

1 Wednesday, 17 January 2018

2 (9.45 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. I think we move to the witness  
4 who we'd have heard yesterday if we hadn't run out of  
5 time; is that right, Mr MacAulay?

6 MR MacAULAY: That's right, my Lady, and that is  
7 Sister Evelyn Warnock.

8 SISTER EVELYN WARNOCK (sworn)

9 Questions from MR MacAULAY

10 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, Sister Evelyn. Are you Evelyn  
11 Anne Warnock.

12 A. Yes, I am.

13 Q. I don't need your date of birth, but can I take from you  
14 that you were born in 1947?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So you're now aged 70 in fact?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can I begin by looking quickly at your statement. It's  
19 in the red folder in front of you. I'll give the  
20 reference for the transcript, and that's  
21 WIT.003.001.0954. If I can just take you to the last  
22 page, 0988, which you'll see in the red folder --  
23 perhaps just go to the red folder itself. It's the very  
24 last page, sister.

25 There's more than one statement in the folder.

1           Could you look at the top right of each page and go to  
2           a page that tells us that it's 0988?

3           LADY SMITH: It's probably in front of the first flag or the  
4           second flag in that folder. The first flag. If you go  
5           to the last page of that copy, it might be there.

6           MR MacAULAY: The reason I want to take you to this page,  
7           sister, is to get you to confirm that you have signed  
8           the statement.

9           A. Yes.

10          Q. And also that you say:

11                 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
12                 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry."

13          A. That's correct.

14          Q. Also you go on to say:

15                 "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
16                 statement are true."

17          A. That's correct.

18          Q. I'll be asking you some questions, sister. If there are  
19                 things I ask you about and you can't remember, just say  
20                 so. Likewise, if there are things that come to mind  
21                 that you hadn't covered in your statement but you think  
22                 might be relevant, then please feel free to tell us  
23                 that.

24                 Can I just take you then to when you joined the  
25                 Daughters of Charity. You tell us that that was in

- 1           1968; is that correct?
- 2           A. That's correct, yes.
- 3           Q. Perhaps I can take you to a list of what you have done
- 4           in your ministry. This is set out in a ministry
- 5           statement and that is at WIT.003.001.0547.
- 6           Again, that'll come on the screen; it won't be
- 7           in the folder.
- 8           A. Right.
- 9           Q. Can we see that the first entry we have for you is from
- 10          1970 in a London house, where you're involved in the
- 11          care of children in Enfield; is that right?
- 12          A. Yes.
- 13          Q. You tell us that in 1974 you left the community, but
- 14          then you re-entered in 1978; is that correct?
- 15          A. Yes.
- 16          Q. You set out subsequently the sort of work you've done,
- 17          including social work.
- 18          A. Yes.
- 19          Q. And you're still active, I think, is that correct?
- 20          If we turn on to the next page, 0548, are you still
- 21          active?
- 22          A. Yes, not in social work.
- 23          Q. What are you doing now?
- 24          A. I have just moved to a new ministry in pastoral care.
- 25          Q. Is that in Scotland?

- 1 A. That's in Liverpool.
- 2 Q. Can I then go back to look at your connection with  
3 Smyllum? Because we don't see Smyllum on the list. Can  
4 you tell me how it came to be that you developed  
5 a connection with Smyllum?
- 6 A. When I left school -- I was about to leave school, the  
7 sisters from Smyllum came to the school looking for  
8 volunteers to accompany the children during the summer  
9 holidays and usually that was to accompany them in what  
10 we call camp. It was in St Andrews, and I went there to  
11 St Andrews and I was there for a month as a volunteer,  
12 and that's where I first had the connection with the  
13 sisters and the children. From there on then, I was  
14 drawn then to work with the children and that's how  
15 I ended up in Smyllum.
- 16 Q. You tell us in fact that you first went to Smyllum in  
17 1965.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Is that right?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And that you worked there for about a year?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And so far as that year is concerned, where were you  
24 based?
- 25 A. I was based, in the first year, in Smyllum itself in

- 1 a unit called St Mary's.
- 2 Q. So far as that unit was concerned, was there a sister in  
3 charge of the unit?
- 4 A. There was, yes.
- 5 Q. Who was that at that time?
- 6 A. That was Sister [REDACTED] HBP
- 7 Q. Then what was your role in that particular year when you  
8 were at Smyllum?
- 9 A. You could say it was more or less anything and  
10 everything that cropped up. The role consisted of being  
11 what we would called a house mother or an assistant  
12 house mother to the children then in your charge.
- 13 I was Sister [REDACTED] HBP assistant and we would get  
14 the children up in the morning, get them ready for  
15 school, they'd come back from school, they would have  
16 their lunch, if we didn't have children that was in  
17 school, if we had small children, we would have them in  
18 the unit. We did the domestic work, we did the washing,  
19 ironing, no cooking, and we spent time with the  
20 children, playing with them and anything that was  
21 required, and got them ready for bed at night-time and  
22 then it began again the next morning.
- 23 Q. Looking then to the children who were there, was it  
24 a mixture, was it boys or was it girls?
- 25 A. Both.

- 1 Q. And looking to the age range, what was the age range?
- 2 A. I think the youngest was 3 at the time, 3 or 4.
- 3 Q. And what about the oldest?
- 4 A. And the oldest would be about 15.
- 5 Q. And do you know what the criteria were for admission  
6 into that particular unit?
- 7 A. Most of these children came from broken homes of some  
8 form of other, either abuse or alcohol-related problems;  
9 drugs weren't so prevalent at the time. That would  
10 mostly be the criteria.
- 11 Q. That would be the background, possibly?
- 12 A. Yes, most of them.
- 13 Q. What I'm interested in is how would somebody choose to,  
14 for example, place a 5 or 6-year-old into St Mary's as  
15 opposed to one of the other units that were at Smyllum.  
16 Did you know at that time?
- 17 A. I wouldn't know at that time, but looking back, it would  
18 be where there would be a vacancy within the particular  
19 units, and if it was possible to keep the children  
20 together rather than separate them.
- 21 Q. Do you mean by that that if there were siblings --
- 22 A. The families together, yes.
- 23 Q. But you were aware that there were other unit sections  
24 within Smyllum at the time that you were there in 1965?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. At that time did you have any real connection with the  
2 other units?

3 A. I had connection with all of the units, a working  
4 connection, working relationship, with the staff, just  
5 in general associating with the other units, the staff,  
6 the sisters. As a member of staff, you were fairly free  
7 to move around the various units for different reasons.

8 Q. What about the care of children in other units?

9 A. No, the children didn't -- they didn't go from one unit  
10 to the other, no.

11 Q. So you told us then that you spent about a year there  
12 and I think what you did then was you went to do  
13 a course in residential childcare.

14 A. That's right. That's correct.

15 Q. Where was that course held?

16 A. That was in Langside College in Glasgow.

17 Q. I think you have provided us with your certificate of  
18 qualification.

19 A. I did.

20 Q. I can perhaps put that on the screen: WIT.003.001.0769.

21 I think we're looking now at the certificate that  
22 you obtained. Can we read in the body of the  
23 certificate that you successfully completed the course  
24 from 5 September 1966 to 25 August 1967? Is that  
25 correct?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Then when you were doing this course, had you left  
3 Smyllum?
- 4 A. No -- well, yes, I had left Smyllum and was living at  
5 home to do the course, yes.
- 6 Q. Once you'd completed the course I think you do mention  
7 in your statement that you then did some placements in  
8 children's homes; is that right?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. I think you say that you did three placements in two  
11 children's homes and one in a community home; is that  
12 correct?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. You tell us you then went back to Smyllum.
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. When was that, sister?
- 17 A. That was immediately after I completed the course.  
18 I went back -- one sister, she left Smyllum and  
19 I replaced her. That was Sister [REDACTED] HBP So  
20 I took [REDACTED] HBP place as the first member of staff  
21 being responsible for a unit. The others still had  
22 their sisters.
- 23 Q. Just to be clear, if you completed the course in 1967,  
24 do you say after that, after that in 1967, you were back  
25 at Smyllum?



- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. The placements you mentioned, were these done during the  
3 course?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Going back to Smyllum at this point in time, of course  
6 you were not a sister.
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. You were a layperson, if I can use that description.
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. But nevertheless, you say you were put in charge of  
11 a unit?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Was that St Mary's again?
- 14 A. That was St Mary's, yes.
- 15 Q. Were you something of a stopgap before another sister  
16 would take over? How did you see your position at that  
17 time?
- 18 A. I saw that it was a move forward. I thought it was  
19 quite a brave move because it hadn't happened to any  
20 of -- in any of the other communities.
- 21 Q. How long did you spend then in that position?
- 22 A. 12 months.
- 23 Q. So do I take it then you've had two stints of about  
24 a year apiece with this gap in the middle?
- 25 A. During that gap I also returned at some of the weekends.

1 Q. Then coming back to the general picture, did the picture  
2 remain generally the same for both periods that you were  
3 there insofar as St Mary's was concerned? By that  
4 I mean the number of children and the ranges of ages and  
5 so on.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And I think you say that -- essentially, you thought  
8 there was about 18 or so children in that particular  
9 unit.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Perhaps I could take you to a photograph just to  
12 identify where St Mary's was located. That's at  
13 DSV.001.001.4661.

14 Can you see towards the bottom of the photograph  
15 a little box that's designed to indicate where St Mary's  
16 might have been and the yellow line takes you to the  
17 left-hand side of the main building?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Was it on a particular floor?

20 A. It was on the ground floor.

21 Q. And if you look at the other -- let's look at the upper  
22 floor, just for example. Do you know what that  
23 accommodation was for?

24 A. The upper floor would have been the accommodation for  
25 the sisters. They had accommodation upstairs.

- 1 Q. We can see here the spread of the different units that  
2 existed at that time; is that correct? For example  
3 if we look towards the top part of the photograph, can  
4 we see an indication where St Anthony's was located?
- 5 A. I'm not familiar with that building because at the time  
6 I was there, that building wasn't there.
- 7 Q. Ah. But if St Anthony's existed then after you had been  
8 there, had it been moved to another part of the  
9 building?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. What about St Vincent's?
- 12 A. No, St Vincent's was there (indicates).
- 13 Q. And that's the same building as we have there, is it,  
14 towards the top?
- 15 A. No, it wasn't there, it wasn't at that particular part  
16 of the -- on that particular part of the photograph, no;  
17 it was within the main building.
- 18 Q. So do I take it that although this is the aerial  
19 photograph we have, there were changes to the structures  
20 which meant that whatever might have been a part of the  
21 building had been moved to another part?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. But you tell us in your statement -- this is at  
24 paragraph 14 -- that each unit had a name, so there's  
25 St Mary's' you've been telling us about, you mention

1 St Joseph's, st Vincent's, St Kentigern's. You tell us  
2 they were all in the main house when you were there.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And then you mention that Roncalli House and  
5 Ogilvy House were the two units outside the main  
6 building?

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. So there were the six units altogether?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. What you suggest in your statement is that your own unit  
11 was on the first floor of the main house and St Joseph's  
12 and St Vincent's were on the floor above. When you say  
13 the first floor, you mean the ground floor, do you?

14 A. Yes, the ground floor.

15 Q. But you do mention here that St Joseph's and  
16 St Vincent's were a floor above that; is that correct?

17 A. That's correct, yes.

18 Q. So it would appear that by the time you're there, these  
19 other units have been, as it were, centred on the main  
20 building of Smyllum?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. In the second period then when you were there, you tell  
23 us that you were in charge of St Mary's; did you have  
24 staff to help you?

25 A. I did, yes. I had two members of staff.

1 Q. Did they just help you or were they also involved with  
2 other units?

3 A. No, they were particularly assigned to St Mary's.

4 Q. So far as the other sisters are concerned, again you  
5 tell us in your statement -- you give us a number of  
6 names so far as the sisters -- you have mentioned

7 **HBP** Of course she's left by the time  
8 you're back in 1967/68; is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And then you mention a number of other names;

11 **EAC** for example. She was there when you  
12 were there?

13 A. She was.

14 Q. What about Sister **EAD** who has been mentioned in  
15 evidence?

16 A. No.

17 Q. We may come back to the names. But can I look at the  
18 routine, if you like? Can you assist me as to what the  
19 general routine might be, starting from the morning, if  
20 you like?

21 A. We would be down round about quarter to 7, sometimes  
22 a little bit earlier depending on -- you always knew  
23 perhaps who you might need to get up a little bit  
24 earlier if they had wet the bed. So for the sake of  
25 seeing to them without the others noticing anything,

1           we would tend to those first, then the rest of the  
2           children would get up, dressed, down for breakfast,  
3           ready for school.

4       Q.   I think from what you've said about the age range,  
5           there'd be some children who would not be going to  
6           school.

7       A.   That's right.

8       Q.   So there was a mixture, some would be going to secondary  
9           school?

10      A.   Some would go to secondary school and some would go up  
11         to the nursery school, which was also in our own  
12         grounds.

13      Q.   The primary?

14      A.   Yes, and there was a nursery school, a nursery section,  
15         yes.

16      Q.   What age then -- if a child was going to be going to  
17         either the nursery school --

18      A.   I think they'd be about 3, 3 or 4.

19      Q.   So far as the children were concerned, and the reasons  
20         why they were admitted to Smyllum, you have touched upon  
21         that, but were you given any information in relation to  
22         the children in your care as to why the children were  
23         there?

24      A.   Very, very little information.  There was nothing on  
25         paper at that time.  We'd simply be told that they had

1           come from a broken family, where alcohol was the main  
2           problem, and that the parents were no longer able to  
3           look after the children and it had been decided by  
4           social services that they were to come into care and  
5           that would be it. That would be it.

6           Q. By the time you're back, of course, you've had your  
7           childcare course.

8           A. Yes.

9           Q. Did you consider that the information you had in  
10          connection with each of the children you had in your  
11          care was adequate?

12          A. Well, most of those children -- in fact all of them --  
13          were still in care when I returned, so I already had  
14          built up my own information as well about the families.  
15          I never really had to give it much thought because I was  
16          never looking for anything else because I didn't have  
17          any new admissions.

18          Q. But I don't know, is it helpful to someone who's caring  
19          for a child to have some idea as to what the background  
20          of that child might be?

21          A. Oh, it is, yes.

22          Q. Was that something that you covered in your course to  
23          have a history of --

24          A. Yes, it was beginning to take off on the course. This  
25          course had just begun when I actually took it up, so

1           this was all new --

2       Q.   Right.

3       A.   -- and background information was beginning to come to  
4           the forefront.

5       LADY SMITH:  Because, of course, some of these children  
6           would have to go into care because of parental death or  
7           parental illness, wouldn't they?

8       A.   Yes, but I didn't have any.

9       LADY SMITH:  I'm not suggesting you particularly did, but  
10           that era was an era when you were still encountering  
11           people dying from illnesses that we now have means to  
12           deal with.

13      A.   Yes.  I don't know what other information the early  
14           admissions would have given.  Some of the other sisters  
15           may have been aware of that, but I wasn't aware of the  
16           backgrounds of the other children, except other than  
17           conversations with the other staff.

18      MR MacAULAY:  You mentioned, when we were talking about the  
19           routine, bed-wetting.  So far as your unit was  
20           concerned, did you have children who did wet the bed?

21      A.   Yes, we had four.

22      Q.   So you can identify quite clearly the four that were  
23           bed-wetters?

24      A.   Yes.

25      Q.   Were they younger children?



1 A. The oldest one was -- I think he was 8, 7 or 8, and the  
2 others were 5 or 6.

3 Q. Was that a constant issue during the time that you were  
4 there?

5 A. For some, for a couple of them, yes, but for one in  
6 particular it stopped.

7 Q. Can I ask you this, sister, because we've heard a lot of  
8 evidence in this inquiry about bed-wetting and how  
9 bed-wetters were managed. How were bed-wetters managed  
10 in the unit that you were in charge of?

11 A. As I said, we would come down early, because we knew  
12 ourselves -- we just wanted to come down and let the  
13 children get out of their beds, get them bathed, get  
14 them dressed, with as few people as possible seeing it.  
15 That's the way it was handled.

16 Q. When you say "as few people as possible seeing it",  
17 would that be in an effort to avoid embarrassment for  
18 the child?

19 A. Yes, yes.

20 Q. But I think you do tell us in your statement, sister,  
21 about at least one incident where you saw a different  
22 practice.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can you help me with that?

25 A. Yes. That was one member of staff. She was almost

1 ready for retiring and, as I say -- I think I mentioned  
2 this -- she got a bit cranky at times and she did  
3 chastise one boy in particular. Sister HBP saw  
4 it -- I spoke to sister about it as well, but she had  
5 also seen it and she put a stop to that.

6 Q. What did this member of staff do?

7 A. She would tell the boy that to wet the bed was dirty  
8 and -- she would never physically slap him but she would  
9 certainly shout at him.

10 Q. And what about the sheets? Did she ask the boy to do  
11 anything with the sheets?

12 A. She made -- I remember at one point she made him stand  
13 with the sheets.

14 Q. Was this one incident?

15 A. Yes, one incident, because sister came down on it very  
16 hard.

17 Q. Do I understand from that that this was in your first  
18 time at Smyllum?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So that's 1965/1966?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did it occur to you -- did you question as to what the  
23 source of this practice was of chastising a child and  
24 making him stand with sheets?

25 A. Well, I think this woman was just a cranky old woman.

1           She was a member of staff who -- it was time for her to  
2           move off and I would agree with that at the time.

3           LADY SMITH: How long had she been there?

4           A. Oh, I couldn't tell you, but I think she had been there  
5           a fair bit of time. I couldn't tell you how long.

6           MR MacAULAY: Would it be possible, though, for a lay member  
7           of staff herself to take on board this sort of practice  
8           in your opinion?

9           A. To chastise a child?

10          Q. Yes. I think what you tell us, sister, to chastise  
11          a child, tell him it was dirty, that she would make him  
12          stand with his sheets.

13          A. Yes.

14          Q. That's in paragraph 39. What I'm asking is -- I mean,  
15          how likely do you think it is that a layperson would  
16          take it upon herself to do this unless there was some  
17          approval of the practice?

18          A. Oh, there was no approval of the practice. That's why  
19          the woman was reprimanded so harshly.

20          Q. As at that time, but if you think back historically, is  
21          it likely that this woman was reflecting a practice that  
22          had been there prior to the time that you witnessed this  
23          event?

24          A. I couldn't answer that, because I don't know. I just  
25          can't answer that question because I don't know.

1 I didn't hear -- when I was there, it was never -- I had  
2 never heard it discussed with any other member of staff  
3 or by any member of staff that this happened or they  
4 knew this had happened, so I can't answer.

5 Q. Okay. But in any event, you say, sister, that you  
6 witnessed this event; is that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And that you reported this matter to Sister **HBP**  
9 who was in charge?

10 A. Yes, but she was already aware of it, though.

11 Q. How did she become aware of it?

12 A. Because she saw it happening.

13 Q. She saw it happening as well?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So when you say she saw it happening, do we understand  
16 from you that this layperson did this in full sight, as  
17 it were, of yourself and indeed the sister in charge of  
18 the unit?

19 A. I'm just thinking about the best way to answer that.  
20 What do you mean "she did it in full sight"?

21 Q. You've told us about what happened and you have told us  
22 Sister **HBP** saw it.

23 A. Yes, she came in and saw it and saw the boy standing  
24 with the sheets, yes.

25 Q. This layperson -- do I take it it would not be

- 1 unexpected for the sister in charge to come into the  
2 unit at that time in the morning?
- 3 A. Oh yes, it would yes.
- 4 Q. It wouldn't be --
- 5 A. She would be expected, she'd be there every morning,  
6 yes.
- 7 Q. So the layperson would expect the sister to be there  
8 that morning when she engaged in this particular  
9 practice?
- 10 A. She may have. She may have thought she could have got  
11 away with it. I don't know. She may have wanted the  
12 child to stand there for a while and she knew what time  
13 the sister came up so perhaps she would have just taken  
14 the sheets from him before she came in the door, I don't  
15 know.
- 16 Q. But in any event, sister, you tell us that this  
17 practice, at least following upon this incident, this  
18 lady was spoken to and that was that?
- 19 A. And it stopped, yes.
- 20 Q. Did you ever see that happening again?
- 21 A. Never.
- 22 Q. Again, there's been evidence in the inquiry generally  
23 that there was a practice akin to the one you witnessed,  
24 of scolding children for wetting the bed, placing sheets  
25 in some way on their person, whether it was holding

1 sheets or over their heads, and I just want to be clear  
2 then, so far as you're concerned, during your two stints  
3 at Smyllum, apart from the episode you have told us  
4 about, you never, ever saw that happening?

5 A. No. No.

6 Q. Were you at any point in any of the other units in the  
7 morning when children were getting up and getting ready  
8 for breakfast or were you just confined to your own unit  
9 at that time?

10 A. We were confined to our own unit at that time, but  
11 if we wanted to borrow something or needed something,  
12 then we would nip through to another unit.

13 Q. And from what you say, you never witnessed this practice  
14 anywhere else?

15 A. No, no.

16 Q. Have you had some regard to the evidence that's been  
17 presented to the inquiry in this connection with  
18 children, according to what we've heard, being made to  
19 be humiliated with sheets being put on their person and  
20 being chastised and indeed struck, hit, because of  
21 bed-wetting? What's your reaction to that evidence?

22 A. Well, I would be appalled if that was the practice, if  
23 that is what was happening, but I never witnessed any of  
24 that or I never heard anything about it from any other  
25 member of staff.

1 Q. So far as bed-wetters were concerned then in your unit,  
2 sister, once they were identified as having wet the bed  
3 on a particular morning, what then happened to them?

4 A. Nothing. Life went on as normal. They had their bath,  
5 they got dressed and that was it. The sheets went over  
6 to the laundry and that was it, end of story.

7 Q. And so far as the bath was concerned then, would that be  
8 a bath that they'd be having in any event or would that  
9 be a bath they were having because they wet the bed?

10 A. They wouldn't normally have a bath in the morning.  
11 There would be little time to have a bath in the morning  
12 because of the number of children. But they were given  
13 a bath in the morning simply so that no one else other  
14 than their companions in the unit would know that they  
15 wet the bed -- because unless you give a child a good  
16 wash or a good bath, you smell the urine from them  
17 anyway. I know that from experience in other places.  
18 So it was to eliminate every possibility -- and the  
19 children didn't object.

20 Q. There's been a suggestion in the evidence to this  
21 inquiry that the baths that the children were given in  
22 those instances were cold baths.

23 A. No. Not in my unit, no.

24 Q. Would you see any justification for --

25 A. No.

- 1 Q. -- giving a child a cold bath in those circumstances?
- 2 A. Never in any circumstances, no.
- 3 Q. The lady who you mention as being grumpy -- and I think  
4 you tell us her name was Ms HBO -- did she remain  
5 on the staff after that?
- 6 A. No, she went just before I took over.
- 7 Q. Because she had gone by the time --
- 8 A. She had gone. I don't know where she had gone though.
- 9 Q. When we're talking about the routine then, sister,  
10 we have talked about the morning, getting out of bed,  
11 and then let's look at mealtimes. So far as meals were  
12 concerned for your unit, where did they have the dining  
13 room?
- 14 A. The unit that we called St Mary's was on two floors. In  
15 the photograph that was up on the screen, on the ground  
16 floor, it was an open-plan sitting room and dining room,  
17 and the bedrooms then were on the first floor. So the  
18 children would come down to the open-plan area where the  
19 dining room was and they would have their breakfast down  
20 there.
- 21 Q. And do I take it from that then that the children in  
22 your unit had their own separate dining area as compared  
23 to other units?
- 24 A. No, the other units had their own separate dining area,  
25 but we had an open-plan dining room and sitting room



- 1           together. The others were separate. The others had  
2           a separate dining room and separate sitting room.
- 3       Q. That is what I was getting at.
- 4       A. Yes.
- 5       Q. You had your own separate dining room and sitting room  
6           as did other units?
- 7       A. Yes, yes.
- 8       Q. So far as the preparation of the food was concerned,  
9           let's take the point in time -- the two points in time.  
10           During the first point in time, where was the food  
11           prepared?
- 12       A. The food was prepared in the main kitchen.
- 13       Q. Did that remain the position while you were there?
- 14       A. Yes.
- 15       Q. How would you describe the food, sister?
- 16       A. It was satisfactory and it was adequate and the staff  
17           had the same food. I had the same food.
- 18       Q. Did you have any difficulty with children eating the  
19           food that was put in front of them?
- 20       A. No, no. If they didn't like the food or they couldn't  
21           eat the food, then they couldn't eat the food, but  
22           they'd -- you'd maybe give something else. If they  
23           weren't well, it might be some hot milk or a bit of  
24           toast or something. It wasn't a problem.
- 25       Q. Do you have any recollection of children just not

1           wanting to eat their food?

