

1 Thursday, 18 January 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. Mr MacAulay, where do we go  
4 next?

5 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, my Lady. The next witness is  
6 Sister [REDACTED] Julia

7 SISTER [REDACTED] Julia (sworn)

8 Questions from MR MacAULAY

9 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, sister.

10 A. Good morning, Mr MacAulay.

11 Q. Are you [REDACTED] Julia?

12 A. I am, yes.

13 Q. The first thing I want to do is take you to your witness  
14 statement, which is in that red folder in front of you.

15 I'll give the reference for the transcript; that's

16 WIT.003.001.0923. If I could just take you to the last

17 page of the statement. Can I ask you to confirm,

18 sister, that you have signed the statement?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Looking to the last paragraph, do you tell us:

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

23 A. Right. No, I have no objection.

24 Q. And you also tell us:

25 "I believe the facts stated in this witness

- 1 statement are true."
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Can I then ask you, sister, for the year of your birth?
- 4 I don't want to know your date of birth, but am I right
- 5 in thinking you were born in 1942?
- 6 A. That's right.
- 7 Q. So you're now 75 years of age?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Just looking to your history, and in particular your
- 10 involvement with the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent
- 11 de Paul, did you join the order in 1961?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. At that time were you in London in preparation to join
- 14 the order?
- 15 A. I was in Dublin.
- 16 Q. But in due course, and in particular in November 1963,
- 17 were you in Smyllum?
- 18 A. Yes. I was transferred from Dublin to London to do a
- 19 further couple of months in Paris, then came back and
- 20 transferred -- placed in Smyllum.
- 21 Q. You'd be, what, 20, 21 or so at that time?
- 22 A. About 21.
- 23 Q. Do you tell us in your statement that you were in
- 24 Smyllum until about 1972 or 1973?
- 25 A. 1972, yes.

- 1 Q. What you do tell us, sister, is that during that time  
2 you were relieved for a year because you went on  
3 a course.
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. What was the nature of the course?
- 6 A. It was training -- a childcare course at  
7 Langside College in Glasgow for one year.
- 8 Q. So far as any duties you had at Smyllum were concerned  
9 then, you were relieved of all these duties?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. But were you still based in Smyllum?
- 12 A. I lived in Glasgow, in one of our houses there  
13 throughout the week, and sometimes I returned to Smyllum  
14 at weekends.
- 15 Q. Can I ask you, when did you do the course?
- 16 A. Nineteen -- is it a year? I did the course ...
- 17 Q. Well, I think the --
- 18 A. Between -- I'm not quite sure of the exact year I did  
19 the course.
- 20 Q. I think you have a certificate.
- 21 A. The childcare course in Glasgow at Langside, yes.
- 22 Q. Was it towards the end of your period at Smyllum?
- 23 A. It was about the centre, about the fourth/fifth year  
24 there --
- 25 Q. Okay.

- 1 A. -- because I came back to work in Smyllum then.
- 2 Q. Well, let's go back then to when you first went to  
3 Smyllum. What was your role when you first went to  
4 Smyllum?
- 5 A. I was responsible for a group of children. There were  
6 18 children at the time. And later on, the group was  
7 15, round about 15.
- 8 Q. So you started with 18?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And it was reduced to 15?
- 11 A. That's right.
- 12 Q. When you had your break and went on the course and came  
13 back, was that with the same group?
- 14 A. Yes, with the same children.
- 15 Q. Did another sister take over from you then during that  
16 year?
- 17 A. Yes, another sister.
- 18 Q. Can you tell us who that was?
- 19 A. Can I say her name? Yes? Rosalie.
- 20 Q. Sister Rosalie?
- 21 A. Yes, and other sisters were keeping an eye as well and  
22 I had good staff.
- 23 Q. Okay. Let's look at your group then, sister. What was  
24 the name of the group?
- 25 A. Angel Guardians.

- 1 Q. Can I just see where you were located within Smyllum?  
2 I'll put this aerial photograph on the screen for you.  
3 It's at DSV.001.001.4661. (Pause). We're looking at an  
4 aerial photograph of Smyllum.
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. What we have here, if you look to the right-hand side,  
7 we have two indications as to where the Angel Guardians  
8 might have been located.
- 9 A. Yes, I see.
- 10 Q. If you look at the right there's a top box and middle  
11 box. Do they help at all as to where the  
12 Angel Guardians were?
- 13 A. One indicator would say the house -- it was within the  
14 big house and the living quarters were upstairs, and the  
15 dining room was downstairs, so that may answer for the  
16 second. Within the same building.
- 17 Q. You're in the big building?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. I understand that. In fact, if we can make the  
20 photograph a little bit smaller because I want to look  
21 to the left-hand side as well. We have in fact on this  
22 photograph three indications as to where the  
23 Angel Guardians may have been located. Do these help in  
24 where they were located?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Which one? Which one would you choose, if any?
- 2 A. The one within --
- 3 Q. Within the building?
- 4 A. Yes, within the big house. It's difficult to say
- 5 because it's within the big house.
- 6 Q. I wonder if I could ask you, sister, to stand up, turn
- 7 round, and look at the photograph on the screen behind
- 8 you; can you do that?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. You'll see that, because it hasn't been clear to us
- 11 where the Angel Guardians were located, there are three
- 12 areas where it's thought the Angel Guardians might have
- 13 been. Which were you pointing to?
- 14 A. This one here (indicates).
- 15 Q. Thank you. So it's the box to the top right that
- 16 indicates where the Angel Guardians were. Thank you
- 17 very much. That's helpful.
- 18 What sort of accommodation did you have there?
- 19 A. Because it was upstairs, there was an entrance from the
- 20 front door, up the front stairs to the sitting room,
- 21 then on to the little landing on to the bedrooms. And
- 22 if we came in the back door, we came right up the stairs
- 23 and straight into the bedrooms.
- 24 Q. What about other accommodation? Did you have any other
- 25 accommodation for your unit? For example, did you have

- 1 a dining room?
- 2 A. We had the dining room downstairs.
- 3 Q. For that particular group?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Was there a general area where children could gather or  
6 play and so on?
- 7 A. Yes. Well, there was the sitting room and then they had  
8 the bedrooms and the play -- the yard outside. And  
9 there was an area outside the dining room.
- 10 Q. So at that time when you came in 1963, was it a fairly  
11 self-contained --
- 12 A. It was. It had just gone on to that. It had gone from  
13 being the big institution to -- it was divided. We had  
14 a new superior and she divided the house into six: the  
15 main house into four and then there were two other  
16 houses outside in the grounds.
- 17 Q. And I think these were Roncalli and Ogilvy House?
- 18 A. Yes, and Ogilvy.
- 19 Q. And you mentioned the superior; was that Sister EAL  
20 at that time?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. But you mentioned then the number when you started was  
23 about 18.
- 24 A. Yes, 18.
- 25 Q. And what about the sexes? What was the --

1 A. It was originally all girls and then, as children were  
2 admitted, if there were boys, boys were admitted at the  
3 same time. So it became always fewer boys than girls.

4 Q. But when you started -- and you have mentioned the  
5 number 18 -- was that 18 girls?

6 A. Yes, there was one boy and the others were girls,  
7 because he belonged to a family.

8 Q. And the age range then, sister, can you help us?

9 A. When I went there the age range was 4 up to 16. They  
10 were quite ... older and then gradually it became --  
11 taking babies if need be.

12 Q. Did that picture remain the same throughout your whole  
13 time?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. But as you've indicated, there were more boys but  
16 nevertheless a preponderance of girls?

17 A. Yes, there weren't a great number of changes throughout  
18 my time. There were two or three families and they  
19 would come and go. The others were long term, long  
20 stay.

21 Q. Can I ask you this, sister: how was it decided that  
22 a particular child or particular children would go into  
23 the Angel Guardians, as opposed to, let's say, one of  
24 the other units?

25 A. I suppose if I had two vacancies or three vacancies and



1           maybe another house only had two vacancies, I would take  
2           the three children.

3           Q.   Would that be decided by the Mother Superior?

4           A.   It would be by the Mother Superior and ourselves, the staff  
5           and ourselves.

6           Q.   So it really depended on there being vacancies in  
7           a particular place?

8           A.   It really did.  Yes, there was one boy and two girls in  
9           one family coming in, and they came to our group.

10          Q.   You've told us about the break you had when you did your  
11          course.  When you went back to the Angel Guardians, were  
12          children who had been there before still there?

13          A.   They were still there.

14          Q.   But do I take it from what you've said about the age  
15          ranges that, as time went on, children would be leaving;  
16          is that right?  If you talk about 15 and 16-year-olds,  
17          at a point in time that child would leave; is that  
18          right?

19          A.   Yes.

20          Q.   So there was a turnover of children?

21          A.   Yes.  There was very little turnover, but there would be  
22          a turnover if an older girl left and she either went  
23          home or to the hostel in Wilton Street, Glasgow.

24          Q.   You have mentioned the numbers going from 18 to 15, so  
25          there was a decrease in the numbers.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And was that down to children leaving at a point in  
3 time?
- 4 A. That was down to consideration: a smaller number was  
5 more manageable and better.
- 6 Q. Just looking to the accommodation you had then for the  
7 number of children you had, how was that set up? By  
8 that I mean did they have bedrooms or dormitories?
- 9 A. They had bedrooms, individual bedrooms. It was a big  
10 dormitory divided into bedrooms for two or bedrooms for  
11 three.
- 12 Q. Did you try to keep the family members together then?
- 13 A. If they were families, they would be together in the one  
14 room.
- 15 Q. If a family came into Smyllum and could not all be  
16 accommodated -- maybe let's say you had two vacancies  
17 and there are three in the family, then you could not  
18 accommodate the three members of the family. What would  
19 happen in those circumstances?
- 20 A. Yes, that has happened. I would take whatever, two,  
21 until there was a vacancy or wherever the third child  
22 went, the two I had would go if there were -- in order  
23 to keep them together. The two would transfer.
- 24 Q. Were there times when you could not keep children  
25 together for practical reasons because vacancies weren't

- 1           there and therefore they would have to be separated?
- 2       A.   They would go to one of the other houses.
- 3       Q.   Can I ask you about mealtimes, sister.  How was that
- 4           organised for the Angel Guardians?
- 5       A.   Where we were, we didn't do our own cooking.  We just
- 6           had a small cooker as time went on and we did small bits
- 7           and pieces.  But the food came from the main kitchen,
- 8           along a corridor from the dining room.
- 9       Q.   But the food was there for the 15 or 18 children that
- 10           you were looking after?
- 11      A.   Yes.
- 12      Q.   Did you mention there could be babies?
- 13      A.   Babies, yes, there were.  We had babies for a long time.
- 14      Q.   So you'd have to -- would you have to do something
- 15           special for feeding?
- 16      A.   Yes, we had, and the baby -- I know the baby I had for
- 17           four months from hospital until the child left, taken by
- 18           his mother, we had everything contained for that baby.
- 19      Q.   What's your view, sister, as to the standard of the food
- 20           that was provided?
- 21      A.   Pardon, Mr MacAulay?
- 22      Q.   What did you think of the standard of the food that was
- 23           being provided?
- 24      A.   The standard of care?
- 25      Q.   Of the food.

1 A. Of the food? The food was good, but because we didn't  
2 do our own cooking, it wasn't always what we wanted  
3 maybe, although we would say -- we knew what the  
4 children would like and, as far as possible, we got that  
5 food. But if somebody didn't like it, there would be  
6 a small amount in another dish and that.

7 Q. There could be instances where children did not want  
8 what was put in front of them?

9 A. Didn't want the food.

10 Q. Is that right?

11 A. I can't remember big issues. There would be a small  
12 dish provided from the kitchen -- we'd get two, you  
13 know, the main dinner or the main supper, and then  
14 a small dish aside for -- if one or two didn't like  
15 what was there.

16 Q. Would you try and persuade a child to eat what was put  
17 in front of him or her?

18 A. Yes, I think so. Yes, I would.

19 Q. In your opinion was any unnecessary pressure put on  
20 children to eat food if they didn't want to?

21 A. They were quite -- saying, "No, I don't want it, I can't  
22 eat it", and then we would try and give some little  
23 thing or other from the other dish -- well, we also on  
24 a Saturday, the shop came round and we could get what we  
25 wanted for the group and we kept that in our own dining

- 1 room.
- 2 Q. This allegation hasn't been made against you as an  
3 individual, sister, but were you aware at any time  
4 within Smyllum of children being made to eat the food  
5 even though they didn't want to?
- 6 A. No. Not being made to eat it. Not being made to eat  
7 it.
- 8 Q. The other aspect of the routine I want to ask you about  
9 is in connection with bed-wetting. You do say in your  
10 statement, sister, that you did have two children who  
11 wet the beds.
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And you're able to remember that there were two  
14 particular --
- 15 A. Yes, I can see them right now.
- 16 Q. Was that the extent of it then insofar as the  
17 Angel Guardians were concerned that you had these two  
18 children?
- 19 A. Yes, those two, yes.
- 20 Q. Can you remember what ages they were?
- 21 A. They were 7 and 9. They were a family of three. Two of  
22 them.
- 23 Q. Were they in the same room?
- 24 A. They were in the three -- the three children were in the  
25 same room, yes.

- 1 Q. So how was the problem of bed-wetting managed then by  
2 you?
- 3 A. We knew -- they knew themselves. They would just take  
4 the sheets over to the bathroom and then they would have  
5 a bath, just leave them beside the bathroom, beside  
6 the -- in the corner.
- 7 Q. Would that be the extent of it?
- 8 A. That would be it. And then when they go to school and  
9 when the staff would be -- the person coming in to clean  
10 and the staff, first of all, would have removed the  
11 sheets to the laundry, which was out the way outside.
- 12 Q. Again, this is not being put against you, sister, but  
13 the inquiry has heard evidence about certain practices  
14 that may have been in place at Smyllum in connection  
15 with how bed-wetters were managed and in particular that  
16 they would be chastised for bed-wetting, they would be  
17 humiliated in different ways and indeed suffered  
18 physical punishment. Did you see any of that in your  
19 time at Smyllum?
- 20 A. No, that has been put to me by the inquiry and I haven't  
21 seen any of it and I haven't heard.
- 22 Q. You've told us yourself that your unit was essentially  
23 self-contained.
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. To what extent did you have access in any way to the

1 other units that were in existence at the time you were  
2 there?

3 A. We had access if we needed something, but we didn't go  
4 in and out of the other units. But if we needed  
5 something, to borrow something -- or a child would go  
6 and borrow from another group or whatever. They played  
7 together outside or they visited each other.

8 Q. Okay. So there was that degree of interaction between  
9 the children themselves?

10 A. Yes, because there was another group downstairs from us.

11 Q. What was that group called; can you remember?

12 A. St Mary's. And there was a group on the same floor.

13 Q. And that group was called?

14 A. St Joseph's.

15 Q. What about chores? Did the children in your group have  
16 some chores? I think you've told us there is quite  
17 a wide age range. Let's take the older children: did  
18 they have things they had to do?

19 A. There really wasn't a lot because the older children  
20 went to St Mary's school or St Aidan's or Motherwell, so  
21 they had to leave early in the morning and they wouldn't  
22 be back until later in the evening. There weren't  
23 chores as such apart from, I think, I'm not -- they made  
24 their beds before going out and they would have to wash  
25 the dishes and put the stuff away.

1 Q. But nothing more substantial, you would say, than that?

2 A. No, there weren't chores.

3 Q. Polishing floors, for example, nothing like that?

4 A. No, no.

5 Q. You talk about the leisure time that was available to

6 the children in your statement and I'll perhaps take you

7 to that particular paragraph. It's paragraph 36, which

8 is on the screen in front of you, sister, if you look at

9 the screen you'll see paragraph 36. You say:

10 "We had a big yard where the children could play.

11 The other groups would join them."

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. "The two separate houses didn't mix very much --"

14 A. No.

15 Q. "-- because they had their own areas around their

16 house."

17 So there you're talking about Ogilvy and Roncalli?

18 A. Yes, Ogilvy and Roncalli.

19 Q. We've seen the aerial photograph. Perhaps I can put it

20 back on the screen. It's at DSV.001.001.4661. You've

21 indicated where the Angel Guardians were located.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. I think we can see from the photograph there appears to

24 be a sort of square, if you like, outside; is that

25 right?



- 1 A. That's right.
- 2 Q. Is that the play area you're talking about?
- 3 A. That was the play area.
- 4 Q. Not just for the Angel Guardians but also for other  
5 children in that vicinity?
- 6 A. It was actually for all of the children if they were  
7 playing as pals, but Roncalli and Ogilvy had their own  
8 areas and they tended to keep to themselves that little  
9 bit more.
- 10 Q. Okay. Can I ask you about birthdays? Were birthdays  
11 celebrated in your time?
- 12 A. Yes, but not to the same extent as they are today.
- 13 Q. What you say in your statement at paragraph 65 is:  
14 "I can't remember children's birthdays being greatly  
15 marked."
- 16 A. That's right.
- 17 Q. But they were marked with something of a small gift?
- 18 A. Yes, we would buy something -- something small, a toy.  
19 Something we knew they wanted, maybe underwear, maybe  
20 a dress, maybe -- whatever.
- 21 Q. How did you know that a child's birthday was coming up?
- 22 A. That's a good question. They would actually know  
23 themselves. We did not know quite a lot about their  
24 background.
- 25 Q. I was going to come to that and I will ask you about

1           that.  But then were you relying on the child --

2       A.  We would know from the school.

3       Q.  When you say from the school --

4       A.  From the -- the children would know when their birthday

5           was or the staff would know.  And the school, they would

6           know from the school -- from the primary school I'm

7           talking about.  The older children knew when it was,

8           their birthdays.

9       Q.  What about the younger children?

10      A.  The younger children?  Well, we would know from the

11           school.  The younger children, quite honestly, we would

12           have some idea.  We must have asked if they were 1 year,

13           2 years, 3 years, we would know.

14      Q.  Am I to understand from what you said that the system

15           was relatively informal as to whether or not a child's

16           birthday was coming up?  Would that be a fair --

17      A.  Yes.

18      Q.  For example, you didn't have a calendar on the wall to

19           tell you when a birthday was due?

20      A.  No, but I remember, we were measuring the children

21           and -- yes, I'm ...  We must have, but I didn't indicate

22           that.  We must have known when their birthdays were.

23                    But what I am saying is we didn't have a huge

24           birthday party and they would invite their friends from

25           the outer school or from their own school in the grounds

1           or --

2       Q.   Would you have a cake for the child?

3       A.   Cake?

4       Q.   Yes.

5       A.   Oh yes.

6       Q.   So that would be organised through the kitchen?

7       A.   Yes, that's right.

8       Q.   Christmas, can I ask you about Christmas, sister? How

9           was that celebrated?

10      A.   Christmas, maybe for the children themselves it wasn't

11           that happy, but we made it as good as possible, we went

12           out to the Barras, we had a day in Motherwell, we had

13           a day in Glasgow, and we got presents. We got quite

14           a few presents in.

15      Q.   And children would be given presents?

16      A.   Oh yes, certainly.

17      Q.   And allowed to keep these presents?

18      A.   Yes. Yes.

19      Q.   Can I ask you about visitors then, sister, during your

20           time. Were there arrangements made for families to

21           visit the children?

22      A.   No. There was just one family I remember having

23           visitors regularly and they had their mother. The

24           others, they did have once in a while a sister coming or

25           a brother coming, but it wouldn't be previously

1 arranged.

2 Q. If we look at your statement at paragraph 62, it's on  
3 the screen, what you tell us there is:

4 "I don't think anything was done to encourage visits  
5 because most of our children were from Glasgow or  
6 Lanarkshire but not Lanark and that seemed a long way  
7 away."

8 What do you mean by that?

9 A. Yes. 50 years ago, Glasgow was a long way away and the  
10 children -- most of the children certainly I had come  
11 from Glasgow. They didn't have visitors and we  
12 ourselves, we didn't run in and out to Glasgow in the  
13 same way as we would today.

14 Q. When you say you don't think anything was done to  
15 encourage visits, just what do you mean by that?

16 A. I suppose we didn't -- I don't think anything was done  
17 to encourage visitors ... I suppose I meant in relation  
18 to today's practice.

19 Q. So you're making a contrast between then and today?

20 A. And today's practice.

21 Q. So what's the contrast that you'd make?

22 A. The contrast would be -- well, we would have cars,  
23 we would have transport, we would have good  
24 communication, phones, and we would have everything to  
25 keep the family close by, as it were. Whereas in those

1 days, we didn't. We didn't interact that much with the  
2 Glasgow area.

3 LADY SMITH: Are you really saying -- and this isn't  
4 a criticism -- from your observation about how far away  
5 Glasgow seemed that the thinking would be that it's just  
6 going to be too difficult for families to get out of  
7 Glasgow and all the way to Smyllum and all the way back  
8 to see the children?

9 A. Yes, it was. It was difficult and we saw travelling in  
10 and out to Glasgow as difficult. When the children came  
11 into care, we didn't see a lot of their families.

