
HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at

Banbridge Court House

Banbridge

on Thursday, 24th September 2015

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 145)

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

1 Thursday, 24th September 2015

2 (10.00 am)

3 (Proceedings delayed)

4 (11.15 am)

5 WITNESS STP65 (called)

6 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. May I just,
7 first of all, remind everyone please to ensure that if
8 they have a mobile phone, it has been either turned off
9 or placed on "Silent"/"Vibrate" and may I also remind
10 everyone that photography is not permitted either here
11 in the chamber or anywhere on the Inquiry premises.

12 Yes, Ms Smith.

13 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and
14 gentlemen. Our first witness today is SPT65. He is
15 "SPT65". SPT65 wishes to take a religious oath and he
16 also wishes to maintain his anonymity, and there is
17 an appearance to be announced.

18 COUNSEL FOR WITNESS: Good morning, Mr Chairman. I appear
19 on behalf of SPT65 in respect of this matter.

20 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

21 WITNESS STP65 (sworn)

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

23 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

24 MS SMITH: SPT65's statement can be found at SPT2188 to
25 2190.

1 Now, SPT65, you were a residential social worker in
2 St. Patrick's Training School between the years 1975 and
3 1997. Is that correct?

4 **A. I was, yes.**

5 Q. And what I was checking with you, throughout that time
6 you worked on the junior school until Slemish House
7 opened?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. And then you moved to work in Slemish House. We know --
10 you thought that Slemish opened in the early '90s?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. And I was asking whether -- when you were working in the
13 junior section, whether you had anything to do with the
14 chalets, but you actually worked in the main school?

15 **A. I did, yes.**

16 Q. You said -- I wondered how a boy came to either be
17 placed in the main school or went into one of the
18 chalets, and you were explaining that that was
19 a decision made by I think you said BR42 and SPT156
20 --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- as to which boys went in there?

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. And there would have been eleven in each chalet --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- if I have understood you right. You didn't have any
2 qualifications when you went into the training school?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. But you said to me that you did go on a day release
5 course?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. And ultimately you did do the CRCCYP course?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. But didn't actually qualify?

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

11 Q. Do you remember when you did that?

12 **A. That was in 1979 to 1980.**

13 Q. And that would have been full-time and you would have
14 been out of the training school during that time?

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. We have heard from others and you confirmed to me that
17 your roles and duties were to get the boys up in the
18 morning, get them off to school after breakfast and then
19 you would have attended case conferences in respect of
20 them, you would have carried out your paperwork duties,
21 and you would have maybe taken them out, those boys who
22 had to go to doctors' appointments or police stations or
23 that kind of thing?

24 **A. Correct, yes.**

25 Q. I then was asking you, SPT65, about some of the

1 allegations and complaints that the people who have
2 spoken to the Inquiry about their time in St. Pat's, the
3 former boys, have said to us. I was -- the first thing
4 I was asking you about was what we have described as
5 peer sexual abuse, sexual activity between boys --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- and wondering were you ever aware of that as an issue
8 within St. Pat's?

9 **A. Again, as I said, I was made -- I was made aware of**
10 **these things happening, but I never witnessed anything**
11 **like that there happening, and again I was I should say**
12 **powerless in what I could do. I was powerless in what**
13 **I could ask. Again just observed the best I possibly**
14 **could to see if anything inappropriate was going on.**

15 Q. So what you are saying is you wouldn't have been able to
16 turn round to a boy and say, "Has that boy been
17 interfering with you?"

18 **A. Exactly. Yes. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. You certainly didn't witness anything, but were you
20 aware of it as an issue, that it was something you
21 needed to be alert to?

22 **A. I was aware of that, yes.**

23 Q. How were you made aware, SPT65? Was that something you
24 just knew generally or something you had gathered from
25 your training or ...?

1 **A. Again, as I say, different things. Again there was**
2 **always bad blood in these units at the end of it and**
3 **especially again with peer pressure. If a bully was to**
4 **exercise his powers over a younger person, the younger**
5 **person would explode sort of sense with an outburst and**
6 **made certain allegations. Again you had to be aware if**
7 **it was made through temper or was it truth at the end of**
8 **it, but again the more and more you heard, the more and**
9 **more you became aware of what was happening sort of**
10 **sense.**

11 **Q. So boys were actually making -- openly making**
12 **allegations about other boys. Is that right?**

13 **A. Yes, through temper and through peer pressure at the end**
14 **of it, yes.**

15 **Q. And were those making allegations of a sexual nature**
16 **about things that had been done on them by these boys?**

17 **A. In a roundabout way sort of sense certain statements**
18 **were made that again you could put together that these**
19 **things were happening and other statements were made**
20 **against peer pressure, their families, other relations**
21 **and the like of, and again you had to take everything as**
22 **was said and put it together sort of sense and make your**
23 **own conclusions.**

24 **Q. Okay. If this was happening and boys were saying, you**
25 **know, "He has been sexually abusing me" or "He has been**

1 fondling me" or "He has been doing something to me",
2 what actions were taken as a result of that sort of
3 outburst?

4 **A. Again you pass them on to -- again make our seniors**
5 **aware of what was happening sort a sense, and again**
6 **being also told to observe and always keep -- always**
7 **keep a certain particular -- an eye on certain**
8 **individuals to see that these things weren't happening**
9 **sort of sense.**

10 Q. Can I just be clear: are you talking now about whenever
11 boys were together in Slemish House or are you talking
12 about in the junior school?

13 **A. In Slemish House and in the junior school, because of**
14 **the numbers in the junior school. They were high and**
15 **there was about fifty at that particular time in the --**
16 **housed in the junior school, and Slemish wasn't opened**
17 **then at the particular time.**

18 Q. Okay. I think you mentioned to me that you were aware
19 that some young people were wary of older boys.

20 **A. Oh, definitely, yes. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. And that certain children you knew had a sexualised
22 background and you would keep them away from the younger
23 group. Is that right?

24 **A. I tried -- we all tried our best to do that at the end**
25 **of it, to segregate, yes.**

1 Q. One other matter that we have heard about is the use of
2 the strap in the home, and you joined in 1975 and you
3 have said that corporal punishment was coming to an end
4 --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- at that stage. You never saw the strap used,
7 although you think that it still was being used at that
8 time?

9 A. Yes. Uh-huh.

10 Q. You thought the points system that we have seen evidence
11 of came into effect about 1977?

12 A. Yes. Uh-huh.

13 Q. You said that didn't really work terribly well?

14 A. It didn't actually, because most of the children in
15 St. Patrick's at that particular time were sent there
16 for, say, the lack of care, truancy, some for criminal
17 offence, but again most family-based -- again most of
18 them were having problems in their own individual
19 families, and again you weren't -- you weren't
20 discouraging the children by any chance, and again you
21 wanted to make contact with their natural families
22 instead of a false environment. So we tried to -- tried
23 to make contact the best we possibly could. Always keep
24 the parents well involved of everything what was
25 happening, good or bad.

1 Q. But what I'm saying is the points system, part of the
2 reduction in points would lead to a child not getting
3 weekend leave. So what -- if I have understood you
4 correctly, what you are actually saying is that you were
5 trying to encourage weekend leave?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. So by actually reducing points so that a boy didn't get
8 it, that was kind of counter-productive in what you were
9 trying to achieve?

10 **A. Originally when the point system was introduced, that**
11 **was the case. Any misdemeanour, the child would have**
12 **lost weekend leave or different things, but as time went**
13 **on, progressed at the end of it, we realised that again**
14 **the child -- there was no point in keeping the child --**
15 **punish a child by keeping him in the environment he was**
16 **in. Again his problems were at home. Again we tried to**
17 **again establish a good contact with the family. Again**
18 **some were successful, others weren't at the end of it,**
19 **but again we tried and again most times it worked out**
20 **for us at the end of it. The child's loyalty was to his**
21 **home.**

22 Q. One of the other matters that we have heard complained
23 about was the sexual abuse of boys by Brothers in the
24 home and I wondered if you ever had any suspicions that
25 there was anything untoward going on between Brothers

1 and boys?

2 **A. Again, as I said to you earlier, I was made aware of**
3 **things, but again I couldn't prove anything at the end,**
4 **because at that particular time it was the Brothers and**
5 **staff, it was them and us at that time, and if you did**
6 **make an allegation, you had to be 100% certain of what**
7 **was happening before you could have carried it forward.**

8 Q. You felt sort of constrained about what you might be
9 able to say about the Brothers. Is that what you are
10 saying?

11 **A. Very constrained, yes.**

12 Q. When I asked you about what suspicions, you said to me
13 you didn't like some of their actions and I asked you to
14 explain what you meant by that.

15 **A. Correct.**

16 Q. You gave an example. If you could maybe just repeat
17 that for me, please.

18 **A. Again in a relaxed environment, as I say, ie, the**
19 **television lounge or something like that there, they**
20 **were sitting again. The Brothers would have sat there**
21 **with their arms around a young person. I felt that**
22 **totally wrong. I didn't -- again my eyes would say**
23 **everything. If I didn't like a thing, again I would**
24 **glare, I would glance, and again I didn't like what was**
25 **happening at that particular time. They weren't our**

1 **children. Again they were there for a reason, not for**
2 **that there to happen.**

3 Q. Certainly the behaviour that you witnessed in the
4 television room, for example, of Brothers in relation to
5 the boys made you uncomfortable and uneasy?

6 A. **It made me very, very uncomfortable.**

7 Q. You didn't actually then say anything about this. You
8 felt you just -- you could just sort of give -- if I can
9 use a colloquial expression, give the Brother a dirty
10 look --

11 A. **Yes.**

12 Q. -- to try to convey your discomfort and displeasure
13 about this.

14 A. **Yes, yes.**

15 Q. Was that effective, SPT65?

16 A. **In certain cases it was again and most of all the**
17 **cases -- again it was them and us. They done what they**
18 **wanted and again should have been said "To hell with**
19 **everyone else" at the end of it. It was them and us.**
20 **They didn't take criticism too lightly.**

21 Q. Well, was there discussion -- did you ever discuss it
22 with any of the other lay staff?

23 A. **We were all aware of what was -- again certain actions**
24 **were being done sort of sense, but again we were all in**
25 **the same position. We couldn't carry it forward.**

1 Q. What about your senior staff? I mean, could you have
2 gone and spoken to the senior staff or did you feel they
3 were in the same position?

4 **A. The senior staff were in the same position, yes.**

5 Q. One person we know who was convicted of abusing children
6 in the home is DL137, and we know that he abused boys
7 between 1977 and 1980, and I wondered what your
8 experience was of him. Were you aware of anything
9 untoward between him, or what is your knowledge?

10 **A. I was aware of his background, his recent background,**
11 **again which I didn't take too lightly to at the end of**
12 **it. I tried to discourage the young people from having**
13 **any contact with him at the end of it. I refused point**
14 **blank -- he always went to the swimming pool. I refused**
15 **point blank to let any of the children in the junior**
16 **school to go to the swimming pool when he was there, and**
17 **again he was -- I think he was barred from attending --**
18 **from going to the pool at the end of it. Again I didn't**
19 **like -- I didn't like DL137. I didn't like him being**
20 **there. I didn't like him to have contact with any of**
21 **the children.**

22 Q. I think you explained to me that there had been rumour
23 and gossip within the community outside of St. Pat's--

24 **A. Yes. Uh-huh. Yes.**

25 Q. -- in relation to this man --

1 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. -- that led you to be wary of him.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. But you never actually witnessed anything untoward
5 between him and a boy in St. Pat's. Is that right?

6 **A. Nothing.**

7 Q. Now in -- you were asked to speak to the Inquiry about
8 an allegation that had been made about you by someone
9 who, as I have explained to you, the Inquiry has not
10 heard from -- has not heard him give evidence to us.

11

12 **A. Right.**

13 Q. And I know that you nonetheless wanted to say that you
14 absolutely deny ever knowing this person.

15 **A. Exactly, yes.**

16 Q. Is that correct?

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. You talk about that in the statement that's on the
19 screen in front of you. You will see we have blocked
20 out names here on the screen to protect people's
21 anonymity, but you address this in paragraph 3 where you
22 say you don't recall him or know him in any capacity or
23 any of his family. He identifies you. You make the
24 point that it does -- it doesn't -- his identification
25 isn't quite how you looked back at that -- in the 1970s.

1 You go on to say that you wholeheartedly deny ever
2 being cruel to any child in your care at any time and at
3 no point did you hit him in the manner he described.
4 You describe his allegation as entirely untrue.

5 Now paragraphs 5 and 6 of your statement you go on
6 to deal with an incident of absenteeism, which occurred
7 we think in Christmas 1995. I am just going call up
8 some papers, first of all, at 14745. Sorry. I have got
9 that completely wrong. 547..., is it? No, 147... Oh,
10 ...45. I beg your pardon. ...45. Yes. That's the
11 right document.

12 This is a document that the Inquiry ascertained and
13 I was explaining to you the source of this document. It
14 appears to have been in some -- maybe on your personnel
15 file that was kept or the remnants of it were kept in
16 Glenmona Resource Centre and it reads:

17 "On December 26th ..."

18 Now I have to say it does not identify this as '95.
19 I thought it might be '95 from another document which we
20 will look at shortly.

21 "... I was informed that SPT65 had not reported for
22 duty. I rang him and informed him that his failure to
23 report for duty on that day, as also on Christmas Day,
24 was totally unacceptable. He replied, 'Do you want me
25 to come in?' I replied, 'Of course I do'. I was

1 informed later that evening that SPT65 had come in
2 obviously under the influence of alcohol and had struck
3 SPT119 , who was ..."

4 It ends there. Then there is another -- this seems
5 to be a rough note. It is not signed by anyone. It is
6 not dated by anyone. Then:

7 "On Friday, January 11th SPT65 came to my office to
8 discuss the incident on December 26th. He was obviously
9 agitated but showed no sign of alcohol."

10 Just one final document which -- if we just scroll
11 down to the next page, I think it is on that. This is
12 dated 22nd December '95, and that's why I thought it
13 might be the same year that the other two documents
14 related to. It says:

15 "SPT65 spoken to for not doing sleep-in duty in the
16 unit Saul House (resident in Glenaulin) on Monday night
17 last, 21st December '95. Verbal warning issued to be
18 recorded on his file for six months."

