

1 Wednesday, 9 May 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning.

4 We return to more oral evidence this morning. I'm
5 delighted, as I come on the bench, that I don't think
6 I'm hearing the rather annoying noise that there has
7 been outside. I'm sorry, there's nothing we can do
8 about it if it recurs; there are people cutting hedges
9 and using leaf blowers at the back here. It looked as
10 though they were halfway through their work as I came
11 upstairs. It shouldn't be a distraction to us, but
12 we'll keep an ear open for it.

13 Mr MacAulay.

14 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, my Lady. The next witness is an
15 applicant, she wants to remain anonymous, and to use the
16 name "Donna" in giving her evidence.

17 "DONNA" (sworn)

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

19 Mr MacAulay will explain to you what he needs you to
20 do with the red file in a minute. You'll see the
21 microphone is now switched on and I hope that that helps
22 you to give your evidence. It will enable you to be
23 heard easily and in particular for the stenographers to
24 pick up what you're saying. So if you keep yourself in
25 the right position for that, it's very helpful.

1 Mr MacAulay.

2 Questions from MR MacAULAY

3 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, Donna.

4 A. Hi.

5 Q. I don't want your date of birth, I just need the year of
6 your birth. Can you confirm for me that you were born
7 in 1969?

8 A. Yes, 1969.

9 Q. In the red folder in front of you, you'll find your
10 statement. I'll be looking at parts of that in
11 a moment, but just for the record I want to give the
12 reference and that's WIT.001.001.3505. Could I ask you
13 to turn to the last page of the statement -- that's
14 page 3520 -- the second last page I think it probably is
15 now.

16 Can I ask you to confirm that you have signed the
17 statement?

18 A. Yes, I have.

19 Q. And do you tell us in the last paragraph:

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

22 Is that correct?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. And do you also go on to say:

25 "I believe the facts stated in this witness

- 1 statement are true"?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. If I go back to your life before care, because I'm going
4 to be asking you about questions in connection with your
5 care at Nazareth House Cardonald, I think it's right to
6 say that you had a relatively unhappy family background;
7 is that correct, before you went into care?
- 8 A. I don't remember.
- 9 Q. That's because you went into care at a very young age?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. I think you thought that you may have been taken into
12 care at about the age of 10 months or so; is that right?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. So far as Nazareth House Cardonald is concerned,
15 according to their records, that's the Sisters of
16 Nazareth's records, you were admitted there on
17 [REDACTED] 1971, which means that you would be under 2.
18 Do you understand that and that you left -- and you
19 probably don't remember that -- but you left on
20 [REDACTED] 1979 at about the age of 10.
- 21 A. That's correct.
- 22 Q. But you were there for quite a number of years; is that
23 right?
- 24 A. I would say eight years, yes. I thought maybe I was
25 a wee bit younger, but maybe just under 2 is about

- 1 correct, yes.
- 2 Q. I will be asking you questions based upon your
3 statement. If I ask you about something that you can't
4 remember, just say that you can't remember. Again, if
5 something comes to mind when I ask you a question that
6 you haven't mentioned before, just feel free to tell us
7 that. Do you understand that?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Can you tell me then what is your first memory of being
10 in Nazareth House Cardonald?
- 11 A. I can remember being baptised: I was about 4 years of
12 age, standing with a red cloak on in the church, at the
13 font.
- 14 Q. At that time can you say if you were in the nursery
15 section or in the junior section?
- 16 A. Probably junior.
- 17 Q. I think the position seems to be that there was
18 a nursery section for babies and very young children.
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And you must have been there for a period of time.
- 21 A. I don't remember being in the nursery part.
- 22 Q. So is your first recollection then being in what's been
23 referred to as the junior section?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And can I then just look at your experience there. Was

1 there a particular sister who was in charge of you when
2 you were there?

3 A. Most of -- when I was in care, most of the time ... that
4 looked after me was Sister LKR

5 Q. Were you then in a particular group that she was in
6 charge of?

7 A. Yes, I was always in the same group, the same children,
8 there was sort of long-term children. We always had the
9 same sort of kids. There would be other ones who would
10 come and go, but I always seemed to be in the same
11 group.

12 Q. We've heard certainly that there were groups that were
13 described under reference to different colours. Did
14 your group have a coloured name?

