
HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at

Banbridge Court House

Banbridge

on Wednesday, 23rd September 2015

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 144)

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

1 Wednesday, 23rd September 2015

2 (10.00 am)

3 (Proceedings delayed)

4 (11.05 am)

5 WITNESS STP3 (called)

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

12 Good morning, Ms Smith.

13 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and
14 gentlemen. Our first witness today is SPT3. He is
15 "SPT3". He wishes to take a religious oath and he also
16 wishes to maintain his anonymity.

17 WITNESS STP3 (sworn)

18 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please sit down, SPT3.

19 **A. Thank you.**

20 **Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY**

21 MS SMITH: SPT3, you have this morning signed a witness
22 statement for the Inquiry. Now I am not clear whether
23 or not we have actually managed to have that added. We
24 do have it added to our bundle. Can I just ask you to
25 confirm, SPT3, that this is the witness statement that

1 you have provided for the Inquiry this morning?

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

3 Q. SPT3, your name is given there in full, but I just want
4 to reassure you that before this is published on our
5 website that will be properly redacted so that your name
6 is removed from it.

7 Now unfortunately it is not numbered in paragraphs,
8 but I have actually numbered it. So I am going to --

9 CHAIRMAN: One moment, Ms Smith. I take it that SPT2886 is
10 the Bates number, is it?

11 MS SMITH: Sorry. If you can just scroll up. Yes. It
12 doesn't appear on the --

13 CHAIRMAN: It doesn't appear on the screen.

14 MS SMITH: No, it hasn't actually been formally Bates
15 numbered.

16 CHAIRMAN: There it is.

17 MS SMITH: It is there. Sorry.

18 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Just so that we can mark our own copies
19 accordingly.

20 MS SMITH: Yes. I have just numbered the
21 paragraphs starting -- 1 is "I, SPT3 ..." and then each
22 sentence thereafter has got a number, Chairman, to try
23 to refer to particular parts of the statement as we go
24 through it.

25 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

1 MS SMITH: As we discussed earlier, SPT3, I am going to ask
2 you a little bit about your background and your
3 employment in St. Patrick's Training School.

4 You were a residential social worker employed there
5 from 1973. Isn't that correct?

6 **A. That's correct.**

7 Q. You say here that you began work as an
8 in the training school. I was asking
9 whether that was on the junior or senior side of the
10 school.

11 **A. That was the junior school.**

12 Q. And you remained in the junior school until you and SPT2
13 set up Slemish House, the --

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

15 Q. And we think close observation unit is perhaps one of
16 the expressions that has been used for that.

17 Just as a junior ... -- or
18 what exactly would your general duties have
19 been in the home?

20 **A. Ah, well -- sorry. Excuse me. I've a -- I apologise.
21 I have a sore throat. It would be looking after the
22 welfare of the boys and supervising them whenever they
23 weren't in class.**

24 Q. And you were talking about the fact that you would have
25 worked a shift pattern?

1 **A. We worked a shift pattern, yes, an early/late shift**
2 **pattern, roughly from about 8 o'clock to 2.00, 2.30 on**
3 **the early shift, and then the following day would be**
4 **from 2.00 to -- I think initially it was 9.30, but --**
5 **and that was early/late, early/late on a daily basis.**

6 Q. Yes. That -- it wasn't a case of you being on the early
7 shift for the entire week?

8 **A. No. That was ...**

9 Q. It varied by day?

10 **A. It varied by day, yes.**

11 Q. And there was this handover period around 2 o'clock in
12 the afternoon --

13 **A. That's correct.**

14 Q. -- whenever you would have handed over to the other
15 shift and told them what they needed to look out for,
16 whether a boy was sick, or information such as that?

17 **A. Yes. That's correct, yes.**

18 Q. And then every other weekend you also worked?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. So I was asking when you first started in 1973 what
21 the -- what the staff/student ratio was like in the
22 training school. How many staff looked after how many
23 boys roughly?

24 **A. Well, it's difficult to say. There was a sort of a**
25 **group thing. When we started I think there was about**

1 **thirty in the junior school, when I started, and it**
2 **was -- I think it was sort of first time we came from**
3 **the boys more or less being shepherded about to try to**
4 **introduce care programmes, you know, which evolved later**
5 **on, you know.**

6 Q. I was asking when you started, did you have any
7 qualifications yourself?

8 A. **No, I had no qualifications in residential care. I had**
9 **experience of coaching the young fellas in the youth**
10 **club or coaching the young fellas in football, etc.**

11 Q. That was only experience you had?

12 A. **That was the only experience I had.**

13 Q. You subsequently did receive some training, though.

14 A. **We did, yes. Initially it was a day release course to**
15 **Rupert Stanley and then I did the CRCCYP course.**

16 Q. And that --

17 A. **That was a couple of years later.**

18 Q. You think that might have been in around 1976 that you
19 got that qualification?

20 A. **It would have been, yes.**

21 Q. That would be about right. Part of that training for
22 the -- that CRCCYP course was full-time. Is that right?

23 A. **It was, yes.**

24 Q. And part of that you went on placement you say to
25 Scotland to a children's home there.

1 **A. I went to a place in Scotland. It was something**
2 **equivalent to a training school, and here I went to also**
3 **a placement in a children's home, and then I think I had**
4 **another placement in Lisnevin within the time.**

5 Q. That was at the time when Lisnevin was situated in
6 Newtownards.

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

8 Q. You said to me that that was the first experience, when
9 you went to Lisnevin, that you had had of children being
10 locked in.

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

12 Q. We have heard that when boys came into the home, they
13 went to either the junior side or the senior side.
14 I was wondering what your memory of how they came to be
15 on either side was.

16 **A. It was an age factor. The boys like from 13 up, maybe**
17 **even 12, up to 15 or 15 and a half came to the junior**
18 **school and the older boys went to the senior school.**

19 Q. And we heard yesterday from one of your former
20 colleagues that if they came in on the junior side, they
21 stayed there the entire time, even if they became
22 16 years of age?

23 **A. That's right until they -- yes.**

24 Q. You were mentioning to me that there could -- there was
25 a possibility that they might have been on both sides

1 if, for example, they had been released, reoffended and
2 recommitted.

3 **A. Yes. They would have went -- if they were over the age**
4 **of 16 -- 16 and three months or 16 and a half -- I can't**
5 **remember exactly -- they would have went to senior**
6 **school --**

7 Q. So a boy --

8 **A. -- on return.**

9 Q. Sorry. I did not mean to interrupt you. So a boy could
10 have spent time on both sides of the school?

11 **A. That did happen, yes.**

12 Q. But it wasn't a case of them moving internally?

13 **A. No, it was never an internal move. If he went out -- if**
14 **he was released and then got another Training School**
15 **Order over the age -- and he was over the age of 15 and**
16 **a half or whatever, he went to the senior school.**

17 Q. Well, you were in St. Pat's up until 1999. Apart
18 from -- I will come on to talk about the Slemish House
19 unit, but apart from that even until that was set up
20 there must have been substantial changes between 1973,
21 when you started, and when you moved to be deputy head,
22 if you like, of Slemish House.

23 **A. Yes. There was -- as I say, it probably evolved into**
24 **trying to make it more a care unit, which was sort --**
25 **maybe with boys having key workers and individual care**

1 **programmes and to help them as much as possible, you**
2 **know.**

3 Q. I think you described when you first arrived, the boys
4 were just sort of shepherded around in groups rather
5 than given individual attention. Would that be fair?

6 A. **As I say yes, I think the activities were all sort of --**
7 **all went together, because -- because of the limit of**
8 **staff. It must have been a very hard situation.**

9 Q. I was asking --

10 A. **We tried -- we tried to break them up into smaller**
11 **groups and get more involved, more staff involved with**
12 **them, etc, but there was only -- there was about four or**
13 **five of us started at the one time. That was split into**
14 **two shifts. So enhanced the staff ratio. Then there**
15 **was more staff came in late -- in latter years.**

16 Q. What would have been the division between sort of lay
17 staff and the Brothers in the home?

18 A. **What division?**

19 Q. In the sense of how many Brothers would have been
20 working with the boys and lay staff working with the
21 boys? Were there more -- did that change over the
22 years? I think we discussed --

23 A. **I think the Brothers -- there was never too many of them**
24 **initially. There was the head Brother and some of the**
25 **teachers were Brothers and I think on the care staff**

1 **there was one and possibly -- or two -- two I think,**
2 **but, as I say, as the years went on, it got less and**
3 **less.**

4 Q. Yes. There was less involvement by the Order --

5 A. **Uh-huh.**

6 Q. -- and more lay staff involvement.

7 A. **They weren't getting the new staff.**

8 Q. Just in respect of the division between the junior and
9 senior school, the Inquiry understands that there were
10 separate teams in each teaching and caring staff. Is
11 that right?

12 A. **That's correct. They are complete separate identities.**

13 Q. Was there ever any interaction between the two?

14 A. **No, not really. I think maybe coming up to Christmas or**
15 **holiday time that they would have had staff and boys**
16 **matches on the football or something like that, you**
17 **know, but they're usually a one-off thing, you know.**

18 Q. Just coming on to -- just before I move on to Slemish,
19 just in respect of the division between the senior and
20 junior school, we have heard that, you know, each side
21 had its own dining room, its own TV room and there
22 wasn't any interaction that way. I was just wondering
23 would the Brothers who lived in St. Patrick's complex in
24 their own house, would they have had to go through -- we
25 heard yesterday they might have had to go through from

1 the senior side to the junior side to get to their own
2 house, for example.

3 **A. Oh, yes. That's possible, yes. That's possible. They**
4 **would have.**

5 Q. In the course of that would you have seen them interact
6 with the boys, for example?

7 **A. Well, you know, it would be just a passing comment**
8 **maybe. There was never a conversation.**

9 Q. And you weren't aware -- you wouldn't have been there in
10 the evening time other than when you were on shift up
11 until 9 o'clock?

12 **A. Well, we would have finished about 9.30 at that time,**
13 **yes.**

14 Q. Would you have been aware of Brothers coming in, for
15 example, to watch television in the TV room with the
16 boys or that kind of thing happening?

17 **A. The boys were generally in bed for 9.30, you know,**
18 **except at weekends possibly they would be allowed to sit**
19 **up a bit longer.**

20 Q. But it wasn't a case of Brothers maybe from the
21 Brothers' house or from the senior school coming to
22 watch TV with the junior boys that you were aware of
23 before they went to bed?

24 **A. Never aware. Never aware of that.**

25 Q. Slemish House itself, we heard yesterday, as I say, from

1 your colleague SPT2 that it was his idea to avoid boys
2 going, as he put it, to juvenile jail, that that was the
3 reason for Slemish being set up?

4 **A. That -- that's right, yes. Because of the amount of**
5 **absconding and fellas putting themselves in danger by**
6 **doing so, it was suggested -- it was -- that we open**
7 **a unit like Slemish.**

8 Q. You were saying that you and he both went and looked at
9 modelled units in Scotland and England. In your
10 statement it was originally said Wales, but you
11 corrected that.

12 **A. I corrected that. No, no, never went to Wales, no.**

13 Q. You and he went --

14 **A. And various enclosed juvenile units within Northern**
15 **Ireland, you know.**

16 Q. So unit -- and what SPT2 told us is that he didn't like
17 what he saw. Basically he wanted to do something
18 different in Slemish.

19 **A. Aye. Well, some of the things we went to they were more**
20 **of a justice, you know, side. There was more of a --**
21 **like, we wouldn't -- I will give an example of one in**
22 **Darlington where the boys seemed to be sort of kept**
23 **before they went on to jail, like, you know. They were**
24 **just too young to go into jail, you know. Very serious**
25 **crimes some of them.**

1 Q. That wasn't the idea --

2 **A. No, it wasn't the idea we wanted.**

3 Q. -- of Slemish. Now you said that it was set up in 1990.
4 We heard yesterday from SPT2 that he thought it was the
5 mid-'80s, because he felt that he had worked there for
6 the last ten years of his career.

