

1 Friday, 15 June 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. Mr MacAulay, I think we have
4 some oral witnesses for today; is that right?

5 MR MacAULAY: That's right, my Lady. Good morning. The
6 first of these is a witness who wants to remain
7 anonymous and wants to use the name "Sister Bronagh" in
8 giving her evidence.

9 "SISTER BRONAGH" (sworn)

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

11 You'll see, sister, you've got a microphone, which
12 will help you to be heard, so if you can make sure that
13 you speak into that, that's very important. In
14 a moment, I will hand over to Mr MacAulay, but before
15 I do that, there's something that I just would like to
16 remind you about.

17 You may remember that when you spoke to members of
18 the inquiry team, they explained to you that although
19 this is a public inquiry, and so very different from
20 a court process such as a criminal trial, you still have
21 the right not to incriminate yourself, and I think it
22 was then explained to you that if you said anything to
23 them that amounted to you telling them that you were
24 involved in the abuse of children, you might be asked
25 more questions about that, but you weren't obliged to

1 answer them. If you do so, your answers would be
2 recorded and they could be used at a later date if
3 anybody wished to have access to them.

4 It's important that you understand that the same
5 applies at this hearing in exactly the same way. You
6 continue to have that right not to incriminate yourself,
7 so if, for example, you did tell us that you were
8 involved in some abuse of children and you were asked
9 questions about it, you're not obliged to answer those
10 questions. It's your choice, but if you do choose to do
11 so, you need to understand that your evidence is being
12 recorded and it will go into a transcription,
13 a transcript of the evidence, and that will be available
14 if anybody wishes to have access to it for other
15 proceedings at a later date. Do you understand that?

16 A. Yes, thank you.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. I'll now hand over to
18 Mr MacAulay.

19 Questions from MR MacAULAY

20 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, sister.

21 A. Good morning.

22 Q. I don't want to know your date of birth, but to get
23 a time frame, I need you to confirm the year of your
24 birth. Am I right in thinking that you were born in
25 1934?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So you're now, I think, about 83?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Can I ask you to look at the statement you provided to
5 the inquiry, which you'll find in the red folder in
6 front of you. I'll give the reference of that to the
7 stenographers. That's at WIT.001.001.8076. If I could
8 ask you, sister, to turn to the last page. That's
9 page 8095.

10 Can you confirm that you have signed the statement?

11 A. Yes.

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

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

15 Is that right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And do you also say:

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

20 Is that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Thank you. I think you tell us in your statement -- you
23 can close the folder up, if that's helpful to you.

24 LADY SMITH: Sister, if you're being referred to your
25 statement again, you'll see it coming up on the screen

1 in front of you. You've got that screen and the text
2 will be there. Let me know if you've got any problems
3 with that, but as you have your glasses with you, I hope
4 that's visible to you.

5 MR MacAULAY: You tell us in the statement, sister, at the
6 very beginning of it, that you joined the order in 1952;
7 is that right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You also say that you went to Swansea and then to
10 Finchley, where you did nursery training; is that right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Can you tell me a little bit about that, sister? First
13 of all, how long a course was it?

14 A. Two years.

15 Q. Was that training in order to deal with children of a --

16 A. Training for babies. Children, 0 to 5 years.

17 Q. Over the time, did you find that course helpful to you?

18 A. Oh yes. Yes.

19 Q. Did you have to attend college on a full-time basis?

20 A. No, I think it was two days a week.

21 Q. At the end of the course, did you obtain
22 a qualification?

23 A. Yes. I got a certificate for it, yes.

24 Q. You tell us then, sister, that you worked in childcare
25 in different places for about six or seven years;

1 is that correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Looking to that experience, were you dealing with very
4 young children?

5 A. Well, I was with the younger children and then -- it was
6 the nursery and the children in -- the nursery was
7 closing and the children that were left joined the older
8 children. It was then I went away and I did a course
9 for children, a childcare course.

10 Q. So that was another course that you did?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And I think that course you did in Liverpool; is that
13 correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And again, did you attend college for that course?

16 A. I did, for one day a week.

17 Q. And how long did the course last for?

18 A. 12 months.

19 Q. Again, would you get some sort of certificate at the
20 end?

21 A. I did, I got a certificate.

22 Q. Against that background then, sister, I think you went
23 to Cardonald in Scotland in 1977.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And you were there until about 1979; is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You then, having left Cardonald and gone elsewhere, came
3 back to Scotland and went to Lasswade in about 1981?

4 A. Yes, about that, yes.

5 Q. And you were there until about 1983?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. In 1983, according to what we understand, you went back
8 to Cardonald.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Was it closing down as a children's home at that time?

11 A. No, when I went back I was doing a different type of
12 work then.

13 Q. It was different?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Can I then look, sister, at your time at Cardonald in
16 1977 to 1979. At that time, I suppose you'd be quite
17 a senior nun; is that correct?

18 A. Well, yes, I was getting on a bit.

19 Q. You'd be in your early 40s?

20 A. I would be, yes.

21 Q. Where were you based when you went to Cardonald? In
22 which part of the building were you based?

23 A. I was based with the children.

24 Q. Yes. At that time, I think there was a main building at
25 Cardonald.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Were you based in the main building?

3 A. I was in the main building, yes.

4 Q. I think you were going there to look after a group of
5 children.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. How large was the group, roughly?

8 A. It'd be about maybe 14 to 16 children.

9 Q. Was your role that of housemother?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Do you remember who you replaced at that time?

12 A. I replaced Sister **LQD**

13 Q. Was there any sort of handover between Sister **LQD** and
14 yourself when you --

15 A. No.

16 Q. So when you got there, were you able to get some
17 information about the children that you were going to be
18 caring for?

19 A. Well, the staff sort of filled in.

20 Q. Okay. So the staff were able to assist you?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. In relation to that, how many staff did you have for
23 your group?

24 A. I think there were roughly maybe two to three caring
25 staff, maybe, and there were two -- I think there was

1 two domestics as well.

2 Q. Were the domestics not just for your group but for the
3 place as a whole?

4 A. No, they were just for my group.

5 Q. In relation to the group of children then, can you tell
6 me about the range of ages that you had?

7 A. They ranged roughly up to -- we had one baby in the
8 group and then the rest were sort of school age up to
9 maybe 11 or 12.

10 Q. So were there any that might be secondary school age?

11 A. Pardon?

12 Q. Were there any who'd be secondary school age or were
13 they all primary?

14 A. They were all primary, yes.

15 Q. What about the boys and girls? Was there a mixture of
16 boys and girls?

17 A. Yes. It was mostly families, really.

18 Q. I was about to ask you. At that time were you trying to
19 keep families together?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Did anybody leave the group in the time that you were
22 there, sister?

23 A. No, I don't remember really, except a baby that we were
24 looking after, she was fostered -- well, she went home
25 first, it didn't work out, and she was fostered.

1 Q. Can you help me with this: apart from your group, how
2 many other groups of children were there at Cardonald at
3 that time?

4 A. Four groups in all.

5 Q. Four altogether?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Can you remember now the sisters that were in charge of
8 the other groups?

9 A. Yes, I can, yes.

10 Q. Can you tell me who they were?

11 A. Well, Sister [LVQ] was upstairs, and Sister [LJS]
12 and Sister [LJO]

13 Q. Thank you.

14 A. Two of them have died since.

15 Q. Am I right in thinking that the groups were separate
16 from each other in that you looked after your group --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- and the other sisters looked after their groups?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Would you have any input into the looking after of the
21 other groups?

22 A. No, none.

23 Q. Were any children admitted to your group during your
24 time there?

25 A. Yes, there were.

1 Q. Can you tell me how that was managed? How did that
2 happen? Can you help me with that?

3 A. Well, a social worker would bring a family and then
4 we would talk to the children and the other children
5 would introduce them and the children would -- you know,
6 they were very caring with them and made them sort of
7 feel that ... well, they would tell them it was a nice
8 place and the things that we did.

9 Q. Okay. So far as dealing with the social worker would be
10 concerned, sister, would do you that?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Would you get information from the social worker about
13 the background of the children?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Did you see that sort of information being important?

16 A. It was very helpful getting the information, yes.

17 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about the general set-up.
18 Let's look at the sleeping arrangements for the
19 children. Can you remember what the set-up was there at
20 that time?

21 A. The set-up at that time where I was was very temporary
22 because there were renovations going on and they were
23 making another section for the house, more homelike for
24 the children, smaller rooms with en suite rooms, and
25 where I was then, we were just like -- the children

1 slept in a dormitory, the boys were one end and the
2 girls in the other half. And then we had a dining room
3 and a sitting room.

4 Q. Did that remain the position throughout your time there
5 at that time?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. So were the renovations ongoing?

8 A. They were ongoing, yes.

9 Q. And were they ongoing when you left?

10 A. They were just about completed, yes.

11 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about the food, sister,
12 because you tell us about that in your statement.

13 What was the food like?

14 A. The food was good.

15 Q. Did the sisters have the same food as the children?

16 A. Oh yes.

17 Q. What would the position be if a child didn't want to eat
18 his or her food or a particular dish?

19 A. Well, I don't ... I don't think there was much -- they
20 liked the food. There wasn't much, you know, fuss about
21 anything like that. If they didn't like something,
22 well, they didn't eat it.

23 Q. Would you try to persuade a child to eat a particular
24 dish --

25 A. I wouldn't persuade them, I would encourage them, maybe.

1 Q. Was there any compulsion on a child to eat food?

2 A. No, there was none. None.

3 Q. Would a child be punished if he or she didn't eat the
4 food?

5 A. Oh no, no.

6 Q. In relation to clothing, can you help me with that? For
7 example, if a child came in and had his own clothes,
8 would the child be allowed to keep the clothes?

9 A. Of course, yes.

10 Q. Generally what was the arrangements with clothing?

11 A. We provided the clothes -- usually when they came in
12 they had very little clothes, so we usually had to
13 provide the clothes for them.

14 Q. And how was that managed then? How did you do that?

15 A. Well, we went out and bought them for them.

16 LADY SMITH: Do you remember where you went to buy the
17 clothes when you were in Glasgow?

18 A. I can't remember exactly, but I know before going on
19 holidays, we'd go and buy clothes and Christmastime,
20 we'd go and buy clothes.

21 LADY SMITH: You don't remember where in the town you would
22 get them?

23 A. There were cash and carries in the town.

24 LADY SMITH: Cash and carries? We've heard mention of trips
25 to the Barras. Is that somewhere you went with the

1 children?

2 A. No, I never went.

3 LADY SMITH: But you remember a cash and carry of some sort?

4 A. Yes, on Paisley Road West, yes.

5 MR MacAULAY: One thing you tell us in your statement,

6 sister, is that you did have a little problem with head

7 lice.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. How did you deal with that?

10 A. Well, we got the special solution for it and that we put

11 that on their heads and we dealt with it that way.

12 Q. Would you yourself be involved in that process?

13 A. I usually did it, yes.

14 Q. It wouldn't be some form of disinfectant then that you'd

15 use?

16 A. Oh no, no, we went to the chemist.

17 Q. You got something special from the chemist?

18 A. Yes, and we usually did it weekends.

19 Q. In relation to chores or jobs, did the children have

20 chores to do when they were?

21 A. Usually did the washing-up and the drying.

22 Q. But nothing more manual?

23 A. Nothing more, no.

24 Q. You do tell us in your statement, sister, about holidays

25 and trips that you had with the children. And in

1 particular that you went to Girvan; is that correct?

2 A. That's right, yes.

3 Q. In relation to that, where did you stay in Girvan?

4 A. There was a special house there that was given.

5 Q. I think you also talk about going to Dumfries.

6 A. Yes, we went there another time, yes. That was to a big
7 house as well.

8 Q. What sort of activities were available there for the
9 children?

10 A. Well, we went on trips -- we had a minibus, so we drove
11 around different places and saw different farms and
12 that.

13 Q. Would you go with other groups?

14 A. No.

15 Q. So it was just your own group?

16 A. No, there were two groups -- another group came with me.

17 Q. Would members of staff also go?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can I ask you about birthdays. Were children's
20 birthdays celebrated?

21 A. Well, they were special. We had a cake and the usual
22 goodies for it, yes.

23 Q. They'd get a present?

24 A. Yes, they always got a present, yes.

25 Q. How would you know if a particular child's birthday was

1 coming up?

2 A. We had a record of them.

3 Q. How was that done, was it in a diary? How did you do
4 that?

5 A. We had a book with birthdays.

6 Q. So you could then just check?

7 A. Yes, and they were very quick to tell us anyway.

8 Q. I suppose particularly the older children would be.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. With a younger child, you'd check your records?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Did you have children in your group who wet the bed?

13 A. We did, yes.

14 Q. Over the time there, was that something that happened
15 regularly?

16 A. There was always someone who wet the bed, yes.

17 Q. How was that dealt with?

18 A. We just would try and encourage them, you know, to try
19 and be dry, as it were and --

20 Q. Sorry, sister, I missed that.

21 A. -- ask them to call for the toilet and we'd sort of
22 reward them if they had -- because other children would
23 say, "Oh, you wet your bed again", so we used to try and
24 encourage them not to.

25 Q. How would other children know that a particular child

1 had wet the bed?

2 A. They'd know because they were sleeping beside --

3 LADY SMITH: Sister, could I invite you just to move
4 a little closer to the microphone? Not too close or the
5 microphone then produces a fuzzy noise. But it will
6 help you to be heard. I think you were saying that
7 you'd try and encourage children to be dry at night.

8 A. Yes.

9 LADY SMITH: How would you do that?

10 A. Well, we would reward them in some way.

11 LADY SMITH: What sort of reward?

12 A. We'd give them a special treat, maybe give them extra
13 pocket money.

14 LADY SMITH: So they'd associate being dry with something
15 good and something positive?

16 A. Yes, because of the other children teasing them for
17 being wet, yes.

18 LADY SMITH: I think Mr MacAulay was then asking you how
19 would it be that the other children would know that they
20 had wet the bed.

21 A. Because they were so close to each other in the room and
22 they'd see us taking the wet sheets off the bed anyway.

23 MR MacAULAY: Who would take the wet sheets off?

24 A. Whoever, myself or the staff, whoever was getting them
25 up in the morning.

1 Q. So you wouldn't wait until the children were out of the
2 way, you'd do that when the children --

3 A. As we get them up, we took their sheets off the beds,
4 yes.

5 Q. And so in that way, then, the other children would see
6 what you were doing and realise that a particular child
7 had wet the bed?

8 A. Well, they knew anyway, yes.

9 Q. Was there any form of humiliation of children who wet
10 the bed?

11 A. No.

12 Q. By that I mean deliberate humiliation.

13 A. No, there was none.

14 Q. What about punishment?

15 A. There was no punishment, no.

16 LADY SMITH: Why not?

17 A. Why? They couldn't help it.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MR MacAULAY: I think you say that your approach was really
20 the opposite: to try and reward children so that they
21 wouldn't wet the bed.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Just looking to that, sister, did you find that the
24 training that you had done, because by now you'd done
25 really two training stints in different places --

- 1 A. Yes, I had.
- 2 Q. -- did you find that helpful to you when you were
3 dealing with the children?
- 4 A. It was, yes. Yes.
- 5 Q. In what way?
- 6 A. Well, more as regards any problems they had, sort of
7 everyday dealing with them.
- 8 Q. Are you saying it gave you perhaps a better insight into
9 how to deal with children with problems than you might
10 otherwise have had?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. You also talk about schooling in your statement. One
13 thing you do say at paragraph 48 is you don't remember
14 the children ever having homework from school.
- 15 A. No, I don't remember being ... It's so long ago.
- 16 Q. You just don't remember that?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Can I ask you then, sister, about who might visit the
19 children, and let's look at social workers. Did
20 social workers come to see the children?
- 21 A. Yes, they came to visit, yes.
- 22 Q. Would you speak with a social worker when they came?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. What sort of discussions would you have with the
25 social worker? Can you tell me?

1 A. If we had any problems, we would tell them, and they
2 would usually ask any family visitors and how they were
3 doing at school, they'd enquire, and if they had any
4 plans for the future for them.

5 Q. So you'd have that sort of discussion?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And would the child or children be seen by the
8 social worker as well?

9 A. Oh, they would, yes.

10 Q. Would it work on the basis that the authority that had
11 placed the child, it would be a social worker from that
12 authority that would come?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Do you recollect any inspections being carried out
15 during your time there?

16 A. No, I don't really.

17 Q. Looking at records then, sister, can I just understand
18 what records were kept by yourself. Can you help me
19 with that?

20 A. Well, we just had a logbook, really, of all the daily
21 happenings or any special things that happened.

22 Q. Was this a book?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And anything that would happen on the day would go into
25 the book?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And would that be your responsibility?

3 A. Yes. And then they had the medical cards for the health
4 side.

5 LADY SMITH: Was that medical cards that you kept, you said?
6 Medical cards?

7 A. It was a big card, about that size (indicating).

8 LADY SMITH: So that was kept for each child as well, was
9 it?

10 A. Yes, and the doctor signed it each time.

11 MR MacAULAY: And you're indicating a sort of A4 type size,
12 the size of the folder?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What you say in your statement, sister, at paragraph 55,
15 is that you didn't have, for example, files of any of
16 the children.

17 A. No, we didn't.

18 Q. So you didn't have individual files for each child?

19 A. No.

20 Q. So what about recording, for example, your discussions
21 with a social worker about a child? Would that be
22 recorded?

23 A. I'd put that into the logbook to say they called.

24 Q. So in the logbook, what one would find, am I right in
25 thinking, is information in respect of different

1 children?

2 A. Mm-hm.

3 Q. Is that right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. If, for example, you were having a problem with
6 a particular child, would you enter that into the
7 logbook?

8 A. No, I wouldn't, no.

9 Q. Why not?

10 A. Well, it's more -- the logbook was more a public thing,
11 yes.

12 Q. So what sort of --

13 A. That would be more private.

14 Q. You think having a problem, you'd keep that more
15 private?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. But would that be recorded anywhere then?

18 A. Well, not really, no.

19 Q. So really, only yourself would know that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can you give me an understanding as to what sort of
22 entries you would put into the logbook. You have told
23 us about the visit by the social worker.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What other entries would you have?

- 1 A. Any daily things that happened, if they went places or
2 something happened at school, if they had things like
3 that.
- 4 Q. And you say things at school. Would that be whether
5 a child had misbehaved at school?
- 6 A. No, no.
- 7 Q. Am I to understand, sister, that the logbook would
8 contain positive information about a child and what was
9 going on in the home?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. Would there also be negative type of information, things
12 going wrong or --
- 13 A. No, it wouldn't be things that go wrong; it'd be just
14 things that happened.
- 15 Q. Would birthdays be recorded?
- 16 A. Yes, they would, yes.
- 17 Q. And then events, would particular events --
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Would you record in the logbook if a child was leaving?
- 20 A. We would, yes.
- 21 Q. Did you keep any record to note the progress that
22 a child was making within the home?
- 23 A. What kind of progress?
- 24 Q. How a child was getting on, whether a child who might
25 have been misbehaving, the behaviour was improving, that

1 sort of information?

2 A. No, we didn't.

3 Q. Do you remember receiving school report cards during
4 your time?

5 A. No, we didn't.

6 Q. You didn't?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Would you record in the logbook a child's relationship
9 with his or her family?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Would you record in the logbook if a child was punished
12 for any particular thing?

13 A. No.

14 Q. So far as you can remember, was there a punishment book?

15 A. I don't think there was.

16 Q. Do you have any recollection at any time there noting
17 down that the child was punished for a particular
18 reason?

19 A. No.

20 Q. You didn't? Well, can I then look at discipline with
21 you, sister, for a moment or two. When you were at
22 Cardonald, did you receive any guidance as to how
23 a child might be punished?

24 A. No. Not necessarily, no.

25 Q. And how then did you approach the matter of discipline?

1 A. Well, we would maybe deprive them of some special
2 programme on television or maybe they would go to bed
3 early or maybe take some pocket money, cut it down.

4 Q. Did you ever use what was known in those days as
5 corporal punishment?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Did you ever hit a child?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Did you have children who were troubled children?

