

-----  
HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY  
-----

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at  
Banbridge Court House  
Banbridge

on Monday, 21st September 2015

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 142)

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

1 Monday, 21st September 2015

2 (10.00 am)

3 WITNESS HIA253 (called)

4 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Before we  
5 start this morning's proceedings can I just remind  
6 everyone, as always, to ensure that if they have  
7 a mobile phone, it has been turned off or at least  
8 placed on "Silent"/"Vibrate", and also remind you that  
9 no photography is permitted either here in the chamber  
10 or indeed anywhere on the Inquiry premises.

11 Good morning, Ms Smith.

12 MS SMITH: Morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and  
13 gentlemen. Our first witness today is HIA253. He is  
14 "HIA253". HIA253 wishes to take a religious oath and he  
15 also wishes to maintain his anonymity.

16 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

17 WITNESS HIA253 (sworn)

18 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, HIA253. Please sit down.

19 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

20 MS SMITH: HIA253, as I explained to you earlier, I am just  
21 going to tell the Panel Members where there are certain  
22 documents relevant to your evidence that are in our  
23 bundle of papers.

24 **A. Okay.**

25 Q. HIA253's witness statement can be found at SPT171 to

1 176.

2 The De La Salle response is at SPT436 and  
3 a supplementary response at 747.

4 The Health & Social Care Board response is at SPT753  
5 to 754, and they indicate that there was no Social  
6 Services' involvement in HIA253's care.

7 The Department of Justice response statement is at  
8 1445 to 1454. They indicate that they had no knowledge  
9 of the allegations that HIA253 makes prior to seeing his  
10 Inquiry statement, and the Department of Justice  
11 material can be found at 48247 to 48495.

12 There is some police material at 26210 to 26218, and  
13 there's a statement from BR26 at SPT2191 to 2197.

14 If we could put up, please, SPT171, HIA253, as  
15 I have explained to you, various details have been  
16 blacked out here in your witness statement and your  
17 personal details are set out there in paragraph 2. You  
18 are now aged . Isn't that correct?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. And, HIA253, it might be easier if you just pull the  
21 microphone towards you; make it a bit more comfortable  
22 for you.

23 Can I just confirm that this is the witness  
24 statement that you prepared for the Inquiry and, subject  
25 to some other things that you want to add to what is in

1           there, this is the evidence that you want the Inquiry to  
2           take into consideration?

3   **A. Yes. That's correct.**

4   Q. Well, in this witness statement in the first six  
5       paragraphs -- the first -- from paragraphs 2 through to  
6       6 you describe your time at primary school and at  
7       secondary school. The Panel is aware of the issues that  
8       you relate about your time there, but I am going to go  
9       straight on to paragraph 7, which is on 173, where we  
10      talk about your time at St. Patrick's Training School.

11           From the information that the Inquiry has  
12      ascertained we know that you were there between 26th  
13      August 1983 and 10th January 1984. In paragraph 17 you  
14      say that you were        when you were first sent there on  
15      a one to three-year Training School Order. You were  
16      placed in the main building, which contained the  
17      dormitories. Now we have heard that there were chalets,  
18      but you weren't in one of the chalets?

19   **A. No. It was the dormitories.**

20   Q. You remember that there were children both from the care  
21      side and the justice side, as we have described it, were  
22      mixed together?

23   **A. I think -- I think there was a junior and a senior side.**

24       **I'm almost sure I was in the senior as far as**

25       **I remember.**

1 Q. You do remember that you had a room to yourself. You  
2 don't complain about the food and you say there was  
3 plenty of it. You remember that there was some decent  
4 members of staff who were good to you and you name them  
5 in that statement. I'm going to use first names to make  
6 it easier for you to know who we are talking about,  
7 HIA253, but you will see we have given them designations  
8 as well.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. I just remind everybody that no names are to be used  
11 outside this chamber without the permission either of  
12 the Inquiry or your own written permission in respect of  
13 yourself.

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. So you say the decent members of staff who were good to  
16 you you remember as SPT13.

17 **A. Well, that's two I remember, because even after my time**  
18 **at St. Pat's I continued -- I seen SPT13 somewhere. He**  
19 **was involved with something else I think or --**  
20 **I remember seeing him after my time at St. Pat's, but**  
21 **-- sorry.**

22 Q. That's okay.

23 **A. Is it okay to name him? Well -- but there's a guy that**  
24 **just lives in the next street from me I still see often**  
25 **and he remembers me and would chat to me, like. So ...**

1 Q. You say you would still pass the time of day with him?

2 **A. Aye.**

3 Q. The names I gave you, just so that the Panel Members --  
4 I am going to use full names, but again not to be used  
5 -- you believe it was SPT13?

6 **A. Yes. Aye.**

7 Q. And the other person is --

8 **A. I'm not sure of second name, but most likely.**

9 Q. Paragraphs 8 and 9 you go on to describe the way you  
10 were treated by a particular Brother. Now you give the  
11 names and I am going to give the names again. When you  
12 were speaking to the Inquiry, you said it was either  
13 BR26 or a Brother You really aren't sure of the  
14 names.

15 **A. I just had a name similar to that. It was either around**  
16 **BR26 or , you know. At the time just when I gave**  
17 **my first statement I couldn't -- when the first**  
18 **statement came out to me, it says "BR26" in it and**  
19 **I phoned the Inquiry and said, "Look, I didn't say**  
20 **a BR26". I just feel I have some name with a similar**  
21 **like -- sounding like, but I just wasn't 100% on the**  
22 **name.**

23 Q. If I have got you right, HIA253, you didn't want to name  
24 somebody as having definitely been the person who did  
25 this to you when you weren't sure of the name?

1    **A. No. Some things -- I mean, some things I do remember**  
2            **clear and some things -- I remember clearly what**  
3            **happened, but couldn't remember the name and the, like,**  
4            **exact, like -- what he looked like. I couldn't even**  
5            **tell you what SPT13 looks like now. I see            often,**  
6            **but I just --**

7    Q. But you are not even sure of his surname?

8    **A. Well, it has to be the same. I would say it's 100% more**  
9            **the same person, like.**

10   Q. This is because you have seen him in later years that  
11       you're aware of that.

12   **A. Aye, I still -- aye, still often, like.**

13   Q. Paragraph 8 here you say that this Brother who abused  
14       you, you remember that it was near the start of your  
15       time there. He had a talk with you as you were cleaning  
16       up the gym and handball courts.

17            "He told me that I would be there for a while, but  
18            that he could make things easier and perhaps shorten the  
19            amount of time I would have to stay."

20            He kept putting his arm around you and touching you.  
21       There was no sexual touching that day, but you were --  
22       he was trying to make you believe he was helping you.  
23       You go on to say that he then --

24   **A. Yes.**

25   Q. -- began to touch you from that day onwards.

1            "He asked me to touch him, and I was really  
2            frightened, because I knew it was not normal. I had  
3            refused to do these things in primary school, but in  
4            St. Patrick's I did certain things because I was so  
5            afraid and had no-one to turn to for help. I was also  
6            confused because I thought he might be able to get me  
7            out quicker, even though what he was doing was wrong.  
8            He took me to a room on three or four occasions and  
9            unzipped his trousers. He took his penis out and tried  
10           to persuade me to touch it and masturbate him. He was  
11           trying to persuade me to progress and to let him take my  
12           clothes off and I resisted him and would not do what he  
13           asked. It was then that I began to abscond at every  
14           opportunity."

15           Now we were talking earlier this morning, HIA253.

16    **A. Yes.**

17    Q. I was explaining to you that we have received certain  
18           records. You go on in paragraph 10 to say that you --  
19           this led you to absconding.

20    **A. Uh-huh.**

21    Q. I am just going to look at a document SPT48251, which is  
22           the history that the Department of Justice have compiled  
23           --

24    **A. Yes.**

25    Q. -- of your time in all the homes. It is clear that you

1 were remanded to St. Patrick's on 26th August 1983, and  
2 I should say, HIA253, that even though your name is  
3 there, that will be blacked out before it is --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- used. You absconded the very day that you arrived  
6 into St. Pat's and you were brought back three days  
7 later. Then you were away again from 3rd September for  
8 about ten days. You then were committed to St.  
9 Patrick's on a Training School Order on 16th  
10 September 1983. You got bail pending appeal against  
11 that Order, but that was affirmed then on 23rd November,  
12 when you were brought back to St. Pat's, and again you  
13 ran away immediately you were you brought back.

14 If we just look down, between November 1983,  
15 23rd November, down till December '83, in that month you  
16 were out more often than you were in the place?

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. And you would accept that that would be the position?

19 **A. Yes, yes. Well, the -- I remember -- well, I haven't**  
20 **got a clear memory of it, but I think absconding on the**  
21 **first day was the initial so scared. Like, I was put**  
22 **away for not going to school, and I remember on the very**  
23 **day my -- the School Board -- there was a girl came in**  
24 **to say that she'd had words in the court and "It's**  
25 **looking like you're getting put away here". She**

1 actually started crying. She knew me that well, you  
2 know, from school, and I think if I absconded on the  
3 first day, that was more of being scared. I would have  
4 went to my family on the first night. I think it was  
5 then my mother brought me back again. I think it was  
6 a fright for her too, you know, but every time after  
7 that it was on my own -- like, just sleeping anywhere  
8 I could, not going near my family and stuff like that,  
9 like.

10 Q. I think the records would show that your mother brought  
11 you back on an occasion. Your brother brought you back  
12 another time.

13 A. Well, my mother probably the first occasion. Any other  
14 time was my family actually having to catch me to bring  
15 me back. It wasn't me going to my family. I knew  
16 I couldn't. You know, I was meant to be there, like.

17 Q. You talk about that in paragraph 10 of your statement.  
18 In paragraph 11, if I can just go back, please, to --  
19 now just before we leave this page you will see there  
20 that there was an entry -- I don't know that we need to  
21 call it up again -- of 8th and 9th December where you  
22 had absconded.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. I will come back to that in a moment, but paragraph 10  
25 of your statement at 174 -- sorry -- you will see there

1 8th to 9th December 1983 you absconded. I will come  
2 back to that. That seems to have been the last occasion  
3 before you were remanded --

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. -- to the YOC. 174, please. Just at paragraph 10 there  
6 you talk about running away constantly. Your mum would  
7 always bring you back, because she thought it was the  
8 right thing to do and she didn't realise the abuse you  
9 were suffering.

10 "Eventually it reached the point where I couldn't go  
11 home because my family would be in trouble if they  
12 harboured me and that was when I had to sleep rough.  
13 I also started to get into trouble and was out of  
14 control. My brothers did their best to help me, but  
15 I was out of control by this stage."

16 You recall in paragraph 11 here one particular night  
17 that it was raining so heavily that you had no option  
18 but to go back to St. Patrick's. You remember being  
19 with two other boys whom you name here, one called SPT72  
20 -- and I am going to use the full name, but again not to  
21 be used outside -- SPT72 and your friend SPT73.

22 **A. Yes. He's dead now, so he is.**

23 Q. Yes, and you go on to explain

You say:

25 "The three of us went back in the early hours of the

1 morning and knocked on the doors to get back inside.

2 The doors were opened by two Brothers whose names

3 I cannot remember and they stripped all of us and gave

4 us a vicious beating with a cane as far as I remember.

5 I cannot remember how long I was actually in

6 St. Patrick's, but it may have been around a year."

7 Well, I have shown you the documents.

8 **A. Yes, yes. I wasn't sure.**

9 Q. It wasn't as long as that. In the end you were

10 transferred to Lisnevin because you were absconding so

11 often. I will come back to Lisnevin in a moment, but if

12 we can just look, please, at this paragraph 11, this

13 incident. The De La Salle Order say they have no

14 recollection of a cane --

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- ever having been used. They do admit that the strap

17 was used on boys.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. Now I know in your statement you say that it was a cane

20 as far as you could remember?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. But can you just explain what you do remember happening

23 that night?

24 **A. I do remember -- well, we had no particular reason to go**

25 **back to St. Pat's, because the main thing was to run**

1 away from it, and on this occasion -- normally we had  
2 like an old car or something to -- like a shelter  
3 somewhere, and we just had nowhere that night, and we  
4 decided to go back. I think we had been knocking about  
5 the grounds somewhere and sniffing glue that night, and  
6 it was raining so heavy that -- as I say, we knew the  
7 consequences of -- like, it was about 3.00 -- maybe  
8 2.00, 3.00 in the morning, and it was just -- it was  
9 raining so heavy that we tried to get back in. We were  
10 banging on doors and stuff and then we had woken -- like  
11 got attention and then the doors were opened and that's  
12 -- we were soaking in our clothes. We were made to  
13 strip in the -- it's like a corridor just as you went in  
14 the doors off the yard, and we did get beat, like, about  
15 the legs. I say a cane there, but I know it was some  
16 sort of a --

17 Q. You are not sure if it was a cane?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. I'm going to look at another couple of entries here. If  
20 we could look, please, at SPT48337, now this is  
21 an occurrence sheet, HIA253. It records a number --  
22 there are a number of these that would have been kept  
23 pretty much daily in respect of the boys who were in  
24 St. Pat's.

25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. If we can just scroll on down, please, to the entry of  
2 8th December there, it said:

3 "Absconded with SPT72, SPT73, " or  
4 at 3.30 pm."

5 I think that should be:

6 "Police letter and phone."

7 It is signed by , who is the we were  
8 talking about.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. Then the next entry on 9th December '83:

11 "Returned at 12.30 am with , SPT73, SPT72.  
12 Police letter and phoned and mother phoned."

13 It is signed by and Brother . I think  
14 that might be.

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. So they are recording the fact you had left. That is  
17 suggesting you came back a bit earlier maybe than you  
18 thought at 12.30 am?

19 **A. Is this supposedly the same night that I'm out?**

20 Q. Yes. This would have been -- you left at 3.30 in the  
21 afternoon on 8th December and you were back in at 8.30  
22 -- sorry -- 12.30, 12.30, midnight?

23 **A. If it's the same night that we're talking about I know  
24 it would have been a lot later, like.**

25 Q. Well, I am just going to look at another document which

1 is 4855... -- sorry -- 48445. This is the  
2 nightwatchman's log from the same time. Then if we just  
3 look at 8th and 9th here, it says:

4 e, HIA253, SPT72, SPT73, absconded  
5 3.30 pm. At 12.30 am SPT73 came into yard, said his  
6 mates were in the boathouse. I sent him over to bring  
7 them in, but they attacked SPT73, SPT72 the worst  
8 offender, kicking SPT73 as he lay on the ground. He  
9 then returned on HIA253, doing the same with HIA253 and  
10 again SPT73. These boys were glued up, kicking doors,  
11 banging windows. I informed BR26, who came and sorted  
12 out the situation. Reilly did not return."

13 **A. Uh-huh. I don't recall -- I remember SPT72 and SPT73.**  
14 **Whether and could have been -- went their**  
15 **own ways -- I don't know whether they were involved with**  
16 **us, but --**

17 Q. Certainly the three that are spoken about here are  
18 SPT73, SPT72 and yourself --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- as the three who were coming back --

21 **A. Yes, yes.**

22 Q. -- at that time in the morning, which seems to suggest  
23 this was this occasion?

24 **A. It could be the same night. Now, as I say, the only --**  
25 **the only reason we would have even went back near the**

1 place, because, I mean, there was -- we knew the  
2 consequences to actually, like, bang doors and all at  
3 that time of the morning. We had no reason. Normally  
4 when we did abscond, it was away down the Springfield  
5 Road where I lived or, you know, we had places to go,  
6 like an old house or shelters, and we would have had no  
7 reason to go back near St. Pat's only for the fact that  
8 we had nowhere to go that night and it was very heavy  
9 rain and stuff. I always reckoned it was early hours  
10 into the morning, like, and we could have been fighting  
11 with each other, possibility. You did things like that  
12 when you were on the glue and stuff like that there, but  
13 the only reason we would have banged the doors was to  
14 get back in just for the -- which was very rare.  
15 I mean, probably the only one occasion that I ever  
16 actually went back to the place.

17 Q. And as far as you are aware it was two Brothers who let  
18 you in?

19 A. As far as I remember, yes, but I do remember, like, we  
20 were soaking, our clothes, and getting stripped and our  
21 legs beat before we were sent probably back to our rooms  
22 or whatever.

23 Q. Well, I mean, as the records show, you were running away  
24 quite a lot --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- and you seem to have nearly spent as much time or  
2 more time maybe out of St. Pat's --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- than you actually spent in the place, HIA253.

5 A. I did, aye. As I say, the first night was just the  
6 initial being so scared of, like, at 15 years of age  
7 getting -- and that's -- I went straight back to my  
8 family. I do say that I run away because of, like, what  
9 happened, the abuse and that there. I cannot, like, put  
10 exact dates. I know it was early into the thing.  
11 I said -- I just remember being took one day round  
12 towards -- I don't know if it was actually in the gym,  
13 but there was an area at the back of the home, and I was  
14 like given a black bag and this Brother bringing me  
15 round. I was just like more or less picking rubbish and  
16 stuff up, and when I say he put his arms round me, he  
17 didn't actually sexually touch me, but it wasn't like  
18 a friendly sort of thing. It was more like caressing  
19 and stuff and telling me how long I was here for. "You  
20 are here for three years. This could be easier. You  
21 could get out of here in a year. You could get out of  
22 here maybe a bit earlier." I sort of had to -- like,  
23 felt that he was implying sort of how much he could help  
24 me, you know, like that there. He was -- like just by  
25 the touching and stuff. It wasn't sexual, but more like

1       rubbing and caressing, you know, not in any sexual part  
2       of my body, but just the way he was doing it it was --  
3       it seemed to me like implying how easy -- how easier you  
4       could get out of here, like, quicker.

5       Q. Then you describe how -- as we have looked at in your  
6       statement, how that progressed.

7       A. It progressed on to like being brought into -- it seemed  
8       to me like a room -- it was sort of half office, half  
9       store sort of thing it seemed. It only happened on  
10      about two or three occasions, and I remember one  
11      occasion somebody -- like, he had took his penis out and  
12      I was rubbing it and stuff like that there and somebody  
13      came to the door. He quickly grabbed like a bag. The  
14      person came into the room and he says, "Right. You go  
15      and you sort -- you tidy up" whatever area or something.  
16      It was just, you know ... Another time someone came  
17      I think he says he'd caught me smoking or something and  
18      he had me in the room disciplining me for smoking.  
19      I think it was up to about three times, and I think the  
20      last time was when he was making out that he wanted me  
21      to actually take clothes off to progress further, and  
22      that's when I just like -- you know, I say in my  
23      statement I absconded because of it. You know, I know  
24      I absconded now when I read that thing that you showed  
25      me. The first night was being so scared, like, but

1 I cannot, like, say, "This is a day I absconded over  
2 this reason" or -- but I know, like, if you look at the  
3 record there, I just -- you say I am actually out more  
4 than I was in, which is how much I wanted to be near the  
5 place, like, and ...

6 Q. Okay. Well, you were -- because of the absconding, then  
7 you were transferred to Lisnevin --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- in Millisle. You talk about that in paragraph 12 of  
10 your statement at SPT174. Essentially you have no  
11 complaint to make about your time in Lisnevin. That is  
12 correct, isn't it, HIA253?

13 A. Yes. I seen a big difference in Lisnevin when I went  
14 there. It was just all staff and education. I can't  
15 remember what sort of education I got in St. Pat's,  
16 maybe because of the short time I was there, and, you  
17 know, for all the times I absconded, but Lisnevin was  
18 a secure unit and I remember it was good. I had  
19 woodwork. I took up woodwork and there was like cookery  
20 classes and stuff. I just remember the difference in  
21 the staff and all. Well, there was good staff in  
22 St. Pat's too, like, but I just didn't see any --  
23 I think I read something about sectarian stuff and all,  
24 but I never seen anything, to be honest, and I got on  
25 well with people from the other side of the divide,

1           **like, and ...**

2       Q.   I am just going to -- because the Inquiry is looking at  
3           these institutions, I am going to just show a couple of  
4           documents that relate to you and your time in Lisnevin  
5           --

6       **A.   Uh-huh.**

7       Q.   -- just to let the Panel see some of the documents that  
8           there were kept in Lisnevin.  If we could look at  
9           SPT48327, please, this is -- this is April 1984.  So it  
10          is later.  It is actually a document that was being  
11          prepared by Lisnevin whenever -- what actually happened,  
12          you went into Lisnevin and you were out on leave and you  
13          got into trouble.

14      **A.   Yes.**

15      Q.   Then you were subsequently sentenced to a term in the  
16          Young Offenders Centre because of the trouble you got  
17          into on that occasion.

18      **A.   Uh-huh.  It was just like -- even though Lisnevin was a  
19          good -- seemed better, like, looked after and stuff, you  
20          were meeting people on it that would just get into the  
21          same things.  I think I had been in Lisnevin for about  
22          six or seven months before I earned the thing to get out  
23          for a weekend, but I just got in with a few -- I think  
24          there was a few boys in it got out the same weekend.  We  
25          met up and it was a camping trip we went to in Co. Down.**

1       **We ended up stealing cars and burgling stuff on that**  
2       **weekend, got caught and got sentenced to YOC then.**

3       Q. Uh-huh. Just this document that's on the screen is  
4       basically setting out the fact that when you arrived  
5       into Lisnevin, you were assessed, first of all, and it's  
6       clear that you were doing well there. When they were  
7       writing to the court on your behalf in April 1984, they  
8       actually wanted you to stay in Lisnevin --

9       **A. Uh-huh.**

10      Q. -- because you had been placed on a treatment programme  
11      that had been put into operation, and that involved  
12      an attempt -- sorry -- if we can just scroll down  
13      a little bit, please -- through a course of professional  
14      counselling to challenge your delinquent attitudes, as  
15      it is described, in relation to property offences,  
16      and there had been a strong suggestion of glue sniffing  
17      on your part, and you were subjected to an element of  
18      counselling therapy in the area to solvent abuse. They  
19      were doing various things to try to address your  
20      offending behaviour and the anti-social behaviour that  
21      you had been involved in, HIA253. They wanted to  
22      continue on with that. So they wanted you actually to  
23      be sent back to Lisnevin --

24      **A. Right.**

25      Q. -- to complete that programme of work that they had

1 engaged with you, but that didn't happen. I am not  
2 going to go through the rest of it, but you can see that  
3 that's what they were suggesting in the last -- and you  
4 actually mentioned the name of the person who was your  
5 key worker in Lisnevin.

6 **A. I think I remember I had a LN 42 . You**  
7 **were appointed to certain members of staff who looked**  
8 **after ...**

9 Q. You will see that's the person who actually signed this  
10 document trying to keep you in Lisnevin at that time.

11 **A. Sorry. I was under the impression you went to Lisnevin**  
12 **for so long and then you were sent back to St. Pat's.**  
13 **I thought you went there for like a -- it was a secure**  
14 **unit. They tried to, you know, make better of you and**  
15 **then you went back to St. Pat's or whatever. I wasn't**  
16 **sure at the time, like, whether you actually finished**  
17 **the one to three years there. I wasn't sure.**

18 Q. Well, I think that the reality in your case -- it would  
19 have maybe depended on different boys -- but the reality  
20 in your case was that because you had been absconding so  
21 much, St. Pat's felt that they could not keep you in  
22 St. Pat's and therefore that's why you went to the more  
23 secure unit.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. It was also a training school. So you would have spent

1 the rest of whatever time at training school --

2 **A. Oh, right, right.**

3 Q. -- in Lisnevin, had it not been for this offending  
4 episode.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 CHAIRMAN: I think the point the letter seems to be making,  
7 HIA253, is LN 42 who is writing the letter, is  
8 trying to persuade the court not to send you to  
9 Hydebank.

10 **A. Oh, yes, when I was up -- when I was --**

11 Q. Yes.

12 **A. -- charged with the offences for getting out? Right.**

13 **Oh, aye. That they would take me back then?**

14 MS SMITH: Yes. So they were hoping to --

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- avoid the necessity for you going to the Young  
17 Offenders Centre.

18 **A. Uh-huh. As I says to you before I came in, one thing I**  
19 **probably found good about going to Hydebank -- well, it**  
20 **was a real tough, harder place, but it quashed the one**  
21 **to three years. With the one to three years you weren't**  
22 **sure how long you had to do with that one -- it could**  
23 **have been one year; it could have been three years --**  
24 **where getting sentenced to Hydebank, I think it was**  
25 **a 12-month sentence and I had done like two and a half**

1 months remand, which didn't come off my sentence, but  
2 I think I was in it a total of eight and a half months  
3 or something, but it quashed the --

4 Q. The Training School Order?

5 A. -- actual one to three Training School Order.

6 Q. So you had -- you had a definite end date so far as when  
7 you would have been released?

8 A. I had a date then to look to that I knew once I had  
9 completed that, that was the finish of it.

10 Q. Well, just one other document from your Lisnevin time.  
11 If we could just look at 48343, this is the kind of  
12 occurrence sheets -- they were typing them in Lisnevin  
13 before they were typing them in St. Pat's -- but these  
14 are the kind of records that were being kept on you in  
15 your time in Lisnevin. You will see that they recorded  
16 when you came in, you were being very quiet. It wasn't  
17 until you had been there about a week when you started  
18 to speak without being spoken to --

19 A. Uh-huh.

20 Q. -- although it wasn't a particularly positive form of  
21 speaking in that you -- the first time you spoke was to  
22 slag somebody else off.

