
HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at
Banbridge Court House
Banbridge

on Wednesday, 10th February 2016

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 185)

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

1 Wednesday, 10th February 2016

2 (10.00 am)

3 (Proceedings delayed)

4 (10.30 am)

5 WITNESS HIA198 (called)

6 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentleman. Can I remind
7 everyone that if you have a mobile phone, please ensure
8 it is either turned off or placed on "Silent"/"Vibrate",
9 and I also have to remind everyone that no photography
10 is allowed either here in the chamber or anywhere on the
11 Inquiry premises.

12 Good morning, Ms Smith.

13 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

14 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and
15 gentlemen. Our first witness today is someone we have
16 seen before. That is HIA198. She is "HIA198". HIA198
17 gave evidence to the Inquiry on Day 155, which was
18 2nd November of last year.

19 HIA198's witness statement is at 030 to 038. HIA198
20 has given an addendum statement to the Inquiry, which
21 can be found at 22712 to 22713.

22 The Sisters of St. Louis response is at SJM160 to
23 209.

24 There is also a statement of someone whom HIA198
25 names in her statement and that is the former SR247.

1 Her statement is at SJM15015.

2 The Health & Social Care response statements are at
3 SJM075 to 146 and 482 to 635.

4 The Department of Justice response is at SJM045 to
5 052.

6 Now HIA198 is -- you will remember, HIA198, when you
7 gave evidence the last day we have a substantial
8 bundle of documents in relation to your time in various
9 institutions over your childhood years, but today we are
10 going to be looking at what occurred when you spent two
11 periods of time in St. Joseph's in Middletown.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. The first of those was from 5th May 1992 until 5th
14 June 1992, when you went into St. Joseph's for a period
15 of assessment. You mention that at paragraph 14 of your
16 statement, which is at page 032.

17 CHAIRMAN: Just before we turn to the statement, I take it
18 she wishes to retain her anonymity?

19 A. Yes.

20 MS SMITH: Apologies. I should have made that clear.

21 Sorry, Chairman. Yes. HIA198, just you were saying in
22 paragraph 14 you were admitted to Middletown for
23 a period of five weeks and then you were returned home
24 after that period of time.

25 Now I was asking you just what you returned about

1 your time first of all in 1992, and I think you were
2 saying that you were quite young when you went there at
3 that age. Isn't that right?

4 A. Yes. Just before my 12th birthday.

5 Q. The other girls who were there were a lot older than
6 you.

7 A. Yes. Would have been about 14, 15.

8 Q. I think you described yourself as what could have been
9 like an annoying little sister.

10 A. Yes. I was very childish.

11 Q. Nobody wanted you around.

12 A. No.

13 Q. So you felt a little bit isolated --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- at that time. There is an example of house diaries
16 that were kept at the time. If we just have a look at
17 that, that's 23655. The Inquiry has heard that these
18 were logs that were kept in each house. This one
19 appears to be -- the date appears to have been changed
20 on it, but it was Sunday rather than Saturday, 30th May.
21 So it would have been Sunday, 31st May for 1992. If we
22 can just scroll on down there, we can just see the third
23 name down says "HIA198":

24 "Very helpful. Looking for missing girls
25 and filling us in on any useful info",

1 I think that word might be.

2 "Not a bad child, only for her mouth. Went
3 swimming."

4 I think you would accept that your language left
5 a lot to be desired, if I can put it in those terms,
6 HIA198.

7 A. I did, yes. I was quite vocal on things.

8 Q. Your language was what we would describe as bad language
9 used to --

10 A. Yes, yes, very bad language.

11 Q. -- used -- directed at anybody.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Now in your addendum statement at 22713 you make the
14 point in that statement that the reason that you were
15 placed in St. Joseph's was due to your bad behaviour at
16 the time, but that you feel that that was caused because
17 of the fact that -- and I am not telling anything that
18 you haven't already said in your statement elsewhere --
19 that because you had been sexually abused as a child and
20 you felt that you didn't get the justice, as you saw it,
21 at that time, that that led to your behaviours that led
22 you into the self-harming spiral that led you to
23 St. Joseph's, if I can put it that way.

24 A. Yes. I had no specialist care after I disclosed about
25 the abuse, no specialist child care trauma counselling.

1 Q. You had disclosed that in a previous children's home.

2 A. Yes, in Orana House. The nuns in Orana House and the
3 Social Services were very aware of the extent of the
4 abuse, but it wasn't passed on.

5 Q. Now if we can go back then to St. Joseph's, Middletown,
6 you were back in St. Joseph's ultimately from
7 22nd August 1994 to 3rd November 1994. You talk about
8 that in paragraphs 21 to 25 of your witness statement at
9 034. You say that -- you say:

10 "Children who had committed criminal offences were
11 sent to Middletown, so I do not understand why I was
12 sent there."