12 LADY SMITH: We understand that you weren't given details  
13 about their family background and the circumstances that  
14 caused them to come into care, so you'd really be in the  
15 dark about that.

16 A. We were kind of in the dark, yes. I remember -- I'm  
17 speaking for the group I had where we did not,  
18 my Lady -- we did not have many changes in the group and  
19 the three or four families were in and out -- I remember  
20 we were down in the front room where the social worker,  
21 with the mother and with our superior, EAL So  
22 I would go down and meet the children there. And that  
23 would be ...

24 LADY SMITH: So that's when they arrive?

25 A. That's when they arrived, yes, and then I would take the

1 children up with whatever staff was on duty.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MR MacAULAY: You didn't have a visitors' book; is that  
4 correct?

5 A. A visitors' room?

6 Q. A visitors' book, a book to record visitors.

7 A. I'm sorry, Mr MacAulay, no, we didn't.

8 Q. Is that something that, with the benefit of hindsight,  
9 would have been useful to you?

10 A. Absolutely. It would have been very.

11 Q. Do you have any recollection of there being inspections  
12 by anyone in authority?

13 A. Visits?

14 Q. No, inspections.

15 A. Inspections. I can't think, other than what I have said  
16 in the statement.

17 Q. What you say in the statement at paragraph 64 is that  
18 you don't remember anyone who came for inspections.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. But you are aware of Sister **EAL** saying, "Tidy up",  
21 and so on, "there's somebody coming". So you think that  
22 was in the context of somebody coming to inspect?

23 A. Yes, we saw it as a social worker.

24 Q. You do tell us that a social worker didn't come to look  
25 round, but you do remember one family having a social

1 worker?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Is that it, one family?

4 A. Yes, that one family, yes.

5 Q. When the social worker came to visit that family,

6 I think you tell us that the visit would take place in

7 what you call the parlour; is that right?

8 A. In the parlour, yes.

9 Q. That's in the main building?

10 A. Yes, in the room in the main ... on the odd occasion

11 they might come upstairs and take the social worker

12 upstairs.

13 Q. But the social worker was there to see the children --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- and not, for example, to inspect the premises?

16 A. Exactly, yes.

17 Q. When the social worker came to visit the children in the

18 case you're talking about, would the social worker have

19 time on his or her own with the children?

20 A. Time with the children? Yes.

21 Q. Would you be present or not?

22 A. No, no.

23 Q. Now --

24 A. Unless they took the social worker upstairs and then

25 we would be there.

1 Q. You've already indicated, sister, that when a child was  
2 admitted, you really were not provided with much by way  
3 of information as to the child's background --

4 A. No.

5 Q. -- any problems in the background and so on; is that  
6 correct?

7 A. That's right. We were told, you know, there are two  
8 girls coming in and you have a vacancy, and they will be  
9 going to your group.

10 Q. Is that the extent of it?

11 A. That's it, and we accepted that because if we had the  
12 vacancy, the children came.

13 Q. Do you think it would have been helpful to you, though,  
14 to have been given more information?

15 A. Oh, of course, but we didn't know any better. Of course  
16 it would be very helpful. I'm looking at it in the  
17 light of all I've learned since and all I've been  
18 through.

19 Q. But even having had your course halfway through, I think  
20 you've indicated --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- did that perhaps indicate to you that the more  
23 information you had about a child --

24 A. Oh yes.

25 Q. -- the better it would be.



- 1 A. Yes, because I had three placements which opened my  
2 eyes, yes.
- 3 Q. The placements were during your course?
- 4 A. During the course, yes.
- 5 Q. But did the practice in Smyllum remain the same that  
6 really you were given little by way of information?
- 7 A. Yes. It was gradually changing. For instance, the  
8 groups became that little -- that smaller.
- 9 Q. Yes.
- 10 A. And I think there were smaller changes that we would put  
11 forward ourselves in our own groups with the staff,  
12 I would with the staff. Things changed, but not in  
13 a huge way.
- 14 Q. Very well.
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. That brings me to another aspect of that and that is the  
17 review of care because what you tell us in your  
18 statement, sister, at paragraph 66 is that:
- 19 "I'm not aware of there being any procedure within  
20 Smyllum to review a child's continued residence at  
21 Smyllum."
- 22 A. Mm.
- 23 Q. Do I take from that that you didn't really have a system  
24 whereby, on an ongoing basis, the child's progress would  
25 be reviewed? Is that the position?

1       A. Well, we went to the open evenings at school and we knew  
2       what the child would be capable of or how the child was  
3       progressing. I think it would follow from there -- but  
4       where the child would go: one child went on, one or two  
5       children went home, other children went into the hostel,  
6       and we still had communication with the hostel in  
7       Wilton Street and whatever the child was capable of  
8       doing, that would be -- she would be helped in that way,  
9       or he.

10      Q. What I have in mind is would you have an ongoing review  
11      that would involve, for example, recording how a child  
12      was getting on and so on? Did you have anything like  
13      that?

14      A. We didn't, no.

15      Q. Do you consider that's the sort of record that would be  
16      useful, for example, to a social worker --

17      A. Yes.

18      Q. -- who might come to visit to see how the child was  
19      getting on?

20      A. Yes.

21      Q. Do you think that would have been helpful?

22      A. But we would talk to the social worker and see how the  
23      social worker was doing. But what happened after that,  
24      we weren't quite sure.

25      Q. Why was there no record kept of how a child might have

1           been performing?

2           A. I'm not ... I think it was word of mouth rather than

3           written records. We had good staff and we were able to

4           help the child continue what the child was capable of

5           doing. Do you get me?

6           Q. Yes, but do you think --

7           A. Rather than a -- I know, rather than a written

8           statement.

9           Q. Do you think a written record would have been

10          beneficial?

11          A. Yes, very much so, yes.

12          Q. But in any event, it wasn't part of the system --

13          A. It wasn't, no.

14          Q. -- as you had it then?

15          A. No.

16          Q. You were also asked when you gave your statement,

17          sister, about how children came to leave Smyllum.

18          A. Yes.

19          Q. That's at paragraph 76 of your statement. What you tell

20          us is:

21                 "I'm not aware of a particular process when a child

22                 was discharged from Smyllum."

23                 You go on to say:

24                 "The only place they would go to that we would have

25                 contact with was our hostel in Glasgow."

- 1                   Is that right?
- 2       A.   That's right.
- 3       Q.   That's in Wilton Street?
- 4       A.   There was a boys' hostel and there was a girls' hostel,  
5           and it was Wilton Street, yes.
- 6       Q.   But the numbers --
- 7       A.   Or a family or going to the -- I remember one family  
8           went to Edinburgh because she came from there.
- 9       Q.   You say that:
- 10                "Children wouldn't leave us until they had a place  
11               to go."
- 12       A.   No.
- 13       Q.   What is your basis for saying that?
- 14       A.   Because they would move either to the hostel or they  
15           would go to -- their social worker would decide that  
16           whatever the child's name is would be going to her  
17           family in Edinburgh or wherever.
- 18       Q.   So do I take it from what you've said that this was  
19           an issue for the social worker to --
- 20       A.   Yes.
- 21       Q.   -- decide?
- 22       A.   Yes, that's true.
- 23       Q.   But there you're dealing, I think, are you, with the  
24           children in your own group; is that right?
- 25       A.   My own group, yes.

- 1 Q. You don't know what happened in connection with other  
2 children?
- 3 A. No, no.
- 4 Q. There's a section in your statement, sister, where you  
5 look at discipline and punishment. First of all, you  
6 begin by saying:  
7 "I don't remember anything about rules on discipline  
8 and punishment."  
9 A. Not rules.
- 10 Q. What about guidance? Were you provided with any  
11 guidance as to how children should be disciplined?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Who provided the guidance?
- 14 A. Well, most of all EAL, the superior. But we were  
15 dealing with the children and we would administer  
16 whatever together with the staff.
- 17 Q. So can I understand then, if you're coming to discipline  
18 a child who was misbehaving what would that consist of?
- 19 A. That would consist of saying, "Go to your bedroom for  
20 20 minutes", or, "You're not going out to play until 4  
21 or 5", or whatever or take half the pocket money, which  
22 was very precious, on a Saturday, or ... Mostly, it's  
23 the staff who ... If the child had a good relationship  
24 with the particular staff and it was whatever staff  
25 said, the child needed correction, well, that staff

1           would do it where they had the relationship, rather than  
2           me, who didn't know -- maybe whatever needed to be --  
3           whatever the discipline needed to be, it was more or  
4           less the staff who had the relationship with the child.

5       Q.   So far in what you've been describing, sister,  
6           you haven't mentioned at all any form of physical  
7           punishment.

8       A.   Physical?

9       Q.   Yes.   Could a child have a degree of corporal  
10          punishment, physical punishment?

11      A.   Not corporal punishment, but if the child -- we'd take  
12          the child by the arm and, "You're coming into your  
13          bedroom", or maybe a slap on the bottom.  Something like  
14          that.  It wouldn't be --

15      Q.   The slap on the bottom, who would administer that?

16      A.   The staff who had the relationship with the child or it  
17          could be myself.  And that wouldn't be -- it would be,  
18          "You're going into your bedroom", or whatever.

19      Q.   The slap on the bottom that you've mentioned, that's  
20          something you would have done yourself from time to  
21          time --

22      A.   Yes.

23      Q.   -- in particular circumstances?

24      A.   Yes.  It wasn't often.

25      Q.   Do I take it from that then that there wasn't a bar of

1           any sort in using that sort of punishment on a child?

2       A.   On what?

3       Q.   There wasn't a bar, there wasn't a rule that said you

4           should not --

5       A.   No.

6       Q.   -- strike a child, nothing like that?  You could slap

7           a child on the bottom?

8       A.   Yes, but it just didn't come up.  I mean, nobody would

9           be hitting a child badly at all.

10      LADY SMITH:  Well, just let's rewind a moment.  Children got

11           slapped on the bottom?

12      A.   Mm.

13      LADY SMITH:  That must have been as a punishment because

14           they'd done something wrong.

15      A.   Mm.

16      LADY SMITH:  And it's a slap to their body, so that's

17           corporal punishment; yes?

18      A.   Mm.

19      LADY SMITH:  Which was common in the 1960s.

20      A.   Mm.

21      LADY SMITH:  There was no law against it so far as children

22           were concerned.  You say you did it and members of staff

23           did it as and when, no doubt, you thought it was needed?

24      A.   Pardon?

25      LADY SMITH:  As and when you thought it was needed; yes?

1 A. Well, it would be very seldom if needed be ...

2 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

3 MR MacAULAY: There has been some evidence in the inquiry,  
4 sister, that sisters -- or at least some sisters -- had  
5 a strap. Did you yourself had a strap for your unit?

6 A. No. There were no straps in our community. No straps  
7 that I know of, that I can even hear of or mention or  
8 know of.

9 Q. Okay. Did you ever have to send a child to someone else  
10 for punishment --

11 A. No.

12 Q. -- because of the nature of the offence?

13 A. No.

14 Q. So it was all managed, as it were, in-house?

15 A. In our own house, yes.

16 Q. Can I ask you about bad language; I am looking  
17 particularly at older children. Was there any bad  
18 language used?

19 A. "Shut up", I think there might have been or, "That job  
20 is yours" --

21 Q. When I say "bad language", I mean swear words.

22 A. No.

23 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, are you asking about children  
24 swearing or about sisters and staff swearing?

25 MR MacAULAY: I'm asking about children at the moment.



- 1 I'm asking about children, sister.
- 2 A. The most they would say when they were angry was, "Oh  
3 shut up", or, "Do it yourself". That would be it. One  
4 child would always go down to the front room and bang  
5 the piano. We all knew she would let her aggression out  
6 that way. She was an older girl.
- 7 Q. I think we know some of the children who went to Smyllum  
8 came from troubled backgrounds.
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. But your position is that such children did not use  
11 swear words, for example, when they were --
- 12 A. No. I can't remember it being an issue. I just can't.  
13 Maybe we let it pass, I don't know.
- 14 Q. In relation to discipline then, we've been looking at  
15 that. Was any record kept of the discipline that was  
16 used within your unit?
- 17 A. No. Not in our group, no.
- 18 Q. One thing that might be suggested might have been kept  
19 would be a punishment book. Nothing like that?
- 20 A. No, we didn't --
- 21 Q. Was it ever suggested to you that you ought to have kept  
22 some form of record of any punishments given to the  
23 children?
- 24 A. No. I learned during the course, during the childcare  
25 course, how beneficial that would be.

1 Q. But was that --

2 A. Then when I got back then, we didn't do it officially  
3 because it was so new. But it was good. We would just  
4 say -- just write it down, but it would be rarely if  
5 a child was -- if it was serious that ... I can't  
6 remember it being a huge -- I can't remember even when  
7 we did produce the book when I got back from the course  
8 that it became very important to us.

9 Q. But do I understand then, sister, that there was a book  
10 in which certain things were being recorded in  
11 connection with the children?

12 A. Very little.

13 Q. No, but just to be clear, there was such a book, you had  
14 such a book?

15 A. Only following the course and that was just  
16 unofficially.

17 Q. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: Was that a book in your unit?

19 A. It was.

20 LADY SMITH: You came back and started using a punishment  
21 book in your unit?

22 A. We didn't see it as a punishment book. We saw it as  
23 keeping ... It wasn't ... record of -- the disturbance  
24 of the child. Upset. If the child was upset more than  
25 anything else.

1 LADY SMITH: Okay. Was there a title to the book?

2 A. No. No, my Lady.

3 LADY SMITH: What was the book like?

4 A. A little jotter, actually.

5 LADY SMITH: Where did you keep it?

6 A. I kept it in the -- in my room.

7 LADY SMITH: And you've been motioning with your hand as if

8 you were writing in a book.

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: So you have some memory of writing something

11 in the book?

12 A. We didn't strictly see it as punishment but as to how --

13 was the child was upset and what upset the child. You

14 know, why was the child in very bad humour today or why

15 was the child moping, moping in her room? Like that.

16 LADY SMITH: If you'd done something about it, did that get

17 recorded?

18 A. We'd talk to the staff about it or talk to the superior.

19 LADY SMITH: I'm just interested in the book at the moment.

20 A. Right.

21 LADY SMITH: You've referred, for instance, to depriving

22 a child of pocket money.

23 A. Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: Would you note in that book that, "Held back

25 a shilling", or whatever, "from the pocket money"?

1 A. What do I say? I think if the child was upset for  
2 a long space of time and we saw a change in the child,  
3 then we would. If the child -- we would know there was  
4 something, maybe something the matter, she had heard  
5 something at home, maybe something at school --

6 LADY SMITH: I get that. I'm really just interested in the  
7 basics of what you would write in the book. Because  
8 I think you've been trying to explain that you heard  
9 about the usefulness of using punishment books.

10 A. Yes. We didn't see it as -- we saw it as: so-and-so  
11 upset, didn't go out on a Saturday.

12 LADY SMITH: "So-and-so misbehaved. We did so-and-so -- we  
13 dealt with it this way"?

14 A. Didn't go into that detail -- yes, well we would  
15 write: didn't -- you know, just got 2 shillings instead  
16 of 1 shilling.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MR MacAULAY: That then would reflect recording there was  
19 a particular punishment in the sense that there was  
20 a deprivation --

21 A. A deprivation rather than a punishment.

22 Q. It may be the same thing.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Do I take it from what you've been saying, sister, that  
25 this approach that you put in place after your course

- 1           was based on what you had learned on your course?
- 2       A.   Yes, the value of it.
- 3       Q.   And what was the value of it?
- 4       A.   The value of it -- well, to look at it and see ...
- 5           It would maybe be based on two or three who were
- 6           experiencing some sort of difficulty and then we would
- 7           know -- try to get to the bottom of what was bothering
- 8           that child and why the child was in need of deprivation,
- 9           depriving her of whatever.
- 10      Q.   Was this a book that was kept by yourself?
- 11      A.   Yes.
- 12      Q.   Was it only you who put the entries into the book?
- 13      A.   Myself or the staff.
- 14      Q.   Or the staff?
- 15      A.   Yes.
- 16      Q.   And when you left Smyllum in 1972 or 1973, was the book
- 17           left in your room?
- 18      A.   The book was left, yes.  Actually, when I left, the
- 19           children left too.  Many of the children left or they
- 20           were taken into another home in Glasgow because they
- 21           were Glasgow children or the other children went to
- 22           Edinburgh or the other children went to -- the group was
- 23           disbanded.
- 24      Q.   I see.
- 25      A.   Yes.

1 Q. So once you left in 1972 or 1973, the Angel Guardians  
2 ceased to exist?

3 A. It ceased, yes.

4 Q. Was this part of the, as it were, reducing --

5 A. Reducing the numbers and it was only a few years later,  
6 Smyllum closed.

7 Q. Yes, I think it closed in 1981.

8 A. Mm.

9 Q. Seven or 8 years later.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So then when you left, you left the group behind you,  
12 but also the children who had been there left to go to  
13 different places as well; is that right?

14 A. They left, yes.

15 Q. So you don't know what happened to the book?

16 A. I would think the superior had it.

17 Q. Okay. By that time was there just the one book or had  
18 you filled --

19 A. No, just the one jotter, yes.

20 Q. You were also asked, sister, when you were giving your  
21 statement about abuse at Smyllum and whether you  
22 witnessed any behaviour towards any child at Smyllum  
23 that you would characterise as abuse; did you?

24 A. No. I didn't, no. Not the abuse I was asked about.  
25 I didn't see any -- anything that would be abuse.

- 1 Q. You tell us in your statement, for example, that you  
2 would consider punishing a child for bed-wetting as  
3 abuse.
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Would you consider force-feeding a child to be abuse?
- 6 A. Yes, I would, yes.
- 7 Q. And would you consider beating a child as abuse?
- 8 A. Oh I would, yes.
- 9 Q. From what you've been telling us, sister, you saw none  
10 of that during your time at Smyllum?
- 11 A. I didn't. No, I didn't.
- 12 Q. You were asked about particular members of staff, one in  
13 particular was a Mr [REDACTED] BAC Did you  
14 know [REDACTED] BAC
- 15 A. I knew him to see him around.
- 16 Q. Did he have any involvement with the children in your  
17 group?
- 18 A. No, he didn't.
- 19 Q. I'm not talking about care; I'm talking about  
20 in relation to sporting activities. For example, did he  
21 have any involvement with any of the children in --
- 22 A. I think it's because we didn't have boys -- maybe one  
23 boy who played football, but that would be it. But  
24 there was nothing significant that I felt about him.
- 25 Q. So what did you see his role to be at Smyllum?

1 A. You see, when I went there, the groups were divided and  
2 [REDACTED] BAC -- his role was diminished  
3 from what it had been previously.

4 Q. What did you understand his role to have been  
5 previously?

6 A. I think he had more to do with the boys, more to do with  
7 football, [REDACTED]

8 Q. In any event, a number of points were put to you in  
9 connection with Mr [REDACTED] BAC and beating children and  
10 being violent towards children. Your position is you  
11 never saw --

12 A. We didn't, no. No, no.

13 Q. You were also asked about a man by the name of  
14 [REDACTED] LVK

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. I think you do tell us that he was somebody that you  
17 knew.

18 A. We just knew him when he would visit. We would say, oh,  
19 that's [REDACTED] LVK but he wouldn't visit our group;  
20 we would see him passing or we would see him outside.

21 Q. Was he a regular visitor?

22 A. I don't think he was because he had a job in Lanark;  
23 he was in [REDACTED].

24 Q. How do you know he was in [REDACTED] ?

25 A. Hearsay.



- 1 Q. So you didn't actually see him in that role?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. What did you understand his reasons for being at Smyllum  
4 to be?
- 5 A. Quite honestly, I don't know. But I think one of the  
6 other sisters might have known a bit more about it where  
7 there were boys.
- 8 Q. You'll also be aware from the questions that were put to  
9 you when you gave your statement that there are  
10 allegations being made against a number of sisters.
- 11 A. Mm.
- 12 Q. You're aware of that, sister?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. I don't propose to focus on them all, but if you look  
15 at, for example, the sisters that you clearly knew, did  
16 you know Sister AGI
- 17 A. I did. I was there for about a year while she was  
18 there.
- 19 Q. What group did she have when you were there?
- 20 A. From my memory, she had a group called the Wee Boys.  
21 They were out the back of the house, but I think that --  
22 the name of that changed subsequently.
- 23 Q. But did you have much to do with her?
- 24 A. No, other than living in the community, meeting at  
25 mealtimes, at community time, at prayer time. I didn't

1 know her other than that.

2 Q. And did you see any interaction between her and the  
3 children?

4 A. No.

5 Q. At all?

6 A. No.

7 Q. I think you were also asked about a Sister [REDACTED] AEG or  
8 Sister [REDACTED] AEG

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Was she there in your time?