23 If we can just scroll on down, please, to the next  
24 -- the next pages continue to relate the time -- your  
25 time in Lisnevin. You were being cheeky and they

1 discovered a Ford key in your pocket believed to be the  
2 missing school car key, but it wasn't the car key. Just  
3 scroll on down. It records the visits from your mother  
4 and friend and visit from your brother.

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. Then you weren't at the pick-up point, ten minutes late.  
7 Therefore you had been reported as an absconder, and  
8 then you were charged with the burglary and taking and  
9 driving away, as you relate, in May 1985 (sic), and then  
10 you were committed to the YOC for 12 months on 24th July  
11 '84 and your clothes were taken from Lisnevin to the  
12 YOC.

13 Now going back to your statement, you talk about  
14 your time in Hydebank, HIA253, in paragraph 13 at 175.  
15 In this paragraph you say you did not consider the  
16 regime in Hydebank to be very abusive. There were rules  
17 that had to be followed. You were given what you called  
18 the 'short, sharp shock' treatment to ensure you  
19 followed the rules. It was like being in the army in  
20 your view. You remember being forced to march up and  
21 down in the corridor on your first night in Elm House.  
22 You remember you had to scrub the floors with  
23 a toothbrush and you were not allowed to walk on the  
24 brown tiles because it was harder to get footprints off  
25 those tiles. You remember that you had to go to the

1 storeroom and clean up steel mop buckets with cleaning  
2 fluid and wire wool. You say:

3 "The staff also knew pressure points and could hit  
4 you on a certain point of the shoulder and you would  
5 fall to your knees. It was hard, but I just accepted  
6 that I had to follow the rules if I wanted to stay on  
7 the right side of the staff. I served my sentence and  
8 left in January '85 and did not have to go back to  
9 St. Patrick's."

10 Now when we were talking earlier, you were aged 16  
11 when you went into Hydebank --

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. -- and you turned . You had your birthday there  
14 in of . You were saying to me that at the  
15 time you thought the treatment that you got there was  
16 justified, because you had committed a crime and you  
17 felt you deserved it.

18 **A. Could you just scroll down the page a wee bit again just  
19 to ...?**

20 Q. Yes. Sure.

21 **A. Sorry. No. Just up to the start of -- aye. Just --  
22 what I say there, I did consider the regime at Hydebank  
23 to be very --**

24 Q. Abusive?

25 **A. -- did not -- sorry -- did not consider it to be**

1 abusive. It was abusive, but I seen it to be, "This is  
2 your punishment. I mean, you have done St. Pat's.  
3 You've done Hydebank -- or Lisnevin". It was -- when  
4 I say a 'short, sharp shock', I was under the impression  
5 that this was policy, that you get treated like this,  
6 that this is going to, like, knock it all out of you,  
7 and further on in years now I have always wanted --  
8 always, like, wanted to question a lot of the stuff that  
9 happened. These guys were all ex-army. Not all, but  
10 most of the officers were in it. Gym teachers and a lot  
11 of the officers were SA... -- they had stamps that they  
12 were certain part of the army, like tattoos, their blood  
13 types, and a lot of them were like specialist trained  
14 army people. I say there was one or two there could  
15 just touch you certain points. So I always wanted to  
16 question. Then I seen it as punishment for getting into  
17 crime, but now I would like to -- always want to  
18 question was it sanctioned? Was it like government --  
19 you know, "This is how you treat these kids" or was it  
20 the officers doing this on their own -- their own way?

21 Some of the things like -- there is some of the  
22 things in that statement I haven't -- I made that  
23 statement with yourselves and I says at the time if  
24 there's anything else I remember, I would add to it.  
25 I have some notes in my own statement there about cold

1 showers and -- for punishment and getting beat at the  
2 gym if you didn't do things right.

3 I remember one day -- you got locked up for an hour  
4 at lunchtime, and your room was so neat -- you had to  
5 make a bed pack up like the army, and there wouldn't  
6 have been a crease. It had to be like a -- it looked  
7 like a sandwich. The brown blanket was round the  
8 outside and the two sheets in the middle. This had to  
9 be like an exact rectangle with no wrinkles in the bed,  
10 everything -- not a single bit of dust. If they had  
11 come in with a white glove and found dust in your room,  
12 everything was wrecked again. You were made to scrub it  
13 again. Again I just thought that was -- this is what  
14 you get, like.

15 I remember one day at lunchtime you had been locked  
16 up for an hour, but officers would some days take their  
17 shoes off and open the gate quietly and sneak down and  
18 open your hatch, you know. On this day I was lying  
19 under the bed, because you were too scared to lie on the  
20 bed if you put a crease on it, and used to, like, lie  
21 under it for a sleep over your lunch break or whatever.  
22 He opened the hatch and next thing the door was opened,  
23 and I was lying under the bed and he got me out. I had  
24 my belt loosened just for comfortness and he accused me  
25 of doing things with myself.

1           When the lunch break -- I think he called another  
2 officer down to the cell and the two of them was, like,  
3 disciplining me. I think I got a couple of slaps about  
4 and stuff, locked up again. I think there was another  
5 half hour left of the lunch break. Whenever that lunch  
6 break was over, everybody had to stand outside their  
7 doors at attention. They done like a -- there was like  
8 a -- I can't remember -- you know, like when they -- you  
9 were heading back to education. They says, "Right.  
10 Stand to attention. Left turn. March", you know, like  
11 a bit of a ritual. Before they done all that he grabbed  
12 me by the ear and walked me up and down the corridor and  
13 said, "Tell everybody what you were doing over your  
14 lunch break", forcing me to say I was doing things that  
15 I actually hadn't been doing, and -- but I had seen this  
16 done with another boy, not the same reason, but we were  
17 doing -- there used to be like a fence in your cell and  
18 you could actually use it like an intercom. If you  
19 stood on top of your toilet, you could talk to people  
20 maybe down below you or further down the wing. If you  
21 were caught doing that, you were pulled out in front of  
22 everybody.

23 Q. You found this particular parading of you along the  
24 other inmates particularly humiliating?

25 A. Oh, aye, definitely. Like, when you only got in, you

1 were given a well oversized red jumper, bright red, big  
2 flary jeans. This was to embarrass you too. You had to  
3 earn, like, half decent clothes after that, and this was  
4 like for the other boys -- you know, like, you are the  
5 new one -- laugh at you and things like that. There was  
6 a lot of things to embarrass you, like.

7 Q. You also made mention of the fact that you opted for to  
8 do a certain course. You wanted to do mechanics.

9 A. Aye. I put down for mechanics for my -- I think there  
10 was education too. There was classrooms, but I thought  
11 mechanics to go for something like a trade, and there  
12 was a guy there -- I can't -- I think it was or  
13 something like that, but he had moulds of two canoes and  
14 made his own canoes which he sold, and he had us making  
15 -- actually like inside with like tins of resin brushing  
16 into the moulds to make these canoes, and another thing  
17 I remember about it was like just brush the floor. Have  
18 a smoke. I think I remember he had some fitness  
19 equipment, like a chest expander. He used to stand. He  
20 would have been using that. I never learned anything,  
21 like, from him, the basics of mechanics, likes clutches  
22 or brakes or anything like that. It was I remember like  
23 learn how to grind, like, the inside -- like the pistons  
24 of an engine, like, grinding them down, but it wasn't in  
25 any way like educating me for mechanics that I think.

1 Q. Also just for completeness about what you were telling  
2 me earlier you said that also there was a lot of  
3 screaming and shouting that went on.

4 A. It never stopped. Aye. The screaming and shouting was  
5 just -- as I say, at the time I thought, "This is just  
6 what you get for your discipline for being ...", but if  
7 you asked for something, you were squealed at why you  
8 wanted it, and screaming and shouting and, like, things  
9 like that never stopped.

10 Particularlly the gym was the toughest area of it.  
11 You were made to do some things like full length of the  
12 gym frog hops. If you, like, couldn't make the length  
13 of the gym, you were trailed up again to keep at it.  
14 Lie on your stomach. Don't use your legs. Pull  
15 yourself the whole length of the gym with just your arms  
16 only. It was like if you didn't get it right, you were  
17 really forced to do it, like.

18 On the landings it was just the same, like. There  
19 was always shouting. The cleaning, it just never  
20 stopped. As I say about the brown tile rule, there was  
21 -- the first place you go into in Hydebank is E1, which  
22 they class as probably the toughest. You maybe spend  
23 six to eight weeks there before you earn your way to  
24 move on to the next part, but it was like these brown  
25 and cream tiles. You had to sort of like dance round

1 the brown tiles. They were constantly being buffed, and  
2 I also would have been buffing them myself, like, but  
3 there was days you had to go to, like, see a doctor or  
4 you'd to go to a visit or anything. You had to actually  
5 dance round these. You would be getting slapped if you  
6 touched them or -- you know.

7 I remember, like, I have talked to fellas who have  
8 been in it maybe early '90s and all and joking with them  
9 saying, "You had it easy", because I found -- I later  
10 found out I think the year I left that they actually  
11 changed the governor -- I was told this anyway -- and  
12 he'd started changing a lot of the rules from then in  
13 the --

14 Q. So you believe that after you had left the regime had  
15 changed and things were --

16 A. I had spoke to young fellas in it and I used to joke --  
17 I spoke to some of them in bars and stuff and tell them  
18 what we got and they couldn't believe it, like.

19 Q. The regime was harder.

20 A. I actually had to scrub my cell floor with a toothbrush  
21 one day for punishment.

22 There was this other big -- I think he was a PO.  
23 I think it was almost every morning you got the  
24 inspections. You had to be up early in the morning  
25 making this bed pack, get your bed -- the bed pack made,

1 every single part of your cell dusted, and there used to  
2 be this big PO. Whatever mood he was in, some days he  
3 just -- he wouldn't even inspect the cells, just walk  
4 into every one, lift the bed, throw it and wreck  
5 everything in the room. "Do it all again."

6 I remember another day I had my room spotless, cell  
7 room, and there was like a hair or something on the  
8 toilet and he actually put my head into the toilet.  
9 "What's this?", and the room wrecked again, and that was  
10 just happening on a regular -- regular occurrence, like.

11 Q. Well, going back to your statement, HIA253, if we may,  
12 in paragraphs 14 to 16 you talk about what life was like  
13 for you after you left --

14 A. Uh-huh.

15 Q. -- institutions. I am not going to go into that. As  
16 I explained to you, the Panel are aware of what you say  
17 there.

18 In paragraph 17 you deal with the question that we  
19 ask everybody who comes to speak to us and that is about  
20 what recommendations the Inquiry should make at the end  
21 of its work --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- in respect of those children who were abused in  
24 institutions, and you say there that you are very upset  
25 and annoyed that there was no supervision whilst you

1 were in the institutions.

2 "I believe that there should be a public apology and  
3 counselling provision for those who wish to have it.  
4 Compensation for me is not a major factor."

5 When we were talking earlier, you were explaining to  
6 me that as a result of what happened later in your life  
7 you ended up going to WAVE and your attendance there,  
8 you got eight counselling sessions --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- and it was really only at the very end of that time  
11 --

12 **A. I initially went to WAVE -- I was shot by the IRA when**  
13 **I was about 19 in the stomach and the arm. It was only**  
14 **like a couple of years ago a friend told me that WAVE**  
15 **can help you out with certain things if you had been**  
16 **shot or anything. I was going for my HGV licence.**  
17 **I was told that, "WAVE could help you with funding and**  
18 **stuff for it". So I got a name and I phoned them and**  
19 **I went and seen them and that there. I think they put**  
20 **me on to another -- victim support service or something**  
21 **like that, but a girl in WAVE said, "Would you be**  
22 **willing to do a counselling -- like a session of**  
23 **counselling?", and I agreed with it. I think I done six**  
24 **or eight sessions, and it was the very last session that**  
25 **-- I had spoke to this girl and told her about my**

1           behaviour and stuff and to do with being shot and all  
2           from the IRA, being threatened on different occasions  
3           after that over the years.

4           In the last five minutes -- because I could never  
5           speak -- I still have never spoke of any of this stuff  
6           I am sitting here now in front of all these people.  
7           None of my immediate family know. I have only broke out  
8           to a girlfriend who I have been going with for the last  
9           four years, because I have went through two other  
10          relationships and I could never tell them reasons for  
11          certain behaviours and all, and I thought, "I am in my  
12          now". I got the courage up actually with drink in  
13          me one night and spoke to my current girlfriend and  
14          I done these -- the six or eight counselling sessions,  
15          but I never mentioned one thing about any of this stuff,  
16          and it was in the last five minutes of my last actual  
17          thing and I says to the girl -- I says, "Look, although  
18          I have sat here, like, with you six or eight times or  
19          whatever, and there's actually other stuff I never  
20          mentioned where I should have", because if I finally now  
21          at this age went to a counsellor, there is no point in  
22          telling stuff that she is trying to help me with where  
23          I am not telling it all, but that was it and I never  
24          spoke about it again.

25          The reason I decided to go to this here Inquiry is

1 I had always seen on the news a girl and one  
2 day I was in a local shopping centre, in the  
3 , and she had a stall up like advertising about  
4 for this whole thing. I was going to go over to her and  
5 I walked past her. I went down to the shop I was going  
6 to. I came back up. I was trying to get the courage up  
7 to go over. I didn't. Again I walked past. I stood up  
8 a wee bit. Then I thought -- there was like about six  
9 people. I sort of called her to the side and I says,  
10 "Look, you're doing this whole thing about the Inquiry  
11 and that there". I says, "I went through a few  
12 experiences myself". She says, "Hold on. I'll get you  
13 the forms". I was actually looking round the shopping  
14 centre hoping there was nobody there that knew me. She  
15 got me the forms and I tried not to explain. I gave her  
16 my phone number and that. I started getting like  
17 a scattered message that -- you know, which seemed to me  
18 it was sent out to loads of people. "Hi, folks! Our  
19 next meeting is in the " or some hall.  
20 I never bothered getting in touch with her over that.  
21 I thought she was going to ring me to talk to me, you  
22 know, but it seemed it was all public stuff, which  
23 I didn't want involved in, but the forms that I filled  
24 in, then I started hearing from the actual Inquiry  
25 themselves and went and spoke to them ones, but I never

1 wanted involved in any of that, like. I almost left it.  
2 I did leave it and they got in touch with me again.  
3 Then there was a deadline if I wanted to proceed with  
4 it, and I decided within the last three days or  
5 something of the deadline actually to go ahead with it,  
6 like.

7 Q. HIA253, I have explained to you that there is some  
8 counselling available and I think --

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. -- you hope to take that up later today.

11 A. Well, as I say, from I spoke to my girlfriend and spoke  
12 to that counsellor, who I didn't mention only in those  
13 last few minutes, it did give me a bit more confidence.  
14 I am the type of person who will only really open out  
15 with drink, alcohol, like, sort of thing and talk about  
16 different things and -- or, like, it's the only time  
17 I seem to enjoy myself, you know.

18 I just noticed a thing there at the front there they  
19 called me . You know, I could understand that.  
20 I am the type of person where I always try to explain  
21 and say, "Look, I might not look like I don't smile  
22 much, but it doesn't mean I am actually, you know, not  
23 in good form or things like that there, like".

24 Now after speaking I probably could do -- I am  
25 finding it a bit -- this is a big challenge for me now,

1 like. It is something I could never have done, and  
2 I probably could, you know, talk to a counsellor again,  
3 like, and, as I say, the girl that gave me the first  
4 counselling, I am not -- I wouldn't class myself as  
5 like -- I sort of worked out that, "I could actually,  
6 you know, help myself here. I know what she is trying  
7 to do, but I am not stupid enough to know what it  
8 involves to -- you know, can she help me or ..." It was  
9 good that I could open out to talk, but the actual  
10 helping yourself part of it, you know, I think, "Is it  
11 up to me to actually give myself a push?" and, you know,  
12 that way, like, but it is ...

13 Q. You were explaining to me that you felt that one of the  
14 things that you felt that the counselling had  
15 highlighted for you was, one, maybe she was not the best  
16 fit for you and, secondly, you felt if you had had  
17 a better experience at school and beyond, that you may  
18 have been sitting on the other side.

19 A. Well, as I say, I come -- is  
20 a She lives in and she  
21 is a . My is at  
22 going to lead on. I know will do well too.  
23 I come from a family of -- has a degree in  
24 politics -- in peace and politics or something like  
25 that. My My other is



1           only, you know, it is over 30 years ago. I've took  
2           a lot of drugs and glue then. Now I have one drink  
3           a week and that suits me, but to remember everything  
4           over, like, that period of time is ...

5    Q.    It's difficult.

6    A.    You know, I've added a couple of smaller notes there.  
7           Like in the first statement there I never mentioned  
8           stuff like the cold showers and the opening of my cells  
9           and stuff. I have sort of racked my brain during this  
10          -- waiting on this process coming, but it is hard to --

11   Q.    Remember everything.

12   A.    -- remember everything, like. There was other things,  
13          like, but it is just remembering it all, you know.  
14          I mean, there's things there that stick. I remember  
15          being in London with my mother when I was a kid and  
16          throwing a life jacket off a boat and the man standing  
17          screaming at me, but I can't remember his face or  
18          I can't remember going to London on a plane, you know,  
19          things like that. It's just some things, you know, come  
20          and go and stuff, but I feel I have covered enough,  
21          like, that I want to tell and ...

22   Q.    Well, thank you again, HIA253. As I say, the Panel  
23          Members may have some questions for you.

24   A.    Okay.

25

1 Questions from THE PANEL

2 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA253. That has been really  
3 helpful. Can I just check? Do you know the time in  
4 December when you and the three -- two other lads came  
5 back after --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- and you were stripped off, was that because your  
8 clothes were wet? Was that --

9 A. Well, it could -- yes, more than likely it could have  
10 been for that reason, but we did also get beat about the  
11 legs, like, and stuff --

12 Q. Once you were --

13 A. -- as punishment. Now I am not 100% it was the same  
14 night. They are saying in their statement it was the  
15 same night and it was a bit earlier than what they are  
16 actually saying there, but, as I say, there wouldn't  
17 have been any reason to go back near -- the whole  
18 purpose was to run away from that place.

19 Q. Sure.

20 A. The only reason we would have been there that night was  
21 not to have somewhere to go that night. It was -- it  
22 was a night of heavy rain. Otherwise what was the  
23 purpose of us going back there when the purpose was to  
24 run away from the place?

25 He does state there -- we could have been fighting,

1           because glue did have that effect on you. It wasn't  
2           very sociable. You'd like -- you hallucinated. You  
3           maybe thought your friend was the Devil or something.  
4           I remember fighting on many occasion. I actually  
5           preferred to go on my own a lot of times and do it.  
6           I was a real loner.

7           But my story of that is our only reason of banging  
8           doors was to get in that night. That was the only  
9           purpose. Otherwise there was no point. As I say, we  
10          wanted away from the place, not -- not to go back to it.

11        Q. You know you were kind in and out of St. Pat's, probably  
12          more out of it than in it --

13        A. Yes.

14        Q. -- but you know the whole issue about glue sniffing, in  
15          any of the places you were did you get any help with  
16          that, discussion about it?

17        A. You see, this is another thing. I know, as it says in  
18          the statement there, you were appointed -- there was --  
19          I can't remember actual talks, but I'm sure it would  
20          have included what you done in your life, like, you  
21          know, and Lisnevin there -- not in St. Pat's. I don't  
22          recall being ever offered any help in that way, but  
23          Lisnevin I think was more of a place like that, even  
24          though I can't remember, you know, actual talks, but  
25          I think there was -- the fact that you were appointed

1 a certain member of staff who was to look after you on  
2 a more personal way, I think that was part of things.

3 It says there about me giving somebody -- like, we  
4 were sort of all at each other until -- you know, it  
5 says there first I might have slagged somebody or  
6 something. There was a wee bit of like fighting with  
7 each other. It was only until you got to know each  
8 other and then you got on great, but there was certain  
9 people, like, you may not get on with and all, but in  
10 that there it sort of -- it seems to make out that  
11 I came in right away and a guy -- I remember a guy  
12 there. He was a wee bit -- he would have told on  
13 us and all, you know, if we were planning wee things  
14 mischievous. He was the type of person would have went  
15 to a member of staff and like what we called squealed  
16 what we were doing and all. He did get a bit of abuse  
17 from a lot of -- like, that's 15 years of age, like, you  
18 know.

19 Q. That's okay. That's great. Thanks, HIA253.

20 MR LANE: Obviously you ran away a fair number of times from  
21 St. Pat's. Was that usually on your own or with other  
22 boys?

23 A. A lot of time I spent on my own. I mean, I seen me  
24 running away -- a lot of time I preferred it on my own,  
25 but there was nights, yes, there was other boys. We

1           **would have left, a couple of us, but a lot of times also**  
2           **on my own.**

3    Q.   Were there particular times when, say, supervision was  
4           a bit thin that you chose to go or was it just any old  
5           time?

6    A.   **I had different reasons just. Well, as I say -- I have**  
7           **stated some of the reasons and other reasons were just,**  
8           **aye, to get away from it.**

9    Q.   Was it at night-time or during the day or ...?

10   A.   **I think more or less as far as I can remember you would**  
11           **leave more or less at any time.**

12   Q.   And did staff not try and stop you as you were going?

13   A.   **Well, it was a matter of planning, like. It wasn't like**  
14           **a great escape. It wasn't a hard place to get out of,**  
15           **but it was just a matter of watching where the staff**  
16           **were at the time and just making sure you got out**  
17           **without being seen, like.**

18   Q.   You headed for the city presumably when you got out?

19   A.   **Aye. Well, it was -- it was a mile away from where**  
20           **I lived, like, aye.**

21   Q.   Right. Okay. Thank you.

22   CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA253, those are all the questions we want  
23           to ask you. Thank you very much for coming to speak to  
24           us today.

25   A.   **Okay.**

1 **(Witness withdrew)**

2 MS SMITH: Chairman, the second witness who was to give  
3 evidence today has unfortunately been unable to attend  
4 the Inquiry today. So we will not be able to hear from  
5 our third witness until about 2 o'clock today.

6 CHAIRMAN: Very well. We will rise until then.

7 (11.15 am)

8 (Short break)

9 (2.20 pm)

10 WITNESS HIA384 (called by videolink)

11 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies  
12 and gentlemen. Our next witness today is HIA384.  
13 HIA384 is "HIA384". He wishes to affirm, Chairman, and  
14 after some discussion he is going to maintain the  
15 anonymity afforded by the Inquiry.

16 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. HIA384, can you hear me clearly?

17 **A. Yes, I can hear you, sir.**

18 **WITNESS HIA384 (affirmed)**

19 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, HIA384. If at any time you can't hear  
20 what's being said or for personal reasons you need  
21 a short break, don't hesitate to say, please.

22 **A. Okay, sir. Thank you.**

23 **Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY**

24 MS SMITH: HIA384, back to me. As I'm going -- as  
25 I explained to you earlier, HIA384, I am going to tell

1 the Inquiry Panel and legal representatives here where  
2 documents are in our bundle of papers relevant to your  
3 evidence before coming on to speak to you about what you  
4 want to say to us. I just want to confirm for the  
5 people here present that there are two lawyers from the  
6 Inquiry present with you today who have brought a bundle  
7 of documents. So you know and have seen the documents  
8 to which I am going to refer. Isn't that correct?

9 **A. That's correct.**

10 Q. Now I won't -- in those circumstances, HIA384, I am not  
11 going to be calling everything up that we refer to, but  
12 I will just give the page reference numbers to various  
13 documents. All right?

14 **A. Okay. Okay.**

15 Q. First of all, HIA384's witness statement can be found at  
16 SPT205 to 216.

17 The De La Salle response is at SPT442 to 445 and at  
18 729 to 731.

19 There is a Health & Social Care Board response,  
20 which can be found at 8571086 (sic), which includes  
21 exhibits and statements from the social workers who were  
22 involved in HIA384's care prior to him going into  
23 St. Patrick's.

24 CHAIRMAN: Can you just say that number again?

25 MS SMITH: Yes. 857 to 1086.

1 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Yes.

2 MS SMITH: There is a bundle of Social Services material  
3 again which is relevant to his life prior to going into  
4 St. Patrick's largely at 70001 to 73032.

5 The Department of Justice have given a response  
6 statement at 1539 to 1545, and they say they had no  
7 knowledge of HIA384's allegations prior to seeing  
8 a Letter of Claim in a civil suit that he brought.  
9 There is Department of Justice material at pages 50113  
10 to 52318.

