

1 Thursday, 14 June 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. As you know, we're going to
4 return to oral evidence this morning. I think we have
5 two witnesses. Just before I do that, I should tell
6 everybody that, as they may know, today is the
7 anniversary of the tragic death of so many people in the
8 fire at Grenfell Tower and many people up and down the
9 country will be observing a silence at 12 noon. I'm
10 intending to do that. I'll let everybody know when
11 we're stopping for the 1 minute at 12 noon.

12 In the meantime, I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay.

13 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, my Lady. The next witness wants
14 to be anonymous and to use the name "Sister Elimear" in
15 giving her evidence.

16 "SISTER ELIMEAR" (sworn)

17 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.
18 I think that looks as though you're in a good position
19 for the microphone. I'm sure you appreciate, sister,
20 it's important that we hear you through the microphone
21 all the time.

22 A. Yes.

23 LADY SMITH: A couple of other things. First of all, help
24 me with this puzzle. You've been introduced as
25 "Sister Aye-mar". I have also heard that name

1 pronounced as "Ee-mer". Do you prefer --

2 A. Ee-mer.

3 LADY SMITH: You may remember that -- and I think it has
4 already been explained to you -- that although this is
5 a public inquiry and not a trial, you retain the right
6 not to incriminate yourself. I think it has also been
7 explained to you that if at any time you say you were
8 involved in some abuse of children, you could be asked
9 further questions about that, but you're not obliged to
10 answer them, and I think that was in connection with you
11 giving a statement before today, that will have been
12 said to you.

13 It will also have been explained that if you did
14 choose to answer, your answers will be recorded and they
15 would be available if anybody wished to rely on what you
16 had said in any future proceedings. It's important that
17 you understand that this continues to apply at this
18 hearing. You continue to retain the right not to
19 incriminate yourself and so if, for example, you said
20 you were involved in some form of child abuse and you
21 were asked questions about it, you don't have to answer
22 the questions, but if you do choose to do so, you need
23 to appreciate that all your answers are being recorded
24 and will go into the transcript and they would be
25 available at a later stage if required. Do you

1 understand that?

2 A. I understand.

3 LADY SMITH: I'll now pass over to Mr MacAulay, who will
4 explain what he wants you to do with the red file
5 amongst other things. Thank you.

6 Questions from MR MacAULAY

7 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, sister.

8 A. Good morning, Mr MacAulay.

9 Q. I don't need your date of birth, but in order to get
10 a time frame, can I confirm with you that you were born
11 in 1947?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. In the red folder, you'll find a copy of the statement
14 that you provided to the inquiry. The reference for the
15 stenographers is WIT.001.001.7056.

16 Could I ask you, sister, to go to the last page of
17 the statement. You'll find that at 7091. Can you
18 confirm that you have signed the statement?

19 A. Yes, I can.

20 Q. Do you say in the last paragraph:

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

23 Is that correct?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Do you also say:

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

3 A. Correct, yes.

4 Q. Sister, I think you tell us in your statement that you
5 joined the Sisters of Nazareth in 1963; is that right?

6 A. That's right, yes.

7 Q. When you joined, did you go and do some training?

8 A. Yes. Training as a sister within the order, you know,
9 a novitiate and that sort of thing, yes.

10 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that you went to
11 Lasswade in Edinburgh, I think sometimes referred to as
12 Bonnyrigg --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- in 1966; is that correct?

15 A. That's right, yes.

16 Q. Had you done any form of training in connection with
17 childcare before you went to Lasswade?

18 A. Not at that stage, no.

19 Q. So far as Lasswade is concerned, I think you were just
20 there for about a year or so.

21 A. One year exactly, yes.

22 Q. And at that time, looking to your date of birth, if
23 you were born in 1947 and you went to Lasswade in about
24 1966, you'd have been very young at that time?

25 A. That's right, yes.

1 Q. What was your role when you got to Lasswade?

2 A. I was responsible for a group of children, ages ranging

3 from about -- I can't recall everything, but about 5,

4 you know, up to 12 or 13. I don't remember exactly all

5 the details, but there was a senior person who would

6 be -- I would be kind of under supervision with her,

7 a senior sister.

8 Q. Do I take it from what you've said, sister, that you

9 were allocated a particular group yourself?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Am I right in thinking you'd be 19 or 20 at that time?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. From what you've said then, you were to be supervised by

14 a more senior sister?

15 A. Yes, that's correct.

16 Q. Can you remember who that was?

17 A. I do remember.

18 Q. You don't remember?

19 A. I do remember, yes.

20 Q. Who was that?

21 LADY SMITH: Sister, having asked you to make sure you use

22 the microphone, when you get too close to it, it fuzzes

23 a bit. If we can try and figure out what the correct

24 position is, then that would be helpful.

25 (Pause)

- 1 A. She was Sister Anthony.
- 2 MR MacAULAY: So far as the day-to-day running of the group
3 was concerned, was that your responsibility?
- 4 A. Yes, it was, but should I have encountered any problems
5 or issues or needed advice, she would be there to
6 support me, yes.
- 7 Q. And how many were in the group?
- 8 A. I have no clear recollection but -- this is only pure
9 guesswork now -- it could be 15 to 20 or thereabouts.
- 10 Q. You mentioned ages already. What sort of age range are
11 we talking about then?
- 12 A. I would say -- I can't remember any of them being
13 pre-school or pre-school age. I have no clear memory of
14 that; it was so long ago. But I would say they were all
15 school-age children.
- 16 Q. Were there other groups of a similar nature as well?
- 17 A. There were other groups in the main building. We were
18 in a building off -- a little bit further down the
19 avenue, and there were I'd say three -- I think it was
20 three groups in the main building.
- 21 Q. How many groups were in your building?
- 22 A. Two groups.
- 23 Q. Was that known as Holycote?
- 24 A. Holycote, correct, yes.
- 25 Q. Who ran the other group; can you remember?

1 A. Sister Mary of Nazareth, deceased, she was there -- oh
2 God, I can't remember the second one. She would be
3 deceased as well. I think -- I'm not 100 per cent sure,
4 but I think she was LFX.

5 Q. Very well.

6 A. And there was a sister, a junior one, LFX,
7 Sister LFX. I can't remember her second name.
8 Anyway, she was LFX.

9 Q. And these sisters were in charge of their own groups?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. So far as your group was concerned, sister, did you have
12 lay staff to assist you?

13 A. Yes, we did.

14 Q. How many lay staff did you have?

15 A. I'd say a maximum of two or thereabouts.

16 Q. Just to be clear then, when you went there, you had
17 received no training at all in childcare?

18 A. Not at that stage, no.

19 Q. But when you got to Lasswade, were you given any form of
20 instructions or advice as to how the group should be
21 managed?

22 A. Not formal instruction, informal, I would say, you know,
23 as to -- today it would be a formal induction, but back
24 then it was just -- you were shown the layout of the
25 place and the number of kids and all that sort of thing.

- 1 But nothing formal.
- 2 Q. So far as your recollection is concerned in relation to
3 the lay staff, do you know if they had had any training
4 in childcare?
- 5 A. Sorry, I can't even remember their names. I wouldn't
6 think so. I'm just saying that now, you know, to be on
7 the safe side. I would doubt they were trained.
- 8 Q. Okay. In your time there, sister, did children come
9 into the group?
- 10 A. They probably -- yes, I would say they did. Again, it's
11 so long ago and I've been through so many different
12 ministries. I'm sure they did come into the group, you
13 know, some of them were in for short term or maybe
14 longer term, yes.
- 15 Q. In relation to the children that you had, sister,
16 can you remember if you were provided with any
17 information as to their backgrounds?
- 18 A. We would have. We would have been. Yes, we would have
19 got information --
- 20 Q. When you say --
- 21 A. -- as to when they'd be admitted and why they were being
22 admitted, et cetera.
- 23 Q. Do you remember having that information?
- 24 A. Probably very basic information.
- 25 Q. Do you remember that, though, sister?

- 1 A. Not clearly.
- 2 Q. In relation to children leaving, do you have any
3 recollection of that happening now?
- 4 A. Leaving as in?
- 5 Q. Leaving the group.
- 6 A. Fostering or returning home, not -- I haven't a clear
7 memory of it. Not in the year I was there.
- 8 Q. Can I just ask you some questions about the routine
9 then, sister, and you do talk about this in your
10 statement. So far as the accommodation was concerned,
11 what was the set-up for the children?
- 12 A. They would have had shared bedrooms -- I suppose you'd
13 call them dormitories. There were maybe three or four
14 children, maybe boys in one area, little girls or
15 whatever. I can't remember the exact amount of rooms we
16 had, but we had quite a few because it was then a new
17 building.
- 18 Q. Did you have a separate dining room for your group?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Were the groups really kept quite separate?
- 21 A. They were separate, yes. Yes.
- 22 Q. Did you know what --
- 23 A. I mean, they would have mixed if they were outside
24 playing and stuff like that and going to school,
25 certainly.

- 1 Q. Would you yourself know what was going on in another
2 group and how it was being managed?
- 3 A. Not particularly. Not particularly, no, I wouldn't.
4 You would have been just so involved with your own group
5 and that was my responsibility.
- 6 Q. Can I ask you about the food, sister? What was the food
7 like at Lasswade?
- 8 A. Very good.
- 9 Q. Did you have any difficulty with the children eating
10 their meals?
- 11 A. Never, never an issue.
- 12 Q. Do you have any recollection of a child not wanting to
13 eat a particular dish?
- 14 A. Well, that would be true of all children, any of us,
15 yes.
- 16 Q. So you do remember that?
- 17 A. I would remember things like that, yes. You would.
- 18 Q. What would happen?
- 19 A. Well, they would have eaten as much as they could
20 possibly eat because some children -- all children could
21 be like that, they might eat or they might not eat some
22 things, but they would be offered food for every meal.
- 23 Q. Was any pressure put on a child to eat a particular
24 dish?
- 25 A. Oh certainly not, no. I wouldn't like it myself so I

- 1 wouldn't do it to anyone else.
- 2 Q. You probably understand the reason for asking that is
3 there has been evidence in connection with the Sisters
4 of Nazareth that children were force-fed. What's your
5 reaction to that?
- 6 A. Oh gosh, I don't have any memory -- definitely I never
7 did that, I would not do it, so I don't know what
8 anybody else did, but if it's said, it's a possibility
9 it could be true.
- 10 Q. Were children punished in your group if they didn't eat
11 their meals?
- 12 A. Definitely not.
- 13 Q. You were also asked, sister, when you gave your
14 statement about bed-wetting.
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Can you remember if there were children in your group
17 who did wet the bed?
- 18 A. I do.
- 19 Q. Were there children who did wet the bed?
- 20 A. There were some younger children mainly who would have
21 been bed-wetters, yes.
- 22 Q. And what was the procedure?
- 23 A. If it was -- sometimes if you went round at night and
24 they were disturbed or were trying to get up or
25 something or they had an accident or were bed-wetters,

1 you would take them out, maybe take them to the
2 bathroom, change the sheets, put them back to bed, and
3 they'd sleep for the rest of the night.

4 Q. Again, there has been evidence in the inquiry that
5 children were humiliated in different ways for wetting
6 the bed, like a sheet being put on their heads and so
7 on. Did that happen in your group?

8 A. Definitely not. Certainly not.

9 Q. What about punishment?

10 A. You wouldn't punish them; you would encourage them maybe
11 to go to the toilet. Some children you could even
12 support them by saying, look -- I might go into them at
13 night -- you know, they might wet the bed in the middle
14 of the night -- so they'd be comfortable for the rest of
15 the night.

16 Q. What about bathing a child who had wet the bed? Was
17 there any -- would that happen?

18 A. You certainly would give them a good wash in the
19 morning, especially if -- well, if they were
20 school-going children, to have them -- you know,
21 maintain their dignity going to school, yes.

22 Q. Would that involve a bath?

23 A. It would either be a bath or a wash.

24 Q. And if it was a bath, what would the water be like?

25 A. Sorry, I don't quite understand.

- 1 Q. It may seem like a strange question, but we've had
2 evidence that one practice was that children -- one
3 allegation of a practice was that children were made to
4 have cold baths.
- 5 A. Oh goodness me. Definitely not. I never bathed anybody
6 in cold water.
- 7 Q. Would you be involved in the bathing of children?
- 8 A. Possibly, or maybe some lay staff we had. It depended
9 who was there on duty at that time.
- 10 Q. And can you remember how many baths you had for the
11 group?
- 12 A. You mean just as a regular thing? Yes.
- 13 Q. Sorry, the number of actual baths. Did you have two or
14 three baths?
- 15 A. We would have more than two. We'd definitely have two,
16 one for the boys maybe, one for the girls. Back then we
17 wouldn't have had showers.
- 18 Q. With a group of the size you mentioned of maybe 15 to
19 20, how was bathing organised?
- 20 A. Well, age appropriate. You would start maybe in the
21 evening with the younger ones, because they'd be going
22 to bed at an earlier stage, and the older ones would be
23 able to look after themselves at a later stage.
- 24 Q. And would the bathwater be changed at --
- 25 A. Oh, absolutely.