13 We were discussing this, HIA198, and I know that you
14 have received your Social Services' material and you
15 have spent years going through it.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. But it is clear from the material that the Inquiry has
18 seen that most girls in St. Joseph's were referred there
19 by Social Services on a Place of Safety Order, because
20 either their parents or the children's home in which
21 they were resident were unable to cope with their
22 behaviours --

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. -- or because they were in need of care and protection
25 because of their risk-taking behaviour. You fell into

1 that category, HIA198. That's the reason that you went
2 to Middletown, not because you had committed any offence
3 in any way, but you fell into the category of girls who
4 no other home could cope with, if I can put it that way.
5 You would accept that your behaviours were challenging.

6 A. No-one ever asked why I was doing that behaviour, why
7 I was taking overdoses and things like that detail. You
8 know, it wasn't gone into fully.

9 Q. But would you accept from me --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- that that is the explanation as to why you were in
12 the training school.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. In your case we know from your Social Services' history
15 that you were, in fact, running away from Bocombra,
16 which was the previous home that you were in. You were
17 self-harming, you were overdosing and you were at risk.
18 You initially went on a Place of Safety Order to
19 Middletown on 21st August 1984.

20 I am just going look at the Health & Social Care
21 response statement, if I may, at paragraphs 5 to 7,
22 which is at SJM076 to 077. You will see here that they
23 give an explanation, as I have summarised it, for why
24 you were in Middletown. It said that in Bocombra your
25 behaviour was characterised by absconsion, self-harm and

1 overdoses. Initially management at Middletown felt
2 a placement there would be inappropriate for you.
3 However, it was agreed that if your behaviour required
4 it, you would be admitted for a time-out.

5 You were admitted on 17th June '94 for an overnight
6 stay following an incident and further details at that
7 time were taken to explain to you that you weren't being
8 punishment -- punished by being admitted to Middletown,
9 but rather that your admission was due to risk-taking
10 behaviours. You appeared to respond to the placement in
11 Middletown and your discharge was to be viewed as a new
12 start.

13 You were then committed again to Middletown on 15th
14 July for 24 hours after absconding from Bocombra again.
15 You were then returned to Bocombra the following day.
16 There were complaints by other people in Bocombra about
17 you. Then the reports noted that Social Services would
18 approach Orana, and if that wasn't possible, the only
19 other option was going to training school.

20 So following two other events in August of 1994 you
21 are then moved to Middletown Training School on a Place
22 of Safety Order on 21st August '94.

23 A. Can I just ...?

24 Q. Sorry. Yes.

25 A. The time in Bocombra, like, I had no specialist help and

1 all that there. Then I was indecently assaulted in
2 January '94. I felt that I could only protect myself.
3 Social Services didn't protect me. The care home staff
4 didn't protect me. It said something there about
5 a knife. You know, the knife was that there size of
6 blade. It wasn't a big 6-inch and, you know, that ...
7 I felt that I had to protect myself, because nobody else
8 was doing it for me.

9 Q. Yes. Well, certainly, I mean, I know, HIA198, and if
10 I can summarise, your complaint really --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- about your time in various children's institutions is
13 that nobody recognised that you needed a specialist type
14 of help.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. But I am using this to show that at the time these were
17 the behaviours that led you to be bought to Middletown.

18 A. Okay. Okay.

19 Q. Now you talk in your statement in paragraph 21 again and
20 034 about cigarettes being used as a bargaining tool.
21 The congregation have said that:

22 "Girls came to Middletown. Most of them who came
23 there were already smokers. They bought cigarettes with
24 their pocket money. They were rationed out by the nuns,
25 but they weren't used as a bargaining tool or as

1 a reward or a treat."

2 Sister Mary, I am not going to call up her
3 statement, but she says that at SJM163 in her response
4 to what you say about that. You were telling me that,
5 in fact, they were used as a reward.

6 A. They were. It was like punishment and reward. If you
7 were bold, badly behaved or bad language or anything,
8 you had cigarettes taken off you, but if the unit was
9 good at the weekend, there was an extra packet of
10 cigarettes given to the whole unit and crisps and
11 chocolate at the weekend, but everybody had been on good
12 behaviour all week for that there to happen.

13 Q. They talk about in their response statement the reward
14 system. You were certainly aware of the reward system.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Isn't that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. In fact, they exhibit a letter, which we looked at,
19 which is at 195, where you had written in 1992 about the
20 fact that you hadn't got marks --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- and --

23 A. Because of my language and my behaviour and all, I was
24 constantly fined and punished and, you know ...

25 Q. You missed out --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- on these rewards and treats, as you saw them, because
3 of your behaviour?

4 A. Yes, I did.

5 Q. Paragraph -- sorry.

6 CHAIRMAN: Can I just ask something? You say HIA198 had
7 written in 1992.

8 MS SMITH: Yes. It is a letter, which is at SJM195.

9 CHAIRMAN: She wasn't in --

10 MS SMITH: 1992 she was there for her assessment period.

11 CHAIRMAN: I understood her complaints related to the later
12 period. Is that right?

13 MS SMITH: Yes, they were, but the reason I'm showing -- the
14 letter was written in 1992, when you were there in the
15 assessment period, and it indicates that --

16 CHAIRMAN: The reference for that is?

17 MS SMITH: It is at SJM195. Perhaps if we just look at it,
18 it might -- you just -- this is your writing, HIA198.
19 Isn't that correct?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You say:

22 "My reason for coming to Middletown was I kept
23 throwing temper fits and wrecking and ripping things."

