

Thursday, 1 October 2020

(10.00 am)

LADY SMITH: Good morning. Now, Mr MacAulay.

MR MACAULAY: Good morning, my Lady.

LADY SMITH: Which witness are we moving to now?

MR MACAULAY: We have Sister Rosemary Keane and we are taking her evidence through video link.

LADY SMITH: Good morning, Sister Kean. Can you see me and hear me?

THE WITNESS: I cannot see anything. I can just see the header, "Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry". Just a moment, I have gone into "Participants" now. I can see, yes, in the small screen, yes.

LADY SMITH: The heading "Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry" is the screen that introduces any documents, such as your statement and other documents we are going to look at.

Let me say good morning and thank you for agreeing to join us over the video link. If you have any problems with it, don't hesitate to let us know.

I should warn you that occasionally WebEx decides that it is going to cut us off, although you may not realise that. If it does, you will be contacted immediately to tell you, and it usually sorts itself out within a few minutes.

If it is okay with you, and you are ready, I would

1 like to begin by putting you on oath.

2 SISTER ROSEMARY KEAN (sworn) (via video link)

3 Questions from MR MACAULAY

4 LADY SMITH: I will now pass you over to Mr MacAulay and he
5 will explain what happens next. Thank you.

6 A. Thank you.

7 MR MACAULAY: Good morning, Sister Rosemary. Just to
8 confirm, you are Sister Rosemary Kean, is that right?

9 A. I am, yes.

10 Q. You gave evidence to the Inquiry before, and that was on
11 15 June 2017?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. If I can begin just by reminding us all as to your
14 position, and if I can put your CV or biography on the
15 screen. GSH.001.001.0134.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You are attached to the Good Shepherd Sisters, is that
18 right, Sister?

19 A. Yes, I am the province leader, yes.

20 Q. And you tell us at the bottom of the biography that you
21 are the province leader and you have been the province
22 leader since 2014?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. It is in that capacity that you are here today to give
25 your evidence?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. In particular, you have come to give evidence in
3 connection with the involvement that the Good Shepherd
4 Sisters had in relation to child migration?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I fully appreciate that you yourself have no direct
7 memory of child migration, is that right?

8 A. That is correct, yes.

9 Q. But you have submitted to the Inquiry, in response to
10 Section 21 notices, two short reports that you have put
11 together on the basis of what records you have in
12 relation to this issue?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Is that right?

15 A. Yes. Our archivist put these together from the
16 information that she could glean from the archives.

17 Q. Insofar as the records go to show, do you have much by
18 way of records in relation to this particular topic?

19 A. No, very sparse. In fact we have given you all the
20 information that we have.

21 LADY SMITH: Could I just check, where are your archives
22 kept?

23 A. In Manchester.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MR MACAULAY: Is it from Manchester you are coming to us

1 today or are you elsewhere?

2 A. I am in London.

3 Q. Do you still have a presence in Scotland?

4 A. In Scotland we have five Sisters but we have no -- they
5 all live individually. We have no actual communal or
6 community situation there.

7 Q. Insofar as child migration was concerned, then, it was
8 from one of your Scottish places that the children we
9 are going to talk about were migrated from?

10 A. Yes, it was from Colinton in Edinburgh.

11 Q. Can I look at the first response that you made to the
12 Section 21 notices. This you will find -- this is at
13 GSH.001.001.0411. If we turn to page 9 and just scroll
14 down a little bit on page 9, it's a section headed
15 "4.11". We have here essentially I think two pages that
16 are contained in your response under the heading "Child
17 Migration", do you see that?

18 A. I do. At least I can see the first, yes.

19 Q. The question that you are asked there, where you
20 answered "None", is in connection with policies.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. "What policies and/or procedures did the organisation
23 have?" I think the answer to that is that you had no
24 policies in connection with child migration, is that
25 your understanding?

1 A. Yes, that is my understanding.

2 Q. Do you say that because you know from your research that
3 there were no such policies, or you do say that because
4 there is nothing in your records?

5 A. There is nothing in our records, and so we take from
6 that that we didn't have a policy.

7 The other thing about child migration is normally
8 our congregation did not work with young children, and
9 the children in Colinton in Edinburgh we were asked to
10 take post-war, I believe there were many displaced
11 children at that time, and we were asked to consider
12 taking these children as a special arrangement because
13 there was a great shortage of places for then. So
14 because of that, we didn't have many policies in
15 relation to young children either.

16 Q. More specifically, you had no policies in relation to
17 child migration?

18 A. No. No. None that we know of.

19 Q. If we turn to the second page then of this section,
20 there is a heading "Practice", and again it is focusing
21 on practice and policies, and what has been put in there
22 is this, this is at (i):

23 "As stated at 4.11(a)(i) ..."

24 We just looked at that.

25 "... the organisation did not have policies

1 regarding child migration. However, the organisation
2 was asked to comply with the ecclesiastical authorities
3 regarding sending children to Australia."

4 I just want to understand what is meant by that.

5 A. From collective memory, our understanding is that the
6 ecclesiastical authorities were working with the
7 government, the governments in our own country and in
8 Australia, regarding sending children to Australia. So
9 that is simply our understanding from anyone who has any
10 memory of it.

11 Q. But when you talk about "the ecclesiastical
12 authorities", do you mean the Catholic Church in
13 Scotland?

14 A. Yes, yes.

15 Q. Perhaps while we have this on the screen, insofar as the
16 number of children that were sent to Australia, at
17 (viii), you say there were 15 but they all went to
18 Australia, is that right?

19 A. Yes, as far as we know, yes.

20 Q. And these were girls and the age range was from 6 to 13?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. I think you provided a list, I will look at that in
23 a moment, but you do make the point that two of the
24 children left for Australia with their mother, is that
25 right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So do I take it from that then that there were 13
3 children who left essentially as child migrants without
4 a parent?

5 A. Yes. Yes, that would appear to be the case.

6 Q. So far as the timescales are concerned, they say there
7 that seven of them left in [REDACTED] 1947, and then seven
8 in [REDACTED] 1948 and one in [REDACTED] 1949, so that gives us
9 a timeframe for the 15 that left?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. At (xvii), two blocks from the bottom, in relation to
12 your understanding of the policies, you say:

13 "We understand that the policies and procedures with
14 regard to child migration were put in place at that time
15 to offer children the chance of a better life in
16 Australia."

17 And:

18 "As we do not know exactly what the policies stated,
19 it is difficult for us to have any view."

20 Again, just looking to that, the notion that this
21 was to offer children a better life in Australia, can
22 you elaborate upon that? Where do you get that from?

23 A. Again, its just from collective memory. It was
24 understood at the time that Australia was the land of
25 opportunity, and I know of many families who took

1 advantage of the £10 ticket to emigrate. I think there
2 were many people that I am aware of who actually
3 emigrated to Australia at that time, thinking that it
4 was the land of promise, and it would appear that the
5 same kind of impression was around in the church and
6 in -- well, it was in the country.

7 Q. Would you be able to draw a difference between families
8 taking advantage of any scheme to Australia, parents
9 with a child, as opposed to children on their own being
10 sent to Australia?

11 A. Yes, absolutely. Yes. It seems unusual to send
12 unaccompanied children to a strange country and it is
13 not something that -- it's not something that we would
14 certainly do nowadays. So, yes, there are lots of
15 questions there.

16 Q. The children that we are talking about were being
17 accommodated at I think Woodfield in Colinton, is that
18 correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Would you expect that those children would have been
21 well looked after at Woodfield?

22 A. Absolutely, absolutely. If we were sending children
23 anywhere, we would expect that they would be well cared
24 for.

25 Q. But would you understand that they would have been well

1 cared for at Woodfield, Colinton?

2 A. Oh, yes. Oh definitely, yes.

3 Q. It is just that you made the point that the notion was
4 they were heading off for a better life in Australia,
5 but they were already being well cared for where they
6 were.

7 A. I think our expectation was that these children would be
8 going to foster families or some kind of situation like
9 that, and not to residential establishments. What we
10 know now is that these children, many of them were sent
11 into care situations, and also they were sent into farm
12 labour and so on. I don't think any of that was
13 understood at the time. And certainly for the very
14 young children, I think our expectation would have been
15 that they might have been fostered.

16 I don't think anybody was very clear. We were
17 simply co-operating with the authorities. Because this
18 was a government-sanctioned scheme, it would appear that
19 we expected that the plans for these children were
20 positive, but we weren't part of the planning.

21 Q. The children at the time had been placed in the care of
22 the Good Shepherd Sisters?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So that would suggest that the Good Shepherd Sisters
25 must have been part of planning in relation to what was

1 to happen to these children.

2 A. The only information we have is contained in registers,
3 and some people were identified -- some children were
4 identified for migration. We don't know who identified
5 them, we don't know who sanctioned this arrangement.
6 What we do know is that for about -- I think there are
7 three other children in our registers and there is
8 a note against their name "Not for migration".

9 So we are presuming, we can only surmise, that local
10 authorities with parents or guardians made the decision
11 about the children who were sent to Australia. But that
12 is only surmise. We cannot be absolutely sure who
13 approved these children going to Australia.

14 Q. Would it be the case that the Sisters would have had a
15 say into what was to happen to these children who were
16 in their care?

17 A. I am not absolutely sure about that because in those
18 days -- as we know, Social Services were not
19 well-established in those days, and after the war,
20 children came from different situations. We are not
21 absolutely sure about this. All we know is that it was
22 an unusual situation for us to have young children at
23 all, and so our own policies and practices were not
24 well-established for young children. So it is unclear.
25 I really could not say that our Sisters were involved in

1 the planning because they didn't go directly from us,
2 they went from Colinton to Nazareth House, where
3 I believe children were gathered for sending together to
4 Australia. It is not clear.

5 LADY SMITH: Are you talking about them going to
6 Nazareth House in London or to a Nazareth House in
7 Scotland?

8 A. I think they went to a Nazareth House in Scotland and
9 then, from there, went to England to travel by boat.

10 LADY SMITH: The nearest one to your congregation when they
11 were in Colinton, the nearest Nazareth House would have
12 been Lasswade.

13 A. That's right.

14 LADY SMITH: Are you saying it is possible they went to
15 Lasswade and then were moved on south to go to the boat
16 from there?

17 A. Do you know, I am not absolutely clear about this,
18 because I imagine it would depend on where children were
19 being gathered together. It may have been in Glasgow,
20 I don't know for sure.

21 LADY SMITH: One other thing occurs to me at the moment,
22 given your mention of the local authorities and social
23 services and it's the question of whether you are able
24 to tell from your records what the breakdown of the
25 children that were migrated is as between those who had

1 been placed by local authorities and those who had been
2 placed with you otherwise, for example placed by
3 a relative?

4 A. Right, I have here in front of me sent by, I don't know
5 whether that means education, "Ed PO", I'm not sure what
6 that actually means, and the father's address was given.
7 Another one was "Paid for by Glasgow PA", but we are not
8 sure what "PA" means. And another --

9 MR MACAULAY: Sorry, you have produced a list. I am about
10 to come to that.

11 A. Yes, there is a list there.

12 Q. That perhaps helps on that, but it does look that some
13 of the children certainly were being financed by local
14 authorities.

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: I think you note that of the three you have
17 recorded as being not for emigration, two of them were
18 under the care of the Edinburgh Local Authority --

19 A. Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: -- that you referred to as Edinburgh Social
21 Services.

22 A. Right. It was Local Authority, wasn't it, rather than
23 Social Services?

24 LADY SMITH: At that time it would have been probably been
25 Edinburgh City Council, Midlothian. I have lost track

1 of where we were with local government organisation at
2 that time.

3 A. Yes, and I am not clear.

4 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay will no doubt pick this up when we
5 go through the names.

6 A. Yes.

7 MR MACAULAY: In relation to the children joining a party
8 that was being sent from Nazareth House, is that
9 something you have ascertained from your records?

10 A. Yes. Yes.

11 Q. Do the records say which Nazareth House the children
12 went to?

13 A. If it does ... If they do, I am not clear. I don't have
14 it here.

15 Q. If you come across that, if you could let us know,
16 Sister?

17 A. Yes. All I have here is that they left Woodfield for
18 Nazareth House, and I am not clear which Nazareth House.
19 Sorry.

20 Q. In relation to going to Australia, and you have given us
21 the dates and the numbers, do you know as a matter of
22 fact where these children went in Australia?

23 A. No, we didn't -- we have no records to show where they
24 were going, all we knew was that they were part of the
25 scheme, and the plans for them in Australia were not --

1 we don't seem to have been party to those plans.

2 Q. But would it be correct to say that at the time the
3 Good Shepherd Sisters would have that knowledge, namely,
4 as to where the children were going?

5 A. There is nothing in our records, so I wouldn't --
6 I can't say. I really can't say.

7 Q. If that knowledge had been passed on to the Sisters,
8 would you have expected a record to have been made to
9 reflect that knowledge?

10 A. Yes, I would. I would. Yes, we would have recorded it,
11 even in the registers, because normally speaking we
12 would say where the children were going and with whom.

13 Q. So does that tend to suggest, then, that the Sisters at
14 the time did not know where in Australia these children
15 were going to go?

16 A. Yes, that is what we feel.

17 Q. I think one of the children who was in the group
18 actually paid a visit to the Sisters some years later,
19 is that right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And that was I think in 1961.

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. That was a child that left for Australia in

24 [REDACTED] 1947, aged 12.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. In the course of that visit, do you know if that lady
2 gave any information as to where she had been?

3 A. 1961, I have no idea. I am really sorry. We only know
4 that she came and it was a very pleasant visit. Other
5 than that, I have no information.

6 LADY SMITH: Was it 1961 or 1971? The response suggests --

7 A. My record says 1961, July 1961.

8 LADY SMITH: I am just reading:

9 "One child migrant from Colinton returned to visit
10 the Sisters in 1971 and was made welcome."

11 Is that a different one?

12 MR MACAULAY: I think one of these dates is wrong. The date
13 I am looking at, and that you have taken from the
14 registers, is July 1961.

15 A. That is correct.

16 Q. There is also a suggestion of a date in 1971 --

17 LADY SMITH: It appears twice. It appears at (xiv) in that
18 list and then at (xviii). So if that needs to be
19 corrected we should do so.

20 MR MACAULAY: Yes, perhaps you can just ... (Pause). Yes,
21 perhaps you can just confirm the actual date for us,
22 whether it was 1971 or 1961, Sister.

