

1 Thursday, 7 June 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning.

4 Mr MacAulay, I think we return to oral evidence;  
5 is that right?

6 MR MacAULAY: Yes, good morning, my Lady, we do. The first  
7 witness this morning is a sister from the order and she  
8 will give her evidence using the name "Katrina".

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 "SISTER KATRINA" (sworn)

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

12 You probably noticed the sound of that microphone  
13 being switched on, sister. It's very important that you  
14 use the microphone so that we can hear you clearly, both  
15 for everybody in the room who wants to hear you and  
16 particularly for the stenographers, who listen to what  
17 you say through the sound system. Thank you. I'll now  
18 ask Mr MacAulay to begin his questions.

19 Questions from MR MacAULAY

20 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, sister.

21 A. Good morning.

22 Q. I don't want your date of birth, but so I can get a time  
23 frame, can you confirm that the year of your birth is  
24 1942?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. In the red folder in front of you, sister, you'll find  
2 the statement that you've provided to the inquiry.  
3 Could I ask you to look at it? I'll give the reference  
4 to the stenographers: it's WIT.001.001.8182.

5 If I could ask you, sister, to turn to the last  
6 page, which is page 8197, and I think that's what  
7 you have in front of you now. Can you confirm that  
8 you have signed the statement?

9 A. Pardon?

10 Q. Can you confirm that you have signed the statement?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. If you look at the last paragraph, paragraph 86, do you  
13 say:

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

16 Is that correct?

17 A. That's right. Mm-hm.

18 Q. Do you also say:

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

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Sister, can I go back a little bit in time to when you  
23 joined the order. I think you tell us in your statement  
24 that you joined the order in 1962; is that right?

25 A. That's right, yes.

1 Q. What you do tell us is that your first job, first role,  
2 was that of collecting; is that correct?

3 A. That's true, yes.

4 Q. Can you tell me what that would involve?

5 A. Two sisters going out, maybe to factories or shops and  
6 round the houses, collecting money for the children.

7 Q. I think you tell us that role, that first role, was one  
8 that you carried out in Southend.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You also tell us that you then moved to  
11 Newcastle-upon-Tyne and when you were there you were  
12 engaged in looking after children; is that right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Can you tell me a little bit about that? What was the  
15 set-up there?

16 A. There was about two or three groups in the house, in the  
17 main building, and there was a house at the entrance of  
18 the home. There was a group there and then they had  
19 babies in the bungalow at the back.

20 Q. You tell us then that you were there for, what, about  
21 nine years or so?

22 A. Yes, that's correct.

23 Q. Was the house run by the Sisters of Nazareth?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Was that the only house that the sisters had in

1 Newcastle?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. I think you tell us then that after that, you went to  
4 Aberdeen, you think in about 1978; is that correct?

5 A. Yes, or 1976 maybe, yes.

6 Q. I think you go on to say that you've been told it might  
7 have been from 1976 up to about 1979; is that right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What you do tell us, sister, is that, when you were in  
10 Newcastle, I think you did some training; is that right?

11 A. I did some training in Newcastle.

12 Q. Can you tell me about that?

13 A. It was just going out one day a week for about a year.

14 Q. What was the training in connection with?

15 A. To do with children.

16 Q. So it was a sort of day release type course?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Did you find that beneficial?

19 A. No, I found it more beneficial to work with them.

20 Q. But in any event, by the time you have come to Aberdeen,  
21 let's say in about 1976, you have done that course and  
22 you've also had experience in working with children?

23 A. Mm-hm, yes.

24 Q. I think what you tell us in your statement, sister,  
25 is that your move to Aberdeen was essentially a swap

- 1 with a Sister [REDACTED] LFS [REDACTED]; is that right?
- 2 A. Yes, [REDACTED] LFS [REDACTED].
- 3 Q. Why was that arrangement put in place?
- 4 A. Well, that was the part of the set-up, you know, that we
- 5 could get moved around at any time.
- 6 Q. Do you know how long Sister [REDACTED] LFS [REDACTED] had been in
- 7 Aberdeen before you?
- 8 A. No, sorry, I don't know that.
- 9 Q. Did you meet up with Sister [REDACTED] LFS [REDACTED] when you came
- 10 to Aberdeen or had she left?
- 11 A. No, she'd already left.
- 12 Q. So there wasn't any sort of a handover by her to you --
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. -- about you were going to Aberdeen to take over her
- 15 group?
- 16 A. That's correct, yes.
- 17 Q. And can you tell me about that then? What sort of group
- 18 was it?
- 19 A. It was a set-up all on one floor and there were children
- 20 there, all ages, families, and mixed girls and boys.
- 21 Q. I think you thought, when you gave your statement, that
- 22 the age range could be from 2 up to about 13.
- 23 A. Yes. Well, it varied, you know, really.
- 24 Q. I'm sorry, sister?
- 25 A. It varied.

- 1 Q. How many were in the group?
- 2 A. I'm not sure, maybe 15.
- 3 Q. You've told us there wasn't any handover. Were you  
4 given any information about the group before you started  
5 caring for it?
- 6 A. I can't remember that.
- 7 Q. If Sister **LFS** had left, were there people there who  
8 could tell you?
- 9 A. The staff were there.
- 10 Q. Just on that then, what level of staff assistance did  
11 you have?
- 12 A. There may have been four staff and maybe a cleaner, you  
13 know.
- 14 Q. So if you wanted to find out then about how things  
15 worked in Aberdeen, would you be relying on the staff to  
16 help you?
- 17 A. I would, yes.
- 18 Q. Can you tell us then, sister, a little bit about your  
19 role in connection with the group?
- 20 A. Well, the children -- we would call the children maybe  
21 between 7 and half past to get up and they would get  
22 washed and maybe one or two of them would need to have  
23 a bath and they would get their breakfast and say their  
24 morning prayers. Then they'd be got ready for school.
- 25 Q. The way you describe your position in your statement

1 is that you looked upon yourself as the housemother to  
2 the children?

3 A. That's right, yes.

4 Q. Is that a good way of describing what your position was?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Can I just get an understanding as to what the set-up  
7 was with regard to other groups within Nazareth House at  
8 this time in the mid to later 1970s? I think you tell  
9 us in your statement there was another group that was on  
10 the floor before you; is that right?

11 A. That's correct, yes.

12 Q. Who was in charge of that group?

13 A. Sister [REDACTED] LJI .

14 Q. What about other groups?

15 A. There was the bungalow, Sister [REDACTED] LDX was there,  
16 and there was a hostel and Sister [REDACTED] LKH was there --

17 Q. Sorry, carry on.

18 A. There was one just inside the -- near to the front door,  
19 and Sister [REDACTED] LRC , as she is now, was there.

20 Q. So do I take it from what you have said there were about  
21 five groups altogether --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- at the time you were there?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Did that remain the position throughout your whole

1 period up until you left in about 1979?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Just to get an understanding of what the numbers were  
4 like in that time, if I could ask you to look at  
5 a document that the order has made available to us.  
6 This is at NAZ.001.001.0265.

7 So we're looking at a document that's headed:

8 "Statistics of numbers of children and babies at  
9 Scottish Nazareth Houses (1925 to 1984)."

10 On the left-hand side we see where Aberdeen  
11 features. If we go on to the second page, because we  
12 need to go on to that to get into your time frame,  
13 that's on page 0266.

14 If we focus on the left-hand column, can we see that  
15 from 1976, if we focus on 1976, the numbers are given as  
16 90. Then for 1977 there are 77. 1978, there are 56.  
17 By 1979 the number that's here is 32. Can we see that  
18 the numbers are dwindling as the years are going on?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And is that your recollection, sister?

21 A. No.

22 Q. That's not your recollection?

23 A. No, no.

24 Q. Did the number of children in your group remain the same  
25 throughout your period?

- 1 A. It did, yes.
- 2 Q. I understand from what you're saying, sister, that you  
3 were in charge of the group?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And how many staff did you have?
- 6 A. Maybe four, and cleaners.
- 7 Q. What duties then did the staff have?
- 8 A. They worked with me in getting the children up and  
9 ready, as you do for -- on the days that they went to  
10 school, and then they would have other jobs to do when  
11 the children were away, such as maybe, you know, helping  
12 tidy up the rooms or making the beds, various jobs  
13 around the house, doing the washing and that.
- 14 Q. Were children admitted to your group over the period of,  
15 let's say, three years or so that you were there? By  
16 that I mean, did new children come in?
- 17 A. Yes, we had one family from Glasgow.
- 18 Q. Was it just one family that came in?
- 19 A. I don't remember any others.
- 20 Q. Can you help me with this? What were the arrangements  
21 for when a child was admitted? By that I mean, who  
22 dealt with that?
- 23 A. I think the Superior dealt with it and then whatever  
24 group became available, you know, the children went  
25 there.

1 Q. Do you know what information would be given to someone  
2 in your own position in relation to the background of  
3 the children that were being admitted?

4 A. I don't remember.

5 Q. Can I ask you this: from what you've said, the Superior  
6 was the first port of call, if you like, for admissions.  
7 What role, if any, did the Superior play in relation to  
8 the overall care of the children?

9 A. As far as I remember, they may have kept the books in  
10 her office and taken information when a child was  
11 admitted.

12 Q. Was there any system or process whereby you would report  
13 to the Superior in connection with what was going on in  
14 your group?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So that did happen?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Was that done on a sort of formal basis or was it more  
19 of an ad hoc approach?

20 A. If anything occurred, you know, that I thought the  
21 Superior should know.

22 Q. Do you know if records were kept? Can I ask you this  
23 first: did you keep any records in relation to the  
24 admission of children?

25 A. Only the menu book.

- 1 Q. Is that the only record you kept?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. For example, we've had evidence about punishment books.  
4 Did you yourself keep a punishment book?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. You do tell us in your statement, sister, some  
7 information about the set-up and the routine. For  
8 example, what you say about the sleeping arrangements  
9 is that there were bedrooms with perhaps three or four  
10 children to a bedroom; is that the way it was set up?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. So far as bedtime would be concerned, you tell us that  
13 that was a staggered approach, that the younger children  
14 would go to bed earlier than the older children?
- 15 A. That's right, yes.
- 16 Q. Can I ask you about bed-wetting? Because that's  
17 something you do talk about in your statement.  
18 Do you have a recollection that there were children who  
19 did wet the bed in your group?
- 20 A. I am sure there was, you know.
- 21 Q. Do you remember that?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. Do you have any memory as to how children who wet the  
24 bed would be dealt with?
- 25 A. They would be given a bath in the morning and the sheets

1           would be left in to soak until later on, and then they'd  
2           be washed.

3       Q.   Who would be --

4       A.   The staff would do that.

5       Q.   So would you not be involved in that process?

6       A.   No.

7       Q.   So far as the morning --

8       A.   Well, depending on the age of the child, you know. Like  
9           if it was a young child, I'd help to bath them if I was  
10          there.

11      Q.   What would the water be like that you used for the bath?

12      A.   It'd be hot. Well, warm, you know.

13      Q.   Just on bathing itself, you do tell us about the bathing  
14          arrangements in paragraph 27. You thought that children  
15          had a bath most nights.

16      A.   Yes.

17      Q.   You thought, I think -- what you say in your statement  
18          is there were two or three baths available; is that your  
19          recollection?

20      A.   That's correct, yes.

21      LADY SMITH: Was that all the children in the group had  
22          a bath most nights?

23      A.   Yes.

24      LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

25      MR MacAULAY: What you do say also is that the children

- 1 never shared baths and there was fresh water for each  
2 child.
- 3 A. That's correct.
- 4 Q. There has been some evidence -- and I'm not suggesting  
5 it's directed towards yourself -- that children may have  
6 been asked to queue up for baths and when one child came  
7 out of the bath, another child would go in.
- 8 A. They had fresh water every time.
- 9 Q. Would you be involved in that process yourself?
- 10 A. If I was there, yes. And if not, the staff would be  
11 involved, you know.
- 12 LADY SMITH: So you might not always be there; is that what  
13 you're telling me?
- 14 A. That's correct, yes.
- 15 LADY SMITH: And you had how many children in your group?
- 16 A. 15, if I remember, yes.
- 17 LADY SMITH: I just wonder if your memory's right that the  
18 water system was able to produce 15 lots of water for  
19 baths one after the other in a single evening.
- 20 A. Well, it was kind of staggered over a time, you know,  
21 like they didn't all go to bed together. It was  
22 different times in the evening.
- 23 LADY SMITH: You don't think it's possible that the  
24 bathwater might have been used for more than one child?
- 25 A. No, definitely not.

1 LADY SMITH: No? All right, thank you.

2 MR MacAULAY: Looking at the routine, mealtimes, were you  
3 involved with the children when they were having their  
4 meals?

5 A. Yes, I think so, yes.

6 Q. But you didn't eat with the children?

7 A. No.

8 Q. And what was your view of the food that was being  
9 provided?

10 A. Sorry, can you repeat that?

11 Q. What was the food like?

12 A. The food was very good.

13 Q. But if a child didn't want to eat a particular dish or  
14 didn't like the food, what would happen?

15 A. They would be offered something else.

16 Q. Would there be any efforts to persuade the child to eat  
17 the food?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What would happen?

20 A. There would be other things that we could offer, other  
21 food that we could offer the child, you know -- and more  
22 than likely we would know beforehand what a child was  
23 likely to eat, their likes and dislikes.

24 Q. Just going back to bed-wetting -- and I have been asked  
25 specifically to ask you about this -- did you see any

- 1 bed-wetters being humiliated by anyone?
- 2 A. No, definitely not.
- 3 Q. Did you witness any bed-wetters being punished for  
4 wetting the bed?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. Coming back to the food then, if a child didn't want to  
7 eat his or her food, did you ever see a child being  
8 punished for that?
- 9 A. No, no, definitely not.
- 10 Q. Was a child ever physically force-fed?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. Another thing you tell us, sister, is that you did take  
13 children out shopping for clothes; is that right?
- 14 A. That's correct, yes.
- 15 Q. How would that be financed?
- 16 A. We would have money from the Superior to go out and buy  
17 clothes for them.
- 18 Q. But do you know where the Superior -- what the source of  
19 the funds, the ultimate source of the funds would have  
20 been?
- 21 A. I don't know.
- 22 Q. In relation to buying clothes then, did the children  
23 choose their own clothes?
- 24 A. They were encouraged to do that, yes.
- 25 Q. I take it this was locally in Aberdeen, was it, that you

- 1           went?
- 2       A.   Yes.
- 3       Q.   So far as leisure was concerned, I think you tell us
- 4           that children were given pocket money in your time;
- 5           is that right?
- 6       A.   Yes.
- 7       Q.   Did you yourself do that?
- 8       A.   Yes.
- 9       Q.   You also talk about children going on holidays to
- 10          Tombae, I think; is that correct?
- 11       A.   Yes.
- 12       Q.   Did you go with the children?
- 13       A.   Yes.
- 14       Q.   Would you go with other groups or would it just be your
- 15          own group?
- 16       A.   No, there was maybe two groups there.
- 17       Q.   Were there particular activities that the children would
- 18          engage in when they were in Tombae?
- 19       A.   They liked to go for long walks maybe and taking picnics
- 20          out and going to the shops, which weren't too far away.
- 21       Q.   One thing you tell us, sister, is that so far as
- 22          schooling was concerned, you yourself would attend
- 23          parents evenings for the children in your group; is that
- 24          correct?
- 25       A.   Yes.

1 Q. Was that something you did throughout your whole time  
2 when you were in Aberdeen?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Do you know if that had happened before your time?

5 A. I couldn't tell you. I don't know.

6 Q. Just more generally, do you know what the regime was  
7 like generally before you took over?

8 A. No.

9 Q. So far as the information you were given then by the  
10 staff when you got there, was that information really to  
11 do with the nature of the children and so on rather than  
12 anything else?

13 A. That's correct, yes.

14 Q. So far as Christmas and birthdays were concerned, were  
15 these events celebrated?

16 A. Pardon?

17 Q. Did you celebrate Christmas, for example, with the  
18 children?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did they get presents?

21 A. They did, yes.

22 Q. And birthdays, what about birthdays?

23 A. The same for a birthday. If there were two or three  
24 birthdays in one week, they would have like a joint  
25 celebration, but each child would have their own present

- 1           and a card.
- 2       Q.   How would you, as the person in charge of the group,  
3           know when a child's birthday was due?
- 4       A.   We had the dates down.
- 5       Q.   Where did you have the dates?
- 6       A.   We would have them written down on maybe a book, you  
7           know.
- 8       Q.   So there might have been some sort of book then that  
9           kept that sort of information?
- 10      A.   Yes.
- 11      Q.   I take it that'd be useful because otherwise it would be  
12           quite difficult to remember a child's birthday; is that  
13           right?
- 14      A.   Yes.
- 15      Q.   So far as chores are concerned, sister, again you tell  
16           us in your statement that the children would do some  
17           jobs around the house.
- 18      A.   Mm-hm.
- 19      Q.   Can you give me some understanding as to what sort of  
20           jobs they would do?
- 21      A.   Yes, that was mostly maybe resetting -- setting the  
22           tables after a meal and maybe helping to dry up a few  
23           dishes.
- 24      Q.   What about cleaning jobs?  Would the children do any  
25           cleaning jobs?