11 There is police material at 21144 to 21318 and 21775  
12 to 21835.

13 There are civil claim papers at 30569 to 30669.

14 I should say there is another bundle of police  
15 material at 26109 to 26113.

16 The Inquiry has also received a statement from BR26,  
17 which is at SPT2191 to 2197; from a member of staff,  
18 SPT53 -- and again I am using names that aren't to be  
19 used outside the Inquiry chamber. That's SPT60007 to  
20 60008. Is that one too many zeros there? 0008. The  
21 Inquiry has also received a draft statement from another  
22 member of staff, SPT52, and a statement from SPT2, which  
23 I will refer to in due course.

24 Now, HIA384, you can't see this, but the statement  
25 that you provided for the Inquiry is on the screens in

1 the chamber here in front of us. You should have a copy  
2 of it there. Can I just ask you --

3 **A. Yes, I have it.**

4 Q. You do have it. Sorry. We will try not to talk over  
5 each other. I know it is a habit I have. So we will  
6 try very hard not to do that.

7 Just to let you know that this is the statement --  
8 can you confirm this is the statement that you wrote  
9 when you were interviewed by Inquiry staff and signed it  
10 and it is the evidence that you want the Inquiry to  
11 consider together with anything else you tell us today?

12 **A. Yes, I do and, yes, this is my statement.**

13 Q. Well, HIA384, if we can just go to your statement, which  
14 is at page 205 in our bundle, I am just asking -- it is  
15 actually on the screen. I beg your pardon. Your  
16 personal details and background are set out in the first  
17 four paragraphs of your statement, HIA384.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. I am not going to go into the detail of your early life  
20 at all. I would just remind the Panel that there is  
21 a background report which was prepared by a resident  
22 social worker, a \_\_\_\_\_ dated 6th March 1995,  
23 which was prepared for a hearing in Dublin High Court.  
24 That can be found in the bundle at 50128 to 50130. Now  
25 I am not going to have it called up, but it sets out

1 a lot of the background of your early life and your time  
2 in a children's home, in Bocombra Children's Home, and  
3 Edenvilla, which you talk about in paragraphs 5 to 13.  
4 As we discussed, HIA384, the Panel are aware of the  
5 issues that you have expressed in your statement about  
6 your time in both those homes and you are aware those  
7 are not homes the Inquiry is investigating, but they are  
8 fully aware of what you say about your time there. As  
9 I say, there is a wealth of material about what happened  
10 there also in our bundle of documents.

11 Now you went to St. Pat's on -- you were first  
12 admitted on 17th September 1993 and that was on a Place  
13 of Safety Order, because you were running away from  
14 Bocombra and Edenvilla and -- sorry. Is everything all  
15 right?

16 **A. Sorry. It is just I am trying to close the blind. My**  
17 **apologies.**

18 Q. That's okay. You were admitted -- please correct me if  
19 I have got anything wrong here, HIA384, and interrupt me  
20 if I have got anything wrong, but you were admitted to  
21 St. Patrick's on a Place of Safety Order on 17th  
22 September 1993. Within a short period of time you  
23 started to abscond from St. Patrick's. There is  
24 a document at 50117 which is essentially your admission  
25 history. I know we were looking at that earlier this

1 afternoon.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. Now there was an interim detention order made in  
4 October 1993, and you can see from the document that we  
5 have that you were -- sorry. Maybe just look at it just  
6 for completeness, please. It is SPT50117. The plan was  
7 that you would go into St. Patrick's for a while and  
8 then you would be returned to Bocombra Lodge. You see  
9 there was home leave to Bocombra and then you were  
10 returned to Bocombra on 3rd November 1993. The Order  
11 that allowed that to happened was then discharged and  
12 you were returned in November '93, but you had to go  
13 back into St. Patrick's, because you were again  
14 absconding from Bocombra and things were not working out  
15 there. So you go back in on a Training -- on a Place of  
16 Safety Order -- I beg your pardon -- at the end of  
17 November '93. Again they tried to get you back to  
18 St. Patrick's, but ultimately in January '94 you are  
19 made subject to a Training School Order and you are in  
20 St. Patrick's in January 1994. I will go on to talk  
21 about what happened after that, but that's essentially  
22 how you came to be in St. Patrick's.

23 Now again I am not going to go into details, but one  
24 of the things that you say is that -- it is clear from  
25 the documents, I should say, that staff in St. Patrick's

1 were aware of the issues in your background and during  
2 your time in St. Patrick's you were continuing to attend  
3 to see a psychiatrist and a psychologist, a Dr McKeown  
4 and a Mr Lenahan. There is evidence of that in the  
5 papers. There is a document at 50128. Again I don't  
6 need to call all of these documents up, but it shows  
7 that that continuing attendance occurred when you were  
8 in St. Patrick's.

9 We also know from the papers that there was -- some  
10 of the social workers who had been involved with you  
11 prior to you going into the Training School kept in  
12 contact with you. and in  
13 particular visited you in St. Patrick's, and I know that  
14 while you had a very good relationship with  
15 ultimately you felt that she had let you down in some  
16 way. Isn't that correct?

17 **A. Yes. That's correct. Sorry. Can I just ask the camera**  
18 **to move -- to move the camera, because -- thanks.**

19 Q. Is that better?

20 **A. Because -- no, no, no. If --**

21 Q. Is it maybe the screen that's causing a problem? Is  
22 that in your line of sight?

23 **A. The square of the screen is on your head. So you need**  
24 **to move to your left.**

25 Q. Okay. So I need to move to my left that way. Is that

1 better?

2 **A. Yes, that's better. That's better. It's just I have**  
3 **got the square -- I've got the square cutting you off.**  
4 **That's fine.**

5 Q. So can I just check: you haven't got me on full screen  
6 there? No?

7 **A. No. I've got you up on the screen. It's just that the**  
8 **square I am in, the square was cutting you off. That's**  
9 **all.**

10 Q. All right. I understand. I understand. Okay.  
11 Hopefully that's better. You can see me now okay,  
12 hIA384?

13 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

14 Q. Well, we were just dealing with the fact that there was  
15 some contact with some of the social workers who had  
16 been involved in your care prior to you going into  
17 St. Patrick's, and you indicated that you had a good  
18 relationship with in particular, but  
19 ultimately you felt that she had let you down in some  
20 way. I am not going to go into the details of that,  
21 because, as you know, we are looking at what happened  
22 when you were in St. Patrick's.

23 So if I can come back to your statement, at  
24 paragraph 14 you start to talk about your time in  
25 St. Patrick's. That's page 209. You say that when you

1 arrived at St. Pat's, you were placed in the reception  
2 unit. There was another boy in the unit, who you name  
3 there. I am just going to use the first name. That was  
4 SPT50. You say he was violent -- he was a violent and  
5 abusive bully. He bullied you on a daily basis along  
6 with others:

7 "... and all the staff who had direct contact with  
8 me were aware that it was taking place, including the  
9 teaching staff. He punched and kicked me, pushed me  
10 into walls or on to the floor and verbally abused me.  
11 He abused me about my sexuality and called me 'queer'  
12 and 'faggot'. He also used to steal toiletries, clothes  
13 and money from me."

14 In paragraph 15 you say that the members of the  
15 staff -- of the staff within the unit were aware that  
16 this was going on and in your opinion they provoked the  
17 assaults. They made you sit at the same table as the  
18 people abusing you or left you on your own with them.  
19 You say it was either deliberately done or it was  
20 incompetence on the part of the staff.

21 You talk about the manager of the unit called -- and  
22 I will just use the first name -- SPT13. You say that  
23 he was unable to deal with the bullies. You complained  
24 to him frequently, but he never took a firm line. He  
25 would admonish them with a mild rebuke, and this

1 non-punishment only encouraged them to continue their  
2 abuse.

3 Now you know from we were speaking earlier that we  
4 have received various documents from the De La Salle  
5 Order and from the Department of Justice. Staff -- the  
6 De La Salle Order would say they were aware that  
7 bullying did take place in St. Pat's, but that wasn't  
8 condoned, and it is clear that the records do show that  
9 you were subject to bullying in the home. I am not  
10 going to call up these documents, but I am just going to  
11 refer to a few pages.

12 For example, there is an entry of 2nd September  
13 1993. That can be seen at 40... -- sorry -- 50402, and  
14 there is another one at 504110, which describes a boy as  
15 spitting on you and him being warned about that  
16 behaviour. That's on 20th October '93. On 30th October  
17 '93 at 50414 there is an incident where an obscene  
18 picture was stuck to your door. So it is clear that, as  
19 you say, you were being bullied by others while you were  
20 in St. Pat's, HIA384.

21 What the Order have said is that this -- such  
22 behaviour was not condoned by staff, and apart from  
23 complaining to the staff in the home, you were also  
24 complaining -- there is an entry where you complain to  
25 , your former social worker, about being

1 bullied.

2 There are some examples in the papers -- and you are  
3 aware from our discussion there's a lot of material in  
4 relation to your time in -- both in care and in  
5 St. Patrick's -- of the staff there trying to protect  
6 you.

7 For example, at 50406 and at 50409 there was  
8 an incident on 15th October 1993, and I just want to  
9 confirm SPT87 was your key worker when you were in the  
10 home. Isn't that right?

11 **A. SPT87 was my key worker in reception unit and he was**  
12 **part key working me in Slemish House and my other key**  
13 **worker in Slemish House was SPT88 -- SPT88.**

14 Q. So those are the two gentlemen who had primary care for  
15 you during your time in St. Pat's?

16 **A. Basically they were my key worker. They weren't**  
17 **primary, but they were my key worker.**

18 Q. Well, this incident I am talking about is a situation  
19 where you had lost a points card for your school work  
20 and you complained to SPT87 about the fact that you had  
21 lost this, because there was another boy in the class  
22 who was actually taunting you and saying that he got it  
23 and he had ripped it up and you were worried about  
24 losing any points that you might have acquired, and  
25 SPT87 sorted that out with the school teacher for you.

1 Do you remember that?

2 **A. I can remember certain incidents, but I can't remember**  
3 **everything.**

4 Q. Okay. There is also at 50751 I think that might be  
5 an incident -- you had a meeting with LN 36 , who  
6 was on the board of management for St. Patrick's, about  
7 bullying and --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- and you spoke to him, and again that was on 25th  
10 March 1994. It is 50753 on 28th March 1994, and again  
11 on 29th March 1994 you complain about certain boys  
12 bullying you, and at 51203 those boys were spoken to by  
13 staff.

14 It is also recorded in the papers that you were  
15 making complaints about staff, which made them wary of  
16 you. I know we talked about this and we will come back  
17 to it, but there is an entry, which again I am not going  
18 to call up, which indicates that staff were wary about  
19 the fact that you were making complaints at 50106 and  
20 again at 50163, where SPT87, who was one of your key  
21 workers, was indicating that they had to be concerned  
22 about the complaints that you were making, because you  
23 had complained about staff in your previous home. So  
24 they were all quite wary about you making complaints  
25 about them is what those documents are suggesting.

1           You made the point to me when we were talking  
2           earlier that you felt that the staff didn't really --  
3           that they weren't able to cope with this -- with you in  
4           a way, that they weren't -- that they weren't able to  
5           cope, that they had a duty to ensure that you were safe  
6           and looked after and that they weren't able to do that  
7           -- that's what you felt -- and that they didn't handle  
8           the bullying issues appropriately. Is that right,  
9           HIA384?

10   **A. That is correct. I believe under the -- under the Act**  
11   **-- Children's Act 1936 they should have had a duty and**  
12   **they did have a duty to ensure that any bullying and**  
13   **anything that happened to me, that it shouldn't have**  
14   **happened. I mean, you are talking about twelve to**  
15   **fourteen abusive young men for two members of staff,**  
16   **sometimes only one member of staff. So how can one**  
17   **member of staff or two members of staff actually stop**  
18   **four boys beating the life out of someone --**

19   **Q. So you would say --**

20   **A. -- or should I say one -- one member -- one teacher who**  
21   **has got eight rowdy young people in his class, how --**  
22   **how is he going to protect me, for example, for           or**  
23           **, the teachers?**

24   **Q. Paragraph 16 here just of your statement, which we still**  
25   **have on our screen, you remember one occasion where this**

1 boy SPT50 attacked you with a hammer during the woodwork  
2 class.

3 "He threw the hammer at me and it just missed me  
4 ..."

5 The woodwork teacher, who you recall being called  
6 SPT5, and I gave you a surname and you thought that was  
7 the right surname:

8 "... but he didn't receive any punishment at all.  
9 He was able to carry on bullying me and the other people  
10 follow suit -- followed suit. He was the ringleader in  
11 all of it. The situation was intolerable",  
12 and that was one of the reasons that you kept  
13 running away.

14 There has also been just -- another document --  
15 there's -- you complained about a boy called SPT51 --  
16 and I will just use the first name -- bullying you. At  
17 51206 it is clear that this complaint was made and  
18 SPT88, who I am assuming is your other key worker that  
19 you refer to, he was to impose sanctions on this boy  
20 SPT51.

21 So there seem to have been certainly some steps  
22 being taken by staff to try to address the bullying.  
23 Would you accept that at all, HIA384?

24 **A. Actually I wouldn't accept it, because when they -- when**  
25 **they told the children -- the other boys off, it would**

1 just increase the bullying. So if there wasn't going to  
2 be a proper penalty put against them, the bullying just  
3 kept continuing. Does that make any sense?

4 Q. It does. I suppose I want to explore that a little bit  
5 more with you in the sense that what penalties do you  
6 think might have led to the bullying stopping?

7 A. Well, one, a financial loss, which is what they could  
8 do, because this -- we are talking about marks. In the  
9 class the teacher can give a point between 1 to 5. If  
10 you get 5, you got full pocket money at the end of the  
11 week. So if that person was to lose pocket money,  
12 maybe, maybe it would have helped. Maybe it wouldn't,  
13 I mean, but going back to SPT13, the head of reception  
14 unit, he would just make jokes: "SPT50, leave the little  
15 boy alone", and that would just provoke it even more.

16 Q. So you don't feel -- you don't feel that they imposed  
17 the proper sanctions then on the bullies?

18 A. No, and then you have got Slemish House, which was for  
19 "behaviour problems". Yet I go to Slemish House and  
20 they don't end up in Slemish House. They only end up in  
21 Slemish House if they run away, but they could have used  
22 Slemish House in the terms it was meant to be used for,  
23 time out.

24 Q. Okay. I am just going -- I am going to come on to  
25 Slemish House in a moment or two. There's -- for

1 example, moving on to it, there is records in -- the  
2 Inquiry has seen suggest there was you and another two  
3 boys who you complain about, this boy SPT51, another boy  
4 whose first name escapes me at the moment, but I am just  
5 going to use his surname, which was and SPT54,  
6 another boy. You were in regular contact and the  
7 records suggest that at times you were picking on each  
8 over. You were explaining to me that was all -- that  
9 all took place in Slemish House when you were moved  
10 there. Is that right?

11 **A. No. This is in Saul House.**

12 Q. Saul House.

13 **A. That person called , I know the person you are**  
14 **talking about -- I believe his first name is --**  
15 **and we were in a unit together. So, yes, there was**  
16 **a bit of picking on each other one day and then we**  
17 **opted, but I was placed with them. I didn't want to be**  
18 **there with them.**

19 Q. And would you accept that this was the kind of behaviour  
20 that maybe teenage boys just generally engaged in with  
21 each other, this sort of picking on each other and name  
22 calling, that kind of thing?

23 **A. Yes, I totally accept that, but my problem is the way**  
24 **the staff and the Brothers who run the -- who ran**  
25 **St. Patrick's didn't really try to stop it. I mean,**

1           **they would have placed me in the canteen or the kitchen**  
2           **area where we would have had our dinner and I would be**  
3           **physically put into a table with one of the guys who was**  
4           **bullying me. So that just put me in more danger.**

5    Q. Well, here in paragraph 17, coming back to your  
6           statement, you talk about an occasion you were walking  
7           upstairs, sprayed in the eyes with aerosol air  
8           fresheners. You name the two boys there who did that,  
9           SPT50 and SPT51, and some others you can't remember.  
10          You think you were about 12 or 13. You had to go to the  
11          nurse but no serious damage to your eyes.

12                 I should say that we have seen documents in the  
13                 papers of you certainly attending the nurse for various  
14                 things. I didn't actually manage to find that, but  
15                 that's not to say there was not such an incident  
16                 occurred, HIA384. Just I didn't see the nurse recording  
17                 you getting treatment for your eyes in any of the papers  
18                 I saw.

19    **A. Uh-huh.**

20    Q. But you also remember being abused constantly in  
21          a variety of manners, such as school work being  
22          destroyed. That's the kind of example we were talking  
23          about, your points card.

24    **A. Yes, yes.**

25    Q. Stabbed with pens and pencils, generally tortured beyond

1 belief. You started to wet the bed and you were in  
2 a state of constant fear. That happened all the time  
3 that you were in reception unit and then also when you  
4 moved to Saul House, and it also happened when you were  
5 placed in Slemish House.

6 Now Slemish House was the close observation unit in  
7 St. Patrick's. We know that you went there -- you say  
8 you were there for two -- three nights in October 1983  
9 and --

10 **A. 1993.**

11 Q. Sorry?

12 **A. 1993.**

13 Q. '93, yes.

14 **A. Because you said '83.**

15 Q. This was before you went back to Bocombra. Then you  
16 were transferred back to Bocombra. However, you came  
17 back in, as we know, and got the Training School Order.  
18 Once the Training School Order and you started to  
19 abscond again, that's when you essentially spent the  
20 rest of your time in St. Patrick's in Slemish House.  
21 Isn't that correct?

22 **A. Yes, and I would say unlawful, because the Admissions**  
23 **Panel should have been held quite often, every six**  
24 **weeks. I understand that that didn't really happen for**  
25 **me.**

1 Q. We will come and have a look at that. I know there was  
2 certainly a Licence Review Panel held and there were  
3 various case conferences held on you during your time in  
4 the home, but paragraph 18 here you say that you  
5 complained on several occasions to -- I am going to use  
6 the name, and it is SPT52, who was head of the care  
7 section in St. Patrick's and to --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- SPT53, who was head of education. You say that both  
10 men --

11 **A. Can I just --**

12 Q. Sorry.

13 **A. Sorry. Sorry. SPT53 was actually head of the justice**  
14 **unit. I believe that that's -- he's not head of**  
15 **education. He is head of justice unit.**

16 Q. That's just a mistake in the statement then that we  
17 didn't pick up on?

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

19 Q. Okay. Well, you say that both men acknowledged they  
20 were aware of your situation, but as far as you were  
21 concerned they did little or nothing to alleviate it.  
22 The attitude appeared to be what could they do about it.  
23 At one stage you informed SPT52 that if he did not move  
24 you from reception, that would you call police, because  
25 you were not getting enough protection, and you were

1 moved about three weeks later to Saul House, but you say  
2 the bullying went on.

3 Now, as I have explained to you, the Inquiry has  
4 received a statement from SPT52. Now it is not as yet  
5 signed, so I can't categorically say it is his final  
6 statement, but in that statement at paragraph 2 he said  
7 that he considered you to be a vulnerable person. He  
8 remembers you as always attention-seeking, and at  
9 paragraph 3 of his statement he said that he always  
10 dealt with any complaints that you made in accordance  
11 with the training school's protocols.

12 SPT53 has said categorically that he did not receive  
13 a complaint from you. His statement is in the bundle at  
14 60007. He did not remember you, but he recalls at one  
15 stage driving a staff member to Dublin to go to a court  
16 hearing. Now the documents that I have looked through  
17 would suggest, and I think you would accept this, that  
18 SPT53 was not someone who was involved in your daily  
19 care. As you say, he was on the justice side then and  
20 you were on the care side, and that would be correct.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. SPT52, however, would have had more dealings with you?

23 **A. Yes. So I don't understand SPT52 saying he doesn't**  
24 **remember me making complaints.**

25 Q. No. What he says is that he always dealt with any

1 complaints that came to him by way of the protocols that  
2 were in operation. So, in other words, he is saying  
3 they were not ignoring the complaints you were making,  
4 HIA384, but they dealt with them in accordance with  
5 whatever system that they had to deal with such  
6 complaints.

7 **A. And do we have a copy of those protocols?**

8 Q. Well, I think -- we can certainly ask the Order and the  
9 Department of Justice if there was anything written, but  
10 I think this was probably a procedure in the home that  
11 they would have referred it up the line management, to  
12 use a more modern expression.

13 **A. All right. Is that why LN 36 became involved?**

14 Q. Sorry? LN 36 Yes, that may well have been --  
15 that may well have resulted in the meeting that you had  
16 with LN 36 Indeed.

17 Well, what you said to me when I was explaining to  
18 you what these two men had said, you said that you were  
19 trying to get people to listen to you, that you were  
20 only 12 or 13 at the time, and that's why you were  
21 complaining so much.

22 **A. Yes. I was frightened.**

23 Q. You also remember SPT53. You said he shared an office  
24 with BR90, BR26, and that there was -- there was  
25 somebody -- the reason you complain about him is that

1           there was some boy who was in on the justice side,  
2           somebody who you only know by the nickname

3   **A. Yes.**

4   Q.   -- who also was one of the bullies, and that's why you  
5       felt he ought to have done more too. Is that right?

6   **A. Yes, yes. That's correct.**

7   Q.   Well, as I said to you, the records do show that you  
8       were complaining, HIA384. 50750 shows that you  
9       complained and attempts were made to deal with the  
10      situation. There was a meeting on 28th March '95 about  
11      bullying at 50753.

12           Can I just explain to you, HIA384, although I am not  
13      calling up these documents and I know you have them  
14      there, the Panel are aware of them and they can look at  
15      them in due course if they need to see the details of  
16      them, but I am just highlighting where the documents are  
17      and I know that you have gone through them with the  
18      legal team who are over there today.

19   **A. Yes.**

20   Q.   At 50802 it is recorded that you actually wanted to  
21      speak to the police about the fact that you were being  
22      bullied and arrangements were made by St. Patrick's to  
23      allow you to do that. That was on 9th June --

24   **A. Yes.**

25   Q.   -- 1994.

1 **A. Okay.**

2 Q. I have also a record at 51206. I think that's the  
3 record that we were talking about before where SPT88 was  
4 to impose a sanction on the boy SPT51 who was bullying  
5 you. That was in May 1994.

6 There is also an entry about you wanting to see  
7 a solicitor. This is -- you made a complaint to police  
8 about being assaulted by one of the people who you say  
9 were bullying you. That was in December 1994.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. That resulted in no further police action. When you  
12 were told that in St. Patrick's, you said that you  
13 wanted to see a solicitor about the fact that this  
14 complaint had been not dismissed by the police but  
15 wasn't going to be prosecuted by police.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. That meeting with the solicitor was facilitated. That  
18 was in May 1995. Do you remember that?

19 **A. I -- I vaguely remember that, yes.**

20 Q. So then if we can just go back to your statement here at  
21 paragraph 19, you say that when you moved to Saul House,  
22 you met a boy called SPT54. You say he subjected you to  
23 horrendous rape on a daily basis over a period of  
24 approximately three months.

25 "SPT54 also bullied me" --

1     **A.   Yes.**

2     Q.   -- "but yet he was also getting bullied, and I remember  
3           that the people in charge of the greenhouse area, who  
4           were called SPT55 and SPT56 I think" --

5           and again I am using names that aren't to be used  
6           outside this chamber -- they saw SPT54 bully you and  
7           often sent him back to the unit.

8           "I don't know if they advised the unit staff what  
9           was happening."

10          You remember a specific day when SPT54 sexually  
11          assaulted you at the bushes near the greenhouses, and  
12          you say that Brother BR26 actually watched him coming  
13          out of the bushes, pulling up his zipper on the front of  
14          his trousers, but he didn't do anything.  It's your view  
15          that BR26 was paying SPT54 and actively encouraging him  
16          to sexually assault you.

17          "SPT54 was BR26's golden boy and I often saw him  
18          give SPT54 money after he had abused me.

19          Another member of staff, SPT57, asked me whether  
20          I wanted to make a statement to the police and SPT52  
21          came with me to the police station and took notes of  
22          what was said when I made my statement.  I was not  
23          allowed to contact a solicitor for any advice."

24          Now the Order have said and BR26 himself has said  
25          that he denies witnessing any abuse.  He gave

1 a statement to the Inquiry at SPT1228 to 1233. At  
2 paragraphs 15 to 16 of that he addresses the allegations  
3 that you made. Maybe if we could just call that up,  
4 please -- that's 1228 -- and go to paragraph 15.

5 I think it is -- just -- I think it's the end of the  
6 third page. I think this is a different statement.  
7 Apologies. I think I have called up the wrong reference  
8 number. This gentleman has given a general statement  
9 about life in St. Patrick's as well. This is not the  
10 statement where he addresses your allegations, HIA384,  
11 but essentially he said that he couldn't remember you.  
12 As school principal he didn't have any regular dealings  
13 with boys. He did recall the boy SPT54. He recalled  
14 him as a difficult child. He said that your allegations  
15 against him were totally ridiculous. He denied them and  
16 he said that if the allegations that you made about  
17 SPT54 were made, then they would have been investigated  
18 by police. You certainly did not complain to police  
19 about BR26 himself.