7 **A. Mid '80s sounds a bit early I think. Obviously it**
8 **wasn't '90. It was earlier. It might have been I think**
9 **maybe late '80s, you know. SPT2 would have left two**
10 **years before I did.**

11 Q. So you think it was the later '80s rather than the mid
12 '80s?

13 **A. I thought Slemish was only open for seven years and**
14 **I wasn't there the last year.**

15 Q. So you think --

16 **A. They were running it down then. (Inaudible.)**

17 Q. Okay. So you're -- I'm sure there is documentation --

18 **A. There is.**

19 Q. -- that will give us more detail about the actual dates,
20 but your recollection is that it was -- it was towards
21 the end of the '80s certainly --

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. -- before it actually opened.

24 **A. I would think so, yes. I'm not sure.**

25 Q. Now we have heard a number of allegations that have been

1 made by people about things that happened in St. Pat's.
2 I am not talking about anything directly relevant to
3 yourself, but I just wondered about what your comment
4 was on some of the things we have heard about.

5 We have heard, for example, that there was peer
6 abuse among boys, boys who were sexually active with
7 each other, and some of that was consensual, some of it
8 wasn't. Were you aware of, first of all, peer abuse as
9 an issue?

10 **A. Well, in the old St. Patrick's junior school it was**
11 **a big building and we were deprived of -- it wasn't**
12 **heavily staffed. It was very hard to monitor it all at**
13 **once. As I said, like, we were -- I was only**
14 **inexperienced staff. It was an evolving thing, you**
15 **know. You grew with experience. You knew what to look**
16 **for and things like, you know. So there was -- I know**
17 **there was bullying went on all right, you know.**

18 Q. Certainly --

19 **A. But that aside, I can't remember any experience of**
20 **sexual abuse or examples of it.**

21 Q. I am going to come back to the bullying in a minute,
22 SPT3, if I may, but you were saying to me that certainly
23 as part of your training in 1976 you were made aware
24 that this could be an issue among children that you
25 would care for?

1 **A. Oh, yes. Oh, yes. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. That was -- that wasn't just conversation between you
3 and other people who were on the course.

4 **A. No.**

5 Q. That was actually something that you were taught to look
6 out for.

7 **A. On a course like that it was like an open forum, like.**
8 **All the problems were brought up and were discussed and**
9 **then you were advised how to deal with it and to stop**
10 **it, you know.**

11 Q. So there was a group discussion among those people --

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. -- who were on the course about, "You know, we have
14 experienced this. This is what you need to look for".

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. "This is how you deal with it", that type of thing?

17 **A. That type of thing.**

18 Q. So certainly from 1976 it was on the radar or on your
19 radar?

20 **A. Oh, certainly, yes.**

21 Q. Although, as you have explained to me, you certainly had
22 no experience of it that you can recall?

23 **A. Of?**

24 Q. Of happening between boys.

25 **A. Bullying?**

1 Q. No, of sexual activity between boys.

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

3 Q. Well, now bullying, just coming on to that, you were
4 talking about that. You say there was bullying within
5 the school by boys.

6 **A. There was.**

7 Q. And --

8 **A. I can't say it was organised. It was individuals, you
9 know. It wasn't contrived, like, you know.**

10 Q. You say some of the younger boys would have hung around
11 you.

12 **A. You could see that. That became more and more evident.**

13 Q. They were sort of looking to you for protection really?

14 **A. Aye.**

15 Q. And I asked how you would have dealt with an episode of
16 bullying in the course of your work.

17 **A. Obviously you would address the boy who you think was
18 involved and he would have give you excuses and you
19 would try to point out he was hitting someone smaller
20 and this -- did he think it was fair, or even you could
21 accuse him of being a bully in front of the others,
22 like, you know --**

23 Q. And you --

24 **A. -- if necessary, and you would maybe warn him if this
25 was persistent, it could affect his outings or even his**

1 **leave, because he wasn't going to cooperate with the**
2 **staff and respect everybody, you know. It's -- you have**
3 **to take steps.**

4 Q. One of the -- I mean, you made the point to me that it
5 was hard and I think you have already said that it was
6 hard to watch boys 24/7, as it were, in the unit.

7 A. **It was. It was difficult. It was, because it was a big**
8 **school, different gates, different open doors.**

9 Q. Yes, and one of the other complaints we have heard is
10 against the Brothers particularly, that they were
11 heavy-handed in their use of the strap and that the
12 strap was used in St. Pat's.

13 A. **The strap was used when I first went there, but the only**
14 **-- the senior man on duty would have -- was the only one**
15 **could use it, and I think it had to be witnessed by**
16 **another member of staff and it was all recorded in**
17 **a punishment book. There was no -- there was no**
18 **individuals had straps to my knowledge. I never seen**
19 **them.**

20 Q. You didn't see Brothers carrying straps themselves --

21 A. **No.**

22 Q. -- for example?

23 A. **There was one strap and it was held within -- it was**
24 **held within the junior school manager, his office, in**
25 **a drawer.**

1 Q. And I was asking did you yourself -- were you given
2 authority to use the strap?

3 **A. When I became a senior, I was in -- I would have been --**
4 **at the weekends I might have been in charge of the**
5 **junior school, you know. I would have been, and I think**
6 **I've used it maybe once, at the most twice --**

7 Q. And I was asking --

8 **A. -- and it would have been recorded in the book too.**

9 Q. I was asking if you could remember what the
10 circumstances were --

11 **A. I can't.**

12 Q. -- that led you to have to use it.

13 **A. I can't. I can't.**

14 Q. The other thing that we learned about was the -- or have
15 heard complained about, I should say, is the use of
16 isolation cells within St. Patrick's. What's your
17 recollection of those?

18 **A. There was an isolation cell or time out cell in the**
19 **school. It was for both senior and junior and it only**
20 **lasted I think a matter of a month or two after**
21 **I started, so it would have, and it was very, very**
22 **rarely used. I can't remember ever using it.**

23 Q. You made the point to me that this cell was up four
24 flights of stairs, along a corridor.

25 **A. Aye. That's one of the major reasons, like. It was --**

1 the geography of the building, getting to it, and when
2 you are trying to bring a boy up four or five flights of
3 stairs and he didn't want to go, like, you would have to
4 have two people doing it. You are taking them away from
5 the rest of the boys, and if he was put in there, he had
6 to be -- it has to be supervised and he'd need to be
7 watched and recorded for his behaviour and his reaction.
8 So you were removing a member of staff away from the --
9 so it was -- I think staff were reluctant to use it even
10 when it was there.

11 Q. I was asking how long a boy might have been placed into
12 the isolation cell, because we have heard some people
13 say they might have been there for two or three days.

14 A. Not in my time, no. I can't remember any boy being
15 there overnight.

16 Q. And you thought it was more a matter of hours?

17 A. More a matter of a few hours or until the boy settled
18 down, became less disruptive.

19 Q. Certainly -- so when you started, the isolation cells
20 were in operation, but really weren't worth the trouble
21 really is the position you think?

22 A. The manager officially stopped using them not long after
23 I started.

24 Q. And the strap, while it was in use when you started, it
25 also came to an end. The use of corporal punishment

1 stopped at some point too.

2 **A. It did. It did. I can't remember now. It was years**
3 **rather than months, like, when it stopped, yes.**

4 Q. When you were speaking to me, you thought that certainly
5 -- you thought it might have gone right through to the
6 late '70s that it was being used?

7 **A. Easy, yes. I think so.**

8 Q. The other matter that we have heard complained about is
9 the sexual abuse of boys by Brothers in the home, and
10 I wondered whether you ever had any evidence of that or
11 any suspicions that anything like that might have been
12 happening in St. Patrick's.

13 **A. Absolutely no evidence. None at all. It's not**
14 **something that would have been tolerated.**

15 Q. And there was never any talk that you heard either among
16 boys or among staff about such a thing?

17 **A. No.**

18 Q. One person who has been convicted about -- for abusing
19 children in St. Patrick's was someone who worked there
20 as a chef, DL137, and his abuse we have learned was
21 known about in 1978. Were you ever aware of anything
22 untoward involving him?

23 **A. I didn't know until he was actually charged. I knew**
24 **nothing about it.**

25 Q. So you didn't -- you were working in the junior school

1 --

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. -- and as far as you were aware there was never anything
4 involving him and any of the boys under your care?

5 **A. No.**

6 Q. There was never any discussion, for example, at staff
7 meetings or anything, you know, "This allegation has
8 been made about this man and we are going to refer it to
9 the police"? There was nothing like that happened?

10 **A. No. I can't remember anything like that happening, no.**

11 Q. Do you ever remember any inspections in St. Patrick's,
12 formal inspections by the Northern Ireland Office, for
13 example?

14 **A. There was -- there was -- what do you call him used to
15 come up and would look. There was, aye. I don't know
16 how regular a basis they were. They weren't --**

17 Q. Were you ever told of the outcome of the inspections,
18 for example, or advised to -- you know, "We need to
19 change this" or -- can you remember anything like that
20 happening?

21 **A. I don't, no. That could have been where the advice was
22 -- came from to the time out room and the strap, you
23 know. I am not sure.**

24 Q. Sorry?

25 **A. The use of the strap, it could have been from them. I'm**

1 **not sure.**

2 Q. Okay. Well, we know that a number of boys did complain
3 to staff about their treatment in the home and I just
4 wondered did you yourself recall receiving complaints
5 from boys and, if so, how did you deal with them?

6 A. **If -- if a boy gave me a complaint, you would ask him**
7 **what it was and you would get him to record it and give**
8 **it -- pass it on to management.**

9 Q. What kind of things can you remember them complaining to
10 you about?

11 A. **They might have been complaining about other boys or**
12 **staff, you know --**

13 Q. So --

14 A. **-- and you would confront -- you know, confront the**
15 **other staff about it.**

16 Q. If it was somebody that was in your care and another
17 member of staff had done something untoward towards that
18 boy, you would have confronted that member of staff
19 yourself?

20 A. **Yes, but I can't remember any time too specific, you**
21 **know.**

22 Q. Okay, but there weren't -- now I am not talking about
23 Slemish now -- but there weren't actually written
24 protocols as such that you remember for complaints, or
25 were there, about how boys' complaints should be

1 treated? Were you given any instructions as to how that
2 should be done?

3 **A. I can't remember that happening, no.**

4 Q. Well, I am now, SPT3, going to move on to look at what
5 has been said by two people who have made complaints
6 about you. I am going to use the names, but I am just
7 going to remind people that although we are using the
8 names in this chamber, they are not to be used outside.

9 The first of those was HIA94, HIA94. He alleged in
10 his witness statement, which I don't need to pull up, at
11 099 that you witnessed him being beaten by two other
12 staff members and you didn't intervene and the two staff
13 members he named were SPT1 and SPT2.

14 Now in evidence when he gave evidence about this on
15 8th September, which is Day 139, and it is actually in
16 -- the transcript of what he said is actually in the
17 bundle now at pages 40551 to 40552. What he said when
18 he was asked about the incident itself, which he said
19 that you witnessed, he said -- he gave a little bit more
20 detail about that, because he said these two staff
21 members would have hit him a lot. It was mostly in the
22 cells when there was nobody there. I have to say he was
23 there in 1973, which would have been -- I think you said
24 you started in June '73?

25 **A. 7th June.**

1 Q. 7th June. He said he was taken to hospital after it, as
2 he got stitches in his hand because there was glass on
3 the floor and he tried to break the glass and it went
4 right into his arm, and he ended up in hospital, and
5 that that was that incident.

6 So I am just -- that's a bit more detail than was in
7 the statement that was given to you about what he said
8 about that, and in respect of you, he said that the fact
9 that you had written and said that you didn't remember
10 anything like that taking place and you thought that if
11 it had happened, you would have remembered it, but he
12 said that was his main memory about St. Patrick's was
13 this particular incident.

