
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, 9th February 2016

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 184)

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

1 Tuesday, 9th February 2016

2 (10.00 am)

3 (Proceedings delayed)

4 (11.00 am)

5 WITNESS HIA203(called)

6 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Can I just
7 for the benefit particularly of those who are here today
8 who are not familiar with our procedures explain that
9 quite often we are not able to start until the
10 consultation with the witness has concluded and that
11 explains why we are only just starting now.

12 Can I ask everyone who has a mobile phone please to
13 ensure it is turned off or else placed on
14 "Silent"/"Vibrate", and may I also point out that no
15 photography is permitted either here in the chamber or
16 anywhere on the Inquiry premises.

17 Perhaps most important of all, there will be names
18 mentioned quite frequently in the course of the evidence
19 today I am sure of individuals who have been given
20 anonymity by the Inquiry and who therefore have
21 a designation. We use their names in the chamber
22 because it is simply too difficult for everyone to
23 remember the relevant designation. Those names must not
24 be used or referred to in any circumstances outside the
25 chamber. So those of you who are here to observe -- and

1 I am sure you will observe that -- must not talk about
2 these people by name or put them on Facebook or anything
3 like that. If you do, then I am afraid there will be
4 some rather serious consequences.

5 Yes, Mr Aiken?

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

7 The first witness today is HIA203, now HIA203.

8 A. That's right, yes.

9 Q. I am going to call her HIA203. She is "HIA203". She
10 has travelled from today or yesterday to
11 speak to the Inquiry, and she is aware, Chairman, that
12 you are going to ask her to affirm.

13 WITNESS HIA203 (affirmed)

14 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please sit down.

15 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

16 MR AIKEN: HIA203, as I was explaining to you earlier, the
17 Panel Members have had the opportunity to read a lot of
18 the material relating to you so that we can make this
19 process as easy as possible for you.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. The Panel are aware of the various medications that you
22 have described having. If you have any difficulty at
23 any stage, you make me aware of that. The Panel won't
24 have any difficulty if we have to take a break.

25 A. Right. Thank you.

1 Q. Don't be afraid to let me know.

2 A. Right.

3 Q. You were born on

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And are now aged 67.

6 A. I am.

7 Q. You were one of eight siblings.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And you were the fourth in the family.

10 A. I was, yes.

11 Q. You were explaining to me -- I mentioned -- if I have
12 got the family connection right, HIA26 and HIA262 , and
13 you are close with them.

14 A. I am, very close.

15 Q. Those are names that the Panel will be aware of. On the
16 screen, HIA203, is the first page of your witness
17 statement I hope except for the black marks. As we were
18 discussing, the black marks are part of the Inquiry's
19 anonymity policy.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You want to keep your anonymity.

22 A. I do.

23 Q. I just want you to check for me that that is the first
24 page.

25 A. It is, yes.

1 Q. If we go to the last page at 059, and again if you just
2 check that -- you will maybe recognise the handwriting
3 for the date.

4 A. I do, yes.

5 Q. You have a copy of your statement in front of you.

6 A. I have.

7 Q. And you know you have signed the statement.

8 A. I did, yes.

9 Q. You want to adopt it as part of your evidence to the
10 Inquiry.

11 A. I do, yes.

12 Q. You are aware from our discussion, HIA203, there is
13 a number of documents relating to you. I have a big
14 file here and we were walking through some of them
15 earlier.

16 A. We were, yes.

17 Q. I am just going to give the Panel where those documents
18 can be found in the bundle. If you so bear with me just
19 for a few minutes while I do that.

20 A. Right.

21 Q. Members of the Panel, the criminal record, which helps
22 with the dates of being in the training school, can be
23 found at 4006 and 7.

24 There then are some relevant documents that explain
25 the background circumstances.

1 There's a probation officer's report, which HIA203
2 and I were discussing, of 5th October '64. That can be
3 found at 713.

4 HIA203 explains in paragraphs 3 and 4 of her witness
5 statement that she was in Good Shepherd.

6

7 A.

8 Q.

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10 A.

11 Q.

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16 A.

17 Q.

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19 Then as far as your time in St. Joseph's is
20 concerned, HIA203, you were there for two years and
21 nearly three months.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. I will say a little bit more about that shortly. There
24 is a replying statement of a very detailed nature from
25 SR240, and the Panel have access to that, and that runs

1 from 694 to 706 in the bundle and then with exhibits
2 from 707 through to 881. So there's over 170 pages of
3 documents about your time in St. Joseph's.

4 A. In St. Joseph's, yes.

5 Q. I know from our discussion you don't agree with some of
6 those records.

7 A. That's true.

8 Q. SR240 explains that she arrived shortly after you left,
9 but she is the only surviving Sister who has experience
10 of working in St. Joseph's in the 1960s.

11 If we look at 707, please, we can see on the screen
12 for the Panel these are the broad categories of the
13 types of document that were kept. You and I, HIA203,
14 were discussing some of these.

15 The daily diary, which kept a record of events of
16 importance that were taking place in St. Joseph's --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- and recording parts of daily life, including medical
19 difficulties or concerts --

20 A. Right.

21 Q. -- or letter writing, or those types of matters, or if
22 someone absconded -- and we will look at that -- and
23 were being punished.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Then they also have a punishment book, which records the

1 corporal punishment that was administered in
2 St. Joseph's and then the returns that were sent to the
3 Ministry of Home Affairs as part of the regulations.

4 Then there's also some background information.

5 One of the things we were looking at was the
6 certificate that we were talking about --

7 A. Yes, yes.

8 Q. -- for elocution. You didn't --

9 A. That was a shock.

10 Q. You had no memory of that at all.

11 A. No.

12 Q. I will come back to that later. So those are the type
13 of documents that have been exhibited by the Sisters of
14 St. Louis that they were able to unearth and produce to
15 the Inquiry from your time in the training school.

16 Then the Inquiry also has response statements from
17 the Health & Social Care Board at 342 to 343, who
18 explain they don't have a file on you, HIA203. You were
19 explaining really your recollection is of involvement
20 with SJM22 and I was explaining --

21 A. That was the only one.

22 Q. -- she was the after care officer --

23 A. That's -- yes.

24 Q. -- working for St. Joseph's.

25 Then the Department of Justice, who are today

1 standing in the place of those who were responsible for
2 the training schools, they don't have any documents on
3 you either, because they don't have it before a certain
4 date of birth in 1957. That statement is at 285 to 286.

5 Those are all documents that the Panel have access
6 to, HIA203.

7 If we go back to your statement, please, at
8 paragraphs 3 and 4 at 054, you briefly mention, HIA203,
9 the Good Shepherd.

10

11

12

13 A.

14 Q.

15

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18

19 A.

20 Q.

21

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23

24

25 A.

1 Q.

2

3

4

5 A.

6 Q.

7

8 A.

9 Q.

10

11

12 A.

13 Q.

14 A.

15 Q.

16 A.

17 Q.

18

19 A.

20 Q.

21 A.

22

23 Q.

24

25

1 A.

2

3 Q.

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8 A.

9 Q. The two of you ran off and the result of that was that
10 eventually you would be both brought back before the
11 court and sent to St. Joseph's on a Training School
12 Order.

13 A. Yes, we were.

14 Q. You and DL222 moved into Middletown together.

15 A. We did, yes.

16 Q. She was two years younger than you, and when we were
17 talking about contact with family, you had plenty of
18 contact with DL222 , as she was known to you.

19 A. She was with me, yes.

20 Q. Yes. So there was no problem of you seeing her.

21 A. No.

22 Q. It was -- what you are talking about -- and we will look
23 at it in a little more detail -- was the siblings who
24 weren't in Middletown --

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. -- and your seeing of them. I am not going to go into
2 the detail today, HIA203. The Panel are aware that
3 there were very difficult family circumstances that led
4 to you being in Good Shepherd and then ultimately led to
5 you being in the training school.

6 A. That's right, yes.

7 Q.

8

9

10 but in any event, HIA203, you are sent to the
11 training school on 4th November 1964, and at that point
12 you are 16 and three-quarters.

13 A. I am. I was, yes.

14 Q. You were saying to me that you think you were probably
15 one of the oldest girls there.

16 A. I was the oldest one at that particular time.

17 Q. And you were -- as I said to you, you spent it seems two
18 years and almost three months. You were released
19 initially on 20th January 1967 on what was called
20 licence and then you were discharged formally on 20th
21 February 1967 just before your 19th birthday.

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. We were having a discussion. You don't remember it
24 quite as the records show it in terms of --

25 A. No.

1 Q. -- where you were staying and how you worked and so on.

2 We will come back to that briefly.

3 In paragraph 5 of your statement, HIA203, you talk
4 about being -- as an older girl getting into trouble if
5 the other girls in your group misbehaved.

6 A. Yes. They wouldn't do what they were told.

7 Q. You were agreeing with me there were around about thirty
8 girls in Middletown.

9 A. Give or take, yes.

10 Q. And there were about four dormitories and about six to
11 eight girls in each dormitory.

12 A. Yes, I think so.

13 Q. I was explaining to you that SR240 was saying most of
14 the girls would have been teenagers and there wouldn't
15 have been any need for you to be in charge of them as
16 such and getting into trouble for their behaviour. Is
17 that right, that they were mostly teenagers?

18 A. Well, if -- in regards to teenagers, I mean, I was 16,
19 my sister was 14 and the other ones were like from 14
20 downwards, and she told me that -- to make sure they had
21 baths, to do their hair and make sure they didn't do
22 anything that they weren't supposed to be doing.

23 Q. Do you remember what nun that is that would have told
24 you that?

25 A. SR237. She was the head nun.

1 Q. So she was in charge?

2 A. She was in charge, yes.

3 Q. She was encouraging you to keep an eye on the younger
4 ones.

5 A. Yes, basically, yes.

6 Q. When you say that you got into trouble, it was that you
7 were explaining to me she just would have said, "You
8 were supposed to make them ..."?

9 A. Yes, that's it. You see, if they wouldn't do it and
10 I -- you know, then she would have a go at them and then
11 have a go at me, because she said I should have made
12 them do what she said.

13 Q. Yes. So it wasn't -- it wasn't aggressive ...

14 A. Well, no, not aggressive, but, you know, really
15 shouting, if you understand what I mean.

16 Q. What SR240 has said is if you were continually shouted
17 at -- and that's not her recollection of SR237 --

18 A. Well --

19 Q. -- or how St. Joseph's was run -- but if that is what
20 happened, then she says that was unhelpful. It is not
21 helpful to shout at someone all the time and she doesn't
22 think that's what should have happened.

23 You describe in paragraph 6 then the chores that you
24 were doing and the scrubbing of floors and working in
25 the laundry and the daily regime of going to bed at

1 7 o'clock at night.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. I was saying to you obviously that the Sisters of
4 St. Louis don't agree about the sequencing of the regime
5 that you are describing.

6 A. Well, you see, their recollection and mine is, you know

7 --

8 Q. Different.

9 A. -- obviously it's different --

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. -- but we definitely were sent upstairs at 7 o'clock.

12 Q. Well, if we just break it down a little, there were
13 chores to do in the morning before you --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- went to -- the younger girls were going to school and
16 you were working in the laundry.

17 A. That's right.

18 Q. The laundry serviced the Middletown Training School. It
19 wasn't a public laundry.

20 A. Oh, no, no. It was just for every... --

21 Q. You worked in there with --

22 A. Yes, for the nuns and ...

23 Q. -- another nun.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. The scrubbing that you are describing, as you were

1 explaining it to me earlier, after a meal time you would
2 have had to brush and wash the floor --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- of a particular area.

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. So it wasn't -- you weren't scrubbing floors all day,
7 every day.

8 A. No, no. We had to do it like after every meal and then
9 go to work -- in my case work; the rest of them to
10 school.

11 Q. So everybody had a certain chore to do.

12 A. Yes. They had to do, you know, their wee bits of
13 cleaning up and then go to school, but where I had the
14 biggest part of it and then go to work.

15 Q. Your recollection is that bedtime was at 7 o'clock just
16 after your tea.

17 A. Yes, just after -- yes.

18 Q. SR240 said to the Inquiry that bedtime was shortly after
19 9.00. I wonder did you remember a lot of activities
20 that went on?

21 A. No. There was activities, but it was very rare. They
22 maybe brought somebody in to give us a concert or
23 something. We were allowed to stay up late then, but
24 other than that we were in bed.

25 Q. I was discussing with you things like there was a TV in

1 Middletown. Do you remember the television?

2 A. I never seen no television.

3 Q. And there were dancing and music classes.

4 A. Yes. We did Irish dancing and we had to learn how to
5 play an instrument.

6 Q. And there was a record player so that records could be
7 played.

8 A. I never seen no record player, no, not while I was there
9 anyway.

10 Q. There was films that were screened.

11 A. Never seen any films there either in my time. It might
12 have come later, but not while I was there.

13 Q. In fairness to the Sisters there is inspection reports
14 from an earlier period that suggest there were films
15 being shown.

16 A. Well, I -- well, I never seen any. We were took out to
17 the pictures.

18 Q. You got taken to the cinema?

19 A. We got taken to the cinema, but we never seen any in the
20 convent itself, not that I remember.

21 Q. And sporting activities that occurred -- you were
22 explaining to me you were on the netball team.

23 A. I was on the netball team, yes.

24 Q. So would you have had practices during the week?

25 A. Well, not during the week; only the weekends we done it

1 really. Maybe -- maybe in the summer we might have, you
2 know, during the summer holidays, but not, you know, in
3 the week, because we were at school and everything and
4 me in work.

5 Q. Maybe if I describe it this way, what the Sisters of
6 St. Louis are describing to the Panel is you, for
7 instance, are in the laundry or the others might be at
8 school who were not past school age, but they are then
9 after their evening meal doing some activities together.

10 A. Not that I remember.

11 Q. You don't remember that. You describe in paragraph 7,
12 if we just scroll down, please, retreats occurring.

13 A. That's right, yes.

14 Q. I was asking you about that, because the Sisters have
15 said to the Inquiry that they didn't drum religion into
16 young people, that you would have went to mass once
17 a week and otherwise you had an assembly that you would
18 have went to each day.

19 A. No. We went to the chapel -- after breakfast we went to
20 chapel and then we came back, had our breakfast. Then
21 we went to work, and then at lunchtime went back to
22 chapel, and then back to work, and then at 6 o'clock we
23 had the Angelus. We had to say our morning prayers and
24 evening prayers before we went to bed. You know what
25 I mean?

1 Q. You mentioned retreats occurring. I was asking you how
2 often you remember them occurring. You say they weren't
3 happening all the time.

4 A. Not all the time. About maybe two, three times a year,
5 maybe more. It depends.

6 Q. As I mentioned to you, the Sisters have kept the daily
7 dairy that covers your period of '64 to '67, and they
8 have drawn to the Inquiry's attention one record where
9 they can see a retreat. If we look, please, at 775, and
10 down at the bottom of the page, this is a record of 26th
11 February 1965. So it is four months into your time in
12 St. Joseph's. It says:

13 "Reverend Father **SJM63** from Dundalk came to give
14 the children a three-day retreat."

15 Now you were explaining to me that on the retreats
16 you would have walked round and round.

17 A. We did, yes.

18 Q. And you were saying to me you are not supposed to talk
19 to people --

20 A. Well, no, you weren't allowed to talk.

21 Q. -- but you might have done that and tried to avoid
22 getting caught.

23 A. We did talk, but we weren't supposed to.

24 Q. But your recollection is it wasn't just once in your
25 three years that this happened.

1 A. No, no. It was a couple of times in the year, maybe
2 three times. It depends.

3 Q. I said three years. I should have said two years and
4 almost three months, but you remember it happening --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- more often than once.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. In paragraph 8 of your statement, if we go back to 055,
9 you describe an incident where -- the three of you
10 running away.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You were surprised, because I was able to show you --

13 A. Oh, I know there was four of us, but they only put three
14 down.

15 Q. What I am going to show you is the diary entry of that
16 occurring. It was on 17th November. So it was about
17 ten days after you arrived. If we look at 768, please,
18 we can see at the top of the page:

19 "November 17th. Four children left the premises.
20 They were missed in five minutes' time as it was just
21 supper time (7 o'clock). The police were informed but
22 by the time they arrived here from the girls had
23 got away. Several cars as well as the police cars were
24 out. At 11.15 pm they were found on the Road
25 looking for lifts. They were SJM64 ,

1 SJM66 , HIA203 and SJM67 ."

2 Obviously, as the Chairman has already said, none of
3 the names we use, HIA203, can be used outside the
4 chamber by anyone.

5 So that seems to be you with the three others. You
6 remember two of those girls.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. The third one you didn't remember.

9 A. No, no.

10 Q. And it was a different name that you had.

11 A. Yes, yes. It was SJM68 but I don't
12 remember that other one.

13 Q. Now it looks like you were found on the Road.

14 Your recollection was it was the Garda that brought you
15 back.

16 A. Well, yes, I think it was. Well, it was a policeman
17 anyway, you know. He was in a Landrover.

18 Q. Your recollection was that when you were brought back,
19 then you didn't want to get out of the car.

20 A. We didn't, no.

21 Q. SR237 made you get out of the car.

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. You were brought in, and you were explaining that her
24 office was on the first floor in the main building, and
25 you had stairs that went up either side --

1 A. That's right, yes.

2 Q. -- of the main hall --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- and then met --

5 A. At the top.

6 Q. -- along a corridor at the top. The four of you were
7 lined up to be punished.

8 We can see the punishment book entry. If we look at
9 874, please, and we just rotate that round, so this is
10 the punishment book that was kept in St. Joseph's. We
11 will find about halfway down, HIA203 -- it is very
12 faint, but you will see your name on the left, "HIA203",
13 and then there are "SJM66 " and "SJM64

14 " just above your name and then just beneath
15 your name is "SJM67 ", and according to the
16 record, having left the premises, the punishment was
17 getting six slaps on the hands. That was with the cane,
18 but you were saying to me your recollection is you got
19 the cane on the bottom, not on the hands.

20 A. Yes. Yes. That's the way I remember it anyway.

21 Q. I was explaining to you -- what you told me happened in
22 advance of you getting the cane was that you were lined
23 up outside the office and SR241 was minding you while
24 the others were being punished. You explain in your
25 statement to the Panel that -- you say that she hit you

1 and gave you a black eye.

2 A. She did.

3 Q. You were explaining to me that you -- do you want to
4 just explain to the Panel in your own words what you had
5 said in the corridor that caused her to react the way
6 she did?

7 A. Well, I was kind of ranting and raving and saying, "Oh,
8 she's not going to hit me", you know, sort of thing, and
9 she got angry and she just turned and she just went like
10 that right into my eye. (Gesturing.)

11 Q. So when you say, "She is not going to hit me", you were
12 referring to SR237?

13 A. That's it, yes. She wasn't going to cane me basically.

14 Q. She was in her office caning perhaps somebody else --

15 A. She was, yes.

16 Q. -- and you are -- if I describe it as being rebellious,
17 is that a fair way of describing it?

18 A. In some ways I think I was like angry. You know, it is
19 hard to explain. I just said, "Well, you know, I want
20 justice", you know, sort of thing and "She's not going
21 to slap me", you know, waving my head and she just
22 turned round and went bang into my eye, and then I went
23 in and got caned as well.

24 CHAIRMAN: Just so we can have this written down, what you
25 are saying is you were punched with a fist.

1 A. That's right. She punched me with her fist. I think,
2 you know, looking back on it, maybe it was just
3 a reaction, you know, in anger for what I was saying.
4 I don't know, but I paid the price for it.

5 MR AIKEN: And that was the only time that SR241 ever laid
6 a hand on you?

7 A. Yes, that was the only time.

8 Q. I was explaining to you, HIA203, that, having been born
9 in , she would have been about 33 when she
10 was in St. Joseph's in November '64 when this incident
11 is happening.

12 A. Yes, that would be about right, yes.

13 Q. She died in . The Sisters have said to
14 the Inquiry that they had no previous knowledge of any
15 allegation against her and it is the only allegation
16 that the Inquiry has ever received about her. You are
17 saying that it was a reaction to something --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- you had done.

20 A. Maybe it was just a reaction as to what I'd said.
21 I don't know, but I automatically thought that because
22 my eye was, you know, red and everything that they would
23 have noticed it when I went in the office.

24 Q. Well, that's --

25 A. So I never really said anything, because being 16, you

1 know, you don't think that you should be telling.

2 I thought they would have seen it.

3 Q. Well, that's the next question I'm coming to. You
4 didn't say to anyone --

5 A. No.

6 Q. -- that SR241 did this.

7 A. No, no.

8 Q. And nobody ever remarked on you having a black eye?

9 A. No, actually they didn't. I was surprised, but they
10 didn't, but I thought they would have noticed it, like.
11 Do you know what I mean? When you've got a black eye,
12 you've got a black eye.

13 Q. Well, that's what I'm coming to. There's no record of
14 you having a black eye in the daily diary or --

15 A. Well, this is -- I know that now. I didn't know then.
16 I thought it was wrote down. I don't know.

17 Q. Yes, and you have said you didn't tell SR237 about it.

18 A. I didn't, no, because I thought she would have known,
19 being as it was right outside her door.

20 Q. And she never passed any remarks either that day or any
21 other day about it?

22 A. No.

23 Q. The Sisters explained to the Inquiry that they couldn't
24 find a copy of the quarterly return that they were
25 obliged to send to the Ministry of Home Affairs, but the

1 Inquiry's researcher in PRONI found it. If we can look
2 at 2055, please, this is just the file cover that shows
3 the type of file kept in the Ministry of Home Affairs on
4 Training Schools, Punishment, Training School Rules,
5 Quarterly Returns of Corporal Punishment. One of the
6 pages in the file, if we look at 2059, please, we can
7 see the St. Joseph's return for 31st December 1964. So
8 this is the formal record sent to Stormont, HIA203. You
9 will see on this page the four of you of 17th November
10 '64. So you have SJM64 , SJM66 ,
11 then you and then SJM67 . You were the oldest by
12 the look of it.

13 A. I was, yes.

14 Q. SJM66 was also 16, SJM64 was 15
15 and a half and SJM67 was almost 13. Recording
16 six slaps on the hands from the manager, who was SR237.
17 That was the return that was sent.

