

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

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at

Banbridge Court House

Banbridge

on Wednesday, 3rd September 2014

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 44)

MS CHRISTINE SMITH, QC appeared as Counsel to the Inquiry.

1 Wednesday, 3rd September 2014

2 (10.00 am)

3 CHAIRMAN: Good morning. Before we resume this morning  
4 I again remind everyone in court that mobile phones must  
5 be switched off or placed on silent/vibrate when the  
6 Inquiry is sitting and that no photography of any sort,  
7 whether a mobile phone or what have you, is permitted  
8 anywhere on the premises within the Inquiry chamber or  
9 indeed the wider premises of the Inquiry.

10 Yes, Miss Smith.

11 WITNESS HIA 354 (called)

12 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and  
13 gentlemen. The witness who is on the video screen this  
14 morning is HIA356 and he is to be -- 354. I beg your  
15 pardon. He is to be known as "HIA354", and HIA354 is  
16 aware, Chairman, that you are going to ask him to take  
17 the oath shortly. He also wishes to confirm he does  
18 want to retain his anonymity.

19 CHAIRMAN: Very well.

20 Good morning, HIA354. Can you hear me?

21 Unfortunately we can't hear you.

22 **A. Can you hear me at all?**

23 CHAIRMAN: Yes. I think, HIA354, if you could move yourself  
24 a bit nearer to the microphone so that during the course  
25 of the next while we will be able to hear you clearly.

1 Can I ask you have you a bible beside you?

2 **A. I do have a bible. Can you hear me? Can you hear me**  
3 **all right?**

4 CHAIRMAN: Yes. We can hear you fine now.

5 WITNESS HIA 354 (sworn)

6 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

7 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

8 MS SMITH: Good morning, HIA354. Can you hear me okay?

9 **A. Yes, I can.**

10 Q. Well, HIA354, can I first of all ask you do you have  
11 a copy of your witness statement in front of you?

12 **A. Yes, I do.**

13 Q. And could I ask that be called up on the screen, please?  
14 That's AUS11244. HIA354, there's a bit of delay  
15 sometimes before the equipment works at our end.

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

17 Q. So there's a screen in front of people in the chamber  
18 and we're calling up documents on that.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. We're still waiting for your witness statement to come  
21 up, but it's page 11244. Not clear just what the  
22 difficulty is at our end, HIA354, but it is at our end.  
23 I think it's starting to work now. So technology is  
24 wonderful when it works, but sometimes it's a bit  
25 difficult.

1    **A. Yes. The pages which I have here are not numbered.**  
2        **I've only got subheadings like "Personal Details",**  
3        **"Coneywarren Children's Home". Then it goes to**  
4        **"Dhurringile Rural Training Farm" and (inaudible) --**

5    Q. Don't worry, HIA354. I will be using page references,  
6        but I will be taking you through the paragraphs of your  
7        statement and we will do it that way. You don't need to  
8        worry too much about the page reference numbers on your  
9        statement.

10   CHAIRMAN: The pages should be paginated at the bottom  
11        right-hand side.

12   MS SMITH: Yes. There should be a little number down at the  
13        bottom of the page saying "Page 1", "2", "3", "4", etc.

14   **A. 354, 354, 354.**

15   Q. Yes, and at the other corner do you see a little number?

16   **A. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 --**

17   Q. That's great.

18   **A. -- 7, 8, yes.**

19   Q. Well, can I just ask you -- we're still having some  
20        problems with our screens in the chamber here, HIA354.  
21        So I think we've got your statement up now, but it keeps  
22        flashing at us. I don't know what's happening with our  
23        technology this morning, but can I just ask you to go  
24        to -- maybe it is just my screen actually.

25   CHAIRMAN: No.

1 MS SMITH: It's stopped now. Can I ask you to go to the  
2 last page of your statement, HIA354?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. And can I just confirm that you signed the witness  
5 statement on 1st July 2014?

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

7 Q. And can I ask that this statement represents your  
8 statement of evidence, the evidence that you want the  
9 Inquiry to consider?

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

11 Q. Now I think our screens seem to have settled down.  
12 Hopefully they will stay that way. We have had it  
13 coming back and forward towards us.

14 Your personal details are set out in paragraphs 1 to  
15 3 of the witness statement that you provided, and  
16 there's also another document which I hesitate -- but  
17 I'm going to have to call up several documents today.  
18 So I'm going to try to call this up one first. I know  
19 you have a copy of this. It is AUS11606.

20 This, HIA354, is a letter from the Children's  
21 Officer of Tyrone County Welfare Committee that she  
22 wrote to you, and it was dated 9th October 1961, and if  
23 we can just scroll down through that, she says that:

24 "From our records ..."

25 It is about the fourth paragraph down.

1 **A. Yes, I've got that.**

2 Q. "... I find that you and ..."

3 She gives the names of your brother and sister. I'm  
4 not going to give their names, because as we've given  
5 you anonymity, we've also given your family anonymity.  
6 So she gives your brother and sister's name there. She  
7 says:

8 "From our records I find that you, your brother and  
9 sister came into the care of Tyrone County Welfare  
10 Committee on a date in 1949 when your mother became  
11 gravely ill. At that time you were placed in [REDACTED] and  
12 remained there until a later date in 1949 when you were  
13 transferred to Coneywarren Children's Home. You and  
14 your sister were among the first nine residents of  
15 Coneywarren.

16 On a date in 1950 you were boarded out with a family  
17 whose name is given there, where you remained until you  
18 migrated with a party of other boys to Australia on  
19 7th November from Liverpool."

20 Now we'll come back later -- excuse me, HIA354 --  
21 we'll come back later to discuss the family that you  
22 were placed with, and we may need to use their name, but  
23 that name is obviously not to be repeated outside this  
24 chamber.

25 Can you remember being in Coneywarren before you

1           were boarded out?

2       **A. Yes, I do, not terribly clearly, but I do remember.**

3           I remember going to school there by bus every day.

4           I have been back home since on a visit to Ireland. So  
5           that could have made my view of it a bit clearer perhaps  
6           than it would have been had I not been there for fifty  
7           years.

8       Q. You were then boarded out from there to live with  
9           a family --

10      **A. Yes.**

11      Q. -- and you were happy with that family. Isn't that  
12           correct?

13      **A. That's correct.**

14      Q. If we could just look at AUS11720, this is a report --  
15           have you got that, HIA354? It is a report --

16      **A. Yes, I have.**

17      Q. -- card from Tyrone County Welfare Committee about you.  
18           It's essentially saying you were out at play when the  
19           social worker called, that all members of the family  
20           seemed quite pleased with HIA354, who has shown no trace  
21           of longing to return to Coneywarren.

22           In the final paragraph it says:

23           "I believe he will settle down and feel happy in the  
24           present environment."

25           We can see that was dated 5th July 1950, signed by

1 the social worker who called at your foster home, and it  
2 was then received by the County Welfare Office on  
3 9th July, two days later.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. So you were then taken from this home where you were  
6 happy and you were then brought back briefly to  
7 Coneywarren. You went from there to Manor House in  
8 Lisburn --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- where you stayed for about a week. You talk about  
11 this in paragraph 8 of your statement, which is at  
12 page 11245.

13 **A. Yes. That's my guess. It could have been a week; could  
14 have been two days.**

15 Q. It felt like a week to you.

16 **A. Yes, yes. When you're young, you don't realise these  
17 things. Too much going on in your mind. You're  
18 surviving to start with.**

19 Q. So in any event what you remember about your time in  
20 Manor House is you stayed there for a short period of  
21 time in any event?

22 **A. Yes, yes.**

23 Q. You remember being taught hymns and on one evening  
24 having a bath. You were then given new clothes and then  
25 taken by boat across the Irish Sea to Liverpool to board

1 a ship to Australia. You say you recently actually  
2 found an old newspaper article about you going to  
3 Australia.

4 **A. Yes, that's right, yes, from the Tyrone Constitution.**

5 Q. Now can you -- you talk at paragraphs 9 through 11 about  
6 what you remember about the process. Now you remember  
7 -- there's a medical certificate which is dated  
8 13th September 1950 and I can pull that up in due  
9 course, but do you remember undergoing a medical  
10 examination, HIA354?

11 **A. No. I only remember one in Coneywarren when I had  
12 a neck operation --**

13 Q. I think you had tonsillitis.

14 **A. -- and a circumcision. I don't actually know.  
15 Something to do with my glands, external, but I've never  
16 known why, but I still have the scar on my neck, which  
17 is right near my Adam's apple, as it were, but why I had  
18 this operation I wasn't told, yes.**

19 Q. But you don't remember specifically having a medical  
20 examination before going to Australia?

21 **A. I think I had that many examinations and things  
22 I wouldn't know which one was which to tell you the  
23 truth.**

24 Q. And there's a lot of documentation that we have received  
25 in the Inquiry --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- and have discovered. As you know, as I spoke to you  
3 earlier this morning, I will be going through all of  
4 that in due course.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. But you don't remember the medical examination. Do you  
7 remember doing an IQ test?

8 **A. Yes, vaguely, yes. Different shapes and -- different**  
9 **shapes, and like putting the puzzle together, and**  
10 **getting out of a maze and finding your way home,**  
11 **something along those lines, yes. It was fifty years**  
12 **ago.**

13 Q. Yes, I appreciate that, HIA354. I just wondered if you  
14 did have any memory of it. Just for the record you are  
15 now aged 72. Am I right?

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

17 Q. You remember -- the ship that you sailed on you left on  
18 7th November 1950 and it was the MV Cheshire. You were  
19 then aged 8 years old --

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

21 Q. -- and you travelled with a minister called the Reverend  
22 Andrew Boag, who was looking after you, along with  
23 a Scottish lady, and she was moving to Australia with  
24 her son, but the Reverend Boag actually went to the home  
25 you went to in Australia along with you. Is that

1 correct?

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

3 Q. On the ship you say after two or three days into the  
4 journey a boxing ring was set up and you were made to  
5 fight each other for the entertainment of the  
6 passengers.

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

8 Q. And you found that to be a horrendous experience?

9 **A. Well, I was having enough trouble coping with life as it**  
10 **was. Being taken away from home, my brother and sister,**  
11 **the death of my mother, and then having this put on top**  
12 **of me too was a bit -- I just couldn't quite work out**  
13 **why, why someone would do this, and, in fact, it was**  
14 **only for entertainment of the other passengers on board**  
15 **as well. This was the start of my "duty of care".**

16 Q. You also have a memory of another event when you were on  
17 the ship, crossing the equator and being made to sit on  
18 a chair, and you were then tipped backwards into a tub  
19 of water. You now know that was a tradition, but at the  
20 time as a young child you found that a very frightening  
21 experience?

22 **A. Yes, because I had never actually been in water before**  
23 **either. I don't think -- any water I had been in was**  
24 **the bath probably and there probably wasn't too many of**  
25 **these either.**

1 Q. You say you hid in the ship for two days in case it  
2 happened to you again?

3 **A. Yes, that's right, down in the engine room.**

4 Q. And you remember befriending a worker on the ship called  
5 [REDACTED] and it was him who actually found you in your  
6 hiding place?

7 **A. Yes. He was a dark man, some -- probably come from  
8 Africa, somewhere like that. I just befriended him. He  
9 was a member of the crew and he used to feed us, yes.**

10 Q. You also remember the ship docking at Port Said.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. And you do remember local men coming over to the ship to  
13 barter for goods. You thought that was a good  
14 opportunity to get a box of -- to get a treat. So you  
15 got a box of Turkish Delight in exchange for all your  
16 clothes?

17 **A. That's right, yes. I lowered them down on a rope.**

18 Q. And when you opened the box, there was no Turkish  
19 Delight. It was just full of weevils?

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

21 Q. So although you were being provided with clothes for  
22 your trip to Australia, you were effectively left with  
23 just the clothes you were standing in?

24 **A. Yes. I do have a list of all the clothes provided for  
25 me by the Welfare Department over in Ireland.**

1 Q. Yes. We have that list too, and the Inquiry Panel will  
2 see that in due course.

3 They kitted you out essentially for the trip. Isn't  
4 that correct?

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

6 Q. Do you remember going shopping for the clothes or being  
7 measured or anything like that?

8 **A. No, I don't. I don't remember anything like that.**

9 Q. Well, one of the things you did -- and I don't know if  
10 you remember doing this -- but one of the things you did  
11 when you were on the ship was write to the Children's  
12 Welfare Officer, Mrs McFadden. Do you remember doing  
13 that, HIA354?

14 **A. I'd say that would be done by Andrew Boag, the Reverend**  
15 **Andrew Boag. He would have written that for us, because**  
16 **I was pretty illiterate back then as far as go.**  
17 **I dictated it.**

18 Q. Just for completeness we can see that at AUS11647.  
19 I don't know if you have that page there.

20 **A. 11647.**

21 Q. We are pulling that up on the screen. It's  
22 a handwritten document, HIA354. I don't know if you  
23 have it there, but it should have been in the bundle of  
24 material that we provided to you. It is dated 14th --

25 **A. I have it here.**

1 Q. -- 14th November 1950, and it says:

2 "Dear, Mrs McFadden",

3 and I think it's fair to say you're probably right  
4 about this, because the handwriting certainly looks that  
5 of an older person rather than an eight-year-old child.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. "Dear Mrs McFadden,

8 I am having a nice voyage. There is a lot of boys  
9 here and our cabins are all together on E deck. We have  
10 PT every morning at 7am on deck and breakfast at 7.30,  
11 then school for two hours at 9.30. We get very good  
12 food and lots of amusements, cinema too. I have lots of  
13 boys to play with and the passengers are all kind to  
14 us."

15 Do you remember this routine at all on the ship,  
16 HIA354?

17 **A. No. I just remember getting bread and jam at different**  
18 **times during the day, like morning tea and afternoon**  
19 **tea, and -- but I don't remember the whole routine.**

20 Q. It says:

21 "We saw a battleship at Gibraltar (Vanguard) and  
22 aeroplanes and a destroyer at Malta. We will be in Port  
23 Said on Friday. The weather is warm and sunny now, but  
24 nearly all of us were seasick on the second day out and  
25 we have all been vaccinated. The captain tells us all

1 about the interesting places the ..." --

2 CHAIRMAN: "Ship."

3 **A. "... the ship passes."**

4 MS SMITH: "... the ship passes."

5 Sorry.

6 "I hope you are all well at home. I will write  
7 again.

8 Love to all.

9 HIA354."

10 Do you remember the captain telling you about the  
11 interesting places you were passing or the interaction  
12 with the ship's crew in that sense?

13 **A. I remember the captain clearly telling us about when he**  
14 **was in this ship during the war how it was torpedoed**  
15 **twice. Whether he was telling tales to a little boy or**  
16 **not ... He did say he actually dived into the water and**  
17 **he swam through torpedo holes and back out the other**  
18 **side. Whether he was stretching the truth a bit ...**  
19 **That was Captain Potter, the captain of the ship.**  
20 **I remember him clearly. He was a bearded sea captain.**

21 Q. When you arrived in Australia, you were taken to the  
22 Dhurringile Farm School. As you're aware -- and we've  
23 spoken about this earlier -- this Inquiry cannot deal  
24 with your experiences there and I'm simply going to  
25 summarise what you say in paragraphs 12 through to 25 of

1 your witness statement.

2 Essentially when you arrived you had nightmares and  
3 then subsequently you were physically abused by staff  
4 and superintendents. You suffered sexual abuse at the  
5 hand of the superintendent of the home. That is  
6 essentially the experiences that you had in that home.

7 Now one of the things that we know from the  
8 documentation is that there was contact between yourself  
9 and your brother and sister at home. Do you remember  
10 that, getting letters and things from them?

11 **A. Yes, I do, yes, particularly my sister, because I wrote**  
12 **to her regularly. We wrote -- corresponded regularly,**  
13 **but my brother was only occasionally.**

14 **Q.** One of the things that I know that we will come to in  
15 due course is that -- and we will be looking at this --  
16 you -- you wanted **AU 98** to come out to join you when you  
17 first arrived in Australia. Do you remember  
18 a conversation at all or somebody telling you that that  
19 was what was likely to happen? Is that why you thought  
20 he might be coming to join you? Do you remember  
21 anything along those lines?

22 **A. It was mainly my request time and time again. I kept**  
23 **requesting for him to come over and I don't know why**  
24 **I~thought, but I did think he was going to come here.**  
25 **I was probably led to believe it, but I don't remember,**

1           **but then I changed my opinion of that after a little**  
2           **while.**

3    Q.   Yes.  Ultimately you were glad that he didn't come to  
4           join you?

5    A.   **Yes.  I remember writing advising him not to come,**  
6           **because I couldn't put him through that.  It was bad**  
7           **enough me being there without dragging him into it as**  
8           **well.**

9    Q.   As I have indicated to you, HIA354, there are a number  
10           of documents that have been provided to us by the Health  
11           & Social Care Board here, and also the Inquiry has  
12           discovered a number of documents from the Public Records  
13           Office in Northern Ireland.  I know you have a large  
14           bundle of that material there and I'm going to refer to  
15           some documents now and refer the Inquiry to them.

16           What I'm essentially trying do through this is set  
17           out the history of your involvement with Social Services  
18           and how you came to be migrated.

19           So if we could look -- I have already looked at the  
20           document which shows -- the letter that was written to  
21           you by Mrs McFadden, but if we look at AUS11253, this is  
22           a minute from Tyrone County Welfare Committee which --  
23           we see that in 1949, if we can scroll down there --  
24           sorry.  Just -- yes.  At (f) where it is talking boarded  
25           out children, and unfortunately the redaction makes this

1 less than clear, but essentially the committee were  
2 taking over the responsibility for the boarding out of  
3 yourself and your sister as there were no satisfactory  
4 arrangements for your maintenance and care.

5 That's the time when you and your sister came into  
6 the care of Tyrone County Welfare Committee, your mother  
7 sadly having passed away.

8 At 11725 --

9 **A. 117... I am almost there.**

10 Q. Take your time. This is a letter which is dated 3rd  
11 July 1950. Now by this stage you had been placed with  
12 the family where you were happy and settled in that  
13 family, and there is a letter from the County Welfare  
14 Officer to the Reverend Boyd Moore, who would have been  
15 your local Presbyterian Minister where you were boarded  
16 out, and it says:

17 "Dear Reverend Moore,

18 You are probably acquainted with the content of the  
19 enclosed circular."

20 Now from what we can ascertain this was a circular  
21 which was sent by the Reverend Boag we think to local  
22 authorities seeking children to be nominated to go to  
23 Dhurringile, a farm school that the Presbyterian Church  
24 was opening in Australia. It says -- the circular is  
25 obviously attached to this letter. This is obviously

1           only a copy.