14 **A. I can't remember it happening. I don't believe it did**
15 **happen. If it did happen and he needed medical**
16 **treatment, it would have been recorded. If he was put**
17 **in that isolation room or time out room, that would have**
18 **been recorded. He would have been seen by the nurse.**
19 **We had a nurse there all the time in the day time. If**
20 **he had gone to hospital, it would definitely be**
21 **recorded. I can't remember. I'm absolutely certain it**
22 **didn't happen.**

23 Q. And you were telling me --

24 **A. I had only started in the school at the time obviously**
25 **within the next few weeks. I started in June. I think**

1 **he left in August. So it was -- as I say, I would have**
2 **been a newcomer, like, on probation.**

3 Q. You have a vague memory of him being there, though.
4 Isn't that correct?

5 A. **I remember him, because I did meet him when he visited**
6 **the school just before I left. He was visiting his**

7 **Apart from that ...**

8 Q. You don't really have any real memory of him there at
9 the time that you were working there, though?

10 A. **Not a great memory, no, no.**

11 Q. Sorry. As he was a child. I beg your pardon.

12 A. **Uh-huh.**

13 Q. I know you were still working when you did meet him.
14 You made the point to me that he recently in the last
15 couple of years has gone to the police. You, in fact,
16 have been interviewed --

17 A. **I have.**

18 Q. -- about what he said. You made the point that what he
19 told the police was different --

20 A. **It was different from this.**

21 Q. -- from this statement.

22 A. **I was supposed to have joined in.**

23 Q. You were supposed to have hit him also.

24 A. **And then when the truth came out, it was supposed to**
25 **happen before I even started in the school.**

1 Q. According to the police statement?

2 **A. According to the police statement. So it was very**
3 **annoying at having to go through that and then find out**
4 **I wasn't even there at the time.**

5 Q. Well, I'm going to move on to the allegations of a boy
6 called HIA384, HIA384. At paragraph 25 of his statement
7 -- and again I am not going to call it up -- it is quite
8 fresh in the Inquiry's mind -- he alleged that you took
9 pleasure in reducing his status. You called him "queer"
10 and dragged him by the throat to time out.

11 Now you speak about this in your statement here to
12 the Inquiry and you make the point, first of all, that
13 the regime in Slemish was designed for challenging
14 children who were subject to care orders, who were on
15 the periphery of various types of behaviour, including
16 sexual abuse, violence, criminal damage and repeated
17 absconding. SPT2 has told us that his aim in Slemish
18 was to try to address those behaviours so that they
19 didn't end up, as he described it, in juvenile jail.

20 **A. That's right.**

21 Q. You say it wasn't a punishment being in Slemish but
22 a method of protecting vulnerable children in care and
23 also the other children in the open care settings from
24 those children presumably. The age group you think was
25 13 to 16 and you said that it was a specialist unit with

1 a strict regime rather than an open care setting. We
2 have heard that you had a different colour scheme that
3 operated there rather than the point system that
4 operated throughout --

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. -- the rest of the training school. You go on to
7 describe this as being:

8 "... black being a basic level, amber next, green
9 the highest level of privilege. Boys could move up
10 and down from black to amber depending on behaviour
11 during the course of the week. To be moved to green
12 status required a staff assessment, which took place at
13 a meeting at which all staff were present each Thursday.
14 The educational psychologist and teaching staff would
15 also feed into these meetings. Green status allowed
16 boys to go off campus, that is out of Slemish House,
17 which required a high level of trust. It was never down
18 to an individual member of staff to move someone to
19 green status."

20 You said:

21 "It would have been normal to talk to the boys about
22 their status and link it to their behaviour and that was
23 the purpose of it."

24 You never used that important method of discipline
25 and development for the boys in the manner described by

1 HIA384. You said you never used the language that he
2 describes you using. Even when it was perhaps more
3 acceptable than it would have been today you wouldn't
4 have used that type of language.

5 "The allegation that [you] trailed him by the throat
6 to the time out room should be seen in the context that
7 there were procedures in place regarding restraint and
8 I never trailed any boy by the throat and specifically
9 not HIA384."

10 A couple of things just to ask you about that.
11 First of all, did you ever receive yourself any training
12 in methods of restraint?

13 **A. I did, yes.**

14 Q. Where did that take place or how did that come about?

15 **A. It took place in St. Pat's I think.**

16 Q. By whom?

17 **A. I can't remember the guy's name, but he specialised in
18 that sort of ...**

19 Q. Someone who came in specially to give that training to
20 staff?

21 **A. He came in to do that, yes.**

22 Q. Was that before Slemish was set up or after?

23 **A. I can't remember. I think it is possibly before, but if
24 you were going to move a boy to the time out room, you
25 would do it -- you would get the help of a member of**

1 **staff so you could put him in quietly.**

2 Q. And how was that done? Just physically how was it done?

3 A. **You would tell him he was going in and you would do it**
4 **physically, yes. There was a way of doing it. One got**
5 **on each side of him. You just lean him forward and walk**
6 **him into it.**

7 Q. Okay. So you took him either side by the arms and
8 walked him in?

9 A. **You wouldn't -- you wouldn't grab anyone by the throat,**
10 **you know, (inaudible).**

11 Q. No.

12 A. **Slemish House was a house that could be used for time**
13 **out for a day or two to get a boy settled, you know, by**
14 **himself, but if he had to stay there much longer, it**
15 **went to an independent panel. His case went, and it had**
16 **to be justified by the people who were putting him there**
17 **why they wanted him in there. He was given a care**
18 **programme and then a key worker, and when he started**
19 **addressing when why he was put there, that would have**
20 **helped him move through his grade too, you know.**

21 Q. So that -- there were boys who might have only been in
22 there for even a few hours. Is that right?

23 A. **There could have been maybe. Usually he was disrupting**
24 **the other units or whatever.**

25 Q. It was an eight-bedded unit. Is that right?

1 **A. It was. That's right.**

2 Q. Were the eight beds always full?

3 **A. Not always, but generally full, yes. I never -- and**
4 **I feel -- and I was very -- even as a senior there**
5 **I would have been very careful to other staff about how**
6 **they addressed a boy, never in a manner like that --**

7 Q. You would not --

8 **A. -- because you are trying to keep a tranquil atmosphere**
9 **within the place. It was a fairly confined building.**
10 **You are not going around harassing or provoking them.**
11 **You try to keep it placid and ...**

12 Q. What you are saying, if I have got you right, SPT3, is
13 that it would have been completely counter-productive to
14 have called a child names in this way --

15 **A. Certainly. Of course it was.**

16 Q. -- or to have acted in that way around them, because
17 that was not what you were trying to achieve?

18 **A. That's not what you were there for. It was**
19 **counter-active to what you were trying to achieve.**

20 Q. Just in respect of the colour scheme, we heard yesterday
21 that if you -- even getting up on to green was not
22 necessarily -- it wasn't automatic then that you would
23 get the privileges or that you would get out of Slemish
24 House. You could have been there for a couple of weeks
25 maybe on green before you actually would have moved out.

1 A. You were -- sorry -- you were put in a position of more
2 trust. You could be brought off campus to an outing
3 or -- especially the weekends you could have --
4 (inaudible) all the boys in green, or you could you
5 bring them up or away for a day or things -- anything
6 like that, out to football matches or out anywhere, you
7 know.

8 Q. Uh-huh.

9 A. It was a trust. The pictures or something like that.
10 That was another treat or reward. Then even for the
11 boys that could get a home visit and then it would maybe
12 lead to an overnight stay and then you start thinking of
13 going back to the open units.

14 Q. So it was a gradual progression?

15 A. It was a progression. It was how they responded to the
16 trust you had given them.

17 Q. Okay. Well, one of the other complaints is that his
18 post was intercepted, and it has been accepted and we
19 have seen documents that that happened. Now you talk
20 about this about the issue of mail and your
21 recollections in paragraph -- if we go to page 2, it is
22 sort of the last five paragraphs up there you say:

23 "In relation to his allegations regarding his mail,
24 I would have to say I do not remember clearly with the
25 rules were regarding mail",

1 but you do remember there were rules about it?

2 A. There were definite rules and I think there are in most
3 training schools. If you think vulnerable boys are
4 writing out and coming in again, so the mail could be
5 checked, and this was a safeguard we had. Incoming
6 mail, I would have usually give it to his key worker and
7 let him ...

8 Q. The key worker would have --

9 A. Aye, and let him justify reading it or not, you know --

10 Q. Okay. Well --

11 A. -- and then he would address the boy with what was in
12 it, you know. He would never -- we never -- there was
13 never any mail destroyed or anything to that. The boy
14 would have -- if there is anything that should -- we
15 didn't want him to hear, he wouldn't have heard it, but
16 he could read the rest to the boy, you know. There was
17 never any --

18 Q. Sorry. When you say that it wasn't destroyed, but if
19 there was something in incoming mail that you felt he
20 ought not to see --

21 A. Aye. I can't remember specific --

22 Q. Examples?

23 A. -- examples of that offhand, but -- of any boy, like,
24 but ...

25 Q. So it might have been kept back from him if there was

1 some content --

2 **A. Part of it might have been kept back, you know.**

3 Q. So --

4 **A. I -- sorry.**

5 Q. I mean, we have heard from the Order that any
6 interference with mail was done in an attempt to, for
7 example, in this boy's case reduce the risks of any
8 sexual reoffending taking place.

9 **A. Aye.**

10 Q. And there's certainly a case conference in respect of
11 him which confirms that his mail was addressed in that
12 way, if I can put it that way, but SPT2's recollection
13 was that incoming mail was opened in front of boys --
14 sorry -- boys opened their mail in front of staff and
15 you feel that that probably is what happened.

16 **A. Probably. It probably would be.**

17 Q. You say that:

18 "The power to intercept or read mail was rarely
19 used. It would normally be used by a key worker
20 specifically allocated to a resident who may have felt
21 that it would be appropriate to intercept a certain
22 boy's post."

23 You don't remember ever opening any boy's post and
24 specifically not HIA384's.

25 **A. I am not saying I didn't do it, but I can't remember**

1 **doing it, you know. I can't specifically remember doing**
2 **it.**

3 Q. Well, the other complaint that he made is -- and we
4 discussed this in a bit more detail, because I know that
5 the paragraph that you were given of his statement did
6 not make clear the context of what it was he was
7 alleging -- but essentially what he was alleging was
8 that he had made a complaint to police. He made
9 a police statement alleging sexual abuse by other boys
10 in St. Pat's and that he was pressurised into
11 withdrawing that police complaint by staff in the home.
12 Staff who took -- there was a meeting in the office at
13 which he was pressurised into withdrawing that complaint
14 and he said that that pressure continued when he was
15 harangued by staff members when he went back to Slemish
16 about that. You were one of the staff that he named.

17 Now you are saying to me that you have no
18 recollection or knowledge of him even making such
19 a complaint?

20 A. **As I say, again I am not saying he didn't, but**
21 **I can't -- I can't remember it, you know. He might have**
22 **been advised I think there was maybe allegations against**
23 **him, you know, but I can't -- like, as I say, this is**
24 **about 23 years ago and I just can't remember.**

25 Q. I mean, you don't even remember the fact that he had

1 gone to the police out of Slemish to make this
2 statement, for example?

3 **A. He obviously did, but I --**

4 Q. You have no recollection of it at all?

5 **A. No. Whether I wasn't on duty at the time, or holidays,**
6 **or whatever, camp ...**

7 Q. You talk about this in the next paragraphs down there:

8 "In relation to his recollection of being before
9 a board of directors I would have to say I don't think
10 any of the boys were ever at a meeting with the board of
11 directors of St. Patrick's. I don't know what his
12 allegation of abuse is. It may have been that he was
13 before an admissions panel or board of management."

14 I explained a bit more about what that was when
15 I spoke to you.

16 "I don't know -- I can't even be sure there was ever
17 a time when" -- if you can scroll on down, please -- the
18 four members of staff he named, including yourself,
19 "would have worked together in Slemish House. I can say
20 that it is impossible to imagine us all collectively
21 harassing a boy. Practically that would have been all
22 the staff in Slemish House focusing on one resident
23 there. I deny it ever happened or it could ever have
24 happened."

