

1 Tuesday, 8 May 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome to the third week of
4 the case study into institutions run by the Sisters of
5 Nazareth. As was indicated on Friday, I think we start
6 today with an oral witness; is that right, Mr MacAulay?

7 MR MacAULAY: Yes, good morning, my Lady, we do, and this is
8 an applicant who wants to remain anonymous and she wants
9 to use the name "Anne" in giving evidence.

10 "ANNE" (affirmed)

11 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.
12 You may have to adjust your position a little to get
13 comfortable with the microphone, but if you do get into
14 the right position, it's really helpful to you and to us
15 and particularly to the stenographers who need to hear
16 you coming through the sound system. Thank you.

17 Mr MacAulay, when you're ready.

18 Questions from MR MacAULAY

19 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, Anne.

20 A. Good morning.

21 Q. The first thing I want to confirm with you is the year
22 of your birth, not the date. Can you confirm that you
23 were born in 1949?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. In the red folder you'll find your statement. I'm going

1 to give the reference for the transcript:

2 WIT.001.001.4511.

3 If you could turn to the last page, page 4522, can
4 I ask you to confirm that you have signed the statement?

5 A. I have signed this, that's correct.

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

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

9 A. I have no objection.

10 Q. Do you also go on to say:

11 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
12 statement are true"?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. In the course of my questioning, I may ask you questions
15 and if you think there's something you may want to say,
16 something you haven't included in your witness
17 statement, please feel free to tell us if that's the
18 case. Likewise if I ask you about a date and you can't
19 remember, just say that.

20 You tell us a little about your family background in
21 your statement. I understand that you were the eldest
22 of seven children; is that correct?

23 A. That's correct, yes.

24 Q. What you tell us is that your home life was a perfectly
25 happy one.

1 A. In my memory it was a happy situation, yes.

2 Q. But I think your mother became ill; is that correct?

3 A. That's correct. She became ill after -- shortly after
4 the birth of the sixth child. She developed breast
5 cancer, she had treatment for the breast cancer, which
6 appeared in those days, I don't know, we're talking a
7 long time -- how far it went. Apparently she fell
8 pregnant again in [REDACTED] 1961 and towards the end of that
9 pregnancy she took ill.

10 My memory of it is that we woke up one morning and
11 she didn't put us out to school that morning which was
12 very unusual, she wasn't able to get out of bed. We put
13 ourselves out to school that morning and on coming back
14 from school, she was away, she had been taken into
15 hospital.

16

17

18

19 So at that point there were six children at home, so
20 they were having to deal with that situation where my
21 mother had to go under treatment and was hospitalised.

22 Q. Was it against that background that you were admitted to
23 Nazareth House Cardonald?

24 A. That was what generated the move to Nazareth House,
25 which was, I think, as a young family at that time,

1 we were kind of -- it was put to us it was a temporary
2 situation, a wee holiday. That's the way it was put to
3 us at the time. So it was exciting for some of the
4 young ones as we thought we were going for a trip,
5 a holiday.

6 Q. Were there priests involved in that process?

7 A. My understanding and memory of it -- we stayed in
8 a tenement in [REDACTED] in Glasgow. The lady across
9 the landing, [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED] she had a brother,
12 Father [REDACTED] who occasionally used to come to visit
13 her. He appeared to have a contact with a
14 Father [REDACTED] who at that time was a priest at
15 [REDACTED] parish, which serviced Nazareth House. That's
16 my memory of how the ball got rolling and that's where
17 we were sort of put in quite quickly.

18 Q. And so far as those who went into care is concerned,
19 I think there were five of you, five girls who were
20 admitted.

21 A. The five girls -- apparently at that time
22 Nazareth House -- my brother at that point -- I had
23 a wee look at my memory and I think some of the dates
24 are slightly out, we were slightly older. My brother at
25 that point was probably 10, going on 11. He was too

1 old. I think at that time Nazareth House only took boys
2 under nursery age and maybe slightly older than that,
3 but certainly not as old as 11. They would be inclined
4 to be sent to Aberdeen and the family decision was that
5 he wasn't going, so he was to stay at home.

6 We did have extended family that lived locally. My
7 grandmother and my grandfather and my aunt stayed within
8 walking distance, so he was kind of left at home with
9 the view that, between my father and the extended
10 family, he'd be okay to be at home, as it was supposed
11 to be only temporary.

12 Q. According to the records that have been provided to us
13 by the Sisters of Nazareth, you were admitted to
14 Nazareth House Cardonald on [REDACTED] 1961. How does
15 that fit in with your own recollection?

16 A. As I say, being a child at the time, my memory of it --
17 I, at that point, had started secondary school, so I was
18 at a different school from my younger sisters; [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED] I had at that point
20 just started at [REDACTED], which is down at
21 [REDACTED] end of Glasgow. So the decision was that
22 I would go later. My father would pick me up -- he took
23 the younger ones earlier in the day and would come back
24 for me and bring me in in the evening. I just have
25 a remember of it being [REDACTED], so that would

1 [REDACTED]
2 but it was -- around that -- so [REDACTED] 1961 would be
3 about correct.

4 Q. Very well. At that time you'd be 11, coming on to 12,
5 I think?

6 A. I would have been 12 in the [REDACTED]

7 Q. And according to the records that we've seen, you left
8 on [REDACTED] 1968 --

9 A. That would be correct.

10 Q. -- when you were about 15 going on 16?

11 A. I would be 18.

12 Q. Yes, you're quite right.

13 A. In those days -- in that time in Nazareth House, that's
14 quite an old age for a schoolchild because I did carry
15 on to further education.

16 Q. When you were admitted then, the five sisters, what was
17 the arrangement in relation to where you went? In that
18 I understand, for example, that the youngest was quite
19 a bit younger than you.

20 A. Yes. There was -- two of my sisters were at school,
21 three -- two younger sisters hadn't started school at
22 that point. The two younger sisters, one of them at
23 that point was 4, she wouldn't be 5 until the March. So
24 she wouldn't be at school at that point. So there was
25 a nursery which was a separate -- it was in the same

1 building but it was through a dividing door and the
2 under school age children were kept in the nursery. So
3 the youngest -- my younger sister at that point, not the
4 baby -- at this point the newborn wasn't with us, she
5 was still in the care of the hospital, but the youngest
6 sister was put into the nursery.

7 The next girl up from here, who was not of school
8 age, was not put in the nursery at that point, which was
9 odd, she should have been. She spent time on the
10 children's side when most of the children were at
11 school, which was strange, but that's what they did.

12 Q. At the time, what was your attitude to being separated
13 from the youngest?

14 A. At that time -- I kind of understood why it was.

15 I couldn't understand why the second youngest one at
16 that point wasn't there. I didn't understand that. But
17 as a child, I had no say in the matter anyway, you had
18 your own feelings. I just felt -- yeah, I did feel
19 there was ... There was times when I felt that that
20 youngest child was very separate.

21 Q. Did you see much of the youngest child in the early
22 period, if we look at that period?

23 A. The only time we would see her on a regular basis was in
24 church; they used to sit at the front.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. She used to keep turning round to look back, and they
2 used to turn her round to face the front. I just
3 remember watching ... Apart from that, we did see her
4 on a regular basis on a Saturday; my father would come
5 and visit on a Saturday regularly so we saw her then.

6 Q. When your father came to visit, would you all be
7 together then?

8 A. Yes, we would be together. That would be truthfully --
9 yes, that would be the case.

10 She was -- I think she herself felt separated.

11 Q. Okay. One thing you do say in your statement, though,
12 Anne, is you do think, looking back, that your mother
13 was trying to keep all the girls together.

14 A. To be fair, I think the justification was keeping us
15 together. I think, looking back now as an adult,
16 I think it was the right decision, funnily enough,
17 although we went through this procedure. But being the
18 size of the family that we were, what was the options?
19 My father -- in those days, men just didn't leave work
20 to look after children, so the option would have been to
21 divide us up between the rest of the extended family.
22 I don't think that was an option at the time.

23 So yes, that was the whole plan, was to keep us all
24 together. The separation within the youngsters, that
25 was accepted at that nursery for under fives. But yes,

1 she was separated quite early. For her, as an infant,
2 at that age, for that to happen to her, I think was, in
3 hindsight, not one of the best things, but it's what
4 happened.

5 Q. What about yourself and the other sisters? Where did
6 you go within the building, looking to accommodation?

7 A. When we went in at first, the way the accommodation was
8 laid out in those days -- at that time there was groups,
9 you know, the children were divided into three groups,
10 looked after by -- there would be a sister and a member
11 of staff to each group at the time when I went in at
12 first. There was the red, the blue and the green and
13 we were part of the green group.

14 Q. When you say "we", that's you and your sisters?

15 A. My sisters, yes. We were kept together, to be fair, we
16 were kept together within that group and I think there
17 was a policy of keeping sisters together within a group.
18 Sisters weren't divided up between the groups or
19 anything or children. So they were kept within their
20 groups.

21 Q. How many were in the group?

22 A. It's hard to say, but thinking back I would probably say
23 there could be up to 20 children per group, varying age
24 groups, from all school ages. The variety of school
25 ages between 5 to -- at that time the school leaving age

1 was 16ish. So that would be the normal range of age.

2 Q. So you as a 11/12-year-old --

3 A. I would be in --

4 Q. In the middle?

5 A. We would be in that group, yes.

6 Q. Were there other family groups in your group?

7 A. There was a few, yes. I can remember a couple of groups
8 of sisters. Yes, there was.

9 Q. And of course it was all girls at that time?

10 A. There was all girls. There did appear to be the
11 occasional little boy who would appear, but they were
12 very young little boys, probably 7 and under. If they
13 were older -- they seemed to come in later on, but most
14 of the little boys were in the nursery and then they
15 would come through to the school for a wee while and
16 then -- I don't remember little boys over the age of 7.
17 So I don't know -- I can't remember, but I'm assuming
18 they were moved on somewhere. I can't remember any over
19 7ish.

20 Q. Just looking over the period you were there, did you
21 change from that group to another group?

22 A. Not while I was there; I was always in the green group.

23 Q. But I take it the personnel within the group itself
24 would change over the years?

25 A. Yes. The sisters used to change periodically. The nuns

1 themselves would be moved on and you would get
2 a different sister.

3 While I was there -- again in this -- and I'm only
4 talking about my experience -- when we first went in
5 there was a elderly nun and then a couple of years after
6 that we got a second sister in. The elderly nun was
7 Sister [LFH] and the sister that replaced her in my
8 green group was Sister [LFL].

9 Q. Did she essentially take over from Sister [LFH] ?

10 A. She would just slot in where Sister [LFH] was
11 before -- and there would be maybe one member of staff
12 -- the staff were -- when I look back now, there was one
13 point where the staff member was younger than me,
14 although I was one of the children. At one point there
15 was a kind of crossover where I was older than the
16 member of staff. They were always pretty young people.

17 Q. Obviously a young girl who was --

18 A. A young girl that had left school and came to work with
19 them. They got bed and board and food and I suppose
20 they got paid. There were never any women working as
21 staff for the children; they were girls and young women.

22 Q. You also mentioned a Sister [LFP].

23 A. She was with the red group.

24 Q. Are there any other sisters' names you can recollect?

25 A. When I went in at first, Sister [LFP] was with the

1 red group and Sister **LFH** was with the green group.
2 I cannot recollect the sister in charge of the blue
3 group at that point. She changed over a good few years
4 later. She just doesn't register in my head. I can't
5 see her face and I can't see her name.

6 Then there came a very young sister -- Sister **LKE**
7 **LKE** came when I was about 16. She was very young.
8 She was a breath of fresh air, you could say. She just
9 seemed a different type of person, but she was in charge
10 of the blue group and then Sister **LFP** left --
11 I think there was somebody came in for a wee while and
12 then there was another young sister, Sister **LFS** --
13 I think it's **LFS** -- came in with the red group.

14 Q. Can I just ask you a little bit about the routine. One
15 of the things you do tell us is that you had to get up
16 early in the morning; is that right?

17 A. It was a very routine situation, yes. We would get up
18 early -- I'm making a guess at about half 6, 7 o'clock,
19 probably. The way the sisters operated, they had a kind
20 of shift system, you know. One -- of the three sisters,
21 one of them would be on in the morning. They would come
22 in, clap their hands, everybody up, everybody up, and
23 they would -- what they used to do was check for
24 children that had wet their beds, get out, say your
25 morning prayers. What we used to do was strip back the

1 beds, leave them open, get dressed -- get washed, get
2 dressed, downstairs, breakfast.

3 Q. And did you have chores to do in the morning?

4 A. We had routine chores -- everybody had their routine.
5 Each child had a thing that they did. So there would be
6 the children that did the bedrooms and there would be
7 the children that did the clearing up in the refectory
8 and the scullery work. So all that was done after
9 breakfast. So the children that were to do upstairs
10 would go up as a wee team and they would make the beds
11 and do the -- and then it was downstairs, school.

12 Q. And did you go to the local school --

13 A. We went to the local schools --

14 Q. So you had moved from your previous secondary school --

15 A. The primary schoolchildren went to Lourdes primary
16 across the road and Lourdes secondary was just over the
17 wall.

18 Q. So it was convenient?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you have told me about the chores you did on a daily
21 basis. What about at the weekend? Was there
22 a particular programme of work?

23 A. There was. On a Saturday morning -- it was completely
24 given over to heavy cleaning.

25 Q. What would that involve?

1 A. Well, the children were divvied up. So the red, blue
2 and green group would deal with their own areas, their
3 own sitting rooms and their own bedrooms; the dining
4 room a shared job because we all shared the same dining
5 room.

6 Some children would do bedroom work, some children
7 would do the corridors -- I'm talking about long
8 corridors here. They would do the scrubbing, waxing,
9 polishing. We used to use big bumping ... For example,
10 there would be what they called senior girls, that would
11 be probably girls 13 and up, they would be senior and
12 they would have a wee team of younger children, so the
13 bigger girl would do the heavy waxing and the wee ones
14 would have cloths on their feet and -- the bigger girl
15 would do the bumper to take the wax off and the little
16 kids would have like bits of cloth to their feet and
17 they would stand in a row holding hands and just go back
18 and forth up and down. Got a great polish!

19 Q. How long --

20 A. That was normal. That's what you did. That's what you
21 did. If you were doing, for example, the refectory,
22 there was kind of a thing about getting a good shine on
23 the floor. If you got a bit of shine, that was a mark
24 for you.

25 Q. How much of the day would be devoted --

1 A. Most of the Saturday morning. The children that did
2 upstairs, that were on the bedroom duties, again
3 it would be a senior girl and a couple of youngsters.
4 The beds would be -- I'm trying to think now. The beds
5 would be stripped back, the sheets would be taken off
6 and changed, the mattress would be folded up, and all
7 the furniture would be moved to one side and then there
8 would be this whole waxing and polishing -- these were
9 timber floors before it was fashionable. They were real
10 timber so they were pretty skelf -- if you didn't do it
11 right you would get skelfs on your finger.

12 You would wax down with white wax, which was --
13 sometimes you used paraffin to soften it. And if you
14 were doing the red corridors, I remember Cardinal red
15 wax, and that was to give a red polish to the tiling.
16 Then you would wax that and then they would bumper that
17 and move it all to the other side and by the time dinner
18 was ready, everything was back and it was all fresh.
19 That was the routine.

20 Q. Were there lay members of staff who did cleaning?

21 A. No.

22 Q. What about the nuns, what did they do?

23 A. They kind of supervised, but in my recollection I never
24 saw a nun use a bumper or a duster. The staff would be
25 there, they had -- there was only one staff per group,

1 so they might be with one of the groups. Again, I don't
2 recollect.

3 Q. Was this the system throughout your time there?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You also mention that on Saturday, your heads would be
6 checked for lice.

7 A. There was a head check. There would be a head check
8 after dinner. You'd go into -- it was a room off the --
9 I think each team had their own place they would go
10 after dinner on a Saturday and they would check the
11 heads.

12 As you can imagine in an environment of that -- it
13 was quite common to have infestations, as I would say.
14 Some children were more prone than others. I don't know
15 why that would happen, but one of my sisters did have
16 a wee tendency. They would have this quick look and
17 then, "Stand over there", and then it would be deal with
18 her head and you'd need to clean that child's head.

19 Q. So you would have to do that?

20 A. I would usually deal with whatever -- to be fair,
21 I wasn't probably the happiest of persons, so I probably
22 would take it out on them.

23 Q. So it was you who did it rather than the sister?

24 A. They sisters didn't do head cleaning. No, they just
25 didn't do it.

1 Q. Can I just ask you about the food: how did you find the
2 food when you were there?

3 A. Basic. It was fine. It was nothing that you weren't
4 used to in those days. Maybe a child nowadays would
5 groo(?) at it, but in those days we did school dinners,
6 they weren't particularly brilliant -- it was probably
7 similar -- you would say it was probably similar to what
8 you'd get at school dinners in those days, your meat and
9 two veg sort of thing, porridge in the morning.

10 You probably got a cooked breakfast on a Sunday
11 morning. There would be sausage and bacon and ... It
12 would come in great big -- it was very much industrial
13 cooking as in obviously dealing with a lot of people.
14 It was a big industrial-style kitchen because it was
15 catering for the whole building, and that would include
16 the old people and the nuns themselves -- the nuns had
17 a separate refectory -- and it would come in in big
18 trays or big pots and then it was ladled out and each
19 little table would get their servings and it was fine.

20 Q. Did your group eat separately from the other groups?

21 A. No, the refectory was communal. If my memory serves me
22 well, they would have a little partition, part-way up:
23 the green group would be to the front and then it would
24 be the blue group and then it was the red team at the
25 back. So they sat in their own little units, but it was

1 in the same room, a great big room.

2 Q. If you got something you didn't like, what would happen?

3 A. Occasionally that did happen. It did happen. Then
4 again it would depend. This is where it sounds -- it
5 would depend on what sister was on duty that day how
6 it would be dealt with. Some sisters would make the
7 child come to the top table -- there was a big top table
8 where sister used to sit: bring that up here, stand
9 there, you will finish it. You might get one child, two
10 children, three children, kind of playing with it.

11 Some children learned tricks to avoid it, like
12 throwing it on the floor and things like that or putting
13 it in a cup and taking it to the toilet. Kids learn
14 very quickly how to avoid situations, but if you were
15 forced to stand there, occasionally it would be there
16 for you at teatime or it could be there for you the next
17 day. It did happen, but honestly I do not remember
18 force-feeding, anybody having it held -- but I do
19 remember them having to stand afterwards and finish it.

20 Q. I think you tell us that you did have recreation time,
21 particularly after school --

22 A. Mm-hm.

23 Q. -- and you had toys and a TV.

24 A. Each group had their own sitting room and in that
25 sitting room you had the television -- we're talking

1 about the early 60s, so television in those days was
2 pretty basic anyway. There was toys, there was games.
3 It was between when we came in from school at the back
4 of 4 o'clock -- I think, if I remember, you used to get
5 a wee tea when you came in -- no, we didn't. Sometimes
6 we did. At the weekend you did. But you would go and
7 you would get recreation, which would be a wee bit of
8 time to watch telly or play with toys until it was
9 teatime at 6 o'clock.

10 Q. And the toys, what sort of toys were there?

11 A. It's hard to think because I think it was 12, 13,
12 I didn't focus on toys very much. There wasn't a -- it
13 wasn't like you would see nowadays. It was little bits
14 and pieces that kids would play with. Kids were
15 inclined to amuse themselves anyway.

16 Q. But television then, you could watch particular
17 television programmes?

18 A. Particular would be the word for it, yes. It was very
19 censored. There were only certain things we'd get to
20 watch. We certainly didn't watch television of an
21 evening.

22 Q. You have mentioned the food. One thing you do say is
23 that the sister in the kitchen and, as you put it, she
24 was always good for a laugh. Do you remember name?

25 A. I can't remember her name. I can see her face as well.

1 There was a more -- you could be relaxed round her. Bu
2 good for a laugh, I mean she was a relaxed person, she'd
3 talk to you like -- you didn't feel you know --
4 sometimes what would happen occasionally if they were
5 short staffed in the kitchen, they would say
6 particularly the senior girls, go and help in the
7 kitchen this afternoon or something. And you used to
8 quite like it because it was -- enjoyed it, working in
9 there, because she was quite a relaxed lady. I can't --
10 she was small and she had glasses. She worked -- she
11 was working. She used to have a pinny on and she used
12 to -- you know how the sisters used to wear their habits
13 down to -- hers was always pinned back and up. I
14 don't know, I just remember enjoying working in the
15 kitchen.

16 Q. You've already touched upon bed-wetting and how the beds
17 would be looked at in the morning. Can you just tell me
18 about that? Let's say you were woken up in the morning;
19 what did this process of looking for bed-wetting
20 involve?

21 A. Can I just add -- there was some point in our time --
22 when we first went -- I'm talking about my family and
23 myself and my siblings -- at one point when we first
24 went in we were in a communal dormitory, which was
25 sectioned off, and we were in the far end of it. But

1 there was a point where we, as a family, were separated
2 and put into our own bedroom. It was not a bedroom, it
3 was another like a small dormitory, it only held four
4 beds. Four beds. I think -- I don't know, I'm only
5 guessing now as an adult that there's been something
6 where -- at this point I don't think my mother had
7 passed away or she had just passed away. There must
8 have been something, I want my girls together or
9 something. We were separated from the other children
10 and given our own wee situation.

11 But the routine for bed-wetting was the beds would
12 be put back and they would focus on the certain age
13 group and check the beds and there was regular children
14 that had that problem -- right, the bed would come --
15 the sheets would come off, stand over there, hold your
16 -- they would stand out in the corridor and there would
17 be a wee line of them holding their sheets. Usually
18 regular wee faces there.

19 One of my sisters had the odd accident. She would
20 wake you in the middle of the night -- we were in a
21 separate room at this time -- you'd get the wee, "I've
22 wet my bed". Well, as an older child I didn't want my
23 sister standing there holding her sheets in the morning,
24 what I saw going on, so I would swap sheets with her
25 because my -- so she had dry sheets in the morning. My

1 bed wouldn't be checked as an older child. That just
2 didn't happen and I would --

3 Q. But you sister's bed would be checked?

4 A. Her bed would be checked because she was a younger
5 child. She would be checked -- or even if they didn't
6 check the bed, they sometimes would know that an
7 accident had happened. There is -- these things, you
8 can tell if you go into a room if a child has wet the
9 bed, you just know. So they would know anyway. They
10 would find it.

11 I did that on occasions. It wasn't a regular
12 occasion, to be fair to my young sister, but she did
13 have the odd incident.

