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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 Thursday, 5th November 2015

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 158)

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

1 Thursday, 5th November 2015

2 (2.20 pm)

3 WITNESS HIA172 (called)

4 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies  
5 and gentlemen. Just to update you, Chairman, on the  
6 situation with regard to our witness who was to give  
7 evidence today, HIA231. As of this afternoon we have  
8 had no contact from her. We have texted and left  
9 a message, but we have still had no contact or  
10 explanation for her non-attendance.

11 CHAIRMAN: Well, we will approach that again in due course

12 --

13 MS SMITH: Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN: -- when we find out anything more that we can  
15 find out. There's nothing further we can do today.

16 MS SMITH: And, as I indicated in closed session, RG80, who  
17 was the other witness to give evidence today, has  
18 indicated that he wishes to rely on his statement and  
19 not to attend to give evidence.

20 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Mr Fahy?

21 MR FAHY: Mr Chairman, Members of the Panel, I am here today  
22 to represent HIA429, who is "HIA429", instructed by  
23 O~Muirigh Solicitors, and I'm attended by Mr Barry  
24 Woods, a solicitor in that firm.

25 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Mr Holmes?

1 MR HOLMES: Yes, Mr Chairman. I apologise for not making  
2 an earlier appearance in relation to these matters.  
3 I appear for two persons today, first RG48, who is  
4 "RG48", and RG47, "RG47". I am instructed by McConnell  
5 Kelly Solicitors and Mr Duncan is here for that purpose,  
6 Chairman.

7 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Thank you.

8 MR MCAULEY: Mr Chairman, I appear for the individual RG33  
9 on the papers from Thompson Solicitors. I'm not  
10 attended by counsel.

11 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

12 Just before we commence this witness' evidence,  
13 since we are now in open session, can I remind everyone  
14 to ensure, if you have a mobile phone, please ensure it  
15 has been turned off, and to remind you all that no  
16 photography is permitted either here in the chamber or  
17 anywhere on the premises.

18 Yes, Mr Aiken?

19 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, good afternoon.

20 The next witness today is HIA172, who is "HIA172".

21 HIA172 is going to preserve his anonymity. He is aware,  
22 Chairman, you are going to now ask him to affirm.

23 WITNESS HIA172 (affirmed)

24 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please sit down.

25

1 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

2 MR AIKEN: If you bear with me just for a moment. Chairman,  
3 Members of the Panel, you have received the appearances  
4 in respect of those who face allegations that the  
5 Inquiry has been able to engage with and who appear  
6 before the Inquiry to deal with those allegations.  
7 I should indicate that one of those individuals was  
8 himself due to give evidence later today. That's  
9 HIA429, who is represented by Mr Fahy. I am grateful  
10 for the cooperation generally of my colleagues, but of  
11 Mr Fahy, who has assisted me to explain to HIA429 the  
12 reasons why it is not possible for him to give evidence  
13 today in the interests of fairness to him. HIA429  
14 understands that and we will arrange for his return in  
15 the next sitting week, the week after next. So I put  
16 that on record at this point.

17 HIA172, coming up on the screen will be the first  
18 page of your witness statement, 010, please. Can you  
19 just check, HIA172, when you look at the hard copy that  
20 you have in front of you, that it matches the version on  
21 the screen except for the black marks?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. And if we go to the last page, please, at 023, and again  
24 if you can just check that matches the hard copy that  
25 you have except for the black mark.

1 **A. Yes, it does.**

2 Q. Can you confirm you have signed your statement?

3 **A. Yes.**

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

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. HIA172, you were born on \_\_\_\_\_ and are now  
8 42 years of age.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. And in addition to your statement you have provided the  
11 Inquiry with other documents at an earlier point in  
12 time, which the Panel have access to, including a plan  
13 of Rathgael, a picture --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- that shows the layout of the building, and the Panel  
16 are aware of that.

17 The Panel are also aware that in 1993 on 26th  
18 October you spoke to the then RUC --

19 **A. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. -- about allegations you wished to make about staff both  
21 in Lissue, which we are not looking at today and which  
22 we will come back to, and in Rathgael.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. That was thirteen individuals in total, and that  
25 statement was made and can be found in the bundle at

1 32739 to 32745. All of the staff concerned across the  
2 two institutions were interviewed by police in 1993 and,  
3 as you know, the police recommended no prosecution and  
4 the Director of Public Prosecutions agreed with that  
5 recommendation and directed there should be no  
6 prosecution in respect of any of the allegations.

7 You then spoke to the police again in the early part  
8 of 2014 --

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. -- on 11th January 2014, and on that occasion it was  
11 dealt with by way of an achieving best evidence  
12 interview, which went on for a long period. You were  
13 explaining to me the tapes did not always work terribly  
14 well in Knocknagoney.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. But in the end the police have managed to produce  
17 a transcript of that interview, which runs to beyond  
18 450 pages, which the Panel have access to. That can be  
19 found at 31432 to 31899.

20 Again as a result of that -- and you were speaking  
21 about the same individuals -- some of them were spoken  
22 to by police and some of those matters have been dealt  
23 with by the now Public Prosecution Service, who have  
24 recommended no prosecution in respect of them.

25 In addition, HIA172, I was explaining to you earlier

1 and you are aware from the large number of files that  
2 I have that the Inquiry gathers as much material as can  
3 be found to exist in respect of a person's time in the  
4 institution that we are looking at, and we ask the  
5 organisations who might have a part to play before the  
6 Inquiry in running those institutions to provide what  
7 they can.

8 The Health & Social Care Board have provided  
9 a statement to the Inquiry at 683 to 686 with exhibits  
10 from 687 to 714 and with that a substantial amount of  
11 social work material. I am not going to go into the  
12 background that led to your time in Rathgael. The Panel  
13 are aware of the material and we are not going to look  
14 into those matters today. That social work material can  
15 be found at 50609 to 50726.

16 Then the Department of Justice answering for  
17 Rathgael produced to the Inquiry through two statements,  
18 the first at 1184 to 1187, with exhibits from 1188 to  
19 1246, and then a second statement at 4242 to 4246, with  
20 exhibits from 4247 to 4262, and as I was discussing with  
21 you a bit earlier, the Department of Justice have been  
22 able to produce a substantial volume of papers from  
23 HIA172's time in Rathgael. That material is in the  
24 bundle at 40131 to 40625. HIA172, although you and  
25 I talked about some examples from that material earlier

1 today, we are going to just touch on matters very  
2 briefly as we go through the matters that you wish to  
3 raise with the Inquiry.

4 As you know, a number of the individuals who you  
5 make allegations against the Inquiry has been able to  
6 trace, and those individuals have provided responses,  
7 which we were discussing earlier.

