Q. It is the same document?

5 **A. Oh, it is.**

6 Q. Then if we can go to the last page, which is at  
7 SND-2076, and on the screen, **HIA 8** you're seeing  
8 where it says "Signature" a black box with "HIA8"  
9 written.

10 **A. It's here, aye.**

11 Q. Can you confirm you have a hard copy with your own  
12 signature on it?

13 **A. Yes, I can.**

14 Q. Can I ask you then to confirm that you want to adopt the  
15 contents of your witness statement as part of your  
16 evidence to the Inquiry?

17 **A. Yes, I can.**

18 Q. Now what I want to do -- obviously the Inquiry has  
19 literally just heard from your sister.

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. So a number of the matters will be very fresh in their  
22 minds, but I want to take you back to when you entered  
23 Termonbacca.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. If we can go back, please, to the first page of the

1 statement at SND-2069, and we are talking about a date  
2 in [REDACTED] --

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

4 Q. -- [REDACTED], at which point you were 10.

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

6 Q. You were one of [REDACTED] children?

7 **A. There were [REDACTED] That's right.**

8 Q. You were the third from the bottom. Is that --

9 **A. No, fourth from the bottom. [REDACTED] down.**

10 Q. You were [REDACTED] down, and only the youngest [REDACTED] were going  
11 into Termonbacca with you --

12 **A. That's right, aye.**

13 Q. -- in [REDACTED]

14 **A. That's right.**

15 Q. I know from speaking to you and then having heard your  
16 sister give her evidence that she has the same issue as  
17 you with the suggestion -- and if we could just look  
18 briefly at page SND-14129, please -- the suggestion that  
19 your father was abusing any of the children.

20 **A. No, never. In our family my father never abused nor**  
21 **ever hit us, not in any way. He had [REDACTED] wains and it was**  
22 **never -- none of us was ever neglected or abused in any**  
23 **way. My father was a very loving man and was right up**  
24 **to the day he died.**

25 Q. So you take issue with the suggestion --

1 **A. Oh, I do take issue with that --**

2 Q. -- that that's --

3 **A. -- saying it was my father's fault. It was definitely**  
4 **not.**

5 Q. But your mum decided that a number of you should go into  
6 care.

7 **A. Aye.**

8 Q. You -- if we can go back to SND-2069, you remember the  
9 meeting with the Welfare. You remember Miss Black, as I  
10 understand it.

11 **A. Miss Black, aye.**

12 Q. She was involved in you ultimately going to Termonbacca.

13 **A. She took us up. Don't ask me how we got up there.**  
14 **I don't remember that, but I just remember being up at**  
15 **the big gate and at the door, you know.**

16 Q. Now you say -- if you look at paragraph 2 of your  
17 witness statement --

18 **A. Aye.**

19 Q. -- you say that you were going to Termonbacca because of  
20 your mother's insistence, and you were saying you should  
21 have been sent to Nazareth House --

22 **A. Aye.**

23 Q. -- but she insisted you go to Termonbacca. What do you  
24 mean by that? Why did she insist on Termonbacca?

25 **A. She wanted us, the five of us, to stay together. She**

1 didn't want to break up the family unit, and anybody  
2 that wasn't in the home at that time, they didn't know  
3 that boys and girls in Termonbacca were never together.  
4 Nobody -- unless you were in the home you wouldn't have  
5 knew that. We didn't know that and neither did they.  
6 It was only when later on when we went out for visits  
7 that we had to explain to the rest of our family we  
8 weren't together. The younger -- the girls was down the  
9 nursery. The boys was up with the boys, because -- and  
10 to this day I couldn't tell you whereabouts the boys'  
11 part is, because I've never been up to it. I was never  
12 allowed up there.

13 Q. But your belief is she was insisting on Termonbacca  
14 because she thought that would have you all together?

15 A. Together, you see. She knew there was boys and girls in  
16 Termonbacca. She knew that's where the boys were. So  
17 she thought we'd all be in the one place, but we  
18 weren't.

19 Q. What I'd like you to do is to explain to the Inquiry the  
20 nursery end that you're describing.

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. If I can just walk you through that, you explain that  
23 there's a first dormitory when you come up the stairs.

24 A. That's right.

25 Q. In that dormitory there was 24 cots.



1 **A. Wee cots for the wains. That's for the wee-er wains,**  
2 **like.**

3 Q. We'll come back to it for a different purpose, but also  
4 in that room was a large wardrobe.

5 **A. Yes, a large press with everything in it that you needed**  
6 **for to look after the children, powders, creams and**  
7 **sheets, blankets and pyjamas and nightdresses for us**  
8 **girls.**

9 Q. And off that first dormitory or before you go into the  
10 first dormitory was the room that the nun who looked  
11 after the nursery --

12 **A. That's where she slept.**

13 Q. -- where she slept.

14 **A. That's where she slept.**

15 Q. Your sister named her and she is a feature in your  
16 statement.

17 **A. Oh, aye. SR3. We just called her SR3.**

18 Q. At the moment, just like you, she is anonymous as far as  
19 the Inquiry is concerned. So she is given the reference  
20 SR3.

21 **A. Right.**

22 Q. So she had a room off the nursery.

23 **A. Nursery. Before you went into the two dormitories her**  
24 **room was right at the top of the stairs.**

25 Q. So she is at the top of the stairs. Then you have the

1 first dormitory with the 24 cots and then another  
2 dormitory --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- with you explain there's eleven single beds in it for  
5 the girls.

6 **A. That's right, and then a wee tiny box room at the top of  
7 that, and that's where I was put.**

8 Q. Your sister described it being off to the right --

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

10 Q. -- of the second dormitory.

11 **A. Aye.**

12 Q. That's where you slept.

13 **A. That's where I had to sleep.**

14 Q. Can I ask you about the eleven single beds? When you  
15 went into Termonbacca, and you've gone in with your  
16 sister HIA7, who is here, and another sister, [REDACTED]  
17 --

18 **A. Aye.**

19 Q. -- who was a year older than HIA7 --

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

21 Q. -- and the three of you were going into this dorm with  
22 you being in a bed in a room off it --

23 **A. Aye.**

24 Q. -- were there other girls in at the time?

25 **A. No. Just the two -- our two wains, as I called them.**

1           **It was just me and our two wains was the only wee girls**  
2           **that was in it. They were only big girls as they seen**  
3           **us like.**

4    Q.   And were there occasions during your stay -- you stay  
5           for almost two years.

6    **A.   Aye.**

7    Q.   Were there occasions during your stay when there were  
8           other older girls in this part?

9    **A.   Oh, aye.   Aye, there was, aye.**

10   Q.   How long would they have stayed?

11   **A.   None of them would have stayed any more than about**  
12           **a month at the most, like. You know what I mean? They**  
13           **would just come in and out, the sort of people sort of**  
14           **I would have seen as passing through it. Do you know**  
15           **what I mean? They might have been taken to a different**  
16           **home in a different part of the country or back with**  
17           **their own parents.**

18   Q.   So during your stay you were the people who were there  
19           longest, as it were?

20   **A.   Aye, just us three girls, aye.**

21   Q.   You mention that you are given the room off the girls'  
22           dorm, because you were the oldest.

23   **A.   Aye.**

24   Q.   You're aware your sister HIA7 has said she slept in  
25           there with you as well.

1 **A. Oh, aye, she lived there. She liked to attach herself**  
2 **to me. When she was -- when we were numb at the start,**  
3 **she was very nervous and very upset and she just clung**  
4 **on to me, and I just -- wherever I went she come to and**  
5 **I just took her with me.**

6 Q. And if we can just clarify, you've named SR3 as being  
7 the nun who was in charge of the nursery.

8 **A. Aye.**

9 Q. Then you also mention -- if we can look at paragraph 9  
10 of your statement on SND-2072 --

11 **A. Aye.**

12 Q. -- you mention two civilian workers that you identify by  
13 name and they are given designations on the screen --

14 **A. Aye.**

15 Q. -- that we can see, but there was SND58, who you  
16 describe having difficulty with --

17 **A. Aye, right away.**

18 Q. -- and then SND59. Who you say was a lovely woman.

19 **A. She was a saint, a saint, that woman.**

20 Q. Well, just on that subject the Inquiry is aware of who  
21 SND59 is.

22 **A. Aye, SND59.**

23 Q. SND59, and when you say she was a saint, what was it  
24 about her that has you describe her in that way?

25 **A. Well, she was -- she was full of kindness even to the**

1           wee-er wains who didn't understand. She would have  
2           shown them wains love, which I never seen from anybody  
3           else in there, and she was good to us. She would have  
4           took us down to her brother's and out, and she would  
5           have gave us treats, you know, like baked goods and  
6           stuff like that. She would have tried to do different  
7           things with us up there at night to keep us occupied.  
8           I know she was very, very good.

9           Q. So that's a positive memory --

10          A. Oh, aye.

11          Q. -- that you have.

12          A. That would be about the only positive memory I do have.

13          Q. That's your only positive -- it's your interaction --

14          A. Aye.

15          Q. -- that you had with this particular lady?

16          A. Yes.

17          Q. So you have the nun. Were there any other nuns other  
18           than SR3 working in the nursery?

19          A. No. I never seen any other nuns in the nursery unless  
20           there was a big function or something like that coming  
21           off. Then other nuns would have come down, but other  
22           than that she was bombardier and she let you know it.  
23           She didn't need help from anybody from what I could see.

24          Q. Now what I want to do now -- you cover these issues  
25           about what life was like in the home in various

1 paragraphs. So I am going to try to draw that together  
2 and take you through a typical day that you've described  
3 in your statement.

4 **A. Aye.**

5 Q. The first thing I'd like you to look at is at  
6 paragraph 7, which is on SND-2071, and this is where you  
7 describe first thing in the morning.

8 **A. That's right. Well, first thing in the morning you were**  
9 **wakened by Hitler we called her, we referred to her as,**  
10 **just in bad form. She wakened you up. You had to get**  
11 **out of bed right and sharp. There was no hanging about.**  
12 **"Hold on. Hold on now." Do you know what I mean? You**  
13 **didn't get away with that. You got out of bed. You got**  
14 **washed. You got dressed.**

15 **Then our job, me and my two sisters, was to change**  
16 **all the other wee wains' nappies and change their**  
17 **pyjamas, if they were wet, and their sheets.**

18 Q. Can I ask you from your recollection how many -- of the  
19 24 cots you have described how many of them had a child  
20 in them?

21 **A. I would say the majority of them. There was never any**  
22 **less than 20 wee wains in it.**

23 Q. You describe then in paragraph 7 how the three of you,  
24 the older girls --

25 **A. Aye.**

1 Q. -- were involved in --

2 A. Well, you see, it was actually up to me to do it, but my  
3 wee sisters wanted to help, because they were wanting to  
4 be with me. So they done the sheets and I done the  
5 nappies and the pyjamas, and then I took them all into  
6 the bathroom, and I had to get down on my hands and  
7 knees, lean over the bath and clean out the dirty  
8 nappies, and then steep them all in cold water and  
9 Napisan as it was then for to make sure the nappies come  
10 up white when they're washed for the wains.

11 Q. Now the bathroom was off the dormitory that had the cots  
12 in it.

13 A. That's right, aye.

14 Q. You did the cleaning exercise you are describing in  
15 there.

16 A. I had to get down on my hands and knees or bend down and  
17 wash out the whole of them dirty nappies, aye.

18 Q. Was SR3 doing this with you?

19 A. Not at all. She was nowhere near me at the time. You  
20 know, she was -- I don't know what she was doing. We  
21 weren't told and we weren't -- we weren't allowed to  
22 ask. We were told what to do and that was what we done.  
23 We had to get on with it. We knew the routine.

24 Q. So you were doing the changing of the children first  
25 thing in the morning --

1 **A. Aye.**

2 Q. -- and she was not present when this was happening.

3 **A. She wasn't there when I was there. You can ask the two**  
4 **wains. I never seen her anyway. I was too busy.**

5 Q. Now you're aware from my discussion with you this  
6 morning and also from your sister giving evidence that  
7 SR3 has given a statement --

8 **A. Aye.**

9 Q. -- to the Inquiry. If we could just bring up, please,  
10 page SND-4148, and if we can enlarge paragraph 35. Now  
11 this is SR3 responding. She says you say you did all  
12 the changes, changing beds and washing nappies before  
13 mass.

14 "I do not believe the children went to mass on  
15 a daily basis."

16 I will come back to that.

17 "The sisters would go but the children did not. The  
18 children would have had chores to do but these would  
19 have been the sort of thing they would do at home. The  
20 reference to brushing or mopping floors and dusting does  
21 sound like the sort of chores ..." --

22 **A. I never mopped the floor at home in my house. My father**  
23 **wouldn't have allowed you near it.**

24 Q. I will come back to the cleaning, but it is not entirely  
25 clear whether it is being said here that you didn't do



1 any of the changing.

2 **A. Well, can you explain to me why me and my wee two**  
3 **sisters have the one recurring nightmare for two years**  
4 **if we didn't do any of that? Did we all have a bad**  
5 **dream for two full years -- do you know what I mean --**  
6 **the same bad dream unfortunately for all of us?**

7 Q. So you are saying it wasn't a bad dream. You had to do  
8 the --

9 **A. We had to do it.**

10 Q. You had to do the changing of the children. You then  
11 describe, if we can go back paragraph 8 of your  
12 statement, SND-2071 -- this touches on the issue about  
13 mass. You say:

14 "We went to mass ..."

15 If we just enlarge paragraph 8:

16 "We went to mass every morning."

17 **A. Yes, we did.**

18 Q. "Then we had our breakfast."

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. You have seen the statement just now of SR3, who  
21 disputes that.

22 **A. Well, we were there every morning, because you weren't**  
23 **allowed nothing to eat until you were at mass, because**  
24 **in them days anybody -- I don't know if anybody is**  
25 **Catholic -- when you were a Catholic, you had to go to**

1 mass starving to receive Holy Communion, and you were  
2 not allowed nothing to eat. We weren't even given  
3 a drink of water when we got up in the morning until we  
4 come back from mass.

5 Q. So your clear recollection is you went to mass every  
6 day?

7 A. Oh, aye, we did.

8 Q. Is that something you would have done when you were at  
9 home living?

10 A. No, no.

11 Q. Did you -- after the two years you went out of  
12 Termonbacca and went back to live with your mum and then  
13 your dad. Is it something you did every day when you  
14 were with them?

15 A. No. You went to mass on a Sunday. That was it. When  
16 we were in there, you had to go to mass every day. The  
17 only time I wasn't allowed to go to mass is when I had  
18 the black eye and the bruises, because my wee brother,  
19 my big brother -- one big and one wee -- was at mass and  
20 they were afeared (sic) in case one of them ones would  
21 see me.

22 Q. I will come back to that particular incident. So you  
23 have been to mass. You then describe having breakfast  
24 about 7.30 --

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. -- and then going to school.

2 **A. Aye.**

3 Q. Now the school you describe at paragraph 4 of your  
4 statement on SND-2070 was [REDACTED] Primary  
5 School, as it was known to you.

6 **A. Yes. It wasn't St. Joseph's in Bishop Street. That is  
7 a totally different school altogether, you see.**

8 Q. Nazareth House had a school in Bishop Street.

9 **A. Aye, that's right.**

10 Q. You didn't go to that school?

11 **A. No, we weren't allowed in there, because that was for  
12 the children of that home at that time, you know.**

13 Q. And you remember it as [REDACTED] Primary School?

14 **A. That's right.**

15 Q. If we can bring up, please, SND-2056, this may help on  
16 clarifying, because it was an issue with your sister as  
17 well.

18 **A. Aye.**

19 Q. This is a record -- if we can just highlight that as  
20 large as possible, please -- this is a record that came  
21 from Social Services, but from the next page, which we  
22 will look at shortly, it seems to have been created by  
23 the Sisters of Nazareth, but you will see down towards  
24 the bottom:

25 "HIA8 is attending St. Joseph's Convent School and

1           ..."

2                   also your two sisters.

3   **A. No, never was in it.**

4   Q. If [REDACTED] Primary School is also called  
5       [REDACTED], we're talking about the same place.

6   **A. Aye.**

7   Q. Then it says you are transferred to [REDACTED]  
8       School.

9   **A. [REDACTED], aye, that's correct.**

10   Q. That's correct also?

11   **A. Aye.**

12   Q. So it may be that we are all talking about the same  
13       school. If [REDACTED] Street Primary Street was known as  
14       St. Joseph's, that's the primary school you were going  
15       to?

16   **A. Oh, aye. We went there. That and [REDACTED] was all  
17       part of the one school, but it was two different  
18       streets, if you know what I mean.**

19   Q. And --

20   CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry. Just remind me where [REDACTED] Street  
21       is in relation to Bishop Street.

22   **A. Bishop Street. It is not on Bishop Street. It's at [REDACTED]  
23       [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] Street and there [REDACTED] Street  
24       goes up at the very top of [REDACTED] Street through the  
25       gate and [REDACTED] Street was down where the [REDACTED]**

1           ██████████ is now. That was -- that was part of the one  
2           school, but it was in two different streets.