- 1 Q. After every child?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. You're sure about that?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. You say in your statement, sister, that schooling was
6 done outside the home; is that right?
- 7 A. Correct, yes.
- 8 Q. You have no recollection of attending, for example,
9 a parents' evening; that's what you say in your
10 statement.
- 11 A. I don't, I don't recall going to any school meetings or
12 parents' meetings.
- 13 Q. What about homework? Do you recall assisting children
14 with homework or not?
- 15 A. To be perfectly honest, they probably did get homework
16 and we would have assisted them if necessary.
- 17 Q. Do I take it from the way you're giving your evidence,
18 sister, when you say "we would, we would", your
19 recollection really in relation to your time at Lasswade
20 is very poor?
- 21 A. It is poor, that's correct.
- 22 Q. One thing you tell us is that, so far as holidays were
23 concerned, that the children were taken to Dunbar.
- 24 A. Dunbar, yes, I do remember taking them to Dunbar.
- 25 Q. Were there particular activities available to the

- 1 children when they were in Dunbar?
- 2 A. I don't exactly know where it is now geographically, but
3 I remember it was near the sea, anyway, the beach, so
4 they were able to go to the beach during the day and
5 have picnics and all the rest of it.
- 6 Q. What about chores? Did the children have particular
7 chores to do?
- 8 A. Not chores as in heavy work. Some children loved
9 assisting you with little jobs, say like, "I'll set the
10 table", "I can do that", they liked to be -- they felt
11 wanted by doing little tasks.
- 12 Q. How about heavier work like polishing floors?
- 13 A. Oh gosh, no. I don't remember polished floors now at
14 all.
- 15 Q. Were birthdays celebrated for the children?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. How would you know, how would you be aware that
18 a particular birthday was coming up?
- 19 A. We'd have records of children from admission, from their
20 records from Social Services, their dates of birth,
21 et cetera.
- 22 Q. Did you have some sort of system that meant that you'd
23 check to see, for example, was a birthday coming up
24 in the following week or whatever?
- 25 A. Oh yes, and older ones would remind you that their

1 birthday was coming up as well. You wouldn't be allowed
2 to forget.

3 Q. For the younger children?

4 A. The younger ones, we had to watch out for them, you
5 know.

6 Q. Looking at visitors, do you recollect social workers
7 coming to visit?

8 A. My memory there is very poor regarding social workers
9 coming to visit. At that point in time, they would have
10 had a social worker because social workers did send them
11 into care; they didn't come from any other charitable
12 organisation.

13 Q. They may not have been referred to as social workers,
14 but that sort of person, do you have any recollection of
15 dealing with such a person when you were there?

16 A. Not -- not, no personally, no.

17 Q. Who would then deal --

18 A. Maybe a sister that was more senior to me and who would
19 have been qualified and experienced.

20 Q. I suppose it would be you who would have knowledge of
21 the children in the group.

22 A. Yes, but I have no clear recollection in that year of
23 attending any formal case conferences or anything like
24 that, not in Lasswade.

25 Q. What records did you keep then of the children?

1 A. They were very, very basic, just handwritten records of
2 maybe events, incidents, maybe issues at school, things
3 like that. Issues with their next of kin, families, you
4 know, if they disturbed them or whatever else. All
5 those type of things.

6 Q. Do you recollect noting down that sort of information in
7 respect of a child?

8 A. It would have been very, very basic, but I don't have
9 a very, very clear recollection, I will admit.

10 Q. Can you tell me, for example, if there was a file kept
11 in respect of each child in your group?

12 A. I ... I don't think there would have been a file per
13 child.

14 Q. So are you talking then about a more generic record of
15 a book --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- that would contain details in relation to all the
18 children? Is that the --

19 A. That was the type of, yes, record-keeping then.

20 Q. And in relation then to reviewing the progress of
21 a child, was any record kept of that?

22 A. Yes, it would be ongoing, I'd imagine, yes.

23 Q. Again, you say "you would imagine"; do you have any
24 recollection?

25 A. I don't have a clear recollection.

- 1 Q. Do you have any recollection?
- 2 A. Just very vague.
- 3 Q. So far as families were concerned, was the group that
4 you were in charge of one that had different family
5 members in it, brothers and sisters?
- 6 A. Oh yes, yes, they did.
- 7 Q. So were siblings kept together?
- 8 A. Siblings were kept together, unless they had -- it was
9 a huge family and maybe some of them would have maybe
10 have left school and stuff like that and they wouldn't
11 have been in care, so they might have had siblings
12 elsewhere, some of them.
- 13 Q. Could there have been siblings elsewhere within the
14 home?
- 15 A. No, definitely not. Not with the ones I looked after,
16 I don't remember them having -- they didn't have
17 brothers and sisters in other units if that's what you
18 mean.
- 19 Q. Yes.
- 20 A. No, no, no.
- 21 Q. Can I ask you about discipline and punishment, sister,
22 during this fairly short period that you were in
23 Lasswade. Were you given any guidance when you went
24 there as to how children were to be disciplined?
- 25 A. No.

- 1 Q. How then did you know how to discipline the children?
- 2 A. You would have done it in a very informal way, you know,
3 like a parent would at home. Maybe a telling-off or
4 something like that.
- 5 Q. What about a smack?
- 6 A. I didn't smack them.
- 7 Q. Looking to a group of the size you've mentioned, did you
8 find that a telling-off worked?
- 9 A. Sometimes, not always.
- 10 Q. And then what?
- 11 A. You might say, well, look, you can't watch your
12 favourite programme tonight, or whatever was on telly
13 that they used to like watching, if it was an older
14 child. A younger child, you wouldn't do that with, you
15 know.
- 16 Q. When you gave your statement, sister, a number of
17 allegations that have been made by some former children
18 at Nazareth House against sisters were put to you; do
19 you remember that?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. These are set out at paragraphs 45 onwards, 45 through
22 to 60. For example, just to try and summarise what was
23 being put to you: children's clothes were removed from
24 them when they were admitted and they were given other
25 clothes; did that happen?

- 1 A. Not that I can recall.
- 2 Q. Were children allowed to talk after lights out in the
3 rooms?
- 4 A. Oh, they did talk, naturally. Children are children and
5 they will do all the things children do and you stayed
6 around just to make sure they were settled before you
7 retired yourself.
- 8 Q. Were children beaten if they were caught talking in the
9 rooms at night?
- 10 A. Oh no, definitely not.
- 11 Q. I have already touched on force-feeding. So far as you
12 witnessed, there was no force-feeding?
- 13 A. Definitely not.
- 14 Q. What about physical or even corporal punishment?
15 I think you're telling me you never hit a child.
- 16 A. No, it wasn't something I would revert to.
- 17 Q. I have mentioned bed-wetting and humiliating practices.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. You say that never happened in your group?
- 20 A. Definitely not.
- 21 Q. There has also been a suggestion in the evidence, so far
22 as Lasswade is concerned, of there having been sexual
23 abuse. Did you have any inkling of anything like that
24 when you were there?
- 25 A. No.

1 Q. Did you know how discipline was being managed in the
2 other groups?

3 A. No, I didn't.

4 Q. Did you ever discuss with other sisters the children and
5 their behaviour and their management?

6 A. We would have talked generally about maybe if there was
7 a child with lots of, you know, issues but it wouldn't
8 have been anything formal, you know.

9 Q. So do I take it --

10 A. I didn't get guidelines. If you're asking me if I got
11 guidelines, no, I didn't.

12 Q. What I'm trying to get at is whether there was any
13 effort to have a consistent approach across the
14 groups --

15 A. No.

16 Q. -- to discipline, and the answer to that is no?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Can I then move on, sister, to Nazareth House Cardonald,
19 because, as you tell us in your statement, you left
20 Lasswade in about 1967.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you came back to Cardonald in 1974; is this right?

23 A. 1974, correct.

24 Q. In the interim then, as I think you tell us in your
25 statement, you had received training.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Can you tell me about that?
- 3 A. Yes, in London, yes, I did two years' training.
- 4 Q. What was the nature of the course?
- 5 A. Nursery nursing training. I did deal with younger
6 children and pre-adoption and that sort of age group for
7 quite a long time.
- 8 Q. If I look at your statement, what you say is that when
9 you were called back to Hammersmith, you went to college
10 in London for two years doing training in nursery care.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. That's nursery care?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Did you get a qualification as a result of that?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. What sort of areas were covered in the course; can you
17 tell me?
- 18 A. It would be 0 to 5, mainly, younger babies being much
19 more -- it was much more intense, the detail there, but
20 it was from -- 0 to 5, really, were the main age groups
21 that were covered.
- 22 Q. Did you find the training helpful to you when you came
23 to Cardonald?
- 24 A. Very much so.
- 25 Q. In what way?

1 A. Insofar as that I had, you know -- when you'd have a lot
2 of research and knowledge, when you were armed with
3 that, it gave you more confidence in dealing with other
4 age groups because some of them had younger siblings and
5 older siblings, so it kind of bridged the gap.

6 Q. Can you compare your level of knowledge when you come to
7 Cardonald to the level of your knowledge when you went
8 to Lasswade?

9 A. I can, yes. I was armed with much more knowledge when
10 I went to Cardonald, yes.

11 Q. And how did that help you then in dealing with the
12 children?

13 A. For example, I had a lot more experience, and from that,
14 of course, you learned lots of techniques as to how to
15 handle them, how to cherish them, how to nurture them
16 and give them some dignity maybe that they never had.

17 Q. Were these techniques absent when you were at Lasswade?

18 A. I can't say for definite they were absent, but I don't
19 recall them. Because I was so junior, it didn't kind of
20 come to the fore like it did in Cardonald.

21 Q. Looking even with the benefit of hindsight, you were so
22 junior when you were in Lasswade.

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. You were 19 or 20.

25 A. Mm-hm.

- 1 Q. Do you think that you should have been put in that
2 position at such a young age?
- 3 A. In hindsight, I would say no, I shouldn't, but again,
4 the times that were in it, and then there was lots of
5 senior people to me, we weren't just an isolated group.
6 I certainly couldn't have done it -- if it was one group
7 on my own, I definitely couldn't: I wouldn't have had
8 the confidence or the training.
- 9 Q. But even at the time, at that young age, did you feel
10 perhaps out of your depth a bit when you were there?
- 11 A. Back then, I didn't. But in hindsight, I could say
12 maybe I was. But then again, we had more support from
13 other sisters who were experienced and giving advice and
14 stuff like that.
- 15 Q. Although I think you have told me that the groups were
16 quite discrete groups.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. For example, you didn't know what was going on in one of
19 the other groups?
- 20 A. You wouldn't be frequenting them, you wouldn't be
21 visiting them; you'd be dealing with your own group.
22 With very little staff, you spent your time dealing with
23 your own unit.
- 24 Q. Did you feel that you were short staffed?
- 25 A. Again, in hindsight, yes, the times that were in it.

1 You know, money wasn't there, et cetera. I could say it
2 was a disservice, you know, comparing it to today's
3 standards.

4 Q. Can we then look at the position at Cardonald. I think
5 you were there from [REDACTED] 1974 to [REDACTED] 1979; is that
6 correct?

7 A. Correct, yes.

8 Q. And at that time, again, you were allocated to
9 a particular group of children; is that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Can you tell me about that? How large a group was it?

12 A. It was about between 20/24, that size of group.

13 Q. How many groups were there at that time?

14 A. There were four.

15 Q. Were you in the main building then?

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

17 Q. Was there a particular area that you occupied in the
18 main building?

19 A. Yes, we each had a unit.

20 Q. Where was your unit based?

21 A. It was a three-storey building. I was on the top floor,
22 anyway, I remember.

23 Q. I think you say in your statement, sister, that when you
24 went there, there were some renovations going on; that's
25 at paragraph 62.

- 1 A. Sorry, as far back as?
- 2 Q. When you went to Cardonald, what you say at paragraph 62
3 in your statement:
- 4 "I was in charge of a group. I was on the very top
5 floor. There were renovations being done to the main
6 building."
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. What was being done at that time?
- 9 A. There was a building across the drive and the children
10 I looked after, we moved over there while the
11 renovations were going on in the main building to bring
12 it up to standard.
- 13 Q. Did you move back then to the main building?
- 14 A. I didn't because in the interim period, before there was
15 a new building going up -- yes, I was moved on yet
16 again.
- 17 Q. But you were there for five years.
- 18 A. I was, yes.
- 19 Q. How long after you got there were you moved to this
20 other building?
- 21 A. Possibly -- oh gosh ... I can't say exactly, but
22 it would be around -- maybe, two to three years. No,
23 I don't think I was in that other unit that long, sorry.
24 I'm trying to recall. Maybe about a year. About
25 a year.

- 1 Q. Did the other unit have a name?
- 2 A. St Basil's.
- 3 Q. Was it only your group that was in the unit?
- 4 A. Correct.
- 5 Q. Then looking at staff, what staff did you have to help
- 6 you with the group?
- 7 A. I think it was about two to three -- I can't remember --
- 8 yes.
- 9 Q. Do you know what training they'd had?
- 10 A. I don't think they had any training. I have no
- 11 recollection of them having been trained.
- 12 Q. What were their duties then?
- 13 A. General care, like getting children up, getting them
- 14 washed, ready for school, having breakfast, you know.
- 15 Day to day, like you would in any family.
- 16 Q. You've mentioned there were four groups. Do you
- 17 remember the names of the sisters who were in charge of
- 18 the other three groups?
- 19 A. Initially, when I went there, there was
- 20 a Sister [REDACTED] LNU she was next door to me; she's
- 21 deceased. There was a Sister [REDACTED] LRC. Who was the
- 22 fourth one, sorry? Oh, sorry, a Sister [REDACTED] LHW.
- 23 Q. Was Sister [REDACTED] LHW there when you left?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. She had gone before then?

1 A. She had gone before me, yes.

2 Q. Again, looking to the nature of the unit, was it a mixed
3 unit of boys and girls?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. And what about the ages of the group?

6 A. The ages of the group I was in -- when I went there,
7 I remember there was one pre-school child. He was
8 a little boy. He had a brother who was of school age.
9 So all the rest were school age up to about 13/14.

10 Q. Again, were family members kept together?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You tell us in your statement that the children would
13 have their own clothes.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Is that correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So again, there wasn't an issue of children's clothes
18 being taken away and shared out?