10 A. Well, not necessarily, no. No.

11 Q. So far as discipline was concerned, did you know at the
12 time how children were disciplined in the other groups?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Did you ever discuss with the other sisters how children
15 were behaving or misbehaving?

16 A. No.

17 Q. So you never had that sort of discussion?

18 A. No, we didn't.

19 LADY SMITH: Sister, a minute ago, when you were asked
20 whether you had any children who were troubled children,
21 you said, "Not necessarily, no". I was just interested
22 to understand whether something in your memory is about
23 children who came into the home with particular
24 difficulties and were harder to handle than others.

25 A. Well, it'd be more mischievous.

1 LADY SMITH: What sort of mischief; can you remember?

2 A. I just can't think offhand. There was one particular
3 child, I remember, he wasn't keen on a certain staff and
4 in order to punish her, he crossed -- on the staff rota
5 he crossed her time out so she'd come in late on it.

6 LADY SMITH: He got hold of the rota and changed her timing?

7 A. He just crossed it out, yes.

8 LADY SMITH: So when she turned up, she'd be late?

9 A. That was the idea, yes.

10 LADY SMITH: What happened to him?

11 A. We just told him off about it, you know.

12 LADY SMITH: Right.

13 MR MacAULAY: Did you see children fighting at any point in
14 time?

15 A. Well, not necessarily fight. They would just sort
16 of ... You wouldn't call it fighting.

17 LADY SMITH: So what would you call it?

18 A. Well, I call fighting when you'd be boxing each other.

19 LADY SMITH: Right. So --

20 A. They might just fight maybe where someone took something
21 belonging to another child and there'd be an argument
22 about it.

23 LADY SMITH: How did you deal with that?

24 A. We'd just try and bring them both together and ...

25 MR MacAULAY: Did you ever see a child, whether in your

1 group or any other group, being hit by a nun?

2 A. No, I didn't.

3 Q. Or by a member of staff?

4 A. No, no.

5 Q. I think you did say earlier that children did leave the
6 group during your time there; is that correct? Did
7 I get that right or wrong?

8 A. No, a baby left the group.

9 Q. If I look at your statement at paragraph 62, what you
10 say there is:

11 "The social work would arrange a child leaving the
12 home. It would never be the home that would make the
13 decision for a child to leave."

14 Are you speaking more generally there then?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So apart from the baby, are you saying nobody else left
17 your group?

18 A. No, they didn't. Not that I can remember, no.

19 Q. So you say at 64:

20 "I wasn't involved with speaking with the children
21 before they left the home."

22 So in a sense, in a way, that's irrelevant to you
23 because children didn't leave from your group?

24 A. Well, I suppose there I was talking about when
25 I generally worked with children.

- 1 Q. Oh, I see.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Rather than Cardonald specifically?
- 4 A. Cardonald, yes.
- 5 Q. Okay. But just on that general point then, you say that
6 you wouldn't be involved with speaking with such
7 children. Why not? Was there some reason why you
8 wouldn't?
- 9 A. Well, perhaps they wouldn't always want to tell us the
10 reason.
- 11 Q. Sorry?
- 12 A. They mightn't want to tell us the reasons.
- 13 Q. I see. Are you talking there about the social worker
14 perhaps?
- 15 A. I didn't talk about what they were going to do.
16 I didn't -- unless I was told voluntarily I wouldn't
17 ask.
- 18 Q. You wouldn't ask the social worker?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. Would you not be interested to know what --
- 21 A. I would be, yes, but unless they were willing to sort of
22 tell me, I wouldn't probe into it.
- 23 Q. Here, are you talking about other places and not
24 Cardonald?
- 25 A. Yes, yes.

1 Q. What you do say is, after you left Cardonald, children
2 didn't keep in touch with you after that.

3 A. No.

4 Q. I think it was the case, sister, that when you gave your
5 statement to the inquiry team, certain allegations were
6 raised with you and you were asked to comment on them.
7 Do you remember that?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. In paragraphs 66 through to 70, in particular, you're
10 asked about particular persons. For example, you're
11 asked about a [REDACTED] LFV Do you remember a [REDACTED] LFV ?

12 A. No.

13 Q. And someone by the name of Joseph Duffy?

14 A. No.

15 Q. You don't remember him at all?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Were there people who might be looked upon as volunteers
18 at Cardonald during your time?

19 A. No, there weren't.

20 Q. You also -- I think you have mentioned this already --
21 mentioned a Sister [REDACTED] LJS She was the same age as
22 yourself?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Did you ever see her --

25 A. No.

1 Q. -- ill-treat a child?

2 A. No, never.

3 Q. I want to ask you, sister, about particular allegations
4 that are made against you. In the red folder, if you go
5 back to the red folder, you'll see attached to the front
6 cover on the left-hand side there's what we refer to as
7 a key. On one side you'll see the real name of an
8 individual and on the other side you'll see the
9 pseudonym.

10 A. Mm-hm.

11 Q. So for example, if you go three from the top you'll see
12 the pseudonym "Donna" and you'll see the real name of
13 the person who Donna is. Do you see that?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Do you recognise that name?

16 A. I do yes.

17 Q. I don't want you to tell me what it is, but I'll use the
18 name Donna when talking about that particular person.
19 Was Donna in your group?

20 A. She was.

21 Q. And I think she had a sister as well; is that right?

22 A. She did, yes.

23 Q. According to the Sisters of Nazareth records, Donna was
24 there from [REDACTED] 1971 to [REDACTED] 1979, so she would
25 be there for the time that you were there.

1 A. She was.

2 Q. What I'll do is I'll put the transcript of her evidence
3 on the screen so that you can see what she says. It
4 begins at TRN.001.003.1545.

5 If we move down a little bit, we'll see where her
6 evidence begins. If I can begin at perhaps 1555. Just
7 get that on the screen for you.

8 Here she's asked at -- she's talking about what
9 happened if a nun died. You'll see that at line 7.

10 Were there deaths of nuns in the convent at the time
11 you were there?

12 A. No, nobody died when I was there.

13 Q. Were there elderly nuns?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. But you say nobody died?

16 A. Nobody died, no.

17 Q. So what she says here is that she would have to kiss the
18 nun on their head because I think the practice, if a nun
19 died, was she'd be in a coffin in the church.

20 A. Yes, that would be the procedure, yes.

21 Q. She's asked:

22 "Question: How did you feel about that at the time?

23 "Answer: I was terrified."

24 You're saying that just didn't happen?

25 A. No. No nun died while I was there.

1 Q. She goes on to say -- at the next page, 1556, she's
2 asked about the food. At line 10:

3 "Question: How did you find the food?

4 "Answer: I think I ate most of the food, but
5 I always had a problem with meat. Two or three times
6 a week we would get -- they would call it stew. To me
7 it wasn't stew."

8 And she describes it as?

9 "Answer: Thick grey fat that never had any Bisto or
10 OXO in; it was meat that had been boiled. I just could
11 not physically swallow what was put in front of me.

12 "Question: So what happened?

13 "Answer: I was forced to eat what was there.
14 Sometimes thankfully my sister, she would steal it,
15 would take it away from me and she would eat it.
16 Sometimes, if it was nice staff, they would try and hide
17 it for you."

18 What do you say about that, sister, that she was
19 being made to eat something she didn't want to eat?

20 A. She wouldn't be made to eat it if she didn't want it.

21 We would encourage her to eat it, but no one would force
22 her to eat it.

23 Q. If we move on to the next page, 1557 -- this is at
24 lines 4 and 5 -- what she says there is:

25 "Answer: A couple of times I was force-fed to eat

1 it."

2 A. No, no way.

3 Q. And I'll just follow this through:

4 "Question: What do you mean by that?

5 "Answer: Basically, eat it, keep your mouth closed
6 or the hand would be over my nose and mouth so that I'd
7 have to eat.

8 "Question: Who did that?"

9 A. Never.

10 Q. And she mentions yourself, Sister LKR And that was
11 the name you had at the time?

12 A. It was, yes.

13 Q. And:

14 "Answer: If I didn't, sometimes I would be retching
15 as well and I would just have to swallow it back.

16 "Question: Would you be sick on your plate?

17 "Answer: Yes.

18 "Question: What would you have to do then?

19 "Answer: Get it eaten."

20 A. No, never.

21 Q. That never --

22 A. Never happened.

23 Q. So you'd say that's completely untrue?

24 A. It is untrue.

25 Q. It's a lie?

1 A. Yes, it's a lie, yes. And the food was good that we
2 got.

3 Q. The other thing she talks about is about clothes and
4 clothing. That's at page 1558.

5 It's towards the bottom where she's giving
6 a description of how they were treated at school.
7 You'll see that at line 20. She says:

8 "Answer: We were scum, we were orphans, we were
9 tramps. I wore everybody's hand-me-downs, probably the
10 kids' in schools mums had handed in the clothes. We
11 never had anything new."

12 What do you say about that?

13 A. That's not true. They had very good clothes. We bought
14 the uniforms for them.

15 Q. So again, that's simply invention, really --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- on the part of Donna?

18 A. And they weren't looked down on in school. They were
19 treated like other children in school.

20 LADY SMITH: Did you ever hand down school uniforms?

21 A. We did, yes.

22 LADY SMITH: It is pretty routine for people to do that as
23 children grow out of uniform, isn't it?

24 A. Yes, mm-hm. But they always started off, when they
25 started school, with a new one. And as they wore out of

1 that --

2 LADY SMITH: So the experience of the individual child could
3 be that they end up always wearing hand-me-downs?

4 A. I know, yes.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 MR MacAULAY: She also talks about bed-wetting and that's at
7 1562, if I can just take you to that section. That's at
8 page 1562.

9 Towards the top she is asked:

10 "Question: I now want to ask you about bed-wetting.
11 I think you do tell us that your sister in particular
12 wet her bed; is that right?"

13 And she goes on to say that that was the case and
14 indeed she still had issues. Do you remember if her
15 sister did wet the bed, sister?

16 A. Yes, she did, yes.

17 Q. She goes on to say that her sister wet the bed every
18 night and when she wet her own bed, she would come into
19 her bed and her bed would get wet as well. And then
20 she's asked:

21 "Question: Would that mean that both beds in the
22 morning would be wet?

23 "Answer: Yes, not necessarily in the morning, but
24 during the night as well.

25 "Question: Would anything happen in the night?

1 "Answer: Yes, Sister [REDACTED] LKR would do bed checks."

2 Would you check beds during the night, sister?

3 A. No way.

4 Q. You wouldn't do that?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Towards the bottom, at line 21:

7 "Question: And if the beds were wet, what would
8 happen?

9 "Answer: If [REDACTED] bed was wet and she was still
10 in the bed, she would be forced out of the bed and
11 sometimes she'd be struck, hit with either whatever was
12 lying there or the back of her hand. Sometimes you'd be
13 dragged down the corridor, which was probably the length
14 of this room, to where the showers, toilets were. If
15 [REDACTED] was in my bed then, nine times out of ten,
16 I would be dragged as well."

17 What about that, sister?

18 A. That never happened. Never.

19 Q. She's then asked to describe the process. She talks
20 about being forced out of bed and indeed there would be
21 screaming, shouting, begging to be let go and so on. So
22 there'd be quite a racket, according to this evidence.
23 You just say that is not true?

24 A. No, it's not true.

25 Q. What about this notion of being put out on a fire exit

1 in a wet nightdress and being there all night?

2 A. That never happened.

3 Q. That just didn't --

4 A. It -- didn't, no, because I slept next door to the
5 toilets and I could hear if anybody went to the toilets.

6 Q. If you move on to the next page, she gives quite a lot
7 of evidence about this, but I think your position is
8 this just did not happen, this response to bed-wetting
9 did not happen?

10 A. No.

11 Q. On the following page, page 1564, towards the bottom,
12 when she's talking about being hit, she's asked at
13 line 23:

14 "Question: If you were to be hit, what would you be
15 hit with?

16 "Answer: Personally, I was hit with a hairbrush and
17 a tennis racket on the back of the hand or a hair pull."

18 What about that, sister?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Did that happen?

21 A. No. We never had tennis rackets.

22 Q. Okay. If you turn to page 1568, at line 13 she talks
23 about -- she's asked:

24 "Question: Did you see other children being beaten?

25 "Answer: Yes, being beaten, yes.

1 "Question: What would that involve?

2 "Answer: A slap, back of hand, or a tennis racket.
3 I have seen other kids being hit with a tennis racket,
4 a hairbrush.

5 "Question: Are you talking about children within
6 your own group?

7 "Answer: Yes.

8 "Question: What sister or what person was involved
9 in that?

10 "Answer: I would just say Sister [REDACTED] LKR "

11 So again she's suggesting, sister, that you hit
12 other children with a hairbrush or tennis racket.

13 A. No, it's not true.

14 Q. It's not true?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Did some children sometimes smoke?

17 A. No, they were too young.

18 Q. She did tell us about an incident that happened when she
19 was young, about 8 or 9, and that's on page 1569, at
20 line 13. She talks about seeing a cigarette and taking
21 a puff from it, and that you grabbed her and slapped
22 her. Did that incident happen?

23 A. I don't know how she could have got a cigarette or
24 ashtray.

25 LADY SMITH: She explains a little lower down, sister, that

1 she thinks it was in the kitchen and the cigarette
2 belonged to a member of staff and it had been left lit
3 in the ashtray.

4 A. No, I don't have a recollection of it. I didn't even
5 know anyone smoked really.

6 LADY SMITH: That was an era when people could smoke indoors
7 at work, wasn't it?

8 A. Yes. But I don't remember, as I say, staff smoking
9 then.

10 MR MacAULAY: In any event, you say this just did not
11 happen?

12 A. It didn't happen, no.

13 Q. The other incident she mentioned at page 1570 was,
14 if we turn to that page -- here she's talking about an
15 incident where there was a girl who was wearing a pretty
16 skirt and she tried it on, and she tells us it was
17 a swirly skirt that went out when she twirled, and that
18 it was inappropriate to have your underwear flashing,
19 and?

20 "Answer: I thought it would be nice to have a shot
21 of the skirt, and then we got caught sort of mid-change.
22 I had the skirt on and I was told to wait in the room
23 and I got caught with the skirt on.

24 "Question: Can you tell me what happened?

25 "Answer: I called her [and she swears].

1 "Question: And the 'her' here, is that

2 Sister [REDACTED] LKR

3 "Answer: Yes.

4 "Question: Why?

5 "Answer: Because she was coming for me again.

6 I knew I was in trouble because we had changed skirts
7 and I had my pants flashing and you just shouldn't have
8 had your pants on show.

9 "Question: Were you twirling around with the skirt
10 on?

11 "Answer: Yes.

12 "Question: So you're talking about one of these
13 full gathered skirts that would whirl out the faster you
14 turned?"

15 And if you move on to the next page, 1571:

16 "Answer: Yes, I had the skirt on and that was that.

17 "Question: What happened?

18 "Answer: I got a thrashing. I got slapped across
19 my legs and I got dragged to the toilet because I had
20 called her an effing C. My mouth was washed out with
21 soap."

22 About what that incident?

23 A. Never.

24 Q. It's quite a detailed description of a particular
25 incident.

1 A. I have no recollection of that incident and the thing
2 I never did was wash anyone's mouth out with soap,
3 never.

4 Q. If there was such an incident, I understand you don't
5 have any recollection of it, would you have responded in
6 this way to it?

7 A. No, I wouldn't, no.

8 Q. She mentions another incident at 1573. Here she gives
9 some explanations as to how cigarettes might be
10 accessible. At line 8 she's asked:

11 "Question: Where would you get the cigarettes?

12 "Answer: Some of the older kids had cigarettes and
13 some of the priests had cigarettes and the boys were
14 allowed to go and get the cigarettes for the priests and
15 the priests would give the boys a couple of cigarettes."

16 Could that have happened?

17 A. Never. We had no priests in the house then.

18 Q. There were priests in the area. You were next to the
19 church; is that right?

20 A. No, not then. There were no priests then.

21 Q. Did priests not visit at all?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Did you have a chapel in --

24 A. We didn't, no. The priests came from next door to say
25 Mass every day. We had no priests and in no way would

1 the boys have got cigarettes from a priest. That would
2 never have happened.

3 Q. Did you ever see boys smoking?

4 A. No, I never saw any of them smoking.

5 Q. She's asked then at line 19:

6 "Question: On this occasion when you were having
7 your cigarette, I think something happened.

8 "Answer: I was in the field, having a cigarette,
9 and a hand came through the hedge and physically pulled
10 me through the hedge in my nightdress. I had on a nylon
11 nightdress and no underwear and I was pulled through the
12 hedge and slapped repeatedly and dragged back inside by
13 Sister [REDACTED] LKR [REDACTED]."

14 A. Never, never.

15 Q. Another piece of her evidence perhaps I can put to you,
16 also at page 1576, if we look towards the bottom of the
17 page, she again talks about having her mouth washed out
18 a few times with carbolic soap.

19 A. Oh gosh.

20 Q. Did that happen?

21 A. We never had carbolic soap, never.

22 Q. She talks about another incident at page 1578 and
23 perhaps I can go back a page, actually, to 1577. At
24 line 16 she's asked:

25 "Question: You also tell us about a [REDACTED] girl who

1 was there when you were there."

2 Was there a [REDACTED] girl?

3 A. There was a [REDACTED] girl, yes.

4 Q. And she talks about her, that she was a good friend and
5 she was called names, which were racist, there was
6 a programme called [REDACTED] on and because of that, there
7 was a degree of racial abuse.

8 Moving on to the next page, she's asked:

9 "Question: Did anyone try and stop that sort of
10 racist comment?

11 "Answer: No."

12 Do you remember there being racist comments?

13 A. No, there wasn't. The girl herself was very conscious
14 of being different, but nobody ever called her ...

15 Q. So --

16 A. No.

17 Q. She mentions names like [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

18 A. No.

19 Q. Were these names she was called by children and staff?

20 A. No.

21 Q. You never heard anything like that?

22 A. Never heard it, no, unless the children did it among
23 themselves and we didn't hear, but the staff definitely
24 didn't and I didn't.

25 Q. On page 1578, she's asked at line 4:

1 "Question: But insofar as her treatment from any of
2 the nuns was concerned, did you see how she was treated
3 by the nuns?

4 "Answer: Yes, I seen her getting a hell of
5 a beating one night."

6 She talks about having had their ears pierced.
7 Do you have any recollection of children having their
8 ears pierced?

9 A. None, no.

10 Q. And they were having a sort of carry-on, I think, in the
11 dormitory and at line 15 she says:

12 "Answer: We warned her Sister [REDACTED] LKR was coming
13 and she just kept dancing and she was lifted by her head
14 and was beaten with a tennis racket and she vomited
15 blood and I often thought it was because she got her
16 ears pierced and she went to her bed and cried."

17 Did that happen, sister?

18 A. No, it didn't happen.

19 Q. She also talks about being taken out by a man, who may
20 have been her father, and being sexually abused.

21 A. No.

22 Q. Can I ask you whether -- well, you wouldn't know whether
23 that happened or not.

24 A. I never remember any man visiting and I never heard
25 about any of her family, that she had parents. The only

1 person I knew was this auntie somebody who used to come
2 and take her. I never heard of any other visitor.

3 Q. I think her position was this man came along and she
4 never deemed him to be her father, but he did take her
5 out.

6 A. No.

7 Q. What were the arrangements if someone came saying, "I'm
8 the father and I'd like to take my child out"?

9 A. If it was the father and we knew it was the father and
10 he wanted to take her out, yes, but it would just ne
11 out. They wouldn't stay overnight or anything.
12 Families did visit and could take them up as far as the
13 shops or the park.

14 Q. How would you describe the atmosphere in the home as far
15 as your group was concerned?

16 A. It was very happy, yes.

17 Q. I'll put to you how she then describes the atmosphere.
18 If you turn to page 1584. What she says there at line 7
19 is -- she's asked the question:

20 "Question: From your perspective, what was the
21 atmosphere in the home like?

22 "Answer: I was always scared. I was a very nervous
23 child, always wondering what was going to happen next,
24 always wondering the next step."

