

1 Monday, 25 June 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. Welcome to the last week in  
4 which we will be hearing evidence in this case study.  
5 I think we start today with an oral witness. Is that  
6 right, Mr MacAulay?

7 MR MacAULAY: Yes, good morning, my Lady. We have four oral  
8 witnesses for the course of the day, the first being  
9 Sister Mary Anthony Vaughan.

10 SISTER MARY ANTHONY VAUGHAN (sworn)

11 Questions from MR MacAULAY

12 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.  
13 You may need your glasses in a minute when Mr MacAulay  
14 explains what the red file is all about. You'll have  
15 picked up from when that light came on on the microphone  
16 that it's really good at picking up your voice. I would  
17 ask you to make sure you stay in a position where the  
18 microphone does that so that everybody can hear you and  
19 the stenographer can pick you up.

20 Mr MacAulay.

21 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, sister.

22 A. Good morning.

23 Q. I think you are Sister Mary Anthony Vaughan; is that  
24 correct?

25 A. That's right, yes.

1 Q. You were born on [REDACTED]; is that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So you're now 83?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. In the red folder in front of you, sister, you'll find  
6 the statement that you provided to the inquiry. I'm  
7 going to ask you to look at it. I'll give the reference  
8 to the stenographer. It's WIT.001.001.8058. What  
9 I would like you to do is go to the very last page of  
10 the statement.

11 Can I ask you to confirm that you signed the  
12 statement?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And do you say in the last paragraph:  
15 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
16 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry."  
17 Is that right?

18 A. Yes, that's right.

19 Q. And do you also say:  
20 "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
21 statement are true."  
22 Is that correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You tell us in your statement, sister, that you joined  
25 the order in July 1950; is that right?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. You were professed as a nun in 1952?
- 3 A. Yes, that's right.
- 4 Q. You began, I think, by getting some experience in  
5 childcare; is that right?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Can you tell me about that? What did that training  
8 involve?
- 9 A. It was practical training, looking after babies at  
10 Ellerton Dale, helping in a nursery, not responsible for  
11 the nursery.
- 12 Q. And I think you tell us that was in Belfast; is that  
13 right?
- 14 A. I did two years' training in Belfast.
- 15 Q. And that was hands on practical training in a nursery?
- 16 A. And academic as well. We went to college a day a week  
17 for two years.
- 18 Q. Did you receive a qualification at the end of that  
19 process?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. What was it called, can you remember?
- 22 A. It was a certificate and a badge. We were qualified to  
23 look after children from babyhood to adulthood.
- 24 Q. Okay. Then is it the case, sister, as you tell us in  
25 your statement, that in 1959 you came to Nazareth House

1           in Cardonald?

2       A.   Yes.

3       Q.   What was the job that you were going to take over there?

4       A.   I was taking over charge of the nursery schoolchildren,  
5           pre-school children. We had about 25 to 30 children and  
6           some staff, as stated.

7       Q.   You were to be in charge?

8       A.   I was in charge of the nursery, yes.

9       Q.   Were you taking over from another sister?

10      A.   Yes.

11      Q.   Can you remember who that was?

12      A.   Sorry, I can't.

13      Q.   It doesn't matter. I think I'm right in saying,  
14           according to what you tell us in your statement, that  
15           you stayed at Cardonald until about 1965? Is that  
16           correct?

17      A.   Yes, that's correct.

18      Q.   And you then went, I think, to Swansea and then you came  
19           back to Scotland in 1966; is that right?

20      A.   Yes.

21      Q.   When you went to Lasswade?

22      A.   Yes.

23      Q.   We'll look at that shortly. But if we just focus then  
24           on Cardonald, first of all, you've told us you were to  
25           be in charge of the nursery and that consisted of about

- 1           25 children or so; is that right?
- 2           A. Yes, that's right.
- 3           Q. Did the numbers change over the five or six year period
- 4           that you were there?
- 5           A. They did, depending on discharges. Some children were
- 6           in care for a short term and some were there until they
- 7           automatically passed on to the children's department at
- 8           five when they came to school age.
- 9           Q. And that was the arrangement, once a child was of
- 10          primary school age, the child moved to another part of
- 11          the building?
- 12          A. Yes.
- 13          Q. In your statement, you tell us that when you first
- 14          arrived at Cardonald, there was a lot of renovation work
- 15          going on.
- 16          A. Yes.
- 17          Q. What was happening at that time?
- 18          A. There was a sick room being formed beside my bedroom so
- 19          that I could supervise any children at night, and it
- 20          accommodated about two, two to three beds, and also the
- 21          bigger dormitory was divided up into smaller apartments
- 22          so that maybe the younger children, maybe aged 2 or
- 23          under 2, would be on their own because they maybe tended
- 24          to wake up the others. And then maybe 3 onwards,
- 25          approximately, went in the biggest bedroom.

- 1 Q. Was that work completed before you left?
- 2 A. Oh, it was completed within six months of that, yes.
- 3 Q. You've mentioned that numbers would change because
- 4 children would leave and move on into the bigger
- 5 section. What about children coming in then? Did
- 6 children come in during your time?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Can you tell me a little bit about the process as to
- 9 what would happen if a new child was to come into the
- 10 nursery?
- 11 A. When I first went there, the father of the children,
- 12 whoever wanted them admitted, would arrive at the door
- 13 maybe with a letter from the parish priest -- there
- 14 wasn't social services involved at that time -- stating
- 15 the reason why the children needed admission, and then
- 16 the Superior and myself assessed the situation and got
- 17 the information from the father, recorded it, and
- 18 admitted the child.
- 19 Q. So what you're saying, sister, is there was really no
- 20 social work involvement at that time?
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. Did that remain the position during your time at
- 23 Cardonald?
- 24 A. No, because it depended on the reason. Some children
- 25 were for adoption or maybe being fostered out

1 permanently, then there was always Catholic social  
2 services involved. Social workers were involved with  
3 those.

4 Q. But this process of perhaps a parent taking a child  
5 there with the backing of the parish priest, did that  
6 process remain in place throughout your time at  
7 Cardonald?

8 A. No. Social services gradually took over responsibility  
9 for admissions.

10 Q. Can I just understand, sister, what records you would  
11 make when a child was admitted. What sort of record  
12 would you keep?

13 A. We took down the child's -- whether it was a normal  
14 weight, weight at birth, if there were any difficulties,  
15 any infections the child had, the reason for admission,  
16 and possibly the length the child would be in care and  
17 any other ... There was a double A4 medical card which  
18 we kept for all the children. That would be filled in  
19 on admission. The doctor would see the child, they were  
20 weighed and measured every month, and that process of  
21 medical care would continue.

22 Q. So you're giving us there some idea as to what records  
23 were then kept for an individual child.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. When you arrived at Cardonald, first of all, were there

- 1 records there for the children who were there?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. So would you be able to consult these records then?
- 4 A. Oh yes.
- 5 Q. And so far as these records were concerned, would they  
6 be the sort of material you've already discussed, namely  
7 details that may have been obtained on admission and  
8 some medical information as well?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Would there be a record indicating how a child was  
11 progressing in the nursery?
- 12 A. We didn't have case histories at that stage. We didn't  
13 write up case histories. An important medical record,  
14 but not a case history. Verbally we knew the  
15 circumstances of each child.
- 16 Q. When a child came to leave, let's say not to move into  
17 the other part of the building, but to leave to go  
18 elsewhere, would a record be kept of that?
- 19 A. Yes, and a discharge book would be signed.
- 20 Q. Can I just ask you, sister, about what assistance you  
21 had then in the nursery from lay staff.
- 22 A. Yes. I had a lady who did the laundry. We had one who  
23 did the cleaning and I had two or sometimes maybe three  
24 staff, and there were a number of voluntary helpers  
25 at the weekend. They came and went.



1 Q. But so far as the staff that were directly involved with  
2 the children would be concerned, do you know if they had  
3 any training?

4 A. No, they had no training at that stage, but they  
5 intended to go on for training in childcare. They were  
6 genuinely interested, they would come from school at 16  
7 or 17 and were genuinely interested in childcare.

8 Q. Did you yourself, sister, find that the training you had  
9 done was helpful to you in looking after the children?

10 A. Very much so, yes.

11 Q. Can you explain in what way it was helpful?

12 A. Well, there was a lot of theory, background theory,  
13 about childcare, a certain amount of information about  
14 disturbed children, how they would react, babies in  
15 general, the process. There would be the diet and food  
16 and weaning and everything that involved bringing  
17 children up.

18 Q. Just looking then at the sisters who were there, can you  
19 remember the names of other sisters who were at  
20 Cardonald at this time?

21 A. The sisters who lived in community with me were  
22 Sister [LFH] Sister [LBG] Sister [LHT]  
23 Sister Veronica, Sister [LMF], Sister [LJD?],  
24 Sister Patrick and Sister [LHA] Sometimes junior  
25 sisters came and went, getting experience.

1 Q. You've remembered quite a lengthy list there, but not  
2 all these sisters would be involved with the children?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Was there a Sister [REDACTED] LFL there at that time?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And she was involved with children?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. As was Sister [REDACTED] LFH ?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Was there a Sister [REDACTED] LFP

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Again, she would be involved with the children?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So I think we get the picture that you were in charge of  
15 the nursery, but there were other sisters who were in  
16 charge of other groups of children; is that correct?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. What involvement would you have with these other groups?

19 A. I met them in community socially and we had our meals  
20 together, but if a child was passed on, 5 years old or  
21 4 years old, I gave them the information and generally  
22 any important issues about the child.

23 Q. So far as the records that were kept for the children  
24 in the nursery were concerned, were they kept by you?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Did you have an office that you kept these records in?
- 2 A. We had a cupboard, a [inaudible] cupboard, in the sick  
3 room and the records were kept there.
- 4 Q. Did each child have a file?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. When the child moved on to another part of the building,  
7 would the child's file go with the child?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. But I think you tell us in your statement, sister, that  
10 really in a working day-to-day basis, you had little  
11 contact with the other sisters. Is that right?
- 12 A. Except at mealtimes and maybe recreation time. An hour  
13 a day or something.
- 14 Q. Well, can I ask a little bit then about the routine and  
15 the set-up at Cardonald. What you tell us in your  
16 statement is that as part of the daily routine, the  
17 children would be kept entertained; is that correct?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Because you're having to deal with 25 children of  
20 different ages.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. So they'd have to have some forms of distraction. Can  
23 you tell us what entertainment -- how did you keep them  
24 occupied?
- 25 A. Well, if the weather was nice, they had walks outside.

1           They had outdoor equipment and sand and water to play  
2           with. Indoors they had a little locker each for their  
3           toys in the playroom. They had television programmes.  
4           Then they had colouring-in books and the usual things  
5           for cutting out, scissors, the plasticine or clay, the  
6           usual things for children of that age group.

7           Q. Did you think you had enough toys for the children?

8           A. Yes.

9           Q. Can I ask you then about meals and mealtimes. Did the  
10          children -- how did you arrange the mealtimes for the  
11          children?

12          A. The meals were cooked in the kitchen, so we cooperated  
13          with that for our mealtimes.

14          Q. Did the children eat together?

15          A. Yes, they had a big dining room and many little tables,  
16          and they sat in chairs.

17          Q. Do you think the food was an acceptable quality?

18          A. Yes.

19          Q. What if a child didn't want to eat a particular dish?  
20          How would you approach that?

21          A. Under fives, you had a certain amount of coaxing, and  
22          you would make an attempt to feed them. They went  
23          through the process of learning to feed themselves, some  
24          of them. You just did your best, you know, but if it  
25          continued, you know, you would probably check with the

1 doctor, see if there was any reason. And on the whole,  
2 they ate well.

3 Q. Were children punished for not eating their food?

4 A. No, no, no.

5 Q. And were they ever made, physically made, to eat their  
6 food?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Did the sisters have the same food as the children were  
9 having?

10 A. More or less, yes. More or less.

11 Q. Would some of the children in the nursery have siblings  
12 who were in other parts of the building?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What contact, if any, would there be between the  
15 children in the nursery and their older siblings?

16 A. The schoolchildren came over at leisure when they wanted  
17 to come over, at weekends or in the mornings, to greet  
18 their little brothers or sisters. There was contact,  
19 you know, any time. There was no restriction on  
20 contact.

21 Q. Was that facilitated then by yourself that other  
22 children --

23 A. Yes. And the parents would come, when the parents came  
24 to visit, they may see them all in the nursery  
25 department. They may see them all in the children's ...

- 1 Q. And if I can ask you about washing and bathing then,  
2 sister. How was that managed?
- 3 A. They had a separate bathroom with two baths, smaller  
4 baths, to cope with the under five age group. I was  
5 always present at bathing time. So they got undressed  
6 in the bedrooms, at least the older ones got undressed  
7 in the bedrooms and came out for their bath. We bathed  
8 them and they had a few toys in the bath.
- 9 Q. How many baths did you have?
- 10 A. Two.
- 11 Q. So the two baths had to accommodate particularly quite  
12 a number of children?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And would you change the water for each child?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. So would that be a lengthy process then, the bathing  
17 process?
- 18 A. Yes, it was.
- 19 Q. Can I ask you about bed-wetting, sister. Did some of  
20 the children wet the bed?
- 21 A. Yes, a number of them would. They were fretting when  
22 they came in and they had to be toilet trained, some of  
23 them, 2 year-olds. You had to take it in your stride  
24 and accept it as part of routine and gradually, when  
25 they got settled down, they would grow out of it.

- 1 Q. And would a child, let's say one of the older children,  
2 be punished for wetting the bed?
- 3 A. No, no.
- 4 Q. Or humiliated in any way?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. Were birthdays celebrated?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Can you tell me what would happen on a birthday?
- 9 A. If they had family contacts, they usually came and maybe  
10 brought a little cake for their birthday. We would sing  
11 happy birthday and they got a toy and so on. They would  
12 explain to them that they were a year older and they  
13 were growing up, they were a big boy or girl.
- 14 Q. And would you have a note somewhere to tell you that  
15 a child's birthday was in the pipeline?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. How did you keep a note of that, in what way?
- 18 A. I kept a calendar and I had a rough diary.
- 19 Q. So far as visits were concerned, I think what you say in  
20 your statement is that some fathers of children visited  
21 on a Sunday?
- 22 A. Whenever they could, because they were working.
- 23 Q. There were also visits from voluntary organisations?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. What about social workers? I think we've touched upon

1           this already. Let's look over the piece. You started  
2           in 1959. And I think you finished in about 1965.

3           A. Yes.

4           Q. What was the position with regard to visits from  
5           children's officers or social workers?

6           A. They rang up and made an appointment and you made sure  
7           you had time to spend with them when they saw the child  
8           and walked around the child's premises and spent time  
9           with the child.

10          Q. I think what you say in your statement, sister, is at  
11          paragraph 43 that while you were at Cardonald, the  
12          system changed and the social work department took over.  
13          Are you suggesting there that the social work input  
14          increased during your time?

15          A. Oh yes.

16          Q. Is that correct?

17          A. Yes.

18          Q. If a child, as you've told us, had been put in by the  
19          parent with the backing of the parish priest, would  
20          a social worker or children's officer have anything to  
21          do with that particular child?

22          A. Yes, if it developed into longer term, maybe weeks or  
23          that, it would.

24          Q. They would become involved?

25          A. They would.



- 1 Q. We've already looked at aspects of records and  
2 record-keeping. Did you keep what might be called  
3 a diary, a daily diary, sister, to record events?
- 4 A. Yes, I did, for my own information. I kept a record of  
5 the visits of parents.
- 6 Q. Was that in a visitors' book or was that a separate  
7 book?
- 8 A. No, I kept it privately because some of the children --  
9 some parents may have lost parental rights, it depended  
10 on the reason for admission, and I recognised it was  
11 important, the contact with parents. Family was  
12 important.
- 13 Q. Was there a visitors' book?
- 14 A. I can't remember. They would have signed a book, yes.  
15 Parents would have signed a book, a signature when they  
16 came in.
- 17 Q. Or any other visitor, let's say someone from one of the  
18 voluntary organisations, would they sign the visitors'  
19 book?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And a social worker?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And when you came to leave Cardonald in about 1965, were  
24 these records left behind in the nursery area?
- 25 A. Yes, they were all left behind.

1 Q. What about a punishment book? Did you keep a punishment  
2 book?

3 A. No, there wasn't a punishment book.

4 Q. Did you keep any record of any punishments?

5 A. I didn't because there was ...

6 Q. Can I ask you about that then, sister? Discipline and  
7 punishment. How did you manage that during your time?

8 A. You reasoned with the children and spoke to them. They  
9 were all young. Maybe separated them sometimes in the  
10 playroom, those who didn't particularly get on or were  
11 quarrelsome with each other. They were learning to  
12 share as well, you know, pre-school children.

13 Q. Did you have cause to smack a child during your time?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Had you been given any guidance, advice, as to how to  
16 care for the children at Cardonald?

17 A. Apart from my training, I had about three or four years'  
18 experience, sometimes with a senior sister, and I felt  
19 I was capable of doing the job I was sent to do.

20 Q. So that was from the external training that you had  
21 done?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. I'm thinking more within the order itself. Were you  
24 given any guidance or advice, either verbally or in  
25 written form, as to how children should be cared for?

1 A. Well, we were all interested in childcare, those of us  
2 involved in it, and naturally we chatted about different  
3 things, about different aspects of it.

4 Q. Do I take it from that answer that you weren't provided  
5 with any written guidance as to how children ought to be  
6 cared for from the order's perspective?

7 A. I think there was. I just can't remember now, but  
8 I think there would be brief outlines of regulations  
9 regarding the children and the elderly people.

10 Q. Can I ask you to look at this document that the order  
11 has made available to us. I think it's taken from  
12 what's referred to as a directory and book of customs.  
13 Does that mean anything to you?

14 A. Yes, it does, yes.

15 Q. Is that something then that you were aware of?

16 A. Oh yes, yes.

17 Q. What is it?

18 A. It's your obligations regarding the work you did towards  
19 the people you come in contact with in that work.

20 Q. So this is guidance then that would be available to all  
21 the sisters?

22 A. Oh yes, yes.

23 Q. Well, if I look at this extract that the order has  
24 provided. This will come on the screen for you, sister.  
25 It's at NAZ.001.001.2377.

1           You'll see there's a section here that is headed  
2           "The Children" and it says:

3           "The sister in charge of the babies should always  
4           remember that impressions made in early childhood are  
5           listed, hence a grave responsibility rests upon her."

6           So that's dealing with the children you're dealing  
7           with?

8           A. Yes, I remember that, yes.

9           Q. Do you recognise this text?

10          A. I do, yes.

11          Q. If we go on to the next page and move over to the top,  
12          one thing we see there in the first main paragraph:

13                 "Great vigilance is necessary at all times so that  
14                 these little ones may be kept free from all harm."

15                 And that was the instruction you were being given;  
16                 is that right, sister?

17          A. Yes, we would have read and studied it.

18          Q. I'm sorry?

19          A. We would have access to it and studied it.

20          Q. If we move down to the next main paragraph, it reads:

21                 "They should be kept amused at recreation, taught  
22                 little games and told short stories suitable to their  
23                 years. If possible, they must never be left to the care  
24                 of older children. When in bed, they should be trained  
25                 to keep their hands in the form of a cross on their

1 breast to commend themselves to the Blessed Virgin, to  
2 remember their Guardian Angel is always with them and  
3 often to speak to him."

4 Can I ask you about that, sister? Were the children  
5 in the nursery taught to sleep with their arms across  
6 their chests?

7 A. No, they usually had a toy of some kind with them.

8 Q. We have heard evidence generally that children did  
9 require to sleep with their arms across their chests,  
10 although I don't think this reason was put forward. But  
11 do you say that didn't happen in the nursery?

12 A. It didn't happen in the nursery, no. They usually had  
13 their own favourite toy and took it to bed with them,  
14 some of them, most of them.

15 Q. Sister, when you gave your statement, you were asked  
16 about whether you had witnessed any abuse during your  
17 time at Cardonald. You deal with this from paragraphs  
18 48 through to 56. Did you see anything that would  
19 constitute the ill-treatment of a child during your time  
20 there?

21 A. No, I didn't.

22 Q. Did you hear of it?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Did you see how other sisters, such as, for example,  
25 Sister LFH, dealt with children in her group?

1 A. No, I didn't.

2 Q. Or any of the other sisters we've mentioned. Did you  
3 see how they managed the children in their groups?

4 A. No, I didn't.

5 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, just before you go on, do we have  
6 a date for the written guidance that you referred to  
7 a minute ago?

