

1 Wednesday, 13 June 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning.

4 Mr MacAulay, I think we return to an oral witness;  
5 is that right?

6 MR MacAULAY: Yes. Good morning, my Lady, we do and this is  
7 Sister Elizabeth Hackett.

8 SISTER ELIZABETH HACKETT (sworn)

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

10 Does that seat level feel all right for you, sister?

11 A. Yes, thank you very much.

12 LADY SMITH: I think you're in a good position for that  
13 microphone. It does need to pick up everything you say.  
14 If you get too close it fuzzes, if you drift back we  
15 lose you.

16 Mr MacAulay.

17 Questions from MR MacAULAY

18 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, sister.

19 A. Good morning. Mr MacAulay, please, do you mind if I say  
20 a wee prayer before we start my interview?

21 LADY SMITH: I have no problem with that. Do feel free to  
22 do so.

23 A. Thank you very much:

24 "Loving Lord, I am here in Your holy presence today  
25 and I ask you to bring all in this room into Your

1           presence today and I ask you to bless them and I ask the  
2           Holy Spirit to come upon me, to lead me and guide me  
3           this morning, and all these prayers I ask in Jesus'  
4           name. Amen."

5           Thank you Mr MacAulay and thank you Lady Smith.

6           MR MacAULAY: Sister Elizabeth, I think your date of birth  
7           is [REDACTED] 1940.

8           A. That is right, yes.

9           Q. So you're now 78; is that right? In front of you in  
10          that red folder you'll find the statement that you  
11          provided to the inquiry. I'll give the reference of  
12          that to the stenographers. It's WIT.001.001.7622.  
13          Could you look at the last page of the statement,  
14          sister? You'll find that on page 7666.

15          A. Yes.

16          Q. Can you confirm that you have signed the statement?

17          A. Pardon?

18          Q. Can you confirm you have signed the statement?

19          A. Oh I have, yes. This is my signature, yes.

20          Q. Do you also say in that last paragraph:

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

23                 Is that correct?

24          A. That's right.

25          Q. Do you also say:

1            "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
2            statement are true"?

3            A. That's right.

4            Q. Sister, I think when you were working in the  
5            establishments that I'm about to look at, you were known  
6            at Sister [REDACTED]

7            A. Gerard of the Passion, [REDACTED]

8            Q. [REDACTED]  
9            [REDACTED]

10           A. [REDACTED]

11           Q. You tell us in your statement that you joined the order  
12           in 1957; is that right?

13           A. That's right, yes.

14           Q. So you were just 17 at that time?

15           A. I was. Coming up to 18.

16           Q. What you tell us is that you went to train as a nursery  
17           nurse.

18           A. I did, yes.

19           Q. And can you tell us a little bit about that? What sort  
20           of course was that?

21           A. It was the NNEB, I think you called it -- it was for  
22           babies and toddlers, actually, for nursery nursing.

23           Q. You say babies and toddlers?

24           A. Yes that's right.

25           Q. What age range?

1 A. Zero to 5.

2 Q. Can you tell me how long the course was for?

3 A. Two years.

4 Q. And where did you do the course?

5 A. In Stoke Lodge in Bristol.

6 Q. Did you do the course before you -- was that after you  
7 joined the order?

8 A. Oh yes, yes. I was coming up for two years profession  
9 when I did the course.

10 Q. In relation to the training within the course then, can  
11 you give me some insight as to what areas you covered  
12 within the course?

13 A. We covered general knowledge and we covered English, but  
14 with the majority of the time was in connection with  
15 babies and toddlers and, you know, how to go about it  
16 and how to do it, everything in general to care for the  
17 babies and toddlers.

18 Q. After you did that training, did you then go somewhere  
19 to work as a nursery nurse?

20 A. I did, yes, I went to Swansea for just over a year.

21 Q. Was it with babies and toddlers you worked?

22 A. Yes, that's right.

23 Q. What was the -- was that in a --

24 A. It was in Nazareth House in Swansea. We had our own --  
25 yes, and there was children there as well: there was the

1 babies and toddlers and children. We didn't have any  
2 elderly then.

3 Q. Then I think you tell us you went to Middlesbrough; is  
4 that right?

5 A. Yes, I did, yes.

6 Q. What were you doing in Middlesbrough?

7 A. I was doing 2 to fives, toddlers, 2 to fives --

8 Q. So again --

9 A. -- caring for them.

10 Q. -- caring for that range of children?

11 A. Yes, that's right.

12 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that, in about  
13 1970, you went to Nazareth House Cardonald.

14 A. That's right.

15 Q. And you were there for about four years?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What did you understand your role to be when you came to  
18 Cardonald?

19 A. When I came to Cardonald I was housemother to those  
20 children, 2 to 5. We had our own area.

21 Q. Do I understand from that you went into the nursery  
22 section?

23 A. I did, yes.

24 Q. You took over from another nun?

25 A. I did, yes.

1 Q. And I think we may have heard evidence from her --

2 A. That's right.

3 Q. -- in this inquiry.

4 Did you have a handover of any kind with the other  
5 nun?

6 A. No, no, because sister left in the morning and I arrived  
7 in the afternoon.

8 Q. Did someone give you any sort of induction or --

9 A. Not particularly because that's what I was doing in  
10 Middlesbrough, so it was only sort of -- a different  
11 area, but the same routine, the same type of caring. We  
12 just picked up, got to know the area, got to know your  
13 children, got to know your staff, and went on from  
14 there --

15 Q. I think the way you put it in your statement, sister --

16 A. -- and taking your own experience with you as you moved  
17 on.

18 Q. The way you put it in your statement is:

19 "There was no induction or anything like that, it  
20 was more or less in at the deep end."

21 A. In at the deep end, yes.

22 Q. How many children then were you caring --

23 A. I had 24 under 5.

24 Q. Did you obtain any information early on in relation to  
25 the background of these children?

1 A. Well, each -- there was a file on each child. Not an  
2 awful lot of information, mind you, on it but, you know,  
3 we kept as much information as we had, whether they came  
4 from -- where they came from and who brought them in,  
5 whether it was members of family or whether it was  
6 Social Services or wherever they came from. That was  
7 all in their file and we kept a day-to-day logbook and  
8 as much information as we needed.

9 Q. When you say "we", was it yourself who did that, who  
10 kept the records?

11 A. That's right.

12 Q. Can I just understand the structure. You are in charge  
13 of this group of 24 children --

14 A. That's right.

15 Q. -- were you answerable to anybody?

16 A. I would be answerable to my Superior.

17 Q. But not any other senior sister?

18 A. No, no, oh no.

19 Q. I suppose at that time you're fairly senior if you have  
20 had experience and, what, you'd be in your 30s or  
21 thereabouts when you went to --

22 A. I must have been about that.

23 Q. Yes.

24 A. I'm sure I was.

25 LADY SMITH: I think you went in 1970; is that right?

1 A. Yes. I went there in 1970, so I was 30, that's right.

2 LADY SMITH: So you would be 30 when you got there?

3 A. That's right.

4 MR MacAULAY: So far as the other -- there were other groups  
5 of children in the building as well?

6 A. There was indeed, yes.

7 Q. What involvement, if any, did you have with the other  
8 groups? Did you have any involvement with the other  
9 groups?

10 A. Well, not a lot, except that if I had some of my --  
11 because I had all the under fives some of them had --  
12 I can remember only one, I think, at the time --  
13 siblings in one of the other groups so there would be  
14 that interaction with them, you know. If there was  
15 anything special going on, we went to parties together  
16 at Christmastime -- my group had their own, the little  
17 ones had their own playground, they didn't intermingle  
18 in the playground with the older children, but they did  
19 lots of other things, outings and things like that.

20 Q. You mentioned siblings --

21 A. I did.

22 Q. -- if there were siblings of a child in your group did  
23 you try and see that that child --

24 A. They would see their brothers and sisters if, you know,  
25 a different --



- 1 Q. How would you arrange that?
- 2 A. Well, they were only in a different part of the house so  
3 they could go along to see them, they could play outside  
4 with them, they could ... There wasn't any strict  
5 restrictions of them not being able to see their -- but  
6 they just didn't live in the same group with them.
- 7 Q. The other sisters that were there when you were there,  
8 can you remember who they were in charge of the other  
9 groups?
- 10 A. There was Sister [REDACTED] LNV , who is now Sister [REDACTED] LNV ,  
11 and there was a Sister [REDACTED] . I'm trying  
12 to think of the other one over the -- there was  
13 a Sister [REDACTED] LFR there. That was three and they  
14 were running the older groups.
- 15 Q. Did you know how these groups were being run? Did you  
16 yourself have any insight?
- 17 A. I more or less did sort of know how they were run, but  
18 I didn't have any sort -- that much interaction with  
19 them. But I lived with the sisters and we talked about  
20 different things.
- 21 Q. Would you talk about the children?
- 22 A. We would talk about the children, whether -- you know.  
23 Not ... I can only say normal, if you talk about  
24 different things, but nothing that would enter my head  
25 at the moment that would be significant, you know.

1 Q. You mentioned that you had members of staff, I think, to  
2 help you with the children.

3 A. I did, yes.

4 Q. How many members of staff did you have?

5 A. I can remember three, but I think I had four. I'd  
6 probably have one in the dining room and I had three  
7 carers. I have no idea of -- I know their names, but  
8 I have no idea of the surnames. It's gone. It's  
9 40 years ago.

10 Q. What I want to ask you is in connection with those staff  
11 members who were helping you. What were their duties?

12 A. They were my assistants, actually. They were there for  
13 the children, you know, they would come in at a time in  
14 the morning and getting them up and help me to run the  
15 group and help me to, you know ...

16 Q. And can you remember what sort of training, if any, they  
17 had had?

18 A. Now, that I honestly do not remember. None of them went  
19 out to anything when I was there. I can't remember if  
20 they'd done anything before that.

21 Q. I think what you tell us in your statement, sister,  
22 is that towards the end of your time at Cardonald, and  
23 you were at Cardonald from 1970 to 1974 --

24 A. Yes, that's right.

25 Q. -- you started taking older children into the group.

1 A. Yes. I honestly can't remember whether it was -- it  
2 could have been around 12 months before I left. It was  
3 just a change that was coming out then. And if I had  
4 vacancies and a group, a few children came in, you could  
5 have a little one and you could have two schoolchildren  
6 with them, you know, and we started taking them. That  
7 was the change. And in the other groups, if there was  
8 young children, they would start taking them as well.  
9 So that all happened -- it could have happened about  
10 12 months before. I haven't in my head the dates.

11 Q. So just so I can understand what's being developed here,  
12 is the nursery as a nursery being phased out?

13 A. That's right, yes.

14 Q. And the little children are staying in groups with their  
15 siblings?

16 A. That's right.

17 Q. So if we look then at the numbers -- and these are  
18 numbers that the order have provided to us, sister.  
19 I'll put it on the screen in front of you. It's  
20 NAZ.001.001.0265.

21 These are numbers that the order have sent us in  
22 connection with the different houses.

23 A. Oh, right.

24 Q. If we go back to the top, can we see that Glasgow is the  
25 third along from the left, and we're given various

1           statistics over the years.  If we go down towards the  
2           bottom of the page, can we see that in June 1970 --

3       A.  1971.

4       Q.  -- you had 24, and I think that's the number you have  
5           mentioned yourself.

6       A.  That's right, yes.  I would have 24 beds, yes.  They'd  
7           always be there, yes.

8       Q.  If we move on to the next page, 0266, can we see now  
9           that we're not given any information on what we see as  
10          babies, but that the girls -- we're not talking about  
11          30 --

12      A.  I see that, yes.

13      Q.  Does this suggest, as you've said, that there was  
14          a change in approach and the nursery was being phased  
15          out?

16      A.  That's right, that's right.

17      Q.  So do I take it then, sister, that at a point in time,  
18          towards the latter part of your stint at Cardonald, your  
19          responsibility was not just for the little ones but also  
20          for older children?

21      A.  Yes, that's right.  I didn't have many of them now  
22          because we were only starting.

23      LADY SMITH:  Just looking back, do you think at that time  
24          you'd stopped taking the little ones, the ones that are  
25          referred to as "babies" in these statistics?

1 A. Well, I didn't ... I had only one family, who was the  
2 baby under 2, and she must have been about -- I remember  
3 they were fostered but they came back again after  
4 six weeks. She would have been only maybe a year and  
5 a half, a year and 9 months. But if the family came in  
6 and there were little ones under 5, I would still take  
7 them. If they were coming to my group they would come  
8 as a family and the other sisters would start taking  
9 them as well as a family. They wouldn't be under 2 on  
10 the other floors I don't think.

11 LADY SMITH: I see. And perhaps a tailing off of taking  
12 single children who were with the little ones, 2 or  
13 3-year-olds or whatever? Would that fit?

14 A. Yes, they would come in if they were coming with  
15 a family.

16 LADY SMITH: If they were coming with a family, but if there  
17 was a single child of that age group --

18 A. I actually don't remember getting a single one in.  
19 I only remember getting -- for the short time I was  
20 there then, I only remember getting the families. The  
21 idea was to keep the families together.

22 MR MacAULAY: You've given us some information, sister,  
23 about the training that you did --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- in preparation for the sort of work that you were

- 1           doing in Cardonald.
- 2           A. That's right.
- 3           Q. Was that training important to you in the way you
- 4           approached your task at Cardonald?
- 5           A. Oh, very much so.
- 6           Q. Can you explain that?
- 7           A. Well, I mean, we did get -- I wasn't -- it wasn't
- 8           a training for older children, I didn't do an actual
- 9           childcare, but once I started taking the older children,
- 10          and even before that, I did go out to -- I can't
- 11          remember the name of the college, but I did go out on
- 12          day releases for different things that would come up
- 13          with the older children.
- 14          Q. Leaving older children to one side for the moment, I am
- 15          looking more to when you went to the nursery --
- 16          A. You mean the training I got for the nursery?
- 17          Q. Yes.
- 18          A. Oh very much so. Oh very much so. I was able to carry
- 19          it out quite well, yes.
- 20          Q. In particular then, you were able to use the learning
- 21          and experience you'd gained from your training and your
- 22          experience to inform the way that you'd approach your
- 23          job at Cardonald?
- 24          A. Absolutely.
- 25          Q. You say in your statement, sister, that there wasn't

- 1 a lot of turnover during your time in Cardonald.
- 2 I think by that you mean not many children left your
- 3 group.
- 4 A. That's right.
- 5 Q. Were there any children who left your group that you can
- 6 remember?
- 7 A. No -- I honestly -- as you know, I'm sure it'd be in my
- 8 mind if they did, but they didn't actually.
- 9 Q. What about coming into the group? Did any children come
- 10 into the group?
- 11 A. The only ones that came were the older children.
- 12 Q. So you had the younger children when you went there?
- 13 A. That's right.
- 14 Q. And they remained with you?
- 15 A. That's right.
- 16 Q. And older children --
- 17 A. That's right. There again, somebody must have gone if
- 18 I had the beds, but I honestly ... That's not on my
- 19 mind who went, except the two particular ones that were
- 20 fostered but came back after six weeks.
- 21 Q. When a child was admitted then, just looking to the
- 22 admission of a child, would you get information about
- 23 why the child was coming?
- 24 A. Yes, I would. I would.
- 25 Q. Would you record that information when you --

1 A. Oh, well, I would have a statement from Social Services  
2 about that child and why that child was coming -- or  
3 children. Yes, I would.

4 Q. And was that part of your duties to keep yourself  
5 informed?

6 A. Oh very much so, yes. Yes.

7 Q. I think you tell us that you had a logbook.

8 A. I did, yes.

9 Q. Can you tell me about the logbook?

10 A. Well, the logbook was a day to day, whatever happened  
11 in the day, whatever happened to any particular child,  
12 whatever type of things we did that was significant that  
13 you would record. That was all there.

14 Q. And one of the things you tell us, I think, is if  
15 a child had a visitor, that would be recorded.

16 A. That would be recorded, yes, definitely.

17 Q. Was it yourself who did that?

18 A. Absolutely, yes.

19 Q. Did you have a file for each child?

20 A. I did.

21 Q. What sort of material would find its way into the file?

22 A. That file -- whatever the social -- whatever was there  
23 that, you know -- and we would add to it, anything  
24 significant that had to go into it or a Social Services  
25 visit. Not very often in Scotland did you have visits



1 from Social Services in those days. We are talking  
2 40 years, so it wasn't relevant that you'd have a social  
3 worker ringing up, saying, "I'm coming today or coming  
4 in to see the children". It didn't happen very often --

5 Q. But if a child had --

6 A. -- but if necessary I would be in touch with Social  
7 Services or they would be in touch with me if there was  
8 anything.

9 Q. If a child had had a problem or problems, would that  
10 then be something that would be noted in the child's  
11 case history?

12 A. Definitely, absolutely.

13 Q. So bed-wetting, for example, if a child had a problem  
14 with bed-wetting, would that be something that would be  
15 noted?

16 A. I suppose I would. I never made bed-wetting an issue  
17 and I'm not sure that I would even write it down.  
18 I don't think I would somehow, unless I felt the child  
19 had a problem and that's why they were wetting.

