
HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at

Banbridge Court House

Banbridge

on Wednesday, 15th April 2015

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 109)

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

1 Wednesday, 15th April 2015

2 (10.00 am)

3 WITNESS HIA142 (called)

4 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Can I, as
5 always, remind to you ensure that mobile phones have
6 been turned off or at the very least placed on
7 "Silent"/"Vibrate", and also that no photography or
8 indeed recording is permitted either in the Inquiry
9 chamber or anywhere on the premises.

10 Good morning, Ms Smith.

11 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and
12 gentlemen. Our first witness today is HIA142. He is
13 HIA142. HIA142 wishes to affirm and he also wishes to
14 maintain his anonymity.

15 WITNESS HIA142 (affirmed)

16 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, HIA142. Please sit down.

17 **A. Thank you.**

18 **Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY**

19 MS SMITH: Just before we come to your statement of evidence
20 I am going to let the Panel Members know where some
21 documents in relation to you are in our bundle.

22 HIA142's statement can be found at SNB-283 to 287.

23 His -- the Congregation's response is at SNB-2030 to
24 2031.

25 The Health & Social Care Board response is at 5682

1 to 5683.

2 There is material in PRONI, which can be found at
3 31055 to 31056 and 32095 to 32097.

4 There are also civil claim papers at 71023 to 71024.

5 If we could -- first of all, if we could look at
6 HIA142's statement, which is at 23... -- sorry -- 283.
7 Now, HIA142, you will see in front of you is the
8 statement that you have prepared for the Inquiry and you
9 will see that instead of your name it gives the
10 designation that we have used to protect your identity,
11 which is HIA142.

12 If we just go to the last page of that, if we may,
13 please, at 287, can I just ask you, HIA142, to confirm
14 that you signed the statement on 18th July of last year?

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. And this is the statement of evidence that you want the
17 Inquiry to consider together with anything else that you
18 say this morning?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. Thank you. Now if we go back to the first page of your
21 statement at paragraph 1, you are now aged 55, HIA142.
22 Isn't that right?

23 **A. Correct.**

24 Q. Your personal details are set out there in paragraph 1.
25 It is true to say that your siblings' names are blacked

1 out there. A lot of what you are aware of about how you
2 came to be in care and where you were comes from your
3 siblings. Isn't that true?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Now there are documents that I was discussing with you
6 and I am just going to go through those now to let the
7 Inquiry know what I believe has happened in respect of
8 you and your family.

9 If we look, first of all, at a document at 32098,
10 and if we could scroll down, please, to paragraph 62,
11 this is an extract from the County Welfare
12 Committee minutes from 1961. You will see there that
13 the Children's Officer's Report for Gleneyre Children's
14 Home submitted a report indicating that there were
15 a number of eight admissions to the home in that period
16 of time between March and April of 1961 and set out
17 there the names of six [surname redacted] children.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. I am going to use the names, HIA142, but just as we have
20 given you anonymity, your siblings' names can't be used
21 outside this room, but there was a

22 and HIA142 [surname redacted] placed
23 into Gleneyre Children's Home in March of 1961 --

24 **A. Plus .**

25 Q. -- when you would have been one year of age. Isn't that

1 right?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. Now those would seem to be your siblings. I know you
4 would have called them , , and
5 , but it would seem to be those may be family pet
6 names and these might have been their Christian names.

7 **A. Yes. Well, I didn't know them by any other name, you
8 know.**

9 Q. Yes, but certainly that would seem to be consistent with
10 another document, if we look at that, which is the
11 register, the Sisters of Nazareth register, at 4394.
12 You will see there, if we can scroll down, there was
13 a , , , and HIA142 [surname
14 redacted] admitted on 2nd February 1962.

15 So this seems to suggest that some of your siblings
16 were in Gleneyre Children's Home in Armagh and they
17 moved at some point to the Sisters of Nazareth House in
18 Belfast. It says here you were recommended by the
19 Belfast Welfare Authority. So the responsibility moved
20 from the Armagh Welfare Authority to the Belfast Welfare
21 Authority when you were moved up into Belfast.

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

23 Q.

1

3 Q. Just to be going back to the documents from the Public
4 Records Office, there is another entry at 32097. If we
5 can scroll down again, the Children's Officer's Report
6 between June and July 1961 for Gleneyre Children's Home
7 records that on 23rd June HIA142 was taken to the Royal
8 Victoria Hospital, Belfast for an EEG examination.

9 **A. That was when I was in jail.**

10 Q. Well, this is in 1961, HIA142. You had an EEG back in
11 1961.

12 **A. I don't know what that was for.**

13 Q. You would have been very -- you would have been a baby
14 at this stage.

15 **A. Right.**

16 Q. You would have been very young, but there is certainly
17 a record of you being in Gleneyre in June 1961. Then if
18 we look to -- going back to your statement, you always
19 believed that you were in Nazareth Lodge Children's
20 Home. Isn't that right?

21 **A. Yes. Well, I was always told it was Nazareth Lodge, you
22 know.**

23 Q. Yet when we were talking earlier, you can remember it
24 being on the Ormeau Road --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- which would have been Nazareth House. That is
2 consistent with the fact there is a discharge slip in
3 respect of you, which can be found at 4396. You will
4 see here that it certifies that:

5 "I have received my charge, HIA142, from under the
6 care of the Sisters of Nazareth, Nazareth House,
7 Ballynafeigh in a perfect state of health and
8 cleanliness."

9 It is signed by WF Thomson, who is described as
10 a Belfast Welfare Officer. It is dated
11 23rd December 1964.

12 If I can just look at one other piece of the jigsaw
13 puzzle, which is another document from the Public
14 Records Office, which relates to Belfast -- yes, Belfast
15 Welfare Committee minutes of 1965, January 1965. That's
16 at 31056. If we can scroll down to (c) there, it says:

17 "To report that HIA142 (Date of birth:
18 Nazareth House was boarded out with Mrs [name
19 redacted]", and her address there, "on 6th January."

20 So that suggests that you were taken out of Nazareth
21 House by a Belfast welfare officer and then placed with
22 your aunt. That is actually what did happen. Your aunt
23 subsequently adopted you. Isn't that correct?

24 **A. Yes. Aye. That's her proper address.**

25 Q. That was your Aunt . So that refers to you.

1 I have raised the details that these documents have
2 disclosed with the Health & Social Care Board and they
3 are going to see if they can find out any other
4 information and have any records about your family
5 moving from Gleneyre to Nazareth, which would help with
6 -- fill in some of the gaps that there are in the
7 information, HIA142.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Well, now if we can go back to your statement at
10 page 283. This is also -- I should say in paragraph 2
11 of your statement you say that you believe you were in
12 care from a younger age than 2.

13 **A. Well, I was going by what relatives told me, you know.**

14 Q. Yes, but that would be -- that would be correct if what
15 the Public Records Office material is showing that you
16 would have been in.

17 **A. Yes, it seems to be, yes.**

18 Q. Seems to have been in care from a much earlier age than
19 the time you moved to --

20 **A. I think it is that part where I was in ...**

21 Q. Gleneyre.

22 **A. ... Gleneyre.**

23 Q. Yes.

24 **A. That's probably where it's confusing.**

25 Q. Well, your memories -- you start to talk about your

1 memories of your time in what we now know was Nazareth
2 House through between the ages of almost 2 and to about
3 4 and a half, according to the record that we have
4 discovered. So you were there at a very young age.

5 From what we have learned about the house and how it
6 operated that would suggest that you were actually in
7 the nursery section of the house and your sisters, who
8 were all older than you -- isn't that right?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. They were probably in the house proper, but you would
11 probably have been in the nursery, and that would
12 probably be what you are describing from your memories.

13 At paragraph 3 you talk about you have a scar
14 , which you say was given to you by
15 a plain-clothed woman, who worked in, as you described
16 it, Nazareth Lodge, but what was in reality the House:

17 "I am not able to remember her name. In the home
18 I had a chore to do each day and mine was to look after
19 a baby. The room we slept in was divided by
20 shutters, with the older ones like me sleeping in beds
21 and the younger babies in cots on the other side. When
22 the baby cried at night, I would go to him. One night
23 he was crying, and because I recognised his voice, I
24 went in to see him. When I got back to my bed, I got
25 whacked in the face and I just bled all night. It was

1 definitely a woman, because I can remember the sound of
2 her voice shouting and the sound of her unzipping the
3 boot that she hit me with. I didn't see her face, but
4 I did see her silhouette. I got hit the next morning as
5 well for bleeding all night and soiling myself. We were
6 usually hit with keys around the head and this would
7 happen most days."

8 Now, HIA142, a couple of things that I just wanted
9 to raise with you. This child whom you say you had to
10 look after, you yourself were very young, and the
11 Congregation would say it would be unlikely that such
12 a young child would have any responsibility for a baby.

13 **A. No. Well, I put it down to, you know, me looking**
14 **after -- saving them ones time, you know, for me to look**
15 **after the little baby, you know.**

16 Q. You say you were told to look after him.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Is it possible that this child then kind of adopted you?

19 **A. Probably did, yes. He was in the cot, you see, and**
20 **I was in the bed.**

21 Q. Well, you remember -- you think this was a staff member
22 other than one of the Sisters that actually hit you.

23 **A. Yes, it was definitely a staff member, but there was**
24 **Sisters there as well as the priest.**

25 Q. Paragraph 4 you go on to say that you remember you had

1 trouble with food in Nazareth Lodge, as you say, but
2 again the House:

3 "Even now I have trouble eating because of it. We
4 had porridge every morning. They force fed me and they
5 actually held me in a clamped position to keep me still
6 and to make me swallow. I was made to eat cabbage and
7 fish and to this day I still don't like fish.
8 I remember it sticking in my throat. We were constantly
9 hungry and I remember I used to ask my sister to bring
10 me in some fruit."

11 Now the Congregation have said that the food that
12 they provided was the best that they were able to, and
13 that while children were certainly encouraged to eat, no
14 child was ever force fed.

15 **A. I was.**

16 Q. You describe bath time here at paragraph 5 and you said
17 that those were the worst. They happened once a week.
18 You said that the nuns would pull at your penis and tell
19 you that it was dirty. They used carbolic soap on you,
20 and you remember being in one of the steel baths and
21 getting whacked on the head with a scrubbing brush.

22 "The water was always scalding hot. They scrubbed
23 you until your skin was raw."

24 You say that that was the worst about the Catholic
25 Church and its need for cleanliness. You say:

1 "There used to be a priest there on bath nights and
2 that he always smelled of smoke. He never came near me,
3 but he was always there in the background."

4 I was asking you a little bit more about that,
5 HIA142 --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- and how you know, first of all, that this person was
8 a priest.

9 **A. I can always remember the dog collar, you know. For**
10 **some reason I was always afraid, you know, of him, but,**
11 **I mean, he never -- he never touched me. You know what**
12 **I mean?**

13 Q. Where would he have been?

14 **A. He would have been standing in the background.**

15 Q. Just in the bathroom?

16 **A. Yes. Well, it wasn't a bathroom. To me like it was**
17 **a big room; a load of us, you know.**

18 Q. One of the Congregation have said they had proper baths
19 in the home, steel baths.

20 **A. No. It was a tin bath, two handles on the end.**

21 Q. Well, at paragraph 6 you go on to say that you didn't
22 know what Order of nuns it was that was looking after
23 you, but you remembered light blue clothing --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- and that was the habits that they wore. You said you

1 tended to keep your head down out of fear. One of the
2 nuns wore brown sandals. You knew when you saw her feet
3 coming that she would hit you. You said you must have
4 been used to it for you to cry to get back to it when
5 you finally left for your aunt's house. You believed
6 you had become institutionalised by that stage.

7 **A. I cried to get back to it, because I thought that was**
8 **natural life. Do you know what I mean? I was getting**
9 **a sort of love and attention when I went to my aunt's at**
10 **first, but I cried to get back to the --**

11 Q. To the home that you had known.

12 **A. -- to the home, because I thought it was natural.**

13 Q. You go on in paragraph 7 to talk about being -- during
14 the day you said you used to get tied by old cloth and
15 held against old iron radiators when they were on. You
16 remember your skin being burnt on many occasions, but
17 never getting any treatment for it. You thought that
18 was your punishment for having done something wrong such
19 as soiling the bed or making too much noise. You said
20 when this happened, sometimes you had clothes on and
21 sometimes not. You say that the sound of the swishing
22 of the nuns' robes and the jangling of keys will always
23 stay in your mind, you were so afraid of those sounds.

24 You remember the baby you looked after being treated
25 badly too,

1 You could hear him crying all the
2 time and you can remember seeing him being whacked
3 across the head with a lump of wood and the blood being
4 spattered on his head. You don't remember ever having
5 to change his nappy, but you just had to look after him,
6 and you think he was very afraid too, because he used to
7 cling to you.

8 Now, HIA142, can I just ask about this incident
9 about the child and the lump of wood? This seems to be
10 a very --

11 **A. Yes. Well, to me it looked like a lump of wood, you**
12 **know, but it could have been something else, you know,**
13 **but I remember him getting hit over the head with it.**

14 Q. And you remember there was blood?

15 **A. Yes. Actually he went into silent mode after that. He**
16 **never cried or anything after it.**

17 Q. Well, you talk here in paragraph 8 about:

18 "If you wet the beds, you were dragged out of bed
19 and smacked. They took your pyjamas but never bothered
20 to turn the mattress."

21 You also go on to say that you had chores to do --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- in the home. The boys had to scrub the floors
24 together, but that wasn't very often.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. Is there anything you remember particularly about that?

2 A. **What do you mean? The chores?**

3 Q. Uh-huh.

4 A. **Well, I think it was just to keep us occupied, you know,**
5 **stop us being mischievous, I suppose, as children.**

6 **I mean, I can always remember -- the smell of carbolic**
7 **soap will never leave me, because it was always there,**
8 **you know, even to do floors and everything.**

9 Q. You said you had to go to mass and confession every day.
10 You said you would just make things up to confess just
11 to get out quickly.

12 Now we were talking about this earlier --

13 A. **Yes.**

14 Q. -- and I was saying to you that you were only aged 2 to
15 4 when you were in the home. So most children didn't
16 make their confession until a much older age than that.

17 A. **We were always brought to mass. As I said to you, time**
18 **then seemed far distant, you know. It might have been,**
19 **you know -- could have been -- I know we were always at**
20 **mass. I remember being in the confession box and it was**
21 **scary to me, like, you know.**

22 Q. You go on then to talk in paragraph 9 -- I should just
23 say that the Congregation would say that children
24 weren't taken to mass every day --

25 A. **Yes.**

1 Q. -- and they certainly didn't have to go to confession
2 every day. That wouldn't have happened.

3 **A. Well, that's what I am saying, you know.**

4 Q. That's just your perception of it. Is that what you're
5 saying?

6 **A. Perception of it, you know.**

7 Q. Your sister -- that was your eldest sister, who wasn't
8 in the home -- she and your brother visited and came to
9 meet you. You said they visited you and your other
10 sisters. Is that right?

11 **A. Yes. Once my mother came and took my sisters away then
12 they came and seen me.**

13 Q. You met up you say in the big hall with the dark
14 polished floor, and they would give you a present like
15 a car or lorry to play with, but you didn't know what
16 happened to them after that.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You remember your sister coming to wish you a happy
19 birthday, but you don't remember anybody else saying it
20 or any special treatment on your birthday.

21 **A. No.**

22 Q. You don't remember having a Christmas in the home.

23 **A. No, not at all.**

24 Q. You do remember a welfare officer taking you out in
25 a car --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- but you don't remember where you went. You just
3 remember that particular car.

4 You also remember your sister and boyfriend taking
5 you out and you remember getting your photograph taken
6 with them.