- 1 A. No, no.
- 2 Q. Can I ask you about the involvement of social workers  
3 with the children in your group? Did social workers  
4 come to visit the children?
- 5 A. I can't really remember that.
- 6 Q. I think, at the time of your statement, you thought that  
7 social workers would pop in from time to time.
- 8 A. I'm sure they did in those days, you know.
- 9 Q. But you don't really remember that happening?
- 10 A. No, no.
- 11 Q. So do you remember then what your own involvement with  
12 the social workers was?
- 13 A. Well, if they were having meetings then I would be  
14 sitting in on the meeting and the social worker would  
15 chair it.
- 16 Q. Is that a meeting that might be reviewing the child's  
17 progress?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Do you remember if such meetings took place?
- 20 A. Not really, no.
- 21 Q. Can I ask you then a little bit, sister, about  
22 discipline. When you got to Aberdeen, were you given  
23 any guidance as to how the children there would be  
24 disciplined?
- 25 A. No.

1 Q. Were there any written policies or guidance that would  
2 help you on that?

3 A. No.

4 Q. In your previous places where you dealt with children,  
5 had you been provided with guidance as to how children  
6 might be disciplined?

7 A. No.

8 Q. How well-behaved were the children in your group?

9 A. Well, like all children, they would have a squabble now  
10 and again or, you know, they'd have a disagreement and  
11 it was dealt with then by the -- if I wasn't there, the  
12 staff would supervise that situation.

13 Q. Do you know how the staff dealt with it?

14 A. I think they would just separate them and talk to them,  
15 you know -- well, maybe give them something to do to  
16 distract what they were getting up to.

17 Q. If you look at matters such as, say, for example,  
18 depriving a child of something, was that something that  
19 happened as a punishment?

20 A. As a punishment -- maybe they would be stopped from  
21 watching television or going -- if they were going out  
22 to one of the ... Cubs or Scouts or something like that.

23 Q. So that could happen?

24 A. Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: Did you give the staff any guidance or

1 instructions as to what they should do to discipline the  
2 children when it was required?

3 A. No.

4 LADY SMITH: Why not?

5 A. Well, it didn't really occur, you know. I mean, to be  
6 honest, the children weren't that bad that I had in my  
7 group.

8 LADY SMITH: But you wouldn't always be there when the staff  
9 were with them.

10 A. Pardon?

11 LADY SMITH: You wouldn't always be there when the staff  
12 were with the children.

13 A. No, but if anything happened while I wasn't there, then  
14 the staff would say to me what happened, you know, and  
15 how they dealt with it.

16 MR MacAULAY: Was there any corporal punishment?

17 A. No.

18 Q. So do I take it that you could control your group --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- by the means that you've just been describing to us;  
21 is that correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Would you then describe the group in your experience,  
24 your recollection of the group, as being a well-behaved  
25 group of children?

- 1 A. Yes, they were normal, you know, like any other  
2 children. They just seemed to be a happy group, most of  
3 the time.
- 4 Q. You do tell us, sister, about one incident when a child,  
5 I think a boy, punched you in the face.
- 6 A. That's correct, yes.
- 7 Q. Can you tell me about that?
- 8 A. To be honest, I can't remember what the incident was  
9 about. I can't remember what my relationship with the  
10 child was at that time. It seemed to just blow over.  
11 I did tell the Superior.
- 12 Q. That looks like quite a serious matter for a child to do  
13 that. Was the child punished?
- 14 A. I think maybe the Superior spoke to him, but I can't  
15 remember anything else.
- 16 Q. And you can't remember what the background to the  
17 incident was?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. Did children leave your group during the three years or  
20 so that you were in Aberdeen?
- 21 A. Not to my recollection, no.
- 22 Q. So even the older children that were in the group when  
23 you got there, were they still there?
- 24 A. They were still there, yes.
- 25 Q. So you can't help me then, can you, in relation to how

1 the discharge of a child might be managed because you  
2 had no experience of that?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Sister, when you gave your statement to the inquiry  
5 team, a number of allegations were put to you in  
6 connection with other people in relation to practices  
7 that it was being alleged had been happening in  
8 Aberdeen. Do you remember that being the case, that  
9 being put to you?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You deal with these in paragraphs 60 through to 76 of  
12 your statement. In particular, you'll know that  
13 a number of sisters against whom allegations were being  
14 made were being identified, but really in the main they  
15 had left before your arrival; is that correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So for example, Sister [REDACTED] LFB, Sister [REDACTED] LTX and  
18 Sister [REDACTED] FAF, they were not there?

19 A. They weren't there in my time, no.

20 Q. One of the sisters who was there was  
21 Sister [REDACTED] LDX or Sister [REDACTED] LDX, because  
22 you've already mentioned that she had one of the groups.

23 A. She did.

24 Q. Again, there have been allegations made against her and  
25 I think these were mentioned to you when you gave your

1 statement.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can I ask you this, sister: what interaction was there  
4 between your group and her group? Because you told us  
5 you were on the third floor and she was on the second  
6 floor; so what was the --

7 A. No, she was in the bungalow --

8 Q. She was in the bungalow, quite right.

9 A. -- and there was no interaction.

10 Q. So can I just understand that then? Did the children in  
11 the bungalow not mix with the children in your group?

12 A. No, they didn't seem to, no.

13 Q. Was her group made up in a similar sort of way to your  
14 own, namely a range of children?

15 A. Yes. Can I just say that, in those days, we used to  
16 have to get permission if we were going into another  
17 sister's employment. So for that reason, I don't know  
18 anything about that group.

19 Q. And when you talk about employment, just to be clear,  
20 you're talking about --

21 A. The groups.

22 Q. The groups?

23 A. Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: Who would you get that permission from?

25 A. The Superior.

- 1 LADY SMITH: Why? Why was this necessary?
- 2 A. That was the practice in those days.
- 3 MR MacAULAY: Just to be clear then, from what you're
- 4 saying, sister -- and you can correct me if I'm wrong --
- 5 you did not know what might have been happening in
- 6 another group?
- 7 A. No. The one underneath mine, there was interaction
- 8 there and maybe on a Saturday I would go down because
- 9 the children were getting ready to go out and the two
- 10 groups would maybe be going out together with staff, you
- 11 know.
- 12 Q. So there was some interaction?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. But so far as Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED]'s group was
- 15 concerned, there was nothing?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. Would the sisters, though, when you got together,
- 18 discuss amongst yourselves the different children and
- 19 what they might be up to and so on?
- 20 A. I can't remember that.
- 21 Q. In any event, as I think was put to you when you gave
- 22 your statement, sister, a number of practices such as
- 23 humiliating bed-wetting practices, hitting children,
- 24 kicking and punching children, putting children into
- 25 isolation and force-feeding were mentioned to you. Do

1 I take it from what you've said that so far as you're  
2 concerned, these were not practices that you had any  
3 knowledge of?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Would you agree, though, if these practices were taking  
6 place that they would constitute abuse?

7 A. If they were going on, yes. Yes.

8 Q. I'm talking about at the time. You'd look upon that as  
9 being abuse of a child at the time, in the 1970s?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Going back to records, sister, you said in your  
12 statement at paragraph 78 that there may have been  
13 a logbook where the children's activities were being  
14 recorded, but I think my understanding of your evidence  
15 is that you really have no recollection of any such  
16 record.

17 A. No.

18 Q. If we look at what you say in paragraph 83 of your  
19 statement -- perhaps I can take you to that -- what you  
20 say there is:

21 "I have been asked whether I am able to assist the  
22 inquiry in relation to why allegations of abuse or  
23 mistreatment in Nazareth House Aberdeen have been made  
24 when my position is that I wasn't aware of anything of  
25 that nature during my time there."

1           You go on to say:

2           "No, I don't know."

3           And that's your position, is it?

4       A.   Yes.

5       Q.   Can I ask you about this next point that you make, and  
6           that is:

7           "The only thing I would say is that maybe if  
8           a sister had been there for a number of years and the  
9           children had got used to her, when she got changed, the  
10          children maybe resented another sister taking her place  
11          and might have rebelled against that."

12          Let's take your own position, sister. Did you have  
13          any impression that the children resented you?

14       A.   No, not really, no.

15       Q.   But it does seem to be the case from the evidence that  
16          someone in the position of a housemother might be in  
17          a position for a period of time and then be moved  
18          elsewhere, and I think you've told us you were moved  
19          because you were told to go.

20       A.   Mm-hm.

21       Q.   Looking at that in hindsight, do you think that was  
22          a good practice, particularly if children had built up  
23          a relationship with a particular housemother?

24       A.   I think it was hard on the children.

25       Q.   But do you know why that was the practice?

- 1 A. No, we just accepted it.
- 2 Q. I understand you accepted it. Do you know why it was  
3 the practice? What was the thinking behind having  
4 a sister in a particular place in charge of children for  
5 a period of time and then moving that sister possibly to  
6 be in charge of another group of children in a different  
7 place? What was the reasoning behind that?
- 8 A. I don't know the reason.
- 9 Q. The other thing you say at paragraph 85, sister, is you  
10 think:  
11 "I think a lot of them are jumping on the bandwagon  
12 and looking for compensation because I don't think all  
13 of it was true."  
14 Do you see that?
- 15 A. I do, yes.
- 16 Q. Can you elaborate upon that for me? Why do you think  
17 that?
- 18 A. Well, I think, you know, having to leave their own  
19 homes, blood is thicker than water, and no matter what  
20 the home was like or the parents were like, maybe they  
21 resented the sisters taking them into care, you know.  
22 I think that's really what I meant.
- 23 Q. That's what you meant?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. I think you're saying, though, that so far as you know,

1           the sisters provided a happy environment for the  
2           children?

3       A.   Yes.

4       LADY SMITH:  Sister, you say you think they're looking for  
5           compensation.  I wonder if you appreciate that I have no  
6           power in a public inquiry such as this to award anybody  
7           any compensation.  So coming to the inquiry does not  
8           secure compensation for people.  Do you appreciate that?

9       A.   Yes.

10      LADY SMITH:  So do you really think that the reason people  
11           would come to the inquiry to talk about their  
12           experiences and explain how, in their view, in their  
13           perception, they were abused can be explained by  
14           a desire to get compensation?

15      A.   I don't know the reason why.

16      LADY SMITH:  No, but it doesn't really follow that they  
17           would do that because they're looking for money, would  
18           it?

19      A.   Well, I think it depends on the situation.

20      LADY SMITH:  But I can't give them that.

21      A.   Because, you know, they get together, they know each  
22           other, they've been in touch with each other and they're  
23           talking, and they may have a resentment against the  
24           sisters.

25      LADY SMITH:  Mr MacAulay.

1 MR MacAULAY: Just looking at that sentence, sister, the way  
2 this is expressed is:

3 "Because I don't think all of it was true."

4 What I want to ask you is this: do you accept that  
5 some of the allegations may have been true?

6 A. They may have been, yes, but I never came across it.

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

10 A. There's one boy, yes.

11 Q. The other question is: have you been invited to weddings  
12 or any such occasions by former residents?

13 A. Have I been?

14 Q. Have you been invited to weddings or any such occasions?

15 A. No.

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

17 Those are all the questions that I have for you.

18 I think I have covered the questions I have been asked  
19 to put to you. Thank you.

20 LADY SMITH: Can I confirm whether there are any outstanding  
21 applications for questions? No.

22 Sister, that's all the questions there are for you  
23 in the hearing. It just remains for me to thank you for  
24 engaging with the inquiry, both by providing your  
25 written statement and coming along today to help us with



1 red folder in front of you, sister. That's that red  
2 folder there. I'll give the reference to the  
3 stenographers, first of all. It's WIT.001.001.7854.

4 If I could ask you to turn to the very last page;  
5 that's page 7871. Can you confirm that you have signed  
6 the statement?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Do you tell us in the last paragraph:

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

11 Is that correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Do you also say:

14 "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
15 statement are true"?

16 A. Yes. That is true.

17 Q. Can I just go back to the beginning, sister, and in  
18 particular when you took your final vows. I think in  
19 your statement the suggestion is that your final vows  
20 were taken in the late 1950s.

21 A. That is true.

22 Q. Do you have a precise date for that?

23 A. 1961.

24 Q. 1961, thank you.

25 You tell us, I think, that you went to Australia.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And you did teacher training in Australia?
- 3 A. That is true.
- 4 Q. Did you teach in a children's home in Australia?
- 5 A. I did, for the first two or three years.
- 6 Q. Did you then come back to Scotland after that?
- 7 A. Yes. I did, yes.
- 8 Q. In particular I think you tell us you were attached to  
9 a hostel in Glasgow called St Basil's and that was at  
10 Cardonald.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Was there any connection between that hostel and the  
13 Sisters of Nazareth house in Cardonald?
- 14 A. No, none whatsoever.
- 15 Q. But during that time, sister, you went to the University  
16 of Glasgow and you obtained an honours degree in English  
17 and history?
- 18 A. Yes, that's true.
- 19 Q. I think you tell us that you were in your late 30s when  
20 you graduated.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Again, having done that, did you go back to Australia?
- 23 A. Yes, I did.
- 24 Q. Was that because you were told to go?
- 25 A. I was asked was I willing to go.

1 Q. On this occasion, then, what did you do when you were in  
2 Australia?

3 A. I taught in primary school.

4 Q. And for how long did you do that?

5 A. Three years.

6 Q. I think you tell us that, for personal reasons, you  
7 wanted to come back to Scotland; is that right?

8 A. Yes, that is true.

9 Q. At that time did you come back and go to the Sisters of  
10 Nazareth house in Lasswade?

11 A. After my mother died, yes, I was asked if I would take  
12 over a group of children.

13 Q. And I think you think that was in 1975?

14 A. That's right, yes.

15 Q. So let's have -- I understand you were there for  
16 a fairly short period of time, sister, less than a year  
17 you think?

18 A. That's right, yes.

19 Q. Can you give me an idea of how many months do you think?

20 A. Well, I know my mother died in January, so it was from  
21 the end of January until, as far as I can remember,  
22 about November.

23 Q. So 10 or 11 months, something of that sort?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. But can you tell us a little bit then about the set-up

1           in Lasswade, sister? First of all, you were there to  
2           work with a group; is that right?

3       A. Yes.

4       Q. Were you to be in charge of the group?

5       A. Yes, I was.

6       Q. And how many groups of children were there?

7       A. About four groups.

8       Q. How many were in your group?

9       A. Roughly about 14 children.

10      Q. What can you tell me about the range of age for the  
11      children?

12      A. Well, they were all of school age.

13      Q. So from 5 upwards?

14      A. Five upwards, about 15.

15      Q. Five up to about 15?

16      A. Yes.

17      Q. Were there boys and girls?

18      A. Yes.

19      Q. Were there family members within the group?

20      A. Yes, there were.

21      Q. Can you help me: was the make-up of the other three  
22      groups of a similar nature?

23      A. Yes, they were.

24      Q. When you went to Lasswade, were you taking over from  
25      another sister who had had the group before you?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Can you remember who that was?
- 3 A. I'm afraid I can't.
- 4 Q. But did you meet her before you took over the group?
- 5 A. No, I didn't.
- 6 Q. So there was no handover with her?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. Were you given information from any source as to the  
9 type of children, the personalities of the children and  
10 so on that were in your group when you took over?
- 11 A. No, I wasn't.
- 12 Q. What about staff then? Did you have some staff members  
13 to assist you?
- 14 A. I did, yes.
- 15 Q. Can you tell me a little bit about the staff?
- 16 A. I had two staff who helped with the children and  
17 a cleaner.
- 18 Q. So far as the staff members that helped you with the  
19 children were concerned, can you remember their names?
- 20 A. I can only remember one: Roberta. I can't remember her  
21 surname.
- 22 Q. In relation to helping with the children, can you give  
23 me some understanding as to what duties then they had?  
24 What would they do?
- 25 A. The children?

- 1 Q. No, the staff.
- 2 A. The staff would help get them to bed, would take them  
3 out at weekends, supervise them, together with myself,  
4 after school. They walked the younger ones to school  
5 every day.
- 6 Q. Do you know if the staff had any training in connection  
7 with childcare?
- 8 A. I really don't know.
- 9 Q. So far as you yourself are concerned, before you took  
10 over this particular position, had you had any training  
11 in childcare specifically?
- 12 A. No, I hadn't.
- 13 Q. If you look at the training you'd had, perhaps you can  
14 give me some understanding of that. You did have  
15 teacher training?
- 16 A. Yes. The teacher training came in very useful.
- 17 Q. But can you help me with any details of that? How was  
18 it useful when you came to deal with these children?
- 19 A. Well, I had done some studies in psychology and coping  
20 with children with behavioural problems, et cetera, that  
21 occurred in the classroom. And many of these would be  
22 related to home circumstances, so I found that very  
23 useful. Also creating activities for the children  
24 because I had a wide variety of skills in that area.
- 25 Q. Just touching on children with behavioural problems and

1           so on, what information did you have in connection with  
2           the background of the children that you were caring for?

3           A. I'm not certain, but I'm sure there were case histories.  
4           There would be case histories. I remember there were  
5           three children whose mother had left them and the father  
6           visited regularly. I can't remember their names. You  
7           would just read the case histories and the records.