20 But under normal circumstances I don't think I'd  
21 write that down. In my head now I'm saying that. I  
22 don't think I would. To me it would be degrading to see  
23 it written down so I don't think I would.

24 Q. To put it another way, if there was a problem that you  
25 considered to be relevant and significant to the child,

1           then that would be something that would be recorded  
2           in the child's case history?

3       A. Yes, I would do that if there was a problem with the  
4           child or if I thought that maybe is why it's happening.  
5           But there again, I had mostly little ones, you know, so  
6           it would take some of them longer maybe, you know.

7       Q. I think you also say in your statement at some point you  
8           also had a visitors' book?

9       A. Oh yes, there was always a visitors' book, whoever would  
10          come in and sign it, whatever -- anybody that would ...  
11          I don't ever remember -- well, yes, whoever they might  
12          be. But there was always a visitors' book.

13      Q. Was this a visitors' book dedicated to your group?

14      A. Oh yes, yes. Nothing to do with anybody else.

15      Q. So did you make a point then if a visitor came, whoever  
16          it may be, of having that visitor sign the book?

17      A. Yes, I did.

18      Q. Can I ask you a little bit about the set-up? I think we  
19          know that the nursery was on the ground floor --

20      A. Mm-hm.

21      Q. -- of the house at Cardonald; is that correct?

22      A. That's right.

23      Q. And the children had bedrooms?

24      A. They did.

25      Q. How many children would be to a bedroom in your

1           recollection?

2           A. There could be two, there could be three. I'm not sure

3           if I ever had ... It was all on the ground floor. It

4           wouldn't be multiple. I don't think I would have four

5           in a bedroom. I might have done, but I don't think so.

6           Q. Did you yourself sleep in close vicinity to the

7           children?

8           A. I did, yes, in the corner.

9           Q. What about the staff?

10          A. I had no living-in staff.

11          Q. Did the staff then leave at a particular time?

12          A. At the evening time, yes, they did.

13          Q. Do I take it then, from the way you've described the

14          structure, sister, that you're in charge and therefore

15          the staff are answerable to you?

16          A. They are, yes.

17          Q. You tell us that in the evenings some teenage children

18          from the area would come in to help; is that correct?

19          A. That's correct.

20          Q. Was it yourself who supervised that?

21          A. That's right, yes, and the staff would as well. The

22          staff were there as well.

23          Q. Can I ask you about the food, sister. What's your

24          recollection as to what the food was like?

25          A. Well, actually, quite adequate and quite -- always

1           nicely prepared. I don't ever recall it being  
2           unpleasant or having a problem with the children eating.  
3           So I would imagine it was quite adequate and quite nice  
4           and quite nicely presented. We always had a sister  
5           in the kitchen in those days, in the catering department  
6           in those days.

7           Q. Would the food be taken then from the kitchen --

8           A. It would come on a trolley. They had their own hot  
9           trolley. Each group had their own hot trolley.

10          Q. And for your group would you be dining as a group?

11          A. No, I didn't dine with them.

12          Q. I'm sorry: would the group dine as a group separately  
13          from the other groups?

14          A. Oh, absolutely, yes, they did -- and I supervised it,  
15          yes.

16          Q. Would you have the same food?

17          A. Definitely, yes, always. It was all cooked for the  
18          house.

19          Q. Did you have any difficulty with children not wanting to  
20          eat food?

21          A. It's not something that stands out in my mind that I did  
22          have, but there wouldn't be a problem if I did. You'd  
23          look upon it as why or ... It's not -- every child at  
24          that age might not like the different type of  
25          vegetables, you know, and you might encourage, but you

1           would never force. So I haven't any recollection in my  
2           head of having a real problem with children. As I say,  
3           I might have done. You deal with it. You deal with it  
4           in whatever way it comes along.

5           Q. I think you've anticipated one of my questions: did you  
6           ever require to force a child to --

7           A. Never, never.

8           Q. Did you ever punish a child for not eating?

9           A. Never, never.

10          Q. You also say in your statement, sister, that birthdays  
11          were celebrated.

12          A. Oh, yes. Yes.

13          Q. Can you tell me about that? If there were  
14          24 children --

15          A. There was, yes.

16          Q. -- there would be quite a number of birthdays.

17          A. There would be -- how can I put it? There wouldn't be  
18          sort of a big party with friends coming in or anything  
19          like that, but they always had a cake, they would have  
20          a card, they would have a little gift, wherever you got  
21          it, they'd have something. They knew it was their  
22          birthday and we'd have a cake in the evening time and  
23          we would all sing "Happy Birthday". But with  
24          24 children, there was nearly always a birthday.  
25          Sometimes we would put a few of them together and have

1 a little bit more of a celebration, like, you know. But  
2 they'd always have something on their own day.

3 Q. Did you, as the person in charge of the group, require  
4 to keep some sort of record as to when the birthdays  
5 would be?

6 A. Oh yes. Yes, that be in their file you'd know when the  
7 birthdays would be. The little ones may not remember  
8 when their birthday was, but you would tell them, you're  
9 3 or 4 or 5 today, you'll be going to the groups  
10 tomorrow. Something like that, you know. But it was  
11 always spoken of.

12 Q. Toys: did you have plenty of toys for the children?

13 A. Plenty.

14 Q. Where did the toys come from?

15 A. People were very good. People in Glasgow were  
16 marvellous, absolutely marvellous, and a lot of them --  
17 a lot of people would bring in some nice toys, they'd  
18 pass something in at Christmastime. We always had --  
19 we were always able to buy something for them. But toys  
20 was not a shortage and they would always have a gift,  
21 they would always have their own presents, you know.

22 Q. And they were allowed to have their own toys?

23 A. Absolutely, yes.

24 Q. You also tell us about what holidays you had. And  
25 I think Fairlie was the place you went to?

- 1 A. Yes, that was the place for me.
- 2 Q. And would you go as a group?
- 3 A. We went as a group, yes, and there would be some  
4 children in the other groups that I would take. I used  
5 to take about 36.
- 6 Q. Not just your own group?
- 7 A. Not just your own group. If there were some children  
8 who didn't get away in the other groups or if they had  
9 a little problem, I would take those children if they  
10 couldn't go out with anybody else, and we always had  
11 three weeks in Fairlie.
- 12 Q. So you'd have members of staff with you?
- 13 A. They all came with me. That was a wonderful time for  
14 the children because it was the -- I think I said it in  
15 my statement, didn't I, that the Education Department  
16 gave Fairlie for the three months of the summer -- gave  
17 the Social Services the house in Fairlie for the  
18 children in Glasgow that might need a holiday. But that  
19 was through the year. When it came to the summer, they  
20 used to give it to the different care homes and they  
21 allowed us three weeks. So I was able to take those  
22 children away for the three weeks.
- 23 Q. What sort of activities then did you have there for the  
24 children?
- 25 A. We had the seaside, we had a nice garden. Those that

1           were a little bit -- some of the 4 or 5-year-olds and  
2           a few of the older ones, I used to take them on the  
3           train because they didn't get an experience of the  
4           train. Now, there is a place I can't remember, but  
5           I used to take them on the train. Somewhere not too far  
6           away.

7           Q. Okay.

8           A. I'm trying to think of the name of it. I'm sorry, it  
9           has slipped me. Did I not say it in my statement?  
10          I used to take them on the train for the day and I used  
11          to take them to an adventure playground for a treat and  
12          I'd take them for a meal on the way back and into the  
13          train again for home. It was one of those good days  
14          during the holidays for a treat.

15          Q. I touched upon bed-wetting a few moments ago. Can I ask  
16          you a little more about bed-wetting. Let's look at the  
17          nursery set-up first of all. Did you have any problems  
18          with children bed-wetting when you were in the nursery?

19          A. I'm sure I had. As I say, bed-wetting was never really  
20          an issue and it's just one of those things. If I did  
21          have a few, it was seen to normally. They were just got  
22          up and they were taken to the bathroom. They were all  
23          little ones. They were washed and their bed was  
24          changed, sheets were gone to the laundry. But there was  
25          never an issue or never "Why did you ..." -- how would



1           they -- it was normal to them if they wet the bed,  
2           normal to me.

3       Q.   When you had older children towards the latter part of  
4           your stint there, did you have any of the older  
5           children --

6       A.   And I do not remember in Glasgow having older children  
7           wetting the bed.  Not in my head at all.

8       Q.   Was there any punishment given to a child that wet the  
9           bed?

10      A.   Never, never, never.

11      Q.   When you were in the nursery, I think the children at  
12           that time would be too young to go to school.

13           Is that --

14      A.   Yes.

15      Q.   Did you have some sort of schooling arrangement within  
16           the home?

17      A.   I did.  We had a hall in the grounds where they had  
18           plenty of toys and they had the garden and the staff  
19           used to take them over there in the morning and I'd take  
20           my own stint with them as well.  So you know, they were  
21           occupied, they had plenty to do over there, plenty of  
22           games and plenty of things to do.  Outdoor -- they were  
23           outdoors, they'd have a few toys outdoors.  Plenty of  
24           running around to do.  No problem.

25      Q.   When you had older children then that went to school,

1 the children may have had homework to do?

2 A. They did, yes.

3 Q. Would you be involved in that?

4 A. Well, it wouldn't be something that they would come home  
5 to and do homework straightaway, but some time in the  
6 evening they would do it. Maybe after tea, they'd  
7 have --

8 Q. And were they given enough time to --

9 A. Always. They would come home, to my knowledge, with  
10 a set of bits of homework to do, like, you know. They  
11 would do that and I would be there with them or one of  
12 the staff would be there with them, like, you know,  
13 supervising a bit.

14 Q. We've touched upon visitors before already, sister. Can  
15 I just understand the position with social workers.  
16 Let's look over the piece, including the nursery and  
17 when you had the older children. I understood you to  
18 say that social workers did not visit on too regular  
19 a basis.

20 A. No, that's right.

21 Q. Can you let me understand that? What's your  
22 recollection as to how regularly --

23 A. I actually haven't got a recollection of social workers  
24 coming all that often. But I also know that if I did  
25 have a problem or I needed them, there would be no

1 problem in me ringing them and they would come.

2 I remember that especially about an older child that  
3 came and why she came. They decided to have her  
4 fostered again, although the first foster didn't --  
5 wasn't successful. But they decided they would try it  
6 again because somebody approached them. It didn't work  
7 that time either.

8 So I would have quite a good interaction at that  
9 time if there was a necessity for it. They were okay,  
10 they would come along if I needed them and if they  
11 wanted to do this, you know, but as a group and as  
12 children on the whole, they didn't come on that regular  
13 a basis to see so many in the group.

14 Q. But if a social worker did come, would you make a record  
15 of that?

16 A. Oh absolutely. Yes.

17 Q. Would the social worker also require to sign --

18 A. She would, and when things happened, I would get  
19 a statement from them to what was happening.

20 Q. Did you have a procedure then, particularly with the  
21 older children, whereby the care of the child was  
22 reviewed to see what progress the child was making or --

23 A. Not a lot.

24 Q. Not a lot?

25 A. Not a lot, no. Not in Glasgow.

- 1 Q. Are you comparing Glasgow to somewhere else?
- 2 A. Maybe. But no, there wasn't really all that -- unless  
3 there was something that they decided whatever ...  
4 Whatever was done, there were records kept, both for  
5 myself and the social worker, whatever. But I mean,  
6 I have no recollection, really, and I'm sure it would  
7 stay in my mind, of them coming on a really regular  
8 basis for the type of child I had in the nursery, you  
9 know.
- 10 Q. Particularly when you look at when you had some older  
11 children --
- 12 A. You see, I didn't have the older children for that long  
13 by the time I left -- in Glasgow. When they came in,  
14 they came in and, apart from this one child, there  
15 wasn't any -- they were there and how long they stayed,  
16 I really don't know. But I didn't have the  
17 social workers coming in to see them very often.
- 18 Q. Just so I can understand in relation to evaluating any  
19 progress a child might have been making, do I take it  
20 from what you're saying then that wasn't really part of  
21 the system when you were there?
- 22 A. Well, the progress -- we were so normal, the  
23 progress ... Once the child settled and they were going  
24 to school and they were coming home and they were all  
25 right, I didn't need the social worker. But if I needed

1 her, if I had a problem with those children, then  
2 I would be in touch with the social worker. But if  
3 there wasn't a problem, they left them and we got on  
4 with the job.

5 Q. What was the -- can you remember what the age of the  
6 oldest children you had was when you moved into having  
7 older children?

8 A. I think the oldest one -- I'm just thinking of one  
9 boy -- no idea what his name is, I can see him --  
10 I think he would be 13 or 14. He was part of a family.

11 Q. Would he not be somebody that you may want to assess how  
12 he was getting on and perhaps plan for the future?

13 A. Well, thinking in my mind, he was not a problem, not  
14 a problem as such. But -- how would I put it? He  
15 didn't cause me a problem, but he used to do funny  
16 things, he was very clever, but nothing that I had to  
17 sort of get in touch with the social worker for or  
18 anything like that, you know. He didn't seem to have  
19 any problem at school. If he did, I'm sure they would  
20 have been in touch with me.

21 Q. Just on that, did you get reports from the school about  
22 the children, the older children, once you --

23 A. Did they come out from school in those days? I don't  
24 know.

25 Q. You can't remember. Can I ask you this, something you

1 say in your statement, sister. It's at paragraph 73 and  
2 you say:

3 "I don't know whether the older children in  
4 Cardonald had reviews."

5 A. Had what?

6 Q. If you look at your statement: it's on the screen. It  
7 is at paragraph 73. We've been talking about reviews  
8 and you say three lines down:

9 "I don't know whether the older children in  
10 Cardonald had reviews. If they were done, they were  
11 done because they were necessary or there was  
12 a problem."

13 A. Yes. Yes, that's right.

14 Q. And you say:

15 "The older children would say, 'I will tell my  
16 social worker on you', but the little ones didn't say  
17 that."

18 A. Yes, that's right. That's an expression. Now, I'm just  
19 looking at that now, that I said that, and I am not  
20 quite sure whether that came from Cardonald or whether  
21 it came from somewhere else in the general terms of my  
22 time with children.

23 Q. I just wondered what that meant.

24 A. Yes, that's really a statement I would make now, but  
25 I honestly, looking at it, I'm not quite sure whether

- 1           that would be Cardonald or not.
- 2           Q. But I'm --
- 3           A. But, yes, children could tell me that, couldn't they,
- 4           yes.
- 5           Q. Why would they be saying that?
- 6           A. Maybe -- did I tell them off for something or did staff
- 7           tell them off? I couldn't tell you. I honestly don't
- 8           know why I said that, but there's a possibility.
- 9           Q. And it's an expression you remember?
- 10          A. Yes, it is an expression that I remember, yes.
- 11          Q. Can I ask you a little bit about discipline and
- 12          punishment. I'm looking at over the piece, not just the
- 13          nursery, but also when you moved to take older children.
- 14          Were you given any guidance as to how children were to
- 15          be disciplined?
- 16          A. Never. Never.
- 17          Q. Can I ask about your training, your nursery training:
- 18          did that involve any guidance as to discipline?
- 19          A. Not to my knowledge. I wouldn't think it came into it
- 20          at all.
- 21          Q. Do I take it then, when you were in Cardonald, you were
- 22          given no guidance and do I take it from that, there was
- 23          no written code?
- 24          A. Definitely not. Definitely not.
- 25          Q. Do you know or did you know at the time how children in

1 other groups were being disciplined by the sisters?

2 A. I didn't. I never thought of it. I don't think I ever  
3 thought of it --

4 Q. So -- carry on, sister.

5 A. Sorry. I would never discuss -- I don't think I would  
6 ever ... It never came up, I don't think it ever came  
7 up. I can't -- I have no discipline or punishment --  
8 definitely not.

9 Q. I just wonder then how there'd be a consistency in  
10 discipline. If you have, let's say, four discrete  
11 groups and you have different sisters in charge of these  
12 groups --

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. -- if there's no guidance given on discipline, how do  
15 you get a consistent approach?

16 A. I don't know of anybody that would give you guidance on  
17 how to discipline and punish a child. I really don't  
18 know. I honestly don't know how I would get guidance on  
19 that if somebody -- this is what you're to do or that's  
20 what you're to do or ... Never.

21 Q. How did you discipline a child if a child was  
22 misbehaving, sister?

23 A. I never -- you know, Mr MacAulay, I never really  
24 disciplined a child as such, never. I might have --  
25 I honestly ... I would definitely maybe take them aside



1           and I would talk to them or tell them it's something you  
2           don't do. I don't know how I'd approach it, but it's  
3           not something that's in my mind that this is what I did.  
4           I mean, okay, I had a couple of older children then in  
5           my last stages, but if you were trying to discipline  
6           a little one between 2 and 5, you might as well talk to  
7           the wall. Bless their hearts, they wouldn't know what  
8           I was talking about, I don't think. I don't know what  
9           they would do that would upset me or ... I honestly --  
10          no, you know. It's not something that came into my  
11          category at all, actually.