7 **A. At the statue.**

8 Q. Yes. We were discussing this, and that statue you said
9 was in -- where -- it is still there, the statue today.

10 **A. Yes. It is across the road from the part I was in.**

11 Q. So you were describing this to me. You were saying --

12 **A. Statue of Our Lady.**

13 Q. As you go up the Ormeau Road, it is on the right-hand
14 side.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. That would be where -- what we know was the Good
17 Shepherd Convent, that photograph -- that statue would
18 be there.

19 **A. I don't know what you call that convent, you know, but
20 I always thought that was Nazareth Lodge as well, you
21 know -- well, House.**

22 Q. You also go on in paragraph -- just one of the things
23 I was asking when we were talking earlier was why you
24 might have been hit by the nuns or can you remember any
25 reason you were hit?

1 **A. No, none whatsoever.**

2 Q. You also --

3 **A. A child is a child. You know what I mean?**

4 Q. Well, I think you said that you might have been
5 mischievous.

6 **A. That's what I mean. A child is a child. Doesn't
7 deserve that.**

8 Q. Paragraph 10 you go on to remember -- one day you said
9 you were out in a rhubarb patch. You took a bit of
10 rhubarb and started eating it. You just realised it was
11 the rhubarb that you got in the rhubarb crumble. You
12 said it was horrible. You said there was an old nun
13 dressed in black there and she beat you with the stalk
14 of it, because you weren't allowed near it. You
15 remember your blood:

16 " ... was spattered on the statue that was near to
17 where we were standing."

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. You were saying this was the same statue that was on the
20 opposite side of the road. Is that right?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. We talked, when we were speaking earlier, about the fact
23 that the Congregation have said various things about the
24 allegations that you make, HIA142, and I read those in
25 full to you, but in essence what they have said is they

1 had a policy of no physical punishment, although they
2 accept that that wasn't always stuck to; that they
3 employed staff in good faith, although they would say
4 that there is an issue with regard to the numbers and
5 standards of training for staff and that that varied,
6 and they accept that's a matter of concern; but they
7 also offered you a sincere apology for any treatment by
8 nuns which fell below the acceptable standard. I asked
9 you what you felt about that apology.

10 **A. I don't accept it, because to me it should never have**
11 **happened.**

12 Q. Well, you were adopted by your aunt --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- and you left the home. You go on to describe your
15 life after care in paragraphs 11 through to 14. I am
16 not going to go into the details of what happened to you
17 afterwards. As you know, the Inquiry is concerned with
18 what happened when you were in the home, but one
19 question we do ask everybody is about the fact that this
20 Inquiry has to make recommendations as to what should
21 happen to mark what happened to children in the homes.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. Various things have been suggested. In paragraph 15 of
24 your statement, which has just disappeared from the
25 screen, you said that you haven't come to the Inquiry to

1 gain anything, but you do not want it to happen again to
2 other children.

3 **A. No.**

4 Q. You say:

5 "The priests were all like saints and there should
6 have been some way of stopping it."

7 You think there should be new laws made so priests
8 should be allowed to marry.

9 **A. Yes. I believe there is too much pent-up sexual**
10 **frustration with them. I would say the same about nuns.**
11 **That anger was coming out in a stupid way. It was**
12 **coming out against children.**

13 Q. Well, is there anything else that you want to say about
14 the Inquiry recommendations other than --

15 **A. Just stricter guidelines.**

16 Q. Well, HIA142, thank you for that.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. I have no further questions for you, but if there is
19 anything that you feel we haven't covered or anything
20 more you want to say --

21 **A. No, no. It is okay.**

22 Q. -- that you remember, then please do.

23 **A. Thank you very much.**

24 Q. Okay. The Panel may have some questions for you.

25 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA142, we don't, in fact, have any

1 questions for you.

2 **A. That's okay.**

3 Q. Just to say thank you very much for coming to speak to
4 us today and telling us about your experiences. We are
5 very grateful to you for doing that.

6 **A. Thanks for hearing me.**

7 **(Witness withdrew)**

8 MS SMITH: Chairman, I am not sure if Mr Aiken is ready to
9 take the next witness yet, but ...

10 CHAIRMAN: Well, we will rise for a few moments to see what
11 the position is.

12 (10.35 am)

13 (Short break)

14 (11.15 am)

15 WITNESS HIA430 (called)

16 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

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

18 The next witness today is HIA430, who is HIA430. She
19 was originally HIA430 and was, in fact, HIA430. She has
20 explained in paragraph 1 of her statement that her
21 relatives gave her the

22 . She
23 is aware, Chairman, you are going to ask her to take the
24 oath.

25 Before I do that, HIA430 also faces two allegations

1 as well as sharing her experience with the Inquiry, and
2 her legal representatives are in attendance, and I will
3 get Mr Cleland to give his appearance.

4 MR CLELAND: Mr Chairman, Members of the Panel, my name is
5 Conor Cleland. I am counsel instructed on behalf of
6 HIA430 and I am instructed by Mr Neil Deery of Ian
7 Mallin Solicitors, who accompanies me this morning.

8 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

9 MR AIKEN: HIA430 is going to take the oath, Chairman.

10 WITNESS HIA430 (sworn)

11 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, HIA430. Please sit down.

12 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

13 MR AIKEN: HIA430, if you just pull the microphone towards
14 you a little bit so that -- just speak into it. Coming
15 up on the screen, HIA430, will the first page of your
16 witness statement I trust at 801. Can you just check
17 that it is the same as the hard copy that you have in
18 front of you except for the black marks?

19 **A. (Nods.)**

20 Q. If we then move to the last page at 807, and if you look
21 at the last page on the hard copy, HIA430, and can you
22 confirm that that's the same last page --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- except for black marks --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- and that you have signed your witness statement?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. And that you want to adopt the contents of your witness
4 statement as your evidence to the Inquiry?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. You want to adopt it as your evidence to the Inquiry?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. From our discussion earlier you are aware that the black
9 marks are part of the Inquiry's anonymity policy in
10 operation and you would like to keep your anonymity.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You have also provided a second statement to the Inquiry
13 dealing with the two allegations that were made against
14 you. If we bring up, please, 80094, and then, HIA430,
15 can you just check that that is, apart from the black
16 marks, the replying statement that you have provided?

17 **A. Sorry. Say that again.**

18 Q. Can you just check that that is an accurate -- I am not
19 sure have you a hard copy of it. We will bring you over
20 a hard copy and you can just check the -- so if you just
21 check the hard copy matches the one that's on the screen
22 except for black marks.

23 **A. There's nothing there. Yes.**

24 Q. It is the same statement?

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. If you just scroll down, you can see the one on the
2 screen you can't see the signature, but can you confirm
3 you have signed the statement?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. And you want to adopt it as your evidence to the Inquiry
6 as well?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Then if you bear with me for a moment, HIA430, as
9 I explained to you, I am going to tell the Panel where
10 in the electronic bundle various documents relating to
11 you can be found.

12 You brought along to the Inquiry yourself, HIA430,
13 a series of what I am going to describe as enlightening
14 letters that your mum had kept. We were having some
15 discussion. You believe those were written by SR31.
16 I was explaining to you why I think they are written by
17 SR176, who was the Superior at Nazareth House from 1962
18 to 1967. Those letters that you have brought along run
19 from the period of 1965 through to 1969. That's after
20 SR176, the Mother Superior, had moved to Glasgow. The
21 letters are at 32057 to 32070. I know the Panel have
22 found those letters of assistance. We will come to see
23 that the flow of them begins after you are discharged as
24 a child residing in the home, which was in 1963, and the
25 letters begin in '65, but SR176 appears to be keeping in

1 touch with your mum and your mum seems to be making
2 payments towards your maintenance and keeping up-to-date
3 with how you are getting on and so on. We will look at
4 some of those later.

5 In addition to that material which you have brought
6 along, HIA430, as I was discussing with you, the Sisters
7 of Nazareth have provided a response statement dealing
8 with what you have had to say to the Inquiry. That can
9 be found at 2071 through to 2073.

10 As you know, I was explaining to you that in
11 paragraph 14 that contains an apology to you for any
12 treatment you received that fell beneath an acceptable
13 standard.

14 Then the Health & Social Care Board have provided
15 a statement, which is at 6237 to 6238. We were
16 discussing that records that you were privately placed
17 in Nazareth, as you explain yourself, and it was the
18 priest took you to Nazareth, and that the Belfast
19 Authority as a result of not being involved don't have
20 a file that they can produce in respect of your time
21 living in Nazareth.

22 So those are the core documents that the Panel have
23 had access to.

24 I am just going to check with you, HIA430, and you
25 correct me where I get this wrong.

1 You were born on . Is that
2 right?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. You are now years old.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. You married in after -- shortly after the period of
7 the letters that we were talking about. You were 21 at
8 the time.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. You have --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- . You were admitted
15 to Nazareth House on 30th September 1949. I note you
16 hadn't been aware of the precise dates and had not seen
17 the register extract that was kept on you. I will just
18 bring that up for completeness. I know you were keen
19 that you get a copy.

20 I will try to assist you by speaking to the
21 representatives for the Congregation after we finish,
22 but if you look at 4260, this is the register entry from
23 the big ledger that I was talking to you about, and
24 referring to you as HIA430 and coming from the
25 area and your date of birth. Had been baptised in the

1 hospital in . Then your mum's name.

2 Then if we move on to the next page, please, at
3 4261, we see your coming into the home then is recorded
4 as 30th September 1949, and that it involved

5 , and I think we have managed to obliterate
6 underneath that it talks about him being from
7 . That was the local priest from that area.

8 You remain then in the home until 17th
9 December 1963, when you are aged 15. You yourself
10 explain in paragraph 2 of your statement that you
11 remember a priest being involved and you going to live
12 in Nazareth.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. The admission record bears that out. You then talk
15 about your time in Nazareth that you can remember,
16 HIA430. If we look at paragraph 3 of your statement at
17 801, you talk about the subject of bedwetting. You
18 describe how you were one of the children who wet the
19 bed and you describe how you would have been made to
20 stand on the stairs and hold out your wet bedsheet as
21 other children who didn't pass you went on their way to
22 breakfast.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. You also say that on occasion you had to stand with the
25 wet sheet on your head.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. You say that SR31, whose group you were in, which was on
3 the top of the house, would have beaten you for wetting
4 the bed.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. You felt humiliated by the way that bedwetting was dealt
7 with.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. You were explaining to me this morning something that's
10 not in the Inquiry statement, where you talk about you
11 can recall the electric buzzer system being tried out on
12 you, the device on your bed, to try to waken you up at
13 night.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. It wasn't something that worked for you.

16 **A. No.**

17 Q. You continued to wet the bed right through your time in
18 Nazareth.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. You explain how when you were older and working in the
21 old people's home, which would have been after your
22 period in school, so probably 14/15 years of age, you
23 were able to dry your sheets, which was better than the
24 way it had been before that.

25 **A. I found out, yes.**

1 Q. Now I said to you earlier that the Sisters have said to
2 the Inquiry that while they accept their methods of
3 dealing with bedwetting was not great and might be
4 criticised, they do not believe that you would have been
5 made to stand on the stairs holding your wet sheets for
6 all to see. I was asking you, "Was that something that
7 happened all of the time to you?" and you were
8 explaining to me that the punishment, as it were, or the
9 showing that it happened to you wasn't always the same.

10 **A. No.**

11 Q. So you weren't always made stand on the stairs.

12 **A. No.**

13 Q. That was something that just sticks in your mind --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- but you know it didn't happen all of the time. As
16 I said to you, the Congregation don't believe that's how
17 it would have been done. That's your recollection of
18 it. Is that right?

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

20 Q. Then in paragraph 4 of your statement you talk about
21 SR31. The Inquiry is aware -- and I am not going to go
22 through the background to it -- aware of allegations
23 made against SR31 and of her background, but she was
24 in charge of your unit that you
25 lived in, the dormitory on the top floor of the house.

1 **A. That's correct, yes.**

2 Q. The Inquiry is aware she was born in . So
3 she would have been 35 years old around 1960 whenever
4 you are talking about being in her group. You would
5 have been about 11 at that stage. She passed away in
6 2011. She spent about seventeen years in
7 Nazareth.

8 You explain in paragraph 4 of your statement that
9 she would have beaten you on a regular basis for the
10 smallest thing. I was asking you this morning what sort
11 of things were you talking about. You were saying if
12 you had been caught somewhere where you shouldn't have
13 been or you didn't do precisely what you were told, and
14 you were saying to me that not everybody was hit by
15 SR31. It was those children who were strong-willed. Do
16 you want to explain to the Panel what you mean by that?

17 **A. I was a bit stubborn I think and it was from being hit**
18 **all the time, and I was being walloped, and I wouldn't**
19 **cry, and the more I didn't cry, the more she would hit**
20 **me, and I think just that she just had a thing against**
21 **me just because I think I was just stubborn and wouldn't**
22 **give in to her and she just --**

23 Q. Am I right in saying, HIA430, that there were children
24 who never got hit?

25 **A. That's correct. They would be called her pets. There**

1 would be the likes of us, if we were -- she just had
2 something against us and just sort of would try and put
3 her authority over. There was a certain amount of
4 children that she would do that to on a regular basis
5 and then other ones she wouldn't. They would be her
6 pets. I think it was that I was there so long she
7 thought she could do what she wanted. I wouldn't have
8 had anyone to talk to or talk about it.

9 Q. Is it fair if I characterise it this way, HIA430, that
10 if you toed the line, if you did the things that were
11 expected of you, if you complied with the rules --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- and so on, then you would be fine.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. It's --

16 A. If you put your foot -- yes.

17 Q. -- when you stepped out of line that then --

18 A. Out of line, yes.

19 Q. I was also asking you about the hitting. There was
20 a lot of it done in temper.

21 A. Definitely, yes.

22 Q. You were saying that she was someone who had a bad
23 temper.

24 A. Yes. She'd just keep hitting you and hitting you just
25 to get it out with venom. That's what I surmised from

1 **it.**

2 Q. You describe in paragraph 4 how, if she was in a temper,
3 she might have taken her belt off from her habit --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- and used her belt on you.

6 **A. Yes. If she hadn't got anything to hand, whichever was**
7 **the nearest, and sometimes she would whip the belt off**
8 **her.**

9 Q. You described to me earlier it was trying to break your
10 spirit.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. I was asking you, "Was it really only then when the loss
13 of temper happened that the hitting occurred?" You were
14 saying well, you would have got, you know, a natural
15 reaction of getting a swipe with a hand maybe --

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. -- for stepping out of line, but then the worst hitting
18 was when the temper was going.

19 **A. Yes, up in the storeroom, no-one to see.**

20 Q. You mentioned something that you have in paragraph 4,
21 that you talk about the storeroom --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- that you were sent to or taken to for punishment.

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. That was on the top floor; not in the dormitory, outside

1 the dormitory.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. You had to go there to be punished.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. You give an indication that she would also have taken
6 your pants down and smacked your bare bottom.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. You mention that in paragraph 15, about being taken to
9 her room for punishment. I clarified with you you were
10 talking about the storeroom.

11 **A. Storeroom, yes.**

12 Q. You were never taken to her bedroom for punishment.

13 **A. No.**

14 Q. It was always the storeroom.

15 **A. Storeroom, yes.**

16 Q. You give one example in paragraph 4 of where you say
17 that she split your forehead.

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

19 Q. You think you were about 10 or 11, which would have been
20 around '58 or '59. I was asking you could you remember
21 what you had done on this occasion that -- because none
22 of the hitting normally drew blood.

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. What happened on this occasion that caused the cut to
25 the head? Can you remember? If you can't remember,

1 just say.

2 **A. Yes. I can't remember.**

3 Q. You can't remember what it was?

4 **A. There was so many of them you just lost count.**

5 Q. You mentioned to me one of the things you can recall is
6 there was a leg of a chair that was --

7 **A. Yes. What is what I got the split on the forehead.**

8 Q. So it was what was used --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- whenever your --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- the cut on the forehead.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. In paragraph 5 you explain the requirement at night when
15 you were sleeping to sleep with your hands in
16 a particular location.