20 The other thing is that SPT52 did say in his draft  
21 statement that he did go to police with you, although,  
22 as I was explaining to you, you made two complaints to  
23 police. Apart from the one about the physical assault  
24 in December '94 you made the complaint about SPT54 and  
25 the sexual abuse of you and you also made a complaint

1 about sexual abuse by two other boys during your time in  
2 St. Patrick's. It seems to be from the papers that  
3 I have looked at that SPT52 actually went with you on  
4 the second occasion when you were complaining about the  
5 other two boys --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- and that it was SPT59 who attended with you when you  
8 were complaining about SPT54, and you would accept that  
9 was probably right. You might have got that mixed up  
10 slightly.

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

12 Q. And SPT52 spoke to you at 50798. He spoke to you and --  
13 about proceeding with the complaint about SPT54 and you  
14 said you wanted to go ahead with the charges at that  
15 time?

16 **A. (Nods.)**

17 Q. Now paragraph 20, if we can go back to your statement at  
18 211, please, in paragraph 20 there you say that you made  
19 the statement and SPT54 was arrested:

20 "... but because he was friends with all the young  
21 people in the home in St. Patrick's, they started  
22 bullying me even more to drop the charges against him.  
23 His best friend was called SPT58", and you name him,  
24 "and SPT58 threatened me that the IRA would be contacted  
25 if the charges were not dropped."

1           You say:

2           "St. Pat's had a number of boys detained for  
3 paramilitary offences and I believed the threat could be  
4 serious. I was transferred to Slemish House and the  
5 staff also brought a lot of pressure to bear on me to  
6 retract my statement. The pressure consisted of threats  
7 and constant conversations about the statement. I was  
8 treated as if I had done wrong and I was then bullied by  
9 SPT59 ..."

10          You describe him as:

11          "... the local authority social worker to drop the  
12 charges against SPT54, because he said, 'Gay people do  
13 those things'."

14          You say that:

15          "Another member of staff, SPT2, who is the head of  
16 Slemish House, would say, 'These are lies' and would  
17 make my life worse and I had to withdraw my complaint  
18 against my will."

19          Now I just wanted to check. SPT59, you thought he  
20 was a local authority social worker. The reason you  
21 thought that was because he had an office in St. Pat's  
22 but he was not there every day or was only there during  
23 the day. Is that right?

24   **A. That's correct, and he actually told me that he was with**  
25   **the local authority.**

1 Q. Now just to be clear, and I was talking through with  
2 you, what the police statements show is that whenever  
3 you complained within the home about -- about SPT54  
4 having sexually abused you, both you and he were  
5 interviewed by staff in the home separately. Now at  
6 that time you said what you said he had done to you. He  
7 had spoken to the social workers and told them that you  
8 and he had been involved in consensual activity, and  
9 then at 50129 to 130 you withdrew -- it is recorded that  
10 you withdrew your complaint against SPT54 when you  
11 learned that you had to go to court to give evidence,  
12 and that you later told staff in the home that you had  
13 been a willing participant in the activity with SPT54.  
14 Now I was asking you: is there something you wanted to  
15 say about that to the Inquiry, HIA384?

16 A. I don't -- I don't remember saying I was a willing  
17 participant. If I did say something like that, it was  
18 because of the pressure that was being put on me by  
19 SPT59 to -- because he said gay people had done this.

20 I do remember the threats being made by SPT58 if  
21 I didn't drop the charges, that the IRA would be called  
22 in as such, and because I was only 13/14 at the time,  
23 I took his words as gold, as he was several years older  
24 than me. So what am I going to do?

25 Q. Well, certainly the documents show that you made

1 a withdrawal statement on 23rd June 1994. That's at  
2 50814, and SPT59 did indeed go to the police station  
3 with you.

4 You then -- in June 1998 you made a subsequent  
5 statement to the police asking them to reinvestigate  
6 both that complaint and a later complaint I am going to  
7 come on to in a moment. Ultimately those complaints  
8 resulted in no prosecution. Isn't that correct?

9 **A. That's correct. I mean, I'm just trying to think of all**  
10 **-- I'll give you an example. If SPT59 has put pressure**  
11 **on me to drop the case, then why is he coming with me to**  
12 **the police station? Surely they should have a system in**  
13 **place that another appropriate adult was to be there**  
14 **from -- somebody from outside of the home, and that's**  
15 **what one of my recommendations would be later on is that**  
16 **if somebody is giving a statement as such, that they are**  
17 **not taken by people in the home.**

18 Q. I think we were talking about this in terms of Inquiry  
19 recommendations and you feel that there should be --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- some sort of independent monitoring person, as it  
22 were --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- to whom a child could complain and it would be that  
25 person who would take forward any complaint that they

1 made about their time in the home. Is that right,  
2 HIA384?

3 A. That's right, because -- that's right, because I might  
4 have made statements about the attitudes of staff and  
5 stuff. That's how I perceived how they were treating  
6 me, and when SPT87 -- his favourite phrase was, "Don't  
7 undermine me, boy". So if I'm having staff talking to  
8 me in that manner as a 13-year-old, what am I meant to  
9 do? I am going to back off, because SPT87 is about  
10 . He is a guy, who . So my --  
11 what I am trying to say is that I am a vulnerable  
12 13/14-year-old who has come through sexual abuse in  
13 other places, and that has been proven, and this is how  
14 I perceived life in Slemish House and in Saul and in  
15 reception. All I can do is say what I perceived.

16 Q. Okay. Coming back to your statement, paragraph 21, you  
17 talk about running away with your sister to You  
18 were brought back, and there were court proceedings.  
19 Again you end up in Slemish House.

20 Just for completeness there is minutes of a case  
21 conference from September 1994, which is at 50162, which  
22 shows that when you did run away to , you actually  
23 ended up in the care of Social Services in the Republic  
24 until you were returned to St. Patrick's.

25 Paragraph 22, Slemish House you describe as a secure

1 unit, but there was still bullying even in that  
2 controlled environment. You talk about being repeatedly  
3 abused by a boy called SPT60, who was another resident.  
4 You say you knew who he was because he had spent some  
5 time in another home with your brother. He verbally  
6 abused you every day about what had happened to you in  
7 the reception unit.

8 "He was extremely vicious in his insults. The staff  
9 could not control him and he was incredibly disruptive  
10 during classes and very jealous of anyone who achieved  
11 any success with school work."

12 It is true to say that this particular person that  
13 you name here, you told staff about this at 51320, and  
14 at 51322 he was spoken to by staff about bullying you.  
15 That was on 22nd June 1995.

16 There are other complaints about this type of  
17 behaviour recorded in your records, HIA384 -- and I am  
18 just again going to give page references -- from 24th  
19 March 1995 at 50189 and 2nd April '95 at 50195. So it  
20 is clear that there were complaints, that you were  
21 constantly complaining to staff about the bullying that  
22 you were experiencing.

23 **A. Can I just --**

24 **Q. Sorry. Yes.**

25 **A. Can I just say it is obvious that my life at that time**

1 was very, very unhappy, because if a child is constantly  
2 complaining about what's actually happening to them,  
3 surely it has to be the truth or that that child  
4 perceives himself to be in danger, because all I can  
5 remember from my time in St. Patrick's Training School  
6 is that I was depressed, I was constantly scared and  
7 I was constantly being bullied. I do not have any happy  
8 memories whatsoever about St. Patrick's Training School  
9 or even some of the children's homes that I -- that I  
10 was in.

11 So basically what I am saying is that I was  
12 trying -- I was screaming for help. I was screaming for  
13 help, but no help was being given to me. Help might  
14 have been given to me in the sense of, "Yes, here's  
15 access to the police. Here is access to a solicitor".  
16 What help I needed was psychological help and security,  
17 because I wasn't getting that in St. Patrick's.

18 Q. Well, I am going to come on to explore that a little bit  
19 more with you. I mean, one of the things that, as  
20 I said at the outset, you were still -- when you were in  
21 St. Patrick's, you were seeing a psychiatrist and you  
22 were seeing Mr Lenahan, who was a psychologist. There  
23 is a record there from -- you were telling the staff in  
24 St. Pat's one thing and you were telling Mr Lenahan  
25 another thing, and that's recorded in your paperwork,

1 HIA384. So did you not feel that the contact with  
2 Mr Lenahan was beneficial to you?

3 **A. No, because I felt that it was one-sided. I felt that,**  
4 **because I was in a young offenders' meeting for people**  
5 **who would -- who had inappropriate behaviour that it was**  
6 **only one-sided and everything I said would end up back**  
7 **in the hands of the staff. I didn't feel I had any**  
8 **confidentiality whatsoever.**

9 Q. Okay. So you didn't feel able to confide in Mr Lenahan  
10 -- is that what you are saying -- about the treatment  
11 you were getting in St. Pat's?

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

13 Q. Well, just -- you go on to say that you thought the  
14 teaching was basic. There were a number of people in  
15 the classroom, a large number, no interest in learning  
16 and were disruptive.

17 The Order would say yes, there were pupils who were  
18 disruptive, but they did their best to educate the boys.

19 Now we know from your records that you were often  
20 absconding. So you weren't there for the entire time  
21 maybe to get the benefit of the education. Would that  
22 be a fair comment or not?

23 **A. No. That wouldn't be fair, because I was absconding**  
24 **because I wasn't safe in the school or their so-called**  
25 **school. I wasn't safe. When I was in ' class --**

1 he was for the younger -- younger men in St. Patrick's  
2 Training School -- he recorded in one class the number  
3 of times I was stabbed and beaten up, kicked and  
4 punched. So I wasn't safe in school. So I had to  
5 leave, and the Order were saying they could do their  
6 best. Well, by law they had to do more, because they  
7 didn't give me a proper education.

8 Q. You go on here in paragraph 24 to describe:

9 "The general regime operated on a privileged  
10 scheme."

11 You say:

12 "It was based around obtaining a different colour  
13 and each colour had privileges attached to it. The  
14 lowest rank was black, followed by red, amber and green.  
15 Green was the highest rank and therefore had the most  
16 privileges. Essentially black was a punishment rank and  
17 there were no privileges and boys had to go to bed at  
18 6.00 pm. You were not allowed to keep your clothes in  
19 your room. There were no personal belongings allowed  
20 and you were denied any reading materials."

21 Now the Order, as I explained to you, said they  
22 didn't recognise that scheme and it was possible that  
23 an individual house operated such a scheme, but  
24 I believe the Inquiry is going to receive a statement  
25 from someone who actually operated the scheme and can

1 give us some more details about that, but it seems that  
2 -- with the black exception, it seems to be like  
3 a traffic light system.

4 **A. Right.**

5 Q. You worked your way up from black to green. Once you  
6 got to green, what would happen? What kind of  
7 privileges would you have achieved?

8 **A. What was meant to happen was that you were meant to get  
9 more privileges outside the unit, Slemish House. Green  
10 was an indicator that you were going to move back to the  
11 main units, chalets or Saul House. So it's kind of like  
12 an intermediate back to that unit, but for me I was  
13 constant... -- once I got to amber or once I got to  
14 green, I was knocked back down again to black or red  
15 just for the sake of it.**

16 Q. Yes. You talk about this in paragraph --

17 **A. Can I just go to -- sorry.**

18 Q. Can I --

19 **A. Sorry. Can I just go to the bathroom, please?**

20 Q. Yes, of course.

21 **A. I need to go to the bathroom.**

22 Q. Yes, of course.

23 **A. Thank you.**

24 **(Witness withdrew)**

25 Q. Chairman, I don't know if it is necessary to rise,

1           because on the last occasion it didn't take a great deal  
2           of time for him to ...

3 CHAIRMAN: Well, we will just wait for the moment.

4           Could I just take this opportunity to ask: you  
5           mentioned SPT59. I am not clear whether it is accepted  
6           from the records that he wasn't a residential social  
7           worker in St. Pat's and was attached to another body of  
8           some sort.

9 MS SMITH: I don't think we are sure. Certainly HIA384's  
10          evidence was that he thought he was a local authority  
11          social worker --

12 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

13 MS SMITH: -- but we can certainly clarify the position,  
14          Chairman.

15 CHAIRMAN: Well, it is not otherwise clear what STP59's  
16          position was.

17 MS SMITH: It is not otherwise clear. Mr Aiken, who has  
18          sort of a greater working knowledge of the staffing of  
19          St. Pat's, might be able to assist, but Mr Napier, who  
20          is here for the Order, does not know.

21 CHAIRMAN: Yes. I think what we have been told so far is  
22          that once someone was sent to St. Pat's, they didn't  
23          have --

24 MS SMITH: That's correct.

25 CHAIRMAN: -- any social work contact.

1 MS SMITH: That's correct.

2 CHAIRMAN: That was a function of the school, so to speak,  
3 and that there were residential social workers.

4 MS SMITH: Yes, that's right. It may well be that he was  
5 a residential social worker with a more administrative  
6 role than actually looking after the children in the  
7 units, but we can certainly try to clarify that.

8 (Witness returned)

9 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Well, I see that HIA384 is back with us.

10 MS SMITH: Yes, he is.

11 HIA384, can you hear me all right?

12 **A. Yes, I can.**

13 Q. Just while you were out we were discussing the role of  
14 SPT59 and what exactly his role was, whether he was  
15 a residential social worker employed by St. Pat's or  
16 whether he was a local authority social worker. We are  
17 going to -- the Inquiry is going to try to clarify that  
18 later with getting some more information if we can.

19 **A. Okay.**

20 Q. So we were just talking there -- your statement was on  
21 the screen at 212, and we were talking about the colour  
22 scheme that operated, the traffic light system, as  
23 I have described it. The records certainly do show that  
24 such a scheme was in operation. At 51281 and 51284  
25 there's -- sorry -- 51281, that was in relation to the

1 scheme. It was not in respect of you, but in respect of  
2 another child whose mother was hoping that he might move  
3 from black to allow him out for his birthday. So there  
4 was obviously some knowledge among the families that  
5 this was a privileged scheme that operated also.

6 Just in respect of the mail, the point that you make  
7 there -- sorry -- no, you were you talking about --

8 **A. Something's just --**

9 Q. Sorry. I beg your pardon.

10 **A. Sorry. Something's just tweaked in my memory.**

11 I remember at lunchtime -- after lunch when the teacher  
12 who had been in Slemish House came down to have lunch,  
13 after lunch we'd all have a meeting and in that meeting  
14 it was confirmed who was moving up a colour or who was  
15 moving down a colour. I understand that you said that  
16 the Order can't remember or don't know that this  
17 actually happened, but it is for the Order to actually  
18 know how management is being run in their units. It is  
19 clear to me that the Order are saying that they don't  
20 know. Therefore that is bad management.

21 Q. Well, in fairness, HIA384, what I think I tried to  
22 explain to you was that the Order handed over all of its  
23 records on St. Pat's to the Department of Justice. So  
24 it is only as the documents have become available again  
25 that their memory has been jogged, just as yours has

1           been by the conversation we have had about certain  
2           things. So certainly before seeing any documents that  
3           this scheme operated there was no living memory of it  
4           operating, if I can put it that way. So they are not  
5           I think --

6       **A. Well, SPT2 -- sorry -- SPT2 -- you've got a statement**  
7       **from SPT2, who was the manager of Slemish House. I am**  
8       **sure he's not going to turn round and say that, "No, it**  
9       **wasn't done", because that would be a blatant lie.**

10      Q. Well, I'll certainly -- when -- SPT2 may come to speak  
11      to the Inquiry and I will certainly put this scheme to  
12      him and see what he remembers about it. So we will get  
13      that information from him that we can.

14      **A. Right.**

15      Q. Paragraph 25 -- sorry. Just you were talking in  
16      paragraph 24 here about you being denied reading  
17      materials. I was asking you what the position was with  
18      regard to reading materials, because there is an entry  
19      about books being removed from your room at 51282.  
20      That's where it says that you had an excessive number of  
21      books in your room and they were taken away from you.

22            There is also an entry about your mail at 51284, but  
23      you were explaining to me that in the classroom there  
24      were about three shelves of books, which you say was  
25      a small classroom.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. While you were allowed to help yourself, if you were on  
3 black, you were sent to bed early, and you were often on  
4 black, which is why you tried to take books to read in  
5 bed, because you went to bed about a couple of hours --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- before everybody else. Is that right?

8 **A. That's correct.**

9 Q. And you also made the point to me when we were talking  
10 that whenever you did go to bed before normal hours or  
11 when you were in bed, you weren't allowed out and you  
12 had to ring a bell -- is that right -- to get attention  
13 at night-time?

14 **A. That's correct, and then when I -- if I rang too often,  
15 the nightwatchman would complain at me. I should also  
16 point out that a member of staff would sleep in Slemish  
17 House, which was on the same level as myself, and then  
18 they would have a person who was meant to be awake, but  
19 it was quite clear that that person was asleep, because  
20 you could tell he was sleeping when he came up to me.**

21 Q. Okay, and you had to ring and that would have been --  
22 the reason you would have been ringing would be to get  
23 up in the middle of the night to go to the toilet?

24 **A. Yes, yes.**

25 Q. Paragraph 25, going back to your statement, you say, as

1           you were describing, it always took you much longer to  
2           work your way to green status, because you were always  
3           taken down the rankings for any infraction, no matter  
4           how slight.

5           "I believe I was treated more harshly than other  
6           boys who made the same type of mistakes."

7           You particularly recall the deputy head of the unit.  
8           You say -- and I am just going to call him SPT3 -- you  
9           say he took a perverse pleasure in reducing your status.

10       **A. Yes.**

11       Q. Frequently built up your hopes --

12       **A. Yes.**

13       Q. -- that you would get enhanced status and then  
14       deliberately misinterpreted incidents to justify not  
15       following through with his promises.

16           "He also called me 'queer' many times and took  
17           pleasure in grabbing me by the throat and trailing me  
18           into the time out room."

19           Now you know from when I spoke to you earlier we --  
20           the Inquiry is hoping to get a statement from this man.  
21           We have not as yet received such a statement and  
22           I haven't even got a statement in draft form that allows  
23           me to put what he might be saying to you in the way that  
24           I have been able to do --

25       **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- for SPT52, but I think you name four members of staff  
2 who were in charge of looking after the unit in Slemish.  
3 Is that right? There was this man SPT3.

4 A. Yes, SPT3 -- there was SPT2, SPT3, SPT87. Then there  
5 was , who was actually a nun, a Sister, who used  
6 to work at . Then there was SPT88  
7 and SPT2, who was the manager of the home -- of Slemish  
8 House.

9 Q. When we were talking earlier, you say that -- you say  
10 that he took a perverse pleasure in reducing your status  
11 for a particular reason that you attribute it to.

12 A. Yes. I believe it was because on one occasion when we  
13 were going to a swimming pool in St. Patrick's, which  
14 was up behind Slemish House, up behind the justice unit,  
15 I went to the swimming pool, and when we came out,  
16 I absconded when SPT3 was locking the swimming pool up.  
17 So I believe that's one reason why he had this attitude  
18 towards me. Now sometimes when SPT3 would come on duty,  
19 he would go, "What are you staring at, boy?" and there  
20 was other instances where he would say, "You are  
21 undermining me" and shout at me for absolutely no  
22 reason.

23 Q. Okay, but you felt that he had it in for you, because  
24 you feel that he may have got into trouble for the fact  
25 that he essentially allow... -- you absconded on his

1 watch, as it were?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. Well, you talk at paragraph 26 about being at the beck  
4 and call of staff and it be an effort to gain more  
5 privileges.

6 "I had to make cups of tea on demand, cook meals and  
7 clean the unit. The system was a kind of slavery.  
8 I had never committed any crime, but I was treated like  
9 a common criminal. I accept that I had a number of  
10 behavioural problems, but these were caused by the  
11 environment I had to live in, and despite my frequent  
12 complaints, I received no help, merely further  
13 punishment."

14 I was asking you -- it's -- there's a record that  
15 I know you have seen at 51277 from 29th April '95. It  
16 is recorded in that that you were doing more than you  
17 were being asked to do by staff. So, in fact, they  
18 might have been asking you to do one thing and you were  
19 going on to do much more than they were asking you to  
20 do. Do you accept that was the position, HIA384?

21 **A. No, I don't accept that. I had to do more. It was**  
22 **about getting off the colour black. I had to do more to**  
23 **prove my -- that I wasn't going to run away, prove that**  
24 **I was a good boy.**

25 **For example, just one instance, to earn 50p**

1 I actually took off the head of the hoover and I went  
2 round the room, the (inaudible) room and SPT2 came in  
3 with, "Ah, 50p extra for you, HIA384, because you are  
4 doing very well". Then there was an incident where  
5 a boy was talking by SPT87 in a derogatory term and was  
6 asking me what do I think and SPT87 was standing outside  
7 the door and he turned round and he said, "Right. You  
8 are on black for another two weeks", because he was  
9 saying that I was the one who was doing the derogatory  
10 talking, but yet the other person admitted that he had  
11 been doing it.

12 Q. Well, paragraph 27 here you say you distinctly recall  
13 writing about your concerns to your social worker and  
14 that was -- that's again SPT59. Now is that -- I mean,  
15 we are -- just again coming back to the issue of who  
16 exactly SPT59 was, was he --

17 A. He was also the person who ran -- that ran the circus  
18 school. He was involved in running the circus school  
19 and getting people -- they were going to run a film  
20 called "My mucker" or something where we would be  
21 filming people doing a show and stuff. So SPT59 was  
22 involved in running activities as such. He wasn't  
23 really my social worker. He was just a social worker  
24 that I could write to complaints about.

25 Q. Was he someone who was employed -- we will hopefully get

1 to the bottom of this -- but was he somebody who was  
2 employed in St. Pat's who was a sort of point of  
3 contact, if you like, for any of the boys who wanted to  
4 go to complain?

5 **A. No. He was more to do with -- a social worker to help**  
6 **people who were having problems, not necessarily going**  
7 **about complaints, but he was there for them to talk to.**  
8 **Maybe you can call him a counsellor, but I don't think**  
9 **so, because I remember there was a guy, a psychologist,**  
10 **whose name has just -- I have forgotten, who would come**  
11 **on a weekly basis to Slemish House, and I ended up**  
12 **getting -- become his client. So there was many people**  
13 **involved in Slemish House.**

14 Q. Okay. Well, you go on to say there that:

15 "They informed me that my complaints were lies and  
16 I was stripped of some of my privileges and given extra  
17 work to perform."

18 Sorry. Before that you just -- you say -- I left  
19 the line out, an important line:

20 "I subsequently discovered that my post had been  
21 intercepted."

22 That was by SPT3 and SPT2. Just in respect of that  
23 there is evidence in the papers that show that your post  
24 was intercepted, and at 50165 at a case conference there  
25 were reasons given for that. The Order would say that

1 it was done in an attempt to identify any risks of  
2 sexual reoffending and matters of that type.

3 SPT2 has told the Inquiry in his statement that he  
4 never intercepted any boy's mail. As I say, we have yet  
5 to hear from SPT3 on the issue, but when we were talking  
6 earlier, you say you complained to SPT59 about your post  
7 being intercepted and you were accused by the staff  
8 members that you were telling lies about that.

9 **A. Yes. It's quite strange how the manager of the unit is**  
10 **saying that he never intercepted mail, but yet at a case**  
11 **conference they are actually openly admitting that they**  
12 **were intercepting my mail. So I think one is telling**  
13 **lies somewhere along the line, because if they are**  
14 **intercepting my mail, it's either yes or no, where SPT2**  
15 **is saying no, he didn't do it, which I know for a fact**  
16 **that's not the case, because he was head of the unit.**  
17 **So he would be telling people to be doing this.**

18 **Q.** Okay. Well, you go on then to in February -- you talk  
19 about February 1995 at paragraph 28 here about  
20 absconding again, because you couldn't cope with the  
21 abuse. You made your way to the Republic of Ireland.  
22 You asked at that time to stay there. Now the Inquiry  
23 has seen a lot of documents about this. The judge  
24 ordered your return. There was a detailed report about  
25 -- provided for the court in Dublin. That can be seen

1 at 50201 to 50211. You were returned on 13th April '95  
2 ultimately following a court hearing I think that took  
3 place in March.

4 I am going to show a couple of documents, not  
5 because they are directly relevant to you, but I just  
6 want to show them for the benefit of the Panel. There  
7 is correspondence between BR90 and the Northern Ireland  
8 Office at this time. I'm just going to look at those,  
9 please. If we could look at 50223, this is a letter  
10 from 17th February 1995 and it is to the Deputy  
11 Principal, Mr Mulholland of the Northern Ireland Office  
12 from BR90, who says:

13 "Dear Mr Mulholland,

14 I wish to put it on record that I have kept you  
15 informed of developments in relation to HIA384. I have  
16 sought decisive action on addressing this problem.  
17 I should have asked you to expedite matters.