12         Q. What about a smack? Because smacking --

13         A. I never laid my hand on a child. I never laid a hand.  
14           I wouldn't take it from my staff and they would know  
15           that.

16         Q. Do you know then, sister, how children in other groups  
17           were disciplined by the sisters in charge?

18         A. Mr MacAulay, I really don't know. It was something  
19           that -- even if, you know, even outside, when we met as  
20           sisters in the different areas of our community life, it  
21           wasn't something that was ever spoken about or I ever  
22           heard that, "Oh, I had a bad time today with the  
23           children", or, "So-and-so drove me mad". Never heard  
24           it. If they did, I didn't hear it.

25         Q. Can I ask you this, sister -- and you were asked about

1           this when you gave your statement: did you yourself  
2           witness any behaviour when you were at Cardonald that  
3           you would consider to be abusive of a child?

4           A. Never. I never witnessed it. Never witnessed it,  
5           Mr MacAulay, never.

6           Q. One of the sisters you mention in your statement, at  
7           paragraph 83, is a Sister [REDACTED].

8           A. I think you asked me about her, didn't you? You  
9           mentioned her name to me. She wouldn't a name that  
10          I would mention. I wouldn't mention any name, actually.

11          Q. She's mentioned in your statement. I think what you say  
12          is:

13                 "Sister [REDACTED] wasn't in Cardonald during my time  
14          there. I knew her well before she died --"

15          A. Yes.

16          Q. "-- but I never made a connection between her and  
17          Cardonald."

18          A. No, never. I only knew her -- the only time I knew her,  
19          actually, was from 1957 to 1959. I had never met her  
20          after that but I knew her well for those two years.

21          Q. Would you know if any younger sister might have been  
22          afraid of her or --

23          A. No, not to my knowledge, never. It wasn't -- no,  
24          I never. You know, I never heard any sister that worked  
25          with her with the children ... I ... I never heard

1 anything at all about her.

2 Q. Were you aware that Sister [REDACTED] LFL might have been  
3 involved with the nursery at some point in time before  
4 your time there?

5 A. I never heard of her being in Cardonald in my time, even  
6 before that, you know.

7 Q. When you gave your statement, sister -- and this is from  
8 paragraphs 83 onwards, 83 through to 107 -- a number of  
9 different allegations were put to you in connection with  
10 the treatment of children. Do you remember that?

11 A. I do, indeed.

12 Q. We won't go through the detail with you today, but I'll  
13 just put a summary of what was being said. For example,  
14 suggestions that if a child wet the bed, then that child  
15 would be punished and humiliated. Were you aware of any  
16 of that?

17 A. Never. Never. If it happened, I never saw it and  
18 I never heard anybody talk about it at that time.

19 Q. Would you --

20 A. We never -- it was never mentioned, never. When you  
21 mentioned it before, I remember saying that I could  
22 never understand -- I can never understand why these  
23 things happened and the children who went to school with  
24 my children, that they didn't talk about it or said the  
25 terrible things that happened to them. I find that

1 quite extraordinary.

2 Q. There has been evidence to the inquiry, just to perhaps  
3 provide you with a response to that, that children did  
4 say they were scared.

5 A. Mm-hm, maybe, God bless them. I don't know. It never  
6 came to my attention, ever came to my attention, that  
7 that was happening in the same house that I lived in,  
8 ever.

9 Q. But could you understand, with your knowledge of  
10 children -- and you've told us about that, sister --  
11 that fear could prevent a child from --

12 A. From saying it?

13 Q. -- from saying something?

14 A. Bless their hearts, I don't know. I really don't know.  
15 They must have been -- well, if it happened, they were  
16 very scared. It saddens me very much really. I can't  
17 understand it at all and I mean that from my heart.  
18 I cannot understand it.

19 Q. I think from what you're saying, sister, is if such  
20 a practice did happen, you would consider that to be  
21 abuse.

22 A. I'd never sit back, Mr MacAulay. I would never sit back  
23 and think it was happening in the same house that I was  
24 in without my doing something about it.

25 Q. You'd consider it to be abuse?

1 A. Oh absolutely. Absolutely.

2 Q. One of the other practices that I think was mentioned to  
3 you when you were giving your statement was the  
4 force-feeding of a child. I think from what you're  
5 saying, sister, you never witnessed anything of that  
6 sort.

7 A. Never witnessed it. I couldn't. I never witnessed it  
8 and I wouldn't stand for it if I did. Truthfully,  
9 I wouldn't.

10 Q. There has also been references to quite severe physical  
11 punishment and I think you're aware of that as well, not  
12 just with hands but also with implements. Again,  
13 you haven't witnessed any of that?

14 A. Never.

15 Q. Would that be abusive?

16 A. Totally. Totally. Absolutely.

17 Q. What about a child being asked to kiss a dead nun?  
18 Because that's something that, again, the inquiry has  
19 heard about.

20 A. I have heard about that.

21 Q. You have heard?

22 A. Very much so, very much so. I have heard about that and  
23 I just -- I can't ... I really can't understand it at  
24 all. I really can't understand it at all. I mean, why?  
25 I don't know. I don't know.

- 1 Q. I think the practice was, at least then, if a nun died,  
2 that the coffin with the nun would be --
- 3 A. She was laid out, yes, she was, and the coffin was open  
4 in the church, yes.
- 5 Q. And would a colleague, a nun who went there, would that  
6 nun kiss the dead nun?
- 7 A. I have never seen it and I have never heard a child --  
8 I ...
- 9 Q. I'm not asking about a child; I'm asking if a nun would  
10 kiss a dead nun as a sign of respect.
- 11 A. Never. If I was ... The only ... I can't say I did,  
12 but the only time that ... If you were sitting with  
13 them at the end of life and you were praying with them  
14 at the end of their life and they died, then maybe you  
15 would, I don't know, but there wouldn't be anybody with  
16 us, only ourselves. It would be always be sisters that  
17 would be with the dying. We always stayed with the  
18 dying.
- 19 Q. In any event, do I take it from what you're saying,  
20 sister, that it would not be acceptable --
- 21 A. Not at all.
- 22 Q. -- for a child to be asked --
- 23 A. And I have never witnessed it and never heard a child  
24 saying to me, you know, that they did this.
- 25 Q. Well, can I then take you, sister, to when you went to

1 Lasswade. I think I'm right in saying that you went to

2 Lasswade straight from Cardonald.

3 A. Straight from Cardonald, yes.

4 Q. So that's 1974?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What you say in your statement at paragraph 109, it's on  
7 the screen, is that it came out of the blue?

8 A. It did, very much so.

9 Q. Can I just understand that? By this time, you had spent  
10 four years in Cardonald.

11 A. Mm-hm.

12 Q. And I take it you had a group of children --

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. -- that you were caring for?

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. Do I take it from what you've been saying, sister, that  
17 you would make a point of developing a relationship,  
18 a good relationship with the children?

19 A. Yes, that's right.

20 Q. So to move you from Cardonald to Lasswade would break  
21 that relationship?

22 A. It was hard, yes, difficult, yes. I loved my  
23 children -- and, you know, Mr MacAulay, I always kept in  
24 my mind that the children I cared for had been deprived  
25 of their rights and it was my -- I felt it was my place

1 to do my very best for them and that is what I did.

2 I loved the children in Glasgow and it was hard  
3 moving, but you know, unfortunately, that was part of  
4 our life, going back in those days, more so than now.

5 We would change quite often, sometimes. Sometimes you  
6 were left that extra few years, you know, but that was  
7 part of our life and that's the way we accepted it.

8 Q. I think from the perspective of the children --

9 A. Not easy for them, no.

10 Q. So in any event, you went to Lasswade in 1974. Can

11 I just then ask you about that. I think you were going  
12 there to work with older children.

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. Did they have a nursery in Lasswade at that time?

15 A. No, we didn't, no.

16 Q. Again, can I ask you: did you have some form of  
17 induction when you got to Lasswade?

18 A. No, no.

19 Q. Were you replacing --

20 A. Same thing. The sister went out -- oh no, she didn't,  
21 sorry. I did get a handover that time.

22 Q. You did?

23 A. I did, I got a handover, yes.

24 Q. Who were you replacing at that time?

25 A. Somebody by the name of Sister Eileen or Irene, not with



1 us now.

2 Q. Can I ask you about the set-up then? What was the  
3 set-up at Lasswade in relation to the group. You had a  
4 group of children again?

5 A. I did, yes.

6 Q. Was that an older group of different ages?

7 A. It was, yes. I had little ones as well. I had one or  
8 two little ones that were home during the day. One or  
9 two, that's all. All the others went out to school.

10 Q. How many were in the group?

11 A. I must have had 20, 24. I must have, yes, because there  
12 was Lasswade -- Bonnyrigg now -- had -- it was all  
13 children in those days, so we had a lot of children. So  
14 I would have had between 20 and 25, I'm sure, yes, as  
15 every group did.

16 Q. Where were you located then at Lasswade?

17 A. I was in the main house.

18 Q. I think there was another section called Holycote --

19 A. Yes, there was Holycote in the front of the home, yes.

20 Q. And how many groups -- can you remember --

21 A. There was five of us: three in the main house and two in  
22 Holycote.

23 Q. Who were the other sisters then that were dealing with  
24 the children at that time that you can remember?

25 A. There was a Sister LQC. She had

1 a group. And then there was another group and there was  
2 a few sisters that were there. There was --  
3 Sister Anthony MacDonald was there for a while, and  
4 there was a Sister [REDACTED] LKI [REDACTED] was there for a while,  
5 and that was the three -- that's the three groups. And  
6 there was a Sister Joan of Arc and Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] was  
7 in the -- they were in Holycote.

8 Q. When you got to Lasswade and you had your group of  
9 children, were you able to ascertain whether there were  
10 records there that would --

11 A. Yes, there were records. There was a file on each  
12 child.

13 Q. Did these records provide you then with information in  
14 connection with each --

15 A. That's right, yes.

16 LADY SMITH: Did you go and search out these records for  
17 yourself or were they provided for you as part of -- to  
18 you as part of the induction and handover process?

19 A. No, no, I -- no. The handover I would have got from  
20 sister was talking about the children in general, but  
21 the file would be in the office.

22 LADY SMITH: Did you make it your business to have a look.

23 A. Yes, to find out about them, yes, I did.

24 LADY SMITH: I'm getting the impression that that was  
25 something that you diligently did yourself but wasn't

1           presented to you as part of the regular practice of --

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

3           LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4           MR MacAULAY: Did you have staff with you to help you with  
5           your group?

6           A. Yes, I did.

7           Q. How many staff?

8           A. I recall three.

9           Q. Can you tell me what their duties were?

10          A. Well, I was the housemother again and they were my staff  
11          and between us we ran the group. They were in early  
12          in the morning, nobody living in. They were in early  
13          in the morning and a lot of the children were able to  
14          get themselves up. So it was really early in the  
15          morning, like that. It would be a sort of supervision,  
16          make sure they were up and make sure they were down,  
17          a shower if they needed it or whatever, and ready for  
18          school. They'd have to be ready for, at the latest,  
19          8.30, I am sure. The older ones would have gone to get  
20          a bus and the younger ones walked.

21          Q. Do you know what training the staff had had?

22          A. There's a possibility, if I think rightly, they would  
23          have -- they wouldn't have training as such, but they'd  
24          go out maybe to the courses that might have come up, you  
25          know. But training as such probably wasn't on the

1 agenda, you know, like it is today ...

2 Q. If a child was to be admitted, can I ask you, did that  
3 happen when you were there, a child being admitted to  
4 your group?

5 A. Excuse me? It did, yes.

6 Q. Can I just ask you about how that would be managed, if  
7 a child --

8 A. The social worker would just ring up and say, "Have you  
9 a vacancy?" and, "I have one child, I have two children,  
10 three children, please help me out". They were very --  
11 you know, please help me. And if I said I had no bed  
12 one night -- a social worker rang me at 9 o'clock and  
13 said, "Sister, I'm desperate, please help me", and  
14 I said, "Look, I'm terribly sorry, I've got no bed,  
15 I really can't help you this time", and he said, "Don't  
16 refuse me, please don't refuse me, sister, I'm  
17 desperate", and I took those three children because  
18 three of my children, a family, had gone home for the  
19 weekend. They went home on a Friday and they went to  
20 school from home on Monday and came back on Monday  
21 evening. So I said, "I'll take them from you tonight if  
22 you promise me faithfully you will collect them on  
23 Monday morning", "I promise you, sister".

24 So he brought them in at 11 o'clock at night and he  
25 said, "Sister, I have taken these children from a bed of

1 maggots", and I cared for them for the weekend, and  
2 there was no word -- and on Monday morning and I had to  
3 ring him and said, "Look, I'm as desperate now as you  
4 were on Friday night and you promised, and I have my  
5 older children coming in today at 4 o'clock and I'm very  
6 sorry, if I could keep them I would love to, but  
7 I can't", and he did come then.

8 Q. From what you have said, then, this was direct dealing  
9 with a social worker yourself, not through the  
10 Mother Superior?

11 A. Oh no, no.

12 Q. Did the Mother Superior not get involved in that  
13 process?

14 A. I told her the next day, but I was running the group and  
15 I wouldn't disturb her at night and she would know that  
16 if I could do something, I would do it and she would go  
17 along with me, no problem.

18 Q. Normally, if a child was to be admitted, would the route  
19 involve there first of all being contact with the  
20 Mother Superior?

21 A. In the beginning, yes, but at the end I had that sort  
22 of -- I had a good relationship with Social Services and  
23 they would ring me and then I would tell the Superior,  
24 you know, that they would be along or whatever ...

25 Q. So you would deal directly --

1 A. I did deal directly with them, yes.

2 Q. And so far as the set-up with rooms was concerned then,  
3 what was the set-up at Lasswade for the rooms for the  
4 children?

5 A. They all had their own room. We had single rooms for  
6 everybody. We had no double rooms, no.

7 Q. Were these single rooms set up in a partitioned sort of  
8 way in a large --

9 A. No, they were proper rooms.

10 Q. They were proper rooms?

11 A. They were proper rooms.

12 Q. Can I then ask you a little bit about mealtimes at  
13 Lasswade. What was the food like?

14 A. Now, these were older children. The food was pretty  
15 good. I don't think they would eat it if it wasn't, you  
16 know. So it was okay, I'm sure, as far as I can ...  
17 I'm trying to remember what sister was there at the  
18 time. I can't remember now for the moment. Maybe  
19 I said it, I am not sure. But it would have been fine.  
20 There would have been -- there wouldn't have been a big  
21 problem with it. It would have been good. It would be  
22 the same as we had ourselves so there were, you know ...

23 Q. Were there some children who --

24 A. And I don't remember having a problem with the older  
25 children at all. But they would be quite -- they would

1           just say, "I don't have that," and, "I don't have that",  
2           and, "I'll only have one vegetable", or whatever. They  
3           would be able to say those things.

4           Q. Would there be any pressure on the children --

5           A. Not at all, no.

6           Q. Or any punishment if they didn't --

7           A. Never. The big children that I had in Lasswade, you  
8           wouldn't be able to do anything with them. They'd have  
9           held me down if I had!

10          Q. You do tell us about a lady -- this is at  
11          paragraph 133 --

12          A. That's right, yes.

13          Q. -- who came to --

14          A. Yes, she was a lovely lady and she used to come in  
15          in the evening, but I -- after a while, I decided that  
16          maybe we could -- because she was in, that we could cook  
17          the evening meal ourselves and we took on that. I would  
18          get all I needed from the kitchen, the catering  
19          department, and she used to come in at about 4 o'clock  
20          and she would cook the evening meal and it was  
21          a marvellous invention because the children used to love  
22          to come in and run in and say, "What are you doing for  
23          us tonight?" and they'd see it cooking, and it was  
24          a great sort of move, if you know what I mean.

25          Q. So that worked well?

1 A. It worked very well.

2 Q. Can I ask you about clothes, sister. What arrangements  
3 were there for clothes for the children?

4 A. Things were improving in those days then. We were  
5 in the middle 1970s and they improved. We were getting  
6 some help from Social Services for the children and we  
7 were getting a -- I think we were getting a clothing  
8 allowance. I think we were. It was quite, you know --  
9 they had what they needed. If they needed anything, you  
10 know, they were teenagers, and there was sort of ...  
11 styles were changing, you know. It wasn't just a set of  
12 clothes for today and a Sunday set and their uniform.  
13 There was more. You had to realise that they were  
14 teenagers and what they saw at school with their peers  
15 they would like or the new style that came out, you  
16 know.

17 The Superior was very good, I didn't have the money,  
18 but she had -- down in Bonnyrigg there used to be a shop  
19 and it was one of those small little shops, but she sold  
20 all sorts, like market stuff, you know, and if they  
21 wanted anything special, I would send them down there  
22 and they didn't have any money, but we had an account  
23 there, and they would --

24 Q. Were children allowed to have their own clothes?

25 A. They had all their own clothes. They had their own



1           wardrobes and lockers and everything was kept in their  
2           rooms.

3       Q.   When a child came in, was that child permitted to keep  
4           the clothes that --

5       A.   Yes.   Very often they didn't come in with very much, but  
6           you know, we had something to help them out with.  They  
7           always had their own.