18 I was explaining to you that -- you only remember
19 getting formally caned on this one occasion.

20 A. Yes, yes.

21 Q. I was explaining to you that the Sisters had brought to
22 the Inquiry's attention a further entry relating to you
23 receiving corporal punishment on 28th February 1966,
24 which was after your 18th birthday.

25 A. Right.

1 Q. If we look, please, at 699 and at the bottom of the
2 page, reference is made to this by the Sisters bringing
3 it to the Inquiry's attention.

4 If we look at the punishment book, please, at 876,
5 if we turn that on its side, we can see the reference to
6 you, HIA203. Again just slightly beyond halfway down,
7 HIA203, you can see your name. We can maybe get the
8 cursor to enlarge the particular part. Just there we
9 have "HIA203".

10 A. Uh-huh.

11 Q. It's recorded as being "disobedient and defiant" and
12 getting again six slaps on the hands.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I was asking you, "Can you remember what that was
15 about?" and you were saying to me you don't really
16 remember.

17 A. No, I don't remember too much -- too well about it, but
18 I have a feeling it was because of this SJM69 .

19 Q. Who was another older girl.

20 A. Yes. She was -- yes. She was about my age, but she
21 came about a year after me. She was very obnoxious and
22 I kind of retaliated.

23 Q. And there might have been a bit of trouble over that?

24 A. More than likely.

25 Q. If we go to the next page, please, at 8... --

1 CHAIRMAN: It is not very clear to me is it four for her and
2 six for the other girl? Four each?

3 MR AIKEN: Sorry. I said six. It is four slaps on the
4 hands.

5 CHAIRMAN: It certainly looks like four.

6 MR AIKEN: The one above is on a different date. So it is
7 not related.

8 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

9 MR AIKEN: So it is only --

10 CHAIRMAN: It is possibly a six. It is not clear. Yes.

11 MR AIKEN: If we go to 875, please -- and this hopefully
12 will answer that question, Members of the Panel -- if we
13 turn that round, please, this is again the quarterly
14 return, this time for March 1966, and we can see your
15 entry is the bottom one, HIA203 --

16 A. Right.

17 Q. -- of 28th February and it said:

18 "Six slaps on the hand.

19 By whom inflicted? The manager."

20 So this was SR237 using the cane again. You don't
21 have a memory of that.

22 A. Not really. Not much of a memory of that, that
23 particular one, no.

24 Q. Those appear to be the only two references to any
25 hitting as far as involvement with you is concerned --

1 A. Oh, yes.

2 Q. -- that have been -- and I think when I was discussing
3 this with you, you were explaining to me that it wasn't
4 the case that the nuns were hitting you all day, every
5 day. That's not the way life was.

6 A. Oh, no, no. We had some really great nuns. You know
7 what I mean? Some of them were obnoxious, you know, but
8 --

9 Q. So just like normal life. You get on with some people.
10 You don't get on with other people.

11 A. Yes, that's right.

12 Q. But it wasn't the case they were being physically
13 abusive to you all the time.

14 A. No, not really, no.

15 Q. You do describe in paragraph 9 of your statement at 055
16 a particular occasion whenever in the summer you were
17 being made eat salad and you were -- had beetroot put on
18 your plate. You didn't want to eat the beetroot.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You don't remember which nun this was, but the nun
21 forced the beetroot into your mouth.

22 A. That's right. She did.

23 Q. What SR240 has said to the Inquiry is it would be quite
24 wrong for any child to be force fed. She wasn't there
25 at the time. So she can't speak to this specific event,

1 but what she can say is in her long time in working in
2 St. Joseph's during her time she wasn't aware of that
3 type of allegation being made ever about the training
4 school, but that's your recollection of what occurred
5 about the beetroot.

6 A. You know, I know everybody is saying about recollection,
7 but it actually did happen, because I -- even growing up
8 I was not -- I never liked vegetables. So my parents
9 never put vegetables on my plate, and I could eat most
10 of the salad but not beetroot. It made me sick and
11 I told her that, but she still insisted that I had it
12 and then she shoved it in my mouth, and then I was sick.
13 Of course, I had to clean it up myself, but ... You
14 know what I mean?

15 Q. You don't remember who this was that --

16 A. I can't remember the name of the nun, you know. I knew
17 most of the nuns' names, but I think this was a new one.

18 Q. Am I right in saying, HIA203, this was the only time
19 that --

20 A. That was --

21 Q. -- this happened?

22 A. -- that was the only time that happened, because after
23 that they didn't force me to eat anything I didn't like.

24 Q. You explain then in paragraph 10 about SR237. She, as
25 you said, was the head of St. Joseph's at the time.

1 A. She was the head of the -- yes.

2 Q. She retired after you left. She retired in and she
3 died in . You explain here that you all
4 had to be in the band and do Irish dancing.

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. You didn't want to do dancing. You had two left feet.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Then learn an instrument. You were hit with a ruler or
9 a cane, but when we were talking about that earlier,
10 what you were explaining to me was you had to learn
11 an instrument.

12 A. We had to learn an instrument, yes.

13 Q. They tried to teach you the piano --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- and the -- you mentioned Sister SR269 who taught
16 music --

17 A. She was the music teacher.

18 Q. -- and said she was lovely.

19 A. Oh, yes, she was lovely.

20 Q. When the piano wasn't working out, they gave you
21 an accordion to learn.

22 A. They tried me with the accordion. That didn't work
23 either.

24 Q. Then you had a go on the drums.

25 A. The drums. No good.

1 Q. No good, but then you were able to learn the flute.

2 A. I did, yes, because they put it in such a way that
3 I could understand it.

4 Q. When I was talking to you about this hitting you over
5 an instrument, what you were explaining to me -- your
6 recollection was when you were trying to learn the piano
7 --

8 A. Yes, and they thought I wasn't doing it right. So she
9 slapped me on the finger -- you know, the hands with
10 a ruler.

11 Q. So it wasn't somebody walking around waving a cane.

12 A. Oh, no, no, no.

13 Q. It was --

14 A. It was like, "You've got to learn this and you're not
15 doing it right". Bang!

16 Q. A corrective method with --

17 A. Yes. Well, maybe so.

18 Q. Was that -- can you remember was that SR237 or Sister
19 SR269

20 A. I think it was SR237. SisterSR269 was too refined, if
21 you understand what I mean.

22 Q. But am I right in saying you are not entirely sure who
23 that was that used the ruler?

24 A. Well, it definitely wasn't Sister SR269 So SR237,
25 definitely it was her.

1 Q. That's who you -- that's who you regard it as being?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Again as to the hitting what the Sisters have said is
4 there is the records of the punishments that were
5 administered and there is the two incidents that are
6 referred to that I have shown you some of the documents
7 around.

8 I am just going bring up -- if we look at 714,
9 please. You didn't remember this, and I will find a way
10 to resolve the document issue, because the Inquiry
11 doesn't give documents out --

12 A. No.

13 Q. -- but you were very keen to --

14 A. But I would really love to have that.

15 Q. Well, we will find a way. I have spoken to Mr Hamill --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- and we will sort that out so that the Sisters can
18 give you this document. What it is showing is you
19 successfully completing an elocution class run by the

20 School of Music in --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- and getting First Class Honours. You don't have any
23 memory of this at all.

24 A. No, and actually my name is even spelt wrong on that.

25 Q. That might be more to do with the people in

1 filling out the certificate.

2 A. Oh, maybe, yes, but I know like it is my name but it was
3 spelt in a different way.

4 Q. Well, that's one quirk, but I will see if we can get the
5 certificate for you in any event. So that's something
6 --

7 A. Yes. That's wonderful. I can't believe that. Do you
8 know what I mean?

9 Q. I am not going to go into the detail of it with you,
10 HIA203, because it's after your time in St. Joseph's,
11 but after you had left and you had begun work and then
12 problems had arisen and you had been taken to
13 Prison --

14 A. That's right, yes.

15 Q. -- sent there by the court, you explain in your
16 statement in paragraph 15 that SR237 came and got you
17 from the prison --

18 A. She did.

19 Q. -- at the end of your sentence.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. She got you a place in the hostel in

22 .

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. SR240, for instance, on behalf of the Sisters of
25 St. Louis point to that piece of behaviour by SR237 as

1 evidence she genuinely cared for your welfare in that
2 she didn't have to do it, but went and did this and got
3 you into somewhere to live, because there was
4 difficulties in the family --

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. -- that I am not going to go into.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You were saying to me that she wasn't always a harsh
9 person with you.

10 A. No, no, no. She wasn't. I mean, in most cases she was
11 pretty fair, but there was occasions where if you tried
12 to tell her something, she didn't always believe what
13 you were saying. You know, like in my case like being
14 sick and all, she didn't believe it when I was telling
15 her.

16 Q. So that was SR242 and SR237 --

17 A. And SR237, yes.

18 Q. -- who you felt didn't really -- we will come to that
19 very shortly. So your experiences with SR237 weren't
20 all bad.

21 A. No.

22 Q. In paragraph 11 of your statement, if we go to 055,
23 please, you explain about this medical issue of having
24 the mumps.

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. Your recollection is you were in bed for three weeks.

2 A. I was.

3 Q. And left completely on your own when everyone went out
4 for the day. Now when I was discussing that with you,
5 you pointed out to me there probably was a nun still
6 there.

7 A. There probably was more than likely a nun there, but not
8 that I really seen much of them. You know, she was just
9 bringing me something to eat and then going and that was
10 it.

11 Q. Yes.

12 A. I was terrified because I was ill on my own.

13 Q. Yes. So the impression that this creates you were
14 literally -- no-one else in St. Joseph's, Middletown.

15 A. Well, not that I really seen. You know what I mean?

16 Q. SR240 on behalf of the Sisters of St. Louis has
17 explained to the Inquiry, if we look at their
18 paragraph 14, please, at 700, that she checked your
19 personal file and there is no record of ill health
20 recorded in it. The nursing records unfortunately don't
21 date from before 1971, but the daily diary does cover
22 the period from '64 to '67 and the daily diary, as
23 I said to you -- I think we saw an example of it when we
24 were looking at the page --

25 A. Right.

1 Q. -- for a different purpose -- does record both minor and
2 serious medical issues that arose and regular visits
3 from the local GP visiting and various hospital
4 admissions, not of you but of other children --

5 A. Yes. I --

6 Q. -- who had to go to the hospital. What SR240 has said
7 to the Inquiry is she would have expected to find -- if
8 you had been ill in bed for three weeks, she would have
9 expected to find a reference to that in the daily diary
10 in some form in some way. I was asking you earlier, "Is
11 it possible that your recollection of those events were
12 somewhere other than St. Joseph's?"

13 A. No.

14 Q. You were saying to me no. What you are --

15 A. No, there is no way. It was definitely -- I was 17
16 I think. Yes, round about 17, and I got the mumps, and
17 they either didn't believe me, because my jaws was all
18 swollen, and I told SR242 and she says no, I was only --
19 you know, because I didn't want to go to work basically,
20 and -- but the caretaker seen me and he seen my jaws was
21 swollen, and he went to SR237 and told her that I was
22 ill, and she phoned the doctor and the doctor came out
23 and said, "Yes. She's got the mumps". I can't
24 understand why it's not in the records.

25 Q. So you saw the doctor over --

1 A. I seen the doctor. That was the one and only time
2 I seen a doctor.

3 Q. Because I was discussing with you earlier, HIA203, if we
4 look at 805, the one record that the Sisters can find in
5 the diary of a medical issue relating to you is on 28th
6 July -- sorry -- 29th July 1966 -- you are 17 at that
7 point in time, so it's around -- it is the right year --
8 when you are recorded to have taken a number of tablets
9 and you weren't feeling too well, and Dr McIlroy, the
10 local GP, has been in to see you, but you don't have any
11 recollection of that, HIA203.

12 A. No. I have never taken tablets the whole time I was
13 there. I mean, it says something, a number of tablets.
14 I didn't take tablets.

15 Q. So you don't remember another occasion --

16 A. No.

17 Q. -- of being ill other than --

18 A. No. The only time I was ever ill was when I had the
19 mumps and I can't understand why they haven't got that
20 on the record.

21 Q. And --

22 A. I mean, it was this time of year, you know, in the July.
23 I know that for a fact, because I was 17.

24 Q. Yes. Well, in paragraph 12 of your statement, HIA203,
25 you talk about the issue of contact with your siblings,

1 if we go back to 055, please, and then move slowly on to
2 056. You mentioned DL222 who was with you. You had
3 no issue. You weren't separated or unable to see her.

4 A. No, I wasn't separated from her.

5 Q. The issue was you had two brothers who were in other
6 homes.

7 A. That's right, my two youngest brothers.

8 Q. They seemed to use -- they seemed to use Glenariff, the
9 holiday place that you would have gone to.

10 A. We went there every year for two weeks.

11 Q. They seemed to be using it the weeks before you and then
12 they are leaving as you're arriving.

13 A. They are leaving as we come, yes.

14 Q. Your recollection is being pulled apart from them --

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. -- when you were -- on this occasion when your paths
17 crossed.

18 A. That was the first and only time we seen them, because
19 the following year they went before we arrived.

20 Q. What the Sisters -- SR240 has said is she was surprised
21 at the suggestion if you happened to have crossed paths
22 with your brothers. Do you remember which nun ...?

23 A. Well, there was -- let's see. There was Sister SR269
24 SR242, SR237. There's a couple of other ones.

25 Q. But you don't remember which one was involved with you

1 and your brothers?

2 A. Not -- I'm not sure which one of them it was, but they
3 were the other nuns that used to come with us to the
4 place where we were. They seen us as they were coming
5 out the gate and we were getting off the coach and they
6 run to us and, you know, threw their arms round us and
7 they just pulled us apart, put the boys back on their
8 coach and they took them.

9 Q. It was the case they were in the process of leaving and
10 --

11 A. That's right. They were, you know, just coming out and
12 ready to go back to where they were and we were just
13 arriving.

14 Q. You mention that you wrote letters to them.

15 A. We did write letters to the boys, but nobody else. You
16 know what I mean? We only wrote to the boys.

17 Q. Well, I am going to come to --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- anyone else in a moment, but you -- so you were
20 facilitated in writing letters when you were in --

21 A. Well, we wrote letters, yes, but the boys when -- as we
22 got older and they came out of the home and that, and
23 they said they never received anything from us and we
24 never received anything from them.

25 Q. In fairness to the Sisters they have produced an example

1 from your file. If we look at 877, please, it's
2 a letter of 16th September 1966. It is written from the
3 governor of a borstal in England where your sister DL220
4 was for a period of time.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. In the second paragraph it says:

7 "DL220 has received ..."

8 The letter is written back to SR237:

9 "DL220 has received a letter from her sisters. She
10 has done quite well here ...",

11 and so on. So the implication of that is that
12 a letter had been written by you and DL222 to your
13 sister DL220 and your sister DL220 has looked at it and
14 the governor or the deputy governor of the borstal is
15 writing back saying that she has seen it and explaining
16 her personal circumstances. You have no recollection of
17 any of that?

18 A. I have never wrote to my sister, because we didn't even
19 know where she was. We knew she was in , but
20 nowhere -- we didn't know whereabouts in and
21 we wouldn't have wrote to her anyway.

22 Q. So what you were saying to me very emphatically earlier,
23 HIA203, was that not only is it not a case of no
24 recollection; you just never wrote a letter to your
25 sister DL220 --

1 A. No.

2 Q. -- in England at any time?

3 A. No. We wouldn't have wrote to her anyway because, you
4 know, we never really got on with her. So there was no
5 way we would even go to live with her even if there was
6 an opportunity.

7 Q. I was explaining to you, because this letter is part of
8 a number of letters --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- where SR237 seems to be engaged with or trying to
11 engage with a number of different members of your family
12 about where you might live --

13 A. Uh-huh.

14 Q. -- after you leave St. Joseph's and that's what the
15 second half of the letter appears to be about, but in
16 the same paragraph, if we go back to paragraph 12,
17 please, at 055 -- sorry -- 056, you record an incident
18 where another sister of yours, DL219 --

19 A. Yes. She was the oldest.

20 Q. -- she came down to see you at Middletown, but she
21 wasn't allowed in.

22 A. No, they wouldn't let her in. Well, they kept her at
23 the door.

24 Q. I was asking you how you knew that she had come and
25 hadn't been allowed in.

1 A. Yes. Well, as it just happened, we happened to be
2 passing.

3 Q. You and DL222 ?

4 A. Me and DL222 and we actually seen her through the door.
5 So, of course, we opened the door and run out and -- you
6 know, to see her.

7 Q. You make reference to her being called names.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I was asking you, "Who did this?"

10 A. Well, like, SR237 and SR242, you know, saying she was
11 unholy, she was a fallen woman, you know, you shouldn't
12 be around people like this, you know, that type of
13 thing. I mean, back in the day I suppose, you know,
14 they didn't like people that weren't married and had
15 children out of, you know, as they call wedlock. You
16 know, they had a funny attitude when it came to people
17 that weren't married and even more so is because even if
18 they were married, they weren't married in the Catholic
19 chapel.

20 Q. You explain in paragraph 22 of your statement at 058
21 that being kept apart from your siblings --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- was the worst part. You are of the view if you could
24 have been allowed to look after each other, things might
25 have turned out differently.

1 A. Well, we think they would have been if we had had the
2 opportunity, because growing up, the older -- you know,
3 the older ones looked after the younger ones, because my
4 mum had been ill for a couple of years before she died.
5 So we took everything to do with the boys and, you know,
6 the younger ones. Like, we looked after them. We fed
7 them. We took them out with us. They went everywhere
8 with us and ...

9 Q. I was discussing with you, as you know -- and I am not
10 going to bring it up -- there is a letter where it seems
11 to record SR237 talking to your family members, who
12 weren't prepared to have you to live with them.

13 A. Well, that's it.

14 Q. Perhaps the recollection -- what you believed would have
15 been best, that doesn't seem to have been possible at
16 the time.

17 A. Well, yes. The only problem I -- more than anything was
18 the fact that they didn't consult me in any way. They
19 didn't ask me where I wanted to go. They just went and
20 done it and says, "Right. This is where you're going".
21 They sent me to people I didn't even know.

22 Q. You went to live with your aunt.

23 A. Well, she was my mother's aunt.

24 Q. Mother's aunt, and we will come --

25 A. I mean, we didn't know these people.

1 Q. Bear with me for a moment and we will come back to that
2 towards the end.

3 HIA203, SR240, when responding to this, has said to
4 the Inquiry that the importance of sibling contact was
5 recognised and she does accept there is nothing in your
6 personal file that records contact with your brothers
7 during holidays, but she found it hard to believe you
8 would have been pulled apart from your brothers,
9 although in the circumstances you are explaining it may
10 have been they were going off on the bus.

11 She does point, if we look at 814, to an example,
12 for instance, showing that letter writing was encouraged
13 by the Sisters. If we scroll down to the bottom,
14 please, the entry of 17th December says:

15 "In the afternoon the children wrote many letters
16 and cards to parents, relatives and friends, watched TV
17 ..."

18 That's why I was saying -- you don't remember the
19 television but --

20 A. I -- there was no television that I remember. You know,
21 maybe it came after I left. I have no idea.

22 Q. This is --

23 A. This thing about encouraged to write letter, we weren't
24 encouraged to write letters. We wrote letters, but we
25 weren't encouraged to do it.

1 Q. Right.

2 A. We wrote letters because we wanted to write till, like,
3 our brothers.

4 Q. You weren't prevented from writing letters.

5 A. No. We weren't prevented from writing, but then again
6 we weren't encouraged either.

7 Q. But the paper and pens and so on --

8 A. But when we asked for it, we got it, yes. With regards
9 to cards, no.

10 Q. Then it records:

11 "At 7.10 pm went to the town hall to a concert. All
12 enjoyed it very much."

13 A. That must have been after my time, because I never went
14 to the Uls... -- for any concert. Any concert we had
15 was back in the convent, you know, in the -- where we
16 were.

17 Q. This is a diary entry of 17th December 1966. So it
18 is -- you are there until January '67.

19 A. Yes. Well, I don't remember --

20 Q. You don't have any memory of this at all?

21 A. I don't remember going there at all. I remember us
22 going to the cinema and, as I said, I remember them
23 taking us roller-skating once or twice, but I don't
24 remember going for no concerts.

25 Q. While acknowledging that she wasn't there at the time

1 you are describing, HIA203, she says to the Inquiry that
2 from her knowledge of SR237, because they spent a number
3 of years working together after you left, she doesn't
4 believe her attitude would have been to treat families
5 in that way and points to various other references in
6 the diaries that record regular monthly visits from
7 family and other visits occurring outside the regular
8 monthly event, but that's not your recollection.

9 A. I never seen any visitors coming at all in my time.

10 Q. As said to you, I am not going to bring up -- the Panel
11 are aware of a letter of 3rd December.

12 A. You know, I mean, as I said, what their recollection is
13 and what mine, as you said, that nun was not there at
14 the time I was there. So she is only going by what she
15 is reading in papers.

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. Do you understand what I am saying?

18 Q. The point she is making is that these were records that
19 were made at the time of the events and it wouldn't
20 necessarily be known that you and I would be coming many
21 years later to look at them.

22 A. Well, this is the problem, isn't it, that they -- people
23 can write what they like in paper and people coming
24 behind them are reading the papers, but it doesn't
25 always necessarily mean that what they've said in it is

1 true.

2 Q. Right.

3 A. They will put it down because that's what they want
4 people to think that they know, but it is not actually
5 all the truth.

6 Q. I was explaining to you, HIA203, that there is a letter
7 of 3rd December 1966. I am going to give the Panel
8 a reference. You and I looked at it earlier.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I am not going to bring it up on the screen. It is at
11 879. It indicates that SR237 was engaged in discussions
12 with various relatives about arranging accommodation and
13 that was proving a difficult process.

14 There is another letter of 19th December '66 where
15 she was engaging in an assessment process. You don't
16 remember anything about that we were discussing.