2           "You are probably acquainted with the content of the  
3           enclosed circular. We are wondering if this would not  
4           be a good opportunity for HIA354. We have just placed  
5           him in a Presbyterian home in", and gives the address,  
6           "but do feel that if he were nominated for this scheme,  
7           he might" -- sorry -- could you just go back, please --  
8           "he might have ultimately a greater opportunity.

9           I would like to have your comments. Also please  
10          return the enclosed circular."

11          We then see at 11719 this is a letter dated 10th  
12          July 1950 from the County Welfare Officer to the  
13          Reverend Boag in response to him having sent this  
14          circular and it says:

15          "Dear sir,

16          In response to your circular concerning the efforts  
17          of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria to give  
18          opportunity to orphan children at their farm school in  
19          Dhurringile, we have a child in our care, HIA354, date  
20          of birth 1942, an orphan whom I feel would benefit from  
21          this experience. Being an Australian myself and being  
22          intimately acquainted with the Fairbridge Farm School  
23          project, I can appreciate what this opportunity might  
24          mean to an orphan boy.

25          At present he is in a Presbyterian foster home, and

1 after consultation with the Reverend J Boyd Moore, we  
2 both agreed that we would like to you consider this  
3 child. No doubt you will require further information  
4 and we will be only too happy to give you the complete  
5 case history."

6 If we can then go, please, to 11718 --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- this is another report card. It says that:

9 "Reverend Boyd Moore called this afternoon to  
10 discuss with the County Welfare Officer the future of  
11 HIA354.

12 I had a long talk with Mr Moore on the subject and  
13 he is prepared to approve of HIA354 going to Australia.  
14 He had not previously considered the suitability of the  
15 climate but now thinks it would be ideal for the child.  
16 He now feels that migration to Australia may afford  
17 HIA354 more opportunity than he would have in County  
18 Tyrone.

19 In regard to separating the family, he feels that  
20 the brother and sister's health condition is such it  
21 might never be possible to reunite them.

22 I told Mr Moore that the County Welfare Officer  
23 would keep him informed of any action taken.

24 He was pleased to learn that Dr ..., the TB officer  
25 for County Tyrone, had examined HIA354 and pronounced

1 him fit and free from infection."

2 We can see in July 1950 what seems to have happened  
3 is the Reverend Boag had sent a circular. The Tyrone  
4 County Welfare Officer, being Australian, has identified  
5 you as an orphan who might benefit from the Australian  
6 climate. He knows something of the operation of the  
7 Fairbridge schools, and he then contacts the Reverend  
8 Moore and in discussion with him they then essentially  
9 start the wheels in motion for your migration.

10 There's a memo -- sorry. A reply from the Reverend  
11 Boag setting out the procedure is found at 11717. This  
12 is dated 13th July 1950. It is to Victor C. Jones, who  
13 I understand was a colonel and was the Australian person  
14 who was familiar with the Fairbridge scheme. It says:

15 "Dear Mr Jones,

16 Thank you for your letter of July 10th. With  
17 reference HIA354 I am enclosing nomination forms which  
18 must be filled in duplicate. Also required is a copy of  
19 the lad's birth certificate and an IQ certificate. The  
20 IQ may present difficulty. I do not know how you are  
21 situated in Ireland in such matters. Usually the  
22 Welfare Department is well up in these things, so I will  
23 not presume to give you any instructions on how to go  
24 about procuring an IQ. When the forms are completed,  
25 return them to me with the birth certificate and IQ.

1           Later Australia House will appoint a medical referee  
2           who will examine the boy. The fee for lads of his age  
3           is 7 and 6. When he has been approved, Australia House  
4           will arrange the date of sailing and forward a rail  
5           voucher to the port of embarkation.

6           The children will have to be conducted to the port.  
7           Arrangements will be made about that at a later date.  
8           There are other children coming from Ireland so the lad  
9           will travel in a party. Australia House supplies  
10          conducting welfare officers for the voyage.

11          I would appreciate it if you could let me have  
12          a case history of the boy.

13          Having disposed of the business side of the matter,  
14          permit me to send warmest greetings to a fellow  
15          Australian. I am sorry I did not meet you when I was  
16          over in that beautiful country. I was born here in  
17          Scotland myself, but I keep on saying that I could be  
18          not be tempted to come back here to live, but if  
19          I would, it would be north of Ireland that would do it.  
20          I hope you will spread news of this Dhurringile venture  
21          through the Welfare Department as much as you can and  
22          assist me in getting a large number of boys.

23          With all good wishes and many thanks.

24          Yours sincerely,

25          Andrew Boag."

1           Your IQ test was carried out. We can see that at --  
2           I have got the page reference. It is dated 27th  
3           July 1950. Unfortunately I don't have the  
4           page reference, but I can just get that in a moment. I  
5           think we can find that at page 11703 and the subsequent  
6           pages.

7   **A. Yes, I have those.**

8   Q. Yes, you have those. This is -- if we can just scan  
9           down through that, this seems to be the test summary on  
10           the first page and then this seems to be the tests that  
11           you had to do. Does that -- you talked about diagrams  
12           and things, HIA354. If we just scroll right on down,  
13           this seems to be --

14   **A. I see diagrams. They are further over.**

15   Q. This seems to be the test you were asked to do. Then we  
16           see -- if we can just pause there, we see a letter from  
17           Tyrone County Welfare to the Minister of Home Affairs  
18           seeking approval for your nomination for migration.  
19           That can be found at AUS11259.

20   **A. 112...**

21   Q. This is dated 1st August 1950. Have you found, that  
22           HIA354?

23   **A. No, I haven't. I can't find 112. I don't have 112.**

24   Q. 11259. In any event I will read it out, HIA354.

25   **A. Yes. That's right, yes.**

1 Q. It says:

2 "Dear Mr Shanks".

3 who is in the Ministry of Home Affairs in Stormont  
4 in Belfast:

5 "Re HIA354, born ...", and his date,

6 "This boy is in our care on account of being  
7 an orphan. We have been considering whether he should  
8 be nominated for the migration scheme to Australia  
9 conducted under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church.  
10 The Presbyterian minister related to HIA354's family is  
11 in agreement this might be an opportunity for the boy.  
12 I wonder if you would give me some indication as to  
13 whether the Ministry would approve this boy for the  
14 migration scheme. You will find enclosed a circular  
15 about the scheme, also a letter from Mr Andrew Boag.  
16 Would you kindly return both to me when finished."

17 That is signed by Victor Jones, the County Welfare  
18 Officer.

19 We see a memo on the next page, which is 11260, if  
20 we just scroll down.

21 **A. Yes. I found that now.**

22 Q. This is a memo, an internal memo signed by Mr Shanks  
23 from the Ministry of Home Affairs. It says:

24 "Please see the attached letter from Tyrone County  
25 Welfare Committee asking if the Ministry would approve

1 arrangements for the emigration of this boy."

2 Then he talks about the legislation that is relevant  
3 to it.

4 "The scheme under which the proposed emigration  
5 would take place is administered by the Presbyterian  
6 Church in Australia. The boy's prospects would probably  
7 be brighter if he were allowed to emigrate under this  
8 scheme than if he were to remain at home. The proviso  
9 debars the Minister from authorising the emigration of a  
10 child unless he is satisfied that the child consents, or  
11 being too young to formally express an opinion on the  
12 matter is to emigrate in company with a parent, guardian  
13 or relative, or is to emigrate for the purpose of  
14 joining a parent, guardian, relative or friend.

15 A child of 8 years is obviously too young to form or  
16 express a proper opinion on the advantages or  
17 disadvantages of emigration. In the circumstances the  
18 section would appear to debar any prospect of emigration  
19 in this case for the present.

20 A representative of the Dhurringile training farm  
21 has recently approached the welfare authorities in  
22 Northern Ireland, having previously ascertained that no  
23 objection to this course would be raised by the  
24 Ministry, to inform them of the facilities for  
25 emigration which they could offer in the case of

1 suitable boys. It is possible that other requests for  
2 information may be received from welfare authorities",

3 and it goes on:

4 "Whilst it is difficult to say at what age any  
5 particular child may reach the stage of mental  
6 development at which he is capable of forming a proper  
7 judgment on such a question, it is unlikely that such  
8 a stage would be reached before the age of 12 years at  
9 the earliest. I think, therefore, that unless the  
10 conditions laid down in paragraph 111(5) are satisfied,  
11 we should not agree to the emigration of any child under  
12 that age."

13 So from that letter, HIA354, we are seeing that the  
14 Ministry of Home Affairs are asked for consent -- for  
15 their consent to approve your emigration at the age of  
16 eight and they are saying really eight is too young.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. 12 is the age at which any child would be capable of  
19 forming consent.

20 Then if we look at 116... -- sorry -- 11264, if that  
21 can be enlarged, you will see that Mr Shanks then  
22 actually puts that in writing back to Mr Jones on 19th  
23 August and says:

24 "I am sorry that I have not been able to reply to  
25 your letter of 1st August sooner about the proposal that

1 HIA354 should be allowed to emigrate to Australia. The  
2 position of orphan children who are too young to be able  
3 to form a proper opinion as to the advantages and  
4 disadvantages is one which has given some concern to the  
5 Ministry. Where, however, it is obviously in the  
6 interests of any child that he should be allowed to  
7 emigrate and satisfactory arrangements can be made for  
8 safeguarding the child's interests, the Ministry will  
9 not raise any objection to his emigrating under a scheme  
10 conducted by a reputable organisation."

11 Now although it doesn't specifically say in that  
12 that the Ministry will give approval, that letter  
13 appears to have given a green light for further steps to  
14 have been taken by Tyrone County Welfare Council in  
15 respect of you, HIA354, because that's -- in fact, they  
16 were -- there were some contacts being -- there were  
17 still contacts -- there was a letter from Reverend Boag  
18 to Tyrone County Welfare we see on 5th August 1950 if we  
19 look at 11701.

20 CHAIRMAN: I think for the 11260 it is clear that the advice  
21 of the Minister was that no child under the age of 12  
22 should be permitted to go. The Minister overruled that.  
23 That's clear from the handwritten note.

24 MS SMITH: From the memo. From the memo and -- sorry -- at  
25 the bottom of the page?

1 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

2 MS SMITH: Yes.

3 "In respect of ..."

4 It is quite hard to make that out. Oh, sorry. The  
5 memo -- I didn't scroll on down. Yes.

6 CHAIRMAN: It reads:

7 "ASC spoke to the Minister about this yesterday  
8 afternoon. The Minister agrees generally as it would  
9 probably be in the interests of the child."

10 I can't read the next word.

11 "If he could emigrate within a scheme sponsored by  
12 a responsible body such as the Presbyterian Church, he  
13 would be prepared to approve if a responsible officer or  
14 agent of the managing body of the farm could assume  
15 guardianship of the child or other reasonable  
16 arrangements made for travel and subsequent care."

17 MS SMITH: Sorry. I had not scrolled down to that,  
18 Chairman. You are quite right.

19 HIA354, I hope the document you have has  
20 a handwritten note at the bottom of it. That's 117 --  
21 sorry -- 11260 -- 64. 11264. If we could just look  
22 back to that. I read out the memo, but do you see  
23 there's a handwritten note at the bottom of that?

24 **A. 264?**

25 Q. 260. 11260. Sorry.

1 **A. Oh, this one. Yes, yes. We have got -- I have got it**  
2 **enlarged here too, which you can probably do as well.**

3 Q. So there is -- the handwritten version is Mr Shanks has  
4 obviously spoken to the Minister and the Minister has  
5 told him, "Well, yes, this -- in the interests of this  
6 child as long as it's a properly arranged scheme through  
7 the Presbyterian Church then I think it is okay for him  
8 to go".

9 Then we saw the next letter which came back to  
10 Tyrone County Welfare which basically says -- giving the  
11 imprimatur and the green light for your emigration to be  
12 organised.

13 **A. Yes, I see that.**

14 Q. Now I was just going on to say at 11701 on 5th August,  
15 1950 -- so we have the formal wheels are being put in  
16 motion, as it were, and then there are also  
17 correspondence in the background. This is again  
18 a letter to Mr Jones of Tyrone County Welfare from the  
19 Reverend Boag, where he contacts him and says:

20 "I wonder how you are progressing with the  
21 nomination forms in respect -- respecting HIA354. I am  
22 anxious to give you -- to get the completed forms to  
23 Australia House as soon as possible. I am sorry I  
24 appear to be rushing you, but I am sure you will  
25 understand. If -- if he -- if there is to be some

1 further delay, I wonder if you would let me know and  
2 I can possibly arrange to have the lad" -- I can't make  
3 that word out -- "and medically examined by Australia  
4 House while we are waiting for the forms."

5 So Mr Boeing is writing to Tyrone County Welfare.  
6 He's obviously trying to finalise the group of boys he's  
7 going to take out with him and he's trying to hurry them  
8 along to get your forms.

9 Then there's a reply of 8th August 1950, if we could  
10 just scroll down. No. Sorry. It is not that next  
11 page. I am sorry. I don't have the reference, but they  
12 basically say that your IQ test has come back and that  
13 you received a very good score on it.

14 Then on -- at 11698 on 22nd August 1950 we see  
15 here -- I think this is maybe another letter. It is  
16 dated -- to Mr Boag. It is dated 22nd August. It says:

17 "Dear Mr Boag,

18 HIA354 has now been medically examined and we have  
19 obtained approval from the Ministry of Home Affairs for  
20 his application. He has also been mentally tested  
21 and has an IQ rating of 92. In order to complete  
22 [a particular form] I must now have the official  
23 approval of Tyrone County Welfare Committee, for only  
24 this Committee by resolution can assume financial  
25 liability.

1           Yours sincerely."

2           So the Welfare Officer has taken all the steps that  
3 he can to progress your emigration.

4           He then writes to the Reverend Boag and says he's  
5 going to put it before Tyrone County Welfare, and on --  
6 there's a response from the Reverend Boag, which if we  
7 scroll back up, please, it is 11697, and this is the --  
8 this is from the Reverend Boag to the County Welfare  
9 Officer and it is received on 25th August, having been  
10 written the day previously:

11           "Yours of August 22nd to hand. I note that you have  
12 the papers re HIA354 completed with the exception of C  
13 and that you have secured all necessary consents. We as  
14 the approved voluntary organisation in the United  
15 Kingdom complete section C ..."

16           Now I am going to pause there, HIA354, and I am  
17 going to address the Inquiry Panel about this, because  
18 it is clear from other documentation that we have seen  
19 that section C has been completed in many cases by  
20 voluntary organisations who arrange the passage of  
21 children, and it is in section C where we see the  
22 consent having been written by Mother Superiors --  
23 sorry -- Mother Superiors having given their consent in  
24 lieu of the parents in section C.

25           It goes on:

1            "... and are held responsible for the return of  
2            financial assistance granted in respect of an assisted  
3            passage if the boy returns within the period of two  
4            years."

5            So essentially this voluntary organisation, the  
6            Presbyterian Society, was given financial assistance to  
7            take you out to Australia, but they would have to pay  
8            that back if you came back within two years of going  
9            there.

10    **A. Yes.**

11    Q. "If your Welfare Committee has approved the boy's  
12            application, I would be glad if you could let me have  
13            his papers at the earliest possible moment as I hope to  
14            be in London next week and am presenting all nomination  
15            papers then."

16            He then says which papers are required.

17            Then if we look, scrolling back up, in reverse order  
18            to 11696, there's a letter from the County Welfare  
19            Officer to Australia House including the documentation  
20            that was sought.

21            Then at 11694 -- just scroll up further, please --  
22            this is a letter from the Reverend Boag and again it is  
23            to Mr Jones. It is dated September 4th:

24            "Many thanks for forwarding the papers relating to  
25            the nomination of HIA354 to Australia House and for

1           doing so promptly. You may expect to hear from  
2           Australia House shortly re medical examination and  
3           I hope that it will not be long before arrangements will  
4           be made for my first party to sail.

5           If you should have any more boys for migration to  
6           Australia, will be please communicate direct with the  
7           Reverend Martin, Presbyterian Church House, Belfast.  
8           [He] has agreed to act as our representative in Northern  
9           Ireland.

10          From time to time we will be communicating with you  
11          direct from Australia and will keep you in touch with  
12          the progress of our farm school and also of the progress  
13          of HIA354."

14          It gives the address of Dhurringile in Australia.

15          "Many thanks for your interest and cooperation. It  
16          may be necessary for me to write to you again before I  
17          sail, but, if not, I hope we may have your cooperation  
18          in the future and that we may have many boys sent to us  
19          from your local authority."

20          So the Reverend Boag is thanking Mr Jones for doing  
21          all that has been required of him and also seeking more  
22          children for this scheme in Australia. It is clear from  
23          that that you were to be one of the first boys to sail  
24          and go to Dhurringile. That is, in fact, what happened,  
25          HIA354. You were one of the first boys in that home.

1           Isn't that correct?

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

3       Q. Now if we look, scrolling back up again in reverse  
4           order, to 11693, this is a report card again about you  
5           and it says:

6           "As instructed I called at County Welfare -- as  
7           instructed by County Welfare Officer, I called with  
8           Mr [REDACTED], [REDACTED] this morning and  
9           explained that we proposed sending this boy to Australia  
10          under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church as we felt  
11          he would have more opportunity there than in this  
12          country. I also informed him there was little hope of  
13          the three children being united in a family group owing  
14          to their health condition.

15          Mr [REDACTED] is quite agreeable to our suggestion  
16          and I told him Reverend Boyd Moore was also satisfied  
17          that all this was being done in the best interests of  
18          the boy.

19          I promised to advise Mr [REDACTED] if HIA354 was  
20          finally selected."

21          It is not clear who Mr [REDACTED] was. It is signed  
22          by Madeleine McFadden, who was the Children's Welfare  
23          Officer, and it may have been Mr [REDACTED] was a  
24          schoolteacher or the headmaster of the school in which  
25          you were situated, but that is pure speculation on my

1 part, HIA354.

2 We then see there is a summary of your medical which  
3 you underwent. That can be found at 11420. It is dated  
4 13th September 1950. Just scroll down that. That's the  
5 medical, which basically shows you are in good health  
6 and you've a bit of your mother's history.

7 Then if we go to 11270, there is another minute of  
8 the Tyrone County Welfare Committee and it relates --  
9 you will see there that the subcommittee -- were  
10 submitted for approval, but further down when it comes  
11 to (d), it says here:

12 "That final approval ..."

13 This is a recommendation, formal recommendation to  
14 the Tyrone County Welfare Committee:

15 "That final approval be given to the inclusion of  
16 HIA354 in the migration scheme organised by the  
17 Presbyterian Church of Victoria and that authority be  
18 granted to his departure to the Dhurringile Rural  
19 Training Farm for migrant orphan and homeless boys  
20 subject to being accepted under the ..."

21 I can't -- unfortunately that line has been  
22 redacted. What we see here is the County Welfare  
23 Officer making his formal recommendation to the Welfare  
24 Committee, who have to sign off on you being allowed to  
25 leave for Australia.