19 A. Definitely not.

20 Q. Did you shop for clothes for the children?

21 A. Yes. They used to get a clothing allowance from Social
22 Services, as I recall, and the teenagers would have
23 definitely shopped for their own clothes; they knew what
24 they wanted. We would have shopped for the younger
25 ones.

- 1 Q. Can I ask you, sister, then about what the position
2 would be if a child had to be admitted to the group.
3 Can you help me with that? What processes would be
4 involved in that?
- 5 A. Social Services, again, would have contacted us, maybe
6 if it was a family -- for example, if it was a family of
7 say five children and we only had accommodation for,
8 say, two, vacancies shall I say, for two -- well, you
9 didn't really split them. They would look around to see
10 if they could keep them together. Maybe on an odd
11 occasion you may have to say, I'll have two and somebody
12 else might have had one, but they had contact. We made
13 sure they had contact with their brothers and sisters
14 during the day.
- 15 Q. If a social worker were to be involved in placing
16 a child in your group, would you meet with the
17 social worker?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Do you remember doing that?
- 20 A. Yes, indeed.
- 21 Q. What discussions would take place?
- 22 A. There would be the background -- age group, background,
23 reasons for admission. Mainly issues to do with
24 parental -- whatever it would be, control or management.
25 And then we had ongoing case conferences.

- 1 Q. As far as the admission information you've mentioned
2 would be concerned, sister, did you consider it
3 important to have that information?
- 4 A. Absolutely, vital.
- 5 Q. Why was that vital?
- 6 A. Well, because you'd have a better understanding where
7 that family or child was coming from. For example, if
8 it was a physically or sexually abusive family or ...
9 I used to know the law regarding whether they were
10 allowed visitors or allowed contact with their parents
11 or allowed visits home. I know there was -- I can't
12 recall the section of the Children's Act then, but some
13 children were not allowed contact; we would be aware of
14 that.
- 15 LADY SMITH: You might also have a child who is grieving
16 over the death of a parent.
- 17 A. Prior to admission, I don't remember anybody being with
18 just one parent. I don't have a memory of that.
- 19 LADY SMITH: I can see that may not have happened to you,
20 but we do know that that could be the background
21 circumstances --
- 22 A. Absolutely, I understand.
- 23 LADY SMITH: -- in relation to which a child is admitted.
24 And you'd need to know that, wouldn't you?
- 25 A. Oh, we would have been informed of that, definitely.

1 MR MacAULAY: As you've said, sister, that sort of
2 background information would be vital to the way you
3 would be able to care for the child.
4 A. Correct.
5 Q. Would you keep a record of that information?
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. And was such a record kept for each child?
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. So I think when I asked you about Lasswade, you couldn't
10 remember what --
11 A. No, I couldn't.
12 Q. Did you have a separate file for each child at
13 Cardonald?
14 A. I cannot stand over that 100 per cent, but I know we did
15 keep handwritten records.
16 Q. If you've got over 20 children, it would seem to make
17 sense to have a separate file for each child.
18 A. Absolutely.
19 Q. You say you just cannot remember if that was the case?
20 A. I cannot remember, yes.
21 Q. Putting that aside, in any event, you're saying there
22 would be records --
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. -- detailing the sort of information you've mentioned --
25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- in connection particularly with the background of the
2 child?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And you also mentioned a little while ago case
5 conferences?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Can you help me with that?

8 A. You would have -- at a case conference you'd have maybe
9 a senior social worker, a junior social worker, maybe
10 somebody from the school, police, probation officers,
11 ourselves. There could be quite a number of people
12 involved.

13 Q. And where would they take place?

14 A. Sometimes they would take place in our own -- I'm
15 getting a bit mixed up here with the UK because latterly
16 I was in the UK and it would be outsourced somewhere
17 else. But I would recall they would have been in our
18 own facility.

19 Q. At Nazareth House?

20 A. Yes, obviously in a private room.

21 Q. So you're suggesting there that there would be a number
22 of different people who might have been involved with
23 a child who would be present?

24 A. Absolutely, yes.

25 Q. What about the child? Would the child be involved?

1 A. Not then.

2 Q. Would these case conferences then be dedicated to
3 looking to see what would be best for the child?

4 A. Yes, absolutely.

5 Q. What sort of options can you remember?

6 A. Yes, or if there was anything like a possibility of the
7 parents -- maybe if, for example, if there was substance
8 abuse, like alcohol, if the parents kind of mended their
9 ways or whatever, they could be allowed home for
10 a weekend or a week, just to see how things would go and
11 invariably most of them were returned to care.

12 Q. How often then do you remember having such case
13 conferences?

14 A. I'm not very clear on it, but it would have been maybe
15 once or twice a year.

16 Q. In connection with a child?

17 A. A child or a family, mm-hm.

18 LADY SMITH: The conferences might, I suppose, have been
19 related to the timing of children's hearings; would that
20 have been so? You're in 1974 onwards now, so the 1968
21 legislation, which introduced the Children's Panel, as
22 you probably remember it being referred to, would be in
23 place, and these case conferences would be reporting
24 back to the Children's Panel. You maybe don't remember
25 the detail.

1 A. I wouldn't remember the details but, yes, obviously it
2 would have been tied in with that.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MR MacAULAY: Again, would you keep a record of what took
5 place at the case conference?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And would that record be kept within Nazareth House?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I take it the record would summarise the discussions and
10 any conclusions that would have been arrived at?

11 A. Yes, or maybe written notes from their social worker.

12 Q. Sorry?

13 A. Maybe we would have had written notes from the
14 social worker as well, you know, a written record.

15 Q. Are you suggesting the social worker would give you
16 a written record?

17 A. Some ... it is not a very clear recollection, but they
18 would have reported back all right.

19 Q. I just want to be clear as to what would be kept within
20 Nazareth House. Because, as you can imagine, children
21 who were in places like Nazareth House have an anxiety
22 about records.

23 A. Of course.

24 Q. I just want to understand what records you would have
25 following upon such a conference. So would you have

1 a summary -- just to be clear, I think you say you would
2 have kept a summary of what had transpired at the
3 conference.

4 A. Yes, we would.

5 Q. And if there was some proposal in connection with
6 a child, that would be recorded?

7 A. It would.

8 Q. Where would the record be kept?

9 A. Back then?

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. We would have kept them, you know, safe in a locked
12 filing cabinet.

13 Q. Did you have an office?

14 A. A very small one, yes. I do remember I had an office.

15 Q. Records relating to the children in your group, would
16 they be kept in your office?

17 A. They would have then, yes.

18 Q. They were kept in your office?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. What about the Mother Superior? Did she keep any
21 records in connection with the children in your group?

22 A. I can't clearly recall that. Maybe there might have
23 been something. I don't know. It would be incorrect of
24 me to say she did or she didn't.

25 Q. In any event, the essential records, if I can call them

- 1 that, in connection with the children in your group,
2 would be in your office?
- 3 A. Absolutely, yes.
- 4 Q. And when you came to leave, would these records be in
5 your office?
- 6 A. They would have been, yes, locked away. The next person
7 would have followed on from it.
- 8 Q. And apart from the sort of record that we've discussed,
9 which might include some sort of file, possibly, for
10 a child, were there other books kept that recorded
11 events?
- 12 A. Yes, like a diary. Maybe a journal -- a diary, more
13 possibly -- with dates if there were incidents or
14 accidents or things like that.
- 15 Q. Was there a punishment book?
- 16 A. I didn't have a punishment book.
- 17 Q. Did you know if anyone else had a punishment book?
- 18 A. I wasn't aware of it.
- 19 Q. Well, can I ask you a little bit about the routine then,
20 sister. Perhaps look at the food first of all.
21 What was the food like?
- 22 A. Excellent.
- 23 Q. Did you have any recollection of any children having
24 difficulty with any particular dish?
- 25 A. No.

1 Q. Again, can I ask you if any children in your group were
2 made to eat particular dishes?

3 A. Certainly not.

4 Q. Or punished for not eating dishes?

5 A. Certainly not.

6 Q. Again, bed-wetting, we touched upon in connection with
7 Lasswade. Did you have children at Cardonald who wet
8 the bed?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. How were they dealt with?

11 A. Again, it would have been, when you got to know them in
12 detail, you would know if -- because my room was very
13 nearby and if there was a child mooching around and
14 making noise, usually a younger one wanting the toilet
15 or something, you would go and assist them and if they
16 had a accident, you'd have changed the sheet and make
17 them comfortable for the rest of the night.

18 Q. So far as changing the sheet would be concerned in that
19 sort of situation you've mentioned, would you do that?

20 A. Sorry?

21 Q. Would you do the changing?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Could it be that the child would be asked to take the
24 sheet?

25 A. Oh no, no, no. Some of them were too young. No,

1 I wouldn't do that. I never did that, sorry.

2 Q. And you say you wouldn't do that?

3 A. I wouldn't and I didn't.

4 Q. Why wouldn't you?

5 A. It's the indignity of it. We were trying to engender
6 dignity and their self-worth. You don't want to do
7 something like that to a young child.

8 Q. Are you suggesting the indignity would be for the child
9 taking the sheet off and then having to take the
10 sheet --

11 A. Absolutely.

12 Q. From what you're saying, sister, in your group there was
13 no suggestion of a child being humiliated for wetting
14 the bed?

15 A. Oh no, no, definitely not.

16 Q. Or punished?

17 A. No, no, no.

18 Q. You again, I think, in connection with leisure, talk
19 about trips, and in particular I think now the place of
20 choice is Girvan; is that correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Was that an annual trip?

23 A. It was, and I think it was a building owned by the --
24 I've forgotten what it was now in Scotland. The
25 Catholic Children's Society. They owned the house and

1 if it was available, even at mid-term, they might say,
2 "Look, it's available, if you'd like to take a group
3 down for a couple of days or a week". We did that as
4 well as maybe a summer trip.

5 Q. On the summer trip would more than one group go on the
6 trip?

7 A. It would accommodate about two groups at a time.

8 Q. And do you recollect you and another group going --

9 A. I do.

10 Q. Again, can I ask you what sort of activities would be
11 available to the children?

12 A. Again, it was near the sea and we were very near the
13 town. I remember on one occasion we had a very extreme
14 wet weather and they all took off to the swimming baths
15 and suchlike and they'd spend the day there indoors.
16 There was plenty for them to do.

17 Q. Would the lay staff go with you on these --

18 A. Yes, oh yes.

19 Q. You say, I think, now in connection with schooling that
20 you did attend parents' evenings. You say that in your
21 statement in paragraph 79.

22 A. Yes, in Cardonald.

23 Q. You remember doing that?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. I think you said in Lasswade you didn't.

- 1 A. No, we didn't.
- 2 Q. Can you tell me about that then? Because you've got
3 quite a large group of children to cater for. What sort
4 of commitment was that?
- 5 A. Well, it was staggered by the fact that some of them
6 were primary school level and some of them were
7 secondary school level and some of them were families --
8 well, they wouldn't have been all in the same class,
9 obviously. But it was staggered, so it was relatively
10 easy to attend those meetings.
- 11 Q. You yourself would go; is that right?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Do you know what happened with other groups, if the
14 sisters in charge of other groups also did that?
- 15 A. Well, we would have met up on the way to the schools
16 because a lot of us would have had children of the same
17 age, they'd be in the same class, so you would know that
18 other sisters attended.
- 19 Q. But you do recollect that, do you?
- 20 A. I do.
- 21 Q. Chores. Again, if I can ask you about what sort of
22 chores the children had at Cardonald. Can you help me
23 with that?
- 24 A. They liked -- at weekends especially if some of them
25 weren't allowed home, some of them loved helping you

1 setting tables, doing their maths as to how many people
2 less they had to set for, how many knives they needed.
3 This was a great sort of therapeutic thing for them.
4 Some of them just loved doing it. Jobs like that,
5 little jobs.

6 Q. What about heavier type jobs?

7 A. Definitely not, no, no.

8 Q. You also say in your statement --

9 LADY SMITH: Why not? Why not have children do heavier
10 jobs?

11 A. Heavier as in polishing floors?

12 LADY SMITH: Polishing floors, for instance.

13 A. I didn't have polished floors then. We had floors that
14 you would wash or carpet or whatever. They didn't do
15 that.

16 LADY SMITH: I can see it wouldn't have been required to be
17 done if you didn't have polished floors, but your
18 reaction seemed to suggest that you wouldn't ask
19 children to do that sort of work. Have I picked you up
20 right?

21 A. Certainly. Personally I wouldn't.

22 LADY SMITH: Why not?

23 A. Because, I mean -- you know, children are children,
24 they'd rather be playing. They wouldn't like to be
25 hoovering or doing tasks maybe that the staff would do,

1 were paid to do, you know.

2 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

3 MR MacAULAY: And you had staff --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- as you've told us, that, as you put it, were paid to

6 do that sort of work.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You tell us at paragraph 96 about inspections. You say

9 that there were regular inspections from the order to

10 show that everything was okay. Do I understand from

11 that that this is an inspection by a superior sister of

12 the house; is that right?

13 A. Of the -- not of the house, it would be from the head

14 house in London, in Hammersmith.

15 Q. Yes, that's what I meant.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. The inspection of Cardonald --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. In that sort of inspection, can you tell me what the

20 focus of the inspection would be?