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. You say that you'd get slapped if your hands were
19 weren't in that position.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. I was asking you, "What would SR31 have used to hit
22 you?" You said she would have used her hand or her keys
23 if they were in her hand.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Was that again just --

1 **A. Just a swipe, yes.**

2 Q. -- a swipe, as it were --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- to get your hands into the position they should be
5 in?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. You say then in paragraph 5 that you thought SR31
8 thought you were interfering with yourselves, and I was
9 asking you, "What leads you to say that?", because you
10 say in paragraph 5 it wouldn't have crossed your minds
11 to be doing that. Why did you think that SR31 was
12 thinking that's what you would be doing?

13 **A. Well, it wasn't till later on that it came to me that
14 that was her idea of walloping you, that, you know, she
15 thought you were interfering with yourself.**

16 Q. Did she say to you that --

17 **A. More or less it was dirty and "Get your hands out of
18 there".**

19 Q. So she made the reference to it was dirty?

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. Something you shouldn't be doing?

22 **A. Yes, but to me, you know, we didn't realise, you know,
23 the significance of it then, you know.**

24 Q. In paragraph 9 of your statement, if we move through to
25 803 -- this is moving away from the hitting -- you

1 describe I know an issue that's particularly difficult
2 for you and that's the stigma of being verbally abused
3 about the fact that your mum wasn't married whenever you
4 were born.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. That was something SR31 would say to you.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Do you just want to say a bit about that to the Panel,
9 why that -- what you remember her saying?

10 **A. As part of the beating she would call me illegitimate.**
11 **"You are illegitimate" and "You are a bastard" and "Who**
12 **asked you to come here?" This was to -- you know,**
13 **referring to the home, and "Your mother left you here**
14 **and no-one asked you". She kept emphasising every time**
15 **she hit me "Illegitimate" and "Your mother's a slut",**
16 **and to this day that word just terrorised me, because**
17 **the way she would say it every time, it -- and I swore**
18 **I would never have anyone calling me that again for the**
19 **rest of my life. So I never told anyone about it, that**
20 **I was illegitimate. It just had an effect for the rest**
21 **of my life to this day.**

22 Q. Am I right, HIA430, in saying that that type of calling
23 you names of that sort was really when SR31 lost her
24 temper with you?

25 **A. Yes, yes, even though I didn't know the word but then --**

1 **what the meaning of the word was, but when I did find**
2 **it, I just thought it was just degrading and it was just**
3 **the worst thing you could -- you know, could be.**

4 Q. You then talk in paragraph 6 of your statement, if we go
5 back to 802, please, about SR134. There were two other
6 nuns as well as SR31: SR134 and SR116. In paragraph 6
7 you say SR134 was not as bad as SR31.

8 **A. No, not to me anyway.**

9 Q. But she would have hit you as well.

10 **A. She would, yes, yes.**

11 Q. I was asking you what occasions you would remember that.
12 You talked about something that happened in the yard.

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. She would have just used her hand on you.

15 **A. Yes, yes.**

16 Q. You said that she might also have sent you to the
17 storeroom to wait for --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- SR31 to come.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. Then SR116 you talk about. That is on the screen as
22 SR116. You say she was a younger nun and she was nice
23 to you.

24 **A. She was, yes.**

25 Q. I was saying to you that the Inquiry has heard

1 allegations from others about her, but you never saw her
2 mistreat any other child.

3 **A. No.**

4 Q. You said to me earlier that she was a more gentle nun.

5 **A. I found her that, yes.**

6 Q. Then you gave me an example of -- albeit you had already
7 left the home as a child, as it were, and were working
8 in the old people's home --

9 **A. Yes, yes.**

10 Q. -- as someone working there.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You have a particular example of SR116 and something you
13 recall her doing. Do you want to tell the Panel about
14 that?

15 **A. When I was working in the old men's department, there**
16 **was a man** **.** He wouldn't
17 **have been educated and was just that little bit slow,**
18 **but a very, very nice gentleman. She taught him how to**
19 **read and write, to the extent that he was able to send**
20 **me a Christmas card every year, and I just thought that**
21 **was a nice, touching thing that she done for him.**

22 Q. You then talk in paragraph 7 of your statement about the
23 cleaning regime --

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. -- and the chores. I was asking you earlier, "Did the

1 main cleaning work happen at the weekends?" You said
2 there was a lot of cleaning at the weekends, but for you
3 it just felt like you were cleaning all the time.

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. Do you want to say what you mean by that?

6 **A. We would be made clean the bathrooms, the floors, scrub**
7 **the long, long corridors and the stairs up to the old**
8 **folks, and the church was constantly being cleaned, and**
9 **doing the brassos. Anything that had to be cleaned in**
10 **the children's area we were made do it as well as**
11 **working in the kitchens and in the laundry.**

12 Q. Well, the Congregation have said to the Inquiry, HIA430,
13 as I explained to you earlier, they accept there was
14 chores and the children were engaged in cleaning --

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- but that was age-appropriate and the chores weren't
17 excessive. As you reflect on them, do you feel that's
18 an accurate description?

19 **A. Definitely, yes, yes.**

20 Q. Do you regard --

21 **A. It was well before I was 15. So it was -- I was much**
22 **younger, scrubbing all the time and cleaning churches**
23 **and the bathrooms and --**

24 Q. So you thought it was excessive --

25 **A. Excessive. Definitely.**

1 Q. -- what was being asked of you?

2 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

3 Q. You give one example in paragraph 7, that you remember
4 being made to clean the toilets as a punishment for
5 something you had done.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Can you remember who gave that you punishment?

8 **A. SR31.**

9 Q. You talk -- I want to just mention doctors. You talk in
10 paragraph 16 at 805 of a particular incident where you
11 got a nail into your leg.

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. You have said that you weren't taken to hospital. It
14 took ages to heal. You didn't see a doctor during your
15 time at the home. Now there have been other witnesses
16 who said they recall a doctor coming in every other
17 week. You just don't have any recollection --

18 **A. No.**

19 Q. -- of a doctor coming in?

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. The Congregation have said to the Inquiry in
22 paragraph 11 of their replying statement at 2072 that
23 some of the Sisters were nurses.

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. As a result they would have cared for smaller issues

1 that didn't need a doctor and would have looked after
2 those types of things. Do you remember the Sisters
3 taking steps like that where that was necessary?

4 **A. No, because I was left with like a hole, a dent still in**
5 **the leg. So there was no treatment at all.**

6 Q. Now in paragraph 17 of your statement you talk about --
7 you talk about this in 17, 18 and 19 -- about you found
8 letters among your mum's documents.

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. That was latterly in recent years you found that
11 material. You took that to be the nuns asking your mum
12 for payment for you.

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. You and I were having a long discussion about those
15 letters this morning.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. I think they come from the Mother Superior --

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. -- SR176 as opposed to SR31.

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. They are writing at a time whenever you are no longer
22 a girl in the home as such --

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. -- but you have moved on --

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. -- but then are also back at times --

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Communications are taking place between your mum and the
6 Mother Superior. They talk about you in a warm way.

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. They are talking about your new boyfriend at one point.
9 SR176 is going to send or SR176 is going to send
10 photographs. In fact, even after she moves on to
11 Glasgow and is no longer associated with Nazareth your
12 mother is still sending her a donation.

13 **A. Yes. Throughout my life in the convent she was sending
14 money regularly to them.**

15 Q. Yes.

16 **A. Like, those letters would have been -- I don't know
17 where they would have been, lost probably, but right
18 through she was sending money all the time for my keep
19 she thought. The nuns would have been getting paid, but
20 she was paying as well, and they told her that --**

21 Q. I am not sure the nuns -- because you weren't with the
22 Welfare Authority --

23 **A. Oh, yes, yes.**

24 Q. -- I don't think the nuns were getting paid for your
25 upkeep.

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. It probably was the case your mum had asked the home to
3 look after you --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- and felt she should contribute towards that I
6 would assume.

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. But the letters seem -- I was asking you, "Do you
9 remember SR176?", who seems to have had a warm
10 relationship with you and your mum.

11 **A. No, I don't remember her.**

12 Q. You don't remember that.

13 **A. I wouldn't have had very much dealings with her, because
14 she obviously wasn't involved in the school or that.**

15 Q. Yes. I am just going to show, because they are of
16 assistance to the Panel generally, because unfortunately
17 the Congregation do not have a lot of documents about
18 the time that we are looking at -- if we could bring up,
19 please, 32067. This is a letter of 13th December 1968.
20 We can see in the top right it is being written from
21 Glasgow. So SR176 had been the Superior in Nazareth
22 House in Belfast from 1962 to 1967 and then she is
23 writing then from Glasgow, where she says to your mum:

24 "My dear Miss [name redacted],

25 I am sure you will be surprised at hearing from me.

1 No doubt you have heard that I have been transferred
2 from Belfast to the above address".

3 which is the address in Glasgow.

4 "I have often wondered how HIA430 was getting on.
5 Indeed, I am very disappointed that she did not even
6 drop me a line since I left Belfast, but I suppose eaten
7 bread is soon forgotten."

8 So she is saying she had expected to hear from you
9 and was asking after you as to how you were getting on.
10 By 1968 you would have been almost 20 or round about 20.
11 So it is about you as an adult.

12 If we scroll down then to the next page, the letter
13 continues:

14 "I do hope she is keeping well and making a success
15 of her life. Remember me then when you write.

16 How are you keeping yourself? I see by the papers
17 you have quite unsettled times in the North.

18 Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and every
19 blessing in the New Year.

20 Yours sincerely,

21 SR176."

22 Then we can see -- we don't have any of the letters
23 that your mum wrote. Obviously she would not have been
24 writing a duplicate or photocopying the letter, but she
25 obviously writes and then gets a response on

1 13th February 1969. If we move through to 32069,
2 please, you appear -- the letter again is written this
3 time on headed notepaper of the Glasgow Nazareth House,
4 and you appear to have rectified the complaint that
5 SR176 was making of not having heard from you. This
6 says:

7 "Dear Miss [name redacted],

8 I was very pleased to hear from you. Thank you for
9 the 2 pounds which you so kindly sent."

10 So your mum appears to have still been donating --

11 **A. Every letter she was getting.**

12 Q. -- to SR176 even after she has already left Belfast.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. So clearly there is a relationship between you and SR176
15 and your mum.

16 "I was also very pleased to hear that HIA430 is
17 still in her job and doing well. It is great -- it is
18 a great thing when girls stick to their job for some
19 time. Is she still going with the same boyfriend?"

20 I think this is referring to the man you ultimately
21 married.

22 **A. Uh-huh. Yes.**

23 Q. "I much really intend to make a match -- I must -- they
24 must" --

25 CHAIRMAN: "They must really intend to make a match."

1 MR AIKEN: There you are.

2 "They must really intend to make a match. Please
3 God they will and be very happy."

4 I think that wish was fulfilled. Then it says this,
5 and I have to give Mr Cleland of counsel credit, because
6 I couldn't work out what the word after "nice" was:

7 "I did get a nice bouquet of flowers from HIA430 at
8 Christmas ..."

9 So she had been complaining in the previous letter.
10 Your mum perhaps brought that to your attention. It
11 seems you have gone to the length of giving her
12 a bouquet of flowers.

13 "... but as there was" -- and if we scroll down --
14 "no address, I could not write to thank her. I expect
15 she has moved from the place where she was while I was
16 in Belfast. I will try writing there anyway."

17 Then she goes on to talk about how she is doing.

18 I was asking you, HIA430, you have no recollection
19 of the fact --

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. -- these might have come from SR176, or any recollection
22 of her, or, in fact, going to the length of sending her
23 flowers?

24 **A. No.**

25 Q. It is just not something you remember?

1 **A. No.**

2 Q. If we go back to -- obviously the Panel have had the
3 opportunity to consider the other letters that are in
4 the series that you have helpfully provided.

5 To characterise the time that you spent as a girl in
6 Nazareth, in paragraph 14, HIA430, you talk about a lack
7 of affection. You were saying to me earlier that it was
8 that lack of affection, lack of love and fear about
9 getting walloped, as you described it, that is your
10 memory of your time in Nazareth House.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Is there anything else you want to say about that or
13 does that accurately cover --

14 **A. I think it was, yes.**

15 Q. But you do talk at paragraph 12 that the one positive
16 memory you have of your time is the holidays in
17 Glenariff --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- and that those are fond memories that you have.

20 **A. Yes. Freedom.**

21 Q. HIA430, what I am going to do now is look at the two
22 allegations that have been made against you and just
23 give you an opportunity to deal with those.

24 The first was made by a girl called HIA28, as she
25 was then, now HIA28, HIA28. Of course, none of the

1 names that we use, as I have said to you earlier, will
2 be used beyond the chamber in any event, but HIA28 was
3 born on . So she was a year and
4 a half younger than you. She entered Nazareth House in
5 July of 1960, aged 10, when, as I said, you were 11 and
6 a half. She was there until December '65. So she left
7 after you. You officially left in December '63, aged
8 15. She would have been 13 at that point. I was asking
9 her -- she said to the Inquiry that she was in SR31's
10 group. The two of you obviously overlapped in time, and
11 you were in SR31's group. Do you have any memory of her
12 at all --

13 **A. No.**

14 Q. -- ?

15 **A. No.**

16 Q. You don't remember ?

17 **A. No.**

18 Q. In her statement, if we just look, please, at 047, in
19 paragraph 22 she has said to the Inquiry what she
20 recalls taking place, and you saying to her that if she
21 did not come with you, then you would

23 Then she describes in the next -- if we move on to
24 the top of the next page, what she then says occurred,
25 and she then says to the Inquiry in paragraph 23 that

1 this abuse happened once or twice a week over a four- to
2 six-month period, and then believed you moved on to
3 other girls.

4 She made a similar description to the police in the
5 statement that she gave on 19th May of 2010. I am not
6 going to bring that up, but it runs from 61285 to 61287,
7 primarily starting at the bottom of page 61286.

8 Now you have given a replying statement to the
9 Inquiry. I am just going to bring that up. 80094. You
10 have essentially said in that statement that your bed
11 was at SR31's end of the room.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. We will come back to that shortly. She would have heard
14 any noises. You say you were someone who would have wet
15 the bed, and essentially that the allegation is simply
16 not true.

17 **A. Correct.**

18 Q. I was explaining to you that HIA28 gave evidence to the
19 Inquiry. I am just going to show you that, because she
20 added some matters that I clarified with her. If we can
21 look, please, at 91196, we start to talk about
22 paragraph 22 of her statement where this matter is dealt
23 with. Can we just scroll down, please? We get the
24 approximate time this is likely to have happened. If
25 her timing is right, around '61/'62. She thought you

1 were older. If we scroll down, I explained to her the
2 age you were and the age she was. If we move down,
3 please:

4 "Q. You explain to the Inquiry that she came into
5 the dormitory and told you to come with her and brought
6 you to her dormitory."

7 This is over the issue you have explained that you
8 were in SR31's group and so was she. I then ask her
9 about the dormitory, because she talks about a partition
10 being in the dormitory. That's what separated twenty
11 beds from another twenty beds --

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. -- or nineteen beds I think she said. It was
14 a partition that had a doorway without a door. You have
15 no recollection of -- you have a recollection of a
16 dormitory --

17 **A. A big --**

18 Q. -- that was simply a big dormitory.

19 **A. A big dormitory, yes.**

20 Q. I was saying to you certainly at a point in time -- you
21 were in the home from a much earlier period -- that is
22 how the dormitories were.