19 Signed BR26 and it was witnessed by BR90 and SPT52.

20 Now you do address this in your statement. Now this
21 last document that's on the screen, you saw that for the
22 first time this morning. Isn't that correct, SPT65?

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. But what you were explaining to me was in late 1995 your
25 father was seriously ill at that time.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. And certainly with regard to not doing the sleep-in duty
3 you weren't actually scheduled to do sleep-in duty at
4 that time.

5 **A. Correct, yes.**

6 Q. Am I right? Please correct me if I get anything wrong.
7 But another member of staff had phoned in sick and you
8 stayed on until about 11.30 that night --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- after your shift had come to an end at 9 o'clock or
11 thereabouts.

12 **A. Right.**

13 Q. But you couldn't stay because of your father's
14 illness --

15 **A. Right.**

16 Q. -- and you went on home. You said you had told them
17 that you were prepared to be on call and come back if
18 you were needed in any way. Is that right?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. But nonetheless that ended up in a verbal warning being
21 given to you?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. Do you think that the other incident, the absenteeism on
24 Christmas Day and Boxing Day, were 1995 also?

25 **A. Right. Yes. Uh-huh. Again, as I was saying, I was**

1 under -- I was under pressure at that particular time at
2 the end of it and I tried to separate, as I say, the
3 problems I was having at home to the problems -- to the
4 work problems at the end of it, and again I tried my
5 best.

6 Q. But you were having difficulty in fulfilling your duties
7 in St. Pat's at that time --

8 A. **I was, yes, yes.**

9 Q. -- because of what was going on at home?

10 A. **Yes.**

11 Q. Just in relation to the -- going back, if we can, just
12 scrolling back up to the first page, it talks about you
13 striking a child or "struck SPT119 ". It doesn't even
14 identify that person as a child, but you recall that you
15 had care of two boys called SPT119 . One was SPT119 and
16 one was . Is that right?

17 A. **Yes.**

18 Q. And you deny in paragraph 5 of your statement -- you say
19 that you deny the assertion that you struck SPT119 on
20 this date. You note that the writer of this record is
21 not identified and does not appear to have witnessed
22 an incident, but states that they were informed of it,
23 and it does not say by whom they were informed or
24 anything of that nature, but you certainly would deny
25 ever striking any child --

1 **A. Indeed I would deny it, yes.**

2 Q. -- let alone someone called SPT119 ?

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. Then you do remember being spoken to about your
5 absenteeism and, I mean, you said to me that you accept
6 you did over-indulge on Christmas Day, but had not been
7 drinking on Boxing Day.

8 **A. Correct, yes.**

9 Q. At paragraphs 7 and 8 of your statement, if we can just
10 go back to that, please, which is 2189, you were shown
11 material that we obtained from the police where SPT119
12 was making a complaint about someone else and he said
13 that he -- there were bruises and injuries on him which
14 you saw and did nothing about.

15 You say that you were aware -- it outlines
16 an allegation that you were aware of him having
17 injuries, specifically bruises. He stated you just did
18 not do anything about it.

19 "I do not recall ever seeing him with bruises or
20 marks of any kind. I would have been under
21 an obligation as a social worker to report any injuries
22 to any child and immediately bring them to the sick bay
23 to be examined. I further would have been obliged to
24 raise any concerns I had about a child's physical
25 and mental well-being."

1 In your statement to the police, which can be seen
2 at 23688, in that statement you are addressing the
3 allegations and what you have been told about the
4 allegations that this child was making about his time in
5 St. Pat's, and you say that you didn't witness any
6 sexual or physical abuse of him. You say anything like
7 this in relation to SPT119 and about witnessing the
8 bruises you say you can confirm that is not the case.

9 "I don't recall this."

10 That he told you about the beatings, again you
11 refute that. He didn't speak to you about being
12 assaulted by any member of staff at St. Pat's. Your
13 general memory of him was that he was disruptive during
14 his time at St. Pat's.

15 In your statement to the Inquiry you say that you
16 stand over the contents of that police statement.

17 Can I just ask, first of all, I mean, did you ever
18 have -- did you have ever witness any child injured or
19 bruised or that you had to take to the sick bay?

20 **A. Not by staff. Other peers, yes, uh-huh, and in that any**
21 **child who was damaged, as I say, physically damaged,**
22 **I automatically took them to sick bay for to be seen by**
23 **the school nurse and to be recorded. Any sign of**
24 **bruising whatsoever was automatically taken to the sick**
25 **bay.**

1 Q. I was asking generally how complaints by boys were dealt
2 with, and if a boy, first of all, did complain to you,
3 what would you do and what would you expect to be done
4 thereafter?

5 **A. Again, as I say, if it was a minor thing, we could have**
6 **dealt with it ourselves. If it was serious, again we**
7 **forwarded it to our senior, who indeed -- and then as**
8 **such went to his senior and they took it further. They**
9 **investigated the thing.**

10 Q. I am going to -- we discussed this now. I told you
11 I was going to call up on the screen a document and this
12 was written by a boy HIA384 who you knew and had care of
13 when he was in Slemish House. Isn't that correct?

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. And if we look at 50241, please, this is a letter that
16 HIA384 was writing in April 1995 to SPT52. The reason
17 I am putting this up, SPT65, is that it obviously
18 relates to you:

19 "I would like to state a fact to you. Approximately
20 two weeks ago I reported to SPT65 I felt there was some
21 sexual activity going on between SPT62 and SPT61.

22 I said to him I seen some things going on and I was very
23 anxious about what was going on. I gave SPT65 several
24 opportunities when these things were taking place. I am
25 not aware if he went to the board of management. I feel

1 I have to say something to the board of management.

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

6 Now I know when I discussed this with you, you
7 didn't have any recollection of this boy ever making
8 such a complaint to you. Isn't that right, SPT65?

9 **A. Correct.**

10 Q. When you look at this now, I am just wondering does that
11 jog your memory in any way or does that assist in any
12 way, or do you still not remember anything like this?

13 **A. As I said to you, I was very wary of HIA384. If HIA384**
14 **would have made an allegation like that, I would have**
15 **automatically went to my senior and reported to him. He**
16 **never made any such thing -- allegation to me.**

17 Q. Your senior was SPT2?

18 **A. SPT2, yes.**

19 Q. If you reported to SPT2, you would have left it with him
20 to deal with as he saw fit?

21 **A. For him -- for him to go to his senior and investigate**
22 **further.**

23 Q. Just for completeness, if we scroll on down, HIA384
24 continues to write on this letter. He says:

25 "This took place around 10.45 am and also at 1.00 -

1 2.00. There were a number of incidents which took
2 place."

3 Then he goes on to give more specific details about
4 what he says he saw, and so it goes on.

5 But that -- that is the type -- if HIA384 had told
6 you that, that is the type of thing that you would have
7 viewed as serious?

8 **A. Definitely, yes. HIA384 was a very disturbed young man**
9 **at the end and again these things I think he took**
10 **delight in making at the end of it. I don't think this**
11 **is the only one he's made. I think there's more than**
12 **that.**

13 Q. Do you remember him actually complaining about such
14 things to you?

15 **A. Again I was very, very wary of HIA384, and again if**
16 **HIA384 would have come to me, I would always have made**
17 **sure there was another member of staff with me. On**
18 **a one to one I wouldn't -- I couldn't have at the end of**
19 **it. I was very, very, very wary of him.**

20 Q. Well, SPT65, you will be glad to know that's all the
21 questions that I want to ask you about, but are you
22 content that we have covered what you have said in your
23 statement and anything else you wanted to tell us about
24 your time working in St. Patrick's?

25 **A. I am more than happy.**

1 Q. Okay. Well, the Panel may have some questions for you.
2 So if you don't mind staying there for a short while.

3 **A. Okay. It is no problem.**

4 **Questions from THE PANEL**

5 CHAIRMAN: SPT65, you have told us that there were occasions
6 in the television room where you would see a Brother
7 sitting with his arm around a young person.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. You felt that was totally wrong and something that made
10 you very uncomfortable.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Was that something that you saw happening frequently or
13 very occasionally or how often would it have happened?

14 **A. Could I say the weekends was more of a relaxing period**

15 --

16 Q. Yes.

17 **A. -- in the school itself at the end of it. Young**
18 **persons, as I say, would like to watch the television in**
19 **comfort at the end of it. The Brother would have sat**
20 **there in a settee like form at the end of it. He would**
21 **have sat in the middle, the arms round them, which**
22 **I didn't think was natural. It wasn't -- it wasn't**
23 **right again at the end of it, and the young people I did**
24 **observe were trying to shove away again, but I don't**
25 **think this happened at the end of it. Again I**

1 **disapproved of what happened -- what was happening.**

2 **There is comfort and there's comfort but that wasn't**
3 **comfort.**

4 Q. Yes. Was this something that it was just one Brother
5 did or were there a number of Brothers that did this?

6 **A. This one particular Brother did.**

7 Q. A particular Brother did this?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Now looking at what you actually saw, I suppose it might
10 be suggested that there could be a number of
11 explanations. You have given one, which was that he was
12 in some way trying to comfort the boys; another might be
13 that there was a degree of favouritism; and a third
14 might be that there was some form of sexual motive.

15 **A. I would go for the third form at the end, because he**
16 **wasn't a popular man at the end of it. He tried to make**
17 **himself popular. The young people resented this. He**
18 **placed himself in a position that again -- well, he**
19 **could have done without -- he could have sat away from**
20 **them to still observe them but again not to be so close**
21 **to them.**

22 Q. Now you have explained why you would not make
23 an allegation to the Brothers about another Brother
24 unless you were 100% sure.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. And your response to what you saw and disapproved of was
2 to, as Ms Smith put it, give the Brother concerned
3 a dirty look. Would that have the desired effect?

4 **A. Well, again he did -- he knew he was doing wrong at the**
5 **end of it, but again you couldn't -- you couldn't**
6 **possibly verbalise your feelings to him at the end of**
7 **day. You could have got him on his own, but it would**
8 **have made no difference. He still would have carried**
9 **on. Him -- should I say him being in the position he**
10 **was in had the power to carry on at the end.**

11 Q. Well, I think it's important that we know who this is,
12 but since it has not been revealed to us before, can we
13 just ask you to be given a piece of paper and write the
14 name down so that we can pursue the matter further?

15 (Witness wrote name on piece of paper)

16 Q. And was this something that you saw this particular
17 Brother do more than once or was it an isolated
18 occasion?

19 **A. Oh, definitely more than once.**

20 Q. I appreciate it is very difficult looking back to be in
21 any way precise, but to give an indication, was it
22 something that happened on many occasions or just over,
23 let's say, a period of days or weeks or something like
24 that?

25 **A. The situation in the end was we worked one weekend in**

1 four and he was our team leader. Again we took turns to
2 supervise the young people. The TV lounge was on the
3 upper floor of the old school. That had to be
4 supervised. So we took an hour apiece to go up and
5 supervise. Again that's when him as team leader would
6 have took his turn, went up and sat there, say, for the
7 hour or maybe more.

8 Q. In the general way, and this was in junior section of
9 the school, I quite understand how at weekends things
10 were a bit more relaxed and so on. Were the Brothers in
11 general much in evidence in the school at weekends, the
12 junior section I mean?

13 A. At the weekend again -- their numbers were reduced
14 drastically since I started. There was quite a number
15 when I first started in St. Patrick's. Then the numbers
16 were reduced and reduced and I think then at that
17 particular time there was only four employed in the
18 junior school.

19 Q. I see. When they were there, were they performing
20 essentially the same type of function that you were?

21 A. Oh, yes. Uh-huh.

22 Q. So it was their job to be around when the boys were
23 around, keeping an eye on them --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- and generally supervising them and so on?

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. So they would have a legitimate reason for being there
3 is the point I am making?

4 **A. As team leader there was a legitimate reason, yes.**

5 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much. May I just ask about the
6 issue to do with bullying between boys? One of the
7 things that we have heard from witnesses is that boys --
8 if a fight occurred, that it was allowed to continue
9 a bit before anybody would intervene -- a member of
10 staff would intervene.

11 **A. Oh, no, no, no. Again -- again it was broke up as quick**
12 **as it happened. Once it was observed, again it was**
13 **definitely broke up, and again -- most times again the**
14 **young person who was the scapegoat, should I say, at the**
15 **end of it, who was receiving the treatment, again had**
16 **an outburst and a very angry outburst, and most of these**
17 **allegations were made. Some were very foul. Others**
18 **were relevant to the point at the end -- at the end of**
19 **it.**

20 Q. When we talk about older boys, that would be older boys
21 within the junior unit?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. It wouldn't be boys from the senior school?

24 **A. No, no.**

25 Q. No. They would be ... Can I -- I took your point about

1 families and trying to keep boys, you know, with their
2 families. Did you go out as a worker to meet with
3 families or ...?

4 **A.** Oh, yes. That was one of our priorities at the end of
5 it, to see their background originally, again to try to
6 keep contact as much as possible. Again the young
7 person did respect us for that for going -- again you
8 were going to visit in near derelict conditions, but
9 again he did respect us for going into these premises,
10 not making -- not making any comment, again realising
11 what type of background he came from --

12 **Q.** Uh-huh.

13 **A.** -- and again working from that, and he did -- he
14 genuinely did appreciate that.

15 **Q.** Appreciate it.

16 **A.** He did.

17 **Q.** Just moving on to another issue, in relation to the
18 management committee, do you remember having any contact
19 with them or them visiting the units?