17 A. I don't remember any assessment.

18 Q. That was at 881. We don't need to bring that up either.

19 You made a point about bedding in paragraph 13 of
20 your statement at 056, that during inspections that were
21 taking place new bedding was brought out.

22 A. Yes, a brand new bed out of the packets.

23 Q. But then it was taken away again.

24 A. Then after the visitors went, then they wrapped them up,
25 you know, folded them up, put them back in wrappers and

1 put them back in the storeroom.

2 Q. I was saying to you that SR240 was saying that the
3 bedding was regularly washed and changed and so on and
4 you agree with that.

5 A. Well, of course, because I was in the laundry. So I was
6 I was the one doing the washing. So, yes, don't get me
7 wrong. They were -- the bedding was clean and
8 everything, because I done it myself, but what I'm
9 saying is that when, you know, official people came,
10 sure, they would bring out all the new, you know, stuff
11 like bedspreads and that and put them on -- give us them
12 to put on the bed, and as soon as they went, they were
13 wrapped up and put back in the storeroom.

14 Q. I think the point that SR240 is making to the Inquiry is
15 that that never happened in her time that she remembers.

16 A. Well, it didn't happen maybe in her time, but it did
17 happen in mine.

18 Q. Then in paragraph 14 of your statement, HIA203, you talk
19 about not being prepared for leaving --

20 A. No.

21 Q. -- and how basically on the day you were leaving you
22 were told you were going, and SJM22, the after care
23 worker, took you to Belfast.

24 A. That's right, yes.

25 Q. I was explaining to you that the Sisters point to

1 a diary entry. For instance, if we look at 818, please,
2 this is on 18th January, and we will see -- 1967, and we
3 will see in a moment that you leave on 22nd, but on 18th
4 it records SR237 taking another girl and you to Belfast
5 for an interview in view of getting jobs in the near
6 future. You were saying to me you --

7 A. No, that did not happen.

8 Q. That didn't happen?

9 A. No. The only time I ever went back to Belfast is when
10 SJM22 came and brought me from the home back down to
11 Belfast. That was the only time.

12 Q. If we move through to 819, HIA203, we will see that
13 happening, because that is the entry then of
14 22nd January --

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. -- which is you being discharged on licence and SJM22
17 coming for you that day, but just on the point you make
18 if we can look at 2748, please, this is the register
19 that records your leaving, and if we go to the page just
20 before for a moment, 2747, we can see the reference --
21 if we just scroll up, we can see HIA203 is the middle
22 one. So these pages are side by side. We can't do that
23 on the screen. If we scroll down following the pattern,
24 we will see this runs across and we get the information
25 about your family.

1 A. Right.

2 Q. But then over to the right-hand side -- and it is
3 difficult to make out -- we can see that the day after
4 SJM22 is recorded in the diary as taking -- having taken
5 you, you are recorded as living with your cousin,

6 , in . Now you had grown up
7 in .

8 A. No. I grew up in .

9 Q. Your family had a home at one stage in --

10 A. No.

11 Q. No, and --

12 A. My mother's family had family that lived in ,
13 but not us.

14 Q. Right. Well, the social report has -- I will just give
15 the Panel the reference. It is 713. The social report
16 of October '64 from the probation officer has

17 as the address, but that's not -- you
18 remember the rather than --

19 A. We never lived in at all at any time.

20 Q. Okay, and it records you as having a job as a laundress
21 at the Laundry. You were saying to me you have no
22 --

23 A. No.

24 Q. -- memory of that at all.

25 A. No. I -- the first job I got when I went to my cousin's

1 was in a factory down on the Road, not in
2 the laundry.

3 Q. Then a month later, which records the discharge date,
4 which is February of '67, it records you as being
5 employed as the assistant in the Hospital.

6 A. I did work at the Hospital, but not on that date.

7 Q. Yes. You were saying to me that you believe that it was
8 when SR237 came and got you from Prison.

9 A. That's right, yes.

10 Q. Now that didn't happen until March 1967. So --

11 A. Well, that's right, yes.

12 Q. -- this is recording you in February '67 as working in
13 the , but --

14 A. No. I -- I worked -- I went to the Hospital when
15 I was in the hostel.

16 Q. So once SR237 brought you back from to live in
17 the hostel, then you worked in the as a for
18 a period of time?

19 A. That's right. It was a live-in thing, because I didn't
20 want to stay in the hostel.

21 Q. If we look at -- the position of the Sisters is set out
22 if we look at 704, please, HIA203, because this is part
23 of the next question I am going to ask you about
24 recommendations, because we were discussing the
25 recommendations the Panel might make. If we scroll down

1 to paragraph 20, please, you explain -- SR240 says:

2 "I am sincerely sorry that HIA203 has such negative
3 memories of her time in St. Joseph's and subsequent to
4 it, particularly regarding what she feels is a lack of
5 after care service. I can only point to the documentary
6 records which we have retained of the relevant period of
7 HIA203's residence, which are not consistent with all of
8 HIA203's recollections."

9 Then she goes on to talk about after care service.
10 She says:

11 "I consider that SJM22", who was the after care
12 worker, "did excellent work for girls, including HIA203,
13 in relation to ... after care and transition to
14 independent life ..."

15 Then she says she is unable to comment on
16 recollections of the hostel. So she is
17 apologising that you have such a negative view of your
18 time in St. Joseph's. Is there anything you want to say
19 about that, HIA203?

20 A. Well, I mean, as I said right at the beginning, I mean,
21 they didn't teach us anything apart from religion, and
22 they didn't even tell me I was leaving until the day
23 I left, you know, and they are saying about to change
24 the clothes. The clothes that they gave me was for
25 a 40-year-old woman. I was 18, coming 19, and they were

1 giving me clothes that a 40-year-old woman wouldn't have
2 wore. So ...

3 Q. The point about education, HIA203, is when you went into
4 St. Joseph's, you were already left. I think the school
5 leaving age was --

6 A. I understand all that there --

7 Q. -- 15.

8 A. -- but, you know, the fact is that they're saying about
9 job interviews. I never had any job interviews with
10 anybody. They never brought me to see anybody for jobs.
11 They never gave me any money. They just left me without
12 any money or any prospects. That there is the biggest
13 problem for most of the girls that was there the same as
14 myself. They all will tell you the same thing. They
15 were left with nothing.

16 Q. The last two questions that I ask each witness, HIA203,
17 the first one is about the recommendations, and I said
18 to you the Panel have to consider what recommendations
19 they might make to the Northern Ireland Executive about
20 three areas: some form of apology; some memorial of some
21 kind; or some other means of redress. We ask each
22 witness whether there is anything they want to say about
23 that. You probably also got a questionnaire about it,
24 but is there anything you want to say to the Panel in
25 your evidence about those issues?

1 A. Well, yes. I mean, as I said before, I think that they
2 should say and apologise for the treatment and for their
3 lack of care to people like myself. Some had it worse
4 than I had and, I mean, I suffered with depression for
5 many years, and I don't trust people the way I used to,
6 and I think it's -- they should stand up and be counted
7 and tell us that they're sorry for what they did to all
8 children that was in care in the '60s -- well, from the
9 '50s right on up to the '6... -- the '70s. I think the
10 ones coming after us had it a bit easier and had more
11 input into their lives. We had nothing. We were just,
12 "You do it" and that was it, and I think it's only right
13 that they should apologise to everybody for their lack
14 of care and attention, and that's all I can say about
15 it.

16 Q. The last question I want to ask you, HIA203, we ask each
17 person -- we have covered St. Joseph's
18 whether there is anything else you want to
19 say about . Maybe I haven't
20 covered something correctly or accurately, or maybe
21 I missed the emphasis of something or the detail of
22 something and you want to mention it now. Now is your
23 opportunity to do that.

24 A. No. As I said, like, the children of today has it
25 slightly better than what we did, but they need to make

1 recommendations that they give kids the proper
2 education, proper medical -- you know, medical things
3 and for to do more for the children of today than what
4 they did back in our time, and that's all I can really
5 say about it, but for to get -- you know, treat them as
6 human beings, not as just cattle, if you understand what
7 I mean. You know, give them respect that they deserve.
8 That's all I can say.

9 Q. HIA203, I am not going to ask you any more questions.

10 A. Right.

11 Q.

12

13 A.

14 Q.

16

17

18 I am not going to ask you any more questions.

19 A. Right. Thank you.

20 Q. The Panel Members may want to ask you something. So if
21 you just bear with us for a short time --

22 A. All right.

23 Q. -- we will deal with that.

24 Questions from THE PANEL

25 CHAIRMAN: HIA203, can I just ask you -- and if we could

1 look at page 877, please -- about the letter to your
2 sister?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Now you did have a sister DL220 .

5 A. I do have a sister DL220 , but ...

6 Q. This -- if you look on the screen, you say this is
7 talking -- this is to SR237:

8 "DL220 has received a letter from her sisters ..."

9 There was just you and DL222 in --

10 A. There was just me and DL222 , yes.

11 Q. You don't remember writing that?

12 A. No, no. As I say, when my mother was in hospital, she
13 was looking after us for a while and she fed us cream
14 cakes all day. She never gave us food, you know, and my
15 eldest sister came back home because of it to look after
16 us, and we never really got on anyway as children, you
17 know, and so there's no way that me personally would
18 have wrote anything to her.

19 Q. Yes. How much younger than you was DL222 ?

20 A. Well, maybe after I left because DL222 was still there,
21 but ...

22 Q. How many years younger than you was DL222 ?

23 A. DL222 was two years younger than me.

24 Q. I see, but you were both there together for some time?

25 A. We were there together, yes.

1 Q. I see. Can I just ask you about your recollection of
2 entertainment and so on? Do you remember any films
3 being shown?

4 A. No. I remember going to the pictures, you know, the
5 cinema, you know.

6 Q. Going out of the home to a nearby cinema?

7 A. Yes. We -- they took us to the one in Belfast and then
8 they took us to one in Armagh.

9 Q. Yes, but were there ever film shows in the school itself
10 --

11 A. No.

12 Q. -- that you remember?

13 A. No, not that I remember.

14 Q. Because there are entries in --

15 A. Oh, I know there's entries --

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. -- but I don't remember them.

18 Q. Yes.

19 A. I mean, I remember them bringing a group in. They were
20 called The Blue Seven. They entertained us and we
21 entertained them.

22 Q. A band of some sort, was it?

23 A. Yes, it was a -- yes, it was a band, and they brought
24 them in and played -- you know, gave us a concert, and
25 when they were finished, we gave them a concert --

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. -- or the way around.

3 Q. And you don't remember there being a television?

4 A. I don't remember seeing any television. I mean, it
5 could have been a possibility that there was one, but
6 I -- I never seen one, or a record player, because
7 I know one of the girls had went home for a weekend and
8 she brought a record back and they took it off her.

9 Q. Yes. It's just that you arrived I think in November
10 late -- quite late on in the month of November. Isn't
11 that right? No. Early November, but you have no
12 recollection of watching television --

13 A. No.

14 Q. -- or watching films or anything like that?

15 A. No.

16 Q. I see. Thank you very much.

17 MS DOHERTY: Thanks, HIA203. That has been very helpful.

18 Can I just ask: was that the only time that you ran
19 away, the time that you got hit afterwards? Did you run
20 away any other time from St. Joseph's?

21 A. No. That was just -- that was the first and last time
22 actually, but we thought it was, you know, brilliant,
23 you know, running away, but it was the consequences
24 after --

25 Q. Absolutely?

1 A. -- where we realised, you know, that they were going to
2 cane us or whatever.

3 Q. So it did act as a deterrent? Getting caned made you
4 ...?

5 A. Well, I don't think it acted as a deterrent. You know,
6 I mean, when I was at school, I used to be caned. So it
7 wasn't that much of a deterrent. I think it was more
8 the fact that SR241 hit me more than anything --

9 Q. That was the --

10 A. -- done it.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. You know what I mean?

13 Q. You were talking about you and another girl not getting
14 on well together.

15 A. That was -- yes. She came down about a year or
16 something after me.

17 Q. Was there much fighting between the girls?

18 A. Oh, no, no, no. We all -- we all got on all right
19 together. You know what I mean? It was this one
20 particular girl, because she was brought up in -- what
21 do you call it -- I can never remember the name -- not
22 the Good Shepherd. It's the other one.

23 Q. Nazareth. Nazareth House?

24 A. Nazareth, yes. You see, she was brought up in Nazareth
25 House, you see. She was a bit obnoxious really -- you

1 know what I mean -- saying things and ...

2 Q. But generally between -- I mean, we have heard a lot
3 about other homes about bullying between girls but that
4 wasn't a big issue for you in ...?

5 A. Well, no, because, you see, as I say, I was the oldest
6 anyway. So there wasn't any bullying going on. Whether
7 it happened after I left I don't know --

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. -- because I wouldn't have let anybody else bully the
10 younger ones, because, you know, there was a lot of --
11 I came from a big family. So we were always taught that
12 you looked after the youngers --

13 Q. Younger ones.

14 A. -- you know. So whether she done it after I left ...

15 Q. You don't know.

16 A. Because she was that type.

17 Q. You see you were saying about going to bed at 7 o'clock?
18 Was that an expectation that you would go to bed or you
19 would go upstairs or ...?

20 A. Well, we had to go up after we said the Angelus, you
21 know, which was at 6.00.

22 Q. 6.00.

23 A. So we just mucked about a bit and then we had to go up.

24 Q. When you went up, were you allowed to kind of associate
25 with each other?

1 A. Well, we used to just sit and talk to each other and
2 then they turned the light -- we said our night prayers
3 and then they turned the lights off. So we had to go to
4 bed.

5 Q. And what time would that have been about, the turning
6 off?

7 A. Maybe about 8.00 --

8 Q. 8.00. Okay.

9 A. -- but we had to go upstairs, like, about 7.00.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. When I says going to bed, it means that we had to go up
12 and ...

13 Q. And get ready and do the bit. Just one last thing, just
14 a bit of a clarification. In the statement when you
15 describe the day that you were left in by yourself and
16 you had the mumps, you say you didn't get anything to
17 eat all day, but you were saying you think probably
18 a nun did bring you ...

19 A. Yes, because, you know, back then it was a big grey
20 building and everything, and it was so quiet because
21 there was nobody there, and maybe there probably was
22 a nun that stayed behind, but everybody else was gone.

23 Q. But you remember it being empty that day?

24 A. Yes, yes, and because I was scared and I came downstairs
25 and I actually went outside to wait for them coming

1 back, and they came back about 9 o'clock I think.

2 Q. Okay. Thanks very much, HIA203.

3 A. Right.

4 MR LANE: You mentioned going up to bed at 7.00-ish and so
5 on.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You went up presumably with all the girls who were
8 younger than you.

9 A. Yes, yes.

10 Q. Did you ever get any sort of privileges for being the
11 oldest one there?

12 A. No, no.

13 Q. Do you think at all that SR237 was a bit worried that
14 she was not going to keep in control of you? Do you
15 think that's why she treated you the way she did?

16 A. Well, I don't know why she would have thought that,
17 because, like, you know, I mean, I was all -- you know,
18 we were all brought up to respect our elders and
19 especially nuns and priests and what have you. So,
20 like, we would never have dreamt of answering them back,
21 but I think in my case is because of the way she was
22 with me, maybe I started getting a bit obnoxious with
23 them. You know what I mean? But I never really gave
24 her any cause to think that, you know, I was going to
25 cause any trouble.

1 Q. Right. You mentioned that when you had the mumps, you
2 were terrified.

3 A. Oh, I was.

4 Q. Was it the mumps or being lonely? What --

5 A. It was being lonely. You know what I mean? Because
6 when -- as I say, when I went to tell them that I was
7 ill, they just didn't believe me.

8 Q. Uh-huh.

9 A. And then when the caretaker told them, then they
10 believed him rather than me, even though my face was out
11 here.

12 Q. And did they give you anything to do during those three
13 weeks?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Anything to read or --

16 A. Well, yes, I was reading, you know, books and what have
17 you, but I couldn't eat properly, because my jaws was so
18 sore.

19 Q. Okay. Thank you very much indeed.

20 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA203, you will be relieved to hear I am
21 sure those are the last questions we want to ask you.

22 As Mr Aiken explained,

23

25 We know you have come quite

1 a long way to get to speak to us coming from , as
2 you have, and thank you very much for doing that.

3 A. Thank you. Yes. All right.

4 Q. We will now rise for a short while before we start the
5 next witness.

6 A. All right then. Thank you. I need to put the right
7 glasses on. Thank you.

8 (Witness withdrew)

9 (12.30 pm)

10 (Short break)

11 (12.40 pm)

12 WITNESS HIA178 (called)

13 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, Chairman, Panel Members.

14 CHAIRMAN: Yes, Ms Smith.

15 MS SMITH: Our next witness today is HIA178. She is
16 "HIA178". HIA178 wishes to affirm and she also wishes
17 to maintain her anonymity.

18 WITNESS HIA178 (affirmed)

19 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, HIA178. Please sit down.

20 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

21 MS SMITH: HIA178, as I was explaining to you earlier, I am
22 just going to tell the Panel where there are some
23 documents relevant to your evidence in our bundle of
24 papers.

25 HIA178's witness statement can be seen at SJM332 to

1 339.

2 The Sisters of St. Louis' response is at SJM22920 to
3 22995.

4 The Department of Justice response is at SJM463 to
5 464.

6 The Health & Social Care Board response is at 460 to
7 462. They indicate that they have no records in respect
8 of HIA178 and believe that she was there on foot of
9 a private placement, but, in fact, there is a document
10 at SJM16459 which shows that she was placed there on
11 foot of a court order.

12 Now, HIA178, we are just going to call up your
13 witness statement on the screen in front of you and
14 hopefully you will be able to see it. As I indicated to
15 you, the writing will be somewhat bigger than on the
16 written page, but you will see that this says "Witness
17 Statement of HIA178", and can I just -- can you see it
18 okay? I know you forgot your reading glasses, but
19 hopefully the bigger print here might make it a little
20 bit easier for you. So can you just confirm that this
21 is the witness statement that you provided to the
22 Inquiry?

23 A. Yes, yes.

24 Q. You signed that on 8th January 2016. Can I also ask you
25 to confirm that this is the statement of evidence that

1 you want the Inquiry to consider together with anything
2 else you tell us today?

3 A. Yes. Yes. I do.

4 Q. Thank you. Now your personal details here are set out
5 in paragraph 1, HIA178, and I am not going to mention
6 your age, but you are in your late 60s. Is that fair
7 enough? You were placed in St. Joseph's when it was
8 still an orphanage in 1949, when you were aged .

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. And you remained there until the day before your th
11 birthday.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. That was in 1964. So we are going to ask people not to
14 do the maths, if they would. You also name in your
15 statement here at paragraph 2 two other girls who were
16 in St. Joseph's with you. I am not going to give the
17 names of them. As you can see, we have protected their
18 identity also, HIA178, by giving them reference numbers

19 --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- but I will use their first names and I will just
22 remind people that no names that are used inside the
23 chamber are to be used outside of this room.

24 The first was a girl called **SJM27** .

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. The other was a girl called SJM35 .

2 A. That's right.

3 Q. Now as I was explaining to you earlier, the Sisters of
4 St. Louis have searched through their records. While
5 they can certainly find records relating to SJM27 ,
6 they were unable to find any in respect of SJM35 .
7 I will later give the legal representatives for the
8 Sisters of St. Louis her surname as you have given it to
9 me and see if they can carry out a further search --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- just to check, but you say that she actually was
12 working in the convent kitchen at one point in time.

13 A. Yes, yes.

14 Q. I mentioned some other girls' names to you when we were
15 speaking earlier and you remembered them as being in the
16 home with you at the time.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. There was another SJM27 , for example, and there was
19 a girl who you didn't actually remember, but paragraph 2
20 here you say that these two girls that you named were
21 your closest friends. You say:

22 "The convent was a harsh place and I experienced
23 a lot of physical and emotional abuse from one nun."

24 I am going to use the name again to make it easier
25 for you to know who we are speaking about.

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. That was SR237.

3 "When I first went to the convent", you said, "SR248
4 was in charge of the children. She was a very gentle,
5 kind person, but she must have retired at some point and
6 SR237 took over."

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. I believe that she actually retired in , when you
9 would have been about eight years of age or thereabouts
10 --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- when SR237 took over. You describe her as such
13 a wicked woman. You say she hated you for some reason
14 and blamed you if anything happened or even just for
15 simple things like laughing.

16 "She beat me with a long narrow bamboo stick or
17 slapped me almost every day."

18 I was speaking to you earlier about the fact that
19 the nuns kept what was called a punishment book.

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. They also had to make quarterly returns to the Ministry
22 of Home Affairs when they meted out punishment to girls
23 about what punishments they meted out. You don't
24 remember anything about a punishment book.

25 A. No.

1 Q. You never saw any nun write anything down.

2 A. No.

3 Q. You just remember being beaten.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. But we are going to look at some documents and if I can
6 call these up, please. That's at SJM2040. This is
7 an example. Now you might be able to see it more
8 clearly on this screen than when we were looking at it
9 earlier. You will see that your name features there in
10 1958 as someone who was punished during the quarter that
11 ended on 30th September 1958. You were aged 10 then and
12 you were described as being bold and disobedient. You
13 were given one slap and you were deprived of sweets.
14 That was the manager of the home, who at this stage in
15 1958 would have been SR237 who meted that punishment out
16 to you. Just looking down, the girl who you were
17 friendly with, SJM27 , she was also being punished
18 for being disobedient and was given a slap at that time.
19 Then other girls were deprived of outings or pocket
20 money. One was told off for being cheeky essentially.

21 If we could just scroll down through the next pages,
22 because these are -- you are featuring quite a lot here
23 on these quarterly returns, there in April. For June
24 '58 -- we are going backwards in time -- when you were
25 still 10, you were disobedient and you were deprived of

1 sweets. Again in 1958 you were destructive. You were
2 deprived of pocket money. There you were described as
3 being impertinent. It says that you are aged 9 at this
4 stage. Sorry. You were very bold and you were given
5 one slap on the hand. Again that's the manager who was
6 giving you that punishment. If we can scroll down to
7 the next page, you were bold and disobedient. You were
8 given one slap on the hand and deprived of sweets. On
9 this occasion you were disobedient and you were deprived
10 of fruit. You were -- you told lies at age 8 and you
11 were deprived of sweets in 1956.

