

1 Thursday, 3 May 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning.

4 Now we reach the third day this week of evidence,
5 and I think we return to an oral witness to start today,
6 do we, Mr MacAulay?

7 MR MacAULAY: Yes. Good morning, my Lady, we do. This
8 witness wants to remain anonymous and she wants to use
9 the name "Cathie" in giving her evidence.

10 "CATHIE" (sworn)

11 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.
12 You'll have heard that as the microphone came on it
13 amplifies really well, but I do need you to stay in the
14 right position for the microphone. Don't drift
15 backwards or we'll lose your voice, all right?

16 A. Thank you.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Mr MacAulay.

18 Questions from MR MacAULAY

19 MR MacAULAY: My Lady.

20 Good morning, Cathie.

21 A. Good morning.

22 Q. Can I begin by confirming with you the year of your
23 birth. I don't want your date of birth, but can
24 I confirm that you were born in 1937?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And in the red folder in front of you you'll find your
2 statement. I'm going to give the reference of it for
3 the transcript, first of all: WIT.001.001.5741. If
4 I could ask you to turn to the last page of the
5 statement. That's at page 5767. Could I ask you,
6 Cathie, to confirm that you have signed the statement?

7 A. Yes, 16 February 18.

8 Q. Yes. Do you tell us in the last paragraph:

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

11 A. That's right, yes.

12 Q. And do you go on to say:

13 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
14 statement are true"?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. I'll be asking you questions mainly based on what's in
17 your statement. If I ask you a question, let's say
18 about a date, and you don't remember, just say that you
19 don't remember. Likewise, if I ask you something and
20 you haven't covered it fully in your statement, then
21 just feel free to elaborate upon that. Do you
22 understand that?

23 A. Yes, thank you.

24 Q. Can I begin then by looking at your family background
25 before you went into care. I know you went into care at

1 a very young age but, notwithstanding that, you're able
2 to give us some insight into what your family background
3 was before you went into care. Can you help me with
4 that?

5 A. All I know is my mother was in hospital. My father had
6 three children and he wasn't able to find any
7 alternative rather than put my sister and I in one home
8 and my brother in another one. But my brother stayed
9 with him for some years after we went into care.

10 Q. I understand the position from your statement to be that
11 your father was an interpreter in the army during the
12 war; is that right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. As you've said, there were three of you. You had
15 a younger sister; is that correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And an older brother?

18 A. Yes, that's right.

19 Q. And do I understand from what you've said, Cathie, that
20 you and your younger sister were put into care but your
21 brother stayed with your father?

22 A. Yes, for a little while.

23 Q. When you went into care, was your mother ill?

24 A. Yes, she was in hospital.

25 Q. And I think she died subsequently.

1 A. She died shortly afterwards, but I'm not exactly sure of
2 the date of her death; I just remember my father coming
3 up and telling me that she had died.

4 Q. So far as going into care is concerned, did you go into
5 Nazareth House Cardonald in Glasgow?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You give us a particular date in your statement as to
8 when you think that was. Can I just say to you that,
9 according to the records that we've recovered from the
10 Sisters of Nazareth, it's suggested that the admission
11 date was [REDACTED] 1942. I think that doesn't agree
12 with your own recollection.

13 A. No, that's definitely wrong.

14 Q. What's your own recollection?

15 A. Why I say it's wrong is because I was in the under-fives
16 group when my father told me my mother had died and
17 I remember going back to the nursery and telling the
18 other children my mother had died.

19 Q. I think you tell us in your statement you thought you
20 were admitted to Cardonald in about 1940.

21 A. Yes, because my sister was a babe in arms.

22 Q. If it's 1940 then you'd be aged, what, about 3?

23 A. Three.

24 Q. Do you have a recollection of going in?

25 A. Yes, I do.

- 1 Q. Can I just ask you then in relation to the set-up, when
2 you went into Cardonald first of all, you went into,
3 I think, a section that was known as the nursery;
4 is that right?
- 5 A. I went into the parlour first of all, where I was
6 received by the nun, and then taken into the nursery.
- 7 Q. Along with your younger sister?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Did there come a point in time when you moved from the
10 nursery and you went into another section?
- 11 A. Yes, when I was five I moved into the juniors.
- 12 Q. And what was the age group for the juniors?
- 13 A. That was the five to sevens.
- 14 Q. And then --
- 15 A. Sevens to -- ad infinitum, the seniors.
- 16 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that you left
17 Nazareth House Cardonald in 1954.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. So you'd be aged 16 or 17 then?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. So during the final part of your stay, from seven
22 onwards, were you in the seniors group?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. So far as the set-up at Cardonald was concerned, you've
25 told us about the three groups that dealt with children,

1 but am I right in saying there was also an old folks'
2 home within the building?

3 A. Yes, there was.

4 Q. Did you have much to do with the elderly who were there
5 at the time?

6 A. Well, every time we passed, for example, the old men,
7 the sister, Sister Jareth, would call us in to sing and
8 dance for her charges.

9 Q. Was Sister Jareth in charge of that particular section?

10 A. Yes, she was in charge of the old men's group.

11 Q. Can you give us the names of any of the sisters that you
12 dealt with over the years that you were at Cardonald?

13 A. Yes. How many would you like?

14 Q. Well, as many as you're able to give us.

15 A. Well, in the babies, Sister **LKV**. Then moving to the
16 juniors, Sister Francis. Then moving to the seniors,
17 Sister Marcella, Sister Canice and Sister **LKT**,
18 Sister **FAF**.

19 Q. If we come to the juniors, because I suspect you have
20 a better recollection of life in the juniors than life
21 in the nursery; I may be wrong.

22 A. Yes, of course.

23 Q. Was there a particular sister in charge of you when you
24 were in the juniors?

25 A. Well, there was one in charge of us all, Sister Francis.

1 Q. And I think you tell us a little bit about her in your
2 statement.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And then when you moved to the seniors at the age of
5 about 7, was there a particular sister in charge of the
6 seniors?

7 A. Yes, Sister Marcella wasn't really -- it was Sister
8 [REDACTED] in overall charge and the others came and went.
9 They were there a couple of years and then went on.

10 Q. And was Sister [REDACTED] --

11 A. She was the one --

12 Q. -- a permanent feature during your period?

13 A. Yes, she had been in the convent for 19 years before she
14 left, in charge of the senior group.

15 Q. Were you aware of there being a Mother Superior within
16 the convent?

17 A. Yes, various Mother Superiors: [REDACTED] LKP, and I think
18 someone before her, I can't remember her, and the one
19 I know best is Mother [REDACTED] LGE, she was called.

20 Q. I think you tell us about Mother [REDACTED] LGE in your
21 statement. I think she came some time after you --

22 A. She came in the senior -- yes, I think I was probably in
23 my teens, early teens when she came.

24 Q. Can I ask you to look at this document. This is
25 a document that's been sent to us on behalf of the

1 Sisters of Nazareth, setting out statistics in relation
2 to numbers and so on, just to see to what extent it
3 accords with your recollection. This is at
4 NAZ.001.001.0265 and it will come up on the screen. So
5 we're looking at a document --

6 A. I haven't seen this before.

7 Q. I understand that. I'll take you through it. It's
8 headed:

9 "Statistics of numbers of children and babies at
10 Scottish Nazareth Houses (1925 to 1984)."

11 If you look along the top, you'll see there's
12 reference to Aberdeen, Kilmarnock and Glasgow --

13 A. Mm-hm.

14 Q. -- is Cardonald. If you go down to the late 1930s, into
15 the 1940s, can we see, for example, the numbers that are
16 put forward in connection with the girls? Let's take
17 1941, which was during the war years, for example,
18 we have 168 girls; do you see that?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And 46 babies. The babies, I think that would probably
21 be the nursery section?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. In the nursery section would there be boys and girls?

24 A. Yes, there were boys, very, very few boys, but they only
25 stayed until they were 5 and then they moved on

1 somewhere else.

2 Q. Can we see here that under the heading "boys" there are
3 no boys.

4 A. There was definitely.

5 Q. No, no, I understand that, but there was no boys that
6 would go into the juniors section.

7 A. No, no one.

8 Q. So if we're looking at the time that you were there,
9 when we're well into the hundreds -- and as you can see
10 right up to really 1954, when I think you leave, there's
11 still over 100 girls -- how were you divided up? Were
12 you divided up into groups?

13 A. No, not at all. One mass.

14 Q. Right. But you had the sections, you had the junior
15 sections?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And the senior section?

18 A. The seniors were all just one big group.

19 Q. And the juniors were one big group as well?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You've given us an idea as to who would be in charge of
22 each of these groups. If we understand there's a sister
23 in charge of a group -- let's say Sister LKT, who I
24 think you mentioned for the senior group -- would she
25 have other people helping her?

1 A. She had one other nun, who would do like the children up
2 to about 12, because then they did the qualifying exam.
3 Other than that, all together. It's difficult to say.
4 Everything was -- we were all conditioned to the one
5 idea: everything was happening together. It wasn't in
6 separate groups or anything. We had no particular
7 friends or anything.

8 Q. Were there any lay staff that assisted the sisters at
9 that time?

10 A. They were all ex-girls, people who had come up in the
11 system.

12 Q. And were these then young women who lived on the
13 premises?

14 A. Yes, they did. We called them ex-girls.

15 Q. And what ages are you talking about?

16 A. Oh, some of them, the ones who did the sewing room, they
17 must have been in their 30s or 40s. They'd spent all
18 their life there and some of even some of them went on
19 to the old ladies who had been brought up -- they had no
20 other life except the convent.

21 Q. Was the position the same in the junior section in that
22 there were former girls who assisted in the junior
23 section?

24 A. Yes, one, just one though.

25 Q. And again, did that girl live on the premises as well?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Perhaps while I have this in front of me, if I could
3 take you to a number of photographs to see if we can get
4 some understanding as to the physical nature of the
5 buildings.

6 This again will come to the screen and it is at
7 NAZ.001.001.0262.

8 LADY SMITH: Just while we are waiting for the picture, you
9 mentioned something about a qualifying exam a few
10 minutes ago; what was that that you were talking about?

11 A. That was to get into the grammar school.

12 LADY SMITH: Ah, right. So that was the age at which people
13 would do what became called the eleven-plus; I don't
14 know what it was then. Was it called the eleven-plus
15 then?

16 A. It was called the qualifying exam.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MR MacAULAY: And I think you tell us in your statement you
19 in fact passed the qualifying exam and you, I think --

20 A. I think I passed it at 9 or 10, but it was just routine
21 work all the time.

22 Q. We have the photographs on the screen now, Cathie.
23 Let's go from left to right.

24 On the left we see what looks quite an imposing
25 building. Do you recognise the building?

- 1 A. Yes, yes.
- 2 Q. Is that the main building?
- 3 A. That's the main building. I understand it's all been
4 built up now. I've never been back, but I've heard that
5 all the fields that I knew have gone. There's a big
6 school in one and homes for the elderly in the others.
7 It's all developed now.
- 8 Q. I think what you say in your statement, which probably
9 would not be the case today, is that when you were there
10 it was quite an isolated location.
- 11 A. Oh it was, yes.
- 12 Q. But we have the main building there and I think
13 if we look to the right, is that --
- 14 A. That's the chapel, yes.
- 15 Q. And moving down, going back to the left-hand side,
16 moving to the bottom left, was that building there in
17 your day?
- 18 A. I don't recognise it.
- 19 Q. Similarly, if we move on to the right --
- 20 A. No, that's all changed. I don't recognise these.
- 21 Q. So far as you're concerned then, you recognise the two
22 top photographs --
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. -- and in particular the facade, is it, of the main
25 building on the left-hand side?

1 A. Mm.

2 Q. Can you help me with this? And I know it's not easy,
3 but if we look at the front door, were there particular
4 sections within the building dedicated to, for example,
5 the nursery, the junior section and the senior section?

6 A. Yes. That was the main building with stairs leading up,
7 but there was another door at the back, which was used
8 generally, and a hut at the front for people coming into
9 the convent, someone sat in the hut to check who was
10 coming in, what they were doing.

11 Q. Is the hut to the right of the photograph?

12 A. No, it's not in the picture at all because it was right
13 at the front of the building. It was a path you had to
14 go all the way round, a gravel path. It was completely
15 different.

16 Q. If we look at the main building itself, are you able to
17 help me how it was divided up, where people would be?

18 A. The building? Yes. The ground floor on the left would
19 be the babies.

20 Q. Right.

21 A. Then the parlour was on the left-hand side leading the
22 church. The middle floor was -- also on that ground
23 floor at the back were the old men and then the middle
24 floor on the left was the elderly ladies and the nuns,
25 where the nuns slept. All the top floor was the

1 children.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Also, a bit of the top floor was sectioned off for the
4 juniors.

5 Q. Right.

6 A. But other than that, there was three rooms for the
7 senior girls, as we called them.

8 Q. When you say "rooms", was that the sleeping
9 arrangements?

10 A. They were big dormitories, big dormitories; they weren't
11 really rooms.

12 Q. Was there an in-house school?

13 A. Yes. You can't see it in the picture because you'd have
14 to walk down the path on the right to get to another
15 part where the seniors were, the refectory, the dining
16 room, the furnace and the playroom for the senior girls,
17 and then a yard at the back. So that is not all there,
18 the full picture.

19 Q. So far as the school was concerned, was there
20 a particular -- was it a primary school only or did it
21 go beyond that?

22 A. It was only up to the qualifying exam. There was one
23 separate school. It was on the ground floor again
24 at the back of the main building for the juniors. The
25 babies as well were there at the back. There's more

1 rooms for them.

2 Q. If you didn't pass the qualifying exam when you were
3 going to secondary school, was there a local secondary
4 school that the children would go to?

5 A. The ones -- up to certain years, everybody stayed in the
6 convent and then some government law must have come out,
7 we all had to go out to school. So after that time --
8 I think it must have been the early 50s -- everybody
9 went out to school, or the late 40s, early 50s.

10 Q. Before that then, was the --

11 A. There was nothing. Just up to -- in fact, even before
12 there was no qualifying -- it was all continuous
13 education in my early stage. The going out to school,
14 the ones who passed, started in the late 40s.

15 LADY SMITH: So if you didn't pass, you just carried on in
16 Cardonald?

17 A. You continued on -- not education, no, you just did
18 work. You were assigned to tasks in the convent, the
19 kitchen, the laundry, the nursery. They didn't do
20 anything else.

21 LADY SMITH: So what you're remembering is when compulsory
22 schooling went into teenage years?

23 A. Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: And then even the children who didn't pass the
25 qualifying exam would have to go to a school somewhere

1 else after that or not?

2 A. No, they just stayed in. But then, afterwards, when
3 everybody went out to school, they went to primary
4 schools opposite the convent and to junior secondaries,
5 those sort of things, and then the seniors were the ones
6 who passed the qualifying.

7 MR MacAULAY: Okay. Well, can I just get some insight from
8 you, Cathie, as to the routine at Nazareth House. Let's
9 look at the morning first of all. Can you give us some
10 understanding as to what happened in the morning?

11 A. In the morning -- so I'm talking about the seniors'
12 morning now. A bell rang at 5 o'clock, that was the
13 nuns' bell to get up. And then at 6 o'clock, a nun came
14 into -- one day a week it was 6.45 and we had a lie-in.
15 A nun came in and rang a bell and we all just jumped out
16 of bed and said the prayers, knelt by the bed, and then
17 had to dress.

18 Then we cleaned all the dormitory, swept it, dusted
19 it polished it, and then went out into a hall in the
20 passageway to say more prayers and made our way down to
21 the church for Mass every day, except for Saturday.

22 Q. And after Mass, what about breakfast?

23 A. We then went to breakfast.

24 Q. You've been telling me what about happened with the
25 seniors; was the position any different with the

1 juniors?

2 A. The juniors didn't go to Mass every day; they only went
3 on special feast days and Sundays. So they slept until
4 maybe 7 o'clock and they got up.

5 Q. So far as the juniors were concerned, again, was it
6 a nun that --

7 A. A nun and one girl helping her. One ex-girl helping.

8 Q. Coming then to bedtime, were there particular times for
9 when bedtime would be?

10 A. Yes, very strict.

11 Q. What can you tell me then? What was it in the junior
12 section?

13 A. The juniors all went to bed around about 6 o'clock,
14 a bath and went to bed, 6 o'clock. The seniors, it was
15 later, about quarter to eight. We were all in bed and
16 sleeping by 8 o'clock.

17 Q. Were you allowed to talk in the dormitories?

18 A. Oh no, no. But later on, there was one light kept on
19 all night and then as we got on we all passed books to
20 each other, but these books were all of an Irish theory,
21 like Annie MP Smithson was a well-known author -- her
22 books are out of print now -- but they were all of an
23 Irish nature, talking about things like the Black &
24 Tans, which people won't know anything about, but it was
25 a completely disorientated reading we had.

1 Q. You were there, of course, during the war years.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And did that have any impact upon life?

4 A. Yes, because up until 7, you were just put under your
5 bed, the cot, because then the babies were on the ground
6 floor sleeping, the juniors were put on the floor to
7 sleep if the siren went off. There was a big balloon,
8 barrage balloon, over the convent, protecting it,
9 I think, and in the fields we used to see the air forces
10 practising, you know, in the planes. We saw lots and
11 lots of planes practising.

12 When there was a bombing -- I remember on one
13 occasion we all picked up the silver stuff and the
14 police came in and collected it from us -- you know,
15 from the ground.

16 Q. Was there an air-raid shelter that you could go to?

17 A. No. In the basement of the convent, the seniors all
18 went down there. But otherwise, no.

19 Then during the day there was double summertime, so
20 they put us to bed during the day when the clocks went
21 back two hours.

22 Q. In your statement, Cathie, you tell us about the
23 different categories of children.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. From what you've told us, you were there from a very,

1 very young age, along with your sister, who was a baby.

2 But did children of different ages come into the convent
3 over the period that you were there?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You tell us, for example, that there was one girl who
6 came in, who seemed to be quite distressed and would,
7 I think, scream all night.

8 A. Yes. She screamed all night and then finally -- she was
9 the only case I knew who actually got removed because of
10 her distress. Her father had to come and take her away.

11 Q. Was she there for very long?

12 A. No, two or three days at the most.

13 Q. You tell us about another girl who would fill her shoe
14 with water.

15 A. She was -- sorry?

16 Q. You say in your statement at paragraph 14 that there was
17 one girl who would walk around the dormitory at night.

18 A. Oh yes. That particular girl, again, was one who came
19 in very late and she was very disturbed, and during the
20 night she'd walk the dormitories and fill up water
21 in the shoes, throw up the bedclothes and throw the
22 water over the sleeping child underneath, saying, "Oh,
23 you'll have a wet bed in the morning, get into trouble".
24 She did this all the time, constantly walking up and
25 down. There was no one you could say, "What's to be

1 done about this troublesome child?" She was really
2 mentally ill, as many of us were actually, I would say.

3 Q. Was she there for very long?

4 A. Yes, because then she went on to work as an ex-girl
5 in the kitchen.

6 Q. What was the rationale behind wetting the beds so that
7 people would be in trouble?

8 A. Well, they then had to hold up the sheets in the morning
9 and then go and walk and then they would have the sheet
10 changed if it was found to be wet and have a real heavy
11 calico sheet, which was very difficult to wash. These
12 children had a hard-wearing sheet.

13 Q. So people who wet the bed --

14 A. They were all children. The ones who were brought up
15 from babies in the convent all seemed to be timed to go
16 to the toilet. There were no bed-wetters. The ones who
17 wet the bed were the ones who came in late as children,
18 you know, 8, 9, 10. Very troublesome children these
19 were.

20 Q. But what happened to children who wet the bed?

21 A. They had to show they had wet the bed and then the nuns
22 told them to go and wash it. They were shamed in front
23 of us all. It was awful.

24 There was one girl asked me if I would wake her up
25 in the night to get her to go to the toilet so that she

1 would have a dry bed in the morning. When I went she
2 was already wet, so I said, no, it just means I'm
3 prolonging your agony. I'm not going to wake you up any
4 more, just let it happen if it does happen. You know,
5 it was very distressing for her.

6 Q. Can I ask you about mealtimes. What you tell us in your
7 statement, Cathie, at paragraph 15, is that you were
8 well fed in the convent.

9 A. Yes, I would agree. I think I'm proof of it now. I've
10 had a very healthy life, never ill.

11 Q. Well, I think what you're saying is, so far as you're
12 concerned, the quality of the food was perfectly
13 acceptable.

14 A. Yes, very acceptable apart from the collation, as we
15 called it. Again, we had a term used in religious
16 houses, a collation. It wasn't called a tea, we called
17 it collation. And it was one slice of bread -- I think
18 this was very hard -- one slice of bread and we only had
19 to use half at the teatime with the cocoa and keep the
20 other half to go with the supper.

21 Q. Right.

22 A. I mean, that was awful, it really was.

23 Q. You tell us a little bit about underweight children.

24 A. Yes, many.

25 Q. Why were they underweight?

1 A. Probably coming in and the worry, the crying and the
2 distress. They weren't flourishing. I was very
3 underweight. It's hard to believe now.

4 And the juniors -- and it was wartime as well, don't
5 forget. Sister Francis, particularly they'd take the
6 underweight children and feed them so that no one else
7 would eat the food that was for these underweight
8 children.

9 Q. But you yourself fell into that category?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You effectively had been brought up in the home.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Were there many underweight children?

14 A. We were very well fed. In those days if you were thin,
15 you were underweight. No one was ever weighed.

16 Q. So it really depended on appearance?

17 A. Yes, they went on appearance.

18 Q. You do say that if you didn't like the food, then you
19 just did without.

20 A. Someone else would eat it for you, usually.

21 Q. Were there occasions when there was something --

22 A. Yes, for example I never ate eggs until I was 16 and
23 there was also a queue to eat my egg for me. You had no
24 problem.

25 Q. Would you get any trouble if you didn't eat your food?

1 A. No, as long as you had an empty plate, you didn't mind.

2 Q. I suppose that's the point. If your plate is empty,
3 then there isn't a problem, but if your plate isn't
4 empty, would you get into any sort of trouble?

5 A. Sorry, say that again?

6 Q. If your plate wasn't empty, what then?

7 A. No, we just left it. In my day they had pigs and
8 everything went to the pigswill. It wasn't a problem.

9 Q. Did you ever observe any children being made to eat
10 their food?

11 A. No. No. In the juniors, the nun would feed the
12 children who were a bit slow, but that's all.

13 Q. Something you do tell us about is there not being drinks
14 between meals.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Can you tell me about that?

17 A. That was bad, actually, I would say that was really bad,
18 especially during the summertime. We only ever ate and
19 drank in the dining room, never any other time, in
20 between meals. We used to take vegetables that were
21 growing in the garden, help ourselves to the carrots or
22 the turnips that were growing there if you could get
23 your hand through the fence. We did that.

24 The drinks were a bad thing because, especially in
25 the hot weather, out playing all day, we'd have no

1 drinks. And then after 6 o'clock, when we had our last
2 meal of the day, there was no further drink and you'd
3 wake up very thirsty at times. There was no water.

4 On the way to the bedroom there was a bathroom and
5 people would put their face under the tap very quickly
6 and run out without being seen in the crocodile line
7 we were walking in.

8 But during the night then your only resource was to
9 pull the chain in the toilet and drink from that.

10 Q. Was that something you required to do?

11 A. Yes, we all did it.

12 Q. Do you know why it was that --

13 A. I suppose it's because the dining room was on the bottom
14 floor, our bedrooms were on the top floor. There was
15 nothing to drink from.

16 Q. What I was going to ask you is: do you know why a drink
17 such as a drink of water was so rationed during the day?
18 What was the reason behind that?

19 A. We had our drinks with the meals and it was considered
20 enough, I suppose. There was always water on the tables
21 with the meals.

22 Q. But I think you tell us in your statement that when
23 Mother LGE came on the scene, she changed the
24 regime.

25 A. Yes, she saw that we were out playing all day and there

1 was nothing and she actually made them bring down banks
2 (sic) and water.

3 Q. Can I ask you about washing and bathing. Can you help
4 me with the arrangements for that. Let's take the
5 junior section, first of all, if there's any difference.

6 A. The seniors was just -- they were washed quickly and put
7 out and dried and put to bed. But the seniors was --
8 really, it's a bit of a circus, because we had to hold
9 up big sheets to get into the bath -- there were six
10 baths and all these children sharing the bath; you can
11 imagine how long it took.

12 So the water was very, very hot at first because it
13 had to last a lot of children, the same water for
14 everybody.

15 Q. Can I just ask you: would the six baths be filled at the
16 same time?

17 A. Yes, they were all filled at the same time. Two of the
18 girls would hold up a sheet, the person would get in,
19 and in the bath you'd have to put on a robe. You never
20 showed your whole body, you put on a robe and then you'd
21 have to disrobe to get out of the bath and run yourself
22 round the sheet.