8 MR MacAULAY: The date, my Lady, that's on this version is  
9 1921.

10 LADY SMITH: And that's the version that was given to us by  
11 the order?

12 MR MacAULAY: We have a later version, which is dated 1982.

13 LADY SMITH: But this would be the one that would apply in  
14 the 1960s.

15 MR MacAULAY: And I think the sister has confirmed that's  
16 the case.

17 LADY SMITH: So that's a 1921 document?

18 MR MacAULAY: Yes. Certainly there was nothing we've been  
19 provided with in between.

20 LADY SMITH: Thanks.

21 MR MacAULAY: Sister, then, as you've told us, you left  
22 Nazareth House Cardonald in 1965.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And I think you said in your statement, you went to  
25 Swansea to do more training; is that right?

- 1 A. I did a day release course for a year. I looked after  
2 nursery children there.
- 3 Q. So was it similar? Was it an extension of the training  
4 you'd done before? Can you help me with how it fitted  
5 in?
- 6 A. It was, it was a day a week in college, in Cardiff.  
7 I travelled to Cardiff.
- 8 Q. Why did you leave Cardonald?
- 9 A. I was told by my superiors that I was being changed and  
10 another younger sister took my place, perhaps to give  
11 her experience, I don't know. You don't question it.
- 12 Q. The sister who took your place, did you meet her before  
13 you left?
- 14 A. No, I didn't.
- 15 Q. I should have asked you this before. The sister that  
16 you replaced when you went to Cardonald, did you meet  
17 her before you took over the position?
- 18 A. No, I never met her.
- 19 Q. So there was no handover then, either at the beginning  
20 or at the end?
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. I take it the records that you yourself kept would have  
23 remained behind?
- 24 A. Yes, and the staff, yes.
- 25 Q. And any personal type of diary that you'd have kept,

1           would you have left that behind as well?

2           A. Yes.

3           Q. So then, what then happened, sister, is after your year  
4           or so in Swansea, you go to Lasswade in 1966; is that  
5           correct?

6           A. Yes, I was two years in Swansea.

7           Q. If I can just take a step back to what you say in  
8           paragraph 56. I'll take this from you now. What you  
9           say there is:

10                   "The children were able to report any incidents of  
11           abuse to the sister that was looking after them. They  
12           were also able to tell their family visitors that were  
13           calling at the home."

14                   Now, I just wondered why you say that. How do you  
15           know that such incidents could be reported to the sister  
16           that was looking after the child, or is that just what  
17           you would expect to happen?

18           A. Yes.

19           Q. Were you aware of any procedure that was in place in the  
20           event of there being allegations of abuse?

21           A. If I saw abuse, I would have reported it to the  
22           Superior, who had contact with all the children.

23           Q. Sister, let's look at Lasswade. You tell us in your  
24           statement these were much smaller premises in comparison  
25           to Cardonald?



1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And what role did you have to play at Lasswade?

3 A. I was there -- the building was called Holycote. It was  
4 renovated with the idea of having accommodation for  
5 families who came into care. There were five groups who  
6 had maybe babies, pre-school children and  
7 schoolchildren. The building was adapted for that.

8 Q. So this is in the Holycote building?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. But there was also the main building as well? There was  
11 a main building as well?

12 A. There was a main -- yes. I worked in Holycote and slept  
13 there.

14 Q. And I think we've heard that there were two groups?

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. So were you in charge of one of the groups?

17 A. Yes, I was.

18 Q. Were there other -- three of the five groups then in the  
19 main building?

20 A. There were three groups in the main building and two  
21 groups in Holycote.

22 Q. How many were in the group you were in charge of in  
23 Holycote?

24 A. It varied. Roughly, maybe about 15. That was the  
25 allotted number catered for.

- 1 Q. Were these family groups?
- 2 A. Yes, some families and some babies or children who  
3 didn't pass medicals for adoption.
- 4 Q. Had this approach just started when you went to  
5 Lasswade, this approach of trying to keep family members  
6 together?
- 7 A. It started in Belfast where I trained, and the training  
8 was based on that.
- 9 Q. But so far as Lasswade was concerned, was Holycote then  
10 the start of this arrangement?
- 11 A. Yes, within Lasswade, yes.
- 12 Q. And you were going there to look after a family  
13 orientated type of group; is that correct?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Were the other groups of a similar make-up, that they  
16 would be family orientated?
- 17 A. No, any family with that age range would come to  
18 Holycote, as far as possible, if they had babies or  
19 pre-school children, they would come to Holycote. The  
20 other groups also had some pre-school children and there  
21 was a nursery school for all of them in Holycote.
- 22 Q. If I can understand the Holycote arrangement, there are  
23 two groups. What age range then are we talking about  
24 in, let's take your group?
- 25 A. I'd say 0 to 2, or sometimes secondary school, maybe 0

- 1           to 15 or 16.
- 2       Q.   So it's a wide age group?
- 3       A.   Yes.
- 4       Q.   And was the other group a sort of similar set-up?
- 5       A.   No, no.  They didn't have babies.  They would have some
- 6           pre-schools, not babies.
- 7       Q.   So your group was the one with the younger children?
- 8       A.   Yes.
- 9       Q.   Would there be siblings, though, from your group, would
- 10           that group have siblings, let's say, in the main house,
- 11           for example?
- 12       A.   No, the whole group irrespective of boys, girls, age,
- 13           they all stayed together.  That was the idea.
- 14       Q.   I suppose then because it was such a mix of ages, that
- 15           would impact upon the way the routine was managed?
- 16       A.   Yes.
- 17       Q.   Just looking at bedtimes, for example, you'd have to
- 18           have different bedtimes for the very young children as
- 19           compared to the older --
- 20       A.   Yes, that's right.
- 21       Q.   And the children that went to school, how was that
- 22           arranged?  They went to a local school, is that correct?
- 23       A.   They were either at the junior school or then they were
- 24           automatically passed on to Dalkeith, St David's, and
- 25           they became of the age group.

- 1 Q. So this is a different set-up to what you'd had in  
2 Cardonald, where you're just dealing with pre-school  
3 children?
- 4 A. Yes, and the pre-school children went to the nursery  
5 school once they were over two and a half to three.
- 6 Q. That was an in-house nursery school?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And did you have an in-house nursery teacher?
- 9 A. Yes, there was a trained nursery schoolteacher with  
10 staff.
- 11 Q. Can you remember what other sisters were there then at  
12 Lasswade during your time, sister?
- 13 A. There was Sister **LJS** Sister **LGS** now **LGS**,  
14 and Sister **LNR** They were in the other group in  
15 Holycote during the five or six years I was there.
- 16 In the three groups there were Sister **LFD**  
17 Sister **LQB** Sister Mary of Nazareth, who was  
18 abroad, who's now deceased, Sister **LFJ** who's now  
19 deceased. That's all I can remember.
- 20 Q. That's a reasonably good recollection. I think you  
21 mention there your time at Lasswade, and it was from  
22 1966 to 1971.
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Would you help the children with their homework after  
25 school?

- 1 A. Yes. We were quite involved with the schools, yes.
- 2 Q. I'm sorry, sister? I didn't catch that.
- 3 A. We were involved with the schools, trying to be involved  
4 with the school.
- 5 Q. Did you go to the school from time to time?
- 6 A. Yes, there would be parents' meetings, you attended  
7 them, and the teachers would come in to see the  
8 children. It was a good relationship with the teachers.
- 9 Q. If you were to compare Lasswade to Cardonald, how would  
10 you compare one to the other?
- 11 A. For the sake of the children and emotionally in every  
12 sense, it was a big improvement, keeping the family  
13 together because they helped each other and it was  
14 a great interest for the older ones to see their  
15 brothers and sisters when they came in from school. It  
16 was a smaller group I had, facilities were more homely  
17 and better in every way.
- 18 Q. And it was this regular contact within siblings that was  
19 missing, was it, in Cardonald?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. When you were at Lasswade, were birthdays celebrated for  
22 the children?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. What would happen?
- 25 A. At teatime they would have a birthday cake, if possible,

1 and they'd probably have Irn Bru, crisps, whatever was  
2 going at that time, you know. They'd have some little  
3 celebration and a toy or a card with a little gift.

4 Q. What was food like at Lasswade? How was the food?

5 A. The food was good. It was cooked in the kitchen and  
6 came over in an electric trolley.

7 Q. If a child didn't want to eat a particular dish, what  
8 would happen?

9 A. Well, if they disliked -- if they definitely disliked  
10 the food, the older ones, you didn't pursue -- making  
11 them eat it. On the whole they ate well, they played  
12 outside and they were always ravenous, really, and  
13 hungry, and trained the babies to feed themselves and  
14 went through that process.

15 Q. Would a child be punished for not eating?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Did you have children who wet the bed when you were at  
18 Lasswade?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And how was that managed?

21 A. The children were of the age group where they had to be  
22 toilet trained, some of them, so you just absolutely  
23 took it in your stride, moved the sheets. They were  
24 sponged down with disinfectant, the mackintosh, the  
25 protective covering of the beds, and the laundress took

- 1 over then.
- 2 Q. Would you remove the sheets, sister? Would it be  
3 yourself or the child?
- 4 A. The staff or myself would remove the sheets.
- 5 Q. I should perhaps ask you about staff. What staff did  
6 you have in Holycote at Lasswade?
- 7 A. I had some very nice girls who wanted to pursue  
8 childcare as a career, and some of them had started  
9 their training, NVQ or nursery training. They went to  
10 college and they worked for a year for practical  
11 experience. They went for the interviews and ...
- 12 Q. Did you have full-time staff?
- 13 A. Oh yes. Residential too.
- 14 Q. And so far as the full-time staff were concerned, were  
15 they trained or not?
- 16 A. They were in the process of being trained.
- 17 Q. Did the children receive visitors then during this time  
18 when you were in Lasswade?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. If we focus on the social work visits, did  
21 social workers visit?
- 22 A. Yes. Yes, they were involved all the time.
- 23 Q. Again, if you compare the position now to when you were  
24 in Cardonald, was there a greater involvement?
- 25 A. Oh yes, than when we first started, definitely.

1 Q. In relation to children coming in, being admitted, were  
2 children admitted during your time there?

3 A. They were admitted through the social services at that  
4 stage.

5 Q. The previous practice that you've discussed about  
6 a parent perhaps with the backing of the parish priest  
7 taking a child into care, did that happen at Lasswade?

8 A. No, no.

9 Q. Were any inspections carried out at Lasswade during your  
10 time there?

11 A. Yes, there were frequent inspections.

12 Q. By whom?

13 A. Then they were entitled the Home Office, and  
14 social workers came. Doctors came regularly.

15 Q. I should perhaps ask you the same question for  
16 Cardonald. Were there any inspections carried out at  
17 Cardonald during your time there?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. By whom?

20 A. Well, again, Home Office people could come at any time  
21 and they came and examined everything, spoke to the  
22 children and observed mealtimes sometimes.

23 Q. Again, if I can ask you about records, sister. Let's  
24 look at a child being admitted to your care. Would  
25 there be an admission record made in connection with



- 1 a child?
- 2 A. Yes, the social services at that time would have
- 3 a detailed record and they would pass you on a copy.
- 4 The Superior would know, would be familiar with the
- 5 children as well.
- 6 Q. But if we're looking at yourself, sister, would you then
- 7 have a record in relation to the background of the
- 8 child?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And would that be something that you'd see as being
- 11 important?
- 12 A. Yes, very important, yes.
- 13 Q. Why would it be important?
- 14 A. Sometimes parents had lost parental rights and they
- 15 often went back to court to try and regain this sort
- 16 of -- records of visits and contacts were very important
- 17 from our point of view.
- 18 Q. Would you keep an ongoing record of the child's
- 19 progress?
- 20 A. Yes, case histories had come in by then and they would
- 21 be presented to the social workers. Case reviews had
- 22 started.
- 23 Q. Would you be engaged in that process?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And records would be kept?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. When you arrived at Lasswade, did you inherit records  
3 that had been kept by the sister you replaced?
- 4 A. I did. There were very few children -- children were  
5 normally going to be admitted that came to my group, but  
6 any records that were there, I received them.
- 7 Q. Did you yourself keep the records somewhere within  
8 Holycote itself?
- 9 A. Yes. We had a medical room.
- 10 Q. Just on that, did you keep medical records as well of  
11 the children?
- 12 A. Oh yes. The same double A4 medical big card for each  
13 child. Doctor's visits were recorded there and medical  
14 information.
- 15 Q. So if we take an individual child, let's just take the  
16 example of an individual child, would that child have  
17 his or her own individual file?
- 18 A. I don't think I had ... I had them all together, but  
19 they had a little case history each and they had the  
20 medical records as well.
- 21 Q. Then if a child has been in care for two or three years,  
22 over that period would you have built up a record of  
23 that child?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And can you give me some understanding as to what size

1 of documents -- would there be quite a thick pile of  
2 documents, would it be thin? Just give me some feel of  
3 what you'd have.

4 A. Any important events medically or any school -- the  
5 child's behaviour at school. It covered most of the  
6 important issues.

7 LADY SMITH: So would school reports come to you, reports  
8 from the teachers at school?

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: Normally you'd expect termly reports at that  
11 time, I think, if they were at school outside the home,  
12 once they were older.

13 A. I don't know if written reports came, but there would be  
14 always verbal reports, the teachers would come and chat  
15 to us about the children.

16 LADY SMITH: Would you keep a note of that?

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: Would that go into the child's record?

19 A. Yes.

20 MR MacAULAY: So over the period, you'd have quite a bit of  
21 information about an individual child in the child's  
22 record?

23 A. Yes, if they were long-term.

24 Q. Yes. In relation to discipline and punishment, if I can  
25 ask you, were you given any guidance in connection with

1 discipline and punishment?

2 A. No, you weren't, but you used your common sense. Each  
3 child's reaction would be different and maybe the  
4 problems with them would be different. You sorted them  
5 out with the staff. You had staff meetings and  
6 discussed with them the best way to handle a child. If  
7 there were serious problems, social services would be  
8 informed.

9 Q. Did you ever have to use corporal punishment?

10 A. No.

11 Q. What about your staff, were your staff allowed to punish  
12 children?

13 A. No, they weren't. They would refer -- if there was  
14 a problem, we discussed it. They would refer them to me  
15 and we would talk about it together.

16 Q. If I take you back to the directory and book of customs  
17 document. We'll put it back on the screen.

18 NAZ.001.001.2377.

19 We've looked at the section dealing with the very  
20 young children. There is also a section, I think you  
21 probably remember, in connection with older children.  
22 If we turn to page 2378, we see there's a heading "Class  
23 children", and I think this is dealing with older  
24 children; is that right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. From what you've said, you would be aware of the  
2 contents of this information?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. If I turn to page 2379, and we look to the left-hand  
5 side towards the top, can you see the advice given  
6 there is:

7 "Too much stress cannot be laid on the necessity of  
8 careful and judicious supervision of the children at all  
9 times, more especially in the dormitories, refectory,  
10 bathroom, at recreation and on feast days and during  
11 holiday time."

12 So that advice would be advice that you'd be  
13 conscious of, sister?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. If we turn to page 2381, towards the bottom at the  
16 left-hand side, there's a section there that says:

17 "The sisters in charge of the children are bound to  
18 keep the Superior informed when all the beds are  
19 occupied."

20 Was that something you were aware of, that the  
21 Superior was to be kept informed?

22 A. Yes, the Superior would be informed of admissions and  
23 discharges, so she would know if there was an admission,  
24 who had a vacancy, if it was suitable to ...

25 Q. And it goes on to say:

1            "It is not good, morally or physically, for two  
2 children to sleep in the same bed. It must never be  
3 allowed, except perhaps two little brothers or sisters,  
4 for three or four nights on a very urgent occasion."

5            Again, was that a rule that you were conscious of?

6            A. Yes, it never occurred. I never had them sharing the  
7 beds.

8            Q. If we move towards the bottom of the other page, it  
9 says:

10           "Any sister who punishes the children too severely  
11 degrades the religious habit she wears."

12           Is that the position?

13           A. Yes.

14           Q. If we move on to 2382, three lines from the top on the  
15 left-hand side, can we read:

16           "Severe corporal punishment such as whipping and  
17 caning may never be given without the permission of the  
18 Superior, and then only for a very grave fault and  
19 in the presence of at least two sisters."

20           So this seems to envisage that there could be severe  
21 corporal punishment, but in very specialised  
22 circumstances. Is that correct?

23           A. Yes. I never had occasion to do that or to use it.

24           Q. No, I fully understand that, sister. But it does  
25 envisage that in a particular situation, for a very

1           grave fault and in the presence of certain people, there  
2           could be corporal punishment by the sister.

3           A. I never experienced it.

4           Q. No, you didn't, very well.

5           LADY SMITH: I think Mr MacAulay's just interested in  
6           understanding the practice as explained in this  
7           directory that has been made available to us. It's not  
8           being suggested that you were whipping or caning,  
9           sister.

10          A. Yes, thank you.

11          MR MacAULAY: Now, sister, did any children run away from  
12          your group when you were there?

13          A. Yes.

14          Q. Can you tell me about that?

15          A. When they were first admitted, it was, I suppose, a form  
16          of rebellion. Maybe they would coax somebody who was  
17          already settled down with them, and the boys were  
18          adventurous once and some of them built a tree house  
19          in the neighbourhood and lived in the tree house for  
20          a few days. It was worrying when they disappeared, the  
21          police would be informed and social services, until you  
22          got them back.

23          Q. And was that the only occasion then?

24          A. No, it was a normal occurrence with children who are  
25          disturbed, the first few days or first few weeks they

1           come in, they would maybe disappear on the way home from  
2           school, but they would gradually settle down on the  
3           whole.

4           Q. Do you know where they would go?

5           A. They might even hide to get attention or they may go  
6           back if they were in the neighbourhood, they may go back  
7           to see was their house still there. It depended on the  
8           circumstances and the child, if they were disturbed.

9           Q. Very well. Now, you do say in your statement, sister,  
10          that children did have their own pocket money.

11          A. Yes.

12          Q. Were you in charge of handing out the pocket money?

13          A. Yes, you got the pocket money from the Superior.  
14          Whatever amount of pocket money at that stage they were  
15          allotted.

16          Q. Would you deprive a child of some pocket money if the  
17          child had misbehaved?

18          A. I don't remember depriving them of pocket money.  
19          I deprived them sometimes of the privilege of seeing the  
20          football, Match of the Day on Saturdays, but I don't  
21          remember depriving them -- I might deprive them of  
22          sweets, maybe, if sweets were passed round. I don't  
23          remember depriving them of pocket money because they  
24          didn't get much pocket money at that stage.

25          Q. What sort of sums are we talking about, can you



- 1           remember?
- 2       A.   I can't.  I can't remember.
- 3       Q.   So far as witnessing ill-treatment, the ill-treatment of
- 4           a child when you were at Lasswade, did you witness any
- 5           child being badly treated?
- 6       A.   No.
- 7       Q.   What contact did you have with the other groups?
- 8       A.   I would have contact with the other sister in Holycote,
- 9           we'd have a cup of tea together at 10 o'clock, and we
- 10          discussed everything about childcare, really, and the
- 11          other three groups I would see them at lunchtime.  But
- 12          I never ...  We all had an interest in childcare, so we
- 13          discussed different matters, you know, but other than
- 14          that, I didn't visit the groups.
- 15       Q.   When a child came to leave Lasswade, sister, for
- 16          whatever reason, I think you say in your statement that
- 17          you would be involved in that process; is that correct?
- 18       A.   Yes.
- 19       Q.   What would that process involve?
- 20       A.   Parents or whoever was coming for the child, either the
- 21          social worker or the parents, they would sign the
- 22          discharge book with the date and it would be entered
- 23          at the main register of the house.
- 24       Q.   But at this time would it be the social worker who would
- 25          be --

- 1 A. Yes, usually, or the parents.
- 2 Q. Or the parents?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. After you left Lasswade, sister, did any of the children  
5 that you'd cared for keep in touch with you?
- 6 A. They did for a while, and staff as well. Then gradually  
7 faded out.
- 8 Q. If we go to your statement where you provide us with  
9 some closing thoughts at paragraph 89, what you say is:  
10 "I never knew about abuse at either Cardonald or  
11 Lasswade and I never saw any of it happening."  
12 And you've told us about that. But of course,  
13 you're aware that the inquiry has heard evidence from  
14 former residents who allege that they were abused.
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. You go on to say:  
17 "I feel that children who are abandoned by their  
18 parents have to take it out on somebody. It's a form of  
19 disturbance."  
20 I just want to understand what you meant by saying  
21 that.
- 22 A. Suddenly they find themselves abandoned, as it were,  
23 without the love or the care and protection of parents  
24 and have to come into a new situation, so I suppose you  
25 can't expect them to react normally. There's bound to

- 1           be some difficulties.
- 2       Q.   Although I think what you've been saying, sister, and  
3           you can correct me if I'm wrong, the environment you  
4           sought to provide for the children was a happy one?
- 5       A.   Yes.
- 6       Q.   And would you say it was a happy one?
- 7       A.   Yes, as far as we could.  We always looked to the  
8           highlights of anything happening, like the astronauts  
9           arriving on the moon, and Celtic got the European Cup.  
10          We would always celebrate and they looked forward to  
11          this.
- 12       Q.   One thing you do say in that last paragraph is that you  
13          do wish that you had had more time to spend with each  
14          child individually.  Is that your feeling now looking  
15          back?
- 16       A.   Well, yes, individual attention, getting to know them,  
17          getting to know their past and their ambitions for the  
18          future and any difficulties they had.  It's only by  
19          talking to them ...
- 20       Q.   Was that something that was possibly lacking at that  
21          time?
- 22       A.   Well, you had to share, you know, you had to share your  
23          attention and the staff with the group.  There was never  
24          as much as you would wish to have.
- 25       Q.   Was that because of the numbers of children you had to

1 look after?