8 The Panel have the response statement from RG50, who  
9 is "RG50", and that can be found at 4836 in the bundle;  
10 from RG48, who is "RG48", and that can be found at 4816  
11 to 4819; from RG49, "RG49", and that can be found at  
12 4837 to 4838; and from RG33, who is "RG33", and that can  
13 be found at 4795 to 4799.

14 Then there is a statement from HIA429, and we will  
15 return to that matter on another day. I know you were  
16 making it plain to me that you have no issue with  
17 HIA429, and what occurred then in Rathgael between you,  
18 which we will touch on at the end, is very much a thing  
19 of the past. It is not something that you're overly  
20 concerned about now.

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

22 Q. There are a number of individuals then who are also  
23 named in HIA172's statement and in the police statements  
24 which is available to the Inquiry and the Inquiry has  
25 not been able to find those individuals. I am not going



1 to say any more about them other than we will deal with  
2 them as we pass through HIA172's statement.

3 The -- in order to set the context, HIA172 -- and  
4 from my discussion with you earlier it is clear that you  
5 have a very clear knowledge of when you were where in  
6 Rathgael --

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. -- because you moved through a number of different  
9 units.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. I am just going to very briefly give an overview that  
12 you can tell me, "Yes, that's right".

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. You went into Rathgael first on 22nd May 1986 and at  
15 that stage you were 12, and you went into the -- on the  
16 Justice Side, as it were, to what was then known as the  
17 Youth Treatment Reception.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. You spent two months there effectively until 25th  
20 July 1986, when you transferred to the Care Side  
21 Reception Unit, or House 9A I think it was known as.

22 **A. 9B.**

23 Q. 9B. Then following the making of a Training School  
24 Order in August of 1986 on 17th September '86 you  
25 transferred to House 3, the long-term care unit.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. You were there for a period of time until 12th  
3 December 1986, when you moved to Shamrock and I think --

4 **A. Fox Lodge.**

5 Q. Fox Lodge, and you were telling me the number of Fox  
6 Lodge, the house unit number.

7 **A. House 4.**

8 Q. House 4. There you remain until you go to Downshire  
9 Hospital for a period of time --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- between 13th February 1987 and 24th April 1987, and  
12 then when you come back from Downshire Hospital, you  
13 then move to Shamrock House, the semi-secure unit, and  
14 during -- it's during that period you go for  
15 an assessment at the Cotswold Centre in England --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- and ultimately then to a placement in November 1987,  
18 when you were 14,

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. That was a particular therapeutic community --

21 **A. Uh-huh.**

22 Q. -- to live in, and we were discussing that you appear to  
23 come back to Rathgael for a two-week period in May of  
24 '88 and then go back in June '88 to and  
25 you remain there until there's a fire in

1 in March of '89, which destroys the accommodation.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. You come back to Rathgael for a short period following  
4 that fire, and thereafter in April of '89, just after  
5 the incident with HIA429 that we were talking about  
6 earlier --

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. -- you go back to and remain there until  
9 July 1989, whenever as a result of incidents that  
10 occurred --

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. -- you were returned to Rathgael.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. You were then living in Rathgael until January of 1990,  
15 whenever you moved out --

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. -- to live in the -- I think it was called the  
18 Hostel.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. And if we look at paragraph 21 of your statement,  
21 HIA172, at 015, you are talking first -- because you  
22 deal with these matters in the chronological order that  
23 I have just outlined --

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. -- by and large in your statement. Just so we have the

1 context of this right, what we are talking about  
2 involving RG50 was your time in House 5, the Youth  
3 Treatment --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- Reception Unit on the Justice Side, where you were  
6 between May of '86 and July of '86.

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. You were 13. The unit log entries, the type of  
9 handwritten records that you and I were discussing --

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. -- the Panel have access to those. Those pertaining to  
12 you at House 5 can be found at 40264 to 40270. What you  
13 explain in paragraph 21 what you remember in particular  
14 about that time is RG50 and how he assaulted you. You  
15 describe I think in paragraph 22 how he told you to shut  
16 up and eat the breakfast that you weren't happy about.

17 **A. I wasn't happy because somebody had spat in it --**

18 Q. Yes.

19 **A. -- obviously spat in it.**

20 Q. You said no, you didn't -- you want a different bowl and  
21 he hit you across the face.

22 **A. Backhanded me like that there, because he was sitting --**  
23 **I was sitting here and he was sitting at a table here**  
24 **and he just lashed out at me (gesturing).**

25 Q. Is that the only occasion you recall him being violent

1 towards you?

2 **A. Pretty much, yes. I mean, it was just it was -- it's**  
3 **the one time I can recall. I can't say it's the only**  
4 **time.**

5 Q. I'm not -- as I said to you when we were discussing  
6 earlier, I am not going to go into the detail of this.  
7 He has obviously had an opportunity to reflect on what  
8 you have had to say and said to the Inquiry he didn't  
9 assault you and that was not something that he did to  
10 any child in his care. He pointed to having  
11 an unblemished record, and that the matter was  
12 investigated in 1993, and those are the matters that he  
13 refers to.

14 As I said to you, on each occasion that I could try  
15 and identify the date area where an incident might have  
16 occurred I have looked then at the corresponding medical  
17 records to see could I find an entry that recorded being  
18 treated for an assault of some kind, and it may be what  
19 you are describing you wouldn't have got medical  
20 treatment necessarily for that day in any event.

21 **A. No.**

22 Q. It is clear -- and we will touch on them -- there is  
23 a couple of records where we can see you being treated  
24 for having been assaulted, but it seemed to involve  
25 other individuals living as opposed to staff members.

1 We will look at those as we go.

2 **A. Okay.**

3 Q. Can you remember getting any medical treatment for this  
4 altercation where RG50 slapped you?

5 **A. No. I mean, whenever I was asked at the police**  
6 **interviews if I recalled getting any medical treatment**  
7 **for any injuries that I had suffered, I didn't recall**  
8 **going to hospital. I couldn't remember if I went to**  
9 **hospital. I didn't think I did, and it seems to be in**  
10 **the record there's a recording that I would have seen**  
11 **matron, but I don't even remember that.**

12 Q. We'll come on to that one which relates to a fight, as  
13 it is described, or horseplay with other boys, but you  
14 don't remember being -- needing treatment or receiving  
15 treatment for the incident involving RG50?

16 **A. I don't remember receiving treatment. I remember going**  
17 **to the matron's office on occasion for other things.**  
18 **I don't think it was anything to do with any violence**  
19 **that had happened.**

20 Q. You -- you move then, if we look at paragraph 25, to the  
21 Care Side, to the Reception, House 9B. You are 13 at  
22 the time. You are there between 25th July 1986 and 18th  
23 September 1986, and the logs that relate to that period,  
24 Members of the Panel, are at 40270 to 40273.