20 **A.** At that particular time the Black Report was coming into
21 vogue at that time and there was a lot of interaction
22 between the different schools and management committee
23 became very obvious again as in showing different
24 visitors round the premises, introducing themselves to
25 us and asking us our role compared to the role they

1 **worked in.**

2 Q. Okay, and would they ever talk directly to the boys?

3 Was there ever a time that a management committee member
4 would come ...?

5 **A. Only very, very seldom.**

6 Q. Very seldom, and do you remember any other kind of
7 independent visitor coming regularly?

8 **A. It being I will not say a religious institute, but run
9 by religious, there was an awful lot of religious
10 personnel there at the end of it trying to get through
11 to the young people, but there was an awful amount of
12 them.**

13 Q. Priests coming in --

14 **A. Priests and nuns --**

15 Q. -- and nuns?

16 **A. -- and different other lay people.**

17 Q. And they would come in and work directly with the boys
18 or ...?

19 **A. Work with them, and the boys should I say did resent
20 this, because the boys had no time for them at the end
21 of it.**

22 Q. Uh-huh.

23 **A. But again they did make it their business to come to
24 these things, these meetings or whatever, and try to get
25 through -- make contact with the young people, and it**

1 **didn't work.**

2 Q. Lastly, just about inspections. Do you remember any
3 formal inspections of the unit?

4 A. **Oh, yes. The first one I think was in the early '90s by**
5 **Social Services. I think it was -- it turned out to be**
6 **favourable at the end of it, but the second one was not**
7 **so favourable at the end of it. That was about -- that**
8 **was about two or three years later.**

9 Q. And do you know why that wasn't favourable, what there
10 was --

11 A. **They classed it as -- the thing as more clinical rather**
12 **than professional.**

13 Q. That there wasn't -- there wasn't a proper focus on
14 care?

15 A. **The environment was totally wrong for where it was**
16 **placed in the heart of West Belfast near too many**
17 **housing developments, housing estates and the like of,**
18 **some of very bad reputations. Access, easy come, easy**
19 **go.**

20 Q. In terms of absconding and ...?

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

22 Q. And was that -- when that report came through, was that
23 discussed with you as a staff group? Did you --

24 A. **Certain aspects of it. I know the management took it**
25 **very, very bad. When the second report came through,**

1 **they -- they decided to act on it.**

2 Q. To act on it to make improvements?

3 **A. To make improvements to the best -- within their**
4 **restraints sort of thing.**

5 Q. But you were aware as a member of staff that there was
6 a negative report --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- and something was done about it?

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

10 Q. Thanks very much?

11 **A. Okay.**

12 MR LANE: When Slemish House was set up, was there
13 an internal selection procedure for the staff?

14 **A. I would imagine the senior staff, SPT2 and SPT3, because**
15 **they were there -- they had more experience than the**
16 **rest of the staff put together, again they were chosen**
17 **as team leader and deputy team leader. Others that were**
18 **younger members of staff, more -- more invigorative**
19 **(sic) sort of sense, more ideas and to deal with problem**
20 **-- young problem children.**

21 Q. And drawn from the existing ...?

22 **A. Yes, drawn from the --**

23 Q. Just from the junior side or from the senior side?

24 **A. Just from the junior side.**

25 Q. Right. So were you interviewed in any way or was it

1 handpicking by the senior staff really?

2 **A. I think it was more management more than anything else**
3 **who decided who was going to go and who was going to be**
4 **moved and the like of.**

5 Q. Right.

6 **A. If they found they weren't suitable for the position,**
7 **they were moved to another unit, or they were there to**
8 **replace them.**

9 Q. Right. Towards the beginning of your evidence you
10 referred to being powerless to ask questions and so on.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Why did you feel powerless?

13 **A. Because again, as I say, the regime was that as such**
14 **that the Brothers were there and again the Brothers**
15 **can -- I will not say -- I'll just say they did control**
16 **the building. They did control the management. Again**
17 **it was their word. It was them and us, and if you**
18 **went -- then they had -- I think they had the power to**
19 **either make your life miserable or dismiss you, or if**
20 **you hadn't got the proper evidence, again make it**
21 **terrible -- terrible hard for you to continue.**

22 Q. This was the "them and us" thing --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- that you are referring to?

25 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. Right. Thank you. What was the pattern of religious
2 observance at St. Patrick's?

3 **A. There was a mass every Wednesday. That was during**
4 **school time. Saturday night there was a weekly mass,**
5 **and again the religious instructors -- as I say, there**
6 **was different clergy, different lay people came in to**
7 **instruct the young people the ways of life in a sense**
8 **and which weren't suitable again because of their**
9 **religious background. They -- the words they used were**
10 **alien to the young people and, given that, that they**
11 **were encouraged to attend. Nuns, elderly nuns again,**
12 **and again weren't suitable for that type of environment**
13 **for the young people.**

14 Q. And the mass on Wednesday and Saturday, was that
15 compulsory for the boys?

16 **A. Oh, yes.**

17 Q. Yes, and was that just for the juniors or did both sides
18 --

19 **A. It was for both sides.**

20 Q. Right. What sort of measures were taken to prevent
21 absconding? We have heard about Slemish being set up
22 partly for that purpose.

23 **A. Right. Aye.**

24 Q. What else besides that?

25 **A. Again lock doors. That was the only thing we could do,**

1 as I say, lock doors, observe, keep -- keep a close
2 contact with the unsettled young person, try to again
3 talk to him to understand why he was so unsettled, try
4 to go through with him his problems. If that didn't
5 work, again try to comfort him the best we possibly
6 could. Again if that didn't work, eventually he did
7 abscond. There is other reasons. There was just young
8 persons that wanted to abscond for devilment, which you
9 could not do anything about.

10 Q. Yes. True. Going back to your training course, did you
11 have placements in other children's homes or --

12 A. Yes, yes.

13 Q. What sort of places did you go to?

14 A. Williamson House on the Antrim Road. It was
15 a children's home. That was the most enjoyable, and
16 then a community home in Birmingham.

17 Q. Oh, right.

18 A. That was for ten weeks, which I found very, very, very
19 interesting, very, very, very helpful.

20 Q. Did you find the course useful?

21 A. I did and I didn't. Again at that particular time there
22 was certain times I was glad of it for the further of
23 the information I got from other establishments. There
24 was other times I was growing weary of the whole
25 practice of your dos and don'ts. I did overcome that

1 aware you are going ask him to take the oath.

2 WITNESS SPT53 (sworn)

3 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, SPT53. Please sit down.

4 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

5 MR AIKEN: SPT53, coming up on the screen will be the first

6 page of your witness statement. If we can bring up

7 2667, please, and if you just do a quick check, SPT53,

8 that looks like your statement.

9 **A. Yes, it does, yes.**

10 Q. And if we go to the last page at 2669, and again you

11 will recognise the signature on the document, SPT53?

12 **A. Yes, yes.**

13 Q. You want to adopt that statement as your evidence to the

14 Inquiry?

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. And that's where you set out some general background

17 based on the many years that you worked in St.

18 Patrick's?

19 **A. That's right.**

20 Q. Then there's a second statement where you deal with

21 a particular allegation that was made by a witness to

22 the Inquiry, HIA384, or HIA384, as he is now. That

23 statement is at 60007. Again, SPT53, you can confirm

24 that is the first page of your second statement?

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. You will see it is:

2 "... previously made a statement ..."

3 Then if we go through to the next page, we have --
4 again you have signed that statement?

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

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

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

8 Q. SPT53, the Panel are aware you are now

9 --

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

11 Q. -- having been born on .

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

13 Q. And if you've any difficulty at any stage, you just make
14 me aware and we can take a break. There's no problem
15 with that, and there's water there. The Panel are also
16 aware that you are ,
17 , and we will try and get through it as quick as
18 we can.

19 **A. Okay.**

20 Q. You went to St. Patrick's first to work on

21 when you were .

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

23 Q. And you and I were discussing earlier, and I will
24 summarise much of this for you, that you were appointed

25 .

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

2 Q. You were explaining to me that you worked on the senior
3 side, where the focus for boys 16 years and older was on
4 teaching them trades?

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

6 Q. And your trade was teaching them ,
7 and that sort?

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

9 Q. So that they would then have a skill to go out and get
10 employment after they left the training school?

11 **A. That's correct.**

12 Q. You were explaining to me that at the time you first
13 came, SPT53, there was not a staff structure in the
14 sense that you had the Director, who was one of the
15 Brothers, and then there was just the staff?

16 **A. There was a Deputy Director.**

17 Q. A Deputy Director --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- who was also a Brother?

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. But then there was no real scope for moving up the
22 ladder in the place?

23 **A. That's right. It was all -- everyone was the same
24 level.**

25 Q. And that changed -- and I was showing you. I am just

1 going to -- for historical reasons. If we look at
2 53600, we can see the Ministry of Home Affairs approving
3 you for what you and I were discussing was a grand title
4 that you were then being given of
5 , and this
6 post in October was the start of a structure that
7 would let you -- you were saying to me you would get
8 paid better basically and there was better scope to move
9 up.

10 **A. Well, at that time that didn't have any bearing on**
11 **promotion. That simply meant that I had a higher salary**
12 **in the job that I was doing.**

13 Q. So there was no real change in terms of --

14 **A. No, not at that time, no, no.**

15 Q. -- there being a staff hierarchy, but in and around this
16 time you were explaining to me that on the senior side
17 you wouldn't have had reason to be in the junior side of
18 the school?

19 **A. No.**

20 Q. And wouldn't have had much interaction with the junior
21 -- the adult staff who were working on the junior side?

22 **A. No.**

23 Q. But you did have the added involvement of in and around
24 coming in to work in the
25 chalet?

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

2 Q. And you were explaining to me that BR5, who was
3 at the time, had invited you and your family up
4 to Glenariff to help with one of the summer holidays of
5 the boys, and a conversation eventually ensued where BR5
6 invited to come and be in one of
7 the chalets.

8 **A. That's right. That's right.**

9 Q. Initially that was

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

11 Q. For the next two to three years

12 lived in the --

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

14 Q. -- adult quarters or the family quarters at the end of
15 the chalet block that was newly built, and
16 looked after a junior group of boys in the chalet.

17 **A. That's correct.**

18 Q. And that was the opportunity for you then to meet some
19 of the junior boys on the care side, as it were?

20 **A. No, there was no care at that time.**

21 Q. Not the care side, but meet junior boys --

22 **A. Junior boys.**

23 Q. -- whereas as you spent your working life with the
24 senior boys?

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

1 Q. You were explaining to me that the one downside about
2 the chalets, which then were improved later on, was the
3 family had to share their kitchen facilities with the
4 boys.

5 **A. That's right.**

6 Q. So there was no real privacy certainly over meal times.

7 **A. That's right.**

8 Q. But you -- while you weren't performing a formal role,
9 you would have helped with duties in terms
10 of settling the boys, watching TV. You were saying you
11 played bingo with them and various other games and would
12 have helped them then -- help get them settled at
13 night-time.

14 **A. Yes. Well, we -- the idea was to create as much of**
15 **a family atmosphere as possible, and**
16 **would have sat in the boys' common room**
17 **watching television. Now would have gone --**
18 **at a later time gone into their own place. We had our**
19 **own sitting room, our own bedrooms, our own bathroom.**
20 **The only thing we didn't have was a kitchen or dining**
21 **facility. My role, as I saw it at that time, was to**
22 **provide I suppose a male figure in the -- in the chalet**
23 **living area.**

24 Q. Yes. You were explaining to me that you did that role
25 for a number of years and then they built

1 staff houses --

2 **A. That's right.**

3 Q. -- on the Glen Road site.

4 **A. That's right.**

5 Q. And your family moved into one of the staff houses.

6 **A. That's right.**

7 Q. still worked -- --

8 worked at

9 **A. That's right.**

10 Q. But you didn't live there, and your role of being

11 a , as it were, for free didn't continue

12 then.

13 **A. I was never a . It was more or less**

14 **a voluntary arrangement that I made.**

15 Q. Yes, yes.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. So that stopped with you having your own house where

18 would come back to you at night-time.

19 **A. That's right. Yes, yes, yes.**

20 Q. It would have been the night supervisors and the Brother

21 who was -- had a room in the chalet who would have

22 stayed?

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

24 Q. And you were explaining to me that the senior staff

25 structure started to change in and around 1973, when

1 Lisnevin became available, and you were explaining how
2 staff were taken from all of the other training schools
3 to form the staff of Lisnevin.

4 **A. That's right.**

5 Q. And that they were governed by different individuals
6 coming from the different staffs of the other training
7 schools, and that brought with it the creation of
8 a hierarchy of staff structure so that you could get
9 promoted.

10 **A. That's correct.**

11 Q. And it was at that point that you believe you became
12 in the senior school.

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

14 Q. And would have worked closely with BR26 --

15 **A. Absolutely, yes.**

16 Q. -- who you would have worked with actually through your
17 entire time working in St. Patrick's?

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

19 Q. I am going to come back to him a little later. You and
20 I were looking at some records earlier, SPT53, that
21 showed -- and you explain this in your statement, and we
22 have had some further discussion to clarify some matters
23 around it -- that you were involved in part of the DL137
24 affair, if I can call it that --

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

1 Q. -- DL137. I am going to just bring up on the screen the
2 documents you and I were looking at, but what you were
3 explaining to me -- and I am going to summarise it, and
4 then you can correct me, SPT53, where I get it wrong --
5 that you were working in the senior school and you came
6 across a boy that you knew, SPT140 who was
7 sitting on the bench in the seniors' room. You were
8 explaining to me how the boys used to not sit on the
9 bench itself, but sit on the top of the bench with their
10 feet on the bench, the radiators, and he was crying.
11 You had a discussion with him about what was wrong and
12 he was reluctant to tell you, but eventually he
13 explained to you that he had been propositioned, as it
14 were, was the word you used for me, that DL137 had
15 offered him money if he would allow him -- or
16 cigarettes -- sorry -- you said to me cigarettes --

17 **A. Cigarettes.**

18 Q. -- if he would allow him to put his hand down his
19 underpants.

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

21 Q. And if we can look at 21372, this is a document the
22 Panel will have seen before, SPT53. You were looking at
23 it with me this morning. It seems to be BR95, who was
24 at the time. You explained to me that you
25 told SPT140 to sit there, and if anyone came near

1 him and wanted to move him on, you told him to tell them
2 you were coming back and he was to stay where he was,
3 and you went down to the main office --

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. -- and saw BR95.

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

7 Q. You were saying to me you think this is the first time
8 that you had ever come across anything like this where
9 a member of staff was potentially doing something wrong
10 with a boy.

11 **A. Absolutely.**

12 Q. And you said to me you weren't sure whether he had
13 committed an offence or not, because SPT140 was
14 not telling you that he touched him as such, but that he
15 propositioned him?

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

17 Q. And you went and told BR95, and we were doing some
18 recollecting over the precise events, which were a long
19 time ago, but it seems that BR95 did take some action in
20 that the documents show him bringing DL137 in and
21 ultimately two days later it seems DL137 resigned from
22 the school, but am I right in saying that you weren't
23 aware -- we discover in 1994 four other boys who claim
24 they were abused by DL137 and he was convicted of
25 abusing them in St. Patrick's.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. You weren't aware of anyone other than SPT140 at
3 the time this happens in 1980?

