

1 Wednesday, 30 May 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. We return to further oral
4 evidence this morning. I think, Mr MacAulay, you're
5 ready with the first witness today?

6 MR MacAULAY: Yes, good morning, my Lady --

7 LADY SMITH: In fact, the only witness today, I think;
8 is that right?

9 MR MacAULAY: That's the programme for today, my Lady.

10 The next witness is an applicant who has waived her
11 anonymity and that is Helen Holland.

12 HELEN HOLLAND (sworn)

13 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.
14 I think the microphone sounds as though it's in a good
15 position. You'll remember, Helen, from when you were
16 here before how important it is that the microphone
17 picks up everything you say. I'll let you know if you
18 seem to have drifted away: it's not a problem, we can
19 get it repositioned.

20 I'll pass over to Mr MacAulay to ask you questions.

21 Questions from Mr MacAULAY

22 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, Helen.

23 A. Good morning.

24 Q. Welcome back to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry,

25 because of course you've given evidence before. Can

1 I begin by just asking you again for your date of birth.

2 Can I ask you to confirm that you were born on

3 [REDACTED] 1958?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. In the red folder you'll find your statement. For the
6 transcript I'll give the reference as WIT.001.001.7267.

7 If I could just take you to the last page at 7326, can
8 I ask you to confirm that you have signed the statement?

9 A. I have, but this one's not signed, but I have signed it.

10 Q. So you've got an unsigned copy in front of you?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. I have a copy which bears your signature, so you can
13 confirm you have signed the statement?

14 A. Yes.

15 LADY SMITH: So do I.

16 MR MacAULAY: Can I also just ask you this: in the last
17 paragraph of the statement, you say:

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

20 Is that the case?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You also say:

23 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
24 statement are true."

25 Is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Today, Helen, I'm going to be asking you questions in
3 particular about your time in care with the Sisters of
4 Nazareth at Kilmarnock, and I think you understand that.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I'll also ask you some questions about your life after
7 care, but the primary focus will be on your life in
8 care. Before that, can I just touch upon your life
9 before you went into care. 

10 

11 A. 

12 Q. At a point in time you went to live with your
13 grandparents in Kilmarnock; is that right?

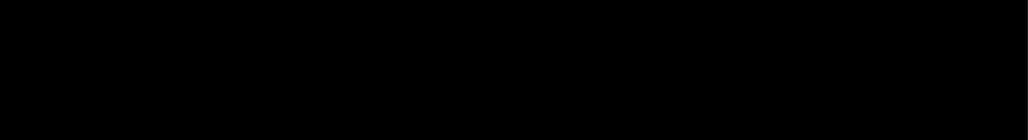
14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What age were you then, do you think, when that
16 happened?

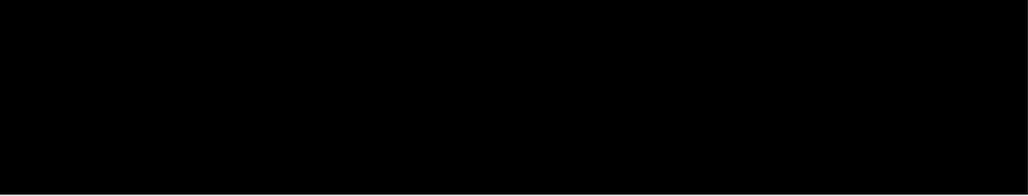
17 A. About three and a half, four.

18 Q. Were you essentially cared for by your grandmother at
19 that time?

20 A. Yes.

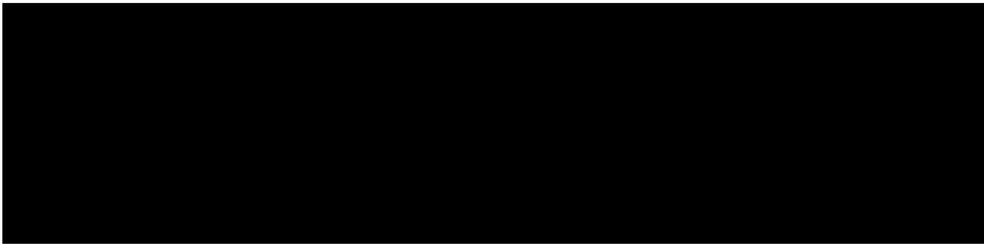
21 Q. 

22

23 A. 

24

25



1
2
3
4
5 But to all intents and purposes, it was a happy
6 place. I mean, [REDACTED] go out and play, there was
7 a big family next door. We'd do the things that
8 children shouldn't have done in those days: we'd tend to
9 go to the railway line and roll barrels down the railway
10 and things like that, that we'd get into trouble for.

11 My gran and papa had rhubarb in the garden so we'd
12 pick rhubarb and all get together as children and they
13 used to send me in, [REDACTED] for a
14 bag of sugar because my gran was more likely to give it
15 to me than she was the other ones.

16 Q. I think, from what you say in your statement, you were
17 particularly attached to your grandmother.

18 A. Yes. My gran -- [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED] I tended to spend more time
21 with my gran. She always took time, no matter how busy
22 she was -- because she was always cooking, she was
23 always making stuff, she was always making sweets and
24 things because she sold them to the children in the
25 village because there wasn't a shop. My gran would make

1 things like toffee frying pans and macaroon bars and
2 things like that, but in the afternoon she always took
3 time out to spend time with me and she would sit me on
4 her knee and tell me Bible stories -- every single day
5 she would do that -- and that would be the time with my
6 gran.

7 Q. I think when we look at what you tell us in your
8 statement, these Bible stories were quite important to
9 you when you were in care. Is that --

10 A. Absolutely; I believe that's what saw me through care.

11 Q. But there came a time when, rather sadly, your
12 grandmother died; is that correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Do you remember that particular time?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. How did you find out that she had died?

17 A. My gran was still on the sofa bed; she was never, ever
18 on the sofa bed in the morning. Every morning we got
19 up, the bed was made up, my gran was up and in the
20 kitchen. This particular day, my gran was still on the
21 sofa bed. [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED] I was told to sit outside, which was something that
23 never, ever happened, so I knew there was something
24 strange going on. People were -- obviously, the adults
25 were upset.

1 Then there was a lot of strange people coming to the
2 house, and my gran was taken away, but she wasn't taken
3 away until [REDACTED] So
4 my job was -- that day I had to wait for [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED] and tell [REDACTED] weren't going back to
6 the house. Looking back, it was probably because the
7 undertaker was coming back to get my gran ready. But my
8 job was to make sure that [REDACTED] didn't
9 go into the house.

10 Q. That was your realisation then that your grandmother had
11 died?

12 A. Not even particularly that day, more because in those
13 days the coffin stayed in the house for, like, three
14 days. So my gran was in the house with us, and even
15 then I still thought she was just sleeping. Nobody had
16 explained to me that she'd died. I thought it was
17 strange that she was in a box, but I was aware,
18 obviously, of the fact that everybody was upset and that
19 my gran was -- she was still there to all intents and
20 purposes, but I wasn't allowed to go to the funeral, so
21 I never really saw my gran being buried or anything like
22 that.

23 Q. I know that dates are difficult but are you able to say
24 what age you think you were when your grandmother died?

25 A. About five.

- 1 Q. Let's just look at what happened after that [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED] What was the plan then, what was decided after
5 your grandmother died?
- 6 A. It wasn't too long after my gran died. We went to Mass
7 one day as normal. [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED]
9 My dad just told [REDACTED] going in the car and he took
10 [REDACTED] the car and -- sorry, she's a therapy dog, so
11 she's wanting to be beside me.
- 12 LADY SMITH: Whatever you're happy with or whatever she's
13 happy with, it works for me, Helen.
- 14 A. Thanks.
15 So my dad took [REDACTED] the car to Nazareth House in
16 Kilmarnock. [REDACTED] didn't know what it was, it was just
17 a really, really big house.
- 18 MR MacAULAY: Have you discovered afterwards what prompted
19 that on his part? Did he get advice from someone?
- 20 A. My understanding is that it was the parish priest that
21 advised it because it wasn't seen as morally correct [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED] to be in a house with three adult men. That
23 was what my dad repeated [REDACTED] later in life.
- 24 Q. Do I take it from that explanation that at this point in
25 time, the Social Work Department, let's call them that,

1 were not involved?

2 A. They weren't involved at all.

3 Q. Can you remember then going into Nazareth House for the
4 first time?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What is your recollection?

7 A. Like I say, we'd come back from Mass, [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]. My dad

12 took [REDACTED] the car to what I thought was just a massive
13 building -- I'd never seen a building that size before.
14 The driveway was shaped like a heart and there was
15 a plinth with a statue on top of it, as you drove up, in
16 through the wrought-iron gates. And then there were
17 steps up to the front door.

18 My dad [REDACTED] rang the
19 doorbell and a nun came to the front door. She more or
20 less opened the door straightaway, so I think they were
21 obviously expecting us.

22 Q. [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 A. [REDACTED]

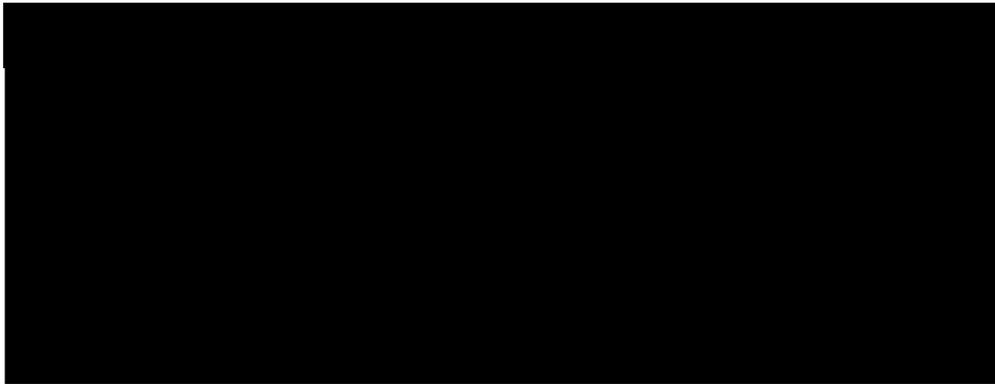
25 Q. I want you to look at a photograph and it may or may not

1 be relevant to what you're telling us, but I'll put it
2 on the screen. It is WIT.003.001.3553.

3 We're looking at a photograph of [REDACTED] little girls
4 standing in front of a statue; has this any relevance at
5 all to your going to Nazareth House?

6 A. I've been told later in life that that was the first day

7
8
9
10
11
12



13 Q. First of all, can I just confirm, you are the little
14 girl to the right as we look to the photograph?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. [REDACTED]

17



18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Is it your understanding this photograph was taken at
20 Nazareth House when you went there for the first time?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You're taking us then to the point in time when you went
23 into Nazareth House. Can I just understand what
24 happened next? Who do you meet when you go in?

25 A. The first person [REDACTED] was a nun, Sister [REDACTED] LHZ

- 1 Q. Did your father leave?
- 2 A. Yes. [REDACTED] my dad
3 turned round and got into the car, but when he was
4 driving away, there was like sparks coming from the
5 exhaust of the car. I thought the car was going to go
6 on fire so I got upset and I was told to stop
7 snivelling.
- 8 Q. Did anything happen at that time?
- 9 A. I got a slap on the head, told to shut up.
- 10 Q. Who did that?
- 11 A. Sister [REDACTED] LHZ
- 12 Q. So that was in your very first few moments in
13 Nazareth House?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Can I see if we can identify a time frame when you'd
16 have been there. These are dates that have been taken
17 from the Sisters of Nazareth records; they may or may
18 not coincide with your own understanding. According to
19 the records, you were admitted on 15 October 1965. That
20 would age you at about 7.
- 21 A. 7, 7 and two months, which -- no, I would not have been.
- 22 Q. I think your own understanding is, particularly in
23 reference to the photograph, that you were younger than
24 that.
- 25 A. Not just the photograph, if I was 7 and two months, that

1 would have put me in Primary Three. I had only just
2 finished -- I went to St Paul's School to start with for
3 the morning sessions, and that was in Hurlford, and when
4 I went to St Columba's I was on the back of Primary One
5 going into Primary Two.

6 Q. I think you told us that your grandmother died when you
7 were aged about 5, so are you placing your arrival at
8 Nazareth House at about that sort of age?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. So you're talking perhaps about 1963 or thereabouts?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So far as the records go to show, there is no record
13 in the admissions and discharge registers from
14 Nazareth House, but there is a Social Work record, which
15 suggests that -- and this is from the then East Ayrshire
16 Council records, that you left on 26 July 1972, so that
17 would be about [REDACTED] days after your 14th birthday. How
18 about that? Does that seem accurate to you?

19 A. I think I was nearer 15, because I was in my last year
20 at school. I was in the year for taking my exams at
21 school, [REDACTED]

22

23

24

25 Q. [REDACTED]

1 A. [REDACTED]

2 Q. Can I ask you about the set-up at Nazareth House once
3 you got your bearings. Were the children divided into
4 groups?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Can you just help me with that, Helen? What was the
7 set-up?

8 A. There were two groups. Sister [REDACTED] LHZ had one group,
9 Sister [REDACTED] LGO had the other group. Sister [REDACTED] LHZ had the
10 bigger group -- Sister [REDACTED] LHZ 's group had two recreation
11 rooms and two dining rooms. Sister [REDACTED] LGO s only had
12 one recreation room and one dining room.

13 Q. Were you in Sister [REDACTED] LHZ 's group?

14 A. [REDACTED]

15 Q. [REDACTED]

16 A. [REDACTED]

17 Q. [REDACTED]

18 A. [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED] -- I can't remember this 100 per cent,
21 but I think initially it was girls in one group and boys
22 in the other and then it mixed.

23 Q. So when you started in Sister [REDACTED] LHZ 's group you think it
24 was just girls?

25 A. Yes, possibly.

1 Q. And the boys possibly with Sister LGO ?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do I take it then that there was an age range --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- within the group? Did that remain the position

6 through most of your time at Nazareth House, that you

7 were in Sister LHZ 's group?

8 A. Yes, I was always in Sister LHZ 's group until she

9 left.

10 Q. Until she left?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. I want you to look at a document. I don't think you'll

13 have seen this before, but I just want to see if I can

14 put in context the set-up of the groups. This is --

15 I'll put it on the screen -- NAZ.001.003.1405.

16 You'll see this is described -- if we can focus in

17 on the very top. It's described as:

18 "The Sisters' Employment Registers."

19 And you'll see it's for Kilmarnock, and the first

20 date is 1929 and it goes through to 1985. This is

21 documentation that has been recovered from the Sisters

22 of Nazareth.

23 It's essentially showing you the sisters in

24 Nazareth House Kilmarnock and what they did. If I take

25 you to page 1439, we're looking -- I've picked 1965

1 because we know that for certain you were there then.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can we see that we have a list of sisters on the

4 left-hand side for 1965. The Mother Superior seems to

5 be a Mother Alphonsus Mary; do you see that at the top?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Does that ring a bell with you?

8 A. There was a Mother Superior, but I couldn't have told

9 you what her name was.

10 Q. [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED] Number 3 in the list

12 is Sister [REDACTED] LHZ ; do I take it that's the sister

13 you've been telling us about?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Can we see if we look across, we're told what they did.

16 Can we see that for her, we have "children"?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. If we move down to number 10, do we see reference there

19 to Sister [REDACTED] LGO ?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And again, do we see that for her we have "children"?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. But these are the only two sisters who are described as

24 having involvement with children. If you look at the

25 list --

1 A. They were the only two that had involvement with
2 children. None of the other sisters had anything to do
3 with the children.

4 Q. We see the sisters who were designated for collecting,
5 catering and so on and so forth, but these were the only
6 two that looked after the children that were there?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. I'll come to numbers in a moment.

9 Perhaps just to go forward a bit to page 1446, here
10 I've picked 1972 out of the register. Just to identify
11 that, again, at item 2 we still have Sister **LHZ** who's
12 now described as a "counsellor and group of children";
13 do you see that? So according to this, she's still
14 there in 1972 -- and I'll move on from that in
15 a moment -- and again at number 8 Sister **LGO** is now
16 "group and choir"; do you see that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Again, it seems that only two sisters are allocated
19 children duties.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Then if we go on to the next page, 1447 -- and we've now
22 moved into 1973 -- and the change we now notice is at 7
23 we still have Sister **LGO** but at 8 we have
24 Sister **LKE**.

25 A. Sister **LKE** came after Sister **LHZ** left.

1 Q. Does it appear then that at a point in time around 1972
2 or thereabouts, Sister LHZ left and Sister LKE
3 LKE came in her place?

4 A. Yes. I think it was round about 1973.

5 Q. Were you still there when Sister LKE came?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. So if you left in July 1972, then that doesn't work out,
8 but if it was a bit later then you would have crossed
9 paths with Sister LKE?

10 A. Yes, it was Sister LKE and then there was a
11 Sister Stephen came after that.

12 Q. I think what we take from this is that really for the
13 majority of your time at Nazareth House Kilmarnock, it
14 was Sister LHZ who was in charge of you?

15 A. Yes. Unfortunately, yes.

16 Q. That is the position?

17 Just to get a sense of the numbers -- and here I'm
18 taking you to material that has been produced by the
19 sisters themselves, this is at NAZ.001.001.0265.

20 We're looking at:

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

23 This is material that the sisters have provided us
24 with. You'll see "Kilmarnock" is the second column.
25 If we move down towards the bottom, again picking up

1 1965, simply as a point of departure, can we see that in
2 1965, according to this, there were 16 boys and
3 24 girls?

4 A. No way.

5 Q. You think it's less or more?

6 A. More.

7 Q. Okay. We can see there is a fluctuation in the numbers.

8 For example, in December 1969 there's 15 boys and

9 30 girls. Do you see that? What's your own

10 recollection, Helen, as to how many were in

11 Sister [REDACTED] 's group?

12 A. At times there were 30 in Sister [REDACTED] 's group alone,

13 and Sister [REDACTED] 's group would have had about 20.

14 Q. So you think that was the split, the majority in

15 Sister [REDACTED] 's group?

16 A. Yes, the majority were in Sister [REDACTED] 's group, but

17 sometimes Sister [REDACTED] would have like -- there would be

18 like an overflow. So I'm registering this on the basis

19 of the dormitories, because in the dormitory area there

20 was a corridor that led down to the fire exit and

21 sometimes there would be beds needing to be put on that

22 corridor because there was more children than there was

23 beds for the dormitories.

24 Q. I think you do mention that in your statement.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. But putting that aside, whether it's 24 or 30, do I take
2 it that those children were in the care of Sister LHZ ?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What about lay assistants? Were there lay staff who
5 would assist in the care?

6 A. Sometimes there would be one. I can remember the names
7 of some of them, but not very many, I only remember the
8 name of really one of them clearly. I know there was
9 a lady there [REDACTED] -- I think her name
10 was maybe LWP, I'm not 100 per cent sure.

11 For most of the time -- [REDACTED]
12 who worked in Nazareth House, [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED] One was called [REDACTED] and the other lady was
14 called [REDACTED]. They were [REDACTED].

15 On the whole, apart from Sister LHZ there would
16 be like one layperson.

17 Q. Okay. Did you form any understanding as to whether the
18 laypersons had been former residents from the home?

19 A. Not in that particular group, but there were former
20 residents still in the home, but they had jobs now.

21 Q. Can I look at some aspects of the daily routine with
22 you, Helen.

23 You got up early, I think, you tell us in your
24 statement, about 6 o'clock in the morning; is that
25 correct?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. What was the routine after that?
- 3 A. You'd get up at 6 o'clock. Sister LHZ would come
4 round with a bell. You'd get out of bed, kneel at the
5 side of the bed, say your prayers. When you had
6 finished saying your prayers, you'd take the top sheet
7 off the bed, put it over your head, put your clothes
8 on -- get out your pyjamas, put your clothes on, and
9 then you would go to the wash area, brush your teeth,
10 have a quick wash with your face and hands, and then you
11 would line up ready for Mass.
- 12 Q. Was Mass a daily occurrence?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. One thing you tell us is that after breakfast -- and
15 we'll come to food shortly -- you had to queue up to be
16 given a dessertspoon of malt extract and cod liver oil;
17 is that right?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Was that in the winter that happened?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And can you just help me with that? Who arranged that?
22 Who managed that?
- 23 A. Sister LHZ. Sister LHZ would stand at the top and
24 the children would all be made to line up one at a time
25 behind the other and it would be like -- it wasn't

1 a teaspoon, it was a dessertspoon that would be placed
2 in your mouth. Me personally, I didn't particularly
3 mind it, I didn't like it if there was too much oil, but
4 I didn't particularly mind it, but some of the children
5 hated it and they'd be crying even in the line-up
6 waiting to go up.

7 So sometimes if you were lucky you could pass it to
8 somebody else down the line if you knew they liked it,
9 but sometimes the children would be being sick. And
10 then it would just -- because sometimes she would force
11 the spoon too far into the back of your mouth so that
12 would automatically make you retch.

13 Q. Are we looking here at Sister LHZ 's group --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- and her managing her group? So far as Sister LGO
16 would be concerned, would she be doing something similar
17 with her group, do you know?

