
HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at

Banbridge Court House

Banbridge

on Monday, 13th April 2015

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 107)

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

1 Monday, 13th April 2015

2 (10.00 am)

3 (Proceedings delayed)

4 (10.30 am)

5 WITNESS HIA20 (called)

6 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Before we
7 commence may I remind everyone, as always, that mobile
8 phones must be either turned off or certainly placed on
9 "Silent"/"Vibrate", and that no photography or indeed
10 recording is permitted either in the chamber or anywhere
11 within the premises.

12 Yes, Ms Smith?

13 MS SMITH: Morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and
14 gentlemen. Our first witness today is HIA20. That is
15 HIA20. Now HIA20 wishes to take a religious oath,
16 Chairman, and she also confirms that her anonymity
17 afforded by the Inquiry can be waived,

18

19

20 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

21 WITNESS HIA20 (sworn)

22 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Would you perhaps just move the
23 microphone a little closer to you or we'll have it moved
24 a little closer to you?

25

1 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

2 MS SMITH: Now, HIA20, just before I come to talk about your
3 evidence I am going to explain to the Panel Members
4 where there are certain documents relevant to your
5 evidence in our bundle of papers.

6 The statement -- HIA20's statement can be found at
7 SNB-180 to 191.

8 The Congregation's response is at 2023 to 2027.

9 The Health & Social Care Board response is at
10 SNB-6775 to 6777. The response indicates that they have
11 no files relevant to HIA20. They believe that she was
12 placed privately in the home, and her involvement with
13 Social Services came after she reached the age of 18.

14 There are civil claim papers in the bundle at
15 SNB-70235 to 70257 and 70... -- sorry -- 72097 to 72117.

16 HIA20 also brought some material to the Inquiry,
17 which can be found at SNB-30047 to 30052, and she very
18 kindly at our request provided us with photographs,
19 which can be found at 32987 to 32992.

20 There is also relevant police material at SNB-61278
21 to 61283 and 61284 to 61402.

22 Now, HIA20, you will see that there is a document on
23 the screen in front of you.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. This -- can I just ask you to confirm, if you scan down

1 through this, that this is the statement of evidence
2 that you prepared for the Inquiry? You will see that we
3 have blocked out names --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- and in place of names we have given people
6 designations to protect their identities, as we were
7 discussing earlier.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. If we just go to the last page of that at 191, please,
10 can I just ask you to confirm that you signed the
11 statement on 30th June 19... -- sorry -- 2014?

12 **A. Yes. That's -- that's -- yes, indeed.**

13 Q. Going back to the first page of your statement, if we
14 may, HIA20, your personal details are set out there in
15 paragraphs 1 and 2.

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. I know that you talk about your background and learning
18 where you came from. You have, in fact,

19 --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. --

24

25

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. --

3 --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. --

12

13

14

15

16 **A. That's fine.**

17 Q. -- by anyone.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q.

20

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q.

25 CHAIRMAN: A bit more slowly.

1 MS SMITH: Sorry.

2 CHAIRMAN: The second one?

3 MS SMITH:

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q.

6 **A.**

7 Q.

8 CHAIRMAN: Not so fast, please.

9 MS SMITH:

10 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

11 MS SMITH:

12 **A.**

13 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

14 MS SMITH:

15

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. I am not going to deal with any of them.

20 **A.**

21

22 Q.

23

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q.

1

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. But you yourself, HIA20, were in Nazareth House between
4 19... --

5 CHAIRMAN:

6

7

8

9 MS SMITH:

10

11 **A. Yes, yes.**

12 Q.

13

14

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. That's why, as I have said, we will use their names in
17 this chamber --

18 **A. Okay.**

19 Q. -- but they can't be used outside.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. I am not going to identify --

22 **A. Okay.**

23 Q.

24

25 **A. Okay.**

1 Q. So we will not deal with it in that way.

2 You yourself were in Nazareth House, as I say,
3 between 1952 and 1967.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. So essentially between the ages of 2 and 17.

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. Before that you had been placed in the nursery, although
8 from what you tell us in your
9 statement that prior to that you had actually been
10 placed with a view to adoption.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You know that you were taken back --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- from the people --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- who were planning to adopt you --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- but we don't know why.

19 **A. Yes. I met these people just last year. Am I allowed
20 to say where?**

21 Q. Yes.

22 **A. In . I met them for the first time, because
23 I had been searching for them for years. It was they
24 who told me that when I was 14 months old, I was taken
25 by the authorities, and that's all they were able to**

1 **tell me.**

2 Q. We don't know -- we know that certainly there are no
3 authority records --

4 **A. No.**

5 Q. -- in relation to this --

6 **A. No.**

7 Q. -- that have been -- you haven't been able to find them
8 --

9 **A. No, no.**

10 Q. -- and the Inquiry hasn't been able to find anything
11 either.

12 **A. No, no.**

13 Q. So in any event from the age of 14 months you go back
14 into Nazareth --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- or you go into Nazareth. You had not been there
17 previously. You essentially stay there your entire
18 childhood.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. Isn't that right?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. In paragraph 5 of your statement --

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. -- HIA20, you talk about -- first of all, when you went
25 into the home in paragraph 4 there you say there were

1 two dormitories --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- the senior dormitory and the junior dormitory.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Shortly after that they were then divided into three
6 groups --

7 **A. Yes, yes.**

8 Q. -- Our Lady's, St. Anne's and Sacred Heart's --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- with about thirty children in each group --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- ranging in age from 5 to 16.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. I just want to be clear. After you were 16, after you
15 had reached the leaving age, there was actually an older
16 girls' group.

17 **A. Yes. It was known as the girls' dormitory. It was just**
18 **known as the girls' dormitory. The difference was they**
19 **had a little curtain around the bed, but I didn't get**
20 **that privilege.**

21 Q. We'll talk about that a little later. Okay. Well, you
22 say there was a nun in charge of each group. You were
23 in Sacred Heart group, and SR134, who was SR134 -- and
24 again I am using the name, which isn't to be used
25 outside --

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. -- was in charge of your group.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. You were all dressed in similar clothing.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. You all had to wear uniforms.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. You were given shoes to wear, which, if they didn't fit,
9 you had to squeeze your feet into them.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. You say the older girls were in charge of handing out
12 shoes. You were too afraid to say that they didn't fit.

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

14 Q. When we were talking earlier, I explained to you that we
15 have asked the Congregation for their response to what
16 you've said in your statement. One of the things that
17 they have said is that they apologise for the fact that
18 you felt too afraid to ask for shoes that did fit. They
19 have said that children had to wear hand-me-downs and
20 that they provided the best they could.

21 **A. There was -- down in the basement -- it was like**
22 **a basement and there was kind of cupboards and they were**
23 **fume of all different types of shoes. You had to line**
24 **up as youngsters, and the bigger girls would have just**
25 **thrown the shoes down and said, "Put them on you". You**

1 were too scared to say, you know, "They are too tight"
2 or "They don't fit" or whatever. Just "Put them on you
3 and on about your business". So there wouldn't have
4 been any of the nuns about at that time. They might
5 have been doing something else, but mostly for the
6 bigger girls that did it.

7 Q. You talk about the routine in the home in paragraph 6.
8 You say there was mass first thing most mornings.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You went to benediction in the evening.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You say you always tried to avoid sitting in front of
13 SR134 in the chapel --

14 A. Uh-huh.

15 Q. -- because if she thought you were doing something
16 wrong, she would reach over and nip your neck --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- or pull your hair.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You also remember having to pump the church organ, which
21 was hard work.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You had to pump the entire time of the service.

24 A. Yes. Can I interrupt there, Christine? It wouldn't
25 have been at the same time, you know. Just whenever

1 SR31 decided that you would go up and pump the organ,
2 you had to go up. It was up in the gallery. There was
3 a big wooden thing at the side of the organ. You had to
4 pump that the whole time of mass or whatever service was
5 on.

6 Q. So you didn't have to do this every time you went to
7 mass; just on some occasions?

8 A. Not every time, but a good lot of times. Then SR134,
9 she had this thing if you weren't really listening, or
10 she thought you weren't listening, or you dozed over,
11 which I did often, she would get you under the arm and
12 nip you so badly that -- you know, you're up so high,
13 and it was very painful, and she would nip you at the
14 back of the neck, which wasn't really nice.

15 Q. Well, can I just ask about going to mass?

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 Q. Some people have said they had to go every day and
18 others have said that the groups went in a rota. What
19 is your memory, HIA20?

20 A. Oh, no, no, no. We went every day. Now later on
21 I would say when I got a bit older they started doing
22 like a rota, but that was later on, but we went every
23 day, and you had duties to do as soon as you came out of
24 mass, you know, before you went to school.

25 Q. You go on in paragraph 7 --

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. -- to talk about the food.

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. You say that meals had to be eaten in complete silence

5 --

6 **A. Yes, yes.**

7 Q. -- until you were about aged 11.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. You don't know why that was.

10 **A. It was kind of the custom. You just ate in silence, and**
11 **if you spoke, you were asked to go to the classroom to**
12 **be punished. So you just avoided speaking.**

13 Q. If you didn't eat your dinner, you were made to sit
14 until it was finished --

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- or until SR116 would make you come up and get more
17 food.

18 **A. Yes, yes. She had this awful habit. The porridge --**
19 **och, the food could have been better, but you ate what**
20 **you got, because you were starving. If she saw that --**
21 **often the porridge was burnt or it was quite lumpy. If**
22 **she saw that you weren't eating it probably quick**
23 **enough, she made you come up and fill up the bowl again.**

24 Q. You go on to say the food as you felt could have been
25 better.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. You felt you were always being given the butcher's
3 scraps and you were always hungry.

4 You talk about having to say the rosary every night
5 before bed.

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

7 Q. There were different bed times for different age groups.

8 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

9 Q. In paragraph 8, HIA20, you go on to talk about the
10 chores that children were expected to do. You said:

11 "The children did all of the cleaning within the
12 home."

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. "All we knew was scrubbing, waxing and polishing."

15 **A. Yes, yes.**

16 Q. "Friday evenings we scrubbed and polished the long
17 corridor, which ran the entire length of the home from
18 the children's department to the kitchen."

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. "We cleaned it in pairs and SR31 would stand watching."

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. "If the work wasn't done to her satisfaction, she would
23 make you do it again."

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. You remember her making you scrub the stairs up to the

1 dormitories three times on one occasion.

2 **A. Yes, yes.**

3 Q. What age would you have been when you were expected to
4 do this?

5 **A. I would say probably 13 onwards, even 12, but I wouldn't**
6 **have thought any younger. You did other duties when you**
7 **were younger, but the scrubbing -- in one of the**
8 **photographs you can see -- if you see the length of the**
9 **building, Christine, that hall was pretty long, and we**
10 **had to scrub that in pairs, you know, with deck**
11 **scrubbers, you know, and polish it. That was done every**
12 **Friday.**

13 Q. What about younger children? Did they have chores to
14 do?

15 **A. When you were younger, you had the polishing to do.**
16 **A lot of the floors were wooden floors, and so the**
17 **kiddies that were younger had to get into rows and you**
18 **had to polish on your knees. They often made you say**
19 **poems. I never learned the poems. I wasn't interested**
20 **in the poems, but you had to do all this polishing, and**
21 **it was hard work for a child.**

22 Q. What age would the girls have polished at?

23 **A. Oh, I would say about seven onwards you did that.**

24 Q. You talk about another occasion when the mop handle
25 broke on you when you were standing beside SR31.

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. She said to you, "I know where you will be next, madam:
3 Muckamore Abbey".

4 **A. Yes, yes.**

5 Q. You say:

6 "We were always being threatened with being sent to
7 Muckamore Abbey."

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Had girls gone there or what did you know about
10 Muckamore Abbey?

11 **A. There were -- I have to take my glasses off to look at**
12 **you. There was two girls already sent to Muckamore.**
13 **The reason that I said Muckamore Abbey, we all knew it**
14 **was -- it is an awful expression -- for the mad people.**
15 **Us as children just knew it was for the mad people. So**
16 **that was a fear. When she made that statement, I tell**
17 **you something. I had terrible fear, because I felt she**
18 **had the power to do it.**

19 Q. You go on to talk about Saturdays, which you say were
20 spent fine combing each others' hair, polishing shoes,
21 darning socks and once a month changing the beds.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. You also say that:

24 "Once a month the dormitories, classrooms, landings
25 and toilets had to be scrubbed, waxed, polished and

1 inspected."

2 You go on to say that in summertime you used to help
3 the handyman, whom you name here, to paint the enamel
4 bed frames.

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

6 **Q.** Now when we were talking earlier, you said there was
7 another job you remember having to do with outside
8 toilets as well.

9 **A. Oh, there was -- we didn't call it the playground. We**
10 **called it the garden where we played. It was just the**
11 **garden. At the end of the garden there was this kind of**
12 **fenced-in area like a wall. Behind the wall was three**
13 **toilets. They were stinking. They really were dirty.**
14 **We had to clean them out with our hands. We had to**
15 **clean them out pretty often.**

16 **Q.** What age would you have been?

17 **A. Oh, probably about 12, 13, 14.**

18 **Q.** Were those toilets for the use of the girls that were in
19 the garden?

20 **A. Yes, yes, yes. They were just open toilets. They**
21 **weren't -- they weren't very nice.**

22 **Q.** Well, the Congregation have said -- sorry. Just before
23 moving on to what they said, you say that you certainly
24 did not mind the bed painting. You quite enjoyed that.

25 **A. I didn't mind it. I didn't mind it. Not that I'm a**

1 **painter, but I didn't mind it. NHB 102 was actually quite**
2 **nice. I enjoyed that, but it was the physical cleaning**
3 **that was a bit too much.**

4 Q. The Congregation have said in their response to the
5 Inquiry that children were expected to do chores, but
6 they would have been age-appropriate and they weren't
7 excessive. Is there anything you want to say about
8 that, HIA20?

9 **A. Well, if a child from 7 to 16 is continually on their**
10 **knees and they're scrubbing, waxing, polishing, I would**
11 **say that's over-kill in the line of duties.**

12 Q. You go on to talk here in paragraph 10 about the fact
13 that you yourself had a problem with wetting the bed.

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. You were called one of the wet-the-beds --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- which is a phrase used by the children, but when you
18 were older, SR134 asked you to get the wet-the-beds up.
19 So the nuns had started using the phrase as well.

20 **A. Yes, yes.**

21 Q. You say if you woke up during the night to discover you
22 had wet the bed, you had to lie on your wet sheets until
23 the morning.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Some people have said that they were made to get up and

1 were punished in the middle of night. That is not your
2 memory?

3 **A. No, no. Christine, I was quite bad at wetting the bed.**
4 **I am not afraid to admit it now. It was rather**
5 **embarrassing for a long time. The bed would be soaking.**
6 **There would be like a sheet on it. I used to get up,**
7 **just roll the sheet over, get my nightie and roll it up**
8 **in a little ball and get back into bed again. I wasn't**
9 **punished for it. I was punished physically by older**
10 **girls and nicknamed, because I was one of the**
11 **wet-the-beds, and that's pretty hard to take.**

12 **Q. You also say that the nuns actually put a buzzer on your**
13 **sheet --**

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 **Q. -- which sounded an alarm.**

16 **A. Yes.**

17 **Q. That caused the other girls in the dormitory to wake up**
18 **--**

19 **A. Yes.**

20 **Q. -- and then they shouted at you for waking them.**

21 **A. Yes. They would have threw things. The alarm system --**
22 **I don't know what age I was actually. I was quite**
23 **young. I was the first to have the alarm system in our**
24 **dormitory. What happened when the water hit it, it**
25 **would give this merciful alarm off. I got to the stage,**

1 **because the other girls shouted at me and threw things**
2 **at me, I thought, "Well, to pot with this", and I turned**
3 **it off and I didn't use it again. So nobody knew about**
4 **it.**

5 Q. Well, the next day -- I just was asking you if there
6 were a number of girls who wet the bed in your
7 dormitory?

8 A. **There was. I would say there was about six or seven of**
9 **us.**

10 Q. Did they all have a buzzer?

11 A. **No, no. I was the only one that had the buzzer at that**
12 **point.**

13 Q. Well, you go on to say that whenever you got up the next
14 morning, you had to strip the bed, rinse the sheets --

15 A. **Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- in cold water in the bathroom and then take them to
17 the laundry.

18 A. **Yes, yes, yes.**

19 Q. You didn't actually have to wash them yourself in the
20 laundry.

21 A. **No. I had to wash them in the bathroom. There was**
22 **a bathroom for each group and there was about three or**
23 **four baths -- I can't remember -- three I think, but**
24 **anyway I had to wash the sheets in cold water in the**
25 **bath and then go down to the laundry. There was a lady**

1 **there. NHB 35 I think her name was, and she was fine.**
2 **She never did me any harm. All I got every morning was,**
3 **"Put them in the bucket. Put them in the bucket". So**
4 **that's what I did each morning.**

5 Q. You say that each night you had fresh sheets on the bed.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Did you yourself make the bed or do you know --

8 **A. I don't remember. I really don't remember that.**

9 **I probably did. I don't know.**

10 Q. You say you were taken to see a doctor at the Ulster
11 Hospital twice. You think that was about your
12 bedwetting.

13 **A. I do think that, yes, because they kind of attached**
14 **a machine or something to my tummy. I don't know.**
15 **I was only a little thing.**

16 Q. You go on in paragraph 11 here, HIA20, to talk about the
17 bath time in the home. You say it was Tuesdays and
18 Fridays.

19 **A. Uh-huh. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. You say the baths were filled with water and Jeyes
21 Fluid.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. In the summer time you had your hair washed out in tubs
24 of water outside --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- containing Jeyes Fluid in the yard.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. You say:

4 "Before the bath the nuns inspected us and our
5 underwear."

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. You were given the number 51 at some stage and you had
8 to shout it out when you were showing the nun your
9 clothes.

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. The Congregation have said they used numbers for laundry
12 purposes so that people would get the right clothing
13 back. Is that your memory of how the numbers were used?

14 **A. Oh, no, no, no. I never saw that. What had happened
15 was when I explained earlier that there were two, the
16 juniors and the seniors, I had a junior's number, but
17 I can't remember it. Then I got a senior's number and
18 I was 51. On the bath day you had to go into the
19 bathroom. You lined up and you faced the nun. You
20 shouted your number out like "51, pleaster". That was
21 our jargon, "51, pleaster". She looked at your skin and
22 you had to show your pants. You had to show your pants,
23 which was quite degrading, before you went to the bath.
24 The bath was full of Jeyes Fluid and there was white
25 stuff in it as well, but I don't know what it was. By**

1 the time it got to your turn the water was pretty cold.

2 There was one sheet that did you all. It was like

3 a draw sheet, and you all had to dry on that. So ...

4 Q. You say if the underwear was not clean, you were
5 slapped.

6 A. Oh, you got a good slap across the face.

7 Q. You say you were quite swarthy skinned.

8 A. I was very swarthy, uh-huh.

9 Q. You have a clear memory of SR134 grabbing you by the
10 scruff of the neck, scrubbing your neck over the sink
11 until it bled.

12 A. Uh-huh. Yes.

13 Q. You also say that another nun, whom you name here,
14 SR101, got an older girl also to scrub the scruff of
15 your neck.

16 A. Yes. What had happened was I knew there was an older
17 girl. I did meet her, and she did tell me herself that
18 it was during the summer and my neck was -- I was quite
19 swarthy, you know, when I was young. She was told to go
20 and clean my neck. It was dirty. She did it and she
21 had to do it twice again, so a total of three times,
22 because this nun thought that my neck was dirty.

23 Q. You remember that this particular nun said to you one
24 day when you were cleaning that there was -- she pointed
25 at a pile of dust in the corner. She says, "I suppose

1 you are going to tell me that can't be cleaned because
2 it is swarthy".

3 **A. Yes. Well, she actually didn't say that to me,**
4 **Christine. She said it to the older girl and she kind**
5 **of made a mock of it, you know.**

6 Q. Well, just going back to the whole bedwetting incident,
7 the Congregation have accepted that they didn't deal
8 appropriately with those children who did wet the bed,
9 but they said they did try to help. You know, the alarm
10 suggests that this was an attempt to try to help you to
11 stop wetting the bed. Also, as you say, if they took
12 you to see a doctor, that might have been an attempt to
13 help you also.

14 **A. I don't agree with that. I really don't. Christine,**
15 **when I slept beside the nun's cell as I got a bit older,**
16 **she would rap the window in the middle of the night and**
17 **say, "HIA20, get the wet-the-beds up". I mean, I was**
18 **one of them, but I had to get the younger girls in the**
19 **middle of the night out to go to the toilet. Their beds**
20 **were already wet. There wasn't much point in that, do**
21 **you know? I found that really embarrassing.**

22 Q. In paragraph 12 here you talk about a particular memory
23 that you have. One day you were playing in the hall.
24 You say that was only allowed when there was heavy rain.

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. When we were talking about this earlier, you think that
2 you may have been around 9 or so.

3 A. I do, yes, yes.

4 Q. One of the nuns, and you are not sure who it was --

5 A. No.

6 Q. -- but think it might have been SR59 or another nun --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- called three girls up to the front, told them to bend
9 over the stage and punished them by pulling their pants
10 down and smacking their bare bottoms in front of
11 everyone.

12 A. Uh-huh.

13 Q. You have no idea as to why this was done?

14 A. I don't know why it was done. Whenever you were in the
15 hall or out in the garden, when a nun clapped, you
16 stopped. You stopped dead on the spot. She did that in
17 the hall. So everybody stopped. These three girls were
18 called out. I don't know who they were. They were made
19 to go up to the stage, because you had to go up to the
20 stage. Then she made them bend over, and they got such
21 a whacking. It was awful, and I remember thinking, "Oh,
22 mercy! When is my turn?" I couldn't tell you what it
23 was for.

