
HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at

Banbridge Court House

Banbridge

on Tuesday, 25th February 2014

commencing at 10.30 am

(Day 12)

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

1 Tuesday, 25th February 2014

2 (10.30 am)

3 (Proceedings delayed)

4 (11.20 am)

5 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I am sorry
6 we are slightly later than usual this morning. This is
7 just one of these things that does tend to happen in
8 an Inquiry of this nature where documents sometimes come
9 to the attention of the Inquiry team at a very late
10 stage or someone is late in arriving, but before we
11 start this morning can I just take this opportunity to
12 remind those who are present, because I am aware there
13 are a number of students here, that the Inquiry operates
14 a strict designation policy.

15 The practical effect of that is that anyone who is
16 given a designation has anonymity unless they wish to
17 abandon that anonymity. Whilst normally in the course
18 of our proceedings each day anyone who is being referred
19 to is referred to by their designation, there are
20 occasions when for whatever reason someone's name is
21 mentioned or you may see something in a document that
22 comes up on a screen that reveals somebody's identity.

23 None of these details must be published or
24 disseminated in any way. So I'm afraid that's why we
25 will not allow the students to take notes, and if you do

1 hear a name, it's not to be repeated or, dare I say it,
2 put on your social media website in any way or anything
3 like that, tweeted or anything of that nature.

4 Thank you.

5 WITNESS HIA94 (called)

6 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and
7 gentlemen. The first witness today is "HIA94". He is
8 to be known as HIA94 and HIA94 has certainly made no
9 decision as yet as to whether or not he wishes to retain
10 his anonymity.

11 HIA94, could you just stand up, please? The
12 Chairman wishes to ask you about taking the oath.

13 CHAIRMAN: HIA94, do you wish to take either the oath or to
14 make an affirmation? They have the same legal effect.
15 It's a matter entirely for you.

16 **A. I don't understand. What do you mean?**

17 CHAIRMAN: An oath is a religious oath promising to tell the
18 truth. An affirmation is simply a non-religious promise
19 to take the oath -- to tell the truth.

20 **A. A non-religious ...?**

21 CHAIRMAN: A non-religious promise. I think you had better
22 affirm.

23 WITNESS HIA94 (affirmed)

24 CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

25

1 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

2 MS SMITH: Now, HIA94, I'm aware that you have hearing
3 difficulties. So please let me know if there's
4 something that you can't hear that I ask you, but can
5 I~just take it for the moment that you can hear what I'm
6 saying to you?

7 **A. Sort of. This ear now.**

8 Q. But you can hear me okay?

9 **A. Oh, aye.**

10 Q. You can hear what I am asking. That's good.

11 HIA94, can I, first of all, ask that SND-1838 be put
12 up on the screen, please, and could that be enlarged?
13 HIA94, this document is a copy of the witness statement
14 that you have given to the Inquiry. You will see there
15 that it says it's the witness statement of HIA94, which
16 is the designation that the Inquiry has given to you to
17 protect your anonymity.

18 If we could just go to the last page of that
19 statement, please, that's SND-1844, you will see there
20 that it says "Statement of truth" and there is a big
21 black rectangle with the letters "HIA94" displayed
22 there, and you have seen the original of this and your
23 signature is underneath that black rectangle.

24 **A. Right.**

25 Q. It's dated 22nd July 2013. So this is the witness

1 statement that you provided to the Inquiry, and can the
2 Inquiry take it that this is what you wish the Inquiry
3 to consider as your evidence?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Thank you. Now you're now aged 54, HIA94. Is that
6 correct?

7 **A. I think so.**

8 Q. You were in care essentially from you were a baby. You
9 were, first of all, placed in Fahan in Donegal and then
10 you were moved about the age of 2 to Termonbacca in
11 Derry.

12 **A. I think so, aye. I don't know what age I was moved, you
13 know.**

14 Q. Well, can we just look at document SND-1847, please?
15 Now this document, HIA94, I showed to you earlier. This
16 is a document that we received from the Sisters of
17 Nazareth and it is an extract from their register.

18 It indicates your name, where you were born, your
19 date of birth, where you were baptised. Your mother's
20 name is given there. It indicates that she was
21 a domestic servant, and that you were recommended to
22 Termonbacca by the Mother Superior of Fahan in County
23 Donegal, that you were received in Termonbacca on
24 and you left on .

25 Now those -- this morning was the first time you saw

1 that document. Isn't that correct?

2 **A. It is indeed.**

3 Q. But as far as -- you thought you may have been in
4 Termonbacca for longer, but would you accept that you
5 left in

6 **A. It was . I remember.**

7 Q. Now you talked in your witness statement at paragraph 3,
8 if we could go back to SND-1838, about the move in the
9 first few paragraphs. You say that you think you moved
10 in , which is correct. You stayed there until
11 when you were about 13. That's paragraphs 2 and 3.

12 "We stayed in a dormitory in the old building before
13 it was knocked down. We then moved into tin huts which
14 were our dormitories, and there were maybe 20 or 30 boys
15 in each dormitory."

16 You remember that there were two nuns in charge of
17 the two dormitories. Now you name those nuns, but you
18 will see in the document before you that they have been
19 given designations SR2 and SR1, and SR1 left Termonbacca
20 when you were there.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. Now your earliest memory of your time in Termonbacca,
23 can you recall that at all?

24 **A. What do you mean?**

25 Q. Do you remember -- what is the first thing you remember

1 about being in the home?

2 **A. Getting beat. That's one of the main things I remember,**
3 **you know.**

4 Q. Well, you go on in paragraph 4 to talk about this, and
5 you say that SR2 -- again a sister whose name is there
6 -- was in charge of your dormitory.

7 "She used to say I was her pet and then the
8 next minute she beat me. She beat me for years. I may
9 have been misbehaving or not doing what I was told or
10 quite frequently she lost her temper for no reason."

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

12 Q. You say you got hit on the head many times and you now
13 have about twenty scars on your head.

14 "I used to get hit on the head with a brush pole or
15 the electric cable of a kettle."

16 You say that she was with you for about ten or
17 twelve years and that she was the one that did the
18 damage.

19 **A. That's right.**

20 Q. Now you talk about the scars on your head. You
21 subsequently have given statements to the police. Isn't
22 that correct, HIA94?

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

24 Q. Do you remember being examined by a police doctor?

25 **A. I do now, yes.**

1 Q. I actually showed you a document --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- from that doctor this morning, which -- if we can
4 just pull that up at this time. It is at
5 page SND-15143. This is the statement of
6 and if we could move to page SND-15144 and to
7 paragraph 17 where she sets out her examination. Sorry.
8 If we could just -- I should have said paragraphs 17 to
9 24, please. Thank you. If you could highlight that.

10 Now if we just look at that, and just the one
11 finding that I am going to refer to here is at 21, where
12 it says:

13 "Multiple, old, small, white, silvery scars were
14 noted on his scalp, numbering approximately 15 or 16 in
15 total."

16 She says:

17 "See body chart",
18 and at page SND-15145 --

19 CHAIRMAN: Just a moment.

20 MS SMITH: Sorry, Chairman. If we move to page SND-15145,
21 you will see that she has recorded those small, white,
22 silvery scars on a body chart, and she has recorded some
23 other scars on your body, but certainly the head scars
24 are seen on that chart.

25 Can I just -- you also talk in your statement, if we

1 could go back to it at SND-1839, about older boys in the
2 home at paragraph 5 there. You say there were older
3 boys who had left the home and used to come back to
4 visit, and that you saw these older boys beat the
5 younger boys, and that you believe that this particular
6 nun knew that this was going on, and that she had, in
7 fact, asked the older boys to do this.

8 **A. That's right.**

9 Q. You go on to say that she hit you if you wet the bed.

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

11 Q. You were made to have a cold bath and got beaten.

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

13 Q. You said that you got hit on the head and around your
14 ears a lot, and you believe that is probably why you're
15 partially deaf in your ear -- in your right ear.

16 **A. That's right.**

17 Q. You have got a hearing aid, but you are not wearing it
18 today, HIA94. Isn't that correct?

19 **A. I don't really wear it much, because it's confusing.
20 You know, it's not giving me the volume that I need.**

21 Q. You say this particular nun beat you with anything that
22 she could put her hand on. She would use a wooden
23 brush, or a mop, or the branch of a tree, and you say
24 you saw other children being beaten by her.

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

1 Q. You also say that in the home you swallowed things to
2 get out, because you were being beaten.

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

4 Q. You talk about being in Altnagelvin twice when you were
5 about 12 years old, and you say on one occasion you
6 swallowed a penknife.

7 **A. I did indeed.**

8 Q. HIA94, we have again -- as part of the investigations
9 that the Inquiry has carried out we have obtained your
10 medical records, the clinical record of attendances at
11 the hospital. This can be seen at SND-1936. If that
12 could be enlarged, please. You will see there --
13 perhaps you may not able to read all of this, but it
14 talks about your vaccinations. It talks about a school
15 medical examination. It talks about a vaccination for
16 measles and you attending Altnagelvin with a cut on your
17 leg and ankle which had to be stitched and you got
18 a tetanus injection for that in 1969. You had a cut on
19 your chin which required stitches in 1970, and you went
20 to the Orthoptic Clinic for a check-up in 1970,
21 and you'd a cut on your head and had two stitches in
22 1971, in April 1971. The next entry is quite difficult
23 to read, but there seems to be some talk of you going to
24 the dentist at that stage, an appointment with the
25 dentist. So it may have been an injury to your mouth,

1 and then there's another vaccination.

2 Now there's certainly nothing in that that suggests
3 that you required any medical treatment for swallowing
4 items.

5 **A. It was because I passed it out, but I did swallow it,**
6 **you know.**

7 Q. You say at paragraph 8 of your statement again, if we
8 could just go back to SND-1839, please, page SND-1839 --
9 at paragraph 8 you say that you ran away many times from
10 the home with blood running out of your head when
11 sister -- when this particular nun would have hit you
12 with a brush pole or something over your head. You say
13 you usually hid up a tree out of her way so that you
14 wouldn't get beat again.

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

16 Q. So when you say you ran away, is it fair to say you
17 weren't actually running away from the home; you were in
18 the grounds of the home?

19 **A. But I did run away from the home a few times as well,**
20 **but, yes, this was in the home down beside the baby part**
21 **up a tree. The blood was flying out of me.**

22 Q. You say in paragraph 9 that there was one occasion when
23 you and another boy, who you name in that statement,
24 were sliding down a grassy bank and this particular nun
25 caught you, and as a punishment she made you wear

1 skirts.

2 **A. That's right.**

3 Q. What can you remember about that, HIA94?

4 **A. She says, "You will not slide down again. You will cut**
5 **the ass of yourself" and that did happen. I did slide**
6 **down, you know.**

7 Q. Can you remember how long you had to wear the skirts?

8 **A. A couple of days.**

9 Q. One of the things that you also talk about -- you talk
10 about this in paragraph 10 -- was being hungry all the
11 time and you remember being sent to bed early without
12 dinner.

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

14 Q. You say that this particular nun seemed to blame you for
15 most things. You felt you were scapegoated. Is that
16 right?

17 **A. Definitely.**

18 Q. You said she would take you in, beat you and then send
19 you to bed. This went on over years, and when it
20 happened, you used to sneak out of the dormitory into
21 another part of the home where you would steal buttered
22 bread or anything to eat because you were so hungry.

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

24 Q. Is this just because you were being sent to bed without
25 food rather than because the food was inadequate in the

1 home?