18 Should anything untoward happen to HIA384, I will  
19 not be held responsible.

20 Yours sincerely,

21 BR90."

22 Then there is a handwritten note presumably from  
23 Mr Mulholland -- it's signed "DM" -- and it looks like  
24 it's 20th probably of the month to a SPT88 I think it  
25 might be:

1           "For information, I discussed this issue with you on  
2           Friday last. Mr McNeill's advice, while I relayed to  
3           be -- while I relayed to BR90 on Friday, was for  
4           St. Patrick's to act on the advice of their own legal  
5           adviser. BR50 phoned this morning, 20th February, to  
6           say that the Eastern Board, Republic of Ireland, was  
7           applying for wardship and, if granted, would recommend  
8           he be transferred to St. Patrick's. They would bring  
9           him to the border."

10           If we can just look then at 50225, this is 24th  
11           February. BR90 is written to by the Northern Ireland  
12           Office, and it says:

13           "I refer to your letter of 17th February to Dan  
14           Mulholland about the recent developments in the case of  
15           HIA384.

16           I am concerned that there seems to be some  
17           misunderstanding about the respective roles of the NIO  
18           and training schools in relation to the day-to-day  
19           management of children who are subject to Training  
20           School Orders or who are otherwise in the care of  
21           a training school. In my view the responsibility for  
22           such children falls to the board and senior management  
23           of the training school and day-to-day decisions  
24           regarding their welfare or treatment fall to them.

25           The NIO has a general concern about the standards of

1 care at training schools and for the proper exercise of  
2 powers under the 1968 Act. For this reason we rely on  
3 training school management to advise us about unusual  
4 events or circumstances which may affect one or more  
5 children under their care. We are always willing to  
6 offer advice or to help in any other way we can.

7 Nevertheless, except in limited circumstances  
8 defined by the 1968 Act, training schools act in loco  
9 parentis and the responsibility for decisions on the  
10 action to be taken in individual cases falls to its  
11 management.

12 Accordingly, I do not agree that the act of advising  
13 the NIO of a problem which arises in a particular case  
14 has the effect of relieving the school of responsibility  
15 for subsequent events or action taken.

16 If you disagree with this, I would welcome your  
17 further comments. I am sure you will agree that it is  
18 important that we clear up any misunderstanding on this  
19 important point.

20 I look forward to hearing from you."

21 It is signed "SPT88".

22 There is a further letter. I think it should be on  
23 the next page now. If we can just scroll down, it  
24 should be at 50227. This is BR90's reply:

25 "Dear John,

1 I refer to your letter of 24th February. I have  
2 just returned from leave this morning -- hence the delay  
3 in replying.

4 Of course I realise that the welfare of the boys is  
5 the responsibility of the board and senior management of  
6 the training school and I was not trying to shirk  
7 responsibility.

8 Since the boy in question was outside the  
9 jurisdiction without permission I sought advice as to  
10 what to do. Dan Mulholland has been involved in this  
11 boy's case at the request of the NIO. I asked him to  
12 seek legal advice on the best way forward. By 4.30 pm  
13 on Friday, 17th February I had not received any advice.

14 As I had already spent most of that day dealing with  
15 this case through our own staff, our solicitor,  
16 a solicitor in Dublin, and as I was embarking on two  
17 weeks' leave, obviously I had to record my situation.

18 I had done everything humanly possible to address  
19 this problem and hence was not going to accept that  
20 I could have done any more. Hence the need to put my  
21 position on record.

22 I never did ask the NIO to take responsibility for  
23 this boy. All I asked for was advice and help.

24 I trust this explains my position.

25 Yours sincerely,

1 BR90."

2 There is a handwritten note. Just scroll back up,  
3 please:

4 "Approach Friday pm. Advice received and relayed on  
5 Friday"

6 I think that might be. So I am just using those  
7 documents to show there is a somewhat tetchy exchange  
8 between the training school and the Northern Ireland  
9 Office about your position being in the South.  
10 St. Patrick's seem to have been looking for some help  
11 and advice from the Northern Ireland Office and in the  
12 absence of getting it they are saying, "Well, you know,  
13 we can't do any more. You haven't given us any advice  
14 here. So we have done all we can and we are not  
15 accepting any more responsibility if anything happens to  
16 this boy without you coming on board to help us". Then  
17 there is this tetchy exchange that I have indicated.

18 If I can go back to your statement at paragraph 29,  
19 HIA384, which is 214, we know that there was a court  
20 hearing, and the documents are in our papers which show  
21 there was a lengthy court hearing or I should say  
22 lengthy legal process in Dublin, which ultimately led to  
23 you being returned to St. Patrick's. Again it was to  
24 Slemish House that you went back. You say the staff who  
25 gave evidence at that hearing -- sorry.

1 CHAIRMAN: Has HIA384 not told us about this, complaining  
2 about the accompanying to the station?

3 MS SMITH: Sorry, Chairman. Is this in the statement at  
4 paragraph 28?

5 CHAIRMAN: No. 29.

6 MS SMITH: 29. I was just coming to paragraph 29. You were  
7 saying that --

8 CHAIRMAN: That's what I'm asking. Have we not heard about  
9 this?

10 MS SMITH: Already?

11 CHAIRMAN: Yes. I understood from HIA384 he complained  
12 about being accompanied to the station by SPT87. Maybe  
13 I picked it up wrongly.

14 MS SMITH: So -- accompanied to the police station?

15 **A. No, that's correct, Chairman.**

16 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

17 MS SMITH: Sorry. To the police station? Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN: Are you about to pass on?

19 MS SMITH: Well, just in respect -- there is an important  
20 point about this allegation, Chairman, if I may.  
21 Paragraph -- once you came back from Dublin to Slemish,  
22 that's when you make a statement accusing some other  
23 boys of sexually abusing you, HIA384. Isn't that  
24 correct?

25 **A. That's correct.**

1 Q. And you name two boys in -- you say -- in your Inquiry  
2 statement you talk about three boys repeatedly sexually  
3 abusing you. You name them there. I am going to use  
4 the first names: SPT61, SPT62 and SPT63. Now your  
5 police statement is at 21243. I'm not going to pull it  
6 up, but in your police statement you make no mention of  
7 SPT63. You only complain about the two boys SPT61 and  
8 SPT62 in that statement. Isn't -- isn't that the  
9 position?

10 **A. Have I got that statement?**

11 Q. I think the statement --

12 **A. It appears that would be correct.**

13 Q. In later documents at SPT50189, 50191, 50241 -- and we  
14 might need to look at this -- it is essentially the  
15 position that the police investigate. In the course of  
16 their investigation they speak to SPT61 and SPT61 makes  
17 an allegation about -- a counter-allegation, if you  
18 like, about you and says that SPT63 was also involved.  
19 I think I am coming on to that in a moment. This is  
20 a different matter altogether. Essentially you -- the  
21 police, what they did was they took the statement from  
22 you. They spoke to SPT61. They spoke to SPT62. As  
23 a result of that they spoke to the boy SPT63. SPT63  
24 then made a complaint about you and you were  
25 subsequently interviewed about SPT63's complaint, and

1 the police view was that there was allegation and  
2 counter-allegation and that's why that matter did not go  
3 any further also. There is a suggestion --

4 **A. Sorry. Sorry. It is very important for the Chairman to**  
5 **understand that SPT62 and SPT61 and SPT63 are actually**  
6 **cousins.**

7 Q. Yes.

8 **A. I don't know whether the Inquiry is aware of that. So**  
9 **basically these three people are related and therefore**  
10 **-- and are also in Slemish House and are also making**  
11 **allegations against me. So they have got -- they have**  
12 **got the family connection to try to get me into more**  
13 **trouble as such. I think it's important for the Chair**  
14 **to -- the Chairman to realise that.**

15 Q. I think the point that I am making, though, HIA384, is  
16 that whenever you first spoke to the Inquiry, you named  
17 SPT63 as one of the people who was abusing you. You  
18 didn't tell police that back in 1995 when you spoke to  
19 them, but in any event he then makes allegations about  
20 you and you are interviewed about that and you deny  
21 those allegations of his. Isn't that right?

22 **A. That's correct.**

23 Q. Now ultimately, as I say, that resulted in no  
24 prosecution, and I know that was one of the cases that  
25 you also tried to resurrect then in 1998, and again

1 PPS or DPP looked at that and said that there was to be  
2 no prosecution. That decision can be seen at 21789.

3 Now the document that's on the screen, just while it  
4 is there, relates to 15th April '95. This is where you  
5 are writing to SPT52. There are a number of documents  
6 like this in the papers. There is actually a file of  
7 documents where you make a number of complaints from  
8 52076 to 52100, handwritten complaints about a number of  
9 things, but this is one where you are complaining about  
10 these two boys and witnessing sexual activity between  
11 them. You say that you have reported it to a staff  
12 member two weeks beforehand. You don't know what he did  
13 about that, but you go on to say:

14 "I got a response from him as if I was assuming this  
15 happened and that I was over-exaggerating. I am aware  
16 that he had to decide to talk or not to talk to these  
17 boys or not."

18 So you are basically saying there, "I reported this  
19 to a staff member. I don't know what he did, but I am  
20 reporting it to you, SPT52, who is above him, because  
21 I don't know if he took this any further". Is that  
22 right?

23 **A. That's correct, because when I was being fondled by**  
24 **SPT61 and SPT62, SPT65 was no more than a metre or two**  
25 **metres away, and for a trainee member of staff I found**

1           **it very hard to believe that he didn't know what the**  
2           **hell was going on.**

3    Q.   After you'd reported the matter to the police, going  
4           back to your statement at 214, you talk about attending  
5           a meeting with the directors of St. Patrick's and you  
6           say that it was attended by a number of staff members:  
7           SPT52, SPT87, SPT53, BR26, BR90. You were obliged to  
8           stand throughout the meeting while being harangued by  
9           those present. You were accused of being a liar,  
10          a troublemaker and had fabricated your allegations. You  
11          found that to be a shattering experience, as your  
12          attempts to highlight the abuse was being dismissed. At  
13          the end of the meeting you were taken back to Slemish  
14          House and you were harangued in the same manner by  
15          senior staff, namely SPT2, SPT3, SPT87 and SPT88. You  
16          were placed on black and remained on that rank for three  
17          months. You became very depressed and didn't care what  
18          was going to happen next and you believe that you may  
19          have signed retraction statements in relation to sexual  
20          allegations, but can't recall exactly, "given my low  
21          mood". If you did sign such statements, it was only due  
22          to the pressure that you had to endure. As I have  
23          indicated, you did make a statement retracting that and  
24          --

25    **A. Sorry. Can I also just say it is quite convenient for**

1       the Order to not have any records of this meeting that  
2       did take place in SPT52's office and BR90's office,  
3       because they shared the office with SPT52. SPT52 and  
4       SPT2 -- not SPT2 -- SPT53, they shared an office  
5       together. So it is quite convenient that they don't  
6       record this, because if they did record this, it would  
7       show that they were basically bullying me.

8       Q. Okay. Well, you are jumping ahead of me slightly,  
9       HIA384, in that --

10      A. Oh, sorry.

11      Q. No, no. Don't worry. It is correct to say that we have  
12      received a statement from SPT52, who says that such  
13      a meeting did not take place. At no stage did he speak  
14      to you about your statement to the police.

15                SPT2 says he has no memory of such a meeting.

16                SPT53 never received a complaint from you and he  
17      never attended such a meeting.

18                We have yet to hear what SPT3 says about it, and we  
19      have not got any statements from SPT87 or SPT88.

20                The DLS have said there may have been a case  
21      conference, and BR26 doesn't also -- he doesn't also  
22      remember such a meeting.

23                Now, as I said to you, again you sought to have this  
24      complaint reinstated and, as I have indicated, that  
25      resulted in no prosecution in 1998, which is 21164.

1           We saw one document on the screen there about the  
2           type of complaint that you were making to staff, the  
3           written complaints that you were making, and I had  
4           indicated there was a file that was solely relating your  
5           written complaints and I know you have seen those.

6           It is also recorded in the papers that your -- you  
7           made false allegations against staff. For example, at  
8           51252 on 28th March '95 it is recorded that you  
9           apologised for trying to undermine staff and telling  
10          lies about SPT87. That's at 50245 on 17th April '95,  
11          and then on 18th April '95, 52... -- 50246. I know that  
12          you were saying to me that you felt that you had no --  
13          the only reason you said that you told lies about staff  
14          was to try to get out of Slemish House and try to paint  
15          yourself in a better light by retracting the allegations  
16          --

17   **A. Yes.**

18   Q. -- that you were making.

19   **A. Yes.**

20   Q. And that you were trying to get them -- the complaints  
21          that you were making was to try to get them to do  
22          something about the bullying, and that's why you were  
23          complaining, but that didn't happen.

24   **A. Yes.**

25   Q. And, in fact, you would now -- looking back on it, you

1 would see that your attempts to get them to do that were  
2 actually backfiring on you, as you would see it?

3 **A. Yes, yes.**

4 Q. Just another document in the bundle at 51364 shows that  
5 other children were complaining about your treatment of  
6 them. For example, a boy called [redacted] complained  
7 that you were staring at him. You denied that you were  
8 doing that, but a staff member had witnessed this and  
9 your comment to me about that was that you were 14. Is  
10 that right, HIA384?

11 **A. That would be correct. I mean, I can't remember all the**  
12 **incidents that -- I mean, it's just children behaving**  
13 **like children, but unfortunately these children, we were**  
14 **more aggressive with each other.**

15 Q. Well, I am just going to summarise some more documents  
16 that are in the bundle. The records show that there  
17 were a significant number of case conferences held  
18 relating to you and they were led by residential social  
19 work staff in the home, for example, on 26th September  
20 '94 at 50162, 24th November '94 at 50166, and there  
21 is -- on 17th January '95 at 50167 there is again  
22 another case conference, which shows the level of  
23 supervision that was being required and the staff  
24 concerns about the toll that it was taking on them and  
25 how other children they felt were missing out because of

1 the level of attention that they were giving to you.

2 From talking to you earlier I know you feel that that  
3 was not a fair description of what was happening.

4 **A. No. It wasn't a fair description at all. Mr Chairman,**  
5 **basically I was put into training school for protection**  
6 **from -- when I was running away. They had a legal duty**  
7 **to make sure I wasn't being bullied. They have admitted**  
8 **I was bullied. They admitted they tried to take steps.**  
9 **Those steps were unsuccessful, which made my life worse.**  
10 **So that is why I had to end up running away even more,**  
11 **because I wasn't being protected. It also -- as the**  
12 **evidence shows that I would be absconding after**  
13 **incidents of bullying, so that just backs up my case**  
14 **that I was being bullied. They weren't really dealing**  
15 **with it properly. So I believe that they could have**  
16 **done more.**

17 **Q.** Just coming back to the case conferences, there is  
18 an entry from the case conference of 31st January '95  
19 which can be found at 50170 and at 172 thereof for the  
20 benefit of the Inquiry Panel it is clear that in 1995  
21 there was no sex education being given in the training  
22 school at that time, and the Northern Ireland Office  
23 Criminal Justice -- Criminal Justice Division -- yes --  
24 representative, Mr Mulholland, who we have seen  
25 mentioned in the papers, stated that there needed to be

1 one throughout the school. There was a discussion then  
2 on the following page about staff being trained in the  
3 field of sexual abuse.

4 There is also talk, as you have already mentioned,  
5 HIA384, about the circus school. I was asking just  
6 about that and what exactly that was. It was something  
7 set up by St. Pat's. Is that right?

8 **A. I don't know who it was set it up by, but I do know that**  
9 **the circus school ran on a Tuesday night every week and**  
10 **that we sometimes did parades in central Belfast.**

11 Q. You learned some skills. You were talking about stilts,  
12 stilt walking and that kind of thing.

13 **A. Yes, yes.**

14 Q. As you said, apart from the bullying that took place in  
15 the circus school, you enjoyed that part of the time in  
16 St. Pat's?

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

18 Q. Okay. Two more case conferences, 22nd February '95 at  
19 50174. At this stage you had absconded to Dublin and  
20 they are having a case conference about you. There's  
21 a meet... -- the one on 25th May '95, when you are back  
22 from Dublin, at 50177, you were present at this meeting.  
23 That's where they discussed with you about telling staff  
24 one thing and telling the psychiatrist/psychologist  
25 another thing. There is a note of you having met with

1 the Licensing Review Committee and there's a report  
2 there from May 1995 at 50182.

3 **A. Sorry. Can I just -- earlier on I said to you**  
4 **I couldn't remember the name of -- name of the resident**  
5 **doctor. His name is and he is at the case**  
6 **review dated 25th May 1995. He was -- he came in once**  
7 **a week to deal with the boys in Slemish House. So**  
8 **I just wanted to say that. It was that**  
9 **I had forgotten.**

10 Q. You remember seeing him each week when you were in  
11 Slemish House. Is that right, HIA384?

12 **A. I seen him very briefly, yes. I was actually asking for**  
13 **me to see him about what was going on.**

14 Q. Well, we know from your statement that you abscond again  
15 in August 1995 and you go to Dublin. Now again I am not  
16 going to call up these documents, but it is clear that  
17 at 50220 and then at 50233 to 237 they are documents  
18 that show that St. Pat's was in contact with the Eastern  
19 Health Board in Dublin right up until the training  
20 school ended in January 1996 and there was  
21 correspondence from St. Pat's to the Northern Ireland  
22 Office again from 50230 to 50326 and again at 50330.  
23 You were to be told by Social Services in Dublin that  
24 St. Pat's were not going to come to try to take you back  
25 on this occasion, they having gone through the courts on

1 two previous occasions. That's at 51364. Even though  
2 you were in Dublin in November '95, they were still  
3 trying to do something to check up on you and to see  
4 that you were being looked after in some way in Dublin.

5 There are even documents that show that the Southern  
6 Health & Social Services Board in Northern Ireland were  
7 contacted both by St. Pat's and by the authorities in  
8 Dublin about your status in Dublin. That's at 72674 to  
9 72697.

10 You eventually were allowed to stay in the Republic,  
11 because that was clearly where you wanted to be. When  
12 we were talking earlier, you felt that if -- even though  
13 I said to you they were still seeing how you were doing  
14 in Dublin and they were still following up on your  
15 well-being, as it were, your comment to me was that if  
16 they really cared, they should have talked to the people  
17 who were bullying you and ought to have moved you to  
18 some appropriate unit. I was asking what you -- what  
19 more you felt they could have done, HIA384, to try to  
20 care for you when you were in St. Pat's. What unit  
21 could they have put you to?

22 **A. Well, I am 14 years old. So I don't know what units**  
23 **that were available at that time, but it is clear that**  
24 **a child is running away from bullying on numerous**  
25 **occasions. I wasn't just running away for the sake of**

1       running away. I was running away because I was scared  
2       for my safety and well-being. I ended up staying in  
3       a foster family in                   and unfortunately that didn't  
4       work out and I left and came to                   The reason  
5       why it didn't work out was because I had been so  
6       institutionalised that living with a foster family  
7       didn't work. I actually couldn't -- I wasn't used to  
8       the environment, and now I am still struggling to cope  
9       with family environment, because I have been so  
10      institutionalised from the age of three.

11    Q. Well, HIA384, I know that you describe your life after  
12      care in paragraphs 32 to 35 of your witness statement  
13      and I am not going to go into the details about that,  
14      but you are still having ongoing difficulties that you  
15      have described both in your statement and to me. I know  
16      that you brought --

17    **A. Yes.**

18    Q. -- proceedings and I have talked about the civil claim  
19      proceedings against the Health & Social Services Trusts  
20      and that case was ultimately settled and you received  
21      a sum of money in that settlement.

22            When we were talking earlier, I explained to you  
23      that when we come to the end of each person's evidence,  
24      we ask them a question about what the Inquiry should  
25      recommend to the Northern Ireland Executive at the end

1 of its work about what should be done in respect of  
2 those children who were abused in institutions and  
3 I wondered what your view was, HIA384. I think we  
4 touched on this earlier when we were talking about some  
5 sort of independent monitoring.

6 **A. Yes. I believe that there should be some independent**  
7 **monitoring and also I was thinking of a place where**  
8 **victims, survivors could actually go to in Northern**  
9 **Ireland. Look, I'll need therapy for the rest of my**  
10 **life. It's stated in the psychiatric reports for my**  
11 **civil case that I am going to be struggling for a long,**  
12 **long time because of the abuse that I have went through.**  
13 **I mean, even now when people shout, I'm very, very**  
14 **fearful. I practically stay in my own room at the**  
15 **moment. I don't engage with people, because I am scared**  
16 **of being either beaten up or -- I am still having**  
17 **nightmares from SPT3, from SPT87, from people in -- in**  
18 **St. Patrick's Training School.**

19 **Q.** Well, HIA384, thank you. I have nothing further that  
20 I want to ask you about. Now I do appreciate that  
21 I~didn't go through the details of the documents that  
22 I referred to, because you can rest assured that the  
23 Panel Members have those documents and they can refer to  
24 them if they want to get more details from them.

25 Is there anything that you feel that we haven't

1 covered in your evidence this afternoon? Is there  
2 anything more that you wanted to say to the Inquiry?  
3 Now is the opportunity for you to do that if there's  
4 anything further you feel we haven't covered about your  
5 time in St. Pat's.

6 **A. Basically I don't think I've got across the exact extent**  
7 **of the abuse that I've gone through. Okay. A bit of**  
8 **bullying is bullying, but the sexual assaults that I --**  
9 **that I went through have caused me to have nightmares.**  
10 **I mean, it's just -- I don't know how -- how my**  
11 **statement -- how much of an impact it has on the Chair**  
12 **and the other people who are listening to it, because it**  
13 **just seems to be facts, dates given here, dates given**  
14 **there, and what's happened. It doesn't really seem to**  
15 **be giving the essence of what I went through, because if**  
16 **I look at the children's home, I ran away from the**  
17 **children's home because I was being bullied for being**  
18 **a Catholic. That is why I ended up in St. Patrick's**  
19 **Training School. I ended up being beaten up there for**  
20 **being different. It just -- life has not been easy, and**  
21 **I just don't know how to get across to the Panel the**  
22 **extent that this has had an impact on me, and not only**  
23 **on me, but on my son and on my wife, because my wife**  
24 **has -- is having a hard time understanding what I have**  
25 **gone through, and for the -- for the Order to turn round**

1 and say, "Oh, we don't know about this", well, they  
2 should have known about this. They should have known  
3 about the abuse that was going on. They should have  
4 known about a different coloured regime. That's what  
5 they were paid for, I mean, and it is just laughable  
6 that the NI Office are trying to wash their hands of me  
7 when I'm in It is just -- it is just crazy,  
8 absolutely crazy.

9 Q. Well, HIA384, thank you very much for that. As I said,  
10 I have nothing further that I want to ask you, but the  
11 Panel Members may have some questions for you.

12 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA384, thank you very much for coming to  
13 where you are now so that we could speak to you. We are  
14 very grateful for you taking the time to speak to us.  
15 Thank you very much. We don't have any questions for  
16 you.

17 **A. Thank you.**

18 MS SMITH: Thank you, HIA384.

19 (Witness withdrew)

20 MS SMITH: Chairman, the remaining witness today is to be  
21 taken by Mr Aiken.

22 CHAIRMAN: Yes. We will rise for a few minutes. We need  
23 a short break in any event.

24 (4.05 pm)

25 (Short break)

1 (4.15 pm)

2 WITNESS HIA96 (called)

3 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

4 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, the next witness  
5 today is HIA96, who is "HIA96", and HIA96 is going to  
6 preserve his anonymity and he is aware, Chairman, you  
7 are going to ask him to affirm.

8 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

9 WITNESS HIA96 (affirmed)

10 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, HIA96. Please sit down.

11 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

12 MR AIKEN: Now, HIA96, you and I have talked at length and  
13 debated at length today and, as you know, I am going to  
14 summarise much of the material, because, as you saw when  
15 we were speaking, I have more than a dozen lever arch  
16 files, and the Inquiry doesn't regard it as in your  
17 interests or indeed in the Panel's interests for us to  
18 spend hours and maybe more pouring over document after  
19 document. The Panel are aware of the material, have had  
20 an opportunity to read some of the core documents, and  
21 I will refer to various documents as we go as I try to  
22 summarise what's in the documents and also what you say  
23 from our discussions earlier today, and we will try to  
24 get the right position as far as you are concerned on  
25 the record. Where I get it wrong, you stop me and we'll

1 put that right. Okay?

2 **A. Sure.**

3 Q. The -- you were born on and are now  
4 aged 34?

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

6 Q. And in summary you went to St. Patrick's Training School  
7 first from Orana Children's Home in Newry on 12th  
8 May 1994, at which stage you were 13, and that was on --  
9 and I appreciate you find this ironic -- on a Place of  
10 Safety Order, as it was called, and you remained in  
11 St. Patrick's initially for a three-month period until  
12 5th August 1994, and during that period, HIA96, you were  
13 in Aisling House, which was the assessment unit of  
14 St. Patrick's. It was quite a new building and, in  
15 fact, in your statement you explain facilities were  
16 actually very good in it.