24 Q. Were these girls older or younger?

25 A. Oh, they were older. They were older. At the time

1 **I was probably about 9.**

2 Q. You go on to talk in paragraph 13 to say that you
3 remember being beaten by SR116.

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. You say it was always for a trivial reason. She had
6 a classroom that you were made to stand outside and wait
7 for her to call you in to hit you.

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. "She used a bamboo cane and hit me again and again on
10 the arm. It was extremely painful and left marks on my
11 arm. She hit you until you cried. So I learned to cry
12 as quickly as possible."

13 You also said:

14 "There was a lady", whom you name here, and I am
15 just going to use the first name, which is **NHB 32** "who
16 worked in the sewing room who hit me."

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. You were called in to iron blouses in a room off the
19 sewing room and you found an easier way of ironing the
20 shirts, but because you weren't doing it the way **NHB 32**
21 wanted you to, she told you -- the way she told you to
22 do, she slapped you across the face.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. Now the -- we talked also -- and I'll come back to the
25 fact that you spoke to the police many years later in

1 2010.

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. In your police statement you don't actually say that
4 NHB 32 slapped you for not ironing her way --

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. -- although you didn't mention that particular incident
7 when you spoke to the police --

8 **A. No.**

9 Q. -- but you did say she would clip you across the ear --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- and you were on the receiving end of her hand on many
12 occasions.

13 **A. Yes. She was a very cruel wee woman. I don't know**
14 **whether she was there from childhood. I don't know**
15 **that. I don't know anything about her. In the sewing**
16 **room there was an extra room and often the girls would**
17 **be called out to go and iron the blouses. They were**
18 **homemade blouses. This particular time I was called in.**
19 **She showed me how to iron it. I didn't even hold**
20 **an iron. She was showing me what to do. So when she**
21 **went out of the room, I decided, "I'll do it my way", as**
22 **I did. She came back in and she looked at me and said,**
23 **"What are you doing?" I said, "Oh, I am ironing the**
24 **blouses". She gave me such a smack across the face**
25 **I hit the wall. I didn't say that to the police,**

1 **because I couldn't think of everything, but she was**
2 **quite cruel.**

3 Q. In paragraph 14 you talk about another memory that you
4 have of the home. That was when you were about 9 and
5 there was a girl you name in your statement who sadly
6 died.

7 A. **Uh-huh.**

8 Q. You have a memory of that of your time there.

9 A. **Yes, I do. I don't know whether she -- anyway the child**
10 **died. In the chapels in those days there was no lights.**
11 **It was like a candle, very dim. We were all brought up**
12 **to the chapel one evening. There was -- to me, to me**
13 **only, there was a box at the top of the chapel. At**
14 **communion we all had to line up and go to communion and**
15 **pass this box. I looked in and I saw her and I thought,**
16 **"Oh, what's she sleeping in a box for?" It was**
17 **a coffin, but I didn't realise that. That has stayed**
18 **with me.**

19 Q. It wasn't explained to you that she had died?

20 A. **Oh, no, no. I found it very frightening.**

21 Q. You also talk about another incident in paragraph 15
22 when you remember that some girls sneaked out to watch
23 fireworks on the fire escape.

24 A. **Yes.**

25 Q. They were caught by SR134. She brought you all into the

1 sitting room, made you:

2 "... kneel with our hands behind our heads all
3 night."

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

5 Q. You heard the next day that some of the girls in the
6 other dormitories were actually made to sleep on the
7 fire escape --

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. -- but that certainly wasn't your experience.

10 **A. No, no.**

11 Q. Can I just ask something? This was what we were talking
12 about. As I stand here certain things think to me --
13 come to me.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. A group of girls in the home, is it possible that things
16 maybe got exaggerated by some of the girls? You know,
17 "You were made to kneel all night, but we had to sleep
18 on the fire escape". Do you think that was something
19 that might have happened?

20 **A. Well, I had to believe what I was told, you know. The**
21 **next day I had to believe that, but certainly what**
22 **happened us happened us. The fireworks were kind of --**
23 **they were given for the elderly. They seem to have been**
24 **up the back yard or something. I didn't go out with**
25 **them, because I wouldn't say I was a goody, but I was**

1 a bit of a coward. Then when they came back, SR134 was
2 standing there. The whole dormitory were wakened. We
3 were asked to kneel down -- not asked -- told to kneel
4 down with our hands behind our heads for the rest of the
5 night. Whether the girls the next day exaggerated,
6 I don't know that.

7 Q. But you certainly, even though you had not gone to watch
8 the fireworks, got punished as well?

9 A. Oh, yes. Oh, yes, yes.

10 Q. Paragraph 16, you talk about how you got injured when
11 you were asked to move --

12 A. Uh-huh.

13 Q. -- benches, school benches from a place called a loft.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. We were looking at photographs. You were describing it
16 is not actually seen in the photographs. I am going to
17 come back to the photographs in due course. We will go
18 through them.

19 A. Okay.

20 Q. You said that this place called the loft was replaced by
21 a home for the elderly, St. Basil's. Is that right?

22 A. Yes. I think you called it St. Basil's. I remember it
23 being built. That loft was out the back of St. Anne's
24 dormitory. It was at the side of the building and it
25 was there I don't know how long, but it was a very old,

1 old building. It had -- can I explain?

2 Q. Yes, of course.

3 A. All right. It had like a fire escape and there must
4 have been another entrance. Anyway we were asked to
5 take down benches. They were old school benches like
6 wood and wrought iron. They were heavy. They were
7 clearing the loft. They must have been going to
8 demolish it. We were taking them down. The fire escape
9 gave way and I fell flat on my back. I saw stars. That
10 was the only time in my life I saw stars. The bench
11 fell on top of me and I was cut. I ran down. One of
12 the girls then told the nuns. So the loft then was
13 eventually demolished. Wee just knew it as the loft.

14 Q. But it is likely then that, if it was demolished, that
15 you were helping to clear out prior to demolition?

16 A. I would think so. I don't know. You didn't question
17 anything, Christine. If you were told to do something,
18 you did it.

19 Q. But you didn't think anyway that you should have been
20 moving these things if they were so heavy.

21 A. I don't think so. They were very, very heavy. We were
22 only 13 -- 12, 13, 14 years of age. It was a bit much
23 to ask girls to do that. It should have been big heavy
24 men doing it.

25 Q. The Congregation have said they have no record of the

1 fire escape collapsing in this way --

2 **A. Oh!**

3 Q. -- but if it is the case that this building was
4 demolished, then maybe there may not be such records.

5 **A. Yes, yes.**

6 Q. You think you were about 13. So you think this would
7 have been about 1962/'63 time?

8 **A. Yes, yes, it would have been around that time.**

9 Q. You go on in paragraph 17, HIA20, to talk about the
10 education you received. You said that your education
11 was very poor.

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. "We went to school in Nazareth House. There were
14 classes for each year."

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. But you were placed in the class for the educationally
17 subnormal.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. In that class the children aged from 5 to 11 years of
20 age.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. I was asking who the teacher in that class was.

23 **A. SR134.**

24 Q. The younger ones were placed at one side of the room;
25 the older ones on the other side.

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. You say you seemed to spend your primary education
3 drawing, knitting or sitting in silence.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Now we were talking about this. I wondered if, you
6 know, there was -- did girls move between classrooms?
7 Did they move from SR134's classroom to somebody else's?

8 **A. Oh, no, no. Once you were in SR134's class you were in**
9 **it, but other girls moved from -- there was four**
10 **classrooms I think. There was two lay teachers and SR31**
11 **and SR116. They moved from class to class as they got**
12 **a bit older, but once we were in SR134's class, that was**
13 **it.**

14 Q. She has -- I will come back to what she has said when
15 she was interviewed by police --

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. -- back in the mid-'90s --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- but she did say that she had what she described as
20 the backward class, the class for backward children.
21 That is consistent with what you are saying about it
22 being the --

23 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

24 Q. -- ESN class, as it used to be known.

25 **A. You know, Christine, we did know it was for the backward**

1 **children, because children are cruel. Children used to**
2 **slag us off about, "Oh, you are in the backward class,**
3 **SR 134 class", and you knew it.**

4 Q. You say that -- I mean, you have since gone on and
5 achieved in your life and achieved qualifications in
6 your life, HIA20, but when we were talking earlier, the
7 reason that you sort of feel so badly about this is you
8 felt this was a label that was attached to you.

9 A. **Yes, yes.**

10 Q. It was something that you feel affected you badly over
11 the years.

12 A. **I think it has had a very bad effect on me**
13 **psychologically and emotionally. To be labelled as**
14 **a bedwetter, to be labelled as a typical orphan with no**
15 **visitors and now to be labelled as ESN is pretty hard to**
16 **take on board.**

17 Q. Well, the Congregation would say and have said in their
18 response statement that they did their best to ensure
19 there was a proper education of children. They pointed
20 out that the responsibility for education was not just
21 theirs, that the Department of Education and the Council
22 of Catholic Maintained Schools were responsible for
23 educating children. They do not accept that they failed
24 in respect of your education. In paragraph 12 of their
25 response statement they say that they learned that the

1 records for children with educational difficulties were
2 destroyed once the child reached 20 -- sorry -- 23 or
3 26. You yourself did try to obtain your records. Isn't
4 that right?

5 **A. Yes, I did. I wrote to the -- the school that I was**
6 **sent to was in It is since**
7 **demolished. It was demolished in the '90s. It was**
8 **a big boarding school for children all over Northern**
9 **Ireland with special needs. I wish I had boarded at it.**
10 **Anyway that was demolished. It was run by I think it**
11 **was the Convent of Mercy Order. I contacted them.**
12 **I contacted the Education Board. Anybody I could**
13 **I contacted them. I couldn't get any records.**

14 **Q. You do talk about when girls reached secondary school,**
15 **they went to St. Monica's, but you had been ill --**

16 **A. Yes.**

17 **Q. -- and you missed the first few weeks of the term in**
18 **St Monica's.**

19 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

20 **Q. Then when you did go, you were only there for a short**
21 **time --**

22 **A. Very short.**

23 **Q. -- before you were actually moved to**

24 **A. Yes.**

25 **Q. You talk about this in paragraph 18 of your statement,**

1 Q. -- and that just --

2 A. Can I explain that, Christine?

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. The lady who did that has sadly since died. NHB 140
5 was her name. She was in -- we knew it as the cookery
6 class. There were so many girls selected to do cookery.
7 I was one of them. She got me to go across the road to
8 get little messages. She wrote them down on a piece of
9 paper.

10 I remained in touch with her for many, many years,
11 and about two or three years before she died she came to
12 see me. She said, "I think you are mature enough to be
13 told this story". She said, "When you were at
14 the Reverend Mother" -- I can't mind her name
15 -- sent for her and said, "You are getting two children
16 from the orphanage on the Ormeau Road and one of them
17 is", me. "She is very backward. I don't think she will
18 do so well in life, but see what you can do with her".
19 Now thank God I was an adult and I could take that, but
20 that's an awful thing, instead of giving you
21 encouragement. So that was it.

22 Q. Well, HIA20, you talk in paragraph 19 here about a visit
23 that you had one day when SR134 took you from where you
24 had been -- I think you said it was the dining room --
25 and she took you to the bathroom, scrubbed you from head

1 to toe, put a green dress on you and took you to one of
2 the classrooms, where one of the teachers from
3 was.

4 **A. Yes, yes.**

5 Q. You said she was a kind woman and she had come to see
6 how you were?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. She gave you sweets.

9 "SR134 didn't know who she was and when I came out"

10 --

11 when you came out and told her it was your teacher,
12 the dress was then taken away from you and you never saw
13 it again.

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. You say you wrote to SR134 after you left the home --

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. -- as you were looking for answers.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. You started to work out from her letters that the dress
20 had actually come from your mother.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. That she had thought that this lady who had come to
23 visit you was, in fact, your mother, which is why you
24 feel you were put into the dress to see her.

25 **A. Yes, yes.**

1 Q. You understand from the letters that your mother had
2 sent you clothes, but they had been taken away, because
3 the other children were asking questions about where
4 these clothes were coming from.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Have you yourself a memory of wearing clothes different
7 to the other girls in the home?

8 A. That one occasion.

9 Q. Just that one occasion?

10 A. The one occasion where I was taken out of the dining
11 room, and that was when we were sat in silence. I was
12 called out. As you have said, I was washed from head to
13 toe. I remember seeing the dress and thinking, "Oh, my!
14 I'm going home". She put the dress on and I went up,
15 and there was the classroom and the door was ajar. She
16 said, "Who's that? Who's that in there?" I said, "Oh,
17 pleaster, I don't know". She said, "Go and see who it
18 is".

19 As I walked towards the woman, I realised it was
20 NHB 141 who was a lady at the school,
21 She had given me a little bag of sweets. I thought she
22 had given me the dress, and I didn't have the wit to say
23 "Thank you".

24 So I came back out. SR134 was still there. She
25 said, "Who was that?" I said, "It was NHB 141

1 **"That's all right. Get that dress off". So nobody else**
2 **saw that dress. That's the one and only time I was**
3 **different.**

4 Q. What I'm asking is you understand from the letters that
5 you wrote to SR134 --

6 A. **Uh-huh.**

7 Q. -- that there were other clothes that your mother sent
8 to you.

9 A. **I never saw anything. I did ask her. That's how she**
10 **revealed, "In the letter your mother had sent clothes.**
11 **When the children asked where you got them, the Reverend**
12 **Mother decided to take them off you and suggested that**
13 **money should be sent", and I don't know what came of it,**
14 **but I saw nothing, no.**

15 Q. We were talking -- you learned this about your mother
16 being asked to send money instead of clothing --

17 A. **Yes.**

18 Q. -- from SR134's correspondence.

19 A. **Yes.**

20 Q. We will come back to that in a moment.

21 A. **Yes.**

22 Q. Certainly you did bring us a couple of letters --

23 A. **Yes.**

24 Q. -- which we have in the papers --

25 A. **Yes.**

1 Q. -- but you still have this letter where she said this.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. You have agreed that you are going to give it to the
4 Inquiry so that we can have a look at it later.

5 **A. Yes, yes, yes. Sure. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. Thank you, HIA20. You talk also about some of the good
7 memories that you had about your time in Nazareth House
8 --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- and about the black taxi beach party at Tyrella
11 beach.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. You say there were six or eight children in each taxi.

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. You sang the whole way to the beach. You have fond
16 memories of those taxi drivers. You are thankful for
17 their generosity.

18 You also remember Christmas parties, being taken out
19 to Christmas parties. What do you remember about that,
20 HIA20?

21 **A. There was -- there was different companies in Belfast**
22 **who took children out. Now the children's names were**
23 **put on a list by one of the nuns. If your name was**
24 **called out, you stood there, you know, in a line and**
25 **"You are going to such-and-such a party".**

1 The only party I went to was Mackie's, because
2 everybody went -- you weren't from a list; everybody
3 went -- and the taxi party and the university. They
4 were the only three, but there were about six or seven
5 other companies. So if you were lucky enough, you went
6 to them. If you weren't, you didn't.

7 Q. You talk about birthdays. I don't know that you mention
8 this in your Inquiry statement, but certainly in your
9 book somebody talked about her birthday. You asked one
10 of the nuns when your birthday was. She said
11 "February". You thought the entire month of February
12 was your birthday.

13 A. Yes. I will tell you how that happened. There was
14 a little girl. Someone used to come and see her. You
15 know, children lick round children when there are
16 sweets. As she was eating the sweets a nun passed and
17 I said, "Oh, pleaster, when is my birthday?" and she
18 said, "Oh, February". So I kept that in there and
19 I thought the whole of February was my birthday until
20 I was an adult.

21 Q. Well, certainly your birthday wasn't celebrated in the
22 home.

23 A. Oh, no. I didn't see -- I did not have a birthday
24 party.

25 Q. In paragraph 21 you also talk about another upsetting

1 memory you have about your time there when you were
2 about 12. One of the other girls convinced you to go
3 off to the old men's place, as you used to call it. You
4 said:

5 "It was like a glasshouse and there were two men
6 there."

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. "One was sitting in a chair and he said, 'Come here and
9 I'll give you some sweets'."

10 You went over and he grabbed your wrist and then he
11 put his hand into your underwear.

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. You managed to get free, ran back and hid in the
14 toilets. You thought he was going to tell the nuns and
15 you were going to be in trouble for being where you
16 shouldn't have been, but you feel that you ought to have
17 been protected from such situations --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- although it is true to say you weren't really
20 supposed to be where you went.

21 **A. Christine, you follow your peers. There was a girl and
22 she was a bit of a devil anyway. So I followed her.
23 I thought -- I knew -- I thought, "I shouldn't be up
24 here", but you do as a child. You don't have the same
25 wit as you do as an adult. The house -- I don't know**

1 what it was, but it was where the old men sat. There
2 was a table and there was plants, and this man was
3 there. There was a man round the corner. He kept
4 saying, "Come here! Come here! We will give you
5 sweets". What he did after that was not very nice.

6 Q. Was there much interaction between the children in the
7 home and the elderly?

8 A. Not really unless the children at weekends were asked to
9 go up and help to clean up in the old ladies' place or
10 old men's place, as we knew it. That was the term used.
11 There wasn't really. The odd time I think the children
12 went up and sang for them, but I don't know.

13 Q. You go on to talk here about being teased by other girls
14 and being called things like "Fish" and "Dunce" for
15 wetting the bed --

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 Q. -- but you think the cruelty from the nuns was worse
18 than that from other girls:

19 "They didn't care for us properly and were
20 constantly degrading us."

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. "I remember we were told by the nuns, mainly SR31,
23 'Nobody wants you. Do you know why you're here? You
24 were just dumped. Nobody wants you'. I remember some
25 of the other children were encouraged to write letters

1 to penpals."

2 You were told you didn't need to, as you wouldn't be
3 able to write a letter.

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. All you were seen fit for was scrubbing the floors,
6 working in the laundry or washing up in the kitchen.

7 I am going to just jump to paragraph 4, where you
8 also remember SR31 -- just scroll -- sorry -- was always
9 degrading you. You say she thought Primary 7. You
10 remember when you were 16, she called you into her class
11 in front of children and asked you what you were doing.
12 You told her you were cleaning.

13 "She told me to go and find a girl who was her pet
14 and whom she asked to do messages for her."

15 When you came back with this girl, SR31 said to you,
16 "What are you standing there for? Have you nothing else
17 to do?" You thought that was cruel to degrade you like
18 that in front of her P7 class --

19 **A. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. -- when you were aged 16.

21 **A. Uh-huh.**

22 Q. You remember even when you left the home, you saw the
23 Nazareth House children in town. You went over to speak
24 to them, but she ushered them away and wouldn't let them
25 speak to you.

1 **A.** Uh-huh. The reason I did that, Christine, when I first
2 left Nazareth and went to this other family that's not
3 mentioned and ran away, I went back to Nazareth simply
4 because I was starving. SR134 let me look after the
5 little ones, which I loved doing. So, therefore,
6 I created a bond with these kids. Then when I left
7 again and I was in the town and SR31 had all the wee
8 ones, of course I ran over. She: "Go about your
9 business! Go on! Come along, children!" I found that
10 so hurtful. I found that so hurtful. She didn't need
11 to do that.

12 **Q.** You also talk in paragraph 23, if we could just scroll
13 back up to it, about the same nun. You remember being
14 sent to her storeroom to be punished by her. Was that
15 a common occurrence that you went to the storeroom to be
16 punished by her?

17 **A.** Only with SR31. In my mind if she wanted to punish you,
18 you had to go to the storeroom. The storeroom was
19 outside her dormitory. In the storeroom was all these
20 kind of boxes. I don't know what was in them. I wasn't
21 interested in what was in the boxes. I wanted to go out
22 and play with my friends. There was a window. So I sat
23 on top of the window and watched them playing. She
24 would have come and punished you, but I think she forgot
25 about me.

1 Q. You remember this because you weren't punished?

2 **A. Yes, yes.**

3 Q. Certainly then if we go on down to paragraph 25, you
4 talk -- you do remember -- you don't remember any
5 inspectors or social workers visiting the home. Again
6 that would be consistent with the fact that you were
7 a private placement in the home, HIA20, but you do
8 remember there was a doctor who came regularly and did
9 check-ups. You remember also having difficulty with
10 your ears --

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. -- and having boils in your ears. You remember one of
13 the nuns used to try to burst these boils --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- and they led eventually to you having a perforated
16 eardrum.

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. You remember crying at night, because there was nobody
19 to turn to for comfort or help.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. You were saying in later years you did attend the City
22 Hospital about this --

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. -- but thankfully it kind of resolved itself.

25 **A. Uh-huh. Yes. Christine, whenever -- I don't know who**

1 the nun was, because I was very young. I had terrible
2 earaches as a child. I used to get boils in it and used
3 to have to go down. This nun had a needle and she would
4 have just burst the ear -- not the ear -- the boils.
5 This happened pretty often. Hence the reason for the
6 problem with the ears as I got older. That was pretty
7 sore.

8 Q. The Congregation have said that many of the nuns were
9 trained nurses who looked after the children. Is it
10 possible that this particular nun might have been
11 a trained nurse or ...?

12 A. I don't know. I think the trained nurses were the ones
13 that were in the nursery, because the nuns in the
14 nursery were very good to the wee ones, but I don't
15 know. I couldn't -- I don't know that.

16 Q. You go on to talk about another girl who would complain
17 about headaches and even walked into walls. She was
18 ignored and scolded for being silly, but it actually
19 transpired that she had a brain tumour --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- and thankfully recovered, although she had
22 after-effects of it and returned to the home, but you
23 never saw her after that. She was taken somewhere else.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Paragraph 27 here you talk about how you were told that

1 you were leaving the home, HIA20. You remember --

2 **A. Uh-huh. I do remember.**

3 Q. -- you were told to go to the sewing room. SR122 was
4 there. You talk about her. She couldn't ever remember
5 anyone's name. So she called everyone "girly".

