

1 Wednesday, 14th June 2017

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning.

4 Mr MacAulay, yesterday you indicated you would be  
5 moving on to a witness from the Sisters of Nazareth; is  
6 that right?

7 MR MacAULAY: That is correct, my Lady, and I would like to  
8 call Sister Anna Maria Doolan.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 SISTER ANNA MARIA DOOLAN (sworn)

11 Questions from Mr MacAULAY

12 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

13 MR MacAULAY: My Lady.

14 Sister Doolan, are you Anna Maria Doolan?

15 A. I am, yes.

16 Q. Have you come here to the Inquiry today to answer  
17 questions in relation to reports that have been  
18 submitted to the Inquiry on behalf of the Sisters of  
19 Nazareth?

20 A. That is correct.

21 Q. Before we do that, can I look at your profile that you  
22 have provided to us, your biography. I will put that on  
23 the screen for you. It is at NAZ.001.001.0208.

24 Do you tell us there, Sister, that you joined the  
25 congregation in October 1969?

- 1 A. That is correct.
- 2 Q. You started after your training to work in elderly care?
- 3 A. That is correct.
- 4 Q. Where was that?
- 5 A. I first started working in Hammersmith for a short  
6 while, then Northampton, and I was over in Sligo and  
7 Isleworth, and I did my nursing training in the  
8 West Middlesex Hospital in Isleworth, and after that  
9 I worked in Plymouth for 20 years.
- 10 Q. You do tell us you trained as a registered general nurse  
11 and you also completed a postgraduate diploma in  
12 leadership and management at Loughborough University.
- 13 A. That is correct.
- 14 Q. Thereafter, as you have just told us, you worked in  
15 Plymouth for 20 years and that was as a care home  
16 manager; is that right?
- 17 A. That is correct.
- 18 Q. Was that at one of your houses there?
- 19 A. That was at a residential nursing home.
- 20 Q. You were then appointed superior at the Nazareth House  
21 in Lancaster in 2006; would that be the Local Superior?
- 22 A. Yes, that is correct.
- 23 Q. Then you tell us you became a regional councillor of the  
24 UK region in 2009?
- 25 A. Yes that is correct.

1 Q. Then, finally, you were appointed the Regional Superior  
2 in October 2015?

3 A. That is right, yes.

4 Q. Is that for the UK?

5 A. Sorry, 2012 it was.

6 Q. I'm sorry, 2012?

7 A. Yes. That's for the UK.

8 Q. Can you tell us a little bit about your role then as the  
9 Regional Superior?

10 A. Well, in my role as the Regional Superior I'm  
11 responsible for the Sisters in the region who are spread  
12 throughout the region in 12 communities and at present  
13 we have 75 Sisters. So my main role is the care of  
14 those Sisters and visiting them and supporting them in  
15 any way, but I also work with Nazareth Care Charitable  
16 Trust because they were set up to run the care homes and  
17 services on our behalf in 2012.

18 LADY SMITH: Sorry, that is the Nazareth care?

19 A. Charitable Trust.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 MR MacAULAY: So far as Scotland is concerned then, what  
22 presence do you have now in Scotland?

23 A. We have two houses in Scotland, one in Glasgow and one  
24 here in Edinburgh and they are both care homes for the  
25 elderly.

1 Q. Apart from submitting the report -- reports, rather,  
2 because there is more than one report that has been  
3 submitted -- you also provided a short witness statement  
4 just explaining how the reports were constructed.

5 Perhaps I can just look at that first of all.  
6 That's at 0002. It may not be in your folder, but it  
7 will be on the screen.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. That particular document may not be in the folder, but  
10 this is a statement that you submitted and if we turn to  
11 page 0004, we can see that you have signed it at the  
12 bottom and that it is dated 27th April 2017. That's on  
13 page 0004?

14 A. Yes, that is correct, yes.

15 Q. Turn back to 0002. I want to look at the explanation  
16 you give at paragraph 4 of the statement where you tell  
17 us that:

18 "We have prepared five responses to the second  
19 notice."

20 The notice that you received from the Inquiry.  
21 I think what I would call the main response is dealing  
22 with the organisation and then there are five separate  
23 responses in respect of the different houses.

24 A. Four separate responses.

25 Q. I'm sorry, four --

1 LADY SMITH: Yes, five including the response in relation to  
2 the organisation.

3 A. Yes, that is correct.

4 MR MacAULAY: Although there are these four separate  
5 responses, am I right in saying that in large measure  
6 they reflect what's in the main response?

7 A. Yes, that is correct.

8 Q. I mean there are some --

9 A. Specifics.

10 Q. Yes, specifics for each place but in large measure they  
11 are the same?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You also tell us that the congregation has not provided  
14 residential care for children in Scotland since 1985; is  
15 that correct?

16 A. Yes correct.

17 Q. That's when your last house closed down?

18 A. That is right, yes.

19 Q. You also mention in statement some of the searches that  
20 you did of your archives. Can you develop that for me?  
21 Just tell me what you did in preparation for preparing  
22 the reports?

23 A. Well, when we got the questionnaire, our archivist,  
24 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], who assists her, they  
25 looked through the archives and came up with the

1 relevant material.

2 Also five of our Sisters who work in the generalate  
3 part of the congregation and are based in Hammersmith,  
4 where the archives are, assisted with the searches.  
5 That was put into the questionnaires and then sent to  
6 myself and to our solicitors for review. So it was back  
7 and forth a number of times and we added to it as  
8 necessary going along.

9 Q. What you tell us there, just reading what's said in the  
10 third line down:

11 "Rather each establishment followed relevant local  
12 guidelines regarding how long they were required to keep  
13 documents."

14 Is that what you discovered?

15 A. Yes. From the very early days we have hardly any  
16 documents; towards the latter end of the time of looking  
17 after children we had more documents.

18 Q. But the comment then -- for example, you say:

19 "Most financial records were retained for seven  
20 years."

21 Is that correct? So after seven years would they be  
22 destroyed?

23 A. They were destroyed yes.

24 Q. You also say:

25 "Many documents were not retained following the

1 appointment of a new Local Superior."

2 Can you elaborate on that? Why would that be the  
3 case?

4 A. The superior would be in the home for a number of years  
5 and they may have at the end of their term, which would  
6 probably be six years in most cases, that documents --  
7 in some cases -- I mean I'm not sure whether they were  
8 destroyed or in some cases they were put away and we  
9 didn't have an archive until 1994, so there was no  
10 central storage place for them. In the houses they  
11 don't seem to have been kept in separate storage either  
12 and a lot of their documents appear to have been lost.

13 Q. You say there was a good attempt to look after the  
14 children's records at each house.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What's the basis for saying that?

17 A. Well, the ones that we have are in good condition and we  
18 have a number of books relating to each house and, as  
19 I said, at the latter end of looking after children we  
20 have more files and individual files.

21 Q. If you turn onto the next page, 0003, you do provide us  
22 with some information there at paragraph 10 as to the  
23 type of documents you do have; is that right?

24 A. Yes, that is correct.

25 Q. I mean, for example, "The History of the Foundation",

1           this was a book that was kept at each establishment; is  
2           that right?

3       A.   That is right yes.

4       Q.   That would be a standard book and it would be the same  
5           at each establishment would it?

6       A.   Yes, it tends to be a handwritten book.

7       Q.   You also tell us at (c) that there is a register of  
8           Sisters for each establishment.

9       A.   That is correct.

10      Q.   Clearly, I'm just focusing on the Scottish  
11          establishment.

12      A.   Yes.

13      Q.   Can you tell me how far back that goes?

14      A.   As far as I remember it goes right back to certainly the  
15          early 1900s.

16      Q.   I think we know -- we will see, I think, that each  
17          establishment was established at different points in  
18          time.

19      A.   Yes, that is right.

20      Q.   The Edinburgh one was, I think, the last, is that  
21          correct --

22      A.   That is correct.

23      Q.   -- I think in 1931?

24      A.   Yes.

25      Q.   So you would expect the register to go back to that

1 point in time?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You also mention at (e) there is the council book of  
4 each establishment. Can you tell me about that? What  
5 sort of book is that?

6 A. That's a book -- as mentioned there, the Local Superior,  
7 who is assisted in running the house by -- depending on  
8 the size of the community she might have one or two  
9 council members who are like assistants and then  
10 a bursar, so they would meet regularly. It was monthly  
11 at one time, now it is two monthly. So they meet  
12 regularly and they would record those meetings in that  
13 book.

14 Q. Again, can you tell me if these books go back in time?

15 A. Yes, they do.

16 Q. To the early 1900s again?

17 A. Yes, they do.

18 Q. Perhaps of particular interest to us, if we look at (i),  
19 you have set out that:

20 "Registers of the children resident at each  
21 establishment. These registers contained basic personal  
22 information including: name, date of birth, place of  
23 birth, place of baptism, parents' details, parents'  
24 occupation, who recommended the child be admitted, date  
25 of admission, date of discharge, and date of death."

1 First of all, there are such registers in existence?

2 A. There are, yes.

3 Q. But you also go on to say:

4 "However, many of the registers were not complete or  
5 filled in and there were many anomalies or errors."

6 Have you yourself looked at the registers?

7 A. I have, yes. Some of them might have the children's  
8 name, but they may not have the parents' occupation.

9 You know, there were some gaps in the information that  
10 was recorded.

11 Q. Is that the type of gap then that you are focusing on?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. But again can I ask you this: how far back do these  
14 registers go?

15 A. Well, some of them are very old. So, I mean, Aberdeen  
16 was founded in 1862, I'm not sure if they go back that  
17 far but certainly they go back certainly to the 1900s.

18 Q. You tell us there are visitor's books as well but very  
19 few of these have survived; is that right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Then at (k) you mention what's described as "observation  
22 books". I will just read out what you tell us:

23 "These were used prior to the children's details  
24 being entered into a register. They included additional  
25 details such as: the circumstances of the admission; who

1 brought the child to the home; where the child had come  
2 from; why the child had been referred to the home; and  
3 who was paying any maintenance."

4 Just looking to these, have you yourself looked at  
5 these books?

6 A. I have, yes.

7 Q. You have, I think, provided us then with the sort of  
8 information contained in these books. Can you tell me  
9 again -- can you say how far back they go?

10 A. Well, likewise, certainly back to the 1900s and they  
11 had -- they are handwritten and they have got the  
12 details that are recorded there in them.

13 Q. Moving on to the next page, 0004, towards the top of the  
14 page at (m), you mention punishment books, but go on to  
15 say:

16 "However these were only recorded in the later  
17 years."