4 **A. Absolutely, not.**

5 Q. I was showing you a document that surprised you in terms
6 of your recollection.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. If we look at 21369, we can see that it's the
9 resignation letter from DL137 and it is dated 12th
10 March 1980. So that's two days after, according to
11 BR95's record, he was told about DL137, although you
12 think he was never back in the school from you -- from
13 the day you told BR95, you think he was never back again
14 other than maybe to be dealt with?

15 **A. My recollection he was never back in the school, no.**

16 Q. And this document is him resigning his position. It
17 seems to be witnessed by BR26 and then by you.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. You couldn't -- when we were talking about this, you
20 don't have a memory of that happening.

21 **A. I didn't remember that.**

22 Q. You thought when did you your Inquiry statement that he
23 had been dismissed.

24 **A. My recollection was that he was dismissed, but if**
25 **I signed it at that time, he obviously wasn't dismissed.**

1 **He had resigned. Now I -- that document didn't emerge**
2 **the day I made the complaint. So that must have been**
3 **signed at a later date. Well, 12th, what day -- you**
4 **have a date for my complaint. The 10th I think you**
5 **said.**

6 Q. 10th. So --

7 A. **Well, that was signed two days later, but at this point**
8 **in time and after so many years I was convinced he was**
9 **dismissed.**

10 Q. Yes, and I was showing you your -- you made a statement
11 to the police in 1994 giving the details of all the
12 boys, and that was because you were tasked by I think
13 BR26 probably to assist the police with their inquiries
14 into --

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

16 Q. -- St. Patrick's that were going on in 1994. So you
17 made various statements about, "This boy was here then
18 and he left on this date", and you explained in that
19 statement that you remember the incident with
20 SPT140 and him ultimately, DL137, resigning. So
21 memory over time can -- don't worry about that --

22 A. **Yes.**

23 Q. -- SPT53, but what happened -- you were saying to me at
24 the time you thought about whether the police should be
25 informed about it.

1 **A.** I did obviously, yes. It was my first reaction that the
2 police -- the only thing that I suppose deterred me from
3 that was that I didn't really know whether there was
4 an offence committed or not. I didn't know whether
5 propositioning someone was an offence. You would know
6 better than me, but at that time I wasn't -- the other
7 thing about it, I wasn't really responsible for DL137.
8 DL137 would have been the responsibility of the matron
9 and the Director obviously. I mean, he wasn't my
10 responsibility in any shape or form. So -- excuse me --
11 and whilst I thought the police should have been
12 informed, I mean, I was easy one way or the other
13 really. You know, I couldn't -- I couldn't take control
14 of the situation. I wasn't the Director of the school.

15 **Q.** You'd brought it to of the school --

16 **A.** **Absolutely, yes.**

17 **Q.** -- and he had dealt with it. It wasn't until fourteen
18 years later that the matter came back again. I think it
19 was a surprise to you today when I told you that BR95
20 had given DL137 a reference in September of 1980 that
21 left effectively no stain on his character.

22 **A.** I knew nothing about references. That wouldn't have
23 been any part of my remit at all really, you know.
24 I knew nothing about references.

25 **Q.** Yes, and it -- at some point, and we were trying to work

1 out between us as we were discussing earlier, you become
2 the of the senior school.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. And it might have been -- it definitely was by
5 were .

6 **A. Well ...**

7 Q. And at that stage it was still the senior school. It
8 was not a justice department. It was 16-year-olds
9 and you were still teaching them trades in the training
10 school fashion?

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

12 Q. And I was asking you about -- if you can give the Panel
13 some context -- the '70s. You are working all through
14 the height of the Troubles, the '70s and the '80s, and
15 you were saying to me about, you know, if the police
16 were to come to St. Patrick's, that was not an easy task
17 for them.

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

19 Q. Do you want to just explain how -- what had to be done
20 for them to come to St. Patrick's?

21 **A. Well, they always had to have army escorts, and**
22 **I suppose they had to set those things up before they**
23 **came. There would have been a couple of jeeps of army**
24 **along with whatever police were coming to do whatever**
25 **they had to do.**

1 Q. So it was a major operation?

2 **A. I would imagine. Well, I mean, I'm not really aware of**
3 **what police operations are like, but, I mean, I would**
4 **imagine it was a terrible lot of manpower.**

5 Q. You were explaining to me then when you were dealing
6 with them in 1994, they would ring for information, and
7 seeing them was not always as straightforward.

8 **A. I am not sure that was '94 or not now. '94 would have**
9 **been -- which incident are you talking about when I was**
10 **cooperating with them?**

11 Q. You helped them in 1994 --

12 **A. With?**

13 Q. -- with both DL137 --

14 **A. It was at that time. Well, I am not sure of the dates,**
15 **yes.**

16 Q. -- and the four boys --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- who had -- who had made statements, and then the
19 police seemed to come to St. Patrick's to confirm --

20 **A. Were they both in '94? They were both --**

21 Q. They were in '94. Then you were also discussing with me
22 SPT134 and SPT135, which was 1994 --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- although you did not remember SPT135, but you
25 remember SPT134.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. And if you just want to explain to the Panel -- you said
3 to me that when you were told the allegations that he
4 was making, which ultimately the police came to the view
5 were not credible, but they made you quite angry.

6 **A. They did, yes.**

7 Q. Do you just want -- can you explain to the Panel why
8 ...?

9 **A. Well, the police -- the policeman involved, a man called**
10 **, he was -- he was putting me in the picture as**
11 **to what the investigation was about. My role was to**
12 **provide them with information from the school files, and**
13 **he would have rang me or I would have brought the**
14 **information to Dunmurry Police Station.**

15 The first time I went he put me in the picture about
16 what this was all about. He read through this young
17 fella's statement, SPT134. I didn't know SPT134.
18 SPT134 had been in the junior school, and I didn't know
19 him at all, but he read through the statement, and I did
20 get angry, because he was implicating decent people in
21 a load of filth, and to my mind I was a bit annoyed
22 about that, and I said to the policeman, "Do you really
23 believe that?" and he said to me, "Whether we believe it
24 or not, we have to investigate it", but I was annoyed at
25 the time in what was said.

1 Q. Is that because you had become aware in 1980 -- just
2 after the Kincora scandal had broken you had had to deal
3 with this incident with SPT140 and DL137 and he
4 was leaving over potentially interfering with a boy, but
5 you'd worked alongside these people, and I was asking
6 you to give some context for the Panel about just how
7 many staff there were, because we can see from the
8 records there were 150 to 200 boys in the early '70s
9 going down by the '90s to maybe less than 100 boys, but
10 the staff quota tended to go up.

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

12 Q. You were saying as the staff blossomed, so generally did
13 problems.

14 **A. I don't particularly mean by saying that there was**
15 **problems with staff, but it was rotas, working rotas and**
16 **all the rest of it, and I played a big part in working**
17 **out -- in creating working rotas for staff. The more**
18 **staff there was, the more rotas there were, you know,**
19 **and -- well --**

20 Q. You were explaining to me, though, that you worked
21 alongside a number of these people who faced very
22 serious allegations for many, many years.

23 **A. Yes, I did.**

24 Q. And there was nothing in their behaviour that would have
25 given you any cause for concern.

1 **A. Absolutely not. This was why I was so shocked at what**
2 **the boy had said.**

3 **Could I also add this, and you and I didn't --**
4 **I subsequently met that policeman some time after that**
5 **one day on the Lisburn Road and he said "Hello" and we**
6 **had a chat. I said, "Tell me something. Was there**
7 **anything to that?" and he said, "It was a load of**
8 **rubbish".**

9 Q. Well, that was his view and obviously that investigation
10 did bring out the further people who were abused by
11 DL137, but what I do want -- you mentioned to me, SPT53,
12 that you -- while you never had any cause for concern
13 about any members of staff, you remembered a member of
14 staff coming to tell you about two boys interfering with
15 each other.

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

17 Q. We were able to get to the -- you named the boys and we
18 were able to get to the bottom of that. It was in 1986
19 in February, and I think BR42 had caught them
20 interfering with each other.

21 **A. I didn't know how it happened.**

22 Q. Well, this is the -- and I opened some of this to the
23 Panel earlier, but just because of the names you
24 mentioned I was able to trace with that BR42
25 had caught these two boys. He had talked to BR26. BR26

1 had talked to you about what to do and --

2 **A. We discussed what should be done. These were care boys**
3 **incidentally, and at that time I was still in the**
4 **justice department. I didn't have any role in the care**
5 **unit, but I think it was like a problem shared really.**
6 **I thought it was BR98 incidentally, but it**
7 **was BR26.**

8 Q. I think it is BR26.

9 **A. Yes, and we discussed it and I said, "Ring the police"**
10 **and he did that.**

11 Q. And you were saying to me the police came up, but
12 ultimately I think the boys went and made statements and
13 talked about what they had done, but that was the end of
14 it. Nothing ever came of it.

15 **A. I don't really know, because, as I say, they were two**
16 **care boys and they weren't -- it wasn't my remit and**
17 **I -- once the police came, I talked to the police that**
18 **night that they came briefly, and then I went on my way,**
19 **because it really had nothing to do with me.**

20 Q. And am I right in saying, SPT53, that's the one incident
21 of boys interfering with each other that sticks out in
22 your mind?

23 **A. It is, yes, yes. I mean, that was -- yes. I can't**
24 **really think of any other incident other than what**
25 **SPT134 had said and the other boy who made an allegation**

1 **that he'd complained to me and I didn't do anything**
2 **about it. Those are the only recollections that I have.**
3 **I had never any experience to my knowledge of any**
4 **impropriety with boys.**

5 Q. I will just give the Panel the references for that 1986
6 matter. BR42's statement is at 20176 where he explains
7 the boys that he found. I am not going to name the boys
8 now. You named them to me earlier and the Panel will
9 know who they are from the statements.

10 **A. Was the names I gave you correct?**

11 Q. The names are correct, yes. Then there's a witness
12 statement from BR26 where he brings the matter to the
13 police's attention.

14 We were getting on to talk -- you mentioned there as
15 we were in the context of that 1986 matter the change
16 from senior school and junior school -- and you were
17 explaining to me that they were quite separate in terms
18 of their operation --

19 **A. Absolutely, yes.**

20 Q. -- to the justice and care.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. And we were -- your best guess is it was the mid-1980s
23 --

24 **A. I think so.**

25 Q. -- round about when you had the justice and care

1 division. You became .

2 **A. That's right.**

3 Q. And you did that role effectively until your retirement
4 in .

5 **A. That's right.**

6 Q. And I was drawing your attention to a matter that the
7 Panel has looked at in recent days, SPT53, which was the
8 assault on SPT124 --

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. -- where she was attacked by a boy
11 and -- with a or a .

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. I was showing you that, in fact, you were -- you must
14 have been -- because he was a justice boy --

15 **A. He was a justice boy.**

16 Q. -- you wrote to the NIO then explaining -- if we look at
17 23494, please, this is a letter written to Bill
18 Gallagher in the Northern Ireland Office and it is in
19 the aftermath of the assault which had taken place six
20 days beforehand, and you are writing about the
21 circumstances, making the Northern Ireland Office aware
22 of it. If we scroll down on to the next page, please --

23 CHAIRMAN: Scroll up a little bit.

24 MR AIKEN: Just go up a little bit, please.

25 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

1 MR AIKEN: If we scroll down then on to the next page. If
2 we scroll down a little further so we can see that
3 that's signed by you then, SPT53. Your post -- although
4 you were , you were known as
5 . So there was still a Director of the training
6 school and you were .

7 **A. That's right.**

8 Q. I am sure you won't be able to precisely remember this
9 letter writing to the NIO, but by the time you had the
10 justice side and you were was there much
11 more liaison going on between you as
12 in St. Patrick's and other training schools and the
13 Northern Ireland Office? What was that relationship
14 like, or did you just very much do your own thing and
15 didn't see anybody else?

16 **A. Well, I would have been in contact with senior staff**
17 **from Rathgael and from Lisnevin, because we had**
18 **meetings which I attended**
19 **on behalf of St. Patrick's along with the**
20 **.**
21 **We have would have gone to those meetings. They would**
22 **have taken place in Rathgael or sometimes in**
23 **St. Patrick's. We changed it about. I knew the senior**
24 **staff in the other schools very well.**

25 Q. I was asking you to reflect back, SPT53, over what was

1 a very long period of time working in St. Patrick's, and
2 even in the context of the boy who attacked SPT124, and
3 I was saying to you that that was a very serious
4 assault, which showed the type of difficulty that boys
5 had that you were having to deal with, and you were
6 saying that was quite an isolated incident?

7 **A. I don't remember as serious an incident as that. It was**
8 **a very serious incident and it certainly was isolated,**
9 **yes.**

10 Q. I was asking you about physical abuse and then I was --
11 before we -- you were saying you never saw any Brother
12 or other member of staff hitting pupils. That was not
13 something you ever witnessed.

14 **A. Absolutely.**

15 Q. But I was asking you about corporal punishment and you
16 were saying that in your early time at St. Patrick's
17 there was corporal punishment.

18 **A. Well, until the cane was done away with in the classroom**
19 **there was corporal punishment. I am -- I was never**
20 **in -- there was no corporal punishment in the senior**
21 **school, as I explained to you. In the senior school**
22 **there were no canes, straps either in classroom,**
23 **workshop or anywhere else to my knowledge. There might**
24 **have been a cane used in the junior school. Now that's**
25 **prior to the mid-'80s when Lord Melchett or whoever it**

1 was did away with canes in the classrooms, but there
2 might have been canes. Teachers might have had canes in
3 the junior school, but I was never in a classroom in the
4 junior school to be precise about that.

5 Q. And I was asking you about bullying and you were saying
6 to me that bullying went on in every -- it has gone on
7 in every school always and there was boys who would have
8 bullied in St. Patrick's, and you would have -- when it
9 was brought to your attention or you became aware of it,
10 you would have dealt with it.

11 A. Well, we dealt with it so far as we could. The tools
12 that we had to deal with it were relatively few. We had
13 a marks system, which determined how much monetary
14 rewards the boys received every week. It also
15 determined what weekend leave they got, and bearing in
16 mind that some of the boys had nowhere to go at the
17 weekends, they could not have cared less whether they
18 were in or out. It wasn't in every case you could use
19 it or it wasn't effective in every case.