12 Now just pausing there, because again the punishment
13 is being meted out by the manager, who in 1956 would
14 have been SR248. So she was taking sweets off you at
15 that stage. You were being very stubborn in July of
16 1956. You received two slaps. Again you will see there
17 "SR248" would have been the signature of the manager.
18 That's SR248. Then again aged 8 you were very
19 disobedient and you got two slaps on the hands. You
20 were troublesome and for that you got two slaps. On
21 this occasion you were bold and disobedient in 1955 and
22 you got two slaps then. Then you were disobedient and
23 you were deprived of your pastry at teatime in 1954.
24 Now in 1954 you would only have been just . Then you
25 were given one slap for what is described as destruction

1 of clothing. Then you were bold in 1954. You got two
2 slaps. We go right back to 1953 here, which is the
3 first time where you didn't seem to get any punishment.
4 If we just finish there, please.

5 So the punishments that you were getting that were
6 being recorded in the punishment book only seemed to
7 start after you had reached the age of 5, HIA178.

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. Now from talking to you I know you don't remember any of
10 these --

11 A. No, no.

12 Q. -- punishments in particular.

13 A. No.

14 Q. Isn't that right? You were saying to me that you don't
15 even remember being given sweets. You do remember --

16 A. No.

17 Q. -- getting them on your birthday or Christmas --

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. -- but not regularly. Aside from what is described
20 here, you go on to say that what -- this is not the kind
21 of thing that you remember. You don't remember being
22 punished in a formal way, as it were, but you just
23 remember being slapped and beaten on a regular basis --

24 A. Yes, yes.

25 Q. -- by SR237.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Now if we go back to your statement, please, at
3 page 333, and paragraph 3 you say that you have
4 a condition called

5 . As a result you say you
6 felt very vulnerable i the convent. You don't know if
7 that is the reason why SR237 singled you out, but
8 whatever the reason, she made your life there hell.

9 You go on to describe the dormitories. You say:

10 "There were 14 or 15 girls in the dormitories and
11 SR237 slept in a cell within the dormitory. She made me
12 sleep in a bed directly outside her cell. She had a
13 little window in her cell and she looked out of it
14 periodically to see if anything was amiss. I remember
15 being very small and hiding under my blankets at the
16 sight of her. I felt she was watching me all the time.
17 It was an awful thing to do to a child, because I lived
18 in fear of her."

19 Now the congregation would say that girls moved
20 through dormitories. There were three dormitories --

21 A. That's right.

22 Q. -- the juniors, intermediates and seniors --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- and they moved through as they got older and that
25 that's what happened to you. Isn't that right, HIA178?

1 A. Uh-huh. That's right.

2 Q. They also make the point that SR237 was in charge of the
3 dormitory for the older girls.

4 A. That's right.

5 Q. So she would only have been in charge of you from you
6 were about 12 years of age, and you would accept that?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Although did you have contact with her before you moved
9 into her dormitory?

10 A. Yes. She did sleep in another dormitory before that.

11 Q. Now the congregation -- you go on -- sorry -- to --
12 I will come back to talk a little bit about your
13 disability, if I may, shortly and what documents show us
14 about that, but you say that SR237 punished you if she
15 found you -- if she found any of the other girls
16 misbehaving. You remember when you were 9 or 10 playing
17 with another girl, who tied your nightdress to the bed
18 as a joke. You were laughing and joking around. SR237
19 came in and accused you of making all the noise. She
20 told you to "Get out of the bed until I tell you to get
21 back in" and you say she punished you by making you
22 kneel in the middle of the floor for the whole night.
23 You didn't have a blanket, but you don't remember that
24 it was cold. So it may have been summer time.

25 "I remember the dark and waking up as I fell

1 forward, because I kept falling asleep."

2 You go on to say:

3 "We weren't even allowed to be children."

4 A. True.

5 Q. Now the congregation have said in their response
6 statement to the Inquiry that they accept that SR237 was
7 strict. She was a strict nun, but they don't think that
8 she would have made a child kneel all night in the way
9 you describe, HIA178.

10 A. She did. Yes, she did.

11 Q. You say that she blamed you --

12 A. For a lot things that I didn't do.

13 Q. You go on to talk about another occasion here,
14 paragraph 5, when someone was smoking. You say you were
15 very young, 10 or 11. You didn't even know what
16 a cigarette was. She came in -- obviously there had
17 been a smell of smoke or something like that.

18 "She came in and said, 'I know who it is. It's you,
19 HIA178. Get up the stairs to that dormitory'. I told
20 her it wasn't me but she didn't listen. She stripped
21 all my clothes from me. She bent me over the iron bed
22 and beat me with a bamboo cane while another nun ...".

23 who you name here. That's SR254, and you think it
24 was SR254.

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. You say she held your hands

2 . So there was no need to hold it
3 down. She beat you black and blue up and down your back
4 and legs with the cane in front of the other girls. You
5 say she bruised your skin, but you don't remember it
6 bleeding and after she finished beating, she said, "Go
7 and show those stripes to whoever you like". You think
8 she then felt guilty, because afterwards she had some
9 sweets which she tried to give you --

10 A. That's right.

11 Q. -- but you refused to take them.

12 A. That's right, yes.

13 Q. I was explaining to you that we have not as yet managed
14 to make contact with the other nun who you name in this
15 paragraph --

16 A. No.

17 Q. -- and unfortunately we know SR237 is now deceased. So
18 she cannot comment on any of the allegations that you
19 make about her --

20 A. Uh-huh.

21 Q. -- HIA178. You also say in paragraph 6 that she used to
22 make demeaning remarks about your mother in front of the
23 other girls. She told you that you would end up in jail
24 like your mother and also that, "She didn't want you and
25 so we had to look after you". She said these things on

1 a daily basis to hurt you. Sorry, HIA178. Are you
2 okay?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. At any stage if you feel you need to take a break ...

5 A. No. I'm fine. I'm fine.

6 Q. You say that you didn't even know that your mum had been
7 in prison. Isn't that right?

8 A. That's right.

9 Q. Now I am going to talk a little bit about the next
10 paragraph. You say that you always loved music. You
11 were taught to play the piano at St. Joseph's by a nun
12 who you name here, but when we were talking about it and
13 I said to you that actually the nun who was in charge of
14 the music was a Sister SR263 , you said it was actually
15 she who taught you to play the piano.

16 A. That's right.

17 Q. So the name that you gave us in your statement was
18 wrong. It was actually a Sister SR263 .

19 A. Uh-huh.

20 Q. You remember being in the convent choir. You remember
21 going up on one occasion to SR237 because you had passed
22 your music exam and you were very pleased about that and
23 it gave you a sense of achievement. You say she lifted
24 her hand and slapped you across the face.

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. You felt she always singled you out and treated you
2 worse than the other children.

3 A. That's right.

4 Q. Just to confirm the music was a big part of life in
5 St. Joseph's.

6 A. Yes. Well, I love music anyway. It is my life, music.

7 Q. And Irish dancing was something that we have heard --

8 A. Yes. There was that, yes.

9 Q. -- was a feature.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. There was an Irish dancer came every week.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Those were good memories you have of your time there.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Isn't that right?

16 A. Oh, yes, yes.

17 Q. I know you are upset in remembering what we have been
18 talking about, but there were times that were good when
19 we were talking --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- you remember, and you talk about this a little in
22 paragraph 11, about Christmas and birthdays and --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- visits to Castle Leslie and holidays in Glenariff,
25 which was all good.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. I will come back to paragraph 11 in a moment. You talk
3 about in paragraph 8, if we can go back up to that,
4 about a particular nun who you name. You say that:

5 "The school and the part of the convent where we
6 lived were within one big building. The nuns lived in
7 a separate building within the convent grounds."

8 If I have got it right, the convent and the chapel
9 were adjacent --

10 A. That's right. They were attached.

11 Q. -- to the school. They were attached.

12 A. Uh-huh.

13 Q. You say the nuns taught you, but there were no lay
14 teachers. The nuns who taught you would not normally
15 have come to the part of the convent where you lived,
16 although the school was in that part of the convent,
17 wasn't it?

18 A. That's right.

19 Q. So if I have understood it, the dorms might have been up
20 above the school.

21 A. That's right, yes.

22 Q. You name one nun here, SR256, who was one of your
23 teachers. You say she was kind.

24 A. That's right.

25 Q. She protected you. She came down to the home one day

1 after school and saw SR237 hurrying you down the stairs.
2 She was pushing you and saying "Get down, you". SR256
3 said to her, "Sister, I am going to complain to Reverend
4 Mother about you".

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. SR237 stopped pushing you on that occasion, but she
7 continued to abuse you when no-one was around and that
8 behaviour continued until the day you left the convent.
9 Apart from this occasion nobody else ever intervened or
10 did anything to try to stop her. Is that right?

11 A. No, no.

12 Q. Now at paragraph 9 you say that you never specifically
13 told SR256 or anybody else about what SR237 --

14 A. No, no.

15 Q. -- was doing to you. You say it was obvious to everyone
16 who was in the convent at the time. You found out there
17 was a nursing home for Sisters of the Congregation --

18 A. That's right.

19 Q. -- nearby where you were living in --

20 A. .

21 Q. Yes, in -- I was going to say in the 2000s. You thought
22 it was in 2006 or 2007 --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- that you actually met another nun. We know from what
25 we have been told by the Sisters of St. Louis that

1 SR242, who you met, actually died in . So it must
2 have been an earlier date --

3 A. Yes. It must have been, yes.

4 Q. -- than 2006 that you met her. You remember being in
5 town and seeing her and you recognised her. I was
6 asking you, you know, had you had much interaction with
7 her in St. Joseph's? We were told by the Sisters of
8 St. Louis that she was actually a nurse in the
9 infirmary. Do you remember her from that role?

10 A. Oh, I do. I do, yes.

11 Q. Anyway you stopped and asked her was SR237 in the
12 nursing home.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You were going to go and confront SR237 --

15 A. I was, yes.

16 Q. -- if she had been there. This SR242 asked you who you
17 were and you told her who you were. She dropped her
18 walking stick, because she was surprised. She put her
19 arms round you to comfort you and said to you, "Didn't
20 she give you terrible beatings? Sure, I never done
21 that", or words to that effect?

22 A. Yes, that's true.

23 Q. So in your eyes she was acknowledging the fact that
24 SR237 had given you beatings while you were in
25 St. Joseph's.

1 A. That's right.

2 Q. In paragraph 10 you go on to say that there was no-one
3 from outside the convent you could complain to about the
4 way you were treated.

5 A. Nobody.

6 Q. You did not have any family, no-one who came to see you
7 regularly. You don't remember going to see a doctor,
8 although you do remember the dentist coming into the
9 convent to look at your teeth. Now we have heard that
10 there was a Dr McIlroy who came every fortnight to
11 St. Joseph's. You don't ever remember seeing him?

12 A. I don't remember, no.

13 Q. He, in fact, examined the girls every quarter. Is it
14 possible that you might have had those medical
15 examinations?

16 A. I probably did and I just don't remember, you know.

17 Q. We know that while you were very young there is an entry
18 at SJM2245, which one of these documents that the nuns
19 had to return to the Ministry of Home Affairs about what
20 was happening in St. Joseph's.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. It was a medical return. It records that you were in
23 hospital for just under a month in 1949. It doesn't say
24 why you were there --

25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. -- but you were there from August to September 1949.

2 You would at that stage have been very young indeed,
3 HIA178.

4 A. I don't remember.

5 Q. You don't have any memory of that?

6 A. No, I don't remember.

7 Q. But what we do know is that there are inspection reports
8 from the Ministry of Home Affairs inspectors. You
9 feature in those reports. I'm just going to look at
10 a couple of them, if I may. 22963, please. Actually
11 when we were talking earlier, you told me, HIA178, that
12 you remember people coming to visit St. Joseph's to
13 carry out inspections.

14 A. That's right, yes.

15 Q. This is from December 1950. Again at this stage in time
16 you would have been very young and it just says there,
17 if you see in the middle of that second paragraph -- you
18 might not be able to read this, because the writing is
19 a bit smaller. Just maybe perhaps if we could just
20 enlarge that slightly for her.

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. It just says -- about five lines down. Yes, from there.

23 Yes. It just says there:

24 "We also saw HIA178, who is suffering from

25 as the result

1 of a birth injury. We understand that the orthopaedic
2 surgeon, Mr Martin, has given it as his opinion that the
3 only treatment for this condition is to encourage the
4 child to use the . In the circumstances we think
5 a written report should be obtained from the orthopaedic
6 surgeon."

7 So this report would have been done by officials
8 from the Ministry of Home Affairs, who came out to
9 inspect the school. They were being told about your
10 condition back in 1950 when you were a very young child.

11 A. Uh-huh.

12 Q. At this stage certainly the nuns seem to have been
13 trying to get some help for your condition and, as we
14 were discussing later, I know you had treatment in the
15 1970s to try to correct --

16 A. That's right, in the Ulster Hospital.

17 Q. -- your . At that stage you were told that it
18 could have been corrected --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- at an earlier stage --

21 A. That's right, yes.

22 Q. -- although, as we were also discussing, it may be that
23 medical practices changed over the years, but we know
24 certainly that if we look at 22937, this seems to be the
25 report from Mr Martin from March 1951 and it just says:

1 a priest, and you give the name Father **SJM36** who came
2 to the convent occasionally. Now we were discussing the
3 fact that nobody has ever been able to find any record
4 of a Father **SJM36** coming to St. Joseph's and I was
5 wondering if you might have got the name wrong, but
6 that's the name you remember.

7 A. Yes, yes.

8 Q. You say:

9 "He would make general comments to us in passing,
10 for example, 'I hope you are behaving yourselves for the
11 nuns'. He never asked us how we were. I remember once
12 I was with a group of girls and he slapped me on the
13 head for no reason. I think he just hit me because
14 I was the closest to him."

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You say you were just playing outside and he was on his
17 way into the convent. Is that right?

18 A. That's right.

19 Q. Then you are talking here in paragraph 11 -- you say:

20 "Occasionally we were given better clothes to wear
21 and the nuns were nicer to us than usual."

22 You say:

23 "I now know that this was just because people from
24 the government were inspecting us. These clothes were
25 taken from us once the inspection was over. The

1 inspections may have been every other year, but I don't
2 remember them as being frequent. We were not given
3 a chance to talk to the inspectors privately."

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

5 Q. Now the congregation have said to us that it wasn't the
6 case that you got new clothing just because inspectors
7 were coming. New clothing was given out regularly to
8 the girls --

9 A. No.

10 Q. -- on a regular basis. That's --

11 A. No, definitely not.

12 Q. You were saying to me earlier that you definitely
13 remember being given these clothes --

14 A. Yes, yes.

15 Q. -- and you knew that somebody was coming as a result.

16 A. That's right.

17 Q. You go on there -- as we were saying, you remember being
18 given small treats like sweets or Mars bar at birthday
19 or Christmas. You don't remember the nuns giving you
20 any particular special treats on your birthday.

21 A. No, no.

22 Q. There was Turkey dinner at Christmas, which you all
23 looked forward to for months beforehand.

24 A. That's right.

25 Q. You talk about the trips here, the good memories that

1 you had about those trips --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- and getting Easter eggs and things from the Lesley
4 family. You also remember going, as I say, on summer
5 holiday to Glenariff each year.

6 A. That's right.

7 Q. You also then go on at paragraph 12 to talk about
8 another incident involving SR237 where one of the adult
9 girls who left the convent sent you a present --

10 A. That's right.

11 Q. -- once at Christmas time. Now I think this girl was
12 actually someone who was a day girl in the school.

13 A. No. She was --

14 Q. Sorry.

15 A. -- in the convent with me, but she was an adult, as we
16 called her. She was an adult and she left.

17 Q. Because she was that bit older than you?

18 A. Yes, yes.

19 Q. You say it was a beautiful scarf. You were so pleased
20 and excited, because at that time no-one sent you
21 presents, but SR237 took it off you and she told you,
22 "We have no pets here".

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. Sorry. I am mixing this girl up with the next girl, who
25 was someone who you were at school with. One year on

1 your birthday when you were 12 or 13, she lived in the
2 town, and you really wanted a packet of hair rollers as
3 a present to curl your hair. So she got that for you.

4 A. That's right.

5 Q. You were excited and pleased with them and you wet your
6 hair and put the rollers in that night. SR237 you say
7 came out of her cell and when she saw you had rollers in
8 your hair, she became very angry, pulled them all out of
9 your hair while you were sleeping, again saying, "We
10 have no pets here".

11 A. That's right.

12 Q. You were telling me that you actually remember being
13 wakened out of your sleep with these rollers being
14 pulled from your hair.

15 A. That's right, yes.

16 Q. You describe the routine in the convent in paragraphs 13
17 and 14 here. You say that the routine was that you got
18 up in the morning. You got up about 5.00 or 5.30. You
19 had to go to 6 o'clock mass. Sometimes you were so
20 tired you would fall asleep while you were kneeling at
21 mass. If she saw you sleeping, SR237 would come over
22 and flick you with her finger.

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. You demonstrated that to me when we were talking. You
25 then came back to the convent, made your beds, cleaned

1 the dormitories. Then you had breakfast, usually
2 porridge. You went to school about 9.00, had lessons
3 with the day girls, who came in from the town. One of
4 them was the girl who bought you the rollers for
5 a present.

6 A. That's right.

7 Q. But you were not allowed to talk to them --

8 A. That's right.

9 Q. -- but you did do so.

10 A. I did.

11 Q. You remember lessons in English and maths but don't
12 remember learning anything. You don't feel that you got
13 an adequate education. You couldn't concentrate on
14 anything, because you just wanted to get out of there.
15 You say you were made to sit at the back of the class
16 and more or less taught yourself to read.

17 A. That's right.

18 Q. You say although there were some nuns who were kind to
19 you, overall they used to make you feel as if you were
20 not good for anything. In those days there wasn't a
21 split between primary and secondary schools and there
22 was a sort of extended primary education until you were
23 16 and there was an expectation that after 16 you went
24 out to work.

25 If we can scroll down, please, you were given dinner

1 at 12.30 and then went back to school. After school you
2 had to clean as well.

3 "We had to wash the floors and put wax on them and
4 shine them, but it was hard to shine the floor without
5 leaving scuff marks. We had to clean all the bathrooms
6 and sinks, everything. I remember being made to clean
7 from a very young age, possibly 4 or 5."

8 A. That's right.

9 Q. Now the congregation have said yes, girls did do chores
10 in the home, as they would have done in a family home,
11 but they were given age-appropriate chores. Do you
12 think the things --

13 A. No.

14 Q. -- you were asked to do were appropriate for the age
15 that you had at the time?

16 A. No, definitely not.

17 Q. Your records show that you did very well at typewriting
18 and at elocution. I was asking if you remembered that.
19 There are certificates in the papers --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- that show you did well in those subjects. Do you
22 remember that, HIA178?

23 A. No, I don't.

24 Q. Paragraph 15 here you say:

25 "We did not get enough to eat and I often went to

1 bed hungry. Years later I remember running into a woman
2 in Middletown who went to school with us. She lived in
3 the town and she said to me, 'God! I used to feel awful
4 sorry for you children. You looked as if you were
5 starved.'

6 A. That's right.

7 Q. But you remember getting porridge for breakfast or
8 occasionally an egg, potatoes, cabbage and vegetables
9 for dinner, bread and butter and cocoa for supper. The
10 clothes you said were provided by the De La Salle Order,
11 and although they were second-hand, they were lovely
12 clothes. You remember the school uniform and:

13 "The clothes were always clean and we were always
14 told to wash ourselves. Our hair was always cut if it
15 was too long."

16 You remember being taken for medical appointments
17 about your arm. You were taken, but you don't remember
18 that.

19 A. No, no.

20 Q. You have just seen that from the papers that you
21 received. You were never given any specific exercises

22 --

23 A. No.

24 Q. -- to try to use your hand or your arm.

25 A. No.

1 Q. Now the congregation say, first of all, about food,
2 HIA178, that girls got three full meals a day, and
3 I think you would accept that you were fed three times
4 a day --

5 A. Yes, yes.

6 Q. -- but you certainly always felt hunger.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. We know from certainly the early years that you were in
9 the home rationing would still have been a feature of
10 life --

11 A. Uh-huh.

12 Q. -- in Northern Ireland at that time. So the food might
13 not have been as plentiful as in later years. Did
14 things improve at all over the years food-wise?

15 A. No, not really.

16 Q. We were talking -- I am not going to call this up -- but
17 we were talking about the medical treatment here. At
18 22936 we can see the letter where it says that you had
19 to come to The Royal Victoria Hospital for Sick Children
20 in 1951 with your head shaved. Again you thought that
21 was maybe to do with ringworm.

22 A. Uh-huh. Yes.

23 Q. Paragraph 16 you talk about how you came to leave
24 St. Joseph's. You say that SR237 came to you the day
25 before your 16th birthday and told you you had to leave

1 the convent.

2 A. That's right.

3 Q. You weren't given any warning. It was a complete shock
4 for you.

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. The nuns had arranged a work placement for you at
7 a factory in .

8 A. That's right.

9 Q. They had also arranged accommodation for you with
10 an elderly couple.

11 A. That's right.

12 Q. You were very young. It was overwhelming for you to
13 adjust to in such a short time. You say seemed
14 as strange as America to you then. You did not know how
15 to get around. You remember getting buses and getting
16 lost --

17 A. That's right.

18 Q. -- and crying your eyes out the whole of the first
19 night. You ended up going back to Middletown the next
20 day.

21 A. That's right.

22 Q. Now you had been in Middletown from the age of . You
23 knew nowhere else, HIA178.

24 A. That's right.

25 Q. Isn't that right?

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. You say the convent was a harsh environment, but it was
3 also your home, and you wanted to be around familiar
4 things and the girls you knew there. When you left and
5 came back to Middletown, you weren't allowed to stay and
6 then SR237 organised a place for you in a hostel in
7 .