2 **A. No, no. I was put to bed. I just didn't get any supper**
3 **or whatever it was at that time, and then I would sneak**
4 **out at night and around to steal bread, buttered bread,**
5 **jammed bread, anything to eat, you know.**

6 Q. What I am asking you, HIA94, is that generally the food
7 in the home was adequate. You were well fed generally.

8 **A. Well, you learned to eat anything. That was it.**

9 Q. You do go on to say that you feel you were being used as
10 a scapegoat by this nun.

11 You also talk a little in the next paragraph, 11,
12 about the routine that there would have been in the
13 home. You said you got up about 7 o'clock and you talk
14 about that if you wet the bed, you believe you had to go
15 to mass every day. If you didn't wet the bed, you only
16 had to go on a Sunday.

17 You talk about what happened to you when you wet the
18 bed, and you talk about this in paragraph 6. If we
19 could just scroll back up, please. You said that this
20 nun hit you if you did wet the bed. You were made to
21 have a cold bath and you got beaten.

22 "I got hit on the head and around my ears a lot."

23 I think we discussed that, but you are saying that
24 if you wet the bed, you had a cold bath --

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

1 Q. -- and you got beaten.

2 **A. That's correct.**

3 Q. Can you recollect anything else about wetting the bed?

4 **A. Just that you were made to get up and that was it. You**
5 **had to lie in your own piss. That's it. Then when they**
6 **came out, they put you into the bath. It did smell**
7 **funny, but I don't know what was in it, you know.**

8 Q. You do say with regard to school, after school you
9 walked back from school. Can I just ask you about
10 school? You went to Nazareth House, Bishop Street.
11 Isn't that correct?

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

13 Q. And then from there you went on to Primary
14 School.

15 **A. .**

16 Q. Now you say in paragraph 11 that at school you were
17 called "The Home Boys" because of where you lived. You
18 did not have a uniform, but you had to wear shorts, and
19 that's probably why you were identified --

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

21 Q. -- as home boys.

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

23 Q. You used to fall asleep during lessons and you always
24 remember being tired.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. You say you couldn't hear properly in class because of
2 your hearing difficulties, which caused you to become
3 frustrated.

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

5 Q. And feel you didn't learn anything and that you were
6 punished for not learning by the nuns who were teachers
7 in Nazareth House.

8 **A. And the teachers as well, you know.**

9 Q. Yes. I mean, you didn't -- if I can just come to this
10 and then I'll come back to some more details, but after
11 school you then walked back up to the home.

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

13 Q. You would have been given a snack, some bread and jam or
14 something.

15 **A. Bread and butter or something like that, bread and jam.**

16 Q. And then you went out to play in the fields.

17 **A. That's right.**

18 Q. Now there's a number of things that I need to put to
19 you, HIA94, and we discussed some of these earlier.

20 Your time at school was far from happy. Is that
21 correct?

22 **A. You're right there.**

23 Q. There is a document that suggests that your behaviour at
24 school was, to put it in neutral terms, somewhat
25 challenging.

1 **A. Oh, yes?**

2 Q. There's a document -- I can just get the correct -- yes.
3 SND-1860. This is -- if that could be enlarged, please,
4 first of all. This is a document that I showed to you
5 and it is signed by the headmaster of the school on the
6 following page, which is SND-1861. It details
7 behaviours of you and your conduct at school, and one of
8 the things that it says on 1861, just if we can just go
9 down to the second sentence there -- just if we could --
10 no. Sorry. The third sentence. It begins:

11 "The other Termonbacca boys ...",

12 and it says:

13 "The other Termonbacca boys obviously fear him and
14 he makes a point of being nearby when any of them is
15 punished."

16 I talked a bit to you about this earlier this
17 morning, HIA94, and what I explained to you is that that
18 is suggesting that when the teaching staff in the
19 secondary school were trying to discipline other
20 Termonbacca boys, you were there and that they -- those
21 boys seemed to be frightened of you.

22 **A. I don't think so.**

23 Q. Do you have any memory of that or --

24 **A. Well, I remember the headteacher, yes. He did beat me**
25 **a load of times with a strap, took your trousers down,**

1 **beat you. That was the head brother, you know.**

2 Q. Do you remember anything about the other boys or the
3 other boys being frightened of you at all?

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

5 Q. Can you remember about -- I'll just ask you some general
6 questions about your time in Termonbacca. Do you
7 remember any special occasions such as Christmas or
8 Hallowe'en or anything like that?

9 **A. Not very much. I don't remember much. Just we got
10 a present and St. Vincent de Paul used to take me out
11 every year. That's about it.**

12 Q. Do you remember music being a feature in the home at
13 all?

14 **A. Well, I remember the bishop and all being there and
15 things like that, but not very much, you know.**

16 Q. Did you play an instrument at all or sing in the choir?

17 **A. I think I did. I didn't sing in the choir, no.**

18 Q. But what about pocket money? Did you remember getting
19 any pocket money?

20 **A. I remember I used to get 6d. I think it was 6d a week,
21 you know.**

22 Q. What did you do with that money?

23 **A. I went down and bought broken biscuits and there was wee
24 tins of juice where you made lemonade.**

25 Q. What about day trips? You talked about St. Vincent de

1 Paul taking you out. Can you remember --

2 **A. Well, they took me out now and again. That's where**
3 **I thought I was going when I was getting took away, that**
4 **I was going out for the day and then I was took 80 miles**
5 **away.**

6 Q. There was an annual trip, was there, to somewhere?

7 **A. Me and SND 76 were took out every other year,**
8 **you know, an old party or something like that, you know.**

9 Q. And what about trips to Donegal? Do you remember that?

10 **A. Well, that was every year. We were took to a place**
11 **called Carrowmena. It was out past Merville.**

12 Q. Was that by the sisters themselves?

13 **A. That was by the nuns, aye.**

14 Q. What about your birthday? Did you celebrate that in any
15 way?

16 **A. I don't really remember, to tell you the truth.**

17 Q. Did you during your time there ever remember seeing
18 anybody from Social Service visit the home?

19 **A. No, no.**

20 Q. What about senior nuns? Do you ever remember any senior
21 nuns visiting?

22 **A. No, just the head nun, but sure she was part of the**
23 **place, you know.**

24 Q. You are talking about the Mother Superior in
25 Termonbacca?

1 **A. Yes, yes, yes. That's it. You only seen her very rare**
2 **like, you know.**

3 Q. She wouldn't have had much to do with the daily looking
4 after of the boys. Is that right?

5 **A. No, no, she had nothing to do with it at all.**

6 Q. You have talked about the bishop coming up.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. How often would people like that have visited?

9 **A. I think it was once a year or something like that, you**
10 **know.**

11 Q. Now you have made -- in the body of your statement which
12 we have read out, HIA94, you've made a number of
13 statements about this particular nun --

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. -- who we have described as SR2, and she has made
16 a statement where -- to the Inquiry where she comments
17 on the allegations that you make. If I can just ask
18 that SND-11655 be pulled up, please. Highlight from
19 paragraph 74. Now if I can just indicate that this is
20 what she says about the allegations that you have made
21 about her, HIA94. She says that:

22 "I am extremely surprised about the allegation
23 brought by HIA94, although it is not new to hear it. It
24 is one which he has said before and which he has brought
25 to my attention before. For some reason he thinks that

1 he was my pet, but that I also beat him made it even
2 more hurtful.

3 I recall HIA94 coming to visit me when I was in
4 hospital."

5 Can I just pause there? Have you a recollection of
6 going to visit this nun in hospital?

7 **A. In hospital, no. In the home, yes, but not in the
8 hospital.**

9 Q. She says that in the hospital you had a long
10 conversation, that you seemed very caring, that it was
11 nice of you to visit,

12

13

14 "...

15

16 Now do you ever remember having any conversation of
17 that type with this nun?

18 **A.**

19

20 **hospital, I don't remember that either. I was in the
21 home she is in, the care home, but I don't remember
22 going to any hospital.**

23 Q. Well, she says -- she goes on to say that she never --

24 "I never beat him with sticks or any other implement
25 as he describes. It is possible and I would have to

1 accept the children could have been smacked, but it
2 would never have been with sticks or straps. I am sure
3 that in schools children would have been slapped with
4 rulers or even a strap. I did not at any time ever have
5 any form of strap to use as an implement to slap
6 a child. I have no recollection of having hit a child
7 with a stick or any other implement as described."

8 So essentially, HIA94, she is saying that she never
9 hit you in the way that you have described to the
10 Inquiry.

11 **A. Well, she's a liar. She is a liar.**

12 Q. Then she goes on in paragraph 77:

13 "I am completely amazed that he felt that I blamed
14 him for everything. To be honest, my memory of HIA94 is
15 that he would never have been blamed. I think he could
16 have twisted me round his finger and could have gotten
17 away with murder."

18 She goes on to talk about an incident when you moved
19 on to another institution, and she remembers you being
20 under the care of brothers, and you ran away from that
21 institution on a number of occasions, and you came up to
22 her.

23 She says that -- she talks about one occasion in
24 particular when you arrived and your feet were
25 absolutely soaking.

1 "I remember giving him a pair of shoes to put on his
2 feet while his socks and shoes got dried. This may not
3 even have been a matching pair, but it was something
4 warm and dry to put on his feet. When I telephoned the
5 brothers and told them where he was, he said that he
6 would rather have his feet wet than have the brothers
7 told where he was."

8 Do you remember that incident? Do you remember --

9 **A. I remember she kept me a couple of times and took the**
10 **clothes off me and said she wanted to wash them, and**
11 **while she was doing that, while they were drying, she**
12 **did phone the brothers. I remember that part.**

13 Q. Is it belief then that the reason that she did take your
14 clothes to wash and to dry them was to give her time to
15 phone the brothers to say where you were?

16 **A. Definitely.**

17 Q. At paragraph 78 she goes on to say that you had come to
18 see her:

19 "... to say that I had hit him with the flex of the
20 kettle",

21 and she says that this was at a time when a number
22 of allegations started to come out, but they were still
23 very rare. She says that what she did was she told you
24 that it would not be proper for her to speak to you, but
25 that you should bring your complaint through the proper

1 channels, through someone who could advise you, such as
2 Social Services. Do you recollect that?

3 **A. I don't remember Social Services, no.**

4 Q. Can I just briefly go back to your statement at
5 paragraph 30 on page SND-1843? You see here, HIA94, at
6 paragraph 30 that you say that a couple of years ago you
7 visited this nun in the on the
8 . You say you think she had changed her
9 name. You took your son with you at that stage, and you
10 say that you:

11 "... told her that she abused me when I was in
12 Termonbacca and she walked out of the room."

13 **A. That is right.**

14 Q. That's what you remember of that occasion.

15 **A. I turned around and I says to her, "I wouldn't have been
16 here now if somebody hadn't beat me". She says, "Who
17 done it?" I says, "You did it", and she got up and
18 walked out.**

19 Q. Well, can we pull up page SND-15731, please? Now I've
20 shown you -- can we highlight that a little bit more,
21 please? Just it's quite dark. This is a document that
22 I showed to you just -- which we saw for the first time
23 this morning, HIA94, and this --

24 CHAIRMAN: Pause there too, please.

25 MS SMITH: Sorry.

1 CHAIRMAN: Scroll down, please. Yes. Thank you.

2 MS SMITH: HIA94, this a document that the sisters have
3 provided to us, which is signed by this particular nun,
4 and it is her note of what she says took place when you
5 came to visit her in the care village.

6 **A. Oh, yes.**

7 Q. What she says is you did visit her that morning with
8 your son. You first of all spoke about things in
9 general. You asked how she was and if she was able to
10 get out, as in out of the She says that:

11 "At an earlier date he had visited me in hospital",
12 but you have said that you don't have any memory of
13 that.