2           A. No -- not unless they weren't well, no.

3           Q. Would you seek to persuade a child that was perhaps not

4           particularly enthusiastic about --

5           A. You would try and encourage, as you would do today, yes.

6           Q. But again there's been evidence before the inquiry of

7           children being made to eat their food. You never saw

8           that?

9           A. Never saw it and haven't heard anything about it during

10          my time, no.

11          Q. Force-feeding has been mentioned --

12          A. No, never.

13          Q. Just looking at other aspects of the routine, what about

14          birthdays? To what extent were birthdays acknowledged?

15          A. In my own particular unit, I don't remember. I think

16          maybe once or twice maybe a birthday card came. But on

17          the whole, nothing.

18          Q. By Smyllum, to what extent would there be any sort of

19          celebration for a child whose birthday it was?

20          A. That would be -- each unit would handle that in their

21          own way. So you might buy a small cake and have a few

22          extra sweets. There was always plenty of stuff in

23          store -- sweets, anything you wanted. You could go to

24          the kitchen and you could ask for whatever you wanted

25          and you could celebrate it in your own unit.

- 1 Q. Would there be cards?
- 2 A. Very, very -- there would be from the unit, but from  
3 their family, I'm afraid not, no.
- 4 Q. You say there would be a card from the unit?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And a cake?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And Christmas, what about Christmas?
- 9 A. At Christmastime, presents used to come from various  
10 organisations, voluntary organisations, groups, so  
11 children were never short of presents at Christmastime.  
12 So you didn't have to buy anything; you could easily  
13 access something that would be suitable for a particular  
14 child or that particular age. So you were never short  
15 of presents, never.
- 16 Q. Were the children allowed to keep their presents?
- 17 A. Yes, yes.
- 18 Q. Again, there's been some suggestion that, although  
19 a child might get a present, the present would then be  
20 taken away from the child very shortly afterwards.
- 21 A. No, no, they would keep their own presents. If they  
22 couldn't keep them in their drawers in the bedroom, they  
23 would keep them down in the main sitting room area.
- 24 Q. Perhaps I should have clarified with you what the  
25 bedroom layout was. You have told us there was a range

1 of children in St Mary's. How many bedrooms were there?

2 A. I think there were five. I'm not sure now.

3 Q. How were they divided up?

4 A. There would be three or four beds in a room.

5 Q. Boys would be in one place and girls in another, or

6 how --

7 A. They would try and keep the families together in the one

8 room.

9 Q. But if you had boys and girls of fairly close age, would

10 they be separated? What was the set-up?

11 A. If they were of a close age -- a younger age you mean?

12 Q. Let's say you had 14/15-year-olds --

13 A. I didn't have any 14 or 15-year-olds. The older boys

14 then tended to go to St Kentigern's with the boys.

15 Q. Perhaps I misunderstood. What then was the age range in

16 your unit?

17 A. I had girls until 15, but I didn't have boys.

18 Q. So far as boys would be concerned, what was the age

19 range?

20 A. I think the oldest one was 10.

21 Q. I see. So there was a distinction drawn then between

22 boys and girls?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So you could have a boy up to the age of 10 who would

25 then move to St Kentigern's -- or could it be another

1 unit?

2 A. No, it tended to be St Kentigern's.

3 LADY SMITH: You say that if children didn't have somewhere  
4 to keep presents at the place they slept, they would be  
5 kept in the sitting room area.

6 A. Yes. It was a very, very large open-plan area.

7 LADY SMITH: Where in the sitting room would the presents  
8 be?

9 A. Wherever we could find a space. It would be mostly up  
10 against a wall, the top corner, the left-hand corner by  
11 the windows. It was a very wide space, so children's  
12 prams, little bicycles, anything at all, it was fairly  
13 big, would stay in there in the sitting room because  
14 sometimes they would ride around the sitting room on the  
15 bike.

16 LADY SMITH: Then whatever the item was would be accessible  
17 by all the children; is that right?

18 A. Yes, but they tended to hold on to their own.

19 LADY SMITH: Well, I get that, but you're not suggesting  
20 they had any lockers of their own in the sitting room or  
21 private spaces in the sitting room?

22 A. No, their private space was in the bedroom and they  
23 would have a chest of drawers so they would keep any  
24 little bits they wanted for themselves in the chest of  
25 drawers.

1 LADY SMITH: As you say, if there was a space for them  
2 there?

3 A. Yes.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MR MacAULAY: Can I ask you about washing and bathing,  
6 sister, because you do tell us about that from  
7 paragraph 41 of your statement. What were the  
8 arrangements for bathing and washing?

9 A. I can't see 41.

10 Q. It'll come up for you shortly.

11 A. Yes, that's correct. There was bathing every night, but  
12 we never had any specific time that everybody had to  
13 have baths all at the one time. We staggered them  
14 throughout the week, but there were baths every night  
15 because somebody had to be bathed -- and they wouldn't  
16 have a bath in cold water, it was always warm water. As  
17 I said, because there was so much water being used at  
18 that time throughout the building then, water was used  
19 for one family, but that was the practice anyway. But  
20 it was never used for any other family.

21 Q. I think what you tell us, first of all, is that there  
22 were two baths --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- dedicated to your unit; is that correct?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And the children had baths every night?
- 2 A. Yes. Some children had baths every night, yes, not  
3 everybody.
- 4 Q. You say sometimes the water wasn't always that warm  
5 because everybody was bathing at the same time?
- 6 A. That's correct, yes.
- 7 Q. I think what you went on to say is if water was to be  
8 shared, then it would be shared only amongst members of  
9 a particular family and not, for example, the group as  
10 a whole. Have I understood that correctly?
- 11 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 12 Q. Can I ask you then, moving on a little bit, about  
13 leisure time. You give us some information about that  
14 from paragraphs 47 through to, I think, 53. But what  
15 you're saying, effectively, is the children had plenty  
16 of games and toys and so on, is that your position, in  
17 your unit?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. As far as sports were concerned, you do make mention  
20 there of [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] Did you have some involvement  
21 with Mr [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] --
- 22 A. Yes, [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] yes.
- 23 Q. -- and sports? What sort of sports would he be --
- 24 A. Well, [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] would arrange football matches, cricket  
25 matches between the units out in the field.

- 1 Q. I'll come back to Mr [REDACTED] BAC shortly, but trips and  
2 holidays then, you also mention trips. So far as your  
3 unit would be concerned, was there a particular area  
4 where they would go if there was to be a trip?
- 5 A. You mean a holiday trip?
- 6 Q. Yes, a holiday trip.
- 7 A. St Andrews tended to be the place where all the units  
8 went.
- 9 Q. We've had some evidence that there may have been  
10 holidays also in Girvan.
- 11 A. Not at my time.
- 12 Q. How would the holidays be arranged? By that I mean how  
13 would the children be transported?
- 14 A. We would go up by coach and we would spend a fortnight  
15 in St Andrews. It looked like a large school that  
16 perhaps had been taken over at the time and we would use  
17 the school and we would be there for the fortnight.
- 18 Q. Would you keep your children together as a group when  
19 you were at St Andrews? How would it work with regard  
20 to the other children?
- 21 A. I'm just trying to think, was there another group?  
22 I think there was another group up when I was there.
- 23 Q. So do I take it that not the whole of Smyllum --
- 24 A. No, no.
- 25 Q. -- would go?



1 A. No, a unit at a time, but there may have been an overlap  
2 for a couple of days where one group was about to return  
3 home and the next group had just come.

4 Q. Just so we understand, you would go up there with your  
5 unit?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Of about 18 children?

8 A. And your staff, yes.

9 Q. And there may have been some sort of crossover later on  
10 once you're about to come home?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Have I understood that correctly?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What about Mr **BAC** would he go with your unit?

15 A. No, no.

16 Q. Can I ask you about visitors, sister. So far as the  
17 children in your group were concerned, did they get many  
18 visitors?

19 A. No. Not in my own particular unit, no.

20 Q. Any visitors at all?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And so far as visitors were concerned, how was that  
23 managed?

24 A. When they came to the unit, they would come into the  
25 main area of our dining room and they would be given

1 a cup of tea or a sandwich and they would see the  
2 children then in the unit. They might go out into the  
3 field with them, but I have no recollection of them ever  
4 asking to take the child down the town --

5 Q. Right.

6 A. -- or take them out for a while.

7 Q. Was there any -- were visitors encouraged to come?

8 A. Yes. Yes. They were invited, they would be clearly  
9 told, you know, they'd be very welcome back, but they  
10 didn't always come.

11 Q. When you were in charge, did you speak to the visitors?

12 A. Yes.

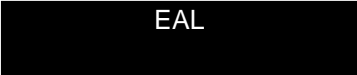
13 Q. Inspections. Do you have any recollection of any  
14 inspections of your unit being carried out by anyone in  
15 an official capacity?

16 A. No one from the statutory agencies as far as I know, but  
17 the superior at the time, who was EAL was  
18 around and about very, very often, very often.

19 Q. She was the --

20 A. Yes, she was often touring the building, often talking  
21 to the children, the staff. That was her manner, that  
22 was the way she cared for people, and also she was  
23 genuinely interested in how things were going on and how  
24 the children were.

25 Q. Was she the superior during your first stint?

- 1 A. Yes. Both, yes, all the time.
- 2 Q. Again, what about social workers then or welfare  
3 officers? Did you have any recollection of a social  
4 worker or a welfare officer coming to visit a child --
- 5 A. Not in my unit, no.
- 6 Q. -- during either time that you were there?
- 7 A. No. Sorry, can I just correct that?
- 8 Q. Yes.
- 9 A. There were social workers came to Smyllum, but they  
10 didn't particularly discuss anything with me. Anything  
11 that was discussed would have been with  
12  EAL
- 13 Q. I can understand that. What I'm asking about is whether  
14 there might have been a social worker or a welfare  
15 officer representing the placing authority that might  
16 have placed the child at Smyllum coming to visit  
17 a child.
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. You were only at Smyllum for two relatively short  
20 periods of time, sister, a year and a year, in fact;  
21 is that right?
- 22 A. And in between.
- 23 Q. And in between. But so far as you were concerned when  
24 you were in charge of the unit, was there any system  
25 whereby, on a regular basis, a child's progress was

- 1 reviewed?
- 2 A. There wasn't -- I wasn't involved in a formal system,  
3 but I did go to [REDACTED] EAL [REDACTED] who, as I would put  
4 it, kept tabs on everything within the units,  
5 particularly because it didn't have a sister who was  
6 responsible for it directly. So [REDACTED] EAL [REDACTED] was my  
7 supervisor and I discussed the children then with  
8 [REDACTED] EAL [REDACTED]
- 9 Q. But do you know of any written progress records that  
10 were kept for each of the children that were in your  
11 unit?
- 12 A. At that time, no. I wasn't aware of any.
- 13 Q. So far as your childcare course was concerned, was there  
14 anything in that to indicate that there was merit in  
15 tracing a child's progress over a period of time?
- 16 A. It wasn't anything that was -- that there was any great  
17 emphasis about ... as regards record-keeping. As I say,  
18 the course was in its early days, it was developing  
19 itself, and record-keeping wasn't high on the agenda at  
20 that time.
- 21 LADY SMITH: You say there wasn't emphasis on it; is it  
22 something that was covered in the course?
- 23 A. I think it ... No, we didn't have any lectures on  
24 record-keeping, but it was touched on that records were  
25 valuable at that time. But it wasn't something that, as

1 I say, was given great emphasis.

2 LADY SMITH: Because if records were kept that means, for  
3 example, a local authority that had placed a child would  
4 be able not just to talk to somebody, they'd be able to  
5 look at the records in relation to the child and where,  
6 for example, parents had placed the child and were  
7 paying for them being in Smyllum, they would be able to  
8 see how the child was doing there and what record was  
9 being kept about it, wouldn't they?

10 A. There wasn't anything of that form even when I was on my  
11 placements.

12 LADY SMITH: But I'm right, aren't I? For the people on the  
13 outside who would have a strong interest in how the  
14 child was doing, it would mean that there's a regular  
15 written record of the child's progress available to  
16 them.

17 A. I don't know if at that time there was a regular  
18 written --

19 LADY SMITH: I'm not asking you if there was. But in  
20 principle, it's something that could be of enormous  
21 benefit to those who have a legitimate interest --

22 A. It could, and as time went on it developed.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MR MacAULAY: Just then on record-keeping, sister, what  
25 records did you keep in your unit in respect of the

- 1 children in your care?
- 2 A. I didn't keep any records at all. The only records that  
3 were kept were medical records and those were kept by  
4 Sister **FAM** who was the nurse at the time, and she was  
5 responsible for those.
- 6 Q. So far as not keeping any records, do I understand then  
7 that there were no instructions given to you to keep  
8 records in respect of the children?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. So for example, in relation to discipline -- and we'll  
11 talk about that in a moment -- do I take it then there  
12 was no record kept in connection with whether  
13 a particular child was disciplined and why?
- 14 A. I wasn't asked to keep anything on paper, but I was  
15 expected verbally to speak to **EAL** about everything  
16 that happened on a daily basis in the unit, whether it  
17 be discipline or illness or school or whatever.
- 18 Q. You were asked a number of questions when you were  
19 giving your statement, sister, about those who might  
20 have access to children -- by that I mean outside  
21 individuals. In particular, you were asked as to  
22 whether or not trainee priests came to visit. I think  
23 you thought that that didn't happen.
- 24 A. It didn't happen with me. There were two chaps, Gerard  
25 and Dan Geraghty(?), and they were associated with

1 St Catherine's, both of those were going on for the  
2 priesthood, and they were particularly associated with  
3 St Kentigern's and Sister [REDACTED] ADE but not with my own  
4 unit.

5 Q. One person you do mention in your statement is a person  
6 by the name of Brian Dailey.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You knew who that was?

9 A. Yes, I knew who he was, but I didn't have any connection  
10 with him. He didn't have any connection with the unit.  
11 Again, he went to -- he visited St Kentigern's and  
12 Sister [REDACTED] ADE I would see him on his way to visit  
13 them, but other than that, they had no connection with  
14 him.

15 Q. Do you know what his interest in Smyllum was?

16 A. He was a Scoutmaster. I would imagine that perhaps  
17 he was -- it was to do with the Scouts. I don't know.  
18 I don't know what the interest was.

19 Q. And I think you tell us you were asked about whether any  
20 arrangements to check whether people who had contact  
21 with the children were suitable. What's your position  
22 on that? Do you know if there were any arrangements for  
23 checking to see whether someone was suitable to have  
24 contact with children?

25 A. Do you mean member of staff or on a voluntary basis?

1 Q. Just in general.

2 A. Not as there would be today, no.

3 Q. You have told us this already, I think, that during your  
4 time at Smyllum none of the children were in fact  
5 discharged from Smyllum.

6 A. None of my own children were discharged; there were  
7 children discharged.

8 Q. Yes, indeed. Although some of the children that you  
9 might have cared for might have moved on to another  
10 unit?

11 A. They didn't. Not in my time.

12 Q. You mention, for example, that boys of 10 might move on.

13 A. Yes, but the boy didn't move in my time.

14 Q. So the short answer is no one in fact moved from your  
15 unit --

16 A. No.

17 Q. -- during the two times that you were there?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Can I ask you then, sister, about discipline and  
20 punishment. First of all, were you given any guidance  
21 at any time about how children should be disciplined at  
22 Smyllum?

23 A. At Smyllum itself the only guidance I got was from  
24 HBP herself, who was my mentor in the beginning,  
25 and from EAL who again I was responsible



1 to while I was there, responsible for the unit.

2 **EAL** was a very wise woman, so that's -- there was  
3 no specific regime for disciplining or ... it was mostly  
4 to do with the relationship --

5 Q. What guidance did you get?

6 A. The only guidance I would get is, again, what we would  
7 have during our time on the course. Again, it was all  
8 to do with the relationships.

9 Q. I'm thinking more about what guidance did you get from  
10 either Sister **HBP** or Sister **EAL** in connection  
11 with how children in your care should be disciplined.

12 A. One of the things that was emphasised is that you would  
13 never strike a child. Very, very strongly. Never  
14 strike a child. It was very difficult to deprive the  
15 children of anything. Today it's much easier to  
16 discipline. There are many more things you can take  
17 away from a child for a time. But in those days there  
18 wasn't all that much. We had television. It was very  
19 difficult to stop a child watching television because of  
20 the open-plan area and we wouldn't be in favour of  
21 sending a child up to their bedroom on their own because  
22 they were on a different floor. So it was really your  
23 relationship with the child that you used, that this  
24 should not happen, this is not the kind of thing that  
25 should happen here. But other than that, you would stop

1           them going outside if they wanted to go out to play,  
2           stop them going swimming. Those were the kind of  
3           things.

4       Q. We are looking at an era where corporal punishment as  
5           a form of chastisement was acceptable in the 1960s;  
6           that is the case, isn't it?

7       A. Well, it wasn't the case in our unit.

8       Q. But generally speaking in the country, I think.  
9           Children would get the belt at school, for example.

10      A. Yes, I got it myself, from my own family, yes.

11      Q. So are you saying then, sister, that notwithstanding  
12           that sort of climate, if you like, in the country, that  
13           you never saw a child being hit while you were at  
14           Smyllum?

15      A. Yes, because those children that came to us were already  
16           damaged and we certainly weren't going to damage them in  
17           any other way. In fact, it was the opposite. These  
18           children had a background that was very questionable and  
19           many of these children had been hit and hit badly at  
20           home. They weren't going to experience that again when  
21           they came to us. In no way would that be acceptable.  
22           Not in my time. Never in my unit, never.

23      Q. Just leaving aside your own unit, sister, just to be  
24           clear, you never saw a child being hit --

25      A. No.

- 1 Q. -- by anyone?
- 2 A. No. I knew that children misbehaved because the staff  
3 discussed it. We often -- but never, never. Never.
- 4 Q. At that time in the 1960s, do you know how many children  
5 were at Smyllum in the mid-60s?
- 6 A. I'm not really sure now. There would be over 100,  
7 anyway. I can't remember. I sat and tried to tot them  
8 up. There was over 100 anyway, I think.
- 9 Q. I can put a document in front of you to give you some  
10 idea. Let's look at SGV.001.001.0432.
- 11 I've taken to you this page because if you look  
12 at the bottom, there's a signature by  
13 Sister EAL in fact, who you've been  
14 talking about, and we see this is December 1965.
- 15 If we turn to the previous page, 0431, can we see that  
16 this represents the particulars that were to be  
17 submitted to the authorities in connection with Smyllum.
- 18 If you look at item 7, is it suggested there that at  
19 this time there were 62 boys and 68 girls?
- 20 A. Mm-hm.
- 21 Q. So about 120 altogether.
- 22 A. Yes, about 100.
- 23 Q. That fits in with your own recollection in the mid-60s?
- 24 A. Yes, five units, yes.
- 25 Q. So clearly, a lot of children to be kept under control

1           within the establishment. It's 120 children altogether;  
2           that's correct, isn't it?

3           A. Yes, but they didn't all live under ... in the one area  
4           at the one time.

5           Q. Well, can I ask you then about a number of allegations  
6           that have been made in connection with a number of staff  
7           members, sister -- and these were put to you, I think,  
8           when you gave your statement. For example, in  
9           connection with Mr [REDACTED] BAC who you've already  
10          mentioned, did you ever see him discipline a child?

11          A. Yes, verbally, yes. Verbally. In fact, I was present  
12          when two kids were laying into one another, I don't know  
13          what it was about, but [REDACTED] BAC separated the two of them  
14          and, "This is not the way you treat your brother, this  
15          doesn't happen here". But other than that, nothing --  
16          and, "You'll not come and play in the cricket match,"  
17          you know.

18          Q. I think in your statement, without looking at the detail  
19          of the individuals concerned, a number of examples were  
20          given to you that involved Mr [REDACTED] BAC physically hitting  
21          children and, in particular instances, in quite a severe  
22          way. From what you say, you have no knowledge of that  
23          and it was never something that was known about?

24          A. No. No.

25          Q. You were also asked about a number of allegations that

1 have been levelled against certain sisters. Again,  
2 I think you're aware of who these sisters are and  
3 you've, I think, discussed them in your statement. If  
4 you turn to paragraph, for example, 109, of your  
5 statement, and moving on, you're giving certain  
6 information about a number of individuals who have made  
7 allegations and I think you say, so far as these  
8 allegations are concerned, you never saw any of what's  
9 being alleged.

10 A. I didn't see anything or hear anything discussed.

11 Q. I think we've already talked about force-feeding and so  
12 on. You just never saw any of that?

13 A. Again, I didn't see it, didn't experience it, and didn't  
14 hear the staff discussing anything of that kind at all.

15 Q. Then if I can take you, sister, to paragraph 129 of your  
16 statement. This is just trying to get an overall  
17 picture about what's been said about the regime at  
18 Smyllum. What's set out there in paragraph 129 is:

19 "I have been told that it has been said that there  
20 was a regime at Smyllum that involved children being  
21 slapped, punched and kicked; the force-feeding of  
22 children; placing a child on a nun's breast; and locking  
23 children in cupboards."

24 And your answer to that is:

25 "I have never seen or heard of any of that."

- 1 A. That's true.
- 2 Q. What's your reaction to these allegations?
- 3 A. I'm horrified that those allegations have been made, but
- 4 I'm very sad as well that they have been made because
- 5 I didn't witness anything of that at all. And looking
- 6 at some of the sisters and knowing some of the sisters
- 7 and working alongside them, I just find it very sad that
- 8 those allegations have been made when I see that ...
- 9 I just find it very sad.
- 10 Q. Can I leave that for the moment and move on quickly to
- 11 look at your connection with St Vincent's Newcastle.
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Because you also went for a period of time to
- 14 St Vincent's; is that correct?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. And I think you tell us that you were there from 1971 to
- 17 1974.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. And at that time it was still within the order you are
- 20 in now, the Daughters of Charity?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. What role did you have to play at St Vincent's?
- 23 A. I was responsible for the unit; Tudor House, it was
- 24 called.
- 25 Q. How many children were in the unit?