14 Q. But there were children who, I think you've told us,
15 regularly wet the bed?

16 A. Yes. One wee girl -- it sticks in my mind because I can
17 remember her name, but she was a regular wee girl that
18 had an accident probably every night -- and the one
19 incident I do remember was what that she had been told
20 to go and stand wherever it was and they forgot about
21 her. They completely forgot about her. This child was,
22 I'm making a guess, about maybe 6 or 7. Apparently, at
23 10 o'clock that night one of the staff members got
24 a knock on the door to say, "Can I go to my bed now?"
25 and she had stood there the whole day and the whole day

1 had gone on and nobody had missed her. How did that
2 happen? It did happen.

3 Q. Did anything else happen to the bed-wetters that you can
4 remember?

5 A. What I -- there used to be a bathroom -- when you came
6 up the stairs there was kind of a landing and on that
7 landing there was a bathroom where they had two baths,
8 big baths. They used to put the sheets into the bath
9 and the little kids that had wet their beds had to rinse
10 their own sheets. Sometimes I used to go by and after
11 school, after they had their breakfast, not before they
12 had had their breakfast, they would go up and if they
13 had wet their bed they had to go in and rinse their
14 sheets. So you would sometimes see a row of wee bums
15 hanging over the baths, washing their sheets, rinsing
16 out their sheets themselves.

17 Q. If you look at paragraph 57 of your statement -- I'm
18 just going to jump ahead to that -- it will come on the
19 screen and it might be easier for you to see it on the
20 screen -- there you say that:

21 "sister [REDACTED] LFH would also use the cane sometimes on
22 those who wet their beds."

23 Can I ask about that?

24 A. Sister [REDACTED] LFH famous and -- Sister [REDACTED] LFH sticks in
25 my mind because she was the sister who first met you --

1 when I went in, she was in charge of the green group.
2 She was a -- at my time, I'm looking at her my age now,
3 but she was probably the same -- she was elderly, to me
4 she was elderly. You soon learnt very fast that
5 Sister **LFH** used a cane, used a stick, and she was
6 quite free with it. She had canes on different -- she
7 had a cane upstairs outside the clothes room, she had
8 one downstairs at the boot room, and she had another one
9 in the sitting room. So if a child did something and
10 for whatever reason she felt she needed to use the cane
11 on them, which would be -- occasionally it would be the
12 bed-wetters would get it, "Go stand at this place", or,
13 "Go stand at that place", and the child -- you would
14 know that the particular cane you were going to get,
15 whether it was the wee skinny one or the fat one, which
16 was the sorest -- but to be fair, I never got the cane,
17 I was never in a situation where that happened.

18 I've heard stories about her rapping children's
19 knuckles with a stick for no apparent reason. One of my
20 sisters, who was a very compliant child at the time, not
21 a child that would give you any problems, this was the
22 first incident that affected me as a person in
23 remembering it with anger at the time but not being able
24 to do anything about it. She had -- when we went in at
25 first, we had to have new plimsolls because they didn't

1 allow indoor shoes in the convent, so my father had
2 bought us all black plimsolls. The children would wear
3 these plimsolls until they were basic falling off their
4 feet and there was no other option but to change them.
5 So some of the children had plimsolls that were
6 beyond -- were a bit of a state. So this particular
7 child had asked my sister to swap shoes and my sister
8 did it. Sister **LFH** caned the both of them. She
9 took the two of them aside for doing what they did.
10 That's all they did.

11 But when I came in from school -- because I came in
12 from school much later -- I heard this particular sister
13 had been caned and that was why she had been caned. She
14 was quite upset about it and I thought it was
15 ridiculous --

16 Q. Do you know what the caning involved? How would the
17 cane be used?

18 A. There is people in this courtroom of an age -- we all
19 remember getting the belt at school. It was similar to
20 that, the hand out, whack, hand out, whack.

21 Q. You yourself never experienced --

22 A. Not the cane -- I experienced the belt at school. This
23 is what I tried to get -- when we were talking about
24 this, understanding the culture at that time of being
25 corporal -- of corporal punishment being used. Children

1 of that time didn't see that as -- they didn't like it,
2 there was no getting away from it, they didn't like it,
3 but it was kind of a fact of life: if you got caught,
4 you got the belt. If you got caught in the convent with
5 Sister [LFH], you got the cane. So you didn't see
6 it -- you didn't like -- but to get it in situations
7 where it was unwarranted, that's where maybe you'd be
8 upset and angry about it.

9 Q. You have mentioned already that Sister [LFH] was in
10 charge of your group, the green group --

11 A. She was.

12 Q. -- at least for a while.

13 A. For a period of years, the first period that we were in
14 there, yes.

15 Q. And then I think you said it was Sister [LFL]?

16 A. I don't remember -- she didn't use -- to be fair,
17 I don't remember any of the other sisters using an
18 implement.

19 Q. We'll look at that later as to what other things might
20 have been used. Can I ask you about washing because you
21 do say in your statement that washing was something of
22 a farce. I just wanted to understand what you meant by
23 that.

24 A. When I kind of ... I'll kind of digress slightly. When
25 we first went in, we were given these linen garments.

1 They came down to your knees and they were coarse linen,
2 and they were a grey stripey thing and your name was
3 written. You were given that and, "What's that?"
4 "That's a washing petticoat". It was to be able to wash
5 in an environment where there was a communal washing
6 area where you could hide your modesty. You became very
7 good at working with this thing to wash where you needed
8 to wash without anything showing. The older girls, we
9 used to -- I thought it was funny because we're not used
10 to that, obviously, because that's what you used.

11 I'm digressing slightly here but I remember watching
12 a movie, I don't know if you've seen the Magdalene
13 Sisters, I and saw the girls wearing the similar -- and
14 I went "washing petticoats". But it was a communal
15 environment, so this was the very old-fashioned way of
16 doing things, I thought.

17 Q. As you went through puberty I think you tended to get
18 more privacy --

19 A. There was a bit of a privacy to a certain extent --

20 Q. Can you elaborate on that?

21 A. When we first went in there wasn't showers but I think
22 they had a wee point where they got showers put in. But
23 the baths had like a curtain round them -- you know, it
24 was like you see in the hospitals with a track. When
25 the younger ones were getting bathed it was a wee --

1 stand in the row, wash them, out. Quite often it was
2 the senior girls that did the bathing anyway. But when
3 the older girls were using the bath, then they got the
4 -- they could use the screens and have a bath privately.

5 Q. Insofar as Christmas was concerned, I think you tell us
6 you got presents and you could keep the presents. Is
7 that --

8 A. I remember you getting to keep the presents.
9 Presents -- I don't remember -- now I don't remember
10 there being Santa Claus coming and leaving presents
11 at the bottom of your bed as we were used to at home.
12 I don't remember that. Christmastime was quite a -- it
13 was a nice time, a lot of the -- but there was a lot of
14 companies, I will use Lewis' -- the old Lewis', not
15 John Lewis, but Lewis' -- a couple of the other big
16 stores used to do a big Christmas party and give out
17 gifts, not just to our particular home but to a lot of
18 the homes in Glasgow. There was always quite exciting.
19 Some people used to take us out to pantomimes.

20 But Christmas presents -- you used to get a wee
21 present in the afternoon and, yes, you could keep it.
22 It wasn't extravagant, but there was a wee something.
23 Obviously, if you were lucky enough, which in our case
24 was, we did still have extended family and we did have
25 our father who was regularly coming, and you would get

1 presents from home.

2 Q. You say your father visited on a weekly basis.

3 A. He visited on a weekly basis yes.

4 Q. And other family members?

5 A. There used to be what they called visiting Sunday, which
6 was the first Sunday of the month, and that was open to
7 anybody to come and visit.

8 Q. Just looking to medical input, what you tell us in
9 paragraph 42 is that children would get specific
10 check-ups and what I want to ask you is this: who would
11 carry out these checks?

12 A. There used to be a kind of regular thing where they
13 would do like a full medical checkout. It would be
14 a doctor with what we called the pharmacy sister -- I'm
15 trying to think -- I think Atherstone. She always used
16 to wear white, pure white. She was the pharmacy sister.
17 There was a little pharmacy -- there was an annex where
18 the old folks lived and there was like a small surgery
19 environment in there, a nice little clinic environment,
20 and you would get go and get weighed and have a wee
21 check-up and it was done regularly.

22 Apparently, before we went into the convent, there
23 had been a dysentery outbreak in there and I think, on
24 the back of that, there was these regular check-ups
25 done.

1 Q. And when you say "regular", how often do you have in
2 mind?

3 A. I would say probably once a year, maybe once every
4 two years.

5 Q. You also tell us a little bit about clothing in your
6 statement and, as you point out, indeed to children
7 clothes can be important.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. When you went into the convent, did you have clothing
10 that you took with you?

11 A. What I think -- my father packed a couple of suitcases
12 with all our clothes from the house. Everything went
13 into that suitcase, he basically put all our stuff in.
14 When we went in, we went up to our -- we went into our
15 dormitories and the suitcases were up there. I do
16 remember taking our clothes and putting them into these
17 kind of -- there was like a little dressing table with
18 drawers in it, putting socks, pants, bits and bobs into
19 these drawers. Then I would maybe give my sister some
20 fresh socks or fresh pants of a morning, and then I just
21 remember -- this was early days, this is when we first
22 went in, within weeks of going in. I can't remember the
23 time factor, but it was only within a couple of weeks
24 and I remember we were in the breakfast/dining room and
25 I think they spotted one of my sisters -- I think it

1 might have been ██████ -- had a pair of socks on which
2 was obviously not what they had been issued -- it was
3 Sister ██████ LFH ██████, actually. "Where did you get those?"
4 "My sister gave me them", "Okay". So she took me
5 upstairs and emptied every item of clothing out of the
6 drawers, took them all off us. They went into
7 a communal clothes room and in there they went, all our
8 clothes, and she issued us with the same clothes as all
9 the other children, with our names written on them.
10 That bothered me at the time.

11 Q. I think you do tell us in your statement that
12 subsequently you saw girls from another group --

13 A. Once they went into that clothes room, once they went
14 into that big cupboard, they were anybody's. I do
15 remember, the following Easter maybe, maybe even two
16 Easters away, I do remember before we went into care my
17 mother had bought my two younger sisters these little
18 straw bonnets, one was red and one was blue and they had
19 ribbons down the back. I remember at Mass on Easter
20 Sunday the blue group coming in -- not the green group,
21 but the blue group -- and all the heads coming in and
22 I spotted these two hats and I thought -- I was raging
23 because I remember going with my mum to buy those two
24 hats and here they were on these children. My sisters
25 were there, the actual owners of the hats, but they were

1 on two children's ...

2 I don't think there's malice attached to that, but
3 there's an awful lot of thoughtlessness to these things.
4 At the time I thought -- that wasn't -- you are annoyed
5 about it, you can't do anything about it, but it's wee
6 things like that that used to -- and you'd end up -- you
7 had no control over your clothes. That was a big issue,
8 particularly when you got into your teen years, you were
9 made to wear what they told you and sometimes you really
10 just ...

11 I mean, I'm digressing slightly here, but there was
12 shoes issues and at that time they were heavy lace-up
13 shoes and I do remember at that time in the early 60s,
14 the mid-60s, it was very trendy to have slip-on shoes
15 that were very dainty, but these were real heavy -- they
16 looked like boys' shoes. We were issued with those for
17 school and we used to have Sunday shoes which were a bit
18 prettier, so a couple of the girls and I used to swap
19 the shoes for the Sunday shoes and hide the big shoes
20 under a bush up at the top gate, go to school, come back
21 at dinner time, change over, a whole routine.

22 Then one day we came home and there was no shoes
23 under the bush and she was standing --

24 Q. Who was?

25 A. One of the sisters. I think it was LFL at that

1 time because I was older -- not just myself, there was
2 a couple of us. "Stand there." So we were standing
3 there with the Sunday shoes on. We were all in a row,
4 all the ones that were swapping shoes. "Take those
5 shoes off your feet", and she confiscated -- and one the
6 girls, when she took the shoe off, the whole sole fell
7 off -- she'd obviously been wearing them to death -- so
8 roll forward -- and I am going to digress and I am just
9 going to share a quite amusing story.

10 Roll forward, 20, 30 years, I was in a working
11 environment and I went into a staff room and there was
12 a pair of big lace-up shoes in the girls' staff room,
13 and I said, "Whose are the shoes that are in there?"
14 And this wee girl says, "They're mine", and I says, "Do
15 you wear them?" and she says, "Yes, they're all the
16 fashion, Doc Martens, everybody loves them". And
17 I thought, I don't believe it, because we were -- it was
18 the opposite then, you just didn't wear -- but now they
19 were all very trendy.

20 LADY SMITH: Can I just take you back to the day you saw two
21 girls from another group wearing your sisters' hats that
22 your mother had brought for them: was your mother still
23 alive at that time?

24 A. No. My mother was diagnosed with the secondary cancer
25 in [REDACTED] 61, [REDACTED].

1 My youngest sister -- I'll go back a wee bit and kind of
2 fill you in at that point.

3 My youngest sister, the newborn, was -- in the early
4 stages she was kept in the post natal and then she was
5 kept in a corporation nursery for a little while. They
6 didn't take infants under 2 at that point, but there
7 must have been something about keeping us all together
8 so [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED], [REDACTED] joined us as an infant in the
10 convent, possibly at 8, 9 months old, so they made an
11 exception.

12 My mother actually died in the [REDACTED] of 62 --

13 LADY SMITH: Right.

14 A. -- and the temporary situation became a permanent
15 situation.

16 LADY SMITH: And I think you say in your statement that you
17 had a visit home that Easter.

18 A. I remember we went home that Easter.

19 LADY SMITH: Was that when she bought the hats for your two
20 sisters?

21 A. They had been bought previously, previous to the
22 illness, previous to everything. That was a year or two
23 previously.

24 LADY SMITH: But that meant that when you saw these other
25 two girls wearing your sisters' hats it was two special

1 items that your mother, who was no longer alive, had
2 given?

3 A. Mm-hm.

4 LADY SMITH: That must have been very difficult.

5 A. Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

7 MR MacAULAY: I think you do tell us that your mother did
8 visit on two occasions.

9 A. She was very -- I think I can only remember maybe two,
10 three visits, because obviously, as a child, you don't
11 know the severity of an illness. She did go and -- this
12 was between April and June, so I do remember one of the
13 visits, she did spend a lot time in the nursery with the
14 infant.

15 Q. Because [REDACTED] was -- your sister was there?

16 A. My youngest sister was still an infant and she went
17 through to spend some time with her in there. But yeah.

18 Q. So far as either what we call social workers today or
19 children's welfare officers, do you recollect any visits
20 from that sort of person?

21 A. As a family, we were what you would consider not under
22 the welfare. They didn't talk about social, they talked
23 about the welfare officer in those days. We were not
24 under that because we were -- you could pay privately --
25 we were in as -- we weren't in for the reasons that the

1 social workers would need to be involved.

2 So there was -- welfare officers did come to see
3 individual children sporadically, yes, but I personally
4 was not involved with that at all. But there was always
5 a bit of care taken round about those times when the
6 welfare officers were coming. I don't remember it
7 affecting our family in any way.

8 Q. Do you know if there were many families in your
9 situation, by that I mean, for whatever reason, not
10 coming within the jurisdiction of the welfare system, if
11 I can put it in that way?

12 A. In my memory -- this is again as an adult looking back.
13 In my memory, there was like three distinct groups
14 within the convent. There would be the likes of
15 ourselves and a couple of other family situations.
16 There was one family that was almost as big as ours, it
17 was about four sisters, the others were maybe two
18 sisters, three sisters. They were probably what we
19 called private -- it was usually a widowed father or --
20 in most cases in those days it was a widowed father
21 a father that was a single -- in those days men were not
22 expected -- it was kind of accepted that men couldn't
23 look after a family of kids. So that was their
24 situation.

25 Then there was another group of children which

1 I would say would be under the welfare. Why they were
2 there, I wouldn't know, we wouldn't know, but you would
3 know that the welfare officer would come to deal with
4 them. They came and went a lot more. There was more
5 movement with those. They seemed to come in for a while
6 and then they would go.

7 Then there was another group, which was all girls,
8 and they had a mum that used to come sporadically,
9 occasionally. There was never a father but there was
10 a mum. Guessing back, I think these were children
11 that may have been the result of a single mother with no
12 father who maybe never put the child up for adoption but
13 couldn't afford to keep them at home, who had put them
14 into care but still had -- that still had their own
15 person. I'm guessing. But that's what these girls
16 were. So they weren't under the welfare either.

17 Q. Okay. One thing you tell us -- and this is on the
18 screen at paragraph 51 -- is that:

19 "Everything was geared round the nuns' days."

20 I would just like to understand what you mean by
21 that.

22 A. It was a religious environment. It was a convent.
23 These ladies were there for their vocation, which was
24 ruled by set times, prayer times. They did things at
25 the regular same time every day. There was bells went

1 off to let them know and whatever they were doing at
2 that particular point, they left and they went to church
3 to do their prayers and then they came back on.

4 So you kind of gradually knew which bell was which,
5 what would happen, which nuns were around, which nuns
6 weren't around, because they would disappear into the
7 chapel. It was just the way the routine worked.

8 So far as the care of the children -- early morning
9 there would be only one nun on because the rest of them
10 -- the other sister would be in chapel.

11 The nuns would take Mass most mornings, but the
12 children didn't take Mass most mornings but I think the
13 nuns had Mass in the morning, very early, so I think
14 there would be only one nun on that time.

15 They would have prayers about lunchtime, I think --
16 round about then -- I'm trying to think of it. Then
17 there would be a -- they would take shifts depending on
18 who was to go to church and who was on with the
19 children.

20 So there was a particular bell that was the very
21 last one at night, which was usually about the
22 9 o'clock, and every nun had to be in her bed, except
23 one particular nun, and she'd be on duty. There would
24 be a wee shift pattern there and they were at the front
25 door in case for any reason there was a need for

1 somebody to be there. That's just the way it was.

2 Q. Let's look then at treatment generally and how the nuns
3 behaved with the children. One thing you tell us is the
4 nuns didn't really interact with the children.

5 A. No. I'm trying to understand these ladies -- and I'll
6 call them "ladies" because, yes, they wore habits but
7 they were human beings underneath. So they all had
8 their own ways, their own personalities.

9 They present a face to -- where they need to show
10 a face, but the real person -- when you're with them
11 24/7, that's when you see the real person. That's when
12 -- you know, some of the sisters had ways of dealing
13 with you and others had other ways of dealing with you,
14 and children are very quick to pick up on, it's sister
15 so-and-so that's on, good, we can do this. It was that
16 kind of environment.

17 They didn't interact, there was no -- certainly
18 there was no cuddles, there was no affection.

19 I'm thinking: are they trained this is not what they
20 do so they don't get attached to any particular child?
21 They didn't do that type of thing, there was no hand
22 holding, there was no -- that I can remember, the
23 specific nuns that I was involved with.

24 Sister ██████████ **LKE** that came in, who was quite
25 young, to be fair, on occasions, I did see her give

1 a child a wee hug, a wee cuddle or a wee pat on the head
2 or wee hand hold. I did see that occasionally with her.

3 Q. You mention that after you left there was
4 a Sister [REDACTED] LHA [REDACTED], who was there when your sisters were
5 there, and, as you put it, they had nothing but good
6 things to say about her --

7 A. That's picking up from my sisters -- my three younger
8 sisters -- myself and my two closest siblings had left
9 at one point and Sister [REDACTED] LFL [REDACTED] was there in control
10 when we there and left. Then I think Sister [REDACTED] LFL [REDACTED]
11 was replaced by Sister [REDACTED] LHA [REDACTED] I think her
12 name was, and I used to hear my younger sisters talking
13 with a different way about her.

14 I was never, as a teenager, allowed to go and meet
15 friends from school. Once I had come into the convent,
16 that was it, I had no recreation outside. I didn't get
17 to go to any Christmas parties. They were doing all
18 these things that teenagers -- I remember there would be
19 a -- the third-year dance or something, I didn't get
20 going to that, and I remember being upstairs and I could
21 see them all going to the school, because I could see,
22 and I wasn't getting going.

23 But it would appear when this sister came along she
24 had a much more relaxed way of dealing with the girls.
25 So one of my sisters did appear to be able to meet her

1 friends, she did appear to be able to do more. What I
2 am saying is there seemed to have been some sort of
3 shift in the way they were dealing with things. So
4 I don't know -- when I say they say nothing about --
5 I didn't ever hear them saying anything derogatory about
6 her.

7 Q. You mentioned a Sister [REDACTED] LFS before and you describe
8 her as having a terrible temper.

9 A. She was young, but she did have a bit of a -- if you got
10 her on a good day, she was great fun, but if she was on
11 a bad day she would get from nought to 60 like that and
12 she just went for you, if she was ... whatever ... it
13 was sporadic.

14 Q. Did that impact upon you?

15 A. I had one incident with her. I could have been playing
16 up, I could have been doing something, I probably was,
17 but I was -- she came at me and floored me.

18 Q. Sorry?

19 A. She punched me from the back, so I was on the floor.
20 That's what she did. That was the only time I could say
21 I had physical abuse from any of the sisters.

22 I could maybe point out at this point, when we were
23 talking about abuse, when I went in at first, I was --
24 there was older girls there. What was I, 11, 12, they
25 were maybe 14, 15, and I became a bit of a focus for

1 bullying at that point. So at some points it was more
2 from the other children you got problems sometimes.

3 Q. Sister [REDACTED] LFL, who I think you had some dealings with
4 after Sister [REDACTED] LFH left, how did you get on with her?

5 A. She was there -- there was no ... You didn't build
6 up -- there was no relationships, there was no sense
7 of -- she did what she did. No, I didn't have
8 a relationship with her at all, I wouldn't say.

9 Q. You say in your statement that she would use her hand on
10 children --

11 A. She was inclined to given them a thingy to the back of
12 the head. It didn't happen to myself, but I did see her
13 use a hand to a younger child. But she didn't use --
14 I don't remember any of them being anything like
15 Sister [REDACTED] LFH's methods.

16 Q. Sister [REDACTED] LFH, as you've already mentioned, used the
17 cane and she had canes in various places.

18 A. Yes, she was old school, I would say, the old style of
19 discipline.

20 Q. What about Sister [REDACTED] LFP?

21 A. She was in the red group so I didn't have much to do
22 with her, but I did see her grabbing kids' hair and
23 a lot of pushing when she lost it -- and it did happen,
24 they did lose their tempers, whatever a child was doing.
25 I'm not saying that the children were all good. There

1 was things that maybe would start it, I don't know, but
2 some of them did respond physically.

3 But, again, children at that time didn't see that
4 as -- they would see that as well.

5 Q. What about name calling? Was there any name calling
6 that you can remember by --

7 A. There was -- sometimes -- not so much ourselves but
8 there was a form of, you were called stupid or bold,
9 those sort of derogatory terms. There was one time --
10 Sister LFP had a bit of a -- I know she did say to
11 some of the girls, one particular girl, about her
12 mother, she made a derogatory comment about her mother,
13 once, "You're just as bad as your mother", whatever that
14 meant, "You're just like your mother".