18 What does that mean here?

19 A. As far as I remember, they were like 1950s onwards.

20 Q. Covering then a considerable period of time?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Can you give some insight, Sister, into -- you have seen  
23 these books?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Can you provide us with some insight as to what sort of

1 information they might contain?

2 A. Some of the things in them referred to if a child had  
3 misbehaved and they were deprived of sweets maybe or  
4 deprived of their pocket money, deprived of going out  
5 with the other children. I notice where it said if they  
6 were deprived of their pocket money it was put into  
7 a savings account for them. So there was all things  
8 like that, that -- for misbehaviours and things that  
9 happened as a result.

10 Q. As the description tells us, it is dealing with  
11 punishments that were given to the children.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What about physical chastisement? Was there evidence of  
14 a record being made of that so far as you could see?

15 A. I didn't see any record of that in the ones I looked at.

16 Q. Again, moving on to perhaps letter (p), you say:

17 "There are discharge registers that these detailed  
18 when the children left the establishment and where they  
19 went."

20 A. Yes, that is correct.

21 Q. Can you tell us how far back they go?

22 A. Some were, as far as I remember, 1930s/1940s onwards --

23 Q. So again covering a considerable period of time?

24 A. Yes, they are.

25 Q. At (q) there is a note you have made:

1           "History of case. This was a background of the  
2 case."

3           What do you mean by that?

4       A. That was more in the latter years where there was a case  
5 history for the child. So it was information about when  
6 they came in and then what happened while they were in  
7 the home and, you know, social workers were involved etc  
8 in the latter years.

9       Q. When you talk about "the latter years" in this context,  
10 what sort of time frame do you mean?

11      A. From 1950s, late 1950s upwards.

12      Q. Then the progressive case history you mention at (r) and  
13 you say:

14           "This was ongoing information about the child's  
15 progress."

16           Can you tell me about that then?

17      A. So it would mention their schooling and whether they  
18 were at primary school and moving on to secondary school  
19 and then maybe moving on to work or, you know, when they  
20 were leaving the home.

21      Q. Again, what period are we talking about for this  
22 material?

23      A. Late 1950s onwards.

24      Q. You also say that there were medical records and  
25 certificates in your archives.

- 1 A. Yes, that is correct.
- 2 Q. How far back do they go?
- 3 A. They tend to be more for the latter years as well. The  
4 same, late 1950s onwards.
- 5 Q. You also mention reports by various organisations. Can  
6 you tell me about these?
- 7 A. They were by organisations that came into inspect the  
8 home and like -- and social services visits and social  
9 work visits, reports around those areas.
- 10 Q. And the time frame again, can you help me with that?
- 11 A. Mostly they tend to be for the latter years. There may  
12 be some sporadic ones for earlier but they tend to be  
13 for the latter years.
- 14 Q. When you say "the latter years" you are talking about --
- 15 A. 1950s onwards, yes.
- 16 Q. You also mention that there are application forms, that  
17 these were applications for children to be admitted to  
18 the homes; is that right?
- 19 A. Yes, they certainly were in the later years of the  
20 1960s/1970s maybe.
- 21 Q. Who from? Have you seen these documents?
- 22 A. I have seen some of them, yes.
- 23 Q. Can you give me an understanding, looking to those you  
24 have seen, who was making the application?
- 25 A. I'm not sure who made the application on them.

1 Q. You also mention care plans, that's at (x), but you tell  
2 us again these were only used in the later years. Care  
3 plans for each child? A care plan for a child?

4 A. The ones that are there, but they wouldn't be care plans  
5 as we would know them in nursing; they are more like  
6 saying what the child -- who they were and what their  
7 needs were or schooling, etc.

8 Q. Again the time frame you mention, the later years?

9 A. Yes, I think 1970s in to the time we closed.

10 Q. The reference to birth and baptism certificates. You do  
11 have these for children in your archives?

12 A. Yes, there are some.

13 Q. Going back how long?

14 A. Some from maybe the 1930s and 1940s and then more for  
15 the latter years.

16 Q. You have photographs as well I think you tell us.

17 A. Yes, that is right.

18 Q. Of children at the various establishments?

19 A. Yes, that is correct.

20 LADY SMITH: Sister Doolan, on a number of occasions you  
21 have said that you have looked yourself at some of the  
22 records. How did you decide which ones you would look  
23 at in preparation for giving evidence?

24 A. Well, I took a sample from the different homes and  
25 looked at them -- like, you know, the registers and the

1 discharge books, the punishment books.

2 LADY SMITH: How did you decide on your sample?

3 A. I took some from different years for each home.

4 LADY SMITH: Right. Just randomly or what? I am just  
5 trying to get a feel of what you did. There are  
6 obviously a lot of records.

7 A. There are a lot of records.

8 LADY SMITH: To give yourself a direct feel it seems that  
9 you have looked at some of the records yourself.

10 A. Yes.

11 LADY SMITH: I just wondered what criteria you self-directed  
12 with when you were doing that.

13 A. Well, I was just trying to get a feel -- because I have  
14 never worked with the children, so I was just trying to  
15 get a feel for -- and to see what was in the records.  
16 So, you know, across the four establishments I looked at  
17 a register for a period of time, because there is more  
18 than one register for some establishments because they  
19 were open a long time, and the same with the other  
20 books.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MR MacAULAY: I think, as you agreed with your Ladyship, you  
23 have a significant amount of records available.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Even looking at some of the material we looked at,

1 clearly these would be of particular interest to the  
2 Inquiry; I think you understand that.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And these are being retained by the congregation?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I just want to pick up one point from an earlier  
7 statement that you provided in fact; this is at  
8 NAZ.001.001.0263.

9 That's now on the screen. If you turn to the second  
10 page you will see that this was again from you and it is  
11 dated 20th October 2016; that's at 0264.

12 A. Yes, that is correct.

13 Q. There is one point I want to pick up in passing since we  
14 have it -- and this is something the Inquiry will be  
15 coming back to. But have you also checked your records  
16 to see how many children were sent to be cared for  
17 outside Scotland? If you look at the top.

18 A. Those ones that we put forward, they are the numbers  
19 that we checked the records for and came up with, but  
20 there were a certain number of children that went to  
21 Australia on the migration scheme.

22 Q. I think what you tell us at paragraph 9 is:

23 "Each of these children was sent to be cared for in  
24 Australia."

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You have given us a breakdown. For example, looking to  
2 these numbers, 33 were sent from the Aberdeen house.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Four from Kilmarnock; four from Cardonald, that's  
5 Glasgow; and 30 from Edinburgh, Lasswade. I think that  
6 is a total of 71. Was that all you could find in your  
7 records?

8 A. That is all we could find in relation to Scotland.

9 LADY SMITH: I suppose if we saw a group of 71 children we  
10 would think that was quite a large group of children.

11 A. Yes.

12 LADY SMITH: It is a not insignificant contribution to the  
13 migration of children from this country to another  
14 country.

15 A. Yes.

16 MR MacAULAY: We will be looking at this in due course but  
17 can I take it that your records will give us some  
18 information as to who the children were and the dates  
19 that they were being sent?

20 A. Yes, that is correct.

21 Q. Can we then look at the main -- what I call the main  
22 report, Sister; that's at 0005.

23 Just to recap, this is the main report and there are  
24 four other separate reports.

25 A. Yes, that is correct.

1 Q. The first issue that you address is in relation to the  
2 history of the congregation itself. Can you tell us  
3 a little bit about that, Sister?

4 A. Well in 1851 our founders, Victoire Larmenier, who was  
5 associated with the Little Sister of the Poor, was sent  
6 to London with some other Sisters to make a foundation  
7 and that was mostly for elderly care. But when she came  
8 to London there were a lot of children in need of care,  
9 especially on the streets of London, so they began to  
10 take in children as well in our first house.

11 As a result of that, she broke away from the Little  
12 Sister of the Poor and decided to stay in London and set  
13 up our congregation as the Sisters of Nazareth.

14 Q. Do you tell us that in 1864 you were recognised by Rome  
15 as a diocesan religious community --

16 A. Yes, that is correct.

17 Q. -- under the title. Is it Little Sisters of Nazareth or  
18 Sisters of Nazareth?

19 A. No, Sisters of Nazareth.

20 Q. Then, you addressed the position in Scotland; that's  
21 what we are interested in.

22 What you tell us there is that each of the  
23 foundation houses in Scotland was established at the  
24 request of the local bishop; is that correct?

25 A. That is correct, yes.

- 1 Q. Can you just elaborate on that for us?
- 2 A. Well, the bishop of the local area would have got in  
3 touch with -- well, obviously for Aberdeen it was our  
4 founder, Victoire Larmenier, because she was still alive  
5 then. He would have got in touch with her and invited  
6 her to the diocese and set up a home for the children  
7 and the elderly. Following on from that the same  
8 happened in our other houses: they would have got in  
9 touch with whoever was the senior person at the time in  
10 charge of the congregation.
- 11 Q. I think in the report you provide particular details as  
12 to when that happened and who was involved?
- 13 A. Yes, that is correct.
- 14 Q. Can I ask you in relation to the next point: why did the  
15 congregation consider that it had the competence to be  
16 responsible for and manage the care of children in  
17 establishments?
- 18 A. Well, it was part of the work we were set up as the  
19 congregation to carry out and as the Sisters were caring  
20 for children in London and in a few other areas round  
21 the country by then, the local bishops would have known  
22 about that and they felt the Sisters were in a position  
23 to care for neglected children and they invited them  
24 into their diocese then to carry out this work.
- 25 Q. That's in connection with children. You also mentioned

1 your being brought into the diocese to look after the  
2 elderly.

3 A. Elderly, yes.

4 Q. Some of these establishments established in Scotland,  
5 the four houses we will be talking about, did they care  
6 for children and elderly?

7 A. Yes, they all had elderly and children in them. I think  
8 at one time, Bonnyrigg, the Edinburgh house, only had  
9 children, and then it went on to care for the elderly as  
10 well.

11 Q. But the other three really catered for both from early  
12 on?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. If you turn to page 0006. It is there that you provide  
15 some detail in relation to each of the establishments.  
16 Perhaps look at (vi) for that. So far as Aberdeen was  
17 concerned, was that the first to be opened in 1862?

18 A. That is correct, yes.

19 Q. It was, as we have just been describing, for the care of  
20 the aged and infantine poor, the young and the old?

21 A. Yes, that is correct.

22 Q. That was at the request of the bishop at the time?

23 A. That is right, yes.

24 Q. The next one you talk about is Kilmarnock. Again that  
25 was at the request of the bishop at the time and that

1           was opened in 1891; is that correct?