25 What do you say about that?

1 A. I don't know. LBC to me, was a bright child: lively,
2 pleasant. I never knew her even to be naughty and she
3 mixed well with the other children, yes. I'd have said
4 she was a kind of a leader in a way with the others.

5 Q. She was asked at page 1588 about leaving. This is at
6 line 4. She's asked there:

7 "Question: When you came to leave Nazareth House --
8 and I think I took it from you that was in LBC 1979
9 when you were aged 10; would that be correct?"

10 Would that be about right? Would that be your own
11 recollection as to when she left or was she still there
12 when you left?

13 A. I thought she was still there when I left.

14 Q. You left in 1979 as well.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. It seems from what happened that she left and her
17 sister stayed. Do you have any recollection of that?

18 A. That would have happened because it was just LBC that
19 that lady was interested in. It was only LBC she took
20 for weekends.

21 Q. So would that mean that siblings were separated then?

22 A. Yes. Mm-hm.

23 Q. What you say in your statement, sister -- and this is at
24 paragraph 91 and we can now go back to that, this is at
25 page WIT.001.001.8091.

1 A number of the allegations were put to you in the
2 course of the taking of the statement, and what you say
3 at 91 is:

4 "[Donna] didn't give me any particular trouble.
5 I thought my relationship with her was perfectly all
6 right. I have seen her since. I have seen her since
7 she got married."

8 Do I take it from that then that you're surprised,
9 are you, by the --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- the allegations that are made?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Have you any idea as to why, if you had such a good
14 relationship with her, that she would make these
15 allegations?

16 A. I don't really know. I was quite surprised myself.

17 Q. What you say towards the bottom at paragraph 94 is:

18 "If any of the children had any concerns or
19 complaints about the way they felt that they were being
20 treated, they could report it. I suppose they would
21 tell their social worker."

22 So are you saying that you'd expect children to
23 tell, for example, a social worker if they were being
24 ill-treated?

25 A. They would do, yes.

- 1 Q. I think one of the points that Donna says in her
2 evidence -- I won't put it back on the screen, but it's
3 at TRN.001.003.1584 -- is that she was too scared.
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. You don't accept that?
- 6 A. I don't accept that, no.
- 7 Q. Sister, your position, quite clearly, is that really the
8 allegations I've put to you -- and there are quite
9 a number of allegations by Donna -- these are lies,
10 they're lies.
- 11 A. I feel very hurt with it all really, yes, because it
12 never happened.
- 13 Q. Can I move on then, sister, to when you came to leave
14 Cardonald. I think you told us earlier that that was in
15 1979.
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Where did you go after Cardonald; can you remember?
- 18 A. I went to Oxford.
- 19 Q. Were you going there to a children's home?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And were you doing the same sort of work?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Was it the same type of children? By that I mean
24 children, younger children?
- 25 A. Yes. No, it was ... It was a smaller group.

- 1 Q. Can you remember why you came to leave Cardonald?
- 2 A. Just as part of our rule -- if we go -- we move from
3 place to place.
- 4 Q. Did you feel that you had a good relationship with your
5 group?
- 6 A. I did. I was very sad leaving Cardonald, yes.
- 7 Q. And did someone then come to replace you?
- 8 A. They did, yes.
- 9 Q. Do you know who replaced you?
- 10 A. Sister [REDACTED] LTU
- 11 Q. Did you see her before you left?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. So there was no handover?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. I think then you came back to Scotland and went to
16 Lasswade; is that right?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And that was in 1981?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And I think, as I took from you earlier, you were there
21 until about 1983; is that correct?
- 22 A. Yes, but I wasn't with the children all the time. I was
23 with the children for about a year or so.
- 24 Q. What were you doing the rest of the time?
- 25 A. I was sent really to do collecting.

1 Q. If we can just get an idea of the numbers of children at
2 Lasswade.

3 A. I think it was a smaller group. I haven't much memory
4 of Lasswade, really.

5 Q. I think you do say that in your statement --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- that you've got almost a blank on Lasswade.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Let's just see what the figures were like according to
10 the information provided by the order. I'll put this on
11 the screen for you, sister: NAZ.001.001.0265.

12 This is information provided by the order in
13 connection with the numbers of children at the different
14 houses over time. If we turn to the second page, do we
15 see, according to this, that if we look to the far right
16 for Edinburgh that, by 1981, the number is said to be
17 49, but by 1982/1983, it's down to 19. So the numbers
18 have significantly reduced from what they had been
19 before?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You say for a time you were in charge of a group; is
22 that right.

23 A. Yes. Seeing that there were 19 children, there were two
24 groups.

25 Q. And you had one of the groups for a period of time?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Who else was there then? Who was in charge of the other
3 group?
- 4 A. Sister LQD
- 5 Q. And was it again -- can you tell me about the group?
6 Was it made up of boys and girls?
- 7 A. Boys and girls, yes. I think maybe two families made it
8 up, yes.
- 9 Q. So quite a discrete, small group?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Was the routine quite similar?
- 12 A. Oh yes.
- 13 Q. One thing you tell us, though, is that -- and I think
14 this may be because you don't have a real memory of
15 Lasswade -- that you don't remember visits from
16 social workers.
- 17 A. No, I don't remember much about it.
- 18 Q. And you have no recollection of keeping any records?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. But just in a general way, did you see any children
21 being physically punished?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. Did you yourself physically punish a child?
- 24 A. No -- actually, the children were phasing out at that
25 stage, the group.

1 Q. The last thing I want to ask you, sister, is to ask
2 you -- and we may have covered this already, but just to
3 be clear: have any of the children you've looked after
4 kept in touch with you over the years?

5 A. Not from any of the Scottish houses, no.

6 MR MacAULAY: Thank you very much, sister, for that. I have
7 asked all the questions I want to ask and I think I've
8 covered the questions I've been asked to put to you.
9 Thank you.

10 A. Thank you very much.

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

13 Sister, that completes the questions we have for you
14 this morning. Can I just say thank you for engaging
15 with the inquiry, as you have done, both in providing us
16 with your written statement and then with your oral
17 evidence today. They're both of great help to me in
18 doing the work that I have to do here and I'm now able
19 to let you go. Thank you.

20 A. Thank you, Lady Smith.

21 (The witness withdrew)

22 LADY SMITH: Before I ask Mr MacAulay about the next
23 witness, could I just remind everybody here that, as
24 they may have noticed in the flow of evidence, two names
25 were used: one was the name that the last witness had

1 when she was in her employment at Cardonald, and the
2 other -- once, I think -- was another name for the
3 applicant who was referred to as having made allegations
4 against that witness.

5 It, of course, remains the rule that the witness
6 herself is entitled to be known only as the name she
7 chose for her evidence, Sister Bronagh. No other name
8 is to be used outside the hearing room. The applicant
9 that was being referred to is the applicant that can
10 only be referred to as Donna.

11 Now, Mr MacAulay.

12 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness also wants to remain
13 anonymous and she wants to use the name
14 "Sister Philomena" in giving evidence.

15 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, am I right in thinking that this
16 witness should also receive a warning?

17 MR MacAULAY: Indeed so, yes.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 "SISTER PHILOMENA" (sworn)

20 LADY SMITH: Sister, please sit down and make yourself
21 comfortable. I can hear from the microphone picking up
22 your breathing that that's in a good position for you,
23 sister. It's important that you use that microphone so
24 that everybody can hear you, including the
25 stenographers.

1 Before I hand over to Mr MacAulay, there are
2 a couple of things I want to say to you, really by way
3 of reminder.

4 You may recall that when you were interviewed by
5 members of the inquiry team, they explained to you that
6 although this is a public inquiry and not a court case
7 of any sort, it's not a trial or that kind of thing,
8 you've still got the right not to incriminate yourself,
9 and I think it was also explained to you that if you
10 told them you were involved in the abuse of children,
11 you could be asked further questions about that, but you
12 didn't have to answer those questions, it was a matter
13 of choice for you. But if you did answer them, then
14 your questions would be recorded and would be available
15 at a later date for use in other proceedings if
16 required.

17 That position remains the same today. You continue
18 to have that right not to incriminate yourself, not to
19 answer any questions about having abused children if you
20 do say that you did do that, and you need to understand
21 that if you did choose to answer the questions --
22 although it is, as I say, your choice -- then your
23 answers are being recorded -- they're both being
24 recorded through the sound system and they will then be
25 put into a transcript that's available, were that

1 required at a later date in other proceedings.

2 A. But if I have an allegation made against me, do I say
3 whatever it was?

4 LADY SMITH: It is your choice, but if you don't want to
5 answer questions about these things, you can also not do
6 that because fundamentally you have the right not to
7 incriminate yourself. Do you appreciate that?

8 A. Thank you.

9 LADY SMITH: Any doubts, just ask me again.

10 Mr MacAulay.

11 Questions from MR MacAULAY

12 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, sister.

13 A. Good morning, Mr MacAulay.

14 Q. I don't want your date of birth, but in order to get
15 a time frame I need to confirm the year of your birth.
16 Can you confirm for me, sister, that you were born in
17 1934?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So you're now, I think, aged 84; is that right?

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. If you look at the red folder that's in front of you,
22 you will find a copy of your statement, the statement
23 you provided to the inquiry earlier.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. For the transcript, I can say that the reference is

1 WIT.001.001.8259. Could I ask you, sister, to turn to
2 the last page? That's page 8284.

3 Can you confirm that you have signed the statement?

4 A. I can, yes.

5 Q. Can you also confirm that you have no objection to the
6 witness statement being published as part of the
7 evidence to the inquiry?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Do you also say:

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

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Thank you.

14 I think you tell us in your statement, sister -- you
15 can close the folder up and what I'll do, if I'm
16 referring to the statement, I'll put it on the screen in
17 front of you and if there are parts of it I may ask you
18 to look at, we can do it in that way.

19 I think you tell us in your statement that you
20 joined the order in 1960.

21 A. That's right.

22 Q. You also say that you took a course?

23 A. Yes, in Finchley.

24 Q. Can you tell me about the course?

25 A. I took a course looking after young children. It was

1 a year's course and I can't remember the college.
2 I think it was Tottenham. I'm not terribly sure. It
3 was a two-year course and it helped me to understand
4 looking after -- what was meant by looking after
5 children, because I'd never looked after children
6 before. I just walked in there green, if you like,
7 I didn't know what I was doing. But that did help me to
8 understand children and to be more motherly and realise
9 how much these children needed to be loved and cared
10 for.

11 Q. You say, sister, it was a two-year course?

12 A. It was a two-year course, it must have been, yes.

13 Q. Was that a full-time course?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Did you get a qualification at the end of the course?

16 A. I did, yes.

17 Q. And then was this course a course you did before you had
18 any involvement with looking after children?

19 A. That's right, yes.

20 LADY SMITH: Do you remember what the qualification was?

21 A. It's called NNEB.

22 LADY SMITH: The nursery nursing course?

23 A. Yes.

24 MR MacAULAY: As you said, sister, you found that to be
25 helpful to you when you came to look after children.

1 A. That's right, yes.

2 Q. I'm going to ask you about when you came to Scotland,
3 and I think that was in 1977 and you went to Lasswade;
4 is that right?

5 A. That's right, I went to Lasswade.

6 Q. Before that, what had you done then? Can I put it in
7 a more general way: had you been working with children
8 before you came to Lasswade?

9 A. No, I wasn't, no.

10 Q. So what had you been doing?

11 A. I had been just doing general work in the house, out
12 collecting.

13 Q. So you'd done the course you mentioned, but you didn't
14 actually put it into --

15 A. I did the course and then I looked after the babies in
16 Southend, if that's right ...

17 Q. I see.

18 A. That's right. I'm just trying to think: was it
19 Southend?

20 LADY SMITH: I think you mentioned Swansea when you gave
21 your written statement.

22 A. Yes. After I'd done the NNEB, I looked after the kids
23 in Swansea.

24 MR MacAULAY: I think you do tell us actually in your
25 statement at paragraph 4 that you also moved to

1 Southend.

2 A. That's right, and that's where I done a course for older
3 children and that was in my connection with older
4 children --

5 Q. That's what I was going to ask you. There was another
6 course that you did: was that a year course?

7 A. I done a course in Dublin. That was a theology course
8 and it was really for my own benefit.

9 Q. Did you do a course in Southend?

10 A. Yes, I did, yes.

11 Q. And was that to do --

12 A. That was to do with the older children.

13 Q. Was that for one year, that course?

14 A. I think it was one year, yes.

15 Q. Did you get a qualification for that?

16 A. I did, yes.

17 Q. In any event --

18 LADY SMITH: What qualification was that, do you remember?

19 A. I can't remember.

20 MR MacAULAY: But then, against that background, I think you
21 say in your statement that in 1977 you moved to
22 Scotland.

23 A. That's right, yes.

24 Q. You refer to Bonnyrigg; I think in the inquiry we've
25 been referring to the home as "Lasswade".

- 1 A. Lasswade, yes.
- 2 Q. It's the same place. You were there until 1979; is that
3 correct?
- 4 A. That's right, yes.
- 5 Q. In 1979, I think you moved to Cardonald?
- 6 A. Cardonald, that's right.
- 7 Q. And you were there until 1985?
- 8 A. That's right, yes.
- 9 Q. So can I then just look, first of all, sister, at your
10 position when you were in Lasswade. Were you there to
11 look after a group of children?
- 12 A. I was looking after a group of children. I took it
13 shortly after I went there. I took a group of children,
14 with other sisters as well, to Dunbar for a holiday.
- 15 Q. I'll come to that. Just to see what the position at the
16 beginning is when you went there. Were you allocated
17 a group of children?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. How many were in the group; can you remember?
- 20 A. 14 to 15; 16 would be the very most.
- 21 Q. Can you tell me about the age range of the group?
- 22 A. From about 3 to 4-year-olds to probably 14,
23 15-year-olds.
- 24 Q. So quite a wide range of ages?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And did you have boys and girls in the group?
- 2 A. Boys and girls, yes.
- 3 Q. And were there family members?
- 4 A. We tried to keep them family members, yes.
- 5 Q. When you got to Lasswade, sister, were you taking over
- 6 this group from another sister?
- 7 A. I was, yes.
- 8 Q. Did you meet the sister when you got there?
- 9 A. No, I didn't.
- 10 Q. She had left?
- 11 A. She had left.
- 12 Q. Can you remember who it was that you took the group over
- 13 from?
- 14 A. LQC She was ill and that's the
- 15 reason she left.
- 16 Q. I take it then that there wasn't a handover from her to
- 17 you because she had left?
- 18 A. Not particularly, no, no.
- 19 Q. Did anyone give you any information about the children
- 20 in your group when you got to Lasswade?
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. Were there any records you could consult to find out
- 23 about the children?
- 24 A. She kept a diary book, she kept a book, a menu book,
- 25 first of all, and she kept -- I think it was a logbook,

1 you called it. It gave me some idea what was going on
2 and how to begin to -- I felt I took them and looked
3 after them as any other mother would look after a child
4 and I kind of gave them the best of my experience,
5 I suppose.

6 Q. Were there other groups as well, though?

7 A. There was a cottage beside -- there was another two
8 groups in a cottage beside that, and there were five
9 groups altogether in the house and there were three in
10 the large house, I called it.

11 Q. And I think the cottage was known as Holycote?

12 A. That's right.

13 Q. So there were two groups in Holycote?

14 A. Mm-hm.

15 Q. And the three other groups are in the main house?

16 A. So far as I know it was three, yes.

17 Q. Apart from yourself, sister -- and I understand you were
18 in charge of the group -- did you have some lay staff to
19 help you?

20 A. We did, yes.

21 Q. How many lay staff did you have?

22 A. I think we had roughly about four, maybe two in the
23 morning, two in the afternoon.

24 Q. What were their duties?

25 A. They were there to get the children up in the morning

1 and just when they came home from school, help them with
2 their homework and see that the house was kept in good
3 order, doing the laundry and different things like that.

4 Q. Do you know if they had training?

5 A. I don't think so. They were older people, I would say.
6 They weren't young people. They were older people.

7 Q. Okay. So, so far as you'd be concerned, sister, then,
8 there would be a Mother Superior that would be -- that
9 you would be accountable to?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. But in relation to each of the groups, were the groups
12 quite separate from each other?

13 A. They were yes.

14 Q. Would you have any insight into what was going on in
15 another group?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Can I ask you then a little bit about the children's
18 sleeping accommodation, sister. What was the set-up
19 there?

20 A. In Bonnyrigg, there were separate bedrooms. I say
21 separate, three or four in a bedroom, two or three in
22 a bedroom, and that would be the -- two and three in
23 each bedroom, I would say. But there was definitely no
24 single bedrooms to my knowledge.

25 Q. And it wasn't a dormitory set-up?

1 A. I don't think it was a dormitory set-up. It wasn't, no.

2 Q. Did children come into the group during your time there?

3 A. Yes, I ... I can't remember.

4 Q. Do you have any recollection at all of a child --

5 A. Admitting a child in the group?

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. I have no recollection of admitting a child in that

8 group, no.

9 Q. Where was your group based then? Was there a particular

10 part of the building that was allocated to your group?

11 A. Yes, I think I was on the second floor.

12 Q. Did you have a separate dining room for your group?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You've talked already about the logbook. Can you

15 remember what other records were kept for the children?

16 A. Admission books, when the children were admitted, and

17 they had files, a file on each child.

18 Q. So there was a file on each child?

19 A. Mm-hm.

20 Q. Where were the files kept?

21 A. They were kept in the office.

22 Q. Did you have an office?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So if you had 14 children, you'd have 14 files, one for

25 each child?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And what sort of material would be in the file?
- 3 A. When they were admitted and what the circumstances of
4 their family were, and their behaviour, how they felt
5 coming in, and that's about it. When they were admitted
6 and if they were discharged or admitted was in the book
7 as well.
- 8 Q. The sort of information you've just mentioned, do you
9 consider that to be important to you in looking after
10 the children?
- 11 A. Very much so, yes.
- 12 Q. What involvement did you have with social workers?
- 13 A. The social workers came about every three months or so.
14 But if I needed -- if I was worried about anybody or had
15 anything to say or anything worried me, I would contact
16 the social workers and they visited the children.
- 17 Q. Did they speak to the children?
- 18 A. Yes, they did, of course.
- 19 Q. Did you yourself discuss a child's progress with
20 a social worker?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Would that be something that you'd also record in the
23 child's --
- 24 A. It would be, yes.
- 25 Q. Would that be in the child's file?

1 A. Mm-hm.

2 Q. Did any children leave the group during your time?

3 A. I can't remember. I don't think so.

4 Q. You have no recollection of that?

5 A. No recollection.

6 MR MacAULAY: I'm about to move on to another topic,
7 my Lady.

8 LADY SMITH: Should we take the morning break now?

9 MR MacAULAY: It might be a good point.

10 LADY SMITH: Sister, we always have a break at this point
11 in the morning and I'll sit again in 15 or 20 minutes.

12 (11.27 am)

13 (A short break)

14 (11.47 am)

15 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

16 MR MacAULAY: Sister, can I take you to paragraph 15 of your
17 statement. It'll come on the screen for you. There you
18 are talking about what the position was with regard to
19 getting clothes and shoes for the children. Can you
20 tell me about that? What arrangements were there for
21 that?

22 A. Regarding the children's clothing, the Mother Superior
23 gave us money to purchase school uniforms and whatever
24 clothing the children needed. We went to the different
25 shops. I think I do remember the C&A shop -- it's

1 closed now -- that the older children were very fond of
2 going there. The clothes were bought to suit the
3 children and the children liked them.

4 Q. Would children then be able to choose their own clothes?

5 A. I would take the younger children and the staff would
6 take the older children.

7 Q. And were they able to pick --

8 A. They were able to pick their own clothes, yes.

9 Q. Sister, can I ask you about some aspects of the routine.

10 If I can focus first of all on bed-wetting, were there
11 children in your group that you can remember that wet
12 the bed at this time?