20 The other way I always believed that staff dealt
21 with bullying was to try and appeal to the better nature
22 of the boys concerned and this was all about
23 relationships that staff had with boys, not only me but
24 the other staff, the relationships they had built with
25 boys that they could talk to them and the boys would

1 **listen to them. Really those were the only tools you**
2 **had.**

3 Q. SPT53, your overall impression, looking back over
4 thirty years working in St. Patrick's, was you are proud
5 of having done that work and of the people that worked
6 alongside you in doing it.

7 **A. Absolutely.**

8 Q. And you -- we were talking specifically and I am just
9 going to name some Brothers, because they face serious
10 allegations before the Inquiry, and you were explaining
11 to me that you worked very closely with Brother BR26 --

12 **A. Yes, I did.**

13 Q. -- almost across your entire time.

14 **A. Absolutely, yes.**

15 Q. And I was addressing with you one thing, for instance,
16 which you were -- I will just put this on the record.
17 You were saying to me never once did he do anything that
18 gave you any cause for concern about his relationship
19 with any boys.

20 **A. Absolutely.**

21 Q. But -- and you were aware of the comic round
22 at night-time.

23 **A. Yes. There were comics distributed at night and to my**
24 **mind that was a kind -- you would have done that in your**
25 **own home. You would have given your children comics**

1 going to bed. They didn't go to bed and go to sleep
2 immediately. So they would have read a while and
3 eventually settled down and gone to sleep. I mean, the
4 comic round was the most normal thing that I have ever
5 seen. I don't know what -- what someone has said about
6 that, but to my mind that was the most simple and
7 innocent thing that I have ever seen. The comic round
8 was totally innocent.

9 Q. So I think what I am asking you to confirm, SPT53, is it
10 wasn't a secret?

11 A. No, it wasn't, no.

12 Q. It was something that was clear --

13 A. Comics came up from the paper shop down the Glen Road
14 once a week, new comics, and they were given out and
15 they were gathered up again and redistributed to boys
16 that hadn't seen particular things. That's really what
17 it was all about. If you had ten children in your own
18 house, you would have done the exact same thing
19 yourself.

20 Q. I think the suggestion that is made by -- has been made
21 by some to the Inquiry, SPT53, is that an adult taking
22 a comic to a boy's room at night was inappropriate, that
23 it would leave -- in two ways. It would be an
24 opportunity to take advantage of a boy, if that is what
25 you wanted to do, or if that wasn't your thinking, it

1 left you open to being wrongly accused of doing that,
2 and what you were explaining to me was that that type of
3 thinking that it would be misconstrued or misinterpreted
4 or abused --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- was not part of the thinking of the time.

7 **A. Absolutely not. Absolutely not, and the person who was**
8 **doing it, it displays the innocence that he had that he**
9 **went and did it without thinking, you know. He didn't**
10 **do anything really that anybody -- he just happened to**
11 **have the comics, you know, and there was no ulterior**
12 **motive in it. Absolutely not.**

13 Q. That's your view based on you working with him for --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- thirty something years.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. I was asking you then, because another Brother who faces
18 a series of serious allegations is BR94, and you were
19 explaining to me that he ended up -- he was originally
20 on the junior side, but he ended up --

21 **A. That's correct.**

22 Q. -- .

23 **A. He was in the justice side of the school.**

24 Q. And I think I provoked some laughter from you when

25 I asked you about whether he had been physically

1 violent. Do you want to just explain to the Panel how
2 you found him in your years working with him?

3 **A. He was a gentle giant. He wouldn't have done anyone any**
4 **harm, absolutely, and I am convinced of that. BR94**
5 **wouldn't have laid a finger on anyone. It wasn't in his**
6 **nature. He was totally just a gentle person.**

7 Q. There were -- one boy has described them -- we are
8 talking about HIA384 now, SPT53, and I am just going to
9 deal with this very shortly, that what he was saying was
10 that in effect, if I bring it down, that he was
11 complaining to staff, including you, that he was being
12 bullied and you weren't doing enough to protect him from
13 the bullies.

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. And you were saying to me that you -- just explain to
16 the Panel what you -- what you can about him.

17 **A. Well, I don't recall HIA384 complaining to me about**
18 **being bullied. I -- in the statement he also complained**
19 **about being sexually abused. Now to my mind bullying,**
20 **as I said earlier on, was fairly commonplace, and you**
21 **could have got a complaint about bullying that you**
22 **wouldn't remember, although you would have done**
23 **something about it at the time, but a complaint about**
24 **bullying and sexual abuse I would have taken -- I think**
25 **my record shows that I wouldn't have hesitated to do**

1 **something about that. I'm convinced that HIA384 is**
2 **either mistaken or telling lies. He never complained to**
3 **me about bullying.**

4 Q. So he may have complained to someone else, but what you
5 are saying is it wasn't you, and you are aware that he
6 says you were one of a number of people who were at
7 a meeting where -- because the papers show that there
8 was allegation and counter-allegation of sexual activity
9 between --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- some of the boys, and it would appear from that
12 material that there was definitely interaction of one
13 sort or another between them, and statements are made to
14 the police and then HIA384 withdraws his statement.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. And the allegation that he makes is that you and
17 a number of others were present at a meeting when he was
18 harangued into withdrawing --

19 **A. No.**

20 Q. -- his statement.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. You have said in your statement, and I will just allow
23 you to repeat it to the Panel, that you were at no such
24 meeting and never --

25 **A. I never attended such a meeting. I wouldn't become**

1 involved in haranguing any boy or intimidating any boy,
2 and in any case I don't believe that I would have been
3 invited to that meeting, because that meeting was about
4 a care boy in the school, and I was

5 , and there were -- the steps that were taken to
6 segregate the two sides would have disallowed me to be
7 at that meeting.

8 Q. You wouldn't have had any reason to be there?

9 A. I would have no contribution at that meeting.

10 Q. I think you -- eventually when I think was
11 speaking to you, you remembered that particular boy and
12 you have set out in your Inquiry statement the limited
13 involvement you had, and you have no doubt he had lots
14 of difficulties, but he was not a boy that you were
15 working with on a regular basis?

16 A. No. He was in the care area, as I explained, and
17 I would have had nothing to do with him. I still
18 wouldn't remember HIA384, what HIA384 looked like. It
19 was when mentioned to me about him absconding
20 and going to , I remembered going to with
21 a member of staff who was attending the court, and
22 I dropped him down to to attend the court, and
23 he -- I think there were two other members of staff,
24 because there was a possibility he might have been
25 coming back, but as it turned out, he didn't come back

1 on that occasion. I think he was brought back on
2 a previous occasion, but on that occasion he didn't come
3 back. He was dealt with in the system down there.
4 I don't really know what happened to him, because, as
5 I say, he wasn't my responsibility.

6 Q. If I can -- I was explaining to you earlier if you can
7 try and convey to the Panel, give some sense of the
8 scale of -- there were a lot of boys and consequently
9 there were a lot of staff, most of whom the Inquiry has
10 not had any reason to be involved with, because they
11 don't face allegations, but can you give the Panel some
12 idea of the size of the staff that was in St. Patrick's
13 and how the relationships worked?

14 A. Now, are we talking about '66 or '96?

15 Q. Well, it no doubt changed over time and there were more
16 and more staff you were explaining to me.

17 A. Well, obviously on a curve it would have been going like
18 that from '66 up. The staff were increased.

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. In the final years I couldn't -- I would need time to
21 sit and think about that, but it certainly had increased
22 considerably.

23 Q. Yes.

24 A. I would say it probably had trebled.

25 Q. Yes. It's a difficult question for you to answer.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. I am not going to get into the specifics with you, but
3 what I was trying to have you convey to the Panel is the
4 number of -- it wasn't that there were only four or five
5 or six or seven members of staff in this place.

6 **A. No, no, no.**

7 Q. There was an awful lot of staff --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- both working --

10 **A. On rotation.**

11 Q. Yes -- working doing the teaching?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. And also social workers?

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. Their role was residential social workers?

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. And the point you were making to me earlier was you
18 worked alongside a lot of good people who gave of their
19 time to do a difficult job.

20 **A. Absolutely.**

21 Q. That's what you were explaining to me.

22 **A. Absolutely.**

23 Q. You were also talking about the commitment of the
24 Brothers. Do you want to just explain to the Panel what
25 you were telling me about your impression of the

1 commitment of the Brothers in terms of --

2 **A. Well, I always had the impression the Brothers that**
3 **I knew, their commitment was unending. Indeed, I was**
4 **surprised that they were able to do that, that anyone**
5 **could dedicate themselves in the way that they did to**
6 **looking after the boys in very difficult circumstances.**
7 **I mean, I certainly couldn't have done it and I had**
8 **always great admiration for them. I still have.**

9 Q. SPT53, I am not going to ask you any more questions. If
10 you bear with us for a short time, the Panel Members may
11 want to ask you something. We have done a very swift
12 and hopefully satisfactory run through thirty plus years
13 of service. So bear with me for a short time so the
14 Panel can speak to you.

15 Questions from THE PANEL

16 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much. Thanks for coming. Can you
17 hear me okay?

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. Thanks very much. That was very helpful. Can I just
20 ask, SPT53, do you remember having any contact with the
21 management committee?

22 **A. Do I have ...?**

23 Q. Did you have any contact?

24 **A. The management board?**

25 Q. Uh-huh.

1 **A. Not really. I never attended management board meetings,**
2 **no.**

3 Q. And you don't remember them visiting, going round the
4 school or ...?

5 **A. I -- I -- I think there was a management -- now don't**
6 **quote me on this --**

7 Q. Okay.

8 **A. -- I think there was a management board meeting once**
9 **a month, a certain day of every month, and the -- there**
10 **was one particular person on the management board who**
11 **took a great interest in the school and would have known**
12 **a lot about the school, you know, but he would have been**
13 **the only one that I would have known where it was --**
14 **well, obviously the Director was part of the management**
15 **board and he was in the school all the time.**

16 Q. And that other person, do you remember who he was?

17 **A. Yes. Father .**

18 Q. Father . Just the final question from me
19 just about inspections. Do you remember inspectors
20 coming to the school?

21 **A. From Social Services?**

22 Q. Uh-huh.

23 **A. I do indeed, yes.**

24 Q. And what was that like? Did they engage with staff or
25 ...?

1 A. Yes. They were -- well, they were different. There
2 were frequent inspections where they would have dropped
3 in. There were also a type of general -- there was also
4 a type of general inspection at which they came and it
5 was a very formal thing, but, I mean, we had frequent
6 contact with the inspectors. You would have thought
7 that -- there was one particular inspector you would
8 have thought he was a member of staff he was there so
9 often.

10 Q. Thanks very much, SPT53. Thank you.

11 A. Okay.

12 MR LANE: You mentioned the voluntary work that you did to
13 support your wife.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Can I just you confirm that that was totally voluntary
16 or was it through extraneous duties?

17 A. No. I didn't do extraneous duties in the unit. I -- my
18 role -- it's a difficult role in this day and age to
19 explain. This was in 1970 and I suppose people were
20 a wee bit more giving of their time, but I had an
21 arrangement with the man who was the Director at the
22 time that I would give that support.

23 At that time staff who lived in could have lived on
24 what was called emoluments.

25 Q. Uh-huh.

1 A. You contributed so much. It was a reduced rate and you
2 got your food. Now if I can remember rightly, I got my
3 food for my contribution --

4 Q. Uh-huh.

5 A. -- and I think -- I don't -- I am not 100% sure.
6 I think I got my food for my contribution and
7 paid emoluments for

8 Q. That's fine.

9 A. But the food all came together --

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. -- and that was really all there was to it.

12 Q. Fine. Thank you. My other question is the switch over
13 to care and justice instead of senior and junior, what
14 was the thinking behind that?

15 A. To segregate care from justice. I think the thinking at
16 that time was that the care children could be
17 contaminated by the justice children.

18 Q. The justice children were seem as having bigger problems
19 and more difficult behaviour, were they?

20 A. Well, as it turned out, it was the other way about, but,
21 I mean, it was seen that way, yes.

22 Q. Did you -- could you actually identify the two groups
23 really or was it just that they happened to come into
24 St. Patrick's?

25 A. Oh, no. You would have known a care child. I mean,

1 I could tell you the children who were in the justice
2 school. As I said earlier on, there are names of
3 children in the care, I wouldn't know the children at
4 all.

5 Q. Yes.

6 A. So I wouldn't have known children -- you would have
7 known some of them. It was a big campus and there were
8 recreation facilities and you would have met them about
9 the place at times, you know, but I wouldn't have known
10 a lot of the care children apart -- still worked
11 in the care area, you know. I would have known a few
12 boys in , but I had no role in the unit at that
13 time.

14 Q. And was their behaviour actually different between the
15 two groups?

16 A. Well, I think the experience was -- was that the care
17 children were far more difficult than the justice
18 children.

19 Q. Right. Thank you very much.

20 A. Okay.

21 CHAIRMAN: Before you go, SPT53, I think Mr Aiken wants to
22 ask you one more question.

23 Further questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

24 MR AIKEN: Almost done, SPT53. One of the core participants
25 has just asked me to clarify with you the inspector who

1 almost seemed like a member of staff, can you remember
2 their name?

3 **A. Yes. Is it okay to name him?**

4 Q. Yes. There's no problem.

5 **A. It was Wesley Donnell. Wesley Donnell.**

6 Q. Wesley Donnell?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 CHAIRMAN: Well, SPT53, thank you very much indeed for
9 taking the time to come to speak to us, particularly
10 given the pressures on you at the present time. Thank
11 you.

12 **A. I have to get the legs working again now.**

13 **(Witness withdrew)**

14 MR AIKEN: Chairman, I will be dealing with this afternoon's
15 witness, whom I am going to see shortly. So ...

16 CHAIRMAN: 2 o'clock.

17 MR AIKEN: 2 o'clock.

18 (1.00 pm)

19 (Lunch break)

20 (2.15 pm)

21 WITNESS STP26 (called)

22 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

23 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, the next witness
24 today is SPT26, who is "SPT26". He is going to keep his
25 anonymity, Chairman, and he is going to take the oath.

1 WITNESS STP26 (sworn)

2 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, SPT26. Please sit down.