24 A. Anger.

25 Q. "I think I am lucky to be getting out of Middletown.

1 Most girls have a Training School Order. I haven't.

2 I wish I could be getting out sooner, because the staff
3 kept taking marks off me for saying bad language."

4 You have signed it. You were in House 1 I think at
5 that stage --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- which was the assessment unit, on 4th June 1992.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Is that right? So you were clearly aware of the marks
10 system --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- because you were losing marks because of your
13 behaviour.

14 A. Yes, and language and just, you know, punished for the
15 use of bad language, but that was how I spoke at that
16 time.

17 Q. Well, when you were back -- going back to your statement
18 at 034, at paragraph 22 you say you ran away from
19 Middletown quite frequently. You believe that there
20 were three occasions --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- when you absconded. Now SR247 -- sorry -- **SR 234**
23 **SR 234** in her statement has given an account of the times
24 that you did run away --

25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. -- and the papers would bear that out, although you
2 would say that between 12th and 16th October you saw
3 that as one incident --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- rather than several.

6 You say that on one occasion SR247, SR247, caught
7 you and slapped you across the face.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You say:

10 "If someone ran away, the other residents were given
11 a treat, like an extra cigarette, when the runaway was
12 caught. After I ran away a few times, I was placed in
13 the secure unit at Middletown."

14 I will come back to that in a moment, but you say
15 you only got to see one staff member for one hour a day
16 --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- and the remainder of the time you were locked in your
19 bedroom. You were 14.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Now just if I might deal, first of all, with the
22 allegation you make about this particular nun. This is
23 someone who was a nun at the time. She joined
24 St. Joseph's -- she started work there on 1st September
25 1994, about not quite two weeks after you were admitted

1 in August of '94. She has given a statement to the
2 Inquiry, which can be found at 15015. What she says is:

3 "I can only recall one occasion when I was asked to
4 go to Craigavon Area Hospital to collect HIA198 and
5 bring her back to St. Joseph's Training School. I was
6 accompanied by another staff member, a **SJM 71**

7 **SJM 71** She met with HIA198 at the hospital. She
8 was seen by medical/nursing staff and we then brought
9 her back to St. Joseph's with us. At no time did I slap
10 HIA198.

11 I believe that the facts stated in this witness
12 statement are true."

13 She signed that on 22nd January of this year.

14 Now, HIA198, that isn't an occasion -- you don't
15 remember her collecting you from Craigavon Area
16 Hospital, do you?

17 A. No, I don't. I remember as clear as day I had run --
18 the door had been unlocked for some reason in House 1
19 and I just toddled down the hill and I went to Armagh.
20 I tried to go to the north side to run away. I was
21 caught in the middle of a field. I had tripped and
22 fallen in the middle of a field. SR247 grabbed me up.
23 There was a girl, a big, tall, short, black-haired girl,
24 standing beside her and they had got me. SR247 grabbed
25 me up and whacked me across the face. I remember that

1 as clear as day. It was in the middle of a field.

2 I don't remember that incident there at Craigavon
3 Hospital.

4 Q. So it wasn't anything to do with you being at the
5 hospital --

6 A. No.

7 Q. -- that you encountered this. This is, I should say,
8 what her memory is --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- of her encounter with you and the only time she
11 remembers being involved with you. Was this incident in
12 the field the only time she was involved in your care?

13 A. No. SR247 would have been around the units. She would
14 have been, you know, there and we all knew that she was
15 there, you know, saying "Hello" to her and anything.
16 She was there.

17 Q. This was the only incident where she slapped you?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Now going back, as I say, to paragraph 22 there, you
20 were saying that:

21 "The other girls were given a treat like an extra
22 cigarette when the runaway was caught."

23 Now the congregation would dispute that and they
24 would say that, you know, money -- cigarettes were not
25 used in this way. You wanted to say something about

1 that, HIA198.

2 A. They were used in that there way. It was like
3 a bargaining tool. If a girl had run away, the staff
4 would have, you know, got the other girls to go chase
5 the girl and then they would have given a reward of
6 a cigarette or extra treats, and that was meant, you
7 know, for helping to catch the runaway. It was used as
8 a bargaining tool and as a reward.

9 Q. Just I should have said to you when I was talking about
10 SR247 that the congregation have not received any other
11 complaint of her --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- slapping any other child or abusing any child in any
14 other way.

15 I just want to move on to the ICU, what St. Joseph's
16 called the secure unit, the intensive care unit or the
17 special unit. We know that you were ultimately moved
18 from St. Joseph's to Rathgael and you were put in
19 Shamrock House in Rathgael.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Now that was a different sort of place to the ICU in
22 St.~Joseph's. Isn't that right, HIA198?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. We have heard that, for example, St. Joseph's had two
25 bedrooms for girls, although there was only ever really

1 one girl in it at any time.