15 The wee things I used to get, "What would your
16 mother say if she saw you doing that?" Those sorts of
17 comments. So it was subtle, it was all very subtle.

18 Q. One thing you do say in your statement is that, in
19 fairness to the nuns, I think is the way you put it, you
20 are talking about one nun and a young member of staff to
21 maybe 20 children. So that's the ratio you're looking
22 at?

23 A. That would be about right.

24 Q. Did you consider that they were trained to deal with
25 that situation?

1 A. I would say no. I don't think any of them were trained,
2 to be quite honest. I really don't think they were,
3 particularly the older nuns.

4 My understanding now is the way these convents
5 operate is they're under an obedience thing and they're
6 told, this is what you're going to do, and they're sent
7 to do it. But whether they want to do it or they like
8 to do it or they particularly want to be in that
9 situation, I don't think they got a choice in what they
10 were designated to do. Was that a reason why some of
11 them weren't cut out for what they were doing? Square
12 pegs in round holes some of them, I think.

13 I know Sister [REDACTED] LFL [REDACTED] didn't do much childcare.
14 She did a lot of -- she supervised but she didn't do
15 childcare. She spent a lot of time in the office doing
16 wee bits of paperwork, but actual childcare, it was very
17 sporadic. Maybe the head checking on a Saturday,
18 occasionally, but I don't think she did childcare as
19 such.

20 Q. You tell us about a specific incident that affected your
21 family in particular and, I think, two of your sisters.
22 They had a particular task they had to do --

23 A. Yes. My sister, [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
24 [REDACTED], and my other sister, who's just a year
25 younger, they were regularly got up out of their beds

1 very early, as in before the sisters got out of their
2 beds. She would rattle the bed, "██████, get up", and go
3 to the nursery. And what it was was the staffing in the
4 nursery -- my understanding was the actual external
5 staff or nursery staff didn't start until much later in
6 the morning. So they had -- could be about 20-odd
7 infants, I'm saying, under fives, who needed to be
8 pottied, who would be awake quite early on.

9 So my sister ██████ and my other sister would be
10 knocked up at that time in the morning to go downstairs
11 and technically potty -- bearing in mind at that stage
12 they were probably -- they weren't 12, 13 years of age,
13 maybe, there or thereabouts, so they were children
14 themselves. They had to go down and potty all these
15 infants so that all these early morning tasks that you
16 do with very, very young children were done by the time
17 the staff came in.

18 Q. When you say potty --

19 A. Get them up out of bed, get them on to their potties --
20 whatever -- I wasn't there to see it, but that's roughly
21 what the tasks were -- I don't know, was it to dress
22 them, get them ready for breakfast.

23 There was a point where -- at some point my sister,
24 ██████, said no she wasn't getting up that morning --

25 Q. Can you say how long that went on for?

1 A. I would say -- I'm thinking a year, two years maybe,
2 a year and a half. It wasn't just a wee while, it was
3 a regular routine custom-and-practice job that these two
4 young girls were doing.

5 Q. But they rebelled?

6 A. [REDACTED], who was quite a strong character at that time,
7 said, no, she wasn't getting up, and she -- no matter
8 how much she was told to get up, she refused to get up.

9 [REDACTED], who's a much less confrontational child,
10 surprisingly, refused as well. Both of them were sent
11 home to their father's care as "uncontrollable".

12 Q. So they would have left the --

13 A. They were sent home.

14 To let you understand, to put it in some sort of
15 context, in Nazareth House there was a situation where
16 girls that were uncontrollable, for whatever reasons
17 those would be -- maybe just dogging school or talking
18 to boys, things like that -- went to a place called
19 Bishopton, which is kind of -- it was run by the
20 Good Shepherd nuns. It was a form of -- what you would
21 call in those days a kind of reform school.

22 So there was, on occasions, girls that did what we'd
23 consider probably normal stupid teenage behaviour, but
24 anyway the nuns would consider that -- can't deal with
25 you, ship them off. They disappeared overnight to

1 Bishopton. I might be exaggerating, but my two sisters
2 were starting to come into the category of where they
3 might have went down that route. They couldn't put them
4 -- because we weren't under the welfare, we were
5 private, so go home to your dad.

6 Q. So that's what happened?

7 A. That's my memory of it.

8 Q. They would leave --

9 A. They would leave -- they left with our father being told
10 that they were basically not good girls, didn't behave
11 themselves, blah blah blah, bad name. They went home
12 with that. My father would believe the nuns.

13 Q. That would mean then that you remained in the convent --

14 A. I remained --

15 Q. -- along with two other sisters?

16 A. The two younger sisters.

17 The reason I was still there is at that particular
18 point in time I would be 16, 17, I was in the middle of
19 doing my Highers and O levels, so I stayed on to stay
20 at the school.

21 Q. I think what you tell us, as you have told us before in
22 fact, is you left at about the age of 18 in 1968;
23 is that correct?

24 A. As soon as I finished my Highers -- I remembered doing
25 it, walking in, packing my bag and walking out the door.

1 I didn't wait to see cheerio to anybody; I packed my bag
2 and went.

3 Q. And you went home?

4 A. I just went home, yes.

5 Q. I think what you tell us is -- after your mother died,
6 your father had a fairly unhappy time, I think, is what
7 you tell us.

8 A. Obviously, this is nothing to do with Nazareth House
9 but, yes, my father, he worked away a lot. He had
10 a very good job and he worked way, he went away, went up
11 north a lot. Although my brother was at home, he lived
12 a bachelor's life, basically, and, yeah, it wasn't the
13 best. So eventually when we came home, it wasn't the
14 best situation at home at that time.

15 Q. Okay. We needn't look into the detail of that.

16 But can I ask you, if you are able to say, if at
17 all, your experience in Nazareth House, what sort of
18 impact it may have had on your own life?

19 A. Well, in my statement I've kind of said that I didn't
20 think -- I thought it made me stronger and be able to
21 stand up for myself. However, I've since been talking
22 to my adult daughters and they've said that they think
23 I've learned to -- my coping skills are very strong
24 in the sense that I put up with a lot of things that
25 people wouldn't put up with and I think I've probably

1 learned keeping your head below the parapet is the best
2 way to deal with things and maybe that's not always the
3 best way. So I think that's something I learned: not to
4 make too much of a fuss about things. I'm only guessing
5 here.

6 No, I don't think it's impacted in my future life
7 after that, except it may have made me a bit more able
8 to cope with things a wee bit.

9 Q. One thing you do say -- and this in on the screen,
10 paragraph 70 -- is the reason you came forward to the
11 inquiry was to try and get people to understand that
12 Nazareth House itself was a sign of the times.

13 A. Obviously, I had seen some of the things that have been
14 coming out in the press and media over the years, the
15 last few years. Some of it I could respond to, some of
16 it I was struggling with.

17 But I thought -- saying it is a sign of the times
18 is, I think, trying to understand the way children in
19 those days accepted discipline and things like that, and
20 the way these places were run at the time. It was
21 institutions and I think I just wanted to get a kind of
22 balance on it that, yes, it wasn't correct, it wasn't
23 the best environment for children, but it was something
24 that went on in those days and people accepted it, and
25 also -- the nuns had a persona of benefactors, you know.

1 There's a lot of people would never understand, so it's
2 just to learn that although things did happen, these
3 women, they were human beings at the end of the day and
4 there was a lot of them had a lot of flaws in their
5 personalities and, yes, possibly these came out in not
6 the best ways when they were dealing with children.

7 I just wanted to put it over that, for us, at that
8 time, this was a solution to a situation that nowadays
9 may not have been done that way, it may have been done
10 differently. But at the time it was the solution for
11 our family.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. It wasn't the best environment. It wasn't a homely
14 environment. It wasn't ... It just wasn't -- you just
15 didn't want to be there. When you came from a regular
16 family home, it wasn't the best place to be.

17 Q. One thing you do say is that those who look after
18 children have to be properly trained --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- and properly vetted.

21 A. I would say yes. I think trying to -- I'm coming here
22 from an adult's point of view, looking back the way.
23 I don't know what brings these ladies into this
24 environment that they go into to join the church. I'm
25 sure they come with the best of intentions. They've got

1 vocations, they want to serve God. However -- and I'm
2 only talking about some situations -- they're put into
3 positions that are not -- they were never suited for in
4 the first place. That's my understanding of why some of
5 the situations happened, as an adult.

6 Q. And another thing you talk about there, towards the end,
7 is that, looking to your time in care, the involvement
8 of the social work people was minimal.

9 A. It was minimal. In my remembrance there was maybe one
10 individual would come to speak to one particular child
11 or one little group of children. It was a wee bit
12 orchestrated I think at the time. It was all very ...
13 I don't remember inspections. I don't remember -- as
14 I say, I'm not saying they didn't happen, I just don't
15 remember anything like that happening.

16 LADY SMITH: You said that you were in the group that could
17 be regarded as private, of the three groups: private,
18 under the welfare, and possibly single mothers who
19 couldn't look after their own children. Do you have any
20 idea of whether your father was paying?

21 A. He was.

22 LADY SMITH: He was paying for you to be looked after?

23 A. He was paying a sum of money. The reason I know that
24 for a fact -- being the eldest child, when my father
25 visited regularly on a Saturday night -- and God help

1 him, he did -- he would give me a handful of money and
2 say, "Make sure sister gets that". I did, as a child,
3 at times count it.

4 LADY SMITH: Do you remember how much it was?

5 A. £5.

6 LADY SMITH: That was in the 60s?

7 A. Early 60s at that time. Whether it changed, but
8 I remember it being £5, a £5 note.

9 LADY SMITH: Right.

10 A. Which would be -- I don't know, I wouldn't be able to
11 figure out. That would be equivalent to, maybe, £20,
12 £30, £40.

13 LADY SMITH: It would be quite a lot of money. In those
14 days £1 was quite a lot --

15 A. When people were earning a good wage, then, it was £20
16 a week. So I think my father at that time was a good
17 earner, believe it or not he was a good earner.

18

19

20

21

22

 So he was earning what would be considered quite
23 a reasonable sum then.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MR MacAULAY: Thank you, Anne, those are all the questions

1 I have for you and I've put to you questions I've been
2 asked to put to you as well.

3 My Lady, unless there are other questions, then
4 I think Anne can go.

5 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
6 questions of this witness? No.

7 Anne, there are no more questions for you.
8 Thank you very much for coming along this morning to
9 share your memories of -- not just your experience, but
10 your whole family's experience in care. It has added
11 evidence of some value to what I have heard. It has
12 been very useful. Thank you very much and I'm now able
13 to let you go.

14 A. Thank you.

15 (The witness withdrew)

16 LADY SMITH: Are we going to have a slightly early break
17 this morning, Mr MacAulay?

18 MR MacAULAY: I think that's probably the case. The next
19 witness was planned for after the normal break, but
20 we can see whether or not that can be advanced.

21 LADY SMITH: Right. As soon after 11.30 as we can get
22 going.

23 (11.14 am)

24 (A short break)

25 (11.37 am)

1 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

2 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is also an
3 applicant. He wants to remain anonymous and to use the
4 name "Tommy" in giving evidence.

5 "TOMMY" (sworn)

6 LADY SMITH: Sit down, please, and do make yourself
7 comfortable.

8 You can see that microphone is on now, Tommy, and it
9 will help you make yourself heard -- and it's a great
10 help to us and the stenographers if you make sure that
11 you're using it.

12 A. Okay.

13 LADY SMITH: Do have some water at any time and, if you need
14 a break, just let me know. Mr MacAulay will explain the
15 red file to you and he's now going to ask questions.

16 Questions from MR MacAULAY

17 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, Tommy. I just want to confirm
18 with you the year of your birth, not the date of birth,
19 just the year. Am I right in saying you were born in
20 1957?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. In the red folder in front of you, you'll find your
23 statement. I'm going to give the reference to the
24 stenographers first of all and that's WIT.001.001.4229.
25 Could I ask you to turn to the last page of the

1 statement in the red folder? This is page 4243. Can
2 I ask you to confirm that you've signed the statement?

3 A. Yes, I have.

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

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

7 Is that correct?

8 A. That's correct, I have no objection.

9 Q. And do you also say:

10 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
11 statement are true"?

12 Do you see that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Tommy, I'll be asking you questions essentially based on
15 your written evidence that's contained in the statement.

16 However, if I ask you a question about something that
17 you can't remember, just say you can't remember.

18 Likewise, if I ask you a question and it triggers
19 another recollection that you think might be relevant to
20 the inquiry, then feel free to tell us that.

21 A. Okay, thank you.

22 Q. I think what you tell us is that you don't really
23 remember very much before you went into care; is that
24 correct?

25 A. That's correct.

- 1 Q. I think you remember that you were living in
2 Kirkintilloch; I think you're now aware that was the
3 position.
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. I think you also understand that part of the background
6 going into care was your mother had to go into hospital.
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. So far as you're concerned, Tommy, did you go to
9 Nazareth House in Cardonald?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Did you go there with another member of your family?
- 12 A. Yes, my older brother.
- 13 Q. How many other siblings did you have?
- 14 A. Two sisters and one younger brother.
- 15 Q. What about your other siblings, what happened to them?
- 16 A. I didn't know I had any initially until I must have been
17 about 6 or 7. They went on Nazareth House after us.
- 18 Q. So they came to Cardonald after you, or was it --
- 19 A. Yes. Two sisters came into Cardonald after us and we
20 left just before they came over to the second part of
21 the home. They were in the nursery and they we got
22 moved out and we got moved in. My younger brother went
23 to Lasswade, then he moved into the nursery in
24 Cardonald, but we didn't know about each other.
- 25 Q. You were a bit older than the others?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Let's look to the time you went to Nazareth House
3 Cardonald with your younger brother.

4 A. Older brother.

5 Q. I'm sorry, older brother. What was the age gap between
6 you?

7 A. 18 months.

8 Q. According to the records that the inquiry has seen that
9 have been produced by the Sisters of Nazareth, you were
10 both admitted -- you were admitted to Nazareth House on
11 [REDACTED] 1964. I'll just move ahead and come back to
12 that in a moment. That would mean you were aged about
13 6. You left on [REDACTED] 1965 when you were about 8.
14 I think in your statement you confirm that you did leave
15 in [REDACTED] 1965.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Is that correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. But what about when you were admitted? I think you take
20 a different view as to when you were admitted.

21 A. [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 Q. Of 1963?

25 A. Yes. my memory may be wrong, I was just a kid. We don't

1 discuss it with the family, and I have not got any
2 records myself. I don't remember Primary One,
3 Primary Two, Primary Three. I have no recollection of
4 where I was.

5 Q. Okay. On any view, you were either there for 18 months
6 or so, according to the Sisters of Nazareth records, or
7 according to your possible recollection, about two
8 years, but that's the sort of time frame we're talking
9 about?

10 A. Yes. One day was long enough in Nazareth House.

11 Q. When you went to Nazareth House, were there boys and
12 girls there?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I think you tell us there was a Mother Superior in
15 charge, but you really had very little to deal with her;
16 is that right?

17 A. No, not a lot of dealings, I don't think.

18 Q. Nothing to do with her?

19 A. Not really, no.

20 Q. What can you tell me about the accommodation? What was
21 the set-up that you can remember?

22 A. It was dormitories we had -- there were either two beds
23 or four beds in the one dormitory.

24 Q. Did you share a room with your brother?

25 A. Yes, he was opposite.

1 Q. Can you remember if there were other children --

2 A. No, I don't recall, no.

3 Q. And were you allocated to a particular group?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Did your group have a particular name?

6 A. It was one of the colours. It was either green or red,
7 I can't remember which.

8 Q. Was your brother in the same group?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Was the group mixed, by that I mean boys and girls?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. To what extent did the groups mix with each other;
13 can you remember?

14 A. None, I don't think. I can't recall any intermingling.

15 Q. Was there a particular nun in charge of your group?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Who was that?

18 A. **LFP**.

19 Q. Did she remain in charge of the group throughout your
20 whole time there?

21 A. Yes, I believe so.

22 Q. Did she have any help?

23 A. Occasionally **LFL** helped her.

24 Q. That's one of the other nuns?

25 A. Well, if you call them that, yes.

1 Q. You also mention some carers, in particular a Madeleine
2 McColgan; do you remember her?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You say she was nice?

5 A. She was nice.

6 Q. And can you elaborate on that? Why do you say she was
7 nice?

8 A. She didn't hit me. She didn't hit me.

9 Q. There was another carer you mention called

10 LFQ.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Did she hit you?

13 A. She was evil.

14 Q. In what respect? Can you elaborate on that?

15 A. The first time I met her, she thudded me across the ear
16 in the dining room. My first meal in Nazareth House and
17 they served a meal, I says, "I don't want that", and the
18 next minute her hand came right across my ear and it
19 made a bang and I was screaming and I didn't know what
20 to do, I was just screaming and screaming. The first
21 time I had experienced pain in my life and the next day
22 it was still sore. Nobody came to help me or anything.
23 I started walking out towards where I came from, and the
24 nuns are sitting up the top table, they didn't even look
25 at me. Disgusting.

1 Q. I'll come on to look at some of that in a moment or two.

2 Before I do, can I ask little bits and pieces about
3 the routine, as far as you can remember. I think you
4 say lights out was 7 o'clock in the evening; is that
5 right?

6 A. Possibly. I can't recall, you know. I can't recall.

7 Q. What about the food? How did you find the food?

8 A. Obviously, I didn't like it when I got thumped across
9 the ear. I'm still a very fussy eater today. I can't
10 really comment on the food, I can't remember. I just
11 didn't like it, I know that much.

12 Q. Although you may not remember the classes at school, do
13 you remember going to school?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And how did you find school?

16 A. I loved it. I was away from the home. Loved it.

17 Q. When you were there, looking to leisure time, when you
18 had free time, did you have toys and games to play with
19 that you can remember?

20 A. No. I mean, when I say no, you might have got a toy for
21 10 minutes or so, but it was nothing of your own,
22 absolutely nothing of your own. We managed to get
23 a ball from somewhere at one point, but that was near
24 the end of the time we were leaving Nazareth House.

25 I got a toy for my birthday, my seventh birthday,

1 I think it was, or my sixth birthday. It was a blue
2 racing car and I loved it. They gave it me for about
3 ten minutes, half an hour, and I never seen it again.

4 Q. Do you know what happened to it?

5 A. I think somebody else got it for their birthday.

6 Q. You never saw it again?

7 A. Never seen it again.

8 Q. Can I ask you about chores. I think you tell us that
9 you did not go home at weekends, although some children
10 did.

11 A. Occasionally we went home. Sometimes we never.

12 Q. Did you have work to do if you were still in the home?

13 A. Yes, to buff the corridor.

14 Q. Did that take some time?

15 A. Yes, the whole of the -- all the kids were doing it. Me
16 and my brother, we were always up first and it was
17 polish floors and they threw wax down, lumps of wax, and
18 you put buffers over your shoes, or whatever you were
19 wearing, and you had to rub it in, and because it wasn't
20 slidey, it means me and [REDACTED] had to do the hardest
21 work. If you were at the back you just slid all the way
22 up the corridor.

23 Q. How long would this sort of job take you?

24 A. It was all morning.

25 Q. Would this be a Saturday morning?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Can I ask you about when you were in bed. Did you have
3 to lie in bed in a particular way?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Can you help me with that?
- 6 A. Your arms over the covers (indicating).
- 7 Q. Would anything happen to you if you didn't do that?
- 8 A. I didn't risk it.
- 9 Q. So how did you know to do it? Were you --
- 10 A. Told.
- 11 Q. Was this one of the nuns that told you?
- 12 A. Yes, LFP.
- 13 Q. What about bed-wetting? Did you wet the bed?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. But what about your brother?
- 16 A. Yes, he occasionally wet the bed.
- 17 Q. And what happened to anyone who wet the bed?
- 18 A. They were made to stand in the corridor, holding their
19 sheet up (indicating), and there was big damp patch on
20 it, and all the kids used to go down to the stairs, they
21 all passed them, and it was humiliating and
22 embarrassing. I was really torn apart inside because it
23 was my elder brother. It was disgraceful.
- 24 Q. Do you know who organised this particular process?
- 25 A. I take it to be the nuns. I mean, they used to come

1 round and check your bed to see if you were wet. They
2 put their hand under the cover.

3 Q. When would that happen?

4 A. During the night.

5 Q. Do you know who did that?

6 A. No, I was too scared to open my eyes. No. I wondered
7 what it was for.

8 Q. If the bed was wet -- and I know you didn't wet the bed,
9 but if a child wet the bed, what would happen at that
10 point; do you know?

11 A. No. Except the next morning, they were standing there.

12 Q. So far as visits are concerned, I think you do tell us
13 that your father did visit --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- when you were there, and he occasionally did take you
16 home for the weekend?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. What about your sisters? As you indicated, you know
19 now, at least, that your sisters were also admitted to
20 Nazareth House at a point in time.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And they went to the nursery section?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Did you ever see your sisters?

25 A. I think I seen them once.

- 1 Q. Where was that?
- 2 A. My dad took us over to the nursery and you went through
3 a connecting door. I thought the nursery was where you
4 got brothers and sisters, you know, my dad said, "You're
5 going to see your wee sisters", and I thought we had to
6 pick them. We just didn't know. Stupid, but we didn't
7 know.
- 8 Q. Were there two sisters in the nursery?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. What about anyone from what one might call social work?
11 Did any social worker or children's officer come to
12 visit you when you were there?
- 13 A. No. I would have remembered it, I'm sure. I would have
14 told them what was happening.
- 15 Q. You do tell us in your statement, Tommy, that you did
16 think about running away.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. But you never did?
- 19 A. No, they would have killed me. They would have killed
20 me.
- 21 Q. Why were you thinking about running away?
- 22 A. Because I was getting abused, because they were hitting
23 me. I hated it. I didn't want to live.
- 24 Q. Let's look at some of that. You've already told us
25 about that first day when you arrived and you went to

1 the dining room for a meal and you didn't like the food,
2 and you have told us that this person hit you across the
3 head; is that correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Was that the helper you mentioned already,
6 [REDACTED] LFQ [REDACTED]?]

7 A. Yes, they called her [REDACTED] LFQ [REDACTED].

8 Q. You have already told us about the pain you were in;
9 were you visibly upset?

10 A. Screaming. I'd never experienced pain like it before.
11 Never experienced pain. Not even getting skelped or
12 anything; I just didn't even get skelped. I was totally
13 shocked.