8       Q.   What about chores?  Did the children have chores?

9       A.   Never chores as such.  They might -- I don't even  
10          remember if they'd lay the table.  They sort of --  
11          I always said to them, "Keep your own room tidy", we had  
12          cleaners in -- and chores as such, no.

13      Q.   So far as holidays are concerned, sister, you tell us  
14          that when you were as Lasswade it was Dunbar that you  
15          went to.

16      A.   It was, yes.

17      Q.   Did all the groups go together?

18      A.   That's right.

19      Q.   So that's a quite a large group of children?

20      A.   Absolutely, but we went -- I don't know if it's still  
21          there, I'd like to know if it was still there to pay  
22          a visit.  We went to -- there was a barracks just across  
23          the road from the Catholic Church, and we took over that  
24          barracks, and it was massive.  But --

25      Q.   What sort of activities then did you have for these

1 children?

2 A. We had the sea, and we had walks and we had -- what  
3 do you call it? -- what went on at night-time. They had  
4 the carnival, whatever, the rides, and all that, they  
5 had those. And the older ones used to go out on their  
6 own at night-time, they would go off on their own and  
7 I would take the little ones just for a walk or things  
8 like that.

9 Q. Sorry, sister --

10 A. But I mean, at the time, the older ones would sort of  
11 see to themselves during the day. They would be down  
12 at the beach a lot of the time with us, but I had the  
13 little ones down at the beach most of the day. That's  
14 what we went for.

15 Q. I was going to ask you, sister, about birthdays, and in  
16 particular if birthdays --

17 A. The older ones, yes.

18 Q. -- were celebrated at Lasswade? Did you celebrate  
19 birthdays?

20 A. Well, they were older children, but they always had  
21 a card and they always had a little gift and I think the  
22 same thing might have applied that we would have, maybe,  
23 if there was two birthdays in the month or something,  
24 we would have a joint cake one day, you know, and they  
25 would accept that and they would understand that, you

1 know. But birthdays were always celebrated. They would  
2 never be forgotten.

3 LADY SMITH: Did you have a personal system for keeping  
4 track of whose birthday was when?

5 A. Well, you know, however I did it, I knew it. It would  
6 be in their file, you didn't have to -- and the older  
7 children would always talk about their birthdays,  
8 I would imagine.

9 LADY SMITH: I get that it would be in their file, but you  
10 actually need to, when you're looking ahead to next  
11 week, realise that, for instance, next Monday is  
12 so-and-so's birthday, and the fact that that's recorded  
13 in the file doesn't trigger your recollection of that.

14 A. No, maybe not, but their birthdays would be remembered,  
15 Lady Smith. We would remember their birthdays. And you  
16 know, the older children would more or less be talking  
17 about their birthdays. You would know when their  
18 birthdays were.

19 LADY SMITH: I can see that older children might get it  
20 right. We have heard quite a lot of evidence from  
21 people who didn't actually know when their own birthday  
22 was. I was wondering whether you had a system of  
23 marking them on a calendar in advance or keeping a note  
24 in your own diary, something like that.

25 A. I always had a diary. I always knew when the birthdays

1           was. How I sort of ... I just knew. Whether I had it  
2           in my diary or whenever I had it, but we always kept the  
3           birthdays. It was something that was done in my group.

4       LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5       A. Yes.

6       MR MacAULAY: Can I then ask you now about bed-wetting --

7       A. Yes.

8       Q. -- at Lasswade. Did you have children in your group who  
9           wet the bed?

10      A. Yes, I did.

11      Q. At a point in time I think you had quite a number of  
12           children --

13      A. I did, on one occasion, and I think I told you about  
14           that. It was my staff came to me one morning,  
15           particularly -- there was always one, two, three maybe  
16           every morning to my knowledge. But this particular  
17           morning, one of my staff came to me and she said,  
18           "Sister, there's something wrong somewhere. We've had  
19           11 wet beds today". I said, "That's extraordinary,  
20           we've never had that", and so whether I was right or  
21           wrong, I don't know, but I had them all out anyway and  
22           I spoke to them and I said, "Is there something the  
23           matter with any of you? We've never had this before and  
24           I don't feel I want it again", and that's the way  
25           I talked to them.

1           So I did say, "I'm going to call you before I go to  
2           bed at night, I'm going to call you and see if that will  
3           help and if there's something the matter that you feel  
4           we need to talk about ... but I don't want 11 wet beds  
5           again, so go and have your shower and let's forget about  
6           it", and I never did have 11 wet beds again. That's how  
7           I dealt with it. Whether it was right or wrong, I'm not  
8           quite sure, but that's how I dealt with it.

9           Q. I think I understand you to say that, notwithstanding  
10          that particular occasion, you had regular bed-wetters --

11          A. I had a few, yes, I did have a few.

12          Q. And were those younger children?

13          A. No, they weren't. There was one particular girl and she  
14          came from a family that went home every weekend.

15          Q. But then if they weren't the younger children, they were  
16          that bit older, did you require to apply your mind as to  
17          why these children were wetting the bed?

18          A. I talked to them about it and I -- but I can't remember  
19          being that terribly concerned that I did anything about  
20          it. It was just happening.

21          Q. Did you have children within your group who might be  
22          described as being disturbed children?

23          A. I had one.

24          Q. Just the one?

25          A. Just one boy, yes.

- 1 Q. Did that mean that you had to --
- 2 A. I had to get help for him.
- 3 Q. -- manage him in a particular way?
- 4 A. Well, I got a social worker involved because I said he
- 5 needed help.
- 6 Q. So far as bed-wetting, to go back to that, is concerned,
- 7 you've explained to us how you managed it on
- 8 a particular occasion and indeed with other bed-wetters.
- 9 But were bed-wetters ever punished?
- 10 A. Never. I mean, some mornings I wouldn't know who wet
- 11 the bed, they would just get up and take their sheets,
- 12 put them in the basket and go for a shower.
- 13 Q. Just to look at that, when you say, "They would get up
- 14 and take their sheets", the child who had wet the bed
- 15 would take the sheets and --
- 16 A. And put it in the basket, yes.
- 17 Q. Where was the basket kept?
- 18 A. Out. Probably in the bathroom or maybe in the passage,
- 19 I'm not quite sure, I can't remember. That's what they
- 20 did. It was just automatic for them. There was
- 21 never -- never that you sort of were getting them up
- 22 and, "Oh my goodness, you've wet the bed again today".
- 23 There's nothing like that.
- 24 Q. But from what you're saying it wasn't also a question of
- 25 the child getting up leaving the bed and leaving the

1           bed --

2           A. Never.

3           Q. -- and --

4           A. No, they just used to pick up their sheets and put them

5           in the basket and have a shower.

6           Q. Did someone tell them to do that though? Were they

7           told? That's the way you have to do it?

8           A. Well, I suppose ... It just happened automatically.

9           I mean, I never said, "This is what you do"; it was

10          done, you know.

11          Q. Do I take it -- it was done before you --

12          A. You're talking about older children. Life -- I tried to

13          make life as normal as I could for them. And because it

14          wasn't an issue, I didn't have to go and say, "This is

15          what you do", you know.

16          Q. I just wonder, there has been evidence, for example,

17          that, for certain bed-wetters, the bed-wetter would get

18          up and a member of staff would deal with the bed, take

19          the sheets off and so on. That wasn't the process that

20          you followed in your group?

21          A. No. I suppose I told them, look, if you're wet, get up,

22          take your sheets and put them in the basket, go and have

23          a shower, and that was all there was about it. If the

24          staff got them up or I got them up, we would do the same

25          thing, call them and say, "Run for your shower now", but

1 I would have to pull it off the bed, whatever way it  
2 happened.

3 Q. If a child was taking his or her own sheet to the  
4 basket, which you said may have been in the bathroom,  
5 then would other children see and realise that this  
6 child had wet the bed?

7 A. I really don't -- I don't think they ... They had their  
8 own rooms. I'm not quite sure whether anybody else  
9 knew. Maybe they did, I don't know.

10 Q. Can I then ask you a little bit about visitors again,  
11 sister.

12 So far as social workers were concerned, what was  
13 the position in Lasswade? You have told us about  
14 Cardonald. Did social workers come to visit children  
15 that had been placed there by Local Authorities?

16 A. Not on a very regular basis if they were going to be  
17 long-stay children. They didn't come very often.

18 Q. But what --

19 A. I can't remember on what type of a regular basis they  
20 would come, you know.

21 Q. If they came then, would you see them?

22 A. Oh absolutely. Oh my goodness, yes, oh definitely.  
23 They would come to see me and then see the children,  
24 yes.

25 Q. Did you have a system at Cardonald that sought to assess



1           how a child was getting on and reviewing a child's --

2           A. No, there wasn't a lot of reviewing in Scotland at all,  
3           no, not at that time; that came later, I think. But  
4           not -- no, not reviews as such. Although I do think --  
5           mind you, I think I was ... was it in Glasgow or  
6           Cardonald? No, it wasn't in Glasgow. I have a strange  
7           feeling, somehow or other, that I had to write for the  
8           panel or I had to ... I'm not sure whether that was  
9           Cardonald or not. So it wasn't something that was  
10          happening on a ... or children would have -- no, I don't  
11          think so. There wasn't anybody for reviews. They were  
12          there and they were long stays, long-stay children.

13         LADY SMITH: Sister, you've mentioned a couple of times that  
14          there was no reviewing in Scotland or not much  
15          reviewing.

16         A. Yes.

17         LADY SMITH: Are you talking about no reviewing by the  
18          Social Work Department?

19         A. Yes, I am.

20         LADY SMITH: Did the order, the Sisters of Nazareth, have  
21          any system for reviewing the progress of the children in  
22          its care?

23         A. No, they came on their own visitation and they looked at  
24          the records. But the reviews, if there was ever any  
25          talk of reviews or something that I would be worried

1           about, then we would review things with Social Services  
2           because I would be worried and they would come and  
3           we would review things then.

4           But on a regular basis, I haven't it in my head that  
5           they came on a regular basis to interview or to review  
6           children on a regular basis: how is so-and-so doing or  
7           how is so-and-so doing? Yes, if they came, we would  
8           talk about it like that, but not a review as such,  
9           Lady Smith.

10          LADY SMITH: In your time, were all the children at  
11           Nazareth House, both Cardonald and Lasswade, placed by  
12           the Local Authority or do you remember any of the  
13           children being placed voluntarily by a parent?

14          A. No, I don't, actually. Not by a parent, no.

15          LADY SMITH: It may be by the time we get to the 70s, that  
16           that wasn't something that happened so much. It  
17           certainly happened earlier, but you have no memory of  
18           that?

19          A. Yes, it did happen earlier, I believe, but it was  
20           always ... It was Social Services that had the children  
21           admitted.

22          LADY SMITH: Because, of course, if a child was being placed  
23           other than by a Social Work Department, you couldn't  
24           look to the Social Work Department to run a review  
25           system.

1 A. That's right, yes.

2 LADY SMITH: But so far as you are aware, the order itself  
3 has never had a system of child review?

4 A. No.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 MR MacAULAY: If I can ask about records then, sister. Did  
7 you have a punishment book?

8 A. No, no.

9 Q. Or at least, if there was one, you were not aware of it?

10 A. No, not at all.

11 Q. You've told us, I think, about the children's files.  
12 Would you then, on a regular basis, put entries into  
13 these files?

14 A. I would if I had necessary -- yes.

15 Q. When you came to leave Lasswade, do I take it that  
16 you -- and indeed Cardonald -- do I take it that you  
17 left behind all the records that you had been taking?

18 A. I did, yes. Whatever I had was left behind, yes. Up to  
19 date, yes.

20 Q. And as with Cardonald, did you also keep what you called  
21 a logbook?

22 A. I did.

23 Q. And again, did you keep a visitors' book as well?

24 A. I did.

25 Q. Was the visitors' book at Lasswade -- was that for your

1           group or was it more for --

2           A. No, it was for my group.

3           Q. Do I take it, if there are four or five groups, there

4           ought to be, according to you, four or five visitors'

5           books?

6           A. Probably, yes, if they did.

7           Q. Was the position the same at Cardonald, that a visitors'

8           book would be dedicated to the group --

9           A. Yes.

10          Q. -- as opposed to the home as a whole?

11          A. Yes, to my knowledge. It wouldn't be a general thing

12          for all the groups, it would be a general thing for --

13          LADY SMITH: Sister, if you just move a little bit back from

14          the microphone -- not too much or we'll lose you from

15          the microphone, but just so that it doesn't fuzz.

16          Thank you.

17          MR MacAULAY: I think we touched on this, but just so I can

18          understand the position, did many children leave your

19          group during your time at Cardonald?

20          A. Cardonald?

21          Q. I'm sorry, Lasswade.

22          A. Only one.

23          Q. Just the one you mentioned?

24          A. Mm-hm.

25          Q. Again, if I can ask you about discipline and punishment

1           at Lasswade: were you given any guidance at Lasswade in  
2           connection with discipline?

3       A.  No, never.

4       Q.  Do you know how the sisters in the other groups  
5           disciplined their children?

6       A.  No, I don't, no.

7       Q.  If a child misbehaved -- and you're now dealing with  
8           older children -- how did you manage that?

9       A.  I would really just talk to them, take them aside and --  
10           I think I would just try and find out why they were like  
11           that or why they were fighting or why they were doing  
12           so-and-so or whatever, but we would only talk about it  
13           and I would always let them know that -- if there was  
14           something wrong being done or I wasn't happy, I would  
15           just let them know that.  But there would be no form of  
16           discipline as such or form of punishment of any  
17           description.

18      Q.  Did you see in your time at Lasswade any child being hit  
19           by a nun?

20      A.  Never.

21      Q.  Did you see anything that might be described as abuse of  
22           a child when you were there?

23      A.  Never, never, never.

24      Q.  What knowledge did you have at that time as to what was  
25           going on in the other groups that were there?

1 A. I just knew the routine of the day and things like that,  
2 more or less the same as my own, especially the ones  
3 like in the main building. But we all came out and get  
4 them up at the same time and they went off to school and  
5 they came in and they spent the evening -- we had huge  
6 grounds in Lasswade and they had plenty of space outside  
7 if the boys wanted to kick a ball or whatever they might  
8 be doing, and the girls were always titivating or doing  
9 something themselves.

10 Q. I think again, when you were asked about Lasswade -- and  
11 this is at paragraphs 182 all the way through to 199 --  
12 a number of allegations were put to you for your  
13 consideration.

14 A. That's right.

15 Q. Do you remember that?

16 A. That's right, yes.

17 Q. In particular, a number of these focused on  
18 Sister [REDACTED] LTX, who you mentioned earlier.

19 A. That's right.

20 Q. She was in the Holycote building?

21 A. She was.

22 Q. So that was a separate building --

23 A. It was, yes.

24 Q. -- to you. But you'll see that the allegations included  
25 bed-wetting practices that involved punishment and

1           humiliation, physical punishments that involved punching  
2           and kicking --

3       A.   Mm-hm.

4       Q.   -- regular slapping and indeed, I think, force-feeding  
5           as well. All these allegations were put to you, sister.

6       A.   They were, yes.

7       Q.   And you're saying you saw no evidence?

8       A.   No, never, never.

9       Q.   What's your response to these allegations?

10      A.   Well, the only time I was with Sister [REDACTED], bless  
11           her, was when we went to Dunbar on our holidays and, as  
12           I say, the three of us, the three in the main building,  
13           we went to the barracks, whereas Holycote were always  
14           given what they called the cottage and things were  
15           always very much more normal down there. They had  
16           rooms, which was very nice down there, but every year  
17           one of us in the main building would get a chance to be  
18           with either Sister [REDACTED] or Sister Joan of Arc. They  
19           always got it and this particular year it was  
20           Sister [REDACTED] and I that were down in the cottage.  
21           She was with me for that three weeks and I never  
22           witnessed anything or heard anything or heard the  
23           children or anything like that. Never heard a word  
24           about it or saw it or saw anything.

25      Q.   Have you spoken to Sister [REDACTED] about the allegations

1 that have been made against her?

2 A. No, I have not, no.

3 Q. You'll be aware, I think --

4 A. I'm aware of them, yes, I am, unfortunately, yes.

5 Q. [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED]

7 A. [REDACTED]

8 Q. [REDACTED]

9 A. [REDACTED]

10 Q. [REDACTED]

11 A. [REDACTED]

12 Q. [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED]

15 [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]

17 A. [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]

22 Q. If we look then at your closing thoughts in your  
23 statement, sister, if I can come to that. What you say  
24 at paragraph 205 is this:

25 "I have heard a lot of the types of allegations that



1           have been made against the Sisters of Nazareth. The  
2           allegations are always the same types of things: things  
3           like the bed-wetting, putting sheets around children's  
4           heads or making them have cold showers, kissing the dead  
5           nuns is another one. It's as if people have heard this  
6           or that and are just writing them down in a different  
7           way."