- 1 A. I think we went up to 21 at one time. 18-ish. 18 was  
2 fairly normal, yes.
- 3 Q. But in comparison to Smyllum, it was a much smaller  
4 set-up?
- 5 A. Childcare had moved on a bit, the sisters had moved on  
6 in their understanding of childcare, and many of the  
7 sisters had gone for training by that time. Their  
8 training was obviously being put to good use, so the  
9 childcare situation, like many of the other local  
10 authority organisations, had moved forward, it had  
11 progressed, so things like record-keeping and case  
12 conferences, family visits, things had progressed. So  
13 things that were recognised to be of value and necessary  
14 were in place.
- 15 Q. But looking to the children you had at St Vincent's,  
16 a much smaller number compared to Smyllum?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And the age range?
- 19 A. From 6 weeks to 16.
- 20 Q. And boys and girls?
- 21 A. Boys and girls together, yes.
- 22 Q. Again, a number of points were put to you in connection  
23 with things that might have happened at St Vincent's to  
24 named individuals in connection with certain sisters.  
25 Again, just in general terms, I think you tell us that

- 1           you never witnessed any form of abuse at St Vincent's.
- 2       A.   No.
- 3       Q.   Did you ever see a child being hit?
- 4       A.   No.
- 5       Q.   One of the things you were asked about was in connection  
6           with a person by the name of Bernard Traynor.   Was  
7           Mr Traynor there when you were there in 1971?
- 8       A.   Yes, he was.   He would come at the weekend to the Seaton  
9           unit.   We all had a student priest who came; I had one  
10          as well.
- 11      Q.   What was his function there?
- 12      A.   Well, it was ...   Partly as part of his pastoral  
13          training to get an understanding of children in care  
14          because he would -- in his ministry he would come across  
15          broken families.   But also for the sake of the children,  
16          particularly the teenagers, to be a male role figure for  
17          them and to take them out from the units, away from the  
18          unit set-up with the younger kids, to go out and play  
19          football or go out on the Tyne, just generally befriend  
20          them.
- 21      Q.   So do I take it from that that someone like Mr Traynor  
22          would have unsupervised contact with --
- 23      A.   He would go into town with them, yes, and they'd go to  
24          the pictures, yes.
- 25      Q.   So far as being at St Vincent's would be concerned,



1           where would someone like him be located?  Would he have  
2           a room of his own?

3           A.  Oh yes, they had rooms of their own, yes.

4           Q.  But they would have access to the children then on  
5           a relatively unsupervised basis?

6           A.  They would have access to the children in the house.

7           Q.  Yes.

8           A.  In the house.  In the unit itself.  They were like  
9           houses now, they weren't ...  Each of the --  
10          Tudor House, Seaton House, they were like houses.

11          Q.  You mean separate units?

12          A.  Separate houses, yes, but joined, individual houses but  
13          they were joined by a fire door.  But in style, even  
14          though they were joined by a fire door, they were  
15          totally different inside.

16          Q.  Are you aware now that there have been proven  
17          allegations of sexual abuse against Mr Traynor?

18          A.  No.  This is the first time.

19          Q.  Okay.  Well, can I then take you to the final section of  
20          your statement, sister.  It's headed "Closing Thoughts",  
21          and that begins at paragraph 159.  If we look at that  
22          particular paragraph, paragraph 159, perhaps I can ask  
23          you just what points you're seeking to make there.  
24          Because here you're applying your mind to the  
25          allegations that you know about that have been made --

1           that you've been told about and why there might be  
2           allegations if in fact nothing happened.  What's your  
3           position on that?

4       A.  I simply don't know.

5       Q.  You posed the question:

6                 "I asked myself why there are so many similarities  
7                 in some of the ways that this has been recorded."

8                 What do you mean by that sentence?

9       A.  Because there are so many similarities in the  
10       accusations.

11      Q.  So what's the point?  Can I just understand what's the  
12      point you're making there?

13      A.  Simply that the allegations appear to be the same.

14      Q.  Well, there could be at least two reasons for that.  One  
15      is that people have got together to make allegations or  
16      that the allegations reflect a culture.  These are  
17      possible explanations.

18      A.  They're possibilities, possible explanations, yes, but  
19      I don't know which one is right.

20      Q.  And when you pose the question:

21                 "Is there finance in it, is there some form of  
22                 collusion?"

23                 Are these the thoughts you have in mind then?

24      A.  All of these questions have gone through my mind, but  
25      the only people that can answer those questions are the

1 people who are making the allegations. I haven't  
2 a clue. Obviously, all of this has gone through my mind  
3 because I'm just so absolutely gobsmacked at some of the  
4 allegations. Absolutely. So why they are the same?  
5 Why they've been made in the first place? I couldn't  
6 tell you. The only people that can answer those  
7 questions are the people who have made the allegations.

8 Q. What you do --

9 LADY SMITH: Just before we leave 159, let me ask you one or  
10 two things. You say that you're asking why there are so  
11 many similarities:

12 "Is it the style of the person who has recorded it?"

13 Do you appreciate that the statements of all these  
14 people who have come forward have been taken not by the  
15 same person but by quite a number of different people  
16 in the inquiry's statement-taking team?

17 A. Yes, I do.

18 LADY SMITH: You realise that?

19 A. I do.

20 LADY SMITH: So we can put that to one side, it's not that  
21 one person has written all the statements out.

22 You then suggest that there may be similarities  
23 because people get to know what's going on, they come  
24 together and there's been a sharing of experiences.  
25 Do you appreciate that the people who have come forward

1           are people who have gone their different ways after  
2           Smyllum, they're geographically spread, they have come  
3           from different time periods at Smyllum, their lives have  
4           moved into quite different directions, and they're  
5           certainly not all members of any survivors' group?  
6           Do you appreciate that?

7           A. I do, but I still hold by what I've said.

8           LADY SMITH: I see that, but you've got no evidence of any  
9           collusion, people getting together and deciding to say  
10          something that's not true, have you?

11          A. I haven't stated any evidence.

12          LADY SMITH: Then you ask -- and I don't know if Mr MacAulay  
13          was about to go on to this -- whether there's money in  
14          it. Is that what you're suggesting?

15          A. I'm not making any suggestions. These were just  
16          questions that were going round in my mind.

17          LADY SMITH: Right. Thank you.

18          A. I'm not suggesting anything of the kind.

19          LADY SMITH: Thank you. Mr MacAulay.

20          MR MacAULAY: In relation to that particular question,  
21          clearly then what's going on in your mind is whether  
22          those that have come forward are being driven by  
23          a desire to get compensation. Is that the thought  
24          that's in your mind?

25          A. I am not stating that people are coming forward for

1 money. Like many other people, these thoughts have gone  
2 through my mind, but I can't come up with an answer.  
3 I haven't got the right answer.

4 Q. Very well. You do go on to say at paragraph 166,  
5 looking at the picture here:

6 "I think it is very sad because we, the Daughters of  
7 Charity, as a community have values that we live and  
8 serve by. Those values were in place then."

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Can you just help us with -- what did you see these  
11 values to be?

12 A. When I first went to Smyllum, I realise now, looking  
13 back, that it was the values that the sisters lived and  
14 served by that actually drew me to the community. Also,  
15 the mission itself with the children. The children  
16 definitely. But it was the values of how things were  
17 carried out, how they were in their care of the children  
18 at that time. That's what was influencing me very  
19 strongly and that's what attracted me to the community,  
20 because I saw that I wanted to live out these type of  
21 values as well.

22 Now, those values haven't changed. They're the same  
23 values now, that I'm living out of compassion, respect,  
24 dignity, many more. I wouldn't have joined the  
25 Daughters of Charity if all of these allegations -- if

1 any of them I had witnessed at all I wouldn't have  
2 joined, I wouldn't have touched the Daughters of  
3 Charity. But because I didn't see anything of that --  
4 I saw the opposite -- then I was attracted to the  
5 community. And today, these values are lived out very  
6 much at present. We still -- there's no difference  
7 in the values.

8 Q. So do I understand from that then, sister, that if the  
9 allegations that have been levelled at a number of  
10 sisters are true, then that would be totally  
11 contradictory to the values of the Daughters of Charity?

12 A. Yes.

13 MR MacAULAY: Very well, sister. That's all I would like to  
14 ask you.

15 My Lady, I haven't received any questions for the  
16 sister and I don't know if there are to be any  
17 questions.

18 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for  
19 questions of this witness? No? Thank you very much.

20 Sister, thank you very much for coming along this  
21 morning and let me apologise directly to you for it not  
22 being possible to take your evidence yesterday as we'd  
23 hoped, because I appreciate that may have caused you  
24 some inconvenience, but I hope you're able to catch up  
25 with your week's schedule now, and I'm able to let you

1 go.

2 A. Thank you.

3 (The witness withdrew)

4 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

5 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is here, but

6 I wonder whether your Ladyship would contemplate an

7 adjournment at this point to allow us to have the

8 crossover put into effect.

9 LADY SMITH: Yes, I think that would make sense, thank you.

10 (11.03 am)

11 (A short break)

12 (11.23 am)

13 MR MacAULAY: The next witness wants to remain anonymous and

14 wants to use the name "Sister Mary" in giving her

15 evidence. My Lady, this is a witness against whom

16 allegations have been made and therefore would require

17 to be warned.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 "SISTER MARY" (sworn)

20 LADY SMITH: That microphone is on now and you should find

21 that it helps you to make yourself heard without having

22 to make too much effort.

23 I'm going to ask Mr MacAulay to address his

24 questions to you in a moment, but before I do that,

25 there are one or two things I want to say.

1           You'll remember that when you gave a statement,  
2           I don't know, you may have had it explained to you, that  
3           although this is a public inquiry and not a trial, you  
4           still have a right not to incriminate yourself. You  
5           continue to have that right today and what that means  
6           is that if you tell us that you were involved in the  
7           abuse of children you may be asked questions about it.

8           Now, you're not obliged to answer any such  
9           questions, but if you do do so, those questions will be  
10          obviously recorded in the same way as all the evidence  
11          in the inquiry hearings is being recorded, and it could  
12          be used against you were there to be any criminal  
13          proceedings in the future.

14          It's important that you understand this warning.

15          Can you tell me whether or not you do?

16          A. I do, yes.

17          LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18                  Mr MacAulay.

19                          Questions from MR MacAULAY

20          MR MacAULAY: Good morning, sister.

21          A. Good afternoon, Mr MacAulay.

22          Q. You have provided the inquiry with two statements in  
23          fact. Can I look at the first statement with you. The  
24          last page of that statement is in front of you, but the  
25          statement itself begins at WIT.003.001.1244.



1           Sister, can I just ask you to confirm that you have  
2           signed that particular statement?

3           A. Yes, I have.

4           Q. And we note the date is 28 September 2017.

5           A. That's right.

6           Q. Do you also tell us in the very last couple of  
7           sentences:

8           "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
9           published as part of the evidence to the inquiry"?

10          A. Yes, I have.

11          Q. And I think, as her Ladyship has indicated, when you  
12          gave the statement, you were given the sort of warning  
13          that her Ladyship has given you today?

14          A. Yes.

15          Q. Do you also say that:

16          "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
17          statement are true"?

18          A. That's right.

19          Q. The second statement you provided to the inquiry was  
20          more recent and it's also in the folder. Again, if  
21          I can take you to the last page. I'll just give the  
22          reference for the transcript. It's WIT.003.001.0776.

23          The last page is at 0784 and, again, sister, can  
24          I get you to confirm that you have signed that  
25          statement?

1 A. Yes, I have.

2 Q. We see now the date is 3 November 2017.

3 A. That's right.

4 Q. Again, you tell us you have no objection to that witness  
5 statement being published as part of your evidence.

6 A. I haven't, no.

7 Q. And you say:

8 "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
9 statement are true."

10 Is that correct?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. I think, so far as the second statement is concerned,  
13 sister, the background to that is that a number of  
14 allegations were being made against you and you were  
15 being given the opportunity to respond to these  
16 allegations.

17 A. That is true.

18 Q. Sister, I don't need to know your date of birth, but can  
19 I ask you to confirm that you were born in 1940?

20 A. Yes, I was.

21 Q. And that you're now 77 years of age?

22 A. That is right.

23 Q. Can I just ask you a little bit about your background.  
24 Looking to your statement, you tell us that you joined  
25 the sisters, the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de

1 Paul in 1958; is that correct?

2 A. That is correct.

3 Q. To begin with, you started your community life in  
4 Dublin?

5 A. That is right.

6 Q. You also tell us that you came to Smyllum in 1960 but  
7 did not really start until early 1961.

8 A. That is true.

9 Q. When you first came to Smyllum, I think you tell us you  
10 had not received any training in childcare.

11 A. No, that is true.

12 Q. I think you came to Smyllum essentially because you were  
13 asked to go by your superior.

14 A. That is right.

15 Q. That's the way I think it is within the order; is that  
16 right?

17 A. It is.

18 Q. When you first went then in 1960/1961, were you put in  
19 charge of a particular group within Smyllum?

20 A. Yes, I was -- in 1961.

21 Q. What group was that?

22 A. That was in Roncalli House, and they were known as "the  
23 wee boys".

24 Q. As you tell us in your statement, sister, the ages  
25 ranged from 5 to 7?

- 1 A. That is right, yes.
- 2 Q. Your superior at that time was Sister [REDACTED] BAF
- 3 A. Sister [REDACTED] BAF
- 4 Q. That's what you say in your statement, but I think  
5 we have seen the name Sister [REDACTED] BAF --
- 6 A. Oh sorry, that could be right.
- 7 Q. So far as Roncalli was concerned, you tell us that you  
8 had one member of staff to assist you at that time?
- 9 A. That is right, yes.
- 10 Q. How many boys were there in Roncalli at that time in  
11 1961 when you started?
- 12 A. As far as I can remember there were 26.
- 13 Q. You've got a clear recollection of that, of the actual  
14 number, 26?
- 15 A. Yes, I have. That's what we had.
- 16 Q. And all ranged between 5 and 7?
- 17 A. That's right.
- 18 Q. I think you tell us that after you had been in Roncalli  
19 you moved to Sacred Heart.
- 20 A. That is right, yes.
- 21 Q. And there the children were a bit older because you tell  
22 us the children there were aged 7 to 11.
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. How long did you spend in Roncalli, sister?
- 25 A. Only about six months, I think. Six or eight months

1           because there was a sister coming off her training and  
2           she took that group and I moved.

3           Q.   And can you remember the name of the sister who took  
4           over in Roncalli?

5           A.   I'm sorry, I can't off the top of my head.

6           Q.   That's fine.   So far as Sacred Heart was concerned then,  
7           what was the number of boys -- was that boys again?

8           A.   It was all boys, yes.

9           Q.   And what were the numbers like?

10          A.   I think it was probably between 26 and 29, roughly  
11          around about that number as far as I can remember.

12          Q.   Now --

13          A.   What did I say in my thing?

14          Q.   Perhaps I can ask you to look at the aerial photograph  
15          that we have just to identify where the locations of  
16          these houses were.   If we have on the screen  
17          DSV.001.001.4661.

18                 Let's look at Roncalli first of all.   If you look at  
19          the top right of the plan, if we can just go there, you  
20          can see there's a box which suggests a location for  
21          Roncalli House.

22          A.   That's right.

23          Q.   The yellow arrow is pointing down to a particular part  
24          of the establishment.   Was that where Roncalli House  
25          was?

- 1 A. Yes, I am sure it was, yes.
- 2 Q. Sacred Heart, if we look again towards this time the top  
3 left, there's a yellow line pointing to a part of the  
4 building in what looks like a quadrangle; again, was  
5 that where Sacred Heart was?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. If we look at Sacred Heart, can you give me some  
8 information about the layout?
- 9 A. The layout of Sacred Heart was that it was like  
10 a first-floor flat, roughly, that's what it was. But it  
11 was dormitories, it was a sitting room and dormitories,  
12 a dining room, a washroom where the children got washed  
13 and that sort of thing. I think that's about it.
- 14 Q. So far as the dormitories were concerned, then, how many  
15 dormitories were there?
- 16 A. I think there were four dormitories.
- 17 Q. To accommodate the -- I think you thought 29 or  
18 thereabouts boys?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Would they be divided fairly equally amongst the  
21 dormitories? How was the division?
- 22 A. Yes. I slept -- our staff rooms -- my room and a staff  
23 room were in the middle of those dormitories. It was  
24 one long room divided into, I think, four, from what  
25 I can remember. Our rooms were part of that four and

- 1           we were in the middle.
- 2       Q.   Do I take it then, sister, that you would have moved to
- 3           Sacred Heart some time in 1961, after six months of
- 4           being in Roncalli?
- 5       A.   Yes, I think so, yes, because I went to do my training.
- 6       Q.   I'll just come to that in a moment.
- 7       A.   It probably was 1961 when I moved there, yes.
- 8       Q.   Were you in charge of Sacred Heart?
- 9       A.   I was, yes, but I did have a staff.
- 10      Q.   Indeed. Can I ask you about the staff: how many staff
- 11           did you have?
- 12      A.   I had one staff.
- 13      Q.   So far as the boys' sections were concerned -- because
- 14           we know that there was Sacred Heart and I think
- 15           St Joseph's, and also St Vincent's; is that right?
- 16      A.   That's right.
- 17      Q.   I'm sorry, St Anthony's.
- 18      A.   St Anthony's, yes.
- 19      Q.   And St Vincent's. These units/areas, they accommodated
- 20           the boys covered by the ages from 5 upwards, or was it 7
- 21           upwards?
- 22      A.   From 7 upwards, yes. The other two groups, that was
- 23           St Vincent's and St Anthony's, they were further away
- 24           from the group --
- 25      Q.   We can see that from the plan.

- 1 A. Yes. From where I was, yes.
- 2 Q. St Anthony's catered for boys, I think, older than the  
3 boys in your group?
- 4 A. That is true, yes.
- 5 Q. And beyond that, St Vincent's for the bigger boys?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. We've heard, I think, that at a point in time,  
8 Sister **AGI** was in charge of St Anthony's; is that  
9 right?
- 10 A. That is right, yes.
- 11 Q. And Sister **EAD** ultimately was responsible for the  
12 bigger boys?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. But are you able to say whether -- for example, did  
15 Sister **EAD** have an overall responsibility for the  
16 boys' area or not?
- 17 A. No, I don't think she did. I think she had overall  
18 responsibility for her own area. Sister **AGI** had  
19 for hers and I had for mine.
- 20 Q. So who would you be answerable to then when you were in  
21 charge of Sacred Heart?
- 22 A. I was answerable to the superior, who was Sister **BAF**  
23 first and then it was Sister **EAL** afterwards.
- 24 Q. I think you've told us that when you went to Smyllum  
25 first of all you had received no training.



- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. Did you get any sort of induction-type training when you  
3 got to Smyllum or did you just have to start work?
- 4 A. I just had to start work. I'm sure I got help, but  
5 I didn't get any induction as such. I mean, I did not  
6 go out to do a course or anything like that.
- 7 Q. But you did mention that you did go off to do training  
8 at a point in time.
- 9 A. I did.
- 10 Q. Perhaps to get the dates for that, we should perhaps  
11 look at your training certificate. I'll put that on the  
12 screen for you, sister. It's at WIT.003.001.1365.
- 13 Can we just, before I do that, check that this ...  
14 Can we stop putting that on the screen? Keep it where  
15 it is. Just put it off for the moment. It has been.
- 16 A. It has been, yes.
- 17 Q. I just want to get the dates, really, is why I wanted to  
18 look at it. It is your certificate --
- 19 A. Yes, it is.
- 20 Q. -- although we don't see your name on it. And we see  
21 that you did training at Holyrood House, London.
- 22 A. Yes. I did.
- 23 Q. And that was from [REDACTED] 1963 to [REDACTED] 1964.
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. So can I understand from that then, sister, that you

1           were in charge of Sacred Heart from some time in 1961  
2           until the latter part of 1963 when you went to do your  
3           course?

4           A. That's right.

5           Q. When you came back then to Smyllum in 1964, which  
6           I think you did, what was the position then? Where did  
7           you go?

8           A. I went to Ogilvy House in 1964.

9           Q. Again, perhaps we can look at the plan, the photograph,  
10          just to clarify where that was. That's  
11          DSV.001.001.4661.

12                    Again, there's been an effort made to try to  
13                    identify where that might have been. You can see  
14                    towards the middle bottom there's a box that tells us:

15                            "Nursery then Ogilvy House after nursery closed."

16          A. That's right.

17          Q. Is that where Ogilvy House was?

18          A. Yes, it was.

19          Q. It looks as if it was a building that was separate from  
20          the main building.

21          A. Yes, it was.

22          Q. So, so far, sister, do I take it that you go to  
23          Ogilvy House in 1964?

24          A. I was at Ogilvy House from 1964 until early 1971.

25          Q. Was it then you moved off somewhere else?

- 1 A. It was.
- 2 Q. So far as Ogilvy House is concerned then, what sort of  
3 establishment was that?
- 4 A. Ogilvy House was a house on its own. We had got --  
5 there were three of us, two staff and myself, and it was  
6 family groups. The children were not separated into  
7 male and female. If the family came, the family came  
8 and stayed together as far as possible.
- 9 Q. And age groups then, can you help me with that, age  
10 ranges?
- 11 A. We very often had a baby and I think maybe the eldest  
12 was about 13 or 14 or maybe 15, but no older than that,  
13 as far as I can remember.
- 14 Q. And a mixture of boys and girls, was it?
- 15 A. It was whatever was in the family that came in. If  
16 there was four boys or five boys ...
- 17 Q. Was this something new? Was this a change of approach  
18 to when you'd been there before?
- 19 A. Yes, it was.
- 20 Q. The focus on family groups?
- 21 A. Yes, it was.
- 22 Q. And what about the accommodation then that was  
23 available?
- 24 A. We had bedrooms in this particular house. I can't  
25 remember, we had four or five bedrooms, I can't remember

1 exactly how many, but I think ... And we kept the boys  
2 in one bedroom, the girls in another bedroom, and there  
3 were also staff rooms there. There were three staff  
4 rooms.

5 Q. I may have asked you, but I can't remember if I did: did  
6 I ask you how many you would accommodate at a given time  
7 in Ogilvy House?

8 A. I think it was 24.

9 Q. Was there a maximum number that you could have?

10 A. There was, but if on the occasion, which was seldom,  
11 that -- say we had two vacancies and there was three in  
12 a family coming in, I have in my time, only once or  
13 twice, put up an extra bed in order to accommodate that  
14 extra child.

15 Q. So to summarise the position then, sister, looking to  
16 your experience at Smyllum, you have six months there in  
17 Roncalli House in 1961. You then spend a period of time  
18 from 1961 to 1963 at Sacred Heart --

19 A. That's right.

20 Q. -- and then you spend seven years or so in Ogilvy House?

21 A. That's right.

22 Q. Does that summarise the --

23 A. That summarises it, yes.

24 Q. So in a way you're in a position to speak to different  
25 parts of Smyllum, the establishment?

1 A. I am, as far as I can remember.

2 Q. When you went to Sacred Heart, we've mentioned

3 Sister [REDACTED] EAD and Sister [REDACTED] AGI was Sister [REDACTED] EAD

4 there before you?

5 A. Yes, she was.

6 Q. What about Sister [REDACTED] AGI

7 A. So was Sister [REDACTED] AGI They were both there before

8 me.

9 Q. I can't remember, but did you take over from someone in

10 Sacred Heart?

11 A. Yes, I did.

12 Q. Who was that? Can you remember?

13 A. I can't remember her name, but I think she went on --

14 later on to Tollcross. She left then and went to

15 Tollcross. What was her name?

16 Q. It doesn't matter. If it comes to you, you can let us

17 know.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Looking to the period before you went back to take over

20 in Ogilvy House, what was the position then that was

21 adopted in relation to siblings if they came into

22 Smyllum?

23 A. If the siblings came into Smyllum, the boys of one age

24 came to me, the boys of another age went to

25 Sister [REDACTED] EAD r Sister [REDACTED] AGI and the girls went to

- 1 a different side of the house altogether.
- 2 Q. Do you know what contact there would be in the first  
3 instance between the boys in your section and the  
4 sibling boys in another section?
- 5 A. There wasn't any great problem because they had the same  
6 playground and when they were playing, they mixed. The  
7 boys in my group were in the playground or on the field  
8 playing football with the other bigger boys.
- 9 Q. What about the girls then?
- 10 A. The girls we didn't see. We didn't see that much of the  
11 girls. They were in a different area altogether.
- 12 Q. I'm particularly interested in whether or not a brother  
13 might see a sister. What was your understanding at that  
14 time as to what the position was?
- 15 A. I can't remember an awful lot, but I can't remember --  
16 I can't remember it being an issue, but I can't remember  
17 them having that many meetings either.
- 18 Q. There's been a suggestion, sister, that in effect boys  
19 were not really permitted to go and speak to the girls;  
20 is that your own recollection?
- 21 A. That could be true. That could be true. I can't  
22 remember, but that could be true.
- 23 Q. Looking to your time at Smyllum -- and I'm trying to  
24 cover the whole period, although I fully appreciate you  
25 were in different parts, dealing with different

1 children -- would you be given any information about the  
2 background of any of the children that you were caring  
3 for?