14 Q. What happened to you on that occasion? Did you stay in
15 the dining room or --

16 A. No, I walked out. She hit me and I was screaming, and
17 then she says, "Get out", and I was walking out, holding
18 my ear, bending down, screaming, and I remember looking
19 at the nuns for some support or whatever, and they just
20 ignored me.

21 I walked out the door and I just stood in the
22 corridor screaming. I didn't know where to go.

23 Q. What about Sister [REDACTED] LFP [REDACTED], who you have mentioned was
24 in charge of your group? How did you get on with her?

25 A. She was evil.

1 Q. Why do you say that?

2 A. She was always hitting me.

3 Q. Can you explain what that would involve?

4 A. If you were speaking to someone, if you didn't do as you
5 were told, you just got slapped. She used to roll your
6 sleeve up and slap your arm.

7 Q. Would that be with her own arm?

8 A. Yes, very painful, and then hit you over the head with
9 a brush, a hairbrush, just a wee tap on the head.

10 Q. You mention one incident when you were playing with
11 a girl in the sitting room.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What age were you then at that time?

14 A. Six or 7.

15 Q. What happened?

16 A. She was kneeling on top of me, tickling me, and
17 **LFP** came into the sitting room and she caught her,
18 and she took her hand and smacked her right across the
19 face. And it left fingerprints on her face. Then she
20 rolled my sleeve up and slapped my arm.

21 The fingerprints were imprinted on this girl's face.
22 Her name is on the record.

23 Q. This process of rolling your sleeve up, was that the way
24 it worked with her?

25 A. Yes, you weren't allowed to button your cuffs because

1 she said, "Roll your sleeve up then".

2 Q. And how often did this form of punishment -- how often
3 was that inflicted on you?

4 A. Numerous times. Numerous.

5 Q. You tell us about an incident where your father was
6 coming to take you home for the weekend and you were
7 given a particular item of clothing to wear.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Can you help me with that one?

10 A. They liked you getting dressed up to make a show of
11 things. So they sent us up the stairs to get ready --
12 it was Friday afternoon after school. She went into the
13 wardrobe and brought out this jacket, and I kid you not,
14 you wouldn't be seen dead in it. It was yellow with
15 black stripes. It was horrendous. Everybody would have
16 known where I was from. You just couldn't go on the bus
17 with it. I was mortified, even at that age, I was
18 mortified. And I said, "No way am I wearing that, no
19 way, they'll know where I'm from, I can't wear that".
20 And they said, "You're not going home then", and they
21 told my dad I had a headache and I didn't get home that
22 time.

23 Q. Did anything happen to you, did you get punished?

24 A. I didn't get home.

25 Q. Did Sister [REDACTED] LFP do anything to you apart from

1 preventing you from going home?

2 A. No.

3 Q. What about your brother, did he go home?

4 A. He went home, yes. They told my dad I had a headache.

5 Q. I think when you were in the home, you were left handed;
6 is that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Did that cause a problem for you?

9 A. With Sister [REDACTED] LFP it did. It was the sign of the
10 devil and she hit me across the knuckles with a ruler,
11 an iron ruler, and cut me.

12 Q. Did you have to change hands? Did you have to write
13 with your right hand?

14 A. Whenever she was about I kidded on I was right handed.

15 Q. You also, I think, tell us about an incident where
16 you were given a half crown by an old lady --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- and you weren't able to keep it?

19 A. No. I made my confirmation or Holy Communion, I don't
20 know, one of them, and there were quite a few boys and
21 girls made their Holy Communion or confirmation and they
22 showed us around the old folks' home within the home,
23 and I remember an old lady giving me half a crown, 2/6,
24 she put it in the palm of my hand and said, "You keep
25 that son". And I remember looking at this half crown,

1 it was massive in my wee hand, and I held it very
2 tightly, and one of the carers said, you'll not be
3 needing that, once we moved away and she took it from
4 me.

5 Q. Did you complain about that to anyone?

6 A. I had nobody to complain to.

7 Q. Who was the carer?

8 A. I don't know her name now.

9 Q. You tell us about the taxi driver outing to Troon and
10 that at the end of the day you'd get a shoebox full of
11 sweets.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What would happen to that?

14 A. Some other lucky kid got them. They took them off us,
15 then I never got any sweets out of them.

16 Q. Do you know where they went?

17 A. No.

18 Q. In bed you weren't allowed to talk; is that correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I think you devised a system whereby you could
21 communicate with your brother?

22 A. Yes. We used to cough to make sure we were still alive
23 because we were really scared. We used to cough
24 (indicating) and he used to cough back. Every night
25 I was petrified someone was going to take him away or

1 take me away. Just petrified.

2 Q. Why were you so scared? What made you scared?

3 A. Because I was of the mind that they would come in and

4 putting their hand under -- it was just the regime,

5 I was terrified I'd be left alone without my brother.

6 Q. You tell us about an incident where you were taken out

7 to the pictures by -- was that a couple?

8 A. It was two girls, two older girls.

9 Q. Did you think this was in connection with possibly being

10 fostered?

11 A. That's what ██████ said at the time, my older brother.

12 He said, "I think they're trying to take us".

13 Q. And you went to see a film?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What was the film?

16 A. The Sound of Music.

17 Q. You didn't enjoy that experience?

18 A. I was terrified. When I seen the nuns at the start,

19 I went, "Oh no, Nazareth House, here we go". I honestly

20 thought Julie Andrews was a baddie. I honestly thought,

21 "She's going to look after those kids and she's going to

22 belt them". I had no qualms, "What's all this about?

23 Julie Andrews is going to hammer all these children",

24 and I was in that picture hall in the dark, literally

25 shaking because I was expecting Julie Andrews to batter

1 all these kids.

2 Q. You also tell us about an incident when there was a nun
3 who died in Nazareth House.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. I think you tell us this left a lasting impression.

6 A. Yes, it still has.

7 Q. What did you have to do?

8 A. They took us into the chapel and says, whenever one of
9 the other nuns comes in, they'll kiss her forehead and
10 you wipe the forehead. So in between times I was
11 sitting here (indicating), the nun was directly in front
12 in the coffin, the chapel was empty. It had a big
13 figure of Christ up there looking at me. This nun
14 in the coffin, me, myself, the nun and Christ up on the
15 cross I thought she was going to take me in there.
16 I didn't even know what death was. I wet myself.
17 I just didn't know what I was doing there. I thought
18 I was ending up in that coffin with her. I don't know
19 how long I was in there, maybe an hour, two hours.
20 Physically, mentally, I'm still there. I just can't get
21 away from it.

22 Q. What age were you then?

23 A. Six or 7.

24 Q. When you got home with your father at the weekend, did
25 you tell him what was happening in Nazareth House?

- 1 A. Yes, we told him. I said, "Oh dad, the place is
2 terrible, they keep hitting me", and he skelped me for
3 telling lies. He could not believe it. And that was
4 the last time I ever told him anything. He just called
5 me a liar, skelped me. My own father wouldn't believe
6 me. I was alone.
- 7 Q. You've told us about things that happened to you. What
8 about other children? Did you see how other children
9 were being treated?
- 10 A. I've seen children getting skelped across the face, on
11 the arm. We were no differently treated than anyone
12 else. They were all getting slapped -- and there was
13 nobody called to account for it.
- 14 Q. I think you've already said you didn't have any
15 social work input or visits --
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. -- when you were there; is that right?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. How did it come about then that you came to leave
20 Nazareth House? Because I think, as you agree, you left
21 in [REDACTED] of 1965 when you were about 8 or so.
- 22 A. Yes. That's what I like to think, that me and my
23 brother were rebelling. You know, I just hated them.
24 Literally hated them.
- 25 Q. Do you know why it came to be that you were leaving at

1 that age?

2 A. No. I don't know if we got flung out. I honestly don't
3 know or whether my sisters were coming over. I honestly
4 don't know.

5 Q. I think you've told us already as you were leaving your
6 sisters were coming in.

7 A. We left and they came into our beds, I think.

8 Q. When I say coming in, they were coming into your section
9 of the building?

10 A. Yes, in the elder kids' section, yes.

11 Q. Well, what was the position like after you left then,
12 when you went home to your father?

13 A. We went home to my dad and he still couldn't look after
14 us because he had to work. He couldn't look after us,
15 so he told us we were going to another home after
16 a length of time, I don't know how long we were home
17 for, and he was taking us to another home called
18 Lasswade. I remember sitting in a lorry with [REDACTED],
19 crying and screaming, "We'll be good boys, we'll be good
20 boys", and there were nuns again. We were sitting in
21 the lorry and my dad went into the home and he came out
22 and said, "You need to go home again because the proper
23 paperwork's not been done", it hadn't gone through the
24 system, something like that.

25 On the way home I was holding my brother's hand so

1 tight, thank God, we're free, we're okay, [REDACTED], and
2 then we went to live with my auntie, who looked after us
3 for a couple of years.

4 Q. I think after that you went back and stayed with your
5 father.

6 A. Yes, I think once we were a wee bit older and we could
7 go to school and come back -- because there was nobody
8 in the house when we came back from school.

9 Q. I think your mother -- we've touched upon before -- had
10 been in and out of hospital; is that correct?

11 A. Obviously she'd been in and out of hospital because
12 she'd had my two sisters. But I can't remember her as
13 a mum, I just can't remember a mum.

14 Q. I think what you've told us in your statement, just
15 looking ahead a little bit, your life outside, you
16 joined the navy.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I think you were in the navy for two years altogether.

19 A. Two years, yes.

20 Q. You give us some information about your personal
21 circumstances that we needn't dwell on, but can I ask
22 you this, Tommy: what impact do you see that your
23 experience in Nazareth House may have had on your life?

24 A. It's very difficult to quantify because I don't know
25 what normal is. If somebody could do that to you and

1 nobody listens, it's terrible. I mean, I had nobody to
2 turn to, nobody would believe me. My own father
3 wouldn't believe me. There's just trust issues, you
4 know, they won't believe you.

5 The impact on my life, I think it's more me, like,
6 you know, with a nun, The Sound of Music, food, getting
7 slapped across the ear. It's more psychological damage
8 than anything.

9 Q. Sister [REDACTED] LFP, you say, you did hate.

10 A. With a vengeance. Evil.

11 Q. Was that because of the way she treated you?

12 A. Yes. I mean, she just was a psychopath. Psychopath.

13 Q. You've already mentioned the experience you had with the
14 dead nun and that is still a memory you have.

15 A. Vivid. Vivid memory.

16 Q. But you do say one good thing about Nazareth House
17 is that it has taught you never to tolerate any form of
18 abuse.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Is that right?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. You mention -- at paragraph 60 in your statement you
23 make a reference to Cardinal Winning, where you say:

24 "Cardinal Winning said the abuse didn't happen."

25 I just wondered what your reference for that was.

1 What were you having regard to?

2 A. It was in all the newspapers that he said it didn't
3 happen.

4 Q. That's what you have in mind there, what you read in the
5 press?

6 A. And then the Pope comes out several weeks ago about
7 sexual abuse over in Brazil or something like that and
8 said this man has integrity because he's a bishop or
9 whatever the hell it was. They put on a uniform and say
10 they're immune from prosecution. They're not kidding
11 me.

12 Q. Do you think, looking back, that the nuns had the
13 training to look after children?

14 A. No. They gave them children to look after; they didn't
15 do a very good job of it. Now they're looking after the
16 elderly. I really don't know. They failed one section
17 of society, now they're looking after an older section
18 of society. I wouldn't trust them as far as I could
19 throw them.

20 Q. Your own experience is they didn't seem to have the
21 skills to bring up children when you were at
22 Nazareth House.

23 A. Certainly not, no.

24 Q. If we look at your hopes for the inquiry, then, I think
25 that's one of the things you say: you don't want nuns to

1 be looking after children.

2 A. No. I want Cardonald bulldozed. That's what I want:

3 I want revenge. I want it bulldozed. They're still
4 making profit out of human beings. If it's not kids,
5 it's the elderly.

6 Q. One thing you do tell us, Tommy, at the very end of your
7 statement, is about 20 years ago or so -- this is at
8 paragraph 66 -- you actually went back to
9 Nazareth House.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What was your intention in doing that?

12 A. To confront [REDACTED] LFP [REDACTED].

13 Q. If you had met her, what would you have said to her?

14 A. I'd rather not say. I mean, it wouldn't have been very
15 nice. I'd ask her what the hell she was doing to me and
16 why. I went with my sister.

17 Q. And who did you see then when you were there?

18 A. It was some other nun; [REDACTED] LFP [REDACTED] wasn't there.

19 Q. Were you given any information about Sister [REDACTED] LFP [REDACTED] ?

20 A. None.

21 Q. I think you tell us you made a donation and left.

22 A. Yes.

23 MR MacAULAY: Well, Tommy, thank you for coming to give your
24 evidence. That's all the questions I have for you, and
25 indeed that I've been asked to put to you today.

1 My Lady, unless there are to be any more questions,
2 then Tommy will be able to leave.

3 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
4 questions of this witness? No.

5 Tommy, there are no more questions for you, but
6 thank you very much for coming along today to share your
7 memories of being in Nazareth House Cardonald. Is there
8 something you were wanting to say?

9 A. Can I just thank ██████ from Witness Support and ██████
10 from Wellbeing Scotland for supporting me and that.

11 LADY SMITH: That's very good of you to say that. I'm sure
12 they appreciate the gratitude.

13 You're now able to go. Thank you, Tommy.

14 A. Thank you, ma'am.

15 (The witness withdrew)

16 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, we can have a read-in, which would
17 take us up towards the lunch period.

18 LADY SMITH: Good. Thank you very much.

19 Ms MacLeod, before you tell me how to identify this
20 witness, can you tell me what day this read-in was -- is
21 this the read-in that's scheduled for today or was it
22 scheduled for a different day?

23 MS MACLEOD: This is the read-in that was scheduled for --
24 the final read-in of last week, my Lady.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

1 Witness statement of "MARGARET" (read)

2 MS MACLEOD: This is a statement of a witness who wishes to
3 remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym "Margaret".

4 The witness statement can be found at WIT.001.001.3486:

5 "My name is Margaret. I was born in 1940. My
6 contact details are known to the inquiry.

7 "I was born in Glasgow and was taken into care in
8 Nazareth House in Cardonald in [REDACTED] 1943. I was two
9 years old. I stayed there until [REDACTED] 1957."

10 I can confirm, my Lady, that the registers for
11 Cardonald show this witness being admitted in [REDACTED] 1943
12 and being discharged in [REDACTED] 1957 as per her statement:

13 "I haven't a clue how I ended up in care. The nuns
14 in Nazareth House told me my mother was dead. They said
15 she had died at my birth. My father told me the same
16 when I came out of Nazareth House. I believed that to
17 be true until I found out otherwise in 2010. I lived
18 all those years thinking my mother was dead.

19 "With the help of my daughter, I looked into my
20 background years later and found out that my mother
21 didn't die until 1990. From the information I've
22 managed to get hold of, I think I was under the care of
23 my father when I was a baby and he put me into care.

24 "I've got a document from the archivist in
25 Nazareth House which says that a recommendation for me

1 to go into Nazareth House was made by Reverend Father
2 Rice of St Patrick's in Anderston in Glasgow. Maybe
3 I was neglected or put into the hands of the church by
4 my father. The document also says that I had a foster
5 mother, Mrs [REDACTED], in Anderston. I don't know anything
6 about memories of my life before then.

7 "I sent a handwritten statement to the inquiry in
8 2016 that tells about my life in Nazareth House. It is
9 not possible to cover the whole time I was there. I see
10 things in my mind that happened but you can't talk or
11 write about everything. As old as I am now though,
12 I remember it quite vividly.

13 "Nazareth House was a big two or three-storey red
14 building with statues in the middle of it. I have got
15 a photograph of me standing in front of the statue on my
16 Holy Communion day. I don't know how many nuns were
17 in the place. I can't remember the face of a single
18 nun. I remember what they wore: their black habit,
19 wimple and their big rosary beads and a big strap around
20 their waist.

21 "I know the names of some nuns who were there but
22 I don't know which one did what. I don't know who hit
23 me or who was kind to me.

24 "Not all of them were bad. Some were kind. The
25 names I remember are Sister [REDACTED] LFH, Sister [REDACTED] LJB and

1 Sister [REDACTED] LJA [REDACTED].

2 "I don't know at what age my memories of the place
3 start from. I don't know when it all came to light that
4 I was living in a convent. There are certain things
5 that are definitely blank in my mind.

6 "I remember having a number and a sash. The colour
7 of the sash was blue and the number was [REDACTED]. We all had
8 separate numbers.

9 "I don't even remember being called by my name.
10 I was always called by my number. That's what
11 I remember of my childhood. All the children were
12 referred to by their numbers.

13 "There were different groups with different colours
14 with about 10 to 20 children in each. You stood in line
15 in your group. There was a line of yellow and a line of
16 blue. There might have been more groups, but those are
17 the ones I can see in my head.

18 "One of the things you stood in line to do was clean
19 each other's heads. You stood in your blue line and
20 cleaned the person's head who was standing in front of
21 you. I was in the same blue group until I left the
22 convent.

23 "I wore my blue uniform all the time. I don't
24 remember having other clothes other than a uniform. We
25 got a change of clothes every Friday. It was all very

1 clean to be honest although a bit too clean sometimes.

2 "I can still picture the dormitory I slept in.
3 I can almost point out exactly where I slept. There
4 were big iron beds in three rows. You had to sleep on
5 your back with your arms crossed over your chest. The
6 nun on duty at night marched up and down the aisles
7 between the beds and walloped you with her big belt if
8 you moved.

9 "I don't know what would have happened if you had
10 got up to use the toilet at night. I never tried to do
11 that. I used to wet the bed. You didn't move into
12 different dormitories as you get older. As far as I can
13 remember I was in the same one the whole time.

14 "You got up in the morning about 6.30 and had to
15 kneel by your bed and say your prayers. I didn't even
16 know what prayers I said. They didn't do me any good
17 anyway.

18 "I remember I had been kneeling by the bed, trying
19 to dry the sheet because I'd wet the bed. It was fear
20 that caused the bed-wetting. Most children wet the bed
21 if they are in fear. I always say I lived in fear.

22 "If you wet the bed, you were finished. The sheet
23 would be put over your head and you were made to stand
24 facing the wall for most of the day.

25 "If you didn't wet the bed you went down for

1 breakfast. You'd get walloped if you didn't eat your
2 breakfast. I don't remember whether we got washed and
3 dressed before or after breakfast. That's one of the
4 things that blank in my mind. I just see myself
5 kneeling and trying to dry my sheets.

6 "We ate our meals in the refectory. When I think
7 back, I can see hundreds of girls sitting in the
8 refectory, but there couldn't have been as many as that.
9 I see big long tables and children sitting on benches,
10 like in Oliver Twist. The nuns didn't sit with us to
11 eat; they patrolled the place. You weren't allowed to
12 talk, laugh or giggle.

13 "I was called up to the top of the refectory many
14 times by the nuns for giggling or not eating my dinner.
15 I remember one time in particular when the nun put
16 a bowl on my head in front of everybody in the
17 refectory. I think I was about 13 or 14. She chopped
18 into my hair around the bowl and then took the bowl off
19 and just chopped into the rest of my hair. I was like
20 a lunatic. She didn't say anything while she was doing
21 it. I was bawling and crying. I still remember that
22 particular incident so well.

23 "There were a few incidents that were bad and
24 they've stuck in my mind. I wasn't the only one it
25 happened to. I am here passing on the information about

1 what happened to me but those other poor girls in there
2 went through the same. I don't even know if it was the
3 same nun who did it on the other girls.

4 "The food I remember getting is porridge, bread and
5 jam. It was basic. You were punished if you didn't eat
6 your meals. You would get smacked across the head or
7 hit with a belt or humiliated. Different nuns had
8 different ways. I don't think one nun was the same as
9 the next in their carry-on.

10 "There was a kitchen in the home, the older girls
11 prepared the food. I don't know if there was also
12 a cook there or whether the girls did it all. The nuns
13 used to get a full breakfast with bacon and eggs. There
14 was a dummy in the place, which was a lift where the
15 dirty dishes were put. We girls used to try and sneak
16 into it and eat the eggs and rashers that were left on
17 the plates.

18 "I think doing the cleaning in the place is one of
19 my earliest memories. I remember washing the stairs and
20 polishing the wooden floors. We sometimes did this
21 before school. We were also taken out of school at
22 times and put to work somewhere. We were just pushed
23 around wherever we were needed. If there was no one
24 in the laundry we would be taken out of school to work
25 there. Whatever had to be done, we had to do it. It

1 was part of the routine.

2 "I remember being on my knees in my uniform washing
3 the stairs before going to school. I can always
4 remember the wetness of my uniform. I had to wear it
5 all day in school. We were only children and didn't
6 know how to wash the stairs probably so the water went
7 all over the place. I also remember washing and folding
8 the sheets all day in the laundry; that happened mostly
9 at the weekends.

10 "I also worked in the scullery part of the kitchen.
11 One of my chores was to keep the dirty dishes down.
12 Peeling potatoes and plucking chickens sticks in my mind
13 as well. We used to plant the potatoes and pick them
14 too. We would be covered in mud.

15 "Our schooling finished at 4 o'clock and then we got
16 our tea. Bread and jam for tea sticks in my mind.
17 After that you got your wash and it was bedtime.
18 We were in bed by 6 or 6.30. There was a washroom with
19 a row of sinks. That was the routine right up until
20 I left the convent.

21 "We used to get a bath on a Friday; I think it was
22 in the afternoon. As I said before, we were all in
23 lines and we stood in our lines to have our bath. I can
24 remember there being four baths so there would have been
25 a line for each bath. You lined up outside the bathroom

1 door. I would say there were about 10 to 20 children in
2 each line. We stood in the line with no clothes on.
3 I remember we would be standing shivering waiting for
4 our turn. Pine disinfectant and Jeyes fluid were put
5 in the bath.

6 "The first person in was the lucky girl because she
7 got a warm bath; if you were last you got a dirty bath
8 which was freezing cold. I remember it so well. You
9 could see the scum on top. Nobody ever touched me
10 in the bath; we washed ourselves. We all used the same
11 towel when we got out. We got in one by one and the nun
12 told us when to get out. She would stand there and
13 shout, 'Out! Out!' The towel was passed on to the next
14 girl as she came out of the bath. It was all very
15 regimented. Your clean clothes were left out for you.
16 That was the routine during the entire time I was in the
17 convent.

18 "I don't remember having much leisure time. There
19 wasn't much time between school and going to bed.
20 I loved reading, but it doesn't even stick in my mind
21 that I did read at the convent. I don't remember if
22 there were books there. There is an awful lot of silly
23 things I don't remember. There must have been books as
24 I was really into reading when I came out of the
25 convent. I was always reading. I read a lot of rubbish

1 as well, not just educated stuff.