23 Now the bath was still --

24 LADY SMITH: How did you wash yourself properly if you had
25 a robe on in the bath?

1 A. Do you know, when I think of it, we didn't even have
2 a flannel or anything. We just put the soap round.
3 There was no flannels or anything. You soaped yourself
4 quickly.

5 Coming out, they held up a sheet again and you
6 rolled yourself in the sheet. So the result is the
7 people first in the bath, with the Jeyes fluid or the
8 thing, came out scarlet, like lobsters, because it was
9 so hot, the water, for them. Then the ones at the end
10 went into cold water, it was practically cold by the end
11 of the circus, and the sheets were absolutely soaking
12 wet by the time you sat down and then put on your
13 nightie or something.

14 MR MacAULAY: So how would you dry yourself if --

15 A. We had towels, we had towels. No one had individual
16 towels; we all shared the same towels.

17 Q. I suppose then it would depend on where you were in the
18 queue as to --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- what the water would be like.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Was there any particular batting order?

23 A. No. It was bath day, first come, first served.

24 Q. Was there a particular -- did you prefer to be at the
25 front of the queue, where you'd turn into a lobster, or

1 towards the back?

2 A. I think you'd want the first, the lobster treatment.

3 Q. That was the preferred treatment, was it?

4 A. Yes, it was.

5 Q. But if you're at the end of the queue, the water,
6 I think you're telling us --

7 A. It was filthy --

8 Q. And cold --

9 A. -- and there was a big ring round the bath with the
10 Jeyes fluid as well.

11 Q. So the Jeyes fluid was put into the bath at the
12 beginning of the process?

13 A. Yes, it wasn't changed.

14 Q. Did that sting?

15 A. Pardon?

16 Q. Did the Jeyes fluid sting?

17 A. No, I can't remember that happening. But I was a tough
18 girl.

19 Q. One thing you say in your statement -- and this might
20 seem rather puzzling to us today -- you say that you
21 never cleaned your teeth.

22 A. Yes, that's a mystery to me. We never had toothbrushes
23 until later on in life and the funny thing is the ones
24 who never had any visitors had wonderful teeth. I've
25 got all my own teeth now, even although I never cleaned

1 them as a child until I was about 13, which to me is
2 a mystery, and the same with my friends of my age.

3 Q. So just to be clear then, and this is what you say in
4 your statement, that you never cleaned your teeth until
5 you were 13 and you never had a toothbrush until then?

6 A. Yes, and then Mother [REDACTED] LGE [REDACTED] changed that and we all had
7 to have tumblers and a toothbrush.

8 Q. So again Mother [REDACTED] LGE [REDACTED] changed the procedure?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Another point you make in your statement is to do with
11 your clothing and your uniform. You thought your
12 clothes were dreadful is something I think you say.

13 A. Yes, awful.

14 Q. If you look at paragraph 22 on the screen; why do you
15 say that?

16 A. We got these, you know, clothes to wear. We weren't at
17 the school and it was a gift of the Canadian Red Cross
18 along with a lot of apples as well. I should have said
19 that.

20 They were very, very rough wool, very heavy wool for
21 probably their snowy climate, and most uncomfortable to
22 wear. But you could never complain; you just had to put
23 up with things like that.

24 Q. In the summertime did you have a particular --

25 A. Oh difficulty. In the grammar school we had a summer

1 uniform, a dress we had to wear, and we were expected to
2 wear this dress the whole of the summer term. It wasn't
3 washed. So I, for example, hated going dirty, so we
4 used to use the big sink and wash them ourselves with
5 the soap and water and then wring them out and put them
6 under the mattress and lie on them at night so you could
7 be clean the next day.

8 Q. Can I go back to ask you about schooling just so we can
9 get a full understanding of the set-up. The primary
10 school, I think, as you've already told us, was in the
11 convent.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Who taught in the primary school?

14 A. Well, there was one nun and then they used the older
15 children -- like, I was always used to teach children
16 who came in late, who couldn't read or write, and the
17 amazing thing was, with this system, the children
18 helping the children, we had no one who failed to learn
19 to read or write. That puzzles me today, why this came
20 about. With the children helping children, we mastered
21 the education.

22 Q. So just so I understand your role, when you had it, were
23 you then a senior?

24 A. No, I was just a junior. They never used senior girls
25 to help them. It was juniors helping juniors, helping

1 your own.

2 Q. So that's in the primary school?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And you're teaching children to read and write?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What about arithmetic?

7 A. The nun did that. But arithmetic -- I mean, it was sad,
8 we didn't have -- I think we only had two nuns who were
9 really teachers. The others weren't teachers, for
10 example. The seniors practised for the qualify exam,
11 for example, a lot of mental arithmetic, and the nun
12 giving us the example used to say, "How do you get the
13 answer?" but we had never conversed with an adult, we
14 didn't know how to express ourselves at all. I'd have
15 the right answer but couldn't explain how I arrived at
16 the right answer. We had all these sort of problems,
17 you couldn't explain arithmetic.

18 Q. Just to understand, when you became a senior at the age
19 of 7, you were still going to the in-house school?

20 A. Yes. And then we spent time, too much time, on
21 religious -- the catechism off by heart and tables. It
22 was all saying the tables aloud. You couldn't fail but
23 to learn.

24 Q. Just to understand the set-up in the primary school, was
25 there then a junior section in the primary school --

1 LADY SMITH: Cathie, could I just ask you to get yourself
2 positioned back to the microphone? You have kind of
3 drifted away from it.

4 A. Apologies.

5 LADY SMITH: You have a good clear voice, but it helps
6 everybody if you use it, thank you.

7 MR MacAULAY: I think in the primary school you were saying
8 there was a junior and senior section.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You have told us how in the junior section there were
11 children being taught to read and write; in senior
12 section what was the schooling like?

13 A. We were split up until about 11 or 10, and again it was
14 just everything verbatim, a map of the world with all
15 the capitals, that was our geography. There was no
16 history at all. It was a very inadequate -- it was all
17 religion, religion, all the time. We learned the
18 catechism off by heart.

19 Q. But nevertheless, notwithstanding these drawbacks, you
20 did pass your --

21 A. I don't know, it was a miracle.

22 Q. I think you tell us you spent many hours swotting, to
23 use a --

24 A. Yes. I just enjoyed going through all the maths
25 questions, all the -- you know, there was no books to

1 read because, even on a Sunday, when we did the reading,
2 you never got the same book two Sundays in a row. So
3 you never quite completed the story you'd started.

4 Q. But you passed your qualifying exam at the age of about
5 10 or 11 I think you said.

6 A. 10, yes.

7 Q. What age were you when you went to the grammar school?

8 A. I went in 1947 so I was 10 when I went to grammar
9 school.

10 Q. That was St Gerard's in Govan?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Something you say in your statement is this -- and this
13 is in paragraph 27 -- and that is that:

14 "The grammar school was the worst period in my
15 life"?

16 A. Yes, I agree.

17 Q. Well, that's what you say. Why do you say that?

18 A. I say that because we'd been in the convent so long that
19 we developed our own accent, and even although we were
20 in the uniform, the teachers could tell we were convent
21 children because of our accent and I believe it must
22 have been very Irish in nature. Even today, people ask
23 me where I come from; I've got such a strange accent.

24 I think it was with the convent having all Irish
25 people. We developed an Irish twang. But it was

1 a definite accent we had and it didn't tie in with what
2 the teachers were saying or what any of the other
3 children were saying. We'd been so cut-off for years.

4 Q. You had to take the bus to school; is that correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. St Gerard's is in a different part of Glasgow, isn't it?

7 A. Yes. We had a bus to take us to school. We had
8 a ticket, but if you lost that ticket you were either
9 borrowing from someone else, their card, or having to
10 run there and run back.

11 Q. But I think you tell us that there were other children
12 from Cardonald, Nazareth House, who also passed the
13 qualifying exam and went to school with you, you weren't
14 alone?

15 A. But we were in classes on our own. I was in a class on
16 my own. I wasn't in with any other convent girl and
17 the same with -- why they couldn't have put us together,
18 we could have helped either other but, no. We could not
19 understand a word that was being said.

20 I'll give you an example. For example, in the
21 science class you had to be divided into groups. We had
22 never been divided into groups -- so say A, B, C,
23 meaning three groups. When it comes to me, I say D
24 because my automatic reflex is that D comes after C. I
25 had no idea what was going on. We were lost.

1 Q. I take it over your period at the school, because you
2 spent a number of years at the school, you would develop
3 an understanding as to what --

4 A. I'd never -- I never did, because I felt so out of
5 place. No one wanted to sit with us. We were such
6 strange children. It's difficult to put it into words
7 now.

8 Q. Why were you so strange?

9 A. Because we'd never been exposed to anybody other than
10 the convent people. It was like we'd been brought up on
11 an island all alone. I don't know, I can't explain it.
12 I'm not a psychologist or psychiatrist, I can't explain
13 it. We were very, very disturbed children. Anything
14 going wrong, you'd no one to talk to, to say could you
15 lend me a pencil. We had no pencils, we had no
16 equipment for the school.

17 Q. You do give some examples in dealing with a number of
18 teachers --

19 LADY SMITH: Just going back to the pencil example. I think
20 in that era commonly children would be expected to bring
21 their own pencil case with pencils and colouring pencils
22 and their own ruler or whatever. Is that what you're
23 talking about, other children coming from home would
24 have their --

25 A. Yes, they had their pens and pencils and we never had

1 any.

2 LADY SMITH: They would have the kit they needed?

3 A. Yes.

4 LADY SMITH: They would have gym shoes, that sort of thing?

5 A. Yes, we had nothing.

6 LADY SMITH: And you weren't provided with that?

7 A. And there didn't seem to be any liaison between the
8 school and the convent. I think that was the problem.

9 MR MacAULAY: One thing you tell us later on in your
10 statement is that although your father visited
11 infrequently, he did visit on the odd occasion, and on
12 one occasion you asked him to bring in 48 pencils.

13 A. Yes. I was always testing my father because I found
14 him -- he said he'd be visiting and he didn't visit. So
15 I always tested him and I said 48 pencils because at
16 that time there was 48 of us in the juniors.

17 Q. So that was before you went to the --

18 A. No, I was in the juniors then when he visited, but he
19 never visited after that.

20 Q. When you say the juniors, that was the juniors within
21 the convent?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. But he brought you the pencils?

24 A. He brought me the pencils; he passed his test.

25 Q. You do tell us in your statement, at paragraphs 31 and

1 32 and 33, I think, about particular teachers that you
2 had some contact with. The music teacher, for
3 example --

4 A. Yes, oh dear.

5 Q. -- who wanted you to play a solo part.

6 A. Yes. The music teacher in the grammar school came round
7 listening to people singing and then she singled me out.
8 Oh, that was murder because never, ever had we done
9 anything alone, solo. We were always groups. Never,
10 ever on our own, and we helped each other. We just did
11 not know how to cooperate or work on an individual
12 basis. I think that was the trouble in the grammar
13 school, being on my own, no one with me.

14 Q. What's this business with the maths teacher who --

15 A. Oh, he was awful. The maths teacher went round the
16 class, doing algebra. I remember the questions,
17 I wasn't stupid, I knew the questions but could never
18 answer. What you do when the signs are the same, what
19 you do when the signs are different. This went on and
20 on round the class and I never gave an answer so I got
21 strapped all the time and my other classmates started
22 crying because I was always on the punishment end but
23 I didn't care.

24 Q. Why didn't you give the answer if you knew the answer?

25 A. I could never speak. I was dumb in the grammar school.

1 Q. You knew the answer but you didn't want to speak it?

2 A. I just didn't know -- there was great difficulty
3 understanding what they were saying and what we were
4 supposed to do. Even to reply. Because I'd never, ever
5 had to reply to questions before going to the grammar
6 school.

7 Q. What about your homework? You'd get homework from
8 school?

9 A. We got homework but I could never do it because we all
10 had to do the same things at the same time, therefore
11 there was no time given to people who were at the
12 grammar school to do homework. I used to get up at
13 5 o'clock in the morning, at the nuns' bell, and try and
14 do it sitting on the toilet and made a dreadful mess of
15 it. So this is what happened. And then on the bus
16 learn whatever poems we had to learn.

17 Q. At a point in time, presumably you would think about
18 a career and what you might do after school. Was that
19 something that crossed your mind at a point in time?

20 A. No, no, no. I mean, we had -- the Latin teacher, when
21 he came into the convent, he immediately saw we were
22 different people in the convent because we were relaxed,
23 we knew everybody. We could perform, as it were. And
24 he used to say, "Why are you so quick here and you have
25 got nothing to say in the school?" He noticed that

1 we were different people.

2 Q. Why was he coming into the convent?

3 A. He was coming in to -- Mother **LGE** again wanted us to
4 have hobbies and this was one group, teaching us the
5 flute. Everybody wanted it and we all did it. No
6 individuals were off for individual things.

7 Q. Was he coming in to teach you, then, the flute?

8 A. Yes, although he was a Latin teacher. But he noticed
9 we were completely different people.

10 Q. Then coming back to careers, did you give some thought
11 to careers or not when you came to the latter stages of
12 school?

13 A. Careers?

14 Q. Yes.

15 A. Oh, when we were asked, I just used to say, "I'm
16 a convent girl", because we could see no future because
17 we never knew when we were going to leave, who would
18 have us, what we'd do. This was never discussed. As
19 I said, the teachers at the grammar school just gave up
20 on us. They never said, "What would you think to do for
21 a career?", nothing.

22 Q. What age were you when you left the grammar school?

23 A. Well, I was 16 when I went to London.

24 Q. I'll come on to that in a moment.

25 Sex education. Were you given any sex education

1 in the convent?

2 A. Yes, one nun I remember, Sister [REDACTED] FAF, took us, and
3 then she says, I always remember, she says, "Now,
4 remember girls, no cleavages, no lots of make-up, no
5 short skirts, and don't flaunt yourself at the men".
6 Then she ended saying, "Girls, now always remember, if
7 there are no bad girls, there will be no bad boys". And
8 she asked the question, any questions? And I said yes.
9 I said, "Have boys got no free will?" and I was put out.
10 I was punished for saying that. No answer was given.

11 Q. But the punishment was simply being put out of the room?

12 A. Yes, put out of the room. I was never answered the --
13 the question wasn't answered.

14 Q. Well, can I ask you a little bit about leisure time
15 then, Cathie. Did you have free time when you could go
16 out and play and so on during your time there?

17 A. Again it was routine, it wasn't free time as such. It
18 was routine. It was after you had dinner and
19 washing-up, you went out for play. There were set
20 times, we were put out in the yard to play. That was
21 our leisure: ball games, skipping. We were very, very
22 inventive because the convent had lots of fields around
23 it, which we could use and make our own houses. We did
24 all our own play.

25 Q. Singing I think you tell us was something that you

1 engaged in, singing.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Did you have singing competitions that you went in for?

4 A. Yes. We loved singing, actually. We had practice every
5 Saturday. We had the added advantage that we were
6 always together and could practice. And of course, when
7 we went out, I think it was the Glasgow Fete or
8 something, and we used to come back with scores in the
9 90s, 99 out of 100, you know. We were really, really
10 good at singing.

11 Even in another part of my life, when we went to
12 Aberdeen, there I heard the boys in Aberdeen singing for
13 the first time in my life, treble singers, and I was
14 enraptured by this singing. I'd never heard this
15 before, boys singing.

16 Q. And when you say Aberdeen, I think --

17 A. That was holiday time.

18 Q. -- you went to Nazareth House in Aberdeen.

19 A. Nazareth House in Aberdeen. We had a lovely holiday
20 time there.

21 Q. Would that be in the summertime?

22 A. Yes, summer, always round about July.

23 Q. You've already mentioned the Irish influence on you --

24 A. Yes, too much.

25 Q. -- in the convent. What you tell us in your statement

1 at paragraph 45 is that you feel that you were robbed of
2 your Scottish culture.

3 A. Yes, definitely.

4 Q. Can you help?

5 A. Because we all wanted to -- it favoured being Irish, not
6 Scottish, which many of us were. And also, most of the
7 songs we knew were Irish and on St Patrick's Day, with
8 the shamrock and everything, we all wanted to be Irish.
9 We would say, "Is my name Irish, is your name Irish?"
10 things like that we'd say to each other. The girls who
11 were Irish, one of them was treated specially and it was
12 very unfair.

13 Q. In what way was she treated specially?

14 A. She was one of the few girls, who came in later, who
15 wasn't musical and she was sent out to do piano lessons
16 but no one else was asked would you like to do the
17 piano. We had pianos there but no one ever put their
18 hands on them. Very bad.

19 Q. Religion was an important aspect of your life in the
20 convent.

21 A. It was. Too important. It was everything -- as I say,
22 we got a lot of solace from religion, you know, because
23 we loved the singing and the music attached to it. And
24 even amazingly, we did one Mass, which was composed by
25 a boy in Australia, a Nazareth House boy in Australia,

1 that was on the 50th anniversary when I was there of the
2 church. So they did develop people musically, and my
3 son, music's come out in my son and my best friend, ■■■, ■■■,
4 her son is a musician as it well, so it passed on to the
5 children, this love of music.

6 Q. So that was something that you learned in the convent?

7 A. Yes, from the convent, yes.

8 Q. One thing that you do tell us in paragraph 51 is that
9 you had two Jewish girls --

10 A. Yes, we had two Jewish girls.

11 Q. -- in the convent because of the war.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. I think one was from Lithuania.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. How were they treated?

16 A. It was amazing, I really admire the nuns for this. They
17 knew they were Jewish and they knew the problems Jewish
18 people were facing during the war and these children
19 were never educated in the Catholic way. They were
20 always put at the back of the church, they didn't learn
21 the catechism or anything. I thought that was a really
22 good thing that they respected their particular
23 allegiance.

24 Q. You have mentioned Sister Francis before and it was
25 Sister Francis who, I think you told us, looked after

1 you in the junior section --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- but not when you moved on to the senior section. Was
4 she somebody you were fond of?

5 A. Oh yes, very fond of, and I was a favourite of hers as
6 well. When I moved to the seniors, in the church the
7 juniors sat on the right-hand side, the seniors on the
8 left-hand side of the church. Wednesday and Friday were
9 what we called benediction days, so going there to sing
10 there and I was playing with a colleague, I can't even
11 remember who it was, but playing and not behaving as
12 I should in church. Every time when I saw after the
13 benediction, I used to race up to her and she always
14 gave me sweets and still take an interest in me.

15 But this day, because I'd been playing in church,
16 she said, no, [REDACTED] no sweets, no more, because you
17 were naughty, and that was the end of my association
18 with this nun I liked. Shame.

19 Q. She cut you off, did she?

20 A. Completely, just like that.

21 Q. And did she speak to you again after that?

22 A. No, never again. I was her favourite and she said,
23 "You've grown up, you're in the seniors now". It was
24 like treating a dog, actually, just dispensing with
25 them.

1 Q. Can I now ask you about work, because work was something
2 you did have to do when you were in the convent.

3 A. Oh, too much work.

4 Q. Can I have some understanding as to what you had to do.

5 First of all, when you were in the grammar school

6 I think you tell us that you were in charge of the --

7 A. Not -- even before that because when we got up we had to
8 sweep all the -- we used dried tea leaves for sweeping
9 the dormitories. There was never anybody with asthma
10 there because there was never any dust. Then we all
11 polished the floors of the dormitories as well every day
12 and then they were waxed on a Saturday.

13 We scrubbed all the passages in the convent on our
14 hands and knees and I think everybody at one time or
15 another had housemaid's knee, although we were only
16 children, from scrubbing the floors.

17 Then I had the boiler -- because the nun thought
18 I was a bit sensible, I had the big boiler to light,
19 going to grammar school, and that meant getting all the
20 coal and the coke in, lighting the fire. It was a big
21 furnace which had many -- what did we call them now? --
22 flues and dampers, and I had to set all these dampers
23 and things as well, and then sweep out all the ashes,
24 make a cinder path, before going to school.

25 Q. What about cleaning the boiler?

1 A. I cleaned all that every night. That's when we made the
2 cinder path with the ashes.

3 LADY SMITH: Did you do that alone or did you get help?

4 A. Alone, just myself.

5 LADY SMITH: Just you lighting you it?

6 A. Just myself. Quite often one of my friends would help
7 me get the coal in. We were only supposed to take the
8 coke, because it was cheaper, but the coal lit the fire
9 easier, so my friends used to get the coal --

10 LADY SMITH: You'd get it going faster with coal?

11 A. Yes, than the coke.

12 MR MacAULAY: How long would the morning part of the job
13 take you then?

14 A. A good hour, a good hour. I hated going down the
15 corridor, it was very dark, all on my own. I was only
16 11 when I had this man's job to do.

17 Q. And the cleaning out later on, was that in the evening
18 then, you'd clean out the boiler?

19 A. Yes, it was awful.

20 Q. And how long would that take you?

21 A. Oh, I would think it'd take me a good 20 minutes. I was
22 quick working and I had to polish everything, brass
23 everything up as well. Crazy.

24 Q. Was it the boiler that heated the building?

25 A. It heated all -- the seniors' refectory and the seniors'

1 playrooms and toilets. Of course, I'd get into trouble
2 if the radiators were too hot. The nun would say, "This
3 is far too hot, you're burning too much", and I'd have
4 to go and adjust all the dampers then. Quite often I'd
5 be called to lower the temperature.

6 Q. So I take it in some way you learned how to manipulate
7 the --

8 A. I did.

9 Q. -- boiler?

10 A. Yes. We did.

11 Q. The laundry, I think, is something else you tell us that
12 you had to work --

13 A. The laundry -- when we were old, we did the laundry, and
14 that was from 8 o'clock in the morning. It had its
15 attractions because we got cakes and biscuits
16 mid-morning and mid-afternoon when we worked in the
17 laundry.

18 Q. Were you there for the day?

19 A. Standing for hours in all this dripping water. It was
20 awful because the whole laundry from the convent was
21 done in this place.

22 Q. Did you say this was at the weekend, was it?

23 A. No, it was usually a weekday, usually when we were off
24 school during the holiday time. But some children went
25 all the time to the laundry. There was no nun in charge

1 of that, it was an [REDACTED] called [REDACTED] L J X and she
2 was very cruel. She used to hit the children on the
3 legs with the wet clothes, you know, when they dragged
4 the washing on the floor, didn't lift it high enough.

5 Q. Did she do that to you?

6 A. No. I think I was clever at avoiding the punishment.
7 I knew how to escape.

8 Q. This was to other children that she would --

9 A. Yes, the ones who had not so much sense, you know,
10 didn't know what they were doing. But it was awful, the
11 laundry, for hours and hours there.

12 Q. You've already told us about the scrubbing of floors,
13 but was that something that was changed when
14 Mother [REDACTED] L G E came in?

15 A. Yes. She used to get very cross when she saw children
16 doing the passage floors. She'd say, "You're not
17 supposed to be doing that", and call the ones in charge
18 and tell them off.

19 Q. Who was supposed to be doing it then?

20 A. The big girls, the ex-girls were supposed to be mopping
21 it. It was their job, not ours.

22 Q. You have mentioned Mother [REDACTED] L G E and her influence when
23 she came on a number of occasions.

24 A. Yes, definitely.

25 Q. I think what you've been telling us is she made

1 improvements to the life in the convent, and you've
2 mentioned two or three things. Are there any other
3 improvements you have in mind that she instigated during
4 your time?

5 A. Well, I think especially the Scottish context, because
6 her brother was [REDACTED], actually, and she was the only
7 nun we knew her name. It was [REDACTED]

8 Q. So she was Scottish, obviously?

9 A. Yes. But her brother used to come up and sing with us
10 and teach us Scottish songs, some Gaelic and some other
11 things as well, the brother. Then when she decided
12 I should go into nursing, she gave me the address of her
13 sister in Glasgow and said, "Go to her when you've got
14 days off", so that I wouldn't be stuck on my own.
15 Things like that she did.

16 Q. Okay. Now, you've already mentioned that you would go
17 to Aberdeen Nazareth House on holiday --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- in the summer. You also mention in your statement
20 that you had at least one trip to Seamill.

21 A. That was just days out we used to have.

22 Q. The Aberdeen trip then, Aberdeen holiday, I think you
23 say that was something you did enjoy.

24 A. Yes. We stayed there for two weeks, so we changed --

25 Q. Did the Aberdeen children come to Cardonald and --

1 A. Yes, and we went to Aberdeen.

2 Q. How many of you would go to Aberdeen?

3 A. Well, all the seniors. Just all the seniors, not the
4 juniors.

5 Q. When you were in the junior section did you go anywhere
6 at --

7 A. No, I don't ever recall anything as a junior. People
8 used to come in and give entertainment though.

9 Q. You tell us about one incident when you were in Aberdeen
10 on the beach --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- and the nuns told you weren't to go out too far.