23 A. In my records, she returned to visit in July 1961.

24 LADY SMITH: It should be 1961, not 1971 twice. It seems to
25 be the same person being referred to.

1 MR MACAULAY: Yes, it is.

2 A. [REDACTED]?

3 Q. That's correct. We don't want the full name.

4 Can I just take you then to page 9 of the Section 21
5 response, GSH.001.001.0477. If we just scroll down the
6 page, this is heavily redacted of course, but we have
7 here on this page and onto the next page, and indeed
8 I think the subsequent pages, the list of the details
9 that you are able to extract from your records about
10 the children who left. Is that right?

11 A. Yes, yes.

12 Q. If we look at the first entry, for example, the name has
13 been blanked out, the age is 14.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And we see that the other person, who was her sister who
16 was aged 12, that they left together on

17 [REDACTED] 1948, is that right? The date has been
18 blanked out, but take it from me the date there is

19 [REDACTED] 1948.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can we see that these children had been in your care,
22 according to this record, from, you may not have the
23 date there, but [REDACTED] 1945.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. So they had been three years in the care of the

1 Good Shepherd Sisters?

2 A. Yes, yes.

3 Q. So it wasn't, as it were, a very short and temporary
4 stay with the Sisters, it was quite a lengthy stay?

5 A. Certainly for those two children, yes.

6 Q. If we move down to the fourth entry, we have a child who
7 is aged 11 who was admitted with her sister in 1945, and
8 there is an uncle's address given, and she left for
9 Australia in [REDACTED] 1947, do you see that?

10 A. I do, yes.

11 Q. So again that migrant, that girl, was with the
12 Good Shepherd Sisters for about two years, a little over
13 two years?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Would it seem that when she was migrated that her older
16 sister stayed?

17 A. Again we don't know why her older sister chose -- you
18 know, when we talk about this, we wonder: did the older
19 girl choose simply to stay and go to work? Was she
20 given an option? We just don't know. But we imagine --

21 LADY SMITH: She would only have been 12.

22 A. No, the one who went to work with us.

23 LADY SMITH: It says she was one year older, and the one who
24 went to Australia was 11 years old --

25 A. Yes, that doesn't make --

1 LADY SMITH: -- when she left.

2 A. Yes.

3 LADY SMITH: Would it have simply been a matter of her
4 choice, or would the whole decision not have to be
5 revisited with a view to keeping the sisters together?
6 Whether to keep them both here, or whether both should
7 be migrated?

8 A. Where I am sitting, of course, that would be the case.
9 We wouldn't separate children, and the children would be
10 involved in the decision with many other people. But it
11 is very unclear. These children were admitted just at
12 the end of the war, and I think life at that time for
13 many displaced children was very chaotic, and
14 organisations -- we understand that these children, we
15 were asked to take children as a kind of emergency
16 because there was very little accommodation available
17 for them.

18 So, yes, I can't answer many of these questions
19 because I don't know the thinking, and of course we
20 would have questions to ask about, you know, the way
21 this was managed.

22 MR MACAULAY: We can look at the hard facts, though, and the
23 hard fact here is that this young girl left Woodfield
24 in [REDACTED] 1947 at the age of 11, she had an older
25 sister, who would have been approximately 12 at that

1 time, who the assumption is has stayed on at Woodfield,
2 and then in [REDACTED] 1949, some two years later, went to
3 work at Nazareth House. So on the face of it, these two
4 girls, who were sisters, were separated --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- at this time?

7 A. Yes, yes.

8 LADY SMITH: And they had been together in your care for
9 over two years before.

10 A. Yes, yes. Yes.

11 MR MACAULAY: We can compare that to the next entry where we
12 have two sisters and both left for Australia, one was 14
13 and one was 9. Do you see that?

14 A. Yes, I do.

15 Q. If we look at the next entry after that, there we have
16 a very young girl, she is 6. She goes to Australia in
17 1949 and, on the face of it, she goes to join sisters
18 who had already left.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. But it would appear from the circumstances that the
21 separation of this girl who, on the face of it, went to
22 join her sisters, had been separated from them for about
23 two years, because the sisters had gone two years
24 earlier, is that correct?

25 A. Yes, yes.

1 Q. If we look down towards the bottom then of the list,
2 second from the bottom, we have an entry there for
3 a girl who was 12, and it seems that this girl was
4 admitted to you from Lasswade -- that would be the
5 Nazareth House Lasswade, I would imagine --
6 in [REDACTED] 1945. Do you see that? The actual date is
7 blanked.

8 A. This is the one at the bottom?

9 Q. It's the second box.

10 A. On my page it's the last one.

11 Q. If we just scroll down a little bit. So if we look at
12 not the bottom, not the last one, but the second bottom
13 which we have now highlighted it for you, Sister.

14 A. Very good, yes.

15 Q. It is a girl who was 12, who had been admitted from
16 Lasswade in [REDACTED] 1945, and she had been with you for two
17 years because she left in [REDACTED] 1947. And this
18 I think is the lady that may have visited you, according
19 to this, in July 1961?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. But do you see that she was admitted with her sister?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And her sister was sent to Aberdeen in [REDACTED] 1946.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. So on the face of it, again, there seems to have been

1 a separation of the sisters when they were with you and
2 then a separation when this girl was migrated
3 in [REDACTED] 1947.

4 A. Yes. Yes. More questions, yes.

5 Q. Was there any evidence that you could see from your
6 records then, and I think the answer clearly is -- we
7 have already covered it, that anyone took any steps to
8 check out in any way where these girls were going?

9 A. We have no evidence whatsoever to suggest that the
10 Sisters were involved in -- we have no idea, I am really
11 sorry. We have many questions, just as you have, about
12 these children and about separations and so on.

13 Q. Just in relation to children's files, were files kept
14 for the children who were at Woodfield at this
15 particular time?

16 A. I don't know, is the answer. I have no idea.

17 Q. Do you have any?

18 A. No, we don't have any. The only information we have on
19 these children is what is in registers. Normally when
20 children were with us, when they left our care, their
21 records were left with the sending authority, as far as
22 we are aware.

23 Q. Are you suggesting that, for example, if the children
24 had been placed in your care by Glasgow, that the
25 records -- any records you would have for the children

1 would be returned to Glasgow?

2 A. We think so. We imagine so, yes.

3 Q. When you say that, are you really speculating?

4 A. Yes, I am speculating.

5 Q. You don't know?

6 A. We just don't know. We don't know.

7 LADY SMITH: What do you think you would have done if
8 a child had not been placed by a Local Authority but
9 otherwise, for example, by a member of the family?

10 A. What would we have done ...

11 LADY SMITH: What would you have done with any documents you
12 had in relation to that child?

13 A. We imagine they would have been left for archives but
14 they are not in the archives. Now, whether
15 record-keeping at that time -- I don't know whether it
16 was good, bad or -- we just do not have enough
17 information to be able to comment. Any records we have
18 are sparse.

19 MR MACAULAY: I think we see from the list there are some
20 reference to local authorities in connection with some
21 children, but there are also no references in connection
22 with other children.

23 A. No.

24 Q. Indeed, I think we have also noted that perhaps more
25 than one child was admitted to you from another

1 children's home.

2 A. Right, yes, yes.

3 Q. Apart from the visit you had in possibly 1961 or 1971,
4 have the Good Shepherd Sisters had any further
5 information about how these children fared when they
6 were in Australia?

7 A. None whatsoever. The only information I am aware of is
8 what has come out from the Inquiry.

9 Q. Can I just ask you to look at these documents. Again,
10 I will put these on the screen. This first one I want
11 to look at is NAA.001.001.1898.

12 I don't know, Sister, if you have seen this document
13 before? It is what is known as a LEM 3 form which
14 covers the issue of consent. Have you seen this before?

15 A. No.

16 Q. I will take you through it then. You will see it is
17 headed "Commonwealth of Australia" and "Department of
18 Immigration, Australia House, London", and the heading
19 is "Child Migration".

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Again because of redaction, names have been blanked out,
22 but the name that you see there, at item 1, is the name
23 we looked at second bottom on the page, page 10.

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. That was the child who was 12 --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- and was separated from her sister. But you will see
3 the full postal address for this child was given as the
4 Good Shepherd Convent --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- at Woodhall Road, Colinton.

7 A. Right.

8 Q. And various details are given. If we scroll down, you
9 will see -- you won't see, but below the word "Primary"
10 a name has -- there is a signature there. And if we
11 then move on to the next section, "Parent's or
12 guardian's consent", and "(Father if living)", we then
13 read "I", and the name is given, "I, [REDACTED]", and
14 "Housewife" is what it's described as, and an address is
15 given in Edinburgh.

16 Then:

17 "... hereby consent to my ..."

18 And the word "child" has been scored out and the
19 word "ward" is left.

20 A. Right.

21 Q. I think you can see that on --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And then there is a signature below that and it is
24 witnessed by a medical practitioner.

25 So it would appear, on the face of it, that what we

1 call the consent form for this particular girl has been
2 signed by someone who has described herself as -- or,
3 rather, described the child as her ward?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. On the face of it, it is not a parent who has signed it?

6 A. No. But above, it says that her next of kin is an aunt.

7 Q. Yes. Are you speculating that this could be the aunt?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. If we look at this next form then, this is

10 NAA.001.001.1650. This girl is the fourth on your list.

11 If you look at page 9 of the report, it is the fourth on

12 your list. And this is the girl who we looked at who

13 was admitted in 1945 with her sister, she left for

14 Australia in [REDACTED] 1947, and her sister stayed behind.

15 Remember we looked at this particular case?

16 A. Yes, I have it here, yes.

17 Q. Here then we again we can read that the address given is

18 the Convent of the Good Shepherd, Colinton?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. We are given various details. The bit that should be

21 signed for and on behalf of the sponsoring organisation

22 is blank in this case. Do we see that?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Then going down to the "Consent" section, can we see

25 that the person who has signed is described as

1 the guardian?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. "Father" and "Mother" have been scored out. And again,
4 someone has signed, and it has been witnessed by
5 a priest.

6 A. Right.

7 Q. Again, the priest's signature is not there. Again, if
8 we look at the details we are given in the list, I think
9 it appears to be that certainly this girl's uncle's
10 address was given, so possibly the signature on this is
11 the child's uncle who was acting as her guardian?

12 A. Yes, right, yes.

13 Q. I want you to look at this form as well. This is
14 NAA.001.001.1784. Again the name of the child is
15 blocked out but it is the second name from the top on
16 page 10 of your list. This was the child who left for
17 Australia to join her older sisters and, according to
18 your list, she was aged 6. But at the time of the
19 completion of this form, can you see here at item 3 she
20 is described as being five years of age?

21 A. Yes, I see that.

22 Q. Then just reading down to the section that should be
23 signed on behalf of the sending organisation,
24 unfortunately it has been blanked out, but I can tell
25 you that has been signed by a Reverend PF Quille. Is

1 that a name you have heard of in connection with child
2 migration?

3 A. No.

4 Q. He purports to sign for and on behalf of the Catholic
5 Welfare Immigration Committee, and we see the date as
6 1949. Then if we look at the bottom, we see that
7 the consent form -- we can't see the signature --
8 purports to have been signed by the mother, because we
9 see that "Father" and "Guardian" have been scored out.

10 A. That answers some of our questions, yes.

11 Q. Yes. It's been witnessed, again the signature has been
12 blanked out, but I can tell you it has been witnessed by
13 the Reverend PF Quille.

14 The last form is NAA.001.001.1789 and this person is
15 in the fourth group from the top of page 10 where there
16 are two sisters, this is the second of the sisters and
17 in your list I think is described as being aged 9. She
18 is -- the age isn't actually given in your list, but
19 I think we see from the form that we have that she was
20 aged 8 when the form was being completed. Do you see
21 that?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Again we see the address of the Convent of the
24 Good Shepherd in Edinburgh. And if we move down to the
25 section that is signed on behalf of the sponsoring

1 organisation, and again it has been -- the signature has
2 been blanked out, but I can tell you again it is the
3 Reverend PF Quille who has signed that, and can we see
4 he is doing so for and on behalf of the Catholic Child
5 Welfare Committee. I think actually that hasn't been
6 blanked out, we can see that on the form. Do you see
7 that?

8 A. Yes. Yes, I see that.

9 Q. Again, can we see here that the mother has signed the
10 consent form because we can see that "Father" and
11 "Guardian" have been scored out.

12 A. Yes. Yes.

13 Q. I can tell you, if the signature is blanked out, that
14 the witness once again is PF Quille.

15 A. But the mother signed the document.

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. To give consent, yes.

18 Q. I don't think you had seen these forms. These are forms
19 that the Inquiry has managed to recover from various
20 records.

21 A. Right.

22 Q. What I want to put to you is it is clear that
23 the address that these children were being allocated to
24 was the Good Shepherd Convent in Colinton?

25 A. Yes, yes.

1 Q. Do you have a view, Sister, on how the migration of
2 these children was managed by the Good Shepherd Sisters?

3 A. Yes. With hindsight, and knowing what we know now, the
4 situations that many of these children were sent to,
5 frankly it beggars belief that responsible people would
6 knowingly engage in such a plan. And to know how some
7 of them have been exploited and cruelly treated, it is
8 quite heart-breaking really.

9 I think, having learned about many of these
10 experiences, we believe that the issue of child
11 migration was certainly not in the best interests of the
12 children concerned, and it appears that they may have
13 been misled into thinking that they were going to
14 a positive experience. I think much of the evidence is
15 suggesting that. I --

16 Q. Sorry, I interrupted you.

17 A. No, I was just going to say that rather than giving them
18 a new life, I think for some it has been soul
19 destroying. So we abhor this treatment and suffering of
20 these children and we find it deplorable, frankly, yes.

21 Q. But the essential point is that your order did play
22 a role in sending these children to Australia. Are you,
23 on behalf of your order, in a position to apologise for
24 that?

25 A. Absolutely, and without reservation. I think what some

1 of these children have suffered is just appalling and,
2 yes, had we had any -- certainly from the position I am
3 in now, if we had had any knowledge of what they were
4 going to, we would not have taken part in this.

5 We are just very unclear about the information that
6 people had when these children were selected for
7 migration. I can only speak from our position now, and
8 we certainly would not wish to be a party to this.

9 LADY SMITH: Assuming that it was well-intended on the part
10 of your order, and nobody has suggested to the contrary,
11 Sister --

12 A. No.

13 LADY SMITH: -- what is it that you think made your
14 predecessors think that what they were doing was a good
15 thing? Who was it? How did it happen?