3   CHAIRMAN: I see what you mean. I misunderstood. It wasn't  
4           that you could come in a different entrance. It was run  
5           as one school, but it was much further away in ██████████  
6           Street --

7   **A. Aye.**

8   CHAIRMAN: -- but it was run by the Sisters of Nazareth?

9   **A. You see, I don't know what -- what nuns run it. We**  
10           **always -- I mean, all my sisters and brothers went to**  
11           **the same school. It was always just called ██████████**  
12           **Street.**

13   CHAIRMAN: Yes.

14   **A. We were never called -- told it was called St. Joseph's,**  
15           **you know.**

16   MR MONTAGUE: If it is of any assistance, Chairman, my  
17           instructions are that ██████████ was not under the  
18           control or management of the Sisters of Nazareth.

19   CHAIRMAN: Yes. Very well.

20   MR AIKEN: You didn't go then to St. Joseph's Secondary  
21           School; you went to ██████████?

22   **A. ██████████. Only the boys went to St. Joseph's**  
23           **Secondary School. Girls weren't allowed in there then**  
24           **like.**

25   **Q. What the Chairman was asking you was the ██████████ Street**

1 and [REDACTED] Street School you are describing, it  
2 wasn't close to Bishop Street School?

3 **A. No, no, no. It was about from here to the hotel the**  
4 **whole way and that's a straight run if you're doing it**  
5 **in a straight run, like.**

6 Q. We will come back to that record, but just if we turn  
7 over to the next page so that the Panel can see, down  
8 towards the bottom, the last -- just before the last  
9 entry:

10 "There was rumour that the family was to go to their  
11 mother, but Miss Black informed us that she didn't have  
12 accommodation for them at present."

13 So that's what causes me to suggest it may be  
14 a congregational record, but no doubt Mr Montague will  
15 check that out for us.

16 CHAIRMAN: Can we just see the reference for that  
17 page again, please, Mr Aiken?

18 MR AIKEN: Yes. If we just take the page back out, please,  
19 and it is SND-2057.

20 CHAIRMAN: Just one moment. Do the redactions which do not  
21 have a number on them -- are they other members of the  
22 family who are not applicants?

23 MR AIKEN: They are other members of the family. This is --  
24 the two pages appear to relate to the [REDACTED] family.

25 CHAIRMAN: Yes. That's what I rather took from it.

1 MR AIKEN: The Inquiry received them to my understanding  
2 from the Health & Social Care Board. So it's -- but the  
3 record doesn't -- it seems to be a record maintained  
4 during the currency of the stay in Termonbacca, but  
5 we'll try and get some clarification on it.

6 CHAIRMAN: You see halfway down the page [REDACTED]. Is that  
7 the third sister we've heard about?

8 MR AIKEN: Yes.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. There's reference you can see on the screen, HIA8 -- it  
11 may be something you can help with -- that your other  
12 sister, the third of the three of you who were in  
13 Termonbacca --

14 **A. Aye.**

15 Q. -- turning on the Christmas lights.

16 **A. That's right, turning them all on.**

17 Q. That was -- according to this record she was asked to do  
18 so by the Welfare --

19 **A. Aye.**

20 Q. -- which again suggests this was not written by the  
21 Welfare, and do you remember her going to do that?

22 **A. No, I don't, but then I wouldn't have been allowed to go**  
23 **with her. I was classed as a big girl then. It would**  
24 **have been the two wains that would have went. I know my**  
25 **brother went, because we have a picture of my brother**

1           **doing that in the local paper.**

2       Q. Now that hopefully clarifies the school and maybe a few  
3       other matters besides, but in terms of getting to school  
4       you had two brothers who were in Termonbacca and your  
5       three sisters. How did the five of you get to your  
6       various schools?

7       A. Well, [REDACTED] and them ones had to go up through Creggan  
8       with all the rest of the Termonbacca boys and me and the  
9       wains walked down through the town. You walked down  
10      through the Brandywell, up into Bishop Street and then  
11      down into the town to get into [REDACTED] Street and  
12      [REDACTED] Street. It all depended on what class you were  
13      in as to which school you were at.

14     Q. So you have described being segregated from your  
15     brothers in terms of you were never in the boys' end.

16     A. No.

17     Q. Did you see your brothers each morning then on the way  
18     to school?

19     A. Well, [REDACTED] used to wait on us along with my brother [REDACTED],  
20     because he would have been left standing on his own. He  
21     waited on us and then [REDACTED] left and I took the two wains  
22     and my wee brother home -- or to school.

23     Q. The family just walked to school --

24     A. Aye.

25     Q. -- from -- was a sister walking along with you or ...?



1 A. Nobody. We were sent to school on our own and then when  
2 I was classed as getting into trouble for being late,  
3 the wains were sent on their own. They just had to go  
4 on on their own.

5 Q. I will come back to you about the incident over being  
6 late, but you had the chance then to walk to school with  
7 your -- at least one of your brothers?

8 A. Oh, aye, aye, the one, aye.

9 Q. And you then -- you spend your day at school, and if we  
10 can go back then, please, to paragraph 14 of your  
11 statement on SND-2073, you describe then in the evening  
12 having about half an hour to do your homework.

13 A. I remember at night they gave you the half an hour to do  
14 the homework, but not I mean -- that doesn't mean  
15 anybody helped you or checked you actually done it. You  
16 were sat in the room and that got you off doing  
17 something else. That then -- they were in -- we were in  
18 the room doing that. Me and **HIA 7** might have had to  
19 do something else, because she needed something else  
20 done, whoever was in charge or the nun, that particular  
21 day. The other sister, the middle sister, she always  
22 done her homework. She was very into her homework. Me  
23 and **HIA 7** -- you know what I mean -- homework wasn't  
24 really a big interest to us. We didn't want to be  
25 there. So doing homework really wasn't appealing, like.

1 Q. You describe then in paragraph 14 that you'd this -- you  
2 have come home. There was a period for doing homework  
3 and then you had dinner.

4 **A. Aye.**

5 Q. Then after dinner you describe having jobs to do --

6 **A. Aye.**

7 Q. -- such as cleaning the floors or wiping down the  
8 tables and putting chairs up.

9 **A. Aye.**

10 Q. "Once the floor was washed we set the tables for the  
11 next morning."

12 So was this in a dining room?

13 **A. Yes, that was the dining room where you ate everything  
14 and that's where all the wains' chairs was.**

15 Q. And did you eat along with the boys or was it separate?

16 **A. No, we were only allowed down -- it was only the wains.**

17 **It was only they called the nursery children. Most of  
18 them wains were under three years of age and me and HIA7  
19 and [REDACTED] We never seen the boys.**

20 Q. Then at paragraph 15 after you have had dinner and done  
21 the cleaning you describe how you were involved then in  
22 giving the babies their bottles and dummies --

23 **A. Aye.**

24 Q. -- and effectively putting them down to bed. Is that  
25 what you are describing?

1    **A.** Well, SR3 was more in charge of that. We put them in  
2       the cot, lay them down with their bottle and put a sheet  
3       or blanket over it. Then she would have closed all the  
4       curtains. We had to leave because it was total darkness  
5       and you weren't allowed to speak. We were taken down  
6       the stairs. We usually tidied up the playroom. Then  
7       about ten minutes after that you were up to bed again.  
8       Most of the wains were asleep. We were taken back up to  
9       the dorm, but we weren't allowed to make any noise in  
10      it, because the wains was all asleep.

11    **Q.** So your -- you have helped the sister put the children  
12      down --

13    **A.** Aye.

14    **Q.** -- and then you've gone back downstairs, and you  
15      describe having cleaned and made everything neat and  
16      tidy. Then you'd get your supper and then you were put  
17      to bed.

18    **A.** Aye.

19    **Q.** You say:

20                "We didn't get playing."

21    **A.** No.

22    **Q.** So did you go outside at all can you remember to --

23    **A.** Once we were allowed out into the front gardens and we  
24      were allowed out for ten minutes. It was a summer's  
25      night, and I don't know what happened, but she told me

1 to take the two wains, as I refer them, out round the  
2 gardens a walk, and that's what we done, and then she  
3 called us after ten minutes and then back up the stairs  
4 again. I don't know if somebody was coming in or what  
5 was happening, but that was it.

6 Q. Now then if we can go back to paragraph 11, you describe  
7 when you went to bed.

8 **A. Aye.**

9 Q. You say:

10 "Most nights we were in bed before 7.00 pm" --

11 **A. Aye.**

12 Q. -- "and sometimes earlier."

13 If we just can expand the screen, please. Not the  
14 particular paragraph, but if we expand the screen to its  
15 full width. Magnify the screen, please. Not the  
16 paragraph; the screen, please. If we go to SND-2072 and  
17 then make the page the full width of the screen. Thank  
18 you. SND-2072, paragraph 11. Now you say you were in  
19 bed before 7.00 pm, sometimes earlier in the winter.

20 **A. Aye.**

21 Q. You have already described the sister closing the  
22 curtains and then not being allowed to make a sound, but  
23 you then describe a baby perhaps crying during the  
24 night.

25 **A. Aye.**

1 Q. Can you explain what involvement you had in the babies'  
2 crying or getting up during the night?

3 A. Well, if we didn't get -- if we didn't make it to the  
4 wain before she did, the wain got a slap for crying and  
5 making a noise. So one of us in our bare feet would  
6 have run to the wain and comforted it or bedded it or  
7 whatever it needed. Sometimes it would have needed  
8 a nappy changed. Well, I would have sneaked in and  
9 changed its nappy, but if she came in the room and the  
10 wain was awake, the wain got a slap for crying. "What  
11 are you crying for at this time of night?" and then  
12 that's the way of it. Obviously the wain is going to  
13 cry more, because it's hurt. So on a couple of nights  
14 I lay underneath the cots in the dark part of the  
15 dormitory where she couldn't see me so that she wouldn't  
16 know I was in the room with the wain trying to comfort  
17 it.

18 Q. She, you are talking about SR3?

19 A. SR3, yes. They were only wee wains. They didn't know  
20 -- I didn't know that wee wains had bad dreams.  
21 I thought it was only us bigger ones. I didn't know  
22 that the wee wains had a bad dream. Nobody explained to  
23 them when they had a bad dream, they get a slap on the  
24 earhole. Do you know what I mean? They didn't deserve  
25 that. Them wee wains didn't know any better. Know what

1 I mean? That's the thing that hurts me. Them wains and  
2 our wains, that wasn't treatment there. We were treated  
3 like old dogs. So were them wee wains. There was no  
4 love given to one of them. I never seen that.

5 Q. So that was a typical day during the week when you were  
6 going to school.

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. Then at paragraph 17, if we can scroll down, please, to  
9 page SND-2074, you talk about Saturday.

10 A. Aye.

11 Q. Was Saturday a day when you did particular forms of  
12 cleaning?

13 A. When you -- the wains had to dust the side of the  
14 stairs. There used to be carpet, but the sides had  
15 wood, and the two wains had to dust them, and me and SR3  
16 done the big dorms with a big brush and then a big mop.  
17 You had to dust all the handrails round the -- round the  
18 place as well with a soft cloth and they had to be nice  
19 and shiny, but if she was in one of her cleaning moods,  
20 that meant that every mattress was taken off the beds  
21 and the cots and they all had to be washed down with  
22 either Jeyes Fluid or disinfectant and changed. All  
23 mattresses had rubber stuff on them, and they all had to  
24 be washed as well and dried and put back on the bed.

25 Q. So this was a task that your two sisters did,

1 a particular job, and you and the sister did work  
2 together --

3 **A. Aye.**

4 **Q.** -- with the cleaning on a Saturday?

5 **A.** The only reason she did it with me is because I couldn't  
6 get the big mop to go -- to work right for me. I was --  
7 I was wee-er than the mop was. Do you know what I mean?  
8 I couldn't handle it. So she was up there and she had  
9 to -- she made sure I done it right before she washed  
10 it. I done the dusting as they called it.

11 **Q.** Are you -- when perhaps the Panel might think of a mop,  
12 they are thinking of a wooden shaft with a cloth type  
13 end. What are you describing when you are talking about  
14 --

15 **A.** No, when I was doing it, it was a big long like a brush  
16 about that length. That was like dusting. It went  
17 underneath all the cots and all the beds to take any  
18 dust out and then she washed it. It was like one of  
19 them mops that you see in the hospitals with a wringer  
20 and all on it. It was a big, big heavy mop. It must  
21 have weighed about a stone. I wasn't -- I wasn't  
22 capable of holding that. I was allowed the likes of  
23 the brush, because that was easier for me to work with.  
24 I couldn't use the mop. It was too heavy.

25 **Q.** Then you describe you were allowed then out to the town

1 on a Saturday afternoon --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- for about an hour and a half.

4 **A. Aye.**

5 Q. You were given pocket money by the Sisters presumably.

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. You would have bought broken biscuits.

8 **A. Aye. We get -- in the shop -- the shop used to sell**  
9 **broken biscuits. The wains was always hungry. So they**  
10 **had most of them ate before they left the shop. So you**  
11 **always bought them and sneaked a couple in so that at**  
12 **night-time the wains would get something to eat when**  
13 **they were hungry.**

14 Q. And then on Sundays you describe in paragraph 18 --  
15 perhaps I have the paragraph wrong -- you talk about  
16 going to see your sister.

17 **A. Aye, that's right, aye, sister [REDACTED] We went up on**  
18 **a Sunday to visit her.**

19 Q. Did she come and take all [REDACTED] of you --

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. -- or just [REDACTED] of you or --

22 **A. All of us went up to her house on a Sunday. Two of my**  
23 **older brothers walked up the road as well and met us**  
24 **outside Termonbacca and they walked with us up through**  
25 **Creggan.**



1 Q. I said paragraph 18. Paragraph 16 is where you deal.

2 If we just scroll up to that, please:

3 "We were allowed to go and visit my sister."

4 You talk about her in association with a particular  
5 incident that I am going to come to.

6 **A. Aye.**

7 Q. But you went and saw her on a Sunday.

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

9 Q. How long would you have spent with her?

10 **A. I think it was only about an hour we were allowed, but,**  
11 **as I say, my two older brothers would have been waiting**  
12 **on us and they would have walked up with us.**

13 Q. And this older sister, she was married and had a --

14 **A. She was married and she had [REDACTED] wains of her own at the**  
15 **time, aye.**

16 Q. Now your sister was asked in her evidence about the  
17 issue of bed wetting.

18 **A. Aye.**

19 Q. If we can go back, please, to SND-2070, where you  
20 address this issue and, like your sister, you describe  
21 it as being your middle sister as having a particular  
22 problem with bedwetting.

23 **A. Aye. Well, she had a bad kidney, and with her nerves**  
24 **when she was nervous, she wet the bed, and HIA7 had wet**  
25 **the bed at the start, but that was with nerves as well,**

1 but once she got used to it -- but the other sister  
2 didn't grow out of that for about six months or more,  
3 because it was her nerves that was hurt and her bad  
4 kidneys. She had terrible bad kidneys, you know. We  
5 didn't know what.

6 Q. You describe in paragraph 3 the steps that you took to  
7 cover up for the fact that --

8 A. I mean, the first night they did it I didn't know that  
9 they weren't allowed to do it as I seen it. They peed  
10 the bed, and then the nun in the morning when they --  
11 when she got them up, she hit them for peeing the bed.  
12 So the next time they done it they told me in the middle  
13 of the night. Then I went down and got them a clean  
14 sheet and nightclothes, because you weren't allowed to  
15 wear underwear then and I put them on them. Then  
16 I washed out their sheet in the bathroom in the cold  
17 water. Then I sneaked down the stairs -- down the  
18 steps, the stone steps, outside, and I put the sheet out  
19 on the line. Well, if anybody seen the sheet in the  
20 morning, they would assume one of the workers had left  
21 it out or one of the nuns had hung it out earlier.  
22 Nobody ever asked one another where was the sheets  
23 coming from. So the nuns didn't know then when my  
24 sisters did it, they weren't getting hit for it.

25 Q. Where did you get the clean night clothing?

1     **A. They were in the big cupboard. They were in the big**  
2           **cupboard with everything else that was there.**

3     Q. So that was in the babies' dorm where the cots were?

4     **A. That's right.**

5     Q. You are describing then cleaning the wet one --

6     **A. Oh, aye.**

7     Q. -- and hanging it out. Is that right?

8     **A. Aye. You had to hang it out to dry, you see. That was**  
9           **the only place you could hang it. You couldn't hang it**  
10          **anywhere else to get it dried.**

11    Q. You describe that at the end of paragraph 3 from this  
12          incident -- and we're going to come to the interaction  
13          between you and the particular sister -- but this is one  
14          where you describe being hit and you learned to get down  
15          on your hands and knees, get the bed changed, wash the  
16          sheets so the nuns wouldn't know --

17    **A. Aye.**

18    Q. -- and from then on the particular sister didn't find  
19          out that the bed was getting wet and the hitting  
20          stopped. The --

21    **A. Well, most of the hitting stopped for the wains, because**  
22          **usually if I seen her at the wains, I usually got in**  
23          **between her and them and I took it. They were only wee**  
24          **wains. They didn't need to be getting beaten up like**  
25          **that. It was bad enough I was getting it, but not the**

1           **two wains.**

2       Q.   You describe the in the last sentence that as you  
3           covered and it wasn't known --

4       **A.   No.**

5       Q.   -- that the bed wetting was occurring, then eventually  
6           the bedwetting stopped --

7       **A.   That's right.**

8       Q.   -- for your sisters.

9       **A.   Aye.**

10      Q.   Was that both of them or --

11      **A.   Well, ██████████ still even after that, but it was very**  
12           **occasionally. It was usually when it was really cold or**  
13           **she would have had a drink just before she went to bed.**  
14           **See, her kidneys was -- as I say, was bad. We didn't**  
15           **know in them days bad kidneys caused that, you know, and**  
16           **because she was getting hit for it I wouldn't tell.**  
17           **I wouldn't let anybody else tell either.**

18      Q.   Now you -- in a number of places in your statement you  
19           describe particular incidents of you being beaten by  
20           this particular sister, SR3.