18 A. I have no idea because we never set foot in
19 Sister LGO 's -- the only time we set foot in
20 Sister LGO 's area is if the big concertina dividers
21 in the recreation rooms were opened up. They would be
22 opened up for events or if somebody was being punished
23 that we all had to witness. But apart from that, no,
24 Sister LHZ 's group was kept totally separate from
25 Sister LGO 's group.

1 LADY SMITH: Can I just take you back a moment to what you
2 said about getting up in the morning and having to get
3 dressed: you had to do that under a sheet?

4 A. Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: Why?

6 A. You weren't allowed to expose your body.

7 LADY SMITH: Who told you that?

8 A. Sister **LHZ**. It was wicked.

9 LADY SMITH: Was it the sheet from your bed you had to take
10 and put it over yourself and get dressed underneath it
11 and then put it back?

12 A. Yes. You would take the top sheet off, put that over
13 your head, put your clothes on, take the bottom sheet
14 off, the top sheet that came off your body went on the
15 bottom, and then the bottom one went on the top when you
16 made the bed.

17 LADY SMITH: Right. Okay.

18 A. So you were rotating the sheets every day -- except the
19 bed-wetters.

20 LADY SMITH: No doubt Mr MacAulay will be coming to that.

21 Thank you, Helen, for helping me understand that.

22 MR MacAULAY: Just coming back to the dormitory set-up,
23 I should perhaps have asked you this: you were in
24 a particular dormitory with other children.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Can you remember how many were in your dormitory when
2 you started off at least?

3 A. The first dormitory I went into was 10.

4 Q.

5

6 A.

7 Q.

8 A.

9

10

11 Q.

12

13

14 But do I take it then that there were a number of
15 different dormitories to accommodate the children?

16 A. There were four dormitories and then there was the
17 overflow corridor.

18 Q. Were the four dormitories there to accommodate both
19 groups of children?

20 A. There was one dormitory for boys, when the group was
21 mixed, so there were three for girls, one for boys.

22 Q. To cover both groups?

23 A. No, no, that was just Sister LHZ 's group.

24 Sister LGO 's group was in a different corridor,
25 a different part of the building so they would have

1 their own dormitory and changing rooms. I don't know
2 what they were like; I was never in them.

3 Q. What you're saying is there really was quite a clear
4 demarcation line between the two groups and where they
5 occupied the building and so on and so forth; is that
6 right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. At mealtimes -- for example, did you have meals in
9 different places?

10 A. We did have meals in different places. Sister LGO 's
11 group had their dining room. Sister LHZ 's group had
12 the two dining rooms. One led into the other, so there
13 was an open door and you'd go from one dining room into
14 the other dining room. Sister LGO 's group was
15 totally separate. It was on the ground floor -- the
16 dining rooms were on the ground floor. The recreation
17 rooms were to the front of the building, the dining
18 rooms were to the back of building.

19 On the third floor would be the dormitories, but
20 you'd have to go down a corridor and pass by
21 Sister LGO 's group, cross over the middle section of
22 the building, and then into another corridor and that
23 was Sister LHZ 's dormitories. So they were totally
24 divided. They'd be divided by probably a corridor the
25 length of this room.

1 Q. Can I then ask you about mealtimes. How did you find
2 the food at Nazareth House?

3 A. Well, I can't stand celery to this day. One of the
4 things we used to get was braised celery in a white
5 sauce, and I hated it. I hated the smell of it even.
6 I didn't like celery, I didn't like fish. Every Friday
7 was fish and I still can't stand fish -- well, except
8 out of the chip shop, but any other fish, no, I'm not
9 interested in it, because it wasn't like that kind of
10 fish. It would be like done in a white sauce or a
11 parsley sauce, something like that. It was vile.

12 Q. But if you didn't want to eat your food, would anything
13 happen?

14 A. There wasn't a choice, you cleared your plate, because
15 the black babies would have been happy to take the food.
16 That's what Sister LHZ always told you: the black
17 babies would be grateful for it. I don't say that in
18 a derogatory sense; that's the way it was described in
19 those days. So you just had to clear the plates.

20 If you had somebody sitting next to you who liked
21 the food you didn't like, you'd try to pass it over if
22 she wasn't looking, but apart from that, no, you had to
23 eat it. You had no choice.

24 Q. When you say "when she wasn't looking", would
25 Sister LHZ supervise mealtimes?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. If you just couldn't eat what was in front of you, what
3 then?
- 4 A. If you were struggling to eat the food, Sister **LHZ**
5 would come behind you, she'd pull your hair back, hold
6 your nose so you had to open your mouth, and she'd force
7 the food in.
- 8 Q. Did that happen to you?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Could that make you sick?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Were you on occasions sick because of that?
- 13 A. Yes, because the fork would hit the back of your throat,
14 so the food and everything else would just come up along
15 with it, and she'd just say, "You'll eat that as well,
16 you brazen hussy", and she'd be calling you names,
17 slapping you and forcing the food in at the same time.
- 18 Q. You have mentioned the expression "brazen hussy"; was
19 this an expression used?
- 20 A. Every day, every day in life. I didn't even know what
21 it meant as a 5-year-old child, but it was used all the
22 time.
- 23 Q. You've been describing your own experience; what about
24 other children?
- 25 A. That happened to any child that didn't eat their food.

1 Q. Were there any lay staff involved in this process?

2 A. [REDACTED] LWP [REDACTED] used to do it as well.

3 Q. You're telling us about Sister [REDACTED] LHZ 's group, but do you

4 know what happened in Sister [REDACTED] LGO 's group?

5 A. No, I was never in Sister [REDACTED] LGO 's dining room.

6 Q. So far as the nuns would be concerned, did they eat with

7 you or would they --

8 A. No, they had separate eating quarters.

9 Q. One thing you tell us in your statement, Helen, is that

10 you weren't allowed to drink after you were out of the

11 dining room; is that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. If you became thirsty, what would you do?

14 A. It's going to sound disgusting, but we'd go to the

15 toilet, flush the toilet, and drink the water from the

16 toilet.

17 Q. Could you have asked for a drink of water, for example?

18 A. You wouldn't dare. You didn't ask for anything. You

19 were bold -- if you asked for anything you were bold and

20 brazen. So the children would just go to the toilet,

21 flush the toilet, and take the water from there.

22 Q. Is that something you did yourself?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You do tell us about one incident involving crab apples,

25 where I think someone had gone into somebody's garden.

1 A. ██████ went to the orchard next door in the vet's.
2 There was a vet next door to Nazareth House -- it's
3 still there to this day in Hill Street. They had apple
4 trees and pear trees. One day ██████ decided --
5 we were all outside at the time, but ██████ decided
6 she was going to go over the wall and get some of the
7 apples because they looked ready for eating. But -- we
8 all wore aprons crisscrossed at the back, so she
9 gathered all the apples in her apron and managed to
10 climb back over the wall. But unbeknownst to us,
11 Sister LHZ was watching from the window, so she came
12 out and we were all forced to go into the dining room
13 and the crab apples were put on the table and we were
14 made to eat them. So we all ended up with really,
15 really sore stomachs.

16 Q. Can I take you back to your first day and second day,
17 perhaps, at Nazareth House. You have told us about what
18 happened when your father drove away, but what was the
19 next part of the process of being introduced to
20 Nazareth House? What happened after that?

21 A. ██████ taken through to the changing room -- ██████ didn't
22 know that's what it was at the time -- and ██████ told
23 to take ██████ clothes off, put them in the middle of the
24 floor, and then ██████ given other clothes and told
25 they would be ██████ clothes from now on.

- 1 Q. Did you see your other clothes again?
- 2 A. No, never.
- 3 Q. Did you also have some sort of process whereby
- 4 Sister [REDACTED] checked for lice?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. What did that involve?
- 7 A. On a Friday night, you'd have to line up and it would be
- 8 like a stainless steel bone comb that would be put
- 9 through your head and sometimes your head would bleed,
- 10 but she'd still keep putting it through. If you
- 11 wriggled or tried to move your head, then she'd hold
- 12 your head really, really hard and press the comb in even
- 13 harder, so nine times out of ten you'd end up with bits
- 14 of your head bleeding.
- 15 Q. Would children be upset at this point in time?
- 16 A. Yes, but you tried not to be, because if you were upset,
- 17 you got slapped even more.
- 18 Q. Another thing you tell us about your early days is that,
- 19 in your first night, I think, you went to [REDACTED]
- 20 bed; is that right?
- 21 A. The second night I was there, yes.
- 22 Q. Can you tell me about that?
- 23 A. I woke up in the middle of the night and I was scared,
- 24 [REDACTED]
- 25 [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] and climbed into bed
2 beside her and just cuddled up and fell asleep with her.
3 And the next thing I knew, I was being woke up by
4 Sister [REDACTED] LHZ pulling me out of the bed by my hair,
5 calling me a brazen hussy, asking me what I was doing
6 with that child, and saying all sorts of things that
7 I didn't understand while still hitting me at the same
8 time and marched me back to my bed and threw me in it
9 and told me not to get back out of it again.

10 Q. When you say she was hitting you can you describe that,
11 what was she doing?

12 A. She had a switch -- we called it a switch in
13 Nazareth House in Kilmarnock. It was like a -- the only
14 way I can describe it -- it's like what I would use
15 in the garden, a bamboo cane for holding the roses up,
16 but when it went through the air, it would make
17 a swishing noise, so we called that the switch. That
18 was never far from Sister [REDACTED] LHZ, so she would use the
19 switch.

20 Q. On that second night, did she use the switch on you?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Was it being targeted at a particular part of the body?

23 A. Whatever part it could reach. She was just really
24 angry. She was an angry person. I don't think it would
25 have mattered what you did. She just ... I think she

1 hated me.

2 Q. Was that your impression throughout the whole time you
3 were in contact with her?

4 A. Yes, I think she hated me from the day I came in. She
5 told me hell was in my name and the devil was inside of
6 me. [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED]

9 Q. This expression that the devil was inside you, was this
10 something she said to you on a regular basis?

11 A. Constantly.

12 Q. One thing you tell us in your statement, insofar as this
13 incident involving you going to [REDACTED] bed is
14 concerned, is that she said to you that no one loved
15 you.

16 A. Yes. She told us that's the reason why [REDACTED] there.
17 I think at one point, if I remember correctly, I'd said
18 something about, "I'm telling my dad", or something like
19 that, and their response was, "Why do you think you're
20 here? You're here because nobody loves you, nobody
21 wants you. There's no point in complaining, nobody's
22 going to listen to the likes of you".

23 Q. Was that said to you on more than one occasion?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Throughout your time, how often was that said to you?

1 A. Most of the time. Every time there was any form of
2 punishment, every time there was any form of abuse, it
3 was reiterated, and after a while you start to believe
4 it, so you just accept what's happening and hope and
5 pray it doesn't happen too often.

6 Q. You mentioned already what happened on the first day
7 with regard to your clothing. Do I take it then you
8 were given clothes to wear by Sister LHZ ?

9 A. Yes, well, they were there, they were laid out. I don't
10 know who laid them out, but [REDACTED] just told to get
11 into them. My gran would never have allowed [REDACTED] to be
12 seen in those clothes.

13 Q. What was wrong with the clothes?

14 A. They were shabby. My gran would have thrown them on the
15 fire to heat us up -- and I don't mean that
16 disrespectfully. I know in those days they probably
17 didn't have a lot of money and things, but it made the
18 children stand out like a sore thumb. It made you feel
19 like nobody cared, it made you feel like nobody wanted
20 you.

21 Q. In particular would this be the case when you were
22 outside?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You give one example about shoes and I think it's
25 a paragraph that's on the screen at the moment, that you

1 were told to find a pair of shoes that would fit you and
2 you identified a particular pair of shoes that you
3 liked.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What happened then?

6 A. Every so often in the changing room a big black bag
7 would come in and all these shoes would be tipped out
8 into the middle of the changing room and you'd be told
9 to find a pair of shoes that fit you, but I had spotted
10 a pair that were black patent and I decided I wanted
11 them so I went and got the shoes. They were too small
12 but I decided I was having them, but I had to admit
13 after a couple of days they were too small for me, but
14 Sister **LHZ** said to me, "You picked them, you wear
15 them".

16 Q. For how long did you have to wear them?

17 A. Oh, about a year.

18 Q. Really? How did that impact upon your feet?

19 A. They were bleeding, my toes were all curled up.

20 I remember one day at school -- it was a French lesson
21 at secondary school, first year at secondary school --
22 and the teacher was doing an exercise where she was
23 asking you for different things in French, so you'd give
24 her it and she would put it on the table and then she'd
25 take off her black cloak and put it over the table and

1 she'd asked me for a shoe, but I felt really, really
2 embarrassed about giving her the shoe because I knew it
3 was all bloody inside and I tried to pretend I didn't
4 understand what she was asking me for, and I went and
5 opened the door, but she knew fine well that I knew that
6 wasn't what she was asking me. She said, look, just
7 give me the shoe, it's all right, and she put the cloak
8 over it, but it was horrible because it meant everybody
9 in the class saw the state of it.

10 Q. So if you are looking at secondary school, this incident
11 you are telling us about would have been later on in
12 your time at Nazareth House?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. We've touched upon the morning procedure. Let's look at
15 the night-time procedure when you were in bed. Did
16 you have to lie in bed in a particular way?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can you just explain that?

19 A. Like that, one hand on each shoulder (indicating).

20 Q. So your arms across your chest?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. If you didn't do that, would anything happen?

23 A. You'd get beaten.

24 Q. Can you help me with that?

25 A. Sometimes, like -- I still sleep like that to this day,

1 to be honest with you, but the last person I saw
2 sleeping like that was my gran when she was in the
3 coffin. But that's how we were told we had to sleep.
4 But if you didn't sleep like that and Sister LHZ was
5 doing the rounds, and she noticed that your hands
6 weren't in the right position, then the sheets would be
7 whipped back and you'd be hit with the switch and told
8 to get your hands in the position.

9 Q. The hitting with the switch, I think you told us, would
10 be any part of your body, but would it leave a mark?

11 A. Oh yeah, it would leave like a big welt.

12 Q. Would these welts be evident?

13 A. Yes.

14 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, I think we'll have a break at this
15 point. I'm thinking of having a break of about
16 10 minutes, Helen, but let me know if you're ready after
17 10 minutes or not. All right?

18 A. Yes.

19 (10.46 am)

20 (A short break)

21 (11.05 am)

22 MR MacAULAY: On a number of occasions, Helen, you've
23 mentioned the switch --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- and you've told us why that was what it was called.

1 You have indicated that it was Sister **LHZ** who would
2 use the switch?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Do you say this was something she used on a regular
5 basis?

6 A. Daily.

7 Q. And targeting different parts of the body?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. If, let's say, the back of the legs, for example, was
10 targeted, I think you've told us that would leave marks.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So these marks would be visible?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What about when you went to school if you'd had the
15 switch and you had marks on your legs? Would anything
16 happen?

17 A. Nobody bothered. We were just "the Nazzy children" at
18 school.

19 Q. But would the marks be visible?

20 A. Sometimes you could see the mark, yes, especially if she
21 caught you with the end of it -- if it was maybe, say,
22 6 inches from the end of the stick or the cane, it
23 didn't mark as badly. But if you were caught with the
24 bottom of it, the bit that went through the air fastest,
25 sometimes it would splinter a little bit, so you'd get

1 the welt come up on the back of your legs and sometimes
2 it would bleed. But it would be raised for quite
3 a while. Sometimes the children used to sit on the
4 floor and put their legs on the cold floor to try and
5 see if they could ease it a little bit.

6 Q. Was that something you yourself tried?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And other children?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Throughout your time -- and we'll look at other aspects
11 of your life in Nazareth House -- up until you left,
12 let's say at 14 or 15, and Sister **LHZ** was there, even
13 in your teens did she treat you in this way?

14 A. Worse.

15 Q. Just looking at that, the use of the switch, in what way
16 was that worse?

17 A. I developed early, so it wasn't just the switch then, it
18 was ridicule as well, she'd ridicule other parts of your
19 body. The devil was inside you even more at that point.

20 Q. Again, we'll perhaps come on to that, Helen.

21 Can I then ask you about this: just going back to
22 the set-up with dormitories, you've already told us that
23 boys and girls were in separate dormitories.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. But you also say in your statement that if you

1 misbehaved there was a particular punishment that could
2 be used by Sister LHZ that involved doing something
3 with your bed. Can you help me with that?

4 A. Sometimes the bed would be put out on the fire exit.
5 I was really scared of thunder and lightning -- I'm
6 still scared of it to this day -- but if you misbehaved
7 and Sister LHZ thought you'd talked to somebody in the
8 dormitory -- you weren't allowed to speak after the
9 lights went out, so if you'd spoken out of turn then
10 your bed could be put on to the fire exit and you'd be
11 made to sleep out on the fire exit.

12 Q. Can I just understand that, Helen: are you saying the
13 fire exit -- if you were on the fire exit you'd be
14 in the open air?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What if it was raining?

17 A. Too bad.

18 Q. You mentioned thunder and lightning. Were you put on
19 the fire escape when there was some thunder and
20 lightning?

21 A. Yes. One of the times I tried to get out of the bed, so
22 she tied me to the rail so that I couldn't move. I had
23 no choice then but to stay on the fire exit, but because
24 I was screaming, I got beaten for screaming and told to
25 be quiet.

- 1 Q. Can you say how often this particular punishment was
2 inflicted upon yourself?
- 3 A. For me, only when it was thunder and lightning. So
4 I don't know, half a dozen times or so maybe.
- 5 Q. How did she know that you were frightened of --
- 6 A. Because I screamed, I couldn't hold it in.
- 7 Q. Did you see this treatment being given out to any other
8 children?
- 9 A. Yes, [REDACTED] was put out on the fire exit as well.
- 10 Q. Any other children apart from yourself and [REDACTED]
11 that you're aware of?
- 12 A. Yes, some of the other children as well.
- 13 Q. Are you saying to the inquiry that this would happen
14 even if it was raining?
- 15 A. Yes, it didn't make any difference.
- 16 Q. So would the bedclothes get wet?
- 17 A. Soaking.
- 18 Q. How long would you be out on the fire exit?
- 19 A. Until the bell went in the morning. One of the times
20 I tried to come back in, but you can't go back in
21 because the fire exit door only opens one way.
- 22 Q. Where in the building was the fire exit? Was it to the
23 rear of the building or --
- 24 A. It was to the rear and the side of the building.
- 25 Q. We have a photograph of the building --

1 A. From the top floor all the way down the side of the
2 building on both sides.

3 Q. Again, would you have any problems looking at
4 a photograph of it?

5 A. No.

6 Q. If I can put this on the screen for you, Helen. It's
7 NAZ.001.001.0258.

8 We'll look at the top half here. Do you recognise
9 that as the main building?

10 A. Yes. The bit to the right-hand side, as I'm looking at
11 it, is an extension that was put on later for the old
12 people.

13 Q. Was that during your time or after your time?

14 A. After.

15 Q. So we're really focusing on what looks like the red
16 brick part of the building?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You've already told us about the different floors. The
19 fire exit you're talking about then, I know we can't see
20 them in the photograph, but can you give us an idea as
21 to where they would be?

22 A. There would be two. The bit that you can see to the
23 left-hand side of that photograph, the white sort of --
24 the little white area down the bottom, that's where the
25 grotto is. If you go round that corner, there's a fire

1 exit that goes from the top right up to where the -- not
2 the main apex bit, the third set of windows.

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. All the way down the side of that building is a fire
5 exit and there was one at the opposite side as well.

6 Q. That would allow people from the top to escape?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Would there be doors all the way down that would allow
9 people at different levels --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. As far as you are concerned, Helen, looking to where
12 your dormitory was, was it the fire exit to the left or
13 the one to the other side that your bed was put on?

14 A. The one where the extension's on.

15 Q. That's the one to the right as we look at the
16 photograph?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Who would put the bed out?

19 A. Sister **LHZ** would. She'd throw it out.

20 Q. I just want to understand the mechanics of this. The
21 beds that you had in your dormitories, were they
22 portable, by that I mean you could move them quite
23 easily, could you?

24 A. Well, they were like hospital beds, there was wheels.

25 Q. I see.

1 A. But if Sister LHZ was really angry, she could have
2 moved a mountain.

3 Q. In any event, you could wheel them from A to B?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Because you have already mentioned the spillover area --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- and that beds could be in the corridor and that's
8 because they could be wheeled there?

9 A. Yes, or if there was an outbreak of mumps, the children
10 with the mumps would end up on the -- because that
11 building from the front of the building, face on, the
12 way we're looking at it, to the rear back of the
13 building, would probably be twice the length of this
14 building.

15 Q. Of this room?

16 A. Of this room, yes.

17 Q. I see. So it's a deep building if you're looking at it
18 from the front to the back?

19 A. Yes, because when you go in the front door, there's the
20 two parlours, one at either side of the front door.
21 Then you go through -- it's a sort of arch door at the
22 front. When you go through the front door you go into
23 a parlour area. So there's a parlour at either side and
24 a square bit in the middle. And then there's the door
25 immediately in front of that, it's all closed off, and

1 there's like a rectangular door there, a big wooden
2 rectangular door. You would go through that door and
3 that would take you into the main middle of the
4 building.

5 So where the apex is in the middle, the middle is
6 actually -- when you're inside the building, it is
7 slightly off to the left. To the right on the ground
8 floor, that's where, at the front, the three recreation
9 rooms were. It was really one big room, but it was
10 divided by these big concertina doors.