2       A.   That is correct, yes.

3       Q.   Then you tell us both elderly and children at that time.

4       A.   Yes.

5       Q.   Glasgow, you say, was opened in July 1902 at the request

6           of the Archbishop of Glasgow.

7       A.   That is correct, yes.

8       Q.   As you mentioned before, Edinburgh was the last, and

9           that was opened in 1931 at the request of the Archbishop

10           of Edinburgh.

11      A.   That is correct.

12      Q.   I think what you tell us, there seems to have been some

13           connection with the Sisters of Charity in connection

14           with the establishment of Edinburgh; can you tell us

15           a bit more about that?

16      A.   Well, that's what's in our records, those details, but

17           apart from what's there, we don't have any more details.

18      LADY SMITH:  Where was the home that the Sisters of Charity

19           were running at that time that you took children from?

20           Do you know?

21      A.   I don't know --

22      LADY SMITH:  Did you take over the building that the

23           Sisters of Charity had been operating from?

24      A.   My understanding is that we didn't, that we opened our

25           own home and then that the children were --

1 LADY SMITH: The children transferred to your place?

2 A. Yes.

3 MR MacAULAY: You then provide us with some information as  
4 to when each of these establishments closed. Aberdeen,  
5 you tell us, closed in March 1983, when the last child  
6 left.

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. Kilmarnock you had closed earlier in April 1981.

9 A. Yes, that is correct.

10 Q. If we move on to the next page, 0007, Glasgow closed in  
11 January 1985; is that correct?

12 A. That is correct.

13 Q. Then finally Edinburgh closed in May 1984.

14 A. Yes, that is correct. They closed for the care of  
15 children.

16 Q. I think you told us before they still exist in another  
17 capacity.

18 A. Yes, but Aberdeen and Kilmarnock also continued for some  
19 time with care for the elderly, until they closed at  
20 a later date.

21 Q. What was the background then to the closure of these  
22 houses?

23 A. With the changes in legislation around child care, there  
24 was more fostering of children and the numbers began to  
25 drop, and also we had fewer homes -- sorry, fewer

1 Sisters to run the homes.

2 Q. So it is a combination of factors?

3 A. Of factors, yes.

4 Q. You are asked on page 0007 about the relationship  
5 between the congregation and the Religious Hierarchy  
6 within Scotland; we now refer to them as the Bishops'  
7 Conference. Can you tell us about that?

8 A. Well, as we discussed, we were invited into the diocese  
9 by the bishops but they had no direct authority over us  
10 as a congregation because as a congregation we come  
11 under Rome. But there would have been good  
12 relationships with the bishops and they would have  
13 visited the houses in a friendly manner and they would  
14 have visited the Sisters in a canonical manner in the  
15 earlier times. That doesn't happen so much now, but  
16 they still would visit houses as friends.

17 Q. But so far as the running of the houses would be  
18 concerned, that would be down to the Sisters?

19 A. Yes. They had nothing to do with the Bishops'  
20 Conference.

21 Q. We will look at how that happened later on in the  
22 report.

23 You are asked about the status of the congregation  
24 and I think you tell us on page 0008 that certainly in  
25 1965 the congregation was registered with the

1 Charity Commission in England and Wales; is that right?

2 A. That is correct, yes.

3 Q. Again, on 18th May 2009 it was registered as a charity  
4 with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator and  
5 you provide us with details of that.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Funding. You talk about funding in the next section of  
8 the report. I think what you do there is you direct us  
9 to the individual reports; is that correct?

10 A. That is correct, yes.

11 Q. If we look at the Edinburgh report, just as an example.  
12 If we turn to page 0043. Here you have provided some  
13 details about funding, focusing on Edinburgh. But you  
14 tell us funding included door-to-door collecting,  
15 legacies, gifts, raising money through bazaars, sales of  
16 work and fêtes; do you see that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Did the sources of funding change over the years?

19 A. Well, it did. I mean, that would have been relevant in  
20 the early days when we didn't have any external funding.  
21 Later then we had local authority funding and, as  
22 mentioned there, some children came through Catholic  
23 children's care societies and public assistance boards  
24 paid some money.

25 Q. You say at (ii) in the second box that:

1            "No matter the source of the funding, the children  
2            were always properly fed and clothed and in good  
3            health."

4            That is a statement you make in the report.

5            A. Yes.

6            Q. What's the basis for that?

7            A. Well, they got a lot of donations of clothes and toys  
8            etc from local firms throughout the year that helped  
9            with the clothing of the children.

10           The food was as good as they could provide at the  
11           time. They did their best to give the children good  
12           food.

13           Q. Is that what you take from records or what you have been  
14           told?

15           A. Yes.

16           Q. Is that from records?

17           A. Yes, and some from Sisters that have worked with the  
18           children.

19           Q. Are there Sisters still alive who were in the houses  
20           when they closed in the 1980s?

21           A. There is a few, yes.

22           Q. I don't propose to take you to the other separate  
23           reports because I think in fact what we see here in  
24           relation to funding is reflected in the other reports.

25           A. That is correct, yes.

1 Q. Can we then move on to page 0009. This is a section  
2 dealing with the legal status of the congregation since  
3 it was founded. In particular, you provide us, I think,  
4 with the information as to how the congregation was  
5 founded in 1851. As you have already pointed out, in  
6 1965 the congregation was registered with the  
7 Charity Commission.

8 A. That is correct, yes.

9 Q. At the moment, do you tell us then that the Nazareth  
10 Care Charitable Trust is a company limited by guarantee?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. That is the present position?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. If we turn to 0010. There is a question there asking  
15 about the legal basis which authorised or enabled the  
16 congregation to become responsible for the provision of  
17 residential care for children in Scotland.

18 There is reference to an appendix which I will look  
19 at in a moment, but this is really a section looking to  
20 a response that contains legal information. That is  
21 right, isn't it?

22 A. Yes, that is correct.

23 Q. Who put this together? Because it would presumably be  
24 a lawyer.

25 A. Well, the archivist and our solicitors.

- 1 Q. Put this together?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. I should have asked you, in relation to the other parts  
4 of the report that we have been looking and that we are  
5 going to look at, how were they constructed?
- 6 A. Well, we did the search of the archives -- well, the  
7 archivist did, as I say, with the help of some of the  
8 Sisters, and then the information was put together in  
9 the questionnaires and sent to our solicitors and sent  
10 to myself and we liaised about it and, you know, went  
11 back to the archives looking for more information if  
12 necessary and then it was put into the report.
- 13 Q. It sounds to me like what you were saying was it was  
14 really a combined effort then from different people.
- 15 A. Yes. A lot of work went into researching and looking  
16 for the information.
- 17 Q. If we turn to appendix A, I don't want to spend a lot of  
18 time on it, but it is at 0197. What's been set out here  
19 is what's headed "Chronology of Legislation", beginning  
20 with the Poor Law (Scotland) Act (1845) and then the  
21 author or authors have made mention to the different  
22 pieces of legislation that have a bearing on children in  
23 care.
- 24 A. That is correct.
- 25 Q. So far as the establishments that we are concerned with

- 1           are concerned, were they, at least in the 1930s,  
2           voluntary homes?
- 3       A.   That is correct, yes.
- 4       Q.   Did they become residential homes when the law changed?
- 5       A.   That is correct, yes.
- 6       Q.   So far as Aberdeen is concerned, that opened in the  
7           1800s; was that originally an industrial school?
- 8       A.   That is correct.
- 9       Q.   But it became a voluntary home, is that right --
- 10      A.   At a later date.
- 11      Q.   At a later date?
- 12      A.   Yes.
- 13      Q.   If we turn to page 0012.  When the questions are being  
14           asked about the legal, statutory or other status of the  
15           establishment, again you refer to the separate reports,  
16           that's at -- if you look at letter (b), just below  
17           halfway.
- 18      A.   Yes.
- 19      Q.   So if we look at Edinburgh, and that's at 0046 ... bear  
20           with me.  Yes, I'm sorry, 0046.  I think we -- towards  
21           the bottom of the page, "Establishment".  Do we note  
22           that Nazareth House Edinburgh was founded in 1931 and it  
23           was a private voluntary home for children and thereafter  
24           a residential home for children?
- 25      A.   That is correct, yes.

1 Q. The position is the same, I think, in relation to  
2 Kilmarnock and Glasgow?

3 A. That is right, yes.

4 Q. If we look at Aberdeen for a moment, that's at 0164. If  
5 we look at the top of the page, we can see there that,  
6 at (i) at (b), Aberdeen was founded in 1862. It was  
7 a private voluntary home for children and thereafter  
8 a residential home for children. From 1877  
9 Nazareth House Aberdeen was also an industrial school  
10 for girls before it became an approved school for girls  
11 in 1933.

12 I was just trying to understand: was there some sort  
13 of dual purpose in Aberdeen, that it was a voluntary  
14 home but also an industrial school and an approved  
15 school for girls?

16 A. Yes. That's what we found in the records, that they  
17 were both dual purpose.

18 Q. Dual purpose?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. If I could now take you to page 16 of the report, 0016.  
21 Here you are asked some questions about the  
22 congregation's function, ethos and mission insofar as  
23 providing residential care to children.

24 Can you just tell us about that? What did you see  
25 your function, ethos or mission to be so far as children

1           were concerned?

2       A. Well, the constitution of our congregation set out the  
3       guidelines for the Sisters and for their way of life.  
4       The two strands were very much part of our life: the  
5       care of children and the care of the elderly. We did  
6       some teaching in schools in some locations and we had  
7       homes for unmarried mothers in some locations as well  
8       across the country.

9       Q. To summarise then, if you look towards the bottom of the  
10      page, having provided the different references and  
11      indicated the vows that the Sisters took, at (iii), the  
12      box, do you summarise the position for children by  
13      saying:

14                "The function, ethos and mission of each  
15      Nazareth House was to provide a service to children in  
16      the following ways ..."

17                Bullet point 2:

18                "To provide a loving, caring and safe environment"?

19      A. Yes, that is correct.

20      Q. That would be your expectation in respect of each of the  
21      houses in Scotland?

22      A. That is correct, yes.

23      Q. You also go on to say, I think, that:

24                "[That] would include also providing or enabling  
25      an appropriate education and training for life."

1 A. That is correct.

2 Q. You are asked whether there would be changes over time  
3 in ethos, function or mission and I think you say that  
4 that would not be the case, that there would not be  
5 a change.

6 A. Well, the ethos and charism didn't change, but the way  
7 we delivered the care to either the children or the  
8 elderly has changed over time in response to new  
9 legislation and with the changes in the times.

10 Q. What you tell us on page 0017, in the box that's (vi),  
11 that:

12 "The congregation saw the function of the Sisters'  
13 work with children at all of the Nazareth Houses as  
14 providing the best possible care for the children. This  
15 did not change."