13 A. It was a very windy day and the seas were rough, and the
14 nuns said, "Don't go in swimming, don't go out, just
15 paddle", and some children, what I call the
16 exhibitionist children, they went out and got into
17 difficulties and had to be rescued. Seeing that gave us
18 sort of nightmares, you know, but we get over it.

19 Years later when I was in London, I saw a report
20 saying that the children involved in this incident
21 drowned and the nuns got rid of the bodies. This was
22 sheer lies. They didn't, they came in and I could say
23 who the girls were.

24 Q. Who rescued the girls?

25 A. Some man went out and rescued them.

1 Q. So the newspaper report was completely untrue?

2 A. Yes. I never saw the newspaper report, but people
3 related it to me and I said, "Oh, that's sheer lies".

4 Q. I've been asked to ask you also, just leaving that story
5 aside, whether you've come across or heard of any other
6 newspaper stories about these nuns that you consider to
7 be untrue.

8 A. Well, I take it with a pinch of salt, you know, if you
9 don't mind me saying so, because all the reports I've
10 read were children, 11 or later, or 10, those years
11 coming in, and these I always found were the children
12 that were exhibitionists and troublemakers. They'd come
13 in with some sort of trouble, which we never knew about,
14 and they behaved very strangely. There was -- no one
15 gave them guidance on this, you know, there was no
16 doctors, no psychiatric -- no counselling at all. We
17 had many, many troubled children. I myself was --
18 I think I was a very troubled child.

19 I don't know if I should say, but we always saw the
20 dead in the convent, the nuns, the priests, everybody
21 who died, the coffin was in church for three days and we
22 went up to see it and the coffins had a particular
23 smell, the wood, and then in the dormitories we had the
24 same sort of wood and it smelt the same to me as the
25 coffins. I used to go to bed seeing these coffins,

1 seeing the dead bodies. I put paper up my nose and in
2 my ears and I wanted to go to sleep pretending I was
3 dead, hoping to wake up dead. I mean, doing that sort
4 of thing, we were very, very disturbed. Other children
5 did just as atrocious things as well, but no one ever
6 knew about them.

7 Q. But why did you want to be dead?

8 A. I was very unhappy. Let me be plain about it: I was
9 very, very unhappy.

10 Q. Why?

11 A. I don't know. I think it was not having anybody to talk
12 to, have things explained to me, like with the wind
13 coming down the chimneys, all the things, our
14 imaginations would run wild. We had a little wooden
15 staircase, we'd say, "Mr and Mrs Glass live there", we'd
16 make all these dreadful tales up ourselves, which
17 frightened us enormously.

18 Q. Okay. Can I ask you about birthdays: were birthdays
19 celebrated when you were in the convent, your birthday?

20 A. Oh nothing, nothing. I mean, Christmas was the best,
21 a big feast, people got presents, but what a strange
22 place to be. We came down as a junior, sat on your
23 desk, and a present was there. But that present wasn't
24 a present, it was just temporary. You played with it
25 for a short time on Christmas Day, it was taken away to

1 be given next year to other children. There were no
2 presents. We made ourselves presents out of rubbish,
3 really, but it was something you gave to your friends.

4 You know, when we went out for a walk on a Sunday,
5 pick up Kirby grips, silver paper, fasten the paper and
6 give it as a present with the clips on it to a friend,
7 rub all the rust off. Really primitive.

8 Q. The temporary present set-up, did that change during
9 your time?

10 A. Yes, we then got some newspaper collecting -- excuse me,
11 I've got a frog in my throat.

12 LADY SMITH: There's plenty of water if that would help.

13 A. People from all round the country sent presents.

14 I remember I got a pair of gloves from someone in
15 Felixstowe. I had to look up on the map, where is
16 Felixstowe. That all seemed to change, we all seemed to
17 get presents at Christmas, and again that was with
18 Mother LGE.

19 MR MacAULAY: That's one of the changes she brought in when
20 she came in?

21 A. Yes, and birthdays as well. Most of us didn't even know
22 our birthdays. I never knew my birthday until I saw my
23 birth certificate.

24 Q. When was that?

25 A. Going to grammar school, you had to bring it in to

1 prove -- I never knew the date of my birth or anything.

2 We never celebrated birthdays up to then.

3 Q. You tell us that when Mother LGE came on the scene,
4 that that did change?

5 A. Yes, we used to get a cake when it was someone's
6 birthday.

7 Q. You have already told us about your father visiting on
8 an infrequent basis --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- and the account you give about the pencil request
11 which he fulfilled. Did you see him after that, can you
12 remember?

13 A. No, he never came again. I then got, when I was about
14 9, a Mrs -- what was her name -- O'Neill, came up to the
15 convent, and said my father had died suddenly. Then
16 we were taken out to the funeral in a house, we were at
17 the very back of the house -- of the room where the body
18 was, and the priest came and the priest made us come to
19 the front and all I could hear from people there was,
20 "The poor wee things, the poor wee things". You know,
21 hearing that expression all your life does something
22 hard to you, beyond a doubt. Excuse me.

23 Then this lady gave me a picture of my mother in
24 a frame. She said, "You can have it". It was myself
25 being held by my mother and my brother at her feet, but

1 my sister's not there. So I mean, that -- I brought
2 that back to the convent, but we never had anywhere we
3 could put personal things. So the rosaries I got when
4 my mother died from my father, the picture this
5 Mrs O'Neill gave me -- nothing. I can still remember
6 that picture very, very well.

7 Q. What happened to it?

8 A. Heaven knows. We never had anywhere to keep it, it
9 probably got broken by other children mucking around at
10 it, because there was nowhere you could put your
11 personal belongings.

12 Q. Apart from your father's infrequent visits, did you have
13 visits from anyone else?

14 A. Once I had -- and again, the communications were very,
15 very bad. I was just told I was going out. This woman
16 came along and took my sister and I out. We went to her
17 house, with her husband. She took us to the theatre and
18 we had a meal out. But I think it was to do with
19 a possible adoption, although I was never told. But we
20 never saw her again because I remember saying, "I'm too
21 old to be adopted". I was 12.

22 Q. Right.

23 A. "I'm too old to be adopted." So we never saw them
24 again. Even that exposure left a lasting memory on me
25 because, again, I'd never seen women undressing, men

1 undressing, and then the girl, before she went out,
2 changed, and I thought, "She's doing this in front of
3 us". It was such a shock to us. We were such prudes
4 because we never showed our bodies in any way. This
5 complete stranger was revealing herself and her husband
6 to the two of us.

7 Q. You say in your statement that you weren't allocated
8 what we would call nowadays a social worker but you do
9 remember a group of people coming --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- who you thought might have been the then equivalent
12 of social workers.

13 A. Well, I presume that's what they were because they stood
14 on the balcony and we were down below, asked us to sing.

15 Q. When you say "us", how many were there then?

16 A. Oh, all the seniors would be there. We sang:

17 "In the prison cell I sit, thinking of you, mother
18 dear, and the dear old happy home so far away."

19 Now, here we are singing this -- and it also goes:

20 "And the tears they fill my eyes."

21 You know, things like that. And yet these people
22 don't ask, "What's all this about?"

23 Q. What message were you trying to give them?

24 A. We were trying to say we hate this place, we want more
25 freedom, we want to go out, do things on our own, follow

1 the encouragements we want. Because I always wanted to
2 learn the piano. All these things were denied us.
3 There was a piano, there was a bicycle. I never learned
4 to ride a bicycle although there were bicycles in the
5 convent. They were just there as ornaments.

6 Q. But you didn't speak to these people individually?

7 A. No. No, because the nuns were there with them.

8 Q. If you had had the opportunity of speaking to them,
9 would you have said anything, do you think?

10 A. I think we would have been completely quiet. Dumb.
11 We would have been terrified to speak to them.

12 Q. You do mention healthcare as well in your statement. So
13 far as your own healthcare was concerned, did you, from
14 time to time, see a doctor if necessary?

15 A. Just if we were sick we went to a sickbay and were
16 treated differently because the ex-girls in the sewing
17 room looked after us there and there were books. It was
18 a completely different regime altogether, different
19 food, everything, if you were sick.

20 Q. You tell us about an incident when I think you were
21 in the baby section about a little child who had
22 a problem.

23 A. Yes, this is why -- I said there were no boys but
24 I remember this little boy. He suffered from a prolapse
25 of the rectum and we were told he mustn't be left to

1 cry. When I was there, I was just a little baby myself,
2 and he cried and he had a prolapse, and I had watched
3 how [REDACTED] had used the muslin and pushed it in again.
4 And I did that. As a little child, I pushed the rectum
5 in for the little boy who was crying.

6 Q. Was [REDACTED] one of the helpers?

7 A. Yes, [REDACTED] was one of the helpers. I'd evidently
8 watched what was happening and did it myself without --
9 no one supervising me. Doing this, I could have harmed
10 the boy.

11 Q. When you started your periods, which presumably would
12 have happened during your time there, did you get any
13 advice on that?

14 A. Oh no, you just asked your friends. You learned from
15 your friends what to do.

16 Q. We have touched upon bed-wetting already.

17 A. Oh yes, shame.

18 Q. There were children who did wet the bed.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And --

21 A. And they were all children who'd come in at 9, 10, 11,
22 all from, I presume, a troublesome background. But the
23 amazing thing about the convent is we never knew anybody
24 else's previous history. So there was no gossiping, oh,
25 you come from such -- nothing. We didn't know.

1 Q. How were bed-wetters treated?

2 A. They had to hold up their wet sheet in the morning and
3 the nun would just say, "Oh, you again", and they had to
4 go and wash them out and get them dried.

5 Q. Do you know if they had to have baths?

6 A. If they had to have?

7 Q. A bath.

8 A. No, they never had a bath, no, no. Baths were all
9 special and on Saturday, the day before Sunday.

10 Q. But what you do tell us in your statement, Cathie, is
11 they never got beaten for wetting the bed.

12 A. No, they weren't beaten. Well, they were shamed
13 something awful, to hold it up in front of the others.
14 It was very shameful for the children and they would
15 cry.

16 LADY SMITH: Tell me a bit more about that: what was it they
17 had to do that humiliated them?

18 A. Hold it up in front of the others, and the nuns saying,
19 "You again? When are you going to learn to grow up?"
20 They would be reprimanded as well but they weren't
21 beaten. It was just the dreadful inconvenience -- the
22 discomfort as well of the sheets that they had on their
23 beds; those calico sheets were awful.

24 LADY SMITH: So you seem to be describing something that
25 involved the nuns making a display of the person who had

1 wet the bed?

2 A. Yes.

3 LADY SMITH: It wasn't kept private?

4 A. No, everybody knew. They were made a public specimen,
5 really. Awful. The girls would cry. You'd try to help
6 them but you couldn't.

7 MR MacAULAY: The attitude of the girls who weren't wetting
8 the bed, was it one of sympathy?

9 A. Yes. I mean, as I say, I tried to wake one of them up
10 but found she was already wet and I said, "No, it's just
11 prolonging your agony, I'm not going to do it again".

12 Q. Can I ask you about discipline, the discipline within
13 the home. You say in the statement there was no set
14 rules, but there must have been some understanding as to
15 what you should or should not do.

16 A. Yes, there was. We had to walk very silently down to
17 church, we didn't talk and laugh in church; this sort of
18 thing we knew, the set rules. You never held hands with
19 any friends; you all walked in crocodile lines. There
20 was no particular friends, you never developed any
21 particular friends, saying, I want to walk with you.
22 Nothing like that.

23 Q. What about your sister, who was about two years younger
24 than you? Did you have much to do with her?

25 A. No, because again the two-year difference -- when I was

1 in the babies, she was in for a while, but we didn't ...
2 When I moved to the juniors, she was still in the
3 babies. Then again, I'd moved on to seniors when she
4 went into the juniors. And I mean, I hated my sister,
5 I'm saying that now, because she never had any maternal
6 nursing beforehand -- I must have had -- and she was one
7 of these people who, as they grew up, became real
8 exhibitionists and always wanted to show off.

9 I say this because I have discussed this with some
10 of my friends who were also in the convent and in the
11 same position that I was, had a sister, younger like me,
12 two years younger, and she herself said her sister was
13 the same, she hated her sister as well. There were no
14 love bonds.

15 Then at Christmastime I had to share an bed with her
16 and I hated that as well because she was so fidgety. So
17 there was never any choice of what you wanted; you had
18 to do what you were told.

19 Q. Insofar as physical punishment was concerned then, was
20 there any physical punishment?

21 A. Yes, I saw physical punishment. One particular was with
22 my sister again. I don't know what she was doing, but
23 evidently Sunday morning before the walk, she did
24 something which annoyed Sister LKT and she was
25 beaten really, really badly, so badly that she was

1 crippled, I would say, after it. She couldn't walk, she
2 was bruised from the whole of her back right down her
3 legs. Before the walk, she couldn't -- we couldn't get
4 out of the walk, say she can't walk. So myself -- we
5 took it in turns to use a basket thing and carry her all
6 this hour-long walk.

7 Q. How old was she at that time?

8 A. She must have been 8.

9 Q. Did you witness --

10 A. Yes, I was a way further back -- I wasn't exactly there,
11 but I saw what happened and I said to her, "What did you
12 do?" and she never said anything about it. Then, as
13 a result of this dreadful beating, no one ever asked us
14 what had happened.

15 At school -- by this time she was going out to the
16 school across the road, the primary school, and the
17 teacher noticed -- every time he walked by her, she
18 jumped sky high. The teacher reported it to the
19 convent. She was taken to the doctor, and the doctor
20 diagnosed it as chorea -- I still remember the word,
21 chorea. She was in the sickbay for nine months so badly
22 was she affected by this.

23 Q. Just looking at what Sister LKT did, can you
24 describe it? What did you see her to do to your sister?

25 A. Whack her with a stick.

- 1 Q. On different parts of the body?
- 2 A. Oh, over the desk and all down, whacked legs,
3 everything. Pulled her -- she was this side and pulled
4 her up. I was further back but I saw it.
- 5 Q. There you're giving one example then of someone being
6 beaten. Did you see anything else of that nature during
7 your time?
- 8 A. No, I can't recall any others. I mean, going to the
9 hospital to get eye drops, then there was one incident
10 I saw. The hospital didn't say to the nun -- there was
11 no communication, this was one of the big problems --
12 that if you got these eye drops then you couldn't read.
13 My friend [REDACTED], she was asked to read and couldn't read
14 the words at all and she got slapped, four or five
15 slaps, on the hand.
- 16 Q. By a sister?
- 17 A. By a nun, yes.
- 18 Q. That was a different nun?
- 19 A. It was a different nun.
- 20 Q. Was there anybody else who --
- 21 A. I don't remember any others, I could say, personally.
22 My recollection -- it was the girls in charge that did
23 more beating than the nuns ever did.
- 24 Q. You mentioned the girl, I think, in the laundry.
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. What she would do?

2 A. Again, you curried favour with the big girl in charge of
3 the seniors in that -- people would give them extra
4 sweets and that but they would quite often slap the
5 girls.

6 Q. You've already mentioned, Cathie, in passing, that there
7 were deaths in the convent.

8 A. Oh yes, yes.

9 Q. And, in particular, some young children died --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- during your time; is that right?

12 A. Yes. I mean, young children ... When I was in the
13 juniors, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] died. Then it was
14 meningitis -- TB, meningitis they had. We all knew,
15 don't ask me why, but we knew. Children ill were never
16 left alone. They always had company. I used to be sent
17 up to look after them and I enjoyed it because it was
18 something special to do. [REDACTED] always had her
19 mother visit her because I remember seeing a little
20 doll, but [REDACTED] had no one at all to visit her,
21 never, ever had a visitor. She was frightened of dying,
22 [REDACTED] was very laid-back and didn't mind at all.
23 But [REDACTED] was saying, "Oh, I don't want to die,
24 I don't want to die", and I was a little girl of 6,
25 I would pull her bed to the window and say to her, "Oh

1 look at the sky, you'll be up there soon, you're very
2 lucky, you're going to heaven soon". Then she'd say to
3 me "I don't want to die when it's raining", and I'd say
4 to her, "The angels are having a bath".

5 And when they both died, we were saying --

6 [REDACTED] had we called [REDACTED] so we
7 all heard -- they were in the same dormitory as us in
8 the juniors, even though they were ill and dying and we
9 knew they were dying. We knew when she was dying and
10 the nuns came and wheeled her out and took her to the
11 cell and she died with all the nuns round her,
12 [REDACTED] as well.

13 But when they died we all saw them, we were very
14 happy, all jealous, we wanted to be like them. There
15 was no one crying, we thought it was a wonderful, happy
16 occasion; that is how mixed up we were.

17 Q. One thing you say about the girl you mentioned,

18 [REDACTED] you remember one of the older men going up
19 and kissing --

20 A. Yes, when they died the coffins went into church for
21 three days. I remember Mr Kelly -- he was there in the
22 convent with his wife -- went up and kissed [REDACTED]
23 and I thought to myself, that's the first kiss she's
24 ever had.

25 Q. So do I understand from that that love and affection

1 were --

2 A. There was no kisses or cuddling or anything, really.

3 None of that. We never held each other's hands or
4 anything. What strange people we were.

5 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, that's 11.30.

6 A. Oh sorry.

7 LADY SMITH: Please don't apologise, Cathie; that's not
8 a criticism of you.

9 MR MacAULAY: I am nearly at the end, but it probably would
10 help if we had a short break --

11 LADY SMITH: Yes.

12 MR MacAULAY: -- and we'll come back after the break.

13 LADY SMITH: We'll have a break now, Cathie, and start again
14 at 11.45.

15 (11.30 am)

16 (A short break)

17 (11.48 am)

18 MR MacAULAY: Cathie, you told us already about the physical
19 chastisement you had when you were at school,
20 particularly I think from the maths teacher. Did you --
21 was there any physical chastisement of you when you were
22 in the convent?

23 A. No, never.

24 Q. Just to be clear in relation to other girls --

25 A. Excuse me. Physical chastisement, I did get slapped

1 in the babies -- I've put that in the report.

2 Q. Yes. You have that recollection. But into the junior
3 and senior section?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Nothing?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Leaving aside your sister and what happened to her with
8 Sister [REDACTED] LKT and other lay staff, did you see any
9 girls getting physically chastised for doing anything,
10 particularly in the junior and senior sections?

11 A. Not by the nuns, apart from the one I've reported. But
12 by the senior girls, yes, but it was just a quick slap,
13 usually, from the senior girls.

14 Q. Can I then take you to when you came to leave
15 Nazareth House Cardonald. I think what you tell us in
16 your statement is that when you were 16, you went to
17 London.

18 A. Mm-hm.

19 Q. What was the background to that?

20 A. Mother [REDACTED] LGE wanted to know what I wanted to do with
21 my life. I had no idea. She recommended either
22 teaching or nursing, because she said I came from
23 a family, especially my father, who'd been a graduate of
24 Glasgow University. I had no idea but she suggested
25 I go to a school in Finchley and stay in a hostel in

1 [REDACTED] This I did, and amazingly, because
2 no one at the school knew anything about my background,
3 I seemed to blossom and managed to get eight O levels
4 in the one year I was there.

5 So then, coming to Mother [REDACTED] LGE [REDACTED] she said,
6 "I think you should go into nursing, [REDACTED] because all
7 the girls going into nursing at that time were away from
8 home so you'll all be in the same boat as it were". It
9 was very sound advice and I flourished then and never
10 looked back. But I have never, ever returned or seen
11 the Nazareth House where I was brought up.
12 I deliberately shun it.

13 Q. I'll just come on to that in a moment. Before I do,
14 Mother [REDACTED] LGE [REDACTED] did say to you that you were a clever
15 girl.

16 A. Yes, the first time in my life anybody told me that.

17 Q. Was that after you had left the home?

18 A. No, before.

19 Q. So far as nursing is concerned, I think you tell us that
20 you trained at the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. As you've just said, you blossomed. I think you were
23 top of the class or thereabouts during your training;
24 is that correct?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. I think you tell us, without looking at the detail, that
2 you got married.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And you worked in particular, for example, as a private
5 nurse --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- in London for a while?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. In that capacity, you came across what we would call
10 today celebrities?

11 A. Yes, I was so shut off from life in the big world in the
12 convent, I had never heard of [REDACTED] or
13 [REDACTED] two of the people I nursed in London,
14 which was amazing. People said, "Where have you been
15 all your life?" That's what the reaction used to be.

16 Q. You also worked for the World Health Organisation.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And that meant you travelled?

19 A. Yes, I did.

20 Q. You have mentioned your brother on a number of
21 occasions, Cathie, and in particular that he did not go
22 into Cardonald with you. But he did end up in another
23 institution?

24 A. Yes, he ended up in Bellevue, which I never visited, and
25 although I went into the convent, in my understanding at

1 3, I didn't meet up with my brother until I was 9, nine
2 years later, when Mother [REDACTED] LGE [REDACTED] said all the children
3 with brothers and sisters separated should meet.

4 We all met in the big parlour and it was then my
5 brother told me that he was in Bellevue. He also told
6 me that he hated my father and would have nothing to do
7 with him because I said to him, "Why didn't you come to
8 his funeral?" He said he had a choice whereas we had no
9 choice. He just blames my father for what happened to
10 us. He thinks, as an educated man, he ought to have
11 done something different, especially as he had five
12 brothers.

13 Q. Did your brother then or at any time give you any
14 insight as to how life was for him in the home?

15 A. Yes. Like me, he refuses to talk about it, completely,
16 but he did say to me that he once saw a beating of a boy
17 in Bellevue. He did say the boy did something and
18 he was given 76 -- he actually counted them -- 76
19 whackings with a stick in Bellevue. He did tell me
20 that. But he refuses completely to speak about his --
21 he was evidently -- the doctor at the place recognised
22 him and he introduced him to, what's the man's name now,
23 Mr [REDACTED], and this Mr [REDACTED] sort of adopted him and saw
24 him through university. So he must have been a good
25 man. He left Bellevue at 15 and was with this Mr [REDACTED].

1 Q. I think you tell us a little bit him, he's still alive,
2 but he is ill moment?

3 A. Yes, he is ill. He has Parkinson's disease and he
4 wanted me to come to Scotland again, you know. Now
5 we're living our second childhood.

6 Q. So you are in touch with him?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Just this arrangement by Mother [REDACTED] whereby you met
9 siblings, in particular boys, did she have a particular
10 view in relation to siblings being separated?

11 A. Well, evidently it must have been that because it
12 happened with her, under her guidance, and there were so
13 many of us. We found some of our brothers were in the
14 same homes together; other boys were in Bellevue.

15 Q. What you say in paragraph 83 of your statement -- and
16 I'll quote that -- it will come on the screen in a
17 moment:

18 "Mother [REDACTED] [although I think her name was
19 [REDACTED]] thought it was scandal us that boys and girls
20 were separated."

21 Is that --

22 A. She did. I remember writing to my brother when I was 5,
23 writing to him, with the help of Sister Francis, but he
24 never received the letter that I sent, which was awful.

25 Q. Let's go back to your own position then, Cathie, and in

1 particular what impact you think having been in
2 Nazareth House may have had on you and your life.

3 A. Well, the biggest impact is that I absolutely refuse to
4 discuss my childhood. You know, just recently I've now
5 spoken about it, but it is something you hid, a big
6 disgrace, as it were, to have been brought up in such
7 circumstances. But it's given me great independence and
8 also I feel: where would I be without the nuns? No one
9 cared for us except these nuns. No one helped the nuns.
10 The general public did absolutely nothing, except
11 saying, "Poor wee things", wherever we went. I feel
12 I have a great grudge against the public just saying,
13 "Out of sight, out of mind", because that's what
14 happened. The poor nuns worked so hard and I say to
15 myself: where would I be today without their care?

16 It's given me a great sense of independence. I'm
17 able to travel the world because I've got no one hanging
18 on to me, no other people in the family to worry about.
19 I've always been free to go anywhere in the world
20 I like: Japan, India, China. I just go on my own and
21 it's given me this great sense of independence. It's
22 given me a great sense, a love of music, it's given me
23 a great love of books. It's done a lot of good to me
24 and I feel the nuns should be thanked for what they have
25 done.

1 Q. But you have told us on one or two occasions that you've
2 never been back to Nazareth House?

3 A. No, because I'm ashamed to think that was where I was
4 brought up and I've never, ever been back. I refuse to
5 go back and I think the fact that I haven't been back
6 has led to my success in the world. My sister kept
7 going back. What good did it do her? Nothing. She
8 kept dreaming of the past. I think you have to put it
9 out of your mind and enjoy every day as it comes.