16 A. I think that the congregation would have acted in good
17 faith in co-operating with this scheme. And considering
18 that the government, it was a government-sanctioned
19 scheme, and that the ecclesiastical authorities were
20 working in co-operation with governments, I think that
21 we would have acted in good faith in co-operating with
22 them. But --

23 LADY SMITH: Are you saying the impression you have, and
24 I appreciate it is only an impression, but the
25 impression was that this was not just a UK Government

1 scheme but an Australian Government scheme. These were
2 important people who it was assumed had done their
3 homework and could be trusted to be providing a good
4 experience for these children, and indeed better than
5 they would have had if they had stayed in the UK?

6 A. Yes, indeed. That would have been our expectation.

7 LADY SMITH: And taking it on trust, really.

8 A. Yes. Yes, absolutely. We would have acted in good
9 faith.

10 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

11 MR MACAULAY: Sister Rosemary, those are my questions for
12 you. Thank you very much for coming back to speak to
13 the Inquiry about this topic.

14 My Lady, I confirm I have not been sent any
15 questions to put to Sister Rosemary.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Can I check if they are any
17 outstanding applications for questions? No.

18 Sister Rosemary, that does complete our questions
19 for today. It remains for me only to thank you again
20 for joining us over the link, I am very grateful to you
21 for doing that. It has been helpful to this chapter of
22 evidence. I am now able to let you go.

23 A. Thank you very much. Thank you.

24 (The witness withdrew)

25 MR MACAULAY: I think the next witness is planned for about

1 11 o'clock, my Lady, or thereabouts.

2 LADY SMITH: I will take a short break now. Thank you.

3 (10.51 am)

4 (A short break)

5 (11.05 am)

6 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAuley.

7 MR MACAULAY: The next witness is a witness who is here in
8 person and that is SallyAnn Kelly.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 Welcome back. As you know, I like to begin by
11 witnesses being put on oath. So would you raise your
12 right hand and repeat after me ...

13 MS SALLYANN KELLY (sworn)

14 Questions from MR MACAULAY

15 LADY SMITH: Do sit down and make yourself comfortable.

16 I should probably say welcome back and thank you for
17 coming back to help us with this stage of our enquiries.

18 Whenever you are ready, I will hand over to
19 Mr MacAulay.

20 Mr MacAulay.

21 MR MACAULAY: Good morning, SallyAnn. Just to confirm you
22 are SallyAnn Kelly?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You gave evidence in fact on the 9 January 2019, and
25 I think at that time you provided the Inquiry with your

1 details and your CV. I will put that back on the screen
2 very briefly, it's at ABE.001.001.0406.

3 You confirm there that you are the chief executive
4 officer for Aberlour?

5 A. I am.

6 Q. And that is a position you have held since June 2014?

7 A. Correct, yes.

8 Q. Today you have come here to speak about the Aberlour
9 position in connection with child migration.

10 A. That is correct.

11 Q. In that connection, Aberlour have submitted to the
12 Inquiry two Section 21 responses. Is that right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Can I say that the two responses are in the red folder,
15 although you may have your own copies if you would
16 prefer to work from these. And can I also say that if
17 I take you to a particular part of the response, it will
18 come on to the screen in front of you.

19 Can I just focus a little bit on the sources that
20 were used to compile the Section 21 notices. Can you
21 help me with that?

22 A. Yes. Historical records that we hold within Aberlour in
23 terms of year books, minutes of board meetings,
24 children's records. A range of sources that the
25 organisation holds internally.

1 Q. Would you consider you have a reasonably good record in
2 relation in particular to this whole issue of migration?

3 A. In terms of accuracy, in terms of ...

4 Q. In terms of children's files and reasons for and so on?

5 A. We have children's files, they are not always very full
6 files but we tend to find the files. We certainly have
7 an admission and a discharge record for children which
8 was consulted, but that has very basic details. And the
9 records for board minutes, et cetera, are full in terms
10 of the time, so they will have been read through to note
11 any mention of emigration for children. But in terms of
12 the children's records, they are not full records in
13 terms of detail. They are what we have.

14 Q. You were able to provide the Inquiry, along with
15 Section 21 responses, with a table setting out some
16 details of children who were migrated?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Perhaps I could look at that first of all. It's at
19 ABE.001.008.7659. It is heavily redacted for obvious
20 reasons, so the names of children are redacted. But the
21 way to look at this document is we have the name on the
22 left, you provide some information about the parental
23 situation, and "Gender", "Date of birth", "Place of
24 origin", "Date of leaving", and then you have "Age at
25 discharge", "Country going to", and, for example, we see

1 in particular reference to Canada in this document.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. "In care with siblings", and that is a yes or a no,
4 "Migrating with siblings". And just looking at that
5 first entry that we have there, the purpose for the
6 migration was the children were going to say with
7 an uncle.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And that was in Canada.

10 A. That's right.

11 Q. Then the final column is providing details:

12 "Arrangements, travel, funding, parental situation,
13 information about employment or placement arrangements,
14 name of institution or carer as far as known from
15 records".

16 So you have trawled through the records as best you
17 can and you have provided information that you were able
18 to find in respect of each child?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So, for example, we see there is quite a bit that there
21 is no information on file?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And we see a number of references. But on some
24 occasions you have information, for example, halfway
25 down there's reference to a child that went to Canada.

1 You say:

2 "Father lived in Canada at time of placement in
3 orphanage. No additional information regarding
4 arrangements for discharge."

5 Does that tell us you don't know whether this
6 particular individual went to join the father or not?

7 A. That is right, there is nothing on the record to
8 indicate that or otherwise.

9 Q. Another couple of points I want to pick up from this
10 very helpful document, if I may say so, is on the next
11 page, that's 7696, page 2 of the document.

12 The third entry down is in connection with a boy who
13 was migrated to Canada, and I just want to look at what
14 you have put in the box on the far right. I will read
15 that:

16 "There is a record on file dated March 22nd, 1927
17 where BLK [REDACTED] certifies that [REDACTED] is a suitable
18 candidate for emigration to Canada ... There is also
19 confirmation by headmaster [with a date] that [REDACTED] was
20 a bright and able senior pupil who would make a good
21 colonist, one of group of Scouts who went to Canada."

22 So you were able to glean that information from the
23 file. That does tend to suggest there was some form of
24 selection process in place that involved BLK [REDACTED],
25 who I think was in charge at the time, and also the

1 headmaster?

2 A. Yes. Not all of the files contain that level of
3 information, I would stress that. But, yes, I think in
4 the Section 21 we do make reference to the fact that in
5 terms of those schemes around 1927/28 it was all boys,
6 they had all reached a minimum age. Yes, so there was
7 some level of selection in place, but we don't have
8 a policy or procedure in place that we can find in the
9 record.

10 Q. I will come back to that. But again if we move a few
11 entries down, there is a similar entry for another boy
12 who was emigrated to Canada. There is a record on file
13 with a date where BLK [REDACTED] certifies that [REDACTED] is
14 a suitable candidate for emigration and so on and so
15 forth. So again, at least the person in charge of
16 Aberlour appears to have been involved in the process?

17 A. Yes. And you will also know from our Section 21 that he
18 accompanied a party of boys to Canada in 1928.

19 Q. Yes, I wondered about that. Would BLK [REDACTED] be
20 described as the warden or the sub-warden?

21 A. He was the sub-warden in 1928, he became the warden
22 thereafter --

23 Q. I think the record you mention refers to the sub-warden
24 which he would have been, then, at that time?

25 A. Which is BLK [REDACTED], yes.

1 Q. Perhaps just looking at this with an overview: in the
2 main, Aberlour, with one or two little exceptions, was
3 involved in migrating children to Canada?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And the policy, at least to this extent, existed that
6 children had to be 14 or over?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. So we are dealing really with juvenile migration as
9 opposed to child migration?

10 A. That is right.

11 Q. You know the difference. Perhaps the other overview
12 point I want to take from you is in relation to numbers.
13 I think you estimate in your Section 21 response that,
14 in total, 44 children were migrated but three may have
15 gone with family members. Is that the position? Or
16 perhaps I can --

17 A. It depends on what time period you are referring to.
18 I have 55 -- in the table that you have in front of me,
19 I think there are 55.

20 Q. I was going to come to look at that. But if we look at
21 the response at ABE.001.008.7699, and it's at page 12 of
22 the response, that is at 7710, what you say there is:

23 "According to the orphanage ledger books, 44
24 children went to destinations outwith the UK on
25 discharge from the orphanage and all but 3 went to

1 Canada ..."

2 That is where I got the 41 from. So the suggestion
3 there is that 41 children were sent to Canada according
4 to the ledger books?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Your figure of 55 ...

7 A. So the 55 -- sorry, I am confused about dates here. The
8 55 is the total number from 1900 to 2014, so that
9 includes children who went after 1930.

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. I would need to check whether the 44 children referred
12 to here is up to 1930. I would need to check the
13 numbers.

14 Q. Very well. The 55 you mention -- if I can just look at
15 this page from the expert's report, it is at INQ-42 at
16 page 82. So if we turn to the Nuix number 82. It is
17 a section 10.5 where they have calculated that 46
18 children seem to have been sent to Canada from the
19 Aberlour Orphanage.

20 If we look at the footnote, the basis for that
21 number is a reference to Abrams' "Orphan Country", which
22 suggested perhaps 50 child migrants from Aberlour were
23 sent to all overseas destinations, but then they also
24 refer to your list that we have just been looking at,
25 but that list names 55.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And of these, the number sent to Canada is 46 plus three
3 to Australia. So that may be where the number 55 comes
4 from.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Can we start looking at some aspects of what you say in
7 the Section 21 response --

8 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, just for the sake of the
9 transcript showing that you can't do your arithmetic, we
10 should note that that footnote doesn't just include
11 three to Australia but it includes children to some
12 other countries as well, and the total is 55.
13 I wouldn't like to do you an injustice.

14 MR MACAULAY: I am obliged, my Lady.

15 I think you do mention in your response,
16 for example, the boy that went to Kenya, and that did
17 not work out very well, is that correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. For example, New Zealand, one of the children went to
20 join the Flock scheme?

21 A. That is right.

22 Q. If we look then at ABE.001.008.7699, which is one of the
23 Section 21 responses, you set out in the introduction
24 the information used to compile the response. You make
25 the point that between 1900 and 1930 there were two

1 distinct types of emigration that were supported by the
2 orphanage, the first is that there were children that
3 went to join family members, and we have seen that from
4 the list?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Then emigration to colonisation schemes, and that is
7 children who went alone to, for example, Canada?

8 A. Yes. One party was taken by BLK but --

9 Q. When I say alone, they didn't go to join family members?

10 A. No, they didn't.

11 Q. And the reference to "colonisation schemes", was that
12 the term that was used to describe the schemes at the
13 time?

14 A. It will have been used probably to -- I don't know if it
15 is actually referred to in the record as a colonisation
16 scheme, but there was certainly -- it was maybe our
17 wording.

18 Q. I think it is a term we see in the records.
19 For example, "colonisation agent visited", and so on?

20 A. Yes, yes, certainly there was a very clear view that the
21 children going abroad were going abroad to build
22 colonies become colonial residents, yes.

23 Q. If we look to the second page of this response, you have
24 already answered this question about policies, but
25 I think you tell us that there is no evidence of formal

1 policies and procedures relating to migration?

2 A. We can't find any.

3 Q. If there had been such policies or written procedures,
4 do you think these would have been preserved in the
5 records?

6 A. Unfortunately our experience of doing quite significant
7 record checks for the Inquiry has been that various
8 policies have not been kept either for migration or for
9 other areas of practice from these early days.

10 Q. The short point is you just don't know?

11 A. We don't know.

12 Q. But the point you do make there is the expectation is
13 that the organisation's policies and procedures were in
14 accordance with good practice during this period, and
15 I just wondered what is your basis for that?

16 A. It is an expectation, isn't it? You would expect,
17 wouldn't you, or hope, that that was the case for your
18 organisation, but we have no evidence of a policy to
19 present to you to say: here's the evidence of our
20 expectation.

21 Q. When you are looking at good practice, are you
22 suggesting that Aberlour, for example, would be
23 comparing what it did with what other organisations in
24 that sort of situation did as well? Is that what I am
25 to take from this?

1 A. Again, you would hope and expect that that would be the
2 case, but it would be difficult to assert that
3 unequivocally.

4 Q. Anyway, there is no record to that effect?

5 A. No.

6 Q. But what you do say is that a review of the ledger book
7 for the period up to 1930 shows that no child under 14
8 was discharged to a destination outwith the UK except as
9 part of a family group?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. That was then the policy?

12 A. Well, custom and practice would suggest that that was
13 the policy but we have no written policy to that effect.

14 Q. But the importance of that is that a child 14 and above
15 at that time would have been a child who would have left
16 school?

17 A. That is right, they had achieved school leaving age and
18 were moving to work.

19 Q. At (b) you provide some information that you have taken
20 from the magazine about what the aim of child migration
21 was, and can you just take me through that. What were
22 you able to glean from the magazine as to what the
23 intentions behind child migration were?

24 A. Our view when reading the magazine was there was
25 an expectation that the boys, because they were boys who

1 were involved in the colonisation schemes, would make
2 a better life for themselves in Canada. They would
3 start in the main working on farms and would
4 potentially, through time, acquire their own farms and
5 make an effort, a positive effort, towards the
6 colonisation. That is what we can glean from the
7 limited records that we have.

8 Q. You have mentioned already the sub-warden BLK
9 visit to Canada in 1928, and we will look at that in
10 a moment, but I will just take you through the quote you
11 have set out here:

12 "We are right to take part in this important branch
13 of the work of colonisation ..."

14 And it goes on to say:

15 "Our boys ... will be able to look forward to
16 a future independence and will make for themselves
17 an honest career, and at the same time will help to
18 build up the wealth and prosperity of the country."

19 That is from the magazine for July 1928. So these
20 were good intentions?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. The point you make about recruiting sponsors to write to
23 the boys, are there copies of these letters in your
24 records?

25 A. I have not actually seen letters from sponsors to the

1 boys. They would have gone to the boys abroad. What
2 I have seen are numerous letters from the boys to the
3 orphanage, writing back telling the staff how they were
4 doing. I think a number of them, as you know, are
5 printed in the magazine.

6 Q. If we move on to page 3 of the response, you have
7 a section dealing with the identification and checking
8 of the suitability of the places where children were
9 sent, and again you are relying on the magazine for this
10 information. What were you able to take from the
11 magazine as to how places were checked out before the
12 boys were sent?