8           A. Yes, yes.

9           Q. What do you mean by that, sister?

10          A. Well, I just mean that the bed-wetting and putting the  
11          sheet around their heads and kissing this nun, it comes  
12          up in a lot -- I've heard it coming up in a lot of  
13          allegations towards different sisters and I'm amazed  
14          that these sisters never lived together and that  
15          it would happen like that in so many houses. It amazes  
16          me, the same thing. I can't ... I remember at the time  
17          saying to myself: my goodness, are these people meeting  
18          each other, are they saying, "Oh, put this in your  
19          statement, put that", I don't know. I'm just a bit  
20          appalled at the whole thing.

21          Q. I'm trying to understand what point you're making.

22          A. Only that I can't fathom that it's nearly all -- like,  
23          this bed-wetting and this kissing of the nuns, it's in  
24          lots of statements. It's not only in Sister LTX  
25          or wherever, it's in lots of them. And I never heard it

1           until these statements came out.

2           LADY SMITH: Sister, do you appreciate that in this inquiry,  
3           it has not been put to any individual who has made these  
4           allegations about bed-wetting treatment that they have  
5           colluded, spoken to other people about it and all got  
6           together to say the same thing?

7           A. I'm aware of that. That's the way I have looked at it  
8           myself, because not understanding how it came from so  
9           many different people. That's what I mean.

10          LADY SMITH: Well, one might be forgiven, might one not, for  
11          thinking if that really was the belief of your order,  
12          and indeed another order who we've heard from, that  
13          it would have been made clear to this inquiry that that  
14          was their position? That has not happened.

15          A. Yes. Lady Smith, I can accept that, but I'm still very  
16          shocked.

17          LADY SMITH: Well, maybe I'm hearing the same thing from so  
18          many people because it did happen.

19          A. I know, yes. Yes, yes, yes, okay, I can -- yes.

20          LADY SMITH: I'm not suggesting you saw it or you did it,  
21          but I think, as you've now had to realise in relation to  
22          Sister [REDACTED] LTX, for instance, that bad things may well  
23          have happened outwith your knowledge.

24          A. Yes.

25          LADY SMITH: Yes?

1 A. Yes. Maybe, yes, okay. But I find it so, so difficult,  
2 and so, so sad, I really do, and I'm sorry, but I do.

3 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

4 MR MacAULAY: The last question I want to put to you then,  
5 sister, and I have been asked to put this to you: have  
6 any of your former children that you looked after kept  
7 in touch with you?

8 A. Yes, they have. Not a lot, because I suppose maybe  
9 because I have moved from here, there and everywhere,  
10 but I've had some of them come to see me and I've had  
11 one or two staying with me for a while. I've got on  
12 very well with my children, I loved them, and we did  
13 a lot of lovely things together, so those that I'm in  
14 touch with I'll probably always be in touch with.

15 In fact, there were two came to see me not a very  
16 long time ago, actually came to Liverpool, and we had  
17 a lovely afternoon. One of them said, which amazed me,  
18 you know, she said, "We used to feel very sorry for you  
19 because you worked so hard". So I thought, how nice.  
20 And there are so many terrible things being said about  
21 the sisters, you know. So I was very happy to hear  
22 that, that she was happy, and they're getting on now,  
23 the two of them, herself and her sister. But that's  
24 what she said about the sisters. So that was quite  
25 nice.

1 MR MacAULAY: Thank you, sister. Those are all the  
2 questions I have for you and I think I've asked the  
3 questions I've been asked to.

4 A. Thank you, Mr MacAulay.

5 Thank you, Lady Smith.

6 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for  
7 further questions? No.

8 Sister, those are all the questions we have for you  
9 today. It just remains for me to thank you for engaging  
10 with the inquiry, both by providing your written  
11 statement and by coming here today to answer questions  
12 in the inquiry hearing. It has been enormously helpful  
13 to me to hear from you and I'm now able to let you go  
14 with my thanks.

15 A. Thank you, Lady Smith, very much.

16 (The witness withdrew)

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

18 LADY SMITH: Neatly, 11.30, yes. We'll take the morning  
19 break now.

20 (11.30 am)

21 (A short break)

22 (11.50 am)

23 LADY SMITH: I think we now turn to the reading in of  
24 statements; is that right?

25 MS MACLEOD: Yes, that's right. I'm going to read in two

1 statements and then my learned friend Ms Rattray will  
2 also read in two statements.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 Witness statement of "SISTER GWENDOLINE" (read)

5 MS MACLEOD: The first statement is the statement of  
6 a sister who wishes to use the pseudonym  
7 "Sister Gwendoline". The statement can be found at  
8 WIT.001.001.8567:

9 "My name is Sister Gwendoline. I was born in 1934.  
10 My contact details are known to the inquiry.

11 "In 1959, I joined the Order of the Sisters of  
12 Nazareth. Before I joined, I had been working with the  
13 sisters in [REDACTED] Devon. The  
14 order had a children's nursery there and I was employed  
15 as an assistant earning a wage. On joining the order,  
16 I was first sent to Hammersmith for training.

17 "After Hammersmith, I went to help a sister who was  
18 working with babies at Bexhill in Sussex. I was there  
19 for three of four years before I was sent to [REDACTED]  
20 to work with the babies there again. Unfortunately,  
21 I was only there for a year before I went up to  
22 Newcastle. I started off working with babies there too  
23 and then, after about five or six years, I took a group  
24 of older children. The Sister Superior at Newcastle  
25 asked if I would do so because there was nobody with

1           them at the time.

2            "In [REDACTED] 1973, I was moved up to Nazareth House  
3           at Cardonald in Glasgow. I was there for about  
4           18 months and left in [REDACTED] 1974.

5            "I was sent back to Hammersmith for about a year  
6           after that, and then I was in Lancaster for 13 or  
7           14 years. After Lancaster, I was moved back to Bexhill  
8           for a couple of years, and then I was in Isleworth for  
9           about 10 years. I retired after that and moved to  
10          Nazareth House in Cheltenham, [REDACTED]

11          "Whilst I was working with the sisters in [REDACTED]  
12          before I joined the order, I trained as a nursery nurse  
13          and gained a qualification through the Nursery Nurses'  
14          Examination Board. Along with a few others, again  
15          before I joined, I went on to do further training at  
16          Queen Charlotte Maternity Hospital in London. That  
17          qualified me to work with very small babies. When I was  
18          in Newcastle after I joined the order, I did a further  
19          day-release course for working with older children.

20          "I think I was told about a week before I went to  
21          Cardonald that I was going. I had been there before  
22          because we used to go up there on retreat. Sometimes  
23          I would meet the children when I'd gone up on retreat,  
24          although it would only be to say hello or to watch them  
25          kicking a ball around. Occasionally, we would go over

1 to Bellahouston Park with the children and the sisters  
2 that looked after them. The children loved the park  
3 where they could play and we could watch them. Other  
4 than that, I didn't have any involvement with the  
5 children at that time.

6 "I missed the children from Newcastle an awful lot  
7 when I first arrived at Cardonald. It was hard to  
8 adjust.

9 "The sitting room and dining room of my house at  
10 Cardonald were on the ground floor. The bedrooms were  
11 on the top floor. I slept on the same floor, beside the  
12 children, with just a partition around my bed. It was  
13 pretty basic. There was just a chest of drawers and  
14 a chair beside each bed. The washrooms were just along  
15 the corridor from the bedrooms and there were two  
16 showers and one bath.

17 "I was allocated a group of about 12 or 14 children  
18 to look after as a housemother. It wasn't a very big  
19 group. All the groups of children were simply referred  
20 to by the name of the sister that was looked after them.  
21 My group, for example, were just known as  
22 Sister [REDACTED] LNV 's group.

23 "I replaced Sister [REDACTED] LHA and I think my group of  
24 children had been without a sister for a while.  
25 I wasn't given any sort of induction. I was straight

1 in.

2 "Brothers and sisters were kept together in the same  
3 groups at Nazareth House in Cardonald, though not in the  
4 same bedrooms. All of my children had either a brother  
5 or sister in the group as well. I had one family of two  
6 girls and a boy.

7 "I wasn't at Cardonald for very long and the  
8 children remained pretty much the same throughout my  
9 time. There wasn't a big turnover at all. Two girls  
10 left at one time to be fostered, but it didn't work out  
11 and they came back. It was unfortunate really. Two  
12 little ones did join my group but that was all. There  
13 were four sisters working with the children in  
14 Cardonald. There was Sister [REDACTED] LNU who was very good  
15 with them, although unfortunately she has since died.  
16 There was also: Sister [REDACTED] LGS, who is now known as  
17 Sister [REDACTED] LGS; Sister [REDACTED] LHW who is now known as  
18 Sister [REDACTED] LHW; and Sister [REDACTED] LFR, who has since  
19 left the order.

20 "I think the Sister Superior when I arrived was  
21 Mother Mary of Carmen. She left and I think it was  
22 Mother McCarten who took over.

23 "Sister [REDACTED] LNU was in charge of the children  
24 overall, but it was the Sister Superior that kept all  
25 the notes and information about the children.



1           "I had a cleaner and two ladies to help me at  
2           Cardonald. The only one whose name I can remember is  
3           Maria. They all came in from outside. They didn't live  
4           on the premises. There was also a man called **LTS** who  
5           used to come us out sometimes in the van. He wasn't  
6           with the children as such, though.

7           "People would come in from outside Nazareth House to  
8           teach the children Scottish and Irish dancing and also  
9           the violin. That was well established before I arrived.  
10          As well as those people, there was a number of friends  
11          of Nazareth House from the local parish. They would  
12          take the children out for day trips or for shopping and  
13          such like. There were no checks on their backgrounds or  
14          anything like that.

15          "Priests and trainee priests would come to  
16          Nazareth House in Cardonald on retreat, as did other  
17          sisters, but none of them worked with the children. The  
18          priests that were on retreat had rooms on the ground  
19          floor beside our sitting room and dining rooms.  
20          Occasionally, one of them would come in and sit with the  
21          children to watch television. I don't think there was  
22          a television in the priests' rooms.

23          "I'm not sure what the procedure for admitting  
24          a child was. I think the Superior had to fill out  
25          a form, but I had nothing to do with that.

1            "I introduced the two little ones that joined my  
2 group to everyone when they arrived. I showed them  
3 around and I got the older ones to try and make a fuss  
4 of them. It was hard for them.

5            "Boys and girls slept in different rooms on the top  
6 floor that had about five beds in each. Beside the beds  
7 the children had a little chest of drawers and a locker  
8 to keep their things in. They would keep their toys in  
9 there.

10           "The children were supposed to get up by 8 in the  
11 morning at the latest because they had to be in school  
12 at 9. The older ones were a bit difficult sometimes and  
13 would even go without breakfast to stay in bed a little  
14 bit longer. Once they got up, if they were able, the  
15 children would make their own beds. Then they would  
16 wash and brush their teeth and get dressed before having  
17 breakfast. Sometimes we would bring breakfast upstairs  
18 for the children to eat it there. There was quite a  
19 wide corridor and it was a little difficult to keep an  
20 eye on everybody if we were having to hurry up the  
21 bigger ones while getting the little ones ready.

22           "At bedtime we would take the little ones up while  
23 the bigger ones watched the television; that was usually  
24 between 7 and 8 o'clock at night. We tried to get the  
25 older ones in their beds by 9.30, although it was often

1 later. I didn't mind so much at the weekends, but on  
2 weekdays they needed to get off earlier.

3 "There was no staff on duty during the night. The  
4 children would just wake me up if they needed anything.  
5 On the whole, it seemed to be to be the boys that might  
6 need to get up in the night; the girls seem to be all  
7 right. The boys were big enough to go to the toilet  
8 themselves though; it was just along the passage.

9 "There was the occasional child that wet the bed.  
10 It usually occurred after something had happened during  
11 the case. If one of them had, we had a little washing  
12 machine that I could wash a few things in. Otherwise,  
13 the sheets would have to go to the laundry. I never  
14 punished any child that had wet the bed.

15 "There were a couple of showers that the bigger  
16 children used. The showers had curtains for a bit of  
17 privacy. There was also a bath that we could wash the  
18 little ones in. There was always fresh water. I think  
19 the only children that bathed together were two sisters  
20 who liked to get in with each other. I can't remember  
21 how often the children would bath or shower. If they  
22 needed it, if they had been out and got mucky, they  
23 might get an extra bath.

24 "Some of the children liked porridge for breakfast  
25 and some liked a cooked breakfast, others might have

1 cereal. They had a choice. The cooks weren't keen on  
2 children being in the kitchen so they wouldn't able to  
3 make themselves supper or anything.

4 "Most of the children were primary school age, so  
5 it would have been a bit risky for them making food for  
6 themselves. We would take things up from the dining  
7 room for supper or snacks.

8 "Sister [LNW] was in the kitchen and she was very  
9 good. She used to make the children birthday cakes  
10 in the shape of a train or whatever the children liked.

11 "The way I dealt with children not eating was to  
12 tell them that they had to stay at the table until they  
13 had finished. One of my boys didn't like quite a few  
14 things. I told them he would have to stay until it was  
15 finished but I knew I would have to give in. I would  
16 leave him on his own while I went to do washing-up or  
17 something. When I came back, his plate would be clean  
18 and I would give him a bit of praise. After he left the  
19 room, I would have to check the cutlery drawer or  
20 wherever to find where he had put the food. I never let  
21 on.

22 "The children wore a uniform to school and on  
23 a Sunday they would wear white shirts and nice trousers  
24 or skirts. I would wash the white shirts in the washing  
25 machine that we had rather than send them to the

1 laundry.

2 "There was no sharing of clothes. All the children  
3 had their own. As they grew up the bigger children  
4 could go out and buy clothes themselves. It was the  
5 same as a family, I suppose.

6 "As children grew out of their clothes, they were  
7 passed down to the smaller ones. We did make sure the  
8 smaller ones got some new things as well though. It  
9 wouldn't be fair otherwise.

10 "There were no chores for the children to do,  
11 really, except tidy their own area. I don't think  
12 they'd be very keen on doing anything else such as  
13 polishing their shoes or whatever.

14 "As well as the Scottish and Irish dancing, quite  
15 a few of the children got violin lessons and the boys  
16 went to Scouts. None of the girls wanted to go to  
17 Brownies or Girl Guides for some reason.

18 "Each different sister's group had their own  
19 television. I would go up with the little ones when the  
20 bigger children were watching the television. They  
21 would sit and watch films like 'The Birds' and 'Dr Who'  
22 and I don't like things like that. Strangely enough,  
23 even though they watched such things on the television,  
24 when we had some people in to act Little Red Riding  
25 Hood, I think it was, the children were terrified.

1           "There were books round about and the children would  
2 buy comics with their own pocket money if they wanted.  
3 What the children liked doing most of all was  
4 dressing-up, especially if it was wet outside. We had  
5 a box with bits and pieces that they could put on.

6           "There wasn't much of a garden outside but there was  
7 enough space for them to play football and there were  
8 swings and a slide. If it was a nice evening, we often  
9 took them over to Bellahouston Park where they could  
10 play. Sometimes there would be a band playing in the  
11 park. There would often be something on. The children  
12 also liked to meet up with their friends from school.

13          "It would have been good if the children had learned  
14 swimming, but I don't remember us taking them. I don't  
15 think there were any swimming baths around the home.

16          "At the weekends people who were friends of the home  
17 would take the children out for the day.

18          "The children got pocket money every week that they  
19 could spend as they wanted at the local shop. Most of  
20 the toys belonged to all of the children. Sometimes the  
21 little ones would take the bigger ones' toys.

22          "We tried to make sure that the children went away  
23 for a summer break. We felt that they needed a holiday  
24 and we took the little ones to Fairlie in Ayrshire. The  
25 bigger children didn't want to go there.

1           Archbishop Winning was very good and told us if there  
2           was nowhere for them to go, he would see if he could  
3           find something.

4           "There used to be a taxi outing every year,  
5           sometimes twice a year. The taxi drivers were  
6           marvellous. All the taxis would come and they would be  
7           hooting their horns and be all dressed up. They would  
8           take the children out for the day and also took them to  
9           the pantomime.

10          "My brother would occasionally come up for a holiday  
11          and we would take two or three of the children out to  
12          Loch Lomond or the Trossachs for a trip.

13          "The children loved putting up decorations at  
14          Christmas and we would have a nice Christmas dinner.  
15          They would all got presents, which were probably things  
16          that had been donated. If any of the children got  
17          presents from their families we would have to give  
18          whatever it was to them straightaway.

19          "Birthdays were celebrated as well. There would be  
20          a little party and Sister LNW would bake them a cake.

21          "Most of the children went out to Our Lady of  
22          Lourdes Primary School, which was just around the  
23          corner. I can't remember what school the bigger  
24          children went to. The headmaster would usually phone up  
25          if there was something he needed to speak to me about.

1 I would get the parents' evening for the little ones,  
2 but as the children got older they weren't so keen.  
3 I could understand that and I would see if one of the  
4 staff could go instead.

5 "They didn't have a lot of homework to do, but if  
6 they did, I would have them do it as soon as they came  
7 in from school. They could do their homework in the  
8 dining room.

9 "At the end of term, the children would get school  
10 reports which I would see. Some of the reports were  
11 good, some were a little bit of a problem.