8           Q. Do you remember if there were case histories?

9           A. Oh, I'm sure there were.

10          Q. That may be correct, but do you actually have  
11          a recollection then of seeing case histories for  
12          children?

13          A. I wouldn't be certain.

14          Q. Can I ask you this --

15          LADY SMITH: Why do you say that you're sure there would be  
16          case histories? Is that because you see that as  
17          something that you need if you're going to do your job  
18          properly in relation to children such as these?

19          A. Yes. I would imagine there should be case histories.

20          LADY SMITH: How does it help?

21          A. Well, knowing the background of the children -- for  
22          example if a discipline was necessary, I would make sure  
23          that I knew the background of the child, it would help  
24          to explain their conduct and lead you to take time  
25          before you rushed to any decision of how they should be

- 1           disciplined.
- 2       LADY SMITH: I suppose also if you know about trauma in the  
3           child's background, you can better understand their  
4           emotional needs in terms of support and care.
- 5       A. That's right, yes.
- 6       LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.
- 7       MR MacAULAY: You've been telling us so far about your own  
8           group, sister, and you've already told us there were  
9           three other groups. Can you remember the names of the  
10          sisters who were in charge of the other three groups?
- 11       A. Well, there was Sister Dominic, Sister **LQC**,  
12          Sister **LTX**, and that was it, I think.
- 13       Q. Insofar as interaction between the groups was concerned,  
14          can you help me with that? What sort of interaction was  
15          there?
- 16       A. Well, the groups were separate, you know. We tried to  
17          create a family atmosphere within each group. So  
18          I wouldn't be involved with any of the children from  
19          another group. When they went out to play, they would  
20          meet the children from the other groups, and also when  
21          they went to school and on holidays.
- 22       Q. You tell us, sister, that your group was located in the  
23          main house at Lasswade.
- 24       A. That's right.
- 25       Q. And were there other groups also in the main house?

- 1 A. There was one other group.
- 2 Q. Whose group was that?
- 3 A. Sister LQC's.
- 4 Q. And the other two groups, were they in a separate place?
- 5 A. A separate building in the grounds, yes.
- 6 Q. Was that known as Holycote?
- 7 A. That's right.
- 8 Q. And I think Sister LTX's group was in the Holycote  
9 building?
- 10 A. That's right.
- 11 Q. So far as your group was concerned then, did you have  
12 accommodation dedicated to your own group?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. What was the accommodation?
- 15 A. Well, there was a lounge, there was a kitchenette, there  
16 was a sitting room, bedrooms and bathrooms.
- 17 Q. And that was for your group only?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Would your group then, for example, dine as a group in  
20 its own dining area?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. So you wouldn't see, for example, what was happening in  
23 Sister LTX's group when they were dining?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. You've already told us a little bit about the admission

- 1 of children. Do I understand that the first point of  
2 contact for admission would be the Mother Superior?
- 3 A. I'm not sure.
- 4 Q. Do you know how admissions were arranged? Can you  
5 remember?
- 6 A. Well, the social worker usually accompanied the children  
7 when they first came into care, and the sister who was  
8 in charge would meet them and the Sister Superior was  
9 probably involved as well.
- 10 Q. Can I ask you more generally about the role of the  
11 Sister Superior insofar as the groups were concerned.  
12 What was her role?
- 13 A. Well, she was in charge of the whole area, seeing that  
14 the home ran smoothly. She'd be responsible for the  
15 finance and for -- she would interview staff before they  
16 were employed.
- 17 Q. Just looking to that job description that you've given  
18 me, does that tell me that she did not have any real  
19 direct involvement with the groups themselves?
- 20 A. No, she didn't.
- 21 Q. I think we've heard that a group would be looked upon as  
22 the sister's employment.
- 23 A. That's right.
- 24 Q. Is that the way you looked upon it?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And did that have certain ramifications as to what  
2 extent one sister could be involved in another sister's  
3 employment?

4 A. That's right.

5 Q. What were the ramifications?

6 A. Well, you were in charge of your group so you wouldn't  
7 go and interfere with another group. But when the  
8 sisters met together, if you had something happening  
9 that was good or, you know, you had found some activity  
10 that the children really enjoyed, when you met the  
11 sisters you would share it with them.

12 Q. So that sort of discussion between sisters would go on?

13 A. That's right, yes.

14 Q. You tell us in your statement that when a child would  
15 first arrive at the home, you would try and make them  
16 feel welcome and to make them feel at home; is that  
17 correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Did children arrive into your group during your time  
20 there?

21 A. I can't be certain, I'm afraid.

22 Q. Did children leave the group?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Insofar as leaving the group, can you tell me about  
25 that? How would that be managed?

- 1 A. That would depend on the social worker, who would come  
2 and inform you that so-and-so was leaving, either going  
3 back to the family home or being transferred elsewhere.
- 4 Q. But to what extent would you be involved in that process  
5 as the person in charge of the group?
- 6 A. Well, the social worker would ask your advice, have they  
7 any problems we should be aware of, et cetera.
- 8 Q. And do you remember that happening?
- 9 A. Yes, I remember speaking to social workers, yes.
- 10 Q. Can I look at some aspects of the routine then, sister,  
11 and ask you first of all about bed-wetting. Were there  
12 children in your group who did wet the bed?
- 13 A. I'm sure there were.
- 14 Q. Do you actually remember that?
- 15 A. No, I don't.
- 16 Q. What you do tell us, though, is that your practice with  
17 bed-wetters was to get them up at about 10 o'clock,  
18 10 pm, and take them to the toilet. Do you see that?
- 19 A. That's right, before I went to bed myself, yes.
- 20 Q. Do you have a recollection of doing that?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. But would that involve waking the child up?
- 23 A. Sometimes.
- 24 Q. So do I take it that you would have identified children  
25 who might wet the bed?

- 1 A. That's right.
- 2 Q. And before you went to bed, you would wake the child up  
3 and take the child to the toilet?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Would this be a range of ages, fairly young children in  
6 particular?
- 7 A. Mostly I would say under 9 years of age.
- 8 Q. This practice of waking the child up, what was the basis  
9 for that? Was that something you were told to do?  
10 I just want to understand where that came from.
- 11 A. Well, I would hope if the child went to the toilet a bit  
12 later, it might prevent them bed-wetting.
- 13 Q. So was this something that you devised off your own bat  
14 or was it an instruction you were given, guidance you  
15 were given? Can you help me with that?
- 16 A. I can't remember, I'm afraid.
- 17 Q. In relation to mealtimes then, sister, what you tell us  
18 is that there were a mixture of food. How would you  
19 describe the quality of the food?
- 20 A. Well, the quality of food was good, I thought. We had  
21 the same -- the sisters had the same menu as the  
22 children.
- 23 Q. If a child didn't like what was put in front of him or  
24 her, what would happen?
- 25 A. Well, if they didn't like porridge, cereal was provided,

- 1           for example.
- 2       Q.    Would a child be in any way persuaded to eat
- 3           a particular dish?
- 4       A.    Well, you'd try to encourage them to eat vegetables, as
- 5           many parents do today, but we didn't always succeed.
- 6       Q.    Were children punished for not eating their food?
- 7       A.    Oh, never.
- 8       Q.    Do I take it from that that children were not force-fed
- 9           or made to eat their food?
- 10      A.    Not at all.
- 11      Q.    You do say in your statement, sister, that you would
- 12           encourage children in your group to do their homework.
- 13      A.    That's right.
- 14      Q.    Would you help with the homework?
- 15      A.    Of course.
- 16      Q.    I suppose, looking to your background, you would have
- 17           a particular skill in that connection?
- 18      A.    That's right.
- 19      LADY SMITH:  What age group did you teach when you were
- 20           teaching?
- 21      A.    Mostly upper primary, about 9 to 12-year-olds.
- 22      LADY SMITH:  Thank you.
- 23      MR MacAULAY:  Did you take the matter of homework quite
- 24           seriously then for the children?
- 25      A.    Yes, I did.

- 1 Q. Can you give me some understanding of what sort of time  
2 would be devoted to homework?
- 3 A. Well, no more than half an hour.
- 4 Q. There you're dealing with essentially primary  
5 schoolchildren, are you?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. How was the bathing of children organised? Can you  
8 remember that?
- 9 A. Well, the young ones would go up first and have a bath  
10 or a shower --
- 11 Q. Were there showers available at that time?
- 12 A. Pardon?
- 13 Q. Were there showers available?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Sorry, I interrupted you. Carry on.
- 16 A. I'm saying the staff would be there to help at that time  
17 with getting the children ready for bed.
- 18 Q. Would you yourself be involved in that process?
- 19 A. Yes, I would. I used to read them -- tell them stories  
20 when they were in bed or read them a story.
- 21 Q. One thing you do refer to is also that the children were  
22 all given pocket money.
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Was that from yourself?
- 25 A. Well, that was part of the sister in charge -- she would

1           give us an amount every week and it depended on the age  
2           of the children, the amount they had.

3       Q. Do you have any recollection now as to what sort of  
4           amounts were being handed over?

5       A. The older ones, I'd say over 12, it'd be a couple of  
6           pounds at the time. The youngest one, it might be  
7           equivalent today to about 50p or something like that.  
8           That'd be 5-year-olds, you know.

9       Q. You also say, sister, that children had trips such as  
10          going to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

11      A. Yes.

12      Q. Did you go with children to the Tattoo during your time  
13          there?

14      A. I remember going once. Yes -- well, I was only there  
15          once.

16      Q. Yes, there would only be one Tattoo in your time there.

17      A. That's right.

18      Q. But I think you also say that you took children to the  
19          pantomime?

20      A. Yes.

21      Q. Did you do that yourself?

22      A. I don't remember going to the pantomime, but the sisters  
23          would tell me we got tickets every year for the  
24          pantomime and ...

25      Q. Another thing you say is that, during the summer, all

- 1 the groups went to Dunbar on holiday.
- 2 A. That's right.
- 3 Q. Did they go together or separately?
- 4 A. They went together.
- 5 Q. So that's the four groups together?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Were trips or activities organised for the children when  
8 they were in Dunbar?
- 9 A. Yes, there were.
- 10 Q. Could you give me some examples?
- 11 A. They'd go to the beach and make sandcastles. The older  
12 ones liked fishing off the pier and, since it's  
13 a holiday resort, there would be activities going on  
14 there which we joined in.
- 15 Q. You also tell us about birthdays, sister, and can you  
16 help me with that? How were birthdays celebrated when  
17 you were there?
- 18 A. The child would get a birthday cake and a special tea  
19 and they could invite their special school friends round  
20 to join them in the celebration or sometimes, if  
21 appropriate, their family could come along or they might  
22 want to take them out on that day if it was a weekend.
- 23 Q. Would a present or presents be given to the child by the  
24 home or not?
- 25 A. Oh yes.

- 1 Q. How would this be financed; can you remember?
- 2 A. Well again, you would let the Sister Superior know that  
3 you had two birthdays coming up this month and then she  
4 would provide whatever.
- 5 Q. How would you, as the person in charge of the group,  
6 know then that a child's birthday was coming up?
- 7 A. You would have the particulars of the child, you know,  
8 when they came in.
- 9 Q. So you'd have a record then that would trigger that  
10 event for you; is that right?
- 11 A. That's right, yes.
- 12 Q. Do you remember having to check on a fairly regular  
13 basis as to whether or not birthdays were coming up?
- 14 A. I know I would have a calendar, find out the children's  
15 birthdays -- I couldn't remember them all, of course, so  
16 you would write on the calendar so-and-so's -- I used to  
17 do that with the schoolchildren as well.
- 18 Q. That seems very sensible. That's the way it would tell  
19 you?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. You're not sure in your statement, as you explain in  
22 your statement, that you were at Lasswade over  
23 Christmas. I think, from what you said to me earlier,  
24 you may not have been if you left in about November.
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Can I then ask you a little bit about visits and  
2 inspections. Let's look at social workers. Do you  
3 remember social workers coming to visit the children?
- 4 A. I do, but it wasn't very frequently. I thought it  
5 wasn't frequently enough.
- 6 Q. Why did you think that at the time?
- 7 A. Because I thought the children needed more support,  
8 because the social worker was the liaison officer  
9 between their family and themselves.
- 10 Q. And you, I suppose.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Another point you make, sister -- and can I ask you  
13 about this -- is that:
- 14 "Very rarely would the same child see the same  
15 social worker all the time."
- 16 Did you notice that?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And did you have any views on that?
- 19 A. Well, I thought it was difficult for the children to  
20 form a relationship and when they did sometimes -- I can  
21 remember once getting a phone call to say that so-and-so  
22 is now doing some advanced course and there will be  
23 somebody else coming, and the children -- some of the  
24 children who had gained confidence in their interaction  
25 with that social worker would be quite upset, and then

- 1           it took them some time to relate to somebody new.
- 2       Q. I think what you're saying is there is an importance in  
3       developing a rapport with a child.
- 4       A. Yes.
- 5       Q. That, of course, would also apply to you in charge of  
6       the group?
- 7       A. That's true.
- 8       Q. And from what you've told us so far, your time with this  
9       particular group was relatively limited?
- 10      A. That's right.
- 11      Q. What do you think about that, sister? You've spent less  
12      than a year, you've built up this rapport -- from what  
13      you've said to us, it was a good rapport -- and then  
14      you're moved and someone else comes in.
- 15      A. Well, it's very difficult for the children and for  
16      myself, but because I had had so much study and was  
17      basically a teacher, my superiors wanted me to take up  
18      my teaching career again, so ...
- 19      Q. Do you know what thought may have been given to that in  
20      a situation where you've been but less than a year with  
21      children?
- 22      A. I think it was very difficult on both sides, for sisters  
23      and for the children they were caring for.
- 24      Q. You also say, sister, that children would be encouraged  
25      to keep in touch with their families; is that correct?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. How would that be done?
- 3 A. Those who had been given -- we had been given permission  
4 for parents to visit and sometimes they would visit but  
5 they weren't allowed to take the children off the  
6 premises. So we'd try and make their time with the  
7 children as happy as possible and let them sit -- give  
8 them cups of tea and make them very welcome.
- 9 Q. Why wouldn't they be allowed to take children off the  
10 premises?
- 11 A. Well, if it was a case of abuse or -- I don't know what  
12 happened at home, you know, but some of them came from  
13 traumatic circumstances.
- 14 Q. And that was information you would have obtained from  
15 the records?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. So I think perhaps that highlights the importance of  
18 having that information before you let anyone see  
19 a child?
- 20 A. That's right, yes.
- 21 Q. Is that one of the things you have in mind when you say  
22 in your statement that:  
23 "[You] had to be careful about who was allowed to  
24 visit as some children had come from abusive families"?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. In relation to the review of a child's care -- and  
2 I think we've already touched upon this -- but you say  
3 that you would be involved with discussions with  
4 social workers when a child's care was being reviewed.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And you have a recollection of that happening?

7 A. Vaguely. I know it happened. I couldn't remember who  
8 was involved.

9 Q. What you say in your statement, sister, is that so far  
10 as Lasswade was concerned, the children in Lasswade were  
11 of different religions; is that correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. It's run by a Catholic order, but there would also be  
14 non-Catholic children?

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. Protestant children, for example?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And in your group then, did you have that mixture so far  
19 as you can remember?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You do say that the local parish priest would visit.

22 A. Well, he'd come and celebrate Mass in the chapel;  
23 I don't remember him coming into the groups as such.

24 Q. What about a local minister? Would a local minister  
25 visit so far as you can remember?

- 1 A. They visited them in school. You know, they went to the  
2 schools as school chaplains, both the Catholic priest  
3 and the minister.
- 4 Q. But do you remember a minister coming to the home to --
- 5 A. No, I don't.
- 6 Q. Can I ask you then, sister, about discipline. Were you  
7 provided with any guidance when you went to Lasswade as  
8 to how children there should be disciplined?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. In your previous existences as a teacher, did you have  
11 guidance given to you as to how children should be  
12 disciplined?
- 13 A. I expect when we were training we did.
- 14 Q. As far as Lasswade was concerned, you had no guidance.  
15 Do you remember any written procedures or policies in  
16 connection with how discipline should be handled?
- 17 A. I have no recollection.
- 18 Q. Do you remember if a punishment book was kept?
- 19 A. I think so.
- 20 Q. Do you remember if you wrote anything into a punishment  
21 book?
- 22 A. I can't remember, I'm afraid.
- 23 Q. Did you keep a record of any punishments that you may  
24 have done?
- 25 A. I can't remember. I would think I should have.

- 1 Q. Children, as we all know, do misbehave. So how did you  
2 deal with a child who misbehaved?
- 3 A. Well, I would take into consideration their background,  
4 what might have prompted the behaviour. I rarely  
5 disciplined children in front of the whole group or in  
6 front of a class. I used to try and get the child on  
7 their own. I found they were more open to listen to you  
8 without having an audience.
- 9 Q. And of course, from what you're saying, making reference  
10 to classes, that's influenced by your own training?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Can you remember what sort of punishments then you might  
13 have given to children who misbehaved?
- 14 A. Well, the older ones I would deprive them of their  
15 pocket money or some of their pocket money, depending on  
16 how they had misbehaved, or say, 'You won't be going out  
17 this Saturday to the football match', or whatever or  
18 deprive them of their favourite television programme, or  
19 the little ones, I would send to bed early.
- 20 Q. Was there any corporal punishment?
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. Were the staff, the two lay staff in particular you've  
23 mentioned, allowed to discipline children?
- 24 A. There was no physical punishment whatsoever.
- 25 Q. But were they allowed to discipline children?