21 A. Well, they would have covered every area. We wouldn't

22 have been involved in the upper end of the -- with

23 Superiors and finance and all that sort of thing.

24 We would be involved directly with the care of the

25 children. Obviously they'd be walking around, they'd be

- 1 observing to make sure everybody was looked after well
2 and we had sufficient of everything.
- 3 Q. You've mentioned that they would also be seeing that the
4 finances were in order; is that correct?
- 5 A. Well, I would -- yes, that would have been from the top
6 end. I know that now, but back then I probably wouldn't
7 have paid any attention to it.
- 8 Q. What about the spiritual well-being of the sisters?
9 Would that form part of this type of inspection?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. So it would have a number of different focuses then?
- 12 A. Absolutely.
- 13 Q. Would there be a report following upon such an
14 inspection?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. And would you see the report?
- 17 A. At the final meeting we would have had a meeting and
18 whoever the inspector was, she would have read out the
19 report and the Superior would have kept a copy of it in
20 her office.
- 21 Q. How regularly were such inspections of the type you're
22 discussing at the moment carried out?
- 23 A. I think back then -- maybe it's the same now -- every
24 three years, I think.
- 25 Q. So in a five-year period, and you were there for

1 five years, could it be then there was only one such
2 inspection, at most two?

3 A. At most two, yes.

4 Q. Do you have a recollection of an inspection?

5 A. I have, but I can't remember the people who did it,
6 because, obviously, it was a long time ago and they
7 would be deceased now, but I definitely do recall them
8 coming.

9 Q. And you say "them".

10 A. We'd be made aware of an inspection coming.

11 Q. And you used the word "them" coming; how many would come
12 to carry out the inspection?

13 A. I think it was one or -- sorry, I'm not very clear on
14 this. One person.

15 Q. So one sister?

16 A. One person, yes.

17 Q. And that would be a sister from the order?

18 A. Yes, correct.

19 Q. Would the sister then be somebody who would be senior to
20 the Mother Superior --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- in the home?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And would it be the Regional Superior?

25 A. We didn't have provinces or regions back then. We were

1 just under the Generalate in Hammersmith and it would be
2 one of those General Councillors, I think they were
3 called, yes, one of those.

4 Q. In paragraph 100 of your statement, you provide some
5 information about people who could have access to
6 children. You give an example of -- this is on the
7 third last line:

8 "There was one occasion one little girl who had very
9 vocal, which was great, about something that happened
10 and the visit was stopped immediately."

11 A. Am I looking at -- where am I looking at now?

12 Q. I will take you back to it. We have got paragraph 100
13 on the screen. If you look to the third last line,
14 you're talking here about people having access to
15 children and there you say:

16 "There was one occasion I was aware of one little
17 girl who had been very vocal, which was great, about
18 something that had happened and the visit was stopped
19 immediately. It wasn't in my unit, but Social Work
20 would have been made aware."

21 And I have just been asked whether or not you can
22 recall what the problem was.

23 A. Yes, sorry, it took me a minute or two to recall.

24 I remember the sister saying it to me, and it was good,
25 it was a safeguard.

- 1 Q. What was the problem?
- 2 A. She felt ... I don't know the child now. I don't
3 recall who she was. But seemingly, this little girl --
4 and maybe there was another sibling with her -- and
5 families would take them out, there wasn't a lot of
6 safety issues in place back then, people were trusted
7 more. But she came to the sister and they wanted to
8 take her out again and she said, "No" -- yeah, they were
9 two little girls and she said she didn't like the
10 gentleman whose home she went to. She wasn't able to
11 verbalise it completely, as far as I can gather, and
12 I can remember saying to the sister, "That's it, don't.
13 When they come, just say, no, sorry, those children are
14 not returning with you". I don't think anything
15 happened, but she felt unsafe.
- 16 Q. So the child's view was taken into account on that
17 occasion?
- 18 A. Absolutely, absolutely.
- 19 Q. We have had evidence of a situation, for example, where
20 a child or children have come back from a visit and
21 complained of perhaps some inappropriate sexual
22 contact --
- 23 A. Mm-hm, mm-hm.
- 24 Q. -- not in that language, but --
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And not being believed; can you conceive of that?
- 2 A. I'd believe them. I definitely would.
- 3 Q. You would believe them?
- 4 A. Absolutely. Even though back then, there was no written
- 5 policies about safeguarding or anything like that, but
- 6 definitely you would consider: a child doesn't say that
- 7 willy-nilly.
- 8 Q. Now, then, if we look at the position if children left
- 9 your group. Did a child actually leave your group in
- 10 your time there, the five years you were at Cardonald?
- 11 A. Left the group as to -- would they be returned to their
- 12 family?
- 13 Q. Or fostered or indeed to any other institution.
- 14 A. There were one or two I recall now, an extremely
- 15 difficult situation, and because of their extreme
- 16 behaviour -- I call it "extreme" for want of a better
- 17 word -- they couldn't be managed and other children
- 18 within the group were very frightened, so we had to put
- 19 their -- consider their welfare, and again we were in
- 20 talks with Social Services and they removed them to --
- 21 I think they had to actually separate them, put them in
- 22 different facilities. I don't know where they were,
- 23 maybe their own facilities, but it was an extremely
- 24 difficult situation.
- 25 Q. Were these siblings?

- 1 A. They were siblings, yes.
- 2 Q. Just taking that on a little bit, did you find that
3 there were children in the group who possibly, because
4 of a difficult background, could be troublesome?
- 5 A. Absolutely, absolutely, and we had plenty who were
6 troublesome, but my goodness, nothing compared to this.
7 So for their welfare and safety, you know, we had no
8 choice but to discuss it with Social Services and they
9 removed them.
- 10 Q. But if you had plenty who were troublesome, how then did
11 you manage?
- 12 A. Not to the extent that this particular family were.
13 They wouldn't attend school. These kids wouldn't attend
14 school, they would climb up pipes and do all sorts of
15 strange things. There was no -- we just couldn't manage
16 them.
- 17 Q. I was moving on to ask you about discipline and that
18 links into that. Can I ask you first, before I look
19 at the detail, were you given any guidance now at
20 Cardonald about how a child could be disciplined?
- 21 A. Not specific, no, no.
- 22 Q. So how did you discipline, let's say, the troublesome
23 child?
- 24 A. On occasions, if they were really, really naughty or
25 whatever, children would do -- we didn't withhold their

1 full pocket money, you might take part of it and say,
2 "Look we're withholding that this week", or depriving
3 them of their favourite programme. Then you had to
4 supervise them if they were sent to their room because
5 you didn't know what mischief they'd get up to. So
6 there were two issues involved. Invariably it did work.

7 Q. You have mentioned pocket money, and what you say in
8 your statement -- actually, sister, it's on the screen
9 at 102:

10 "In terms of discipline and punishment, at
11 Nazareth House in Glasgow we weren't allowed to deprive
12 them of all their pocket money."

13 That suggests to me there was some sort of guidance
14 or rule that you couldn't deprive them of all the pocket
15 money.

16 A. Yes, it was -- I'd say it was an unwritten rule.

17 It would have been handed down: don't deprive them --
18 that's what I was told -- of all their pocket money.

19 Q. Who told you that?

20 A. Probably senior sisters.

21 Q. At least to that extent there was that degree --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Did you know at the time, sister, how the other units
24 managed discipline within their groups?

25 A. Not to the full extent, but you might hear a sister

1 talking about a child that was very troublesome or
2 naughty doing X, Y or Z. We wouldn't be told everything
3 because we had our own group to deal with.

4 Q. Coming then back to discipline, did you ever use
5 corporal punishment?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Did you in your group see any treatment of a child that
8 could be said to be abusive?

9 A. No.

10 Q. You mention in your statement -- at paragraph 105, the
11 way you put it is:

12 "There might be kids might take a notion to run away
13 but they wouldn't get very far."

14 Were there children in your group who ran away?

15 A. Yes, on a few occasions, yes.

16 Q. Why did they run away?

17 A. Well, they were very disturbed, number one. Some kids
18 thought it was -- I don't know whether they thought it
19 was a bit of fun. They were so disturbed some of them
20 would run away or say, "Oh, I know where to go,
21 wherever", by bus or -- mainly by bus. I don't know how
22 they got on the bus, they mightn't have had money on
23 them. They sometimes would make their way back to where
24 they came from.

25 Q. Would you say you had a happy environment?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. But notwithstanding that, there were these children who
3 were running away from it?
- 4 A. Not constantly. Occasionally, occasionally.
- 5 Q. Would these children be taken back?
- 6 A. Absolutely, yes.
- 7 Q. And what would happen when they came back?
- 8 A. We'd have a good sit down chat with them and ask them
9 why -- particularly if they were very young, we would
10 say, "Gosh, do you think that was safe?" They wouldn't
11 see the implications of that, how dangerous it could be
12 for them.
- 13 Q. When you say, "we", would that be --
- 14 A. We, the staff, you know.
- 15 Q. Is that you and perhaps one member of your lay staff?
- 16 A. Absolutely, yes.
- 17 Q. Would the Mother Superior be involved in that?
- 18 A. Not directly. She would be made aware of it, but she
19 wouldn't be directly involved.
- 20 Q. Did you see children fighting from time to time?
- 21 A. Oh yes.
- 22 Q. And how would you deal with that?
- 23 A. Well, you'd get to know the personalities. If they were
24 playing games or something, you would remove the one
25 that maybe was -- talk to them, or if they were really

1 troublesome, you would say, "You can't be involved with
2 that game", or if they were disturbing them when they
3 were watching during their favourite programme, you
4 would ask them, "Can you please leave", because it
5 wasn't fair on the other kids if they were watching
6 their favourite programme or soccer, whatever it was.

7 Q. When you were giving your statement, sister, a number of
8 allegations were mentioned to you. These are set out at
9 paragraphs 109 to 121 of your statement. The
10 allegations again involved matters such as
11 force-feeding, humiliation and bed-wetting and also
12 being beaten. I think you said at the time you knew
13 nothing about these matters?

14 A. I didn't.

15 Q. Did you know -- I may have asked this before but I just
16 want to be clear -- how discipline was being managed
17 in the other groups at Cardonald?

18 A. No, not definitely, I wouldn't, no, because, as I say,
19 we just had minimum staff, so we were so involved in our
20 own unit. We just didn't interfere with other people.

21 Q. So you can't tell me then if there was a consistency of
22 approach towards discipline within the home?

23 A. I couldn't answer that. I couldn't say definitely there
24 was or there wasn't.

25 Q. There is one issue I wanted to raise with yourself

1 directly, sister, and I'll take you to the evidence that
2 has been given. Before I do that, can I get you to go
3 back to the red folder that's in front of you. To the
4 left, you'll see there's a table.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. The table is there to provide you with the pseudonym of
7 an individual and also the person's name. Do you see
8 that?

9 A. I do, yes.

10 Q. At the very bottom, there's a name "Bernie", and you can
11 see who that relates to. I don't want you to say who
12 that is, but do you recognise the name that's associated
13 with the pseudonym "Bernie"?

14 A. Definitely not.

15 Q. You don't? Well, can I just put to you what that
16 witness said in evidence. Can I begin by asking you: do
17 you remember going on holiday to a place called
18 Glengarry?

19 A. Glengarry? Never heard of it.

20 Q. Okay. This is what the witness said. The transcript
21 begins at TRN.001.003.1515.

22 If I can take you to page 1533.

23 (Pause).

24 While we're waiting, do you remember if there was
25 a Sister LHA who was in charge of a group when you

1 were there?

2 A. There was no [REDACTED] LHA when I was there, no. Nobody of

3 that name.

4 Q. We'll just wait for this to come up. While we're still

5 waiting, do you remember a member of the lay staff, and

6 if you go back to the key, it's the second name from the

7 bottom against the pseudonym "Elizabeth".

8 A. The name I recognise, but I'm not sure of the spelling.

9 Q. I think you may be right about the spelling.

10 Phonetically, that's how it would sound?

11 A. Yes, okay, correct.

12 Q. We've now got the transcript. Go to the top of the

13 page. Parts of this have been redacted because that's

14 what goes public, but I can read out for the purpose of

15 the hearing what's said. This witness says:

16 "I saw Sister [REDACTED] LGS severely batter a girl on

17 a flight of stairs when we were on holiday at Glengarry

18 guesthouse. Sister [REDACTED] LGS was a bitch. The girl was in

19 her group. She beat her because the girl and I had gone

20 downstairs and stolen food from the kitchen. The two of

21 us were walking back up the stairs and Sister [REDACTED] LGS was

22 standing at the top waiting for us. She grabbed the

23 girl and started battering into her. She was kicking

24 her, pulling her hair and punching her and she carried

25 on kicking into her when the girl was on the floor. It

1 lasted a while, about 10 to 15 minutes I'd say.
2 I started screaming and shouting for [the lady who's now
3 referred to as 'Elizabeth'] to come. Elizabeth came and
4 pulled Sister [LGS] away. I remember Elizabeth trying
5 to diffuse the situation. The two of them were shouting
6 at each other. I remember Elizabeth said, 'You can't
7 treat the kids like that', and the sister saying,
8 'That's their punishment, they shouldn't be stealing'.
9 Again, I would say I was between 8 to 10 or 11 when this
10 happened."

11 So sister, that witness has given quite a detailed
12 description of an event that involved allegedly yourself
13 and another girl. Does that mean anything to you?

14 A. Nothing whatsoever.

15 Q. Did any such event happen?

16 A. Never.

17 Q. Did you come across a Sister [LTX] ?

18 A. I never worked with her.

19 Q. But you knew her?

20 A. In subsequent years, I knew her -- not in relation to
21 childcare.

22 Q. Do you have any recollection of a Father [LSO] having
23 access to Cardonald?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Does the name Joseph Duffy mean anything to you?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Was there such a person working there in any capacity,
3 let's say a volunteer, when you were there?

4 A. Not when I was there, no.

5 Q. Were there volunteers there when you were there?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Sister, then, can I ask you to turn to the last
8 paragraphs of your statement at paragraph 123. You say,
9 because you've been informed as to what the allegations
10 are that have been made --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- and you say:
13 "I am shocked by the allegations."