13 A. There were some quite general statements in the magazine
14 around checking and assessment, and then there was
15 a specific one in relation to I think two-monthly --
16 every two months, yes, it is there on the page. But we
17 have no records other than the magazines themselves that
18 would corroborate those statements. We have no
19 inspection reports, for example, that we have been able
20 to find, and we have no written letters back and forth
21 around inspection.

22 Q. In relation to the selection of children, and if we go
23 to page 4, do you there, again under reference to the
24 magazine, set out certain conditions that, in
25 particular, the Canadian Pacific scheme demanded?

1 A. Yes, there was certainly reference to height, weight,
2 age of the boys who would be eligible for the Canada
3 Pacific scheme. We also had a Scout group, and it was
4 through the Scout group that the boys were in the main
5 identified.

6 Q. Perhaps I should have asked this before. When boys were
7 sent during this period up to about 1930 to Canada, what
8 was their immediate destination? Where did they go?
9 Did they go to a placement or did they go to some sort
10 of receiving centre as we have seen with other
11 organisations?

12 A. My understanding is they were going to placements, but
13 I would need to go back and read some of the records
14 again. The detail, once the boys arrive in Canada, is
15 very scant, as you know, in terms of the records. My
16 understanding is they were being linked to placements,
17 and in fact I think there was a trip that was delayed on
18 one occasion because not enough placements could be made
19 available for the boys.

20 Q. Are you able to provide any insight as to how these
21 placements were identified in advance so that the boys
22 would be able to go there?

23 A. No, I don't have that level of detail because it is just
24 not in the records.

25 Q. You do address the issue about what information might

1 have been given to the child and parents before
2 migration, and I think again you say there is no
3 evidence within the historical records or formal
4 policies and procedures relating to the provision of
5 information.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. But you do draw again I think on the magazine and the
8 fact that:

9 "Six boys were chosen for the scheme, much to the
10 envy of their chums."

11 So the suggestion there is there was a general sense
12 within Aberlour that it was a good thing to be migrated
13 to Canada.

14 A. Yes, this was seen at the time as an opportunity for
15 these young boys leaving school to make something of
16 their lives, and the agents obviously visited the
17 orphanage and it seems, reading between the lines, there
18 was a sense of excitement created about this opportunity
19 for the boys.

20 LADY SMITH: Could you tell which organisation the
21 colonisation agent, as you describe him, came from?

22 A. It was related to the Canadian Pacific scheme. I would
23 need to go back and see --

24 LADY SMITH: I suppose that would figure, that it would be
25 somebody from that scheme, yes.

1 MR MACAULAY: That was a scheme, I think we have heard
2 already in evidence, notwithstanding its name, that
3 really related to farming experience.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. I should perhaps have clarified: am I right in thinking
6 it was all boys that were migrated?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Is there anything to indicate why that was the case,
9 from the records, as to why the distinction was made
10 between boys and girls?

11 A. There is nothing from the records, but certainly in the
12 previous case study there was a general, again, custom
13 and practice that girls left the orphanage a wee bit
14 later than boys as well, because they were employed in
15 domestic service within the orphanage at times. Not all
16 of them, but some of them.

17 Q. We do know from other examples that girls were migrated
18 from the United Kingdom to go into domestic service in
19 Canada, but that did not happen --

20 A. Not that I am aware of, no. This is a time in the
21 mid-1920s and early 1930s when there were very
22 traditional, shall we say, views of what boys and girls
23 of those ages should do and should not do, and these
24 boys were going to farms and labouring.

25 Q. Insofar as provision of information to children and

1 parents once the child has been migrated, again I think
2 you are telling us there that there was no evidence
3 within the historical records of former policies and
4 procedures relating to that?

5 A. No, we couldn't find any policies and procedures. There
6 is some evidence, again not in all the files, of some
7 level of contact between families and the children, but
8 not in every file by any stretch of the imagination.

9 Q. In relation to obtaining consent, are there any records
10 to indicate how that was to be managed?

11 A. Again, not in terms of a policy. There are references
12 to family being approached in some files, but it is not
13 consistently in place across each of the files.

14 Q. As you have indicated, clearly there is evidence that
15 some children in fact emigrated with their next of kin?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What about requests for information from child migrants
18 over this period? Is there any information on record
19 that would indicate the children that had been migrated
20 corresponded with Aberlour?

21 A. There are letters that I have referred to earlier, some
22 of which are published in the magazines, from children
23 who had been migrated writing back to the orphanage.
24 There is obviously correspondence in relation to the wee
25 boy that went to Kenya --

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. -- in terms of his mentor, for want of a better word,
3 and Mr [REDACTED] writing back to the orphanage and
4 arrangements being made for him to come back to
5 Scotland. And there are some family letters, a couple
6 of family letters querying the whereabouts of or welfare
7 of or well-being of a couple of the orphans years after
8 they had left.

9 Q. Since you have mentioned it, perhaps we can look at the
10 personal visit by the sub-warden in 1928 to Canada. We
11 can put that on the screen. ABE.001.008.7725.

12 LADY SMITH: So this is when BLK [REDACTED] was the sub-warden?

13 A. Yes.

14 MR MACAULAY: Yes. You have told us this was 1928, and this
15 was taken from the Aberlour Orphanage magazine. It
16 would appear the magazine was a useful source of
17 information on a number of fronts.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Perhaps you gave this evidence before, but was it
20 an annual magazine or was it more frequent?

21 A. I think it was more frequent in the beginning. It
22 changed in terms of frequency as time moved on. But it
23 was very much around promoting the work of the orphanage
24 to supporters to tell people what was happening.

25 LADY SMITH: It was a helpful resource in our case study

1 that looked at the provision by Aberlour overall.

2 MR MACAULAY: We are looking at this particular page, 7725.

3 The heading is "Canada" and I'll read the first bit:

4 "After bidding goodbye to this year's batch of boys
5 on Monday night, [REDACTED], our sub-warden set out on the
6 furious rush round to introduce boys who went out last
7 year, the first year of our emigration scheme."

8 So the reference to "the first year of our
9 emigration scheme", in 1928 that would not be the case,
10 would it?

11 A. 1927 would be the first year, yes.

12 Q. There is reference to the Canadian timetables, and then
13 there is a description of the itinerary and the
14 difficulties involved in that:

15 "It included 36 hours in the capacious but hot and
16 stuffy Canadian railway trains and one motor journey of
17 50 miles, with another of 20 miles."

18 So you can take from that the distances that might
19 have been involved in this particular tour.

20 On the next page, the sub-warden describes his
21 meetings with the boys and the families who they were
22 with. It is positive information, I think, isn't it?

23 A. Yes, he reported positively on the well-being of the
24 boys that he came to visit on his trip.

25 Q. If we move on to the next page, page 7726, I needn't

1 read it again, but at the end of this section, just
2 above the heading "Letters from old boys and girls", if
3 we scroll up again, you have set out there what has been
4 noted:

5 "Canada needs lads of the right calibre at an early
6 age to train as farmers."

7 And you have provided the quotes from 2 and 3 in the
8 actual response?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. There is a section in the response at page 6, that is
11 again looking at the question of policies and procedures
12 and who may have compiled the policies and procedures.
13 You have already answered the fact there were no such
14 policies and procedures, at least available at present.

15 But I do take it from what you are saying that the
16 warden would in any event have been involved, as it
17 were, on the spot in relation to what was policy and who
18 was procedure at the orphanage?

19 A. Yes, that was our findings in terms of the first part of
20 the submission to the Inquiry. The warden had
21 day-to-day management responsibility and exercised that
22 fully.

23 Q. You say there that there are no references to migration
24 between 1900 and 1930 in the management meetings. Are
25 you surprised that there is no reference in these

1 management meetings to migration?

2 A. Yes, given the fact that there was a sign-up -- well,
3 I say a sign-up; there were children moving through the
4 colonisation schemes. I would have expected to see that
5 in the management meetings' minutes.

6 Q. If we move on to page 8 of the response, I think we have
7 covered the issue headed "Identification and checking
8 the suitability of the places where children went",
9 because you have already mentioned the sub-warden went
10 on his tour and saw where the children were being
11 accommodated, and indeed he went and saw where children
12 had been accommodated as well. So it was two things: he
13 went with children as a group and he also went to see
14 children who were there already.

15 Again I think we have touched upon this already, but
16 looking at "Obtaining consent of the child" on page 9,
17 there is no evidence, no historical records indicating
18 how that was achieved?

19 A. No, there are references to it in terms of the approach
20 later from the -- in relation to an adoption for
21 a child, potential adoption, where a child had basically
22 indicated that they wanted to stay in Scotland. Also in
23 relation to the boy who went to Kenya, there is
24 a reference to another child having been selected but
25 refusing to go as well. But how that consent or

1 otherwise was elicited, the detail is not there.

2 Q. If we turn to page 12, and we have looked at this
3 already, and that is, namely, the question of numbers,
4 where you note that according to the ledger books, 44
5 children went to destinations outwith the UK, and we
6 have looked at the expert report on that.

7 Looking to age and gender, we know they are all
8 boys, and you have provided the table. So far as
9 timescale is concerned, I think you confirm that the
10 first boys migrating from the orphanage to Canada via
11 the Canadian Pacific company left in 1927?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What about the period before 1927?

14 A. So the table does include children who -- I don't have
15 the table in front of me.

16 Q. I will put it back on screen.

17 LADY SMITH: I think I am right in having noticed the
18 earliest date you gave was 1901 on that table?

19 A. Yes.

20 MR MACAULAY: Can we have the table back up,

21 ABE.001.008.7695.

22 The first entry where the children go to stay with
23 their uncle is 1901, but as we move down the table we
24 come to a date in 1905 where there is no information,
25 1906, moving to 1916, and so on and so forth. So

1 migration was taking place prior to 1927?

2 A. Yes, and some of those children went to live with family
3 or relatives.

4 Q. Yes, but others did not?

5 A. But there are others we don't have the information on,
6 so we don't know what the circumstances were.

7 Q. You have mentioned that Canadian Pacific scheme, that
8 children went to that scheme from 1927 onwards?

9 A. And that was because there was reference to it in the
10 records. In the fact it was on one of records that was
11 shown just a few minutes ago, saying this was the second
12 year of our scheme in 1928. So the first year was 1927.

13 Q. What you don't have is information about where children
14 went from about 1900 onwards?

15 A. Yes. We know where they went but we don't know what the
16 circumstances of that were for a number of them, yes,
17 that is right.

18 Q. If we are looking at children that didn't go to join
19 families, are we looking at boys aged 14 or over who
20 went to placements on farms?

21 A. Well, for some of them they are 14 or over, but we have
22 no information so we don't know that they didn't go to
23 families either. For example, there is a note in here
24 of no information on a family and the children are as
25 young as 9, for example. So we don't know where that

1 group of children went, it is not in the record.

2 LADY SMITH: I see the last entry that is showing on the
3 table there is 1928. Are there entries below that?

4 There must be.

5 MR MACAULAY: Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: Can we just go down to ...

7 MR MACAULAY: There are four pages altogether. So we are on
8 page 1, if we move on to page 2.

9 LADY SMITH: If we can see page 2 for a moment. We go
10 backwards, do we?

11 MR MACAULAY: It is not quite chronological.

12 A. It is not quite chronological, yes.

13 LADY SMITH: But there are examples there of a cluster in
14 1926, one in 1924 and so on. That can't have been the
15 Canadian Pacific scheme because that did not start with
16 Aberlour until 1927.

17 A. No, and that is a family group of five children.

18 LADY SMITH: I see. Yes.

19 A. Peterson?

20 LADY SMITH: What about 1931? What is that, at the bottom?

21 Ah, that is for a stepson to go across.

22 A. Yes, he was joining his stepfather.

23 LADY SMITH: On the next page, are there any other ...

24 MR MACAULAY: Yes, we can move on to page 3.

25 A. The first one I think is the one boy who was reunited

1 through the Canada Pacific scheme.

2 MR MACAULAY: We have a mixture of dates. The top is 1929
3 and the bottom is 1931 which is the New Zealand example.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Then moving on to the final page, again there is
6 a mixture of dates. We have on that page, what, five
7 entries from the bottom, reference to the boy that went
8 to Kenya?

9 A. Yes, in 1951.

10 Q. Just to round up on that. He went to Kenya, we have
11 heard evidence that it wasn't a particularly good
12 experience, and he was sent back?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. If we go back to the previous page at the bottom, the
15 last entry on page 7697, it mentions the boy that went
16 to New Zealand on the Flock scheme?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can we read that his father had been involved in that
19 particular process?

20 A. Yes, this boy's father was anxious for him to be part of
21 the scheme and had applied on the boy's behalf for him
22 to go, and that then took place, and we have a letter on
23 file from the boy's sister who had written to him and
24 hadn't had a reply for around a year, and she had
25 written to the orphanage to see if we knew of his

1 whereabouts. Unfortunately I don't know what happened,
2 whether there was a response from the orphanage to the
3 family but ... So the family were obviously concerned
4 that he had perhaps lost his job in the recession.

5 Q. If we go back to page 12 then, at page 7710, you talk
6 about, at the bottom, the ledger book showing that the
7 first boys migrating from the orphanage to Canada via
8 the Canadian Pacific company left in 1927, but we have
9 to feed into that the fact that children were migrated
10 before that to Canada but you don't have the records to
11 indicate what happened to them?

12 A. Yes, yes.

13 LADY SMITH: I see from page 12 that in your penultimate
14 response to the question at (g), you refer to the
15 magazine for May 1928 which tells us:

16 "We saw the last of nine more 'Canada' boys for
17 a few years."

18 That sounds to me as though Aberlour were expecting
19 the Canadian Pacific scheme to resume, and that they
20 would be continuing to participate if it did. But there
21 doesn't seem to be any sign of that happening.

22 A. No, and there is a later entry I think in 1931 saying
23 that emigration is now closed.

24 LADY SMITH: Yes, and that would fit with what we have
25 learned about Canada. But the orphanage was ready to

1 send more if they could in a few years' time, it would
2 seem.

3 A. Based on that statement, yes.

4 MR MACAULAY: Looking to the matter of funding, you touch
5 upon that on page 13 of the report, where you are asked
6 the question, "Who funded child migration?" What were
7 you able to take from your records as to how this was
8 being funded?