- 1       A. They could tell you, you know, that so-and-so's done  
2       this, then we would discuss with the child, depending on  
3       how serious it was.
- 4       Q. So are you saying that if a member of the lay staff  
5       thought a child needed to be disciplined, that person  
6       would come to you?
- 7       A. Yes, or if they had experience, they would tell me that  
8       they thought so-and-so should go to bed. We wouldn't  
9       have a big discussion between us; I would trust them,  
10      their judgement.
- 11      Q. Can I ask you this, sister: was there any effort or  
12      efforts to ensure that there was a consistent approach  
13      to discipline throughout the home?
- 14      A. Well, I don't know what happened in the other groups;  
15      I just know what I did.
- 16      Q. Does that tend to suggest that there was no policy to  
17      ensure there was a consistent approach across the four  
18      groups?
- 19      A. I don't remember one.
- 20      Q. When you gave your statement, sister -- and this is  
21      beginning at paragraph 40, which is now on the screen --  
22      a number of allegations that have been made by former  
23      residents of the home were put to you. Do you remember  
24      that happening?
- 25      A. Pardon? Sorry?

1 Q. It wasn't very well put.

2 When you gave your statement, a number of  
3 allegations that had been made by former residents were  
4 mentioned to you.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And your views were sought in connection with these  
7 allegations.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. For example, it was put to you, if you look at  
10 paragraph 41 onwards, a number of allegations that have  
11 been made against Sister [REDACTED] LTX . Do you remember  
12 these allegations being put to you?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. These included punching, kicking and pulling hair and so  
15 on. From what you've said, sister, you saw no evidence  
16 of that; is that right?

17 A. No, I didn't.

18 Q. Did you see anything in relation to any of the other  
19 groups that would constitute the ill-treatment of  
20 children?

21 A. Never.

22 Q. The humiliation of children?

23 A. No.

24 Q. If a child were to be humiliated, for example in  
25 connection with bed-wetting, including, for example,

1           having the sheets either on his head or about him or  
2           her, punished by being beaten, punched, pulling hair and  
3           so on, would that constitute abuse?

4           A.   If it happened, it would.

5           Q.   I think what you have said in your statement, sister,  
6           is that the atmosphere, so far as you were concerned,  
7           was a happy one.

8           A.   Yes, it was.

9           Q.   Did any children ever run away during your time in  
10          Lasswade?

11          A.   I really can't remember, to be honest.

12          Q.   Can I ask you this then: did any child run away from  
13          your group?

14          A.   I can't remember, I'm afraid.

15          Q.   As you've told us, sister, you left Lasswade less than  
16          a year after your arrival. I think after that, you went  
17          to Middlesbrough; is that correct?

18          A.   Yes.

19          Q.   What were you doing there?

20          A.   Again, I was looking after another group of children.

21          Q.   Was it a similar sort of arrangement to what you had in  
22          Lasswade?

23          A.   Yes, it was.

24          Q.   So how long were you there for?

25          A.   Two years.

- 1 Q. And what did you do after that?
- 2 A. I went to Liverpool to do a postgraduate course in  
3 education.
- 4 Q. Again, we have a picture of you having a relatively --  
5 a longer period of time with the children, probably  
6 a period that allowed you to build up an even bigger  
7 rapport with the children, and then being moved on.  
8 Is that --
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Do you know why you were moved from Lasswade to  
11 Middlesbrough to carry out what appears to have been  
12 a similar function?
- 13 A. Well, one of the sisters in Middlesbrough took ill so  
14 I was asked to go down there.
- 15 Q. I suppose it would mean that someone else would have to  
16 step into your shoes when you left Lasswade.
- 17 A. I know, and I wasn't very happy, to be honest.
- 18 Q. Why not?
- 19 A. Well, I didn't want to leave the group I was in, you  
20 know.
- 21 Q. Then you told us about your postgraduate course, sister.  
22 What then did you do after you did that?
- 23 A. I went back to Australia.
- 24 Q. I think what you tell us --
- 25 A. Oh no, sorry. After I did the postgrad, I went to

1           Aberdeen.

2           Q. I think the year before you -- yes. In Aberdeen you  
3           went to teach?

4           A. Yes.

5           Q. But in Aberdeen, you were based at Nazareth House in  
6           Aberdeen?

7           A. I was, yes.

8           Q. Was that in 1983 that you went to Aberdeen?

9           A. Yes.

10          Q. You stayed in the Nazareth House building in Aberdeen;  
11          is that correct?

12          A. I did, yes.

13          Q. And I think you tell us in your statement that really  
14          you had nothing to do with the day-to-day care of  
15          children?

16          A. No, I didn't.

17          Q. Although I think you did provide some assistance?

18          A. Yes.

19          Q. If I take you to a document that's been provided to us  
20          by the order, which sets out the statistics of numbers  
21          to get an understanding as to what Aberdeen was like by  
22          then. This is at NAZ.001.001.0265. You'll see this is  
23          headed:

24                        "Statistics of numbers of children and babies at  
25                        Scottish Nazareth Houses (1925 to 1984)."

- 1                   Do you see that?
- 2       A.   No, it's stopped at 1934.
- 3       Q.   I'm looking at the very top, at the heading.  I know
- 4           it's stopped, but if we look at the heading.
- 5       A.   Yes.
- 6       Q.   If we move down the page, we can see that there are
- 7           further periods and you see Aberdeen is on the left-hand
- 8           side.
- 9           If you turn over to the next page, 0266, can we see
- 10          that by the 1980s the numbers have dwindled quite
- 11          significantly and indeed we haven't been given a number
- 12          for 1983, although in the previous year the number is
- 13          said to be 15.  Do you see that?
- 14       A.   Yes.
- 15       Q.   In any event, really, the position when you went in 1983
- 16          was that there were very few children?
- 17       A.   That's right.
- 18       Q.   You in your time in Aberdeen were awarded Teacher of the
- 19          Year; is that correct?
- 20       A.   Yes.
- 21       Q.   Who gave you that award?
- 22       A.   It was Teacher of the Year for Scotland.
- 23       Q.   From what authority?
- 24       A.   It was -- Sky Television sponsored it and people were
- 25          asked to nominate teachers and then there were several

1 interviews and it finished up with me being awarded  
2 Teacher of the Year.

3 Q. That seems to have been quite an achievement.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Perhaps then looking to what you say at the very end of  
6 your statement, sister -- this is on page 7870 at  
7 paragraph 87. What you say there is, and I fully  
8 understand that you didn't witness any abuse, but what  
9 you do say is:

10 "I think that if children were abused, then it would  
11 have had an impact on them and a long-term effect.  
12 I have met people who have been abused and it does have  
13 a long-term effect on them."

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. That's your own experience?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can I ask you this, finally, sister: have any of the  
18 children that you looked after kept in touch with you  
19 over the years?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Have you been invited to, for example, occasions such as  
22 weddings in connection with any of these children?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And can you give me some understanding -- has this  
25 happened quite a little bit?

1       A. Well, I'm thinking of one young man who kept in touch  
2       and, when I came back from Australia, he told me he had  
3       pancreatic cancer, so I went down to see him -- and that  
4       was in Middlesbrough. I stayed with him in the hospice  
5       the two days before he died. His wife had young  
6       children and wasn't able to cope.

7       MR MacAULAY: Well, thank you very much, sister. These are  
8       all the questions that I have for you and I think I have  
9       sought to cover all the questions I have been asked to  
10      put to you. Thank you.

11      LADY SMITH: Sister, before I let you go, could I follow up  
12      on one thing. You explained you don't remember  
13      specifically children wetting the bed in Lasswade,  
14      although you imagine that they may well have done,  
15      particularly the younger ones. What, if you had to deal  
16      with children bed-wetting, was your practice?

17      A. You'd be as discreet as possible. They were in small  
18      bedrooms, so I'd get the others up, get them dressed and  
19      then take the child into the bathroom and bath them and  
20      remove the sheets.

21      LADY SMITH: Why would you try to be as discreet as  
22      possible?

23      A. Because it was humiliating for the child. Although when  
24      they were young, a young child, say 6 or 7, it didn't  
25      have the same impact as maybe an older one who was 10.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes. The older they got, it would be more  
2 embarrassing, I suppose.

3 A. Yes.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you for that.

5 Separately, interestingly, you've obviously had  
6 a very rich career in education and in understanding  
7 children through your psychology studies and your  
8 experience with children and so on. As you were moving  
9 through your duties at the order, were you ever asked to  
10 assist in overall planning for how the children's homes  
11 were to be run that the order was responsible for or  
12 anything like that? I suppose my question really is  
13 simply: did they try to tap your talent?

14 A. As regards children in care, no.

15 LADY SMITH: But they do seem to have seen you as somebody  
16 who should be used for teaching?

17 A. Yes, but then when we had a General Chapter every  
18 six years -- say in the last 15 or 20 years -- we're  
19 asked to submit suggestions on how homes should be run  
20 for the care of the elderly, the care of the children,  
21 and I would contribute to that.

22 LADY SMITH: Give me an example of the sort of suggestion  
23 you'd have made.

24 A. Well, I would make a suggestion that housemothers, as  
25 they were then called, shouldn't be changed so

1 frequently.

2 LADY SMITH: You have alluded to that; I can see why.

3 Can I check whether there are any outstanding  
4 applications for questions? No.

5 Sister, thank you very much for engaging with the  
6 inquiry, both by providing your statement and by coming  
7 along today to give your evidence to us at the hearing.  
8 It has been very helpful to me to hear from you, I'm  
9 very grateful to you for doing that, and I'm now able to  
10 let you go.

11 (The witness withdrew)

12 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, that probably takes us up to the  
13 break. We have moved quite quickly this morning and  
14 hopefully the other witness will be ready for, let's  
15 say, 11.50 or thereabouts.

16 LADY SMITH: That's fine. We'll take the morning break just  
17 now. Thank you.

18 (11.35 am)

19 (A short break)

20 (11.55 am)

21 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

22 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness wants to give  
23 evidence using the name "Jane". This is a witness that  
24 would require to be warned.

25

1 "JANE" (sworn)

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

3 Sister, you'll notice that the microphone is now on  
4 and I hope you're able to keep in the right position for  
5 it to pick up your voice because it is very important.

6 Before I hand over to Mr MacAulay to ask questions  
7 of you, there's something I need to say. First, to  
8 remind you that when you were interviewed in advance of  
9 coming to give evidence today, you probably remember  
10 being told that it was explained to you that, although  
11 this is a public inquiry, not a trial, you still had  
12 a right not to incriminate yourself and it was also  
13 explained to you that, if you were involved in the abuse  
14 of children, you could be asked about that. If you said  
15 that you were involved in the abuse of children, you  
16 might be asked further questions, but you weren't  
17 obliged to answer any questions about it, but if you did  
18 do so, then your answers would be recorded and they  
19 would be available in the future if required.

20 It's important that you understand that the same  
21 applies today at this hearing. You continue to have the  
22 right not to incriminate yourself. So if you tell us  
23 you were involved in the abuse of children in any way  
24 and you're asked questions about it, you don't have to  
25 answer them, but if you decide that you are going to

1 answer them -- and, of course, it's a matter of choice  
2 for you -- they will be included in the recording that's  
3 being made and in the transcript that's being made of  
4 the evidence and they'll be available for the future for  
5 any use that might be made of them and they could be  
6 used in future proceedings. Do you understand that?

7 A. Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. I'm going to pass over to  
9 Mr MacAulay to ask questions.

10 Mr MacAulay.

11 Questions from MR MacAULAY

12 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, Jane.

13 A. Good morning, sir.

14 Q. I don't need your date of birth, but so I can get a time  
15 frame, can you confirm to me that you were born in the  
16 year 1941?

17 A. I was.

18 Q. You have in front of you in the red folder the statement  
19 that you provided to the inquiry. If I could ask you to  
20 look at it. I'll give the reference to the  
21 stenographers: it's WIT.001.001.9172.

22 Could I ask you, Jane, to go to the last page, 9200.

23 Can you confirm you have signed the statement?

24 A. Yes, I signed the statement.

25 Q. Do you say in the last paragraph:

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

3            Is that right?

4            A. That's right.

5            Q. Do you also say:

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

8            A. Yes.

9            Q. Jane, you were a sister in the Order of the Sisters of  
10           Nazareth; is that correct?

11           A. That's correct.

12           Q. But you are no longer that?

13           A. No.

14           Q. If I just look at your background, do you tell us that  
15           when you were in the order, your name was

16           Sister ██████████ LDX ██████████ ?

17           A. Correct.

18           Q. I think you tell us that you took your final vows as  
19           a sister in 1966; is that right?

20           A. That's correct.

21           Q. You tell us at a point in time before that, you went to  
22           Nazareth House Cardonald.

23           A. I was in Nazareth House Cardonald, just for  
24           three months, as a collecting sister.

25           Q. I think you thought in your statement, when you gave

1           your statement, that it was possibly around 1963.

2           A. I was in -- I think it was 1965 because 1963 and 1964,  
3           I was in Donegal. But because it's 40/45 years ago,  
4           it is difficult to have ... but I think it's 1965.

5           Q. I think you may be right because the employment register  
6           certainly suggests that it was 1965 when you were in  
7           Cardonald.

8                     You have just said that your position there was that  
9           of collecting; is that right?

10          A. Yes, just for three months.

11          Q. That, of course, was before you took your final vows?

12          A. Yes.

13          Q. Then, as you've just told us, you took your final vows  
14          in 1966, and you also say that in 1968 you did a diploma  
15          in childcare; is that right?

16          A. That's correct.

17          Q. That was in Aberdeen?

18          A. That was in Aberdeen.

19          Q. I think you say it was a course that was as  
20          Linksfield Academy in Aberdeen.

21          A. Yes.

22          Q. When you were on that course, sister, did you stay at  
23          Nazareth House in Aberdeen?

24          A. The course was one year long and I stayed in  
25          Nazareth House in Aberdeen. Sometimes -- on, I think,

1           three occasions -- I went on placement of seven or  
2           10 weeks to other children's homes.

3       Q.   But at that time, you had no contact with the children  
4           in the home?

5       A.   None at all.

6       Q.   In relation to the training and the instructions you  
7           received in the course, can you just give me some  
8           insight into what that involved?

9       A.   It involved periods in the college or the school when we  
10          got lectures on childcare and the tutor gave lectures  
11          and other visiting people came in, like a psychiatrist  
12          and psychologist, and they talked about how to deal with  
13          children.

14      Q.   Would you find that a helpful course?

15      A.   Oh yes.

16      Q.   You mentioned the placements and you mentioned the  
17          places that you were placed to, for example,  
18          Dr Guthrie's in Edinburgh being one of them.

19      A.   That's right, yes.

20      Q.   What did you have to do when you were in the placements?

21      A.   Well, I was mostly with staff belonging to the school  
22          and just accompanied them on the daily rounds of  
23          what was happening.

24      Q.   So that again would give you an additional insight in  
25          how to deal with children?

- 1 A. It did, and I lived in there as well, so it showed me  
2 from morning until night what was happening.
- 3 Q. Then, sister, after that, what did you do after you'd  
4 taken this course, the training course?
- 5 A. I went back to Hammersmith, to the children's group  
6 there, and I was there for four years.
- 7 Q. After that, did you come back to Aberdeen?
- 8 A. After that, I came back to Aberdeen.
- 9 Q. Was that in 1973?
- 10 A. That was in 1973.
- 11 Q. I think you tell us that you were in Aberdeen, the  
12 Sisters of Nazareth house in Aberdeen, from 1973 to  
13 1978.
- 14 A. That's correct.
- 15 Q. A period of about five years or so?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. What role were you being sent to Aberdeen to carry out?
- 18 A. To look after a group of children.
- 19 Q. Perhaps you can tell me a little bit about that then,  
20 sister. First of all, were you replacing another  
21 sister?
- 22 A. Yes, I replaced another sister.
- 23 Q. Who was the sister you replaced?
- 24 A. I think it was Sister [REDACTED] LFB, but I did not meet her  
25 when I went there.

1 Q. That's what I was going to ask. Do I take it then there  
2 wasn't any handover process between yourself and the  
3 sister you were replacing?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. Can I ask you about the group that you were taking over  
6 at that time: how large a group was it?

7 A. It was 16 children at any one time.

8 Q. When you started there in 1973, was it simply all boys?

9 A. It was.

10 Q. But did that change over time?

11 A. Yes. That changed because a new Mother Superior came  
12 around the same time and she was all for families  
13 staying together.

14 Q. Then I think you say in your statement that the groups  
15 were changed and became mixed, boys and girls?

16 A. The group I was looking after became mixed, boys and  
17 girls.

18 Q. How many groups were there to your recollection?

19 A. Five groups, I think.

20 Q. Can you remember now the other sisters who were in  
21 charge of other groups?

22 A. I think -- Sister [REDACTED] LRC [REDACTED], I think, was in the  
23 other group, close to me. Sister [REDACTED] LKH [REDACTED] had another  
24 group and then there were two girls' groups. I'm not  
25 sure who was with them at that particular time.