21      **A.   Aye.**

22      Q.   I'm going to try to deal with those. If we can look  
23           first at paragraph 19, which is just a summary  
24           paragraph of yours, on SND-2074, you say that:

25                    "This particular sister picked on us."

1 **A. Aye, she did.**

2 Q. You say:

3 "I don't know what she had against us. I think it  
4 was because we were older than the other children and  
5 there would be no repercussions from treating us the way  
6 she did, as she knew there was no-one we could tell."

7 **A. You see, she didn't like us, because for starters as far  
8 as she was concerned we weren't worth nothing, because  
9 she seen that our ma and da didn't want us. If they  
10 didn't want us, why should she have to put up with us?**

11 She didn't address us by our names unless it was  
12 something official. It was "The [REDACTED], come here now"  
13 or "The [REDACTED] do this" or "The [REDACTED] do that", or if  
14 she wanted me on my own, "You, come with me" and that  
15 was it.

16 Q. Now the Inquiry is aware from previous hearings that the  
17 Inquiry has heard me give some of the background about  
18 this particular sister. Just for clarity, as the Panel  
19 is hearing what you are about to say, SR3 at this point  
20 is 30. She had previously been in Termonbacca working  
21 with the older children. Then according to her witness  
22 statement she had gone off to do a nursery qualification  
23 and had then come back, and it is at that second  
24 occasion working in Termonbacca that these incidents  
25 relate to.

1           Now the first one that I want to take you to is at  
2           paragraph 3 on page SND-2070. Here you are describing  
3           the beating that you say arose from the wetting of the  
4           bed.

5     **A. Aye.**

6     Q. You describe being punched on the face and body and hit  
7           with a cherry brown leather strap --

8     **A. Aye.**

9     Q. -- that she kept at her waist.

10    **A. That's right, aye, which always hung down beside her**  
11    **rosary beads. When she walked, it clapped -- the rosary**  
12    **beads clapped against it. You would hear her.**

13    Q. So this was a device that was --

14    **A. Strapped on to her. It was hung there.**

15    Q. And you say she would have pulled your hair.

16    **A. Oh, aye.**

17    Q. "Anything she could get her hands on to beat us."

18    **A. She did. She used her shoe and all.**

19    Q. I'm going to come to each in turn, but you certainly  
20           recollect the strap being used on you.

21    **A. Yes.**

22    Q. And where would the strap -- where on your body was the  
23           strap used?

24    **A. Anywhere. The first target she got. Didn't bother her.**

25           **Across the face, back of the head. Back of the legs**

1 usually with the wee-er ones, because it marked more, it  
2 stung more, because they had no clothes on obviously at  
3 the bottom of the legs. They'd no tights on. Anywhere  
4 where she could get you she got you. Tops of your arms.

5 Q. And then another device that you talk about is at  
6 paragraph 5. Just if we scroll down. You talk about  
7 her being very fond of beating you and your sisters and  
8 the other children with a stick --

9 A. Aye.

10 Q. -- like a pointer.

11 A. That's right.

12 Q. Can you describe -- if you can remember, can you  
13 describe how long it was, how thick it was?

14 A. I don't know. It was -- it was long -- it was a long  
15 thing, but it was thinner at one end than it was at the  
16 other, but I don't know what she used that for, but --  
17 especially -- except when she was hitting us with it we  
18 knew what she was using it for, but I don't know what  
19 she used it for all day, because she didn't teach  
20 anything. Do you know what I mean?

21 Q. Well, was it a teaching implement? Did that --

22 A. It looked to us like something you would see the other  
23 nuns using in the convent when they were pointing at the  
24 blackboard -- you know what I mean -- or a teacher would  
25 have used. That's the type of stick it was, but, as

1           **I say, she used it as a weapon, which was a totally**  
2           **different reason for using it.**

3    Q.   Do you know where this was kept?

4    **A.   No, I don't. I didn't see it all the time, but when she**  
5           **did bring it out -- you know what I mean -- we knew it**  
6           **was out.**

7    Q.   You describe then in the second sentence in paragraph 5  
8           you witnessing her hitting other children --

9    **A.   Aye.**

10   Q.   -- other than you.

11   **A.   She did.**

12   Q.   Where did this type of behaviour happen?

13   **A.   In the nursery, down the playroom, up when the wains**  
14           **were getting ready for bed. You know, say a wain was**  
15           **sort of wriggling, didn't want to get into his pyjamas**  
16           **right or whatever it was. She would have hit them that**  
17           **hard. I mean, some of the wains were bouncing off the**  
18           **woodwork. She just lifted them by the scruff of the**  
19           **neck and put them back in the cot.**

20   Q.   Now towards the end of paragraph 5 on page 2070 -- just  
21           stop there -- you describe a particular occasion  
22           whenever you complained to your older sister that you  
23           went to visit on Sundays.

24   **A.   That's right.**

25   Q.   What did you complain to her about?



1 A. We were getting hit and that we didn't like it, and  
2 especially when the wains told her it was mostly me,  
3 because I was interfering when she was trying to hit the  
4 wains. So they were complaining it was me.

5 So she went down -- my sister went down to Mother  
6 Superior and told her, and she says there was no such  
7 thing going on there and I was nothing but a liar. Then  
8 SR3 was sent for and she says the same thing. "Now will  
9 you please tell your sister you're a liar?" and I knew  
10 I had to tell my sister I was lying, because I knew  
11 there was no way I was getting into bed that night  
12 without a kicking, and I told my sister and she left,  
13 and when I got down in -- I was sent up to get ready  
14 while she was talking to Mother Superior at the time,  
15 which was one of the second times I seen her, and then  
16 when I was up in the toilet -- and she was about that  
17 size -- and I was in the bathroom, and she come running.  
18 She wailed (sic) into me, because I told that she hit me  
19 and that I didn't like it. She took her shoe off that  
20 night and I got that across the head, the fists. She  
21 hit you with anything she could get her hands on and she  
22 hit you anywhere on the body. So long as she left you  
23 sore she didn't mind.

24 Q. You describe in the rest of that paragraph, if we just  
25 scroll down a little, please, you are trapped in the

1 toilet cubicle. You were beat with a strap, punched and  
2 kicked. You couldn't escape. You then -- if we just  
3 scroll down a little further, the next day you remember  
4 going to school with a black eye as a result of what had  
5 occurred in the toilet cubicle.

6 **A. Aye, and not one person, especially not one nun in**  
7 **charge of this school or a teacher, asked me how I got**  
8 **my black eye and they knew how I looked.**

9 Q. Did you feel able to tell them about what had happened?

10 **A. I never told them ones. Sure they were nuns in that**  
11 **school too. They already touted on me and told them**  
12 **I was coming in late. So I got a hiding for that,**  
13 **because I was taking the wains to school. So I had to**  
14 **stop taking them ones to school and get in early,**  
15 **because they would have told her.**

16 Q. Now the particular sister that you refer to --

17 **A. Aye.**

18 Q. -- I was showing you earlier has given a statement to  
19 the Inquiry.

20 **A. Aye.**

21 Q. If we can just go briefly to SND-4148, please, and  
22 paragraph 33. In fact, if we can just put it in  
23 context, if we scroll up to paragraphs 10 and 11 of her  
24 statement, and just maximise that, you will see that  
25 this particular sister that you're describing and the

1 events you are describing, she says to the Inquiry:

2 "I do not have any memory of a child being abused in  
3 any way. Children may have been shouted at or deprived  
4 of some treat like TV if they were misbehaving, but I do  
5 not recall any physical punishment at all."

6 What do you say about that?

7 **A. That she is either a very good liar or she has lost all**  
8 **memory. What did she forget, that there was three of**  
9 **us? Was she that cruel to every wain that was ever in**  
10 **her care three wains doesn't just stand out to her,**  
11 **because that there's all a lot of lies there.**

12 Q. And she says --

13 **A. She couldn't give treats. She never gave you a treat.**

14 Q. She says in paragraph 11 her own memories of Termonbacca  
15 are all of a happy time.

16 **A. Of course they were for her. She was allowed to kick**  
17 **certain wains and not a word said about it. Naturally**  
18 **it was happy for her.**

19 Q. If we move down to SND-4148, paragraph 33, and this is  
20 in response to you describing your sister coming down to  
21 address the fact you were telling her you had been hit,  
22 and the sister says she was never involved in any  
23 meeting with a child and the Mother Superior concerning  
24 an allegation of any sort.

25 **A. Well, then she's a very good -- bad memory or she just**

1 was at that many meetings she forgot which one was  
2 getting hit or getting complained about at the time,  
3 because there was no way my married sister made up the  
4 same story and her husband, who was actually standing  
5 there. I mean, are they all dreaming the one dream as  
6 me?

7 Q. And if we just go back out, please, to the full  
8 statement, if you just maximise the page out to its full  
9 width and scroll up to paragraph 31, this is -- at  
10 paragraph 31 she says:

11 "I deny that I hit either of these girls."

12 That's you and your sister, HIA7, and definitely  
13 would not have hit you for trying to help your sister if  
14 she had wet the bed.

15 A. No, she would have hit you for nothing, that one there.  
16 She didn't have to have a good excuse. She hit more  
17 than me for people wetting the bed looking -- when  
18 people were looking after them.

19 Q. What she says is:

20 "While the causes of bedwetting were not understood  
21 as clearly as they are now, I would not have beaten  
22 a child for wetting the bed."

23 A. Well, then it must have been a different nun then.  
24 There was a different nun in the room that was coming  
25 out and being nice and all. They only sent her out now

1           **and again, the one with the bad memory.**

2    Q.   Then if we go back, please, to your -- if we just scroll  
3           down -- sorry -- to 32, this is her response to the  
4           toilet cubicle incident --

5    **A.   Uh-huh.**

6    Q.   -- after the meeting.  She says there was no meeting  
7           with your sister.  You have described then what happened  
8           in the toilet cubicle resulting in a black eye.  You  
9           will see she says:

10                "I did not give any child a black eye."

11                She says:

12                "I don't accept that a child attending school with  
13                a black eye would not have created some sort of query,  
14                even a brief mention to someone."

15    **A.   So is she saying I didn't go to school with a black eye,  
16           because if she is, how come me and my sisters all seen  
17           it?  My other sister seen it.  My school friend seen it  
18           and one of my friend's mothers seen the same black eye.  
19           So did I dream it up or did I just go round and tell all  
20           them people to tell lies?**

21    Q.   Well, at paragraph 30 of your statement, if we scroll  
22           up, she says that she -- you have alluded to this,  
23           because your sister addressed it -- just scroll up  
24           further, please.

25    **A.   Sure she even said it there in her statement.  "I don't**

1 know. I don't remember." Did she hit that many people  
2 that she doesn't remember which one she was hitting at  
3 the time? Do you know what I mean? How do you just  
4 wipe out two years of somebody else's life and don't  
5 remember even their names?

6 Q. Just go back down for me, please, to SND-4147. You will  
7 see at paragraph 24:

8 "I did not hit this girl or any girl."

9 A. (Laughter.) Sorry. I mean, did we all have a terrible  
10 bad dream for two years? I mean, my two wee sisters  
11 watched me getting battered for two years and it was all  
12 a bad dream. I don't think so. I think this nun needs  
13 a good memory check or she is a very, very good liar,  
14 which she probably is, a second one.

15 Q. If you just scroll down further, please, paragraph 30,  
16 she says:

17 "I have already discussed this material"

18 in relation to your sister, but she doesn't  
19 remember you or HIA7 or your other sister.

20 A. She has done that.

21 Q. Do you have a -- is there anything you want to say about  
22 that?

23 A. I think she's just -- she's just a liar. I mean, she  
24 has to be a liar. How can three or more people remember  
25 the same incident and she is the only one doesn't

1           remember anything about it? It's just a ploy and she's  
2           just a liar. She just doesn't want to admit what she  
3           done was wrong and what she done to wains was cruel.

4    Q.   If we can go out, please, to SND-2073 and paragraph 12  
5           of your statement, you describe another occasion in the  
6           second part of the paragraph:

7                    "If she was in bad enough form, she might have took  
8           her shoe off" --

9    A.   No, she did not.

10   Q.   -- "and hit you over the head with it."

11   A.   She lifted a good weapon now and it didn't really  
12           matter what come to hand. If something else come to  
13           hand that she was capable of thumping you with, she used  
14           it. She wasn't particular like.

15   Q.   Then you have -- you describe how on one occasion when  
16           you were hit so hard you wet yourself.

17   A.   That's right, aye.

18   Q.   Do you remember where that was that that occurred?

19   A.   I think it was in the wains' dorm. I don't know what  
20           I done, but she hit me that hard that I did wet myself.  
21           The wains were crying again, because they were there and  
22           they were witnessing it.

23   Q.   Then you express some views about the sister in the last  
24           sentence in paragraph 12.

25   A.   Aye. You mean she was trained by Hitler along with the

1 rest of them ones that were running that home. They  
2 were definitely all trained by Hitler.

3 Q. You express a view that she shouldn't have been a nun.

4 A. She should never have been a nun. She should never have  
5 been allowed anywhere near any wain at all. She should  
6 have been put in a boxing ring with a couple of big men  
7 and let her take her anger out on them to see how she  
8 liked it when they hit her back. She shouldn't have  
9 been nowhere near young wains. She wouldn't know to  
10 look after a wain, telling you that she looked after  
11 wains and kept them. She wouldn't know how to look  
12 after her own two feet never mind a wee wain. She had  
13 no love in her.

14 Q. Is there anything else you want to say about this  
15 particular sister --

16 A. No.

17 Q. -- or have I covered most of the ...

18 A. Well, HIA7 was shown it too and you were saying to me  
19 about she showed you a thing where I was weighed. I'd  
20 love to know where them scales were, because I never  
21 seen the scales -- not unless she used them to us with  
22 them, like.

23 Q. I am going to come to the weighing issue, but in  
24 relation to this particular sister have I covered all of  
25 the issues?



1    **A.**  Oh, aye, aye.  Covered the fact that she should have  
2            been down in hell with the devil and I hope she's there  
3            soon and that's between me and you and the four walls.  
4            No, just don't like the woman.

5    **Q.**  Now you mentioned the subject of weight.

6    **A.**  Aye.

7    **Q.**  I want to deal with that in conjunction with the issue  
8            of food.  If we can go to SND-2072, if we just scroll up  
9            to paragraph 10, you say the food wasn't great in the  
10           home.

11   **A.**  It wasn't much.

12   **Q.**  But you say your sister HIA7 was a good eater --

13   **A.**  Aye.

14   **Q.**  -- and you used to give her part of your dinner --

15   **A.**  She was always hungry.

16   **Q.**  -- because she was hungry, but you say that caused  
17           a problem for the particular sister if you were caught.

18   **A.**  Because you weren't supposed to be giving -- you got  
19           a portion.  You got your portion and that was all you  
20           were allowed.  You weren't allowed any more, and if you  
21           were caught giving it away, then you had somebody else  
22           was getting as she seen it extras.  So I gave it to her.  
23           She was hungry.  What did you want me to do?  My wee  
24           sister was sitting beside me hungry.  Did you want me to  
25           tell her she wasn't getting something that I had on my

1           plate? I don't think so. That's not the way we were  
2           reared. I fed my wee sister whenever I could.

3   Q. Did that cause a difficulty then?

4   A. She didn't like it. She wanted to know why I was giving  
5           it to her. I said, "She is hungry". "She got her food  
6           and she had enough". I said, "No, she didn't or she  
7           wouldn't be still looking for share of mine". You know,  
8           she stole a girl's sausage one day because she was so  
9           hungry at the table, and the girl says to me, "I thought  
10          I had more sausage than that". I says, "No, you  
11          didn't". I says, "You must have ate it" and I knew  
12          rightly she hadn't. **HIA 7** had ate it. She was  
13          starving with hunger and the wee girl was sitting  
14          yapping. Never eat when there's food on the table --  
15          never talk when there's food on the table, because  
16          somebody is going to eat it.

17   Q. You say that if you got caught doing that, you got  
18          battered for it.

19   A. Aye. You weren't allowed to give anybody else your  
20          food.

21   Q. You then say, the last sentence in that paragraph:

22                 "My sisters and I all lost a lot of weight whilst in  
23                 the home."

24   A. A lot of weight.

25   Q. If we just can go up to paragraph 7, which is in

1 a slightly different context, but you say that:

2 "I wasn't getting" -- this is just the last five  
3 lines -- "I wasn't getting a bite to eat until after my  
4 work. It was no wonder I came out of the home weighing  
5 about 5 stone."

6 **A. Aye, and I can tell you less than that. The day I got**  
7 **married I weighed 7 stone in weight and I was out of the**  
8 **home then four years.**

9 Q. I am going to look that you were -- you mentioned the  
10 medical record.

11 **A. Aye.**

12 Q. If we go to SND-2095, please, because the reference to 5  
13 stone is accurate. That is actually what this record  
14 we're going to look at --

15 **A. Aye, because we lost all our weight in there.**

16 Q. But you will see that this is the -- the date of  
17 admission is [REDACTED]. So that seems to be the  
18 date you go into Termonbacca.