2 "I remember there was a yard at the back of the
3 convent and we used to go out there. That's all
4 I remember. I don't know how long we got to spend out
5 there or what we were allowed to play. I don't even
6 know if we ran around. I learned to crochet sitting in
7 that yard. I think we did things like that, more
8 activity based rather than running around. We used to
9 sew and knit. The older girls taught us how to do it.
10 We taught one another; the nuns didn't sit down with us
11 and teach us.

12 "We used to swap with Nazareth House in Aberdeen for
13 a week or two. We went up there and they came down to
14 Glasgow. That was our yearly holiday. I don't remember
15 going there when I was young; I can only remember being
16 there when I was a bit older. It was supposed to be
17 a holiday but you had just gone from one home to another
18 and it really wasn't any different. I think it was next
19 to the seaside. I can remember going to the seaside.
20 I don't remember playing with anyone. I just remember
21 the nuns taking us to the seaside. I also remember
22 being allowed to dance with boys there. That was a very
23 modern thing to do in the nuns' eyes.

24 "I don't remember making one single friend. I don't
25 know why that is. I know the names of some of the girls

1 in my group. They were in my line. I made my
2 Holy Communion with them.

3 "I don't remember having a birthday. I don't even
4 remember my age changing. Nothing happened to let me
5 know that my age had changed each year. I got to know
6 my age when I left the convent. I don't think anybody
7 else's birthday was celebrated either. That's just the
8 way it was.

9 "There would have been a tree and a crib at
10 Christmas, especially a crib. We must have got an
11 orange at Christmas. I always remember an orange and
12 think, is that what I got for Christmas. I remember big
13 crates with toys and clothes coming in one year. It
14 only happened once. It was after the war. It must have
15 been nearer the 50s. People had sent us gifts, but we
16 never got to keep them. We all gathered in the
17 schoolroom and our names got called out and we were
18 given a parcel. I still remember the details of the
19 woman whose name was on my parcel. Her name was
20 Mrs Guest and she lived in Diss in Norfolk. I was old
21 enough to read so I must have been about 10 at the time.
22 It is funny the things you remember. I often say to
23 myself I wish I could have thanked her. The parcels
24 were handed to all of us and then taken away. Lord
25 knows where they went. That's the only time I remember

1 having anything to do with anyone outside the convent.

2 "We went to Mass every day. I loved the Latin and
3 singing hymns. We said prayers again at 12 o'clock and
4 had benediction in the evenings. I enjoyed singing.
5 I think it was a little bit of a release. The nuns'
6 attitude towards us wasn't any different during those
7 times. We were just left to do all the holy things.

8 "You were put in a cupboard if you laughed or
9 giggled during Lent. We weren't allowed to do anything
10 during Lent. It was a time for quiet meditating, as
11 they say.

12 "I can remember being put in a cupboard once for
13 giggling. It was a big cupboard in the hall. I think
14 I was about 12. I can still see it. I can see myself
15 doing the Stations of the Cross. I only got out because
16 I stopped crying. I would have been kept in there if
17 I hadn't. I don't know if the cupboard was locked.
18 I was too afraid to move. I was in that cupboard for
19 a good while.

20 "That was something that happened regularly if you
21 were bold. If you were cheeky and didn't follow nuns'
22 rules you either stood with your face to the wall for
23 the full day or you were put in a cupboard. It was part
24 of the routine the nuns had.

25 "There were no nurses in the convent. The nuns did

1 it all. A doctor would come in if needed. He didn't
2 stay in the convent and he only came in if someone was
3 unwell.

4 "I remember being very sick for a long time and
5 being in the sickbay. When I got out of the convent
6 I got sick again and saw a doctor in St Mary's Hospital
7 in Southampton. I was told that I had tuberculosis and
8 still had tubercule. Nobody told me that I had
9 tuberculosis when I was in the convent. They found the
10 tubercule again a few years ago and I was sent for tests
11 which came back clear.

12 "I remember a girl in the convent got very sick with
13 tuberculosis and was taken to hospital. I was in the
14 bed opposite her in the sickbay. I don't think I was
15 sick enough to go to hospital. She got well again and
16 came back to the convent. The nuns didn't behave any
17 differently towards us when we were sick; they just got
18 on with their jobs and did that they had to do.

19 "The school was a big room in the home. The nuns
20 taught us. I liked school and I liked learning. The
21 teaching was strict but they did teach us well, I'll say
22 that for them. My left hand got tied to the chair
23 because I was left-handed and I likely got walloped for
24 things I didn't do or for giggling, but on the whole
25 school wasn't bad.

1 "At one point we went out to school, that was later
2 on in my time in the convent. It was a primary school
3 across the road from the home.

4 "I was put in the nursery to look after babies just
5 before I left the convent. I was about 15 years old.
6 When I was there I used to think, oh God, I started off
7 here.

8 "I remember an [REDACTED] couple got killed in a car
9 accident and their little boy and girl were brought to
10 the convent in Nazareth House. I remember it so clearly
11 as I had to mind those little ones. I still remember
12 their names.

13 "I looked after them while they were away.
14 I remember looking at those little babies lying in that
15 cot and thinking what life are they going to have. That
16 was something that was really hurtful to me.

17 "The nuns had a cruel way of potty training in the
18 nursery. It was an awful thing. They used to tie the
19 children to the potty to make them sit. They were just
20 left sitting there. That was part of the routine. They
21 had to be on the potty at a certain time each day.

22 "Sunday was visiting day. We were all put in a big
23 room. The visitors used to come to the side of the
24 school, knock the door, and say the name of the girl
25 they were going to visit. The girl would then be called

1 out of the room. I was left in that room for years with
2 no visitors. I obviously don't remember anything from
3 age 2 to 4, but from then on, until I was about 14,
4 I didn't have anyone calling for me.

5 "I spent years looking out that window every Sunday
6 waiting for visitors to come. I used to watch other
7 girls getting the visitors, although I wasn't the only
8 girl who had no one calling for them. Then, on one
9 particular Sunday, I was asked to greet the visitors at
10 the door. This only came back to me recently. A lady
11 and gentleman came to the door. I can still see them
12 standing there: her in her fur, both respectable and
13 well dressed. It's still vivid in my mind. They asked
14 for me and I was shocked. The nuns must have known that
15 they were coming that particular Sunday and that's why
16 they put me on the door.

17 "The woman was a great aunt of my father's. They
18 were related to me. They were nice people. They came
19 and visited me and then they went off. That was it.
20 I never saw them again. I'll never know why they didn't
21 come again. That was the only time I had a visit.

22 "I don't remember my father coming to visit me. He
23 might have done during a time when I was too young to
24 remember. Nobody ever came in and asked us how we were
25 or how we were being treated in the home. I definitely

1 don't remember any official inspections taking place.

2 The nuns were the ones who controlled the place.

3 I think things were getting a little bit better as I was
4 getting closer to leaving.

5 "I think things were getting better overall at that
6 stage in what I call the health sector. People in care
7 were starting to be looked after a bit better. I could
8 see a little bit of change coming.

9 "The nuns walloped you with their hands on the back
10 of your head or hit you with the strap for an awful lot
11 of little things, like falling asleep during Mass,
12 wetting the bed or not eating your food. That is all
13 you would see: nuns going around smacking children. It
14 was back in the 1950s and that was the way of the times.
15 It happened to all the children, it wasn't only me.

16 "I would say every child who grew up there, whether
17 they were good or bad, grew up in the same way. That's
18 how it was. Whether you got hit or not depended on
19 which nun was around. You never knew what to expect.
20 You didn't know the mentality of the nuns. They could
21 be cruel, kind, or maybe just afraid to hurt someone.

22 "I think some of the nuns were a little bit manic.
23 They had a streak in them that they had to release.

24 I often think that was the case with a lot of the nuns.

25 "That nun who chopped into my hair in the refectory,

1 she was a nun with a bit of badness in her. I think she
2 was a bit manic.

3 "As I said, you had to stand facing the wall with
4 a sheet over your head if you wet the bed. That went on
5 for a long time for me. It would have been fear that
6 caused the bed-wetting, not bladder trouble or anything
7 like that. You stood in the dorm beside what I called
8 the nun's cabin -- whichever nun was on duty that night
9 slept in the little cabin at the bottom of the dorm.
10 I remember standing beside a radiator one time with the
11 wet sheet over my head and I fainted. It was probably
12 the ammonia that did it. I fell and split my head.

13 [REDACTED],
14 [REDACTED]. I didn't get any
15 medical treatment for it; I was just left where I was.

16 "I was left-handed when I was in the convent; I'm
17 right-handed now. They used to tie my left hand to the
18 back of my chair in school so that I would write with my
19 right hand. It was cruel. I don't know how long it
20 took me to learn how to write with my right hand but
21 I do remember the pain of learning how to do it. When I
22 left the convent, I found out that was the way with most
23 schools then. I couldn't use my knife and fork properly
24 or tie my laces either because I wasn't allowed to do it
25 in a left-handed way.

1 "I remember my hand was swollen like a mountain
2 after one of the nuns walloped me with an old-fashioned
3 wire brush. I was in the washroom and was doing
4 something left handed, maybe I was brushing my teeth.
5 My hand was swelling and swelling and another nun came
6 along and actually bit the head off the one who hurt me
7 and then she bathed my hand. That's the only time a nun
8 ever stuck up for me. It didn't really make much
9 difference. I was still treated the same way for being
10 left handed.

11 "A different nun would come along and she'd not be
12 so kind. That's the way it went. I remember that time
13 vividly, learning how to use my right hand. It took me
14 ages to learn how to tie my laces. I remember teaching
15 my little granddaughter and it was so simple for her.
16 I don't know why they were like that with left handed
17 people. I think it was the way things happened in those
18 times.

19 "As I got older, a nun used to take me to a [REDACTED]
20 farm and leave me there with [REDACTED] LVS [REDACTED] who raped me. It
21 happened on a number of occasions. I didn't know at the
22 time that that's what he was doing. It went on for
23 quite a while.

24 "When it stopped, I heard that the nun had left the
25 convent, but I don't know what happened to the farmer.

1 I don't remember the nun's name. [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]
5 " [REDACTED] LVS was a little rounded man. I can't see
6 his face. In my eyes he was a little barrel. Whether
7 he actually was or not, I don't know, but that's what
8 I remember. I don't know what age he was. As far as
9 I know, there was never anyone else there when it
10 happened. I don't know whether the nun stayed around or
11 whether she watched, but I'm 100 per cent certain that
12 she knew it was happening.

13 [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED] I was supposed to be going down for
15 eggs from the farm. That's what I was told. I don't
16 remember ever carrying eggs. I don't know for certain
17 if other girls went through the same thing but I don't
18 think I was the only one.

19 "I think other girls would be able to tell stories
20 too. The nun also sexually assaulted me. She didn't
21 penetrate me, but she mauled me all over my body on
22 a regular basis.

23 "I think I was more or less put out of
24 Nazareth House. I think there's something more to me
25 going when I did. There's more to the story of that nun

1 who used to take me to the farm. I got up one morning
2 and the Mother Superior called me into her room, gave me
3 a bus ticket and told me to go to Glasgow Bus Station
4 and get on a bus to Victoria, where I would be met by my
5 father. I had no idea where the bus station was. I had
6 never really been out of the convent. Nobody came with
7 me to the bus station."

8 As I indicated earlier, my Lady, it's noted in the
9 admissions and discharge register that the witness left
10 in [REDACTED] 1957.

11 LADY SMITH: And she would have been 14 by then?

12 MS MACLEOD: Yes, around that, yes.

13 "As the years go on, I think why was I just left
14 like that. The nuns had had me for all those years in
15 the convent and then I was literally given a bus ticket
16 one morning and told to go and make my way somewhere
17 I didn't know with nobody around to help me.

18 "These are the words the Mother Superior said to me,
19 'Look for a bus with the word Victoria on it. Get on
20 that bus and it will take you down to London where a man
21 called, and she said my father's name, will meet you.'

22 "Getting from Glasgow to London in the 1950s was
23 like going from here to Australia nowadays. The journey
24 was horrible. I was all on my own. I got travel
25 sickness and I was in such a state when I met my father.

1 Up until then, I didn't even know I had a father.
2 Nobody had come to visit and told me that I had
3 a father. All I knew from the convent was that my
4 mother was dead. I was given a certificate when I left
5 the convent, which had an F for female on it. I had no
6 information at all about my family on it. I never had
7 any personal belongings in the convent, so I left with
8 just the bus ticket and that certificate.

9 "When I got down to Victoria, this man came up to me
10 and asked me if my name was my name. He could have been
11 anyone. He then took me on another bus down to
12 Southampton where he lived. That's a journey I made in
13 one day, from Glasgow all the way down to Southampton.

14 "I knew I didn't like my father as soon as I met
15 him. He wasn't a nice man. The fear was there again.
16 There was always fear. I spent six months living with
17 him in Southampton and left because he was abusing me.
18 He was doing what the farmer had done to me. I knew
19 straightaway that I had to get out of that house.

20 "I left [REDACTED] in 1957. I had
21 just come out of the convent and I knew nothing of the
22 outside world, yet I was able to do that. I hadn't yet
23 turned 17. I had become friends with a girl and it was
24 through talking to her about [REDACTED] LVS and my father
25 that I got to know what it was they had done to me. She

1 expressed it to me. She and I went to London together
2 and just got on with life."

3 In paragraphs 53 to 55 of the statement, the witness
4 speaks about her time in London, that she generally
5 enjoyed that, and some of the work, the jobs that she
6 had while she was there.

7 In paragraphs 56 to 58 of the statement, the witness
8 speaks about family life, getting married, having her
9 children, and some difficult times in her personal life
10 as well.

11 I will pick the statement up at paragraph 59 on page
12 WIT.001.001.3500, where the witness speaks about the
13 impact of her experiences:

14 "Fear has always been a constant thing in my life.
15 It has been there all through the years. I was always
16 afraid going through life. I was always scared of
17 what was going to happen next. All of that happened to
18 me when I was young and then other things happened."

19 The witness then speaks about her children, that one
20 of her children died at the age of 40, and that her
21 daughter has also had some health difficulties.

22 I'll pick the statement up again at paragraph 61 on
23 the same page:

24 "I used to have dreams about a big hefty man
25 marching up and down the bedroom in a black cloak which

1 went over in my head and, if you moved, he'd belt you.

2 That went on for a long, long time. It was horrible.

3 "It took a very long time for me to analyse the
4 dream and work out that it wasn't a man belting me, it
5 was a nun. It came from my fear of going to bed at
6 night in the convent because there was always a nun
7 marching down the aisle, making sure your eyes were
8 closed and your arms were crossed over your chest.

9 I had listened to that for years in Nazareth House,
10 lying there in fear of the nun's strap. That's what
11 I was seeing in my dreams all that time, the nun
12 marching up and down.

13 "What LVS did and the fact he got away with
14 it has stuck in my mind all these years. I would hate
15 to see any other than children go through that. They
16 can't fight for themselves or protect themselves. It's
17 very sad when you think about what's out there. Because
18 of the sexual abuse, I feel disgusted with myself. I
19 feel dirty and ashamed. I've always felt like that.

20 "I think the way I was treated at Nazareth House
21 impacted on my relationship with my husband. I couldn't
22 stand up to him. I've never been able to deal with
23 confrontation and I avoid arguments.

24 "I suffer from claustrophobia. I have a real fear
25 of being closed in anywhere. Even going to the toilet

1 can be quite difficult for me if I feel I can't get out.
2 I think this is because I felt closed in at
3 Nazareth House and I have a fear of that happening
4 again.

5 "I tried counselling, but I was just repeating
6 myself and I didn't want to keep going somewhere and
7 just repeat myself over and over. I didn't find it
8 helpful. I used to think about the poor woman who was
9 doing the counselling. She just had to sit there and
10 keep listening to me repeating myself.

11 "A friend of mine was brought up in a different
12 convent and she had a traumatic life too. Counselling
13 helped her immensely and she was very grateful for it.
14 I'm glad it helped her. The only thing that maybe came
15 out of it for me is that I was a bit better at talking
16 about my life in Nazareth House. Also being able to
17 speak to my children about it has been helpful.

18 "I lived with my time in Nazareth House always there
19 in my mind through the years, but I put it to the back
20 of my mind while I was rearing my children. There was
21 so much going on in my life and my children always came
22 first. I kept my past to myself and didn't talk about
23 it with them. I didn't tell them until 2010.

24 "I started to bring it out after my daughter looked
25 into my family background. I wrote down some of my

1 experiences. I have a feeling my son hasn't read it
2 all. He will maybe need to get some help for himself to
3 deal with it.

4 "I've had my friend who supported me to give this
5 witness statement with me all along. I had her mother
6 before that. She passed away. She was my good friend.
7 She helped me when I was trying to get information about
8 my life and find out who I was in 1994.

9 "I would say she was the only one who knew what had
10 happened to me and then her daughter came along and
11 I told her. I have never made an official report to
12 anyone. I'm the type of person who has to express
13 themselves. I'm always writing. I keep saying I'm
14 going to write a book. If I did, I wouldn't want to be
15 known as the person who wrote it or be named in it.
16 That is not for me. I don't want to be out there as
17 someone who feels sorry for themselves. I would have to
18 give my story to someone else and tell them to change
19 the names.

20 "I got a bit curious in 1994 and sent off to Glasgow
21 for my birth certificate. I got the certificate but I
22 never looked into my background any further at that
23 point. I had so much going on in my life at the time
24 and just put the birth certificate to the back of my
25 mind.

1 "I always thought there was something odd about it
2 though. When my son died, my daughter said to me that
3 she wanted to look into my birth certificate. On doing
4 so, she discovered that my mum had signed the
5 certificate and had obviously not died giving birth to
6 me like I was told. My daughter and I then looked into
7 things on the internet and we discovered a lot about my
8 family. I found out that my mother had had six other
9 daughters, two of whom are younger than me. I was so
10 emotional and annoyed when I found out all of this. To
11 think that all of that had been going on and I knew
12 nothing about it.

13 "None of my siblings were put into care. I know
14 that because I've met them. I don't have much contact
15 with them as there's not a lot of shared history between
16 us.

17 "My daughter also wrote to the archivist in
18 Nazareth House. He was a nice man. He wrote back and
19 sent me my Nazareth House entry and leaving forms which
20 he had photocopied on one sheet for me. It says on the
21 sheet that my mum was dead.

22 "The nuns at Nazareth House changed my name because
23 my own name wasn't a Catholic name. My mother was
24 a Protestant and my father was a Catholic. I got in
25 touch with the Scottish Human Rights Commission as I was

1 so upset to find out that my mother had not actually
2 died at my birth and had in fact been alive until 1990.
3 That was in 2010. I spoke to Moyra Hawthorne and she
4 told me that it wasn't uncommon and she referred me to
5 a woman called Helen Holland from a group called INCAS.

6 "Before I got in touch with INCAS I telephoned
7 Nazareth House in Glasgow and spoke to a nun there
8 called Sister Brenda McCall. I told her what I had
9 found out about my mother. I was a bit sharp with her
10 as I was so upset to find out that my mother had been
11 alive for all those years. I was quite traumatised
12 talking to her.

13 "I apologised to her for my outburst. She was very
14 kind on the phone. She was very sympathetic towards me
15 and referred me for counselling. That is the
16 counselling which I have spoken about and which I have
17 stopped going to.

18 "I got to know about the inquiry through INCAS.
19 I don't have any contact with INCAS now as I tried to
20 phone Helen Holland a few months back and she didn't
21 answer my call. I do not know what has happened to her.

22 "I'm glad I have now given my evidence. I'm glad
23 it's over. I'm sick of writing things down on bits of
24 paper. I hate repeating myself. I annoy myself when
25 I do it. I want to try and forget about it now that

1 I've done what I had to do. I wanted to take part in
2 the inquiry to try to make sure it doesn't happen again,
3 although I can't see it not happening again. When you
4 see what's out there, I'm not sure how it can be
5 stopped. I think it'll always be there.

6 "I think it's important that today's children know
7 how children in care were treated. They need to be told
8 what happened to the children. I'm not ashamed about
9 it. I have spoken to my granddaughter about being
10 brought up in care.

11 "I hope that the nuns of today are not judged by the
12 behaviour of the nuns of yesteryear. I am not
13 anti-Catholic or anti-nuns. The nuns of today are so
14 different. They were very kind to my son and he loved
15 them. I'm grateful to them for their kindness. He
16 loved the priests too.

17 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
18 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.
19 I believe the facts stated in the witness statement are
20 true."

21 The witness statement was signed by Margaret on
22 31 August 2017.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

24 Now, it's 12.50; does that take us to a slightly
25 early lunch break, Ms MacLeod?

1 MS MACLEOD: It does, my Lady.

2 LADY SMITH: I'll rise now for the lunch break and sit again
3 at 2 o'clock.

4 (12.50 pm)

5 (The lunch adjournment)

6 (2.00 pm)

7 LADY SMITH: Yes, Mr MacAulay.

8 MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, my Lady. The next witness is
9 an applicant, she wants to remain anonymous, and she
10 wants to use the name "Yvonne" in giving her evidence.

11 "YVONNE" (sworn)

12 LADY SMITH: Do sit down and make yourself comfortable.

13 If you need those glasses for reading, I think
14 you'll need them in a minute to look at a document
15 in that red folder for Mr MacAulay.

16 Can I also ask you to make sure that you speak into
17 that microphone so that everybody can hear you properly,
18 particularly the stenographers, who have to pick up what
19 you're saying through the system. Thank you.

20 Mr MacAulay.

21 Questions from MR MacAULAY

22 MR MacAULAY: Hello, Yvonne.

23 A. Hi.

24 Q. I'll be asking you the questions, and the first issue
25 I want you to confirm with me, is not your date of birth

1 but the year of your birth. Can you confirm that you
2 were born in 1962?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. In the red folder, you'll find your statement, the
5 statement you've given to the inquiry. I'll give the
6 reference of that to the transcribers, and that's
7 WIT.001.001.4244. If I could ask you to look at the
8 last page, 4263, can I ask you to confirm that you've
9 signed the statement?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Do you tell us in the last paragraph:

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

14 Is that what you say?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Do you also go on to say:

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

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I propose to ask you questions, Yvonne, essentially
21 based upon the written evidence you've given to the
22 inquiry. If there's a question I ask you and you just
23 can't remember, just say you can't remember. Likewise,
24 if I ask you something and that triggers something else
25 that you want to tell us, just feel free to do that.

1 Do you understand that?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Looking to your family background, I think originally
4 your family were based in Glasgow; is that correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You're a member of quite a large family?

7 A. Nine.

8 Q. Altogether.

9 I think you had a quite unhappy family background
10 in that you had a sister who was murdered and your
11 mother died quite young as well; is that correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Against that background, were you, along with some of
14 your sisters, admitted to Nazareth House Cardonald?