14 A. Absolutely.

15 Q. And you're asked then to explain the allegations and:
16 "... I have been told about have been made. I can
17 only assume that people would have access to other
18 inquiries in Southern or Northern Ireland. There must
19 be some people who hear things and they do copycat style
20 things."

21 I just want to understand what you're saying there.
22 Are you referring there to the two inquiries that have
23 taken place in connection with child abuse in Southern
24 and Northern Ireland?

25 A. More so in Northern Ireland, because we're very -- I'm

- 1 in the next county bordering Northern Ireland and
2 we would be aware from newspapers and stuff like that.
- 3 Q. And the Sisters of Nazareth were involved in that
4 inquiry?
- 5 A. Correct, yes.
- 6 Q. And are you saying here that similar allegations were
7 made --
- 8 A. There seem to be similarities. Now, for what reasons,
9 I can't specify, but there are a lot of similarities.
- 10 Q. Were they found established in the Northern Ireland
11 inquiry?
- 12 A. I haven't read the document because I was never involved
13 in childcare in Northern Ireland.
- 14 Q. But do you know, even on a second-hand basis, whether or
15 not the sort of practices that former residents have
16 complained about to this inquiry in connection to the
17 Sisters of Nazareth were established in
18 Northern Ireland?
- 19 A. I cannot answer it, because, as I say, I wasn't involved
20 and I wouldn't be -- it would be inappropriate for me to
21 be 100 per cent definite.
- 22 Q. So you've never been told what the Northern Ireland
23 inquiry concluded in connection with the Sisters of
24 Nazareth?
- 25 A. Well, I have access to the report, but, as I say, I just

- 1 haven't read it, to be honest.
- 2 Q. And you don't know then --
- 3 A. I don't know.
- 4 LADY SMITH: Have you read the report of the
- 5 Ryan Commission?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
- 8 MR MacAULAY: You go on to say, sister, at 125:
- 9 "I think life was hard."
- 10 What do you mean by that?
- 11 A. Well, it was hard. It's -- comparative to today's
- 12 standards. It was much harder, life was tougher for
- 13 everybody back then, and we were trying to take the
- 14 place of parents who were dysfunctional.
- 15 Q. And you say:
- 16 "I think that things were tougher with little
- 17 staff."
- 18 A. Absolutely.
- 19 Q. Were you short-staffed?
- 20 A. Well, you could say yes, I would say, yes.
- 21 Q. What has that got to do with whether the allegations are
- 22 true or not?
- 23 A. I have difficulty in answering that because I don't
- 24 quite know how to answer it.
- 25 Q. Well, you're dealing here with, I think, looking at the

1 allegations and why they might be made, but being
2 short-staffed wouldn't be relevant to whether these
3 practices would happen.

4 A. I understand.

5 Q. You understand that?

6 A. I understand that, yes.

7 Q. You go in the final paragraph to say, sister:

8 "I loved the work."

9 A. I did, I loved it, the work as in childcare. That's
10 what I refer to. I loved the challenge. I dearly loved
11 the children and I say that from my heart.

12 Q. You go on to say:

13 "I am very upset by the allegations which I have
14 been asked to comment on."

15 Is that correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. The other thing you say there is:

18 "We weren't angels, but we tried to discipline in a
19 very normal manner."

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Again, I wondered what you meant when you were saying

22 "we weren't angels".

23 A. We're human beings, first and foremost, religious or
24 not. I take my own personality, my own reaction to
25 things with me. I dearly love children. Maybe that did

1 help me greatly and -- I don't know what else I can say.

2 Q. Do you think on occasions, because of the challenge that
3 you had with some of the children, you might have lost
4 your temper?

5 A. Well, kind of -- fly off the handle quickly. That would
6 be me. I wouldn't be a violent person. But definitely,
7 the children, by and large, were happy insofar as they
8 were in care.

9 Q. The final thing I have been asked to ask you, sister, is
10 this: have any of the children that you looked after
11 kept in touch with you?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And do they write to you or visit?

14 A. Christmas.

15 Q. They write at Christmas. What about visits?

16 A. They tell me about their family or whatever.

17 Q. Have you been invited to occasions such as weddings by
18 any of them?

19 A. No, no, no.

20 MR MacAULAY: Very well, sister. Thank you very much indeed
21 for answering my questions and giving your evidence.

22 I think I've covered the other questions I've been asked
23 to put to you as well. Thank you.

24 LADY SMITH: Can I check if there are any outstanding
25 applications for questions. No.

1 Sister, there are no more questions for you today.
2 Thank you very much for engaging with the inquiry, both
3 by providing us with your written statement and coming
4 along today to give us your oral evidence. It's really
5 helpful to me to have not just what is written, but what
6 you've said today, to consider in the work I have to do.
7 I'm now able to let you go.

8 A. Thank you.

9 (The witness withdrew)

10 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, it's coming up for 11.25.

11 LADY SMITH: Should we take the break early today? It would
12 be such a short session of the next witness's evidence
13 before we would break. We'll do that. We'll take the
14 morning break at this point.

15 (11.25 am)

16 (A short break)

17 (11.40 am)

18 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

19 MR MacAULAY: The next witness wants to remain anonymous and
20 she wants to use the name "Sister Rita" in her evidence.

21 "SISTER RITA" (sworn)

22 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable?

23 A. Can I say a prayer; do you mind?

24 LADY SMITH: Yes. Do you want to sit to pray --

25 A. I'd like to stand to pray:

1 "Father, Son, the Holy Ghost, amen. Hail Mary, full
2 of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among
3 women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
4 Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at
5 the hour of our death. Amen. St Joseph, save and
6 protect us and help us. Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
7 Amen."

8 LADY SMITH: You may need your glasses quite quickly when
9 I hand over to Mr MacAulay because I know he'll want you
10 to look at something in the red file. In the meantime,
11 I think you're in the right position for the microphone.
12 It's important that we pick up what you say clearly
13 through that.

14 Mr MacAulay.

15 Questions from MR MacAULAY

16 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, sister.

17 A. Good morning, Mr MacAulay.

18 Q. Can I confirm, so I can get a time frame, the year of
19 your birth. Am I right in thinking that you were born
20 in 1938?

21 A. 1938.

22 Q. That means you're now 79; is that correct?

23 A. 79, yes. [REDACTED] 1938.

24 Q. Okay. If I can take you to your statement, I'll give
25 the reference to the stenographers: it's

1 WIT.001.001.8040.

2 If you could turn to the last page of your
3 statement, it's in the red folder, sister.

4 LADY SMITH: If you pick up the red folder that's on the
5 desk there to your left, sister. That's what
6 Mr MacAulay wants you to look at. I think he wants you
7 to go to the last page of the document that's in there.

8 A. Yes.

9 MR MacAULAY: Can you confirm that you have signed the
10 statement?

11 A. Yes, that's my signature.

12 Q. In the last paragraph of the statement, do you say:

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

15 Is that right?

16 A. Yes, that's quite true.

17 Q. Do you also say:

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

20 Is that correct?

21 A. "I believe the facts stated in this witness statement
22 are true."

23 Q. Thank you.

24 Sister, I think you say in your statement that you
25 do have problems with your memory --

- 1 A. Yes, yes.
- 2 Q. -- and in particular, with regard to places and dates;
3 is that correct?
- 4 A. Yes, that's quite true.
- 5 Q. But at the time I want to ask you about, and you no
6 longer use this name, were you known as Sister [REDACTED] LRC
7 [REDACTED]?
- 8 A. Yes, I was. That's the name that I took when I entered.
9 I was given that name, a saint's name.
- 10 Q. I think that's an 11th century saint, is it?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. You tell us in your statement, sister, that you entered
13 the Sisters of Nazareth order in 1960.
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Are you able to help me as to what you did in the early
16 years when you were in the order?
- 17 A. Well, I was professed -- I entered in 1960, I was
18 received on [REDACTED] 1961. The main profession was in
19 1962, [REDACTED]. Then when I was professed, I went to
20 Birmingham. That was my first house.
- 21 Q. One of the things you tell us in your statement is that,
22 in about 1971, you went to Nazareth House in Aberdeen.
- 23 A. I did, yes.
- 24 Q. But your purpose in going there was to do a residential
25 care course?

- 1 A. That's right, yes.
- 2 Q. Can I ask you about the course? How long did the course
3 last for?
- 4 A. It was for one year. It was a childcare course by
5 Mr Kidd, who was the tutor, in Robert Gordon College.
- 6 Q. Was this with a view to you looking after children?
- 7 A. That's right, correct.
- 8 Q. Can I ask you this: when you came to look after
9 children, did you find the course helpful to you?
- 10 A. Very much so.
- 11 Q. Are you able to give us any insight into what areas you
12 covered in the course?
- 13 A. When I thought about the children, they were all from
14 homes, their own homes, and their mothers and fathers,
15 and they had left their own home. They might feel
16 neglected and they might feel unloved, and you have to
17 have feelings for that, you have to love -- I loved the
18 children. They were lovely children I had in Aberdeen.
19 They were families as well, mostly families, you know.
20 So I was quite ...
- 21 Q. When you did the course, though, I think you were based
22 at the house in Aberdeen.
- 23 A. I was, yes, in Aberdeen, yes. When I finished, I was
24 asked to stay there and work with a group of children.
- 25 Q. Were you in charge of the group?

1 A. Yes, yes.

2 Q. Did you complete the training and then did you start --

3 A. I was asked to stay in the Aberdeen house and look after

4 a group of children.

5 Q. I think what you tell us in your statement is that you

6 were in Aberdeen from about 1971 to 1974.

7 A. That's quite right, yes.

8 Q. Nazareth House in Aberdeen was quite a large

9 establishment; is that correct?

10 A. Yes. I think there were four groups of children there,

11 four sisters with the children.

12 Q. How many were in your group?

13 A. About 9 or 10. I can't remember, to tell you the truth.

14 Q. So quite a small group?

15 A. A small group, yes.

16 Q. I think in your statement you thought there may have

17 been about nine in your group.

18 A. Yes, that's right.

19 Q. One thing you tell us is there was a particular family

20 in the group --

21 A. The [REDACTED] family, yes.

22 Q. -- of four girls.

23 A. Yes. There was [REDACTED], [REDACTED] --

24 Q. We don't need to know the names.

25 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay will let you know if he needs --

1 A. I'm still in contact with them.

2 LADY SMITH: Just to explain, Sister Rita, Mr MacAulay will
3 let you know if he needs to talk about specific names.
4 If he doesn't, I don't need the names.

5 A. Oh right. Sorry.

6 LADY SMITH: It's good that you've got them in your head and
7 I see that they have been recorded in your written
8 statement. Thank you.

9 MR MacAULAY: You also say you had another family of two
10 children in the group --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- I think you thought. Coming back to the group of
13 four then, and your unit was about nine altogether, they
14 made up quite a significant part of the group?

15 A. They did, yes.

16 Q. What you tell us in your statement, sister, is they were
17 from Glasgow.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Was there a particular reason why they had been taken to
20 Aberdeen?

21 A. I think maybe they wanted to get them away from the
22 parents. I don't know. But maybe Aberdeen house was
23 full -- Glasgow house was full and that's why they came
24 to Aberdeen. But maybe sometimes they wanted to move
25 them from the families and Aberdeen would be -- they

- 1 would come to Aberdeen. They were in my group.
- 2 Q. Certainly to travel from Glasgow to Aberdeen is quite
- 3 a distance.
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Can I ask you about the other sisters that you can
- 6 remember who might have had responsibility for children.
- 7 In particular, was there a Sister **FAF** there when
- 8 you were there?
- 9 A. She was, yes.
- 10 Q. Are there any other names that you can remember?
- 11 A. Sister **LKH** was there afterwards. **LKH** And
- 12 Sister **LDX**; she's not in the order now.
- 13 Sister **LRB**. **LRB** was there and she had a group of
- 14 children. Who's the other one now?
- 15 Q. We've heard of a Sister **LTX**, but she may have left
- 16 by --
- 17 A. I think **LTX** was there --
- 18 Q. She was still there?
- 19 A. -- but I didn't really know her very well.
- 20 Q. You do comment --
- 21 A. I think she went to another house, **LTX**.
- 22 Q. I think that's correct. You do comment on
- 23 Sister **FAF** --
- 24 A. She was an elderly sister.
- 25 Q. -- when you were there?

1 A. She was lovely, a lovely nun.

2 Q. Was she still in charge of a group when you were there?

3 A. I don't think she was. I think she was ... There was

4 something about her. I know when anyone was missing --

5 I must tell you this now -- for a placement in the

6 course that I took, I was sent to Balgay -- it was

7 a list D school -- and the gentleman there was in

8 charge, he knew Nazareth House, and he knew

9 Sister [REDACTED] FAF [REDACTED]. And he said when any child went

10 missing -- she wasn't a young nun either -- she used to

11 go out looking for those children and bring them back.

12 But she was a very kind nun.

13 Q. Did children go missing from the home from time to time?

14 A. Not very often, but the odd one, older girl, might have

15 gone missing, you know.

16 Q. Looking to your own group, sister, then, you've told us

17 about the size of it and that it was made up, at least

18 in part, of these four girls, four sisters. Were there

19 any boys in the group?

20 A. Yes, I had about two or three boys.

21 Q. So it was a mixed group?

22 A. Yes, a mixed group, but the families were kept together.

23 I had a little girl and boy, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

24 I don't think they had -- I don't think anyone came to

25 see them.