23 **A. They were, yes.**

24 Q. Other people have then talked about a partition coming
25 in and then eventually separated into smaller bedrooms

1 --

2 **A. No --**

3 Q. -- but you have not recollection of --

4 **A. -- because when you looked out -- when SR31 would look**
5 **out her window, she would see right down the whole**
6 **dormitory. There was no partition whatsoever.**

7 Q. So you don't remember the partition being in the
8 dormitory?

9 **A. No, no, no.**

10 Q. Your -- if we just scroll down a little further, please.
11 Keep going down a little further. We talk about what
12 she says to the police. Happening for about four to six
13 months. Then you can see that I put to her the
14 statement that you have made where you explain that
15 that's not what occurred. You deny the allegations and
16 say they were inconceivable. Scroll on down, please.

17 I raise with her the point that you have made that
18 essentially you are saying -- as in you, HIA430, are
19 saying -- that your bed was in the same location as
20 HIA28 is saying to the Inquiry her bed was, and that the
21 point you make, SR31 had a clear view of the dormitory.
22 She is agreeing with you that children are not supposed
23 to be out of their bed and there could be trouble if you
24 did get out of bed or anyone got out of bed, but she
25 gave some examples to the Panel of how that did happen

1 with children talking. Just scroll down, please. She
2 is saying while she might have been potentially getting
3 into trouble, the children did at times not necessarily
4 stay in their bed.

5 If we scroll on down, please, what HIA28 was then
6 saying to the Inquiry, as you can see:

7 "Q. You are saying that's not where she was sleeping
8 --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- at the time these events happened.

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. She was in the other part of the dormitory.

13 **A. Of the dormitory, yes, where the partition is.
14 She was in that -- the next part.**

15 Q. She said to the Inquiry this didn't happen.
16 Anything else you want to say about it?

17 **A. I just know she's telling lies. I know she's
18 telling lies."**

19 Then she goes on to explain how in her view the
20 Sisters wouldn't have known about this particular event
21 that she is talking about involving you, but I was
22 explaining to you earlier, if you scroll on down to the
23 next page, she does say the nuns would have had some
24 idea of some sexual type behaviour from the children,
25 from the girls, and she gave a particular example of

1 **what some girls might have done.**

2 **In fact, you have said, HIA430, to the Inquiry that**
3 **SR31 would have talked about not touching yourself and**
4 **that being dirty.**

5 **A. Yes. That's when --**

6 **Q. That was something that --**

7 **A. -- you were in the bed, lying down in the bed going to**
8 **sleep, you had to cross your finger -- your hands like**
9 **that (gesturing).**

10 **Q. Yes.**

11 **A. If you were caught under the sheets, that's when she**
12 **would say that.**

13 **Q. Is there anything else -- you say to the Inquiry this**
14 **did not happen. Is there anything else you want to say**
15 **to the Inquiry about it in light of what HIA28 has said**
16 **about the layout of the rooms or about the circumstances**
17 **of the description she gives?**

18 **A. Well, I know I was right -- right in front of SR31's**
19 **window and definitely it was a long, long room, and**
20 **definitely I did not take her out of the bed, because my**
21 **bed was wet every single night.**

22 **Q. The second allegation then that I am going to deal with,**
23 **HIA430, is made by HIA103 --**

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 **Q. -- who is HIA103. Now she was born on**

1

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. That makes her three and a half years younger than you
4 at the time you are in the home. She entered Nazareth
5 in January '60, aged 7, round about the same time as
6 HIA28, and you were 11 and a half at that point. She
7 was there again until May '65, which was after you had
8 left in December '63.

9 In her statement to the Inquiry, if we can bring up,
10 please, 072, in paragraphs 11 to 14 she explains how on
11 a number of occasions you took her hand and tried to get
12 her to touch you. She describes this, you being on the
13 bed and some form of game with younger girls round and
14 you doing this with her.

15 She talks in paragraph 11 -- appears to suggest that
16 you were in SR134's group --

17 **A. No.**

18 Q. -- because she talks then about an occasion whenever she
19 told SR134 about what happened and she got punished for
20 it --

21 **A. Uh-huh.**

22 Q. -- by being put into -- you can see she talks about the
23 storeroom on the landing, which had the small camp bed.
24 So it may be SR134's floor had a storeroom as well.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. But I was asking you: is it possible that at one stage
2 you did have a bed in SR134's dormitory?

3 **A. No, I was in SR31's all the time; never moved out of it.**

4 Q. I was asking: is it possible then that perhaps you were
5 in SR134's dormitory, albeit maybe not sleeping there,
6 but with other children playing some sort of game that

7 --

8 **A. No.**

9 Q. -- is the type that HIA103 was describing?

10 **A. No.**

11 Q. Well, she says in paragraph 13 of her statement that you
12 -- having been aware that she would get into trouble
13 with SR134 for telling tales, that you continued to hit
14 her after this --

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- because she knew you had -- that she had told on you.
17 She said broadly the same to the police in June of 2010
18 --

19 **A. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. -- which is at 61716 through to 61719.

21 In your reply, HIA430, if we look at 80094, you have
22 said to the Inquiry that this -- in paragraph 5 that you
23 have read the statement of HIA103, but the statement is
24 also totally untrue.

25 **A. Correct.**

1 Q. I put that to HIA103 whenever she gave evidence to the
2 Inquiry. If we can bring up, please, 91099. She gave
3 evidence on Day 99. She talks about this incident of
4 the hand being pulled away. I summarise all that I have
5 just said to you, HIA430 --

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. -- to her and I put to her what you had said.

8 If we just move through to 91102, please, where
9 I read to her where you say, "It is also totally
10 untrue".

11 "She simply says, 'This didn't happen'. Is there
12 anything else you want to say about that?"

13 She replies:

14 "I would like to say it did happen."

15 She believes -- she said earlier, as I was
16 discussing with you, that the beds were moved; that you
17 weren't sleeping beside her any longer after this
18 occurred.

19 Is there anything else you want to say about what
20 HIA103 had to say to the Inquiry?

21 **A. Well, she was saying she was in SR134's room.**

22 Q. Yes.

23 **A. SR134's room was down --**

24 Q. One floor down.

25 **A. -- one floor down, and I was up in the top floor. So it**

1 **just couldn't have happened, and I wouldn't have bullied**
2 **her, because the incident just didn't happen. So what**
3 **would I bully her for? She is saying that because she**
4 **told on me. So it just didn't happen.**

5 Q. HIA430, the last two things I'm going to ask you -- and
6 we discussed them earlier -- the first is that -- about
7 the recommendations that the Panel might make. At the
8 end of the Panel's work it has to consider what
9 recommendations it might make to the Northern Ireland
10 Government in three areas: an apology of some kind,
11 a memorial or some other means of redress. We ask each
12 witness whether there's anything they want to say to the
13 Panel to assist the Panel with its thinking about those
14 issues. Is there anything you want to say to the Panel
15 about the issue of recommendations?

16 **A. Well, I'd just like an apology for the torture I went**
17 **through mentally for my whole life and it's affected me**
18 **to this day.**

19 Q. The last question, HIA430, that we ask each witness is
20 whether there's anything else about their time in the
21 home that we are looking at -- so for you it is Nazareth
22 House -- is there anything else about your time there
23 that perhaps I haven't covered, or did not cover quite
24 correctly, or just something else you want to say about
25 your time in Nazareth House? Now is your opportunity to

1 do that. Is there anything else you want to say?

2 **A. Just to say that I was put there and they were supposed**
3 **to mind me and look after me and give me -- which I am**
4 **sure my mother thought -- some love and affection, which**
5 **I got none of. All I got was just terrorised,**
6 **brutalised and beaten, and that's my whole life until**
7 **I left, and it's had a profound effect mentally. I'd**
8 **kept it to myself. There's nothing else really.**

9 **Q.** HIA430, I am not going to ask you any more questions.
10 If you remain where you are for a short time, the Panel
11 Members may want to ask you something.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 **Questions from THE PANEL**

14 **MS DOHERTY:** HIA430, thanks very much. Can I just ask about
15 the relationship between younger girls and older girls?
16 Were older girls expected to take responsibility for
17 younger girls or --

18 **A. Sorry. Say that again.**

19 **Q.** Were older girls expected to take responsibility for
20 younger girls, to mind them or supervise them?

21 **A. A certain -- a certain amount of girls would do that,**
22 **yes. They'd be allocated, minding them in the school**
23 **yard and things like that --**

24 **Q.** Okay.

25 **A. -- but there was always -- there was always a nun**

1 walking around. So you were always sort of watched as
2 well.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. You know, if they wanted anything done, they would get
5 the older girls to do it.

6 Q. We have heard from some girls that they were actually
7 allocated a child to look after, like a particular child
8 to look after. Do you remember that or --

9 A. No, I don't remember that, no.

10 Q. Would you have been involved in supervising bedtime or
11 bath time?

12 A. The only time in the bath I remember when we were
13 getting bathed would be hold up a sheet or things like
14 that, but we all done that.

15 Q. Okay. Thanks very much.

16 A. Fill the bath water with Jeyes Fluid and things. You
17 know, that's ...

18 Q. Okay. Thank you.

19 MR LANE: You mention the greater freedom that you had when
20 you were at Glenariff having the holiday time. Was this
21 literally more freedom? Were you allowed to go where
22 you wanted to or was it just the feeling of being away
23 from the home?

24 A. Just the feeling. Just the feeling. It was just like
25 reminding me of when we were in school, secondary

1 wishes to affirm and she also wishes to take advantage
2 of the anonymity afforded by the Inquiry.

3 WITNESS HIA190 (affirmed)

4 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, NL190. Please sit down.

5 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

6 MS SMITH: Now NL190 has provided two statements to the
7 Inquiry, which can be found at SNB 6069 to 6082, which
8 includes exhibits, and the second statement at 6144.

9 If we could go to her first statement, which is
10 6069. NL190, this is your statement that you signed on
11 23rd January 2015. You were specifically asked about
12 this, because the Inquiry had been looking at
13 a complaint that was made in relation to a boy you had
14 been a social worker for.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. You set out your qualifications and experience there in
17 paragraph 1. You were the social worker for HIA210
18 between 1978 and 1982, when you were working in the
19 Social Services office. Isn't that correct?

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

21 Q. You believe that he was still in Nazareth Lodge when you
22 left --

23 **A. Yes, I believe so.**

24 Q. -- in 1982. I was asking was he and his brother -- you
25 had responsibility for him and his brother.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. I asked if they were the only two children for whom you
3 had responsibility who were in Nazareth Lodge and you
4 said that was the position.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. Paragraph 2 here you say that you have very little
7 memory, but having read through the documents that were
8 provided to you, you noted that HIA210 said that he told
9 you on one occasion that SR180 hit him with a stick, but
10 that you have no recollection of him telling you that.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You go on to say that that is not to say it did not
13 happen, but you don't remember it now.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. When we were discussing this earlier, we were saying
16 that -- I was asking you: if he had said something like
17 that, what might you have done about it? Would you have
18 recorded it on his notes or what would you have done?

19 **A. I expect I would, and I probably would have taken it up
20 with the Sister in charge and I would probably have told
21 my team leader.**

22 Q. I know from the investigations that the Inquiry have
23 done and from our discussion that we don't have your
24 original social work notes in relation to HIA210.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. So we can't see if there was anything recorded on those
2 --

3 **A. Unfortunately not.**

4 Q. -- unfortunately, but if we can move on to the next
5 paragraph, you said here you see from **NL 191** ,
6 who was the Senior Social Worker for
7 Belfast --

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. -- in 1985 she contacted you about HIA210's allegation,
10 and at that time you told her that he had never told you
11 about being hit and that you hadn't seen any signs of
12 either HIA210 or his younger brother being punished
13 inappropriately when you were in Nazareth Lodge.

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. As you have said in your statement, while you cannot now
16 recall that conversation, you have no reason to doubt
17 that is what you said to **NL 191** at the time.

18 **A. That's right.**

19 Q. What I was also saying to you is that if that's what she
20 recorded you as having said in 1985, which was nearer
21 the time obviously to when something might have happened
22 involving SR180 and HIA210 --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- that your memory is likely to have been better then
25 than it would be now.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Therefore what you told her was more likely to have been
3 correct in that HIA210 might never have told you.

4 **A. That's right. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. Paragraph 5 you say that you remember that you visited
6 HIA210 and his brother on a number of occasions when
7 they were in Nazareth Lodge. Sorry. Paragraph 4.
8 I beg your pardon. You also had responsibility for his
9 older brother, who was in a family group home ?

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. You talk about bringing the children together. I was
12 wondering if you could remember some general things
13 about Nazareth Lodge. We were trying to tease out what
14 you could remember. I was asking you what your
15 impressions were of Nazareth Lodge.

16 **A. I have very little recollection even of the building.**
17 **I do remember SR180, who was the person I normally**
18 **liaised with, and I think that I usually took the boys**
19 **out to see them. So I saw them on their own. I can't**
20 **remember where we went, but I do remember having them**
21 **out in my car, and I would have seen them quite**
22 **regularly, and I would have phoned and arranged to call**
23 **at the home. There was a sense in which I felt I was**
24 **driving the contact with the boys. It wasn't that the**
25 **home was looking for a social worker to be there, but it**

1 **was my responsibility to keep in touch and to report**
2 **back to our own trust, our own board as it was then,**
3 **yes.**

4 Q. One presumes you were taking that responsibility
5 seriously and were visiting them regularly --

6 A. **Yes.**

7 Q. -- as you were required to, but I was wondering if --
8 there was never an unexpected arrival by you; it was
9 always by arrangement. Is that right?

10 A. **I can't recall ever calling in, because I was driving**
11 **from Portadown to Belfast. So it made sense to arrange**
12 **in advance.**

13 Q. To make sure the boys would be available?

14 A. **Make sure they would be there, yes.**

15 Q. I was asking if you remembered -- you think you always
16 took the boys out, or do you ever remember meeting them
17 in the home or where those meetings might have taken
18 place or anything like that?

19 A. **Unfortunately I can't remember meeting them in the home.**
20 **It may have happened, but I have no recollection of**
21 **that.**

22 Q. You talked about their older brother and bringing the
23 children together --

24 A. **Yes.**

25 Q. -- to meet. I wondered where the three boys might have

1 met. Again do you remember did you ever bring NL 263 to
2 Nazareth Lodge?

3 **A. Yes, I brought NL 263 up to Belfast, but I don't think**
4 **we met in Nazareth Lodge. I think I would have taken**
5 **all three boys out somewhere.**

6 Q. What about bringing the boys from Nazareth Lodge down to
7 where NL 263 was? Do you ever remember doing that?

8 **A. I don't recall ever doing that, no.**

9 Q. You also make mention here of the fact they were a large
10 family.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. There was an incident -- at least one occasion where
13 they were brought -- the younger children were brought
14 to meet their older brothers.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. Can you remember much about that or how that came about?

17 **A. No. The only thing I can remember was it took a lot of**
18 **arranging between various social workers in various**
19 **parts of Northern Ireland to get the family together.**
20 **So -- and also the children weren't really driving that,**
21 **because they didn't know their siblings very well. They**
22 **had been separated when they were quite young and there**
23 **weren't close bonds between them.**

24 Q. But the meeting certainly did not take place in Nazareth
25 Lodge?

1 **A. Not that I recall, no.**

2 Q. Now you say in your statement that it was recognised
3 that splitting up siblings was not good practice, but
4 the reality was that sufficient places were not
5 available in one establishment and certain for a family
6 of this size --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- it would have been difficult to find one placement
9 for them I presume.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. But how was it recognised? I mean, how did you know it
12 wasn't a good idea to split up families?

13 **A. I think it was -- I think it is almost instinctive that**
14 **we feel that we shouldn't split up families; that**
15 **brothers and sisters are important. It may have been**
16 **part of my training, although I can't remember it**
17 **specifically being addressed then.**

18 Q. But you were saying that even then -- it is certainly
19 recognised today, but you said even in the late '70s,
20 early '80s this was a recognised feature of your work.

21 **A. I think it was, yes, yes. We certainly as social**
22 **workers were trying to keep families together.**

23 Q. You mention here in paragraph 5 and you already
24 mentioned SR180 was the person that you liaised with in
25 Nazareth Lodge.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Apart from her being middle-aged you have very little
3 recollection of what she was like.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. I was wondering was she ever in during your visits with
6 the boys?