14 **A. I don't remember any hospital.**

15 Q. She says:

16

17

18

19 "He then asked why he was sent to these other
20 institutions", that you spent time in, "and he said" --
21 you said --

22 , and you said that should never have happened.

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

24 Q. You did say that to her?

25 **A. Possibility. I don't remember. Possibility.**

1 Q. She told you that it was Social Services' decision, and
2 you then added that you were hit in all those places:

3 "... but that his troubles started ...",
4 and she quotes what she says that you said:

5 "'When I was 4 years old, you hit me on the legs
6 with a stick and a piece of electric flex.' He
7 repeated, 'All my trouble goes back to my childhood.
8 I may have been your pet, but that was the cause of all
9 my trouble'."

10 She says that you laughed when you said, "I may have
11 been your pet", and she says that at no point was there
12 any animosity, that you reminded her it was

13 and a place to stay, and you also
14 talked about having met your mother and grandmother.

15 She says that when you left, you shook her hand and
16 said, "I will call again, sister", to which she
17 responded, "You will be very welcome".

18 **A. Possibility.**

19 Q. So --

20 **A. But that didn't give them the right to beat me, you
21 know, going through one place after the other. At the
22 end of the day all they did was put me through hell.
23 That was it.**

24 Q. HIA94, just that's the nun's account of the meeting at
25

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. -- which is different to what you have told the Inquiry
3 in that you said that she walked out when you put the
4 allegations to her.

5 **A. But she did walk out. When I turned around and says,**
6 **"I~wouldn't have been here or there if somebody hadn't**
7 **beat me". She says, "Who did it?" I says, "You did**
8 **it", and she got up and walked out.**

9 Q. Okay, but you accept that her note of what she says
10 happened is different to your account?

11 **A. No, no, what I said is what happened. That's what**
12 **happened.**

13 Q. Well, the other matter that I want to put to you about
14 this particular nun is that there's -- as I have
15 explained to you, the Inquiry has sought a number of
16 documents both from the nuns themselves and from Social
17 Services, and can I just confirm, first of all, that
18 whenever you left Termonbacca, you may or may not know
19 the reason and what you have said is that you thought
20 that St. Vincent de Paul were coming to take you out for
21 the day --

22 **A. Yes, I did.**

23 Q. -- but that the documents that we have -- if we can look
24 at SND-1877, this is a Social Services document, and
25 essentially without going into all that it says, it

1 essentially says that in , following you
2 being seen by an educational psychologist, probably in
3 the secondary school, you were received into the care of
4 the Welfare Authority and a month later you were
5 transferred to Rubane in Kircubbin, and you subsequently
6 spent time in other institutions. That's correct, isn't
7 it, HIA94?

8 **A. Well, I don't remember getting seen by a psychologist or**
9 **anything, you know --**

10 Q. But you do --

11 **A. -- but I did go to other places, yes.**

12 Q. I just want to confirm at this stage you have indicated
13 that you are willing to come back to speak about your
14 experiences in those other institutions at a later date.

15 **A. Oh, aye.**

16 Q. But we are just concentrating --

17 **A. On Termonbacca.**

18 Q. -- on Termonbacca today.

19 **A. Right.**

20 Q. Other documents that we have received indicate that
21 while you were in all of these other different
22 institutions you wrote to this particular nun, and I'm
23 going to refer the Inquiry to a number of
24 page references, but I'm not going to pull all of them
25 up on the screen, but from SND-1906 right through to

1 SND-1934 in the evidence bundle, which the Inquiry Panel
2 can look at when they have time to do so, what they show
3 is that there are a number of letters that you wrote to
4 this nun, and some of the things that you said in those
5 letters are that Termonbacca was the best home that you
6 were in, and you wrote that in 1976. That can be found
7 at SND-1914. You also asked her for photographs, to
8 send up photographs of you when you were in Termonbacca.
9 Do you remember these, HIA94?

10 **A. I don't remember about the photos, no. I mean, I don't**
11 **even remember writing to her either. Where is the**
12 **letters?**

13 Q. Well, just then we had better just call some of them up.
14 SND-1906, please. You will see there that it's
15 addressed to this particular sister and it's sent from
16 -- if we just look at the address up at the top, it is
17 sent from Kircubbin, De La Salle Boys' Home, Kircubbin.
18 Sorry. This is -- sorry. I haven't got the unredacted
19 version of that. It seems to me that seems to be
20 somewhat -- it is addressed to sister SR2 and then
21 signed by SR2, which can't be correct.

22 Perhaps we can move on to another one. If we just
23 scroll down, SND-1907. It says -- this one again is
24 sent from Kircubbin and it says:

25 "Dear sister,

1 I hope you are getting on well. I me getting on
2 well too. I hope to get up soon, sister. I hope to see
3 you soon. I hope I am ..."

4 Sorry. I can't read that very well:

5 "I hope I am able to come up for the holidays. Tell
6 [somebody] and [somebody else] that I am asking for
7 them.

8 Mind my cat Silver."

9 Is the cat called Silver?

10 **A. No. The cat was called Snowy.**

11 Q. Snowy.

12 "Dear sister" --

13 Someone else has written on this:

14 "Dear sister,

15 HIA94 is asking -- is doing very well but is very
16 lonely, poor child. I know a few lines from the boys
17 would have -- would cheer him up."

18 I think that's what it is, and that's signed by
19 somebody from De La Salle. That is one example, HIA94,
20 of you writing to her.

21 If we could just maybe go to SND-1914. These are --
22 I am just scrolling through these letters quite quickly,
23 HIA94, but you will see that in SND-1914 again this one
24 is sent from the , and it says:

25 "Dear sister,

1 Just a few lines to let you know how I am keeping.

2 I am doing okay here. I hope you are keeping well.

3 Would you tell all the boys I was asking for them.

4 I wish I was up there again. Termonbacca is the best
5 home I was in. I have been in ten institutions. I do
6 not know -- I do not ..."

7 Unfortunately the next line is blocked by the
8 designation:

9 "... to become of me. I was here about two weekends
10 ago but not in the same ..."

11 Someone was there two weekends ago:

12 "... but not in the same part as me. I think he is
13 out now."

14 If we scroll on down the next page:

15 "I", I think that's, "would like you to come down to
16 visit -- I wouldn't like to you come down to visit,
17 because it is too dangerous anyway. Sister, I would
18 have some photos of me and the boys from Termonbacca,
19 because I want to show them to my friends. How lives up
20 in -- [somebody] now lives up in ,
21 because I have seen him since. He was about there down
22 at the Primary. I am writing this letter
23 while I have the cold as I haven't much to say. So
24 goodbye for now. God bless you",
25 and you have signed it.

1 "PS. Please the photos soon."

2 I can continue on, HIA94. There is several more
3 letters --

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. -- but what I am saying to you is that there is several
6 letters that you wrote to her. In SND-1921 you actually
7 sent some hankies that you had made to her. In SND-1922
8 you name boys you liked best in Termonbacca. SND-1923,
9 it seems that she actually tried to send the
10 photographs, but that for some reason you couldn't keep
11 them. Then in SND-1924 you send two more hankies to her
12 and you have asked her to send you soap and a lighter.

13 Do you remember doing any of those things, HIA94, or
14 sending any of those letters or asking people in the
15 institutions to write them for you?

16 **A. Really, no.**

17 CHAIRMAN: Can we just look at SND-1907, please?

18 MS SMITH: SND-1907.

19 CHAIRMAN: If we just look at the bottom, I think it is
20 clearer on the lightly redacted version. It reads:

21 "Mind my cat, sister",

22 and then gives SR2's name and it is signed
23 underneath.

24 MS SMITH: Chairman, I have a copy of SND-1906, and it
25 appears that on -- if we can just scroll back up to

1 that, please, quickly.

2 CHAIRMAN: It is just it is not the name of the cat.

3 MS SMITH: No. I appreciate that.

4 **A. There is a lot -- there is a lot I don't remember,**
5 **judge, because I was on 600 milligrams a day to keep me**
6 **down. That's what they put me on, 600 milligrams a day.**

7 CHAIRMAN: This is when you are in Rubane. Is that right?

8 **A. Further ahead. Slightly further ahead, you know. There**
9 **is very little that I do remember, you know.**

10 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

11 **A. They have been drugging me over the years to keep me**
12 **down.**

13 CHAIRMAN: Yes. There are references to medication that you
14 were given when you were in at least one of these
15 institutions later on.

16 **A. Yes, but the nuns would have give us Lagaco (?) and**
17 **stuff like that down our throats, you know. It was**
18 **vile.**

19 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

20 MS SMITH: Just for clarification, Chairman, the designation
21 that is placed as the signature on SND-1906 is clearly
22 incorrect and I apologise for that error, but I can show
23 the grey redacted version to the Inquiry.

24 CHAIRMAN: Well, we have it in the evidence bundle.

25 MS SMITH: In the evidence bundle. I can certainly give it

1 to the core participants if they haven't got it in grey
2 redacted form.

3 **A. They did put me in a mental home twice as well -- that**
4 **wasn't read out -- you know what I mean -- because she**
5 **thought there was something wrong with me, but then they**
6 **says there was nothing wrong with me. It was a place**
7 **they kept me locked up at least 15 to 20 months in**
8 **a cell. That hasn't been brought up. There was a lot**
9 **of things that haven't been brought up.**

10 Q. HIA94, we have discussed the fact that you will have the
11 opportunity to talk about all of those things when you
12 come back to talk to us again about those institutions.

13 **A. Right.**

14 Q. So no-one is trying to say there aren't other matters
15 that need to be taken into account in your case, just to
16 be clear on that.

17 CHAIRMAN: Just so the public understand this, HIA94, what
18 we are doing is looking at just Termonbacca and Nazareth
19 House.

20 **A. It probably was a good place compared to the rest. Do**
21 **you know what I mean? It was like hell I went through**
22 **like, you know.**

23 CHAIRMAN: But, as Ms Smith has emphasised, we are going to
24 ask you to come back later on some other day and we will
25 look at the other institutions. That may be some time.

1 So we are just concentrating today on your time in
2 Derry, but just so it is lost -- not lost sight of, you
3 did say compared to other places Termonbacca might have
4 been --

5 **A. Heaven. You're right there, but it doesn't mean things**
6 **didn't happen in Termonbacca either --**

7 CHAIRMAN: No, I understand that.

8 **A. -- you know.**

9 MS SMITH: So although you are saying, HIA94, that you don't
10 really remember writing these letters, it is possible
11 and likely that you did do it?

12 **A. Possibility.**

13 Q. Now, as I have indicated, you did go on to spend time in
14 other institutions and we are not going to deal with
15 those today, as we have said, but can I just ask you now
16 about what you feel about the nuns who cared for you
17 while you were in Termonbacca? What's your view today
18 as you sit here?

19 **A. Not much. I don't feel much for them at all. They put**
20 **me through hell and that was it, you know. They were**
21 **wicked and they got away with it. Maybe if the Social**
22 **Service had been in the place constant, these things**
23 **wouldn't have happened. Do you know what I mean? If**
24 **I hit a child or anything -- anybody, I am brought to**
25 **court. They should have been brought to court a long**

1 **time ago. They shouldn't have been looking after**
2 **children. They weren't fit. They were not fit.**

3 Q. Well, HIA94, I'm not going to ask you a question that
4 I've asked all of the other people who have come to
5 speak to us today, and that's about what you think
6 should happen, because you are going to come back and
7 talk to us again, and I will leave that question until
8 that time.

9 **A. Right.**

10 Q. But the Chairman and Panel Members may have some
11 questions that they want to ask you about your time in
12 Termonbacca. So if you just sit there and allow them to
13 do that.

