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HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY  
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being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at  
Banbridge Court House  
Banbridge

on Tuesday, 20th October 2015

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 152)

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

1 Tuesday, 20th October 2015

2 (10.00 am)

3 (Proceedings delayed)

4 (10.35 am)

5 WITNESS HIA200 (called)

6 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. May I remind  
7 everyone to ensure that, if they have a mobile phone, it  
8 has been either turned off or placed on  
9 "Silent"/"Vibrate", and also remind you that photography  
10 is not permitted either here in the chamber or indeed  
11 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 HIA200. He is  
15 "HIA200". HIA200 wishes to take a religious oath and he  
16 also wishes to maintain his anonymity.

17 WITNESS HIA200 (sworn)

18 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, HIA200. Please sit down.

19 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

20 MS SMITH: HIA200, as I explained to you, I am just going to  
21 let the Panel know where there are some documents in  
22 relation to your evidence in our bundle of evidence.

23 The first is HIA200's statement, which can be seen  
24 at 037 to 043. That's the RGL bundle.

25 The HSCB have put in a response at 287 to 288 and

1 a supplementary response at 749 to 755. This latter  
2 response shows that there was limited contact with  
3 Social Services and HIA200's family, but it is not  
4 relevant to his time in Rathgael.

5 The Department of Justice have given a response  
6 statement at 791 to 804, including exhibits, and they  
7 say that they were not aware of any complaint that had  
8 been made by HIA200 at the time that he was in Rathgael.

9 There is some social work material at 50816 to  
10 50942.

11 HIA200 himself brought some documents to the  
12 Inquiry, which are at 60128 to 60132.

13 If HIA200's statement could be put on the screen,  
14 please. That's 037.

15 Now, HIA200, as I have explained to you, instead of  
16 your name it says "The witness statement of HIA200" --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- which is the designation that we have given to you to  
19 protect your anonymity, and there are various details  
20 blacked out in your statement of evidence, but can  
21 I just ask you to confirm that that is the evidence  
22 that -- the statement that you signed on the last page,  
23 which is 043, on 15th April of this year?

24 **A. Yes, it is.**

25 Q. And this is the statement of evidence that you want the

1 Inquiry to consider with anything else that you tell us  
2 today?

3 **A. Yes, it is.**

4 Q. Now your personal details are set out in paragraph 1 of  
5 the statement at 037, and you are now aged . Isn't  
6 that correct?

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

8 Q. You were initially put into Rathgael because you were  
9 truanting from school and you were almost . You were  
10 --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- when you went in in June 1974. You were there for  
13 two days initially before you were sent to Lisnevin for  
14 a period of six weeks for assessment, but we were  
15 looking at some documents, and you were saying that  
16 there was you and you had **RG 76** .

17 **A. That's right.**

18 Q. You were both truanting. You say when you went into  
19 Rathgael in June 1974, a Training School Order was made  
20 immediately because of that.

21 **A. Yes, it was, yes.**

22 Q. The only Training School that we have seen in the  
23 bundle relates to 24th July '74, after your period in  
24 Lisnevin, and that's at 40970, which was -- and  
25 a Training School Order was made because you had been

1 offending.

2 **A. Well, we were initially sentenced by the Petty Sessions**  
3 **Court that day. We were sentenced to one to three years**  
4 **in Rathgael and we knew -- RG 76 and myself knew**  
5 **that we weren't -- you know, we were going to be there**  
6 **for one to three years. So, you know, the assessment in**  
7 **Lisnevin came after -- as I say, after the few days in**  
8 **Rathgael, but we were -- we knew that we'd got one to**  
9 **three years. Now I don't know the legal way of things**  
10 **and the way documents were set out or whatever, but we**  
11 **knew that we had got committed to Rathgael for one to**  
12 **three years. That was a committal.**

13 Q. And then whenever the Training School Order was made in  
14 July, you understood that to be concurrent --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- to the original Training School Order?

17 **A. Yes, it was, yes.**

18 Q. Well, in any event you did go to Lisnevin and you  
19 describe Lisnevin as a fantastic place in paragraph 2 of  
20 your statement.

21 **A. Yes, it was, yes.**

22 Q. And you have no complaints about there.

23 **A. No, no.**

24 Q. I am going to -- there is a document at 40984, which  
25 seems to be a report that Lisnevin provided after that

1 period of assessment, and I am not going to go through  
2 the details of it here, but the Panel can read that in  
3 due course about what the view from Lisnevin was, and  
4 that then appears to have been -- it is described as  
5 a pen picture.

6 **A. Okay.**

7 Q. That was probably then fed into the court hearing in  
8 July of 2000 -- sorry -- 1974.

9 You then went back to Rathgael after that court  
10 order was made. You went back on 5th August 1974 and  
11 you stayed there until 8th December 1975 --

12 **A. That's right.**

13 Q. -- when you were licensed to live at home.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. You attended then as a day pupil from May 1977.

16 **A. That's right.**

17 Q. So you were living at home and going back to Rathgael to  
18 school, and then the following September I think it was  
19 you went to

20 . Is that right?

21 **A. No. Sorry. It was after I got out of Rathgael after  
22 the eighteen months on the December '75. That's when  
23 I went back to . Then it was  
24 because I still played truant there that Rathgael  
25 decided to bring me back there as a day boy just to**

1           **attend school and then go home at nights.**

2    Q.   Then you didn't -- you were living at home again and you  
3           didn't comply with the contract --

4    **A.   No.**

5    Q.   -- to attend school in Rathgael.

6    **A.   That's right, yes.**

7    Q.   They came to your home and they forcibly removed you and  
8           brought you back --

9    **A.   Yes.**

10   Q.   -- on 5th December 1977 and you were there until  
11           20th December.

12   **A.   Yes.**

13   Q.   And ultimately you were discharged then in January 1978.  
14           The Training School Order was discharged.

15   **A.   Sorry. No. I think that's -- I think it's -- the dates**  
16           **are sort of wrong there again. You know, when**  
17           **I initially got out -- I can't remember the dates**  
18           **exactly. Was it '75? I done the eighteen months in**  
19           **Rathgael. I went from then to** .  
20           **Then I came back as a day boy. Then because I still**  
21           **played truant even in Rathgael, I was brought back**  
22           **temporary for a few days. I think it was a week or so.**

23   Q.   Yes.

24   **A.   Is that what you were saying there? Sorry.**

25   Q.   Yes. Sorry. Maybe I confused you. I didn't mean to.

1 Certainly that would have been in December 1977.

2 **A. Was it December? I thought it was -- I thought that was**  
3 **more Easter time. Was it not, no?**

4 Q. The records that we have suggest it was December, but --

5 **A. Because I remember -- I can remember finishing school.**  
6 **I was , but I remember that I had to go to Easter. At**  
7 **that time I had to go to Easter -- Easter until I could**  
8 **leave school. I remember that. So I think maybe the**  
9 **dates might be wrong there.**

10 Q. Okay. Well, in any event we know that when you were in  
11 Rathgael --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- we will concentrate, if we may --

14 **A. Yes. Okay.**

15 Q. -- on the period of time when you were actually living  
16 in Rathgael.

17 **A. Okay.**

18 Q. You went home at weekends and your father visited --  
19 they suggest it was on a Wednesday but you thought he  
20 came up on a Sunday to visit.

21 **A. It was a Sunday. We were out -- we were out some**  
22 **weekends, not every weekend, but the weekends we weren't**  
23 **out it was every Sunday was visiting time in Rathgael.**

24 Q. I wondered whenever the fact was that you were going  
25 home -- and I am just going to refer to a document that



1 the Panel can look at, which is at 40999, which records  
2 the fact that you were going home on weekend leave --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- and your father visiting. I was wondering -- we will  
5 come on to look at what you have to say about your time  
6 in Rathgael, but did you speak to your family about the  
7 complaints that you had about Rathgael?

8 **A. I would have. Yes, I would have, but Rathgael, them**  
9 **days it was like -- it was like -- to be honest, it was**  
10 **like a prison, and that's the way people would have**  
11 **thought of Rathgael. It was like a prison. It wasn't**  
12 **like a children's home. My family -- as I say, my**  
13 **mother and father, you know, they separated. When we**  
14 **went into Rathgael, my mother separated from my father.**  
15 **She went to live in . So -- and my father, as**  
16 **you know, he was -- as I told you, he was**  
17 **and, you know, he didn't have a whole lot of time to**  
18 **talk about things, but even if I did tell him them**  
19 **things, he wouldn't have challenged anyone on it,**  
20 **because it was nearly the norm.**

21 Q. One of the other things in the documents that the  
22 Inquiry have seen in relation to your involvement with  
23 Rathgael was that whenever you were discharged and  
24 whenever you were living at home, there was still  
25 contact with the school. The housemaster would have

1 come to -- on home visits and that kind of thing. Isn't  
2 that correct?

3 **A. Yes, that's right, yes.**

4 Q. Now if we can just look at your statement, please, at  
5 037. If we can scroll down, please, there to  
6 paragraph 3, you say that you experienced a lot of  
7 physical, emotional and verbal abuse at Rathgael both  
8 from the other boys and from members of staff. If we  
9 can scroll on down, you say some members of staff at  
10 Rathgael were fine, but there were a couple who treated  
11 you very badly in particular. Now I am going to use  
12 names --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- because it will be easier for you for me to do that,  
15 HIA200 --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- but I just remind people that these names are not to  
18 be used outside this chamber.

19 **A. Okay. Yes, I understand.**

20 Q. The first of those is a man you remember, a RG13.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. You describe him as \_\_\_\_\_ in his \_\_\_\_\_. He had  
23 \_\_\_\_\_. He was the housemaster in House \_\_\_\_\_ where  
24 you lived initially and that was \_\_\_\_\_. Is  
25 that correct?

1 **A. No.**

2 Q. No. Sorry.

3 **A. No, he was. He was one of the housemasters, one of the**  
4 **regular staff there anyway, maybe not necessarily**  
5 **a housemaster, but he was one of the regular staff.**

6 Q. You say that he worked there at night-time.

7 **A. Well, a lot of night-time, yes, but during the day as**  
8 **well, but mostly at night.**

9 Q. But he wasn't the in the house.

10 **A. No, no, no.**

11 Q. You describe that as another man, RG42. Is that right?

12 **A. Yes, yes, that's right.**

13 Q. You say that:

14 "He was quite violent, always shouting at us.  
15 I remember a particular incident one evening about  
16 7.00 pm when we were getting ready for bed. He made  
17 everyone in the house run around the outside recreation  
18 area in our pyjamas as a punishment."

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. "Even though it was the summer months, it was absolutely  
21 freezing."

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. "I think it was a way which he had of asserting his  
24 authority",

25 but you found it humiliating.

1 **A. It was, yes, yes.**

2 Q. Can you remember how many boys would have been involved  
3 in it?

4 **A. I think actually you're talking at least -- at least**  
5 **twenty, if not more.**

6 Q. And would that have been the numbers that would have  
7 been in the house --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- the entire house?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. You go on then in paragraph --

12 **A. Sorry. I can tell you -- I can tell you more or less**  
13 **exactly. It is actually 20, because there's 20 rooms,**  
14 **20 beds. So that's right. So it's 20.**

15 Q. Well, you remember another incident that you describe  
16 here at paragraph 4 involving the same man, and you say  
17 that he slapped you hard on the head and face.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. You had been to Bangor for an outing earlier that day as  
20 a group. You told a different member of staff -- that  
21 was a RG14 --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- who was supervising you that you were allowed to have  
24 some time to yourselves for an hour.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. And that was a lie.

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

3 Q. RG13 found out and blamed you for lying to RG14.

4 **A. Yes, yes.**

5 Q. And another member of staff, whom you name there, a girl  
6 called RG15 --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- you say that she witnessed what was happening and she  
9 tried to intervene.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. She started to scream at him and shouted at him to leave  
12 you alone.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. You think she was about        years --        years old. So  
15 you think she might have been

16 **A. Yes, I think she                                 I think she was doing,**  
17 **you know --**

18 Q.                                 or something like that?

19 **A.                                 , yes.**

20 Q. You remember her well, because she was so friendly, and  
21 you were telling me that she had actually given you  
22 an autograph of Elvis or something.

23 **A. That's right. She did.**

24 Q. Something that was subsequently lost.

25 **A. We had, you know, a good rapport.**

1 Q. He began shouting back at her and told her to mind her  
2 own business. You say she left Rathgael shortly  
3 afterwards.

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. You thought --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- that she was dismissed because he complained about  
8 her.

9 **A. Yes, yes, I do.**

10 Q. That was just your take on it.

11 **A. That's what I believe, but, you know, it was it, you  
12 know.**

13 Q. You go on then to describe another member of staff here  
14 at paragraph 5, HIA200. You say that:

15 "There was another member of staff called RG16."

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. Again I am using names that aren't to be repeated  
18 outside.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. "He was , man, who was . He was  
21 also a bully and I felt afraid of him. I remember one  
22 incident in August '74 when he took us to Stricklands  
23 Glen in Bangor for a day at the seaside. We drove there  
24 by minibus, and when we got there, he made us all jump  
25 into the sea."

1     **A. That's right.**

2     Q. Now you talk here about                    RG 76     --

3     **A. Yes.**

4     Q. -- who could swim, but was afraid of deep water --

5     **A. Uh-huh.**

6     Q. -- and you say that this member of staff knew that --

7     **A. Yes.**

8     Q. -- but just threw him into the water anyway. You felt  
9     very threatened by this man.

10    **A. Yes. Well, he actually made us run all round the place**  
11    **first. It is a place called -- in Bangor called**  
12    **Stricklands Glen. There was like a bit of a pier that**  
13    **you can dive off, you know, and jump into the water, but**  
14    **he made us run round -- run round and round in circles**  
15    **and then he made every one of us jump into the water,**  
16    **and        RG 76        , who was frightened, terrified of**  
17    **deep water, said, "RG16, I can't go in. I can't go in.**  
18    **I can't go in". He says, "Get in there" and just pushed**  
19    **him in, and     RG 76     was terrified. Only that he was**  
20    **beside the very edge of the water -- sorry -- the very**  
21    **edge of where the rocks would be, he was able to**  
22    **scramble back in again. That's what happened.**

23    Q. We will come and talk a little bit more about RG 76

24        RG 76     --

25    **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- and what you want to say about him later --

2 A. Yes. Uh-huh. Yes.

3 Q. -- HIA200, but you go on to talk about being discharged  
4 in December '75 and going back to live at home; then  
5 having to go back into Rathgael. Sorry. If we can just  
6 scroll then, please, you went to school in Bangor, as  
7 I said, and then in paragraph 7 here you say that when  
8 you were sent back, you went to a different house. This  
9 time it was House .

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Your housemother, whom you name there as --

12 A. RG 72 .

13 Q. -- RG 72 , you say was a lovely lady.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. But you were absolutely distraught at the thought of  
16 being in Rathgael again, and when she told you to put  
17 your uniform on again, you refused to do this.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You remember standing in a small cloakroom where the  
20 laundry and clean clothes were kept and not wanting to  
21 put these clothes on, because you had such negative  
22 associations with them. You say that RG16 came rushing  
23 in and hit you on the face and head and told you to get  
24 your uniform on.

25 A. Yes.



1 Q. You were so upset by that that you absconded and went  
2 home that day. He collected you from your father's  
3 house, but because he knew he had treated you badly, he  
4 actually apologised to you.

5 **A. Yes, yes.**

6 Q. Now there is some documentation in relation to this in  
7 the bundle of evidence that the Inquiry has found.  
8 That's at 40998, please, if we could call that up. We  
9 looked at this a short while ago. You will see this  
10 appears to be a document that is taken from a marks book  
11 that is kept in respect of behaviours of the boys, and  
12 you will see that at the top it says " and " and  
13 other sheets that the Inquiry has seen will show the  
14 marks awarded or deducted --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- are recorded in that column. Although it is not  
17 clear, this certainly seems to be from December 1977.  
18 Now I know you thought this was earlier, because you  
19 thought it was 1975, but this seems to be 1977, because  
20 of the entry that's at the bottom of the page from 1978,  
21 but it's about you. You are number 24. was  
22 House . Isn't that correct?

23 **A. No. was House . was House .**

24 Q. House .

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. So this is in when you are in House .

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. At 2.00 pm whoever is writing this, and that's not  
4 clear, is summoned to **RG 4**

5 "... where I had been informed that HIA200 was in  
6 breach of the contract drawn up between himself and the  
7 school and he was being boarded in the school until his  
8 discharge next Friday."

9 Again that is why I think this relates to 1977.

10 **A. Oh, that's right. It is 1977. This one is 1977, yes.**

11 Q. "HIA200 understandably upset at the decision but was  
12 adamant he wouldn't stay. 2.20 pm taken to unit where  
13 he refused to don school attire. RG16 informed and came  
14 and spoke to HIA200, who agreed to put on school  
15 clothes. RG16 escorted HIA200 to school. 3.50 pm  
16 HIA200 absconded from school prior to coming to unit for  
17 the evening. 5.05 pm HIA200 returned to unit by RG16.  
18 Apparently HIA200 returned of his own accord. RG16 to  
19 speak to HIA200 after tea. 6.15 pm had discussion with  
20 HIA200, who has calmed down considerably and was able to  
21 see that the easiest solution to his problem would be to  
22 stay the week and be discharged to employment as soon as  
23 possible. HIA200 seems to think he can spend the week  
24 in sick bay, a request which will I am sure not be  
25 granted. 9.05, as expected HIA200's wishes to sleep in

1 sick bay were not granted and he has been placed in  
2 a six-bed dormitory."

3 Then there is entries there from March '78 about you  
4 going for a test for employment at a factory and your  
5 father calling for him (sic) when you were discharged in  
6 March.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. So the incident that you thought you remembered  
9 happening in 1975 was actually later than that. It was  
10 1977. It is recorded here that RG16 came to speak to  
11 you about not wearing the uniform. I know you don't  
12 accept that is what happened.

13 **A. No. I knew it was -- I knew it was like that. I knew  
14 it was after the initial commitment to Rathgael.**

15 Q. Sorry.

16 **A. I knew it was when I was brought back in as a day boy.  
17 No, RG16 certainly didn't just talk to me. RG16 came  
18 running in like a beaten bear and came in and slapped  
19 and punched me in the back of the head and face. The  
20 housemaster -- the housemistress was left there, you  
21 know. She was stunned, you know, and I was crying, you  
22 know. He left. He left then -- he left then and that's  
23 when I decided to abscond.**

24 Q. And he then came to your house, which is where you had  
25 --

1 **A. Yes, he did, yes.**

2 Q. -- absconded to and brought you back. You say that when  
3 he was at your home, he actually apologised.

4 **A. He apologised for being angry, yes.**

5 Q. Well, in -- going back to your statement, HIA200, in  
6 paragraph 8 at 039 you say that you remember a lot of  
7 peer bullying at Rathgael. 039. You say it was both  
8 verbal and physical and there was very little you could  
9 do about it. For example, you remember one boy's mother  
10 had passed away. As his father was , the other  
11 boys teased him by saying --

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

13 Q. -- his father had .

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

15 Q. You felt particularly vulnerable at night, because you  
16 were in a room with six to eight other boys. If one of  
17 them had it in for you, there was nothing you could do.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. You remember being punched by the boys -- by the other  
20 boys quite often. There was no-one you could complain  
21 to, because no-one would listen, and you feel that as a  
22 result you have developed an inferiority complex --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- because of this bullying. You also mentioned to me  
25 when we were talking earlier that you remember that some

1 friends of yours from outside of Rathgael actually came  
2 up and spoke to some of the boys who were bullying you.

3 **A. That's when we first went into -- well, not -- when we**  
4 **first went into Rathgael -- sorry -- you know, after**  
5 **Lisnevin. Sorry. In August that happened. I remember**  
6 **being bullied -- myself and RG 76 being bullied.**  
7 **We had friends came up to visit us and they challenged**  
8 **the bullies -- the bullies, and there was a bit of**  
9 **exchanges, but that was about all.**

10 Q. But there was nothing actually -- it didn't ease the  
11 situation for you?

12 **A. No, no, it didn't. No, it didn't ease it, no, not at**  
13 **all.**

14 Q. Paragraph 9 you talk about another member of staff.  
15 That's a RG73. You say -- you describe him there and  
16 you say:

17 "He was very unpredictable in his behaviour."

18 For example, you remember if you caught -- if he  
19 caught you doing something wrong, he punched you in the  
20 stomach.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. You were so taken aback that for a moment you couldn't  
23 breathe. He thought you were exaggerating and gave you  
24 another slap.

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. You -- I mean, I am going to -- we will need to check  
2 this, but you thought he was in Rathgael.

3 A. I'm nearly -- I'd be -- I'd be quite sure he was,  
4 because he used to do wee -- you know, on his own time,  
5 not as to but he used to do with  
6 us, but not -- it wasn't -- it was more like playing  
7 about with us. It wasn't actually -- he wasn't there to  
8 -- to -- in that ...

9 Q. In that role?

10 A. In that role, yes.

11 Q. Was he a housemaster?

12 A. He was a housemaster, yes.

13 Q. You say that you looked to him for support when the  
14 other boys were bullying him (sic). Did you actually go  
15 and speak to him about it?

16 A. I can't remember, but that time before where he hit me  
17 in the stomach, now I was up to no good. I was doing  
18 wrong. I think I was fighting with somebody. I went  
19 into the ablutions and he punched me in the stomach  
20 very, very severely that I could not breathe.

21 I couldn't get a breath. I remember him, "Stop  
22 exaggerating. You're letting on. You're letting on.  
23 I'll give you a big slap on the back of the head" and  
24 that's what he done, but at other times -- you could  
25 have talked to him at other times, you know. So ...

1 Q. You were saying to me when we were speaking earlier,  
2 HIA200, that -- sorry. I just had a brain freeze there.  
3 Apologies. When we were talking, you were saying that  
4 there were good people --

5 A. Uh-huh, yes.

6 Q. -- in the home.

7 A. Most definitely, yes.

8 Q. You felt that this person was not all bad. You were  
9 saying that you actually -- your behaviour was not all  
10 good.

11 A. No. RG73 -- can I just explain about RG73? RG73 --  
12 most of them were quite good, you know, and RG73 had his  
13 good times, but I knew -- we all were aware that RG73  
14 was . We all knew that about him. He --  
15 to me, you know, he encouraged -- maybe we will come on  
16 to this here -- but he encouraged other people to mock  
17 me, because he was mocking me himself, and he encouraged  
18 the other children to do that, because they were looking  
19 at him mocking me. So they thought it was okay. "If he  
20 is mocking HIA200, it is okay for us to mock him." You  
21 will maybe get to that.

22 Q. Yes, I think so. I mean, they were following his  
23 example?

24 A. You know, yes. So as a -- so as I was  
25 more than surprised at his behaviour.

1 Q. Yes. You say that he always used to jump on the band  
2 wagon and encourage the other boys to tease you.

3 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

4 Q. If we can just scroll down, please. We are still having  
5 some difficulties. You say -- here in paragraph 10 you  
6 talk about this, HIA200. You say you remember getting  
7 teased a lot because of your accent.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. On one occasion you remember walking into the classroom  
10 and he was the teacher --

11 **A. Uh-huh. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. -- this -- RG73.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. He said "Hello, sexy!"