3 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

4 MR AIKEN: SPT26, coming up on the screen is hopefully the
5 first page of your witness statement, and if you could
6 just confirm that you recognise that and it is the first
7 page?

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

9 Q. If we go through to the last page at 1683, please, and
10 can you confirm that's the last page and you have signed
11 the statement?

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

13 Q. And you want to adopt the contents as your evidence
14 before the Inquiry?

15 **A. That's correct.**

16 Q. I just want to explain at the outside, SPT26, that you
17 are in the position of -- and we were discussing this
18 earlier -- a very significant number of staff who worked
19 in St. Patrick's through the years who don't face any
20 allegations from anybody either before the Inquiry or in
21 the material the Inquiry has received, and you have come
22 forward to assist Inquiry not yourself facing any
23 allegations but just out of a desire to assist the Panel
24 in whatever way you can as to your experience while
25 working there?

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

2 Q. In fact, you are now

3 --

4 **A. That's right.**

5 Q. -- which is a

6

7

8

9 **A. That is -- well, the training school didn't close until**
10 **2001, but -- yes. Well, the care side closed, yes, in**
11 **'96.**

12 Q. Yes. We were having that discussion, that the training
13 school legally ceased to exist, but for five years there
14 was still a Young Offenders Centre, St. Patrick's, on
15 the site

16 **A.**

17 Q. .

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

19 Q. And the management board continued to --

20 **A. To manage both.**

21 Q. Yes, and provide that facility in addition to

22

23 in effect.

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

25 Q. And you were explaining to me, bringing things very

1 up-to-date compared to where the Inquiry began in the
2 1930s and '40s, looking at staffing ratios, that, in
3 fact, a staff of almost
4 100 working on shifts,

5

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

7 Q. And almost a ratio of 1:1 with the children who reside.

8 **A. More or less, not just 1:1, but certainly on any shift**
9 **you would have -- there is no more than six young people**
10 **in the unit, and on any shift you would have four**
11 **members of staff and unit manager on duty, or five**
12 **members of staff in the evenings, and sometimes more if**
13 **the -- if there were any particularly difficult young**
14 **people who needed special arrangements for their**
15 **supervision.**

16 Q. So it's a -- you draw attention to this in your
17 statement in a general way -- it's a very far cry from
18 an earlier period whenever there was much less staff
19 and, in fact, the ratios that were expected were much
20 less than they are today working with children?

21 **A. Well, when I started in St. Patrick's in , there**
22 **were around 160 young people. Now I can't give you the**
23 **exact numbers of care staff that were in that time, but**
24 **certainly they wouldn't have been anywhere near the**
25 **levels of staffing that you have today. They would have**

1 **been much reduced on that.**

2 Q. In fact, SPT26, you were born on and are
3 now aged , and you qualified as in
4 . As you were saying, you took up post in
5 at St. Patrick's, and you explain in paragraph 3 of
6 your statement at 1679 something that I just wanted to
7 pick up with you. The NIO were involved in your
8 appointment.

9 **A. They were, yes.**

10 Q. And I was asking you how that worked and, in fact, you
11 mention a name that the Panel were hearing about from
12 the last witness before lunch. That's Wesley Donnell.
13 You were saying to me you understand he was -- while
14 acting on behalf of the Northern Ireland Office, he was,
15 in fact, a social work adviser within the Social
16 Services Inspectorate connected to the DHSS, who were
17 doing the work for the NIO?

18 **A. Yes, correct. That was my understanding of his**
19 **position.**

20 Q. I was asking you -- you were saying to me he would have
21 been a frequent visitor to St. Patrick's.

22 **A. That's correct, yes, along with NIO officials as well.**

23 Q. One of the problems that has befallen this particular
24 module is an absence of records demonstrating the Social
25 Services Inspectorate and NIO personnel attending to do

1 inspections and being involved in the life of the
2 training school.

3 You were saying to me that his role would have
4 been -- there would have been a formal aspect to it of
5 coming to inspect, but also a -- he would have been
6 involved, as would other NIO staff, in staffing matters
7 and budgetary matters and that type of interaction.

8 **A. Well, I wouldn't have said that he came to the school to**
9 **inspect. It was more to speak with the management and**
10 **maybe advise on maybe policies and things like that.**

11 Q. So it was more an advisory role?

12 **A. It was more advisory than inspectorial.**

13 Q. And the inspectorial role we can see from some reports
14 was more by 1989, '93, '95 much more formal inspection
15 cycles taking place.

16 **A. And I think they probably changed their title from**
17 **Social Work Advisory Group to Inspectorate around that**
18 **time.**

19 Q. And then they were doing much more of the inspecting --

20 **A. Inspecting.**

21 Q. -- than the advising?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 CHAIRMAN: SPT26, if it makes it more comfortable for you,
24 you can move the microphone a little bit over towards
25 you. I notice you are instinctively leaning away. It

1 is perhaps not the most comfortable position.

2 **A. Okay. Is that better?**

3 Q. Just bring it wherever you find it comfortable to have
4 it.

5 **A. Okay. Thanks.**

6 MR AIKEN: So he is involved or the NIO are involved in your
7 appointment in 1978. You come in, and explain in
8 paragraph 8 that very quickly you become

9 .

10 **A. Well, that was the title of the role I applied for. It**
11 **was** , ,
12 **role.**

13 Q. Yes. I was discussing with you that you -- just so the
14 Panel can have some context to this, we saw in some of
15 the records that we were looking at with a witness
16 earlier this week who was in the '90s, but I think this
17 applied across the board from your time, that you had
18 residential social workers who would have worked with
19 the children in St. Patrick's, but you then had these
20 community social workers who would have had outreach, as
21 it were, to the families of the children and been
22 involved in their life.

23 **A. Yes, we would have had family contact. We would have**
24 **had contact with getting young people settled into jobs**
25 **in the community. In the early days there was quite**

1 a lot of training of young people in various trades. It
2 was part -- a big part of the role in the early days was
3 getting people into employment, into community training
4 schemes and then making sure that things in their family
5 relationships were working and that there was some
6 stability there.

7 Q. That was one of the issues that I was discussing with
8 you then, because what that implies is that there is
9 a lot of coming and going potentially to St. Patrick's.
10 I just want to work that through with you. Perhaps in
11 contrast to some other places, you had in St. Patrick's
12 an open visitor policy in the sense that those who had
13 families, those families could visit every week to see
14 the resident.

15 A. Families were always encouraged to visit. There was
16 never any bar on families visiting and they were always
17 welcomed.

18 Q. So you have that external contact, and then in addition
19 to the key worker or the social worker that would have
20 been there you had a medical staff, a nurses unit and
21 a doctor who would have come in and a dentist who would
22 have come in.

23 A. That's correct, yes. They would have come in maybe
24 twice a week.

25 Q. So you had that external engagement?

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. And then we were trying to date it. We thought perhaps
3 the early '80s the APRU, the Adolescent Psychological &
4 Research Unit, comes on stream --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- which catered for all the training schools.

7 **A. That's right. There was a team maybe of four**
8 **psychologists that would have covered the five training**
9 **schools at that time.**

10 Q. And the Panel have had access to, when looking at some
11 individual cases, reports that they would have produced.
12 In fact, occurrence sheets seems to have become
13 a feature of life in --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- perhaps the late '80s, early '90s recording the
16 psychologists coming into St. Patrick's to meet with and
17 work with a boy and then going off again to wherever
18 their office was. So that type of external contact was
19 available at least for those who were involved with
20 psychologists.

21 **A. Certainly, yes.**

22 Q. You then had the teaching staff, who were teaching in
23 the school, and you had the cleaning staff and cooking
24 staff, who were facilitating the day-to-day functioning,
25 and you also had engagement with the police then with

1 the people who absconded and were being brought back or
2 with solicitors then being brought out to the court
3 cases where those who were involved in offending were
4 engaged, and the question I was then asking you in
5 a general sense -- because you have said to the Inquiry
6 that you were not aware of any -- other than DL137 that
7 we are going to come to a member of staff perpetrating
8 sexual abuse on a boy.

9 I was asking you in the context of the number of
10 external contacts and the coming and going in the
11 training school what level of privacy was there for
12 staff to take advantage of the teenage boys, if they
13 wanted to do that. Can you help the Panel with some
14 understanding of just how much privacy there might have
15 been or what scope there was for that type of activity?

16 **A. Well, certainly in the main school building there would**
17 **have been very little potential for privacy. It was**
18 **a big, large institutional building, fairly stark,**
19 **pretty cold and things were fairly -- were fairly open.**
20 **So if any member of staff was wanting to engage in any**
21 **inappropriate activity, they would have been taking**
22 **a big risk of being found out.**

23 Q. Simply because of the nature of --

24 **A. Because of the nature of the layout of the building and**
25 **the -- just numbers of staff and young people that would**

1 **have been -- that would have been about.**

2 Q. And in terms of when the chalets or the new buildings
3 came on stream, was that a similar -- would you analyse
4 that in the same way or would there have been greater
5 scope for interference in those type of environments?

6 A. **Well, there may have been greater scope, because they**
7 **were obviously smaller -- smaller units and more homely,**
8 **but still in these chalet units, certainly in the two**
9 **care sort of units, there would have been about fourteen**
10 **young people in each one of them, you know, and a staff**
11 **team as well. So opportunities to do something within**
12 **the confines of the unit would have -- undetected would**
13 **have been difficult.**

14 Q. One of the matters that -- and you mention this in
15 paragraph 22, and this is one situation where it was
16 possible for DL137 and -- although some of it may have
17 been done outwith the St. Patrick's site at the swimming
18 pool, but he -- and the Panel have had the opportunity
19 to look at how that matter was handled. Now you were
20 only there a couple of years before this incident took
21 place. I was asking you earlier, SPT26, whether -- it
22 was about three or four months after the Kincora scandal
23 broke. So you have peppering the front pages and in
24 the media care staff in a hostel for older teenagers
25 sexually abusing some boys in their care, and then in

1 March 1980 this incident comes to light to BR95,
2 , and DL137 is allowed to resign. The Order
3 has accepted that was not dealt with properly for all
4 the reasons that I have brought out previously, but what
5 I wanted to ask you was as a staff can you remember
6 collectively or individually being told, "Look, there's
7 been this problem. We have had a member of staff who
8 sexually abused a boy or looked like he was going to do
9 that, and just watch out for that boy or just be more
10 vigilant amongst each other to make sure nothing of that
11 kind is going on"?

12 **A. No. There was no general announcement to staff that**
13 **something like that had happened, and there wasn't any**
14 **great talk among the staff that something of that nature**
15 **had happened. There may have been some innuendo around.**
16 **My recollection of that is overshadowed by the fact that**
17 **I had to deal with DL137 in a case brought --**

18 Q. You dealt with .

19 **A. -- some years later, but at the time**
20 **I wasn't aware of what he had actually --**

21 Q. Done --

22 **A. -- done.**

23 Q. -- or been said to have done.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. In fairness SPT53 was explaining to the Panel that what

1 had been brought to him, which is what then was being
2 dealt with by BR95 along with perhaps a couple of other
3 suggestions, that only included one of the four
4 individuals who ultimately came forward in 1994 to say
5 that they were abused by him whilst in St. Patrick's.
6 So there is a what was known at the time compared to
7 what is known with hindsight issue that pervades all of
8 this. You weren't aware of the detail of that at the
9 time or that, in fact, a staff member had been --
10 however one characterises it, he resigned, and that the
11 circumstances of that were to do with him interfering --
12 potentially interfering with a boy?

13 **A. No, I had no idea of the circumstances of his leaving**
14 **St. Patrick's.**

15 Q. If we look at paragraph 20, SPT26, of your statement,
16 and this is -- perhaps if you can assist the Panel with
17 context, you explain that -- you are saying not just
18 that boys didn't complain to you about being either
19 sexually or physically abused, but that you were working
20 with experienced and qualified staff that you had a high
21 regard for, who never brought -- you name a particular
22 group that you worked closely with over the years. I am
23 pretty sure if I say none of those individuals face any
24 allegation before the Inquiry. It wasn't -- there was
25 no feeling amongst you -- I am sure you can name many

1 more than that group --

2 **A. Absolutely, yes.**

3 Q. -- that there was any sexual interference by staff going
4 on with the boys in your care?

5 **A. Well, the staff I have mentioned, I directly supervised**
6 **them, and they never at any stage brought any issue of**
7 **any concern to me, and they are -- they are staff of the**
8 **highest reputation. Most are still in employment in**
9 **social work.**

10 Q. Yes.

11 **A. And I would -- you know, I would say that they are very**
12 **professional people and of the highest -- of the highest**
13 **standards of social work practice.**

14 Q. Yes. It is that context, SPT26. Whenever you go in,
15 you were saying there is 160 kids. There would have
16 been -- it was not 1:1 by any means, but we looked at
17 lists that were available from the inspection reports
18 that suggested there was maybe thirty or forty staff on
19 a rota.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. And as time goes on, that level of staff increases and
22 the level of boy decreases.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. So I think the point I'm asking you to confirm so that
25 the Panel has the context, that there are a significant

1 number of staff who worked in St. Patrick's who haven't
2 featured in any of this in terms of facing allegations,
3 because there actually was a very large staff over the
4 years that worked there?

5 **A. I would say a very decent and hardworking staff, who**
6 **were very child-centred.**

7 Q. I am going to ask you about a particular matter now that
8 you address in your witness statement, because it brings
9 into sharp focus for the Panel a particular issue that
10 arises in some of the material. It is in paragraph 16
11 of your statement at 1682. You -- if I just can put
12 this in context, BR26 was someone you worked with from
13 1978 effectively until he left St. Patrick's
14 in 1996.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. So someone you spent eighteen years working with. I was
17 asking you earlier could you give the Panel your
18 assessment of your dealing with him as a colleague
19 across almost two decades?

20 **A. Well, I always found BR26 to be a very decent, caring,**
21 **considerate person. I had never seen anything**
22 **inappropriate in his behaviour in relation to staff or**
23 **with young people.**

24 Q. I was talking with SPT53 earlier. One of the matters
25 that features in the statement we are about to look at

1 was the suggestion that he had interfered with a boy
2 at night-time. SPT53 was
3 saying it wasn't a secret that the -- that BR26 took
4 comics around the boys, and I was saying to him that
5 perhaps nowadays you can see how that could be, if
6 innocent, misconstrued, or how it in the alternative
7 could provide an opportunity for someone who wanted to
8 take advantage of the boys to have access to them at
9 night, taking comics to them and so on. At the time
10 that that is happening would that simply not have --
11 that type of, "This could get misconstrued" or "This is
12 an opportunity", that type of thinking just would not
13 have been on anyone's radar?