11 A. She was, yes.

12 Q. Can you remember what group she was in charge of?

13 A. She was in the group, the same floor as we were in.

14 Q. Do you know if there was a point in time when she was in  
15 a group that was a separate group in Roncalli House?

16 A. No, I had left Smyllum at that time when she was in  
17 Roncalli.

18 Q. But did you see any interaction between Sister [REDACTED] AEG  
19 and children at Smyllum?

20 A. I did, yes.

21 Q. Did you see anything untoward happening?

22 A. No, no, no, Mr MacAulay.

23 Q. Your position in essence, sister, is that you never saw  
24 anything untoward in connection with the way sisters or  
25 anyone else behaved towards children?

1       A.  Yes.  Since the questions were put to me some time  
2           ago -- no, I haven't.  Nothing.  Nothing has come to me  
3           and nothing that would remain with me from my time  
4           there.

5       Q.  A number of allegations about the regime were put to  
6           you, sister, when you gave your statement, and these are  
7           set out in particular at paragraphs 173 onwards.  
8           Putting it shortly, there has been evidence before the  
9           inquiry that there was a regime at Smyllum that involved  
10          children being beaten, practices such as wet sheets  
11          being put over their necks, humiliation and so on.  Your  
12          position is that you never saw --

13      A.  Mr MacAulay, I just don't know where that has come from.  
14          If that was a regime, I think the children would say,  
15          laughing, so-and-so had said whatever, or one of the  
16          staff would have heard it, because there was a staff  
17          dining room and the staff congregated there and they  
18          knew what every group was doing, I would say.

19      Q.  Can I ask you about the point you are making in  
20          paragraph 184 of your statement, sister?  This is on  
21          page 0952.  You're there making a point, whether, with  
22          the benefit of hindsight, there was anything you should  
23          have reported but didn't, and you say no.  Then you say:  
24                 "In hindsight, if I look at photographs in an album  
25          from later years from another children's home in London,

1 I thought, oh my goodness, if we only had that in  
2 Smyllum."

3 I just wondered what you meant by that.

4 A. It's still with me: being more attentive to the needs of  
5 the psychological, the emotional needs of the children.

6 Q. Do you think that that was something that wasn't there  
7 in Smyllum?

8 A. Perhaps it was there to a lesser extent and not  
9 spoken -- you know, not guarded, not studied, as it  
10 were.

11 Q. So that's one of the things that --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- you consider there might have been a gap there?

14 A. Yes. Yes.

15 Q. If I take you to paragraph 179 of your statement on  
16 page 0951, this says:

17 "I am asked why people would make these allegations  
18 if none of that happened at Smyllum. Other than what  
19 we have read in the papers, I wonder whether families  
20 and children and past people have been hoping to get  
21 some money. That is all I can think of."

22 A. Mm.

23 Q. I just want to explore that with you, sister. What  
24 really do you mean by that?

25 A. I think -- I've been feeling that when, you know, when

1 the children -- I'm thinking back to the children. No  
2 matter what we did for those children it would never  
3 replace what they had in their heads, in their hearts,  
4 what their families would have given them. And being  
5 with their families is, I would say -- they felt no  
6 matter how good we presented and gave them whatever they  
7 might not have had at home, it never made up for what  
8 their families would, so I think that will have stayed  
9 with those people. Obviously they felt they were badly  
10 done to.

11 Q. But I think the picture you're presenting, sister,  
12 is that Smyllum was a happy place.

13 A. It was happy, but I always feel -- and I'm sure I felt  
14 it at that time -- like if the children, if they got  
15 something from home, if they got something small,  
16 whatever, it was more precious than anything we ever  
17 gave those children. So although they were removed from  
18 home, I think those children at that early age in those  
19 years knew they were missing out from being with their  
20 families.

21 Q. What do you make of the suggestion that has been made by  
22 a number of those who have come forward to the inquiry  
23 that what happened to them at Smyllum left an  
24 everlasting impact on them? What do you make of that?

25 A. I would say that deprivation -- how they felt at the

1           time, whether they were wronged by their families or  
2           they saw it being wronged by ourselves, and that has  
3           remained with them: why wasn't I at home and what you  
4           did for me, you kept me from home. There could be  
5           a mixture of all of that.

6           Q. Very well.

7           LADY SMITH: Could I just take you back to paragraph 85 in  
8           your statement? It's just a small point. You've  
9           already talked to us about occasions on which -- have  
10          you got paragraph 85? It may be not up yet.

11          At the beginning of that paragraph you talk about  
12          children being slapped and you say that would be on the  
13          hand or on the bottom, and we've talked about slapping  
14          already and you've already explained to us that your  
15          recollection was no belts or no straps, but you go on  
16          and you say:

17          "There would be a hairbrush and maybe they would be  
18          hit on the knuckle with the hairbrush or something."

19          That's right, is it?

20          A. Maybe.

21          LADY SMITH: When you gave the statement, you must have had  
22          a recollection of that.

23          A. Mm. But it wouldn't be a hit -- a tap on the knuckles  
24          I would say.

25          LADY SMITH: But you do seem to have some recollection of

1 hairbrushes being used on the children and you said  
2 knuckles.

3 A. Mm. I can't ...

4 LADY SMITH: Yes?

5 A. I can't remember being -- but I ...

6 LADY SMITH: Well, that came from you, sister, didn't it?

7 A. Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: That would be painful, wouldn't it?

9 A. Mm. A tap on the shoulder ...

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Mr MacAulay.

11 MR MacAULAY: I'm obliged, my Lady. That's all the  
12 questions that I have for you, sister. I haven't  
13 received any requests for questions. I don't know if  
14 there are to be any.

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

17 Sister, thank you very much for coming along this  
18 morning to help us with your recollections of your time  
19 at Smyllum. That has been very helpful and I'm now able  
20 to let you go.

21 A. Thank you, my Lady.

22 (The witness withdrew)

23 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay?

24 MR MacAULAY: The next witness, my Lady, wants to be  
25 anonymous. It's Sister Josephine. There may be some

1 merit in having a short adjournment for the crossover as  
2 this is a witness who is to use the screen.

3 LADY SMITH: I'll adjourn now in advance of the next  
4 witness's evidence.

5 (11.03 am)

6 (A short break)

7 (11.23 am)

8 MR MacAULAY: The next witness, who wants to remain  
9 anonymous, is to be known "Sister Josephine" in giving  
10 her evidence. My Lady, this is a witness against whom  
11 allegations have been made and therefore she requires to  
12 be warned.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 First of all, sister, I would like you to take the  
15 oath.

16 "SISTER JOSEPHINE" (sworn)

17 LADY SMITH: There are a couple of things I want to say to  
18 you before I hand over to Mr MacAulay. You will no  
19 doubt remember that, when you were interviewed by  
20 members of the inquiry team, they explained to you that  
21 although this is a public inquiry and not a trial, you  
22 still have a right not to incriminate yourself, and it  
23 was then explained to you that if you told them that you  
24 were in some way involved in the abuse of children you  
25 could be asked further questions about that but that you



1 weren't obliged to answer them. However, if you did do  
2 so, you needed to understand that your answers would be  
3 recorded and they could be used as evidence at any time  
4 in the future, for example in criminal proceedings.

5 It is important you understand that the same applies  
6 at this hearing. You continue to have the right not to  
7 incriminate yourself, so if you do tell us you were  
8 involved in any abuse of children, you may be asked  
9 questions about it. You are not obliged to answer any  
10 such questions, but if you do do so, they will be  
11 included in the recording of this hearing that is going  
12 on all the time, just in the same way as any other  
13 evidence, and could be used against you in any future  
14 proceedings, including criminal proceedings.

15 Do you understand that?

16 A. Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: The other thing I wanted to make clear to you  
18 is, we can have breaks at any time. We've done that for  
19 other witnesses and it's important you understand that  
20 that's possible. It is not an inconvenience. It's  
21 important that you're comfortable and you don't find  
22 yourself sitting there thinking you need a break and  
23 you're not allowed to ask. Do you understand that?

24 A. Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: I can get up and leave at any point and you can

1 leave the hearing room if that's what's going to make  
2 you more comfortable.

3 A. Thank you.

4 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

5 Questions from Mr MacAULAY

6 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, sister.

7 A. Good morning.

8 Q. The first thing I want to do is to take you to your  
9 statement. The statement number for the transcript is  
10 WIT.003.001.0994. Sister, if I could ask you to go to  
11 the last page of the statement -- and I think that has  
12 been opened for you already; is that correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Can you confirm for me, sister, that you have signed the  
15 statement?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. When I say that, it has been signed on your behalf --

18 A. On my behalf, yes.

19 Q. -- with your authority?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Do you also tell us there, sister, at paragraph 234:

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

24 Do you see that?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And that's something you're prepared to say after you  
2 had been given the sort of warning that her Ladyship has  
3 just given you today; is that correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. The other thing I want to ask you at this point is do  
6 you also say:

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

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Sister, I will be asking you questions as we go along.  
11 If there's a question I ask you and it's something you  
12 just cannot remember, just please say so. Do you  
13 understand?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And likewise if there's something that you do remember  
16 and hadn't thought of before and you think it might be  
17 important to us, again please feel free to tell us that.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Sister, I don't require your date of birth, but  
20 am I right in saying that you were born in 1932?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And I think you are now 85?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You tell us in your statement that you joined the  
25 Daughters of Charity in 1960; is that correct?

1 A. Yes, that's correct.

2 Q. When you first joined, can I ask you where were you when  
3 you first joined?

4 A. When I first joined, I was in Liverpool -- just for  
5 a month.

6 Q. Did you go somewhere after that?

7 A. Yes, I then went into Mill Hill in London.

8 Q. I think we know that you came to Smyllum in May 1967.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. So can you tell me what sort of things you did between  
11 1960 and 1967 before you came to Smyllum?

12 A. Well, it was just preparing to enter into this different  
13 life. I think that was in Mill Hill. And then we went  
14 to Paris to the mother house in Paris and I was there  
15 for three months and came back then to Mill Hill. And  
16 after a short time, I was placed in Smyllum.

17 Q. One of the things you, I think, did before you went to  
18 Smyllum is that you did a course in the residential care  
19 of children.

20 A. Oh yes.

21 Q. Is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. I'll put your certificate for that on the screen in  
24 front of you, sister. So if I can ask you to look at  
25 that. That's at WIT.003.001.0691. I think we now have

- 1           that on the screen.
- 2       A.   Yes.
- 3       Q.   Can we see from this that this was a course you did
- 4           in the North Western Polytechnic and it was from
- 5       [REDACTED] is that correct?
- 6       A.   Yes.
- 7       Q.   Can you tell me a little bit about the course? Can you
- 8           remember what areas were touched upon in the course?
- 9       A.   It was mainly just the natural -- from the young baby,
- 10           caring, knowing how to care for the children as they
- 11           grew up through their childhood, and ... That was the
- 12           main thing, really. It was just coming to terms with
- 13           what we would need to be doing if we were in childcare.
- 14       Q.   Had you done any childcare work before the course?
- 15       A.   No.
- 16       Q.   I think you told us that it was after the course that
- 17           you went to Smyllum.
- 18       A.   Yes.
- 19       Q.   When you came to Smyllum, I think you tell us in your
- 20           statement, sister, that there were different groups
- 21           within the establishment.
- 22       A.   Yes.
- 23       Q.   Is that correct?
- 24       A.   Yes.
- 25       Q.   Do you remember the name of any of these groups? What

1 can you remember?

2 A. There was Ogilvy, St Kentigern's, St Mary's, Holy  
3 Angels, and St Joseph's, and Roncalli.

4 Q. When you went there, were you allocated a particular  
5 group?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. What group were you in charge of?

8 A. Of St Joseph's.

9 Q. Was that for a relatively short period of time?

10 A. Yes. We then -- we transferred to Roncalli House.

11 Q. How long did you spend in St Joseph's?

12 A. Maybe a couple of years.

13 Q. You think as long as that?

14 A. Yes, I think maybe -- I'm not really quite sure, but  
15 roughly.

16 Q. Perhaps I can ask you to look at a photograph for me,  
17 sister, just so we can identify where these locations  
18 are. This is at DSV.001.001.4661.

19 You'll see that an effort has been made to try and  
20 identify where the particular places are. If you look  
21 at St Joseph's, for example, I think we can see that  
22 there are two boxes to the right that might indicate  
23 where St Joseph's might have been. Where do you think  
24 St Joseph's was?

25 A. St Joseph's was part of the main building.

- 1 Q. If we look then at the right-hand side, you'll see  
2 there's a box with "St Joseph's" and it's pointing  
3 towards a middle part of the main building. Then  
4 there's another reference to St Joseph's which points  
5 across to a right-hand section. Which is the correct  
6 one, do you think?
- 7 A. The right -- over to the right-hand section is the  
8 nearest.
- 9 Q. So is that the box then, the first box, as we go down  
10 the right-hand side that you are pointing to?
- 11 A. The second.
- 12 Q. The second box, thank you.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And, as you say, that is part of the main building?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. You also mention Roncalli House.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. You'll see towards the top right there's a reference to  
19 Roncalli House in a box and we've got the yellow line  
20 pointing down to a particular location. Is that where  
21 Roncalli House was?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. When you went in 1964 and -- do I take it that you were  
24 the sister in charge of St Joseph's?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Had you replaced another sister?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Can you remember who had been there before you?
- 4 A. Yes. It was Sister [REDACTED] HCC she's gone to her  
5 rest now.
- 6 Q. At a point in time, you moved from St Joseph's to  
7 Roncalli House. Did you replace another sister in  
8 Roncalli House?
- 9 A. No, actually, we were downsizing and there were a number  
10 of children already in Roncalli, but they were due to go  
11 home, so the numbers were going down then and we moved  
12 the children from St Joseph's over to Roncalli.
- 13 Q. I see. But had there been a sister in charge of  
14 Roncalli before you?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Can you remember who that was?
- 17 A. Sister [REDACTED] AHO
- 18 Q. Can I ask you generally, sister, what did you see your  
19 role to be as the sister in charge of these groups?
- 20 A. I was supposed to be able to look over the whole  
21 procedures of what was done with the children, how they  
22 were treated, how they were taught to do things, mainly.  
23 As one child said, a mothering situation.
- 24 Q. If I look then at the two areas separately for the  
25 moment, so far as St Joseph's was concerned, what



1 children did you have there? By that I mean did  
2 you have boys and girls or just one or the other?

3 A. No, boys and girls.

4 Q. Was there a particular age group that was being catered  
5 for in St Joseph's?

6 A. No. All ages from very young.

7 Q. So from very young to what?

8 A. Well, at that time they were 15, but later it was 17.

9 Q. Okay. When you went to Roncalli House, was the position  
10 the same, that you had boys and girls?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And that range of children; is that right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And just looking to numbers, looking at St Joseph's,  
15 what were the numbers that you were looking after when  
16 you went to St Joseph's?

17 A. Well, it could be up to 20.

18 Q. So far as Roncalli House is concerned, what was the  
19 position there?

20 A. Mainly the same.

21 Q. Did you have staff to assist you?

22 A. Oh yes, yes.

23 Q. In both places?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Can you remember how many staff you would have?

1 A. I remember the three -- there was always two staff on at  
2 a time.

3 Q. Can I just ask you a few questions, sister, about the  
4 general routine at Smyllum? Can I ask you, first of  
5 all, about how children were admitted to Smyllum. Do  
6 you know how it came to be that children would come to  
7 either of the groups that you had responsibility for?

8 A. Sometimes they came from other children's homes and then  
9 again there could be a time they came from their own  
10 home, which wasn't really very often. But when they  
11 came to us, we would first of all be asked if we had any  
12 places for children and then we would find out what  
13 group was able to take so many.

14 Q. So so far as a child, for example, being placed in  
15 Roncalli House would be concerned then, would that  
16 depend on there being a vacancy --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- in Roncalli House?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Would it be the Mother Superior who would decide then if  
21 the child would be placed there?

22 A. Not necessarily. We would meet and see how we could fit  
23 this child in, if it was going to be the best place for  
24 them.

25 Q. At that time when you were there, from 1967 onwards,

- 1           what was the position in relation to separating  
2           siblings?
- 3       A.   We always kept them together if possible.
- 4       Q.   Were there occasions when it would not be possible?
- 5       A.   Yes.  It could be if there was an older boy, he would go  
6           to another group; there was a group with mainly boys.  
7           Sometimes there would just be three out of five in your  
8           group and the other two in other groups that were able  
9           to take them.  But we were all so close it wasn't a big  
10          separation.
- 11       Q.   If you look at Roncalli House in particular, as we can  
12          see from the photograph, that is separate from the main  
13          building; is that right?
- 14       A.   Yes.
- 15       Q.   It was separate, whereas St Joseph's was not?
- 16       A.   No.
- 17       Q.   That was part of the main building?
- 18       A.   Uh-huh.
- 19       Q.   Can I ask you about mealtimes, sister, because this is  
20          something I think you were asked about when you gave  
21          your statement.  Let's look at the position in  
22          Roncalli House because I think you spent most of your  
23          time in Roncalli House.
- 24       A.   Yes.
- 25       Q.   What were the arrangements about meals there?

1 A. Well, we all ate together in the dining room. We all  
2 had breakfast. Sometimes it wasn't -- we weren't able  
3 to have breakfast together because of school times; some  
4 of the children had to travel. But we were to have  
5 lunch at lunchtime -- those who were in the primary  
6 school came for lunch. We always had dinner in the  
7 evening.

8 Q. Can I just ask you this: did you have the dining room  
9 then in-house, so to speak, in Roncalli House?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Perhaps I should also have asked you this in relation to  
12 the accommodation itself: how was the accommodation  
13 organised? By that I mean did you have a number of  
14 different rooms for different children?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Can you help me with that? How was it set up?

17 A. Well, we had one single room and then in the next room  
18 we had three beds, the next one was two, and then the  
19 boys -- we had a bigger room and the boys were in that  
20 room. Then we had another room with three and then  
21 another single.

22 Q. So you had a number of different rooms?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. With a number of different children in each of the  
25 rooms?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. How would you describe the food, sister, during your  
3 time at Smyllum?
- 4 A. The food was always very good. We had a good butcher  
5 who was in the town and it was all his own meat that we  
6 got. So it was very good food.
- 7 Q. Where was the food cooked?
- 8 A. In Roncalli House.
- 9 Q. Did you have your own kitchen in Roncalli House?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. There has been some suggestion in the course of the  
12 inquiry that the food could be inedible, that there  
13 could be lumpy porridge. Have you been made aware of  
14 that evidence, sister?
- 15 A. I didn't experience it.
- 16 Q. But have you --
- 17 A. I have heard of it, yes.
- 18 Q. You've been told of that evidence?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. There's also been evidence that children were made to  
21 eat their food even though they didn't want to.
- 22 A. Well, they were encouraged.
- 23 Q. How would they be encouraged?
- 24 A. Just that you can take your time, you don't need to  
25 rush, take your time and eat what you're able to eat, so

- 1 (inaudible) just a little even though it was just  
2 a little.
- 3 Q. Did you have children who didn't want to eat what they  
4 had been given?
- 5 A. I didn't come across that very often.
- 6 Q. But did you --
- 7 A. On the odd time.
- 8 Q. On the odd time?
- 9 A. On an odd time, but not --
- 10 Q. And did the child tell you why he or she didn't want to  
11 eat the food?
- 12 A. Well, one little boy came in and he had sausages for his  
13 lunch and he said, "I can't eat those", and I asked him  
14 why and I didn't know at that time, he was a coeliac, so  
15 he couldn't have the sausage meat.
- 16 Q. Sister, can I put this to you? There has been evidence  
17 at the inquiry that children were made to eat their food  
18 and indeed they were force-fed against their will. What  
19 do you say about that?
- 20 A. No, I couldn't see that being done.
- 21 Q. Well, I will take you to some evidence in due course,  
22 but I just want to get your general position at the  
23 moment. Were you yourself ever involved in that sort of  
24 practice?
- 25 A. No.

- 1 Q. Did you see anyone else trying to force-feed a child?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. One other suggestion has been that if a child didn't eat  
4 a meal at a particular mealtime, the food would be there  
5 again for the next meal; did that happen?
- 6 A. No. No.
- 7 Q. One thing you do tell us in your statement, sister --  
8 this is at paragraph 25 -- is that you always had  
9 bed-wetters.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Is that right?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. If we look at Roncalli House on a particular morning,  
14 would there be children who would have wet their beds?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. How was that organised then? What happened if a child  
17 or children wet their beds?
- 18 A. Well, if they wet their beds they gathered up the sheets  
19 and pyjamas. The children would get into a dressing  
20 gown and go for a bath.
- 21 Q. Okay.
- 22 A. The ones that wet the beds would be able to have a bath  
23 in the morning.
- 24 Q. At that time in Roncalli House, can I just understand  
25 what the set-up was with baths and showers? You're

1            talking about baths; you had baths available to you?

2        A.    Yes.

3        Q.    And how many baths?

4        A.    There was one in the boys and one in the girls.

5        Q.    And what about showers?

6        A.    Yes, we had just the showers off the taps.    The little

7            showers, they weren't big.

8        Q.    If we understand a shower to be a cubicle --

9        A.    Yes.

10       Q.    -- with -- pardon?

11       A.    It was just in the bath.

12       LADY SMITH:    You said it was "showers off the taps"; this

13            was a shower attachment on the bath taps?

