
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)

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