4 A. Not a lot. We did not get a case history of the  
5 children coming into care at that time -- that doesn't  
6 say that a case history wasn't given, but it wasn't  
7 given to us, it wasn't given to me.

8 Q. If we take the time when you've done your training and  
9 you've come back to Ogilvy House, do I understand then  
10 that even then you did not have a case history --

11 A. No.

12 Q. -- to inform you about the child?

13 A. No, we did not.

14 Q. Did your training give you any indication that that sort  
15 of case history would be something that would be  
16 beneficial in the care of a child?

17 A. We didn't go into it an awful lot in my training, but  
18 I think we felt that as things were progressing -- and  
19 they were changing a lot at the time -- that there would  
20 be case histories and maybe we should ...

21 Q. But so far as Smyllum was concerned, during your time  
22 there, that was not the case?

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

24 Q. Can I just ask you a little bit now, sister, about  
25 mealtimes at Smyllum. Let's look at Roncalli, albeit

- 1           you were only there for a fairly short period of time.
- 2           Where did the children in Roncalli have their meals?
- 3       A.   In Roncalli House we did have a dining room for the
- 4           children in Roncalli because they were all little, when
- 5           they were 5 to 7.
- 6       Q.   Where did the food come from?
- 7       A.   It came from a main kitchen, it was brought over. We
- 8           did not have cooking facilities in our dining room in
- 9           Roncalli.
- 10      Q.   What was the position in Sacred Heart?
- 11      A.   It was the same: we did not have cooking facilities.
- 12      Q.   But you had a dining room?
- 13      A.   We had a dining room.
- 14      Q.   So the food again would come from the main kitchen?
- 15      A.   Yes, it would come from the kitchen.
- 16      Q.   Am I right in thinking that there was a kitchen for the
- 17           boys and another separate kitchen for the girls?
- 18      A.   There was, yes.
- 19      Q.   For Roncalli and Sacred Heart, the food would come from
- 20           the boys' kitchen?
- 21      A.   That's right.
- 22      Q.   When we move to Ogilvy House, what was the position
- 23           there?
- 24      A.   We did our own cooking in Ogilvy House.
- 25      Q.   Was that the position when you went there?



1 A. That was the position when we went there. When the  
2 nursery was closed, Ogilvy House was renovated and it  
3 was fitted out for a group house, and so the facilities  
4 were put in.

5 Q. So in a way, that made you quite a bit more  
6 independent --

7 A. Absolutely.

8 Q. -- than perhaps other parts of the establishment?

9 A. That's right, yes.

10 Q. How would you describe the standard of the food, sister?

11 A. The standard of the food was always good. Always good  
12 because we all had the same and it was good.

13 Q. Do you have any knowledge of children having difficulty  
14 eating the food?

15 A. No, I don't.

16 Q. Does that apply to the three establishments that you  
17 were in?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Across the board?

20 A. We have never had any difficulty in the children not  
21 eating. They did eat and they did -- I think they  
22 enjoyed their food.

23 Q. Do you have any knowledge of any child refusing to eat  
24 and requiring to be persuaded?

25 A. Well, I'm sure we had to persuade them at times.

- 1 Q. Did you yourself, sister?
- 2 A. I did. I would, if the children weren't eating their  
3 dinner, I would say, "Oh come on, you need to eat that".  
4 Yes, I did persuade them to eat.
- 5 Q. And would they need persuasion because they didn't want  
6 the particular food that had been put before them?
- 7 A. I don't really know. I'm sure at times it might have  
8 been shyness on their part. It could be shyness on  
9 their part.
- 10 Q. Shyness?
- 11 A. Yes, I think it could be, but I'm not sure. But there  
12 were times when I would say, if they were slow or they  
13 were not eating, I would say that, you know -- I would  
14 encourage them.
- 15 Q. There have been suggestions, as I'm sure you're aware,  
16 sister, of children being forced to eat food --
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. -- and I will look at some evidence with you.
- 19 A. I have never forced a child to eat. If a child couldn't  
20 eat, she couldn't eat and she would be encouraged to  
21 eat, but if she couldn't, she didn't, and she was never  
22 expected to eat later. She was never expected to eat  
23 the same food later; she would have something later  
24 herself.
- 25 Q. You have just anticipated a point that I was about to

1 put to you. Again there has been a suggestion that if  
2 a child didn't eat and refused to eat, the food would be  
3 there again when the child came back for the next meal.

4 A. No, never. Never.

5 Q. You were also asked other questions in your statement  
6 about routine and let's look at bathing first of all.  
7 Let's look at the different establishments. You cover  
8 three areas. In Roncalli what was the procedure in  
9 connection with bathing?

10 A. In Roncalli the children were little --

11 Q. Yes.

12 A. -- so they were taken and they were bathed. But they  
13 were all bathed -- no two children ever went into a bath  
14 together. They were always bathed separately. There  
15 were times perhaps when we didn't empty the water every  
16 time, but we probably would bath maybe two children  
17 in the same bath, but the children were bathed maybe  
18 three times in the week, but not every night, not every  
19 evening.

20 Q. You tell us I think in Roncalli that you had two baths  
21 available to you.

22 A. That's right, yes.

23 Q. If we look at Sacred Heart, what was the procedure  
24 there?

25 A. The procedure there, as far as I can remember, was

- 1 something similar to that. There was no great  
2 difference, except that the boys in Roncalli were able  
3 to bath themselves and they did.
- 4 Q. How many baths were available?
- 5 A. Two, I think. It's two we had.
- 6 Q. When you come to Ogilvy House then, what was the  
7 procedure?
- 8 A. I think in Ogilvy House we had only two as well.
- 9 Q. But there you are dealing with quite a wide age range of  
10 children.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. So what was the procedure?
- 13 A. The procedure would be that the little ones would be  
14 bathed by staff and the older ones would bath  
15 themselves.
- 16 Q. And then do you have any experience of children having  
17 to go into very hot baths?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. And then other children following up, going into baths  
20 that had become cold and the water being dirty?
- 21 A. No, I never saw that. We were never, ever short of hot  
22 or cold water. There was always a staff there when the  
23 bathing was being done.
- 24 Q. Would you yourself be present?
- 25 A. I would. If I were present I'd be present or else one

- 1 of the other staff.
- 2 Q. Can I then just look to the position in the morning when  
3 children were getting out of their beds. Did you have  
4 children really across the board who wet the bed?
- 5 A. Yes, we did. Not a big number, but we did have children  
6 who wet the bed.
- 7 Q. How were children who wet the bed treated in the  
8 morning?
- 9 A. If the children were little, they were taken for a bath  
10 because any child that wet the bed had a bath in the  
11 morning. And if they were little, either myself or  
12 a staff would take them and give them a bath; the older  
13 children bathed themselves.
- 14 Q. So so far as Roncalli House would be concerned, where  
15 they were all little, you would be involved or you or  
16 a member of staff would be involved in the bathing?
- 17 A. We would.
- 18 Q. What about in Sacred Heart where the age is a bit older  
19 but still quite young?
- 20 A. They were able to bath themselves, I think, in  
21 Sacred Heart.
- 22 Q. And then in Ogilvy House where you had a range then,  
23 would some have to be bathed by you and some would bath  
24 themselves?
- 25 A. That is right, yes. If the children were little, they

- 1           were helped; the older ones bathed themselves, yes.
- 2       Q.   Can I ask you this, sister, because you will be aware of
- 3           the allegations that have been made in connection with
- 4           bed-wetting: were children punished in any way for
- 5           wetting the bed?
- 6       A.   Never.  As far as I can remember -- I never, ever
- 7           remember any child being punished for wetting the bed.
- 8       Q.   And what about being humiliated, for example, with
- 9           sheets being wrapped around them or put on them in some
- 10          way?
- 11      A.   Definitely not.  Definitely not.
- 12      Q.   What happened to the sheets?
- 13      A.   In every house we did have washing facilities and drying
- 14          facilities.  So the sheets would be taken off the bed
- 15          and put beside the washing machine and they would be
- 16          washed later.  No child was ever humiliated because she
- 17          wet the bed as far as I can honestly say.
- 18      Q.   Okay.  Who would take the sheets off the bed?
- 19      A.   Well, if the child was little it would be the staff.
- 20          For the older ones, we might say to them, "Now, strip
- 21          your bed", or, "Take off your sheets", one or another.
- 22          There was always a staff on duty or maybe two staff on
- 23          duty for getting up and going to bed, so every child
- 24          would get help.
- 25      Q.   You tell us some information in your statement about

- 1           leisure time. For example, you say there were books,  
2           but you can't remember if there was an awful lot of  
3           them.
- 4        A. That's true.
- 5        Q. Is that your position?
- 6        A. That's true.
- 7        Q. But you also tell us that the Variety Club of  
8           Great Britain would provide toys.
- 9        A. They did, and beautiful ones, yes.
- 10       Q. Trips and holidays you also touch upon, sister. For  
11       example, let's look at the position when you were in  
12       charge of Ogilvy House. Was there a particular place  
13       that you would take the children to?
- 14       A. All of the children in Smyllum went on holidays  
15       together. So we went to Meigle in North Scotland a few  
16       times and we went to St Andrews also. At different  
17       times.
- 18       Q. There has been a suggestion, I think, that Girvan was  
19       also a place.
- 20       A. It was, yes.
- 21       Q. When you were in Ogilvy House, did you take the children  
22       in your care to Girvan?
- 23       A. Yes, I did.
- 24       Q. And how long would that be for?
- 25       A. It was for two weeks, two weeks in the summertime. All

- 1 the children went.
- 2 Q. When you say "all the children", are you talking about  
3 the children in Ogilvy House in particular?
- 4 A. No, I'm talking about the children in Smyllum. All of  
5 the Smyllum children went on holidays together in  
6 coaches.
- 7 Q. That's the next question: how would you transport the  
8 Ogilvy House children to Girvan, for example?
- 9 A. Yes, we went in coaches.
- 10 Q. So if there has been a suggestion that perhaps one house  
11 would go on holiday to a particular place and then  
12 another house would go subsequently, that's not your  
13 recollection?
- 14 A. No. No, it isn't. I remember all of Smyllum going  
15 together on holidays.
- 16 Q. Well, would you go with your group?
- 17 A. Oh yes. I went with my group and my staff came with me  
18 as well.
- 19 Q. One thing you're asked about, sister, is in connection  
20 with deaths at Smyllum. In particular, you were asked  
21 about a boy whose name was Francis McColl. I don't  
22 think you have any real recollection of him.
- 23 A. I haven't.
- 24 Q. You were also asked about a girl by the name of  
25 Patricia Meenan; do you have any recollection of her?



- 1 A. I didn't know her, but I remember the evening that the  
2 accident happened.
- 3 Q. Whose group was she? Can you tell me?
- 4 A. I think she was -- as far as I can remember, I think she  
5 was in [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] group, but I can't be terribly  
6 sure. I think that's where she was.
- 7 Q. So you have a recollection then of the incident being  
8 reported back?
- 9 A. Yes, I have.
- 10 Q. What's your understanding as to what happened to her?
- 11 A. My understanding of what happened to her is that her  
12 mother was supposed to visit on the Sunday and didn't  
13 and that on the Monday, she and another child -- but  
14 I don't remember who the other child was -- decided that  
15 they were going to make their way home and that she was  
16 knocked down by a car. She was taken to hospital and  
17 she died some time later.
- 18 Q. She and the other child that you thought might have been  
19 with her, were they running away from Smyllum?
- 20 A. I presume they were. I think they were running to one  
21 of the homes, the home of the woman who was supposed to  
22 visit on the Sunday and didn't.
- 23 Q. In relation to running away, were you aware during your  
24 time at Smyllum of other children running away from  
25 Smyllum?

1 A. Not to any great degree. I had nobody in my house who  
2 ran away. To be honest, I did not frequent the other  
3 houses. Not very much anyhow, very seldom, and I didn't  
4 really know the children in the other houses. I knew  
5 the children in my own house and I would have probably  
6 known here and there some of the children in the other  
7 houses, but I would not know them by name or anything  
8 like that.

9 Q. Just so I can be clear, do you have some recollection of  
10 some children running away, leaving aside the girl  
11 I mentioned?

12 A. Not really, no.

13 Q. What about chores? Did the children -- let's look at  
14 Ogilvy House where you have older children and younger  
15 children. Did the children, particularly the older  
16 children, have chores to do?

17 A. Not really. They probably would help -- they would help  
18 with the washing of the dishes and the drying of the  
19 dishes.

20 Q. What about laundry? Do you know if children --

21 A. No, the children did not do laundry, no.

22 Q. Polishing floors, anything like that?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Did you see children --

25 A. Not in Ogilvy House we didn't, no.

- 1 Q. Did you see that happening at all?
- 2 A. Not in Ogilvy House; we didn't have the floors polished.
- 3 Q. In any other part of the establishment did you see
- 4 children polishing floors?
- 5 A. In my early days when I was in Sacred Heart, they used
- 6 to, because they were all polished floors in the
- 7 Sacred Heart. They used to polish around their beds
- 8 with some clothes on their knees.
- 9 Q. That's the extent of it?
- 10 A. That was the extent of it, yes.
- 11 LADY SMITH: Was that with Cardinal polish?
- 12 A. No, they wouldn't put on polish; they would shine up
- 13 only. They did not put polish on.
- 14 LADY SMITH: Do you remember Cardinal polish being used
- 15 anywhere?
- 16 A. Yes, I'm sure we did use polish, but it would be either
- 17 myself or the staff that would put on the polish. The
- 18 children did not handle polish.
- 19 LADY SMITH: Do you remember what the polish was like?
- 20 A. It was pink as far as I know --
- 21 LADY SMITH: And solid?
- 22 A. -- or yellow -- solid, yes.
- 23 LADY SMITH: Solid, so you'd have to rub it onto a cloth and
- 24 then use it on whatever you were polishing?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 MR MacAULAY: Do you know if children had to work in the  
2 refectory, the kitchen?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. Peeling potatoes, for example?
- 5 A. No, they didn't.
- 6 Q. Or sweeping the yard outside?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. Can I ask you about birthdays, sister. Looking across  
9 the spectrum of the places you were involved in, were  
10 birthdays celebrated?
- 11 A. Every birthday was celebrated. Every birthday was  
12 marked by a card and we used to -- in our house, we  
13 always made a birthday cake or got a birthday cake, but  
14 we always celebrated birthdays.
- 15 Q. Again, there has been evidence before the inquiry that  
16 birthdays came and went without any celebration or any  
17 notice at all. From what you say, that wasn't your  
18 experience?
- 19 A. Not in our house.
- 20 Q. Or any of your houses? I'm looking at across the board.
- 21 A. I really can't answer for the other houses.
- 22 Q. No, no, I'm sorry, you've misunderstood. When I say  
23 "the other houses", I mean Roncalli when you were there  
24 and Sacred Heart.
- 25 A. As far as I was concerned, we have always marked

1 a birthday. We have always wished the person a happy  
2 birthday and there would be a card. There might be  
3 something else. There would always be something for  
4 tea. There would be a cake. There would be something  
5 for tea.

6 Q. Looking to Christmas then, what was the position at  
7 Christmas time in relation to celebration and presents,  
8 for example?

9 A. Presents -- when I was there, we did very, very well.  
10 I think it was the Variety Club of Great Britain that,  
11 some months before, would have taken the names of the  
12 children in our care, in each house, and there was --  
13 and I think they got a choice. I think they were able  
14 to ask for something special, like Lego or Scalextric.  
15 I think, as far as I can remember, they got a choice of  
16 the kind of present they might like for the older ones  
17 anyhow and every single child got a beautiful present.  
18 Beautiful.

19 Q. Was the child allowed to keep the present?

20 A. Always, yes.

21 Q. So again, there has been evidence where children may  
22 have been given a present or presents but then the  
23 presents were removed shortly afterwards.

24 A. No. The children always kept their presents.

25 Q. So you never had any experience of that happening?

- 1 A. Never, no. Any child that got a present, as far as I'm  
2 concerned, was allowed to keep their presents.
- 3 Q. If I can ask you about visitors, sister. Again, looking  
4 at the three places you had a connection with,  
5 particularly Ogilvy House, which is the bigger  
6 connection, were there visits from family members?
- 7 A. There were visits from some family members.
- 8 Q. Would you be involved in speaking to the family members  
9 when they visited?
- 10 A. I always made visitors welcome and they were always made  
11 welcome. When they visited, they were made very  
12 welcome, but a lot of the families did not have many  
13 visitors.
- 14 Q. Did you encourage the children to go and see the parents  
15 that came to visit them, if parents came?
- 16 A. Oh good grief, yes. If a parent came to see -- if  
17 anybody came to see a certain child, they would see  
18 them. There was never any problem about that.
- 19 Q. So would you say then that visiting was encouraged  
20 rather than discouraged?
- 21 A. Oh yes. Visits were encouraged.
- 22 Q. Did you have a visitors' book of any kind?
- 23 A. We didn't, no.
- 24 Q. What about inspections? Just looking to the periods  
25 that you were at Smyllum, were there any inspections

- 1 carried out by any person in authority?
- 2 A. I remember only one -- one major, one senior inspector.
- 3 He visited when I was in Sacred Heart dormitory and
- 4 that is the only senior social worker that I remember
- 5 visiting the house.
- 6 Q. What was the nature of the inspection?
- 7 A. I'm not sure. Well, the nature of the inspection in my
- 8 house was that he just walked around and looked around.
- 9 He spoke -- he asked, I think he asked about children's
- 10 visitors, were the children having visits, and in that
- 11 time very few of our children had visits. He then --
- 12 I remember him distinctly saying, well, if there was
- 13 another World War, things would be different. And
- 14 I think he was referring to the fact that if there was
- 15 another World War that more parents would come and see
- 16 their children more often or something to that effect.
- 17 Q. So that's the one inspection you say happened during
- 18 your whole years at Smyllum?
- 19 A. That's right.
- 20 Q. But what about then visits by social workers or welfare
- 21 officers? Did you have these visits?
- 22 A. We did, yes. Not terribly often, but we did have them.
- 23 If a social worker came to see the children she always
- 24 saw them.
- 25 Q. How was that managed? Did this happen, for example,

- 1           when you were in Roncalli House; do you remember?
- 2       A. I don't remember any social worker coming to see a child
- 3           in Roncalli House. To be honest, I can't think of
- 4           anybody coming to see any of the children in
- 5           Roncalli House.
- 6       Q. So where do you have this recollection then of social
- 7           workers coming to visit?
- 8       A. In Ogilvy House we did have.
- 9       Q. And how was that organised?
- 10      A. It was organised by the social worker. I'm not sure we
- 11           expected them, but they did come. Not terribly often,
- 12           but they definitely came.
- 13      Q. And the social worker would be coming to see a child or
- 14           children that had been placed there by that local
- 15           authority?
- 16      A. That's right, yes.
- 17      Q. And would the social worker have the opportunity of
- 18           speaking to the child or to the children?
- 19      A. She'd have the opportunity of taking the children aside
- 20           and talking to them privately and she would get a cup of
- 21           tea if she wanted. There was no time restriction or
- 22           anything like that. She was welcome to stay.
- 23      Q. I think you tell us in your statement, sister, that you
- 24           did not have any case reviews of children as they
- 25           progressed through Smyllum; is that right?



- 1 A. That is true, yes.
- 2 Q. So what records were kept in connection with a child's  
3 progress, if any?
- 4 A. There was none kept in the house, but I presumed the  
5 social worker may very well have kept some records. I'm  
6 not -- I don't know.
- 7 Q. If a social worker then came to see a child and wanted  
8 to see how the child was progressing, there would be  
9 nothing on paper to assist the social worker?
- 10 A. No, there wasn't, no.
- 11 Q. Do you think there should have been?
- 12 A. Looking back -- I mean, today there would be.
- 13 Q. But --
- 14 A. In those days there wasn't and I never had any, but  
15 I would always have a chat with the social worker -- or  
16 if I wasn't there a member of staff would have a chat  
17 with the social worker and talk through the progress of  
18 the child or the children.
- 19 Q. What would you be saying in these instances?
- 20 A. We'd be saying that she was -- her healthcare -- well,  
21 the health was always well looked after. How she was  
22 getting on at school. If her parents came to see her or  
23 didn't. How she spent her weekends, where she went. It  
24 was as general as that.
- 25 Q. Can you remember if the social worker that you gave this

- 1 information to would be making a note?
- 2 A. I can't really remember, but if they didn't make it  
3 then, perhaps they made it later. I'm not sure.  
4 I don't know.
- 5 Q. In relation to children leaving Smyllum, and certainly  
6 by the time you were in Ogilvy House, you would have  
7 children then who left Smyllum.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. What sort of preparation was put in place for a child  
10 leaving?
- 11 A. I think we got information about the children leaving  
12 through the social worker. The social worker would have  
13 contacted us and told us that such a family would be  
14 leaving. The children would be told -- all the children  
15 in the house would be told that this family were  
16 going -- and their clothes would be prepared for them  
17 and they'd be all ready to leave.
- 18 Q. Who would they leave with?
- 19 A. They'd leave with the social worker or else with the  
20 parent, having been authorised to do so by the social  
21 worker. It was the social worker usually came to pick  
22 up the children and take them.
- 23 Q. What you say in your statement, sister -- and this is at  
24 paragraph 99, it's on the screen:
- 25 "Sometimes we would have advance notice and

- 1           sometimes we wouldn't."
- 2       A.   Yes.
- 3       Q.   So when you didn't have advance notice of the child  
4           being a child who was going to leave, then it would be  
5           quite a sudden thing, would it?
- 6       A.   Yes, it would be, but then it would be a social worker  
7           that would be leaving -- they would be collecting the  
8           child.
- 9       Q.   So would the child -- just to follow that through, would  
10          the social worker turn up and then the child would have  
11          to be told?
- 12      A.   No.  No, I think we got more notice than that.  I'm sure  
13          no child would be told in the morning that they were  
14          going home in the evening.  I think we always -- from my  
15          recollection, we always had a few -- we had a day or two  
16          days.  It wasn't as sudden as all that, as far as I can  
17          remember.
- 18      Q.   Could it have been quite sudden though for some  
19          children?
- 20      A.   It probably was, but if they were going home, there was  
21          always a delight.
- 22      Q.   In the next part of your statement, sister, you're asked  
23          about discipline and you cover discipline and  
24          punishment.  Just looking at the position in the  
25          different houses that you were in, first of all, did you

- 1           ever hit a child?
- 2           A. I'm sure I gave a smack to a child, but I never hit
- 3           a child on purpose. Never -- I would not deliberately
- 4           hit a child hard. I might give a slap to a child.
- 5           Q. When you talk about giving a slap to a child, are you
- 6           looking at your whole period then at Smyllum in the
- 7           different houses?
- 8           A. If I was to give a slap to a child, I'd give a slap to
- 9           a child on her hand. I wouldn't -- it was never an
- 10          aggressive slap.
- 11          Q. But just to look at my question then, sister, was this
- 12          something you'd have done throughout your whole period
- 13          at Smyllum, beginning in Roncalli House through to when
- 14          you were in Ogilvy House?
- 15          A. In Roncalli House I wouldn't because the children were
- 16          all so little. They would not get smacked.
- 17          Q. Okay.
- 18          A. And I wouldn't smack a little child for something. If
- 19          I were to give a slap to somebody, the child would maybe
- 20          be 10 or 11 years of age, 9, 10 or 11. They would not
- 21          be young children. So I can't remember -- slapping
- 22          wasn't anything I did terribly often and it wasn't
- 23          anything I deliberately did unless -- if I gave them
- 24          a slap, I gave them a slap on the hand for some specific
- 25          reason.

1 Q. At paragraph 101, which is on the screen, what you tell  
2 us there is:

3 "In my house -- I can't speak for any other house --  
4 I used to talk to the children more than anything else.  
5 If they were misbehaving in the group, I would take them  
6 out."