14 **A. Not -- not at that time. Staff now would be much more**
15 **circumspect in how they would have contact with young**
16 **people, particularly at night, going into their rooms.**
17 **You know, they would be very, very -- they would --**
18 **there would be proper risk assessments done on whether**
19 **they should go into their rooms, if they should be**
20 **accompanied with another member of staff. It was a very**
21 **different climate then in the late '70s, early '80s and**
22 **moving into the early '90s. People are much, much more**
23 **aware now of the possibility of allegations, you know,**
24 **the need to be sensitive to the experiences and the**
25 **background of the young people.**

1 Q. Yes.

2 **A. So in the early days -- in my early days at**
3 **St. Patrick's staff would not have been or would they**
4 **have trained to have been, you know, aware of the risks**
5 **involved in being maybe -- "intimate" isn't the word**
6 **I want to use -- but being in close proximity to young**
7 **people at sensitive times.**

8 Q. Yes. So it is not -- you are not saying that -- at the
9 time there would not have been anything considered
10 inappropriate about Brother -- as far as the staff were
11 concerned BR26 taking at
12 night-time, but you can see now with hindsight in light
13 of the time we now are in that that may not have been
14 a wise thing --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- albeit at the time it might have seemed entirely
17 normal, if innocent?

18 **A. Yes. It could be certainly misconstrued now and fairly**
19 **certainly would be and wouldn't be allowed now, but in**
20 **those days it would have maybe been acceptable**
21 **behaviour.**

22 Q. And on that subject the police got in touch with you in
23 1993 when an allegation was made by a boy called SPT136.
24 I am going to show the Panel this statement. If we can
25 look, please, at 20734. As I often say, none of the

1 names we use here today should be used outside the
2 chamber. I want to give the Panel an opportunity to
3 consider this statement. This was written or given in
4 September of 1993. So it is during the investigation
5 that began with a gentleman by the name of SPT134 that
6 you probably remember being aware of.

7 The allegations that are set out, I am not going to
8 read them out, but I want to give the Panel
9 an opportunity just to read the very serious allegations
10 and the specificity that is given in respect of these
11 allegations. So if we just can scroll down when the
12 Panel are ready, please. If I can just ask the Panel to
13 note the description of the person that is given. It's
14 the sentence then:

15 "He was aged about ..."

16 and in particular the hair colour and the
17 . If we can scroll down, please.

18 Now what we have been reading are some very serious,
19 graphic allegations that are made against BR26, who
20 was -- and the specific reference to the comic round
21 being the facility for that to take place.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. And I presume in light of what you were saying earlier
24 the BR26 you know, you don't recognise this -- someone
25 capable of doing what's set out in that document.

1 **A. Absolutely not.**

2 Q. What this boy says is that in addition to the graphic
3 nature of what he says took place over a prolonged
4 period, that he came and told you about it and not only
5 that. You -- so he felt obviously comfortable to tell
6 you about it, but you didn't believe him and you did
7 nothing about it.

8 Now that was -- allegations were made to the police
9 and the police spoke to you on 28th September. If we
10 can look at your statement, please, at 20737, 28th
11 September 1993. I don't know if you have a memory of,
12 you know -- I presume did you do this in the police
13 station or did you --

14 **A. It was in the police station. I do remember it, yes.**

15 Q. You had to go, and you explain that you'd been -- at
16 this point in time, 1993, you had worked in
17 St. Patrick's for sixteen years. You recalled the
18 particular inmate, as they seem to have been referred to
19 in police documents. He was in the school in 1983.
20 That year is of particular significance, just so that --
21 if I can ask the Panel to hold that particular year,
22 note that year, and it is then said:

23 "During any period that he was in St. Patrick's he
24 never complained to me about any sexual abuse within the
25 school, either involving a member of staff or any

1 inmate."

2 So you are saying, first of all, "He never spoke to
3 me about anything like this, either with BR26 or anybody
4 else".

5 **A. I can state that categorically, yes.**

6 Q. But in addition you also go on to say that if anyone had
7 told you anything like that, it is something that you
8 would have had fully investigated. That's the second
9 part of what you say.

10 The third part of what you say is that if this
11 particular boy had told you anything, not just connected
12 I am sure to sexual abuse, because of your knowledge of
13 him, you would have treated it with suspicion and been
14 very careful about getting to the bottom of what he was
15 claiming, because you explain that through your dealings
16 with him you hadn't found him to be a truthful
17 individual.

18 **A. That's correct. I would have passed on any -- if he
19 made any serious allegation like that, I would have
20 passed it on through our child protection procedures,
21 but I would have been suspicious of anything that he
22 have would have -- that he would have said.**

23 Q. And I presume if a boy had ever come to you making those
24 types of allegations, given what you have said about
25 your own context, that's not something you would forget?

1 **A. Oh, no. If anyone made an allegation like that, you**
2 **would take it very, very seriously.**

3 Q. We can then see, because the story gets taken on
4 a little further, again if we look at the police summary
5 at 20596, please, and the police look at the particular
6 complaint. So they explain that this boy was one of the
7 155 that were interviewed. Unfortunately we still
8 haven't got the statements of 149 of the 155 who don't
9 make allegations, but he was one of the 155 that were
10 interviewed. During that interview he made the
11 statement of complaint against BR26:

12 "... allegations are of gross indecency and indecent
13 assault."

14 He describes -- and this is what the police record:

15 "In his statement of complaint he describes BR26 as
16 then being aged , ,

17 and that he was always wore a black robe and white
18 collar, that he was the

19 school at that time and was later promoted

20 , and that he believed he was later
21 transferred somewhere else."

22 In his statement it is pointed out he told his
23 mother. She was now deceased. Knew she had told his
24 father about it.

25 "... also said he had told his social worker about

1 -- in the training school about it, namely SPT26."

2 Then interviewed his father. His
3 father denied being told anything about it.

4 Then he interviewed you on 28th September. That's
5 the statement we have just seen. You say:

6 "SPT26 ..." --

7 or the police record:

8 "SPT26 denied that SPT136 had ever reported to him
9 that he was the victim of sexual abuse at St. Patrick's
10 Training School."

11 Then he says this:

12 "During the interview with SPT26 he said that if he
13 had made such a complaint, that he would have the matter
14 fully investigated, but at the same time he would have
15 treated the complaint with great suspicion. He
16 explained this by adding that through his dealings with
17 SPT136 that he knew it was not a very truth... -- he was
18 not a very truthful person. This remark is reinforced
19 by the fact that this individual was convicted of

20 at on

21 ."

22 He refers to the criminal record. I am just going
23 to show you that. That's at 21003. Now the claim of
24 you were aware of or this fact of claim,
25 but it was not to do with this, BR26. It related to

1 someone who in the community faced an allegation from
2 this boy. The man was convicted. his

3
4 . It seems to be in the same year, because
5 when we see the , which was
6 , a Training School Order was made in
7 respect of him and, in fact, if you look above, you will
8 see he was already on a Training School Order in May of
9 1983. So that's the time frame in St. Patrick's that we
10 were dealing with. So you had become aware of that
11 fact.

12 **A. Yes. actually made me aware of it. I think**
13 **it to the police. I think he had said**

14 .

15

16

17

18

19 **Q. Yes. It seems that it wasn't just but inciting**
20 **someone else to do the same thing.**

21 So that I suppose was a stark example for you of it
22 being said by someone that they brought something very
23 serious to you and you then had to deal with, in fact,
24 had they done that, and you were very clearly saying no,
25 that had never happened, and this particular sequence of

1 facts would have cast doubt on the veracity of the
2 account that was being made of what BR26 was said to
3 have done.

4 **A. It certainly -- it certainly would have, but, like**
5 **I say, if he had made that allegation anyway, it**
6 **certainly would have been recorded, and I would have**
7 **passed it on through the child protection procedures,**
8 **which would have been to the Director of the school.**

9 Q. Now I want to ask you about another individual, SPT26,
10 and that's BR50, because he again is someone -- he began
11 working in St. Patrick's again as a Brother of the De La
12 Salle Order around about the same time as you began.

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

14 Q. And in effect you and he have worked together. You were
15 doing , he was working on the care side, so not
16 closely necessarily initially in St. Patrick's, but you
17 have worked together for effectively almost forty years.

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

19 Q. And ever since you have worked
20 alongside this man in very close quarters, as it were.

21 **A. Well, more closely than I would have during**
22 **St. Patrick's time, yes.**

23 Q. And you were explaining to me -- and indeed he deals
24 with this in his statement --

25

1

2

made allegations to

3

police. The Panel are aware you drew to my attention

4

that that particular individual had a particularly

5

difficult background himself. I am not going to go into

6

that today, but what BR50 explains in his witness

7

statement and what I want to ask you about is the impact

8

of an allegation and how it is dealt with. So, for

9

instance,

10

11

12

13

A. That's correct. I placed BR50 on

14

following the

15

contact from the police which said -- following a claim

16

from the former resident of St. Patrick's.

17

Q. There is no harm -- we can give -- because it will

18

become clear. So the Panel understand, it was SPT119 --

19

A. Yes, SPT119, yes.

20

Q. -- that made the allegation to police.

21

A. Yes, and they were of a very serious -- a very serious

22

nature, and on the back of that I had to place BR50

23

. That then was followed up

24

with the Social Services with I think it's called a

25

, and one of the

1 outcomes of the was that the
2 matter would have to be referred to what Social Services
3 called the gateway team, and that's
4 . They had to call to BR50's family, to his home,
5 and advise that he

6
7

8 . That had a terrible impact on BR50 and
9 indeed on and I had to meet with both of them
10 just to take them through the process that we were
11 involved in, but it was devastating for the man.

12 Q. We were talking earlier, SPT26, about the difficulties
13 that these situations present, because if the person is
14 responsible for the abuse that is alleged, then, of
15 course, you wouldn't want them working with or being
16 around whether their own children or anyone else's, but
17 if, in fact, it's not the case -- and I am not getting
18 into -- it is a matter for the Panel to assess all of
19 this -- if it is not the case, then you have very
20 draconian consequences for the life of the individual
21 and those around them in a circumstance where they have
22 not actually done anything.

23 A. Oh, it would be horrendous for the individual involved
24 to have made allegations of that nature, particularly in
25 the sort of line of work the person is in and having

1 Q. Of course, while no doubt a significant proportion of
2 the boys in St. Patrick's came from the greater Belfast
3 area, we know that there were boys who were brought from
4 Derry and other places further away, and I think it was
5 your former colleague, SPT2, who told us that he spent
6 his Wednesdays in Derry at some stage during his work in
7 St. Patrick's.

8 What proportion of time, if I may put it in this
9 way, was devoted by staff in St. Patrick's to that form
10 of interaction with the families of the boys, because
11 many of the boys probably came from very disturbed
12 backgrounds I would assume?

13 A. Yes, Mr Chairman, absolutely, some very horrific
14 backgrounds. What I would say is we probably didn't
15 spend sufficient time with families, but that was more
16 to do with resourcing. Particularly if you took in the
17 1970s and early '80s, the high number of young people,
18 maybe 160 young people, who needed 24-hour care, for
19 staff to spend significant time with families doing
20 family work, it just wasn't really realistic, but
21 certainly there were efforts to do that, and
22 particularly where families were willing to engage, we
23 would have given whatever time we could to that, but, as
24 you can imagine with some of the families that we worked
25 with, sometimes families were reluctant to engage or had

1 significant problems of their own maybe like alcohol or
2 drugs issues. So you weren't able really to engage in
3 the way you would have liked whereas the situation now
4 is that Social Services provide that -- that sort of
5 family support and link in more with the residential
6 facility.

7 One of the difficulties with the training school
8 system, it was a sort of total system. The Training
9 School Order was a powerful order. So there wasn't much
10 engagement with Social Services and the young people
11 once the Training School Order was made.

12 Q. Yes.

13 A. Efforts were made, but they weren't as intensive as the
14 system would have -- the training school would have
15 liked them to have been.

16 Q. The material we have looked at would suggest that whilst
17 at the point where the decision was being made by the
18 appropriate court whether a child was to be made subject
19 to a Training School Order there might be input from
20 Social Services or there might be input from
21 St. Patrick's if the boy had been there before, but once
22 the boy went in, Social Services' involvement with him
23 ceased -- isn't that right -- in the formal sense?

24 A. Well, not -- well, not in every case, but the nature of
25 the order -- once the Training School Order was made,

1 **the Training School Order was --**

2 Q. Well, it trumped everything else.

3 A. **Yes, that's it. It became maybe the superior order, for**
4 **want of a different word. So if the young person had**
5 **been on a Care Order, the Training School Order would**
6 **have superseded that --**

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. -- and that was probably a fault -- it was a fault in
9 the system, and the Black Report, you know, raised
10 issues of that nature. Young people -- the training
11 school took young people in for care reasons, for not
12 attending school and for criminal offences.
13 Particularly in my early days there those young people
14 were treated in the same way. There was a uniform
15 system that they were put into.

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. **It was -- it was a structural problem in the system.**

18 Q. Just one other question on my part. We have heard how
19 towards the end of the period we are concerned with,
20 which ends at the end of 1995, the separation between
21 the junior school and the senior school appeared to have
22 been transformed into a more vertical division between
23 people on the care side and people on the justice side.
24 Is that correct?

25 A. **Yes. Through the 1980s that was the general move in**

1 **that direction. That followed a -- on the Black Report.**

2 Q. Yes. Well, I think anybody who has had any contact with
3 Social Services in Northern Ireland is aware of the
4 significance of the Black Report.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. But did that mean that the formal separation of boys
7 into senior and junior schools stopped at some stage or
8 did it just gradually fade away or how did the change
9 manifest itself?