2 A. I was only ever in there on my own, so I was. There was
3 no other girl up there with me, nobody else up there in
4 that unit with me.

5 Q. But there would have been a member of staff there with
6 you?

7 A. Well, they must have been away somewhere else. If
8 I remember correctly, there was a woman up there. She
9 would have been, like, just hanging around the unit.
10 Her name was SJM58. You know, she would have been like
11 the spare member of staff to go up to that unit.

12 Q. Might she have been an older girl?

13 A. No. It was SJM58. That's the face I remember. She is
14 now dead, so she is.

15 Q. She was a staff member?

16 A. Yes. She was a staff member, not a girl.

17 Q. Okay. You describe what you remember about the room
18 that you were put in in the ICU.

19 A. Uh-huh.

20 Q. You said that there was a mattress on the floor.

21 A. Yes, mattress and pillow on the floor and from my memory
22 there was nothing else in the room.

23 Q. No chair, no table?

24 A. No.

25 Q. And do you remember seeing a kitchen in the ICU unit?

1 A. I don't remember seeing a kitchen, but I assume there
2 was one there.

3 Q. There was a bathroom that you could use?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you remember being taken from the bedroom to your --
6 to the living room.

7 A. Yes. That only happened for one hour, one hour every
8 day, but apart from that I was in the unit on my own.
9 There was no staff or talking, no company, no nothing.

10 Q. Well, I am going to show some records, HIA198. Now
11 I know when we looked at these earlier --

12 A. Uh-huh.

13 Q. -- you found the content of them quite distressing.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So I am just going to tell the Panel Members where they
16 are in the bundle. The record of the ICU can be seen
17 from 24658. If we can just look at that, first of all,
18 please. I am just calling this up. You will see that
19 it is "Special Unit Record". So there was a record
20 being kept --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- of the time the girls spent in there. If we can move
23 on then and just scroll through, the first page shows
24 that on 21st August '94 you were admitted at 5 o'clock,
25 around 5 o'clock. You got food and medicine. You slept

1 early. You were still asleep at 1.30, 5.00 am and 8.30
2 am. That's signed by **SR 234**

3 Then the next document, if we just scroll on down,
4 please, shows that on 21st August you were admitted at
5 5.30 pm. It says:

6 "HIA198 was brought by RUC from Craigavon secure
7 unit, put into her room by SR240. HIA198 read magazines
8 and was in reasonable form. Refused to shower and just
9 undressed. Said she felt tired. She was asleep by
10 10.30 pm."

11 You see that's signed by this person you were
12 speaking about, SJM58.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. The meals that you were given are described and the
15 medication that you're given is described in the other
16 two columns.

17 Then the next day it says that you slept all night
18 until 12 noon. You had been checked several times
19 throughout the night by **SR 234** That seems to be
20 consistent with the last document we looked at there,
21 where she recorded looking at you at 1.30, 5.30 and then
22 8 o'clock. You got washed, had your breakfast and you
23 were in good form. You read magazines, listened to the
24 radio and you went to House 1 at 4.30 with -- I think
25 that's **SJM 4** that you would have gone with.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Your breakfast is given there. You got soup, sandwiches
3 and yogurt. Now I am not going to go through, because
4 there are entries which show you being distressed and
5 depressed in the special unit, HIA198, and I know that
6 caused you distress when I was looking at those. I am
7 just going to tell the Panel Members that they can see
8 those from the next page on right through to 24698.

9 SR 234 has in her statement said that -- she
10 sets out the times that you were put into the ICU --

11 A. Uh-huh.

12 Q. -- and says essentially that there was no other way that
13 Middletown had to keep you safe.

14 A. Uh-huh.

15 Q. That's why you were placed there. I was asking you when
16 we were talking earlier, HIA198, whether you accept that
17 you were being put in the ICU for your own good.

18 A. I do accept, but there must have been a better way. You
19 know, there was -- there must have been better help for
20 me, and there was no help. It was just put in a room,
21 locked up and told to "Keep her safe", you know. That's
22 basically what it was.

23 Q. Well, going back to your statement, at paragraph 23 you
24 talk about one of the times you ran away and how you
25 ended up in trouble and you were charged with offences

1 as a result.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You were brought back.

4 Paragraph 24 you say that during your time at
5 Middletown you were aware of rumours that SR240 slapped
6 other residents.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. I asked you: had you ever witnessed that yourself?

9 A. No, I had never witnessed SR240, but she would have
10 roared and shouted, you know, more than -- I had never
11 seen her physically assault anybody, but I was aware of
12 the rumours of her doing it.

13 I think -- I remember one time I was down -- there
14 was a roll call and I was talking to this girl who
15 I remember. Her name was . She told me about
16 the rumours and about SR240 hitting.

17 Q. But you never saw that yourself?

18 A. No.

19 Q. And she certainly never hit you --

20 A. No.

21 Q. -- or struck you in any way?

22 A. No.

23 Q. She may have given off to you because of the language
24 you were using --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- and that kind of thing.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. I was just -- the other question that I was asking you
4 when we were speaking earlier was in respect of the
5 other -- you were in various children's homes over the
6 years.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. How did Middletown compare to those other places that
9 you were? We know you spent time --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- in Bocombra, Orana and ultimately in Rathgael. How
12 did Middletown compare? Was the atmosphere different or
13 what was your experience?