19 **A. Aye.**

20 Q. Your condition on admission is described at the bottom  
21 as "fair".

22 **A. Fair. They didn't mention the fact that I am a [REDACTED]**  
23 **on this mission -- or this medical note. I still am**  
24 **a [REDACTED]. That meant I was supposed to be on a special**  
25 **diet.**

1 Q. And that condition caused to you difficulty after  
2 eating. Is that --

3 A. Aye, it did, because whenever I ate, if I ate anything  
4 with flour on it, my stomach bloated out. To be honest  
5 with you, I looked like one of them wee starving wains  
6 on the TV with a big belly. Do you know what I mean?  
7 So how did I come out of there, as she says, looking  
8 better than when I went in? We went into that home and  
9 we were like three roly-polies. We come out again and  
10 we were like three skeletons walking down the street.

11 Q. I think you mentioned you had photographs.

12 A. I have photographs and I wish I had brought them up to  
13 you today. I have a photograph of me and my  
14 confirmation, which I don't remember, but I made when I  
15 was in Termonbacca. We're standing in that photograph  
16 with the two nuns out of the school, and I'll tell you  
17 you can hardly see the two nuns behind us three, because  
18 we were three big wains. Then I have a photograph at my  
19 brother's wedding just after we got out and the three of  
20 us look like three Twiggies.

21 Q. Those are perhaps photographs you could provide to the  
22 Inquiry.

23 A. I could, aye.

24 Q. Then the Panel will be able to see them after today,  
25 which might assist them --

1 **A. Aye.**

2 Q. -- with their work. So if you could arrange to have  
3 those transmitted to us, that would be hopeful.

4 **A. I will surely.**

5 Q. If we look then at SND-2097, the suggestion from this  
6 record is that on the day you were being admitted to  
7 Termonbacca you were examined by a doctor.

8 **A. No doctor. Nowhere near a doctor. Never even seen  
9 a doctor when I was in there.**

10 Q. Well, I wonder is this -- is it possible this is talking  
11 about before you went to Termonbacca when you were at  
12 the meeting --

13 **A. No.**

14 Q. -- with Rose Black.

15 **A. No, no, because that meeting was held in my big sister's  
16 flat and there was no way there was a doctor in there.**

17 Q. And then if we go to SND-2098, and if we just can  
18 maximise that page out, please, you will see that it  
19 suggests -- and you will see the point I was making,  
20 **HIA 8** -- that the last entry, which is -- seems to be

21 **[REDACTED]**

22 **A. Aye.**

23 Q. -- which is shortly before you left, you were, in fact,  
24 weighing 5 stone.

25 **A. Of course I was, because I lost all the weight we had.**

1 Q. You will notice that on the date that you entered  
2 Termonbacca, the first entry, which is [REDACTED] the  
3 suggestion is here that you were 4 stone and 3 pounds  
4 then.

5 A. No, no way I was only 4 stone when I went in there at  
6 10 years of age. Sure my mother would have had me and  
7 my father would have had me at some sort of doctor  
8 thinking I was dying of some disease if I was that thin  
9 and light. It was only when I come out of there we were  
10 that thin and light.

11 Q. Do you remember anyone ever weighing you --

12 A. No.

13 Q. -- while you were in Termonbacca?

14 A. I never seen a set of scales. As I says to you earlier,  
15 maybe she used them to hit us with, but she definitely  
16 didn't stand me on them to weigh me. Where did she get  
17 the height out of? I never was measured either.

18 Q. Do you remember anyone coming to the home like Rose  
19 Black or ...?

20 A. No, never crossed the door once. The day she put us in  
21 she handed us over to Mother Superior and I never seen  
22 her afterwards.

23 Q. You will see if we go to SND-2099, which seems to be the  
24 day you were leaving Termonbacca --

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. -- [REDACTED] Dr Ramsay -- I am not sure if that's  
2 his signature, but it is certainly his clinic --

3 A. His stamp there.

4 Q. -- is saying he was certifying you as healthy --

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. -- on leaving care, as it were, because your mum was  
7 taking you back out. Isn't that right?

8 A. Funny that doesn't -- when he's saying -- you are saying  
9 he signed that there, and funny when my mother took all  
10 of us to the doctor's within a couple of days most of us  
11 were put on vitamins and irons and I was put on blood  
12 tablets, because I was classed as anaemic and  
13 underweight by this same doctor. He was my family  
14 doctor for years. So how come I changed from that day  
15 to a couple of days, that I was healthy on the day they  
16 left -- they were throwing me out as they seen it and  
17 two days later I was classed as unhealthy by the same  
18 doctor? I mean, as I have already told people, they can  
19 have my medical records and you can check from day one  
20 on the one doctor's all my medical records and you can  
21 see there is no way I came out of there healthier than  
22 I went in.

23 Q. So your recollection is that in the days following you  
24 leaving Termonbacca you saw your doctor --

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. -- in conjunction --

2 **A. We all did.**

3 Q. -- in conjunction with your mum?

4 **A. Aye. She took us all to the doctor's and we all got**  
5 **a medical examination off the doctor, Dr Ramsay, who was**  
6 **our doctor at the time.**

7 Q. In fact, he appears to have played some part in you  
8 going into care in the first place. If we can just look  
9 briefly at SND-2091, please, while Rose Black you  
10 recollect being involved --

11 **A. Aye.**

12 Q. -- this record, which is a Welfare Authority record,  
13 seems to suggest that you and your siblings were  
14 referred to the Welfare Authority by Dr Ramsay and  
15 Father O'Brien. Do you recollect -- you have described  
16 Dr Ramsay as being the family doctor. Do you recollect  
17 Father O'Brien?

18 **A. No.**

19 Q. No.

20 **A. Never met a Father O'Brien.**

21 Q. Then at SND-2094 the record again from the Welfare  
22 Authority suggests that you were then taken -- formally  
23 taken into care and placed in St. Joseph's, Termonbacca.

24 **A. Aye.**

25 Q. There is just one issue I'd like to clear up with you to



1 do with the spelling of names --

2 **A. Right.**

3 Q. -- and we were talking about this beforehand. If we can  
4 look at paragraph 6 at SND-2071, in the last sentence  
5 you say that --

6 **A. What I says was I can't spell my own name properly and  
7 I meant my official name. I am not HIA8. I am called  
8 HIA8 and only use HIA8, but my official name is HIA8 but  
9 I cannot spell HIA8.**

10 Q. You can spell HIA8 --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- and you have no issue about that.

13 **A. I never had.**

14 Q. You are not meaning to convey you can't spell HIA8, but  
15 you're saying you can't spell --

16 **A. I can never spell HIA8 and I still can't. I am 55 years  
17 of age and I cannot spell HIA8. When I am filling in  
18 anything and I have to use my full title, one of my  
19 children fills it in for me.**

20 Q. You are aware, because I have shown you, that some of  
21 the school records that are available -- and just for  
22 the Inquiry record -- I am not going to open them --  
23 they are at pages 2101 through to 2109.

24 **A. And you can see in everything I sign everything HIA8,  
25 always did, unless I was married. I signed it as [REDACTED]**

1           **then. Everything was always signed HIA8, because**  
2           **I never used the name HIA8 and, as I say, couldn't spell**  
3           **it anyway, even if I wanted to.**

4    Q.    So it's -- when you are talking about -- you can spell  
5           HIA8, but not HIA8?

6    **A. I cannot spell my first christian -- my first maiden --**  
7           **my first christian name was HIA8. I can't spell that.**  
8           **I never could.**

9    Q.    Chairman, I notice the time, but I would imagine within  
10           a few minutes I will --

11   CHAIRMAN: I think we should try to complete HIA8's  
12           evidence.

13   MR AIKEN: What I would like to talk to you briefly about is  
14           the special occasions, birthdays, Christmas in the home.  
15           If we can look at paragraph 20 of your statement at  
16           SND-2074, you talk about a room that was in Termonbacca  
17           opposite the dining hall.

18   **A. That's right, aye.**

19   Q.    Now is this the dining hall that was for the nursery?

20   **A. Aye, that's right, aye.**

21   Q.    In there it was full of toys.

22   **A. There were toys and they were like in sections, boys in**  
23           **different ages and then girls in different ages. On**  
24           **your birthday you were taken in there and allowed to**  
25           **pick a present. I never got one, because on the two**

1 occasions that it was my birthday somebody had sent me  
2 in a present. So I didn't need a present as far as they  
3 were concerned. I didn't get one.

4 Q. Did you get to keep the present then whenever you --

5 A. No, no. Anything you got in, especially anything to  
6 eat, had to be shared with all the other children and  
7 the workers, which was really chocolates and stuff, but  
8 anybody that did get a present, you got that in the  
9 morning for your birthday. It was taken off you before  
10 you went to bed at night. You weren't allowed to take  
11 that up the stairs. It wasn't allowed to be taken out  
12 of the what do you call it down the stairs.

13 Q. Now do you remember was anything different at Christmas  
14 time then?

15 A. I don't remember Christmas in it. You are telling me  
16 I had confirmation in it and I don't remember it.

17 Q. You just don't have a -- you don't have a memory of  
18 that?

19 A. The memory -- I don't remember a Christmas day and that.

20 Q. You then talk about at paragraph 18, if we just can  
21 scroll up a little, if you were given money as a present  
22 --

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. -- from you talk about your mother or her boyfriend.

25 A. That's right, aye.

1 Q. She was living with someone other than your dad.

2 A. That's right, aye.

3 Q. "The nuns took it off us and we never saw it again."

4 A. No, that's right. You didn't bring in money or anything  
5 eatable in there. Anything like that, it was taken off  
6 you as soon as you came through the door. "What have  
7 you got?" You had to tell them what you had in your  
8 pockets. If she found out you'd stuff in your pockets,  
9 she took it off you, but I learned hard and I put it  
10 down my sock and inside my shoe. In the morning we used  
11 to hide it in different places so that if she searched  
12 us, like, she couldn't find it, so we'd at least get a  
13 treat.

14 Q. If you just come forward a little so that you're ...

15 A. One of the wains did the same, hide them in different  
16 places, where if she searched you, she couldn't find the  
17 money, which meant the wain, she could get a treat with  
18 the money they were given.

19 Q. So you hid the money --

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. -- so that it couldn't be -- so it didn't have to be  
22 handed in.

23 Just if I can deal with -- going back to the toy  
24 issue just for a moment, if we can go to SND-4148 and  
25 paragraph 39 of SR3's statement, she says:

1 "There was no room full of toys in the convent."

2 **A. Was there not? That's grand then. So that was all**  
3 **right. So what did the wains play with during the day?**  
4 **Was there no toys in there either?**

5 Q. Well, you don't accept this statement.

6 **A. It is lies, like the rest of her statement. It is all**  
7 **lies.**

8 Q. Now you describe a particular incident at SND-2073,  
9 paragraph 13, your involvement with a particular young  
10 boy. You thought his name, but you are not entirely  
11 sure of his name --

12 **A. No.**

13 Q. -- but he had a particular medical condition.

14 **A. Aye. He had piles.**

15 Q. You describe in paragraph 13 your involvement in --

16 **A. I had to treat them for him.**

17 Q. Who asked you to do that in the home?

18 **A. I wasn't asked. You were told. SR3 told me what to do.**  
19 **She told me to put the cream on my thumb, rub it on his**  
20 **piles and then push them back into his back passage and**  
21 **then put more cream on the outside, because it would be**  
22 **sore, because the wee wain was screaming obviously.**  
23 **I didn't know what they were. When I first saw them,**  
24 **I thought part of his inside was coming out. He was**  
25 **only a wain. I was only a wain.**

1 Q. If we just look at SND-4148, the sister says something  
2 about this in paragraph 13 of her statement.

3 **A. Don't tell me they have done that one either.**

4 Q. It's paragraph 37 where the sister comments. She says:  
5 "I cannot comment on the issue of", this particular  
6 child, "as it does not sound familiar to me. I find it  
7 difficult to accept that this happened."

8 So she can't remember --

9 **A. No, of course not.**

10 Q. -- and --

11 **A. She's never going to remember that, while she was**  
12 **supposed to be looking after another child and she never**  
13 **even checked to see if he was all right.**

14 Q. If we go back to paragraph 13 at SND-2073, you then  
15 describe how after you left Termonbacca you came across  
16 this young boy again --

17 **A. Aye.**

18 Q. -- with his mum. Can you just explain how that came  
19 about?

20 **A. Because he lived up the next street facing me. We lived**  
21 **in [REDACTED] You crossed the very top of [REDACTED]**  
22 **[REDACTED] and he lived up the [REDACTED] So we were**  
23 **always up around the town and he seen me in the shops**  
24 **and he wanted me. He thought he should come with me,**  
25 **because he -- that's who he knew. He knew me for all**

1           that length of time.

2       Q.   You then describe how the mother approached you for some  
3           help.

4       A.   Aye.  She came down to the house and asked my mammy  
5           could she talk to me.  My mammy asked her what had  
6           I done.  She says, "No, I need her help".  My mother  
7           says, "Why?  What's wrong with you?"  She explained that  
8           her son had the piles.  She says, "When I phoned up  
9           Nazareth House, they told me to get this cream, but they  
10          says that the only person that could help me to fix them  
11          was your **HIA 8** because she done it in the home".  So  
12          I had to go up the  and put the piles back in,  
13          show her how to do it, but I had to go up a couple of  
14          times before the woman could get used to it.  I mean,  
15          that was her son.  She wasn't used to doing that.  
16          I wasn't used to doing it, but I had to do it.

17      Q.   Then we have covered -- is there anything else about  
18           your time in Termonbacca -- I am going to deal just  
19           briefly with you leaving Termonbacca -- is there  
20           anything else about your time you spent there for those  
21           two years that I haven't covered with you that you would  
22           like to mention?

23      A.   No.  Just -- no.  Clearly I was glad I finished meantime  
24           with Termonbacca to get away from Hitler and her  
25           friends.

1 Q. If we just go to SND-2083, you then left Termonbacca on

2 [REDACTED] --

3 A. Uh-huh.

4 Q. -- which was just before you turned 13.

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. You were still 12.

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. I think your age is maybe recorded wrongly, but you were  
9 shortly to turn --

10 A. 13.

11 Q. -- 13.

12 A. That's right, aye.

13 Q. Then you describe in your statement how your mum -- and  
14 we have looked at a handwritten document that supports  
15 this -- your mum took you out of Termonbacca.

16 A. Yes. She took the five of us out.

17 Q. If we just go to SND-2075, in paragraph 21 of your  
18 statement you describe how you lived with your mum until  
19 you were 16.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Then you went to live with your dad.

22 A. That's right, aye. I went to live with my father at the  
23 [REDACTED] until I got married.

24 Q. So you lived with your mum for about four years and then  
25 you lived with your dad for two years.



1 **A. Aye.**

2 Q. Then you got married.

3 **A. Well, when I say I lived with my ma for four years,**  
4 **I was out and in, because I really didn't like living**  
5 **with her. I was out and in in various sisters' homes**  
6 **and what have you, and then in the last I just went to**  
7 **live with my dad. I never went back.**

8 Q. HIA7 described for the Panel earlier she went into other  
9 children's homes.

10 **A. That's right.**

11 Q. You didn't go into any other children's homes.

12 **A. No. You see, I was too old. I had left the house but**  
13 **HIA7 hadn't at this stage.**

14 Q. Now I had asked you about positive memories and you had  
15 explained about the particular lady that you --

16 **A. SND59.**

17 Q. -- have a good memory of. How do you feel now about the  
18 time you spent in Termonbacca? Is there anything you  
19 would like to say about how that has impacted you?

20 **A. Well, it makes you feel worthless. Just all my life you**  
21 **thought you are not worth nothing, because, I mean,**  
22 **nobody needs to love you. Nobody needs to want you.**  
23 **You are worth nothing. You are just here and you exist.**

24 Q. You are aware from hearing the question asked of your  
25 sister that the Panel have to consider making

1 recommendations to the Northern Ireland Executive about  
2 perhaps an apology or a memorial of some kind or some  
3 form of redress. Is there anything you would like to  
4 say to the Panel about the recommendations it might  
5 make?

6 **A. Just I would like to recommend that no other wain be put**  
7 **in an institute where they have to be treated like we**  
8 **were. That's all I be interested in, that no other wain**  
9 **has to suffer like we did or all them wee wains in that**  
10 **nursery.**

11 Q. Can I just confirm you say at the end of your statement  
12 you hadn't made a statement to the police and you have  
13 never brought a civil claim, for instance --

14 **A. No, no.**

15 Q. -- against the congregation.

16 **A. No.**

17 Q. Now is there anything else, **HIA 8** -- now is your  
18 opportunity if there's something else you would like to  
19 say to the Inquiry Panel that I haven't covered with  
20 you.

21 **A. No. Just so long as people make sure that this doesn't**  
22 **happen to anybody else's wains or wains that haven't got**  
23 **a mother to stand up for them in later years and take**  
24 **them out. I wouldn't like to see any other wains**  
25 **suffering like we did, because that wasn't right, what**



1 **A. Thank you.**

2 CHAIRMAN: You mentioned that you got some pocket money.

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. Can you remember how much it was?