7 **A. No. As far as I remember I normally saw the boys on
8 their own, not with her.**

9 Q. She might have been there to hand them over to you?

10 **A. She might have been there just to hand them over.**

11 **I would speak to her, say, "I'm here. I'm taking them
12 out", and then hand them back when I returned.**

13 Q. I was wondering if you had any memory of any other staff
14 being involved in that kind of hand-over.

15 **A. I can't recall any other names or faces, no.**

16 Q. You say in paragraph 6 here that you had the impression
17 that the boys weren't happy in Nazareth --

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. -- and you thought, looking back, this was because they
20 wanted to be fostered. You recall they often asked if
21 you had found a family for them.

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. I was wondering did you have any conversations with them
24 that you can recall about why they were unhappy or you
25 had that impression, or was it just around this

1 fostering?

2 **A. I can't recall any specific conversations. I think it's**
3 **just an impression I have, looking back, that they**
4 **seemed to want out of there. They both wanted a family**
5 **of their own, which certainly I felt was a very normal**
6 **thing to want, but I can't recall just specific**
7 **conversations. I am sure I asked them about their lives**
8 **and about what they liked and what they didn't like and**
9 **so on, but ...**

10 **Q. You also talk here -- and I am going to come on in**
11 **a moment to talk about other homes that you had**
12 **experience of -- but you were -- when you first started**
13 **working with them, the two boys were already going out**
14 **to what we and the Inquiry have called foster families,**
15 **but they really were just volunteers.**

16 **A. Befrienders.**

17 **Q. "Befrienders" is the word you have used. You thought**
18 **that arrangement had been set up by the local parish**
19 **priest, but you don't know really how it was set up,**
20 **because it was in place before you were involved.**

21 **A. It was.**

22 **Q. You go on to say that one of the families then was able**
23 **to take NL 204 on a long-term foster care. That family**
24 **was assessed and deemed suitable for that purpose --**

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- but I was wondering whether any enquiries were made
2 -- when you were aware that this foster arrangement,
3 befriending arrangement was taking place, whether any
4 enquiries were carried out at that time to see, "Is this
5 a proper place for these children to go to at the
6 weekends?"

7 **A. The only enquiries I remember was when I was doing the**
8 **home study with the family. I didn't -- I assumed that**
9 **it had been set up by the church and the children's home**
10 **prior to my involvement. So I didn't query that. That**
11 **was something in those days I think that was often done,**
12 **that families would take a child out for the weekend.**

13 Q. When we were talking earlier, you were saying it was
14 simply assumed if people were willing to take children,
15 they were willing to look after them.

16 **A. Yes, yes. There wasn't the same suspicion we might have**
17 **nowadays.**

18 Q. One of the things we were talking about is when that
19 suspicion might have come into -- on to the radar, as it
20 were.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. You were saying that at that stage in the late '70s it
23 was only becoming to come on to the radar -- is that
24 correct -- in the late '70s, '80s when --

25 **A. Yes. This was in the late '70s, early '80s when I was**

1 **dealing with the boys. In fact, I am thinking about**
2 **when we first got training in terms of sexual abuse, for**
3 **instance. Actually I think it was later than that. It**
4 **was more in the late '80s.**

5 Q. You certainly didn't make any enquiries with the
6 Congregation about whether they had vetted this family
7 or anything like that?

8 **A. No.**

9 Q. Well, I was asking -- NL 263 was in a family group home.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. You had other children on your work case load --

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. -- to deal with. I was wondering what experience you
14 had of other children's homes other than Nazareth Lodge.
15 You were talking about one in Portadown, was it?

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. Bocombra?

18 **A. Bocombra Lodge, yes.**

19 Q. Was that a family group home?

20 **A. No, that was a children's home. It was used pretty much**
21 **as an assessment unit. Then they would see what the**
22 **most suitable outcome would be for children. It was**
23 **part of our own -- at the time we were called**
24 **a district. It was our own district's provision for the**
25 **children, and I would have had a few children there. In**

1 fact, NL 263 moved from eventually to the
2 Bocombra Lodge home.

3 Q. I was wondering what you felt -- I mean, how you could
4 compare and contrast Nazareth Lodge with Bocombra. Were
5 there differences you were aware of or what would you
6 say?

7 A. I think with Bocombra Lodge I felt that the staff there
8 were more -- we worked together more as a team and they
9 involved me more in the child's life. Maybe that was
10 because we were employed in the same trust.
11 Geographically we were in the same area. It was easier.
12 We didn't have that distance, but I think compared to
13 Nazareth it was maybe a more welcoming environment for
14 social workers.

15 Q. I was asking about the reviews that you would have had
16 in respect of the children you cared for, and you were
17 saying how things were very different to what they might
18 be now.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I just wondered if you could describe what the
21 circumstances of those reviews were.

22 A. Yes. As far as I remember a review didn't involve any
23 input from the child except what I had just been
24 discussing with them in our visits. It wasn't held in
25 the children's home. It was held in my team leader's

1 office. There may have been a more senior person there
2 as well, but it was simply a matter of me describing to
3 the team leader what had been happening in the child's
4 life and whether everything seemed satisfactory, and
5 that was it really. There was so little involvement
6 from the people directly connected with the child.

7 Q. You were saying that the staff didn't attend these
8 review meetings and you just really related --

9 A. Not back then.

10 Q. -- to your superior what they had told you.

11 A. Yes, yes.

12 Q. I think that's probably all I need to ask you, NL190.

13 A. Uh-huh.

14 Q. I just want to remind the Panel that there is a suite of
15 documents in the bundle in relation to the complaint
16 that HIA210 made, but sadly we don't have his actual
17 social work papers from you.

18 A. At the time, no.

19 Q. They don't appear to be available. I have finished, but
20 there may be some questions from the Panel, NL190.

21 A. Okay.

22 **Questions from THE PANEL**

23 MR LANE: I would just like to ask a bit about the fostering
24 arrangements. You said you as an individual social
25 worker had to arrange the foster placements for the

1 children in your care.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. There was no specialist worker at all nor team in the
4 Southern Board?

5 **A. No.**

6 Q. Would there by that time have been a team in the Eastern
7 Board as being a bigger board?

8 **A. I don't know.**

9 Q. You don't know.

10 **A. I don't know.**

11 Q. All right. Does it mean that each time you wanted to
12 foster a child it had to be a separate exercise? There
13 wasn't a list of potential foster parents or anything
14 like that?

15 **A. There may have been. Yes, there may have been a list of
16 people who had been approved.**

17 Q. Uh-huh.

18 **A. Mostly they would have obviously had placements.**

19 Q. Yes.

20 **A. But we didn't have anybody overseeing a list that I can
21 recall.**

22 Q. So it would have been, say, a team leader or someone
23 like that who would have kept the list?

24 **A. I presume it was, but I do remember having to really
25 drive it forward myself as a social worker.**

1 Q. And it was fairly time-consuming by the sound of it.

2 A. It really was, because I later worked in a fostering
3 unit and, you know, I appreciate just how much time it
4 takes. It wasn't satisfactory obviously at the time,
5 but with so many other work pressures it was very
6 difficult.

7 Q. You were having to learn how to do that with that
8 particular case, were you?

9 A. Yes. I think previous to that I had already done an
10 adoption assessment under supervision. So it wasn't
11 completely new to me, but I do remember assessing that
12 family and then unfortunately they were only able to
13 take the one child.

14 Q. Yes. Thank you.

15 A. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN: Well, NL190, that is all that we want to ask you
17 about. Thank you very much for coming to speak to us
18 today.

19 A. Thank you.

20 (Witness withdrew)

21 MS SMITH: Chairman, I don't believe the next witness is
22 scheduled until 2 o'clock.

23 CHAIRMAN: Yes. We have one witness who is coming and
24 another whose statement is to be read out. So we won't
25 sit before 1.45 at the earliest.

1 (12.45 pm)

2 (Lunch break)

3 (2.15 pm)

4 WITNESS NHB84 (called)

5 CHAIRMAN: Please sit down, Father, just for a moment.

6 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, the next witness
7 this afternoon is NHB84, who is NHB84. He is
8 represented by the legal representatives from the
9 Diocese of Down & Connor who are present and you have
10 their appearance already. The Father is going take the
11 oath.

12 WITNESS NHB84 (sworn)

13 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Please sit down.

14 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

15 MR AIKEN: Coming up on the screen, Father, is your witness
16 statement. If we scroll up, please -- just scroll down
17 the page. Scroll down for me. A bit further, please.
18 Will you just check for me, Father, that that first page
19 matches the hard copy that you have, and then we will
20 move through to the last page on 80078. Can you just
21 check that matches the last page of the hard copy that
22 you have?

23 **A. Yes. That is correct, yes.**

24 Q. Can you confirm for me that you have signed your witness
25 statement?

1 **A. Yes, I have signed it, yes.**

2 Q. And you want to adopt the contents as your evidence to
3 the Inquiry?

4 **A. I do.**

5 Q. As you know from our discussions, Father, the black
6 marks are part of the Inquiry's anonymity policy in
7 operation --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- and you want to keep your anonymity?

10 **A. Yes, certainly.**

11 Q. We have had a discussion about paragraph 1 of the
12 statement --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- and we will take steps to deal with that in the way
15 that I was discussing with you earlier.

16 **A. Thank you.**

17 Q. You, Father, were born on --

18 **A. Correct.**

19 Q. -- and are now aged 82.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. You explain to the Inquiry in your statement -- and
22 I should make it clear, Father, it is well-known that
23 while we use names in the context of our work within the
24 Inquiry room, no names are to be used beyond the
25 chamber. That applies to any reporting of what we are

1 doing today.

2 **A. Okay.**

3 Q. You have explained to the Inquiry that you were
4 appointed a diocesan priest in 1957 when you were aged
5 25. Your first posting essentially was as the chaplain
6 to Nazareth House.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. I was showing you earlier a chaplains' list that
9 appeared to suggest that you began in August of 1957 and
10 you held the role of the chaplain to Nazareth until
11 August of 1963. I am not going to bring that up, but
12 for the Panel that's at 15406, but you have said in your
13 statement and you were saying to me today that your
14 recollection is that you held the role until February of
15 '61.

16 **A. '61. Yes, that's correct, yes, from my memory.**

17 Q. I have raised with Mr McKenna, counsel for the diocese,
18 that the list that has been provided will need to be
19 checked in case other entries are --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- affected in the same way, but either you were there
22 between the ages of 25 and 30 or between the ages of 25
23 and 28/29.

24 **A. Right. Yes.**

25 Q. You explain in paragraph 2 of your statement that you

1 didn't live in the property.

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

3 Q. You lived elsewhere.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. I was asking you about the property and access to it,
6 and you were explaining to me that during the day you
7 would travel by car generally from the Ravenhill Road
8 end --

9 **A. Yes, yes.**

10 Q. -- although your recollection is that the Ormeau Road
11 gate would also have been open.

12 **A. Yes, yes.**

13 Q. As you came in and parked at the Ravenhill Road side of
14 the building --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- you would have been able to go in the back door,
17 which was open --

18 **A. Yes. Correct.**

19 Q. -- but you explain you didn't, though, have any keys to
20 the premises --

21 **A. No.**

22 Q. -- yourself.

23 **A. No. I had no key to the building, no.**

24 Q. If you were coming -- and you talk in your statement
25 about the instances where you might be coming at

1 night-time --

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. -- on that occasion someone would have to let you in --

4 **A. That's correct.**

5 Q. -- because you didn't have the a key to get in yourself.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. You explain in paragraph 3 of the statement, if we can
8 go back to 80075, please -- just amplify the size of
9 paragraph 3 for me. Thank you. You talk about the
10 duties of the chaplain.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. What I want to ask you is whenever you were coming to do
13 this, you were, as I was using the layman's terms to you
14 earlier, fresh-faced, just beginning your first posting
15 --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- and you were given this role as chaplain to a convent
18 --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- with a children's home, with an old people's home.
21 Presumably that wasn't necessarily the role that -- you
22 said to me you'd do whatever you were asked to do --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- but it wasn't the normal role that a priest going
25 into the diocese might necessarily have. What training

1 did you have as to, "What have I got to do here?" How
2 did you learn what the duty was going to be?

3 **A. A conversation with my predecessor, Father NHB144**
4 **NHB144 outlined to me roughly what the duties were and**
5 **I followed the pattern that he had followed in his years**
6 **in Nazareth and just took on that role that had to be**
7 **done and I did it, you know.**

8 Q. You explain in paragraph 3 and then other locations in
9 your statement that you went in and would have said mass
10 every day in the home --

11 **A. Yes, yes.**

12 Q. -- but I was asking you -- your recollection is that
13 every child would have been at mass on the Sunday, which
14 would have been at 7.30 --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- but that the other six days of the week mass began at
17 7.00 am.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. Your recollection is it was alternate groups of the
20 children that came to mass on those days.

21 **A. Yes. That's my recollection. Some of the elderly**
22 **people would have been there and a certain group of the**
23 **children, you know. With regard to Sunday mass, I'm not**
24 **too sure. The very small children, I don't know whether**
25 **they came or not, but generally the children came, you**

1 **know.**

2 Q. Yes. There was more of them on a Sunday --

3 **A. Yes, yes.**

4 Q. -- than on the other days of the week.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. You explain that this happened before breakfast, and
7 I was asking you how long mass would have taken place
8 for.

9 **A. 45 minutes roughly.**

10 Q. You explain then in paragraph 3 how the day moved on.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Then paragraph 4, if we just scroll down a little --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- you move on into the various duties that you had.

15 You explain then in paragraph 8 about the taking of
16 confessions. I was asking you at what age --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- confessions would have begun for the children.

19 **A. About 7, 7 plus, years of age.**

20 Q. The pattern of confessions within Nazareth --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- you were explaining to me that, as you have done in
23 your statement, it would have been groups of children.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Do you just want to explain to the Panel how that

1 worked?

2 **A. Well, my recollection is that a group of children would**
3 **come with a Sister, someone -- or someone to supervise**
4 **them in the church. They would all remain until**
5 **confessions were finished and then they would leave as**
6 **a group. That's my recollection both for mass and for**
7 **confessions, that there were always adults with**
8 **children.**

9 Q. In paragraph 10 of your statement, if we scroll on to
10 the next page, please, you explain your recollection of
11 the layout --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- of the premises.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. The chapel where you would have conducted worship was on
16 the first floor.

17 **A. Floor, yes.**

18 Q. You would also have been visiting in the old people's
19 area of the building --

20 **A. Yes, yes.**

21 Q. -- but what you are saying to the Inquiry, as
22 I understand it, is you never were in the dormitory area
23 of the children's section.

24 **A. I was never in the dining room or the dormitory**
25 **section of the children's area.**

1 Q. You had no cause to be there.

2 **A. No cause at all, no.**

3 Q. The -- we will come back to another aspect of that when
4 we look at one of the allegations.

5 One of the things that you talk about in your
6 statement which became a role that you played as part of
7 your chaplain's role --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- was in a club --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- that existed.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Could I just ask you to explain that to the Panel,
14 because it is part of the aftercare, as it were --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- that happened for the children?

17 **A. Yes. When the girls went out to work, they left
18 a communal living to live in isolated -- usually working
19 in homes, but not exclusively so, and Father NHB18
20 NHB18 founded the club so that the girls who had left
21 the convent and were working in home -- houses here and
22 there could come together and socialise and exchange
23 their stories and renew friendships. That was continued
24 on, and the club was two rooms in Avenue on
25 the first floor, one room with table-tennis table and**

1 a gramophone in those days, and the other room was
2 purely social area to sit and chat. It had a piano
3 I think as well, and then there was a small kitchen for
4 making tea.