14 A. No, it was the same as everywhere else. Like, you were
15 just there. You just had to be dealt with. You had to
16 be fed. You had to be looked after, you know. Staff
17 just doing what they had to do, nothing more.

18 Q. You would accept I think, HIA198, that the behaviours
19 that you presented staff with were somewhat challenging.

20 A. Yes, but I required specialist care and there was none.

21 Q. Well, we know that you were unable to settle in
22 St. Joseph's.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. There was this history of absconding. You were putting
25 yourself at risk, and ultimately that's why you went to

1 Rathgael. I am not going to call this up, but it's
2 a documents you have seen yourself, and that's at
3 SJM25903, which set out the events of 12th October to
4 16th October 1994 that ultimately led to you being
5 transferred to Shamrock House in Rathgael.

6 A. Uh-huh.

7 Q. HIA198, that's all I wanted to ask you about your time
8 in Middletown, but is there anything that you feel we
9 haven't covered or that you haven't had the opportunity
10 to say that you want to say about it?

11 A. Well, I feel regarding my care and all Social Services
12 could have done more, you know, and they neglected and
13 failed me and my family, and they should have done more.
14 They could have done more for me. Their failures will
15 come to light and, you know, there actually needs to be
16 a separate inquiry for Social Services, which I don't
17 know is ever going to happen. They need investigated.

18 Q. Okay. Well, thank you for that, HIA198. I have nothing
19 further that I want to ask you, but the Panel Members
20 may have some questions for you.

21 A. Okay.

22 Questions from THE PANEL

23 CHAIRMAN: HIA198, can I just ask you a little bit more
24 about when you say you were in the secure unit on your
25 own?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You said a moment ago to Ms Smith that there was a staff
3 member called SJM58, who you said was hanging around
4 like a spare member of staff to go to you in that unit.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Now if we can just take bit by bit what being there
7 actually was like for you, you were in the room on your
8 own. Is that right?

9 A. Yes. I was in the room on my own. Sometimes the door
10 would have been left open. Sometimes it would have been
11 closed.

12 Q. Yes. It seems from the records we have looked at a few
13 moments ago that you had access to magazines and there
14 was a radio and so on. Is that right?

15 A. From what I --

16 Q. Do you remember any of that?

17 A. From what I remember the radio would have been outside.
18 I did not have access to it, but the magazines, it would
19 have been like "Chat" magazine, "Take a Break" magazine.
20 It would have been like "Woman's Own" magazine --

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. -- you know, nothing for teenagers, nothing -- you know,
23 you don't want to read about somebody being murdered
24 when you are locked up in the unit on your own, like.

25 Q. Yes, but this lady that you have referred to --

1 A. Yes, SJM58.

2 Q. -- did she put her head round the door from time to
3 time, for example, to ask how you were?

4 A. No, not really. SJM58 would have been very stand
5 backish, so she would have. She really didn't have any
6 interaction with me. It was only at meal times and what
7 not somebody would have appeared, you know, and if
8 I needed to go to the toilet, you know.

9 Q. Was it the position -- and it is difficult I am sure for
10 you to answer exactly, looking back on it now -- it's
11 a long time ago -- was she there to keep an eye on you,
12 do you think?

13 A. I really don't know how you can keep an eye on somebody
14 through a door, you know. I was in the unit on my own
15 and there would have been a door. I don't know where
16 she was looking at me from, you know.

17 Q. There are references to your being checked and being
18 asleep. Obviously you wouldn't have been aware of
19 somebody coming in unless they woke you up.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. But you did mention a few moments ago the door was
22 sometimes open.

23 A. Yes, the door was sometimes open. It was only left open
24 about that there (gesturing) and it would have been
25 mainly for me to yell if I needed the toilet or ...

1 Q. And then would SJM58 or someone else come to take you to
2 the toilet?

3 A. Yes, yes.

4 Q. Was there a long delay or ...?

5 A. Usually about five to ten minutes.

6 Q. But somebody certainly came?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Even if the door was open a little way, could you see
9 her moving backwards or forwards --

10 A. No.

11 Q. -- or hear a sound that made you think she was there?

12 A. No. I couldn't hear anything. I assumed somebody was
13 there, you know. I didn't physically see somebody
14 walking up and down. I didn't physically know somebody
15 else was there.

16 Q. How is it then you were able to remember her, as you put
17 it, hanging around?

18 A. Because she would have brought meals to me.

19 Q. I see. So she was your contact with --

20 A. Yes, and she wasn't very talkative.

21 Q. I see. Was it always her or was it a different person
22 at a different time of the day or night?

23 A. Sometimes it would have been a different person, you
24 know, whoever was maybe spare, as I would call it, you
25 know, due to staff problems or whatever. **SR 234**

1 used to come in. She would have come around at
2 night-time now, so she would have. She had this thing
3 about putting lavender on your pillow to make you sleep.