5 **A. I couldn't remember at all. I just -- we got biscuits**  
6 **and sweeties with it and the wains got fed. So I don't**  
7 **care what it was.**

8 Q. Thank you very much for coming to speak to us.

9 **A. Thank you.**

10 MR AIKEN: Thank you, HIA8.

11 **A. Thank you.**

12 **(Witness withdrew)**

13 MR AIKEN: That's all the evidence for this morning. We are  
14 now into the afternoon, sir.

15 CHAIRMAN: 2.15.

16 (1.15 pm)

17 (Lunch break)

18 (2.15 pm)

19 WITNESS HIA11 (called)

20 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies  
21 and gentlemen. The witness who is due to give evidence  
22 this afternoon is "HIA11".

23 HIA11, would you just stand up, please? The  
24 Chairman is going to ask you about taking the oath.

25 CHAIRMAN: Now do you wish to take the religious oath or

1           affirm? The two have the same legal effect. It is  
2           entirely a matter for your decision. I see you want to  
3           take the oath.

4           **A. Well, it is in my hand.**

5           Q. Very well.

6                                 WITNESS HIA11 (sworn)

7           Q. Thank you. Please sit down.

8                                 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

9           MS SMITH: HIA11, I can tell from having spoken to you  
10           earlier that you seem a little bit nervous and a little  
11           bit emotional. Can I just assure you that I am the only  
12           one who is going to be asking you questions here this  
13           afternoon.

14           **A. Yes.**

15           Q. If you need a break at any time, please just let us know  
16           and we can take a short break.

17           **A. Yes.**

18           Q. Okay? Can I ask you maybe to pull the microphone a  
19           little bit towards you so that we can get ...

20           **A. Testing.**

21           Q. Yes. We just need to make sure that we get a record of  
22           all that you say to us.

23           **A. Okay.**

24           Q. So, HIA11, you are now aged 55. Is that correct?

25           **A. Yes.**

1 Q. Can I just confirm I have spoken to you and you are  
2 quite adamant that you wish to maintain your anonymity  
3 that has been afforded by the Inquiry and you don't want  
4 your name going into the public domain?

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

6 Q. As I say, you are now 55, and you were placed in  
7 Nazareth House in Fahan in Donegal as a baby.

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

9 Q. Then you moved from there to St. Joseph's, Termonbacca.

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

11 Q. You were in St. Joseph's between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED] So essentially you were in the care of the  
13 Sisters of Nazareth for your entire life --

14 **A. Correct.**

15 Q. -- or your entire childhood I should say. Can I ask  
16 could we just briefly look at SND-157... -- 1751?  
17 Sorry. 1751.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. This is just a document that I showed you earlier that  
20 was taken from the -- before I do that can I just --  
21 well, I will do this and then I will come back. Can I  
22 just look -- this is a document I have shown you and it  
23 clearly shows that you were in the Sisters of Nazareth  
24 in Termonbacca from [REDACTED] until [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED] It says that you were recommended by the

1 Reverend M. Rooney of St. Eugene's in Derry. It gives  
2 your name and your date of birth and the name of your  
3 mother. You hadn't seen that before this morning,  
4 though.

5 **A. No, no.**

6 Q. Isn't that correct? This afternoon I should say. Can  
7 I ask that SND-1740 be put up on the screen, please?

8 CHAIRMAN: What is the reference for that again, please?

9 MS SMITH: Sorry. That was 1751, Chairman.

10 CHAIRMAN: It shows that HIA11 entered when he was not quite  
11 two.

12 MS SMITH: That's correct, from Fahan.

13 CHAIRMAN: And not in [REDACTED] as his statement says.

14 MS SMITH: No. That's correct, Chairman. I say that's --

15 the statement does say [REDACTED] and the register shows [REDACTED]

16 Which is correct is --

17 CHAIRMAN: That's what I am saying.

18 MS SMITH: -- open to debate.

19 CHAIRMAN: It's not what it says in his statement. Yes.

20 MS SMITH: This document that's on the screen now, HIA11,

21 you will see that it says it's the witness statement of

22 HIA11, which, as I've explained, is the designation that

23 the Inquiry has given to maintain your anonymity.

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

25 Q. If we could just go to the last page of that statement,

1 which is SND-1739 -- sorry -- 1748 -- 1748, please --  
2 you will see that there's a large black rectangle on  
3 that document, which says "HIA11". You can confirm that  
4 your signature is actually beneath that and that this is  
5 the witness statement that you have provided to the  
6 Inquiry, HIA11?

7 **A. My signature -- oh, you mean it's underneath. Yes.**

8 Q. Yes.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. You signed the document on 18th July of last year, 2013.

11 **A. Correct, yes.**

12 Q. Can I confirm then that this is the evidence that you  
13 wish the Inquiry to consider as your evidence before it?

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

15 Q. What is your earliest memory of being in the home,  
16 HIA11?

17 **A. That's a hard one really. I suppose when I was, say, 3  
18 or 4.**

19 Q. Yes. You talk about -- if we can just go back to the  
20 first page of your statement at 1740, in paragraph 2  
21 there you say that in [REDACTED] when you were 4 years old,  
22 you were taken from Nazareth House in Fahan to St.  
23 Joseph's in Termonbacca where you remained until you  
24 were 17.

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



1 Q. Can we take it [REDACTED] is your earliest memory of being in  
2 Termonbacca?

3 **A. It's a long, long time. Probably.**

4 Q. You say in the first paragraph that you had no contact  
5 with your mother and you don't know whether you had any  
6 siblings or why you were placed in care.

7 **A. Correct.**

8 Q. But I did show you a document this morning that gave you  
9 a little of that information. Isn't that correct?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. If we could just go to look at that document, please.  
12 It is SND-1805 first of all. You will see that this is  
13 a statement from the Londonderry County Borough Welfare  
14 Committee -- sorry -- a letter from them to the Reverend  
15 Mother at Nazareth House, Bishop Street. It talks about  
16 you and it says:

17 "Further to our telephone conversation I am  
18 enclosing details of the baby as promised.

19 I shall accompany", and that's your mother's name,  
20 "and the baby on Thursday evening to St. Mura's and  
21 bring all the relevant documents.

22 I am most grateful ... for all your help."

23 It is signed by the Acting Children's Officer. That  
24 looks to be a CM Spence. That's in [REDACTED] Is that --

25 CHAIRMAN: So that is Fahan?

1 MS SMITH: Yes. That suggests that your mother actually  
2 took you to Fahan before you went to Termonbacca.

3 **A. Right.**

4 Q. If we look at SND-1772, please, this is a handwritten  
5 document and we are not quite clear where this came  
6 from, but it does say that you were born in hospital in  
7 Derry. You were recommended by the Reverend M. Rooney,  
8 St. Eugene's, Derry. It gives your mother's name under  
9 this black band and her address. It says that you were  
10 brought to Fahan by the mother from the welfare home,  
11 Derry, where you had been for eight months.

12 "The mother did not visit the child in Fahan. She  
13 did not enquire about it nor contribute to its support  
14 and she said it was not to be adopted."

15 That's -- today is the first that you have seen that  
16 information about your --

17 **A. This is the first time -- this is the first time  
18 I actually knew I had a mother, but there you go.**

19 Q. Certainly you were never visited by anyone during your  
20 time with the Sisters of Nazareth?

21 **A. No.**

22 Q. It is indicated you are unaware of any siblings you may  
23 have had. Never became aware of any?

24 **A. No.**

25 Q. Did you form friendships when you were in Termonbacca?

1 **A. Oh, yes, with some of the other lads, yes.**

2 Q. Can I ask -- and I have been asked specifically to ask  
3 this by the Sisters of Nazareth -- do you recall someone  
4 in the home at the same time as you called SND136?

5 **A. Yes. He was younger than myself.**

6 Q. Can I just pause there, Chairman, to indicate that that  
7 name, as with all the other names, is not to be  
8 disseminated beyond the Inquiry chamber, but I required  
9 to use it so that you knew who I was talking about,

10 **HIA 11**

11 **A. Yes.**

12 CHAIRMAN: Has he not been given a designation as such?

13 MS SMITH: No, I don't believe so, Chairman, but we will  
14 ensure that that is done.

15 He has provided a statement to the Inquiry through  
16 the Sisters of Nazareth. I have been asked to ask you  
17 to comment on a number of matters --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- that he refers to in that statement and I will do  
20 that in due course, HIA11.

21 Can I first of all ask you about your education  
22 while you were a child? You talk about this in your  
23 statement.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. If we could go first of all to paragraph 20, which is on

1 SND-1774, paragraph 20 there at the bottom of that  
2 page you talk about you went out to Nazareth House,  
3 Bishop Street -- school in Bishop Street and you say you  
4 were beaten there by the nuns.

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

6 Q. You describe behaviour which you were guilty of, if  
7 I can put it that way, which led to you being taken to  
8 the front of the class and your short trousers were  
9 taken down and you were whacked by a nun whom you name  
10 in that paragraph.

11 **A. That's correct, yes. I remember that very well.**

12 Q. You say she gave you twelve strokes of her belt which  
13 she wore round her waist.

14 **A. Correct.**

15 Q. Another nun who you name then punched you in the face  
16 and called you a dirty beast.

17 **A. Yes, because -- I was 7 or 8 then -- I looked up  
18 a girl's skirt. So I was horse whipped for that and  
19 punished, and it was something that stayed with me for  
20 a long time.**

21 Q. Can I then move on to you went from Bishop Street. You  
22 ended up in [REDACTED] when you were  
23 about 8 years old. You talk about that.

24 **A. Well, for some reason we were taken from Bishop Street.**

25 **We didn't know when we were -- the next thing we knew we**

1           were at the [REDACTED] I think that was the first time  
2           we came into contact really with the outside world then.

3   Q.   You say in that paragraph 23 that it was a new school  
4           and you enjoyed it there.

5   A.   Oh, yes. The teachers were fantastic with us. You  
6           know, they were probably -- some of them had the highest  
7           respect and they gave us respect for who we were.

8   Q.   After doing the 11 Plus you then went to [REDACTED]  
9           [REDACTED]

10   A.   I went there, yes, for one year and it was a hard time  
11           there, [REDACTED] because again there was about 30  
12           was all that went then at that school, and again the new  
13           term I was told the night before I was going to the  
14           Christian Brothers, and I think my heart left me,  
15           because I had heard so much about the Christian  
16           Brothers.

17   Q.   And you did experience --

18   A.   After five minutes of arriving at the school I was  
19           punched in the face by SND17 and kicked in the stomach  
20           and he did tell me that, "You will tow the line when  
21           you're with us". From there on in it was just sheer  
22           hell.

23   Q.   You talk about the treatment that you received at your  
24           secondary school from paragraphs 27 through to  
25           paragraph -- to the end of paragraph 29. If we could

1 maybe just highlight those paragraphs, please.

2 **A. Yes. The -- while we were at the school the Brothers**  
3 **seemed to have some sort of I don't know what it was**  
4 **towards the boys from Termonbacca, and maybe it was**  
5 **because we didn't have any back-up like family to come**  
6 **in and speak to the brothers, and it was constant**  
7 **beating by the Christian Brothers. There was never**  
8 **a week where one of us, you know ...**

9 Q. Certainly, HIA11, I am not going to go into the details  
10 of --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- all that you have related in those paragraphs. The  
13 Inquiry can read them for themselves, but essentially  
14 your time at that secondary school was far from happy.

15 **A. Oh, it was hell.**

16 Q. It was one that you describe as being one of constant  
17 physical abuse.

18 **A. I mean, it got to a stage where, you know, being**  
19 **sexually abused by one particular brother and then where**  
20 **I lost my temper and, you know, I went and I smashed 20,**  
21 **30 toilets and ripped all the pipes out and I think**  
22 **I broke about 30 windows, and I don't know was it me**  
23 **doing it or just crying out for help.**

24 **So the next day I went back into school and I was**  
25 **taken to the principal's office, and the whole school**

1 knew what was going on, and I was beaten and beaten from  
2 9.30 to I think it was 3.30, and at one stage three  
3 teachers came in and told me, "Either you admit the  
4 truth or the boys will be called, the IRA, to deal with  
5 this". I just laughed at them and then I was punched,  
6 kicked by these three teachers, and ended up having to  
7 be taken -- rushed to hospital, because my eye sockets  
8 ...

9 I was then asked by SND19 to say I got into a fight.  
10 So on the way to the hospital I admitted that I did  
11 create the damage and I asked him not to say nothing to  
12 the nuns and he kept his word on that, but he did ask me  
13 one question. He says "Why?" I'm not sure did he know  
14 that the certain brother was sexually abusing me at the  
15 time, and it -- I mean, it was hard then, because after  
16 that then, you know, I had the highest respect for  
17 SND19, and he didn't tell the nuns.

18 Q. Did you tell SND19 why you had done it?

19 A. No, because after all they wear a white collar. So who  
20 am I, you know, but I don't think he was the only  
21 brother that was involved in abuse to other boys as  
22 well. So remember that school was ruled like a prison  
23 and we were the subjects of these animals, and I'm  
24 sorry, your Honour, but that's what I describe these  
25 Christian Brothers as, animals, for what they did to me.

1 Q. HIA11, can I take you back to the Sisters of Nazareth --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- and your time in Termonbacca?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. I mean, I appreciate your time in school was while you  
6 were under the care of the Sisters.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. But can I ask you what about homework in the home? Was  
9 there time set aside for you to do homework?

10 **A. No. You just -- you got homework. You did it and that**  
11 **was the end of it. Nobody sat with you to make sure you**  
12 **done it. You did have to do it, because you knew if you**  
13 **didn't do it, the next day you would be black and blue**  
14 **by the Brothers. So you did do it.**

15 Q. What about clothing? Have you any comment to make about  
16 the clothing that was provided to you?

17 **A. Well, we wore shorts until we actually -- until I went**  
18 **to [REDACTED] I had a number -- well, I had**  
19 **two numbers. I was 75 and then I was promoted down to**  
20 **25. The numbers were sewn into our clothes.**

21 Q. Can I just then deal with the issue of numbering?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. You say the numbers were sewn into your clothes. Now  
24 the Sisters have said that's exactly what they did do.

25 **A. Yes.**



1 Q. They didn't call children by numbers, but they did put  
2 numbering on the clothing so that when matters -- items  
3 of clothing came back from the laundry, they would be  
4 able to hand it out to the person that it belonged to or  
5 fitted, and that that was the purpose of putting on  
6 those numbers.

7 A. Well, I would have to disagree, because when you had  
8 that number, that number was wrote in your maths book  
9 and hymn book as well. That was yours. That was your  
10 number. So it wasn't just to do with what clothes  
11 fitted you.

12 Q. Well, what was -- were you called by your name in the  
13 home?

14 A. No. Usually numbers.

15 Q. You do say -- you talk about this in your statement and  
16 you talk about it at paragraph 3, where you say that:

17 "The practice of numbering stopped."

18 A. Yes. It stopped because of two people that took us out  
19 for holidays, and when we got to their home, they  
20 noticed we had these numbers sewn on our clothes and  
21 they were absolutely disgusted. These -- this person's  
22 father was a very, very high figure in Ireland. So they  
23 said they were going back to Derry to have a meeting  
24 with somebody. Now we didn't know -- partly they went  
25 I think to speak with the nuns and after that we never

1           **had numbers back on our clothes.**

2       Q.   So your belief is that the people who you were fostered  
3           out --

4       **A.   Correct, yes, yes.**

5       Q.   -- effectively stopped the practice of numbering by  
6           speaking to the nuns.

7       **A.   Yes, because they took everything we had back to Derry**  
8           **and bought everything for us, and then I remember when**  
9           **we were going back, we went to Caramina (?) in Donegal.**  
10          **That was a holiday home, and then there was no more such**  
11          **thing as numbers.   So ...**

12       Q.   Certainly the practice ceased in around '69/'70 you  
13           think.

14       **A.   Around that time, yes.**

15       Q.   Then can I -- you make reference in paragraph 5 of your  
16           witness statement about being hungry and thirsty and you  
17           describe -- this is when you were very young.

18       **A.   Yes.**

19       Q.   You describe what some might find something surprising,  
20           in that you got one of the cats in order to get its  
21           milk.

22       **A.   Yes.   Well, I was only a kid and I knew you could get**  
23           **milk from the cats, and I was thirsty.   So I was trying**  
24           **to suck the cat's milk.   Then I would -- we would stay**  
25           **outside.   You wouldn't come back until dinner time or**

1       tea-time. So there used to be a toilet. I used to put  
2       my hand in the toilet and drink the water from there,  
3       because there was no-one there to give us anything. So  
4       --

5       Q. Was there not a tap that you could have gone to to get  
6       water from?

7       A. No.

8       Q. You say that this incident with the cat you were  
9       actually punished by one of the civilian staff who you  
10      name in that --

11      A. Yes.

12      Q. -- paragraph and you say that she beat you with a strap.

13      A. Yes.

14      Q. You were also beaten by another civilian who --

15      A. Yes. These people who were looking after us as kids,  
16      they were in their 70s and 80s. What would they have  
17      known about looking after young lads like us, because  
18      the nuns weren't there?

19      Q. Can I move on just now to paragraph -- first of all,  
20      before I do that if we just look at paragraph 4, you say  
21      that you remember being punished because you wet  
22      yourself.