8 A. That's right.

9 Q. You say nuns ran it. You don't know which nuns.

10 A. I can't remember.

11 Q. But there was no routine and you can't remember much
12 about it, but you worked in the factory during the day
13 as a sewer and made men's suits. One day you met a girl
14 who you knew from Middletown --

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. -- and she asked you to go to a dance. You went with
17 her and then you stayed overnight with her that night,
18 but the next day the person obviously whose house she
19 was living in was unhappy about you being there.

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. Police came and took you to the Good Shepherd Convent in
22 .

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. You never understood why you went there.

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. Certainly it is clear from what you say about the Good
2 Shepherd you have no complaints --

3 A. No.

4 Q. -- about your time there --

5 A. No.

6 Q. -- and the treatment you received in the Good Shepherd
7 Convent. Your issue is rather that you ought not to
8 have been there.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I just wanted to say that the records that we have seen
11 show that the St. Joseph's were in communication with
12 the Ministry of Home Affairs about you being in the --

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. -- Good Shepherd Convent and about your after care, and
15 there's an entry about you -- about payments to the Good
16 Shepherd Convent for you. I have forgotten to write
17 down the number. We looked at that document when we
18 were talking earlier. I will get the number for the
19 Panel in due course, but you didn't -- you weren't aware
20 when you were in the Good Shepherd Convent that there
21 was any communication --

22 A. No, no.

23 Q. -- between them and St. Joseph's --

24 A. Definitely not.

25 Q. -- or St. Joseph's and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

1 A. No, definitely not.

2 Q. You go on then to talk in paragraphs 19 and 20 about
3 what life was like for you after you left the Good
4 Shepherd Convent, HIA178, and the Panel, as I have
5 explained to you, have read that. I am not going to go
6 into the details of that --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- with you, but that's really all I wanted to ask you.
9 I know I have done most of the talking, because that's
10 the way we discussed earlier --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- that you wanted me to deal with your evidence.

13 A. Thank you very much, Christine.

14 Q. But is there anything that you feel that we haven't
15 covered or that I haven't said --

16 A. No.

17 Q. -- about your time in St. Joseph's --

18 A. No.

19 Q. -- that you want the Inquiry to know about --

20 A. No.

21 Q. -- or do you think we have covered all of the main
22 points?

23 A. That's it, yes.

24 Q. Then I have nothing further that I want to ask you,
25 HIA178, but the Panel Members may have some questions

1 for you. So -- oh, sorry. There is one thing I should
2 have asked you, and I know from talking to you that you
3 did get a form from us, which you've promised to me you
4 are about to return as soon as you go back home.

5 A. I will.

6 Q. When we finish our work, the Inquiry Panel have to make
7 recommendations as to what should happen --

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. -- in respect of those children who were abused in
10 institutions, and I am sure you have given this some
11 thought. So if you would like to tell the Panel what
12 your own views are about that.

13 A. About the children?

14 Q. About what recommendations the Inquiry should make at
15 the end of its work.

16 A. Oh, should make. Oh, I never thought about that.

17 Q. Well, some people feel that there should be compensation
18 --

19 A. Oh, yes, definitely.

20 Q. -- some sort of memorial or --

21 A. Definitely there should be comp... -- will I stand up?

22 Q. No, no, not at all.

23 A. There definitely should be compensation for them,
24 because they have been through hell and back again, you
25 know. I don't know what to say.

1 Q. That's okay. That's fine. Well, as I said, there's
2 nothing more I want to ask you, HIA178. So the Panel
3 may have some questions they want to ask you.

4 A. All right.

5 Questions from THE PANEL

6 CHAIRMAN: HIA178, the last document you mentioned, is that
7 the questionnaire you were sent?

8 A. Yes, that's it, your Honour.

9 Q. Would you please send it back as soon as possible --

10 A. I will. Yes, I will.

11 Q. -- because we have to look at them all, and some have
12 come in late and we are accepting them, but we need to
13 draw a line at some stage. So please send it.

14 A. Well, I'll send it back as soon as possible.

15 Q. Yes. Can I just ask you to go back to your time --

16 Ms Smith took you through a number of entries showing
17 that every so often you were amongst the girls who were
18 punished in some way by in your case SR248, but you
19 didn't remember that.

20 A. No.

21 Q. You remembered --

22 A. I didn't.

23 Q. -- her as a kind person.

24 A. I did, yes. I was never afraid of her or anything.

25 Q. I see. It was only when you were under --

1 A. SR237.

2 Q. -- SR237, which would have been presumably from about
3 1960, when you were 12 --

4 A. That's right. That would have been right.

5 Q. -- that you remember being punished.

6 A. Oh, I do surely remember being punished.

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. Can I ask you about something else, because you did say
10 that you have good memories about some things --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- and you referred to your interest and love of music,
13 which was encouraged at that time. Do you remember
14 films being brought in to be shown at weekends, for
15 example?

16 A. No.

17 Q. You don't remember that?

18 A. No, I don't. Oh, films! Yes, I do -- vaguely do
19 remember films all right.

20 Q. Yes.

21 A. I was sitting actually watching a film the day -- the
22 night she called me in to say I had to leave the next
23 day.

24 Q. And it would seem from the records that there were films
25 from time to time.

1 A. Yes, there was, yes.

2 Q. And also do you ever remember going to convents in
3 Monaghan for --

4 A. No.

5 Q. -- plays and musicals, that sort of --

6 A. No.

7 Q. -- entertainment being put on by other school children?

8 A. No.

9 Q. No? You don't? Do you remember there being
10 a television?

11 A. Slightly. There was in later years a black and white
12 one, yes.

13 Q. Yes. Well, television did take a bit of time to get out
14 into the country, I know that, because the broadcasting
15 system didn't extend everywhere for a while.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Thank you very much.

18 MS DOHERTY: Thanks, HIA178. That has been very, very
19 helpful. Can I just ask you: did you observe SR237
20 treating other children in a similar way?

21 A. Oh, yes. She would have been that sort of a person,
22 yes.

23 Q. So generally around the home she would have -- as
24 opposed to the formal punishment of children, corporal
25 punishment, she would have --

1 A. Yes, but for me it was as if -- I don't know what. It
2 was just constant all the time, you know.

3 Q. You felt in some way you stood out for her --

4 A. Yes, exactly, exactly.

5 Q. -- doing the bit. Can I ask: you know the incident you
6 describe where you pass your music exam and you go up to
7 tell her you've done it --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- and she gives you a slap across --

10 A. She had a veil on her and she gave me a slap on the face
11 and the veil just flew across my face. I will never
12 forget that. I was so happy to pass the music exam that
13 day, you know.

14 Q. Do you have any -- did you have any understanding, now
15 or then, of why you think that was that she responded in
16 that way?

17 A. No. I never could understand why she picked on me so
18 much, you know.

19 Q. But there was this bit about, "We have no pets here".

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. There was a bit about not maybe getting above yourself
22 or ...

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

24 Q. Yes. Okay. Just the last thing. You mentioned -- you
25 know when the nun intervenes, she talks about reporting

1 SR237.

2 A. Yes. This was after school. That's the nun that taught
3 me at school.

4 Q. And she talked about the --

5 A. She came down and she was pushing me down the stairs.
6 She said to her, "I am complaining to the Reverend
7 Mother on you".

8 Q. I am just going to ask about that. The Reverend Mother,
9 were you aware of her being around the place? Was she
10 somebody --

11 A. No, she didn't. She more or less stayed up in the
12 convent, the convent area.

13 Q. Okay. So she wasn't around with the children or ...?

14 A. No, not very much. More or less she was in the convent
15 with the nuns themselves.

16 Q. Okay, and in relation to the inspections and the
17 inspectors coming do you remember any conversations with
18 them?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Did they ask you --

21 A. Not at all. I just remember just standing looking up at
22 them.

23 Q. Okay. Okay. Thanks very much, HIA178.

24 MR LANE: You mentioned the Reverend Mother staying in the
25 convent.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Were there a lot of other Sisters living there --

3 A. Yes, there was. There was.

4 Q. -- in the convent that weren't part of the home or the
5 school?

6 A. Yes. There was SR237 and the nuns that taught in the
7 school. That's the only nuns that ...

8 Q. That was the only ones?

9 A. Yes, yes.

10 Q. Right. Okay.

11 A. There was no -- there was no teachers or lay teachers or
12 anything. It was just all nuns that taught in the
13 schools.

14 Q. Right. Thank you very much. Nothing else I need to
15 ask.

16 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA178, thank you very much for coming to
17 speak to us.

18 A. Oh, thank you.

19 Q. We can see that you haven't found it an easy experience,
20 but we are very grateful to you for taking the trouble
21 to come and speak to us.

22 A. Okay. Thank you very much.

23 (Witness withdrew)

24 MS SMITH: Chairman, I realise it is now lunchtime.

25 CHAIRMAN: Yes. We will rise now until not before 2.15.

1 (1.20 pm)

2 (Lunch break)

3 (2.15 pm)

4 Summary of evidence of HIA249 given by COUNSEL TO THE
5 INQUIRY

6 CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr Aiken?

7 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, good afternoon.

8 The next witness that I am going to deal with is not
9 able to give evidence orally to the Inquiry. She has
10 provided a witness statement. That's HIA249, now
11 HIA249, who is "HIA249". She provided a medical report
12 to the Inquiry of 11th January of 2016, which the Panel,
13 having considered it, accepted and decided that her
14 evidence should be summarised.

15 It is the case that HIA249, having been born on
16 and now 73 years of age, is the earliest
17 applicant in terms of St. Joseph's, because she entered
18 as a young child on 24th February 1947 at the age of 4.
19 She remained there until 7th April 1958, when she was
20 15. She was admitted alongside her four other siblings,
21 her being fourth, and then the youngest admitted as part
22 of this group we will hear about shortly. That was
23 SJM27. I overheard Ms Smith making reference to her in
24 the context of the previous witness. We will see
25 specific reference to her now in some of the documents.

1 So HIA249 and SJM27 entered at the same time, HIA249
2 being 4 and SJM27 being a young baby.

3 There is a very substantial amount of material
4 relating to HIA249 that's available to the Panel. She
5 makes many contentions in her witness statement and the
6 Sisters of St. Louis are in a position to respond to
7 many of those matters with some contemporaneous records.

8 There is also material in the Ministry of Home
9 Affairs files on this occasion, unusually perhaps, that
10 are relevant, and therefore this may take a little
11 longer than might otherwise be the case. I will do my
12 best to summarise the background by giving the
13 references to the material.

14 The position is that HIA249 comes from a very
15 substantial family. There were in total it seems
16 perhaps more than 40 siblings and half siblings, 14
17 siblings of her own and then a total of 26 sibling --
18 half siblings beyond that. She herself has
19 a significant family.

20 There is -- in material that has been provided to
21 the Inquiry, including through medical reports as part
22 of the civil claim that I will touch on shortly, HIA249
23 explains a very difficult family background, including
24 physical abuse from not only her own mother but from
25 siblings.

1 Her admission to St. Joseph's was on foot of a court
2 order.

3 CHAIRMAN: Yes. I think we should just perhaps confirm for
4 the record that we have extended anonymity to her. We
5 have no reason I take it to believe that she wishes that
6 anonymity to be waived in any way?

7 MR AIKEN: No.

8 CHAIRMAN: I mention that, although I see all of our
9 audience this morning have left, just in case it is
10 overlooked.

11 MR AIKEN: Yes, and, of course, any name I mention during
12 the course of this shouldn't be reported beyond the
13 chamber in any event.

14 So the court order was made on 24th February of
15 1947, placing her in what was then St. Joseph's
16 Industrial School. HIA249, in fact, spans the time of
17 the industrial school, which ended in and around 1952,
18 and the beginning of the training school from '52 until
19 she leaves then in 1958.

20 Her witness statement, which the Panel have had the
21 opportunity to consider, is at 067 through to 073. If
22 we just can put that on the screen for a moment, please.

23 In addition to the witness statement the documents
24 that have been provided by the Sisters of St. Louis
25 reveal that HIA249 went to solicitors in November of

1 2009. The reference for that is at 5027. A Letter of
2 Claim was issued again the Sisters of St. Louis in
3 respect of her time in St. Joseph's in November of 2010.
4 That's at 5002.

5 Shortly before the Letter of Claim was issued on
6 20th October of 2010 HIA249 spoke to the police, and
7 a police statement is available to the Panel at 4065 to
8 4066. Though that police statement contains allegations
9 against SR237, SR249, SR252 and a SJM28, there is
10 another individual who is named, another nun that we
11 will come to as part of the witness statement to the
12 Inquiry, but I will observe at this point that the
13 references to SR249, SR252 and to SJM28, this set of
14 allegations made by HIA249 are the only allegations that
15 are made against these individuals, whether to the
16 Inquiry or otherwise.

17 As part of the material produced by the Sisters of
18 St. Louis to the Inquiry the civil claim papers relating
19 to HIA249's civil claim are available and they include
20 two medical reports, which are available to the Panel.
21 They are detailed, and perhaps the Panel will consider
22 them of particular relevance in the case of HIA249, but
23 also of general assistance.

24 The first is from Dr Best of 10th March 2012 and
25 that can be found at 5031 to 5038 and then there is

1 a medical report from Dr Fahy -- both consultant
2 psychiatrists -- of 25th January 2016. That can be
3 found at 5039 to 5059. In that medical report reference
4 is not made to SR249 but to SR237 and another sister,
5 SR250, which brings the total number of identified
6 individuals to five, and it also refers again to SJM28,
7 but that's taken to mean SJM28 or SJM28, as we will come
8 to see.

9 There is an analysis by the doctors of the medical
10 records since the 1970s without any mention of
11 allegations against any of the individuals that are the
12 subject of the Inquiry's statement or the police
13 statement, and there is an analysis by Dr Fahy, which
14 the Panel will have the opportunity to consider, on the
15 effect of institutional care and the outcomes that flow
16 from it.

17 There then is a substantial response statement from
18 the Sisters of St. Louis, which can be found at 22001 to
19 22013 and in addition there are exhibits. If we can
20 bring up, please 22014, the exhibits run from 22015 to
21 22201, so 185 pages approximately of exhibits. The
22 Panel will see on the screen the types of records that
23 were available. There are admission records, school
24 records. So there is about 80 pages of school records
25 on progress made, and then there are punishment book

1 extracts that relate to both HIA249 and her sister
2 SJM27, and also then documents relating to some other
3 former residents of St. Joseph's who were identified by
4 HIA249.

5 There is then the Health & Social Care Board
6 response statement at 340 to 341. There is no
7 involvement of Social Services.

8 The Department of Justice response statement is at
9 287 to 288. As I indicated earlier this morning in
10 relation to another witness, they don't have files on
11 residents whose date of birth was before 1957.

12 As I mentioned at the outset, HIA249's time in
13 St. Joseph's is between 1947 and 1958. Ms Smith made
14 reference yesterday to the fact that there are a number
15 of inspection reports that go up as far as 1956. As it
16 turns out, there are some specific Ministry of Home
17 Affairs exchanges between -- in a Ministry of Home
18 Affairs file between the Ministry and St. Joseph's about
19 the [name redacted] children, in particular HIA249 and
20 her younger sister, the baby at the time, SJM27.

21 The inspection reports in October '44 -- I am just
22 going to give the references for these to the Panel --
23 at 1379 to 1380, there is 37 girls and the general
24 atmosphere in the home is described as meritorious of
25 praise and the staff are recorded as doing excellent

1 work.

2 In December of '45 the inspection is at 1359. Again
3 35 girls, happy atmosphere. Girls who have left staying
4 in touch with the Sisters. A pleasure to see good work
5 that's being done according to the inspector. They are
6 not all the same inspectors on each occasion.

7 Then the five [name redacted] children are admitted
8 in February of 1947. There is a record of that at
9 22150.

10 Then if we can bring up, please, 1358, we will see
11 on 24th March 1947, so about a month later, the
12 inspection report which records the five admissions, and
13 if we can just scroll down, please, this inspection
14 report covers three pages. If we just pause there,
15 please, you can see:

16 "The family of five recently admitted will
17 I understand be reported on by the medical officer. Two
18 of those children are very young ..."

19 So that's a reference we will see to HIA249 and her
20 young sister, SJM27:

21 "... and the advisability of keeping them in the
22 industrial school is open to question -- the elder child
23 on medical grounds and the baby aged one year on the
24 grounds that a good foster mother, if one could be
25 obtained, would be preferable for rearing such a young

1 child amongst a large number of older children and
2 exposing it to unnecessary risks of infection. This
3 child is at present cutting teeth and is in consequence
4 rather fretful."

5 So that's the particular reference to the family
6 being admitted.

7 Then if we move -- if we just scroll down, please,
8 to the end of the -- to 1360 -- yes, pause there --
9 that's the conclusion that is reached by the inspector
10 in respect of the 1947 inspection just after the [name
11 redacted] children have arrived.

12 On 11th April, if we can move to 1336, please, and
13 this may be of perhaps more general application to the
14 Panel, reference is made to the report and, as you will
15 recall, at this point in time the practice was to send
16 certain extracts of the report to a home and invite
17 their comment on particular issues or draw attention to
18 particular matters as opposed to just sending the report
19 itself. You can see it makes reference to the places
20 marked with an X and a Y and Z, referring to the
21 annotations that we saw on the document that we just
22 looked at.

23 You can see perhaps of general interest the last
24 paragraph of this letter:

25 "With regard to the paragraph marked Z, I am to

1 state that it is not clear why it should be necessary to
2 send some of the linen to an outside laundry, since it
3 would seem that the laundry department of the school
4 provides one of the main sources of training for the
5 senior girls."

6 So the laundry was regarded not just by the home
7 itself but by the Ministry as one of the routes of
8 training through to employment. Particular questions
9 are being asked about the particular children that were
10 identified in the report.

11 Then on 17th April, if we can look, please, at 1339,
12 SR248, who was the head of the home, replies to this
13 correspondence. If we can just scroll down, please, on
14 to the next page, we can see, if we just pause there,
15 please:

16 "We have decided in the interests of the senior
17 girls' training not to send any of the linen to
18 an outside laundry. The management -- the manager now
19 considered -- now considered ..."

20 MR LANE: "... never considered ..."

21 MR AIKEN: "... never considered having done so."

22 Then this is where it begins to talk about HIA249:

23 "I have had the elder of the two recently committed
24 children to whom you refer examined by Dr Gillespie, who
25 said he would forward his report to you. He gave me to

1 understand that there is really nothing which can be
2 done for her, in which case we believe" -- if we scroll
3 down, please -- "she will get as much care here as she
4 would get anywhere else. She has the companionship of
5 her sisters and we will put no strain on her now or at
6 any future time.

7 At the moment it's impossible" -- this now referring
8 to SJM27 -- "to get a suitable foster mother for the
9 baby. She is almost over her teething troubles, is
10 beginning to walk and is on the whole in perfect health
11 and looking very well."

12 Then reference is made to Miss Harrison having made
13 the comment in her report about the baby teething. You
14 can see that was reference to the cutting of the teeth.

15 If we just scroll down on to the next page, please,
16 then we see the letter coming to an end.

17 Now I am not going to open all of these documents,
18 but there is then internal exchange in the Ministry. On
19 18th April there's an internal memo at 1337 and 8 about
20 the letter that's just been received.

21 On 30th April then, having signalled in this letter
22 that there's going to be a report or examination by
23 Dr Gillespie, SR248 writes again -- the reference is at
24 1334; we don't need to go to it -- indicating that:

25 "Dr Gillespie has been ill but will send in the

1 report on the [name redacted] children very shortly."

2 Then on 2nd May, if we can look, please, at 1333,
3 Dr Gillespie provides the report to the Ministry. You
4 can see in the top reference is made:

5 "Copy for W.74."

6 Now file W.74 is the Ministry file about
7 St. Joseph's, the industrial school. There is
8 an implication -- and no doubt Mr McGuinness will pick
9 this up for me and see if we can get to the bottom of it
10 -- the reference underneath to W.1903 carries the
11 implication that there was within the Ministry
12 an individual file, whether within Home Affairs or
13 Health, on the particular child, because this medical
14 report is being put on that file and a copy is also
15 going on the general file, which is W.74. Whether we
16 can account for what might have happened to the W.1903
17 we will look into further. That has been sprung on
18 Mr McGuinness, whom I have not had a chance to discuss
19 it with.

20 You can see that Dr Gillespie is saying:

21 "There is to certify that I examined HIA249 in
22 St. Joseph's and came to the conclusion that she is
23 suffering from congenital heart disease. She is being
24 cared for particularly well in this institution."

25 Now in December of 1947, if we can look then,

1 please, at 1330, while the report begins by referring --
2 this is an inspection report indicating an inspection
3 taking place on December 10th, 1947. I will not bore
4 you with why, but the inspection is both December '47
5 and you will see in the next line March 1948. The
6 reason, which a flow of documents which I am not going
7 to open explain, is that when they attend first, the
8 Sister nurse has the medical cards away elsewhere and
9 not present, because she is working on them, and they
10 come back to inspect the medical cards on this later
11 date.

12 You will see a discussion in the report. If we can
13 just scroll down, please. So the third paragraph from
14 the bottom:

15 "The two young children of the [name redacted]
16 family receive careful attention. The elder of the two,
17 suffering from congenital heart trouble, does not appear
18 to have grown much and she has rather an anxious
19 appearance.

20 The baby has grown well, but was rather out of sorts
21 at the time of my visit. She sleeps at night in her
22 perambulator. A cot is available and I think she should
23 sleep in this, as she is too big for the perambulator at
24 night."

25 You will see in the detail of the Sisters of

1 St. Louis' statement that the cot appears, or at least
2 as far as everyone looking back believes it to be the
3 case, the cot is placed at the foot of SR248's bed and
4 that's where SJM27 grows up as a young child and perhaps
5 explains something that I will come to later on about
6 the relationship between those two individuals.

7 There were 45 girls at the time and the dormitories
8 and toilets, etc, are described as being "in their
9 customary spotless condition". You will see at the
10 conclusion, if we just scroll on to the next page,
11 please, that:

12 "The Sister-in-Charge and her staff are entirely
13 devoted to the children in their care and it is pleasant
14 to observe the happy relations existing between staff
15 and pupils."