- 1 Q. The groups that you've mentioned, the three groups  
2 you have mentioned, with Sister [REDACTED] LRC and  
3 Sister [REDACTED] LKH, did they, like your group, become mixed  
4 groups?
- 5 A. I don't know that. I don't think the girls' groups  
6 became mixed in that boys went into them. I'm not --  
7 I couldn't say that for certain.
- 8 Q. So really all you can say for certain is your own group  
9 was mixed?
- 10 A. Yes, it became a mixed group.
- 11 Q. How long after you'd been there did that happen?
- 12 A. I'd say in 1974.
- 13 Q. So quite soon after you got there?
- 14 A. Oh yes.
- 15 Q. What then was your role, Jane, when you took over the  
16 group? What did you see your role to be?
- 17 A. To look after the children and to make sure they had  
18 adequate food and accommodation and that they went to  
19 school and had recreation.
- 20 Q. Did you have assistance in carrying out this task?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. What was the assistance that you had?
- 23 A. Linda was the -- she worked with me, full-time staff,  
24 each day. A lady came in in the morning and she did the  
25 breakfast, washed up, and cleaned the house. In the

1 evening, a lady came in to look after the evening food  
2 and to do the clearing up and washing-up after.

3 Q. So far as full-time staff would be concerned, then,  
4 there's the lady you mentioned, Linda --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- who assisted in the care of the children?

7 A. In the care of the children.

8 Q. You've told us, Jane, about your own training. Did this  
9 lady have any training or qualifications that you know  
10 of?

11 A. She didn't have childcare training, but she was  
12 a lovely -- is a lovely and beautiful person and cared  
13 very much about children.

14 Q. Did you find that your childcare training was helpful to  
15 you?

16 A. Oh yes.

17 Q. Coming back to when you got to Aberdeen at the  
18 beginning, were you able to obtain information  
19 in relation to the background, for example, of the  
20 children that were in your care?

21 A. There was very little information available. I don't  
22 remember getting files or any specific information on  
23 the children before they came to Nazareth House.

24 Q. Were there any files or any records of children?

25 A. There would be records of children, yes. The

1 Mother Superior would hold the records in a register or  
2 a book like that.

3 Q. That register would show the date of admission?

4 A. It would show the date of admission, sure.

5 Q. And discharge?

6 A. I'm sure it would.

7 Q. But what I'm really trying to focus on is information  
8 in relation to the backgrounds of the children.

9 A. I didn't know anything really about backgrounds.

10 Q. In your time there, were you able to obtain information  
11 about backgrounds or not?

12 A. Not.

13 Q. Having regard to your childcare training, do you think  
14 that having information about a child's background would  
15 have been helpful to you in your care of the children?

16 A. Certainly it would.

17 Q. And how was it that you didn't have that information?

18 A. Things were done differently 40 and 45 years ago. You  
19 can't compare them to now because social workers didn't  
20 visit regularly -- anyway, I don't remember much  
21 about -- I don't remember any individual. They just  
22 came when the child came, the child was admitted, but  
23 there was very little contact after.

24 LADY SMITH: Am I to take it that you mention social workers  
25 and the lack of visits and contact from them because

1           they could have been a useful source of information to  
2           assist you and others in understanding the children?

3       A.   Yes.   But I don't know anything about their workload or  
4           if they had the time or the opportunity to ...

5       LADY SMITH:  I can see that, but I think you're telling me  
6           you see those as somebody who you would expect to know  
7           the children's background, and if they had been there  
8           more often, they could have helped you understand that?

9       A.   Oh yes, certainly, yes.

10      LADY SMITH:  Thank you.

11      MR MacAULAY:  I did understand you to say, Jane, that your  
12           own training in the 1960s taught you of the importance  
13           of having information about the backgrounds of children  
14           if such children are to be properly cared for; have  
15           I understood that correctly?

16      A.   You have.

17      Q.   So although, as it were, you talk about going back then  
18           into the 1970s, the learning was already that to  
19           properly care for children you ought to have information  
20           about their backgrounds?

21      A.   There was very little training in childcare in those  
22           days.  I think Scotland was the first one that came up  
23           with the training course, as far as I remember.

24      Q.   But you yourself had had the training before you went to  
25           Aberdeen?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Coming back to your group, sister, when you first went  
3 to Aberdeen, was your group located in a particular part  
4 of the building?
- 5 A. Yes, it was.
- 6 Q. Where was that?
- 7 A. It was in the -- Nazareth House was a large building and  
8 it was in a part of it. But because it was a bit  
9 scattered and a bit -- the washroom, the bathrooms were  
10 not as I would have expected them to be, a bit  
11 institutional maybe. And because there was a lot of  
12 stairs and that, I considered it wasn't -- you know, it  
13 wasn't the best place in regard to a building or a place  
14 or a house or a group.
- 15 Q. Did you make representations --
- 16 A. I made representations to the Mother Superior.
- 17 Q. And were you then in due course allocated a refurbished  
18 area?
- 19 A. That's right.
- 20 Q. Where was that in relation to the main house?
- 21 A. That was around the side of the building. It was a very  
22 fine granite building, large enough to accommodate the  
23 group, and it also had a green area in front of it,  
24 which gave us a play area. It was quickly refurbished  
25 and renovated to a high standard and we all moved in

- 1           there.
- 2       Q.   In your statement you tell us that you thought you moved  
3           there in about 1974.
- 4       A.   I think that's right.
- 5       Q.   What about the other groups?  Were there other groups  
6           within the main building?
- 7       A.   Oh yes.
- 8       Q.   Did you also have volunteers that came in to help?
- 9       A.   Well, they were mostly friends.  There was certainly one  
10           volunteer that you might call a volunteer, but he had  
11           been coming into the group before I went there and  
12           continued to come in and did lots of work with the  
13           children, like driving the minibus and taking them to  
14           the cinema or taking them to the swimming.
- 15      Q.   And that was a male volunteer?
- 16      A.   It was a male volunteer.
- 17      Q.   He was simply that, a male volunteer, he wasn't being  
18           paid?
- 19      A.   Oh, he wasn't being paid, no.  He'd come in on  
20           a Saturday.
- 21      LADY SMITH:  You said he would do things like taking the  
22           children to the cinema or swimming.  Is that something  
23           that he would do himself without you or somebody else  
24           going with him?
- 25      A.   He would -- well, I would be there and I would give them

1 the money and everything. They would all set off with  
2 him. Now, the cinema was in the morning and it was more  
3 or less cartoons and simple films. Then in the  
4 afternoon, they'd go swimming.

5 LADY SMITH: He would take them?

6 A. He would take them, yes. They would come home and have  
7 lunch.

8 MR MacAULAY: I think, as you say in your statement, there  
9 were no -- you aren't aware of any background checks  
10 being carried out.

11 A. There were no background checks in those days.

12 Background checks have only come in in the last,  
13 probably, ten years.

14 Q. Can I ask you then about how children might be admitted  
15 to your group. Did that happen over the period? Were  
16 children admitted into your group over the five years or  
17 so that you were there?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. How was that managed?

20 A. That was managed by the social worker coming with the  
21 children and they would meet the Mother Superior first  
22 of all and she would give them some food, some tea or --  
23 not because they were hungry, but just as a welcome --  
24 and then she would send for the sister they were going  
25 to be with.

1           I would meet them then and take them to where they  
2           were going to live, introduce them to the children there  
3           and make them feel as welcome as possible, show them  
4           around.

5       Q.   Do I understand from what you've said before, you  
6           wouldn't have any information in relation to why they  
7           were being admitted or what their background was?

8       A.   I did not have that information.

9       Q.   Can I ask you a little bit now, sister, about  
10          mealtimes -- sorry, I said "sister", you're not sister.

11      A.   That's okay.

12      Q.   Mealtimes. You discuss that from paragraphs 21 onwards  
13          in your statement. I think you say you did not eat with  
14          the children.

15      A.   No, I did not eat with them. It was not what happened.

16      Q.   Did the children in your group eat within their own  
17          dining area?

18      A.   Yes.

19      Q.   If we look at the position now, after you've made the  
20          move, then you've got a dining area within the  
21          refurbished area?

22      A.   Yes. Yes, a proper dining room.

23      Q.   How would you describe the food?

24      A.   The food was always good. In Nazareth House, whatever  
25          they did, they provided good food. There was always

1 a good cook in the kitchen and there was no shortage of  
2 food.

3 Q. By that -- I mean when you were there as a sister, did  
4 you eat the same food as the children?

5 A. I don't ... I can't remember that, but I'm sure it  
6 wasn't much different.

7 Q. Can you tell me what sort of food was served then? Can  
8 you give me some ideas, some examples as to what the  
9 children would be given?

10 A. Well, the children would be given meat or chicken and  
11 vegetables and potatoes, and the sisters would have much  
12 the same.

13 Q. You mentioned the washing arrangements and that was one  
14 of the things that you wanted to change, I think, when  
15 you got there; is that right?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. You described in the main building there was a row of  
18 basins in the bathrooms. What about baths, were there  
19 baths there?

20 A. Oh yes, there were baths there, but they were in  
21 a different area.

22 Q. How many baths were there?

23 A. I think there were three.

24 Q. Were the baths there to accommodate the different groups  
25 that were in the main building?

- 1 A. No, the baths were belonging to the group who lived  
2 there.
- 3 Q. So would the other group --
- 4 A. Have their own bathroom.
- 5 Q. -- in the main building?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. But in any event, when you moved, did you have quite  
8 different washing arrangements?
- 9 A. Yes. There was a bath and a toilet and a hand basin in  
10 each room. There was a single room. The next room had  
11 five beds and a bath, toilet. Each room had its bath,  
12 toilet and hand basin.
- 13 Q. So it had sort of what I think one refers to now as en  
14 suite arrangements within each room?
- 15 A. Yes, it was.
- 16 Q. Can I ask you about clothing, Jane. You talk about that  
17 in your statement as well. Children, clearly, when they  
18 came to Nazareth House would be wearing their own  
19 clothes?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Were they allowed to keep their clothes?
- 22 A. Certainly.
- 23 Q. And if they needed new clothes, what were the  
24 arrangements?
- 25 A. New clothes were bought for them and school uniform, as

- 1           it was required.
- 2       Q.   Were the children allowed to choose their own clothes  
3           when they were bought?
- 4       A.   Yes, I remember, yes.
- 5       Q.   Well, do you remember if you went with --
- 6       A.   Yes, I remember we all went to a shop.  It was the time  
7           of the Bay City Rollers and we even got kitted out in  
8           all that.
- 9       Q.   You mentioned homework as well.  Can I ask you, to what  
10           extent homework was encouraged?
- 11      A.   Homework was encouraged and we had what we called  
12           a homework room that was just for homework.  When it  
13           wasn't used for homework, it was used for games or quiet  
14           reading or whatever.
- 15      Q.   Were the children given enough time to do their  
16           homework?
- 17      A.   Oh yes, as much time as they needed.
- 18      Q.   You also talk about the trips and holidays that the  
19           children had, and in particular you say that you once  
20           went with your group to Girvan; is that correct?  Do you  
21           remember that?
- 22      A.   That's correct.  I do.
- 23      Q.   What sort of activities did the children have on that  
24           holiday?
- 25      A.   Mostly on the beach and swimming and playing football

- 1           in the evening.
- 2       Q. You also go on at paragraph 30 to mention schooling. In  
3       particular, you do say there that there was a selection  
4       process in that some children were chosen, because of  
5       their ability, to go to Aberdeen Grammar School.
- 6       A. That's right.
- 7       Q. Can I ask about that? Who made the choice?
- 8       A. Well, myself and the Mother Superior made the choice,  
9       really. I think the children who might benefit most  
10      from it or who had the ability to go there.
- 11      Q. So are you looking at the cleverer children then being  
12      sent to Aberdeen Grammar?
- 13      A. It wouldn't be right to send children who didn't have  
14      the same ability or weren't of the age. There was an  
15      age difference as well.
- 16      Q. But I'm just trying to get to grips with the selection  
17      process. You and the Mother Superior would make the  
18      selection. What criteria would drive that selection?
- 19      A. There was also a criteria that we felt it was better  
20      that all the children from the group didn't go to the  
21      same school.
- 22      Q. Why was that?
- 23      A. Well, they would mix better in other places and maybe do  
24      better.
- 25      Q. What you're saying in your statement is:

1           "The children who I thought had the best ability  
2           went to Aberdeen Grammar."

3           So am I to understand it was ability driven in the  
4           main?

5           A. Well, yes.

6           Q. The splitting up point you've just made about how you  
7           thought it would be better to send them to different  
8           schools anyway, what was the thinking behind that?

9           A. Well, when they would come in from school, they'd have  
10          different things to talk about, they'd meet different  
11          people, make different friends, that kind of thing.  
12          There was nothing wrong with the other schools.

13          Q. I wondered, could there be any friction because you've  
14          sent one child to a particular school --

15          A. That didn't happen.

16          Q. That never happened?

17          A. It never happened.

18          Q. Can I ask you about bed-wetting? You do talk about that  
19          also in your statement. You do remember that there was  
20          one girl in your group who did wet the bed; is that  
21          right?

22          A. Yes.

23          Q. Was it just the one person?

24          A. Just the one.

25          Q. You're clear about that?

- 1 A. Yes, I'm clear about that.
- 2 Q. What was the procedure then if this child wet the bed?
- 3 A. She would be embarrassed, of course, because she was  
4 a young girl, and Linda would run a bath for her and she  
5 would be around until she was finished. There was no  
6 fuss about it. Absolutely none. I had learned about  
7 that on the childcare course and how to deal with it and  
8 make it easy, and there was no problem with that at all.
- 9 Q. When you say you had learned about it on the childcare  
10 course, what had you learned?
- 11 A. How to deal with it: not to, you know, make a fuss about  
12 it, just to have a shower, bath, whatever, and get on  
13 with it. Her bed would be made up in the evening and  
14 no one made any fuss about it.
- 15 Q. You had taken over, I think you mentioned, from  
16 Sister [REDACTED] LFB .
- 17 A. Mm-hm.
- 18 Q. Were you given any information as to what the practice  
19 might have been before you took over?
- 20 A. I never heard anything about it. No one told me  
21 anything about it.
- 22 Q. I'll come back to that shortly.
- 23 Can I just ask you this: in relation to chores, can  
24 you help me? What sort of jobs did you give the  
25 children to do?

- 1 A. I'm afraid they didn't do very much in the line of  
2 chores because the lady who came in did all the  
3 cleaning, so they did no cleaning. At the weekends,  
4 they may have helped with washing the dishes or drying  
5 the dishes or putting them away, something like that.
- 6 Q. So little jobs, really?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Can I ask you about birthdays: were birthdays  
9 celebrated?
- 10 A. There wasn't a big party or a big fuss, but the  
11 Mother Superior would nearly always come and talk to the  
12 child, wish them happy birthday or whatever. There  
13 wasn't a big fuss, but it was recognised.
- 14 Q. Did you have some way of telling you when a child's  
15 birthday was going to happen?
- 16 A. Well, I think everyone knew their own birthday and --  
17 yes.
- 18 Q. Let's look at some of the younger children. Would you  
19 have some way of prompting you that the little child's  
20 birthday was on the horizon?
- 21 A. No, but mostly they had a brother or a sister or  
22 somebody older.
- 23 Q. Well, could a birthday have been missed?
- 24 A. It could.
- 25 Q. Were children, if the birthday was being celebrated,

- 1           given a present or presents?
- 2       A.   They might have been given -- the Mother Superior would
- 3           be the one who would do that.  She always came around
- 4           and looked after things like that.
- 5       Q.   Can I then ask you about visitors.  Let's go back to the
- 6           position of social workers.  What you say in your
- 7           statement is that, as you put it there:
- 8                    "Social workers were very scarce and I rarely saw
- 9           them."
- 10                   Is that your recollection?
- 11       A.   It is.
- 12       Q.   Is this over the five-year period that you were there?
- 13       A.   It is.
- 14       Q.   Can I just get some general feel as to how -- what that
- 15           means "on a regular basis"?  How often do you think, if
- 16           you look at a particular child, that child's
- 17           social worker might appear?
- 18       A.   I'm afraid that they didn't come -- or I don't remember
- 19           them coming.  As I told you, they came when a child was
- 20           admitted into Nazareth House, but there were children
- 21           there before I came and I certainly didn't see any
- 22           social workers belonging to them.
- 23       Q.   How was a child's progress monitored during your time?
- 24       A.   It wasn't monitored as it would be today.  It was to
- 25           make sure they were well looked after, well fed, clean,

- 1           tidy, went to school. That was about the way it was.
- 2       Q. I suppose if you didn't have information about the
- 3           child's background, you wouldn't be able to see whether
- 4           or not a particular child had problems that required to
- 5           be particularly addressed?
- 6       A. I didn't see any child -- certainly, if I saw a child
- 7           with a problem, I would have got help from some area.
- 8       Q. So do I understand your position, Jane, to be that
- 9           you are saying that there was a lack of monitoring by
- 10          the social workers that may have had some responsibility
- 11          for these children?
- 12       A. There may have been a difficulty in that a lot of the --
- 13          a good number of the children were from outwith
- 14          Aberdeen, from Glasgow or other places, and it may have
- 15          made it difficult for social workers to visit or have
- 16          the time or it may have made it difficult for parents to
- 17          have the time or to be able to get there.
- 18       Q. Putting the transport aspects to one side for a moment,
- 19          are you saying that from your perspective there was
- 20          a lack of monitoring by social workers?
- 21       A. Yes.
- 22       Q. You've made the point that children may have been placed
- 23          in Nazareth House from Glasgow, but there were good
- 24          transport links to Glasgow, even way back in the 1970s,
- 25          were there not?