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. There was a suitcase. She told you to take it to the
8 parlour. You went and there was a lady who was there
9 waiting for you. She was someone who used to do
10 messages for the nuns.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Were there people to come into the home like this lady
13 who helped out on occasion or were volunteers?

14 **A. The only time you saw this lady was we had summer
15 holidays. They started letting children go out to
16 families. This lady took me to a family -- I don't know
17 whether it was -- to a Mr and Mrs in
18 . Then her second occasion was to take me to
19 to a doctor's family, and then when I was
20 leaving.**

21 Christine, when I was leaving, I was just told to go
22 to the sewing room, as you have said. SR122 was there.
23 She was harmless. She said "Girly, take that case to
24 the parlour". That was your introduction to the outside
25 world. Nobody said where you were going, what you were

1 **going to do, no forms, nothing.**

2 Q.

3

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. -- but also about the two families that you went out to
6 and the experiences there, but those were good, positive
7 experiences that you had with those families. Isn't
8 that right, HIA20?

9 **A. As a child? Yes.**

10 Q. When you went out in the summer holidays to the family
11 in and the family in .

12 **A. Well, the family in I only went once, because**
13 **I wet the bed. So I didn't go back again. The doctor,**
14 **they were very good. Needless to say, I wet the bed**
15 **there as well, but they were very good.**

16 Q. Those are again positive memories you have of your time
17 there.

18 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

19 Q. You talk in paragraphs 28 through to 40 here about your
20 life after care. We have discussed the fact that while
21 the Inquiry has read this in full and knows what's in it
22 I am not going to go into all of the details that's
23 there.

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. There are a couple of things. You talk in paragraph 28

1 about the fact that you were so ill-prepared for the
2 outside world that whenever you went to see a doctor and
3 he asked you if you were pregnant, you didn't even know
4 what he was talking about at that stage.

5 **A. "No" was to everything. If anybody asked you**
6 **a question, "No", "No". I hadn't a clue.**

7 Q. You also talk about leaving, running away from the
8 family with whom you were placed to work.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. You didn't -- you walked all the way from wherever that
11 was into Belfast where you knew some of the former
12 residents were. You didn't even know that you could
13 have got the bus.

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. You thought you had to book a bus.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. So there was no preparation for the outside world.

18 **A. No.**

19 Q. You talk about in paragraph 31, if we can scroll down to
20 that, that you felt emotionally vulnerable at being sent
21 out and taken back, sent out again to live with a woman
22 who you thought was mad.

23 You had no control over your own
24 money. You developed an eating disorder, had a nervous
25 breakdown, ended up in hospital.

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. You feel that having labelled you as an educationally
3 subnormal person, the nuns should have had more care --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- over what happened to you afterwards.

6 A. Yes. Well, can I please add to that? The lady that
7 I went to that I think was mentally unstable had already
8 had five girls with her, who had all left her, and yet
9 I was sent to her as somebody that was ESN to this lady,
10 who was just not right. I thought that was unfair.

11 When I was in the factory and the solicitor came to
12 tell me I had a mother, two total strangers -- the
13 manager was a total stranger, didn't know anything about
14 me -- he had to bring me into the room. There was
15 a solicitor there. She said, "I am here to tell you
16 about your mother". I said, "I don't have a mother",
17 because my nun had said as a child, "Don't be silly.
18 You don't have a mummy". So I took that on board, and
19 there was this lady. So that was partly part of the
20 reason of the mental breakdown.

21 Q. Well, you go on, as I say, to go on about the rest of
22 your time. If we look at paragraph 39, please, here you
23 say that the experiences of your childhood made you feel
24 worthless.

25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. "Having no parents, attending a special school, wetting
2 the bed, having an alarm placed on your bed and being
3 told you were going to be sent to a mental institution
4 for breaking the handle of a mop. I have so many
5 questions about how these nuns were allowed to bring us
6 up. What did they know about the physical, emotional
7 and educational well-being of children? What training
8 did they have to work with children? We were all crying
9 out for affection and I felt that all I received in
10 return was punishment for the sin of my mother. I do
11 not feel that we had done anything to deserve that kind
12 of existence. I cannot forget about my childhood as it
13 has shaped who I am and the memories will stay with me
14 forever."

15 You go on in paragraph 40 to say that not all nuns
16 should be tarred with the same brush and you did meet
17 some good nuns.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. I was wondering if you can remember any of the names of
20 any of them?

21 **A. There was a SR190 in the kitchen, because I was often**
22 **sent to the kitchen to peel the potatoes and wash the**
23 **big pots and pans or whatever -- not alone; other girls.**
24 **She was quite nice. SR122 was harmless, the one that**
25 **called you "girly". She was harmless. It was very**

1 unfortunate it was just the three that I met, they
2 obviously had problems.

3 Q. You say that perhaps if their employers had treated them
4 better, they might have treated you better.

5 A. I think that. I really do. I think society allowed
6 things like that to happen, society, the church and
7 their employers. If these young girls -- who were young
8 girls, but we thought they were old -- if these young
9 girls had been protected more and guided more and given
10 more support, I don't think these things would have
11 happened.

12 Q. Well, you did have contact with SR134 --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- as you discussed, in later years. You brought some
15 letters to the Inquiry. I am just going to have a look
16 at some of those. At SNB-30047, please. Now they are
17 slightly -- the edge of this is slightly missing. This
18 is a letter to you in May 1996 from SR134 --

19 A. Uh-huh.

20 Q. -- who at that stage was at a Nazareth House in England.
21 She says:

22 "I am not sure whose turn it is to write."

23 You had been in correspondence with her from you
24 left the home.

25 A. I had been in correspondence with SR134. I have to put

1 my hand on my heart and say there was a little method in
2 my madness, because I knew that SR134 and the other nuns
3 knew about me, who I was. They knew my identity. They
4 knew my background. They had to have known my family.
5 So I remained in touch with her for a long time until
6 she realised then who else was I to contact? Nobody.

7 Q. Just going on here, it says:

8 "I was not ..."

9 "... whose turn it is to write, but" something about
10 "papers you sent me were not what I wanted. I wasn't in
11 a hurry to go ..."

12 Whoops!

13 "I wasn't in a hurry to go through them. Imagine my
14 surprise on examining them last week

15 I wasn't
16 too pleased on reading the harsh treatment in the
17 orphanage.

18
19 She goes on about the trip to Dublin. She says:

20 "In thinking about the harsh treatment, I don't
21 think you ever received any. In fact, when you were in
22 for a short time and SR101 saw how unhappy
23 you were, she asked SR 192 to take you into
24 St. Monica's, which she did."

25 Now is that right? Did you go back from

1 to Sister Monica's (sic)?

2 **A. No. That's all wrong actually. SR101 wasn't there.**

3 SR101 left in 1959, when I was 9. I was in SR134's

4 class, backward class. I didn't go from to

5 St. Monica's. I went from St. Monica's to .

6 Q. But you didn't return to St. Monica's after you went to

7

8 **A. Oh, no, no, no.**

9 Q. She goes on to say:

10 "I never told you this before, but I am sorry now,

11

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. "When you were about to leave school, I wrote to your
14 mother asking her would she do anything for you. (Knew
15 she had an hotel)."

16 As you discovered in later life, that was actually
17 correct. Your mother did have a hotel in

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. "She wrote back frantically telling me never to write to
20 her again, as the correspondence was shared between her
21 son and" -- if you can scroll on down to the next page,
22 please -- "and herself, and it was only by chance she
23 got my letter first. He knew nothing about you. So
24 then she contacted She also wrote to

25 SR 226 in the same strain. I never told you

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. "If they are true, why did you", something.

3 **A. "Continue", I think, "writing to me so frequently."**

4 Q. "... to me so frequently between 1970 and 1995",

5 I think she puts.

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. Something about:

8 "... the friendly visits you used to pay Nazareth

9 House. You went" --

10 **A. "... after you went to work ..."**

11 Q. "... went to work after leaving."

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. "I always thought you were sincere. Obviously my

14 mistake. Yours sincerely, SR134."

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. On receiving this letter I think you responded in

17 a different tone.

18 **A. Oh, okay. Okay.**

19 Q. If we can scroll on down to the next page, this is you

20 writing again in October 2000.

21 **A. Uh-huh.**

22 Q. "Dear Sister,

23 I was quite saddened by the letter I received from

24 you last week. When I first left Nazareth House, where

25 I had spent 17 years, I left behind the only friends and

1 home I knew.

2 You would appear to be amazed, as you say in your
3 letter. You have spent many years in the Nazareth Order
4 and must be aware that

5
6
7 these events were commonplace in most, if not all,
8 convents. Anything I may have said, either in writing
9 or orally, is all my (and hundreds of other people's)
10 truthful and sincere accounts of our memories
11 and treatment.

12
13 especially
14 if they were not ashamed about any of their actions in
15 the past. This surely would be doubly true of
16 an organisation of a religious Christian group like the
17 Nazareth Order and its Sisters, who surely should take
18 the Christian and charitable view rather than take the
19 path of condemnation, which surely belongs to a higher
20 authority.

21 You asked the question why I returned. Surely you
22 would have been more than glad to see that the children
23 that had gone through your establishment were able to
24 keep in contact. The girls were my only link and for
25 that I was grateful, because I knew nobody outside the

1 convent walls. Yes, those visits were friendly ones,
2 until I was unfortunately no longer able to visit
3 because of the actions of ...",

4 and that's the lady whom you ultimately went to
5 live with.

6 **A. Uh-huh. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. "Regarding your correspondence, you were the only person
8 that I had any contact with for all those years I lived
9 in", that address, "and later."

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. "That I appreciate, because I was not allowed to write
12 to anybody else, and, yes, I did enjoy our
13 correspondence until 1997, but then I received a very
14 nasty letter from a certain person

15 apparently after she had been in contact
16 with you."

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. "In all my years this is the first time I have been
19 called insincere by any of my very many friends or even
20 acquaintances. If your belief of what I am today is
21 correct, then surely it is a reflection of the people
22 who were involved in my upbringing."

23 Certainly the tone of that is one of hurt and anger.

24 **A. Uh-huh. Yes, I was angry, because for seventeen and
25 a half years I lived in that orphanage and I did my**

1 duties. I did them physically. I also ended up looking
2 after the children, for which I wasn't paid for. I gave
3 my all and I was sincere, but because of one incident
4

5 I thought it was sad.

6 Q. You, as I have said, did bring some photographs. We are
7 going to look at those now, HIA20.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Sorry. Just before I do, you have other letters that
10 you wrote and SR134 wrote. There is this one letter
11 where you say that she said about your mother being
12 asked to give money rather than clothing.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. We will hopefully see that when you get it to us. So
15 thank you.

16 The photographs at 32987, please. Now these are
17 photographs that you used and are in your book, but, as
18 you see, we have managed to sort of blow them up
19 slightly. I am just going to ask you, if you would,
20 HIA20 -- this is the -- I will use your book and give
21 the description that you use of the photograph --

22 A. Yes, yes, yes.

23 Q. -- but if you -- if I get this wrong ... That is
24 the front view of Nazareth House. Is that right?

25 A. Yes. That was known as the nuns' garden. It is tidied

1 up since we were there, but that was the nuns' garden,
2 and that is the front view going from the top end of the
3 Ormeau Road, looking down.

4 Q. So where the Ormeau Road and Ravenhill Road meet in
5 a point --

6 A. Yes, yes.

7 Q. -- you are looking from the point end, as it were?

8 A. Yes, yes. That wall went the whole way round there.
9 You wouldn't have seen all of that. You would have seen
10 the bell, you know.

11 Q. The building as you look at it in the background to the
12 right --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- that was the St. Anne's and senior girls'
15 dormitories. Is that right?

16 A. You see the very top one, Clare (sic)? That was
17 St. Anne's dormitory and the one below it would have
18 been known as the girls' dormitory, which I never was
19 in.

20 Q. That was for the older girls, and even though you were
21 an older girl, because the nuns had labelled you as ESN,
22 you did not get to go to that dormitory.

23 A. No. I stayed in the dormitory with the children.

24 Q. You see the building that's sort of like a grey brick
25 building? Was that there in your time?

1 **A. That one over here to the right?**

2 Q. Yes.

3 **A. I don't know that building. I don't know what -- that**
4 **looks like fairly new. I don't know what that is.**

5 Q. The red brick elements of the building are what you
6 remember. Is that right?

7 **A. I can remember everything. I don't remember that wee**
8 **glasshouse thing there. Where the men -- I don't know**
9 **where they sat. It was kind of, you know, like an old**
10 **greenhouse or something, but it was the other side.**

11 Q. You were talking -- we were talking earlier about the
12 loft where you had to empty it out.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. Where was that? Was that --

15 **A. You see where you can see like a green thing above that**
16 **roof? Well, it would have been beyond that, because it**
17 **was the other side of St. Anne's dormitory you could see**
18 **it.**

19 Q. Is it possible that that green thing on that brick
20 building is what replaced the loft? Is that St.
21 Basil's?

22 **A. Oh, gosh! I don't know. I don't know, Christine.**
23 **I don't know that.**

24 Q. Okay. If we just scroll down to the next photograph,
25 please, this is a photograph -- you are in this

1 photograph, HIA20.

2 **A. Yes. I am in the -- I am fourth from the left, about --**

3 Q. That's you there --

4 **A. Yes, yes.**

5 Q. -- just where the cursor is.

6 **A. I'd be about 7 or 8 there.**

7 Q. Do you have any memory of this photograph being taken at
8 all?

9 **A. No. I think that was in Ballyhornan. We used to go to**
10 **Ballyhornan when I was very young before we went to the**
11 **Glens. I don't ever remember getting a photo taken.**
12 **They used to tell you just to stand there. So in my**
13 **naivety I didn't know what they were doing.**

14 Q. Okay. If we scroll on down to the next page, please,
15 again another photograph.

16 **A. Yes. That's me second to the left in between the two**
17 **girls.**

18 Q. At the front or --

19 **A. To the very left at the front there is a tall girl and**
20 **I am in between her. I am about 6 in that.**

21 Q. We just see you in behind really.

22 **A. Just where the tall girl with her arms folded.**

23 Q. Yes. You are just the little head on her shoulder.
24 That is you.

25 **A. Yes. She was quite tall, that girl, actually for ...**

1 Q. If we can scroll on down, again do you recall what age
2 you were there?

3 **A. About -- I look about 6 I think.**

4 Q. I think this is another copy of the photograph we saw
5 earlier.

6 If we can just scroll on down, this is the Holy
7 Rosary Church on the Ormeau Road.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. We can just see the convent to the right-hand side of
10 this photograph.

11 **A. Yes. You know the top building, the top floor? That**
12 **was Our Lady's dormitory. The middle floor was Sacred**
13 **Heart's dormitory. The bottom floor was the hall, and**
14 **beyond that wall was the garden that we called the play**
15 **area.**

16 Q. That's -- so it would have been -- if we can scroll on
17 down to the next photograph, this is when --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- the demolition work was starting. So this is
20 a clearer version of that red brick --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- building that we were looking at.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. So the bottom floor would have been where the hall and
25 stage would have been.

1 **A. The hall was, yes. You went in through that. You know**
2 **where there is like a little archway? You went in that**
3 **way. To the very left was the chapel and the**
4 **classrooms.**

5 Q. So the original building --

6 **A. Or to the right rather.**

7 Q. -- if I can put it that way, would have been -- the
8 chapel and classrooms would have been in the area to the
9 building.

10 **A. To the right. Sorry. I made a mistake there. Yes,**
11 **yes. That would have been SR31's classroom.**

12 Q. Where these lorries are parked, that's the yard or the
13 playground where the children would have played.

14 **A. That was just the garden, yes.**

15 Q. Did you ever get into the nuns' garden at all to the
16 ...?

17 **A. You went in on the holy days. They had processions up**
18 **the garden. I can't remember the hymns, but you went up**
19 **there singing the hymns: "Spring Flowers with a Maiden"**
20 **or something.**

21 Q. But it wasn't somewhere you were allowed to play?

22 **A. Oh, no, no, no. We used to actually go up and steal**
23 **apples, you know.**

24 Q. Some have said there were apples and pears stolen from
25 the Holy Rosary side of --

1 **A.** **At the side of the Holy -- the side of the convent was**
2 **the Holy Rosary. There was a wall there. It had little**
3 **bits of like glass or wire over it, but we used to**
4 **somehow get over that, and girls would have thrown the**
5 **apples or pears down to you, and you got as many as you**
6 **could.**

7 **Q.** One of the -- just you spoke to the police in 2010,
8 HIA20.

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

10 **Q.** Your statement can be found at 61280 to 61282.

11 **A.** **Yes.**

12 **Q.** If we can just look at that, please. This would --
13 I talked about this earlier when I was saying that you
14 didn't mention that **NHB 32** had slapped you for not doing
15 the ironing.

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

17 **Q.** Again this was 19th May 2010.

18 **A.** **Uh-huh.**

19 **Q.** You talk about what memories you had --

20 **A.** **Uh-huh.**

21 **Q.** -- which is largely consistent with what you tell the
22 Inquiry.

23 Now at the time the police were carrying out these
24 investigations, by this time -- SR31 died in 2011.

25 Although you gave them your statement in 2010, by the

1 time they came to interview her she had died. She may
2 have been ill beforehand.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. She was, in fact, interviewed back in 1996. That
5 interview can be found at 60318 to 60403, which was
6 about allegations that other girls had made about her.

7 **A. Oh, right.**

8 Q. Now she was not ever spoken to about your allegations,
9 because, as I've said, police were not able to interview
10 her.

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. But just so that the Inquiry can be clear, in that
13 interview in 1996 she denied hitting children. She
14 suggested to police that girls had got together
15 essentially to blame someone other than their families
16 for all that had gone wrong in their lives. Is there
17 anything that you want to say about that?

18 **A. Well, Lord have mercy on her! She is not here to**
19 **answer, but I wish she was. I would not have got**
20 **together with anybody. My life was my life and what**
21 **happened in my life happened. I put my hand on that**
22 **bible today and I have told the truth about it. So**
23 **that's all I can say about that.**

24 Q. Well, she did say that sometimes Jeyes Fluid was used
25 for washing the girls' hair and that happened.

1 **A. No, no. The Jeyes Fluid was used in the summer time for**
2 **washing your hair out the back yard, but for the baths**
3 **it was Jeyes Fluid and whatever that white stuff was.**
4 **There was kind of a white powdery stuff put in. I don't**
5 **know what it was, but definitely Jeyes Fluid.**

6 Q. She also, just to be clear, denied ever making any child
7 kneel as punishment, but I don't think you were saying
8 that was something she made you do. This was a
9 punishment that SR134 made you all do after the
10 fireworks incident.

11 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

12 Q. SR134 again had died before the police could interview
13 her in relation to your complaint, but she also was
14 interviewed about certain complaints in July 1996. That
15 can be seen at SNB-60027 onwards. Now in the
16 allegations that were put to her at that time she denied
17 the allegations that were being made against her
18 emphatically. She said that in the home the way
19 children were punished was either by the denial of being
20 allowed to watch TV or denial of pocket money. She said
21 that they were sometimes sent to bed or they were denied
22 going out on a group outing. That's how children were
23 punished is what SR134 said. She did say that she would
24 have used a small smack on children until they reached
25 about the age of 13, and she did say that punishments

1 were left to the individual Sister who was in charge of
2 the children as to how they punished them. Do you
3 remember that type of punishment in the home?

4 **A. Not as described by SR134, and again I am sorry she is**
5 **not here. SR116 used a ruler. There was a ruler. She**
6 **used the edge of a ruler. She had this awful habit of**
7 **making you put your arms out. You actually got into the**
8 **habit of going in and just knew to put your arms out.**
9 **She hit you on the tender part of your arm and across**
10 **there. She did that literally till you broke, but I am**
11 **afraid, being the coward that I am, I broke immediately**
12 **because I thought, "Enough is enough". SR31 hit you**
13 **where she wanted to hit you and that was anywhere.**
14 **SR134's problem was she used to get your -- it sounds**
15 **funny now -- she used to get your wrist and get your**
16 **wrists together, and she made you hit yourself so hard**
17 **that it was so, so painful. She would drop your wrist**
18 **and say, "See? I didn't touch you, did I?" So that was**
19 **their form of punishment. I don't remember pocket**
20 **money, no. I got pocket money very little, and I never**
21 **got paid when I was working there.**

22 **Q. Well, SR116 was interviewed about what you said about**
23 **her in your statement. That's at SNB-612950 onwards.**
24 **She was being interviewed in May 2012 not just about**
25 **what you had said, HIA20 --**

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. -- but about what a number of other people had said
3 about her.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. At 61350 your statement is put to her.

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. She said she had no specific memory of you. She did
8 remember the name. She did not remember any alarm being
9 used for bedwetting. She said that children could come
10 and talk over any problems that they had with the
11 Sisters or with the assistant who helped the Sisters.
12 Can I just ask: do you remember lay staff helping the
13 Sisters?

14 **A. I don't remember any assistants at all. The only**
15 **people -- there was never any outsiders in Nazareth**
16 **House ever. The people that did the work were the**
17 **children right up to the age of 16 or whatever age.**
18 **I was 17 and a half. I don't remember lay people at**
19 **all.**

20 Q. Not in your time anyway?

21 **A. No. There may have been after me. I don't know.**

22 **I could see things changing, Christine, I have to say**
23 **when -- just before I was leaving. I could see things**
24 **changing and I was happy for the kids that were coming**
25 **up behind me.**

1 Q. She went on to discuss Christmas and birthdays and
2 pocket money. She said that in the large groups they
3 were unable to give children the attention they needed
4 until they moved into smaller groups. She said that
5 happened in 1960.