- 1 Q. From what you've said, sister, the group also had
2 a range of ages?
- 3 A. Yes. I think the -- and I had a young girl called [REDACTED].
4 I'm still in contact with [REDACTED], she writes to me, and on
5 her 40th birthday, her husband rang Nazareth House where
6 I was -- I was in Lancaster at the time -- and he asked
7 me, would I go to see [REDACTED], I want to give a surprise
8 for her 40th birthday. I said, I'd be delighted, which
9 I did. I asked the Superior and got a ticket and I went
10 to see her. I've always been in contact with [REDACTED]. She
11 writes to me every Christmas and whatever, you know.
- 12 Q. Sister, can I just ask you about aspects of the set-up
13 in Nazareth House. The first thing I want to ask you
14 is: so far as your group was concerned, where were you
15 located within --
- 16 A. In Aberdeen?
- 17 Q. Yes.
- 18 A. It was a room down -- a place downstairs and there were
19 small bedrooms. I was near -- I had a bedroom quite
20 near the group as well.
- 21 Q. You've told us about there being other groups. Was your
22 group quite separate from the other groups?
- 23 A. We were all in different parts of the house.
- 24 Q. Did you have your own dining area?
- 25 A. Yes, we had a dining room and sitting room combined.

1 Q. You tell us -- in your statement you give us some
2 information about aspects of the daily routine. One
3 thing you tell us, for example, is that the children
4 would go to school on a bus.

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. Is that right?

7 A. That's right. Do you want me to start in the morning?

8 LADY SMITH: I think before we get to that, Mr MacAulay --
9 Sister Rita, as I think may have been explained to you,
10 I want to observe the minute's silence at 12 noon in
11 memory of the 72 people who died in the Grenfell fire
12 a year ago. It's just coming up to 12 noon now, so
13 could we please observe that silence now.

14 (A minute's silence was observed)

15 Thank you all for that. Mr MacAulay.

16 MR MacAULAY: Sister, I was going to ask you about aspects
17 of the daily routine. I'll just take particular topics
18 rather than get you to try and remember all the issues.

19 One thing I was asking you about was going to
20 school. I think you agreed that the children went to
21 school on a bus.

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. Would you on occasion go on the bus with them?

24 A. Yes, I went -- a sister always went with the children.
25 We used to take it in turns going. They went to

- 1 St Peter's school in Aberdeen, the junior girls.
- 2 Q. When children were on the bus, were the boys and girls
3 kept separate?
- 4 A. No, no. No, no.
- 5 Q. So they were able to mix?
- 6 A. Yes, yes, oh yes.
- 7 Q. When children came back from school, did you help with
8 their homework?
- 9 A. Yes, we would sit down and help them with their
10 homework.
- 11 Q. Can you tell me a little bit, sister, about what the
12 food was like?
- 13 A. We had a sister catering in the kitchen and she was
14 a trained caterer and she was very good with the
15 cooking. She made sure the children had plenty of food
16 and they were well fed and it was nourishing -- and the
17 children looked very well.
- 18 Q. If a child didn't like a particular dish, what would
19 happen?
- 20 A. They would take it away from them if they didn't like
21 it.
- 22 Q. Was there any pressure put on a child to eat
23 a particular type of dish?
- 24 A. No, no way, no. No, certainly not, no.
- 25 Q. Would a child be punished in any way for not eating?

- 1 A. No, I never saw that done. It wasn't done in my group
2 anyway -- or any other group. No sister would do that.
- 3 Q. I suppose you don't really -- you're not really fully
4 aware of to what happened in other groups because you --
- 5 A. The children would talk with one another, wouldn't they,
6 in the other groups? They would tell you, you know.
- 7 Q. So the children would discuss amongst themselves if
8 something had happened?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And chores, did the children in your group have any
11 chores to do, any jobs to do?
- 12 A. No, no, no. We had the dining room and the sitting room
13 combined together. We had chairs and everything,
14 settees and everything, and they had a TV there as well
15 and they had no duties whatever, except we used to wash
16 the dishes, but the staff were there as well. Staff
17 were always there. If I wasn't there, the staff were
18 always there.
- 19 Q. I should perhaps have asked about what staff you had to
20 assist you in your group. Can you help me with that?
- 21 A. We had a young girl called Ruth -- and she writes now
22 and then -- and another girl -- and [REDACTED] was very good,
23 the senior girl in the group. She was about 11 or 12,
24 [REDACTED] then.
- 25 Q. So she would help?

1 A. Yes, she would help. She was a senior girl. She's the
2 one that I'm in contact with now, that I went to the
3 40th birthday, yes.

4 Q. You have told us, sister, that families were kept
5 together?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Was that the policy at that time?

8 A. Yes. They would miss their own family anyway, wouldn't
9 they?

10 Q. That is very true --

11 A. The fact that they've gone away from their own mother
12 and father, you know -- they were lovely children.
13 I loved those children. They were lovely.

14 Q. Coming to the staff that helped you: do you know what
15 training or qualifications they had?

16 A. They might have gone for the odd course, but they
17 weren't -- the fact that they were good with children,
18 they loved children, and they were kind to them. That's
19 the main thing, I think, anyway.

20 Q. Coming back to the matter of food, would you have the
21 same food as the children would have?

22 A. Yes, the sisters had their own little refectory. We had
23 our prayers said in the morning and we went through the
24 routine of the day. But we always had the same food as
25 the children.

1 Q. Another aspect of the routine I want to ask you about is
2 holidays and what you tell us in your statement is that
3 you went to a place called Tombae?

4 A. Yes. Oh, it was lovely. It was way out in the country,
5 near Tomintoul.

6 Q. Can I ask you this: would more than your group go on
7 that trip?

8 A. We used to take it in turns. Two groups used to go
9 together and you'd take it in turns. We'd stay there --
10 I think it was a week or a fortnight, I can't remember
11 now, and the children loved it. It was just hills and
12 climbing up the hills and playing outside. There was
13 nothing grand. There was a water flow at the bottom and
14 they used to be crossing the water and everything, you
15 know. I used to take them -- there was a little chapel
16 next door and we slept in the -- it was the schoolhouse,
17 really -- we had beds there.

18 Q. If I can ask you about birthdays: were birthdays
19 celebrated within your group?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. How were they marked, how would you celebrate
22 a birthday?

23 A. We had the odd birthday and I think we had a cake as
24 well. We didn't have much, to tell you the truth.

25 Q. Sorry?

1 A. We didn't have very much. They used to have a birthday
2 and they might have a cake from the kitchen.

3 Q. You do say -- and this is at paragraph 34 of the
4 statement, which will come to the screen -- that:

5 "Nazareth House had little or no toys."

6 A. That's right, yes.

7 Q. Is that the case?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Do you know why that was?

10 A. Well, we didn't have much money, to tell you the truth.
11 You know, unless they were given toys, they were kept --
12 they had toys and they used to play outside and play the
13 odd games. That's what we did years ago, play outside,
14 you know.

15 Q. Can I ask you, sister, about bed-wetting.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Was bed-wetting an issue in your group?

18 A. No, no. There was only one little boy there, [REDACTED]
19 and the odd time, before I went to bed myself, I used to
20 get him up to go on the toilet, but sometimes he was wet
21 and I used to change the clothes. And nobody would be
22 any the wiser. I'd wash the bed down.

23 Q. So do I understand from what you've said that you
24 yourself would change the sheets?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. You'd take the sheet off the bed?
- 2 A. Yes, take the sheets off and put them through the wash.
- 3 Q. So you wouldn't ask the little boy to do that?
- 4 A. Oh not at all. He wasn't able to do it anyway. He
- 5 would be upset anyway, wetting the bed. He was only
- 6 a small little thing.
- 7 Q. Was there any humiliation or punishment for wetting the
- 8 bed?
- 9 A. No, no way. Nobody was any the wiser. They were
- 10 probably asleep anyway, some of them.
- 11 Q. If I can ask you then about discipline. When you got to
- 12 Nazareth House at first and you were put in charge of
- 13 the group, were you given any guidance as to how the
- 14 children could be disciplined?
- 15 A. Well, the only thing I would think about was taking them
- 16 aside and just tell them, if whatever they did was
- 17 wrong, to speak to them about it, and they would take it
- 18 quite well. Then it wasn't right, you know, they were
- 19 swearing or something like that -- not often they did
- 20 that, but the odd one might come out, you know -- or
- 21 they might start fighting, but very rare. But they were
- 22 only young children with their own families there. They
- 23 were quite happy there.
- 24 Q. Were you given any guidance as to how discipline should
- 25 be managed?

- 1 A. The fact that we loved the children and we wanted to
2 help them, that would go to them, they would feel it,
3 and they would tell us different things, you know,
4 what was wrong.
- 5 Q. But do I understand that you weren't told how to
6 discipline the children, you just did it the way --
- 7 A. No, I did it myself, like I was taught in my own home.
- 8 Q. Can you remember if there was a punishment book --
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. -- where any particular punishment might be recorded?
- 11 A. No, we never had that, I never had that. I never heard
12 of it in the house, no.
- 13 Q. Do you know how discipline was managed in the other
14 groups in the house?
- 15 A. I have no idea. I don't think there was any discipline
16 as such anyway. The sisters wouldn't be hard on any
17 children, anyway.
- 18 Q. The children you've told us went to the local schools?
- 19 A. Yes, St Peter's.
- 20 Q. You do say in your statement at paragraph 42 that you
21 don't remember ever seeing a school report?
- 22 A. No, I don't, no, no. No.
- 23 Q. One thing you also tell us is that you or indeed one of
24 your assistants would read a story to the younger
25 children?

- 1 A. Yes, at night-time.
- 2 Q. You remember doing that?
- 3 A. Yes, and the odd time they liked watching the TV. We
4 had a TV there as well, which they enjoyed.
- 5 Q. Can I ask you about visitors at Nazareth House during
6 your time in 1971 to 1974.
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Do you recollect if social workers came to visit?
- 9 A. I only remember one social worker ringing up. I didn't
10 see any social workers as such. They were enquiring
11 about two children that were in the house, [REDACTED] and
12 [REDACTED] -- I don't think they had anybody at
13 all -- and a couple were interested in them to adopt
14 them. I said that would be lovely because they haven't
15 got anybody.
- 16 Q. So --
- 17 A. So I think they came to see them once and she told me
18 that they had a caravan in Blackpool and she was telling
19 me about her own home, her own mother, she had her own
20 mother, and she was working and the husband worked, but
21 she had -- her mother was quite -- she wasn't an elderly
22 lady -- and she had a flat attached to their home and
23 she would love to take the two children and rear them
24 and bring them up. I thought that was lovely.
- 25 Q. Did that happen?

1 A. It did happen, yes.

2 Q. Is that the only contact then that you --

3 A. No --

4 Q. -- recollect having with a social worker in connection
5 with that?

6 A. That's what I can remember. I can't remember ... Yes.
7 And they went to that home and she sent me a picture,
8 a photograph, and she was in Blackpool and the two
9 children had bikes and she sent me a lovely photograph
10 of them. They looked quite happy as well, you know.
11 I was delighted with them because they were good, lovely
12 children.

13 Q. Was that near the end of your time in Aberdeen?

14 A. It was, yes. Yes.

15 Q. Because that would reduce the size of your group.

16 A. Yes. We always had the other children coming in,
17 I think, yes.

18 Q. I was going to ask you about that. If a child came in
19 to the group, what information would you be given as to
20 the child's background?

21 A. More often than not the Superior had admitted the child
22 or the children and she would tell me, give us the
23 names -- we didn't have much information, to be
24 truthful -- and where they came from. Four children did
25 come in when those two went and they were [REDACTED]

1 children.

2 And they -- when I was leaving Aberdeen --

3 Q. I'll come to that in a moment, sister. Before I do, can
4 I ask you about records. Did you keep records of the
5 children?

6 A. I had a diary myself and when any visitors came to the
7 home, when their own family came, I would write it down
8 in my diary, but nobody ever saw it. I kept it private
9 because -- and whatever happened in school, anything,
10 you know, that should happen ...

11 Q. If we focus on each individual child, did you keep
12 particular records for each child or not?

13 A. I didn't. I think I did now. I think I did. But not
14 very often because there wasn't much -- unless the
15 families came to see them.

16 Q. Did you have an office of some sort?

17 A. An office? Yes.

18 Q. You had an office?

19 A. I had a bedroom. I had a bedroom and I made that my
20 office.

21 Q. So just coming to the matter of keeping records, do you
22 think you did keep some form of record in respect of
23 each child?

24 A. I think most of the things in my diary -- I had a big
25 diary and I kept them there.

1 Q. That's your private diary?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you know what happened to the private diary?

4 A. Well, I took it with me.

5 Q. Did you?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. How did it end up, do you know?

8 A. How did the family --

9 Q. What happened to the diary ultimately?

10 A. Well, when I wasn't in Aberdeen, I disposed of it --

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. -- and I knew the children were all right.

13 Q. Can I ask you this, sister: did you see any evidence of

14 the abuse of children in the whole time that you were in

15 Aberdeen?

16 A. No way, no, no. I never saw -- not in my group or any,

17 no, I did not.

18 Q. Did you see any child being hit by any --

19 A. No, no.

20 Q. -- nun or member of staff?

21 A. If that would have happened, I would have gone to the

22 Superior and told the Superior and she would inform

23 whoever was responsible, you know. No, it never

24 happened.

25 Q. And I think, sister, when you were giving your statement

1 to the inquiry, a number of specific allegations were
2 put to you. Do you remember that happening? I'll put
3 that on the screen if you'd like. It's at paragraph 54
4 onwards.

5 In paragraphs 54 to 58, a number of allegations were
6 put to you, for example in connection with the
7 bed-wetting --

8 A. No.

9 Q. -- and humiliation.

10 A. I told you about the bed-wetting and about the one
11 child, yes.

12 Q. Matters such as bed-wetting, being beaten, force-feeding
13 and so on, these were raised with you and you say --

14 A. Never, never. No, that's not true at all. I don't
15 believe that. No sister would do that anyway. I know
16 -- I don't think any staff would do that in the house.