4 Q. I see.

5 A. It never worked.

6 Q. If you were awake, would she ask you how you were, how
7 you were feeling or talk to you for any length of time?
8 What happened?

9 A. Not from what I can remember. It was just -- she was
10 just more like, "You are all right, you know. It is
11 bedtime now and it is time to go to sleep". I was there
12 in this room with, you know, head buzzing and ...

13 Q. There were references in the page or so that we saw of
14 your daily record in the intensive care unit --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- of your being given some form of medication in syrup
17 form.

18 A. Yes. That was Mellaril. Mellaril had been prescribed
19 by . That was the medication that was
20 stopped by the trainee social worker in Kinahalla.
21 That's what led to the ...

22 Q. That had been reestablished in your routine?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Now we know from the documents that is
25 a consultant psychiatrist in Craigavon Hospital.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Was it some form of sedative type of medication?

3 A. It would have -- it would have sedated me, yes. It
4 would have, like, calmed me down and made me sleepy and
5 dozy for bedtime.

6 Q. I see. Thank you very much.

7 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA198. Can I just ask: you
8 talked about a living room, being out for an hour in the
9 living room.

10 A. Uh-huh.

11 Q. Was the living room part of the special unit or was that
12 your living room back in House 1?

13 A. No. The living room would have been part of the special
14 unit, so it would have been. I was -- I was in this
15 room. I had to walk a wee short -- just two seconds
16 down the hall and then into the right-hand side and
17 there would have been a living room with a TV and
18 a sofa.

19 Q. So you would be allowed in there for an hour. When you
20 were eating your lunch and your breakfast, did you eat
21 that in the bedroom or in the living room?

22 A. No, in the bedroom on the floor.

23 Q. In the bedroom on the floor you would eat the thing.

24 Can I just ask: I mean, I know you were told off for
25 your language and whatever, but did anybody sit down and

1 talk -- were any of the staff talking to you about how
2 you came to be in St. Joseph's or ...?

3 A. No.

4 Q. So there was no sessions with you?

5 A. There might have been staff talking to you and what not,
6 but there was no actual real sit-down sessions. You
7 know, nobody explained anything to me. Nobody told me
8 anything. It was just, "You are here. Now get on".

9 Q. So there was no kind of formal session where you would,
10 you know, come into a room at a pre-arranged time. The
11 staff might talk to you by yourself --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- but there wasn't ...

14 A. Not from what I can recall, no.

15 Q. It was ad hoc. Okay. Thanks very much, HIA198.

16 MR LANE: I think on a couple of occasions you were actually
17 moved to a hospital unit, weren't you?

18 A. Yes. What date there?

19 Q. Sorry?

20 A. What do you mean by "hospital unit"? Craigavon Hospital
21 or the Psychiatric Unit or ...?

22 Q. Yes, the Craigavon Psychiatric Unit, for example --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- and I think St. Luke's as well in Armagh.

25 A. Yes. I was moved there from 1st November 1994 until

1 1st December 1994. I spent that month in Craigavon Area
2 Hospital Psychiatric Unit. Then from 1st December '94
3 until 22nd December '94 I spent three weeks in
4 St. Luke's Secure Psychiatric Unit.

5 Q. Were either of those an attempt to help you get
6 something specialist of the sort you were not getting at
7 Middletown do you think?

8 A. Well, it was adult services. It wasn't child services.
9 It wasn't child friendly. You were -- the Craigavon
10 Area Hospital was adults, an adult psychiatric ward --
11 unit.

12 Q. Yes.

13 A. There was no other children, no other young people there
14 from what I can remember. Then the secure unit in
15 St. Luke's, that was all the severely mentally ill
16 people, you know, and ...

17 Q. When you were at either of those places, did they talk
18 to you to try and find out what was upsetting you at
19 all?

20 A. No, no, no. They all logged, you know, like -- you know
21 when they meet you for the first time and they write
22 things down, and trying to explain and explain and
23 explain -- Social Services had them records there that
24 they could have passed on, that they should have passed
25 on to people that could have helped me, and they never

1 did that.

2 Q. Right.

3 A. You know, like, I was going into the Psychiatric Unit
4 and they were asking me, "Well, what happened you in
5 your life?", you know. Having to sit down with
6 a stranger and explain about the abuse, about what was
7 going on at home and about, you know, things like that
8 there, you don't want to talk to a stranger about that,
9 you know, somebody new, somebody that you have never
10 seen before.

11 Q. Yes, yes.

12 A. There was no child friendly services.

13 Q. So it wouldn't have helped if you had been able to stay
14 on there in those places then do you think?

15 A. In the Psych... -- no, not in the Psychiatric -- not in
16 the Adult Psychiatric Units, no.

17 Q. Did they move you back because you had calmed down at
18 all or anything like that, do you think?

19 A. No. From 1st November in Craigavon I was -- they told
20 me I was going back to Middletown, and I didn't want to
21 go back to Middletown after being hit by SR247 and what
22 not. Like, from what I know about myself, I would never
23 go back to somewhere that I was hurt --

24 Q. Right.

25 A. -- and that's evidenced throughout my records and

1 throughout my files. If I was hurt somewhere, I didn't
2 want to go back there. They told me I was going back to
3 Middletown. I refused point blank to go. They
4 transferred me to St. Luke's Psychiatric Unit, which was
5 where severely mentally ill people were.