23      A. That's correct, yes. I was like anybody else. I was  
24      a young lad and, you know ...

25      Q. Can I just clarify you are talking there about wetting

1 yourself during the day-time?

2 **A. Yes, as well, yes.**

3 Q. You say "as well". Did you also wet the bed on  
4 occasions?

5 **A. When I was younger, yes. That was due to fright,  
6 terror.**

7 Q. You said that when you wet yourself during the day, you  
8 were made to wear wet trousers over your head and you  
9 were beaten --

10 **A. Correct.**

11 Q. -- by the staff.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. What can you say about when you wet the bed? What  
14 happened then?

15 **A. Well, the reason why you wet the bed was because where  
16 we were in the small dormitory, we had a bucket in the  
17 middle where you had to urinate into that with 20, 30  
18 other lads and a mackintosh placed on the ground, and  
19 sometimes you were scared to get out of the bed. So you  
20 just wet yourself and that was it.**

21 Q. And what -- after you'd wet the bed what happened the  
22 next day?

23 **A. Oh, we were punished. We would walk down to the corner  
24 to the bathroom and we would get into a bath, which was  
25 mostly nine out of ten times cold, and there'd be**

1 I always remember Jeyes Fluid, because it used to come  
2 in a blue tin and they would put that in the bath.  
3 I don't know what I said, but the next thing I had soap,  
4 put into my mouth, carbolic soap, green, and they were  
5 going to wash the devil out of me. I mean, I admit  
6 I wasn't the easiest lad. I was a bit of a tearaway,  
7 but, you know, I didn't -- this shouldn't be justified.  
8 I was only a kid like anybody else, but to be taken down  
9 into a bathroom and washed in Jeyes Fluid, and you would  
10 go to school, everybody, and you just stunk of Jeyes  
11 Fluid and that was the end of it.

12 Q. Can I again come back --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- now to the boy who you recall, SND136?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. He, as I said, gave a statement to the Inquiry through  
17 the Sisters, and he talks about there being Jeyes Fluid  
18 used as a disinfectant in the home, but only as  
19 a disinfectant.

20 A. No, no, no. It was used in the bath, but we must  
21 remember this lad we're talking about was a lot younger  
22 than us. So times, you know, have moved on.

23 Q. Do you recall how much younger than you he was at all?

24 A. Five years maybe.

25 Q. He's -- if I can just then move on to chores in the

1 home.

2 **A. Oh, yes.**

3 Q. You talk about this in paragraph 17 of your witness  
4 statement, and you say that there were two nuns looking  
5 after about 100 boys in the group that you were in and  
6 you name those nuns.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. You say you were put to work scrubbing floors and  
9 cleaning.

10 **A. Yes. That's all we did after school.**

11 Q. Then you talk about being beaten by the nuns. You felt  
12 that one nun in particular picked on you for no reason.

13 **A. Correct.**

14 Q. I will come back to what you say about her in due  
15 course, but some of the boys have described being made  
16 to polish the floors. Do you recollect that or were --

17 **A. Oh, yes, yes. Everything would be taken out of the  
18 bedroom and put into a main big room and we would sleep  
19 there until the floors were dry, and they were wooden  
20 floors and there was really no central heating. So, you  
21 know, you washed and you scrubbed the floors, and then  
22 when that was done, everything went back, and you did  
23 that room. Then you moved on. So it was constant  
24 scrubbing all the time. It's -- you know, it's ...**

25 Q. Again just about -- on the issue of numbering, the boy

1 SND136 that I referred to, in his statement he says  
2 there was no practice of numbering boys as well, just to  
3 put that formally to you.

4 **A. No. That's fair enough.**

5 Q. But certainly your recollection is of numbering being  
6 used and being called by numbers?

7 **A. Oh, yes, yes.**

8 Q. What about special occasions in Termonbacca? What about  
9 Christmas or Hallowe'en? Do you remember those being  
10 celebrated?

11 **A. Not really. It was just a bunch of hypocrites coming up  
12 to give you some gifts. That was it. It was over and  
13 done with.**

14 Q. Some people have spoken about concerts in the home for  
15 SND131, for example.

16 **A. Well, the way I would put it was that they would set up  
17 a boxing ring and it was like Spartacus, entertaining  
18 the bishop with your fist, two boys boxing. So I don't  
19 call that entertainment. I call that brutality. For  
20 SND131 to sit there with the Mayor, you know, what did  
21 that guy do for us? He is supposed to be head of the  
22 Catholic Church in Derry. Yet we had to entertain him.  
23 Go and beat another guy up for no reason, but you don't  
24 -- he's your friend. So that is what the bishop -- and  
25 the nuns thought was great. No. I am sorry. It is**

1           **wrong.**

2    Q.   Do you remember music being a feature in the home, for  
3           example?

4    A.   **Oh, God, aye.**

5    Q.   What do you remember about that?

6    A.   **I remember we had to learn how to sing for the mass book  
7           and it would be taken by [REDACTED] and if you  
8           didn't get it right, you were punished, and then SR3,  
9           she would play the organ in church. Then we had a brass  
10          band.**

11   Q.   Were you yourself in the brass band at all?

12   A.   **I sort of was, but I think the guy had enough of me.**

13   Q.   So it is fair to say that your behaviour might have been  
14          challenging for those who were looking after you in the  
15          home. Would that be fair comment, HIA11?

16   A.   **No. I was just like any other 10, 11-year-old guy. Put  
17          40 of us together and what do you expect?**

18   Q.   Can I ask about pocket money? Did you ever get pocket  
19          money given to you?

20   A.   **No, any money I got was given to me by the people who  
21          would take me out. So that would go into a purse. Then  
22          you were given so much maybe one week-end. Then we  
23          would be farmed out to the farm to pick potatoes.  
24          I never got any money, because I got up to no good on  
25          the farm. So when I went down, I was punished instead,**



1           **because we threw potatoes at the farmers and ...**

2    Q.   Well, do you remember anything about how your birthday  
3           would have been celebrated over the years?

4    **A.   When I was young, you got a plate or something and you**  
5           **took it to the kitchen and you got some sort of special**  
6           **meal for that day and that was it.**

7    Q.   Did you ever get cards or presents?

8    **A.   Not to my knowledge, no.**

9    Q.   You talk at paragraph 8 in your witness statement about  
10           boys going to Australia.  What's your recollection about  
11           that?  What did you mean by that?

12   **A.   Well, one minute you would have 100 boys there and the**  
13           **next minute you come back from school and half of them**  
14           **are gone and somebody would say, "Oh, they're gone to**  
15           **Australia".  Maybe I was lucky.  I didn't go.**

16   Q.   Certainly your recollection is of boys disappearing and  
17           being told they were gone to Australia?

18   **A.   Oh, they were gone.  That was it.  You never saw them**  
19           **again.  They were shipped out.**

20   Q.   Did you during your time there -- I mean, it's clear  
21           that there was some involvement from the documents that  
22           I've shown you with the Welfare Authority in your  
23           placement.

24   **A.   Yes.**

25   Q.   You seem to have spent some -- your early months in

1 a Welfare Authority home, but can you say did you see  
2 anyone from Social Services ever visit you?

3 **A. I never, never met anybody from Social Services. The**  
4 **only name that would ring was a Mrs Black. You were**  
5 **threatened with Mrs Black. "She's going to take you**  
6 **away to St. Pat's in Belfast."**

7 Q. And who threatened you with --

8 **A. Oh, the nuns would, but I never, never, never have met**  
9 **the social worker in my life.**

10 Q. What about senior nuns visiting the home? Do you ever  
11 remember that?

12 **A. Every four years a Mother General would be elected like**  
13 **you elect the Pope and she would be elected in**  
14 **Hammersmith. So then she would spend the next four**  
15 **years travelling around the world -- Australia, New**  
16 **Zealand, Africa -- and they would come to Derry and, of**  
17 **course, everything then was shipshape, and they used to**  
18 **be just some old 80-year-old nuns and that was it.**

19 Q. Can I now bring you on, HIA11, to some of the specific  
20 allegations that you make in your witness statement?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. Now you have spoken about how the civilian staff beat  
23 you when you were in the nursery. Is that correct?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. That was at paragraph 5 you talked about that. You also

1           then -- if we can move to paragraph 7, you say that you  
2           were moved at the age of 5 years old to the junior group  
3           and you name the nun who was in charge of that group.

4           **A. Well, at that time there was two nuns responsible for**  
5           **the whole of everyone, and then I think -- I am not sure**  
6           **what year it was -- they decided to split us into two**  
7           **groups. So SR2 would have one group and SR3 would have**  
8           **the other. We would sleep in the junior dormitory and**  
9           **the nun would have a cell in our room and that was it.**

10          **Q.** Right. Well, you describe being -- you were taken at  
11          the age of 6 or 7 -- and I am not going to go into the  
12          details of this --

13          **A. Okay.**

14          **Q.** -- but essentially you were taken to the bathroom by  
15          an older boy.

16          **A. Correct.**

17          **Q.** Was this at night?

18          **A. I remember the first time it was during the day and**  
19          **I remember when he finished, he went out through the**  
20          **bathroom window, and I didn't know what happened to me.**  
21          **I was only a kid.**

22          **Q.** But you were sexually abused --

23          **A. Yes.**

24          **Q.** -- by that boy in the bathroom.

25          **A. He was a beast.**

1 Q. You then talk about on another particular day at  
2 paragraph 9 when you were abused by five day boys --

3 **A. Five different lads, yes.**

4 Q. -- in the toilets. On that occasion you talk about them  
5 going out of the window so that no-one would see them  
6 leave the bathroom.

7 **A. Correct.**

8 Q. I think it's perhaps hard for those people who haven't  
9 been to Termonbacca, but there seems to have been -- it  
10 was built on a slope.

11 **A. Yes, it was a massive slope, yes.**

12 Q. So certain windows might have been at ground level even  
13 though --

14 **A. No. The actual building would been flat, but the rest  
15 of it would have been a large bank going down and you  
16 would have a pathway down. So you could get in and out  
17 of the window easy.**

18 Q. Now again in paragraph 9 you go on to say that there  
19 were no nuns around to tell what had happened to you,  
20 and even if there was, you didn't know what was  
21 happening to you.

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

23 Q. Then you describe what those boys did to you. Then at  
24 paragraph 13 you describe being left frequently alone by  
25 the nuns while they were at prayers or their duties and

1 that was the opportunity for the older boys essentially  
2 to abuse you. Is that correct?

3 **A. Correct.**

4 Q. You say there were other people who came from Belfast to  
5 visit the boys in the home.

6 **A. Yes. One boy used to come every two weeks.**

7 Q. You do name someone who was a former resident --

8 **A. Correct.**

9 Q. -- coming back at weekends, and he -- you say you were  
10 abused at least once every two weeks by him.

11 **A. Correct.**

12 Q. You say that he was the apple of a particular nun's eye.

13 **A. Correct, and could do no wrong.**

14 Q. You give his age as about 21 or 22.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. He abused you over a period of about three years.

17 **A. Correct.**

18 Q. You describe how he did abuse you.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. You then go on at paragraph 14 to describe abuse by  
21 another former resident who had come back to visit who  
22 you name. Again he was about four or five years older  
23 than you. You would have about 14 or 15 you think.

24 **A. I would have been about 13 or 14.**

25 Q. You recall an incident of him abusing you first when

1           there was an army band playing at the home --

2   **A. Correct.**

3   Q.   -- and you had --

4   **A. I wasn't allowed to go and hear the band, because I had**  
5       **misbehaved. So I was sent to bed, and I remember the**  
6       **band -- the Royal Marines I think it was -- playing in**  
7       **the garden, but I wasn't allowed to attend, because I --**

8   Q.   You had misbehaved.

9   **A. -- misbehaved again, yes.**

10   Q.   And while that band was playing outside you were being  
11       abused by this former resident.

12   **A. I was being abused by this lad, yes. He was the apple**  
13       **of everyone's eyes.**

14   Q.   Then on another occasion you refer to a gentleman who  
15       was the gardener and he had left and left you in the  
16       glasshouse. Is that correct?

17   **A. Yes. He was one of the nicest guys you'd ever meet, old**  
18       **SND 15 and I would work with SND 15 in the glasshouse,**  
19       **because, you know, he took care of me, and he was about**  
20       **60 and he was one of the nicest guys you would ever**  
21       **meet. He left me one day in the glasshouse and**  
22       **I remember him saying, "For God's sake don't smash any**  
23       **of the glass. Don't get up to mischief". Then this guy**  
24       **came in and he abused me. So ...**

25   Q.   At paragraph 15 you go on to talk about having been

1 physically abused by ex-residents.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. There was one in particular you say who made a point of  
4 beating you when he thought you were playing up.

5 **A. Yes. These boys, like, had left Termonbacca, and he had**  
6 **his way with people because, you know, I am sorry to say**  
7 **this but he was a member of the IRA, and his attitude to**  
8 **us was, you know, "You'll do as you're told" and you**  
9 **were scared. This guy started to make a name for**  
10 **himself in Derry and the nuns knew this, you know.**

11 Q. Your belief is that the nuns were complicit -- complicit  
12 in your view?

13 **A. Yes, they knew what was going on, and this guy was the**  
14 **apple of these nuns' eyes, and they would come up there**  
15 **in their flashy cars, three or four of them, and we were**  
16 **only kids. So who gives them the right to tell us how**  
17 **to behave ourselves when they're going out and taking**  
18 **lives of other people on the streets? How dare they,**  
19 **and yet nuns knew this. When one of them would die, we**  
20 **had to pray. So I said one day, "Why don't we pray for**  
21 **the soldier he shot?" and I was kicked and I was beaten**  
22 **by that nun, because I dared say, "Why don't we pray for**  
23 **the soldier that that person took the life?"**

24 Q. Now in addition to the abuse by the boys and the  
25 ex-residents you also talk at paragraph 10 and 11 about

1 a priest who you name --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- as having come up to talk to you on Sundays.

4 **A. He would come up every Sunday.**

5 Q. You describe --

6 **A. He didn't say mass. He didn't do anything. His day out**  
7 **was to come up and see the boys.**

8 Q. You say that --

9 **A. He sexually abused me quite a few times and I think the**  
10 **nuns knew what he was at. Make no mistake about it.**

11 Q. You describe how he did sexually abuse you.

12 **A. He did, yes. Then I had to walk past his home one day**  
13 **and he called me into his house and he abused me there**  
14 **and that was it.**

15 Q. You say that you, in fact, told SND228 about this abuse.

16 **A. I told SND228, and if SND228 wants to say I didn't, then**  
17 **that's down to him.**

18 Q. You know from what I have spoken to you about earlier --

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

20 Q. -- that there's -- essentially there are two documents  
21 that I have shown to you. We will just briefly have  
22 a look at those, which are 1795 and 1796.

23 Perhaps if we just look, first of all, at 1794,  
24 which is a memo of a telephone conversation that you had  
25 with a priest in the diocese of Derry.



1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. He -- without going into the details of what's contained  
3 in there, you told him that you had told SND228 about  
4 what had happened to you. Isn't that correct?

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

6 CHAIRMAN: Can we have that enlarged, please?

7 MS SMITH: Sorry. Can you just enlarge that document,  
8 please? Thank you.

9 You also talk about the fact that you had told  
10 [REDACTED] who's named there at SND229.

11 **A. Correct.**

12 Q. That you had told the [REDACTED] about the matters some  
13 twenty years ago, but indicated that the [REDACTED] had  
14 considered such things impossible.

15 **A. Well, I went the first time -- I swore on the bible**  
16 **today, so I'm going to stick to that, but I went to**  
17 **[REDACTED] and I remember it, and**  
18 **I remember talking to SND228. So, you know, we have to**  
19 **ask ourselves the question then: who is right and who is**  
20 **wrong here? I mean, this is me having to tell my story**  
21 **and because people think, "Well, he has got a collar.**  
22 **He can't do any harm" -- well, we have seen it all over**  
23 **the world today what these people with collars do.**  
24 **Obviously I swore on that bible and I swear again that**  
25 **I went and saw SND228 in the [REDACTED] and**

1 I remember going in the door and going to a room on the  
2 right. I am not sure how long he was [REDACTED] then.

3 Q. But certainly your recollection is of having told him.

4 A. I told him. I told the [REDACTED] what had been done, but  
5 "We'll see about it" and that's it. That was the end of  
6 it.

7 Q. On page SND-1795 there is a memo of a conversation which  
8 SND75 had with SND228. In that memo he indicates that  
9 SND228 had --

10 CHAIRMAN: Just one moment.

11 MS SMITH: Sorry.

12 CHAIRMAN: What's the reference number for this?

13 MS SMITH: 1795, the following page, Chairman.

14 A. I can't understand that.

15 CHAIRMAN: Just give us a moment to read this, please,

16 HIA11. (Pause.)

17 MS SMITH: You will see from that memo, HIA11 --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- that it's recorded there that the [REDACTED] had no  
20 recollection of your complaint.

21 A. I went to see SND75 and **SND 229** and, you know,  
22 I flew over and, you know, we had a meeting at  
23 [REDACTED] and that was it. You know,  
24 I explained to them, and I spoke with SND75, **SND 229**  
25 **SND 229** and Mary McCafferty. You know, we were there

1 for an hour and there was, you now, a very, very good  
2 meeting. I believe then that **SND 229** had some  
3 sort of ...