1           We -- if we look at 11686, you see this is a letter  
2           from Australia House and it's to Tyrone County Welfare  
3           Committee:

4           "Further to my letter ..."

5           It is dated 21st September 1950:

6           "Further to my letter of 5th September having  
7           reference to HIA354, care of Tyrone County Welfare  
8           Committee, who is being considered for settlement at the  
9           Dhurringile Rural Training Farm, I have to advise that  
10          arrangements have now been made for him to be seen by an  
11          Australian selection officer.

12          Mr J Hill will be interviewing prospective migrants  
13          at the Employment Exchange, Dublin Road in Omagh on  
14          Thursday, 5th October and it will be appreciated if you  
15          can make arrangements for HIA354 to be taken along to  
16          see Mr Hill ..."

17          So it would appear that Australia House, having  
18          received all the formal documentation, then set up  
19          an interview with you. Do you remember being taken to  
20          Omagh to speak to somebody, HIA354?

21       **A. I do remember speaking to someone, but I don't know**  
22       **where it was.**

23       Q. Then just scrolling backwards, as it were, to 11685, and  
24       this is a -- this is a confirmation from the Ministry of  
25       Labour and National Insurance at Stormont of that

1 appointment with Mr Hill:

2 "In connection with your application for free  
3 passage to Australia, would you please attend the local  
4 office of this Ministry in Dublin Road, Omagh for  
5 interview with Mr Hill, a representative of the  
6 Australian government."

7 This is probably a pro forma letter, because  
8 there's -- it would apply to adult migrants normally.  
9 The next line has been scored out:

10 "No travelling or other expenses are allowable in  
11 connection with this interview."

12 Then if we go to the preceding page, 11684, and this  
13 is again a case report and it says:

14 "HIA354 was today interviewed by Mr Hill,  
15 representative of the Australian government. The boy  
16 was very shy. I would -- and he would not talk freely.

17 Subsequently the Child Welfare Officer learned that  
18 HIA354 had been accepted for migration."

19 So you were interviewed and on 5th October it would  
20 appear that the formalities have all been complied with.

21 Then if we look at 11658, this is the official  
22 railway warrant for you, your travel permit, as it were:

23 "Dear sir,

24 With reference to the party of children proceeding  
25 under the sponsorship of Dhurringile Rural Training Farm

1           organisation, sailing on the MV Cheshire from Liverpool  
2           on or about 7th November 1950, I have pleasure in  
3           enclosing herewith a railway warrant number 13043 for  
4           the undermentioned child",  
5           and your name is given.

6           "A document of identity in lieu of a passport for  
7           the above-named child will be handed to the Reverend  
8           Boag, who is the senior escort to this party.

9           Yours faithfully."

10          That would seem to be the final piece of the  
11          formalities that were necessary for you to sail on the  
12          MV Cheshire from Liverpool in 1950.

13          Now we know from the documentation -- and I think we  
14          looked at this earlier -- that you at this time, HIA354,  
15          were happily settled with the family to whom you had  
16          been boarded out. We see that at 11720. I think we  
17          looked at this document before, and the last line of  
18          that read:

19          "I believe he will settle down and feel happy in the  
20          present environment."

21          You do remember being with that family before you  
22          went to Australia?

23         **A. Yes, yes.**

24         Q. And you were very --

25         **A. Very clearly, yes.**

1 Q. And you were very happy there and you got on with their  
2 children?

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

4 Q. And we note --

5 **A. -- and I have --**

6 Q. Sorry, HIA354. I didn't mean to interrupt you.

7 **A. I have been in contact with this particular family all**  
8 **my life since I left Ireland. The original parents have**  
9 **passed away but one daughter is still alive.**

10 Q. And you are still in contact with her?

11 **A. Yes, yes.**

12 Q. And we know what happened then is that you were removed  
13 from these foster parents pending your emigration, and  
14 we know that from a document we see at 11654. This is  
15 another report card and we see that it is dated 1st  
16 November 1950, which is shortly before your emigration,  
17 and it says:

18 "At the request of the Children's Officer I visited  
19 ... this morning and selected clothing and other  
20 articles belonging to the boarded out child, HIA354.  
21 These have been left at Greenfield for conveyance to  
22 Coneywarren tomorrow.

23 There was an air of depression and deep resentment  
24 in the home at the removal of the boy and all I could  
25 say was that the decision to send the boy abroad was

1 taken after long and most careful consideration.

2 The decision would prove to be the right one while  
3 the opportunity from the point of view of the boy's  
4 future was too good to be overlooked."

5 So it is clear your foster parents were deeply  
6 unhappy about the fact you were removed from their care  
7 to be taken to Australia.

8 If we then look at another document -- sorry. Just  
9 bear with me. Yes. If we look at -- sorry. If I can  
10 just look, first of all, at 11740, this is was  
11 a document when you were placed with the home in June of  
12 1950. This was a report on the foster home that was  
13 prepared before you went there. If we could just scroll  
14 down that, there are various details given. Right down  
15 at the bottom it says -- sorry. Yes. Go on down to the  
16 next page. If you see the bit at paragraphs 24 and 25  
17 there:

18 "Is it intended to apply for an adoption order? No.

19 Have they ever applied for a child before? If so,  
20 give details."

21 Now it would appear you were being placed with these  
22 foster parents in June of 1950 and certainly at that  
23 time there were no plans for them to adopt you.

24 "Application to secure for adoption but no reply was  
25 received."

1 I think that seems to relate to some previous  
2 application that your foster parents may have made for  
3 someone else, but what we do see then at 11651, which is  
4 a -- another report card and it is dated 3rd  
5 November 1950, your foster father called at Tyrone  
6 County Welfare Committee:

7 "... and asked if arrangements for the adoption of  
8 HIA354 could be arranged."

9 So on 3rd November, a few days before you are  
10 emigrated, your foster family are seeking to adopt you.

11 "Mr Greer, Presbyterian minister, and Mr ... were to  
12 visit County Office and talk the matter over with the  
13 Child Welfare Officer.

14 I have been requested by your foster father to call  
15 at his house today but I prefer to wait until the matter  
16 blows over."

17 So it would appear that your migration scheme --  
18 your arrangements for your migration have progressed to  
19 advanced level by the time that your foster family are  
20 seeking to adopt you and the Welfare Officer of told of  
21 that on 3rd November. Then the comment that is made  
22 there is, "Well, I don't want to go out and talk to the  
23 foster family. I prefer to wait this until this matter  
24 blows over". Now one might wonder what exactly was  
25 meant by that, but it seems to suggest they were going

1 to go ahead with the emigration in any event.

2 If we look at 11654 -- sorry. We have looked at  
3 that. That was then -- I have already looked at that.  
4 That's where the decision had clearly been taken and  
5 they took the documentation from you.

6 We have looked -- there is a letter then at -- I am  
7 not going to call this up -- but there is a letter in  
8 the documentation at AUS11677, which is a letter from  
9 the Orient Line about the passage on MV Cheshire, which  
10 was obviously sent to Tyrone County Welfare, and  
11 AUS11679 is a letter again from the Reverend Boag to  
12 Tyrone County Welfare about the arrangements for your  
13 trip. You will see:

14 "By letter from Australia House this morning I have  
15 been advised that HIA354 has been finally approved as  
16 migrant under our Dhurringile Rural Training School  
17 scheme.

18 By post also this morning I received my own sailing  
19 ticket and labels from the Orient Shipping Line. You  
20 will receive tickets and labels for this lad in due  
21 course."

22 We know they did:

23 "The sailing date is November 7th. The ship is the  
24 MV Cheshire and the port of departure is Liverpool.

25 There will be a party of boys travelling with me.

1 Some of them are coming from the Manor House home,  
2 Lisburn and I have made arrangements for them to be  
3 escorted by either the Reverend Martin of Belfast or the  
4 matron of Manor House Home. HIA354 will travel with  
5 this party, and when final times are known, I will  
6 communicate with you again, and I hope it will be  
7 possible for you to arrange to have the boy join the  
8 rest of the party at Belfast."

9 Now we know from you, HIA354, you did actually go to  
10 Manor House and travel with those boys.

11 **A. Yes, yes. I think I did, yes.**

12 Q. Okay. Now -- sorry. Just where was I? I have lost my  
13 thread here. Sorry. There's a minute of -- there's  
14 a letter from the Tyrone County Welfare Officer to the  
15 Reverend Boag at 11656 and it is:

16 "Dear Mr Boag,

17 This will serve to introduce HIA354 to you and also  
18 I wish to enclose a few papers which are better left in  
19 your care."

20 Included in that was a letter from solicitors  
21 indicating you were, in fact, a beneficiary under your  
22 mother's will:

23 "You might keep this on file and when he becomes of  
24 age, he should be advised to collect it.

25 We have had him medically examined yesterday", which

1 would have been 5th November, "to check up and he is in  
2 the pink of condition.

3 I want to take this opportunity to thank you on  
4 behalf of my committee for the splendid opportunity you  
5 are providing for this boy. We hope that he turns out  
6 as we expect and that he will become well-established in  
7 his new life. We also wish you success in your  
8 excellent efforts on behalf of such boys."

9 There's a minute of Tyrone County Welfare Office  
10 dated 20th November which shows that they paid for your  
11 outfitting for the clothing that you took to Australia  
12 that you tried to exchange for the box of Turkish  
13 Delight and that you were provided with some pocket  
14 money.

15 Then you have now gone. I am going to come back to  
16 the involvement of Tyrone County Welfare later --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- but I am at this stage going to refer to some  
19 documentation that I know you don't have, HIA354, but  
20 I spoke to you about this morning. This relates to what  
21 then happened with regard to your brother **AU 98**

22 At 11754 --

23 CHAIRMAN: I think we might just indicate why we weren't  
24 able to give him this before.

25 MS SMITH: Yes. I did explain that to him this morning,

1 Chairman, that we received this documentation --

2 CHAIRMAN: State publicly -- state publicly why that is the  
3 case.

4 MS SMITH: Yes. Whenever we received documentation in  
5 respect of you HIA354 from the Health & Social Care  
6 Board, HIA354, they indicated that they would search  
7 through for files relating to your brother and sister.  
8 They did find some material, which they forwarded to us  
9 late yesterday afternoon, which we went through and I  
10 have combined this into the complete, overall picture as  
11 to what happened with regard to migration of you and in  
12 respect of the considerations about your brother.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. And there's material here which is of particular  
15 interest to the Inquiry about follow-up with you and  
16 what was being told to the authorities in Northern  
17 Ireland about what was happening in Australia.

18 Now I know we did go over this this morning, but  
19 I am just going to go through it formally. You don't  
20 have the documents. Unfortunately you can't see them.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. So if you bear with me, I will try to read them out so  
23 you can follow.

24 CHAIRMAN: Before we do this I want to say something about  
25 this at this opportunity.

1           It is not satisfactory that documentation of this  
2           sort arrives with the Inquiry the day before the witness  
3           is due to give evidence. One of the difficulties with  
4           which this Inquiry is grappling is that we do everything  
5           we possibly can to inform the witnesses who are going  
6           come to give evidence of the relevant information we  
7           have at the time they make their statement.

8           Unfortunately in the nature of things we often receive  
9           information from government or voluntary bodies long  
10          after that stage, very often days or even hours before  
11          the witness is due to give evidence.

12          This places the Inquiry and the Inquiry counsel in  
13          a considerable difficulty, because they then have to  
14          assimilate the information at short notice, and if there  
15          is material contained in that new information which is  
16          significant, it has to be explained for the first time  
17          to the witness, often on the morning when they come to  
18          give evidence. There have been occasions in the past  
19          where we have had to do this and it has caused  
20          considerable distress.

21          The reason I am saying this today is there are  
22          concerns being ventilated by others, of which the  
23          Inquiry is well aware, that they are being faced with  
24          information at the last minute. That information is  
25          sometimes distressing for them.

1           Now I said that it is in the nature of things that  
2           this sometimes happens. It may not always be avoidable,  
3           but sometimes it is avoidable, and I am taking this  
4           opportunity because this demonstrates in a very clear  
5           way the problems that are created for the Inquiry by the  
6           late delivery of information by those who are asked to  
7           give it to the Inquiry. Sometimes these requests have  
8           been made many months before.

9           Now we have to be realistic and we do realise that  
10          sometimes material is only found at the last minute, but  
11          what I want to underline for the general public -- and  
12          I hope the media will give this the prominence it  
13          deserves in view of recent criticisms that have been  
14          made by some who are not fully familiar with the  
15          processes of the Inquiry -- these are difficulties which  
16          we try and avoid, but they are not of our making.

17          Now I am sorry to have interrupted HIA354 to ram  
18          this point home, but it is something that we are  
19          concerned about and this is as good an opportunity as  
20          any to explain why this problem arises.

21   MS SMYTH: Chairman, can I say first obviously the Health &  
22          Social Care Board observe the comments you have made,  
23          and in this instance the search was conducted as soon as  
24          possible, and we will obviously take on board what you  
25          have said, and we'll try to bring the information to the

1 Inquiry's attention as soon as possible.

2 I do understand that the other person that was  
3 mentioned on this applicant's file, information just  
4 came to our attention today that a file relating to the  
5 other person named has been found, and I'm making  
6 arrangements for that to be sent to the Inquiry today.

7 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Thank you, Ms Smyth. I hope it is clear --  
8 if not, I am happy to make it clear -- my remarks are  
9 not solely directed at your clients. This is a general  
10 problem with which the Inquiry has been faced,  
11 information provided by others often at very late notice  
12 indeed. Sometimes many hundreds of pages arrive hours  
13 before the witness is due to give evidence and these  
14 have to be gone through. The witnesses themselves don't  
15 understand why this is happening and they naturally  
16 criticise the Inquiry. I am happy to take this  
17 opportunity to make it clear I hope to the wider public  
18 and those witnesses who may have to give evidence in the  
19 future, or those who have ventilated their views about  
20 the way they have given evidence in the past understand  
21 why it is that this happens, but I take the point you  
22 make about your clients and we look forward to receiving  
23 any additional information as soon as possible.

24 MS SMITH: Thank you, Chairman.

25 HIA354, the first document which I have pulled up,

1 which I know you can't see, is a letter addressed to the  
2 Reverend Martin, this minister in Belfast, in  
3 Presbyterian Church House in Belfast. It is dated 11th  
4 June 1952. By this stage you had been in Australia  
5 about a year and a half.

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

7 Q. It says:

8 "In November 1950 HIA354, brother of the  
9 above-named", and this is relating to your brother,  
10 "migrated to Australia under the Presbyterian Church  
11 scheme. Your brother has now attained 8 years and it  
12 was always our hope that he would one day join his  
13 brother at Dhurringile Rural Training Farm School.

14 Would you please let us know if it would be possible  
15 to nominate" -- and I think I am going to have to use  
16 your brother's name, because it is going to come up in  
17 this documentation, but again I just reiterate that name  
18 is not to be used outside this chamber, but your brother  
19 was **AU 98** So:

20 "Would you please let us know if it would be  
21 possible to nominate **AU 98** for migration."

22 That's signed by I think Mrs McFadden or it may have  
23 been Mr Jones. I am not too clear on the signature, but  
24 it was from the Tyrone County Welfare Committee in any  
25 event, Child Welfare Officer.

1           Then if we look at 11755, this is the same day, 11th  
2           June 1952, and it is a letter from the County Welfare  
3           Officer, who I think might have been Mr Jones at that  
4           time, and it says:

5           "Dear sir,

6           Re **AU 98**

7           In November 1950 HIA354, brother of the above-named,  
8           migrated to Australia under the Presbyterian Church of  
9           Victoria scheme. It was our intention that when **AU 98**  
10          attained eight years he should, if possible, join his  
11          brother at Dhurringile Training Farm School.

12          We have today written to Reverend Martin re the  
13          possibility of having **AU 98** nominated. It would be  
14          appreciated if you could arrange to have **AU 98** tested  
15          and let us have an IQ certificate for submission to the  
16          Presbyterian Church authorities. We would also like  
17          a report from the child (sic) specialist at St. Columb's  
18          on his health condition."

19          That is to the County Welfare Officer and secretary.  
20          That letter has been written to the Tyrone County  
21          Welfare Committee.

22          So in 1952 in June, a year and a half after you have  
23          gone, it is clear from that that it was the intention of  
24          the Tyrone County Welfare Committee to send **AU 98** out to  
25          meet you if they could do that, and he obviously at this

1 stage has reached the age of eight years of age, which  
2 would have been the age you were sent.

3 Then on the response to that -- there is two  
4 responses. The response of the Reverend Martin is found  
5 at AUS11757. He has written to -- I was right -- it was  
6 Mrs McFadden. It says:

7 "In reply to your letter of June 11 enquiring re the  
8 possibility of **AU 98** joining his brother at Dhurringile  
9 Rural Training Farm, I am expecting a visit from the  
10 Reverend Bell, an Australian Minister who is due here in  
11 a few weeks and is recruiting boys for this farm.  
12 I will bring your request to his notice and I feel  
13 confident that he will be able to arrange a nomination  
14 for **AU 98** "

15 So in June 1952 we are aware that there is  
16 a Reverend Bell from Australia going to be coming to  
17 Britain and he is indeed going to be coming to Belfast  
18 to speak about Dhurringile.

19 There's a letter at 11756 from the Child Welfare  
20 Officer to Mr Martin:

21 "Thank you for your letter of 16th. We look forward  
22 to hearing from you when the Reverend Bell arrives from  
23 Australia.

24 We also have another boy who we are anxious to  
25 nominate for migration."

1           His name is given there. I believe, Chairman, that  
2           this is the file which the Health & Social Care Board  
3           have now managed to locate in respect of this child.

4           "This boy has been in the care of Omagh Board of  
5           Guardians since birth and was duly transferred to the  
6           care of Tyrone County Welfare Committee in  
7           November 1947. The mother is dead and the putative  
8           father not known.

9           If there are any further particulars you require re  
10          these two boys, please let me know."

11          Excuse me.

12          Then if we look at 11758, now this is clear. This  
13          is from the Reverend Boag and it is addressed in  
14          June 1952 to Mr Jones, who we know is the County Welfare  
15          Officer, a man from Australia himself, and it says:

16          "Dear Mr Jones,

17          You will no doubt readily recall that during the  
18          year 1950 when I was home in Britain, I contacted you in  
19          the interests of the above farm school and promised that  
20          when I returned to Australia, I would keep in touch with  
21          you from time to time in the hope that boys might become  
22          available to us from your home.

23          The school is owned and operated by the Presbyterian  
24          Church of Victoria. It is situated about 100 miles from  
25          the city of Melbourne and 12 miles from the city of

1           ██████████ It is designed to accommodate about 100  
2 boys. At present there are 32 in residence, so we can  
3 cater for another 70.