25 So you don't remember him ever making a complaint.

1 You certainly don't remember anybody putting him under
2 pressure --

3 **A. No, it wouldn't have been.**

4 Q. -- to withdraw?

5 **A. He wouldn't -- he wouldn't -- no. No, definitely not.**

6 **Well, for a start, SPT2 and I wouldn't have been**
7 **together at the time. We worked --**

8 Q. Different shifts?

9 **A. -- senior on one shift and one the other. So I can't**
10 **remember SPT87 or SPT88. I remember working with SPT88.**
11 **I don't know about SPT87. He might have worked with me.**
12 **I can't remember.**

13 Q. Just in the handover meetings would it not have said,
14 "Oh, you know, HIA384 was away to the police station
15 today to make a statement of complaint about these other
16 two boys"? Would that --

17 **A. I honestly -- honestly can't remember. Unless I was on**
18 **holidays at the time or something. I just can't**
19 **remember that.**

20 Q. But is that the kind of thing that you would have been
21 told at those sort of meetings? Yes?

22 **A. Oh, certainly. You would have -- you would have**
23 **addressed that all right. Aye, certainly.**

24 Q. Okay. Just for completeness, he gave evidence earlier
25 this week on Day 142. He talked about the colour

1 scheme. Now I can't call this up on the screen, because
2 I have not actually got the Bates numbering --

3 **A. That's all right.**

4 Q. -- but you and I looked at this in any event, SPT3.

5 Pages 78 to 79 of the transcript he was talking about
6 this -- the colour scheme, and he said that -- he then
7 remembered that:

8 "What was meant to happen was", at page 79, "that
9 you were meant to get more privileges outside the unit.
10 Green was an indicator that you were going to move back
11 to the main unit, chalets or Saul House. So it's kind
12 of like an immediate back to that unit, but for me,
13 I was 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 Now I know you wouldn't accept that he was knocked
17 back down just for the sake of it, but is your
18 recollection of him never really getting up the ranking?

19 **A. I don't know. I actually don't know.**

20 Q. Then he spoke again at page 81 when we went back to talk
21 about the traffic light system. On page 82 then he
22 said:

23 "Sorry. Something has just tweaked in my memory.
24 I remember at lunch time -- after lunch, when the
25 teacher who had been in Slemish House came down to have

1 lunch, after lunch we'd all have a meeting and in that
2 meeting it was confirmed who was moving up a colour or
3 who was moving down a colour."

4 I was asking you: were the boys present at the
5 meeting where this was discussed?

6 **A. Aye, they would have been, yes. Well, we would have had**
7 **an initial meeting, the staff, and then the boys -- it**
8 **was -- the boys would have been -- disclosed to the boys**
9 **then afterwards when they come out of school. The boys**
10 **didn't come out of school till 3 o'clock. We would have**
11 **been at a meeting from 2.00 to 3.00 on a Thursday. It**
12 **was probably a Thursday that day. Then we would have**
13 **met with the boys and told them what was happening.**

14 Q. Were the boys able to make any representations about
15 whether they should stay on the colour or not?

16 **A. Aye. They were listened to. They could certainly.**

17 Q. Would that have made a difference?

18 **A. I don't think a lot unless there was something was**
19 **overlooked, which shouldn't have been, you know.**

20 Q. Again talking about your involvement with him and the
21 colour scheme, he spoke about this just at the bottom of
22 page 84 into 85. I was going over what was in his
23 statement about the colour scheme. I said:

24 "Q. You particularly recall the deputy head of the
25 unit you say, and I am just going to call him ..."

1 I used your first name.

2 "You say he took a perverse pleasure in reducing
3 your status?"

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Frequently built up your hopes that you would
6 get enhanced status and then deliberately misinterpreted
7 incidents to justify not following through with his
8 promises?"

9 He then went on to say that he felt there was
10 a reason why you acted in the way that he said you were
11 acting. He said that he believed it was because:

12 "On one occasion when we were going to a swimming
13 pool in St. Patrick's, which was up behind Slemish
14 House, up behind the justice unit, I went to the
15 swimming pool, and when we came out, I absconded and
16 when SPT3 was locking the swimming pool up. So
17 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 were other instances where he would say, 'You're
21 undermining me' and shout at me for absolutely no
22 reason."

23 **A. That's absolutely rubbish. I would not -- like,**
24 **I wasn't -- the number of boys that absconded under my**
25 **care, like, was -- if I'd have took umbrage at every one**

1 **of them, I would have a terrible life. It was -- that's**
2 **absolutely rubbish.**

3 Q. Just in respect of the final comment that he made to the
4 Inquiry, page 109, he said that he was still having
5 nightmares from you, from another member of staff and
6 from people in St. Patrick's Training School.

7 So just to let you know what he said when he was
8 giving evidence, SPT3, and ask you if there is anything
9 you wanted to add to that to what you said to the
10 Inquiry already about him.

11 **A. No, I can't say.**

12 Q. SPT3, you will be glad to know that those are -- sorry.
13 Just one thing. We heard about a member of staff that
14 we were trying to ascertain the exact status of his
15 employment. That's somebody called SPT59.

16 **A. Oh, yes, SPT59.**

17 Q. He was an employee of St. Pat's. Is that right?

18 **A. He was, yes.**

19 Q. I think you can help the Inquiry with telling us
20 a little bit more about what his role was.

21 **A. He would have brought -- he start... -- SPT59 started**
22 **off in the care section and then he went on to work in**
23 **we called the welfare or aftercare, which would have --**
24 **they would have represented boys in court for -- or they**
25 **could have supervised them on home visits or -- and**

1 **different things like that off campus, you know.**

2 Q. So he wasn't after a while involved in the day-to-day
3 care of boys?

4 **A. No, he never was when -- in Slemish.**

5 Q. I mean, for example, one of the things we heard was that
6 he took HIA384 down to the police station to make
7 a statement on one occasion. So that would be the kind
8 of role he would have had?

9 **A. That would be the kind of one he would witness that went
10 on, yes. That was part of his ...**

11 Q. That's all I wanted to ask you, SPT3, but if there's
12 anything you feel I haven't covered from your statement
13 of evidence or from anything else that we have talked
14 about today, if there is anything else you wanted to say
15 to us, then please do so. This is your opportunity.

16 **A. No, there is nothing off the top of my head, but that
17 was -- as I say, one incident was 43 years ago and the
18 other one was 23 years ago, like, and the only
19 complaints I have had in my history of being at
20 St. Pat's. So -- there's a lot I don't remember.**

21 Q. Thank you. The Panel may have some questions for you.

22 Questions from THE PANEL

23 CHAIRMAN: SPT3, can I just ask you to cast your mind back
24 to the course you went on in 1976? That I think was
25 a full-time course. Isn't that right?

1 **A. Aye.**

2 Q. You said that there was some discussion about peer
3 sexual abuse in the group discussions that were part of
4 that course. Is that right?

5 **A. Well, it was -- we had different instructors there, but**
6 **during the time that would have been discussed at some**
7 **time. The general remit was everybody was -- on the**
8 **course was from childcare obviously and these things**
9 **would have been brought up and talked about.**

10 Q. And you say "brought up". My impression from what you
11 have said is that people who were on the course would
12 bring them up during these group sessions. Is that
13 right, or was it the instructor would say, "Well, we
14 will talk about peer sexual abuse today. Has anybody
15 any comment to make or contribution?"

16 **A. Well, that -- that could have been true too. The**
17 **instructor could have come in and wrote on the board**
18 **"Child sex abuse" and then it would have evolved from**
19 **there, you know.**

20 Q. Yes.

21 **A. (Inaudible.)**

22 Q. Did -- I'm sorry. Can you say whether or not from what
23 discussion took place that it appeared to be a problem
24 that was commonly known about, or it was a problem that
25 was known to be widespread, or what degree of frequency

1 would this problem appear to have generated?

2 **A. Sorry, Mr Chairman. I don't know whether it was my**
3 **naivety, but I had no experience of it in my residential**
4 **care experience up to then.**

5 Q. Yes.

6 **A. I can't remember what -- I know it was -- there was**
7 **things like that discussed, but I can't remember what**
8 **detail went into with other people. Other people**
9 **obviously were working in children's homes. There**
10 **wouldn't have been so much of it. There was other**
11 **people out of some -- out of other training schools were**
12 **there.**

13 Q. Yes. You may not --

14 **A. But I don't -- I don't think it was a subject that**
15 **lasted too long, you know.**

16 Q. That's really what I wanted to try to get some idea
17 about, because we are asking you now all these years
18 later to remember whether there was anything talked
19 about. On the one hand, it could be simply an isolated
20 incident that was raised by somebody, or the discussion
21 might have brought home to you that, since a number of
22 people were talking about having heard about it or being
23 told about it, that it was something that hadn't been in
24 your knowledge but other people, in fact, had come
25 across it. Can you give us any idea about -- about that

1 at all?

2 **A. I think --**

3 Q. If you can't, please say so.

4 **A. No, I can't give you much about it. No, I can't.**

5 Q. Another question I want to ask was that, as I understood
6 your response to Ms Smith, there were people from the
7 Northern Ireland Office who would come to St. Pat's from
8 time to time.

9 **A. There was, yes.**

10 Q. Were these simply regular visits where people would turn
11 up to speak to the Director, Brother Director, or were
12 they full-blown inspections of the type that maybe you
13 did experience, lasting over maybe a couple of days at
14 least?

15 **A. I remember that happening, yes. People went through the
16 different books you had and what you recorded. I'm
17 trying to think was it from the Northern Ireland Office
18 or was it from the board of management.**

19 Q. Yes.

20 **A. You know, this could have been a -- I might have mixed
21 that up.**

22 Q. There is a difference between somebody being brought
23 round or dropping in to say, you know, "How are things
24 going?" --

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. -- or to discuss a particular problem, but you do recall
2 some form of formal inspection where records were
3 checked?

4 **A. Formal inspection. They went through the books and ...**

5 Q. I think the last question or second last question I want
6 to ask you is you have described being given some form
7 of training or instruction in restraint procedures. You
8 demonstrated with movements what would happen, that one
9 staff member would take the boy by one arm, the other
10 staff member by the other arm --

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. -- and then presumably you would -- I hope I am not
13 putting words into your mouth -- frogmarch him into
14 wherever he was meant to go?

15 **A. That was -- not even up the arm. If you sort of looped
16 under his arm, you know --**

17 Q. Yes.

18 **A. -- and sort of pushed him forward a bit.**

19 Q. The person you described doing the instruction was
20 someone who was brought in. Was he someone from the
21 Prison Service?

22 **A. I think he had worked in the Prison Service. He had
23 actually, yes. He had worked in Lisnevin recently and
24 then he went on to the Prison Service. That is correct,
25 yes, but --**

1 Q. And -- sorry. Was there something else you wanted to
2 add to that?

3 A. He was independent, like. He was -- I think he has
4 since left the Prison Service (inaudible).

5 Q. I see. He was some form of external consultant who had
6 been brought in?

7 A. Yes, correct.

8 Q. Finally, if we can go to the black, amber -- black, red,
9 amber, green system, if a boy was brought into Slemish
10 for more than just a day or two to calm him down and
11 worked his way up to green, did that mean that one of
12 the options would be that he could go back to the junior
13 school?

14 A. It was, yes, an option. Initially he would have been
15 given trust to be brought off campus, etc, and how he
16 responded to that trust would give him the option to
17 return. Now that was the usual case.

18 Q. Does that mean that Slemish was not meant to be
19 a long-stay unit in the sense that you would be sent to
20 Slemish for the rest of your time in St. Pat's?

21 A. No, it was not. No, initially it was not. It was to
22 get the (inaudible) back. Obviously if you are in
23 a care situation, the last thing you want to be doing is
24 locking a boy up and know you are behind closed doors.

25 Q. I appreciate some -- boys would have different ways of

1 reacting to your regime there, but could you give us
2 an idea as to how long boys stayed on average, if there
3 was such a thing? Would it be a week or two or might it
4 take them, let's say, six months to work up to green
5 status?