16 A. Sorry, which number was that?

17 Q. That's (vi). It is that box.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So that's your position?

20 A. That is correct, yes.

21 Q. Perhaps, having looked at that, it might be helpful at  
22 this point to look at the section in the report dealing  
23 with culture, because you were also asked about that.  
24 If you could turn to page 0030.

25 So at 2.2(i) you tell us that:

1           "Throughout the years the culture reflected the  
2           ethos of the organisation. The culture was to care for  
3           and nurture children and to prepare them for adult life  
4           when they departed the care of the organisation."

5           That's the essence of the position; is that right?

6           A. That is correct, yes.

7           Q. You were asked the question:

8           "Was that culture reflected in the organisation's  
9           policies, procedures and/or practice ..."

10          How do you deal with that?

11          A. Well, unfortunately in the earlier years there were no  
12          written policies or procedures. There were, like,  
13          guidelines in place for each house and they would be  
14          carried out by the Local Superior with the Sisters  
15          looking after the children or the elderly. That would  
16          be in keeping with the ethos and charism of the  
17          congregation.

18          Q. When you say there were guidelines, are you saying there  
19          were written guidelines even going back to the very  
20          beginning of the existence of --

21          A. They were not written; they were passed on from the  
22          Sisters to, you know, new Sisters coming into the house  
23          or into the congregation.

24          LADY SMITH: If they were not written, where does your  
25          knowledge of them come from?

1 A. Sisters that have worked with the children.

2 LADY SMITH: The ones that are still surviving?

3 A. Yes, correct.

4 LADY SMITH: I see, thank you.

5 MR MacAULAY: Did there come a time when there were written

6 guidelines available during the lifespan of the

7 different houses?

8 A. In the latter years, the 1970s, 1980s.

9 Q. Do you have records of these guidelines?

10 A. Some but very little because unfortunately the records

11 weren't kept.

12 Q. When you go on to talk about surviving case files,

13 towards the second half of that paragraph, are these

14 references to some of the material that you have already

15 mentioned in your statement?

16 A. That is correct, yes.

17 Q. For example, progressive case histories, medical records

18 and so on; we have looked at that already.

19 A. Yes, that is correct.

20 Q. You were asked in relation to how the culture was

21 reflected in policies and procedures, how that can be

22 demonstrated, because that's the next question that's

23 asked and the answer is:

24 "This would have been demonstrated by the reports,

25 care plans and reviews written about the children."

- 1           Do you see that?
- 2       A. Yes, I see that.
- 3       Q. Is that a reference back to the material then that you  
4       have identified from the archives.
- 5       A. Yes, that's the material we have seen.
- 6       Q. Will that material demonstrate that children were cared  
7       for and nurtured in the way that your culture would have  
8       demanded?
- 9       A. Yes, it would. Yes.
- 10      Q. The reference in the previous paragraph to "some files  
11      contain little information", that's the last sentence.  
12      I just want to ask you about that. I mean, what files  
13      do you have in mind when you are making that comment?
- 14      A. The individual children's files, some have a lot more  
15      information in them than others. You know, they might  
16      have social work reports, they might have doctor's  
17      reports, and other files may just have details about the  
18      child themselves. So they vary very much, what's in the  
19      files.
- 20      Q. Can you tell me if they vary from house to house or do  
21      they vary even within the houses?
- 22      A. They vary within the houses, yes.
- 23      Q. Do you know why that might be?
- 24      A. I don't know, but unfortunately, as I say, a lot of  
25      records were lost and weren't kept and there wasn't the

1 requirement going back to keep records like we do today.

2 Q. But here I think you are talking about files that have  
3 been kept.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. But some of these files don't seem to have materials  
6 contained in other files.

7 A. That is correct, yes.

8 Q. Are you suggesting that that might be because that  
9 material, even though it may have been in the file, has  
10 been lost over the years?

11 A. Well, that's possible. Or maybe the material wasn't  
12 ever in those files.

13 Q. At 0031, the next page, there is a question:

14 "When and why did any changes in the culture of the  
15 organisation come about?"

16 You talk there about the congregation trying to keep  
17 abreast of the times; do you see that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can you just tell us that -- because I clearly think  
20 practice changed over the years.

21 A. That is correct, yes.

22 Q. So how did that impact upon the different houses?

23 A. Well, in the different houses the children were -- back  
24 in the early years, the girls and the boys were kept  
25 separate. As legislation changed and things moved on

1           into the 1950s, they were put into groups, more family  
2           groups, and also in the earlier years siblings weren't  
3           kept together in the same groups -- sorry, it wasn't the  
4           groups, but obviously the boys were separate and the  
5           girls were separate and so the siblings weren't together  
6           either.

7           Q. Again I think we will look at that later in the report,  
8           but then you do say:

9                     "A major change was the introduction of family  
10           groups as opposed to larger groups."

11           I just want to know when that change impacted upon,  
12           if you can tell me, the four houses in Scotland?

13           A. To my recollection it was from the late 1950s onwards.

14           Q. Again, is the information when that might have happened  
15           available in the archives?

16           A. Yes, there is reference to it.

17           Q. Because it would involve structural change, would it  
18           not, to the houses?

19           A. Yes, that is correct.

20           Q. Is that information available in the records?

21           A. I think there is some information about that and some of  
22           the Sisters that are still alive would have lived  
23           through those changes and have been part of them.

24           LADY SMITH: So when you refer, for instance, to the  
25           introduction of family groups as opposed to large groups

1 of children, your recollection is that was around the  
2 1950s that happened, is it?

3 A. Late 1950s.

4 LADY SMITH: Late 1950s.

5 A. Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: But were you explaining that that didn't mean  
7 that siblings were brought together?

8 A. It depended, I think, when the children were admitted.  
9 Sometimes, you know, if there was, for example, say five  
10 in a family and one group -- say there were four groups  
11 of children, one group might only have two places and  
12 the other group had three places, so there wouldn't be  
13 room for them to put them together in the same groups.

14 LADY SMITH: I see.

15 MR MacAULAY: Again you do look at that separately as to how  
16 siblings were dealt with in the report.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I will perhaps look at that in a little bit more detail  
19 in a moment. I now want to look at the structures of  
20 the congregation and indeed each establishment itself.

21 If you could turn to 0034 first of all. You have  
22 a section here that's dealing with the hierarchy within  
23 the organisation and you have produced a useful table,  
24 and we can work from the top down, from the superior  
25 general. Where would the superior general be based?

- 1 A. She is based in Hammersmith and the general council  
2 members are based in Hammersmith.
- 3 Q. Is this looking at the organisation within the UK or  
4 worldwide?
- 5 A. The superior general and her general councillors are  
6 responsible for the organisation worldwide --
- 7 Q. That's from Hammersmith?
- 8 A. -- which includes the UK. Yes, from Hammersmith.
- 9 Q. There are six members of the general council -- or there  
10 were and now there's four?
- 11 A. That is correct, yes.
- 12 Q. We then come to the Regional Superior. Is that the  
13 position you now hold?
- 14 A. That is correct.
- 15 Q. Associated with you there are a number of regional  
16 councillors?
- 17 A. Two, yes.
- 18 Q. We then come to the Local Superiors; is that right?
- 19 A. They are in each house.
- 20 Q. They too would have associated with them local  
21 councillors?
- 22 A. That is correct, yes.
- 23 Q. If we look at the Scottish houses that we are dealing  
24 with, how many councillors would be associated with each  
25 of the Local Superiors?

1 A. It depended on the size of the community. So in some  
2 cases they had two councillors and a bursar and in other  
3 cases it would be one councillor and a bursar.

4 Q. You mentioned the bursar as well?

5 A. Yes, that is correct.

6 Q. Below that you have the Sisters who would be accountable  
7 to the Local Superior?

8 A. That is correct.

9 Q. Does this table give us the line of responsibility from  
10 the bottom up to the top?

11 A. That is correct, yes.

12 LADY SMITH: Where is the superior general based? Is that  
13 in --

14 A. Hammersmith.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MR MacAULAY: Moving on to 0035. You are asked the question  
17 towards the top of the page:

18 "Within the establishment itself, who had managerial  
19 responsibility for, or was in overall charge of, those  
20 employed there, including in particular those who were  
21 involved in the day-to-day care of children, and any  
22 other persons who had contact with the children?"

23 I think you tell us it was the Local Superior who  
24 had overall charge.

25 A. That is correct, yes.

1 Q. You also tell us that:

2 "Child care workers within the establishment would  
3 be responsible to the Local Superior and also any Sister  
4 in charge of the children."

5 A. That is correct, yes.

6 Q. Can I take you back to page 0032. I think if we go to  
7 the top of the page, I want to look at the section that  
8 deals with "leadership", where again separate reports  
9 have been prepared in relation to each of these  
10 establishments in relation to that point.

11 If I can look at Edinburgh; that's at 0069. I'm  
12 looking towards the bottom of the page. The question  
13 is:

14 "How was the establishment managed and led?"

15 The answer is:

16 "Each house had a community of Sisters of varying  
17 numbers. The community was headed by a Local Superior,  
18 who in turn had a two local councillors and a bursar to  
19 assist her in the running of the house. These Sisters  
20 would meet every month and address any issues in the  
21 house."

22 That's the way it worked within each of the houses?

23 A. That is correct, yes.

24 Q. Monthly meetings where issues would be discussed?

25 A. That is correct, yes.

1 Q. Are there records of these meetings?

2 A. There are yes --

3 Q. Going back in time?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. To the early part of their existence?

6 A. Certainly from the 1900s, yes.

7 Q. You have in fact provided some details about the Local  
8 Superiors in the next section and onto page 0070. Here  
9 we are looking at Edinburgh that closed, as I think we  
10 know, in 1985. You give us the details of the last  
11 superior. You tell us:

12 "No records are held regarding the qualifications  
13 held by these superiors, apart from one who qualified as  
14 a teacher in 1943."

15 A. That is correct yes.

16 Q. But all the Sisters who were superiors have passed away?

17 A. Yes, that is correct.

18 Q. Kilmarnock, I won't take you to the detail, but again  
19 I think you provide us with these sort of details and  
20 the same set-up in relation to how management was run  
21 and again tell us all the superiors have died.

22 A. That is correct, yes.

23 Q. There are no records of any qualifications in  
24 Kilmarnock. Do you want me to take you to that? It is  
25 at page 108, where you provide these details. Towards

1 the bottom of the page there is a section dealing with  
2 leadership and then moving onto page 109.

3 Towards the top you tell us:

4 "There are no records that are held regarding the  
5 qualifications held by these superiors."