4           We promise these boys a splendid opportunity in  
5 a young, flourishing and fast developing country. They  
6 will be brought from Britain free of cost, given a home  
7 at Dhurringile under ideal conditions and in the care of  
8 trained experts in social service work. They will  
9 receive their education at local state schools, high  
10 schools and technical schools. When they have completed  
11 the ordinary courses of education, they will live on at  
12 Dhurringile and be trained in farming and later placed  
13 with chosen farmers in the state of Victoria.

14           If, however, any boy deserves to enter a trade or  
15 profession, the church will provide him with every  
16 facility to do so and will sponsor him through his  
17 apprenticeship or course. The only limits that will be  
18 placed on boys that come to us will be the limits of  
19 their own capacity and their willingness to work.

20           Dhurringile has 120 acres of splendid land all under  
21 irrigation. Later, and as opportunity affords, this  
22 area will be increased to one square mile.

23           The boys must be orphan or homeless, be healthy in  
24 body, bright and intelligent and of good moral character  
25 and be within the age group of 8-14 years. If you have

1 any such boys in your care and you think they would be  
2 benefitted by migration to Australia, we will be  
3 delighted to hear from you.

4 Our representatives in Britain are the Reverends  
5 Cameron in Edinburgh and Martin in Belfast. The  
6 Reverend A.A. Bell, a minister of the Presbyterian  
7 Church in Victoria, is at present in Britain. He is  
8 a member of our Dhurringile Committee and has power to  
9 act for us. He may be contacted by reference to the  
10 Reverend Cameron at the church offices in Edinburgh."

11 Then there is a handwritten note from the Reverend  
12 Boag that says:

13 "The boys you let me have are doing excellently.  
14 I hope you may (sic) have some more.

15 **A. Boag."**

16 Now on 11766 we see an interesting document. I did  
17 refer this -- I talked to you about this earlier this  
18 morning. Again, HIA354, it is not something you have,  
19 because it comes from your brother's documents. This is  
20 a letter from County Londonderry County Council to the  
21 Welfare Officer at Tyrone County Welfare Office. It  
22 would appear that **AU 98** was fostered to a family who  
23 were living within the county welfare area of  
24 Londonderry. This is dated 9th July. There was  
25 obviously a letter went on 11th June to the Londonderry

1 County Council Welfare Committee, because this reads:

2 "Dear sir,

3 Re **AU 98** boarded out with Mrs ...",

4 and a name is given.

5 "In reply to your letter of 11th June informing us  
6 of your intention to nominate **AU 98** for the Dhurringile  
7 Training Farm School and requesting various  
8 certificates, this question was discussed with the  
9 foster mother, as we took it for granted that you would  
10 have told her of your intention before placing **AU 98**  
11 with her.

12 We are, however, concerned to find that she knew  
13 nothing about it and was extremely upset at the thought  
14 of parting with the child, and stated that if she had  
15 known it was only for a temporary period, she would  
16 never have taken him, as she would have known how hard  
17 it would be to part with him.

18 In our opinion it would prove harmful to the child  
19 to remove him from a house in which he has settled down  
20 so well and now regards as a permanent home,  
21 particularly as he is of gentle, quiet disposition,  
22 unsuited to institutional life.

23 We realise that families should be kept together if  
24 possible, but **AU 98** is at present near his sister, who  
25 cannot go to Dhurringile.

1           We would be interested to know if it is your  
2           intention to continue with this arrangement or if you  
3           would care to have a further discussion with ourselves  
4           or the foster parents. We would be pleased to arrange  
5           it."

6           There is a note that says:

7           "Please speak",

8           a handwritten note on that document.

9           So Londonderry County Welfare Council are  
10          considering it would be harmful for **AU 98** to be  
11          emigrated to Australia, but the matter did not end  
12          there.

13          If we look at 11768, this is a letter -- sorry.  
14          I think it is maybe the -- 169. Sorry. 169. Yes.  
15          This is a letter from the Presbyterian Church in  
16          Victoria to Mrs McFadden:

17          "Thank you for your letter of 8th inst. ..."

18          This is written in July 1952, 18th July. It says:

19          "... a copy of which I have sent to the Chairman of  
20          the committee.

21          I will post under separate cover photographs of  
22          Dhurringile and some of the boys. I might state that  
23          the Reverend A.A. Bell is at present in Britain and has  
24          been authorised by us to visit Ireland and Scotland.

25          Mr Bell has a complete set of photographs and a film

1 strip for projection on a screen. This film strip will  
2 give you a far better idea of the boys and the work than  
3 can be obtained from photographs. Mr Bell knows  
4 Dhurringile and the district extremely well and I am  
5 asking him to get in touch with you.

6 HIA354 is doing very well in every way and seems to  
7 be happy at Dhurringile.

8 All the boys have grown tremendously since coming to  
9 Dhurringile, which, of course, is to be expected, as the  
10 climate is one of the best in this state.

11 We received five boys from Britain this morning and  
12 will be very pleased to have **AU 98** and another boy.

13 Thanking you for your enquiry."

14 So this is the Superintendent of the Presbyterian  
15 Church of Victoria, Department of Social Services,  
16 writing to Tyrone County Welfare, saying they are happy  
17 to take **AU 98** and that's July 18th, 1952.

18 There's a letter of 1st August 1952. If we can look  
19 at that, it is AUS11759. This is a letter from the  
20 Reverend Boag to Mrs McFadden, again the Children's  
21 Officer in Tyrone.

22 "Many thanks for your letter of 11th June.

23 I have asked the Superintendent of Social Services,  
24 the **AU 43**, to arrange for an official report  
25 on HIA354 to be sent to you from his office and have

1 also asked that a photo of HIA354 be included.

2 I herewith send you my own personal report as convener  
3 of Dhurringile.

4 HIA354 holds a place in my affection that is all his  
5 own. I liked him when I saw him and that liking has  
6 grown with time. He is a dear little lad. Everybody  
7 reacts to him in the same way and I feel he will have  
8 a very successful life in Australia. He is happy here  
9 and is doing well at school. We have not said anything  
10 to him about the possibility of his brother coming out  
11 and will not until that possibility becomes a certainty,  
12 but I know how thrilled he will be when he does hear.  
13 He is in perfect health and is a favourite with the  
14 boys. I shall arrange with the superintendent of  
15 Dhurringile to send you a report at stated intervals.

16 I hope that it will be possible for your Committee  
17 to migrate a large number of boys of HIA354's type. You  
18 may rest assured that we will do all in our power for  
19 them if you do."

20 That's a letter on 1st August 1952 from the Reverend  
21 Boag, speaking of you with affection and saying he will  
22 not tell you about **AU 98** coming but knows you will be  
23 happy to know he would be coming. Probably at this  
24 stage, HIA354, if I am right in my understanding of your  
25 account, at this point in time you may well have been

1 happy to have seen your brother?

2 A. I probably was, because back when I was a bit -- that  
3 age, all I wanted to do was have him over with me, but  
4 then I realised it wasn't as I expected it to be.

5 Q. Then if I can go back to the documentation that we have,  
6 despite the reservations of Londonderry County Welfare  
7 Office, there is a minute of 6th August 1952, which can  
8 be found at AUS11288, proposing **AU 98** for emigration.  
9 We just see that -- it's just at 5 there, the top. It  
10 says:

11 "That **AU 98** be proposed for migration to Australia  
12 under the Presbyterian Church of Victoria scheme for  
13 training at Dhurringile."

14 So this minute is reporting the fact that Tyrone  
15 County Welfare are still proposing that **AU 98** be  
16 migrated.

17 There are developments then occur. We see a minute  
18 of 1st September of that year at AUS11291. If we look  
19 at the bottom of that page:

20 "The County Welfare Officer indicated ..."

21 I can't quite make that out because of a reaction on  
22 it. Thank you.

23 "... indicated that at the previous meeting it was  
24 decided to make tentative arrangements for **AU 98** to  
25 rejoin his brother HIA354 at the Dhurringile Farm

1 Training centre in Australia, but that since then by  
2 indirect manner he had learned of rather disquieting  
3 reports concerning the unhappiness of the boys there.  
4 He stated that he had written to the supervisor of the  
5 centre and also to some personal contacts in Australia  
6 and that he awaited replies. In the circumstances it  
7 was agreed to defer further arrangements in regard to  
8 the migration of **AU 98** "

9 Now your brother's file has thrown up more  
10 information about this subject, HIA354, and if we can  
11 look at a letter which was sent from a child called  
12 [REDACTED] to someone called [REDACTED] in Northern Ireland. It  
13 can be found at 11771. Unfortunately we only have part  
14 of the first page of this letter. I don't -- the  
15 redaction -- the designation on that is incorrect,  
16 Chairman. It says:

17 "Dear [REDACTED] "

18 It looks like [REDACTED] " on the original.

19 "To let you know Australia ...",

20 and it goes on. It is quite difficult to make that  
21 part of it out, but if we scroll on down the next  
22 page of it -- oh! I don't know what's happened there.

23 Sorry. The second page.

24 CHAIRMAN: Curious. The first page, do we only have half of  
25 it?

1 MS SMITH: We only have -- that's all we were provided with,  
2 Chairman.

3 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

4 MS SMITH: So it is quite difficult to make out, but you can  
5 see, if one reads through the letter, there are  
6 complaints in it. Just the first line:

7 "... were of Tyrone and he hates it too."

8 It goes on -- the letter goes on -- the child's  
9 letter goes on to ask about people. This would appear  
10 to be the letter that this child has sent home to  
11 Northern Ireland which caused questions to be asked by  
12 Tyrone County Welfare of what exactly the position was  
13 in Dhurringile. We can scroll on down. There is  
14 a third page to the letter. You can see there there is  
15 a complaint in it:

16 "Breakfast is flakes every morning. It is not like  
17 at home, a fry every morning."

18 Then it goes -- so the child is making complaints  
19 about the food and so forth in that.

20 "I have nothing -- something -- nothing more to  
21 say."

22 So that seems to be the --

23 CHAIRMAN: I may have missed this, but do we know to whom  
24 the letter was sent? Is that apparent?

25 MS SMITH: The only person we can ascertain is that it was

1 sent to someone called [REDACTED] That becomes clear from  
2 another piece of documentation that I'm going to call  
3 up, but whether this was a family member back home in  
4 Northern Ireland, or whether it was a social worker or  
5 a former foster parent I can't assist.

6 CHAIRMAN: But in some way or other it was drawn to the  
7 attention --

8 MS SMITH: Indeed.

9 CHAIRMAN: -- of the County Tyrone County Welfare Officer?

10 MS SMITH: He became aware of it.

11 Then what seems to have happened was there was  
12 a two-pronged course of action taken. They wrote  
13 directly to the home in Dhurringile asking for their  
14 comments. They also, as I'll show -- the -- Colonel  
15 Jones has written to a Jack Massey, who was involved  
16 with the Fairbridge scheme and who was a personal friend  
17 of his, to see if he could find out informally what was  
18 going on, and we do have that documentation, Chairman.

19 CHAIRMAN: Yes, I see that.

20 MS SMITH: So the first document is at 11760. Sorry. That  
21 was the -- sorry. Yes. Yes. Sorry. I was just going  
22 back to that. This is this first page. You will see  
23 this is marked -- it came to the attention -- it is  
24 marked -- stamped "7th August 1952" as having been  
25 received in the County Welfare Office. So this letter

1 was received by them, as you rightly point out.

2 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

3 Can I just explain to you, HIA354 -- I am sure Ms  
4 Smith has -- the reason we are going through this in so  
5 much detail is you are the only person -- well, you and  
6 your family members -- whose records we have been able  
7 to find in such tremendous detail. I hesitate to say it  
8 is unique, because we may find something later on, but  
9 so far this is all that we have, and it is revealing  
10 a great deal of the process that was involved probably  
11 not just for you but for many other children, and that  
12 is why we are going through this in so much detail.

13 Yes.

14 MS SMITH: Thank you, Chairman. I did explain that to  
15 HIA354 and I explained that me going through this  
16 documentation was going to take some considerable time.

17 Now, HIA354, can I just check before I go any  
18 further with this are we okay at your end for staying on  
19 in the building? I know there may be a difficulty with  
20 regard to time, but are we allowed to stay on there?  
21 Can you maybe check that?

22 **A. I will just consult the security -- I will just consult**  
23 **the security person here.**

24 COURT OFFICER: Hi! Yes. I am Liz Picking, the Court  
25 Officer here for the Family Court. Yes. We just tried

1 to ascertain that right now to see if we can extend.

2 I am not 100% sure of the outcome as yet, but we should  
3 know in about five, ten minutes.

4 MS SMITH: That's very helpful. Thank you very much. Can  
5 I just say that I anticipate that we are likely to take  
6 about another hour at the most.

7 COURT OFFICER: Yes. I guessed that.

8 MS SMITH: Thank you very much indeed. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN: If necessary, we will explore these procedural  
10 matters without HIA354, because they are matters I am  
11 sure of great interest to him, but they are not really  
12 things he could be expected to know about at the time.

13 MS SMITH: No. That's correct, Chairman, and that's why  
14 I wanted to --

15 CHAIRMAN: We can possibly go just to the end of his history  
16 --

17 MS SMITH: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN: -- if that's forced upon us.

19 MS SMITH: Yes.

20 HIA354, just because we are pressed for time, I am  
21 going to go back to your witness statement, and I will  
22 return to this documentation with the Inquiry Panel  
23 later, but you do know -- I have gone through  
24 essentially the picture that is painted by the  
25 documentation that we have received and you know the

1 story that I will be painting, as it were, for the  
2 Inquiry through that documentation. So are you content  
3 if we return to your own account in your statement?

4 **A. Yes, quite content.**

5 Q. Thank you, and then what we will do when we finish that  
6 part of your evidence, then while we are still have  
7 access to the building in Melbourne, I will go back and  
8 you can hear as much as I can get through before they  
9 chuck you out really.

10 **A. Okay.**

11 Q. Thank you, HIA354.

12 Now just going back to your statement, there is at  
13 page 11248 -- no. Sorry. 450 -- 50 -- 11250. As  
14 I indicated to you, HIA354, we were not able to deal  
15 with what happened to you in Dhurringile, but  
16 I summarised what your care there had been like and the  
17 difficulties that you experienced in that home, and one  
18 of the last things I asked you was about the contact  
19 that you had with your brothers and sisters, and even  
20 from the documentation that I've been pulling up it is  
21 clear that there was still contact between the home and  
22 Tyrone County Welfare about your situation in  
23 Dhurringile.

24 Now you arrived there in 1950 and it was 19... --  
25 you were there basically until 1961. Isn't that right?

1 So you --

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

3 Q. -- were there for eleven years?

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

5 Q. And obviously when you left, you were seeking  
6 information, because we saw the letter that was written  
7 to Mrs McFadden to you (sic) about your family  
8 background and what the records disclosed.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. So she was giving you certain information at that time.

11 Now in paragraph 26 and onwards you talk about after  
12 you had left Dhurringile and what your life was like  
13 from then on. You say that you were in the French  
14 polishing business. So you didn't actually engage in  
15 farm work. You were one of those boys who the Reverend  
16 Boag said had an aptitude for a trade and you were  
17 apprenticed and became a French polisher at that stage?

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

19 Q. Then you were in that firm for eleven years.

20 You go on to talk about being married in 1969,  
21 having two children. Sadly that marriage didn't work  
22 out and you separated. You looked after your children  
23 to begin with, but their mother wanted them back, and  
24 you have a good relationship with your children, and you  
25 have been married to your second wife, [REDACTED] who is

1 with you today I know, for 33 years. Between you you  
2 have seven grandchildren and you enjoy a good  
3 relationship with all of your family.

4 Paragraph 28, you describe how you returned to  
5 Ireland with your wife for the first time for your 50th  
6 birthday in [REDACTED]. You said, as you told us earlier, you  
7 visited Coneywarren. The people you describe there, who  
8 were neighbours I believe of your mother, they took you  
9 to Coneywarren, and as you went in, you could remember  
10 where all the rooms were and you remembered the smell  
11 and you found that a very emotional experience.

12 **A. Yes. [REDACTED] did say -- and I didn't notice at the time**  
13 **-- she said as soon as I went through the doors**  
14 **I started stuttering and I could hardly speak, which**  
15 **I didn't know, but I was quite -- I could remember the**  
16 **smell, which I was quite overcome by really, which**  
17 **surprised me after all that time. That was my reaction**  
18 **to it, yes.**

19 **Q.** So on that trip when you were 50 you visit your sister,  
20 who was ill at that time. She recognised you and your  
21 brother/sister bond was apparent. So despite the  
22 distance -- the physical distance of your separation --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 **Q.** -- having had the contact with her over those years  
25 helped to maintain that bond?

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. You got on well --

3 **A. We're still friends.**

4 Q. You're still friends? You got on well --

5 **A. We were.**

6 Q. -- with your brother as well.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Same sense of humour and mannerisms. Your brother then  
9 came later in 2005 with his wife and his two daughters  
10 out to Australia and stayed with you there. Sadly your  
11 sister passed away in the mid-'90s and your brother then  
12 in 2008, but you are still in contact with your nieces  
13 and nephews and in particular your sister's daughter.  
14 You are aware from that contact with your siblings that  
15 they had good lives with the foster carers with whom  
16 they were placed in Northern Ireland.

17 **A. Yes, yes.**

18 Q. You do remember the person who looked after your sister  
19 writing to you a letter at some point saying that she  
20 would take good care of her and that your sister would  
21 want for nothing?

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

23 Q. You also visited Ireland a second time on 27th May 2014.  
24 These visits were funded by the British Government and  
25 organised by the Child Migrant Trust. You said in the

1 first visit you wanted to see everything in Ireland  
2 and absorb the culture, but on your recent visit you  
3 just wanted to spend time with your family. You visited  
4 cousins, nephews and nieces, and you eventually found  
5 your father's grave in [REDACTED].

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

7 Q. Now in your final paragraph of your statement you say:

8 "I have worked hard all my life and I have kept  
9 active. I do not like to dwell on my past. However,  
10 I feel that a big part of my life is missing. I can't  
11 let these feelings of longing and what might have been  
12 get to me, otherwise I could become bitter and twisted  
13 like a lot of boys from institutions have become. Some  
14 of them turned to alcohol as a form of escape and had  
15 a lots of problems, so I stayed away from them, as  
16 I didn't want to be reminded of my time in care.  
17 I believe being in care changed my personality. On the  
18 ship I was a scared 8-year-old boy who was made to fight  
19 another boy and that wasn't me. I was traumatised by  
20 having to leave my brother and sister",

21 and, as you have said:

22 "I wanted **AU 98** to join me in Dhurringile so I could  
23 be with him, but once I realised what a horrific  
24 experience it was I didn't want him to come so he  
25 wouldn't have to endure it. I have created a good life

1 for myself in Australia, but I have lost out on having  
2 a life with my brother and sister, which I will never  
3 get over."