16 There are then further documents that look at the
17 two particular children, which I am not going to open,
18 but there is references at 1332 and 1333.

19 Then there flows thereafter annual inspection
20 reports during the time that HIA249 is residing in
21 St. Joseph's. In December '48 the reference is 1327 to
22 1328. Reference then to playroom with games and
23 table-tennis, the State Registered Nurse Sister in
24 charge of the sick ward and positive conclusions.
25 December '49 can be found at 1313 and, because it is out

1 of sequence, then at 1315 and then 1314 are the three
2 pages of the report. They record Dr McIlroy attending
3 every fortnight to examine all the children, who have
4 a medical inspection once a quarter, according to the
5 report. Again happy relationship between staff
6 and children and the children are recorded as being
7 found to be happy and contented.

8 In December 1950 Ms Forrest you will find involved
9 in the inspections at 1297. Reference is made to the
10 sick room, but also a second inspection in effect taking
11 place when Ms Forrest visited the Glenariff holiday home
12 in the summer and making various positive remarks.

13 Similarly in November 1951 at 1300, and perhaps if
14 I just show you, please, at 1300 the conclusion at least
15 as far as the impression given to the inspector is
16 concerned. If we scroll down to the bottom, please, you
17 can see:

18 "The usual happy atmosphere prevailed" -- this is
19 Ms Forrest and Dr Simpson -- "with everyone going about
20 their tasks cheerfully and quietly. The girls' attitude
21 to the staff and to visitors is pleasant and it is
22 obvious that good relationships exist. The attitude of
23 the staff to the girls shows itself too in the way they
24 speak to them, affectionate, concerned and
25 understanding."

1 So that's the impression that the inspectors ...
2 When one reads the inspection reports -- and no doubt
3 Mr McGuinness will draw this out in his written
4 submissions -- there is reference to them sitting down
5 engaging with the children in the training school or the
6 young girls in the training school.

7 There then is an inspection in December of '51 and
8 March 1952, so a similar sequence to the one we looked
9 at previously. That can be found at 1289. All the
10 children are said to be healthy and well cared for.

11 The December 1952 inspection at 1284 refers to SJM22
12 engaged as the after care worker from as early as
13 December of '52 and records that:

14 "The standards of care and training remain
15 excellent. The impression is one of firmness and
16 kindness in the right proportion",

17 to quote the report.

18 A November '53 inspection can be found at 1280 and
19 1. The date of that inspection, if I can draw to the
20 Panel's attention, that is November 1953. If we just
21 look at that report, please, if we look at 1281, which
22 will give the concluding section, "General", this report
23 is being written just a number of months after
24 Ms Forrest's April 1953 voluntary homes memo that we
25 have looked at on various occasions in the past. You

1 will no court recall -- I am not going to bring it up --
2 some of the language contained in the latter parts of
3 that report about some of the homes that she was looking
4 at and the contrast between what's being said at the
5 same time contemporaneously about this particular
6 institution.

7 The inspection report then of December 1954 at 1272
8 and 3 refers again to excellent care that's being
9 provided.

10 Those are the external documents that are available.
11 It is unfortunate when we are looking at other witnesses
12 that the inspection reports that cover the particular
13 time of the witness aren't available, but these reports
14 do cover the time period that HIA249 is speaking about.

15 I am not going to go into the detail of it, but the
16 Panel are aware of the background of each of the --
17 those who face allegations.

18 SR248 was the head of the home and appears to have
19 been the head until approximately . So she was the
20 head throughout the time that we are dealing with what
21 HIA249 has to say and she died then in of .

22 SR237 that you heard about earlier today, and the
23 witnesses earlier today were dealing with a later
24 period, so the subject that we are looking at now is
25 an early time when SR237 is not the head, but SR248 is,

1 and it appears that she took over from SR248 in .
2 I am not at this point able to say at what date she
3 first began working in St. Joseph's. We are working on
4 establishing that. She retired in and died in
5 of . It is the case she worked in
6 St. Joseph's -- sorry -- from it seems to , and
7 there are I think four individuals in total who make
8 allegations against her, of which HIA249 is one.

9 Then she talks about SR249, who appears to have
10 worked in the laundry room, having joined the Order in
11 . She died in of . She is the
12 subject of a complaint from HIA249 and there are no
13 other complaints about her during her time working in
14 St. Joseph's or anywhere else.

15 SR250, who is mentioned in HIA249's allegations, was
16 born in and joined the Order in of .
17 She died in and again is not the subject of
18 any other complaints (sic).

19 SR252 entered the Order in of and died
20 in of . Again she is not the subject of any
21 other complaints by anyone to the Inquiry or otherwise.

22 There then is reference by HIA249 to a priest and it
23 seems the priest was a diocesan priest, SJM28 or SJM28.
24 He was a curate in from 1943 to 1965, amongst
25 other roles that he held during his Ministry. He died

1 on , and because his name was
2 mentioned to the police, the police examined his
3 background and couldn't find any other allegation made
4 against him. There are no other complaints made about
5 him to the Inquiry or to the best to the Inquiry's
6 knowledge to the diocese, and I am waiting for
7 confirmation that that is the final position from their
8 research.

9 HIA249 describes in her statement the very difficult
10 family circumstances in paragraph 1 of her statement
11 and, as I said, entered in February of '47 for a period
12 of eleven years.

13 She describes in paragraph 2 of her statement, if we
14 go to 067, please, what for her at the age of 4 she says
15 was a harsh admission process.

16 SR235, who makes the statement on behalf of the
17 Sisters of St. Louis, who arrived in 1958 and therefore
18 wasn't there in HIA249's time, but is making the
19 statement as the only surviving Sister who had some
20 experience of working in Middletown in the 1950s,
21 explains there are no documents about the admission
22 process that operated. Therefore she can't comment on
23 it specifically, but she does say there is no evidence
24 of a specific policy to separate siblings. She explains
25 in paragraphs 15 and 16 that the three dormitories in

1 Inquiry -- I am not going to open it -- at paragraph 18
2 -- the reference is at 22004 -- the formal punishments
3 received by SJM27 between 1953 and 1960, but I am going
4 to show you for the record two documents which will be
5 of general interest.

6 If we look at 22108, please, which is a punishment
7 book entry for October '59, if we turn that round,
8 please, you can see in the bottom right corner that the
9 document has been annotated as having been seen by and
10 it looks very like Ms Wright and Dr Simpson's
11 signatures, which I have come to recognise over the
12 course of the last number of years.

13 Then if we look at October 1960, please, at 22109,
14 there is another occasion whenever two slaps are given
15 to SJM27. You can see along the right-hand side they
16 are administered by the manager. So whatever the
17 relationship between SR248 and SJM27, that did not
18 obviate when it was deemed necessary or appropriate by
19 the -- those running the school on behalf of the Order
20 to cane. SJM27 seems to have received a caning on
21 occasion along with others.

22 SR234 explains to the Panel in paragraph 19 of
23 her statement that it is not possible for her to comment
24 on HIA249's allegation that five nuns that she names
25 used to beat SJM27 when she was older because of her

1 relationship with the head nun, SR248. All she can say
2 is that the records show what punishment was
3 administered as far as they were recorded, and if there
4 was anything done beyond that, which consequently was
5 not in compliance with the regulations, then she would
6 condemn that behaviour and apologise for it, but the
7 Panel will want to note, however, in fairness to the
8 five nuns, four of whom are deceased, and it may be that
9 HIA249 has mixed up the name of the fifth, because it
10 has not been possible to identify who is being referred
11 to, at no stage does SJM27 ever make these allegations
12 to anyone, at least in a form that allows the Inquiry to
13 receive a record of it.

14 In addition, there may be a recollection issue,
15 because you will recall HIA249 explaining in
16 paragraph 3 -- her saying that she was not allowed to be
17 with her sister. So there may be an issue as to how she
18 would be aware of what is said to have taken place.

19 In paragraph 4 of HIA249's statement, if we look at
20 068, please, she alleges that you were not allowed out
21 of bed at night to go to the toilet, although you will
22 note in the paragraph it says that HIA249 herself never
23 actually wet the bed in spite of that.

24 SR235 says to the Inquiry if it was the regime to
25 prevent children going to the toilet when they needed

1 to, then that wasn't appropriate, but she has no reason
2 to believe that that was the regime and indeed says that
3 maintaining quiet to let children get to sleep would be
4 appropriate.

5 In paragraph 5 HIA249 deals with the issue of floor
6 cleaning and says nuns caught her having tied cloths to
7 her shoes and sliding up the floor to polish it. They
8 then beat her for that.

9 SR234 draws to the Panel's attention in
10 paragraph 24 of her replying statement that she
11 recollects that was how you polished the floor, by
12 having something on your feet and working on the floor
13 in that way. So she says to the Inquiry Panel:

14 "It is difficult to understand how HIA249 would be
15 punished for engaging in the method that was the one you
16 were supposed to use."

17 If we look at paragraph 6, SJM28 at mass is said to
18 have slapped the face of HIA249, and SR235 explains to
19 the Inquiry in paragraph 26 of her statement that there
20 was a diocesan priest called SJM28, who said public mass
21 in the convent. The parish community she says would
22 have been present at the mass, because it was a public
23 mass, and that, therefore, everyone who was there at
24 least in sight of the parish priest would have seen this
25 assault taking place. As I indicated, in fairness to

1 SJM28, who is deceased, there are no other allegations
2 made by anyone against him.

3 Meal times are discussed in paragraph 6 also and the
4 requirement to eat in silence and beaten with a cane if
5 seen talking during meal times.

6 SR235 explains in paragraph 26 that she doesn't
7 recall meal times being in silence, at least in her
8 time, and that if the children were forbidden from
9 speaking to each other, then she apologises that such
10 a harsh regime was implemented, but the suggestion that
11 nuns had recourse to canes during meal times would
12 obviously be in complete contravention of the
13 regulations on corporal punishment. In fairness to the
14 Sisters, when you look at the punishment records just
15 for HIA249 alone, which are summarised in paragraph 28
16 of SR235's statement, and which cover the period '48 to
17 '54 -- if we just bring that up on the screen, please,
18 at 22006 -- we can see at the bottom of the page, if we
19 scroll down, please, the various punishments that are
20 recorded as given to HIA249.

21 We can see for untidy work she had to repeat her
22 work several times. In June '48 her bad temper required
23 her to apologise. At that stage she is 5 years of age.
24 In March '49 showing bad temper, she is made to
25 apologise. For insubordination she is put away from

1 class and deprived of fruit in 1950 when aged 9 --
2 sorry -- 8. In March '51 insubordinate and deprived of
3 music and made to apologise. Similarly reprimanded and
4 required to apologise in October '51 for being sulky.
5 In November '53, although I can't find the punishment
6 book entry that corresponds with this, it is recorded
7 that as a result of the destruction of clothing there
8 was one slap and similarly on 18th November '54, and it
9 may be Mr Hamill can look at that for me, because that
10 may be a conflation of one single entry which is
11 available of 18th November '54 of receiving one slap
12 with the cane.

13 So the punishments that certainly are recorded in
14 respect of HIA249 certainly record her being hit with
15 the cane on one occasion and perhaps two, subject to
16 that clarification, but the other punishments were not
17 caning.

18 SR235 points out that during her time there was to
19 the best of her belief only one cane, which was in the
20 head nun's or SR248's office, and the other nuns didn't
21 have one in order to be walking round the dining hall
22 with them. Obviously the Panel have the inspection
23 reports and can consider the descriptions therein about
24 the atmosphere that's described.

25 What I have just said about the context and the

1 caning and the punishments is relevant to what HIA249
2 says at paragraph 7, if we look, please, at 069, where
3 she identifies the nun that she says beat her with
4 a cane.

5 All of the punishment book entries that relate to
6 HIA249 can be found at 22110 to 22116 in the bundle. As
7 I said, each of the nuns who are named there, which is
8 SR237, SR249, SR250, SR252, so those four nuns, are all
9 now deceased, and only SR237 has been the subject of an
10 allegation by anyone other than HIA249.

11 In paragraph 8 HIA249 describes being sent for
12 newspapers by the Reverend Mother, at that time SR253.
13 As a result, however she did that and being considered
14 cheeky, SR237 punished her in two ways according to her
15 statement. She says that later the same day she hit her
16 with a stick or a cane presumably, and then the next day
17 as still part of the same process made to stand at
18 school with her hands up against the wall for the entire
19 day.

20 Now the Panel will be able to reflect in the course
21 of the evidence whether there is any other allegation
22 like that that has been made or will be made and are
23 aware of one.

24 What SR235 has said on behalf of the Sisters of
25 St. Louis at paragraph 30 of her replying statement at

1 22007 is that it would have been very rare for anyone to
2 see the Reverend Mother. She was not in the orphanage
3 but was in the convent, and she can't believe that
4 a child would be in a convent bedroom, never mind the
5 Reverend Mother's bedroom, but if HIA249 was punished in
6 the way that's described, she would totally condemn it,
7 but points out the records of punishments, which, if
8 accurate, don't support that contention.

9 In paragraph 9 of the statement HIA249 talks about
10 the first time that she had a period and the difficulty
11 without knowledge of that experience for her and as
12 a result coming into contact with SR237, who beat her on
13 the bare back and bottom until she was tired. She said
14 that was the worst beating of all. It is said by HIA249
15 that the only basis for that was that she was taking her
16 sheets to have them dealt with.

17 Now SR235 has said much less discussion about
18 periods at that point in this country's history, but
19 would totally condemn any beating of a girl over it, and
20 again the punishment books don't record that taking
21 place.

22 In paragraph 10 HIA249 describes having run away
23 a few days after the beating and being brought back and
24 beaten.

25 Again SR235 points out there is no record of her

1 absconding in 1955, at which time she would have been
2 13, or of her receiving any punishment in that year.

3 In paragraph 11 the issue of bullying is touched on.
4 HIA249 identifies two girls by name that she says were
5 older than her and bullied her.

6 In paragraphs 33 and 34 of SR235's statement she
7 points out she can find one of those girls, who was, in
8 fact, two years younger than HIA249 rather than older
9 than her, and the other individual it has not been
10 possible to identify. In any event HIA249 herself says
11 she didn't report the bullying.

12 In paragraph 12 HIA249 makes reference to three
13 girls and the suggestion that they died and were buried
14 at St. Joseph's. As I've said, the Sisters have said to
15 the Inquiry that that's not the case. In respect of
16 each of those three individuals we have tried to get to
17 the bottom of what may be the position. Certainly in
18 relation to one of them it is clear that they suffered
19 kidney failure and passed away. In fact, that was known
20 to the Ministry of Home Affairs, because it is recorded
21 in the inspection report of November '51/March '52 and
22 that can be found at 1300. We have asked some further
23 questions of the Sisters in respect of the other two and
24 will make you aware of the outcome of that in due
25 course, but there is nothing to suggest from any of the

1 documents that these deaths are the want of care from
2 the Sisters of St. Louis, but we will try to get them
3 taken as far as we possibly can.

4 In paragraph 13 reference is made by HIA249 to SR237
5 beating her in the aftermath of an explosion having been
6 heard. She got beaten because of the behaviour of some
7 of the other children.

8 Again for the same reason SR235 says if that
9 occurred, then it was unacceptable and the Order
10 apologises, but it is not consistent with the records
11 that are available.

12 Reference is also made to teachers, and SR235 draws
13 to the Panel's conclusion that perhaps HIA249 is
14 mistaken in her recollection, because SR249, who is the
15 subject of an allegation here as a teacher, was not, in
16 fact, a teacher. She worked in the laundry. SR250 was
17 a teacher, who taught older girls in the top stream.

18 In paragraph 15 of the statement HIA249 refers to
19 medical treatment and not really remembering a nurse or
20 sick bay or a doctor, and SR235 draws to the Panel's
21 attention there was a nurse, there was an infirmary,
22 there was a visiting doctor, and that's borne out in the
23 inspection reports I gave you. In December '48 at 1327
24 and 8 you will see reference to the State Registered
25 Nurse Sister in charge of the sick ward and similarly in

1 1954, towards the end of the inspections that are
2 available, a new Sister has taken over the medical side,
3 who was also an SRN, and reference is made to the sick
4 room. That's at 1272.

5 In paragraph 17 you can see specific reference to
6 one occasion when the inspectors were called -- were
7 visiting. There was reference to a beating having taken
8 place as a result of having eaten the food that the nuns
9 were to eat.

10 The point that SR235 makes to the Inquiry is that
11 the nuns never ate in the same place as the children.
12 They ate in the convent, but if it happened or the
13 Inquiry accept it happened, then the Sisters apologise
14 for it.

15 In paragraph 18 reference is made to visiting and
16 visiting only being facilitated one at a time without
17 hugs being permitted.

18 SR235 says to the Inquiry in paragraph 44 she can't
19 understand how adults, who would have been engaged in
20 visits as well, wouldn't have complained if such
21 a system operated, but again if that was the system,
22 then it was inappropriate and harsh, if the Panel
23 considers that is what took place.

24 If we look at paragraph 19 then, HIA249 sets out her
25 general memory:

1 "The nuns were very cruel to us. I don't think that
2 being in prison would have been as hard for us. We had
3 an awful time of it."

4 She remembers cleaning all the time and being
5 checked, as it were, as to her honesty.

6 If we look, please, at 22011, in paragraph 45 SR235
7 says this to the Panel:

8 "I regret that HIA249's memories are of such cruelty
9 and she recalls such a negative experience in the
10 orphanage at St. Joseph's. If it is accepted that she
11 was forced to clean all the time and was beaten all the
12 time, then I apologise again on behalf of the Order.
13 This regime is not reflected in any of the inspection
14 reports from the Ministry."

15 If we go through, please, to paragraph 49, if we
16 just scroll down, she says:

17 "I regret that HIA249 remembers such a negative time
18 in St. Joseph's. In the absence of comprehensive
19 documents or contemporaneous witnesses it is difficult
20 to fully respond to her complaints. If it is accepted
21 by the Inquiry that HIA249 was subjected to the abuses
22 outlined in her statement, then I apologise on behalf of
23 the Order."

24 I appreciate, Members of the Panel, I have been
25 travelling at quite some pace through a considerable

1 volume of material, but I hope that that has done
2 justice to the material that's available, and I don't
3 propose to say anything further about the evidence of
4 HIA249, now HIA249.

5 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Very well. We have another witness I think
6 to give evidence. We will rise for a short period and
7 then, assuming that Ms Smith is ready, we'll start.

8 (3.10 pm)

9 (Short break)

10 (3.20 pm)

11 WITNESS HIA161 (called)

12 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

13 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, Chairman, Panel Members. Our
14 next witness today is HIA161. HIA161 has already given
15 evidence on Day 98 of the Inquiry --

16 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

17 MS SMITH: -- and she waived her anonymity on the last
18 occasion.

19 HIA161's witness statement is at 001 through to 017.

20 The Sisters' response is at SJM882 to 919.

21 The DoJ response statement is at SJM039 to 40. They
22 indicate they have no records in respect of HIA161.

23 The Health & Social Care Board response is -- there
24 are two statements, one at 074 and one at 480 to 481.

25 They indicated that they thought that HIA161 and her

1 sister had been a private placement when they were
2 originally placed in Nazareth House, although we did
3 eventually find some papers in respect of the family in
4 a file that was held in respect of HIA161's sister [name
5 redacted]. Those papers are in the bundle at SJM10001
6 to 10337.

7 Now, HIA161, this is the witness statement that you
8 gave to the Inquiry. You have given evidence to the
9 Inquiry before about when you were in Nazareth House in
10 Belfast.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. If we could go straight to paragraph 25 of your
13 statement -- sorry, Chairman.

14 CHAIRMAN: Just before you do, can I just confirm, HIA161,
15 I know you waived your anonymity the last time, but some
16 people have changed their position. Is that still your
17 position --

18 A. Yes.

19 CHAIRMAN: -- just so we know what it is.

20 A. Yes.

21 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

22 MS SMITH: In paragraph 25 you were talking about Sisters of
23 Nazareth and Nazareth House. That's page 008, please.

24 You say there:

25 "There were lots of different incidents with

1 different nuns and it happened daily, so it is difficult
2 to describe the detail of every incident. It was what
3 you came to expect from them and it was just how they
4 were. It was exactly the same in Middletown, which was
5 run by the St. Louis Order. So this Order of nuns
6 believed that was how you brought children up."

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. Now you were talking about the Sisters of Nazareth and
9 saying even when you went to Middletown, the attitude of
10 the nuns, if I can put it that way, was pretty much the
11 same.

12 A. Yes, that's right.

13 Q. I was asking when we were talking earlier about whether
14 there were differences between the two institutions and
15 you said that while there were certain differences with
16 regards to the punishments that were meted out, you
17 still nonetheless felt that the attitudes of the nuns
18 were similar.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. We know -- for those people who don't know, HIA161, you
21 actually wrote a book about your experiences. That's
22 "Suffer Little Children".

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You deal with your time in Middletown and the move
25 I should say from Nazareth House to Middletown in

1 paragraph 23 and your time then in Middletown in
2 paragraph -- sorry -- chapter 23 and chapter 24 of the
3 book.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. In the book at chapter 24 you say that the regime was
6 every bit as harsh as Nazareth House --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- in Middletown.

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. In what respects did you find it harsh?

11 A. In respect of like the nuns' attitudes, in the
12 punishments, in the beatings, being made to say you did
13 something that you actually didn't do and being beaten
14 until you admitted to something that you didn't do.
15 Just pretty similar really. I felt that when we moved
16 from Nazareth House, because there was a letter sent
17 from Nazareth House to Middletown, you know, describing
18 us as, you know, troubled, that immediately arriving we
19 were told we were not going to have an easy time of it.
20 We were told, you know, they would get the devil out of
21 us, that they had already heard what we were like, and
22 so consequently it was pretty much the same.

23 You know, there were a few things different. There
24 was things like netball, which we never had in Nazareth
25 House. There was a cigarette that you got at 7.50 every

1 evening. If you smoked, you got a cigarette if you were
2 on good behaviour. That could be taken away. So there
3 were a few things.