15 A. Not that I know of.

16 Q. Can you tell me then how many you think there might have
17 been in the group?

18 A. There was five groups and I would say roughly between 20
19 and 25 in a group.

20 Q. What about the sort of sleeping accommodation? Can you
21 help me with that? How was that arranged?

22 A. Dormitories.

23 Q. Did your position change over the period that you were
24 there or were you in the same place for the whole
25 eight years or so?

- 1 A. There was an original group, and then they refurbished
2 and we just sort the go moved along the corridor into
3 the new group.
- 4 Q. But were you still in a dormitory?
- 5 A. Yes, always a dormitory.
- 6 Q. Can you say how many beds were in the dormitory?
- 7 A. Probably between 12 and 14 females, girls, and then next
8 door there was a glass partition and the boys were
9 through the other side.
- 10 Q. So far as the group was concerned, it was a group of --
11 a mixed group, boys and girls?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Of different ages?
- 14 A. Absolutely, yes.
- 15 Q. I think when you went into Nazareth House, you went in
16 with one of your sisters; is that correct?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. She was about a year older than you?
- 19 A. Yes, a year and 13 days.
- 20 Q. I think you did have other siblings as well; is that
21 right?
- 22 A. I believe there was two older, step, from my mother's
23 first marriage, who were also taken into Barnardo's, and
24 then there was eight of us. I was the youngest.
- 25 Q. Am I to understand that only yourself and the sister who

1 was about a year older were taken into Nazareth House?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Was your sister in the same group as yourself?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. So far as you can tell us, were there other siblings
6 in that group? By that I mean family members of the
7 same family in that same group.

8 A. There was -- am I allowed to say their names?

9 Q. You can give us first names.

10 A. Okay. There was two other sisters, but their brother
11 wasn't there. He came and then I don't know where he
12 went. And there were two other lots of sisters but not
13 altogether. Obviously there were short-term kids, but
14 I don't remember their names. There were a lot of
15 people who would come maybe for short-term. We were
16 sort of classed as long-termers.

17 Q. Did your sister stay with you in Nazareth House
18 throughout the whole time you were there?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You make mention of the bungalow in your statement. Can
21 I just understand what that is? Was that a separate
22 building?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Were you ever in the bungalow as --

25 A. I don't think I ever slept in the bungalow, but it was

1 very modern and it was an extension they had built.

2 There was another group in there.

3 Q. Perhaps I could ask you to look at a photograph to see
4 if you can help us with where this might have been. It
5 may not be in the photograph. It'll come on the screen.
6 This is at NAZ.001.001.0262.

7 We have a number of different photographs here. If
8 you look at the top left, are we there looking at the
9 front of the main building?

10 A. Yes. There were bedrooms right at the front. To the
11 right was the original group when I was a lot younger.
12 We were a front-facing bedroom. Then when they refurbed
13 we went to the left of the main doors and probably the
14 third or the fourth window in would have been where my
15 bed was.

16 Q. On the ground floor?

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: Were you on the ground floor all the time?

19 A. Yes.

20 MR MacAULAY: What about the -- if we look at the other
21 photographs, we can see the photograph of the chapel,
22 and the photographs, the bottom two, they seem to be --

23 A. That's the bungalow.

24 Q. Where is the bungalow, that one there?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. We're looking at the photograph to the left. So it's
2 referred to as a bungalow; it looks like quite a large
3 area.
- 4 A. Yes, it was massive. It was another home. Basically,
5 it was a separate unit but it was -- again, it probably
6 housed about 20-odd kids.
- 7 Q. As I understand you, you were not one of -- your group
8 was not housed in the bungalow?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. You have told us about Sister **LKR** who was in charge
11 of the group. Was she in charge throughout your whole
12 time at Nazareth House?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. What was the change? Who took over?
- 15 A. I think she was there for a while and then she seemed to
16 go away, maybe I would say for a long time, maybe a year
17 or two, and there was a Sister **LJS** a Sister **LTU**
18 a Sister **LHW** and they all sort of took turns. They
19 would come in for maybe a few months at a time. I don't
20 know if the rest were away for retreat or ...
- 21 Q. So there was a degree of change then over the time?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And what about lay staff? Were there lay staff who
24 helped out?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Can you remember the names of the lay staff?
- 2 A. There was a Mrs Moore and Mrs McCormack. They were sort
3 of older. I think they were more sort of domestics.
4 There was a lot of young girls. When I look back now,
5 they were obviously very young. I think they stayed
6 quite local. There was a [REDACTED] and
7 [REDACTED]. I can't remember ...
- 8 Q. So a number of different --
- 9 A. Oh yeah, there were loads of different staff always
10 coming in and out, yes.
- 11 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about the routine. As
12 I understand it you got up early in the morning; is that
13 right?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. What would happen in the morning? Would you have to
16 make your beds? What was the routine?
- 17 A. Probably got up for about half five because we always
18 went to Mass in the morning on school days. I would be
19 up early -- usually whoever was in charge would come in,
20 one of the nuns, whoever was looking after you would be
21 in. You'd get straight up and get into your school
22 clothes and they you would go along the corridor because
23 the church was just at the end of our corridor, our
24 bedrooms, our unit.
- 25 Q. And at some point you'd go for your breakfast?