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. You are heterosexual --

17 **A. Yes, yes.**

18 Q. -- but that teasing had a homophobic element to it and  
19 the boys picked up on that --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- and would make comments about your sexuality.

22 **A. Absolutely, yes.**

23 Q. The other boys thought this funny, but you found it very  
24 hurtful and felt humiliated by it.

25 **A. That there has had probably one of the biggest impacts**



1 in my whole life. In my whole life that had the biggest  
2 impact on me because of him. Now it initially happened  
3 where there was a young guy -- because I was from  
4 , we spoke -- we were I suppose posh to some  
5 people from Belfast. For some reason they said, "Sexy  
6 HIA200". It was only meant in that way, but then it got  
7 exaggerated and exaggerated, and RG73 jumped on the band  
8 wagon and he started calling me "Sexy HIA200, sexy  
9 HIA200", started really mocking me. Then the other --  
10 the other residents then, they would have mocked me, but  
11 it was nearly becoming -- nearly becoming physical and  
12 it could have become -- it could have become very, very  
13 dangerous nearly into the sexual abuse, but it wasn't,  
14 but it was very, very near to it, and it had such effect  
15 on my life that years later unfortunately I went through  
16 the justice system in Hydebank Young Offenders Centre.  
17 I remember seeing an old boy from Rathgael and  
18 I remember he looked at me and he could -- you could see  
19 that he could sort of -- he was recognising me but  
20 wasn't just sure who I was, and I was heart scared of  
21 him finding out who I was, because if he realised,  
22 "That's HIA200, sexy HIA200", it would have been back  
23 into it again, and that was a horrible way for me to  
24 feel. It made me feel so insecure and made me feel  
25 terrible, you know.

1 Q. Well, HIA200, then you go on to talk in paragraph 11  
2 about another teacher and you say he taught .  
3 That's RG17.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. He was in his . You go on to describe him. You say:  
6 "He was very strict and he was a bully. He  
7 physically punished us using a slipper" --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- "which he had a name for."

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. "He called it 'Rufus'."

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. "He would beat us for minor misdemeanours in front of  
14 the other boys."

15 You remember being frightened of him and being  
16 beaten by him on occasion. You say that that sort of  
17 behaviour by the staff was tolerated and normalised in  
18 Rathgael to a degree.

19 **A. Yes. Well, there would have been other members of staff  
20 there with him, with RG17 at that time. There would  
21 have been other members of staff there quite willing,  
22 you know, to just let it happen.**

23 Q. Paragraph 12 you talk about your smoking.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. You say you started smoking when you were aged 8 --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- and addicted to it from a very early age.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. In a contrast to what happened in Lisnevin, where you  
5 were allowed to smoke --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- cigarettes a day with your parents' permission --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- it was absolutely forbidden to smoke in Rathgael.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. You were in desperate need of cigarettes and frequently  
12 got caught smoking. You were constantly going off to  
13 have a cigarette and then you had to lie about where you  
14 had been. The staff were always finding you out and  
15 punishing you because of it.

16 I am just going look at a couple of documents that  
17 I mentioned to you and showed to you. 40984 -- sorry --  
18 ...80. I beg your pardon. 40980. This is -- obviously  
19 it is some record that is being kept. It looks like it  
20 is the marks sheet again, because as I was explaining  
21 about the marks --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- that were being recorded at the side of the page, and  
24 this seems to have been -- at the top it says "See  
25 occurrence sheet".

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. So obviously there were occurrence sheets being kept on  
3 you --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- each day, a daily log of some sort --

6 **A. Yes, that's right, yes.**

7 Q. -- which was then being fed into this marks sheet on  
8 a regular basis.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. Then, as you were explaining to me, there were house  
11 meetings.

12 **A. House mentions. That's what they were called. House  
13 mentions.**

14 Q. House mentions, and at those house mentions the boys  
15 were told what their marks were --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- and what privileges --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- they were getting as a result or punishments as  
20 a result.

21 **A. That's right.**

22 Q. Is that correct?

23 **A. Yes, yes.**

24 Q. Now just scanning down this, it is quite clear that from  
25 -- you went in -- sorry. Just stop for a moment

1 scrolling. If we can just go back up, please. It is  
2 quite clear that from 9th October '74 you were blatantly  
3 smoking in the wash-room in addition to lying to  
4 **RG 208** about the origin of the cigarettes and  
5 leaving a group supervised by RG18.

6 "House meeting. A good month apart from the  
7 smoking. More amicable than RG76. Smoking report."

8 You were on report for smoking.

9 "See note on RG76's file."

10 Then:

11 "A nicotine addict, which leads to devious,  
12 dishonest behaviour. An improvement in that there are  
13 no smoking reports."

14 There is a record of you bullying another boy. As  
15 you say yourself, your behaviour wasn't all good.

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

17 Q. "Smoking in toilets during table tennis match. Smoking  
18 with [another boy]. Making a genuine effort despite the  
19 recurring smoking problem. Took the opportunity of  
20 sticking the boot in when two other boys were fighting."

21 Might that have been the occasion whenever RG73  
22 intervened and punched you?

23 **A. It could -- it could have been.**

24 Q. You don't know, though.

25 **A. It could have been.**

1 Q. "Very reluctant to get out of bed. Given extra work as  
2 a result. Smoking in school block toilets during  
3 table-tennis match. Smoking in the school block.  
4 Devious enough to lie about it and let carry the  
5 can. Put to bed early for misbehaviour in the dining  
6 hall."

7 Just scroll on down.

8 "Adopted a very defiant attitude during house  
9 meetings. As a result was disciplined."

10 Now we were talking about this earlier --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- and you feel this was because of what was being said  
13 to you in the house meetings.

14 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

15 Q. If you could maybe explain that.

16 **A. Yes. Well, the staff members would have went into their  
17 own office and they would have discussed each person,  
18 would have worked out scores and what have you. So when  
19 they came down to us, we were all in the common room and  
20 they would have went one by one to us. When it came to  
21 me, RG19 would have said, "HIA200, sleeked, slimy,  
22 underhand again". Month after month that happened with  
23 me and, you know, that had a powerful, you know, effect  
24 on me in the way I would think about myself. You know,  
25 if I ever even hear the word "slimy" or "sleeked" any**

1           **time at all, I relate back to that.**

2    Q.    You were saying this was something that this man, RG19,  
3           did, but you have a good word to say about RG19.

4    **A.    Yes, absolutely, yes.  He was -- he was -- you know,**  
5           **other than that he was a good man.  He just -- he's done**  
6           **wrong things, you know, but he was a genuine -- you**  
7           **know, generally a good man.**

8    Q.    And you would accept that certainly when you were  
9           discharged from Rathgael, he would have helped your  
10          family --

11   **A.    Yes, yes.**

12   Q.    -- in a variety of ways.

13   **A.    Yes, yes.  Uh-huh.**

14   Q.    Just if we can scroll back up and go to the page prior  
15          to this, please, because this is a complete record of  
16          the time that you were in there.

17   **A.    Uh-huh.**

18   Q.    If we can scroll back up then, it would be 40979.  You  
19          will see here that there was -- it talks about you  
20          smuggling cigarettes in.

21   **A.    Yes.**

22   Q.    But yes.  This -- on 15th June '75 it says:

23                 "During a visit HIA200 went down to the adventure  
24                 playground with his sister, who provided him with  
25                 cigarettes.  On return to the unit                         asked him

1 if he had any cigarettes. He replied emphatically

2 'No'."

3 Now you think that was not a . You think

4 that was a RG 224 .

5 **A. That was RG 224 .**

6 Q. There is a reason why you remember.

7 **A. Yes, because -- you know, because -- yes, he'd -- he**  
8 **caught me with cigarettes and he knew that I'd been**  
9 **caught so many times smoking and he says to me, "HIA200,**  
10 **why do you keep smoking? Why do you not just stop?"**  
11 **I says, " RG 224 , I can't. I am completely and**  
12 **utterly addicted". He says, "How can a or**  
13 **-year-old boy be addicted to cigarettes?" I says,**  
14 **"I don't know, but I am", and he -- I could start to see**  
15 **that he started to realise, "Maybe there is something to**  
16 **this", but nothing came out of it, you know.**

17 Q. And there was never -- there was never any -- despite  
18 this record --

19 **A. No.**

20 Q. -- of the problems that you clearly had with smoking --

21 **A. Yes, yes.**

22 Q. -- you were never offered any help --

23 **A. No.**

24 Q. -- to try to stop.

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



1 Q. Going back, if we can, to your witness statement,  
2 please, at 040, paragraph 13 at the bottom of that page  
3 there you start to describe the regime in Rathgael,  
4 which you say was quite strict. You got up at 7.30 or  
5 8.00, got washed, ready to go to school. All had  
6 breakfast together and then went to the school.

7 I am just going to pause there. You have absolutely  
8 no complaints to make about the standard of  
9 accommodation or the food supplied to you or anything  
10 like that.

11 **A. No, no.**

12 Q. "School was separate from the building where we lived,  
13 but we went back to our main houses for meals. Classes  
14 in Rathgael were streamed, but the education provided  
15 was very basic and the standard was so low I found it  
16 difficult to adjust when I went back to the high  
17 school."

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. You talk in the next page about there were technical  
20 drawing classes, which you found impossible to keep up  
21 with, because you weren't taught that in Rathgael?

22 **A. No, no.**

23 Q. You did mention to me when we were speaking earlier,  
24 though, that there was some -- you felt you'd benefitted  
25 from the education you received in Rathgael.

1     **A.**   There was definitely -- at the end of my time there in  
2           Rathgael there was definitely progress made before I,  
3           you know, actually left school. I was moved up from  
4           like a C class or a D class up to an A class and that  
5           encouraged me, you know. So there was definitely a bit  
6           of progress made there.

7     Q.    You say:

8           "School finished about 3.30 and then you could do  
9           whatever you wanted before bedtime."

10          You didn't have homework. Is that right?

11    **A.**   No, I don't think so.

12    Q.    You say:

13          "There was a snooker table, some miniature tennis  
14          courts where you played patten tennis and a swimming  
15          pool. The site itself was quite open, but we were all  
16          locked in at night."

17          There were opportunities to abscond, but you only  
18          absconded once following the incident that you  
19          described.

20    **A.**   Yes.

21    Q.    You were frightened about getting caught and punished,  
22          because you saw what happened to those boys who did run  
23          away.

24    **A.**   Yes.

25    Q.    You say:

1 "The police usually caught them quite quickly.

2 Staff would isolate you for a time after you returned  
3 and you were made to wear shorts" --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- "instead of jeans."

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. You describe those as like long corduroy shorts.

8 **A. Yes, that's right, yes. They really stood out. They**  
9 **really stood out. You know, you knew who had run away**  
10 **and who hadn't, you know, just by the way we were**  
11 **dressed.**

12 Q. And the boys who ran away were closely supervised by  
13 a housemaster for a while after they were caught.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. You talk about your father coming to visit. You also  
16 talk about your mother. You say you were able to talk  
17 to certain members of staff -- for example, there were  
18 staff who were housemasters -- about things that  
19 bothered you while you were there and you name in  
20 particular two, RG18 and RG19.

21 **A. Uh-huh.**

22 Q. They were both good men, but there was a sense that if  
23 you complained about bullying or other members of staff,  
24 that they were all in cahoots with each other. You felt  
25 that that wasn't something that you could readily do.

1     **A. Not really, no. It was like -- it was nearly -- this is**  
2           **just something that happens. You're in Rathgael and**  
3           **this is what happens. If you're bullied, you're**  
4           **bullied. Now don't get me wrong. If a staff member saw**  
5           **you getting bullied or getting hit, they would**  
6           **absolutely intervene, but, you know, that was about it.**

7     **Q. You described RG18 to me as one of the best men you ever**  
8           **knew.**

9     **A. RG18 was one of the best men I've ever known.**

10    **Q. But you felt that staff essentially stood up for each**  
11          **other.**

12    **A. Yes, absolutely.**

13    **Q. Paragraph 17 here you sum up the effect that your time**  
14          **in Rathgael had on you, HIA200. You say you remember it**  
15          **as an almost entirely negative experience, although you**  
16          **have said that there were good aspects to it.**

17    **A. Uh-huh. Uh-huh.**

18    **Q. But when you went there first, although you were getting**  
19          **into trouble, it was not serious trouble, and looking**  
20          **back, you can see that you were quite innocent. You**  
21          **were exposed to a lot of negative influences there and**  
22          **your own behaviour started to escalate into more serious**  
23          **drinking --**

24    **A. Uh-huh.**

25    **Q. -- and crime.**

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. You say things happened to you in Rathgael which you --  
3 made you feel insecure about yourself --

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. -- and have adversely affected your whole life. You  
6 were never taught to value yourself and never had any  
7 confidence to push yourself career-wise, and  
8 consequently, because you missed out on so much of your  
9 education, the only real job you could do was that of  
10 a labourer with .

11 Now I just was asking you: do you remember  
12 undergoing a medical examination when you went into  
13 Rathgael?

14 **A. When I first went in, I can't actually remember it, but**  
15 **I say a place like that I definitely would have had**  
16 **a medical.**

17 Q. There are papers -- I am not going to call them up, but  
18 there are papers that show that there was a medical  
19 examination.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. That's at 41049, and medical records through to 41060.

22 There was -- you were subject to an IQ test,  
23 a particular test --

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. -- WICS -- ...SC for children.

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

2 Q. Do you remember doing that test?

3 **A. I remember something in Lisnevin. I remember doing --**  
4 **I remember somebody coming in and doing an IQ test or**  
5 **something like that in Lisnevin, but I don't remember in**  
6 **Rathgael.**

7 Q. Okay. It may have been that the papers then --

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

9 Q. -- subsequently ended up in your Rathgael file.

10 **A. Could have been, yes, yes.**

11 Q. But -- and you do remember that after you left there was  
12 involvement by the staff from Rathgael.

13 **A. Yes, there was, yes.**

14 Q. RG19 came --

15 **A. Yes, yes.**

16 Q. -- and followed up on what was happening to you.

17 **A. Yes, yes.**

18 Q. Isn't that right?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. You describe in paragraphs 18 to 19 here, HIA200, your  
21 life after you left --

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. -- the institutions that you were in, and you set it out  
24 in some detail. I am not going to go through that --

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. -- because the Panel are aware --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- of what has happened in your life.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. But I know that as a result of you becoming a Christian

6 --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- you engaged in some work that then led you to speak

9 about your early life.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And that led you essentially to come to the Inquiry.

12 A. Yes, yes.

13 Q. Isn't that correct?

14 A. Well, what happened is when I became a Christian, I was  
15 so thankful to God for giving me my life back -- because  
16 I didn't have a life. I was a down and out alcoholic  
17 and all sorts of problems in my life. So I got saved.  
18 I gave my life to the Lord Jesus Christ and He's looked  
19 after me ever since. I gave my testimony around many  
20 places, around many churches and many places,  
21 communities and what have you.

22 After about my fifth or sixth time giving my  
23 testimony I started talking more about my past, my early  
24 life, and I found myself talking about my experiences in  
25 Rathgael, and when I started talking about them, I felt

1 myself getting angry, angry and angry at these men and  
2 even the system, but I remember when I went home after  
3 giving my testimony, I was -- you know, prayed about it  
4 and says, "Lord, why am I feeling like this? Why am  
5 I angry? I shouldn't be like this", you know, and I had  
6 a real urgency nearly to go to Mr -- this is what  
7 I wanted to do. I wanted to go to RG16. I know that he  
8 used to live in where I would live. I really  
9 wanted to go to him. If I had had the opportunity,  
10 I would have went to his house, knocked his door, asked  
11 to speak to him and asked him could I speak to him and  
12 would have told him what he done and how I felt about it  
13 and would have asked him for an apology, and if he gave  
14 me one, that was good, but if he hadn't, well, there was  
15 nothing much I could do about it, but that's the way  
16 I started feeling, you know, and this is how then I --  
17 then shortly after that was when the Inquiry was  
18 announced, and I thought that would be a great way of  
19 telling -- you know, getting this -- my experiences  
20 offloaded, and this has been a great -- I have to say  
21 this has been a great, great help for me, a really,  
22 really great help to get this all loaded -- sorry --  
23 offloaded.

24 Q. Well, HIA200, thank you for that. The Inquiry asks  
25 everybody who comes to speak to it about what



1 recommendations it feels -- you feel --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- that the Inquiry should make --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- to the Northern Ireland Executive at the end of its  
6 work.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Your view is that there should be some sort of apology  
9 made to people.

10 **A. Yes. You know, I do -- I do believe that. You know,**  
11 **I don't hold any grudges to these people who treated me**  
12 **like this or even the system, you know, but I do believe**  
13 **there were shortcomings. I do believe there is things**  
14 **in my life -- my life went on a certain way perhaps**  
15 **because of some of the things that did happen in**  
16 **Rathgael. I believe there was shortcomings in the**  
17 **institutions, you know, on their part. I believe there**  
18 **should be an apology. I would like -- this is what**  
19 **I would like to have. I would like to have an apology**  
20 **for the experiences that I had to go through.**

21 Q. One other thing that we were discussing was sadly your  
22 RG 76 , RG 76 , is no longer with us.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. You -- he --

25 **A. That's right.**

1 Q. -- you luckily were able to give up the cigarettes  
2 eventually.

3 A. Yes, yes.

4 Q. He unfortunately wasn't and that led to his untimely  
5 death a couple of years ago.

6 A. Yes, that's right.

7 Q. You and he while he was ill talked quite a bit --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- and talked about your time in Rathgael. You were  
10 saying to me that you wished that he had been able to  
11 hear something about the incident involving particularly  
12 RG16, because that lived with him.

13 A. Yes. That lived with RG76 for years. RG76,  
14 RG 76 , ,  
15 , from lung cancer due to the smoking. Before  
16 he died, when he was going through, you know, this  
17 terrible time that he was going through with cancer, you  
18 know, he talked about it. He talked about Rathgael. He  
19 talked about RG16. He actually remembered -- I remember  
20 him -- talking to him one night and he mentioned about  
21 RG16 throwing him in and he was distraught by it.

22 I had mentioned to him about myself coming to the  
23 HIA Inquiry, and I knew RG76 wasn't well enough to go to  
24 it obviously himself, but we talked about it, and I know  
25 RG 76 himself, if he had been well enough, he

1 **certainly would be here, most certainly.**

2 Q. Well, thank you for that. Again there is nothing I want  
3 to ask you, but is there anything you feel you haven't  
4 had the opportunity to say, or something that we haven't  
5 covered, or something I have got wrong in your evidence?  
6 Then please say it now.

7 **A. I think it's okay. I think it's -- thank you.**

8 Q. Well, HIA200, I am going to hand you over to the Panel.  
9 I am sure they will have some questions for you.

10 **A. Yes. Okay.**

11 **Questions from THE PANEL**

12 CHAIRMAN: HIA200, I would just like to ask you about one  
13 thing. You said I think that one of the staff, RG19 --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- followed up with you after you left Rathgael. Is  
16 that right?

17 **A. Well, it was --**

18 Q. In what -- in what way did he do that?

19 **A. Well, I think really it wasn't so much RG19, to be  
20 honest. I think it was RG18, but I think he would have  
21 done that more on his own time.**

22 Q. I see.

23 **A. He would have brought us down I remember food hampers at  
24 Christmas. Now there was a man called -- I think I said  
25 to you -- was his name -- --**



1 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much. That has been really  
2 helpful. Can I just check: when RG73 was calling you  
3 "sexy HIA200" --

4 **A. Yes, uh-huh.**

5 Q. -- were other staff aware of that nickname being used?

6 **A. Absolutely. Everybody was aware of it, everybody.**

7 -- I actually remember RG18, who, as I say, was one  
8 of the best men I have ever known, he said, "Why are  
9 they calling you 'sexy HIA200'?" I says, "It's been  
10 something that's happened out of a mole hill. You know,  
11 it has been just because of accent and it has  
12 been turned into something else and exaggerated and  
13 exaggerated into -- and went out of all proportions",  
14 that, as I say, it could have became very dangerous.

15 Q. Would RG18 have known that because the other boys were  
16 calling you "sexy HIA200" as opposed to hearing RG73  
17 call you it?

18 **A. Yes, yes, more from -- more from the other boys, but I  
19 think -- you know, to be honest, I would think that he  
20 would have heard RG73 saying it too, because RG73 was  
21 always -- it wasn't just that particular day.**

22 I remember that particular day it was in the classroom,  
23 walking into the classroom. That was only one incident  
24 of many.

25 Q. But any time after that that's how he would have

1 referred to you in front of whoever was --

2 **A. Yes, yes, yes, not all the time obviously, but, you**  
3 **know, just at times when he felt in that sort of mood.**

4 Q. Okay. I mean, one of the things I noticed from the  
5 daily record, it says:

6 "Takes the a bit far in trying to  
7 protect ."

8 Do you want to say a bit about that? Did you give  
9 ...?

10 **A. Well, I have always been very -- I have always from as**  
11 **far back as I can remember been very protective of**  
12 **RG 76 always been. That's just the way -- as**  
13 **I say, maybe -- maybe I was overboard with it.**

14 Q. But would that involve you getting in fights or getting  
15 into ...?

16 **A. Yes, it would have. I would have -- now I would have --**  
17 **if somebody was going to hit RG76 or (inaudible) RG76,**  
18 **I would have rather been hit myself than him go through**  
19 **that. That's just the way I would have felt. I would**  
20 **have rather took the pain than him. So I would have**  
21 **certainly tackled people who -- not that RG76 ever**  
22 **needed that, because he didn't, but I just felt that**  
23 **I --**

24 Q. Needed to do it.

25 **A. -- needed to do that.**

1 Q. Okay. Thanks very much, HIA200.

2 MR LANE: You mentioned about your heavy smoking.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Were there normal rules for who was allowed to smoke?

5 A. In Rathgael?

6 Q. Uh-huh.

7 A. It was forbidden in the where I was in. In the

8 it was forbidden. In the -- I think

9 -- they were in another area of

10 Rathgael -- they were allowed to smoke, but where I was

11 it was completely forbidden.

12 Q. Thank you. You mention the close supervision of boys

13 who had absconded.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Do you mean simply the staff were keeping a closer eye

16 on them --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- or did they also talk about why the boy had absconded

19 and that sort of thing?

20 A. No, they didn't. What would have happened, they would

21 have been put into a single cell -- sorry -- a single --

22 sorry -- the name wasn't a cell; it was a room --

23 a single room. They would have been into a single room

24 and kept very close watch for maybe a couple of weeks.

25 Q. Till they thought they had settled down?

1 **A. Yes, yes, yes, yes.**

2 Q. Thank you very much.

3 **A. Thank you.**

4 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA200, those are the only questions we  
5 want to ask you. Thank you very much indeed for coming  
6 to speak to us this morning.

7 **A. Thank you.**

8 **(Witness withdrew)**

9 MS SMITH: Chairman, the next witness today will be taken by  
10 Mr Aiken, but it is probably time to take a short break.