11 The first floor up above the children's recreation
12 areas -- the old ladies were on the first floor and then
13 the chapel was to the left.

14 Q. So the chapel wasn't on the ground floor then, it was on
15 the first floor?

16 A. No, it was on the first floor. Then the next floor up
17 was the dormitories. The dormitories of Sister LHZ
18 were to the front. I'm not sure about the other
19 corridor to be honest with you because I was never in
20 any of those rooms.

21 When I was in, right up the very top -- there were
22 some more old people up the very top and there was
23 a lift in the middle that would go up in between floors,
24 but the children weren't allowed to use the lift.

25 Q. I take it the lift was to accommodate the older people?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. You have mentioned the two parlours. To what extent
3 were the parlours used by people within Nazareth House?
- 4 A. Only for visitors or social workers.
- 5 Q. We're looking at the front of the building where we can
6 see the gardens leading up to the main building. We
7 don't have a view of the back of the building, but were
8 there other buildings at the back of the building?
- 9 A. Yes. There were outhouses at the back. So where that
10 building is, going through the depth of the building, if
11 you were going out the back door -- where the extension
12 is here on the right-hand side, there used to be a path
13 that would go all the way up there, and that was --
14 there was a big brick wall, so it would go up to
15 probably ... maybe just where the top windows are on the
16 ground level. So the hopper windows -- there would be
17 a wall all the way across there and then there would be
18 a path that would lead down to the main road.
- 19 Q. The wall was just that, there wasn't a building, it was
20 just simply a wall to cut off the back from the front?
- 21 A. Yes, at that side. But then there was a sort of
22 courtyard there and behind the courtyard were
23 outbuildings, so it was like a big L-shape. So you
24 would have the laundry rooms, there was a big sort of
25 outhouse area where we used to go for Scottish country

1 dancing, things like that. To the other side of the
2 L-shape was a garage where the van was kept. There was
3 a furnace and there was a, I think, another couple of
4 outhouses that were used for storage. Then there was
5 a big field.

6 Q. The field was somewhere you could go and play?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. I should have asked you this before: we've focused on
9 two nuns in particular, Sister LGO and Sister LHZ,
10 and you have told us about your involvement with
11 Sister LHZ. The other nuns, as we can see from the
12 list we looked at, had different responsibilities --
13 collecting being one, for example -- did you have any
14 dealings with the other nuns in any real way at all
15 during your time there?

16 A. No, we only saw the other nuns in the chapel. Sometimes
17 [REDACTED] used to go and work in the kitchen, so she
18 would be involved with the sister in the kitchen. There
19 was a sister that did sewing and alterations, that type
20 of thing. There would be a sister who would answer the
21 front doorbell, so like if there were people coming, she
22 would be responsible for the parlours. There was
23 a sister for the old ladies, a sister for the old men, a
24 sister for the chapel. That type of thing. So they all
25 really just dealt with their own responsibilities.

1 Q. Can I then go back to aspects of the routine in
2 Nazareth House. Can I look at bed-wetting. What you
3 tell us in your statement, Helen, is that you did not
4 wet the bed.

5 A. No.

6 Q. But there were others who did, [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- did wet the bed; is that correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED]

13 A. [REDACTED]

14 Q. [REDACTED]

15 A. [REDACTED]

16 Q. Can you just explain to the inquiry what the procedure
17 was if a child wet the bed?

18 A. Well, some of the older children had responsibilities to
19 get the younger children up after we'd been to bed.
20 Round about, say, maybe half past nine, 10 o'clock. So
21 if you were on bed-wetting duties, you would get the
22 young ones up and take them to the toilet.

23 Q. This is at 9.30/10 o'clock at night?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. So the child has gone to bed at an earlier time?

- 1 A. About 7.
- 2 Q. So the child would then have to be woken up?
- 3 A. Yes, sometimes. Sometimes if you were trying to do it
- 4 quickly you would just carry them to the toilet and put
- 5 them on the toilet.
- 6 Q. Was this a duty you had to perform later on in your time
- 7 at Nazareth House?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. But when you were a younger child there, clearly you
- 10 would not have that responsibility?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. What age would you take on that responsibility?
- 13 A. About 9.
- 14 Q. Can you then take me through the procedure? We've got
- 15 the waking-up part of the process to take the children
- 16 to the toilet. If a child had wet the bed before that,
- 17 what would happen?
- 18 A. You'd have to tell Sister [REDACTED] LHZ Sometimes she would
- 19 rub their faces in it. Sometimes you'd get beaten
- 20 because she would blame you for not getting up early
- 21 enough to take them to the toilet. But it was mainly
- 22 in the morning when the punishments were dealt out.
- 23 Q. Let's look at the morning then. [REDACTED]
- 24 [REDACTED] What did
- 25 you see happening [REDACTED] to any child that wet the

- 1 bed?
- 2 A. Well, like I say, I was fortunate, I never wet the bed,
3 but the children who did wet the bed would be made to
4 stand at the side of their bed because when we were
5 saying our prayers, Sister **LHZ** would go round the beds
6 to examine them. If a child had wet the bed then the
7 bottom sheet was yanked off the bed and put over their
8 head. She would rub it in their face, she'd tell them
9 they were filthy, and the children would be made to
10 stand like that, right up until we'd already been
11 washed. Only then would they be allowed to go and get
12 washed, and that would only be their face because, as I
13 say, she'd already rubbed the sheets in their faces.
- 14 Q. What about baths? Did they have to have baths?
- 15 A. Not after they'd wet the bed, no. We only had a bath on
16 a Friday.
- 17 Q. But when they had baths, then, can you tell me what the
18 water was like?
- 19 A. It depended where you were in the queue. There were two
20 baths --
- 21 Q. So now you're looking at bathing generally; I'll come to
22 that.
- 23 A. Sorry.
- 24 Q. No, no, it's my fault.
- 25 So far as the bed-wetters were concerned then, after

1 you'd gone and got washed, then it would be their turn
2 to do the same?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. [REDACTED]

5

6 A. Yes, but it wouldn't be a bath, it would just be into
7 the washroom [REDACTED]

8 Q. And what about the sheets? Do you know what happened
9 with the sheets, the wet sheets?

10 A. I think they just went to the laundry. I don't really
11 recall what happened to them.

12 Q. Did you, when you got older, 9 or whatever, then have
13 responsibility for dealing with a younger child as well,
14 as you've explained? So you had to wake up a younger
15 child at 9.30/10 o'clock?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. That was a job you had to do?

18 A. For bed-wetting duties, yes. We took it in turns.

19 Q. If a child had wet the bed before being moved, you tell
20 us there'd be punishments for that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Would the child be punished?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What would happen to the child?

25 A. They would be beaten with the switch.

1 Q. You mention the switch on quite a regular basis, but
2 apart from the switch, and you've told us how that was
3 operated, was there any other form of hitting that
4 Sister [REDACTED] might use?

5 A. A fist. She would put her knuckle like this
6 (indicating), put out her middle finger so that it was
7 pointed and she would bring that down on top of your
8 head, which was really painful, because she'd do it
9 really, really quickly. It would get to the point where
10 you couldn't touch your head because it was so sore.

11 Q. Was there any rhyme or reason as to what particular form
12 of hitting Sister [REDACTED] would adopt?

13 A. I can't work out why she did what she did. Um ...
14 I think the only way I can think of Sister [REDACTED] is an
15 unhappy person who took it out on the children in any
16 way she possibly could. If that meant beating them up,
17 then she would beat them up. If it meant forcing them
18 to eat food they didn't want to eat until they were
19 sick, she would do that; if it meant kicking them, she
20 would do that. It would just escalate.

21 LADY SMITH: One of the impressions you give me, Helen, is
22 of a woman who was desperate to keep the children under
23 her control.

24 A. She ruled by fear.

25 LADY SMITH: Is that right?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 MR MacAULAY: You said a moment ago, in response to
3 her Ladyship, that, "She ruled by fear".
- 4 A. Yes, everybody was terrified by her. I'll give you an
5 example. If you were in the recreation room, sometimes
6 you'd let your guard down a little bit and the children
7 would maybe be talking a bit louder than they normally
8 would. If the door opened and Sister **LHZ** came in,
9 everything would fall silent.
- 10 Q. You were telling us about the bed-wetters. Were any
11 names used to criticise the bed-wetters?
- 12 A. "Pee-the-beds."
- 13 Q. You do tell us, I think, about one incident involving
14 **[REDACTED]**, who had hidden her sheet or sheets; can you
15 tell me about that?
- 16 A. **[REDACTED]** had wet the bed and she knew she was going to
17 get a thrashing for her, because, God love her, she got
18 it every morning because she wet the bed every single
19 night. One of the times, she didn't want to get beaten,
20 so she actually put the top sheet on the bottom and hid
21 the one that she'd wet. I don't know where she hid it,
22 I still don't know where she hid it to this day, but
23 Sister **LHZ** kept asking her where was the sheet. She
24 obviously knew she'd wet the bed. She kept asking her
25 where the sheet was and **[REDACTED]** wouldn't tell her.

1 Q. Were you there when this was going on?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What happened?

4 A. She thrashed her. She thrashed her with the switch, she
5 was punching her, kicking her, "You will tell me where
6 the sheet is", and [REDACTED] just refused to tell her.

7 Q. Did that remain the position, she never told her?

8 A. She never, ever told her, she never told me. I don't
9 know what happened to that sheet.

10 Q. I know time is difficult, but can you say how long this
11 took?

12 A. How long the thrashing took?

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. Ten or 15 minutes.

15 Q. As long as that?

16 A. Yes. Constantly having her by the -- she had her by the
17 hair at this point, so she's punching her, she's beating
18 her, "You will tell me, you're a brazen hussy, you'll
19 tell me where the sheet is", and [REDACTED] would just be
20 silent, because she was stubborn as a mule, and then she
21 would just beat her even more. And it was, "Where is
22 the sheet? Where is the sheet?" and she just refused to
23 speak. So because she was refusing to speak,
24 Sister [REDACTED] LHZ was determined she was going to break her,
25 so she went from punching her to then getting the switch

1 and [REDACTED] still refused to tell her where it was.

2 Q. Can you tell me what age [REDACTED] was at that time?

3 A. About 11 or 12.

4 Q. You had moved on to mention bathing and what the
5 arrangements were for bathing. Can I just touch upon
6 that? Was there a particular night that was bath night?

7 A. Friday night.

8 Q. Can you just explain to us what the procedure was then
9 for bathing children?

10 A. There were two baths for Sister [REDACTED] 's group. There
11 was one to the right, one to the left.

12 Q. Were they in the same area or in different rooms?

13 A. In the same area, probably a room about the size of
14 behind you, over to the door there (indicating). So
15 there were two baths, one to the right, one to the left,
16 and there was a curtain pulled across the middle. The
17 boys went in the bath to the right, the girls went
18 in the bath to the left.

19 But the horrible thing about the baths was you had
20 these, like, pantaloon bloomer type things, but they
21 were made out of shower curtain material. So if you
22 were lucky and the first three or four in the row, they
23 would be dry so they would be easy to slip on and off.
24 If you were behind them, the person would come out the
25 bath, they would put the towel round about them, slip

1 down these bloomer type things and then they would step
2 aside, so the next children would step forward, step
3 into the bloomers, and pull them up, and they would
4 stick to your skin because it was shower curtain
5 material.

6 Q. Did you keep the bloomers on when you were in the bath?

7 A. Yes, you were never, ever naked.

8 LADY SMITH: Without going into too much detail, Helen, did
9 that mean that you couldn't wash your private parts
10 properly?

11 A. Yes.

12 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

13 A. It was an act of the devil to be naked.

14 LADY SMITH: Ah, right.

15 MR MacAULAY: As far as the bathwater itself would be
16 concerned, can tell me what the position was with that?
17 If you're in first then the water, presumably, would be
18 clean.

19 A. It would be lukewarm, but Jeyes fluid was put in the
20 bath, so it would go in like black treacle and then it
21 would turn the water grey. I don't mind the smell of
22 Jeyes fluid, I quite like it, but a lot of people hate
23 it now. But that was fine if you were only bathing and
24 you had no cuts or anything on you. But if you had
25 a cut on your skin, it nipped like mad, but you couldn't

1 flinch because she'd be watching for that. You'd go
2 in the bath, then, as I say, you would get out of the
3 bath, take down the bloomers and the next person would
4 move in. But it was the same bathwater for every child.

5 Q. If you are looking at the girls in a particular Friday
6 night, how many girls would sometimes queue up for the
7 Friday night bath?

8 A. 25, 26.

9 Q. So it would depend, at a given time, how many girls were
10 in Sister LHZ's group?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Was it one girl at a time or how was -- what were the
13 arrangements?

14 A. It was definitely one at a time. There was no way you
15 would get away with two in there.

16 Q. When you were queueing up waiting for the bath, was
17 there anything else that was part of the process then so
18 far as Sister LHZ was concerned? Did she do any other
19 form of inspection?

20 A. Not in the bathroom area. In the bathroom area, as I
21 say, it was a case of everybody had their towels round
22 about them. You quickly learned how to put these things
23 on and off without exposing your body in any way
24 whatsoever. Once you were out of the bath and dried,
25 you'd be straight in your pyjamas and into bed.

1 Q. One thing you tell us in your statement is a procedure
2 that involved some degree of pants inspection.

3 A. That was downstairs. That was earlier on a Friday
4 night.

5 Q. Can you help me with that? What was the procedure
6 there?

7 A. Usually that was -- on a Friday night you'd come home
8 from school, so the shoes would all be put outside the
9 back door all lined up against the wall. You would go
10 in, you would have your supper as normal -- sometimes
11 there would be benediction, it just depended, but then
12 there would be -- in the downstairs changing room there
13 would be, like, what you would get in catering, the
14 great big silver boilers, so you'd line up and you would
15 hand over the dirty pants.

16 Now, you only changed your pants once a week, but
17 Sister [REDACTED] LHZ would inspect them and if there were any
18 marks on them at all, sometimes they'd be rubbed in your
19 face, sometimes they'd be put over your head. She'd
20 tell everybody, "Look at this filth", and things like
21 that. You'd be given a pair of pants --

22 Q. A new pair?

23 A. Yes. They were navy blue. So you'd be given a pair of
24 pants. The ones you'd taken off were put into this
25 boiler and they had the big wooden tongs that pushed the

1 pants down into the washing water. That would happen to
2 everybody. Then, after that, that's when the nit
3 inspection would take place.

4 Q. I think you've touched on that already. Again, would
5 that be in the same area then that the nit inspection
6 would take place?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Again, would that just be a question of queueing up for
9 Sister **LHZ** to do that inspection?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Was there any system whereby a older child might be
12 given the responsibility of inspecting a younger child?

13 A. Sometimes. Sometimes if things were going slower than
14 normal, sometimes that would happen.

15 Q. If an older child then had that responsibility and
16 didn't find lice or missed them, would anything happen?

17 A. To be honest with you, nine times out of ten you'd miss
18 them because we didn't know what they looked like, so
19 you'd get a slap if you missed them.

20 Q. Can I ask you about the schooling then, Helen. I think
21 over your time there you'd have moved from the primary
22 school to secondary school; is that correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. These were local schools?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You've already mentioned, I think, one of the names that
2 you were called: you were referred to as "the Nazzy
3 children" at school?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Generally, how did you find school?

6 A. I loved school. I liked learning. I loved school.
7 I liked being out of Nazareth House. In secondary
8 school I was actually given additional
9 responsibilities -- sorry, in primary school, not
10 secondary school, primary school.

11 I remember, just while I'm talking about this, when
12 I was going into Primary Seven, and the teacher we had
13 at the time was a Mr Adair, but he taught [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED], but he
16 actually quite liked me in the end. He used to stand me
17 in it the middle of the floor and let me sing "Mother of
18 Mine" because he still lived with his mother and loved
19 his mother, so every Friday I'd have to sing "Mother of
20 Mine" at school.

21 But it kind of gave him a connection to me so he
22 treated me better after that. But he was the only
23 teacher I ever had a problem with, and as I say, it
24 didn't last too long.

25 Q. But you were also, I think you tell us, when you were in

- 1 primary school, voted school vice captain.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. So you were doing well at school?
- 4 A. Yes. School was my escape. It was my escape to take my
5 head elsewhere, so I actually found school easy.
- 6 Q. You give us an example of when you were doing the
7 eleven-plus and you got the wrong date of birth.
8 Can you help me with that? How did that happen?
- 9 A. Well, we were all in the school dining room to take the
10 eleven-plus exam and Mr McCreadie was the headmaster
11 at the time. He was supervising, so he would come round
12 and he was standing behind me and he pointed down to the
13 date of birth and he said to me, "That's not your date
14 of birth", because I had put [REDACTED] because I was told
15 that's when my birthday was. I'd forgotten my birthday
16 because they didn't celebrate birthdays anyway. But he
17 said to, me "No, that's not your date of birth", and I
18 said, "Well, it is", and he said, "No, it is not, your
19 birth date is [REDACTED] 58, you need change that [REDACTED]".
- 20 Q. Am I to understand then, until that point in time,
21 really, you didn't really know your correct date of
22 birth?
- 23 A. No, I'd forgotten it.
- 24 Q. You'd have known it at some point, presumably?
- 25 A. Before I went into Nazareth House, yeah, because my gran

1 would do something at home for us. If it was our
2 birthday we'd get a wee tea or a wee party type thing.

3 Q. I was going to ask you about the celebration of
4 birthdays, so I'll pick that up now. Do I take it from
5 what you said that birthdays were just not celebrated at
6 Nazareth House?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Did that change at all during your time there?

9 A. No. I don't ever recall a birthday being celebrated.

10 I do recall being made to write letters to the
11 social work thanking them for the presents.

12 Q. I will come on to that in a moment. Do you recall if
13 you actually got a present?

14 A. Not for birthdays, no.

15 Q. You also tell us in your statement, at paragraph 53,
16 I think, that you came second in your class at school --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- and you were quite pleased with that.

19 A. Well, it was actually the first year at secondary school
20 that I came second in the class. Things had been really
21 bad before then, so I kind of thought that Sister LHZ
22 would be really pleased because it was a child from
23 Nazareth House.

24 The way secondary school worked from an academic
25 point of view, it spelt out the word "Joseph", so it was

1 1J, 1O, 1S, 1E, 1P, 1H, and then there were three extra
2 classes, so it was 1A, 1B, 1C. When the registers were
3 being called in response to the eleven-plus I was in 1O,
4 and the other kids were calling me names, but it didn't
5 really bother me.

6 That year, that's when I came second in the class,
7 and when we got the report cards, I thought Sister **LHZ**
8 would be really, really pleased. When I took the report
9 card back and gave her the report card and said that I'd
10 come second in the class, then I got slapped about and
11 she told me pride was a sin.

12 Q. What effect did that have on you?

13 A. I thought, what's the point, it didn't matter what you
14 do. I just thought, what's the point?

15 Q. You do tell us about one incident when you took your
16 French teacher back home with you.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Because I think you'd felt ill at school.

19 A. Yes, we had the TB injections and I'd taken a bad
20 reaction to it, so I'd been quite sick, and I was put in
21 the sickbay at school and the French teacher, Ms Neil,
22 her name was -- I don't know if it was the housemistress
23 or somebody, but somebody had asked Miss Neil to take me
24 back, so she drove me back in the car. But I don't know
25 whether it was because I wasn't feeling well or what,

1 but I didn't take her in the front door, I took her
2 in the side door.

3 Q. Why would that matter if it was the front door or the
4 side door?

5 A. Nobody was allowed to go in the side doors. All
6 visitors had to go in the front door but I made the
7 mistake of going through the side door because you could
8 you go through the side door and then in through the
9 kitchen, our children's home kitchen, and it took you do
10 into the dining room area and that would have led me out
11 into the recreation area.

12 But when I went through the door into the kitchen
13 area, Sister **LHZ** heard the door open and was just
14 about to shout at me when she saw the teacher coming in
15 behind me and her attitude totally changed. One moment
16 her face was like thunder and the next minute it was,
17 "Oh, what's happened here?" and Miss Neil said, "I've
18 been asked to bring Helen back because she's not been
19 very well".

20 Q. What happened after that?

21 A. I got slapped: she told me I was attention seeking.

22 Q. Was that after Miss Neil had left?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. There was also, I think, children at Nazareth House who
25 went to a special school; is that correct?

- 1 A. Yes. Park School, it was called.
- 2 Q. Were these children perhaps who had some learning
3 disabilities?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. How did Sister LHZ treat them?
- 6 A. Oh, she'd make a fool of them. It was a shame. She'd
7 call them dunces, dunderheads, fools, idiots; all the
8 names under the sun.
- 9 Q. How did these children react to that?
- 10 A. It was horrible. Nine times out of ten they just stood
11 with their head down, didn't know what to say. They
12 were just ashamed. The children were ashamed all the
13 time. There was no reason. There was nothing about
14 encouragement, there was nothing about nurturing, there
15 was nothing about telling a child that they'd done
16 a good deed or anything like that. I never, ever heard
17 that the whole time I was there.
- 18 Q. Was Sister LHZ ever nice to you in your whole time at
19 Nazareth House?
- 20 A. No, she hated my guts. That's what I was led to
21 believe. That's what I've always believed all my life.
22 She hated me from day one. Hell was in my name, the
23 devil was inside me, and that's how she treated me.
- 24 Q. Did you ever see her being nice to other children?
- 25 A. I don't ever remember Sister LHZ smiling, and to be

1 honest with you -- I'm not trying to be horrible here,
2 I'm trying to be as honest as I possibly can be --
3 I don't ever remember Sister LHZ smiling the whole
4 time I was there to any child. Even if a child was ill,
5 it would be a slap on the back of the head, "Get into
6 bed".