14 Questions from THE PANEL

15 MS DOHERTY: Thank you very much, HIA94. Can I just ask
16 about the older boys at Termonbacca? Were there times
17 when the nuns were doing other things that the older
18 boys were --

19 **A. No, the place was open. They could come and go they**
20 **pleased. Do you know what I mean? If a nun couldn't**
21 **control somebody or couldn't do anything, they were the**
22 **ones that bullied the younger ones.**

23 Q. Okay, and were they -- when -- how many nuns? Were
24 there just the two nuns in charge of your --

25 **A. Well, there wasn't two nuns in charge of my part. My**

1 **part there was one nun and then there was another nun**
2 **and there was one for the babies. So there was actually**
3 **three nuns looking after everybody.**

4 Q. Okay, and in your part can you remember how many boys
5 there were around?

6 **A. Is that babies and all?**

7 Q. No, just your part.

8 **A. Just my part. I would say there was about 20 or 30**
9 **roughly.**

10 Q. So 20 or 30 boys?

11 **A. Something like that.**

12 Q. And one nun, and any other staff that weren't nuns?

13 **A. There was a SND194 that was there and she would have**
14 **seen the nuns beating us. I don't know why she wasn't**
15 **called up, because she should have been called up.**

16 Q. Okay, and that's one member of staff, one nun and about
17 20 to 30 boys?

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. Okay. Thanks very much.

20 **A. No problem.**

21 MR LANE: You mentioned about wearing shorts quite a while.
22 How old were you when you were allowed to wear longer
23 trousers?

24 **A. Until you went to secondary school. That's when you**
25 **started getting longer trousers.**

1 Q. So all the way through junior school and so on you would
2 have been in shorts?

3 **A. Yes, and that's how you were marked out as the home**
4 **boys.**

5 Q. The other kids weren't wearing -- they were wearing --

6 **A. No, no, no, no, no. Rain, snow or hail it didn't**
7 **matter. You wore the short trousers.**

8 Q. Thank you.

9 **A. No problem.**

10 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for coming today, HIA94. As
11 we know, you are going to come back and speak to us
12 later on.

13 **A. Right.**

14 CHAIRMAN: I am afraid it will probably be quite a long time
15 away, but we will go into other matters with you then.

16 **A. Why is it taking so long when there is so many of us**
17 **dying off, you know? I think that's unfair.**

18 CHAIRMAN: That's a very fair question. It has been asked
19 and I am sure it will be asked again, but the --

20 **A. Why keep asking instead of doing something about it?**

21 CHAIRMAN: The Act of the Assembly didn't come into force
22 until last year. We don't have any control over that.

23 **A. Sure they are only a pack of cowboys.**

24 CHAIRMAN: There are hundreds of people who have come and
25 who want to speak to us. So that all, I am afraid,

1 takes time. We are doing it as quickly as we can, but
2 it does take time.

3 **A. I understand. I understand that, like, you know, but it**
4 **is just so sad that people are dropping off before the**
5 **truth comes out.**

6 CHAIRMAN: You may take it that I have already pointed that
7 out on a number of occasions. That is one of the
8 reasons why we've got to try to do our work as quickly
9 as we can, at the same time doing it properly, because
10 I want you to understand and the public in general to
11 understand that we are very aware of the fact that there
12 are many people who are getting on in life and sadly we
13 know that some have died even while we are doing our
14 work.

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

16 CHAIRMAN: So we are aware of that, but we are moving as
17 quickly as we can, but we have to do a proper job as
18 well, but we will see you again in due course.

19 **A. Right.**

20 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

21 **A. Thank you.**

22 MS SMITH: Chairman, the next witness is not available until
23 this afternoon. So we will be ...

24 CHAIRMAN: Yes. That's all. Thank you, HIA94. You are
25 free to go if you wish.

1 (Witness withdrew)

2 CHAIRMAN: Very well. We will start I hope at 2 o'clock.

3 MS SMITH: Hopefully yes, Chairman.

4 (12.10 pm)

5 (Lunch break)

6 (2.00 pm)

7 (Proceedings delayed)

8 (2.15 pm)

9 WITNESS HIA108 (called)

10 CHAIRMAN: Now just before we start this afternoon's

11 session, ladies and gentlemen, I want to remind you of
12 something which I said to the colleagues of the students
13 who I know are here this afternoon when their colleagues
14 were here this morning, and that is to remind you that
15 the Inquiry operates a very strict policy of confirming
16 anonymity by way of giving each person such as the
17 witness we are about to hear now a designation, and it
18 is important that everyone understands that nothing that
19 may be said today or which you may learn today perhaps
20 from a document being brought up on the screen which in
21 some way might reveal the identity of either the witness
22 who is here or anybody referred to who is covered by
23 a designation -- none of those matters must be, first of
24 all, recorded in note form, nor can they be talked about
25 or disseminated in any way, and occasionally it happens

1 that, despite the existence of the designation policy,
2 somebody refers to a person covered by name. So that
3 name is not to be in any way published or repeated
4 outside the Inquiry chamber unless -- and I don't know
5 whether this is going to happen in the case of the
6 present witness -- unless a witness is agreeable to
7 their anonymity being removed, but that's a decision for
8 them. So just please all keep that in mind and notes
9 I regret I have to say nowadays are not confined to
10 pencil and paper. It applies just as much to social
11 media, Twitter, Facebook, anything like that.

12 MR HARVEY: Just before the witness commences I appear for
13 SND67, instructed by PJ McGrory.

14 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Harvey.

15 MS SMITH: Thank you, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and
16 gentlemen. Good afternoon. The witness who is about to
17 give evidence this afternoon is "HIA108" and her name is
18 HIA108.

19 HIA108, if you wouldn't mind standing, the Chairman
20 is going to ask you whether you wish to take the oath or
21 to affirm.

22 CHAIRMAN: HIA108, you have the choice of taking the
23 religious oath or making an affirmation, which is
24 a promise. They have the same legal effect. It is
25 a matter for you which you choose.

1 **A. I will take the oath.**

2 CHAIRMAN: Very well. If you would feel more comfortable,
3 you may sit.

4 **A. The table is too low. Is that all right?**

5 CHAIRMAN: Just sit down, please.

6 WITNESS HIA108 (sworn)

7 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

8 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

9 MS SMITH: HIA108, could you maybe just move the microphone
10 towards your mouth, because we have to get -- everybody
11 has to hear what you say and we have to get a note of
12 your evidence as well.

13 Can we actually see HIA108's witness statement,
14 first of all, which is SND -- sorry. Apologies,
15 Chairman. My bundle hasn't got the SND number on it,
16 which is ... I don't have it. Perhaps if Mr Aiken could
17 check that from the bundle, please, and get me the
18 reference. Sorry. It is SND-3884. If we could call
19 that up, please.

20 Now, HIA108, when we were speaking earlier, I showed
21 you a copy of the witness statement that you had made
22 for the Inquiry and I explained the details in that
23 witness statement would be blacked out so that no-one
24 could see certain details --

25 **A. Ah, yes.**

1 Q. -- such as the names of your family members.

2 **A. Thank you.**

3 Q. If we could just go to the top of that page, please, you
4 will see that it says there that it is the witness
5 statement of HIA108, and I have explained to you that
6 that is the designation that the Inquiry has given to
7 you.

8 **A. Oh, yes, yes.**

9 Q. So this is your witness statement --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- but if you go to the last page of that witness
12 statement, which is SND-3895, and you'll see at the
13 bottom of that page, HIA108, there's a black rectangle
14 which says "HIA108", but in the original statement you
15 have signed that with your signature under where that
16 black box is --

17 **A. I did.**

18 Q. -- and it's dated 3rd December 19... -- sorry -- 2013.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. Now I can just confirm then, HIA108, this is the witness
21 statement that you have made for the Inquiry and it's
22 the evidence that you want the Inquiry to consider about
23 your time in care?

24 **A. Yes, it is.**

25 Q. Now if -- you are now aged 44. Is that correct?

1 **A. It is.**

2 Q. You have had what might be described as an unfortunate
3 family background and you give details about that in the
4 first few paragraphs of your witness statement.

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. If we could go back then, please, to paragraph 1. It
7 is-SND-3884, please. Yes. If we could just enlarge the
8 first couple of paragraphs. Thank you. You see your
9 personal details are set out here, HIA108, and it talks
10 about there were, in fact, seven girls and one boy in
11 your family.

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

13 Q. Their names are set out there. Your oldest sister sadly
14 became ill with cancer in 1977/1978 --

15 **A. At the start, yes.**

16 Q. -- and then she sadly died then in 1982.

17 **A. I think I might have been wrong. I think it was 1981.**
18 **I'm not 100%.**

19 Q. But certainly in the very early '80s.

20 **A. Oh, yes.**

21 Q. As a result of what you describe in your statement, that
22 your father was quite violent and abusive towards you
23 and your siblings -- is that correct?

24 **A. Uh-huh, a bit.**

25 Q. Your parents both had drink problems --

1 **A. They did, yes.**

2 Q. -- which would have led to your father being violent.

3 Is that correct?

4 **A. Well, that and -- probably not just alcoholism, to be**
5 **fair, because, as you can see, my sister was dying also,**
6 **and I'm sure that that would have had a big impact -- as**
7 **an adult now, knowing that would have been a big impact**
8 **on his mental state and his drinking state as well.**

9 Q. But whenever he was in bad form, you and your sisters
10 knew to stay out of his way.

11 **A. Oh, yes.**

12 Q. You say that in paragraph 2. In fact, you describe how
13 you and your younger sister started to sleep in the
14 local cemetery to stay away.

15 **A. That was one of the places, yes.**

16 Q. But some nights when it was cold, you went into the
17 chapel, because it was warmer there and it had light.

18 **A. Well, that was one of the reasons, but another reason**
19 **was because my uncle knew we were staying up there as**
20 **well. So we were getting caught too easy. So then**
21 **I~had to move on and find somewhere else.**

22 Q. You recollect that there was one night during the summer
23 you say of 1980 when you were caught by the caretaker
24 when you were in the church and you were brought to the
25 parochial house in .

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. You were taken into the kitchen. The parish priest, who
3 you name, was there along with another priest. That
4 other priest was younger. You thought he was about 25
5 or 30 years of age --

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. -- and you give his name. You said that he seemed
8 really nice and friendly.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. I'm going to come back in a moment to that.

11 **A. Yes. No problem.**

12 Q. When your sister became ill, the documents that we have
13 received suggest that Social Services then became
14 involved with your family at that point in time.

15 **A. I know you were telling me that. I wasn't -- sorry.
16 I wasn't aware of that.**

17 Q. As a child you may not have been --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- but certainly now you would accept that they would
20 have provided a home help to the family originally.

21 **A. I actually think I remember now, yes, they did.**

22 Q. After that their involvement became greater.

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. You describe in the next couple of paragraphs what you
25 say happened on this night in the summer of 1980, and

1 I'm not going to open all of the details about this,
2 HIA108, as I know you find it difficult to speak about,
3 but essentially your father had beaten you and there
4 were physical marks visible on you as a result of that;
5 that this young priest said something to you that he
6 could see that you were hurt. He then took you into
7 a room on your own and you describe in paragraph 3 what
8 he did to you in that room --

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. -- in some detail --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- but essentially what that amounted to was sexual
13 abuse of you by that priest.