6 Q. In terms of talking to people who were strangers and so
7 on, did your social worker keep visiting you at
8 Middletown?

9 A. Once or twice, but not -- you know, like, the first
10 time, no, there was no -- apart from me being put into
11 Middletown in May 1992 to June '92, I didn't really see
12 **SJM 72** , and then from the second time there might
13 have been about maybe two to three visits, but that was
14 it.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. There was none while I was in the Psychiatric Unit or
17 anything. I was just put in there, put with ill people
18 and basically left to get on with it again.

19 Q. I know you ran away a number of times, but typically if
20 you can -- if they brought you back, did they just put
21 you in the secure unit?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What about talking about what had happened?

24 A. No, no, never talked why did -- they never asked you why
25 you ran away. They never asked you what was upsetting

1 Summary of evidence of HIA233 given by COUNSEL TO THE
2 INQUIRY

3 MS SMITH: Chairman, if I may first of all mention we were
4 to hear today from a witness HIA376. The Inquiry has
5 been informed this morning by her family that she has
6 taken ill. We have been trying to make contact to offer
7 her another date and we will do that in the week
8 commencing 22nd February. She is a sister of HIA176,
9 and the evidence of 176 was to be summarised this
10 morning, but given what has occurred in respect of 376,
11 it is felt preferable to wait until she comes to give
12 evidence before that summary is delivered.

13 CHAIRMAN: Yes. The two histories are very closely
14 intertwined.

15 MS SMITH: They are.

16 The other remaining piece of evidence to be put
17 before the Inquiry this morning then is that of HIA233,
18 HIA233. HIA233 gave evidence on Day 16 of the Inquiry
19 back on 4th March 2014. Her witness statement can be
20 seen at 018 to 029.

21 The Sisters of St. Louis response statement is at
22 SJM210 to 270.

23 There are two Health & Social Care Board response
24 statements at SJM147 to 159 and 636 to 693.

25 The DoJ response statement is at SJM041 to 044.

1 As I have indicated, HIA233 was resident in
2 Termonbacca and also Harberton House. When she gave
3 evidence in March 2014, she spoke about her times there
4 as well as her time in St. Joseph's, Middletown.

5 There is a response statement from SR235 on behalf
6 of the congregation, and at paragraph 14 onwards she
7 speaks about what she remembers of HIA233 and what the
8 records show. That's at S... --

9 CHAIRMAN: Can you just remind us where we find her
10 testimony in relation to her time here when she gave
11 evidence?

12 MS SMITH: Yes. I am just going to come to that, Chairman.
13 Just, if I may, the page reference for SR235 is at 212.

14 The admission record -- HIA233 first went to
15 St. Joseph's in 1992 from Harberton House on a Place of
16 Safety Order on 27th October 1992, when she was aged .

17 If we look at the SL -- Sisters of St. Louis
18 response statement from paragraph 15 on, if I may,
19 before turning to what HIA233 says about her time there.
20 That's at 212, please. If we can scroll down, you will
21 see that:

22 "Prior to admission to St. Joseph's HIA233's file
23 confirms that she had been in care since she was nine
24 months old. She had been in a number of children's
25 homes as well two foster placements. The family had

1 a designated social worker", who is named there.

2 "HIA233 was one of children and all her siblings
3 had been taken into care."

4 Prior to admission in St. Joseph's she was resident
5 in Harberton House. There was a case conference on
6 13th October 1992, which stated that she was to be
7 referred to the training school if her behaviour did not
8 improve. Documents confirm that on 22nd October
9 a decision was made by social workers that she be
10 transferred to St. Joseph's the next day.

11 The admission record, if we look at that, please --
12 sorry. Just before moving on to it, it says that
13 HIA233's initial -- the admission to St. Joseph's was
14 supposed to be a short-term arrangement with the aim of
15 helping HIA233 to go back into Harberton House. If we
16 can just scroll on down, there was regular contact with
17 Harberton House during her time there. She actually had
18 visits to Harberton during her time in St. Joseph's. If
19 we can scroll on down, please, to -- but ultimately
20 a Training School Order was made at Derry Court on 26th
21 January 1993 authorising HIA233 to remain permanently at
22 St. Joseph's. She was then admitted on 26th
23 January 1993.

24 We see the record of that, please, at SJM16185. You
25 will see here that she was aged on 26th January 1993.

1 If we can scroll on down, it indicates that she went to
2 live with her sister on extended leave on 30th June 1994
3 and then was readmitted on 20th September 1994, and it
4 is recorded that she lived in the Glen Road hostel for
5 girls who were leaving on 4th October 1994. She was
6 finally discharged on 25th January 1995.