13 A. One or two of them, maybe two or three of them. I'm not
14 quite sure how many, but some of them did, yes.

15 Q. How was that managed then?

16 A. What would happen -- we had a laundry basket, the sheets
17 were taken off the bed and put into the laundry basket.
18 The children were taken and bathed in nice, warm, soapy
19 water, and there was never a word said to them. They
20 were never reprimanded.

21 Q. Let's go back a little bit. If a child wet the bed,
22 there would be a wet sheet; who would take the sheet off
23 the bed?

24 A. Either the staff or myself.

25 Q. Not the child?

- 1 A. Not the child, definitely not.
- 2 Q. Why do you say definitely not?
- 3 A. Because I think it'd be very unfair to the child and
4 make the child embarrassed.
- 5 Q. I think you went on to say that the child would have
6 a wash; is that right?
- 7 A. A bath or a wash, whatever the child wanted.
- 8 Q. If it was a bath --
- 9 A. If the child had wet the bed, we thought it would be
10 better to bath the child.
- 11 Q. If it was a bath, did you say it would be warm water?
- 12 A. Nice warm water, yes.
- 13 Q. Was there any occasions when a child might be humiliated
14 for having wet the bed?
- 15 A. I have never experienced it. I have never experienced
16 the staff -- and if they did, I would have corrected
17 them.
- 18 Q. What about being punished for wetting the bed; did that
19 ever happen?
- 20 A. That never happened.
- 21 Q. Do you know how bed-wetting was managed in the other
22 groups?
- 23 A. No, I have no idea.
- 24 Q. The other thing I want to ask you about is mealtimes.
25 How would you describe the food at this time?

- 1 A. We got the same food as the children and in those days
2 the food was quite good, actually.
- 3 Q. What would the position be if a child didn't want to eat
4 a particular dish?
- 5 A. You'd try to get something else, go to the kitchen and
6 try to get something else for them that they would like.
7 But that was very, very rare, because the children would
8 be hungry and they'd sit down and eat anything -- and
9 the food was good, so we didn't have much problems that
10 way.
- 11 Q. Were there occasions that you can remember when a child
12 didn't want to eat a particular food, let's say a
13 vegetable, for example?
- 14 A. It would be just put to one side and they wouldn't be
15 asked to eat them if they didn't want them.
- 16 Q. Were children punished for not eating food?
- 17 A. I have never, ever experienced any child being punished.
- 18 Q. And what about being physically made to eat their food;
19 did that ever happen?
- 20 A. That never happened.
- 21 Q. You also, I think, tell us that you'd help children with
22 homework --
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. -- after school; is that correct?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Did you do that?

2 A. We did help -- some of the staff and myself would sit
3 down and help them to do their homework, made sure they
4 had it done.

5 Q. You tell us also that there were toys and games
6 available for the children.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Were there plenty of toys for the children?

9 A. Plenty of toys.

10 Q. What sort of toys?

11 A. They would have footballs and bicycles, actually, and
12 little trikes for the little ones, and they had games to
13 play with. They had a snooker table.

14 Q. In relation to holidays, you tell us in your statement,
15 sister, that you would go to Dunbar.

16 A. Dunbar, yes.

17 Q. Did more than one group go?

18 A. Well, I think two groups went to Dunbar, yes.

19 Q. What sort of activities would be available to you on
20 holiday?

21 A. There would be the amusements, which they enjoyed very
22 much. There would be swimming, the sand -- playing sand
23 making or making sandcastles, and shopping and doing
24 whatever a child would do on his holidays, have a good
25 time.

- 1 Q. Were birthdays celebrated?
- 2 A. Very much so.
- 3 Q. What happened?
- 4 A. They would bake cakes and have candles on them and have
5 a little party.
- 6 Q. Would there be presents?
- 7 A. Of course there were presents, yes, and cards.
- 8 Q. How would you know if a birthday was coming up?
- 9 A. They'd soon tell you.
- 10 Q. Let's take a younger child.
- 11 A. You'd look in the register and you'd see their birthday.
- 12 Q. So you'd keep an eye on their --
- 13 A. You'd keep an eye on them --
- 14 Q. -- records to see when birthdays were due?
- 15 A. But you were reminded weeks beforehand by the child.
- 16 Q. I've already raised with you the issue of
17 social workers. Just putting social workers aside, were
18 there any other forms of inspection carried out during
19 your time at Lasswade?
- 20 A. I don't remember so much Bonnyrigg, but I do remember in
21 Cardonald that we had inspections.
- 22 Q. But you don't remember at Lasswade?
- 23 A. I don't remember.
- 24 Q. If you look at paragraph 34 of your statement, you're
25 talking there about social workers reviewing a child's

1 placement with meetings. Do you remember that
2 happening, that you would have a meeting with
3 a social worker and there would be a review --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- of the child's placement?

6 A. Yes, there would be, yes.

7 Q. And you say these meetings took place in the
8 social worker's office; is that correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Can you help me with that? Would you go?

11 A. I would go, one of the staff would go with me, and
12 we would prepare a report.

13 Q. For the social worker?

14 A. For the social workers.

15 Q. And would these reports find their way into the child's
16 file?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. How often do you think during your time at Lasswade you
19 had that sort of meeting with a social worker?

20 A. I would say about once in six months, every six months
21 or so.

22 Q. And the children then, they wouldn't attend these
23 meetings?

24 A. I don't recall children attending the meeting.

25 Q. Did parents attend the meetings?

- 1 A. I don't even recall children -- their parents.
- 2 Q. Can I ask you, because you mention this in paragraph 35,
3 about unsupervised access to the children? Who would
4 have access to the children?
- 5 A. Myself and the staff and ... Parents.
- 6 Q. Did priests come into the home?
- 7 A. The priests came in very rarely. He'd just come in, see
8 the kids, and we were always there. They were never
9 left alone.
- 10 Q. Were there volunteers who had access to the children?
- 11 A. We had no volunteers, no.
- 12 Q. We've had reference to the name Joseph Duffy; was he
13 a volunteer or a worker?
- 14 A. He was a volunteer, yes.
- 15 Q. He was a volunteer?
- 16 A. Mm-hm.
- 17 Q. Was he there at this time?
- 18 A. As far as I know, he only came after -- this is
19 Cardonald now?
- 20 Q. I'm sorry. I've jumped ahead.
- 21 A. That was Cardonald; he definitely wasn't in Bonnyrigg.
- 22 Q. I'll come back to that. But so far then as Lasswade is
23 concerned, it would essentially be yourself and the
24 staff?
- 25 A. Staff.

1 Q. And if somebody came to see children, like a family
2 member --

3 A. Of course they would see them, yes.

4 Q. Would you leave the child with the family member?

5 A. Yes, mm-hm.

6 Q. Can I then ask you, sister, about discipline. When you
7 went to Lasswade, did you receive any guidance on how
8 discipline was to be maintained in the group?

9 A. No.

10 Q. How did you approach discipline then, sister?

11 A. I wasn't a disciplinarian, I just kind of -- I would
12 take the child and talk to the child and I would
13 maybe -- if there was very serious allegations to them
14 or they'd done something very serious, I would maybe
15 deduct -- not deduct, but take their pocket money off
16 and make them wait for it for a day or two before they
17 got it. And I would -- I can't remember.

18 Q. So if --

19 A. I would tell them off and maybe just tell them, send
20 them to their room until they'd ...

21 Q. Did you ever hit a child?

22 A. I have never hit a child, no, and I never seen anyone
23 else hitting a child.

24 Q. Did children in your group run away?

25 A. Not in Lasswade, no.

1 Q. If I look at paragraph 41, a few lines from the top, you
2 say:

3 "I would phone the social worker about disturbed
4 behaviour."

5 A. If it was serious, I would phone the social worker.

6 Q. And that's children hitting each other. If they were
7 fighting, would you phone the social worker for that?

8 A. No, not for that.

9 Q. You say there about running away. The suggestion I took
10 from that was that children did run away. In fact, you
11 go on to say that:

12 "The children were grounded if they ran away and
13 some did abscond."

14 A. Yes, that's right.

15 Q. So you have a recollection of children running away?

16 A. Not in Bonnyrigg, I'm talking about -- I have more
17 knowledge of Cardonald because -- I was a short time
18 there, two years. It was a short time in Bonnyrigg and
19 I have more knowledge of what happened in Cardonald.

20 Q. So although we're looking here at the section of your
21 evidence dealing with Lasswade or Bonnyrigg, you think
22 you're talking really more about Cardonald?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Just so I can understand, you have no recollection of
25 children running away --

1 A. Not in Bonnyrigg.

2 Q. Not in Bonnyrigg?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Was there a punishment book kept at this time in
5 Lasswade?

6 A. I didn't keep one.

7 Q. Did you record punishments anywhere?

8 A. There was nothing serious, so I didn't record anything.

9 Q. When you gave your statement, sister, in connection with
10 Lasswade, I think you were told that there were
11 allegations being made by children against sisters at
12 Lasswade. I think you were told that; is that correct?
13 For example, I think you were told that there were
14 allegations made against Sister [REDACTED] LTX

15 A. Oh, I heard that, yes.

16 Q. Was Sister [REDACTED] LTX at Lasswade when you were there?

17 A. She was, yes.

18 Q. Did you ever see Sister [REDACTED] LTX as to how she
19 interacted with the children?

20 A. Her group was away from my group and I've never actually
21 been with her when -- the only time was when I went on
22 holiday with her. But I had never seen her on --
23 I actually knew her well and I thought she was very kind
24 and good to the children. But I never actually worked
25 with her and seen her doing anything.

- 1 Q. [REDACTED]
- 2 A. [REDACTED]
- 3 Q. [REDACTED]
- 4 A. [REDACTED]
- 5 Q. But you say you never saw her do anything wrong?
- 6 A. I never, ever, no.
- 7 Q. Did you ask her if she had done anything --
- 8 A. I never discussed anything like that with her. [REDACTED]
- 9 [REDACTED]
- 10 Q. [REDACTED]
- 11 A. I didn't think -- because I took her -- when I went on
- 12 holidays with her, the children, they actually loved her
- 13 and she loved them. I was shocked when I heard about
- 14 the allegations.
- 15 Q. Have you at any time since then discussed these
- 16 allegations with her?
- 17 A. She's been very upset about it.
- 18 Q. So you have discussed it with her?
- 19 A. Very, very upset about it. That's all I can say. She
- 20 was very upset about it -- and it has upset her life,
- 21 actually.
- 22 Q. Okay. Well, can we then leave Lasswade and go on to
- 23 Cardonald. Can I ask you how it came to be that you
- 24 left Lasswade to go to Cardonald?
- 25 A. Well, they had built a new children's home, a little

1 bungalow, quite a big bungalow, it was only new, and the
2 sister was supposed to be taking that over and for some
3 unknown reason she didn't take it over and I was asked
4 to take it over, so I took it over. It was a beautiful
5 place. It was lovely: children walking into a brand new
6 home -- it was good for me as well -- to a brand new
7 building they'd never been in before.

8 Q. Of course, that would mean you leaving behind the
9 children that you'd cared for at Lasswade.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did you think you'd built up a good relationship --

12 A. I did. I was very fond of the children and I would try
13 to treat them like a mother would treat a child. I put
14 myself in their position: how would I behave if they had
15 been neglected by their parents or whatever their
16 situation was? And I tried to be very kind and good to
17 them.

18 Q. Do you think then, sister, that they would have been
19 upset by you leaving them?

20 A. They would have been, yes. They would have been upset,
21 but there was nothing I could do about it. In religious
22 life, we had to do what we were told, if I can put it
23 that way.

24 Q. I take it then somebody else would have replaced you?

25 A. I'm sure, yes.

- 1 Q. Do you know --
- 2 A. I don't know who it was.
- 3 Q. Do I take it then, sister, from what you have said, you,
- 4 when you moved to Cardonald, moved to the new bungalow?
- 5 A. That's right.
- 6 Q. What group of children then did you have in the
- 7 bungalow?
- 8 A. It was supposed to accommodate 20 children, but I never
- 9 had 20 children; I'd say about 16 would be the most.
- 10 Q. Were they different ages, was there a range of ages?
- 11 A. From about 4 years up to about 15.
- 12 Q. Boys and girls?
- 13 A. Boys and girls. Brothers and sisters. It was
- 14 important.
- 15 Q. So as far as the bungalow was concerned, was it just the
- 16 one group in the bungalow?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Your group?
- 19 A. I was on my own with the children and staff.
- 20 Q. Can I ask you about staff then. How many staff did you
- 21 have?
- 22 A. We had three in the morning and three in the afternoon.
- 23 That's all I can recollect.
- 24 Q. I think you say in your statement that the staff were
- 25 domestic and care worker staff; is that right?

- 1 A. Pardon?
- 2 Q. There were domestic staff and care workers?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. So if they had three in the morning, three in the
5 afternoon, was there a mixture of domestic and care
6 staff?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And do you say that the care worker staff did have some
9 training?
- 10 A. They did. As far as I know they did, yes.
- 11 Q. What you say in your statement at paragraph 51 is they
12 did a course run by the social workers from outside of
13 Nazareth House to become care workers. So you say in
14 your statement --
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. -- there was some training?
- 17 A. Some training, mm-hm.
- 18 Q. Were there other groups of children at Cardonald as
19 well?
- 20 A. That's right.
- 21 Q. Were they in the main building?
- 22 A. They were in the main building, yes.
- 23 Q. How many groups altogether were there?
- 24 A. I think there were three in the main building and the
25 one in the bungalow.

- 1 Q. So four altogether?
- 2 A. As far as I know, yes.
- 3 Q. Can you remember who the other sisters were who were
4 looking after the other groups?
- 5 A. I do, yes.
- 6 Q. Who were the other sisters?
- 7 A. Sister [REDACTED] LRC -- she was [REDACTED] LRC then.
8 She's [REDACTED] LRC now.
- 9 Q. Just give us the names they had then.
- 10 A. Sister [REDACTED] LRC Sister -- God, I can't remember her name.
11 I know her face but I can't put a name on her.
- 12 Q. That's all right, it doesn't matter.
- 13 A. I can't remember the other sisters' names.
- 14 Q. Just looking at the set-up again, very briefly, at
15 Cardonald, so far as clothes were concerned, the
16 children had their own clothes?
- 17 A. Certainly had their own clothes, yes.
- 18 Q. And would you be involved in buying clothes for the
19 children?
- 20 A. I would be, yes.
- 21 Q. Can you tell me about that? How would you do that?
- 22 A. Our superior would give me a cheque and the staff and
23 myself would take the children out, normally on
24 a Saturday.
- 25 Q. And would the children be able to choose their own

1 clothes?

2 A. They would be, yes.

3 Q. What was the set-up then with regard to sleeping
4 accommodation in the bungalow? Can you describe that
5 for me?

6 A. We had one or two single rooms and the older ones, two
7 of the older girls would sleep in single rooms. The
8 rest, maybe two in one bedroom, three in another, three
9 or four in another. They were large bedrooms. They had
10 their wardrobes and dressing tables and everything they
11 needed.

12 Q. So this was really quite a change from the set-up that
13 you'd had at Lasswade?

14 A. It was different, yes.

15 Q. And I take it from what you've said that within the
16 bungalow you'd have your own dining area?

17 A. We had a lovely dining room, sitting room, television
18 room and office.

19 Q. Did you have any contact at all with the other groups?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Then if I could ask you about the food, sister.
22 What was the food like?

23 A. The food was good.

24 Q. And again, if a child didn't want to eat a particular
25 dish --

1 A. They were never forced to eat, never.

2 Q. What about being punished for not eating something?

3 A. No, no way. I have never experienced it and I wouldn't

4 do it myself on any child.

5 Q. Again, if I can ask you about bed-wetting: were there

6 some children who did wet the bed at --

7 A. I think about one or two. Very few.

8 Q. What happened?

9 A. The same. I would take the sheets, the staff would take

10 the sheets off, put them in the laundry, wash or bath

11 the child, and not a word would be said to them. That

12 would be it, over and done with, and nobody would

13 comment on it.

14 Q. So there was no humiliation?

15 A. No humiliation.

16 Q. What about punishment?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Here, I think the place of choice for trips was Girvan.

19 Is that right, you went to Girvan on holiday?

20 A. That's right, yes.

21 Q. At Girvan did the children get activities to do?

22 A. Outside of the house?

23 Q. Yes, or in.

24 A. We tried -- the older children have a little bit -- be

25 independent, go out on their own, do their own thing.

1 We took more or less the younger children -- make
2 sandcastles and do what most children do on a holiday,
3 summer holiday.

4 Q. In paragraph 60, sister -- and I've been asked to ask
5 you about this -- you talk about a girl who was going to
6 go back to her family and she needed to find something
7 to do and you helped her to do a nursery nursing course.

8 A. That's right.

9 Q. Can you tell me about that?

10 A. She was a girl of about 14.

11 Q. We don't need the name, just tell us --

12 A. And she was quite an intelligent girl, but she was a bit
13 lazy when it came to study. When I spoke to her about
14 what she was going to do, I suggested to her she do
15 nursery nursing and I helped her, I got her into college
16 and she started to do her nursing. At first she found
17 it very, very difficult. Between us, we got her through
18 it and she passed it.

19 Q. Did she stay in the bungalow at that time?

20 A. We moved her into a flat and we furnished the flat for
21 her and helped her to settle down in the flat.

22 Q. Was the flat close by?

23 A. Quite close by, yes.

24 Q. Did any other former residents continue to live in the
25 convent when they might have been studying or training,

1 do you know?

2 A. You mean children?

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. I never experienced -- she was the only one that I ...

5 Q. Again, if I can ask you about inspections: did you think
6 that there was an inspection then at some point?

7 A. I think there was.

8 Q. At Cardonald?

9 A. I do remember a gentleman coming in and looking through
10 the files and looking through the house to see what the
11 accommodation was, and he remarked that the children
12 didn't mark the walls with the snooker sticks, they
13 didn't do any damage, and he remarked how well the place
14 was kept.

15 Q. Can I ask you then about discipline as I did before.
16 Were you given any guidance when you went there as to
17 how children were to be disciplined?

18 A. I did a course and I had a good idea what was in front
19 of me.

20 Q. Were you given any guidance at Cardonald whether there
21 was any particular policy in relation to how a child
22 might be disciplined?

23 A. Well, as I said, I would ground them, I would scold
24 them.

25 Q. That's what you would do, but were you told that was the

1 approach to take?

2 A. I used my own common sense.

3 Q. Okay. So you tell us you'd scold them; what else would
4 you do by way of punishment?

5 A. I would -- I didn't have any idea -- I didn't have that
6 much punishment.

7 Q. You tell us about children who stole from shops.

8 A. Oh, that was a different thing, yes.

9 Q. Well, what happened there?

10 A. Well, they were grounded and their pocket money was
11 taken off them for a while and then, once they improved
12 their behaviour, they got their pocket money back.

13 Q. So that was the extent of the punishment?

14 A. That was the extent of their punishment.

15 Q. Did you ever hit a child?

16 A. I don't have any recollection of hitting a child.

17 Q. Well, is it something you might have done and forgotten
18 about?

19 A. No. I never did it.

20 Q. You never did it?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Did you ever see any members of your staff hitting
23 a child?

24 A. No.

25 Q. I mentioned earlier by mistake the name Joseph Duffy in

1 connection with Lasswade, but I think there was a man by
2 the name of Joseph Duffy who had some connection with
3 Cardonald.

4 A. Mm-hm.

5 Q. Is that correct?

6 A. That's right.

7 Q. What was his role at Cardonald? What did he do?

8 A. He just came in and played with them, sat with them.

9 He had no role to do as such. He just come in and he
10 went out with them, played football with them, and that
11 type of thing. But unfortunately, at night he did sleep
12 in -- he slept in at weekends.

13 Q. I was going to ask you about that. Let's leave that
14 aside for a moment.

15 From what you've just said, let's say for example to
16 pick up your example of him coming in and sitting with
17 the children, was that unsupervised?

18 A. Well, staff were always around. It was before the staff
19 went off duty and I was always around. When the staff
20 went off duty I was around all the time, except when
21 I went to bed about 10 o'clock, and most of the children
22 would have gone to bed by then.