14 **A. That is correct, yes.**

15 Q. You were upset by this. You were crying, and you say he
16 wasn't a nice priest after that.

17 **A. No.**

18 Q. You think that it lasted for about twenty minutes. You
19 think it was about 11 o'clock or midnight.

20 **A. Yes, it would have been.**

21 Q. Then you say that he then took you and your sister home
22 to your father, who thanked him for bringing you home.

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

24 Q. Now after this incident your parents continued to drink
25 and there was further physical abuse, and there was one

1 occasion when your father beat you and your sisters very
2 badly, and as a result of that you were then taken to
3 your GP by your older brother. Do you recall that?

4 **A. Yes. I don't remember how we got to the GP. I've**
5 **always said that. I didn't know if it was Social**
6 **Services took us or whether my brother took us.**
7 **I always try to remember, because I could never**
8 **understand how three of us was taken into care and the**
9 **rest was still at home, if you understand what I mean.**

10 Q. But certainly you and two of your sisters were taken
11 into care --

12 **A. Oh, yes. We were, yes.**

13 Q. -- as a result of what happened that night.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. The place that you were taken was to Termonbacca in
16 Derry.

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. You were admitted there on 22nd September 1980 and you
19 stayed there for a period of four days in total, leaving
20 on 26th September 1980.

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

22 Q. If we could just look at page SND-3898, and if that
23 could be expanded, what this document is, HIA108, is
24 an extract from the Sisters of Nazareth register, which
25 records the fact that you and your sisters -- and your

1 sisters' names are blacked out in this document, but you
2 see your name is there at HIA108 -- and it records you
3 as having been recommended by Derry Social Services,
4 received on 22nd September 1980 and you left on 26th
5 September 1980, when you were returned to your parents.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Can I ask, HIA108, what is the first thing that you
8 remember about being in Termonbacca?

9 **A. The first thing was the -- the nuns -- the first nun**
10 **that we had met. We didn't know the social worker that**
11 **had taken us that night, and it was -- well, maybe it**
12 **mighn't have been at night, but it was certainly very**
13 **dark and it was very late to us. There was a youngish**
14 **nun, probably early 20s -- I'm -- I can't be sure, but**
15 **probably early 20s -- who had been sitting with us while**
16 **the social -- the person that took us from Social**
17 **Services was away doing something, but still in the**
18 **building, and she took us up into it was like a large**
19 **bathroom type wash-room, and we were wearing day clothes**
20 **like play out clothes, if you know what I mean, and she**
21 **had got three sets of night clothes for us to get**
22 **changed into, and she had checked our hairs and got us**
23 **to change into them.**

24 Q. You talk about this in paragraph 6 of your witness
25 statement, which would be SND-3886. 3886. You say that

1 you were about ten years old. You were almost eleven at
2 the time that you went into Termonbacca. Isn't that
3 correct, HIA108?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. You say that:

6 "The first night was lovely. There was a lovely
7 nun. She gave us clean clothes and nice food."

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. You actually helped that nun set the table for breakfast
10 the next day. Is that correct?

11 **A. Yes. There was a large -- like a large dining**
12 **table, and, you know, I will have to be honest. We**
13 **didn't grow up that type of way, and she was setting out**
14 **a plate and a bowl down and cutlery on the sides, and**
15 **she went round with -- she was letting us put the plate**
16 **down and the next person put the bowl down and the next**
17 **one was helping to do the cutlery going round each --**
18 **where there was a chair, and I have to be honest. We**
19 **thought this was amazing. I mean, like we didn't --**
20 **I am not saying we didn't have cutlery or we didn't have**
21 **bowls, but we didn't have certainly dining tables or we**
22 **didn't set tables for breakfast or whatever, you know,**
23 **but we still got fed like, you know.**

24 Q. This was different to what you were experiencing at
25 home.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You say then that you were -- this was exciting and you
3 couldn't get to sleep with the excitement of it.

4 A. Well, no. It was the fact she put Sugar Puffs in the
5 middle of the dining room table. Gosh! I sound really
6 poor. God! I am not saying that, you know, it was --
7 because like we were still fed at home, but it was --
8 I mean, I never heard of the word Sugar Puffs in my
9 life, but they looked absolutely amazing, and I just
10 couldn't wait to -- I mean, I wanted Sugar Puffs.

11 Q. So in any event you didn't sleep --

12 A. No.

13 Q. -- and you got up the next morning, and you and your
14 sisters had the Sugar Puffs.

15 A. Well, you see, because she had said, "These are for
16 breakfast", well, I mean, we were in a big strange -- we
17 were in a big strange house and like every tiny noise
18 was exaggerated. I mean, like we didn't know where we
19 were and what we were doing, and, I mean, all we could
20 think about was that, you know, we were here on our own
21 and we thought, "Well, it's morning", you know, like.
22 "We can go down and have breakfast", but I think it was
23 like 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning, but we waited long
24 enough.

25 Q. So you went out down and poured the cereal and ate the

1 breakfast and you say you thought this was heaven.

2 A. It was.

3 Q. Then an elderly nun appeared. Is that correct?

4 A. Oh, God! Yes.

5 Q. And --

6 A. It was -- see, we weren't aware that -- don't get me
7 wrong. We were practising Catholics, but we weren't
8 made to fast in the morning before mass, because we
9 wouldn't have went to mass until 12 o'clock, and there
10 was no way you were keeping seven children starved until
11 like you would come back from mass. So we'd always had
12 breakfast early in the morning, but I wasn't aware that
13 while we were in there, you don't have breakfast,
14 because you're meant to receive communion without having
15 anything in your belly. We were sitting down having big
16 bowls of Rice -- big bowls of Sugar Puffs and the nun
17 was -- oh, let's just say very angry at that part.

18 Q. You describe in that paragraph what she did. You say
19 that she grabbed you by the roots of the hair and beat
20 you with a weapon that she say she carried on her tunic.

21 A. It was a long black -- it wasn't a weap... -- you know,
22 it looked as if it's part of their actual -- you know,
23 their habit. Not habit. What do you call that word?
24 You know, their dress, because it was -- it was -- do
25 you know it wasn't like a thing that you attached on to

1 it. This thing was actually -- this was on their belt
2 and it was long. It would have went down to the calves
3 of your legs. So, I mean, it was pretty big.

4 Q. You say that she then locked you in a broom cupboard.

5 A. Oh, aye, because I was the ringleader. Well, my sisters
6 was trying to go to sleep, you see, and I did say, you
7 know, like, "Come on. Hurry up". You know, "Let's go
8 down". So, I mean, like when we were all getting into
9 trouble, I had to say that I did -- I was the one that
10 did that, because, you know, I can't get them into
11 trouble for -- although we did all eat it, but it was
12 me.

13 Q. It was your idea.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Anyway you were in the broom cupboard. You spent most
16 of the day there, and you then say that she let you out
17 of the cupboard eventually and told you to clean as
18 a punishment.

19 A. Oh, aye.

20 Q. In the next paragraph you talk about the priest that you
21 had encountered in the parochial house in --

22 A. Uh-huh.

23 Q. -- coming to Termonbacca while you were there.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You say that he visited the home.

1 **A. He did, yes.**

2 Q. In that paragraph you say that at that time priests
3 visited homes to test children on their knowledge of the
4 bible. You say when he saw you, he gave you a smile.
5 He talked to you and your sisters and suggested if you
6 had any problems, to let him know.

7 **A. Uh-huh. This was just standing as he came in the front
8 doors.**

9 Q. You say the following day you were called by the head
10 nun and asked to follow her, and you were taken to
11 a room where this priest was.

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. You describe that room in that paragraph, and he asked
14 you if you remembered him. You said "No", and you
15 couldn't look into his eyes you say.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. He described you and your sisters as delinquents and
18 that your parents had lost control of you and that you
19 were running wild.

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. He said that God forgave you for being bad to your
22 parents.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. You then go on to describe what took place in that room,
25 HIA108, in the rest of that paragraph, and again you

1 give a graphic -- a detailed description of what you say
2 that you experienced at the hands of this priest, and it
3 again is quite detailed sexual abuse that you describe.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. You then talk about -- you speak about that again in the
6 next paragraph where you say at the end of what happened
7 in that room you say that you felt sick and you actually
8 did vomit, and that he was then in a bad mood, because
9 you had been sick.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. You then say that he got you dressed and the head nun
12 came in and there was vomit on the floor. You say that
13 your pants were actually left in that room.

14 **A. They were, yes.**

15 Q. She got a mop and bucket and was shouting at you for
16 having been sick and you had to clean up the mess.

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

18 Q. Then you say she put you back into the cupboard and you
19 were there for a long time, because everyone else was in
20 bed when this happened.

21 **A. That's right.**

22 Q. Now you say that two days later this priest returned to
23 Termonbacca.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Now you accept, HIA108, you were in Termonbacca for

1 a total of four days.

2 **A. Four days, yes.**

3 Q. You say that two days later he came back. You think it
4 was the week-end.

5 **A. Well, I say -- I say I think it's the week-end, because**
6 **there was -- do you know on a school day you would find**
7 **it quieter -- no, you would find that it should be**
8 **quieter during the day, and it -- it wasn't -- it wasn't**
9 **the bustle. There didn't seem to be -- I have to sort**
10 **of try to make sense in my own head. I am saying there**
11 **seemed to be more of a bustle -- sorry -- than the**
12 **quietness of a weekday, because you would think**
13 **everyone's at school or doing what they have to do**
14 **during the week. That is why I think it was a week-end.**

15 Q. You say that this priest arrived with another man and
16 you describe a girl in the home who was tall and was
17 known as "Big Bird", and she was told that she was
18 wanted, and you think either by that priest or by the
19 other man who was with him.

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. Then you say that you were then called. There was
22 a bell rang and you were going upstairs and you were
23 called by the head nun and told that this priest wanted
24 to see you, and she hit you you say so hard that you
25 still have ringing in your right ear.

1 **A.** Well, it wasn't that she just called me and said that I
2 have to go and then she lashed out at me. It wasn't.
3 It was because I had been probably what other people
4 would call a bit of a brat, because I didn't want to go
5 where she was wanting me to go, and I tried to say that,
6 you know, "No, I don't want to go there", and I was
7 trying to move myself -- turn myself round to get up the
8 stairs. So to someone else looking in I was being
9 a brat. So, you know -- but she did hit me so hard
10 -- say to me that I never thought I would see stars
11 again.

12 **Q.** But she -- anyway you did go with her then.

13 **A.** Yes.

14 **Q.** She left the room and left you alone again with this
15 priest.

16 **A.** Uh-huh.

17 **Q.** Was this the same room, HIA108, as the first time?

18 **A.** Yes.

19 **Q.** You again describe how he abused you again on that
20 occasion, and then after the abuse you met your sister
21 and you were crying and told her that you wanted to go
22 home --

23 **A.** Uh-huh.

24 **Q.** -- but she seemed to be quite happy in Termonbacca and
25 was surprised by your unhappiness.

1 A. Oh, aye. She was -- I mean, she -- she -- she was a --
2 she was a quite bird. She was a -- I mean, she -- each
3 person has their own way of growing up and hers -- hers
4 was that she felt that she was better off in care than
5 what she would have been going back to the house.

6 I knew my way was better to be back at the house,
7 because you could judge when someone's in a bad mood
8 rather than you're not stuck somewhere that you can't
9 get away from.

10 Q. Well, you say -- you describe the girl who you described
11 as "Big Bird" and you say that she wasn't laughing and
12 joking as much as she used to because of what you
13 perceived was being done to her and that she started
14 cutting her wrists and she said it made her feel better
15 and that you tried that yourself.

16 A. Uh-huh. I did, yes.

17 Q. It didn't make you feel better. Did you try this in
18 Termonbacca or was this after you were out of
19 Termonbacca?