4 The nuns were pretty much the same as in Nazareth
5 House, but also the girls were different, because
6 obviously they came from troubled backgrounds. Instead
7 of the orphanage where people were orphaned, we were
8 then dealing with people that you had to watch your
9 back, because they could beat you up and -- so, yes, it
10 was the nun and the girls then. It was pretty
11 horrendous to cope with that.

12 Q. In paragraph 28 of your statement you relate -- and we
13 talked a little bit about this the last day -- about
14 after absconding from Nazareth House you were taken to
15 St. Joseph's. We spoke the last day about a lady called
16 SJM22.

17 A. Uh-huh.

18 Q. We weren't sure then who she was, but it appears that
19 she worked in a semi-voluntary capacity for the nuns.
20 You mentioned the fact that you had come across her in
21 each of the homes that you were in, including when you
22 were living with a family out of Nazareth House.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. It would appear that she wasn't a social worker but
25 someone who helped out --

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. -- in respect of children --

3 A. Yes. That's right.

4 Q. -- in the nuns' house. You speak about that episode in
5 chapter 23 of your book, how she took you to what you
6 now know was the Juvenile Court. From there she took
7 you on to St. Joseph's and took you for something to eat
8 before you went to St. Joseph's.

9 A. Yes. We didn't know we were in court. We were just
10 whizzed away that day from Nazareth House after
11 absconding and obviously we broke into a house to keep
12 warm. It wasn't somebody's house. It was a building
13 site of new houses, but we were given these clothes to
14 put on in Nazareth House and brought -- I thought it was
15 a church, because everybody stood up when the judge came
16 in and sat down. It was a bit like a church, and SJM22
17 told us what to say. If we were asked about the nuns,
18 we were to say how wonderful they were, and we did as we
19 were told. You know, we thought we would be in trouble
20 if we didn't.

21 Q. That's how you came to go to Middletown.

22 A. Yes. We didn't end up going back to Nazareth House. We
23 ended up going straight to Middletown.

24 Q. Straight to Middletown.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. We know from -- you thought -- in your statement you
2 talked about being in Middletown from 1967 to 1970.
3 I was showing you records that we have received from the
4 congregation of the Sisters of St. Louis which show you
5 were actually admitted on 23rd December 1968. If we
6 could just look at 24286, please, which is the admission
7 record. I know, HIA161, that there is an issue over
8 your date of birth. We don't need to go into that, but
9 apart from the date of birth, which is not your date of
10 birth as you understand it to be, the rest of the
11 details on this form are, in fact, correct, which shows
12 that you went in on 23rd December 1968 and you went
13 there on foot of a Training School Order under
14 section 59 of the legislation.

15 Now if we can just scroll on down, please, it gives
16 your height and your description and then it says -- and
17 I will come back to this, but I will just show it while
18 we are looking at this document -- that you were
19 licensed on 22nd March 1971 to live in -- to a live-in
20 job in You moved to a new job in You
21 were discharged on 22nd December 1971 when you were
22 living in and you were married on

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Now, as I say, I will come back to the circumstances of

1 you leaving in more detail in due course, but
2 paragraph 31 then, if we can go to that in your
3 statement, which is 010, and this is where you talk
4 about your time in Middletown, and you say:

5 "We were in with the criminal element at Middletown,
6 so you had to watch your back",

7 as you were describing. You say:

8 "The nuns there were also horrendous. I recall when
9 I arrived I heard screaming and some girl was in the
10 bath being scrubbed with a deck scrubber. Cleanliness
11 was next to godliness and I remember that screaming and
12 thinking to myself that I had gone from bad to worse."

13 Now I was asking you a little bit about this,
14 HIA161, and you did not witness anybody being scrubbed
15 with a deck scrubber. Isn't that correct?

16 A. I didn't witness it. I could just hear it. I could
17 hear the -- what was going on and I witnessed the marks
18 on the person when they got out of the bath, you know,
19 the scratches and the screaming and "No, Sister. Stop
20 it, Sister". I could hear the nuns saying about this
21 cleanliness being next to -- "You won't get into heaven.
22 You need to be clean". I didn't actually witness the
23 bath taking place, but I could hear all of it going on.

24 Q. And this was on more than one occasion.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. This was your first experience at Middletown, but I said
2 you heard this on other occasions.

3 A. I have, yes, at particular times in the dormitory where
4 girls would get scared and they would jump into bed with
5 somebody and then they would get caught. One of the
6 nuns would come in, and SR238 usually in our dormitory
7 was the head of our dormitory, and if they were caught
8 in bed, I have seen girls being dragged out, and the
9 bathroom was literally just the next room to us, and you
10 could hear what was going on. You could hear the whole
11 drama going on and, yes, I mean, these things were
12 actually happening. What I can say is what I heard and
13 what people told me afterwards and what I saw, the skin,
14 that kind of thing.

15 Q. Well, just coming back to your statement -- sorry.
16 I should have said, as I explained to you, we have had
17 a response statement from SR240 in your case on behalf
18 of the Sisters of St. Louis. She says that girls were
19 responsible for their own hygiene and that nuns would
20 not have bathed teenagers, but you are saying this was
21 not a normal type of just having a bath.

22 A. Our normal hygiene of getting washed in the morning was
23 down to us. When this occasion would happen, it would
24 be in way of a punishment. The girls needed to be
25 cleaned. They needed to be almost held down and

1 scrubbed. It wasn't -- it wasn't that they did it out
2 of a normal routine. This would be because they jumped
3 into bed with somebody else or it may be, you know, they
4 had done something and they would be taken away to be --
5 it was very firm that, you know, you wouldn't get into
6 heaven unless you were clean. The way to be clean was
7 Jeyes Fluid and scrubbing, you know. That's the only
8 way I can describe it. It was pretty frightening.

9 Q. You talk in paragraph 31 here about the girls and you
10 say that your sister made friends easily but you didn't
11 mix well with people and didn't trust many people and
12 you were often bullied. You say the abuse in Middletown
13 was awful but for some reason you say you expect that in
14 a remand home but you don't expect it in an orphanage.
15 So you were -- can I put it this way: you were more
16 accepting of the behaviour in Middletown than you had
17 been in Nazareth House. Would that be ...?

18 A. I was more accepting, because I knew that most people in
19 Middletown were there because other people couldn't
20 handle them, because it was a remand home and not
21 an orphanage. I took that to be a different --
22 a different kind of thing, that we weren't put in there
23 because we were orphans; we were put in there because we
24 were troubled. Yes. I mean, I don't know whether it is
25 true or not, but I took it to be a different ...

1 Q. Set-up?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You talk about a young nun, who you name here. I am
4 going to use the name, because I think there may be some
5 confusion, because this is SR239.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You thought that she was, in fact, the nurse. Is that
8 right?

9 A. Yes. From what I believe she was very young. I think
10 when we talked to her at the time she was only about 23,
11 24, and she hadn't come from another convent. She had
12 come from the Hospital in , and
13 you would go to her if you had an illness or anything
14 like that, but she was very good to talk to. She was
15 very sweet. I have never known her be abusive in any
16 way. She just stood out different to all the nuns in
17 there. She was just different.

18 Q. Just to be clear, her name is SR239 --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- but there was also a SR 271

21 A. There was a SR 271 , yes, who ended up -- SR 271
22 SR 271 was quite abusive, but when she -- she just left
23 the convent one day in normal clothes. I don't know
24 what happened there, but one day she was a nun and
25 another day she just left and she was in her normal

1 clothes. It was very strange.

2 Q. I think the congregation have confirmed to the Inquiry
3 that, in fact, she did leave the congregation.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. So that would tie in with the memory you have of her
6 leaving.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You go on then to speak about --

9 CHAIRMAN: Was it SR 271 or SR239 that left the
10 convent?

11 A. ^{SR 271}

12 MS SMITH: SR239 remained?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You go on then to speak about SR238 here, who was SR238.
15 You say that she was a nightmare. You say you were in
16 her dormitory and you got slapped, beaten and punched by
17 her regularly. There was no-one you could think of in
18 life that you could have gone to for help, no-one who
19 would have believed you or done anything for you.

20 You go on -- just before I move on from that
21 paragraph, you go on to say that the girls that you were
22 with, that you sort of had to watch your back, and that
23 you yourself then behaved in such a way that the girls
24 would respect you --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- and your behaviour disimproved. The congregation
2 have told us that they always discouraged fighting and
3 arguments between girls. Was that your experience? If
4 two girls were fighting, did the Sisters try to break it
5 up, for example?

6 A. Sometimes; sometimes not. It depended who was fighting.
7 Sometimes they'd turn a blind eye to it. Sometimes they
8 would break it up if they didn't like the way the fight
9 was going, you know. It would just -- it would just
10 depend, but you could get beaten up quite badly and
11 a nun would be on duty.

12 Q. They have also described SR238 as a very small
13 and slight woman. Was that your memory of her?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And they said -- I was asking you, "Did any of the other
16 girls witness the beatings that you sustained at her
17 hands?"

18 A. Yes. The other girls would have witnessed it, because
19 she was in a cell -- what was called the nun's cell
20 where they slept at the bottom of the dormitory in one
21 of the little corners of the dormitory. She used to
22 make us lie in bed at night with her hands crossed over
23 our chest like that in case we died in the night so our
24 hands were crossed and lying dead still. I remember
25 lying like that. I was very afraid of this nun. She

1 might have been slightly built or whatever. It didn't
2 stop her with the stick. It didn't stop her lashing out
3 and hitting.

4 I remember falling asleep, and as I fell asleep, my
5 arms would fall away. I wasn't crossed. I actually
6 woke up to her slapping me: "Get your arms up, HIA161.
7 Get then up and get them ...", and you would wake up and
8 try and cross them. This was in front of the whole
9 dormitory.

10 Q. SR240 in her response statement has said that, you know,
11 she would have expected some of the other girls in the
12 dormitory to have raised a complaint about the treatment
13 that you were experiencing.

14 A. No. You wouldn't raise a complaint. You wouldn't,
15 because you'd know how it would be accepted and you
16 would be afraid.

17 Q. You go on here to say that you also tried to run away
18 from Middletown, but it was out in the styx. So it was
19 harder to run away and you had to keep to the fields.

20 Now I am going to come back to this in a moment, but
21 just in terms of what the records show, they show you
22 and [name redacted] -- your sister, I should say, going
23 to the dentist in Armagh. Do you remember that?

24 A. No.

25 Q. There was also an entry about you going to the hospital

1 by ambulance on 13th April 1969 and being there for
2 three days. I think we can see that at -- yes, I think
3 it is at SJM895. You were taken to hospital in
4 Dungannon, which you see there, just on 13th. It is
5 obviously April. It says:

6 "HIA161 went to hospital in Dungannon by ambulance
7 at about 10.00 pm."

8 Do you see that?

9 A. Yes. I remember an ambulance coming once after I'd been
10 beaten up and I thought that I had broken my nose.

11 Q. When you say beaten up, that was by another girl,
12 HIA161?

13 A. By another girl, yes, yes.

14 Q. You don't remember the name of the girl or anything?
15 No?

16 A. I don't, but some of her friends joined in. So it
17 was -- there was like a school -- a convent band. Some
18 of us had to play accordion and some of us had to play
19 violin. It was compulsory that you played something.
20 As I went in to the music -- to do the music that night,
21 I was just set upon by this particular girl. Now the
22 seniors there, the older ones, they would have had
23 priorities on sitting on chairs whereas like the juniors
24 would have had to sit wherever, and I may have sat on
25 the wrong chair or somebody's chair or whatever, but

1 I just remember -- my memories at the time are being
2 dragged out by the hair, literally pulled around by the
3 hair and bitten and punched. The next thing I knew
4 an ambulance was coming, and this is the only thing
5 I can think that this is related to in my memory.

6 Q. There was another entry showing that you went on 2nd May
7 1969 for an X-ray. It may have been related to the same
8 incident.

9 A. It could be. I have no memory of that, no.

10 CHAIRMAN: Are there references for that?

11 MS SMITH: It is exhibited to SR240's statement at 895 is
12 the one that is on the screen, Chairman, and I think the
13 other one is perhaps the next page. Yes. It is 896.
14 It says:

15 "SR239 took HIA161 and to the
16 hospital in Armagh for an X-ray."

17 An I am not sure if it is
18 . Two girls were taken to the dentist.

19 A. I don't remember going to the dentist.

20 Q. Well, I wasn't saying that you went to the dentist on
21 this occasion, but you don't have any memory of doing
22 that?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Paragraph 32 of your statement, HIA161, if we can go
25 back to it, as I started to look at that, which is 010,

1 now you relate here about one occasion when you ran away
2 with the help of the other girls, and they all tied
3 their bedsheets together to make a rope so that you and
4 another girl were able to get out a window. You
5 describe the details of this in paragraph -- sorry -- in
6 chapter 24 of your book.

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. You give more detail than is in this paragraph. You say
9 you got as far as Derry. You met a guy who you name
10 there and he had escaped from borstal. He put you in
11 touch with -- and I am going to use the name -- it was
12 who you were put in touch with, who
13 was then a She listened to your story and you
14 begged her not to send you back to the home, but she
15 said that she had to, even though you told her all about
16 the abuse you had suffered. You told her:

17 "... about the canes and sticks that would be broken
18 over us, but she said nothing would happen to us on our
19 return, and I think it was because of what I told her
20 that I ended up getting out of Middletown and being
21 placed with a family in ..."

22 a particular area.

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. "By this time I was viewed by the home as a troublemaker
25 and very defiant and perhaps more trouble than I was

1 worth. I think I left Middletown just before I was .
2 I was there for nearly years."

3 Now we know that you actually left in , HIA161.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. I am going to look at some of the documents in respect
6 of this incident. SR240's statement in paragraph 11 of
7 that at 884, she says that the records confirm that on
8 1st November 1970 you and another girl called
9 absconded from your dormitory.

10 A. Yes, we did.

11 Q. I am actually going to look at the document that shows
12 that -- that's 24702 -- because this is -- SR240 is
13 really relating the document and I think it better if we
14 just look at the original. It says:

15 "Before mass SR240 and **SR 273** reported that two
16 girls, HIA161 and , were missing from Immaculata
17 dorm. The police in Tynan, Armagh, Omagh and Belfast
18 were informed and descriptions of the missing girls were
19 given. During the day the girls in the dormitory told
20 how the escape had been arranged and worked out."

21 Presumably they told about the tying together of the
22 sheets.

23 "All were implicated except another , who
24 slept through. It was also ascertained that HIA161 had
25 written to a girl and had said that she

1 might be in at Hallowe'en weekend. Since the
2 Derry police admitted that it would not be easy for them
3 to enter the Bogside area if it was decided -- Bogside
4 area, it was decided that SR240 and should go and
5 check at the house in Derry. The Sisters left for Derry
6 at 7.00 pm.

7 About 10.30 pm SR 270 had a ring from
8 . said that
9 she had come across the two girls who had absconded from
10 Middletown. She said they were in a near hysterical
11 state and refused to go to a police station. They
12 refused to come back to Middletown on the grounds that
13 HIA161 was afraid she would be sent to borstal."

14 Can I just pause there, HIA161? Did you have a fear
15 that you might be sent to borstal if you went back to
16 Middletown?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. said that the girls had recognised SR240 and
19 had run away."

20 Can I ask: did you see SR240 in Derry at your friend
21 house or anything?

22 A. No, and I don't know -- none of that is actually true.
23 I don't know who the other person is that you are
24 talking about.

25 Q.

1 A. No, I know . I went to find at the

2

3 Q. You mean , , from the

4

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You had no idea who that was?

7 A. No. Never met her. I don't know who she is. Never
8 heard of her, because what happened was that we got to
9 Derry. Actually we got -- straightaway we got a lift to
10 Omagh. On the first night we spent in Omagh and we
11 stayed in a telephone box near my aunt's house and the
12 next day we made our way, mostly walking, getting short
13 lifts, to Derry. We spent another night in Derry in
14 a Catholic Church actually, where we hid before they
15 locked it up, and my friend said she wanted us
16 to meet a friend of hers, who was nicknamed , but
17 his proper name was He was on the run
18 from borstal. He had been on the run two or three
19 years, but he knew She said she
20 would talk to him so that we could get our story to
21 somebody who would believe us, and that she thought that
22 he could get us there to talk to and
23 tell her why we had run away.

24 He got back to us and he said that he has arranged
25 a lift to Cookstown -- that he had spoke to

1 arranged a lift to Cookstown, and so we took
2 this lift, and when we got to Cookstown, the nuns were
3 already there with a priest. They were already there at
4 Cookstown. We ran the minute we saw them. We never saw
5 them in Derry. They weren't in Derry. It was only when
6 we got to we saw that she had
7 called -- it felt like a betrayal at the time; that we
8 were headed there and she had called the police.

9 Q. Can I just pause and wonder would this maybe
10 have been the person who gave you the lift to
11 house? Is that possible?

12 A. I don't think so. I think it was a man that gave us the
13 lift.

14 Q. I will just read on what the document is saying, HIA161,
15 before we come back to what happened in
16 house, but it says:

17 "Father **SJM70** rang at 11.00 pm to say that
18 had contacted him and she said that
19 the girls would come back if she would accompany them.
20 This she agreed to do. **SR 270** contacted
21 **SR240** in Derry, but the Sisters there had no way of
22 getting in touch with

23 When there was no sign of by 1.00 pm"
24 -- and I think this might be actually 1.00 am -- "Father
25 **SJM70** said he would go to Cookstown, as he felt sure

1 that these people would need to get back home as soon as
2 possible. SR 270 went with Father SJM70 to
3 home and it was between 5.00 and 6.00 am
4 when the car arrived back with the two girls sound
5 asleep in the back. As they had had a meal in
6 they went straight to bed."

7 Now you were just telling us that when you arrived
8 at house, the priest -- sorry -- the
9 police and the nuns were already there.

10 A. Yes. That was the first time that we even knew that the
11 convent had been --

12 Q. Looking for you?

13 A. -- looking for us. We got to and,
14 yes, the minute I knew that the nuns were there, we made
15 a run for it. We tried to run.
16 convinced us that they would be in the living room with
17 this priest and that she could take us to the kitchen
18 and she would listen to what we had to say.

19 Q. And she did do that?

20 A. And she did do that. We didn't have a meal. We had --
21 I think a cup of tea and chocolate biscuits I think we
22 had. She listened to us and it probably went on for
23 hours actually. She said, you know, "You are going to
24 get a chance to talk and they are not allowed to come
25 in. You know, they will stay there", and she reassured

1 us, and we told her of the abuses. We told her what
2 would happen to us if we were taken back. We told her
3 what life was like and that the police wouldn't even
4 listen to us. The police seemed to be in with the nuns
5 and there was nobody we could tell. She said the only
6 way that she could help was if we went back. She said,
7 "I can't help you, because within the law you have to go
8 back", and I said, "If we go back", I said, "we are just
9 going to get battered". She said, "No. I have spoken
10 to the nuns. They are not going to punish you in that
11 way". She reassured us going back, and if they did,
12 that she would find out. So she persuaded us after
13 quite a long -- a lot of conversation that we should go
14 back and that she could only help us in that way.

15 Q. When you did go back, you weren't beaten -- isn't that
16 correct, HIA161 -- and you weren't punished in any way?

17 A. We weren't beaten that time. No, we weren't, but --

18 Q. If we can just -- sorry -- scroll down to the next page
19 of this entry, if we may, this is the next day, November
20 2nd, where it says:

21 "The girls had a late sleep as there was no school."

22 Now I think that's the girls generally. I am just
23 going to scroll on down through this. There was a film,
24 "The Inn of the Sixth Happiness", there. It says:

25 "The police were informed that the girls were back.

1 Keady police asked us" -- if we can just scroll on down,
2 please -- "to get the girls to write an account of
3 times, roads taken, etc. The girls will be questioned
4 regarding the breaking and entering of
(Middletown) house on Sunday afternoon."

6 Now I am not suggesting and certainly when you ran
7 away on this occasion there was no question of you
8 breaking and entering into any house, although the
9 police may have suspected that you and had done
10 so and maybe wanted to question you about that, but you
11 do remember being made to write out things when you got
12 back?

13 A. Yes. We didn't go straight to bed like they said. We
14 hadn't a meal at I remember me and
15 -- being put in a room separate. The other girls
16 weren't allowed to speak to us, and not so much did we
17 have to write out. I remember nuns being in and out and
18 writing and getting us to sign stuff, that maybe we had
19 been mistaken about this or mistaken about that.

20 I remember we had to do lines. There was a --
21 something like, you know, "I will not run away again and
22 talk about the nuns to people". This was a big issue,
23 the fact that we had talked to about
24 what was taking place. I don't remember of the way they
25 are saying it.

1 Q. Yes. If we can just scroll back up to the preceding
2 page, please. I actually missed a point there about:
3 "HIA161 and wrote a statement. Since they
4 admitted to having spoken in a derogatory manner of
5 school to and , they were asked to
6 write out the menu here, etc."

7 A. I don't remember that.

8 Q. So it looks as though, if not on the day before, you
9 might have been questioned on the day you got back about
10 what you had said to and .

11 A. We were questioned about that. They were furious that
12 this came out and told -- told that we were to -- that
13 what we were saying was wrong, that the nuns weren't
14 really like this, and would we sign -- we thought we
15 weren't going to get out of this room. We literally
16 thought that this is where we were going to be stuck
17 until we sign this paper and we were vexed and we didn't
18 know what we were in for. We didn't know if the nuns
19 were like postponing the punishment or ..., you know.

20 So obviously I can't really remember now what we signed,
21 but there was a lot of conversation around what we told

22 SJM99 .

23 Q. You then run away again a couple of weeks later, HIA161,
24 if we look at the document on 24706, which is just the
25 next page. November 16th, Monday. There is some talk

1 about what was happening in general terms in the school,
2 but it says here that:

3 "SR238 reported during breakfast that there seemed
4 to be a general air of unrest. This unrest became
5 apparent to staff during the morning and they were
6 especially vigilant during break. SR 272

7 noticed that some girls ate very little at dinner, but
8 she overlooked this. When the dining room was cleared
9 and ready for tea, the girls went outside to walk
10 around. About 1.20 six crossed Quinn's Wall and went
11 towards Monaghan Road. The six were

12 HIA161, [name redacted],

13 If we can scroll on down:

14 "The police were informed and the sergeant came as
15 soon as he could. SR 273 and SR 272 went in
16 the convent car to try to locate the girls.