17 Q. Sister, you have already said that you left Aberdeen in
18 1974.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And it was decided that you'd move from Aberdeen to
21 Cardonald in Glasgow?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. That decision would have been made not by you but by the
24 Mother Superior?

25 A. That's right, by the Mother General.

- 1 Q. As it transpired, did you take children who you cared
2 for in Aberdeen with you --
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. -- when you went --
- 5 A. The social worker rang me up. It wasn't very often, but
6 she rang me up and she said she heard that I was being
7 changed to Glasgow. They were Glasgow children anyway
8 most of them. She said, would I take the [REDACTED]
9 children with me, and I said I would be delighted, I'd
10 love to have them. So I told the Superior and she made
11 arrangements. I think I went on my own and they came
12 afterwards. I got things ready for them when I went to
13 the house and they did come down.
- 14 Q. Again, at Cardonald, sister, were you put in charge of
15 a group of children?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. That included the four children that you've mentioned?
- 18 A. Yes, that's right.
- 19 Q. According to the sisters' employment registers that have
20 been given to us by the order, you were in Cardonald
21 from about -- let me just check this -- 1978 to 1983.
22 So we're looking towards the time where Cardonald is
23 beginning to close down; is that your recollection?
- 24 A. I thought it was earlier than that.
- 25 Q. I know you say that in your statement.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And we're not that bothered about dates too much.

3 A. No, no.

4 Q. And we can always check with the employment registers
5 what the dates are. For example, for Aberdeen, although
6 we've been looking at the dates you've put in your
7 statement, the dates in the registers are 1973 to 1977.
8 So you're out on dates, but that's not a problem.
9 We can work out the dates.

10 Just looking to that then, you'd be in Cardonald for
11 about four or five years?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What you tell us, insofar as Cardonald was concerned, is
14 that you thought the group that you were in charge of
15 was a bit larger than the one you had in Aberdeen.

16 A. Yes, it was.

17 Q. What you say in your statement is that it was a group of
18 about 12.

19 A. I think about 12 -- 12 children.

20 Q. So you had the four girls that you had in Aberdeen?

21 A. The four girls, yes.

22 Q. The other 8 or so children --

23 A. Were already there, yes.

24 Q. Was that a mixed group?

25 A. Mixed group, yes. And senior girls as well. Our Lady

1 of Lourdes School they went to.

2 Q. Were there boys in the group?

3 A. Yes, brothers, two young ones.

4 Q. Again, family groups?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Can you tell me a little bit about the set-up then?

7 Where was your unit located at Cardonald?

8 A. It was at the back of the house and it was overlooking

9 a field -- it was overlooking a football ground, I think

10 it was, yes, at the back of the field. That's where our

11 group was. They came in from the back or they came

12 right through the house when they were coming back from

13 school.

14 Q. And there were other groups, of course, in Cardonald --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- at that time.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can you remember the names of any of the sisters that

19 were there?

20 A. Sister LJS . Sister -- she's LVQ now.

21 LVQ and LGS . What's the other one now?

22 LKR , LKR and Orpendia(?) was

23 in Aberdeen.

24 Q. You've mentioned a number there that you can recollect.

25 Are these sisters you recollect that may have been in

- 1 charge of groups of children?
- 2 A. Yes. Each sister was in charge of her own group.
- 3 Q. Did you have lay assistants with you?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. How many did you have?
- 6 A. I had about two, two or three. I had a lady that did
7 the cleaning, Margaret Ferguson, a lovely soul, and we
8 had two young girls, Glasgow girls, and they were very
9 good with children as well.
- 10 Q. Did they have any training that you can remember?
- 11 A. I can't think. They might have gone for the odd
12 day-release training, but I don't think they did,
13 really. The fact that they were good with children,
14 loved children, and they were kind to them, you know, so
15 we accepted them and they stayed with me quite a while.
- 16 Q. What was the set-up for the sleeping arrangements then
17 at Cardonald?
- 18 A. They had quite a few bedrooms and I think about three or
19 four in a bedroom. Each one had their own bed and they
20 had three and four. And they had a chair where they'd
21 put their clothes on and a little table beside the bed
22 and wardrobes in the rooms. And they had -- of course,
23 the heating was always on anyway if it was cold.
- 24 Q. You were asked --
- 25 A. And A dining room.

1 Q. -- when you gave your statement as to whether you had
2 any children in your group who wet the bed, and I think
3 you said you didn't have any --

4 A. Not in Glasgow, I don't remember Glasgow children ...
5 We did in Aberdeen, that one child.

6 Q. Can you tell me what the food was like at Cardonald?

7 A. Oh, we had another sister there in the kitchen,
8 a catering sister, and very good. I think this --
9 I don't know whether the children came home for their
10 dinner now because the school was just round the corner.
11 They had a good meal before they went out, usually
12 cereal and whatever, and then ... I can't remember if
13 they came home for their dinners, but they had a good
14 meal at night-time as well.

15 Q. Did children leave food from time to time?

16 A. If they didn't like it, they'd leave it, and we'd take
17 it away from them.

18 Q. Would you try to persuade them to eat it?

19 A. No, I wouldn't do that at all if they didn't like
20 things.

21 Q. So there's no suggestion then that you would punish
22 a child or make them eat a particular dish?

23 A. No, I never saw that. I never did it and neither did
24 the staff do that either.

25 Q. Did you have your own separate dining area for your

- 1 group when you were at Cardonald --
- 2 A. Yes, we had a dining room and a sitting room quite near
3 one another and we had a kitchen there as well.
- 4 Q. Again, in connection with routine, did the children have
5 chores to do?
- 6 A. Not in the house, no.
- 7 Q. What about washing dishes?
- 8 A. No, we had a staff that did all that. They might have
9 washed the odd dish, that's all, but otherwise we always
10 had a staff there that did the dishes --
- 11 Q. Again --
- 12 A. -- and a lady did the washing, washing the clothes as
13 well. We had a washing machine.
- 14 Q. Again, as I asked you before, sister, in connection with
15 a child's birthday, would the birthday be celebrated?
- 16 A. Yes. If we knew what birthday they were, you know, they
17 might get the odd cake from the kitchen.
- 18 Q. I suppose it would be important to have some record as
19 to when birthdays were, otherwise you would --
- 20 A. We wouldn't know.
- 21 Q. Did you have a record of some sort?
- 22 A. We had a date when they came in and we had the -- the
23 older children -- the children themselves would tell us
24 when the birthday was anyway.
- 25 Q. What about the younger children who might not? Would

1 you have some sort of record to remind you that the
2 birthday might be --

3 A. If they had family, the elder girl or boy would tell us
4 how the young ones, how old the young ones were.

5 Q. One thing you do tell us in your statement, sister,
6 is that the children looked after their own
7 possessions --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- and they were allowed to keep any presents or things
10 that were given to them?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Was that the position?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So if they received a Christmas present, that wouldn't
15 be taken away from them?

16 A. No, no, they kept them. They used to go for parties --
17 Glasgow was very good for the children, different firms
18 used to invite the children out to parties. But they
19 always had parties in the house anyway.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. At Christmastime, they were invited out, used to take it
22 in turns, the children, going to these parties, and
23 they'd be given a present when they were leaving.

24 Q. Can I ask you then about visits to Cardonald. Did
25 social workers visit?

- 1 A. Very rarely. Not very often, no. I think it was a bit
2 better than Aberdeen.
- 3 Q. Did you keep records of the children in connection with
4 their backgrounds and so on?
- 5 A. I kept them in my diary.
- 6 Q. Is that the same diary in Aberdeen?
- 7 A. There's another diary. I always had a diary every year.
8 I still do that.
- 9 Q. So by the end of your time at Cardonald, you'd have gone
10 through four or five diaries?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Are these quite substantial diaries?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. You talk about a desk diary: was it that size?
- 15 A. It was visiting and whatever happened in the family, you
16 know, if anyone was sick or anyone passed away or
17 something like that.
- 18 Q. So you'd make daily entries into the diary?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. What I'm interested in is this: did you keep a file for
21 a child that would record that particular child's
22 details?
- 23 A. I would, yes.
- 24 Q. Did you do that?
- 25 A. I did it a few times, yes. Yes.

1 Q. Can you remember if you had a file for each child that
2 was in your group?

3 A. I think I did. I used to -- family-wise, keep the
4 families together and write it that way.

5 Q. Okay. Was there a system whereby a child's progress
6 could be reviewed, perhaps along with a social worker?
7 Do you remember if that happened?

8 A. I don't remember any social workers coming very often to
9 the house --

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. -- except when those ...

12 Q. We've had some evidence --

13 A. If anyone was leaving, you know, if they were going
14 home, the social would ring me and tell me she was
15 coming to see us, and we'd have a meeting with the
16 staff --

17 Q. We've had some --

18 A. -- about the progress of the children and how they were
19 going on.

20 Q. So you do remember that sort of meeting?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. We've had reference to what's been described as a case
23 conference: did you have something of that sort that
24 would involve perhaps the staff and a social worker to
25 review progress?

1 A. You used to have the social worker asking, coming, and
2 telling us she wanted to know about the children, and we
3 used to then sit round the table and discuss it.

4 Q. And would you keep a record of that discussion?

5 A. I would keep it. I wouldn't ... But family-wise,
6 I would keep it, yes, not each individual. If anything
7 happened to one child, I would pass it on, put it down
8 in my record.

9 Q. If we look at paragraph 85 of your statement, sister,
10 what you say there on 8056 is:

11 "There were no records kept on the children and
12 I certainly didn't keep any."

13 A. Yes. I only had the diary. That's all. Just the
14 diary.

15 Q. To be clear, you had the diary?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And that's --

18 A. That's all.

19 Q. "We did receive some information on the circumstances of
20 the children and the reasons they were put into care."

21 A. That's when they came in, yes.

22 Q. You go on to say:

23 "A lot of what I learned came from the children."

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Were they the main source of information?

1 A. Yes. I know of one particular family, the granny used
2 to come and see me and see the children and she would
3 tell me different things about the parents, you know.

4 Q. Okay. Again, as with Aberdeen, sister, a number of
5 allegations were mentioned to you when your statement
6 was being taken in connection with Cardonald.

7 For example, you were advised about an allegation
8 against Sister [LHW] that she had hit children. You
9 never saw --

10 A. I never saw that at all and I don't believe it. She's
11 a good sister and she wouldn't do anything like that.
12 Whoever said that, that's not true.

13 Q. In short, sister, your position is that you never saw --

14 A. No, I never saw anything like that --

15 Q. Any ill-treatment --

16 A. -- anything like that in my own group or in any other
17 group. If it happened, the child would tell some of our
18 children or we would get to know about it and the
19 Superior would be informed and go about it, you know.

20 Q. You were asked also about a number of names, for example
21 a man by the name of Joseph Duffy; do you remember that
22 name?

23 A. No, I don't, no. Where was that now? Where was he?

24 Q. He was allegedly someone who might have been a volunteer
25 at Cardonald at a point in time.

1 A. Not in my group, no.

2 Q. And you have no recollection of him being there?

3 A. I don't know, no.

4 Q. Were there people there who were volunteers to help out?

5 A. I don't think so. I don't think so. They were all paid
6 staff, I know that, in my group anyway, and each other's
7 group, I think. I know when they used to go on the
8 outings, the staff always went with them or I went with
9 them, you know.

10 Q. Very well, sister. There is one further question,
11 actually, and I think you've probably answered it
12 already. I think you have told us that there are
13 children who still get in touch with you that you cared
14 for.

15 A. Yes, [REDACTED]

16 Q. I don't need the name, sister.

17 A. The husband -- he's the one that rang me --

18 Q. You mentioned --

19 A. -- when it was her birthday. [REDACTED] still writes every
20 Christmas and other times. And also the [REDACTED] family,
21 they keep in contact as well. Lovely children.

22 Q. Very well, sister. These are all the questions --

23 A. I loved them very much and I'm sorry all this has
24 happened. I think it's awful, really.

25 We all did our best for the children, we loved those

1 children, and this is going on forever, you know.

2 Anyway, thank God it's near the end --

3 Q. Well, it's the end for you today, sister.

4 A. I know, thank you very much.

5 MR MacAULAY: Thank you for coming to give your evidence.

6 I've asked all the questions that I wanted to ask and

7 I think I've asked the questions I've been asked to ask.

8 LADY SMITH: Just let me confirm whether there are any

9 outstanding applications for questions. No.

10 Sister Rita, thank you very much. Those are all the
11 questions we have for you today. It just remains for me
12 to say thank you for engaging with the inquiry, both by
13 providing your written statement and coming along today
14 to answer Mr MacAulay's questions. It's extremely
15 helpful to me and my work.

16 A. Thank you very much.

17 LADY SMITH: I'm now able to let you go.

18 A. Thank you so much.

19 (The witness withdrew)

20 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

21 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, we now have read-ins. I understand
22 they are quite short and we should probably make pretty
23 good progress, even before lunch, if we were to get
24 started.

25 LADY SMITH: Let's do that.

1 Witness statement of "LYDIA" (read)

2 MS RATTRAY: This is a statement of an applicant who wishes
3 to remain anonymous and use the pseudonym "Lydia". Her
4 statement can be found at WIT.001.001.7004.

5 "My name is Lydia. I was born in 1961."

6 My Lady, at paragraphs 2 to 7 Lydia speaks of her
7 family life before being taken into care at
8 Nazareth House Aberdeen, after her mother tried to kill
9 herself. She recalls that she was aged 4 or 5.