2 A. Yes, and new admissions as well. It depended on  
3 circumstances.

4 Q. So the size of the group and the turnover --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- made that difficult?

7 A. Yes.

8 MR MacAULAY: Very well, sister, thank you very much.

9 I have asked all the questions I want to ask and I think  
10 all the questions I've been asked to ask as well.  
11 Thank you very much.

12 LADY SMITH: Can I check if there are any outstanding  
13 applications for questions of this witness? No.

14 Sister, thank you very much for your engagement with  
15 the inquiry, both by providing your written statement  
16 and by coming along this morning to give your oral  
17 evidence. It's enormously helpful to me in the work  
18 we have to do here and I'm glad to say I'm now able to  
19 let you go. Thank you.

20 A. Thank you.

21 (The witness withdrew)

22 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

23 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is in a wheelchair.

24 It's now coming up to 11.15. Perhaps we could take the  
25 morning break now.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes, we'll do that.

2 (11.10 am)

3 (A short break)

4 (11.30 am)

5 LADY SMITH: Sister, I would like you to take the oath.

6 We'll both remain seated to do this, obviously.

7 "SISTER MARY" (sworn)

8 .

9 Questions from MR MacAULAY

10 LADY SMITH: It sounds as though we've been able to get you  
11 into a good position for the microphone, which is very  
12 important. It will help you and help us hear you  
13 properly. I'll now hand over to Mr MacAulay to ask  
14 questions.

15 MR MacAULAY: Can I say that sister wants to be known as  
16 Sister Mary in giving her evidence.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, sister.

19 A. Good morning, Mr MacAulay.

20 Q. Can I take from you that you were born in 1933?

21 A. 1933, yes.

22 Q. And you have in front of you the witness statement that  
23 you provided to the inquiry. I'll give the number to  
24 the stenographer. It's WIT.001.001.8595. If I could  
25 ask you, sister, to look at the last page of your

1 statement, which you have in front of you, can you  
2 confirm that you have signed it?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Do you say in the last paragraph:

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

7 Is that correct?

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. Sister, going back to when you joined the Sisters of  
14 Nazareth order, I think you joined the order when you  
15 were about 19 or so; is that correct?

16 A. 19 and a half, yes.

17 Q. And that would be in 1952/1953?

18 A. That's right.

19 Q. You tell us that your first post was to do with helping  
20 with babies; is that correct?

21 A. That's right, yes.

22 Q. And you thought that wasn't the life for you; is that  
23 right?

24 A. That's right, yes.

25 Q. So what then happened? What did you do?

1 A. Well, I was transferred to Finchley to the collecting.

2 Q. I think you then went to Northern Ireland.

3 A. That's right, yes.

4 Q. You did come back to England to do --

5 A. I was called back to do the Home Office course in  
6 childcare, yes.

7 Q. Can you tell us about that course, sister? First of  
8 all, how long was it for?

9 A. It was for a year, but it was intensive and there was no  
10 holidays or anything like that at that time.

11 Q. Did you get some form of certificate?

12 A. I did, yes.

13 Q. Was that training in looking after children of all ages?

14 A. Yes. That's right.

15 Q. Then against that background then, sister, were you  
16 posted to Cardonald in 1963?

17 A. I can't think.

18 Q. If dates are difficult, don't worry about it.

19 LADY SMITH: Yes. Generally, sister, we don't expect you to  
20 remember specific dates off the top of your head. It's  
21 hard for any of us to have a clear recollection of  
22 specific dates. Some of them we're able to check from  
23 records we've got. If something is really important for  
24 us to fix in time, Mr MacAulay will let you know that,  
25 so don't worry.

- 1 A. Thank you.
- 2 MR MacAULAY: I think in your statement, sister, you thought  
3 you were first in Cardonald from 1963 to 1966.
- 4 A. That's right, yes. You're right.
- 5 Q. Let me ask you, because it is confusing for you, because  
6 you then leave and you go back to Cardonald, and then  
7 you go to Lasswade as well. So let's stick with the  
8 first time you were in Cardonald, first of all, sister.
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. You were there for about three years or so?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And what was your job when you went to Cardonald?
- 13 A. My job was to look after a group of children, 13  
14 children.
- 15 Q. What ages were the children?
- 16 A. The children were age ranged from 5 to 15 or 16.
- 17 Q. Were you located in a particular part of the building?  
18 Did you have a group?
- 19 A. Yes, I had a group. They were quite separate, yes.
- 20 Q. Do you remember how many groups there were?
- 21 A. At that time there were three groups.
- 22 Q. And there were other sisters looking after the other  
23 groups?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Did you have people to help you in looking after your



- 1 group?
- 2 A. At that time I didn't.
- 3 Q. So you were on your own, really, at that time, looking  
4 after the group?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about mealtimes and how  
7 mealtimes were arranged. Did your group eat as a group  
8 on its own?
- 9 A. They did, but the dining room was divided into three  
10 areas and, yes, each group had their own area. They  
11 dined together.
- 12 Q. So far as your group was concerned, sister, perhaps  
13 I should have asked you this: you've told us about the  
14 age range. What about boys and girls? Were there more  
15 girls than boys?
- 16 A. Yes, there were more girls than boys. That's right.
- 17 Q. Was it mainly girls?
- 18 A. Mainly girls, yes.
- 19 Q. And I was asking you about -- I was going to ask you  
20 about the food. What was the food like at this time?  
21 How would you describe the food?
- 22 A. I can't really remember, but I do feel that the food was  
23 wholesome. Maybe it was ... Cooked food, appropriate  
24 to breakfast, dinner and tea, whichever.
- 25 Q. Did you have any difficulty at any time with any of the

1 children not wanting to eat their food?

2 A. I don't remember that I did.

3 Q. Did you ever --

4 A. No.

5 Q. Sorry, carry on, sister.

6 A. There might be some children maybe not used to the food

7 that was cooked, but generally, they ate the food.

8 Q. Do you remember if you ever had to punish a child for

9 not eating?

10 A. No, I do not, no.

11 Q. Did you and the other sisters have the same food as the

12 children?

13 A. Yes, I would say yes.

14 Q. You also talk in your statement, sister, about the

15 clothing for the children. Were the children able to

16 choose their own clothes?

17 A. Well, the school uniform was the school uniform and

18 that's it. But after they came back from school, they

19 did don, independently, clothes.

20 Q. What you say --

21 A. I forget the details around the clothes, but I do know

22 that they were always dressed in respectable clothes.

23 Q. Can I ask you this, sister: when you got to Cardonald

24 first of all, were you replacing another sister who had

25 been looking after the group?

- 1 A. I was, yes.
- 2 Q. Can you remember who that was now?
- 3 A. It was Sister Werburgh. She went out to Africa.
- 4 Q. Did you see her before she went?
- 5 A. No, I didn't, no.
- 6 Q. When you got there first of all, were there records  
7 there about the children that you could look at?
- 8 A. I can't remember. I don't remember records.
- 9 Q. Were birthdays celebrated for the children?
- 10 A. I can't remember details.
- 11 Q. Okay. What about visits? Do you remember if the  
12 children got visitors?
- 13 A. Yes, I do remember. Once a month there was a visiting  
14 Sunday and their relations, if they had relations -- I'm  
15 sure they had -- came in to see them, yes.
- 16 Q. And what about what we would call today social workers?  
17 Did social workers come to see children?
- 18 A. No, there was never a social worker came to see the  
19 children.
- 20 Q. Were any children admitted to your group during your  
21 time there at this time?
- 22 A. I can't remember. What I do remember is there was  
23 a little boy admitted from the nursery.
- 24 Q. So he had reached a particular age?
- 25 A. Yes, around about 5 years, yes. School age.

1 LADY SMITH: Sister, can I just ask you something about the  
2 food? It arises from what's in your written statement.  
3 I want to understand what you meant. You said you  
4 didn't remember there being alternative food for the  
5 children if they didn't like what was in front of them.

6 A. No.

7 LADY SMITH: You would encourage them to eat, but then you  
8 say:

9 "They were left sitting. Maybe I lacked  
10 understanding then."

11 A. Well, maybe I did.

12 LADY SMITH: Explain to me what you mean by that.

13 A. I probably left them sitting for a while to see if  
14 they'd eat the food, to see if they'd eat. Because  
15 we were very conscious about their food and maybe  
16 exacting about the food because we were responsible for  
17 their health.

18 LADY SMITH: What is it you think you didn't understand?

19 A. Maybe I didn't quite understand why they weren't eating  
20 the food.

21 LADY SMITH: Right.

22 A. Because maybe later, I felt that they didn't get that  
23 kind of food at home before they came to Nazareth House,  
24 and it was wholesome food.

25 LADY SMITH: It might be quite strange to them?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
- 3 MR MacAULAY: You mentioned the visiting arrangements and it  
4 was one Sunday a month I think you mentioned.
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Were children encouraged to keep in contact with their  
7 families?
- 8 A. Again, I don't remember that subject coming up, but I do  
9 remember the visiting Sunday. I stayed up on the main  
10 floor with the children, and two of the sisters from the  
11 other groups, they went down and saw to the visitors and  
12 gave them a cup of tea or coffee or whatever. They sent  
13 up for the children, the particular children in  
14 question, and I sent them down to meet their visitors.
- 15 Q. You would have visits from the order; is that right?
- 16 A. That's right, yes.
- 17 Q. And somebody from the order would come and have a look  
18 round the home?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. That would be another sister, would it?
- 21 A. It would be yes, from the head house.
- 22 Q. Would that person then provide a report on what she had  
23 seen?
- 24 A. I'd say she did give a report on what she'd seen.
- 25 Q. Would you see --

- 1 A. I didn't see the report.
- 2 Q. If there was something that arose that involved  
3 yourself, would the Mother Superior bring that to your  
4 attention?
- 5 A. She would, yes.
- 6 Q. And did that ever happen, that you can remember?
- 7 A. I don't remember.
- 8 Q. Can I ask you, sister, about discipline. First of all,  
9 can I ask you this: were you given any guidance, either  
10 written or otherwise, in connection with discipline and  
11 punishment?
- 12 A. No, I wasn't given any guidance regarding that from the  
13 order as such. I had just done my childcare course and  
14 I feel I had got enough from that, you know, sufficient  
15 from that to understand punishment and what should be  
16 allowed.
- 17 Q. Did you have cause to smack a child?
- 18 A. Now I forget. I mean, it's 50 years ago or something.  
19 I forget, really, at that time whether I had cause or  
20 not. But if I had cause, I would smack a child, yes.
- 21 Q. What you say in your statement, sister, it's on the  
22 screen:
- 23 "If I smacked a child, I would bring in another  
24 member of staff. I would say to the staff member if  
25 I was overdoing it, it was their duty to say."

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Just asking you about that, I think you are suggesting  
3 that if a child did misbehave in a particular way, you  
4 would have smacked the child?
- 5 A. I would, yes, if it was necessary I would.
- 6 Q. And what sort of smack would you give?
- 7 A. A smack with my hand.
- 8 Q. Where? On what part --
- 9 A. On the backside, maybe, or on the hand. I forget the  
10 details of that now.
- 11 Q. When you talk about "if I was overdoing it, it was the  
12 duty of the other staff member --
- 13 A. Yes, it was the duty of the other staff member.
- 14 Q. What do you mean by overdoing? Giving too many smacks  
15 or being?
- 16 A. Maybe if I over ... Yes.
- 17 Q. We know you come back to Cardonald later. Again, could  
18 you have smacked a child when you were back at Cardonald  
19 later on?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Did you see other sisters smack children?
- 22 A. No, I did not, no.
- 23 Q. In relation to the other groups, did you have much to do  
24 with the other groups?
- 25 A. I had nothing to do with the other groups. We were very

1           much -- we were entirely separated.

2           Q.   Okay.

3           A.   -- from the other groups.

4           Q.   If you were to punish a child, whether by smacking or

5           some other way, would you make a record of that?

6           A.   I think I said yes.  I've forgotten.  I have forgotten

7           that now.

8           Q.   Okay.  What you say in your statement is:

9                     "I gave them so many smacks and entered it into

10           a book."

11                    So you had some recollection --

12           A.   Yes.

13           Q.   -- at that time of the statement?

14           A.   Yes.

15           Q.   There was a book you could enter the punishment into?

16           A.   Yes.

17           Q.   Sister, can I ask you now about bed-wetting.  You

18           discuss that at paragraph 39.  Were there bed-wetting

19           problems in your group?

20           A.   To me that wasn't an issue.  There was bed-wetting, but

21           if a child wet his bed, I'm thinking of a little boy at

22           the moment, I would give him a bath.  That was it.

23           Q.   What about the sheets of the bed?

24           A.   The sheets would be taken away and put in a bath until

25           they were sent down to the laundry.



- 1 Q. Who would do that, who would take the sheets off the  
2 bed?
- 3 A. Well, I've forgotten details of that. Now, I do know  
4 that we did put them in water and they were sent down to  
5 the laundry. That part I do remember.
- 6 Q. Okay. And the bath you gave the child, what sort of  
7 bath would it be?
- 8 A. A bath, a normal bath.
- 9 Q. There has been some suggestion that sometimes there may  
10 be cold baths?
- 11 A. No, I never gave a cold bath, no.
- 12 Q. Did you ever punish a child for wetting the bed?
- 13 A. No, I didn't, no.
- 14 Q. Or humiliate a child?
- 15 A. No, I didn't. I don't remember doing anything like  
16 that, no.
- 17 Q. Can I ask you, sister, again looking at this period,  
18 this earlier period at Cardonald, what records you kept.  
19 You've told us about keeping a record of punishments.  
20 What other records do you remember keeping?
- 21 A. I'll tell you this: at Cardonald there was  
22 a social work, one of our sisters was appointed  
23 a social worker in Cardonald, and also at that time the  
24 diocese appointed a priest to do social work. That all  
25 started at Cardonald.

- 1 Q. Was that during this first time you were --
- 2 A. Yes, and at that time we started keeping records and
- 3 I remember well starting to keep records and having
- 4 a meeting with the social workers about the children in
- 5 my group.
- 6 Q. In your care?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. So can you remember what sort of records then you kept?
- 9 A. Well, I kept -- my normal way was to keep records about
- 10 their health, the school and how they were getting on
- 11 with school, and their interactions maybe in the group.
- 12 Q. Right.
- 13 A. And some of the children were more deprived than others
- 14 and needed more understanding than others.
- 15 Q. Were there records there when you first got there in
- 16 1963?
- 17 A. I don't remember that there were.
- 18 Q. When you left, did you leave behind the records that you
- 19 kept?
- 20 A. I left behind the records. I left them with the
- 21 social worker too.
- 22 Q. The involvement of the social worker, was that something
- 23 that developed when you were there?
- 24 A. That's right, yes. It was developing, and myself and
- 25 the social worker did a course at the university in

1 Dundee. New entrants into social work.

2 Q. Was this social worker you're talking about one of the

3 sisters?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Was she based at Cardonald?

6 A. During that time, she was, yes.

7 Q. The Dundee course, was that on a day release type basis?

8 Did you go there one day a week?

9 A. No, no, we stayed in Dundee.

10 Q. How long did that course last for?

11 A. I forget exactly, but it was a short course.

12 Q. When you were at Cardonald on this first occasion,

13 sister, did you see any children being badly treated?

14 A. I didn't, no, I didn't.

15 Q. Can you remember the sisters' names who were in charge

16 of the other groups?

17 A. I do remember.

18 Q. You don't?

19 A. I do.

20 Q. Who were they?

21 A. Sister [REDACTED] LFL and Sister [REDACTED] LFP .

22 Q. Then can we take you away from Cardonald, where I think

23 you leave in 1965/1966, but you come back to Cardonald

24 in 1977; is that right?

25 A. Yes, that's right.

- 1 Q. You're not there for very long on this second occasion.  
2 It's for about a year or so.
- 3 A. About a year and a half, yes.
- 4 Q. What was your position on this occasion when you were  
5 back at Cardonald?
- 6 A. I had a group of children. I still had a group of  
7 children.
- 8 Q. What size of group was this group? How big a group was  
9 it?
- 10 A. About the same, 12/13 children.
- 11 Q. On this occasion did you have anyone to help you look  
12 after the group?
- 13 A. Yes. I had two staff, short time staff. I had always  
14 a staff that came in around about 4 o'clock when the  
15 children were coming in from school and I had a drink  
16 ready for them. She also stayed in and did their  
17 evening meal.
- 18 Q. Do you know what training the staff had had? Had they  
19 had any training?
- 20 A. Well, I would say I remember her being a married woman  
21 and so she had family training.
- 22 Q. Okay. One thing you say, sister, when you go back to  
23 Cardonald in 1977 is that there had been big changes.
- 24 A. That's right, yes.
- 25 Q. You've been away for about 12 years or so and now you're

- 1 back in 1977.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Can you tell me what the big changes were?
- 4 A. Well, social workers were more active. The
- 5 accommodation had been renovated into smaller rooms with
- 6 no more than one, two or three children, usually.
- 7 Usually two or three, I think. There were showers and
- 8 baths. I don't remember any issues of bed-wetting, but
- 9 they probably did. It wasn't made an issue of,
- 10 bed-wetting, it was part of understanding children
- 11 growing up because some of them were younger children,
- 12 and there were changes at mealtimes and bedtimes too,
- 13 yes.
- 14 Q. Looking to your group, what was the age range in your
- 15 group, sister?
- 16 A. The age range, I would say from -- I forget, really,
- 17 now, exactly. But I think, I understand for myself,
- 18 that the age range was from about 2 or 3 to 14 or 15.
- 19 Q. Was it a family orientated group?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Was this a change as well then, that the groups were
- 22 orientated towards families?
- 23 A. Yes. I remember one family going out at weekends, the
- 24 father coming and taking them, two boys, out at
- 25 weekends, and I remember another family of three, one of

1           whom was fostered. They didn't often have visitors  
2           though.

3           Q. Can I ask you about the atmosphere, sister. Now at this  
4           second time that you were in Cardonald compared to the  
5           first, was there any change to the atmosphere, do you  
6           think?

7           A. I don't want to say that there wasn't an atmosphere in  
8           1960, to go back to the one you're talking about,  
9           atmospheres. I think there could have been a good  
10          atmosphere around, I felt, at that time, too. But in  
11          1977 or when I went back, it was more of a -- very  
12          social atmosphere.

13          Q. Can I ask you this: would you describe it as a better  
14          atmosphere than the one in the 1960s?

15          A. I suppose from restrictions, maybe, I do, yes. And  
16          because I was in charge of my own group, which  
17          I wasn't -- I was at the other time, but there was  
18          a senior sister whom I was responsible to, whereas I was  
19          responsible for my own group in 1977.

20          Q. Can I ask you about the food then, sister, when you got  
21          back to Cardonald. What was the food like?

22          A. The food was of the same quality, I would say, but it  
23          was more individual as regards choices and how much the  
24          children ate. They took as much as they wanted.

25          Q. One thing you say now is that if a child didn't want to

- 1 eat the food, it was different altogether.
- 2 A. And it was different altogether from the angle that --
- 3 especially the evening meal. She came to know what the
- 4 children liked. They could have something different if
- 5 they wanted, if it was available.
- 6 Q. So the practice you mentioned before of a child maybe
- 7 having to sit on for a bit, was that still --
- 8 A. That didn't exist, no.
- 9 Q. Would a --
- 10 A. When they were ready, they were ready. When they ate,
- 11 they had what they wanted.
- 12 Q. Was a child punished for not eating his or her food?
- 13 A. No, no, no.
- 14 Q. What about records then?
- 15 A. And also -- yes. I'm just thinking about dinner.
- 16 I think -- I've forgotten whether they had dinner at
- 17 school or whether they came home for dinner. In the
- 18 1960s they came home for dinner, the junior children
- 19 did, from school. In the 1970s, I've forgotten.
- 20 Q. That doesn't matter, sister. I was going to ask you
- 21 about records. Did you keep records in connection with
- 22 the children during this period at Cardonald?
- 23 A. Yes. There was a meal book kept on what they got for
- 24 dinner, breakfast, dinner and tea was kept, yes. We had
- 25 to fill in that book.