1 A. After church.

2 Q. And then off to school once you were of school age?

3 A. School was next door.

4 Q. And did you go to the local primary school, which

5 I think was Lourdes primary?

6 A. That's right.

7 Q. If a nun died then you had to do something; is that

8 correct?

9 A. There was always a lot of nuns because it was a convent.

10 We had a lot of nuns lived in, not actually in our unit,

11 but behind -- it was probably the same idea, they all

12 had their dormitories as well so there was always a lot

13 there, a lot of elderly nuns. Every so often, when we

14 went to church in the morning, there would be a nun laid

15 out, and you'd either have to go by, say your prayers,

16 and a lot of times we would have to kiss them goodbye.

17 Q. Where would you have to kiss the nun?

18 A. On their head.

19 Q. Were you quite young when you --

20 A. Oh yes.

21 Q. How did you feel about that at the time?

22 A. I was terrified.

23 Q. Did this happen more than once?

24 A. Oh, at least maybe ... I don't know, two or three times

25 a year. Whenever there was a death, you were there, you

1 were involved. I didn't even know who the nuns were;
2 they were just nuns.

3 Q. Can I ask you then a little bit about mealtimes. You'd
4 have breakfast. When you went to school, did you come
5 back for your lunch?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And you'd have your dinner or supper later on, after
8 school had finished; is that correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. How did you find the food?

11 A. I think I ate most of the food, but I always had
12 a problem with meat. Two or three times a week we would
13 get -- they would call it stew. To me it wasn't stew:
14 it was thick, grey fat that never had any Bisto or OXO
15 in, it was meat that had been boiled. We would come
16 home for lunch and I could sit with that piece of meat
17 with my mouth for three hours, two hours, an hour;
18 I just could not physically swallow what was put in
19 front of me.

20 Q. So what happened?

21 A. I was forced to eat what was there. Sometimes,
22 thankfully, my sister, if she could steal it, would take
23 it from me and she would eat it. Sometimes if it was
24 nice staff, they would try and hide it for you. If we
25 were being watched, I had to sit and sit and sit. If

1 I didn't eat it, I would be sent to school late. Nine
2 times out of the ten I told my teacher why I was late
3 and it would be there for teatime and it would be there
4 for the next morning the same food. A couple of times
5 I was force-fed to eat it.

6 Q. What do you mean by that?

7 A. Basically eat it, keep your mouth closed or the hand
8 would be over my nose and mouth so that I'd have to eat.

9 Q. Who did that?

10 A. Sister [REDACTED] LKR -- and if I didn't sometimes I would be
11 retching as well, and I would just have to swallow it
12 back.

13 Q. Would you be sick on your plate?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And what would you have to do then?

16 A. Get it eaten.

17 Q. You are talking about your own experience: did you see
18 other children having a similar experience?

19 A. [REDACTED] with fish. Every Friday with fish,
20 [REDACTED] would be the exact same.

21 Q. Any other children you can tell us about?

22 A. I was too focused on mine.

23 Q. But would other staff see what was going on?

24 A. Absolutely.

25 Q. One thing you tell us is that you'd try sometimes to put

1 your food into bins that were kept for feeding the pigs.

2 A. Pigs' pail, yes.

3 Q. And you managed to do that on occasion, did you?

4 A. If I was lucky, yeah.

5 Q. Did you ever get caught in trying to do that? What

6 would happen then?