6 A. That is correct, yes. There is one other house that  
7 I think had a superior that was qualified in child care.

8 Q. That's, I think, Glasgow.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. If you look at 0148.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So we are looking at the top of the page. You tell us:

13 "No records are held regarding the qualifications  
14 held by these superiors apart from ..."

15 The one who you said was trained and qualified as  
16 a nursery nurse.

17 A. That is correct.

18 Q. All the superiors again have passed away?

19 A. That is correct, yes.

20 Q. Aberdeen is the same -- I will give the reference, 0186:  
21 all have died and there are no records held of  
22 qualifications?

23 A. That is correct, yes.

24 Q. If the superiors had qualifications, would you expect  
25 the records indicating that to be there?

1 A. To reflect that, yes.

2 Q. Can I now go back then to 0017 where there is a section  
3 dealing with the services provided at the establishment  
4 and questions about activities and so on and so forth.  
5 Again, here you refer to each individual report; is that  
6 right?

7 A. That is correct, yes.

8 Q. So if we look at Edinburgh, just to get an understanding  
9 of what's said, at 0052. Just moving down to where we  
10 are now. Under reference to the question:

11 "What services were provided at the establishment in  
12 terms of care for children?"

13 We are told that:

14 "Children were provided with a clean, safe, loving  
15 and caring home, giving them stability in their lives.  
16 The Sisters tried within their means to make  
17 Nazareth House a home from home for the children.  
18 Although they could never make up for a child's parents,  
19 they tried to care for the children in a motherly  
20 manner."

21 That information that you have provided, what's the  
22 source of that?

23 A. From the record books it comes out what the children  
24 were provided with and their education and there are  
25 records of the activities they attended and training.

1 Q. You have listed some of that training and education and  
2 activities.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So far as Edinburgh was concerned, what was the  
5 arrangement in relation to schooling, can you tell me?

6 A. The children went out to school.

7 Q. What about the younger children, did they also go out to  
8 school?

9 A. When they were school age. As far as I remember, they  
10 did, yes.

11 Q. Did any of the establishments have schools within the  
12 establishment?

13 A. Apart from Aberdeen, not to my knowledge, they didn't;  
14 the children went out to school.

15 Q. What was the position in Aberdeen?

16 A. They had the approved school there, which some of the  
17 children went to, but some of the other children went  
18 out to school.

19 Q. So the primary schoolchildren would go out to school?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You go on to say, towards the bottom of the page, about  
22 how children were accommodated in Edinburgh. You  
23 indicate there were separate dormitories, is that right,  
24 towards the bottom of the page?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Moving on to page 0053, there were separate refectories;  
2 is that correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Is that separate for boys to girls?

5 A. That is correct, yes.

6 Q. Was that the separation?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. But you then have noted here, on page 0053, that:

9 "From 1966 boys, girls and babies lived together in  
10 family groups."

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. Does that give us a point in time, at least for  
13 Edinburgh, when the situation may have changed in  
14 relation to how children were being housed?

15 A. Exactly, yes.

16 Q. You provide some information about the daily routine for  
17 boys and girls and again at (vi) you provide information  
18 about on-site activities; is that correct?

19 A. That is correct, yes.

20 Q. And then off-site activities that included holidays, day  
21 trips, Scout camps, and so on.

22 A. Yes, that is correct.

23 Q. Can I ask you for the sources of that information?

24 A. They are recorded in some of the records that we have in  
25 day books and some of the -- it is listed, like, they

1           went out for day trips and who provided them, different  
2           organisations provided them, like the Variety Club, etc.

3           Actually, the archivist gave me just last week  
4           a list of -- for each house, all the sources of the  
5           information so, we can share that with you, if that  
6           would be helpful.

7           Q. So that's Edinburgh. Kilmarnock, if we perhaps look at  
8           that quickly, it is at 0091. The information, I think,  
9           is very similar and I'm just looking to the question at  
10          (ii). Did the establishment care for children of both  
11          sexes? I think there was a change, it was girls and  
12          babies first of all; is that right?

13          A. That is correct, yes.

14          Q. And then girls, boys and babies of both sexes from the  
15          late 1950s until 1981?

16          A. That is correct.

17          Q. Then that's looking at Glasgow and I think the  
18          information provided is similar. At page 0130 we have  
19          the boxes dealing with the services being provided and  
20          at (ii) we are told that:

21                 "In this house the Sisters cared for girls and  
22                 babies of both sexes between 1902 and the late 1950s.  
23                 Girls, boys and babies of both sexes were cared for from  
24                 late 1950s until 1985."

25                 Is that correct?

- 1 A. That is correct, yes.
- 2 Q. Am I correct in thinking that in relation to both  
3 Kilmarnock and Glasgow we are not given a date, as we  
4 are for Edinburgh, as to when the group set-up was  
5 created?
- 6 A. My understanding is that the groups came into all our  
7 houses from the late 1950s into the 1960s onwards.
- 8 Q. I think what I said was not quite right because at (iv)  
9 we are told:
- 10 "Until the introduction of family groups in the late  
11 1950s, girls only were cared for at this house."
- 12 Girls only up until the 1950s; do you see that?
- 13 A. Yes, I do.
- 14 Q. Aberdeen is the last one I want to look at; that's at  
15 0171.
- 16 Perhaps if go back to 0169 actually, if we can do  
17 that. Again, we have the same list of services as we  
18 have seen before. Then moving on to the next page,  
19 0170, at (iv), towards the top, are we told:
- 20 "Until the 1950s, boys and girls had separate wings  
21 of the children's home, including separate dormitories,  
22 separate schooling, separate reunions, separate  
23 holidays, separate choirs, separate playgrounds"?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. So we will come to siblings later but this tells us

1           that, at least so far as Aberdeen was concerned, there  
2           was a separate playground for girls --

3       A.   And boys.

4       Q.   -- and one for boys?

5       A.   Yes, that is correct.

6       Q.   Perhaps I should get some feel for the numbers that were  
7           accommodated at each of these establishments.  Probably  
8           the best way of doing this is to look at a table that  
9           has been provided and that's at page 0265.  So here we  
10          have a table headed:

11                 "Statistics of numbers of children and babies at  
12                 Scottish Nazareth Houses 1925-1984."

13                 Have you seen this table before, Sister?

14      A.   Yes, I have.

15      Q.   If we look at Aberdeen, which is the first we come to on  
16           the left-hand side, the information actually dates back  
17           to 1925.

18      A.   Yes.

19      Q.   This gives us a breakdown under three columns of the  
20           number of boys, the number of girls, and the babies.

21      A.   That is correct, yes.

22      Q.   We can see from the numbers, as we read down the page,  
23           that Aberdeen did accommodate a large number of children  
24           of different ages.

25      A.   That is correct.

1 Q. If we turn onto the next page, 0266, can we see that  
2 from 1972 -- and I think it is also the position in  
3 1971 -- that there are no babies now in Aberdeen?

4 A. That is correct, yes.

5 Q. From April 1976, can we see the numbers are dwindling?  
6 Here the children have been put together. Previously it  
7 was boys and girls separately. Do I take it, for  
8 example, that for April 1976 the 90 would include boys  
9 and girls?

10 A. That is correct, yes.

11 LADY SMITH: Are these numbers telling us a statistic at  
12 a year end, giving a number of children in the home, as  
13 opposed to the number of children admitted during the  
14 year? Do you see what I mean?

15 A. My understanding is that this is the number of the  
16 children at the year end in the home.

17 LADY SMITH: There was probably a question that had to be  
18 completed for the records: as at a particular date, how  
19 many children in the home? No doubt the year end, it  
20 would fit with the financial year end perhaps.

21 A. Yes, possibly.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 MR MacAULAY: We have the numbers for the other homes as  
24 well. We needn't dwell on these, but if we go back to  
25 the report itself, 0118.

1           So we are back at -- it is 0018.

2   LADY SMITH:  Is it 0018 you want?  We have 0118 on the  
3           screen.

4   MR MacAULAY:  Yes.  (Pause)

5           So if we look towards the bottom of the page, you  
6           address the issue of numbers and what you provide us  
7           with is an annual total for each year.

8           So if we go over the page to 0019, if we run down  
9           the page, again can we see the annual totals and the  
10          numbers dwindling towards the latter part of the period?

11   A.  That is correct, yes.

12   Q.  On page 0020, do you provide us at (iii) --

13   LADY SMITH:  That's 0020 you want?

14   MR MacAULAY:  Yes.

15          You provide us with total figures here.  You tell us  
16          that 14,766 children were accommodated in Scotland by  
17          the congregation.

18   A.  That is correct, yes.

19   Q.  So you have worked that out from your statistics?

20   A.  That is correct, yes.

21   Q.  You have given us a breakdown of the numbers for  
22          different houses.  By far the largest is Aberdeen with  
23          6,120.

24   A.  That is correct.

25   Q.  Is there any reason for that apart from the fact,

- 1 I suppose, it was the first to be established?
- 2 A. Well, it was established, yes, a lot earlier than the  
3 others and had children from the beginning and it was  
4 quite a large house as well.
- 5 Q. But you tell us that the congregation did not place  
6 children into foster care at all.
- 7 A. We didn't do it, but we may have been part of a scheme  
8 that placed children into foster care.
- 9 Q. You are also asked in the report -- this is on  
10 page 0021 -- to provide us with some information about  
11 the children's background and experiences. You address  
12 that at paragraph 1.7 of the report. Can you tell us  
13 a bit about that, Sister?
- 14 A. Sorry, which number?
- 15 Q. Yes, it is 1.7 and it is the heading "Children's  
16 background/experience". You are being asked what sort  
17 of experience or background that the children may have  
18 had when they were admitted to the houses.
- 19 A. Yes, some of the children came from very poor  
20 background, some came from broken families, and some  
21 came from families where maybe one of the parents were  
22 deceased. Some came in as a number of children from  
23 a family. So there were all different circumstances of  
24 why they were in care.
- 25 Q. You are also asked who placed the children in the care

1 of the Sisters and what's your answer to that?

2 A. Well, in the earlier years they could have been placed  
3 through priests and families themselves might have asked  
4 the Sisters to take in children. But in latter years it  
5 came more under the local authorities, social services.

6 Q. Is there evidence of these placements in your records?

7 A. There is, yes.

8 Q. Can I then go back to a point that has been raised in  
9 passing already and that is how siblings were managed  
10 when admitted.

11 You look at this on page 0022 of the report. You  
12 are asked at (viii) in particular:

13 "What was the policy/procedure and practice  
14 regarding admission of siblings?"