6 **A. Oh, no, no, no.**

7 Q. You left in 1967.

8 **A. No. I left in '67.**

9 Q. It was only then that these smaller groups were starting
10 to be formed.

11 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

12 Q. Is that right?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. She also denied hitting you on the arm with a bamboo
15 stick. She said it was a pack of lies. At 61355 she
16 said she never had a stick. She did say -- throughout
17 her interview there were a number of things she could
18 not remember, but you recall her using --

19 **A. This is SR116?**

20 Q. Yes.

21 **A. Gee! Well, all I can say is I have told the truth and
22 nothing but it. So it is her word against mine.**

23 Q. Well, you talked in your Inquiry statement that you had
24 a civil claim. You settled that only recently -- isn't
25 that right --

1 **A. Yes, yes.**

2 Q. -- for a large sum of money?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. You also -- I should say to you that the Inquiry
5 response statement that the Congregation have given to
6 us, in that statement they offer you an unreserved and
7 most sincere apology for anything which fell below the
8 acceptable standard at the time.

9 Is there anything you want to say about that
10 apology, first of all, HIA20?

11 **A. I suppose I am repeating myself. It is very sad that**
12 **the nuns that did the damage -- I shouldn't say they are**
13 **nuns -- they are individuals who did the damage are not**
14 **here today. I think it is sad the apology is given by**
15 **younger folk, who were not there when we were there, but**
16 **I accept an apology from today's Order. I do accept**
17 **that, but, Christine, can I add one thing?**

18 When I was 45, I went up to Nazareth again to get
19 more answers. SR101 had retired back there, who left
20 when I was 9. Do you remember? She spoke to the social
21 worker that was with me and referred the conversation to
22 the social worker and actually said, "Weren't you in
23 SR134's class?" and then said to the social worker, "Did
24 she qualify?" whenever the lady said that I had nursed.
25 I mean, if that's no encouragement, where do you go?

1 Q. You do talk about that incident.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You will be glad to know that I am coming to the end of
6 the questions that I want to ask you.

7 A. Good.

8 Q. One question that we ask everyone who comes to speak to
9 us is about the fact that this Inquiry has to make
10 recommendations to the Executive after it concludes its
11 work about what should happen.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. We ask everybody what their view is, what they think
14 should happen, what should be done.

15 A. Uh-huh. Well, all I can say is we were children. We
16 didn't ask to be born. It just so happened we were
17 borne out of wedlock and society allowed us to live in
18 an environment like that, where we lost our childhood.

19 I think if anything was to come out of this, I think
20 children -- adults now -- I mean, I am 65 years of age,
21 and I think people should be compensated for their loss.
22 I accept the apology, as I have said, from the Order now
23 or the Congregation, is it? I accept that, but I think
24 people should be compensated for their loss. I have
25 moved on. There are people who probably haven't.

1 **I think it is sad that we had to live a life like that**
2 **for in my case seventeen and a half years.**

3 Q. Well, thank you for that, HIA20. I have no further
4 questions that I want to ask you, but I just want to be
5 sure you are happy that we have covered everything you
6 wanted to say to the Inquiry. If there is anything
7 I have missed out or anything more that you want to add,
8 now is the opportunity for you to do that.

9 A. **No. I think I am happy enough. I am a voice. This is**
10 **my opportunity. This is my voice today. I am happy**
11 **enough.**

12 Q. Thank you for that. The Panel may have some questions
13 for you.

14 A. **Okay. Thank you.**

15 **Questions from THE PANEL**

16 CHAIRMAN: HIA20, can I just ask you about one very small
17 point I am not completely clear on? It may be my fault.
18 You were asked a few moments ago whether you remembered
19 any pocket money and you said you didn't. Then you said
20 something about very little pocket money. Do you not
21 remember or is the situation that at some stage you got
22 some pocket money, but it wasn't very much?

23 A. **Just whenever SR134, who was in my group, felt like**
24 **giving you pocket money, and that wasn't often, you got**
25 **it. I think it was thruppence or something.**

1 Q. I see. So it was doled out very irregularly. Is that
2 right?

3 **A. Yes, yes.**

4 Q. And it wasn't very much?

5 **A. Yes. Some people have said there was a tuck shop.
6 I don't remember it.**

7 Q. Thank you very much.

8 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA20. Can I just ask about
9 older girls? You talked about older girls supervising
10 the handing out of shoes.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Were the older girls involved quite a lot in supervising
13 the --

14 **A. Not an awful lot, but they would have been the ones that
15 ordered the wee ones round to do all the cleaning and so
16 on. They did the cleaning too, you know. Don't get me
17 wrong. The older girls had to do it even harder, and
18 they were the ones that were in charge of mostly the
19 shoes and taking you out for the walks on a Sunday. You
20 used to go up by -- I don't know whether you know Ormeau
21 Road. Purdy's Lane, there was a place up there. You
22 walked up there, back down into the Ormeau Park and you
23 played for about half an hour. All you could hear was
24 parents saying to children, "If you don't behave, you
25 will be with those bad girls. You will be with those**

1 **bad girls". We heard that pretty often and that stayed**
2 **in there.**

3 Q. But the older girls weren't left -- they weren't left in
4 charge of you as such when the nuns weren't there?

5 A. Well, you know, there was a Lent. There was a Lent each
6 year. May God forgive me! I hated it, because you were
7 put in the hall and you sat in circles. NHB 32 she was
8 in charge of that and the older girls. You had to sit
9 there in silence. That would be times like that that
10 they would do it.

11 Q. Okay. Thanks very much.

12 A. Okay.

13 MR LANE: You mentioned about the girls going out on the
14 fire escapes. Were the fire escapes easily accessible
15 then?

16 A. They were. They were.

17 Q. And they were fairly sizeable if people had mattresses
18 out there or something?

19 A. Oh, they were quite big.

20 Q. Right.

21 A. It is a pity you couldn't see it. They are quite big
22 actually. There is a fire escape leading from each
23 dormitory. In our case in St. Anne's they didn't have
24 a fire escape. I don't know how we would have got out.

25 Q. Right. Were the fire escapes used as an ordinary way of

1 getting up and down the stairs at all?

2 **A. No, no, no. The fire escapes were only used for girls**
3 **that sneaked out.**

4 Q. Did you have fire practices when they got used?

5 **A. No, I don't remember ever -- there was a fire escape**
6 **also leading to the chapel --**

7 Q. Uh-huh.

8 **A. -- but I don't remember any fire drill, no.**

9 Q. Right. Okay. Thank you.

10 **A. Okay.**

11 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA20, thank you very much indeed for
12 coming to speak to us today. We very much appreciate
13 it. I am sure you will be relieved to hear those are
14 all the questions we have to ask.

15 **A. Yes. Thank you very much.**

16 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for coming.

17 **A. Thank you.**

18 MS SMITH: Thank you, Chairman. The next witness is to be
19 taken by Mr Aiken, but if we take a short break, then
20 ...

21 CHAIRMAN: Yes. We will just rise for a few minutes. That
22 will allow you to leave where you are at the moment.

23 **A. Thank you.**

24 **(Witness withdrew)**

25 **(11.50 am)**

1 (Short break)

2 (12.15 pm)

3 WITNESS HIA141 (called)

4 CHAIRMAN: Mr Aiken?

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

6 The next witness today is HIA141, who is HIA141. She is
7 aware, Chairman, that you are going to ask her to take
8 the oath.

9 Just before you do that, Chairman, if I can say
10 there is an appearance from the representatives on
11 behalf of HIA363, who is HIA363, who is someone against
12 whom an allegation is made by HIA141. Counsel for
13 HIA363 is going to give his appearance.

14 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

15 MR MCGOWAN: Mr Chairman, Members of the Panel, my name is
16 Aidan McGowan. I appear for HIA363, instructed by KRW
17 Law. I am attended by Miss McKeegan from KRW Law.

18 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

19 MR AIKEN: HIA141 is going to take the oath, Chairman.

20 WITNESS HIA141 (sworn)

21 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, HIA141. Please sit down.

22 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

23 MR AIKEN: Now, HIA141, as I was saying to you beforehand,

24 the Panel are very understanding that this can be
25 difficult for people. If at any stage there is any

1 difficulty, you just let me know and, if necessary, we
2 can take a break.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. There is water there in front of you as well. Coming up
5 on the screen is going to be the first page of your
6 witness statement, which is at 108. I just want you to
7 check that the one on the screen matches the one in
8 front of you except for the black marks.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. If we go to the last page, please, which is at 114, and
11 if you look at the last page that you have, HIA141, if
12 you just can check that again they match except for the
13 black marks.

14 **A. Sorry. What one am I on?**

15 Q. If you just check that the last page --

16 **A. This here?**

17 Q. -- looks the same as the one that's on the screen except
18 for the black marks.

19 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

20 Q. Can you confirm that you have signed your witness
21 statement?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. The one on the screen has a black mark over the
24 signature.

25 **A. Yes, yes.**

1 Q. You want to adopt your witness statement as your
2 evidence before the Inquiry? You do?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. As you know, the black marks are the Inquiry's anonymity
5 policy in operation. For you that's -- we talked about
6 the number that you have. You want to keep your
7 anonymity.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. HIA141, bear with me for a moment. I explained to you
10 I would make the Panel aware of where documents relating
11 to you in our electronic bundle can be found. I am just
12 going to do that.

13 In addition to the HIA141's witness statement she
14 spoke to the police on 28th February 2010 and made
15 a statement about her time in Nazareth Lodge. That can
16 be found at 61080 through to 61081.

17 Then there is a replying statement from the Sisters
18 of Nazareth, which is at 1953 to 1954. HIA141 is aware
19 that in paragraph 10 of that statement it does contain
20 an apology to her for any occasion whenever the
21 treatment she received from the Sisters fell beneath
22 an acceptable standard.

23 There is a statement from SR46 at SNB-1583, although
24 HIA141 was not in her group.

25 There is also a statement from SR29, who is now

1 SR29, who was a nun who looked after HIA141. Her
2 statement is at SNB-1927 through to 1928.

3 As a result of HIA141's statement to the police in
4 2010 SR29 was interviewed by police on 11th September
5 2012. That interview can be found at 61163 through to
6 61170.

7 In addition, in HIA141's Inquiry statement she talks
8 about what occurred between her and an older girl in
9 Nazareth Lodge called HIA363. The Inquiry has
10 identified that as likely to be HIA363, HIA363. The
11 replying statement from HIA363 can be found at 80101 to
12 80104.

13 I will just again remind everyone that while HIA141
14 and I will use people's names as we go through the
15 evidence, those names won't be used beyond the chamber
16 and shouldn't be reported beyond the chamber.

17 There is then a replying statement from the Health &
18 Social Care Board, which runs from 5954 through to 5958.
19 It has extensive exhibits that run from 5959 through to
20 6002.

21 In addition, as HIA141 and I were discussing at
22 length this morning, the Inquiry has received voluminous
23 social work material that relates to HIA141 and indeed
24 to many of her siblings. That material runs from 46598
25 through to 46651, then from 47368 to 47375 and then at

1 48468.

2 HIA141, as I was discussing with you this morning,
3 the Panel has had the opportunity to read the key
4 documents that you and I were discussing at some length.
5 Therefore I will summarise, as I discussed with you, the
6 content of that material rather than us taking
7 considerable time to pour over its detail. I think you
8 took the view --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- that was more helpful --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- for you. By way of background then, as I summarise,
13 HIA141, and anywhere where I get it wrong, you stop and
14 correct me, but you are
15 now aged 39.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. You were one of nine siblings.

20

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- and then a number of years running up to your oldest
24 brother. You, as we were discussing, have two children
25 of your own. As I was explaining to you this morning,

1 your family were known it appears to the Social Services
2 since 1967, so long before you were born. The reference
3 for that, Members of the Panel, is at 46649.

4 On 4th March 1977,

5 the
6 Northern Health & Social Services Board obtained a Place
7 of Safety Order over all nine brothers and sisters,
8 including HIA141. That copy of the Order can be found
9 at 5960. All nine siblings were taken together to
10 Nazareth Lodge on 4th March. I know from speaking to
11 HIA141 HIA141 had initially thought she was in
12 St. Joseph's Babies' Home for a period,

13 but the social work
14 material seems to show that all nine siblings went to
15 Nazareth Lodge together, and that will become apparent
16 when we look at a particular incident that HIA141
17 describes to the Inquiry, which is reflected in the
18 social work material.

19 You remained, HIA141, in Nazareth Lodge until 24th
20 August 1981.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. So you were discharged at the age of 5.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. That discharge record can be found at 4391. The
2 discharge report from -- in 1979 HIA141's family --
3 because her mother moved address, the family moved from
4 being under the responsibility of the Northern Health &
5 Social Services Board to the Eastern Health & Social
6 Services Board. So from 1979 a different group of
7 social workers are involved, and then in 1981 the
8 discharge report from the Eastern Health & Social
9 Services Board, which is at 47374, records that HIA141's
10 mother is now in a position to look after all of the
11 children, and HIA141 is discharged to her along with her
12 nearest two siblings

13 **A.** NL30 **and** NL97.

14 Q. Prior to that, as we were looking at the various
15 records, we could see that during the period '78, '79,
16 '80 the older siblings and working their way down two at
17 a time in effect were returned to your mum.

18 **A.** **Yes.**

19 Q. On each occasion that settled down then the next two
20 went back to live with her. By August of 1981 all nine
21 of you are home.

22 **A.** **Yes.**

23 Q. The Sisters of Nazareth admission record, which records
24 the difficult home circumstances, can be found at 4387
25 and 4389.

1

5 Q. Just of interest to the
6 Inquiry, HIA141, I am just going to show the documents
7 that accompanied you when you went in.

8 If we can look at 4392, and this is just
9 a handwritten page that was in the Social Services'
10 file, but it appears to suggest that the material that
11 would have come in with HIA141 to the home was a birth
12 and baptismal certificate, Post Office savings book with
13 it seems to imply £5, medical cards, photographs,
14 a clean bill of health and dancing medals. Now whether
15 that's the material that's being returned for HIA141
16 leaving or -- obviously dancing medals would not have
17 been obtained by HIA141 before she went into the home,
18 but she certainly did Irish dancing while she was there.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. So this may be the documents that then accompany her
21 leaving whenever she is discharged.

22 HIA141 and I were discussing earlier today the very
23 difficult home circumstances that are discussed in
24 detail in the social work reports. I don't intend to
25 bring that material up save to describe it in this way,

1 that the Northern Health & Social Services Board for
2 various reasons that they have set out in the material
3 that the Panel is aware of came to the view that for
4 your own good it was necessary for all of the brothers
5 and sisters to move away from your mum in 1977. They
6 placed all of you in Nazareth Lodge. The references to
7 that, Members of the Panel, is at 46616 through to 46619
8 and then 46649 and 46650. In keeping with the general
9 practice the Place of Safety Order was in March and then
10 a Fit Person Order was obtained in April of '77. That
11 can be found at 5962.

12 Now, HIA141, you were only there a very short time
13 whenever the incident that you talk about in paragraph 3
14 -- if we can look, please, at 108, you talk about being
15 scalded --

16 **A. Yes, I do.**

17 Q. -- by --

18 **A. Teapot.**

19 Q. -- a teapot. You have a memory of -- even though you
20 were short of your first birthday, you have a memory of
21 that water coming -- that boiling water coming over you.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. We were discussing that this morning, because you had
24 only essentially been in the home six weeks when that
25 occurred. That event is recorded in the social work

1 material.

2 If we can look, please, at a report from
3 NL232 , who was the Northern Board social worker
4 involved with you that begins at 46620, please. There
5 is an extensive report that goes across four pages.
6 What that demonstrates is that this event, it didn't
7 happen in St. Joseph's, but did happen in Nazareth
8 Lodge. It appears that your older sister had had
9 difficulty with a particular member of staff --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- that that particular member of staff had been spoken
12 to on the same day that you were scalded in the
13 afternoon, spoken to by the Reverend Mother, and then it
14 is later the same day that you -- this incident where
15 you are scalded occurs.

16 If we look at 46622, we can see at the top of the
17 page:

18 "Later that evening NL254 was detailed to
19 give" -- again no names should be used beyond the
20 chamber -- "detailed to give HIA141 her evening meal and
21 put her to bed and it was then that the accident
22 occurred. SR29 was aware of this arrangement and
23 mentioned that it was her intention to look in on
24 HIA141, but as she was called to deal with another
25 problem, she had to be content with the knowledge that,

1 in the absence of the older girls, NL254 could
2 cope alone.

3 SR29 then accompanied me to the nursery, where I saw
4 HIA141, and I was appalled to see how badly burned the
5 right side of her face and ear was and how the bridge of
6 her nose and under her left eye also had scald marks."

7 So this is the day following the incident, HIA141,
8 and it appears that your social worker has been
9 contacted by the home. She has called to visit you.
10 She then records that neither her nor SR29, who was the
11 person who then looked after you in Nazareth Lodge, were
12 entirely satisfied with how this had happened, but your
13 recollection is that you had been left on this bench you
14 think.

15 **A. Yes, I think I was left unattended sitting on**
16 **a workbench, and the phone had rang, and that girl left**
17 **the room, and the teapot clicked, and I remember lifting**
18 **the teapot and trying to look through the spout of the**
19 **teapot, and the water coming down. I don't -- after**
20 **that I don't really remember anything, but I remember**
21 **specifically trying to look through the teapot to see if**
22 **I could see what was coming.**

23 **Q. That's the memory you have. You remember looking**
24 **through --**

25 **A. Looking through the spout of the teapot.**

1 Q. -- the spout of the teapot. You said to the Inquiry in
2 your statement you couldn't remember having got medical
3 treatment. I was showing you how in this material it
4 seems that SR29 took you to the City Hospital that day.
5 She records then how you were treated on a daily basis
6 for ten days and thankfully there was no scarring that
7 resulted. The consultant was pleased with that outcome.

8 What the document goes on to explain, as you and
9 I were discussing, is that as a result of this
10 happening, your mum came and wanted to take all of you
11 out. The older ones, who presumably understood a bit
12 more as to what she was doing, when they realised that's
13 what was happening, they wouldn't go, but I think you
14 and your next two brother and sister went out. Then the
15 social worker records trying to persuade your mum over
16 the course of the weekend to allow you to come back into
17 the home and how she couldn't just take you out when she
18 wanted.

19 At 46623 then, if we move to the last page, SR29 is
20 recorded as explaining that the person who was involved
21 with you was given a week's leave and SR29 seemed to
22 think then there was a question of her returning to
23 Nazareth but unsure, but she was sure that she would not
24 be returning to the unit involving you. You don't have
25 any further memory of her, HIA141?

1 **A. No.**

2 Q. I am not going to bring them up now, but you are aware
3 from our discussion and the Panel are aware that this
4 incident, amongst a series of others that related to
5 your brothers and sisters that occurred in the home,
6 resulted in going up from NL232 to her boss and
7 then from her boss to the next person up, the principal
8 social worker, who was a NL255 , and then
9 eventually it went up beyond him to Mr Smith, who was
10 a director of the Social Care area within the Northern
11 Board. They were looking during May 1977 about the fact
12 that these things had occurred and the various incidents
13 were seen as accidents, but it highlighted the
14 difficulty as far as the Northern Health & Social
15 Services Board was concerned of their ability to cope
16 with a nine-children family. That material runs through
17 to 46635.

18 As I explained to you, there are various other
19 incidents involving your siblings and the Panel is aware
20 of that material and I am not going to open that today,
21 but whenever the home then is looked at by
22 NL232 , if we can look, please, at 46608, this is
23 a report of October '77, 19th October '77. So you have
24 been in the home for about six months by this stage
25 . She reports on the various

1 incidents that have occurred.

2 Then if we move through, please, to 46609, she
3 explains, if we just scroll further down, that the
4 overall -- if we go down, please, to "Totality of Care",
5 she says:

6 "I feel that the overall care at Nazareth is good,
7 although I feel that when incidents happen, they are
8 sometimes slow to notify our department and a little
9 vague about the procedure to take, although they have
10 been advised about this on several occasions."

11 They talk about the extremely extensive building,
12 the grounds being widespread and then other people
13 coming into the home, and they express a view about how
14 that should then be managed in the future.

15 If we move through to the next page, please,
16 NL232 explains that:

17 "Having made these points, one appreciates the added
18 strain this must put on the staff. I have a high regard
19 for the staff in general and some of the Sisters appear
20 to have good insight into the problems of all the
21 children and the [name redacted] in particular."

22 It talks about SR223 and then SR62 .

23 Then she says -- this is SR29, who is the nun who was
24 involved with you, HIA141.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. She says:

2 "SR29 is very gentle and kind, and of all the
3 Sisters I feel she can bring the best out of Mrs [name
4 redacted]", ie working alongside her with your mum, "as
5 she listens and has the utmost patience with her."

6 Now that's not your memory of SR29.

7 **A. No, it's not.**

8 Q. No. We will look at some of the incidents that you
9 mention shortly.

10 The immediate boss of NL232 , if we move
11 through to 46607, please, on 19th October NL234 ,
12 then commenting on the report as it is being put up the
13 line to the director, ultimately says:

14 "We are all very concerned about these children,
15 especially in view of the incidents which have occurred
16 in Nazareth Lodge. The Sisters have done a great deal
17 to help these children, but there are difficulties in
18 running a home of this size and some of the younger
19 staff are untrained and need a lot of supervision."

20 So that is where they got to, HIA141, in reflecting
21 on the various incidents that had come to light. This
22 was a memo that was sent up from NL234 to
23 NL256 . The question that the Health & Social
24 Care Board will no doubt reflect on is: what was done by
25 NL256 and those above him when these types of

1 concluding remarks were made and what consideration
2 happened as a result?

3 Then, HIA141, we get into a series of records that
4 you and I were looking at this morning where you
5 transfer across to the Eastern Board, because your mum
6 moves house from --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- into Belfast.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. Then that -- we get -- the Eastern Board had a practice
11 of six-monthly review reports. Some of those contain
12 information that's relevant to the things you talk about
13 in your Inquiry statement that you didn't necessarily
14 have a recollection of when we were speaking this
15 morning.

16 If we look at the first of them, please, at 46647,
17 and this one is of 28th February 1978, and it covers
18 your siblings and you. It just explains that the
19 children are visiting at the weekends and that efforts
20 are going to be made to counsel your mum, that the older
21 children will come home first, and if it looks like they
22 are being looked after properly, then more will come and
23 then the younger ones. In effect, that's eventually
24 what did happen.