6 **A. Six months sounds a very long time now. I'd say maybe**
7 **a couple of months maybe at the most, you know. HIA384**
8 **was a wee bit peculiar in that respect, because he was**
9 **a -- it was where he went --**

10 Q. Yes.

11 **A. -- and the danger to other young people.**

12 Q. And I presume it means that not everybody would work up
13 to green at a steady pace. Some might fall back --

14 **A. Some, yes, yes.**

15 Q. -- and then have to start working up again.

16 **A. It was very rarely that people went straight back to**
17 **black. It would need to be fairly serious, absconding**
18 **or attempted absconding. It was very rare they done**
19 **that.**

20 Q. I see. Thank you very much.

21 **A. Thank you.**

22 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, SPT3. Can I just ask: do you
23 think Slemish was effective, this notion of giving
24 people a kind of a time of secure -- and getting them to
25 reflect on what they were doing?

1 **A. I think it was at the time, because if you take the**
2 **opportunity to abscond away from the boy, then there's**
3 **more chance he is going to address his problems.**

4 Q. Uh-huh, and you're actually focusing on him as
5 an individual as well?

6 **A. I'm focusing on an individual. He was given weekly**
7 **sessions at least with his key worker or anybody he**
8 **wanted to talk to. He had a specific key worker.**

9 Q. Okay. I mean, presumably the results are a risk that
10 you were taking the boys with more challenging behaviour
11 and putting them together. Did that make it more
12 challenging for staff?

13 **A. It could make it demanding for staff, you know. It did.**
14 **I think there was -- the staff -- the stress levels on**
15 **staff could be --**

16 Q. Could be high.

17 **A. -- could be high.**

18 Q. When boys were there and the staff there, it was pretty
19 much a self-contained unit. There wasn't much contact
20 with the other bits of the school?

21 **A. No, no.**

22 Q. No.

23 **A. Very rarely. When you moved away up, you could have**
24 **went up to the swimming pool, but we had it for**
25 **ourselves. We wouldn't have shared it with other boys.**

1 Q. Right, and the traffic light system, the credit system,
2 do you think that was effective as well in terms of
3 getting change of behaviour?

4 **A. I think it was a big help. It was made traffic so it**
5 **was fairly simple --**

6 Q. Uh-huh.

7 **A. -- so the boys could understand it easily, you know.**

8 Q. Uh-huh.

9 **A. If you get to red, it meant you were -- you could get up**
10 **later for watching TV rather than put to your bed, and**
11 **progress to amber and that was you were going up to the**
12 **pool and then green.**

13 Q. So there was different privileges --

14 **A. Privileges.**

15 Q. -- associated with ...?

16 **A. It was bit of a carrot too, you know.**

17 Q. Uh-huh. Can I just ask in terms of the management
18 committee do you remember them visiting? Do you
19 remember --

20 **A. I do. I do. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. And what -- what form would those visits take?

22 **A. Just having a look at what you were doing and seeing**
23 **what you were doing, maybe checking your books and**
24 **seeing if you'd done it or not.**

25 Q. And would they talk to the boys?

1 **A. Sometimes, sometimes, yes, just -- not -- not a lot,**
2 **because a lot of them were maybe ex-Civil Service or**
3 **ex-teachers or -- you know, maybe a limited experience**
4 **of residential care, you know.**

5 Q. So a limited experience of talking to boys and --

6 **A. Boys with problems, like, with their problems.**

7 Q. Okay, and in relation to -- if a boy made a complaint
8 about a member of staff, how -- how was that dealt with?

9 **A. He was asked to put it in writing.**

10 Q. And then once it was put in writing --

11 **A. Or he had to put it in writing. It was submitted to the**
12 **management.**

13 Q. And would the management -- would there be like a -- say
14 -- I know you were not the subject of a complaint, but,
15 you know, if a member of staff was subject to the
16 complaint, would there be then like a disciplinary
17 investigation or a ...?

18 **A. Oh, there would definitely be questions about the**
19 **management and what happened, you know, management.**
20 **I can't remember anybody being internally suspended or**
21 **anything like that, no.**

22 Q. Can you ever remember being questioned about another
23 member of staff's behaviour?

24 **A. Not specifically, no. I can't say I did.**

25 Q. Okay. My last question is just about the panel you

1 discussed. When you said, you know, a boy was being
2 considered to stay in Slemish for a period, there was
3 a panel that met to discuss whether that was
4 appropriate.

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. Who was on that panel?

7 **A. Well, there was -- the psychologist would have been one**
8 **of them usually and there was -- I can't remember his**
9 **name. I think he was from the -- he was from the**
10 **Northern Ireland Office. I think there was -- he used**
11 **to come down and sit in it --**

12 Q. Sit in.

13 **A. -- or -- I think there was maybe somebody from Lisnevin**
14 **maybe came in, because they had a similar type of panel.**

15 Q. Okay, and somebody from the management of the school or
16 ...?

17 **A. They would have probably been there as a ...**

18 Q. And that group would convene -- I mean, just thinking
19 about boys going in and out of Slemish, that would --
20 would that group convene in order to look at
21 an individual boy?

22 **A. Oh, they would, individuals, yes.**

23 Q. So it would convene.

24 **A. It was arranged as soon as possible, but they decided**
25 **the boy needed an extended stay in the main.**

1 Q. Thanks very much.

2 **A. Thank you.**

3 MR LANE: You mentioned that you shepherded boys around

4 I think when you first arrived at St. Patrick's.

5 **A. I think because of the staff limits there that was -- it**
6 **seemed to be a far more shepherding back then, you know.**

7 Q. That was taking boys, shall we say, to the sports hall
8 or to classrooms or whatever --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- in a group?

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

12 Q. Was that really largely a measure to stop people running
13 away while travelling from one area to another?

14 **A. It could have been a measure, but it wouldn't have been**
15 **guaranteed, you know.**

16 Q. Uh-huh.

17 **A. It would not have been guaranteed. If you took -- if**
18 **you took a group of boys, you would have -- they would**
19 **have been supervised anywhere, you know.**

20 Q. And where -- which were the sort of times of high risk
21 of absconding? Were there particular times when this
22 happened?

23 **A. It was very, very hard to define a specific time. It**
24 **could have been times under stress or coming back --**
25 **boys coming back from leave.**

1 Q. Uh-huh. Not coming back on time you mean?

2 A. **Aye. Well, they couldn't -- aye, not coming back on**
3 **time, refusing to come back or coming back and**
4 **realising, "God! I hate being here. I'm away out**
5 **again".**

6 Q. Uh-huh.

7 A. **You know, these things happened. It's hard to specify**
8 **other examples, you know.**

9 Q. You mentioned that you started off as a house father,
10 but the term "residential social worker" got introduced.

11 A. **Uh-huh.**

12 Q. When was that? Do you know?

13 A. **I think it was shortly after, maybe a year or so after.**

14 Q. And was it just a change of name or did the role change
15 as well?

16 A. **Oh, the role changed. It got -- as I say, at that time**
17 **when we joined, it was the start of making it from**
18 **a more shepherding --**

19 Q. Uh-huh.

20 A. **-- about to individual -- individual role, planning and**
21 **breaking the boys down into smaller groups --**

22 Q. Uh-huh.

23 A. **-- and the establishment of key workers for every boy.**
24 **So he had a programme to follow.**

25 Q. So you would have been a key worker for two or three of

1 them, would you?

2 **A. Yes, and maybe more, you know.**

3 Q. Uh-huh, and did that mean you also had contact with
4 their social workers and so on as well?

5 **A. You would have done if they visited, but, see, when**
6 **I went there, a Training School Order was a Training**
7 **School Order. You could have got a Training School**
8 **Order for non-attendance at school or for grand larceny,**
9 **you know. They were all bunched together, you know.**

10 Q. And the law changed in 1975 I think as well, didn't it?

11 **A. I think so, yes.**

12 Q. Yes. Right. Just one other question. Do you recall
13 what the name was of the tutor who ran the Rupert
14 Stanley course?

15 **A. Oh, I do. I can picture him. He was a former -- he was**
16 **formerly a teacher in Rathgael. Ah, goodness! I can't**
17 **think of him.**

18 Q. Right. Okay.

19 **A. As I say, it is -- it's certainly forty years ago.**

20 Q. If you remember, perhaps you can let us know then.
21 Thank you very much.

22 **A. It will come to me.**

23 CHAIRMAN: SPT3, you will be relieved I am sure to know that
24 is the last question we have for you.

25 **A. Thank you.**

1 Q. Thank you very much for coming to speak to us not just
2 in answer to the allegations against you but the help
3 you have given us in understanding the scheme and the
4 way -- the regime that operated in Slemish in
5 particular. Thank you very much.

6 **A. Thank you.**

7 **(Witness withdrew)**

8 MS SMITH: Chairman, the next witness is to be taken by
9 Mr Aiken. I am sure he will be ready very shortly.

10 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Well, we need to I think take a short break
11 now in any event. We will sit again as soon as
12 possible.

13 (12.10 pm)

14 (Short break)

15 (12.40 pm)

16 CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr Aiken.

17 Information in relation to WITNESS HIA264

18 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, good afternoon.
19 The next witness today was to be HIA264, who is
20 "HIA264". HIA264 did attend this morning to consult
21 with me in the normal fashion but, having completed that
22 process, has decided he does not wish to remain to give
23 evidence today and has left the Inquiry premises.
24 I have made Mr Collins, the solicitor representing the
25 individual who faces allegations from HIA264, of the

1 position (sic). He will obviously have this record of
2 the fact the man has not given evidence and will address
3 that in his written submission, and in due course I will
4 with that individual who is going to give evidence next
5 week, including relating other matters, I will deal with
6 some of the factual issues that arose and that arise
7 here in respect of this individual.

8 CHAIRMAN: Yes. It is only necessary for me to make it
9 clear that if someone who has made allegations is not
10 prepared to come to substantiate them and does not have
11 a reason such as poor health or medical conditions which
12 the Panel find acceptable, we disregard those
13 allegations. Thank you very much.

14 There is one witness who is scheduled to give
15 evidence this afternoon. The other is a witness who has
16 produced medical evidence which we accept as
17 justification for their not being able to attend in
18 person. I think it is intended that that will be dealt
19 with at some later stage.

20 So we will rise now and sit not before 1.30,
21 gentlemen, and hopefully we will then be in a position
22 to deal with the one remaining witness this afternoon.

23 (12.42 pm)

24 (Lunch break)

25 (2.10 pm)

1 WITNESS SPT52 (called)

2 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies
3 and gentlemen. Our next witness is SPT52. He is
4 "SPT52". He wishes to take a religious oath and he
5 wishes to maintain his anonymity, Chairman.

6 WITNESS STP52 (sworn)

7 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, SPT52. Please sit down.

8 **A. Thank you.**

9 **Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY**

10 MS SMITH: Now, SPT52, your witness statement can be found
11 at 2902, which is a witness statement you have provided
12 for the benefit of the Inquiry, and I am going to come
13 to that in a moment or two, but I am also going to ask
14 you some general questions about your time as
15 an employee in St. Patrick's Training School.

16 Can I just ask you to confirm, SPT52, that this is
17 the statement that you provided to the Inquiry, and just
18 to reassure you that, although your full name is given
19 there, before this is published on our website it will
20 be blacked out so that your name is not disclosed.

21 SPT52, you say there that you were employed as
22 a at St. Patrick's Training School in
23 and you worked there until you retired in . I was
24 asking you when you joined the school as a ,
25 which side of the training school you worked on. It was

1 the senior side. Is that correct?

2 **A. That is correct, yes.**

3 Q. And when you first joined, there weren't that many
4 staff. You were only one of three lay staff in the
5 entire training school.