17 tired easily and SR 272 brought her back.

18 A little later HIA161 and were apprehended. About
19 4.00 pm the two Sisters found the three missing girls by
20 the river bank on the Republic side. They were dressed
21 in obviously borrowed or stolen clothes. With
22 difficulty they were persuaded to return. The legal
23 implications of this did not occur to anyone."

24 I presume they mean about the fact they were being
25 brought back from the Republic of Ireland.

1 "SR240 and SR 270 returned from Belfast."

2 But if we scroll on down -- oh, yes.

3 "They were informed that the girls had locked

4 themselves into a classroom and were smoking. SR 270

5 SR 270 asked to open the door. This was when

6 the girls did not appear in the dining room for supper.

7 SR240 rang and asked him to contact the school.

8 SR 270 and SR240 interviewed some of the

9 girls and heard the full story. Cigarettes were stolen

10 after dinner. About 9.00 pm the four recalcitrants

11 opened the classroom. They were left sitting there for

12 about sixty minutes when and were

13 interviewed. They told of stealing ..."

14 Then the rest of that entry from 16th November is

15 missing, but, HIA161, I know in your book you talk about

16 girls barricading themselves into the refectory on

17 an occasion --

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. -- and giving the nuns a list of demands of what you

20 wanted and being there, in fact, overnight. This is not

21 the same incident?

22 A. No, I don't recall -- I don't recall this at all.

23 Q. You don't remember locking yourselves into the classroom

24 or other girls locking themselves into the classroom

25 after returning away?

1 A. No, no.

2 Q. We know that after the incident where you ran away to
3 Derry you were interviewed by police. Do you remember
4 that?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Well, certainly the police asked the Sisters to take the
7 statements maybe from you. Maybe that's what actually
8 happened rather than the police actually interviewing
9 you.

10 Paragraph 33 of your statement you talk about how --
11 that's 011 -- you talked about how you left Middletown
12 just before you were 16, and your placement only lasted
13 a few months. The father you describe there.

14 "They took Catholic girls, because they knew they
15 were hard workers."

16 They used you as a skivvy. You had to work until
17 late at night and look after seven children, getting up
18 early, taking them all to different schools, scrubbing
19 their clothes by hand, cooking for them. Father acted
20 weird around you and you hated it. You asked SR240 if
21 you could go to another family, but she didn't arrange
22 that for you. So you got on a bus and went to Omagh.

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. Now if I can just pause there, first of all, HIA161.

25 You felt SR240 was someone that you could ask to get you

1 away from this family, did you, or --

2 A. I felt like -- well, because I was told that I was still
3 actually under their --

4 Q. Care?

5 A. -- care, and that if I did something, I could be taken
6 back, so I was trying to do it the right way. I was
7 trying to get them to find me another placement so that
8 I wouldn't end up getting -- going back into care. So,
9 you know, that was basically what I was trying to do.
10 I was saying, "Look, get me out of here. Try and find
11 somewhere else", but I didn't want to go back to
12 Middletown. I wanted to do it legally so that I didn't
13 get into trouble.

14 Q. Uh-huh. Well, I am just going -- we looked at some of
15 these documents this morning, HIA161. These are records
16 that were held by the congregation which suggest that
17 you went to Omagh before you worked for this family.
18 You had an aunt there. Isn't that right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. If we look at 24709, this seems to be from
21 December 1970. You will just see the line there:

22 " SR 273 went to Omagh with the two [name
23 redacted]. She saw ",

24 who was your aunt. Again I am using names that
25 aren't to be used outside of this room.

1 Then on 9th January of 1971 -- if we can look at
2 that, please. That's two pages on. That's 24711. Do
3 you remember being in hospital in Omagh at all?

4 A. Not really, no.

5 Q. There seems to be a suggestion that on 9th January your
6 sister was brought to see you at hospital in Omagh, but
7 in any event if we look -- sorry -- at 24714,
8 who was your uncle, your aunt's husband --

9 CHAIRMAN: Just a moment.

10 MS SMITH: Sorry.

11 CHAIRMAN: Can you scroll down a bit further?

12 MS SMITH: Scroll down to the next page or up. There are
13 references to a [name redacted], Chairman, but that may
14 be [name redacted], who was a different child.

15 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

16 MS SMITH: If we could scroll -- go, please, to 24714, you
17 had -- the episode of your running away had taken place
18 at the beginning of November 1970. This is about
19 2nd January 1971.

20 rang to say that interviews were being
21 held on Friday in Omagh for prospective workers in the
22 factory. If HIA161's eye is okay, then he would like
23 her to come by bus on Thursday."

24 Now we know that you had a problem with your eye,
25 HIA161. There is an entry -- I don't think we need to

1 call it up -- about you getting your eye cauterised.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. That's at 24712. It looks like your uncle was trying to
4 get you a job. Then what happens is unfortunately for
5 some reason the decide that they don't want you
6 and your sister to come and visit them anymore. If we
7 look at 24716, and this dates again from early March,
8 and we will see here -- if we can just scroll down to
9 the 9th there. Yes.

10 "SJM3 here. rang from Omagh with
11 distressing information. The do not want either
12 HIA161 or [name redacted] to visit them again. The
13 [name redacted] case was discussed in detail with SJM3.
14 She will visit on Thursday and ask that they
15 take the girl for St. Patrick's Day break and Easter
16 vacation. Meantime it was decided that a live-in family
17 job be sought for HIA161."

18 So that seems to be -- what seems to have been
19 happening around the end of 1970/1971 is that your uncle
20 was -- there was some -- they were trying to get you
21 a job, HIA161, and your uncle was trying to get you
22 a job in Omagh, and then for some reason that changed.

23 A. I wasn't aware of any of this --

24 Q. No.

25 A. -- and there was something that came out around the time

1 that my -- we actually didn't even know we had
2 an aunt until I suppose maybe the year before a couple
3 of times we went. We found out that to take us out on
4 the times that they took us out they got some kind of
5 payment from the nuns, and that payment stopped and they
6 didn't want us back.

7 Q. You think that --

8 A. This is what we understood anyway. There was something
9 that came out about them actually -- because I remember
10 my sister saying, "God! They are actually getting paid
11 to take us. They don't want us", you know, but the
12 money stopped and they weren't prepared to have us back.
13 They weren't prepared to -- that was my understanding of
14 it, but I wasn't aware of anything to do with my uncle
15 finding me a job.

16 Q. No, and clearly you were never told that.

17 A. No.

18 Q. But you appreciate this is what the records are showing
19 the Inquiry.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. That's why I have shown them to you today. You will see
22 here on the 10th:

23 " from Portadown rang and asked if we
24 had available a girl who could work with her. In view
25 of the available information from Omagh, HIA161's case

1 was discussed."

2 Then SJM3, who we know was a social worker, visited
3 your family in

4 "She advised against allowing neither HIA161 nor
5 [name redacted] to live with family on a permanent
6 basis. Instability seems apparent here also. Other
7 factors enter in. For example, mother" -- that's your
8 own mother -- "was well-known in town."

9 Then on the 12th:

10 "Job accepted for HIA161. HIA161 very pleased. She
11 is to go after St. Patrick's Day break on Friday, March
12 19th."

13 So it looks as though coincidentally this family in
14 ring up looking for a girl for a live-in job.
15 They immediately think of you, because they were looking
16 -- they had decided at this stage to look for a live-in
17 job for you. That's how you ended up where you did in
18 , where you were unhappy.

19 A. Well, again I didn't know anything of this. When I left
20 Middletown, I knew about five, ten minutes before I was
21 going. I did not know anything up until that point.
22 I was informed that I was going. I was given a small
23 suitcase. A man turned up to take me and, you know,
24 like I say, ten minutes before I didn't even know I was
25 getting out. So I am totally unaware of any of this

1 that was going on.

2 Q. We know from what you have told us in your statement
3 that you weren't happy there. You then left of your own
4 accord, having tried to get Middletown to find you
5 somewhere else --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- and you went to .

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Now there is an entry on this page here at 24718 where
10 it says:

11 " SR 270 went with [name redacted] to do
12 the shopping for clothes, etc."

13 Now again we know there were two [name redacted] in
14 the home at the time. You don't remember ever going
15 shopping with her.

16 A. No, no.

17 Q. So that might refer to the other girl. Certainly when
18 I asked you, "Were you given new clothes for starting
19 the job?", you weren't.

20 A. No.

21 Q. Then we know that, if we look at 24720, SR240 in her
22 statement felt that you had gone to the in Omagh
23 for St. Patrick's Day and then you had come back, and
24 the day that you came back, that's when you went to the
25 . You will see here that it says:

1 " SR 270 met HIA161 at 5.00 pm bus.

2 came for HIA161 around 7.00 pm."

3 So that's where she is getting that from. You don't
4 remember being on the bus?

5 A. I never -- no, no.

6 Q. There is also a record at 24722, two pages on, that at
7 one stage now, having left the , where you
8 were unhappy, you went then to , as you say, and
9 there is an entry here, if we can scroll on down,
10 please, just there of 8th November:

11 rang to say that HIA161 had
12 absconded from her job in Is staying with
13 uncle. is to visit
14 this evening. was contacted and is quite
15 willing to have HIA161 back while she is looking for
16 another job, that is providing HIA161 goes back
17 willingly. HIA161 is due for release later this month."

18 Now, HIA161, we know that the were
19 actually very good to you. Isn't that right?

20 A. Yes. I was still in contact years later with them
21 actually. I didn't move in with uncle. That's
22 just not true. I don't even know which uncle it would
23 be, because I didn't really know them. So I didn't.
24 What happened was I got pregnant while I was at the

25

1 Q. And that's why you ran away?

2 A. I didn't run away from the I actually had
3 a conversation with Mrs and constantly went
4 back even afterwards when my children were born. I went
5 back to see her quite regularly. They were very, very
6 good to me. I was very happy there.

7 Q. Just to be clear, the " " referred to here was your
8 boyfriend, HIA161. Is that right?

9 A. Yes, later to be my husband, yes.

10 Q. SR240 in her response statement says that she remembers
11 him and remembers him coming to visit you at Middletown.
12 She said that he was very faithful and turned up every
13 week, usually on a Sunday. Did he come that often to
14 see you?

15 A. Not every week. He did turn up I think probably about
16 three times to see me, because I had met him while I was
17 at my auntie's just going up and down to the shop. He
18 wasn't really a boyfriend. He a friend, somebody that
19 talked to me. I didn't tell him that I was in
20 a convent. He didn't know until the day the nuns turned
21 up and took me back and he saw me in a car and he
22 decided then he would come --

23 Q. And visit you?

24 A. -- and visit, yes. So when he found out that I was
25 actually in a convent, he came a couple of times. It

1 wasn't every week.

2 Q. Certainly there was no difficulty with the nuns with him
3 coming to visit you at the convent or anything like
4 that? He was allowed to come and see you all right?

5 A. Well, there was difficulty. I mean, they tried to sort
6 of put him off coming and he sent a few things in the
7 post, which I just wouldn't get. They wouldn't give it
8 to me. He would try and send a few presents over or
9 whatever, but I never got them. Sometimes I was told
10 that he sent something, but I wasn't getting it.

11 Q. I am just going to go back then to your own witness
12 statement now, HIA161. That's at 011. This is again --
13 you are saying the placement only lasted a few weeks.
14 If I can just scroll down through that. Just before you
15 left Middletown you say you discovered that your
16 lived in but you had already
17 known that, because you had spent a holiday with her.
18 Isn't that right?

19 A. No. Well, we had spent a few holidays with her, but
20 before that we didn't know. I don't know how the nuns
21 in Middletown found out that
22 there. In fact, lived in
23 When it was discovered that they lived there, they came
24 to take us out on a holiday. It would just announced,
25 "This your and you are going to go on a

1 holiday".

2 Like I say, later on we found out that the nuns had
3 paid them for -- whatever payment they were making for
4 while they were taking us out, because they liked the
5 convent clear when all the other girls had gone. Me and
6 my sister were always held back like at Nazareth House,
7 because we never had visitors.

8 Q. So somehow they managed to locate your family --

9 A. They managed to locate. I don't know how. I don't know
10 any of the -- you know, how they did it or how it came
11 about that they discovered this, but yes.

12 Q. In paragraph 34 you say your sister remained in
13 Middletown. You went back and forward to visit her and
14 leave her some money, but she wasn't very grateful. You
15 go on to talk about her in the statement.

16 Now the congregation have said -- the records show
17 your sister left St. Joseph's on 18th October 1971,
18 which was seven months after you did. They have no
19 record of you visiting her in Middletown during that
20 time.

21 A. I definitely visited her, definitely.

22 Q. We know that, as I showed your admission chart, you were
23 formally discharged from the Training School Order on
24 23rd December 1971 and St. Joseph's signed the necessary
25 forms to allow you to marry and then you married in

1

2 A. Uh-huh.

3 Q. You talk about your first marriage in your statement in
4 paragraph 38.

5 Can I just check? Do you have some good memories of
6 your time in Middletown, HIA161? Was there -- I mean,
7 for example, going on a picnic at Easter that's referred
8 to by SR240 in one of -- in the statement -- sorry -- at
9 894. It just says "March 28th", SJM894.

10 A. I don't remember a picnic. I mean, when you say about
11 good memories, in the evening, at recreation in the
12 evening we were allowed to play -- I think it was an old
13 record player and about half a dozen old single records,
14 and we were allowed to put these on at recreation, and
15 people would get up in the dining hall, the refectory,
16 and they would just dance in a line, and that was
17 probably about the best time, you know, when you could
18 actually listen to some records. Yes, that was sort of
19 good, but if it didn't break out into a fight or
20 something didn't happen that night, you know, sometimes
21 you would have a good hour of that before bed.

22 Q. Just to be clear, I may have neglected to show you this
23 document earlier, HIA161. That's 894, please. You just
24 see there:

25 "March 28th. SR237 and SR 271 took HIA161

1 and [name redacted] to the dentist, Armagh."

2 Maybe that was not what I was actually looking for.

3 Sorry. That's the entry of you going to the dentist in

4 Armagh in any event, but you don't remember that.

5 A. No.

6 Q. The -- sorry. I have lost my train of thought -- sorry

7 -- there, HIA161. You were just -- there is an entry --

8 and I will find out the page reference number -- to

9 where the nuns actually had to check with the Ministry

10 of Foreign Affairs before they could -- sorry -- Home

11 Affairs before they could consent to you getting

12 married, but they certainly did sign the consent forms

13 for you --

14 A. Uh-huh.

15 Q. -- and they were certainly advised that they could do

16 that. So that was something that they were just keeping

17 themselves right in respect of. Before they were able

18 to sign the forms they checked with the Ministry of Home

19 Affairs.

20 HIA161, there is nothing else that I want to ask you

21 about your time in St. Joseph's, Middletown. I know

22 when we talked earlier I was asking you, apart from

23 SR239, if you could remember anything about any of the

24 other nuns or what you remembered about them in

25 particular. I mean, we mentioned there -- SR237's name

1 came up and you were talking to me earlier about her.

2 A. Uh-huh.

3 Q. Just perhaps if you can remember what -- say what you
4 can remember about her.

5 A. Just that she was very strict. Her punishments were
6 basically the same as back in Nazareth House. It was
7 the cane, you know, and having to stand for hours and
8 own up to something that you didn't do. You know, you
9 would have been called a liar and a liar until you
10 actually said something and owned up to it just to get
11 out of it, but then you would get punished anyway.

12 SR237 had it in for us really from the letters from
13 Nazareth House. She was set on whatever Nazareth House
14 was saying it must be true. We must have the devil in
15 us, and so the [name redacted] weren't going to get away
16 with a thing. Basically that's what we understood.

17 Other nuns -- like I say, I mean, most of the nuns
18 were very similar, but the ones who would have to deal
19 with you, like **SR 271** **SR 274** , SR256, all
20 of them were abusive.

21 We didn't have much to do with SR240. I don't
22 remember much abuse from her, but then again we
23 weren't -- you know, she would have been there if we
24 were going out for walks or doing something. She would
25 have been in, you know, doing that.

1 Q. Well, HIA161 -- but you do remember SR239 with fondness?

2 A. Yes, with real fondness. She was just -- you know, like
3 I say, I think she came from the
4 Hospital. She was just so kind. She wasn't like the
5 others, and I think probably because she didn't come
6 from another convent or she didn't seem to have the same
7 training or whatever it was they had. She just didn't
8 seem to have that.

9 Q. Well, HIA161, you will be glad to know that's all I want
10 to ask you about your time in St. Joseph's, but the
11 Panel may have some questions for you.

12 A. Thank you.

13 Questions from THE PANEL

14 MS DOHERTY: Thanks, HIA161. Can I just ask what the food
15 and clothing was like in St. Pat's -- in St. Joseph's?

16 A. The food was quite sparse actually. It was one slice of
17 bread for tea and a very, very small cut bit of butter.
18 It was so minute that you could just barely cover
19 a slice of bread with it. I mean, that's my real
20 memories, because it was just so small you would just
21 think, "How can you fill up on that?"

22 Q. Was the main meal at lunchtime?

23 A. Yes, it was at lunchtime. Very similar, some type of
24 stew, not very tasty, but obviously, you know, gristly,
25 that type of thing. You might not have wanted it. If

1 you didn't want it, you would have got somebody else to
2 try and eat it for you, because you had to eat your
3 food. You know, there was force feeding, things like
4 that, if you didn't eat it.

5 Q. Are you saying that you were personally force fed?

6 A. Yes. Well, held down by a couple of nuns while the
7 other one shoved it into your mouth definitely. I don't
8 have anything with the food where there was anything
9 that really tasted of anything that was -- but there was
10 also very little of it. People used to -- this was what
11 the demands list was about, that we got -- it probably
12 sounds stupid, being children, being teenagers back
13 then, but the big issues were, you know, "Give us a bit
14 more butter. Give us another slice of bread. Give us
15 ..." It was just so small and so little that you could
16 barely scrape it on to the bit of bread that you had.

17 Q. When you say "the demands list", was that something
18 where you could say what you wanted or ...?

19 A. It was a time -- it has not come up today, because
20 obviously there is no report of that, but it is in my
21 book. There was a group of us that barricaded ourselves
22 in the refectory and said we were not coming out until
23 these demands were met. We stayed in there quite a long
24 time actually until obviously people then needed to go
25 to the toilet. You know, we were barricaded in there.

1 So -- the demands were, you know, about the food, about
2 the treatment, about, you know, "We want this. We want
3 you to sort of give us a bit more -- give us another
4 slice of bread and another butter", you know, about the
5 punishments, about -- I can't remember all the demands
6 now, but some of them probably would have sounded pretty
7 ridiculous to somebody today, you know, that these were
8 big issues.

9 Q. As a result of that incident did you get any of the
10 demands met?

11 A. No, no, no.

12 Q. Can I ask about clothing? Were you able to wear your
13 own clothes and choose your own?

14 A. No, no. We had convent clothes.

15 Q. So clothes -- when you -- when you arrived in, you were
16 given clothes.

17 A. Yes. The Nazareth House gave us special clothes,
18 because obviously they were aware we were going to court
19 that day, and those clothes had to be sent back to
20 Nazareth House. They weren't clothes we had ever seen
21 before or worn before, but they were taken off us
22 straightaway and sent back.

23 Q. What was -- what were the clothes like that you were
24 given in St. Joseph's when you arrived?

25 A. Not uniform. Just -- apart from the aprons. We were

1 given aprons that were all pretty similar, but just
2 I think they were donated, second-hand type clothes.
3 I don't really know where they came from.

4 Q. Okay. Can I ask: can you remember why your eye was
5 cauterised? Do you remember?

6 A. Yes, because it kept happening. Even -- even now I have
7 this. I think it is called a corneal ulcer that kept
8 coming up in this.

9 Q. So it is a condition?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. It wasn't an incident that happened or anything?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Okay. Just my final question. Can you remember
14 inspectors coming to visit?

15 A. No.

16 Q. No. Okay.

17 A. I do at Nazareth House. I don't remember there.

18 Q. No. Okay. Thanks very much.

19 A. They may have done, but it is not in my memory.

20 Q. But you don't remember?

21 A. No.

22 Q. That's fine. Thanks very much.

23 MR LANE: You've painted a fairly grim picture of things.

24 Did all girls experience it like that, do you think, or
25 do you think you had a worse time than most?

1 A. I think me and my sister had a pretty horrible time.
2 Like I say, because we didn't have visitors, we didn't
3 -- you know, we were picked on quite a bit -- not so
4 much my sister, because she got in with a crowd very
5 quickly and was quite popular, but I think that other
6 girls found it just as hard as us. I think there were
7 others in there that found it just as hard.

8 Q. Did it make a difference having family visiting then?

9 A. It did.

10 Q. You had somebody to tell, had you?

11 A. Yes. I think that was a huge thing. I think in both
12 convents, in Nazareth House and there, if you had
13 a visitor that you could tell -- this is why it was so
14 huge when I told **SR 274**, because the nuns
15 were furious that I was telling somebody outside of the
16 police that wouldn't listen to us, somebody who was
17 actually going to sit and listen, whereas before the
18 nuns would think, "Well, they haven't got visitors.
19 Nobody to tell".

20 Q. So does that mean that the visitors perhaps spoke to
21 them about things they wanted differently?

22 A. I don't know. I couldn't say. I just know that some of
23 the people that had visitors were better treated --

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. -- and obviously depending on who their visitors were.

1 There was one girl and her parents -- one of her parents
2 were quite important -- I don't know -- to do with the
3 council or something like that. Now she would have been
4 treated really, really well --

5 Q. Yes.

6 A. -- never picked on, never beaten, but there were others
7 like me that would have been treated quite badly.

8 Q. Thank you very much.

9 A. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA161, thank for coming back again to
11 speak to us. Thank you very much.

12 A. Thank you.

13 (Witness withdrew)

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

15 CHAIRMAN: Yes. We will adjourn now and resume tomorrow
16 morning.

17 (4.20 pm)

18 (Inquiry adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning)

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