9 A. We couldn't find any direct -- well, indirect or direct
10 references to support for the scheme from organisations,
11 other than those who were involved in providing
12 clothing, et cetera. So, for example, there was no
13 reference to government aid or anything like that.
14 There was certainly fundraising within the magazines in
15 relation to supporting children to be able to be
16 migrated, and I think on one occasion there is
17 documentation of the orphanage giving the child a loan
18 for their passage to Canada, I think it was.

19 Q. You have noted that in one instance the warden paid the
20 fare as a loan, but that would mean that the warden
21 expected to be repaid the loan?

22 A. Yes, albeit we couldn't find any record of repayments
23 either.

24 Q. Was there any evidence that Aberlour participated in the
25 Empire Settlement Act scheme that came into play in

1 1922?

2 A. We haven't found evidence of that.

3 Q. The final section on this page is under reference to the
4 question, "How did the organisation respond to requests
5 for information from former child migrants?" Can you
6 help me with that, what correspondence have you had with
7 former child migrants?

8 A. There were a number of letters, as I have noted here, to
9 the orphanage from the boys, some of which were just
10 sharing information, others were asking for birth
11 certificates, for example, and I know that birth
12 certificates were shared with the boys.

13 The problem -- one of the problems we have is that
14 we have the letters to us but we don't have a lot of the
15 replies from the warden to the boys, if you know ... so
16 the files were quite scant in terms of correspondence
17 back and forward. There is some very limited
18 information from families in terms of correspondence.
19 We know, for example, that we shared a photograph with
20 a mum whose two daughters actually went to live with
21 their uncle and she was highly delighted at seeing them
22 settled with him, but again that is just one example.
23 There are many files where there are no references at
24 all to the families.

25 Q. But this is correspondence that happened fairly shortly

1 after the migrations had occurred, in the 1930s, here?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So these would have been boys who wrote back to the
4 orphanage seeking information. I think you mention,
5 for example, that birth lines was an issue?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Can we then look quickly at the second Section 21
8 response, and I will put that on the screen.

9 ABE.001.008.8061.

10 LADY SMITH: Do I take it that when you say "birth lines",
11 you mean birth certificates?

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: So the children had been migrated leaving their
14 birth certificates back in this country?

15 A. Their birth certificates were sent to Canada Pacific and
16 sometimes there would be a delay in them being returned.

17 LADY SMITH: I see.

18 A. So if the orphanage had the original, they would send
19 the original to --

20 LADY SMITH: So you mean before the child was migrated, you
21 get the impression that Aberlour was having to send the
22 birth certificate to Canadian Pacific, and they would
23 then send it back to Aberlour?

24 A. Yes. There is a note on record, on a number of records,
25 actually, of a date where the birth lines -- they refer

1 to it as the "birth lines" -- were sent to Canada
2 Pacific, and then on some you would have a return date.

3 LADY SMITH: Okay. But it could happen that the birth
4 certificate hadn't come back to you before the child
5 left. Right.

6 MR MACAULAY: This response is focusing mainly on the
7 post-1930 period and up-to-date, and again you say that
8 for that period there is no evidence of written policies
9 or procedures.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. But again you make the point that you would expect the
12 organisation's policies and procedures to be in
13 accordance with good practice, and we have already
14 discussed what that may or may not mean.

15 You have made this point already, that after this
16 period Aberlour ceased to participate in the migration
17 of boys to Canada, and in June 1933 the orphanage
18 magazine notes:

19 "The door to emigration is closed."

20 But there is no explanation given for that?

21 A. That is right.

22 Q. But was there a handful of children migrated elsewhere
23 after 1933?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. I think after that date Aberlour did have some

1 communication with representatives from people who were
2 involved in migration?

3 A. That is right.

4 Q. Perhaps we can just look at that, you discuss it on the
5 following page, 8062. But if we can look at the
6 documents, and the first document I want to look at is
7 ABE.001.008.8076. This is a handwritten document,
8 perhaps you can tell me what the source of the document
9 is?

10 A. It is the minute book. We have many, many ledgers of
11 minutes of meetings of Aberlour governors and this is
12 one of them.

13 Q. Would it be the warden who would keep the minutes or
14 somebody else?

15 A. I actually think there was a designated minute-taker, so
16 it's actually on the record, possibly, in terms of who
17 was in attendance?

18 Q. The minutes have certainly been signed by the chairman
19 in 1936, I think that date is. But we are looking
20 here -- I want to look at a date for 25 August 1938, and
21 what is noted here is:

22 "The warden referred to a visit paid by Mr Reid
23 representing the Fairbridge Farm Schools, and a letter
24 from Mr Reid was read. After discussion it was decided
25 that under present arrangements it was not practicable

1 to take away numbers of children under twelve, but that
2 the scheme might be considered if Fairbridge were
3 willing to receive children at fourteen or upwards."

4 So there we have a visit by a Fairbridge Farm
5 Society individual looking for children to be migrated?

6 A. Younger children, yes.

7 Q. Younger children. But Aberlour appear to adhere to its
8 policy of 14 or over?

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: But the minute doesn't record why -- the use of
11 the word "practicable" is interesting and could hide
12 a whole host of reasons aired in a discussion,
13 I suppose.

14 A. We don't know why. What we do know is that custom and
15 practice previously had been around the migration of
16 older juveniles rather than children, very wee children,
17 so it's consistent in that regard.

18 LADY SMITH: Yes.

19 MR MACAULAY: If we move on to a later date, this is at
20 ABE.001.008.8077. This date, we are into February 1948,
21 so this is post Second World War, and in the margin we
22 see reference to the Over-Seas League, "Application for
23 candidate for adoption", and if we just read across from
24 that, can we see:

25 "An application from the Over-Seas League for the

1 nomination of a boy to be a candidate for adoption
2 overseas in very favourable circumstances was considered
3 by the warden [who] was authorised to look into the
4 matter."

5 Is that what it says?

6 A. That is correct.

7 Q. If we move on to the following page, 8078, and we scroll
8 towards the bottom, it is item 4 in the minute, do we
9 read here:

10 "Over-Seas League - application for boy candidate
11 for adoption. The father of the boy [and the boy is
12 named] had been asked but had refused to let his boy's
13 name go forward. Warden was authorised to continue the
14 matter with the Over-Seas League as regards some other
15 boy should a suitable one be available."

16 So we there have evidence of the father's consent
17 being sought, and he refusing to give consent, and that
18 being complied with?

19 A. Yes. This was for adoption.

20 Q. Yes. Whatever that might have meant, of course, in the
21 context of what the Over-Seas League were doing at that
22 time.

23 Then if we move on to the following page, 8079,
24 scrolling towards the bottom of the page, item 2, do we
25 read there:

1 "Over-Seas League - application for boy candidate
2 for adoption. The warden reported that this matter had
3 disappointingly fallen through as the boy ..."

4 Can you read that?

5 A. "selected".

6 Q. "... selected as a candidate had not been recommended
7 after psychological examination by an expert sent for
8 the purpose."

9 So here we have an example of a boy being identified
10 but the psychological examination resulting in the boy
11 not being suitable for this particular process.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. If we look towards the bottom of page 2 of the response
14 itself, that is at ABE.001.008.8062, having set out on
15 that page what we have been looking at in the documents,
16 you say at (d), towards the bottom:

17 "During this period ..."

18 This is into the late 1940s, post-war:

19 "... the organisation did not perceive child
20 migration as an activity which would benefit the
21 children in its care or its operations as a whole."

22 That was the position that was being taken then by
23 Aberlour.

24 A. Migration generally just was not taking place, and
25 I think that refers back to the 19 -- the visit from

1 Fairbridge.

2 Q. I haven't actually identified the section in the minute
3 book, but I had taken from that that there was an entry
4 which suggested that that was the case. Are you saying
5 this is a conclusion that you --

6 A. There is reference to a 1948 minute book there.

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. So I would need to look --

9 Q. I think that is a minute book we have been looking at.
10 So am I to understand then that that comment is the
11 inference you have drawn from the entries in relation to
12 Fairbridge in particular?

13 A. That is my understanding but I can check that for
14 absolute accuracy.

15 Q. In relation to migration during this period, if we turn
16 to page 8063 on page 3., you have a photo there. It's
17 a third of the way from the top:

18 "The organisation's ledger book records that 5
19 children were discharged to destinations outwith the UK
20 after 1930."

21 You go on to say:

22 "It can be shown that 3 of 5 of the children
23 discharged to destinations outwith the UK travelled with
24 the aim of family reunification."

25 That therefore left two that were otherwise

1 migrated. What can you tell us about those two?

2 A. One of those is a boy who went to Kenya, and the other
3 is -- is it the boy, [REDACTED]? Or [REDACTED]? There were
4 two boys. It was the boy, [REDACTED]. They are on the
5 table. So the boy who went to Kenya is -- this was in
6 relation to -- it is not clear, to be honest, how the
7 approach came to the orphanage, but it was basically for
8 an apprenticeship to a farm in Kenya, and a Mr [REDACTED]
9 in the Scottish Home Department was also involved in the
10 discussions around the placement for that boy. That was
11 the one you referred to earlier, when it was not a good
12 experience for the boy and he came back to Scotland
13 after having -- it's difficult, because some of the
14 language used to describe the boy is very, very
15 negative, but actually when you look his behaviour, the
16 little information that we have about it, we are not
17 talking about a boy who was involved in criminal acts
18 per se, it was high spirits, lack of respect. And I'm
19 not trying to minimise that, but just no tolerance for
20 that within the -- where he found himself.

21 His passage back to Scotland was paid for by
22 Mr [REDACTED] and he was greeted by the children's officer
23 when he got off the boat.

24 Q. We have heard evidence about this particular episode
25 from the experts and the background, what the reasons

1 were. But he had been sent, according to the table,
2 perhaps to go back to your table. This is on page
3 ABE.001.008.7698. If we look towards the bottom we see
4 the reference to Kenya, and he was sent out in 1951?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. So that is one example.

7 The example above that, 1945. We read the
8 information on the right-hand column:

9 "Letter on file signed by ... (mother) relieving
10 Aberlour Orphanage of care and responsibility for [the
11 boy] on his being accepted for emigration to
12 New Zealand."

13 What do I take from that? What do I take from that
14 entry?

15 A. I have not got the unredacted version of this. Can you
16 give me the name?

17 Q. It is -- working from the top, it is the fifth entry
18 down. There is a single mother under the head. He
19 leaves in 1945, [REDACTED] 1945, to New Zealand, and we then
20 look at the column on the right, and I have read that
21 out:

22 "Letter on file signed by ... (mother) relieving
23 Aberlour Orphanage of care and responsibility for [the
24 boy] on his being accepted for emigration to
25 New Zealand."

1 Does one take from that that he goes to New Zealand
2 with his mother, or he goes to New Zealand because his
3 mother wants him to go to New Zealand?

4 A. I am not sure, I would need to -- he is only ten years
5 of age at the time, so that would suggest it's a family
6 connection. I don't know if the information is in the
7 file, I would need to check. Certainly it wouldn't fit
8 boys who had been migrated in the past in terms of the
9 age.

10 Q. So there are two possibilities: either he went in
11 a family connection with his mother or his mother wanted
12 him to go to a place in New Zealand and, because of her
13 desire for that to happen, Aberlour essentially said,
14 well, that is a matter for you.

15 Are these the options?

16 A. Yes. I can check that and come back definitively.

17 LADY SMITH: I am interested in the use of language there,
18 "relieving Aberlour of care and responsibility" for the
19 child. Is that the only place that that language has
20 cropped up in your searches, or did that language appear
21 in other documents recording parental consent?

22 A. I can't recollect seeing it. But ...

23 LADY SMITH: It is quite striking in a way. It could be
24 seen as indicating that Aberlour weren't happy and they
25 wanted to underline that this was nothing to do with

1 them. I don't know.

2 A. Yes, I can certainly check and come back with more
3 detail if that would be helpful, but I don't recollect
4 that language being used previously.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 MR MACAULAY: But looking at the position broadly then,
7 I think we can say, can we, that Aberlour were involved
8 in child migration primarily to Canada from about the
9 early 1900s to about 1930 or thereby, and then although
10 the door to emigration may have been noted to have been
11 closed, there are these examples of some potential
12 migration taking place but they're very isolated
13 examples.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Just looking at the position now in relation to the
16 whole policy of child migration in the way that it was
17 being managed by Aberlour, do have you a position on
18 that policy now?

19 A. I don't know what the policy was, the custom and
20 practice --

21 Q. The policy involved children aged 14, or at least aged
22 14 being migrated to workplaces in Canada, in the main.

23 A. My view of that as a professional, if that is what you
24 are asking, in 2020, is that I think there were a number
25 of things happening to children in the 1900s, early

1 1900s, that would and should have been seen as not
2 acceptable, and that includes not just migration but the
3 way we expected children to work in our own country at
4 the time.

5 MR MACAULAY: Very well, SallyAnn, thank you very much for
6 coming back and helping us with this particular topic.

7 My Lady, I haven't been sent any questions to put to
8 SallyAnn.

9 LADY SMITH: Can I check whether there are any outstanding
10 applications for questions? (Pause).

11 SallyAnn, that completes the questions we have for
12 you. Thank you very much for turning your attention to
13 this specific subject matter which we are required to
14 look at. Your responses, both in writing and here
15 today, have been enormously helpful and I am grateful to
16 you for that. I am now able to let you go.

17 A. Thank you.

18 (The witness withdrew)

19 LADY SMITH: I will take a short break at this point,
20 Mr MacAulay. We were going to take one anyway at twenty
21 past.

22 MR MACAULAY: I think the next witness is actually
23 programmed for 2 o'clock. I think he was told it would
24 be advisable to be here for 2 o'clock.

25 LADY SMITH: Can we check?

1 MR MACAULAY: We can check that. If he's here we can
2 certainly start.

3 LADY SMITH: Yes, but if he is not I will come back at
4 2 o'clock.

5 (12.11 pm)

6 (A short break)

7 (12.25 pm)

8 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay. Success.

9 MR MACAULAY: The next witness is here, my Lady, and that is
10 Richard John Simpson.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 Good afternoon. If we could begin by you affirming.

13 MR RICHARD SIMPSON (affirmed)

14 Questions from MR MACAULAY

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

16 Do you mind if I call you Richard?

17 A. Not at all.

18 LADY SMITH: Richard, welcome to the Scottish Child Abuse
19 Inquiry, and thank you for coming to give evidence in
20 person, that is really helpful. If you are ready,
21 I will hand over to Mr MacAulay and he will explain what
22 happens next.