11 CHAIRMAN: Very well. We will just rise for a few minutes  
12 and start again not before 11.30.

13 (11.20 am)

14 (Short break)

15 (11.30 am)

16 WITNESS HIA248 (called)

17 CHAIRMAN: Mr Aiken.

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

19 The second witness today is HIA248. I think it is

20 HIA248 --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- but it is HIA248 and he is "HIA248". He is going to  
23 keep his anonymity and he is aware, Chairman, you are  
24 going to ask him to take the oath.

25 WITNESS HIA248 (sworn)



1 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, HIA248. Please sit down.

2 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

3 MR AIKEN: HIA248, coming up on the screen will be the first  
4 page of your witness statement with the black marks we  
5 were talking about. Can you just have a look at it,  
6 compare with the hard copy you have got where you can  
7 see under the marks and confirm that is the first  
8 page of your statement?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. And if we go to the last page at 063, please, and again  
11 that can you check is the last page of your statement  
12 and that you have signed it?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. And you want to adopt it as part of your evidence to the  
15 Inquiry?

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

17 Q. And, HIA248, as I was explaining to you, bear with me  
18 for a moment, because we have got a huge volume of  
19 material. It may be incomplete, but it is nonetheless  
20 of a significant proportion, and I am going to indicate  
21 to the Panel where that material can be found.

22 **A. Okay.**

23 Q. As I explained to you, the Panel read material in  
24 advance so that we can reduce the length of time that  
25 you have to spend giving your oral evidence, but if at

1 any stage you have any difficulty of any kind, you make  
2 me aware of that and the Panel will have no difficulty  
3 taking a break, if that's necessary.

4 **A. Okay.**

5 Q. In addition to your own statement, HIA248, as I was  
6 explaining to you, the Health & Social Care Board, who  
7 are the modern day version of Social Services, as it  
8 were, provided a statement to the Inquiry. It can be  
9 found at 482 to 484. That initial statement, as I was  
10 saying to you, they could not find a social work file  
11 relating to you, but they then provided a supplementary  
12 statement to the Inquiry at 1777 to 1779, with exhibits  
13 at 1780 to 1800, where they could find part of the  
14 social work papers that would have related to you and  
15 other family members.

16 **A. Okay.**

17 Q. And you explain in your statement the background that  
18 led you to Rathgael and I am going to summarise that  
19 very briefly.

20 Then the Department of Justice, who are the modern  
21 day department responsible for previous departments who  
22 operated the training schools, their statement can be  
23 found at 812 to 814, with exhibits from 815 to 829.

24 Then part of the way that we can check the dates in  
25 places like training schools and borstals is a criminal

1 record, which I am not going to go into beyond making  
2 reference to it -- the Panel are aware of it -- at 35793  
3 to 35795.

4 Then there are some key documents that will assist  
5 the Panel, which is the admission record that shows the  
6 dates in Rathgael. That's at 42890, and a summary  
7 medical record that you and I were looking at, which  
8 helped us understand particular -- when a particular  
9 incident occurred at 43046.

10 Now, as you know, HIA248, because you yourself had  
11 done a freedom of information request and received  
12 a large volume of your material from the Department of  
13 Justice --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- that material includes, as you and I were discussing  
16 this morning, sometimes very difficult to read  
17 handwritten records.

18 **A. Yes, yes.**

19 Q. There are detailed medical records and, as we were  
20 discussing, you were agreeing with me that there's lots  
21 of medical treatment seems to have been offered in terms  
22 of if you had a cough, you were taken to matron --

23 **A. Taken, yes, yes.**

24 Q. -- and given cough mixture and treated for scabies and  
25 abdominal pains. Once you hurt your elbow. You were

1 taken to the hospital. That medical treatment was  
2 a normal part of life in Rathgael.

3 **A. Well, yes.**

4 Q. Is that a fair --

5 **A. I can't complain about that at all, I mean.**

6 Q. And as part of that there is then detailed nursing  
7 records. There are, as the Panel is becoming aware, two  
8 sources of daily handwritten record. One of those seems  
9 to be a marks record, and I know that Mr Wolfe is going  
10 to bring greater clarity to that as soon as possible.  
11 The written entries are not an occurrence log  
12 necessarily but a marks book record where difficult  
13 behaviour -- and you and I were discussing various  
14 aspects of that, HIA248 -- are recorded and loss of  
15 marks or what the punishment was for the type of  
16 difficulty, and that's one set of handwritten records,  
17 and the other set of handwritten records seem to be from  
18 the aftercare section of Rathgael. Sometimes they are  
19 stamped "Welfare" at the top of the page, and that seems  
20 to have been personnel from Rathgael, HIA248, who would  
21 have gone out to check how you were doing your job --

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. -- or visited the foster -- in your case the foster  
24 family --

25 **A. Family.**

1 Q. -- to see how you were getting on, and then kept  
2 a record of those interactions. As a result we can be  
3 relatively sure there is records that would have existed  
4 that are not presently available that might have  
5 completed the picture in terms of occurrences, but we  
6 are going to look into that a bit further.

7 Then as part of the material that's available to the  
8 Panel, HIA248, a lot of work was done during your time  
9 in Rathgael by Social Services to find a suitable place  
10 for you to be licensed to. Ultimately a professional  
11 foster family were identified. We were talking about  
12 the RG40 today.

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. You have good memories of that arrangement that was put  
15 in place, albeit difficulties arose.

16 Then there are reports from your time in Rathgael  
17 that are called review reports that seem to have been  
18 prepared every six months, sometimes more often, to look  
19 at your progress and how you were getting on, and it  
20 seems for whatever reason that in your case we have the  
21 first review and the seventh, eighth and ninth reviews  
22 but we are missing numbers two to six and we are not  
23 able to take that any further at the moment.

24 **A. Okay.**

25 Q. In addition, then there are reports from Runkerry. You

1 and I were discussing you have very positive memories  
2 about being taken to Runkerry on the north coast.

3 **A. Great.**

4 Q. You were surprised when I told you it is now  
5 a multi-million pound residential development --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- but at the time you were there it was an opportunity  
8 for --

9 **A. Activities.**

10 Q. -- outdoor activities.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. And do you remember the therapeutic work that was done  
13 with the staff, trying to get alongside you and help you  
14 along?

15 **A. Yes, yes. Like, as I said to you, Runkerry was great.  
16 I loved it, you know. It was great to be there.**

17 Q. Those are positive memories that you have?

18 **A. Positive memories.**

19 Q. And then as part of the suite of material then there are  
20 management and Board -- Board of Management minutes and  
21 the Licensing Committee that looked at decisions to  
22 release early, and we were discussing that in your case  
23 the licensing was set up after one year, which was  
24 perhaps quite quickly --

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. -- to let you avail of the foster arrangements, but by  
2 the time that could be put in place it was two years  
3 before a suitable family was found by Social Services.

4 So that material is all available to the Panel and  
5 the Panel have had the opportunity to consider some of  
6 that in advance of today.

7 Having identified those documents, HIA248, I want to  
8 just confirm with you you were born on

9 ?

10 **A. Correct.**

11 Q. You are now .

12 **A. Correct.**

13 Q. You explain in your statement you were one of five  
14 siblings.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. And you have, as you explain in your statement, a wife  
17 and three --

18 **A. Boys.**

19 Q. -- children, three boys.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. And one of them has travelled with you today --

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. -- from

24 **A. I have one living in actually, you know. I have**  
25 **one boy living in --**

1 Q. One boy is in , but your son from --

2 **A. I've one boy with me as well, yes.**

3 Q. -- with you today.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. What I have been able to do from the records, HIA248, is  
6 see that you first go into Rathgael on 25th July 1974  
7 when you are .

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. The statement I think refers to being , but  
10 it seems to be when you were . You were  
11 there for a two-year period initially until  
12 23rd August 1976.

13 **A. Okay.**

14 Q. We will see as we look briefly at the chronology that  
15 the decision was made in the summer of '75 --

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. -- to release you on licence to go to school in the  
18 community and live in the community, but it took another  
19 year for a suitable family to be found, because  
20 children's homes, no suitable place was identified for  
21 you to go and live. So it was in the summer of '76 that  
22 you leave Rathgael for the first time and, as we were  
23 discussing, you spent nine months living with the RG40  
24 family --

25 **A. Uh-huh.**



1 Q. -- and going to school in the community and then  
2 difficulty ensued that resulted in Rathgael revoking  
3 your licence, and you go back into Rathgael between  
4 2nd July 1977 until 4th May 1978. So you do another  
5 nine months in Rathgael before -- again during that  
6 period you were explaining to me that you would have  
7 been given weekend leave to go and be with RG40 with  
8 a gradual increase in the leave to then reintegrate you  
9 going there on a full-time basis --

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. -- and that's what happened in May of 1978. Then  
12 unfortunately you and your brother got into significant  
13 difficulty in the summer of 1978, which led you to end  
14 up back in Rathgael on remand until you appeared in  
15 court on 5th February 1979 and then you were sentenced  
16 to a period in borstal.

17 We are going to look at what occurred in Rathgael,  
18 HIA248, but I am just going to briefly summarise it.  
19 You explain in your statement that basically you had  
20 very difficult home circumstances in terms of your own  
21 parents and your grandparents and the difficulties that  
22 they had in terms of looking after you when your own mum  
23 and dad were not in a position to do that. The result  
24 was many years between the ages of and  
25 before you go to Rathgael in various children's homes.

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. And I was discussing with you -- you couldn't remember  
3 some of the locations that the papers show you were in,  
4 but you remember your time spent, for instance, in the  
5 in --

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

7 Q. -- where you spent six years, and that was generally  
8 a positive experience that you had there. You explain  
9 you have no complaints to make in your statement about  
10 your time in that place --

11 **A. No, no.**

12 Q. -- but I was explaining to you that the records show  
13 that because of difficulties with behaviour that was  
14 taking place there, then Social Services applied for you  
15 to go to be in Rathgael. That's how that movement began  
16 in June of '74 on a Place of Safety Order and then  
17 ultimately a Training School Order made in July of 1974.

18 You explain in your statement, if we just scroll  
19 down to the next paragraph, that when you initially go  
20 into Rathgael in 1974, you spend the first period of  
21 time in the reception house there. You had no  
22 complaints to make about the period of time that you  
23 spent in the reception house. I was asking you could  
24 you remember who the staff were who worked there, and  
25 you weren't sure of who the staff were in the

1 house. You mentioned a RG 207 .

2 **A. RG 207 I remember. RG31 I remember and --**

3 Q. And your memories of those two gentlemen were positive.

4 They were decent, good people who looked after you.

5 **A. Absolutely, yes.**

6 Q. And we will come back to RG31, because he featured

7 I think in one of the houses later on.

8 **A. That's right. RG31 was very good to me when I was**  
9 **there.**

10 Q. You have a positive memory of RG31 and that will be  
11 relevant for the Panel's work in other days to come, but  
12 you mention in -- when you were speaking to me that at  
13 your time in Rathgael RG112 was .

14 **A. That's right.**

15 Q. One of the was RG16 --

16 **A. RG16.**

17 Q. -- and we will see him administering corporal punishment  
18 to you on a number of occasions. You were also  
19 explaining to me that RG16 in  
20 Rathgael.

21 **A. That's right.**

22 Q. There was --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- --

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q.

2

3 **A. Correct, yes.**

4 Q. -- that type of arrangement, and that's what applied for

5

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. worked in the kitchen, and you were

8 explaining to me you spent a lot of time assisting

9 in the kitchen.

10 **A. In the kitchen, yes.**

11 Q. That was a positive memory that you have of your time in

12 Rathgael.

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

14 Q. We were discussing, HIA248, you refer in your statement

15 to being in House with RG202.

16 **A. That's right.**

17 Q. Then House with -- or House with --

18 **A. RG39.**

19 Q. House with RG64?

20 **A. RG64.**

21 Q. And then House with RG39.

22 **A. RG39, uh-huh.**

23 Q. We will mention those gentlemen as we go, but I was

24 explaining to you that when you go back to the records,

25 it looks like perhaps we haven't got them in the right

1 order in the Inquiry statement. So if we work through  
2 the chronology, we will come across these individuals  
3 and you can explain the set-up, but can you assist the  
4 Panel? In each of the units that you went to you would  
5 have had two members of staff, two male members of staff  
6 generally, who were in charge of running the unit.

7 **A. Uh-huh. There was two members of staff in like every**  
8 **house.**

9 Q. And just to bring some definition for the Panel when we  
10 are talking about some of the particular individuals,  
11 you remembered as we talked and looked at these records  
12 that RG202 worked with a man called RG 208 .

13 **A. RG 208 , yes.**

14 Q. And you were saying to me when we looked at some of the  
15 records that jogged your memory, RG 208 was  
16 a very decent guy --

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. -- who spent a lot of time helping you --

19 **A. Helping out, yes.**

20 Q. -- and working with you. We will see him in some of the  
21 records. That as far as RG39 and his unit -- and you  
22 say he perhaps moved around at times --

23 **A. That's right.**

24 Q. -- was in one unit and then ran another unit, but  
25 a RG 209 worked alongside him --

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. -- and again you have positive memories about **RG 209** .

3 **A. Yes. Just like vague memories of him, like. You know**  
4 **what I mean?**

5 Q. Yes. You don't have any reason to recall him being  
6 other than --

7 **A. No.**

8 Q. -- decent to you?

9 **A. Yes, yes.**

10 Q. I am not sure if we were able to work out who -- along  
11 with RG31 in his unit you mentioned a RG14.

12 **A. RG14, yes.**

13 Q. And again, like RG31, you had positive memories about  
14 RG14?

15 **A. RG14 was grand and RG31 was grand as well. I had no**  
16 **problem with them at all.**

17 Q. I think to try and -- we will look at some of the  
18 specific matters, HIA248, but as we were discussing it,  
19 if I shape it in this way and you correct it for the  
20 Panel where I've got it wrong, that you can see from the  
21 material -- in fairness to you, you were raising it with  
22 me yourself -- that at times some of your behaviour  
23 would have been very difficult to deal with and most of  
24 the staff that you dealt with you have no complaint  
25 about, and it is some particular incidents with some

1 particular members of staff that stick in your mind.

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. Is that a fair -- we are condensing several years down  
4 into a few sentences, but is that a fair way to  
5 summarise it? Don't just agree with me if you don't  
6 agree with me. You explain to the Panel.

7 **A. No, I think that's fair, you know. I have bad memories**  
8 **of some, you know. I have good, whatever, you know.**  
9 **Just ...**

10 Q. What I am going to do, HIA248, is look at some of the  
11 particular incidents, because it will help the Panel  
12 with wider issues that they will want to reflect on as  
13 this module looking at Rathgael goes on --

14 **A. Okay.**

15 Q. -- because it displays some of the steps that were taken  
16 to deal with behaviour.

17 The -- we can see that the first review of how you  
18 are getting on takes place in June of 1975 and that  
19 report is available to the Panel. I am not going to  
20 bring it up now. It is at 42995 and . That's  
21 recording **RG 209** , who was said to be the  
22 of Unit . Now doing a bit of detective work, the  
23 initial review from the reception unit placed you in  
24 Unit , and that appears to -- on the document placing  
25 you it seems to refer to "Unit , RG39", and putting

1 those together, I think we were agreeing that it  
2 probably was RG39 and **RG 169** who worked together in  
3 Unit at that time.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. And that's why we may have got --

6 **A. Confused.**

7 Q. -- confused about what happened when, but -- can we just  
8 show that to the Panel? If we look, please, at 42938,  
9 please, after the -- as part of the work, the  
10 assessment, this is the last page of the assessment  
11 that's carried out in the reception unit. If we just  
12 scroll down to the bottom, please, we can see:

13 "Placement: RG39 - House ."

14 That's September '75 was then set for the first  
15 review. So this document that we are looking at is from  
16 September/October 1974 and followed a series of pen  
17 pictures and educational reports, the detail of which  
18 are available for the Panel, and I am not going to open  
19 at this point.

20 So it looks like you were being placed with RG39 in  
21 Unit . We can see from the first review report, if we  
22 look, please, at 42999, the review actually happened in  
23 June of 1975. 42999, please. Well, while that's coming  
24 up, HIA248, what the conclusion of the review was -- in  
25 June of 1975 was that provided suitable accommodation



1           could be found for you -- there we are now. We can see  
2           top left corner "Unit: ", in the centre "  
3           **RG 209** ", first review taking place 16th June 1975.  
4           So that's what allows us to say it may well have been  
5           **RG 209** and RG39 working together, although we'll  
6           maybe gather some more evidence about that and see how  
7           it fits in the end, but if we scroll down, we can see  
8           that there is record of the background. Then a  
9           classroom report about how you are getting on in school.  
10          If we scroll down further, please, on to the next page.  
11          No. 43000, please.

12   EPE OPERATOR: 42...?

13   MR AIKEN: No. 43... The last page was 42999. The next  
14          page 43000. Right. Apologies, HIA248, about that.  
15          This is the second page then of the -- of the report.  
16          We can see general comments are made about how you are  
17          getting on, and then at the bottom we can see the  
18          headmaster's remarks:

19                 "The most difficult and urgent problem is finding  
20                 a suitable home for HIA248 on his release. If this can  
21                 be solved, I would agree with his housemaster that  
22                 release on licence should be considered."

23                 So the recommendation is after a year they are going  
24                 to try to get you licensed out. We can then see the  
25                 Board of Management, if we look, please, at 43181, and

1 this shows the Panel how that report is translated  
2 across to the Management Board, who then look at your  
3 particular circumstances, looking at the reports, and  
4 they endorse then:

5 "Release to school September next providing suitable  
6 accommodation is found. Welfare to be informed."

7 They record:

8 "Placement with grandmother ruled out."

9 So it was not possible for you to go back to live  
10 with your grandmother. We were able to do a bit of  
11 detective work and work out about a particular incident  
12 that copper fastened that, that the record looked like  
13 it was written in July '76, but we can see it is  
14 actually July '75. We are going to look at that,  
15 because it demonstrates some of the effort made.

16 If we look at 824, please, this is a handwritten  
17 record, HIA248. You were able to help me with the  
18 context of this, because you were explaining to me that  
19 the reference here, RG16 is and he  
20 is getting a call from a Mrs Kingham.

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

22 Q. You were saying to me that she was not in the welfare.  
23 You don't remember what organisation she was, but she  
24 was very good to you and your brothers.

25 **A. That's true. I can't recall, like, what organisation.**

1 I just know she used to come and visit, like, the three  
2 of us there.

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. She bought us clothes and that and took us out for the  
5 day.

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. I honestly don't know.

8 Q. In fact, we can see -- we see in another record you  
9 being given leave to go --

10 A. To go, yes.

11 Q. -- and live with her for the weekend, stay over, that  
12 sort of thing, but it seems that on this occasion she  
13 has gone to visit you at your granny's and she is not  
14 happy with what she found in terms of how you were being  
15 looked after and the particular circumstances. She  
16 makes a call to Rathgael, and the note seems to be  
17 authored by

18 Is it or

19 A. I think it's RG 211.

20 Q. RG 211

21 A. RG 211 yes.

22 Q. And the record says:

23 "RG16 thought it advisable to return HIA248 to  
24 Rathgael and asked RG 210 " --

25 He was another member of staff?

1 **A. RG 210 , yes.**

2 Q. -- "and myself", as in RG 211 "to go to  
3 the grandparents' home and give the impression that it  
4 was the usual sort of home visit."

5 So I think there was -- the implication of this is  
6 an attempt at subtly bringing you back to Rathgael  
7 without offending your grandparents --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- was what was being played out. If we scroll down  
10 a little further, there is a discussion is had and then  
11 it seems that RG 211 and RG 210 bring  
12 you at to talk to RG16. So the three of them seem to  
13 have travelled over to your grandparents' house.

14 I think was it in ?

15 **A. Yes, yes.**

16 Q. In to have this check on you. RG16 had  
17 a few words with you outside and suggested that you  
18 should perhaps come back to the school to let the matron  
19 see your leg. We were discussing what that was about  
20 and we will see it recorded in the medical in a moment.  
21 You agreed to that. An explanation was given to your  
22 granny. You were saying she was not really always  
23 understanding --

24 **A. Understanding, no.**

25 Q. -- what was going on. Then the record indicates that on

1 arrival you were admitted to the sick bay and it was  
2 agreed with **RG 212** that you should stay overnight.

3 You were saying to me **RG 212**

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

5 Q. She was a lady that you had a warm word for.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. And if we look at 43406, please, we can see that --  
8 I have got the wrong -- sorry. 43046. This is just  
9 a summary sheet, HIA248, of the medical treatment that  
10 was given to you in Rathgael. If we look about  
11 six/seven lines down to the entry of July 1975, which  
12 matches the date of the document we were just looking at  
13 in terms of a report, we can see that it's recorded  
14 about you visiting and you had got a stab in the right  
15 thigh with a nail --

16 **A. That's right.**

17 Q. -- while you were out on your home leave, as it were,  
18 with your grandparents, and it is that that's referred  
19 to:

20 "Going to see matron",

21 and then you can see on the record:

22 "Visiting surgery. Nail stab in the right thigh.  
23 Friday thigh inflamed."

24 So that was then being treated by the Rathgael  
25 medical staff.

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

2 Q. What then happens over the next six-month period,  
3 HIA248, is involvement with -- I named **RG 213** from the  
4 Social Services. You don't remember that name --

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

6 Q. -- but him on behalf of Rathgael it seems trying to find  
7 a suitable place for you to be licensed out to. His  
8 report -- I am not going to open it now, but the Panel  
9 have it. It is at 1786, from 3rd September 1975. It is  
10 a very detailed report about progress. He draws  
11 attention to the fact that , RG28 and  
12 HIA468, were in Rathgael with you at the same time.

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. You'd moved across to the pre-release unit, because you  
15 were then settled, and attempts were then being made to  
16 find a children's home for you to go to, which -- he  
17 explains the efforts in the report that he has made that  
18 aren't working out, and an alternative plan has to be  
19 found. As a result of not being able to find a suitable  
20 place your discharge from Rathgael is being delayed.

21 You can see over that period in January '76, for  
22 instance, the Management Board encouraging the Social  
23 Services to find a suitable place so that you can move  
24 out to it. Then between January and August '76  
25 significant efforts to identify a foster placement for

1       you to go and live with. I am not going to open them,  
2       but available to the Panel are very detailed reports  
3       from **RG 213** on the RG40 family that were identified,  
4       which ultimately became your foster careers. By August  
5       of '76 they were approved for you to go and live with  
6       them.

7             You were explaining to me that generally what caused  
8       you any difficulty with the staff you had a problem with  
9       was absconding. If we can look, please, at 825, this is  
10      an entry of 5th June 1976 that's recorded on the marks  
11      record. I have brought this record up to show the Panel  
12      how a separate absconding note was recorded each time  
13      someone had gone off. So as well as it appearing on the  
14      diary log entry that we'll see shortly this type of  
15      document was completed as a record of the fact that  
16      absconding had occurred and when the person had  
17      returned. In this case I think you come back the next  
18      day. Then again on 4th August 1976 there's the same  
19      type of document prepared. Absconded. Returned the  
20      same day, this time by the police. We will touch on  
21      a couple of incidents that you brought to my attention  
22      to contextualise some of the absconding that we are  
23      seeing.