15 A. Yes, there were four of us.

16 Q. You were very young at the time, but I am just going to
17 put these dates to you to see if they mean anything to
18 you.

19 According to the Sisters of Nazareth records that
20 we've seen, you were admitted to Nazareth House on
21 [REDACTED] 1965. So you'd be about 3 then; would that
22 be about right?

23 A. Aye. Five days after my [REDACTED] I went to
24 Nazareth House.

25 Q. You left, according to the records, on [REDACTED] 1977; does

1 that fit in with your own recollection?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. As you've just told us, you went to Nazareth House along
4 with three of your sisters. One sister was a year
5 younger than you; is that right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. So she'd be about 2. And the other two sisters were
8 three to four years older than you; is that right?

9 A. A couple of years older, not that much older.

10 Q. Did that mean that when you went to Nazareth House, you
11 and your younger sister went into a particular part of
12 the home and your older sisters went to another part of
13 the home?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Where did you go, can you remember?

16 A. Me and my young sister went to the nursery.

17 Q. And your older sisters, I think they went into what has
18 certainly been referred to by others as the junior
19 section --

20 A. Yes --

21 Q. -- is that correct?

22 A. -- the green group.

23 Q. Over the period you were in the nursery section, did you
24 see much of your older sisters?

25 A. No.

- 1 Q. Did you see anything of them that you can remember?
- 2 A. Just if we were out playing or something, but not for
3 long.
- 4 Q. Do you have much of a memory as to what life was like
5 in the nursery?
- 6 A. Yes, with Sister [REDACTED] LFL [REDACTED].
- 7 Q. Was it Sister [REDACTED] LFL [REDACTED] who was in charge of you?
- 8 A. She was in charge of the nursery, yes.
- 9 Q. When you were in the nursery, do you have any
10 recollection as to how many young children were in the
11 nursery at that time?
- 12 A. There were quite a few.
- 13 Q. Boys and girls?
- 14 A. Boys and girls, yes.
- 15 Q. Of course, as you've told us, your sister was there with
16 you, your younger sister.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. We'll come back to the nursery in an moment, but at
19 a point in time, at a particular age, were you moved
20 from the nursery to the juniors section?
- 21 A. I was moved from the nursery at 5, up to the green
22 group.
- 23 Q. What about your younger sister? Did she stay in the
24 nursery or not?
- 25 A. [REDACTED] LDI [REDACTED] stayed in the nursery.

- 1 Q. Did there come a time when she moved up as well.
- 2 A. She moved up when she was 5.
- 3 Q. Can you tell me a little bit then about the routine
4 in the nursery that you can remember? Because you seem
5 to have a recollection of what life was like.
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. What was life like in the nursery?
- 8 A. I remember, after you've had your tea, then all the kids
9 would all get lined up into this wee basin, sink,
10 we would all get washed, but if any of the kids moved
11 out of line or anything, they would be beaten with
12 wooden hangers because they stepped out of line.
- 13 Q. Who did that?
- 14 A. Sister [REDACTED] LFL.
- 15 Q. Just so I can understand, you're talking about very
16 young children being lined up to get washed?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Did that happen to you?
- 19 A. Yes, it happened to me and other kids as well if they
20 moved out of line.
- 21 Q. Would children be upset?
- 22 A. Of course; they would be crying.
- 23 Q. When you went to bed in the nursery, when you were of an
24 age that you can remember, did you have to sleep in
25 a particular way?

- 1 A. We had to sleep with our arms folded, as if we were
2 angels (indicating).
- 3 Q. And you're indicating that with your arms crossed over
4 your chest; is that correct?
- 5 A. Mm-hm.
- 6 Q. Would anything happen if that wasn't the case and you
7 were found in a different position?
- 8 A. If we were found in a different position, the nuns would
9 come in, drag you out of bed, and you'd end up getting
10 a doing, a slap.
- 11 Q. In giving that answer you said "the nuns"; would there
12 be more than one nun who would be involve in this
13 process?
- 14 A. No, mainly Sister [REDACTED] LFL because you only really had
15 one nun.
- 16 Q. Okay. Did that happen to you, that you were dragged out
17 of bed for not being in the correct position?
- 18 A. Yes, uh-huh.
- 19 Q. And what happened?
- 20 A. The nuns would just slap you about, saying that we told
21 you how to lie in bed, how you're meant to sleep.
- 22 Q. Did you learn then that this was the way you had to
23 sleep with your arms crossed?
- 24 A. Yes. Mm-hm.
- 25 Q. Also, when you were in the nursery, did you have to go

- 1 to church?
- 2 A. Yes, chapel.
- 3 Q. Did you have a problem in particular in standing still
- 4 when you were in the chapel?
- 5 A. Yes. I was quite -- I couldn't sit down. I was always
- 6 constantly on my feet and quite boisterous, but when
- 7 I moved in chapel, when I came out of chapel on a Sunday
- 8 morning, I was put behind a big piano and had to stay
- 9 there and watch all the other weans all eat their
- 10 breakfast while I never got anything because I moved in
- 11 chapel.
- 12 Q. Who put you behind the piano?
- 13 A. Sister [REDACTED] LFL .
- 14 Q. For how long would you have to stand behind the piano?
- 15 A. Until the weans had all had their breakfast.
- 16 Q. Would you have your breakfast then?
- 17 A. No, I used to kind of look out the side of the piano and
- 18 watch all the weans.
- 19 Q. Was this a form of punishment for being so active in
- 20 chapel?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. How often did that happen to you?
- 23 A. Every Sunday.
- 24 Q. Again, if I just focus on the position in the nursery:
- 25 was bed-wetting an issue in the nursery?

- 1 A. Not really in the nursery, I don't remember much about
2 bed-wetting, but I do remember going up in the green
3 group though --
- 4 Q. I'll come to that. What's your recollection of the food
5 when you were in the nursery section?
- 6 A. Some food I liked, some food I didn't, but the foods
7 I didn't eat would be like Brussels sprouts, custard,
8 semolina. But the nuns forced you to eat it. And say
9 you were vomiting -- because even now to this day
10 I can't even stand the smell of Brussels sprouts, they
11 would get the spoon and throw the vomit and the food
12 back into your mouth and hold your nose until you
13 swallowed it.
- 14 Q. And did that happen to you?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Did it happen to other children?
- 17 A. It happened to other children as well.
- 18 Q. And if we focus on the nursery, who did that to you
19 in the nursery?
- 20 A. Sister [REDACTED] LFL .
- 21 Q. Can I ask you just generally, whether it's in the
22 nursery or in the junior section, about your birthday.
23 Was your birthday celebrated?
- 24 A. No. I don't ever remember having a birthday.
- 25 Q. Was there a time when you didn't even know your exact

1 age?

2 A. No.

3 Q. You always knew your age?

4 A. No, I never really knew my age because I always wondered
5 how old was I then. I don't really remember now what
6 age I was when everything exactly happened, but I know
7 I was young.

8 Q. If I look at visits, again over the time that you were
9 there, did family members come to visit you in your time
10 at Nazareth House?

11 A. In the nursery I remember somebody coming to visit me
12 but I always remember hanging onto this person's leg,
13 but I don't know who it was, so I don't know if it was
14 my dad or what. I don't know.

15 Q. More generally, from the nursery into the junior
16 section, do you remember visits from family members?

17 A. Not really in the nursery, no.

18 Q. But once you leave the nursery --

19 A. When you go up the green group?

20 Q. Yes.

21 A. Yes, we had a couple of us. My dad would come up and
22 see me and my granny used to come up with her fruit
23 because she always used to hand fruit to us.

24 Q. I think you say your granny would visit but she wouldn't
25 come into the building?

- 1 A. No, I never seen my gran in -- if we were out playing,
2 I'd see her coming up the steps to Nazareth House and
3 I would run over and get her and she would give me my
4 bag of fruit and she would just leave again.
- 5 Q. What would you do with the fruit?
- 6 A. I would eat it before I took it into the home.
- 7 Q. Do you remember anyone from the Social Work Department
8 coming to see you when you were there?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. You do tell us also in your statement about the taxi
11 trip to Troon, which I think happened every year;
12 is that right?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Did you go on that trip?
- 15 A. Oh aye.
- 16 Q. And that was an enjoyable day?
- 17 A. Oh, brilliant.
- 18 Q. Would you get something from the taxi drivers to take
19 back with you?
- 20 A. Yes, it was always shoeboxes and you had rock and fruit
21 and quite a lot of things in it. All the weans would
22 all help to bring their boxes back and all the nuns
23 would be standing at the front door and taking all the
24 weans' boxes. I never gave them mine; I gave them an
25 empty box.

- 1 Q. Why was that?
- 2 A. Because I used to eat mine.
- 3 Q. I want to ask you a little bit about what medical
4 attention you got when you were in Nazareth House.
5 I think there was a particular doctor that dealt with
6 the Nazareth House children; is that right?
- 7 A. Dr [REDACTED] LKQ? .
- 8 Q. You'd get injections from time to time from him; do you
9 know what these injections were for?
- 10 A. I think it was pre-school jags or something like that.
11 I'm sure it'd have been.
- 12 Q. And how did you find that?
- 13 A. I were terrified of jags. But that one, I kind of was
14 very hysterical, so Dr [REDACTED] LKQ? and somebody else
15 had to hold me down to give me the jag but when he gave
16 me the jag, he just jagged it right into my bum and
17 I couldn't even sit down for a week.
- 18 Q. You also had some dental treatment, I think, when you
19 were in Nazareth House; can you tell me about that?
- 20 A. I used to have -- my eye teeth would come out up the top
21 and over my top teeth and I went to the dentist and, as
22 I said, I was scared as well, so it took quite a few
23 dentists to hold me down to take these teeth out.
24 Apparently they took the wrong teeth out -- when I went
25 to my dentist years ago they said they took my biting

1 teeth out and I always wondered why I had those teeth
2 taken out because I used to bite as well when I was
3 younger.

4 Q. So just to understand, you did bite, is that --

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. What did you or who did you bite?

7 A. Anybody that was hurting me.

8 Q. So I think what you're saying is you're wondering
9 whether these teeth were removed because you had this
10 habit of biting people?

11 A. Mm-hm.

12 Q. You've told us about a nun or nuns that were there.
13 What about lay staff? Were there lay staff there? By
14 that I mean non-nuns, civilian staff.

15 A. Staff? Yes. Uh-huh. Quite a few staff.

16 Q. In the nursery can you remember --

17 A. I don't really remember the nursery.

18 Q. But then in the junior section --

19 A. In the junior section, when we went to the green group,
20 yes.

21 Q. One person you mention in your statement is a lady
22 called LKB.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And she, I think, worked in the main building, is that
25 right --

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. -- when you moved to the junior section?
- 3 A. Yes, **LKB** was there near enough all my time in
4 Nazareth House.
- 5 Q. Was she somebody you got on well with?
- 6 A. Yes. Mm-hm.
- 7 Q. Can I then just focus on when you moved from the nursery
8 to the green group. Am I right in thinking that you
9 moved and your younger sister still stayed in the
10 nursery; is that right?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. When you moved into the green group, did you go to
13 a particular dormitory?
- 14 A. What do you mean, dormitory? We used to call
15 dormitories the bedroom.
- 16 Q. Okay, bedroom is fine. Did you go to a bedroom then?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Where did you go to sleep?
- 19 A. Oh, aye, in the dormitory, sorry.
- 20 Q. I just want to understand what sort of room that was.
- 21 A. It was a big room, a big massive room with about eight,
22 nine beds in it. Because it was kind of partitioned off
23 and then the next partition had other rooms and that as
24 well.
- 25 Q. I see. This would all be girls of course?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And in the area you were in, the partitioned area you
3 were in, was that for your group?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And once you were in the junior section, can you tell me
6 a little bit about your group, can you say how many were
7 in the group?

8 A. There was probably about maybe 20/25 children.

9 Q. Okay. All girls?

10 A. No, we had boys as well, but the boys left when they
11 were 12.

12 Q. So what was the age range then, do you think?

13 A. The green group was 5 upwards.

14 Q. So you'd --

15 A. I think it went to 15.

16 Q. So you would begin at the bottom then and you'd work
17 your way upwards; is that correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 LADY SMITH: Do you know where the boys went at the age of
20 12?

21 A. I think they all went to Bosco House and all different
22 places like that.

23 LADY SMITH: So they didn't stay in another part of
24 Nazareth House? They went right away from
25 Nazareth House?

1 A. They went away from to Nazareth House; they went to
2 boys' places.

3 LADY SMITH: Okay, thanks.

4 MR MacAULAY: When you moved to the green group, into the
5 junior section, I think you told me earlier that when
6 your older sisters went there, that's what they would
7 have gone, is that correct, your two older sisters?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What was your understanding when you were going to move
10 from the nursery to the green group? Did you understand
11 that your older sisters would be there?

12 A. Yes. They told me I was going up to be with my older
13 sisters and I couldn't wait.

14 Q. Who told you that?

15 A. Sister [REDACTED] LFL [REDACTED].

16 Q. And what happened then?

17 A. When I went up, they weren't there.

18 Q. And what did you understand had happened?

19 A. They were taken away.

20 Q. Do you know where?

21 A. Not at that time, no.

22 Q. But did you learn later where they went?

23 A. I learned later, yeah, they were fostered out.

24 Q. And was that then some time before you were moved to the
25 green group?

1 A. They were fostered out before I went up to the green
2 group but they never told me that.

3 Q. Who was in charge of the green group once you were
4 there?

5 A. Sister [REDACTED] LHA [REDACTED].

6 Q. I just want to understand, how would you spell her name,
7 is it [REDACTED] LHA [REDACTED]? How do you think her name was spelt?

8 A. [REDACTED] LHA [REDACTED].

9 Q. [REDACTED] LHA [REDACTED]?

10 A. [REDACTED] LHA [REDACTED].

11 Q. [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED]

13 A. [REDACTED]

14 Q. [REDACTED]

15 A. Yes, she would grab you against a wall and hold you up
16 and then start booting into your legs [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED]

18 Q. So she was in charge of the group?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did she have someone to help her?

21 A. No, she done it herself.

22 Q. So there was no layperson that would help her?

23 A. Not about.

24 Q. What about [REDACTED] LKB [REDACTED] that you mentioned earlier?

25 A. [REDACTED] LKB [REDACTED] was always going from group to group because

1 there was quite a few groups.

2 Q. One of the things you say in your statement -- and this
3 is at paragraph 34 -- is that you thought you seemed to
4 get blamed for a lot of things that happened; is that
5 your recollection?

6 A. I did, yes.

7 Q. Can you help me with that? How did that happen?

8 A. I just got the blame for everything. If the fire alarm
9 got set off, I was to blame for it. They blamed me for
10 everything.

11 Q. Why was that?

12 A. I don't know, because I was boisterous when I was
13 younger. I'm not saying I didn't do things, I do
14 things, but not all the time.

15 Q. You tell us about an incident where a boy who fell out
16 of a tree and you thought you would get the blame -- how
17 would you get the blame for that?

18 A. Because I was with him when he fell out of the tree and
19 I was -- when I come down out the tree he was lying on
20 the ground and he was complaining about his back and
21 I ran away and I got scared and I'm like, I can't say
22 nothing because they'll blame me for it.

23 Q. If you got the blame for something, even if you hadn't
24 done what you were being blamed for, would anything
25 happen to you?

- 1 A. No, they'd just always blame me: she done it, she done
2 it.
- 3 Q. Okay.
- 4 You tell us something in your statement also about
5 a nun who died when you were there and what happened.
- 6 A. We were young. We all had to go to Mass and all the
7 kids were all lined up and we all had to kiss her.
- 8 Q. Where did you kiss her?
- 9 A. On the forehead.
- 10 Q. What did you feel about that?
- 11 A. I didn't like it. It was the first time I ever seen
12 a dead body and I sure didn't even want to kiss somebody
13 that was dead. I didn't even know the nun.
- 14 Q. What age were you at that time, do you think?
- 15 A. Young. I don't know, but I was young.
- 16 Q. Were you in the nursery or in the green group?
- 17 A. Maybe about seven.
- 18 Q. So you'd moved to the green group?
- 19 A. I'd moved to the green group.
- 20 Q. Another thing you tell us, because we know this is the
21 position, is there was an old folks' home at Cardonald
22 as well; is that right?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. And you say that you used to work in it the old folks'
25 home?

- 1 A. Yes, when I got expelled from school I was told to work
2 in the old folks' home to help the old people.
- 3 Q. The school you went to was Lourdes --
- 4 A. Lourdes secondary.
- 5 Q. So this was when you were in the secondary school?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. So you'd be 12 or over 12 when that happened?
- 8 A. About 12.
- 9 Q. And what happened at school?
- 10 A. I don't know. I just couldn't cope with school because
11 of everything was going on in Nazareth House, so I was
12 quite boisterous at school as well.
- 13 Q. You have used the word boisterous on more than one
14 occasion. Can you elaborate upon what you mean by that?
- 15 A. I don't know, I just ... Getting up to everything and I
16 used to go up to the top of Nazareth House and jump,
17 climb about the building, the top building. Just
18 getting up to things like that.
- 19 Q. In any event, you're telling us that you were expelled
20 from school for a period of time, was it?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. What then happened during that period? What did
23 you have to do?
- 24 A. I went to the old folks' home and helped with the old
25 people.

1 Q. What did that involve?

2 A. I just remember one of the old people was, having to
3 bath her and that as well and then getting her into her
4 jammies.

5 Q. And how long did you spend helping in the old folks'
6 home?

7 A. I don't know. I don't think it was that long because
8 I used to run away quite a lot as well.

9 Q. Again, we'll maybe look at that. Did you go back to
10 school? Did you go back to Lourdes secondary?

11 A. No. I didn't go back to a school until, I think, maybe
12 I was 13, 13 and a half.

13 Q. Okay.

14 Can I ask you now a little bit about how you were
15 treated when you were at Nazareth House. You've already
16 been telling us about some of the things that happened
17 to you. You've mentioned Sister [REDACTED] LFL who looked
18 after you in the nursery; is that right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Once you left the nursery, did you then leave
21 Sister [REDACTED] LFL and go into Sister [REDACTED] LHA's group?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You have mentioned this wooden hanger business already;
24 how regularly did that happen?

25 A. Whenever you moved out of line.

1 Q. Did she ever say anything to you that -- did she say
2 things to you?

3 A. I was called a devil's child, and I'm left-handed and my
4 left hand used to get strapped up my back to try and
5 write with my right hand.

6 Q. Was that in the nursery as well?

7 A. That started in the nursery, yes.

8 Q. Did she say anything else to you as to --

9 A. No.

10 Q. One thing you do tell us -- and I think this is still
11 when you're in the nursery -- is about someone who you
12 thought was [REDACTED] LVT [REDACTED] coming to visit.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Was that in the nursery that happened?

15 A. I'm not sure if I were in the nursery but I know we were
16 young because he came to visit. I didn't know it was
17 [REDACTED] LVT [REDACTED]; it wasn't until years later I
18 found out.

19 But he would have all the wee girls sitting on his
20 knee and I thought to myself, I would like to sit on his
21 knee, because I had never sat on anyone's knee in my
22 life. And when I got up on his knee, he started
23 touching me underneath, but I jumped off his knee
24 straightaway, and I have never sat on anybody's knee
25 after that.

- 1 Q. Did you consider that he was abusing you?
- 2 A. Aye, well, he was touching underneath.
- 3 Q. Did you see that other children were sitting on his
- 4 knee?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Do you know if anything happened to them?
- 7 A. I don't know. I take it if it happened to me, it must
- 8 have happened to them.
- 9 Q. You've already mentioned Sister [REDACTED] LHA and what would
- 10 happen [REDACTED]. Can you just give me some
- 11 understanding as to why that would be the case? Why
- 12 would she hit you with the boot?
- 13 A. Because I'd be cheeky.
- 14 Q. And what would she do?
- 15 A. What would I do?
- 16 Q. What would she do?
- 17 A. She'd just grab you against a wall, hold you with her
- 18 arm, and then just boot into your knees and your feet or
- 19 your legs [REDACTED].
- 20 Q. When you say "there", you're pointing to the front, the
- 21 top of your shirt?
- 22 A. Then she'd put her arm up, kind of up there, and then
- 23 just kick right into you (indicating).
- 24 Q. And you're pressing your wrist against your neck?
- 25 A. Mm-hm.

1 Q. How long would this go on for, this sort of behaviour?

2 A. Ages.

3 Q. How often did this happen to you?

4 A. Quite a lot.

5 Q. Was this over the whole period you were there?

6 A. When we had Sister [REDACTED] LHA, yes, mm-hm.

7 LADY SMITH: Do you remember what sort of things you would
8 say when you were being cheeky or how you would behave?

9 A. I don't even remember what I was saying.

10 LADY SMITH: But are you telling me you have a recollection
11 of being cheeky?

12 A. Mm-hm. She probably told me to do something and I've
13 told her no or something.

14 MR MacAULAY: Was Sister [REDACTED] LHA in charge of your group
15 for the whole time that you were there in the junior
16 section?

17 A. No, we had different nuns.

18 Q. So other nuns came on the scene?

19 A. I think about every six months we had different nuns.

20 Q. Can you remember the names of any of the other nuns?

21 A. There was Sister [REDACTED] LHA, there was Sister [REDACTED] LNV,
22 Sister [REDACTED] LNX and Sister [REDACTED] LJS. Sister [REDACTED] LJS was the
23 last one.

24 Q. Did she ever -- did Sister [REDACTED] LHA ever make comments
25 to you about your mother?

1 A. All I remember is getting told I was just going to end
2 up my like mother. Way back then it was like mother --
3 the only mother I knew about or thought about was
4 Mother Superior in the home because I didn't actually
5 know what a mother was. So I didn't actually know what
6 she meant by that --

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. -- until I went to a psychologist.

9 Q. Okay.

10 Can I ask you about bed-wetting. I understand from
11 what you say in your statement you did not have
12 a problem with bed-wetting.

13 A. I never had a problem with bed-wetting, no.

14 Q. Did you see what happened to bed-wetters?

15 A. A very good friend of mine was a bed-wetter.

16 Q. What happened?

17 A. She would get taken out of bed and the sheet would get
18 wrapped round her and then she'd have to go in and get
19 a shower. As far as I know, it was a cold shower she
20 got.