20 A. Both. When she was doing it, I tried it along with her,
21 and then I tried it after it, because she said it made
22 her feel a lot, lot better. She said, "You'll not feel
23 it. It will not be ..." -- but I did feel it and
24 I didn't like -- I don't like blood. So I didn't -- it
25 just wasn't -- it wasn't for -- it wasn't doing anything

1 **for me that it was doing for her.**

2 Q. You do talk about Termonbacca again at paragraph 15 and
3 say that everyone had jobs to do and that you were
4 frightened of the nun who you describe as being in
5 charge, and you tried to avoid her by coming last to the
6 table, but that that caused her to give you a beating
7 and describe you as being a very wicked girl and needing
8 to be punished. You have long hair today. You said you
9 had long hair then, which was plaited, and she grabbed
10 you by the hair so you couldn't get away from her.

11 A. **Oh, we all had hair that we were sitting on at that**
12 **stage. The seven girls all had. My father never**
13 **allowed your hair to be cut.**

14 Q. You say that she actually hit you harder than your
15 father had done.

16 A. **She did, but it was -- you were trying to find**
17 **a balance. Well, I was trying to find a balance. If**
18 **you were quiet, you were wrong. If you were noisy, you**
19 **were wrong. If you tried to be last at the table, then**
20 **you are not being greedy, because obviously, you know,**
21 **she had issues of my eating, but -- so I thought if you**
22 **don't rush to the table, then it doesn't look as if you**
23 **are being greedy and trying to get food, and then being**
24 **last at the table means you are not listening and you**
25 **are not getting into line. I just didn't know how to**

1 find the middle -- the middle bit, what you're meant to
2 do.

3 Q. You describe that she hit you with this black thing that
4 you've described that hung from her side --

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. -- and said they beat you for no reason. There was
7 nowhere for you to go, because the home was surrounded
8 by fields.

9 A. Well, it was -- I mean, to me it looked like it was away
10 out in the Land of Nod. I know it's not now, but you
11 have to remember I'm from a small town. I'm from the
12 country -- well, part of the -- actually in the country
13 but not in the country, but like the houses is all
14 squashed on top of each other. This was a place where
15 you looked out of and it was just green around you.
16 There was -- you couldn't see -- well, I couldn't see
17 a road and I couldn't -- it just seemed as if it was --
18 we had been taken away and put on a desert island
19 somewhere. It didn't seem that you could go out the
20 door and just pop next door to your neighbour here. Do
21 you know what I mean?

22 Q. You then left Termonbacca on 26th September 1980 and you
23 went back home.

24 A. That's right, yes.

25 Q. Things at home were okay for a while, but then things

1 started to go wrong again. You talk about an incident
2 in paragraph 20 where you got a severe beating from your
3 father, which resulted in you being placed in care on
4 11th October 1980, because your parents were drunk and
5 they weren't able to look after you. You went in
6 initially to Harberton House. You think you might have
7 only been there for one night before you were moved to
8 Fort James.

9 **A. See -- sorry. I am just remembering it. See that**
10 **paragraph on 20:**

11 "On one occasion ..."

12 Where it says I was placed in care on
13 11th October 1980, that's the part that came out of the
14 HIA first statement. They were -- they were their
15 actual words, because I didn't know when we were put
16 into care and when we weren't.

17 Q. I am going to call up a document which might make that
18 clear, HIA108.

19 **A. Oh, right.**

20 Q. If we could look at SND-3904, please, and if we could
21 just enlarge that, you will see that this is actually
22 a court document, HIA108, which is the Authority to
23 Remove to a Place of Safety, and you'll see that your
24 name is there under HIA108.

25 **A. Oh, right, yes.**

1 Q. It is dated 11th October 1980. So this was the legal
2 document that allowed Social Services to take you from
3 your parents, and you will see there that they were
4 authorised to take you to Harberton House in Derry.
5 It's as a result of the Inquiry's investigations that we
6 have received this document from Social Services that
7 allows us to be sure that that's the date you were taken
8 there.

9 **A. Oh, yes. No, that's how they had the date on the**
10 **paperwork --**

11 Q. Yes.

12 **A. -- because they had this, but I --**

13 Q. You don't from your own memory remember that that was
14 actually the date?

15 **A. Oh, no.**

16 Q. You don't actually remember that you went to Harberton
17 House before you went to Fort James.

18 **A. No. I thought it was Fort -- I thought that it was**
19 **a night somewhere -- I don't remember it being Harberton**
20 **House -- a night somewhere and then Fort James the next**
21 **morning.**

22 Q. If we could just look at SND-3911, this is again another
23 document received from Social Services, and it shows
24 that you were in Fort James until 1st December 1980.

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. That is when you were discharged from care, and you went
2 there actually on 3rd November. I am not sure if that's
3 clear from that document.

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. But in any event you were in Fort James for a period of
6 time in November/December 1980.

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. So a short time after you have been in Termonbacca you
9 go back home and then there's another incident involving
10 your father and you're taken back by Social Services
11 into a children's home.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. While -- can I just ask you what your memory of Fort
14 James is? You talk about this in paragraph 22 of your
15 witness statement, which is SND-3891. You say -- and
16 again we have got this from your witness statement of
17 3rd November, but that will have been taken from other
18 documents --

19 **A. Oh, yes. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. -- you say at paragraph 22:

21 "The home was badly run and there was a very
22 aggressive, noisy atmosphere."

23 Can you explain what you mean by that, HIA108?

24 **A. Sorry. It is just that it was -- do you know like --**
25 **what a big Victorian type house, you know, like probably**

1 three or four floors, but it was like a big, big, big,
2 house, not a -- you know, like not -- you know, like
3 Termonbacca place. It was like a row of houses, if you
4 know what I mean. I know it probably doesn't make
5 sense, but that's the type of place I mean, but when you
6 went in, it was small children and older children to the
7 age of probably maybe 17 or 18 all going absolutely
8 crazy. They were like -- it wasn't -- it was -- there
9 was TVs on in a couple of different rooms. The
10 furniture was all broke. Children was all -- gosh!
11 I can still hear the roaring and shouting in my ear. It
12 was just one of them chaotic -- well, chaotic -- it was
13 just an explosion of kids and people standing about
14 probably looking going, "What under God am I meant to do
15 with this?" It is just -- the aggressive part was
16 because there was a lot of older boys and they were
17 fighting and rolling about, and it was just something
18 that I had never seen before. It was something out of
19 my comfort zone probably. That's what I mean.

20 Q. You go on in paragraph 23 to describe some of your
21 experiences there and you say that you were given pocket
22 money in a small brown envelope.

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. You were taken to the shops by key workers where you
25 were allowed to spend this money.

1 **A. That's right.**

2 Q. You think you were there about a week when you were
3 walking back from the shops and you met this priest
4 again. You say that he was walking towards you. You
5 say you froze with fear. He put out his hand on your
6 head and gave it a shake.

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. That's your head, and the key worker told you that this
9 priest had been asking about you, that he was a lovely
10 man, and you said that you felt very upset and angry, as
11 you thought the worker had told him where you were and
12 you threw the sweets away --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- and she reported your bad behaviour when you got back
15 to the home.

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

17 Q. You say then --

18 **A. It wasn't that -- the home was very, very close to the
19 shops. So it wasn't, you know, like away out of the
20 road anywhere, and it was in a very busy street. Do you
21 know as -- I have to do it in both ways. As being
22 a child, I blamed the key worker for everything,
23 although it wasn't -- it wasn't that she actually done
24 anything on me. She didn't, and I did throw away the
25 sweets like a stroppy child, but it was that I did**

1 **genuinely blame her for -- if she hadn't took me out,**
2 **then I wouldn't have met him again. That was the way**
3 **I felt.**

4 Q. You say then that he arrived at Fort James about four or
5 five days later you think.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. The priest did.

8 **A. He did, yes.**

9 Q. You were told you had a visitor and you were led down to
10 a small meeting room and he was sitting in the room.
11 You don't think the door was locked. It was a room on
12 a corridor of rooms and he just spoke to you on that
13 occasion. He didn't do anything untoward.

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. Is that correct? Then you say he was given tea when he
16 visited and he prayed with the adults. When you say
17 "prayed with the adults", what adults?

18 **A. Oh, sorry. You know the -- what do you call it? Gosh!**
19 **Oh, God! You know the people that run the place, like**
20 **the -- what do you call them?**

21 Q. The social workers?

22 **A. Key workers.**

23 Q. Key workers?

24 **A. They weren't social workers. They were like, you know,**
25 **like housemothers and fathers. They had words for them.**

1 **I just can't remember what you call them.**

2 Q. Those are the adults that you are talking about?

3 **A. Oh, yes.**

4 Q. You then go on at paragraph 25 to say that he visited on
5 a number of occasions, and you just say that you had
6 nowhere to run, that he would be waiting for you in the
7 front office when you arrived home from school, and
8 a member of staff would call you, tell you he had
9 arrived, and you say you kicked up a fuss a couple of
10 times, and a male staff member grabbed you by your arms
11 and put you in a quiet room, and you think that they
12 felt this was a lovely priest and that you were being
13 disrespectful.

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. You knew you had to see him, so that's why you kicked up
16 a fuss. Eventually you agreed to see him and it would
17 always be in the same room. You describe what he did to
18 you there in that room. You say that this happened two
19 or three times a week while you were in Fort James, and
20 you describe what happened on one occasion. You told
21 a key worker who was based in Harberton that he had come
22 to see you and she said that it was nice of him to call
23 and see if you were okay, and you nodded, but you didn't
24 actually tell her about what he was doing to you or
25 anything of that nature. Isn't that correct, HIA108?

1 **A. No, this wasn't Fort James.**

2 Q. Is this later on then, when you are in Harberton later
3 on?

4 **A. Sorry. I just -- I never caught on.**

5 Q. It is probably my mistake, HIA108. I have maybe
6 confused you, because I have jumped ahead. I know that
7 later subsequently, some years later, you actually spent
8 some time in Harberton House. Isn't that correct?

9 **A. It is, yes.**

10 Q. So if I can just be clear, in 1980 when these events
11 were happening when you were in Termonbacca and Fort
12 James, you never told anybody about what you say the
13 priest did to you.

14 **A. Oh, no, I didn't, no.**

15 Q. You were discharged, as I say, from Fort James in
16 December and you went back home. You say that when you
17 were released, you did see this priest a few times in
18 which is where you were living --

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

20 Q. -- but that you were never abused by him.

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

22 Q. Now you go on to talk about what happened. Social
23 Services remain involved with your family, because of
24 the difficulties that you were all experiencing.

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. There were various visits by social workers over
2 a period of time.

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

4 Q. Then if we can go to paragraph 34 of your witness
5 statement, which is in SND -- yes, it is there. You
6 describe there that there was an evening around 10.00 pm
7 when you were at home with your sisters and you say that
8 your parents at this stage were pretending to be
9 separated, living in separate houses, but they were
10 essentially together --

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. -- to all intents and purposes, and as a result of
13 behaviour by your father which you describe you had
14 nowhere to go. You couldn't get into the other house.
15 So --

16 **A. No. We were in the house with the door locked and he
17 was in the house next door, but I had the three younger
18 children in the house with me, if that makes sense.**

19 Q. So you and your three younger siblings were in the house
20 and you were fearful for what your father might do.

21 **A. Oh, yes, because he had an axe. It is like something
22 out of a horror film, that.**

23 Q. So you escaped through the window and you ran to your
24 aunt's house, and after that you thought that the
25 Welfare would come and take you back essentially to Fort

1 James.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. You say that you couldn't accept that. So as a result
4 you took an overdose of over forty sleeping tablets,
5 which belonged to your mother --

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. -- and the next you knew is when you woke up in
8 Altnagelvin on 4th March 1986, HIA108.