7 And you say:

8 "I wasn't the only one."

9 Moving on to paragraph 102 on the next page, 1254,  
10 you say:

11 "There was never any corporal punishment."

12 But do we at least qualify that to the extent that  
13 you do accept that you did slap -- you would slap  
14 a child in particular circumstances?

15 A. I would give a slap to a child, but not as corporal  
16 punishment as such. It would be ...

17 LADY SMITH: What was it? Was it for punishment?

18 A. I suppose you could -- I'm not sure. If a child hit  
19 another child or something like that, I would take that  
20 child aside and I would talk to that child and I might  
21 give her a slap on the hand and say, "No, you don't do  
22 that".

23 LADY SMITH: So it was punishment?

24 A. Probably, if it was punishment.

25 LADY SMITH: You said a few moments ago that it wasn't

1 anything you deliberately did; I wondered whether what  
2 you were recalling was that sometimes you lost your  
3 temper. Is that possible?

4 A. No, I didn't. I did not lose my temper, your honour.  
5 I didn't, no. I would gently -- if anything, I would  
6 gently take the child apart and maybe give them a little  
7 smack, which was never to any extent.

8 LADY SMITH: So that was deliberate? Is that right?

9 A. Well, I suppose I can't say it wasn't because I'm sure  
10 it probably was.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 MR MacAULAY: You've talked, sister, about slapping the  
13 child across the hand.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. But was the slapping you did limited to that or could  
16 you have slapped a child, for example, on any other part  
17 of the child's body?

18 A. No. No.

19 Q. What about the child's bottom or the child's face?

20 A. No, never.

21 Q. Did you see any other person at Smyllum punishing  
22 a child in that sort of manner?

23 A. No, I can honestly say I didn't. I can't remember  
24 anything happening, no.

25 Q. When you came to slap a child, would it be evident to,

1           for example, any other nun that that was something you  
2           were doing?

3           A. No, there was no other nun there. I wouldn't -- there  
4           was no other nun in the house, I was the only nun. But  
5           there would be staff.

6           Q. Just to be clear, sister: is that then the limit of any  
7           punishment that you gave out in a physical way to  
8           a child?

9           A. That is the only punishment I gave out to any child.

10          Q. I want to put to you evidence that has been put before  
11          the inquiry and indeed that's, I think, one of the  
12          reasons why you were asked to give a second statement  
13          here, in that certain allegations were being made,  
14          particularly against yourself.

15                 The first evidence I want to give you is in the  
16          transcript and that begins at TRN.001.002.0085. We're  
17          looking at evidence here given by a witness who wanted  
18          to remain anonymous, sister, but used the name "Fergie"  
19          in providing her evidence. Do you understand me?

20          A. I do, yes.

21          Q. That's why, if you look at line number 10 on the  
22          transcript, you'll see that I say:

23                 "Hello, Fergie. I'm ... going to ask you  
24          questions."

25                 Do you see that?

- 1 A. I see that, yes.
- 2 Q. In the front part of your red folder, sister, because  
3 this witness wants -- even back before where you are,  
4 actually, the very front of the folder, do you have  
5 a table there setting out the name of people and their  
6 chosen pseudonyms in one column?
- 7 A. Yes, I do.
- 8 LADY SMITH: Please don't speak the name of the person who  
9 used the pseudonym "Fergie"; she is entitled to  
10 anonymity.
- 11 MR MacAULAY: The reason we've provided this table for you  
12 is so you can understand the name of the person.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Can I ask you: does this name mean anything to you?  
15 Don't tell us the name, but does it mean anything to  
16 you?
- 17 A. Absolutely not.
- 18 Q. You don't recognise the name?
- 19 A. I don't recognise that name and I have searched my brain  
20 for the past weeks and that person, as far as I can  
21 remember, as far as I know, was never in our house. So  
22 I don't know her.
- 23 Q. When you say "your house", of course you covered three  
24 houses.
- 25 A. I'm talking about Ogilvy House. She wasn't in any of



- 1 the other houses because they were all boys.
- 2 Q. So this person was admitted in June 1960 to Smyllum and  
3 left in March 1967, so the person was there for about  
4 seven years. So this person's time in Smyllum would  
5 cross over with your own time in Smyllum; is that fair  
6 to say?
- 7 A. That is fair to say to a point. But in 1960 no girls  
8 came into our house; it was all boys that I had.
- 9 Q. Because of this person's age, it's likely that she went  
10 to the nursery when she first went to Smyllum. But she  
11 said at one point in her evidence that she moved from  
12 the nursery to an area where there were a range of  
13 children and there may have been 20 to 30 children  
14 in that area. That certainly could be a description of  
15 Ogilvy House.
- 16 A. Well, yes, but Ogilvy House was the nursery until 1961  
17 or 1962, when that nursery was closed.
- 18 Q. Yes. But, by the time this child left Smyllum,  
19 Ogilvy House had been up and running for a period of  
20 time?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. And you'd been there since 1964?
- 23 A. Yes, but that child did not come into Ogilvy House  
24 because the child was in the nursery when she came in.  
25 The nursery was closed, so the child was placed in

1 another group, another house.

2 Q. Well, you see, sister, this child has identified you as  
3 someone --

4 A. Yes, that's what I'm sad about.

5 Q. Are you saying it's a question of mistaken identity?  
6 What's your position on that?

7 A. My position on that is that it must have been because  
8 I have no recollection whatsoever of that child in our  
9 house.

10 Q. Have you read this person's evidence?

11 A. Yes, I have.

12 Q. So if I take you to page 89, for example, or perhaps  
13 start at 88, and for transcript purposes that's  
14 TRN.001.002.0088.

15 This witness is telling us that she's moved to an  
16 area where she had an older sister. You will see that  
17 at line number 12.

18 Towards the bottom, she says there's about 20 or  
19 30 -- and then she's asked the question:

20 "Question: Was there a particular sister in charge  
21 of that dormitory?

22 "Answer: Yes.

23 "Question: Who was that?

24 "Answer: Sister [REDACTED] EAC "

25 So she does identify you at least by name, sister,

1 as the person who was in charge; do you understand that?

2 A. I understand that.

3 Q. She then gives a description of an incident that  
4 involved her going into her sister's bed and then,  
5 towards the bottom, if we can just read:

6 "Answer: ... I don't know how long I slept -- just  
7 getting dragged out of this bed and of course I was  
8 kicking and screaming and I was getting dragged along  
9 the dormitory and told that it was not the nursery I was  
10 in now and if I ever done it again I'd be punished."

11 And reading on, page 90:

12 "My sister was screaming and shouting at this nun  
13 and telling her to leave her wee sister alone. So when  
14 I went to my bed she just literally picked me up, threw  
15 me on the bed and told me if I done it again I'd be  
16 punished."

17 That has been directed at you, sister.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Are you saying this is not you, if this happened?

20 A. That is not me.

21 Q. She goes on to say that her sister was then punished.

22 If you look at line number 10:

23 "Answer: She grabbed her out of the bed and started  
24 slapping and punching her and telling her to stop  
25 interfering and then the next morning my sister got

1 moved to mother dormitory and, of course, I had wet the  
2 bed."

3 So again, quite a serious allegation being made and  
4 you are being named.

5 A. Yes. The allegations are very serious --

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. -- but I was -- neither that person nor her sister were  
8 ever in our house.

9 Q. She goes on to say it was in Ogilvy House, as you can  
10 see in the next --

11 A. That's what makes me sad because definitely --

12 Q. Can I just understand the reason why you're so convinced  
13 that she was never in Ogilvy House or indeed her sister?  
14 How do you say that? We don't have any records, you  
15 see, sister, so how do you say that she wasn't there?

16 A. Because she went to a house when the nursery was being  
17 closed in 1961 or 1962. So she went to a group house  
18 and her sister went with her.

19 Q. Is that something you're telling us from recollection or  
20 is that something you're trying to piece together  
21 because of the dates and so on?

22 A. Yes, I'm trying to piece it together because of the  
23 dates. So they would have stayed in that house. They  
24 would not have come back to Ogilvy House two years later  
25 when Ogilvy House re-opened.

- 1 Q. You see, this witness didn't leave Smyllum until 1967.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. So there was at least scope for her to be in  
4 Ogilvy House during that period of time, wasn't there?
- 5 A. There probably was, but we would not have taken a family  
6 from one group in Smyllum into another group as far as  
7 I can ...
- 8 Q. In any event, sister, the name that you've looked at --  
9 and we don't want to be told what the name was -- is not  
10 a name you recognise as being in Ogilvy House; is that  
11 what you're saying?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. But as I've pointed out to you, we just do not have  
14 records as to where children were. We have records of  
15 children being in Smyllum but no records as to where  
16 they were within Smyllum.
- 17 A. Yes. Well, I'm absolutely certain that these children  
18 were not in Ogilvy House because I had no child in my  
19 house by her sister's name either.
- 20 Q. How good is your recollection, sister, in relation to  
21 names and the names that might have been associated with  
22 Ogilvy House or indeed any other part of the building?
- 23 A. It's quite good for Ogilvy House, but again it's not as  
24 good as it used to be.
- 25 Q. Okay. If I take you to another part of her testimony --

1 and this is something I've already asked you about --  
2 this is on page 93 of what we have on the screen, and  
3 for transcript purposes it's TRN.001.002.0093. Here,  
4 this witness is talking about mealtimes and I think it's  
5 eating porridge in particular. Do you see that halfway  
6 down at line 12 -- before that she said:

7 "Answer: I hated porridge.

8 "Question: What happened, what did you do?

9 "Answer: Well, if you didn't eat it -- if you can  
10 imagine the dining room was like big wooden tables --  
11 there were three wooden tables and it was like wooden  
12 benches. So there were kids either side and if you  
13 didn't either your porridge they would just come for  
14 you, the back of you, and either grab you by the hair or  
15 grab you by the chin and force the porridge into your  
16 mouth."

17 So we're getting a description there of someone  
18 being forced to eat. You've told us already, sister,  
19 that you've no -- you never, ever saw that happening.

20 A. No, I didn't, and our dining room was never a dining  
21 room where there was benches and long tables; we had  
22 ordinary tables and chairs.

23 Q. Was that the position in each of the places you  
24 mentioned?

25 A. Yes, it was. We did not have -- yes, that I mentioned.

1 In our house we did not have benches, we had tables and  
2 chairs.

3 Q. This witness also tells us at page 94 at number 12 that  
4 if you didn't eat your food then it would be there again  
5 when you came back.

6 A. No, never.

7 LADY SMITH: When you said in your house you didn't have  
8 benches, which house are you referring to?

9 A. Ogilvy House.

10 LADY SMITH: Were there benches in the other two houses you  
11 were in?

12 A. No, we always had chairs and tables.

13 LADY SMITH: In all three of them?

14 A. In all three of them, yes.

15 MR MacAULAY: Again, the witness goes on to talk about the  
16 fact that she didn't like fish and you may remember that  
17 from her transcript. Was fish something that you did  
18 provide on a Friday?

19 A. Sometimes. Not all the time, but sometimes we did have  
20 fish on a Friday.

21 Q. Here, if we look at page 95 -- the transcript reference  
22 is TRN.001.002.0095 -- towards the bottom she's asked at  
23 line number 23:

24 "Question: Can you tell me about your difficulty  
25 with fish?

1           "Answer: I hate fish and every Friday you got fish.  
2           It must have been a Catholic thing, right. You didn't  
3           get meat on a Friday ..."

4           Moving onto the next page:

5           "Answer: It was sardines and you know these things  
6           were on the plate, so I managed to get one up my sleeve.  
7           I was trying to get the other one up my sleeve and I got  
8           caught by Sister EAC "

9           So you're named there again, sister.

10          A. Yes.

11          Q. And then she's asked.

12                 "Question: What happened after that.?"

13                 "Answer: So she yanked me off the bench and started  
14                 telling me I was an ungrateful wretch, 'The Lord has  
15                 provided this food', and I said, 'Are you going to tell  
16                 him I don't like it?' So I got another slap for that  
17                 one."

18                 So there there's a description of you seeking to  
19                 force her to eat this particular meal. I understand  
20                 your position, that this is not something you would do,  
21                 but this is an allegation that has been made against  
22                 you; you're aware of that?

23          A. Yes, I'm aware of that. That's what I'm so sad about  
24                 because I would never, ever have forced a child to eat  
25                 fish if they didn't like it and I would definitely never



1           have spoken to a child in that manner. I would not.

2       Q. Other language I think this witness provides us with is

3           being "the devil's child" --

4       A. Yes.

5       Q. -- or "scum of the earth".

6       A. Yes. That is language I would never, ever -- I have

7           never used it and I would never use it.

8       Q. Just looking at bed-wetting, because this witness also

9           talks about bed-wetting. If we look at page 101, in

10          this part of the evidence, TRN.001.002.0101.

11                Looking at line number 4, she's asked:

12                "Question: Could you tell me what happened when you

13                wet the bed?

14                "Answer: When you -- during the night they used to

15                go about and check the bed to see if anybody had wet

16                their bed."

17                Is that correct that during the night there could be

18                checks carried out?

19       A. No, definitely not.

20       Q. "And if they had wet the bed, they were dragged out of

21           their bed and the same in the morning: if you had wet

22           the bed, you were dragged out of the bed."

23       A. No.

24       Q. And then moving down a few numbers to line 16:

25                "Answer: Well, they would drag you out of the bed.

1           You were made to stand at the side of the bed like a wee  
2           soldier and the wet sheet was put over the top of you.  
3           I mean, I didn't have any concept of time, but you would  
4           be standing there for a while and then they would go and  
5           run a cold bath and then you would be put in a cold  
6           bath."

7           I have put all this to you already, sister, in  
8           a general way, but here I think this is being directed  
9           to the area where she was being cared for at the time;  
10          do you see that?

11         A. I do, yes.

12         Q. And if you turn over to the next page, page 102 -- the  
13         transcript reference is TRN.001.002.0102 -- at line  
14         number 18 can we see that what she says is:

15                 "Answer: Sister EAC was particularly bad, she  
16                 was psychotic. She would drag you out of the bed and  
17                 you would be battered and that involved punching and  
18                 kicking and using knuckles on top of the head"?

19                 So these are quite extreme allegations being made  
20                 against you, sister, in relation to how you treated this  
21                 particular individual.

22         A. I have never treated this individual like this. I have  
23         never treated any individual like this. I just couldn't  
24         do it and I didn't, I never did it, but this particular  
25         person -- I've never seen her, I don't know her, I don't

1 know anything about her.

2 Q. If we move on to the next page, this is one of those  
3 witnesses -- and she wasn't alone in this -- this is on  
4 page 103 towards the bottom at line 25 -- who said that  
5 she didn't even know when her birthday was. Do you see  
6 that?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. She's not alone in saying that, but you've told us that  
9 so far as you were concerned birthdays were acknowledged  
10 in the places you were based?

11 A. That is true: every birthday was acknowledged in our  
12 house.

13 Q. And children were allowed to keep any presents?

14 A. They were, yes.

15 Q. Although I think this witness says that was not the  
16 case.

17 A. Yes. To be honest, I do not know where she was, but she  
18 was not in Ogilvy House.

19 Q. The other piece of evidence of hers I want to put to you  
20 is on page 107 in the transcript; that's  
21 TRN.001.002.0107. Here, she's talking about an incident  
22 where her father came to visit and that you were seeking  
23 to prevent her and her sister seeing her father --  
24 you'll see that's towards the middle of the page --  
25 because according to the position, they had been

1           disobedient.  If we read at line number 13:

2                   "Answer:  So my dad says, 'I've come up to see my  
3           children, I am taking them out', 'You're not' -- every  
4           time my [dad] came up there was always a constant run-in  
5           with Sister EAC saying we weren't going."

6                   So that's her saying in effect that you were seeking  
7           to prevent the children from going out to see their  
8           father; do you have any recollection of that happening?

9           A.  No recollection whatsoever.  I have never, ever met that  
10           father.  I wouldn't stop any father seeing his children  
11           or taking them out if he wished.  But I have no --  
12           I have never met this particular man.  That whole story  
13           is not a part of me, sorry.

14           Q.  Okay.  What I've been putting to you, sister, from the  
15           transcript, I think you do cover fairly fully in your  
16           second statement.  I'll put that on the screen: it is  
17           WIT.003.001.0776.

18                   You're asked about this particular witness.  The  
19           name has been redacted, but it is this witness you're  
20           asked about.  I think I've covered the main points that  
21           you address.  The point you make -- one of the points  
22           you make you made a moment ago, which is that the  
23           description that the witness gives about where the meals  
24           were taken does not fit in with the layout that you had  
25           in each of the three places that you were in; is that

1 right this is?

2 A. That's right.

3 Q. Does it fit in with any of the locations where meals  
4 were given to children?

5 A. I'm sorry, I can't answer that because I did not  
6 frequent the other groups in the house. But as far as  
7 I know, every group had tables and chairs.

8 Q. So on that basis, that part of the description is an  
9 incorrect description of your understanding throughout  
10 Smyllum as to how meals were managed?

11 A. Definitely, yes.

12 LADY SMITH: What size were these tables?

13 A. They were six or eight -- six, I think, at a table.

14 LADY SMITH: Were they oblong or round?

15 A. They were oblong.

16 LADY SMITH: Were they wooden?

17 A. There were Formica tops on them. They were nice tables  
18 and chairs. They were Formica-topped tables.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 MR MacAULAY: Can I follow a similar sort of exercise with  
21 another witness then, sister, and invite your comments  
22 on what this witness says. This witness used her own  
23 name when giving evidence. That was the name  
24 Theresa Tolmie-McGrane.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Is this a name you do recognise?

2 A. I do recognise -- yes, I do remember her.

3 Q. So far as this witness was concerned, she was admitted  
4 to Smyllum in August 1968 and she left in October 1979,  
5 so she was there for a considerable period of time.

6 During that time, she would have crossed over with you  
7 because you left in 1971.

8 A. I did.

9 Q. I think you agree that she was housed in Ogilvy House.

10 A. She was, yes.

11 Q. Again, if I can just take you to the transcript, I can  
12 begin with the transcript number of TRN.001.002.0697.

13 That should be page 2. If we move then to page 7, and  
14 that's the transcript at TRN.001.002.0702.

15 Here, the witness is giving evidence about the time  
16 that she was taken to Smyllum for the first time and she  
17 was taken there by a social worker whose name she  
18 thought was a Mrs Rioch and you'll see that mentioned at  
19 line 6 on that particular page. Do you see that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. There has been some redaction, but I think you can  
22 follow what is being said.

23 At line number 15 she says that when she was taken  
24 in, as she puts it, she immediately threw up on the  
25 floor on the playroom carpet; do you see that?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And that you and Mrs Rioch were present. Now, insofar  
3 as that goes, do you have any recollection of that  
4 incident?
- 5 A. I have no recollection whatsoever of that child coming  
6 into care or of that incident -- and the other thing I'd  
7 like to say is there was always staff around, you know,  
8 there was always somebody else. But I don't remember  
9 her. I do not remember that incident.
- 10 Q. The child at this time would have been 6 or 7, so quite  
11 young, but in any event what happened, according to the  
12 child, was that you responded by saying, "That's okay",  
13 and you called over two girls and asked them to start  
14 cleaning it. Would that be possible, that if someone  
15 was sick, that you would look to perhaps older girls to  
16 clean it up?
- 17 A. Definitely not. If a child was sick like that and if  
18 I was there, I would do it. I would not expect another  
19 child to do it. If there was another member of staff  
20 there and saw this happening, the member of staff would  
21 go and do it. There was no child ever asked to do  
22 something like that.
- 23 Q. I think the point the witness was making at this point  
24 was that this is the way you were behaving while the  
25 social worker is present in that you're getting others

1 to assist in cleaning up the vomit. But as we read on,  
2 when the social worker leaves, then the position  
3 changes. If we look at page 8 of the transcript at  
4 TRN.001.002.0703, what the witness says at number 4 is:

5 "As soon as we waved her away [that's the social  
6 worker] Sister **EAC** dragged me into the playroom and  
7 said, 'Clean it up or I will make you eat it'."

8 Again, it's a serious allegation to make; is there  
9 any truth in that?

10 A. I don't think there's any truth in it. I'm sure there's  
11 no truth in it, but I have no recollection whatsoever of  
12 it happening. But I cannot ... I can honestly say  
13 I don't think it happened.

14 Q. Is it possible, for whatever reason, this is something  
15 that did happen at that time?

16 A. I can never remember it happening and, as far as I know,  
17 it did not happen. The child had just come in. If she  
18 was going to be sick, she was sick, and there would be  
19 other reasons for her being sick, the fact of leaving  
20 home or wherever she left.

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. There would be an understanding that this -- I would  
23 never expect her to do that and I would never have  
24 spoken to her like that.

25 Q. At this time, I think, as you've told us, sister,



1           Ogilvy House was in that separate building to the right  
2           as we look at Smyllum.

3           A. Yes, it was.

4           Q. I think that remained the position, did it, throughout  
5           your whole period at Smyllum?

6           A. Yes.

7           Q. Were you aware at any point in time that Ogilvy House  
8           was moved in the sense another part of the building was  
9           designated to be Ogilvy House?

10          A. No, not in my time, no.

11          Q. Not in your time, but subsequently did you become aware  
12          of anything of that subsequently?

13          A. I never went back to Smyllum after I left it, so I'm  
14          sorry, I didn't know. I didn't follow it up.

15          Q. The reason I ask is if we look on to page 9 of this  
16          witness's evidence at line number 4 -- this is the  
17          transcript at 2257:

18                 "Question: There has been some suggestion that at  
19                 a point in time that Smyllum was divided into family  
20                 units. From what you're saying so far, that wasn't the  
21                 position when you were admitted. "

22                 And she says:

23                 "Answer: Not until 1972. We moved from a separate  
24                 building, which is Ogilvy House, to the main building.  
25                 Then we were in the top floor there and there the rooms

1           were smaller and there were four in each room, but  
2           we were still divided according to age."

3           Now, I know you weren't there in 1972 --

4           A. No.

5           Q. -- but the suggestion here is that before that, the  
6           Ogilvy House that you knew wasn't so much divided into  
7           family units but more divided by way of age.

8           A. No, that wasn't the case in my time. It was a family  
9           group on my leaving.

10          Q. Okay. In any event, you don't disagree with this  
11          witness's evidence that you were in charge --

12          A. Yes.

13          Q. -- of the group when she was admitted.

14          A. I was, yes.

15          Q. She mentions a [REDACTED] AFM [REDACTED] and a Miss [REDACTED] IAN [REDACTED] as being the  
16          helpers.

17          A. [REDACTED] and a Miss [REDACTED] AFM [REDACTED] I don't ever remember  
18          having a Miss [REDACTED] IAN [REDACTED]

19          Q. So Miss [REDACTED]

20          A. Miss [REDACTED] yes.

21          Q. Would you expect -- could someone like [REDACTED] AFM [REDACTED] who  
22          was a lay helper, chastise a child in any way?

23          A. Not -- they wouldn't. Not really, I don't think.

24          Q. The reason I ask is that this witness says at page 13,  
25          and that's 0708 of the transcript, at line number 17,

1 her answer is:

2 "Answer: Well, I was on my own in this room with  
3 other children I didn't know; [REDACTED]  
4 [REDACTED] I woke up screaming because I was having  
5 a nightmare that a big giant rabbit -- sounds silly --  
6 was coming to get me and I literally woke up screaming.  
7 Miss [REDACTED] AFM came in -- she was kind of through the  
8 wall from our dorm -- and she just slapped me across the  
9 face and told me to shut up or she would give me  
10 something to cry about."

11 Just untangling that, would Miss [REDACTED] AFM be in an area  
12 close to where the dorm was?

13 A. Yes, we were all quite close.

14 Q. So if a child was screaming because the child was having  
15 a nightmare, that's the sort of thing Miss [REDACTED] AFM would be  
16 able to hear?