7 Q. Did you form any view as to what nationality
8 Sister LHZ was, was she Scottish, Irish?

9 A. Irish.

10 Q. Did she speak with an Irish accent?

11 A. She spoke with an Irish lilt, yes.

12 Q. A point you make at paragraph 56 of your statement,
13 I just want to explore that with you, because I think
14 you're sort of being critical of the schools as well.
15 Is that a fair inference from what you're saying in that
16 paragraph?

17 A. It wasn't the schools that made us feel that way; it was
18 the other children in school. So, like, there was no
19 point in being friends with the children from
20 Nazareth House because we couldn't go to any
21 after-school activities. We couldn't go to any parties
22 that children had. If they had a birthday party and
23 they were inviting the rest of the class, there was no
24 point inviting the children from Nazareth House because
25 we didn't get to go. So nine times out of ten at

- 1 school, the Nazareth House children would just be
2 standing round on their own. I never really made
3 friends with children at school.
- 4 Q. You describe yourselves, that's the Nazareth House
5 children, as "the offcasts of society".
- 6 A. That's what we were told.
- 7 Q. Who told you that?
- 8 A. Sister **LHZ**.
- 9 Q. That language, though, was that her language?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Is that your interpretation of it?
- 12 A. No, no, that was her language. We were the outcasts of
13 society, nobody wanted us, that's the reason we were
14 there: don't bother complaining, nobody's going to
15 listen to you, this is what you deserve, the devil's
16 inside you, you're here to learn, and we were here to
17 learn the devil was inside of us.
- 18 Q. You've certainly told us that this was a comment that
19 she would make towards you, "The devil's inside you".
20 Did you hear her use that description with other
21 children?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. So it wasn't just restricted to yourself?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. As a young child, no doubt your level of understanding

1 would have changed from the age of, let's say, 5 or 6 to
2 13, 14, 15, but as a younger child what was your
3 understanding of that?

4 A. Fear. I would try and turn it round about because
5 I would remember what my gran told me. So if
6 Sister LHZ said to me, "You're here because nobody
7 loves you", then I would remember the catechism my gran
8 had taught me: Who loves me? God loves me. I would
9 remember the stories that I'd shared with my gran and
10 I would keep telling myself that over and over again.
11 Maybe no human being loves me, but God loves me and at
12 least that's something.

13 Every time Sister LHZ told me the devil was inside
14 me, then I would repeat: where is God? God is
15 everywhere, therefore God must be inside me as well, and
16 I would always try and counteract the negative with a
17 positive, but for me the positive was God.

18 That's the strange thing about it. For her, the
19 positive should have been God. She was the one serving
20 him, but I was the one as a child who was using God in
21 order to exist in that place.

22 Q. Talking about God, religion was important within
23 Nazareth House, the practice of religion.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Can you explain that to me? You've already mentioned

1 I think you went to Mass on a regular basis; is that
2 correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Who would come to say Mass?

5 A. The priests from outside.

6 Q. Was that from the local parish?

7 A. I think primarily it was from St Joseph's in Kilmarnock
8 because St Joseph's Church was only about 500 or
9 600 yards down the road. There was Nazareth House, then
10 next to Nazareth House was the vet's, and then next to
11 the vet's was St Joseph's Church, and then next to
12 St Joseph's Church was Kilmarnock Infirmary.

13 Q. So perhaps help me with this: was St Joseph's parish
14 a large parish that would require more than one priest?

15 A. It was the largest one in Kilmarnock, yes.

16 Q. How many priests would be connected to St Joseph's?

17 A. Quite a few, but I don't know exactly how many at one
18 given time.

19 Q. Do I take it that different priests would come in at
20 different times --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- to deal with religion within the --

23 A. Yes. You could have one priest in the morning, for
24 talking's sake, saying Mass and then, for talking's
25 sake, you might have another priest coming in on a

- 1 Sunday in the afternoon to take benediction.
- 2 Q. From the same parish?
- 3 A. I'm not sure. Possibly or possibly another parish.
- 4 Q. You do tell us that if on a Sunday you had a Mass where
5 incense was being burned -- I think that's probably the
6 right description -- then that would cause you some
7 difficulty?
- 8 A. Yes. It was mainly benediction the incense was used.
9 It used to make me faint because if it was really
10 strong, because you were sort of kneeling and then
11 standing and kneeling and standing, and I always felt
12 faint with the incense, I don't know why, I just did,
13 because it was quite a low ceiling in the chapel as
14 well, so you could actually see the smoke coming all the
15 way down the chapel. By the time it got to me, I was
16 usually down to be honest with you and then it would be
17 a case of being dragged out of the church and being told
18 I'd only fainted because I wanted attention.
- 19 Q. Who would beat you?
- 20 A. Sister **LHZ**.
- 21 Q. What would these beatings consist of?
- 22 A. At that time, outside the chapel, it would be mainly
23 being kicked or being slapped and being made to stand up
24 against the wall and then being taken back into the
25 chapel again.

1 Q. So you'd only be going out for a period of time and then
2 back in?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And then what would happen?

5 A. The other children would work their way so that they
6 were uptight against you. Even if you felt faint, the
7 other children would hold you up because they'd lean
8 really, really close to you.

9 Q. Was this something they did off their own bat or was
10 this something they were told to do?

11 A. No, they did it off their own back. I think the
12 children tried to protect each other as best they could.

13 Q. You mentioned again, I think -- and this is the not the
14 first time you've mentioned this -- that Sister [REDACTED] LHZ
15 was describing you as someone that was seeking attention
16 or an attention seeker. Is that correct? Is that what
17 she would say?

18 A. Any child who was ill, if she didn't believe you were
19 ill, you were seeking attention. [REDACTED] used
20 to faint quite a lot as well and she would be told the
21 same thing: you were just seeking attention.

22 Q. Would she be fainting in church or was it in some other
23 context?

24 A. Sometimes in church, sometimes in the dining room,
25 sometimes in the recreation room.

- 1 Q. What treatment did she receive that you could see?
- 2 A. The same.
- 3 Q. Can I ask you about leisure or recreation? You have
- 4 already mentioned there were areas within the house
- 5 where your group would have an area for recreation and
- 6 also Sister **LGO**'s group would have another area or
- 7 you could expand the areas.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. But generally, within your own group, what forms of
- 10 recreation did you have?
- 11 A. You'd be allowed to talk in the recreation room. Within
- 12 the recreation room on one wall, the wall underneath
- 13 where the windows were at the front, there would be like
- 14 two rows of cupboards, just like square box cupboards,
- 15 and the children -- you'd go in and you'd open the doors
- 16 to see if there was anything in them that you could play
- 17 with. Sometimes you'd find a book that maybe had some
- 18 pages ripped out of it or a jigsaw that maybe all the
- 19 pieces weren't there. Things like that. Nine times out
- 20 of ten the cupboards were empty.
- 21 Q. What about when you were younger, toys, were there toys
- 22 available to play with?
- 23 A. Not really. We just kind of entertained ourselves
- 24 in the recreation room. I remember one time there was
- 25 one of those toys that was like -- the one that popped

1 in the middle and you moved the things round about.
2 I can't remember the name of it. It wasn't ludo. It
3 was like ludo, it was different colours, and four
4 squares and there was a popper in the middle.
5 Q. Tiddlywinks?
6 A. It might have been. I can't remember the name of it.
7 It was something like that but the pieces were missing
8 and we just ended up playing with the popper.
9 Q. I see. You do tell us that you could play outside.
10 A. Only when we were allowed to, yes.
11 Q. And could you mix with the other group?
12 A. No. If Sister LGO 's group was outside,
13 Sister LHZ 's group was inside and vice versa.
14 Q. Do you know why that was?
15 A. I don't know. I don't know whether it was just to be
16 able to keep an eye on us or what.
17 Q. Did you make any friends during your time at
18 Nazareth House?
19 A. You know, the ironic thing is I can only remember the
20 names of a couple of families at Nazareth House.
21 I can't remember the names of a lot of children in
22 Nazareth House at all, despite the fact that there must
23 have been quite a few came through the doors over the
24 years. No, because if you made a friend with somebody,
25 you'd very quickly be moved on and separated from them.

1 Q. Did that happen to you?
2 A. Once I made a friend with one of the girls, her name was
3 [REDACTED], but [REDACTED] went to Park School as well, so
4 I kind of felt a little bit sorry for her. So I would
5 kind of sit with [REDACTED] in the recreation room and things
6 like that but Sister [REDACTED] LHZ [REDACTED] banged our heads together and
7 told us we were getting too friendly and she would soon
8 put a stop to that.

9 LADY SMITH: Park School was the school for children with
10 special needs of education?

11 A. Yes.

12 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, I think we'll have another break
13 of about 10 minutes or so, Helen, if that's all right
14 with you.

15 A. Yes.

16 (11.53 am)

17 (A short break)

18 (12.10 pm)

19 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

20 MR MacAULAY: Before the break, Helen, I had been asking you
21 about recreation and leisure time. I think one of the
22 things you do say in your statement -- it's at
23 paragraph 69 -- is that sometimes people from the
24 Royal Variety Club would come in and do a concert.

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Can you tell me -- and I think you also said that there
2 would be film shows --
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. -- within Nazareth House itself.
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Would that be an event or would these be events that all
7 the children would go to rather than just --
- 8 A. Only the ones that were good in Sister LHZ 's eyes.
- 9 Q. The good children from her group and other children
10 would get together for these events?
- 11 A. Yes, the two groups would come together for those
12 events, yes.
- 13 Q. Are you able to tell me how often these film shows and
14 concerts took place?
- 15 A. I think the concerts were maybe like twice a year or
16 three times a year. The film shows, maybe the same.
- 17 Q. Did you yourself manage to get to some of these events?
- 18 A. Some of them, yes.
- 19 Q. Were there some you didn't get to because you were not
20 allowed to go?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Who prevented you from going?
- 23 A. Sister LHZ .
- 24 Q. Would there be a reason for that?
- 25 A. I was bold or I was being kept back for a reason or

- 1 whatever. Once a year, the children would go to
2 Butlin's as well.
- 3 Q. Did you go on these trips?
- 4 A. Most of the time, not all of the time.
- 5 Q. Again, would there be a reason why you didn't go all the
6 time on these trips?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. What was the reason?
- 9 A. Sister **LHZ** would have something else in mind.
- 10 Q. For the events like the Variety Club concerts or the
11 film shows, and if you didn't get to these events
12 because you weren't allowed to go, what would you do?
- 13 A. Be sent to bed.
- 14 Q. You're talking about your own position. Were there
15 other children also in that position who weren't allowed
16 to go and sent to bed?
- 17 A. Sometimes, yes.
- 18 Q. The other thing you talk about is the procedure whereby
19 you'd be given your pocket money. Can I just explore
20 that with you, Helen? There was a process whereby
21 children did get given pocket money; is that correct?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. On occasion, did you get pocket money?
- 24 A. I think I got it twice.
- 25 Q. Is that in your whole time there?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Why didn't you get it more than twice?
- 3 A. Because in Sister LHZ's eyes, I'd been bold or I'd
4 misbehaved.
- 5 Q. Was the pocket money arrangement a weekly thing?
- 6 A. I think it was a Saturday, if I remember right.
- 7 Q. Every Saturday that would be a pocket money day; is that
8 the way it was?
- 9 A. It might have been meant to have been a pocket money
10 day, but it might not have been weekly, it might have
11 been fortnightly.
- 12 Q. Can you remember on the occasions that you received some
13 pocket money how much you got?
- 14 A. Sixpence.
- 15 Q. What was the expectation as to how you'd spend it? What
16 would you do with it?
- 17 A. Well, I bought a bag of chips.
- 18 Q. And you'd be able to leave the premises and go into the
19 town and do that?
- 20 A. Yes, supervised, but to be honest with you, the majority
21 of the children -- there was -- under the viaduct,
22 at the railway line, there was a chip shop so most of
23 the children went there with their pocket money and
24 bought a bag of chips.
- 25 Q. I want you to look at a document for me. Again, Helen,

1 I'll put it on the screen, just looking at this issue of
2 pocket money. The first page of the document is at
3 NAZ.001.001.1973.

4 (Pause)

5 LADY SMITH: Sorry, Helen, I think we may have a problem
6 with the number.

7 (Pause)

8 MR MacAULAY: It's NAZ.001.001.1973.

9 So we are looking at a document that's described as:
10 "Nazareth House Kilmarnock Punishment Book (1966 to
11 1980)."

12 Do you see that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I think in your statement, in fact, you queried whether
15 or not there was a punishment book for Kilmarnock. But
16 this is certainly a document that's been made available
17 to us by the Sisters of Nazareth. You'll see that it
18 covers the period 1966 to 1980; do you see that?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. If I take you to page 1996, just by way of an example,
21 if we move down, can you see at the top, first of all,
22 this is May 1970?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. We can see there's various dates. For example, the week
25 ending 9 May, if you see that.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. There are no punishments in that week according to what
3 has been recorded; do you see that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Then for the week ending the 16th, the name's been
6 redacted, but we can see that the only punishment
7 recorded for that week is:

8 "Deprived of pocket money for being cheeky to young
9 staff."

10 Do you see that?

11 A. Yes. Is that one person?

12 Q. It's one person, but it's not your name.

13 A. No, no, I'm just surprised that that's the recording of
14 punishments.

15 Q. That's the only record for that week. Again, if you
16 look at the following week, the week ending the 23rd,
17 the group is:

18 "... deprived of sweets for having window broken and
19 not owning up."

20 Do you see that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So there does appear to be some record kept of some of
23 the punishments. But looking to what you've been
24 telling us, if there was to be a religious recording of
25 the treatment you received, then would you have expected

1 that to have been noted in the punishment book?

2 LADY SMITH: Do you mean a faithful, accurate recording of
3 every punishment, Mr MacAulay?

4 MR MacAULAY: Yes.

5 A. Not in the way Sister LHZ behaved. No, I wouldn't
6 expect that at all.

7 Q. If she was faithfully recording everything she did to
8 you?

9 A. Oh yes, if she was being 100 per cent honest, I would
10 have expected those pages to be books long.

11 Q. For example, if I take you to page 2002, we're looking
12 at the month of November 1970. Then if we look at the
13 next page, 2003, we're looking at the month of
14 December 1970.

15 Can you see that no punishments have been recorded
16 for these two months? Do you see that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. But I think what you're telling us is that the reality
19 of life in Nazareth House, even during this time in the
20 1970s, was that children were being treated in the way
21 you've described?

22 A. Every single day. I know what those documents are.
23 Sometimes at night, if you were in the dormitory --
24 well, I'm assuming that's what they are, sorry,
25 I shouldn't say I know.

1 Sometimes if you were in the dormitory and you were
2 being punished for talking in the dormitory, you'd be
3 made to kneel out on the corridor in front of the
4 statue, and she'd tell you if you moved, the statue's
5 eyes would follow you. As children, you believed that.
6 So sometimes, Sister **LHZ** would be sitting at a little
7 desk writing things, maybe that's when she wrote that
8 rubbish. I don't know.

9 Q. We don't really know if that's her handwriting or not,
10 of course.

11 A. Yes.

12 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, am I right in thinking that,
13 insofar as any of us are able to make accurate
14 assessments of handwriting, the same handwriting seems
15 to appear in this book more or less throughout?

16 MR MacAULAY: It does more or less throughout. Certainly on
17 the pages we've looked at.

18 LADY SMITH: We're not getting obviously different
19 handwriting on one page --

20 MR MacAULAY: It doesn't appear that way.

21 LADY SMITH: -- as you might expect if different people were
22 making entries regularly?

23 MR MacAULAY: And indeed there are no entries on the pages
24 we've looked at.

25 A. She must have been tired in November and December.

1 MR MacAULAY: You've touched upon there, Helen, a particular
2 practice I was going to ask you about, having to kneel
3 in the corridor. How often did that happen to you? If
4 we can just focus on your own position.

5 A. Quite a lot.

6 Q. For what things would that be what you'd have to do?
7 Why would that be the case?

8 A. It was punishment. It could be whispering "goodnight"
9 to somebody across the room, it could be anything at
10 all, it could be sniggering under the covers. Little
11 misdemeanours, but you'd be called out, dragged out of
12 the bed and told to kneel in front of the statue, and
13 you'd have to kneel straight up, you couldn't lean back
14 on your hunkers -- if you leaned back on your hunkers,
15 she'd hit the bottom of your feet with the switch, so
16 you'd have to kneel straight up for hours on end.
17 Sometimes she would go off and say her prayers and still
18 leave you kneeling there. One night she went to bed and
19 left me there the whole night. I kept shouting,
20 "Sister, can I go to bed?" and she wouldn't answer me.

21 Q. When she did wake up, what was the position, were you
22 still in that position?

23 A. I'd fell asleep on the floor and I ended up catching
24 a bad cold that time.

25 Q. You're telling us about your own experience; what about

1 other children?

2 A. Yes, if another child had been caught talking in the
3 dormitory, then the same thing could happen to them.
4 There was always -- it wasn't just a case of a simple,
5 straightforward punishment. Now, I know I shouldn't say
6 this to describe anybody, I'm sorry, but I have to say
7 it to describe her because in my eyes that's what she
8 was: she was absolutely sadistic in the way she dealt
9 with the children. She took pleasure out of inflicting
10 pain, no matter what. So it didn't matter how old that
11 child was, that child would be made to sit or kneel that
12 way for hours on end. It didn't matter. It could be
13 a 5-year-old, it could be a 12-year-old, it could be
14 a 15-year-old, it would make no difference.

15 Q. This business of the statue looking at you --

16 A. That was the fear element. It wasn't just punishment.
17 There always had to be something else on top of it to
18 increase the fear.

19 You would be told: if you got back on your hunkers,
20 then you're going to be seen, you'll be seen all the
21 time. I remember one night deciding to go to the right
22 side a little bit, just to move my knees, move over, but
23 obviously I was staring at the statue but didn't
24 register in my head it was my eyes that were moving, not
25 the statue's eyes that were moving, so I told all the

1 other children the eyes did move. We frightened each
2 other sometimes.

3 Q. You also tell us that you yourself ran away on one
4 occasion.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Was that just on the one occasion you ran away?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Did you run away on more than one occasion?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Can I just understand and let's take the first time you
11 ran away. What age were you at that time?

12 A. I think I was still in primary school -- I take it
13 you're referring to the time when [REDACTED] came
14 to see me [REDACTED]?

15 Q. I think she came to see you and you went away with her?

16 A. Yes, she came to see us but she was told she wasn't
17 allowed to see us because I'd been bold. I'd already
18 seen her because she came through the back entrance of
19 Nazareth House, the one you're not supposed to come in.
20 It was a nice day so we were outside. [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED] she was obviously coming
22 in to ask if she could take us out and she was told, no,
23 that I wasn't to go out because I was bold. She said to
24 me, you're not to go out because you were bold. I said,
25 well, I'm coming, I want to come with you. She said,

1 you can't, Sister LHZ says you can't come because
2 you've been bold. So I jumped over the wall -- I scaled
3 the wall, anyway, at the side of the building and went
4 down the town [REDACTED].

5 But when we were in Woolworth's, some of the other
6 children who were out on their normal Saturday came into
7 Woolworth's and they said to me, you've had it when you
8 get back, she's absolutely livid. So I said [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED], I may as well stay out longer, if I'm going to
10 get battered anyway, I may as well get battered for
11 something. I stayed as long as I could [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED].

13 Q. And what happened after that?

14 A. I got the beating of my life.

15 Q. Are you able to help us in describing what happened?

16 A. She punched me -- at the same time she was dragging me
17 up the stairs, but I don't know what happened, between
18 the bottom downstairs changing room and the first floor
19 changing room, which was Sister LGO's one, she must
20 have lost her grip because I fell down the stairs and
21 actually cut my eye.

22 She would -- again, the statues, there were statues
23 on every landing of the stairs going up. So again,
24 every time we would get to a statue, it'd be a case of,
25 "The devil's inside you, you're evil, you're bold",

1 you'd either get put in isolation -- that particularly
2 time was a case of being battered and she made me kneel
3 and she battered my feet with a bamboo cane.

4 Q. When you say "your feet", is that the soles of your
5 feet?

6 A. Yes, my bare feet. She told me, "You are unaware this
7 is what will happen to you", so she battered the soles
8 of my feet with this bamboo cane. They were all --
9 there was like splinters off the bamboo cane in my feet,
10 there were welts on my feet. At one point I ended up in
11 a bath, I can't remember exactly how, but I ended up in
12 a bath and my feet were burning like mad because of the
13 Jeyes fluid --

14 Q. Is that the Jeyes fluid making contact with the injuries
15 you had on your feet?

16 A. Yes. So that was stinging like anything and it was
17 a case of trying not to show, trying not to flinch or
18 anything, because I knew either she'd make me stay in
19 longer or I'd get another beating when I came back out,
20 but she was really, really angry.

21 Q. That is one incident you have been telling us about.
22 Did you suggest earlier that there was another instance
23 when you ran away?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What happened on that occasion?