24             Then you begin a phased-out release to the foster  
25      parents in August of '76 and are discharged on 31st on

1 licence to be with them.

2 What then takes place, HIA248, from the records is  
3 a series of visits by both the aftercare team at  
4 Rathgael and by **RG 213** from Social Services to check  
5 on how you are getting on. It wasn't all -- I am not  
6 going to get into the detail of it. It was not all  
7 plain sailing. There was various difficulties with  
8 behaviour. Unfortunately that escalated in terms of --  
9 I described it as light-fingeredness and you were able  
10 to give me some examples of what that was.

11 On 2nd July 1977 Rathgael then revoked the licence  
12 from you living with the foster parents, and you were  
13 explaining to me that you and perhaps another boy --  
14 I~will not get into who that was -- were getting into  
15 difficulty out and about --

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 **Q.** -- and that's ultimately why the licence was revoked for  
18 you to come back to Rathgael.

19 I was explaining to you there then is a case  
20 conference, and you were explaining to me the background  
21 to some of it. I am not going to go into the detail of  
22 it, but if we look, please, at 42940, there's a case  
23 conference that's held on 8th July 1977, shortly after  
24 you come back. It lists out the background information.  
25 If we scroll down, please, on to the end of the next



1 page -- keep going down, please, on to the next page --  
2 if we scroll down to the very bottom, and we don't need  
3 to go into the detail of the reasons, HIA248, but what  
4 this discloses is that because of things that they  
5 become aware of, they were arranging for you to see some  
6 specialist medical assistance in the form of  
7 a psychiatrist.

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. I don't know if you remember Dr Clenaghan ultimately,  
10 but that was the steps that they were taking at the  
11 time. Two days later then you and your friend RG65  
12 -- you were explaining that and RG65,  
13 neither of them are still alive.

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. That's a name that the Panel will be -- we will see in  
16 the records for reasons that we will come to later, but  
17 you and he seem to be friends. You got into various  
18 scrapes together in Rathgael and tended to abscond  
19 together.

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

21 Q. Is that a fair description?

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. I am just going to let you explain the type of  
24 difficulty that you and he might create. You were  
25 giving me the example of what became known as The Great

1 Train Robbery. Do you just want to explain to the Panel  
2 the absconding that you engaged in and what happened?

3 **A. There was a group of us in the early hours of the**  
4 **morning -- I can't remember, like, what month or**  
5 **whatever -- but there was a group of us. We bent the**  
6 **things back on the windows, the bars, pushed the window**  
7 **open, threw out about seven or eight mattresses from the**  
8 **dormitory, and we all kind of dropped down on to the**  
9 **mattresses and ran across the fields and made our way**  
10 **into Bangor. We all ended up in the train station and**  
11 **somebody decided to start up a train there, you know.**  
12 **So it kind of gave us all a fright when we were there,**  
13 **and then the police were kind of around in a few**  
14 **seconds, you know, gathering up the absconders. So ...**

15 **Q. I think I called it The Great Train Robbery. I meant**  
16 **The Great Escape I think you became known as.**

17 **A. That was The Great Escape. It's not the Robbery; the**  
18 **Escape.**

19 **Q. We were discussing earlier and you can see on reflection**  
20 **the type of difficulty that that behaviour would create**  
21 **then for the staff --**

22 **A. The staff.**

23 **Q. -- in Rathgael in terms of trying to deal with it, but**  
24 **one example that I wanted just to show the Panel in**  
25 **terms of how the record is kept and the content of the**

1 record, if we look at 42953, please, we can see on this  
2 record it's the entry of 23rd August 1977. Just so  
3 I contextualise this, these are what I am describing as  
4 the marks log. You will see, Members of the Panel, at  
5 various times reference will be made to marks and  
6 gradings in the text and then on the right-hand side  
7 columns that seem to give marks. So this will be  
8 a snapshot of -- particularly focused on behaviour  
9 that's occurring, but alongside this there may well have  
10 been wider unit logs that unfortunately aren't  
11 available, but we can see in the 23rd August:

12 "HIA248 put into shorts (along with RG65 and )  
13 as they were planning to abscond -- bedclothes -- had  
14 clothes, money."

15 So you are caught in advance on this occasion, but  
16 this is a reference to being put into shorts. Can you  
17 explain to the Panel what that was about? What happened  
18 whenever absconding either had taken place or in this  
19 case was going to take place? What were the measures  
20 that were taken to try to discourage you from  
21 absconding?

22 **A. Well, we were put into shorts and we were also put into**  
23 **corners and also put to bed without supper for whatever**  
24 **-- how long we got, you know. Say we got five days, you**  
25 **had to be in your shorts for the five days, and there**

1           **was a reason why we were put into short trousers, but it**  
2           **didn't really make any difference why we were put into**  
3           **shorts, because people still absconded being in short**  
4           **trousers. So I didn't see the point, you know.**

5    Q.    Yes. So the idea behind it was you would hopefully not  
6           want to be seen out and about wearing shorts.

7    **A.   Shorts, uh-huh.**

8    Q.    So you therefore wouldn't abscond.

9    **A.   Yes.**

10   Q.    But what you are saying is those who were determined to  
11           abscond --

12   **A.   And with the other boys being in the unit, like, it was**  
13           **letting them know that the boys in short trousers had**  
14           **absconded.**

15   Q.    Yes. So it was a means of identifying those who --

16   **A.   It was a means of identifying, yes.**

17   Q.    -- had tried to do that. You can see if we scroll down  
18           to the bottom of this page, we were talking about  
19           a particular entry which showed that there was house  
20           meetings that took place in your units --

21   **A.   That's right.**

22   Q.    -- where as a group you would discuss things.

23   **A.   Uh-huh.**

24   Q.    And you were saying to me that you wouldn't necessarily  
25           have felt entirely free in those discussions, because

1           you didn't want the boys who were round about you to  
2           hear all the difficulties --

3   **A. Yes, exactly, yes.**

4   Q. -- you might have had, but it was an opportunity to meet  
5           and discuss, but you were explaining to me there's  
6           a particular reference about the special group where it  
7           was more a one-to-one discussion about behaviour. Can  
8           you just explain to the Panel what that -- how that  
9           special group worked?

10   **A. With the special one, like, you know, you could talk --**  
11           **like, if you were to say something about somebody -- if**  
12           **I was to talk about yourself and, say, talk about that**  
13           **woman there, and that woman went back to you and said**  
14           **I said something so, so, that would make matters worse**  
15           **with the other individual, you know, me having kind of**  
16           **that kind of meeting, you know. It was never like --**  
17           **you couldn't talk secretly to a member of staff. You**  
18           **know, you would have to actually have their trust kind**  
19           **of 100% before could you actually trust a member of**  
20           **staff, you know.**

21   Q. But am I right in saying the house meetings were sort of  
22           the unit meeting together all the boys and the staff?

23   **A. Yes. That was with all the boys, like, you know, but**  
24           **some boys, like, were afraid to say anything, you know.**

25   Q. But am I right in saying then there was this second

1 smaller meeting where maybe you were being spoken to  
2 about your behaviour?

3 **A. Yes. There'd be a small one, like, you know, but, as**  
4 **I say, like, you know, when you were in that situation,**  
5 **like, you know, when you are young, like, it just goes**  
6 **in one ear and out the other sort of thing. You know**  
7 **what I mean?**

8 Q. Yes.

9 **A. So, you know ...**

10 Q. What this record shows is:

11 "During a group discussion" -- so there seems to  
12 have been group discussions that went on -- "while being  
13 reprimanded about his abuse of the television ...",

14 you threw a temper tantrum, out of which you were  
15 most abruptly brought. This is then signed off RG 208.

16 You were saying to me , but someone that  
17 you had a lot of time for --

18 **A. RG 208 , yes.**

19 Q. -- who was very good to you, and you have no complaint  
20 of any kind about him.

21 **A. Uh-huh.**

22 Q. And what this record goes on to show is there were tears  
23 after this particular event, but it cleared the air, and  
24 then he got from you that you were worried about your  
25 granny.

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

2 Q. And then after a long discussion he decided to take you  
3 on a visit to see your granny and, in fact, there is  
4 a reference to him doing that, which we are not going to  
5 open now, but I am going to give to the Panel, at 42955,  
6 which is a note he made after the visit, and that showed  
7 the steps that he had taken. You were recognising that  
8 that was a decent gesture by a decent man when you  
9 identified to him something you were upset about.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. Then if we can look, please, at 42954, this is another  
12 example -- if we scroll down, please, to the bottom --  
13 if we scroll a little further until we see the entry of  
14 28th:

15 "Terrible behaviour tonight even after being put to  
16 bed early."

17 I was asking you about this. That was the main  
18 punishment that was attempted to try and deal with poor  
19 behaviour.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. You got put to bed early. There was potential loss of  
22 your weekend leave --

23 **A. That's right.**

24 Q. -- and that reward system and loss of privileges were  
25 the main tools that were used --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- to try and --

3 **A. For punishment.**

4 Q. -- get you to keep in line, and you were -- again it  
5 seems to have been you and RG65 together. RG202 --  
6 and that's why I am drawing attention to this -- RG202  
7 was one of the men that you refer to in your statement.

8 "He warned the boys of their behaviour. Misconduct  
9 continued. RG65 was placed in a single dorm ..."

10 I think there is a record elsewhere of what came  
11 your way on one occasion:

12 "... and HIA248 warned of early bed every night  
13 until his behaviour markedly improved."

14 So this period, 28th September '77 -- just to  
15 contextualise this, you left Rathgael in July of '77  
16 after two years. You are with the -- sorry -- in August  
17 '76 after two years. You spent nine months with the  
18 foster family, the RG40.

19 **A. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. That was revoked at the end of July '77. You are back  
21 in Rathgael in your second spell and you seem to be  
22 being looked after by RG202 and RG 208 and these  
23 are the records of various scrapes that occurred and the  
24 steps that were taken.

25 At the same time you were getting out then to



1 Runkerry and there are reports available to the Panel  
2 from a stay, a week-long stay, 14th-18th November 1977.  
3 Part of your behaviour is analysed. I am not going to  
4 go into the report. The Panel have access to it. It is  
5 at 42942, but an entry I want to draw attention to, if  
6 we look at 42957, which is of 28th November 1977, if we  
7 just enlarge that and scroll down to the bottom of the  
8 page, again we can see this is initialled by **RG 208**  
9 **RG 208** , at the end:

10 "After a particularly down weekend for HIA248 where  
11 he played everyone badly ... Things have gone wrong  
12 after dinner. HIA248 was noticeable by his absence. He  
13 was eventually found in bed. When reprimanded HIA248  
14 became abusive. He was taken to RG16, who gave him  
15 three of the cane."

16 **A. That's right.**

17 Q. I was asking you about that, HIA248. The cane was  
18 administered by either RG112 or RG16.

19 **A. Yes, correct.**

20 Q. There were none of the --

21 **A. No.**

22 Q. -- who ever used the cane on you.

23 **A. No.**

24 Q. You were simply taken to --

25 **A. To the**

1 Q. -- the and there in front of  
2 a witness in effect you would be caned on the hand.

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. You were explaining to me that you weren't caned all the  
5 time and the records have three or four occasions  
6 I think that I have been able to find in the handwriting  
7 that suggest caning occurred. It could occur after  
8 absconding and sometimes it was just for behaviour on  
9 the Rathgael site. If it was deemed bad enough --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- RG16, but that was the last of the  
12 hierarchy of punishments, as it were.

13 **A. Yes, yes.**

14 Q. There was early to bed and loss of privileges and loss  
15 of weekend leave and then potentially the use of the  
16 cane.

17 **A. That's right.**

18 Q. The -- I was mentioning to you there was another week  
19 spell in Runkerry in January of 1978, and the report  
20 from there -- and again I am not going to bring it up  
21 now; the Panel have had the opportunity to consider it  
22 -- at 42943 it refers to you and RG65 doing a bit  
23 of bullying of other boys. I was asking you about that.  
24 Was there a lot of bullying going on? You were  
25 explaining to me that it was the nature of boys being

1 boys in that type of environment. The older boys would  
2 pick on the younger boys. That's really how it worked.  
3 It wasn't tolerated as such by the staff in that you got  
4 punished when you got caught at it.

5 **A. I did have my part in it. I agree in that, like, you**  
6 **know, but, you know, I did go round nipping the bigger**  
7 **boys, you know.**

8 Q. Yes. At an earlier -- we were discussing this. In the  
9 -- when the Panel look at the records from the  
10 assessment period --

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. -- one of the pieces of behaviour you were noticed to be  
13 --

14 **A. Picking on the bigger boys.**

15 Q. -- I'll summarise it as irritating the bigger boys by  
16 poking them and prodding them and pulling on them. They  
17 would tolerate that for a while and then --

18 **A. Eventually it would backfire.**

19 Q. -- lash out on you, but you felt that was on reflection  
20 sort of attention-seeking type behaviour --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- as you reflect on it now.

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. And the Panel will see from the reports the steps that  
25 were taken to try and get alongside you and discourage

1           you from -- from that, helping you to understand that  
2           doing those sorts of things were likely to come against  
3           you, because you were saying when you are young, it  
4           tended to go in one ear and out the other, but I am --  
5           I am not being unfair if I say that the records appear  
6           to show that whenever anyone was caught bullying, then  
7           the bullyer (sic) was punished for that to get them to  
8           stop.

9           **A. Uh-huh.**

10          Q. Now alongside that you've got various fights that went  
11          on by boys who were the same age, and we will look at  
12          one of those as an example, but again those were -- poor  
13          behaviour was not tolerated. Can I put it that way? Is  
14          that fair?

15          **A. That's fair enough, yes.**

16          Q. And we were looking at one example of that. There's --  
17          if we look at 42959 -- in fact -- sorry -- if we just  
18          stay there for a moment, if we don't leave that, you and  
19          I were discussing this. I was reading to you that at  
20          the very end of this entry particular behaviour in  
21          November '77 has resulted in caning.           **RG 208**

22          records:

23                 "On a subsequent discussion between Messrs RG202 and  
24          **RG 208** " -- so that's RG202 and           **RG 208**         -- "we  
25          are both of the opinion that this behaviour is

1 a manifestation of HIA248's fear of his imminent  
2 discharge from the structure and discipline of Rathgael  
3 life."

4 So if I can just unpack that a little bit before  
5 I ask you to comment on it to the Panel, there had been  
6 -- you knew you were working towards ultimately going  
7 back out on foster placement on a gradual basis and then  
8 permanently, and they are recording here their views of  
9 your acting out behaviour. As I was reading that to  
10 you, you were smiling and telling me they were  
11 absolutely right. Do you want to just explain to the  
12 Panel why you say that?

13 **A. The reason why I say that is because at that particular**  
14 **time I didn't want to leave Rathgael, because I had**  
15 **nowhere else to go, you know, and I knew my grandmother**  
16 **couldn't look after me, you know. So I just kind of**  
17 **wanted to stay in Rathgael.**

18 Q. Part of that was they identified the structured life --  
19 I don't want to use the word "regime", because you are  
20 not describing it in that way -- but that structured way  
21 of living, that you knew what was happening when, helped  
22 you.

23 **A. I knew -- I knew what it was like, you know, Rathgael**  
24 **was like, you know. So I knew what was involved. So**  
25 **I just wanted to kind of stay there.**

1 Q. There was less -- if I put it this way and you tell me  
2 if this is unfair -- there was less prospect of getting  
3 waylaid into difficulty.

4 **A. Correct.**

5 Q. Not that difficulty didn't occur --

6 **A. Yes, yes.**

7 Q. -- but just there was less prospect of serious  
8 difficulty occurring.

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. And an example we were mentioning, if we move on to  
11 42959, please, there is a record on 27th January -- if  
12 we just scroll down a bit, please -- to you being taken  
13 to the sick bay because a particular boy -- we will not  
14 name him, but the Panel can see who it is -- had  
15 viciously punched you in the face following -- there had  
16 been various remarks between the two and he had hit out  
17 at you.

18 We can then see at 43174, please, the corresponding  
19 medical record, which shows -- and these -- Members of  
20 the Panel, we looked earlier at the clinical note  
21 summary, but there are for each boy what are described  
22 you can see along the top "report". There seem to be  
23 daily reports of all those who have received medical  
24 treatment in some form that day, because it is headed  
25 "27th January '78" at top left and there are similar

1 entries on a daily basis. You can see then, HIA248, the  
2 one that relates to you:

3 "Hit on the mouth with boy's fist. Mark of tooth in  
4 lower lip."

5 Then whether it is the matron or the nurse treats  
6 you for that. So when things happened and somebody got  
7 hurt, there was -- they weren't left. There was medical  
8 treatment.

9 **A. Medical straightaway, you know.**

10 Q. And that is the way life operated.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. So you weren't left bleeding in a corner for a day --

13 **A. No.**

14 Q. -- and left for days. Nobody bothered about what  
15 happened to you. There was a process of quickly getting  
16 attention.

17 **A. Oh, of course, yes. I think sick bay was actually most  
18 people's home, because there was more care there than  
19 there was in the units itself.**

20 Q. So there was a lot of warmth that was felt. The matron  
21 was not, as might be characterised in films, a very  
22 harsh, uncaring regimented person. They were welcoming  
23 and warm towards you in the medical unit?

24 **A. Yes. Well, there was three matrons there, but I can  
25 only recall two and give you the names of them. They**

1           **were very good, you know, never any problems.**

2    Q.    Can you remember the names of the people that ...? You  
3           mention    RG 212    --

4    **A.        RG 212**

5    Q.    -- who was the matron.

6    **A.    That's right, and the other one ...**

7    Q.    You mentioned a lady who got married --

8    **A.    Married.**

9    Q.    -- during your time there and I think was it

10                    or

11   **A.                --        RG 214        , yes.**

12   Q.    Equally she was ...

13   **A.    Oh, there was a        RG 215        .**

14   Q.    RG 175, RG 215?

15   **A.    RG 175, RG 215.**

16   Q.    And their approach was a positive one?

17   **A.    Uh-huh.**

18   Q.    And what is available to the Panel then is the sequence

19           of documents leading to the consideration of you going

20           back out again to your foster parents, because your

21           behaviour had stabilised sufficiently, and weekend

22           leave, and there are a couple of blips along the way

23           where you can see        **RG 208**        writing letters to

24           RG40 explaining that because of something you had done,

25           you were not going to be available on the Friday, but



1 you would get out on the Saturday, and that type of  
2 communication appears to have been occurring.

3 **A. You see, I didn't -- myself now personally, I didn't**  
4 **know that there was letters being sent back and forward**  
5 **from RG40 and Rathgael --**

6 Q. Yes.

7 **A. -- you know, until I actually got the information, you**  
8 **know.**

9 Q. Yes. You received -- you could see in your freedom of  
10 information documents what was happening.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. I suppose you can understand if they are expecting you  
13 on a Friday and that's not going to work out --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- then they're letting the people know why there's  
16 a change of circumstance, and there then is the last  
17 effectively review of 20th March 1978. It's called the  
18 "Rathgael 8th review". It is from Unit . If we just  
19 look at that, please, at 43006. There tends to be  
20 a handwritten version of this and then there's also  
21 a corresponding typed version. On this occasion this is  
22 being authored by **RG 208** , Unit , and we can see  
23 on the top the annotations about it being released.

24 If we look at 43004, please, what we find, HIA248,  
25 when it comes up is the typed version of that review,

1 which then makes its way to the Licensing Committee, who  
2 then consider the position that they are going to adopt,  
3 and they agree ultimately. One more review takes place  
4 to copper fasten it in April and then a case conference  
5 in May of '78. That then results in you being licensed  
6 out in -- there we are. We can see then now the  
7 typed-up version of the review. That's the sequence of  
8 events. There seems to have been a handwritten document  
9 that each of the contributors have authored part of and  
10 then that's translated into a typed record, which makes  
11 its way to the Managing Board Licensing Committee.

12 Ultimately that leads you to go back to live with  
13 the RG40s. A difficulty with you and your brother  
14 occurs in the summer of '78. You go back into Rathgael  
15 on remand. There is quite a lot of absconding occurs  
16 and ultimately some other scrapes, similar type of  
17 problems, and ultimately a sentence is passed that takes  
18 you to borstal.

19 HIA248, you talk in paragraph 5 of your statement,  
20 please, if we look at 060 -- and just while that's  
21 coming up, HIA248, in the unit there could be 10, 15  
22 boys, sometimes as many as 20 boys.

23 **A. Sometimes.**

24 Q. There were beds for about 22 in the unit, although there  
25 were not always that --

1 **A. Many.**

2 Q. -- that many boys who were there, and whether we have  
3 got the sequence of the passage through the various  
4 houses correct, because we can see House with RG202  
5 and RG 208 --

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. -- seems to have been later rather than earlier, but  
8 what you say of -- you weren't aware until today,  
9 speaking to me, that the surname was likely to be RG202.  
10 You knew him as "RG30".

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

12 Q. And the nickname was "RG30".

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

14 Q. That was to do with or where did that --

15 **A. The "RG30" came out of because of his behaviour between,**  
16 **like, himself and other lads. Like it was there, you**  
17 **know.**

18 Q. I was asking you then to explain -- you are not saying  
19 that he would have routinely hit you on a constant  
20 basis. This was in response to something that occurred.

21 **A. This was like in response to -- because he was living,**  
22 **as I said, the link -- it's a link between House and**  
23 **House .**

24 Q. Can you just help me explain that to the Panel? There  
25 was -- the top floor of House and House you could

1 move between the two.

2 **A. Between the two, yes. That is correct.**

3 Q. --

4 **A. Upstairs.**

5 Q. -- upstairs.

6 **A. In between the two houses, yes.**

7 Q. And you were explaining to me that if you caused  
8 disruption at night-time,

9 **A. He would deal with you -- when he comes on duty, he  
10 would deal with you, you know, once his shift was on.**

11 Q. Can you just -- do you want to tell the Panel in your  
12 own words what you remember RG30 doing?

13 **A. I remember RG30, like, he used to put us into corners.  
14 He used to have his keys in his hand and he used to dig  
15 his keys into the boys' heads. So -- and then bedtime  
16 as well was like 7.30 with no supper. That was mainly  
17 what ...**

18 Q. Would RG 208, for instance, have ever seen RG30  
19 hitting a boy?

20 **A. See we don't know that. That's one thing, like, you're  
21 -- you know, I don't think -- RG 208 wasn't really  
22 a person who was kind of violent, you know. Well,  
23 I never found him violent when I was there, like.**

24 Q. Yes. You don't remember him being aware of RG30 --

25 **A. Of RG30's behaviour, no.**

1 Q. -- using the key on your head?

2 A. No.

3 Q. But I was asking you to -- am I being fair to him and  
4 you if I say that you are not saying he hit you on  
5 a constant basis? This would have been an occasional  
6 thing where something had happened that he reacted in  
7 that way.