12 "The doctor [REDACTED] would come in  
13 regularly. The children needed to have a medical every  
14 year. I don't remember the name of the doctor, [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED] None of my children were  
16 seriously ill at any time, they were quite healthy.

17 "A nurse would go into the school quite a bit and  
18 she would say if any of the children needed dental care.  
19 I can't remember any of them going to the dentist,  
20 although I do remember some of the children losing their  
21 first teeth.

22 "One of the things the children did get was nits.  
23 I would get a phone call from the school to let me know  
24 that nits had been found on some of them. It wasn't  
25 only our children though; some children from outside



1 would get them too. The doctor was very good and used  
2 to give us some stuff for that.

3 "There were no deaths of children while I was at  
4 Nazareth House in Cardonald.

5 "We went to Mass very early in the morning. None of  
6 the children were expected to go to morning Mass. The  
7 only time the children were expected to attend Mass was  
8 on a Sunday, and they would often go across to the  
9 parish church because it was later there. We didn't  
10 mind which Mass they went to, as long as they attended  
11 one.

12 "Religious instruction was mostly done by the  
13 school. We would say night prayers and morning prayers  
14 and grace before eating, but I don't think we did much  
15 else. We had picture books of the different parables of  
16 the Gospel, but that was about it.

17 "Very few family members came to visit the children.  
18 There was no set visitors' day. Families could come  
19 when they wanted, but there wasn't much contact with  
20 families. It was very sad. Even if they sent birthday  
21 cards, that would have been something. I think maybe  
22 two of the little ones got a birthday card, but the  
23 older ones didn't get any.

24 "There was one little girl whose father always  
25 promised he would come and visit, but he just wouldn't

1           turn up. She used to tell me she hated her father and  
2           then one of the staff found all these letters in the  
3           little girl's drawer when they were putting something  
4           in. They were all addressed to 'Darling Daddy' and  
5           'Dear Daddy'. It was very sad. It was damaging every  
6           time he would say he would come and then didn't.

7           "Social workers would come round roughly every  
8           three months or more often if they needed to. Often  
9           it would be different social workers for the same  
10          children. One child might have three or four social  
11          workers. The social workers would speak to the children  
12          privately and, if there was anything they needed to  
13          speak to me about, they would do so afterwards.

14          "I didn't keep any records other than when children  
15          got their inoculations or had to be seen by the doctor.  
16          We didn't have an office and you couldn't leave things  
17          like that lying around. The Sister Superior kept all  
18          the records. If a child was being discharged I would  
19          have to go to the superior and get the discharge book,  
20          so I could complete it. After doing so, I would then  
21          have to -- it would then have to be returned.

22          "I also had to fill in a menu book to record what  
23          the children had to eat. I don't know what happened to  
24          these books. I never had any more involvement than  
25          that.

1           "There would be inspections from Hammersmith and the  
2 Home Office used to come round as well to check that  
3 everything was all right. They would look at the menu  
4 books and I suppose check that the children were getting  
5 a balanced diet. I'm sure they would have written  
6 reports but I never saw any. I don't know what might  
7 have been in the reports.

8           "I was not involved in any review of my children's  
9 care. The social workers sorted all that out and then  
10 they would tell me. All I know of the two girls coming  
11 back from being fostered was what the social worker told  
12 me.

13           "Some of the social workers were very good and would  
14 keep me informed about the children. Some allowed me to  
15 have some input, others were not so good. I suppose  
16 they possibly had a lot of children to see.

17           "As the sister in charge of a group, I didn't know  
18 the history of any of the children and what family they  
19 might have had. That would only have been only by the  
20 Sister Superior or by Sister [REDACTED] LNU, who was in  
21 charge of all the children's groups.

22           "When two girls left to go into foster care, they  
23 would have been formally discharged. They were only  
24 away for about a fortnight before they came back and I  
25 don't know what the discharge procedure was. I don't

1 know if contact would have been maintained with them if  
2 they stayed away.

3 "If a child needed to be disciplined I wouldn't  
4 given them all their pocket money straightaway. I would  
5 wait until they did something good before they could get  
6 it. I would also tell them they weren't allowed to  
7 watch the television or go out and play football.

8 "There were no written rules or codes of conduct or  
9 anything like that with the sisters. There was never  
10 any use of corporal punishment at Nazareth House in  
11 Cardonald. I never had it when I was young and I think  
12 that you must find another way around a problem instead.

13 "I don't think there were any records kept if  
14 a child had to be disciplined at all. I certainly never  
15 knew of a punishment book or anything similar.

16 "I wouldn't know what went on with other groups, but  
17 I'm sure they wouldn't have used corporal punishment  
18 either. Sisters would often meet up and discuss things  
19 and I'm sure I would have known.

20 "I remember one day the school headmaster phoned up  
21 and told me he was sending a boy home. He had blocked  
22 all the toilets in the school with toilet paper. When  
23 he came home, I never said much to him at all.  
24 I thought the headmaster could correct him if he wanted  
25 to.

1 "I never saw any behaviour at Cardonald that I would  
2 consider was abusive. Even with the benefit of  
3 hindsight, I don't think there was any abusive behaviour  
4 towards the children.

5 "Similarly, none of the children ever reported  
6 anything to me. They might say that one of the other  
7 children had hit them, but that was all. I was not  
8 aware of anything that caused me any concern. I think  
9 I had a sufficiently good relationship with the children  
10 that they would feel able to come and speak to me if  
11 there was anything that troubled them.

12 "I asked to leave Nazareth House Cardonald because  
13 my hearing was getting increasingly worse. [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED] I was finding it difficult working  
16 with children. It was hard to hear the children's  
17 higher pitched voices and I felt they needed somebody  
18 who was able to hear and speak to them properly,  
19 somebody who could give them a better life.

20 "I asked to do something else and had a choice of  
21 being with elderly people or being in the kitchen, so  
22 I thought I would try working in the kitchen. I did say  
23 that I would still until they found somebody good to  
24 replace me and it was another six months before a  
25 Sister Myron was found. I think she was home from

1 Africa. I never met with her and there was no handover.

2 "I was sorry to leave the children. After  
3 18 months, I had become fond of them, but it was for the  
4 best. One of the things I found hard was that the  
5 Superiors in Hammersmith didn't want me to keep in  
6 contact with them. They said it was better not to  
7 because it would make it hard for the sister coming in.

8 "Since I left, I've never been back."

9 In paragraphs 84 to 137 of the statement, various  
10 allegations made to the inquiry by former residents of  
11 Cardonald against other sisters who may have been there  
12 around the same time as Sister Gwendoline were put to  
13 her. Sister Gwendoline professes no knowledge of what  
14 is said.

15 I'll pick the statement up at paragraph 138, which  
16 is on WIT.001.001.8593:

17 "I have not previously been made aware of any of  
18 these allegations. I did not witness any such abuse,  
19 nor did any child or anyone else report any such thing  
20 to me. Occasionally, I or one of the other sisters  
21 might have shouted at a child, but nothing more than  
22 that.

23 "I accept such behaviour would amount to abuse, but  
24 it is not something I have ever experienced or heard of.

25 "I don't know why all these allegations have been

1           made. Sometimes you can convince yourself that  
2           something happened when it didn't. Sometimes perhaps  
3           something that might have been done with good intentions  
4           might be taken a different way.

5           "I am aware that as a result of their experiences in  
6           care, some people have described the long-term impact  
7           and the effect the abuse has had on them. I cannot  
8           offer any explanation as to why that impact might have  
9           occurred.

10          "Quite a while ago, in 2004, I had to write  
11          a statement regarding a former resident and her time at  
12          Cardonald. I have not provided any other statements to  
13          either the police or any other agency.

14          "I still have three or four photographs that were  
15          taken during my time at Nazareth House Cardonald. The  
16          photos were taken when we were out in Bellahouston one  
17          day by someone with one of those instant cameras.  
18          I also have some photographs from when we were in  
19          Fairlie for a holiday. The children in one of them  
20          weren't mine, they were Sister Elizabeth's. I am also  
21          in one of the photographs with Sister LFR.  
22          I don't want to part with the photographs: they are the  
23          only ones I have left of the children. I can provide  
24          them to the inquiry if you would like to see them.

25          "I think it would have been nice if the children had

1 had their own rooms. It would have been great if they  
2 had had a little privacy but in those days they didn't  
3 think along these lines.

4 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
5 published as part of my evidence to the inquiry.  
6 I believe the facts stated in the witness statement are  
7 true."

8 The statement was signed by Sister Gwendoline on  
9 8 May, 2018.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Miss MacLeod.

11 Witness statement of "SISTER ANTOINETTE"

12 MS MACLEOD: The next statement is the statement of a sister  
13 who wishes to use the pseudonym "Sister Antoinette".

14 The statement is at WIT.001.001.7833:

15 "My name is Sister Antoinette. I was born in 1926.  
16 My contact details are known to the inquiry."

17 In paragraphs 2 to 4 the witness speaks about her  
18 family background and her life before she joined the  
19 Sisters of Nazareth. I'll pick the statement up at  
20 paragraph 5 at WIT.001.001.7834:

21 "I joined the Sisters of Nazareth when I was  
22 21 years old. I left Ireland to go to Hammersmith for  
23 a period of three years. After that, you profess and  
24 then go out to the branch houses to work with the  
25 congregation. I trained to be a nun in Birmingham.



1           "The first branch house I went to was Bexhill-on-Sea  
2 in East Sussex. I must have been about 25 or 26 years  
3 old. I stayed in Sussex for the biggest part of my  
4 life. I then went to Plymouth, Cheltenham and also  
5 spent three years in America.

6           "I went to Scotland in the 1970s. I think it was in  
7 1972 or 1973. I would have been 44 or 45 years old.  
8 I went to Glasgow and stayed there for roughly two or  
9 three years. I wasn't there very long. I worked in  
10 Nazareth House Cardonald, Glasgow. I didn't work  
11 anywhere else when I was in Scotland.

12           "I went to Manchester after leaving Scotland and  
13 didn't go back to Scotland after that. I had no reason  
14 to.

15           "I have never worked with children or older people.  
16 I have always worked in catering.

17           "I went to college in Birmingham and Richmond when  
18 I was a nun. I received qualifications in catering and  
19 confectionary.

20           "I worked [REDACTED] in the kitchen in  
21 Nazareth House Cardonald. The kitchen was located  
22 within the vicinity of the convent. Once you came  
23 in the main entrance and went along the corridor, it was  
24 on the right-hand side. It was a very upmarket kitchen.

25           "The kitchen catered for the children, the nuns and

1 the residents. The residence were old local people in  
2 residential care. They were in a separate block  
3 altogether. There were roughly about 35 to  
4 40 residents. A sister would look after them with  
5 staff.

6 "I worked with food all the time. I organised  
7 breakfast, lunches, right through to the evening meal  
8 every day. I also ordered the food, organised the diets  
9 and prepared the menus. The children would sometimes  
10 have a different menu from the residents.

11 "We had Mass very early in those days. I think  
12 I would go to Mass for about 8.15 am or 8.30 am. The  
13 staff would be on by that time. They usually came on  
14 earlier than me.

15 "I had four members of staff and I managed them.  
16 I had three staff members on in the morning and then one  
17 extra came on in the afternoon. The staff were local,  
18 secular people. I never worked with any sisters.

19 "I did my share of the cooking, but I allotted the  
20 staff their own position and accountability.

21 "Everybody ate in different groups and had their own  
22 dining rooms. I know that because we sent all the  
23 different trolleys to different areas for the nuns, the  
24 children and the residents. My staff would load the  
25 trolleys up with food and they'd go to the different

1 areas.

2 "There were two sisters in charge of the different  
3 groups of children. I didn't work with the children and  
4 I didn't have any contact with them. The children never  
5 worked in the kitchen. I was not involved in caring for  
6 them. I saw them running around and would see them  
7 coming in and out of the building, but I had no contact  
8 with them.

9 "I didn't know anything about the routine of the  
10 children or living area because I had no connection with  
11 them whatsoever. I had enough on my plate to keep  
12 things going in the kitchen. All of my attention was on  
13 my job. My job was completely separate from the  
14 children's area.

15 "When you are involved in the catering, you don't  
16 get involved with the children. You do their diet and  
17 prepare their meals but that's it. I wasn't involved in  
18 any of the discipline of the children. The other  
19 sisters wouldn't have thanked me for any interference.  
20 We all kept to our own areas and jobs.

21 "On one or two occasions I went to the children's  
22 area to watch the television with the sister there. We  
23 didn't have a television in our area and the sister  
24 would ask me to come over. I can't remember her name.  
25 This would only be if it was a programme I really wanted

1 to see because I officially wasn't supposed to be there.

2 "The children would be in the television room there  
3 too. They would be sitting watching the television with  
4 cushions on their laps. There were also alcoves where  
5 the children could do something else if they didn't want  
6 to watch television. They were very independent  
7 children and could sit where they wanted. There was  
8 a flexibility.

9 "The kitchen did everything right down to the  
10 children's cocoa at night. I would make the menu for  
11 the week and send it out to the sister in charge of the  
12 children. I would also make some suggestions for any  
13 changes on the back. The children loved their puddings,  
14 so I would make suggestions for puddings. I would ask  
15 the sister to have a look and send it back to me in  
16 plenty of time with any changes. I was strict.

17 "I imagine the sister would discuss the menu with  
18 the children. She would ask if they were satisfied and  
19 the children would all say what they wanted. Then the  
20 sister in charge would go with the majority, make the  
21 changes, and send it back to me. She would tell the  
22 other children that they could get what they wanted on  
23 another occasion. She wouldn't deprive them.

24 "The sister in charge of the children would write  
25 any changes she wanted to make on the menu and send it

1 back to me. There is nothing more boring than having  
2 the same food all the time, so we would make different  
3 food for them. All the children would get the same food  
4 unless a request was made for something different like  
5 a birthday cake. I made birthday cakes for the  
6 children.

7 "The children would get their meals on a trolley  
8 in the dining room. One of the kitchen staff would take  
9 it over to the dining room for them. I don't think they  
10 usually had their lunch coming from me.

11 "I don't remember the name of any of the sisters  
12 I worked with in Glasgow. It was so long ago, in the  
13 1970s, and I have travelled a lot since then.

14 "I was only in Glasgow for a short period and my  
15 mind was set on my work. When you know you are going to  
16 be somewhere for a short while, you don't take a big  
17 interest in anything other than your own job.

18 "I didn't have anything to do with the visitors for  
19 the children or social workers. I had more to do with  
20 dieticians and Home Office inspectors.

21 "The authorities naturally visited the home. They  
22 would come to the kitchen to see the menu. It would  
23 have been the Home Office at that time. If anybody came  
24 to the kitchen, they would automatically have to put  
25 a white coat on.

1            "A dietician came to visit on one occasion. I don't  
2 know where she came from, but it is the district's job  
3 to send them. She was very nice and helpful. I think  
4 she was local, although she didn't have a Scottish  
5 accent. They would just come in and look at the menu.

6            "Someone from the Home Office also paid a visit on  
7 one occasion. That was for the whole house, not just  
8 for me. I'm saying they were from the Home Office, but  
9 they may have had a different title.

10           "I don't remember a Sister [REDACTED] LFL [REDACTED],  
11 Sister [REDACTED] LHA [REDACTED] or Sister [REDACTED] IKR [REDACTED]. The name  
12 Sister [REDACTED] LJS [REDACTED] is familiar to me, but I can't say for sure  
13 if I remember her in Glasgow.

14           "I would be very shocked to the core to hear of any  
15 abuse of any nature going on. They were such friendly,  
16 loving children. I would see them out playing and they  
17 were bright and full of life.

18           "I have been advised that a number of children who  
19 stayed at Nazareth House Cardonald have made allegations  
20 of abuse against members of the order, Sisters of  
21 Nazareth. No allegations have been made against me and  
22 I can confirm that I have not been the subject of  
23 a police complaint nor have I been the subject of  
24 a civil action.

25           "I can't comment on what people are saying happened

1 with abuse, but I would be shocked if it was the case.  
2 It never happened in my time. It is hurtful beyond  
3 words to hear it and to do it would be terrible.

4 "This is psychology. What I can see about the  
5 children is that if they come from a very unhappy home  
6 and feel abandoned or not loved, then they need  
7 attention, love and a home. I think maybe some of the  
8 bigger children would resent being in a home,  
9 particularly when they would hear associates at school  
10 talking about holidays with their mummies and daddies.  
11 I think that would have a very physical effect on  
12 a child.

13 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
14 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.  
15 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
16 true."

17 The statement was signed by Sister Antoinette on  
18 6 April 2018.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

20 MS MACLEOD: I will now pass over to my learned friend  
21 Ms Rattray.

22 Witness statement of SISTER OONAH HANRAHAN (read)

23 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, the first statement is of a witness,  
24 Sister Oonah Hanrahan, who is a sister with the Sisters  
25 of Nazareth, and her statement can be found at

1 WIT.001.001.7126:

2 "My name is Oonah Hanrahan. I was previously known  
3 as Sister Philip, which was the name given to me at my  
4 profession. Many sisters returned to using their  
5 baptismal names in latter years but I was one of the  
6 later ones to do so because I was a teacher in Belfast  
7 for such a long time and I thought it would be confusing  
8 to change it while I was still teaching. I reverted to  
9 my family name when I retired from teaching.