25 If we can look, please, at 47368, this is the report

1 then of 3rd April '80 looking at the previous six
2 months. We can see at the bottom of this document this
3 explains the various occasions whenever the social
4 worker, NL110 , records that she saw you and also
5 other occasions when she attended the home but didn't
6 necessarily see you.

7 If we move over, it appears that the visits are
8 happening twice monthly. Then she has this very
9 positive report:

10 "HIA141 is developing normally and presents no
11 problems. She relates well to all staff and has one
12 special friend in the group."

13 You were saying to me that was a boy that you
14 remember:

15 "She is not attention seeking. She displays no
16 moodiness or disruptive behaviour. She keeps well and
17 sleeps well."

18 She records an attack of the mumps. She says you
19 are at nursery school now.

20 "A bright child making excellent progress. An
21 exceptional vocabulary for her age. Her speech is very
22 clear and distinct."

23 I think you were surprised as we were looking at
24 some of this that it was very positive terms you were
25 being described in.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Then there is a reference which is relevant. You have
3 no memory of this:

4 "HIA141 happily occupies herself with her toys and
5 dolls."

6 Your recollection was that you didn't have toys as
7 such.

8 **A. Not really.**

9 Q. There were various things outside that I think you
10 remember. Swingball that your brother was playing
11 possibly.

12 **A. Aye. It was in a different unit than me. It was a
13 separate unit. It was NL68 , NL30 and NL97 's unit.
14 They had a caged area where they had Swingball and
15 stuff.**

16 Q. But you had no recollection of this?

17 **A. No.**

18 Q. Apparently you are enjoying music and dancing and have
19 a good sense of rhythm. Then:

20 "HIA141 is sometimes taken home for the weekend",
21 and at other times then your mum and sister would
22 come and visit, because I think at that point it was
23 just your oldest sister had got home. Then we will see
24 the others then moving out shortly. You were enjoying
25 what was described as a good relationship and had

1 frequent contact with your siblings. As I said, you
2 remain in Nazareth until your mum is in a position to
3 take you home.

4 If we move though then, please, on to the next page,
5 the summary, we can see that two of your siblings are
6 home on trial then in addition to your oldest, who was
7 at home. It is said of you it didn't appear to be
8 having an ill effect on you.

9 "She is a happy, bright and well-adjusted child and
10 a great favourite, not only in her peer group but with
11 older children also."

12 So it seems you were popular. Can you remember
13 perceiving it as that way around 4? Probably not.

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. The next six-monthly report, which is from October 1980,
16 if we look, please, at 47371, again if we scroll down,
17 we can see that there seems to be monthly visiting
18 occurring. Those that are underlined are attendances
19 from NL110 where she is saying she is seeing you.

20 If we move on to the next page, it is saying that
21 you are apparently changing from the placid little --
22 3-year-old into an assertive 4-year-old, showing you
23 have a mind of your own and:

24 "Now making your own decisions in some matters and
25 displaying temperament and personality more readily.

1 Good relationship with staff and remains a favourite in
2 the unit."

3 You continue to enjoy very good health.

4 "Active and playful with an above average enquiring
5 mind. Settling in well in class. Keeping up with her
6 peer group."

7 If we scroll down:

8 "HIA141 has the following -- is following the family
9 traditions. Has commenced Irish dancing. She has
10 commenced swimming lessons."

11 I was asking could you remember -- you could not
12 remember the swimming. You remember the Irish dancing.

13 **A. I vaguely maybe remember going to Queen's PC for**
14 **swimming. I'm not totally sure.**

15 Q. Okay, but the Irish dancing is something that you
16 remember?

17 **A. Oh, yes, I remember, yes, it's the only release.**

18 Q. Again if we scroll on to the next page, please, again
19 this time we can see that four of the siblings are now
20 at home.

21 "HIA141", again it said, "doesn't appear to be aware
22 or unaware of the situation. Enjoys getting home.

23 Remains a happy, bright and well adjusted child. Very
24 good vocabulary for her age. Can be very humorous."

25 So that's NL110 saying that. Then you and

1 I talked about this record also included NL110
2 saying on a number of occasions Mrs [name redacted],
3 your mum, had been supposed to come up and visit or take
4 you out for the weekend --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- and hadn't done that.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. NL110 was aware that that had caused you
9 considerable upset, and she was going to talk to your
10 mum about the need to not make arrangements and then not
11 keep them.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Then you were discharged then the following year on
14 24th August 1981, discharged at the age of 5, and the
15 discharge report records that your mum is now able to
16 look after you. Your recollection is that it was you
17 and your next two siblings up from you, NL30 and NL97,
18 and the three of you went home together, and that was
19 all of the family home again.

20 I think the point you make -- I was explaining that
21 the Inquiry is looking at what happened in the
22 home -- but you were making point to me that things were
23 not rosy after you went home. There were various
24 serious difficulties that occurred for you when you did.

25 Now in the Inquiry statement, HIA141, you explain

1 about the teapot incident. I know we have brought
2 perhaps more clarity to that now from looking at the
3 social work material around that and what appears to
4 have taken place.

5 In paragraph 4 of your statement, if we look at 109,
6 one of the points that you make is that the contact
7 between you and your siblings wasn't --

8 **A. As regular as they were making it out to be.**

9 Q. Yes. I think what you mean by that from speaking to
10 you, if I understand you correctly, you were saying that
11 because even though you were in the one place as it
12 turned out, which in fairness to the Northern Health &
13 Social Services Board, getting nine children into one
14 location wasn't what always happened with bigger
15 families -- they went to different children's homes --
16 but the point you make is that was the units were
17 separate units and you weren't always seeing all of your
18 siblings. Your unit with SR29, you had your oldest
19 Sister NL231 , but she very quickly went home.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. But, as you know, the material suggests then that there
22 was your mum and your sisters and brothers coming up to
23 visit you and then you going out for weekends, but your
24 feeling of it was that there was a separation that
25 wasn't ideal. Is that fair?

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. In paragraph 6 then, HIA141, you describe in paragraph 6
3 and 7 some matters to do with SR29.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. The first that you describe is about force feeding.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. You also made that point to the police in February of
8 2010. The reference to that is at 61081. You explain
9 to the police that this particular memory you have of
10 Brussels sprouts, you remember, in fact, you were sick
11 on SR29's habit.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. This is a memory that has stuck with you of being forced
14 to eat.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. Now SR29 has said to the Inquiry in her statement that
17 children were definitely encouraged to eat, because
18 there wasn't a lot of food and there was a need to eat,
19 but people weren't force fed and that she did not force
20 feed anyone.

21 If we just look at what she had to say at 1927,
22 please --

23 **A. Liar.**

24 Q. -- paragraph 6 of her statement I think. If we scroll
25 down, please, she said:

1 "I have no recollection of HIA141 being force fed.
2 Some children would have took longer to finish their
3 meal and would be left at the table until they had done
4 so."

5 So she is saying she does not think she force fed
6 you but that's your recollection of --

7 **A. It was her.**

8 Q. -- what occurred.

9 **A. It was her.**

10 Q. Whenever she was interviewed by the police in 2012 in
11 response to your police statement when you make this
12 point, if we look at 61168, please, she says:

13 "SR29 states children would have been encouraged to
14 eat. There wasn't a large degree of food, but never
15 grabbed by their hair or force fed. States she doesn't
16 remember HIA141 being physically sick and gagging over
17 her habit. She says HIA141's mother would have raised
18 such issues if they had happened. She says that
19 physical punishment wouldn't have been used on children
20 and they wouldn't have been locked in a room."

21 Later on in her interview she talks about you being
22 a lovely child. That was her --

23 **A. She would, wouldn't she? At this stage of the game she
24 would.**

25 Q. In paragraph 7 of your statement to the Inquiry, HIA141,

1 if we look at 110, please, you explain that you have
2 a memory of her putting you over her knee and using
3 a leather strap --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- on you, which she kept in a drawer.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. I was saying to you that that's not dealt with in SR29's
8 police interview, because you do not explain it in that
9 way to the police --

10 **A. No.**

11 Q. -- but in SR29's statement to the Inquiry, where she
12 addresses this point that you make in the Inquiry
13 statement, if we look at SNB-1927, please, at
14 paragraph 7, she says that that was something that she
15 never did. She never hit a child:

16 "I never put a child across my knee or used
17 a leather strap."

18 She did say also to the police in fairness to her,
19 when interviewed, in a more generalised way that she
20 didn't engage in physical punishment, but that's your
21 clear memory of what she did.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. You would have been older. You left when you were 5.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Obviously you went in when you were 1.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Was this towards your time leaving that this would have
3 happened rather than when you were much younger?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. In paragraph 6 of your statement, HIA141, on 110 you
6 talk about the hair cutting.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. You felt that took away your identity.

9 **A. Of course it did.**

10 Q. This talks about you when you were -- as soon as you
11 arrived into the unit, but from our discussion you are
12 not talking about --

13 **A. Straightaway.**

14 Q. -- a 1 year old. Your hair was cut and you remember
15 that --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- as you were older in the home, and you are not saying
18 this was SR29, for instance, who did the cutting --

19 **A. No.**

20 Q. -- because in SR29's statement and also in her police
21 interview she says she didn't -- there would have been
22 hair cutting that was done, but it wasn't done by her.
23 It would have been people who were better able to do it
24 --

25 **A. Bashers.**

1 Q. -- than she saw herself as.

2 In paragraph 9 of your statement, HIA141, at 111 you
3 explain about wetting the bed. You talk about that up
4 to 14. You obviously left Nazareth Lodge at 5, but this
5 was a problem that you had in Nazareth Lodge and it
6 continued after you left.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. You remember having to change the bedsheets. You said:

9 "I was trailed out of my bed, the sheet put over my
10 head and made to say prayers for it."

11 I was asking you: can you remember who did that?

12 **A. Not exactly.**

13 Q. It was whoever got you up that --

14 **A. Whoever unlocked the doors of the cells in the morning.**

15 Q. Okay. We will come to the locked doors in a moment, but
16 you said to the police in February 2010 -- it is at the
17 bottom of 61080 -- that you were slapped for wetting the
18 bed as well.

19 **A. Aye.**

20 Q. If we just bring that up, 61080, please. I think this
21 is the allegation that then SR29 was responding to. It
22 is just at the bottom. It says:

23 "As punishment for wetting the bed I was slapped.

24 I had a bedwetting problem and got no help with it.

25 I just got continually slapped around the head, face,

1 back or any part of my body that SR29 could reach."

2 So you were saying it was SR29 that did the hitting
3 of you --

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. -- over the bed wetting. In her police interview, as we
6 looked at --

7 **A. She says she didn't do it.**

8 Q. -- she is saying she didn't do that.

9 You said to the police in the police statement -- it
10 is not something I think that's covered in the Inquiry
11 statement -- but it is that the doors were locked --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- at night.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. Now just to be clear about this, this is not the dorm
16 door as such that led you out of the hall that you were
17 along, but these are the bedrooms that you are talking
18 about.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. It was possible for your bedroom to be locked --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- from the outside.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. That's what you remember happening at night-time.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. If we are on 61080 -- yes -- you say:

2 "At nights when we were put to bed, the doors were
3 locked, so we were trapped."

4 So it is your bedroom that you are talking about.
5 If we look at 61164, halfway down, this is when SR29 was
6 interviewed about this. If we can find it about halfway
7 down. Yes.

8 "She states that at night the doors to the sleeping
9 areas were shut, but not locked."

10 If we move through to 61167, please -- yes -- if we
11 just scroll down a little, please, this is where she
12 talks about you being a beautiful child, but you can see
13 at the bottom:

14 "SR29 states that the doors to the dorms were never
15 locked and that there was a toilet nearby."

16 **A. Aye.**

17 Q. But your clear memory is that the bedrooms -- whatever
18 about the doors out of the dorms, the bedrooms
19 themselves were locked?

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. Then, HIA141, you explain in paragraph 10 of your
22 statement, if we come back to 111, please, about
23 an assault involving a girl called HIA363 --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- who was an older girl. Just to be clear about this,

1 you are not saying you shared a room with HIA363 --

2 **A. No.**

3 Q. -- but you were in a two-person room --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- which was what you mean by "the big room" --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- and HIA363 was in a single room.

8 **A. A single room by herself.**

9 Q. What the Inquiry has been able to do -- you obviously
10 only knew her as HIA363.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. She was an older girl --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- as far as you were concerned. What the Inquiry has
15 been able to do is to try to narrow that down to, "Well,
16 what HIA363 was there in Nazareth Lodge at the time?"
17 It appears that there was a girl called HIA363, who is
18 now HIA363, who was born in 1970. So she was
19 six years older than you.

20 **A. (Inaudible).**

21 Q. She was in the home between August '77 and then August
22 '88. So while you are there between the ages of 1 and
23 5, she is between 7 and 11.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. You have explained that she was in the room with you and

1 you thought she was helping you do your homework --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- although, as you were reflecting on that today, you
4 really don't think it was --

5 **A. Homework.**

6 Q. -- homework as such that you were doing, but whether --
7 I think you said to me it might have been Hang Man or
8 something to do with --

9 **A. A game of some sort with pencil and paper.**

10 Q. -- pencil and paper. Whatever happened, she started to
11 hit you over it.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Your memory is that she, as you describe it here, is
14 assaulting you and then your sister, your older sister,
15 comes storming into the dormitory.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. To be clear, that older sister you are talking about is
18 your sister .

19 **A. NL3 , yes.**

20 Q. She comes in and you remember then the commotion that
21 she created to stick up for you, and then her being
22 dragged away back into her own unit, which was a unit
23 next to yours, as I understand it, but essentially
24 a separate unit. You weren't together all the time.

25 **A. Fire doors. They were all separated, the different**

1 **units.**

2 Q. Do you want to just describe what was this girl HIA363
3 doing to you that stuck in your mind? Do you want to
4 describe what happened?

5 **A. We were sitting there just having a laugh and one thing**
6 **led to another. It was a joke and I'd said something**
7 **and she turned round and said, "Why? Do you think I'm**
8 **thick?" and being younger, I said, "Yeah. Maybe", and**
9 **I don't think she was very impressed with what I said.**

10 Q. So there was reference to being thick and perhaps
11 an insult that came from you and then the hitting
12 started.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. You didn't need medical treatment after it.

15 **A. No.**

16 Q. Did you both continue to live in the same unit then
17 after it blew over, as it were?

18 **A. More or less.**

19 Q. Your recollection was that she had been asked to look
20 after you because the nuns weren't there. Is that
21 right?

22 **A. Yes. Well, more of the evening time, because she was**
23 **a wee bit older than me and she was on the same landing**
24 **as me. More like just a buddy system or to keep an eye**
25 **on -- you know, on people.**

1 Q. So that type of buddy system. Was she always your buddy
2 or just --

3 **A. I'm not sure.**

4 Q. You don't remember?

5 **A. I don't remember all the time.**

6 Q. Well, she has -- the HIA363 that the Inquiry has traced
7 has given a statement to the Inquiry. It begins at
8 80101 and runs through to 80103. If we go to 80101,
9 please, essentially, HIA141 -- and I was explaining this
10 to you earlier -- what she says is in summary no
11 incident of this nature occurred involving her. She
12 says:

13 "The rooms were locked. So you couldn't get out at
14 night-time. So you couldn't check on others."

15 There is two parts to this. You are not saying this
16 happened at night-time after the locking.

17 **A. This is before lock-down.**

18 Q. It is before locking, but she appears to be agreeing
19 with you that doors did get locked at night-time.

20 **A. Of course they did.**

21 Q. She then says -- in terms of helping you with homework,
22 she says she herself was regarded as thick and stupid
23 and wouldn't have been asked to. You are saying you
24 don't think it was homework, given that you were --

25 **A. I could have been game or something.**

1 Q. -- 4 or 5 years of age.

2 She says in paragraph 8, if we move through to the
3 next page, please, that the person you describe doing
4 this to you sounds more like a member of staff than
5 an older girl, but she didn't know of any older girl
6 called HIA363. Could it have been an older member of
7 staff rather than an older girl?

8 **A. No. It was her.**

9 Q. She says then -- HIA363 says to the Inquiry in
10 paragraph 9 that she never hit another girl in the home
11 and, in fact, was described by others as a "Goody Two
12 Shoes".

13 **A. Aye. She was SR29's lick.**

14 Q. She says she knows fine rightly it wasn't her that did
15 this. Is there anything else you want to say about that
16 incident or have I covered the main parts of it?

17 **A. No, that is all right.**

18 Q. We have touched on it going past, but in terms of
19 chronological order you made the statement to the police
20 on 28th February 2010. The Panel have had the
21 opportunity to read that. Then you were principally
22 talking about SR29. She was interviewed by police in
23 September of 2012.

24 HIA141, as I said to you when we began, there are
25 two questions that we ask each person towards the end of

1 their evidence. The first is at the end of the Inquiry
2 the Panel have to consider what recommendations they
3 might make to the Northern Ireland Government. That
4 might be -- it is in three areas: some form of apology,
5 perhaps some form of memorial, or some other means of
6 redress. We ask each witness whether there is anything
7 they want to say to the Inquiry Panel to assist the
8 Panel's thinking about those matters. Some people do;
9 some people don't. Is there anything you want to say
10 about those types of issues?

11 **A. Well, a memorial is a joke. A memorial would be**
12 **a constant reminder of what went on psychologically in**
13 **our minds. So a memorial is off the scale.**

14 I prefer a wee bit of redress and I believe that
15 I should be compensated for the stress and the things
16 that I went through in the time -- in the short time
17 that I spent there. It's not literally for me. They
18 have destroyed -- tried to destroy the human being that
19 I am today. The way I live my life on medication and
20 other things in place to keep me ticking over is
21 something else, but I believe if I was given some
22 compensation, I would be able to help my children out,
23 because my children are now going through the system.
24 It is being handed down through the system that -- my
25 wee boy sits his GCSEs in four weeks. He has had no

1 help. He was never on any psychology list whatsoever by
2 a secondary school, who told me there was a two-year
3 waiting list. So it is generational. I left school
4 with nothing. leaves school in four weeks and
5 he's going to have nothing, because people wouldn't
6 believe me that he had ADHD. It was only until the
7 Education and Welfare Officer called everybody in to see
8 why 's attendance was so bad. Part of it was
9 being bullied and part of it was just ...

10 Q. HIA141, let me -- if I bring that together, you consider
11 some form of compensation, because it has an ongoing
12 effect --

13 A. Of course it did. I have two children with special
14 needs. It's been passed down from my generation on to
15 my kids. If I had known that, I would never have had
16 any children.

17 Q. Okay. Then the last question that we ask each witness
18 is whether there's anything else about the home that we
19 are looking at -- so we are looking at Nazareth Lodge in
20 connection with you -- whether there's anything else
21 that you want to say about Nazareth Lodge. It may be
22 something that I have not covered in enough detail, or
23 perhaps something I have missed out, or just something
24 else on your mind that you want to say about Nazareth
25 Lodge to assist the Panel with its work. Now is your

1 opportunity to do that if we haven't covered everything.

2 **A. Even though it was a short time, it was a very, very**
3 **dark, cold and lonely place to be as a child, very**
4 **frightening, and I would never -- I would never want any**
5 **other child to experience what I had to go through.**

6 Q. HIA141, I am not going to ask you any more questions.

7 If you remain where you are for a short time, the Panel
8 Members may want to ask you something. So bear with us.

9 Questions from THE PANEL

10 MR LANE: Could I just ask: the locking of the bedroom doors

11 --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- was it just your bedroom or do you know were the
14 others all locked up as well?

15 **A. Everybody was locked up.**

16 Q. What were you told to do about going to the toilet and
17 things like that? Nothing at all?

18 **A. No. You probably had to go before you went to bed.**

19 Q. Right. Okay. Thank you very much.

20 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA141, thank you very much indeed for
21 coming to speak to us today. Those are all the
22 questions we want to ask you. So I just repeat that we
23 are grateful to you for coming to share your experiences
24 with us. Thank you very much.

25 **A. Thank you.**

1 **(Witness withdrew)**

2 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Ms Smith is taking the next witness,
3 but perhaps we have time for some ...

4 CHAIRMAN: Yes. We will rise now and sit again at 2 o'clock
5 or as soon thereafter as convenient.

6 (1.05 pm)

7 (Short break)

8 (2.15 pm)

9 WITNESS HIA37 (called)

10 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies
11 and gentlemen. The next witness today is HIA37. She is
12 HIA37. HIA37 wishes to take a religious oath and she
13 also wishes to maintain her anonymity.

14 WITNESS HIA37 (sworn)

15 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, HIA37. Please sit down.

16 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

17 MS SMITH: HIA37, just before we come to deal with your
18 evidence I am just going to outline where certain
19 documents are in the bundle that are relevant to your
20 evidence.

21 HIA37's statement can be found at SNB-053 to 069.

22 The Congregation's response is at SNB-2077 to 2081.

23 The Health & Social Care Board response is found at
24 6255 to 6256. In its response the Health & Social Care
25 Board says that they have no files relevant to HIA37 and

1 believe that her placement in Nazareth House was
2 a private placement.

3 However, there is an entry from a psychiatric report
4 that the Inquiry have received in respect of a civil
5 claim that HIA37 has been bringing, which is at
6 SNB-50364, which suggests that there may well have been
7 welfare authority involvement with this family.

8 Now HIA37 and I have discussed this. I had e-mailed
9 the Health & Social Care Board about this and I have
10 spoken to Ms Smyth this afternoon. As yet they have
11 been unable to locate any documentation in relation to
12 either HIA37 or any of her siblings, but will continue
13 to search, and if anything comes, they will obviously
14 provide it to the Inquiry.

15 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

16 MS SMITH: As I said, there are civil claim papers, which
17 can be found at 70347 to 70373.

18 HIA37 herself brought some material to the Inquiry,
19 including her poetry in which she wrote about her time
20 in the institution.