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

18 Q. That process of assessment had as its aim that you would  
19 be phased back to Orana Children's Home and that  
20 happened by August of 1994 with a series of day visits  
21 and then weekend visits and then going back permanently,  
22 and having gone back there, because of difficulties that  
23 those running the children's home say of you, which you  
24 don't necessarily accept, but from the documents that we  
25 were talking about the difficulties that they describe,

1 you are returned to St. Patrick's on another Place of  
2 Safety Order on 28th September 1994, still 13, and there  
3 you effectively remain until September 1996, aged 15, by  
4 which time you are then remanded to Lisnevin in  
5 September of 1996 for various offences that had arisen  
6 from a period absconding from St. Patrick's. When you  
7 came back for your second spell in St. Patrick's in  
8 September of 1994, you were again in Aisling House, the  
9 assessment unit, for a period of time until a Training  
10 School Order was made by the court on 18th  
11 November 1994, and at that point you move over to Donard  
12 House, the long-term care unit. We were talking about  
13 the different locations where that unit was based. For  
14 you it was a period of time in the main building and  
15 thereafter a replacement building that was constructed  
16 which then were new facilities, as it were, and you were  
17 one of the first one -- first residents in the new part.  
18 So you spent most of your second period of two years in  
19 that long-term care unit, having spent your initial  
20 three-month period and then the first part of your  
21 second period in Aisling House, the assessment unit.

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

23 Q. That's a long way round to try and confirm the general  
24 run of your stay, but does that accurately describe it?

25 **A. Well, it kind of accurately sort of describes things to**

1 a certain extent, but obviously, as we have discussed  
2 this previously, the general scheme of things is that  
3 I was sent to St. Patrick's Training School without ever  
4 committing a single criminal offence, without ever  
5 suspected of being -- of committing a single criminal  
6 offence, and I was sentenced by a judge to two years in  
7 the place and --

8 Q. And you know --

9 A. -- and that's a point I was wanting to sort of clarify.

10 Q. You know from our discussions earlier you could end up  
11 in a training school not just for criminal offending and  
12 there were children there who came from the care side,  
13 as it were, as opposed to the justice side.

14 The point you are making, HIA96, if I have  
15 understood it, is you were coming in through Social  
16 Services and children's homes and you hadn't actually  
17 committed any criminal offence.

18 A. Well, in theory I was actually given a sentence of two  
19 years. You know, it was actually a sentence. Despite  
20 the fact that I hadn't actually committed any offences,  
21 I was still given a period of detention, a period of  
22 time there.

23 Q. Yes, and you and I talked at length about the content of  
24 the documents and how there was various difficulties at  
25 home and that was spawning out into various difficulties

1 at school and the point you were making was --

2 **A. Well, as I've said, I disagree --**

3 Q. Let me get to the end of the summary. Up until -- your  
4 point to me and to the Panel is up until the period when  
5 you are placed in Orana Children's Home, whatever had  
6 happened at home with your mum, you had not committed  
7 any criminal offence?

8 **A. Correct.**

9 Q. And that as far as you are concerned the decision to  
10 place you in Orana, which the Inquiry is not looking at,  
11 and then ultimately in St. Patrick's is what caused the  
12 downward spiral, which for you was not present before  
13 those decisions were made.

14 **A. Correct.**

15 Q. With that summary just bear with me for a moment until  
16 I give the Panel the references in the bundle to where  
17 relevant documents relating to you can be found.

18 In the context of that, HIA96, I am going to bring  
19 up on the screen the first page of your witness  
20 statement at 217, please. Can you just check, HIA96,  
21 and confirm, apart from the black marks, which are the  
22 anonymity policy, that that's the first page of your  
23 witness statement?

24 **A. Yes. That's correct.**

25 Q. And if we go to the last page, please, at 223,

1 and again, HIA96, if you can just check and confirm that  
2 that's the last page and that you have, in fact, signed  
3 the document, albeit there's a black mark on your  
4 signature on the screen?

5 **A. Yes. That's correct.**

6 Q. And that you want to adopt the contents of your  
7 statement as your evidence to the Inquiry?

8 **A. I do indeed.**

9 Q. Then in addition to that, HIA96, you spoke to -- when  
10 you first felt able to talk about what had occurred for  
11 you in St. Patrick's, you talked to the church, the  
12 Roman Catholic Diocese, and that was in March of 2010.  
13 As I was explaining to you, their safeguarding office  
14 has an obligation then to report matters to the police.  
15 So their reporting runs from 23449 to 23455. We will  
16 come back to that in the context of what you say about  
17 a particular female member of staff.

18 At the same time, HIA96, you e-mailed I think was  
19 the method the Health Minister recommending there should  
20 be an Inquiry, which was where we have ended up, and the  
21 reference for that is at 23475

22

23 and the Panel have access to report,

24 which set out your descriptions of life in St.

25 Patrick's, and that report is at 23471 and runs to

1 23473.

2 Then, HIA96, as you know, the Inquiry has gathered  
3 as much material as it can, as it does for every  
4 individual, and that has resulted in a very significant  
5 amount of material relating to you being obtained,  
6 because, as I was saying to you, the practice of record  
7 keeping, albeit you don't accept the contents of the  
8 documents --

9 **A. Well, I don't accept the fact that it is the kidnappers**  
10 **who are getting to keep the records and the victims**  
11 **obviously don't have a choice of keeping records at that**  
12 **stage, and if they did, obviously it would be a whole**  
13 **different set of records, and as I would like to point**  
14 **out, we and yourselves have already seen -- that's why**  
15 **there's an Inquiry taking place -- that there is a lot**  
16 **of information that is now coming to light that isn't in**  
17 **the records from these type of institutions. So that**  
18 **kind of shows quite clearly the level of professionalism**  
19 **and honesty from the institutions when all this type of**  
20 **information has all been left out. It kind of shows the**  
21 **records they have been keeping isn't basically worth the**  
22 **paper that it has been written on.**

23 **Q.** And I was explaining to you and, as I said I would,  
24 HIA96, where what you were saying is not quite matching  
25 what's in the material, I will point that out to you,

1 and the material that is here both from Social Services,  
2 who were involved in working with you and your mum, and  
3 from St. Patrick's Training School, who had their own  
4 social workers working with you, working again with your  
5 mum, and seeing psychologists as part of being involved  
6 in St. Patrick's, that material is there where those  
7 people who are authoring the documents -- hold on --  
8 hear me out -- are saying and setting out what they are  
9 trying to do to help you with the difficulties that they  
10 say you are presenting with. You, on the other hand,  
11 have a different view about those documents and their  
12 accuracy and veracity, but in fairness to the people who  
13 authored them, they are saying or setting out what they  
14 are doing purporting to be of help to you.

15 **A. Well, the reality is most of these people that compiled**  
16 **these reports are either working on behalf of the**  
17 **government or the religious organisations. So,**  
18 **therefore, they are not impartial. They are working for**  
19 **either side in the situation. So as a result of that**  
20 **they're not independent.**

21 Q. And as part of that the -- I am just going to refer the  
22 Panel to some of the key documents.

23 There's a movement history, which sets out the  
24 various dates -- it is simply a factual document setting  
25 out the various dates of when HIA96 came into various

1 places and when he left them. That can be found at  
2 46586.

3 Because there's a Training School Order and then  
4 matters arising in St. Patrick's, the criminal records  
5 can be found at 26170 to 26175. You have heard already,  
6 Members of the Panel, HIA96's point that he didn't come  
7 into difficulty in terms of the criminal law before he  
8 ended up in a children's home and thereafter  
9 St. Patrick's.

10 As the Panel knows, the Order's attempt to set out  
11 what it can from what limited documents it had available  
12 is at 446 to 447, and then an addendum at 749.

13 The Health & Social Care Board, who were able to  
14 produce the Social Services material to the Inquiry, its  
15 statement is at 479 to 484, with exhibits from 485 to  
16 587.

17 The Department of Justice response statement, and it  
18 is the -- as I was explaining, HIA96, they are the  
19 successor body to the Northern Ireland Office, who would  
20 have been responsible for the training school at the  
21 time you were there. So they're the present Government  
22 Department holding the records, which are, as you know,  
23 voluminous, and their statement referring to having  
24 produced the records is at 1389 to 1391, with exhibits  
25 from 1392 to 1401.

1           Then, Members of the Panel, not unfamiliar to you  
2           with other witnesses similar to HIA96, the Department of  
3           Justice material from HIA96's time at St. Patrick's is  
4           voluminous. It runs from 46582 to 47351 in the bundle  
5           and then from 52321 to 53193. As you are already aware,  
6           HIA96 does not accept the veracity generally speaking of  
7           the content, but it is clearly the case that lengthy,  
8           detailed records were being kept. His point, as you  
9           have heard, is that the people who were keeping them  
10          were -- had a vested interest in them not being  
11          accurate, and those records included detailed daily  
12          individual occurrence sheets on the specific  
13          individuals, so not just kept of HIA96, but HIA96's  
14          suite of occurrence sheets are available. There then  
15          are unit diaries from the Assessment Centre and  
16          thereafter from chalet 2, HIA96, I think as Donard House  
17          was known as interchangeably, Donard House or Chalet 2?

18   **A. I believe so.**

19   Q. And the diaries from there are available along with  
20          nightwatchman diaries. Then there are extensive case  
21          review reports, child protection review reports. I know  
22          you have had the opportunity to consider some of those  
23          already. Some of those, HIA96, you were present at with  
24          other family members and the staff who were contributing  
25          and then some you weren't?

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

2 Q. There then are items you will have seen before like  
3 admission registers, punishment books and so on.

4 There then also is the entire social work file,  
5 which is produced to the Inquiry by the Health & Social  
6 Care Board, and HIA96 is aware that our focus today is  
7 to look at St. Patrick's.

8 There is also a response statement from BR92, who  
9 while HIA96 does not make allegations himself about  
10 BR92, he refers to him in his statement. That's at 2198  
11 to 2199. We will come to that when we get to that part  
12 of what HIA96 wants to explain to the Inquiry.

13 HIA96, you and I talked at length, and I am not  
14 going to go through the detail of it now, but the  
15 pathway into St. Patrick's and the behavioural  
16 difficulties while there are set out in the interactions  
17 from staff challenging you about smoking, about taking  
18 the cigarettes off you or banning you from smoking and  
19 punishing you with things like going to bed early,  
20 fining you under that rewards programme that they tended  
21 to have, challenging what they regarded as abusive  
22 language to others -- bear with me until I give the  
23 summary and then I will summarise what you are saying  
24 about it -- abusive language. There are some, as you  
25 know, examples of particular sexual references to female

1 staff that we were looking at in the reports and the  
2 staff members indicating they are not prepared to accept  
3 that type of behaviour and challenging it and sending it  
4 up the line and reports being written then about that.  
5 Occasionally when it was regarded that things had gone  
6 too far, you being moved over to the Slemish unit, which  
7 was the secure unit, and difficulties in the teaching  
8 environment with occasionally you being taken out of the  
9 teaching environment and being taught one-to-one  
10 effectively in Aisling House.

11 What you were saying to me earlier, HIA96, to try to  
12 summarise it from your side, was it was like a war  
13 between --

14 **A. It was a war zone.**

15 Q. Yes, between the staff and the residents?

16 **A. Sure.**

17 Q. And is that a fair way to summarise what you saw?

18 **A. Yes. It was -- it was a war zone and that is a fair  
19 assessment. That is the reality, but it is one thing  
20 saying it. It is one thing actually living amongst it.  
21 It was a war zone. Make no mistake about that.**

22 Q. And what the records show, HIA96, whenever you -- I am  
23 not going to go through the long chronology you and  
24 I were looking at earlier as we were looking through  
25 documents, but at various times various members of staff

1 write reports either internally or externally for court  
2 or for case conferences that were taking place and staff  
3 in St. Patrick's are setting out what they say your  
4 behaviour amounts to and how difficult they were finding  
5 managing that behaviour. Your point to me has been, as  
6 you have repeated to the Panel, you don't necessarily  
7 accept the content of the reports.

8 **A. Well, the reality is this. These people were my**  
9 **kidnappers, and if they think that I was just going to**  
10 **be taking the circumstances that I was presented and**  
11 **just accept it, they were very much mistaken and they**  
12 **soon realised that I wasn't prepared to accept it,**  
13 **because that is --- to call a spade a spade, that is**  
14 **exactly the situation that we were faced with. That's**  
15 **what happened. We were kidnap victims held against our**  
16 **will by the State and the religious institutions who**  
17 **were working hand-in-hand against us.**

18 Q. I am going to just show two examples so that you can  
19 explain what you want to say in response to those  
20 examples, because they relate then, as you know, to the  
21 incident involving the female staff, but in January of  
22 1995 -- so at this stage you have just -- you have been  
23 in Aisling House for three months. You have gone back  
24 to Orana. There has been various difficulties that have  
25 resulted in you coming back to St. Patrick's. You were

1 saying to me you may well have done some of those things  
2 that were being said in terms of what was happening in  
3 Orana.

4 **A. Once again part of the same set-up.**

5 Q. The same cycle.

6 **A. The same situation, the same kidnapers wanting to**  
7 **control their victims.**

8 Q. And now by January 1995 you are back in St. Pat's. You  
9 have spent a few weeks in Aisling and now you have moved  
10 to the Donard long-term care unit. I am going to bring  
11 up a report from Mr , who was the team leader. You  
12 remember him, but not warmly. You don't have a good  
13 view of him?

14 **A. Oh, he was quite cold, quite ruthless, if my memory**  
15 **serves my correctly.**

16 Q. If we look at 46799, please, so this is a report to the  
17 Licensing Review Committee as it's described -- I am not  
18 going to pour over the detail of it, HIA96 -- which  
19 records some of the interactions that there have been,  
20 but if we scroll down, the part that I was talking to  
21 you about earlier, if we move on down, please, to the  
22 next page -- if we just move up, please, to the  
23 paragraph before. Yes, it is the -- so it is the last  
24 paragraph on the page, HIA96. You can see:

25 "Within the agency all three female staff of Donard

1 and Slane House have been subjected to verbal abuse from  
2 HIA96 during his short stay with us. I have attempted  
3 to engage him to examine his poor respect for women in  
4 particular, but to date HIA96 refuses to accept this is  
5 a problem."

6 **A. Well, would those be the same female members of staff**  
7 **who was engaging in the sexual abuse of young children**  
8 **in the place or ones who were turning a blind eye to**  
9 **sexual abuse that was occurring within the place?**

10 Q. Well, I don't know the answer to that and, as I said to  
11 you, you can ask me all the questions of the day, but  
12 I am not going to know the answers. What I can say to  
13 you is if this record is accurate -- and you don't  
14 necessarily accept the record as being accurate -- the  
15 key worker, SPT157, and his team leader, Mr ,  
16 are recounting in this report that three members of  
17 staff, who are female, are complaining about the abuse  
18 they are receiving. Your point is this may well be the  
19 three members of staff who at the same time as  
20 complaining about you are, in fact, doing things that we  
21 will come on to talk about or one or two in particular.

22 **A. And would this be the same SPT157 that goes on a**  
23 **-- as part of a holiday for the residents of St. Pat's**  
24 **goes to a pub in Cushendall with the rest of the**  
25 **St. Pat's staff, who then basically start singing**

1           **sectarian songs to wind up the local population and**  
2           **engages in a physical fight with the residents of that**  
3           **town? Would that be the same       SPT157       ? I believe**  
4           **it would be.**

5    Q.   Well, as I said, there's no point in asking me the  
6           questions. If you are going to ask them and answer  
7           them, that will probably work better, but your point is  
8           you don't accept       SPT157       , because of this  
9           particular incident that you relate --

10   **A.   Well, there is numerous.**

11   Q.   -- would be reporting accurately about you. Just on  
12           that subject, we were talking about this record and we  
13           did -- I did ask you were there any good staff that you  
14           remembered and you said there were two in particular you  
15           remembered --

16   **A.   Yes.**

17   Q.   -- a SPT111 --

18   **A.   Yes.**

19   Q.   -- who was a caring individual, and also a lady called  
20           . I think                    may come up in some of the  
21           occurrence sheets that we will -- we mentioned. I am  
22           not sure we will look at too many of them now.

23           The point that is arising here is they are referring  
24           to this abusive behaviour and what you were explaining  
25           to me earlier was, like a war zone, there would have



1 other institutions. No matter who you are going to put  
2 in a place like that, they are going to have  
3 difficulties when they get there. So it could have been  
4 just -- as I say, I could be sitting or standing where  
5 you are standing and you could be sitting where I am  
6 sitting and that could have been the exact same  
7 circumstances just because it is me or just because it  
8 is you. It just so happens that it is me, but, as I  
9 say, you put people in that sort of situations and guess  
10 what? That's the situation that's going to be. It is  
11 going to be problematic for everyone concerned.

12 Q. By June of 1996, so if we move it on six months, the  
13 report that's then prepared again by your key worker, if  
14 we look at 576, please, this is 30th June 1996. We were  
15 looking at some of the language of this report earlier.  
16 If we move on to the second page, it's talking about the  
17 various work that's being done, but then this is what's  
18 said in the second paragraph, and this is again

19 SPT157 , the key worker that you had:

20 "Within the unit even now HIA96's behaviour is one  
21 of being argumentative, shouting everyone down, hanging  
22 on to every word so that he can prove that he is in the  
23 right. This applies to both peers and adults alike.  
24 Attempting to wind up so as to create situations for  
25 HIA96's personal gratification, and HIA96 at 15 and a

1 half displays quite disruptive behaviour, which requires  
2 close monitoring at all times."

3 Then he talks about things spilling out when you are  
4 out on home leave, but if we scroll down, please, the  
5 conclusion he reached:

6 "It is the opinion that since HIA96's transfer to  
7 Donard, the long-term unit, we have seen little or no  
8 improvement in either HIA96's behaviour or attitude ...  
9 still presenting a lot of problems both at home and  
10 within the unit. In recent times our concern has  
11 heightened at HIA96's propensity for delinquent activity  
12 and intimidation to extended family members."

13 I am not going to go into the detail of that. You  
14 are aware from our conversations some of the examples,  
15 HIA96, that was brought to the attention of St. Pat's:

16 "The present situation is that mum has expressed  
17 anguish and concern to staff at the thought of HIA96  
18 coming home for long periods of leave."

19 So there's issues, difficulty that's being  
20 described. You don't necessarily see it as how it is  
21 recorded that the likes of your key worker saw it in  
22 St. Patrick's?

23 **A. Well, the reality is if the key worker had been me and**  
24 **he had been in that situation, it would have been**  
25 **exactly the same for him. You know, it was difficult**

1           **circumstances for everyone. They put people in that**  
2           **place, in that type of institution, and that's the type**  
3           **of place it was. The place was disruptive. So if they**  
4           **are saying people in the place was disruptive, of course**  
5           **they were. It was a disruptive place.**

6    Q.   Then it comes to an end, as we were discussing, in  
7           September 1996. There's a series of offences occur and  
8           it results in you being remanded to Lisnevin.

9    **A. By choice. As I say, I spoke to you at length about**  
10           **this.**

11   Q.   We will come back to that at the end because, as I was  
12           saying to you, some of the records at the time seem to  
13           relate to you being keen to go back to St. Patrick's  
14           rather than stay in Lisnevin.

15   **A. I was keen to get out of the system overall --**

16   Q.   You wanted out of the system.

17   **A. -- and I got out of it.**

18   Q.   We will come back to that at the end in terms of going  
19           to Lisnevin. So what I want to do, HIA96 -- that's  
20           a quick canter through what in very detailed records,  
21           which you don't accept -- and I am making that clear on  
22           a constant basis, because you don't accept them -- I'm  
23           trying to highlight for the Panel that there was in  
24           terms of what was being said of you considerable  
25           difficulty in managing the behaviour that was going on,

1 and what you are saying to the Panel is, in fact, it was  
2 a very difficult place to be?

3 **A. Well, a lot of the information that's down on reports is**  
4 **actually the staff's behaviour and attitude towards the**  
5 **residents is not being documented, but if it had been,**  
6 **a lot of the things they were saying the residents was**  
7 **doing, guess what? They were doing it back and a lot**  
8 **more. It was that sort of -- as I say, it was that sort**  
9 **of type of a circus. It was that sort of environment.**  
10 **That was the environment that was created. It was**  
11 **created by them and, you know, we were products of that.**

12 **Q.** Now in paragraph 5 of your statement, HIA96, if we look  
13 at 218 -- you will have a hard copy, if that is easier  
14 for you, in front of you -- you talk about going into  
15 Aisling House and that the facilities there were  
16 actually quite good.

17 I think at various points in your statement, and it  
18 is also clear through the detailed material that existed  
19 from the time, that you were into sport and were a good  
20 footballer and enjoyed that side of things more than  
21 perhaps some of the other things that were going on, but  
22 you describe then when you move over to the long-term  
23 care unit being in the main building. I was discussing  
24 with you that you refer to it having no hot water, for  
25 instance, and by this stage the facilities in St. Pat's

1 had effectively been renewed. So the Aisling House  
2 assessment centre was a new unit, and you were agreeing  
3 with me that it was, and then the care unit was also, or  
4 Chalet 2, as it was known, was also quite a new unit.  
5 You were saying there was a phase when you were in the  
6 main building before you moved into the new building --

7 **A. That's correct.**

8 Q. -- as part of the care unit.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. And it was that -- you're not sure how long that was,  
11 but the facilities were much better in either of the two  
12 new buildings than they were in the main building?

13 **A. The complete opposite.**

14 Q. And the -- one of the matters that you talked to in  
15 paragraph 5 and then you also deal with it in  
16 paragraph 10 is the issue of suicide. You and I were  
17 talking about that earlier. If we go through to  
18 paragraph -- you were saying that it was common  
19 knowledge -- you can see the last three lines at  
20 paragraph 5 -- common knowledge that people had killed  
21 themselves there.

22 **A. Yes. People had killed themselves both in St. Pat's and  
23 out of St. Pat's. That's right.**

24 Q. Was that just the talk between the boys that that was  
25 the position?

1 **A. No. That was amongst -- amongst the staff members and**  
2 **the boys as well.**

3 Q. Because I was saying to you that up to the incident that  
4 we are going to talk about now there hadn't been anyone  
5 who had taken their life in St. Patrick's.

6 **A. Well, that's from the records that you might have been**  
7 **able to access, but like you said, you accessed other**  
8 **records that didn't make sense and wasn't being able to**  
9 **-- for instance, there was people you were able to kind**  
10 **of almost locate that other people apparently couldn't**  
11 **locate despite their names being down on reports. So**  
12 **yes.**

13 Q. So you think there were people who committed suicide --

14 **A. Well --**

15 Q. -- but that for whatever reason we haven't been able yet  
16 to identify who they were?

17 **A. Well, SPT80, he committed suicide while he was in**  
18 **St. Pat's, did he not?**

19 Q. I am going to come to him, as you know, because the  
20 answer to that question -- I am still not going to  
21 answer. If we move to paragraph -- bear with me and we  
22 will bring that one up, HIA96. Paragraph 10, please.  
23 Now you explain here how a teacher once said to you that  
24 boys who left St. Patrick's either ended up in jail or  
25 dead.

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

2 Q. It's very true, because you remember a friend of yours,  
3 and that's SPT80, who take his own life during your time  
4 in St. Pat's.

5 **A. Well, it's kind of been worded wrong. During my time in**  
6 **St. Pats' SPT80 was there in my unit, but he took his**  
7 **life just after I left St. Pat's.**

8 Q. Yes, and I was discussing --

9 **A. He killed himself within St. Pat's.**

10 Q. Yes. I was discussing with you that the sequence of  
11 this seems to be there was a period you were together in  
12 St. Pat's. There was then a period you were together in  
13 Lisnevin. You moved out of Lisnevin. He eventually  
14 moved back to what had become Glenmona Resource Centre,  
15 because the training school, as it were --

16 **A. Well, they changed the name, but he still committed**  
17 **suicide in the place.**

18 Q. We had this discussion before. Let me get it all out  
19 and then you can disagree with it. The training schools  
20 had come to an end. They didn't exist anymore --

21 **A. The name changed.**

22 Q. -- hold on -- as and from 4th November 1996, and  
23 thereafter a care home, as it were, existed on the old  
24 St. Patrick's site called Glenmona Resource Centre. It  
25 was to there that SPT80 went and he took his own life.