23 Q. At the time, sister, did you have any suspicions about
24 Joseph Duffy?

25 A. I had none at all. I can't understand why the children

1 didn't -- if there was something wrong, they didn't come
2 and say either to me and the staff. It was never
3 mentioned and I didn't know anything about it until
4 I left Cardonald.

5 Q. You know, of course, he has been convicted?

6 A. I know that.

7 Q. Of serious sexual offences?

8 A. Mm-hm, mm-hm.

9 Q. Do I take it from what you said, you trusted him?

10 A. I did, yes. Because he seemed to be a decent fella to
11 me. But if I'd suspected something, I would have looked
12 into it very seriously, but I didn't suspect anything.

13 Q. The picture you're presenting is someone who wasn't
14 working there as a job and someone who was coming in and
15 being with the children.

16 A. He'd been in before. He'd been in other groups before,
17 so I took him for granted, at face value.

18 Q. I'll come back to what's said about him shortly. Just
19 coming back again to the issue of physical punishment,
20 would you shout at a child?

21 A. Yes, mm-hm.

22 Q. As you tell us in your statement, sister, at
23 paragraph 72, smacking children was normal in those
24 days. Is that --

25 A. It probably was, but I have no recollection of smacking

1 a child.

2 Q. What you say there is, I think:

3 "I might have slapped the back of a child's hand."

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Do you have a recollection of doing that?

6 A. I could have done. I don't recollect it, but I probably
7 would have done it.

8 Q. The sort of thing you might do if --

9 A. Yes, mm-hm.

10 Q. When you gave your statement, sister, a number of
11 allegations that have been made by former residents were
12 put to you; is that correct?

13 A. Yes, I heard.

14 Q. The first thing I want to ask you about is in connection
15 with a lady by the name of Joanne Peacher.

16 A. I have no recollection of her name. I have no
17 recollection of her at all. I don't even remember her
18 name. I can't even visualise her.

19 LADY SMITH: That's not the name she would have had as
20 a child, is it, Mr MacAulay? Isn't that her married
21 name?

22 MR MacAULAY: Yes, your Ladyship is quite right.

23 Does the name Joanne Thompson mean anything to you?

24 A. No. That doesn't mean anything to me, no.

25 Q. If we look at paragraph 75 of your statement, this is

1 the lady you're being asked about there, and what you
2 say is:

3 "Joanne [Thompson], who was in care at Cardonald
4 from 12 January 1979 to 26 January 1979 and from
5 6 August 1980 to 20 December 1980, has alleged ..."

6 And it goes on to say:

7 "Sister [LHW] was away at a conference and
8 [LFV] was in charge of the bungalow."

9 These dates would cover the period that you were
10 there?

11 A. That's right.

12 Q. The name [LFV] that I've mentioned there --

13 A. I do know her name. She was one of the staff.

14 Q. If we go to -- I think you say two different things
15 about her in the statement, and I just want to clarify
16 the position.

17 If you go over the page, page 8277, and move a bit
18 further down the page, I want to go to the bottom of
19 this paragraph, what's said there is:

20 "The name [LFV] does not ring any bells for me."

21 A. It doesn't at that time, but after that, I do remember
22 her.

23 Q. I think you do tell us later on in the statement that
24 you actually do remember her. So she was somebody --

25 A. She was one of the staff, yes.

1 Q. If we go back to this paragraph that has been taken from
2 what Joanne Thompson has said to the inquiry, she's
3 talking about an event where she was hit by [REDACTED] LFV
4 with a stick on the ankle and you took her to hospital.

5 A. I have no recollection of that. I have none and I don't
6 honestly think it happened. That's all I can say.

7 Q. And that you kept asking her what had happened and she
8 kept saying she had fallen so she didn't say what had
9 happened.

10 A. I don't recall that at all.

11 Q. There was also an event when, according to this lady,
12 her mother grabbed [REDACTED] LFV and said, "If you touch my
13 daughter again, you're going to get arrested".

14 A. It's just ... I've never, ever experienced it.
15 I didn't -- it just didn't happen as far as I'm
16 concerned.

17 Q. And you were involved because she says that you pulled
18 her mother off [REDACTED] LFV and then went to have tea with
19 the mother.

20 A. That never happened.

21 Q. It never happened?

22 A. Never.

23 Q. If you look at the very front of the red folder, sister,
24 you'll find a list of names there. The third name down
25 on the left is "Olive", and if you look to the right,

1 you'll see who Olive is. We don't want you to mention
2 the name, but do you recognise the name?

3 A. I do, mm-hm.

4 Q. She was somebody who was there at your time; is that
5 right?

6 A. That's right, yes -- actually, she was somebody that
7 I met about eight or ten years ago.

8 Q. We'll come on to that, sister. According to the
9 records, she was there from [REDACTED] 1979 until
10 [REDACTED] 1984. So that would cover your period?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. I think when you were seen for the statement, a number
13 of points that she made were raised with you; is that
14 correct? A number of allegations she made --

15 A. She never made any allegations when I was there -- and
16 I met her eight years ago.

17 Q. But you've been told what she said since?

18 A. Oh, I know now what she said.

19 Q. Can we look at her evidence, sister. Her evidence
20 begins at TRN.001.003.1596.

21 That's where she begins to give her evidence. She's
22 using the name Olive and if I can take you to this page,
23 it's at 1606.

24 A. I don't see it.

25 Q. It'll come.

1 (Pause)

2 If we move down to line 12, she's asked this
3 question:

4 "Question: Can I ask you then about aspects of the
5 routine. Let's look at mealtimes. Can you tell me what
6 the food was like?"

7 She begins by saying:

8 "Answer: Rubbish."

9 And then corrects herself and says:

10 "Answer: It wasn't rubbish, that's not fair. It
11 was all made in a central kitchen, so it was probably
12 equal to hospital food or any environment where you're
13 getting food made up ..."

14 And she tells us a bit about that. So that's what
15 she says about the food. Would you agree with that,
16 that you could compare it to hospital type food?

17 A. I wouldn't. We had the same food and I wouldn't say it
18 was hospital type. It was freshly made and sent over on
19 hot trolleys.

20 Q. She's then asked towards the bottom of the page at
21 line 25 -- and this will go over to the next page:

22 "Question: Was there any difficulty if you didn't
23 want to eat it?"

24 That's the question she is asked. On the next page
25 at 1607 --

1 A. That is totally untrue.

2 Q. Well, can I just read it out for you so we can get it
3 into the notes:

4 "Answer: Yes, you would be forced to eat it. There
5 were times where you'd get held and your nose held and
6 food put down your throat or, if you didn't eat it,
7 you'd get it the next day for breakfast. If it was
8 lunch, you'd get it for your tea and so forth. I used
9 to put stuff in my pockets and stuff and hide it so you
10 didn't have to eat it and kid you had an empty place.
11 So yes, there was.

12 "Question: Who would force you to eat it the way
13 you have described?

14 "Answer: Staff, the nuns, whoever was there, just
15 in general. Whoever was in charge at that time."

16 And then when she's asked about the nuns, she says:

17 "Answer: The nun that we had there was
18 Sister LHW but she'd probably get the staff to do it
19 rather than her doing it.

20 "Question: Did this happen to you?

21 "Answer: Yes, on numerous occasions.

22 "Question: And to other children?

23 "Answer: Yes."

24 There she is describing force-feeding, sister.

25 A. It never happened. It definitely did not happen in my

1 presence, nor in the presence of the staff. We never
2 force-fed children.

3 Q. The reference to Sister [REDACTED] LHW that's the reference to
4 the name you had then?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. It's not the same you have now, it's the same you had
7 then?

8 A. That's right, yes.

9 Q. So this is nonsense?

10 A. Absolute, complete nonsense.

11 Q. The other point she makes is in connection with orange
12 juice, and if I take you to page 1609, she tells us,
13 before she's asked these questions, that she didn't like
14 to eat oranges. Then she says at line 6:

15 "Answer: They used to make this horrible orange
16 juice and everybody would drink it and obviously I can't
17 drink it, and I was forced to drink it, my nose held and
18 this orange juice poured down my throat.

19 "Question: Who forced you to eat it?

20 "Answer: The nuns and the staff at the time because
21 it was good for you and you shouldn't be so ungrateful.

22 "Question: When you say 'the nuns' --

23 "Answer: Sister [REDACTED] LHW the nun that was there,
24 and the staff at the time -- I can't tell you exactly
25 what staff was there, it would just have been whatever

1 staff that were on duty."

2 Do you see that, sister?

3 A. I do, I see it.

4 Q. Did this happen?

5 A. Never happened.

6 Q. What about orange juice? Was there --

7 A. To be honest with you, we'd never seen orange juice on
8 the table. It was very rare we'd ever have orange
9 juice. We couldn't afford it. We might get lemonade
10 and 7 Up but we certainly didn't have orange juice.

11 Q. She goes on to say she had a reaction to this.

12 A. That's a story made up. There's no way that is true.

13 Q. And if I take you to the next page at 1610, what she
14 says -- towards the top of the page at line 2, she's
15 asked the question:

16 "Question: You say you had a reaction; was a doctor
17 involved?

18 "Answer: Yes, I think a doctor came because I went
19 to my bed and the nuns had said I was lying, that that
20 wasn't what happened. Obviously they didn't want
21 anybody to know that's what had happened and they made
22 out that I had made it up, that I wasn't forced to drink
23 orange juice.

24 "Question: Did you tell the doctor you'd been
25 forced to drink the orange juice?

1 "Answer: Yes, and they said I was making it up,
2 that I was a liar."

3 So that's her position, sister. Do you remember
4 anything along those lines?

5 A. I do not. If I remembered, I would say it. It's
6 definitely untrue. I wouldn't do that to any child, nor
7 would the staff do it.

8 Q. How would you describe the atmosphere in the bungalow?

9 A. It was a homely, happy atmosphere.

10 Q. The way she describes it is at page 1619, if I take you
11 to that. If we look towards the bottom of the page at
12 line 17, she's asked generally how she was treated, and
13 at line 20 she says:

14 "Nazareth House, as I said, was a hard place. There
15 was a lot of shouting going on, there was a lot of,
16 'Just do it', there was a lot of flippant whacks. There
17 was a lot of bullying. I think that's how it was run.
18 I think it was more you just had to do it because you
19 just had to do it."

20 What do you say to that description of --

21 A. I say it's totally untrue. Totally untrue. It is not
22 true, it never happened. And I met that girl and she
23 never mentioned it to me when I met her eight years ago.
24 I asked her how it was in Nazareth and she said it was
25 fine -- after she left Nazareth.

1 Q. If I can ask you about what she says at page 1620. At
2 line 8 she's asked:

3 "Question: You tell us in paragraph 74 that, as you
4 put it, 'We would get whacks across the head all the
5 time, just with whatever they had. Yes, if they had the
6 rosary beads, that was a classic, or if they had
7 a hairbrush, you would get slapped. They used to wear
8 these Scholl things and you'd get whacked over your
9 butt."

10 And she's talking about there Scholl sandals. Did
11 the nuns wear Scholl sandals? Did you wear these
12 sandals?

13 A. No, not at all. I never had them.

14 Q. Did this happen?

15 A. It never happened. If it happened, I would have
16 reported it to the social worker. Why didn't she report
17 it to the social worker? It never happened.

18 Q. You do know, of course, that things did happen to her.

19 A. They may have happened, but it hasn't happened to me or
20 to the children in the group that I was with.

21 Q. But she was sexually abused when she was in your care.

22 A. She was? I didn't know that. Sorry, I didn't know
23 that.

24 Q. I think you do know that now, that --

25 A. I didn't know. She didn't tell me or I never heard it.

1 If she was, I certainly would have looked into that.

2 Q. But you know that Joseph Duffy has been convicted of
3 sexually abusing children who were in your care?

4 A. I knew, but I didn't know it happened but I wasn't aware
5 of it. If I was aware of it I would have seen to it,
6 made sure I phoned the social workers or the police.

7 Q. But you do know he was convicted of abusing children who
8 were in your care?

9 A. In my care? I didn't know that. Only now I know it.

10 Q. This is what she says at page 1621 at line 5:

11 "Answer: Sister **LHW** never really got at me, but
12 I'd seen her at other people quite viciously.

13 "Question: What did she use?

14 "Answer: On one occasion there was a lad with a,
15 you know, toy gun, and she was quite ... He had a gun
16 and she really went after this lad and she was hitting
17 with like a thing, a toy gun, and she was hitting him
18 over the head with it and just hitting him and stuff."

19 Did that incident happen, sister?

20 A. It never happened.

21 Q. And perhaps while I have her evidence here, if I can
22 turn to page 1624 at lines 14 and 15, she's looking at
23 her statement, and she says that she would describe the
24 atmosphere as a volatile atmosphere. What do you say to
25 that?

1 A. I think it's rubbish, to be quite honest. It's not
2 true. We had a happy, lovely home. I am shocked what
3 I'm seeing here, absolutely shocked. I can't believe
4 it.

5 Q. What you mention sister -- and you do mention this in
6 your statement at paragraph 76. If we go back to your
7 statement at WIT.001.001.8277 -- again it'll come on the
8 screen -- towards the bottom at paragraph 76, page 8277,
9 that's where I think you talk about the allegations that
10 have been made by this lady that we're referring to as
11 Olive.

12 You say towards the bottom that you remember her and
13 that you met her again about six to eight years ago.

14 A. That's right.

15 Q. You mentioned that earlier in your evidence. What was
16 that meeting about? Can you tell us, sister?

17 A. I was on retreat in Nazareth House Cardonald and I asked
18 LKB who was there, and I asked her, did she
19 ever see the children that we brought up, and I said I'd
20 love to meet them, and she brought them in and they came
21 into the parlour and we sat and we chatted and she
22 was -- I couldn't believe that she said these things
23 because she had nothing bad to say.

24 Q. Can I go back to Joseph Duffy because one of the things
25 she did say to the inquiry is that she was sexually

1 abused by Joseph Duffy.

2 A. Well, she never told us.

3 Q. I understand that. And also, that he has been
4 convicted; you're aware of that?

5 A. Yes -- I only heard that very recently, actually.

6 Q. But you did say earlier on, sister, that Joseph Duffy
7 did stay overnight.

8 A. He did, yes.

9 Q. Did he sleep in the same room as one of the children?

10 A. No. He had a room of his own.

11 Q. Are you sure about that, sister?

12 A. Positive.

13 Q. Did he have a key?

14 A. He used to take a child out to his house, and the
15 social worker gave permission, otherwise he wouldn't
16 have gone. I never heard anything until after I left
17 Cardonald.

18 Q. What did you hear after you left Cardonald?

19 A. I heard that the child said that he was abused and
20 I didn't know that. He never said it.

21 Q. Who told you that?

22 A. I was told by -- I can't remember who told me.

23 Q. How long after you left Cardonald were you told that?

24 A. Years after I left Cardonald.

25 Q. But that was a young child who was in your care then?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Can I just understand the involvement of the
3 social worker? I just want to know how the
4 social worker became involved in giving permission to
5 Joseph Duffy.

6 A. Because we weren't allowed to let them out without the
7 permission of the social worker, and he did have
8 permission from the social worker, and I thought that
9 was all right. I never dreamt anything was going on.

10 Q. According to other evidence that the inquiry has heard,
11 it would have been obvious in the sitting room, for
12 example, where the children were, that Joseph Duffy was
13 indulging in inappropriate behaviour with children. Did
14 you see that happening?

15 A. No.

16 Q. So what then was your attitude to Mr Duffy?

17 A. Well, I thought he was -- I had nothing against him
18 because I didn't know that he was doing anything wrong.

19 Q. If we go back to your statement, sister, at
20 paragraph 79, where you're again having put to you what
21 Olive had said in her evidence. You say that when it's
22 suggested that you would hit her with your clogs, a toy,
23 your rosary beads, you say:

24 "That is ridiculous and untrue."

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. "I never wore clogs. It's absolute lies."

2 A. It is.

3 Q. That's your position?

4 A. Mm-hm.

5 Q. And you then go on to say:

6 "It makes me think it's part of a money racket."

7 I just want to understand what you meant by that.

8 A. That they're looking for money from the sisters,

9 compensation.

10 Q. What makes you think that?

11 A. Well, that's the only reason I can think of.

12 Q. I think it is the case -- and the order may be aware of

13 this -- that this person has never raised any claims

14 against the sisters; were you aware of that?

15 A. No. I think probably maybe they felt guilty because

16 they were in care for so long.

17 Q. I didn't quite catch that.

18 A. I think they may have felt annoyed and guilty because

19 they'd been in care for so long.

20 Q. Do you think that's a reason why --

21 A. It may be a reason. I'm just trying to figure out

22 because I ...

23 LADY SMITH: Guilty of what?

24 A. Pardon?

25 LADY SMITH: Guilty of what?

1 A. Because they were in care, their parents weren't able to
2 look after them.

3 LADY SMITH: Why would they feel guilty about that?

4 A. Because -- maybe more sad than guilty that they weren't
5 looked after by their own parents.

6 MR MacAULAY: Did Joseph Duffy have a key?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Are you sure about that, sister?

9 A. I couldn't swear but I'd never given him a key.

10 Q. But he could have got a key?

11 A. He could have but I had no idea that he had a key.

12 Q. I want to ask you about another witness who has given
13 evidence to the inquiry. Just bear with me.

14 (Pause)

15 This witness gave evidence using the name "Paula"
16 and if you look to the key -- in fact, I think she used
17 her own name, Paula Chambers. Does that name ring
18 a bell with you?

19 A. No.

20 Q. I think that may have been her maiden name. So it means
21 nothing to you?

22 A. It doesn't mean anything to me.

23 (Pause)

24 Q. While we're checking to see ...

25 (Pause)

1 While we're checking to see whether there's a maiden
2 name that might ring a bell with you, I'll put the
3 transcript for this lady on the screen. That's at
4 TRN.001.003.2522.

5 That's where her statement begins. According to the
6 records, she was in Cardonald from November 1983 to
7 December 1984, so would that cover part of your time in
8 Cardonald?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I understand her maiden name was Riley.

11 A. No, I have no knowledge of that name.

12 Q. Well, if we turn to what she said in evidence at 2528,
13 she's talking about going to Cardonald for the first
14 time. We have it now on the screen. She's asked the
15 question about going to Cardonald, and at line 7:

16 "Question: Who did you meet when you got there?

17 "Answer: Sister LHW

18 Do you see that?

19 A. Mm-hm.

20 Q. She's asked at line 9:

21 "Question: Was Sister LHW somebody that was in
22 charge of you over your time in Nazareth House?

23 "Answer: Yes."

24 That's her position. She had come to Nazareth House
25 having spent some time with foster parents, and

1 if we look at page 2530, at line 7, she's asked:

2 "Question: On your first day there, I think you've
3 told us that you had the items that were given to you by
4 the foster parents; did anything happen to these items?

5 "Answer: Yes, Sister LHW -- when the
6 social worker left, Sister LHW had brought me into
7 her office and she took the stuff off me, said
8 I wouldn't be needing them.

9 "Question: Did she tell you why you wouldn't be
10 needing them?

11 "Answer: No.

12 "Question: What about the pyjamas? Did she take
13 the pyjamas?

14 "Answer: Yes, I was given a pair of pyjamas from
15 them with a label inside them."

16 That's what she said when she got to Nazareth House:
17 what she had, her own possessions that had been given to
18 her by her foster parents, were taken away.

19 A. That is totally untrue.

20 Q. Could that have happened, although you don't remember
21 the name?

22 A. It didn't happen. It didn't happen to any child.

23 Q. Okay. If we look then at page 2532, she's talking here
24 about the food and her attitude to the food. She's
25 asked the question at line 11:

1 "Question: Can I ask you about some aspects of the
2 routine and perhaps look first to mealtimes. How did
3 you find the food?

4 "Answer: Oh, terrible.

5 "Question: Can you explain? What was so bad?

6 "Answer: I wasn't like a really fussy eater because
7 obviously at home I wasn't used to a lot of brilliant
8 food, great food, but I was grateful for what I get to
9 eat because it was still something to eat, but I'd hate
10 this stuff. It was like peppered egg flan stuff with
11 a kind of biscuit base and these big huge Scotch eggs,
12 spicy Scotch eggs."