10 **A. Well, I suppose it gradually moved in that direction and**
11 **by the -- I'd say by 1990 it would have been in effect.**
12 **So if a young person got a Training School Order for**
13 **care reasons, he would have been placed either in one of**
14 **the chalet units or in the -- what had been the junior**
15 **school --**

16 Q. Uh-huh.

17 **A. -- and the young offenders were placed in the -- in**
18 **the -- what became the justice side of the school. It**
19 **had been the senior school, but there was a gradual**
20 **reduction in the number of young people coming in for**
21 **offences. The criminal justice system was changing in**
22 **that regard. So ...**

23 Q. That change appears to have been reflected in the
24 staffing structure, because we heard from people such as
25 SPT53 earlier today how there was a Director or an

1 Assistant Director for Justice and one for Care, and the
2 two parts of the structure appear to have been quite
3 distinct in many ways. Isn't that right?

4 **A. They would have been, and by 19... -- when the Children**
5 **Order came in in 1996, those structures were disbanded**
6 **really.**

7 Q. Yes.

8 **A. So there was -- for a number of years there was --**
9 **. Then there was the Head of Care Services,**
10 **, and then the Head of Justice**
11 **Services for -- up at St. Patrick's, but that was a very**
12 **much reducing service. The number of young people**
13 **coming into custody was significantly decreasing.**

14 Q. And I should have said perhaps the last question, but we
15 have heard that the number of Brothers reduced
16 significantly as the years went by and as a consequence
17 of that tasks which they had performed were increasingly
18 performed by lay staff. Is that broadly correct?

19 **A. Well, yes.**

20 Q. Supervision --

21 **A. From 1978 the majority -- the vast majority of staff**
22 **were lay staff from 1978. So that decline may have been**
23 **started in the '60s, but yes, generally you could say**
24 **there was -- there were less and less Brothers.**

25 Q. And then when one got to the point of, say, in the '80s

1 in particular, was it the case that there really were
2 very few Brothers actually on the site, whatever role
3 they were performing?

4 **A. That's correct. Very few Brothers on the care side.**
5 **There might have been one or two on the teaching -- the**
6 **teaching staff, but -- there might have been five or**
7 **six, maybe not even that many, in the 1980s. I don't**
8 **want to be quoted. I am just trying to work it out in**
9 **my head.**

10 Q. I appreciate it has to be an impression.

11 **A. Certainly the majority -- the vast majority of staff**
12 **were lay staff.**

13 Q. Uh-huh and those Brothers lived separately in their own
14 community --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- in a building on the premises.

17 **A. Yes. There was a Brothers' house very close to the**
18 **school.**

19 Q. Thank you very much.

20 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much. That has been very helpful.

21 Can I just ask in your statement you talk about Slemish
22 being used as a preparation for care for older boys
23 about to leave care to help them.

24 **A. --**

25 Q. We had previously heard that when it was established

1 being somewhere for more secure facilities. Can you
2 talk a wee bit about how that changed?

3 A. Well, when I arrived in , it was used as
4 a preparation for aftercare facility for young people
5 from the senior school by and large, because they were
6 young people approaching the end of their training
7 school. It was a three-year order, you know. So ...

8 Q. Uh-huh.

9 A. But as time went on there were less and less young
10 people coming into the justice side. So I am not sure
11 of the date, but perhaps maybe by the mid to late 1980s
12 it became a semi-secure facility. Once -- as we tried
13 to separate care from justice -- I think it was in --
14 yes, it must have been 1989 the criminal -- it was no
15 longer possible to send a young person who was in the
16 training school for care reasons to Lisnevin. So
17 because that avenue of keeping young people safe and
18 secure was not available, Slemish House role changed to
19 -- well, a semi-secure facility. So that would explain
20 that.

21 Q. Okay. That's really interesting, that connection
22 between Lisnevin and --

23 A. Yes. Previously young people in care could have been
24 sent to Lisnevin if they were difficult to manage within
25 the training school system, but with all the changes of

1 the Children Order and -- well, it was actually before
2 the Children Order came in that it wasn't seen right to
3 put young people in lock-up. It was a quite intense
4 custody provision.

5 Q. Can I just ask -- a previous member of staff described a
6 "them and us" attitude between lay staff and Brothers
7 and said that it was quite difficult to challenge
8 Brothers and their behaviour. Would that be your
9 experience?

10 A. No, I didn't have that experience and I think there is
11 times I did challenge them on various issues, but
12 I didn't see them as "them and us" in that sense, no.

13 Q. Could you give an example of some of the issues that you
14 might have challenged them on?

15 A. I mean, nothing fairly dramatic I must say. Maybe in
16 relation to a young person maybe get access to home
17 leave or some sort of privilege or whatever, but nothing
18 of a very serious nature. The Brothers certainly did
19 manage the facility, but in my experience they had
20 an open relationship certainly with me and I didn't feel
21 intimidated by them in any way. I can't speak for other
22 members of staff, of course. They may have had
23 a different relationship with them.

24 Q. No, but it is important you felt able to discuss care
25 issues with them and issues in relation to the boys.

1 **A. Yes, and I could have spoken my mind and I wasn't**
2 **frightened to do so.**

3 **Q. Can I just ask about the management committee? Were you**
4 **-- did you have contact with them? Were you aware of**
5 **them being around the place?**

6 **A. Well, not in -- not in the early stages. I think in the**
7 **early day the management committee was probably made up**
8 **more of religious priests and members of the diocese,**
9 **maybe of the trustees, but certainly in the late '80s,**
10 **I think following an inspection report in 1988, you**
11 **know, which was a bit critical of the management**
12 **structures, more lay people came in on to the management**
13 **board, people with experience of -- you know, of various**
14 **occupations related to social work, I mean, teaching and**
15 **human resource management and various things. They**
16 **would -- they would have had a much higher profile in**
17 **the school and would have been in contact much more with**
18 **the staff, but that was towards the latter end of the**
19 **training school's period.**

20 **Q. And do you remember in relation to inspections was there**
21 **any -- I mean, were staff -- you were talking about that**
22 **was kind of a critical inspection, but were staff told**
23 **about the outcomes of inspections? Did they see**
24 **inspection reports or ...?**

25 **A. I don't remember many inspections, but the 1988**

1 inspection I think staff did get feedback from the
2 Inspector. I think it was quite a significant
3 inspection report, because things were changing
4 fairly -- I suppose fairly dramatically. Maybe living
5 through them you might not have noticed that, but
6 certainly things were changing and expectations were
7 much higher. Residential care, large institutions were
8 very much -- following the Black Report were very much,
9 you know -- they'd be much maligned I suppose by other
10 professionals. So, yes, I think staff were given
11 feedback from the Inspectorate and the need for change
12 and I think staff were beginning to recognise that, and
13 there was a big -- one of the problem of the system was
14 there was not a big emphasis on staff training, but
15 following the '88 inspection I think it was recognised
16 we do need to up-skill and, you know, train the staff.

17 Q. That's when your role was extended. I was just going to
18 ask you about --

19 A. Yes. That is when my role sort of developed, you know,
20 to bring in

21 .

22 Q. Okay, and was that successful for that?

23 A. It was very successful. I mean, we trained -- between
24 '89 and maybe '94 we probably -- these were -- it was
25 employment-based training for professional training.

1 I can't stand over the figure exactly, but maybe up in
2 the region of twenty staff. We were putting three or
3 four staff through every year, which is quite a big
4 commitment, given the costs involved.

5 Q. Uh-huh, and generally about staff, the issue of staff
6 meetings and staff supervision, what was your experience
7 of that?

8 A. Well, there were regular staff meetings. I think they
9 were weekly meetings. I would have attended some of
10 those. Staff supervision probably wasn't at the -- that
11 might have been one of the criticisms -- probably wasn't
12 as intense and as focused as it should have been. So
13 ...

14 Q. Uh-huh.

15 A. And it wasn't -- I mean, we were working under
16 regulations that didn't require and insist that you had
17 -- the regulations were very archaic. They were 1953,
18 the training school regulations. They were never
19 changed until the 1990s actually.

20 Q. So do you feel there was sufficient opportunity for
21 staff to discuss practice issues about, you know, their
22 own practice and how they were working with the boys or
23 was that --

24 A. Well, the meetings generally would concentrate on --
25 there was a marks system. I am talking about in the

1 earlier days, you know.

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. So the -- so generally the talk would have been -- the
4 marks -- your home leave would have been related to the
5 marks that you received and maybe other sorts of
6 privileges. So maybe more debate was focused around
7 that than on maybe practice -- practice issues, but
8 practice issues does link into staff training and staff
9 weren't maybe getting significant training to be maybe
10 aware of some of the issues, but they were generally
11 a very, very caring and child-focused staff. I am not
12 trying to betray that image, but they were not developed
13 in the way that they needed to be.

14 Q. Yes. There is maybe more -- yes, maybe more of a
15 consideration about the behaviour of children now and
16 the reasons for the behaviour.

17 A. That's right and that's tied in with large numbers of
18 young people, lower ratios of staff and staff awareness
19 and training.

20 Q. Uh-huh.

21 A. So it was -- it was a -- it wasn't a good -- it wasn't a
22 good mix.

23 Q. Mix. Okay. Thank you very much.

24 A. Okay.

25 MR LANE: Going back to the Black Report and the

1 care/justice split, from your point of view did that
2 make good sense? Did it work well?

3 **A. Very much so. I think it was a good idea.**

4 Q. Better than having the junior/senior split that there
5 had been before?

6 **A. An improvement on that?**

7 Q. Yes.

8 **A. Oh, it was a big improvement on that, yes.**

9 Q. Could you say a bit more about why and how it worked?

10 **A. Well, of course, one of the issues the Black Report made**
11 **was that young people were treated in a uniform system.**
12 **So all young people were subject to the marks system.**
13 **What you would have found is that the young people who**
14 **were in for offences were probably more capable of**
15 **manipulating the marks system whereas the care young**
16 **people had more emotional issues, maybe ADHD, maybe**
17 **issues -- diagnoses that we weren't even aware of at the**
18 **time, but their behaviour was sometimes bizarre and they**
19 **would have broken the rules more readily whereas maybe**
20 **the streetwise young offenders would have been able to**
21 **keep within the rules and would have maybe got more**
22 **benefits out of the system.**

23 Q. So you were able to develop different approaches?

24 **A. We were able to develop a different approach, a more**
25 **treatment-based approach, getting into place care plans**

1 and working much more closely with Social Services, you
2 know. Awareness within Social Services, you know, was
3 developing as well about the needs of young people going
4 into training school for care reasons. So it was quite
5 a -- the shift just wasn't on the side of the training
6 school. There was -- the shift was, you know, in
7 community resources as well and probation and in -- and
8 in health and social services as well.

9 Q. Thank you. One of the problems we have heard mentioned
10 a number of times has been the level of absconding. Was
11 that still the case throughout your time?

12 A. In the early days absconding would have been very, very
13 frequent.

14 Q. And that has now diminished, has it?

15 A. Well, it has much -- it has diminished, but obviously it
16 is linked in now with child sexual abuse. I mean,
17 absconding is -- now you work so closely with the police
18 when young people go missing. Particularly if they go
19 missing for more than 24 hours, their vulnerability is
20 really highlighted and we work very closely with the
21 police. I would have said in the '70s not that the
22 police were disinterested but reporting was a matter of
23 reporting. The police were not maybe taking that as
24 a priority and there were so many of them anyway, and,
25 you know, the situation in Northern Ireland in the '70s

1 **and '80s, it was a very different environment.**

2 Q. Our remit goes up to 1995 obviously. During that time
3 what sort of measures were taken to deal with
4 absconding?

5 A. Well, absconding would have decreased as the numbers of
6 young people coming into the facilities decreased,
7 because staff were able to give them more time.

8 Q. Right.

9 A. By that time in the '90s the young people would have
10 been moved out of the big main school block, which did
11 not give much comfort to young people. I mean, it was
12 quite a cold stark building, tiled, and not much room
13 for privacy or comfort for young people, you know.

14 Q. You mentioned the number of people you got through staff
15 training in-house. Was that to qualification level?

16 A. That was professional qualification level. It was known
17 as the employment-based route to professional training.

18 Q. To -- what, to the CQSW, was it, at that stage or ...?

19 A. It was the CQSW and then I think latterly it became the
20 --

21 Q. The CSS or something different?

22 A. The diploma -- no, the CSS was the forerunner.

23 Q. It was a diploma in social work?

24 A. Well, it is now the -- I think it is now the diploma.

25 Q. Yes.

1 A. I am showing my ignorance here. It is that long since
2 I've trained myself, but it was professional -- it was
3 the recognised professional social work qualification.
4 CQSW (inaudible).

5 Q. Were you linked with the university or something in
6 providing that?

7 A. Yes. It was through the -- what is now the Belfast
8 Metropolitan College. I forget what it was previously.

9 Q. Rupert Stanley before that?

10 A. Yes, it would have been Rupert Stanley in part, yes.

11 Q. Right. My last question is with the Brothers obviously
12 it was a Catholic establishment essentially.

13

14

15 A. No, very much -- it is all religions and none. That's
16 ...

17 Q. And during the period of our remit up to 1995 were the
18 staff all Catholic? Was that Catholic throughout that
19 period?

20 A. The vast majority. I mean, one of the issues with
21 a Training School Order was that the young person had to
22 be sent to the training school of their religious
23 persuasion --

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. -- and the schools tended to reflect that ethos.

1 Q. Right.

2 **A. And St. Patrick's was located in the heart of West**
3 **Belfast as well.**

4 Q. Yes.

5 **A. So it was geographically and politically, and I think**
6 **the ethos -- that was the ethos the school had to**
7 **develop because of the legislation. So ...**

8 Q. Yes.

9 **A. But it has changed very significantly now.**

10 Q. Thank you very much.

11 CHAIRMAN: Well, SPT26, thank you very much for coming to
12 speak to us, because with your particular experience you
13 have been able to give us a lot of very helpful
14 information indeed about matters of policy and so on
15 which are perhaps only touched on occasionally by other
16 witnesses. So thank you very much indeed --

17 **A. You're very welcome.**

18 Q. -- for taking the time out of what I'm sure are onerous
19 responsibilities to come to us today. Thank you.

20 **A. Thank you. You're welcome.**

21 **(Witness withdrew)**

22 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, that concludes
23 the oral evidence for this week and it is next
24 Wednesday, Chairman, that we are going to begin.

25 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Well, we will resume next Wednesday, ladies

1 and gentlemen.

2 (3.20 pm)

3 (Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
4 on Wednesday, 30th September 2015)

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