4 Q. Are you okay, **HIA 11** Just take your time.

5 A. I believe that somebody was taking the stand, you know,  
6 and saying, "Yes, we do believe you", but what makes me  
7 angry is when the **[REDACTED]** can sit and lie -- stand  
8 and lie and say he never had a meeting with me. He had  
9 a meeting with me. **[REDACTED]** So,  
10 you know, I had that meeting with SND228.

11 Q. That's -- certainly all I am saying to you is that this  
12 document says --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- that SND228 told SND75 he had no recollection of  
15 meeting with you.

16 A. Well ...

17 Q. If we can move then to SND-1796, you will see in this  
18 document, which is the following day -- it is another  
19 memo of a telephone conversation that SND228 had with  
20 a priest in the diocese, and he phoned to say this.  
21 Following on from the conversation that SND75 had with  
22 him that he had checked through the archives and found  
23 what he thought were letters that might relate to you,  
24 and the reason he thought that was because the person  
25 had the same name as you, and revealed that you had been

1 in Termonbacca or the person had been in Termonbacca.

2 Can I just then move to page 179... --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. Sorry, chairman.

5 CHAIRMAN: What's the reference for this, please? What's  
6 the reference for this page?

7 MS SMITH: SND-1796.

8 CHAIRMAN: So a letter was received from somebody with the  
9 same name as HIA11?

10 MS SMITH: Yes, that's correct. It can be seen, Chairman,  
11 at SND-1797. You will see that this letter is dated  
12 27th (sic) June 1978. It is addressed to the [REDACTED] and  
13 it reads:

14 "I would like to thank you for the wonderful mass  
15 which you celebrated for the feast of the late Mother  
16 General of the Sisters of Nazareth.

17 As you know, I was brought up by the good sisters in  
18 Termonbacca and I am writing this on behalf of the other  
19 [REDACTED] We had a special mass celebrated in  
20 Termonbacca ourselves and I am having a mass offered for  
21 your intentions.

22 I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the  
23 lovely mass you celebrated in Nazareth House, Bishop  
24 Street.

25 I hope to hear from you in the near future and may

1 God bless you."

2 Just for the sake of completeness, on SND-1798 there  
3 is a reply to that letter writer from SND228, which can  
4 be looked at briefly. It essentially just thanks the  
5 person for the letter and hopes:

6 "... that you are keeping very well and that you are  
7 finding life in the [REDACTED] to be stimulating and  
8 challenging.

9 Wishing you God's blessing.

10 Yours sincerely in Christ."

11 It's signed by the [REDACTED]

12 First of all, HIA11, can I ask you -- you saw this  
13 earlier today when I showed it to you.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. What is your comment about that letter?

16 **A. Quite shocked I could actually write a letter like that  
17 or actually type it.**

18 Q. Why do you say that?

19 **A. Because I didn't type that letter. Where would I have  
20 a typewriter in 1978?**

21 Q. Can I just ask you to look --

22 CHAIRMAN: Sorry. Just a moment.

23 MS SMITH: Sorry.

24 CHAIRMAN: Do you recognise the address, HIA11?

25 **A. The address, yes, [REDACTED]**

1 Q. Was that somewhere you lived?

2 A. [REDACTED] --

3 Q. I see.

4 A. -- but, as I explained to counsel, [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]

6 Q. You were in the [REDACTED] at the time?

7 A. Correct, yes, yes.

8 Q. [REDACTED]

9 A. I was -- well, [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED]

15 [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]

21 CHAIRMAN: Let's just get back to the question I asked you.

22 The letter comes from an address that you were --

23 A. Correct, but then anybody could have wrote that.

24 MS SMITH: Can I just -- you had seen --

25 CHAIRMAN: Please just a moment.

1 MS SMITH: Sorry, Chairman.

2 CHAIRMAN: But you are saying you didn't write it?

3 **A. Well, not to my knowledge.**

4 MS SMITH: In fact, HIA11, what we see here, the previous  
5 document is redacted in that the signature is covered --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- but I showed you the signature that was on that  
8 letter.

9 **A. Correct.**

10 Q. You simply don't believe that that is your signature.

11 **A. No, no.**

12 Q. The Panel will be able to compare the signature that is  
13 on your witness statement with the signature on that  
14 letter --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- and form their own conclusions.

17 **A. Correct.**

18 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

19 MS SMITH: At paragraph 12 of your statement, if we can go  
20 back to that, which is SND-1742, and just highlight  
21 paragraph 12, you talk about at night-time you would go  
22 to bed in the junior dormitory. There would be about 40  
23 of you.

24 **A. Correct.**

25 Q. You were given a short period of time to sleep. If you

1 didn't go to sleep, you would be beaten by an older boy.  
2 You then talk about what you have already spoken about,  
3 about being made to go to the toilet in a bucket in the  
4 middle of the floor?

5 **A. And pee in it, yes.**

6 Q. While you were in bed at night again you could be taken  
7 out of your bed and taken to the bathroom by an older  
8 boy, where you were abused.

9 **A. Correct.**

10 Q. You say that during this time the nun, who you name  
11 there, was in her cell, which was in the corner of the  
12 dormitory --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- when all of this was happening.

15 **A. She wouldn't have come out, you see.**

16 Q. She didn't come out?

17 **A. No, no.**

18 Q. Now you do talk about this nun. I mean, you talk about  
19 you were physically abused by nuns.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. You talk about one nun who used her hands on you, but  
22 then you talk about this particular nun who is  
23 identified as SR2, and you talk about her and make  
24 a number of allegations about her --

25 **A. Correct.**



1 Q. -- starting at paragraph 16, if we can look there. You  
2 say that you had brushes broken over the back of your  
3 head and your back because did you something wrong.  
4 When you were saying your morning prayers, you didn't  
5 wear underpants, and when you were 13 years old, when  
6 you had an erection, you were dragged out of bed and  
7 kicked and beaten by this nun, who called you an animal.

8 **A. Well, I wasn't in bed actually. What it was was we**  
9 **would go to a room and we would all kneel in front of**  
10 **the nun and we said our morning prayers. Imagine your**  
11 **body is changing. You are only a kid. You know,**  
12 **unfortunately I took an erection. This was disgraceful**  
13 **and I was beaten and beaten because of this.**

14 Q. You say you were regularly beaten both by this nun in  
15 paragraph 17 --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- and the other nun --

18 **A. Correct.**

19 Q. -- but most of them came from one in particular --

20 **A. This particular nun.**

21 Q. -- SR2. You feel she picked on you all the time for no  
22 reason.

23 **A. Correct.**

24 Q. She would use her fist, or a brush handle or strap, but  
25 the other nun only ever beat you with her hand?

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. You talk about an incident in paragraph 18 when someone  
3 had left an iron on in the laundry.

4 **A. Yes, I always remember that. In the laundry was a big**  
5 **massive table and you would do the ironing. Apparently**  
6 **I had left the iron on. So I got blamed for it. I was**  
7 **beaten and then I was put into a cupboard where**  
8 **they kept all the soap powder. I remember the soap**  
9 **powder was kept in a chest, an open chest. So you're --**

10 Q. Just pull the microphone towards you, HIA11.

11 **A. So you're in this cupboard with a large box of soap**  
12 **powder, and the door was closed and that was it. I came**  
13 **out and she said, "Did you do it?" I said "No". So**  
14 **I was beaten again, and that was it.**

15 Q. You talk at paragraph 19 of an occasion when you were  
16 about 12 or 13 when she accused you of doing something.  
17 Can you recollect what it was you were accused of doing?

18 **A. I think it was to do with a lorry was highjacked outside**  
19 **Termonbacca.**

20 Q. I think you talk about that -- sorry. Go ahead.  
21 I didn't mean to interrupt you. Go ahead.

22 **A. On 19 -- I don't know what it was, but I remember I was**  
23 **beaten very badly with an electric flex from a kettle.**

24 Q. Just before I go on to talk to you about what SR2 --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- says about these allegations just for sake of  
2 completeness if we could look at paragraph 26, and  
3 I think this was the incident you were going to talk  
4 about, the lemonade bottles.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. You say that on the way home from school a lorry  
7 carrying lemonade bottles was highjacked and they were  
8 giving out bottles of lemonade. You took a bottle. She  
9 found it and she made you take it back to the lorry.  
10 Afterwards she whipped you with the flex of an electric  
11 kettle.

12 **A. Correct.**

13 Q. Your legs were all bruised. She kicked you when she  
14 told you to take the bottle back, and you think you were  
15 about 14 or 15 then.

16 **A. I was about 14 or 15. I was coming home from the**  
17 **[REDACTED] School.**

18 Q. Well, now just before going on to what SR2 says I have  
19 been asked to make reference to what the boy SND136 --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- I referred to earlier had said, and he talks in the  
22 statement that he's given to the Inquiry about what he  
23 describes as chastisement, and says that if you had done  
24 something wrong, you were told off or had some form of  
25 punishment, that there was a threat of physical

1 punishment, but it was not something he received often.

2 He does recall being sent to the kitchen to peel  
3 potatoes as a punishment once and he remembers being  
4 made to write out lines saying he should not speak back  
5 to a particular nun.

6 He would say that corporal punishment was much more  
7 regular in both primary and secondary school, where he  
8 was both slapped and caned.

9 He also recalls one incident where this particular  
10 nun slapped him when he fell on glass and became  
11 hysterical and the slap was simply to stop him becoming  
12 hysterical.

13 **A. No.**

14 **Q.** That was his experience of chastisement, as he describes  
15 it, in the home. What do you want to say?

16 **A. One thing is, first of all, as we said, this lad is**  
17 **a lot younger than what we were and this lad was hardly**  
18 **even there, [REDACTED]**  
19 **[REDACTED] he was taken out a lot by a [REDACTED] So he was**  
20 **never there. He wouldn't have been punished anyway,**  
21 **because this family took him out, came up every**  
22 **week-end. So if they had saw marks on him, they would**  
23 **ask questions. So I think it seems to me that the nuns**  
24 **seem to be trying to get one group of people to make**  
25 **them out that they were angels and the people they seem**

1 to be asking are the younger generation, who didn't  
2 experience what was going on.

3 Q. As I indicated, HIA11, this particular nun has given  
4 a statement to the Inquiry.

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. She has had the benefit of having sight of your witness  
7 statement that you provided.

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. She makes a number of comments. If we can look at  
10 SND-11651, please, and if we highlight paragraphs 47 to  
11 49 just. Enlarge those to the bottom of 49. Thank you.  
12 She says that she remembers you very well and she  
13 recalls an incident where you sent £500 to Nazareth  
14 House in [REDACTED] where she was  
15 working to assist her with the work that you were (sic)  
16 doing. Can I ask you first of all about that? Did you  
17 send that?

18 A. Yes. That money was raised by the Mardi Gras, and  
19 people were given the chance to where they would like  
20 the money to go from [REDACTED] and I suggested the  
21 kids in South Africa, and I didn't know then we had  
22 a house there with AIDS children. So that is where the  
23 money went. So it wasn't for her. It was for the  
24 children.

25 Q. She goes on to say she doesn't understand why you're

1 making the allegations against her. She says that you  
2 previously rang her and spoke to her about the  
3 allegations. Is that correct?

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

5 Q. What was her response?

6 **A. "Talk to our lawyers." Quite abrupt.**

7 Q. "He told me that he recalled me beating him with the  
8 flex of the kettle. I deny this absolutely. I did not  
9 beat him and I did not hit him with the flex of the  
10 kettle. In fact, my memory is at the time when [you  
11 were] in Termonbacca we got our hot water from a large  
12 urn, which was located in the children's kitchen, and we  
13 did not, in fact, have an electric kettle. We did not  
14 have electric kettles until we moved to the temporary  
15 area where our new home in Termonbacca was being built."

16 **A. One, we didn't have a children's kitchen, because when  
17 we moved from the old house, we were put in the chicken  
18 run, which used to be a chicken run. It used to be  
19 a chicken run, and there was an electric kettle there.  
20 That was always there. We didn't have an urn. I mean,  
21 for God's sake who would put a urn of hot water in  
22 a room smaller than this for 20 lads? You would be  
23 crazy.**

24 Q. She goes on, HIA11, to say that she recalls you fondly  
25 and doesn't know why you're making the allegation. She

1 has no knowledge or information about the allegations  
2 that you make about other people, about what the boys  
3 did to you and the ex-residents.

4 "I do not know how this happened, but again I would  
5 say that it is possible it could, in fact, have  
6 happened. We were understaffed and could not physically  
7 watch all of the boys for 24 hours a day. None of these  
8 allegations had surfaced until very recent times and in  
9 particular in regard to the allegations made to this  
10 Inquiry."

11 So she basically says that she remembers you fondly  
12 and can't understand why you are making the allegations  
13 against her.

14 She then goes on at paragraph 49 to say that the  
15 priest that you refer to, she recalls him coming to  
16 visit the home on a number of occasions, but she doesn't  
17 recall him ever, as you say, coming as [REDACTED] or to  
18 say mass.

19 **A. Could you imagine going to a nun and saying, "A priest  
20 has sexually assaulted me"?**

21 **Q.** Yes. I mean, she does go on in that paragraph to say  
22 that no-one has ever raised those concerns with her  
23 about the appropriateness or otherwise of the behaviour  
24 of that priest, but you certainly didn't do that. Isn't  
25 that correct?

1 **A. Yes. Well, who would believe you then?**

2 Q. If we could just move on then to the following page,  
3 which is SND-11652 at paragraph 55. If that could be  
4 highlighted, please. This nun says that you went to  
5 Derry City Council to petition the council to give her  
6 the freedom of the city and that you sent her a plaque  
7 of that nature, which she still has. She says she is  
8 surprised, because you seem to have a very good  
9 relationship, that you kept in contact with her --

10 **A. No.**

11 Q. -- and it was not until very recently that the  
12 allegations have arisen.

13 **A. I -- SR2 left Derry I think it was in [REDACTED] They had  
14 a presentation for her and they asked me would I go.  
15 Everybody was going, all the Termonbacca boys. I says  
16 no, I wouldn't be going. In the Derry Journal in that  
17 photograph I am the only guy that's missing.**

18 So I thought, "Do you know what now? Let's have  
19 a joke on her". So I rang the City Council and I says,  
20 "You wouldn't mind sending her a plaque?" and it was  
21 done as a joke and they did send it, but there was no  
22 freedom of the city. You know, it was done as a joke.

23 Q. Well, what --

24 **A. You know, I never had -- I had contact with SR2 once.**

25 I went to [REDACTED] and I was going to have it out with



1 her in [REDACTED] but I ended up with a very bad chest  
2 infection. I flew over, and it was the Friday I got  
3 into [REDACTED] and I was in bed Friday, Saturday, got  
4 up on the Sunday night and I was away again on the  
5 Monday. So I think I spent about twenty minutes saying  
6 "Hello", "Goodbye" and that was it. That's the last  
7 time I ever saw SR2 and that was in 1977.

8 Q. Do you remember what the plaque was, for example, what  
9 it said?

10 A. Oh, a piece of rubbish probably from the Guildhall, but  
11 the £500, that wasn't for the nuns. That was for  
12 children with AIDS, because I am somebody like that that  
13 I actually do donate quite a bit of money to different  
14 charities. So I wasn't giving it to the nuns. These  
15 were kids had nothing. These were kids dying of AIDS.  
16 Nobody else was giving them anything. So I turned  
17 around and I said to the Mardi Gras committee, "I want  
18 to send money. It's our money. We've raised that" and  
19 that's what I did, but they weren't the only people.  
20 You know, at the end of the day we raise 100,000,  
21 150,000 a year. That money is distributed out to  
22 different charities. But I like the way she went on and  
23 said "your gay friends". How ignorant is that? That  
24 just shows you the person we are talking about today.

25 Q. In fairness to the sister what she actually says in that

1 paragraph, HIA11, is that:

2 "... he and some of his gay colleagues (his words,  
3 not mine)."

4 So she is saying it was you who said they were --

5 **A. No. I said it was from the gay community in [REDACTED]**

6 Q. But in any event then one other thing that I am asked to  
7 put to you is that others, including SND136, remember  
8 both SR2 and SR3 as loving, caring and compassionate.

9 **A. Well, I don't. I'm sorry.**

10 Q. In paragraph 30 of your statement you talk about -- and  
11 you have already mentioned this -- about being fostered  
12 out.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. You went out during the holidays at Christmas, Easter  
15 and summer to a couple in Northern Ireland and they took  
16 you and another boy whom you name in that paragraph.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You never told her about any of the abuse that you  
19 suffered.

20 **A. No, because I was just too embarrassed, and because  
21 a lot of their friends were in the church as well, and  
22 I suppose this was the one person who could react as  
23 a mother to me. So I didn't want to break her heart.**

24 Q. You certainly have very good memories of your times with  
25 that family.

1 A. Oh, some of the happiest moments of my life.

2 Q. You also talked fondly about the teachers at [REDACTED]  
3 Primary School.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Those are positive memories that you have.

6 A. Yes. I think it was the best thing ever happened that  
7 we left Nazareth House, Bishop Street. These teachers  
8 were absolutely gems. They were absolutely very, very  
9 good to us. Then we went off to other schools.

10 Q. HIA11, during -- you were there for quite a lengthy  
11 period of time. Can I ask you: did you witness changes  
12 or improvements during your time in the home?