5 Q. These were girls who were generally 16 and up --

6 A. Oh, yes, yes.

7 Q. -- who had left Nazareth House --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- and gone on to begin a working life.

10 A. Working life, at various ages, you know, from there on.

11 Q. You were explaining to me that some of those girls were
12 still in touch with you today --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- that you built relationships with during your time.

15 A. Oh, yes, yes. I would still be in touch with quite
16 a number of them. They keep contact with me and I with
17 them and --

18 Q. Was that an enjoyable aspect?

19 A. It was, yes.

20 Q. We were talking earlier. You are, like me, into sport.

21 Was that something that you looked forward to, that type
22 of --

23 A. Yes, I found it very rewarding, because, you know, that
24 idea of them coming together and having a place to come
25 that they considered their own and could do more or less

1 what they liked and socialise, I think it was very
2 valuable work and gave them a base, and it meant that
3 having moved out from the convent, that social life --
4 the community life, they could come and talk to me in
5 the club about any problems they were having or how they
6 were feeling and so on, and again talk to their own
7 colleagues as well, you know. So I think it was a very
8 valuable club that Father NHB18 founded and I think
9 it was very valuable to the girls. Some of them would
10 still refer to the -- to the club, you know, though it's
11 gone now.

12 Q. That's a fond memory that they --

13 A. It's a fond memory for them, yes.

14 Q. I just want to pick up on something you said just now
15 about them being able to talk to you and it is this.
16 Obviously you were, you know, between 25 and 30. It was
17 your first posting, but you are the chaplain to this
18 series of organisations effectively that were being
19 overseen by the Sisters of Nazareth.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Did you ever hear any complaints from any of the girls
22 that you came in contact with, whether through your work
23 in the home or then your work in the club, about how
24 they were being treated?

25 A. No, I never heard any complaints. To this day when we

1 **reminisce, the ones I am still in contact with, there is**
2 **never any idea of complaining about how they were**
3 **treated.**

4 Q. So your experience for those that you are in contact
5 with, who you knew, who stayed in contact with you,
6 their experience may be a lot more positive than others,
7 for instance, who might have talked to the Inquiry?

8 A. **Yes. Oh, definitely, yes.**

9 Q. The other thing -- obviously you were there in the
10 morning for mass, and the Inquiry has heard evidence
11 about various things that might have happened in the
12 chapel, a clip round the ear or nipping to get someone
13 to behave better and so on and so forth. Did you ever
14 witness any hitting of the children that you can recall
15 during albeit the limited time that you saw them?

16 A. **No. I never witnessed anything like that and I can't**
17 **recall any child saying to me that that happened to**
18 **them.**

19 Q. Did you ever see anything that caused you any concern
20 about how the children were being treated? Now before
21 you answer that obviously the context of this is 1957 --

22 A. **Uh-huh.**

23 Q. -- to '63. The world is a bit different than it is now
24 --

25 A. **Yes.**

1 Q. -- but doing the best you can, looking back, is there
2 anything that caused you concern about how they were
3 being dealt with?

4 **A. No. None whatsoever, no.**

5 Q. I was then asking you to think through a hypothetical,
6 because you have said to me, you know, you didn't come
7 across anything that caused you concern, but if you had
8 come across anything that caused you concern, can you
9 recall was there a mechanism in place? Were you
10 supposed to bring it to the bishop? Were you supposed
11 to deal with it yourself? Was there anything set down?

12 **A. No.**

13 Q. There was nothing set down as to how --

14 **A. No, nothing set down, no.**

15 Q. You were saying to me that your gut reaction is you
16 probably would have gone to the Reverend Mother.

17 **A. Yes, that would have been I think what I would have
18 done.**

19 Q. But you have no recollection of having to do that --

20 **A. Never.**

21 Q. -- over anything to do with the children?

22 **A. No, no, no.**

23 Q. I think it is part of what you have said already, but
24 I am just going to clarify so that it is on the record.

25 You don't recall girls coming to you to talk about

1 sexual matters, being interfered with in the home or
2 anything of that kind?

3 **A. No, that never -- never happened, no.**

4 Q. In terms of the system that operated there is -- we have
5 talked about the mass and confessions, which were two
6 parts that you had. Something that has come up over
7 recent days in evidence and previously, but has been the
8 focus in recent days, is a reference to retreats
9 happening in the home. Can you remember having any
10 involvement in retreats? They would have been I think
11 it was suggested at the weekend, a focus on quietness
12 and so on. Do you remember any of that in your time?

13 **A. No, no, I don't.**

14 Q. You don't.

15 **A. It might have happened, but I wasn't aware of it.**

16 Q. But you weren't involved in it?

17 **A. No, no.**

18 Q. I was asking you also about other priests who might have
19 been coming in --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- to the home.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. You were saying to me on occasions there were other
24 priests who would have come in.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. Can you remember the circumstances that would have led
2 to other priests coming and joining you or taking over
3 from you?

4 A. Well, I mentioned Dr Cahal Daly, who is a lecturer in
5 philosophy in university, and who lived nearby
6 . He would have come in on occasions
7 in the morning to say mass and occasionally to let me
8 free would have celebrated mass instead of me. Other
9 priests, possibly unknown to me, would have arrived on
10 holiday, came in, said mass and then left, but I have no
11 recollection of who they were, but I was just aware that
12 priests came in to say mass mainly living there --
13 coming to the area, living there for a holiday period,
14 you know.

15 Q. I presume, Father, at some stage you got a holiday and
16 someone would have covered for you.

17 A. Yes, yes, probably.

18 Q. You have no recollection who that is now?

19 A. Well, Dr Daly would have covered quite often for me and
20 possibly some of the local priests
21 , but I have no recollection of who exactly did
22 that.

23 Q. Now what I am going to deal with now, Father, is the two
24 allegations that have come to the Inquiry. The first is
25 by a lady called HIA316, who is HIA316. As I was saying

1 to you earlier, she was born on and
2 therefore is now aged 63, but she entered Nazareth House
3 1953. So she was aged almost 2, and she
4 remained there until 1st July 1967, when she was 16.
5 Just for the Panel the reference for that is at 4544.
6 So during your time in the home as the chaplain she
7 would have been between the ages of 4 and 12 or, if your
8 recollection about '61 is right --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- 4 and 10 --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- roughly. As you know, in her Inquiry statement, if
13 we look, please, at 829, paragraph 8, she describes this
14 incident where she remembers waking up, and she believed
15 it was the middle of the night, and you were standing at
16 the edge of her bed. She felt she was quite young at
17 the time, possibly 7 or 8. So that would be a time
18 frame at least you would have been the chaplain in the
19 home. She said her nightdress was around her waist.
20 She doesn't remember anything sexual happening, but when
21 she looked back, she wondered if she was sexually
22 abused. That is how she described the matter to the
23 Inquiry.

24 Now you then in your replying statement, if we just
25 look at 80077, please, and paragraph 11, and then just

1 moving on to the next page, you are responding to the
2 allegation. You are pointing out that you don't
3 remember her -- and I will just get you to confirm these
4 things -- you don't remember her as a child.

5 **A. No, I don't, no, no.**

6 Q. You are making the point that, apart from the things
7 that we have talked about, you didn't really have
8 a major involvement in the lives of the children --

9 **A. Children, no.**

10 Q. -- who were living in the home.

11 **A. No, no.**

12 Q. A point that you make is that you were never in the
13 children's sleeping area --

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. -- either at day-time --

16 **A. No.**

17 Q. -- or night-time.

18 **A. No, never there, no.**

19 Q. You do give an example of being called potentially to
20 some of the elderly patients --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- and that would include at night-time.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. You would have been let in by a nun and brought --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- to see the person --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- but you have no -- if a child had been in that --
4 very ill and you were being called --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- that's how it would have happened at night-time?

7 **A. The same procedure. I would have been met at the door,**
8 **door opened and escorted to the person who was ill, and**
9 **I presume that would have been a child, but, in fact,**
10 **that never happened.**

11 Q. In relation to a child?

12 **A. Never called, never called, no.**

13 Q. Whenever HIA316 gave evidence then to the Inquiry -- if
14 we can bring up, please, 91142. She gave evidence on
15 Day 106 of the Inquiry's hearings. If we can just
16 scroll down, please. Scroll on further down. I am
17 asking, as I was discussing with you earlier, Father,
18 asking her about these incidents. She is saying she
19 remembers him being at the bottom of the bed. I asked
20 her:

21 "Q. But you yourself don't say that he did anything
22 to you?"

23 **A. No."**

24 **Then I explain what you have said in your Inquiry**
25 **statement to her. If we can just scroll further down,**

1 please. Just scroll down, please. You can see I was
2 asking her:

3 "Q. Is there any possibility what you remember was
4 an occasion when you were ill and the priest and the nun
5 might have been beside your bed as a result of that and
6 you've woke up and that's the memory that you have?"

7 She says that's not the case. In any event you are
8 saying to the Inquiry that didn't happen --

9 A. No.

10 Q. -- for you that you recall in any event.

11 A. I was never called at night-time to the children's area.

12 Q. So that hypothesis that I was suggesting to her didn't
13 work for her and it doesn't work for you either. Is
14 there anything else you want to say to the Inquiry about
15 what she's had to say other than you making the point
16 that you didn't do anything to her and she is mistaken?

17 A. I'm just making the point that I was never there, and if
18 I had been called, I would have been let in by a member
19 of the staff and brought to the person and escorted out
20 again. I would never have been on my own, but, as
21 I say, I was never called to the children's department
22 at any time, at any time.

23 Q. The second allegation, Father, as you know, is a very
24 serious allegation that is made. It is made by HIA387,
25 who is HIA387. She was born on and is

1 now aged 65. She entered Nazareth on 9th November 1953
2 and was there to 1st July 1961, so between the ages of 4
3 and 12. For the Panel the reference to that is 4258 and
4 4259. During your period then, which began in 1957, she
5 would have been between the ages of 8 and, as she left
6 in '61, age 12. So during your period she was between
7 the ages of 8 and 12.

8 In her Inquiry statement, if we can look, please, at
9 389, she makes a very serious allegation about being
10 raped in a very aggressive, graphic way. What she says
11 is she believes she was about 10 when this happened.
12 Now if that is right, and I think in her evidence she
13 said maybe she was 11, so it's 1959/1960, and she is
14 saying she was one of the last girls out of confession,
15 and she was dragged by the priest along the floor and
16 into the sacristy and there she was raped. As part of
17 that she was verbally abused. What she says to the
18 Inquiry is:

19 "I don't recall this priest's name. However, he was
20 the regular priest that gave mass every day and took our
21 confessions every week."

22 She was saying this was a one-off incident that
23 occurred.

24 Now I was discussing with you earlier if her
25 recollection is correct and her time period is correct,

1 you would have been the priest who was the regular
2 priest doing mass and confessions at this point of time.

3 The Sisters of Nazareth said in response to this
4 paragraph of the statement -- if we can look at their
5 response, please, at 1990, paragraph 11, they say
6 something broadly similar to what you have said to the
7 Inquiry:

8 "With regard to paragraph 13", of the statement we
9 were looking at, "the children would not attend
10 confession every week and would be accompanied by
11 a Sister before and after their confession when they did
12 attend. It is hard to accept that a child was dragged
13 by a visitor without someone noticing this."

14 I think the point you made in your statement --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- was that the way confessions were conducted -- and
17 you said this earlier in your evidence --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- for a different reason -- that the nun would bring
20 the children as a group.

21 **A. Group of children, yes.**

22 Q. Everybody would go through the process of giving
23 confession --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- and then the group would leave again.

1 **A. Yes, yes.**

2 Q. To your recollection you don't recall a small number of
3 girls ever coming over on their own --

4 **A. No.**

5 Q. -- to have confession.

6 **A. No.**

7 Q. You explain then in your statement -- if we can look,
8 please, at paragraph 8 at 80077, you set out for the
9 Inquiry how you recall dealing with confessions at your
10 time. You then -- if we can scroll down to
11 paragraph 12, please, on the next page, 80078, you
12 comment then specifically on this allegation. You say
13 you do not remember that person, but you deny that the
14 event that she describes could ever have happened as far
15 as you are concerned. You say:

16 "The children attended their confession in groups
17 and would not have left on their own, but would have
18 remained in the church until all of the children had
19 finished confession and would have left together. It is
20 inconceivable that an event of this nature could have
21 happened without there being a witness, and I deny that
22 this happened and I deny that I was involved in any
23 incident of this nature."

24 **A. Yes. That's true, yes.**

25 Q. Now HIA387 then gave evidence to the Inquiry, as you

1 know, on Day 92. If we can bring up, please, 90839.
2 During that -- obviously in her statement she was not
3 able to name the priest that she identified as the one
4 who said mass and confessions regularly. If we can move
5 down on to 90841, please, where I am asking her then to
6 describe as best she can the priest that she says raped
7 her:

8 "He was someone who was between 40 and 50",
9 and this was me recounting what she told me.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. "He was someone who was between 40 and 50, although the
12 point you made to me is when you are a child, you can't
13 really tell."

14 She said:

15 "Because everybody looks old to you when you are
16 a child",

17 but she framed the person as between 40 and 50.

18 Now you at the time would have been between 25 and 28 or
19 29.

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. Then:

22 "Yes."

23 I said something that she had said to me:

24 "He had white or grey coloured hair?"

25 **A. Correct."**

1 **Can I just ask you: have you -- your hair is not**
2 **white or grey. Perhaps just grey at the side now a**
3 **little bit.**

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Did you ever have white or grey hair?

6 **A. Never, no. Slightly darker than it is now, but never**
7 **white or grey, never.**

8 Q. That's -- you see me saying to her:

9 "That leads you to believe he was older, because of
10 that hair colour, which was that of an older person or
11 an older man's hair. Is that accurate?

12 **A. Yes."**

13 So she was saying not only about the colour, but the
14 nature of the hair was an older man's hair. Then I am
15 recounting to her:

16 "He was overweight, stocky type build, but of
17 average height?

18 **A. Correct, yes."**

19 I was asking you: were you ever overweight?

20 **A. No, no.**

21 Q. You were a sportsman.

22 **A. Yes, yes.**

23 Q. I am not sure what the appropriate term -- lean
24 physique.

25 **A. Much slimmer than I am today.**

1 Q. You are 5'...?

2 **A. About 5'11".**

3 Q. 5'11" tall. In terms of complexion there was nothing
4 about the complexion that stood out for HIA387, but she
5 did remember two distinct smells. One of them was that
6 the person smoked, and you were saying to me that
7 probably at that time you would have smoked.

8 **A. I did smoke, yes, yes.**

9 Q. There was probably a larger proportion of people smoking
10 then than might be the case today. Would that be fair
11 from your recollection of how cigarette smoking
12 occurred?

13 **A. Oh, yes, yes. Most people did, yes.**

14 Q. Then the other smell she discusses as we scroll on to
15 the next page is that he had an old person smell. He
16 smelt like mothballs. I am not sure you can ever say
17 very much about that.

18 **A. No.**

19 Q. That's what she said. As we scroll down, you can see:

20 "There was nothing particularly significant about
21 the accent of the person, because he came from the
22 island of Ireland." She says -- I was asking:

23 "Do you remember were there still other people in
24 the church at the time you were dragged into the
25 sacristy?"

1 She said:

2 "Yes. I don't think so. I can remember being more
3 or less the last girl."

4 She did say -- when I was suggesting to her people
5 travelled in groups, as we will come to see, she was
6 saying, "Well, on occasions a few girls would have come
7 over". That's not your recollection?

8 **A. Not my recollection at all, no.**

9 Q. But she goes on to talk about having told a nun. You
10 can see here she says at about 14, so about four years
11 later, she thinks she told the nun about what the priest
12 had done to her in the sacristy. She didn't remember
13 who that nun was.

14 As you know, I was asking you: do you remember -- it
15 is caught up in an answer you have already given, but
16 I am going to ask you for the specifics of it. Do you
17 remember a nun ever bringing to your attention, even if
18 it wasn't about you, but that a girl had been abused
19 sexually in some way by a priest --

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. -- while you were in Nazareth?