21 Q. What about other children? Did you see what happened to
22 other children?

23 A. It was only that one that was in the next bed to me.

24 Q. You've already mentioned your running away. Did you run
25 away from the home quite a lot?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Why did you run away?
- 3 A. Because I was getting the blame of everything and the
4 way I was getting treated.
- 5 Q. Where did you go?
- 6 A. [REDACTED]
- 7 Q. Did you go to a particular location?
- 8 A. It was -- my aunties and that stayed up there and I'd go
9 up there and get something to eat, but at night-time
10 I would just sleep in -- in derelict buildings, old
11 buildings that were getting pulled down.
- 12 Q. For how long might you have been away from the home for?
- 13 A. It could be three days, a week.
- 14 Q. How would it end up if you ran away for days? What
15 would happen?
- 16 A. When I went to my aunties' and that, they would give me
17 something to eat and then I think they phoned the police
18 because the police would come and take me back.
- 19 Q. And when you were taken back, would anything happen to
20 you?
- 21 A. One occasion I'd ran away and I was trying to climb
22 a big fence but I kind of hurt myself in climbing over
23 the fence, so I started bleeding and I thought to
24 myself -- I think it was about three days I ran away
25 for, and the blood was getting worse and worse and

1 worse, and I decided to go back because I was scared.

2 So I went back and it was at night-time with

3 Sister [REDACTED], and I says to her what had happened, and

4 then she stripped me, she filled the bath up with

5 disinfectant and scrubbing brushes that you use for your

6 floor, I got scrubbed from head to toe with that, to

7 cleanse my sins, and apparently it was my periods I had

8 taken.

9 Q. That was what was causing the bleeding; is that correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What age were you at this time?

12 A. About 12.

13 Q. Just so I can understand the position then, she's filled
14 a bath with water; is that right?

15 A. Disinfectant.

16 Q. And what sort of disinfectant was used? Do you know?

17 A. I didn't know. You had the carbolic soap as well.

18 Q. What was done with the carbolic soap?

19 A. It was all thingummied onto a scrubbing brush and I got
20 scrubbed from head to toe.

21 Q. And the sort of scrubbing brush you are talking about
22 was a particular kind of scrubbing brush?

23 A. The kind you use on the floor.

24 Q. What effect did that have on you?

25 A. That's the first time I ever cried. I cried myself to

1 sleep that night. I was even too scared to go up to the
2 toilet because the coldness was right through my whole
3 body.

4 Q. What impact did that have on your skin, being scrubbed
5 in that way?

6 A. It was sore, painful.

7 Q. The other thing you tell us, Yvonne, is that you were
8 taken on holiday by a particular couple to England;
9 is that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You may not remember this, but it was to a place called
12 [REDACTED] certainly down in England
13 somewhere.

14 A. I'm not really sure where it was, but I just know it was
15 somewhere where a caravan was.

16 Q. Were you being taken there for a particular purpose?

17 A. Just on a wee holiday.

18 Q. And did anybody go with you?

19 A. My sister.

20 Q. That's your younger sister that you mentioned before?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. What age were you at that time?

23 A. I don't know. I know I was young.

24 Q. Again, the inquiry has seen what might one refer to
25 broadly as social work records, which suggest this

1 happened in 1973. So you'd be about 11 at that time.

2 Would that fit in with your own recollection?

3 A. Well, mm-hm. Aye, I was 11.

4 Q. Your sister of course would be that bit younger than
5 you?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And were you taken to a caravan?

8 A. Mm-hm, a caravan.

9 Q. And did something happen?

10 A. There was a caravan site and it had a big lock or
11 something in it, and I ended up in the water and some
12 man walking past had to jump in and save me. But when
13 I came round, when I opened my eyes up, it was
14 ██████████ LFN ██████████ that was standing in front of me. He's the
15 man that took us on holiday. And I thought it was him
16 that had saved my life. For years I thought that. And
17 then it wasn't until a good few year ago I found out it
18 wasn't him, it was a man walking past that had jumped in
19 and got me.

20 But that night in the caravan, we had to sleep on
21 the floor, we didn't have a bed, me and my sister
22 were -- our bed was on the floor.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. He came in beside us and did what he did.

25 Q. I think you say he sexually abused you.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. What about your sister?
- 3 A. He abused my sister as well.
- 4 Q. Did you see that happening?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. One thing you say in your statement, paragraph 53,
7 is that you used to think that in some way you deserved
8 the abuse because he had saved your life.
- 9 A. Mm-hm.
- 10 Q. Was that your thinking for a while?
- 11 A. For a long, long time.
- 12 Q. Did that just happen the once?
- 13 A. Just the once, mm-hm.
- 14 Q. Were you upset at the time when this happened to you?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Were you crying?
- 17 A. I wanted to run away, but I was in a place where
18 I didn't know where I was.
- 19 Q. How long after that did you go back to the home?
- 20 A. It wasn't that long after it. I don't know if it was
21 the next again day or what.
- 22 Q. When you got back, did you speak to the nuns about what
23 had happened to you?
- 24 A. There was about three nuns standing talking, I overheard
25 my name getting said, and they were talking about going

1 back out on holiday, and I said, "I'm not going out with
2 him again, he did things to me". I was called a liar,
3 a troublemaker. I was told to go down to the chapel and
4 say 10 Our Fathers and 20 Hail Marys.

5 Q. Did you tell the nuns what he had done to you?

6 A. Aye, I told them he was doing things to me that I didn't
7 like.

8 Q. Did you actually tell them what he had done?

9 A. I said he'd done dirty things. I was to ask God for
10 forgiveness.

11 Q. But I think the position is you did not go back.

12 A. No, we didn't go back after that, no. We weren't sent
13 back with them again.

14 Q. Do you remember if you spoke to a social worker about
15 what had happened?

16 A. I don't know. I don't remember.

17 Q. I want to put this document on the screen for you. I'll
18 ask you something about it. GLA.001.001.9596. We can
19 see it's a letter dated [REDACTED] 1973; you see that
20 towards the top. This is the wrong one. It is 9596 I'm
21 looking for.

22 (Pause)

23 We've got the right one now. You'll see it's dated
24 [REDACTED] 1973. I don't want to dwell on the content
25 of the letter, it only says, as you see at the

1 beginning:

2 "As you know, the above named girls have now
3 returned to Glasgow after their summer holiday."

4 You can see this relates to you. What I want to ask
5 you about is this. If you look at the very bottom --
6 the blacked out bit refers to you:

7 "Did not want to go. Said Mr **LFN** did dirty things
8 to her."

9 Do you see that? That's in handwriting towards the
10 bottom. It's not very easy to read, but the reference
11 to dirty things, someone has written that on the letter;
12 do you see that?

13 A. I can't ...

14 Q. Just take it from me. So clearly someone had made
15 a note of that --

16 LADY SMITH: It's the handwriting at the bottom, not the
17 typed part. It's quite pale.

18 A. There's something there about "Newcastle" ...

19 LADY SMITH: Go down and go to "Area social services
20 officer", which is about two thirds of the way down the
21 page. Here you are -- you'll get some help. It doesn't
22 show up very well on the screen but you might, now
23 you've got your glasses on, be able to make it out.

24 That's what Mr MacAulay is asking you about.

25 MR MACAULAY: You will just see that the focus is on the

1 words "dirty things". Do you see that?

2 A. I see it now.

3 Q. Someone has at least recorded that you said something
4 about dirty things being done to you when you were on
5 this holiday. Do you understand that? That's happening
6 at the time in 1973.

7 If we look at this next letter -- this is at
8 GLA.001.001.9585 -- we're now looking at a letter dated
9 [REDACTED] 1974. Take it from me it refers to you and
10 also to the holiday that you've been telling us about,
11 Yvonne. Can you see in the second paragraph, it says:

12 "We consider it most unfortunate that information
13 regarding the allegation made by the oldest girl of some
14 kind of sexual misbehaviour by ... was not revealed to
15 us at the time."

16 And you'll see that's mentioned. Then in the last
17 paragraph can we see:

18 "It has been decided that we cannot now use ... as
19 foster parents and they have been informed of our
20 decision, although we have not revealed the reason for
21 this."

22 Can you see that, however it may be, that someone
23 has taken on board what you said and it seems to have
24 drawn a halt to at least the potential of the couple you
25 went to on holiday being your foster parents; do you see

1 that?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. But what you've said to me earlier is that, be that as
4 it may, when you told the nuns about what had happened,
5 they did not seem to believe you.

6 A. No.

7 Q. And what did they say to you?

8 A. I was called a liar, troublemaker, and to go down to
9 chapel and ask God for forgiveness, I should be thankful
10 that somebody took us out.

11 Q. How did you react to that?

12 A. I was hurt, really hurt. I was angry because I wasn't
13 believed either, as usual.

14 Q. What about your sister, who you've mentioned was also
15 abused? Do you know if she told the nuns what --

16 A. I don't know. It's something me and my sister never
17 spoke about for a long, long time.

18 Q. You've already told us, Yvonne, that you kept running
19 away from Nazareth House. Did there come a point in
20 time when they wouldn't take you back?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. What age were you then, do you think?

23 A. Probably about 12.

24 Q. We know, according to their own records --

25 A. Ages, I'm not really thingummy about my age.

1 Q. If the records suggest you left in [REDACTED] 1977, we can try
2 and work out what age you might have been, if the
3 records are accurate.

4 Did you then go somewhere else?

5 A. I went to Ganavan children's home.

6 Q. And that was run by the Local Authority, I think;
7 is that correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Again, just moving on from there, I think you had
10 a Children's Panel hearing and you went to an assessment
11 centre known as the Beechwood assessment centre in
12 Glasgow?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And you had what you describe as a brilliant time there.

15 A. Mm-hm.

16 Q. What was so brilliant about it?

17 A. Because there was no violence, there was no getting
18 force-feed to eat, no sexual abuse, and the staff made
19 you feel good.

20 Q. I think you thought you might have been there, although
21 it was an assessment centre, for about six months or so;
22 is that correct?

23 A. I don't know how long I was in there.

24 Q. You then, as you tell us in your statement, went into
25 a foster care arrangement; is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. The foster carer was a family member; is that correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. I don't want to go into the detail of that, but was he
5 eventually charged and convicted of raping you?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Can I then look at your life after care, Yvonne, because
8 I think you tell us about other places where you were
9 and where you stayed and things that you did over your
10 life.

11 One point you make is you were given no real
12 preparation for life after care; is that right?

13 A. Well, after we -- [REDACTED], I went to a foster
14 family until I was about 15, and then I moved in with my
15 uncle and stayed in [REDACTED] until I was 16.

16 Q. But when you say you were given no preparation for life
17 after care, what do you mean by that?

18 A. I just got up one morning and put my stuff out the
19 window and didn't go back to [REDACTED] after that.
20 I just ran away.

21 Q. Where did you go on this occasion?

22 A. The streets.

23 Q. I think you were able to sort yourself out because you
24 tell us about your personal circumstances in that you
25 did various jobs, you got married, and I think you had

1 another partner as well; is that correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Another thing you tell us is that you're involved with
4 a support group; is that correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Can you tell me about that?

7 A. [REDACTED], is that the one you're talking about?

8 Q. It's the one you mention. Is that one that you were
9 partly responsible for founding?

10 A. Yes. [REDACTED] is for, now, like, children that have been
11 abused and all that, and we do a lot of work with
12 ourselves and help to get counselling and all that as
13 well and do campaigning.

14 Q. Does that take up some of your time then?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And you're engaged with other people in that particular
17 job, if I can call it a job, you do that with others?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What do you see, Yvonne, the impact of having been in
20 care in Nazareth House to be on you?

21 A. What do you mean?

22 Q. What impact do you think having in care has had on you?

23 A. Oh, has had on me? Oh, quite a lot. It's took me
24 a long road to get where I am now.

25 Q. I think we can see from reading your statement you've

1 gone through quite a dark tunnel, but are you coming
2 towards the end of the tunnel?

3 A. Oh, of course, yes, mm-hm.

4 Q. Then if we look to your hopes for this inquiry, Yvonne,
5 what hopes do you have for this inquiry?

6 A. Justice.

7 Q. One thing you also tell us --

8 A. And to be believed.

9 Q. And to raise awareness?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Very well, Yvonne. I'll just check that I don't have
12 any other questions for you.

13 I want to take you back just to paragraph 28 of your
14 statement, where there you're talking about
15 a Miss McGregor, who worked in the nursery. Do you
16 remember her?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. What you say is that you loved her.

19 A. (Witness nods).

20 Q. Can you describe her to us? Why was that?

21 A. I don't know, she was dead gentle and she always had
22 a way with the children. She'd never shout at the kids
23 or anything like that -- and if you were a bit
24 boisterous in the nursery, she'd take you aside and
25 she'd talk to you rather than the nuns -- the nuns would

1 just beat you.

2 Q. I think you said she was an old schoolteacher.

3 A. She was an old schoolteacher.

4 Q. It would appear, from what you said, she knew how to
5 manage children.

6 A. Mm-hm. She was in the old folks' home, I think she was
7 a resident in there as well, but she took all the young
8 ones to do the nursery.

9 Q. And the other person you got affection from, you say,
10 was a woman called Mary.

11 A. From the kitchen.

12 Q. Can you perhaps describe her to us? What was it about
13 her that you liked?

14 A. Just her ... She was gentle, and the way she spoke to
15 you as well, her mannerisms, and she'd give you a wee
16 hug as well, something that you never got.

17 Q. So are you contrasting that, comparing and contrasting
18 that to the way some of the sisters behaved?

19 A. Mm-hm.

20 Q. Is that the point you're making?

21 A. A wee hug doesn't go far, does it, though?

22 MR MacAULAY: Okay. Well, thank you, Yvonne for answering
23 my questions and these additional questions I have put
24 to you.

25 My Lady, I don't know if I have covered all the

1 questions that have been submitted and I don't know if
2 there are to be any more questions for Yvonne.

3 LADY SMITH: Just before I check, Yvonne, help with one
4 thing: you said one of the hopes you have for the
5 inquiry is justice; what do you have in mind when you're
6 talking about justice?

7 A. For the nuns to admit that what happened in there was
8 wrong.

9 LADY SMITH: For the nuns to admit that what happened was
10 wrong?

11 A. Yes, mm-hm --

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 A. -- and why I wasn't believed as well.

14 LADY SMITH: And why it wasn't believed? Right.

15 Let me check if there are any outstanding
16 applications for questions. Are there? No.

17 That's all the questions for you this afternoon,
18 Yvonne. Thank you very much for coming along and for
19 the trouble you took over giving your statement in
20 advance. It has been really helpful to us to hear about
21 your experience and I'm now able to let you go from the
22 witness's chair. Thank you.

23 A. Thank you.

24 (The witness withdrew)

25 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

1 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next phase will involve
2 a statement being read in. It's 2.55; perhaps this
3 would be a good time to have a short break.

4 LADY SMITH: We could have the break now and then
5 a statement will be read in after the afternoon break.
6 Thank you.

7 (2.52 pm)

8 (A short break)

9 (3.08 pm)

10 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

11 Witness statement of "BERNIE" (read)

12 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I'm going to read out the statement of
13 a witness who wishes to remain anonymous and to use the
14 pseudonym "Bernie".

15 This witness, my Lady, has a heart condition and is
16 anxious and wishes for the statement to be read in as
17 opposed to giving oral evidence. The witness statement
18 is to be found at WIT.001.001.7940.

19 "My name is Bernie. I was born in 1964. My contact
20 details are known to the inquiry."

21 In paragraphs 2 to 4 of the statement, the witness
22 describes some family background, describing that there
23 were nine in her family and speaking about some unhappy
24 family background prior to her and three of her sisters
25 being moved to Nazareth House in Cardonald: one sister

1 who was one year older than her and two older sisters.

2 I'll pick the statement up at paragraph 5 on
3 WIT.001.001.7941:

4 "I was too young to have any memories of arriving at
5 Nazareth House. I only remember wee bits and pieces
6 from my early years in the home. I know I had a feeling
7 that things were different. It was such a big place and
8 there were so many other kids there. It seemed massive
9 to me as a child, like a castle. That's the way we used
10 to look at it, like a big castle."

11 The admissions register for Cardonald shows the
12 witness being admitted in [REDACTED] 1965:

13 "I was in the nursery group with my sister at first.
14 I think my older sisters might have been there too and
15 then they moved on to another group when they got to
16 a certain age. There's not really much I remember about
17 the nursery. I remember sleeping there and I always
18 remember pulling at the sister's habit to get her
19 attention. I was probably around 3 then.

20 "There were lots of kids of all different ages in
21 the place. The way it worked is you got put into groups
22 depending on your age. The nursery, which was on the
23 ground floor, was for babies and kids up to school age.
24 There were two other groups upstairs. There were about
25 20 kids, boys and girls, in each group, and each had its

1 own dorm. The group on the left-hand side, the green
2 group, was for kids up to about 10, and the one on the
3 right, the red or the blue group, was for the older
4 kids. There was another group in a separate building.
5 You worked your way through the groups as you got older.

6 "I don't really remember the staff in the nursery
7 apart from [REDACTED] LKB [REDACTED] She was there from when I was
8 a kid right through to when I left. She is still at
9 Nazareth House now. There was one nun in charge of each
10 group. They slept in rooms partitioned off the dorms.

11 "Sister [REDACTED] LHA [REDACTED] was in the green group. There was
12 a whole floor on the other side of the building which
13 was full of nuns. They also were involved in looking
14 after the kids. The Mother Superior was always down on
15 the ground floor in her own room. I think I only saw
16 her twice in my whole life.

17 "The other staff I remember were [REDACTED] and
18 [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is another one I remember being
19 there from my younger days right up until I left.
20 [REDACTED] did some work with the kids and [REDACTED] was the
21 driver. He used to get the supplies for the home and
22 take us and the nuns to places.

23 "I slept in a big dorm when I moved up to the bigger
24 group. I remember being with one of my sisters in the
25 dorm but not my older sisters. There were big glass

1 doors as you walked into the dorm and the beds were in
2 sections around each wall. The layout was the same
3 in the other group's dorm.

4 "We got up in the morning at 6 o'clock to go to
5 Mass. The nuns would put the lights and start shouting
6 at us to wake up. Nobody helped us to get dressed; we
7 just did it ourselves in the dorm. There was no privacy
8 until we moved into the older group.

9 "We all had breakfast in the dining room together
10 after Mass.

11 "We washed before bedtime and got into our own
12 pyjamas and went to bed around 7 o'clock. I think that
13 was the time. I know it was definitely early. Lights
14 would be out for about 8. Nobody came to read us
15 a bedtime story or anything like that.

16 "Mostly everybody in your group lined up for a wash
17 at the same time. There were big sinks in the bathroom.
18 Shanks sinks, I think they were called. There was a big
19 deep one and a smaller one next to it. You sat in the
20 sinks to get washed. There would be one kid in the big
21 sink and another in the smaller one at the same time.
22 There was no privacy. I don't know if the water got
23 changed for each kid. We washed and dried ourselves.
24 I don't really remember anyone bathing me apart from
25 when I was younger.

1 "There were about three different baths and a number
2 of normal sized sinks along the wall as well. The baths
3 were for the older ones.

4 "The food was disgusting. We got porridge or cereal
5 and toast for breakfast. The porridge wasn't even
6 cooked right and was full of lumps and the toast was
7 always burnt. I could eat the breakfasts but the
8 dinners were atrocious. I was force-fed the dinners and
9 sometimes they would put the same food down to me if I
10 hadn't eaten it at an earlier meal. We ate our lunch
11 in the home as well.

12 "I went to Our Lady of the Rosary primary school and
13 then Lourdes secondary school. Both schools were just
14 outside the Nazareth House gates, one to the left and
15 one to the right. All the kids stood in line and walked
16 to school together.

17 "I remember always looking back and looking at
18 everybody in line. When I think about it now, I think
19 it was quite embarrassing for usual to be walking
20 together like that. I think that's why a lot of other
21 kids used to say things about us. It was obvious we
22 lived in the home.

23 "We were called names at school because we were
24 dressed in trampy clothes. We wore a uniform but it was
25 never new. All our clothes were passed down from other

1 kids. I always felt different from the other children
2 at school. I don't know why I felt that way. Maybe it
3 was just because I was in a home. I did like going to
4 school though as it meant getting out of Nazareth House.

5 "I did quite well at primary school and I got on
6 quite well with the teachers. I didn't feel that the
7 teachers treated us differently. We were just the same
8 as everybody else to them.

9 "You weren't allowed out of Nazareth House unless
10 you were going for a walk along the paths in the grounds
11 with the nuns and the staff. There were mostly fields
12 all about but I wasn't allowed to play out until I was
13 about 10. We were always kept in when we were wee apart
14 from when we went to school.

15 "There was a sitting room everybody could use.
16 There were big chairs, a telly, a piano, a board on the
17 wall with lots of stuff on it, and some books. There
18 weren't any toys in it. It was just somewhere to sit.

19 "When I was older I used to go to [REDACTED] and
20 [REDACTED]'s house for dinner after school. I was
21 actually quite close to them; they were good people.

22 "We were given different jobs to do like polishing
23 everybody's shoes, washing and drying and putting away
24 the dishes, or doing the laundry.

25 "As you came in Nazareth House there were glass

1 doors at the side and a boxroom with dookits for
2 everybody's shoes. You had to sit there on a wee stool
3 when you got home from school, polishing the shoes for
4 everybody in your group, all 20 pairs. The shoes were
5 polished almost every day because they were dirty from
6 going to school each day. I think it worked on a week's
7 rotation.

8 "We went to Mass every single morning and
9 benediction at 5 o'clock at night. We had to kneel at
10 our beds and say prayers at night. On a Sunday it was
11 all about Mass. Everybody had to sit in the chapel
12 after Mass and say the whole rosary. The books in the
13 home were Bibles or other religious ones. Mostly
14 everything was religious.

15 "I remember we went on day trips in taxis a couple
16 of times a year to Girvan or Irvine or Troon.
17 I remember going on holiday to Glengarry guesthouse in
18 Girvan with all the kids in the home and the staff and
19 the nuns.

20 "My sister and I were taken to a caravan once with
21 a couple we would never met before the. We were
22 sexually and physically abused there. I have no
23 memories of going on any other trips with people not
24 connected with the home.

25 "We got one gift and a cake on our birthday. They

1 would put on a wee party for the person whose birthday
2 it was. The cake was big enough for everyone in the
3 group to have a piece. We also got one at as Christmas.

4 "We went to see Dr [REDACTED] LKQ? if we were poorly.
5 He wasn't based in Nazareth House. He would come in
6 from outside the home. I don't know where he came from.
7 He had a room in the home where he saw us.

8 I don't know if any kids ever had to go to hospital
9 with injuries from beatings. I think Dr [REDACTED] LKQ?
10 would have been the one to deal with that. He was
11 always brought in when kids were sick. I remember one
12 time a crowd of us were all laid up in bed with food
13 poisoning and he was brought in to see us. I always had
14 bother with athlete's foot, so I used to have to see him
15 quite a lot. I had it really bad. I think it was from
16 always having to wear other people's shoes.

17 "I never got a new pair of shoes; they were always
18 passed down from somebody else. It was the same with
19 clothes. No matter what clothes you wore, they were
20 always passed down from somebody else.