8 A. Well, you see, as -- like, as we called him "RG30", that  
9 was the reason why we gave him the nickname "RG30",  
10 because he was a very emotional man, if you want to put  
11 it, like. He was very quick on the mark. If somebody  
12 kind of did something wrong, you know, he would deal  
13 with the situation there and then. He would not leave  
14 it, like, you know, to another time.

15 Q. Yes, although in fairness to -- we were looking at the  
16 records that showed him giving early beds and --

17 A. And again, like, that is why boys were absconding,  
18 because of his behaviour, and that's why, like, boys --  
19 other boys wanted transfers out of -- out of that unit  
20 to another unit.

21 Q. You mention that, that -- I was asking you, "Was he the  
22 only member who would have been on duty at the time he  
23 behaved like this?"

24 A. Uh-huh.

25 Q. And you said he probably would have been the only one

1 around when he is behaving like that.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. You felt -- you mention in your statement that there  
4 wasn't anybody you felt able to complain to --

5 **A. Exactly.**

6 Q. -- about what he was doing. Why did you not feel able  
7 -- if you can, doing the best you can, remember why, for  
8 instance, not talk to RG 208 or RG16 or RG112?

9 **A. Well, like, if you were to say anything, like, you know,  
10 it would make matters worse. It is like going on -- you  
11 know, you were ratting on somebody or -- you know, they  
12 don't take it too kindly, you know.**

13 Q. So the fear was it would come back against you?

14 **A. The fear was there, like, among the boys, you know.  
15 They were actually frightened of him, to be honest with  
16 you.**

17 Q. Now you mention in paragraph 6 then asking for  
18 a transfer to House .

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

20 Q. I was asking you how that had come about and you think  
21 you maybe went to RG112?

22 **A. That's right.**

23 Q. But you didn't tell him --

24 **A. What it was -- in relation to what it was for.**

25 Q. Yes.

1    **A. I just told him that I just wanted to get a transfer**  
2       **from House to House .**

3    Q. And was he happy to do the transfer? Was there any  
4       great issue about it, or how did it happen?

5    **A. See, what they had to do there is they would have to**  
6       **have a family -- like a family group again, you know,**  
7       **and they would have to discuss it, see if it was**  
8       **appropriate or not to go to another house, you know.**

9    Q. Yes. I was saying to you, HIA248, going through the  
10       records as best I can, there doesn't seem to be  
11       a reference to a transfer. I showed you one entry that  
12       showed you coming back to House , but that seems to be  
13       after the initial licences is revoked, and -- but  
14       whether the sequence of this is right, you remember  
15       moving at one stage out of his unit --

16   **A. Uh-huh.**

17   Q. -- and you remember being in a unit that was run by  
18       RG64, and you say that he was a very nice man --

19   **A. Uh-huh.**

20   Q. -- and I think you explained to me who worked alongside  
21       him. I have forgotten. If you can remember, you could  
22       tell the Panel who worked alongside. Was it RG14 worked  
23       --

24   **A. RG14. That's right.**

25   Q. -- worked alongside him?

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. You had no difficulty with either of them?

3 **A. No, none at all.**

4 Q. And I was asking you what role -- did RG64 have a role  
5 in the school, and you said you thought he was a --

6 **A. A teacher.**

7 Q. -- a teacher --

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

9 Q. -- in what you called class 1.

10 **A. Class 1, yes.**

11 Q. So he was teaching educational English, maths, whatever  
12 it was --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- that was in the school and he was also then  
15 a housemaster at the same time.

16 **A. That's right.**

17 Q. Then in paragraph 6 you go on to explain that you --  
18 when you were or , you moved to RG39's unit, Unit  
19 -- House .

20 **A. House .**

21 Q. I was explaining to you again the records seem to place  
22 you going to RG39 alongside RG 209 --

23 **A. In House .**

24 Q. -- when you first go into Rathgael. So you would have  
25 been , , but in any event, whatever the



1 right way of it, what you are saying of RG39 is that he  
2 hit you on a number of occasions if you did something  
3 wrong or you absconded. Now am I right again in saying  
4 is his behaviour towards you -- it wasn't a routine that  
5 he just slapped you for the sake of it when you were  
6 passing him; it was a response to a particular piece of  
7 behaviour?

8 **A. As I did say to you, like, if you absconded on his**  
9 **shift, he would deal with you in his own way, you know.**  
10 **He'd slap you, or he'd punch you, or he'd kick you, you**  
11 **know, so -- when you came back from absconding, you**  
12 **know.**

13 Q. So was it mostly focused on absconding --

14 **A. I think so.**

15 Q. -- that he reacted that way.

16 **A. Yes, and mostly, like, bad behaviour as well, like.**

17 Q. And that generally was with his fists or hands, but you  
18 said you also would have lifted his foot.

19 **A. He lifted his foot a couple of times like, you know.**  
20 **Like, you know, like, say -- sometimes he used to say,**  
21 **"I will give you a kick on the backside" and he will**  
22 **give you a kick on the backside or something like that,**  
23 **you know, but RG39, like, when you used to come back**  
24 **from absconding, it was just kind of like you were in**  
25 **another dimension really, you know, because you didn't**

1 know whether you were coming or going. "Why is this  
2 happening to me?", like, you know.

3 Q. You mentioned to me something that is not covered in  
4 your statement, but you mentioned to me about

5

6 A. Uh-huh.

7 Q. I asked you then was that RG17 you were talking about.

8 A. RG17, uh-huh.

9 Q. Do you want to just tell the Panel in your own words  
10 what you remember about RG 17 ?

11 A. RG17 had a slipper known as a pump.

12 He used to keep  
13 this special one. He had a name for it, but I can't  
14 actually remember the name of it. He kept this one  
15 special if anybody was bold. If you did something  
16 wrong, he would tell you to tip your toes and he'd give  
17 you such a whack on the backside with his slipper  
18 a couple of times, you know. So that was kind of like  
19 his abuse against us as well, like. Actually we did  
20 have a nickname for him as well, but I am just trying to  
21 think of it right now, you know. So ...

22 Q. HIA248, if I can -- the events that you are describing  
23 obviously we looked at when you got more seriously hurt  
24 and required medical treatment. They are all documented  
25 by, you know, the medical staff and you going there.

1     **A. Uh-huh.**

2     **Q.** Is it fair if I say that the things that you are  
3     describing, they didn't result in you ever needing to  
4     get medical treatment? That's not to justify any of  
5     them, you understand me, but I am trying to put them in  
6     the context of there are lots of records of you getting  
7     medical treatment for various things that happened,  
8     fights, cuts, thing on your leg or your foot and so on  
9     and so forth. Is it fair if I describe it that you  
10    didn't -- it wasn't something that required medical  
11    treatment?

12    **A. Not that I can recall, like, you know, because it is so**  
13    **long ago trying to remember, like. I think -- I think**  
14    **most of it was actually done behind closed doors, you**  
15    **know.**

16    **Q.** There's no instance you can remember of getting so hurt  
17    you needed to go and see Mrs Wilson about what had  
18    happened?

19    **A. Not that I can recall, you know. The most -- I think**  
20    **the most I had now was just really with the hip and my**  
21    **elbow, you know. So I can't recall any smaller**  
22    **(inaudible).**

23    **Q.** That wasn't to do with any of the staff members that we  
24    have been talking about, the elbow?

25    **A. I can't -- I can't remember, to be honest with you, you**



1 know, when you go into a Young Offenders Centre at  
2 a young age, you know, you are going to keep getting  
3 into trouble until you get a bit of sense. You know  
4 what I mean?

5 But I think, like, the institutions -- when you are  
6 put into an institution like that for many a year,  
7 you're learning more. You're learning more about crime.  
8 You know, you're learning more to do this, do that, you  
9 know.

10 Q. You were explaining to me how you smuggled in the  
11 cigarettes.

12 A. We were explaining, yes. Very simple. You know, buy  
13 a packet of Polo. The boys used to buy a couple of  
14 packets of Polo. They used to stick -- put the  
15 cigarette down into the polo, cover it up and then  
16 there's your cigarettes in, you know.

17 Q. Yes. I have to confess, as I said to you, that is  
18 rather news to me --

19 A. You have to confess to that, like, you know, but ...

20 Q. -- how one could utilise a packet of Polos, but those  
21 types of --

22 A. It was a bit minty, like, but it was a smoke.

23 Q. Indeed. There are two questions, HIA248, that we ask  
24 each person towards the end of their evidence. The  
25 first is that at the end of the Panel's work it has to

1 consider what recommendations it might make to the  
2 Northern Ireland Executive in three areas: some form of  
3 apology, some form of memorial, or, thirdly, some other  
4 means of redress of some kind. We ask each individual  
5 whether there's anything they want to say about that.

6 I know right at the end of your statement you make  
7 the point about you don't want, you know, the bad part  
8 of the experience you had to be felt by anybody else,  
9 but is there anything else you want to say about the  
10 recommendations that the Panel might consider making?

11 **A. I just think I got a fair -- an unfair ride, you know,**  
12 **since I was three years old, and I just hope, like, you**  
13 **know, I don't see any other person going through what**  
14 **I went through, you know.**

15 Q. The last question that we ask each witness is whether  
16 there's anything else -- at the moment we are looking at  
17 Rathgael -- I appreciate you talk elsewhere in your  
18 statement about your time in borstal -- but in respect  
19 of Rathgael is there anything else you want to draw to  
20 the Panel's attention maybe I haven't got quite right,  
21 or haven't covered in enough detail, or maybe I've  
22 simply got wrong that you -- now is your opportunity if  
23 there's something else you want to say about your time  
24 in Rathgael that maybe we haven't covered.

25 **A. There's not really much more I can say about Rathgael**

1 **than I've already said.**

2 Q. You are happy, HIA248, we have covered the main issues  
3 and --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- you had had the opportunity through the freedom of  
6 information request to look at the type of material --

7 **A. Absolutely.**

8 Q. -- we were discussing today --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- albeit some of it hard to decipher the handwriting.  
11 Well, if you bear with us for a short time, HIA248, the  
12 Panel Members may want to ask you something. Just bear  
13 with us, please.

14 Questions from THE PANEL

15 MS DOHERTY: HIA248, thanks very much. That has been very  
16 helpful. Can I just ask did anybody ever sit down with  
17 you and talk about why you were absconding?

18 **A. No.**

19 Q. That didn't happen?

20 **A. No. An answer to your question is the reason why the  
21 absconding was taking place is because of the brutal  
22 activity that was going on in Rathgael. That's why  
23 a lot of boys were absconding, but I don't think the  
24 staff actually seen why.**

25 Q. What was -- what was -- and nobody actually sat down

1 with you and said, "What's ...?"

2 **A. No, no.**

3 Q. Can I ask about RG39 when he would, you know, kick and  
4 slap boys for absconding, and about RG30, you know, his  
5 kind of behaviour? Do you think that was known about by  
6 staff? Did that -- would -- did other staff observe  
7 that behaviour?

8 **A. I am not really -- I don't -- I am not really sure.**  
9 **I know, like, there is only two staff on each house,**  
10 **like, you know, two did one house. One had to be**  
11 **somewhere and one had to be --**

12 Q. Had to be somewhere else.

13 **A. -- somewhere else. Say one had to be maybe in the**  
14 **kitchen. One maybe had to be the dormitories, you know,**  
15 **etc, but I don't know. Like, it's hard to say, to be**  
16 **honest with you.**

17 Q. Okay, but do you think RG30 was known -- do you know  
18 that his nickname was generally known about in the  
19 school?

20 **A. Oh, absolutely, yes. That's -- like, that's how he got**  
21 **his name, you know.**

22 Q. Just a last thing for clarification. Did many of the  
23 teachers act as houseparents? Was that a usual thing  
24 that you would have somebody teaching in the school and  
25 then working as a houseparent as well?



1 A. Well, some of them did, yes, but I know like a few of  
2 them -- now I know RG64  
3 did. Now they were two teachers and they worked in the  
4 units as well, you know, but I think it was only  
5 actually at weekends they actually worked because with  
6 them doing the school. You know, RG66 was the  
7 . You know, , but ...

8 Q. So that's helpful. They would not actually have worked  
9 in school all day and then worked in the unit --

10 A. No.

11 Q. -- in the evening?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. They did -- they probably -- as I said, like, they work  
15 -- he'd do his normal seven -- five day and then maybe  
16 at the weekend he'd --

17 Q. Do a bit extra?

18 A. -- do a bit there, you know. Like, I think it was only  
19 kind of like -- I think it was only eight or nine-hour  
20 shifts really, you know, at that time, because they  
21 weren't really there that long.

22 Q. HIA248, thanks very much.

23 A. You're welcome.

24 MR LANE: You obviously moved quite a bit from one house  
25 unit to another.

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. Was that typical or did the other boys tend to stay in  
3 a house unit longer than that?

4 A. I don't know why really we got knocked about, like, you  
5 know. It's -- I think maybe it's because we were  
6 probably, as I say, like, the bullying time, you know,  
7 we were kind of urging other boys on to do whatever,  
8 like, you know, but that is probably why they moved us  
9 from one unit to another, you know, and then, like,  
10 probably not getting on with staff, you know. There was  
11 a lot of cheek and that given back to the staff --

12 Q. Uh-huh.

13 A. -- like not -- for like -- you know, the staff would say  
14 something to them, like, you know, and if the boy didn't  
15 like it, then he would just give them abuse back, you  
16 know.

17 Q. Yes.

18 A. That's just the way it was.

19 Q. Going back to the question of absconding, if staff saw  
20 you looking a bit unsettled as if you might be going to  
21 abscond, what did they do about it?

22 A. Well, first, like, what they would do is -- if they --  
23 if they think you're going to abscond, the first thing  
24 they would do is they'd pull you into the office and  
25 they know from your reaction, you know, and the first

1        thing they'll do is, "Right. We are going to have to  
2        put you into short trousers and then keep you in,  
3        indoors". In other words, you don't get out. You have  
4        to stay in the unit, but the other boys can get out, you  
5        know, but they have to get out by asking a member of the  
6        staff.

7        Q. And they wouldn't ask you what was upsetting you or  
8        anything like that?

9        A. Sometimes they would, you know. Like, I know myself,  
10       like, I had a lot of difficulty. I had a reason for to  
11       abscond, you know, because I didn't -- like, other boys  
12       they kind of give the same -- you know, other boys --  
13       see, I kind of found when I was there, like, other boys  
14       were getting out to go home. I wasn't getting out to go  
15       anywhere, you know, and I kind of found that, like, just  
16       sad really --

17       Q. Yes.

18       A. -- you know, but -- so I'm just unfortunate, like, I had  
19       a family back... -- family background, you know.

20       Q. Okay. Thank you very much.

21       A. You're welcome.

22       CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA248, those are all the questions we want  
23       to ask you. Thank you very much for coming to speak to  
24       us today, particularly since, as we can see, you've come  
25       quite some distance to do that, but thank you for doing

1 so.

2 **A. You're welcome.**

3 CHAIRMAN: 2 o'clock.

4 (1.00 pm)

5 (Short break)

6 (2.00 pm)

7 WITNESS HIA400 (called)

8 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies  
9 and gentlemen. Our next witness today is HIA400. He is  
10 "HIA400". HIA400 wishes to affirm and he also wishes to  
11 maintain his anonymity, Chairman.

12 WITNESS HIA400 (affirmed)

13 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, HIA400. Please sit down.

14 **A. Thank you.**

15 **Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY**

16 MS SMITH: HIA400's statement can be found at RGL093 to 105.

17 The Health & Social Care Board have given us  
18 a response statement at 142, which indicate that there's  
19 no social work involvement in HIA400's case, and the DoJ  
20 have given us a response statement at 951 to 971. As  
21 I was discussing with HIA400, there is at paragraph 8 of  
22 that statement a comment by the Department of Justice,  
23 which they have made in respect of other people as well  
24 as HIA400, and that is that they:

25 "... condemn without reservation any act of abuse

1 which may have been perpetrated against any individual  
2 at Rathgael Training School. Those who were placed in  
3 that facility had every right to expect that they would  
4 be cared for with dignity and respect, treated  
5 compassionately and protected from abuse. Those who  
6 operated the Rathgael facility on a day-to-day basis or  
7 who were responsible for its management ought to have  
8 been fully aware of the high standards expected for them  
9 when caring for young people. They should have known  
10 that acts of physical, sexual or emotional abuse are  
11 unacceptable. They ought to have known that allegations  
12 of abuse where they were raised should have been  
13 reported to the appropriate authorities. The Department  
14 accepts that the evidence available to the Inquiry  
15 suggests that these standards were not always complied  
16 with in every case and the Department regrets any abuse  
17 which did occur and condemns the perpetrators of any  
18 such abuse as well as those who may have ignored the  
19 abuse or tolerated its occurrence."

20 They have sent material relevant to HIA400's time in  
21 Rathgael at 45089 to 45131 and 45132 to 45169.

22 Now if we can go back, please, to HIA400's  
23 statement, which is at 093, and, HIA400, your personal  
24 details are set out in the first two paragraphs of this  
25 statement, which, as you can see, has been redacted to

1 protect your identity. Can I just ask you to confirm  
2 that this is the witness statement that you provided for  
3 the Inquiry and that you signed that on 19th April 2015?

4 **A. Yes, that's it.**

5 Q. And this is the evidence that you want the Inquiry to  
6 have regard to together with anything else you say this  
7 afternoon?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Well, parts -- paragraphs 1 and 2 here, as I said,  
10 explain how you came to be subject to -- the subject of  
11 a Training School Order and ended up, first of all, in  
12 Lisnevin Assessment Unit, where -- you say here in  
13 paragraph 3 that:

14 "Apart from being hit around the head a few times,  
15 I have no complaints to make about Lisnevin. It was  
16 a reasonable place with good staff, who for the most  
17 part were caring and compassionate."

18 When we were speaking earlier, I was asking you if  
19 you could expand a little about what you meant by being  
20 hit around the head a few times.

21 **A. Okay. Just there were certain codes of behaviour. If**  
22 **you were to step outside that, some -- a minority of the**  
23 **staff would become aggressive, shout at you, sometimes**  
24 **slap you on the ears, sometimes hit you over the head**  
25 **with their knuckles.**

1 Q. I think you described it as being fairly minor compared  
2 to what you subsequently experienced. Is that correct?

3 **A. Yes. It didn't feel significant in any way. It was**  
4 **expected.**

5 Q. You said that -- I was asking what type of behaviour  
6 would have led to them doing this to you. You were  
7 relating an incident about looking down a corridor that  
8 you weren't supposed to go down. Is that correct?

9 **A. Yes. That incident was very simple. There was a line**  
10 **of -- we were in lines of twos and walking along**  
11 **corridors and we stopped for a minute for whatever**  
12 **reason and I sort of seen a corridor I hadn't seen**  
13 **before and sort of looked down it a bit, and one member**  
14 **of staff came over and wrapped me over the head with his**  
15 **knuckles.**

16 Q. Well, paragraph 4 here you talk about you were actually  
17 released from Lisnevin on probation and then you became  
18 involved in crime and the Training School Order was then  
19 made. You went to Rathgael in October 1976. We are  
20 still having some problems with our technology today.  
21 If we can scroll on down, please, to paragraph 5 where  
22 you say that you had a terrible experience in Rathgael  
23 at the hands of the other boys.

24 "I was a small, skinny child, who was vulnerable and  
25 weak, so I would have been a target for bullies.

1 I experienced lots of unnecessary violence. I was  
2 placed in the assessment unit and ran away within the  
3 first three days of being placed there. When I returned  
4 to Rathgael, the abuse started again. I was then moved  
5 to House .

6 I was placed in an eight-bed dormitory. There were  
7 a couple of bullies in that dorm",

8 and you witnessed some horrific things.

9 "I remember every night they would make a boy", who  
10 you name there, and I am just going to use his first  
11 name -- that's RG70 -- "he was stripped naked -- they  
12 made him strip naked and dance on the table. He would  
13 be crying and these other bullies would taunt him and  
14 throw shoes at him. They made him put his penis on the  
15 table and they would hit his penis with shoes. I was  
16 terrified and sensed that my turn was coming. I knew  
17 I was vulnerable and unable to stand up for myself and  
18 the worst crime that you could commit in Rathgael was to  
19 tout on the other boys. So it was too risky to tell any  
20 of the staff if you were bullied."

21 You make the comment that you think Rathgael was  
22 badly managed and therefore there was no protection for  
23 the boys from other boys.

24 I was asking, I mean, were the staff aware that this  
25 level of bullying was going on in Rathgael do you



1 believe?

2 **A. It's difficult to say for certain. It would be**  
3 **impossible for me to believe that they hadn't at least**  
4 **some level of awareness, because I personally would have**  
5 **had regular fat lips and black eyes and scars and cuts**  
6 **because I was beaten regularly by other boys, and so**  
7 **were a lot of other boys. There was a small group -- we**  
8 **would be in a unit of about twenty young people. There**  
9 **would be a small group of five or six who kind of**  
10 **dominated and ruled the unit and the rest of the boys**  
11 **were bullied.**

12 Q. You go on to speak about that in paragraph 7, where you  
13 say that:

14 "This gang of five or six ruled the place and  
15 everyone was afraid of them. They were like vultures  
16 and used every opportunity to inflict hurt and pain on  
17 the more vulnerable boys."

18 They did a thing which you describe which was called  
19 hooding and there was no way to avoid that where the  
20 boys were watching television, and when you were sitting  
21 on a chair, one of them came up behind you and pulled  
22 their jumper over your head and held it tightly. The  
23 rest of the unit would fly over, punch you, kick you  
24 while the jumper was still being held over your head."

25 I presume by this you could not say who was hitting

1 or striking at you?

2 **A. You couldn't say because you didn't see, but you knew**  
3 **who it was.**

4 Q. "There wasn't a day that passed when I didn't either  
5 receive or see someone else receive a hooding, a beating  
6 or be spat on. I constantly had split lips and black  
7 eyes. There was a staff room off the communal room  
8 where the boys were and the staff tended to stay in  
9 there and chat, so the boys were left on their own with  
10 no supervision."

11 Initially the staff did ask you what had happened --  
12 can you scroll on down, please -- but you were too  
13 afraid to say and you didn't want to be marked out, as  
14 you've described it, as a squealer.

15 **A. There was a standard answer was that I fell and it's**  
16 **what I said and it's what other bruised and cut boys**  
17 **said and it was an acceptable answer. It was -- there**  
18 **was no investigation. It was just -- we knew that they**  
19 **knew that we were lying, but it was never investigated**  
20 **further.**

21 Q. They just accepted what you said and left it at that?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. There was a bully, whom you name here -- and again  
24 I will just use the first name -- that's RG71 -- who  
25 used you as a slave. He would make you run errands for

1 him, clean his shoes, dry his hair after he had washed  
2 it. You found that humiliating, but if you didn't do  
3 it, he would beat you.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. You say you spent the first couple of months being  
6 constantly beaten and covered with bruises.

7 "I was released on Christmas parole and decided  
8 I wasn't going back, because I couldn't face it."

9 You lived on the streets in for a month or  
10 so. You lived in a lock-up garage and lived in a tree  
11 house in someone's garden.

12 "It was freezing, as it was winter, and I was  
13 committing crime to survive."