25 You refer in paragraph 26 to a member of staff

1 called RG4, who twisted your arm and placed you in  
2 a room. Was that the -- I think it had different names  
3 depending on which unit you were in -- but a time out  
4 type room or your bedroom?

5 **A. It was just my bedroom.**

6 Q. Just your bedroom.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. What you are describing is the restraint mechanism that  
9 was used to remove you to your room.

10 **A. It was quite excessive. He was quite a large gentleman**  
11 **and I was only 14 and I wasn't very strong, and it was**  
12 **probably noted in the records that**  
13 **I arrived there quite thin and, you know, scrawny.**  
14 **I wasn't really a strong person. I'm not -- you can**  
15 **tell just my physique is not that of a strong person.**  
16 **So I don't see how this guy, who was particularly**  
17 **strong, needed to use the force that he did to manage me**  
18 **up to my room.**

19 Q. There is reference in one of the log entries in this  
20 period of fighting going on between the boys and boys  
21 being sent to bed early.

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. Was that the type of altercations that went on between  
24 boys in the unit?

25 **A. I think there was frequent fighting and bullying. It**

1           **was just commonplace.**

2    Q.   That is just the nature of the particular unit.  That's  
3           what life was like.

4    **A.  That's the nature of Rathgael.  I had never seen**  
5           **anything like it in my life anywhere in schools that**  
6           **I had been to or any other institutions that I had been**  
7           **to.  I had never seen -- I went to Fallowfield and**  
8           **I hadn't seen anything like that before where other kids**  
9           **were quite violent to each other, and also the same with**  
10          **the staff members were not necessarily that violent in**  
11          **-- well, I don't recall any violence in Fallowfield.**  
12          **I was there only a brief time, but yes, it was**  
13          **horrendous.**

14   Q.   There is reference to medical treatment during that  
15          period, but it doesn't seem to relate to physical  
16          violence as such.  It's more other types of matters.

17                Then when you move through to paragraph 27 in your  
18          statement, HIA172, you have moved into House 3, which --  
19          you are 13, and you are there between 17th  
20          September 1986 to 10th December 1986.  This is in RG49's  
21          unit.

22   **A.  Uh-huh.**

23   Q.   And the daily logs relating to your time there the Panel  
24          have access to.  They are at 40273 to 40277.  You speak  
25          about your time in this particular unit in Rathgael from



1 paragraphs 27 through to 30 on page 16 and 17 of the  
2 statement.

3 You describe in paragraph 29, if we scroll down,  
4 please, to getting bullied by the other boys and, in  
5 fact, there is a record in the log about bullying going  
6 on between various individuals and the staff talking to  
7 individuals about the need not to engage in that type of  
8 activity, but what you are describing in paragraph 9  
9 (sic) is an assault by RG49 --

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. -- where he -- you complained about things being stolen  
12 and his response to that was to punch you in the  
13 stomach.

14 **A. I was probably being cheeky to the guy and his response**  
15 **was usually -- I was quite upset at something. The**  
16 **material possessions that we had were quite limited and**  
17 **this was something that was quite important to me and it**  
18 **disappeared, and as lots of things had consistently**  
19 **disappeared, I started to suspect that the staff were**  
20 **taking it, and I made that allegation and took a punch**  
21 **for it.**

22 Q. Was this the only time that you can remember him being  
23 violent towards you? That's the one incident that  
24 sticks out in your mind?

25 **A. It was probably the first incident. That's probably why**

1           **I recall it quite clearly. I recall him being violent**  
2           **to other children, not just myself.**

3       Q. Well, he, as you know, made a statement to the Inquiry  
4       and the point he makes in the statement is that he was  
5       never violent to any child in his care. He did his best  
6       to try and help those that he was looking after.

7           He was part of the police investigation in '93 and  
8       again in 2014, and the PPS in 2014 or, in fact, April  
9       '15 directed no prosecution in respect of him.

10           But the -- you talk about him preventing you phoning  
11       Childline.

12       A. **No, he didn't prevent me phoning. He just sat there and**  
13       **watched me while I did and mouthed in my face that,**  
14       **"Nobody cares. Nobody is going to do anything" and then**  
15       **very quickly shuffled me off to House 4 for my own**  
16       **safety apparently.**

17       Q. We looked at the medical entry of the fight that appears  
18       to have occurred between a number, and it is recorded in  
19       the medical -- if we look just briefly, please, at  
20       40567, this is the entry, HIA172, where we will see at  
21       the bottom the incident involving HIA429, but the one  
22       I am looking at is on 1st December 1986, if we can just  
23       scroll up a little bit, please:

24           "Involved in fight in unit at weekend. Bruise marks  
25       neck and face and shoulders. Unit to investigate same."

1           Then the unit log that relates to that is at 40276.  
2           You recall this is the one where I had the wrong -- 6  
3           and 7 the wrong way round. So 40276 will hopefully show  
4           us the log entry where we can see this occurring. You  
5           can see it is the second entry down:

6           "1st December '86.                    ..."

7           At that stage you were going out to be educated at  
8           the                                   , which is in                   Belfast.

9   **A. Yes.**

10  Q. Rathgael were taking you there each day. Is that how  
11     you -- how did your transport --

12  **A. I think the Education Board pay for the transportation.**

13  Q. Did they come and pick you up then and took you?

14  **A. Yes. It was the same arrangement I had when I lived in**  
15                                       **with my mother.**

16  Q. "                                contacted Rathgael re marks on [your] neck  
17     and back."

18           That seems to be the same then as the medical entry.  
19     What's recorded is:

20           "HIA172 acquired the marks during" what's described  
21     by whoever the author of this note is as "during  
22     horseplay with a number of individuals."

23           You were telling me you remember who those  
24     individuals are.

25  **A. I recognise the names.**

1 Q. You don't remember the incident itself that was being  
2 described.

3 **A. No. There was numerous incidences, but, you know, I am**  
4 **not going to recall all of them.**

5 Q. Yes. You then move to House 4. You were just making  
6 that point to the Panel just now. You move to House 4  
7 on 10th December 1986 and you are there until  
8 13th February 1987, so a two-month period, and the daily  
9 logs relating to that, Members of the Panel, is at 40277  
10 to 40295.

11 You talk about this in paragraph 31 at 017, please.  
12 You refer to a particular incident of absconding that  
13 occurs.

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. This is in the unit where RG56 worked.

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. You were explaining to me that she was someone that you  
18 felt did take time and --

19 **A. Yes. She was very supportive.**

20 Q. -- did care.

21 **A. She was a different generation. She was the younger**  
22 **generation that were coming into Rathgael and they were**  
23 **maybe trained different. They weren't coming from**  
24 **a borstal/training school background. They were coming**  
25 **from a more Social Services/social work background.**

1 Q. I am not going to open the records to the Panel, but you  
2 felt able to talk to her about things that had happened  
3 --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- for instance in your aunt's house and bring those to  
6 her attention, and they were then worked through during  
7 your time in this particular house, but what you are  
8 describing here is the incident of running off. I was  
9 saying to you RG56 was both a detailed writer --

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. -- and someone with handwriting that one can actually  
12 read with ease. That handwriting over four pages in the  
13 notes records what I match up to be this particular  
14 absconding incident that you describe in paragraph 31.