15 Can you help me with that? What was the approach?

16 A. Well, up until the late 1950s, boys and girls were kept  
17 separate within the home and then, with the introduction  
18 of family groups, as far as possible, children from the  
19 same family were put together. But as I mentioned  
20 earlier, it may be that when a number of children from  
21 a family were admitted, they didn't have enough room in  
22 a particular group for all the children from the same  
23 family.

24 Q. So if we were to take a family of a boy and a girl who  
25 were being admitted prior to the group set-up, the boy

- 1           would go one way and the girl another?
- 2       A.   That is correct.
- 3       Q.   As we saw when we looked at Aberdeen in particular, that
- 4           separation applied not only to dormitories, but also to
- 5           refectories and the playground.
- 6       A.   That is correct.
- 7       Q.   What opportunity would siblings have to meet up in that
- 8           situation?
- 9       A.   I don't really know.  We have no records around that
- 10           area.
- 11      Q.   So there were no arrangements whereby somehow a boy and
- 12           girl who were brother and sister would be allowed to
- 13           meet at a point in time in the day?
- 14      A.   They may have but, as I say, we have nothing to back
- 15           that up.
- 16      LADY SMITH:  It would seem a shame, wouldn't it, that
- 17           a child whose last chance of daily contact with home was
- 18           a sibling wouldn't even get that.
- 19      A.   Yes.
- 20      LADY SMITH:  Having been taken from the parental background,
- 21           or other family background, with their sibling at the
- 22           same time, then to find that they didn't have a way of
- 23           maintaining that relationship, that must have been very
- 24           hard for them.
- 25      A.   It must have been, yes.  Yes.

1 MR MacAULAY: We saw, I think when we looked at the  
2 Edinburgh set-up, that the group arrangements may not  
3 have been in place until the 1960s -- I think it was  
4 1966 when we looked at Edinburgh. Do I take it, from  
5 what you have been saying, that this arrangement of  
6 separation, so far as Edinburgh would be concerned,  
7 would exist until at least that point in time?

8 A. That's quite possible. But when they were going out to  
9 school and that, children would have met because as the  
10 time moved on children went out to school as well and  
11 met outside.

12 Q. Do you know what the situation was in relation to going  
13 to church? Were the children kept separate when they  
14 went to church?

15 A. I really couldn't answer that but from what's said about  
16 the other areas of the house, I would imagine so.

17 Q. You are also asked in this section how long children  
18 typically remained in the care of the congregation; what  
19 can you tell me about that?

20 A. Well sometimes children came in and they were with us  
21 for all of their childhood up until the time they left,  
22 maybe at 18 years of age. Sometimes they only came in  
23 for short stays, maybe while their mother was in  
24 hospital having another baby. So it depended on the  
25 circumstances of the admission and how long they stayed

1 in care.

2 Q. We have seen from the list that quite a number of  
3 babies, particularly in the earlier periods, were taken  
4 in --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- particularly, as we saw, in Aberdeen.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Would some of these babies be there really for their  
9 whole childhood?

10 A. That is correct, yes.

11 Q. What about movement between houses? That's something  
12 you are asked about as well. What can you tell me about  
13 that?

14 A. There appear to have been some movement between the  
15 houses. Children were admitted to a particular house,  
16 but for reasons they were moved sometimes to another  
17 house. Sometimes it was -- I know of one case where  
18 somebody was moved from Glasgow because they kept  
19 running away from the home and so they were moved up to  
20 Aberdeen and the social worker went with them.

21 Q. On the next page of the report, at 0023, it is at  
22 (xvii), there is a question there about the provision  
23 made for the celebration of children's birthdays,  
24 Christmas, and other special occasions. What  
25 arrangements were made for celebrating these occasions?

1 A. They were celebrated within the home and there were  
2 a number of local companies who would put on Christmas  
3 parties for the children and provide them with Christmas  
4 presents and, you know, for different times of the year,  
5 they would take them on outings, provide extras for  
6 them, really.

7 Q. What's the source for this information then?

8 A. We have records of that.

9 Q. How far back do these records go.

10 A. Certainly the 1950s/1960s and the latter years.

11 Q. So you say there are records indicating that birthdays  
12 and Christmas, that they were being celebrated?

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. Either within the home or children being taken --

15 A. Taken out for parties, etc, yes.

16 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, that might be a useful time to have  
17 a short break.

18 LADY SMITH: A useful time to have a morning break. Very  
19 well. We will adjourn now for the morning break. Could  
20 everybody be back please for us to start again at  
21 11.45 am. Thank you.

22 (11.30 am)

23 (A short break)

24 (11.46 am)

25 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

1 MR MacAULAY: My Lady.

2 Can I take you now to page 0023 of the report. At  
3 (xviii) there is a question which focuses upon the  
4 review of children's continued residence at the  
5 establishment. You touched upon this before the break,  
6 but again you refer to the separate reports in relation  
7 to each house.

8 If I could turn to Edinburgh and to page 0059. I'm  
9 looking towards the bottom of that page. So at (xviii)  
10 when that question has been asked, we are told that:

11 "In the earlier days children would have stayed in  
12 the home until they were of school leaving age and then  
13 were found employment ..."

14 That would then depend on what the school leaving  
15 age was at the time?

16 A. That is correct, yes.

17 Q. "... and then were found employment, sometimes with  
18 living-in accommodation, unless they had a family to  
19 return to. In later times there were regular reviews  
20 held for each child with social workers."

21 Can I just understand the earlier period, prior to  
22 the social workers' involvement. This notion of finding  
23 them -- the notion that they were found employment,  
24 where does that come from? What's your basis for saying  
25 that?

1 A. The records in some of the books relating to when the  
2 children were leaving, like the discharge books, and  
3 where they went to be employed.

4 Q. But were all the children that you looked at in the  
5 discharge books going off either back home or to go into  
6 employment?

7 A. Yes. The ones I saw all were.

8 Q. I don't propose to look at the responses for Kilmarnock,  
9 Glasgow and Aberdeen because the responses are the same.

10 LADY SMITH: Just before you leave that response, one of the  
11 other observations is that they might have had a family  
12 to return to and so children might go there when they  
13 are discharged. Is there any evidence of efforts being  
14 made before that point to restore the children to their  
15 families during their childhood?

16 A. I haven't seen any evidence recorded of that, so  
17 I wouldn't be categorically sure about that, whether  
18 that did happen or not.

19 LADY SMITH: Do you know from what you have heard whether  
20 any efforts were made to get children back into their  
21 own home circumstances, back with their own families?

22 A. Certainly in the latter years that would have been more  
23 in evidence than in earlier years.

24 LADY SMITH: So by "latter years" you mean when?

25 A. The 1960s onwards.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MR MacAULAY: Do the records inform us as to the number of  
3 children in the homes who had families to go back to and  
4 children who might have been orphans? I mean, do the  
5 records tell us who was who in that respect?

6 A. Yes, who was who, but there's no collated numbers of,  
7 you know, who had families and who didn't have families  
8 but, yes, in the individual records it says who they  
9 had, either both parents, one parent or not, as the case  
10 may be.

11 Q. The next issue I want to talk to you about then is the  
12 process for discharge from the homes. At 0023, at  
13 (xix), that is the question that's asked. Again you  
14 have referred to separate reports prepared for each of  
15 the home.

16 If we look at Edinburgh at 0060, you have provided  
17 quite a bit of information here in connection with the  
18 process for discharge. Can you just take us through  
19 this and tell us what you understood the process to be?

20 A. As it says there, in some cases children returned to  
21 their families when they were school age, but in other  
22 cases the Sisters, or staff in the latter years, or  
23 teachers, other people, would make efforts to find  
24 suitable employment for them and accommodation. Some of  
25 the Catholic societies mentioned there would have helped

1 as well with helping to find accommodation certainly for  
2 them, if not employment.

3 I think it was in Aberdeen that we had a hostel for  
4 children that they were able to stay in until they found  
5 accommodation, even while they were working. In later  
6 years we had a Sister who was trained in aftercare and  
7 she worked across the four homes, keeping in contact  
8 with children who had left and seeing how they were  
9 progressing.

10 Q. When you say "in later years", can you provide a date  
11 for that arrangement?

12 A. I haven't got the exact date but my recollection is it  
13 was the late -- mid to late 1960s.

14 Q. There we have been looking at Edinburgh and I think  
15 broadly similar comments have been made in relation to  
16 the other four houses.

17 A. That is correct, yes.

18 Q. While we have Edinburgh here in front of us, when you  
19 were asked about what support was offered to the  
20 children, that's the next question at 20. You provide  
21 some information about, for example, girls often being  
22 placed with families to work in the kitchen or provide  
23 child care; is that right?

24 A. That is correct, yes.

25 Q. Is that information you have obtained from the records?

- 1 A. That is right, yes.
- 2 Q. You say that's prior to the 1950s?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Did the position change?
- 5 A. Well, they tended to in later years to go into maybe  
6 different types of employment.
- 7 Q. You do say that the Sisters encouraged children to  
8 undertake courses.
- 9 A. That is correct.
- 10 Q. Are there records to support that?
- 11 A. There are some records, yes.
- 12 Q. What dates are we talking about?
- 13 A. 1960s onwards.
- 14 Q. Keeping in touch, that's touched upon in the next  
15 paragraph. What's the position in relation to --
- 16 A. Yes, there are records for children where they came back  
17 to visit the home and quite a number came back for  
18 holidays as well and that's recorded in some of the  
19 books and many of the former children still keep in  
20 touch with the homes or with some Sisters that are still  
21 alive.
- 22 Q. Again, I don't propose to take you to the reports for  
23 the other establishments because I think they make the  
24 same comment.
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Again, while we have this page in front of us, at (xxii)  
2 there is a question about information being retained in  
3 relation to the progress of children who have left and  
4 being updated. I think you tell us that in each house  
5 the Sisters kept report books where that information was  
6 recorded.

7 A. That is correct, yes.

8 Q. You point out that for Edinburgh Nazareth House there  
9 are discharge books for girls going back to the 1930s.

10 A. That is correct, yes.

11 Q. And for boys the 1930s as well?

12 A. That is correct.

13 Q. The next question at page 0024, towards the top of the  
14 page, (xxiii), it asks:

15 "What was provided in terms of aftercare for  
16 children/young people once they had left the  
17 establishment?"

18 Again, you refer to individual reports. So if we  
19 look for Edinburgh at 0061. Towards the top of the page  
20 the answer provided is that:

21 "Former children were encouraged to stay in touch  
22 with the Sisters, who took a keen interest in their  
23 well-being. The Sisters would try to help any former  
24 child who was in difficulties."