6 **A. In the care section of the school. That is correct.**

7 Q. Yes. There were lay teachers --

8 **A. Yes, yes.**

9 Q. -- teaching the children.

10 **A. There were instructors in the senior school, and**
11 **building, woodwork, metalwork, painting departments,**
12 **they were all lay people.**

13 Q. On the care side it was mostly Brothers who looked after
14 the boys, and yourself?

15 **A. Myself and one other lay person, yes.**

16 Q. And that was -- that was on the senior side?

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

18 Q. Was that reflected on the junior side -- can you recall
19 -- or ...?

20 **A. Yes. There were I think -- there was only one member of**
21 **staff who was a lay person when I joined in in the**
22 **junior school.**

23 Q. And we were just talking about the fact that in the time
24 span that you spent in St. Patrick's you saw a number of
25 changes over that period of time.

1 **A. That is correct, yes.**

2 Q. You made the point to me that one of the things that you
3 hadn't actually factored in when you applied for the job
4 was what was going to happen in Northern Ireland about
5 a year and a half later.

6 **A. Exactly. That's correct, yes.**

7 Q. The onset of The Troubles caused difficulties for --
8 obviously it caused difficulties in Northern Ireland,
9 but caused difficulties for you with your work at that
10 time?

11 **A. Yes, of course. I mean, it was a reflection of society
12 in general really.**

13 Q. Just -- I was just asking some general questions about
14 the senior school and how boys came to be put on the
15 senior side rather than the junior side. You had said
16 that again it was just according to age that the boys
17 were divided.

18 **A. Yes. That's correct, yes.**

19 Q. And --

20 **A. Senior boys were 16 to 19 and juniors were 15 -- from 11
21 I think to 15.**

22 Q. We have heard from another witness that boys didn't
23 actually transfer from the junior school to the senior
24 school internally. Is that --

25 **A. No, I don't think that happened. On reflection, there**

1 may have been one or two cases, but it usually was the
2 case where a boy was released from the junior school,
3 possibly subsequently got into trouble and was referred
4 or remanded and then made the subject of a Training
5 School Order at the senior school.

6 Q. That certainly was consistent with what the other
7 witness said, but I was just wondering in respect of
8 that if a boy, for example, at 15 had maybe been in for
9 a couple of years before that but wanted to learn
10 a trade, would he have been able to say, "Look, I want
11 to learn a trade. Can I go to the senior school?" Was
12 that an option at all?

13 A. **I don't think that happened, no.**

14 Q. You also made the point that from you started in ,
15 where you would have had a very small complement of lay
16 staff, that changed to more lay staff rather than
17 Brothers looking after the boys.

18 A. **Oh, yes. Dramatic change in the -- as a result of The**
19 **Troubles I think as well. It turned out there were**
20 **approximately six lay members of staff on each shift.**
21 **There were two -- it was a two-shift system that**
22 **prevailed in the school at the time and I think it was**
23 **from 7.30 to 2.30 and from 2.30 to 9.30 or 10.00,**
24 **10 o'clock in the evening.**

25 Q. You say that the actual complement of staff --

1 **A. Increased.**

2 Q. -- increased. It doubled effectively from what you were
3 saying to me.

4 **A. Yes. When I started off, there was -- there were two**
5 **Brothers and myself on one shift and two Brothers and**
6 **another lay member of staff on the other shift.**

7 Q. And then it became the case that you had six?

8 **A. Then it came -- it was practically double then, yes.**

9 Q. I was just asking just what your role as a
10 actually entailed in the training school.

11 **A. Well, what it actually entailed at that time was getting**
12 **the boys up in the morning. There were four**
13 **dormitories, and when I started, they were open**
14 **dormitories. They subsequently became single rooms, but**
15 **there were about -- I think about fifteen in each dorm**
16 **and there were four dorms, L-shaped, two L-shaped dorms**
17 **on each floor. You had to get the boys up in the**
18 **morning, washed, down to breakfast and subsequently sent**
19 **to their various departments.**

20 Q. Those are the departments you were talking about, the
21 building trade --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- and the metalwork and so forth?

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

25 Q. Then during the time the boys were engaged in their

1 departments your job would have been to -- you would
2 have been keeping records?

3 **A. Yes, keeping records. We would also have been involved**
4 **in transporting boys to the local police station if they**
5 **were going to court -- the police escorted them to court**
6 **-- and collecting them again and things of that nature.**

7 Q. I mean, if a boy needed -- had a hospital appointment --

8 **A. Boy needed a hospital --**

9 Q. -- or something like that --

10 **A. Exactly.**

11 Q. -- that kind of duty?

12 **A. Exactly.**

13 Q. You talk in your statement here that you were promoted
14 to the during the 1980s

15 and appointed in the early

16 1990s, which was a position you held within you .

17 We know that at some point there was a separation

18 between the care side of the training school and the

19 justice side of the training school. We were trying to

20 pinpoint that down, but I know it proved very difficult

21 to try to remember when things happened.

22 **A. I'm sorry, but my recollection of sequences is a little**

23 **suspect, to be quite honest with you. I'm not sure**

24 **exactly when it happened, but I should imagine it was**

25 **round about the '80s, some time in the '80s.**

1 Q. You think that -- I mean, you became
2 in the '80s. So at some stage there --

3 **A. No. I was actually**

4 Q. Yes.

5 **A. That was -- I was in charge of a group of five members**
6 **of staff and there was another** on the
7 **other shift and he was in charge of five members of**
8 **staff as well. That was in justice, but on the -- in**
9 **the case of being promoted it was about 1990**
10 **I transferred to the care section of the school and**
11 **became** there.

12 Q. I suppose what I -- when you became
13 at whatever point that was in the 1980s, had
14 the separation of boys on the care side and the justice
15 side taken full effect or was it just happening?

16 **A. Oh, no. It was in -- it was in the course of happening,**
17 **but it hadn't taken place, no.**

18 Q. I think you said you ended up in a school that was
19 divided. There were two justice units --

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

21 Q. -- and four care units.

22 **A. These were purpose-built, yes.**

23 Q. You think that those two purpose-built chalets were from
24 the late 1980s.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. And what happened in the transition period, if I've
2 got -- if I have understood what you were telling me
3 earlier right, and please correct me if I haven't --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- is that there was the senior school on one side and
6 the junior school on another. The junior boys moved out
7 into the chalets, allowing their accommodation, as it
8 were --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- to be used for the care side, and the senior side
11 became the justice side of the home until such time as
12 those chalets were ready.

13 **A. Yes, as the two units were built. Yes, that's correct.**

14 Q. I just wanted to check: you yourself didn't have any
15 sleeping-in duties in the home.

16 **A. No.**

17 Q. That was done by the Brothers when you started. Isn't
18 that right?

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

20 Q. Although there was a nightwatchman employed also, who
21 was in a waking role.

22 **A. Yes, that's correct. There was a nightwatchman, who
23 secured the perimeter of the school on a regular basis.**

24 I am led to believe he had a clock, if I remember

25 **rightly. He used to clock in at various points round**

1 **the school just to make sure there was no-one getting in**
2 **and no-one getting out.**

3 Q. Okay. Well, the senior and junior bit split. There was
4 no interaction between the boys on either side.

5 **A. No.**

6 Q. And there was no interaction between the staff on either
7 side.

8 **A. No. The staff would have been known to one another, but**
9 **there was no sort of interaction at all at that time,**
10 **no.**

11 Q. In the sense that one did not fill in for another on the
12 junior side or anything like that?

13 **A. No, no, that didn't happen, no.**

14 Q. It was effectively two separate establishments on the
15 one location?

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. Now I was speaking to you about some of the allegations
18 that the Inquiry has heard about and what your memory or
19 how you can assist us with some of those. One of the
20 things that we have heard about -- sorry. I should have
21 said that you yourself didn't come from a childcare
22 background at all --

23 **A. No.**

24 Q. -- isn't that right --

25 **A. That's true.**

1 Q. -- when you went into the home? I think you said that
2 you were actually working in the I think.
3 Is that right?

4 **A. That's correct. I was in the in the**
5 .

6 Q. When the job came up and you applied for it, you were
7 given some training presumably or some instruction on
8 how to deal with the boys to begin with.

9 **A. Well, one learned from the people who had been there**
10 **originally, you know. That's basically it. There was**
11 **no official training given as such.**

12 Q. But you then subsequently went away to London for a year
13 --

14 **A. Yes, I did.**

15 Q. -- and obtained a qualification --

16 **A. That's correct.**

17 Q. -- in -- a Certificate in the Residential Care of
18 Children and Young People or the CRCCYP --

19 **A. ...CCYP.**

20 Q. -- as it has become known.

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

22 Q. We can actually see your certificate, SPT52, at 14737.
23 You were saying that's more than you have, because you
24 didn't know where it was.

25 **A. Yes. True.**

1 Q. That shows you were -- you attended the Polytechnic of
2 North London from 25th January '71 until 10th December
3 '71. So virtually a full year --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- in attendance there, and during that time in working
6 for that course you made the point to me it was more
7 about children's homes, the training that you received,
8 rather than actually about training schools.

9 **A. Yes. It was more geared towards social care as such,**
10 **residential -- residential children's homes as opposed**
11 **to training schools.**

12 Q. As part of the training that you got on this course you
13 visited other children's homes, did you?

14 **A. Oh, yes, yes.**

15 Q. You didn't actually visit another training school, or
16 did you?

17 **A. No, I didn't, no.**

18 Q. Sorry. Coming --

19 **A. I visited -- sorry. I visited local Social Services**
20 **Departments, did a placement there, and also in**
21 **a residential children's home for I think it was four**
22 **weeks. I went there.**

23 Q. But that was like a children's care --

24 **A. It was a placement, yes, yes.**

25 Q. -- care home rather than a training school --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- or approved school, as it would have been in England.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. I was discussing with you some of the allegations that
5 we have heard about. One of the things we have heard
6 complained about was the sexual activity between boys
7 and peer abuse has been described. You were saying to
8 me that that wasn't something that you learnt about on
9 this course.

10 **A. No. That's true. No.**

11 Q. There was never any discussion of that type of behaviour
12 in the course --

13 **A. No.**

14 Q. -- in group discussion sessions or anything like that
15 that you are aware of?

16 **A. No, there wasn't, no.**

17 Q. You said that it really was only when a boy called
18 HIA384, who I will talk about in a short while, made
19 complaints about treatment that he alleged had happened
20 to him at the hands of another boy that you first became
21 aware of this as an issue at all in St. Patrick's.

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

23 Q. One other thing that we have heard speak about was about
24 the Brothers being heavy-handed in using the strap. We
25 were having a discussion about when and how the strap

1 was used in the school.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. And your recollection is you thought it was a Sunday
4 morning that punishments were handed out. Is that
5 right?

6 **A. Yes. There was one occasion when I was invited to go
7 down with the principal and corporal punishment was
8 administered on that occasion, yes.**

9 Q. Can you remember why it was being administered or what
10 the circumstances were?

11 **A. I can't remember offhand, no.**

12 Q. And I think you said to me it was six strokes --

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

14 Q. -- that the boy was given on the hand.

15 **A. No. On the buttocks.**

16 Q. And that was in -- where did that take place?

17 **A. That took place down in the principal's office
18 I believe.**

19 Q. And you described to me that you found the experience
20 very distressing?

21 **A. I did, yes.**

22 Q. You only -- you said that you only ever saw the strap
23 used on one other occasion.

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

25 Q. That was in the dining room.

1 **A. That is correct, yes.**

2 Q. I was asking you if you could tell us a little bit about
3 what you remember about that, SPT52.

4 **A. Well, all I remember is that it must have been some sort**
5 **of misdemeanour. One of the boys was either fighting or**
6 **intimidating another boy or whatever, and he was -- he**
7 **was slapped on the hand subsequently once I think, once**
8 **or twice.**

9 Q. That was by a Brother --

10 **A. Yes. That's right.**

11 Q. -- who did that, but that wasn't the Head Brother?

12 **A. No, no.**

13 Q. And it wasn't a case of him being brought down --

14 **A. No, no.**

15 Q. -- for the corporal punishment to be administered?

16 **A. No. That's true.**

17 Q. I wondered if the Brother had his strap -- had a strap
18 with him. You thought initially that he might have if
19 he just meted this out then and there, but you then
20 thought maybe he went out and got it and came back in
21 again.