9 **A. Yes. Well, there was a wee bit of time in between one**
10 **and the other, but yes.**

11 Q. There was a gap when you had been -- you had left Fort
12 James in 1980.

13 **A. Oh, yes, yes.**

14 Q. This was in 1986.

15 **A. Oh, no, but I mean from my father coming to the door and**
16 **then running to my aunt's there was a gap of a few days**
17 **or something and then --**

18 Q. Taking the sleeping tablets.

19 **A. -- the sleeping tablets, yes.**

20 Q. Now can I just tell you that the documents that we have
21 received, if we can just go to SND-3915 -- sorry. It
22 might be -- we see there that as a result of this
23 overdose you were actually admitted to Gransha
24 Psychiatric Hospital. Isn't that correct?

25 **A. It is, yes.**

1 Q. You say that the doctors there wanted you to go to Fort
2 James, but that you refused, and you were taken then --

3 **A. It wasn't the doctors that ...**

4 Q. Social workers.

5 **A. It was the social worker, yes.**

6 Q. Sorry. The social workers wanted to take you then to
7 Fort James after you were in Gransha --

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

9 Q. -- but you basically refused to go there and you stayed
10 on in Gransha until a bed was found for you in Harberton
11 House.

12 **A. Well, you see, I think I was on a holding -- some type
13 of ...**

14 Q. Like a waiting list?

15 **A. No. Sorry. Gransha had me on a 48-hour like a -- like
16 a watch thing, you know, where I couldn't -- I couldn't
17 remove myself from the hospital and my parents couldn't
18 remove me, if that makes sense. It was some sort of --
19 they've got some law that they can do it after
20 an overdose or some type of psychiatric problem, and
21 then it was on the second day -- my 48 hours was nearly
22 up -- when the social worker came, and that was the only
23 place that they would have had that night, and I said,
24 "I'm not going back there" and then she said, "Well,
25 we've got you on a waiting list. So, you know, we're**

1 going to try to hurry it up to get you out of here", and
2 then they kept me there for I think it was about four or
3 six weeks.

4 Q. If we just go to SND-3935, please, and now if that could
5 be enlarged, this is a document that again we have
6 received from Social Services, HIA108, and you will see
7 at the second paragraph, if that could be highlighted,
8 it says that you were:

9 "... admitted to Gransha Hospital following
10 an overdose, which was thought to be a serious cry for
11 help, probably precipitated by home circumstances. Her
12 parents seem to be irresponsible, forcing her to look
13 after children as well as maintaining the household.
14 The fact of her shoplifting, which she appeared to wish
15 to get caught, would lend evidence to this cry for help
16 notion."

17 A. I know that -- it's just that it's in a lot of the
18 documents. It is not that my mother and father were bad
19 people, because they genuinely weren't, but they -- and
20 where it says that, you know, I was being forced to look
21 after my siblings, well, I would never need to be forced
22 to look after my -- any brother or sister, because as we
23 were children growing up, we all looked out for each
24 other, and when my mum and dad would have been drinking,
25 it was that you got up yourself. You got up and helped

1 look after the younger ones, but it is just that I don't
2 like -- I don't like the feeling that people would think
3 that my mother and father was forcing, I mean.

4 Q. I think the point that I am trying to make by
5 highlighting this document, HIA108, is that you say that
6 the reason that you took the overdose was because you
7 didn't want to go back into care.

8 A. Oh, yes.

9 Q. Yet what Gransha are saying is that it seems to be the
10 reason you did take it was because of your family
11 circumstances and because your parents were drinking and
12 their behaviour maybe was not quite what it ought to
13 have been.

14 A. Oh, no. I mean, I do understand that, and I always say
15 -- like, I tried to go for help with everything when
16 I~started talking about stuff, and I can't find the
17 help, and I have to remember now as an adult that if
18 I can't get the help now that I need -- and this was
19 then, and they had just lost -- this was -- they were
20 going through -- because don't forget my sister was
21 dying for almost five years, and their drinking did get
22 out of control, you know, like. I have to understand
23 that as well, and I know Social Services was trying to
24 look out for me, but I have to understand that if
25 I can't get help now at my age in this day and age,

1 well, what must my mother and father have been going
2 through then and there was no help there for them? Do
3 you know what I mean? I just sort of -- because they
4 have both passed. I have to look at it as an adult now
5 and remember that they were also going through a lot
6 themselves --

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. -- you know. I don't want to --

9 Q. Just to be clear, HIA108 --

10 A. Oh, I know. It's just that --

11 Q. -- we are not seeking to judge your parents' behaviour
12 in any way. We are just trying to see --

13 A. Oh, I know. I know that.

14 Q. -- the story.

15 A. It is just I don't like, you know, to sit and try to put
16 all my problems on it was this and it was that and it
17 was the other.

18 Q. But what I'm trying to say to you is that you are
19 telling the Inquiry that the reason you took the
20 overdose was because you didn't want to go back into
21 care, but there seems to be another view as to why you
22 take the overdose, and that was because of your home
23 life essentially at that time.

24 A. Oh, yes, but, you see, I couldn't tell -- Social
25 Services only wanted to hear what they wanted to hear.

1 Social Services to young children were, "Sit there.
2 Shut your mouth. We do what we -- we tell you what you
3 are doing". They would -- as long as you looked right
4 and you nodded at all the right places, you were fine.
5 In other ways, I mean, they could -- they could ruin
6 your life if you spoke out of turn, and -- I mean,
7 they're the ones that had the -- they were able to take
8 you around and put you in forty homes if they wanted to.
9 So you learned to be quiet, and that is why in it that
10 they're blaming one thing and I'm saying it's another.

11 Q. Can we just then just for the sake of completeness then
12 look at the report of the senior houseworker, because
13 you went from there to Harberton House. You went from
14 Gransha to Harberton House. Isn't that correct?

15 A. Oh, yes.

16 Q. So if we look at SND-3938, please, and again if we could
17 highlight the middle paragraph on that page, which
18 begins "HIA", you see there that it says that:

19 "[The] reasons for the overdose remain vague in that
20 she uses the parents' drinking habits as the total
21 problem. Everything she has said during her stay here
22 has focused entirely on this. She doesn't talk about
23 herself, and if pressed to open up, she completely
24 withdraws."

25 You are described as an intelligent girl, capable of

1 manipulating situations to suit yourself. In the unit
2 you have been exceptionally helpful and caring. You
3 will often offer assistance without being asked, but
4 tends to feel martyred for having done so, and when
5 directly asked to do something, you become very
6 assertive and will not cooperate.

7 Now that is what the key worker in Harberton House
8 was describing as the reason for the overdose was vague
9 and you were attributing it to your parents' drinking
10 problems.

11 **A. Well, I mean, I was only young. I don't know what --**
12 **what they wrote on their forms or anything like that.**

13 Q. But in any event, HIA108, you went to Harberton House
14 and you were very happy there. Isn't that right?

15 **A. Oh, yes.**

16 Q. You were there from 8th April 1986 until 21st May 1986,
17 when you went back to your parents.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. You were there for about six weeks. You describe in
20 paragraph 37, if we can just go back to page SND-3894,
21 please -- in paragraph 37 there you say that:

22 "Harberton was the only institution I was in which
23 was good. However, I did hear some of the workers
24 saying out loud, 'She's only out of Gransha. Isn't that
25 a mental institution?',"

1 and those comments upset and annoyed you at the
2 time.

3 **A. Oh, yes, but I was highly -- what would you call that**
4 **word? I think anything would have annoyed me that day.**
5 **It wasn't that they were -- they were probably not**
6 **being -- I could just hear their conversation. They**
7 **were probably having just a complete random**
8 **conversation, but if anyone had said it that day,**
9 **I would have been -- the tears would have been flooding,**
10 **if you know what I mean.**

11 **Q. Well, HIA108, now you have made specific allegations**
12 **about your time in care both in Termonbacca and in Fort**
13 **James.**

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

15 **Q. You have specific allegations about the priest that you**
16 **name.**

17 **A. That's right.**

18 **Q. If I can just take you -- if we can just pull up**
19 **page SND-14213, please. Now, HIA108, this -- what is on**
20 **the screen now is a witness statement that that priest**
21 **has provided to the Inquiry. I am not going to go**
22 **through all of it, but I'm going to point out certain**
23 **things that he says --**

24 **A. Yes.**

25 **Q. -- to you. He says that, in fact, he was appointed**

1 a curate to a parish in but only in
2 September 1980, and, in fact, he only would have been
3 there from 27th September 1980, which would have been
4 after you had spent your four days in Termonbacca.

5 **A. Yes, but he wasn't -- somewhere on my notes it had to**
6 **have said I didn't say he was a priest from**
7 **I said he was a visiting priest.**

8 Q. You say that that would have been in the summer of 1980
9 when you first say you encountered him.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. He also goes on to say in his statement -- and I'll just
12 go to the various paragraphs -- that he was never given
13 responsibility -- this is paragraph 2 I should say -- or
14 tasked to visit any residential children's institution
15 in a pastoral, spiritual or other capacity.

16 He goes on in paragraph 3 to say that the
17 allegations made by you against him relating to
18 St.~Joseph's, Termonbacca and Fort James Children's
19 Home, he says that he was in Termonbacca only once when
20 he was a student priest, when a group went to put on
21 a pantomime for the children and staff, that he had no
22 contact at that time, and he places that visit to
23 Termonbacca at some time before 1974, when he was
24 ordained.

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. He said he could not have met you in Termonbacca, as you
2 describe, because it was in Derry, and during the time
3 he had only just been appointed, as I've said, to the
4 parish, and he had no reason to go to
5 Termonbacca.

6 He also says that at that time there would have been
7 a chaplain who would have had cause maybe to go to
8 Termonbacca. A chaplain would have been assigned to the
9 other Nazareth House home in Bishop Street, and if
10 a priest were to go, it would have been that chaplain.

11 He also says that he didn't -- he totally denies
12 ever going to visit you in Fort James.

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. That he has no connection to the area where Fort James
15 is situated, and he would have had no reason to be
16 walking about in that area, and he says that if he
17 visited you two or three times a week during that
18 four-week period, that would mean he was there eight to
19 twelve times during that period, and he says that that
20 is completely untrue.

21 **A. Uh-huh.**

22 Q. He knows of no reason why a parish curate would visit
23 children in that institution. He says that he has
24 actually no recollection of ever visiting Fort James in
25 any capacity and certainly not as described by you.

1 About yourself he says that he has -- he served in
2 for a period of years, but he has no particular
3 recollection of you or your family; that he wasn't
4 aware, in fact, that he was going to go to
5 until September -- 20th September 1980, when he received
6 a letter from the bishop --

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. -- telling him to be in the parish for 27th September,
9 and that he would have taken up residence in the
10 parochial house on 4th October, and that, therefore,
11 there was no reason for him to be visiting prior to
12 that.

13 He also says that he -- he gives names of priests
14 that he said would have been in the parish at that time
15 and they are named in the statement at paragraph 11.

16 He essentially rejects all of the allegations that
17 you have made against him.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. That's the statement that he has given to the Inquiry,
20 HIA108, and I'm just asking what your comment about that
21 is.

22 **A. Well, the only comment I can give is that is**
23 **a very tiny place. If he was -- well, first of all,**
24 **is 14 miles from Derry. So, I mean, for him to**
25 **say that he would have had no call to be in one place or**

1 the other, it's a tiny -- it's a tiny amount of miles.