21 There is police material at -- sorry. That's at
22 SNB-30121 to 30154.

23 There is police material at 61903 to 61908 and then
24 again at 61330 to 61332.

25 HIA37, you will see that in front of you is

1 a document which is your statement that you have
2 provided to the Inquiry.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. If we just go to the last page of that, please, at 609,
5 can I just ask you to confirm, HIA37, that this is the
6 statement of evidence that you provided to the Inquiry
7 and that you signed that --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- if we can scroll on down, please -- on 19th June of
10 last year, and this is the evidence that you want the
11 Inquiry to take into account together with anything else
12 that you tell us this afternoon?

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

14 Q. If we go back to the first page, you are now aged 66.
15 Is that right?

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

17 Q. You were in Nazareth House from the age of 7 and a half
18 until -- you were there for -- until October 1965. So
19 you were there for -- until you were almost 18.

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. Sorry.

22 **A. I was there until I was almost 16. I was there for nine
23 years.**

24 Q. Nine years. As I said to you earlier, maths has never
25 been my strong point, HIA37. I have demonstrated that

1 yet again.

2 You remember -- in paragraph 3 here you talk about
3 your memory of being placed there and going with your
4 younger sister, and your brother was taken and he was
5 put into Nazareth Lodge. Your dad took you on the train
6 from where you were living. You remember him being
7 distressed and crying. He told you that you were going
8 on your holidays.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. You have also got a memory of someone else going with
11 your father or being present before he took you on the
12 train. Isn't that right?

13 **A. No. I remember we were still in the house, all of us,**
14 **the younger ones and all, who were babies and toddlers.**
15 **Looking out the door, there was a car, which I think was**
16 **a taxi, and a female and the priest. I remember that**
17 **distinctly, but my dad just took the three of us from**
18 **by train to Belfast, and he would have had to get**
19 **a bus from the station on up to Nazareth House.**

20 Q. You thought that this person, the woman who was there,
21 was somebody from the Welfare.

22 **A. I did. I don't know why, but I thought somebody in**
23 **authority anyway.**

24 Q. The youngest child at this stage was only a baby. You
25 know that they went to a -- to Glenair, which was

1 a state-run children's home.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. They were subsequently fostered from that home.

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

5 Q. Now that's the reason why I am saying there seems to be
6 some issue as to whether or not you were placed
7 privately in one home and your siblings were taken into
8 care by the State --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- but in any event you know that, because you
11 subsequently -- you actually were telling me that you
12 remember an incident where you were taken to the
13 pantomime or something.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. They were brought up from the home they were in.

16 **A. I think it was a coincidence. We were all at a place.
17 I just remember NHB 72 and myself. I can't even
18 remember whether NL 106 was there, but say he was, and
19 the younger ones being there as well. We were asked to
20 sit on these stairs and it was like a journalist took
21 a photograph of us. I think it may have been we were at
22 a pantomime. I never looked up the archives to, you
23 know, check a newspaper, but that's what I thought it
24 was for. I did hear something saying like, "This is the
25 first time these children have all been together".**

1 Q. This was -- this photograph was taken after you had been
2 in Nazareth House, was it?

3 **A. Oh, yes. We were all still very young. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. But no longer all together as a family in the family
5 unit at home?

6 **A. Oh, no, no, no, no.**

7 Q. You have -- since you have become an adult, you have
8 talked to your younger siblings. They confirm that they
9 were in Glenair. Isn't that right?

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

11 Q. Well, in paragraph 5, if we just go back to your time in
12 Nazareth House, you talk about arriving there. You
13 remember the nun taking your particulars and your dad
14 giving the wrong birthday. He gave a date of 12th
15 December. In fact, what the Congregation seem to have
16 recorded was 13th December as your birthday, but in any
17 event you knew that wasn't your birthday. You were old
18 enough when you went in to know what age -- when your
19 birthday was.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. You said that children all crowded round. You were
22 confused and overwhelmed. Your sister, who was just two
23 years younger than you I believe --

24 **A. She was 5.**

25 Q. -- was crying a lot. So the nuns pushed the two beds

1 together, but after a night or two one of the nuns came
2 along and smacked your sister and said that was enough.

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. "We were put into the big dormitory then and they
5 separated us."

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. "They put her at the farthest corner of the dormitory.
8 I was in the first row and she was in the fourth row".
9 and you couldn't have been further apart.

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

11 Q. You say she was hit by the nuns for crying for you. You
12 used to sneak up to tell her stories and try to reassure
13 her and comfort her.

14 **A. That was when we were in bed, yes.**

15 Q. You describe Nazareth House here as a bleak, dark place.
16 You say you suffered physical and mental abuse on
17 a daily basis during the nine years you were there.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. You say that amounted to thousands of incidents. You
20 remember you used to lie in bed and think it was
21 a nightmare and thought that some day your daddy was
22 going to come and take you out. You wrote letters to
23 him. You always remembered your home address. You gave
24 those letters to the nuns, but you don't think they
25 actually sent them --

1 **A. No.**

2 Q. -- although you later received letters from your father,
3 and they were always open when you got them. So the
4 implication was that someone had read them before they
5 were given to you.

6 **A. Oh, yes, always.**

7 Q. In those letters he used to say he was going to get
8 a house and take you all out of the home and you did
9 believe that until you were about 14.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. When you replied to your father's letters, you had to
12 give those replies to the nuns to read before they were
13 sent. You say that that ensured they were not
14 retelling -- you were not retelling any of the abuse you
15 were suffering.

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

17 Q. You talk about the separation. You and your family had
18 had a stable family background before you were taken
19 into the home. You found that very tough. Although
20 your brother was only five minutes down the road in
21 Nazareth Lodge, you only saw him once or twice a year,
22 when all the children would go down for a supervised
23 visit. That was organised for all the children, whether
24 they had brothers in the Lodge or not. It was like
25 a day out.

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. You got time -- you and your sister got to spend time
3 with your brother during those visits, but you say that
4 was just a coincidence.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. What do you mean by that, HIA37? How was it
7 a coincidence? Did you go seeking him out or --

8 **A. No, it wasn't a planned visit where you've got a brother**
9 **and you can go down to the Lodge to see him. Other**
10 **girls would have went down as well and they didn't have**
11 **brothers there. It was just a day out, as I say, and it**
12 **used to be in the summer, and we had jam sandwiches, but**
13 **it wasn't because they intentionally wanted to get us**
14 **siblings together.**

15 Q. You don't believe that there was any attempt or
16 encouragement to maintain contact between you and your
17 brother?

18 **A. No, definitely not.**

19 Q. You felt it was hard for him, because he was alone --

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. -- even though you two were nearby.

22 Now the Congregation have said in their response to
23 the Inquiry that they did try to maintain sibling
24 contact between families, even if they were separated,
25 because at this stage the House would only have taken

1 girls and not boys.

2 **A. That's not true.**

3 Q. You recall once when your mother visited and you say
4 that she took you down to the Lodge to visit your
5 brother. You say that apparently he was going to be
6 fostered, but your mother refused to let that happen.

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. When we were talking, you thought the reason for her
9 visit might have been because somebody had said your
10 brother was going to be fostered.

11 **A. Possibly.**

12 Q. That's why she came and took you down to see him.

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

14 Q. You go on here then in paragraphs 12 -- sorry -- 9 to 12
15 to describe the routine in the home. You say there were
16 three groups. You were in St. Anne's group, which was
17 SR116's group. She was in charge of the group that you
18 and your sister were in. I am using names, HIA37, but
19 again, as you can see from the statement in front of
20 you, we have given the nuns as well as the children --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- designations. So those names are not to be used --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- outside this room. She was in charge of your group.

25 You say the daily routine was you got up early in

1 the morning, knelt by your bed to say your prayers about
2 -- you think it was about 5.30 or 6.30, got dressed and
3 went to mass. Religion was a big part of life in the
4 home.

5 Some people have said that there was a rota, that
6 you went by group to mass and it wasn't every morning.

7 **A. Yes. Uh-huh. That is right. Because it was three,**
8 **whatever way it happened, say we were Monday, the other**
9 **two groups did Tuesday, Wednesday. Then it would have**
10 **went we did Thursday, Friday, Saturday, because**
11 **sometimes it worked out you might have had to go to mass**
12 **three times that week and you did -- you always went to**
13 **mass on a Sunday obviously. Saturday it was kind of**
14 **voluntary. You know, you could get up. You got a bit**
15 **of a lie-in maybe to 7.00 or 7.30, but, you know, the**
16 **rule of thumb would have been rotation with the groups.**

17 **Q. Well, you say here that:**

18 "A few of the younger ones would faint at mass,
19 because they were tired or hungry. If you fell asleep
20 or dosed off, the nuns would physically assault you by
21 flicking their fingers at the back of your head and ears
22 or striking you with their knuckles."

23 You say that one nun, SR134, in particular did that.

24 **A. Yes. She was very good at it. She used to twist your**
25 **hair, which was really sore, on the -- just on your**

1 hairline, because I remember once I think I was dozing
2 off and I had the misfortune to be in front of her. She
3 had flicked my ears and twisted my hair and I shouted,
4 "Oh, that's sore". So I knew I was going to get
5 something on the way out. So I kind of stayed behind in
6 the chapel, but when I looked back, she was waiting at
7 the door for me. (Beckoned with finger.) So you just
8 had to go with it. There was nowhere else to run.

9 Q. You go on to talk about the fact that no matter what age
10 you were, you had chores to do in the morning. One of
11 yours was to clean the bathroom. You were in charge of
12 the upstairs bathroom and you say there were thirty
13 sinks, four toilets and four baths in that bathroom.
14 You had to make sure they were all clean. You then went
15 down for breakfast and then went to school.

16 You say you also had the task of taking a wooden box
17 containing soiled sanitary towels down to a furnace and
18 burning them all once a week on a Tuesday. You were
19 13 years of age at the time. The nuns used to tell you
20 that it was a privilege. You say:

21 "If it was, why didn't they do it themselves? The
22 other girls and I were treated like slaves."

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. Now the Congregation have said yes, children did have to
25 do chores in the home, but they would have been

1 appropriate to the age group. The first they have heard
2 about this job that you say was given to you about the
3 sanitary towels is -- they don't accept that you would
4 have been asked to do that.

5 **A. I don't accept their response. I did it.**

6 Q. You were describing -- they provided you with tongs to
7 do this. Is that correct?

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

9 Q. There was only one box where the sanitary towels were
10 stored --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- the used sanitary towels.

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. You said that was actually in the nuns' bathroom.

15 **A. Yes. It was on -- well, they had a bath and that when
16 you went in. It was known as the nuns' bathroom. If
17 you walked in, the bath was there. If you walked on
18 through, the toilet was there with a door, but it was
19 where the toilet was. There was a window with a deep
20 sill. So it sat there. It was a wooden box a bit like
21 a postbox, if you know what I mean, like a letterbox or
22 a suggestion. That's where you deposited the soiled
23 sanitary towels.**

24 Q. You go on to talk about other chores here. You say
25 that:

1 "Every Friday night we had to scrub the long
2 corridors after school. The floors were made of stone
3 and we worked in pairs on our hands and knees with a
4 scrubbing brush and soap. We used to chant, "Left,
5 right, Peggy's right". We wore a pinafore over our
6 clothes and our pinafore, shoes and socks would be
7 saturated. Our hands would be red raw. On Saturday we
8 had to do the same to the floors in the chapel. We had
9 to shine them until you could see your face in the
10 floor."

11 You never once saw nuns do any physical work. It
12 was always the children.

13 **A. That's correct.**

14 Q. Now again what age would you have been, HIA37, when you
15 had to do this, would you say?

16 **A. I just know I was young. It is very hard when you are**
17 **in for nine years, because to me the regime seemed to be**
18 **work, pray, sometimes play, constant supervision, but**
19 **I know I would have -- I would have been young, probably**
20 **maybe about 9, doing the long corridors, 9, but you**
21 **would have had other chores when you were younger.**

22 Q. You say you also had to work in the laundry sometimes as
23 well. You said that was hard, severe work for a child,
24 but you didn't really mind, because it broke the
25 monotony.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. The Congregation have said with regard to the laundry
3 that children would only have been asked to help out,
4 assist the staff or to assist Sisters or staff who
5 worked in the laundry. Is that your memory of your time
6 working there?

7 **A. Well, my memory is standing on a wooden box and leaning**
8 **into what we would call a Belfast sink. There was**
9 **a washer board. I had to stand on a wooden box. I must**
10 **have been quite small.**

11 Q. You say the standard that the nuns expected of children
12 was exceptional. A nun would always be standing over
13 you watching you, and if you didn't do the chores to
14 their standard, you had to do them again.

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

16 Q. You say it very much depended on the mood of the nuns on
17 a particular day whether you were expected to re-do the
18 work. You say:

19 "The nuns used to go out collecting on a Saturday,
20 and if they had a bad day, they would take it out on us
21 when they got back."

22 You say:

23 "They used to tell us they would be spat on and
24 verbally abused"

25 while out collecting for you.

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. Now we were talking about this earlier --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- again. The nuns would say that the people of Belfast
5 where they were collecting were very generous and that
6 was very much appreciated by the Congregation, and they
7 just say this simply was not true. They were not spat
8 at and they were not treated in the way described, but
9 you are saying this is what they were telling you.

10 **A. Well, it filtered down. The information filtered down.**
11 **They nearly always came back in a really, really bad**
12 **mood. I mean, it must not have been easy for them.**
13 **I accept that, but depending on their mood, we knew we**
14 **would suffer.**

15 Q. You say that you felt in fear of how they would come
16 back.

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

18 Q. You describe the food in the home at paragraph 13,
19 HIA37. You say that it wasn't great, but that wasn't
20 something that particularly bothered you.

21 **A. No.**

22 Q. You didn't mind being hungry. You remember going to bed
23 hungry sometimes. You do say meal times were in silence
24 and the supervising nun would single out you and other
25 girls who were whispering. You would then be taken to

1 the front of the dining room and slapped with a cane,
2 ruler, spoon or strap.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. That was just for whispering during meal time.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. You do talk about another occasion, one of the other
7 things you remember about food, which was when you were
8 due to go on holiday to Glengariff -- Glenariff --
9 sorry -- you had mutton stew, but the mutton had gone
10 off.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You said:

13 "The smell was horrendous, but the nuns made us eat
14 it. All the girls were vomiting, including me, but the
15 nuns kept saying if everybody didn't eat it, nobody
16 would get to go on holidays."

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You were literally eating your own vomit.

19 **A. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. Even the children as young as 5 were doing this.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. You say:

23 "The stew was eaten in the end, but it seemed to go
24 on for hours and hours."

25 If you didn't eat your stew, somebody else ate it

1 for you, because you all wanted to go on your holidays.

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

3 Q. The Congregation have said that the food was the best
4 that they could provide in the circumstances, but they
5 say that they would not have made any child eat meat
6 that had gone off and they deny that anyone would have
7 had to eat their own vomit.

8 **A. I don't think the Congregation were actually there that**
9 **day with us, in other words, the actual nuns who were in**
10 **charge of us that day. So I would dispute their reply.**

11 Q. So basically what you are saying is while it is
12 an overall reply from the Congregation --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- they weren't there, the people who made that
15 response.

16 **A. It's not true.**

17 Q. You talked about going Glenariff or Ballyhornan on
18 holidays. You went once a year to either place. Those
19 were good times in the home.

20 **A. They were, yes. You know, you just loved the**
21 **countryside and, I mean, we were within walls all the**
22 **time, but in Glenariff it was just lovely getting out**
23 **into trees, hedges, the meadows. It was just beautiful,**
24 **even though when we were going into the beach, we still**
25 **had to walk, you know, two together in a line. You**

1 would have had to anyway, otherwise it would have been
2 mayhem with the children, but it was a great escape for
3 us, uh-huh, and I think even the nuns lightened up
4 a bit. They became a wee bit more human.

5 Q. You talk -- you say that Christmas in the home was
6 nothing special. You remember you got a tin of Gibb's
7 toothpaste and an apple and orange. We have heard from
8 other people that there were parties that children went
9 to at Christmas time.

10 A. Yes, there were lots of parties organised by outsiders.
11 Factories. I remember the taxi men taking us out. It
12 was really good. Mackie's. Even the ITV, they took us
13 out. Now sometimes it was all the children, but in the
14 main it would have been twelve, twenty or whatever. The
15 nuns chose who was going. You used to have a wee notice
16 -- I just remembered this lately -- in the hall or
17 somewhere and the names would have been on it, who was
18 going. So as much as you hoped your name was on it, it
19 wasn't always, but the parties were great. There were
20 some girls who seemed to get to them all, but I suppose
21 they were favourites or pets.

22 Q. You remember at Christmas you did get some toothpaste,
23 an apple and an orange.

24 A. That's right, yes.

25 Q. Do you ever remember getting toys or toys from the

1 parties that you went out to?

2 **A. Yes, we did get toys going to a party, but I can never**
3 **remember what happened to them. I do remember once --**
4 **and this wasn't at a party; it was in the home -- I got**
5 **this board that you put on the wall. It had clowns'**
6 **faces and wee hooks. I know the idea was to throw loops**
7 **at it, but I didn't get the loops. So I used to throw**
8 **elastic bands at it. That's one I do remember.**

9 Q. Coming back to your statement there, paragraph 15, you
10 go on to talk about being bathed once or twice a week.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You were made to strip to the waist. You said it was
13 embarrassing, particularly when you started to develop
14 physically. You were all bathed in Jeyes Fluid and it
15 stung your skin and itched like mad. You said that you
16 thought that all the girls in the home were brunettes --
17 all the girls were brunettes, but you thought that was
18 because of the Jeyes Fluid they washed your hair in?

19 **A. I did, yes.**

20 Q. The water was never changed or topped up. So if you
21 were last in, it would be freezing cold. You say even
22 if you had your period, you still had to get into the
23 same bath and a girl would have to get in after you.

24 **A. Uh-huh. Yes.**

25 Q. The Congregation have said that that wouldn't have

1 happened, that if a girl was having her period, she
2 would not have been expected to bath with the other
3 girls.

4 **A. I dispute that, and the same thing -- I mean, if you**
5 **look at the can of Jeyes Fluid, there's a warning on it:**
6 **"Do not use on skin". I wonder if they bathed in Jeyes**
7 **Fluid, but I doubt it.**

8 Q. One thing the Congregation have said is that Jeyes Fluid
9 was definitely used for head lice and for washing
10 children's hair.

11 **A. No. Any child that had head lice DDT was used. It is**
12 **a white solution. I can still smell it. It left the**
13 **hair quite greasy, and then older girls would have had**
14 **to sit and check the hair for nits and lice and all the**
15 **rest of it, because, to be honest, sometimes I thought**
16 **we were sitting like monkeys, you know, just going**
17 **through the hair and brushing the hair on to maybe**
18 **a piece of white paper, where you could actually see the**
19 **adult lice. No, we looked after it ourselves. It was**
20 **standard practice to be bathed and your hair washed in**
21 **Jeyes Fluid, not because of the possibility of lice.**
22 **DDT was used for lice and a fine comb.**

23 Q. You also say at bath time your underwear would be
24 examined by a nun and you had to line up and show the
25 crotch of your underwear, calling out your number. You

1 say you were number 10 and your sister was number 9.

2 You say that was particularly humiliating around puberty
3 time.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. At paragraph 17 here you talk about when you did have
6 your period and having to go upstairs and asking the
7 nun, and you name the nun there as SR116, whom you would
8 have had to go and ask for a sanitary towel. You said:

9 "You had to wait for a quiet, convenient time to ask
10 and she would count how many you had used. She would
11 note when she last gave you one and refuse if it had
12 been that morning, even if you did need one."

13 You describe the effect that that had. You were too
14 afraid to ask for more sanitary towels. You said you
15 never had any privacy in the home.

16 I was asking if you had any preparation for the
17 onset of puberty in the home. You were saying that in
18 Sister -- you were in SR116's group. Isn't that right?

19 **A. Yes, yes.**

20 Q. She did do something.

21 **A. She did. She had a little book called "My Dear
22 Daughter" or something, and she would have taken some of
23 us individually into her cell, as they called it, where
24 she slept, and she did go through it. Now it was very
25 much from a religious, holy attitude, but you did have**

1 **an understanding of it.**

2 **Outside of that it would have been in school and it**
3 **was very much part of your biology, science teaching.**

4 Q. But certainly SR116 in her group did try to give some
5 instruction --

6 **A. She did. She did, yes.**

7 Q. -- to the girls about what was happening?

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. You go on to say about the lack of privacy here and say
10 you all had to change in -- when you changed clothes, it
11 was in one room. SR31 would stand on a bench watching
12 you changing in and out of your uniforms. You think you
13 were 11 to 15 -- 11 and a half to 15.

14 **A. Up to then, yes.**

15 Q. You also talk about a doctor coming to the home you say
16 once a week or fortnight. You thought his name was
17 He also would examine all the new children
18 who came into the home.

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

20 Q. You thought he was a privately contracted daughter --
21 doctor. Sorry. The Congregation would say he was
22 actually the local NHS doctor and he was not private,
23 but certainly that was the impression you had?

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

25 Q. I mean, you make the point that you thought that they

1 were always complaining about money. So why would they
2 hire a private doctor, but they make the point, in fact,
3 they didn't.

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. You talk about checking other girls' hair for head lice.
6 You say you used to like that, because it broke the
7 monotony and gave you something to do.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. You say the nuns never exposed themselves to risk in any
10 way. By that I take it that the nuns did not examine
11 the girls' hair for head lice.