23 MR MACAULAY: Good afternoon, Richard. Can I confirm you
24 are Richard John Simpson?

25 A. I am.

1 Q. You were born in 1968?

2 A. Yes. Thank you for pointing that out.

3 Q. It just gives us a timeframe to work from.

4 Can I begin, Richard, by looking at your CV. I will
5 put that on the screen and take you through it quickly.

6 I am doing this because you in fact have not given
7 evidence before to the Inquiry, it was Sara Clarke who
8 came on behalf of Barnardo's the last time?

9 A. My previous boss, yes.

10 Q. Yes. If we look at your CV under the heading
11 "Employment", can we see that you certainly began having
12 a career in social work, is that right?

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. But in 1996 you joined Barnardo's and at that time you
15 were a project leader attached to their Priory Family
16 Centre?

17 A. I joined in 1995 as a social worker and in 1996 as a
18 project leader.

19 Q. Then you moved from that position in 1998 to a project
20 leader in the Family Support Services?

21 A. That's right, Buckingham and Cumbria.

22 Q. Moving to the following page, you were an assistant
23 director in Barnardo's North West from 2008 to 2018, and
24 then from 2018 to date you have been Barnardo's' UK-wide
25 assistant director with safeguarding and historical

1 abuse responsibilities?

2 A. That's right.

3 Q. Indeed today you have come here to represent Barnardo's
4 in connection with child migration?

5 A. That is right.

6 Q. I understand, Richard, you would like to say something
7 in advance of my leading your evidence?

8 A. Yes, thanks for the opportunity. I would like to start
9 with an apology.

10 LADY SMITH: Certainly.

11 A. I hope you will bear with me to read it:

12 "On behalf of Barnardo's, I would like to offer
13 an apology to those children and young people who were
14 migrated to Canada and Australia. While to understand
15 migration we have to set it within its historical
16 timeframe, this does not mean we seek to minimise the
17 impact of migration on those children and young people
18 and their families. The policy of migration was
19 misguided and, in retrospect, wrong. We believe we have
20 tried to understand and give an honest account of this
21 part of our history, part of which is my appearance here
22 today."

23 Thank you, I really appreciate the opportunity to
24 say that. Thank you.

25 LADY SMITH: Richard, I am sure it will be appreciated by

1 everyone here and those who are listening from
2 elsewhere. Thank you.

3 MR MACAULAY: Richard, Barnardo's have provided two
4 Section 21 responses to requests made by the Inquiry and
5 I will be looking at those in a moment or two. Just by
6 way of an overview, so far as Scotland is concerned and
7 Scottish migration is concerned, is the focus really
8 very much on Australia rather than Canada?

9 A. As far as we know.

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. 47 children were migrated, 46 to Australia and one to
12 Canada.

13 Q. I will come to look at the numbers in a moment. I will
14 look at the Canadian set up because, as you put it, "as
15 far as we know". We don't know exactly what the numbers
16 are.

17 Can we then look at one of the Section 21 responses.
18 The one I want to look at first of all is BAR-6 at
19 page 1. While we are waiting for that to come on the
20 screen, I think it is the case that Barnardo's did not
21 have a presence in Scotland prior to 1940, is that
22 correct?

23 A. We had a brief presence here with an ever-open door which
24 we closed pretty quickly. So it is true to say that
25 actually the majority of our services stem from the

1 early 1940s when children were evacuated from London,
2 et cetera, to here.

3 Q. If we look at the document on the screen, and this is
4 the updated Section 21 response, updated this year
5 in fact, you begin in the introduction by describing
6 your records and in particular your card index system.
7 Can you just tell us about that. What is that system?

8 A. It is basically a record of every child that was ever in
9 our care, so it details their date of reception into our
10 care, obviously date of birth, name, and their care
11 history. It is obviously very limited in terms of what
12 it actually says on the card, but that then would give
13 us in many cases sort of the key to the wider file that
14 we hold in respect of that child. As it says there,
15 there are 800,000 names on that card index.

16 Q. So it's a large index.

17 A. Yes. Obviously in terms of accessing it, really it is
18 about knowing a name to go looking for.

19 Q. So far as Scottish files would be concerned, as you tell
20 us in the third paragraph:

21 "Separate Scottish files were not established until
22 after the Second World War ..."

23 When Barnardo's did have a presence in Scotland?

24 A. That's right.

25 Q. Before that, to your knowledge, were children from

1 Scotland accommodated by Barnardo's in England?

2 A. We simply don't know. We expect not, it would be --

3 I think we expect not but we can't be absolutely
4 categorical, in the same way that actually obviously our
5 research has found that English children spent some time
6 in Scotland and vice versa. It is possible but we
7 simply don't know.

8 Q. What you set out in that paragraph is the sort of
9 research you have done in order to prepare the
10 Section 21 response. Can you help me with that? What
11 sources, what information, and where have you gone to,
12 to put together the information set out in the response?

13 A. We do have quite an extensive archive that is stored in
14 Plaistow in London which has details of some historical
15 documents in actual physical document form. But we also
16 have extensive documents on microfiche, we also have
17 children's case files, again they are digitised. But,
18 yes, we have an extensive archive, including, say,
19 management minutes, et cetera, et cetera, held in our
20 archive in London.

21 Q. And those then were the sources you have used to put
22 together the response?

23 A. That's right, yes.

24 Q. You've mentioned the numbers already. I think in the
25 initial Section 21 response the figure focused on was 19

1 child migrants to Australia from Scotland?

2 A. That is right.

3 Q. How did it come about that that figure had to be
4 revised?

5 A. Obviously we became aware of the Scottish migrants. I
6 think the Scottish -- sorry, the Canadian migrant
7 actually gave evidence, I believe, before he died last
8 year, so we became aware of him. The other children
9 were children who spent some time in a Scottish home who
10 didn't have a Scottish file. So those children who had
11 a Scottish file went on to microfiche as a Scottish
12 file. So I would speculate that a number of
13 the children who didn't have a Scottish file were either
14 before we started Scottish files or were actually
15 English files who spent some time in Scotland.

16 What I have done actually since is I have gone
17 through those 46 children, 47 children, so I have some
18 detail on them.

19 Q. Just looking at the 46 that were migrated to Australia,
20 were they migrated from a Barnardo's home in Scotland?

21 A. Not all of them, because actually a number of the
22 children -- the way actually their migration happened is
23 that children were taken to Barkingside in London in
24 groups to get to know each other before they left for
25 Australia, so a number of them would have actually gone

1 from homes in England before they went to Scotland. The
2 children that we are talking about will have spent some
3 time in a Scottish home; they didn't necessarily leave
4 from a Scottish home for Australia.

5 Q. The question I had though was based in England; that all
6 children who were being migrated to Australia --

7 A. That is right, but equally some of the children would
8 have moved to an English home before the decision was
9 made for them to migrate.

10 Q. So the actual final decision to migrate would have been
11 taken while that child, who was a Scottish child from
12 a Barnardo's home in Scotland, was in a Barnardo's --

13 A. In some instances, yes. But obviously certainly the 19,
14 we could be confident that would be a decision made in
15 Scotland.

16 Q. As you tell us on page 2 of the response, Richard, then
17 the majority of children that you migrated were to
18 Canada and Australia, but also you migrated children to
19 other parts of the world, is that right?

20 A. That's right. Again, as far as we know, none of those
21 would be Scottish children.

22 Q. But you mention New Zealand and South Africa, and also
23 far afield as Egypt and India.

24 A. Very small numbers, but yes.

25 Q. If we just focus then on Canada historically. What you

1 tell us there is that:

2 "In 1883, a home (Hazelbrae) and distribution centre
3 for girls was opened in Ontario."

4 Is that correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. For boys I think there was a reception home in Manitoba?

7 A. That is right.

8 Q. Were children migrated to Canada before these particular
9 establishments were opened up?

10 A. If I am honest, I don't know.

11 Q. But the purpose of these --

12 A. Sorry, but my understanding would be they would have
13 been. Obviously, as you know, Barnardo himself went to
14 Canada to establish the scheme.

15 Q. Was that before 1883?

16 A. I am not aware of exactly when he went, I am sorry.

17 Q. But leaving that aside then, was the purpose of these
18 homes, receiving centres, to form a base for children
19 who would go to Canada and then be placed out in
20 different locations?

21 A. That's right, yes.

22 Q. If we move on to page 3, you provide some information
23 about how that was managed. And in relation to where
24 children were placed, can I just understand how that
25 worked. For example, the places to which children were

1 put, were these places checked out in advance before the
2 placement occurred?

3 A. Again, as far as I understand, certainly latterly, my
4 understanding is that farmers themselves actually made
5 application to ourselves in terms of actually requiring
6 a child, a young person. The applications always
7 exceeded the number of children that we had.

8 Q. Coming back to my question then --

9 A. My understanding is there was some checking undertaken
10 but I can't say the nature of that.

11 Q. You do mention there that children could be sent to
12 a particular place, farm, for a trial period. So there
13 was -- at least that was built into the system, that
14 a child could go for a trial to see whether or not the
15 child was suitable for that particular place?

16 A. You are actually talking about a time when Barnardo
17 himself was still around, and he was actually very clear
18 that actually that checking would continue, not just the
19 original vetting, but actually it would continue, and if
20 the child had been mistreated that actually we would
21 withdraw the child from that farm. And actually we
22 maintained a blacklist of farmers who no longer were
23 allowed to receive young people.

24 Q. Does one infer from that, that there was a blacklist,
25 that there may have been a history of maltreatment which

1 caused a particular farmer or these farmers to be
2 blacklisted?

3 A. Yes. If they were overworked or they complained about
4 mistreatment, we, in my understanding, acted promptly
5 and would remove the child from there.

6 Q. You've mentioned Dr Barnardo on a number of occasions
7 already. Was he particularly keen on this migration
8 policy or project?

9 A. He drove it. He famously use the expression "the golden
10 bridge of opportunity" to describe migration, he was
11 a very firm advocate of it, I'd say to the point he
12 actually travelled himself to Canada with a view to
13 establishing his own scheme.

14 Q. You also mention here the migration to Australia and how
15 that was managed. In particular, you say that
16 Barnardo's Australia was founded in 1921 as
17 an Australian branch of Barnardo's UK?

18 A. That's right, it was considered to be part of the
19 Barnardo's organisation, but, yes, it was Barnardo's
20 Australia.

21 Q. And was that set up specifically to accommodate children
22 who were to be migrated there?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And what you tell us on page 4 is that that was
25 established I think in 1921, and was it after that that

1 children were migrated to Australia?

2 A. Again in my understanding, yes. But obviously as the
3 homes continued to operate, they also started to take
4 Australia children too.

5 Q. But if we focus on children from the United Kingdom, am
6 I to understand that no children from the United Kingdom
7 were migrated to Australia until after 1921?

8 A. That is my understanding, yes.

9 Q. So up until then, leaving aside the minority of other
10 countries, the focus for child migration was Canada?

11 A. Prior to 1921?

12 Q. Yes.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. At the time when the Australian home was set up, was it
15 set up as, again, a bit like what was in Canada, namely
16 as a receiving home where children would then be placed
17 out in work placements?

18 A. That is my understanding. I think latterly it became
19 a children's home, obviously we had a number of homes in
20 Australia, we actually had twelve homes, and obviously
21 as we start to move into the 1940s and 1950s they become
22 children homes as opposed to distribution centres.

23 Q. What you tell us on page 4 of this response is that the
24 first party of 47 boys, all over 14 years of age, were
25 sent out in 1921 to this new establishment.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What you say there is:

3 "Following a brief stay in Sydney ..."

4 The home you are mentioning, was that based in
5 Sydney?

6 A. We had a number of homes. Over the period of time we
7 had twelve homes.

8 Q. But the particular -- the first home that was opened
9 up -- or were the twelve homes opened up more or less at
10 the same time? What was the situation?

11 A. Can you bear with me?

12 Q. Yes. (Pause).

13 A. Yes, we have homes in New South Wales from 1929, that
14 was the Picton Farm. That is -- looking down my list,
15 that is the earliest home we have.

16 Q. You come on to talk about that then. But you do say
17 that the children who were migrated at least prior to
18 then were, for example, sent off to places like the
19 Fairbridge Farm School?

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. But in 1928, as you have just mentioned, Barnardo's
22 established a farm school at Mowbray Park near Picton in
23 New South Wales and that was a based on the cottage
24 principle?

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. Again, you tell us that boys were trained as farm
2 labourers and girls as domestic servants. And the first
3 party of girls arrived at Mowbray Park in 1938, is that
4 right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You tell us in the next section as to other children who
7 were admitted for migration through public assistance
8 committees and boards of guardians, is that correct? So
9 it wasn't just children who were being accommodated
10 within Barnardo's homes who were migrated?

11 A. That is my understanding. Again, that wouldn't apply to
12 Scottish children, but that is my understanding, yes.

13 Q. On page 5 you talk about pre-migration preparation and
14 you say:

15 "Before migration to Canada ceased in 1939, all
16 senior boys selected for migration were sent to the
17 local sheltering home for training prior to migration."

18 Can I just understand the sort of training? Can you
19 give me some insight into what sort of training that
20 would be?

21 A. Obviously if you are talking about the one Canadian
22 Scottish young person who went, he would have been -- he
23 would have received some pre-training in farming, is my
24 understanding. Obviously latterly that -- yes, at that
25 particular period in time he would be given training in

1 farming before he went, so obviously he would then be
2 prepared for the farming placement that he would then
3 receive in Canada.

4 Q. You say that all children that were sent to Australia
5 were brought together across the country to this
6 pre-migration centre?

7 A. Sorry, are you talking about Canada or Australia?

8 Q. I am really looking at page 5 where you are talking
9 about pre-migration preparation and you cover both
10 Canada and Australia.

11 A. Yes. Sorry, the second bit, yes. Obviously that is
12 a later period of time, but, yes.

13 LADY SMITH: Are you saying that they got farming training
14 at the Liverpool Sheltering Home then, for example?

15 A. My understanding is that they were given some
16 preparation when they went there, yes.

17 LADY SMITH: The name would suggest to me that is somewhere
18 that is in the middle of a city.

19 A. Yes. Sorry, I have no further detail than is in the
20 statement.

21 LADY SMITH: There is nothing else in the records that
22 explains what this training consisted of?

23 A. There may be. I don't have the detail, I am sorry.

24 MR MACAULAY: You are asked then about whether there was
25 a particular policy in relation to migration. What is

1 your response to that?