17 A. She probably could hear. She could hear it, yes.

18 But I ...

19 Q. Sorry?

20 A. That's not the [REDACTED] AFM that worked with me. The  
21 [REDACTED] AFM that worked with me was kind, considerate,  
22 and I don't think that she would ever have treated  
23 a child like that.

24 Q. This witness goes on to say on the next page at page 14,  
25 transcript 0709:

1           "Answer: That same night I wet the bed,  
2           unfortunately, and the next morning I was dragged out of  
3           bed, the sheets were draped over me, I had to go down a  
4           corridor, down the stairs to the mezzanine floor, and I  
5           was put in a cold shower. I had never seen a shower  
6           before. That was my first 24 hours at Smyllum.

7           "Question: Who dragged you out of the bed in the  
8           morning?

9           "Answer: Sister [REDACTED] EAC

10          "Question: And who put the sheet over your head?

11          "Answer: Sister [REDACTED] EAC "

12          And she goes on to say:

13          "Answer: I was told that I was filthy and I was  
14          lazy."

15          That's quite a specific allegation against you,  
16          sister, by this witness.

17          A. That is so untrue because we had ... We did not have  
18          a shower, we had no showers in Ogilvy House -- and the  
19          bathrooms were just outside the bedroom doors. There  
20          was no downstairs to have a shower or anything like  
21          that, not in my time, unless this was after -- but I am  
22          named in it and I am sorry about that, but that is not  
23          the outlay of the Ogilvy House that I lived in and knew.

24          Q. And the detail of --

25          A. The detail of the sheets is wrong because no child was

1 ever, ever treated like that.

2 Q. Okay. She says something similar later on in her  
3 evidence at page -- I'll just get the page. It's  
4 page 28 and in the transcript it's 0723. She's still  
5 talking about Ogilvy House and if we look from line  
6 number 15 onwards:

7 "Question: Before we come to that, looking at your  
8 bed-wetting experiences for the first few months then,  
9 you have already told us what happened on the first  
10 night.

11 "Answer: It happened every night. Any time any of  
12 us wet the bed they would strip you, they would strip  
13 the bed, they would ask you to -- you would have to have  
14 your sheets under your arm often. If they wanted to be  
15 particularly denigrating, they would put the sheet over  
16 your head with the urine part literally on your head and  
17 you would have to walk down to the bathroom and have  
18 a cold shower or a cold bath and wash your sheet --  
19 there was like a big kitchen sink in there, a big  
20 massive sink and you would literally have to wash your  
21 own sheets."

22 So this is her description of the practice, sister,  
23 and that it was a practice that was carried out in  
24 Ogilvy House.

25 A. It wasn't. That practice was never, ever carried out in

1           Ogilvy House. Never.

2           Q. She provides some information about the humiliation of

3           having to walk naked down a corridor. You'll see that

4           at line numbers 9 and 10; did that happen?

5           A. That did not happen. That did not happen, no.

6           Q. Towards the bottom, she provides us with some

7           information as to the sort of language that may have

8           been used; do you see that?

9           A. Yes.

10          Q. When she's asked:

11                 "Question: Who used that language?"

12                 And we move on to the next page:

13                 "Answer: That would have been Sister [REDACTED] EAC --

14                 sorry, Miss [REDACTED] AFM or Miss [REDACTED] IAN It would depend who

15                 had responsibility that morning for getting us out of

16                 bed."

17                 So she's really saying, as I understand this

18                 evidence, that whoever it was that was involved in the

19                 morning, there was this practice as to how bed-wetters

20                 were to be dealt with.

21          A. No, that is not what happened.

22          Q. Can I ask you what she says about bathing. It'll be

23                 page 15 of the transcript, what's on the screen, and

24                 0710 of the transcript. She's asked at line number 3:

25                 "Question: Just in relation to bathing, what was

1 the procedure in relation to bathing, certainly in this  
2 early period?"

3 She says:

4 "Answer: A little bit draconian, perhaps. We were  
5 always bathed on Saturday nights because we had to look  
6 nice for Sunday to go to church."

7 What about that? Is that something that was the  
8 case, baths on Saturday to be nice for Sunday?

9 A. To be honest, I ... I can't remember that, but there  
10 was no specific reason why it should be Saturday night.  
11 Children had baths maybe three times in the week. If it  
12 happened to be Saturday night, then that's when it was.

13 Q. She goes on to say:

14 "Answer: They would fill up the bath with literally  
15 boiling water -- it would be brought up in big kettles,  
16 up from the kitchen ..."

17 What about that?

18 A. Never, never, no.

19 Q. "And it would be poured in so I would imagine it would  
20 be scalding for the first ones in the bath. We would  
21 stand into line, eldest to youngest."

22 Was there some process for that?

23 A. No, absolutely not. No, that is totally wrong. We had  
24 the water that came out of the -- in the bath that was  
25 hot and we had plenty of hot water, we had plenty of

1 cold water, but we never, ever had kettles boiled in  
2 order to heat the water for the baths.

3 Q. And she goes on to say:

4 "Answer: This applied for the entire group -- so at  
5 some points 18 to 20 people of different ages.

6 "Question: Of different ages?"

7 And she gives a range of ages:

8 "Answer: ... then if you were one of the younger  
9 ones, which I was then, the water would be cold and it  
10 was dirty."

11 A. No. Definitely not.

12 Q. You're shaking your head there.

13 A. Definitely not. That is untrue.

14 MR MacAULAY: I'm about to move on to just ask you about one  
15 or two other matters and, my Lady, this might be a good  
16 time to break.

17 LADY SMITH: It's coming up to 1 o'clock. We usually stop  
18 now for the lunch break, sister, we'll do that now and  
19 sit again at 2 o'clock.

20 (12.57 pm)

21 (The lunch adjournment)

22 (2.00 pm)

23 LADY SMITH: Sister, are you ready for me to return to

24 Mr MacAulay to invite him to ask any further questions?

25 A. Yes, thank you.



1 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

2 MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, sister.

3 Before lunch I'd been putting to you some of the  
4 evidence provided to the inquiry by Theresa McGrane. If  
5 I can go back to another two or three parts of what she  
6 said.

7 If I could turn to page 16 of the transcript and the  
8 reference is TRN.001.002.0711.

9 (Pause)

10 We're now looking at what is page 16, and for  
11 transcript purposes it's 2264. Here the witness is  
12 talking about the food at Smyllum. You'll see at line  
13 number 6 she mentions lumpy porridge. At line 16, she's  
14 asked:

15 "Question: If it was inedible, were you required to  
16 eat it?"

17 What she says is this:

18 "Answer: We were indeed required to eat it and  
19 we were forced to eat it. I still have two little chips  
20 on the front teeth from where they shoved the fork into  
21 my mouth. Sister **EAC** and Sister **HAE** were  
22 particularly bad with that. One would hold your nose,  
23 the member of staff, and then the fork would be forced  
24 into your mouth and literally [past] your teeth. If you  
25 threw up, which a lot of us did, they put your face in

1 the plate and told you to eat up the vomit and the  
2 food."

3 So that is quite a detailed description, sister, of  
4 what the process was for this witness. You're named  
5 along with a Sister [HAE] as part of the process.

6 Sister [HAE] is she somebody who you know of?

7 A. I don't -- I never had a Sister [HAE] in my group.

8 Q. In any event, this is quite specific because she talks  
9 about having these two little chips to her teeth because  
10 of this process.

11 A. I was one of the people -- we did our own cooking  
12 in that house that Theresa was in and I was one of the  
13 people who did the cooking. All the staff cooked, but  
14 I was one of the ones that cooked, and we always did our  
15 very best to make the food as nice and as edible as  
16 possible. So I can never remember this happening to any  
17 child or at any time for any meal this happening.

18 Q. I think she's also a witness who talks about the food  
19 coming back if you didn't eat it.

20 A. No.

21 Q. You say that didn't happen?

22 A. That did not happen. It wouldn't, no.

23 Q. Another thing she said in evidence, sister, is that  
24 friendships between children in that house, in  
25 Ogilvy House, were not encouraged. What's your reaction

- 1 to that? You'll have read that in her evidence.
- 2 A. I have read it, yes, Mr MacAulay.
- 3 Q. What is your reaction to that?
- 4 A. My reaction to that is that I think we encouraged  
5 friendships in as far as if we were taking the children  
6 out, all the children came out. We would be hoping --  
7 but there was a real good spirit. There was always  
8 a good atmosphere in our house and at no time were  
9 children ever encouraged not to be friendly with each  
10 other. They were. They were encouraged to have friends  
11 and to share their friendships.
- 12 Q. One of the examples she gave, I think -- and you may  
13 remember this -- is she was playing a game and you  
14 interrupted the game to try and break up the friendship.
- 15 A. Yes. I remember reading it, yes. Theresa at that time  
16 was about 6 years of age and she's talking about a table  
17 with -- she was -- I think it didn't happen because she  
18 was far too young to be playing a game of that kind.
- 19 Q. Whatever the nature of the game might have been, you're  
20 simply contradicting absolutely any notion that you  
21 would interfere with a game?
- 22 A. I wouldn't interfere with a game. I'd be so pleased to  
23 see them playing a game that it would be against  
24 everything in me to upset that game or anything like  
25 that.

1 Q. Do you remember reading that part of her evidence where  
2 she said that she had spoken to the police, who had come  
3 to Smyllum --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- I think to return somebody who had been running away.

6 A. Yes. I remember that. But she was only 6 or 7 years of  
7 age. I mean, I left when Theresa was 7 or 8 at the very  
8 most. She would never have answered the door to  
9 a policeman. She would not have. The children did not  
10 see policemen, I don't think.

11 Q. I don't think she said she answered the door. Perhaps  
12 I'll take you to the section itself rather than trying  
13 to work out what she said. It's on page 42 of the  
14 transcript; that's at 0737 and it's line number 4.  
15 She's asked:

16 "Question: You do tell us in your statement that  
17 when children did run away and were taken back by the  
18 police that you took the opportunity of speaking to the  
19 police.

20 "Answer: Twice.

21 "Question: Can you tell me about that?

22 "Answer: They were the same officers both times,  
23 actually. They would drive up to the main building  
24 outside the big turret where the main door was -- and  
25 Ogilvy House was to the side so we could see them

1 driving up. They would normally take the child in and  
2 then they would come back out. On two occasions, two  
3 separate occasions, I don't know exactly when, but  
4 I remember two occasions I ran out and I said could  
5 I talk to them. I said words to the effect of: the nuns  
6 are hurting me, the nuns are hurting me, I don't want to  
7 stay here."

8 She goes on to say:

9 "On both occasions I was marched back in: one  
10 occasion marched into Sister **EAC** and on another  
11 occasion marched into Sister **AGK** who had become  
12 Sister Superior."

13 Whether Sister **AGK** became Sister Superior or not,  
14 she's looking to you as being somebody that the police  
15 took her back to.

16 A. No.

17 Q. Did that happen?

18 A. That never, ever happened. That never happened.

19 Actually, our house was a good distance from the main  
20 house and the children would not have gone out that  
21 front door without being seen. It just didn't happen.

22 Q. Without looking at the detail, this is an occasion where  
23 I think she said that carbolic soap was used. Do you  
24 remember reading about that?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. In her mouth?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. Was anything like that ever happening?
- 4 A. No, never, never, never.
- 5 Q. And she also said -- this is on page 43, at 0738,
- 6 line number 18 -- that she was given a real hiding and
- 7 I think she said that it was like an uncontrolled rage.
- 8 You have read all of that in advance?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. You simply dispute all of that?
- 11 A. I dispute it because she was so young, she wasn't -- no
- 12 matter what age she was it wouldn't have happened. But
- 13 I would consider a child of 6 or 7 would never be
- 14 treated like that.
- 15 Q. Just to be clear, sister, you left in 1971.
- 16 A. I did, yes.
- 17 Q. I will just remind myself in relation to this witness's
- 18 date of birth. She was born in 1962, so she'd be
- 19 approaching 8 or 9 when you left, depending on the
- 20 months.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. That brings me to another issue that she raised, and
- 23 that was in connection with sexual abuse by
- 24 a Father ADA do you remember reading about that?
- 25 A. Yes, I remember reading about it, yes.

- 1 Q. You weren't present when anything took place between  
2 herself and Father [ADA] Was Father [ADA]  
3 somebody that you knew?
- 4 A. I knew Father [ADA] by sight, but Father [ADA]  
5 never visited our house, never.
- 6 Q. I don't think she said this happened in the house; this  
7 was in the church.
- 8 A. From what I remember of it, Father [ADA] worked in  
9 Glasgow with the deaf and he seldom, seldom, seldom came  
10 to Smyllum for any reason. So I don't even think that  
11 Father [ADA] ever said Mass for us -- and even if he  
12 did, we went to Mass as a group, we stayed as a group,  
13 we returned as a group --
- 14 Q. I think the background, according to this witness, was  
15 she had a little job that involved cleaning in the  
16 church.
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. No? Do you know for a fact that wasn't the case?
- 19 A. I know for a fact that was not the case because none of  
20 the children ever helped outside of the house in any  
21 capacity at all.
- 22 Q. So this is pure invention by her?
- 23 A. Well, it must be because there was a woman appointed to  
24 clean the church and the children did not help her.
- 25 Q. Was it Sister [HBP] who would prepare the church for

- 1 mass?
- 2 A. No, I think it was Sister [EAA] that used to prepare
- 3 it. In my time it was Sister [EAA]
- 4 Q. In any event, what the witness said was that she might
- 5 have been -- she had probably turned 8 when this
- 6 happened and she gave -- I won't look at the detail, but
- 7 she gave a description of how she was sexually abused by
- 8 Father [ADA] over a period of time.
- 9 A. I don't think that could have happened. I don't think
- 10 so.
- 11 Q. Okay.
- 12 A. It couldn't have happened. Let me put it that way.
- 13 Q. Her account was that on a particular occasion
- 14 Sister [AFR] interrupted what was going on and, I think
- 15 she said, effectively threw her across the room or words
- 16 to that effect. Do you remember reading about that?
- 17 A. Yes, I do.
- 18 Q. Sister [AFR] was a sister who was there at that time?
- 19 A. She was, but Sister [AFR] was an elderly retired sister
- 20 and had nothing at all to do with the groups or our
- 21 house for definite at that time.
- 22 Q. I don't think the witness suggested that she did.
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. Indeed I think she did say that Sister [AFR] was one of
- 25 the elderly nuns.



- 1 A. She was.
- 2 Q. At least that is correct?
- 3 A. That is correct.
- 4 Q. Was she essentially there as a resident or did she  
5 actually do any work, Sister AFR
- 6 A. Sister AFR lived in the house for the sisters.
- 7 Q. She describes what happened in connection with  
8 Sister AFR and in particular because of the way  
9 Sister AFR dealt with her that she discovered that in  
10 due course she had broken her arm; you have read that?
- 11 A. I have read that.
- 12 Q. She also said -- this is at page 62; for the transcript  
13 this is at 0757, at line number 8 -- that you became  
14 involved, and if I read that:  
15 "Answer: We were the last ones out and  
16 Sister EAC just pulled me back [by] the ear, pulled  
17 me out of the church, dragged me along the corridor,  
18 took me into the washroom and give me a real hiding.  
19 I said -- but I couldn't lift my arm, my arm hurts."  
20 And so on. Do you have any recollection, sister, of  
21 this witness at a point in time having something wrong  
22 with her arm?
- 23 A. I remember Theresa having a bandage on her arm. But  
24 I definitely -- that incident never happened. Now, how  
25 she hurt her arm, I really can't remember, but I do

1           remember her having a bandage on her arm and I think she  
2           said in her statement that she had gone to see the  
3           nurse --

4       Q.   Yes.

5       A.   -- and the nurse didn't believe her and that I didn't  
6           believe her either.  But having said that, I do think it  
7           was the nurse who put the bandage on her arm.

8       Q.   When you say you didn't believe her, believe her about  
9           what?

10      A.   She said I didn't believe her.  I can't remember whether  
11           I believed her or not, but I do remember her having  
12           a bandage on her arm.

13      Q.   Can you remember what the background was then to her  
14           having the bandage on her arm?

15      A.   I can't.  I'm sorry, I can't remember.  But I do  
16           remember the bandage and I do remember that she did have  
17           a bandage on her arm.  But the bandage didn't seem to be  
18           on that long and when it came off, Theresa was still  
19           minding the arm, and I remember so well encouraging her  
20           to use her arm, do exercises, you need to use your arm  
21           because I think she was still minding it.

22      Q.   Her position --

23      LADY SMITH:  Sorry, she was?  I didn't hear you.

24      A.   Sorry, she was still minding the hand.

25      LADY SMITH:  She was still taking care of it?

1 A. Taking care of it, yes.

2 LADY SMITH: Earlier on, when Mr MacAulay drew your  
3 attention to there being a description of how Theresa  
4 was sexually abused by Father [ADA] you said it  
5 couldn't have happened. How are you in a position to  
6 say that?

7 A. Because Father [ADA] -- the only time Father [ADA]  
8 ever came to Smyllum was to say Mass and he went  
9 straight into a room. No priest ever came for Mass too  
10 early. They came about 5 minutes to 7 for 7 o'clock  
11 Mass or 5 minutes before the time whenever the Mass was.  
12 He would have gone in to get ready for Mass. No child  
13 would have gone into that particular room.

14 We went to church as a group and we came back as  
15 a group. So I cannot -- I could never see how that  
16 could have happened. She could not, as far as -- to the  
17 best of my knowledge, no, she couldn't have gone into  
18 the sacristy where Father [ADA] was. The priest  
19 always went home very quickly after Mass, so he did not  
20 see the children.

21 LADY SMITH: So you're telling us about generally about what  
22 happened with priests coming to say Mass?

23 A. That's right.

24 LADY SMITH: But you weren't in the sacristy with the  
25 priest?

1 A. I wasn't in the sacristy with the priest; I was with the  
2 children.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 A. Sorry.

5 MR MacAULAY: Just to be clear, if he was inclined to do so,  
6 Father ADA could have had access to a child like  
7 Theresa McGrane. If he was inclined he would have the  
8 opportunity of having access to her?

9 A. Not really, no.

10 Q. No?

11 A. No.

12 Q. If there's any truth in this account whereby she had  
13 this little job that involved her being in the church,  
14 then would that not provide at least the opportunity of  
15 someone like him having access to her?

16 A. No, sir, it couldn't because he didn't come -- they only  
17 came for Mass, they did not come at any other time of  
18 the day. No way would there be cleaning or dusting or  
19 anything else being done at that time. So it could not  
20 have happened.

21 Q. The witness went on to say that she was taken to  
22 hospital and you were involved in that process and it  
23 was at the hospital that her arm was treated. I think  
24 that's something you've given some thought to, is that  
25 right, sister?

- 1 A. That's right, yes.
- 2 Q. Just before I ask you the question, her position, as  
3 you'll remember from her evidence, was that she was  
4 warned by you not to tell anyone what happened. Have  
5 you read that in her evidence?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. And if she did, you threatened that you'd break her  
8 other arm. That's what she said in evidence.
- 9 A. Yes, that's right.
- 10 Q. How do you respond to that?
- 11 A. I respond to that by saying I never took Theresa to the  
12 hospital. I was not driving at that time. I had taken  
13 no driving lessons at that time. So I did not take  
14 Theresa to the hospital, I did not meet any of the  
15 doctors, I did not ever say Theresa say this or say that  
16 or say anything else. So that is not true.
- 17 Q. I'll come back to part of that in a moment.  
18 If a child were to go to hospital from Smyllum,  
19 would there be a record kept by the sister who was in  
20 charge of the medical side of things?
- 21 A. Definitely. There would be, yes.
- 22 Q. You said that you weren't driving at that time; is that  
23 correct?
- 24 A. That is right.
- 25 Q. It is fair to say that this morning you have provided

1 the inquiry with your driving licence.

2 A. That is right, yes.

3 Q. Copies have been made or will be made of the driving  
4 licence and it will go on to our documents system. My  
5 understanding from looking at that is that it suggests  
6 you passed your test in 1982.

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. Is that the position?

9 A. That's the position.

10 Q. Would you drive without having a driving licence?

11 A. Never, never, never.

12 Q. Not even in an emergency?

13 A. Not even in an emergency.

14 Q. So just to be clear then, sister, looking to really the  
15 bulk of what Theresa McGrane has said to the inquiry,  
16 you challenge it totally and absolutely?

17 A. Yes, I am.

18 LADY SMITH: How did you learn to drive?

19 A. I took driving lessons. I was never that eager to  
20 drive, can I say, but later on, in 1978 or 1979 or 1980  
21 or something like that, I did take driving lessons.  
22 I took them from a driving school and I passed my test.

23 LADY SMITH: Had you had any driving experience before that?

24 A. No.

25 LADY SMITH: People, for instance, may drive in private

1 property before -- a long time before they decide to  
2 formally learn.

3 A. No, I didn't, no.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MR MacAULAY: You had no involvement, for example, in  
6 driving children in one of your little buses to any  
7 location?

8 A. Never, never, never. Never, no.

9 Q. Can I also put to you evidence that was given in  
10 connection with yourself, sister, by another witness.  
11 If you look at the list in front of you, this witness is  
12 using the pseudonym "Bill". If you look across you'll  
13 see what Bill's name is. We don't want you to tell us  
14 the name, but you can look to see what the name is.  
15 Does this name mean anything to you?

16 A. Yes. This name I remember very well. But again, that  
17 particular person from what I can remember was not in  
18 our house, but he did play with the children from our  
19 house. He was of the same age as them, which I think  
20 was about 7, 8, 9 years of age, from what I can  
21 remember.

22 Q. I don't think the witness actually suggested that he was  
23 in your house in the sense that I don't think he really  
24 knew where he was --

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. -- when he was at Smyllum. But there's no doubt that  
2 he was at Smyllum.

3 A. He was at Smyllum. I remember his name.

4 Q. At least to some extent, as you've indicated, he would  
5 have contact with the children for whom you were  
6 responsible?

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. So you would have come across him at least in that  
9 context?

10 A. That is right, yes.

11 Q. He was born in 1959 and he was admitted to Smyllum in  
12 [REDACTED] 1961. He left in about [REDACTED] 1965. So as you've  
13 accepted, his time would cross over with your own?

14 A. That's right.

15 Q. Although I think when the inquiry spoke with him, it was  
16 after -- it may have been after your second statement,  
17 but you've been made aware of what this person is  
18 saying; is that right?

19 A. That's right, yes, I have.

20 Q. Then if I can look at the transcript at  
21 TRN.001.002.1202, that's at page 1. And if I can go to  
22 page 11, this is at page 1212 of the transcript. He  
23 mentions you in his statement and what he says -- he's  
24 asked the question at line 10:  
25 "Question: In relation to the nun, Sister [REDACTED] EAC



1 who you mention in your statement, what you say in your  
2 statement is that you always thought she was evil. She  
3 was always shouting and screaming, she was a horrible  
4 person; that's your overall view of her, is that right?

5 "Answer: Yes.

6 "Question: Was that your view of her throughout  
7 your time at Smyllum?

8 "Answer: Yes."

9 Just looking at that description, could that in any  
10 way relate to you, sister?

11 A. No, it couldn't.

12 Q. He's also asked about bed-wetting, and I think your  
13 position is he wasn't -- is it your position he wasn't  
14 in any of the houses you cared for?

15 A. That is true.

16 Q. Is that the position?

17 A. That is the position, yes.

18 Q. I'll take you to the page, it's page 24 and it's 1225 of  
19 the transcript. It's at line number 8 where he is  
20 asked:

21 "Question: But you do tell us about being pulled

22 out of bed one night by either [ACF] or

23 Sister [EAC] "

24 [ACF] being the layperson who was involved.

25 Now, [ACF] is that a name that you know?

1 A. Sorry, I don't know her.

2 Q. In any event, he at least mentions you in connection  
3 with this being pulled out of bed. Then -- and this is  
4 something that seems to have stayed with him -- he was  
5 put out on the fire escape at night and told to be  
6 there. That was his position.