12 **A. No. They didn't treat -- they would have known we had**
13 **head lice, but they never physically treated any of the**
14 **children. They didn't expose themselves to any**
15 **possibility of -- well, the nits thing I would overrule,**
16 **because they had a habit. You know, you didn't see**
17 **their hair, but the other thing was even if -- I have**
18 **got it here -- an outbreak of measles, we all had to**
19 **look after each other. So they wouldn't have exposed**
20 **themselves to any risk.**

21 Q. You say you do remember SR116 being nice to you when you
22 were sick. You think that was just after she arrived in
23 the home, and she bought you some food and would check
24 on you. You say she put Vicks on you, because you had
25 -- you were prone to chest infections and you had a bad

1 'flu or bronchitis once, but you say she was only
2 a novice when she first came in and you say she took her
3 final vows in the home.

4 **A. Now you see that, I don't know whether it has been**
5 **misconstrued or not. I just remember her being very**
6 **young coming into the home. You have to remember I was**
7 **very young as well. I think she was newly -- I don't**
8 **know -- had taken her order -- her vows or whatever it**
9 **is, but I do remember one occasion when nuns did make**
10 **their final vows in our chapel that was there. I just**
11 **know that she was a new nun. Put it like that.**

12 Q. Her behaviour towards everyone changed after a while.
13 Is that right?

14 **A. It did, yes. It is like I say. It is true that one bad**
15 **apple, it will ruin the whole barrel.**

16 Q. Then you were saying here about the measles. You talk
17 about that in paragraph 20.

18 **A. Yes, and the girl having the jaundice, I do remember**
19 **that. She was in an isolation room. I had to go up and**
20 **give her her medication and her meals.**

21 Q. You say the nuns never showed any compassion or
22 nurturing. You never got any affection from them even
23 when sick and they discouraged affection between
24 families, because you would have been quite affectionate
25 towards you sister --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- but you learned quite early on not to show that in
3 public, especially if the nuns were around. If your
4 sister had fallen, you would not have been able to give
5 her a hug and you would have to tell her not to make
6 a fuss.

7 You give another example, if we could just go to
8 paragraph 28, about being punished. Sorry. Yes. Do
9 you remember once there was a dog and your sister was
10 petrified of dogs? The nuns sussed that and said she
11 would have to feed the dog. She tried to go out and
12 feed it, but she was terrified and could not do it. You
13 know she was going to get slapped. So you told the nuns
14 to leave her alone, that she was afraid of dogs.
15 Another time she was late getting into her line for
16 dinner and she was called over by SR134.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You shouted to her to leave her alone. SR134 said, "Oh,
19 we don't hit the ..." and she used your surname.

20 "She gave me a nickname, which was
21 your surname --

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. -- and that stuck, but you quite liked it.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. You are suggesting that was not her intention, to give

1 you a nickname that you liked.

2 **A. No, no. She funny enough had kind of a black sense of**
3 **humour, which was funny at times, but it is just the way**
4 **she was.**

5 Q. Going back to paragraph 23, you talk about another type
6 of punishment. You said that you had to take your
7 mattress down to the bottom floor and sleep there for
8 the night, which was absolutely terrifying. We have
9 heard the bottom floor, there was a hall on the bottom
10 floor. Is that where you had to take your mattress to?

11 **A. Yes. It would have been on the same level as the dining**
12 **room, but the dining room you went down, but it was the**
13 **bottom level, the same level as the recreation room and**
14 **the big doors.**

15 Q. You say you were forced to do that on a number of
16 occasions. It was really dark and there was a man who
17 looked after the furnace who was often drunk. The
18 children had spread lots of rumours about him and you
19 remember lying on the mattress and hearing him coming
20 down and being petrified, thinking about what he was
21 going to do to you. You say he was probably harmless,
22 but you remember he came over to you and you could smell
23 the drink on his breath. He didn't do anything, but you
24 were still terrified.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. Do you know what age you were, HIA37, at all?

2 **A. I think I was anything between, say -- I wasn't at the**
3 **big school, as we would say. So possibly 10.**

4 Q. Again the Congregation have said that this is not
5 a punishment that they have heard of and they don't
6 believe that that was -- they felt it was an odd type of
7 punishment and they don't believe that you would have
8 been punished in that way.

9 **A. I always thought they were very creative in their**
10 **punishments actually. I mean, I have been brought up at**
11 **home and I was chastised by my mother and father, but**
12 **never to the extreme cruel methods that they used.**

13 Q. You go on to talk here in paragraphs 24 and 25 about the
14 punishments. You say that:

15 "Other punishments were being forced to kneel with
16 our hands on our heads for hours. We would be told to
17 kneel to be caned, as this gave extra force to the
18 strikes. The nuns would use both hands for extra
19 strength and cane us until they were exhausted."

20 You were demonstrating to me when you were --
21 earlier by that you meant that the nun would hold one
22 hand with the other hand before using the cane.

23 **A. Uh-huh. Yes.**

24 Q. "Your hands would be red raw and swollen and painful for
25 days and you held them under your arms to try to reduce

1 the pain. We would be punished for looking at our
2 reflection in passing a glass window and be accused of
3 vanity."

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. You say in paragraph 25 that:

6 "It was SR116 who used bamboo canes on us. They
7 were split from being used and were sellotaped together.
8 She also used the side of a wooden ruler to hit me on
9 the wrists, forearms and hands. SR134 would use a large
10 metal spoon. I and other girls were made to clench our
11 fists and she hit our knuckles with the spoon. SR134
12 used to grip my forearm and forcibly hit me with my own
13 hands while saying, "There! You can't say I hit you.
14 You are hitting yourself".

15 In paragraph -- just one thing. There is
16 a statement of someone else who is in the police
17 material. It is at SNB-61288 to 89. I am going to use
18 the name, but again the name is not to be used outside.
19 This was a girl whose surname is ^{HIA 28, HIA 29, HIA 39} She made
20 a statement to the police and in that she recounted
21 a situation -- if we just look that, please, at 61289.
22 Did you know a girl called ^{HIA 28, HIA 29, HIA 39}

23 **A. I did know the** ^{HIA 28, HIA 29, HIA 39} **I wouldn't have, well, as we**
24 **would say, have played with them or anything. I do**
25 **remember them vaguely. When you are older -- obviously**

1 I didn't play with them or anything, but, yes, there was
2 a family of HIA 28, HIA 29, HIA 39

3 Q. If you just go down to the bottom there, it says:

4 "On a daily basis I would see SR31 and SR116
5 physically beating other children in the home, often
6 very badly. I once remember seeing another girl called
7 HIA37. I was about 12 at the time. HIA37 was grabbed
8 by her hair by SR31 and dragged physically up a flight
9 of stairs and into the top room. She was screaming and
10 crying, but none of us could do anything about it. It
11 was terrible."

12 Now have you a recollection of SR31 doing that to
13 you at all, HIA37?

14 A. Oh, yes. Uh-huh, but you had so many punishments you
15 just sometimes, when you try to recollect it or think
16 about it, sometimes it was just so, so bad it's like
17 they all merge into one big, black nightmare, but yes.
18 I mean, they did like to do this in front of other
19 children, and then they had other menaces like taking
20 you into a room and beating you where there weren't
21 witnesses, but I do remember, but she did this on so
22 many occasions I couldn't tell you how many. I couldn't
23 tell you the reason either.

24 Q. Well, the Congregation have said that they had a policy
25 of no physical punishment for children, although they do

1 accept that that was not always adhered to --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- by everyone. I will come back just to say what some
4 of the nuns said when they were interviewed by the
5 police.

6 They also say that you would not have been punished
7 for something as simple as looking at your own
8 reflection, although when we were talking about this,
9 you were saying that was not so much a physical
10 punishment as you were verbally chastised for doing
11 that.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Going back to your witness statement at paragraph 23 on
14 059, please, 059 -- sorry. It is paragraph 26 on the
15 following page, 060. You say that you suffered from
16 lack of sleep, because there was an alert machine for
17 bedwetting placed beside your bed, and you had to waken
18 children in the middle of the night, take off the wet
19 bottom sheet and put a top sheet over thick reddish
20 brown rubber sheets. That would have happened with
21 several children throughout the night. You say as
22 a result you now suffer from insomnia. You say that:

23 "Girls often wet the bed and were humiliated in
24 front of us. They were forced to rinse the sheets and
25 nightwear in freezing cold water before bringing them

1 down to the laundry room."

2 You also say:

3 "If we were on holidays in Glenariff during the
4 summer, girls had to lay the sheets over the hedges and
5 stand beside them until they were dry."

6 Now you were in one group, SR116's group.

7 **A. That's right.**

8 Q. I take it it was only that group that you had to get up
9 and look after the children who wet the bed?

10 **A. Yes, yes, with that machine. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. The Congregation have said that they don't accept that
12 bedwater -- sorry -- bedwetters had to wash their sheets
13 and nightwear, and they certainly do not accept the
14 situation about how you describe things in Glenariff.
15 Is there anything you want to say about that, HIA37?

16 **A. I was there. The Congregation weren't, and I am telling
17 the truth.**

18 Q. You go on to talk in paragraph 27 here about for several
19 nights you had no sleep, as you were told to stay in one
20 of the classrooms to darn another girl's socks. You
21 said those socks were so smelly and hard from being worn
22 that you could not darn them and you kept retching and
23 gagging when trying to darn them. At 5.00 am you would
24 hear the terrifying sound of the nuns' footsteps and the
25 rattling of rosary beads as they all went for their

1 morning prayer.

2 "SR31 came and checked if I had darned the socks and
3 then I was sent for mass and daily chores. Then as a
4 punishment for not mending the socks I was not allowed
5 any socks all winter."

6 You were given a pair of shoes that were two or
7 three sizes too big with holes in the soles. You had to
8 keep putting paper in them to try to make them fit and
9 to keep your feet dry.

10 **A. I had to put paper on the sole of them to stop the wet
11 and that coming through.**

12 Q. Again the Congregation don't accept this. They say that
13 while children did learn to darn, it was SR122's job to
14 look after the clothing and that of the children in the
15 sewing room.

16 **A. Uh-huh. I don't think she did the darning, but. You
17 know, we were taught from a very early age you mend and
18 you darn before you wash. I was very adept at darning
19 and I wasn't the only one that did the darning either.**

20 Q. Is it because you were good at it that you were given
21 this other girl's socks to do?

22 **A. I wouldn't have minded doing it, but it was just the
23 state of the sock. If it had been an ordinary sock that
24 didn't smell or smelt a little, I probably would have
25 enjoyed darning them, because you put the sock into the**

1 **sole of the shoe and you worked up and down the warp and**
2 **the weft. It was quite an art, but this particular**
3 **girl's socks -- and I didn't blame her -- I just could**
4 **not do it. I just felt sick.**

5 Q. You do also recall at paragraph 29 here other children
6 being beaten. You said it was almost as painful
7 listening to the screams and cries of other girls
8 getting beaten as being hit yourself. On one occasion a
9 nun flogged three or four girls on the stage in the big
10 recreation room. You can't remember who it was. You
11 say it might have been any of these nuns. SR59, SR59,
12 was there before SR116.

13 "I do not know what the girls had done, but the nun
14 made them take their pants down and bend over the stage.
15 Then she went at them and whipped them with the cane
16 over and over. They did this in front of everybody else
17 and listening to the screams of the girls was terrible."

18 You say you remember the same nun did this over
19 a long wooden bench in the bathroom. She made the girls
20 bend over, take down their pants and then caned them
21 with a stick. On another occasion you were forced to
22 watch a girl whom you name there being forced to kneel
23 when being caned when she was about 13.

24 "We counted each slap and I remember stopping at
25 100, because it was so distressing."

1 **A. She actually slapped this girl until she herself, the**
2 **nun, was physically exhausted.**

3 Q. You go on to talk about -- when we were talking about
4 these incidents earlier, you were saying it was
5 petrifying to witness this, because you kept thinking it
6 wouldn't be too long before it was your turn.

7 **A. Well, it always came your turn one way or another.**

8 Q. You talk in paragraph 31 about being known by a number.
9 You were number 10, your sister 9. Sometimes you were
10 called by your surname, but never by your Christian
11 name. You say:

12 "You could not do right in the home. If you did not
13 look at the nuns when they spoke to you, they would say,
14 "Look me in the eye when I'm speaking to you", but if
15 you did look them in the eye, then they called you
16 defiant and said the devil was in you.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You describe a wall with glass and barbed wire all round
19 the home. You used to think it was to keep people out,
20 but you now think it was to keep you in.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. You say SR31 was sarcastic and she was saying things
23 like, "We never asked you to come in here". You were
24 always getting slapped for saying, "Is it all right if
25 I go then?" You said that naively, but after being

1 whacked half a dozen times you realised you were not
2 saying the right thing and you used to get a hell of
3 a hiding for answering back. You say she used to pick
4 on certain families as well and say, "You know we don't
5 get any money for you. We are keeping you for nothing",
6 and she would say that about your family and it really
7 stuck with you. She would also tell you not to get on
8 your high horse, because she was keeping you for free,
9 and it said it out publicly in front of other children
10 and that was humiliating. You believe you were treated
11 worse than others in the home who had family contact or
12 who the nuns received a financial contribution for, and
13 it made you angry towards your parents as well, never
14 mind the fact that they had sent you there you thought
15 for a holiday and you were there for nine years.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. Now the Congregation, first of all, have said that names
18 were only used for laundry purposes -- sorry -- numbers
19 were only used for laundry purposes. Children were
20 called by their first names in the home, but that is not
21 the experience you describe.

22 **A. No. I think I have already said that I brought up three**
23 **children myself. I put them through school. I had**
24 **a name before I went into the home. I didn't need**
25 **a number. When I put labels on my children's uniforms,**

1 I put their name. I didn't put a number. So why
2 couldn't they do the same?

3 Q. They also say that children were not treated differently
4 because of their family contact or any contributions to
5 their care, any financial contributions. Is there
6 anything you want to say about that, HIA37?

7 A. Sorry. You will have to ask me that again, Christine.

8 Q. Sorry. The nuns have said -- the Sisters of Nazareth
9 Congregation have said children weren't treated
10 differently in the home because they had family contact
11 or because their family were making contributions to
12 their maintenance.

13 A. It is a well-known fact that they had pets and they had
14 favourites and that's okay. I can accept that. It's
15 happening today in schools and wherever, but we weren't
16 stupid. We knew that there were certain girls who got
17 it a lot worse than others, and I wasn't the only one.
18 There were others who were singled out and made very
19 aware that, "There's nobody paying for you in here". In
20 other words, they didn't want -- well, they didn't want
21 any of us to be there, but I would dispute that. We
22 were treated differently and the financial side of it
23 was a big factor.

24 Q. Well, you talk about your schooling in the home, and at
25 paragraph 34 you talk about going to the primary school

1 on site and enjoying that. You say you were not able to
2 read or write when you went in, but you learned a lot in
3 the primary school, and reading and learning for you was
4 an escape. You were easily identified in the school as
5 the girls from the home as you wore shirts that were
6 made by the older girls in Nazareth House. You felt
7 that was humiliating and made you subject to nasty,
8 hurtful comments and made to feel different from your
9 peers. You talk about socks and washing your socks and
10 skirts at night. You also went to school with wet socks
11 sometimes, because they had not dried under the
12 mattress.

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. You also loved drama, and you used to put on plays for
15 the Mother Superior and you got a lot of the main parts.

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

17 Q. You say it was a form of escapism for you to go on
18 stage.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. You talk about moving from the primary school to
21 St. Monica's. You remember meeting a lady on the way
22 asking you where you were going and you subsequently
23 discovered she was, in fact, your teacher.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. You had told her that you were going to work really hard

1 and make something of yourself. She made you
2 a sub-prefect, although you were not good at
3 disciplining the other students, because they all knew
4 you were from the home and would not listen to you.

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

6 Q. You were the only one in that class from the home,
7 because you had moved up into the A stream, which was
8 the top class.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. You did well and you were awarded a scholarship to
11 a grammar school.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. You said the nuns never actually told you that you were
14 going to this different school because you had done
15 well.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. They just told you to go and get a different uniform.

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

19 Q. You had been happy in St. Monica's and you were doing
20 well. You would have preferred to have stayed on there.
21 You had to get a bus ride with another girl to the
22 school that you went to. You were -- paragraph 38
23 here -- influenced by that other girl into truanting
24 from the school. You go on to describe that you went
25 back to Nazareth House and you had not eaten. Sorry.

1 You were very influenced by her. That's what I was
2 saying. You hated the thought of travelling from
3 Belfast to go to that school on your own. When you went
4 back to school, you were told you had to go to the
5 storeroom. You knew you were in trouble when you were
6 told to go there.

7 "SR31 was waiting in the storeroom for us. She
8 could not stand me anyway and she always made life
9 difficult for me. The other girl went into the
10 storeroom first. When she came out, she just winked at
11 me and I felt relieved. SR31 was very fond of this
12 other girl, because she was in her group. As soon as
13 I went in SR31 told me to put out my hand. I was 14 at
14 this stage, and I said "No", because I knew that the
15 other girl had not been chastised. SR31 went hell for
16 leather then with the bamboo cane. I can still remember
17 the sound of it swishing through the air. She went
18 absolutely mental. She had lost the plot. She was
19 hitting me everywhere, on the back of my head, my arms,
20 everywhere. I had welts all over. I ran for the door,
21 but she had locked it. I got a shock then. I realised
22 she had calculated what she was going to do to me. She
23 had locked the door so that nobody could get in and
24 I couldn't get out. I really thought she was going to
25 kill me. So I knocked her over and she fell over

1 a sewing machine. I saw a window pole then, which
2 I grabbed. While she was on the ground, I put my foot
3 on her chest and I had the pole in my hand. I said to
4 her, "Give me the keys, because you know you're going to
5 kill me". She couldn't get up. She was trapped by the
6 sewing machine. I think she was in shock as well. She
7 gave me the key and I locked her in and threw the key
8 out of the window."

9 You don't know how she ended up getting out.

10 **A. No. The other thing I would like to say, Christine, is**
11 **St. Monica's school, I loved it there. I mean, I just**
12 **couldn't understand. They didn't ask, "How do you feel**
13 **about this?" I had done really well. I had made**
14 **friends. I loved the teachers, the whole thing. Why**
15 **fix something if it is not broken? You know, I would**
16 **have stayed at St. Monica's, scholarship or no**
17 **scholarship and I knew I would have done well. To go**
18 **out into this other strange environment many miles away,**
19 **the thought of having to get to know new teachers, new**
20 **children -- I mean, it was hard enough for us. Most of**
21 **our life was behind those brick walls. Only we got out**
22 **to school and I thought, "Gosh! Here is another new**
23 **life I have to start building up". It was the**
24 **confidence issue. It was really difficult to**
25 **communicate and interact with other children, because**

1 you just knew the children in the home with you. So
2 that was a worry for me. Even though I know a
3 scholarship was a good thing, but if they had explained
4 it and made it feel as if "You have done well", but they
5 didn't. It was just, "HIA37, you are going up Piper's
6 Hill" -- "St. Peter's Hill in Belfast to get a new
7 uniform". I was, "Why am I not going to the sewing
8 room?", but, you know, I knew later.

9 Q. There was no discussion --

10 A. No.

11 Q. -- or explanation, or "Would you like to do this?" or --

12 A. Nothing like, "You have done well. You have got
13 a scholarship. You had good reports". It was just --

14 Q. That was what's happening to you?

15 A. Yes. Uh-huh.

16 Q. Well, you go on to talk again about this, about what
17 happened following the incidents that you related about
18 SR31. You said that you borrowed money from a friend to
19 get the bus to where your --

20 A. Uh-huh.

21 Q. -- aunt and uncle were. You had found them when you
22 were 14. You used to go out and spend the odd weekend
23 with them, which you loved. Your aunt thought you had
24 just arrived for a visit, but when she took the cardigan
25 off you, she saw the dried blood and welts on your skin

1 and she went ballistic. Your uncle, who was your
2 father's brother, was working, but your aunt sent for
3 him and said, "Look what they've done to this child".
4 She insisted that he take you to the police station.

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. You went to the police station. You say you were put in
7 a room with your own. You remember one policeman came
8 in and said you could have caused the injuries to
9 yourself. You asked him how you get round to your back
10 and he said you could have done it against a door. You
11 were trying to convince him that it really happened.
12 You remember another policeman with sandy hair coming in
13 and asking you what had happened. You told him it was
14 a nun. He said he couldn't believe that and there were
15 tears in his eyes. You remember being examined by
16 a doctor, whom you name.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. He said that he had three daughters at the school you
19 were sent to and that they were doing well. It was
20 a very good school. You should make the most of the
21 opportunity. You felt very let down by both the police
22 and the doctor, because you were collected by SR31 and
23 the Mother Superior and taken back to Nazareth Lodge.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Now you go on to say that you later found out from your

1 uncle that the doctor had told him -- that's to do with
2 looking after you -- but you later learned that there
3 was some sort of meeting about SR31 and that she was
4 disciplined for her behaviour.

5 **A. That's what my Uncle had said to me. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. You think that she was not allowed to be promoted, but
7 you don't know if that's true or not. That's what you
8 were told.

9 **A. It is not actually, because recently I found out in 1975**
10 **she was principal down the road in Nazareth Lodge.**

11 The other thing -- it will show you how cold and
12 callous they were -- I was in the taxi with that woman
13 or nun who beat me and the Mother Superior. SR31, the
14 nun, turned round and said -- I always think it was
15 12 o'clock, 3 o'clock or 6 o'clock, because she said,
16 "It is time for the rosary". She said to me, "Right.
17 You can say the first decade". I just said, "No. You
18 can say it yourself".

19 Q. Well, the Congregation have no record --

20 **A. I know.**

21 Q. -- of this incident at all, HIA37. The Inquiry have
22 contacted the police about it, and they have advised
23 that they have been unable to locate an occurrence book
24 for this period in time, even though -- they have even
25 searched through the archive records, but with no

1 results. I know you yourself contacted the doctor's
2 surgery.

3 **A. I tried, yes.**

4 Q. He was a local doctor to where -- this police
5 station that you had been taken to.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. He is no longer alive. There are no records in
8 existence that you can find to confirm this.