1     **A. No, he was already in St. Patrick's Training School. It**  
2           **was the exact same building, the exact same staff, the**  
3           **exact same terms of operation. They changed the name**  
4           **and that was it. Nothing changed.**

5     Q. Right. Well --

6     **A. The name changed.**

7     Q. -- you and I agree you weren't there at the time he took  
8       his own life?

9     **A. I wasn't there when SPT80 killed himself, but SPT80**  
10           **killed himself within St. Patrick's Training School,**  
11           **albeit in a different name.**

12    Q. Right. As I was explaining to you earlier --

13    **A. So when people say to me that people weren't killing**  
14           **themselves in St. Pat's, well, there is just one**  
15           **highlighted incident of a person who actually has,**  
16           **albeit by a different name in terms of, as you say,**  
17           **Glenmona Children's Home.**

18    Q.

24            Just if I could put on record it does not suggest  
25            that the reasons behind that tragic scenario was because

1 of abuse in St. Patrick's Training School. It does  
2 detail the extensive level of engagement in services  
3 that were being put in place to assist children with  
4 difficulty and the Panel have access to the content of  
5 the report.

6 **A. Well, SPT80 actually mentioned that he was going to do**  
7 **that and talked about that on numerous occasions. So**  
8 **the staff would have been aware of it and obviously they**  
9 **didn't take any action to prevent that from happening**  
10 **and it did happen.**

11 Q. That's one issue. In your statement in paragraph 6,  
12 HIA96, you talk about the issue of education.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. If we look at 219, please, you explain that the  
15 education set-up was poor. You give one very specific  
16 example. A teacher would lock the door, put on a DVD  
17 and allow people to take drugs.

18 **A. The DVD was actually a joyriding film called "You, Me &**  
19 **Marley". So you can kind of -- you know, here we have**  
20 **a place where they're supposed to be helping people and**  
21 **yet the reality is the teacher is locking the door.**  
22 **People is taking drugs and the teacher is quite willing**  
23 **to be watching a film along with the residents of a film**  
24 **based around a car theft and joyriding.**

25 Q. As I was saying to you, I have to explain the records

1 that do not sit well with what you are describing.

2 **A. Does it matter what the records say?**

3 Q. No. Let me just -- let me finish the point and then you  
4 can explain you don't agree with it. That much of the  
5 diary entries that are available appear to show various  
6 staff efforts to get things like smoking stopped and  
7 punishing people who were smoking, and there does not  
8 seem to be any reference to drugs in the reports.

9 That's not to say it does not happen. As I was  
10 discussing with you earlier, all I can go on is what's  
11 in the documents that are available. I was saying to  
12 you there are various documents that show your behaviour  
13 in the classroom resulting in the teacher phoning across  
14 for the residential staff like SPT157 to come  
15 over to try and calm things down; on various occasions  
16 whenever you are taken out of the school environment and  
17 being taught in Aisling House on a one-to-one type  
18 basis, and I was asking you do you remember those types  
19 of things going on? Were you -- there's reports from  
20 teachers talking about you throwing things at them.

21 **A. Well, as I have stated many times to you, the reports**  
22 **are not including all the abuse that happened in**  
23 **St. Pat's. They are not including all the things --**  
24 **a lot of things that took place within there. The**  
25 **reasons why they were not including that information is**

1 because they don't want them to become known. That's  
2 why there is this Inquiry. The very fact they have not  
3 included in their reports that you keep referring to all  
4 the information that I just mentioned shows quite  
5 clearly that they're not giving an accurate version of  
6 events of life in that place, that it is one of trying  
7 to create the impression that this and that is being  
8 done when in reality this and that isn't being done and  
9 the complete opposite is taking place, and time and time  
10 again there is people going to be up here, sitting where  
11 I am sitting, saying what I am saying, you know. So it  
12 doesn't matter what is said in these reports, because,  
13 you see, the difference between me and other people here  
14 is that I know what occurred. I don't need to be  
15 reading or relying on information in reports. I know  
16 the reports are inaccurate. I've been there.

17 Q. Well, HIA96, let me ask you then in that context in  
18 terms of education do you recollect having to be removed  
19 from the classroom because of something you had done?

20 A. Well, in a classroom scenario where the teacher is  
21 locking the door, as I say, there is drug taking going  
22 on, there is "You, Me & Marley" DVD or videos being  
23 played, encouraging almost, shall we say, joyriding,  
24 would that be the sort of classroom that people would  
25 feel comfortable in and would want to be in? I don't

1 think so. People would want to be out of that  
2 situation. So are you asking -- if you are asking me  
3 would I want to keep myself in that type of facility, of  
4 course not.

5 Q. That's not quite what I asked you.

6 A. That's not quite what you're asking me, but ...

7 Q. No. Do you remember, for instance, throwing things at  
8 your teacher on occasions and being --

9 A. Well, I remember the teacher throwing things at people  
10 and things like that, you know. So ... You know,  
11 that's -- I can remember things like that.

12 Q. I said to you I don't cross-examine people, but I am  
13 going to say to you again: listen to the question I am  
14 asking you. Do you remember doing that to a teacher and  
15 being removed from --

16 A. No, no.

17 Q. You don't. Right. You talked in paragraphs 8 and 9,  
18 HIA96, about the physical abuse, as it were, lots of  
19 fighting going on between the residents?

20 A. Lots of fights, yes. You had to be able to defend  
21 yourself in a place like that, and initially when you  
22 first went into a place like that, you had to -- I took  
23 the approach -- a different approach than some where  
24 I would do what I had to do to survive and I did, but,  
25 you know, obviously --

1 Q. You are aware from our discussion that what you  
2 characterise in that way others have characterised as  
3 you taking -- bullying others and fighting with others  
4 and being --

5 **A. If somebody gave me a hard time, I was going to give**  
6 **them a hard time back.**

7 Q. Let me get it finished and then you can explain. That  
8 would result in times for you being punished for the  
9 behaviour that was being identified, rightly or wrongly,  
10 as something that shouldn't happen, that there could be  
11 early to bed, and we were talking about some occasions  
12 when the early to bed provoked a row in and of itself,  
13 and sometimes fines from the reward system, other times  
14 being removed to Slemish for various things that were  
15 occurring, and you remember those types of interactions,  
16 but the point you are making, as I understand it, was  
17 you had to fight and look after yourself to survive.

18 **A. Well, it is like this here. There was incidents where**  
19 **you would be attacked. You would defend yourself and**  
20 **you obviously defending yourself would, say, get the**  
21 **better of the person who was attacking you. The staff**  
22 **could come on the scene of that incident or see the**  
23 **aftermath of it and they would jump to conclusions based**  
24 **on the moment that they'd seen or the aftermath of it**  
25 **and assume that you were the person who was in the wrong**

1        **when in actual fact you would be the person that was**  
2        **defending yourself, and because you defended yourself**  
3        **till a certain -- certain level, you were then being**  
4        **punished for defending yourself and placed in**  
5        **an institution -- sorry -- placed in Slemish House with**  
6        **just a blue mattress on the floor, a cell with the door**  
7        **locked, denied access to food, water facilities, wash**  
8        **facilities. That was -- that was the condition that**  
9        **myself had to endure on numerous occasions as a result**  
10       **of defending myself.**

11    Q.    And in relation to the Slemish House I was discussing  
12        with you that there was bells to contact people, but you  
13        were --

14    A.    **That didn't always work --**

15    Q.    But you were --

16    A.    **-- and that was ignored.**

17    Q.    But you were -- let me get the sentence out -- you were  
18        essentially curtailed in that you were in this cell and  
19        couldn't come and go as you liked, and staff had to let  
20        you in and out?

21    A.    **Yes.**

22    Q.    Yes, and you describe, HIA96, in paragraphs 11 and 12  
23        one example, and this issue is relevant for a number of  
24        different reasons, but it demonstrates, amongst other  
25        things, that life wouldn't have always been easy with

1 the type of boys who were in St. Patrick's --

2 **A. Of course not.**

3 Q. -- either for you, as it were, being alongside them or  
4 staff dealing with them. So, for instance, in  
5 paragraphs 11 and 12 you bring to the Inquiry's  
6 attention something that we have then gone on to  
7 investigate the background of and that involves a very  
8 serious assault by a boy the same age as you -- as you  
9 were at the time, 13 -- I think he might have only been  
10 12 -- on a member of staff who was attacked with a pool  
11 cue.

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

13 Q. And the police material relating to that, the file, is  
14 available to the Panel. It runs from 247... -- sorry --  
15 27474 to 27621.

19 **A. Well, we were led to believe --**

20 Q. Hold on. Let me get --

21 **A. -- that she had died as a result of those injuries.**

22 Q. Let me get the --

23 CHAIRMAN: Just a moment, HIA96.

24 MR AIKEN: Let me get it all out and then --

25 CHAIRMAN: Listen to what Mr Aiken is saying to you and then



1           **just told she had died. So we were under the impression**  
2           **then as a result of that she had died as a result of the**  
3           **injuries that, you know, she received on that occasion**  
4

12    Q.   Well, the Panel HIA96.  
13           are interested in you, and the discussion we were  
14    having was me pointing out that, in fact, the figure  
15    I used before the Panel was 0.5% and that 1.6% was the  
16    total number of individuals across civil claims, police  
17    material and people who had come forward to the Inquiry.  
18           The point that I am dealing with you is that this  
19    incident that you came across illustrates the severity  
20    of some of the behaviour that was going on in  
21    St. Patrick's.

22    A.   **And it is also worth mentioning the incident regarding**  
23           **SPT81. I don't actually see that in the -- I don't**  
24           **actually see that's in the statement, but ...**

25    Q.   You do. You mention it in paragraph 10 of your

1 statement.

2 **A. Oh, it's in that, is it?**

3 Q. Again it is something that the Panel are aware of and  
4 have a very lengthy Social Services Inspectorate report  
5 as to the circumstances of how SPT81 comes to meet his  
6 death, having absconded with a number of boys, and  
7 that's something the Panel will be --

8 **A. SPT81 was a good friend of mine and he was -- I believe**  
9 **he was about 12 years of age and, you know, obviously**  
10 **being in St. Patrick's Training School, you get to know**  
11 **a lot of -- a lot of people, and I can honestly say**  
12 **there was absolutely no way a person like SPT81 should**  
13 **ever have been in a place like St. Patrick's Training**  
14 **School. The very fact that SPT81 was there shows how**  
15 **bad the system -- the system was, because if SPT81 was**  
16 **there, then that shows me anybody literally could have**  
17 **been put in a place like that, because it was extremely**  
18 **wrong and injustice that he was ever there in the first**  
19 **place.**

20 Q. That's a matter that, as I said to you, the Panel will  
21 look at. I was asking you, HIA96, and I am not going to  
22 bring up the detail of it, but I was asking you about  
23 a lady who complained in the aftermath of the incident  
24 involving the lady who was attacked that she found you  
25 intimidating afterwards and a mock use of the snooker

1 cue on her. You did not actually hit her, but you  
2 frightened her and she reported that. I was asking you  
3 did you have any memory of that at all. You were saying  
4 to me you don't remember that lady at all.

5 **A. I can't even recall that incident. I can't recall that**  
6 **person. That's not to say that it didn't happen. It is**  
7 **quite possible it could have done; quite possible it**  
8 **couldn't have done. I don't know.**

9 Q. You don't have a memory of it?

10 **A. I don't have a memory of that particular incident.**

11 Q. HIA96, what I am going to do now is if we look at  
12 paragraph 13 of your statement, because in speaking to  
13 me earlier, we talked about the particular matters of  
14 sexual abuse and you indicated to me about -- the first  
15 incident that involves you you haven't gone into any  
16 great detail in the Inquiry statement, and I was drawing  
17 to your attention that when you spoke to the church in  
18 2010, you explained that in a little more detail to  
19 them. If we look at 23453, I will just show you what  
20 was regarded as having been said. I was describing to  
21 you earlier that essentially it was talking about  
22 masturbation having taken place. You describe the  
23 female and give the first name. You don't remember her  
24 surname.

25 **A. No.**

1 Q. But you were then explaining to me, as I was asking you  
2 a bit more about it today, and I am just going to  
3 summarise it for you, because you were saying that  
4 everybody talks about what they feel comfortable to talk  
5 about, but this was in Aisling House?

6 **A. This was in Aisling House. That's correct, yes.**

7 Q. So it will either have been -- I don't know whether you  
8 can nail it down for the Panel as to was it the first  
9 period in Aisling House or the second spell in  
10 St. Patrick's, when you were there for a number of weeks  
11 before moving over to the long-term care unit?

12 **A. I am not 100% which of those it would be.**

13 Q. If you are not sure, don't say one or the other, but  
14 this was an incident that happened just on one occasion.  
15 It happened in a meeting type room in the unit. There  
16 were only the two of you there at the time. You were  
17 doing something with -- you were explaining to me --

18 **A. We were hanging up curtains basically.**

19 Q. -- it was in the evening hanging curtains.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. And this lady then touched you, and you do not want to  
22 go into the detail of how that -- how she did it in  
23 terms of outside the clothing or inside the clothing and  
24 so on, but you explained to me that you -- and this  
25 isn't in this document and it isn't in the Inquiry

1 statement, but after a couple of hours you went and told  
2 SPT13.

3 **A. Yes. I believe it was a period of time, a couple of**  
4 **hours later. I believe I had a period of time where**  
5 **I sort of thought what I was going to do --**

6 Q. Yes.

7 **A. -- and I decided I was going to report the incident to**  
8 **SPT13 and that's what I did do.**

9 Q. And he was the head of Aisling House?

10 **A. He was the person in charge of Aisling House at the**  
11 **time.**

12 Q. Yes.

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

14 Q. In fairness he was a name, when you said it to me, not  
15 unfamiliar, because I can see him attending lots of  
16 these case conferences and writing reports and so on at  
17 the time when you are in the Aisling House phase, and  
18 I asked you then what -- what did he do about it, and  
19 you said you could not remember the precise words, but  
20 he didn't really believe what you were telling him.

21 **A. He didn't believe it, didn't want to believe it, chose**  
22 **to ignore it and just wanted to sweep it under the**  
23 **carpet basically.**

24 Q. And I then was drawing your attention, HIA96 -- I am not  
25 going through the detail of this -- we talked about the

1 detail of it and looked at the records earlier -- but  
2 that there are a number of instances where your  
3 conversation about sexual matters towards female members  
4 of staff are recorded in the occurrence sheets and the  
5 members of staff not being happy with that behaviour and  
6 reporting it and escalating it and having something done  
7 about it.

8 **A. Well, it's like this here. If you are coming forward**  
9 **and you are reporting what you are seeing, as what**  
10 **I did, and that person continues to work there and --**  
11 **you know, then they have -- they obviously have**  
12 **a grievance against you in the sense that you have**  
13 **reported to another member of staff what they have been**  
14 **up to, and as a result of stuff like that then they use**  
15 **that -- they use that information then at any**  
16 **opportunity they get to sort of manipulate the situation**  
17 **and lie about you and about other people. They do.**  
18 **They take it at a late date. That's the sort of --**  
19 **that's the type of environment that St. Patrick's**  
20 **Training School was, but it's not going to -- it may be**  
21 **me sitting here today saying this to you. Tomorrow it**  
22 **will be somebody else saying the exact same thing.**

23 **Q. As I was saying to you earlier, this is the only example**  
24 **and the people who potentially -- hold on -- hear me out**  
25 **-- the people who potentially or the organisations who**

1 face potential criticism from the Inquiry point out that  
2 this is the only example of it being said that a female  
3 member of staff took advantage of a resident in this  
4 way.

5 **A. And have they spoke to SPT85 or SPT86?**

6 Q. Let me -- let me -- the two names that you have just  
7 mentioned, certainly the latter one hasn't spoken to the  
8 police or the Inquiry. The other name that you  
9 mentioned, the first name you mentioned, did, but not  
10 about a female member of staff. So that is why I'm  
11 drawing to your attention that this is the only example  
12 where someone has come forward to the Inquiry to talk  
13 about these things, but what you are saying is as far as  
14 this lady is concerned -- we will move -- we will come  
15 to the next one involving SPT86 or SPT86, whatever the  
16 right name is. As far as this lady is concerned, you  
17 are saying that she didn't just do this to you?

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

19 Q. She did it to a number of other boys?

20 **A. Yes. It was very prolific. I've heard it -- heard  
21 other people mentioning this on numerous occasions. As  
22 I say, I have give the names over of the other people  
23 involved. So, you know, this was not a one-off  
24 incident. This was a repeat incident, but again there  
25 is no records of all these incidents, because they are**

1           **not going to be and they don't and didn't report their**  
2           **failures and what the --**

3    Q.   No, I am not sure the Panel would expect to find  
4           a record --

5    **A.   Exactly.**

6    Q.   -- by the perpetrator recording this.

7    **A.   Exactly.**

8    Q.   What you are saying is it wasn't just you, although it  
9           only happened to you once.

10   **A.   Yes.**

11   Q.   There were others who were involved in it, and the -- if  
12           we go back to your statement, please, if we can go back  
13           to paragraph 14 at 221, please, you explain in  
14           paragraph 14, HIA96, about a female member of staff that  
15           you found without her clothes on in the bed of --

16   **A.   And I believe she was under the -- under the duvet.**

17   Q.   She was under the duvet?

18   **A.   Under the duvet.**

19   Q.   Had she her clothes on?

20   **A.   Well, she was underneath the duvet, you know.**

21   Q.   With -- you said she was partially dressed and in this  
22           other boy's bed. Now he has not --

23   **A.   That's correct.**

24   Q.   -- to my knowledge either come forward to the Inquiry or  
25           spoken to the police about this, but -- and the point

1           you made --

2     **A. Well, he didn't -- as I say --**

3     Q. -- he was not an unwilling participant in this.

4     **A. He didn't see it as it was. He said he was happy about**  
5        **-- he was happy about the situation, happy about the**  
6        **attention he was receiving.**

7     Q. Yes.

8     **A. So he didn't in his mind view it as a -- as what it**  
9        **actually was. It was actually sexual abuse, because, as**  
10       **I say, he was under 16. So that's what it was, but he**  
11       **didn't view it that way.**

12    Q. And this was in Aisling House as well?

13    **A. That was in Aisling House as well, yes.**

14    Q. So all of these incidents involving the two ladies were  
15        Aisling House matters, not Donard/Chalet 2, long-term  
16        care? These are --

17    **A. Well, you know, this is -- you know, they're not --**  
18        **Aisling House and Donard might be separate buildings,**  
19        **but they're just a stone's throw from one another.**

20    Q. No, no, that's not the point I am making, HIA96. You  
21        are able to relate these incidents in terms of the time  
22        that they occurred because they occur in Aisling House  
23        and you are staying there during a particular period.  
24        Isn't that right?

25    **A. That's right, yes.**

1 Q. Yes, and in paragraph 15, HIA96, you refer to BR26 and  
2 you explain about him coming round with comics. You are  
3 not -- just to be clear, you are not saying he ever did  
4 anything to you when he came round with a --

5 A. No, but he came round to my room and quite a lot of  
6 other rooms in my unit with these comic books late at  
7 night when all the staff had gone home, when the only  
8 person on duty at the time was the -- was the night sort  
9 of watchman, and he could quite easily be persuaded to  
10 basically nip downstairs if he wanted something to eat  
11 or to basically leave his so-called station, and BR26  
12 would be basically patrolling the dorms, whatever way  
13 you want to put it, with these comic books, going round  
14 -- going round from room to room and popping his head  
15 through the door and, as I say, late at night, when  
16 people were obviously sleeping, sometimes being awoken  
17 by this. You know, myself, I basically -- as I say,  
18 I basically told him to get out of my room or harm was  
19 going to basically come to him, you know, and he took  
20 that on board and he left, but I don't know what  
21 happened with other sort of people regarding that, but  
22 certainly -- it certainly paints a picture in my mind as  
23 to someone's attention, you know, someone is sort of  
24 thinking in order to be --

25 Q. As I was saying to you --

1 A. -- in order to be putting himself in that sort of  
2 position, you know. So ...

3 Q. As I was saying to you earlier, HIA96, in fairness to  
4 him he never made any approach to you, never interfered  
5 with you in any way and --

6 A. Well, he was made -- made aware sort of what would  
7 happen to him, to get out of my room and, you know, at  
8 that stage quite early in the proceedings I became  
9 hardened to situations that I faced with in terms of  
10 being institutionalised and I developed as a person to  
11 be able to deal with this type of environment.

12 Q. You were explaining to me as well that none of your  
13 colleagues were saying to you that he ever interfered  
14 with them either.

15 A. Well, the people that was in my unit were a close enough  
16 group of friends that we'd basically say, "Look ..." --  
17 we'd basically warn new people who was sort of  
18 a resident in the place, you know, to "Make sure you  
19 refuse those comic books", because we had heard -- we  
20 had heard stories about people who didn't, you know.

21 Q. Yes, but I am right in what I am saying to you that of  
22 your group for the period you were there there was  
23 no-one saying that BR26 had actually done anything to  
24 them, albeit there was this undertone or undercurrent  
25 about what his motive was for bringing the comics round.

1 That's all I am being clear about, that nobody was  
2 actually saying that they were interfered with by him?

3 **A. Well, there has been -- there was so much information**  
4 **that you were getting, and, as I say, there is times**  
5 **where you were getting so much information that**  
6 **obviously you can't remember it all. In some cases you**  
7 **just black stuff out, because there is that much**  
8 **information comes your way that you just -- after**  
9 **a period of time you don't want to sort of know**  
10 **continuously the same type of thing. So there was times**  
11 **where, you know, lots of people had discussions about**  
12 **that individual, so they did, and there could have been**  
13 **occasions that my memory doesn't serve me to sort of**  
14 **inform you of that. That could have been the case, but**  
15 **it was common knowledge amongst us for sure that he was**  
16 **a person not to be trusted based on his actions.**

17 Q. You talk then in paragraph 15 about BR92.

18 **A. That's correct. I do indeed.**

19 Q. Again you are not alleging that BR92 ever interfered  
20 with you?

21 **A. No.**

22 Q. Although you said to me that he did physically assault  
23 you on one occasion?

24 **A. He did indeed.**

25 Q. We will have to ask him to address that, but you

1 explained to me he grabbed you on the collar and shoved  
2 you against the wall on an occasion when he was removing  
3 a cigarette from you.

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

5 Q. That again was in Aisling House?

6 **A. No, that wasn't in Aisling House. That was in Chalet 2.**

7 Q. That was Chalet 2?

8 **A. It was Chalet 2, yes.**

9 Q. But I was discussing with you how did you come to know  
10 that he faced a criminal trial in

11 , which, as I understand it, he was acquitted of  
12 any wrongdoing?

13 **A. Was that a sexual offences trial?**

14 Q. That is what you have said of it. I will show you what  
15 he has said about it. It is in paragraph 9, 2199, if we  
16 go to 2199, please, because he was asking the question,  
17 "Well, how did you" -- because his -- he was given  
18 anonymity -- "how did you come to know about this?"

19 **A. SPT157 told me.**

20 Q. You were saying to me that it was SPT157 who told  
21 you.

22 **A. It was indeed.**

23 Q. And that -- can you remember the circumstances when you  
24 met SPT157 to find that out?

25 **A. Well, I spoke -- I actually spoke to him on the**

1 telephone. I believe that was when he told me that BR92  
2 was basically being returned to the to  
3 face these things.

4 Q. So did you keep in touch with SPT157 or did he  
5 keep in touch with you for a period of time after you --

6 A. No, I basically phoned him up to basically tell him  
7 about the time where I had been said -- which we will  
8 get to, regarding the incident with the glass in the  
9 shower. I basically phoned him up to tell him, "Listen,  
10 you got the wrong person that time. It wasn't me" and  
11 in doing -- in that phone call conversation he went on  
12 to mention that what happened to BR92, where he had been  
13 returned to to face sexual offences charges,  
14 which came as no surprise to myself, given the fact that  
15 there was immoral activities that took place within  
16 St. Patrick's Training School.

17 As a member of staff he always seemed very keen and,  
18 in fact, very enthusiastic whenever he was attending the  
19 swimming pool where residents would go to, and he would  
20 also, because of his -- that common knowledge amongst  
21 myself and other people that he was regularly attending  
22 the swimming pool to supervise and wouldn't be at other  
23 events regularly to supervise and would only  
24 specifically be at the swimming pool in the so-called  
25 supervisory capacity I did begin to sort of keep an eye

1 on him.

2 I have seen on a number of occasions where we would  
3 be in the swimming pool and somebody would decide to --  
4 after having their swim would decide to return to get  
5 changed and have a shower. Quite a lot of those  
6 occasions I would look over at BR92 and I would watch  
7 him and I'd be waiting for him to make that move to head  
8 into -- after the person who had been going into the  
9 changing or shower facilities and, lo and behold, time  
10 and time after again no sooner had that person went into  
11 the changing or shower facilities, BR92 would be  
12 following him closely behind.

13 Q. So you had your suspicions about him is what in summary  
14 you're saying?

15 A. Quite.

16 Q. But what you are also saying is after you had left  
17 St. Patrick's you and SPT157 were still in touch?

18 A. Well, I phoned him up to basically -- as I say, we will  
19 get to that discussion about --

20 Q. Bear with me for a moment, HIA96. Your phoning him has  
21 to have been after you have already left St. Patrick's.