7 If you go on to the next page, page 25, at 1226, he  
8 talks about also being dragged to the toilets -- and  
9 that was either by Sister **EAC** or **ACF** he  
10 cannot be absolutely accurate. Do you see that?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So if this happened, would it be your position that he's  
13 confusing you with somebody else?

14 A. I think so. I think so. Because that is not me and  
15 that did not happen in our house. I had nothing to do  
16 with that.

17 Q. He goes on to tell us about an incident where there was  
18 a pillow fight in the dormitory. This is at page 26.  
19 For the transcript, it's 1227. If you just read on,  
20 someone is heard coming. Then at line number 5:

21 "Question: I think the other children ran to their  
22 beds. What about you? What happened to you?"

23 And he goes on to say:

24 "Answer: As I said earlier, I didn't get there in  
25 time."

1           And he goes on to say:

2           "Answer: This particular memory is the most  
3           difficult one because I think it is the one that had  
4           a huge impact and I just remember being hit, abused,  
5           whatever, and just heading for this door and just being  
6           put outside.

7           "Question: Before we come to that, can you remember  
8           who was involved with you at that point?"

9           And again he says:

10          "Answer: It was either Sister **EAC** or  
11          **ACF**

12          "Question: Were you being hit with something?

13          "Answer: I thought it was like a coat hanger or  
14          something wooden."

15          He mentions you, sister, along with this other name,  
16          but if this did happen, then it wasn't you?

17          A. It wasn't me. It definitely was not ever me.

18          Q. The other person I want to ask you about at the  
19          moment -- and if you go back to the list, the pseudonym  
20          for this person is "Gerry". Do you see that on your  
21          list? If you look across, you'll see this person's  
22          name. Again, is that a name you recognise?

23          A. Sorry ... (Pause)

24          Q. It's the second on the list. You'll see the pseudonym  
25          is "Gerry"; it's not the same person.

1 A. Oh, it's not the same person? Sorry, I don't --

2 Q. Sorry?

3 A. I don't know that person.

4 Q. The name doesn't --

5 A. No.

6 Q. -- mean anything to you?

7 A. That name does not.

8 Q. Okay. Can I just look quickly then at what he said

9 about you, sister. He was admitted to Smyllum in

10 [REDACTED] 1961 and he left there when he was about the age

11 of 7, so again at least he would be there when you were

12 there.

13 If I take you to page 10 of his transcript, that's

14 at TRN .001.002.3253 -- while we're waiting for that

15 then, you don't recognise the name. Are you able to say

16 to me, though, that this was a person who was not in any

17 of the places that you looked after?

18 A. Yes, I can.

19 Q. You can say that?

20 A. I can say that. I cannot place them.

21 LADY SMITH: Sorry, I think you're at cross-purposes.

22 Mr MacAulay was trying to find out whether, although you

23 don't recognise the name, you're saying what you do

24 remember is nobody of that name was in any of the

25 houses, the units that you were in?

1 A. That's right.

2 LADY SMITH: Which? Are you saying nobody in any of the  
3 units that you were in had that name?

4 A. Yes, that's what I am saying, Lady Smith, yes.

5 LADY SMITH: Have I followed you correctly, Mr MacAulay?

6 MR MacAULAY: Yes.

7 So he's excluded, effectively, from any of your  
8 houses?

9 A. Absolutely.

10 Q. If we look at this particular page then, page 10 of the  
11 transcript, we're looking at line number 19. This may  
12 not be the -- yes, I'm sorry, we're looking to the  
13 left-hand side page then, I think.

14 He's asked at line 19:

15 "Question: What about Sister **EAC** what was her  
16 involvement with you?

17 "Answer: Her involvement with me was really beating  
18 me. That's my overriding memory. And it goes round and  
19 it has been going round in my head for the last 53 years  
20 now."

21 Do you see that?

22 A. I do, yes. I see that.

23 Q. Of course, it doesn't necessarily follow that because he  
24 may not have been in one of your groups that you may not  
25 have had some contact with him in your time at Smyllum.

- 1 A. I had no contact with him.
- 2 Q. So this memory that he seems to have, if it's a real  
3 memory in the sense of not being invented, then it's in  
4 connection with someone else?
- 5 A. Definitely.
- 6 Q. While we're looking at his evidence, if you turn to  
7 page 13, and the transcript is 3256, it's at line  
8 number 22. On the left-hand side, the question is:
- 9 "Question: Let's just talk about bed-wetting more  
10 generally because, clearly, as you have just told us,  
11 you did not want to wet the bed. Why not?
- 12 "Answer: Because I saw other children who had wet  
13 the bed having their urine-soaked sheets wrapped around  
14 them and standing around. The image that always comes  
15 to my mind is if you ever see an old film of, like, the  
16 Roman Senate, where they're all wearing togas and  
17 talking. What you saw was young boys standing around  
18 and chatting to each other as if it was normal with  
19 their urine-soaked sheets wrapped around them, but they  
20 were not distressed in any sense because it was normal  
21 for that to be happening."
- 22 So that was his recollection, sister. Now, he is  
23 there speaking to a practice that this inquiry has heard  
24 a considerable amount of evidence about --
- 25 A. That's right.

- 1 Q. -- but if this happened to him, if he witnessed this,  
2 then your position is that it was not in one of the  
3 houses that you were in?
- 4 A. That is true. That is true. It was not.
- 5 Q. He also mentions an incident -- and this is at page 25  
6 of the transcript and that's at 3268. To take this  
7 shortly, what he's saying is that he is running away  
8 from you, sister, and he runs to the room occupied by  
9 the Mother Superior. He does that because he's trying  
10 to get away from you. Do you understand me?
- 11 A. I do, yes.
- 12 Q. Do you have any recollection of such an incident?
- 13 A. None whatsoever because the Mother Superior's room was  
14 a long way away from any of the units that I looked  
15 after, the houses that I looked after.
- 16 Q. Where was the Mother Superior's room? Was it in the  
17 main building?
- 18 A. It was in the main building, yes.
- 19 Q. So he could have been in the main building and you could  
20 have been in the main building?
- 21 A. I don't think it -- I definitely know it did not happen  
22 as far as I can remember.
- 23 Q. Well, can I ask you about other evidence that has been  
24 provided to the inquiry more recently. The name that  
25 I want you to have regard to now is against the

1 pseudonym "Rondo"; do you see that name?

2 A. Yes, I do.

3 Q. Is that a name that rings a bell with you?

4 A. No, it doesn't.

5 Q. This was a witness who was complimentary of his time at  
6 Smyllum. There was also another witness who was  
7 complimentary. You say the name does not mean anything  
8 to you?

9 A. Sorry, I don't remember that name, no.

10 Q. He is asked the question in his transcript -- and I'll  
11 put the transcript up, it's at TRN.001.002.3632. If we  
12 go to 3685, that's on page 109.

13 If we can just get our bearings there. I'm looking  
14 for line number 15 on page 109.

15 This witness is asked the question at line 15:

16 "Question: But in relation to corporal punishment,  
17 there was corporal punishment, I think you tell us."

18 "Answer: Yes."

19 And he's asked.

20 "Question: Can you help me with that? What did it  
21 consist of?

22 "Answer: It was the strap, just like you would get  
23 in a normal school outside the home."

24 And he goes on to give his experience at other  
25 establishments. He's asked:



1 "Question: If someone misbehaved?"

2 And he said yes.

3 If we move on to the next page, at line number 11 --  
4 that's the transcript at 3686 on page 110 -- he is  
5 asked:

6 "Question: Then in relation to doing something  
7 wrong, you tell us that you'd get the strap?

8 "Answer: Yes.

9 "Question: You tell us that the sisters carried the  
10 strap with them?

11 "Answer: Yes.

12 "Question: How many sisters had a strap?

13 "Answer: I think they all had straps."

14 Did you have a strap?

15 A. Never had a strap, never. None of us. None of us had  
16 straps.

17 Q. The context of this, as I sought to put to you, is this  
18 is someone who said he had a happy time at Smyllum and  
19 is complimentary of Smyllum.

20 A. No. We did not wear straps. And we didn't -- I never  
21 had a strap.

22 Q. If we move on to the next page, page 111, 3687, and  
23 if we look at line number 12, he's asked:

24 "Question: If we look at the sisters that you had  
25 dealings with: Sister EAD did she give out the

1 strap?

2 "Answer: Yes.

3 "Question: Sister AGI

4 "Answer: Yes.

5 "Question: What about Sister EAC

6 "Answer: Yes, she would give it out. I didn't have  
7 her for much. It was Sister Mary at Sacred Heart for  
8 the first two years but maybe a few months or so before  
9 I went to St Anthony's. She probably did have the strap  
10 as well."

11 A. Never, I've never had a strap.

12 Q. You already told us, sister, that so far as any physical  
13 form of punishment would be concerned, that what you  
14 would do would be a slap on the hand. Is that --

15 A. That is correct.

16 Q. If we go back to your second statement then at  
17 WIT.003.001.0780, this is paragraph 32 of your second  
18 statement, sister. What you have said there in the  
19 statement is:

20 "I didn't believe in hitting the children. I tried  
21 never to hit them. I'm sure I never did. That is so  
22 untrue."

23 We do need to qualify that to some extent, do we  
24 not, because you did hit children in the way you  
25 described?

1 A. I would qualify that by saying I would have given them  
2 a slap on the hand if there was need, but otherwise  
3 I did not believe in it.

4 Q. Can I put to you, sister, for your comment, evidence  
5 that is to be given by another sister who is coming to  
6 give evidence to the inquiry. This is a sister who has  
7 applied for and been granted anonymity, but her  
8 pseudonym is "Mary Ann". You may or may not know who  
9 I'm referring to.

10 What I'll do is I'll have written down the pseudonym  
11 and also the sister's name so that you can link the two  
12 together.

13 A. Thanks. (Handed)

14 Q. Again, follow the same procedure, don't tell us the real  
15 name, just use the pseudonym. (Handed). Is this a name  
16 you recognise?

17 A. Yes, it is.

18 Q. According to what this sister says in her statement, she  
19 was in Smyllum, I think, from 1966 to 1968. Did she  
20 assist you at some point?

21 A. Yes, she did.

22 Q. Did she assist you in Ogilvy House?

23 A. She did, yes.

24 Q. So you were effectively in charge of her at that time;  
25 is that right?

1 A. I suppose I was, yes; I was the house mother and she was  
2 staff.

3 Q. Can I then take you to her statement. The first page of  
4 her statement is at WIT.003.001.1188. The page I want  
5 to take you to and put to you for your comments is at  
6 page 1210.

7 At 122 -- I'll read this to you, sister -- she says:

8 "There was something happened involving  
9 Sister [REDACTED] EAC This is the only thing I can  
10 remember which was wrong. I feel awful speaking about  
11 this because I worked with her. I enjoyed working with  
12 her. I was on duty one evening. The children had been  
13 carrying on at bedtime. It was a happy carrying-on,  
14 they weren't out of control. It was bedtime though and  
15 they shouldn't have been carrying on. I felt I was  
16 doing all right with them. I remember that  
17 Sister [REDACTED] EAC came along and she was really annoyed  
18 about it at all."

19 So far, do you have any recollection of this  
20 incident?

21 A. Absolutely none.

22 Q. Okay. She goes on to say:

23 "I went away. I discovered the next day that  
24 Sister [REDACTED] EAC had hit this one lad after I went away.  
25 One of the children told me. The child must have also

1 said that the night had been a laugh because I remember  
2 saying in reply, 'There will be no more laughing in  
3 Ogilvy House'. Sister [REDACTED] EAC was behind me when  
4 I said that."

5 Then she goes on to say:

6 "I saw the marks on the boy. The boy was about 10  
7 or 11 years old. Sister [REDACTED] EAC showed me the redness  
8 on the boy's back. I can't remember why she did this  
9 but can only think it was because she regretted it. It  
10 was a shame. I remember Sister [REDACTED] EAC being ashamed  
11 of herself."

12 Does this at all ring any bells?

13 A. I have absolutely no recollection whatsoever of this  
14 ever happening.

15 Q. Could it have happened then and you've just forgotten?

16 A. I don't think it could. I'm nearly certain it could  
17 not.

18 Q. Because the suggestion here is that you may have struck  
19 this young boy and did it in such way that you left  
20 marks on him.

21 A. No, I wouldn't have.

22 Q. I think this sister goes on to say that:

23 "With the benefit of hindsight, I think I would have  
24 reported the incident with Sister [REDACTED] EAC if I had been  
25 older."

1           So she clearly looked upon it as something that was  
2 quite serious. Again, can I ask you, is it at least  
3 possible that on this particular occasion you did strike  
4 a child in such a way as to leave marks?

5       A. I don't think so. I have never -- I have no  
6 recollection whatsoever of this ever happening. Neither  
7 this time nor any other time. I don't think it did  
8 happen, but -- I just hope it didn't. But you know,  
9 I ...

10       Q. The sister who told us this in her statement, who will  
11 be giving evidence, she would know you and she worked  
12 with you?

13       A. She did.

14       Q. Otherwise, she's perfectly complimentary of you, but she  
15 does point to this particular episode.

16       A. Yes. I have no recollection whatsoever of it. If that  
17 happened, I'm just terribly sad that it did happen.

18       Q. From what you've been saying to us, sister, looking to  
19 the fact that your position is that many of the things  
20 I've put to you did not happen --

21       A. Yes.

22       Q. -- and at most what you did was slap a child on the  
23 hand --

24       A. Yes. That's why I cannot -- I have no recollection of  
25 this ever happening and I cannot believe that I did --

1           that I pushed a child or marked a child or anything  
2           else.  It's not part of me.

3           Q.  Then, sister, can we leave that and go back to your  
4           first statement and perhaps just bring that to  
5           a conclusion.  If we turn to WIT.003.001.1255, over  
6           a number of pages, from paragraphs 115 to 168, a number  
7           of names are put to you.  For example, [REDACTED] BAC  
8           name is put to you.  There's been evidence before the  
9           inquiry that he may have been a violent and indeed a  
10          vicious man.  What's your recollection of Mr [REDACTED] BAC

11          A.  My recollection of Mr [REDACTED] is that he was a [REDACTED] BAC  
12          [REDACTED] That was his -- as far as ...  I used to  
13          see him working and, as far as I knew, that was his main  
14          work, [REDACTED] He did not have --  
15          definitely had nothing to do with anybody in my house,  
16          and I don't think he had that much to do with any of the  
17          houses.  Maybe he did have, but I didn't know.

18          Q.  Did he have any sort of reputation in Smyllum at the  
19          time you were there?

20          A.  No, he didn't.  No, he didn't.

21          Q.  You were also asked about other sisters.  For example,  
22          Sister [REDACTED] AGI That's at paragraph 133.

23          Sister [REDACTED] AGI was there when you were there?

24          A.  She was.

25          Q.  Did you have much to do with her?

1 A. Well, I did in as far as that she was a member of our  
2 community. We met regularly for different -- for meals  
3 sometimes, for prayers sometimes, for recreation  
4 sometimes. Yes, I knew Sister [REDACTED] AGI

5 Q. Did you know how she managed the house that she was  
6 looking after, which I think was St Anthony's?

7 A. It was, yes. Any time I ever saw Sister [REDACTED] AGI with  
8 the children -- I did not frequent Sister [REDACTED] AGI  
9 group now, but her children used to play with -- some of  
10 the older boys and she used to be on duty in the yard  
11 with them. If I were on duty, I could never see  
12 anything that was out of place. She was always kind and  
13 reasoned -- very good with the children, always.

14 Q. One of the other sisters that is mentioned that you were  
15 asked about is Sister [REDACTED] AEG that's at paragraph 137.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Again, you say you knew her?

18 A. I did know her, yes.

19 Q. And she was in charge of Roncalli House?

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. That was clearly at a point in time after you'd been  
22 there.

23 A. It was, yes.

24 Q. You say you never visited Roncalli House after that?

25 A. No, I didn't. I did not frequent the other groups to



- 1 visit them because I stayed in my own house. I felt  
2 I had enough to do there.
- 3 Q. We needn't spend time on this because you give us your  
4 comments in relation to each of the names that you knew,  
5 whether you knew them or not. But in relation to the  
6 names that you knew, your position is that you never saw  
7 what you would describe as abuse --
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. -- by any of the other sisters or persons that are  
10 mentioned there?
- 11 A. No, I didn't, no.
- 12 Q. I think I have asked you about records already, sister,  
13 but just to be clear, you never kept records, but  
14 I think you accept that there would have been records  
15 kept in the medical section.
- 16 A. Yes, there were medical records kept.
- 17 Q. Did you actually have cause to look at medical records  
18 at any time?
- 19 A. I didn't, no.
- 20 Q. Perhaps I could ask you: do you know what happened to  
21 any records that were at Smyllum during your time?
- 22 A. I'm sorry, I don't. I don't. I left for a long time.
- 23 Q. You do say at one point in your statement that, looking  
24 back, one of the things you're sorry about is that you  
25 had so many children there; is that correct?

1           A. Yes, because later on, during my time in childcare in  
2           different places, the number of children in my house  
3           would be much smaller and I feel that we could have done  
4           a lot more for the children as regards teaching them how  
5           to sew or teaching them how to do different things that  
6           was impossible when the group was so large.

7           Q. You provide the inquiry with some closing thoughts,  
8           sister. That's at paragraph 180 on page 1261. You  
9           begin by saying:

10                    "I can't explain why the inquiry has received so  
11                   many allegations given that I had no knowledge of any  
12                   abuse."

13                   And I think you put forward some possible reasons  
14                   why you think that is the case. What is your position  
15                   on that?

16           A. My position is that I don't know, first of all, why. My  
17           other thing is that I'm sorry that there were so many  
18           because -- I'm very sorry that a number of the people  
19           who were brought up in Smyllum feel that they have been  
20           hurt in their young lives because of being brought up in  
21           Smyllum. For them I am sorry because for the time I was  
22           in Smyllum I always felt that it was a happy kind of  
23           carefree house where children were cared for, loved and  
24           looked after.

25           Q. You go on to say there:

1           "The only thing that I can think about is that  
2           a group of now older people got together and they have  
3           talked between themselves. So if one said that, 'I got  
4           a slap', and somebody else would say, 'Of course I got  
5           a slap as well'."

6           So that seems to suggest to me -- and I don't know  
7           if that's the message you're trying to convey or not --  
8           that somehow people have got together and there's  
9           a degree of collusion in making up stories.

10          A. Yes.

11          Q. Is that what you're saying?

12          A. Because I was trying to find out in my own head why  
13               there were so many and that's the only conclusion I can  
14               come to. I might be all wrong, but it was the best  
15               I can do.

16          Q. The other thing the inquiry has heard from quite  
17               a number of people that have given evidence -- they've  
18               given evidence about the impact they say life in Smyllum  
19               had on them in their adult lives; have you read that  
20               evidence?

21          A. No, I haven't. I haven't read the evidence, no.

22          Q. But if that's the case, are you able to provide an  
23               explanation as to why children, if they were so happily  
24               looked after, as you've indicated, would have these  
25               difficulties in later life because of what they say they

1           suffered at Smyllum?

2       A.   Yes, I don't know the answer, but I'm so sorry for them  
3           that this could have happened to them -- or that it is  
4           happening to them.

5       Q.   In any event, sister, you do say towards the end of your  
6           statement that you want to put on record to say that  
7           Smyllum was a happy home.

8       A.   Yes, I do, please, yes.

9       MR MacAULAY:  Very well, sister.  Thank you for your  
10           evidence.  I don't have any more questions for you.

11           My Lady, I haven't received any written questions to  
12           put to the sister.  I don't know if there are to be any  
13           questions.

14       LADY SMITH:  Are there any outstanding applications for  
15           questions of this witness?  No.

16           Sister, there are no further questions for you.  It  
17           simply remains for me to thank you for coming along  
18           today.  I know we've had you there giving evidence for  
19           quite a long time, I'm sure it's very tiring, but I'm  
20           now able to let you go and rest.

21       A.   Lady Smith, thank you very, very much.

22   (The witness withdrew)

23       LADY SMITH:  It's almost afternoon break time, Mr MacAulay;  
24           would that be a convenient point to pause?

25       MR MacAULAY:  It would be.

1 LADY SMITH: We'll take the afternoon break now.

2 MR MacAULAY: I think the next witness is a shorter witness,  
3 so I'm reasonably confident we should finish her this  
4 afternoon.

5 (2.55 pm)

6 (A short break)

7 (3.10 pm)

8 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is  
9 Sister Rosalie Crowley.

10 LADY SMITH: Before the next witness comes in, there's one  
11 thing I wanted to mention: some of you may have noticed  
12 that a surname at one point was attributed to the  
13 previous witness. That witness does actually have  
14 anonymity, so if any of you were thinking of repeating  
15 that surname outside of this room, you cannot do it;  
16 it's protected by the restriction order. You will  
17 remember that when she came in to give evidence, it was  
18 explained that her name to be used in evidence was  
19 Sister Mary. Thank you.

20 SISTER ROSALIE CROWLEY (sworn)

21 Questions from MR MacAULAY

22 MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, sister.

23 A. Good afternoon, Mr MacAulay.

24 Q. Can I in fact take you to your statement, which is  
25 in the red folder, and take you to the last page of the

1 statement. The statement itself is at WIT.003.001.1042,  
2 and we're looking at page 1078.

3 Can I ask you to confirm, sister, that you have  
4 signed the statement?

5 A. Yes, I have.

6 Q. And you say in the last paragraph:

7 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
8 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry."

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. Do you go on to say:

11 "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
12 statement are true"?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. I don't need your date of birth, but can you confirm  
15 that you were born in 1941?

16 A. That's right.

17 Q. So you're now 76 years of age?

18 A. Yes -- I'll be 76 [REDACTED]

19 Q. Just looking to your background and your position with  
20 the Daughters of Charity, I think you tell us that you  
21 joined the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent in 1958.

22 A. That's right, that's correct.

23 Q. We have a document that sets out your ministry history;  
24 perhaps I can take you to that. It'll come on the  
25 screen for you. It's at WIT.003.001.0580. Can we see

1           that after you joined, from 1960 to 1961, you were  
2           involved in childcare assisting with the care of  
3           children with a learning disability?

4           A. That's correct.

5           Q. And that was in Dublin, I think you tell us.

6           A. That's correct.

7           Q. You then, I think, get involved in catering; is that  
8           right?

9           A. Yes.

10          Q. When you come to Smyllum -- and we're about to look at  
11          that -- that was in 1962. Your role then was to cater  
12          for the children, the staff and the sisters.

13          A. That is correct.

14          Q. I think we take it from your ministry history that you  
15          were in Smyllum from 1962 to 1971; is this right?

16          A. That's correct.

17          Q. Then you provide us with some details of your history  
18          after that, including in fact being at the Wilton Street  
19          hostel in 1975 to 1984; that was in Glasgow?

20          A. That's correct.

21          Q. What was your position there at that time?

22          A. I was the head of a unit for young people who left  
23          Smyllum for future care.

24          Q. Just moving on to your present position, at least your  
25          final position was a hospital chaplaincy at the Chelsea

1           & Westminster Hospital?

2           A. That's correct.

3           Q. Do you still have that position?

4           A. I do, yes.

5           Q. If we go back to your statement, sister, as we've

6           established, you were at Smyllum from, I think, 1962 to

7           1971.

8           A. Yes. Correct.

9           Q. What was your position at Smyllum?

10          A. My position was in catering and -- for the main house.

11          There were two parts of Smyllum: there was the boys'

12          side and the girls' side and I was in charge of catering

13          for the main part of the building, which was the girls'

14          side.

15          Q. Does that mean you were effectively the cook for --

16          A. I was, yes.

17          Q. You were in charge of the kitchen?

18          A. I was in charge of the kitchen, yes.

19          Q. I think you tell us that before you left Smyllum that

20          you actually did a childcare qualification at

21          Langside College in Glasgow; is that right?

22          A. That's correct.

23          Q. Was that a full-time course?

24          A. It was. For the last year I was in Smyllum, I did that

25          course. Yes, it was a full-time course because --



1 initially I loved cooking and I was going to go to do  
2 domestic science teaching, and I changed my mind and  
3 went on to Langside College to do the course there, the  
4 last year that I lived -- I lived in Smyllum but did my  
5 training.