9 **A. I know years and years ago I got in touch with
10 Police Station. Somebody told me there there was a fire
11 and the records had all been destroyed. So -- and then
12 they said, "Do you want counselling?" That was always
13 the answer: "Do you want counselling?" I didn't ring
14 them for counselling.**

15 **Then another policeman said, "Because you were
16 living in Belfast at the time, the ones wouldn't
17 have kept those records. They would have followed to
18 Belfast", but even with that the police there say that
19 they can't find the reports in the archives. So ...**

20 Q. So you did, though, find out where SR31 was living.

21 **A. I did.**

22 Q. You actually wrote to her. You challenged her about the
23 beating that she had given her (sic). I am going to
24 look at the letters that she wrote. There's --
25 unfortunately they are in a sort of jumbled order here

1 --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- but if we look at 30154, please, and if we can maybe
4 enlarge that, you will see it is dated 21st July 1999.

5 When we were talking earlier, you were saying you
6 actually wrote to her two years earlier.

7 **A. '97. I have the letter.**

8 Q. You received a response from some other nun you didn't
9 know.

10 **A. I did. SR 99 . So it took two years and**
11 **a month for me to get a reply and in the meantime this**
12 **nun in between. So I would say SR31 must have had a bit**
13 **of counselling to go through as to what she was to say**
14 **or write, but two years and a month is a long time to**
15 **get a reply from a letter.**

16 Q. What she did say when she replied was:

17 "Dear HIA37,

18 I deeply regret the anxieties you have sustained
19 over the years. My memory of you is that of a highly
20 intelligent child.

21 The opportunity of having a grammar school education
22 was I felt ideal for you. Hence my disappointment that
23 you should not avail of it. In my foolishness I thought
24 that correction might persuade you to change your mind.

25 The other girl was not directly in my care. Her parents

1 could deal with her ..."

2 We need to go up to the preceding page actually to
3 get the ...

4 "... initially. I thank God that so many of you are
5 happy and making a valuable contribution to both family
6 and society.

7 Each day I pray for all those whom I have taught.

8 My sincere wishes for your continued success and
9 happiness in the future, HIA37.

10 God bless.

11 Yours sincerely,

12 SR31."

13 That was the response when you wrote asking why you
14 had been punished and the other girl hadn't.

15 **A. Yes, after two years and a month.**

16 Q. There is other letters --

17 **A. Can I just say, Christine --**

18 Q. Sorry.

19 **A. -- to me that implies that we children were treated
20 differently. The other girl had family. I didn't. So,
21 in other words, I say that they could do what they
22 wanted with us, but they were more careful with those
23 who had family visiting or, you know, in contact with
24 them.**

25 Q. You also -- you certainly consider this to be

1 an admission on her part --

2 **A. I do, yes.**

3 Q. -- that correction, as she puts it, was the way she
4 should deal with your truanting.

5 **A. She didn't deny it. She couldn't.**

6 Q. There are other letters. If we look at 30149, this
7 seems to be April 2000. So you did continue to write to
8 her after this. Is that right, HIA37?

9 **A. Yes, yes.**

10 Q. It says:

11 "Dear HIA37,

12 Thank you very much for your letter. I am pleased
13 to know how well you are doing. Regarding the education
14 of the pupils at Nazareth House Primary School, as
15 principal of the school I can honestly say that I was
16 sincerely interested in the well-being of the girls. My
17 main concern was that every pupil should have the
18 opportunity of attaining her potential, and I know that
19 I did this to the best of my ability, with evidence from
20 the educational psychologist (from the Belfast Board of
21 Education) re the special care, their teacher being
22 SR134" -- sorry -- "re the special class, their teacher
23 being SR134."

24 We have heard from others that SR134 would have been
25 responsible for those children who were deemed to be

1 educationally subnormal.

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

3 Q. Is that your memory, that those children went into her
4 class?

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. "The idea of writing a book sounds very interesting and
7 will pose no problem for you, HIA37. Your English was
8 always excellent, followed by a very good second in
9 drama.

10 I receive letters from girls all over the world and
11 it is good to hear how well they are doing despite
12 unfortunate family circumstances (outside their control)
13 which led to their admission to Nazareth House.

14 My main concern, HIA37, was that you should map out
15 a worthwhile career for yourself and do well in life.
16 You had all the potential to do just that.

17 When I think of you, HIA37, I remember our search
18 for accommodation for you. Eventually it was suggested
19 that you should share with 25-year-olds. To my
20 amusement you weren't having any of it. You weren't
21 living with old women.

22 It was good to hear from you, HIA37. Once again my
23 sincere sorry for any pain I have caused.

24 Yours sincerely.

25 SR31."

1 Regarding address, HIA37, it would be more effective
2 to put an advert in a Belfast newspaper. The addresses
3 I have are from Belfast and the surrounding areas, apart
4 from those abroad, and those would not be likely to
5 travel."

6 Was this trying to get contact details for people
7 for a reunion?

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

9 Q. "Wishing you, HIA37, and you ... best wishes",
10 something, "your", something, "every success in your
11 venture at beautiful Glenariff.

12 May you have a very joyful and peaceful weekend.

13 Love and God bless.

14 Yours sincerely,

15 SR31."

16 **A. Now I was a wee bit cynical and I suppose a wee bit --**
17 **I don't know what you would say -- but I just would not**
18 **give her the privilege of knowing the names of my**
19 **children. That was why she has, "? name, ? this".**
20 **I just didn't want her to have that privilege.**

21 Q. Well, going back to your statement, HIA37, at
22 paragraph 47, which is on page 065, you said that you
23 don't remember anybody from Welfare ever coming to
24 inspect the home.

25 You do remember benefactors coming to visit, which

1 you say was a humiliating experience. You would be
2 sitting watching television like clones.

3 "The nuns made sure we were all clean and dressed
4 nicely. The nuns would then tell us all to stand up and
5 we would have to stand up for these people and their
6 children. We were told to stand and greet them by name
7 and smile at them. We had to remain standing until they
8 left. They just looked at us like we were in a cattle
9 mart."

10 You resented having to stand for those children just
11 because their parents gave money to the home.

12 You go on to say that there was another punishment
13 that you remembered the summer after the beating. SR31
14 said to you, "You have nine weeks to kill and you can
15 paint all the beds". That was a punishment for not
16 going to the grammar school. The other girl was still
17 in the home, but she didn't receive any punishment.
18 There was a maintenance man who you name there, who did
19 all the odd jobs. He was a great character. You helped
20 him paint all that summer. You had to paint all the big
21 pipes and radiators and nearly 100 beds, but you loved
22 doing that. It was great. You enjoyed the company of
23 the handyman. He used to tell you to be careful that
24 SR31 didn't see you were enjoying the painting, because
25 it was supposed to be a punishment, and you had to look

1 sullen whenever she came around or she would have
2 stopped you doing it if she thought you liked it.

3 We have heard from other people that this was
4 something that other girls did during the summer. Is
5 that your memory or were you just the only person doing
6 it?

7 **A. No, I wouldn't have been the only one. I mean,**
8 **throughout years I remember sometimes the beds were**
9 **outside in the year and the sun probably helped the**
10 **paint to get dry quicker, but I just remember myself**
11 **doing bed, the radiators and pipes, and it did take up**
12 **most of the summer holidays.**

13 Q. Well, you didn't go back to the grammar school. You did
14 your 'O' levels in St. Monica's. Then after that you
15 had to work in different parts of Nazareth House. You
16 worked in the old people's home and the nursery. You
17 loved the nursery, but again you didn't want to show
18 that, because they would have moved you if they thought
19 you liked it. You were also asked to take some classes
20 when a teacher was out sick in St. Monica's, but you say
21 the nuns were not happy about that.

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. You were offered the chance to go to do your 'A' levels
24 in England. You turned that down because your younger
25 sister was still in Nazareth House. Your brother by

1 this stage had left Nazareth Lodge and he was living in
2 the community.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. You yourself left when you were, as you say, 16 --
5 almost 16.

6 **A. Yes. I stayed on because I had 'O' levels to do.**

7 Q. How you came to leave you describe here in paragraph 50.
8 You say that out of the blue a girl came, said you were
9 leaving and she had to take you on the bus. She had
10 a little case for you. You had a job at the time. You
11 describe what the job was. She brought you to this
12 house that we were discussing earlier on the Antrim
13 Road. There were two nuns running it.

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. You say:

16 "They were all old women living there, one
17 25-year-old, but the next youngest was 56."

18 You said you weren't going to live with old women.
19 You went and got your own digs. This was someone who
20 had been your sponsor at confirmation --

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

22 Q. -- who had also been in Nazareth House herself.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. Now you go on in paragraphs 51 to 62, HIA37, to describe
25 your life after you left Nazareth House.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. You talk -- your sister was still there after you left.
3 You went to live with your brother, and you used to go
4 down to visit your sister. At paragraph 52 you say she
5 was about 14 at that time. You used to go down to see
6 her and take her out at the weekend, but SR31 started
7 saying you can only collect her on a Saturday, then on
8 a Sunday, and then once a fortnight. Your sister gave
9 you a really hard time about that. She didn't blame the
10 nuns for you not coming so often. She blamed you.

11 Then there is paragraph 54. When she was old enough
12 to get out, you got her employment and went to collect
13 her from the home. You say SR31 was very hostile and
14 tried to intimidate your sister into staying, telling
15 her that you owed them, as they had never received any
16 money for them (sic) and that NHB 72 should stay and
17 work at the home to pay them back. You say that NHB 72
18 was still very influenced and afraid of the nuns and you
19 had to be brave and assertive, telling her not to look
20 at SR31, to look at you, and asking her did she want to
21 come with you or stay at the home.

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. You also told SR31 that you would pay them back by
24 sending money every week, as you thought that you did
25 owe them money, but there was no way you were leaving

1 NHB 72 with them.

2 Then you had to sign a disclaimer for accepting
3 responsibility for NHB 72 We have actually got a copy
4 of that, which can be seen at SNB-4064. That's the --
5 it's like a discharge receipt:

6 "I hereby certify that I have received my sister,
7 NHB 72 from under the care of the Sisters of Nazareth,
8 Nazareth House, Ballynafeigh, in a perfect state of
9 health and cleanliness."

10 It's signed by you and your address is given there.
11 It is witnessed by someone else.

12 **A. Yes. I see that, a girl in the home. It is amazing,**
13 **because I could never get my hands on that and here we**
14 **are.**

15 Q. That's dated 8th July 1966.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. So paragraph 57, going back to your witness statement,
18 HIA37, at page 068, you say that:

19 "The nuns did not prepare you for life on the
20 outside at all. We knew nothing about paying bills or
21 getting on buses or buying food. I used to go to the
22 local shop and ask for 5 lbs of cheese, because I didn't
23 know any better."

24 In paragraph 61 you quote how you wrote poems and
25 stories about your time in the home to help you cope and

1 inject a bit of humour into it, as that's how you have
2 learnt to deal with it. You give an example of one of
3 your poems, which is:

4 Holy Mary, Mother of God,
5 Sure they didn't know how to spare the rod.
6 You couldn't do right for doing wrong.
7 Shouldn't be laughing or singing a song.
8 Holy Mary, Mother of God,
9 Sometimes I wish I had been born a Prod,
10 For messengers couldn't be half as bad
11 To ill-treat little children and make them so sad."
12 You have a number of other poems that you've

13 written --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- which can be found in the bundle at 30121 to 30145.

16 Now you did speak to the police in -- your statement
17 can be seen at 61906. That was in May of 2010. Now at
18 that stage SR31 would have been very elderly. She would
19 have been in her 90s and certainly was not interviewed
20 by the police at that time. She was, however,
21 interviewed in the 1990s, the mid-1990s, about
22 complaints that other people had made about her.

23 At that stage she would have said that nobody was
24 ever made to kneel with their hands on their heads, that
25 she didn't hit children.

1 SR116 was actually interviewed. Now she said that
2 she did not remember you. We were discussing this,
3 because, as you will see, your name is incorrect on this
4 witness statement.

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

6 Q. This is the typed version, and somehow that name was the
7 name that was given to SR116. She was never asked about
8 you by maiden name.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. So it is really unsurprising that she did not remember
11 you, because this was a name that meant nothing to her.

12 **A. She definitely would have remembered me, Christine,
13 without a doubt.**

14 Q. By your maiden name?

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. She said that children weren't made to sit with their
17 hands above their head. She denied hitting you on the
18 wrist with a ruler or doing that to anyone else.

19 Now you were telling me when I was discussing this
20 with you earlier that you actually had spoken to SR116.

21 **A. I actually spoke to her. I can't remember exactly when,
22 but I would say maybe it is about seven years ago. It
23 was just before I retired. I just -- I got her number
24 anyway and I rang her. We had a short conversation.**

25 **One thing she did say to me, which threw me, was,**

1 "HIA37, did I hit children in the home?" I was really
2 dumbfounded. I said, "Yes, you did. Why? Do you
3 forget?" She said, "I've no memory of it. Did I hit
4 them with a stick?" and I said, "Yes, a bamboo cane",
5 but I was totally flummoxed that she could say very
6 conveniently she had no memory.

7 Q. She, in fact, you were saying sent you a card from
8 America when she worked there.

9 A. Now that would have been not too long after I left the
10 convent, because I still was going up for NHB 72
11 I mean, after NHB 72 left the convent, I never went near
12 the place, but she did send me I think it was
13 a Christmas card from in America. So she
14 definitely did -- you know, she did remember me, but, as
15 you say, Christine, my name now would have thrown her.
16 I accept that.

17 Q. Well, HIA37, you will be glad to know that those are all
18 the questions I have to ask you apart from two things.
19 One is that we ask those people who come to tell us
20 about their time in the homes about what their view is
21 about the recommendations that the Inquiry will have to
22 make at the end of its work. I wonder what your view
23 about those recommendations is.

24 A. Well, I know the first one is an apology, which I do not
25 accept. It is too late and it did not come until things

1 were public, and those who should be apologising are no
2 longer with us except SR116.

3 I feel quite hurt that they deny and give quite
4 trivial excuses, because to me they are saying we are
5 liars. We are not. It is just the likes of given
6 numbers, and that those humiliating things and the Jeyes
7 Fluid and what have you. I am not going to repeat that.

8 I believe there is some talk about a memorial.
9 I have spent most of my life trying to forget those
10 years. What shape would a memorial take? I envisage
11 a nun standing with a cane held in her hand over a child
12 kneeling with her hand out. Sorry. That's my vision.
13 I was chastised, as I said, at home by my parents, but
14 never the extreme and cruel measures used physically,
15 psychologically and emotionally in that place. At times
16 it was over-kill. We were naughty, sad children. We
17 were not bad.

18 As for compensation, they got money per capita for
19 each child. I do know that. I did a bit of research.
20 I was taunted and haunted with their remarks, "We don't
21 get any money for you and your sister". One asked --
22 suggested that we stay to pay them back. I have already
23 spoken about that. We worked and maintained that
24 building for them. It was unpaid labour. To earn our
25 keep, to care and maintain Nazareth House, laundry and

1 other jobs, we were unpaid labourers, not children in
2 care. It was nothing but humiliation and degradation.
3 To me we were just -- we were just labour for them.
4 They did not love us. Most of the time they didn't like
5 us, and all I felt most of the time was they loathed us
6 -- me anyway.

7 So, no, I don't want an apology, but I will tell you
8 what. Yes, redress. From a very early age I learned
9 that money was very important to them. So now I know
10 that money is important. So for our paid labour (sic)
11 and for all the hurt and suffering that they, you know,
12 bestowed on us -- and they continue to, because they are
13 implying that we are liars -- I would agree with
14 redress.

15 Q. Well, HIA37, thank you very much for that. I hope you
16 feel that we have covered everything that you wanted to
17 say, but if there is anything that I have missed or we
18 haven't covered, if there is, now is your chance to
19 say.

20 A. Well, I just know some of the girls seem to have had
21 a less harrowing time than us. For them I am really,
22 really happy. I am, but all we can do is give our
23 individual stories. The fact is when they tell me,
24 I might disagree, but I believe them, because it is
25 their story, but I would expect them to respect and

1 **accept my story as well.**

2 Q. Thank you very much, HIA37.

3 **A. Thank you.**

4 Q. The Panel may have some questions for you.

5 Questions from THE PANEL

6 CHAIRMAN: HIA37, can I just ask you a question about your
7 time in school? You said you enjoyed being at
8 St. Monica's and were doing well and so on. Then you
9 learned you had got a scholarship to the
10 Grammar School in Did you sit the 11 Plus
11 in St. Monica's?

12 **A. No. It was -- to my understanding it was based on my**
13 **junior certificates results. I did quite well then --**
14 **I don't know -- when I was 14 or something, but I know**
15 **I did get a lot of distinctions and credits. So**
16 **I assumed that it was on the junior certificate. I know**
17 **that because I didn't do the 11 Plus. I actually went**
18 **into the second lowest stream in -- as a result of the**
19 **entrance exam that you had to do to go into**
20 **St. Monica's. Pretty quickly then I was put up into 2B**
21 **and then 3A and 4A, 5A. So no, there wasn't an 11 Plus,**
22 **no.**

23 Q. It's a long time since I sat the junior certificate. It
24 was usually when you were 14 or 15. Isn't that right?

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

1 Q. You think it was as a result of the marks you got in
2 that --

3 **A. I do, yes.**

4 Q. -- that you were awarded this scholarship?

5 **A. I do, yes. I would have been top of the class.**

6 Q. So you would have been going, I presume the intention
7 was, to do either your senior certificate or possibly
8 'A' levels --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- because the system was changing about that time.

11 **A. It was. You had your 'O' levels and that. We didn't do**
12 **senior, but I know I was studying for my 'O' levels,**
13 **yes.**

14 Q. You went to the grammar school for a bit and then you
15 told us how you didn't like it.

16 **A. Uh-huh. I can't even remember actually how long I went.**
17 **I did get in touch with the grammar school to try and**
18 **find out -- with both schools actually.**

19 St. Monica's had a whole overhaul and it's a mixed
20 school and all now, but they said that there was big
21 renovations in I think it was 1992 and all the old
22 records were destroyed.

23 As for the they didn't have a record on
24 myself and the other girl going there. So I don't know
25 whether I went for a couple of days, a week or a month.

1 I just don't know.

2 Q. It doesn't sound as if it was very long anyway.

3 A. No, it wasn't long, no.

4 Q. Thank you.

5 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA37. Can I just ask: some
6 of the other people have talked about older girls
7 supervising as a part of the ... Do you remember that?
8 Was that an element of your experience?

9 A. I don't actually remember anybody. We would have called
10 it "in charge of". I don't actually remember anybody in
11 charge of me, but I remember being in charge of some
12 younger girls, and the story with the socks, that girl
13 was actually about the same age as me. I thought she
14 was older, but I think maybe she was younger, but not
15 much.

16 Q. When you were in charge of the younger girls, what did
17 that entail?

18 A. I can't really remember. I think it was just
19 supervision, you know, like in the bath if you are
20 getting washed and things like that.

21 Q. Just like a big sister?

22 A. Yes. More mentorship I suppose when I think about it
23 now, yes. Uh-huh.

24 Q. Okay. Thanks very much.

25 A. Thank you.

1 MR LANE: A couple of points I would be grateful if you can
2 just clear up for me. About the letters, you said how
3 you thought the letters weren't sent to your father.

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. Then on the other hand you are saying about the letters
6 being checked by the nuns so that they were acceptable.
7 It almost implies some of those letters were actually
8 sent. Did they stop all the letters or did they
9 actually send some of them?

10 **A. Oh, no, they sent some of them definitely.**

11 Q. Right.

12 **A. I actually think it was when I was younger, because, as**
13 **I said, I was the next thing to illiterate when I went**
14 **into it. I quickly did catch up. So all I can say is**
15 **maybe when I was about 9, I started to send the letters,**
16 **because I always remembered my address. I never got**
17 **replies. Obviously my dad didn't get them. He wasn't**
18 **there, but in later years then he wrote regularly. The**
19 **letters were always opened, censored, and any letter**
20 **that I wanted to send, number one, I wouldn't have had**
21 **the money for a stamp, and I wouldn't have been able to**
22 **go out to post them at that stage, and you had to show**
23 **them the letters.**

24 Q. You thought some of those did get through, though?

25 **A. Oh, yes.**

1 Q. That's right?

2 **A. Quite a few. Uh-huh. Quite a few.**

3 Q. Another one. You mentioned having to stand on a box
4 when you were working in the laundry --

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. -- to get into the sink. Was that part of the regular
7 equipment or was it a box got specially for you? Were
8 other -- you know, were other girls in the same position
9 as yourself, being small?

10 **A. I would say others were. I can't remember. All I knew
11 was I had to stand on this box. So I can assume there
12 were other smaller girls had to do the same. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. You also mentioned obviously that serious incident with
14 SR31.

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

16 Q. Did you know of any others that were like that, where
17 other girls, you know, reacted in the way that you had
18 reacted?

19 **A. I know other girls did run away for different reasons.
20 Some of them ran away because they wanted to try and get
21 home again and it would have happened in their early
22 years. Obviously they were older and they knew how to
23 get there, but, yes, there were many incidences and they
24 were all brought back again.**

25 Q. Yes.

1 **A. Whether it was for the same reason as me I don't know.**

2 Q. Okay. Thank you very much.

3 **A. Thank you.**

4 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA37, those are the only questions we want
5 to ask you. Thank you very much indeed for coming to
6 speak to us today about your experiences.

7 **A. Thank you.**

8 Q. We are very grateful to you.

9 **A. Thank you.**

10 **(Witness withdrew)**

11 MS SMITH: Chairman, that concludes the evidence that we are
12 putting forward today.

13 CHAIRMAN: Well, we will adjourn now and we will resume at
14 the usual time tomorrow morning.

15 (3.35 pm)

16 (Hearing adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning)

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WITNESS HIA20 (called)2
 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY3
 Questions from THE PANEL76

WITNESS HIA141 (called)80
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