21 "I can only remember seeing a dentist when I went to
22 secondary school.

23 "My dad came to see us eventually. I think my first
24 memory of seeing him is when I was about 8. He was
25 always drunk so he wasn't allowed in and was kept at the

1 gate. I think my granny came to visit my sister and
2 I whenever she should. Nobody else was there when we
3 saw her. I don't know whether she visited my older
4 sisters separately.

5 "My social workers were Jim Cameron and
6 June O'Brien. I think they were based in a Maryhill
7 Social Work Office in Glasgow. I'm not really sure how
8 long they were my social workers. Apparently they had
9 been there all my life but I don't remember seeing them
10 or having anything to do with them until I was about 8.

11 "They would come and see my sister and I and
12 we would all sit round a table and have a chat. There
13 would be the four of us in a room. They would ask us
14 how we were and stuff like that. My sister used to say
15 quite a lot to them about the problems she was having.
16 I don't think they paid any attention to her. I told
17 them things as well when I was older.

18 "I remember two priests, Father [REDACTED] LSO and
19 Father Hay used to hit. I was abused by Father [REDACTED] LSO.
20 Father Hay was a nice priest and I never had any
21 problems with him.

22 "I don't remember there ever been any meetings to
23 review my discussion and discuss whether I was to stay
24 in Nazareth House or move elsewhere. I never attended
25 a Children's Panel. I know my sister did because she

1 used to run away.

2 "Apart from the social workers nobody official ever
3 came and speak to me to ask me how I was being treated
4 in the home. I would remember if they had. I do not
5 remember any official inspections ever taking place.

6 "I was always in the same dorm as my sister until
7 she left Nazareth House when she was about 13. My
8 sister and I used to get taken from the nursery up to
9 the older group to see our older sisters for about
10 an hour or so on a Sunday when we were in the nursery.
11 I remember all of us just sitting there. We didn't have
12 games or anything like that to help us interact.
13 I think things got a little better when we understood
14 who our sisters were and we got talking.

15 "They were then fostered out. The people who
16 fostered them were sometimes there when we were taken to
17 see them. A nun used to be there too sitting in the
18 corner with a wee nose in a book. I think they got
19 fostered out not long after I moved out of the nursery.
20 I would have only been about 6 or 7 when they left.

21 "My sisters' foster parents sometimes took us for a
22 few hours, to spend time with them, after they were
23 fostered. I think I was between 8 and 10 when that
24 happened. It was just once in a while and then it
25 stopped. We didn't have any contact with them at all

1 after that.

2 "We also used to go to my dad's brother and his wife
3 during school holidays to visit them. I think they were
4 trying to keep the family connection going between us
5 and one of my sisters who they had adopted. I'm not
6 sure how often we visited. I do know we went down there
7 more than once. I don't know exactly what happened, but
8 I think things fell through when we were on a visit and
9 we ended up in Nazareth House in Newcastle. I remember
10 myself and my sisters being in a massive dorm. There
11 were only the three of us in the massive dorm. I don't
12 know whether all the other kids had been moved out of
13 the home at that time. I was maybe about 10 or 11.

14 "Nothing happened to me in Nazareth House Newcastle.
15 My sister and I went back to Glasgow after that and my
16 other sister stayed with my uncle and aunt but for
17 whatever reason, the contact between me and my three
18 sisters stopped.

19 "Most of the abuse I remember at Nazareth House
20 Cardonald I remember took place when I was between the
21 ages of about 8 and 11. I don't know if other things
22 happened when we were all younger. As far as I'm
23 concerned the nuns didn't discipline us; it was all
24 abuse.

25 "All of the nuns were involved in the abuse.

1 I don't remember any of them being kind. The names of
2 the nuns I remember are: Sister [REDACTED] LGS ,
3 Sister [REDACTED] LFL , Sister [REDACTED] LHA , Sister [REDACTED] LGY
4 Sister [REDACTED] LKE , Sister [REDACTED] LJS and
5 Sister [REDACTED] LNV .

6 "Sister [REDACTED] LGS was in the red or blue group. Sister
7 [REDACTED] LHA was in the green group; she had a [REDACTED].
8 I think she got moved away because allegations against
9 her were made and I think she was replaced by
10 Sister [REDACTED] LJS . I remember Sister [REDACTED] LKE more
11 from when I was younger, so I think she was in the
12 nursery group.

13 "I hated meat and was force-fed by the nuns until
14 I was sick. And even though I was sick, they would
15 still carry on trying to make me eat it. They would
16 shout and bawl, saying that there were poor kids in
17 Africa who didn't have food and we should think
18 ourselves lucky.

19 "The abuse mostly happened to me at mealtimes
20 because of the situation with the food. If I wasn't
21 eating my dinner they would pull me out of my chair,
22 sometimes by the hair, sometimes by the arm, and make we
23 stand there in front of everybody until I ate it.
24 Eventually they would sit me back down and force-feed
25 me.

1 "If they were going to hit me they would pull me
2 back up to my feet again. They would hit me all over my
3 body, wherever they could get me. Mostly I'd be
4 standing when I got hit.

5 "They would use whatever they had on them: slippers,
6 coat hangers or belts. I got this every night because
7 I hated the dinners.

8 "I used to wet the bed every night. That was a big
9 thing for me. I was always petrified. I think I was
10 scared to go to the toilet because the toilets were at
11 the very end of a big, long passageway, and there was
12 only a night light on the ceiling. It really was quite
13 a freaky place.

14 "I think the nuns got up in the morning about 4 or
15 half past. One of them would come round then and check
16 on all the kids who usually wet the bed. If you had wet
17 the bed, she would take the cover off and make you lie
18 on the wet sheet until it was time to get up. You would
19 also get shouted at and hit mostly across the legs when
20 you were lying in bed. She would use whatever she had
21 on her: slipper, belt, or whatever. Everybody in the
22 group then knew you'd wet the bed.

23 "You had to lie on the wet sheet from about 4.30
24 until 6 when got up for Mass. That happened all year
25 round. You had to strip the bed when you got up and

1 take the sheet to the laundry room.

2 "Later on when I was older I had to stand and wash
3 the sheet myself in the sink. I was abused in the way
4 I've described at least once and sometimes three times
5 a day because at times I'd get meat for both lunch and
6 dinner and would also wet the bed at night. I got wiser
7 with the food as I got older. I used it hide it in my
8 pockets and then put it down the toilet pan or get rid
9 of it in some other way.

10 "I wet the bed right up until I was 14 or 15. I was
11 punished in the same way right up until I left
12 Nazareth House.

13 "Sometimes you'd be made to stand in the corner
14 facing the wall as a punishment for not doing what you
15 were told, like walking on the wrong side of the
16 corridor or putting your elbows on the dinner table.
17 You had to stand still for about an hour. You weren't
18 allowed to move or fidget, as they called it, or you'd
19 get slapped.

20 "My sister and I were sent on a holiday trip to
21 a caravan with a [REDACTED] called LFN and [REDACTED] LFO.
22 He looked like he was in his 30s and she looked in her
23 20s.

24 I don't know where the caravan was. I was about 9
25 or 10 at the time. I didn't know who these people were

1 or where they lived. We hadn't met them before. We
2 just got sent away with them, which I thought was quite
3 strange. [LFN] sexually and physically abused
4 both me and [LCT] on that trip. He took us into the
5 room one by one, so I think [LFO] knew what he was
6 doing.

7 "A priest called Father [LSO] used to come into
8 the sitting room once a week, mostly on a Sunday, sit
9 you on his knee and touch you down below. He first
10 started doing this on me when I was about 9 or 10. As
11 I said, most of the abuse happened around the same time
12 for me, between the ages of 8 to 10 or 12. The older
13 I got, I realised that I should stay away from him.

14 "I think Father [LSO] abused a good few of the
15 children in the same way. I didn't actually see him do
16 anything, it was just that I saw other children sitting
17 on his knee and thought he was probably doing the same
18 to them.

19 "I told my sister what was happening and she said,
20 'Aye, he used to do it to me'. She told me to stay away
21 from him. I don't know whether Father [LSO] lived in
22 Nazareth House or was just a visitor. There were some
23 priests living in the other side of the building.
24 I don't know if he came from there.

25 "There was a church connected to Nazareth House but

1 there was also another one outside the grounds just
2 before you got to the school. Father [REDACTED] LSO might have
3 been based at that outside church.

4 " [REDACTED] LVT used to visit the home
5 a couple of times a year. He used to touch me down
6 below as well.

7 "I don't remember exactly what my sister did, but
8 I remember she was hit for it by a nun with a coat
9 hanger. This was when we were still in the nursery.
10 I forget the nun's name. I can still see her standing
11 in front of me. She was quite tall and wore glasses.
12 They wore the full nun dress at that time so I didn't
13 see her hair. She was quite hard faced and scary
14 looking. Thinking back now, I would say she must have
15 been in her 30s.

16 "For me, the abuse took place mostly at the dinner
17 table or because I had wet the bed, but my sister was
18 constantly hit by the nuns. She was quite rebellious.
19 She would always stand up to them. Even when she knew
20 she was going to get battered, she would still stand up
21 to them. I was so quiet, I would just sit there and
22 take it.

23 "I saw a lot happening to my sister. She would get
24 pulled about by the hair, hit with a belt, a stick, a
25 slipper, everything. It happened mostly when she was

1 sticking up for me. She stuck up for me at the dinner
2 table and even when I wet the bed.

3 "I remember one time when I was really sick at the
4 dinner table and my sister started shouting about how
5 sick I was, Sister [REDACTED] LFL came over to the table,
6 picked up a knife and hit my sister over the head with
7 it. I can remember the sister telling me, 'Eat it, eat
8 it', and me saying, 'I can't eat any more'.

9 Sister [REDACTED] LFL was quite stumpy, wore glasses and had
10 a [REDACTED]. I'd say I was about 7 or 8
11 when that happened.

12 "My sister used to run away a lot. She used to get
13 up during the night and sneak out the doors and climb
14 over the big gates. She always used to head for
15 [REDACTED]. I don't know how she got there. She would be
16 away for days sometimes. When she was brought back, she
17 would be hit and then locked in a room. It as just a
18 small room, like a cupboard. There was nothing in it,
19 just bare walls. I don't think it was used for anything
20 else. She'd be in the room for a day, sometimes two
21 days. I don't even know if she got fed when she was if
22 in there.

23 "I remember my sister took her first period when she
24 came back after running away one time. I remember that
25 time because I could hear her screaming. The nun threw

1 her in a bath full of disinfectant and used a big
2 scrubber on her. She told her that she was dirty and
3 that she wasn't one of God's children any more, or
4 something along those lines. We had never been given
5 any explanation about having our period.

6 "I went to [REDACTED] LKB when I took mine and told her
7 I was bleeding in my private parts. [REDACTED] LKB told me
8 what was happening to me and bought me some pads.

9 "My sister has always been a fidget. She got
10 a beating one time after Mass I think because of her
11 fidgeting. Sister [REDACTED] LHA? pulled her about and kicked
12 her with her boot -- [REDACTED] --
13 and stamped on her when she was on the floor. My sister
14 was screaming.

15 "My sister was sent to an approved school
16 eventually; they split her and I up. I think she was
17 about 13 at the time. I didn't have any contact with
18 her when she was at the school.

19 "Nazareth House refused to take her back when she
20 got out and the social work department couldn't find
21 anywhere else that would take her because of her
22 behaviour. She was just left to run about the streets
23 and then she went to live with a [REDACTED].

24 "I was always quiet and wanted to keep myself to
25 myself and stay out of trouble. I would rather just go

1 and sit and hide in a corner and act as if I hadn't seen
2 anything. But I did see other kids being hit.

3 "I saw Sister **LGS** severely batter a girl on
4 a flight of stairs when we were on holiday at Glengarry
5 guesthouse. Sister **LGS** was a bitch. The girl was in
6 her group. She beat her because the girl and I had gone
7 downstairs and stolen food from the kitchen. The two of
8 us were walking back up the stairs and Sister **LGS** was
9 standing at the top waiting for us. She grabbed the
10 girl and started battering into her. She was kicking
11 her, pulling her hair and punching her and she carried
12 on kicking into her when the girl was on the floor. It
13 lasted a while, about 10 to 15 minutes I'd say.

14 I started screaming and shouting for **LKB** to
15 come.

16 "**LKB** came and pulled Sister **LGS** away.
17 I remember **LKB** trying to diffuse the situation. The
18 two of them were shouting at each other. I remember
19 **LKB** said, 'You can't treat the kids like that', and
20 the sister saying, 'That's their punishment, they
21 shouldn't be stealing'. Again I would say I was between
22 8 to 10 or 11 when this happened.

23 "My sister's pal was also quite rebellious at times
24 because of everything that was going on in
25 Nazareth House. My sister and her pal were quite close.

1 The two of them would get pulled up and shouted and
2 bawled out, hit with a belt, stick, slippers and sent to
3 a separate room. The stick was like a big cane."

4 In paragraphs 66 to 68, my Lady, the witness
5 describes how she left Nazareth House and went to stay
6 with a family member where her sister was also staying.
7 The admissions register has the witness leaving in
8 [REDACTED] 1977. I'll pick the statement up on the same
9 page at paragraph 68:

10 "June O'Brien and Jim Cameron were still my social
11 workers when I went to live with a family member. There
12 was no discussion with them about me going there and
13 they didn't ask me whether I wanted to go.

14 "When we came back from the caravan, my sister told
15 [REDACTED] LKB what [REDACTED] LFN had done to us and then
16 I spoke to [REDACTED] LKB. [REDACTED] LKB said that she would go to
17 Sister [REDACTED] LHA? and tell her. Sister [REDACTED] LHA? then
18 took us into a room and my sister tried to tell her what
19 happened. Sister [REDACTED] LHA? told us that these people
20 had gone out of their way to do this for us and we
21 should be more grateful. She told my sister to stop
22 telling lies. I said we weren't telling lies and he had
23 done 'dirty things', that's how I put it. Nothing at
24 all was done about it.

25 "I told either Sister [REDACTED] LFL or Sister [REDACTED] LHA?

1 about Father LSO . I remember being told to go and
2 sit down, that I was telling lies. The nun said people
3 like that don't do things like this. I always used to
4 tell but nothing would get done about it.

5 "I don't remember if I told the social workers about
6 Father LSO or LVT .

7 I think I probably would have done. I do remember
8 telling June O'Brien about what happened when we went to
9 the caravan. The response was that it would be looked
10 into. Again, nothing was done about it. There was no
11 police involvement in any of the situations, apart from
12 when my sister started running away all the time.

13 "I also remember telling June O'Brien about the
14 beatings. I didn't see Jim Cameron very often then.
15 I would say to June that I just couldn't eat the food.
16 I also told her what was happening to my sister but
17 nothing was done.

18 "I have one recollection of talking to the police in
19 Nazareth House. I know it was something to do with
20 money and I think it had something to do with my sister.
21 I think my sister had been in the wrong place at the
22 wrong time and came across a case with money in it.
23 I really don't know what the story was, I remember the
24 police asking me about it and I said I didn't know
25 anything.

1 "They also asked me why my sister kept running away
2 and I told them how we were treated by the nuns. I am
3 sure my sister told them as well. Again, nothing was
4 done about it. I can't remember whether I spoke to the
5 police on my own or whether any of the nuns on my own or
6 whether any of the nuns were there.

7 "I never spoke to my granny about anything. I think
8 she passed away around the time when it was all
9 happening. I remember asking my sister why she wasn't
10 coming any more and she used to tell me that she was no
11 longer here.

12 "I never reported what happened in Nazareth House to
13 the police after I left the home. I tried to block it
14 out and just get on with my life."

15 In paragraphs 76 to 78 of the statement, the witness
16 speaks about going to live with a family member when she
17 left Nazareth House.

18 She describes how that family member raped her and
19 that he was convicted in relation to that. I'll pick
20 the statement up on the same page at paragraph 79 where
21 the witness describes moving to a hostel in [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED] in Glasgow:

23 "I can't remember the name of the hostel, I think it
24 was something to do with the Social Work Department. It
25 was run by a man called [REDACTED]. It was for girls

1 only. There were about 12 of us living there. Nothing
2 happened to me in the hostel. It was an entirely
3 different experience for me. You could come and go when
4 you wanted and the staff took you out to places as well.
5 I had no problems whatsoever there.

6 "I stayed in the hostel until I was nearly 16.
7 I fell pregnant and went to an unmarried mothers place
8 called St Francis in Govan. I stayed there for a few
9 months.

10 "I didn't get support from the social work or
11 anybody else when I left the unmarried mothers place.
12 I got married when I was 16. My husband was five or six
13 years older than me. I think I was looking for
14 something to hold on to. I think that's what my
15 relationship with him was about. It wasn't a good
16 marriage."

17 In the next paragraphs, 82 to 83, the witness speaks
18 about her own family life, her children, including that
19 one of her children died [REDACTED] at 10 weeks old.
20 She speaks of going to live with her sister and her
21 husband for a period and then getting a flat of her own
22 ultimately and getting on with her life.

23 I'll pick the statement up on the following page at
24 paragraph 85 on WIT.001.001.7957:

25 "I felt lost most of time when I was in

1 Nazareth House. I think it was because my older sisters
2 were away from us and there was just my sister and me.
3 I felt a bit more comfortable when I had my sister with
4 me, but felt really lost when she left. I was all on my
5 own then."

6 The witness then goes on to talk about meeting up
7 with her other sisters in later life in paragraphs 86
8 and 87 and I'll pick the statement up again at
9 paragraph 88 on the same page:

10 "When I look back to my upbringing in
11 Nazareth House, having now brought up my own kids, I see
12 that there was no love or affection from the nuns.
13 There was nothing at all like that. We just had to
14 follow the strict routine which was laid out for us. It
15 was not a very nice place for anybody."

16 In paragraph 89 the witness speaks about her own
17 family and the upbringing her children have had and also
18 about her grandchildren.

19 I'll pick the statement up again at paragraph 92 on
20 page WIT.001.001.7958:

21 "I'm quite a withdrawn person. I've always tended
22 to keep myself to myself. It's as though as I've a big
23 barrier up with everybody except my own family. I get
24 anxious meeting new people. I was having palpitations
25 before I left the house today at the thought of meeting

1 the inquiry team.

2 "There are times when I think about my experiences
3 as a child quite a lot and at other times I just try to
4 shut it out. I think about the past when I feel
5 unsettled within myself. I had nightmares for a good
6 few years after I was in care. This carried on even
7 after I had the kids. I did actually wet the bed a few
8 times as well, which I found pretty embarrassing. I do
9 still have nightmares sometimes. They're mostly about
10 what went on in Nazareth House.

11 "I carried on practising the Catholic faith and used
12 to go to Mass up until I lost my kids. I gave up on
13 everything after that. I used to say to myself: if
14 there is a God then why would he do that to me.

15 "I never passed any exams at school and I think that
16 was down to me having to move schools. I had to go to
17 a different school when I went to live with a family
18 member and then a different one again when I went to the
19 hostel.

20 "Over the past few years I've found out that my
21 sister had a heart condition when she was in
22 Nazareth House. She had some sort of fever. I can't
23 remember what the condition is called, but she's had to
24 have open heart surgery because it wasn't dealt with in
25 Nazareth House. I now have a heart condition. I have

1 two heart attacks and a mini stroke in 2010. I am on
2 medication for the rest of my life.

3 "I had some counselling after my son died. I was on
4 anti-depressants and I went to see a psychologist. I
5 went there a good few times and spoke quite a lot about
6 my experiences as a child. Sometimes it gave me the
7 feeling of a big weight having been lifted from my
8 shoulders and at other times it just made me so down.

9 "I don't have any ongoing support or counselling,
10 I've been offered it a few times.

11 "I was attacked and robbed [REDACTED] and I sort of
12 spoke to somebody then. I'm not ready to deal with it
13 all. I haven't spoken to my GP about the abuse.

14 "I have been on antidepressants from time to time
15 throughout my life. There have been times when I have
16 not needed them; I only take them to help me cope when
17 certain things happen.

18 "[REDACTED] LKB gave me an address in London where all
19 the records went to when Nazareth House was shut down as
20 a children's home, but they said they have no records.
21 [REDACTED] from a group called Voice Within tried to
22 get information from me and the Nazareth House records,
23 but apparently they have all been destroyed.

24 "I used to go to Voice Within when I was back home
25 in Scotland. I keep in touch now which I find helpful.

1 "I also went to the social work office in Maryhill
2 and to a social services place in Duke Street in Glasgow
3 to try to get information about my childhood. The
4 Maryhill office told me that my case was too old and
5 they didn't have anything for me. The doors are being
6 shut on me everywhere. It seems as if it has all be
7 brushed under the carpet.

8 "I think things might have been different if people
9 had listened to us as children and paid more attention
10 to what was actually going on. It might have made it
11 easier for all the other kids who were in the home after
12 us. I think it would make a difference to children in
13 care nowadays if more people were brought in from
14 outside to see what was going on in the homes and those
15 people should listen to what the kids are saying.
16 Volunteers could go to the home and see what's going on
17 and build up trust with the kids.

18 "I just hope that kids now don't have to go through
19 what we've all gone through. I hope they have a better
20 life. I know that being in care isn't a good life, but
21 I'd like to hope that the experience is a better one for
22 them.

23 "I hope that giving my statement to the inquiry does
24 some good for children in the future. I also hope that
25 someone is accountable for what happened to us as

1 children.

2 "I kept in contact with [REDACTED] LKB . I was close to
3 her in Nazareth House and I still have a strong bond
4 with her. She's always been a constant figure in my
5 life, even when I lost my kids she was there for me.
6 I haven't spoken to her as an adult about my experiences
7 in Nazareth House. I don't talk about it at all.
8 I think she feels quite upset about it. I would say
9 that if there's anything positive that came out of
10 Nazareth House, it was definitely [REDACTED] LKB .

11 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
12 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.
13 I believe the facts stated in the witness statement are
14 true."

15 The statement was signed by Bernie on 13 April 2018.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Ms MacLeod.

17 It's 3.45; are we finishing at that point today or
18 are we reading in again?

19 MS MACLEOD: We're finishing at that point today, my Lady,
20 and there are three oral witnesses arranged to give
21 evidence tomorrow.

22 LADY SMITH: Very well. I'll rise now until tomorrow
23 morning when I'll sit again at 10.00.

24 (3.44 pm)

25 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am on Wednesday 9 May)

I N D E X

1

2 "ANNE" (affirmed)1

3 Questions from MR MacAULAY1

4 "TOMMY" (sworn)54

5 Questions from MR MacAULAY54

6 Witness statement of "MARGARET"80

7 (read)

8 "YVONNE" (sworn)107

9 Questions from MR MacAULAY107

10 Witness statement of "BERNIE" (read)147

11

12

13

14

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