10 Q. In paragraph 115, you say there -- you are talking about
11 your son -- that he once told you that he was lucky
12 because he had a wonderful childhood.

13 A. Yes, amazing. I'll tell you that incident. I was in
14 [REDACTED] -- my son's in [REDACTED] -- and he was living with
15 a doctor friend at the time, and the doctor was telling
16 me how his childhood was ruined and he said, "I nearly
17 committed suicide at 16". I said, "Whatever for,
18 [REDACTED]", and he said, "My parents divorced", and then my
19 son just automatically said, "Oh, I've had a very, very
20 lucky childhood, a wonderful childhood", and it was
21 nice. I didn't ask him what he thought of his
22 childhood; it came naturally to him.

23 Q. I think in that paragraph what you're doing is comparing
24 and contrasting that to your own position, because you
25 go on to say that you would describe your childhood as

1 a "non-childhood".

2 A. Yes, I would.

3 Q. Why?

4 A. I didn't do the things that normal children do. We
5 never complained we didn't want anything to eat, never
6 complained when we were ill, never complained that
7 I wanted to go somewhere. We just did everything we
8 were told. Everything was arranged for us. There was
9 no choice at all, whereas my son had lots of choices.

10 Q. If we look then to your final thoughts, Cathie, at
11 paragraphs 117 onwards, you've already mentioned the
12 nuns and the fact that you want to say that they had to
13 put up with hardship as well.

14 A. Yes. To me, it's a disgrace that these few nuns looked
15 after so many children with no, as far as I know, extra
16 help from the public. We just came in to be seen as if
17 they're visiting a zoo, the animals in a zoo. That's
18 the way it was to me. Because when we saw any other
19 child coming into the convent, you know, with parents,
20 that child was so confident and we always say, "Oh,
21 spoilt little thing", and yet it was a normal thing and
22 they were living not what we were living. It was an
23 abnormal childhood.

24 Q. You mention Sister LKT again in paragraph 118. She
25 was dreadfully cruel, is what you say.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. There do you have in mind what happened to your sister
3 or --

4 A. Yes. Sister [REDACTED] LKT was very fond of me and specialised
5 in helping me, you know, like in the music, she'd always
6 have me to turn the pages for her. She was a brilliant,
7 brilliant musician, and a wonderful person to my
8 thinking, but evidently she had a temper to go with it.

9 Q. What you say in 119 is that you think children should be
10 kept out of institutions.

11 A. Yes. Definitely. I feel the more I live, I feel no
12 matter how bad the family is, the children should keep
13 in contact with their family, but help should be given
14 within the family to change the bad situation that
15 they're in. I feel institutions are dreadful and
16 I would think no child should have such an upbringing
17 because the individuality doesn't come out of the child,
18 the talents the child has. There's no hope of these
19 talents being revealed in such an institution, like, for
20 example, the people who were great gymnasts, no
21 development, great athletes, no development. I saw all
22 this here -- and even myself, I feel if I'd been in
23 a normal home I'd have gone on to university and got
24 a degree. I wasn't developed, no one was developed
25 potentially, because when you came out, you had all

1 these disadvantages and you could only think of the
2 disadvantages.

3 Q. As you've said already, I think, your view is that the
4 nuns were overworked.

5 A. Definitely. They had no help. I mean, it would drive
6 me mad if I had to look after children from 5 o'clock
7 in the morning until 9 o'clock at night. Just this one
8 nun getting -- oh, a dreadful life, a dreadful life.
9 I think what they have done is marvellous for society
10 because they took the load of society. Society did not
11 want us, no one wanted us; but the nuns took us.

12 Q. And I suppose as you say, you can't take hundreds of
13 children in and be mother to them all --

14 A. No.

15 Q. -- and love them all?

16 A. No, you can't. As I say, they did their best not to
17 specialise, show anybody any special treatment. We were
18 all uniform. But it was wrong.

19 MR MacAULAY: Cathie, thank you for coming today to give
20 your evidence. In asking you the questions I've asked
21 you, I've also put to you questions that I've been asked
22 to put to you.

23 My Lady, I don't know if there are to be any more
24 questions for Cathie.

25 LADY SMITH: Let me check whether there are any outstanding

1 applications for questions. Are there? No.

2 Cathie, thank you so much. It has been a long
3 morning for you, I'm sure it's been very tiring, but I'm
4 really grateful to you, both for providing the written
5 statement that has so much detail in it and coming along
6 to talk to us about your experiences this morning. I'm
7 now able to let you go.

8 A. Do you want really to listen to the Victoriana treatment
9 that I had?

10 LADY SMITH: Oh yes.

11 A. We have moved on, thank goodness.

12 LADY SMITH: It's very important that we understand the full
13 history of the way children have been cared for in
14 institutions as much as we can learn from people who are
15 still around.

16 A. It's not so much the being there; it's the disgrace it
17 leaves you with. You know, that doesn't come out. Who
18 else wanted us?

19 LADY SMITH: Yes. Thank you.

20 A. Thank you.

21 (The witness withdrew)

22 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

23 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is an applicant and
24 she wants to remain anonymous and to use the name
25 "Margaret" in giving her evidence.

1 "MARGARET" (affirmed)

2 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.

3 Margaret, it has been shown to you that that microphone
4 is now on. You'll find it really helps you to be heard
5 and it helps us to hear you. Can you make sure that you
6 stay in the right position for it? It's very easy to
7 drift backwards in a chair that's on wheels.

8 A. Yes.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you. I'll pass over to Mr MacAulay for
10 questions.

11 Questions from MR MacAULAY

12 MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, Margaret.

13 A. Good afternoon.

14 Q. I don't want to know your date of birth, but just to get
15 your year of birth: were you born in 1943?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. In front of you in the red folder you'll find the
18 statement that you provided to the inquiry.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I'm going to give the reference of that for the
21 transcript: WIT.001.001.6847. If I can ask you to turn
22 to the very last page, that is 6860, can I ask you,
23 Margaret, to confirm that you have signed the statement?

24 A. I have.

25 Q. If you look at the last paragraph, do you say:

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

3 Is that correct?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. Do you go on to say:

6 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
7 statement are true"?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. Can I go back then and just touch briefly on your life
10 before you went into care, because we're going to look
11 at what happened when you went into Nazareth House in
12 Cardonald. What you tell us in your statement is that,
13 generally, you remember a stable and happy family life.

14 A. Yes, I do.

15 Q. But do you also tell us that your mother suffered from
16 TB?

17 A. That's right. I believe it was called consumption in
18 those days, but I think it was TB.

19 Q. So what happened then so far as she was concerned?

20 A. I recall her being sick a lot of the time and she
21 eventually was --

22 LADY SMITH: Margaret, could I invite you just to come a bit
23 nearer that microphone? I'm sorry we can't pull the
24 microphone any further forward.

25 A. She eventually went into hospital and I believe that's

1 when we were then taken to Nazareth House.

2 MR MacAULAY: Do you remember going to Nazareth House?

3 A. I remember we went to Ireland first of all and being
4 taken from there to Nazareth House with my sister.

5 Q. Who took you there?

6 A. My father.

7 Q. Did you think that you were going there for a while or
8 what was your understanding at the time as to what the
9 position was?

10 A. I don't actually recall.

11 Q. According to the records that we've seen from the
12 Sisters of Nazareth, it suggested you were admitted to
13 Nazareth House Cardonald on [REDACTED] 1950.

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. Aged about 7; would that be about right?

16 A. Yes, I'd just turned 7.

17 Q. You left, according to those records, on
18 [REDACTED] 1959.

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. When you were 16?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So you were there for quite a considerable number of
23 years?

24 A. Uh-huh.

25 Q. That's the position?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. You mentioned your sister. I think that was an older
3 sister; is that correct?
- 4 A. Yes, she was a couple of years older.
- 5 Q. And did she go with you to Nazareth House?
- 6 A. Yes, she did.
- 7 Q. Do you remember your first day at Nazareth House?
- 8 A. I remember we arrived when there was a meal being taken;
9 I believe it was dinner. We were sat down with the
10 other children and given a meal. The rest I'm afraid is
11 blank.
- 12 Q. Do you remember early on meeting particular nuns that
13 would be involved with you during your time at the --
- 14 A. The first nun I met was a nun called Sister [REDACTED] FAF .
- 15 Q. Any other nuns that you remember?
- 16 A. No. Eventually, probably a week afterwards,
17 a Sister [REDACTED] LFH was the one that looked after me and
18 the other children in that particular group.
- 19 Q. When you arrived there, or shortly after, were you given
20 a number?
- 21 A. I was.
- 22 Q. When you were being addressed by a nun, how would you be
23 addressed?
- 24 A. Often it was numbers called out if they wanted to
25 discuss something with you, or by my name.

- 1 Q. Would it be a first name or a second name?
- 2 A. It would be the full name normally.
- 3 Q. Just to get some understanding of the set-up at
4 Nazareth House, we understand that, apart from the home
5 for the children, there was also what we would refer to
6 as an old folks' home within the building; is that
7 right?
- 8 A. There was. They were on the middle floor of the
9 building and there was also a nursery on the ground
10 floor for babies.
- 11 Q. Yes. But the rest of the building then, was it divided
12 into particular parts for particular age groups of
13 children?
- 14 A. It must have been, because having been there, I don't
15 recall spending any time at all with my sister. I don't
16 recall ever seeing her or being with her.
- 17 Q. You were aged 7 when you got there?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. And she would have been, what, about 9?
- 20 A. Nine, yes.
- 21 Q. So were you in with a particular group of girls then?
- 22 A. Yes, uh-huh.
- 23 Q. Was she obviously --
- 24 A. She must have been, I presume so.
- 25 Q. We have heard in evidence about there being a junior

1 section and a senior section; is that the way you saw
2 it?

3 A. Yes. That's the way I saw it, yes.

4 Q. So were you then, when you were 7, in the junior section
5 of children?

6 A. Uh-huh.

7 Q. And did you move into a senior section?

8 A. I don't even recall that, actually, because if that did
9 happen, I still never came in contact with my sister.
10 So I'm not quite sure how those sections were divided,
11 whether it was age or numbers.

12 Q. But so far as you were concerned, let's call it your
13 group, was it Sister [REDACTED] LFH that was in charge of your
14 group?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. How many girls were in the group?

17 A. It's very difficult for me to -- I really can't recall,
18 but it seemed quite a lot at the time, and on reflection
19 I would have thought about 30, but that's just a figure
20 off the top of my head.

21 Q. Did you have any contact with the old people, the old
22 folks when you were there?

23 A. We saw them in church because they often sat at the
24 front of the church. There were occasions -- our
25 bedrooms were at the top of the building and the old

1 people slept on the floor below, and quite often you'd
2 get them coming up, I presume they were fairly demented,
3 walking along through our bedrooms, sort of calling out.

4 Q. Okay. Let's look at your bedrooms.

5 A. They were dormitories.

6 Q. Can you describe them for us?

7 A. Yes. They were just rows of beds in straight rows, all
8 facing in one direction.

9 Q. How many in a particular room?

10 A. I would have thought about 30.

11 Q. So if you were in a group of 30, do you reckon that you
12 were all there in the same dormitory?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. How many dormitories were there; can you remember?

15 A. There were four I remember: two at one end of the
16 building and two at the other end of the building.

17 Q. Can I then look for a little while with you at the
18 routine during the period that you were there. Let's
19 start with the morning routine. What happened in the
20 morning?

21 A. In the morning Sister **LFH** would come in and clap her
22 hands, and that was time to wake and get up.

23 Q. What time would that be about?

24 A. I would have thought round about 6.30/7.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. Often we then would meet in one of the dormitories,
2 everyone would gather for morning prayers. When I say
3 everyone, I presume it was just my group. We went into
4 a certain dormitory -- again, I don't recall seeing my
5 sister anywhere within that group. So there must have
6 been some divide at that stage as well.

7 Morning prayers were said and then we'd go back to
8 the dormitory and get dressed and often there was Mass
9 in the morning. Not every morning, maybe -- always on
10 a Sunday, obviously, and maybe one or two days a week.

11 Q. Then would there be breakfast?

12 A. Then there would be breakfast, yes.

13 Q. I'll come to look at schooling in a moment. Let's move
14 ahead to bedtime.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So far as bedtime was concerned, was there a particular
17 time for bedtime?

18 A. There was, yes. There were two evenings when we had
19 Irish dancing and Scottish country dancing. I think
20 that went on until about 8 o'clock and then we went up
21 and washed and got to bed.

22 Q. Did your bedtime change as you got older?

23 A. No, I don't recall that at all.

24 Q. Okay. Washing and bathing, can I ask about that: what's
25 your recollection of the arrangements there?

1 A. There was a big washroom with sinks up the middle and
2 either side and we washed there with, you know, soap and
3 a flannel. It was called a full, you know, overall
4 wash. Often we had to go up and be checked that we were
5 clean with our hands out.

6 Q. And if you weren't?

7 A. Got a whack.

8 Q. From whom?

9 A. The nun who was there.

10 Q. Would that be --

11 A. **LFH**.

12 Q. Would it be her or --

13 A. It would be her, yes.

14 Q. Perhaps I should have asked you this before. You say
15 Sister **LFH** was in charge of your group?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Were there any other adults?

18 A. I think there were a couple of older adults there.

19 I don't know, I seem to recall they were called **LKL**
20 My memory is very vague and I presume through my
21 childhood there was a lot of stuff that I didn't take
22 much note of, sort of just ...

23 Q. But getting a whack --

24 A. There's a lot that I don't recall. I think I must have
25 just shut it out of my mind. I seem to have gone

1 through my childhood in a sort of cloud.

2 Q. Getting the whack from Sister [REDACTED] LFH if you weren't
3 clean enough --

4 A. That's right, yes.

5 Q. -- what was that, what was the whack?

6 A. Just across the head.

7 Q. Can you tell --

8 A. Just a slap.

9 Q. Would you be required to go back then?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And would you be checked again?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Over the period, how often did that happen to you?

14 A. Not very often, but it did happen. I wouldn't say it
15 was a daily occurrence, but it certainly happened. It
16 was usually one or two that it happened to on those
17 examinations.

18 Q. And baths then. You also had baths as well?

19 A. We did have baths, yes. There were four baths in the
20 one room and we basically were lined up to be bathed and
21 the baths were filled with water and we went in one
22 after the other. We were given a sort of sheet, it was,
23 rather than a towel, put round us when we got out and
24 a towel to dry. And we just lined up and went in one
25 after the other into the bath. I unfortunately wet the

1 bed when I was young, so -- when I was a child, so
2 we were always at the end of the queue.

3 Q. It was the same water that --

4 A. It was the same water.

5 Q. Did you say there were four baths?

6 A. There were four baths there, yes.

7 Q. So if you divide the baths up into the numbers --

8 A. That's right.

9 Q. -- whatever the numbers may be?

10 A. That's right.

11 Q. And by the time you then got in --

12 A. It was pretty cold.

13 Q. You tell us that Jeyes fluid was used in the bath.

14 A. Yes, yes.

15 LADY SMITH: Why? Do you know?

16 A. I presume -- it was a disinfectant. It wasn't
17 unpleasant, actually, it rather a nice smell and it had
18 a kind of a pinky colour. I think it was used regularly
19 in those days for -- I presume it was --

20 LADY SMITH: I think in the early 20th century it was used
21 to bath people suffering from scarlet fever.

22 A. I didn't know that. But they used it regularly for us
23 and it was used in our hair washing as well.

24 MR MacAULAY: On hair washing, what was the procedure with
25 regard to hair washing?

1 A. Again we lined up. There was a room alongside the
2 refectory where -- there were sinks there and we had our
3 hair washed there. We all had very long hair.

4 Q. Was there a process whereby you were examined to see if
5 you had nits?

6 A. That was usually done at school and I invariably got
7 a letter to say that I had nits and lice in my hair.

8 Q. What would happen then if --

9 A. That was pretty serious.

10 Q. In what way?

11 A. We were put aside, they used a fine comb, a little steel
12 comb with -- I'm trying to think of the word. They put
13 that through your hair.

14 LADY SMITH: I think the combs had very fine teeth, close
15 together.

16 A. That's the word I'm looking for, yes.

17 LADY SMITH: And to get the nits you'd have to comb from
18 right next to the scalp and pull the comb along the hair
19 shaft because that's the only way to get them off.

20 A. That's correct, yes.

21 MR MacAULAY: Is that what would happen to you?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And who would do that?

24 A. That would be done -- when I came home from school that
25 was the first thing that was done, either one of the

1 girls was assigned to do it, someone else who I presume
2 had the same problem.

3 Q. Would anything happen to you, that simply would be it,
4 your hair would be combed and --

5 A. That's right, yes. And that was a daily occurrence
6 until it was found to be clean. The nun would then come
7 and check, you know, put a comb through your hair and
8 part it and check if there was anything there.

9 Q. If she was satisfied then, would that be the end of the
10 process?

11 A. That would be, yes. Yes.

12 Q. You also tell us that you had chores to do.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Can you just give me some idea as to what chores.

15 A. They were done after breakfast. There were quite a lot
16 of long corridors, red-tiled corridors, and we scrubbed
17 them on our hands and knees with a bucket of water and
18 scrubbing brush.

19 There were toilets, there was washing-up to do, the
20 usual -- that sort of stuff. Polishing floors if they
21 were wooden.

22 Q. Were there other people there, like cleaners, who did
23 that?

24 A. No, no. We did that.

25 Q. Just looking at lay staff, were you conscious of there

1 being lay staff?

2 A. No. We did all the cleaning ourselves.

3 Q. Can I ask you about the food: how did you find the food?

4 A. It was palatable.

5 Q. Did you have to eat all the food?

6 A. We did, yes.

7 Q. Would anything happen if you did not?

8 A. I don't recall that, to be honest.

9 Q. Did you ever --

10 A. I presume that we were made to eat it, but I don't
11 recall what happened if someone didn't eat it. I seem
12 to remember most people ate their food.

13 Q. Did you ever witness anyone being made to eat their
14 food?

15 A. No, no.

16 Q. Let's look then at the schooling situation. Was there
17 an in-house school that you went to?

18 A. There must have been because I recall -- although
19 I don't remember formal lessons, there was quite a lot
20 of Bible reading, the New Testament, but I recall being
21 sent out to school. I presume it was the Local
22 Authority that said that we had to go out. I don't know
23 if that's the truth or not, but that's -- in my mind
24 that's what happened. I went out to primary school at
25 age 9, I believe.

1 Q. Before that, can you remember what schooling you had?

2 A. I think we all just sat together. I seem to remember
3 sitting on the floor and maybe -- it was mainly Bible
4 lessons I recall. I don't recall arithmetic or English
5 or the standard subjects being taught. That's in my
6 mind though, I don't know whether that's actually ...

7 Q. That's your recollection?

8 A. That's my recollection, yes.

9 Q. When you did start to go to school at 9 then that was
10 a local primary school?

11 A. That's right, yes.

12 Q. And how did you find school?

13 A. There were two, three of us in the class, and we were
14 obviously called the convent girls. I had a teacher
15 called Miss Campbell, who wasn't the kindest of
16 teachers, but we started to learn there.

17 Q. Did you make friends at school outwith the convent?

18 A. No. No.

19 Q. Any reason why not?

20 A. Not really. It just wasn't encouraged. I guess we sort
21 of stuck together -- I mean we must have all stood out
22 like a sore thumb because we all had long pleated hair.
23 We wore a uniform and I suspect it was the long hair and
24 the ribbons in them that made us stand out as convent
25 girls.

1 Q. Was long hair the --

2 A. It was the norm.

3 Q. -- norm within the convent for the girls?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Did you say that there would be ribbons, the hair would
6 be pleated with ribbons?

7 A. It was always pleated, yes.

8 Q. What about secondary school, as you got older? I think
9 you went to a secondary school as well.

10 A. I did, yes. I spent a term at a grammar school in
11 Glasgow because there was a new secondary modern school
12 being built alongside the convent, which I presume was
13 in one of their fields which they'd sold, I presume.
14 There was a school being built there and once it was
15 built I then attended that school. It was called
16 a secondary modern.

17 Q. Was that Our Lady of Lourdes school?

18 A. That's right, yes.

19 Q. You also tell us in your statement about holidays and
20 other trips. Did you have holidays and trips?

21 A. Yes, we went to Aberdeen each year up to the convent
22 there and they likewise came down to Glasgow.

23 Q. For how long would you be in Aberdeen?

24 A. Again, it's a bit vague. I presume a couple of weeks,
25 maybe a week or a couple of weeks.

- 1 Q. Did you enjoy that?
- 2 A. Not really.
- 3 Q. Why?
- 4 A. I was often sick on the bus going up there. We went to
5 Aberdeen on a bus. We had sandwiches, invariably egg.
6 I don't know if you know about the smell of egg
7 sandwiches, not very pleasant. I was often sick. When
8 we got there, we were taken to the beach. It didn't
9 matter whether it was sun or rain. I don't mean rain,
10 but sun or cold. And we were left to the beach to play.
- 11 Q. Did you have nuns to supervise you?
- 12 A. There were nuns there, yes.
- 13 Q. Did the nuns travel with you from Cardonald?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. If you take a look at Sister [LFH], for example, was
16 she --
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Throughout your time at Cardonald, just to jump ahead
19 a bit, did Sister [LFH] remain in charge of you
20 throughout that whole period?
- 21 A. Right to the end, yes.
- 22 Q. You mentioned Sister [FAF] earlier.
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Did you have much to do with her?
- 25 A. No, no.

- 1 Q. Do you know if she was in charge of another group?
- 2 A. I think she was in charge of my sister's group.
- 3 Q. You tell us in paragraph 22 of your statement that you
- 4 did learn to play the violin.
- 5 A. I did, yes.
- 6 Q. Can you tell me about that? How did that come about?
- 7 A. We were chosen -- I sang quite a lot. We sung in the
- 8 choir and my sister and I, and I don't know why this
- 9 came about, we were often called out to sing together if
- 10 visitors came.
- 11 Q. So although you didn't see much of her --
- 12 A. That's right, on those occasions, we seemed to be all
- 13 together. And we were often called out to sing, both of
- 14 us together. I guess because I had a good singing
- 15 voice, I was chosen to play the violin along with --
- 16 there must have been about five of us, no more than
- 17 that.
- 18 Q. So do I take it then that you must have had tuition
- 19 in the violin?
- 20 A. Yes, there was a teacher came in and taught us.
- 21 LADY SMITH: Came into the school or came to the convent?
- 22 A. Came to the convent.
- 23 MR MacAULAY: How often did that happen?
- 24 A. Every week.
- 25 Q. Was that something that went on throughout your time

1 in the convent?

2 A. It must have started -- it wasn't when I was at primary
3 school, so later on, probably when I was 13 or 14.

4 Q. Looking at the position generally, was music encouraged
5 in the convent?

6 A. It was encouraged in that respect. The choir -- there
7 was a very good choir and we used to often go out to the
8 local church and sing there for Mass and so on. And the
9 dancing, of course. We were taken to competitions for
10 Irish dancing and Scottish country dancing.

11 Q. Were you successful?

12 A. Yes. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: Can I just take you back a few minutes ago.

14 You were talking about having gone to the grammar school
15 for a couple of terms or so. Do you remember doing an
16 exam that enabled you to get into the grammar school.

17 A. I did, yes. They were called -- there was the S grades,
18 which were the top grades, and then there were the
19 J grades, and I believe I got a J1 -- I mean a J2.
20 There was J1, J2 and J3, and I got a J2 and I went to
21 the grammar school for just one term.

22 LADY SMITH: Why were you moved from the grammar school to
23 a secondary modern school which, as I understand it, was
24 where children went who hadn't achieved the necessary
25 grades for grammar school?

1 A. It was right next door to the convent. I presume that
2 was for convenience's sake. I was the only one who went
3 to the grammar school. I travelled there on my own.

4 LADY SMITH: Did anyone explain to you why you were changing
5 to the new school?

6 A. No. No.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 MR MacAULAY: Can I ask you about birthdays: were birthdays
9 celebrated in any way?

10 A. I was born on [REDACTED] and, for those of you that know
11 anything about [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED] I spent most of my birthday out washing
13 down the statue of Mary in the grounds [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED]

15 Q. I think --

16 A. No, birthdays weren't celebrated by anyone.

17 Q. What about Christmas?

18 A. I remember there was a shop in Glasgow called Lewis'
19 where we sometimes went, not all of us, but in groups,
20 you were chosen to go there, and they sort of held
21 a party and you got a little toy, I think, from there.