2 I -- I know who it was that did do what they did on
3 me. I can't pluck another name out of thin air, because
4 I know it was him, and for him to say then afterwards
5 that he wouldn't have even known the family, my father
6 is one of eight -- my father is one of eight sons which
7 all live in the same area. is a tiny, tiny

8 town. For him to say that he didn't know one of the
9 families in the town -- I don't know if any of you was
10 ever in No. It's like two miles and from

11 where he -- from where the parish house is it would
12 a mile and a half, but in everyone walks.

13 No-one ever got taxis or buses or -- and everyone knows
14 each other, and from that to say that he wouldn't have
15 even known the family would be complete and utter --
16 well, I don't know. Maybe he's -- maybe he's aged worse
17 than I have and maybe his memory is slightly warped in
18 some way, but it's definitely -- it's def... -- it's
19 definitely lacking in something. I don't know, and then
20 I suppose if I had done what he would have done, I am
21 not sure I would have wanted to turn round and say, "Oh,
22 yes. I remember that. That was something that happened
23 and I am sorry about that". Do you know what I mean?

24 Q. Well, HIA108, after you left care -- you left about the
25 age of 16.

1 **A. I did, yes.**

2 Q. Your life following that was not exactly happy, if I can
3 put it that way.

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. You ended up in an abusive relationship, and you then
6 went on to -- you have five children.

7 **A. I did, yes.**

8 Q. You now have two grandchildren.

9 **A. I have, yes.**

10 Q. With the exception of your oldest son, your own children
11 don't know what you say happened to you.

12 **A. No, not any details, no.**

13 Q. There was another occasion when you tried to take your
14 own life and you say that that was as a result of --

15 **A. That was ten years -- ten years ago, yes.**

16 Q. It is in paragraph 41 is of your witness statement at
17 SND-3895.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. Just in paragraph 41 there you say it was about eight
20 years ago, about nine years ago maybe now.

21 **A. Uh-huh.**

22 Q. You say it was a result of seeing this particular
23 priest's photograph in a newspaper.

24 **A. No, it wasn't just that. Sorry now. It wasn't just by
25 seeing -- it was on every -- it seemed to be on every**

1 channel, every newspaper there was something about
2 sexual abuse on. It was like it was -- it was like it
3 was trying to find you, you know. Sorry. I felt that
4 it was -- it was one of them things that I couldn't shut
5 up in my head, and to be honest, it wasn't just that
6 I seen his picture or any picture. It was that it
7 was -- it was becoming as if it was -- do you know like
8 as if you felt you were losing your brain a wee bit,
9 that it was trying to talk at you in newspapers; it was
10 trying to talk at you in the TV. No matter what channel
11 you turned on in the news there was always something
12 about it, and the only way I could deal with it was
13 trying to not buy newspapers and not turn on the TV.
14 That didn't work, and then it was -- it just seemed to
15 be that, "My God! Everyone knows about me" and I didn't
16 know what else or how else to deal with it, and that
17 seemed to be a good idea at the time, but it wasn't.

18 Q. Well, in any event, HIA108, you subsequently had some
19 health problems of your own. You have experienced two
20 small strokes. Isn't that correct?

21 A. Uh-huh, but they're like loads better now.

22 Q. You are in good health at the moment?

23 A. Well, fighting fit as I can be.

24 Q. Okay. Can I ask then how today -- as you sit here today
25 how you feel about those who cared for you when you were

1 a child in the two institutions that you have talked
2 about --

3 **A. It was --**

4 **Q.** -- about Termonbacca and Fort James. What do you want
5 to say to the Inquiry about those people who looked
6 after you? How do you feel today about them?

7 **A.** I just feel that -- I genuinely -- I know it will sound
8 horrible, but I genuinely felt like that nun was handing
9 me over like I was nothing, and then in Fort James
10 I just felt that I had no childhood. It felt like you
11 were falling and tumbling, because you had never any
12 charge of your own life. Nobody asked you what was
13 important to you, if that makes sense. It probably
14 doesn't, but do you know -- I know that the laws was all
15 different back then. I mean, gosh! We were still
16 putting kids lying on their bellies, you know. I know
17 things was different then, but it was just a lot of
18 things did happen, and unless people do speak out about
19 it, and whether they are believed, whether they are not
20 believed, whether people laugh at it or whether -- that
21 I didn't -- I never thought it would make me feel any
22 better speaking the words, because I thought when it was
23 in my head, it was mine and it was safe and I could keep
24 the keys of it, but actually speaking out about it has
25 -- has meant maybe that I can get on now with my life as

1 an adult and as a granny, but they -- and I know some --
2 some of them mightn't even be living now. They could be
3 dead. I don't know, but, you know, they were wrong.
4 They were very wrong, and I know everyone can, like, say
5 that, you know, "If we had things to do over again, we
6 wouldn't do this and we wouldn't do that", but they were
7 very wrong, but it's good -- it's good as an adult to be
8 able to speak the words and get them out of your head
9 and try and move on.

10 Q. Finally, HIA108, the only other matter that I want to
11 ask you is that you're aware that this Inquiry has to
12 make recommendations to the Executive, the Northern
13 Ireland Executive --

14 A. Oh, yes.

15 Q. -- about what people would like to see happen now,
16 whether they want an apology, whether they want some
17 redress, or whether they would like to see a memorial,
18 and I'm just -- the Inquiry will be interested to know
19 what you would like to see happen as a result of this
20 Inquiry.

21 A. No. When I heard "memorial", I was like, "Oh, my dear
22 gosh!" I think a memorial would be the saddest thing
23 ever to come out of this Inquiry, and it would be
24 because -- do you know everyone has really bad days, and
25 I have had them, believe me, and it would be -- I would

1 hate the thought of some type of thing like that being
2 there and that being the place that draws people on them
3 really bad days to that place to do something stupid or
4 -- you know, to me that would be the saddest and --
5 gosh! It would be the most hurtful thing to come out of
6 it.

7 I think people just need looked after. I think
8 people just need help to get on with their lives, to try
9 to move on and pick themselves up and whatever's left of
10 life, because we don't know, just help to get on with
11 that rather than ...

12 I really do believe a silly memorial or monument
13 wouldn't do it at all. That would be -- because I know,
14 you know, my own brain sometimes, that would be a place
15 where you would go and that would be a sad place. It
16 wouldn't -- there would be no happy -- there could be no
17 happiness come out of that. There couldn't be a -- you
18 know, like, what do you do? You go to a grave and you
19 lay flowers but you're sad, aren't you? So what do you
20 do at that? Do you go and look for your life back?
21 People could go there and it would come to a bad end
22 I~would think, but that's just my opinion. I am sorry
23 about that.

24 Q. Well, HIA108, thank you for speaking to us today. The
25 Chairman and Panel Members may have some questions that

1 they want to ask you. So if you just stay there,
2 please.

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

4 **Questions from THE PANEL**

5 CHAIRMAN: HIA108, can I ask you to just go back to the time
6 that you had arrived in Fort James?

7 **A. Yes, certainly.**

8 Q. You have told us how shortly afterwards you went down
9 into the village in with the key workers and so
10 on --

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. -- and you met this -- Fort James is near Drumahoe, is
13 it? In

14 **A. Sorry. I am a country girl. I haven't got a clue.**

15 **Where's**

16 Q. Well, for those who don't know the layout of Derry, as
17 you come in from the / direction into
18 Derry --

19 **A. The blue bridge.**

20 Q. -- is the village you come to before you go up
21 the hill to Altnagelvin Hospital. That area down on the
22 flat before you go up the hill, that's where
23 is. Maybe you don't know that, but the point I'm --

24 **A. Sorry. I just know it's besides the shops.**

25 Q. The point I was coming round to --

1 A. Sorry.

2 Q. -- was that you say that the key worker told you that
3 this priest had been asking about you.

4 A. I see. Sorry. We all go out in a -- you know, like
5 a batch of eight, six or eight of us.

6 Q. A crocodile.

7 A. You know like, but there's one at the front and one at
8 the back.

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. And, see, you know, I was eating sweets. Being honest,
11 I was too busy stuffing my face. Sorry. My words don't
12 be so great some days, but that's just -- you know,
13 eating away. I wasn't looking up the front of the
14 line like you're meant to be, but what they meant by
15 asking for me was he was already there. The line had
16 stopped and they were already chatting, and that's why
17 when he came down the line, he shook my head, and it was
18 on the way, like he had already passed past, and they
19 had just passed a comment and saying he had been asking
20 about me, but I was, you know -- it wasn't that they
21 were -- they weren't trying to be bad. They were just
22 saying --

23 Q. No, I understand that. In this part of the world people
24 say someone is asking about you if they just ask how you
25 are, for example. Did you get the idea that he had been

1 asking before he met you or just because he saw you
2 there --

3 **A. You see, I --**

4 Q. -- if you see the difference?

5 **A. Oh, sorry. I didn't see him, you see.**

6 Q. No, no.

7 **A. As I said, I was stuffing my face.**

8 Q. He seems to have seen you from what you --

9 **A. It was when he shook me on the head and passed past, you**
10 **know, the way you are looking to see who's rubbing your**
11 **head, and I eyed him, but I looked away quick, but it**
12 **was when -- when they had said he was asking about me,**
13 **I thought then, "Oh, my gosh! She's just told him where**
14 **we live". That was probably -- I was trying to mean**
15 **what I was feeling and thinking.**

16 Q. I understand that. So --

17 **A. That's why I tried to say the key worker wasn't talking**
18 **bad, if you know what I mean.**

19 Q. Yes. It seemed to be, in other words, it was
20 a completely accidental meeting as far as you could
21 tell.

22 **A. Oh, as far as I could -- it was just every week you done**
23 **this, you see, and it was just chance.**

24 Q. Yes.

25 **A. If I had been ten minutes later, we wouldn't have -- we**

1 went back there, did you ever -- did you go to mass and
2 see him there?

3 **A.** Now I did the Derry Road -- because I ended up after --
4 when I got out of -- when I got out of Fort James,
5 I ended up doing Primary 7 in a Protestant school out in
6 the Derry Road School, because there was -- you didn't
7 have to go to mass and that in the Derry Road School,
8 and there was a fellow out there called **HH 5**
9 -- not **HH 5**. Sorry. **HH 5** was from
10 Harberton House. He's lovely. Oh, gosh! I can't
11 remember, but he was a friend of my father's anyway. He
12 was interested in antiques, old postcards, and it was
13 fascinated -- like I was fascinated. Sorry.

14 **Q.** Well, I was really just interested in knowing whether
15 you actually did go to mass or not.

16 **A.** No, not for the full year after the -- after that, but
17 then I did have to at secondary school, because like
18 when you went to the Sisters of Mercy, you were
19 definitely at mass again.

20 **Q.** But you told us that -- in the statement that is -- that
21 you did see this priest around the town the odd time.

22 **A.** Oh, yes, but the town's very small and it's very quick
23 to get out of the town, so you're grand. Like it's only
24 a wee -- you know, a tiny place. As kids you know it
25 like the back of your hand, so you'd be grand.

1 Q. Yes. Thank you very much.

2 **A. All right. Thank you.**

3 Q. Thank you very much, HIA108.

4 **A. Thank you.**

5 Q. That is everything. Thank you.

6 **A. All right.**

7 MS SMITH: Chairman, that concludes today's evidence.

8 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, HIA108. You are free to go.

9 Thank you for coming today to speak to us.

10 (Witness withdrew)

11 CHAIRMAN: Very well. 10.30 tomorrow morning, ladies and
12 gentlemen.

13 (3.37 pm)

14 (Hearing adjourned until 10.30 tomorrow morning)

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I N D E X

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