- 1 A. I'm sure, yes.
- 2 Q. Do you see a transport problem as an excuse why  
3 a social worker shouldn't visit to see how the child  
4 placed there by the Social Work Department was  
5 progressing?
- 6 A. I don't know what the position was with social workers  
7 or how many there were or anything about the Social Work  
8 Department. But I'm sure if there was a problem, the  
9 Mother Superior would be able to contact  
10 a social worker. She would have the contact.
- 11 Q. What about families then, Jane? To what extent did you,  
12 as the housemother, if you like, seek to ensure that  
13 children had contact with their families?
- 14 A. I didn't think that that was the job of Nazareth House,  
15 to keep contact with the families.
- 16 Q. Did you see that as being somebody's job?
- 17 A. Yes. It would be difficult for me to do it because  
18 looking after a group of children was a full-time job.
- 19 Q. So whose job do you think it was?
- 20 A. I don't know. It's not for me to say it was  
21 such-and-such a person's job, I think.
- 22 Q. Although I think you say in your statement that you  
23 believe that this was a duty of the Social Work  
24 Department?
- 25 A. Well, yes, I suppose if they were responsible for the

1 child or maybe they decided that this child was well  
2 placed, maybe they had contact with the parents, and  
3 maybe they knew that the child was okay and that that  
4 was the answer. That's as far as I know.

5 Q. Did you have children there from your recollection in  
6 connection with whom the social workers did not appear  
7 to visit?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. In relation to whom family members didn't visit?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So these are children who are there without any visits  
12 from either social workers or family members?

13 A. Yes, some of them, yes.

14 Q. When they would come to leave, how would that be  
15 arranged, do you know?

16 A. That would probably be arranged through the social work  
17 if they were returning home.

18 Q. Would you be involved in that process?

19 A. Yes, if a child or a family was going home, I'm sure  
20 I would.

21 Q. Coming back to a point we've already discussed -- and  
22 I think you've accepted this from your own training,  
23 Jane -- that it would have been important to you to know  
24 about the family backgrounds when caring for these  
25 children.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And that was something that was missing from your  
3 information?
- 4 A. It was something that was missing, but I think that it  
5 was probably missing everywhere in those days.
- 6 Q. You give an example in paragraph 42 of a family of five  
7 that was brought to Nazareth House by a social worker.  
8 Do I take it they'd be different ages?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And the social worker went away and you never saw that  
11 social worker again; is that correct?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Did you see any social worker in connection with that  
14 family?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. I think you say that no information was passed to you by  
17 the Social Work Department in connection with that  
18 family.
- 19 A. That's right.
- 20 Q. So you really had no history in relation to the --
- 21 A. I didn't have a history of families in care.
- 22 Q. What about the review of a child's progress then? Were  
23 there progress reviews carried out from time to time?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. Having regard to your own training, did your training

1           teach you the importance of a child's care being  
2           reviewed from time to time?

3       A. I'm afraid that wasn't done anywhere.

4       Q. What I'm asking at the moment is whether your training  
5           in the 1960s did teach you that that was an important  
6           aspect of care?

7       A. No, I couldn't say it was in that there wasn't a lot of  
8           emphasis on it.

9       Q. Okay. So are you saying then that at least for your  
10          group during that time, that five-year period, a child's  
11          progress would not be reviewed?

12      A. Yes.

13      Q. It wouldn't be reviewed?

14      A. No.

15      Q. Can I ask you about records? Did you yourself keep any  
16          records in relation to the children in your care?

17      A. I have a problem thinking back --

18      LADY SMITH: Jane, you've just drifted away from the  
19          microphone, I'm sorry. Can I ask you to stay near it?  
20          Move the chair around if you need to, to make yourself  
21          more comfortable.

22      A. I have a problem thinking back about children's records.  
23          I'm sure there would be some records and indeed school  
24          reports, but I just can't remember them or where they  
25          might be or what happened to them. There would be

1 school reports, of course, but I can't remember about  
2 them.

3 MR MacAULAY: Can I ask you if you yourself kept any records  
4 on the children?

5 A. No, I don't think so.

6 Q. So if there are records, then you're talking about  
7 school reports?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Would that be the sum and total of it?

10 A. It probably would.

11 Q. Why didn't you keep records?

12 A. I suppose because it wasn't happening when I went there,  
13 and where I had worked before in London, Hammersmith,  
14 I did keep reports because the books were there and they  
15 were written up. But I don't remember the same being in  
16 place in Aberdeen.

17 Q. Do you know if anyone kept a record?

18 A. I don't know that.

19 Q. You say that in other -- when you worked in Hammersmith,  
20 there were books there and entries could be put into the  
21 books. Would that be in connection with, for example,  
22 a child's progress?

23 A. Well, it would be more like there would be a daily  
24 register and there would be a logbook of what went on  
25 during the day and what happened during the day.

- 1 Q. In connection with the particular children?
- 2 A. In connection with the group of children.
- 3 Q. So you had nothing like that?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. Why did you yourself not put that sort of system into  
6 place?
- 7 A. I suppose because I was too busy with other things,  
8 maybe.
- 9 Q. But do you think on reflection that that would have been  
10 a good thing to have put in place?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Do you know what the position was with other groups?
- 13 A. I don't.
- 14 Q. Just on that, I think we've heard from other evidence  
15 that the groups tended to be quite separate from each  
16 other; is that right?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. If we look at your group, you're in a different part of  
19 the building?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. To what extent did you interact with the other groups?
- 22 A. Not very much. Maybe the children would meet going to  
23 school or playing outside. But they wouldn't move from  
24 one group into another group.
- 25 Q. Can I ask you, Jane, about discipline. Were you given

1           any guidance when you went to Aberdeen as to how the  
2           children were to be disciplined?

3           A. No.

4           Q. Was there any written procedure or policy as to how  
5           children should be disciplined?

6           A. There was nothing written and I wasn't told anything,  
7           didn't see anything written as regards that.

8           Q. How did you know then how discipline was to be  
9           approached?

10          A. Because I had learned how discipline was to be done and,  
11          I must say, the children in my group were very  
12          well-behaved: they were nice, good, gentle children, and  
13          there was very little of any misbehaving. They got on  
14          well together. There was no disagreements.

15                 If a child was making a noise or disturbing others  
16          during some homework or watching television or anything,  
17          I had this thing that I said to the child, "Okay, you  
18          leave the room now. When you decide you're going to  
19          behave and not cause any disturbance to anybody, come  
20          back in and you decide how long that will be", and  
21          that is what happened.

22          Q. So is that the only form of punishment then that you --

23          A. That is the only form of punishment.

24          Q. Do you know what was happening in the other groups?

25          A. I didn't know what was happening in the other groups.

- 1 Q. Did you ever discuss with the other sisters what their  
2 approach to discipline might have been?
- 3 A. No. Not ever.
- 4 Q. Any reason why not?
- 5 A. It just didn't come up. I was not involved in anything  
6 like that.
- 7 Q. You've said that your children were well-behaved and  
8 I think you described them as lovely children.
- 9 A. They were lovely children, yes.
- 10 Q. We've heard a description of some children -- I'm not  
11 suggesting it's your group -- as being "dysfunctional".  
12 That's not a label that you would apply to the children  
13 in your group?
- 14 A. Certainly not.
- 15 Q. Was a punishment book kept so far as you're aware?
- 16 A. Not as far as I'm aware, no.
- 17 Q. Did you ever record any of the punishments of the type  
18 you've mentioned in any form of record?
- 19 A. I didn't punish any child, only what I told you, and  
20 I didn't record it anywhere.
- 21 Q. One thing you do say in your statement, actually,  
22 is that you didn't see the sort of behaviour or conduct  
23 that required any discipline.
- 24 A. That's right.
- 25 Q. Is that throughout the five years or so that you were in

- 1 charge of a group of children?
- 2 A. That's right. The children were really very  
3 well-behaved.
- 4 Q. What about the lay staff member you mentioned? Was she  
5 allowed to discipline a child?
- 6 A. No, she didn't discipline children.
- 7 Q. Did you have any information from any source as to what  
8 sort of discipline might have been in place before you  
9 took over the group?
- 10 A. No one told me anything about it.
- 11 Q. You were asked when you gave your statement, Jane, about  
12 abuse in Nazareth House Aberdeen. This is at  
13 paragraph 54 of the statement. What you say there is:  
14 "In neither of the periods I was at Nazareth House,  
15 from 1968 to 1969 and from 1973 to 1978, did I see or  
16 hear of any abuse of any children of any description."  
17 Is that your position?
- 18 A. It is.
- 19 Q. So you were never aware of any form of abuse, what might  
20 be described as abuse, during that whole period?
- 21 A. I was never aware of any abuse of any child during the  
22 time I was in Nazareth House Aberdeen.
- 23 Q. When you came to leave Nazareth House, can you tell me  
24 how that came about?
- 25 A. When I left Aberdeen in 1978, I had been told that I was

1           being moved from Aberdeen to Northern Ireland, and  
2           I didn't want to go there because the Troubles were  
3           there, and that was the reason I left. I wanted to stay  
4           in Aberdeen.

5           Q. Where did you go then when you left?

6           A. When I left the order --

7           Q. I'm sorry, I've misunderstood. Did you leave the order  
8           then in 1978?

9           A. Yes.

10          Q. That was because, I suppose, you disobeyed --

11          A. Well, there's a vow of obedience and you accept it or  
12          not. Because I had done so much in Aberdeen and we had  
13          got on so well, and everything was going smoothly,  
14          I thought, and because I'd put a lot of work into that,  
15          I thought that just leaving it all and going somewhere  
16          else -- and especially I didn't want to go to  
17          Nazareth House in Northern Ireland, chiefly because  
18          the Troubles were on at the time.

19          Q. Would you say that you had developed a good relationship  
20          then with the children in your group?

21          A. I would like to think that.

22          Q. Clearly, I think -- and we've touched upon this -- the  
23          make-up of your group would be changing as time was  
24          going on? Children would be leaving and children would  
25          be coming in?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Did the number more or less stay the same?
- 3 A. There wasn't any big change. The numbers stayed always  
4 around 16.
- 5 Q. Was there a particular age that a child would leave?
- 6 A. Well, when they finished school and would get a job or  
7 do some further education or something like that.
- 8 Q. So that's looking at a child then who's left school, but  
9 could children not leave a bit earlier if they were  
10 going back home?
- 11 A. Oh yes, sure, that would be the ideal situation.
- 12 Q. Did that happen very much?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. When the statement was taken from you, Jane, I think  
15 it's right to say that a number of specific allegations  
16 that have been made to the inquiry were put to you; is  
17 that correct?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. In particular, allegations that have been made to the  
20 inquiry in evidence by a person by the name of  
21 Christopher Daly. Do you remember Christopher Daly?
- 22 A. Oh well, yes.
- 23 Q. 
- 24 A. 
- 25 Q. And he was in your group?

1 A. He was in my group.

2 Q. [REDACTED]

3

4 A. [REDACTED] I think

5 [REDACTED] came in in 1974.

6 Q. And I think that's -- well, at least according to the  
7 Sisters of Nazareth records, that seems to be correct,  
8 because according to these records he was admitted in  
9 September 1974. That accords with your own  
10 recollection?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And he left, according to his evidence, in  
13 December 1977, but I'll come and look at that in  
14 a moment. You do remember him then [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED]?

16 A. Oh, I do, well, yes.

17 Q. I want to put to you a number of things that he said in  
18 evidence and ask for your comment on them, Jane. If  
19 I could have his transcript on the screen and begin at  
20 TRN.001.003.0714.

21 So we're looking towards the bottom. That's when he  
22 begins to give his evidence on that particular day. If  
23 we can turn to page 0727. Towards the bottom -- this is  
24 at line 15 -- he is asked the question:

25 "Question: You've already mentioned on more than

1 one occasion the move to what had been the laundry area.  
2 How long do you think you had been in the main building  
3 before you were moved to the new area?

4 "Answer: I think about a year."

5 So that, I think, accords with your own evidence  
6 that there was a time when you moved to a different  
7 area --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- the refurbished area?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. If I take you to page 0731 -- I'll read this section out  
12 to you and then ask you about it, Jane.

13 Towards the top of the page he's asked the question:

14 "Question: You also mention the food in  
15 paragraph 63. Can you tell us a little bit about the  
16 food in Nazareth House?

17 "Answer: Yes, most of us didn't like it. Often, if  
18 it was like -- the meat was really -- you couldn't chew  
19 it and stuff. I don't know if I mention there, but --  
20 oh yeah, I do mention there about the drawers.  
21 Particularly the girls that were in the unit with us,  
22 they were putting, like, their food into the drawers  
23 that were underneath the dining table.

24 Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED] was wondering where the smell was  
25 coming from and we all got punished for that. It was

1            basically the drawers -- she had established where the  
2            smell was coming from and it was because some of the  
3            food was so inedible that they were putting it in the  
4            drawers."

5            Just to pause there, did that happen?

6            A. That did not happen.

7            Q. Is this pure invention?

8            A. As far as I'm concerned, but I know it did not happen.

9            Q. Well, he's then asked.

10           "Question: What happened then? What was  
11           Sister [REDACTED] LDX's reaction once they found out?

12           "Answer: Well, she would be angry, she would be  
13           asking people who it was and looking at where people  
14           would have been sitting. So, like, we all had set  
15           place, so, like, it was clear -- let's say that some of  
16           the girls that had been doing it, because it was where  
17           their seat was. So she removed all the drawers at this  
18           point and then they got thrown -- and then the  
19           punishment would be to your room, to the laundry room,  
20           things like that, and isolation to the homework room,  
21           just to be isolated from everyone else and not in the  
22           living room area and stuff."

23           So again, then, I take it from what you've said to  
24           me already --

25           A. That did not happen.

1 Q. He is then asked:

2 "Question: What you say there is that: 'When she  
3 found out, she went mental.'

4 "Answer: Yes, that would be about right. That  
5 would be about right.

6 "Question: What do you mean by that?

7 "Answer: Shouting at us all, particularly when she  
8 had worked out that -- you know, I remember her saying  
9 for example, you sit there, so it must be you've put  
10 that food there, and all that. But when she was in  
11 a rage about things, she would lash out as well and  
12 then, after the lashing out, punching or whatever, there  
13 would be the isolation punishment, which was common."

14 These are quite serious allegations that are being  
15 made.

16 A. That did not happen.

17 Q. He's asked:

18 "Question: So the lashing out, just let me  
19 understand exactly what that would involve? Can you  
20 help me with that?

21 "Answer: It would involve punching on the head and  
22 kicking in the lower part of the body, your legs and  
23 stuff like that.

24 "Question: Did that happen to you?

25 "Answer: Not for that incident, no.

1 "Question: But that happened to others for that  
2 incident?

3 "Answer: Yes."

4 So again, he seems to be quite specific about these  
5 particular events where food was being hidden away  
6 because it wasn't being eaten and this was your reaction  
7 when you discovered what had been happening.

8 A. There was nothing like that. There was nothing at all  
9 like that. There was no food hidden or no smell, no  
10 nothing. I can't remember anything about that. That  
11 did not happen.

12 Q. If I can take you to page 0740 and if we look at line 8,  
13 he is asked:

14 "Question: One thing you say in paragraph 82  
15 is that -- I'll read out what you say:

16 "'The religious side involved us constantly  
17 being told of our worthlessness.'

18 "What do you mean by that?

19 "Answer: What I mean by that is often  
20 Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED] would refer to the circumstances  
21 that we came from. She would put down my parents, about  
22 their inability to look after [REDACTED] because of their mental  
23 health issues, and then tell [REDACTED] that we were worthless."

24 He goes on to tell about his own position, that he  
25 would congratulate and encourage his children, and he

1 goes on to say:

2 "Answer: But with [REDACTED] LDX you were constantly  
3 being told of how stupid you were. She picked on  
4 things. If you wet the bed, she would pick on you and  
5 you would get the punishment of having to clean the  
6 sheets in the main laundry area and things like that."

7 Leaving bed-wetting aside, this notion of being put  
8 down and being told you're worthless, did that happen?

9 A. That did not happen. My thing always was to encourage  
10 children, to make sure they got an education and that  
11 they played sport, they mixed with people, so that when  
12 they would leave, they would be able to support  
13 themselves. I never told any child that they were  
14 inferior or worthless or anything, and I certainly never  
15 mentioned anyone's parents.