22 Q. So that was --

23 A. That was about it.

24 Q. If you were chosen to go, then that would be the
25 position?

- 1 A. That's right, yes. Otherwise it was just another day,
2 really, with a sort of Mass. It was all about the
3 religion then.
- 4 Q. You've already told us that you and your sister were
5 separated and would meet, as you've indicated, on the
6 occasions that you were called upon to sing, for
7 example.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. There was only a two-year difference --
- 10 A. That's right, yes.
- 11 Q. -- but throughout your whole time in the convent, did
12 that then remain the position?
- 13 A. It did. But later on, as I got older and as she got
14 older, she worked in the convent in the parlour, she was
15 basically the parlourmaid.
- 16 Q. Would that be after school?
- 17 A. That must have been when she finished school.
- 18 Q. And did that --
- 19 A. Then I saw a bit more of her then because, you know, as
20 we passed, she was around and she would sort of call me
21 in and just see how I was, really. Give me a bit of
22 cake that was hanging around.
- 23 Q. So you had that sort of contact later on?
- 24 A. I had that contact much later on, yes.
- 25 Q. If I can ask you about visits, I think you say that your

1 father did come to visit you.

2 A. He did, yes. Yes.

3 Q. Was he a regular visitor up until a point in time?

4 A. There was visitation every month, the first Sunday of
5 every month. That's what the visits took place.

6 I recall him coming, maybe three or four times, and then
7 it stopped.

8 Q. Do you know why it stopped?

9 A. I presumed it was because he was a Protestant. That
10 might just have been in my childish mind because we were
11 taught that they were not the best people to be mixing
12 with.

13 Q. Do you know what happened to him?

14 A. I don't know what happened.

15 Q. I think you say in your statement that you thought you
16 may have been 8 years of age when he paid his last
17 visit.

18 A. Yes, I think so, yes.

19 Q. But he brought you a gift at that time?

20 A. Yes, he brought me a little prayer book that was my
21 mother's. He gave my sister an LP, of all things, of
22 Mario Lanza singing the Ave Maria.

23 Q. What about other relatives? Did other relatives come to
24 visit?

25 A. Yes, they did. I had aunts who were living in Paisley

1 and they came visiting, two or three of them.

2 Q. What about what we might call nowadays a social worker?

3 Do you recall any visits from --

4 A. No.

5 Q. -- that sort of individual?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Can I look at some aspects of the way you were treated

8 when you were in Nazareth House. You have already

9 mentioned that you were a bed-wetter.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Throughout your time in Nazareth House, how long did

12 that persist?

13 A. I think probably right until I went to secondary school.

14 Q. And what happened?

15 A. It was quite a regular occurrence.

16 Q. What would happen then if you'd wet the bed?

17 A. Well, the routine was that when you got up, often the

18 sheet would be put over your head, as you went into

19 prayers, and you just stood there while the prayers were

20 being said. Then you went to wash your sheets in the

21 room where we went to wash, actually. There were

22 a couple of bigger sinks at the end where we washed our

23 sheets, and then we hung them on what was called

24 a pulley to dry. If it was Mass after that, we went

25 down and waited by LFH desk where we got caned.

1 Q. Can I just take you back a bit: you said the sheets were
2 put on your head but did you put the sheets on your head
3 yourself or did someone --

4 A. No, they did, the nun did, [LFH] did.

5 Q. Sister [LFH] ?

6 A. Yes. It wasn't every time, but quite often.

7 Q. You were required to wash the sheet?

8 A. That's right, yes.

9 Q. What about your own nightclothes?

10 A. Yes, that as well, the nightdress as well.

11 Q. Can I just understand then, when did you go to see
12 Sister [LFH] afterwards?

13 A. It was just the routine that once you were either
14 finished with Mass or before breakfast, you went and
15 stood down by her -- there was a room, a big room, you
16 know, where we mainly assembled and had our playtime.
17 We stood there by her desk and there were usually two or
18 three of us. That was just the routine that you went
19 down and were caned.

20 Q. So you'd know, if you'd wet the bed, this was something
21 that would happen?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Can you just describe the caning for me?

24 A. She used a bamboo cane and you probably got about two or
25 three smacks on each hand. You knelt down on the floor

1 and you put your hands ... (Pause). And you were
2 caned two or three times on each hand.

3 Q. Okay. You used the word "viciously" in your statement;
4 is that how you remember it?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. So this would be a painful experience?

7 A. It was, yes. And I say vicious because I remember the
8 look on her face as well.

9 Q. What do you mean by that?

10 A. She looked vicious.

11 LADY SMITH: You said it was a bamboo cane, so is that the
12 sort of cane you might find in a garden being used for
13 plants?

14 A. Yes. I think it was probably a little bit thicker than
15 that.

16 LADY SMITH: Right. Of course, they come in different
17 thicknesses --

18 A. Yes.

19 LADY SMITH: -- but they've got a bit of bend in them --

20 A. That's right, yes.

21 LADY SMITH: -- so you can get a whip effect with the bamboo
22 cane.

23 A. Yes.

24 MR MacAULAY: You tell us, I think, that if you were
25 a bed-wetter, then you weren't allowed a drink at

1 night-time.

2 A. That's right, yes. Yes.

3 Q. Was there some process whereby there were drinks
4 available?

5 A. Especially after the dancing evenings. It was fairly
6 exhausting and you got very thirsty and they'd come down
7 with drinks -- squash, I presume it was -- but if you
8 were a bed-wetter, you didn't have one.

9 Then when you went up to wash, you always put the
10 stopper in the sink and turned the water on, and for
11 those of us that wet the bed, she'd come and rub a cake
12 of soap in it, I presume that was so you couldn't drink
13 it.

14 Q. Is that Sister **LFH**?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Another thing you mention is that if you were someone
17 who wet the bed, when you came back from school there
18 was a particular procedure that had to be followed?

19 A. Yes, they presumed then that you had wet your pants,
20 your knickers, and we had to go into a room, again
21 at the side of the dining room, and take them off and
22 someone would be there examining them.

23 Q. When you say someone, would that be not Sister **LFH**
24 but another person?

25 A. It was often one of those older girls, I think.

- 1 Q. And what would happen if --
- 2 A. If they were found to be wet or smelling you had to wash
3 them and do without your tea.
- 4 Q. Would you be caned if that happened?
- 5 A. I don't recall that, actually. I don't think so.
- 6 Q. You've been telling us then about your life as
7 a bed-wetter, which I think obviously, from what you've
8 said, went on for --
- 9 A. Quite a long time.
- 10 Q. -- a number of years.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And were there other -- I think you have mentioned there
13 were other girls who --
- 14 A. There were others, yes.
- 15 Q. So far as your group was concerned, was the treatment
16 the same?
- 17 A. Yes, yes.
- 18 Q. What about the girls who didn't wet the bed? Was there
19 anything that they did to humiliate you or --
- 20 A. No, I think most of the -- the humiliation came from
21 **LFH** and these older girls. You were obviously
22 considered lazy and dirty. Those were the words that
23 they used.
- 24 Q. Who were the older girls?
- 25 A. There was two of them, I recall. I think they were both

1 called LKL but other than that I don't recall who they
2 were, if they were just older girls who were in the
3 convent or they were people brought in. I think they
4 must have been older girls from the convent.

5 LADY SMITH: So they were working there, were they?

6 A. I'm not quite sure if they worked there or if they just
7 fell into that role. Maybe when they came back from
8 school or something.

9 MR MacAULAY: Can I ask you a bit more about discipline
10 in the convent generally. You say, first of all, in
11 your statement, there was a lot of silence.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Can you just elaborate on that? Where did you have to
14 be silent?

15 A. The dining room was one of the places. If you were
16 allowed to talk, it had to be at a certain level.
17 I recall if it got above that level we all had to stand
18 up with our hands above our head for quite a length of
19 time, directly up like this (indicating).

20 Q. You are indicating -- you are holding your hands up in
21 the air?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Would it be until such a time that your arms would get
24 tired?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And who made you do that?

2 A. That was Sister [LFH].

3 Q. And how often did this happen?

4 A. It happened a number of times.

5 Q. If you did something that was seen to be wrong, then how
6 was that dealt with?

7 A. It was the cane.

8 Q. What was the process for that?

9 A. It was waiting by her desk and she would come down and
10 cane you.

11 Q. So was it Sister [LFH] then who really did the caning?

12 A. Yes, she was the only one who did that.

13 Q. And the caning on all these occasions, was it a fairly
14 similar sort of situation whereby you'd kneel down?

15 A. You knelt on the ground, yes.

16 Q. And --

17 A. Put your hands out, yes.

18 Q. You tell us about one occasion when Sister [LFH] saw
19 you crying.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Obviously it seems to have stuck in your mind. What
22 happened on that occasion?

23 A. I don't recall what age I was, but I was upset and
24 I don't know why I was upset, maybe just feeling a bit
25 down. She saw me crying and asked me why I was crying,

1 and I said, "Nothing", like you do as a child. She took
2 me by the arm and there's a little scullery between the
3 kitchen and the dining room and she took me in there and
4 I knelt down again and she caned me until I told her why
5 I was crying. I think I eventually said to her I was
6 thinking of my father, but I don't know that that was
7 the real reason.

8 Q. But because of this caning, did it cause you a problem
9 when you went to school?

10 A. I had a gym lesson the next morning and in the gym
11 we were going along the -- up the parallel bars and the
12 teacher noticed that I was having trouble and looked at
13 my hands and took me aside into a room and asked me --
14 you know, I think she put some ointment or something on
15 them and asked me how it had happened, and I related to
16 her, and I basically sat in her office for the rest of
17 the lesson.

18 Q. Were your hands bruised?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So did you tell the teacher --

21 A. I told her what the situation was and how it had
22 happened, but I don't know how far that went.

23 Q. Did anything change when you went back to the convent?

24 A. No. No. I presume **LFH** was -- I don't know why she
25 thought that the crying was ... I really don't know

1 what she thought. Maybe that I was trying to hide
2 something or something that I'd done. Why she got so
3 angry ...

4 LADY SMITH: Did she lose her temper?

5 A. Oh yes, yes.

6 LADY SMITH: Did she lose her temper every time she caned
7 you?

8 A. She certainly always looked very vicious. It's not
9 until I'm an adult now, looking back, when I became an
10 adult, wondered why that would be the case, and I just
11 presumed that she was a very frustrated woman.

12 MR MacAULAY: You've told us already about the practice of
13 having long hair in plaits.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And did that provide a way for someone to be able to
16 pull your hair?

17 A. Oh yes, yes. That was one of the ways -- and of course
18 they pulled it up like this (indicating) so that it
19 really hurt the back of your neck.

20 Q. Sorry, you're pulling forwards, really?

21 A. Yes, they would pull the hair forward over your head as
22 a way to make you -- to hurt you.

23 Q. Who did that?

24 A. That was LFH again.

25 Q. How often did that happen?

1 A. Occasionally. I guess if you were doing something wrong
2 that she disapproved of, then it would happen.

3 Q. Did it happen to you?

4 A. It did, yes. I had very long hair, actually, and it was
5 very thick and strong.

6 Q. Did it happen to other children?

7 A. Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Was your hair in one plait or two?

9 A. In two. Always in two.

10 MR MacAULAY: You mention in your statement -- at
11 paragraph 43, the paragraph on the screen, you're
12 talking about the pulling of your hair, but you also say
13 in later years there was a nun called Sister [REDACTED] LFI .

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What do you tell us about her?

16 A. I saw her actually take a child by both plaits and swing
17 her round and round, in quite a big circle. She was in
18 a dreadful temper, [REDACTED] LFI was. I don't recall what
19 the child had done, but it stuck in my mind. It was
20 quite a fearful thing to watch.

21 Q. Was the child --

22 A. It was in the dining room.

23 Q. Do you know what age this child was?

24 A. I don't, actually. It was a lot of screams from her and
25 she was very distressed.

- 1 Q. Apart from that incident, did you see Sister [REDACTED] LFI
- 2 strike any other child or you?
- 3 A. I don't, actually. She came into the scene much later
- 4 on. She was around quite a bit -- just before I left
- 5 the convent, actually, so I presume she was brought in
- 6 to help look after the children.
- 7 Q. You also tell us about another incident, another girl
- 8 who you saw being beaten.
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Can you tell me about that?
- 11 A. It was upstairs in the dormitory corridors. She was an
- 12 older girl, she wasn't in a uniform, she was obviously
- 13 a girl who worked or worked there, had left school. She
- 14 was much older than we were.
- 15 Q. Was she a convent girl?
- 16 A. Yes, I believe she was. I remember the name, it stuck
- 17 in my mind, and the name I think I got from my sister
- 18 who told me that's who it was. This nun was giving her
- 19 a really bad beating in the corridor, again holding her
- 20 by the hair, and there was a crowd of us. I mean, this
- 21 woman was really making quite a racket, really quite
- 22 distressed, and we came out of the dormitories and
- 23 I could see that this was what was happening. It was
- 24 quite fearful.
- 25 Q. What was happening, what was the nun doing?

1 A. She was on the floor, the woman, and she was writhing
2 about, she wasn't kneeling, she was lying on the floor,
3 really, and this nun had her by the hair and was beating
4 her with her fist.

5 Q. How did this end?

6 A. We were all sent back to the dormitories and
7 pretended -- I didn't see what happened to the ... She
8 was a woman rather than a child.

9 Q. I think you told us already that you were not in the
10 same group as your sister, but you thought that
11 Sister [REDACTED] FAF was in charge of her group.

12 A. I believe that, yes.

13 Q. Do you know how your sister got on with
14 Sister [REDACTED] FAF?

15 A. Later on -- it was fairly brutal, like it was for myself
16 and the others there.

17 Q. Is that what she told you?

18 A. Yes. Yes.

19 Q. I think your sister has now died, I think?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. But you had some discussions with her?

22 A. Yes. Small periods of discussion, not any lengthy, long
23 discussion. She had a very severe drink problem.

24 Q. One thing you tell us is that you weren't allowed to
25 hold hands or make friends in the convent.

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. How was that message conveyed to you?
- 3 A. Well, we never did, so I presume we weren't allowed to.
- 4 I mean, it is the normal thing if children are playing
- 5 together to hold hands and walk along together, but
- 6 I don't recall -- and I never, ever made a friend.
- 7 I don't remember any friends. I remember people
- 8 being there and around us, but I don't remember any
- 9 nastiness from other children, though. I think we all
- 10 lived in slight fear.
- 11 Q. Can I then take you to when you came to leave
- 12 Nazareth House. I think you say you did well at school.
- 13 A. I did fairly well, yes.
- 14 Q. And you went to college?
- 15 A. Yes, I went to tailoring college.
- 16 Q. And when you were at tailoring college had you left the
- 17 convent?
- 18 A. No, I was still living there.
- 19 Q. But then was there a point in time when you went to work
- 20 in [REDACTED] I think you tell us about --
- 21 A. The shop was called [REDACTED] it was in Glasgow.
- 22 Q. I'm sorry. I think you tell us about an incident where
- 23 there was a couple that wanted to, as it were, take you
- 24 in.
- 25 A. Yes. I didn't know who they were. My first

1 introduction to that was Sister [LFH] calling me and
2 saying I was going to go and live with a couple in
3 Glasgow.

4 Q. And did you do that?

5 A. I did that, yes.

6 Q. How long --

7 A. I hadn't met them before or knew much about them.

8 I guess I was there for maybe three or four months.

9 That's my recollection. It might have been longer. It
10 might have even been less.

11 Q. And during that time, were you going back to the
12 convent?

13 A. No, I stayed there. I had basically left the convent.

14 Q. But at a point in time you got a message that the nuns
15 or a nun wanted to see you at the convent.

16 A. That's right, yes.

17 Q. What was the background to that?

18 A. Whilst I was at the college, my sister was still working
19 in the convent. Occasionally, in the evening, I would
20 go round and go in a side door -- it was a big long
21 building and there were two side entrances and her room
22 was on the first floor. It was a dormitory with about
23 six beds in it and I guess the older girls who worked
24 in the convent slept there and that's where she was at
25 that time of the evening.

1 A couple of times I went round to see her, didn't go
2 to the front door, just came in and walked up the stairs
3 on to the first floor and saw her. She was the first
4 one who gave me my first bra, and you know, she'd give
5 me little things, little presents. I'd go back to where
6 I was.

7 Then I got a call -- I was at work, I was working in
8 [REDACTED] at that time, to say that one of the nuns,
9 [REDACTED] LFH , wanted to see me at the convent. So I went
10 in the front door and [REDACTED] LFH was there, and she said,
11 "There's a car outside", it was a van, actually, "Get
12 into it, you're going to Bishopton". I duly went there.
13 I think back now why I went there without any questions
14 being asked, but I did. Looking back, I was probably
15 still under her control to a certain extent.

16 Q. What age are you now?

17 A. I had just turned 17 -- well, I was 17.

18 Q. What was the -- did you discover what the reasoning was?

19 A. I didn't discover that until I got to the Good Shepherd
20 Convent in Bishopton and I was told that I had stolen
21 a purse from someone in Nazareth House. I had been seen
22 going in the side door. The side door was exposed to
23 the whole of the refectory along -- you know, it wasn't
24 a sort of secretive little side door, it was quite a big
25 entrance. It was assumed that I had stolen this purse.

1 Q. Can I understand, what authority did Sister **LFH**

2 have?

3 A. Well, I haven't got a clue, I don't know that.

4 Of course I had no idea of my rights or the legality of
5 it.

6 Q. So what happened?

7 A. Well, I was taken to the Good Shepherd and I -- the nun
8 in charge there was a Mother Philip, her name was, and
9 I was taken to her office. She then told me why I was
10 brought there.

11 Q. What did you say to that?

12 A. I was absolutely flabbergasted. I obviously said,
13 "Well, obviously I didn't do it". Well, what happened,
14 one of the times -- the last time I went there to see my
15 sister, when I went into her dormitory, her bed was
16 stripped and she wasn't there. So I presumed then that
17 she'd left, which in fact was the case, and it was after
18 that that I got the call to come and see them and was
19 taken to Bishopton.

20 Q. What happened at Bishopton?

21 A. It was the making of me.

22 Q. Were you kept there?

23 A. I was kept there, yes. I presume it was what you would
24 call -- there was a mother and baby unit there,
25 I recall, mothers having babies out of wedlock. It was

1 probably called an approved school in its day, I think.

2 It wasn't called that, it was just called Bishopton
3 then. I sort of flourished there. I found kindness
4 there.

5 Q. But was it a place that you could come and go from or
6 were you --

7 A. No, no, you were there. You couldn't leave it.

8 Q. What authority was there to keep you there?

9 A. I don't know. I mean, I was pretty green at that stage
10 as regards my rights.

11 Q. But in any event --

12 A. And they didn't obviously explain.

13 Q. Did you tell the sister in charge, Mother Philip, what
14 had been happening to you at --

15 A. I did, yes. She actually asked and seemed absolutely
16 shocked when I told her about, you know, the beatings
17 and how we lived there.

18 Q. I think your sister in fact did appear there.

19 A. She came, yes, to visit me and she was dreadfully upset.
20 She thought that was the end of me, I guess. But in
21 fact, I flourished there.

22 Q. And how did that happen?

23 A. There was a wonderful choir there, there was a wonderful
24 music -- a nun who taught music there. There was a nun
25 who knew the composer Cordalis and had a piece written

1 for us to sing at a competition. There was an orchestra
2 there made up of nuns and children and I was in that,
3 I was the lead violin in that.

4 Q. How long were you there for?

5 A. I think it was probably a year. I don't think it was
6 longer than that.

7 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, looking at the clock, it's just after
8 1 o'clock. I haven't far to go with Margaret, but it's
9 probably a useful time to have a break.

10 LADY SMITH: If we had a break now -- I wonder if maybe we
11 could start again at 1.50. Would that suit you,
12 Margaret, if we did that, to give you a break between
13 now and then?

14 A. Yes, thank you.

15 LADY SMITH: Very well, we'll start again at 1.50.

16 (1.01 pm)

17 (The lunch adjournment)

18 (1.55 pm)

19 LADY SMITH: Welcome back. Margaret, are you ready to start
20 again?

21 A. Yes.

22 LADY SMITH: When you're ready, Mr MacAulay.

23 MR MacAULAY: Can I then touch briefly on your life after
24 care, Margaret. I think after you left the Good
25 Shepherd in Bishopton you went to Middlesex; is that

1 correct?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. And how long did you spend in the police force?

4 A. I first of all went to work at the Post Office Tower in
5 London. From there I went to work in the police force.
6 I worked for about four years in the Met.

7 Q. And after that, you had some other security associated
8 type work before you went into social work.

9 A. That's correct, yes.

10 Q. Thereafter, I think you went to various countries
11 because your husband was in the oil industry --

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. -- and he was moved around, basically?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. In relation to the reporting of abuse, you have told us
16 about what happened with your PE teacher at school. Did
17 you tell anyone else about what was happening to you at
18 Nazareth House in Cardonald?

19 A. No, apart from Mother Philip in Bishopton.

20 Q. One thing you do tell us is you went to confession and
21 said something about it.

22 A. Yes, I did. That was one of the routines that we had,
23 you know, to go to confession. And of course as
24 a child, you don't really commit sins, do you, so you
25 sat there making sins up that you could say to the

1 priest.

2 One day, the usual story, "I told lies", and then
3 I said, "I think I ought to tell you that the nuns are
4 beating us". I can't recall what his exact words were,
5 but it was that he would deal with it when the
6 confession was finished, when he was finished taking
7 confessions. That was the last I heard of it.

8 Q. What age were you when you did that?

9 A. I recall that he was a priest -- they used to have
10 priests come in and give us sermons from a different
11 order, maybe a monk who used to conduct prayers and
12 sessions, biblical sessions with us, and it was to him
13 that he said it. I think he was a Franciscan monk. So
14 I was probably about 14 or 15, I think. I was obviously
15 a bit older.

16 Q. And so far as you could see, did the regime change?

17 A. No.

18 Q. One thing you say in your statement at paragraph 65 is:

19 "I don't think any of us ever felt we would be
20 believed if we spoke about what went on there."

21 I just wondered, why do you make that remark?

22 A. I made that remark because on the way to school, a bit
23 further along the main road, there was a police station
24 and I often used to think I would go in there and tell
25 them what was happening, and I never did. The reason

1 I didn't was I just assumed I wouldn't be believed and
2 the consequences of it might have been, you know, more
3 beatings, really.

4 Q. Can I just ask you, if you're able to say, what, if any,
5 impact life in care may have had on you. Are you able
6 to assist me on that?

7 A. Well, when I obviously left there, I had absolutely no
8 self-confidence and was probably quite cowed, and
9 obviously had no friends. When you're in settings with
10 other people and they're talking about their lives and
11 their childhood, you sit there silently, there's nothing
12 you can say really, so I wasn't able to communicate very
13 well when I left there.

14 Q. You tell us about your sister and how she was after she
15 left. How did she get on?

16 A. When she was in the convent, she had started drinking;
17 I could see that.

18 Q. When she was working there?

19 A. When she was working there, yes. When I used to visit
20 her I could tell that she had been drinking. She
21 basically became an alcoholic and I think died of that
22 problem, alcoholism. She had three boys and I used to
23 visit her sometimes in an apartment, a flat in Govan --
24 she lived in Govan in Glasgow. When she first left the
25 convent she went to work in [REDACTED] Govan and

1 I used to visit her there, very occasionally. Once or
2 twice I visited her there. From there, she met her
3 husband and got married and had three boys.

4 Q. Did you ever discuss with her her life in the convent?

5 A. To be honest, most times I saw her she was fairly drunk,
6 she was fairly under the influence of drink, so there
7 wasn't any point in going there.

8 Q. Okay. But what you tell us is that you just don't have
9 any pleasant memories of life in Cardonald.

10 A. I don't, no.

11 Q. You sought to get hold of your records; is that right?

12 A. Yes, I did. I wrote to the main house in Hammersmith
13 and I had a letter to say that they didn't keep records
14 in those days and there was just a little piece of A5
15 paper, basically, telling me that I was sent to this
16 couple called [REDACTED] who lived in Glasgow and I was
17 taken by them. I think that was the expression used,
18 "taken by them". And I lived with them for -- as I say,
19 I think it was months rather than years.

20 Q. Before you went into the convent?

21 A. Before I went to Bishopton.

22 Q. Before you went to Bishopton?

23 A. That's right, yes.

24 Q. But was there any detail as to why you were actually
25 sent to Bishopton in the records?

1 A. No, no, there was no record of that at all. I haven't
2 contacted the Good Shepherd nuns in Bishopton, but I did
3 the Nazareth House headquarters.

4 Q. Finally, if we turn to the last page of your statement
5 where there's a section headed "Lessons to be learned".
6 Is there any comment you'd wish to make there?

7 A. Well, it seems to me that, having done a bit of
8 social work myself, the legislation has changed and
9 there is legislation in place now, which is more
10 protective of children. Quite a lot of fostering is
11 going on now rather than institutional places for
12 them -- and smaller units of homes, I guess, with three
13 or four children in them.