13 A. It seemed to come in stages, because one moment you were  
14 in this big massive place. Then we were moved to like  
15 temporary accommodation like a chicken run while they  
16 were building the new house, and there was loads of  
17 changes came about then was when we moved into the new  
18 house. We were still punished, but we had staff who  
19 couldn't even have looked after themselves. They were  
20 old people. I mean, how could a nun -- a person become  
21 a nun at 19 or 20 and then be told, "You're going to be  
22 looking after 100 boys"?

23 Q. Can I move on to when you left Termonbacca and how that  
24 came about? You talk about this at paragraph 31 in your  
25 --

1   **A. Well, I was still in Termonbacca and I was farmed out to**  
2       **a laundry, the Good Shepherd's.**

3   **Q. Just bear with me a moment, HIA11. If we could call up**  
4       **page SND-1746, please, and just the bottom of that**  
5       **paragraph 31 you say there -- this is where you're going**  
6       **on to say you left school at 16 --**

7   **A. Yes.**

8   **Q. -- and you went to the Good Shepherd Laundry in Derry --**

9   **A. That's correct, yes.**

10   **Q. -- and what happened. You say there that you were paid**  
11       **£5 a week.**

12   **A. £5 a week, and then I came home one day and I was told,**  
13       **"That's it. You don't live here". I didn't get to say**  
14       **"Goodbye" to anybody. I had a little suitcase. I was**  
15       **taken in a car to a boarding house. I thought, "This is**  
16       **it. This is my life now".**

17           **I went to bed and that night I was raped by a big**  
18       **Irish guy and I broke down. So I went downstairs and**  
19       **I took a knife, and I don't know what happened.**

20       **I actually put the knife to his throat and I was going**  
21       **to kill him.**

22   **Q. But you didn't do that.**

23   **A. No. I don't know why, and I thought, "That's it". So**  
24       **I had nowhere else to go. These people I don't even ...**  
25       **were vetted (sic). You were just put there and that was**

1 it. 16, done, finished, "Goodbye". There were no  
2 provisions made for us, nothing. You were 16. You go  
3 out on the street.

4 Now what did we know about the city of Derry?  
5 Nothing. What did we know about cooking? Nothing, and  
6 they wonder why so many young lads have taken their  
7 lives. Because there was no-one there for them. At 16  
8 "Goodbye". We were never trained for an outside life.

9 It doesn't matter how you polish it and say, "Well,  
10 we gave them the training in the orphanage". No. I am  
11 sorry. There was no social workers. There was no-one  
12 to talk to. "Goodbye" at 16. To go then and be raped  
13 on your first night in the city, and I could have ended  
14 up taking that guy's life. I don't know why I didn't do  
15 it. I don't know. Maybe if I did do it, maybe all this  
16 would have come out all those years ago in [REDACTED] maybe.

17 Q. You then go on to talk about paragraph 32 where you say  
18 you left the boarding house.

19 A. Well, at that stage I had already applied to join the  
20 army. So I left. I couldn't stay there. So I slept in  
21 a barn, and I was there for three or four months, but  
22 I would go home in the morning and have a shower and  
23 then I would go on to the Good Shepherd's.

24 Q. You have talked about [REDACTED]  
25 [REDACTED] but you didn't recall writing the

1 letter that we have seen.

2 **A. Well, if I wrote that letter, I must say I have a good**  
3 **brain, because that's neatly wrote, and a typewriter.**  
4 **Where would I get a typewriter in 1975 or '76?**

5 **Q.** Can I just then ask you since you left -- you talk about  
6 your live after care in the rest of your statement and  
7 I~am going to leave that for the Inquiry Panel to read  
8 for themselves, but you effectively have had difficult  
9 times since you left and with dealing with all of the  
10 issues that you have described for us.

11 **A. Correct, yes, but you know what? I was a fighter, but I**  
12 **never went out and destroyed things and blamed it on my**  
13 **upbringing, because that's giving into the people that**  
14 **abuse you. I fought this and I fought it on my own and**  
15 **I fought it for a long time, and, do you know, not to be**  
16 **taught anything about sex or anything, sure I didn't**  
17 **know who I was. I didn't know what I was. You know,**  
18 **that was all taken away from me.**

19 I mean, how can somebody stand there and say they  
20 love God and do this to us? You know, what happened?  
21 What did we do wrong? I didn't commit a crime, but yet  
22 I was put into a place. I didn't ask to be put there.  
23 You know, we can go on and on about these tribunals and  
24 all, but where is it going to get us, because it's  
25 wrong?

1           **What I see here today, you know, I feel like getting**  
2           **up and walking out, because the nuns have got people who**  
3           **were younger than us. Yes, they weren't punished.**  
4           **Those times have changed for them, but not for us.**

5   Q. Can I just -- you have taken steps of your own. Isn't  
6       that correct?

7   A. **I have taken steps of my own. I -- in 19... -- in 2009**  
8       **I appointed a team of lawyers in Derry to act on my**  
9       **behalf.**

10 Q. You, in fact, contacted the Sisters of Nazareth. Isn't  
11       that correct?

12 A. **I told them, yes.**

13 Q. In the course of that you had hoped to reach some  
14       accommodation for compensation with them --

15 A. **Correct, at the time --**

16 Q. -- without the necessity to go to court.

17 A. **-- but now we have ended up now in a long legal battle,**  
18       **because, you know, it is just not just the nuns. It is**  
19       **their sidekicks, the brothers and the priests from**

20       

21 Q. Can I just ask you to look at another document for me at  
22       the moment, which is SND-1775? Now this is a document  
23       that the Sisters of Nazareth have provided to us. You  
24       will see that it purports to be information received  
25       over the telephone. So it is a note of a telephone

1 conversation that someone in the Sisters of Nazareth has  
2 had with you back in November 2009. Perhaps if it can  
3 be just enlarged slightly, the document, to make it  
4 easier to read.

5 You will see there that it says -- it gives your  
6 name and your address and your mobile phone number.

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

8 Q. No landline in use. You have confirmed that those  
9 details were, in fact, your details in 2009.

10 **A. Correct, yes. I admit this one, yes.**

11 Q. Yes, and it says:

12 "He was wondering if someone would call back."

13 You were going to [REDACTED] in December that year.

14 **A. Yes.** [REDACTED]

15 [REDACTED] So I did say I would be away.

16 Q. For those dates.

17 **A. Correct, yes.**

18 Q. You went to Derry as a young boy. I am not sure what  
19 the next word is.

20 "Beatings. Didn't ask for it.

21 Grateful for what the sisters did for you."

22 **A. I wouldn't be ringing them up then, would I? They  
23 contradict themselves in this.**

24 Q. It says:

25 "Sexually abused later.



1 He is aware of apology on Spotlight."

2 A. First of all, can I just say Spotlight -- we don't get  
3 Spotlight [REDACTED] So how would I have known  
4 Spotlight? We don't get that [REDACTED]

5 Q. [REDACTED] -- [REDACTED]  
6 Isn't that right?

7 A. No. [REDACTED] I don't  
8 even know what -- Spotlight is [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED] So somebody is telling a lie there, because we  
10 don't get Spotlight [REDACTED] and especially where  
11 I live out in the hills. So I am sorry, but, you know  
12 ...

13 Q. It says you are meeting and it looks like it might be  
14 [REDACTED] 2nd December:

15 "Happy for", whoever you are speaking to, "to pass  
16 on details.

17 Not really interested in court case re Derry but  
18 possible with CBS and bishop re sexual abuse.

19 Decision was taken to pass on concerns. Contact you  
20 after meeting. Work with him to move on."

21 A. I don't know this. I had a meeting with Dr McCoy, who  
22 sat on the tribunal panel in Dublin. Dr McCoy came to  
23 see me, [REDACTED] We had a long chat. The nuns had  
24 actually asked him to come and see me.

25 Q. In fact, he has made a note of the meeting that he had

1 with you.

2 **A. Yes, yes.**

3 Q. We can see that on the following page, which is  
4 SND-1776. You will see it -- could that be enlarged  
5 slightly, please? You will see it says you made  
6 an approach to the Sisters of Nazareth in late 2009 to  
7 make a complaint about the treatment that you had  
8 received while in the care of the Sisters of Nazareth.

9 Then Sister Patricia Enright, who is the Generalate  
10 of Nazareth House in Hammersmith, asked him to meet with  
11 you and you related your story to him --

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

13 Q. -- at your own home on 11th February 2010. Then he sets  
14 out in the rest of that document what you told him about  
15 your experiences.

16 **A. Correct, yes.**

17 Q. I am not going to go into that in any more detail. Then  
18 at the end of that, which is on the -- SND-1778 is the  
19 final page of that document, but what he does then, he  
20 writes to the Sisters enclosing the note of his meeting  
21 with you, and saying that you had agreed to it, that he  
22 had read it over to you and you had agreed to the  
23 contents of that note.

24 **A. Yes. Correct.**

25 Q. What I have been asked to suggest to you is that, given

1 that you are now pursuing a civil case against the  
2 Sisters of Nazareth, it has been suggested that a reason  
3 for that was the fact that you did see the Spotlight  
4 programme where the Sisters offered an apology to those  
5 who were hurt by them.

6 **A. Well, you see, I have never had Spotlight. So I don't**  
7 **know what it is.** [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED]

10 Q. Well, can I also ask, I mean, is possible you did say to  
11 the person you spoke to on the phone you were grateful  
12 for what the Sisters did for you?

13 **A. Well, you see, they contradict themselves to say**  
14 **one minute I am suing them. The next minute I am**  
15 **grateful. They need to make their minds up here.**

16 Q. Well, in fact --

17 **A. I didn't say I was grateful, no.**

18 Q. Well, can I ask you how you feel today about in  
19 particular the Sisters of Nazareth?

20 **A. I feel very angry, because a lot of young people have**  
21 **taken their lives. For what? Because people go in.**  
22 **They want their daughters to become nuns, they want**  
23 **their sons to become brothers so it is good for the**  
24 **family. These people have no training to look after**  
25 **boys, and how can you put a 23, 24-year-old girl, nun,**

1 to look after 100 people, lads of all different ages?

2 You know, what did the boys do? That's the  
3 question. We were treated like animals, because we were  
4 orphans. What did we do in life wrong? Could somebody  
5 answer that question for me? We did nothing wrong. We  
6 go out to school, and it was the same thing. You were  
7 beaten. You were an animal, and for them to take us out  
8 of our main school, [REDACTED] and put us with those  
9 animals, Christian Brothers, that was punishment on its  
10 own.

11 There was never a day went past than one of us was  
12 beaten. There was never a week went past than I was  
13 punched and kicked by the Brothers and some of the lay  
14 teachers. Some of them walk around Derry today chairman  
15 of this company and all, and these were the animals that  
16 beat and tortured us.

17 What did we do wrong? Could somebody in this court,  
18 you know, say what did we do wrong? What was our crime?  
19 Because somebody had me as a baby? So what crime did  
20 I commit? That wasn't my fault. That was wrong. The  
21 treatment we received was wrong. When you have bishops  
22 coming up, sitting there and you are boxing the hell out  
23 of someone else for their entertainment, we might as  
24 well be in Spartacus, the big ring. Let's fight it out.  
25 That was entertainment for them. We were animals, you

1 know, and I am angry to this day, but I don't let it get  
2 me down. I rise above it, you know.

3 People will say "Well, nuns don't lie and priests".  
4 We see it all the time on television now, the news. So  
5 who is to say this person isn't telling lies? Just  
6 because they wear a collar, does that make them better  
7 than us? If they really believe in Jesus, they have got  
8 to be answerable to that person. You can fool us all in  
9 the world today, but do they really believe and will  
10 they ever say "Sorry"?

11 Q. HIA11 --

12 A. No. I am sorry, but, you know, at the end of the day  
13 I come here to tell my story. You know, I didn't do  
14 anything wrong. None of the boys I grew up with -- what  
15 did they do wrong? Yet they went and took their lives.  
16 They were out at 16. What training did we ever have to  
17 go out and face the world? Remember The Troubles was  
18 on. What hope had we? I was lucky that I stayed in  
19 employment all my life, but I had to fight for that.  
20 The nuns didn't give me that. They put me into  
21 a boarding house where some animal raped me. They  
22 weren't even vetted, these people, and I almost took  
23 that guy's life that night.

24 I went to the RUC. They didn't want to know. They  
25 denied -- deliberately denied that they even had

1 a meeting with me in [REDACTED] and I remember the  
2 chief superintendent of the police station, who was  
3 a good friend of mine, had been escorted to my home. He  
4 said to me it wasn't in the public's interest. Why? At  
5 least now the PSNI are doing something, but, you know,  
6 at the end of the day we come here and we have given our  
7 time up to come to this, and for what?

8 Q. Well, if I can just ask you for what, HIAI? You have  
9 obviously taken your own steps to seek redress through  
10 a civil suit --

11 A. To seek the truth, yes.

12 Q. -- but can I ask -- the Inquiry you will understand has  
13 to make recommendations to the Northern Ireland  
14 Executive about what should happen.

15 A. But it is too late. It is too late. We have seen it's  
16 all happened years ago. It can never be allowed to  
17 happen again, and it won't happen, because there is too  
18 many safeguards put in place, but they weren't there for  
19 us. They were never there for us.

20 Q. But can I ask: is there anything by way of an apology or  
21 a memorial that you would like to see, for example,  
22 something like that?

23 A. Oh, don't make me laugh! A memorial? For what? For  
24 the young lads that died? Maybe, but where would you  
25 put it? In one of the Nazareth Houses? I don't think

1 so. These young lads went and hung themselves,  
2 committed suicide. I mind coming home one day and  
3 finding nine boys squatted in a house, because they'd  
4 nowhere to live, and cutting their wrists, and did the  
5 nuns care? No.

6 So what do you say to these lads now in their 50s  
7 and 60s? "Sorry" isn't good enough. You can have all  
8 the tribunals you want, but they took our childhood.  
9 They took that away from us and, you know, they were  
10 just animals.

11 But at least, you know, one thing has come out of  
12 this today, that **SND 229** could come up from Derry  
13 and support us, and I am very honoured for that, you  
14 know. I gave up the Catholic Church, but at least he's  
15 one guy, that priest, who believes in the boys and  
16 believes what happened, and yet we have other priests  
17 who will deny it. Now they have been found guilty all  
18 over the world of their crimes. So why should we  
19 believe people because they wear a white collar? Why  
20 would I have a **██████████** who denies having a meeting with  
21 me?

22 Q. HIA11, thank you very much for the time that you've  
23 taken this afternoon --

24 A. Thank you.

25 Q. -- with what you have had to say. If you just stay

1           there, the Inquiry Panel may have some questions that  
2           they want to ask you.

3   **A. Okay.**

4                                   **Questions from THE PANEL.**

5   CHAIRMAN: I think in fairness to the [REDACTED] concerned what  
6           he says is he has no recollection.

7   **A. Correct.**

8   Q. I don't know. He might say he just doesn't remember.  
9           That's for him to say, but there is another way one can  
10          look at that, HIA11.

11   **A. Okay.**

12   Q. Now one question I would like to ask you is towards the  
13          beginning of your evidence you were talking about not  
14          getting pocket money and people taking you out who did  
15          give you pocket money. Then you talked briefly about  
16          picking potatoes.

17   **A. Yes.**

18   Q. Now we know that the sisters had a farm of their own at  
19          Termonbacca.

20   **A. It was a massive farm, yes.**

21   Q. Did you work on that farm or did you go to work for  
22          other farmers or maybe both?

23   **A. Well, what happened was I would work on that farm rain,**  
24          **hail or snow. We'd work about 8.00 in the morning to**  
25          **6.00 at night picking potatoes, and then they started**



1 giving us like 25p, 50p for the whole day's work, but  
2 unfortunately I didn't get anything, because I had  
3 smashed up a brand new van, and I spent my time throwing  
4 potatoes at the farmers. So these guys would take us  
5 into the byre and they would horse whip us with hoses.

6 Then I went out when I was about 9 or 10 to a farm  
7 and I spent a month there working, because he was  
8 building a new house. So that's all I did. I was  
9 supposed to be taken out on a holiday. Instead -- all  
10 I remember he was some local big-wig councillor. So  
11 there's me working for him.

12 So there was times we -- you know, we were just used  
13 as slave labour, and these people would come up and the  
14 nuns, "Yes. Nice people. Very nice. You can have  
15 HIA11 and you can have this guy for two weeks". So we  
16 didn't get anything. The money we got was our money  
17 that people had given us, you know, to go out and spend.  
18 That was my money, but I do admit I didn't really get  
19 anything for the farm, because, you know, I wasn't  
20 an angel. Were any of you angels at 13 or 14? No.  
21 So, you know, I did what any other 13-year-old would do:  
22 throw potatoes at the farmer as he was driving past in  
23 the tractor, but that didn't justify to be beaten with  
24 hoses.

25 Q. Yes. Thank you. Well, HIA11, thank you very much for

1 coming to speak to us today.

2 **A. Thank you, your Honour.**

3 **(Witness withdrew)**

4 MS SMITH: Chairman, that concludes the evidence for today.

5 CHAIRMAN: Very well. 10.30 tomorrow.

6 (3.40 pm)

7 (Hearing adjourned until 10.30 tomorrow morning)

8 --ooOoo--

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