14 You were arrested for burglary and taken back to  
15 Rathgael.

16 I am just going to mention a document that we have  
17 seen in the bundle. It's your admission history that is  
18 taken from your pupil file and the admissions records.  
19 If we look at that, please, at 45092, and you see it  
20 records there that in June you were remanded to Lisnevin  
21 assessment unit for non-school attendance. The case was  
22 adjourned and you were released, probably on bail maybe  
23 rather than probation, but it is not clear. You were  
24 committed then on the Training School Order on 5th  
25 October 1976. They record a number of dates when you

1           were present in Rathgael, but you are also recorded  
2           there as an absconder essentially from whenever you  
3           arrived, because you went in on 5th October, and then on  
4           8th October to 11th November you are out of the training  
5           school --

6     **A. Yes.**

7     Q. -- and then again there's a note of 31st December '76.  
8           Here we note that from 4th January '77 to 27th  
9           January 1997 (sic) you are absconding and that's the  
10          time you are talking about when you were living rough in  
11                            Is that right?

12    **A. '77, not '97, but yes.**

13    Q. Sorry. Did I say '97?

14    **A. Yes.**

15    Q. I beg your pardon. '77. Yes. Also on 30th January it  
16          appears you might not have been there on that date  
17          either.

18          Now --

19    **A. I think that last record is inaccurate. My memory is**  
20          **that I absconded twice, but it might act... -- my memory**  
21          **is hazy. So it might be accurate.**

22    Q. It certainly seems as though you absconded shortly after  
23          you went by three days.

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

25    Q. And then the January 1977 was the period of a month.

1 **A. That's accurate.**

2 Q. But they have you out again on 31st December, but that  
3 might have been -- you thought you were on Christmas  
4 parole at that stage. Is that right?

5 **A. I was let out for Christmas for a few days and I decided**  
6 **not to come back. I am pretty sure that third one is**  
7 **inaccurate. The other two are accurate.**

8 Q. Okay. Going back then to your statement, you describe  
9 you were in the school in Rathgael --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- in paragraph 11. Sorry. That's 095. I should say  
12 at paragraph 10 there you say that when you did go back  
13 the second time, the abuse had stopped, because  
14 basically the gang of boys who were committing most of  
15 the bullying had moved on. They had gone into borstal,  
16 some of them, and certainly they were no longer in  
17 Rathgael.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. Once that core of bullies was gone you felt able to  
20 relax and establish yourself, as you say, as a stronger  
21 character. You had grown a bit.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. As a result the last few months that you spent in  
24 Rathgael were, as you describe it, relatively  
25 comfortable.

1     **A.   Yes.**

2     Q.   Now you weren't allowed out of the unit, though, because  
3         you had been absconding.  So you didn't get home for  
4         visits and you were not allowed to go to the excursion  
5         to Runkerry, the outdoor pursuits centre.  You were in  
6         the             school where they focused on employment  
7         skills and you completed a City & Guilds in motor  
8         engineering and went to the workshop every morning.  You  
9         sometimes lied and snuck out and went down to the --  
10        back to where you lived and played with your friends  
11        there.

12            You describe the recreational activities at  
13         paragraph 13.  There was television, table tennis, board  
14         games.  If you can scroll on down, please, you remember  
15         sports days and there was a day where each house had to  
16         build a raft and race across the lake which was on the  
17         grounds.

18            You felt the unit was clean.  You were well fed,  
19         reasonably well looked after.  You found the staff in  
20         Rathgael reasonable apart from their lack of awareness  
21         of what was happening and their inability to manage the  
22         bullying.  As you'd already explained to us, there was  
23         no investigation if they saw you with a black eye and  
24         just accepted your word for it.  You felt that as  
25         a result they were negligent in the care they were

1 providing in that regard, not in terms of the physical  
2 care --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- of accommodation or food or anything like that. You  
5 say:

6 "They spent most of their time in the staff room  
7 rather than looking after us, and you lived in fear if  
8 there was a member of staff on duty who spent a lot of  
9 time in the staff room, as you knew that you had no  
10 protection from the bullies during that shift. There  
11 was not a lot of interaction between the staff and boys.  
12 There was a points system and points added up to  
13 privileges, such as weekend leave",

14 but you lost your points, because you ran away, and  
15 so you didn't get out.

16 You talk about when you absconded, how you committed  
17 crimes. At you were released from Rathgael, as you  
18 were beyond the age at which they would have kept boys  
19 in.

20 **A. I wasn't released. I was transferred to Crumlin Road  
21 Gaol, because I was currently on remand and I had now  
22 turned .**

23 Q. That was because of the crimes that you committed while  
24 you were absconding?

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. Now I know in your statement, HIA400, you have described  
2 in paragraphs 18 to 24 about what happened to you when  
3 you were transferred then from the Crumlin Road into the  
4 Maze.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. And then subsequently at paragraphs 25 to 35 you  
7 describe the time that you spent in Millisle Borstal,  
8 when you moved after three months to that institution.

9 Now today we are simply dealing with what happened  
10 to you in Rathgael. That's why I've concentrated on  
11 that.

12 **A. Okay.**

13 Q. So while -- just to reassure you that the comments that  
14 you make about both of those institutions have been  
15 looked at fully by the Inquiry and they are well aware  
16 of the allegations that you make.

17 You also talk at paragraph 43 of your statement  
18 about your life after you were released from the  
19 institutions and -- in fact, it is before that. You  
20 talk about it from paragraphs 37 to 43, and again, as  
21 I have explained to you, the Panel is well aware of  
22 what -- the course your life took during those years,  
23 but essentially, if I can sum it up, you turned your  
24 life around and you didn't get into any more trouble  
25 from 1999 onwards. Isn't that correct?



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

2 Q. At paragraph 44 you said that as an outcome of this  
3 Inquiry you would like to see a structure in place to  
4 prevent abuse happening in the future and that you hope  
5 that genuine lessons are learned and real changes are  
6 made.

7 Now you are aware from what we were discussing  
8 earlier and the question that we ask everyone when they  
9 come to speak to us about their time in institutions is  
10 about what recommendations they feel should be made by  
11 this Inquiry at the end of its work, and I know that you  
12 have, as you've said to me, some specific thoughts about  
13 that --

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. -- and perhaps you would like to express those now.

16 **A. Well, as I said earlier, I really would like to submit**  
17 **them on paper, because to speak freely about them now,**  
18 **it would just be a sort of jumble of thoughts, and**  
19 **I would like the time to be able to sit down and**  
20 **document what I feel, because there are so many**  
21 **situations that I feel could be relatively easily**  
22 **resolved in terms of keeping young people safe inside**  
23 **those institutions.**

24 Q. Essentially from the discussion I was having with you --  
25 and I have certainly said to you that you can certainly

1 put your thoughts down in writing and the Inquiry will  
2 look at them and probably attach them to your evidence  
3 in some way --

4 **A. Okay.**

5 Q. -- but I think what you were saying to me was that you  
6 were -- for you the major problem with children in  
7 institutions was not so much the staff, but the children  
8 themselves and the bullying that went on.

9 **A. Absolutely. I seen abuse coming from staff and I seen**  
10 **abuse coming from other young people, and I would say --**  
11 **I mean, I spent several years in these institutions over**  
12 **four or five different institutions and the pattern was**  
13 **the same. There was always abuse from the staff, but it**  
14 **would have counted for about somewhere -- if I had to**  
15 **guess, I would say about 5% of the total amount of abuse**  
16 **would come from staff. By far the greater problem was**  
17 **young people abusing each other and no mechanisms in**  
18 **place to prevent that: lack of supervision, lack of**  
19 **significant investigation into incidents, lack of staff**  
20 **having knowledge or understanding or even caring.**

21 I would like to see training in place. I would like  
22 to see young people having the opportunity not to be  
23 forced into multiple bed dorms or multiple bed cells,  
24 where there is only the supervision of a night officer,  
25 who will maybe look in through a door flap once every

1 two hours, because that leaves the young people  
2 completely able to exercise their will and abuse and  
3 hurt other people, and that was where the majority of  
4 harm and damage came from in my experience both as  
5 a professional working with young people afterwards and  
6 being a young person in the system. So I would love  
7 young people to have the opportunity to not be forced  
8 into multiple bed dorms. I think that would be the  
9 biggest thing of all.

10 Q. Well, thank you very much for that, HIA400. Is there  
11 anything else that you want to say about your time in  
12 Rathgael that you feel we haven't covered in the medical  
13 evidence -- I should have pointed out we did have  
14 medical evidence, medical records in respect of you.  
15 They are at -- they start at 45113. I was saying to you  
16 that they show that you were complaining of headaches  
17 and being treated for that type of complaint, and there  
18 was an incident that you -- you were treated for scabies  
19 on two occasions and you said that was really because  
20 you were . That's why you  
21 required that treatment.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. The records show that you received such treatment. As  
24 you have said yourself, your issue is not with the  
25 physical care that was afforded to you in Rathgael.

1           Isn't that right?

2   **A. No, not at all.**

3   Q. Is there anything that I have not covered that you feel  
4       we ought to cover?

5   **A. I just feel that it is important to -- for me to state**  
6       **that the incidents that I talk about here in this**  
7       **statement are a tiny, tiny tip of the iceberg. This was**  
8       **two years of daily, I mean daily, abuse and not just for**  
9       **me; for most of the other young people in these**  
10       **institutions. This is like a little snapshot and**  
11       **I cannot do justice to how horrific it was sometimes,**  
12       **how terrifying it was to live in those conditions where**  
13       **every morning you woke and you knew you were going to**  
14       **either be spat on or beaten or called names and usually**  
15       **all three.**

16   Q. Thank you, HIA400. I have nothing further that I want  
17       to ask you, but the Panel Members may have some  
18       questions for you.

19   **A. Thank you.**

20                                   **Questions from THE PANEL**

21   CHAIRMAN: HIA400, can I just take you back to what you have  
22       said to us about the likelihood or otherwise of the  
23       staff understanding that the marks you had, the split  
24       lips, the black eyes, the bruises --

25   **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- were due to some form of bullying as opposed to the  
2 explanation which you gave, which was that you just had  
3 a fall.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. You said that the staff who asked you you felt knew that  
6 you were lying.

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. Isn't that right? Were all of the staff the same in  
9 your view in this respect? The reason I ask that  
10 question is a number of the people who have either just  
11 spoken to us or who we know are going to deal with this  
12 say that while some staff are people they are very  
13 critical of for not doing things or doing things  
14 themselves they shouldn't have done, there were other  
15 staff who were very good to them --

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. -- and whom they respected. Did you see any distinction  
18 like that between the staff or --

19 **A. Absolutely. I mean, the distinctions were really wide.**  
20 **Some people were just beautiful human beings. They were**  
21 **kind and caring and compassionate and considerate.**  
22 **Other people were little more than animals. They were**  
23 **violent. There was one guy in Rathgael. He permanently**  
24 **carried a rubber hose with him and he beat the boys with**  
25 **that rubber hose. Yet there were other staff members**

1           **that you could expect some level of support from.**

2           **The problem is in terms of reporting incidents**  
3           **I couldn't trust any staff member, because if it got**  
4           **back to the other boys that I had been an informer, then**  
5           **my life would not have been worth living.**

6    Q.    Yes.  You would have been labelled a squealer or a tout  
7           --

8    **A.  Yes, exactly.**

9    Q.    -- and therefore it would have come back to hit you.

10   **A.  It was too risky.  Yes.**

11   Q.    So far as the incidents that you have described are  
12           concern, as I understand what you said just at the very  
13           end, this was really the tip of the iceberg.  You are  
14           not confining your account of what happened to you --

15   **A.  Absolutely.**

16   Q.    -- in Rathgael just to one or two specifically  
17           identified.

18   **A.  Absolutely.  This was a daily occurrence for the**  
19           **majority of boys.**

20   Q.    One of the things that has been said by others is that  
21           -- and you have touched on it in a way when you speak  
22           about the lack of supervision -- that the staff would  
23           spend their time in the television room, for example,  
24           and just not be out and about.  Was that your  
25           experience?

1     **A.** It depended on the staff members. There was like --  
2     a big part of my trying to survive in those, in Rathgael  
3     as well as other institutions, was learning the rota of  
4     the staff, because you would know, depending on which  
5     staff member came on duty, whether you were likely to be  
6     protected or not.

7             Some staff members you knew when they came on duty,  
8     they would just make a bee-line for the office and sit  
9     and do office work and chat to each other and would  
10    spend almost no time in the common room, leaving all the  
11    boys unsupervised to run riot.

12            Other staff members would come in and they would be  
13    meticulous in their duties and you would feel safe.  
14    They would come in and they would sit in the TV room or  
15    common room and they would prevent bullying. So you  
16    lived in fear, depending on which staff members were  
17    coming on duty.

18    **Q.** To turn to a different topic, the supervision at night,  
19    you commented upon someone looking through a hatch or an  
20    --

21    **A.** Yes.

22    **Q.** -- observation eye space or something like that. Were  
23    there regular night staff patrolling that you were aware  
24    of or what was the position?

25    **A.** They were called the night staff. They weren't the

1 staff who dealt with us during the day. As far as I am  
2 aware they were employed specifically as night staff.

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. But their role in terms of supervision would be once  
5 every hour or two they would look through your flap, but  
6 it was a gesture in futility, because when the bullying  
7 was going on, one boy would be assigned to stand at the  
8 door and listen for the night staff coming. You could  
9 hear them walking up the corridor. As soon as they  
10 appeared all the bullying stopped. Everybody is back in  
11 bed and as far as the night supervisor is concerned  
12 everything is quiet and serene.

13 Q. Thank you very much, HIA400.

14 A. Thank you.

15 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA400. That has been really  
16 helpful. Can I just check: was there any pressure on  
17 boys to become bullies themselves? Was there -- you  
18 know when you were talking about the hooding, was there  
19 an expectation if you were the person that was not being  
20 hooded that you would join in in hitting or was it just  
21 the core group that bullied?

22 A. I don't remember any expectation on -- I was never  
23 forced to bully other people. I was in borstal by staff  
24 but not in Rathgael, and I realise we are concentrating  
25 on Rathgael.



1 Q. So in Rathgael it was more about you being -- just that  
2 you were picked on as opposed to --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- that you had any expectation. Can I ask, I mean, the  
5 issue about the bullying and bullies being able to stop  
6 when staff was around, your description of being in  
7 a sense a slave to the boy that, you know, was making  
8 you do everything for him --

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. -- did staff ever comment on that, the fact that you  
11 were running messages for him, doing things for him?

12 **A. I am not clear whether they had an awareness of it or**  
13 **not. I certainly did not tell them because of the risks**  
14 **involved. I would -- they would need to be pretty much**  
15 **blind or -- I don't know how you could not notice, you**  
16 **know, but in the main staff in general didn't really --**  
17 **they kind of seemed to take the easy route all the time,**  
18 **not investigate too much, to go for the quiet life and**  
19 **don't have to do paperwork. They just didn't seem to**  
20 **care, most of them. There were exceptions, of course,**  
21 **staff who were lovely people.**

22 Q. My final question is just about the absconding. When  
23 you returned, did anybody talk to you about why you were  
24 absconding, why you had not come back after the  
25 Christmas leave?

1     **A.**  No.  My memory of it is that they were fairly aggressive  
2           with me.  They gave me a hard time for absconding.  
3           There certainly wasn't any talk, "Why did do you this?"  
4           or "In what way can we support you?"  It was, "If you do  
5           this again, you will ..."  There was always the threat  
6           of ending up in the big house, which was Millisle  
7           Borstal.  "If you do this, you'll end up in Millisle."  
8           Also we were told regularly that if we end up in the  
9           Crumlin Road Gaol or in Millisle, that we would be  
10          beaten or raped.  I was told that.  So by the time  
11          I ended in Crumlin Road Gaol I was terrified, because  
12          I thought that's what -- my expectation was, "I am going  
13          to go through these doors and be raped and beaten".

14     **Q.**  And it was staff that said that to you?

15     **A.**  Yes.

16     **Q.**  Okay.  Thank you.

17     **A.**  Thank you.

18     **MR LANE:**  You mentioned that there was half a dozen bullies  
19           who were the main core of this.  Were you the only one  
20           where there was the sort of slavery at all?  Did all of  
21           them have their own slaves?

22     **A.**  No.  There was two of us boys that for the most part of  
23           the time -- because it varied depending -- the bullies  
24           at the top of the pile, sometimes they went and  
25           sometimes it changed, but there was generally a core of

1       about four, five, six. There was also the bottom of the  
2       pile, the people who were very clearly the most  
3       vulnerable and the weakest. I was one of them and there  
4       was the guy I talked about who had his penis beaten with  
5       shoes and stuff. He was another. Then there was  
6       another young man who came in from the countryside. He  
7       had little flower patches on the jeans. I remember  
8       watching him coming in and thinking, "He is dead in the  
9       water". Do you know? So there was always a little core  
10      at the bottom and a little core at the top and a little  
11      group in the middle, who were neither bullies nor  
12      bullied.

13    Q. We have not at other times come across this idea of the  
14      slave. I just wondered whether it was unique or whether  
15      it was a common thing with that sort of grouping.

16    A. I don't know if it happened to anyone else. I think it  
17      was -- I think it was because this particular  
18      individual, he thought this was a good way for him to  
19      have power and control, but it wasn't a general thing,  
20      no.

21    Q. And there's no sexual aspect to that either at all?

22    A. No.

23    Q. No. You mentioned that 5% of bullying comes from staff  
24      maybe and 95 among the boys. Were the boys at all  
25      copying the staff or did they just generate that

1 themselves?

2 A. No, it was very -- I would say it was very definitely  
3 self-generated. I mean, there was -- every institution  
4 I was in where there was young people there was always  
5 that pattern, where there was a group who were cruel and  
6 heartless.

7 There was a guy that -- I didn't witness this, but  
8 the guy you just talked to earlier was a close friend of  
9 him. So I remember him telling me a story about one of  
10 his colleagues, one of his young people he was in with  
11 went home because his dad had died, had had a heart  
12 attack on the toilet. When he came back to the unit,  
13 all the other boys were like making flushing noises and  
14 holding their hearts and falling off chairs and that is  
15 like horrific. Do you know? I remember him telling me  
16 about this boy crying, because he couldn't cope with the  
17 other boys making fun of his dad dying on the toilet,  
18 you know.

19 Q. You mentioned that you were less vulnerable to the  
20 bullying as time went on and you got older and so on.  
21 You mentioned that other people -- some of the bullies  
22 had moved on themselves. Did that mean that bullying  
23 actually died out at all or was it just a different  
24 bunch of people who were at the top of the pecking  
25 order?

1 **A. No. Bullying died out significantly. There was always**  
2 **bullying, but it lessened considerably when this**  
3 **particular group moved on to borstal.**

4 Q. So that wasn't the result of any sort of staff action,  
5 though. It was just that that group moved on.

6 **A. It was just that the group moved on. Because they were**  
7 **of that mentality, they themselves were getting into all**  
8 **sorts of trouble and doing burglaries when they were out**  
9 **on leave and stuff. So all of them eventually ended up**  
10 **in borstal, because I ran into them again.**

11 Q. Yes. I remember you were saying as well that there were  
12 things like table-tennis and television and things like  
13 this. Were there more organised activities run by the  
14 staff?

15 **A. There was. There was sort of day trips away canoeing**  
16 **and abseiling and --**

17 Q. Uh-huh.

18 **A. -- I think there was weekends up at the north coast.**  
19 **Yes, there were organised activities.**

20 Q. And ordinarily if you were just in the day room or  
21 whatever you call it, would this -- would the staff have  
22 been playing table-tennis with you and mixing like that  
23 or was it just the boys who did that on their own?

24 **A. Again it depended on the staff. Some staff would come**  
25 **in and play board games with you and table-tennis.**

1           **Other staff would confine themselves to the staff room**  
2           **until their shift was over.**

3    Q.   Okay. Thank you very much.

4    A.   **Thank you.**

5    CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA400, thank you very much indeed for  
6           coming to speak to us today. Those are the last  
7           questions we have to ask you. Thank you very much for  
8           coming.

9    A.   **Okay. Thank you.**

10           **Evidence of WITNESS HIA372 read to the Inquiry**

11   MS SMITH: Chairman, there is one other piece of evidence  
12           that I wish to draw to the -- to the attention -- this  
13           doesn't involve HIA400 --

14   CHAIRMAN: Yes, HIA400. You are free to go. Thank you very  
15           much.

16   A.   **Thank you.**

17                           **(Witness withdrew)**

18   MS SMITH: -- to the attention of the Inquiry and that is in  
19           respect of HIA372, who is unable to attend in this  
20           module of evidence. His statement can be found at 076  
21           to 079.

22           The Health and Social Care Board have responded to  
23           say that they have no Social -- there was no Social  
24           Services involvement in his care.

25           You will see his statement here is on the screen,

1 and at paragraph 2 he recounts that when he was 15, he  
2 was held on remand in Rathgael for approximately six  
3 months awaiting trial on a possession of a firearm  
4 charge.

5 "I shared a dormitory with three other boys. I have  
6 no complaints regarding the staff I encountered at  
7 Rathgael. However, during this time a riot broke out  
8 and I was subjected to a beating by police. The police  
9 also stripped me naked and made me run through broken  
10 glass from the riot debris. I sustained a broken nose,  
11 a broken rib, a cut to my eye, which required five  
12 stitches, and a cut to the crown of my head, which also  
13 required five stitches."

14 Now in the Department of Justice response they  
15 outline the records that they have checked, which  
16 includes the master file of all admissions, and state  
17 that they have no record of HIA372, but confirm that if  
18 there is any further information come to light, it will  
19 be forwarded to the Inquiry.

20 In paragraph 3 he goes on to talk about his time in  
21 the hospital wing of the Crumlin Road Gaol and then at  
22 paragraphs 4 to 10 he talks about three years that he  
23 spent in Armagh Borstal, and he describes an incident  
24 there -- describes the regime and speaks about  
25 an incident which he understood led to the closure of

1 the borstal. He has also provided the Inquiry with  
2 a clipping from a media archive showing a report about  
3 that particular institution in 1975, and his life after  
4 leaving the institutions is recounted in paragraphs --  
5 in paragraph 11 I think it is.

6 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

7 MS SMITH: Yes. He signed his witness statement on  
8 9th April 2015.

9 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Well, we will rise now until we are  
10 ready to deal with the next and last witness for today.

11 (2.45 pm)

12 (Short break)

13 (3.00 pm)

14 WITNESS HIA267 (called)

15 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, the next witness  
16 this afternoon is HIA267. HIA267 is "HIA267". He is  
17 going to preserve his anonymity and he is aware,  
18 Chairman, that you are going to ask him to take the  
19 oath.

20 WITNESS HIA267 (sworn)

21 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, HIA267. Please sit down.

22 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

23 MR AIKEN: HIA267, coming up on the screen will be the  
24 electronic version of your witness statement, and the  
25 one that comes up has the black marks already applied to



1 it, but will you just check that it matches the hard  
2 copy that you have in front of you?