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. I was saying to you it appears to have involved  
17 an RG 240 . I think you remembered him vaguely.

18 **A. Sort of vaguely, yes.**

19 Q. He and you appear, according to RG56's record in any  
20 event, to have run off on 30th December 1986 from  
21 in Bangor. I am not going to bring up the detail  
22 of it, but in summary form we were discussing that it  
23 shows a lot of staff conducting searches --

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. -- and tasking various police forces to look for you and

1           there is reference to sniffer dogs being out. I think  
2           the catalyst of that I was explaining to you was that  
3           HIA172 --        RG 240       , rightly or otherwise, according  
4           to RG56's record, told her that you jumped down a hedge  
5           after an approaching train and it seems that the  
6           severity of reaction in terms of the steps that were  
7           taken was because they were concerned about your  
8           welfare.

9       **A. Well, I went all the way to Belfast or Cookstown or**  
10       **Monkstown or wherever it was that he went to, and the**  
11       **following morning the police had turned up at the house**  
12       **we were staying in and collected him and neglected to**  
13       **take me with them when they left. They looked at me and**  
14       **just left.**

15       Q. They didn't realise you were -- who you were?

16       **A. Yes.**

17       Q. You were eventually found by RG57 and RG48.

18       **A. Uh-huh.**

19       Q. And that appears to be at Stricklands Glen in Bangor.

20       **A. Yes. I was sleeping rough.**

21       Q. You describe at paragraph 31 of your statement then that  
22       you remember RG48 and RG57. They told you that the  
23       police had been looking for you, that if RG56's record  
24       is accurate, that appears to be what's happening. They  
25       told you that you would be on the news. I can't --

1     A.   No.   RG48 had told me in the office that -- that they  
2           had heard that RG 240 had said that I had fallen down  
3           a hedge or something. I didn't -- I don't remember them  
4           mentioning a train or anything, but just we had walked  
5           from -- we had run away from the video shop. We were  
6           taken down to the video shop. We had run and we went to  
7           the train tracks and we'd walked all the way up to  
8           Bangor West. When we got to Bangor West, RG57 was there  
9           waiting for us. So we sprinted on and whatever the next  
10          station was we just waited for a train there, and  
11          according to what the staff had told me at the time was  
12          it was -- they were told that whenever RG57 had spotted  
13          us, the both of us had went two different directions.  
14          He went one direction and I went another. He heard me  
15          rolling down the embankment and then, of course, I was  
16          told that there were sniffer dogs out looking for me.  
17          People were searching for me and I was on the news and  
18          I responded with, "I don't care" and I got smacked in  
19          the face for that.

20     Q.   I'll show you, because we were discussing it earlier, at  
21           40283, rightly or wrongly, what RG56 was -- records what  
22           she was told. If we scroll down, please, a little bit,  
23           we'll see the -- you will see just towards the top:

24                 "RG56 related information gathered from RG 240  
25                         re HIA172 diving into the bushes because of

1 an approaching train."

2 So it appears, whether that was right or not, that's  
3 what was in the mind of the staff, that they had been  
4 told that was the type of thing that had occurred.  
5 Thereafter there is a number of pages, as I say, of the  
6 steps that were taken to try and find you and bring you  
7 back.

8 But in paragraph 31 you talk about being punched by  
9 RG48. I was explaining to you that he said to the  
10 Inquiry -- he said to the police in 1993 that he could  
11 recall he and RG57 lifting you, one lifting your legs,  
12 one lifting your arms to --

13 **A. No. I remember them dragging me from behind the wall.**  
14 **There's an outdoor church and I had found a large piece**  
15 **of wood and had kind of built a hut and was trying to**  
16 **light a fire. They had discovered me there. RG57 had**  
17 **actually -- I passed RG57 on the street about an hour**  
18 **previous. He'd obviously went back to Rathgael where**  
19 **RG48 and came**  
20 **back with RG48 and obviously started searching that**  
21 **area. It was Queen's Parade where he -- where I had**  
22 **spotted -- where RG57 had spotted me and I had run off,**  
23 **and I just suddenly heard someone behind me, and then**  
24 **when I went to look behind me, I could see somebody in**  
25 **front of me, and the next minute I am being pulled**



1           **either direction. They just couldn't get me quick**  
2           **enough. They dragged me out of there. Then they stood**  
3           **me up and both of them had an arm up my back and hand on**  
4           **my shoulder and walked me kind of pushed forward to --**  
5           **I don't know. I can't remember if it was a bus or a car**  
6           **and just --**

7    Q.   When he was speaking to the police in 1993, the point he  
8           seemed to be making is that the way -- he was searching  
9           for someone who the staff were concerned was suicidal at  
10          the time. Rightly or wrongly, whether that was accurate  
11          or not, that's what seems to have been in the mind of  
12          the staff or the concern of the staff, and he could  
13          recount lifting you with the other staff member, but  
14          what he said to the police was at no stage did he ever  
15          punch you. That's your recollection of how that event  
16          unfolded.

17    A.   **He didn't punch me when we were -- when we were out on**  
18          **the street. It was when we got back to the unit and**  
19          **I didn't respond with gratitude that they were all**  
20          **looking for me. I responded quite sarcastically,**  
21          **"I don't care", you know, because I really didn't care.**  
22          **I didn't want to be back in the unit there or in**  
23          **Rathgael, and he seemed angered by this and lashed out**  
24          **at me.**

25    Q.   You -- I am not going to go into the detail of the

1 record, but you clearly talked to RG56 when you came  
2 back, and you appear to have had a number of occasions  
3 when you talked to her -- not just her in fairness; in  
4 other units there were other staff that you would have  
5 opened up to at various times, who record what they were  
6 told about your background and so on and so forth. You  
7 -- at that stage you don't -- she doesn't record you  
8 telling her about there being any problem about how RG48  
9 had behaved.

10 **A. She would not have recorded it.**

11 Q. Would you have told her about it do you think?

12 **A. Probably not, because there wouldn't have been any**  
13 **point. The majority of the assaults that took place on**  
14 **me in Rathgael by other kids, I wouldn't have told the**  
15 **staff about it, because what were they going to do?**  
16 **They wouldn't be able to do anything. The only time it**  
17 **seems that any notes were taken here is whenever it was**  
18 **obvious that I was assaulted, and the had**  
19 **obviously probed into the fact that I turned up bruised**  
20 **and battered and wanted to know what had happened. So,**  
21 **no, I don't think I would have actually discussed it,**  
22 **because it was just this is how things are. There's no**  
23 **point -- you know, what can RG56 do? She's not going to**  
24 **take me out of the place.**

25 Q. In paragraph 32 then, if we go back to 018, what does

1           unfold, and I am not going to go into the detail of this  
2           either, HIA172, you explain, as you recall it in your  
3           statement, a very serious incident which involved then  
4           you being hospitalised.