25 Again, what's your source for that, Sister?

1 A. In the discharge books there is like a record of when  
2 the child left the house and what employment or where  
3 they went to and there is records of -- that they were  
4 doing well in their job and that they came back to visit  
5 for such a time or they came back the following summer,  
6 maybe, for the holidays for one or two weeks.

7 Q. These discharge books you mention previously, they go  
8 back quite some considerable time?

9 A. They do, yes.

10 Q. Then the next section at 1.8 on 0024 asks some questions  
11 about the background of the staff.

12 The first question is:

13 "How many people were employed by the organisation  
14 who had some responsibility for the residential care  
15 services for children?"

16 You tell us the Sisters were responsible, however  
17 they were not employed by the congregation; we  
18 understand that as they are members of the congregation.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. But you also say that, from the 1960s/1970s, the  
21 congregation employed some lay staff; is that right?

22 A. That is correct, yes.

23 Q. What was the position before the 1960s? Was all the  
24 care managed by the Sisters?

25 A. That is correct, yes.

1 Q. If you look at Aberdeen, for example, where there were  
2 significant numbers of children, how many Sisters would  
3 be engaged in caring for these children? Can you tell  
4 me?

5 A. It varied across the years and I think there is a table  
6 somewhere in the report with the numbers of Sisters that  
7 were there at a specific time with the groups. In some  
8 cases the older children did help out with the younger  
9 children.

10 Q. Well, if we look at what's said here, when you are asked  
11 how many people were employed by the organisation at any  
12 one time. Again, do you refer there to -- you say,  
13 "1.8(a) above". Is that the previous answer, is it?  
14 Yes. And again -- I think I should take you actually to  
15 (iv) where you are asked:

16 "How many members of the order had a responsibility  
17 for residential care services for children provided by  
18 the organisation in Scotland?"

19 You provide some figures there; is that right?

20 A. That is correct, yes.

21 Q. So you tell us that between 1930 and 1985, 88 Sisters  
22 worked with children at Aberdeen. That's the total, is  
23 it?

24 A. Yes, across those years, 55 years.

25 Q. I think we understand also that children could be

1 transferred from one house to another.

2 A. The Sisters --

3 Q. A Sister rather.

4 A. That is correct.

5 Q. Well, let's then look at the table that you provide on  
6 the next page, 0025, where --

7 LADY SMITH: Just a moment Mr MacAulay. Is there a problem?

8 (Pause)

9 0025. You are nearly there. Could that phone be  
10 switched off, please.

11 (Pause)

12 MR MacAULAY: So, we now have a table under reference to the  
13 question:

14 "What experience/qualifications did such members  
15 have, to equip them to discharge their  
16 responsibilities?"

17 Can you perhaps summarise what you have set out in  
18 this section for us, Sister, about the qualification and  
19 experience of the Sisters?

20 A. Well, prior to the 1940s we don't have any records of  
21 any qualifications for the Sisters, but as provided in  
22 this table here, we have a number of qualifications that  
23 Sisters undertook in relation to child care and other  
24 care that we were involved in.

25 Q. So if we look, for example, at the period 1958 to 1964,

1 we are told 16 Sisters qualified as teachers, 12  
2 completed their general nursing training, 12 were  
3 awarded nursery nursing qualifications, but do we know  
4 where these Sisters were located from this information?  
5 By that I mean, are you talking here about Sisters in  
6 Scotland in the four houses?

7 A. No. They don't relate specifically to the four houses  
8 across the UK.

9 Q. So we can't tell from this what qualifications the  
10 Sisters in the houses might have had?

11 A. No.

12 Q. If we then turn to page 0026 where we are going to,  
13 I think, look at the numbers you alluded to a moment  
14 ago. At letter (b), just halfway down the page, 0026,  
15 the question is asked:

16 "How many persons were employed in some capacity at  
17 the establishment?"

18 You make reference to the separate reports. So if  
19 we look for Edinburgh, that's at 0063. If we look  
20 towards the bottom of the page, (b), where that question  
21 is asked, the answer is:

22 "The sisters were responsible for care of the  
23 children, however they were not employed by the  
24 congregation. From the 1960s/1970s, the congregation  
25 employed some lay staff."

1           But there are no records of the lay staff?

2     A.   That is right.

3     Q.   Is there a reason for that, Sister?

4     A.   That we have no records?

5     Q.   Yes.

6     A.   There wasn't a requirement if those days to keep the  
7         records.  They would have been kept for a certain length  
8         of time and they must have been destroyed after that  
9         because we haven't got any in the archives.

10    Q.   Then you have provided the table of information you  
11         mentioned already.  So if you start at 1929, for  
12         example -- perhaps go over the page, in fact, it is  
13         easier, to 0064, just to get a feel for the numbers.  So  
14         if you take 1932, we see that the number 2; is that 2  
15         Sisters, is it?  This is Edinburgh we are looking at.

16    A.   Sorry, can we just go back over the page?

17    Q.   Yes certainly; that's 0063.

18    A.   To the heading, yes.

19    Q.   I'm just trying to understand the set-up.

20    A.   Yes, that refers to the number of Sisters.

21    Q.   So in -- we have a blank for 1929.  Is that because you  
22         don't have the information?

23    A.   There is no record.

24    Q.   If we turn to page 0064 again where we get some  
25         numbers -- of course, Edinburgh didn't open until 1931,

1           so I suppose that's understandable. But for 1932, we  
2           have two Sisters; is that correct?

3           A. That is correct, yes.

4           Q. If we move on we can see the numbers increase a bit.  
5           For example in 1950 there are six Sisters.

6           A. That is correct.

7           Q. This is still at a time, is it, before any lay staff  
8           were employed?

9           A. Yes. So as far as we know the lay staff were employed  
10          from the 1960s onwards.

11          Q. If we look at Kilmarnock, at 0102. Towards the bottom  
12          of the page, 0102, again, we are given the numbers  
13          beginning at 1929 with three Sisters and, if we move  
14          over the page to 0103, again we get an understanding of  
15          the number of Sisters who were involved in the care.

16          A. That is correct, yes.

17          Q. Glasgow is at 0141. In the table towards the bottom of  
18          that page, again we are given some figures. For  
19          example, in 1942 there were six Sisters; is that right?

20          A. That is correct, yes.

21          Q. In 1962 there were three, looking to the table?

22          A. Yes, that is correct.

23          Q. Finally, perhaps Aberdeen, at 0181. So, I think that's  
24          0181. There we have the table for Aberdeen. I think we  
25          can see there are more Sisters here, but I think we saw

1 from Aberdeen there were many more children compared to  
2 some others.

3 A. That is correct.

4 Q. Can we see that before lay staff were involved, that the  
5 ratio of Sisters to children would have been quite low,  
6 a lot of children to be looked after by few Sisters; is  
7 that your impression?

8 A. Yes, that's the way it appears. Yes.

9 Q. Do you know why lay staff weren't involved earlier in  
10 relation to the care of children?

11 A. I don't know but I would imagine too we didn't have  
12 finance to pay lay staff in the earlier days because of  
13 the way the funding was or lack of funding.

14 Q. I think, as you explained, when you did have lay staff,  
15 you now don't have records to indicate the numbers and  
16 qualifications of any lay staff that were used?

17 A. That is correct, yes.

18 LADY SMITH: Have you come across any record which indicates  
19 a particular approach being decided upon so far as the  
20 Sister/child ratio was concerned?

21 A. No, we haven't any records for that.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 MR MacAULAY: I want now to move on to a section in the  
24 report where you look at external oversight of the  
25 houses and that's at page 0035. I'm looking towards the

1 bottom of the page at 2.6, where the question has been  
2 asked:

3 "What were the arrangements for external oversight  
4 of the organisation and the establishment?"

5 If we can leave the congregation to one side. What  
6 about external oversight of the houses, the  
7 establishments? Can you tell me about that?

8 A. The only records we have, as mentioned there, is in the  
9 foundation book for each house there are references to  
10 visits from outside authorities and comments that they  
11 made.

12 Q. You tell us:

13 "Inspections were undertaken by public bodies."

14 Do you have these records for the inspections?

15 A. No, we don't, apart from mention of the fact that they  
16 came to visit the house.

17 Q. Can you give me a time frame for when you see a first  
18 reference to inspections?

19 A. As far as I remember from the 1950s onwards.

20 Q. In relation to the separate establishments and as to who  
21 visited these establishments, can we look then at the  
22 separate reports? This is Edinburgh first of all at  
23 0074.

24 If we just scroll down a little bit further. We  
25 have a table there at (ii) addressing the question as

1 to:

2 "Who visited the establishment in an official or  
3 statutory capacity?"

4 What we are told is:

5 "There were regular visits at Edinburgh  
6 Nazareth House from ..."

7 And we were given a list. For example, the Catholic  
8 Enquiry Office. Further down there is reference to:

9 "Inspector public assistance, Edinburgh  
10 (Linlithgow)."

11 There is also reference to the Edinburgh Education  
12 Authority, social services, and so on.

13 Can you tell me, in looking to that information  
14 relating to Edinburgh, what the source of that  
15 information is?

16 A. Some of those visits are recorded in the foundation  
17 books that I mentioned already, also in the minutes of  
18 the council meetings that were held within the house,  
19 among the Sisters. As regards the latter ones, the  
20 social workers, that would have been in some of the  
21 individual files that are retained.

22 Q. But do you have records of any reports that any of these  
23 organisations might have made in connection with the  
24 particular establishment?

25 A. No, I haven't seen any reports from any of the

1 organisations.

2 Q. While we are looking at this report, on page 0075, you  
3 are asked towards the top of that page, at (v), what  
4 involvement local authorities had with the establishment  
5 in particular and the list is there:

6 "Inspections, referral, financial support; health  
7 services; reviews and liaison with families; and foster  
8 placements where appropriate."

9 Again, is that information you have taken from the  
10 records that you have?

11 A. That is correct, yes.

12 Q. What sort of source material have you used to provide  
13 that information?

14 A. The same material that is referred to in those books,  
15 they refer to inspections and the individual records  
16 where they are maintained for the children, about who  
17 paid for them, like the financial support.

18 Q. So what time frame again are we looking at here for this  
19 information?

20 A. Mostly from the late 1950s onwards.

21 Q. Is this information about inspection and so on then not  
22 available -- not recorded at least prior to that point  
23 in time?

24 A. They might be mentioning it in the foundation books and  
25 in those council meetings but there wouldn't be reports

1 as such.

2 Q. I have taken you to Edinburgh, but I think we have  
3 a similar sort of presentation for the other  
4 establishments.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Can I then, in the last chapter of your evidence,  
7 Sister, take you to part B of the report.