6 Q. But you no longer had the same responsibilities?

7 A. I had no responsibilities for cooking at that stage.

8 Q. Can I then just look at aspects of your role at Smyllum,  
9 sister. You've already mentioned that your  
10 responsibility was for cooking on the girls' side. Do  
11 I take it from that there would also be a cook who'd be  
12 on the boys' side?

13 A. Could you repeat that?

14 Q. I think you said your cooking responsibilities were in  
15 connection with the girls' kitchen; was there another  
16 cook who was responsible for the boys?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Who was that at your time?

19 A. Her name was Sister Joseph, but she's long since died.  
20 She was the cook that was -- she had her own kitchen and  
21 I really didn't have a lot to do with the boys' side  
22 because -- I had so much to do on my own place it kept  
23 me ... to do what I was doing, really, basically.

24 Q. You say in your statement that you cooked for girls and  
25 the younger boys; did you cook also for the younger

- 1 boys?
- 2 A. I think there was one unit that had younger boys that  
3 I cooked for as well -- that's my memory anyway.
- 4 Q. Did the set-up with regard to cooking change in your  
5 time at Smyllum?
- 6 A. It changed after, possibly, about four years. So  
7 I really only cooked for the very large group for up to  
8 four years, really, and when Sister EAL  
9 came as superior, she had come from London, and she  
10 actually had been used to smaller group homes. I was  
11 absolutely thrilled to bits because I thought, well, the  
12 food they will get will be lovely in comparison to --  
13 cooking for a larger number and having to move it from  
14 my kitchen to the various dining rooms is never the  
15 same. I felt that this would be wonderful to happen.  
16 It did happen, in fact.
- 17 Q. Do I take it that even when you started, although you  
18 were cooking for a large group of people, each section  
19 had its own dining room --
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. -- where the food would be eaten? So the notion of  
22 there being a communal dining room, for example, for all  
23 the girls, that had gone?
- 24 A. Yes. I have no memory of that. It may have been there  
25 in the earlier days, but I have no memory of it.

1 Q. What about the food? How would you describe the food?

2 A. The food was basic, if you like, but I suppose it was  
3 good food. It was plain food, but good food. It was  
4 the food I would actually have had at home in my own  
5 home, actually, and many of our sisters that have come  
6 from the country in Ireland, we would have had -- we  
7 would have been used to that kind of food.

8 It was like, you know, potatoes -- well, for  
9 breakfast we had porridge, but there was also cereal.  
10 We then had -- for dinner, we would have potatoes, meat  
11 and fresh vegetables -- always fresh vegetables because  
12 we had fresh vegetables in the garden. I was so used to  
13 doing that myself and so used to having that as a child  
14 at home.

15 Q. When the system changed and each of the units had their  
16 own dining areas, was the food still cooked in the main  
17 kitchen and then transported to --

18 A. No.

19 Q. What then became your position in relation to cooking?

20 A. My position then was -- I cooked for one of the main  
21 units in the main house because the cooking facilities  
22 weren't -- it was more difficult to get a cooker and get  
23 the arrangement into the unit. So I cooked for that one  
24 unit. The other units had their own cookers in their  
25 smaller dining rooms and they cooked for themselves. My

1 position was to order in what they requested of me.

2 Q. I see.

3 A. They would send me a list each week and I would actually  
4 order in from the butcher's or the baker's or whoever  
5 I was ordering from the list they gave me.

6 Q. So from the point of view of the cooking itself, you  
7 were cooking for a much smaller number than --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- once the changes had been put in place?

10 A. Yes, that's correct.

11 LADY SMITH: You said that there were always fresh

12 vegetables from the garden; what did you have in the  
13 winter?

14 A. Well, we had actually fresh vegetables -- we'd have  
15 cabbage, turnip, and I don't know ...

16 LADY SMITH: Growing vegetables outdoors in Scotland in the  
17 winter, particularly in the 1960s, could have been quite  
18 tough.

19 A. I don't know exactly. My memory is only saying,  
20 my Lady, that we'd have -- for the most part we'd have  
21 fresh vegetables. That's my --

22 LADY SMITH: But no doubt there were times in the winter  
23 that was harder.

24 A. Possibly, yes. Yes.

25 MR MacAULAY: There was a time then, I think you've been

1           telling us, that the food was being cooked in the units  
2           themselves. Did you have any overview of the standard  
3           of the food when that was the position?

4           A. I didn't, actually. No, I think I was asked that  
5           question before too, and maybe in hindsight it might  
6           have been a good thing to have done, but I didn't in  
7           fact. But I had -- a number of the sisters that I dealt  
8           with were from an Irish background and most of us that  
9           this come from Ireland, we had come from where we had to  
10          help with cooking at home and would have been very good  
11          cooks. The majority of the sisters in Smyllum that  
12          I knew in my time were very good cooks actually.

13          Q. You may be aware, sister, that witnesses have been  
14          critical of the food that they were served at Smyllum.  
15          For example, lumpy porridge has been a theme. What's  
16          your reaction to those criticisms?

17          A. Well, I can't substantiate that but, you know, I'm  
18          saying my truth and what they've said, you know, some of  
19          that may well have been true. I can't say, I can't talk  
20          for them, but if they have made that statement, which  
21          I know they have, from some of the questions I've been  
22          asked, you know, I have to respect their truth as well.

23          Q. Okay. Did you have any involvement with the children  
24          when they were actually being fed?

25          A. No.

1 Q. So you wouldn't be in the dining rooms, for example, to  
2 see what happened in practice when children were being  
3 fed?

4 A. No, I'm afraid I have not. I'd pop into the dining room  
5 sometimes and see the children eating and it just  
6 wouldn't have occurred to me that there were issues.  
7 I know there have been issues because I've read some of  
8 the issues.

9 Again, you know, I had nothing to substantiate that  
10 because, number 1, in my time in Smyllum, I hadn't seen  
11 anything or heard anything, so it came as quite a shock  
12 to me, to be honest.

13 Q. Just to be clear, you say from time to time you may have  
14 been in one of the dining rooms?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. But how regular would that be?

17 A. Not very regular at all. I might just pop in if I had  
18 something to say to the sister that was on the unit, but  
19 nothing specific or just to say hi to the children, but  
20 I wouldn't have spent -- I suppose going back those  
21 years, I was just 21 at the time and very young, and  
22 I wouldn't have the kind of same maybe understanding of  
23 what might happen that I'd have today, having read --

24 Q. As you've pointed out -- and I perhaps should have  
25 highlighted this -- you were very young when you started

1 at Smyllum.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What you do say in your statement is that you would not  
4 have much interaction with the children on a day-to-day  
5 basis; is that correct?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. You would see children, I suppose, around.

8 A. Yes, surely, yes. I would see them around and  
9 I would -- they used to pop into the kitchen on their  
10 way home from school, a few of the little ones. I would  
11 possibly see more of the younger ones than the older  
12 children. They would just pop in on their way from  
13 school and have a little chat. We had a sort of  
14 platform going up from the kitchen, eight or nine stairs  
15 from the kitchen itself, and they'd pop along and  
16 usually I would ask them how their day was or how was  
17 school, just general chat.

18 Q. Although I think you went on a childcare course when you  
19 were coming to leave Smyllum, you had no experience in  
20 childcare --

21 A. None whatsoever.

22 Q. -- when you went to Smyllum?

23 A. No, none whatsoever. I had not intended to go down that  
24 route, in fact. I'd intended to do domestic science and  
25 I changed my career at that stage.

- 1 Q. Okay. Can I ask you about birthdays, sister, because  
2 it's something you were asked to think about.
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Were birthdays celebrated so far as you could see?
- 5 A. Well, I ... My memory tells me that they were, but  
6 I just couldn't substantiate that, really. I know I had  
7 made birthday cakes. I know some of the children, the  
8 little ones, when they popped into the kitchen, they  
9 would tell me it was their birthday and whatever I was  
10 doing -- if I was baking cakes or doing whatever,  
11 I would give them a cake or a lollipop or something like  
12 that. But to be honest, I can't fully for a fact --  
13 I don't honestly know what happened on the units.
- 14 Q. Okay. Do you have any recollection of anyone coming to  
15 inspect, for example, the kitchen area that you were  
16 working in?
- 17 A. No. My superior, Sister EAL she used to come  
18 every morning, just put her head in the door, see how  
19 things are, what's cooking today. Other than that, we  
20 didn't have any visitors in the kitchen.
- 21 Q. I took from you already, sister, that you moved -- you  
22 worked at a point in time in St Mary's Hostel in  
23 Wilton Street, and that was 1975 to about 1984?
- 24 A. That's correct.
- 25 Q. There was a gap, clearly, between when you left Smyllum



1 and going to work in the hostel.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Was it Smyllum children who were at the hostel when you  
4 went to work there?

5 A. Some of the children were from Smyllum, yes.

6 Q. It was quite a small number of children?

7 A. Only eight.

8 Q. Was it all girls?

9 A. It was always girls.

10 Q. So these would be girls who were probably, what, in  
11 their late teens or thereabouts?

12 A. They would be 16-plus, yes.

13 Q. And what was it? What was the hostel designed to do?

14 A. The hostel was designed to do -- it was a place for  
15 people who had nowhere to go when they had left care and  
16 it was training them, really, to move on to flats or  
17 to -- they moved out to their own accommodation while  
18 they lived in our place. We trained them to cook, to do  
19 housekeeping and we had a beautiful house. It was  
20 really lovely, the young people loved it, they took  
21 great pride in it.

22 With the social workers, we organised flats for  
23 them. We continued to support them through the early  
24 stages of moving on to flats.

25 Q. In your time at the hostel, was there a turnover of

1 children, by that I mean children leaving to go to the  
2 flats and children coming from Smyllum?

3 A. Yes, there was.

4 Q. But the maximum you could house was about eight?

5 A. It was about eight young people and they weren't all  
6 from Smyllum actually. We had some from Nazareth House.

7 Q. Can I ask, so far as the hostel in Wilton Street was  
8 concerned, who ran the hostel?

9 A. It was the Catholic Childcare Office in conjunction with  
10 the Daughters of Charity because it was a Daughters of  
11 Charity house and this house at the end of the terrace,  
12 although it was attached to the main house, was  
13 completely gutted and renovated and made suitable for  
14 young people that were coming in.

15 Q. So they were in that part of the building?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. But quite separately, the Daughters of Charity had this  
18 other house?

19 A. Yes. My room was in the same house as the children. My  
20 flat was downstairs and the children lived upstairs.

21 Q. What sort of staff was there for the hostel?

22 A. I had two members -- two lay staff with me.

23 Q. So you were in charge, were you?

24 A. I was in charge, but I did do part of that as well.

25 I did my social work training and one of my members of

1 staff was appointed to lead the hostel at that stage,  
2 but I was always back at weekends and we worked  
3 together.

4 Q. When you came to leave the hostel in, I think you told  
5 us, 1984 --

6 LADY SMITH: Just before we leave the hostel, just to be  
7 clear, you said you would try to train the girls to move  
8 into flats; what training did they get?

9 A. The training they got was -- we would do menus for  
10 a week, they would go out to shop for themselves, as to  
11 how they might have to do it in their flats. I went  
12 with them and a member of staff went to the flats to  
13 help them to decorate and to get the flat ready for  
14 themselves moving in. They were very responsive. They  
15 really appreciated it very much.

16 LADY SMITH: What other domestic responsibilities were they  
17 taught about, any?

18 A. They were taught about self-care themselves, number 1,  
19 and then about, as I said, shopping for themselves and  
20 because we cooked together in the hostel -- I was  
21 cooking or leading for the evening meal in the hostel,  
22 one of the children or one of the young people would be  
23 there. She would take part in showing her the various  
24 meals that we were doing.

25 LADY SMITH: What about laundry?

1 A. Oh yes, they'd do their own laundry in the hostel,  
2 actually.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MR MacAULAY: Do you know what the criteria were for  
5 children to be admitted to the hostel? You have told us  
6 it was quite a limited number and they were from  
7 different places.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So how did you qualify to get to the hostel?

10 A. Well, the social workers would refer from Smyllum or  
11 wherever, and they were admitted -- they would be  
12 admitted then. I didn't have a say, really, in who  
13 came.

14 Q. So you don't know, for example -- let's say half a dozen  
15 children leave Smyllum at the one time, two might come  
16 to the hostel and the other four might be required to go  
17 somewhere else?

18 A. Yes, I don't honestly know. I can't remember that far  
19 back. But we would only receive one child, one young  
20 person at a time because then you gave all your  
21 attention to one as opposed to having a number of  
22 children coming in.

23 Q. So it was quite a limited jurisdiction, if I can say  
24 that; is that correct?

25 A. That's correct, yes.

1 Q. But looking to your -- and the answer you have just  
2 given to Lady Smith, were you effectively trying to fill  
3 a gap in the children's training that perhaps hadn't  
4 been filled in while they were at Smyllum in relation  
5 to, for example, shopping and so on?

6 A. Perhaps inadvertently. It wasn't intentional, but  
7 I knew from once the young people came to me, that part  
8 of their training to move on to a flat, this was really  
9 important. You know, I'm a good housekeeper myself, so  
10 I felt that that was really important for the  
11 youngsters. I have to say, we had the most beautiful  
12 group of young people, as we had of course in Smyllum.  
13 Delightful children.

14 Q. Can I ask you about Smyllum again, go back to Smyllum,  
15 because you were asked when you gave your statement,  
16 sister, about discipline and punishment at Smyllum. You  
17 look at that on page 1056, paragraph 64, and moving on  
18 from there.

19 In short, I think what you say is you had no  
20 involvement in supervising children.

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. Did you see children being disciplined?

23 A. Never.

24 Q. At this time when you were there, do you have any idea  
25 how many children were there over the period?

1 A. I really don't know, to be honest. I cooked for maybe  
2 120, 130 children to begin with, and then the numbers  
3 got smaller when they went into the smaller groups. But  
4 I had nothing to do with referrals -- of inviting  
5 children in initially for their discharge or anything.  
6 My job really was to do the catering and that's why it  
7 was very difficult for me to answer the questions, to be  
8 honest, for the simple reason that I was never --  
9 I never saw anything, I didn't hear anything, which  
10 really surprises me because I'm quite an intuitive  
11 person and always have been. And I am so surprised that  
12 some of the stuff people are saying -- I'm not saying it  
13 didn't happen, of course, because I respect people's --  
14 I expect what I'm saying to be respected and I respect  
15 what they've been saying. But -- I've lost my thread  
16 now.

17 Q. I'll try and see if we can get it back.

18 Looking over the period that you were there, sister,  
19 of about 9 years or so --

20 A. Well, 8 years.

21 Q. If you leave the last year to the side for the moment.

22 And you've mentioned about 120/130 children at one point  
23 in time.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. But over the whole period there must have been quite

1 a significant number of children coming and going and  
2 being there.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Do I understand you to say that you have no recollection  
5 at all of any child being disciplined in any way during  
6 that whole period?

7 A. That's correct, because I wasn't on the units, you know,  
8 Mr MacAulay, and I honestly -- that's why I found it  
9 quite difficult because I have no recollection at all of  
10 anything and then -- I wouldn't have been in a position  
11 because I wouldn't be on the units, I think is what I'm  
12 trying to say.

13 Q. For example, just to take a simple example, did you see  
14 any child who might have been misbehaving receiving any  
15 form of chastisement for such behaviour?

16 A. Not at all.

17 Q. Okay. You were asked when you were giving your  
18 statement, sister, about a number of -- you were given  
19 a number of names and asked to comment on whether or not  
20 you knew the person or whether you saw that person doing  
21 anything untoward. The short point is that some names  
22 you knew, some you didn't. But your short point is that  
23 you never saw anyone doing anything that you would  
24 characterise as any sort of abuse.

25 A. Not at all.

1 Q. So far as your interaction with the sisters would be  
2 concerned, as a community you would have a degree of  
3 interaction with the other sisters?

4 A. Yes, sure.

5 Q. Did you see how sisters interacted with children?

6 A. Not at all. I think that's why I found it quite  
7 difficult to give answers to you because I never saw  
8 children interacting with -- or sisters interacting with  
9 children because I wasn't on the units. So basically  
10 I might see them, like the children coming home from  
11 school on their own and I would see them on the corridor  
12 going into Mass and I would rarely see them -- I'd see  
13 the children out playing and they seemed to me to be  
14 happy, carefree children.

15 Q. What about records, sister? Did you yourself keep any  
16 records? For example, in connection with what meals  
17 were being served and so on.

18 A. Yes, not for the first couple of years because  
19 I possibly didn't know about it, but when  
20 Sister EAL came -- I think I say that in  
21 my statement, that she, again, had come from London,  
22 where they had family group homes and they actually had  
23 menus then, a menu book. So she went out and bought me  
24 a menu book and from that time on, a week ahead, we  
25 planned menus.



1 Q. Did you keep a record? Did you keep these menus?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you know what happened to them?

4 A. I don't know. I did look at our headquarters in London

5 to see if it was there. I thought it might have been,

6 but it wasn't. But I wasn't there, you see, when

7 Smyllum closed.

8 We did have a fire in the kitchen at some stage and

9 I'm not sure -- that was towards the end of my time.

10 I don't have the dates, I'm afraid, I don't remember

11 that, but it may have got burned. Everything got -- it

12 got gutted at the time.

13 Q. Did you keep the records in the kitchen?

14 A. I did. I kept the menu book in the kitchen.

15 Q. Did you resurrect the menu book after the fire?

16 A. I wasn't there, you see.

17 Q. So the fire in the kitchen was something that

18 happened --

19 A. In the last year I was there. I was living still there,

20 yes, but everything in the kitchen was gutted at that

21 stage.

22 Q. Did you keep records of the orders you made in

23 connection with ordering food?

24 A. I'm not certain that I did. I think Sister McCarthy,

25 who was the assistant to the superior, I gave the list

1 to them to order.

2 Q. Clearly, someone would have to cost what the order was  
3 going to be. So would you write out the list?

4 A. I wrote out the list.

5 Q. So you gave it to this other sister?

6 A. Yes, she ordered it for me, yes. I wrote out the list  
7 each week and they would order from -- we had a butcher  
8 in the town, we had a baker in the town, we had milk  
9 people selling milk and all that was ordered weekly.

10 Q. So if you made out the list, there ought to have been  
11 a record of what was being ordered on a weekly basis?

12 A. Well, there would have been at that stage, I think, yes.  
13 But I didn't see it. I just sent the list to her and  
14 she ordered it and the order came in and that was it,  
15 really.

16 Q. Can I take you to the final bits of your statement,  
17 sister. This is on page 1075, perhaps looking at  
18 paragraph 158 onwards. There's a section there in your  
19 statement where it's headed "Looking Back". Can you see  
20 that? Paragraph 158 onwards.

21 I think I've covered paragraph 158 because you were  
22 asked in giving your statement:

23 "... if in my nine years at Smyllum my recollection  
24 is as I have said that I never saw any child being  
25 disciplined for anything. Yes, that's correct, I saw

1 absolutely nothing."

2 Just perhaps to round that off, are you surprised  
3 that over that quite lengthy period, looking to the  
4 number of children and the different types of children,  
5 that you never witnessed any form of discipline? Does  
6 that surprise you?

7 A. Well, I wasn't in the position, you see, to do it.

8 I worked in the kitchen and it didn't -- I wasn't on the  
9 units. It surprised me that, you know, certainly the  
10 allegations that have been made have shocked me beyond  
11 anything.

12 Q. You talk about the allegations subsequently. One thing  
13 you say -- it's in the next paragraph, in fact, three or  
14 four lines down from the top:

15 "One of the things I would like to say is the  
16 similarities between the allegations and that kind of  
17 surprised me because from what I understood at the time  
18 the groups worked independently. It feels like there  
19 are so many repetitions in what is being said and  
20 I wonder how that could be."

21 Can I just understand what you're suggesting?

22 A. What I meant by that, really, was that, as far as  
23 I knew, the groups worked independently and the  
24 repetition -- the first lot of allegations that I saw  
25 that came in to me for the various sisters, it looked to

1 me, reading it initially, that, oh my God, this looks as  
2 if there was a huge culture of abuse and wrongdoing at  
3 Smyllum, and I actually never, never got that  
4 impression. It never occurred to me, to be honest with  
5 you.

6 As I said to you, I'm quite an intuitive person and  
7 I was surprised.

8 Q. Okay. I think you'll have seen from what's been put to  
9 you, sister, that it's suggested there were certain  
10 regimes that involved punishments for bed-wetting,  
11 force-feeding, and the beating of children. You're  
12 aware of these allegations being made?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You saw no evidence of that in your time in Smyllum?

15 A. None at all in my time. I'm so shocked.

16 Q. Finally, perhaps I can take you to this section in your  
17 statement, sister. It's at page 1078, paragraph 169.  
18 Perhaps I haven't taken from you in any real detail the  
19 sort of change in your career path that you took by  
20 going effectively into social work; that's what you did?

21 A. That's what I did, yes.

22 Q. And that's what you've been doing for quite  
23 a considerable period of time?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. So here at 169 what you tell us is:

1           "I am told that some people have told the inquiry  
2           that they are still affected today by the abuse they  
3           suffered in Smyllum, that it continues to have an  
4           ongoing effect on their lives. I would understand that  
5           from my own social work training and from the work that  
6           I do at the moment."

7           Do you see that?

8           A. Yes.

9           Q. What message are you --

10          A. I work with young mums who have their first babies  
11          in the hospital and a number of those women have been in  
12          care. They say to me that the worst time of their lives  
13          was when they were removed from their own homes and that  
14          has gone on to affect them for the rest of their lives.

15          Q. Okay.

16          A. Subsequently, if they have then suffered -- I mean, on  
17          this particular one they didn't say they had suffered in  
18          care, but when they had their first baby, they couldn't  
19          understand why their own parents had rejected them when  
20          they were actually brought into care.

21          Q. Do you understand, though, putting your social work hat  
22          on, that if someone says that he or she did suffer abuse  
23          at Smyllum, how it might be that that abuse could have  
24          had a real impact on that person's life later on?

25          A. Surely. I would understand that. On top of the -- as

1 well as their initial rejection, for whatever reason.

2 On this occasion -- the people that have made these  
3 allegations, I don't know their story.

4 Q. No, exactly.

5 A. So basically, if for whatever reason they had to leave  
6 home, which is tragic anyway, then if they have suffered  
7 in Smyllum, or any children's home beyond that or  
8 anywhere, surely, yes, it would affect them for the rest  
9 of their lives.

10 MR MacAULAY: Very well, sister. I have no further  
11 questions for you. Thank you for coming to give your  
12 evidence.

13 My Lady, I haven't received any written questions  
14 for the sister. I don't know if there are to be any  
15 questions.

16 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for  
17 questions of this witness? No.

18 Sister, there are no more questions. It only  
19 remains for me to thank you for coming along today.  
20 I think you may have had a bit of a wait before you gave  
21 your evidence. I hope that wasn't too inconvenient.  
22 You are now finished and you are free to go. Thank you  
23 very much.

24 (The witness withdrew)

25 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, that is all the evidence for today.

1           There are three other witnesses lined up for tomorrow.

2           LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. Tomorrow, is a 10 o'clock  
3           start all right?

4           MR MacAULAY: I think 10 o'clock is okay for tomorrow.

5           LADY SMITH: Very well. We'll resume our 10.00 starts, not  
6           9.45 tomorrow, and I'll rise now until then. Thank you  
7           very much.

8           (3.48 pm)

9                           (The inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am  
10                           on Thursday 18 January 2018)

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I N D E X

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2       SISTER EVELYN WARNOCK (sworn) .....1

3             Questions from MR MacAULAY .....1

4       "SISTER MARY" (sworn) .....55

5             Questions from MR MacAULAY .....56

6       SISTER ROSALIE CROWLEY (sworn) .....157

7             Questions from MR MacAULAY .....157

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