13 Stopping there, do you recognise the description of
14 the food there?

15 A. No, I do not.

16 Q. She goes on to say:

17 "I'm not trying to sound, like, ungrateful because
18 it's still food, but it made me retch, it made me sick,
19 I was forced to eat it and I absolutely hated it."

20 A. That is totally untrue.

21 Q. If you go on to the next page, 2533, she's asked the
22 question at the top:

23 "Question: When you say you were forced to eat it,
24 can you tell us what happened?

25 "Answer: Obviously I wouldn't eat it and tried to

1 refuse to eat it, and the staff would go out of the
2 dining room and go and get Sister [LHW] at her office,
3 because Sister [LHW] didn't really come around us at
4 mealtimes. She had the staff that would be working
5 there, maybe supervising. So she would go and get
6 Sister [LHW] and tell her I was refusing to eat my
7 dinner and then Sister [LHW] said I would sit there
8 until I had eaten it and I wasn't moving until I ate it,
9 so I had to eat it."

10 Could that have happened, sister?

11 A. No, no.

12 Q. It couldn't have happened?

13 A. No.

14 Q. And I think she goes on to tell us, on the next page,
15 2534, that she had to eat it and she was sick. Could
16 that have happened?

17 A. No, it didn't happen.

18 Q. She also talked about being made to wear clothes that
19 caused her embarrassment. Do you remember anything
20 happening like that?

21 A. No, definitely not.

22 Q. On page 2540, she talks about bed-wetting. Perhaps
23 I can take you to that. It's at line 15, she's asked:

24 "Question: Did you start to wet the bed while you
25 were there?"

1 "Answer: Yes.

2 "Question: How long had you been there before that
3 started?

4 "Answer: A few months.

5 "Question: Can you tell me what happened?

6 "Answer: I just obviously went to bed and just --
7 obviously, if I wet the bed, I had to get up and take
8 the dirty bed sheets to the kitchen to the woman that
9 was there. Sister **LHW** would be very angry that I'd
10 wet the bed. I got some kind of punishment, but I don't
11 know what it was, it wasn't like ... I think I got not
12 to watch TV, or something like that, but it was nothing
13 like too extreme. But I was embarrassed because I had
14 to walk up -- see, the kitchen in the bungalow, it was
15 open-plan, so you had the kitchen with a big kind of
16 counter and then you had to go to the dining room where
17 the actual tables and chairs were where the kids would
18 sit and eat their breakfasts, so they would see me going
19 in to give Rose the wet bedding and things like that."

20 A. In the first place, I wouldn't put wet bedding in the
21 kitchen and it never happened.

22 Q. I think what she's saying is you'd have to walk through
23 the kitchen to get to where you had to go.

24 A. No, you wouldn't have to go to the kitchen.

25 Q. Was it open-plan in the way she described?

1 A. It was, but the laundry wasn't in the kitchen.

2 Q. Does the description of the bungalow that she has
3 given --

4 A. The kitchen was there and the laundry was here
5 (indicating) and definitely she didn't have to do
6 that -- and I wouldn't ask any child to do it and it
7 never happened. I'm just very angry at what's been said
8 because it's all untrue.

9 Q. Very well. It does seem, though, does it, that she is
10 talking about the bungalow --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- that you were in charge of at this time?

13 A. Mm-hm.

14 Q. Towards the bottom of the page, at line 18, she is asked
15 this question:

16 "Question: How often did this happen to you during
17 your time there?

18 "Answer: I must have wet the bed four nights out of
19 seven."

20 And then she is asked:

21 "Question: Did sister **LHW** say anything to you?

22 "Answer: She was just always angry at me. She'd
23 like, do you know what I mean, say I was disgusting and
24 there was no need for it."

25 And towards the bottom:

1 "Answer: She was always very cross at me."

2 Could that have happened, sister?

3 A. It didn't happen. It just did not happen. I wouldn't
4 treat any child like that and never did.

5 Q. She went on to say that you called her a dirty child.

6 A. That is totally untrue, absolutely.

7 Q. Do you remember a child being there who went on a trip
8 to Lourdes?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Because this witness said that she effectively was made
11 to go on a trip to Lourdes because she needed some form
12 of cure.

13 A. Not at all. That never happened, no.

14 Q. It never happened?

15 A. No.

16 Q. I think, sister, when you came to leave Cardonald,
17 I think in 1985 --

18 A. Mm-hm.

19 Q. -- had all the children left by then?

20 A. They did, yes.

21 Q. So were you one of the last carers, if I can put it that
22 way, of children at Cardonald?

23 A. Yes. I had to clear the bungalow and make everything --
24 left the place tidy, and it took me a few days to do
25 that, and I went from there to Southend.

1 Q. Very well, sister. The only other question I actually
2 need to ask you is: can you tell me whether any of the
3 children that you have cared for in Scotland have kept
4 in touch with you?

5 A. Well, that time that I was in Cardonald and I asked the
6 children to come and see me and I got the children's
7 addresses and I sent them cards, Christmas cards, and
8 I didn't get any reply, but that was all right.

9 Q. Apart from that then, is that the only contact --

10 A. I didn't have any more contact with the children.

11 MR MacAULAY: Very well, sister. Thank you for answering my
12 questions and I think I've covered the questions that
13 I have been asked to put to you. Thank you very much.

14 A. I just want to say I'm sorry if we ever had --

15 MR MacAULAY: If you just wait a moment or two --

16 LADY SMITH: If you just sit down for one moment, sister --
17 sorry, what was it you wanted to say?

18 A. I just wanted to say if in fact we had done anything
19 wrong to the children, that I apologise on behalf of the
20 sisters and myself.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you for that.

22 Let me check whether there are any outstanding
23 applications for questions. No.

24 There are no more questions for you, sister. It
25 just remains for me to thank you very much for engaging

1 with the inquiry, both by providing a written statement
2 and by coming here today to answer the questions that we
3 had for you at the hearing. It is very helpful to me in
4 the work that I have to do to have heard from you, but
5 I'm now able to let you go. Thank you for that.

6 A. Thank you very much.

7 (The witness withdrew)

8 LADY SMITH: Yes, Mr MacAulay.

9 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, there are four read-ins planned for
10 today. Can I suggest we adjourn early for lunch and
11 perhaps come back a little bit earlier?

12 LADY SMITH: Maybe we could come back at 1.50. Thank you
13 very much.

14 (12.50 pm)

15 (The lunch adjournment)

16 (1.50 pm)

17 (Proceedings delayed)

18 (1.58 pm)

19 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray, we turn to reading in statements,
20 do we?

21 MS RATTRAY: Yes, we have statements from four witnesses to
22 read in today.

23 Witness statement of "JOHN" (read)

24 MS RATTRAY: The first one is a statement from an applicant
25 who wishes to remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym

1 "John". His witness statement can be found at
2 WIT.001.001.3054. Your Ladyship will recall that the
3 inquiry heard oral evidence from John at a previous oral
4 hearing in relation to his experiences in Smyllum:

5 "My name is John, I was born in 1956. I am
6 presently 61 years of age. My contact details are known
7 to the inquiry."

8 From paragraphs 2 to 46, John tells of being
9 admitted to care at the age of three months and his
10 experiences in different care settings before being
11 moved to Nazareth House in Aberdeen in 1967, when he
12 would have been aged 11 or 12.

13 The Nazareth House register records a date of
14 admission in 1967 and a date of discharge in 1969.

15 Turning now to paragraph 47 on page 3062:

16 "I got taken to Nazareth House by a male and
17 a female and I remember they bought me a Chinese meal on
18 the way. I don't know if they were welfare officers or
19 not. I was all excited because I was happy to be going
20 back to a home. There was all ages there, from a baby
21 right up to about 15.

22 "Nazareth House was a massive building with a big
23 front door. I remember meeting the Mother Superior on
24 the first day and then getting taken to a field where
25 all the kids were playing. I joined in straightaway,

1 running and jumping about. I felt at home again and
2 comfortable because everybody else was in the same boat.

3 "One of the first things they did was take me to the
4 dormitories. I was on the first floor and there was
5 another floor above. There was a few rooms for each
6 dormitory, with three or four boys in each. Next to my
7 room was the kitchen and doors to an old folks' home.
8 We got told never to go there. The girls stayed on the
9 other side of the place.

10 "Sister **LFZ** was in charge of my dormitory and
11 her room was right next door to the one I was in. She
12 had a window that she could look at us through. There
13 was about 25 boys in four or five rooms along with
14 a baby that was only about a year old. The cook was
15 always concerned that the baby wasn't getting proper
16 attention.

17 "We would get up about 7, have breakfast and do our
18 chores, and then get the bus to school about 8.30. In
19 general, we were in bed at about 9 o'clock at night.

20 "The food was starchy, but was okay. I was never a
21 vegetable eater, but you had to eat your vegetables if
22 you wanted a pudding. I liked pudding, so I did.

23 "We went to the local school, St Peter's, where we
24 all got called 'the Nazzies'. I got taken there by bus.
25 I started in the primary school there and then went to

1 the secondary. I never had any trouble while I was
2 there.

3 "One of the boys there challenged me to a fight, so
4 I did and I got the better of him. I got a bit of
5 respect because I'd beaten him, but I'd held the bus up,
6 so the conductor gave me a wallop off the side of my
7 head. I had a sore head for two or three days after.

8 "All of the kids from Nazareth House had to wear
9 a yellow and blue top for school. It was horrendous.
10 You could tell us a mile away. Sunday clothes were
11 similar, but better quality and we wore a tie that had
12 elastic around the neck.

13 "An old guy died in the old folks' home next door
14 and I got given his suit to care. It was terrible -- a
15 pea-green Harris tweed suit -- and everybody took the
16 mickey out of me.

17 "I was quite a good footballer and got to play for
18 the school in first and second year. The boots we had
19 to wear were terrible though and the other lads used to
20 take the mickey. We would play back at Nazareth House
21 as well and Sister **LFZ** would play too. She was the
22 star of the show.

23 "There was a room in Nazareth House where we all got
24 to play in the evening after dinner. There was a record
25 player and toys in there and I also had a stamp

1 collection that I kept in there.

2 "I had kept up swimming and got to the finals of
3 a competition at school. I broke my finger in a fight
4 though and never got to swim. I had to wear these
5 horrendous big trunks and everyone used to take
6 the mickey out of me.

7 "At the weekends we would get to play in the park.
8 The girls would play at the bottom and the boys at the
9 top. We weren't separated, that is just what happened.

10 "Sometimes we would get shown a film on a projector
11 in the TV room. I probably saw four or five films when
12 I was in there. In general, we didn't get to watch much
13 TV though.

14 "We would get a shilling pocket money a week, which
15 we got to spend in the local shop at the weekend.
16 Sometimes I would go to the local baths and spend it
17 there.

18 "Some boys would wet bed and if they did I would
19 sometimes get woken up and taken to the toilet. The
20 toilet floor was always swimming in urine because there
21 was all these boys that were half asleep having to pee.
22 I don't think there was any punishment if someone wet
23 the bed.

24 "Every two or three nights we would get a bath.
25 There would be two or three boys in the bath and the

1 nuns would wash us and dry us. Sometimes some of the
2 younger boys would dry us and I used to hate that.
3 I ran away one time because I hated it so much. I got
4 caught and afterwards, I told the deputy headmistress at
5 school, Mrs Shaw, why. She was nice and took pity on
6 me.

7 "If it was a nice day, the nuns would take us on the
8 bus to the beach near Pitoddrie. Sometimes people would
9 give the nuns some money and they would buy us an
10 ice cream.

11 "Every two years they would take us on a day trip to
12 a big monastery somewhere. I didn't like that though:
13 it was just lots of praying.

14 "There was a posh girls' home near Nazareth House
15 and sometimes on a Sunday the girls would take some of
16 the boys for a burger at the Wimpy bar in Aberdeen.
17 They were wealthy girls and would buy us a milkshake or
18 an ice cream or something.

19 "We got taken to a place in Dumbarton for a couple
20 of weeks' holiday once in the summer. Different
21 families would take three or four boys in. The couple
22 I stayed with took me to a Celtic football game when
23 I was there. Another time a few of us went to a place
24 with the Boys' Brigade in Fraserburgh.

25 "When it was your birthday at Nazareth House, the

1 Mother Superior would give you a present. That was the
2 only time you'd see the Mother Superior. We would get
3 sent to her room and she would wish us a happy birthday,
4 ask us how we were getting on, and give us a present.

5 "I used to hate Christmas because it was a lucky dip
6 for the presents. The presents had been donated by
7 people and I had got a game with bits missing. The baby
8 got a jumbo jet at that time, so I just took it.

9 "The nuns would put decorations up in the canteen
10 and there was a tree. All the presents would go in the
11 cupboard afterwards.

12 "I got sent to a family in Fraserburgh to stay for
13 one Christmas. That was the best Christmas I ever had.

14 "There was a church inside the place where we would
15 go every Sunday. At Lent we used to have to kneel and
16 say about 60 Hail Marys every day for six weeks. We had
17 to pray before meals and before bedtime.

18 "I was an altar boy and sometimes had to get up at
19 5 o'clock for the 6 o'clock Mass. It wasn't my choice:
20 I just got told I was to be an altar boy for a few
21 months after I arrived at Nazareth House. I think there
22 were three altar boys and we would all take turns doing
23 the benediction.

24 "Every evening and Saturday mornings we had to do
25 chores, cleaning and polishing the dormitory floors.

1 Some people might have found it hard but it didn't
2 bother me.

3 "I remember seeing Mr Thompson when he came to visit
4 Nazareth House one time. I don't know if there were any
5 inspections."

6 My Lady, John tells us early in his statement that
7 Mr Thompson was his welfare officer:

8 "I don't remember seeing a doctor when I was at
9 Nazareth House. I did have to see a dentist when I got
10 a problem with my teeth after eating a Crunchie bar.

11 "When there were bugs going around, we had to take
12 two big soup spoons of this jelly stuff. It was
13 horrible.

14 "The time I ran off I went with another boy and we
15 were away for about 14 hours. We just kept on walking
16 and ended up near Peterhead, about 30 miles away. The
17 police were looking for us and we ended up getting
18 picked up.

19 "They were very strict at Nazareth House. When
20 you've got a few nuns looking after all these kids from
21 all different backgrounds, things are going to snap
22 sometimes. If somebody did something wrong and nobody
23 owned up to it, we all got hit.

24 "Sister LFZ was basically our mother and would
25 look after us and control us. She was hard as nails and

1 we were scared of her, although at times she was all
2 right. She used to keep a cricket wicket and would
3 wallop us with it over the knuckles if we had done
4 something wrong.

5 "One time I dropped a Bible and got a skelping. She
6 had a terrible temper on her.

7 "Some people were bad natured and I remember they
8 got a few beatings. One of them was a lad who was
9 pretty bad and he got it a few times.

10 "Another time, just before I left Nazareth House,
11 Sister **LFZ** snapped and burst my nose. I had been
12 doing my chores and told her I needed to get away to
13 play football. I kept pestering her and eventually she
14 grabbed me and battered my head twice against the bed
15 frame. I swore at her and about two or three months
16 later I got sent to St Ninian's.

17 "A girl at school stuck a big needle in the top of
18 my thigh once. She was a nutcase and got punished by
19 the school for it.

20 "When I left Nazareth House, Sister **LFZ** gave me
21 a jewellery box she said she had got from her mother.
22 I've still got it. I think she liked me and I think she
23 had just lost it when she hit my head off the bed frame.

24 "You would never complain or report anything. If
25 did you, it would go straight back to the

1 Mother Superior and you would get punished.

2 "I got moved to St Ninian's. All I remember is that
3 I was told I was getting moved because I was getting too
4 much of a handful. I can't remember who told me that.
5 I just thought it was because I had sworn at
6 Sister **LFZ** I don't remember how long before I went
7 I was told, probably a few weeks. I'd never heard of
8 the place before."

9 At paragraphs 89 to 125, John tells us of his
10 experiences at St Ninian's School in Falkland. At
11 paragraphs 126 to 133, John speaks of his life after
12 care, he speaks about his wife, who he describes as his
13 rock, and his daughter who is now at university. I will
14 now turn to paragraph 134 on page 3076, where John
15 speaks of the impact on him of his experiences in care:

16 "My wife tells me that every time I get down, it's
17 because of my time in care. I was always getting moved
18 about from place to place. It's not a regular thing
19 that I get depressed, but it comes every now and then.
20 Sometimes I get moody and feel sorry for myself.
21 Sometimes I feel quite bitter, especially if I see other
22 people getting going a pat on the back for something and
23 I don't.

24 "I've been to see a counsellor who tells me that he
25 thinks I am blocking quite a lot out. He thought

1 I should have some counselling sessions, but I'm not
2 interested in that. I have always been a bit of a loner
3 and even now I don't have any close friends. You have
4 more control if you just keep yourself to yourself.

5 "I follow Celtic Football Club, but I don't like big
6 crowds so I don't go to any football matches. I think
7 that's because of my time in care."

8 At paragraphs 137 to 142, John describes recovering
9 records and, as a result, tracing and establishing
10 contact with siblings he hadn't known existed.

11 Finally, my Lady, at paragraph 143 on page 0378,
12 John says:

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 John on 15 December 2017.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, I'll pass on to my learned friend

20 Ms MacLeod for further read-ins.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 Witness statement of "SHARON" (read)

23 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, this is a statement of an applicant
24 who wishes to remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym
25 "Sharon". The statement is to be found at

1 WIT.001.001.2555.

2 "My name is Sharon. I was born in 1969. My contact
3 details are known to the inquiry."

4 In paragraphs 2 to 8 of her statement, Sharon speaks
5 about her life before care, including some unhappy
6 family background and police and social work
7 involvement.

8 In paragraphs 9 to 15 of the statement, Sharon
9 speaks of her memories of her time in foster care and
10 I will pick the statement up at paragraph 16, which is
11 on WIT.001.001.2557, where Sharon speaks of going to
12 Nazareth House in Aberdeen:

13 "After the foster home, we were taken to
14 Nazareth House, Aberdeen. I don't recall going home
15 first or taking any of my own things with me. My notes
16 tell me that I went in to Nazareth House in [REDACTED] 1976
17 and that home was chosen for us because we were Roman
18 Catholic."

19 The admissions registers for Nazareth House Aberdeen
20 show the witness going in in [REDACTED] 1976:

21 "I remember being very confused and not
22 understanding why we were there. We were never told why
23 or how long we were due to stay there for. My notes say
24 that I shed a few tears. Years later, my mother told me
25 that she had sent us a letter explaining everything, but

1 I never received it.

2 "I recall being in Nazareth House for seven or
3 eight months. We arrived in late springtime. I was
4 kept together with my older sister, but was separated
5 from my younger sister and my brother. I don't remember
6 seeing them there. They may have been in separate
7 groups. There was no attempt to keep us all together.

8 "I know from my notes that the four of us were put
9 into Nazareth House for three months initially.

10 "During the week, there wasn't much interaction or
11 talking between the children. We just followed what the
12 nuns told us to do next. There were never any games and
13 we never watched TV or anything. It was all just
14 routine. We were mainly kept inside. I can't remember
15 ever playing outside in the grounds.

16 "We slept in dormitories and the boys were kept
17 separate from the girls. I remember seeing lots of
18 single beds. I was in a dormitory at first, but then
19 got moved into a room with my big sister.

20 "I'm not sure what time we were woken up, but it was
21 pretty early. All of the children in the dormitory were
22 taken together to the washroom by a nun. There was
23 a long hall outside the dormitories and we had to cross
24 it to get to the washroom. There were four or six sinks
25 in the washroom.

1 "We then went for breakfast in the dining room.
2 After breakfast we would go to school. I think it was
3 St Peter's School, but I am not sure. I can't remember
4 how we got to school; it may have been by van.

5 "I don't remember much about school. I don't even
6 remember what clothes we had to wear.

7 "I was sent to the headmaster's room at school
8 a couple of times. I was warned that if I didn't
9 improve then I would get the belt. I never actually got
10 the belt as far as I can remember. I never saw anyone
11 getting the belt at school.