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

4 Q. And if we move through to the last page at 069 and if  
5 you look at the last page of the hard copy, HIA267,  
6 again if you just check that it's the same statement and  
7 confirm that you have, in fact, signed the witness  
8 statement?

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

10 Q. And you want to adopt the contents as your evidence to  
11 the Inquiry?

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

13 Q. As I was explaining to you, HIA267, the Inquiry has  
14 received a number of statements that I am going to just  
15 flag up for the Panel.

16 There's a statement from the Health & Social Care  
17 Board at 140 to 141. It expresses the view that they  
18 don't believe that there was any involvement with Social  
19 Services with HIA267 coming into the training school and  
20 they are right about that. We will look at that  
21 a little more shortly.

22 There is, however, a supplemental statement from the  
23 Health & Social Care Board, which runs from 4781 to  
24 4785. It uses HIA267 as an example to explain that  
25 although there was no Social Services involvement in

1 HIA267's placement, while he was doing his assessment in  
2 Lisnevin, which went on for five weeks --

3 **A. Five or six weeks, yes.**

4 Q. -- one of the steps that was taken by Lisnevin was to  
5 engage with the external Social Services from the area  
6 where the individual such as HIA267 lived, so in his  
7 case , and ask for a social work  
8 report on the family and the background to be prepared,  
9 and there is an example of that in this case. So the  
10 statement at 4781 to 4785 explains that mechanism of  
11 Social Services being engaged by Lisnevin to assist with  
12 the assessment process, but that would not necessarily  
13 have produced a file for Social Services unless there  
14 was some other reason for them to become involved in the  
15 care of the individual.

16 There is then a statement from the Department of  
17 Justice, which runs from 830 to 832, with exhibits from  
18 833 to 844. In addition, the Department has provided  
19 the Inquiry with again a significant volume of material  
20 from HIA267's time in Rathgael. That runs from 43192 to  
21 43306. In keeping with the comments that I made earlier  
22 today, the record is not complete, but such of it as  
23 there is includes the movement history, the marks book  
24 record -- that's the handwritten type record you and  
25 I were looking at, HIA267 --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- welfare and aftercare handwritten records that we  
3 were also looking at. There then are very detailed  
4 Lisnevin assessment reports and then again there are the  
5 medical records that are extensive in respect of HIA267.  
6 They run from 43288 to 43302. HIA267 was explaining to  
7 me that everybody wanted to get to the sick bay to see  
8 **RG 212** . I am right in saying that?

9 **A. Yes. They were very efficient.**

10 Q. Then there is also Management Board Licensing Committee  
11 records of the decision to release.

12 In addition, the Inquiry has received a statement  
13 from the Department from RG173, who was someone who  
14 spent a significant part of his career working in  
15 Rathgael. That statement runs from 1714 to 1733. It  
16 has a significant volume of exhibits at 1734 to 1776,  
17 but as part of that process RG173 looks at the various  
18 allegations that have been made, the statements having  
19 been shown to him by the Department, and he simply  
20 comments, as I was drawing to HIA267's attention, that  
21 the four individuals that HIA267 speaks of in his  
22 statement, no other applicant has made allegations about  
23 them. There is one of that four, though, who may face  
24 an allegation outwith that, but one of the individuals  
25 that HIA267 speaks of in his statement, RG4, who is

1 "RG4" -- and again, HIA267, although we use the names in  
2 here, they can't be used beyond the chamber -- we have  
3 been able to track him down and he has provided  
4 a witness statement to the Inquiry, which runs from 4777  
5 to 4780 and paragraphs 7 and 8 of that statement at 4778  
6 relate to HIA267, and we will come back to that. I know  
7 that he has legal representation. I don't see them  
8 present in the chamber and I propose to carry on in any  
9 event and make them aware, and they will be able to read  
10 the transcript of the evidence in due course.

11 HIA267, having gone through all of that, if you help  
12 me to confirm that your date of birth is ?

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

14 Q. You are now aged ?

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

16 Q. You were four of -- fourth of six siblings?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You have two children of your own --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- and two grandchildren?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. And we were discussing -- you thought you were in  
23 Rathgael a bit longer than the records appear to  
24 suggest.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. You were it seems, according to the material that is  
2 available, in Rathgael from 14th November 1975, aged  
3 , until 23rd December 1976, aged  
4 . So you were there for one year, one month.

5 **A. Right.**

6 Q. You thought it was eighteen months.

7 **A. Yes, something like that.**

8 Q. It appears to be one year, one month. I was saying to  
9 you that it appears that after the minimum period of  
10 about a year before you could be licensed you were then  
11 licensed out --

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. -- and never returned to Rathgael.

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. What's available to the Panel, but which I am not going  
16 to go through in any detail now, HIA267, is that the  
17 background to your entrance to Rathgael was to do with  
18 non-attendance at school.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. It involved you being visited and engaged with by  
21 education and welfare officers.

22 **A. Right.**

23 Q. I think some of the information I was giving you today  
24 --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- you were surprised --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- at just the volume of days you were missing from  
4 school, but it is clear that from about the age of in  
5 September of '74, so the year before you are eventually  
6 sent to Rathgael, there is a problem with school  
7 attendance and various -- we were discussing various  
8 comments that were made by you --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- as not being afraid of the threats of sending you to  
11 Rathgael and so on, but there appears to have been  
12 a sequence of events that led to you coming before  
13 Hollywood Court in November of '74 for non-school  
14 attendance. Whatever happened, the case was adjourned  
15 then and in February of '75 to allow another opportunity  
16 to improve, and there then is a series of educational  
17 psychologist visits and reports that are available to  
18 the Panel in April and May of 1975, and the impression  
19 that the psychologist was getting was they would have to  
20 think about training school, because there wasn't  
21 a great improvement in the attendance.

22 You were surprised when I said to you that by  
23 November '75, when the Training School Order is made, of  
24 the school days -- there were 41 school days between  
25 a certain date in September and October '75, and you

1 missed 35 of them. So you and I were discussing I think  
2 there wasn't much more they could do in terms of  
3 encouraging you at that stage.

4 On 14th November then a Training School Order was  
5 made at Hollywood Court. That's available to the Panel  
6 at 43199. At that stage you were .

7 You explain -- and we will come back to -- the one  
8 incident you have involving RG50 occurred that very same  
9 day in effect --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- when you go in, but you explain in your statement how  
12 within a couple of days you went to the Lisnevin  
13 assessment unit.

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

15 Q. And that happened on 17th November of 1975, so a couple  
16 of days after HIA267 had gone in to Rathgael.

17 Available to the Panel -- and I am not going to take  
18 time now going through it -- are the very detailed  
19 Lisnevin reports. They include a Lisnevin pen picture,  
20 an Eastern Board external social work family report, and  
21 that records an interview with your mum and other  
22 members of the family, a personal history,  
23 an educational report from the time in Lisnevin. That  
24 was you being commented upon, how you were getting on  
25 with the work. There's a report from the high school

1 that you came from, from High School. Then  
2 there's a psychologist's report and various test records  
3 that are available. That material is available to the  
4 Panel.

5 The result of that assessment produced a case  
6 conference in Lisnevin on 13th -- 15th December 1975.  
7 I am just going to look at that, because it will assist  
8 the Panel generally with how this was done. If we look  
9 at 43210, please, you can see attending the case  
10 conference is the Chairman, then there's a teacher, then  
11 a housemother, . Do you remember was that the  
12 Lisnevin housemother? Maybe you don't remember who --

13 **A. Sorry. Just repeat that again.**

14 Q. In Lisnevin where you resided was the housemother -- can  
15 you remember was her name ?

16 **A. I can't remember her at all.**

17 Q. Can't remember. That's fine. Then the external social  
18 worker is . Then there are two educational  
19 welfare officers represented. They comment then on how  
20 you have got on, HIA267, during the assessment process.

21 Ultimately they recommend, if we scroll down on to  
22 the end of the assessment -- just move on down,  
23 please -- much of what they're recording, HIA267, you  
24 won't no doubt remember occurring. They make reference  
25 to your , but you are not alone in that



1 regard.

2 So if we can move down to 43211, please, you can see  
3 there was concern, as I was discussing with you, about  
4 comments made about the glamour of absconding and  
5 ultimately, whatever about all the words, you only  
6 absconded once, but you explained -- or the view was  
7 taken that in order to reduce the incidence of potential  
8 absconding you were going to be kept separate from two  
9 particular individuals you must have been rubbing along  
10 with at the time. I think you remember both of those --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- individuals.

13 **A. I do indeed.**

14 Q. You talk about HIA262 for a different reason in your  
15 statement and we will come to him, but they were worried  
16 about how things would go and, as I was saying to you,  
17 I am not going to pour over the records. What you can  
18 see happening is there's clearly difficulty settling in.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. Trouble that goes on in the unit and various  
21 interactions with boys and staff and so on, but very  
22 quickly then a settling down, which results in by the  
23 time of a year the decision to license you out, as you  
24 and I were discussing. It didn't mean everything was  
25 smooth thereafter --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- but there was definitely progress in Rathgael towards  
3 you moving back out.

4 The record of you -- you did explain to me that you  
5 were the first group who were given home leave from  
6 Lisnevin. I think Lisnevin was quite a new set-up at  
7 that point in time.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. You may have been one of the first groups --

10 **A. We were the first group.**

11 Q. You were first group being assessed in it?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. And you were given home leave for Christmas.

14 **A. That's correct. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. So you finished in Lisnevin. You go home and then you  
16 come back to Rathgael in around 31st December 1975 and  
17 were placed in House . I was asking you to help us as  
18 much as you could with who ran House . You said to me  
19 that initially it would have been RG19 and  
20 a RG 216 .

21 **A. -- RG19 and, yes, RG 216 -- RG 216 was**  
22 **a housemaster there with -- there was another fella.**  
23 **I just can't remember his name now.**

24 Q. Both of those were decent men --

25 **A. Yes, they were indeed.**

1 Q. -- who looked after you and you had no complaint about  
2 them.

3 **A. No. They were fair men.**

4 Q. And -- but we were discussing RG39, who would have been  
5 in Unit .

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Towards the end of your time was that?

8 **A. Yes, he was indeed, yes.**

9 Q. And you were saying to me that on occasions staff would  
10 have moved; you know, spent time as a housemaster in one  
11 place --

12 **A. Yes, yes.**

13 Q. -- but for whatever reason weren't there necessarily all  
14 of your time. So RG39 had moved into Unit to work  
15 alongside you at a certain point in time.

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

17 Q. And the record shows -- and we will come back to this  
18 incident -- one instance of absconding was on 11th  
19 January 1976, when you absconded with six other boys  
20 from Unit . That was only about a week, two weeks into  
21 life in Rathgael.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. There are records, and I am not going to pour through  
24 them, HIA267 -- you and I were talking about them  
25 earlier and they are available for the Panel to see --

1 but the type of interactions that might be customary in  
2 this type of environment where a group of boys, all of  
3 whom have particular difficulties that have caused them  
4 to end up there in the first place.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. So there's reference to punching a particular boy in  
7 January of '76. You were able to remember who that  
8 person was then when you saw the name.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. And there's reference to another incident involving  
11 holding someone while your cousin hit them. You  
12 explained to me that you had no cousin in Rathgael.

13 **A. Never had any cousins in Rathgael.**

14 Q. So that's an error that has occurred.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. In terms of the chronology of things, we were mentioning  
17 the Medical Department. You -- in April of '76 you can  
18 see that you have come back from home leave. Let me  
19 just pause there to ask you was home leave, going out to  
20 your mum and your dad when he was back from work, was  
21 that most weekends in a month or would it have been one  
22 weekend in a month? Was there a rough average?

23 **A. It started off through your points system. You had to**  
24 **get so many points to get out once a month. Then when**  
25 **you came back in, you established more points. Then**

1       you'd get out twice a month and then three times, until  
2       you worked yourself up until you were nearly leaving  
3       when you were allowed out -- as long as you didn't fall  
4       foul, I mean, you could have got out after a while every  
5       week -- every weekend.

6   Q.   Yes.

7   A.   It was all down to the points system, how you behaved  
8       and how other masters summed you up for that points  
9       system, both in school and in the -- in the houses.

10  Q.   You had these house meetings --

11  A.   Yes.

12  Q.   -- where discussion took place about the behaviour and  
13       --

14  A.   Yes.

15  Q.   -- what was going to happen.

16  A.   Yes. The point system was read out. After they had  
17       went and summed you all up, they came down and they  
18       would have handed out the points. In other words, "You  
19       are not going on leave", "You will not be on leave",  
20       and that was -- so if you missed one month, if you were  
21       only getting out once, then you had to wait not only  
22       that month but the following month too before you got  
23       out. So it was two months before you would have got  
24       out.

25  Q.   Yes, and the incentive for good behaviour was in effect

1           you could create a scenario where basically you only  
2           stayed there during the week and could be out at the  
3           weekend.

4   **A. Yes, there was cases like that. Yes, there was.**

5   Q. On one of these occasions you'd been on home leave in  
6       April of '76. You were explaining to me you got clocked  
7       on the head with a --

8   **A. Stick.**

9   Q. -- stick while you were running through a forested area.

10 **A. Ah! Yes, that's right.**

11 Q. Was it                    ?

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

13 Q. When you were out. That resulted in you ending up in  
14       hospital, in the Ulster Hospital, and getting treatment.  
15       Then when you were brought back, the records show you  
16       getting --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- looked after day after day in the Medical Department,  
19       which wasn't a chore.

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. There were references in the records to various  
22       incidents of bullying and you were explaining to me that  
23       that was part and parcel of life.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. You got punished for it when you were caught at it --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- but it was, you know, finding your place, as it were,  
3 as you described it.

4 **A. Everybody was bullied at one stage in it, like.**

5 **Everybody got bullied until you worked your way out of**  
6 **that bullying. Do you know what I mean? Once you were**  
7 **a new boy, everybody picked on you until you actually**  
8 **stood up for yourself. If you didn't do that, you just**  
9 **stayed at the bottom of the ladder.**

10 Q. But it is right that it was not condoned by the staff?

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

12 Q. You were getting punished for it when you engaged in it  
13 --

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. -- and would lose marks for it and so on.

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

17 Q. I was asking do you remember you seemed to hurt the  
18 ankle and the head one night playing football and were  
19 sent to the Medical Department. You did not remember  
20 that necessarily yourself.

21 **A. I think I can remember the foot -- about the foot,**  
22 **because it stopped me from going to Runkerry with -- we**  
23 **used to go to Runkerry House, you know.**

24 Q. Yes.

25 **A. You'd be away for a week, and I couldn't go with my**

1           **house because of this injury I had to my ankle.**

2    Q.    And Runkerry was a very positive thing?

3    A.    **It was indeed. So I ended up -- I had to wait until**  
4           **House was going. So I went with House so that**  
5           **I wouldn't miss it, you know, but I didn't get going**  
6           **with my own house.**

7    Q.    The reason I draw attention to the medical treatment for  
8           a football injury was that medical treatment was readily  
9           available, and if something happened, whether it be you  
10          had a cough and needed cough mixture, you were sent  
11          along to the medical --

12   A.    **There was always a line for -- there was always**  
13          **a line for to go and see    RG 212    kind of thing. Do**  
14          **you know what I mean?**

15   Q.    Yes.

16   A.    **I am not saying that they were all -- some of them was**  
17          **just bluffing, but            was --            wasn't too long in**  
18          **catching you out -- catching you out, like, and you were**  
19          **sent back.**

20   Q.    You are then -- what happens by December '76 you have  
21          the first -- what is your first review, but it is your  
22          only review, because they decide to release you. If we  
23          just look at the form of that, please, at 43238, you can  
24          see this is the type of report. We were looking at it  
25          earlier. It is quite hard to make out in the way it is



1 copied, but "Unit . Housemaster: RG39. First review,  
2 13th December '76". It records you, if we scroll just  
3 down to the bottom of it, please, that you have reached  
4 grade 1, as it is described, with 25.5 marks -- if we  
5 just move on down, please, to the bottom of the record  
6 -- and they decide that it's time to give you your  
7 chance on licence. So that seems to be the system that  
8 you were talking about.

9 **A. Yes, it is indeed.**

10 Q. Was grade 1 the out every week?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. So there were essentially four grades, were there --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- that you could move from not out at all --

15 **A. Right.**

16 Q. -- to out one week at grade 3 --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- out two weeks at grade 2 and then --

19 **A. Yes, but at any stage, I mean, your system could have**  
20 **been knocked and you could have been knocked back to**  
21 **being only allowed out maybe once every three weeks. It**  
22 **all depends how serious it was. Do you know what I**  
23 **mean?**

24 Q. Yes.

25 **A. Even if you were at the top, you could be knocked off**

1           **the top and sent back down. Do you know what I mean?**

2    Q.    Yes. So it seems that you had got into a good run, as  
3           it were?

4    **A.    Yes.**

5    Q.    And as a result they are going to let you out after  
6           a year to see how you get on. That -- the Panel have  
7           access to the marks book that shows the discharge being  
8           recorded ultimately as of 23rd December of 1976, and  
9           what I am also going to show just for the general work  
10          of the Panel, HIA267 -- it is not because there is  
11          anything of great import for you in it -- but on  
12          22nd December, if we can look at 43212, please, we can  
13          see -- I don't know if you remember a teacher called  
14          RG73.

15   **A.    Yes, I remember RG73.**

16   Q.    Do you remember RG73? Well, he is writing then a report  
17          to                   , who was the                    in                    .  
18          The purpose of this is he is just outlining how you got  
19          on basically in training school. Then they are going to  
20          begin and confirm working with you. If we just scroll  
21          down to the bottom of it, he is talking about, you know,  
22          how you have got on educationally. If we move on down,  
23          please, there we have the next of it. So he is talking  
24          about spelling was weak and so on.

25   **A.    Yes.**

1 Q. You were explaining to me that you have improved that as  
2 you have self-taught --

3 **A. Certainly.**

4 Q. -- as you have got older and are now an avid reader.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. But it shows that as Rathgael were then releasing  
7 someone, they were then communicating what --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- the position was to those who were going to pick up  
10 thereafter. As a result of this licensing back to your  
11 home and going to school there is then a sequence of  
12 records showing the welfare team, as it were, or the  
13 aftercare team in Rathgael calling to see your mum,  
14 calling to see --

15 **A. Right.**

16 Q. -- in the school, interviewing you in the  
17 school to find out how you are getting on. I am not  
18 going to go through the detail of it, but what one can  
19 see happening is a sequence of events where there's  
20 still a problem with non-attendance, but it gets  
21 gradually better --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- in terms of your attendance is becoming more  
24 frequent. In fairness by the end of it you and I were  
25 looking at a record where the headmaster was expressing

1 his satisfaction to the Rathgael staff about the level  
2 of improvement that there had been.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. That's not to say there were not other difficulties --

5 **A. They were, yes.**

6 Q. -- that arose along the way that the Panel are aware of  
7 that I am not going to go into now.

8 The -- in your statement if we look at paragraph 2,  
9 please, at 064 you explain about RG50. We think that is  
10 a RG50. Again his name shouldn't be used beyond the  
11 chamber, but you explain that on your first night there  
12 was a queue to go into the dorm. You and another boy  
13 were engaged in a bit of punching at each other.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. Then this man pulled you out of the queue and hit you.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. And you were explaining to me that that was the only  
18 time you had ever had any hassle with that man.

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

20 Q. It was done in front of the other boys.

21 **A. It was indeed.**

22 Q. And you described it as sort of him rough... -- throwing  
23 you -- threw you about.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. And that was for that horseplay in the queue, as it

1           were.

2   **A. Yes.**

3   Q. You were explaining to me that this man worked in the  
4       reception unit.

5   **A. That's correct.**

6   Q. And so it was in those couple -- this was the first  
7       couple of days before you went off to Lisnevin.

8   **A. Yes. That was the first night I was there. Then**  
9       **I moved out to Lisnevin. I never really seen him again,**  
10      **because when I came back from Lisnevin, I was sent to**  
11      **House then in the school.**

12   Q. Yes.

13   **A. So I never really seen him again until he visited my**  
14      **grandmother. That's the next time I seen him.**

15   Q. Yes, because there was a common interest --

16   **A. Correct.**

17   Q. -- that your grandmother was interested and           in  
18       The Salvation Army and so was he.

19   **A. (Inaudible) Church of Ireland. Well, I am Salvation**  
20      **Army and I wouldn't go because he would have been the**  
21      **man that was taking me to the Salvation Army. That's**  
22      **why I wouldn't go.**

23   Q. Yes, and there were various members of staff who took  
24       the pupils to whatever church they were going to go to.

25   **A. Yes, that's right. I ended up going to**

1           **instead of The Salvation Army.**

2       Q.   You talk then in paragraph 3, HIA267, about Lisnevin.

3           No complaints.  You enjoyed your time there.  You said  
4           the same about going to Runkerry.

5       **A.  Yes.**

6       Q.   But you talk in your statement about staying in Unit    ,  
7           and the housemaster there certainly by the end was RG39.

8       **A.  Yes, that's correct.**

9       Q.   You have already dealt with RG19.

10      **A.  Yes.**

11      Q.   I want to just ask you about RG39.  You don't have any  
12           complaint to make about him.  He was decent to you  
13           during your time.

14      **A.  He would have been, yes.  I never had any problems.  
15           Different boys had different problems with different  
16           masters.  That's the way it seemed to be.  Do you know  
17           what I mean?  One could be dead on to one boy and then  
18           hateful to another.  That's the way it kind of way  
19           summed up.  Somebody -- it wasn't always just the same  
20           one.  Do you know what I mean?  They all had their times  
21           when they would lose the plot and, you know, you would  
22           have been attacked or whatever.  You know what I mean?  
23           It just wasn't like that.  As I say, Mr RG39 was all  
24           right to me, but then RG39 would have hit somebody  
25           a good slap in the face or a crack up the head,**



1 Q. He had a particular reading style --

2 **A. He had indeed.**

3 Q. -- you were saying in the way --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- he would flick the page, and you remember this  
6 particular incident involving one or other of RG65  
7 or RG 223

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

9 Q. The Panel heard me refer to -- about RG65 earlier.  
10 The suggestion is that both of those men --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- are no longer alive, but they did both enter Rathgael  
13 in January of '75. So they would have been there  
14 shortly -- they would have been there before you.

15 **A. Yes, they were there before me.**

16 Q. They were still there after you left.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. And you remember being in the class and a book being  
19 used to hit one or other of them.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. You did mention in paragraph 13 that although he was  
22 a violent man, he was a good , but his manner was  
23 --

24 **A. He was unpredictable. Do you know what I mean? As**  
25 **I say, one minute he could have been the nicest guy in**



1           **the world and then the next minute he would have took**  
2           **the head off you.**

3    Q.    I was asking you did -- because we have managed to get  
4           hold of and check the records that exist that relate to  
5           these two boys to see could we find a reference to him  
6           --

7    **A.    Yes.**

8    Q.    -- being knocked unconscious, one or other of them, but  
9           you don't recollect him getting medical treatment. You  
10          recollect him being knocked off the seat.