1 A. Something had happened when I was younger, and I decided
2 to run away to go to the social work office because
3 I didn't know who to tell and I thought, if I can get to
4 the social work office, because they were involved by
5 that time -- [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED] I thought, if I can get to the social work office
7 and tell them what's happening then they might be able
8 to do something, I might get back home.

9 So again, I went over the wall, and I was really,
10 really upset, but I met a lady at the bottom of the
11 path, and I asked her if she knew where the social work
12 office was in Kilmarnock and she said, yes, I'm going
13 that way, if you want you can walk with me, but she kept
14 looking at me, she obviously was wondering what was
15 wrong, but she actually walked me through the tunnel
16 at the railway station and outwith the tunnel at the
17 opposite end was John Finnie Street in Kilmarnock. So I
18 went down John Finnie Street and then the lady turned to
19 the left and she said, "That's the social work office
20 there", and I went up and asked to speak to the
21 social worker.

22 Q. What happened after that?

23 A. He took me back. He told Sister [REDACTED] LHZ what I'd said and
24 she told him I was lying, I'd been fighting with another
25 child.

1 Q. Was this something that related to other abuse that had
2 happened to you?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. I'll come on to that later, if I may.

5 Can I just go back a little bit and go back to look
6 at aspects of the routine at Nazareth House and chores,
7 jobs. Did you have chores to do?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Can you give us an understanding of what the children
10 had to do?

11 A. Like I said, on a Friday night all the shoes would be
12 lined up outside the door. So two children would polish
13 all the shoes and they had to be absolutely spick and
14 span with no marks on them. They would be inspected.
15 The big long corridor that stretched the whole length of
16 the building from the arch door all the way up to where
17 that extension was, it was like a parquet wood floor and
18 at the side there were two metal grilles either side
19 where the pipes were underneath it for the heating,
20 I think it was, so you'd have to polish that floor. So
21 there was a big square tin of beeswax so you'd be on
22 your hands and knees with the beeswax putting that on
23 with an old jumper or something, an old rag, so you'd
24 spread that on, all the way down the corridor, then when
25 you got to the bottom by the time you'd got to the

1 bottom the top part was dry so you'd go back up the top
2 again back on your hands and knees, start to polish that
3 to take the dry beeswax off all the way down, and then
4 you'd go back up the top and you'd have rags on your
5 feet, so you'd walk up and down and up and down, and
6 it would be quite laborious for a while, but then
7 it would start to get slippery. That was great fun then
8 because we could run halfway down and then slide the
9 rest of the way.

10 Q. How long would this operation take?

11 A. Three hours easily.

12 Q. What about lay staff? You have mentioned there were
13 some laypeople there. Did they have work to do?

14 A. To be honest with you, I'm not too sure what they did.
15 They would walk us to school. They would be at the
16 end -- we would walk to school in twos. We were always
17 made to form a line of twos. The layperson would be at
18 the end of the group. So they'd walk us to school and
19 then go back to Nazareth House.

20 I'm not sure if they were involved with the laundry
21 during the day when we were at school. I don't really
22 know what they did. They'd serve the food in the dining
23 room.

24 Q. Did children do laundry?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Can you help me with that? What sort of laundry did the
2 children do?

3 A. There were big troughs that ran the whole length of the
4 yard. So the soapy water would be in there and you'd
5 walk up and down with your feet with these sheets. And
6 then they would come out from there and they'd go into
7 a sort of barrel type thing and they'd go to the
8 spinners, the -- I can't remember the name of them, the
9 old ones where you had the handle, so the sheets would
10 be put --

11 LADY SMITH: With a mangle?

12 A. That's it. The sheets would be put through there or
13 sometimes, if the other children were trying to help
14 out, you would both take an end of the sheet, one would
15 turn it one way and the other one would turn it the
16 opposite way, and you'd try and wring out as much as you
17 possibly could. Then the sheets would go into the
18 tumble dryers.

19 MR MacAULAY: That was something again the children had to
20 participate in?

21 A. In the beginning, yes. Later on, no. I don't know --
22 I think it went to a laundry, I'm not sure.

23 Q. Was that supervised by anybody?

24 A. Sister **LHZ** or the laypeople would be in the yard as
25 well, because sometimes the sheets, when they were wet,

- 1 they would be too heavy.
- 2 Q. In relation to trips and holidays, one thing you do tell
- 3 us is that you were taken to St Mary's School in
- 4 Saltcoats in the summertime.
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. How did you find that?
- 7 A. Boring, to be honest with you. As much as I loved
- 8 school, a school gym wasn't exactly my idea of
- 9 a holiday. Anyway, it would be rows and rows of, like,
- 10 sort of army-type camp beds with a sleeping bag on top
- 11 of it. Don't get me wrong, I mean, it was nice to get
- 12 away from Nazareth House, but we'd be taken every single
- 13 day to the beach and just sit on the beach.
- 14 Sister LHZ would sit in a chair. To be honest with
- 15 you, looking back at it now, it was a case of the public
- 16 would come up, maybe with, let's say if we're talking
- 17 about a box and it would have bags of chips in it or
- 18 something, and they would hand it to sister and say,
- 19 "That's for the children", or they would hand her money,
- 20 or somebody else might come and buy some ice creams for
- 21 the children, but I kind of felt that we were there --
- 22 and it didn't matter if it was raining, we were still
- 23 sitting on the beach. It was almost like we were there
- 24 so Joe Public would take pity on us.
- 25 Q. Did you go as one group or did both groups go at the

- 1 same time?
- 2 A. I can't remember if Sister [REDACTED] LGO 's came at the same
3 time or not, to be honest with you.
- 4 Q. You make mention of a social fund that was designed to
5 pay for a Christmas party. I think you tell us that
6 your father made contributions to that fund.
- 7 A. That was at my dad's work. That wasn't anything to do
8 with Nazareth House.
- 9 Q. So where was the Christmas party supposed to take place,
10 at Nazareth House or somewhere else?
- 11 A. No, it was like -- my dad was a draftsman, so my dad
12 paid money into the social fund at his work. That would
13 be so that at Christmastime all the workers' children
14 would get a party or a pantomime or presents, that type
15 of thing. So my dad was paying into that, but I only
16 remember [REDACTED] being taken once out of Nazareth House to
17 the party and it was actually in Kelvin Hall -- I think
18 it was a circus actually. The bus picked [REDACTED] up at the
19 gates of Nazareth House, the other children were already
20 on the bus. [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED], and on the way back that's when I was given
22 a Christmas present, which was a wee basket that was
23 a sewing set. That was because my dad was paying into
24 that fund; it was nothing to do with Nazareth House.
- 25 Q. You were given this Christmas present on this occasion

- 1 you went to the party?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Did you take that Christmas present back with you to
- 4 Nazareth House?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And what happened to it?
- 7 A. It disappeared.
- 8 Q. Did --
- 9 A. Sister **LHZ** took it off me.
- 10 Q. Did she say why she was taking it?
- 11 A. No, she just said, "I'll have that".
- 12 Q. Did you see it again?
- 13 A. No. It wasn't even -- I never even touched it.
- 14 I opened it up. I was really, really -- I loved it
- 15 because it was all different colours, there were
- 16 different colours of threads, there was needles, there
- 17 was thimbles and all sorts of things in it. It was
- 18 really pretty and I hadn't been used to having pretty
- 19 things so that's why it stood out. I really liked it,
- 20 but it disappeared.
- 21 Q. You've already touched on birthdays and you say your
- 22 birthday was not celebrated during your time at
- 23 Nazareth House; is that correct?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. What about other children? Did you see if other

- 1 children's birthdays were celebrated?
- 2 A. I don't remember any children's birthdays being
- 3 celebrated.
- 4 Q. What you did say earlier, and I now want to pick this up
- 5 with you, is you do remember writing a letter or letters
- 6 in connection with your birthday.
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Can you just help me with that, what happened?
- 9 A. Sister [REDACTED] LHZ would call me and she'd say, "Sit down
- 10 there", so we'd sit at the table and she'd say, "I want
- 11 you to write a letter to the social work saying
- 12 thank you for your birthday present".
- 13 Q. Did you ever see the birthday present or --
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. -- what was sent?
- 16 A. No. Sister [REDACTED] LHZ would dictate the letter, I would
- 17 write the letter, and it would be to Mr Gallacher or
- 18 Mr Murphy who were the social workers at the time.
- 19 Q. Can I ask you to look at a document for me, Helen? It's
- 20 at EAC.001.001.0990. Again, it'll come on the screen.
- 21 You'll see this is a letter with the date stamp on the
- 22 top left of [REDACTED] 1969; do you see that?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Do you recognise the handwriting?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Whose handwriting is that?

2 A. It's my handwriting.

3 Q. Can you see that the letter itself is dated

4 [REDACTED] 1969, which I think you told us earlier is your

5 date of birth?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Does it begin by saying:

8 "Dear Mr Gallacher. I wish to thank you and the

9 staff for the lovely present that I received today on my

10 birthday"?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. "I appreciate your kindness to me and I am very grateful

13 to you. I am going out tomorrow to get something nice

14 for going away with daddy, hoping we will have nice

15 weather."

16 It ends:

17 "May God bless you always. I stay yours ever,

18 Helen [REDACTED]"

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So you wrote that?

21 A. Yes. But I never called my dad "daddy" in my life.

22 Sister [REDACTED] LHZ dictated that and I wrote it.

23 Q. The suggestion there is that it may have been a money

24 gift that you were going to spend. Did you ever get

25 money to spend on a present that was sent to you by your

1 social worker?

2 A. No. No, and to be honest with you, even as an adult,
3 I would never sign something "I stay yours forever".
4 I don't even know what that means.

5 Q. I take it from what you've said you were told to write
6 that.

7 A. Yes. I wrote more than one. Yeah, that would happen,
8 Sister [REDACTED] LHZ would call you out and say, "You need to
9 write a letter to the social work saying thank you for
10 your birthday", but you never really knew what it was --
11 what your birthday was supposed to be or what you were
12 supposed to have received.

13 Q. If I could look at another letter then, we're going back
14 now to an earlier period of time. This is at
15 EAC.001.001.0988. The date stamp, it's quite faint, but
16 10 January 1966. The letter itself is dated
17 6 January 1966. So this would be shortly after
18 Christmas. Is this your handwriting or not?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. This one begins:

21 "Dear sir. I am sorry I haven't wrote sooner and
22 thank you for the 15 shillings that you sent [REDACTED].
23 I wish you a happy New Year and thank you for the lovely
24 presents you sent [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] like it here at
25 Nazareth House and the sisters are very nice. [REDACTED]"

1 on. It ends by saying:

2 " [REDACTED] dad comes up every Sunday [REDACTED]. Well,
3 that is all for now. I stay your sincere friend,
4 Helen [REDACTED]"

5 Did you write that?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Were you told to write that?

8 A. Yes. I still don't know who Mr Coburn is.

9 Q. In any event, it's your handwriting?

10 A. It is my handwriting, yes.

11 Q. I just want to understand the picture then. It appears
12 to be the case that, whether by way of money or some
13 other way, presents were being sent to you, and possibly
14 even a card, you were writing letters to thank the
15 sender of those gifts, but you never saw the gifts or
16 the card?

17 A. Never.

18 I used to wonder -- I actually thought it was quite
19 cruel making [REDACTED] write those letters, to be honest with
20 you. I used to wonder what it was that had come in and
21 all it did was make me think even more of my family. On
22 the one hand she's telling [REDACTED] nobody loves [REDACTED] and nobody
23 cares and that's why [REDACTED] there and then on the next
24 hand [REDACTED] being asked to write letters to thank people
25 for presents [REDACTED]

1 My dad never came every Sunday, that's a load of
2 nonsense. All it did was make you feel even worse
3 because you'd then go to bed at night thinking, does my
4 dad care, has my dad come up and she's not let him see
5 me, have I been classed as being bold or insolent or
6 whatever.

7 Q. Do you know if other children were asked to do the same
8 thing?

9 A. I can't say for sure, but possibly.

10 Q. But you don't know as a fact?

11 A. No. Because when I was writing those letters I'd be in
12 the recreation room with Sister **LHZ** on my own.

13 Q. One thing you do tell us in paragraph 93 in connection
14 with Christmas is that at Christmas you were given
15 a nice dinner.

16 A. Yes -- well, a better dinner than normal.

17 Q. Would you describe it as a traditional Christmas dinner?

18 A. Yes. It would be turkey, it would be turkey with gravy
19 and potatoes and veg. The only thing was some the
20 children didn't like Brussels sprouts, so sometimes what
21 should be a nice event would turn into a not so nice
22 event.

23 Q. Why would that be?

24 A. If the children were sick with the Brussels sprouts they
25 would be forced to eat it and you were trying to eat a

1 meal that you were enjoying and you suddenly couldn't.

2 Q. So the force-feeding didn't ease off then at

3 Christmastime?

4 A. No.

5 Q. You do tell us about a particular Christmas present that

6 you got and I don't think you were happy with it;

7 is that fair comment?

8 A. That's a very fair comment. You might be being kind

9 there.

10 Q. What happened?

11 A. I hated it.

12 Q. What was it?

13 A. It was a broken doll. It had ink all over its face and

14 only had one arm, so I battered on the floor because

15 I was so angry.

16 Q. Who had given it to you?

17 A. Sister **LHZ**. It was wrapped up but she gave it to me,

18 but she was laughing. She thought that was hilarious.

19 I didn't think it was funny at all. It got the better

20 of me, so I battered the doll off the floor, and the

21 head came off it, I ended up getting a really, really

22 bad pasting that day and ended up in isolation for two

23 or three weeks.

24 Q. Can you describe to us what happened to you on that day?

25 A. She beat me with a stick, she pulled me across the

1 floor, she told me I was an ungrateful little hussy,
2 there were other children who would be happy with that.
3 She punched me, she kicked me, and then I was flung in
4 isolation, told the devil was inside there with me. It
5 was a really, really dark room. You couldn't even see
6 your hand in front of your face like that. Her parting
7 gesture was, "Just remember the devil's inside there
8 with you, girl", and shut the door.

9 Q. Was the isolation room then a room where the children
10 who might be ill would go?

11 A. No, it was like a cupboard. There were no windows in it
12 or anything like that. It was a punishment room.

13 Q. Was there a bed in it?

14 A. No.

15 Q. So how long were you in that room for?

16 A. Well, on that occasion, for about two or three weeks.

17 Q. Would you be allowed out to go to the toilet?

18 A. No, she gave me a bucket.

19 Q. And what about food?

20 A. The other children would bring up a tray, and they'd be
21 told -- they would hand it in and -- Sister **LHZ** would
22 be with them, but the children were not allowed to talk
23 to me. They would just hand it in and leave.

24 Q. Why were you put in the isolation room?

25 A. Because I'd battered the doll, I was ungrateful.

1 Q. Did you have injuries?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Would that allow the injuries time to heal if you were

4 in there?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. But just focusing on the isolation room itself, you're

7 telling us about this episode with the doll, had you

8 been in the isolation room before that or indeed after

9 that?

10 A. Oh, many times.

11 Q. And how long -- this time you're talking about two or

12 three weeks, but on other occasions how long would you

13 be in there for?

14 A. Anything from a few hours to a couple of days.

15 Q. For what forms of misbehaviour or whatever would that be

16 for?

17 A. Answering back, being bold, being a brazen hussy,

18 speaking out of turn, not doing your chores correctly.

19 Anything she wanted.

20 Q. Did this happen to other children?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Can I ask you then, next, about visits: did your family

23 visit you [REDACTED]?

24 A. I remember my dad visiting a couple of times. One of

25 the times he came, he had a lady with him called Babs;

1 he'd obviously got involved with somebody. But
2 Sister [REDACTED] LHZ was really angry with him. She told him
3 he had no right to bring her up and she asked him to
4 leave. I never saw Babs again after that. I quite
5 liked her actually, but I never saw her again after
6 that.

7 The second time I saw my dad was when he came up to
8 see about [REDACTED] going on that party for his work because
9 he had to have Sister [REDACTED] LHZ 's permission and she
10 obviously gave him permission that time, but I don't
11 remember seeing my dad a lot at Nazareth House. It was
12 [REDACTED] that came up to visit, [REDACTED].

13 Q. So what was in the letter you wrote was not correct?

14 A. No. No, my dad became a stranger to me. I didn't know
15 my dad.

16 Q. What about the social work people? Did you have visits
17 from them?

18 A. Once a year.

19 Q. You have mentioned, I think, a Mr Murphy and
20 Mr Gallacher.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. One or other of them would come to see you?

23 A. Sometimes both of them.

24 Q. How would you get [REDACTED] ready?

25 A. Sister [REDACTED] LHZ would tell [REDACTED] to go and put on [REDACTED] Sunday

1 clothes and wait at the end of the corridor. There
2 would be [REDACTED] chairs at the end of the corridor. She'd
3 tell [REDACTED] to sit there and wait because the social worker
4 was coming.

5 Q. When the social worker or social workers came, what
6 would happen?

7 A. [REDACTED] be taken into the front parlour.

8 Q. That's one of the parlours you have mentioned before, is
9 it?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Would you be able to speak with the social worker?

12 A. The door would be open, there would be a chair outside
13 the parlour, and Sister [REDACTED] LHZ would be sitting there,
14 but she'd tell [REDACTED] before [REDACTED] went in, [REDACTED] allowed
15 to take a biscuit: even if you're offered one, don't
16 take it.

17 Q. Would there be some biscuits there for the visitors?

18 A. The social workers would get a tray brought in with tea
19 and biscuits.

20 Q. Do you know, as a matter of fact, whether your care or
21 your time at Nazareth House was at any time being
22 reviewed, either by the Social Work Department and/or
23 with the sister?

24 A. We wouldn't have been a party to that, so I wouldn't
25 have known.

1 Q. So you know nothing about that?

2 A. No.

3 Q.

4

5

6 A.

7 Q.

8 A.

9 Q.

10 A.

11

12 Q.

13 A.

14 Q.

15

16 A.

17 Q.

18 A.

19 Q.

20

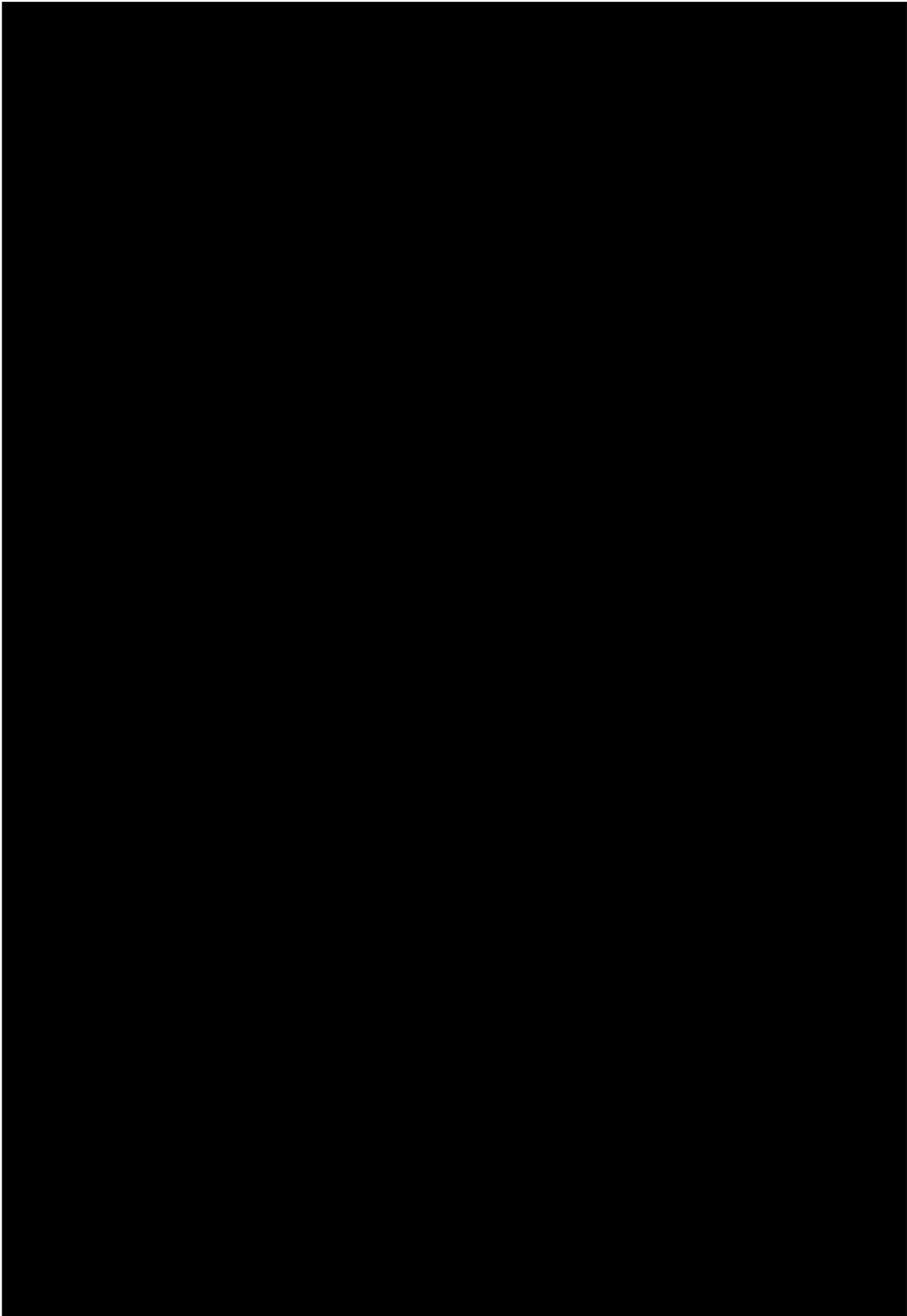
21 A.