12 "We had dinner in the home. We sat in the
13 dining room in silence during mealtimes. The nuns sat
14 or stood with the children. I remember there was one
15 long table. We were made to eat everything that was on
16 our plate. On one occasion during a mealtime I was made
17 to eat boiled bacon. I had terrible difficulty chewing
18 and swallowing it. A nun was standing over me. I was
19 told to just swallow it. They kept making me swallow it
20 over and over to the point that I ended up being sick
21 everywhere.

22 "At bedtime we went to the washroom, got washed and
23 changed into our pyjamas. We were supervised by the
24 nuns. We had to brush our hair 100 times before going
25 to bed. We had a set amount of time to brush our hair

1 and then it was lights out.

2 "Me and my big sister had always shared a bed at
3 home so we would climb into each other's beds at nights
4 to comfort each other. If the nuns caught us in the
5 same bed, they would physically remove us. They would
6 use firm force not hard force.

7 "The atmosphere was very clinical. There were no
8 smiles, no affection. I spent most of the time scared.
9 The weekends were better as there was a change of staff:
10 it was civilian staff rather than the nuns looking after
11 us. There were two young female staff members who came
12 in. I think they were students. The weekends had
13 a much more positive atmosphere. It felt more like
14 a family and there was laughter.

15 "My sister and I would always have our hair washed
16 on a Saturday and get ringlets put in. It was for
17 church on Sunday. I was allowed to spend time together
18 with my sister as long as we were being watched by the
19 nuns.

20 "We had Bible study classes in preparation for our
21 first Holy Communion. There was a priest who took those
22 classes. I can't remember his name. We learnt about
23 the concept of being wedded to Christ.

24 "I think my mother and father came to visit us once.
25 The second time they came, they took us home. I know

1 from my notes that there was regular contact with my
2 parents. The nuns expressed concerns to the
3 social workers that visits from our parents caused us
4 distress.

5 "I remember going away on an annual holiday with
6 Nazareth House staff for one or two weeks. I can't
7 recall whether it was with nuns or not. My big sister
8 was with me and we went to a big house in the country.
9 I remember the summer holiday as being one of the only
10 times we were allowed outside.

11 "I know from my notes that we went on holiday for
12 three weeks, somewhere near Speyside.

13 "On one occasion we went swimming -- I think it was
14 at a swimming pool in Aberdeen. I remember going to the
15 pool and trying to teach myself to swim. I don't
16 remember anything except trying to swim to the edge and
17 eventually just seeing bubbles.

18 "I don't remember bringing any personal possessions
19 with me from home or from the foster home when I arrived
20 at Nazareth House. However, I must have been allowed
21 some possessions as I can remember having a piggy bank.
22 I had some pocket money in that that I was saving. One
23 day I went to my bedroom and found my piggy bank smashed
24 and my money was gone. I was told that the university
25 students had been in the home collecting money for

1 charity.

2 "I don't remember any birthdays or Christmases at
3 Nazareth House. I think we were sent home before
4 Christmas.

5 "I remember running away to Duthie Park in Aberdeen.
6 I was missing the ponies that I had played with when
7 I was at home so I stole some bread from Nazareth House
8 to feed them. I don't remember if I was punished when
9 I returned.

10 "I never saw a doctor or nurse whilst at
11 Nazareth House.

12 "Both of my sisters had health problems, but I never
13 saw any doctors or official medical intervention on
14 their behalf. My younger sister had epilepsy and used
15 to have fits. On one occasion she had an epileptic fit
16 and there were lots of adults holding her down to the
17 floor. One of them was a nun called Sister [REDACTED] LJI

18 "My mother had explained me that you were not
19 supposed to hold my sister down when she was having
20 a fit. I was trying to tell the nuns this and explain
21 that she should be put on her side to make sure that she
22 didn't bite her tongue, but they wouldn't listen to me.
23 It was terrible to watch and I remember becoming quite
24 hysterical and thinking that they were doing it all
25 wrong. I remember being dragged out of the room.

1 "My big sister had asthma and used to have asthma
2 attacks. She was always coughing at night. Once she
3 coughed so much she coughed up blood all over the
4 carpet. The nuns told us off. Their attitude was more
5 about how we could damage the new carpet. I was seven
6 and my sister was nine at the time.

7 "The abuse at Nazareth House was more about mental
8 and psychological punishment rather than anything
9 physical. I remember being made to feel very bad,
10 sinful and ashamed. They attacked our self-esteem.

11 "We were Catholics and we were made to attend
12 church, mostly at the weekends. On one occasion my
13 sister and I were taken down to the chapel and were told
14 to kneel and say prayers. There was a coffin at the
15 front of the room and we were made to kneel six rows
16 back and pray over this person for an hour. I remember
17 it was an old person, but I can't remember if it was an
18 open coffin or not. I don't know why they had sent us
19 to do that, but I found it disturbing.

20 "I remember on one occasion being sent to the
21 washroom so that the nuns could deliberately shame the
22 bed-wetters. Two girls and a boy came in carrying their
23 wet bed sheets. They were about the same age as me.
24 They were frogmarched past us all into the laundry.
25 There was a laundry at the back. I felt awful for them

1 because they were walking with their heads down and
2 looking ashamed. They were made to put their sheets
3 in the washing machine in front of everyone. I tried
4 not to look at them. I felt awful. I think it happened
5 more than once.

6 "There was a room just off the main hall that used
7 to terrify us. It was an old dentist's room and there
8 was a strong smell of gas coming from it. There was
9 lots of antiquated dental equipment in there. It looked
10 like a torture chamber. We were always scared as to
11 what went on in there. I remember spending hours
12 outside the room with my sister counting our strings of
13 rosary beads. I was told we had to count the beads
14 because we had to save our soul and atone for our sins.
15 We were told we were sinful.

16 "We were taught never to question an adult. You
17 would get the belt if you ever did question them.

18 "I was 6 or 7 years old when I was taken out of
19 Nazareth House. I had no knowledge or warning that we
20 were going home for good. We were given the impression
21 that we were just visiting home and then we just didn't
22 return."

23 The registers for Nazareth House Aberdeen show the
24 witness being discharged in [REDACTED] 1977:

25 "My notes also state that my parents were annoyed

1 that they weren't given the address of where we went on
2 holiday when we went to Speyside. The social workers
3 got involved and told the home they had no right to
4 withhold that information from my parents. Shortly
5 thereafter, we returned home on a trial period. I got
6 the impression that we were sent home and allowed to
7 stay there. It is unclear from my notes whether we were
8 in Nazareth House for three months only or in and out of
9 care for seven or eight months.

10 "When we got back home we got lots of presents.
11 I can't remember if it was Christmas or not; I just
12 remember it was really nice to go home and see all the
13 presents. There was never any discussion about it or
14 when we were going back to Nazareth House.

15 "During the period whilst I was living at --"

16 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod, did you say the registers show her
17 coming out in [REDACTED] 1977?

18 MS MACLEOD: Yes.

19 LADY SMITH: And going in in [REDACTED] 1976?

20 MS MACLEOD: Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: So the registers suggest about 13 months?

22 MS MACLEOD: They do, my Lady, yes.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MS MACLEOD: "During the period while I was living at home
25 after Nazareth House, I was sexually assaulted, but

1 I didn't tell anyone. It was someone from the village
2 and I was always scared of bumping into him.

3 "I do not recall there being any social work
4 involvement with my family after we returned home from
5 Nazareth House. Social Services did not get involved
6 until I was brought before the Children's Panel for
7 missing school when I was aged 12."

8 In paragraphs 55 and 56, the witness gives some
9 information about her family and about her then going to
10 Nicholl Lodge Children's Home at the age of 12 or 13.

11 In paragraphs 57 to 68 of the statement she speaks
12 of her experiences and her memories of her experiences
13 at Nicholl Lodge Children's Home in Aberdeenshire.

14 In paragraphs 69 to 73 the witness speaks about her
15 life after being in care, including that she has been
16 married for 28 years and has a grown-up son.

17 I will pick the statement up at paragraph 74, where
18 the witness speaks about the impact on her life of her
19 time in care, and that is on WIT.001.001.2566:

20 "Whilst in care I became a very shy and withdrawn
21 child. I couldn't stop questioning why my parents were
22 the way they were. I always felt different. I never
23 really fitted in. By the time I got to secondary
24 school, I had real issues with authority. I developed
25 a very big chip on my shoulder and felt very let down by

1 my parents.

2 "I feel like I didn't have a childhood. I also feel
3 a lot of guilt about my siblings and try taking on all
4 of their problems. It is only in the last couple of
5 years I have spoken to my siblings about being in care.
6 I'm in touch with my siblings now. I have always felt
7 that I need to look after them.

8 "I didn't finish school because of my mistrust of
9 adults. I chose to leave school because I could not
10 cope with the school setting. I did not realise what
11 I was doing to myself. I was a very angry teenager and
12 I built up a wall which I did not break down until I met
13 my current partner.

14 "The impact of being sent into care has continued
15 into my adult life. I feel that I have psychological
16 and mental scars. I struggle with low self-esteem.
17 I feel like I'm not worth anything and I'm always
18 comparing myself to other people.

19 "I have a few friends but I find making friends
20 difficult because I do not feel adequate. I have no
21 confidence, especially in company. I can't be in big
22 rooms with other people. I feel institutionalised.
23 I have had suicidal thoughts and have had to take sick
24 leave from my job.

25 "I saw a clinical psychologist in 2005. I was

1 referred by my GP, but I'm no longer under their care.
2 I had six sessions of private counselling over two years
3 ago.

4 "I am always worried that my depression will have an
5 effect on my son, as it has affected my relationship
6 with my partner. The reason I decided to give this
7 statement is because I had such a strong memory of the
8 children in the washroom that were marched past us
9 carrying the sheets for bed-wetting. I felt their
10 embarrassment and shame. Those children had been put
11 into care and forgotten about. At least someone can
12 stand up and say that they saw that happen to them and
13 it shouldn't have been done.

14 "I don't understand why nuns were ever allowed to
15 look after children. They had no thoughts, feeling or
16 compassion for children.

17 "A child isn't always able to say what they are
18 feeling, but that doesn't mean that they are not
19 suffering. People who are linked to caring for children
20 should have the skills to detect what children are
21 feeling and have more of an understanding.

22 "I feel that children should be counselled at the
23 time the problem is detected and helped over a longer
24 period of time. I feel that not dealing with it at the
25 time has negative impacts throughout life.

1 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
2 published as part of evidence to the inquiry. I believe
3 the facts stated in the witness statement are true."

4 The statement was signed by Sharon on
5 9 November 2017.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 Witness statement of JOANNE PEACHER (read)

8 MS MACLEOD: The next statement that I'm going to read,
9 my Lady, is from an applicant who has waived her right
10 to anonymity and the statement can be found at
11 WIT.001.001.3814.

12 There is a short second statement from this
13 applicant, which I will read just after I've read the
14 first one.

15 "My name is Joanne Peacher. I was born in 1968. My
16 contact details are known to the inquiry."

17 In paragraphs 2 to 4 of the statement, the witness
18 describes her life before going into care, including
19 some unhappy family background.

20 I'll pick up the statement at paragraph 5 on
21 WIT.001.001.3815:

22 "Prior to being in Nazareth House, I was in
23 a children's home in Kames Castle. I went to White Hall
24 School. I don't remember much about those places, but
25 I didn't have any problems.

1 "They had no more spaces at Kames Castle. [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED] so

3 I went to Nazareth House. I went there when I was 6.

4 [REDACTED] I can't remember my
5 first day there, but I loved it when I first got there."

6 The admissions register for Cardonald show this
7 witness going in initially for two weeks in January 1979
8 and then going in in August 1980 and being discharged in
9 December 1981:

10 "I lived in a bungalow in the grounds of
11 Nazareth House. I remember it was white and creamy. On
12 the other side of the grounds, there was a nunnery and
13 there were children's homes all around.

14 "There were about 15 children in my bungalow. The
15 age range was 5 to 18. The girls had one end and the
16 boys had the other end. There was a family of girls,
17 four sisters. They had been there for about three years
18 before I arrived. There were also staff quarters,
19 a living room, and a big massive playroom.
20 Sister [REDACTED] LHW was in charge of the bungalow.

21 "There were quite a lot of staff. They used to do
22 shifts. There used to be four or five on the night
23 shift and four or five during the day. They were all
24 civilians apart from Sister [REDACTED] LHW She was a really
25 nice nun. She used to sit and talk to you, and you

1 could chap on her door for anything. Sister LHW
2 stayed overnight, as did LFV who was a civilian
3 staff member.

4 "There was a Mother Superior who ran the whole
5 place. I didn't know her name. I think there might
6 have been about 100 children in the whole place.

7 "You shared a room or you could have a room of your
8 own. Some of the rooms had four children, some two, and
9 some were single rooms. I was in a room of my own until
10 [REDACTED] arrived.

11 "Sister LHW would wake us up at 7.30 in the
12 morning. We'd get ready for school and then we'd have
13 our breakfast. A minibus came and picked me up to take
14 me to school.

15 "At night-time I had to be in the shower for 8.30.
16 I was allocated a time because of the number of kids.
17 Then I'd put my pyjamas on. I was allowed to go and
18 watch television for a bit and bedtime was 9.30 for the
19 younger ones. The older children were allowed to watch
20 television in their bedrooms, but I had to be in my bed
21 for 9.30. At the weekend I was allowed to stay up until
22 10.

23 "The bungalow had its own kitchen. The food would
24 be brought from the main house to the kitchen in the
25 bungalow. We would eat together in a big dining room.

1 We used to have dinner at 5. If you didn't get there
2 for 5, you'd had it, you wouldn't get anything to eat.
3 There were a couple of boys who didn't make it on time
4 if they were out playing football or whatever. That
5 didn't happen to me often. I was always there at 20 to
6 5 demanding my dinner.

7 "The meals were all right, just like school dinners.
8 If you didn't like it, you just had to do your best with
9 it.

10 "You'd put your trays in a unit and then they'd go
11 to the dishwasher. You could help to do the dishes if
12 you wanted. You didn't have to, but if you had nothing
13 to do, you'd offer to help.

14 "We had our own clothes; they used to take us to buy
15 them. We could pick our own clothes, but the staff
16 would pay for them. The clothes were washed by the
17 staff. There was a launderette in the big house.

18 "After dinner, I was allowed to stay out until 7.30
19 at night if it was light. If it was dark, we couldn't
20 go out. We could play outside in the grounds.

21 "There was a big football pitch: we could play there
22 or go out on a bike, whatever we wanted. When it was
23 dark, we could watch telly or play in the playroom.
24 I used to play on the computer, play pool or play table
25 football. There was quite a lot to do.

1 "Sometimes the staff would take the younger kids out
2 for a walk before bedtime. We were taken to the cinema
3 for a Christmas show, but not often. We never went away
4 anywhere overnight.

5 "I got taken to school in a minibus. The rest of
6 the kids would walk to school as it as nearby. I went
7 to a special school. I used to be the first one on the
8 bus and the last one off it. I wore a school uniform.
9 I got my lunch at school. At school I learned reading,
10 writing and maths.

11 "One year, I spent Christmas at Nazareth House. It
12 was really good. We put decorations up and had a proper
13 Christmas dinner with Christmas pudding.

14 "Most of the time I went home for Christmas because
15 my mum got better. We used to get a black carrier bag
16 to take home. I remember being given Barbie dolls and
17 clothes. My mum said it was a horrible present to get.
18 I didn't like Barbie. That year I remember [REDACTED]
19 won a battery powered toy at the home; everybody wanted
20 a shot.

21 "We got loads of stuff for our birthdays. You'd get
22 a cake and a party. People would come from elsewhere in
23 the home. It was really good.

24 "When I first went into the home, I wasn't allowed
25 to go home. My mum would phone [REDACTED]. She

1 would come and visit on a Saturday. It wasn't
2 supervised. My mum would come and have a chat with
3 Sister LHW [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED] When I got a bit older, about 8 or 9 years old, [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED] home every second weekend and stay from Friday
6 to Sunday.

7 "I remember people would come in to have a look
8 at the place. They would look around the rooms. They
9 didn't talk to us, but they'd talk to Sister LHW in
10 the office. They would just turn up. I think they came
11 every three or four months.

12 "Sister LHW took me [REDACTED] to
13 a Children's Panel. [REDACTED] It was
14 about three or four months after LJV assaulted me.
15 [REDACTED] at home for about four or five months, but my
16 mum couldn't cope. She went downhill. [REDACTED] returned to
17 Nazareth House. [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED]
19 "I don't remember a nurse being at the home and
20 I don't remember a doctor visiting.

21 "I used to have to go to hospital for check-ups
22 about my kidneys. I had three operations when I was 3,
23 6 and 9 years of age. They had to take parts of my
24 kidneys away each time. It was too big an operation to
25 do at the one time. I have a big scar from my stomach

1 to my back. Sister LHW would take me to the hospital
2 every six months.

3 "If you fell and hurt yourself, you would be taken
4 to the doctor. We used to go to the dentist every
5 six months. We would go in groups of three or four.

6 "All the children had to go to the chapel every
7 Sunday. It was right next to the grounds of the home.
8 We also said prayers at mealtimes. We didn't have to
9 say prayers before bedtime.

10 "I was given pocket money by Sister LHW The
11 amount depended on your age. I got about £1.50 a week.
12 A 15-year-old girl got about £5. An ice-cream man would
13 come round to the home every Saturday and I'd buy
14 sweeties.

15 "If we did something wrong, we would get into
16 trouble for it, but nobody hit us, apart from LFV
17 If you swore, you'd be sent to your room. You would be
18 called out for mealtimes. You would be grounded and
19 told to stay in your room. The length of time you were
20 grounded for depended upon what you'd done. I was
21 grounded about three times. I smashed a window with
22 a snowball once and I was grounded for about
23 three weeks. I didn't get any pocket money and
24 I couldn't play in the playroom. I had to sit in the
25 living room.

1 "Somebody told me one of the nuns kept hitting
2 a girl. I didn't know her name. It was in the big
3 house. She came over and we played with her. She said,
4 'I keep getting hit'. I told her to report it, but she
5 said no.

6 "I remember a boy saying, 'Don't believe in
7 Sister LHW she'll hit you because she hit me'.
8 I asked him what happened and he said that Sister LHW
9 hit him on the back of the head. I never saw her do
10 anything like that.

11 "If you did something wrong, LJV would hit you
12 on the back of head. It started four or five months
13 after I went there. She liked things to be done
14 properly: the girls standing on one side and the boys on
15 the other side. If we stood on the wrong side, she
16 would come and clout us on the back of the head. It was
17 forceful. She would say, 'You silly girl, you're
18 supposed to do it properly'. I think she did that to me
19 about once a week.

20 "When I was 8, Sister LHW was away at
21 a conference and LJV was in charge of the
22 bungalow. I was out in the snow playing with another
23 girl. LJV shouted, 'Come in here, you'. She
24 whacked me with a stick three or four times on my ankle
25 bone. She hit the other girl on her back. LJV

1 had told me not to say anything. She told me to say I'd
2 fallen. I couldn't move my foot.

3 "Sister LHW came back later that day. I was
4 limping and she asked what had happened. My ankle was
5 swollen. I told her I had fallen and twisted my ankle.
6 Sister LHW took me to the hospital. She phoned my
7 mum and my mum came as well.

8 "I told the doctor my ankle had given away in the
9 snow. They said I had a fractured ankle. The doctor
10 said it wasn't a twisting injury and it looked like I'd
11 been hit with something.

12 "Sister LHW kept asking what had happened.
13 I kept saying I'd fallen. I think Sister LHW knew
14 I was lying because she kept asking me. I was too
15 scared to say anything. Sister LHW went to the
16 toilet. My mum asked me who had done it. I told her,
17 LHV hit me with a stick'. I asked her not to
18 tell Sister LHW because I thought I'd get into more
19 trouble; she told me I wouldn't.

20 "They put my foot in plaster. My mum came back to
21 the home with me. Everybody was asking me if they could
22 sign the plaster. LHV was in the kitchen. My mum
23 grabbed her and said, 'If you touch my daughter again,
24 you're going to get arrested'. Then my mum punched her
25 in the face. Sister LHW pulled my mum off her and

1 then went to have tea with my mum.