11   **A.    No.  He got back up on to the seat.  He was just sitting**  
12          **there and then after a while he just broke out crying,**  
13          **but I think it was just the shock of it, kind of thing,**  
14          **because he didn't know where he was at all.**

15   Q.    Now what we did find, which I am going to draw to the  
16          Panel's attention, because it is relevant to the Panel's  
17          work, is that there was definitely an incident involving  
18                 RG65, but on 23rd September 1977. That was after  
19          you had already -- you left in December of '76.

20   **A.    Right.**

21   Q.    Just bear with me while we look at this record at 47202,  
22          please. It is an issue that I have brought to  
23          Mr Wolfe's attention and the Department will see if  
24          there's anything more that can be said about it, but it  
25          we turn this round, please, you can see again this is

1 a medical record that was kept. It is dated  
2 23rd September 1977. The second one in the list is  
3 RG65:

4 "Hit on head in unit this am by member of staff.  
5 Slight cut sustained ... swollen ..."

6 Various medical treatment is recorded. Now what  
7 isn't available within that file is anything that would  
8 allow us to understand what precisely that was, whether  
9 it was an accident that had resulted in this or  
10 something other than that. It is something that perhaps  
11 can be looked into further to see if there's any  
12 evidence of any examination of how this could have  
13 occurred.

14 But I was also saying to you that the records that  
15 we got to try and check for this incident with the  
16 knocking unconscious with the book, there wasn't  
17 anything to show medical treatment for that and you are  
18 saying to me you don't think there was any medical  
19 treatment --

20 **A. No, there wasn't.**

21 Q. -- in respect of it, but I was saying that as a result  
22 of reading those records one can see that --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- RG65 and **RG 223** would have fought quite  
25 a lot.

1 **A. Oh, yes.**

2 Q. And I gave you one example where one hit the other with  
3 a snooker cue over the head.

4 **A. That would have happened, yes.**

5 Q. You were saying to me that was not an uncommon --

6 **A. Certainly.**

7 Q. Fighting amongst the boys and having then to be managed  
8 and punished was part and parcel of life.

9 **A. Exactly.**

10 Q. And at one stage there's reference to [name  
11 redacted] complaining about bruises that had been  
12 sustained, but being placated and eventually apologising  
13 about what had occurred. I mentioned to you an example  
14 of a dart being stuck in someone's leg. You were saying  
15 again that was not an uncommon thing, that boys would  
16 have done that to each other.

17 **A. Yes, yes.**

18 Q. Not an easy group to manage, if I can put it that way.  
19 Is that fair?

20 **A. No, it wouldn't have been. At any time something could  
21 have been flying through the air. Do you know what  
22 I mean? It was just lift the nearest thing to you and  
23 throw it in many cases. Do you know what I mean?**

24 Q. In paragraph 5 of your statement, if we go back, please,  
25 to 065, you explain that you fell foul of RG64 --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- when you were out playing patter tennis.

3 **A. Yes, that is correct.**

4 Q. You explain that he did impressions of . On  
5 one occasion you shouted across to him would he do the  
6 impression and he took exception to that.

7 **A. He did.**

8 Q. He chased you and beat you on the court, but then  
9 thumped you --

10 **A. Again in the house.**

11 Q. -- in Unit .

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Your recollection is that **RG 216** , the staff  
14 member, was there at the time that it happened.

15 **A. I'm nearly sure he was there.**

16 Q. But you explain in the statement that he hit you with  
17 such force that you fell against the radiator and  
18 sustained a cut to your head --

19 **A. That's correct.**

20 Q. -- which began to bleed.

21 **A. That's right.**

22 Q. I was asking you -- I couldn't find in the records any  
23 medical treatment in respect of that and you were saying  
24 --

25 **A. There was none.**

1 Q. -- there wasn't any medical treatment for that.

2 **A. There was none.**

3 Q. But you -- I was saying to you that that was the only  
4 complaint about RG64 that the Inquiry is aware of.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. But you explain in paragraph 6 of your statement that  
7 you were so upset about the incident that you absconded  
8 shortly afterwards.

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

10 Q. And I was saying to you the good thing is we are able to  
11 trace that through, that these events that you are  
12 talking about here must have been before 11th  
13 January 1976. So within eleven days of moving to live  
14 in Rathgael was this involvement with this man, because  
15 we know that you left with six boys from your unit, Unit  
16 , on 11th January '76, and you describe in your  
17 statement being in your Sunday shirts --

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

19 Q. -- and heading up to Scrabo Tower and discovering it was  
20 rather cold. 11th January 1976, having checked the '76  
21 calendar, was, in fact, a Sunday, and if this was the  
22 occasion, then the assault by RG64 would have been --

23 **A. It was on the Saturday.**

24 Q. So you think it was the day before this incident?

25 **A. It was. It was the day before.**

1 Q. So that would have been Saturday, 10th January. As  
2 I said to you, the medical records do cover that period,  
3 because you can see you getting treated for abdominal  
4 pain in January '76. The Panel have the reference to  
5 that at 43288, but there is not anything that relates to  
6 a head injury.

7 **A. No, there wasn't.**

8 Q. And you explain then in the statement, HIA267, that in  
9 the aftermath of the absconding you came back first  
10 effectively with RG67, who was --

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

12 Q. He is in the records as you and him having a bit of  
13 friction, but you were saying to me he was your first  
14 and best friend --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- and the two of you fought the bit out.

17 **A. We did all right.**

18 Q. And then when you and he returned first, you bore the  
19 brunt of the anger of RG4.

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

21 Q. You say in paragraph 6 that he was known as "RG4" and he  
22 gave you a beating. Was this with his --

23 **A. Yes, with his hands.**

24 Q. -- with his hands? From what we -- you describe him as  
25 -- in your statement as someone who was known as

1 a .  
2 . I am not sure the two need to  
3 be seen as synonymous with one another. I don't know if  
4 there is any around, but when you were  
5 there, he appears to have been the of the  
6 .

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

8 Q. And RG112 was at the time.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. And, as I said to you, we were able to trace RG4. If we  
11 just look at paragraph 7 of his statement to the  
12 Inquiry, he explains his role generally and then he  
13 deals with what you've said, HIA267, at paragraph 7. If  
14 we look at 4778, please, and while it is coming up,  
15 HIA267, as I was talking to you about, he didn't -- he  
16 says he does not remember the particular incident of  
17 absconding. He says boys being returned by the police  
18 would not have been uncommon unfortunately. He denies  
19 that he gave a beating.

20 "However, in the circumstances as set out if I had  
21 been on duty and it was felt with the other members of  
22 staff that the boy in question should be caned, they  
23 would have been caned."

24 Do you remember being caned in Rathgael?

25 **A. I was caned on a couple of -- maybe a few occasions,**





1           you. He was very fond of winding people. Do you know  
2           what I mean? That was his party piece. He would have  
3           winded you. A whole lot of them would have just winded  
4           you.

5    Q. And then if we could look at paragraph 7, you explain at  
6           066, please, a second incident involving RG4, HIA267.

7    A. That's correct.

8    Q. And that is he'd told people not to be leaning against  
9           a particular set of monkey bars outside school.

10   A. Yes.

11   Q. And you weren't aware of that and were caught leaning  
12           against them.

13   A. I wasn't there when that order was give out. If I came  
14           back, I was hanging on the monkey bars when he came into  
15           the room and he pointed me out, "HIA267,           ".  
16           When I went           , he produced a cane.  
17           I explained to him. I says, "Sir, I wasn't there when  
18           you gave this order". He says, "That doesn't matter.  
19           Get your hand out", and I refused. He started hitting  
20           me with the cane. The cane actually disintegrated.  
21           Then he started getting into me with his hands.

22   Q. What he said about that, if we can look at 4778 again,  
23           please, paragraph 8, he says -- and I will just  
24           summarise it while it is coming up -- he says he never  
25           lost his temper and never beat any pupil with such force

1 as to break a cane. Never had a cane break during his  
2 tenure. Never started to thump a pupil with his fists.  
3 He asks the Inquiry to view the punishment book, which  
4 would show the punishment he administered, but that's  
5 your recollection of what happened that day --

6 **A. That's what happened. Yes, that's what happened.**

7 Q. -- over the monkey bars incident.

8 In paragraph 7 of your statement, if we look,  
9 please, at 066, HIA267, you talk about another .  
10 You name him as RG66, but we agreed, speaking earlier,  
11 it was likely to be RG66.

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

13 Q. And he was in the school from 1955 to 1979.  
14 You describe in your statement him hitting a boy called  
15 RG68 in the face so that he required four or five  
16 stitches.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. And I was explaining to you that we looked for --

19 **A. Yes, yes.**

20 Q. -- records that relate to that and it looks like we have  
21 been able to find those. It is something that happened  
22 on 30th May 1976. If we look, please, at 47077, and  
23 I was saying to you what's in the papers appears to  
24 suggest there was more to -- more of a fight --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- involving others going on, which -- 47077. There we  
2 are. This is a document authored by RG66. It says:  
3 "At breakfast on Sunday morning", which was 30th May  
4 '76, " ..."

5 That's a name you would remember as well or not?

6 **A. I can't remember.**

7 Q. Can't remember.

8 **A. I know the name , but has got me there,**  
9 **like.**

10 Q. "He came to the staff complaining RG68 threatened him  
11 with a knife. Each blamed the other for name calling.  
12 A short time afterwards RG68 and were involved  
13 in a fight. I held RG68 by the shirt and pullover  
14 beneath his chin, and as he continued to resist and to  
15 be abusive, he bit his lower lip, a loose lip that  
16 seldom closes except to say his 'F' or similar words.  
17 He did not at any time either in the fight with  
18 or afterwards receive a blow of any kind to the mouth.  
19 RG68 was sent to matron and later returned for lunch.  
20 His mother was informed in the afternoon when she came  
21 to visit him before his five-day course at Runkerry."

22 You say you can remember the mum coming --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- because she was not happy.

25 **A. No. She chased -- she chased RG66 through the canteen.**

1 Q. And there is a note of medical treatment which I will  
2 just give the Panel the references. It is at 47176 and  
3 47178, but it looks like the discussion -- I was trying  
4 to get your help --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- who signed -- who the record is from. If we look at  
7 47177, it's a note six days later of 6th June 1976.  
8 It's a note of a discussion. It is not in the same  
9 hand. I don't know if that's the name at the  
10 bottom. It says:

11 "I made a point of seeing Mrs [name redacted] --  
12 I made a point of seeing Mrs [name redacted] about  
13 RG68's lip injury. She seems to have mellowed  
14 considerably and accepts the explanation that it had  
15 been done accidentally. She said that she was quite  
16 annoyed at the time, but realises now that there wasn't  
17 anything of a vicious nature in it and admitted that  
18 RG68 had not been behaving well at the time. She was  
19 also pleased that she now ..."

20 It goes on to talk about other things.

21 "I think it is the last we will hear of this one --  
22 at least I hope so!"

23 So it looks like that -- if that is the same  
24 incident that you were referring in the statement, it  
25 may have slightly different --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- complexion that those documents bring to it than your  
3 recollection about it --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- necessarily.

6 In paragraph 9 of your statement at 066 you describe  
7 the swimming pool being out of order effectively during  
8 your period in Rathgael and instead it was used to teach  
9 you how to chip away at tiles.

10 **A. (Inaudible), yes.**

11 Q. I think you describe it as a form of slave labour, but  
12 you were sent up with small hammers to chip off the  
13 mosaic tiles that were in the swimming pool. I was  
14 saying to you that this is the summer of '76, and if we  
15 look at 43220, by that point in time you seem to have  
16 really settled down in Rathgael, and the Panel will see  
17 reference:

18 "July house meetings. On full July leave."

19 You are given a certain amount of marks. Then:

20 "August house meeting. Good month. Cheerful,  
21 willing. Awarded three marks."

22 I was -- you were saying to me -- I was asking you  
23 about the blisters you talked about, whether that would  
24 have taken you to see the matron. You were saying no --

25 **A. No.**

1 Q. -- you wouldn't have gone to the matron over that sort  
2 of thing.

3 You mention in your statement at paragraph 15 at 068  
4 RG17 --

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. -- who was the . You were explaining to me  
7 that -- you were being quite frank -- how on earth this  
8 man managed to create the that he did  
9 out of the -- if I describe you as a motley crew of --

10 **A. The rabble.**

11 Q. That's the word you used for it.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Yet he managed to create in you --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- that were then able to take part in various things.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. And as you reflect on that, that was an impressive  
18 achievement.

19 **A. Very impressive. We couldn't wait to get to ,**  
20 **because he had -- he had -- he done things that other**  
21 **wouldn't do. He would have put the**  
22 **and put and we**  
23 **would have the two of**  
24 **them. would have -- he used to set them right**  
25 **up on the top and we would have them,**



1 him. Do you know what I mean? He wasn't -- you were  
2 too busy. He had you doing so much. Do you know what  
3 I mean? You didn't really have time to do anything. He  
4 would have said, like,  
5 You couldn't wait to get doing it. You were maybe  
6 standing to do this -- you know what I  
7 mean -- and doing it back. You had so much confidence,  
8 because he was when  
9 you were doing these things. Do you know what I mean?  
10 But I seen him giving out punishment and anybody that  
11 fell foul of him did like.

12 Q. In paragraph 11 of your statement, HIA267, you talk  
13 about the living conditions and the care. I was --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- trying to in discussion with you characterise your  
16 evidence. By and large Rathgael was in your view  
17 a reasonably well run place with some bad incidents --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- that happened --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- that stuck in your mind --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- but the facilities and the level of care generally  
24 was a positive thing.

25 A. It was indeed. The level of care and all -- as I say,



1           we never had this problem, as I come from

2

3                   there was boys in there like probably had their  
4           first pair of pyjamas went in there. Do you know what  
5           I mean? Probably got a meal off a plate when they went  
6           in there that they wouldn't have had in the house.

7           There was some of them came from absolutely -- they had  
8           nothing, nothing whatsoever.

9   Q.   Yes. So there were good experiences --

10   A.   So they were given all these clean clothes, clean bed,  
11       and the house -- we cleaned the house from top to bottom  
12       every day. It was like -- there was no call for  
13       anything like that.

14   Q.   The things that they were getting in Rathgael were quite  
15       often better --

16   A.   That's right.

17   Q.   -- than where they were coming from?

18   A.   There's no way they would have been getting that at  
19       home. No way they would have been getting that at home.

20   Q.   As I said to you, HIA267, there is two questions we ask  
21       each person at the end of their evidence. The first is  
22       about recommendations. At the end of the Panel's work  
23       they have to consider three areas: some form of apology,  
24       a memorial or some other means of redress.

25   A.   Uh-huh.

1 Q. We ask each witness whether there is anything they want  
2 to say to the Panel about that. Some people do; some  
3 people don't. Is there anything you want to say about  
4 that to the Panel?

5 A. I don't know what good a memorial would do. As far as  
6 apologising, it is not going to be these people that's  
7 apologising. Somebody is going to be here apologising  
8 on their behalf. So it wouldn't really count for  
9 anything. So I don't know what to sum it up.

10 Q. The last question we ask each witness is whether there's  
11 anything else about the institution we are looking at,  
12 which at the moment is Rathgael -- maybe I haven't  
13 covered something accurately, or I have missed out  
14 something that is important, or maybe it's just  
15 something else that isn't in the statement that we  
16 haven't touched on that you want to bring to the Panel's  
17 attention. Now is your opportunity to do that if there  
18 is anything else you want to say about Rathgael.

19 A. Well, I suppose for me when I come in, I just hated any  
20 authority whatsoever. I just hated authority, couldn't  
21 cope. I mean, it was just -- when I was barking orders  
22 -- when I went out -- came back out and I went back into  
23 the house, I was kind of way treating my sisters the way  
24 I would have been treated in Rathgael, which wasn't  
25 nice, and just -- I don't know. It's just been hard,

1           **like. It was just a very big chapter in my life. It**  
2           **was -- the video tape keeps running -- do you know what**  
3           **I mean -- when you go back to it. Being took out of --**  
4           **away from your family at that age, like, was ...**

5    Q.   Difficult.

6    **A.   Very.**

7    Q.   Okay. I am not going to ask you any more questions,  
8           HIA267. Just bear with us. The Panel Members may want  
9           to ask you something.

10   **A.   Okay.**

11   **Questions from THE PANEL**

12   CHAIRMAN: HIA267, could I just ask you about RG17 and the  
13   ?

14   **A.   Yes, sir.**

15   Q.   If I have understood what you are saying correctly, it  
16           might not have been the most promising material that he  
17           had to work with in the sense there were a lot of people  
18           there who perhaps weren't prepared to do what they were  
19           told. Is that right?

20   **A.   That's correct.**

21   Q.   And he moulded this group of people into something that  
22           was quite impressive in your eyes.

23   **A.   Very, very impressive.**

24   Q.   But you had said that on occasion if you misbehaved,  
25           presumably by which you mean misbehaved in the

1 , , whatever --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- he would slap you on the behind with the slipper that  
4 he had.

5 **A. He had a name for it. I just can't remember what the  
6 name was. I think it started with an R.**

7 Q. Well, what view did the boys take of being punished in  
8 that way if they misbehaved? Did they think it was fair  
9 enough in one sense or did they and you regard that as  
10 going beyond what they thought was fair?

11 **A. He would have -- see if there was something going wrong,  
12 he wouldn't have just kind of way picked one person. He  
13 would have picked maybe half a dozen, put them all out  
14 and slippered them.**

15 Q. I see.

16 **A. Do you know what I mean? "Right. You are all getting  
17 it. That's it." Say somebody wouldn't have admitted to  
18 something -- do you know what I mean -- but he knew all  
19 them ones was involved. It was bend and he could hit  
20 with this slipper, like, believe me. As I say, he was  
21 . When he hit you with it, like,  
22 you knew all about it.**

23 Q. Yes. So it wasn't just that he got the right boy who  
24 maybe deserved it in the eyes of the other boys?

25 **A. Oh, when he got the right boy, he would have done that**

1 too, but if there was a -- say he would have caught  
2 three or four of them smoking, and he knew right away,  
3 because he could smell the smoke off you -- do you know  
4 what I mean -- but if you denied smoking -- do you know  
5 what I mean -- you would have got clipped and maybe the  
6 other two that was with you would have got clipped too.  
7 It was ...

8 Q. So it was instant retribution?

9 A. Oh, instant. Instant. Do you know what I mean? A lot  
10 of the boys were a weed. He just had to look at you and  
11 that was enough. Do you know what I mean? But other  
12 boys just kind of a way maybe pushed the boat out with  
13 him, but, as I say, what he done with us, the way you  
14 seen it on the TV where you see -- you  
15 know what I mean -- --

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. -- and they are , he had us doing  
18 that. I don't know how the hell he done it, but he had  
19 us doing that at the highest levels, like. We actually  
20 went out of school and in  
21 different places, in old people's home and all. I think  
22 we would have done one in at the time. The  
23 pensioners there were over the moon to see all the  
24 rascals of the day .

25 Q. Yes. Thank you very much.

1 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA267. Can I just ask the  
2 time you came back after absconding and RG4 hit you,  
3 did -- were there other staff around at that time?

4 **A. They were standing there when he got well into me. They**  
5 **were standing there, yes.**

6 Q. And didn't -- didn't --

7 **A. No. There was no -- they didn't say anything.**

8 Q. Okay, and when you say that he had the reputation for  
9 winding, that was his party piece --

10 **A. Yes. Oh, yes.**

11 Q. -- was that if he was responding to something a boy did,  
12 a punishment, or was it a -- you know, when you say his  
13 party piece, what way ...?

14 **A. As I say, you never got a second chance. If you were**  
15 **told to do something, some other masters would have kind**  
16 **of way been a wee bit leeway if you said, "Hold on**  
17 **a minute", but some of them if you had turned round and**  
18 **said, "Hold on a minute", it would have been, "Come**  
19 **here, you", in the chest and that would have been it.**  
20 **"When I tell you to come, you come. When I tell you to**  
21 **jump, you jump", and if you didn't do it within that**  
22 **time limit, you would have got bump.**

23 Q. And you are saying that that is a common way --

24 **A. That was a common way with most of them. There was**  
25 **a whole lot of them would have just -- their justice**

1           **would have just been given out like that.**

2    Q.   Thank you, HIA267.   Thank you.

3    MR LANE:   You mentioned two of the punishments as being  
4           degrading and I wondered whether this fitted in with  
5           what you were saying about your feelings about  
6           authority.   There was the cleaning of the multi-gym  
7           using toothbrushes --

8    **A.   Yes, yes, yes.**

9    Q.   -- and there was chipping away at the swimming pool.

10   **A.   Yes.**

11   Q.   The swimming pool wasn't just a job that needed to be  
12       done.   It actually was a punishment, was it?

13   **A.   A punishment, yes, because the six of us, and there was**  
14       **other boys, if I can remember, at the time, when we --**  
15       **when you were brought back, you were beat, you were put**  
16       **in shorts and then you were put to bed probably.   Do you**  
17       **know what I mean?   Then anything that was going at all,**  
18       **dirty jobs and all, they had to do them.**

19           We were sent to chip the pool, and I think --  
20           I think at one stage there was more than six of us.  
21           I think there was about fourteen of us standing in front  
22           of the whole school all with shorts on and when they  
23           were all going to do their -- the things they done in  
24           their spare time, we were shipped up to the swimming  
25           pool to chip it.   I remember the dust and all in it

1 even. You know what I mean? There would be no record  
2 of anybody being charging the labour, because when they  
3 actually got it done, we had it all chipped. So they  
4 would only have been paying for the thing to be tiled.  
5 They wouldn't have been paying for it to be chipped,  
6 because all the chipping was done by us.

7 Q. Did you have to do any other jobs around the place or  
8 was that --

9 A. Yes. Well, in the mornings you got up and you cleaned  
10 your house. Everybody was delegated a job. You got up,  
11 made your bed, went down. You got washed. You cleaned  
12 the whole house. You got your breakfast and then you  
13 got ready and went to school.

14 Q. But that sort of thing you didn't think was degrading?  
15 It was these special things that upset you most, was it?

16 A. Well -- you know what I mean, like -- it didn't, you  
17 know, because I came from a clean house. You were  
18 always expected to kind of like pull your weight, but  
19 most of the boys -- there was never any complaint about  
20 cleaning the house --

21 Q. No.

22 A. -- because we had to live in it. Do you know what I  
23 mean? So you try to keep your house cleaner than  
24 everybody else's. Do you know what I mean? It was like  
25 a competition in itself.



1 Q. But you did have strong feelings about the use of  
2 (inaudible)?

3 **A. Certainly, especially at that stage. You know what**  
4 **I mean? You don't really want to do anything.**

5 Q. Okay. Thank you.

6 **A. Thank you.**

7 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA267, thank you very much indeed for  
8 coming to speak to us.

9 **A. Thank you, sir.**

10 Q. We will be relieved to hear I am sure that's the last  
11 question we have to ask of you, but thank you for coming  
12 to speak to us today.

13 **A. Thank you.**

14 **(Witness withdrew)**

15 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, that concludes  
16 today's oral evidence.

17 CHAIRMAN: Very well. We'll rise now and sit tomorrow  
18 morning.

19 (4.20 pm)

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

21 --ooOoo--

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I N D E X

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