14 Q. And you think that's a good thing?

15 A. Absolutely.

16 Q. One thing you say there is, looking back, you think it's
17 disturbing that officials did come to the convent but
18 didn't speak to children.

19 A. Yes, I remember there were inspection teams around and
20 I was thinking about that recently, actually, and
21 I wondered if they were actually just inspecting the
22 premises, but they never, ever spoke to the children.
23 So I don't know if that was the role, just to look
24 at the premises, because we certainly did a very big
25 cleaning job before they arrived, and the place was

1 spotless.

2 Q. Was that in preparation for them coming?

3 A. Yes. So whether that was their role, just to look at
4 the premises rather than ... I don't know.

5 Q. Just one final thing, I don't think you've covered this
6 in your statement, but I think you know something about
7 it, and that is the policy that was in existence,
8 certainly during your time in Cardonald, of children
9 being migrated, in particular to Australia. Were you
10 aware of that policy?

11 A. Yes, I was. There were two children from the group that
12 I was in who went to Australia. I remember the day they
13 went: they had on rather nice coats and hats and they
14 seemed pretty happy to be going there. It was made
15 a joyous -- it was meant to be a joyous occasion for
16 them.

17 Q. When you say two children, two girls?

18 A. Two girls.

19 Q. What age were you when this happened?

20 A. I was probably about 13, I would have thought.

21 Q. The two girls, can you help me with their ages?

22 A. I think they were younger than that.

23 Q. Do you know if they were related?

24 A. No. I don't think they were, actually.

25 Q. But you say --

1 A. I say I don't think they were because of how they
2 looked: one was small and dark, dark curly hair, and the
3 other one was taller with longish brown hair.

4 Q. Do you know why they were chosen to go?

5 A. I have no idea, no.

6 Q. You say it seemed to be a happy --

7 A. For them, it was meant to be a happy occasion.

8 MR MacAULAY: Okay. Very well, Margaret. Thank you very
9 much indeed for giving your evidence. I think I've
10 asked all the questions that I've been asked to ask of
11 you.

12 My Lady, I don't know if there are to be any further
13 questions.

14 LADY SMITH: No outstanding applications for questions? No.
15 Everybody is shaking their head.

16 Margaret, there are no more questions for you. It
17 just remains for me to thank you very much for coming
18 along today and telling us about your experiences in
19 care. I know it probably seems a long time ago now, but
20 evidently a lot of it is still vivid in your memory and
21 that's very helpful to me. So thank you for that. I'm
22 able to let you go.

23 A. Thank you. I'd like to thank the inquiry for their help
24 and for giving me a voice here today.

25 LADY SMITH: Well, thank you for that.

1 (The witness withdrew)

2 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

3 MR MacAULAY: The next witness is an applicant. She wants
4 to remain anonymous and she wants to use the name Poppy
5 in giving her evidence.

6 "POPPY" (affirmed)

7 Questions from MR MacAULAY

8 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.

9 MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, Poppy.

10 A. Good afternoon.

11 Q. I don't want to know your date of birth, but I need to
12 know the year of your birth so we can get a time frame.
13 Am I right in thinking that you were born in 1944?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. In the red folder in front of you, you will find your
16 statement, the statement you've given to the inquiry.
17 I'm going to give the reference of that for the
18 transcript, and that's WIT.001.001.3953. If I could ask
19 you to turn to page 3975, which is the last page with
20 writing on it, page 23.

21 Can you confirm for me that you've signed the
22 statement?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And if you look at the last paragraph there, do you tell
25 us:

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

3 Is that correct?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. And do you go on to say:

6 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
7 statement are true"?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. In the course of my questioning, I'll be putting
10 questions to you essentially based on your statement.
11 If I ask you a question about something like a date that
12 you can't remember, just say you don't remember.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Likewise, if something comes to mind when you're
15 answering a question that you haven't mentioned before,
16 feel free to tell us about that. Do you understand
17 that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can I just then touch briefly on your life before you
20 went into care in Nazareth House Cardonald.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. I think you have a recollection of a happy family life
23 before that; is that correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You tell us, I think, that you had one younger sister

- 1 and a younger brother?
- 2 A. That's correct.
- 3 Q. The sister, you mention, is just under two years
- 4 younger; is that right?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And the brother was seven years younger or thereabouts?
- 7 A. Thereabouts, yes.
- 8 Q. So there was quite a bit of a gap?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. You tell us in the statement that there came a point in
- 11 time when you went into care in Dunoon.
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. I think you thought you were aged about 9 at that time?
- 14 A. Nine, yes.
- 15 Q. So that would be approximately 1953/1954?
- 16 A. That would be right, yes.
- 17 Q. How long were you in Dunoon?
- 18 A. Round about two years.
- 19 Q. You tell us, I think, that was a happy experience.
- 20 A. It was, yes. Yes.
- 21 Q. You also tell us that, when you were in Dunoon, your
- 22 mother was in a sanatorium.
- 23 A. She was, in Glasgow.
- 24 Q. She had TB?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Unfortunately, I think she died.
- 2 A. She did.
- 3 Q. Did she die when you were in Dunoon?
- 4 A. No. We'd come home and I believe it was round about six
5 or nine months later that she was readmitted and died
6 about a month later.
- 7 Q. What age were you then?
- 8 A. 12. I would say between 11 and 12.
- 9 Q. I think then you really had to look after the house.
- 10 A. Well, I looked after the house when I was 9, when my
11 mother went into the sanatorium. I had my younger
12 sister and my brother, who was a baby, so basically
13 I looked after the house, fed, kept it clean, yes.
- 14 Q. But there came a point in time when you were admitted to
15 Nazareth House in Cardonald?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. What was the background to that?
- 18 A. I believe that it took three priests, we were told, to
19 actually get us into Nazareth House because they didn't
20 take boys into other -- there was a nursery and that had
21 boys in it, but they went elsewhere when they became 5,
22 and [REDACTED] came with us when he was 4.
- 23 Q. That's your younger brother?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Then looking to what records we've recovered from the

1 Sisters of Nazareth in relation to when you were
2 admitted and when you left, those records suggest that
3 you were admitted on [REDACTED] 1957, when you'd be aged
4 about 12; does that accord with your own recollection?

5 A. That would be right, yes.

6 Q. And you left on [REDACTED] 1961 when you were about 15?

7 A. That would be, yes, about 15 and a half, yes.

8 Q. Do I understand that when you went to Nazareth House,
9 you went with your younger sister?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And also your brother [REDACTED]?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So I think you're suggesting exceptionally he was
14 allowed to be there?

15 A. He was by exception, and we actually were put into what
16 they called a cell and it was just my brother and I, and
17 my sister went into the dormitory.

18 Q. I'll look at that in a moment or two. Let's just look
19 at your first day when you went to Nazareth House. Were
20 you taken there by somebody?

21 A. We were taken in a taxi. I can't recollect that my
22 father was there. I believe that we weren't escorted as
23 such. He could have been there, but I can't remember.

24 Q. When you got there then on that first day, what
25 happened?

- 1 A. Basically, what happened was we were taken up to what
2 they called the sewing room, the two ladies there. Do
3 I say names?
- 4 Q. You can do, yes.
- 5 A. Okay.
- 6 Q. They won't be published.
- 7 A. That's okay: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The cases we
8 had brought were taken from us, so our own clothes --
9 I was able to get some photographs out before they were
10 taken away and we were given convent clothes.
- 11 Q. And did you see these clothes again?
- 12 A. I did when I was leaving, but that you'll come to later
13 on.
- 14 Q. You can deal with that now.
- 15 A. Okay. They were packed up for me and left at the gate
16 at Nazareth House.
- 17 Q. That was the clothes you went in with?
- 18 A. Yes, plus another smaller case with what I'd acquired
19 since.
- 20 Q. You had touched upon what the set-up was like
21 in relation to the sleeping arrangements. I think you
22 mentioned that you and your young brother were put in
23 the same room; is that right?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. So was that a room with a couple of beds in it?

1 A. At that point there was two beds in it. At a later date
2 another young boy came in and a third bed was placed
3 in the room.

4 Q. And so far as your sister was concerned, what happened
5 to her?

6 A. She was put into the dormitory with other girls.

7 Q. You mentioned photographs, I think you took some
8 photographs out of the case.

9 A. Mm-hm.

10 Q. Were these family photographs?

11 A. Family. You weren't allowed photographs.

12 Q. So what did you do with the photographs?

13 A. I hid them.

14 Q. Did you hide them in that room that you --

15 A. I was inclined to hide them behind pipes because your
16 beds and your lockers were examined from time to time,
17 shall we say. So, yes, I did secrete them about the
18 room, depending on which room I was in, because I was
19 then moved across the hallway at a later date into
20 another room.

21 Q. I'll come on to that. At the moment then you're in this
22 room, [REDACTED] is with you, he's aged 4; so he didn't go to
23 the nursery section?

24 A. No.

25 Q. But there was a nursery section within the home?

1 A. Yes, there was.

2 Q. Did you have anything to do with the nursery section?

3 A. Only in -- to clean it when necessary. I'd call it
4 a deep clean, where everything was pulled apart and
5 walls were washed, et cetera. Other than that, no.

6 Q. Can I just get some understanding as to what the numbers
7 were when you were there from about 1957 to 1961. If
8 I can do that by looking at some figures that have been
9 provided to us by the order. I'll put this on the
10 screen and we can look at it: it's NAZ.001.001.0265.

11 You will see here it's headed:

12 "Statistics of numbers of children and babies at
13 Scottish Nazareth Houses (1925 to 1984)."

14 I don't think you have seen this before?

15 A. No, I haven't.

16 Q. You'll see that if you go to the very top of this
17 document, you'll see there's "Aberdeen", "Kilmarnock",
18 "Glasgow".

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So Glasgow is where we're looking to for Cardonald.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. As we go down the left-hand column, we get the dates
23 1957, and can we see that, according to this
24 presentation, there were 84 girls in the home;
25 do you see that?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And about 24 babies.
- 3 A. Uh-huh.
- 4 Q. Then the numbers change a bit over the next number of
5 years until 1961 when we find that there are 67 girls
6 and indeed five boys by this time, according to this
7 presentation.
- 8 A. Mm-hm.
- 9 Q. What was your own impression as to numbers when you were
10 there?
- 11 A. 64, I would say, is what I remember. There could have
12 been a few empty beds, but I'm thinking there was about
13 62/64.
- 14 Q. Were you put into a particular group?
- 15 A. Yes, we were in the green team.
- 16 Q. And how many teams were there?
- 17 A. Four.
- 18 Q. How many were in each team?
- 19 A. I'd say there was 14 and the two of us -- and in the
20 other rooms I think there was between 14 and 16.
- 21 Q. Insofar as the green team, your team, was concerned, was
22 your sister in that?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Was there a particular nun in charge of the group?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. What was her name?

2 A. [REDACTED] LFH .

3 Q. What about the other groups then?

4 A. The other groups -- Sister [REDACTED] LFI had the red team,
5 Sister [REDACTED] LMF? had the yellow team, and at one point the
6 blue team was overseen by Sister [REDACTED] LFH , and then we
7 had a layperson join us. I couldn't tell you the dates;
8 she just appeared, obviously.

9 Q. Did you remain in the green team throughout your time
10 there?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Was it Sister [REDACTED] LFH then that was in charge of you
13 during your time there?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Did she have any assistance? Was there anybody else who
16 assisted her?

17 A. No.

18 Q. You tell us in your statement that you were given
19 a number.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What was the relevance of the number?

22 A. The number was put on your clothes. Any item of
23 clothing had to have your number on it. Really, I think
24 it was for identification purposes in whatever records
25 there were.

- 1 Q. But when you were spoken to by a sister, would you be
2 spoken to by name?
- 3 A. Not necessarily. It was usually "you".
- 4 Q. What about the number, would the number be used?
- 5 A. The number wouldn't come into it, no.
- 6 Q. You've mentioned the fact that you and your brother
7 shared a room --
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. -- and I think you also mention that another boy came
10 into the room subsequently.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Was he a boy of the same age as your brother?
- 13 A. Roughly, yes.
- 14 Q. Did you see yourself as someone who was looking after
15 those boys?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. What sort of things would you have to do?
- 18 A. Well, basically, make sure they washed, they dressed
19 properly. I had to make sure that they didn't mingle
20 with the girls in the washroom. Basically help them --
21 well, I wasn't supposed to, but make beds and clean the
22 room. So yes, those were my duties.
- 23 Q. What about the two boys during the day? Where were
24 they?
- 25 A. I haven't a clue, I'm sorry. I don't know. They could

1 have been in the nursery, although I think [REDACTED] was
2 actually at school; that was the other boy.

3 Q. We'll look at school in a moment. You think then if
4 your brother wasn't at school, he'd be in the nursery
5 with the other young children?

6 A. Yes, or on his own somewhere, I really don't know.

7 Q. One thing you tell us in your statement is that you had
8 to grow your hair.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. When you went in there, was your hair -- it would have
11 been of a particular length, but was it long or medium
12 length?

13 A. No, it was quite short.

14 Q. And what was the -- so far as you understand what was
15 the thinking of having to grow your hair?

16 A. I have no idea. Everyone had to grow their hair. We
17 all had pigtails. I think it was just part of the
18 uniform look, lacking, possibly, identification. We all
19 had to be similar.

20 Q. Did that become the position that your hair grew to
21 a point where you had the pigtails?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And tied with ribbons, I think?

24 A. Yes, green ribbons.

25 Q. Because you were in the green team?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Was that one method of identification then?
- 3 A. It could have been, yes.
- 4 Q. Your brother at a point in time left Cardonald.
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Where did he go?
- 7 A. Initially he went to stay with my grandparents, who were
8 staying with an aunt and uncle. Gran had had a stroke
9 some years earlier. My grandad was due to retire and
10 subsequently, they couldn't manage him. He was not
11 attending school, he was misbehaving, so he was then
12 readmitted. He was sent to Aberdeen -- basically he had
13 blotted his copybook playing doctors and nurses with
14 a young lady behind the stage in Nazareth House
15 Cardonald.
- 16 Q. So he was readmitted to Cardonald?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. But after blotting --
- 19 A. No, he was readmitted, but only to Aberdeen. We didn't
20 see him.
- 21 Q. I see, I'm sorry. So the blotting of his copybook is
22 something that happened in Aberdeen?
- 23 A. No, it happened in Cardonald. He was then sent to my
24 grandparents, and because they couldn't manage, he was
25 sent to Aberdeen.

- 1 Q. But he'd be very young at that point?
- 2 A. Yes. He would be maybe 7, 8.
- 3 Q. But of course, I think from what you've said, at that
4 time, boys generally were not being admitted to
5 Cardonald.
- 6 A. No. I see from your figures that no boys were
7 mentioned, were they? Sorry.
- 8 Q. We can go back to the figures. You're absolutely
9 correct -- this is on NAZ.001.001.0265. It'll come up
10 on the screen. I think what we see is up until 1959,
11 there are no boys mentioned. There may have been boys
12 in the babies section of course.
- 13 A. There was.
- 14 Q. So although we understand that your brother was there,
15 he's not actually -- doesn't appear to be included in
16 the numbers.
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. Can we see that from 1959 there is recorded -- there is
19 one boy there and also in 1960, and five boys being
20 recorded in 1961. Do you see that?
- 21 A. Mm-hm.
- 22 Q. Certainly at the time you were admitted, there are no
23 boys recorded.
- 24 A. And that's probably [REDACTED] in 1959.
- 25 Q. Did he stay after your brother had left?

- 1 A. I believe so.
- 2 Q. Where was he? You'd no longer be looking after him?
- 3 A. I wasn't looking after him by that time. I don't know.
- 4 He could have left. People -- they'd come and go. No
- 5 reason, obviously, given. So it could be that he had
- 6 left round about the same time as [REDACTED] because I was
- 7 moved into another cell.
- 8 Q. But in any event, so far as your brother's concerned, he
- 9 ends up in Nazareth House in Aberdeen?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And you think he might have been about 7 or so --
- 12 A. I think so.
- 13 Q. -- at that time.
- 14 I think you did see him later, because you went to
- 15 Aberdeen on holiday; is that right?
- 16 A. Yes. I was sent up to Aberdeen for a week or
- 17 a fortnight's holiday. The idea was that I would visit
- 18 [REDACTED]. He really didn't have much to do with me because,
- 19 again, he was segregated. I was with the girls and
- 20 he was with the boys in the dormitory. So as I say,
- 21 I saw him fleetingly, but that was it.
- 22 Q. Coming back then to Cardonald, after your brother had
- 23 left, were you then moved from the room you were in into
- 24 another --
- 25 A. Into another room, yes.

- 1 Q. And what was the room?
- 2 A. It was another cell.
- 3 Q. How many were in the --
- 4 A. There was three. I can't remember the girls that were
5 put in with me.
- 6 Q. So it wasn't, as one would imagine, a dormitory, as
7 such?
- 8 A. No. It was, as they called it, a cell.
- 9 Q. Was that what the areas were called, cells?
- 10 A. They called them cells, yes.
- 11 Q. In relation to that, then, can you tell me what the age
12 group was?
- 13 A. In general or with me?
- 14 Q. In that area, the cell you were in.
- 15 A. I believe they were round about the same age as myself.
- 16 Q. So about 12 or so?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. So far as Sister [REDACTED] LFH group was concerned, what was
19 the age range within the group?
- 20 A. I would say 5 to 15.
- 21 Q. So quite a wide range of ages?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Can I then look for a moment or two at the aspects of
24 the routine.
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. The mornings, first of all. In the mornings, what would
2 happen?

3 A. A bell would ring to waken us. Basically you got out of
4 bed, immediately on your knees. You would say a short
5 prayer, and then you would go into the washroom. From
6 there, you would go in all together with the other teams
7 and say your prayers and then you'd go down for
8 breakfast.

9 Q. Was there some process that involved those who wet the
10 bed?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Were you somebody who wet the bed at that time?

13 A. Not at that time, no.

14 Q. But did you see what happened to people who wet the bed?

15 A. Yes. If a child wet the bed, invariably they were
16 caned.

17 Q. By whom?

18 A. Sister LFH in our team. I didn't see any physical
19 punishment in the other rooms because we were all kept
20 apart.

21 They were told to wash their sheets -- you're
22 talking 5, 6-year-olds -- and those sheets had to be
23 washed in cold water. They were then to wring them out
24 and put them on a pulley. They couldn't quite manage
25 the pulley, so invariably someone would give them a hand

1 to wring them out, an older girl, and hang them on the
2 pulley.

3 Obviously, they weren't dry that night, so the child
4 would be standing in the corridor with the wet sheets
5 draped over their heads, obviously still quite smelly
6 because a 5, 6-year-old -- maybe even older, but
7 recollection is they were very young -- would stand
8 there until told to go to bed. And after the JMJ was
9 rang -- that's "Jesus, Mary and Joseph", that's when
10 everybody had to have lights out ... in bed and lights
11 out -- that youngster would still be out there.

12 Q. I just want to understand the sequence. In the morning,
13 the beds would be checked?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. If someone had wet the bed, then that person would have
16 to take the sheet from the bed?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And take it to the washroom?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And wash the sheet?

21 A. Wash the sheet.

22 Q. What would happen to the sheet after that?

23 A. It was up on a pulley, usually dripping on to the floor.

24 Q. The bed-wetter would then, what, go to church, have
25 breakfast?

1 A. Oh yes. Go to school. But near bedtime, they'd be told
2 to go and get their sheet and obviously it wasn't dry,
3 so they were draped in it.

4 Q. But at some point the bed-wetter would require to go to
5 bed.

6 A. Yes. Sometimes they were forgotten about. Some of us
7 were up and about -- shouldn't be, but we were -- and
8 invariably we would send the child to bed and put the
9 sheet back on the pulley.

10 LADY SMITH: You said that the bed-wetters would be caned.

11 A. Yes.

12 LADY SMITH: Where did that happen?

13 A. Usually in the washroom, if it was upstairs.

14 If we misbehaved downstairs in the dining room or the
15 sitting rooms, the playroom, we'd be caned in the
16 playroom.

17 LADY SMITH: Right. So the bed-wetters in your time would
18 be caned upstairs at the washroom?

19 A. Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: And you say it was Sister **LFH** or one of her
21 team; is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MR MacAULAY: So far as the caning is concerned,

25 Sister **LFH** would be involved in that; is that right?

- 1 A. She was the only one that caned.
- 2 Q. What did caning involve?
- 3 A. You had to kneel in front with both hands out and she
4 would use the cane on your hands. Sometimes we
5 misbehaved and we hid the canes, especially downstairs.
6 At one point when she was caning me, she actually went
7 out because she couldn't find one, she found a mop
8 in the outhouse where the toilets were, and a woman of
9 small but sturdy stature was able to break that mop
10 handle over her leg. I could honestly say I don't know
11 if any man in this room could do it, but she did.
- 12 Q. Right.
- 13 A. I think basically, because by that time she was wound
14 up, shall we call it.
- 15 Q. I'll perhaps look at that incident in a moment. I just
16 want to understand the wetting the bed procedure.
- 17 A. Yes. The other thing is if you took your hands away,
18 then you would just be caned wherever she could reach.
- 19 Q. In describing that, you've held your hands out
20 separately.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. So when you're holding your hands out to be caned, were
23 you holding your hands out to your side?
- 24 A. No, they were up here (indicating), both.
- 25 Q. And both hands. Would both hands feel the cane?

- 1 A. Oh yes.
- 2 Q. And how many --
- 3 A. It would depend on your misdemeanour. Maybe speaking
4 after lights out, you'd probably get four or six. If
5 you were caught running in a corridor it could be two.
6 It just depended. Actually, it depended on her mood, to
7 be perfectly frank, and the situation you found yourself
8 in at that time.
- 9 Q. Coming back to the bed-wetting process, the caning you
10 say there took place in the washroom.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And are we there really dealing with the younger
13 children --
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. -- I suppose the children your own age, because you
16 didn't wet the bed at the age of 12?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. What ages of children are we talking about?
- 19 A. You're talking 5, 6, maybe 7-year-olds. My recollection
20 is around about the 5, 6-year-olds.
- 21 Q. Would this be done in the presence of the other
22 children?
- 23 A. Not necessarily. Usually by that time we'd be getting
24 dressed and ready to go downstairs for breakfast.
- 25 Q. But would you see the children after the caning had

1 occurred?

2 A. Yes. Yes.

3 Q. Would they be upset?

4 A. Oh very, very. And then they had to go to school

5 of course, so that wasn't an easy --

6 Q. So that's the first part of the process, but then you
7 said there's a second part of the process where, after
8 school when it's bedtime, the children had to go and get
9 their sheets.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And they stood somewhere with the sheets?

12 A. Outside Sister **LFH** -- Sister **LFH** had a cell
13 within the green dormitory and they would stand to the
14 left of the door, as I'm looking at you now, and they
15 would stand there with the sheets. Sometimes she went
16 out and sent them to bed and other times you'd find them
17 just asleep on the floor.

18 Q. And the sheets, how would they hold the sheets?

19 A. They were draped in them. It was over their -- yes.

20 Q. If I jump ahead in your statement to paragraph 74,
21 page 3968, you're giving there an example of an incident
22 when you say a 5-year-old who had wet the bed standing
23 in the hall with the wet sheet over her head?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. I think you say you found her asleep.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Had you been in bed and got up?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And I think you put her to bed.

5 A. Yes, I did.

6 Q. Did that happen more than once?

7 A. That was the one I remember. Basically, because she was

8 a tiny little thing, so that's the one I remember,

9 although really it was common practice if you found any

10 child like that to do something about it.

11 Q. So you've been telling us then about the bed-wetting

12 practices. I think you said in the mornings you also

13 had to go to church; is that correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Was it church every morning?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Was it your choice to go to church? How did it happen?

18 A. No. Basically, you were told to get your beret on, you

19 were going to church. However, one Lent I decided that

20 I would go to church for Lent and basically I was told,

21 no, you're not, you'll stay behind and look after the

22 wee ones. As I turned away, she had a little slap at

23 me -- she said I'd smirked -- sort of grabbed the beret

24 off my head and told me I wasn't going to church unless

25 it was Sunday. So, no, the choice wasn't ours.

1 Q. When you say she slapped you, you're talking about there
2 Sister [REDACTED] LFH ?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And the slap was simply that, across the face?

5 A. Across the face, yes.

6 Q. At night when you went to bed, did you have to be in bed
7 in a particular way?

8 A. Yes. Your hands and arms had to be outside the clothes
9 at all times.

10 Q. Can I ask you about the food then at Cardonald. What
11 can you tell me about the food? What was it like?

12 A. Atrocious. On feast days the food would be decent, so
13 the Mother Superior's feast day, Christmas, Easter, the
14 food was nice then. Other than that, it wasn't good.
15 We had a particular dish that we all dreaded and we
16 called it "sleekit pie" because underneath was all the
17 slops that had been sent back to the kitchen from the
18 nuns from the elderly people, even from the nursery, and
19 over the top was a beautiful layer of pastry.
20 Unfortunately, when the crust was broken, the smell was
21 absolutely disgusting.