- 1 Q. What about records in connection with the children? Did  
2 you keep records, for example, in connection with --
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. -- each child?
- 5 A. Yes, I did.
- 6 Q. Did you have a file for each child?
- 7 A. Yes, I did, yes. Yes, I did have a file, and the  
8 social workers were, as I said, more active and came in  
9 more often.
- 10 Q. So far as discipline was concerned then, sister,  
11 what was the position in relation to discipline? Were  
12 you given any guidance in connection with discipline at  
13 this time?
- 14 A. No, I wasn't, no.
- 15 Q. Did you have cause to smack a child at this time in  
16 Cardonald?
- 17 A. I have forgotten, really.
- 18 Q. Do I understand from what you've said, sister, that  
19 smacking a child was a form of punishment that you  
20 yourself would carry out if necessary?
- 21 A. If necessary, I think I would, yes. No, I would carry  
22 it out.
- 23 Q. Did you see any other children --
- 24 A. Well, I don't remember any instances of that, really,  
25 but I wasn't afraid to carry out discipline if it was



1           necessary.

2           Q. Did you see any other children in other groups being  
3           smacked?

4           A. No, I didn't, no.

5           Q. Did you witness any form of ill-treatment or abuse of  
6           children when you were at Cardonald?

7           A. No, I didn't, no.

8           Q. I think when you gave your statement, sister, you were  
9           provided with details of allegations of abuse, and this  
10          is from paragraph 64 all the way through to  
11          paragraph 158. I think you said you saw no evidence of  
12          abuse during your time there.

13          A. No, I didn't, no.

14          Q. Can I ask you about what you say at paragraphs 113  
15          onwards. I'll just get that for you. Page 8614.

16                 Here you're being asked about a child that I think  
17          was in Nazareth House at your time there. It was during  
18          the earlier stint. The name of the child -- if I can  
19          just get this document put in front of you. My junior  
20          counsel will just do that.

21                 In your file there's what's called a key.

22          A. Yes.

23          Q. So sister, on the left-hand side you have the pseudonyms  
24          that different people have taken, and on the right,  
25          their real name. Do you see that?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So the first example is yourself, you're Sister Mary  
3 today, and we see that your proper name is on the other  
4 side.

5 If you go down a number of entries to the name  
6 Jennifer, it's about halfway down.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. If you look across -- I don't want you to say what the  
9 name is, but do you recognise the name?

10 A. I do, yes.

11 Q. And I think indeed, this is someone that you've had  
12 contact with?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Over the years.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. If you look then at paragraph 117 in your statement,  
17 I'll just read this out. Parts have been blanked out,  
18 but I'll use the name Jennifer. What you say is:

19 "I have been asked whether Jennifer had visited from  
20 family members. No, she did not. I knew Jennifer  
21 didn't have a family. I have been told that according  
22 to information provided to the inquiry, Jennifer's  
23 mother visited several times a year."

24 Now, I just want to understand, sister, why you say  
25 that Jennifer never had a family when there does appear

1 to be evidence that she had a mother that visited on  
2 a number of occasions.

3 A. Yes. The question is what?

4 Q. What you say there -- it's when you say that you knew  
5 Jennifer didn't have a family.

6 A. I suppose I ... I suppose, really, I didn't know that  
7 Jennifer had -- whether she did or did not have  
8 a family. But we always presumed that Jennifer didn't  
9 have a family. I don't know ... Because I never heard  
10 anything about her family.

11 Q. You knew nothing about her family?

12 A. No, no. No.

13 Q. Very well.

14 A. And I've had many -- I've had good communication with  
15 Jennifer and we've talked over those things and I had to  
16 tell her the same thing, that I never knew whether she  
17 had a family or not.

18 Q. Very well. Now, sister, you left Nazareth House  
19 Cardonald in 1979. I think you went to Swansea for  
20 a while; is that correct?

21 A. I went to Belfast.

22 Q. To Belfast?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. In any event, so far as Scotland is concerned, you come  
25 back to Scotland and you go to Lasswade in 1980.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. I think what you tell us there is that you replaced
- 3 Sister [REDACTED] LTX
- 4 A. That's right, yes.
- 5 Q. I think at this time, as far as the children's part of
- 6 Lasswade was concerned, it was beginning to close down;
- 7 is that right?
- 8 A. Well, I wasn't aware of that until the real time came in
- 9 1984. So to me, it wasn't beginning to close down when
- 10 I went.
- 11 Q. When you went there in 1980, and you were there until
- 12 1984, you just had the one group of children?
- 13 A. That's right, yes.
- 14 Q. What sort of size of group was it?
- 15 A. Around about the same, 13. I'd say 14.
- 16 Q. Was it getting smaller and smaller as the years went by?
- 17 A. Oh, I don't know about that. There was about 14 when
- 18 I went there.
- 19 Q. Okay. Were you in charge then of that group?
- 20 A. That's right, yes.
- 21 Q. What age range of children did you have?
- 22 A. I had from maybe one and a half years up to 18 years, 17
- 23 or 18.
- 24 Q. And again, were these children perhaps in family groups?
- 25 Did you have members of the same family?

- 1 A. Yes, yes.
- 2 Q. Did you have people to help you?
- 3 A. Yes. I had good, mature staff to help me.
- 4 Q. Was bed-wetting an issue at this time for you?
- 5 A. It probably was, but I mean, I didn't ... I didn't look  
6 on it as an issue, I suppose. I didn't count it as  
7 an issue because we had our own laundry.
- 8 Q. Looking at the matter of records, did you keep records  
9 for the children?
- 10 A. Yes, very much so.
- 11 Q. Were there records there when you got there, when you  
12 took over?
- 13 A. I forget. I forget. I know I always -- no matter where  
14 I went, I started records.
- 15 Q. So you can't remember if there were records for the  
16 children there when you got there or not?
- 17 A. Written records, I forget.
- 18 Q. Did you meet Sister [REDACTED] LTX before you took over?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. Now then, looking at the type of records you would keep,  
21 again would you keep a file for each child?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And at this time, did you have things like case  
24 conferences in connection with the children?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Would that involve social workers?
- 2 A. Yes, and families.
- 3 Q. Can you compare then the position now to earlier  
4 positions? Was there even more input from  
5 social workers?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. So far as discipline is concerned, sister, what do you  
8 remember about discipline at this time in the 1980s?
- 9 A. Again, we had to keep an account, records of discipline,  
10 and if I did smack a child, I brought LTK down and one  
11 of the staff with me just -- yes -- to be with me as  
12 a witness.
- 13 Q. That's what you tell us in your statement at  
14 paragraph 179:
- 15 "If I had to smack a child, it was very seldom.  
16 I did use the same member of staff to come with me."
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. So do you have some recollection of having to smack  
19 a child during this time?
- 20 A. I forget because ... I didn't maybe look on it as a big  
21 issue either, you know. You got a smack and that's it.
- 22 Q. But you would record it?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Did you have a special book for recording?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And we've heard the term "punishment book".

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Is that what you called it?

4 A. We did, yes.

5 Q. And when you came to leave Lasswade, was the punishment  
6 book left behind then? Did you leave it behind when you  
7 came to leave?

8 A. Yes, I would have left it behind.

9 Q. And all the other records?

10 A. As far as I remember, I don't know. I forget, really.  
11 I can't ... I wouldn't go into detail because I forget.

12 Q. Where did you keep the records that you had at Lasswade?

13 A. Well, I'd keep them in an office -- in my office. They  
14 were kept in my office.

15 Q. So you had an office?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can I just take you then, sister, to the final part of  
18 your statement. This is on page 8629. It's  
19 paragraph 190 onwards. We've already touched upon this,  
20 sister, but just looking over the piece, over the time  
21 in particular that you were at Cardonald, you were very  
22 separate in your own units?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You go on to say at paragraph 192:  
25 "Some of the allegations, I just can't think that

1 would have taken place."

2 You go on to say:

3 "I never heard any of the nuns talk about an  
4 instrument that they were beating the children with.  
5 I think they are motivated by something else, another  
6 person, I don't know. However, that's the allegations  
7 and they are there. They have to be dealt with  
8 according to what is judged rightly."

9 Do you see that?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. I think what you're saying, sister, is that you never  
12 saw any ill-treatment of children?

13 A. No.

14 Q. But we have to listen to see what the allegations are  
15 and judge them?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Now, sister, can I ask you if children have kept in  
18 touch with you after they have left your care?

19 A. Yes, I had quite a number of children keep in touch with  
20 me.

21 Q. And you have mentioned Jennifer already.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. I'll put some documents that I've been asked to put to  
24 you on the screen. The first of these is

25 NAZ.001.003.9339.



1 (Pause).

2 There appears to be a technical problem, but it's  
3 a letter to you, sister, dated May 1998. It begins:

4 "Dear Sister [REDACTED] LQD Hello. This is ..."

5 And the person gives her name. She ends up:

6 "I hope to hear from you soon. Lots of love."

7 So that's a letter from a former resident.

8 The next one I want to put to you is

9 NAZ.001.003.9341.

10 This is a Christmas card that was sent to you, and  
11 if you turn over the page to 9342, again the names have  
12 been blocked out, but it's from Jennifer. Have you had  
13 Christmas cards from Jennifer?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Perhaps the last document then to look at is  
16 NAZ.001.003.9343. If we move down the page, we might  
17 get a better picture. Again, we're looking at  
18 a Christmas card. If we move on to the next page, 9344,  
19 it begins by saying:

20 "Dear sister. I was very pleased to know that you  
21 are well ..."

22 And again it's from Jennifer.

23 Then the names have been blocked out, but you can  
24 take it -- so again, it's clear that you've been getting  
25 Christmas cards from children you looked after.

1 A. Yes.

2 MR MacAULAY: Very well, sister, thank you very much indeed.

3 Those are all the questions I propose to put to you and

4 I think I've covered most of the other questions.

5 LADY SMITH: Let me check if there are any outstanding

6 applications for questions. Are there? No.

7 Sister, those are all the questions we have for you.

8 It just remains for me to thank you very much for

9 engaging with the inquiry, both by providing your

10 detailed written statement and by coming along to give

11 evidence today. It has been really helpful and I'm now

12 able to let you go. Thank you.

13 A. Thank you.

14 (The witness withdrew)

15 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness wants to give her

16 evidence using the name Sister Linda.

17 "SISTER LINDA" (sworn)

18 Questions from MR MacAULAY

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

20 You need to stay in the right position for the

21 microphone so that we can all hear you. It'll help you

22 and particularly so the stenographer can pick up what

23 you're saying through the system. Mr MacAulay will

24 explain what the red file is needed for in a moment.

25 MR MacAULAY: Hello, sister.

- 1 A. Good morning.
- 2 Q. I don't need your date of birth, but just to get a time  
3 frame can I confirm with you that you were born in 1950?
- 4 A. That's right.
- 5 Q. The red folder contains your statement that you provided  
6 to the inquiry. I'll give the reference to the  
7 stenographer. It's WIT.001.001.7237.
- 8 Sister, if I could ask you to look at the last page  
9 of the statement, can I ask you to confirm that you have  
10 signed the statement?
- 11 A. I have.
- 12 Q. And do you tell us in the last paragraph:  
13 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
14 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry."
- 15 A. That's right.
- 16 Q. And do you also say:  
17 "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
18 statement are true."
- 19 A. That's right.
- 20 Q. You tell us in your statement, sister, that you joined  
21 the Order of the Sisters of Nazareth in 1969?
- 22 A. That's correct.
- 23 Q. So you'd be aged about 19 or so at the time?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. I think the formation programme was one that would last

- 1           about six years?
- 2           A. That's correct.
- 3           Q. What you tell us is that after a spell in Hammersmith,  
4           you went to Oxford and when you were there you did  
5           a childcare course?
- 6           A. That's correct, yes.
- 7           Q. Can I just ask you about the course. For how long was  
8           the course?
- 9           A. It was from [REDACTED] to probably [REDACTED] of -- I left  
10          Hammersmith in 1974, and I went to Oxford, and then from  
11          1974 maybe to [REDACTED] 1975, and it was a day release course  
12          from Oxford College of Further Education in residential  
13          childcare.
- 14          Q. I think in fact you've provided us with a certificate  
15          that you obtained. I can put that on the screen.  
16          WIT.003.001.4388.
- 17          A. That's right.
- 18          Q. It's the Central Council for Education and Training in  
19          Social Work. It tells us that you did this in-service  
20          course, recognised by the council for residential staff  
21          at Oxford College of Further Education.
- 22          A. Yes.
- 23          Q. And the date is there: [REDACTED] 1974 to [REDACTED] 1975.  
24          Do you see that?
- 25          A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Now, perhaps you can tell us a little bit about the  
2 course. What did it cover?
- 3 A. Well, we're actually going back 40-odd years. I know we  
4 had two weekend placements. One I remember was from  
5 Magdalen College and we were given -- there was lectures  
6 on social behaviours, you know, I think that's all  
7 I remember really. It's such a long time ago. We dealt  
8 with basically how people behave and how to react with  
9 different situations. I can't really remember much  
10 about that.
- 11 Q. In any event, were you sent to Nazareth House Lasswade  
12 to look after children?
- 13 A. I was, yes.
- 14 Q. If we look at your statement at paragraph 6, the  
15 suggestion there is that this was for a period from 1975  
16 to 1976. But the sisters' employment records, I think,  
17 suggest that it may have been 1976 to 1979. Can you  
18 help us?
- 19 A. I was there for four years. I went in 1975 and I left  
20 in 1979.
- 21 Q. So that indeed ties in more with the employment records.
- 22 A. Right.
- 23 Q. What was your function in going to Lasswade?
- 24 A. There was a vacancy and I was asked to fill that  
25 vacancy.

- 1 Q. And what was the vacancy for?
- 2 A. The vacancy was to look after a group of children.
- 3 Q. Do you remember the name of the sister that you were
- 4 replacing?
- 5 A. Sister Anthony Joseph.
- 6 Q. Let's look at the group of children. What size of group
- 7 of children was it?
- 8 A. I think probably we had about 22 children in that group.
- 9 Q. We'll come back to that in a moment. You were there,
- 10 I think you said, until 1979. Did you also spend
- 11 a short period at Kilmarnock?
- 12 A. That's right.
- 13 Q. And that was 1980 to 1981; is that correct?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. That was near the end of Kilmarnock's existence?
- 16 A. That's right. It closed after I left.
- 17 Q. And after that, you went to America and you spent some
- 18 20 years in America?
- 19 A. I went to Nottingham from 1981 to 1983, and I went to
- 20 America in 1983 for 20 years, yes.
- 21 Q. Can we then look at your position at Lasswade, sister,
- 22 for the three or four years you were there. You've told
- 23 us you were in charge of a particular group of children.
- 24 A. Mm-hm.
- 25 Q. You thought maybe 20 -- in excess of 20 children?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And what ages?
- 3 A. Roughly between -- they were all school age children, so  
4 they would be maybe about 7 to about 14.
- 5 Q. Did you have family members within the group?
- 6 A. Yes. All family members were together.
- 7 Q. And that was the set-up then that family members were  
8 kept together as much as possible?
- 9 A. Yes, boys and girls together, yes.
- 10 Q. And how many groups were there at Lasswade at that time?
- 11 A. There were five groups of children.
- 12 Q. Do you remember the names of the sisters who were in  
13 charge of the other groups?
- 14 A. I was in the main house, where there was three groups of  
15 children, Sister [REDACTED] LHW [REDACTED] was one of the  
16 sisters in the main house, and Sister Mary of the  
17 Assumption was the other sister.
- 18 Q. And in the other section?
- 19 A. And then we had -- when I went there first, there was  
20 a Sister Dominic and a Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] Sister Dominic  
21 retired and Sister Joan of Arc took her place.
- 22 Q. So far as your group was concerned, you tell us that  
23 when you started there, the children appeared to be  
24 happy children?
- 25 A. Yes, yes.

- 1 Q. Can you give us some insight into that? What allowed  
2 you to come to that conclusion?
- 3 A. Well, they seemed to care for each other. They enjoyed  
4 playing together. They enjoyed sharing things. They  
5 would sit and play board games on the floor. They  
6 enjoyed watching television together. They all had  
7 their favourite programmes. They enjoyed going out  
8 at the weekends to spend their pocket money. Just  
9 little things like that.
- 10 Q. Did you have staff to help you?
- 11 A. Yes, I had two care staff. They were live-in staff, so  
12 the women that worked with the children were live-in  
13 staff, and I had a cleaner that would do the cleaning in  
14 the morning and then she would leave shortly after  
15 lunch.
- 16 Q. Do you know if the staff who helped the children had any  
17 training in childcare?
- 18 A. Not that I know of.
- 19 Q. I think you mentioned -- I think you said  
20 Sister [REDACTED] LTX Do you mean Sister [REDACTED] LTX
- 21 A. [REDACTED] LTX, you're right, yes.
- 22 Q. So what did you see your duties to be then at this time?
- 23 A. I was responsible for that group. I was responsible for  
24 rotas for the staff and I was responsible for making  
25 sure that the children were cared for. I was



1 responsible for making sure that they were clean, going  
2 out to school, that they were fed, they had their meals  
3 when they came in, that they did homework. I was  
4 responsible if they were sick.

5 Q. So far as each group was concerned, I think you do say  
6 in your statement that each group was self-contained?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. So you really had nothing to do with the other groups?

9 A. No, no.

10 Q. Would you discuss with other sisters anything that was  
11 happening in your group?

12 A. I was a very junior sister, I wasn't a full member of  
13 the congregation, I was still in temporary vows. So  
14 therefore, if I had any concerns or if I wanted to  
15 discuss something, then I would go to the Superior.  
16 We weren't allowed to go into other people's  
17 employments, so we actually didn't know what was going  
18 on in other people's employments and I really didn't get  
19 to know the sisters as people. So I wouldn't have  
20 discussed -- if I had something to share, I would go to  
21 the Superior to share that.

22 Q. Do I understand from what you've said that, for example,  
23 meals -- you'd be separate from other groups when you  
24 had your meals?

25 A. The sisters' meals?

- 1 Q. No, the groups.
- 2 A. The groups all had their own dining rooms, sitting  
3 rooms, and they all were contained in that area. They  
4 had their own sleeping apartments. They had their own  
5 routine, yes.
- 6 Q. Can I then ask you about whether or not a child was  
7 admitted to your group during your time there?
- 8 A. Yes. I had a family -- a couple of families admitted  
9 while I was there: a family of three and a family of  
10 five.
- 11 Q. And how was that managed?
- 12 A. I would get to know that there was a family coming and,  
13 if I had room, I would be asked to take this family in,  
14 so we would get ready for the family coming in. The  
15 social worker would bring the children and we would  
16 initiate that transfer for them.
- 17 Q. Would you then get information from the social worker as  
18 to what the reasons were for --
- 19 A. Yes. The social worker would discuss why they were  
20 coming in, was there any special plans for them, I would  
21 get to know what the plans were, whether they were going  
22 to have a visit from family or whether there was  
23 a hearing coming up. I would get to know that  
24 information when he brought the children.
- 25 Q. Would you record that information, would you keep

- 1 a record of it?
- 2 A. I would be given a file and the file would be kept in my  
3 bedroom, because that's where I kept the personal files.  
4 I had -- there might have been a sheet there with an  
5 admission date on it and how that admission went.  
6 I would fill that in.
- 7 Q. Looking at files, did you have a file for each child?
- 8 A. Some of the children were long-term. I'm not sure  
9 whether we had a full file on them. We only saw the  
10 social worker when the children were admitted and when  
11 the children were discharged. So there wasn't like  
12 ongoing information coming in on a regular basis. So  
13 I think what would be in a file would be the  
14 information, the initial information, that was coming  
15 with the children on the day they were admitted.
- 16 Q. We're now into the 1970s.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Were there case conferences, for example?
- 19 A. I never attended a case conference.
- 20 Q. But did they take place?
- 21 A. I don't remember. I don't remember writing any reports  
22 for a case conference.
- 23 Q. You would be the person who would be in a position to do  
24 so?
- 25 A. I would yes.