14       A.    Yes.

15       MR MacAULAY:    So just to understand the process then, if

16            a child wet the bed you're saying that that child would

17            put his or her dressing gown on --

18       A.    Uh-huh.

19       Q.    -- and go and have a bath; is that correct?

20       A.    Yes.

21       Q.    The sheets, the wet sheets, what would happen to the wet

22            sheets?

23       A.    They would go down to the washroom.

24       Q.    Who would do that?

25       A.    Sometimes the child would just wrap them up and take



1           them down; other times it was the staff.

2       Q.   When the child did it then was that before or after the

3           bath?

4       A.   You would take them down before the bath.

5       Q.   Before the bath?

6       A.   Uh-huh.

7       Q.   Again, sister, you'll be aware that it has been

8           suggested in the inquiry that children who wet the bed

9           were, first of all, punished for wetting the bed. Does

10          that accord with your own experience at all?

11       A.   No.

12       Q.   That they could be humiliated with sheets, for example,

13          being put on their person.

14       A.   No, no, no.

15       Q.   I'm sorry?

16       A.   I never saw that done.

17       Q.   It never happened?

18       A.   Never.

19       Q.   Did children have their own personal possessions?

20       A.   Yes.

21       Q.   And did they have a place to keep them?

22       A.   Yes.

23       Q.   Where would they be kept?

24       A.   They would maybe have a drawer each or other ones would

25          have a shelf in the wardrobe.

- 1 Q. What sort of possessions do you remember they kept?
- 2 A. They didn't have very much and it would be some small  
3 toy that meant something to them or perhaps something  
4 that they'd brought from home and they would want to  
5 keep it. But there wasn't very much at all at any time.
- 6 Q. What about work? Were children allocated different  
7 tasks to do?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. Were they told to do anything at all?
- 10 A. Sometimes at the weekends they would tidy up their room.  
11 That would be about it. Because they were so fond of  
12 being out and playing that they did it as quickly as  
13 possible.
- 14 Q. Okay. What about tasks such as cleaning the laundry  
15 area? Would that be something that a child would do?
- 16 A. No, no. We had domestic staff.
- 17 Q. So that just wouldn't be something that would be  
18 allocated to one of the children?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. Can I ask you about birthdays, sister --
- 21 LADY SMITH: Just before you go to birthdays, what domestic  
22 staff, what type of domestic staff do you remember there  
23 being?
- 24 A. There were two ladies at one time. One lady would do  
25 upstairs and one would do downstairs.

- 1 LADY SMITH: Were they also responsible for the laundry?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 LADY SMITH: Who did the laundry?
- 4 A. The care staff.
- 5 LADY SMITH: So these are staff who also looked after the
- 6 children?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 LADY SMITH: Right, thank you.
- 9 MR MacAULAY: So looking at birthdays then, sister, were
- 10 birthdays always celebrated?
- 11 A. Always, yes.
- 12 Q. In what way?
- 13 A. Well, the child would usually ask -- invite some of
- 14 their friends to come over. They would be asked what
- 15 they would like for their birthday. They didn't always
- 16 get what they asked for, but as near as possible. Then
- 17 there was a tea -- we had a little party.
- 18 Q. How would you know that a child's birthday was due on
- 19 a particular date?
- 20 A. Well, we had the dates when they came in.
- 21 Q. Sorry, can I just understand that? You say when the
- 22 child was admitted --
- 23 A. Yes. Their birthday would be on the paper that we
- 24 received.
- 25 Q. Would you have any record of that in your own unit?

- 1 A. I would have that there, yes.
- 2 Q. What would you have?
- 3 A. We'd just have this -- we didn't have much, just the  
4 paper to say who the children were, the dates of birth,  
5 and where they'd come from.
- 6 Q. Was that a document that was kept --
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. -- let's say, for example, in Roncalli House itself?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Where was it kept?
- 11 A. It was kept in my room.
- 12 Q. So did you have that sort of information for every child  
13 then that you had --
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. -- in Roncalli House at that time?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. So do I take it, sister, then that you would be able to  
18 check to see when a birthday was due; is that right?
- 19 A. That's right. But you didn't have to do that very often  
20 because they were out first to tell you. The children  
21 would tell you.
- 22 Q. Are you saying children would always know when their  
23 birthday was due?
- 24 A. Yes, their own birthday.
- 25 Q. One of the topics you do address in your statement,

1           sister, is deaths at Smyllum. And there was  
2           a particular death during your time at Smyllum; is that  
3           right?

4           A. Yes.

5           Q. And that was a girl by the name of Patricia Meenan.

6           A. That's right.

7           Q. Insofar as Patricia was concerned, was she in  
8           Roncalli House?

9           A. She was, yes.

10          Q. So she was somebody under your care, your direct care?

11          A. Yes.

12          Q. Did she have siblings there or not?

13          A. No, no, she was by herself.

14          Q. Do you remember then what happened when she died?

15          A. Yes.

16          Q. What's your recollection of that?

17          A. She actually received a letter from her mother to say  
18          that she would come out and visit her at the weekend.  
19          The weekend came and went and the mum didn't appear. So  
20          she was really upset about it. She had a little friend  
21          in one of the other groups and the two of them decided  
22          to walk to Glasgow. So they set off and they were  
23          walking along the main road out of Lanark and Patricia  
24          was struck by a car.

25          Q. So far as leaving Smyllum was concerned, you say there

1           was Patricia and -- was it one other girl or more than  
2           one?

3           A. No, just one.

4           Q. Was she from a different house?

5           A. Yes.

6           Q. What you say in your statement, sister, the way you put  
7           is that -- and this is in paragraph 47 on page 1002.

8           You say:

9                     "They were going to walk to Glasgow. So they set  
10           out, decided to run away."

11          A. Yes.

12          Q. Was that the position, they were, to use the term you  
13          used yourself, running away from Smyllum?

14          A. That was the only time. I didn't have any others run  
15          away.

16          Q. But that's how you saw it?

17          A. Yes.

18          Q. That she was running away?

19          A. Yes. They were going to run away.

20          Q. You have told us that there was this tragic accident and  
21          she died.

22          A. Yes.

23          Q. So far as her friend was concerned, did she come back to  
24          Smyllum?

25          A. Yes. The police brought her back.

- 1 Q. What happened to her?
- 2 A. Well, she was in another house. She was upset at the  
3 time, but she wasn't injured at all.
- 4 Q. Did she stay on at Smyllum?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. I think you tell us, sister, that after Patricia died  
7 that you attended her funeral.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And that was in Glasgow and she was buried in a cemetery  
10 in Glasgow; is that correct?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Am I right in thinking -- and you can correct me if I'm  
13 wrong -- that during your time at Smyllum from 1967  
14 onwards there were no children who died and were buried  
15 in St Mary's Cemetery in Smyllum?
- 16 A. No. That was the only one.
- 17 Q. Can I ask you about visitors, sister. You look at that  
18 in paragraph 56 of your statement. You do tell us that  
19 there were children whose parents did visit.
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. How was that arranged then? What would happen?
- 22 A. Generally, it was weekends when the children were out of  
23 school, and the parent would come -- sometimes they  
24 would come around lunchtime. They would take their  
25 children out, maybe down town or to the loch. Sometimes

- 1           if the weather was bad they would stay at home, stay  
2           in the home, and just be there with them, really.
- 3       Q.   What about from the social work department, whether it  
4           was a welfare officer or social worker? Did you have  
5           visits from them?
- 6       A.   Yes.   Some children never had visits from them and  
7           others were quite good.
- 8       Q.   The social worker, let's use that description, would be  
9           coming to see a child or children that had been placed  
10          there by that local authority?
- 11      A.   Yes.
- 12      Q.   How was that managed? Would that be set up in advance  
13          by some form of arrangement?
- 14      A.   They would phone and say they would like to come out on  
15          such a day and they would come and they would talk to me  
16          and then they would have the children and sometimes they  
17          would take them out.
- 18      Q.   Did you have a means of recording, for example, visits  
19          by either family or social workers?
- 20      A.   I kept a calendar of the visits and who came to see what  
21          child.
- 22      Q.   What you say in your statement at paragraph 58 on  
23          page 1004 is:
- 24                 "There was no formal visitors' book. I used to keep  
25                 it in a --"



- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. "-- big book but I just got rid of everything when we  
3 left Smyllum. I always had a big diary where if  
4 anything happened in the day I'd just write it down."  
5 Do you see that?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Do I take it from that, that apart from the visits  
8 you've been telling us about, you would also make  
9 a record of things that happened in the course of the  
10 day within your section; is that right?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Can you give me some idea as to what sort of records  
13 you'd keep?
- 14 A. Mainly -- I would really only write it down if maybe  
15 something happened, like maybe if somebody had a tumble  
16 or I had to go to the doctor or down town to the dentist  
17 and we would just put all that down.
- 18 Q. Yes. Was this a process that you followed throughout  
19 your time at Smyllum?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. You were there for quite a considerable period of time.
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. You were there in fact until Smyllum closed in  
24 1981/1982; is that correct?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. So how many of these books had you completed by the time  
2 Smyllum came to close?
- 3 A. Well, I would have every year's diary, but anything that  
4 was -- that I really needed to keep, I would put it away  
5 in another place, a cupboard.
- 6 Q. Let's take it in bits. Let's start by way of an example  
7 with 1970. Would you have a 1970 diary; is that the way  
8 you did it?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Would you use that 1970 diary to make the sort of  
11 entries that you are telling us about?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Have I understood that correctly?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. When 1971 came along, you had a separate diary for 1971?
- 16 A. I would, yes.
- 17 Q. And so on and so forth?
- 18 A. Uh-huh.
- 19 Q. So by the end of your time there, did you have  
20 a collection of diaries to cover the period?
- 21 A. I didn't really, because some of them I just put out.  
22 There wasn't -- I took out from it anything that was of  
23 any weight and I would just destroy the diary.
- 24 Q. When would you destroy the diary?
- 25 A. Any old time, really. It would be in the New Year when

1 I was maybe transferring something from the one into the  
2 new one.

3 Q. So do I understand from that then that on an annual  
4 basis you would destroy a diary, the diary of the  
5 previous year?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Why did you destroy it?

8 A. Because I didn't want to keep piling them up. I took  
9 out of it what I needed, what I thought was important.

10 Q. What you say in your statement, if I go back to  
11 paragraph 58, is that:

12 "I used to keep it in a book, but I just got rid of  
13 everything when we left Smyllum."

14 A. Mm-hm.

15 Q. And I just wondered, looking to that, what are you  
16 talking about there when you say "everything"?

17 A. Just like taking a record of something, like these dates  
18 and things, the books, they were destroyed.

19 Q. I'm perhaps not understanding, but are you saying here  
20 that whatever you had by way of record --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- was destroyed when you came to leave Smyllum?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What did you have at that time that was destroyed?

25 A. It would just be a record of when the children came to

1 me, where they were from, and anything that happened  
2 during the year. Nothing big. If there was an outing  
3 somewhere, I would just take note of all these.

4 Q. Can you remember then, if I can perhaps approach it in  
5 this way, what was it that you actually did get rid of  
6 at that time when Smyllum came to close?

7 A. Nothing of any importance, really.

8 Q. Did you have at that time the kind of records of  
9 children that you've mentioned already as to when they  
10 were admitted and dates of birth and so on? Did  
11 you have that sort of record?

12 A. Maybe I should say this was only a book for myself.  
13 There was an official record taken that the sister in  
14 charge would have, the sister in charge of Smyllum.  
15 That would all be down in her records. Those were the  
16 records that would be kept, probably, and would go down  
17 to Mill Hill at the end.

18 Q. So I can be clear then in relation to what you had  
19 towards the latter part of your involvement in Smyllum,  
20 you'd have the diary you've been telling us about;  
21 is that correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You wouldn't have the diaries of previous years for the  
24 reasons you've told us about; is that right?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. What other documents would you have in your room that  
2 would relate to the children in your care?
- 3 A. Just medical cards or dentist ...
- 4 Q. So if you just look at these, medical cards and dental  
5 cards, what happened to these then when Smyllum came to  
6 close?
- 7 A. I can't remember.
- 8 Q. Are they included in the documentation that you say you  
9 got rid of?
- 10 A. No. No. Oh no. These would be held and probably the  
11 sister would have them with the main records.
- 12 Q. Although you said you couldn't remember, are you  
13 suggesting that that sort of material would have been  
14 handed over by you to the sister in charge?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Is that your position, sister?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. I don't want to put words in your mouth, but is that  
19 what you're saying? So I can be clear then, have we  
20 come to a point that so far as destruction of documents  
21 is concerned, you're really just talking about the diary  
22 that you kept yourself?
- 23 A. Yes. Yes.
- 24 Q. So the last diary you had is what you got rid of  
25 yourself; is that right?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Do I take it from what you said that apart from the  
3 diary, you also kept other material, other records,  
4 relevant to the children in your room?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. You've mentioned medical information, dental  
7 information; would there be any other information  
8 contained in these records?
- 9 A. No, there wasn't many. Maybe I would put a school  
10 report in with it.
- 11 Q. Can I just get some understanding as to how this  
12 material was being filed. Would you have a file for  
13 each child?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. So if you have 15 or 20 children, you'd have 15 or 20  
16 files?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. One for each child?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Were these files kept by you in your room?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. So do I take it that as time went on, from time to time,  
23 you would put entries into these files relating to the  
24 children in your care?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. So far as the files are concerned then, from what you  
2 said before, what is the position in relation to these  
3 files? What happened to them?

4 A. The sister in charge would get them.

5 Q. Okay. Do you remember handing over that sort of  
6 material to the sister in charge?

7 A. I don't really ...

8 Q. When you say she would get them --

9 A. I would give her them, I would hand them to her.

10 Q. That's what you would do, but I think what you're  
11 telling us, sister, is you don't actually remember doing  
12 that.

13 A. No.

14 Q. Is that fair?

15 A. Yes.

16 MR MacAULAY: What about inspections by someone in  
17 authority -- and I'm not looking at social workers, I'm  
18 looking at other forms of inspection. Were there any  
19 forms of inspection -- I think I'll save that question  
20 until later. We'll have a short break, I think,  
21 my Lady.

22 LADY SMITH: Very well. We'll take a break just now and  
23 somebody can let me know when it would be comfortable  
24 for you to continue, please, sister.

25 A. Thank you.

1 (12.09 pm)

2 (A short break)

3 (12.15 pm)

4 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

5 MR MacAULAY: I was going to move on to ask you about

6 inspections, sister, and whether you have any

7 recollection of there being -- I'm not looking here at

8 the social workers, but general inspectors from --

9 someone from a place of authority coming to inspect the

10 premises. Do you have any recollection of that?

11 A. I don't remember inspections. The only one I remember

12 was the firemen.

13 Q. The firemen?

14 A. The firemen.

15 Q. For a fire inspection?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can I just go back to one little part of your evidence;

18 I've been asked to clarify this. The difference between

19 yourself -- you're the sister in charge of, let's say,

20 Roncalli House --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- you have care staff who are answerable to you;

23 is that correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. I can't remember, did you tell me if it was two or three



1 people?

2 A. It was three, three ladies, yes.

3 Q. And they're really helping you with the care of the

4 children?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You also mentioned that you had domestic staff.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What were their responsibilities?

9 A. They were really just for the house and cleaning.

10 Q. So you're distinguishing between care staff and domestic

11 staff?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Just so far as the laundry work was concerned, because

14 that's something you did mention, did you say it was the

15 care staff who would deal with the laundry?

16 A. Yes, they did it.

17 Q. Not the --

18 A. That was their choice.

19 Q. Not the domestic staff?

20 A. No, no.

21 Q. If we go back to your statement, sister, it's the page

22 on the board, 1004, paragraph 62, you're addressing

23 there what the position was in relation to the review of

24 the care of children. What you say is:

25 "I am not aware of there being any procedure within

1 Smyllum to review a child's continued residence at  
2 Smyllum."

3 Do you see that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. That's what you say. Was that the position, there  
6 wasn't some sort of system whereby the progress of  
7 a child could be reviewed on a regular basis?

8 A. No, I don't remember it being reviewed other than if  
9 we were just -- if I was talking to Sister EAL who  
10 was in charge of the whole house of Smyllum, we would  
11 maybe -- we would talk about it then. But other than  
12 that, there wasn't a procedure, really.

13 Q. You do mention there that you would talk to a social  
14 worker, but that's of course if a social worker came --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- because you've told us that some did not come.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You were asked some questions about who might have  
19 access to the children at Smyllum. This is on  
20 page 1005. For example, one of the things you tell us  
21 is that students for the priesthood would come in the  
22 summertime and they would have access to the children;  
23 is that correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. One thing you were asked also, and you address this at

1 paragraph 69, is whether there were any arrangements to  
2 check to see whether anyone who had contact with the  
3 children was a suitable person. You were asked about  
4 that. Do you see that?

5 "I am asked whether there were any arrangements to  
6 check whether people who had contact with the children  
7 were suitable. There would need to be. For instance,  
8 some people would take maybe one or two children at  
9 weekends. They would be in touch with the sister in the  
10 group and then it would have to go to Sister EAL "

11 Do you see that?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So there were times when children would go with other  
14 people at the weekends?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. But what you say is the practice seemed to be that  
17 it would be the parish priest who would be contacted to  
18 recommend these people?

19 A. Often that's the way it was.

20 Q. That's the way it was?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Thank you. Can I then ask you a little bit about when  
23 it came for children to leave Smyllum. Looking to your  
24 time at Smyllum, sister, over the period of quite  
25 a considerable number of years, clearly there would have

1           been children from, say, Roncalli House who would have  
2           left.

3           A. Yes.

4           Q. That would in itself create a vacancy and another child  
5           or children might come in.

6           A. Yes.

7           Q. So there was a sort of an ongoing process of children  
8           leaving and children coming in?

9           A. Mm-hm.

10          Q. Is that correct?

11          A. Yes, that is right.

12          Q. What was the procedure then when a child came to leave?

13          A. Well, there would need to be preparations put in place,  
14          first of all, as to where the child was going because  
15          there was a number of them went back home again. Some  
16          had to go to a hostel but -- there would be ... The  
17          children who would have to go into a hostel, they would  
18          be taken in to visit it on a couple of occasions.

19          Q. Would the decision for a child to go be quite a sudden  
20          one?

21          A. No, no.

22          Q. Do you say there would be ongoing preparations?

23          A. Yes.

24          Q. Could it appear sudden from the perspective of the  
25          child? Could it simply be to the child one day it

1           appears that he or she is leaving Smyllum? Could that  
2           have been the case?

3           A. I don't think so, no.

4           Q. You're then asked for your statement in connection --  
5           you're asked about discipline and punishment, sister.  
6           Can I just ask you about the first sentence you mention  
7           there. That is:

8                     "I don't remember anything about punishment, not  
9           even the word."

10          A. Mm-hm, yes.

11          Q. What do you mean by that?

12          A. Nobody would talk about being punished.

13          Q. Okay. Well, how were children disciplined if they  
14          misbehaved?

15          A. Generally, they would get a little job to do and they  
16          would be deprived of the television if there was  
17          something on, or they would be sent upstairs to tidy  
18          their drawer or their locker, whatever, or maybe even to  
19          shine the shoes, polish the shoes.

20          Q. What about some physical punishment?

21          A. No, there wasn't really physical punishment.

22          Q. Was there any physical punishment at all?

23          A. Not at all, no.

24          Q. Did you yourself --

25          A. There wasn't.

- 1 Q. Did you yourself see the need, for example, to slap  
2 a child?
- 3 A. No --
- 4 Q. Did you see any child -- sorry, I interrupted.
- 5 A. They were as normal as we could expect them to be, being  
6 deprived, but there wasn't anything happened to them  
7 that needed to be punished physically.
- 8 Q. Right. Just to be clear, sister, is it your position  
9 that you yourself in no way ever physically punished  
10 a child?
- 11 A. I didn't.
- 12 Q. Did you see any other person within Smyllum physically  
13 punish a child?
- 14 A. No, no. I never did. Strange now as it may seem, but  
15 I never, ever saw a child being punished physically like  
16 that, being punched or whatever, beaten or anything.
- 17 Q. Let's just take a simple slap across the wrist or across  
18 the hand; did you see that happen on the odd occasion?
- 19 A. Not really. I saw it once, but it was a little  
20 fellow -- he was 2 or 3 and he was being very bold and  
21 one of the staff took his hand and was telling him what  
22 he had done and how wrong it was, but I never even saw  
23 the slap of his hand.
- 24 Q. So you are saying that a member of staff took this  
25 child's hand --

1 A. Took him aside to tell him what he had done. He wasn't  
2 taking it on board.

3 Q. Did you have any guidance as to how children should be  
4 disciplined?

5 A. There was no guidance, but I mean, it was just common  
6 sense, really. You had to -- and with the experience of  
7 the childcare course, you know, there wasn't really the  
8 need.