7 Now going back to HIA233's statement at
8 paragraph 23, which is at page 026, HIA233 describes her
9 time in St. Joseph's. She said that she was years
10 old when she moved to St. Joseph's.

11 "It was out in the hills in Armagh and we thought it
12 was great craic."

13 CHAIRMAN: Do we not have what she actually said to us?

14 MS SMITH: Yes, we do, Chairman. I was going to do --

15 CHAIRMAN: Let's go there, please.

16 MS SMITH: I was going to -- if I may just, at paragraph 23,
17 24 and 25 and through to 28 she describes her time in
18 St. Joseph's in her statement.

19 When she gave evidence on Day 16 at page 116 -- and
20 I believe it is in the bundle at page -- sorry. I'll
21 just get you the page reference number of the bundle.
22 The transcript is at 7007. If we can scroll on down,
23 please, to the next page, you will see that -- we can
24 scroll right down to the next page -- you will see that
25 I am speaking to HIA233 and I ask her:

1 "Q. Well, in any event you did actually go then to
2 Middletown. Isn't that correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. To St. Joseph's, Middletown. You describe your
5 time there in paragraphs 23 through to 28.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Essentially there are some things that you say
8 there, where you were called names by certain nuns and
9 you were given cigarettes in paragraph 25, and you also
10 describe being trailed by the hair in paragraph 26, but
11 you say that you had no complaints about Middletown.

12 A. No.

13 Q. And that you actually liked it there.

14 A. Loved it.

15 Q. And then walked out of it. Is that correct?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. Why was that?

18 A. I just -- they let me out to my sister one time
19 for a weekend and I never went back.

20 Q. In fact, you say that whenever -- you actually
21 asked the resident magistrate at that time in Derry
22 Court to keep you in, because you liked it so much.

23 You then say you went to your sister's house and you
24 stayed and never went back to Middletown. Isn't that
25 correct?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You say that the nuns tried to get you back by
3 promising that they would give you money.

4 A. Licence. It was when you left, you got £50 on
5 licence. I says, 'I haven't got mine'.

6 Q. You still haven't got yours?

7 A. I don't want it. They can keep it."

8 Then it goes on as to what happened to her after she
9 left.

10 The reason I was going to read what she had said in
11 her statement is that SR235 in her response statement
12 deals with the paragraphs in turn. At page SJM215 at
13 paragraph 30 HIA233 had complained that she was called
14 a delinquent by SR235. SR235 in response says:

15 "I have no specific recollection of this, but this
16 was not the type of language that I would have used to
17 any of the girls. HIA233 had also stated that other
18 girls had called her an 'illegitimate bastard' and there
19 would have been a lot of name calling between the girls
20 and several altercations, but there is no specific
21 record in HIA233's file that she had been called an
22 'illegitimate bastard'. There is a handwritten note
23 from HIA233 in her file confirming that she was called
24 an 'ill-reared bastard' by another girl called
25 and this resulted in a fight between HIA233 and ,

1 and I have attached HIA233's handwritten note to the
2 statement. I anticipate HIA233 is referring to this
3 incident."

4 Paragraph 31 SR235 says that St. Joseph's did
5 believe HIA233 about the abuse that she had suffered
6 before she moved to St. Joseph's. She says that there
7 is a note of the key -- discussion with the key worker
8 and HIA233 spoke to a psychologist.

9 Then at paragraphs 38 to 43 of her statement at
10 page 217 SR235 is talking about paragraph 26 of HIA233's
11 statement, where HIA233 had stated that she was in the
12 intensive care many times for bad behaviour. SR235
13 reviewed the file and there was evidence of two
14 admissions to the intensive care unit. She goes on to
15 describe the occasions in which she was placed there.

16 Then at paragraphs 51 to 68 of her statement SR235
17 at page 219 -- sorry -- just at the bottom of 219 there
18 she considers the description that HIA233 gives of her
19 after care provided at paragraph 28 of her statement.
20 She has no specific recollection of the after care
21 services provided to HIA233, because she probably at
22 that time was not working in the home, but she has
23 checked the records, and she outlines in these
24 paragraphs the extensive work that was undertaken in
25 relation to HIA233's discharge and the after care work

1 that was undertaken, and she has exhibited documents
2 from the file to her statement.

3 If we look, please, at 10658, this is an example of
4 the leaving after care team record of expenditure of
5 a leaving care grant that was provided in October and
6 November of 1995 and then May and July of 1996, where
7 various sums of money were provided to HIA233 to assist
8 her with setting up home after she left St. Joseph's.

9 That's essentially the summary of what HIA233 says
10 about her time in St. Joseph's and also what the
11 documents -- documentary evidence held by the
12 congregation say in relation to her time there.

13 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

14 MS SMITH: Chairman, that concludes the evidence for today.

15 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Well, unfortunately due to the illness of
16 one of the witnesses we are having to finish much
17 earlier than anticipated. We will resume as planned
18 tomorrow.

19 (11.30 am)

20 (Inquiry adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning)

21 --ooOoo--

22

23

24

25