- 1 Q. Medical records. Would you keep medical records?
- 2 A. I remember in the file there was a sheet where we would  
3 weigh the children and we would put their weight down  
4 and various things like that. I can't say that that was  
5 done on a regular basis. But I do remember weighing  
6 children and putting down the weight on it, on a special  
7 sheet in their file.
- 8 Q. What about progress reports? Were there attempts to  
9 record the progress a particular child might be making?
- 10 A. The only progress reports I remember are the ones that  
11 came from school and how they were getting on in school.  
12 I had a daily record book which I found in my room,  
13 which the other sister had kept up, so I continued with  
14 that, and I would record anything going on in that  
15 particular day. I would write every day in this book if  
16 there was a birthday or if there was a day's outing or  
17 if the children had a special visitor or if they had  
18 a birthday. All those kind of things, the daily things,  
19 were in the record book. But I can't remember any  
20 specific progress of children in my case.
- 21 Q. What about a punishment book. While you were at  
22 Lasswade, did you keep a punishment book?
- 23 A. I didn't have a punishment book.
- 24 Q. I think in Kilmarnock you did?
- 25 A. Not so much a punishment book, but I did have a separate

1 way of logging information. I had an office in  
2 Kilmarnock and I had a filing cabinet and I had  
3 definitely a file for every child. But I wouldn't say  
4 there was a specific -- I don't remember writing down  
5 any punishments.

6 Q. I'll perhaps trigger your memory in a moment. If I can  
7 take you to NAZ.001.001.2070.

8 We have at the top there "punishment book". Is that  
9 your handwriting?

10 A. It looks like my handwriting, yes.

11 Q. Your name has been blanked out, but I can tell you your  
12 name is there beside it.

13 A. That looks like my writing, yes.

14 Q. It suggests Nazareth House Kilmarnock -- well, this  
15 would not be your handwriting. This will have been put  
16 in possibly by someone from the order when the document  
17 was made available to us.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. 1980 to 1981. That would be the time you were there?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. We'll look at that shortly when we come to Kilmarnock.

22 What you're saying to me, so far as Lasswade is  
23 concerned, is that you did not have a punishment book?

24 A. I may have -- if there was a certain situation, I may  
25 have wrote it in the daily record book. For instance,

1           if a child needed punishment, if I use that word,  
2           I would sit down with that child and have a conversation  
3           about what had happened. If it needed something more  
4           than that, then I would probably have something like --  
5           they would receive their pocket money at the end of the  
6           week, but they wouldn't go out to spend it, or they  
7           might miss out on their favourite programme. They  
8           weren't something I would write down on a special sheet  
9           somewhere. I would certainly record it in the daily  
10          record book as something happening during the day.

11         Q. So far as the progress of the child, I think you've  
12          pointed out that, really, what you'd have would be the  
13          report from the school?

14         A. Yes.

15         Q. And these would come to you?

16         A. Yes.

17         Q. Would you keep them in the child's file?

18         A. Yes.

19         Q. Generally, in dealing with the child and the child's  
20          involvement and progress at school, would you be  
21          actively engaged in that?

22         A. Yes, I went to parent teacher conferences, yes.

23         Q. So far as homework was concerned, would you be involved?

24         A. Yes.

25         Q. Did you encourage that?

- 1 A. Yes, we had homework sessions.
- 2 Q. Just to go back to when a child would arrive, being  
3 admitted, and you have mentioned examples for us, what  
4 you tell us essentially in your statement is you would  
5 play it by ear as to how to deal with such a child. But  
6 you do say that some of the children would be  
7 traumatised when they came in?
- 8 A. Well, "traumatised" might have been a strong word, but  
9 they would be upset with leaving their home environment  
10 or their parents, and usually when a child was feeling  
11 vulnerable, then we would spend more time with that  
12 child or we certainly observed the behaviours and would  
13 try and get that child to either talk about their  
14 experiences or try and help them to settle in, yes.
- 15 Q. Okay. Can I ask you about bed-wetting.
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Did you have children in your group who wet the bed?
- 18 A. I only had one.
- 19 Q. How was that managed?
- 20 A. That was usually my job. When the child went to bed at  
21 night-time, I would call her at 11 o'clock and she would  
22 use the bathroom at 11, and then usually if that -- you  
23 know, that would solve the problem of her wetting the  
24 bed. Sometimes it happened that she wet the bed, so  
25 in the morning she'd be the first one that we would get

- 1 up. If she needed to have a bath, she would have  
2 a bath.
- 3 Q. Was there any suggestion of a child being punished for  
4 wetting the bed?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. Or humiliated in any way?
- 7 A. No. She'd be up first and into the bath before other  
8 children.
- 9 Q. So far as food is concerned, how would you describe the  
10 quality of the food?
- 11 A. We all got the same food. I didn't find a problem with  
12 the food. Some children specifically didn't like  
13 certain foods, so we didn't usually put that on their  
14 plate. We did have a cupboard that had tins of food or  
15 things that we could supplement things if they didn't  
16 like, so we would give them something else. But on the  
17 whole, we didn't find anybody complaining about food.
- 18 Q. Could there be an occasion when a child didn't want to  
19 eat a particular dish?
- 20 A. Yes, but we kind of knew that child and knew what that  
21 child didn't like, so we wouldn't give it. Then we  
22 might do scrambled egg instead or a boiled egg, beans on  
23 toast. We had those kind of things in the cupboard.
- 24 Q. Was a child ever punished for not eating his or her  
25 food?



- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. Or made to eat food?
- 3 A. No, no.
- 4 Q. You also mention the arrangements about clothing in your  
5 statement, and, in particular, that you'd go out twice  
6 a year to get new clothes for children?
- 7 A. Mm-hm.
- 8 Q. So far as that is concerned, would the children go with  
9 you?
- 10 A. Yes, they would all go out and they would pick their own  
11 clothes. Usually it was C&A.
- 12 Q. Were birthdays celebrated?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. How would you know that a birthday was coming up?
- 15 A. Well, we'd all know there was a birthday coming up.  
16 Each child knew their birthdays and they were excited  
17 about it. And yes, we would have little treats for  
18 them. We would have a birthday -- there might be jelly  
19 and custard or there might be a little treat of some  
20 kind that we knew they would like. Sometimes for  
21 birthdays we would do something special and have it  
22 while we were watching television or a movie or  
23 something on the television.
- 24 Q. In your statement you mention that you went to Dunbar on  
25 holidays.

- 1 A. That's right, yes.
- 2 Q. Were there activities available to the children on  
3 holiday?
- 4 A. Dunbar was an old army barracks that could hold all the  
5 children. We did have the hospital cottage that was  
6 further away from where we were. That would host some  
7 children as well because we couldn't all fit in one  
8 building. The children just liked the idea of being  
9 away and being by the sea and, I think, going on the  
10 beach and collecting shells and having ice cream. It  
11 was just something different and, yes, they all seemed  
12 to enjoy that.
- 13 Q. Would you go simply as a group or --
- 14 A. Yes, everybody together.
- 15 Q. But you as one group and not the other groups or --
- 16 A. No, all the children would go together, yes. We'd sleep  
17 in sleeping bags on army camp beds.
- 18 Q. You also mention toys in paragraph 41 of your statement.  
19 Were there a sufficient number of toys available?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. What sort of toys are you talking about?
- 22 A. All kinds of toys: jigsaws, reading books, board games.  
23 Some of these things would come in, people would donate  
24 them, some of them would be birthday presents or  
25 Christmas presents. Some of them, you know, were old

1           and some were new. Yes, they would play together and  
2           use the toys and those toys were for the group.

3           Q. You mentioned Christmas presents. Did children receive  
4           Christmas presents?

5           A. Yes.

6           Q. And were they allowed to keep their presents?

7           A. Oh yes, yes.

8           Q. Would you have a special meal on Christmas Day?

9           A. Yes, a lovely meal, yes.

10          Q. Can I ask you about visits, sister. Did family members  
11          come to visit children?

12          A. I only remember visitors coming to the two new families  
13          that were admitted while I was there. One was  
14          temporary, they didn't stay very long, and the other ...  
15          I vaguely remember a family coming just either before  
16          Christmas or after Christmas to visit the families, but  
17          on the whole we didn't have many family visits.

18          Q. So were there children in your group who didn't receive  
19          visitors?

20          A. Yes.

21          Q. Did social workers visit?

22          A. No, I can't remember social workers coming at all,  
23          really. I just remember seeing social workers when they  
24          admitted the children or if there was, you know -- if  
25          they were being discharged or maybe if there was

1 a change in the plan, they would come and we would have  
2 a discussion about that plan. I remember that being  
3 done once, yes.

4 Q. I think you said earlier that there were children there  
5 who were long-term children?

6 A. Yes, long-term children.

7 Q. So do I take it from that that although they were  
8 long-term, until they came to be discharged, there was  
9 no social work input?

10 A. One child was actually going out on a fortnightly basis,  
11 she was being fostered, going to be fostered, so she was  
12 visiting the family. Occasionally, I would get  
13 a social worker coming in to meet with me and her to  
14 explain the process. On the whole, these siblings had  
15 had older children that had been in Nazareth House and  
16 they had moved on somewhere else. So they were now  
17 teens, they were like 11 and 12, they had been in  
18 Nazareth House since they were 2 or 3 years old. And  
19 then there were other families that were there just as  
20 long, I think, yes. But they were all long-term  
21 children.

22 Q. At this time, as we understand it, children would be  
23 placed in care in places like Nazareth House by the  
24 social work department?

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

- 1 Q. So as you indicated, on admission there would be  
2 social work involvement?
- 3 A. Yes, definitely.
- 4 Q. Are you saying that thereafter, that social work  
5 involvement would not really exist until the child came  
6 to leave?
- 7 A. I can't remember any social workers coming to visit  
8 in the four years I was there.
- 9 Q. So insofar as care reviews or case conferences in  
10 connection with children then, I think what you're  
11 saying is you did not have any of those?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. Can I ask you about discipline, sister. We've touched  
14 upon the punishment books already. Were you given any  
15 guidance as to how children should be disciplined?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. How did you approach the matter of discipline?
- 18 A. Basically, if there was a problem, I would sit down with  
19 the child and I would have a discussion about what had  
20 happened and find out, you know, from their perspective  
21 what they thought had happened. Sometimes that's all it  
22 took. However, if there was a recurring incident and  
23 they needed something further, then you would explain  
24 why you were doing such a thing. You'd say, "I feel you  
25 need to look at this again maybe, and on Saturday, when

1           you get your pocket money, you won't go out to spend  
2           that pocket money, but you'll receive the pocket money".  
3           And you'd explain why you were doing that and you'd just  
4           look at the big picture and let them look at that  
5           themselves and ponder what it is that they're doing and  
6           hopefully they will learn from that lesson.

7           Q. You have told us that you would keep a record somewhere  
8           of what you did?

9           A. Yes, I would do that in the daily record book.

10          Q. So far as corporal punishment was concerned, was there  
11          corporal punishment?

12          A. You mean a corporal punishment book?

13          Q. No. Did you physically chastise a child?

14          A. No, no.

15          Q. You say at paragraph 64 that would not have been  
16          allowed.

17          A. No. That would have been frowned upon, yes, if we were  
18          physically hitting a child.

19          Q. Can I ask you to look at this document. It's the  
20          directory and book of customs that has been provided to  
21          us by the sisters. Do you know about this document?  
22          Perhaps when you see it, it might ring a bell. It's at  
23          NAZ.001.001.2377.

24                 This has been supplied to us by the order. I think  
25          it's known as a directory and book of customs.

- 1 A. Right, yes.
- 2 Q. Does that ring a bell with you?
- 3 A. It doesn't.
- 4 Q. It doesn't?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. It certainly seems to provide advice to sisters. If it  
7 doesn't ring a bell, do you think you've ever seen it  
8 before?
- 9 A. It was never given to me to look at, to use.
- 10 Q. For example, if you look at the second half of this  
11 page, dealing here with smaller children:
- 12 "When in bed, they should be trained to keep their  
13 hands in the form of a cross on their breast to commend  
14 themselves to the Blessed Virgin, to remember the  
15 Guardian Angel is always with them and often to speak  
16 to."
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. That means nothing to you?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. You may be aware there has been evidence that children  
21 were told to, when in bed, keep their arms crossed in  
22 front of them. Were you aware of that evidence being  
23 provided to the inquiry?
- 24 A. No, I haven't.
- 25 Q. Okay. But the reason I wanted to put this to you was

1           what's set out on page 2382. It's the left-hand column  
2           I want to look at. Three lines from the top:

3                     "Severe corporal punishment, such as whipping and  
4                     caning, may never be given without the permission of the  
5                     Superior, and then only for a very grave fault, and  
6                     in the presence of at least two sisters."

7                     So the suggestion there is that severe corporal  
8                     punishment could be given for a particular type of  
9                     offence and in particular circumstances. I only put  
10                    that to you because when you say in your statement  
11                    "There was no corporal punishment, that would not have  
12                    been allowed", there appears to be at least a suggestion  
13                    in this material that in certain circumstances it would  
14                    be allowed.

15           A. Well, I'm just speaking from my own experience. I would  
16           never believe that corporal punishment would be allowed  
17           in any aspect. I have never read this and so therefore  
18           it's new to me.

19           Q. Okay. Can I then touch upon the topic of abuse, sister.  
20           Did you see any evidence of ill-treatment of children  
21           when you were at Lasswade?

22           A. I never witnessed anything while I was there.

23           Q. What you say at paragraph 70 is that children could  
24           contact their social worker.

25           A. Yes.



1 Q. "If they wanted to phone the social worker, particularly  
2 the older children, I would have given them the phone  
3 number."

4 But what I'm understanding from yourself, really, is  
5 that there was little social work involvement with  
6 children during this stage.

7 A. If a child came to me -- and I'm not just talking about  
8 abuse here -- but if a child had any problem and she  
9 shared the problem with me, it could be school or it  
10 could be feeling frustrated, I would have suggested that  
11 she have a chat with her social worker and that she  
12 would phone or he would phone that social worker up,  
13 because I think it's important that the social worker  
14 knows what's going on.

15 Q. Okay. Did any child ever come to you to ask to phone  
16 a social worker?

17 A. No, I never had that experience.

18 Q. When you gave your statement, sister, beginning at  
19 paragraph 72, a number of allegations, not against you  
20 but against other sisters, were put to you. I think  
21 your position was that you didn't witness any of these  
22 matters.

23 A. No, no.

24 Q. One thing you tell us is that in connection with  
25 Sister [REDACTED] LTX and this is at paragraph 105, you only

1           went to the cottages where her group was kept once  
2           in the whole four-year period --

3           A. That's right.

4           Q. -- is that correct?

5           A. That's correct, yes.

6           Q. That suggests there was quite a significant divide  
7           between Holycote, I think as it was called, and the main  
8           building?

9           A. I wouldn't say that was a divide because that was the  
10          same with the sisters that were working in the main  
11          house.

12          Q. Okay.

13          A. I never went into their employments. We were all  
14          considered to have enough to do in our own employments  
15          without going to somebody else's.

16          Q. One thing you tell us in paragraph 112 -- perhaps I can  
17          take you to that. You say:

18                 "While I was in Lasswade, one of the children came  
19                 to me and said that she didn't want to go to the cottage  
20                 any more."

21                 And I think there you're talking about Holycote;  
22                 is that right?

23          A. Yes.

24          Q. "She played with some friends from the cottage."

25                 And going over to the next page:

1                   "When I asked her why, she said she wanted to play  
2                   and watch television."

3           A.   Mm-hm.

4           Q.   I want to understand what this means.  You have a child  
5                   who was based in the cottage but says she doesn't want  
6                   to go back to the cottage.

7           A.   I think it followed on from a conversation when I was  
8                   putting the statement together, and the only thing that  
9                   comes to mind is that this -- I think she was 6 or 7 and  
10                  she had friends that she played with from the cottages.  
11                  She just came to me and said that she didn't want to go  
12                  there any more, she just wanted to play, and when I  
13                  asked her why, she said, "I want to play and stay over  
14                  here."  I just took that at face value at the time.

15          Q.   Is that what happened though?

16          A.   Yes, yes.

17          Q.   Did you wonder at the time why it was she --

18          A.   Well, it stood out in my mind.  It's something that  
19                  I remembered, but I didn't speculate anything, I just  
20                  took it the way it was said.

21          Q.   Do you know who was in charge of the group that she came  
22                  from?

23          A.   It could have been either Sister Joan or

24                  Sister LTX    She had friends in both of those  
25                  groups.

1 Q. Was that allowed to happen, that a child could decide  
2 for herself that she didn't want to be in a particular  
3 group for whatever reason and move across to another  
4 group?

5 A. I think we're on a different page.

6 LADY SMITH: I think you're saying that this is a child who  
7 went to the cottage to play with children there.

8 A. She met friends over there, school friends that were in  
9 her class at school. Because when they have free time,  
10 they're mixing with all of the groups together, we just  
11 didn't stick with one group.

12 LADY SMITH: So the child who made this comment must have  
13 been in a different group, not --

14 A. She was in my group but she went to another group to  
15 play with friends.

16 LADY SMITH: And at that time your group was in?

17 A. The main house.

18 MR MacAULAY: Yes, we were on a slightly different page.  
19 She went from your group to the cottage, came back to  
20 you and said she didn't want to go to the cottage any  
21 more.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you didn't enquire about that?

24 A. No. I just asked her why and that was the reason I was  
25 given.

1 Q. Very well. I want to take you back to what you say in a  
2 previous paragraph. This is paragraph 71 on page 7249.

3 Towards the bottom of the page, what you say there is:

4 "If anyone had a complaint, the procedure would be,  
5 if it was a criminal act, you would phone the police or  
6 the social worker. You would also let the Superior  
7 know. That would have been the normal procedure."

8 I just want to ask you: was this a formal procedure  
9 that you were told about or is this something you're  
10 saying is what your own response would be?

11 A. I think that would be my response. That's what I feel  
12 I would do, given the situation.

13 Q. So this wasn't an instruction that you were --

14 A. No.

15 Q. -- given by any particular --

16 A. The only instruction that was definite for me was to  
17 tell the Superior know. Being a young sister and being  
18 inexperienced, she was my -- if you like, a mentor that  
19 would help me if I had a problem.

20 Q. One thing you do say in your statement, sister, is that  
21 your recollection of your time at Lasswade has no doubt  
22 been affected by the fact that you've been in America  
23 for over 20 years.

24 A. Yes.

25 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, that's 1 o'clock. I don't have much

1 to go, but probably a little bit more than a few  
2 minutes.

3 LADY SMITH: Then I think we should take the lunch break  
4 now. We'll sit again at 2 o'clock, sister.

5 (1.00 pm)

6 (The lunch adjournment)

7 (2.00 pm)

8 MR MacAULAY: Before the lunch break, sister, we had been  
9 looking at your time in Nazareth House Lasswade and just  
10 coming to the end of that time. When your successor --  
11 when you came to leave, did you meet with your  
12 successor?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Can you remember who your successor was to be?

15 A. No.

16 Q. But when you left, did you leave behind you the records  
17 that you had kept?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. I think you went from Lasswade to Nazareth House  
20 Kilmarnock?

21 A. That's right, yes.

22 Q. And you tell us that would be about 1979 or so?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You were there for a little over a year?

25 A. Two years.

1 Q. But by then, Kilmarnock, I think, also was being phased  
2 out; is that right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Was there just the one group of children there?

5 A. Yes, that's right.

6 Q. How large a group was that?

7 A. About 12 children.

8 Q. Can you give me some understanding as to the age range  
9 of the children?

10 A. They began probably at about 7 or 8, 15 to 16 years old.

11 Q. Boys and girls?

12 A. Boys and girls, yes.

13 Q. Did you say in your statement you thought it was mostly  
14 girls?

15 A. Mostly girls, yes.

16 Q. And who else helped you then in looking after the  
17 children?

18 A. I had two resident staff and I had two women that helped  
19 with the cleaning and laundry.

20 Q. I think you do tell us that you did in fact have  
21 a handover from the sister you were taking over from?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Was that Sister [REDACTED] LGO

24 A. [REDACTED] LGO yes.

25 Q. Was that helpful?

- 1 A. Yes, very helpful, yes.
- 2 Q. Were there records there that had been kept by your  
3 predecessor?
- 4 A. Yes, there was an office and there was a filing cabinet  
5 and each child's files were locked in the filing  
6 cabinet.
- 7 Q. So far as you could see, had some of the children who  
8 were left there at that time been relatively long-term?
- 9 A. Long-term, they were all long-term.
- 10 Q. What happened to the children when the place was closed  
11 down?
- 12 A. I think within six months of knowing that the children  
13 were going to be phased out, there was a presence of  
14 social workers. I remember meeting with social workers  
15 and looking at the plan for the children when they left.  
16 However, I can't remember whether they went to a family  
17 or whether they went back to their own families or  
18 whether they were transferred to another  
19 children's home. I have no recollection of that.
- 20 Q. But then leaving aside that end phase, did  
21 social workers visit during other times?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. So again, was that your only connection with  
24 social workers, when it came to the end phase, if I can  
25 call it that?



- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Were there any case conferences or progress --
- 3 A. I can't remember attending any case conferences.
- 4 Q. I think you tell us that during your time at Kilmarnock,  
5 no new children were admitted?
- 6 A. That's right, yes.
- 7 Q. Did children on a gradual basis leave or was the  
8 departure really one where all the children left at the  
9 same time?
- 10 A. They didn't all leave at the same time, but I can't  
11 remember ever having one or two children left. I think  
12 the time frame seemed to be quite fast once the decision  
13 was made. I think most of the children left within  
14 weeks of each other.
- 15 Q. In paragraph 129 of your statement, and that's on 7261,  
16 WIT.001.001.7261, towards the bottom of the page, what  
17 you say there is:
- 18 "I had no bed-wetters in Kilmarnock."
- 19 A. I can't remember any.
- 20 Q. Although I think when we look at what's called the  
21 punishment book, there's some reference to bed-wetters.  
22 Perhaps I can do that now in fact. If I could put that  
23 back on the screen. It's NAZ.001.001.2070.
- 24 This is the document we already looked at, sister.
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. The heading is "Punishment book", and we then have your  
2 name after that.

3 A. Right.

4 Q. If we turn to the next page, at 2071, can we see this  
5 begins at September 1980.

6 A. Right, yes.

7 Q. So would that coincide with when you --

8 A. Yes, I moved there in 1979.

9 Q. So it's a little bit after that then.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. If we're into September 1980. The first entry, for  
12 example, just to look at that, is a particular person  
13 who's named was refused permission to go to a disco with  
14 some of her school friends because of her general  
15 behaviour with boys outside.

16 A. Right.

17 Q. Is that your handwriting?

18 A. It is my handwriting, yes.

19 Q. So this was a form of punishment that you would use in  
20 a given situation?

21 A. I probably assessed that this was the right kind of  
22 punishment for the time, yes.

23 Q. Towards the bottom -- this relates to the same child --  
24 this is now into November, the child was deprived of her  
25 late night over the weekend because her bed had been wet

1           during the previous week and she had not said anything  
2           about it.

3           A. I'm reading this. I recognise my writing, but I have no  
4           recollection.

5           Q. Okay. If we go on to page 2073, we're now  
6           into January 15, 1981. If we look at that date, there's  
7           a boy you mention there, he was wet this morning when he  
8           got up. You have gone on to say:

9                        "He always manages to have a dry bed on a Saturday  
10           morning because he knows he will not get staying up to  
11           watch his favourite programme. So we feel that if he  
12           can manage it at the weekend, then he will manage it  
13           through the week also. He gets 5p taken off his pocket  
14           money every time."

15                       So the suggestion there is that he could do better  
16           than what he was doing, I think.

17           A. Right. My recollection of Kilmarnock -- this memory  
18           doesn't stand out, you know, as a big problem. I can't  
19           remember.

20           Q. The next entry is for 18 January:

21                       "[Name]. 5p taken off his pocket money. Wet bed."

22           A. Obviously there were some bed-wetters there then, yes.

23           Q. If I take you to page 2074, at the bottom of the page,  
24           we're into February 10th:

25                       "Found a pair of wet bed sheets, soaking wet, hid

1 behind the back of the washing machine. [Two names are  
2 mentioned]. Neither of them would own up."

3 That suggests that the child was trying to hide the  
4 fact.

5 A. It does sound like that, yes. Mm-hm.

6 Q. And the last entry, sister, it is in fact the last entry  
7 that's in what has been produced to the inquiry. It's  
8 on page 2075. This is March 31st. Now, it says --  
9 there's a girl mentioned and:

10 "Her sister and brother went out with Fr."

11 Is that a priest, "Fr"?

12 A. No, we didn't have any priests visiting.

13 Q. What is the "Fr"? You don't -- it has been redacted.  
14 What's under the black spot is a "Fr".

15 A. Well, I know for definite we didn't have any priests  
16 visiting, so it must have been their own father.

17 Q. So "went out with father then"? With their father.

18 A. Right.

19 Q. "In his car for a run to the seaside and she fell into  
20 a puddle and wet her skirt. When she got into the car,  
21 she removed her skirt to dry. She was told that this  
22 was very wrong and most unladylike. She will not go out  
23 in father's car the next time he may take them unless we  
24 can see that she can behave outside like a lady. [REDACTED]  
25 said that it was father who told her to take her skirt

1 off."

2 A. I have no recollection of that whatsoever, sorry.

3 Q. What we see, in any event, is there are, over this  
4 period we've looked at, a number of references to  
5 bed-wetting.

6 A. Right.

7 Q. And punishments of different kinds being used. Is that  
8 a fair comment?

9 A. Definitely, yes. Yes.

10 Q. But looking at discipline and punishment generally,  
11 sister, then, and leaving aside what we've been looking  
12 at, is this a form of punishment that you would use,  
13 depriving a child of pocket money or something along  
14 these lines?

15 A. Yes, I have done that.

16 Q. What about physical punishment, did you --

17 A. No, no.

18 Q. Just coming back to the question of visits, what you  
19 tell us at paragraph 148 is you can't remember any  
20 inspections or visits from the local authority or from  
21 the order itself.

22 A. We had visitations and they happened every year. They  
23 would come around, visit the children, look at the  
24 documents, sign anything that had been seen or inspected  
25 by the visitor.

- 1 Q. And so far then as the records you kept during this  
2 period that you were at Kilmarnock would be concerned,  
3 did you leave these records behind when you left?
- 4 A. All of the children's records went with the children.  
5 I remember, you know, passing these over to the social  
6 worker that came, regarding the children being moved  
7 from us. So their personal papers would have went with  
8 them, wherever they were going. The only thing that we  
9 kept was the big admissions book that showed the day the  
10 children arrived at Nazareth House, who placed them, the  
11 date that they arrived, and then the discharge.
- 12 Q. But there are you dealing with the 12 or so children --
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. -- that were there when you got there?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. But what about the children who had been in and out of  
17 Nazareth House Kilmarnock over the years? Were there  
18 records there for them?
- 19 A. I'm not aware of those records. I'm only aware of the  
20 children that I worked with.
- 21 Q. Am I to understand then that the records would go to  
22 where the child went?
- 23 A. If a child was discharged, I'm not ... I can't remember  
24 what would happen to those children's records, whether  
25 they would have went to social services through the

1 social worker or whether they would have went down to  
2 our main house in Hammersmith and they would have  
3 archived them there.

4 Q. I think we might have two different situations.

5 If we take the children who were there when -- the 12  
6 children.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And in due course, because the home was closing down,  
9 other arrangements had to be made for these children.  
10 Some might have gone home?

11 A. Maybe.

12 Q. Would these records not stay with you?

13 A. I can't clarify that because I have no memory of where  
14 those reports would have went.

15 Q. It's just that you do say in your statement, and I'm  
16 puzzled by this, that the paperwork, as you call it,  
17 would have been given to the social worker. I'm really  
18 focusing on your records.

19 A. Right.

20 Q. The records that the Sisters of Nazareth kept of the  
21 children.

22 A. Right, yes.

23 Q. Why would they be given to the social worker?

24 A. I'm not ... My purpose for saying that is all the  
25 papers that I would have in a filing cabinet locked,

1 belonged to the children. They were the children's  
2 personal records. We wouldn't have kept those, they  
3 would have gone with the social worker. If a child was  
4 going home, then I would imagine the social worker would  
5 have filed those in some filing system with social  
6 services. We didn't keep those papers, I'm sure.  
7 I feel sure about that.

8 Q. It's slightly puzzling because these were Sisters of  
9 Nazareth records that have been kept by the order in  
10 respect of the children.

11 A. And can you describe what those papers would have looked  
12 like?

13 Q. These are the records you kept. If you kept a file for  
14 a child, that would have details of the child's  
15 background, medical information and so on --

16 A. Right, okay. So what I'm thinking about is I don't  
17 remember Nazareth House having those personal papers.  
18 I believe that the papers I had for each child came to  
19 us through the social services. We would have, you  
20 know, daily records or we would have why the children  
21 were there, and they would be all in one file belonging  
22 to the child. I can't remember any forms that belonged  
23 to Nazareth House that I would have filled in.

24 Q. What about medical information? Would you not put that  
25 into a file, if necessary, for a child?



1 A. That would have been recorded in their file if it was  
2 there. I think I would have passed the whole thing over  
3 to the social services because it belonged to the  
4 children.

5 Q. Very well.

6 A. The only thing that we kept was the time the child came  
7 into Nazareth House.

8 Q. I understand that to be a large ledger?

9 A. Yes, a big book, yes.

10 Q. And these books would cover the whole lifespan of the  
11 institution?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Very well, sister. One question I have been asked to  
14 raise with you is whether any of the children you cared  
15 for have kept in touch with you over the years.

16 A. No. I think going off to America just took me out of --  
17 my last residential placement was in Nottingham and  
18 I haven't been in residential work since then.

19 MR MacAULAY: Very well, sister. Thank you very much  
20 indeed.

21 A. Thank you very much.

22 LADY SMITH: Can I check if there are any outstanding  
23 applications for questions? No.

24 Sister, thank you very much. Thank you for engaging  
25 with the inquiry, both by providing your written

1 statement and coming here today to give your oral  
2 evidence. It has been really of great assistance to me  
3 and I'm now able to let you go. Thank you.

4 A. Thank you very much.

5 (The witness withdrew)

6 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness wants to remain  
7 anonymous and to use the name Pat in giving evidence.

8 "PAT" (sworn)

9 Questions from MR MacAULAY

10 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.  
11 Pat, I think you're in a good position for the  
12 microphone. It is important that you stay in a position  
13 that the microphone picks you up so that we can hear you  
14 and in particular the stenographer can pick up what  
15 you're saying. I'll pass over to Mr MacAulay now and  
16 he'll explain the red file and so on with you.

17 MR MacAULAY: Hello, Pat.

18 A. Hello.

19 Q. I need to know the year of your birth, not the date of  
20 your birth. Am I right in thinking that you were born  
21 in 1941?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. In the red folder you'll find the statement that you  
24 have given to the inquiry. I'll give the reference of  
25 that to the stenographer. It's at WIT.001.001.8953.

1           If I could ask you, Pat, to turn to the very last  
2 page of the statement. Can you confirm for me that  
3 you have signed the statement?

4       A. Yes.

5       Q. And can you also confirm that you say in the last  
6 paragraph:

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

9           Do you say that?

10      A. Yes.

11      Q. And do you also say:

12           "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
13 statement are true."

14      A. Yes.

15      Q. You're really here in a way not only to represent  
16 yourself but also your brother; is that right?

17      A. Particularly my brother, yes.

18      Q. And we shall refer to your brother as LXP

19      A. Yes.

20      Q. In particular, you worked in Nazareth House Lasswade at  
21 a time when your brother LXP was a child there;  
22 is that right?

23      A. Yes.

24      Q. What you tell us in your statement, Pat, is that LXP  
25 isn't able to speak to the inquiry; is that correct?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. But he does know that you have come here to give  
3 evidence?

4 A. Yes, and he's very pleased.

5 Q. Has [LXP] told you some things about his experience --

6 A. Oh yes.

7 Q. Can I just go back a little bit to look at some aspects  
8 of your family background. What you tell us in your  
9 statement is that both your mother and your aunt were  
10 brought up in Nazareth House in Belfast.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Did both of them, or particularly your mother, talk to  
13 you about their own experiences?

14 A. Yes, they did. She did at some length.

15 Q. And just in a sentence or two, can you tell me whether  
16 or not these were seen as happy experiences?

17 A. No, absolutely not.

18 Q. Did she say why?

19 A. Well, my mother was very protective of her younger  
20 sister, my aunt, and my aunt, for example, wet the bed  
21 and was punished in horrible ways for doing that. They  
22 weren't fed properly and they weren't cared for or  
23 loved. Just the memories that she had were all bad.

24 Q. Was there a particular sister that they spoke about?

25 A. Yes, there was one sister called Sister [LPX] and she

1           was particularly cruel, especially to my Aunt [REDACTED]  
2           when she wet the bed.

3       LADY SMITH: Can you give me some idea of when your mother  
4           and aunt would have been children in care at  
5           Nazareth House?

6       A. Yes. It's a bit difficult because I'm not sure about  
7           how old they were when they went in, but I know that my  
8           mother stayed until she was probably in her early 20s or  
9           just before. My Aunt [REDACTED] ran away, but I don't  
10          know how old she was when she ran away.

11       LADY SMITH: What era would that take us back to?

12       A. I'm trying hard to think, but ... My mother's been dead  
13          quite a long time.

14       LADY SMITH: Are we talking about the first couple of  
15          decades of the century, something like that?

16       A. Yes, it would have been.

17       LADY SMITH: Pre-1920s perhaps?

18       A. Maybe just after.

19       LADY SMITH: That's just to get a feel of the era you're  
20          talking about. Thanks.

21       MR MacAULAY: I think what you tell us in your statement,  
22          Pat, is that your mother at a point in time when she was  
23          an adult, and your aunt was an adult, got a message  
24          actually over the radio that your aunt was ill.

25       A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And I think you say that was in 1953; is that right?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. What happened?
- 4 A. Well, we stayed in Scotland and my Aunt [REDACTED] lived  
5 in Belfast and she had been ill off and on for years and  
6 had cancer and had had her leg amputated, and she had  
7 two sons. But the message came over the radio to ask my  
8 mother to go to Mater Hospital in Belfast because her  
9 sister was seriously ill. So she did go and found that  
10 my Aunt [REDACTED] was very seriously ill and she was  
11 seven months pregnant and wasn't able to carry the baby  
12 full term. So she had a Caesarean and asked my mother  
13 to take the baby and died a few days afterwards. So my  
14 mother brought the baby home and he became my brother.
- 15 Q. And that is [REDACTED] LXP that we're referring to?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. We've focused on that being in 1953.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. What age roughly was your Aunt [REDACTED] when she died?
- 20 A. I don't know.
- 21 Q. Would she be -- anyway, she had --
- 22 A. She would have been in her late 30s probably.
- 23 Q. And then from what you've said, your mother did take  
24 [REDACTED] LXP
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And he became your younger brother?
- 2 A. Yes. She adopted him and I didn't have any other  
3 siblings so we became very close and I took care of him,  
4 largely, because my mother worked a lot.
- 5 Q. You tell us, Pat, in your statement that you left school  
6 at 14 and a half and went to work, and in particular  
7 eventually you got an in-house job with a family in  
8 Edinburgh; is that right?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. When you were in that job, did your mother and father  
11 split up?
- 12 A. They had split up before I got that job.
- 13 Q. Okay. In any event, when you were there, is it the case  
14 that **LXP** was put into care?
- 15 A. My mother put him into the Nazareth House convent in  
16 Lasswade.
- 17 Q. Were you surprised at that?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Why was that?
- 20 A. Because of the stories that she told me about the  
21 Belfast Nazareth House, but she said this was different  
22 and they were all very kind and they would really look  
23 after him and so on and so on.
- 24 Q. When that happened, I think what you tell us in your  
25 statement is that **LXP** was about 4 years old?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Can I tell you that under reference to the  
3 Nazareth House registers, it would appear that he was  
4 admitted on [REDACTED] 1958 when he would be 4 and he  
5 left on [REDACTED] 1959 after about a year and a half.

6 A. Gosh, I didn't know that. Thank you.

7 Q. That's what the registers say. I think you may have  
8 thought he might have been there longer?

9 A. I think he thought he'd been there for years.

10 Q. He may be right in that the register is not always  
11 right.

12 A. Okay.

13 Q. But that's what the register says.

14 A. Okay.

15 Q. In any event, did your mother want you to go and work at  
16 Nazareth House and, as it were, keep an eye on [REDACTED] LXP

17 A. Well, I think -- the job I had was a really nice job and  
18 it was just looking after one little boy. But I think  
19 she still felt -- she didn't want to be responsible for  
20 anything, I don't think. I think she thought that she  
21 was still responsible for me there, but if I could go  
22 and work in the convent then she would be able to  
23 relinquish any responsibility. But I've only thought  
24 that as an adult, I didn't think of that at the time.  
25 I just thought that she said there was a job there and



1 I'd be close to LXP and I wanted to help him and look  
2 after him and so I just went.

3 Q. If LXP was admitted in 1958, would it be  
4 shortly after that that you went to Lasswade to work?

5 A. Yes, it must have been, because I went to work in the  
6 nursery, which was for young children.

7 Q. That's where LXP was?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I think you were there for six to seven months.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So you weren't there for a long period of time.

12 A. It seems like it.

13 Q. But then at that time at Nazareth House Lasswade, in the  
14 nursery, can you tell me how many children were there  
15 in the nursery part?

16 A. Yes. I couldn't be exact, but I think possibly 30.

17 Q. Was there a particular sister looking after these  
18 children?

19 A. There were two sisters and only one I remember the name  
20 of, which was Sister LGC, but they were both young  
21 and they were both extremely nice and they were both  
22 very kind to the babies. As kind as they could be  
23 because they didn't have the facilities, really, that  
24 maybe they should have had.

25 Q. You do tell us in your statement that they were really

- 1 kind. Can you develop that?
- 2 A. Yes. They just went out of their way to try, you know.
- 3 Like, the food was terrible, as in they had begging nuns
- 4 and they went round shops and were given leftover food
- 5 and stuff, and I remember in particular broken kippers.
- 6 Anyway, so we had to try and feed the babies with that.
- 7 But Sister **LGC** acquired from somewhere a ring, an
- 8 electric cooking ring and a pot, and she used to get
- 9 milk and make custard in the middle of the day, just to
- 10 supplement the food. I don't know where she got that
- 11 from. It doesn't sound much, but it was a lot, you
- 12 know.
- 13 Q. You say the food generally wasn't particularly --
- 14 A. No, it was terrible food.
- 15 Q. Did you eat the same food as the children?
- 16 A. I don't remember what I ate. I just don't remember. We
- 17 all ate together, yes.
- 18 Q. Okay. What was your job then in the nursery?
- 19 A. It didn't have a title. It was just whatever needed to
- 20 be done, you did it, and there was another two girls,
- 21 maybe a bit older than me, but they had been brought up
- 22 by the Sisters of Nazareth, so they were part of it all.
- 23 So I was a bit of an oddity.
- 24 LADY SMITH: How did you get the job?
- 25 A. My mother.

1 LADY SMITH: Just your mother arranged it?

2 A. Yes.

3 LADY SMITH: Did you have to have a meeting with anybody or  
4 an interview?

5 A. No, she just took me along and they said yes and they  
6 arranged for me to start. I remember distinctly going  
7 on the bus and arriving late at night and it was all  
8 closed up and I had to ring the bell and it was dark and  
9 I was taken to the nursery and shown a bed, and that was  
10 it, I started.

11 MR MacAULAY: Were you paid?

12 A. I can't remember ever being paid. That doesn't mean  
13 I wasn't. I can't remember it. I often think perhaps  
14 they paid my mother, I don't know.

15 Q. But at that time in Nazareth House, was it all boys that  
16 were there?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Both in the nursery and in the big boys' --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Just looking at that then, **LXP** did move from the  
21 nursery into the big boys' bit when you were there;  
22 is that correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And when that happened, did you move with him, so to  
25 speak?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. Well, what happened?
- 3 A. Well, what happened was they just moved him and then  
4 I was given permission to go over and say goodnight to  
5 him when I could, you know.
- 6 Q. Okay.
- 7 A. And that was the only contact I had with him. But  
8 sometimes I would see him going in a crocodile line to  
9 school and I would run out and give him a penny or  
10 something if I could.
- 11 Q. I'll come back to that. One of the things you say in  
12 your statement, Pat, and this is at paragraph 18 on  
13 page 4, is that you remembered long corridors in the big  
14 boys' bit.
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. And it was dark and it was big with high ceilings.  
17 "I remember the smell"?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. What was the smell?
- 20 A. Stale, but Jeyes fluid mixed in. Boys. A clinging  
21 smell.
- 22 Q. I think you had later in life experience in the Army;  
23 is that right?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And what you say is it was worse than any army barracks?

1 A. Oh yes. The boys slept in long dormitories and the beds  
2 were steel beds and they were quite close together and  
3 they had grey blankets. When I went to say goodnight to  
4 LXP the boys were all sat up like little statues,  
5 and their beds were prim and precise and neat and no  
6 wrinkles and they were all sitting like this  
7 (indicating).

8 Q. That's your hands clasped together.

9 A. Yes. And apparently, when they laid down, they were  
10 made to fold their arms.

11 Q. Across their chest?

12 A. Yes. And they were checked sometimes in the middle of  
13 the night to make sure they were still in that position.