22 **A. I think on reflection he went out and got the strap and**
23 **came back in, yes.**

24 Q. Did you know where the strap was --

25 **A. No.**

1 Q. -- in the school? You yourself didn't have authority to
2 use it?

3 **A. No.**

4 Q. And never did?

5 **A. No, never did. Never carried one.**

6 Q. Another matter that we have heard evidence about is
7 isolation cells. I was wondering what you remembered
8 about those in the home and where they were.

9 **A. They were -- at the end of each dormitory there was
10 a holding cell. It was used primarily for -- possibly
11 a long-term absconder coming back, returning to the
12 school could have been held in there overnight and back
13 into the general company the next day then.**

14 Q. It wouldn't have been the case that a boy might have
15 been kept in there two or three days, for example?

16 **A. I doubt it very much. No, I don't think so.**

17 Q. You say -- were there four rooms in total then if there
18 was one at the end of each dormitory?

19 **A. Yes. Excuse me. Yes.**

20 Q. The other thing that we have heard complaints about is
21 the sexual abuse of boys in the home by Brothers, and
22 I wondered whether you had ever heard anything of that
23 nature, whether you were ever suspicious that there was
24 anything untoward going on between one of the Brothers
25 or one or more of the Brothers and any of the children.

1 **A. No. I have never had any occasion to be aware of abuse**
2 **in the school, and I think also that, were it happening,**
3 **the boys would have made me aware or made some member of**
4 **staff aware that it was going on.**

5 Q. Did you feel that the boys were -- felt they could
6 approach yourself --

7 **A. Oh, yes.**

8 Q. -- or other members of staff?

9 **A. Yes. I think we had a very good rapport with the boys,**
10 **I maybe with half a dozen and somebody else with -- you**
11 **know, they all build up relationships. That's what it**
12 **was about in the training school at the time. You had**
13 **to survive to do that actually.**

14 Q. It was in your own interests --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- apart from anything else?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Well, we are aware that there was one man who worked in
19 the school, DL137, who did abuse children between 1977
20 and 1980, and the Order certainly became aware of this
21 in 1978. You were unaware of that.

22 **A. No, I wasn't aware of that, no.**

23 Q. I think you said to me that the first you learned about
24 it was whenever he was dismissed from the school and
25 that --

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

2 Q. I think you also made the point to me that anything that
3 he did as far as you are aware happened with junior
4 school boys --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- with boys on the junior side.

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

8 Q. Now just coming then to the boy HIA384, who we were
9 speaking about earlier, and who has given evidence to
10 the Inquiry, but he also made certain allegations about
11 you. If we could go back to your statement, please, at
12 2902.

13 **A. Change the -- sorry. We need to change the screen
14 I think too, Christine.**

15 Q. Yes. That's just -- when I say --

16 **A. Sorry, Christine. Sorry.**

17 Q. No. You're all right, STP52. It's just I am giving
18 instructions to the technical people up above here to do
19 that -- just that.

20 **A. Okay.**

21 Q. So you said you are aware of him and you recollect him
22 fairly well. You considered him to be quite vulnerable
23 and he was always seeking attention. When we were
24 talking earlier, you gave a little bit more detail about
25 that. You felt he would have liked somebody to have

1 Q. And so there was --

2 **A. Subsequent to that on the next occasion when he**
3 **absconded he went I think to Social Services and the**
4 **case ended up in the High Court in Dublin, and I was**
5 **despatched along with another member of staff to go down**
6 **and give evidence in relation to the fact that he was**
7 **the subject of a Training School Order in Belfast.**

8 Q. And that happened twice.

9 **A. That happened on two occasions, yes.**

10 Q. On the third occasion we know what happened was that the
11 Northern Ireland Office simply said, "Well, we are not
12 paying for court proceedings in the South a third time
13 and he can stay there".

14 **A. That is correct, yes. We consulted with the NIO and**
15 **they informed us that was the situation.**

16 Q. He clearly didn't want to be back in St. Pat's.

17 **A. He obviously did not, no, no.**

18 Q. Well, in paragraph 3 here one of the allegations that he
19 made is -- it says that he --

20 "It is alleged he approached me about a complaint
21 about abuse and bullying which he was supposed to be
22 suffering in the training school. I can categorically
23 state that any complaint he made to me was dealt with in
24 accordance with protocols in the place. I would always
25 make the other staff aware of it so that we as a staff

1 could keep a watchful" -- I presume that should be "eye"
2 -- "on the situation. I completely refute the
3 allegation that I was not concerned or that I could do
4 nothing about it. I have no knowledge of a conversation
5 with him in which he said he would contact police if he
6 was not moved."

7 Now just before I go back to this, we know that
8 HIA384 was complaining about bullying and there is
9 evidence certainly he was bullied when he was in
10 St. Pat's. In general terms if a boy made a complaint
11 about bullying, what would have been done?

12 **A. Well, first of all, it would be important that the staff**
13 **were made aware of the complaint and that they were made**
14 **aware for the need to be a bit more vigilant in relation**
15 **to the fact that HIA384 was being bullied or any boy was**
16 **being bullied. The person who was bullying was taken to**
17 **task about it and deprived of any privileges that he may**
18 **have had. It was a situation -- as I said, HIA384 --**
19 **HIA384's demands were unrealistic in many ways in**
20 **relation to the level of protection that he would have**
21 **wanted all the time, and as a result of that staff --**
22 **staff would have been more vigilant in relation to**
23 **bullying, you know.**

24 **Q. Well, I am not going to call up everything. You know**
25 **that I have gone over with you when we were speaking**

1 earlier about what he said. I mean, I was reading your
2 statement to him and said that you acted in accordance
3 with protocols, and he wanted to know were there any
4 written protocols. Where were they? There were no
5 written protocols as such.

6 **A. There were no written protocols.**

7 Q. This was just practice within the home. Is that right?

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

9 Q. Now there also -- I should say he made an allegation
10 about a meeting, and this is in your statement here at
11 paragraph 4:

12 "... that I was in a meeting in which he was bullied
13 by senior staff and forced to retract a statement he'd
14 made to police about sexual abuse he suffered at the
15 hands of another boy. I attended meetings on a regular
16 basis with senior staff to discuss and formulate policy,
17 but at no stage did I speak to him about any statement
18 he had made to police. The allegation against me is
19 untrue and without any foundation. The meeting in which
20 he alleges I harangued him did not take place."

21 Now we had a discussion about this, and I may have
22 misled HIA384, because my understanding of the papers
23 I looked at, the police papers, were that -- and you
24 were unaware that HIA384 had made two complaints to
25 police about sexual abuse --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- at the hands of other boys. One you do know about
3 and that was a guy -- a boy called SPT54, SPT54.

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

5 Q. And you -- I thought that it was SPT59 who went to the
6 police station with him in respect of that complaint
7 but, in fact, it was yourself.

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

9 Q. He has said that you sat or whoever was there sat and
10 took notes during the course of his inter... -- his
11 giving a statement to police.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Is that -- did that --

14 **A. I wouldn't have any need -- why would I need to take
15 notes in relation to this? It was an allegation he was
16 making to the police, and the police I believe
17 subsequently charged the other person concerned.**

18 **I didn't take notes. I had no need to take notes.**

19 **I was there in loco parentis as a representative from
20 the training school and he never at any time
21 incidentally asked about -- to have a solicitor.**

22 Q. You made the point to me that the other boy against whom
23 the accusation was made did have his mother there and
24 did have a solicitor there.

25 **A. He did have his mother there and did have a solicitor,**

1 **yes. He was being accused.**

2 Q. Yes, and you have no memory of any complaint that HIA384
3 made then about two other boys, SPT61 and SPT62?

4 **A. No.**

5 Q. No memory of that?

6 **A. No.**

7 Q. He also -- I was saying to you that we had seen
8 a document -- HIA384 -- there is a folder of documents
9 of him making written complaints. Was it the practice
10 that boys who made a complaint were told to put it in
11 writing or to make a statement about it?

12 **A. That was generally -- especially of that nature, yes, it**
13 **would have been practice for them to make a statement,**
14 **yes.**

15 Q. That's within the training school setting?

16 **A. Yes, yes.**

17 Q. I am just going to look -- I hope this is the right
18 number I have got here. So it is 21789. Hopefully
19 I have got the right page reference. No, I haven't.
20 Didn't think so. I did mean to check this. I think the
21 other page reference is in 500s. Bear with me. I will
22 try to get it, but -- I will try to get that document
23 pulled up in a moment --

24 **A. Okay.**

25 Q. -- but there was certainly a document that we saw on the

1 screen when HIA384 was giving his evidence about him
2 having written to you saying that he had complained
3 about two boys whom he had witnessed fondling each other
4 to another member of staff two weeks previously and he
5 wanted to know what that member of staff -- you know,
6 had he told you about it. Essentially what the document
7 seemed to be suggesting was, "Look, I told this member
8 of staff, but I am not sure he actually did anything
9 about my complaint, and I am writing to you to make sure
10 he told you about it". You have no memory of that.
11 Isn't that right?

12 **A. There's a suggestion that he wrote to me?**

13 Q. Yes.

14 **A. No, no, I never received any correspondence from HIA384.**

15 Q. Okay. We will try to find that document again. It
16 was --

17 **A. Right.**

18 Q. Yes. I think -- very helpfully I think it might be
19 50241. Yes. You will see here this is dated Saturday,
20 15th April 1995. It is:

21 "Dear SPT52,

22 I would like to state a fact to you. Approximately
23 two weeks ago I reported to SPT65 I felt that there was
24 some sexual activity going on between SPT62 and SPT61.
25 I said to him I seen some things going on and I was very

1 anxious about what was going on. I gave SPT65 severally
2 opportunities when these things were taking place. I am
3 not aware if SPT65 went to board of management. I feel
4 I have to say something to the board of management.

5 I got a response from SPT65 as if I was assuming
6 this happened and that I was over-exaggeration. I am
7 aware that SPT65 had to decide to talk or not to talk to
8 these boys or not.

9 HIA384."

10 You don't ever receive that?

11 **A. I never received that. No, I did not.**

12 Q. He goes on:

13 "I would say this took place at around 10.45 am and
14 also at 1.00 - 2.00 pm. There were -- there are --
15 were", I think, "a number of incidents which took
16 place."

17 But I can just scroll on down to the next page,
18 because it goes on:

19 "I am going to be more specific. I seen SPT61
20 handling SPT62's privates. I also seen his hands in
21 SPT62's trousers. I know this is very serious.

22 This is also to do with the letter."

23 **A. I never saw -- this is the first time I have seen that**
24 **letter.**

25 Q. So how would that have got to you? If a boy had written

1 that, how -- what would -- would that have been just
2 taken by another member of staff to hand to you --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- because I presume he did not have direct contact with
5 you.

6 **A. It would have gone to a member of staff and then passed
7 to me, yes.**

8 Q. Or, as would appear to be the case, not passed to you --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- in this instance.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. But certainly there was -- there is a file. If we can
13 just scroll on down, I am not going to go through them
14 all, but there's further statements: Tuesday, 4th April,
15 Wednesday, 5th April. These are again statements about
16 the same boys. Page 4:

17 "I need reassured that I will be protect as much as
18 possible",

19 which again seems to tie in with what you were
20 saying about how HIA384 felt he needed to be protected
21 constantly.

22 **A. Yes, yes.**

23 Q. If we can just scroll on down through those, he's then
24 making a comment. At some stage he'd made some comment
25 about SPT87, which -- who was his key worker:

1 "I would like to withdraw, because it was not the
2 truth and I know I would not like it to happen to me.
3 I know I slandered SPT87's name and good character.
4 I state that I made a false accusation against SPT87.
5 The accusation was kicking myself and kicking other
6 boys."

7 That's 17th April. So certainly around this time in
8 April -- we know this is when he is back from Dublin,
9 having gone through the court process down there --

10 **A. Right.**

11 Q. -- he is making these written complaints and written,
12 you know, apologies essentially for making false
13 accusations, but do you remember ever seeing anything
14 like this from HIA384 at all?