8 This is the section in this report where the  
9 congregation, your congregation, was given the  
10 opportunity to retrospectively acknowledge or admit  
11 abuse. Can I ask you to perhaps address that. What is  
12 your position?

13 A. Well, we have received allegations of abuse from former  
14 children who were resident in the houses in Scotland and  
15 they first came to light to the congregation in the late  
16 1990s, when I believed there was a documentary on  
17 television about the homes in Scotland, our particular  
18 homes, and then following shortly after that we had the  
19 case in Aberdeen in which one of our Sisters was  
20 involved.

21 Q. If we look then at the first box where you have put the  
22 response in, you tell us:

23 "In recent years [there you are talking about the  
24 1990s] you have received allegations of abuse from  
25 adults who as children had been resident at one of the

1 Nazareth Houses."

2 Just to be clear, are the four houses involved, do  
3 these allegations relate to the four houses?

4 A. Yes, as far as I remember there were some concerning  
5 each house.

6 Q. But you say:

7 "There are no relevant records to allow the  
8 congregation to assess the extent and scale of any  
9 abuse."

10 Is that correct?

11 A. Prior to the late 1990s, as I said, we had no  
12 allegations and we had no records of any abuse.

13 Q. When you tell us in the next sentence:

14 "The Sisters acknowledge that there were times when  
15 the care provided to children did not meet the level it  
16 ought."

17 Can you explain that? What do you mean by that?

18 A. Well, as we looked at the numbers of Sisters looking  
19 after the children, I am sure Sisters were put in  
20 a position where they had a lot of children to look  
21 after and weren't able to give them all the care and the  
22 attention that they should.

23 Q. Well, what ought to have been done? If that was the  
24 position the Sisters were in, then what ought to have  
25 happened?

1 A. Well, maybe there should have been more Sisters put in  
2 working with the children. I have never worked with the  
3 children myself, so any information I have is from the  
4 records or from the Sisters who have worked with the  
5 children.

6 Q. So what you say next is that you understand with the  
7 benefit of hindsight that staffing ratios were too low.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. But would that not be evident at the time, over the  
10 years?

11 A. It may have been but that was how the congregation and  
12 things were done in those days.

13 Q. You go on to say that:

14 "Care was provided by Sisters who had little  
15 training and were often still young and inexperienced."

16 What's your basis for that comment?

17 A. Well, the children that were in care, there was like  
18 a senior Sister in charge of the children in the house,  
19 but then other Sisters would be sent there to work with  
20 the children. But as we know in the earlier years the  
21 children -- sorry, the Sisters didn't have any training  
22 in child care and some of them were quite young Sisters.  
23 So they were under the guidance of the, as we refer to  
24 it, the senior Sister who was in charge of the children.

25 Q. When you say "young and inexperienced", how do you see

1           that impacting upon the level of care provided to  
2           a child?

3       A.   The Sisters would have been sent to the children by the  
4           superiors, the higher superiors; they appointed them to  
5           their work within the congregation.  But I am sure some  
6           of those Sisters weren't maybe suitable for looking  
7           after children or that wouldn't have been their  
8           preferred option to look after children.  But in  
9           relation to their role within the congregation, they had  
10          a vow of obedience and they went where they were sent.

11       Q.   Can I understand what you mean when you say:

12                 "Possibly not suitable for looking after children."

13                 What does that mean?

14       A.   Well, as I say, they might have preferred to have been  
15           looking after the elderly, that might have been more  
16           their calling, but they went where they were sent as  
17           part of their obedience to the congregation.

18       Q.   You are putting these explanations forward in order to  
19           potentially explain the allegations of abuse that have  
20           been received by the congregation; is that correct?

21       A.   Yes.

22       LADY SMITH:  Sister, you said a few moments ago there were  
23           Sisters who appear not to have been able to give the  
24           children all the care and attention that they should  
25           perhaps because of the Sister/child ratio.  But it is

1 not just not being able to do everything that one would  
2 want to do to care for a child properly. In this  
3 document you go on and accept that children were abused;  
4 not just that they didn't get everything that one would  
5 want to give them, but they were abused. Is that your  
6 position?

7 A. Well that's what we know now, but at the time, as I say,  
8 prior to the 1990s, we weren't aware of any abuse.

9 LADY SMITH: But you accept it now?

10 A. Yes.

11 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

12 MR MacAULAY: The information you have provided -- you have  
13 already mentioned that the Sister was convicted of  
14 offences, as I think you have indicated in the report,  
15 against four children; is that right?

16 A. That is correct, yes.

17 Q. Perhaps you can help me with the time frame of the  
18 offences: do you have that information or do you not?  
19 By that I mean the approximate dates when these offences  
20 were said to have taken place?

21 A. I don't have those dates to hand.

22 Q. When you were asked the question at (ii) as to the  
23 assessment of the extent and scale of such abuse, you  
24 have made the point, as I have already taken from you,  
25 that the congregation cared for 14,766 children

- 1 throughout its time in Scotland --
- 2 A. That is correct, yes.
- 3 Q. -- and that you have received 257 civil actions. That's
- 4 information you have clearly been able to put together.
- 5 A. Yes, that is correct.
- 6 Q. Are these civil actions in which those who have raised
- 7 the actions are complaining that they were abused at one
- 8 of the houses?
- 9 A. That is correct, yes.
- 10 Q. You also say that there are 147 complaints. Are these
- 11 complaints in addition to the 257 actions?
- 12 A. That is correct, yes.
- 13 Q. So that's over 400 allegations being made in relation to
- 14 the Nazareth Houses?
- 15 A. That is correct, yes.
- 16 Q. Her Ladyship asked you a moment ago whether you accept
- 17 that children were abused and is that your position,
- 18 that you do accept that, at least retrospectively?
- 19 A. Yes, that is correct.
- 20 Q. What does that tell you about your systems?
- 21 A. Well, obviously those systems could have been a lot
- 22 better and to protect the children. As time went on
- 23 things did change and we have lessons learned which we
- 24 apply in our elderly care today, which -- you know,
- 25 staff are DBS/PVG checks and we have safeguarding

1 training and we have policies and procedures all around  
2 that area which we didn't have in those days.

3 Q. If we turn to the next page, 0077. There is a section  
4 there, (iv), where the question is:

5 "What is the organisation/establishment's  
6 explanation for such failures?"

7 Can you just take me through that and indicate what  
8 message you are seeking to set out there.

9 A. In the earlier years the Sisters took in large numbers  
10 of children because they were obviously very poor  
11 children that needed care. With the gift of hindsight,  
12 those large numbers were probably too big for the number  
13 of Sisters that were looking after them -- even for  
14 a Sister to be responsible for a group of 30 children  
15 was a big amount of children to be looking after.

16 As said there, some of the older children did help  
17 and care for the younger ones. We didn't have lay staff  
18 employed until into the 1960s. Sisters also were moved  
19 from house to house; that was part of the congregation's  
20 policy. So a Sister might be in a house for a year, two  
21 years, and they didn't always have time to build up  
22 a rapport with children as well because they were moved  
23 around so much.

24 LADY SMITH: So that latter practice would mean that in the  
25 case of a Sister who did have a flair for children and

1           was able to build up a quick rapport, those children  
2           might be deprived of that comfort of her after a year or  
3           so; is that right?

4           A. Yes, that is correct.

5           MR MacAULAY: What you go on to say is that there wasn't the  
6           ratio of carers to children that would now be considered  
7           appropriate. What I want to ask you is this, and  
8           I think I have put this to you before, I just want to  
9           develop it: do you not think it would have been evident  
10          to the Local Superiors who managed these houses that the  
11          ratio of Sisters to children simply was inadequate?

12          A. Yes. You would have thought it was but, I don't know  
13          maybe if they did ask for more Sisters, they weren't  
14          given more Sisters. But, as I say, we have no records  
15          to back up any of this.

16          Q. You also make the point, and you have made this already,  
17          that resources were very tight; that is how you have put  
18          it there.

19          A. Yes.

20          Q. Again, do you think now that's something that ought to  
21          have been addressed at the time when it was evident  
22          that, putting it bluntly, the money wasn't there?

23          A. Yes. Well, in the earlier days there certainly wasn't  
24          funding and we depended a lot on donations. Maybe with  
25          the gift of hindsight we should not have taken in so

1 many children but, as I pointed out, the Sisters didn't  
2 want to see children left in poor circumstances. They  
3 probably took in more than they could care for  
4 adequately.

5 Q. The conclusion then you come to in the last section of  
6 that paragraph is what?

7 A. That most Sisters would have obviously wanted to care  
8 for the children as best they can and give them all the  
9 care and love that they would have got in a family home  
10 or as part of growing up. But we acknowledge that,  
11 looking back now, that things weren't right and there  
12 were poor practices and not enough personnel to look  
13 after the children.

14 Q. What you tell us on the previous page is that, where any  
15 child was abused, then the congregation does apologise  
16 for that.

17 A. Absolutely, yes. We wouldn't want to think that any  
18 child was abused in our care and it is not what we would  
19 be about as a congregation. But if that did happen, we  
20 would be very sorry that it did happen to any child in  
21 our care.

22 Q. You make the point, I think again on page 0077, that  
23 there are many adults who had been children at  
24 Nazareth House who returned to see Sisters who cared for  
25 them.

1 A. Yes, that is correct. Only last weekend I had an email  
2 through our website from a former child who was in the  
3 Kilmarnock house who wanted some details for some  
4 records she was putting together, but also she wanted to  
5 know where the grave was of the Sister that looked after  
6 her so she could visit and put some flowers on her  
7 because she was looked after so well. So there are  
8 numerous positive experiences as well, while we do  
9 acknowledge that some people didn't have a positive  
10 experience.

11 MR MacAULAY: Very well, Sister. That's all I have to ask  
12 of you.

13 My Lady, I can say that there have been no written  
14 questions submitted for this witness.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr MacAulay. Can I just  
16 confirm that there's nothing outstanding by way of  
17 requests for questioning of this witness? No.

18 Thank you very much. Thank you, Sister, that's all  
19 and we can let you go now.

20 (The witness withdrew)

21 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, that's all the evidence that I can  
22 lead today.

23 Tomorrow evidence will be taken from Sister Anne  
24 Josephine Carr and Sister Rosemary Kean in connection  
25 with the Good Shepherds' Sisters and also hopefully

1           tomorrow from Brother Laurence Hughes, who will be  
2           speaking to the report produced by the De La Salle  
3           Brothers.

4   LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr MacAulay.

5           We will adjourn there for today and we will sit  
6           again at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning, please. Thank  
7           you.

8   (12.30 pm)

9           (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am  
10           on Thursday, 15th June 2017)

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