22

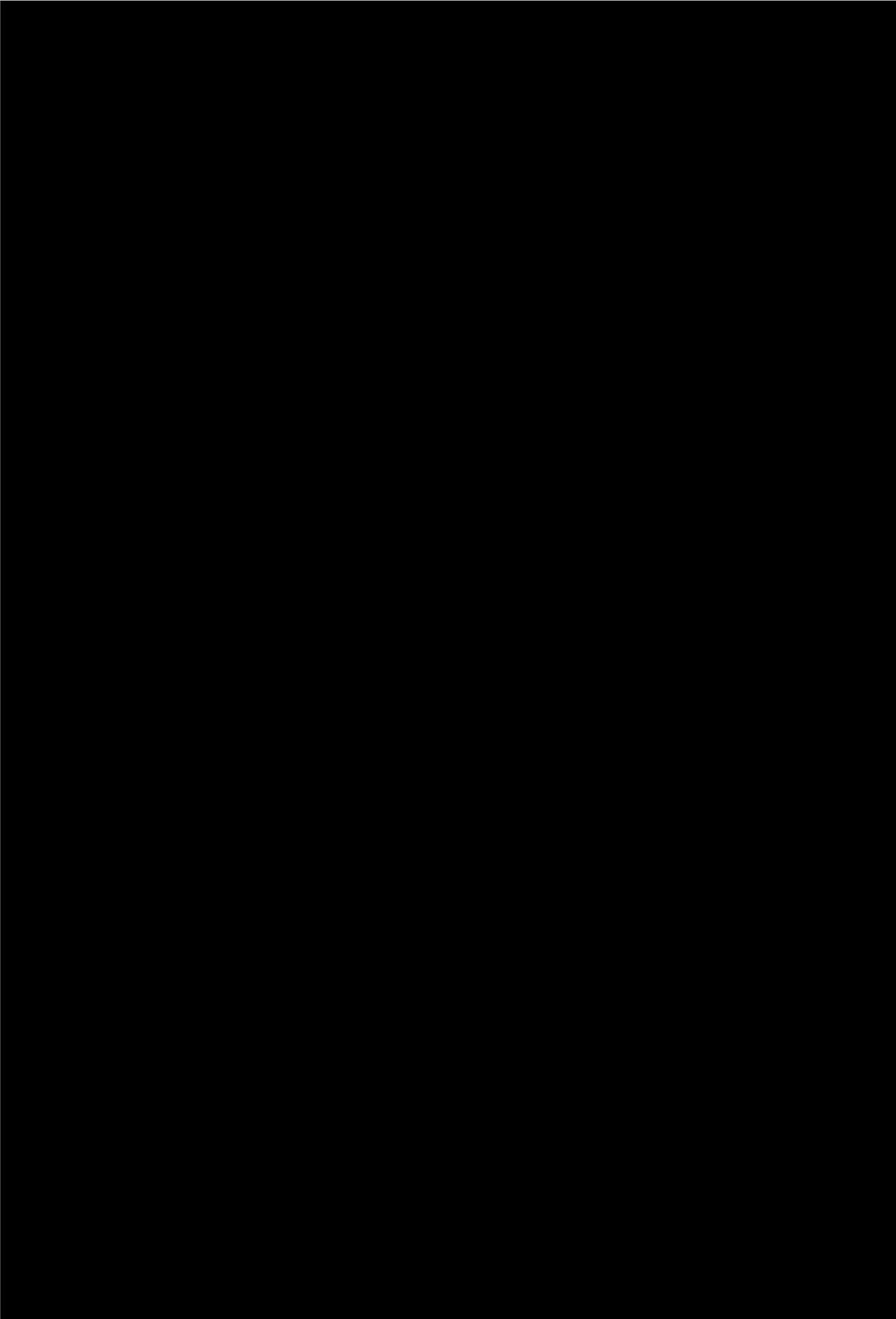
23

24 Q.

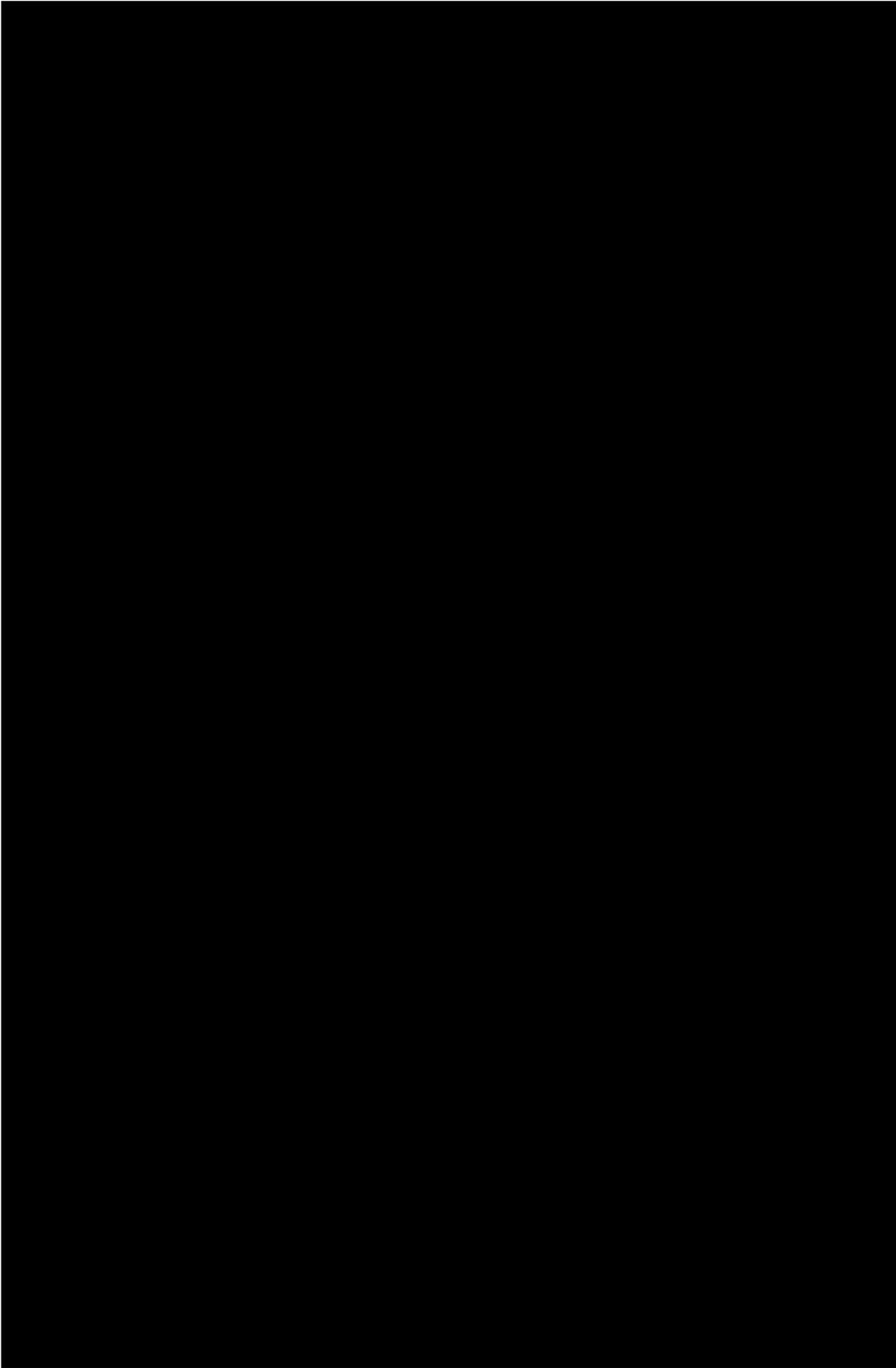
25



1
2 A.
3 Q.
4
5 A.
6 Q.
7 A.
8
9 Q.
10 A.
11
12
13 Q.
14 A.
15 Q.
16
17 A.
18 Q.
19
20 A.
21 Q.
22 A.
23 Q.
24
25 A.



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25



1 A. 

2 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, that's 12.55. That might be a good
3 point.

4 LADY SMITH: Yes. We can stop now for the lunch break.
5 Maybe if we start again at 1.50?

6 MR MacAULAY: Yes.

7 (12.55 pm)

8 (The lunch adjournment)

9 (1.50 pm)

10 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon.

11 Mr MacAulay, when you're ready and Helen's ready.

12 MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, Helen.

13

14

15

16

17

18 A.

19 Q.

20 A.

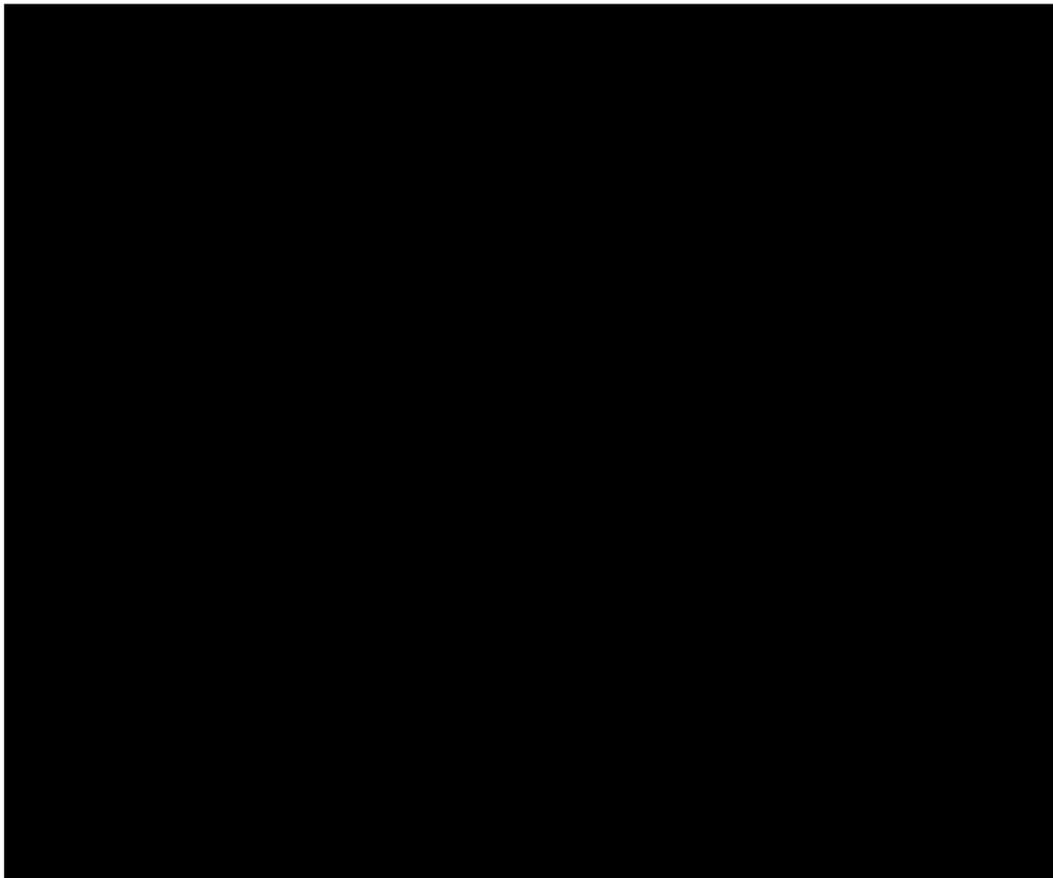
21

22

23

24

25



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Q. Can I then move on from that, Helen, and look at aspects of healthcare. Again, you deal with that in your statement. What you say is in the main it was Sister LHZ really who looked after you in relation to matters to do with your health.

A. Yes.

Q. You talk about chickenpox, that there was an outbreak of chickenpox, and that, for some children, was quite a bad experience; can you just tell me about that?

A. Well, I tried to get all the childhood diseases but I never got any of them. The children who had chickenpox -- the older children would go up and put the calamine lotion on the spots, but if the children were scratching like made, then their hands would be tied, so they'd be restrained and it would be the older children -- like, Sister LHZ would tell us what to do

- 1 and we'd go up and look after the little ones.
- 2 Q. Who would tie the children's hands?
- 3 A. Sister **LHZ** would.
- 4 Q. Can I just understand the mechanics of that? What did
- 5 she actually do?
- 6 A. It would be like a bandage. So the children's hands
- 7 would be tied to the side of the bed, the metal base of
- 8 the bed.
- 9 Q. That was to prevent them from scratching themselves?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. What about toothache, dental treatment? How was that
- 12 approached?
- 13 A. I don't remember ever going to a dentist. Sister **LHZ**
- 14 used to tie a piece of -- it would be like thick
- 15 embroidery thread round the tooth and kick the door so
- 16 your tooth would come out.
- 17 Q. Is that something she did to you?
- 18 A. Yes, I did it to myself sometimes, to be honest with
- 19 you, because I'm terrified of the dentist.
- 20 Q. Did you see that approach being taken with anybody else?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. You also talk about people that needed glasses. And
- 23 I think **[REDACTED]** was somebody who needed
- 24 glasses --
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- and he wasn't very happy with what he had.

2 A. No.

3 Q. Why not?

4 A. Well, for a start he was a boy and he was given pink

5 glasses. He would have been about 10 at the time,

6 I think, so you can imagine the ridicule he got at

7 school. He also had a squint in his eye, so there was

8 like an Elastoplast put over one of the lenses of one of

9 the glasses, so because he wouldn't wear them, he would

10 just take them off and put them in his pocket because

11 the other children at school made a fool of him.

12 Q. The purpose of the Elastoplast was to try and rectify

13 the squint, was it?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Coming to yourself, Helen, you tell us about one day

16 when you woke up and there was blood on your sheets.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can you tell me what happened after that?

19 A. I was scared because I thought that was going to be

20 worse than wetting the bed. I didn't realise what it

21 was. So I went and tried to wash the sheets myself.

22 I washed the sheets and I tried to put them in the

23 airing cupboard -- because there was an airing cupboard

24 outside the bathroom area that had, like, wooden slats

25 at the top and wooden slats at the bottom. But when

1 I told Sister LHZ , she beat me black and blue, she
2 told me that I wasn't allowed to speak to any boys,
3 I wasn't to go near any boys, I had my apron on at the
4 time because I'd got up and got ready, and in the wash
5 hand area, the crisscross bit at the back of the apron
6 had caught on one of the hooks for the flannels, so it
7 actually ripped, and because I couldn't understand
8 what was going on, or why she was doing what she was
9 doing, I actually said to her, "Now look what you've
10 done", because she had ripped the apron. So I didn't
11 exactly make life easy for myself. She was really,
12 really angry because I'd answered her back.

13 Q. Clearly, this was you developing your menstrual periods.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. But were you given advice at school as to what this
16 meant?

17 A. Sister LHZ threw me into the toilet and she threw
18 in -- obviously it was a sanitary pad and a belt in
19 those days, but I thought it was something you got
20 at the dentist because I would see people at school who
21 had maybe been to the dentist and they would have this
22 kind of thing over their mouth, and that's what it
23 looked like, so I didn't know what to do with it and she
24 didn't explain to me what to do with it. I said to her,
25 "Why are you giving me this, there's nothing wrong with

1 my mouth?" but she saw that as me being bold and
2 answering her back, so then she beat me for saying that
3 to her.

4 Eventually, I never even used the belt. I didn't
5 know what to do with the belt, to be honest with you, so
6 I just put the towel on and went to school. But that
7 day at school, we had gym and I didn't want to do gym,
8 so I went to the toilet and I was crying in the toilet.
9 It was actually one of the other children that told the
10 teacher at school that I was in the toilet crying. So
11 the teacher had actually come to see me, and it was them
12 that explained to me what it was. I thought I was
13 dying.

14 Q. What age are you at that time, can you remember?

15 A. About 11.

16 Q. You also tell us in your statement about an incident
17 that involved an industrial tumble dryer. Was this
18 industrial tumble dryer something that was used on the
19 premises?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can you tell me what happened?

22 A. I can't remember what I'd done wrong. I'd obviously
23 done something to annoy Sister **LHZ** when the children
24 were outside. I was only little at the time, I would
25 only have been about maybe 8 or something, but

1 Sister LHZ got hold of me and because I was screaming,
2 because she was hitting me, she threw me in the tumble
3 dryer.

4 Q. Where was the tumble dryer?

5 A. In the outhouse. But the other children were there as
6 well, so she made the other children come into the
7 outhouse, put me in the tumble dryer, and she switched
8 the tumble dryer on. To be honest with you, at the
9 beginning I thought it would be like a roller coaster,
10 so I wasn't really too bothered about it, but [REDACTED]
11 was one of the ones that was outside looking in, and the
12 other children were laughing and I'll be honest with
13 you, [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED]

15 [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED]

19 Q. For you within the tumble dryer, what was the experience
20 like?

21 A. Awful. It was smelly. It was hot. I was sweating like
22 anything. I couldn't hold on to anything. I couldn't
23 get my bearings eventually; all I could see was the
24 faces outside the tumble dryer laughing.

25 Q. How easy was it to breathe within the tumble dryer?

- 1 A. Not very easy.
- 2 Q. How long do you think you were in there for?
- 3 A. Ten minutes. It was really hot by the time I got out:
- 4 I couldn't even touch the metal bits.
- 5 Q. You've already told us about how you would describe
- 6 Sister **LHZ** as being a sadistic person and that she
- 7 ruled the place, really, through fear. Is that --
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. -- your position? Did that remain the position
- 10 throughout your time when she was there?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Do you have any sense at all as to what the position was
- 13 with the other group?
- 14 A. Well, I'm not really sure, but I used to go to bed at
- 15 night praying that I would get put into the other group.
- 16 I don't think Sister **LGO** was as bad. I know that
- 17 sometimes she would hit the children as well because
- 18 sometimes we would witness it, if the concertina doors
- 19 were pulled back, if a child had done something really
- 20 bad like run away and the police were involved or
- 21 something like that, those concertina doors would be
- 22 opened up and we'd all be made to form a circle and we'd
- 23 have to witness the children being beaten.
- 24 Q. Coming back to Sister **LHZ** you've told us about the
- 25 switch: were there any other instruments that she used

- 1 when she was hitting you?
- 2 A. A bat. It looked like a tennis bat, a child's tennis
3 bat, just all plastic, no wood on it, just a rigid
4 plastic bat. Sometimes a hairbrush, sometimes the
5 stainless steel comb if she was back combing your hair
6 for nits. Her fist, her feet, whatever.
- 7 Q. You've already told us about being put in the isolation
8 room as a form of punishment. Is that something
9 different to the cupboard? Because you talk about
10 a cupboard at paragraph 126 in your statement. Are we
11 talking about the same thing?
- 12 A. No, that's a different cupboard. The cupboard I was
13 talking about there was in relation to the heating
14 cupboard.
- 15 Q. What was the position with that?
- 16 A. Well, I hadn't got the children up in time to go to the
17 toilet that night. There was quite a few of them had
18 wet the bed. So she was really, really angry with me
19 about it and put me in the airing cupboard and shut the
20 door. I held on to the two top rungs to start with
21 because they were wooden and put my feet on the two
22 bottom rungs. But I wasn't standing straight up and
23 down, so it was quite difficult and obviously it was
24 getting hot from underneath.
- 25 Q. Was that just on one occasion you were put into that

- 1 cupboard?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. You've already hinted at this, I think, Helen, about
4 what your survival mechanisms were in those occasions
5 when you were being told, for example, that the devil
6 was with you and so on. These related back to your
7 grandmother's teaching; is that right?
- 8 A. Yes. Everything related back to my gran. My gran would
9 tell me positive stories about Christ. She would talk
10 to me about Jesus the storyteller. So the vision I had
11 in my head was Jesus under a big oak tree with the
12 children on his knee, telling them stories. That's how
13 my grandmother brought the Bible to life for me, that's
14 the way I was brought up before I went into
15 Nazareth House. It wasn't about repetitive prayer and
16 things like that. For me it was about knowing God in
17 your heart, not in your head. That's kind of the way
18 that I believed; it's still the way I believe.
- 19 Q. If another child was being punished in your group, would
20 you watch the punishment?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Why would you watch it?
- 23 A. Because you had no choice: if you turned away, then
24 you'd be punished as well.
- 25 Q. I think you tell us about an occasion when [REDACTED]

- 1 and another girl ran away.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Was the other girl from the other group?
- 4 A. No, I think she was from Sister LHZ's group as well.
- 5 There was an occasion when somebody from Sister LGO's
- 6 group was involved with [REDACTED] as well. They'd been
- 7 out and crossed a bridge of some kind -- I don't even
- 8 remember where -- I don't know where the bridge was, but
- 9 [REDACTED] had lost her shoe. So I don't know whether
- 10 there was an accident or what happened, but they ended
- 11 up being brought back by the police and the concertina
- 12 doors were opened up and the two of them were put in the
- 13 middle of the circle -- oh, they were beaten for
- 14 bringing the police back.
- 15 Q. Beaten by whom?
- 16 A. By Sister LHZ and Sister LGO on that occasion.
- 17 Q. And you say beaten, can you describe what happened?
- 18 A. With the switch.
- 19 Q. Was that a different occasion to when, I think you tell
- 20 us in paragraph 128, when [REDACTED] and another girl
- 21 ran away and the police brought them back?
- 22 A. That was a different occasion. That was an incident
- 23 in the graveyard.
- 24 Q. Can you tell us about that?
- 25 A. [REDACTED] had run away with another girl and they'd gone

1 to the graveyard in Grassyards Road in Kilmarnock and
2 something had happened in the graveyard with a man,
3 I think it was. And again, the police were involved and
4 the police brought them back. So again, because the
5 police had brought them back, then they were beaten in
6 front of all the other children.