2 "I went to my bed because my ankle was sore.

3 **LFV** came in and said sorry to me. I said, 'It's
4 okay, but just don't do it no more'. She said,
5 'I promise I won't'. After that, she was closer to me
6 than normal and being friendly. It didn't feel right:
7 she was just being too close.

8 "I never saw the other girl again. She stayed in
9 the big bit of the home. She was older than me, about
10 11. I never saw her again at chapel or anywhere else.
11 I don't know what happened to her.

12 "I came out in a rash from German measles three or
13 four days after breaking my ankle. My foot was in
14 plaster. I had to stay in my bed. **LFV** came into
15 my room wearing a mask. It was like a nurse's mask but
16 I knew it was her. She said open your legs. I opened
17 my legs and she put a stick inside me. She said, 'If
18 you say anything to anybody, I'll come and get you'.
19 The stick was like a broom handle. Something was
20 playing on the telly with a big bear -- I think it was
21 'Rainbow'. She heard somebody coming, so she put the
22 stick under my bed and ran out the door.

23 "I didn't tell anybody about what happened in my
24 room until I told my husband about it ten years ago.
25 I didn't feel I could tell my mum at the time. The

1 hitting stopped after that.

2 [REDACTED] to Inver House in
3 Easterhouse. I was about 11.

4 "I wanted to move and I was old enough to ask them.
5 I wanted to be closer to my mum. Nazareth House was
6 three buses away from my mum's and my mum didn't drive.

7 [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED]
9 "Before I went, I stayed at Inver House overnight
10 [REDACTED]. They asked if I felt okay there and
11 I said I did.

12 In paragraphs 46 to 61 of the statement, the witness
13 speaks about her memories of her time in Inver House.
14 From paragraphs 62 to 66 of the statement, the witness
15 speaks about a second stay at Kames Castle on the
16 Isle of Bute so I'll pick the statement up again at
17 paragraph 67 on WIT.001.001.3826:

18 "After Kames Castle, [REDACTED] at Nazareth House for
19 three or four days until a space became available at
20 Inver House. [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED] Sister LHW was still there. It was
22 brilliant to see her. All the other staff were
23 different to our previous stay."

24 In paragraphs 68 and 69, the witness describes her
25 second stay at Inver House. I'll pick the statement up

1 at paragraph 70 on the same page:

2 "I told my mum that [REDACTED] LFV broke my ankle when
3 we were at the hospital. I never told anybody else at
4 the time. I didn't tell anybody about the incident in
5 my room.

6 "For many years, I didn't tell anybody else.
7 I think I was too scared. I just wanted to forget about
8 it. I wanted it to go away and not come back. Then
9 I started getting flashbacks and seeing her.

10 "There came a time when I told my husband what had
11 happened to me. We had been together about 10 years.
12 I think it was in 2002. He said I needed to tell the
13 police. I said I couldn't do it, but he told me I had
14 to. A police lady came and took a big statement. After
15 that, I had to go to Glasgow to give a statement to the
16 procurator fiscal. Then I got a letter back saying they
17 couldn't do anything. She had told me in person they
18 couldn't do much. From giving the first statement, it
19 took about two years before they told me they were
20 closing the case."

21 In paragraph 73 of the statement, the witness gives
22 some information about her life after being in care.
23 I'll pick the statement up on the same page at
24 paragraph 74 where she speaks about the impact on her of
25 her time in care:

1 "When I was 16, the social workers couldn't work out
2 what was wrong with me. They said I would need
3 full-time care for the rest of my life. When we lived
4 in England, I was diagnosed with Munchausen's syndrome
5 by proxy.

6 "I was shopping with my son in about 2001 and I saw
7 LFV I hid. I don't know if she's still alive.

8 "When my son was 3, I took him to hospital and they
9 told me nothing was wrong with him. I took him home and
10 his temperature went sky high. I took him back and they
11 told me he had meningitis. He was at death's door.
12 I kept taking the kids to the doctor's. Because I was
13 labelled with having Munchausen's syndrome by proxy,
14 I think the social workers got the wrong idea because of
15 that label."

16 In paragraphs 77 to 80 of the statement, the witness
17 gives further information about the impact she says her
18 time in care has had on her, and speaks about other
19 matters. I'll pick the statement up at paragraph 81 on
20 the same page, which is WIT.001.001.3828:

21 "For the last few years, I've been getting
22 flashbacks. I don't like my husband touching me. If
23 I go to bed, I wake up screaming. When I get
24 flashbacks, I panic."

25 I will now move to paragraph 83, which is on

1 WIT.001.001.3829:

2 "Although I have more support now, I can't go out
3 anywhere without my husband. I've never been able to
4 work.

5 "My husband phoned up Nazareth House to try and
6 recover my records. He's been trying for three years.
7 He's filled in a form several times. Recently we were
8 told that people had been off sick, but they'd look into
9 it again.

10 "The Catholic Church in Glasgow said they'd do all
11 they could for me [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED] but I still don't have my records.

13 "I want people to know that they shouldn't hide
14 abuse. If you hide it, it makes things worse.

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

19 The statement was signed by Joanne Peacher on
20 28 August 2017.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

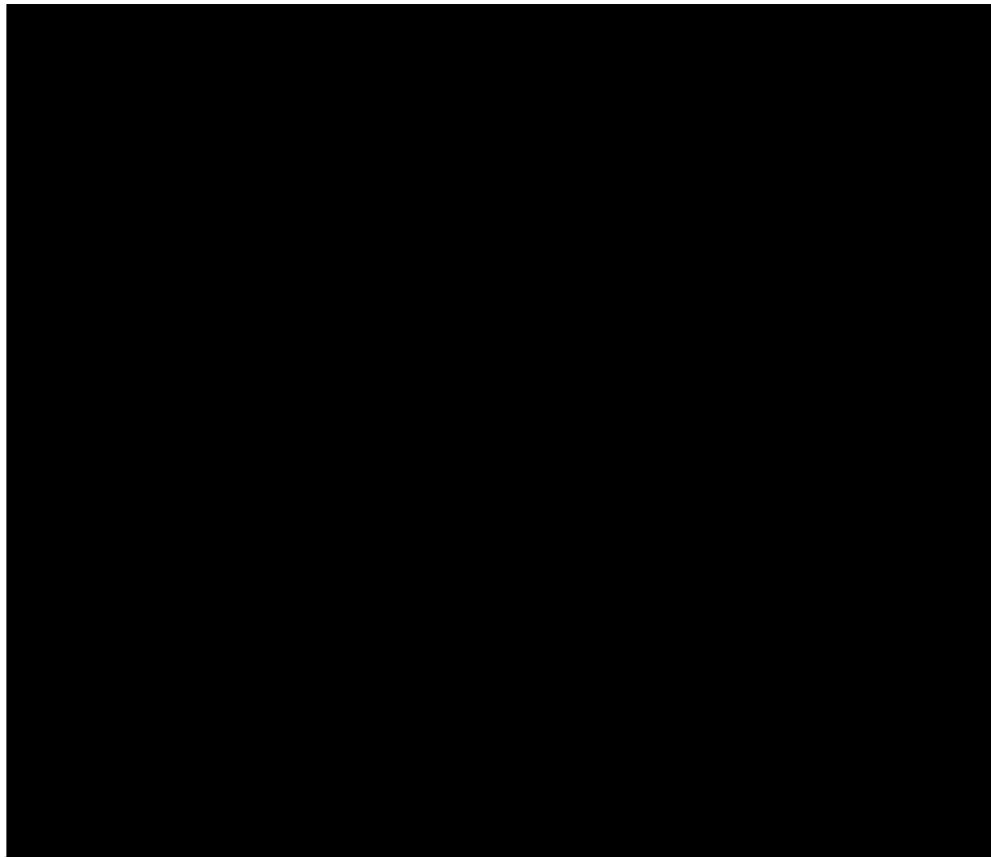
22 We now go to a supplementary statement from her, do
23 we?

24 Supplemental witness statement of JOANNE PEACHER (read)

25 MS MACLEOD: We do. That's at WIT.001.001.8951:

1 "My name is Joanne Peacher. I was born in 1968. My
2 contact details are known to the inquiry.

3 "I have already given a statement to the Scottish
4 Child Abuse Inquiry, which I signed on 28 August 2017.



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18 I was raped by a priest in
19 Nazareth House about a week after the abuse I suffered
20 from [REDACTED] LFV I was about 9 years old at the time,
21 he was in his early 30s. I don't know his name.
22 I can't remember him saying anything to me. He walked
23 into my room and raped me.

24 "Although I shared a room with two other girls,
25 whose names I can't remember, I was alone at the time.

1 I had a broken ankle and German measles.

2 "The two girls and I spoke to each other about being
3 raped, but we never told anybody because we were too
4 scared. I had not seen the priest before he raped me.
5 I saw him a couple of times after this. I was in the
6 grounds and I saw him walking into the main part of the
7 children's home.

8 "I had reported the rape to the police before my
9 husband got in touch with the newspaper. The outcome of
10 this report was that the police informed me they would
11 need the names of the other two girls before they could
12 proceed any further.

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 the witness statement are
16 true."

17 That statement was signed by Joanne Peacher on
18 23 May 2018.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 MS MACLEOD: I will now pass back over to my learned friend
21 Ms Rattray to read a further statement.

22 Witness statement of DAVID SHARP (read)

23 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, this is a statement of an applicant
24 who has waived his right to anonymity. His statement
25 can be found at WIT.001.001.7159:

1 "My name is David Sharp. I was born in 1959. I am
2 58 years old. My contact details are known to the
3 inquiry."

4 At paragraphs 2 to 4, David speaks of his family
5 life before care, about which he has no memory, as
6 he was placed in care when he was 1 year old.

7 Turning now to paragraph 5 on page 7160:

8 "I spent the first 16 years of my life in
9 institutions. I know I was in four institutions because
10 I have been told in later life. I was in Nazareth House
11 in Kilmarnock, Lasswade, Bonnyrigg, and St Ninian's in
12 Falkland. I have been led to believe that Lasswade and
13 Bonnyrigg are one place. I don't know which institution
14 I was in first or what age I was when I moved between
15 institutions or even why I was moved. I know that the
16 institutions were all Catholic run. I was always
17 brought up by nuns or men in long robes.

18 "I think I was placed in Kilmarnock first because my
19 father later told me that he used to turn up at the home
20 in Kilmarnock, drunk, as late as 10 pm. He told me that
21 one time he turned up and the nuns wouldn't let him in.
22 They told him at the gate that I had been taken away by
23 a rich couple with horses and a big farm, and it would
24 be better if he just left me. My father told me that he
25 made the decision then to just leave me alone. I don't

1 know if that is true, but it is what he told me.

2 I still doubt it to this day."

3 The Nazareth House register for Kilmarnock records
4 that David was admitted on 7 November 1961 and left on
5 25 June 1962. The register also observes that he was
6 readmitted but gives no date for this. It does give
7 a second leaving date of 22 December 1967.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 MS RATTRAY: Moving now to paragraph 8, which is at the foot
10 of this page:

11 "It was a three or four-storey building with
12 turrets. It was straight across the road from the
13 Johnny Walker whisky factory. My memories of Kilmarnock
14 are as clear as they can be at that age.

15 "It was huge to me as a child. There was a playing
16 field out the back. We would play football and put all
17 the hay together to jump on it and fight. I have mainly
18 good memories. I think there were about 100 children,
19 both girls and boys.

20 "My first recollection of the home is of playing
21 football in the fields with the nuns. I remember it was
22 very regimental. It was a very regimental lifestyle.

23 "Clothes were laid out for you when you woke up in
24 the morning. We would get our uniforms on in the
25 morning, then march down to the town of Kilmarnock to

1 school. I was like an adventure. I liked it.

2 "I was in a large dormitory with lots of single,
3 steel beds in it. It was partitioned quite a bit. It
4 was a bit like a hospital room. Each dormitory had
5 about 10 beds in it. I can't remember if it was mixed
6 or not.

7 "Sister [REDACTED] LHU had a room next to the dormitory.
8 I assume there was a nun in each dormitory.

9 "I don't remember any of the eating or washing
10 facilities.

11 "I remember being out in the summertime. I don't
12 remember much about wintertime. My favourite game was
13 playing outside in the manholes. I got lost one night
14 and got in serious trouble. I remember I got a beating
15 and I think I got the belt. Nobody was worried about
16 me, but just because I was out of bounds. It was
17 dangerous down there. There were rats and mice down
18 there.

19 "I broke my arm once. We were outside playing.
20 I think we'd watched a James Bond or Bruce Lee film and
21 we were acting out moves and I broke my arm. I don't
22 remember seeing a doctor. I can't remember how it was
23 dealt with.

24 "I don't remember anything about the actual
25 schooling. We had to wear blazers with our uniform and

1 I didn't like that because I felt like a snob. I took
2 it off and threw it in a hedge one day and when I went
3 back it was gone. I remember getting a beating for it.
4 I lost my tuck money for that.

5 "I remember a nun telling me I was going to die if
6 I bit my nails again. Then I bit my nails again and
7 thought, oh no, what have I done. I walked outside to
8 the graveyard and laid down in the graveyard thinking
9 I was going to die. Then it started raining and I went
10 back inside. I didn't die and that was a relief.

11 "There was an old nun who came one time and called
12 me Smart. I told her my name was Sharp. She beat me
13 really bad with a stick even though she had gotten my
14 name wrong. I just put it down to her being some old
15 woman having dementia. She was really, really old.
16 Maybe she had a bad day.

17 "I remember getting in trouble and getting beaten up
18 and getting the strap. I don't remember any sexual
19 abuse or any excess of physical abuse. I must have been
20 a normal, rowdy 5 to 10-year-old. I was probably no
21 different to anybody else, craving attention, and would
22 do anything to get it, including fighting other
23 children.

24 "I have no real bad memories before the age of 10
25 that I can think of.

1 "We got tuck money on a Wednesday; I think it was
2 a shilling. You didn't see the money, but you would go
3 to the tuck shop and take the equivalent of the amount
4 in sweeties.

5 "In Kilmarnock, I remember going out on the odd
6 Saturday. Taxi drivers used to turn up every so often
7 with their taxis covered in balloons and would take us
8 out for the day to the zoo. That was really good. That
9 was probably the only good memory I have of my young
10 days.

11 "I think I was in Kilmarnock from the age of 1 to
12 about 7 or 8. Then something happened after that,
13 because things are blank in my mind after that."

14 David then speaks of his name in Nazareth House in
15 Edinburgh, in Lasswade/Bonnyrigg, and the Nazareth House
16 register for Edinburgh records that David was admitted
17 on 25 October 1968 and left on 26 August 1971 when
18 he was transferred to St Ninian's.

19 It also observes that he was fostered in Irvine, but
20 that didn't work out, but no dates are given for the
21 fostering period:

22 "I have a memory of driving up towards gates. The
23 big gates opened up and there was a little gatehouse.
24 I don't know where this is. I don't even have a memory
25 or picture in my mind of the home. This is where it

1 gets dark in my mind, as I'm going up this road. When
2 I say it was dark, I see fire and darkness. There's
3 fear and something in my mind is saying that I'm not
4 going in there because something bad happened. It goes
5 satanic. It means that I saw or heard something at that
6 point. It doesn't necessarily mean something happened
7 to me, although it could have. It is complete darkness.
8 This may well be the start of my abuse, but I can't know
9 this until I get some clarification.

10 "My thoughts tell me I was abused in this place.
11 I think this because the picture of Nazareth House
12 Kilmarnock is clear in my mind and I know that I am not
13 at St Ninian's yet. There are phases of darkness at
14 St Ninian's, but I remember things from there. I have
15 no picture in my mind of this place.

16 "I don't know how long I was there for. I see
17 flashbacks of it and it has big walls that you can't see
18 over. This place must have been Lasswade or Bonnyrigg.
19 I think it was Lasswade.

20 "There is a story that the place was called Lasswade
21 because a young girl fell off a bridge next to the home,
22 and people ran over and shouted to her, 'Lass, wade,
23 swim, lass, wade'. I remember the bridge next to the
24 home."

25 David then speaks at length of his experiences in

1 St Ninian's, Falkland, and his life after care, and the
2 impact those experiences had upon him.

3 The impact appears to relate from the terms of the
4 statement primarily to his experience in St Ninian's and
5 for that reason, it would be more appropriate that we
6 hear about that on a different day at a different study.

7 The reason for that is, of course, today our focus
8 is on his experiences in Nazareth House.

9 LADY SMITH: Yes, of course.

10 MS RATTRAY: So I will now turn to paragraph 193, which is
11 on page 7204.

12 Here, David speaks about records:

13 "I have tried for years to find records. I know In
14 Care Survivors got some records, but it was only about
15 dates that I was in institutions and even they aren't
16 clear.

17 "Because of the impact of not knowing where I grew
18 up, it is really important to me to know where I was
19 and, more importantly, why I was moved about.

20 "There must be records of entry at the very least
21 and the reasons why I was moved about. My childhood is
22 so fragmented and trying to find the nice memories is
23 really difficult and I desperately try to find them so
24 it can give me some substance.

25 "Everything overlaps the other or it is swept under

1 the carpet. I don't know where I'm from. This is why
2 my records are so important, so I can have some order."

3 I now move to page 7205 and paragraph 199, where
4 David speaks of his closing thoughts:

5 "There is a lot of anger and hatred from child abuse
6 victims towards police over the way they've been
7 treated. People think they are up to their eyeballs in
8 conspiracies. They seem to close the door when it comes
9 to offering assistance and help. There needs to be more
10 confidence in the police for more child abuse victims to
11 come forward.

12 "Politicians say different things to the press and
13 completely different things to survivor groups. These
14 people are fed a lot of nonsense. They are encouraged
15 to go to the press so all you see in the press is
16 negative comments. This discourages victims from coming
17 forward and we believe this is intentional.

18 "The Scottish government need to be seen to be
19 reaching out to victims and not just hiding behind
20 meetings with a few people. They need to reach out via
21 and in unity with the police. The government needs to
22 focus on the individual survivors and not the survivor
23 groups. The focus needs to stay on the institutions."

24 My Lady, the statement was signed by David on
25 30 May 2017.

1 My Lady, this concludes the evidence for today's
2 hearing.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

4 Yes, Mr MacAulay.

5 Housekeeping

6 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, as my learned friend has just
7 mentioned, that concludes the evidence for today's
8 hearing and I would now move that we adjourn until
9 Monday, 25 June to continue the case study.

10 LADY SMITH: Very well. That's what we'll do. We will
11 adjourn now until Monday, 25 June at 10 o'clock. It
12 will be a 10 o'clock start at usual, won't it? So
13 that's a week on Monday.

14 Could I just at this stage mention the matter of
15 closing submissions because they are, of course, down to
16 be received at the hearing on 3 and 4 July. But, just
17 as I did with the last case study, I would like to urge
18 all who are going to be making closing submissions --
19 and that's in addition to counsel to the inquiry,
20 everybody who has leave to appear -- to have prepared
21 written submissions for submission to the inquiry by, at
22 the latest, 4 o'clock on Friday, 29 June.

23 What we are proposing to do is the same as we did
24 with the Daughters of Charity case study then, which is
25 that we will undertake to circulate them amongst

1 everybody so that you've all seen each other's written
2 plan, anyway, for the submissions that are to be made on
3 3 and 4 July in advance of those dates.

4 I think that gives people enough time to have their
5 written submissions ready and a bit of a gap between
6 everybody receiving them and getting to the start of
7 hearing them on 3 July.

8 I think those are the dates we agreed, aren't they,
9 Mr MacAulay?

10 MR MacAULAY: Yes, my Lady.

11 LADY SMITH: That will be confirmed by the solicitors' team
12 to everybody in writing, but I thought I would just let
13 those of you who are here know about that today.

14 Thank you all very much. I'll rise now, as I say,
15 until Monday, 25 June.

16 (3.05 pm)

17 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am
18 on Monday 25 June 2018)

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