4 Now, **AU 98** apart from going back to the  
5 documentation and anything that arises in that that  
6 I might ask you about, those are the questions I want to  
7 ask you about your experiences of being a child migrant  
8 both in Northern Ireland and then after, your life in  
9 adulthood.

10 Is there anything that you feel you want to say to  
11 the Inquiry that hasn't been covered by what we have  
12 covered so far?

13 **A. Yes. I cannot actually put my hand on it straightaway,**  
14 **but there is a report here which said -- by the Church**  
15 **of Ireland -- if we were one of their parishioners, we**  
16 **wouldn't be sent to Australia. They would never agree**  
17 **to that, and my mother was Church of Ireland, but**  
18 **I couldn't put my hand on it. It is here somewhere in**  
19 **the last little reports, because I have got about**  
20 **400 pages of report here and I am not quite sure where**  
21 **it could be.**

22 Q. Well, don't worry about that. Don't worry about that,  
23 HIA354 --

24 **A. That's a triviality.**

25 Q. -- because I can assure that if it is in -- if it is one

1 of the documents we have sent out to you by the e-mail,  
2 then we have it here --

3 **A. Yes, yes.**

4 Q. -- and the Inquiry Panel will be able to find it in the  
5 documentation that we have.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. So don't worry about putting your hand on it. So  
8 basically you're saying you were sent out to  
9 a Presbyterian farm school even though you were Church  
10 of Ireland or your mother was?

11 **A. Well, my mother was, so it appears. She is buried**  
12 **Church of Ireland too. I have been to her grave in**  
13 **██████████ Omagh.**

14 Q. So that is one thing that you sort of -- concerns you,  
15 and I know from talking to you this morning that one of  
16 the things that you are upset about is the fact that the  
17 foster family with whom you were happy wanted to adopt  
18 you --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- but still you were taken away to Australia.

21 **A. Yes. That's correct, yes, and now I am older too it**  
22 **looks like they were more and more determined and there**  
23 **was no way I was going get away from their grasp really,**  
24 **if that makes sense. That can be a bit childish really,**  
25 **but it is like once they get their hooks into you that's**

1           **it.**

2       Q.   There was no going back.

3       **A.   No.**

4       Q.   The wheels had been put in motion and you were going.

5       **A.   Yes.   That was it, yes, yes.**

6       Q.   And --

7       **A.   But home --**

8       Q.   Sorry.

9       **A.   I heard that the home we were into -- we went to**  
10           **an Australian Government migration seminar in Canberra,**  
11           **and they said the home Dhurringile, that was**  
12           **deregistered in 1956 they said -- that's what the**  
13           **Australia Government said -- because it had a record of**  
14           **being one of the five worst homes in Australia, which we**  
15           **didn't know at the time.**

16      Q.   No, and you were there until 1961?

17      **A.   Yes, yes.**

18      Q.   Certainly there were reports coming back, as we will  
19           learn later, about your progress in 1956 and 1957.  So  
20           there were reports coming back to Northern Ireland, and  
21           certainly nothing that I have seen in the documentation  
22           suggests that Dhurringile had been deregistered in 1956  
23           or that that --

24      **A.   Yes, yes.**

25      Q.   -- that the authorities here were informed of that,

1 HIA354 --

2 **A. Yes, yes.**

3 Q. -- but you have been told that in Australia?

4 **A. I actually saw that at an exhibition in Canberra, an**  
5 **Australian Migrant Heritage Exhibition, and this is put**  
6 **up by the Australia Government, and they had large**  
7 **posters on the wall with a photograph of the home**  
8 **and all the write-up in the bottom of it, and it went**  
9 **through all the homes too with a bad reputation. Sorry**  
10 **I can't enlighten you more than this.**

11 Q. Don't worry, HIA354. We can look into that and see if  
12 we can get that confirmed, but I am sure that you're --

13 **A. Yes, yes.**

14 Q. -- you've seen it and you're aware of it. There is --

15 **A. Yes. I wouldn't make that up.**

16 Q. No, no. I am not -- I am not suggesting for one minute  
17 that you've made that up, but we'll get some sort of  
18 official confirmation just for our records rather  
19 than anything else.

20 But if I can just ask you one other thing, and I did  
21 mention this to you this morning. This Inquiry has to  
22 make recommendations to the Northern Ireland Executive  
23 about what should happen now in terms of all of the  
24 applicants who have come forward to the Inquiry, and we  
25 know from other people that there's been a redress

1 scheme certainly in Western Australia, although I know  
2 you were in Victoria and I don't think there has been  
3 a redress scheme in Victoria from what I understand, but  
4 there's been a national apology and an apology from the  
5 United Kingdom government, and some -- and certainly in  
6 Fremantle there's a statue marking the fact that a lot  
7 of child migrants arrived in that port.

8 I wondered what your own view is of what should  
9 happen, how what happened to you and the other child  
10 migrants and indeed children who were abused in  
11 institutions -- what you feel is the appropriate course  
12 that governments should take?

13 **A. When I started off this crusade, which was -- I got**  
14 **information from Margaret Humphreys and I got really**  
15 **inspired by her, and following her lines, I was always**  
16 **thinking about the injustice of it all. Now it's a**  
17 **while afterwards now it has sort of changed a bit now**  
18 **from being such a moral attitude to maybe get**  
19 **compensation for myself instead of -- think of myself**  
20 **for a change.**

21 Q. So you feel you ought to be compensated for what  
22 happened to you?

23 **A. I don't know how, but ...**

24 Q. But that's --

25 **A. Yes, yes.**

1 Q. -- what you feel would be the appropriate response?

2 **A. Yes. I don't know what else to say really. I'm just**  
3 **being honest with you. I could make up a lot of**  
4 **highfalutin stories and tell you lies, but that's my gut**  
5 **feeling really --**

6 Q. Thank you.

7 **A. -- to look after myself -- look after myself for**  
8 **a change after ...**

9 Q. Thank you for that, HIA354. I am going to stop now  
10 before I return to the documents and I am going to let  
11 the Panel Members have the opportunity to ask you  
12 anything they may want to ask you at this point.

13 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA354, you will be relieved to hear we  
14 don't have any questions. What we are interested in has  
15 been very extensively explored with you.

16 MS SMITH: HIA354, I am going to return now to open more of  
17 the documentation to the Inquiry Panel. You can sit  
18 there, as I say, until they say it's time for you to  
19 leave the building and listen, and if there is anything  
20 that just occurs to me, I might ask you about it as  
21 we're going through the documents --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- but you can certainly listen. I know these  
24 particular documents relating your brother you don't  
25 have. So I know you'll want to hear a little bit more

1 about it.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. So if we could go back then to -- we had covered the  
4 letter. There's -- yes. I had indicated to the Panel  
5 there was both this informal and formal approach taken  
6 by Tyrone County Welfare to ascertain what was the basis  
7 for this child's letter saying that he was unhappy in  
8 Dhurringile.

9 If we look at 11765, this is a letter of 26th  
10 August 1952 and it is addressed -- it is from the  
11 Reverend Boag in Dhurringile and it is dated, as I say,  
12 26th August. It is to the Welfare Officer in County  
13 Tyrone. This would appear to be the response to their  
14 request for information. This is, Chairman, where I got  
15 the fact the letter was to someone called [REDACTED], because  
16 it says:

17 "Thank you for your letter of 14th inst. with copy  
18 of [REDACTED] letter to [REDACTED]. I am very appreciative of  
19 your courtesy in advising me immediately.

20 I am quite at a loss to understand some of [REDACTED]  
21 assertions, but I feel that you should know some facts.

22 1. Food. I regularly ate porridge when I was a boy  
23 in England but soon found that eating porridge in this  
24 warmer climate made me suffer from pimple and boils.  
25 Hence porridge is not a popular breakfast food here.

1 I still like it, but it does not like me.

2 I have had midday and evening meals with the boys  
3 and eaten the same food and I have never heard the boys  
4 complain of lack of food. I will make full inquiries,  
5 however. A good breakfast is essential.

6 2. Our boys of 17 or 18 years of age choose their  
7 own callings in life and we find accommodation for the  
8 boys in the Christian homes of our church folk. Two of  
9 our seniors boys have been placed and are working in the  
10 town of the [REDACTED].

11 3. All boys at 18 must undergo six months' national  
12 training in one of the services. This is a government  
13 directive and law. All other boys do this, and very few  
14 boys in Australia take up life in any of the services as  
15 a calling.

16 We are training the boys who leave school and do not  
17 choose a trade or profession in farming pursuits. Such  
18 senior boys receive wages plus keep, the two being worth  
19 £5 to £6 per week.

20 4. Our superintendent, who is an elder of the  
21 church, has been intimately known to me for almost  
22 20 years and he sacrificed a lucrative job to take up  
23 this position at a much reduced salary because of his  
24 love for work amongst boys and youth of the country.

25 Visitors to Dhurringile have all stated that this --

1           there is a freedom and family happiness in Dhurringile  
2           which they have not met anywhere else in this state."

3           Now the next document is at 11767 and this is just  
4           to confirm that -- 18th September:

5           "Dear sir,

6           Upon receipt of your letter in August I sent a copy  
7           to the Reverend Boag, Chairman of Dhurringile Rural  
8           Training Farm Committee, who reported at our Committee  
9           meeting yesterday that he had written to you and  
10          explained matters re [REDACTED] letter to [REDACTED], which was  
11          written about four days after he had arrived at  
12          Dhurringile.

13          Mr Boag reported that [REDACTED] has since written under  
14          no duress stating that he has now happily settled in.

15          I believe Mr Boag also explained to you re HIA354 --  
16          HIA354's position.

17          The Committee unanimously agreed that the boys  
18          should be given complete freedom in the writing of  
19          letters to their friends, in other words, that the  
20          present policy be followed."

21          So this, Chairman, seems to suggest that the letter  
22          that -- what they are suggesting is that [REDACTED] has now  
23          settled down. This was just a letter written four days  
24          after he arrived and presumably might be explained by  
25          one of home sickness.

1           So Tyrone County Welfare receive the letter from the  
2 Reverend Boag, this letter from the [REDACTED] AU 43 by  
3 way of formal response to their inquiries about the  
4 situation at Dhurringile.

5           Then if we look at 11763, this is a letter from Jack  
6 Massey to Mr Jones in the Welfare Office on  
7 9th October 1952. He is clearly delighted to hear from  
8 him and there is a lot of personal material in this  
9 letter, but it does say at the second paragraph:

10           "The economic situation in Australia is not good and  
11 so the number of migrants coming has to be drastically  
12 cut, but everyone looks forward to renewal later."

13           Now I presume that is to do with migration in  
14 general, not just child migration.

15           Then in the fourth paragraph it says:

16           "Re Dhurringile Farm School, I have been absent and  
17 so have delayed reply to your inquiry. I know the place  
18 and have been there, but have not first-hand knowledge  
19 of the existing school management. It is in  
20 a delightful part of Victoria and from that point of  
21 view I do not think it could be faulted. I was hoping  
22 I might be able to pay a personal visit, but find this  
23 impossible at present. I have, however, made some  
24 judicious inquiries in various quarters and in the  
25 absence of a personal inspection my impression is that

1 the conditions compare quite favourably with other  
2 similar institutions being run by various churches. My  
3 impression is that it is not so far advanced as some  
4 others, for example, Methodist Church Tally-ho Scheme,  
5 but I know of no reason why a boy should not have  
6 a great opportunity as a result of attending the school.  
7 I will not cease inquiries and if I should have  
8 opportunity of a visit or securing some further valuable  
9 knowledge from reports, I will let you know."

10 The letter continues in -- to deal with other  
11 personal matters.

12 So it would appear, Chairman, this concern that was  
13 raised has been responded to formally by the authorities  
14 running Dhurringile and by Mr Massey to Mr Jones.

15 We then see at AUS11293 there is a minute there.  
16 This is part of the Tyrone County Welfare  
17 Committee minutes, and we see at paragraph 9 it records  
18 the visit by a representative of Dhurringile Training  
19 Farm:

20 "The Chairman extended a welcome to the Reverend and  
21 Mrs Bell, Australian representative of the Dhurringile  
22 Rural Training Farm under the auspices of the  
23 Presbyterian Church of Victoria. Mr Bell gave an  
24 interesting talk on child migration and presented a very  
25 favourable picture of what was being done for boys at

1 the Dhurringile Training School. He asked the committee  
2 to encourage migration of boys of suitable type and  
3 handed round for inspection numerous photographs  
4 indicative of the good work that was being done.  
5 Mr Gallagher moved a resolution of thanks to Mr Bell for  
6 a most enlightening and interesting talk and this was  
7 seconded by Mr O'Reilly and passed."

8 That was dated in 1952 and I think it was November.  
9 You will see there 3rd November 1952 is when the minute  
10 was signed.

11 So by November 1952 any fears or concerns that the  
12 Tyrone County Welfare Committee had about the situation  
13 in Australia certainly as far as Dhurringile is  
14 concerned seem to have been put to bed.

15 One then wonders what happened to the migration of  
16 **AU 98** Well, there are two documents in HIA354's file  
17 actually: AUS11294 -- and I don't think we need to pull  
18 these up -- but it says there is consideration to **AU 98**  
19 going to Switzerland for chest problems. So clearly his  
20 physical health is not that good. Then there is  
21 a letter of -- sorry. There is also a comment that he's  
22 not intellectually capable of being emigrated at that  
23 time.

24 Then at AUS11296, which is dated January 1953, it  
25 records that -- at the bottom there:

1           **AU 98** continues to be in good health. He has been  
2 attending the physiotherapy clinic in Londonderry. His  
3 foster parent is devoted to **AU 98** and as a result of her  
4 care and the influence of his home life **AU 98** has become  
5 much less reserved."

6           Then we see at 11769 this is a letter to the  
7 Children's Officer of the County Londonderry County  
8 Council from the Children's Officer in Tyrone dated  
9 6th March 1953 and it says:

10           "Re **AU 98**

11           You have probably learned from foster parent of the  
12 above-named boy that after seeing **AU 98** in December last  
13 we are of the opinion he is rather backward and would  
14 not be a suitable boy for migration to Australia."

15           Then finally at 11770 there's a letter again from  
16 the County Welfare Officer in March, 14th March 1953 --  
17 sorry -- from Londonderry County Council to Mrs McFadden  
18 saying:

19           "Thank you very much for your letter telling us that  
20 **AU 98** will not be going to Australia. We are very glad  
21 to hear this as the family have become so fond of him.  
22 He is rather backward but has made some progress and his  
23 foster mother handling of him is excellent."

24           So **AU 98** in March 1953 is no longer going to be  
25 migrated and it seems that that is unrelated to the

1 concerns that the Tyrone County Welfare Committee had  
2 about Dhurringile.

3 CHAIRMAN: Yes. There is quite a lot of information that  
4 suggests that unfortunately he may have suffered from  
5 tuberculosis or some other similar chest type  
6 difficulty.

7 MS SMITH: Yes. I think we know -- yes, there were physical  
8 difficulties that probably then caused him to lose -- to  
9 miss out on schooling, and the term "backward" would not  
10 necessarily in 1953 have been pejorative in the sense it  
11 might be perceived today.

12 However, if I then return to what happened --

13 **A. An hour, fifteen minutes.**

14 Q. Yes. I am told, Chairman, that Melbourne has confirmed  
15 that they could facilitate the Inquiry hearing for  
16 another hour, which would take us to 12.30. Hopefully  
17 we can conclude matters so that -- I am actually coming  
18 to an end of the documentary evidence in any event.

19 I want to return to a document -- not return but  
20 move to AUS11309. This is a minute of Tyrone County  
21 Welfare of 1956. That's 11309. This again comes from  
22 HIA354's file. You will see here that there is  
23 a section of the progress reports in respect of the  
24 children for whom the County Council have responsibility  
25 -- the County Welfare Committee. Sorry. You will see

1           there is reference there to **AU 98** being boarded out and  
2           him keeping in good health and attends school. Foster  
3           parent possibly spoils him. Then:

4                 "Emigration to Australia.

5                 We have received a letter from Reverend Martin of  
6           the Presbyterian Church in Ireland with regard to the  
7           recruitment of boys chiefly between the ages of  
8           8-12 years for their rural training farm at Dhurringile  
9           in Victoria.

10                I have informed Mr Martin that we have no boys  
11           suitable, and if we had, I would be most reluctant to  
12           recommend the Committee to nominate them in light of my  
13           experience with HIA354.

14                It has always been our policy to maintain family  
15           links, but I have had the utmost difficulty in obtaining  
16           any information as to HIA354's progress in Australia.  
17           After considerable correspondence I have at last within  
18           a past month received a report and a snapshot from the  
19           superintendent."

20                I am not sure if we can scroll down to the next  
21           page of that minute.

22                "From the report HIA354 appears to be making quite  
23           good process. He is attending technical school and  
24           hopes to become an electrician.

25                HIA354 has saved £14 -- has £14 saved from his

1 pocket money.

2 The present superintendent at Dhurringile assures me  
3 that in future I will receive six-monthly reports on  
4 HIA354's progress.

5 I have passed the information received to HIA354's  
6 brother and sister. The snapshot was greatly  
7 appreciated by the sister."

8 Now if I can pause there, if we look at AUS11435,  
9 this is a letter from Mrs McFadden and it's sent on  
10 7th September 1956. She sets out in that letter the  
11 steps that she has taken to try to find out what is  
12 happening with regards to HIA354 in Australia. She  
13 says:

14 "Dear sir,

15 Under the Presbyterian Church of Victoria scheme one  
16 of our boarded out orphans, HIA354, sailed for Australia  
17 on 6th November. On 5th September 1951 we received from  
18 the Reverend Boag a progress report about HIA354.

19 On 11th June I wrote to the Reverend Boag at -- for  
20 a progress report, but no reply was ever received. In  
21 that letter it was pointed out that there was  
22 a possibility of HIA354's brother, **AU 98** being  
23 nominated. On 8th July '52 I wrote to the **AU 43**  
24 **AU 43** at the same address requesting a progress  
25 report, but that letter too was ignored. On 14th August

1 '52 the County Welfare Officer wrote to the **AU 43**

2 **AU 43** and no reply was received.

3 From time to time members of the Children's  
4 Committee enquire how HIA354 **HIA 354** is getting on, but I can  
5 tell them nothing.

6 Apart from that HIA354 **HIA 354** has a sister, who resides  
7 in **██████████**, and his brother, who resides in County Derry,  
8 and naturally they enquire about him. Indeed his sister  
9 is terribly disappointed at not receiving a letter from  
10 him since March 1956.

11 You will appreciate that as a Welfare Officer I am  
12 most anxious that members of a family should be kept in  
13 touch with each other and I would respectfully ask you  
14 to be good enough to let me have by return a full  
15 progress report and a photograph for his sister."