9 Q. We are in an era in the 1960s and into the 1970s where  
10 corporal punishment was still something that took place.  
11 Are you saying, sister, so I can understand this fully,  
12 that although you had all these children there at  
13 Smyllum, you never, ever saw a child receiving what one  
14 might describe as a form of corporal punishment?

15 A. I never -- I never did.

16 Q. So far as the discipline you have mentioned is  
17 concerned, like depriving a child of something like  
18 television, for example, would you make a record of that  
19 for your purposes in your unit?

20 A. No, I wouldn't really.

21 Q. Would that be something you would put into your diary,  
22 the diary you've mentioned?

23 A. Only if it was something very serious. I wouldn't ...

24 Q. Have you any recollection of any serious incident that  
25 you had to record?

1 A. No.

2 Q. So there was nothing then?

3 A. No.

4 LADY SMITH: A few moments ago you talked about the child  
5 who had done something wrong possibly being punished by  
6 having to polish shoes.

7 A. Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: If that was happening, was the child having to  
9 polish more than their own shoes?

10 A. Usually, yes.

11 LADY SMITH: How many pairs of shoes?

12 A. Maybe the boys', that would be five.

13 LADY SMITH: Why the boys' shoes?

14 A. Well, if it was a boy who was ...

15 LADY SMITH: And if it was a girl, would she have to polish  
16 the girls' shoes?

17 A. No, no, she didn't do shoes. She'd maybe do some little  
18 thing around the house.

19 LADY SMITH: What sort of thing?

20 A. Tidying up or she could maybe even -- if it was one of  
21 the bigger girls, they would be -- they might just want  
22 to iron something, do some ironing.

23 MR MacAULAY: When you were at Smyllum, sister, I think you  
24 do tell us early on in your statement that your name at  
25 that time was Sister AEG is that correct?



- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. But were you also known as Sister [REDACTED] AEG
- 3 A. Not really to the children. I was only [REDACTED] AEG for
- 4 about three days. That was because I was [REDACTED] AEG
- 5 before I came to Smyllum but there was already a sister
- 6 there who was [REDACTED] AEG so I took [REDACTED] AEG
- 7 Q. The sister who was there and was [REDACTED] AEG when you got
- 8 to Smyllum, what was her role?
- 9 A. She was retired.
- 10 Q. So she had no involvement with the children?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. So if I go back to your statement then, sister, on
- 13 page 0994 at paragraph 1 -- it'll come on the screen for
- 14 you. I'm looking at the first paragraph. You tell us
- 15 your name and what that next sentence says is:
- 16 "I was also known as Sister [REDACTED] AEG In 1967
- 17 I became known as Sister [REDACTED] AEG
- 18 So that's what you're saying, when you got there
- 19 you, as it were, shortened the [REDACTED] AEG to [REDACTED] AEG
- 20 Is that what happened?
- 21 A. That is right.
- 22 Q. Was that the rule in a sense, that if there was an older
- 23 sister with the same name, that the younger sister would
- 24 be required to change her name?
- 25 A. Not necessarily.

1 Q. But in any event, you did?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. I want then to look at some evidence with you, sister,  
4 that the inquiry has presented to it and ask for your  
5 comments in connection with certain allegations that are  
6 directed to yourself. Do you follow me on that?

7 Can I just say to you, sister -- and perhaps this  
8 can be pointed out to you -- in the red folder in front  
9 of you, if this can be opened up for you, you will see  
10 there, if you look at the first main box, you'll see  
11 there's a heading on the left "Pseudonym" and on the  
12 right "Applicant/witness name"; do you see that, sister?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. The way that this is designed to work is that on the  
15 right-hand side you can see the name of the applicant or  
16 the witness; do you see that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And on the left you can see the pseudonym that that  
19 witness has chosen to use to protect his or her  
20 anonymity in the inquiry; do you understand that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So when I ask you, for example, about a person whose  
23 pseudonym was "Pat", you can then look to see the name  
24 that I'm referring to. You mustn't mention the name,  
25 but you'll see who the name is and whether or not you

- 1           recognise the name. Do you follow me?
- 2       A. Yes.
- 3       Q. Thank you. Indeed, it's that particular person, Pat,  
4           that I want to discuss with you first of all. Is that  
5           a name you recognise, sister?
- 6       A. Yes.
- 7       Q. Are you aware that Pat has given evidence to the  
8           inquiry?
- 9       A. Yes.
- 10      Q. According to Pat's evidence, he was admitted to Smyllum  
11      on [REDACTED] 1962. That would have been before you  
12      were there; is that correct? You were in 1963, I think  
13      you said.
- 14      A. Yes. I was 1967.
- 15      Q. I'm sorry, 1967.
- 16      A. Yes.
- 17      Q. He said in his evidence, because he was so young when  
18      he was admitted -- he was born in 1959 -- that he really  
19      only started remembering things from Smyllum when he was  
20      about 6 or 7, which would be 1965/1966. Do you follow  
21      that?
- 22      A. Yes.
- 23      Q. Pat left Smyllum in about 1974.
- 24      A. Yes.
- 25      Q. So you can see from that that he was there for a period

1 of years when you were there.

2 A. Uh-huh.

3 Q. If I take you to his evidence -- and this'll come on the  
4 screen for you, sister. I'll give the transcript number  
5 for the transcript, first of all, and that's  
6 TRN.001.002.0696.

7 We have on the screen what is page 93 and relates to  
8 page 0788 of the transcript.

9 That where we see where Pat begins his evidence.  
10 You see that on the screen. If I can take you to  
11 page 97 -- that's 0792 for the transcript -- you'll see  
12 towards the top of the page, sister, at line number 2,  
13 that Pat is asked the question:

14 "Were you in a particular location within Smyllum?"

15 He says:

16 "Yes, I was in a place called Roncalli House."

17 Do you remember Pat being in Roncalli House during  
18 your time?

19 A. I don't remember him in Roncalli. I do remember him in  
20 St Joseph's.

21 Q. That was where you were at the beginning?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. He certainly gave evidence that so far as he was  
24 concerned, his first recollection is being in Roncalli.  
25 I think you told us that children from St Joseph's did

1           move to Roncalli.

2       A.   Yes.

3       Q.   But you do remember who --

4       A.   Well, I know who he is, yes.

5       Q.   He does go on to say there that he was in

6           Roncalli House:

7                 "My sisters and brothers were in different houses."

8           I think you indicated that could be the case,

9           depending on space.

10      A.   It could be, but as it happens it was just the eldest

11         girl was in St Mary's group and the other four were with

12         me.

13      Q.   Very well.  That's his recollection, in any event.  You

14         say that's not according to your own recollection.

15      A.   No.

16      Q.   But if I take you to page 99 -- and that's the

17         transcript at 0794 -- he's asked there at line number 15

18         about who was in charge and he says:

19                 "Her name was Sister AEG ."

20         Do you see that?

21      A.   Yes.

22      Q.   We know by now that you were known as Sister AEG

23         but can you understand why a young boy might also think

24         that AEG and AEG are something of the same

25         thing?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. If we look at page 100 -- and this is page 0795 of the  
3 transcript -- I just want to get your comments on this  
4 particular part of his evidence, because at line  
5 number 6 he's asked:

6 "You have mentioned this already --"

7 And the paragraph is actually on the screen,  
8 paragraph 14:

9 "You say that:

10 "'The home was run by the Daughters of Charity. The  
11 place was grim.'"

12 "Can you help me with that?"

13 And his answer is this:

14 "Just like I was saying before, it was just -- there  
15 was no happiness. Everybody just -- you looked after  
16 yourself basically. You were just hoping you weren't  
17 going to get slapped or punched that day or beaten that  
18 day for any particular reason. You just very much kept  
19 to yourself."

20 What do you say about that, sister?

21 A. Well, that's not true. It's not true. It was a very  
22 happy place and it was always bright.

23 Q. So you just say that's totally wrong?

24 A. Totally untrue.

25 Q. I didn't take you to the passages, but he tells us that

1 he spent his whole time in Roncalli House. You're not  
2 very clear about that, are you?

3 A. No, I don't remember him in Roncalli.

4 Q. He also says -- and this is on page 101 at  
5 transcript 0796 and it's at line number 19 -- that his  
6 chore was cleaning the laundry. In light of what you  
7 said before, that contradicts your evidence, sister.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What do you make of that?

10 A. Just that he never did it. I don't remember him in  
11 Roncalli.

12 Q. I think what you told me before is that cleaning the  
13 laundry was not a task that someone would be doing.

14 A. No, not the children.

15 Q. Did you say to me earlier that you do remember that his  
16 brothers may have been in Roncalli or did  
17 I misunderstand that?

18 A. No, I don't remember the girl who's been in Roncalli.

19 Q. We don't want the names, but you don't remember this  
20 particular family being in Roncalli?

21 A. No.

22 Q. I think you did blurt out a name there that will be  
23 redacted from the transcript.

24 Can I just take you to this passage in this witness'  
25 evidence at page 102; it's transcript 0797 He's asked

1 at line number 8 about getting up in the morning and  
2 what would happen if you wet the bed. He says this:

3 "Answer: Wet the bed? Me personally, I was  
4 a bed-wetter, so I can tell you. We were actually made  
5 to lie in your bed for about an hour after it. It  
6 varied. Sometimes they would put the sheet over your  
7 head and you were made to lie, but personally I was made  
8 just to lie in my bed. I mean, my legs were all chapped  
9 and God knows what else, red raw, and it is as if you  
10 were a leper, you what I mean. They treated us so  
11 different if we wet the bed. I was brought up that way,  
12 so I didn't think it was anything different. But  
13 I mean, I wet the bed until I was about 14."

14 Now, he's talking there about the practice in  
15 Roncalli, according to him, and this is not unique to  
16 this individual; there are other witnesses who describe  
17 a similar sort of practice. There are differences.  
18 What do you say to that, sister?

19 A. Well, of course it's obvious it was all wrong. It was  
20 never done like that. As I've said already, when the  
21 children got up, they just pulled the sheets down, left  
22 them on their bed, and then we got them taken away. But  
23 there was no lying in wet sheets after they were wakened  
24 up.

25 Q. He goes on to say on the next page at 103, 0798 --



1 if we perhaps just put that on the screen -- that:  
2 "Sometimes you were told, 'Get that sheet over your  
3 head'."

4 You say that never happened?

5 A. Never happened.

6 Q. And that the children would wash their own sheets, he  
7 goes on to tell us that.

8 A. No, they never did, no.

9 Q. Did you yourself, sister, deal with children to see if  
10 they had lice in their hair?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And what was your practice in relation to that?

13 A. Their hair had to be washed and fine-combed and, as many  
14 have said, the fine comb sometimes had to be a steel  
15 fine comb, which was only for the sake of keeping the  
16 children clean.

17 Q. Would this be something that you yourself would do?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What about other members of staff? Would they do this  
20 or would this be really seen as your job?

21 A. No, I would really do that.

22 Q. So he does talk about that process and if I can take you  
23 to page 104. For the transcript that's 0799 It's at  
24 number 3. He's asked:  
25 "Question: You also mention hygiene in your

1 statement and in particular that there was a particular  
2 day that your hair would be checked for lice.

3 "Answer: That is correct.

4 "Question: Can you tell me about that process?

5 "Answer: What it was they would bring you into --  
6 where the wash hand basins were and they would have  
7 a metal comb.

8 "Question: Who had this?

9 "Answer: Sister [REDACTED] AEG She done it all the  
10 time."

11 And so far you would agree with that, sister, that  
12 it was you who'd do that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. He goes on to say:

15 "Answer: It was always Sister [REDACTED] AEG who done  
16 it. She would put you on her knee and then she would  
17 put this comb right through your head until you bled,  
18 I mean -- and I mean your head was red."

19 What about that, did you do it as strenuously as  
20 he's suggesting?

21 A. No, the strange thing is the boys very seldom ever  
22 needed a steel comb. It was always the girls, the long  
23 hair. Not the boys. So the boys -- I don't remember  
24 the boys getting a steel comb.

25 Q. But boys, knowing how lice and nits behave, would not be

1           immune from requiring some attention for that.

2           A. No, but their hair was short, so it was easy to keep

3           clean.

4           Q. Although you don't remember it, sister, are you saying

5           that you never dealt with a boy with the steel comb?

6           A. I couldn't say never. I don't know.

7           LADY SMITH: As Mr MacAulay says, boys are just as

8           susceptible to head lice, and one of the problems is the

9           eggs that wrap themselves round the hair shafts, isn't

10          it --

11          A. Yes.

12          LADY SMITH: -- even on the short hair that a boy might have

13          once the nits are in the head?

14          A. Mm-hm.

15          LADY SMITH: So a nit comb would often be the best thing to

16          help get them out, wouldn't it?

17          A. Yes, it would be.

18          LADY SMITH: And fingernails? Did you ever use that?

19          A. No.

20          LADY SMITH: Fingernails drawn along the shaft of the hair,

21          no?

22          A. No.

23          MR MacAULAY: One other aspect of hygiene that this witness

24          does look at is bathing. Can I just put to you what he

25          says about that. It's at page 105, and on the

1 transcript that's at 0800 This is at line number 21,  
2 if I can look to line 21 towards the bottom. He is  
3 asked:

4 "Question: Can I just remain with hygiene and look  
5 at bathing then. What happened when it was the night  
6 for a bath?

7 "Answer: A bath was -- when it was -- they ran the  
8 bath and they used to put you in a queue and what  
9 happened was if you were in first you were going to get  
10 scalded. I mean [and if we move on to the next page at  
11 106] you could hear the kids screaming that were at the  
12 front and, see, by the time you got to the end of the  
13 bath, if you were at the end of the bath, it was  
14 black -- and I mean black -- and obviously people had  
15 been wetting themselves and God knows what else -- and  
16 you learned as you got older to try and get into the  
17 middle of the bath, whereby the bath would be lukewarm  
18 by the time you got to it. But if you were in first,  
19 you were getting scalded and there was no doubt about  
20 it. It never changed. Sister AEG could see  
21 these kids screaming and crying their eyes out and she  
22 would never bat an eyelid. She would not bat an  
23 eyelid."

24 This is quite a serious description of this  
25 particular process. What do you say about all of this?

- 1 A. To begin with there was never a queue for bathing.
- 2 Q. What about this notion of the bathwater being scalding  
3 hot at the beginning of the process and then cooling  
4 down as the baths went on? Did that happen?
- 5 A. Every child's bath was individual. They all had their  
6 own baths. There was no sharing the bath or -- although  
7 I must say that there was a wee family and they had two  
8 boys and they used to get in with one another. But on  
9 the whole the children had their own baths.
- 10 Q. So you disagree with what this witness has said?
- 11 A. Yes, yes.
- 12 Q. Was there a procedure whereby children's underpants  
13 would be checked?
- 14 A. They were changed every day, the children's clothes.
- 15 Q. What about the underpants? Was there any procedure  
16 whereby a child would have to show his underpants to see  
17 to what extent they might have been soiled?
- 18 A. No, no, no.
- 19 Q. That never happened?
- 20 A. No, never.
- 21 Q. So if I can take you to page 108, what this witness says  
22 about that -- that's transcript 0803 and the exchanges  
23 begin at line number 11, where he's asked about  
24 underpants being checked. He says:  
25 "Answer: It was just every week you had to get your

1 underpants checked."

2 And it was a Thursday. He goes on to say:

3 "Answer: Once again you were told to go in a queue.  
4 You were actually told to produce your underpants and if  
5 there were marks on your underpants -- she had this  
6 thing -- it was like a thing you would hang your habit  
7 up in, a big coat hanger, but it was really thick  
8 because their habits were very heavy. She would just  
9 crack you right across the head with it or right across  
10 your face, whatever was at hand. If you had marks [over  
11 the page at 109] you were going to get a crack against  
12 your face, guaranteed, from Sister AEG

13 So he's describing here a process where underpants  
14 are being checked and if they failed the inspection,  
15 there's a degree of physical chastisement using this  
16 coat hanger. What do you say about all of that?

17 A. As I say I never, ever heard such nonsense. There was  
18 no checking of underpants and the children's clothes  
19 were -- their underwear was changed every day.

20 Q. Okay. So this and indeed the other passages I've taken  
21 you to, sister, you would say, would you, these are pure  
22 invention?

23 A. Mm-hm, yes.

24 Q. Did you have a process whereby you would clean  
25 children's nails using a cocktail stick?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Is that something you might have done on occasion?

3 A. No, never.

4 Q. Are you sure about that?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Because again, this witness does give evidence about  
7 that and that's on page 109. For the transcript, it's  
8 **0804** It's at line numbers 19 and 20:  
9 "Question: You also mention cleaning your nails --  
10 "Answer: Yes, that was with like a cocktail stick,  
11 but she stuck it so far under it was absolute agony and  
12 they used to rip it. They wouldn't do it gently. She  
13 would stick it in, rip right across -- and your nails  
14 would be bleeding, basically."  
15 And he goes on on the next page to say that he is  
16 talking about you, sister, for that process.

17 A. Mm-hm.

18 Q. So from what you have said to me already, this sort of  
19 practice just did not happen at all?

20 A. Never.

21 LADY SMITH: Did you clean children's nails?

22 A. The children's nails -- when they were bathed, we used  
23 to see if they needed their nails cut. When we were  
24 cutting the nails, they were cleaned to make sure then  
25 they were scrubbed clean.

1 LADY SMITH: So your only way of cleaning children's nails  
2 was to cut them?

3 A. No, no.

4 LADY SMITH: All right. If children had dirty nails, what  
5 did you do to clean them?

6 A. You used the nail scrubber.

7 MR MacAULAY: Sorry, just to be absolutely clear then,  
8 something like a cocktail stick -- and one can imagine  
9 how a cocktail stick, if used carefully, might be used  
10 to clean a child's nails -- that was never used?

11 A. Never, never.

12 Q. The other aspect of life in Smyllum this witness also  
13 talks about is to do with the food. I've already raised  
14 this with you, sister. If we turn to page 111 -- for  
15 the transcript that's at 0806 -- and at line number 8  
16 he is asked about the food. He says at line 10:

17 "Answer: Well, it was inedible to say the least.  
18 I mean, in the morning it was called porridge -- it may  
19 have been porridge but it was just like golf balls. You  
20 just chewed it. If you didn't eat it they force-fed  
21 you. They would hold you and get -- it was usually  
22 a big metal spoon -- and just force-feed you. We were  
23 choking, basically choking at the time and she would  
24 still force-feed that until that porridge was finished."

25 And again he identifies you as being involved



1 in that process, sister. Do you see that's the next  
2 sentence?

3 I have raised this with you already: what do you say  
4 about this description of what happened to this child?

5 A. It was -- they only had porridge in the wintertime.  
6 They always had cereal at other times. But I never saw  
7 the porridge lumpy and not being able to be taken.

8 Q. Perhaps before we break for lunch, if I can just take  
9 you to another passage in this person's evidence. This  
10 is at page 114. The transcript is 0809 I'm looking  
11 towards the bottom of the page where he's asked some  
12 questions about birthdays and how they were celebrated.  
13 He is asked at line 18:

14 "Question: Can I ask you then about birthdays?  
15 Were birthdays celebrated.

16 "Answer: No.

17 "Question: Did you know what your date of birth  
18 was?

19 "Answer: Believe it or not, they thought my date of  
20 birth was [REDACTED] but it wasn't. I won't say it but  
21 it was a different date. All the years I thought it was  
22 a certain date until I found out actually when I left,  
23 so I didn't celebrate it. We were told that was your  
24 birthday and that was it."

25 What do you say about that? Leaving aside the wrong

1 date that he seems to be focusing upon, you're simply  
2 told it was your birthday and that was the end of it.  
3 You disagree with that?

4 A. No, that wasn't true.

5 Q. Sorry?

6 A. That wasn't true. I mean, they knew when their birthday  
7 was coming and there was always preparation because  
8 there would be a birthday cake made and they would have  
9 their party.

10 MR MacAULAY: Very well, sister.

11 My Lady, we're at 1 o'clock. So that might be  
12 a useful time to stop for lunch.

13 LADY SMITH: We'll stop now for the lunch break, sister, and  
14 I will sit again at 2 o'clock.

15 (1.00 pm)

16 (The lunch adjournment)

17 (2.00 pm)

18 MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, sister.

19 A. Good afternoon.

20 Q. Before the break I'd been asking you questions about  
21 evidence given to the inquiry by the witness that is  
22 known as Pat. If I can just return to other aspects of  
23 the evidence he gave -- again I'll just put this on the  
24 screen for you, sister. It's the transcript and I want  
25 to look at page 0814; that will be page 119.

1           Towards the bottom of that page, the witness is  
2 asked the question:

3           "Question: I think you do run away once from  
4 Smyllum."

5           And then moving over the page to the next page, 120  
6 or **0815** he said:

7           "Answer: Yes.

8           "Question: Why are you running away?

9           "Answer: I just couldn't handle it any more."

10          He goes on to say:

11          "I think we were about 13."

12          And he talks about what happened and running away  
13 with another pal.

14          I understand, sister, from what you said to me  
15 earlier on that you didn't think any child in your care  
16 had run away from Smyllum.