22 **A. No. No-one ever mentioned.**

23 Q. Now if we just scroll slightly further down, please, she
24 explained what happened. If we just scroll on further
25 down, I then explained to her what you have said in your

1 statement. If we move down, please, on to the next
2 page, where you are explaining how it really was
3 a class's worth of children that would come and then
4 everybody would leave. Then she says:

5 "We did not always come in groups. Sometimes you
6 would -- they would send you -- you'd run up yourself or
7 a couple of you would go. Sometimes in groups, but not
8 always.

9 I would say there was always either one or two other
10 people, but then as soon as they did their confession,
11 they'd just run off, run back to their dormitory or
12 whatever."

13 I asked her then:

14 "So there wouldn't always have been a nun present?"

15 **A. No.**

16 Q. If you were the last girl, then you would be the
17 last one --

18 **A. Person there.**

19 Q. -- as it were, left with the priest."

20 As you have said to the Panel, that's not your
21 recollection. Then, as we scroll down, I am suggesting
22 to her it is inconceivable, putting to her what you have
23 said in your statement. Can you move on down to the
24 next page, please? She says:

25 "All I know what happened to me and I have kept that

1 secret for so many years. I never told anybody."

2 What I want to ask you, Father, obviously it's
3 a very serious allegation that is made. Is there
4 anything else you want to say about that allegation to
5 the Inquiry?

6 **A. No. I am just stunned that it has been made and I just**
7 **want to put on record that it never happened, and just**
8 **additionally I think that after mass or benediction the**
9 **sacristy doors were locked, although I'm not absolutely**
10 **certain about that, but I'm absolutely certain that this**
11 **incident never happened as far as I am concerned.**

12 Q. You had no involvement in it?

13 **A. Absolutely none. Absolutely none.**

14 Q. If it happened, it was not you?

15 **A. I'm horrified at the thought that would have happened,**
16 **yes, yes.**

17 Q. I did say to you that there was evidence this week --
18 and I am just going to show you it for completeness in
19 fairness to you. If we look at 047, which is
20 paragraph 19 of a statement of HIA28, as she was, who
21 said this of you, you will see she describes you as "the
22 nice priest who said mass in Nazareth House" and she
23 then names another girl who remembered you. Her
24 recollection was that you were only there for a few
25 months. I think you covered most of her time period.

1 She arrived in 1960, but she was saying something
2 positive about you.

3 Father, is there anything else you want to say that
4 you consider might assist the Inquiry with its work or
5 have we covered the various issues that you want to deal
6 with?

7 **A. Just at a personal level I want to deny both allegations**
8 **and also to say that during my time as chaplain in**
9 **Nazareth House I admired the hard work of the Sisters**
10 **and other lay staff. I thought that they worked with**
11 **the elderly people and the children as far as I could**
12 **see long hours and with care and consideration for the**
13 **children, and that's just my overall impression. Other**
14 **people may have a different impression, but that was my**
15 **impression in the home.**

16 Q. I think I was asking you earlier, Father, your
17 impression of the building. Did you find it as
18 an unwelcoming environment? You were saying, "No".

19 **A. No, no.**

20 Q. It was somewhere familiar to you.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. But your experience was of the people who were there
23 were stretched, as it were.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. They were working round the clock.

1 A. I marvelled at the amount of work they did really, you
2 know, and the building was an old building, but it was
3 -- from my point of view it was always clean and was
4 welcoming. It was a welcoming place. I know with the
5 elderly people, which is really not what we are dealing
6 with, people were welcomed when visiting and so on, and
7 there was that atmosphere. I think it is possibly
8 mentioned in some of the statements that some of the
9 children went out, had family friends that they went out
10 to from time to time, but my overall impression is of
11 a caring community doing a lot of work in times when
12 resources were limited financially, you know, and I was
13 aware that a feature of Belfast life was two of the nuns
14 constantly going around parishes collecting money to
15 help run the home. So that's my impression.

16 Q. Father, I am not going to ask you anything else. If you
17 remain where you are, the Panel Members may want to ask
18 you something. So if you bear with us for a short time.

19 A. Okay.

20 **Questions from THE PANEL**

21 CHAIRMAN: Could I just ask for one for two things to be
22 explained a little bit more fully for the benefit of
23 those who won't have your experience, NHB84, but before
24 I do that may I take it from what you say about being
25 the chaplain to Nazareth House that you didn't have any

1 connection with Nazareth Lodge --

2 **A. No, no.**

3 Q. -- In that capacity?

4 **A. No connection whatsoever.**

5 Q. It presumably had its own chaplain?

6 **A. It had its own chaplain, yes.**

7 Q. If we could look at page 80077, please, and if you look
8 at that -- you may have a hard copy there, Father. If
9 not, it will come up on the screen in a moment. If we
10 just count down five lines --

11 **A. Sorry. It's my own. Yes. Sorry.**

12 Q. Just count down five lines. You see you say that you
13 would have assisted in the preparation of first
14 communion, confession and confirmation.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. Now correct me if I am wrong, but the ceremony or
17 sacrament of confirmation would immediately precede the
18 first taking of communion in the service. Is that
19 right?

20 **A. First confession, first communion and then confirmation.**

21 Q. Right. I just wanted to ask at what stage in the
22 process was the confession first made? Before or after
23 the confirmation?

24 **A. Before.**

25 Q. But presumably at the closest time possible to the

1 ceremony of -- the sacrament of the --

2 **A. Yes, yes. Normally a short time before confirmation.**

3 Q. Presumably a day or two or something of that order?

4 **A. But they made their first communion -- you know, the**
5 **first time of celebrating the sacrament would have been**
6 **about 7 plus.**

7 Q. That's what I want to ask. In other words, other than
8 a very short time before when you are about 7, you would
9 not make a confession?

10 **A. No, not before 7.**

11 Q. Certainly you would not do it regularly until after the
12 very first confession?

13 **A. Oh, no, no. It would be after -- from 7, 7, 7 plus**
14 **onwards.**

15 Q. Was that the age at that time at which --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- the children normally did it --

18 **A. Yes, yes.**

19 Q. -- in around the year when they --

20 **A. Yes. Much the same still today, you know.**

21 Q. Yes. The other thing I wanted to ask you is that we
22 have heard, as you have been asked indeed, about the
23 practice of retreats generally. There has been
24 reference by a number of the witnesses to going to
25 retreats as children. Am I right in assuming that the

1 presence of a priest was not essential to all of the
2 retreat; in other words, it's a form of meditation and
3 contemplation?

4 **A. Yes. My memory may be failing me, but I don't remember**
5 **those retreats, but I could imagine that the Sisters**
6 **could arrange with the children that over a period of**
7 **time they would be quiet and recollect and in that sense**
8 **have a little retreat, draw nearer to God and so on.**

9 Q. So it was not something that required the presence of
10 a priest from a sacramental point of view?

11 **A. No, no, it wouldn't, no.**

12 Q. I mean, a priest might conduct a retreat --

13 **A. Might.**

14 Q. -- but not necessarily.

15 **A. But I have no memory of it and I don't remember being**
16 **involved in anything like that myself.**

17 Q. The last thing I want to ask you is you were asked by
18 Mr Aiken about allegations that some of the people have
19 made about being checked, if I can use that neutral
20 expression, by one of the Sisters for fidgeting or
21 misbehaving or doing something during the mass itself.
22 Now your time as chaplain was before Vatican II.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. Did you stand with your back to the congregation --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- throughout the service?

2 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

3 Q. Whatever else you achieved, no doubt you didn't have
4 eyes in the back of your head. Thank you very much.

5 MS DOHERTY: Thank you very much, Father. Can I just ask
6 a more general question about your relationship with the
7 diocese while you were the chaplain?

8 **A. With the diocese?**

9 Q. Yes. Did you remain -- you clearly were appointed there
10 by the bishop -- is that right --

11 **A. Bishop, yes.**

12 Q. -- even though you were paid the stipend by the Sisters?

13 **A. Yes. I was appointed by Bishop Mageean to act as
14 chaplain to Nazareth House.**

15 Q. Would you have received any guidance from him or from
16 a kind of senior parish priest? Did anybody talk to you
17 about your work during that period as the new young
18 priest?

19 **A. No, not formally, but I was on quite friendly terms with
20 the priests in the parish of Holy Rosary, who lived
21 nearby, and I would have met with them occasionally.
22 They were there if I wanted guidance or advice to talk
23 to them, yes, but there was no formal ...**

24 Q. Formal. Okay. Thanks very much, Father.

25 CHAIRMAN: There was one thing I meant to ask and I forgot,

1 NHB84, and it is this. You have mentioned the club that
2 was conducted in --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- some rooms in Avenue --

5 **A. Yes, yes.**

6 Q. -- that had been founded by Father NHB18 .

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. By the time you were there had that been in existence
9 for quite some time?

10 **A. Yes, I would think maybe twenty years or more.**

11 Q. Yes. My recollection is that he had been the chaplain
12 before the Second World War or in the early years of the
13 Second World War.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. So it had been going for quite a long time.

16 **A. Quite a long time. I gather it was situated somewhere
17 in the centre of Belfast, some rooms, and then it moved
18 to --**

19 Q. Yes.

20 **A. -- and that's where I ...**

21 Q. Did it continue as an institution even after you left as
22 chaplain?

23 **A. I think it did. I think it continued until the girls
24 ceased to be taken into Nazareth House, you know.**

25 **Certainly it was thriving in my time and I don't know**

1 **exactly when it closed.**

2 Q. One of the witnesses implied I think or maybe stated
3 precisely that it had been held in rooms that he had
4 rented Father NHB18 . Do you know how it was funded?
5 Was he paying out of his own pocket or ...?

6 A. **I don't know. In my own time we got a small grant from
7 the Department of Education, being a youth club --**

8 Q. Yes.

9 A. -- although they found that difficult to understand,
10 because in those days youth work was considered to be
11 activity, sports activity, and they found it difficult
12 to think in terms of a club that was purely social,
13 although we had a table-tennis table, but we got a grant
14 from them, and once a year we had a big fundraiser, an
15 American tea day, and we raised funds and we had people
16 who supported us.

17 Q. Thank you very much. I think those are the only other
18 questions we want to ask you. Thank you very much
19 indeed for coming to speak to us today, Father.

20 A. **Thank you.**

21 **(Witness withdrew)**

22 MR AIKEN: Chairman, there is one more matter which I am
23 going to deal with, but perhaps if we took five minutes
24 to allow me just to ...

25 CHAIRMAN: Yes. We will just rise for a short while.

1 (3.00 pm)

2 (Short break)

3 (3.10 pm)

4 Reading of evidence of WITNESS HIA32

5 CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr Aiken.

6 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, the next witness

7 I am going to deal with is HIA32, who was born HIA32,

8 who is HIA32. She was born on and

9 therefore would have been one of the oldest applicants

10 to the Inquiry at 84 years of age. Unfortunately she

11 has been unable to attend due to -- in terms of giving

12 oral evidence due to medical reasons. After various

13 communications that's an explanation that the Inquiry

14 has accepted. It is assumed that she wishes to preserve

15 the anonymity afforded to her by the Inquiry in respect

16 of her evidence, and I am going to proceed on that

17 basis.

18 It had been my understanding, Members of the Panel,

19 that there was going to be a representative from her

20 family in attendance while her statement was read out,

21 but the Inquiry staff tell me they don't -- that does

22 not appear to be the position, and I do not see anyone

23 in the Inquiry room that would fit that description.

24 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Well, we are aware that a member of her

25 family was notified that the statement would be read

1 this afternoon, so that if they wished to do so, they
2 would be hear to listen to it, but whatever the position
3 may be, it does not appear that they are here. So we
4 will simply proceed in the normal way with a witness
5 whose statement is being read when they are unable to
6 attend.

7 MR AIKEN: In relation to HIA32, Chairman, Members of the
8 Panel, her witness statement is at 233 through to 242 in
9 the bundle. If we can just bring up 242, please, we
10 will see that obviously the signed page is blacked out,
11 but I can confirm and I know the Panel also have a copy
12 of the signed version of HIA32's statement.

13 In addition to her Inquiry witness statement HIA32
14 spoke to the police on 9th December 2011. Her police
15 statement can be found at SNB-61505 through to 61508.

16 Then there's a replying statement from the Sisters
17 of Nazareth. It is at 2050 through to 2052.

18 Now the Congregation's statement sets out in
19 a number of respects where they do not accept the
20 evidence of HIA32. I will deal with some of those
21 matters as we go, but paragraph 17 of that statement at
22 2052 contains a personal apology to HIA32 for any
23 occasion that the treatment she suffered fell beneath
24 a reasonable standard that could have been expected of
25 the Sisters of Nazareth.

1 In addition, there is a Health & Social Care Board
2 replying statement, which can be found at 6243 and 6244.
3 That records that HIA32 was not in the care of the
4 welfare authority and was a privately placed child in
5 Nazareth, which would be in keeping with what HIA32 has
6 had to say.

7 HIA32, as I said, was born on
8 84 years of age, one of five siblings. She sets out in
9 her Inquiry statement she was married for many years
10 until the passing of her husband in 2013. She has two
11 grown-up daughters, and it was one of those that was
12 expected and suggested might be in attendance today.
13 She explains how her daughters cared for her husband and
14 care for her.

15 The register entry relating to HIA32, because it
16 takes a different form from those that we would
17 customarily have seen, if we can look, please, at 4051,
18 it's a register that's in a different format. On the
19 left-hand side there is an asterisk at the entry that
20 relates to HIA32. I wonder if we could amplify that
21 portion right the way across the page as much as we can.
22 Thank you. This records the name of the individual, but
23 also then information -- it might even be clearer -- if
24 we take off the amplification, is it likely to -- and we
25 just magnify the size of the page rather than the

1 individual entry. I am not sure that that -- maybe
2 there is no better way of -- the copy that I have
3 records where she was baptised, her parents' names,
4 their occupations, then the date that she was received
5 and, in fact, it appears that she entered Nazareth with
6 two of her siblings who were next in line to her, and on
7 the right-hand side of the page we can see that was on
8 the recommendation of Father McCluskey .
9 Then we can see that she was returned to her mother or
10 taken back by her mother in September of 1944.

11 That essentially indicates that she remained in
12 Nazareth House for nine and a half years until 25th
13 September '44, when she left aged 14. So she was there
14 through almost all of the Second World War.

15 Her statement, which begins at page 233, I am going
16 to read portions of it beginning at paragraph 4, which
17 explains on page 234, when she came into Nazareth:

18 "I was placed in Nazareth House on 1st March 1935.
19 That was at the age of 4 and a half years old.
20 was 3 and was only a baby ..."

21 That's the three siblings who entered together.

22 "... and I remained there for nine years and seven
23 months until I was 14.

24 The first day we went into Nazareth House, my
25 parents brought us into this big room and just left us

1 there. My sisters and I were separated shortly after
2 entering. I was placed in the babies' section at first,
3 and then when I was 5, I was moved up to the big girls'
4 dormitory. and remained in the babies'
5 section. For a while I didn't know they were my
6 sisters.

7 My mind seemed to go blank when I went into Nazareth
8 House. I felt numb for the first couple of years. It
9 took me a while to get used to it, being surrounded by
10 all the other children. There were 160 children
11 altogether. We were always called by a number in
12 Nazareth House, not our name. My number was 28. The
13 odd time we would be called by our surname, [surname
14 redacted], and that's how I realised and
15 were my sisters. The nuns never bothered telling us.

16 The age range in the older girls' group would have
17 been from 5 to 14. There were four dormitories in
18 Nazareth House. SR112 was in charge of my dormitory
19 and she had a cell in the dormitory.