10 We've been unable to find a entry in the
11 Nazareth House admission register for Lydia. Turning
12 now to paragraph 8 on page 7005:

13 "I don't remember going into Nazareth House. I just
14 remember my mum lying there injured and then lying
15 in the crib in Nazareth House. I don't know who took us
16 there. I don't remember anything about the routine
17 there.

18 "I can remember the cribs at Nazareth House like in
19 a children's hospital. It had bars. I had to lie in it
20 all the time. There were other kids walking about, but
21 they wouldn't let me out of the bed. My sister would
22 sit in a chair next to my bed watching me constantly.
23 My sister remembers more than me, but she doesn't want
24 to go there again because she's too hurt. She told me
25 the nuns made her sit next to me to keep me quiet

1 because I would be howling and screaming when they put
2 me back in the crib. I blamed my sister for it.

3 I don't know how I could have blamed her.

4 "I remember being afraid of the nuns because I was
5 peeing the bed all the time. When I wet the bed I was
6 taken by a nun to two deep sinks first thing in the
7 morning. The nuns were furious and their faces were
8 cross. They would put me into the freezing cold water
9 first, then they'd put me into warm water. I don't know
10 how many times that happened. I just remember being
11 terrified of going to a sink.

12 "They didn't change the mattress. I always had the
13 same damp mattress.

14 "I don't remember anybody coming to visit us at
15 Nazareth House. The day we left the place, my father
16 came to get us. The nuns had bought my sister and me
17 identical dresses. One was blue and one was yellow.
18 They took us through to an office and my dad was
19 standing there. I remember feeling happy and then my
20 dad took us away in an estate car. I remember they took
21 a photograph of my sister and me outside Nazareth House
22 and there were religious ornaments in the photo."

23 My Lady, the rest of Lydia's statement tells of her
24 later experiences in care in various other settings and
25 the impact that those experiences had on her. For that

1 reason, because the impact is focused on other settings,
2 I won't be reading in the rest of the statement today
3 because the focus today is on her experience in
4 Nazareth House.

5 For the sake of completeness, I will turn now to
6 page 7032 at paragraph 118 where Lydia says:

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

9 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
10 true."

11 The statement was signed by Lydia on
12 27 February 2018.

13 My Lady, I will now pass over to my learned friend
14 Ms MacLeod for further read-ins.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 Witness statement of "ANNE" (read)

17 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, this is a statement of a witness who
18 wishes to use the pseudonym "Anne", and the statement is
19 to be found at WIT.001.001.4365:

20 "My name is Anne. I was born in 1956. My contact
21 details are known to the inquiry."

22 In paragraphs 2 to 6 of the statement, Anne speaks
23 about her family background, that they lived in
24 Kirkintilloch, her parents separated and divorced and
25 she was put into care. And I'll pick up the statement

1 at paragraph 7 on WIT.001.001.4366:

2 "I remember that when I was taken into care I was
3 with a social worker. I think his name was Mr McClune.
4 I would have been about 8 at the time. My sister was
5 with me."

6 The admissions register for Cardonald shows the
7 witness being admitted in [REDACTED] 1965:

8 "When we got there, I can't remember what was said,
9 if anything. It was the nuns who met us. If they
10 introduced themselves, I can't remember this.

11 "As my sister was younger, we were split up. I was
12 taken on my own and shown my room and things like that.

13 "The dormitory I was in was like a long corridor.it
14 had a red floor. There were quite a lot of single beds.
15 You had a wee side cabinet next to your bed for your
16 things to go in. It was all girls, but I'm not sure how
17 many. I don't think we were all the same age. I think
18 that there were girls older and younger than me in the
19 dormitory.

20 "There was one nun in charge of the dormitory, but
21 I can't remember her name. She was about 30 years old.
22 I don't think she had a room next to the dormitory. The
23 nun in charge also had other staff that helped her.
24 I think they were nuns as well.

25 "The first day I was there, my clothes were taken

1 from me and I was given a sort of uniform to wear. It
2 was a green dress. Everyone wore the same clothes.

3 "Every morning you were woken by the nuns at 5 and
4 taken to Mass. Then you went for breakfast. After
5 breakfast I went and got washed and brushed my teeth.
6 The nuns would watch you. They would check you had
7 washed right and also check your head for lice. If the
8 nuns didn't think you had washed right, they would say
9 so and then give you a slap. When we had finished
10 washing, we went to school.

11 "The routine at the weekends was no different from
12 through the week, apart from not going to school. You
13 just went out to play in the park. They would ring
14 a bell for you to come in.

15 "We walked in a row to school. The school was in
16 the grounds. The teacher was a man from outwith
17 Nazareth House. It was all people the same age as me
18 in the class. I didn't listen in school, I was too
19 traumatised. I can't remember if I received any
20 punishment in school.

21 "After school you would get out to play for a wee
22 while. There was a kind of park outside. After this,
23 you would have chores to do before going for tea.

24 "Once you had your tea, you were table to go out
25 again. If you were going for a walk, the nuns would go

1 with you. There was no television or anything like
2 that.

3 "There was a playroom, but I just more or less
4 coloured in books.

5 "I never saw my sister when I was in the home.
6 I did ask to see her, but I wasn't allowed.

7 "If you hadn't eaten your meals, one of the
8 punishments was to clean the shoes. Those belonged to
9 the other people in the dormitory. There were benches
10 outside the dormitory: this was where the shoes would be
11 left. You had to clean the shoes with a brush. If
12 there wasn't a shine on them, you would get another
13 slap.

14 "You were given porridge for breakfast; it was
15 horrible. Lunchtimes were back at the main building.
16 You didn't have lunch at school. For lunch it was
17 things like mince and tatties. I was so hungry I ate
18 it, but I was boking. It was terrible. The food was in
19 a big urn thing and was stirred with a big spoon.

20 "There was an evening meal and it was much the same
21 as before. All the food was steamed. If you didn't eat
22 it you would starve as you weren't given anything else.

23 "Bedtime was about 8 o'clock. There was no chance
24 to read: the lights went out straightaway. One of the
25 nuns would come round and check on you.

1 "I can't remember anyone being up through the night.
2 That would cause the nuns to come and check on us.

3 "In the mornings the nuns or staff would check the
4 beds. They would throw the cover back. If you had wet
5 the bed they would say, 'You can lie in it'; they
6 wouldn't change it. When you went to bed at night,
7 it would still be wet. The bed sheets were never
8 changed the whole time I was there.

9 "The only religious instruction I had was the Mass
10 every day. It was no different on a Sunday.

11 "I had a bath every couple of days. It was a long,
12 deep bath. You always went in the bath yourself. The
13 nuns filled the bath and it was always clean water.

14 "The nuns did everything. They had no cleaners or
15 anything like that.

16 "I never went on any trips.

17 "I cannot remember if I had a birthday or Christmas
18 when I was in the home. I do have a letter that tells
19 me when I went in and when I left.

20 "My family never came near me when I was in the
21 home. I think that Mr McClune came in a couple of times
22 to see me.

23 "When I first went into the home, a doctor came and
24 checked me. I was healthy. I don't think the doctor
25 stayed there. I didn't have any medical care after

1 this. I never went to the dentist whilst I was there.

2 "Every couple of days the nuns would hit and slap
3 you. If you didn't do something right, you would get
4 hit. You were feart to do anything. They put the fear
5 into me. They would hit you on the head with their
6 hand. One time they hurt me with a belt. I can
7 remember that.

8 "It wasn't all the nuns who were cruel. There might
9 be one that was all right.

10 "I remember one day I was outside playing on my own
11 in the grounds. It was a sort of park. I remember this
12 man, I don't know who he was or if he worked there,
13 I think he was in his 30s. He asked me to take my pants
14 down, he told me to open my legs. Then he said to open
15 then wider. He asked me to sit with my legs open.
16 I didn't tell the nuns about the man in the park. They
17 wouldn't have believed me.

18 "When I left Nazareth House I told my mum what had
19 happened to me. I told her that I had been hit. My mum
20 never said anything. At the time I left I never
21 discussed what had happened to me with my sister or
22 anyone else. I haven't reported what happened to me to
23 the police.

24 "Later on, when I was involved with alcohol, I told
25 the weans that I had been abused in the home. I tried

1 to explain things to them.

2 "I was in Nazareth House for about three weeks. My
3 mother met my stepfather and I was able to go and stay
4 with them in Cumbernauld. My mother eventually married
5 this man."

6 The registers for Cardonald show this witness
7 leaving in [REDACTED] 1965, around three weeks after her
8 admission.

9 In paragraphs 43 to 53 of the statement, the witness
10 describes her life after Nazareth House, including
11 spending two days in another home where she says that no
12 abuse took place.

13 I'll pick up the statement at paragraph 54, which is
14 on WIT.001.001.4373:

15 "I have managed to get my records. [REDACTED], who
16 works for In Care Survivors, managed to get them for me.
17 These showed me when I went in and out of care. I have
18 sent a copy to the inquiry.

19 "I did say to my ma that I needed counselling for
20 the abuse at the home. My mum would say that I didn't
21 and that I was all right.

22 "I eventually received counselling for the abuse
23 I suffered. I went to Kirkintilloch Health Centre about
24 my [REDACTED]. I told the lady who works there about
25 the abuse. She referred me to a counsellor. The

1 counsellor helped me. I'm not a member of any support
2 groups for the abuse. [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED]
4 "I think we are in a different day and age now.
5 I think in those days a lot went on that was not brought
6 out in public. It is good now that people know what
7 went on behind closed doors. I can speak about this now
8 and this has given me closure.

9 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
10 published as part of evidence to the inquiry. I believe
11 the facts stated in the witness statement are true."

12 The statement was signed by Anne on 26 January 2018.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 Witness statement of "MICHAEL" (read)

15 MS MACLEOD: The next statement, my Lady, is from a witness
16 who wishes to use the pseudonym "Michael". The witness
17 statement can be found at WIT.001.001.0934.

18 This witness has already given evidence in the case
19 study relating to the Daughters of Charity, relating to
20 his time in Smyllum:

21 "My name is Michael. I was born in 1960. My
22 contact details are known to the inquiry."

23 In paragraphs 2 to 5 of the statement, Michael
24 speaks about his family background, that they lived in
25 Greenock, and that he was taken into care at a young age

1 with his brother, first of all to Nazareth House in
2 Cardonald, then to Smyllum, then to St Vincent's and
3 then to St Philip's, which are both in Newcastle.

4 I'll pick the statement up at paragraph 6, which is
5 on WIT.001.001.0935. The admissions register for
6 Nazareth House Cardonald shows this witness going in in
7 [REDACTED] 1964:

8 "I don't remember who took us to Nazareth House, but
9 I do remember arriving there and seeing the nuns with
10 their big pointy hats. It was a big dark stone building
11 and the rooms were massive. It was scary for me as
12 a young child.

13 "My brother and I were taken into a room full of
14 cots and were basically just thrown into a cot each.
15 I remember we were screaming. We were later separated.
16 My brother was a baby and I could walk, so I got put
17 into a different dormitory with people my own age.
18 Things always look bigger when you're so little, so
19 I don't know how accurate this is, but I think there
20 were around 20 to 30 children in it.

21 "I would say Nazareth House and Smyllum were like
22 Spencer Tracey's movie 'Boys' Town' but without the
23 love. It was definitely different from the film in that
24 respect. There was no love from anybody.

25 "All I can remember from my time in Nazareth House

1 is that I was force-fed and violence was a daily
2 occurrence.

3 "I think I was also baptised there. I don't
4 remember if I had any contact with my family and have no
5 recollection of seeing anybody from Social Services. If
6 you stepped out of line, which happened often at that
7 age, you got a hiding.

8 "My experience of nuns is that they don't really
9 like hitting you with their hands as it hurts them as
10 well, so they pick up any implement they can find and
11 hit you with it. Everybody was treated in the same way.
12 That's how the nuns ran all of the homes I was in.

13 "I have never recovered from the food in the homes.
14 I didn't eat meat or fish and still don't to this day.

15 "I was force-fed everywhere I went, including
16 Nazareth House. My hair was pulled back and the food
17 was stuffed into my mouth. I don't remember the first
18 time it happened, but it definitely started in
19 Nazareth House.

20 "It got worse as I got older as they probably felt
21 they could go that bit further with me then.

22 "If you wet the bed, you got a hiding the next
23 morning and got put into a cold shower or a cold bath.
24 I was one of the lucky ones; I didn't wet the bed.
25 I saw it happen to other children. I think I moved to

1 Smyllum when I was about 5 years old."

2 The registers for Cardonald show the witness being
3 discharged in [REDACTED] 1965.

4 The remainder of Michael's statement deals with his
5 evidence about his time at other establishments --
6 Smyllum, St Vincent's and St Philip's -- so I don't
7 propose to read those parts because the inquiry has
8 already heard in relation to that.

9 LADY SMITH: We have already heard that, yes.

10 MS MACLEOD: So I'll turn to the final page of the statement
11 for completeness, which is WIT.001.001.0961 and to
12 paragraph 121:

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

17 The statement was signed by Michael on
18 24 January 2016.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

20 MS MACLEOD: That completes the read-ins and, in fact, all
21 the evidence for today.

22 LADY SMITH: Well done.

23 MS MACLEOD: Tomorrow we have two oral witnesses and four
24 read-ins planned.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. I will rise now until

1 tomorrow and you have heard what's going to happen then.

2 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

3 (12.50 pm)

4 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am

5 on Friday 15 June 2018)

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17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

"SISTER ELIMEAR" (sworn)1

 Questions from MR MacAULAY3

"SISTER RITA" (sworn)61

 Questions from MR MacAULAY62

Witness statement of "LYDIA" (read)97

Witness statement of "ANNE" (read)99

Witness statement of "MICHAEL"106

 (read)

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7