17          A. No. No one.

18          Q. Did this ring any bells with you, that this particular  
19 child may have run away?

20          A. No.

21          Q. If we look towards the bottom of that particular page  
22 that's on the screen, that's page 120, he's asked at  
23 line number 20 onwards to tell the inquiry what happened  
24 and he goes on to say at line 23:

25          "Answer: She just got ahold of us and she used to

1 have this -- it was like a clothes brush -- she used to  
2 keep it in her habit. And they had got it down to a T.  
3 What they did was [and moving on to the next page 121 or  
4 0816 they'd hit you in the head and so you'd  
5 automatically go to protect yourself and then she would  
6 hit you in the elbow and she would just do that  
7 (indicates) and that was constant."

8 And as we can see from the evidence, he gave some  
9 indication as to what happened. And he confirms that  
10 this was yourself, sister, that inflicted this  
11 punishment on him. Was there any truth in that?

12 A. No truth in that.

13 Q. What about the reference to the hairbrush?

14 A. I don't know. He says I was carrying a --

15 Q. It was a clothes brush, actually. What about that?

16 Could there be any possibility that you used a clothes  
17 brush or a brush of some kind?

18 A. No, no.

19 Q. If we move on quickly to -- for the transcript it's 0820  
20 and it's on page 125. If we look towards the bottom,  
21 line 21, he's confirmed before that that it was really  
22 Sister AEG that would deal with him and then he  
23 says -- he's asked:

24 "Question: I think what you seem to be saying is,  
25 over a period of years, until you got a bit older and

1 into your early teens, you received beatings from her?

2 "Answer: That's correct."

3 So it's not just one or two instances, sister; he's  
4 talking about over a period of time. Is that all  
5 untrue?

6 A. It is all untrue.

7 Q. If you move on to the next page, 126, at line number 17,  
8 where he says at one point:

9 "Answer: Like I say, she had this clothes brush.  
10 That was her favourite kind of weapon of choice, can  
11 I say? I mean she had that all the time. She used to  
12 have it under her sleeve and she would take that out  
13 and, like I was telling you, she had it down to a T  
14 where she was hitting you on the head and on hitting you  
15 on the elbow. That was a daily occurrence -- not just  
16 me, but other people as well."

17 So it's not just him that he's talking about,  
18 sister. This was something that was regular, according  
19 to this evidence.

20 A. But it's not true.

21 Q. He told us about one episode where you'd been on holiday  
22 and he was quite badly burnt by the sun and he had water  
23 blisters and that at a point in time, you, as he put it,  
24 set about him and slapped him and burst every one of his  
25 blisters. Do you have any recollection of that, sister?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Is that possible that that could have happened?

3 A. I don't think that is possible.

4 Q. Then he gave what sounded like a disturbing account of  
5 what he referred to I think as the worst beating he had.  
6 Can I just ask you about that? That's on page 129 of  
7 the transcript at page 0824

8 What he tells us at line number 9, having told us  
9 this was the worst beating, was that:

10 "Answer: There was a carry-on and I threw a cushion  
11 on them and I burst a wee lamp or a headlight, a light  
12 that was in or out of the room. I knew right away --  
13 I started crying before and everybody just separated.  
14 They knew what was coming."

15 What he is telling us here is he does something he  
16 shouldn't have done, he breaks this light, and he knows  
17 what's going to happen and he starts crying before  
18 anything happens. You'll see that is what he's saying.  
19 Is this invention on his part, sister? Is he making it  
20 up?

21 A. I have no knowledge of it.

22 Q. Pardon, sister?

23 A. I have no knowledge of this happening.

24 Q. If we look at line number 19 what he says is:

25 "She came, dragged us down to the launderette, which

1 is at the bottom of orphanage where we were in  
2 Roncalli House, told me to strip naked, and she left  
3 [me] in there for about three hours."

4 Was that there the launderette was? Was it at the  
5 bottom of the orphanage?

6 A. Yes, downstairs.

7 Q. What about this, being taken to the launderette and  
8 being stripped?

9 A. Never. It never, ever happened.

10 Q. I think he says he was 11 or 10 when that happened.

11 Then moving on to the next page, 130, for the  
12 transcript 0825

13 "Answer: She came back down. Now my feet were blue  
14 with the cold. And she just walked in and stamped right  
15 on my feet I let out a scream. I kind of touched her to  
16 push her away and that seemed to send her into  
17 overdrive. She pulled out the brush and started to beat  
18 me -- and I mean this wasn't just a wee -- this was  
19 constantly. She had to actually stop at within point as  
20 she was absolutely exhausted, stopped -- maybe just --  
21 and I'm sort of lying there crying my eyes out, lying on  
22 the bare floor, naked, and the next minute she just got  
23 the brush and started beating me again."

24 So again, sister, this is quite a serious type of  
25 assault that he's describing; what do you say?

- 1 A. It certainly never happened. Never happened.
- 2 Q. I think his position was that because of the beating his  
3 ear was damaged and he had to go to hospital and that he  
4 still is totally deaf to this day because of what  
5 happened; is he making all of this up, sister?
- 6 A. It's all made up.
- 7 Q. The final point I want to put to you in relation to this  
8 particular witness is at page 133, that's  
9 transcript 0828. This is to come back to a point  
10 I raised with you earlier about when children came to  
11 leave Smyllum. Because what he says there when he's  
12 asked at line number 7:  
13 "Question: Were you told that you were leaving?"  
14 "Answer: No, I got told to come to the launderette  
15 and my bags were packed and I was told that was me  
16 finished at the orphanage. I got put into another -- it  
17 was called a boys' hostel."  
18 On the basis of that he seems to have been just told  
19 there and then he was leaving and off he went. You say  
20 that's not your recollection?
- 21 A. No. The thing was, he had a brother and two sisters  
22 in the same house. When those children came, they came  
23 because the parents had died.
- 24 Q. I'm sorry, sister?
- 25 A. The parents had both died and the children were living



1 with an aunt, but she had her own family and that is why  
2 they came. But they were going back to Edinburgh again,  
3 to this aunt. I don't remember him going to the hostel.

4 Q. Very well. Can I leave him aside, sister, and look at  
5 what another witness said to the inquiry in connection  
6 with you. If you go back to the folder again, the  
7 witness I want to ask you about is the witness who has  
8 taken the pseudonym "Patrick". Do you see that on the  
9 left-hand side?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And you'll see his name on the right-hand side. Again,  
12 please don't mention his name because he wants to remain  
13 anonymous. Is that a name you recognise?

14 A. Oh yes.

15 Q. Well, let's just look at what Patrick had to tell the  
16 inquiry. The transcript begins at TRN.001.002. 1340  
17 While we're waiting for the transcript to come up,  
18 sister, can I ask you this: is it the case that this  
19 person, Patrick, did visit you --

20 A. Mm-hm.

21 Q. -- a number of years ago?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. About five or so years ago?

24 A. Not as long as that.

25 Q. Not as long as that, even more recently?

1 A. Mm.

2 Q. And his position in his evidence to this inquiry was  
3 Smyllum was not all bad, that there were happy times.

4 A. Mm-hm.

5 Q. He's quite straightforward about that. But there were  
6 also bad times, I think, is his position. If I can then  
7 just remind you that he was born in 1966. He's admitted  
8 to Smyllum in [REDACTED] 1974 and he left in [REDACTED] 1981 when  
9 Smyllum closed. So he was there for your -- the latter  
10 part of your time at Smyllum.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. He also told us, we needn't look at the transcript, that  
13 he was in Roncalli House.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And you remember him being --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. He confirms in his evidence -- and this is your  
18 position -- that you were in charge of Roncalli House  
19 when he was there.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can I take you then to this part of his evidence -- and  
22 this is at page 9 of the transcript, it's 1347 in the  
23 transcript itself. Towards the bottom, at line  
24 number 20, perhaps starting at line 17, he is asked:  
25 "Question: You have mentioned the food already,

1 I think, and you used the word 'horrendous' to describe  
2 it. Did you have to eat the food?

3 "Answer: Aye, what was put in front of you, you had  
4 to eat, but when we were getting force-fed -- I mean,  
5 we were made to force it. Sister **AEG** would come  
6 behind you, hold your nose and ram it down you.  
7 **FBN** and **AGR** would do it and all. But  
8 we got wise to it eventually, like."

9 And we'll look at that in a moment. There again,  
10 he's saying that he was force-fed in a similar way  
11 indeed to what I think we've heard from the other  
12 witness. Did that happen?

13 A. No.

14 Q. This is a boy you knew quite well; is that right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And indeed, who's come to see you after the event?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Are you saying this man now is making this up?

19 A. He was, yes.

20 Q. The names **FBN** and **AGR** do they ring  
21 a bell with you?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Were they your care helpers?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. He went on to say that what was done on occasions was to

1 spoon the food into their clothing to hide the fact it  
2 hadn't been eaten.

3 But if we then see what he says about birthdays,  
4 because if you look at his evidence at page 1353 that's  
5 page 15 of the transcript, into 1353 and towards the  
6 bottom, line 24, he's asked:

7 "Question: Was your birthday celebrated?

8 "Answer: Yes."

9 And moving on to line 1:

10 "Question: Would you have some sort of party or  
11 what would happen?

12 "Answer: We would have a party because I invited  
13 from St Kentigern's for my birthday. He  
14 ended up like a pal so he was invited to Roncalli for my  
15 birthday."

16 So there he supports what you have said in evidence,  
17 sister, that at the time he was there birthdays were  
18 being celebrated, and you would agree with that?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Then moving on to page 17, transcript 1355 towards the  
21 top of the page, he's being asked about bed-wetting and  
22 what he says is:

23 "Answer: I wet my bed -- not much, not at all."

24 But he does say that his older brother was  
25 a bed-wetter. Just on that, are you able to help me

1 with that? Can you remember if, for example, this  
2 witness's brother at least was someone who wet the bed?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You do remember that?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What about the witness himself, Patrick?

7 A. Very seldom.

8 Q. But the older brother much more so?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Then he's asked what happened to someone who wet the  
11 bed. And his answer was:

12 "Answer: See basically -- see, every night,  
13 Sister AEG would come into the room, close the  
14 curtains and shutters, and say, 'Goodnight, good  
15 bless'."

16 So far, is that what you did, sister?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. "And then in the morning she would come into you --  
19 basically we were in a seven-bed bedroom. She would  
20 come in and her first words would be, 'I can smell the  
21 fishes'."

22 Can I just ask you about that; is that language you  
23 would use?

24 A. That is the first time I ever heard that. I never heard  
25 that expression before.

1 Q. So this is not something you would have said?

2 A. No.

3 Q. And this is, according to the witness, implying people  
4 had wet the bed:

5 "Answer: She would go down and open the curtains  
6 and the blinds and then the usual suspects -- she would  
7 go straight to their bed, like my older brother [and he  
8 mentions other names] and just pull their sheets."

9 Do you see that?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. "The odd time that I had wet the bed I would get under  
12 the radar because the usual suspects were always the  
13 ones ... She knew who to go to and if I wet the bed,  
14 had an accident, I could just make my bed as normal and  
15 let my sheets dry in.

16 "Question: What then happened to those who did get  
17 caught?

18 "Answer: It was -- the cold bath would be running,  
19 they would be put in a cold bath."

20 What about that? Did that happen?

21 A. No, never happened.

22 Q. "What about the sheets, did anything happen?

23 "Answer: You took your sheets down the stairs -- in  
24 Roncalli you would come out on the landing, down the  
25 stairs, and there was like a toilet, two toilets at the

1 back and that's where the washing was, down with the wee  
2 sinks. So we would just put their sheets down there."

3 Did that happen, if the child wet the bed, did the  
4 child take the sheets?

5 A. Usually they did -- take them off and they would do it  
6 before the others would notice.

7 Q. Then at 12 he's asked:

8 "Question: Can I ask you a little bit about  
9 anything that happened to you. You have mentioned  
10 beatings already. Were you beaten from time to time?"

11 And then he's moving on to beatings. So, so far as  
12 bed-wetting is concerned, I think the main point he's  
13 making there is that you would be able to identify who  
14 the bed-wetters were, and so far I think you accept  
15 that, you would know who the bed-wetters were?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. But you deny that you would say something like, "I can  
18 smell the fishes"?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I had moved on to another passage actually and I'll read  
21 that while I am on the page. At line 18 he is asked:

22 "Question: Were you beaten from time to time?"

23 "Answer: As I said, we weren't saints, you know  
24 what I mean, but there were times we were misbehaving  
25 and carrying on and you'd be in the telly room and the

1 staff would get -- they used to have rubber sandals,  
2 blue ones. They would always use their slippers. You  
3 would have your jammies took down, whatever, your pants,  
4 and scudded, scudded round the arse -- the backside,  
5 sorry.

6 "Question: That's all right. Who would do this?

7 "Answer: Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] FBN and [REDACTED] AGR [REDACTED]."

8 Do you see that?

9 A. Yes. I see it --

10 Q. So he's suggesting there that this is because they were  
11 misbehaving and it was punishment for misbehaving and it  
12 might be regarded by some as simply the infliction of  
13 some corporal punishment because of the way the children  
14 were behaving. Did that happen?

15 A. No. No.

16 Q. If children were being boisterous and misbehaving, as  
17 I understand your position, sister, whatever else was  
18 the case, there was no physical punishment of any kind;  
19 is that right?

20 A. No.

21 Q. He does discuss an incident, if I can take you to that,  
22 on page 23 -- in the transcript that's [REDACTED] 1361 -- where  
23 I think the position was that he went to use the staff  
24 toilet and he couldn't open the door again and he  
25 climbed out the window and down the drainpipe and he was



1 spotted. As he says at line number 15:

2 "Answer: I had climbed down and when Sister  
3 came there, I got the hiding of my life."

AEG

4 Do you see that?

5 "Question: What did she do to you?

6 "Answer: Slapped me about, hit me and that, but  
7 basically I've already said to myself, well, the cutting  
8 or anything could have -- and I could have ended up dead  
9 so I probably deserved it."

10 So he's not suggesting he didn't deserve it, what  
11 he is saying though is it did happen. That's the point,  
12 I think. And as I say, he's not saying he didn't  
13 deserve to be punished in that way because of what he'd  
14 done.

15 A. But it didn't happen.

16 Q. The punishment?

17 A. It didn't.

18 Q. Do you remember the incident at all?

19 A. I don't remember it. I don't remember it. I remember  
20 him telling me about the toilet, but I don't know about  
21 the climbing out the window.

22 Q. I think, as I took from you already, sister, he and  
23 his -- he was told by his brother that his brother had  
24 seen you. Is that the case, you had seen his brother?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And after that, he came to see you; is that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. It was put to him, sister, that the inquiry had spoken  
4 to sisters and indeed to a Sister [REDACTED] AEG or [REDACTED] AEG  
5 and he said:

6 "Answer: Yes, [REDACTED] AEG I used to call her  
7 [REDACTED] AEG but my brother said her name was  
8 Sister [REDACTED] AEG

9 If I just take you to what he says at page 30, [REDACTED] 1368.  
10 At line number 14 he's asked:

11 "Question: We have also spoken to a Sister [REDACTED] AEG  
12 or [REDACTED] AEG and she says she never hit a child. You  
13 clearly wouldn't agree with that?

14 "Answer: That's a lie."

15 So what he is saying, sister, is that you're not  
16 telling the truth. That is his position.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Is he right or wrong?

19 A. He's wrong.

20 Q. If we go towards the top of the page at line number 4,  
21 what he says here is:

22 "Question: I would say 70 per cent of my time was  
23 great in Smyllum."

24 And so on. Then at line number 13 he says:

25 "Question: Times were good; it wasn't all bad at

1 Smyllum."

2 So sister, the point I'm trying to make is that this  
3 isn't somebody who's saying that he had a totally bad  
4 experience at Smyllum. He's not saying that. But what  
5 he is saying is that on occasions you did inflict  
6 physical punishment, if I can use that term, on him --  
7 possibly deserved from his perspective.

8 A. I never did.

9 Q. Can I then take you to parts of the evidence of another  
10 witness, sister. Again, if we could look at the  
11 document that can tell you who this may be. I'm now  
12 looking at the pseudonym -- in fact, this witness didn't  
13 use a pseudonym at all, she used her own name and her  
14 name was June Miller. Do you remember June?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So if I can then take you to the transcript. That's at  
17 TRN.001.002. 1379

18 While we're waiting for that to come up, this  
19 witness's date of birth was 1965. She was admitted to  
20 Smyllum in April 1969 at the age of 3 or 4, [REDACTED]  
21 [REDACTED] She left in April 1981 when  
22 Smyllum was closing.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. I think her recollection was that she was first of all  
25 in St Joseph's; is that your own recollection of her?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Was that when you were there yourself?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What she told us in evidence was that she moved to  
5 Roncalli when she was about 7 or 8; would that be about  
6 right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q.

9

10 A.

11 Q.

12 A.

13 Q.

14 A.

15

16 Q.

17 A.

18 Q.

19

20 A.

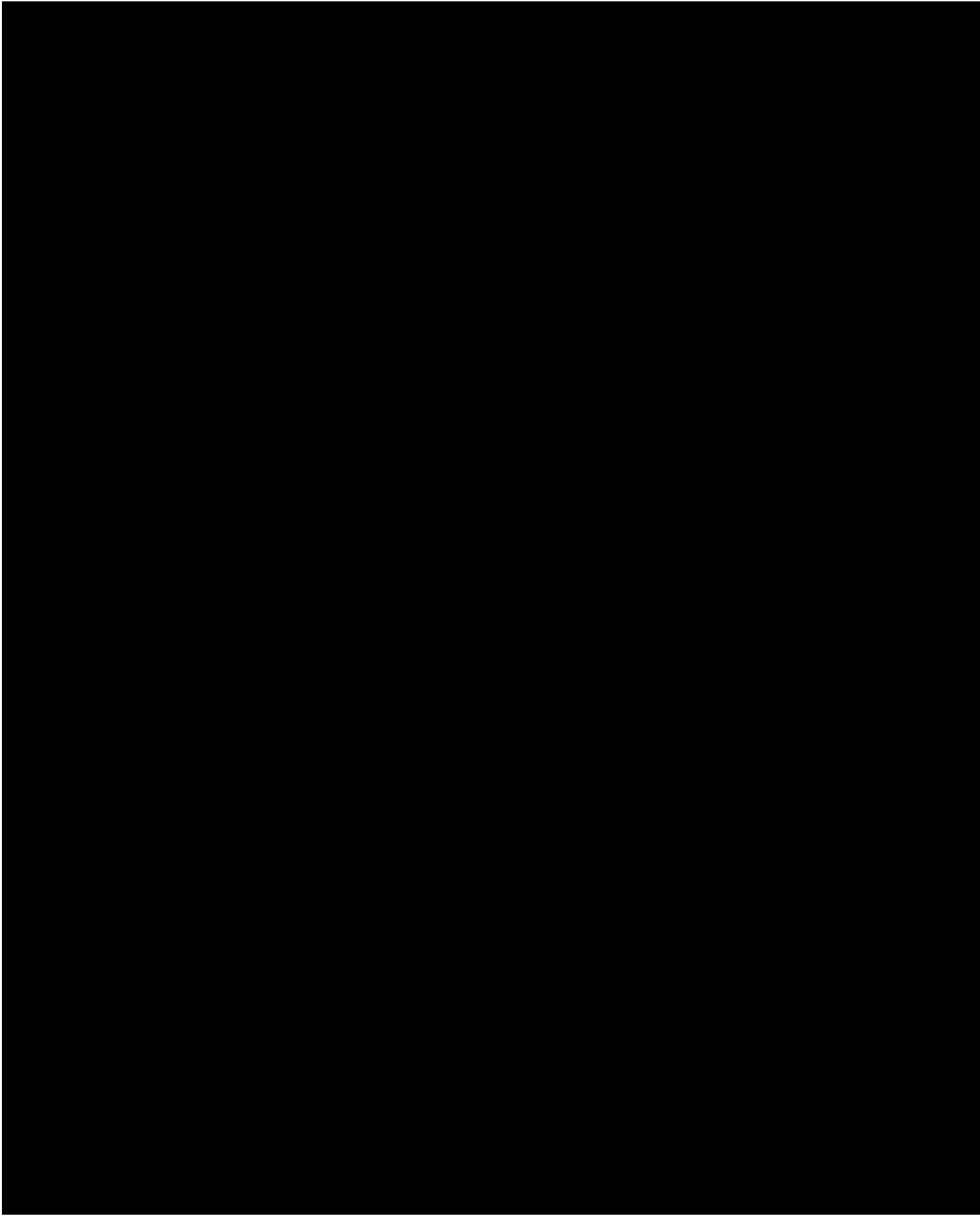
21 Q.

22 A.

23 Q.

24 A.

25 Q.



1

2 A.

3

4 Q.

5 A.

6 Q.

7 A.

8 Q. Okay. This is a lady that you do remember?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you remember her quite well?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. If we then look at the transcript at **1385**, page 47.