22 Q. And did you have to eat that?

23 A. Oh yes.

24 Q. Well, what if you didn't want to eat it?

25 A. No. However, you just had to grin and basically shovel

1 it in until it was away. I can't eat fat to this day,
2 but beside me was a girl from another team -- and again
3 I'll say her name, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] (?), and
4 [REDACTED] loved fat, so when no one was looking [REDACTED]
5 would eat my fat for me and for that I would let her
6 read the Love comics that I was absolutely forbidden to
7 have of course, but the girls in school would give us
8 Love comics and we'd give them back.

9 Q. If you didn't eat the food what would happen?

10 A. If you didn't eat your breakfast in the morning, your
11 lunch was put on top of it. And if that didn't go down
12 and you were trying, then you'd have your supper.

13 Invariably, some of the younger kids would try and
14 eat it and vomit. It wasn't the first time they were
15 told just to eat it. So the vomit was on the plate for
16 however long and the meals there. If they didn't eat it
17 then, it could be the cane or it could be basically
18 stand down in the playroom, but invariably it was the
19 cane. I mean, that was the first port of call.

20 Q. The milk, can I ask you about your recollection of the
21 milk that you had?

22 A. Oh yes. In summer the milk was in crates. It was
23 a third of a pint that the schools got, and they were
24 left in crates and some of us were farmed out to
25 families for a nice holiday, which invariably it was.

1 However, the milk was left there and it started to pile
2 up. After a few weeks, as you can imagine, the milk was
3 thick, green sludge on the bottom, and clear -- when
4 I say clear, it was yellowish on top. And you had to
5 drink that. Again, [REDACTED] was my guardian angel and
6 she drank it for me.

7 Q. What about the other children?

8 A. They had to drink it. Some of the girls would drink it
9 for a price, cake or sweets or whatever.

10 Q. Are you saying this was milk that was allowed to go sour
11 because it wasn't able to be consumed as it came in?

12 A. Yes, that's the way of it, yes.

13 Q. Can I ask about feast days and Christmas and Easter.
14 Was the food better on those occasions?

15 A. Yes, it was.

16 Q. What would be served on a feast day, for example?

17 A. On a feast day, you'd probably have soup and maybe
18 chicken, some sort of meat. You always had a pudding.
19 They weren't always the best either, but you did eat
20 your pudding because they were edible. So on feast days
21 you'd have a nicer pudding, shall we say.

22 Q. On Christmas Day would you have what we might call
23 a traditional Christmas dinner?

24 A. There would be no turkey, but there would be a decent
25 meal, yes.

- 1 Q. Were you allowed to talk in the dining room?
- 2 A. Not as a rule. Sister [LMF?] would sometimes say you
3 can talk now, especially at collation, which was when we
4 came back from school. That's when the milk came into
5 play. Possibly a slice or a half slice of bread or
6 whatever was available that day.
- 7 Q. You've mentioned this business of hiding the canes.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Can I just understand that? Was there more than one
10 cane accessible?
- 11 A. Oh yes, yes. There was a variety as a rule. And they
12 were replaced, we never saw them being replaced, but
13 they were in a cupboard behind the desk in the playroom.
14 There was a sliding door and nice little row of canes
15 leaning against the sidewall.
- 16 Q. But the cane that Sister [LFH] generally used, would
17 it be kept in there?
- 18 A. Yes, oh yes. She just pulled one out when possible.
- 19 Q. When you talk about a cane, can you describe it?
- 20 A. A garden cane with the usually nodules along the length
21 of it. Quite pliable.
- 22 Q. But you had this notion that you'd be hiding canes;
23 is that right?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And did do you that?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So was that what led to what you told us before about
3 Sister [REDACTED] LFH using the broom handle --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- which she managed to break?

6 A. She did indeed, yes.

7 Q. Were you then caned with the broom handle?

8 A. I was caned with the broom handle, resulting in quite
9 a few splinters, one or two quite deep. I can't
10 remember my misdemeanour. However, I believe that it
11 was quite a few strokes.

12 Q. Did this have some impact on what you were able to do at
13 school?

14 A. At school the next day, I was in the sewing class --
15 that was the afternoon, I seemed to get through the
16 morning okay -- and then in sewing class I was actually
17 making a white tennis skirt and I couldn't quite hold
18 the needle because hems in those days were done by hand,
19 very beautifully. And the teacher called Miss Jemson
20 said to me, "Why on earth are you holding that?" and
21 I just held out my hands. She asked me to go into
22 a side room, it was like a storeroom with materials in
23 it, and she asked me to wait there. She left and she
24 came back and she said, "I'm sorry", but she didn't say
25 what she was sorry about. Basically she let me stay

1 there for the rest of the lesson.

2 Q. What was wrong with your hands?

3 A. I still had skelfs. I had one quite deep one -- I can't
4 remember where -- and I couldn't get it out. Someone
5 took it out for me later using a safety pin, just to cut
6 along the flesh to remove it.

7 Q. And the skelfs, had they come from the broom handle?

8 A. Yes, because of the sharp edges, you know, it's like
9 when you break a brush like that, invariably it comes to
10 a point and the rest of it, for at least an inch, is
11 rough.

12 Q. Did you tell the teacher what --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- had happened?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Did she say what she would do, if anything?

17 A. When she left, I believe she had gone down to the
18 assistant -- the headmistress, as she was called then, a
19 Miss McCrae, and obviously when she came back she had no
20 truck with her and that was it.

21 Q. So did anything happen then insofar as you're aware?

22 A. No.

23 Q. You also tell us about a time when there was dysentery
24 in the home.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Can you tell me about that?

2 A. Yes. We started, one or two people at a time, visiting
3 the lavatory. Obviously -- I was going to say pile up,
4 but that's unfortunate. People queueing behind you. So
5 it came to the point that we were told then that those
6 of us with diarrhoea would wait at the front door and
7 we were taken to the Belvidere Hospital, but there was
8 a few nuns with that as well and they went to Belvidere.
9 That was quite good. Hospital food -- they say it is
10 horrible, but it was edible. We were there for a couple
11 of weeks, obviously medicated, I can't remember with
12 what, but we came back just after we were clear.

13 Q. Do you know what the source of the dysentery was?

14 A. No, I was never told.

15 Q. You do mention in your statement about mince that you
16 describe as "rancid".

17 A. There was -- that wasn't just a one-off. There were
18 occasions when the food coming through, you could smell
19 it. To this day I can tell you if a potato that's been
20 cooked is one day old or three days old just by the
21 smell. Because these things you got to know over
22 a period of time. So you had meat that really wasn't
23 fit for eating, and as I told you earlier, the sleekit
24 pie, that certainly wasn't fit for eating.

25 Q. I think we understand that there was also an old folks'

1 home in Cardonald.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What about the food for the old folks? Do you know if
4 it was the same or not?

5 A. No. No, it was a lot better, because occasionally
6 I worked in the kitchen and sometimes we were fed in the
7 kitchen. If they were really busy, we didn't go through
8 for lunch, we had lunch there, which was very nice. It
9 was the same food as the nuns got and the old folks.
10 I can't remember about the nursery.

11 Q. Were you told why the food for the elderly was different
12 to the food that was supplied to you?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Let's just look at schooling for a moment or two. When
15 you were there, where did you go to school?

16 A. I started at Our Lady of Lourdes primary, and after
17 a few months I went to Our Lady of Lourdes secondary
18 school.

19 Q. And that was quite close to the home?

20 A. Yes, over the wall.

21 Q. How did you do at school? How did you get on?

22 A. I hadn't sat my qualifying because up until then I'd
23 changed schools about nine or ten times. My father was
24 a welder in shipbuilding and he went where the work was.
25 If he was away for any length of time, we invariably

1 went back to [REDACTED] where my mum's family were or
2 [REDACTED] where my aunt was. So the headmaster asked me
3 was I bright, and I said no, and he put me in the very
4 bottom class, which was quite good because I was first
5 and I got praise for that in the convent. I was first
6 for a year and a half. So that was -- in those days,
7 that was your term times, your exams.

8 Then I was moved up half a year and into the next
9 stream, and I came fourth, and then they kept us on.

10 I think there would be about half a dozen of us that had
11 applied for college, so they kept us on until such times
12 as we were due to start college.

13 Q. That would be into your fourth year, would it?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And that was just shortly before you left the home?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can I then ask you about birthdays. Were birthdays
18 celebrated in the home?

19 A. No.

20 Q. You do tell us about a visit and a watch that you got
21 from your grandfather.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Did he come to the home to give you the watch?

24 A. Yes, he came. It wasn't a visiting Sunday and he came
25 and he was allowed to come in the front. There were two

1 sitting rooms in the front before you come through into
2 the convent. We sat in there for a while and chatted
3 and he gave me a watch.

4 Q. Was this on your birthday?

5 A. No, this was for my Christmas, although [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED].

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. So it was the usual, you know, you just got [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED]

10 Q. And it was a watch?

11 A. It was a watch, yes.

12 Q. And what happened to it?

13 A. Sister [REDACTED] LFH took it. She said I didn't deserve it.

14 Really -- I hadn't really come up to the mark as far as
15 she was concerned and it was only people of good
16 character that could have a watch.

17 Q. But what happened to the watch?

18 A. I don't know.

19 Q. It was your watch. Do you know --

20 A. It was my watch.

21 Q. Do you know what happened to it?

22 A. No, no, I really don't.

23 Q. When you came to leave, was it amongst any of your
24 possessions?

25 A. No. By that time, I was working day release, which was

1 two days at college and three days at nursery -- at that
2 time it was a nursery school -- and I had bought
3 a violin because we were taking violin lessons, although
4 he threw me out of his class because he found out
5 I couldn't read music; all I was doing was fingers and
6 bowing. Someone said that was even more clever than
7 reading music. So I didn't get that back either because
8 she just said to leave it there.

9 Q. You did get Easter eggs one Easter, you tell us in your
10 statement.

11 A. That was my grandfather.

12 Q. What happened to those?

13 A. They were put in the glass cupboard.

14 Q. Why was that?

15 A. You just weren't allowed sweets. You were allowed to
16 eat your sweets during visiting, which was once a month
17 and on occasions, you know, people would give you
18 sweets. It was a bit furtive, you shared them out, but
19 we just weren't allowed them.

20 Q. What did you do? Did you do something about it?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. What --

23 A. I found out how to open the cupboard without breaking
24 the latch, which was to push gently on it and it sprung
25 out. Then we removed the Easter eggs, which we ate, and

1 replaced very nicely the silver foil and put it back in,
2 both in.

3 Q. Would it look as if the eggs were still there?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And what happened to the eggs?

6 A. I believe they were still sitting there when I left, at
7 least a year, two years later.

8 LADY SMITH: Can I just take you back to a couple of points
9 about school. I see from your statement that you
10 progressed well and performed well in your class on
11 quite a few occasions.

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: Did anyone back at the home praise you for
14 that?

15 A. I was praised for coming first.

16 LADY SMITH: At school or in the home?

17 A. In the home.

18 LADY SMITH: Good.

19 A. But if you didn't perform well, you know what comes
20 next, my Lady. That was chastisement.

21 LADY SMITH: I see. What was this business about not being
22 able to shower after PE? Can you explain that to me?

23 A. Basically, I think it was more we didn't want to shower
24 rather than being ... We had on underwear that had seen
25 better days, elasticated knickers that were no longer

1 elasticated at the legs. We weren't allowed to wear
2 bras. We had on vests and liberty bodices at times. So
3 we said we were exempt, we said we weren't allowed to
4 shower.

5 LADY SMITH: I see. You were ashamed of your underwear?

6 A. Oh yes -- especially the ones with the pocket in it.

7 MR MacAULAY: One thing you also say is that you were not
8 encouraged to socialise with other children at school.

9 A. Oh no, no, no. We did keep ourselves separate because,
10 really, we were looked on as a bit odd, possibly didn't
11 smell too good, bathing once a week, rarely having time
12 to wash, because the washroom was shared with all the
13 teams, so you had a certain time to get in and back out
14 again. And obviously, you had on a gown but you were
15 trying to wash under that gown.

16 Q. You're talking about what happened when you were having
17 baths?

18 A. The baths were the same, yes.

19 Q. How often would you have a bath?

20 A. Once a week.

21 Q. Can you just explain the procedure to me then for bath
22 time?

23 A. Bath time. If it was our turn, there was three baths at
24 one point, but one was taken out, which left two baths.
25 The baths were run usually very hot to begin with, and

1 the wee ones went into there. Me being 12, even older,
2 what happened was that we were in last when it was cold
3 and quite murky. But what you did was you stood in the
4 bath with your wash gown on, and as you take that off,
5 you slide into the bath and put on the gown that was
6 in the water. So invariably that was cold and horrible
7 as well. But I found a bathroom, that I think some of
8 the nuns used, at the top of the green stairs. It had
9 a lovely bath and sometimes I filled that up, locked the
10 door and had a decent bath. That was when I was 15,
11 that was much later.

12 LADY SMITH: Sorry, what was this business of having to
13 change your gown?

14 A. You took off your dry gown, which you used -- because
15 you put that on any time you were undressing. When you
16 stood up, they had a sheet in front of you and you
17 slipped down into the bath and put on the wet gown that
18 was there already.

19 LADY SMITH: Okay. So then you'd still have a dry gown to
20 get into when you got out of the bath?

21 A. Yes.

22 LADY SMITH: This was all a bit complicated, wasn't it?

23 A. It was.

24 LADY SMITH: Right, thank you.

25 MR MacAULAY: You mentioned that the water would be hot to

1 begin with; is that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. It would be the little ones that would --

4 A. They would come out quite red at times, yes, and very
5 quickly.

6 Q. Do you know how hot the water was?

7 A. No, I couldn't tell you.

8 Q. But bearable?

9 A. It must have been bearable, but probably just about by
10 the looks of them coming out.

11 Q. Was there a process for washing your hair?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Can you explain that?

14 A. Yes. In the cloakroom I've spoken about where the milk
15 was, there were two benches lined up there, a galvanised
16 bath, and into that was poured not only the water but
17 pink pine disinfectant, and again the young ones got
18 washed first, their hair washed first, and then we had
19 our hair washed, and then we had to dry it with a towel,
20 but we had to be very quick because, again, it was a
21 misdemeanour if your hair was not dry by the time --
22 because we went on a Friday, which was when we went to
23 confession, so we had to have dry hair. Occasionally
24 you just put your pleats in so it wasn't too wet looking
25 and try to get away with that.

- 1 Q. And if you weren't quick enough?
- 2 A. Well, sometimes it was a slap, yeah, because we were
3 going to confession and it might not have been good for
4 a child to go in crying too much. That's my
5 interpretation now.
- 6 Q. Who would slap you on these occasions?
- 7 A. Oh, Sister [LFH].
- 8 Q. From what you have said so far, was it essentially
9 Sister [LFH] that punished you --
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. -- and the others in your group?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Was there any other nun that you can remember?
- 14 A. I really don't remember. Sister [LMF?] was quite
15 a soft-spoken nun. I can't remember seeing her angry or
16 whatever. I don't know if she meted out punishment.
17 If, however, it was in the playroom or the refectory or
18 the sitting rooms, if there was any misbehaviour there
19 or when we were cleaning each other's heads on
20 a Saturday, then Sister [LFH] would cane whoever was
21 there. So she would cane the other teams as well.
- 22 Q. You give us some information about the sort of chores
23 you had to do. Working in the kitchens was one thing.
- 24 A. Uh-huh.
- 25 Q. Can you tell me about that? That was something you had

1 to do?

2 A. We did our own washing-up.

3 Q. For your group?

4 A. For our dining room anyway and washed the -- it was
5 plastic bowls that were served up for each table. We'd
6 wash that and wash the tables and we'd also polish the
7 floor -- that was with rags on your feet, you polished
8 that at the front.

9 In the kitchen itself, when I got a bit older, I was
10 allowed to use the slicing machine for slicing the
11 bread; I since I've found it should have had a guard on
12 it. I was also allowed to use the food mixer, which was
13 industrial size, to help make cakes and things.

14 Q. You tell us about Sister Carmel, who was in the kitchen.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You got on well with her?

17 A. She was a decent human being, yes.

18 Q. I think what you say there is that you loved her to
19 bits.

20 A. Oh yes.

21 Q. Can you give us some examples as to the sort of care and
22 affection she provided.

23 A. She was kind, she was gentle, but she also -- we were
24 building a rockery out in the quadrangle and she knew
25 we were there and we were doing it over a period of time

1 because the rocks were quite heavy and obviously we were
2 wheelbarrowing earth in and what have you, it took some
3 time, and cleaning up after ourselves. She left cakes
4 on the windowsill to cool, she knew they were cakes
5 missing, and we had them.

6 Q. And she never said anything?

7 A. No.

8 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, I see it's just after 3 o'clock and
9 if we're having a break it might be a good time to have
10 it.

11 LADY SMITH: We'll take a short break at this time and start
12 again in 10 minutes.

13 (3.03 pm)

14 (A short break)

15 (3.13 pm)

16 MR MacAULAY: Before the break, Poppy, we had been talking
17 about chores.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You have talked about the kitchen work. The laundry --
20 I think you also worked in the laundry?

21 A. We did, yes.

22 Q. Were there particular days of the week that you worked
23 in the laundry?

24 A. It was usually weekends or during school holidays or
25 whatever.

1 Q. And what did that work involve?

2 A. They had giant industrial boilers, you know, fired
3 probably with fuel, coal or whatever, and we had to
4 dolly the clothes, which -- there's a long pole with
5 a head on it and we'd just beat that until that was fine
6 and then you removed them when the nun in charge was
7 happy with them. You then took them through and put
8 them through a wringer and, from there, you put them on
9 horses -- they came out from the sidewall, drying
10 horses. When they were dry, you had to put them
11 through -- it was again industrial rollers and you had
12 to put them through there so that they were ironed.

13 We didn't do anything with the nun's clothes. There
14 was a young nun who I saw, she would do the ironing for
15 all the assembly.

16 Q. Was this heavy work?

17 A. Oh yes, yes.

18 Q. But I think you say you quite enjoyed it.

19 A. I did. It was time away. It was warm for a start.

20 We'd talk and we also had nice, thick slices of new
21 bread and there was butter and tea. So, yes, we didn't
22 complain about the laundry.

23 Q. How long would this sort of work take?

24 A. That would take all day.

25 Q. Were there other lay workers there when you were there,

1 like cleaners and so on?

2 A. No. The cleaners were the girls. They were the
3 cleaners.

4 Q. You mentioned the rockery before, that you built
5 a rockery?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Was this something you chose to do?

8 A. No, no.

9 Q. It was just something you were being told to do?

10 A. We were told it'd be a nice idea to have the rockery out
11 there because the old people obviously could see at one
12 side or if people were visiting it'd be nice to show
13 them our handiwork.

14 Q. So how long did this take?

15 A. It took quite a few weeks. As I say, it was building up
16 from flat and the earth came in and then we started to
17 bring in boulders, quite large boulders. Now, those
18 were -- the side of the playroom, the playroom jutted
19 down, so they were on the side near the nursery and we
20 had to take them from there and cross over, because that
21 was the corridor going down, we had to carry them just
22 a couple of steps across and down more steps and place
23 them.

24 Q. So that was heavy work?

25 A. That was heavy.

1 Q. And I think you told us about a painter who gave you
2 some help because of the weight of the stones?

3 A. He did. He told us girls shouldn't be carrying heavy
4 weights like that.

5 Q. You also went tattie howking, as you call it; is that
6 right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Was that something you enjoyed?

9 A. No. Basically, because we were in full view of our
10 secondary school and we could be seen from the windows.

11 Q. And that's picking potatoes?

12 A. Yes, back-breaking. But people did it in those days,
13 quite happily, and got paid for it.

14 Q. And I think you said if you were seen from the school,
15 you were taken off school to do this work?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. How long would that take?

18 A. It would only be about two days maybe.

19 Q. Did you get paid for it?

20 A. No.

21 Q. But I think you say earlier in your statement you did
22 get pocket money; is that right?

23 A. I got pocket money from my grandfather and occasionally
24 we would get a few pennies and we were told we could buy
25 things like Gibbs toothpaste or a toothbrush, which

1 again was in that cupboard I mentioned earlier, the
2 glass-fronted cupboard.

3 Q. So the pocket money you got from the nuns then, that was
4 how much? Can you --

5 A. Oh, it would be pennies in those days.

6 Q. Can I ask you about visits and inspections --

7 LADY SMITH: Sorry, can I just be clear about this? You'd
8 get pocket money from the nuns, your grandfather might
9 give you pocket money, and who told you that you could
10 buy things like toothpaste or a toothbrush?

11 A. That was Sister **LFH** that was selling them, so there
12 would be combs, maybe, Gibbs toothpaste was in a little
13 round tin, or a toothbrush.

14 LADY SMITH: Yes, pink and blue.

15 A. Probably.

16 LADY SMITH: Gibbs Dentifrice -- maybe I'm giving my age
17 away.

18 The link with the cupboard: is that where these
19 items were stored?

20 A. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: So it wasn't that you would go to the shops,
22 you could buy them from Sister **LFH** and she kept her
23 store of them in that cupboard?

24 A. Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MR MacAULAY: So you had to buy these items with your own
2 money?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. I was going to ask you about inspections. There were
5 inspections from time to time; is that correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Would you know that the inspections were in the
8 pipeline?

9 A. We wouldn't know possibly until that morning. We were
10 never told, but we were given the bed covers, maybe
11 decent dressing gowns, even slippers, a nice little mat
12 by the occasional bed, and they came out of the large
13 cupboards that were stored in the dormitory corridor.
14 Once the visits were over, they were straight back in
15 again.

16 Q. In the course of the inspections, would those who came
17 speak to the children?

18 A. No.

19 Q. One thing you also say is there were little teddies put
20 on the beds.

21 A. Oh yes, there was on occasions, yes. Maybe a little
22 doll, yes. They went back in the cupboard.

23 Q. I just want to ask you this. You say in your statement
24 they were fictional menus too. Can you explain that?

25 A. There was a book at the back of the refectory that

1 recorded what we'd eaten and it bore no resemblance of
2 what we had. Sleekit pie was down as meat and potato
3 pie. We also had something called bubble and squeak and
4 I can't for the life of me remember what that actually
5 looked like or tasted like. So these menus were -- it
6 was nonsense, it really was absolute nonsense.

7 Q. So would these be available for inspection by the
8 inspectors?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Insofar as what we might refer to today as a social
11 worker, were there any visits to you by someone you
12 might recognise as a social worker or a children's
13 officer?

14 A. No, nobody.

15 Q. I think you've touched upon the nit process already.
16 That, you tell us in your statement, happened generally
17 on a Saturday.

18 A. Yes, it did.

19 Q. I understand you would also check someone next to you;
20 is that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. If they were okay, would Sister **LFH** then check?

23 A. She checked everyone in our team. If one nit was found,
24 you were sent to the bathroom under the green stairs --
25 invariably it was myself, my sister and my brother that

1 would be there and maybe a couple of others. If there
2 were too many of us, the others would stay in the
3 playroom.

4 Q. What you say in your statement is if it wasn't okay, the
5 one who checked for nits and the one with the nits got
6 punished?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. In what way?

9 A. The punishment at that point was to be under the green
10 stairs and you would be there possibly without lunch --
11 occasionally you were let out for that -- but you would
12 be there into late afternoon. So you're talking maybe
13 six hours in quite a cold room and just going through
14 someone's hair and physically removing lice and nits.

15 Q. So are you there then to carry on with the removal of
16 the nits?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. But did you have a comb for that?

19 A. No.

20 Q. So that was with your fingers?

21 A. Yes. Your comb actually separated the hair and you
22 removed with your fingers.

23 Q. Now, can I just look at that section of your statement
24 where you look at -- it's headed "Abuse at
25 Nazareth House" and I think we have covered some of

1 these issues already.

2 You have already given us some indication as to how
3 Sister LFH would punish you and in particular you
4 would be required to kneel in front of her with your
5 hands out to be caned; is that correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And the number of smacks of the cane you'd get would
8 depend upon a number of factors, including her mood?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did she do anything else apart from caning?

11 A. Yes. Choir practice. If you weren't singing in tune,
12 she had a leather belt round her waist and invariably
13 she'd keep time with that, and as she walked up and down
14 rows, if you weren't, if you like, singing in tune or
15 whatever, you would get that, either up your arms, just
16 wherever she could reach.