7 Q. Were you all made to watch these beatings?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Were both nuns involved in the beatings?

10 A. Yes. The message for the other children was that if you
11 bring the police to the door then this is what will
12 happen. That's what I took from it.

13 Q. Just again, if you can describe the beatings for us.

14 A. Well, you would have the two children kneeling down
15 in the middle, all the children formed a circle, we were
16 made to form a circle. Sister **LHZ** would start beating
17 and then if one of the children -- Sister **LGO** would
18 be walking round the outside just saying to everybody,
19 "You watch this, this is what happens when you bring the
20 police to the door". She would be walking round the
21 outside. Then if it involved a child from
22 Sister **LGO**'s group, Sister **LHZ** finished beating and
23 Sister **LGO** would go in and use the switch as well.

24 Q. On what parts of the bodies?

25 A. On their feet because they'd run away, but the switch

- 1 could hit any part of the body.
- 2 Q. If you ran away, it was the soles of the feet that were
3 being targeted?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Did these beatings cause injury as far as you could see?
- 6 A. They would cause the feet to welt up with the welts,
7 yes.
- 8 Q. You also tell us that because of something that happened
9 to you, you have been left with a scar.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Can you tell me about that?
- 12 A. Sister [REDACTED] ... I don't even know how to describe her.
13 She enjoyed making you scared. You weren't allowed to
14 switch the lights on in the main staircase that went
15 from the downstairs changing room all the way up to the
16 third floor. One night I'd finished polishing the
17 floors, I was going up to bed and Sister [REDACTED] was
18 at the top landing beside a life-size statue, and I'd
19 almost got to the top and she stepped out and I got
20 a fright. Because I screamed, she started hitting me
21 and I fell down the stairs and split my head open above
22 my eye --
- 23 Q. Where is the scar then?
- 24 A. Above my eyebrow (indicating).
- 25 Q. And you're pointing to just above your left eyebrow?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. If you were hit with a switch and it left marks, would
3 there be occasions when you would not go to school?
- 4 A. Sometimes.
- 5 Q. Why would that be?
- 6 A. Because they wouldn't want anybody to see the marks.
- 7 Q. Was there anybody to speak to about what was happening
8 to you in Nazareth House?
- 9 A. Not really. Like I say, you didn't really -- you didn't
10 really have any access to the other sisters. We only
11 saw them in chapel.
- 12 Q. Can I ask you this, because you talk about this in your
13 statement, was there an incident involving a child who
14 jumped from a fire exit?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Can you help me with that? What happened there?
- 17 A. We were all upstairs in the dormitory. I can't remember
18 if it was a Friday night or what it was but we were
19 heading towards the bathroom area and this little girl
20 ran from the corridor where the statue was all the way
21 down the sort of extended bit where the beds were for
22 the overflow and straight over the fire exit. The fire
23 exit door was open at the time -- it was in the
24 summer -- and she just went straight over the fire exit.
- 25 Q. When you say she ran, was she being chased by anybody?

1 A. No, no. She just jumped.

2 Q. What sort of age do you think she was?

3 A. About 11, 12, maybe.

4 Q. Was she in your group?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You can't remember her name?

7 A. No. We were just all put into the dormitories and the
8 curtains were drawn and we were told we were just to
9 kneel down and pray.

10 Q. Do you know what happened to the little girl?

11 A. No.

12 Q. I think you do say in your statement that when
13 Sister **LHZ** left and Sister **LKE** came in,
14 that was really a complete change in approach?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And what was she like?

17 A. A breath of fresh air. She was young, she laughed.
18 When we were outside one day, she was in the tennis
19 area playing with one of the other nuns, and she had
20 hooked up her habit and was running for the ball and
21 they were laughing and giggling. It sounded totally
22 alien to us, to be honest with you, but it was really,
23 really nice.

24 Q. I think you describe her somewhere in your statement as
25 being a lovely person.

- 1 A. She was, yes.
- 2 Q. Is that the way you found her?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. How did that come across to you?
- 5 A. She came across as more caring and I'll give you an
6 example. By the time Sister **LKE** came, I was already
7 getting ridiculed at school because Sister **LHZ** didn't
8 buy the children bras, no matter what stage of
9 development they were at. So I was already being
10 ridiculed at school by the other children and when
11 Sister **LKE** came it was one of the first things she
12 did, she brought the children that needed them bras.
- 13 I remember she was trying to work out sizes and
14 things, so she'd asked if she could measure and
15 I panicked a bit and stepped back from her. But she
16 didn't chastise me or anything like that, she was okay,
17 she was kind about it and she just went off and
18 I suppose guessed the size.
- 19 Q. One thing you say, and it's actually on the screen on
20 that paragraph, is that you didn't really see yourself
21 as being in care in the true sense of the word; is that
22 what you are meaning there?
- 23 A. Absolutely. How can you call that caring for children?
24 I never saw -- I was cared for by my gran, I was cared
25 for by my dad, I was cared for by my papa **[REDACTED]**

- 1 [REDACTED] I never felt cared for by
2 Sister [REDACTED] LHZ -- or anyone else in that convent because
3 they must have known what she was like.
- 4 Q. That was one of the points I was going to ask you.
5 You have presented this picture of two discrete groups
6 with two nuns in charge of the groups. To what extent
7 do you think other people, whether they be laypeople or
8 nuns, within the convent would know how Sister [REDACTED] LHZ was
9 behaving?
- 10 A. I think they must have known.
- 11 Q. If a child was -- if you were beaten the way you
12 described, would children be upset, would they will be
13 screaming?
- 14 A. Absolutely. People from Sister [REDACTED] LGO 's group were
15 happy they weren't in Sister [REDACTED] LHZ 's group. That said
16 it all. If children can recognise the fact that
17 children in another group are treated badly, then surely
18 to goodness the adults should.
- 19 Q. Did you have any dealings at all with the
20 Mother Superior?
- 21 A. Not that I remember.
- 22 Q. Did you see her around the home?
- 23 A. Only in the chapel.
- 24 Q. Helen, I want to now look at a section of your statement
25 where you talk about abuse. There are really four

1 separate chapters, I think, I want to raise with you:
2 that is physical abuse, and we've talked quite a bit
3 about that; there's also emotional abuse, and again
4 you've mentioned that; and indeed spiritual abuse, which
5 I think you've mentioned; the final kind of abuse I want
6 to look at is sexual abuse. Do you understand all of
7 that? It's entirely up to you, Helen, as to how much
8 detail you want to provide to us in your oral evidence.

9 Let's just look at physical abuse. I think we've
10 covered much of this in taking your evidence, and in
11 particular the manner in which you would be hit by
12 Sister [REDACTED] LHZ by the use of the switch or her knuckles,
13 or indeed some other implements you have mentioned.

14 Is that correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Throughout your time in the home when she was there, was
17 this a regular occurrence?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. From your own perspective, did you feel that the type of
20 punishment, if we want to give it that label, was at all
21 justified?

22 A. I'd never -- [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED] If [REDACTED] misbehaved at home, my
24 dad only needed to raise his voice and say, "Enough",
25 and [REDACTED] behaved. He never hit [REDACTED] he never lifted a hand

1 to me. My father never slapped me once in my life.

2 I know there was more children to look after, but I've
3 got two dogs -- I mean, if I give them love, then all
4 they want to do is please me. If you can treat animals
5 like that, then why can't you treat human beings the
6 same way?

7 Q. Emotional abuse, if we look at that side of the coin.
8 Again, you've told us things that were being said to
9 you, like, "The devil's inside you", and that sort of
10 comment. Can you give us some understanding of what you
11 see the emotional abuse to have been?

12 A. You believe it because you would back it up. It wasn't
13 just a case of an isolated comment, "The devil's inside
14 you"; the devil was inside you because of something
15 you'd done in her eyes. Whether you understood it or
16 not made no difference.

17 Q. Were there other expressions she used?

18 A. The devil's inside you, you were the spawn of the devil,
19 hell was in your name, the devil was inside of you and
20 she'd knock it out of you. I heard more about the devil
21 than I did about God from Sister **LHZ** in all the time
22 I was there.

23 Q. That brings me on in fact to spiritual abuse, if I can
24 use that description. How would you describe that
25 aspect of what you saw to be abuse?

1 A. I knew God in my heart. I don't believe Sister LHZ
2 ever did. I don't believe that she was called by God
3 for a vocation. I believe there are plenty of sisters
4 that are, but I can't believe for one second that she
5 was one of them. She may have known God in her head,
6 but she certainly didn't know him in her heart or, if
7 she did, it's a totally different God to the one I know.

8 Q. Can I then look at the fourth chapter I mentioned, if
9 I may, and that's sexual abuse. This will be difficult
10 for you and it's entirely up to you, Helen, how much you
11 want to tell us about that. If it's possible to work
12 with a sequence of events, then feel happy to do that.
13 But if I can just put the question to you: were you
14 sexually abused when you were in Nazareth House?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Are you able to go on and describe how that happened?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can you tell us in your own words what you'd like to
19 tell us.

20 A. The first time I was 8 years old. I was in the
21 recreation room, there was a little girl that was
22 crying, and I sat her on my knee because she was crying.
23 I knew you weren't supposed to do that, but Sister LHZ
24 wasn't in the room at the time and I didn't see her
25 coming in, I didn't hear her coming in.

1 Q. Why did you know that you weren't supposed to comfort
2 a crying child?

3 A. Because you weren't allowed to. You weren't allowed to
4 touch other children.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. The sins of the flesh, according to Sister **LHZ**.

7 Q. So this applied, you'd say, also to an 8-year-old who
8 was trying to comfort a younger child?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Tell me what happened then.

11 A. I didn't hear her come in the room and next thing
12 I knew, she reached over, she grabbed me by the hair,
13 she yanked the little girl off my knee and threw her
14 across the room. At the same time as she's lifting me
15 up off the couch, she was taking me out of the room and
16 still slapping me, still telling me what was I doing
17 with that child, telling me the devil was inside of me,
18 she was going to make sure I knew what it was like to
19 have the devil inside of me.

20 I knew something was wrong, I knew something
21 different was going to happen because she took me up the
22 lift and I'd never been up the lift before. The whole
23 time in the lift she's still talking to me about the
24 fact that I was a brazen hussy and the devil was inside
25 of me, what was I doing to that child. I was trying to

1 tell her that I was trying to comfort the child because
2 she was crying, I was only trying to give her a cuddle.

3 She took me into her cell --

4 Q. Was the cell in one of the dormitories?

5 A. Yes. It was off one of the small dormitories. I'd
6 never been in her cell before either. I knew that's
7 where she slept, but I didn't know what was inside of
8 it. She took me inside her cell and told me to take my
9 clothes off. She was nipping me and nipping my breast,
10 in between her knuckles, turning the knuckles, telling
11 me the devil was inside of me, and then it progressed
12 from that to -- there was a small dustpan and hand broom
13 in the cell. She took the hand broom, she put the hand
14 brush, the handle part of it, inside of me and asked me
15 if I could feel the devil.

16 Even though I knew that I saw her taking the brush
17 and putting the brush inside of me, because she was
18 telling me the devil was in there, that's what
19 I believed. That was the start.

20 LADY SMITH: Helen, you spoke to us earlier about your
21 grandmother taking you on her knee.

22 A. Yes.

23 LADY SMITH: Would she cuddle you then?

24 A. Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: So do I get the picture that you were trying to

1 help this little girl in the way you'd experienced
2 comfort from your grandmother?

3 A. Yes.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MR MacAULAY: After this had happened to you, were you
6 injured?

7 A. Yes, I was bleeding.

8 Q. Do I take it that you were bleeding from your vaginal
9 area?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What happened after that?

12 A. She told me that that was the devil and then she threw
13 me into the bath.

14 Q. Did she take you from her cell to the bath?

15 A. She threw me into the bath with Jeyes fluid, but it was
16 stinging like anything. I couldn't hold back -- I did
17 let out a yell when she put me in the bath because it
18 was stinging.

19 Q. Because you say the Jeyes fluid was put in the bath?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Did you understand, Helen, what had happened to you at
22 that time, at the age of 8?

23 A. No, I just thought it was another form of punishment.

24 Q. But when she was saying to you that "The devil was
25 inside you and this is the devil", did you believe that?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. I think you said this was the start of it; we'll come
3 back to that again. But was this at a time when you
4 were due to go to your first communion?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. I think the practice was that if you were to go to your
7 first communion, you'd have to do your first confession
8 first; is that right?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. So you would have to go to confession, as it were, to
11 confess your sins before you went to communion?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. That was the thinking at the time?
- 14 A. Yes, to cleanse yourself to receive God.
- 15 Q. Then did there come a point in time shortly after that
16 when you went to confession?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Was that within Nazareth House itself or was it in [REDACTED]
19 church [REDACTED]
- 20 A. [REDACTED]
- 21 Q. [REDACTED]
- 22 [REDACTED]
- 23 A. [REDACTED]
- 24 Q. Did you know the priest to whom you were going to go to
25 confession?

1 A. Well, at the time you went down and whatever light was
2 on, that was the priest that was taking confession.

3 Q. So let's just take it on from there. Do you remember
4 going into the confessional?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Can you just again tell us in your own words what
7 happened?

8 A. I didn't want the devil inside of me, so I told the
9 priest that the devil was inside of me and I had to get
10 the devil out before I took my communion.

11 Q. Were these the words you used?

12 A. Yes. He asked me what I meant, so I told him what
13 Sister LHZ did.

14 Q. Can you remember what you did say to him?

15 A. What I said to the priest?

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. Exactly that: the devil was inside of me, I needed to
18 get the devil out so I could receive God. I told him
19 that Sister LHZ had taken me into the cell and
20 something was inside of me and Sister LHZ told me it
21 was the devil. I was able to tell him that it was
22 a brush that was inside of me, but my head still wasn't
23 registering the fact that it wasn't the devil. He threw
24 open the confessional box, told me I was the most wicked
25 child he had ever met [REDACTED]

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Q.

A.

Q.

A.

Q. Where did you go [REDACTED]?

A. In the front door. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Sister LHZ was waiting.

He told her what I'd said. We went into the front parlour on the right-hand side. They looked at each other, the way people do when they've got an understanding, but without language.

He told her what I'd said in the confessional, which went against absolutely everything that I'd been taught. It was supposed to be that it was sacred in the confessional and when you were talking in the confessional, you were only talking to God. That's what I believed. He told her what I'd said.

They looked at each other. They talked about punishment -- it was LNN that was there.

Q. He was the priest?

A. Yes. I ended up over what looks like a boardroom table in the front parlour with LNN raping me, and

1 that was because I talked about the devil being inside
2 of me. I didn't know at the time that was what it was;
3 I just thought it was another form of punishment because
4 I'd said something bad.

5 Q. Was Sister **LHZ** present when this happened?

6 A. She was holding my hands across the table.

7 Q. Was your back to **LNN**

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What happened when he was finished?

10 A. I was told I was a brazen hussy, I was told I must learn
11 to keep my mouth shut, I was told the devil was inside
12 of me. I went back into the other children and said
13 nothing, I was to say nothing.

14 But I turned that around because when it came time
15 for my first communion, the prayers that we had to sing
16 at school, the song was about:

17 "Jesus thou art coming, holy as thou art

18 The God who made me from your own sweet heart.

19 Nature cannot hold me, come to me and stay

20 For I love you, Jesus, more than I can say."

21 And I held on to that every single time because, for
22 me, my communion was getting the devil outside of me.

23 I kept trying to turn things round about all the time as
24 a child.

25 Q. Okay. You have already told us what Sister **LHZ** did to

1 A. I was in bed and Sister [LHZ] came up, woke me up, and
2 told me to follow her downstairs, downstairs to the
3 downstairs changing room on the ground floor. There was
4 like a high stool, four legs. She pushed me over it
5 onto my tummy and tied my hands to the rung at the
6 bottom and my feet to the rung at the back. She took
7 the wash bag that you would put your toothbrush and
8 toothpaste into and put that over my head.

9 Q. Can you tell me what happened next?

10 A. I could hear voices -- I couldn't really see anything.
11 Sister [LHZ] was standing on my head, pulling my head up
12 because I was kind of thrashing about, and then I was
13 raped again.

14 Q. Do you know if there was one man or more than one men
15 involved in that episode?

16 A. There was more than one.

17 Q. More than one. Did this happen once or more than once,
18 this particular set-up with the stool?

19 A. More than once. It happened in the outhouse as well.

20 Q. I don't want to go into the detail, but was the
21 procedure the same, that you were tied to the stool,
22 your head being covered, and being raped?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Do I take it from what you've been telling us that
25 it would be your back that would be to the men that were

- 1 raping you?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. You mentioned [REDACTED] LNN [REDACTED] before, Helen, and your
4 involvement with him. So far as you were concerned, did
5 he sexually abuse you after the first incident that you
6 described?
- 7 A. I don't know.
- 8 Q. Because I think you're telling us that in these
9 incidents when your head was covered, you did not know
10 who the men were; is that correct?
- 11 A. Yes, except I knew that a priest was involved at some
12 point.
- 13 Q. Why did you know that?
- 14 A. Because in the downstairs changing room, when it
15 eventually stopped, I could hear Sister [REDACTED] LHZ [REDACTED] going
16 down. There was like three toilets and at the end of
17 the little hallway in front of the toilets there was an
18 outside door that Sister [REDACTED] LHZ [REDACTED] had the keys to. So
19 I could hear her with the keys and I heard her saying,
20 "Good night, father".
- 21 Q. Was this once or more than once, you heard this?
- 22 A. More than once.
- 23 Q. Are you able to tell me, Helen, what ages were you then?
24 What age or ages were you when this abuse that you've
25 been describing to us was going on?

- 1 A. About 11.
- 2 Q. Insofar as these incidents involving the stool would be
3 concerned, once the incident had finished, would you go
4 back to your bed or what would happen?
- 5 A. Sometimes, if it lasted long, after the people were
6 away, then Sister LHZ would take the thing off my head
7 and untie me and take me back upstairs. Sometimes
8 it would be a case of I would be told to go in the bath
9 and scrub myself clean, and then I'd be put to bed.
- 10 Q. Helen, that's all I want to ask you directly about the
11 sexual abuse itself.
- 12 I now want to move on to a point in time when -- and
13 you describe this in paragraph 160 onwards in your
14 statement -- when you say you were attacked, quite
15 viciously, by Sister LHZ over a lengthy period of
16 time. Are you able to help me with that?
- 17 A. Two things.
- 18 Q. Yes, certainly.
- 19 A. I'd come home from school one day. The way it worked
20 with sanitary towels was they would just be put in your
21 locker, they would just appear. I came home from school
22 and Sister LHZ asked me why I hadn't used them.
23 I told her I didn't need to. She got really, really
24 angry, asking me why I didn't need to use them, and
25 I said, "I don't know, I just don't need to use them".

1 She took me into her cell, threw me on the floor, and
2 started kicking me over and over and over and over for
3 what seemed like forever.

4 Q. Where was she kicking you?

5 A. In my stomach, in my back. It just went on for ages.

6 Q. What age were you at that time?

7 A. About 11 and a half, coming up 12.

8 Q. At a point in time, did you require to go to the toilet?

9 A. Yes. I asked her if I could go to the toilet. She
10 said, no, there was a stainless steel basin in the room,
11 in her cell and she told me if I needed the toilet,
12 I had to use the stainless steel basin.

13 I'd never done the toilet in front of anybody.

14 Sister **LHZ** used to beat us if we saw another child
15 doing the toilet. Even when you put the children in to
16 do the toilet when they were bed-wetting, you had to
17 stand with your back to them, and here she was asking me
18 to do the toilet in front of her. I couldn't do it.

19 The beating went on and then eventually I couldn't
20 hold it back any longer, told her I needed to go to the
21 toilet, and I had to do the toilet in the stainless
22 steel bowl, but it was all bleeding. She lifted
23 something out of the basin and told me it was the devil,
24 that was proof that the devil had come out of me.

25 Q. After that incident, were you in bed for some time?

1 A. Yes, for about three weeks -- maybe longer, I can't
2 remember.

3 Q. But after that, did the sexual abuse you've told us
4 about come to an end?

5 A. There was something else that happened that's in -- that
6 I told the procurator fiscal.

7 Q. I'm not pressing you to tell us that, Helen. It's only
8 if you want to tell us that that you need tell us.

9 A. She decided that she wanted to degrade me even further,
10 so the sexual abuse ended with her using an animal and
11 them all laughing.

12 Q. Again, I'm not pressing you to develop that. It's
13 entirely up to you if you want to do that.

14 A. I think that covers it.

15 Q. Okay. You mentioned earlier running away to the
16 Social Work Department at the time that these events
17 that you've been telling me about happened. Did you run
18 away to the Social Work Department?