5   **A. Uh-huh.**

6   Q. The Panel have access to the log entries that we were  
7       discussing that relates to that period. The sequence of  
8       events that resulted in you ending up in hospital that  
9       evening for treatment then involved the next day  
10      a meeting with the APRU, the Adolescent Psychological  
11      Research Unit staff and staff in Rathgael and a decision  
12      -- I think you told me earlier it was expressed to you  
13      as for your own safety they regarded that you move to  
14      Downshire Hospital for a period of time.

15   **A. Yes.**

16   Q. That period of time in Downshire, you were 13 at the  
17      time. It was between 13th February 1987 and 24th April  
18      1987. Then you come back to Rathgael on 24th April 1987  
19      and you are in Shamrock House, which is described in the  
20      papers at least as a semi-secure special observation  
21      unit.

22   **A. It was the care side secure unit.**

23   Q. The care side --

24   **A. Fox Lodge was the young offenders' secure unit.**

25   Q. So this was on the care side --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- Shamrock House. You are there over your 13 -- over  
3 your 14th birthday, just before you are 14 up until  
4 November 1987, so a period of about six months. Again  
5 the daily logs relating to that period are at 40294 to  
6 40310. This is -- this is the unit where RG60 was  
7 involved with you.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. And you were explaining to me, as you do in your  
10 statement in paragraphs 33 and 34, he was someone that  
11 you had a positive view of from your time in Rathgael.

12 **A. Yes. He was a good man.**

13 Q. From the records -- and again I am not going to open  
14 them up -- you can see various what were described as  
15 counselling sessions going on, where staff would discuss  
16 things with you and you would open up to them about  
17 certain events and certain things that were on your  
18 mind. You did express, and it is recorded in your logs,  
19 that you would rather go back to Downshire than be in  
20 Rathgael.

21 **A. Certainly, yes, if I was capable.**

22 Q. You in paragraphs 33 and 34 then talk about RG60. It  
23 looks like during this period you went to Runkerry. Do  
24 you remember the outdoor pursuits on the north coast?  
25 It has quite a panoramic view of --

1 **A. Yes. I think it was used by all the care homes and**  
2 **justice homes and stuff.**

3 Q. Do you have a -- was that a positive ...?

4 **A. The atmosphere was a lot lighter there. It was -- it**  
5 **was less restrictive and constrictive.**

6 Q. It wasn't a secure --

7 **A. No.**

8 Q. -- type unit. It was a more open --

9 **A. No. It was just an outdoor pursuits centre in a very**  
10 **large house in the coast of -- the north coast.**

11 Q. You -- it's during this period that RG 241 , who  
12 was on the aftercare side or was a social worker but  
13 more on the aftercare side of Rathgael, in your case he  
14 was the one heavily involved in trying to organise  
15 placements in specialist units, and in your case he was  
16 involved in taking you over to England to be assessed by  
17 the Cotswolds programme --

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. -- in the summer of 1987 while you were in Shamrock, and  
20 that ultimately didn't come to fruition.

21 But you talk in paragraph 36, if we scroll down  
22 a little, please, that one of the incidents you remember  
23 from Shamrock was a girl attacking you and you pushing  
24 her away in self defence and she falling and hitting her  
25 head and you being blamed and punished for having hurt

1 her. I was saying to you, having gone through the logs,  
2 I couldn't find -- there is a -- and we'll just look at  
3 it. 40297. I couldn't find an incident with a girl  
4 where the girl had got her head hurt, but I could find  
5 on 11th June '87, if we scroll down, please -- just a  
6 little further -- we can see:

7 "HIA172 and at each other's throats."

8 Then just about four lines down:

9 "HIA172 beckoned for a fight and duly  
10 obliged!!", according to the author in any event. "Both  
11 were removed to their rooms for a short period. While  
12 in his room I spoke to HIA172 about stirring up the kids  
13 and causing problems for himself. The conversation then  
14 moved to HIA172's relationship with his mother and  
15 father", and so on.

16 So that was the entry I could find. I don't know  
17 whether that's the incident that you are referring to  
18 and then --

19 **A. No. There was regular fights and confrontations in the**  
20 **unit all the time. It was so close -- people were in**  
21 **such close proximity that like a form of cabin fever**  
22 **essentially set in, because you were constantly in this**  
23 **restricted space, and all you had was like a living room**  
24 **and then out into like a main sort of seating area and**  
25 **there was a pool table there, and that was really the**

1           **space that you were limited with, and that to put**  
2           **a group of maybe ten youngsters in was going to cause**  
3           **friction quite frequently.**

4    Q.   It is during this spell in Shamrock where you make  
5           reference in paragraph 37 to going on hunger strike --

6    A.   **Uh-huh.**

7    Q.   -- at 019, if we go back to paragraph 37. I was saying  
8           to you in the log I can see that incident on 26th  
9           August 1987. What's recorded in the log is that the  
10           main reason was you didn't like the food according to  
11           whoever the author was, but the hunger strike ended the  
12           next day according to the author, because you wanted to  
13           go to Runkerry. I presume they must have been telling  
14           you, if that's right, if you didn't eat, they weren't  
15           going to let you go to Runkerry I presume.

16   A.   **I had absolutely no ambition of going to Runkerry.**  
17           **I was pretty much happy to lie there and die at the**  
18           **time. It was     RG 242     , the housemother -- I was**  
19           **lying on the chairs in the living room and I just kept**  
20           **seeing how kind of disturbed she looked at the fact that**  
21           **I was physically beginning to feel weaker. I wasn't**  
22           **just not eating. I was not drinking as well. I had**  
23           **simply said, "I'm just going to stop". It was the only**  
24           **leverage I had. They made me sit through every meal and**  
25           **I think -- if they say it was the next day, then maybe**

1           it was the next day, but the next day I couldn't lift  
2           myself up. I was lying -- physically lying down and  
3           RG 242       came out and asked me, "Are you okay?" and  
4           she looked frightened and that kind of worked on my  
5           heart strings a bit, but yes, I see it differently.

6   Q.   You make reference then to -- in paragraph I think it's  
7       31 you talk about a suicide attempt that was involved.