13 This is when she's talking about bed-wetting and she's  
14 asked at line 7 what was the problem and she says:

15 "Answer: Basically, if you wet the bed, which  
16 I did -- I was a bed-wetter right up to until I was 15."

17 Pausing there, is that correct, do you recollect  
18 that?

19 A. Yes, that's about right, yes.

20 Q. "She would come in in the morning, pull you out of your  
21 bed, run you a cold bath, put you in the cold bath,  
22 sometimes she would throw disinfectant over you, she  
23 done that. When she came in to get you out of bed, she  
24 would put her knuckles right into your head. I got that  
25 every morning and that was sore, really sore."

1                   And she says that that was Sister [REDACTED] AEG So  
2                   again, we have a witness saying this sort of practice  
3                   happened to her. This is a girl we're talking about.  
4                   Is there anything truth in this?

5                   A. There's no truth in it.

6                   Q. She must be making it up then, you would say, sister?

7                   A. Yes.

8                   Q. And she goes on to say on page 49 at transcript  
9                   page [REDACTED] 1387 at line number 9 that they had to wash their  
10                  own sheets. I think you disagree with that?

11                  A. Yes.

12                  Q. And she's asked:

13                         "Question: And did you have to hand them out as  
14                         well?

15                         "Answer: Yes, we did. She made us walk up the  
16                         hill, about maybe 20 to, quarter to 9 in the morning, so  
17                         the other children would see that you wet the bed and  
18                         you had to hang your own sheets up."

19                         What about that? Because I think what she was  
20                         suggesting is that this was an embarrassment to children  
21                         who had wet the bed and they were being humiliated. Did  
22                         that happen?

23                  A. No. No, it never happened. I don't know where she went  
24                  to hang them up because there was no place for them.

25                  Q. Well, did children have to hang their sheets?

1 A. No, no.

2 Q. I think at one point in her evidence she said that when  
3 she was on holiday and there weren't baths, she was put  
4 into a cold shower instead of a cold bath. Do you  
5 remember any of that happening?

6 A. No.

7 Q. In relation to food, she also gave evidence about what  
8 happened at mealtimes. If we look at page 50 at the  
9 transcript, **1388** at line number 21 towards the bottom  
10 of the page, can we read that she says:

11 "Answer: The food wasn't that good. When you never  
12 ate your food at night, you used to get it in the  
13 morning because she said that you weren't to waste any."

14 What about that? Could that have been something  
15 that happened?

16 A. It never happened.

17 Q. Was there a concern that food should not be wasted?

18 A. Well, naturally, but there was no big thing made of it.  
19 I mean, the children didn't have to suffer because there  
20 was food left.

21 Q. Okay. She goes on to say:

22 "Answer: Sister **AEG** she made sure you ate  
23 everything and if you didn't, you got it in the morning.  
24 [That's on page 51.] Like vegetables, a lot of the  
25 children didn't like vegetables and if you didn't eat

1 that, then you got it in the morning."

2 What about that, was it the case that there were  
3 children who didn't like vegetables?

4 A. There were children who didn't like vegetables, there  
5 was one and they didn't like a certain thing, we would  
6 ask them to eat a little of it and maybe put a little on  
7 the plate to see if they could manage it. But they  
8 wouldn't -- they didn't get it again in any other meal.

9 Q. Or as she goes on to say at line number 4:

10 "Answer: She used to hold your nose and just put it  
11 down."

12 Again, she's saying there was this element of  
13 force-feeding going on.

14 A. It never happened.

15 Q. She talks about an incident in connection with her  
16 birthday. This is on page 53 at **1391** where the  
17 suggestion she makes at the top of the page is that her  
18 birthday had been forgotten that year. Do you see that?

19 "Answer: One year it didn't get celebrated, she  
20 actually forgot."

21 That's speaking about you. And she gives some  
22 information about when birthdays were and then she says:

23 "Answer: So when mine has come up, obviously he has  
24 turned around and said, what did you get, and I said,  
25 nothing, she forgot. And she heard me telling him so



1 I got battered for that."

2 Does this ring any bells with you, sister?

3 A. Oh no. No.

4 Q. She gives some description, that that involved slapping,  
5 pulling hair, hitting round about the body, kicking; did  
6 anything like that happen?

7 A. No.

8 Q. She also mentions, just reading on, that there was at  
9 least an occasion when you didn't allow a visitor,  
10 a family visitor, to see her; does that mean anything to  
11 you?

12 A. No. They would never be deprived of that.

13 Q. If we go on to page 54, **1392** at line number 13, what  
14 she says is that:

15 "Answer: When there were visits, she was always --  
16 Sister **AEG** was always present when anybody came to  
17 see us anyway."

18 So she is suggesting you'd be around there when  
19 there were visits.

20 A. I usually met the person when they came and brought the  
21 children down, but then we left the children with their  
22 visitor.

23 Q. What she says on the next page, 55, **1393** when she's  
24 talking about a social worker then:

25 "Question: When the social worker came to visit,

1           what about Sister AEG would she be present or not?

2           "Answer: Present all the time."

3           A. No.

4           Q. Was there any suggestion at any time during your time  
5           there, sister, of the children being given some sort of  
6           medication in order to deal with their bed-wetting?

7           A. Yes, that was if -- they only got medication if they had  
8           been to the doctor.

9           Q. She gave some evidence about being given tablets to stop  
10          wetting the bed and that this was something that  
11          happened on a regular basis. Do you have any  
12          recollection of that?

13          A. No. No. I do remember a child having tablets, but as  
14          I say, that was after they had seen the doctor.

15          LADY SMITH: What were the tablets for?

16          A. I'm not sure, my Lady. I don't remember now.

17          LADY SMITH: You mentioned that in relation to questions  
18          about bed-wetting.

19          A. Yes.

20          LADY SMITH: Do you have any recollection of any medical  
21          thinking that was there was some sort of tablet that  
22          might help with the bed-wetting?

23          A. Yes. I think that was what it was.

24          LADY SMITH: Right.

25          MR MacAULAY: Who gave the tablets to the children?

- 1 A. Usually it would be the carer, whoever was on duty.
- 2 Q. Her recollection was that the tablets might have been  
3 given by older children.
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. You say that wouldn't happen?
- 6 A. No, no.
- 7 Q. She also gave some evidence about, putting it generally,  
8 being physically hit by you really on a regular basis.  
9 Your position, sister, it's clear, is you say that never  
10 happened?
- 11 A. It didn't happen.
- 12 Q. She did give evidence about one episode where she was  
13 locked out of the house -- not completely, I think she  
14 said she was in a porch, so it wasn't outside but she  
15 was in the porch and she was locked out by you and you'd  
16 forgotten about her. Does that ring any bells with you?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. She also mentioned an episode in connection with another  
19 girl who had allowed a bath to overflow; this is in the  
20 transcript at page 61, at 1399 If we look at line  
21 number 8 what she says is:
- 22 "Answer: I seen her hitting this wee girl who had  
23 run a bath at night-time and she had let it overflow and  
24 the ceiling had come in and she gave her some hitting."  
25 Just leaving aside any alleged response by you,

1 do you recollect an episode where somebody had allowed  
2 a bath to run over and the ceiling was damaged?

3 A. No. The children would never be minding their own bath.  
4 It would be the staff who would run their bath.

5 Q. So you say this didn't happen?

6 A. No.

7 Q. She goes on to say that this other person had been  
8 beaten by you. She says:

9 "Answer: She actually really, really ladled into  
10 her and then she apologised. She actually apologised.  
11 She says she went over the score with her."

12 Do you have any recollection of something like that  
13 happening, sister?

14 A. No.

15 MR MacAULAY: We've been going for about 40/45 minutes.

16 LADY SMITH: Would a break be helpful at this point, sister?

17 A. Thank you, it would, yes.

18 LADY SMITH: Let's take a short break just now.

19 (2.40 pm)

20 (A short break)

21 (2.50 pm)

22 MR MacAULAY: Sister, I want to again put some evidence to  
23 you for your comments. If we can look again at the list  
24 of the applicants and the pseudonyms, if that could be  
25 made available to you. So this time I want to ask you

1           some questions about the person whose pseudonym is  
2           "Jack". Do you see that, sister?

3       A. Yes.

4       Q. Do you recognise that name?

5       A. Yes.

6       Q. The transcript is at TRN.001.002.3311. That begins at  
7           page 68. So far as this witness was concerned, sister,  
8           he was born in 1965. According to the evidence, he was  
9           admitted to Smyllum in 1974 and indeed he left [REDACTED]  
10          [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] 1981. He was clearly there  
11          for a considerable part of the time that you were there;  
12          is that correct?

13       A. Yes.

14       Q. He told us that he was in Roncalli House; is that  
15          correct?

16       A. Yes.

17       Q. And he was there at a time when it was being run by you?

18       A. Yes.

19       Q. I just want to look at one or two parts of his evidence.  
20          If I can take you, first of all, to page 3321. In the  
21          transcript it is page 78. On the left-hand side, if you  
22          look at the page on the left-hand side of the screen,  
23          he's being asked at line 8 about the routine, and at  
24          line 12 he says:  
25                 "Answer: It was regimented. I remember you had to

1 make your bed perfect, envelope corners."

2 And he mentions bed-wetting and I'll come back to  
3 that in due course. He's asked about the bed-making and  
4 he goes on to say at line 19:

5 "Answer: They would be stripped and made to do it  
6 again until you got it right.

7 "Question: Who would do the stripping?

8 "Answer: Sister AEG would it and on occasion  
9 the staff would do it and all."

10 Looking to that little piece of evidence, was it the  
11 case in Roncalli that the children did have to make  
12 their bed in a particular way?

13 A. No. No, they just made it up as best they could and  
14 then it would be corrected -- one of the staff would  
15 make sure the beds were ready.

16 Q. So this notion that he, as one of the children, had to  
17 make the bed with the envelope corners, you say that  
18 just did not happen?

19 A. No, no. Fitted sheets.

20 Q. And in relation to bathing on the next page, in fact,  
21 page 79, 3322, at line number 17 he is talking about  
22 that because he's asked -- I don't think we have that  
23 yet. This is on the right-hand side. He's asked the  
24 question at line 16:

25 "Question: What happened on bath night."

1           "Answer: You'd get bathed, but you would use -- the  
2 bath had been used several times. People had been in it  
3 before you and you'd go in it and then people would come  
4 in it after you."

5           "Question: I think you tell us that sometimes the  
6 water would, as you put it, be a bit mucky because of  
7 that?

8           "Answer: Cloudy, aye."

9           Is that correct?

10          A. No. No, they didn't use the bathwater for -- that boy  
11 in particular would say to his brother, "You can have  
12 this bath because it's nice and soapy", and wouldn't run  
13 it away. He would get in to [REDACTED] ... But, no, it  
14 didn't happen.

15          Q. Okay. He also goes on, just in that section actually,  
16 to talk about you and the metal comb. He's asked:

17                 "Question: Was that something that happened on the  
18 Sunday?"

19                 And his answer on the next page, page 80, is:

20                 "Answer: That was called fine-toothed comb night  
21 for nits and that, check your hair and all. That would  
22 be every now and again you would be checked for that."

23                 And I think you agreed that that would be the case.

24          A. Yes.

25          Q. He confirms that you did that. Then he is asked at

1 line 6:

2 "Question: How was that? Can you help me?

3 "Answer: Painful, you know what I mean? Sometimes  
4 it was done with -- it was painful, the way she dug it  
5 in."

6 Did you know -- was it possibly the case that  
7 sometimes because of the way you used the comb that  
8 there was pain?

9 A. It wouldn't necessarily be the way I used the comb, but  
10 it was just that the comb was so tight that it would  
11 pull their hair sometimes.

12 Q. So what he's saying there is there might have been  
13 a painful thing could be correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. He talks about bed-wetting if you go on to the next  
16 page, page 81, at 3324. The first thing he is asked  
17 about is access to the toilet because he said in his  
18 statement, "We weren't allowed access to the toilet":

19 "Answer: That's right.

20 "Question: Can you help me with that?

21 "Answer: Once you were in bed and you were in that  
22 room, that was you for the night."

23 What about that evidence?

24 A. No, no. They were free to go up and down to the toilet  
25 as they needed it.



- 1 Q. He's then asked:
- 2 "Question: But if you wanted to go to the toilet,  
3 you couldn't get up to go to the toilet?"
- 4 Then he says:
- 5 "Answer: Well, I got up. I was a bed-wetter,  
6 I would get up and I'd have peed in the corners or  
7 whatever because I didn't want to pee that bed."
- 8 So that's what he said he had to do, sister. Did  
9 you see --
- 10 A. Oh no.
- 11 Q. No?
- 12 A. No, no.
- 13 Q. He says it was you who told him that they couldn't go to  
14 the toilet at night; you don't accept that?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. What he was concerned about here was wetting the bed  
17 because if you go on to page 92 -- and this is 3335 for  
18 the transcript -- at line number 20, what he tells us on  
19 the right-hand side is:
- 20 "I wetted the bed right up until high school. It  
21 was mortifying."
- 22 So far as that's concerned, do you remember if  
23 he was a bed-wetter until he was at high school or not?
- 24 A. He was, yes.
- 25 Q. He's then asked:

1           "Question: What would happen then if you wet the  
2 bed?

3           "Answer: If I wet the bed, in the morning what  
4 I used to do is I'd try to dry my sheets, but then  
5 I realise that it smelled. I found out that then it was  
6 up -- I would wash them and dry them through the night  
7 and that's why my schooling ..."

8           And he gave us some evidence about why his schooling  
9 effectively went off the rails. You wouldn't know, of  
10 course, would you, if children had got to dry or wash  
11 their sheets during the night, or would you know about  
12 that?

13       A. Oh, I think I would know that there would be no sheets  
14 on the bed in the morning.

15       Q. I think his position was the sheets would be there  
16 because he was able to have them dried overnight.

17       A. He couldn't get them dried overnight.

18       Q. I think he mentioned that a radiator might have been  
19 used for that purpose. But the reason he said why he  
20 did this was because of what he said would happen if  
21 he had wet the bed and the sheets were wet. Because on  
22 page 93 at 3336 -- and this is line number 14 on the  
23 left-hand side -- he is asked:

24           "Question: What happened? What happened to you if  
25 you were caught having wet the bed?

1           "Answer: The bed -- if she caught you, you'd have  
2           to strip the bed, you could be put in a cold bath or you  
3           had to go and get a bath, and then you'd take the sheets  
4           down to the laundry and then you would be bathed and  
5           have to come into the bit where -- this was where  
6           everybody was having their breakfast and you would be  
7           degraded, 'Look, here come the fishes'.

8           "Question: Sorry?

9           "Answer: 'Here come the fishes.' When you start to  
10          get to 12, 13, it was embarrassing because obviously  
11          young kids [and over the page to 94] -- it was to mock  
12          you and have a laugh at you. That was the worst bit  
13          about it. So that's why, as I say, I started doing what  
14          I done because I couldn't handle the shame."

15          That was his position, sister.

16          A. The thing is, with the bigger boys, we tried to handle  
17          it in a way that the young ones wouldn't know. We made  
18          no reference to the wet beds to prevent them from  
19          getting any slack from the others.

20          Q. His position is really the reverse of that in that there  
21          was a point made of degrading the older children in  
22          front of younger children.

23          A. Mm-hm.

24          Q. As he says, it was that, really, that -- as he put it,  
25          that he couldn't handle the shame. Is he making this

1 up?

2 A. He's making that up.

3 LADY SMITH: You say with the bigger boys you'd try to  
4 handle things in a way so the young ones wouldn't know.

5 A. Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: So does that mean you handled things  
7 differently with the younger boys?

8 A. No, no. It was just to prevent the boys from being  
9 embarrassed.

10 LADY SMITH: I just wondered what the point was you were  
11 making about trying to protect the bigger boys from this  
12 sort of embarrassment.

13 A. Yes.

14 LADY SMITH: Do you see what I mean? It sounded as though  
15 your memory was telling you that you didn't take the  
16 same action in relation to the younger boys.

17 A. Oh no, they were -- it was just for the sake of the  
18 embarrassment on the bigger boys that we didn't make  
19 a big show about it if they wet their bed.

20 LADY SMITH: So are you telling me you made a show about it  
21 if it was the younger ones?

22 A. Not at all, not at all. I'm just trying to say how we  
23 tried to lessen the embarrassment the older boys would  
24 have had.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Mr MacAulay.

1 MR MacAULAY: He goes on to say that he also had -- you also  
2 physically hit him. If we look at page 95 at 3338, he's  
3 talking about being slapped and so on. If we look  
4 towards the top of the page -- we're looking at the  
5 right-hand side and talking about slapping -- he says  
6 it would usually be yourself. At line 7:

7 "Question: When you say slapped --

8 "Answer: Don't get me wrong, I'd been beat up by  
9 the staff and all, but the sister was the main -- she  
10 ran the place. It was here house, her rules.

11 "Question: When you say slapped, can you give me  
12 some understanding as to what would happen?

13 "Answer: Well, on your bare skin -- you'd be  
14 rattled with big hands."

15 And he goes on to say that you had big hands:

16 "Answer: She had big hands and you would be  
17 obviously marked. We had been beat up -- basically that  
18 was thingummy, but the worst bit for me was the  
19 degrading bit. I couldn't cope with that. It some  
20 affected me."

21 And what his position seemed to have been in  
22 evidence, sister, was that although there were beatings,  
23 what really got to him was the degradation in connection  
24 with the bed-wetting. Do you understand that?

25 A. Yes, he was a shy boy.

- 1 Q. He may have been a shy boy --
- 2 A. He was a shy boy and I think the embarrassment of it all  
3 was maybe worse on him.
- 4 Q. I think what he found humiliating was the fact that  
5 other children -- it was made known to other children  
6 that he had wet the bed. That appears to be his  
7 position.
- 8 A. Well, it was never announced who wet the bed and who  
9 didn't, so ...
- 10 Q. His position, as I've said to you, was that the  
11 expression, "Here come the fishes", would be used to  
12 announce that these were the bed-wetters. That's his  
13 position, sister.
- 14 A. I never heard that expression, as I've said already.
- 15 Q. If I take you then to another page in the transcript in  
16 connection with this witness's evidence, and that's  
17 page 83, and I'm looking at the transcript at 3326 --  
18 sorry, I should go back, actually, a page to page 82 and  
19 3325. Here he is talking about what happened at  
20 mealtimes, sister. Can I just identify -- on the  
21 left-hand side at line number 10, can you see he says:  
22 "Answer: All our meals we had to eat.  
23 "Question: What if you weren't able to eat whatever  
24 was in front of you?  
25 "Answer: If it was a school day, you always had to

1 go to school, but you'd be made to sit until you ate  
2 it -- and it would be force-fed.

3 "Question: Who would do the force-feeding?

4 "Answer: Sister AEG mainly.

5 "Question: How would that be done?

6 "Answer: Your head getting pulled back and a spoon  
7 or fork forced into your mouth. Your natural reaction  
8 was to spit it out, and it would be put back on your  
9 plate, so you had to learn to get rid of it."

10 And he tells us what he did was throw it behind  
11 radiators and put it into tea towels and indeed exchange  
12 with other children. So again, there's evidence,  
13 sister, saying that this process of force-feeding  
14 children was something that did happen in your care.

15 A. It never did. Never.

16 Q. He goes on to tell us -- I needn't take you to the  
17 direct evidence -- the reason why this practice was  
18 adopted is because they were being told -- the  
19 explanation that was being put forward was people were  
20 hungry in Africa. Do you remember anything like that  
21 being said to the children to try and persuade them to  
22 eat their food?

23 A. No, no.

24 Q. Perhaps another piece of his evidence I want to put to  
25 you -- it's in the transcript at 3333, that's page 90.

1 I'm looking at line number 20. Here on the left-hand  
2 side, he's talking about visits by the social worker and  
3 what he says is:

4 "Answer: I think we saw our social worker once  
5 every six week. If he was on holiday, we would maybe  
6 miss our spot. Prior to our social work visit,  
7 Sister [REDACTED] AEG would say, 'Everything's all right,  
8 boys?' and we would say, 'Aye, sister, everything's  
9 fine'.

10 "Question: Why was this conversation taking place  
11 with Sister [REDACTED] AEG

12 "Answer: That would usually happen a couple of days  
13 prior to the visit. It was just to alert us, keep us on  
14 our toes and let us to know that in case we were to say  
15 anything so we knew to keep quiet. So that's what we  
16 did.

17 "Question: To keep quiet about what?

18 "Answer: About what was happening in the home, so  
19 we were getting a wee kind of warning so we'd keep  
20 quiet."

21 What about that? Do you have a recollection of that  
22 sort of conversation taking place?

23 A. I don't know.

24 Q. Pardon, sister?

25 A. I don't understand it. I don't know what he was



1 meaning.

2 Q. I think what he was saying is he was effectively getting  
3 some sort of warning from you to keep quiet about  
4 what was happening within the home and in connection  
5 with the practices that were in place. Do you have any  
6 recollection of that taking place?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Just to be clear on this, did you hear children swearing  
9 during your time at Roncalli?