22 A. Yes, that's right.

23 Q. So all I'm confirming is that there was communication,  
24 however it came about, between you and SPT157  
25 your key worker, after you had left St. Patrick's?

1 **A. Yes. I phoned him up after --**

2 Q. Yes. We are going to come to the particular incident  
3 very shortly, but the point that is being made here is  
4 that there was a need to supervise the boys in the  
5 shower. In fact, we are going to look at a particular  
6 incident not involving the swimming pool where boys  
7 could muck around, as it were.

8 **A. Well, there was a need to supervise the residents over**  
9 **lots of activities, and you got lots of different staff**  
10 **being at -- supervising people at different activities,**  
11 **but BR92 seemed to be overly keen and overly**  
12 **enthusiastic in terms of supervising the children**  
13 **involved particularly on the occasions where they would**  
14 **go swimming and would not be supervising them at, say,**  
15 **a lot of the other events that would take -- that would**  
16 **take place.**

17 Q. But to be fair to him, you are not saying he ever did  
18 anything on you?

19 **A. No.**

20 Q. Nor are you saying any of your colleagues were claiming  
21 that he had done anything on them, but you had --

22 **A. Well --**

23 Q. -- an awareness of him.

24 **A. -- you know, we heard -- you know, obviously there is**  
25 **a lot of things go around. That's just stuff that**

1 happens, but I can only speak for my experience, but he  
2 certainly -- as I say, whenever -- whenever

3 SPT157 basically informed me that he had been brought  
4 to

5 Q. To face charges?

6 A. -- to face the charges --

7 Q. So it was SPT157 --

8 A. -- it came as no surprise to myself that he would be the  
9 person who would be facing these type of -- these type  
10 of allegations.

11 Q. But it was SPT157 who told you that?

12 A. SPT157 was the person that told me that, yes.

13 Q. And on that subject if we go to paragraph 16 of your  
14 statement at 221, please, you refer to what you describe  
15 as emotional abuse.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You give a particular example where an issue arose over  
18 glass being in the shower tray. I was saying to you  
19 I would like some credit for having found that in  
20 amongst the handwriting of the occurrence sheet records.

21 A. Yes. It was very helpful to sort of find out the  
22 culprits who was responsible for framing us.

23 Q. Well, I told you, and I will repeat it, you are not to  
24 assume that any of the names were responsible for what  
25 you are going to say.

1 **A. One of those people was, if not all.**

2 Q. Right. Well, we will not blame any of them for now, but  
3 if we look at 46934, please, this is the particular  
4 incident that you recount, HIA96, then in paragraph 16.  
5 It's a bit difficult to read with the handwriting, but  
6 if we can maximise that, and this is on your -- you will  
7 see in the top left corner you can just make out your  
8 name. It is on your occurrence sheets. It is happening  
9 in May of 1995. You have been helping to do with the  
10 circus school. You've played football with the Justice  
11 boys after tea. I should say there were various  
12 occasions when you went off with others to play in  
13 competitions and you seem to have done quite well at  
14 times.

15 **A.**

18 This is recording you had been taken to your room by  
19 SPT157 for a time out earlier in the evening and  
20 BR92 had sent you to your room for poor behaviour at bed  
21 time. That's recorded by someone called " ". I was  
22 trying to work out was that a potential or .  
23 Then it is recorded:

24 "HIA96 and showered in the shower in the  
25 middle dorm at 8.00 pm. Myself and BR92 and ..."

1           So the "myself", we will see slightly further down  
2           as to who the author is, but:

3           "Myself and BR92 and           ", who is another boy,  
4           "waited in the hall. I had to request both lads to stop  
5           throwing things inside. When both lads left the shower  
6           room,           then went into the shower. However,  
7           showed us broken pieces of mirror that were lying on the  
8           floor of the shower cubicle. HIA96 denied all knowledge  
9           of the broken mirror pieces and the risks of placing  
10          other young people in danger."

11          If we just scroll down, there is a reference to your  
12          granny phoning and then:

13          "Senior management informed, and because of HIA96's  
14          disruptive attitude, HIA96 was placed in Slemish."

15          What you were describing to me, HIA96, is you were  
16          not prepared to accept the blame for something you --

17          **A. Well, the reality of the situation was myself and**

18                       **was sitting waiting for the start of a film to**  
19                       **take place. We were going to be basically watching**

20                       **a film along with the other residents of our unit, and**

21                       SPT157           **basically waltzes into the -- till the**

22                       **room and basically states that myself and**

23                       **was going to be bed -- going to be going to bed early.**

24                       **I basically asked           SPT157           immediately what exactly**

25                       **he was, you know, talking about with regard to this bed**

1 early situation, and he states that, "It was because  
2 yous put glass in the shower cubicle and yous are going  
3 to go to your beds early now". I said, "We didn't put  
4 no glass in the shower cubicle", which we didn't, and  
5 I says I wasn't going to go to no bloody bed early, and  
6 he says to me, "Well, we're not having this conversation  
7 now. We will have the conversation in the morning".  
8 I says, "Well, no, we can't have this conversation in  
9 the morning, because I will have went to bed early by  
10 then. That will be too late". So I was not prepared,  
11 because you're in a situation where you have to stand up  
12 for your rights, otherwise if you don't, you will be in  
13 this situation time and time again. So I had made  
14 a decision that I was not going to be prepared to take  
15 the blame for something I nor had done,  
16 because quite frankly I am left in no doubt whatsoever  
17 that it was either -- I didn't actually know until today  
18 that there -- at this thing that it was actually  
19 who was one of the people involved in this. Now  
20 it kind of makes perfect sense.

21 Q. Well, as I said to you, HIA96 --

22 A. But at the time -- at the time -- sorry.

23 Q. Hold on.

24 A. Sorry.

25 Q. All we know that he did was have a shower after you.

1 A. Yes. Well, we don't know that, you know. We don't know  
2 that.

3 Q. So we are not going to --

4 A. All we know is that we were then instructed that we were  
5 to be going to basically bed early for something that we  
6 hadn't done, and when we basically -- I refused and  
7 I encouraged to refuse also, but knew what  
8 was coming and I knew what was coming too, and that was  
9 a case of I was basically -- after refusing to go to  
10 bed, which quite rightly I am not going to go going to  
11 bed for something I didn't do, where no investigation  
12 had took place, where no in depth questioning or  
13 discussions had taken place as to who exactly had done  
14 this event, if it had happened at all, because quite  
15 frankly it was not beyond the staff's ability to  
16 completely make this situation up or else go out of  
17 their way to do it themselves and blame it on somebody  
18 in order for them to basically get somebody off the --  
19 off the scene on that particular night. The staff was  
20 quite capable of doing that too. So there was  
21 a possibility of -- there was a number of possibilities,  
22 but the fact is myself nor did put any  
23 glass in the shower, and that was the phone call  
24 I mentioned to you where I was talking to SPT157  
25 years after leaving St. Pat's or whatever was that exact

1 same piece of information that I told him, that he had  
2 got that incident wrong.

3 What had happened was when I refused, I was  
4 physically assaulted. I was dragged down to Slemish  
5 House, quite a distance away, and I was placed in a cell  
6 with, as I say, a blue mattress on the floor and I was  
7 denied food and toilet and water and water facilities,  
8 and again for an incident that I had absolutely no  
9 knowledge of and had no knowledge of, you  
10 know.

11 Q. And you explain -- that's the example of emotional abuse  
12 you give. In paragraph 17 of your statement, HIA96, at  
13 222 you talk about the visits, and you refer -- again  
14 I am not going to go into the detail of this, HIA96.  
15 The detail is in -- there were difficulties in the  
16 relationships that were ongoing with your mum, with your  
17 granny, with aunts, with your dad, and they seem to have  
18 been coming at various times, but there were clearly  
19 difficulties that are clear from the records.

20 A. Of course there was difficulties in this sense. There  
21 was difficulties that here was a family member like  
22 myself who had been kidnapped and held against his will  
23 in a institution in collusion basically with the  
24 government and the religious organisations to keep  
25 people in places like that. So of course there would

1       **have been family issues relating to that. That is going**  
2       **to be repeated time and time again.**

3       Q. You mention also in paragraph 17 not feeling able to  
4       tell anyone about what was happening. I was drawing  
5       your attention to the fact you were seeing your family  
6       and you were seeing the police at this time. There were  
7       various matters that were arising.

8       A. **No, not during our time in St. Patrick's Training**  
9       **School, though, and --**

10      Q. There are some examples of that. I am not going to --  
11      when you were out on home leave getting into --

12      A. **Well, you know, it's like this here. There's**  
13      **an understanding that people have regarding people that**  
14      **is in institutions where they have a general thought**  
15      **process that people that is in those institutions have**  
16      **committed criminal offences and as a result of that they**  
17      **view people in that -- in that light, but the reality is**  
18      **completely different. As I say, there was -- there was**  
19      **three out of five of the units that was -- that was not**  
20      **Justice Department. So that would be sort of equal to**  
21      **maybe 60% of the population that was in St. Patrick's**  
22      **Training School had not, but that does not change the**  
23      **fact that the view outside people had of --**

24      Q. And what I am interested in --

25      A. **And let's face it. Who is going to be communicating**

1 with the police regarding this? We all have seen the  
2 inquiries into the -- into the level and different types  
3 of individuals within the police. So, you know, these  
4 people --

5 Q. And another --

6 A. -- these people aren't the people to go to.

7 Q. Right. That's fine, HIA96. You saw the police. You  
8 didn't feel comfortable talking to them about any of  
9 this, but you also -- and I was giving you an example  
10 that, as I say, brought a smile to my face, rightly or  
11 wrongly. You were being accused by a member of staff  
12 about various sexual references to her and you  
13 threatened her with your solicitor. That's  
14 an individual that you would have had access to. Again  
15 it's not someone you would have felt comfortable talking  
16 to.

17 A. Well, we didn't actually have a solicitor on a regular  
18 basis. That's not -- that wasn't the actual case. We  
19 very rarely seen him. In fact, once we been given our  
20 Training School Order, I can't really recall speaking to  
21 a solicitor after that period.

22 Q. I think the point arises from when you abscond -- when  
23 anyone absconds and gets into any sort of trouble that  
24 involves them being interviewed by the police, then  
25 a solicitor is on the scene as part of that cycle

1 continuing of the offending.

2 **A. I would call it an escape from your captives, not -- you**  
3 **know, not an absconding. It is an escape from your**  
4 **captives.**

5 Q. And that's what you --

6 **A. Let's make that quite clear.**

7 Q. That is what you explain in paragraph 18, that as far as  
8 you are concerned you were keen to get out of  
9 St. Patrick's and get to Lisnevin.

10 **A. I was keen to get out of the system, and unfortunately**  
11 **that was the only circumstances that was available to me**  
12 **-- apart from basically doing myself in --**

13 Q. Yes.

14 **A. -- that was the only circumstances available to me to**  
15 **get out of the system --**

16 Q. And I was saying --

17 **A. -- based on knowledge and experience of other people who**  
18 **had chosen to go down that route.**

19 Q. I was saying to you there are a number of entries in the  
20 records, which you don't have to accept the veracity of  
21 and you have made clear you don't. For instance, it  
22 seems that the care staff in St. Patrick's came to visit  
23 you in Lisnevin, and, for instance, if we look at 47053,  
24 this is an entry of 26th September 1996. There are  
25 a number of others in November and December, but if we

1 just look at the bottom of this page, this is somebody  
2 " " in the bottom right-hand corner. I'm not sure  
3 who that is.

4 "HIA96 initially stating he liked Lisnevin  
5 activities. Enjoyable. He asked if St. Patrick's would  
6 allow him to return. I challenged his behaviour" --

7 **A. That's absolutely incorrect.**

8 Q. "I challenged ..."

9 Let me just deal with the record, HIA96, and then  
10 you can confirm it is not accurate. This person says  
11 they challenged your behaviour in the unit about  
12 bullying, theft, telling lies, threatening to riot and  
13 so on and requested that you reflected on that, but the  
14 impression that is -- they discuss with you the  
15 difficulties that you had in St. Pat's, but that you  
16 have been to Lisnevin and have learnt your lesson, as it  
17 were --

18 **A. No.**

19 Q. -- and don't want to stay here, and you can see:

20 "HIA96 was apologetic" -- this is four lines up from  
21 the bottom -- "stating he had now learned his lesson.  
22 I encouraged him to reflect on what exactly the learning  
23 was", and so on.

24 **A. Well, these words aren't my words.**

25 Q. No, but --

1     **A.** My words is -- my words is this. As I stated to  
2     yourself, it was quite clear from an overheard  
3     conversation with a number of members of staff that  
4     I overheard that I was going to be given another two  
5     years into St. Patrick's Training School, and I was  
6     going -- myself personally, I was not going to have  
7     that. I was not going to spend another couple of years  
8     in that type of institution, and there was nobody there  
9     who was going to be able to do what I wanted, which was  
10    to get me out of that situation. The system was not  
11    helping me. There was no-one to go to. These people  
12    did not help me. I was in the situation, nobody else.  
13    I had to do what I had to do. I had to take the actions  
14    what I had to take, and unfortunately that involved  
15    getting myself sent to Lisnevin, but it worked. It  
16    achieved its aim. It was successful and I got out of  
17    the system after that, which I predicted would happen,  
18    and I've never been back. So --

19    **Q.** I was saying to you earlier the conversation you  
20    overheard was inaccurate --

21    **A.** No, no, no, no, no.

22    **Q.** Hold on. Let me finish -- in that Training School  
23    Orders were not going to exist after 4th November 1996.  
24    So even if they'd wanted to give you another two years,  
25    they couldn't actually give you one. So if they were

1 having that conversation and you overheard it, it was  
2 not accurate that they were saying they could get  
3 another Training School Order for you.

4 **A. Regardless of whether it was or it wasn't, their**  
5 **intentions was clear that they were planning to keep me**  
6 **in that place, and I was not prepared to be kept there**  
7 **any longer, and I took the necessary action to remove**  
8 **myself from it, and my only regret is I didn't do it**  
9 **sooner.**

10 Q. Okay. HIA96, as you know, I was saying to you the last  
11 two questions that we ask each witness, the first is  
12 that at the end of the Inquiry's work -- and if we can  
13 bring up 222, please, which is paragraph 20 of your  
14 statement where this is covered -- we ask each witness  
15 who comes forward -- perhaps, , can you get  
16 some more water for HIA96? -- that the -- there you are.  
17 You are getting my water almost, HIA96. The Inquiry  
18 Panel have to consider what recommendations they might  
19 make to the Northern Ireland Executive at the end of the  
20 Inquiry process, whether -- in three areas: some form of  
21 apology, some form of memorial or some other means of  
22 redress. We ask each witness whether there's anything  
23 they want to say about that.

24 One of the things you have identified in  
25 paragraph 20 is that counselling should be available and

1 that that should be in a coordinated way, that services  
2 are coordinated so that people can get some help.

3 **A. What I -- what I am suggesting is there should be**  
4 **accountants who should be --**

5 Q. That's the next paragraph. Deal with the counselling  
6 and then -- don't worry. I am not going to miss out on  
7 the accountants.

8 **A. The accountants should be set up basically to establish**  
9 **--**

10 Q. The accountancy is the next paragraph. Don't worry.  
11 I am not leaving it out.

12 **A. Yes, I know, but I am just going to say it now when it**  
13 **is on my mind.**

14 Q. You want to say it first. Right. Scroll down, please,  
15 to paragraph 21 and paragraph 22. That's the point  
16 about the accountants.

17 **A. Yes. There should be accountants should be set up. Now**  
18 **this isn't going to happen. It is kind of pointless**  
19 **really saying these things, because I know as well as**  
20 **I am saying these words -- these words this isn't going**  
21 **to happen. So it kind of makes a mockery even in**  
22 **a sense being asked this, but this is what I believe**  
23 **should happen, but I know it is not going to happen.**

24 **What should happen is this. There should be**  
25 **accountants should be set up and, as I say, they should**

1 be there to kind out exactly the amount in terms of how  
2 much St. Patrick's Training School made from every  
3 single person that was resident -- a resident in that  
4 institution, and every single penny that they made  
5 should be returned to the victims and their families,  
6 but what people have to bear in mind, and this is what  
7 people isn't really going to grasp, is that this  
8 situation is much bigger than they imagine. It is not  
9 just an inquiry into the abuse. What it should also --  
10 what it should also basically be it should be an inquiry  
11 into the collusion between the religious organisations  
12 and the government who instruct the social workers,  
13 basically the middle class, to do their dirty work and  
14 target the poor, because the reality is this. The  
15 majority of people that bes in these institutions  
16 I would say -- I am only guessing here -- but I would  
17 say it is probably in the 90s% -- it is definitely going  
18 to be high -- is from poor families. So the reality is  
19 that one section of the community is being targeted by  
20 the -- by the government and the religious organisations  
21 in this way, and you have to ask yourself, "Who  
22 benefits? Who has benefitted from these institutions?"  
23 Well, the people who set the place up to begin with.  
24 They set it up with one goal in mind and that was to  
25 make a considerable amount of money and that's exactly

1        **what they have done. They have achieved their purpose.**  
2        **It was never designed to help people. That's only the**  
3        **illusion that it gives to outside people, who don't know**  
4        **any better. It is all about making the money and they**  
5        **have made the money. So that money should be returned,**  
6        **but it is not going to be.**

7    Q. Let me pause you there, because, as you know, I was  
8        saying to you earlier that's your view and other people  
9        have a different view.

10   **A. Educate yourselves. That is what I am saying.**

11   Q. Hear me out. I am not sure any of the government  
12        departments would accept that anybody made any money out  
13        of this. In fact, they would point to the fact it cost  
14        an awful lot of taxpayers' money to have homes and pay  
15        for them.

16   **A. So the religious organisations didn't make any money out**  
17        **of this? Of course they did.**

18   Q. They would also say that, in fact, they were not making  
19        money other than being paid their salaries for doing  
20        their work. I think that's still part of what you are  
21        saying, that these people only had jobs because these  
22        systems existed, and they shouldn't have existed and  
23        therefore they wouldn't have had jobs.

24   **A. That's what it is all about.**

25   Q. Right, but in addition to that --

1     **A. It is kind of ironic here to be sitting here today when**  
2     **you think about it. Everyone around -- pretty much most**  
3     **of the people in this court room today is actually**  
4     **making money from this situation and the only person who**  
5     **actually isn't is the victims. So when you throw that**  
6     **context of today's situation, is it any surprise that**  
7     **that wasn't the case just back then, you know?**

8     Q. I am not sure the Inquiry would look at itself in that  
9     way, HIA96 --

10    **A. Maybe not.**

11    Q. -- but the point you make in paragraph 20 then is about  
12    counselling, and you feel counselling should be  
13    available and that it should be a joined-up service so  
14    that people are getting the help they need.

15    **A. Again it is great, you know, you can say these kind of**  
16    **things, but the reality is I can't see it actually**  
17    **happening.**

18    Q. Well, there are things that the Panel take on board and  
19    will reflect on in the making of their recommendations,  
20    but the last question we ask everybody, HIA96, is  
21    whether there's anything else -- by that I mean about  
22    their time in St. Patrick's -- that either I haven't  
23    covered, or I haven't got right, or there's something  
24    else about their time they want to deal with that,  
25    however I have managed it, I have missed out. If there

1 is anything else, then now is the time to identify it,  
2 if there is something else you want to add.

3 A. Well, people is never going to really fully understand  
4 what it is going to be like to live in a place like that  
5 on a day-to-day basis. They are imagining it and  
6 they're sitting there thinking as to how it is, but they  
7 are only imagining it and sitting there thinking as to  
8 how it is from an adult's perspective. They are never  
9 going to understand what it is like from a child's  
10 perspective. I'm sure they're sitting there and they're  
11 hearing people give evidence and they're thinking,  
12 "Well, I would have done this this way and I probably  
13 would have done this that way if I was in their  
14 circumstances", but the reality is it is easy to sit  
15 there and think you would do things a certain way and  
16 you would act a certain way whenever you are not  
17 involved in it, but when you are actually involved in it  
18 and you are in that circumstances that you are  
19 present... -- that you are in, you view things  
20 completely different. Nobody is ever going to  
21 understand exactly the level that that place was at  
22 where it was basically a culture where the outside world  
23 almost didn't exist. Anything that happened in the  
24 outside world just didn't seem to be relevant in that  
25 type of environment where anything was possible. It was

1 a situation where people was living under constant fear  
2 and you were on a heightened sense of alertness, and you  
3 had to be, and I think your mindset never -- I know my  
4 mindset -- my mindset has never changed. I am as if  
5 I am still there. My mind is still -- hasn't changed in  
6 quite a lot of senses from the person I was then. It's  
7 something I think that happens to every person in there,  
8 you know. You never get that person you were before.  
9 You can never become that person that you were prior to  
10 being in a place like that. It changes you and changes  
11 you for the rest of your entire life, and everybody  
12 copes with that differently, but the majority of people  
13 that I know from my time in St. Pat's -- and this is  
14 only going back to the '90s, the mid '90s -- the  
15 majority of them are either now dead or serving long  
16 prison sentences for a range of crimes. So the  
17 teacher was completely spot on in his interpretations  
18 when he said most of the people when St. Pat's when they  
19 leave will end up either dead or in jail. Unfortunately  
20 that's exactly what has happened most of them. So when  
21 you mention that only a certain percentage of people  
22 have come forward regarding St. Patrick's Training  
23 School, well, do you know something? Most of them are  
24 dead or most of them are in prison serving long prison  
25 sentences, and quite a large proportion of the rest of

1       them are basically not in a situation where they are in  
2       the right frame of mind to be attending these type of  
3       inquiries or even want to put themselves in this type of  
4       situation or this type of environment again. So the  
5       people -- people that's investigating all the  
6       institutions will never fully understand the level that  
7       people had to live their lives in while in St. Patrick's  
8       Training School and it is certainly something you never  
9       forget.

10    Q. All right, HIA96. I am not going to ask you anything  
11       more you will be pleased to know. The Panel Members may  
12       want to ask you something. If you just bear with us for  
13       a short while.

14                                    Questions from THE PANEL

15    MR LANE: Thank you for your evidence. You mentioned that  
16       you felt you had been kidnapped and that's obviously  
17       a pretty strong sort of statement.

18    A. Well, if you look at the -- if you look in the  
19       dictionary and you look what defines "kidnap", you will  
20       see that's exactly what the word means and what was  
21       applied in the circumstances. Just because it is  
22       a government agency or a State-run agency does not  
23       change away from the fact that it is kidnap. People  
24       might disagree with that, but if you actually go and you  
25       check your dictionary and read what the word "kidnap"

1           **means, then that's exactly what it means in this case.**

2    Q.   Did you feel that when you were first removed from home  
3           and sent to another children's home or was it just when  
4           you got to St. Patrick's?

5    A.   **I was kidnapped from the moment I was taken away from my  
6           family. It's as clear as that.**

7    Q.   And did you feel you should have been left with your  
8           family then?

9    A.   **I have absolutely no doubt whatsoever I should have been  
10           left with my family.**

11   Q.   Right.

12   A.   **Absolutely no doubt.**

13   Q.   So once you had been removed, was there anything those  
14           two homes, Orana and St. Patrick's, could have done to  
15           have changed your feelings about that or were they on to  
16           sort of a losing wicket right from the start?

17   A.   **Well, they were both there to make -- you know, they  
18           were there for financial gain for themselves. They were  
19           there to keep themselves in employment. They would  
20           be -- they would cease to exist if they hadn't got  
21           people within their buildings.**

22   Q.   Was there anything they could have done for you to help  
23           you view your time there more positively?

24   A.   **Well, unfortunately these control systems exist within  
25           our society. They are there for everyone to see.**

1       **People may choose to ignore it or not be able to be**  
2       **intelligent enough to see it or be brave enough to say**  
3       **it as it is, but these organisations and institutions**  
4       **are out there, and they're there to control people, and**  
5       **these people work hand-in-hand. The government in this**  
6       **country and the religious organisations, while they**  
7       **might appear to be separate, in a lot of cases they work**  
8       **hand-in-hand.**

9       Q. You have obviously mentioned a number of ways in which  
10       you feel you were abused, but, I mean, if those  
11       instances had not occurred, could you have felt more  
12       positive about it or do you really feel you were up  
13       against it right from the word go?

14       A. I couldn't have put the words, you know, better myself.  
15       That's exactly how I felt, where I felt I was up against  
16       it -- well, I was -- I was up against it right from the  
17       word go. There was no change -- there was no change in  
18       that circumstances. That was the way that it was, not  
19       just way that I felt.

20       Q. Okay. Thank you very much.

21       A. No problem.

22       CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA96, those are all the questions that we  
23       want to ask you. Thank you very much for coming to  
24       speak to us today.

25       A. Right.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

**(Witness withdrew)**

CHAIRMAN: Well, we will adjourn now until tomorrow morning.

(5.50 pm)

(Inquiry adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning)

--ooOoo--