16 Q. So again, Christopher Daly has made this up?

17 A. As far as I'm concerned, yes. This did not happen.

18 MR MacAULAY: Okay.

19 My Lady, it's 12.59. That might be a useful time.

20 I can say to the witness -- I know she has a flight to  
21 catch later on -- I'm quite well on with the evidence.

22 LADY SMITH: We'll stop now for the lunch break and sit

23 again at 2 o'clock, please.

24 (1.00 pm)

25 (The lunch adjournment)

1 (2.00 pm)

2 MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, Jane.

3 A. Good afternoon, sir.

4 Q. Before lunch, I'd been putting to you allegations that  
5 have been made against you by Christopher Daly. I have  
6 been doing that on the back of what he said in evidence  
7 to the inquiry. If I could go back to his transcript on  
8 another issue; this is at TRN.001.003.0742.

9 Towards the top of the page, he's talking about  
10 describing a night-time routine that involved a nun  
11 coming round with a torch. He goes on to say:

12 "Answer: That was something that happened before we  
13 moved."

14 So he is placing this when you were in the main  
15 building. If you look at line 17 where he picks up the  
16 thread, he says:

17 "Answer: So she would shine the torch in the window  
18 like that (indicating), as she's walking round, checking  
19 us all. They would also come into the room and check  
20 for bed-wetting.

21 "Question: What time of night would this be? When  
22 would this be?

23 "Answer: 1 o'clock, 2 o'clock in the morning maybe,  
24 when you're sleeping, when you're in bed, but sometimes  
25 you'd be woken up by the torch and stuff being shined

1 about.

2 "Question: What if someone had wet the bed?"

3 Then if we move on to the next page, 0743:

4 "Answer: Well, then they would be taken out of the  
5 bed and punished for wetting the bed."

6 He's says at line 7:

7 "Answer: You'd be told to strip the bed.

8 "Question: Did that happen to you?

9 "Answer: No, because I didn't wet the bed.

10 "Question: Did you see this happening to other  
11 children?

12 "Answer: Yes, I did.

13 "Question: What else happened then? If they were  
14 told to strip the bed, what happened next?

15 "Answer: Sometimes they would be told to put the  
16 wet sheets on their head, things like that. There was  
17 one girl in particular -- and I have to say that myself  
18 and the other children joined with the nuns in  
19 humiliating people who had wet the bed -- there was on  
20 girl who in particular we constantly just put down  
21 because she was a bed-wetter."

22 So that's what he's saying about bed-wetting. He  
23 doesn't, as I recollected, identify you specifically in  
24 this process, but clearly he's dealing with a time when  
25 he was in your care and in one of the rooms for which

1           you had responsibility. I think you understand that.

2           So far as the process itself is concerned, does this  
3           mean anything to you?

4           A. This means nothing to me.

5           Q. He is right in saying, I think, that there was  
6           a particular girl that did wet the bed.

7           A. Yes.

8           Q. And you have mentioned that yourself already?

9           A. Yes.

10          Q. But he goes on to say:

11                 "Question: Although you didn't wet the bed do  
12                 I understand from what you're saying that there were  
13                 children in your area who did wet the bed?

14                 "Answer: Yes, that would be right. Some of the  
15                 boys that I was in the room with."

16                 And towards the bottom of the next page, at 0744,  
17                 what he says is in relation to who the nun might be:

18                 "Answer: That would be whoever would be the nun on  
19                 night duty. They were the nuns who were in that older  
20                 unit -- there was some contact with them through  
21                 this ... I don't know, we might have said it was the  
22                 night nun, you know, from memory."

23                 And then he goes on to say at 0745:

24                 "Question: What about Sister LDX at this point  
25                 in time?

1           "Answer: No."

2           So he's suggesting there that at night-times in the  
3           old building there could be another nun who was, as it  
4           were, on night duty and this was the practice. Could  
5           that have happened?

6           A. That did not happen when I was there.

7           Q. So you just simply say that could not have happened?

8           A. That could not have happened.

9           Q. If we go down the page, at line 16, he tells us what the  
10          morning position would be. He says:

11          "Answer: In the morning then the same -- and in  
12          particular one girl [and he mentions the girls' name]."

13          And I think am I right in thinking you did -- we  
14          don't need to say what the name is, but you did say in  
15          your statement --

16          A. Yes.

17          Q. -- that there was a particular girl?

18          A. Yes.

19          Q. "... who ... constantly put down about her bed-wetting.  
20          She was always in the laundry area -- thinking now to  
21          the new group -- she was always in the laundry area  
22          washing her -- she would be in her wet night things and  
23          washing the wet sheet."

24          So this is giving some description as to what the  
25          morning might be. Again, did that happen?

- 1 A. That did not happen.
- 2 Q. He goes on to say there would be taunts like "pee the  
3 bed". Did you ever --
- 4 A. I never heard that.
- 5 Q. He also describes that there was an atmosphere of  
6 bullying within this group. Did you have any sense of  
7 that in your time?
- 8 A. There was no bullying. All the children got on well  
9 together. No one was being bullied.
- 10 Q. At page 0746, which is on the screen, he was asked  
11 at the top:
- 12 "Question: Why were you taunting other children?
- 13 "Answer: Because that's the way we were behaving  
14 towards one another and everyone had a nickname to be --  
15 the nun would put the bed-wetters down and we would join  
16 in. Then people had nicknames to -- kind of picking  
17 faults in their character or the way they looked,  
18 whether it was wetting the bed or for example I got  
19 called 'ape-face' or 'Gaylon' and stuff like that;  
20 apparently I had big nostrils."
- 21 What about that? Were there nicknames of that kind?
- 22 A. There were no nicknames. I never heard any nickname.  
23 I never heard any child being called a nickname.
- 24 Q. He goes on in the next paragraph at line 13 to say:
- 25 "Answer: It was an atmosphere of bullying and

- 1           putting others down and the nun did that --"
- 2       A.   No.
- 3       Q.   "-- sometimes we joined in, in particular when it came  
4           to the bed-wetters because they got really humiliated."
- 5       A.   That did not happen.  There was only the one bed-wetter.
- 6       Q.   The other point he made was that one of the punishments  
7           that you had was to put children in what he called  
8           isolation.  By that I think he meant putting them into  
9           darkened rooms; did you do that as a punishment?
- 10      A.   I did not do that and there were no darkened rooms.
- 11      Q.   He said at one point -- this is on page 0747 -- that:
- 12                 "Answer:  You'd be locked in a darkened room and you  
13                 could be left there for hours."
- 14                 You say that didn't happen?
- 15      A.   That did not happen.
- 16      Q.   He gave one particular example, this is on page 0749,  
17           towards bottom of the page at line 17, where he's  
18           talking about a small mortuary room.  Was there such  
19           a room at Nazareth House?
- 20      A.   I do not know.  I never saw it.
- 21      Q.   He says that was used as a punishment and that he says:
- 22                 "Answer:  [He thinks he] was there once, maybe  
23                 twice, but I know there were coffins there and  
24                 I wouldn't know whether there was a dead elderly person  
25                 or not in them."

1           And he goes on to talk about that. He was asked:

2           "Question: Do you know what age were you when that  
3 happened to you?"

4           And over the page on 0750:

5           "Answer: Well, 10 onwards, between 10 and 12.

6           "Question: How did you feel about it?

7           "Answer: I was terrified. I was alone."

8           So the suggestion there is that he was locked away  
9 in this mortuary area and left.

10          A. No. That did never happen. I didn't know anything  
11 about the mortuary. I didn't know anything about old  
12 people or what happened with them. I had no connection  
13 with them whatever.

14          Q. He gave an example towards the bottom of that page and  
15 into the next page, 0751, when [REDACTED] was isolated  
16 for, I think, a week because he wouldn't eat his jelly.  
17 Was there any truth in that?

18          A. That is ridiculous. There was no isolation.

19          Q. Were you at any point attacked by [REDACTED]?

20          A. No.

21          Q. So the notion that when [REDACTED] was allowed out, he  
22 attacked you and kicked you, that's just nonsense?

23          A. That's nonsense.

24          Q. He also mentioned in his evidence, this is at page 0755,  
25 if we look at line 5, you'll see he is asked the

1 question:

2 "Question: One thing you tell us about  
3 Sister [REDACTED] LDX is she could go into a rage?

4 "Answer: Oh yeah.

5 "Question: What would happen then?

6 "Answer: She would shout. She would often picked  
7 things up. So whether it was like a sweeping brush,  
8 something like that, or if she was doing something to  
9 your hair, either washing it or whatever, she would  
10 often grab a brush and hit you over the head with it,  
11 you know, a hairbrush, this time, and hit you over the  
12 head with the handle of the hairbrush."

13 So again, he's making quite a serious allegation  
14 there, Jane. Did that --

15 A. None of that ever happened. I did not hit him with the  
16 brush or with anything else.

17 Q. He also told about an incident where he and others were  
18 put outside in the cold by you because they had been --  
19 because of certain behaviour in the bedroom. Do you  
20 remember anything of that sort?

21 A. I would never put any child -- I did not put Chris out  
22 or any other child out in the cold or out in the sun.

23 Q. Although he's talking about particularly his own  
24 experience, he does say that he saw the same sort of  
25 punishments being inflicted on other children. I take

1           it from what you're saying, Jane, that again is  
2           nonsense?

3           A. That is nonsense. It did not happen.

4           Q. Do you know how it came to be that Christopher Daly left  
5           Nazareth House?

6           A. Christopher Daly was there when I left.

7           Q. I think that's what you say in your statement, but  
8           I just wondered about that, Jane, and I'll see if I can  
9           clarify that for you. Can I say, his position in  
10          evidence was that he ran away and he wouldn't go back  
11          and he ran away because of the way he was being treated.

12                  If I can ask you to look at this -- and that was in  
13          December 1977. I think you say you left in 1978.

14          A. That's correct.

15          Q. Can I look at this document: it's NAZ.001.003.5516.

16          A. [REDACTED]

17          Q. Let's look at the letter, this document, in any event.  
18          You'll see it's headed "Glasgow University Settlement  
19          Family Centre" and it's dated 12 January 1978. So that  
20          would be before you left; is that correct?

21          A. That is correct.

22          Q. It's addressed to you:

23                         "Sister [REDACTED] LDX, Nazareth House, Aberdeen."

24          Do you see that?

25          A. I never got that. Never saw it.

1 Q. Well, maybe perhaps if we look at it, it might ring  
2 a bell. The second paragraph is:

3 "Christopher is quite clear that he wants to stay  
4 home and [REDACTED] were certain that that would be  
5 his decision.

6 "I have therefore put it to Christopher that he is  
7 now responsible to his mother and me, that he attends  
8 St Pious School here, and that it depends on him that  
9 all goes well at home."

10 The second last paragraph:

11 "I have asked Christopher to write to you returning  
12 his money, but unfortunately this may not happen for  
13 a few days as [REDACTED] is very short at present."

14 Christopher Daly's position was that he had taken  
15 some money from Nazareth House to pay for his trip back  
16 home and that's what that relates to. This has been  
17 signed by, I believe, a social worker.

18 So this tends to suggest, Jane, that although your  
19 own recollection may be different, Christopher ran away  
20 when you were at Nazareth House and this is the  
21 social worker writing to you, telling you that he would  
22 not be back.

23 A. I never saw this letter before. I don't know anything  
24 about it. I didn't get this letter.

25 Q. Is that the correct address for Nazareth House?

- 1 A. Well, the number is wrong, but certainly that letter  
2 never reached me, and I'm in the dark about it.
- 3 Q. Very well. But your recollection, Jane, and as  
4 I understand it, is that Christopher Daly was still in  
5 Nazareth House when you left?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Would you accept that that letter tends to contradict  
8 that recollection?
- 9 A. I would accept that, but who sent that letter?  
10 I never -- it never reached me or ...
- 11 Q. Okay.
- 12 A. I'm in the dark about all that.
- 13 Q. Very well.  
14 I think in your statement it was suggested to you  
15 that there may have been some complaints about you to  
16 the social worker or social workers. Do you remember  
17 that being raised with you in your statement?
- 18 A. No, that did not happen and no social worker came to me  
19 or wrote to me or anything about any complaint.
- 20 Q. Can I put this document then before you, Jane. It's  
21 at -- and I'm not suggesting you've seen this document,  
22 but I just want to ask you about what's in it. It's  
23 GLA.001.002.0331.
- 24 This is a document that bears the description:  
25 "Strathclyde Regional Council. Department of

1 Social Work."

2 The date has been redacted, but the date is  
3 [REDACTED] 1977. It's a report on [REDACTED].  
4 Again, the name has been redacted.

5 We'll see that the social work report covers, first  
6 of all, the period July to December 1976, and then  
7 if we move over to the next page, 0332, we're covering  
8 a period here also from January to April 1977.

9 Do you see -- again, it has been redacted, but you can  
10 see the date "1977".

11 Moving towards the bottom, there's a section dealing  
12 with "assessment". Can I just read the second paragraph  
13 to you, and ask for your comments. It reads:

14 "[REDACTED] present placement in Aberdeen and  
15 Nazareth House is far from satisfactory. The distance  
16 involved makes contact far from easy and [REDACTED] do not  
17 see nearly enough of [REDACTED] mother or come home  
18 frequently enough. The chief disadvantage with moving  
19 [REDACTED] would be that [REDACTED] have settled in Aberdeen, both  
20 in the home and at school. However, the writer has  
21 heard some grumblings for from [REDACTED], both about the  
22 home and Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED], who is in charge [REDACTED].  
23 In addition the writer feels that Sister [REDACTED] LDX [REDACTED]  
24 could have done more to enable [REDACTED] to spend longer  
25 at home this summer."

1           You'll see that this bears to suggest that there  
2           were grumblings, at least on the part of ██████████, in  
3           connection with yourself. Would you see any  
4           justification looking to the way that you treated ██████████  
5           ██████████ for ██████████ to be grumbling about that?

6           A. No, I would not.

7           Q. What about the comment that you may not have made enough  
8           (sic) for ██████████ to have spent longer at home?

9           A. That wouldn't be my responsibility.

10          Q. I think we touched on this this morning, where you said  
11          it wasn't your duty. I think it's in paragraph 41 of  
12          your statement, that you didn't see it as your duty to  
13          ensure that the children kept in touch with their  
14          families.

15          A. I didn't.

16          Q. Did you say this morning that that was -- in particular  
17          you'd be too busy to be engaging in that sort of  
18          endeavour?

19          A. Well, I didn't think it was part of my job. I didn't  
20          think about it, but I had a group of children to look  
21          after and that's what I was doing.

22          Q. Would you have had the time, though, to engage more, if  
23          you like, assuming you had the information, with  
24          families?

25          A. Well, it wasn't part of the job of the residential care

1 worker to engage in getting people to visit or arranging  
2 home visits or something like that.

3 Q. But would you have had the time, though, assuming that  
4 it was something you decided you wanted to take on?

5 A. I suppose the busiest people have the most time, so,  
6 yes.

7 Q. You tell us, Jane, in your statement that you went to  
8 [REDACTED] weddings.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Was the wedding in Nazareth House itself?

11 A. It was.

12 Q. In Aberdeen?

13 A. In the chapel, in Nazareth House in Aberdeen.

14 Q. Did you meet Christopher Daly at the wedding?

15 A. Yes, and chatted to him.

16 Q. We have material that, it may have been yourself who  
17 made it available, a photograph and so on, relating to  
18 that event.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Perhaps I can take you to NAZ.001.003.9239, first of  
21 all. Is this the wedding invitation that we've put on  
22 the screen?

23 A. It is.

24 Q. This was the wedding invitation to yourself [REDACTED]  
25 [REDACTED]

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You've also made available the order of service; that's  
3 at 9237. It's not very clear, but I think we can just  
4 about make it out. We needn't look at the letter sent  
5 to you, but you have also, I think, made available  
6 a photograph, and that's at 9236.

7 In that photograph, I think we can see you're in the  
8 red dress; is that correct?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. Are you standing beside Christopher Daly?

11 A. I am standing beside Christopher Daly.

12 Q. And the others who have been blanked out --

13 A. [REDACTED]

14 Q. And even after that, did you have contact with [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED] who got married at that time?

16 A. Yes, I did.

17 Q. When was that?

18 A. 2015.

19 Q. The contact you had [REDACTED] at the  
20 wedding, and indeed more recently with the groom and the  
21 person who got married, were these friendly contacts?

22 A. Oh, absolutely, yes.

23 Q. When you met the -- perhaps you can tell me this: when  
24 was the wedding, what year was it?

25 A. 1984.

1 Q. So it's quite some time ago?

2 A. Yes.

3 LADY SMITH: The order of service had 1984 on it.

4 MR MacAULAY: Thank you.

5 So far as this chapter of your evidence is concerned  
6 then, Jane, you're, I think, pointing to this to show  
7 that your relationship with [REDACTED], [REDACTED]  
8 [REDACTED] in general, was a good one?

9 A. [REDACTED]

10

11 I got on well with [REDACTED], we talked, we went out  
12 together, went to different places. I never had any  
13 disagreements [REDACTED].

14 I still have -- I have this person's phone number  
15 and he has my phone number. He happened to be in Dublin  
16 and we met and had tea and had a very nice time  
17 together. We said goodbye and talked about various  
18 things.