16 It would appear then that according to the minutes  
17 that that provoked some response in that they did  
18 receive a progress report within the past month, but I  
19 just --

20 CHAIRMAN: It might have been the fact that she threatened  
21 to write to the High Commissioner.

22 MS SMITH: Indeed. I was just about to go on to that. You  
23 will see she did say to them in this letter unless she  
24 heard from them she was going to contact the High  
25 Commissioner. There was a letter sent, in fact,

1 separately at 11436 to that effect. I think actually  
2 that's the second page of that letter that I was  
3 outlining.

4 If we also look at AUS11628, this is the response  
5 that she did receive and it says:

6 "Your letter to the secretary of the Presbyterian  
7 Department of Social Service dated 7th September has  
8 been passed to me.

9 Firstly, I greatly regret that you have received no  
10 replies to letters written in 1952 enquiring about  
11 HIA354's progress. I have only been in office as  
12 superintendent of Dhurringile since 1954, so cannot  
13 explain the reason why no answers were sent. **AU 43**

14 **AU 43** states that he passed the letters to the  
15 previous superintendent to answer. He apparently  
16 neglected to do so."

17 I should pause at this point to say that HIA354 in  
18 his statement, Chairman, you will be aware makes  
19 a complaint about the previous superintendent and what  
20 he suffered at his hands in his statement.

21 "I will make six monthly reports on all our boys for  
22 our own Welfare Department and send copies to the  
23 respective organisations overseas. I will in future  
24 send copies to you regarding HIA354. If ever you have  
25 any inquiries, it would be better and quicker to write

1 to me direct at Dhurringile.

2 HIA354 has written to his sister and I am enclosing  
3 a photograph which can be passed on to her. It was  
4 taken about six months ago and is a very good likeness."

5 He then describes HIA354 and says that you are  
6 rather short-sighted.

7 "He had two accidents since I have been here. He  
8 suffered concussion one time. Early last year he fell  
9 from a second storey window while sleepwalking and  
10 fractured his pelvis. Apart from this he has no illness  
11 of any consequence and he has also got over his  
12 sleepwalking and now sleeps very soundly. Missed  
13 a great deal of school last year as a result of the  
14 accident but made wonderful progress since. In the  
15 final exams last year he came 57th out of 130 and this  
16 year, which is his second at technical school, he is  
17 doing even better. It is HIA354's ambition to be an  
18 electrician if he gains his junior technical certificate  
19 at the end of next year and I don't anticipate him  
20 having any problem -- trouble doing this. He will start  
21 on a five-year apprenticeship in January 1958.

22 HIA354 is a very popular boy both with the staff and  
23 the other boys. He is never the least trouble and  
24 appears to be very well adjusted to his life out here.  
25 He is not particularly good at sport but is a keen

1       trier. He is very fond of reading and is a keen stamp  
2       collector. He is very handy with his hands too, making  
3       all sorts of mechanical gadgets, and he has saved £14  
4       pocket money and is always keen to put more into his  
5       bank.

6             Is HIA354's Brother still interested in migrating?  
7       If he is or you have any other boys in your charge who  
8       might benefit from this opportunity, you will be  
9       interested in our latest brochure, which I am sending  
10      under a separate cover.

11            With every good wish to you in your work."

12            We do have the -- it says:

13            "PS. HIA354 is also a piper in our pipe band."

14            We also have that brochure in the bundle, Chairman.  
15      I can check the actual page references, but it is there.

16            So it is clear then that the threat, as you say, to  
17      the High Commissioner, Chairman, has had the desired  
18      response and there is this very fulsome account of what  
19      has happened in HIA354's life from 1952 on.

20            I should say the brochure, which is called "Giving  
21      Migrant Boys A New Opportunity", can be found at  
22      AUS11424 and the pages after that.

23            That report of HIA354's progress was received on  
24      7th July 1957, almost seven years after his emigration.

25            At AUS11326 we then see that in February 1958 at the

1 top of that it says:

2 "In February I received a letter from the  
3 superintendent" -- I think this would be **AU 43** -- "in  
4 respect of HIA354 who emigrated in 1950",  
5 and the letter is quoted there.

6 "I have some rather bad news concerning HIA354 and I  
7 thought it best if I wrote to you so you could pass it  
8 on to his brother and sister. HIA354 has contracted TB  
9 of the spine and will be in hospital for at least one  
10 year and perhaps two. Unfortunately it is in the early  
11 stages -- fortunately it is in the early stages and  
12 there is no doubt about an eventual cure, but it will  
13 mean complete rest of the affected part. To ensure that  
14 his back is immobilised he has a special plaster cast.  
15 It is a blow to HIA354, but he has really taken it very  
16 well and sensibly. I will include a general report in  
17 this letter."

18 Then it talks about him completing third year  
19 technical school and about his marks and about his bank  
20 balance and again about him being a very popular boy,  
21 keen on sport.

22 "I can assure you HIA354 is getting the very best  
23 attention and I will see that he has regular visitors,  
24 as this will mean a great deal to him. Letters too  
25 would be -- will be a great help. Perhaps his brother

1 and sister could send him photographs of themselves."

2 The brother and sister were advised of his illness  
3 and they promised to write more often and send  
4 photographs.

5 On AUS11434 there is a letter from the local  
6 Presbyterian minister here writing on behalf of his  
7 brother **AU 98** asking for information about HIA354's  
8 condition.

9 Then at 11329 there's an updated report about his  
10 progress to the Tyrone County Welfare Committee. That's  
11 in August 1958.

12 "Although he is getting very tired of being  
13 inactive, he always looks on the bright side of things.  
14 He has a happy, bright disposition, which has helped him  
15 no end, and he was allowed to attend the Dhurringile Old  
16 Boys' Reunion on a stretcher, which was a good break for  
17 him."

18 Then on 11334, March 1959, there is an update at  
19 which it is said that:

20 "He is expected to make a complete recovery but  
21 an operation will be necessary early this year",

22 and the outlook is very good."

23 Then a further update is at 11338. Again he is  
24 still in hospital and progressing slowly.

25 Then on 11341, January 1960, there is a lengthy

1 report here. At the bottom of that progress report,  
2 HIA354:

3 "On 26 January a progress report was received from  
4 the superintendent in respect of HIA354 who emigrated in  
5 1950.

6 You will be pleased to know that HIA354 is back home  
7 at the above and has been for the past fortnight. ...  
8 very well indeed but has to refrain from playing  
9 football, tennis and cricket. He is allowed to swim but  
10 has to be careful not to catch cold. Whilst in hospital  
11 where he was so popular and well liked, he took it upon  
12 himself a hobby of making reading lamps and also TV  
13 lamps. He made quite a few and, my word, they are  
14 wonderfully made and so neat.

15 I have HIA354 doing jobs in the home and nothing is  
16 too much trouble."

17 Then there's a final report on AUS11354 and again  
18 there's some discussion of HIA354 having got into a spot  
19 of bother with the police, but that really was the end  
20 of that, and from then on his behaviour had been fine.

21 Then the final report in 1963 is at 11359. You will  
22 see here at the bottom that this --

23 "On 6th May a final progress report was received in  
24 respect of HIA354.

25 Appears a complete recovery has been gained from his

1 past illness. Now tall, well-built and very athletic."

2 Scroll on down, please. It sets out his employment  
3 record, which is:

4 "Excellent. He is a model apprentice in French  
5 polishing. Extremely highly thought of by his employer.

6 His future prospects look bright."

7 That's the last report that is sent on HIA354 from  
8 Australia to the Tyrone County Welfare Committee.

9 I think, Chairman, I have managed to get concluded  
10 in under the hour that we asked for extra time.

11 **A. (Witness claps.)**

12 Q. Thank you, HIA354I don't have any further questions, and  
13 unless there is anything that arose in the material I  
14 have outlined, Chairman ... As you have indicated, the  
15 purpose of going through that in such detail was to give  
16 an indication of how the system of child migration  
17 certainly operated in HIA354's case and how it might  
18 have been expected to operate in the situation of all of  
19 those other child migrants who were sent to Australia.

20 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Ms Smith.

21 Well, HIA354, thank you for coming to speak to us.  
22 I know it is getting very late now where you are, but  
23 we -- I have already explained why we went through this  
24 in so much detail. I hope at least now you will  
25 understand that when you were in Australia, there were

1 a lot of people back home in County Tyrone who were very  
2 anxious to be kept informed about your progress and  
3 wanted to know how you were doing and were thinking of  
4 you. So, unlike many others sadly who we have heard  
5 about and who I think we will hear about, they were  
6 doing their level best to keep in touch with you and  
7 that no doubt helped you to pick up with your family  
8 later on when you came back to Ireland.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. Just similarly I see your experiences about boxing on  
11 the boat don't seem to have put you off in later years.

12 **A. It was pretty horrendous back then, though. "Traumatic"**  
13 **is probably the word.**

14 Q. Yes. Well, thank you both, both yourself and your wife,  
15 for coming and also the staff there, who have been so  
16 helpful to us today. I think that completes it as far  
17 as we are concerned. Thank you very much indeed.

18 **A. Yes. Will I be allowed to thank Margaret Humphreys for**  
19 **all the efforts she has put into this Inquiry --**

20 CHAIRMAN: Of course you can.

21 **A. -- and Annette from the Child Migrant Trust?**

22 MS SMITH: I know Annette is with you there, HIA354.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. Certainly you should know everything you have said has  
25 been recorded --



1 and gentlemen. I am going to read another series of  
2 witness statements, the first of which is that of  
3 HIA312. His statement can be found at AUS10623. There  
4 is a suite of documents relating to this applicant,  
5 which can be found in the bundle at 10633 to 10658, and  
6 I'm going to show you two documents before I go through  
7 his witness statement.

8 The first of these is AUS10638. You will see that  
9 this is the child migration form in relation to this  
10 person, and if we look down through it, it is signed for  
11 and on -- sorry -- just pause there, please -- for and  
12 on behalf of the Catholic Council for Child Welfare,  
13 Coleshill, Birmingham, dated 11th March 1947. You see  
14 that the signature for and on behalf of the Catholic  
15 Council for Child Welfare is PA Conlon, who we assume is  
16 Brother Conlon, and the "Parent's or guardian's consent  
17 (father, if living)", it says:

18 "I, Mother Superior, Nazareth Lodge, Ravenhill Road,  
19 Belfast, the guardian of HIA312, hereby consent to my  
20 ward proceeding to Australia under the Commonwealth  
21 Child Migration Scheme."

22 That's signed 11th March 1947 and it is also  
23 witnessed by Brother Conlon, who is described as the  
24 "Superior Migration Organiser" and an address at  
25 Twickenham in London is given there.

1           Now I am showing that document not least of which  
2           because it is an example of one of the cases where  
3           consent was given by the Mother Superior of the home in  
4           which the child was living at the time of migration, but  
5           also if one looks at 10650 and 10651, this is  
6           a letter -- sorry. This will be redacted. It is not in  
7           its redacted form at the moment, Chairman, but before it  
8           is placed on to the website it will be redacted. This  
9           is a letter to the applicant from the Western Australian  
10          Department for Community Development, a Government  
11          Department in Australia, and it gives him information  
12          about his file that is held by the Government in Western  
13          Australia. You will see that in the course of this it  
14          refers to his adoption and part of the documents that  
15          I~referred to are his adoption documents. He was  
16          adopted in Australia, but if we scroll down to the  
17          second page of this letter, please, it gives him some  
18          details that they have on their file.

19           If I can just stop, please, the second paragraph of  
20          the second page says:

21           "I do not know how long you remained at Nazareth  
22          Lodge. The department file indicates that your birth  
23          mother later agreed to you travelling to Australia. On  
24          17th July 1947 she also signed a consent document in  
25          Ireland agreeing to your possible adoption."

1           So it would seem that there was -- despite the fact  
2           that the child migration form is signed by the Mother  
3           Superior, there would appear to be some parental consent  
4           in his case also.

5   CHAIRMAN:   And that is 10651?

6   MS SMITH:   Yes.

7   CHAIRMAN:   How do the dates square?

8   MS SMITH:   This is a letter that he received --

9   CHAIRMAN:   We know that the reference there to his mother  
10           signing a consent form on 17th July 1947, he --

11   MS SMITH:   He actually left in August 1947 to go to  
12           Australia.   So that would tie in with that date.

13   CHAIRMAN:   Even though the Mother Superior signed the form?

14   MS SMITH:   That's correct.

15   CHAIRMAN:   So it may be she or others like her would sign  
16           the form even though they had got consent?

17   MS SMITH:   That would appear to be the position certainly in  
18           this case and it may well have been the position in  
19           other cases, Chairman.

20   CHAIRMAN:   A possible explanation -- only one, of course --  
21           is it might not have been possible in the time available  
22           to get the mother to come in and sign the document --

23   MS SMITH:   If you recall --

24   CHAIRMAN:   -- or the Mother might be, you know, away and had  
25           sent a letter or something.

1 MS SMITH: It may well be too that consent was given in  
2 a general form to the Orders whenever the child was  
3 handed over into their care. For example, if you recall  
4 the example that was given by Margaret Humphreys about  
5 someone whose statement I am actually going to read  
6 today, whenever they eventually -- the Child Migrants  
7 Trust eventually got the document that led to the  
8 whereabouts of his mother, sadly then deceased, but when  
9 they got that crucial piece of information, what was  
10 actually written on that was the mother's name  
11 relinquishing all rights to her child when she handed  
12 the child over to the nuns. So it may well be that that  
13 type of document was taken as consent by the Orders.  
14 Certainly it is something that I propose to put to the  
15 representative of the Sisters of Nazareth whenever --

16 CHAIRMAN: Of course it says "possible adoption on  
17 migration".

18 MS SMITH: Yes. If we may then return to HIA312's statement  
19 at 10623, the body of the statement reads:

20 "I was born on the date given in the Jubilee  
21 Maternity Hospital in Belfast.

22 I was named at birth taking the same surname as my  
23 mother. My mother was unmarried when I was born. I was  
24 never made aware of the identity of my father. His name  
25 is not recorded on my birth certificate.

1           Some time after my birth my mother placed me in the  
2           care of Nazareth Lodge, Belfast, as she was unable to  
3           care for and support me.

4           I remember a lady used to visit me sometimes at  
5           Nazareth Lodge. I think it might have been my mother.  
6           She came a few times whilst I was in care in Belfast.  
7           She would have visited once or twice a year at most.

8           I recall being taken to a drapery store to buy  
9           clothes and other items for our trip to Australia.  
10          I just recall little things about our preparation for  
11          the trip. I do not recall ever being asked if I wanted  
12          to go to Australia. We were told, not asked, and we  
13          thought going to Australia was like going from Ireland  
14          to England.

15          The Child Welfare Department files indicate that my  
16          birth mother agreed whilst I was at Nazareth Lodge,  
17          Belfast to my travelling to Australia. She agreed to  
18          this when I was about eight years old. On 17th  
19          July 1947 she signed a consent document in Ireland  
20          agreeing to my possible adoption."

21          Now I pause there, Chairman, to say this information  
22          appears to have come from the letter that I've just  
23          indicated to you. There's no other documentation to  
24          suggest that he has got that information from anywhere  
25          else.

1           " My child migration form is also signed by SR102,  
2           the Mother Superior at Nazareth Lodge, authorising my  
3           consent to travel to Australia.

4           About 12 of us travelled to England from the home.  
5           I recall a train journey and then we were placed aboard  
6           the Asturias. We travelled via the Red Sea. I remember  
7           that we refuelled at the Suez Canal. I recall seeing  
8           a black person, a native, for the first time in my life  
9           and everything was new to me.

10          We were supervised by three nuns on the trip. They  
11          showed us no affection. They were just hired servants  
12          to get us from here to there. They had a heart of  
13          stone. They would not allow to us move around freely on  
14          the ship.

15          I recall myself and a few of the other boys being  
16          seasick on the ship.

17          I travelled to Australia on the Asturias. PHIND  
18          records" -- which is a personal history index form,  
19          which is, as I understand, produced from databases held  
20          in Australia, and certainly the Child Migrants Trust  
21          would have asked for these forms in respect of those  
22          people who contacted them -- "PHIND records note my age  
23          at emigration as 12 but I was actually only 8 years old  
24          when I arrived in Australia. PHIND records also record  
25          the date of arrival in Fremantle as 22nd September

1 1947."

2 He then goes on to describe his time at Castledare  
3 Boys' Home where he describes a regime of physical abuse  
4 by brothers and bullying. There he engaged in onerous  
5 work. He was beaten in the school and was belittled,  
6 and he then moved from Castledare to Clontarf, where he  
7 again was subject to what he describes as emotional  
8 abuse and was threatened and put in fear by the  
9 brothers. He was made to take part in competitive  
10 boxing matches, which he hated, and he was ridiculed in  
11 that home also.

12 If we move to paragraph 30, he says:

13 "I never received any information regarding my  
14 family throughout my time in any institution and I was  
15 never made aware of anything to do with my Irish family  
16 or cultural heritage."

17 He said -- he then goes on to say he never  
18 complained about the treatment he received in Australia  
19 and didn't believe that he would have been believed.

20 He talks then about what happened next. Between  
21 1950 and 1955 he was initially fostered out and adopted  
22 with someone -- he was adopted along with another boy  
23 whose statement I read out to you yesterday, and the two  
24 boys were brought up on the farm in Australia, but in  
25 his case it was not a happy adoption. He was unhappy

1 and left that farm at the age of 17.

2 If we turn to page -- to paragraph 41, he describes  
3 his life after care and he says:

4 "After I left the farm I worked on a farm in  
5 [REDACTED] and I then worked in a garage at [REDACTED] as  
6 a mechanic for a year. I stayed with my aunt and uncle  
7 that year in their caravan" -- this would have been his  
8 adoptive aunt and uncle -- "but eventually they did not  
9 want me to stay with them any more even though I kept  
10 myself to me and did not cause them too much  
11 inconvenience."

12 He then goes on to describe his work, career -- his  
13 working life until 1971, when he married his wife when  
14 he was 33 years old.

15 "Before we met I was socially and emotionally  
16 isolated. As a young man I was quick to anger and I had  
17 a very low opinion of myself. My wife is the only  
18 person I have been able to establish a close and loving  
19 relationship with, and we were very happily married for  
20 16 years. She died of cancer in 1988 and I suffered  
21 15 years of depression following her death. I live  
22 alone and am only now slowly recovering from her loss.

23 We had two sons, who are now in their late 30s and  
24 early 40s. My oldest son is civil and keeps in touch  
25 but the younger boy has a fiery temper. I have two

1           grandchildren, who are now 21 and 19, but I do not see  
2           them very often. The love and affection is just not  
3           there.

4           My time in care has affected my attitude to religion  
5           and I have not visited a Catholic Church since I left  
6           the adopted family. I married my wife in the Church of  
7           England. Religion was forced down our throats day and  
8           night, so now I do not let religion enter my life  
9           anymore.