8           You moved to                               then in November 1987,  
9       by which stage you are 14.

10   A.   **Sorry. You said suicide attempt.**

11   Q.   Yes, in paragraph 31 of your statement --

12   A.   **Yes.**

13   Q.   -- at 020. Just scroll up, please. Scroll up, please,  
14       to paragraph 31.

15   A.   **I thought you were referring to Shamrock House.**

16   Q.   I think it is paragraph 32. My apologies, HIA172. It  
17       is paragraph 32. If we just scroll down into the  
18       (inaudible),                       yes, you make reference to the  
19       level of difficulty that was occurring.

20           You moved to                               then in November 1987.

21       I was able to date the matters that you are discussing  
22       about in paragraph 32. It would appear to have been on  
23       28th October, so about a month before the move to

24           . It is slightly complicated. I am going  
25       to summarise it, and you then tell me if I am right



1 about it.

2 You go there at 14 on 24th November 1987. You stay  
3 there for your first spell until 24th May 1988, so about  
4 six months, and then go back for two-week what's  
5 described in the papers as a time out.

6 **A. It wasn't a time out. treatment was**  
7 **quite intense. So we were given two weeks' holiday**  
8 **during or before the summer period and we were given two**  
9 **weeks' holiday around the Christmas period and**  
10 **essentially the rest of the time we were supposed to**  
11 **remain at and any sort of like family**  
12 **contact would be done in . It wasn't --**  
13 **it wasn't just a time out period. The whole place had**  
14 **closed down for two weeks.**

15 Q. All I can go by is what's in the records.

16 **A. Okay.**

17 Q. That's how it is described, but you spend then two weeks  
18 in Rathgael back in the Shamrock Unit.

19 **A. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. That's between 24th May 1999 and 7th June 1988, by which  
21 time you are 15, and you go back to then.  
22 You are there for essentially nine months until 1st  
23 March 1989, when there was a fire in the mansion --

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. -- and the result of that was all of the accommodation

1 was destroyed.

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. You came back to Rathgael --

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. -- again to Shamrock for a period that looks like until  
6 4th April 1989. So then took six weeks or five weeks to  
7 get their accommodation resolved, and you go back there  
8 until 6th July 1989. Now I am not going to go into the  
9 detail of it, but you were ultimately excluded from

10 because of various incidents that  
11 occurred, and I think you had a different view of the  
12 reasons behind you leaving . You were --

13 **A. Well, I have stated several times to you that the**  
14 **context is not in my favour.**

15 Q. You come back then to -- on 11th July 1989 to Rathgael,  
16 but I want to break into the sequence,  
17 because we were able to work out precisely when the  
18 episode that you talk about in paragraph 43 with HIA429.  
19 Look at 021, please. You also talk about this in your  
20 police statement in October 1993 on page 6. I will just  
21 give the Panel the reference. It is at 32744.

22 I was able to find the entry in your medical records  
23 that relates to this incident, if we look, please, at  
24 40567, and at the bottom of the page. So this is  
25 before -- just literally before you go back for your

1 third spell in from April '89 until July  
2 '89, and the Panel Members will see that on 28th  
3 March 1989 in what is the clinical note within the  
4 medical record, so it may be what you are explaining to  
5 the matron or the nurse, whoever is looking after you,  
6 as to what has occurred:

7 "Kicked on the right side of face during night as  
8 [you] lay in bed by HIA429. Right side of face badly  
9 swollen and reddened. Pupils equal and reacting to  
10 light. Left leg and left hand also scratched."

11 It seems you were taken to Ards Hospital for  
12 an x-ray. They found there was no bony injury but you  
13 were badly bruised. I think you said to me a photograph  
14 was taken.

15 **A. Yes, a photograph was taken.**

16 Q. I can't find that. You were asking me did I have that  
17 in the papers.

18 **A. Just I thought when you were indicating you had**  
19 **information, that it was relating to that there. The**  
20 **record of this here is probably there because RG 243**  
21 **a member of staff from , arrived**  
22 **a couple of days after this had happened with another**  
23 **resident, RG 244 , and we went camping in the**  
24 **Mourne Mountains, and it was very obvious that my face**  
25 **was, you know, kind of sticking out. It was certainly**

1 an attraction to anybody walking by kind of seeing it.  
2 It was quite embarrassing, and this seems to be a theme,  
3 that when there is, for example, the , who  
4 noted the fact that I was battered and bruised on  
5 attending school, that they then maintained a record of  
6 what had happened and an explanation for it, and it  
7 seems to be that is the only time there is a record is  
8 when there is other witnesses outside the system.  
9 I know that's diverting from what you're telling me, but  
10 ...

11 Q. Just to unpack what you're saying, you believe these  
12 records have been --

13 A. Well, I recall lots of incidents of being assaulted  
14 and having a black eye. I think I mentioned that there  
15 literally at the very beginning and if you read the  
16 police statements that I made about getting punched in  
17 the face by a guy in House 5. Did you find that on my  
18 medical record? Is it listed there that HIA172 had  
19 a periorbital haematoma? No. I don't think it is  
20 there, because there was nobody to -- nobody outside the  
21 system to see that. It's only when people from outside  
22 the system are witness to it, that's when they had to  
23 record it.

24 Q. Right. You -- this episode happens with HIA429 and you  
25 pointed out earlier to me you've no animosity towards

1 him in respect of it.

2 **A. No, no. There was no decent example around him to show**  
3 **him what he should and shouldn't do. The violence that**  
4 **he experienced was probably a lot more than**  
5 **I experienced. I have witnessed HIA429 being beaten by**  
6 **members of staff. So, I mean, why would I -- why would**  
7 **I hold a child accountable for his actions when there's**  
8 **no-one actually showing him the right way? If anything,**  
9 **they're showing him the wrong way.**

10 **Q.** Then you go back to \_\_\_\_\_ for the period. That  
11 comes to an end and you come back to Rathgael on 11th  
12 July 1989. You are 16. You don't go back into  
13 Shamrock. You go into one of the open care units, which  
14 is House 3, and you are there for another essentially  
15 six months until 31st January 1990. The daily logs  
16 relating to that period can be found at 40315 to 40340,  
17 and you address a particular allegation about that  
18 period of time in paragraph 41 of your statement, if we  
19 go back to 020, please, and this is relating to the  
20 \_\_\_\_\_ of the school or I think you thought he was  
21 \_\_\_\_\_, and perhaps you are right about that,  
22 RG33.

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 **Q.** You explain that he was crazy. In fact, "RG33" is RG33.  
25 What you are describing is being put into a cupboard

1 room --

2 **A. It was a cupboard.**

3 Q. -- and being assaulted by him. You say that he punched  
4 you and kicked you.

5 As you know, he has provided a statement to the  
6 Inquiry where he explains his length of service and his  
7 own background and his period working in Rathgael. He  
8 does not recall at the time he was talking to the  
9 Inquiry you in particular, but he explains to the  
10 Inquiry the system, that he had this room, a storeroom,  
11 that was used by him and other teachers for -- to remove  
12 someone to who was being disruptive and unable to be  
13 controlled in the class, and they would remain there for  
14 a period, provided that that allowed them to settle. If  
15 that didn't happen, then care staff would be involved  
16 for them to be removed. He explains that they quite  
17 often in Rathgael in the school setting had to deal with  
18 pupils who were being very difficult and often being  
19 violent, and as far as he is concerned he was never  
20 violent towards any child and certainly not towards you.