17 Q. One thing you say she would also punch you.

18 A. Oh yes.

19 Q. Were you punched?

20 A. Oh yes, yes, yes. Sometimes in my arm, sometimes -- she
21 liked to do it on the back because she could catch you
22 unawares then. It was just a little, you know
23 (indicating), as you were walking in front of her, for
24 whatever reason. As I say, sometimes you didn't know.

25 Q. You also tell us that there was some procedure whereby

1 your underwear would be checked once a week.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can you explain that to me?

4 A. Yes. Again, on a Friday evening -- no, I think it might
5 have been a Sunday. Maybe I'm misremembering. You had
6 to show your underwear.

7 Q. To whom?

8 A. Sister **LFH**. So the vest would go down in one pile,
9 the knickers would be in another pile, and you had to
10 show that you hadn't soiled them in any way. When they
11 dropped on to the pile, you were then told to go and get
12 your fresh underwear.

13 Q. And if there was any marks, what would happen?

14 A. Oh, that's a caning. That's into the washroom. When
15 you were menstruating, you were allowed to wash out your
16 pants before you showed them, but that was it, and
17 of course she would keep check that you could do it in
18 between times and it had to be monthly. So, yes, she
19 was sharp.

20 Q. You give an example of when your brother was there, that
21 there was an incident involving him.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Can you tell me about that?

24 A. He was wearing white underpants and I sometimes caught
25 them and would wash them through, and we always dried

1 anything we were washing in between our blankets and our
2 sheets so they dried for the morning, and I don't know
3 why, but I'd missed this one. When she saw that it had
4 urine stains, as a boy does, he was told to go into the
5 washroom. When she was finished and she caned him, and
6 when he fell down, she continued to cane him until she
7 couldn't possibly go on any longer. He had bruises to
8 his face -- he was quite fair and I could see his head.
9 At that time it wasn't bruises, it was red marks, and
10 he had them all over his body. He was then put into the
11 sick room, which was downstairs, down the white stairs,
12 and when I went down to see him, because we weren't
13 allowed to, so I was sneaking down, I could see the
14 bruises there and he told me that it wasn't just what
15 I could see, she had also caned him on his genitals as
16 he tried to get away.

17 He was kept off school, I believe, for near
18 a fortnight -- again, I couldn't be sure of the
19 timings -- and then allowed to go back to school.

20 Q. But did you do something about this?

21 A. Yes. I went to the police.

22 Q. What age were you then?

23 A. I'd be maybe 14.

24 Q. Because [REDACTED] was --

25 A. No. I'd be just over 12 then. I ran away when I was

1 14, sorry, I was getting that mixed up. Yes, I'd be --

2 Q. So you went to the police?

3 A. I did, yes.

4 Q. What did you say to the police?

5 A. I said that the nun had beaten up my brother so badly
6 he was off school and that he'd been caned and he was
7 in the sick room and no one was allowed to see him, and
8 the girls from the sewing room were the only ones that
9 were allowed to take his meals up, things like that, and
10 I was told to keep my mouth shut and get back to school.

11 Q. Where was the police station that you went to located?

12 A. It was in Cardonald. The school was down a road here,
13 there were some shops, and then the police station was
14 just at the end of that row of shops to the left.

15 Q. Did you speak to a policeman when you went there?

16 A. Yes, it was a desk sergeant.

17 Q. Can I ask you about what you say in paragraph 58 of your
18 statement. It's this notion, you describe it actually
19 as "Sister LFH 's mantra".

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can you help me with that? What was her mantra?

22 A. Her mantra was: your family didn't want you, nobody
23 wants you, rubbish, trash -- it wasn't "trash" in those
24 days, it was "rubbish" -- you'll end up at Govan Cross
25 with a safety pin in your coat and a cigarette dangling

1 from your lips. And that would be you, more or less,
2 a down-and-out, a tramp. That was her mantra.

3 Q. How often was this said?

4 A. Oh, on a regular basis, if I'd done something that she
5 didn't like.

6 Q. And were there any other descriptions or language used?

7 A. Well, I can't really remember -- oh guttersnipe, yes,
8 that was her favourite, "You're a guttersnipe". She
9 also told us that my father was a ne'er-do-well because
10 he didn't pay a penny towards our keep. We were there
11 as charity. Once it was said if I didn't pass my
12 college exams then I would be forced to pay off my keep
13 by working in the convent.

14 Q. Can I understand what you're saying in paragraph 61 of
15 your statement about Sister LFH talking about
16 a little house being set up or something along these
17 lines.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What was that all about?

20 A. That was totally disconcerting. She asked myself and,
21 I believe, my sister to come along to a little room that
22 was just -- there were two sitting rooms, a green
23 sitting room and a yellow sitting room, and then there
24 was a smaller room, and when we went along a fire had
25 been set in the grate and she said, "I'm thinking of

1 setting this up for yourself and your sister and
2 it would be nice just to keep the family together". And
3 then that was it. Nothing happened.

4 She did encourage me to keep company with
5 ██████████ He was in his 30s, 34 maybe. I wasn't
6 yet -- well, I was 15, which -- the poor man, gave me
7 Black Magic chocolates and held hands, but that was it,
8 you know. The poor chap didn't have many teeth or
9 anything that would encourage me to be romantically
10 inclined with him.

11 Q. Did you understand that that was --

12 A. This was allowed because the nuns could see us because
13 we walked round the grounds, so the nuns in the old
14 folks' place could see us. Sister ██████████ LFH would know
15 about it because there were people that would curry
16 favour and tell tales. So she would know about it. And
17 that was allowed.

18 I believe years later I thought that was us being
19 set up as a nice little family in the convent grounds.

20 Q. In any event, nothing came of it?

21 A. No.

22 Q. You also tell us about an incident when you took your
23 pigtails out when you went out.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What was that about?

1 A. There was girls at school and we all had them, who when
2 we left with our wellies on and our pigtails in, the
3 girls had given us -- we used to call them ballet shoes,
4 little black shoes, little black pumps. We would leave
5 our wellies and socks in the long grass, or wherever,
6 take our pigtails out and put our ponytails up, pull our
7 skirts up -- that was what we did -- and we would go to
8 school.

9 LADY SMITH: Did these shoes have little elastic sections on
10 the top of the foot?

11 A. Yes.

12 LADY SMITH: And rubbery bits round the toe?

13 A. Yes, around the toe.

14 LADY SMITH: I know exactly what you're talking about,
15 thank you.

16 A. Unfortunately, one day, we were looking for
17 our wellingtons and obviously we put our pigtails in as
18 we were walking round the school to the side gate and
19 the wellingtons weren't there -- and that was a good
20 caning that day.

21 MR MacAULAY: Why was that? Did someone --

22 A. Well, we weren't allowed to have these shoes. We were
23 sent out in wellingtons, or it was boys' brogues. If it
24 wasn't raining, you were not only feeling different, you
25 were made to feel different, you looked different. You

1 acted different, you even spoke differently. So we
2 tried to fit in.

3 Q. You got caught in effect?

4 A. Oh, we got caught, yes.

5 Q. By whom?

6 A. Sister [LFH] was waiting at the gate -- there was
7 maybe eight or nine steps up to the side door at the
8 playroom, on to a balcony, and she was standing there,
9 cane in hand, just --we lined up.

10 Q. And who was with you on this occasion?

11 A. I can't remember. It'd be the older girls,
12 possibly [REDACTED] --

13 Q. I don't need the names. There were other girls with
14 you?

15 A. There would be about maybe half a dozen of us.

16 Q. I think you ran away after that.

17 A. I did.

18 Q. And where did you go to?

19 A. I went to my grandfather's house and he said he couldn't
20 obviously do anything for us at that time and gave me my
21 father's address -- I didn't have it up until then --
22 and I went then to my father. The lady he was with
23 at the time, she had a young daughter -- we just
24 basically sat, drank tea, and then the police arrived.

25 Q. And were you taken back to the home?

1 A. Yes, I was taken back to the station first, that was in
2 Bilsland Drive in Maryhill. I was taken back there and
3 told the police, you know, everything about [REDACTED], about
4 us being beaten and deprived in various ways, and they
5 weren't interested, but the tea lady was. She kept
6 telling them to listen and they said, "We can't do
7 anything, she'll just have to go back". So they took me
8 back and the Mother Superior was there and
9 Sister [REDACTED] LFH and I wasn't caned.

10 Q. Do you understand why that was?

11 A. In hindsight, I would say it's because by this time
12 I think she knew that I had a big mouth, I was speaking
13 to people, I was letting them know what was happening,
14 although nothing was recorded, nothing was done about
15 it. But Mother Superior -- I don't know how much she
16 knew. I do know that the other nuns, Sister [REDACTED] LFI
17 and Sister [REDACTED] LMF?, knew because their people were being
18 caned for misbehaviour in any of the public areas.

19 Q. Caned by Sister [REDACTED] LFH ?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Who was the Mother Superior at that time; can you
22 remember her name?

23 A. I can't remember, no.

24 Q. I think you say you weren't caned quite as much after
25 that.

- 1 A. I wasn't.
- 2 Q. But you do talk about an incident when you had the flu.
- 3 A. Oh yes.
- 4 Q. And what happened on that occasion?
- 5 A. I had the flu, the doctor was called. His favourite
6 was, "She'll be okay, just give her a dose of Epsom
7 salts". That was the joke by Sister Carmel in the
8 kitchen: anyone who was ill had to get a dose of Epsom
9 salts. After a few days, I was feeling slightly better
10 and there was a bookcase in the sick room, so I had
11 taken a book out of the bookcase and I'd read a few
12 pages and put it down at the side of the bed. And when
13 she came in, basically it was, "Get out of bed. If
14 you're well enough to read, you're well enough to get up
15 and get your jobs done and get to school".
16 Unfortunately, I only got halfway up the stairs when
17 I either stumbled, but I was very unwell. I was kept
18 off school for another couple of days, to my
19 recollection, and that was it.
- 20 Q. But I think you say in your statement that your legs
21 gave way and you were punched in the back.
- 22 A. I was, yes.
- 23 Q. Was this Sister **LFH** ?
- 24 A. Yes. It was more or less to keep you moving on, you
25 know, it's just, "Move on, you're play-acting". There's

1 all this inference that you're doing it for attention.

2 Q. The other thing you tell us about is that in particular
3 the Lewis' party at Christmas, you had to be chosen to
4 go to that party or indeed on any other trips.

5 A. Any other party, yes.

6 Q. So how did you get to be chosen for these trips?

7 A. She usually made out a list and if you could sneak
8 a look at the desk, sometimes you knew who was going,
9 but then you couldn't rely on it because there would be
10 crossings out, but there would also be, on the day when
11 she was calling out the names -- that happened in the
12 playroom as well, where you were halfway up the
13 stairs -- and she'd remember an indiscretion or
14 a misbehaviour and we were told to go back. That was
15 devastating for a lot of us, you know. Here you are,
16 you're going to Lewis' party, oh no, you're not, for
17 something that may have happened previously -- it could
18 have been up to a fortnight before or whatever.

19 Q. So did you live then at least under this black cloud
20 that you might be not allowed to go? Is that
21 essentially what you're saying?

22 A. Yes. The anticipation was high. The taxi drivers'
23 outing, we all loved that. Lewis' was fabulous because
24 they always had comedians of the day: Ricky Fulton,
25 Stanley Baxter. They had the Celtic and Rangers teams

1 there. The food was delicious. There was lots of music
2 and balloons. We all got a little pressie, nothing
3 much, and, as I said in my statement, which I have just
4 glanced at there, Stanley Baxter give me a shilling and
5 I said I was there to look after the others and he said,
6 "Well, that is okay, take it and buy yourself some
7 matches and have a fag". So, yes, we did enjoy the
8 Lewis' party.

9 Q. So you did get to the Lewis' party?

10 A. I did from time to time and that time I was there as
11 a helper, so I was 15 then.

12 Q. Can I just ask you about what you say in paragraph 73
13 where you talk about Sister [REDACTED] LFI [REDACTED]. I do understand
14 that she wasn't with your group --

15 A. No.

16 Q. -- but the way you say it there is that she was kind of
17 free with her hands.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can I just understand what you mean by that?

20 A. She was inclined -- sometimes it was a punch or a slap.
21 On occasions, thinking about this -- obviously, I've
22 been living with this for a while -- she did enjoy the
23 occasional nip and it was usually on your forearm, but
24 not to us in Sister [REDACTED] LFH [REDACTED]'s group, it would be her own
25 group if you could see her with ... I didn't see

1 Sister LMF? do anything untowards, to be honest.

2 Q. You've told us already that your brother went to
3 Aberdeen --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- but I think you say in your statement that he didn't
6 really talk to you about what life was like there.

7 A. No, never told us, no.

8 Q. You told us already about the photographs that you took
9 in with you when you went to Cardonald.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Were you able to recover these when you came to leave?

12 A. Yes. Again, by that time I was maybe 15 and a half and
13 I did have my own locker, and to the side was the pipes,
14 the hot water pipes, that was the heating, and I put the
15 photographs right in at the back. It wasn't quite
16 a recess, it was where the pipes come through, and it
17 was quite dark there. After all, we were the only ones
18 that cleaned, so unless there was a snap inspection
19 looking for Love comics or whatever ... I kept them and
20 I left with them.

21 Q. Did someone find them for you?

22 A. That was previously -- in the second cell I was in.
23 I came up the stairs one day to find out it was being
24 painted and the chap I had spoken about before, that
25 helped me carry that one rock, because there was too

1 many nuns about, he said to me, "I believe these are
2 yours", because he was painting down in that area, and
3 I took them away then. I can't remember where I kept
4 them, but, yes, I could keep them hidden.

5 Q. Can I come to the point when you came to leave
6 Nazareth House. How did that happen?

7 A. I was invited to a friend's wedding. She was at college
8 with us, she was slightly older than we were, and I was
9 invited to her wedding. The invitation come through to
10 Sister [LFH] and she said, yes, you can go. I can't
11 remember if it was on the day before or the day she told
12 me I wasn't going. That was it. I had arranged to stay
13 with a friend, she had said okay to that, this was
14 a girl I was at college with, she was at the same school
15 as me. And basically said, that's it, just go to your
16 room.

17 So I went upstairs, got ready, got my little bag and
18 went to the wedding. When I came back on the Sunday --
19 it wasn't, I think it was a Monday, I can't remember
20 that bit -- but my cases were at the gate, my uniforms
21 for nursery, they were in the front hall, and I was told
22 to pick them up and just leave.

23 Q. By whom? Who told you that?

24 A. Sister [LFH] and a woman called [LHO] -- and I can't
25 remember her second name. She was one of the "girls".

1 Q. At that time, were you doing some form of work?

2 A. Yes, I was doing day release at college.

3 Q. And what were the uniforms for?

4 A. The uniforms were because I was going into -- I started
5 off in the education side, which was nursery nurse --
6 sorry, nursery schools. This was me doing -- six
7 months' probation -- this was me going into day
8 nurseries where we had nurse's uniforms.

9 Q. So the uniforms were there?

10 A. The uniforms were there and two cases. So I did
11 struggle, couldn't quite make it to the bus stop, so
12 I went to the Chapel House, which was in the next
13 avenue, and asked the lady there if I could leave my
14 bits and pieces there. So I said, "I'll take the two
15 cases and come back for my uniforms", and when I came
16 back that night, the uniforms had gone.

17 Q. Do you know where they went?

18 A. She told me one of the girls from the convent had taken
19 them.

20 Q. Did this cause a difficulty for you when you went back
21 to the college?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What happened?

24 A. The dean sent for me and my home mistress, Ms Wyram(?),
25 five foot two of brimstone and fire, and basically he

1 told me that Sister [REDACTED] LFH had phoned him and told him
2 I wasn't fit to be looking after children, I was
3 deceitful, I was a liar, I was a thief, and he would
4 have to dismiss me from my course. Ms Wyrum was very
5 rude about nuns in general. She was, in my words,
6 incandescent with rage that someone would have the
7 temerity to actually tell the college who was fit and
8 who wasn't. She also declared that she knew me better
9 than her, that was after six months, and as far as she
10 was concerned I was staying and I would pass my prelims
11 and I would pass my exams, or I would answer to her.

12 Q. And that's what happened?

13 A. That's what happened.

14 Q. Then, looking at life after care, you provide us with
15 some detail of that at paragraphs 85, I think, through
16 to about 95 or thereabouts.

17 A. Mm-hm.

18 Q. In particular, if you look at 95, you worked at [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED] for quite some time; is that
20 right?

21 A. I retired out of there, yes.

22 Q. Was that what your career involved, working with
23 children?

24 A. No. When I moved out, I moved in with a boy I was
25 seeing -- it was his stepdad and his mum that said

1 I could sleep in their sofa bed until such times as
2 I found a place of my own, which I did with a friend
3 who'd started college with me. From there, I went into
4 a flat, [REDACTED] I believe that's in there
5 somewhere, and unfortunately I was thrown out of there
6 because I was told I was cheeky, and moved to another
7 flat in [REDACTED] This is all over the other
8 side of Glasgow.

9 From there, I worked in residential nursery at that
10 time, and then basically I was told I couldn't have
11 Christmas and New Year, I was to do my first night
12 shifts, the residential -- because I had no family and
13 therefore I wouldn't need the holidays. I took
14 exception to that and said I was leaving, I worked my
15 notice and I went into a shop, [REDACTED] and
16 I worked in there for a while and then I went into
17 private nannyng for a couple in Glasgow with one child,
18 a female, and the other one was in boarding school and
19 he came home at the holidays.

20 Q. I don't want to go into the detail of it, but
21 I understand from reading your statement that you went
22 to different parts of the country --

23 A. Mm-hm.

24 Q. -- including Northern Ireland, for example, and were
25 involved with certain projects.

1 A. That's with [REDACTED] yes. Once I'd finished being
2 a nanny, I was actually pregnant then, and my then
3 boyfriend, my husband, and I, got married and I looked
4 after my daughter until she was 4, and then I took
5 part-time work in [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED] they were superstores, and worked my way up
7 from checkout operator into accounts, then into
8 personnel, and when the place was closing, [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED] were all closing, I was interviewed and went
10 out on the road then.

11 Out on the road, yes. I had different projects, so
12 I had projects in Northern Ireland, northern England --
13 that's after I was made redundant from the store and
14 they employed me back again as a peripatetic trainer and
15 personal development so, yes, I travelled widely.

16 Q. Coming to the [REDACTED] job, you were there for about
17 13 years --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- and that involved teaching people how to treat other
20 people, basically?

21 A. Yes. I also was asked if consultants could come on my
22 courses to learn how to be assertive. I was quite happy
23 to do so.

24 Q. Well, can I ask you about what you see the impact of
25 having been in care to be.

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. Can you help me with that?

3 A. I think it's lack of self-worth. That was the main ...
4 It was being distanced from your family. We have
5 a large family and we don't know where they are.
6 Distanced from my half-sisters, my stepsister. The
7 impact has been, if you like, being different. You
8 don't tell anyone you've been in care. I'm still
9 ashamed of being ... I've been nobody ... Sorry.

10 (Pause)

11 You feel worthless. Your outward confidence comes
12 from faking it until you make it, and I made it, but you
13 still have this burning sense of injustice. I detest
14 bullies with a passion. I will not allow people to
15 disrespect me in any way. I'm not aggressive, but I am
16 assertive. I tell them how I want to be treated; not
17 how they think I should be treated but how I want to be
18 treated. But that gives me sleepless nights. After
19 I've done it, I replay it and replay it. I know lots of
20 people do, but it has left me with those feelings of
21 inadequacy, of worthlessness, and at points you think
22 when your friends say to you, "That was of its time", in
23 other words, "Get over it". My response to that is
24 I know it was better. I was in Dunoon and those people
25 treated us well. So I know the difference between that

1 and what happened in Nazareth House.

2 The bestiality, the sheer cruelty and bullying, that
3 really was something that no child should endure.

4 Q. You mention in paragraph 103 a television programme.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I think it's a programme that Bishop Conti, as he then
7 was, had come on and made some comments.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You were unhappy about --

10 A. I was. At the time I was speaking to -- well, a very
11 respected member of the law was helping -- there were
12 quite a few of us, the chairman and what have you, and
13 my role was development of people and looking at child
14 protection issues. This person was there and I asked
15 her, that this had all arisen again and I had asked her,
16 why would we have an inquiry, and she said it was so
17 lessons that are learned from that can lead to, if you
18 like, not necessarily legislation, but good practice and
19 so on.

20 I said there was a programme on that evening which
21 I didn't -- I wouldn't take part in. Again, exposure.
22 I tell very few people, as I said earlier. So she
23 actually watched it and I spoke to her a few days later.
24 She said, "What did you think?" and I said, "For a man
25 of the cloth to stand there and say these people in

1 these places were either defective or delinquent" -- now
2 you're talking about six-month-old babies in there,
3 leading their whole lives up until they go into service,
4 as we did in those days, and to call them -- there was
5 one girl that had night terrors. There was another girl
6 that came in from, I think it was Lasswade, because she
7 had had a baby. The rest of us were in there because
8 our parents had died or our parents couldn't cope, and
9 a lot of it was through poverty, bad housing, whatever,
10 whatever. To this day, I really am unhappy about that,
11 to say the least.

12 Q. I think you tell us in your statement you did approach
13 the Archdiocese of Glasgow.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And you asked about what was happening in connection
16 with certain complaints that had been made; is that
17 right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What were the complaints that had been made?

20 A. Well, basically I think it was after that programme.

21 You know, I said, "Well, what is actually happening?

22 What's the Catholic Church doing about what's been

23 happening in your name?" And the chap at the time,

24 he was so woolly, he was a layperson, he certainly --

25 Q. Was he representing the archdiocese?

1 A. He was representing the archdiocese and he said
2 basically, "These things happen". The nuns were
3 inviting us for tea and a discussion and I really was
4 quite rude.

5 Q. So do I take it from what you're saying that this person
6 who was representing the archdiocese was suggesting to
7 you that you go and meet the nuns?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And have tea and a discussion?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So you didn't take that up?

12 A. No, no. Even talking about it, talking about entering
13 the gates, there's an visceral, gut-wrenching feeling to
14 me that I couldn't step over that door.

15 Q. And finally, Poppy, if I could take you to paragraph 110
16 in your statement because there you're setting out what
17 I think you see your hopes for this inquiry to be.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can you tell me what your hopes are?

20 A. My hopes are that we will receive a full and honest, not
21 "we may" or "it could have", I want a full apology from
22 the Sisters of Nazareth. I would like it from now
23 Archbishop Conti. I would like him to acknowledge that
24 what he said on national television was victimising
25 every single person that had been in the care of

1 Nazareth House. I would also like, if you like, lessons
2 to be learned, not just Nazareth House, but widely, that
3 if a child tells you something, you believe it. You
4 investigate it, but you believe it until such times as
5 you find that it's either true or untrue.

6 Q. And do you make that particular remark because of your
7 own experience in making complaints that were not --

8 A. They weren't taken up, yes.

9 LADY SMITH: So you seem to be saying take what a child says
10 seriously, don't just dismiss it out of hand?

11 A. Yes, and don't say that this child in the past may have
12 been telling fairy stories, because this might just be
13 the time that it's true.

14 LADY SMITH: Yes.

15 MR MacAULAY: Well, Poppy, thank you for that, for coming to
16 give your evidence. In asking the questions I've asked
17 you, I've put to you questions I've been asked to ask
18 you.

19 My Lady, unless there are any or questions, then
20 I think Poppy can probably leave.

21 A. Could I just add something?

22 LADY SMITH: Can I just check one thing and then I'd love
23 you to add anything you want to offer.

24 Does anybody in the room have an outstanding
25 application for questions? No.

1 Now, tell me what it is you wanted to explain.

2 A. It was just that when they were asked to dismiss me from
3 college, Sister LFH told my sister I'd been kicked
4 out and I was living on the streets, and she found that
5 not to be true months and months later.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you for adding that. I think there was
7 some reference to that in your written statement, but
8 that's something that's clear in your memory, is it?

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: It just remains for me, Poppy, to thank you
11 very much for coming forward, for providing the detailed
12 written statement that you have and coming here today to
13 give your oral evidence. It is of enormous assistance
14 to hear from you and what you wanted to tell us today.
15 I am now able to let you go.

16 A. Thank you very much.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 (The witness withdrew)

19 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

20 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, that is it for today. Tomorrow there
21 are three witnesses, oral witnesses, lined up to give
22 evidence.

23 LADY SMITH: Very well. I'll adjourn now until 10 o'clock
24 tomorrow morning.

25 (4.00 pm)

1 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am on Friday 4 May)
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"CATHIE" (sworn)1

Questions from MR MacAULAY1

"MARGARET" (affirmed)77

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Questions from MR MacAULAY124

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