10          I started to do my own research regarding my family  
11          circumstances when I was preparing my papers for the  
12          Western Australian Redress Scheme. My adoptive mother  
13          had passed away at that stage. I have never visited  
14          Ireland. I regret never having the opportunity to meet  
15          my birth mother and having no knowledge of my Irish  
16          ancestry. I never made any further inquiries about my  
17          family. If you've written me off, you've written me off  
18          for life.

19          I received \$28,000 AUD under the Western Australian  
20          Redress Scheme.

21          I have no contact with my biological family and I no  
22          longer have any contact with my adoptive family. I do  
23          not know who my father is; I have never met my mother  
24          and I do not know if I have any biological siblings. If  
25          the nuns in Belfast, the Christian Brothers in Australia

1 or the Child Welfare Department had encouraged such  
2 contact when I was younger, then I might have had the  
3 support of a family now in contrast to the current  
4 position where there is a stark family disconnection.  
5 I also feel that the relevant authorities should have  
6 carried out a much more thorough assessment of  
7 suitability of the foster and adoptive parents and  
8 monitoring of their performance as parents."

9 He said he was used as child labour to their  
10 advantage. He then signs the statement on 16th June  
11 2014.

12 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA324

13 Q. If I can turn then to the witness statement of HIA324 --  
14 I should say -- sorry -- at page 10737. Chairman, this  
15 is a statement which is unsigned, and the reason for  
16 that is that HIA324 sadly died before he was able to  
17 sign his witness statement. This is a gentleman about  
18 whom I spoke in the general opening to this module. We  
19 have received an e-mail from his wife confirming that he  
20 was happy with the contents of the statement and she has  
21 indicated that he would have wanted us to take it into  
22 consideration.

23 CHAIRMAN: Very well. It is appropriate in the  
24 circumstances that we receive the statement.

25 MS SMITH: The only other document in relation to this

1 applicant can be found at 10745, which is a note of  
2 a child migration taken from -- compiled from the  
3 Sisters of Nazareth registers in 1995 on which his name  
4 is recorded, but there is no other documentation that  
5 the Inquiry has received in relation to him.

6 It says:

7 "I was born in a work house in Dungannon. I have  
8 four sisters and one brother. I was the youngest. My  
9 mother ..."

10 He gives his mother's and father's names.

11 "He was a pedlar and travelled around. I have since  
12 discovered that I have many half siblings as he fathered  
13 children to other women.

14 I was told by my older sister five years ago that my  
15 aunt reported my mother to the Welfare Authorities  
16 because she went down to the butchers to beg for some  
17 bacon fat to feed us. My aunt told the Welfare that we  
18 were unsupervised and without food. My mother was  
19 trying to do her best for us. The Welfare came and took  
20 five of us into care. My eldest sister, who was 14, ran  
21 away to avoid being taken into care. I was placed in  
22 Termonbacca along with my brother, who was three years  
23 older than me. Three of my sisters were placed in  
24 Nazareth House, Bishop Street", and he names his  
25 sisters.

1 "I was placed in Termonbacca on 30th March 1940 when  
2 I was 2 years old. I wasn't aware that I had any  
3 brothers or sisters.

4 The nuns used to beat us with canes to discipline  
5 us. Any time you got in trouble the nun on duty would  
6 cane you. I cannot remember any of the nuns' names.  
7 Also as punishment for doing anything wrong we would be  
8 locked in the shoe room in the dark for a couple of  
9 hours.

10 I had no visitors all the time I was in the home  
11 except on one occasion when a woman came to the home and  
12 gave me thruppence before I went off to Australia. I am  
13 not sure who this woman was, but it could have been my  
14 mother. I recall that when the woman left, the nun took  
15 the thruppence off me and I never saw it again.

16 I suffered from terrible tonsillitis in Termonbacca  
17 and one day I was made to sit on a bench in the playroom  
18 all day while the other children went to school. I was  
19 not allowed to move and I never had a bite to eat all  
20 that day.

21 My most vivid memory of Termonbacca was the hunger.  
22 I was always starving as there was a scarcity of food.  
23 I don't remember breakfast or lunch, but after we walked  
24 home from school in Nazareth House in Bishop Street we  
25 got a bowl of watery stuff. I suppose that was all they

1           could afford at the time. I remember going out to the  
2           bin where they put the scraps from the kitchen and  
3           eating potato peels.

4           Every Saturday we had to do chores in the home. It  
5           was cleaning day. I had to clean the big hall and  
6           dormitory. A nun would spread dried leaves on the floor  
7           and one boy had to stand on the broom while another boy  
8           pulled it.

9           I recall that there was a nettle patch at the end of  
10          the driveway at Termonbacca. Older boys used to push us  
11          into it if they didn't like you.

12          One day in school in Nazareth House we were given  
13          a talk about Australia. The nuns described what life  
14          would be like there. They said that, "You are going to  
15          a place you can walk down the street and there are fruit  
16          trees all along the street and you can just pick  
17          an apple and an orange". I did not know where Australia  
18          was.

19          I was never asked if I wanted to go to Australia.  
20          I think I had a medical examination for tuberculosis  
21          before I went. We were given new clothes in a kit bag.  
22          There was a bus load of boys from Termonbacca that went.  
23          We left the home on a bus and two nuns from Termonbacca  
24          came with us on the journey. We left Termonbacca on  
25          28th August 1947. Years later my sister told me that

1 she was sent to work in Termonbacca from Nazareth House  
2 when she was 14 as she had left school. She said she  
3 saw" -- I think that's a brother -- "she said she saw  
4 her brother and I leaving on the bus and asked a nun  
5 where we were going. The nun told her to get back to  
6 work and wouldn't tell her.

7 The bus took us to the station and we got the train  
8 to Belfast and then a ferry over to England. I sailed  
9 on 29th August 1947 on the SS Asturias. There were  
10 a large number of children on the ship from all over.  
11 The journey on the ship was great. We didn't see the  
12 nuns very much and were looked after more by the crew.  
13 We had plenty of food such as milk and sugar, which we  
14 didn't have in Termonbacca, and we ran around the ship  
15 having fun."

16 He describes arriving in Fremantle and he then said  
17 that -- just in that first paragraph he said:

18 "I didn't know I had a brother until I was about  
19 14."

20 His brother was also taken to the same home but he  
21 didn't know he had a brother until the Brothers told him  
22 when he was about 14.

23 He then describes his time in Clontarf and complains  
24 about the fact that they were given no protection from  
25 the Australian sun. He talks about the physical abuse

1 that he suffered there, the fact that they were  
2 effectively child labour in that they had to work  
3 excessively in the home.

4 He talks about then being given a job on an apple  
5 farm where he was treated as a slave.

6 Then at paragraph 25 he talks about his life after  
7 care and he said that he worked various jobs such as  
8 machine driving and metalwork:

9 "... which I was very good at. I can do practically  
10 anything with my hands.

11 I was on my own in life until I met my wife and we  
12 have been married for 51 years. We have three children,  
13 ten grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

14 Years after arriving in Australia I discovered that  
15 my two sisters were on the same ship to Australia. The  
16 girls and boys were separated on the ship and I didn't  
17 know I had any sisters. They were sent to the Sisters  
18 of Nazareth in Geraldton. When they left Geraldton,  
19 they came looking for me, because they knew I was in  
20 Clontarf. They came and made themselves known to me.

21 Both my sisters and my eldest sister have sadly  
22 passed away. My brother was a hardworking man but sadly  
23 developed a problem with alcohol. We kept intermittent  
24 contact but unfortunately he has also passed away. My  
25 sister lives in [REDACTED] and is her 80s. We have good

1 contact. I have never found out any information about  
2 my father and mother. Family are coming out of the  
3 woodwork now. A half brother in England got in contact  
4 with me. I also have relatives in America. My sister's  
5 children were shocked to hear we were in orphanages.  
6 They didn't know, because my sister never told them.

7 I have been back to Ireland twice. The first visit  
8 was about 30 years ago. My sister got in touch with the  
9 Salvation Army in Northern Ireland and they traced the  
10 four of us in Australia. That is when I found out I had  
11 family in Ireland. I then went over to Ireland to meet  
12 her. I went back in 2010 with my wife to visit.

13 I never received a birth certificate as a child.  
14 I eventually obtained one through the Immigration  
15 Department in Perth when I was getting married.

16 I found out about the Regress Scheme after the  
17 deadline and I missed my opportunity to apply.

18 I still see boys from Clontarf at meetings which I  
19 attend now and then."

20 Then this is the passage that I read during the  
21 opening. It bears repeating.

22 "My life in institutions has had a profound impact  
23 on me. I have always wondered what it would have been  
24 like to have had a family -- a mother and father and  
25 brothers and sisters. I never got the chance to find

1 out because I was sent to Australia. We were exported  
2 to Australia like little baby convicts. It is hard to  
3 understand why they did it. I know the theory -- to  
4 populate Australia. I still cannot get over the fact  
5 that I was taken away from a family I never got the  
6 chance to know. I was treated like an object, taken  
7 from one place to another. I found it very hard to show  
8 affection to my children when they were young. I have  
9 improved as the years have gone on. I have a nightmare  
10 every night of my life. I relive my past and I am happy  
11 when daylight comes."

12 As I have indicated, Chairman, this gentleman died  
13 before he had the opportunity to sign the witness  
14 statement.

15 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA332

16 Q. The next witness statement is that of HIA332, which can  
17 be found at AUS10833, and the documents in relation to  
18 this person can be found at 10840 to 10847.

19 10840, if that could be just called up, please.

20 This is another child migration form and again it's --  
21 we notice, Chairman, that these older forms are in this  
22 format and later there was a different form developed  
23 which was divided into sections A, B and C. This is the  
24 older version of the form, and again if we scroll down  
25 it, it says that:

1 "The mother is married. Present address unknown."

2 It is signed by Brother Conlon again on behalf of  
3 the Catholic Council for Child Welfare at Coleshill in  
4 Birmingham, and then it's signed by the Superior of St.  
5 Joseph's Home, Derry, who describes herself as the  
6 guardian of the child, on 19th December 1946.

7 If we just scroll down to the bottom of that  
8 document, please, that is witnessed by it looks like  
9 M.J. Rooney, the Catholic priest at St. Columb's College  
10 in Derry. For those who are not aware of the topography  
11 of Derry, St. Columb's would have been directly opposite  
12 Nazareth House in Bishop Street. So it may be that they  
13 signed a number of documents and then asked the priest  
14 in the college to witness the signature or asked him to  
15 come over and witness the signatures.

16 If we can go back then to 10833, please, the  
17 statement reads:

18 "I was born in [REDACTED]. My mother placed me in  
19 care in St. Joseph's Children's Home, Termonbacca on 9th  
20 February 1942. I do not recall anything about being  
21 placed in care.

22 My mother married a Protestant postman on [REDACTED]  
23 [REDACTED] 1940. They had a son, who is four years younger  
24 than me, and a daughter, who died when she was six  
25 months old.

1           I was placed in care in Termonbacca when I was three  
2           years old, so I have no memory of being admitted to  
3           care. I stayed in the home until I was eight years old,  
4           but I have very few memories of my time in this  
5           institution. I do not recall any visits from my mother.  
6           All I remember is that the nuns tried to drum religion  
7           into us day and night. I do not recall the name of any  
8           of the nuns or the Mother Superior.

9           I recall American soldiers coming to the home on one  
10          occasion.

11          The nuns asked who wanted to go to Australia and  
12          they presented it as "the land of milk and honey", so as  
13          a small boy I would imagine that it was appealing.  
14          I don't recall discussing it with any of the other boys  
15          but I must have agreed to go.

16          I recall a woman arriving on the day I was leaving  
17          the home and shaking my hand as I got on the bus. I did  
18          not know who she was or what organisation she came from.  
19          There were about 28 boys aged between 3 and 13 taken  
20          from the home that day and sent on the same sailing to  
21          Australia. I have kept in contact with one boy from  
22          that time, HIA333.

23          I do not recall having the opportunity to say  
24          goodbye to anyone in the home.

25          I do not think the home sought my mother's consent

1 to my migration. My child migration form was signed by  
2 a P. Conlon for and on behalf of the Catholic Council  
3 for Child Welfare, Coleshill, Birmingham, and SR81, who  
4 was a Mother Superior. I do not recall either of these  
5 people.

6 I recall receiving a medical examination prior to  
7 departure. My medical certificate is dated 16th  
8 July 1947. I never received any medical treatment  
9 during my time at Termonbacca.

10 I travelled to Australia on the SS Asturias and  
11 I enjoyed the journey. We were well fed and treated  
12 well on the ship. It was an old ship that had been used  
13 during the war. We were looked after on board by one  
14 Christian Brother and some civilian women. I do not  
15 recall any of their names. They tried to get us to go  
16 to mass and school every day, but to be honest my  
17 attendance was sporadic. We ran about all over the ship  
18 and school and mass attendance could not therefore be  
19 strictly enforced.

20 I arrived at Fremantle on 22nd September 1947. The  
21 stench on arrival was unbelievable. It was the smell of  
22 tanneries and wheat bins. We were rounded up and placed  
23 in a shed and the Australian authorities took our  
24 fingerprints. We were then lined up and they split us  
25 up to be taken to various different homes. If you had

1 a sibling, they would make sure that you were separated  
2 and placed in different homes."

3 He describes then his time at Clontarf Boys' Home  
4 and at paragraph 13 he says that:

5 "There was never any contact from the British  
6 government or authorities in Northern Ireland."

7 He complains of a poor education in the home. He  
8 says he experienced physical violence. The Brothers  
9 were sadistic and brutal. He left there to go and work  
10 on a farm.

11 At paragraph 16 onwards he describes his life after  
12 care. He said:

13 "I worked on dairy and wheat farms for 12 years  
14 after leaving care and then I worked in Perth as a truck  
15 driver. I married my wife in January 1972 and then  
16 worked in construction until I medically retired about  
17 15 or 16 years ago.

18 We have an adopted son, who is now 35, and  
19 a daughter, who is now 26 and expecting our first  
20 grandchild.

21 I tried to find out about my past by writing to the  
22 parish priest in [REDACTED] in the 1960s. He wrote  
23 back advising that my mother had married a Protestant  
24 and he would not provide me with any further assistance.  
25 I think my mother was disregarded by the Catholic Church

1           because she had married someone outside her own  
2           religion.

3           I then contacted my aunt in an attempt to obtain  
4           further information, but I found out in later years from  
5           my aunt's daughter that her mail was censored by her  
6           mother-in-law and she never received it.

7           I made contact with the Child Migrant Trust in 1996  
8           and gave them my aunt's address and they pursued the  
9           request for further information on my behalf. The CMT  
10          located my half brother's wife and children in England  
11          and my cousins in Ireland. I found out at that stage  
12          that my mother had died in 1982.

13          I met my nephew in Nottingham in August 1997 in the  
14          Child Migrant Trust offices. I spent a week in [REDACTED] in  
15          England in a hotel and met my nephew every day. I also  
16          met my sister-in-law, who is my brother's wife, on this  
17          visit and she told me that my mother had lived with her  
18          in England before she died and had told her that she had  
19          always wondered what had happened to me. She also told  
20          my sister-in-law that she had gone back to Termonbacca  
21          to take me out and was told by the nuns that I had been  
22          adopted by a 'good Catholic Family in Ireland'.

23          I then went to Ireland and visited Termonbacca on my  
24          own and met a priest there who said, 'The church has  
25          a lot to answer for with you crowd'. I was shown around

1 by a guide. I told him I was not interested in  
2 religion. Yet he still took me to see the chapel and  
3 I found this insensitive. I then spoke to a cook in the  
4 home who said he had been there all his life. My wife  
5 joined me later in Ireland and we both went back to  
6 Termonbacca to see it together. The same guide was  
7 there and he left us to our own devices.

8 I have received some assistance in obtaining  
9 relevant paperwork from my cousin's wife.

10 After Gordon Brown publicly apologised to the  
11 Australian child migrants in 1997 they set up a travel  
12 fund to allow the migrants their expenses for two trips  
13 back home and I took this opportunity to visit my  
14 relatives in England and Ireland in 2012 and 2013.  
15 I now maintain good contact with my relatives at home.

16 It is my view that the care system failed me in  
17 general. I was failed by the Australian system of being  
18 put in a home where I was subjected to tough physical  
19 violence and left unprepared for the outside world at  
20 16. I was failed by the Northern Irish system by their  
21 failure to seek my mother's permission prior to sending  
22 me to Australia."

23 The statement is signed and dated 23rd October 2013.

24 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA333

25 Q. The next statement is that of HIA333. It is found at

1 page 10852. The documents in relation to this applicant  
2 are found at 10865 to 10938.

3 If we look at 10874, it's the child migration  
4 document. I should say, Chairman, Panel Members, this  
5 is the person whose example was given by Dr Margaret  
6 Humphreys when she gave evidence earlier this week about  
7 the difficulties that there were in obtaining  
8 information in respect of him and she showed the file  
9 that they had compiled -- the box of files I should say  
10 -- about the efforts that they had made on his behalf.

11 Again this child migration form is signed by Brother  
12 Conlon for and on behalf of it looks like Australian --  
13 Scottish Migration Secretary Catholic Inquiry Office in  
14 Edinburgh, and the parent's or guardian's consent is  
15 given as that of SR81, which is the Superior of St.  
16 Joseph's Home, Termonbacca and described as the guardian  
17 of HIA333.

18 If we scroll on down, again it is witnessed -- the  
19 signature is witnessed by the same Catholic priest, the  
20 Reverend Rooney from St. Columb's College in Derry.

21 If we can go back to the statement at 10852, please,  
22 it says:

23 "I was born in County Monaghan. My mother was  
24 unmarried when I was born and she was about 26 or  
25 27 years old. She lived on the family farm in [REDACTED]

1 in County Fermanagh until she died in 1999. She never  
2 married nor had any more children. I do not know  
3 anything about my father. I was placed in Nazareth  
4 House in Bishop Street by my mother on the  
5 recommendation of Father Connolly in [REDACTED] as a baby.

6 I was placed in Nazareth House in Bishop Street when  
7 I was two weeks old. I remained there until I was  
8 nearly two years old. On 19th March 1939 I entered  
9 Nazareth House in Sligo. I do not know why I was moved  
10 and I do not remember anything about my time in Bishop  
11 Street."

12 He then talks about Nazareth House, Sligo, which is  
13 obviously outside the terms of reference of the Inquiry,  
14 but in that of interest at paragraph 5 it says that they  
15 were bathed once a week in Jeyes fluid and they wore  
16 a slip in the bath for modesty. I point that out  
17 because it seems to be a similar practice that was used  
18 in accordance with some of the accounts we have heard in  
19 Termonbacca.

20 "I was sent to St. Joseph's Home, Termonbacca in  
21 Derry around July 1947.