2 A. I think we would -- I always feel a policy is something
3 you are trying to achieve and how you do that. I guess
4 the initial policy was one of trying to offer children
5 and young people an opportunity that they couldn't get
6 in the home country. I have seen your expert report who
7 talks of almost a back door as well as a front door of
8 children exiting. I think that may be a little bit
9 harsh, but I understand that, yes, we did have an awful
10 lot of children that we had been asked to look after.
11 So there was obviously the opportunity to send them
12 abroad, although I think we genuinely -- initially
13 thought that was about an opportunity. Obviously
14 latterly when we certainly get to Australian times,
15 I guess there was a slightly different intent. But in
16 those early days, which I think you are asking me about
17 now, it was about opportunity. And at least obviously
18 at the time these countries were seen to have
19 opportunity; the brave new world of Australia and
20 Canada.

21 Q. You set out there Dr Barnardo's reasons for undertaking
22 child migration were a mixture of the practical and the
23 idealistic. The practical I can understand I think by
24 making space in Barnardo's homes for more children and
25 children leaving, and that is the open door and back

1 door approach. The idealistic aspect of Dr Barnardo's
2 thinking I think your sense is that he considered that
3 sending children to live overseas would improve the
4 lives of those particular children?

5 A. Yes. I referred before I think to the "golden bridge of
6 opportunity".

7 Q. You also provide a quote, presumably from him. He
8 believes that migration:

9 "... confers upon the children themselves
10 unspeakable blessings."

11 By in the sense of giving them a fresh start and
12 rescuing them from their circumstances?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. That was his thinking?

15 A. His thinking, yes.

16 LADY SMITH: You also very fairly observe that it was
17 cheaper to keep a child in Canada than it was in
18 Britain. The figure there is £16 for Britain and
19 £10 for Canada. The practical side no doubt of his
20 thinking.

21 A. It seems to me -- obviously that is my understanding.
22 I think your expert report has actually slightly
23 questioned whether or not that maths works. But, yes,
24 my understanding is that -- certainly our understanding
25 is that it was said to be cheaper.

1 LADY SMITH: And also him signing up to the principle that
2 it was a good thing to populate the British Empire with
3 English-speaking people.

4 A. Yes.

5 MR MACAULAY: Then if we move on, Richard, to page 7 of the
6 response, where there is a section dealing with
7 identification and checking the suitability of the
8 places where children were sent, and in the first
9 section there you deal with Canada. You do tell us that
10 Dr Barnardo tried to establish a strict system of
11 vetting and inspection of placements, and you have told
12 us already about the application form and so on.

13 You also say that there were certain stipulations
14 provided by Dr Barnardo as to how these children should
15 be looked after. For example, that they should have
16 time to go to school. The quote that you set out there
17 I think has been taken from the book "Children of the
18 Empire" by Gillian Wagner, is that right?

19 A. That is right.

20 Q. This is covered in that book?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Is that essentially the source for this material?

23 A. Some of it, yes. Obviously we have other documents but,
24 yes, for that particular quote, that is where that is
25 from.

1 Q. Insofar as inspection would be concerned, what you tell
2 us is that prior to 1920 the sole reliance was placed on
3 the sending agencies. Do you mean by that like
4 an organisation like Barnardo's themselves?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. They then had the sole -- reliance was placed on
7 Barnardo's to carry out inspections on an ongoing basis?

8 A. That is my understanding.

9 Q. Are there records to indicate what that involved?

10 A. I honestly don't know the answer. I don't know, if I am
11 honest.

12 Q. But you do tell us on page 8 that several people were
13 employed by Barnardo's to do that work.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And in the early days this would mainly be on horseback?

16 A. That is right, which probably explains the gaps in this
17 period of time. I guess we would not accept it by
18 modern standards that nine-monthly visits would be an
19 acceptable period, particularly when you are talking
20 about some of the areas obviously would be affected by
21 weather, which I think I refer to in the statement.

22 Q. One of the points the experts have made, in particular
23 Professor Constantine, is we are dealing with a vast
24 country and, therefore, that in itself would create
25 logistical problems --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- in carrying out regular inspections at shorter
3 intervals?

4 A. Sure, yes.

5 Q. As far as Australia was concerned then, you have already
6 indicated that, when Barnardo's undertook child
7 migration to Australia, that Barnardo's ensured that
8 there was an organisation established in Australia to
9 cater for these children, and what you say here is that
10 organisation would use the same practices and principles
11 as Barnardo's would have in the UK.

12 A. I think you have received evidence in the past regarding
13 the Barnardo's book --

14 Q. Yes.

15 A. -- which obviously detailed the policies and procedures
16 of the organisation, and Barnardo's Australia were
17 expected to follow the Barnardo's book.

18 Q. In relation then to checking out the suitability of
19 children at that time who may have been moved to foster
20 care or other placements, what can you tell us from what
21 you have seen in your records as to how that was done?

22 A. Again my understanding is that actually we did do the
23 rigorous checking again of the prospective placements
24 that the children were going to.

25 Q. Again, would there be a blacklist if, in fact, it

1 transpired that a particular placement did not work out?

2 A. Absolutely.

3 Q. Insofar as inspection in Australia would be concerned,
4 again, was the onus on that on Barnardo's or were there
5 also state inspections?

6 A. We took the responsibility, but actually I have seen
7 records that talk of when we were struggling because of
8 capacity to do the inspections, that the Child Welfare
9 Department in Australia readily agreed to do those
10 inspections on our behalf.

11 Q. Were these regularly carried out, these inspections?

12 A. That is my understanding, yes, in some instances and
13 certainly latterly monthly.

14 Q. Do you have records --

15 A. At this stage we actually have young people's files. So
16 obviously we would have files of -- the way the files
17 are configured, and I think my statement actually refers
18 to this, we have a file in Australia and we have a file
19 in the UK. So the file in the UK would cover the time
20 up to migration and there would be a file held by
21 Barnardo's Australia which would detail their time in
22 Australia, which would detail the stuff you are talking
23 about.

24 Q. So if a child was placed on a farm or in a domestic
25 situation, then that child's file in Australia would

1 still record the fact that an inspector had gone to see
2 the child?

3 A. That is right, and what you then have is periodic
4 progress reports by a young person which are then sent
5 back to the UK.

6 Q. I think we heard some evidence of that from the experts.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Then on the issue of selection of children, can we just
9 touch upon that. You look at that at page 9 of the
10 response. Looking at Canada, you say there that:

11 "Very soon after starting his emigration scheme
12 Dr Barnardo drew up a set of conditions which governed
13 the choice of children sent to Canada [read as
14 Australia]."

15 You say:

16 "These conditions repeated in his letter to the
17 Secretary of Department of the Interior dated
18 23 February 1894 included the much used phrase
19 concerning the children 'only the flower of our flock
20 shall at any time be emigrated to Canada [read as
21 Australia] - that is, those who are in robust physical
22 and mental health, who are thoroughly upright, honest
23 and virtuous and who being boys have been industrially
24 trained in our workshops; or being girls have had
25 careful instruction in domestic pursuits '."

1 So that was his yardstick as to who should be
2 selected?

3 A. That is right, yes. So obviously included in some of
4 the checking of that, children were subject to medicals,
5 for example.

6 Q. The letter that you mention there dated
7 23 February 1894, do you have that in your records?

8 A. The honest answer is I don't know, but I presume, given
9 we have actually quoted directly from it, I imagine we
10 probably do.

11 Q. I don't think the Inquiry has -- I can be corrected if
12 I am wrong but I'm not sure if we have seen that letter.
13 But we can perhaps take that up with Clyde & Co and see
14 if we can get a copy. Because it seems to be a rather
15 important document if it is setting out this sort of
16 test.

17 You also say this information can be found in
18 "Children of the Empire", and again this is the book you
19 have already mentioned. Then there is a section where
20 you say:

21 "Barnardo's has retained a briefing dated ..."

22 I just wondered about the date. Dated May -- could
23 that be 1889 rather than 1998?

24 A. That does seem to be a mistype, doesn't it?

25 Q. Because it contains a passage from Dr Barnardo's work

1 with the title "Something Attempted Something Done"
2 published in 1889.

3 A. The honest answer is I don't know. It is possible that
4 we would produce a briefing in May 1998 for other
5 reasons to be honest, but it does seem to be wrong,
6 doesn't it?

7 Q. Perhaps since Clyde & Co are present we can check that
8 with them and solve the problem. If we just read the
9 briefing. You have set it out. It is quite important
10 I think:

11 "At first only by ones and two and driblets my best
12 boys and girls were scattered abroad over wide sea and
13 land, as opportunity afforded - to Australia, to
14 New Zealand, to South Africa, to the European Continent,
15 to the United States of America, to Canada ... The
16 reports from the boys and girls who thus went out from
17 me were highly satisfactory - far more so than I could
18 have dared expect."

19 Then he describes who these young people were:

20 "These young people, who have been kicked and cuffed
21 and buffeted in their earliest years, but who had been
22 given time to gain their breath by the residence in the
23 Homes, throve apace out in the big world over the sea.
24 It was certainly good to us at home to find an open and
25 honourable door by which the children could be sent

1 forth into life: experience has now proved that it was
2 equally good for the children themselves. So, with
3 confidence in the future, grounded more and more firmly
4 on the records of the past, I enlarged my stream of
5 emigrants year after year and finally in the autumn of
6 1882 I determined in the interests of the homes and
7 their inmates alike to initiate emigration on
8 a comprehensive scale on my own account."

9 That is a fairly positive account of Dr Barnardo's
10 view of emigration.

11 A. Yes. Rather flowery language too, isn't it, I think?

12 LADY SMITH: It is quite striking, and we have seen this
13 elsewhere, that it is thought to be a good thing to get
14 rid of our brightest and best; the pick of the bunch are
15 to be sent elsewhere.

16 A. I think it is a really difficult area this, isn't it?
17 I have reflected on this a lot myself personally,
18 because I think we can very easily vilify the people who
19 did this in the past, because it is very, very hard to
20 understand from the perspective of 2020. But I have
21 genuinely tried to understand it from their perspective,
22 just to understand, not to forgive. But it is very,
23 very difficult to understand on any level in 2020.

24 LADY SMITH: Maybe we should now reflect over the lunch
25 break, Mr MacAulay. It is 1 o'clock. I will rise now

1 for the lunch break and sit again at 2 o'clock.

2 Thank you.

3 (1.00 pm)

4 (The short adjournment)

5 (2.00 pm)

6 LADY SMITH: Welcome back. I hope you have managed to draw
7 breath and are ready to carry on.

8 A. Thank you.

9 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

10 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

11 Before lunch, Richard, we had been looking at some
12 aspects of selection, and in particular how Dr Barnardo
13 insisted on picking the best boys for migration. If we
14 turn to page 10 of the Section 21 response, that is
15 the one at number BAR-6, and page 10, which is the page
16 we were on before lunch.

17 You are dealing there with Canada towards the top of
18 the page, and in particular you talk about the role
19 played by medical examinations in the second paragraph.
20 It would appear that although it was the healthiest
21 children that were selected for migration, nevertheless
22 they had to pass a number of medical examinations?

23 A. That is my understanding, yes.

24 Q. And that there was also an assessment of mental fitness.
25 Are there records in the children's folders or files to

1 support that?

2 A. Certainly there would be records of medical
3 examinations. Obviously I don't know how they assessed
4 the medical -- sorry, the mental health, but there were
5 certainly medicals, yes. The Canadian records are all
6 stored by Barnardo's here.

7 Q. Here?

8 A. Yes, they were returned when the Canada office closed.

9 Q. You also say there, following upon the Bondfield Report
10 in 1924, that Barnardo's adopted the policy of -- or
11 ceased migration, rather, of children under 14?

12 A. That is right.

13 Q. But they continued with children who were 14 or over?

14 A. Including obviously one from Scotland, yes.

15 Q. In relation to the provision of information to the child
16 or his parents before migration as far as Australia was
17 concerned, you say there was no written policy in
18 connection with what information ought to be passed
19 over, is that correct?

20 A. That is right.

21 Q. But what you do tell us is that children who were being
22 migrated to Australia were brought together at the
23 pre-migration centre in Barkingside, you mentioned that
24 already, and parents were therefore invited to visit to
25 say goodbye to these children?

1 A. Encouraged to do so. I should add that I think it does
2 reference the fact that children were given some
3 information about Australia before they "chose" to go to
4 Australia, promotional films, leaflets, et cetera, so
5 they were given some information.

6 Q. If we turn to page 11 where you are dealing with
7 Australia and, in particular, the obtaining of consent
8 of the child, parents and others, I think what you say
9 there is that Dr Barnardo's "Memorandum on the Migration
10 Work and Policy of Barnardo's Homes" for 1940 records
11 that:

12 "'In the early days' many children were sent to the
13 dominion without the consent of their relatives."

14 So that seems to have been the case at an earlier
15 stage so far as Australia was concerned?

16 A. Yes. Obviously a number of those children wouldn't have
17 parents.

18 Q. Indeed, that's the point that is made in the next
19 sentence:

20 "The majority of children admitted to Dr Barnardo's
21 prior to the turn of the century were waifs and strays
22 taken from the streets without known family."

23 And I suppose that applies in particular to Canada,
24 because it was at that time that Barnardo's were active
25 in Canada?

1 A. That's right. It wouldn't refer to Australia, yes.

2 Q. Barnardo's also had a policy I think that if a child was
3 placed in Barnardo's by a relative, a parent, that they
4 had to sign an agreement handing over the child to the
5 charge of the managers of Barnardo's?

6 A. Uh-huh. It's obviously a very wide-ranging consent
7 form, isn't it, certainly by modern standards.

8 Obviously in terms of the Australian migration, consent
9 was revisited at the time that they chose to go or were
10 put forward for selection, so that was revisited. But,
11 yes, that is a very wide-ranging consent at that stage,
12 isn't it?

13 Q. And indeed in relation to Australia you say towards the
14 bottom of page 12 that:

15 "Barnardo's practice continued to evolve as it
16 heeded the experiences of the children migrated to
17 Canada, and in particular these experiences emphasised
18 the importance of consultation with families and
19 siblings both before and after migration."

20 I think we heard this from the experts, that the
21 Canadian experience did feed into how Barnardo's managed
22 the migration of children to Australia?

23 A. Yes. One of the key areas obviously was the bit about
24 they were concerned about isolation, so that sense of
25 actually having a closer eye, literally geographically

1 closer than previously.