19 A. One of the times, yes.

20 Q. Were you bleeding?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. I think you touched upon this earlier, but this perhaps
23 fits in better with what we've been discussing over the
24 last little while. What happened on this occasion when
25 you went to the Social Work Department?

1 A. I spoke to Peter Murphy. I had to wait to see him and
2 I was still crying. I was still really, really upset.
3 When I did eventually see him, I tried to tell him what
4 happened.

5 Q. And what event were you trying to tell him about?

6 A. About the brush incident, with the blood.

7 Q. Did you actually tell him about that?

8 A. I lifted up my skirt. I was still bleeding. But he
9 just took me back and Sister [LHZ] told him I'd be
10 fighting with somebody else and that's how I got
11 injured.

12 Q. Was that really the end of that?

13 A. As far as social work were concerned?

14 Q. Yes.

15 A. Yes, he just ... If he did come to see me after that, I
16 didn't speak to him and so he just thought I'd become
17 really quiet.

18 Q. Helen, in relation to the sexual abuse you've been
19 telling us about, did you tell anyone else about that?

20 A. In the children's home, you mean?

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. No.

23 Q. I think what you say in your statement is that
24 Sister [LHZ] had brainwashed you into believing that the
25 devil was inside you; is that correct?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And was that a reason why then you didn't want to tell
3 anyone?
- 4 A. Yes, because that's what I believed it was. I had no
5 idea what was happening to me. I just knew that
6 something was inside of me that shouldn't be there and
7 it had to be the devil because what else could it be?
- 8 Q. You've mentioned the incident where you were being
9 degraded: was that then the last incident that involved
10 any degree of sexual activity?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. What age, just to be clear, do you think you would have
13 been at about that time?
- 14 A. I was in first year at secondary school, so I'd be about
15 12.
- 16 Q. I think you told us earlier, Helen, that the abuse began
17 when you were of the age of about 8; is that right?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Again, without looking at detail, did the abuse continue
20 over the period from the age of 8 until this point in
21 time when you were in the first year of secondary?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. I think we've looked at specific incidents, but just to
24 be clear, there was more that went on during that period
25 of time that we haven't looked at?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. That's then all I wanted to ask you about that
3 particular side of things, Helen. I think you've
4 already mentioned -- I've put to you that you left
5 Nazareth House at about the age of 14, perhaps up to 15;
6 is that correct?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. How did it come about that you were leaving then? How
9 did you get to know you were leaving Nazareth House?
- 10 A. Mr Murphy came [REDACTED] one day and told [REDACTED] we were
11 going home the following week.
- 12 Q. Was it to your father you went?
- 13 A. Yes -- well, my father and another lady.
- 14 Q. You tell us in your statement what life was like after
15 being in care, Helen; that begins at paragraph 177.
16 I think at a particular point in time you renewed
17 contact with your mother; is that correct?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. She came back from Australia?
- 20 A. For a holiday, yes.
- 21 Q. And I think there was some talk of you going to join her
22 in Australia, but that did not happen.
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. And you were disappointed at that?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. I don't want to go into a lot of the detail of what
2 happened to you, but I'll look at impact in a moment.
3 But did you end up going to London with the intention of
4 joining the Order of the Missionaries of Charity?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Can you tell me about that? Because I think you joined
7 the order for a period of time.

8 A. I did.

9 Q. How did you find that?

10 A. I loved it, because it was an order who provided comfort
11 to people who society would walk past, the homeless. So
12 it was -- Mother Teresa's order dealt with the homeless.
13 Mother Teresa always used to say:

14 "The greatest disease to mankind is the feeling of
15 unloved and unwanted."

16 I knew exactly what that felt like.

17 Q. Mother Teresa, of course, was the founder of this
18 particular order; is that right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did you meet her?

21 A. I did, yes.

22 Q. Perhaps you can tell us, what was that like?

23 A. I'm not sure if I can put that into words, to be honest
24 with you. She was little, tiny, but she had such an
25 aura about her. You could feel God emanating from her.

1 She was full of compassion, full of kindness. She
2 reached out to people. I first met Mother Teresa in
3 London and it was her who accepted me into the order and
4 in fact it was with her that I agreed what my name would
5 be.

6 The next time I met Mother Teresa was when I was in
7 Rome, which would have been about a year and a half
8 later. She came up the stairs to the convent and I was
9 standing and she came over and said, "Oh,
10 Sister Natalia", and put her hands on my head and kissed
11 my forehead. I thought, what an amazing woman, she has
12 sisters all over the world and yet she can remember your
13 name. That just meant so much.

14 Q. You tell us in your statement, Helen, that you were with
15 the order for almost four years.

16 A. Yes, about that.

17 Q. But you decided to leave before taking your final vows?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You then go on to tell us --

20 A. That's the ironic thing though: any of the Sisters of
21 Nazareth could have left at any time. You don't become
22 a nun for life. If you decide it's not your vocation,
23 then you can leave. Sometimes people will say,
24 sometimes the sisters were unhappy at the Sisters of
25 Nazareth. That's no excuse for abusing children. If

1 they were unhappy they could have left. It's not a life
2 sentence: it's a dedication, a vocation, it's a choice
3 to serve God in that way. So the sisters who were being
4 cruel or not representing God properly could have left
5 at any time. That's the bit I don't understand about
6 all of this.

7 Q. But it was your choice, as you've just told us, to leave
8 after just under four years within the order?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. At that time do I take it you were still in London?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What you tell us at paragraphs 192 onwards in your
13 statement, perhaps up to paragraph 202, you provide us
14 with the details of your personal circumstances, getting
15 married and having children, and you tell us about
16 having, in particular, a grown-up son with whom you were
17 extremely close.

18 A. Yes. I see him every day.

19 Q. Again, we can read for ourselves what you've -- I don't
20 want to take you to the detail of that, Helen, but what
21 you tell us at paragraph 203 is that you did report
22 certain things to the police and to the procurator
23 fiscal.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. In particular, you had some dealings with the

1 procurator fiscal, I think; was that at Kilmarnock?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. He took statements from you; is that correct?

4 A. Yes. But that came about because I was told by the
5 police in Kilmarnock -- when I first reported it, they
6 got back in contact with me six weeks later to say that
7 they weren't going to investigate the case. So because
8 of that, I went to see my local MSP and explained to her
9 that it wasn't just me, there were lots of people out
10 there who'd been abused in care. It was because she'd
11 contacted Jim Wallace, who was the Lord Advocate at that
12 time, so he then instructed the procurator fiscal in
13 Kilmarnock to investigate things.

14 Q. He did speak to you?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And in particular, over a period of time, you provided
17 statements to him, setting out, over a period of time,
18 the type of abuse that you've described to us in
19 evidence today; is that correct?

20 A. Yes. Will Andrew was -- he was kind, he took it at my
21 pace. Sometimes he would meet with me in Kilmarnock.
22 Sometimes he would come through to the fiscal's office
23 in Dumbarton. Sometimes he would talk to me on the
24 phone. So I kind of -- he gave me the chance to build
25 up a trust in him to be able to open up. So I would

1 open up a bit, see what his reaction would be, and then
2 eventually open up and tell him the whole sheboom.

3 Q. I think you were advised at a point in time that the
4 matter was not going to be taken any further by the
5 prosecution authorities; is that right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. What were you told?

8 A. I was told that the Crown's decision was because
9 Sister [REDACTED] was too old and too infirm, they weren't
10 going to pursue the case.

11 Q. Did you contact the procurator fiscal to discuss that
12 with him?

13 A. I actually went down to Kilmarnock with a friend. The
14 first thing he said when we went in was, "Now, Helen,
15 the first thing I need you to realise is it's not
16 because you haven't been believed, we absolutely believe
17 these things happened to you, but the Crown's decision
18 is because Sister [REDACTED] is too old and too infirm, we
19 can't pursue the case".

20 Q. Did you do something to check out yourself what the
21 position was, particularly with Sister [REDACTED] ?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What did you do?

24 A. I was annoyed. I'm the kind of person that, I can
25 accept something if I know that it's true, so by the

- 1 Q. Were you rather upset?
- 2 A. I was livid. I would much rather they told me the truth
3 than tell me lies. So I phoned the procurator fiscal
4 back and said, "Why did you lie to me?" and he said,
5 "What did you mean?" and I said, "Well, I've just phone
6 Nazareth House [REDACTED] and there's nothing wrong with
7 Sister [REDACTED] LHZ she's mentally alert, she's healthy, so
8 why are you saying she's too old and too inform?" At
9 that point Will Andrew said to me, "Helen, I need to
10 tell the Crown Office what you've done", and I said,
11 "That's fine".
- 12 Q. Did you have any further communication from the Crown
13 Office?
- 14 A. Nothing at all.
- 15 Q. You also tell us in your statement -- this is from
16 paragraphs 214 to 220 -- about your involvement in the
17 civil litigation process and also the criminal injuries
18 compensation. You were successful with criminal
19 injuries compensation, but I think any civil litigation,
20 as we all know, fell at the hurdle of time bar.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. After that, you became involved with the media and also
23 with INCAS; is that correct?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Can you just tell me a little bit about how you became

1 involved in that process?

2 A. Well, to be honest with you, when I knew nothing was
3 going to be done, I was really angry and at that point
4 I thought, you know what, we were children of the state,
5 so the state are primarily responsible. I'd already
6 started going to Jackie Baillie at that point, my MSP,
7 speaking to her about things, and saying, look, I'm
8 sorry, I can't accept this. At that point I was aware
9 of the fact that other than people had started to speak
10 out despite the fact that I didn't know who they were.
11 I know there was some kind of meeting that the BBC were
12 doing, I think it was; I didn't actually go to that
13 event.

14 But at that time initially I wasn't intending being
15 involved with any particular groups. I was more
16 concerned about the fact why was this woman being let
17 off with what had happened, because I always saw
18 Sister LHZ as the instigator and everything. As
19 a result of that, I started speaking out, initially with
20 a pseudonym, and then I waived the right to anonymity,
21 and then I was asked to speak at a conference at the
22 Moira Anderson Foundation and that's where I met
23 Frank Docherty.

24 Q. And, as you tell us in your statement, "The rest is
25 history".

1 A. Absolutely.

2 Q. I think the programme you mentioned where you did waive
3 your anonymity was a programme, I think, with
4 Catherine Deveney?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Where you told those who were listening to it what had
7 happened to you?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Along the lines of what you've been telling us today?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. One thing you say in your statement at paragraph 221 --
12 and it's on the screen -- is that after the failed legal
13 cases, you felt that the survivors were not being
14 believed.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And you make reference in particular to what you had
17 understood Bishop Conti to have said publicly.

18 A. Oh, I didn't understand it; I knew it.

19 Q. What did he say?

20 A. He looked straight into the BBC cameras, he was
21 addressing the people of Scotland, those were his words:
22 "I'm addressing the people of Scotland and you must
23 remember these people were delinquents and misfits of
24 society."
25 Those were his exact words.

1 Q. Did that prompt a reaction in you?

2 A. It made me feel sick. Made me feel like I was back
3 in the children's home and hearing Sister LHZ saying
4 that exact same thing, so I was determined to make sure
5 that people knew the truth.

6 Q. You also tell us in your statement at paragraphs --
7 I think it begins a little bit earlier, from
8 paragraph 228 onwards -- about the impact you tell us
9 that your time in Nazareth House has had on your life.
10 Again, the detail is there for us to read. I just want
11 to take from you that it has affected you daily in your
12 life; is that correct?

13 A. Absolutely.

14 Q.

15

16

17

18 A.

19

20

21

22

23

24 Q. I think in relation to one of your siblings, you got in
25 contact with her later on in life and you were very

1 close with her, and we'll hear about that at another
2 point in time. But just looking at the impact, you do
3 tell us in quite some detail about the psychological
4 impact that life in care has had on you. For example,
5 I think you're still going for counselling; is that
6 correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Can I just take you to this little piece in your
9 statement, Helen? It's at paragraph 240. It'll come on
10 the screen, I hope. I just want to ask you about that
11 comment you make there, and that is:

12 "I don't care what anybody says. I think if
13 you have been abused as a child, you carry it until you
14 die."

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Is that something you believe?

17 A. Absolutely.

18 Q. Has that been your own experience?

19 A. Yes. I mean, you can't make what's happened unhappen.
20 No amount of counselling in the world can make that
21 possible. You learn through counselling how to deal
22 with it on a daily basis, how to protect yourself, but
23 it doesn't take it away.

24

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25



I think it makes no difference. I'm 60 in a couple of months' time and even though logically I know in my head that the devil's not inside of me, when it comes to emotionally, when bad things happen, that's the first thing that comes to my head: it's happening because the devil's inside of me.

Q. The way you put it -- one of the ways you put it in your statement, Helen, at paragraph 241 is that you can't get your childhood back.

A. No.

Q. And that's the reality of it, isn't it?

A. That is the reality of it.

Q. But you also tell us this, and perhaps we can just focus on this:

"I don't believe that because you have been abused as a child it is an excuse for your behaviour as an adult."

A. Yes.

Q. Can I just understand what thought you have there?

A. What I mean by that is when you become an adult, or when you know the difference between right and wrong, everybody has a choice about what choices they make.

1 I think sometimes, and I don't mean this
2 disrespectfully, but I think sometimes in the court
3 case, quite often if somebody's been abused then it can
4 become a reason for them behaving the way they've
5 behaved as an adult. But for me it's the opposite. For
6 me, if you have been abused as a child, therefore you
7 understand all the pain and everything that goes with
8 it, so there's no way you'd want to behave that way
9 towards someone else.

10 Q. You also tell us in this statement -- and I think you
11 touched upon this when you gave your evidence the last
12 time you were here, Helen -- about an apology that you
13 received from a Sister of Nazareth by the name of
14 Sister Brenda.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. I think you thought that was quite a moving moment.

17 A. It was for me, yes.

18 Q. Can you just remind us about what happened?

19 A. I was at a conference in Edinburgh the Scottish
20 Government were running. Sister Brenda was the only
21 sister there in habit. She'd actually approached one of
22 the ladies from CELSIS and said she would quite like to
23 speak to myself and [REDACTED] and would we be willing to
24 speak to her. So Moira from CELSIS came over and spoke
25 to me and she explained that Sister Brenda was there and

1 that she wanted to speak to me and would that be okay
2 and I said yes.

3 Sister Brenda took my hands in hers, she looked at
4 me and I could see the tears in her eyes. She said,
5 "Helen, I'm really, really sorry for what happened to
6 you while you were in our care", and I remember I said
7 to her, "But, sister, why are you apologising? It
8 wasn't you who abused me". She said, "It doesn't
9 matter, you were in our care". That to me was the
10 reaction that every survivor should have got when they
11 started speaking about being abused. That's how Christ
12 would react, with compassion and love, not with blame
13 and shame and trying to put all the onus on to the
14 children. So for me, she gave me hope.

15 Q. Is that why you say that that apology did have a massive
16 impact upon you?

17 A. Yes. It means that it's possible for other people to
18 have a sincere and heartfelt apology.

19 Q. You have listened also, I think, to what has been said
20 on behalf of the Sisters of Nazareth to this inquiry and
21 indeed you've already heard, in one part of the inquiry,
22 evidence from the Sisters of Nazareth. What's your
23 reaction to that?

24 A. I think they need to go a lot further. It's one thing
25 to say, okay, we accept now that perhaps abuse might

1 have happened, and if it happened then we're truly
2 sorry. But who takes responsibility for the sisters who
3 were allowed to abuse the children in that manner? It
4 can't be the children, it can't be the survivors who
5 were abused. The sisters have to take some
6 responsibility. Again, I don't believe that they --
7 I don't believe for one second that they couldn't have
8 known or somebody in that children's home couldn't have
9 known what Sister LHZ was like. You can't behave
10 in that manner -- I mean, if she could lose her temper
11 and be violent and do all the horrible sadistic things
12 she was doing to me, then am I to believe that she was
13 able to go and say prayers and be pious to all the other
14 sisters round about her? I've been in a convent and you
15 can tell the sisters who are there because it is their
16 true vocation and the ones who are not.

17 Again, I'm sorry, but my belief is that Sister LHZ
18 should never have been a nun in the first place.

19 Q. Well, can I take you to that final part of your
20 statement in this context, Helen, where you mention
21 lessons that could be learned from your perspective.
22 You begin by telling us that you can't change what
23 happened in the past, but you can make a good attempt to
24 make sure it doesn't happen again. That's the essence
25 of your position?

1 A. Absolutely. The care system needs to be totally
2 stripped back. If lessons are not learned from this
3 inquiry, then what's the point of having the inquiry?
4 The whole point of fighting for an inquiry was that the
5 truth would come out so that children in care in the
6 future are protected, so that the abuse that we went
7 through doesn't happen to them, so that there is proper
8 legislation in place. I just hope to God the inquiry
9 doesn't become a report that sits on the shelf --
10 because the 1948 Children Act was already in place and
11 that clearly spoke about how children should be
12 disciplined, yet for years, for decades, children were
13 still allowed to be disciplined in manners that were
14 abusive.

15 Q. That's what you say, that you are scared that at the end
16 of the inquiry, Lady Smith writes up her report and it
17 goes back to the government and it gets forgotten about.

18 A. Yes. And I don't mean that disrespectfully. You know,
19 like I say, there have been so many reports and so many
20 acts put in place and legislation that is supposed to be
21 there to be followed, but it clearly hasn't been
22 followed for all these decades.

23 LADY SMITH: You're absolutely right about that.

24 Legislation is there for a purpose: it creates rules by
25 which society should be living.

1 A. But in that sense then, the care system, it needs to be
2 legislative to a point where everything is followed
3 through to make sure that things are adhered to, that
4 rules are in place for a reason and that the main reason
5 it is there is to protect the children of the future.
6 Otherwise we as a society fail children, not just the
7 institutions, not just the abusers. What's the saying?
8 It takes a village to raise a child.

9 LADY SMITH: You say something in this part of your
10 statement which interests me and it's about the dangers
11 of giving one person complete power over children.
12 Am I right in getting the clear impression from you that
13 as you look back what you see is there was nobody
14 checking on what Sister **LHZ** was doing, nobody
15 supervising her, nobody issuing guidance or rules to her
16 that she had to follow, but really she had a free rein?

17 A. Oh, absolutely she had a free rein. Not only did she
18 have free rein to be an abuser, she had free rein to be
19 an initiator --

20 LADY SMITH: Yes.

21 A. -- and a facilitator.

22 LADY SMITH: Yes.

23 MR MacAULAY: One point you make and one way, I think,
24 you're putting forward to approach this is that people
25 need to think: if it was my child, how would I expect my

- 1 child to be cared for?
- 2 A. Absolutely. Because the one thing that concerns me as
3 well is the biggest majority of children now are cared
4 for either in kinship care or foster care, so you run
5 a real massive risk of individual foster carers who are
6 in their own home, who are seen as a person in authority
7 for the child, being taken into their home, and if
8 that's not legislated and checked up on and followed
9 through and made sure that the child's okay and the
10 child has an independent social worker, not the same
11 social worker as the foster family, then that child
12 needs somebody to be a voice for them, no matter what
13 age they are.
- 14 Q. One point you do make is that you do think the
15 government -- and I think there you mean the Scottish
16 Government -- need to look at the care system afresh.
- 17 A. Yes. Absolutely. I think the whole care system needs
18 to be stripped all the way back because -- and I know
19 it's going to take a lot of money and I know that will
20 probably be the reason it can't be done for God knows
21 how many years, but the reality is the majority of
22 people that are in prisons that have been through the
23 care system, the majority of people that are homeless
24 have come through the care system, the majority of women
25 on the streets have come through the care system. So at

1 what cost do we just allow the costs to continue for
2 generations to come or can we, through this inquiry, ask
3 the Scottish Government to tear it back and start
4 looking at things and make sure legislation is in place,
5 make sure, no matter what Lady Smith's findings are, if
6 the government say they're going to adhere to them and
7 they're going to follow through all the recommendations,
8 that they do so.

9 MR MacAULAY: Thank you for those thoughts, Helen. If
10 I just ask you to stay there a moment or two. I have
11 asked all the questions for the moment that I want to
12 ask off the back of your statement and also any
13 questions I've been asked to put to you.

14 My Lady, your Ladyship will be aware that Helen has
15 also produced a supplementary statement.

16 LADY SMITH: Yes.

17 MR MacAULAY: I wonder whether there might be some benefit
18 in having a short adjournment just to see the way ahead
19 with that, to see whether we can make arrangements, not
20 today, but perhaps later this week or whatever, as to
21 when we perhaps can look at that.

22 LADY SMITH: Would that be all right, Helen? It would be
23 helpful if we could sort out this afternoon where we're
24 going next. But if it's a problem for you, we can leave
25 that for today. If it is possible, that would be

1 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, that's the evidence for today.

2 Tomorrow we have programmed in two oral witnesses and
3 two read-ins.

4 LADY SMITH: Starting at 10 o'clock as usual?

5 MR MacAULAY: 10 o'clock.

6 LADY SMITH: Very well. Until tomorrow.

7 (4.13 pm)

8 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am
9 on Thursday, 31 May 2018)

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

I N D E X

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HELEN HOLLAND (sworn)1

Questions from Mr MacAULAY1

1

2