10 A. I don't know. I may have once or twice. I don't recall  
11 it, really.

12 Q. I'm sorry?

13 A. I don't recall hearing them swearing.

14 Q. Some of these children were from quite troubled  
15 backgrounds, so it would perhaps not be a huge surprise  
16 if they had learned swear words on the way -- before  
17 coming to Smyllum. Would that be a reasonable  
18 assumption?

19 A. Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: Some of them came from parts of Glasgow where  
21 they may well have heard it in the streets.

22 A. Yes.

23 MR MacAULAY: So I can understand your position, did you  
24 hear swearing from time to time?

25 A. I didn't really hear it, but I think most of it would go

1 on while the boys were all out together playing.

2 Q. Well, was there something you would do if you caught  
3 a child swearing?

4 A. No, because I don't ever remember catching them.

5 Q. What he said in evidence was that if they were caught  
6 swearing, you would put carbolic soap into their mouth;  
7 is there any truth in that, sister?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Perhaps one other thing he did say that I can put to  
10 you -- and this is on page 104 at 3347. I'm looking at  
11 line number 6. This is on the right-hand side. He is  
12 asked the question:

13 "Question: One of the things you say there as well  
14 in that paragraph is about being made to stand on  
15 freezing floors for hours; do you see that? Can you  
16 help me with that and tell me what that is about?

17 "Answer: If you misbehaved -- or if anybody  
18 misbehaved -- they would switch the telly off and if it  
19 was you individually, you'd be made to go in a corner  
20 and stand in it. It was out by the larder kind of area  
21 near the back doors, places like that. You'd be made to  
22 stand near where the washing got done. So it was like  
23 concrete floors and things like that."

24 He goes on to say at line 21:

25 "Answer: It could be hours, periods of an hour, two

1           hours."

2                   And he confirms on the next page, 105, in answer to  
3           a question from her Ladyship that they would be in their  
4           bare feet and this was a punishment and it was you who  
5           instigated this punishment. Does that mean anything to  
6           you, sister?

7           A. No.

8           Q. Is this the sort of punishment that was --

9           A. I never saw it done.

10          Q. You never saw it done?

11          A. No.

12          LADY SMITH: Sister, could I just take you back to food for  
13          a moment. I see from your date of birth that it seems  
14          likely you would have experienced rationing when you  
15          were a child; is that right?

16          A. Yes.

17          LADY SMITH: Did you experience hunger then as a child?

18          A. No.

19          LADY SMITH: I have come across many people of that  
20          generation who do have memories of always being hungry  
21          as a child because of the limited amount of food that  
22          was available. But you don't have any memory of that  
23          yourself?

24          A. No.

25          LADY SMITH: But I suppose you grew up being very conscious

1 of the need to be very grateful for having food and  
2 there not being the sort of limitations there were  
3 during the war, for instance.

4 A. Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: It would be frustrating to have a child not  
6 eating food when it was available and they needed to  
7 realise there were people, if not in Britain any longer,  
8 elsewhere who were hungry.

9 A. Yes, who were still hungry.

10 LADY SMITH: It wasn't unusual, was it, in that era to try  
11 and bring children to their senses by telling them there  
12 were children just like them in other countries, like  
13 Africa, who didn't have food?

14 A. Yes.

15 LADY SMITH: I just wondered whether that sort of thing  
16 might have, quite properly, been said to children in  
17 Smyllum.

18 A. Yes.

19 LADY SMITH: There would be nothing wrong in saying that to  
20 them.

21 A. No, no.

22 LADY SMITH: So do you think it might have been said?

23 A. It might have been said, yes.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MR MacAULAY: Can I then just take you to the end of this

1 witness's evidence, sister, on page 120 of the  
2 transcript and 3363 of the transcript. This is where  
3 the witness is trying to find an explanation for himself  
4 as to why he, according to his evidence, received the  
5 sort of treatment he got at Smyllum.

6 One of the things he says at line 19 on the  
7 right-hand side is that:

8 "Answer: Looking after 20 kids wouldn't have been  
9 easy either, you know what I have mean. So I have tried  
10 -- I have often thought in my head, why would you do  
11 that and why would you ... So that's what it is,  
12 basically."

13 So he has been thinking as to why the treatment that  
14 he got would happen. Was it difficult, sister, looking  
15 after 20 -- a number of children like up to 20 or so,  
16 when you were there?

17 A. It could be busy.

18 Q. Yes.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Would you get frustrated?

21 A. A bit, yes. There was always so much for them to do  
22 that they were -- you know, they were either out playing  
23 or playing inside that you didn't have the 20 on top of  
24 you all the time.

25 Q. Very well. Did you lose your temper from time to time?

1 A. I don't think so.

2 Q. He goes on to say -- the question is put to him at the  
3 bottom of the page there:

4 "Question: But you tell us in the next paragraph  
5 that you've forgiven Sister [REDACTED] AEG "

6 Do you see that?

7 A. Mm.

8 Q. And he says:

9 "Answer: Yes. That's down to my AA."

10 He had told us that he had had an alcohol problem:

11 "Answer: It's learning -- I've done things that  
12 I shouldn't have done myself. I've done the 12-step  
13 programme and I was able to go out and I took flowers  
14 and chocolates up to that woman."

15 The position is, isn't it, that he came and saw you?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Fairly recently?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. He couldn't give an exact date, but it wasn't that long  
20 ago. And he says it was in the last couple of years.

21 If you go on to the next page, page 122, what he  
22 says is this, sister, at transcript 3365 -- this is on  
23 the left-hand side -- that he has forgiven you, and he  
24 goes on to say:

25 "Answer: I'm not here to crucify that nun, I'm here

1 to tell the truth."

2 So that's his position. Is it your position that he  
3 didn't tell the truth, notwithstanding what he says that  
4 he wasn't here to do you any harm?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Did he tell the truth?

7 A. Of course I did.

8 Q. Did he tell the truth?

9 A. Did he tell the truth? No.

10 Q. There's really just one other piece of transcript I want  
11 to put to you, sister, and then that part of what I want  
12 to ask you about will be finished. If you go back to  
13 the red folder, sister, to identify the particular name.  
14 Again, following the same process, the pseudonym for  
15 this person to the left is "Graham". Do you see that,  
16 sister?

17 A. Mm-hm.

18 Q. Do you recognise the name?

19 A. No.

20 Q. I can tell you that the evidence of this particular  
21 witness was read to the inquiry, he didn't actually come  
22 in person, but his statement was read into the evidence.  
23 His transcript begins at TRN.001.002.1369, and that's  
24 page 31. His date of birth was 1965 and he was in  
25 Smyllum with a brother, I think he told us, between 1972

1 and 1973. So not for a long time in comparison to some  
2 of the other witnesses we've seen.

3 If we look at what he said, on page 1371 -- and  
4 that's at page number 33 -- he's asked what he could  
5 remember about Smyllum, and at line numbers 8 to 9 he  
6 says:

7 "The home was run by sisters. I can only remember  
8 Sister AEG There were other caring staff who also  
9 worked there."

10 And so on. So he's able to identify you, sister, as  
11 someone he could remember. If he was born in 1965 and  
12 he's in Smyllum in 1972, 1973, would that be likely to  
13 place him in Roncalli House?

14 A. It would be -- it didn't go by ages, it was just if  
15 there was a space.

16 Q. Okay. Then if we look at the next page, page 34, he is  
17 asked about what he could remember. Towards the top of  
18 the page what he says is:

19 "I do remember Sister AEG bending us over a bath  
20 and running a steel comb through our hair. She used to  
21 do it very roughly and it was painful. I might then  
22 have to get my head shaved."

23 So he has this recollection of you using the steel  
24 comb. That at least in itself could be correct,  
25 couldn't it?



1 A. Mm.

2 Q. He also says that it was painful. Again, I suppose, it  
3 could be uncomfortable from what you have said; is that  
4 right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. He goes on to say at line number 10:

7 "I have to say that during the time I was in Smyllum  
8 I was treated very well by most of the staff. The only  
9 issues I had were with Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] A lot of good  
10 things happened to me when I was there and most of the  
11 time I was well looked after by the care staff and the  
12 other sisters. I was terrified of Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] "

13 Would he have any cause to be terrified of you,  
14 sister?

15 A. I couldn't give any reasons.

16 Q. Well, he goes on to say towards the bottom of the page,  
17 line number 24:

18 "Both my brother and I had problems with  
19 bed-wetting. The sisters didn't treat you well if you  
20 wet the bed."

21 And he goes on to say on the next page:

22 "I remember Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] shaking me. She also  
23 made me stand with my wet sheets outside the washroom so  
24 that everyone passing by knew what was happening."

25 So again, he's pointing to bed-wetting and

- 1 a particular practice involving you in that practice.
- 2 Is there any truth in that?
- 3 A. There's no truth in it.
- 4 Q. One thing he does say is that he himself never ran away  
5 but his brother did. If you look at the next page,  
6 page 36, this is the transcript at **1374** towards the  
7 bottom of the page at line 20 what he says is:
- 8 "I never ran away when I was at Smyllum, but I know  
9 that my brother did. He told me that he received  
10 a beating for running away from the sisters but he  
11 didn't say who gave it to him."
- 12 Pausing there, sister, if someone did run away,  
13 would that person receive -- let's put it in general  
14 terms, first of all -- some form of punishment on  
15 return?
- 16 A. Well, perhaps they would get a good talking to and maybe  
17 deprived of going somewhere, but not physical.
- 18 Q. Not physical?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. Would any enquiry be carried out as to why someone might  
21 have run away?
- 22 A. There could be all sorts of reasons. Very often it  
23 was -- if it was mentioned, it would be children wanting  
24 to go home.
- 25 Q. He goes on to say towards the bottom of the page:

1           "The only person that I remember abusing me in  
2           Smyllum was Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] She was very cruel and used  
3           to shake you and dig her knuckles into your chest, which  
4           was very painful. I never cried and would just look at  
5           her, which made her angrier. I think she thought I was  
6           being defiant. I spent a lot of time trying to keep  
7           Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] happy so she wouldn't turn on me."

8           He then talks about an incident when you had  
9           discovered the bed was wet and he had made it up, but it  
10          was still wet. Do you see that? He talks about that.

11          Then moving on towards the bottom of the page, he's  
12          looking at feeding and mealtimes:

13          "It might have been the first day that my brother  
14          and I were there when we were sitting in the  
15          dining room. My brother didn't like pudding and  
16          couldn't eat it. I was sitting next to my brother and  
17          Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] told me to stay where I was, despite the  
18          fact that I'd finished my meal. She then put the  
19          pudding onto a spoon and started wiping it on my  
20          brother's face and in his hair. She was hitting him  
21          with the spoon."

22          What about that, sister, did that happen?

23          A. The thing is I don't even remember these boys.

24          Q. What about the sort --

25          A. And that wouldn't have happened anyway.

1 Q. Just to put his evidence into context, if you turn to  
2 pages 39 and 1377 of the transcript, at line 8, reading  
3 from his evidence, in his statement he says:

4 "My time in care had little or no impact on my life.  
5 I have had to deal with much worse problems. I did not  
6 require counselling as a result of my time in care and  
7 have never felt the need. I had good experiences in  
8 care and my only bad experiences always involved  
9 Sister AEG

10 So again, this isn't someone, sister, who is saying  
11 that Smyllum as an experience was a bad experience, this  
12 is someone who is putting forward a position where he  
13 says it was a good experience, but in this particular  
14 way it was a bad experience. Could he be correct in  
15 saying that insofar as involvement with you was  
16 concerned, it was an unhappy one?

17 A. I don't see why.

18 Q. There was some evidence last week, sister, that some  
19 sisters at least had a strap and that came from  
20 a witness, again, who was very complimentary of his time  
21 at Smyllum but said that sisters did use corporal  
22 punishment and some sisters had a strap. Did you know  
23 of sisters who had straps?

24 A. I didn't, no.

25 Q. Have you been made aware of that evidence by that

1 person?

2 A. No, no.

3 LADY SMITH: The witness -- I think it was the witness  
4 Mr MacAulay had in mind -- referred to something called  
5 "the Lochgelly tawse"; does that ring any bells with  
6 you?

7 A. No, I was asking what it meant. I didn't know. I had  
8 never heard of it.

9 LADY SMITH: Right.

10 Mr MacAulay.

11 MR MacAULAY: You'll appreciate we're coming quite near the  
12 end of your evidence, sister; there are just a few more  
13 things I want to raise with you. You'll be aware when  
14 your statement was being taken from you that there were  
15 also allegations being made against other members of  
16 staff and other sisters. You remember that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. One person, for example, that has featured in evidence  
19 is [REDACTED] BAC . Did you know [REDACTED] BAC

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What did you see his role to be at Smyllum?

22 A. [REDACTED] BAC was like [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]  
24 He also took the boys for football.

25 Q. Did you ever see him discipline or punish the children

- 1 at any time?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. Would he be allowed to do that?
- 4 A. I don't think so.
- 5 Q. So if there has been this suggestion to the inquiry that
- 6 he could be a violent man and could be violent towards
- 7 children, did you see any evidence of that?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. Did you hear anything about it?
- 10 A. I didn't, no.
- 11 Q. So far as other people who may have been at Smyllum
- 12 would be concerned, does the name **LVK** mean
- 13 anything to you?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Did you know **LVK**?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Was he somebody who would come to Smyllum?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. And what --
- 20 A. He lived in the town and he often used to come up in the
- 21 evening, but it was mainly to St Kentigern's because
- 22 they were mainly boys and he was more or less always in
- 23 St Kentigern's.
- 24 Q. St Kentigern's was a boys' section?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. So that was the area where you say he went to?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What did he do with the boys, do you know?

4 A. I really don't know.

5 Q. Did he go out with the boys?

6 A. I don't really know what he did --

7 Q. If we look at -- sorry, sister?

8 A. I know he used to play games with them and that sort of

9 thing.

10 Q. In the statement that you've given, sister, what you say

11 at paragraph 192 is:

12 "He took them out for walks."

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And did you see that happening?

15 A. I just saw him going out with the boys. That was it.

16 Q. But he was never employed at --

17 A. No, no.

18 Q. So who gave him permission to be at Smyllum and to be

19 involved with the boys in the way that he was? Do you

20 know?

21 A. I really don't know.

22 Q. I take it that someone like LVK couldn't just

23 simply walk into Smyllum and have this sort of

24 involvement with the children there?

25 A. I think he was -- his name was known in the town with

1 things like -- as we have the Lanimer Day and there's  
2 always a committee, he's always in these committees.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. I suppose some could say they looked up to LVK .

5 Q. In any event, at the time that he was coming to Smyllum,  
6 he was a young man at that time?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Just looking to his involvement, was he a regular  
9 visitor so far as you can remember?

10 A. He was up and down quite often, yes.

11 LADY SMITH: Remind me: in your time, St Kentigern's was  
12 boys?

13 A. Yes.

14 LADY SMITH: I have that. Was it any particular age group  
15 or was it right through?

16 A. It was more or less straight through, although there was  
17 no babies. But the youngest might be about 4 or 5.

18 LADY SMITH: Right.

19 MR MacAULAY: The oldest might have been into the teens.

20 A. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MR MacAULAY: If we look at your statement, sister, at  
23 page 1024, at paragraphs 218 onwards really, you're  
24 being asked about the allegations that have been made  
25 about the regime in Smyllum, many of which I think I've



1 discussed with you in the course of today, including the  
2 beatings, the bed-wetting and the force-feeding  
3 allegations that have been made. You were asked when  
4 you gave your statement, at paragraph number 221, why  
5 people would make these allegations if none of that  
6 happened at Smyllum. And your answer is you really  
7 don't know; is that --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- the position?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Can I just pick something up with you from your  
12 statement that I should have picked up earlier when  
13 I was looking at the evidence by this witness. That's  
14 on paragraph 107 on page 1010. So that's page 1010.

15 Paragraph 107. I had looked with you at  
16 June Miller's evidence, sister.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. That was put to you when you were giving the statement.  
19 You say there:

20 "That's not true and the strange thing is that the  
21 June I had, she wore glasses."

22 Can I say she did talk about her glasses at one  
23 point and you being involved with her in that episode.

24 Then you say:

25 "But June Miller was up to see me not long ago. She

1           came up last year on Lanimers' Day in Lanark. [REDACTED]

2           [REDACTED] were with her and their  
3 families. We were just talking about the silly things  
4 that had happened, just like a family gathering. I have  
5 a photograph of us all together."

6           And can I just suggest to you that whatever may have  
7 happened with [REDACTED] that June Miller was not one  
8 of the visitors that day; could that be correct?

9           A. No, she was there.

10          Q. So you would insist upon saying she was there?

11          A. Yes.

12          Q. Are you saying that she would be in this photograph you  
13 say?

14          A. She would be, yes.

15          Q. Have you got the photograph?

16          A. No.

17          Q. Does it exist?

18          A. Yes.

19          Q. If you can make that available to us, sister, that would  
20 be helpful.

21          A. Because she was telling me the day she came, she told  
22 me -- well, [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]  
24          Q. Sorry?

25          A. [REDACTED]

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25



Q. Okay. Again, if the photograph could be made available, that would be helpful.

A. Yes.

Q. Then the last thing perhaps, sister, I can put to you is at paragraph 233. It's the second last paragraph in your statement at page 1027. On 233 what you say in the third line is:

"I feel very saddened by it because the years that I was there were very happy and the children were happy."

I think that "we" should be a "they":

"They were looked after."

I think that's a misprint.

"They were well fed and everything. I couldn't really understand how people would try and drag things out of the youngsters to say the things they've been saying. Then they tell one another so they add something else on."

I just wanted to understand these last two sentences. What are you trying to say there? It's not very clear.

A. I think at one point one of the boys was telling me about in Glasgow, there was a certain person went into public houses and asked were any of the boys ever in

1           Smyllum and if they said yes, he would get them some  
2           money -- so if they could tell a story, they might be  
3           able to get some money. So -- because they do meet up  
4           with one another, the children, and they were all  
5           discussing it ...

6           Q. Do I take it that what you're seeking to say is the  
7           children -- children who have been to Smyllum meet up  
8           and discuss it and somehow they've put this together in  
9           an untrue way? I may be misunderstanding.

10          A. It does go through my mind, yes.

11          Q. That's what goes through your mind.

12          A. Because it's so upsetting when you hear some of the  
13          things of the children who were so happy.

14          Q. Again, sister, I have taken you to evidence where  
15          children say they were happy, but notwithstanding that  
16          happiness they still say things happened that shouldn't  
17          have happened.

18          A. Yes.

19          Q. But again, you don't accept any of that?

20          A. Mm.

21          Q. Is that correct? You don't accept that?

22          A. Yes.

23          LADY SMITH: Sister, I should probably also make sure you  
24          understand that, whatever may or may not have been said  
25          in pubs in Glasgow, quite a number of the people that

1           have come forward are not from Glasgow.

2           A.   Yes.

3           LADY SMITH:  People went their different ways, they've had  
4           different lives, different experiences, and certainly,  
5           so far, there has been nothing by way of evidence before  
6           me to the effect that they are all in touch with each  
7           other.  It would be surprising, given the evident  
8           locations of some of them.

9           A.   Some of them, though, there's quite a few of them meet.

10          LADY SMITH:  I see what you're saying about that, but what  
11          I have to take account of is the fact that similar  
12          accounts have been coming from people that live in other  
13          places and may never have lived in Glasgow.

14          MR MacAULAY:  Sister, even if it is the case that some do  
15          meet, why would that be a basis for those that do meet  
16          to concoct, make up --

17          A.   I don't know.

18          Q.   -- stories?

19          A.   I don't know.

20          MR MacAULAY:  Very well, sister.  These are all the  
21          questions I have for you.  It has been a long day for  
22          you.  I can see that.  I haven't been sent any written  
23          questions to put to you, sister.

24                 My Lady, I'm not aware of what the position is on  
25          that front.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Just let me check whether there are  
2 any outstanding applications. Ms MacLeod, you can maybe  
3 tell me if anyone is putting their hand up.

4 Sister, thank you very much. As Mr MacAulay has  
5 already indicated we have kept you a long time and I'm  
6 sure it's very tiring for you, but it is very helpful  
7 for me to hear from you and have your account of the  
8 long time that I recognise you were at Smyllum. I'm now  
9 able to let you go.

10 A. Thank you.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 (The witness withdrew)

13 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay?

14 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, I think that's probably the evidence  
15 for today. Tomorrow I think the witness who was to be  
16 here for today will come back to give evidence and there  
17 are three witnesses being lined up, so there's four  
18 witnesses altogether for tomorrow hopefully.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. I plan again a 10 o'clock  
20 start tomorrow, please, otherwise I'll rise now for the  
21 day. Thank you.

22 (3.45 pm)

23 (The inquiry adjourned until

24 Friday 19 January 2018 at 10.00 am)

25

I N D E X

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

SISTER **Julia** (sworn) .....1

    Questions from MR MacAULAY .....1

"SISTER JOSEPHINE" (sworn) .....48

    Questions from Mr MacAULAY .....50