20 A typical day in Nazareth House started at 5.00 am
21 when we were woken by the nuns with a whistle. My
22 sister used to wet the bed, so I would run up and
23 take the wet sheet off her bed and try to pinch a new
24 one from the cupboard. would have got a hiding if
25 they found out that she had wet the bed.

1 I and five other girls had to go down to the chapel.
2 We only had our nightdresses on and we were in our bare
3 feet. The six of us got into a line and polished the
4 aisles and floors with cloths. I was only about 7 or 8
5 at this stage.

6 After we had polished the chapel, we went back to
7 make our beds, get washed and ready for school. We had
8 to line up to be inspected by the nuns to make sure that
9 we had got washed properly. We stretched out our hands
10 and turned them over, then bent over so our ears and
11 necks could be checked. If we weren't clean, we were
12 sent back to get washed again. We then set the
13 tables for breakfast. If we weren't in time for
14 breakfast because we hadn't finished our chores, we got
15 nothing and we were told it was our own fault.

16 I went to school on site in Nazareth House. We wore
17 a uniform to school, a little grey pinafore. I remember
18 two teachers, Miss and Miss . They
19 were both nice women. I think they realised that we got
20 a hard time from the nuns. We were also taught by SR112
21 and SR114. SR114 was a nice enough nun, but SR112 hated
22 her because she was . On St. Patrick's Day SR112
23 used to make us sing 'For they are true Irish' at the
24 top of our voices just to hurt her feelings. We weren't
25 really taught. I don't think they cared about our

1 education. SR112 made me spend a lot of time in the
2 corner with a sheet of paper pinned to my back with
3 either 'Dunce' or 'Thief' written on. If I made
4 a mistake, I got a thump. I wasn't very good at drawing
5 and on one occasion I copied NHB37's drawing of a leaf.
6 When SR112 realised this, she caned me. On one occasion
7 I was late finishing the chores and I wasn't able to get
8 to the toilet before school. I put my hand up and asked
9 permission to go to the toilet, but SR112 refused and
10 told me that I should have done before school. I could
11 not help but wet myself. SR112 made me walk through all
12 of the other classrooms to get the mop and bucket so all
13 of the girls knew that I had wet myself. I believe that
14 she did this on purpose to humiliate me.

15 After school we just played in the big recreation
16 room, but there were no toys or anything. We used to
17 just throw ourselves up against the walls. There would
18 be nobody minding us in the recreation room in the
19 evenings after school. There were swings outside, but
20 we were never allowed out to play unless the nuns wanted
21 rid of us.

22 We were sent to bed at about 5.00 pm, but we used to
23 sneak out at 12 o'clock to steal apples and pears from
24 the Holy Rosary next door. If I was caught stealing
25 fruit from the Holy Rosary, I would be made to kneel

1 outside SR112's cell all night. One morning at about
2 6.00 am I was coming back across the wall from the Holy
3 Rosary carrying loads of apples and pears to share with
4 the other girls. NHB35, caught me and
5 walloped me with a big stick with nails on it. I still
6 have two scars on my thigh from when this happened.
7 NHB35 was a cruel woman and she kept an eye on
8 everything. NHB36 was the other cook, but she was a
9 nice woman. She kept to herself and she would never
10 have hit you. We called her 'Fatty', which she thought
11 was funny."

12 I just draw to the Panel's attention that the Order
13 don't accept that children were put to bed at 5.00 pm.

14 Paragraph 14:

15 "The food in Nazareth House wasn't great, so we were
16 hungry pretty often. If we were in time for breakfast,
17 we were given a cup of cocoa and one round of bread
18 dipped in hard. For dinner we got one potato and stewed
19 onions. We didn't know what meat was. It was the same
20 thing every day. For tea at 4.00 pm it was lumpy
21 porridge, which I could never eat, so I got nothing. We
22 were so hungry we used to stand in this small porch
23 waiting on the woman with the slops from
24 the nursing home. It might have been stew or something
25 similar. We used to lift up the slops with our hands,

1 put it in our drawers and run off to the cellar to eat
2 it so we wouldn't be caught. We were like animals. We
3 also used to hang out the toilet windows and ask a man
4 we called for the turnip skins and we ate them
5 raw. On one occasion I stole some tins to feed the
6 girls. I put the tins up my dress. I didn't even think
7 about how I was going to get them open. It turned out
8 to be tins of baking powder, which we couldn't eat
9 anyway. I used to steal sweets for all the younger
10 girls. There was a big jar of sweets in a cupboard in
11 the classroom and I used to steal them and share them
12 out amongst the girls. The sweets must have been for
13 the nuns, because we never received any. I only stole
14 food because of starvation, not devilment."

15 Now I am just going to stop there, Members of the
16 Panel. If we could look, please, at paragraph 8 of the
17 replying statement at 2051, the Congregation say this to
18 the Inquiry:

19 "With regard to paragraph 14, the food was always
20 the best standard we could provide. In the interests of
21 the child the Sisters would encourage them to eat the
22 meals provided, as there may not have been another
23 option. The Sisters sought to provide nutritious food
24 for the children and regret that any child went hungry
25 under their care. We do not accept that any child would

1 lift scraps out of the bins due to hunger, nor do we
2 accept that they lift slops with their hands, put it in
3 their drawers and run to the cellar to eat it. The
4 cellar would have been locked at all times, so therefore
5 the children would not have access to it."

6 Paragraph 15 then of HIA32's statement she says:

7 "The nuns made us wash our own socks and clothes.
8 We had to dry them over our shoulders, one over each
9 shoulder, so they would dry with the heat of your body.
10 There was no other way of drying them. If we wished our
11 cloths at night -- if we washed our clothes at night, we
12 had to put them under our sheets and then sleep between
13 the sheet and the mattress so they would be dry in the
14 morning. It's a wonder we survived at all. We only
15 survived because we looked out for each other."

16 If we can look, please, at paragraph 9 of the
17 replying statement at 2051, the Congregation have said
18 to the Inquiry, if we scroll down to paragraph 9,
19 please:

20 "The children's clothes would have been washed in
21 the laundry by the Sisters."

22 They do not accept what is being said.

23 In paragraph 16 at 237:

24 "When it was bath time in Nazareth House, the two
25 girls would stand at the bath with a big sheet, one on

1 either side. All the girls lined up and we took off our
2 nightdresses. Jeyes Fluid was put in the bath water and
3 the same bath water was used for all of the girls. The
4 girls who had their periods were kept separate. I can't
5 remember if there were sanitary towels or anything.
6 I didn't get my period until I was 14. We were too
7 terrified to talk about things like that. One morning
8 I saw one of the older girls had hair under her arms and
9 I didn't know what this was. I said to a few girls to
10 come back -- to come look at it and I got an awful
11 hiding for saying that. One of the girls told SR112
12 what I had said and she got hold of me and belted me
13 round the legs with a cane. I didn't know what I had
14 done wrong.

15 SR112 was very wicked. We called her ' '.
16 On one occasion when I was aged about 10 years, I wrote
17 'SR112 is a witch' on the blackboard. None of the girls
18 let on that it was me, but I owned up to it. I got hit.

19 We used to go down to visit the boys' home, Nazareth
20 Lodge, once a year. I had a boyfriend in Nazareth
21 Lodge. His name was NL84, and when he knew we were
22 coming, he would stand and wait at the gates for me. He
23 was lovely. He would push me on the swings. I loved
24 NL84 and I often wonder about him now. I only saw him
25 once a year for about an hour. I remember once when

1 I was about 10 or 11 I had just got new sandals from
2 a benefactor. I took them off when I was climbing the
3 trees in Nazareth Lodge and somebody must have stolen
4 them. SR112 made me walk the whole way up the Ravenhill
5 Road in my bare feet. The next day we were all supposed
6 to go on a bus tour to Helen's Bay, but I won't allowed
7 to go as punishment. I was made to stay in the home on
8 my own all day. I was locked in the recreation room all
9 day and I got nothing to eat or drink that whole time."

10 If we can look, please, at paragraph 11 on 2051, the
11 Congregation have said to the Inquiry:

12 "We don't accept HIA32 would have been made to walk
13 the whole way up the Ravenhill Road in her bare feet
14 because someone had stolen her shoes, and we don't
15 accept she was locked in the recreation room with
16 nothing to eat or drink all day as a punishment."

17 Then at paragraph 19:

18 "I never remember anyone visiting Nazareth House.
19 If we got sick, SR112 just sent us to bed. I don't
20 remember ever seeing a doctor. One day I was running
21 away from SR112 and I pushed my hand against a glass
22 door but it broke and I got a big cut down my finger.
23 It bled an awful lot, but nobody bothered wrapping it up
24 for me or anything. I still have a scar on my right
25 hand. Once after completing all my chores I fainted at

1 the altar at mass and SR112 gave me a hammering for
2 daring to faint in front of Our Lord. She caned me and
3 was shouting at me, 'How dare you faint in front of the
4 altar and in front of NHB34 !' She told me I was
5 worthless, evil dirt. When I was about 9 or 10,
6 I remember one of the girls, NHB37, was ill and was
7 dying. SR112 brought us in to see her body in the
8 dormitory. We were told that's what would happen if we
9 were possessed by the devil. We were told the same
10 thing about a girl who passed away. We were brought in
11 to see her body."

12 If we can look, please, at 2052, the Congregation
13 have said to the Inquiry at paragraph 13 that:

14 "The Congregation would treat the passing of a child
15 very seriously and do not accept this allegation."

16 Paragraph 21:

17 "I had problems with my eyesight and my right eye
18 and nobody ever noticed. I think this may have
19 contributed to my lack of interest in school. I never
20 saw a dentist either the entire time I was at Nazareth
21 House. I lost all my teeth within a few years of
22 leaving care, as did my sisters. I believe this was
23 because we were malnourished. I have worn false teeth
24 since the age of 22 years."

25 Both of those paragraphs are covered, if we can

1 look, please, at 2051 and 2, and paragraph 12 of the
2 replying statement says, if we just scroll down, please:

3 "With regard ...

4 The children would have been seen by the doctor for
5 any illnesses or vaccinations. Many of the sisters were
6 trained nurses."

7 Then:

8 "We do not accept that HIA32 would have received --
9 would not have received any medical attention when her
10 finger was cut through a glass door and we do not accept
11 that she never saw a dentist."

12 In paragraph 23 of HIA32's statement she said:

13 "Religion was a very big part of the home. We had
14 to go to confession every week. NHB34 , the
15 curate, wasn't a nice man. He was really strict with
16 the children and would hammer us for the slightest
17 thing. He would use either a cane or the back of his
18 hand. He thought nothing of giving us a crack across
19 the ear. He would make me go to confession for stealing
20 apples or slops, but he was never satisfied with my
21 confession. He would not be satisfied until he beat me
22 afterwards and would say, "You'll not steal any more
23 now". I remember getting so flustered trying to
24 practise my confession while I was in the queue that
25 I would mix my words up by the time I got in there.

1 After NHB34 there was a priest called Father
2 NHB18 . He was a lovely man. He was very good to us.
3 He could see we had nothing, so he bought us stilts and
4 taught us how to walk on them. Even after we had left
5 Nazareth House he rented a place in Derryvolgie Avenue
6 where we could all go for a chat and a cup of tea."

7 You recall that fits in with what NHB84 was saying
8 to the Inquiry.

9 Paragraph 24:

10 "At the age of 13 years I was taken out of school
11 and put to work in the laundry, where I mostly had to
12 clean nappies. I had to work on my own in a dark
13 passageway. There were two tubs of water, one for
14 washing and one for rinsing. I then wrung them out and
15 hung them up to dry. I was also given the job of
16 unblocking the toilets along with the other girls who
17 SR112 didn't like. The toilets at Nazareth House used
18 to get blocked up with faeces approximately once
19 a fortnight and the nuns could not afford plumbers, so
20 they made us lift out the faeces with our hands and put
21 it in a bucket. Then we had to scrub out the toilets
22 while SR112 stood watching over us. She called us
23 demons."

24 Now if we can look, please, at paragraph 15 of the
25 replying statement at 2052:

1 "With regard to paragraph 24", which is what I have
2 just read, "no child would have been taken out of school
3 to work in the laundry in Nazareth House. The girls may
4 have helped in the laundry, but this would have been
5 assisting a sister in her duties. We have checked the
6 records for any reference to the blocked toilets once
7 a fortnight and cannot seem to find any material
8 regarding this."

9 I presume that's a reference to the Council books
10 and the foundation books.

11 "We can't accept that the children were expected to
12 lift out faeces with their hands and put it into
13 a bucket."

14 Paragraph 25 of HIA32's statement:

15 "My mother never came to visit us in the home. My
16 Father visited us once, but I think he had drink taken.

17 and were brought to see him as well and
18 I was put on his knee. He asked us what presents we
19 wanted him to bring us the next time he visited and
20 I said hair clips, but he never visited again. The next
21 day my socks were falling down and SR112 said, 'Your
22 drunken Father could come up yesterday but he couldn't
23 bring any garters'. She said this out in front of all
24 the whole class to remind me that my Father didn't care
25 about me.

1 At Christmas the nuns would bring all the
2 benefactors in and we would put on a show for them.
3 I had to work the organ, pulling the stoppers in and
4 out. We got half an apple or half an orange set at the
5 bottom of our bed at Christmas. Apart from that it
6 wasn't really acknowledged by the nuns. I didn't know
7 when my birthday was or what age I was. We never
8 celebrated birthdays. I remember on 12th July we would
9 try to see the parades over the wall although we didn't
10 know what they meant. On one occasion a man called me a
11 'Fenian bastard' and told me to get down from the wall.

12 In September 1944, when I was 14, my mother came to
13 take me and my two sisters out of the home. My sisters
14 ran to kiss her, but I just walked away from her.
15 I couldn't stand it. It just hit me what she had done
16 to us. I never forgave her."

17 Then the "Life after care" section, in fact,
18 contains three relevant paragraphs in terms of time in
19 Nazareth House. If we move to paragraph 32, please, on
20 241:

21 "The memories from Nazareth House have never left
22 me. It was an awful place. There are nights I lie in
23 bed and think about all the things that happened. We
24 were starved. We were like animals stealing slops.
25 I have no sight in my right eye and my optician said

1 that I was either born like that or I had an infection
2 in my childhood which was never treated.

3 I have always felt inferior because of my
4 upbringing. SR112 used to always say I was worthless
5 and evil. I have never been able to stand up for myself
6 and people would take advantage of my soft nature by
7 asking me to sew things for free.

8 Growing up in a regime of such strict obedience,
9 conformity and punishment has impacted on my
10 self-confidence and my ability to act freely and relax.
11 I am constantly working around the house and I am always
12 setting myself deadlines, because at Nazareth House
13 everything was done by the clock. My husband came home
14 from work for years at 4.40 and I was sure to have
15 dinner on the table by one minute past 4.40. I found it
16 very difficult to stop working."

17 As is our practice, the Panel have the rest of the
18 "Life after care" section.

19 The only other point I would draw to the Panel's
20 attention from material that has been received, in
21 addition to the police statement, HIA32 has an ongoing
22 civil claim, the writ of which issued in September 2012.
23 That can be found at 70333.

24 Unless there is anything further that I can assist
25 the Panel with, that's the statement that HIA32 has

1 provided to the Inquiry in respect of her time in
2 Nazareth House.

3 CHAIRMAN: Yes. I should perhaps just emphasise for the
4 purposes of the record, since the family are not here,
5 that even where a person comes to give evidence in
6 person we do not normally ask them to deal with any part
7 of the account they have given in their statement of
8 their lives afterwards. They are there for the record
9 and, as on this occasion, when Mr Aiken drew our
10 attention to three other paragraphs, we will look at
11 anything else in that section that relates to the time
12 in the home we are looking at, and that's why we
13 followed that procedure with this statement this
14 afternoon.

15 We will adjourn now and resume at the normal time
16 tomorrow.

17 (3.40 pm)

18 (Hearing adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning)

19 --ooOoo--

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