15 **A. No, never. This is the first I have seen of these. No.**

16 Q. When you were saying about attending the police station
17 with him, what you recall is that you advised -- you
18 were advised -- you contacted police on his behalf.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. You were advised to take him to the police station. You
21 sat in on the interview and you gave permission for him
22 to be medically examined.

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

24 Q. The other thing just about -- in respect of this
25 meeting, which -- you certainly have no recollection of

1 any such meeting taking place -- at page 101 of his
2 transcript, which again we looked at, he gave a little
3 bit more detail about that. He made the point that,
4 "Well, they're not going to record this meeting, because
5 it would show that they were bullying me effectively".
6 He said that you were present at the meeting in -- he
7 said it took place in an office that was shared by SPT53
8 and BR90, SPT52.

9 **A. I mean, that wouldn't have happened. They could have**
10 **had adjoining -- at that particular time the main school**
11 **building was about to be demolished and there were**
12 **Terrapin huts which -- I occupied one of them, and from**
13 **my recollection there could have been two adjoining**
14 **ones, but one was for justice and one was for care.**
15 **BR90 was in charge of care at the time, I was the**
16 **and SPT53 was in . It could have been**
17 **two adjoining, but at no such time did this meeting that**
18 **he is alleging ever take place. SPT53 wouldn't have**
19 **been present, because why would he? He was a member of**
20 **the justice. He was in at the time,**
21 **and why would he have been present if HIA384 was being,**
22 **as he said, harangued?**

23 **Q. You certainly had a degree of sympathy for HIA384. Even**
24 **though he was --**

25 **A. Oh, yes.**

1 Q. -- a demanding child, you were aware of his tragic
2 background.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. There is -- I am going to look at it now -- there is
5 a case review in respect of him from 25th May, which is
6 just a month after he is making these writings. If we
7 look at 50178, please, now it is quite difficult to make
8 this out, but this is a lengthy case meeting that was
9 being held. Then if we can scroll on down, please,
10 because it seems to be that you come into the meeting at
11 some point. Just maybe the next page. Yes.

12 "At this point SPT52 and joined the
13 meeting. The main points of the preliminary meeting
14 were relayed to them and the discussion moved on chaired
15 by SPT52. He began by stating the need to focus on
16 a treatment programme for HIA384. He stressed the
17 importance of offering HIA384 as much professional
18 assistance as possible, as he was a boy who needed a lot
19 of support."

20 The tenor of this I was suggesting to you was that
21 you seem to be showing him a degree of sympathy. The
22 next paragraph starts:

23 "SPT52 felt that it was a terrible pity that HIA384
24 had so little going for him. He had very few contacts
25 and obviously felt isolated."

1 One of the workers felt that HIA384 bore some
2 responsibility for that situation. You felt that:

3 "... the group needed to move the situation on and
4 review the treatment programme to ensure that we are
5 offering everything that could be available.

6 He stated to the group that further allegations of
7 sexual misconduct had been made against HIA384 by other
8 residents, which were presently being investigated by
9 the police",

10 and you voiced your concern that it was possible
11 that HIA384 would be moved on if he was found guilty of
12 such offences and that might not be in HIA384's best
13 interests, as you felt he would find it difficult to
14 survive within a justice environment.

15 Certainly your view was that HIA384 needed help.

16 **A. Yes. Quite obviously, yes. He had been very vulnerable**
17 **as his background -- his home situation was quite**
18 **pathetic really, and I felt that he needed any help that**
19 **he could get in relation to his future, because it**
20 **looked pretty bleak at that time.**

21 Q. The point I made to you when we were talking earlier was
22 St. Pat's wasn't really the proper place for someone
23 like HIA384. Is that fair?

24 **A. I would agree with that, yes, yes.**

25 Q. That's all that I want to ask you about, SPT53 (sic).

1 I know I have not gone through every paragraph of your
2 witness statement, but you can be assured that the Panel
3 have read it fully and know what you're saying about
4 what HIA384 has said.

5 **A. Right. Thank you.**

6 Q. If there is anything else that you feel we have not
7 covered or anything else you want to say to the Inquiry,
8 then please do so.

9 **A. The only thing I would like to say is it's quite a long**
10 **time since I have been in St. Patrick's training school.**
11 **I'd like to say I hope wherever HIA384 is now he is**
12 **happy and contented. I bear no ill-will and I wish him**
13 **every success in whatever life he has ahead.**

14 Q. Well, SPT52, thank you very much for that. As I say,
15 I have no further questions, but the Panel Members may
16 have some things they'd like to ask you.

17 Questions from THE PANEL

18 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, SPT52. That was very
19 helpful. Can I just ask in terms of when you were first
20 there and the Brothers were involved with the sleeping
21 in, did they sleep in -- was the bedrooms -- we have
22 heard about bedrooms at the end of the dormitory where
23 the Brothers would actually sleep overnight. Do you --

24 **A. That's correct, yes. When I started there, there were**
25 **two floors with L-shaped dormitories on each floor and**

1 **at the apex of the dorm there was a Brother's room and**
2 **he stayed there at night-time.**

3 Q. Would there have been an expectation that he would have
4 dealt with any misbehaviour or was that for the
5 nightwatchman to do?

6 A. **Well, the nightwatchman was really only covering the**
7 **perimeter at that particular time. Generally speaking,**
8 **there wasn't -- there wasn't much trouble during the**
9 **night in any event.**

10 Q. At that time?

11 A. **No, no.**

12 Q. Okay, and then we have heard then there began a system
13 where the lay staff began to be sleeping-in staff?

14 A. **Well, they actually had night supervisors then were**
15 **employed, who substituted for -- the Brothers went over**
16 **to the Brothers' house. They didn't sleep there any**
17 **longer.**

18 Q. Can you remember when that was, around what time?

19 A. **'70s. Some time in the '70s I think.**

20 Q. And then there presumably was a period when the night
21 supervisors were replaced by the lay staff on shift
22 taken in and sleeping in?

23 A. **That's when -- yes. When the chalets -- when the block**
24 **system finished, the -- there was also a night**
25 **supervisor in each chalet as well I am led to believe,**

1 **yes.**

2 Q. Right. As well as the staff?

3 **A. Yes, as well as the sleep-in person, yes.**

4 Q. Person, and did that combination mean that there was not
5 much acting out at night? Was it -- did night staff --

6 **A. Oh, yes, yes, yes.**

7 Q. Can I just ask: we have heard a lot about the credit
8 system, you know, the talk about a green light, an amber
9 light, a red light.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. Do you remember that being used?

12 **A. I have vague recollection of it being used in Slemish
13 House in particular, yes.**

14 Q. Okay, and did you think it was effective? Did you have
15 a sense --

16 **A. Well, it was -- it was certainly novel. I should
17 imagine it was probably effective all right, yes.**

18 Q. My last question is just about the management committee.
19 You know, were you aware of the management committee of
20 the home? Did you have any contact with them?

21 **A. Yes. I was aware -- yes, they were all local clergymen
22 and the chair I think was pp, parish priest.**

23 Q. Parish priest.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. And as a member of staff what level of contact did

1 you -- did you just know that they existed or did you --

2 **A. I knew they existed. I didn't have any -- I think on**
3 **one occasion I probably met with them. It was in**
4 **relation to the appointment of a member of staff. We**
5 **were looking for a member of staff to have a promotion**
6 **or at least -- because one of the Brothers had left, and**
7 **we met with them on that occasion -- that particular**
8 **occasion, but that's the only occasion I remember, yes.**

9 Q. And there was no sense of members of the management
10 committee, you know, taking time to walk round the
11 school or into different units and talk to --

12 **A. No, I don't think that happened too often, no.**

13 Q. Too often. Inspections, SPT52, do you remember formal
14 inspections happening?

15 **A. Oh, yes. There were inspections. Actually a member**
16 **of -- an ex-member of staff became an inspector for the**
17 **training schools, one member of staff, yes.**

18 Q. So somebody that had previously worked in --

19 **A. Been a member of staff in the training schools, yes.**

20 Q. Was that kind of a yearly event, the inspection?

21 **A. I'm not sure if it was yearly or, you know, four years**
22 **or three years or five years, but it did happen all**
23 **right, yes.**

24 Q. Okay. Thanks very much.

25 **A. Okay.**

1 MR LANE: You mentioned that you were present on two
2 occasions when there was corporal punishment. Was that
3 as a formal witness or did you just happen to be around
4 at the time?

5 **A. No, no. I was invited to go down as a formal witness,**
6 **yes.**

7 Q. On both occasions?

8 **A. On -- no. The other occasion -- the other --**

9 Q. Just on the first occasion?

10 **A. Yes. On the first occasion I was invited as a member of**
11 **staff to witness, to witness, yes.**

12 Q. And the second occasion?

13 **A. The second occasion was in the dining room.**

14 Q. Yes.

15 **A. Some young chap was misbehaving badly, could have been**
16 **involved in a serious altercation with another boy, and**
17 **the member of staff left the dining room, came back**
18 **and administered two slaps to the wrist I think.**

19 Q. Do you know if both occasions were recorded?

20 **A. I know the second occasion certainly wasn't recorded.**
21 **I'm not sure about the first occasion. I should imagine**
22 **it probably was all right, but I can't -- I can't**
23 **honestly say for certain.**

24 Q. Thank you. You mentioned that the staff got increased
25 quite considerably at one stage.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Did that actually reduce the level of absconding at all
3 with more individual attention given?

4 **A. It probably did all right, although, having said that,**
5 **the staff increase happened at a time when there was**
6 **a lot of civil unrest --**

7 Q. Uh-huh. Right.

8 **A. -- and as a result of civil unrest there were sometimes**
9 **on occasions half a dozen boys absconded together --**

10 Q. Yes. Right.

11 **A. -- you know, because of certain situations in certain**
12 **areas.**

13 Q. You mentioned that HIA384 requested non-stop protection.
14 Did you think that he actually needed it or was that
15 just his perception that he needed it?

16 **A. I think it was his perception. It's a difficult**
17 **question, that, because I think he probably would have**
18 **benefitted from it --**

19 Q. Uh-huh.

20 **A. -- you know, 24/7 --**

21 Q. Yes.

22 **A. -- but it was an unrealistic situation.**

23 Q. Was there anywhere in Northern Ireland that would have
24 been better for him than St. Pat's?

25 **A. Not that I'm aware of, to be quite honest.**

1 Q. No. One last question. I've been impressed by the
2 length of time that you and your colleagues worked at
3 St. Pat's. Was it a very stable staff team?

4 **A. Very good, very good staff team, yes. There was**
5 **occasions -- there were occasions initially when**
6 **I started where the instructors, the building**
7 **instructors and the engineering instructor and the**
8 **painting instructor, they did extraneous duties. So we**
9 **got to know how they functioned, you know, as extraneous**
10 **members of staff, and it was very, very helpful. We**
11 **even had a staff football team.**

12 Q. Obviously it was more stable than many other residential
13 establishments. Do you know why? Was it because it was
14 particularly well managed or did you form a good team or
15 what?

16 **A. I think it was probably personalities of the staff**
17 **concerned, you know. They were all very fine men.**

18 Q. Okay. Thank you very much.

19 **A. Thank you.**

20 CHAIRMAN: Well, SPT52, thank you very much indeed for
21 coming to speak to us and to help us understand the
22 background to the way that the institution was run as
23 well as dealing with the allegations that were
24 specifically relating to you, but thank you for coming.

25 **A. Okay. Thank you, Mr Chairman.**

1 MS SMITH: Thank you, SPT52.

2 (Witness withdrew)

3 MS SMITH: Chairman, that concludes today's evidence.

4 CHAIRMAN: Yes. We did have another witness, but due to ill
5 health they were excused from attending. Thank you.

6 (3.00 pm)

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

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WITNESS STP3 (called)2
 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY2
 Questions from THE PANEL41

Information in relation to WITNESS55
 HIA264

WITNESS SPT52 (called)57
 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY57
 Questions from THE PANEL87