21 Now when he was interviewed by the police in 1993,  
22 he could remember you coming back from .  
23 He expressed the view to the police he was apprehensive,  
24 but he regarded you as well behaved. He could only  
25 vaguely remember you in the time before ,

1 because he said he thought you were in what he described  
2 as the Intensive Care Unit -- I don't think that's the  
3 ICU in hospital terms, but perhaps he is referring to  
4 the Shamrock type arrangement -- but again denied  
5 assaulting you. That was something that was  
6 investigated by the police both in '93 and 2014 and no  
7 prosecution was the result of it.

8 You talk about education in paragraph 42 of your  
9 statement, that you felt that the education available  
10 was not of high quality.

11 **A. When I attended the main school, not when I attended the**  
12 **school in -- the in-house schooling in House 4 and House**  
13 **10. There was a very -- in House 10 it was a very kind**  
14 **of small classroom with maybe four or five of us in the**  
15 **class.**

16 Q. This is the secure units, just to assist the Panel  
17 understand.

18 **A. Yes, the secure units. Sorry.**

19 Q. You are all right. It is the secure unit where the  
20 education took place in the unit.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. And that was okay. It was the more general ...

23 **A. It was the main -- it was the main school on the**  
24 **premises that was very -- well, I just remember any time**  
25 **I attended the main school it was either -- you know,**

1       **"Just you sit there", you know, "because you can't keep**  
2       **up", because I left Rathgael unable to read or write.**  
3       **So they didn't -- they could not do anything with me**  
4       **anyway, you know.**

5       Q. The Panel have again access to the Rathgael material and  
6       are able to look at that.

7               In paragraph 45 of your statement, HIA172, you --  
8       and I am going to summarise it, as I did for you earlier  
9       -- essentially you are saying that you didn't feel there  
10      was any care by the staff. I think you make the point  
11      earlier or there, in fact, it is at the end:

12              "They only cared about me when they were paid to."

13      **A. Where were they when I left care? Did they keep contact**  
14      **with me? Staff in                      kept contact with me,**  
15      **but no-one in Rathgael kept contact with me -- no-one**  
16      **relevant anyway.**

17      Q. The last two questions that we ask each witness when  
18      they come to give evidence about a particular  
19      institution is that at the end of the Panel's work they  
20      have to consider what recommendations they might make to  
21      the Northern Ireland Executive, to the Government, about  
22      three areas. The first is an apology; the second, some  
23      form of memorial; and the third aspect is some form of  
24      redress.

25              You address this in paragraph 50 of your statement,



1 if we look at 022, please. You would like the  
2 Government to acknowledge what happened to you and  
3 apologise. You believe that victims should receive  
4 long-term, limitless counselling to assist them.

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. Is there anything else in addition to that that you want  
7 to say to the Panel about the recommendations they might  
8 consider making?

9 **A. Just don't make us beg for it, please.**

10 Q. And the last question that I ask every witness, because,  
11 as I was describing to you, we try to make what  
12 inevitably is a difficult process as easy for  
13 an individual as one can, dealing with the difficult  
14 subject matter that we are, and I therefore try to  
15 summarise the issues, and I hopefully have done that  
16 successfully, but I ask each witness whether there's  
17 anything else about -- in this case we're looking at  
18 Rathgael -- that perhaps I haven't covered or haven't  
19 covered correctly, or which otherwise you want to bring  
20 out to the Panel about your time in Rathgael. Now is  
21 your opportunity to do that if there's anything else  
22 that you want to cover.

23 **A. Well, I wanted to cover -- if we go to paragraph --**  
24 **section 26, paragraph 26, it talks about when a member**  
25 **of staff, RG4, had twisted my arm up my back and put me**

1 in my room. The statement fails to reveal the fact that  
2 I was left in the room so long that I had to defecate on  
3 the floor, and this was a common theme in Rathgael when  
4 you were put in your room. Urinating on the floor was  
5 the only way you could relieve yourself, because you  
6 weren't getting out. You were left in there for  
7 prolonged periods of time and nobody would respond to  
8 your knocking on the door. If you were in the secure  
9 unit, no-one would respond to your buzzing of the  
10 buzzer, and this happened quite frequently.

11 In House 9 I had to, of course, defecate on the  
12 floor. In House 10 I had urinated on the floor a few  
13 times when I had been left in the room for so long.  
14 I think that robbed me of any sort of dignity, and I was  
15 also chastised and punished for both -- for both of  
16 those things that was not my fault. I was left no  
17 option but to do that.

18 I mean, I could probably go on forever talking about  
19 things that went on in there. I just -- they were just  
20 two things that I pointed out.

21 In -- the time that I tried to hang myself in House  
22 10 after coming back from the Cotswolds Community and  
23 being given the information that I wouldn't actually be  
24 going to the Cotswolds Community because I was too old.  
25 They would prefer younger children. They worked with

1 the younger generation. That night I went up to my room  
2 and when the lights went out, I tried to hang myself,  
3 and the night staff found me hanging and cut me down,  
4 and they stripped my room of everything, and I was left  
5 on a rubber mattress wearing nothing but a wear of pants  
6 and a blanket. In fact, I think at one time I wasn't  
7 even wearing pants. I was just -- all I had was a quilt  
8 over me and I was left in that state for I can't  
9 honestly say how long, but it was quite a long time, and  
10 I was punished for that suicide attempt up until the day  
11 I left Rathgael.

12 Q. Well, HIA172, what I can -- in fairness to the  
13 organisation today responsible for Rathgael, those  
14 incidents that you are describing, they are referred to  
15 in the logs. I have elected not to go into them. In  
16 relation to the suicide --

17 A. Sorry.

18 Q. No, there is no difficulty. You can bring to the  
19 Panel's attention that which you wish, but in relation  
20 to the suicide attempt, for instance, the Cotswold  
21 events were in July. The event you are describing was  
22 on 28th October, and it is -- there is a serious  
23 incident report about it. The members of staff record  
24 how they found you and both distress that they express  
25 in the document about dealing with that, having to take

1           you down, and the aftermath of it. Equally there are  
2           references -- and I am not going to bring them out now  
3           -- to --

4     **A. Well, I wasn't taken to hospital.**

5     Q. No.

6     **A. No.**

7     Q. The reasons for that are in the log. We can look at it  
8           if you want to.

9     **A. No. It's fine.**

10    Q. And equally there are references to occasions whenever  
11       the other matter you discussed about defecating is  
12       recorded in the logs. Again I am not going to open that  
13       beyond the Panel will have the references and can look  
14       at them.