22 I was in Termonbacca for about six weeks before  
23 I was shipped to Australia. One day I was taken on  
24 a bus from Nazareth House in Sligo with three other  
25 boys. We were not told where we were going."

1           He gives the boys' names. One of them is  
2           an applicant to the Inquiry.

3           "I cannot remember the name of the third boy. When  
4           we arrived in Termonbacca, we were given new clothes.  
5           At no time were we told that we were going to Australia.  
6           Other than this I do not remember anything about the  
7           short time I spent in Termonbacca.

8           We left Termonbacca by bus and got a ferry during  
9           the night to England. I think around 27 boys left  
10          Termonbacca for Australia. We then got the train to  
11          Southampton. I was shipped to Australia on 29th  
12          August 1947 on the SS Asturias. The food on the ship  
13          was good and we ran around having fun. I used to go  
14          into the kitchen and the staff used to give me  
15          ice-cream. We slept in cabins which held about five or  
16          six boys in each one. There were a couple of nuns and  
17          a couple of civilian women that accompanied us on the  
18          journey."

19          He gives the name of one of the nuns who came from  
20          Ireland.

21          "She went on to work in Geraldton for many years. I  
22          do not recall the names of the others.

23          My migration form is signed by SR81, who was the  
24          Mother Superior in Termonbacca. I have a certificate of  
25          medical examination dated 11th July 1947. However,

1 I cannot remember having a medical exam.

2 We arrived at Fremantle on 22nd September 1947. We  
3 were taken into a large shed at the port where there was  
4 a reception for the migrant children. There were  
5 speeches by the archbishop, bishop and premier of  
6 Australia and we were given bags of lollies and  
7 oranges."

8 I think "lollies" is an Australia term for sweets,  
9 Chairman, as I understand it.

10 CHAIRMAN: I see.

11 MS SMITH: So it wouldn't have been simply lollies in our  
12 understanding of it.

13 He then describes his time at both Clontarf and  
14 Tardun Farm School in Australia and he describes  
15 a regime of physical abuse. He moved at one stage to  
16 Castledare and again there was physical abuse at that  
17 home.

18 He eventually left care, and at paragraph 16 he  
19 describes his life after care. He says:

20 "I found it very hard to settle in jobs, difficult  
21 to adjust to life outside institutions. After working  
22 on farms I worked in a fishing factory for a while and  
23 then I became a lobster fisherman, which I did for  
24 35 years. I enjoyed being self-employed as I was my own  
25 boss and no-one was telling me what to do.

1 I was married for 17 years. We had four children.  
2 We divorced and I remarried. I think my first marriage  
3 ended as a consequence of my experiences in residential  
4 care. I have been married to my second wife for  
5 27 years. I find it difficult to show emotion, even  
6 with my current wife. I enjoy a good relationship with  
7 my children. However, I haven't seen two of them for  
8 a while. My abusive upbringing had a devastating effect  
9 on my ability to show love and affection and it is still  
10 a problem today and demonstrated by my poor relationship  
11 with my sons", whom he names. "The pain and isolation  
12 of my childhood goes on and affects the next generation.

13 As a result of my experiences I do not like going  
14 into a room full of people. I have recurrent nightmares  
15 of orphanages, and I have suffered from depression and  
16 at times I feel uncontrollably sad. I always feel  
17 excessively guilty when things go wrong, even when it is  
18 not my fault. I have low self-esteem and difficulty in  
19 showing trust. I saw a psychiatrist in 2003, who stated  
20 in a report that it is probable that I suffer from  
21 chronic Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

22 I received \$45,000 from the Australian Redress  
23 Scheme.

24 I have been back to Ireland nine times in the last  
25 13 years. One of the visits was paid for by the

1 Christian Brothers and two visits were paid for by the  
2 British government.

3 I was born in the Republic of Ireland and I was sent  
4 to Australia by the Sisters of Nazareth in Northern  
5 Ireland through the British Government migration scheme.  
6 They did not have the right to send a child from another  
7 country thousands of miles away with no hope or  
8 opportunity of ever returning home.

9 I was searching for my mother since 1965.  
10 I returned to Ireland for the first time in 1997 looking  
11 for information. For six of the nine visits I went to  
12 Nazareth House in Sligo to ask about my mother. Each  
13 time the nuns told me they didn't have any information.  
14 Eventually in 2008 a nun in Nazareth House gave me  
15 a sheet of paper which said I was recommended in Derry  
16 by Father Connolly in [REDACTED] The Catholic Church had  
17 my mother's address all the time, even though  
18 I repeatedly asked for all information they had about my  
19 family. I gave the sheet of paper to the Child Migrants  
20 Trust and they traced my family. They also obtained my  
21 birth certificate which I never had as a child. My  
22 mother was alive until 1999 and I could have met her had  
23 my records been given to me years earlier. We were both  
24 deprived of our reunion by their deception. I was my  
25 mother's only child.

1 I went to [REDACTED] in 2009 and I was reunited with my  
2 family. I met my cousins for the first time. Relatives  
3 from England came over as I was having a party for my  
4 72nd birthday. I have a good relationship with my  
5 family and I am particularly close to my cousin who  
6 lives in [REDACTED] and my cousin who lives in England.  
7 The last time I was home was for my cousin's daughter's  
8 wedding in June 2013. Each time I visit I stay for  
9 a month.

10 Every time I go home I take many photographs, which  
11 I get put on a disc to music. When I watch it, I feel  
12 sad and tears come flooding out. I wonder, 'What the  
13 hell am I doing here?' I am Irish. My family are  
14 thousands of miles away and I could be with them had  
15 someone not taken the decision to send me to Australia  
16 as a child. Before I was 72 years old I didn't know who  
17 I was. I had no identity. Once I was reunited with my  
18 relatives I finally knew who I was."

19 He goes on to say that he is still friendly with  
20 boys from the homes and they have barbecues for  
21 birthdays and he enjoys their company.

22 "We were made to grow up quickly in the institutions  
23 in Australia. We were not allowed to be children. We  
24 were taken away from our country, our homeland and we  
25 had no say in what happened to us. Almost all of us

1 have been scarred by the memories of our treatment in  
2 institutions to which we were condemned to serve out our  
3 childhood years. We had no one to turn to in our times  
4 of need."

5 It is signed and dated 31st December 2013.

6 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA323

7 Q. The next statement is that of HIA323 and it can be found  
8 at AUS11748. We have no further documentation for this  
9 applicant other than the witness statement, Chairman.

10 It reads:

11 "I was born on ... in [REDACTED] I was known as  
12 HIA323. I was one of four children. I have two older  
13 sisters and one younger brother. My ..."

14 Father and mother's names are stated there.

15 "I never knew my parents.

16 I was placed in Nazareth House when I was two years  
17 old. I have never found out why at the age of two I was  
18 put in Nazareth House along with my brother and sisters.

19 My medical examination, which also covers my  
20 sisters, is dated 15th July 1947 and the signature  
21 section for parent or guardian is signed by SR188,  
22 Mother Superior of Nazareth House.

23 My sisters and I left Nazareth House on  
24 21st August 1947. We sailed to Australia on 28th  
25 August 1947 on the SS Asturias. We arrived in Fremantle

1 on 22nd September 1947."

2 She then describes her time at St. Joseph's  
3 Orphanage in Wembley in Australia and describes a regime  
4 of both physical and emotional abuse.

5 Then at her after care section, paragraph 13, she  
6 says she left the orphanage and was given a job which  
7 she quite liked. She was moved from that job.

8 In paragraph 14 she says:

9 "I have a daughter and twin sons. I never married.  
10 I had to raise my children on my own. I now have  
11 grandchildren and I am the proudest mother and nana in  
12 the world. My children make me so proud -- they are  
13 pillars of society and we are a very close family.  
14 I now live on the old age pension and I suffer from  
15 diabetes, arthritis and heart problems caused by high  
16 blood pressure.

17 In the 1980s I found out that our mother died in  
18 1949. Our father died in 1973 aged 73. None of us ever  
19 got to meet him.

20 One day my sister and I went back to St. Joseph's  
21 and spoke to a nun there to ask if she knew anything  
22 about our parents as she came from Ireland. She said  
23 all she was told was to get as many beds as she could  
24 find in the home as there were children arriving in four  
25 weeks."

1 In the final paragraph she said:

2 "I lost my identity when I arrived in Australia. I  
3 have been searching for answers all my life. Why were  
4 we sent to Australia? Have I family in Ireland? Who  
5 gave these people a right to break up families and ship  
6 them thousands of miles away from their families and  
7 homeland? I know I will never find proper answers.  
8 I try to put my past behind me where it belongs, but the  
9 memories never leave me."

10 The statement is then signed on 20th August 2014.

11 Reading of statement of WITNESS HIA338

12 Q. The final statement that I wish to read today, Chairman,  
13 is that of HIA338, and it can be found at AUS10978.

14 I should say this statement is in a different format to  
15 that that I have been reading out to the Inquiry and the  
16 reason for that is that this was submitted by the  
17 applicant himself, who didn't have the opportunity to  
18 speak to the legal team while they were in Australia  
19 because he was suffering from ill health and was unable  
20 to travel to meet them, Chairman. So it is in  
21 a slightly different format.

22 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Well, I was asked in advance I think to  
23 approve that course of action and, given his poor  
24 health, it seemed appropriate to do so.

25 MS SMITH: Indeed.

1           He indicates he is now an 80-year-old man and he was  
2           born in Ireland:

3           "I was migrated to Tardun Boys' Farm School in  
4           Western Australia from St. Joseph's Home in Termonbacca,  
5           Derry on 29th August 1947 when I had just turned  
6           13 years of age.

7           My mother was born in 1910 in the county of  
8           Monaghan. However, she did not consent to my  
9           migration."

10          The child migration form, which I should say can be  
11          seen at 10986, it is signed again by Brother Conlon, as  
12          were the others, and by the Mother Superior, SR81, of  
13          St. Joseph's Home, Termonbacca. This time it is  
14          witnessed by an Eamon Tierney, again a Catholic priest  
15          at St. Columb's College in Derry. It is dated 19th  
16          December 1946. Again, as this is a different priest in  
17          the same college, it seems to suggest that was the  
18          practice.

19          He goes on in the statement at paragraph 2, if we  
20          could go back to 10978, please -- at paragraph 2 he  
21          said:

22          "The child migration form was signed by SR81. This  
23          document has the wrong birth date and the personal  
24          history index document" -- which again is the document  
25          that is received from the central database in Australia,

1 and I am not going to pull that up, Chairman, because it  
2 is in unredacted form, but it can be found at 10983 in  
3 the bundle -- and he says that document lists another  
4 date of birth.

5 "It has taken years for me to retrieve any  
6 information relating to my past and my identity.  
7 Apparently I was admitted to the Sisters of Nazareth in  
8 Derry in 1936, 1937? However, they have been able to  
9 give me next to nothing in way of information or  
10 documentation. I retain this memory still of being  
11 pulled from the arms of my mother when I was just  
12 a babe.

13 I do not know the exact circumstances of my mother  
14 at the time, but believe she had few options but to  
15 place us with the Sisters of Nazareth in order to find  
16 work as she was a single parent. My sister was born in  
17 1928 and I think she was admitted to Nazareth House in  
18 1935. I can remember that the orphanage was a loveless  
19 place, especially when you lose your mother like that.  
20 When you are past the baby stage, you are expected to  
21 earn your keep. As little children we had to clean the  
22 dormitories, polish all the wood and big floors in the  
23 hall throughout the place. There were farm jobs too.  
24 Potatoes had to be cropped and the apples in the orchard  
25 picked.

1           Even bath times were harsh and cruel. We'd all be  
2           stripped and have to stand by the bath in the freezing  
3           cold while one after the other got in and out of the  
4           bath. If you were at the end of the queue, the water  
5           was cold and grey.

6           I remember always feeling hungry and on the look-out  
7           for food. By the time I left I weighed only 8. -- 5.88  
8           stone. The names of the other boys that I remember  
9           would be ...",

10           and he gives names of two boys -- one boy -- sorry  
11           -- and a set of brothers.

12           "We were beaten with canes for any small  
13           misdemeanour. Even at school we felt threatened.  
14           I remember an incident at school where a little girl was  
15           hooked around the neck by a crane" -- I think that  
16           should be "cane" -- "and pulled down to the ground and  
17           then laid into with the cane. I lost my temper  
18           completely and ran at the nun and knocked her down. She  
19           got up screaming and calling me all sorts of names like  
20           being just a guttersnipe, etc, and I copped the cane  
21           after that. It could have been a nun called ...", and  
22           he suggests a name, "but I can't really remember. I do  
23           remember a teacher who was really kind to me. She  
24           seemed to show in her eyes that she knew how brutally we  
25           were being treated.

1           In an orphanage like that you are vulnerable to  
2           sexual predators, namely the priests. They have access  
3           to you from very early on. You line up every day for  
4           everything, especially for mass. Then you progress to  
5           being an altar boy, which is supposed to be an honour,  
6           but by this time they have figured out who they want.  
7           The priest asks you to come in early one day. He gives  
8           you a lolly. He starts to groom you. The first time it  
9           is just little touches. Then you get rewarded, perhaps  
10          a biscuit or a glass of milk. You get more cuddles, sit  
11          on their knees and get fondled. It builds up and before  
12          you know it by about 8 or 9 years of age they lose  
13          control and you are being raped in the vestry. This is  
14          what happened to me. It happened over a number of years  
15          by as many as four different priests. I cannot tell you  
16          their names. I called them all 'Father'. I remember  
17          the pat on the head before or after mass. I knew that  
18          was bad. It signalled what was to follow. I think the  
19          nuns must have been aware what was happening. The  
20          priests didn't come up to the farm. Surely little boys  
21          crying and fearful would have been noticed. I was  
22          institutionalised. I didn't really understand it was  
23          just what happened.

24                 Then there were the nights where you would lay awake  
25                 in terror of the big boys coming in and getting into bed

1 with you and put their penis in your hand and try to  
2 stop from you crying or yelling out. Many times they  
3 were caught by the nuns, who had a little room at the  
4 end of the dormitory, but it still went on, making me  
5 and the other boys afraid.

6 Worst of all was to come, though, because when I was  
7 migrated to Australia, I lost all semblance of family  
8 and family life. I saw my sister just before I left on  
9 the stairwell. She hugged me and it would be 63 years  
10 before I found her and saw her again. To allow a child  
11 to lose all contact with his or her kin meant that I was  
12 sentenced to a life alone. Can you begin to understand  
13 how much that loss has hurt me?

14 I started looking for her in 1956. I wrote to the  
15 nuns. I asked the Red Cross, the Salvation Army. Then  
16 I approached the Child Migrants Trust and I finally  
17 learned that my mother had remarried and I had six other  
18 siblings. No-one knew about me. I travelled back to  
19 Ireland for the first time to meet them with the help of  
20 the government travel fund in 2004. It was very  
21 difficult, because my younger maternal brother could not  
22 come to terms with what had happened and blamed me for  
23 coming back to find them. He had been given the same  
24 name as me and I think he couldn't accept it. Sadly our  
25 mother wasn't alive and so she wasn't able to be heard.

1           It took a while to be reunited with the rest of my  
2           maternal siblings, who I finally met in 2010/2011, and  
3           this led to my finally being reunited with my sister,  
4           who was living alone in the UK. The Child Migrants  
5           Trust supported me to travel back to the UK with funding  
6           from the British government family restoration fund to  
7           meet and spend time with my sister. She never knew  
8           where I was. She was transferred to Nazareth House,  
9           Sligo after I left. She, like me, remained single and  
10          still lives alone in the UK.

11          I couldn't really tell her about what happened to me  
12          after I left Termonbacca as I didn't want to upset her.  
13          I still feel angry with the Catholic Church and the  
14          governments. They didn't care what happened to us. We  
15          were sent off and forgotten.

16          I remember a Brother coming to Termonbacca and  
17          talking about Australia, land of sunshine and oranges.  
18          Then we forgot all about it. It seemed like a year or  
19          more we were all lined up in the hall, kneeling down and  
20          one by one we were picked out and told, "You, you and  
21          you are going to Australia". We left fairly swiftly,  
22          put on a bus and it was only when we got on the ferry to  
23          Scotland that I realised what was really happening.

24          I remember saying to the nun "I probably won't be back  
25          here again"."

1           He then in paragraph -- talks about his time in  
2           Tardun. There he experienced sexual abuse, physical  
3           abuse, poor education and was made to engage in  
4           excessive labour. He then left when he was 16.

5           At paragraph 22 he then says:

6           "I submitted an application to the West Australian  
7           Redress Scheme in regards to the abuse experienced at  
8           Tardun and received the maximum amount.

9           The impact of my migration as a child has meant that  
10          I have spent a lifetime looking over my shoulder and I  
11          am still fearful that something bad is going happen to  
12          me. I believe that I was institutionalised in a sense.  
13          I am still following routines, obeying orders and  
14          remembering the experiences most nights before I fall  
15          asleep. I do not have much trust in individuals,  
16          systems and institutions or in society at large.  
17          I believe this inability to trust probably cost me my  
18          marriage. I just could not explain my state of fear and  
19          my shame to my wife.

20          I spent a fair part of my life drinking to deaden  
21          the pain and forget the childhood abuse. I live alone  
22          and have no relatives in Australia. At this stage  
23          I worry about what will happen to me if I get too sick  
24          to look after myself. I am scared that I will end up in  
25          an institution.

1 I am only recently reunited with family members in  
2 Ireland, the UK and America, who all live so far away  
3 from me and have their own lives. I used to grieve for  
4 what I did not know and now I believe for what I have  
5 lost. I am so angry that as a child I was led to  
6 believe that no-one wanted me. How could the state  
7 allow my family to be lost to me and me to my family?  
8 There was no necessity for this cruel and abusive  
9 treatment. These so-called religious people will never  
10 understand what their actions have done to me, but I now  
11 know that they were just hypocrites and cowards.

12 I would like to thank the Inquiry for the  
13 understanding and giving me extended time to submit  
14 a written statement. Revisiting the past is very  
15 painful. I have needed time and support to find the  
16 strength to face it all again. This is a true account  
17 and I have asked the Child Migrants Trust to type this  
18 statement up, as I have spoken it to them."

19 That was signed on 25th May 2014.

20 Chairman, those are the only statements that  
21 I~propose reading to the Inquiry today. There will be  
22 more to read in the course of the next week and a half.

23 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Well, there are various things that  
24 we need to devote some time to for the rest of the  
25 afternoon. So we will rise now and we will resume again

1 at 10 o'clock. We hope to have applicants speaking to  
2 us from Australia and they are from a different  
3 institution. Isn't that right?

4 MS SMITH: That's correct, Chairman.

5 CHAIRMAN: Very well. Thank you all.

6 (3.00 pm)

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

8 --ooOoo--

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25