14 Q. Is that something that LXP has told you?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And did he say if anything would happen if that wasn't  
17 the position?

18 A. No, he didn't say.

19 Q. You mentioned the sister that looked after -- that was  
20 in Nazareth House Belfast when your mother and aunt were  
21 there. Was she also in Nazareth House Lasswade?

22 A. She was, yes.

23 Q. And was she in the big boys' --

24 A. Yes, she was.

25 Q. And what was she like?

1 A. My recollection of her ... I was quite a small young  
2 person, but she seemed to me to be about 6-foot 6. She  
3 was big and she had big, big feet. She was  
4 a frightening figure.

5 Q. When your brother moved over to the big boys' section,  
6 was there a point in time when you also went to work  
7 there in that part?

8 A. No, I went to work in the kitchen.

9 Q. Can you help me with that then? Where was the kitchen  
10 in relation --

11 A. The kitchen was ... The nursery was kind of a separate  
12 block and the big boys' bit was in a great big house and  
13 the kitchen was attached on to that.

14 Q. Okay. But that takes you away from the nursery then,  
15 does it?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And what was your job at that time?

18 A. Just dogsbody. Washing dishes, whatever was needed  
19 done. I fed the hens. Whatever.

20 Q. Who was in charge of the kitchen at that time?

21 A. It was a girl called [REDACTED] and she had been brought up  
22 in the Nazareth House system too.

23 Q. Was she the cook?

24 A. She was the cook.

25 Q. So there wasn't a sister who was a cook?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. What sort of contact did you have then with your brother  
3 over the period that you were working there? Can you  
4 just help me with that?
- 5 A. Yes. The only time I had contact with him was when  
6 I went over to say goodnight to him and I did that  
7 infrequently. When I ask myself why, I think it was  
8 because it was too painful, really. Anyway. It all  
9 culminated in the night that I went over and I just  
10 walked into the dormitory and Sister [L PX] was  
11 standing beside [L X P]'s bed and she just slapped him  
12 across the face. And I really mean a slap. And that  
13 was because when he'd been at school, he didn't want his  
14 school dinner and he stuffed it up his jumper, so when  
15 he went to bed they found it, and that's why they  
16 slapped him.
- 17 So I think I didn't know what to do and I don't  
18 remember what I did.
- 19 Q. But did you go back after that to see him in his  
20 dormitory?
- 21 A. I think I left quite soon after that.
- 22 Q. But on a daily basis, did you have any chance to speak  
23 to him?
- 24 A. No. The boys didn't speak, they didn't have  
25 conversations, and he tells me now they weren't allowed

1 to speak. They were not allowed to speak. It was the  
2 quietest place you've ever heard. You never heard  
3 a child laughing. The boys just worked, they scrubbed  
4 the corridors, they were down on their hands and knees  
5 with a big bucket and big scrubbing brush, scrubbing  
6 these long marble floors and the nuns' feet they would  
7 have seen as they were scrubbing, these big feet. Can  
8 you imagine that?

9 Q. Were they allowed to talk during this process?

10 A. No.

11 Q. So this was in silence?

12 A. Yes. They had a TV, a black and white television, and  
13 sometimes the boys were allowed in there. I never saw  
14 **LXP** in there, but anyway, the nun used to stand by  
15 the television with a white cloth and if something came  
16 on she thought they oughtn't to see, she held the white  
17 cloth over the screen. That room was the one where you  
18 could smell the boys.

19 Q. If I can take you back to the nursery itself, because  
20 you tell us what the set-up was there, particularly  
21 during the day. Did the children go outside?

22 A. Not to my recollection, there wasn't a play area for  
23 them, no.

24 Q. So what did the young children do, the nursery children?

25 A. There was quite a big room, but I don't remember there



1           being toys or things, just a big room with a wooden  
2           floor, polished floor. Quite a sunny room, lots of  
3           windows I remember.

4       Q. You mentioned that the food was poor.

5       A. Yes.

6       Q. Can you tell me a little bit about the food? What sort  
7           of food are you talking about?

8       A. Well, the only -- all I remember in particular was  
9           I told you about the night I arrived there and they  
10          showed me to the bed and they left me. The bed was  
11          in the babies' dormitory. There were maybe six babies'  
12          beds and then a bed for me. But the next morning,  
13          I didn't know what to do, so I just stayed in bed until  
14          somebody came, and a young woman that worked there came  
15          and she brought me what she obviously thought was  
16          a great treat. It was -- you know the old [inaudible]  
17          you used to get the white ones with the blue piping that  
18          got chipped easily, and she had two stuck together and  
19          she said, "I've brought your breakfast". She opened it  
20          and it was two thick slices of horrible bread with  
21          really, really fat, horrible bacon in it, you know. And  
22          that was it. She thought this was a lovely treat, and  
23          that's a sample of what the food was like, the best  
24          I can do.

25       Q. Can you tell us about the washing and bathing

- 1 arrangements for the children? What were they like?
- 2 A. Well, I've told you about the long corridor over at the  
3 big boys'. The boys used to queue up in the corridor to  
4 go in the bathroom, and the bathroom door would be open,  
5 and all the boys wore white smocks, like you'd wear in  
6 a lady's hairdresser, that tie at the back. They all  
7 queued up and an awful lot of them got bathed in the  
8 same bathwater.
- 9 Q. When you say "all", how many boys would be in the queue?
- 10 A. Oh, I don't know, 10 or 12 at a time, queueing up. My  
11 brother said, when I talked to him about it, that there  
12 were inches of scum on top of the bathwater.
- 13 Q. You mentioned Jeyes fluid earlier.
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Can you help me with that? What was that used for?
- 16 A. Well, it must have been when they were washing the  
17 corridors and things. It's a smell that lingers, you  
18 know.
- 19 Q. Coming back to bathing, was the bathing being  
20 supervised?
- 21 A. Yes, by a nun, a big, tall nun. And there was another  
22 sister called Sister [REDACTED] LFJ and I think she was  
23 involved with the bathing too. There was no noise,  
24 there was no talking, no chattering.
- 25 Q. Would more than one child go into the bath at a time?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. How many baths were there?
- 3 A. I only saw that one bath, but there could have been  
4 more.
- 5 Q. Okay. So far as you could see, Pat, did the nuns have  
6 the same food as the children?
- 7 A. No, they had separate food in the kitchen. [REDACTED] the  
8 cook used to say, "No, no, that's for the nuns", and the  
9 best was kept for the nuns.
- 10 Q. What about clothing? Can you tell me about what  
11 arrangements there were for children to have clothes?
- 12 A. Well, I don't know where they got the clothes from, but  
13 the boys wore the same uniforms as the schoolchildren,  
14 but shabby, you know. I think that some of the shops  
15 used to donate clothes and especially for the girls who  
16 lived there, the workers. C&A and shops like that.  
17 I got a dress once.
- 18 Q. The clothes that came from C&A, were they of an  
19 acceptable quality?
- 20 A. Yes, I think they would be their end of range and so on.
- 21 Q. Coming back to mealtimes then, Pat, what do you remember  
22 as to where the children ate? Was there a dining room?
- 23 A. Yes. I didn't have any knowledge of where the big boys  
24 ate.
- 25 Q. So were you never there when they were eating?

- 1 A. I was never there, no.
- 2 Q. Do you know, for example, if they didn't eat their food,  
3 whether or not they'd be punished?
- 4 A. Yes, LXP tells me that he wouldn't eat one meal,  
5 which was haggis, and again LPX slapped him for  
6 that.
- 7 Q. You've already mentioned the boys and the scrubbing of  
8 the floors. So far as you could see, were there  
9 cleaning staff?
- 10 A. No, there were no cleaning staff. The boys did  
11 the cleaning.
- 12 Q. You've already mentioned children going to school in  
13 a crocodile fashion.
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Do you mean by that in an organised --
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. -- queue?
- 18 A. Yes. Going to the local school. There must have  
19 been -- I don't understand why they never told their  
20 teachers at school. I think they were just so scared  
21 and they weren't allowed to speak. So they thought they  
22 weren't allowed to speak at all. My brother still has  
23 conversations in bursts, you know.
- 24 Q. What do you mean by that?
- 25 A. Well, he's a very intelligent man, but he'll be very

1           quiet for a long time and he'll be thinking and then  
2           suddenly he'll just burst forth with all of this  
3           information, but not in a conversational way, and he  
4           doesn't know how to wait for you to answer as a normal  
5           person does. Don't misunderstand, I'm not saying he's  
6           not normal, he just doesn't know people skills.

7           Q. Are you aware of whether there were any trips organised  
8           for the children?

9           A. No, there were never any trips.

10          Q. When you were there?

11          A. No.

12          Q. What about leisure time? Did the children have leisure  
13          time, time to play?

14          A. No. LXP says that if they were really lucky and they  
15          got all their jobs done on a Saturday afternoon, they  
16          got out for a wee while.

17          Q. You have mentioned the TV room and the smell of the  
18          boys. I just want to understand what smell you're  
19          talking about.

20          A. Just unwashed, you know. Just ... I guess if you only  
21          have a bath once a week, and it's not a very good bath  
22          at that, and you have a whole load of boys in one room  
23          together, you get a peculiar odour.

24          Q. Did your brother ever say anything to you about  
25          bed-wetting?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. So far as birthdays were concerned, did he ever mention  
3 to you if anything happened on his birthday?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. Did he know when his birthday was?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. Has he told you that?
- 8 A. I never asked him, but he never said anything about  
9 birthdays. He said about Christmas. He said on  
10 Christmas Day they were all given a present and on  
11 Boxing Day they were all taken back again.
- 12 Q. If we look at your statement, it's on the screen there,  
13 certainly when you were there, you say:
- 14 "I never saw any children having their birthday  
15 celebrated or anything being done for them."
- 16 That's in the six or seven months you were there?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. You say:
- 19 "I asked my brother about birthdays. He said that  
20 he never knew what day his birthday was until he left  
21 Nazareth House."
- 22 That's what he told you?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. If he was there for a year and a half, he might have had  
25 just one birthday that he missed, but it depends how

- 1 long he was there for.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. On visits then, did your brother receive any visitors so  
4 far as you're aware?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. Did you yourself go and visit him once you'd left?
- 7 A. I did once.
- 8 Q. And how long after you'd left was that?
- 9 A. I don't know, but it was winter.
- 10 Q. How did you find him when you went?
- 11 A. I went with my friend and her boyfriend and we were  
12 allowed to take LXP outside to a hut in the grounds.  
13 I remember feeling awful and not wanting to leave him.  
14 But I have to remind myself that I was 16 years old and  
15 I could do nothing. I couldn't even really understand  
16 what was happening. It just -- my mother said it was  
17 okay.
- 18 Q. Can I ask you then about discipline. Did you witness  
19 how children were disciplined?
- 20 A. Well, by fear. They were obviously frightened,  
21 otherwise they wouldn't have behaved like little  
22 regimented puppets.
- 23 Q. But did you actually see any physical chastisement,  
24 apart from you have mentioned the slap?
- 25 A. No, I never saw anybody else being, but there's

1 different ways, isn't there?

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. I didn't see physical, I saw fear.

4 Q. You tell us about one incident when your brother had an  
5 eye problem.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Had you left by then?

8 A. I must have done. He had a squint in his eye and he had  
9 to have an operation, so he wore a patch. He tells me  
10 that LPX came up and he says she really caught him  
11 because he never saw her coming and she slapped him.

12 Q. Okay. But insofar as anything -- has he said anything  
13 else to you that would be of assistance to the inquiry  
14 apart from what you've been telling us so far?

15 A. No, I've told everything that I can ... It's just that  
16 I don't know he was in there, but I know the effect it  
17 had on his life.

18 Q. I'll come to look at that in a moment. So far as you  
19 were concerned then, Pat, you tell us that there came  
20 a day when I think you were told your father had  
21 committed suicide.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. was it after that that you left?

24 A. Yes. I was taken into the Mother Superior's office and  
25 told that, and then I went -- my mother had a living-in



1 job in Edinburgh and I went to her, went to see my  
2 father and stuff, went to the funeral, and then I ended  
3 up with her. I had uncles up in Ayrshire, Irish uncles,  
4 and I went to stay with them.

5 Q. I think you ended up joining the Army in 1959?

6 A. I did, yes.

7 Q. And that involved you going abroad; is that right?

8 A. It did, yes.

9 Q. So far as [REDACTED] LXP is concerned then, he was taken out of  
10 care?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. By your mother; is that right?

13 A. Yes. She became a housekeeper and the man that she was  
14 housekeeping for allowed her to take [REDACTED] LXP and he was  
15 very good to [REDACTED] LXP

16 Q. So it depends on how long [REDACTED] LXP spent in Nazareth House  
17 as to what age he might have been when that happened?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Was he then brought up by your mother and this other  
20 person?

21 A. Yes, and I came home from the army on leave and I went  
22 up to school to meet him in civvies and I cried and  
23 I asked him why, and he said he thought I'd come to get  
24 him in my tank.

25 Q. Right. Now, can I just ask you this, Pat: your time in

1 Nazareth House was not there -- you weren't there as  
2 a carer, you were simply there, as you put it yourself,  
3 to do different jobs?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. So you weren't involved in the care of the children, but  
6 you saw how children were being cared for?

7 A. I was involved in looking after the babies to an extent,  
8 yes.

9 Q. But perhaps what you perceived the effect on [LXP] to  
10 be affected your own life, do you think?

11 A. Sorry, could you say that again?

12 Q. Yes. Has your perception of what happened to [LXP]  
13 when he was in care, has that ever had any effect on  
14 your own life?

15 A. Oh yes.

16 Q. In what respect?

17 A. Those memories never leave you, they colour you. Always  
18 an anger there, that I wasn't able to do anything about  
19 it all.

20 Q. And what about [LXP] then? Do you think his time in  
21 care has affected him?

22 A. Yes, hugely. He got married, but it only lasted a few  
23 months. He became an alcoholic and he and I lost  
24 contact during that time. He was really, really bad.  
25 Then about maybe, I don't know, 12 or 13 years ago, he

1           stopped drinking altogether and he and I became close  
2           again. But all those years are wasted years, you know,  
3           and his memories are as sharp today as the day they  
4           happened. When I speak to him on the phone and he  
5           remembers something, he shouts down the phone in his  
6           anger.

7           Q. If I can take you to paragraph 102 on page 22 of your  
8           statement, you're providing the inquiry here with some  
9           final thoughts. I think you touched on this already.  
10          You saw Nazareth House as a place of fear?

11          A. Yes.

12          Q. You go on to say that you don't want to be  
13          misunderstood, there are good nuns out there.

14          A. Yes.

15          Q. But the bad nuns coloured everything when they did all  
16          these horrible things. Is that your view?

17          A. Yes. It was noticeable that the kind nuns were young  
18          and the cruel nuns were older.

19          Q. Finally, if I can take you to the comment you make  
20          at the very end of your statement, paragraph 107 on  
21          page 23. What you say is:

22                 "I've sometimes felt like standing on a mountain and  
23                 screaming so everybody can hear. Speaking to the  
24                 inquiry is my mountain."

25          A. Yes.

1 Q. Is that what you feel?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Why do you feel that?

4 A. Just that it all happened and nobody did anything and  
5 nobody knew, and there are all these people going about  
6 in the world and they've all been hurt and tainted and  
7 spoiled and their lives ruined, and it needs to be  
8 known. It needs to be stopped.

9 MR MacAULAY: Well, thank you, Pat, for coming here to give  
10 your evidence. I have asked all the questions that  
11 I want to ask, and I think I've covered most of the  
12 other questions as well. Thank you.

13 A. Thank you.

14 LADY SMITH: Let me check if there are any outstanding  
15 applications for questions. No.

16 Pat, those are all the questions we have for you.  
17 Thank you very much for engaging with the inquiry, both  
18 to bring us your own memories and those of LXP and  
19 coming here today to tell us about them. That's been  
20 enormously helpful to me in the work we have to do. I'm  
21 now able to let you go with my thanks.

22 A. Thank you, and thank you for the inquiry.

23 (The witness withdrew)

24 LADY SMITH: Yes, Mr MacAulay.

25 MR MacAULAY: It's now 3 o'clock. We'll perhaps have the

1 break and a read-in after the break.

2 LADY SMITH: Very well.

3 (3.00 pm)

4 (A short break)

5 (3.12 pm)

6 Witness statement of SISTER GEORGINA MULLIN (read)

7 MS MACLEOD: The final read-in for this case study is to be  
8 found at WIT.001.001.7141. It's the statement of  
9 Sister Georgina Anne Mullin:

10 "My name is Georgina Anne Mullin. I am known as  
11 Sister Anne. I have always been known as Anne. That's  
12 my baptismal and religious name. I was born in 1951.  
13 My contact details are known to the inquiry.

14 "I joined the order in September 1968. I was  
15 17 years old. I had five years' religious training,  
16 which I did in Finchley, Hendon and Hammersmith. That  
17 took me to about 1973. The congregation were thinking  
18 about sending me to do teaching at that time and I was  
19 interested in childcare so I went to Swansea for a year  
20 for light experience.

21 "I went to Kilmarnock in 1974 and was there for  
22 about two years. I am told that the dates provided to  
23 the inquiry by the order are 6 September 1974 until  
24 9 October 1976. I'm not too good with months, but that  
25 sounds about right. I know it was 1976 when I left

1 because I made my final vows then and I left Kilmarnock  
2 after that.

3 "I went to Swansea for two years after Kilmarnock,  
4 and then I went to Aberdeen to do my professional  
5 social work qualification. I lived in the convent while  
6 I was studying. I am told that the order has informed  
7 the inquiry that I moved to Aberdeen on  
8 22 September 1978. That's perfect. It was a two-year  
9 course. I obtained my certified professional  
10 social worker qualification in 1980 and I came to  
11 Belfast in September 1980. I didn't go back to Aberdeen  
12 for my graduation ceremony.

13 "As I said, teaching had been suggested to me by the  
14 congregation and I let them know that I was interested  
15 in childcare. I guess I was sent to Kilmarnock for  
16 experience prior to social work training because you  
17 couldn't do the training without any relevant  
18 experience. I was very, very happy to go to Kilmarnock.

19 "There was no interview process for starting at  
20 Kilmarnock. In those days, we would just have been  
21 asked to go. I'm not sure that any checking or vetting  
22 process was happening at that time either. I went there  
23 as a junior sister. There was a senior sister in  
24 charge.

25 "The children's wing was to the right-hand side as

1           you went in the main door. It was very compact and  
2           secluded in the sense that the children had their own  
3           front and back door and it was separate from the rest of  
4           the house. Nazareth Houses traditionally have always  
5           been for children and the elderly. I think the elderly  
6           were in the main part of the house. I think the church  
7           and the convent were also there.

8           "The children didn't need to come into the main part  
9           of the building, except I think to go to chapel. There  
10          were two sitting rooms and one dining room in the  
11          children's unit. There was one kitchen in the house  
12          that served the whole place. I think the food came in  
13          from the kitchen through the children's dining room. It  
14          had the same kind of feel to it as a Juliet-style  
15          bathroom.

16          "I actually thought it was a lovely house,  
17          particularly the upstairs. I remember thinking it was  
18          like a doll's house. It was very colourful. There were  
19          coloured sliding doors in the bedrooms and everything  
20          was coordinated. There were three or four children to  
21          a bedroom, boys and girls in separate rooms. It was  
22          very family orientated. I think there were four  
23          bedrooms. I slept in a little corner room just off  
24          a bedroom with three beds in it. There was a big wide  
25          corridor and I know there was a room with four beds

1 opposite my room. Sister LGO's group's bedrooms were  
2 on the floor underneath mine.

3 "There was a Sister Superior in charge of the whole  
4 home and there was a senior sister, Sister LGO.  
5 I can't remember the superior's name. There were two  
6 groups of children in the home and each group had its  
7 own sitting room. I think the idea was for the children  
8 to be able to identify with their own group.

9 Sister LGO looked after one group and I was  
10 responsible for the other. Sister LGO's group's  
11 sitting room was next door to mine.

12 "Sister LGO was probably in overall charge of the  
13 children's unit. She would have dealt with all the  
14 administrative duties, the money and things like that,  
15 but I had total responsibility for the house parent  
16 duties in my own group.

17 "I think we probably had a housekeeper and maybe two  
18 staff for each group. None of the staff lived in the  
19 home. I can't remember who the staff were, but they  
20 were really good. The children would have formed really  
21 close relationships with the staff as well as with me.  
22 The staff were there when I arrived and when I left, as  
23 was Sister LGO.

24 "I had responsibility for about 12 to 14 children,  
25 boys and girls. The age range was from about 5 to 17.