10 "I was born in 1942. My contact details are known  
11 to the inquiry.

12 "I joined the Sisters of Nazareth in 1960. After my  
13 training record and profession, I went to college in  
14 Southampton and did three years of primary schoolteacher  
15 training.

16 "My first teaching post was in Derry in 1964. I was  
17 there for three years. I was then asked to come to  
18 Belfast where I taught in our school for just a little  
19 over a year.

20 "I was then requested to go to Bexhill-on-Sea and  
21 was there for almost seven years. I was asked to come  
22 back to Derry in 1975 and I taught there for one term.

23 "I had some trouble with my back during that period  
24 so that is when I came out of teaching for a little  
25 while.



1           "I was asked to go and work with the children in  
2           Isleworth, Middlesex, at the beginning of 1976. Around  
3           November of that year, I was asked to go to Kilmarnock  
4           and I left Middlesex on 1 December 1976.

5           "I was in Kilmarnock from December until May 1977.  
6           I have been told that the information provided to the  
7           inquiry by the order is that I was in Kilmarnock from  
8           1 December 1976 to 4 May 1977. That makes sense.  
9           I didn't think I had been a full six months there.

10          "It isn't usual to spend such a short time in a  
11          place, but it could happen. Sometimes when you are  
12          asked to move, it might be to facilitate something else,  
13          like a sister getting sick somewhere or somebody  
14          requesting a move. You didn't always know why you were  
15          being requested to go somewhere, and you didn't ask the  
16          reasons why. Obviously I was needed in Kilmarnock  
17          at the time and was asked to go there, so I went.

18          "One of the few times when I knew why I was being  
19          asked to go to a place was when I went to  
20          Bexhill-on-Sea. A sister had left the order and the  
21          only other teacher available was one of her relatives.  
22          For some reason they decided they wouldn't send her  
23          there, so I was asked to go.

24          "After Kilmarnock, I went to Plymouth to help out.  
25          I wasn't in any senior role. I think I was there until

1           October 1977. I then went to Middlesbrough and worked  
2           with children there until January 1980 when I was asked  
3           to come back to teaching, back to Belfast, and I've been  
4           here ever since.

5           "I didn't have to go through any kind of interview  
6           process before going to Kilmarnock. You were kind of  
7           requested by the order to go to places, but it was  
8           assumed that you would agree to the requests. That was  
9           how we worked. I didn't have any problem with going to  
10          Kilmarnock.

11          "I never went through any vetting or checking  
12          processes. I don't think that kind of thing existed  
13          then as I didn't go through it even when I was going to  
14          my teaching posts.

15          "I think there was a Catholic Children's Society and  
16          the sisters all went to Glasgow for an ongoing formation  
17          meeting, but there were no formal childcare courses or  
18          training in Kilmarnock. Other than my teaching  
19          qualification, I didn't do any other training or  
20          childcare courses before I went to Kilmarnock. I did  
21          short courses in connection with childcare when I was in  
22          Middlesbrough, but that was after I had been in  
23          Kilmarnock.

24          "My role was to create a homely atmosphere for the  
25          children. I acted as housemother in my own group.

1 I suppose the idea was to create as homely and normal an  
2 environment for children who weren't actually in their  
3 own homes or in a normal environment. The children did  
4 as many normal things as other children did. I remember  
5 it being a homely place.

6 "I didn't get a formal explanation of my role or any  
7 kind of induction period. My general responsibilities  
8 were to be there for the children, to provide an order  
9 to their day, and to see to their welfare.

10 We didn't have to cook the meals. We had a central  
11 kitchen and a lovely sister who was a very good cook.  
12 I think her name Sister Columbiere.

13 "There were two groups of children in the house. If  
14 I remember correctly, there were several small family  
15 units, brothers and sisters together, in my group. As  
16 far as I remember, siblings were kept together. I don't  
17 remember any child having a family member in the other  
18 group.

19 "I can't remember exactly how many children were  
20 there. I've been trying to go through the names in my  
21 head. I'm guessing I had about 12 to 15 in my group,  
22 but there could have been more. I think the age range  
23 was from about 4 or 5 up to 16. I know there was a girl  
24 who must have been about 15 or 16. She always stood  
25 out. I don't think she had any family members there.

1 She was a beautiful girl.

2 "I don't know what my first impressions of the home  
3 were, but my lasting impression was that they were  
4 lovely children. That's what I remember even when  
5 I can't remember names and faces.

6 "In other postings and in my teaching career, I have  
7 come across children who were troubled and had  
8 behavioural problems, but I don't remember any of the  
9 that in Kilmarnock. They were really nice children.

10 "The Sister Superior in the house was Sister LMF?  
11 LMF? I remember her because I had lived with her  
12 before in Derry.

13 "The sister who had most to do with the children was  
14 Sister LGO. She was responsible for the other group  
15 of children. She was the senior sister, but we ran our  
16 groups independently and she didn't interfere with mine.

17 "I think Sister LGO was responsible for records  
18 and other such things. For example, I don't remember  
19 knowing why the children were with us. You  
20 automatically assumed that something had gone wrong at  
21 home, maybe illness or separation, for the children to  
22 be brought into care. I wouldn't have known their case  
23 histories. My feeling about that on reflection is that  
24 it was a protection for the children. It would have  
25 been a matter of confidentiality. That's what I'm

1           assuming.

2           "I would have been ultimately accountable to the  
3           Sister Superior, but in my day-to-day dealings with  
4           regards to affairs of the children it would have been  
5           with Sister **LGO**. I would say she operated in a sort  
6           of mentoring and supervisory role. I just remember her  
7           being a very supportive person.

8           "I had two female staff. I don't remember their  
9           names, nor do I remember if they were full time or part  
10          time.

11          "There were no changes to personnel or roles during  
12          my time in Kilmarnock.

13          "The house itself was big. In one section of it  
14          there were elderly residents, but the children's part  
15          was in a separate part of the building. I think  
16          we weren't very far from the town centre.

17          "My group and Sister **LGO**'s shared a dining room,  
18          but we had our own lovely big sitting rooms on the  
19          ground floor. The two sitting rooms were both on the  
20          same side of the corridor and the dining room was on the  
21          opposite side. The bedroom areas were upstairs. That's  
22          my memory of it. I can't remember if the bedrooms for  
23          both groups were on the same floor.

24          "The bedrooms were nice, bright colours. There were  
25          little sliding doors across the rooms. I think it might

1 have been a large area that was divided. All the  
2 children had a place to keep their clothes and  
3 belongings in their room. There were three or four beds  
4 in a room. I remember one little bedroom with four beds  
5 in it. I slept in a small room near where the children  
6 slept.

7 "There may be records that could prove me wrong, but  
8 I don't have any recollection of any children being  
9 admitted into the home when I was there. It seemed to  
10 be a settled group that was there when I arrived and  
11 when I left.

12 "I don't know what time the children were expected  
13 to get up in the morning. I presume about an hour to  
14 an hour and a half before school time. I suppose  
15 it would have been about half past 7 or 8 o'clock.

16 "The children would get washed, dressed, put on  
17 their school uniforms, and then go off to school after  
18 they had had some breakfast. I don't remember if any of  
19 the children had problems with bed-wetting. It's very  
20 likely that there would have been a child that would  
21 have had that problem. I have been asked how that would  
22 be dealt with. We would just remove the bedclothes.  
23 Washing clothes and changing beds probably would have  
24 been dealt with when the children weren't there. If  
25 a child had wet the bed, they would have had the

1 opportunity to wash and clean up before they got  
2 dressed.

3 "I think bedtime was staggered. Obviously younger  
4 children went first and the older girls and boys had  
5 different bedtimes.

6 "My bedroom was on the same floor as the children's  
7 bedrooms. I was within call, so to speak. If  
8 I remember correctly, the staff weren't resident, so  
9 I would be there at night if a child needed me. If the  
10 children needed to get up through the night to go to the  
11 toilet, they were free to do so. They didn't need to  
12 come to me for permission.

13 "I don't think the shower age had really come in at  
14 that time. I think it tended to be baths then. Baths  
15 wouldn't have been a nightly occurrence for each child.  
16 I don't think the whole group would have bathed every  
17 night. I don't recollect, but I imagine so many  
18 children would have had a bath each night. There would  
19 have been hot water and basins available for the others.  
20 The children didn't share a bath and clean water was  
21 drawn for each child.

22 "All the children had their own clothes. They  
23 didn't wear a uniform in the house. I'm sure we bought  
24 the clothes for the younger children. I think the older  
25 ones would probably have gone out and bought their own.

1 I remember going down to town and buying basic things  
2 like tights.

3 "I presume the staff and I washed and ironed the  
4 clothes. I think that's probably what we were doing  
5 when the children were out at school.

6 "They definitely had cereal and toast for breakfast  
7 but I remember that some days they had a choice of  
8 porridge and possibly a fry. I've been in other houses  
9 and in lots of the houses they had cereal plus something  
10 else so I'm assuming it was the same in Kilmarnock.  
11 That would have been the norm.

12 "I don't have any memory of making packed lunches,  
13 so I'm assuming the children had school meals. I think  
14 they probably had milk or juice when they came home from  
15 school.

16 "I think evening meals would have been around 5.30  
17 or 6 o'clock. The food was very nice. They got lovely,  
18 hot meals. We got the same food and I thought it was  
19 very nice. I was a little bit fascinated because they  
20 had some Scottish things like bridies and stovies that  
21 I'd never heard of. These were actually very nice.  
22 I thought we were fortunate as we had a very good cook.  
23 She was generous and there was variety.

24 "I don't remember having any problems getting  
25 children to eat. They all seemed to be very normal,



1 hungry children. There would have been enough food  
2 available to provide an alternative if there was one  
3 specific thing a child didn't want to eat.

4 "I don't think a child would have been forced to eat  
5 something. I have lots of dislikes myself, so  
6 I couldn't ever see myself forcing somebody to take  
7 something they really didn't want.

8 "The children had their own toys and we had a big  
9 television and games in the sitting room. I think there  
10 would have been books there too. Obviously, they would  
11 play outside if the weather was good. There was  
12 a grassy space and a big climbing frame for play.

13 "I remember we had a cold period and there was a lot  
14 of snow but the children still went outside then and  
15 they were fine.

16 "The children were involved in lots of activities  
17 outside. I think the children did Scottish dancing.  
18 I know a couple of the girls used to do majorettes.  
19 They did all the normal things. They went to the cinema  
20 and swimming. I don't remember going with them.  
21 It would have been the staff or the older ones taking  
22 their younger siblings out.

23 "They got pocket money and went down to town.  
24 I don't remember how much they got. Normally, they got  
25 pocket money according to their age.

1           "I don't think we had the facilities to let them  
2 learn skills such as baking. We didn't actually have  
3 cooking facilities at that time. I don't think the  
4 children went into the main kitchen. That would have  
5 been a health and safety issue.

6           "I think we had a kind of scale of little chores.  
7 Setting and clearing the tables and tidying the rooms  
8 would be the kind of chores they did. It would be  
9 normal practice to have some little chore, but it would  
10 be age related. Some children wouldn't be able to do  
11 things. I think it would have been on a rota basis.  
12 I don't think they were always given the same thing to  
13 do. Children would be the first to object if you gave  
14 them the same job all the time.

15           "I don't remember if I ever involved any of the  
16 older children in washing or ironing the clothes. It is  
17 possible that they would have helped to look after their  
18 own clothes. You would normally look after things like  
19 polishing shoes for children, but possibly the older  
20 children helped with that too.

21           "I don't remember any organised trips or holidays.  
22 I wasn't there during the summer holidays.

23           "The house was decorated for Christmas. It was  
24 nice. We had our own Christmas meal in the house and  
25 the children got presents. Some children, not many, had

1 family members visiting and they probably brought  
2 presents too. They also got invited to parties.  
3 I don't remember if any children got the opportunity to  
4 go and spend time with their families at Christmas.

5 "The children's birthdays were celebrated. A cake  
6 would come from the kitchen and they'd get a gift.

7 "I think the younger ones went to school in  
8 a minibus. We had a minibus and a driver. I think the  
9 secondary schoolkids were within walking distance of the  
10 school. I don't remember the names of the schools.  
11 I think most of the children were Catholic and went to  
12 Catholic schools.

13 "I think they got homework at primary and secondary  
14 school. They probably did it in the big sitting room.  
15 The staff and I would have been there to assist them.  
16 The older children might have gone up to their rooms if  
17 they wanted some privacy, but I'm just surmising that.

18 "I don't remember ever going to a school parents'  
19 meeting. It's likely these would have taken place at  
20 the beginning and at the end of the school year and  
21 I was only there from December to May. Being a teacher  
22 myself, I think I would have remembered if I'd gone down  
23 it to a school.

24 "We didn't have religious instruction as such, we  
25 had religious practice, as I would call it. For

1 example, there would have been Mass on Sunday and we  
2 probably said a little prayer together in the evening.  
3 That's the usual practice.

4 "There would have been a nursing sister in the  
5 community working with the elderly but she wouldn't have  
6 had a role in the children's department. Children would  
7 still have seen a nurse in school for things like  
8 hearing and sight tests at that time. There would have  
9 been a visiting GP. That was the practice everywhere,  
10 so I'm assuming it was the practice in Kilmarnock.

11 "I don't know how regular the visits would have  
12 been. We would have had systems where routine health  
13 checks were done to note height, weight, et cetera of  
14 the children. These things were obligatory so they  
15 would have been the practice at all times. I think if  
16 there were any medical records kept in the house outside  
17 of what was held at the doctor's surgery, these would  
18 have been kept by Sister **LGO**.

19 "I think the children would have gone to the local  
20 dentist. I have no recollection of my child in my care  
21 requiring to go to hospital. There were definitely no  
22 deaths among the children during my time in Kilmarnock.

23 "There wasn't a set visitors' day. I don't remember  
24 many children having visits from their families. I know  
25 there was one father who visited his children, and the

1           only reason I remember that is because he contacted me  
2           relatively recently. I don't remember children having  
3           days out or weekends with their families. It doesn't  
4           mean it didn't happen; I just don't remember it.

5           "I don't remember whether the children were  
6           encouraged to try and keep in contact with their  
7           families by means of writing or telephoning. Obviously  
8           that would depend on why the children were in care in  
9           the first place.

10          "The children didn't get regular visits from  
11          social workers. I don't remember meeting many  
12          social workers, and I don't remember a case conference.  
13          Maybe it wasn't the practice to have case conferences  
14          then.

15          "There were frequent case conferences in latter  
16          years. My experience in other places is that case  
17          conferences were held in our houses and we were present.  
18          Sister **LGO** might have seen the social workers when  
19          I didn't but I'm not sure about that.

20          "I don't know if there were any other people  
21          visiting the home who would have had access to the  
22          children. I know that visitors to other parts of the  
23          house would not have had access to the children's part  
24          of the house. It was a kind of custom in our places  
25          that even, for example, sisters working with the elderly

1 would not be walking into our part of the house and  
2 we wouldn't go into their area. The units were kept  
3 separate that way.

4 "I think the local parish priest said Mass for the  
5 sisters probably once a week when the children were  
6 there, but there were no other visits from priests or  
7 trainee priests.

8 "I don't remember any very disruptive issues. I  
9 have been trying to think about how a child would have  
10 been sanctioned. I think maybe going to bed a little  
11 bit earlier, missing a television programme or being  
12 given a little chore to do. I don't remember any  
13 serious incidents where a child had to be sanctioned.  
14 There was never any use of corporal punishment during my  
15 time in Kilmarnock.

16 "I have been asked whether there were any written or  
17 unwritten codes of conduct or rules of behaviour.  
18 I don't remember as such. I don't know what sort of  
19 behaviour would have merited a sanction and an entry  
20 in the punishment book. The worst thing that could  
21 probably happen would be fighting with each other or  
22 maybe bullying. That's all I can think of. I don't  
23 remember having very aggressive children. They didn't  
24 have the opportunity to do anything terribly bad. Their  
25 day was very full and they were very normal kids, so

1 I presume something like squabbling or not doing  
2 something they were supposed to do would be the kind of  
3 things they would be disciplined for.

4 "I did not witness any behaviour from staff that  
5 I considered to be abusive and I didn't notice any  
6 behaviours from the children that would indicate abuse,  
7 but then I didn't know their backgrounds. In latter  
8 years, through my teaching, I would have had experience  
9 of behaviours of children who had been abused and  
10 I didn't notice anything like that in Kilmarnock.

11 "No children ever brought concerns to me about  
12 anyone else's treatment of them. I would have reported  
13 it immediately if they had done. I can't remember if  
14 there was a written procedure for reporting matters. It  
15 wasn't like nowadays, but you would report it first to  
16 the senior sister, Sister **LGO**, and also the Superior,  
17 and then the social workers if they were involved.  
18 I think the social workers would have been informed  
19 through Sister **LGO**.