15            Is there anything else that you want to raise other  
16       than those two issues?

17    **A. No. I think that's enough.**

18    Q. I am not going to ask you any more questions you will be  
19       very pleased to know.

20    **A. Okay.**

21    Q. If you bear with me for a short time, the Panel Members  
22       may want to ask you something. So just bear with us for  
23       another short time.

24                            Questions from THE PANEL

25    MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA172. That has been

1 helpful. Can I just ask about the role of the key  
2 worker? You talk about RG56. Did you have sessions  
3 with her that were formalised and organised?

4 **A. The only sessions that I can actually recall were sex**  
5 **education sessions. These were the only -- I probably**  
6 **-- you'll maybe find it in the log -- that I had a bit**  
7 **of a foul mouth, bit of a dirty mouth, said dirty**  
8 **things, and RG56 felt that it was appropriate to educate**  
9 **me on the birds and the bees, and I can recall very**  
10 **clearly sitting with her and she telling me and showing**  
11 **me the book and, you know, I think that kind of helped**  
12 **me identify what exactly it was I was talking about, and**  
13 **I think maybe incidents that happened whenever I was**  
14 **very, very young, I think I recall talking to her about**  
15 **those, but I don't actually remember any regular kind of**  
16 **therapeutic sort of, you know, talk, but RG56 was**  
17 **certainly a very positive influence on me when I was**  
18 **there.**

19 Q. So she certainly took a particular interest in you --

20 **A. She did, yes.**

21 Q. -- when she was on duty. Can I ask -- you talk about  
22 cabin fever and all the children being in together.

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. I just wondered what type of activities were organised  
25 for you? I mean, did you tend to sit around together or

1 were there planned activities?

2 **A. They're in-house -- in Fox Lodge, House 4, YT secure**  
3 **unit, I think there was a table-tennis table and I think**  
4 **there was the pool table and then, of course, just**  
5 **television and music. In House 10, the care side secure**  
6 **unit, Shamrock House, it was -- there was a pool**  
7 **table there and a television.**

8 **Q. But did you as children decide who was going to play**  
9 **pool? There wasn't staff around on the --**

10 **A. Staff were mainly in the staff office.**

11 **Q. In terms of activities outside the home were you taken**  
12 **out on regular ...?**

13 **A. I think sometimes there was a walk to the shop. There**  
14 **was like a farm shop up the road a little bit and to the**  
15 **right. It wasn't like a -- like a Spar or anything. It**  
16 **was just like -- nearly like a house or a building that**  
17 **had a shop in it. It wasn't really defined. I think**  
18 **I recall maybe walking there a few times with the staff**  
19 **in the hope that we didn't run away, like, you know.**

20 **Q. Any sporting activities? Any organised ...?**

21 **A. I think RG60 kind of led the way in House 10. He was**  
22 **very big on sports and outdoor pursuits, and I think**  
23 **I recall he took us running one time and ran the little**  
24 **legs off us all. You know, "It's only another**  
25 **200 yards". It's like -- you know, it's like 2 miles.**

1           **You know, it's like -- but, yes, RG60 was pretty good,**  
2           **pretty good.**

3    Q.   And you enjoyed that?  You enjoyed that physical  
4           exercise?

5    A.   **Whenever the opportunity came, yes.**

6    Q.   Can I just you ask one last thing?  You were saying  
7           about the staff in Rathgael didn't keep in contact with  
8           you and then you said "no-one relevant".

9    A.   **Yes.**

10   Q.   Can you just say a bit more about that?

11   A.   **I don't know.  I guess I see members of staff around**  
12           **where I live and I have spoken to them on occasion, but**  
13           **I can't say that they have maintained contact with me.**  
14           **I have met           RG 241           on a couple of occasions.**

15   Q.   But that's informal.  That's just in the passing, just  
16           because you bump into each other.

17   A.   **Nobody -- nobody has actually directly come to me.**

18           **RG 245           -- he was a member of staff in House --**  
19           **House 9B, boys' reception -- he had got in touch with me**  
20           **quite a few years ago, in fact, because I had made**  
21           **a statement to the police about what had happened and**  
22           **he wanted to support that there.**

23   Q.   Okay.  Thanks very much.

24   A.   **Okay.**

25   MR LANE:  You mentioned that after your suicide attempt you

1 were continually punished until you left Rathgael.

2 A. Until I went to

3 Q. Sorry?

4 A. It was until I left Rathgael and moved on to

5

6 Q. What form did this punishment take?

7 A. They put me to bed early every night at 7.30. So  
8 essentially I was being put in isolation, you know.

9 I mean, you were in a room devoid of -- I was --

10 everything that was in my room was taken out. There was  
11 a set of drawers, unlike in Shamrock House -- or not  
12 Shamrock House -- in Fox Lodge in the YT side secure  
13 unit. There was nothing in your room. There was no  
14 curtains on the walls. It was a bare room. There was  
15 a shelf like a corner shelf and there was a pinboard and  
16 your bed was bolted to the floor.

17 In Shamrock House, of course, you didn't have any  
18 curtains and you had a bed bolted to the floor, but  
19 there was like a set of drawers, like maybe two or three  
20 drawers set, and you'd keep your own personal  
21 possessions and clothing and stuff in there. Well, that  
22 was removed and I never got that back until -- well,  
23 ever. I left -- I left -- I left Rathgael -- or  
24 whenever -- the night before I left I didn't have my  
25 drawers back. So I was being -- I was still being



1           **punished for that there up until I left.**

2    Q.    You got your possessions back, did you?

3    **A.    Yes, I got my possessions back. They were held in**  
4           **storage. In Sham... -- in Fox Lodge, in House -- or YT**  
5           **secure unit it was actually the shower room, the**  
6           **bathroom where you actually had like a cubicle -- not**  
7           **a cubicle -- it was just like a shelf and hangers where**  
8           **you would hang your clothes and a shelf where you would**  
9           **keep your own personal possessions and that's where your**  
10          **personal stuff was kept. You weren't allowed anything**  
11          **at all of any sort in your room.**

12   Q.    Thank you.

13   **A.    Okay.**

14   CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA172, thank you very much for coming to  
15           speak to us today. That is the last question we have of  
16           you, but we are very grateful to you for taking the time  
17           to come to speak to us. Thank you.

18                               (Witness withdrew)

19   MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, you will be  
20           pleased I'm sure to know that concludes today's oral  
21           evidence --

22   CHAIRMAN: Yes.

23   MR AIKEN: -- and the week after next when we ...

24   CHAIRMAN: We will adjourn now to Monday week.

25   (3.35 pm)

1 (Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am  
2 on Monday, 16th November 2015)

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