1 I think they were all at school or nursery. I don't  
2 think I had any babies. I found the children were  
3 mostly in sort of sibling groupings. It was the old  
4 house parent idea with children where you lived with  
5 them and were always there for them, providing stability  
6 and consistency. We didn't do shifts. I provided their  
7 home and their care.

8 "I probably didn't have any formal days off, not at  
9 that time. But you didn't see it as a job. You were  
10 living there and the children were out during the day so  
11 I could go out then too. The staff members probably did  
12 shifts. You always had one working with you in the  
13 morning and in the evening.

14 "I didn't get an induction or training when I first  
15 arrived. That wasn't the language used in those days.  
16 Sister LGO was there as a support. Sister LGO's  
17 sitting room was next to mine, so she would have been  
18 around if I needed to ask anything and she could have  
19 approached me if she wondered about anything I was  
20 doing. We got on very well. You weren't just left with  
21 the children to sink or swim. Also, as I said, the  
22 staff were already there when I came in. Really what  
23 you did, and I suppose it's part of what I've always  
24 done, is you went in and followed what was being done.  
25 There was a good established routine already there and

1 I would have fallen in with that until I decided how  
2 I wanted to do it myself.

3 "The children were very friendly, very settled. It  
4 was a long-term home and there were some older children  
5 there, around 15 or 16 years of age, who had been there  
6 for a while and were very settled. It was like their  
7 home.

8 "There were the usual squabbles among them, but on  
9 the whole I just remember them being so friendly and  
10 lively. I worked in later life with children from very  
11 disadvantaged homes and I didn't get the sense that the  
12 children in Kilmarnock were from disturbed homes. It  
13 was more like they were from a family where the mummy  
14 had died and the daddy couldn't look after them, from  
15 the sort of families that couldn't mind them, but the  
16 children still felt loved by their families in some way.  
17 On the whole I just felt they were very easy to be with.  
18 It was just a very homely atmosphere.

19 "Most of the children were there before I arrived  
20 and were still there when I left. I honestly can't  
21 remember if any new children came in during my time, but  
22 there certainly wasn't a lot of movement or discharges.  
23 There was a stability in the group. I can't recall if  
24 there was a set procedure for when children were  
25 admitted.

1           "The primary schoolchildren were driven to school,  
2           so I guess they got up at about seven-ish or half past  
3           seven. They would have got up in time to allow them to  
4           get dressed and have their breakfast before school. To  
5           me it felt normal. I don't ever remember feeling that  
6           anything was awkward. I imagine we got up at the same  
7           time because we were all on the same floor. I would  
8           have supervised the younger ones. I'd have got them up,  
9           made sure they got washed and then taken them downstairs  
10          for breakfast. The bathrooms were upstairs. The older  
11          ones would have come down later for breakfast if they  
12          weren't quite ready.

13          "I was there if the children needed me at night.  
14          The staff probably finished about eight or nine at  
15          night. I didn't do a patrol as such, but if a child  
16          called, I would be up. The younger ones would go to bed  
17          first and I would be up with the older ones. When I was  
18          going to bed, I would have made sure everybody was safe  
19          and sleeping in their own rooms.

20          "The children didn't need to ask permission if they  
21          needed to get up in the night to go to the toilet.  
22          It would have been the younger ones who slept in the  
23          bedroom off mine. They were the ones who were more  
24          likely to need me in the night. They would have called  
25          me if they were sick or needed me for anything. I'm

1           sure I was called many a night.

2           "I don't recall having any problems with  
3 bed-wetting. It doesn't stand out to me, but I'm sure  
4 we did. It would be unlikely if we didn't. I would  
5 just have washed the bed down and remade it with clean  
6 sheets for them.

7           "I'm guessing we had baths, not showers, but  
8 I couldn't swear by it. It was 40 years ago and showers  
9 are fairly new. The children wouldn't have shared  
10 a bath. They would have bathed individually and there  
11 would have been fresh water for each child. I wouldn't  
12 know any other way.

13           "I'm guessing they got things like cereal, toast and  
14 a boiled egg for breakfast. I was young then so it felt  
15 very usual to what I had been eating.

16           "We had an excellent cook. She was an older sister,  
17 Sister Columbiar. I can even see her coming through the  
18 hatch to make sure the children enjoyed the food. She  
19 was always interested to hear if there was anything the  
20 children wanted.

21           "I can't actually recall an incident of a child not  
22 liking something, but based on who I am, I'm guessing  
23 I would have encouraged them to try a little bit. I  
24 treated the children as I would have my own and it felt  
25 like they were my own. As a parent you want to

1 encourage children to try new things. My style would  
2 have been to say to them, 'Try a little bit, just a  
3 spoonful, and as long as you taste it, I'm happy'.

4 "I think they had school dinners because I don't  
5 remember making sandwiches for lunch. They would have  
6 had a snack when they came in from school and then  
7 I suppose they would have done their homework. They  
8 would have got their tea in the evening. I imagine  
9 we would have had a menu that was followed in the  
10 kitchen to ensure they got variety.

11 "The children only wore a uniform for school. They  
12 wore their own clothes in the house. The staff would  
13 have taken them out for clothes, although mostly the  
14 older ones would have gone out and bought their own.  
15 They had a wardrobe and a locker by their beds to keep  
16 their toothbrushes, deodorants and perfumes, personal  
17 toys, all their personal belongings.

18 "I have to say that the children were really very  
19 lively and very interesting. They did majorettes and  
20 had to create their own dances for competitions. The  
21 older girls would teach the younger girls in the evening  
22 and then they would have to show you all the new  
23 routines. They did Scottish dancing as well. I  
24 remember being taught how to do sword dancing by one or  
25 two of them.

1           "Football is another thing that stands out for me.  
2           A couple of the boys were very good and played for the  
3           school teams. This might be from my own upbringing, but  
4           I don't think Guides and Scouts were familiar things for  
5           Catholic children. I don't remember any of them  
6           attending those types of clubs.

7           "We had our own sitting room, which was a lovely big  
8           room with lovely soft cushions and furnishings. We had  
9           our own television and radio. The children all had  
10          their favourite programmes. There was a bookcase with  
11          lots of books, just like you would have in your own  
12          home. It was just like a family sitting room.  
13          I encouraged reading. The usual books, such as the Enid  
14          Blyton ones, were the favourites. It was very important  
15          to me that the children had the same experiences as  
16          I had growing up. They shouldn't have been  
17          disadvantaged in any way just because they were in care.  
18          I wanted them to experience the love, the care and all  
19          that goes with being a child and growing up.

20          "There were loads of games as well. I remember  
21          playing ludo and snakes and ladders in the evenings.  
22          They loved games. I suppose I would have seen it as  
23          time to be with the children. I often think that if  
24          you are doing something with children, you make better  
25          relationships, better connections. That's what I would

1 have encouraged. It wasn't hard. I played a lot with  
2 them. I think you need to be involved in that way for  
3 them to grow and develop. I would have played outside  
4 with them too. I'm quite athletic, so I would have been  
5 out with them in the middle of it all. My memory  
6 is that we had quite a good bit of outside space.  
7 We had fields and climbing frames.

8 "I'm not sure whether they had friends up to play.  
9 They would have seen their friends as being those with  
10 whom they lived. My guess is that they had friends and  
11 if they wanted them up to play, they would have got  
12 them. I don't remember anyone going out to friends'  
13 houses in those days.

14 "The children would have been assigned little jobs  
15 like helping you setting the table, putting away the  
16 dishes, emptying the wee rubbish bins, tidying the  
17 cushions on the settee and tidying up their rooms. They  
18 would have had the expectation that they'd do small  
19 chores like in any family.

20 "I don't think they would have had any cleaning or  
21 laundry jobs. I think the staff and I washed and ironed  
22 the clothes. We had a washing machine in our unit  
23 at the back door where the coats and shoes were kept.  
24 I get mixed up with what I did when I came to Belfast.  
25 The older ones were encouraged to do washing then, but

1 I don't think they did it in Kilmarnock, not in those  
2 days.

3 "I imagine we would have polished the shoes for the  
4 younger children and the older ones would have done  
5 their own. I'm just guessing.

6 "I have a vague notion that we would have gone to  
7 the beach. I think there's a beach between Kilmarnock  
8 and Stranraer. I think we did some trips like that.

9 "I think the staff would have taken them out to  
10 places like the cinema and swimming baths. We were  
11 dressed in our habits then and we were maybe conscious  
12 of that. The children wouldn't have been conscious of  
13 it. They wouldn't have noticed if you had it on or not.  
14 I didn't wear it at night.

15 "Saturday would have been the best day for trips  
16 down to town. They got pocket money on Saturdays and  
17 I'm guessing it was an amount according to their ages.  
18 The staff would have taken the wee ones out to spend  
19 theirs and the older ones would have gone out by  
20 themselves.

21 "I don't remember being away on holiday with the  
22 children, not in those days.

23 "Christmases were very happy times. The children  
24 got presents and we had a lovely dinner. We would have  
25 got them to think about what they wanted from Santa and



1 would have done our best to get them what they wanted.

2 "Everybody's birthday was important. They got  
3 a cake, a card and a present. It was very special.  
4 There would be a special tea and everybody would sing  
5 Happy Birthday. I have shown the inquiry a photograph  
6 of a child's birthday tea in Kilmarnock.

7 "I learned to drive there, so it was me who drove  
8 the younger children to school in the minibus. I could  
9 be wrong, but I think the older ones walked to school.  
10 They probably all attended the same primary and  
11 secondary school. I don't remember the names of the  
12 schools. If a local child had already started at school  
13 before coming into the home, they probably would have  
14 continued at the same school. All the others would have  
15 gone to the same school.

16 "I'm not sure if communication between the home and  
17 the school would have been Sister **LGO**'s job or mine.  
18 I'm guessing we would have communicated with the school.  
19 I can't imagine not doing so. If a child had been  
20 struggling with reading or something, the school would  
21 have been letting us know. I didn't attend parents'  
22 nights, I'm not sure if they had them in those days.

23 "The staff and I would have been there to support  
24 and encourage the children with their homework. Again,  
25 that would have been part of what I would have seen as

1 important to help their education, so we would have done  
2 homework together. The staff and I would have helped  
3 the younger ones and maybe the older ones would have sat  
4 in the dining room to do their work. We would certainly  
5 have been able to help them.

6 "I have been asked whether the children would have  
7 had an opportunity to learn other skills within the  
8 home. I think so. I think we did sewing, knitting and  
9 crocheting because I would have been into those kinds of  
10 things and we would have been teaching them. I think  
11 children do whatever you like and they enjoy being in  
12 your company.

13 "Religious instruction is not something I did with  
14 the children. I was their parent. I'm guessing they  
15 did it in school as a subject. They attended mass on  
16 a Sunday and they might have said prayers as well, but  
17 that would be it. Going to mass never came up as  
18 an issue. We went to mass and the children came too.  
19 It was just the same as any other family. Children do  
20 what their parents do.

21 "I have been asked whether any particular member of  
22 staff had a role in relation to the children's health.  
23 There were nurses in the home for the elderly but they  
24 would have had nothing to do with the children.  
25 I suppose what we were trying to do was make it as

1 normal as possible for the children, so if they needed  
2 the dentist, they would have gone to the local dentist.  
3 I'm guessing they all would have been registered with  
4 the same dentist and would have gone for their routine  
5 checks.

6 "The home was very near the town centre, so all the  
7 facilities were there on the doorstep. The children  
8 would have needed yearly health check assessments.  
9 These would probably have been done within the home by  
10 a GP who had been nominated for the house. One of the  
11 children wore glasses so she would have gone regularly  
12 to the optician. There was a real effort to make it as  
13 normal as possible so that the children didn't feel  
14 different.

15 "I don't remember whether any children needed to go  
16 to hospital. It was just across the road from us, so it  
17 was there on hand if they needed it. There were  
18 definitely no deaths among the children during my time.

19 "The father of some of the children in my group came  
20 to see me recently. He said that I used to make him  
21 ring the doorbell when he came to visit because I didn't  
22 want him just wandering in. He said he now understood  
23 that it was for safety reasons. That led me to believe  
24 that there was no set day or restriction on visitors.  
25 We had a lovely sitting room at the end of the corridor

1 where the children could meet with their family or  
2 social workers, and we'd bring them in tea. The visits  
3 wouldn't have been supervised in our house as the  
4 families who came in were permitted to visit. I think  
5 they would have gone out into the yard and out for walks  
6 with the children. I think some children went home to  
7 spend time with their families at weekends sometimes.  
8 I can't remember who did that, but some would have gone  
9 out.

10 "As far as I know, all the children had their own  
11 allocated social workers. I don't think they visited as  
12 regularly as they were supposed to. I sort of recall  
13 social work asking me how children were and I gave  
14 feedback on how they were doing and kept them  
15 up-to-date. We recorded in a book what the children did  
16 each day and who came to visit. I had one for my group  
17 and Sister LGO would have had one for hers.

18 "I have been asked whether anyone else would have  
19 come into the home and had access to the children.  
20 I think the Scottish dancing teacher came in and did  
21 dancing with the girls from the two groups. No priests  
22 or trainee priests visited Kilmarnock and we never had  
23 any volunteers coming in.

24 "I have no recollection of whether children were  
25 encouraged to write to their extended families or were

1 given updates on them. The way I would see it is if  
2 social services had said that this was to happen,  
3 it would have happened. If the children had talked  
4 about people in their lives and told us they wanted news  
5 about them, I'm guessing we would have passed that on.  
6 We would have been more like the conduit, paying  
7 attention to what the children were saying and what they  
8 wanted and it would have been for social services to  
9 then make the connections.

10 "I know what care placement reviews are, but I can't  
11 say for definite whether I went to any in relation to  
12 the children in my group. I was the one who would have  
13 known the children so you would think I would have been  
14 invited, but I can't say for definite.

15 "They were actually pretty good children. I don't  
16 remember them being very difficult at all. I suppose  
17 I would have disciplined them in the usual way by  
18 withdrawing privileges such as not allowing them to go  
19 down the town or watch their favourite television  
20 programme. I always feel that it's not good to stop  
21 children doing their activities like dancing, so  
22 I wouldn't have prevented them doing that. An extra  
23 task was always a good one. I'd maybe get them to do  
24 someone else's job, such as setting the table or doing  
25 the dishes, small things like that. I never used

1 corporal punishment, nor did I see it.

2 "There were no written or unwritten codes of conduct  
3 or rules of behaviour. It wasn't a school and I think  
4 it's important to say that. The conduct expected was  
5 the standard you would want for any child. It wasn't  
6 formally set out. They learned together through  
7 interaction, communication and just in the home.

8 "The sort of behaviour they'd have been disciplined  
9 for would be the usual things children do, squabbles  
10 probably, fighting over games in the sitting room or  
11 while out playing football together. The style I would  
12 have been more into would be to sit them down to hear  
13 what they had to say and try to sort it out, or if  
14 someone sort of 'lost the head' a bit, I would just take  
15 them with me somewhere to distract them. As I say,  
16 I don't remember any great disturbance or behaviours  
17 that would worry you. I don't even think they did  
18 anything like stealing or any kind of behaviour like  
19 that.

20 "I have been asked if I required to discipline  
21 a child, whether that would be recorded in the book  
22 I kept. Yes, I think so.

23 "During my time in Kilmarnock, I did not see any  
24 behaviour towards children, either amongst themselves or  
25 from anyone else, that I considered to be abusive.

1 I never saw anything that I needed to act on.

2 "I never got any reports from children of someone  
3 hurting them or abusing them. Had I done so, I would  
4 have had to pass that on. I have been asked whether  
5 there was a set procedure for reporting any concerns.  
6 I would have known to report it because I was answerable  
7 probably to LGO and to the Superior and to social  
8 services as well. If I had been worried about anything,  
9 I would have said so. If I couldn't have said it to  
10 LGO, I would have said it to the Superior because she  
11 had overall responsibility.

12 "I have been asked if I felt that my relationship  
13 with the children was sufficiently good that they would  
14 have been able to tell me if there was anything  
15 concerning them. Absolutely, we were very close.

16 "Looking back with the benefit of hindsight to what  
17 was happening in the home in the 70s, there is nothing I  
18 would be concerned about now that I wasn't concerned  
19 about then. It really was just a lovely place to be.  
20 I think the children were given the best we could have  
21 given them at the time.

22 "I have never heard of any reports since leaving  
23 Kilmarnock from any residents or anyone else of concerns  
24 or abuse in the home during my time there. I have not  
25 been interviewed by the police or the social work

1 department in this connection.

2 "I'm sure I must have had a child discharged from  
3 the care system during my two years in Kilmarnock.  
4 A girl might have gone home and come back again.

5 "I have been asked if there was a particular process  
6 in terms of preparing a child for discharge. It would  
7 have been talked about with the child and discharge  
8 papers would have been signed. I have been asked  
9 whether there was any ongoing contact or support from  
10 Nazareth House after children went home to their  
11 families. That is very much part of what we would have  
12 done if a child had gone out to a hostel. We would have  
13 done aftercare there. Nobody in Kilmarnock went out to  
14 a hostel. I would have remembered doing the aftercare  
15 if they had been needed. My experience of our houses is  
16 when the children left, they came back to visit us.  
17 They knew they would be welcome if they came back.  
18 I don't remember any children from Kilmarnock coming  
19 back to visit. The older ones were still there when  
20 I left.

21 "I'm guessing that local authority inspections and  
22 visitations by the order happened. Maybe it's a good  
23 sign I don't remember any inspections because that  
24 probably means we didn't need to do anything  
25 differently. Just because I don't recollect any local



1 authority inspections doesn't mean they didn't happen.  
2 Certainly we would have had yearly visits from what  
3 we would have called our regional superior, and  
4 Hammersmith would have visited too.

5 "I don't recall seeing any written reports following  
6 an inspection or visitation. I would have seen the  
7 visitation ones. If I didn't see them, I think LGO  
8 would have talked to me about what was said in them,  
9 especially if there were things we needed to change.

10 "As I said, I kept a book in which I recorded who  
11 came to visit the children and what the children did  
12 each day. I think we recorded the children's activities  
13 because there was an emphasis on ensuring that they had  
14 plenty of scope to do different things. I think I also  
15 made a record in this book of any punishments given to  
16 the children.

17 "I don't know what happened to the book when I moved  
18 on from Kilmarnock. I wouldn't have taken anything with  
19 me, so it should be wherever the rest of the records for  
20 the home are kept.

21 "I had no role or contact with the children in  
22 Aberdeen when I moved there. I lived in the convent and  
23 was a full-time student. I went out every day to  
24 college, came home, had tea, and studied. I was there  
25 purely as a student. I did three placements, each of

1 three months, in different parts of the country, so  
2 I was fully occupied with being a student, both studying  
3 and socialising.

4 "I had no impression of what the children's home was  
5 like in Aberdeen. We didn't go into other people's  
6 place of employment in those days. Now it looks like  
7 this would have been a good safeguard, but at the time  
8 you didn't freely go to other parts of the house.  
9 I don't know who was looking after the children.  
10 I actually didn't even know that children were there.

11 "I would have prayed together with the sisters who  
12 were involved in the care of the children and I would  
13 have had my evening meal with them when I wasn't away on  
14 a placement. I do not recall any discussion about  
15 anything that was happening in the children's home.  
16 I never heard anything in relation to any issues of  
17 discipline or punishment or any allegation of abuse.  
18 I wouldn't have heard anything about the other sisters'  
19 employment.

20 "I have been asked if I remember meeting  
21 Sister **LDX** in Aberdeen. I know the name, but  
22 I don't associate her with Aberdeen. Sister **LJJ** was  
23 the Sister Superior; she was an English woman.

24 "I have given the inquiry a photocopy of a letter  
25 from the father of two children I looked after in

1 Kilmarnock. He and his daughter came to me see last  
2 summer. He says in his letter that I did a great job  
3 with the children. They contacted another former  
4 resident to tell him that they had traced me, and he  
5 wrote to me as well. I have given the inquiry  
6 a photocopy of this letter too. He was in Kilmarnock  
7 with his two siblings.

8 "I have also shown the inquiry some photographs of  
9 children in my group in Kilmarnock.

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

12 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
13 true."

14 The statement was signed by Sister Mullin on  
15 26 February 2018.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. So does that finish the  
17 evidence for today?

18 MS MACLEOD: It does, my Lady. We have two oral witnesses  
19 tomorrow and the plan is to start at 9.30 tomorrow with  
20 the first witness giving evidence by video link.

21 LADY SMITH: So the timing will start sharply at 9.30. Very  
22 well. I'll rise now until tomorrow morning at 9.30.

23 (3.40 pm)

24 (The hearing adjourned until 9.30 am  
25 on Tuesday 26 June 2018)

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    MULLIN (read)

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