20 "I have been asked whether I think my relationship  
21 with the children was such that they would have been  
22 able to bring any concerns to me. I would hope so, but  
23 obviously abuse by its very nature is something children  
24 find very difficult to talk about. I have been asked  
25 whether looking back with the benefit of hindsight there

1 is anything in relation to the interaction amongst the  
2 children or between the children and the carers that  
3 would concern me today that wasn't sufficient to concern  
4 me at the time. No. My overall memory is that it was  
5 a stable environment and the children were very lovely  
6 and normal, considering they had been removed from their  
7 own homes.

8 "I have never learned of any reports of abuse or any  
9 subsequent investigations into the home from around the  
10 time I was there.

11 "I have no recollection of any local authority  
12 inspections taking place and we didn't have a visitation  
13 by our own congregation during my five months in  
14 Kilmarnock.

15 "It was usual practice to make available all the  
16 books and records we kept for inspections. These would  
17 also be inspected by our own congregation when they did  
18 visitations. When a visitation was carried out, an  
19 official stamp would be put on the records showing the  
20 name of the person who visited and the date.

21 "We kept a kind of logbook in our own group for  
22 recording what the children were doing each day. It was  
23 a hardback book. You put the date in and wrote down  
24 whatever the children had done, what activities they had  
25 gone out to. I wrote it up every night, probably while



1 the children were watching television. I think any  
2 visits from social workers would also have been noted in  
3 the book.

4 "There was a sanction book, which was called  
5 a punishment book, where you made an entry if you had to  
6 sanction a child. I think the two groups had their own  
7 punishment books.

8 "I think we had a menu book. There may have been  
9 one in the dining room. We had to have a record of the  
10 food the children got. I don't mean the amounts they  
11 got, but what they got daily. I'm assuming it was to  
12 show variety. That's one of the things that would have  
13 been looked at when inspections were being carried out.  
14 It would also have been inspected by our congregation  
15 when they did visitations.

16 "There would have been a formal book where  
17 discharges were recorded, which was probably kept by  
18 Sister [REDACTED] LGO. I don't think any children were  
19 discharged during my time there.

20 "I had no contact with anybody in Kilmarnock until  
21 I got a very nice letter from a man about two years ago.  
22 This came out of the blue. He's a father of some of the  
23 children I looked after in Kilmarnock. He would not  
24 have known me as Sister Oonah, but that's how he  
25 addressed me in the letter, so he must have made

1 enquiries. He came to visit us here in Belfast. I'm  
2 thinking that he possibly heard about the inquiry and  
3 started to think back. I have provided the inquiry with  
4 a photocopy of his letter. I would hope that nothing  
5 ever happened in Kilmarnock that I should have known  
6 about, and that no child ever needed anything and  
7 I wasn't aware of it. I would always hope that didn't  
8 happen.

9 "I might have got some of the dates a little bit  
10 confused and some of the details I have provided are  
11 very vague, but I was in Kilmarnock 40 years ago, which  
12 is a long time ago.

13 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
14 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.  
15 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
16 true."

17 The statement is signed by Oonah Hanrahan on  
18 26 February 2018.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

20 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, the next statement isn't as long, and  
21 I think it would be possible to complete it.

22 LADY SMITH: Let's just carry on. Thank you.

23 Witness statement of "SISTER MARGARET RIORDAN" (read)

24 MS RATTRAY: This statement is a statement of a witness

25 Sister Margaret Riordan, who's a sister with the Sisters

1 of Nazareth, and her statement can be found at  
2 WIT.001.001.9273:

3 "My full name at birth was Margaret Riordan. The  
4 religious name I'm known by is Sister Gabriel Joseph.  
5 I was born in 1938. My contact details are known to the  
6 inquiry.

7 "I was born in County Cork, Ireland. I had two  
8 sisters and one brother. I was the youngest. I stayed  
9 there until I finished secondary school.

10 "I went to Hammersmith in London when I was  
11 18 years old and began my novitiate with the Sisters of  
12 Nazareth on 7 February 1957. I stayed in London until  
13 I was professed on 21 November 1958.

14 "My first placement was at Nazareth House in  
15 Birmingham. I stayed there for about three months.  
16 I was collecting while I was there. I then went to  
17 Manchester for six months and was also collecting there.

18 "I returned to Birmingham and worked in the parish  
19 school for a year. I had a class of first grade  
20 children. I helped there until the permanent teacher  
21 arrived.

22 "I went back to Finchley in London for two months,  
23 before going to Lancaster for 10 weeks. I was  
24 collecting in both places. I went back to Hammersmith  
25 for two months and prepared to go to Australia.

1            "In February 1961 I went to Australia and stayed  
2 there for 20 years. I lived in Ballarat in Victoria,  
3 where I did my teacher training, and then I taught in a  
4 school in Ballarat. I taught the children who were in  
5 residential care within the house.

6            "The first home I worked in, in Australia, was  
7 a boys' and babies' one. There were 80 babies ranging  
8 from a couple of days old to five years old. When the  
9 boys turned 5 years old, they came to the section  
10 I worked in.

11           "I moved around in Australia and also lived in  
12 Geraldton, Perth, Melbourne, Brisbane, and Launceston.  
13 I taught in primary schools in all these places. I  
14 mainly taught in parish schools. In Geraldton, I taught  
15 children who were in residential care, but they came out  
16 to the parish school with us. The parish school was the  
17 public school.

18           "I came back to the UK in 1981. I spent a couple of  
19 days in Hammersmith and then went up to Lasswade in  
20 Scotland from February 1981 until August 1981. I was  
21 collecting while I was there and I didn't work anywhere  
22 else whilst I was in Scotland.

23           "I was recalled to Hammersmith and helped the junior  
24 sisters and novices. I did that for a year. Then in  
25 1982, I was elected on to the General Council and held

1           that position for 12 years.

2           "I was appointed Superior in the Nazareth House in  
3 Mallow in 1994. I stayed there for 11 years. I went  
4 back to Hammersmith in 2006 and was appointed Superior  
5 there. I stayed there for seven years before coming to  
6 Nazareth House Lasswade. I am now semi-retired and do  
7 pastoral ministry and other odd bits where I can help  
8 out. There are no children in Nazareth House in  
9 Lasswade now.

10           "I didn't have much childcare training in my first  
11 teaching post in Birmingham but I had helped out a  
12 little with the children when I was first training in  
13 Hammersmith. I trained to be a primary schoolteacher in  
14 Aquinas College in Ballarat, Australia. It was  
15 a two-year course.

16           "I was based in Nazareth House Lasswade. Within the  
17 grounds of Nazareth House, there was a building called  
18 Holycote and also a main building. The children stayed  
19 in the main block in the main building and in Holycote.  
20 The convent was in a separate part of the main building.  
21 I lived in the convent, which was separate from the main  
22 block and Holycote.

23           "The kitchen was just behind the main block, but was  
24 closer to the convent than the main block. That was  
25 where all the meals for the sisters and the children

1           were prepared. The meals would then be transported in  
2           a heated trolley to the main block, Holycote and the  
3           convent. Everybody got good meals.

4           "The children were in Holycote, which was a building  
5           just inside of the main entrance. It is no longer there  
6           now. There were two groups of children there when I was  
7           there. There was also a group of children in the main  
8           block, which was a separate building from Holycote.

9           "Holycote and the main block would have had their  
10          own dining room with a kitchenette just off it. This  
11          meant that as well as getting meals from the main  
12          kitchen, they had their own facilities to prepare snacks  
13          as well. I didn't see this happening, but I know what  
14          the layout of the building was.

15          "The only contact I had with the children was to see  
16          them outside playing or seeing them coming in and out of  
17          their buildings. I would say hello to them if I passed,  
18          but that was all the interaction I had. I would also  
19          see them at mass on Sundays. I was asked to go and help  
20          with the children in the evening time after they had had  
21          their dinner. I was never with them during mealtimes.  
22          I think I was only with the children about four times  
23          during my six months there and it was only for about  
24          an hour at a time. I think I went to Holycote about  
25          three times and the main block only once.

1 "I'm not sure what the reason was for me being asked  
2 to go and help. Maybe the sister there was out or at  
3 a meeting. It would have been the Mother Superior who  
4 would have asked me to go over and help the children.  
5 I'm not clear what I did with the children during the  
6 few times I went over to the main block or Holycote.  
7 I maybe just chatted or helped with their homework but  
8 I don't remember the details. I don't know if time was  
9 set out for homework.

10 "I sat with the children in the sitting room in  
11 Holycote and the main block when I went over. I found  
12 the children to be happy, relaxed, well-behaved,  
13 friendly and welcoming. I didn't have any other  
14 interaction with the children. I don't know what their  
15 routine or sleeping arrangements were.

16 "I got up and went for prayer in the morning. I'm  
17 not sure what time morning prayer was at that time, but  
18 it is at 7.10 am now and mass at 7.30 am. I would have  
19 had any breakfast after morning prayers. I would have  
20 breakfast in the sisters' refectory in the convent. The  
21 children would probably pray and have breakfast in their  
22 own building.

23 "My role was collecting and I always did that with  
24 another sister. I started collecting with Sister LPY  
25 then Sister Raphael and Sister Carl. Sister LPY is now

1 in America. Sister Raphael is now dead.

2 "We would collect from Mondays to Saturdays.  
3 We would normally start after morning mass, and  
4 if we wanted to go earlier, we would go to the Poor  
5 Claire Convent for early mass. We would collect all day  
6 and then usually return before dark. The time we  
7 returned depended on whether it was summer or winter.

8 "The area we covered for collecting went as far as  
9 St Andrews and the borders of Glasgow. We also went all  
10 over Fife. We mainly collected in shops and offices.  
11 We didn't go to people's homes.

12 "Sister **LHT** and Sister Joan of Arc worked with the  
13 children in Holycote. Sister Joan of Arc is dead now.  
14 Sister **LQC** worked in the main block.  
15 She is also deceased. The sisters who worked with the  
16 children would have had staff, but I don't know how many  
17 or who they were.

18 "During my six months at Lasswade in 1981, the  
19 children were gradually being phased out of the main  
20 house and being transferred to Holycote. The main house  
21 was being renovated for the care of the elderly. My  
22 collecting was to get funds for the renovation.

23 "By the time I left Lasswade in August 1981 there  
24 were no children left in the main block. There were  
25 a few elderly residents there by that time. I'm not



1           sure how it worked out with the children that were moved  
2           out of the main building. Maybe they went on other  
3           homes, but I don't know.

4           "The Superior General and her council are the  
5           governing body of the congregation in the order. They  
6           are based in Hammersmith, London. There is what we call  
7           the General Chapter, which is held over six years, and  
8           it is during the General Chapter that the  
9           Superior General is elected or re-elected. The members  
10          of the chapter also elect the general council, who are  
11          also known as the generalate, at the same time. They do  
12          this by holding a vote. I was elected twice and held my  
13          position on the council for 12 years from 1982 to 1994.

14          "Being a member of the generalate involved doing a  
15          lot of things, including visiting all the houses in the  
16          congregation."

17          LADY SMITH: Before you move on to another page, I think we  
18          probably need to correct the spelling of "council"  
19          there; would that be right?

20          MS RATTRAY: I think that would be correct.

21          LADY SMITH: It should be "c-i-l" at the end.

22          MS RATTRAY: Yes.

23          "This was something that I also did, either with the  
24          Superior General or another councillor. Each house  
25          would get a visit from the generalate in Hammersmith

1 every six years, but they would also get a visit from  
2 their own regional superior every year.

3 "I carried out generalate visits during the 12 years  
4 I worked on the general council and went to different  
5 countries. I think I would have inspected near to 40  
6 houses, but I'm not sure because some houses closed.  
7 We would get instructions from London on what to look  
8 for during the visits. There would have been a list of  
9 things to look at, but I don't remember what was on it.

10 "The purpose of the visits was to see that  
11 everything was going according to plan and that  
12 everybody was happy in the house. We would check on the  
13 sisters to see if they had any problems or wanted to  
14 feed back any issues. We would then feed back to  
15 London. It was like a support for the sisters.  
16 We would also check on the work that was being done  
17 within the house, for instance the care that the elderly  
18 or children in the house were receiving.

19 "We would give notice that we were visiting and then  
20 stay at each house for about a week. During that time,  
21 we would walk around and observe and talk to people.  
22 We would speak to lots of people in each house about how  
23 things were there. We would speak to the staff and the  
24 sisters, as well as any elderly residents or children  
25 who used the facilities.

1           "During my visits, I also visited the four  
2 Nazareth Houses in Scotland. They were Aberdeen,  
3 Lasswade, Cardonald and Kilmarnock. I don't remember  
4 when I would have visited them. The only one that was  
5 still caring for children during my visits was Lasswade,  
6 so the visit must have been before 1984. The other  
7 three houses were caring for the elderly.

8           "During our visits, we would do checks on admission  
9 registers, which had the children's names, names of  
10 their parents and dates of arrival. We also did checks  
11 on the discharge register, which was a separate book,  
12 and also the accounts during the visits. I would have  
13 done this at Lasswade.

14           "There was also an inventory of their clothing,  
15 which would record what they brought with them.  
16 I imagine this would have been recorded when the  
17 children were admitted. I don't know if these things  
18 would have been returned to them when they left. Any  
19 clothes would maybe be worn out or wouldn't have fit  
20 them any more.

21           "I don't have a recollection of whether there were  
22 any other daily or weekly books kept. I think there was  
23 an observations book, but I don't remember what was in  
24 it. I wouldn't have looked at any social work contact.

25           "I would usually talk to children during visits, so

1 I imagine I probably spoke to the children in Lasswade  
2 when I visited, but I can't remember specifically. The  
3 purpose of speaking to the children would have been to  
4 see how they were and if they were happy. I don't  
5 remember ever speaking to any child on any of my visits  
6 who said they weren't happy. They didn't appear to be  
7 unhappy.

8 "Any comments about the welfare of children would  
9 have been recorded in the visitation report. A copy of  
10 the visitation reports would have been kept in the local  
11 council book in the local house. Every house had  
12 a local council book, which held the minutes of monthly  
13 council meetings that took place in every house. A copy  
14 of the visitation report would also be sent to  
15 Hammersmith.

16 "I don't remember anybody ever feeding anything  
17 negative back to me. If anybody had told me of abuse or  
18 anything like that, I would have listened to what the  
19 child had to say. Then I would have spoken to the other  
20 sister from the generalate who was with me and we would  
21 have tried to sort it out.

22 "We would probably try to sort it out on site by  
23 talking to the people involved and if we dealt with it,  
24 then we probably wouldn't report it back to London.  
25 We would report it back to London if we felt we needed

1 to take it further.

2 "A note would definitely have been made of any  
3 allegation if it was made, but I don't know where  
4 it would have been recorded because I have never had to  
5 do it. It might not go into the general report on the  
6 house, but it would be recorded somewhere. I don't  
7 remember anything like this happening so I have never  
8 had the issue to deal with.

9 "I would have done a report after each visit and  
10 there would have been certain points that we would have  
11 to report on. We wouldn't write down the names of the  
12 specific people we spoke to during the visits because we  
13 spoke to them more on a friendly basis. That report  
14 would have been filed with London. There should be  
15 a report on my visit to Lasswade. They also would have  
16 gotten a visit from their regional superior every year.  
17 I imagine they also would have kept records of their  
18 visits.

19 "I have no experience of the childcare in  
20 Nazareth House in Scotland. I can only speak from my  
21 experiences and from my time working in Nazareth House  
22 in Australia. I looked after children who still keep in  
23 touch with me. I received a letter from a social worker  
24 in Australia saying one child that I had cared for was  
25 looking for me because she thought of me as her mother,

1 and she is now in touch with me. I visited Australia in  
2 2014 and had the privilege of meeting some of the  
3 children I'd cared for when I lived there. Some of them  
4 still phone to wish me happy birthday.

5 "I know from my own experience that the children  
6 appreciated what was done for them in Nazareth House.  
7 In terms of the children who speak of not having had  
8 positive experiences in Nazareth House, you have to  
9 think about where the children came from. Some came  
10 into care because their mum died or because of their own  
11 family circumstances. I have heard what has been said  
12 by some of the children in care and that they did not  
13 have happy memories. I have never seen abuse of  
14 children. I have never seen children slapped or  
15 humiliated for bed-wetting. I did not observe any abuse  
16 and have no experience of that.

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 this witness statement are  
20 true."

21 The witness signed the statement on 1 June 2018.

22 My Lady, that concludes the evidence for today.

23 I understand that tomorrow we have two oral witnesses  
24 and we'll also have several read-ins ready.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. I'll rise now and sit

1           again at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

2           (1.00 pm)

3                           (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am

4   on Thursday 14 June 2018)

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I N D E X

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2       SISTER ELIZABETH HACKETT (sworn) .....1

3                Questions from MR MacAULAY .....1

4       Witness statement of "SISTER .....69

5                                GWENDOLINE" (read)

6       Witness statement of .....88

7                                "SISTER ANTOINETTE"

8       Witness statement of SISTER OONAH .....95

9                                HANRAHAN (read)

10       Witness statement of "SISTER .....114

11                               MARGARET RIORDAN" (read)

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