2 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, I'm sorry to do this, but there is
3 a problem with the transcript. It hasn't started. I am
4 going to have to make an investigation as to what is
5 happening here so I will just rise for five minutes.
6 Thank you.

7 (2.06 pm)

8 (A short break)

9 (2.10 pm)

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you. I'm sorry about that. It is now up
11 and running.

12 MR MACAULAY: You mentioned before the short break that the
13 Barnardo experience in Canada did influence the thinking
14 for Australia, and you do say something about that on
15 page 16 of this Section 21 response, if we can just turn
16 to that.

17 It is towards the bottom of page where you say:

18 "The experience of child migrants in Canada from
19 1900 to 1930 influenced Barnardo's thinking in
20 Australia."

21 And this is your isolation point, I think:

22 "The isolation felt by some child migrants placed on
23 farms highlighted the vulnerability of lads to abusive
24 working conditions."

25 So that was a lesson Barnardo's had learned from

1 that experience?

2 A. That's right.

3 Q. I take it that would have either come from inspections
4 carried out or reports back from children themselves?

5 A. That would be my assumption too, yes.

6 Q. As far as education particularly in Canada is concerned,
7 if we go back to page 14, you touch upon that in
8 a particular section, and as you point out, prior to
9 1924 children under 14, under the school leaving age,
10 migrated to Canada.

11 You go on to say:

12 "The children had to attend school and provision was
13 made for their religious and spiritual education.
14 Foster carers received a fee."

15 Then you say:

16 "Barnardo's was insistent that its children attended
17 school for at least 3 months of the year ..."

18 That looks like a short academic year for children.
19 That is not full-time education.

20 A. My assumption is that would be slightly older children,
21 and for younger children full-time school would be
22 expected. Obviously if you are talking about when
23 children get to 13/14, I guess they would be working in
24 fields and following sort of a farming education, so
25 I am presuming that would mean -- that would explain the

1 bit about three months, so I take your point, yes.

2 Q. "Children as wage earners" then, towards the bottom of
3 the page. I think Barnardo's had a system of indenture
4 whereby children were indentured to farmers if they were
5 doing farming, for example. You do tell us how their
6 wages were dealt with, and in particular that the money
7 earned, or part of the money earned, remained in trust
8 until they reached the age of 21?

9 A. About two-thirds of the wage, that's right, yes.

10 Q. Was that honoured in the breach? Was that what
11 happened, so far as you can tell?

12 A. I'm sorry?

13 Q. Was that honoured? Was that what happened in reality?

14 A. That is my understanding, yes. Obviously, as I think is
15 mentioned, we talk about some children asking for their
16 money early. Most of those requests were denied. The
17 exception has actually been when women asked, young
18 women were getting married, and that was often a reason
19 that it was -- the money was released.

20 Q. If you have a boy of 14 who was working as a farm hand
21 and he continues to work, whether in that placement or
22 in another placement, then a part of his wages would be
23 placed in trust and he would receive that at age --

24 A. At 21.

25 Q. That could be a tidy sum?

1 A. It could.

2 Q. If we look on to page 20 of this response, I just want
3 to ask you about this process that you mention in this
4 section. Again, it is in relation to Canada, and it's
5 what I would refer to as a postcard system. Can you
6 just explain what that was and how it was supposed to
7 work?

8 A. As it says there, really. There were two postcards, one
9 obviously when they reached there to send back, and the
10 second one was to notify the office if there was
11 actually a problem that they wanted to office to solve,
12 the home to solve, the distribution centre.

13 Q. So I think what you are saying is a child, when placed,
14 would be given two stamped postcards?

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. One that he could use to send back --

17 A. To say he had arrived, yes.

18 Q. And the other to send a message that he had
19 difficulties?

20 A. That's right, yes.

21 LADY SMITH: When, in that paragraph, you refer to
22 "departure from the receiving home", is that on
23 departure from the UK?

24 A. Sorry, which line?

25 LADY SMITH: The one you have just been looking at, the

1 paragraph you have been looking at there, it starts:

2 "Upon departure from the receiving home ..."

3 A. That's right, that would be -- the receiving home would
4 be the home in Canada.

5 LADY SMITH: The home in Canada. So that would be before
6 they went to their placement?

7 A. That is my understanding, yes.

8 MR MACAULAY: So for boys, that would be the home in
9 Ontario?

10 A. That is right.

11 Q. As far as consent is concerned, I think we have touched
12 upon this, but you tell us on page 21 that there are
13 examples in the case files of Barnardo's obtaining
14 consent to migration for Australia by -- from parents
15 and/or guardians?

16 A. That is right. In fact, actually there is consent, we
17 have consent for practically every child that went, and
18 the express wishes of themselves or -- where they
19 expressed their wish to go, we have the records of that
20 as well.

21 Q. Is that for Australia?

22 A. Australia, yes.

23 Q. Perhaps I can then look at numbers and get a sense of
24 the extent to which Barnardo's were involved in
25 migration generally. If we turn to page 24, as far as

1 Canada is concerned, towards the second half, the bottom
2 half of the page, you say:

3 "The total number of boys and girls who were
4 migrated to Canada as part of Barnardo's official child
5 migration programme between 1882 and 1939 is 29,076."

6 It's a large number.

7 A. It's a very large number.

8 Q. And post-1924 up to 1939, we would be dealing with
9 children who were 14 or over?

10 A. That's right, because that was the -- obviously we
11 pre-empted the ultimate ban on children under 14.

12 Q. As you have said so far, you have been able to confirm
13 that one Scottish boy was migrated from an English home
14 to Canada. Is there a date for that --

15 A. 1939. He was actually -- he was a Scottish child. He
16 didn't actually live in a Scottish home, he went to
17 Stepney Green in London, but his dad worked on the
18 railways and he was Scottish.

19 Q. In relation to Australia -- just before we come to that:
20 that is what has been identified so far, what you cannot
21 say at the moment is whether there were any other Scots
22 migrated to Canada?

23 A. I can't categorically say, no. No. I think we have
24 committed here, and I commit again, if there are any
25 that come forward that are identified, in addition to

1 the 47 or 46 that we know of, that we would endeavour to
2 get the records for them as well.

3 Q. That takes me to Australia then. The total for
4 Australia is 2,784, and that includes 502 boys who were
5 migrated prior to 1921, so we can see from that that
6 Australia was a target for Barnardo's even in the 1920s.

7 A. Apparently so. I imagine some of those boys actually
8 went to Fairbridge.

9 Q. Was that before Barnardo's had a presence in the sense
10 of a home or a receiving place in --

11 A. Looking at the timeline of the homes, that would be the
12 case, yes.

13 Q. Then you tell us that Barnardo's has identified 46
14 children who were born in Scotland, or who were placed
15 in a Scottish home who were then migrated to Australia
16 after the Second World War?

17 A. That's right. A number of children actually lived in
18 both Scottish and English homes during their time with
19 us, and that is the children being referred to. So
20 I wouldn't want to say those 46 children were Scottish;
21 they spent time in a Scottish home or were Scottish,
22 and/or were Scottish.

23 Q. Looking at timescales then, if we go over to page 26,
24 you tell us there that the Canadian migration began in
25 1882 and ceased in 1939. I think you just mentioned

1 that. For Australia, the programme started in around
2 1921, and we have looked at that, and it ceased in 1965?

3 A. Yes, the last child went in 1965, that is right, yes.

4 Q. So far as funding is concerned, what can you tell me as
5 to how Barnardo's funded the migration programmes?

6 A. At which point in time?

7 Q. Perhaps an overall view as to -- before and after the
8 Empire Settlement Act, then, if we look at it in that
9 context?

10 A. Beforehand obviously there was extensive fundraising
11 done both here and abroad. Obviously latterly, this is
12 after the Act you referred to, we were drawing down
13 funding in relation to that Act. But prior to that it
14 was extensive fundraising both in the UK and abroad.

15 Q. If I can turn to the first Section 21 response, and the
16 number for that is BAR-1, and if we turn to page 8 of
17 the response, Nuix number 8.

18 Moving down to the bottom of the page, this was the
19 original response to how many children were sent as
20 child migrants from Barnardo's and where they were sent.
21 If we just scroll down a little bit.

22 A. The figure of 19.

23 Q. This is where we have the figure of 19, which
24 I understand fully that you adjusted. What I'm
25 interested in here, though, is you are able to give

1 a breakdown as to where the children went, if you look
2 at the box.

3 A. Uh-huh.

4 Q. Would it be possible to give that breakdown for the 46?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Because I don't think we have that breakdown as yet.

7 So, for example, you tell us here that five went to
8 Belmont, and so on and so forth, five went to Picton,
9 and we are interested to know where these children
10 ultimately ended up.

11 A. Yes. As part of my preparation for today, I have
12 basically looked at all 46 of the children who went.
13 Yes, we have that level of detail.

14 Q. Thank you. Likewise, if we turn over to page 9, the
15 Nuix page 9, you have two other breakdowns, particularly
16 in relation to age and gender and also the time period
17 over which children were migrated. For example, we note
18 that in 1965, when migration ceased, there were
19 certainly two children from Scotland migrated at that
20 time. So again, would it be possible to provide
21 a similar breakdown for the 46?

22 A. What I have for the 46, I have dates, dates of birth, so
23 I have ages for all those children. I have where they
24 went. I have their genders, obviously. I have details
25 of consent, et cetera. So, yes, we have quite a lot of

1 detail on all the 46.

2 Q. Thank you. So again, if it would be possible to make
3 that available, that would be helpful to the Inquiry.

4 Perhaps the final area I want you to look at is how
5 you deal now with former child migrants, who are now
6 adults, of course. Perhaps if we can go back to the
7 other Section 21 response, that is at BAR-6, and it is
8 I think the last page in the document, page 27.

9 There is a section here that asks the question, "How
10 did the organisation respond to requests for information
11 [and so on] from former child migrants?" So how is that
12 managed nowadays? Or how has it been managed?

13 A. Yes. So if I can separate out the bits about
14 the family, what we do for families, and what we do for
15 the migrants themselves. If migrants want their
16 records, they are totally entitled to those records.
17 Obviously the Australians ones, they'd need to in a
18 sense go to two places, Barnardo's Australia and
19 Barnardo's UK, and we can provide their records from
20 their time in Scotland and in England. And actually
21 Barnardo's Australia can provide the records for when
22 they were in Australia. We have obviously also got the
23 summary reports I referred to previously and we freely
24 give those records.

25 I did notice that actually one of the witnesses

1 referred to that she thought she had partial records.
2 I don't want to dispute what she said, but we would
3 redact them on the basis of naming other children and
4 other people but we do give them full records, and we
5 try to prepare them for those records. You can imagine
6 that actually, with the passage of time, it can be quite
7 a traumatic experience to read your records. I think
8 particularly if you have very strong memories of
9 something and the records don't actually detail those
10 things, that can be very difficult. Equally, if you
11 have forgotten something and it is referred to. So we
12 do actually prepare people for their records, and even
13 though they are not always in this country, because
14 obviously some of the migrants have returned, we would
15 still forward them those records.

16 In terms of families, we do now -- obviously
17 a number of the migrants are very elderly and some have
18 died. We do offer a genealogy service for people who
19 wish to trace uncles, fathers, brothers, whoever, to try
20 and provide them some detail about their family members,
21 people doing family trees, and we provide a genealogy
22 service.

23 Q. Is that a free service?

24 A. We charge a nominal fee for that.

25 LADY SMITH: How much?

1 A. It does depend on the level of research. We provide a
2 free search to find out whether we know them, we
3 certainly don't charge if we don't know them. Then
4 there is a subsequent fee, it doesn't cover the cost of
5 what we incur. I think it is £125, from memory, but
6 don't quote me on that exactly.

7 LADY SMITH: Some people might think £125 is rather more
8 than nominal.

9 A. Yes, I can see your point. To be honest with you, we
10 take this very, very seriously, and an awful lot of
11 hours goes into that research. So I take your point, it
12 is an amount of money, but it does not cover the amount
13 of hours that we would spend in very careful research
14 regarding that.

15 MR MACAULAY: In that final section you also mention trips
16 by your Head of Aftercare who visited and met with
17 a large number of child migrants and their families and
18 descendants over a period of time, is that right?

19 A. If you look in the records and in the statements, there
20 is reference to a number of visits over the years, yes.

21 Q. The organisation making connections, can you just tell
22 me what that organisation does?

23 A. It is the one that actually holds -- it brought together
24 aftercare and our archive into a single service. So it
25 holds our historical records regarding the organisation

1 and it also holds all the records of all the children
2 who were formerly in our care. That isn't actually
3 necessarily two lots of documents, there obviously is
4 an overlap with some of the archive being also
5 individual -- being records. It is a service that is
6 based in London that basically is the guardian of our
7 records. It is where the card index that we referred to
8 previously is held, and they have access to the
9 digitised version of all the records of all the children
10 that we cared for.

11 Q. If we go back then to the first response, BAR-1, and
12 turn to the final page of that document, page 11, in
13 a box there you indicate the submissions and
14 contributions you have made to other inquiries. You
15 today have provided former migrants with a fulsome
16 apology, but is it the case that after the
17 Prime Minister's apology in 2010, the then
18 chief executive of Barnardo's expressed the deepest
19 sympathy for anyone who suffered, and he described
20 Barnardo's history of involvement as "a painful one"?

21 A. That is right.

22 Q. You also mention towards the bottom there counselling.
23 Just to be clear, is that a service that is still
24 available to child migrants?

25 A. Yes, Barnardo's Australia provide that.

1 MR MACAULAY: Very well, Richard, thank you very much indeed
2 for coming along to speak to the Section 21 responses.

3 A. Not at all.

4 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, I haven't received any questions to
5 put to Richard.

6 LADY SMITH: Can I check if there are any outstanding
7 applications for questions?

8 Richard, that does complete your questions here
9 today. Thank you very much for coming along.

10 I appreciate that picking up, in effect, somebody else's
11 work is not easy, but plainly you are immersed in this
12 subject yourself now, and I am very grateful to you for
13 having done that. So thank you, and I am now able to
14 let you go.

15 A. That is very kind of you. We did mean what we said. We
16 try and face up to our history.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 (The witness withdrew)

19 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, that is all the evidence for today.

20 Tomorrow the intention is to have three witnesses, two
21 will be remote and one will be in person.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. I will rise now until
23 10 o'clock tomorrow morning. Thank you.

24 (2.30 pm)

25 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on Friday,

2 October 2020)

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