19 Q. And there you're talking about [REDACTED] --

20 A. Who got married.

21 Q. Yes. That wasn't Christopher Daly?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Well, can I ask you about another person, Jane. In the  
24 red folder in front of you, the very first page, you'll  
25 see there's a list of names and pseudonyms.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Against the pseudonym "Jill", if you look down to that,  
3 there's a name I want to ask you about. Do you  
4 recognise the name?

5 A. I recognise the name.

6 Q. This person was in care, in particular in Cardonald, but  
7 after care she said that she went to visit  
8 Nazareth House Aberdeen because she had siblings who  
9 were there; is that correct?

10 A. That is correct.

11 Q. Her siblings who were there, were they in your group?

12 A. They were.

13 Q. Without giving us names, can you tell me, was it boys or  
14 girls or --

15 A. One boy and two girls.

16 Q. What ages are we talking about?

17 A. I don't know exactly. I couldn't tell you the exact age  
18 now at this remove.

19 Q. If I can take you to what Jill said in evidence. The  
20 transcript begins at TRN.001.003.0550.  
21 That's where her evidence begins. If we go to  
22 page 0608. At line 10, she's asked the question:  
23 "Question: Can I ask you a little bit about your  
24 life after care? Because one of the things I think you  
25 tell us you did is you went back to Nazareth House to

1 see one of your brothers and your sisters; is that  
2 right?

3 "Answer: Yes, I went back. I didn't say I was  
4 coming back because -- well, in my eyes I was an adult.  
5 That was in 1975, so I was 18. The youngest one was 10.  
6 When I went in, there was no children at all in the main  
7 house, but I already knew that anyway -- a Sister  
8 **LKG** had let me know, but she said they're being well  
9 cared for.

10 "When I went in, it was a nun and her name was **LDX**  
11 **LDX** And she was more or less asking me to leave.  
12 I said, 'No, I am here to take them out'. So the only  
13 one that I actually saw was the youngest one and then  
14 she said, 'They're locked in their rooms'."

15 Moving on to the next page:

16 "I said, 'Could you open the rooms and let them  
17 out?'"

18 "Question: And did you have them? Did you take  
19 them out?

20 "Answer: I said if she didn't open rooms and let  
21 them out then I would do something about it. So when  
22 she opened the room, my brother was absolutely covered  
23 in bruises.

24 "Question: Did you ask why he had the bruises?

25 "Answer: Yes. She says, 'Boys are boys, girls are

1 girls'. This is before she opened my sister's room.  
2 But apparently, he'd been in there for more or less all  
3 of the school holidays, the same as my sister.

4 "Question: Why was that?

5 "Answer: Well, when I had them out, they said that  
6 they hadn't done anything at all. I said, 'Well,  
7 nothing?' And they went no.

8 "Question: But when you had them out and you had  
9 discussed what the position was like, did it sound any  
10 different to your own time?

11 "Answer: No, not one bit. I checked [and she  
12 mentions the name] over and I preened her like a monkey.  
13 She was just as bruised as what they were.

14 "Question: When you took them back, had you bought  
15 them some gifts?

16 "Answer: Yes.

17 "Question: When you left, what happened?

18 "Answer: I'd only gone so far and I heard this  
19 almighty screaming. I thought, 'I'm sure that's [and  
20 she mentions the sister]'."

21 Turning over to 0610:

22 "Answer: I turned and there's [the sister], her  
23 face was at the window and she was howling, screaming  
24 her head off, so I did run back. And just in that short  
25 time, she had taken everything off them and hit them and

1           threw them into the room.

2           "Question: Did you do anything?

3           "Answer: Yes, I screamed at her to let them out,  
4           that I was going to report her. It wasn't long after  
5           that she left the order anyway as few did -- in the time  
6           that I was there, there was a few nuns left the order  
7           altogether."

8           So that's her account of that visit, Jane. Can you  
9           comment on that?

10          A. Yes, I can. I never had any communication with this  
11          person. I never talked to her. She never came into the  
12          group. She never saw the inside of our house. She did  
13          come to visit her siblings, but she didn't come to the  
14          house; she saw them in some other part of  
15          Nazareth House.

16          Q. So to that --

17          A. I had no communication whatever with her, ever.

18          Q. So to the extent -- but you accept she was there?

19          A. I accept she was there, yes.

20          Q. And do you accept that she took the children out?

21          A. I don't accept that she took them out. She came on  
22          a few occasions to visit them, but she didn't take them  
23          out or buy them anything or they didn't bring things  
24          back with them and I certainly didn't take anything from  
25          them.

- 1 Q. What about her account of there being bruises?
- 2 A. That is not true. That never happened. She was never  
3 in the bedrooms. There were no locks on bedrooms.
- 4 Q. So again, the account as she's put it forward, it's  
5 really not true?
- 6 A. It is not true. She did visit, yes, but I never spoke  
7 to her. She never spoke to me. She did not come into  
8 the house.
- 9 Q. And there would be no basis for saying that the children  
10 had bruises?
- 11 A. I don't know why she would say that. That did not  
12 happen. I never hit any child with an object or with my  
13 hand or with anything.
- 14 Q. Jane, the other person I want to ask you about, again if  
15 you go to the key in the front of the folder, you'll  
16 find the name "Alan" is there. Do you see that?
- 17 A. Oh yes.
- 18 Q. If you look across, don't say the name, but you'll see  
19 who it is; do you recognise the name?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Do you remember this particular individual?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Again, if I can take you to his transcript. It begins  
24 at TRN.001.003.0494.
- 25 Alan was in Nazareth House from about 1963 to 1974,

1           and he had been there as a very little child; is that  
2           the case?

3           A. Yes. Well, I -- yes, I'm not sure of the dates.

4           Q. When you got there, was he in your group?

5           A. He was about -- I think he had just left before I came  
6           or he certainly left in -- yes.

7           Q. You may be right because I've just put to you he may  
8           have been there up until about 1974.

9           A. Yes.

10          Q. Sorry. I think I took from you that you were in  
11          Aberdeen -- you arrived in 1973?

12          A. [REDACTED] 1973.

13          Q. So your paths would have crossed?

14          A. Yes, but he used to visit as well afterwards.

15          Q. I think he seemed to think your paths didn't cross for  
16          very long.

17          A. That's right, yes.

18          Q. Then if we look at what he says at page 0501. At the  
19          top of the page:

20                 "Question: I think you tell us in your statement  
21                 that when a particular sister came to Nazareth House,  
22                 things did begin to change.

23                 "Answer: Yes.

24                 "Question: That was into the 1970s, I think?

25                 "Answer: That was Sister -- I can't decide if it's

1           [REDACTED] LDX           or           [REDACTED] LDX           -- and she made the  
2           significant changes that were quite clear and some of  
3           the old routines and some of the stuff just didn't go on  
4           any more."

5           Did you make significant changes when you arrived?

6           A. Yes.

7           Q. What were they?

8           A. I'm not sure what went on before, but I ensured that  
9           everything was right in the care of children and that  
10          they had good food, that they had good beds, that they  
11          had good clothes and that they were respected, cared for  
12          and that I cared for them, and I thought they cared for  
13          me. There was, I hope, a genuine care that came into  
14          it.

15          Q. If what you've just said about the level of care was  
16          there before you came in, then for you to keep that  
17          going would not be a significant change, and I just  
18          wondered, when you accepted that you made significant  
19          changes, what you meant by that.

20          A. Well, I suppose the biggest change was getting out of  
21          the old building and getting into the new building, and  
22          we brought everything new with us. We only took one  
23          item from the old house, which was an antique piece.  
24          Everything -- I tried everything in the new house. We  
25          made beautiful -- I made beautiful curtains, we went out

1 and bought the material, new carpets, new beds, new  
2 chairs, everything, to make life better, not for me but  
3 for them.

4 Q. One of the things Alan says -- it's on that same page,  
5 moving down -- is that before that, he could never  
6 remember the nuns calling him by his first name. Were  
7 you aware of that, that the nuns did not call him by  
8 his -- it may apply to other children as well, by their  
9 first names?

10 A. No, I was not aware of that, but I would call every  
11 child by their first name.

12 Q. If you look at what he says at page 0504, and perhaps  
13 if we look at line 19, just towards the bottom, the  
14 names have been blanked out and I'll just put the names  
15 to you:

16 "Question: You talk about Sister [REDACTED] LDX or  
17 [REDACTED] LDX who you mentioned already.

18 "Answer: Yes.

19 "Question: And that was really when the changes  
20 came in?

21 "Answer: Yes.

22 "Question: Did she replace a particular sister?

23 "Answer: As far as I can recollect, she took the  
24 place of Sister [REDACTED] LFB."

25 And I think that was the position?

1 A. Mm-hm. Yes, sir.

2 Q. And he's then asked:

3 "Question: You describe her in particular as  
4 a caring nun.

5 "Answer: Yes.

6 "Question: Can you give us some examples?"

7 And he gives an example of cocoa, for example,  
8 whereas before they might have had to drink very hot  
9 cocoa, and you changed that.

10 If you move on to page 0506, this is at lines 18 and  
11 19, he's asked the question:

12 "Question: In any event, on that basis, you may  
13 have benefited from a year or two of  
14 Sister [REDACTED] LDX 's regime?

15 "Answer: Yes."

16 So he is pointing to significant changes between  
17 your regime and the previous regime. That's what he  
18 says. And he describes you as a caring nun and, no  
19 doubt, you would agree with that description?

20 A. I would agree with that.

21 Q. But did you get any inkling at all as to what the regime  
22 under Sister [REDACTED] LFB had been like?

23 A. I didn't hear any talk about it or nobody -- no child  
24 came and said to me, "This, this and this happened".

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

1 told about specific allegations of abuse against other  
2 sisters; is that correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And if you look at paragraphs 98 all the way through to  
5 113, I think in particular you're told about allegations  
6 that were made against Sisters [REDACTED] LTX and [REDACTED] FAF .

7 Is that right, you were told about the allegations?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. They had left before you got there?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Can I ask you about a particular point? That is at  
12 paragraph 102. What is put to you there is the  
13 allegation that was made by one child who was then  
14 in the home, who was taken in, where it says:

15 "... went on to say when they arrived, they were to  
16 be given a bath and Jeyes disinfectant was put in the  
17 water. Sister [REDACTED] LTX then cut their clothes off with  
18 scissors."

19 And you say:

20 "I don't know anything about that. When children  
21 came in, I wasn't involved in making sure they were  
22 clean. I can't imagine they would cut their clothes off  
23 them, but I don't know. I have never heard of any child  
24 being put in a bath of disinfectant. There has never  
25 been any mention to me of the disinfectant and it just

1           couldn't happen."

2           I'm interested in why you say that putting Jeyes

3           fluid in a bath just couldn't happen; why do you say

4           that?

5       A. I just cannot imagine anyone doing that.

6       Q. Why not?

7       A. Jeyes fluid is not for a bath.

8       Q. And why is that?

9       A. Because it's a cleaner.

10      Q. And it could irritate a child's skin?

11      A. Oh, I'm sure.

12      LADY SMITH: What about using it over a child's head to try

13           and help make sure they don't have nits?

14      A. I can't imagine that.

15      LADY SMITH: Why not?

16      A. Well, children's hair was kept clean by washing it and

17           using the liquid if they had nits or to prevent them.

18           But certainly I never heard of anyone using Jeyes fluid

19           for that purpose.

20      LADY SMITH: And you wouldn't agree with that as an

21           appropriate means of treating a child's head?

22      A. Absolutely not.

23      LADY SMITH: What do you think it would be like for the

24           child to experience that?

25      A. It would be absolutely dreadful.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MR MacAULAY: Would you see that as the abuse of a child?

3 A. Using Jeyes fluid on their head?

4 Q. Yes.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And just generally in that connection, then, the beating  
7 of children, the humiliation of children with the  
8 bed-wetting practices that I've discussed with you, and  
9 emotional criticisms like saying, "You're worthless",  
10 and force-feeding and isolation practices such as  
11 locking in cupboards and so on, would you see these  
12 practices as being abusive to children in the time that  
13 you were in the care system at that time?

14 A. I did not hear of any of them, I did not see any of  
15 them.

16 Q. Would they constitute abuse?

17 A. If somebody did that to a child, it would be abuse, yes.

18 Q. Can I take you to the final sections of your statement  
19 then, Jane. This is taking you to paragraph 117. What  
20 you say there -- we'll get it on the screen. Here  
21 I think you're touching on some evidence you've already  
22 given, but you say there:

23 "From my childcare training and my experience in  
24 dealing with children, I think it would have been  
25 helpful and beneficial if I had been passed relevant

1 information when the Social Work Department brought  
2 children to us and left them in our care."

3 Is that correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And that didn't happen?

6 A. No.

7 Q. And you say after that:

8 "I know that information was not passed to me when  
9 I first started at Nazareth House in Aberdeen and  
10 I think it should have been. It wasn't done at the time  
11 I was there, but I think it is done now."

12 When you say "now", do you mean today?

13 A. I mean today. Things were different everywhere 40 and  
14 45 years ago.

15 Q. You also talk about, at 120, what you call  
16 "multidisciplinary meetings"; do you see that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you mention that at the school in Dublin?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. When was that?

21 A. I worked there from 1979 until 2000; 22 years.

22 Q. Were there multidisciplinary meetings in place when you  
23 started there?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. The purpose of these meetings would be to look at the

1 social, emotional and educational needs of the child?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And to make a record of that?

4 A. Oh yes.

5 Q. If we look at what you say at paragraph 121, first of

6 all, what you say there is:

7 "I would regularly praise the children for anything

8 worthwhile they did."

9 Do you see that?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Would you see that as an important aspect of care?

12 A. Very.

13 Q. Why?

14 A. Because it is to do with feelings and how a child would

15 feel, whether they were important or whether they didn't

16 matter, and even the word ...

17 Q. You tell us you didn't cuddle the children?

18 A. No, I didn't.

19 Q. Was there a reason for that?

20 A. I never considered it or ... It just didn't happen, you

21 know. No, there was no cuddling of children.

22 Q. You go on to say:

23 "[You] don't suppose that the children's emotional

24 needs were met very well."

25 A. Perhaps if there had been more input from more people to

1 look after all the needs of the child, it would have  
2 been better.

3 Q. Are you able to put forward any explanation as to why so  
4 many former residents who were in care in Nazareth House  
5 have come forward with the allegations that they have  
6 made?

7 A. I don't know about that, why that is happening. The  
8 thing that makes me a bit sad is to think that children  
9 [REDACTED] -- the boy in particular -- who are making  
10 allegations against me, it makes me sad to think because  
11 I cared about those children very much and I thought  
12 they cared about me. We chatted, as I say, and went out  
13 together, played games, did various things, and years  
14 later they decide to make complaints. I don't  
15 understand it.

16 Q. I fully understand your position, Jane, that the  
17 complaints are invention, they're invented, they're  
18 lies?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. That's your position?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. These are lies?

23 Can I ask you this finally. You have mentioned [REDACTED]  
24 [REDACTED] that you've had some contact with.  
25 Have you kept in touch with any other former residents

1 from Nazareth House?

2 A. Not at this distance. I did for a while, but over the  
3 years I've lost contact with people. I also kept in  
4 touch with all the staff who worked with me for many  
5 years, a number of whom have died and lost touch in  
6 various ways. I did keep in touch with a lot of people:  
7 I loved Aberdeen, loved the people, and didn't want to  
8 leave it.

9 MR MacAULAY: Well, thank you, Jane, for coming here today  
10 to give your evidence. I've asked all the questions  
11 I wanted to ask and I think I've covered most, if not  
12 all, of the questions I've been asked to put to you.  
13 Thank you.

14 A. Thank you, sir.

15 LADY SMITH: Could I check whether there are any outstanding  
16 applications for questions? No.

17 Jane, that completes the questions we have for you  
18 today. It remains for me simply to thank you for  
19 engaging with the inquiry, both by providing your  
20 written statement and coming along today to give your  
21 oral evidence. It has been very helpful. I'm now able  
22 to let you go. Thank you very much.

23 A. Thank you, my Lady.

24 (The witness withdrew)

25 LADY SMITH: Yes, Mr MacAulay.

1 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, that is the evidence for today and  
2 indeed for this week, because we're not sitting  
3 tomorrow.

4 Next week, we continue along a similar vein. There  
5 are three sisters down to give evidence on Tuesday.

6 The witness who was due to start this week, [REDACTED], has  
7 been told to produce a medical certificate if he is  
8 unable to give evidence and to do that by tomorrow,  
9 I think.

10 LADY SMITH: Yes, he would need to.

11 MR MacAULAY: If that's not forthcoming, then he has to come  
12 on Tuesday to give evidence.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you, Mr MacAulay.

14 MR MacAULAY: Can I warn core participants that he may be  
15 giving evidence next week.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you for that.

17 We will rise now until Tuesday morning at  
18 10 o'clock. That's all the evidence until then.

19 Thank you very much.

20 (2.53 pm)

21 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am  
22 on Tuesday 12 June 2018)

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"SISTER KATRINA" (sworn) .....1

Questions from MR MacAULAY .....1

SISTER ANTHONY MacDONALD (sworn) .....31

Questions from MR MacAULAY .....31

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