7 A. Get it back and eat it -- probably not even just

8 what was mine, probably a bit more, to be fair.

9 Q. So are you telling us really that mealtimes were not

10 a pleasant experience for you?

11 A. No, if it was meat, no. Other days I could eat, yes.

12 Q. Did this persist throughout your whole time in

13 Nazareth House?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. I think you tell us about schooling and how you were

16 treated at school, particularly by other children. How

17 was that?

18 A. From the schoolkids?

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. We were scum, we were orphans, we were tramps. I wore

21 everybody's hand-me-downs. Probably the kids' in

22 schools' mums had handed in the clothes. We never had

23 anything new.

24 Q. Can I ask you about birthdays and Christmas then. Were

25 birthdays celebrated?

1 A. I don't remember having a birthday present. I remember
2 once there was a big joint party, but I think it might
3 have been someone whose parents were still coming in and
4 out, and there was a big joint birthday cake. My
5 birthday was round about the same time and I was told to
6 share the cake.

7 Q. And I think you tell us this was a cake in the shape of
8 a train?

9 A. It was the train and the Curly Wurly was the track and
10 that was the piece I got.

11 Q. And Christmas? Was Christmas celebrated?

12 A. A lot of the big companies, bingo halls and Lewis', the
13 big stores, would have parties and we'd be allowed to go
14 to the party and they would give us presents. One of
15 the big stores gave us all slippers. I remember getting
16 a nice pair of slippers.

17 Q. You give us an example of getting some presents, I think
18 at a place in Glasgow known as the Barras; is that
19 right?

20 A. Christmas Eve. We would all be taken to the Barras and
21 a lot of the stallholders would hand over bags of toys
22 and whatever else they had at the end of the night would
23 all be taken up with whatever nuns were available.

24 I don't genuinely remember getting what was in the bags.
25 I didn't see what was in the bags, but I don't remember

- 1 getting anything nice on Christmas Morning.
- 2 Q. Do you know what happened to the stuff that was in the
3 bags?
- 4 A. No, I don't.
- 5 Q. You also talk about visits and inspections in your
6 statement. I think you do tell us --
- 7 LADY SMITH: Just going back to Christmas Eve, if it was the
8 Barras you were visiting, everything there would be
9 second-hand at least, would it?
- 10 A. I think there was a lot of stallholders that had their
11 own stuff. Maybe some of it was second-hand, I would
12 imagine.
- 13 LADY SMITH: Some of what was getting sold at the Barras for
14 many years was second-hand material.
- 15 A. Possibly you're right -- and probably some new stuff as
16 well.
- 17 LADY SMITH: We are talking about the area not far from
18 St Enoch's?
- 19 A. That's right.
- 20 MR MacAULAY: So if we look then at visits, did you have any
21 visits from family members when you were there?
- 22 A. Yes, I did.
- 23 Q. Regularly or not?
- 24 A. Just once.
- 25 Q. What about other people? I think you tell us that there

1 was a particular person who did visit and you went out
2 with, who eventually fostered you; is that right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What age were you when that started, that process?

5 A. I think I might have been about 2 or 3 or 4, maybe --
6 I was very young -- and a lady came to the home and
7 I was allowed to go home every weekend to her house.
8 This went on until I was eventually fostered. I called
9 her Aunt [REDACTED] and I went to stay at Aunt [REDACTED].
10 Basically I became Aunt [REDACTED] carer when I was
11 fostered.

12 Q. I think that was when you were aged about 10 or so?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What about social workers? Do you recollect a social
15 worker or social worker coming to visit?

16 A. Yes. We had a [REDACTED] came once to visit, and we
17 got taken into a room and unfortunately my sister
18 laughed so much with nerves and she wet herself and
19 [REDACTED] left.

20 Q. And was that the only --

21 A. That's the only visit I can remember.

22 Q. Can you remember if there was any interaction with the
23 social work people when you were in the process of being
24 fostered, how that was arranged or what input there was?

25 A. No. I just came home from school and I was told it was

- 1 where I was going.
- 2 Q. I now want to ask you about bed-wetting. I think you do
3 tell us that your sister in particular wet her bed;
4 is that right?
- 5 A. My sister still has issues, she still wets the bed. My
6 sister's still in care. Our beds were together, always,
7 we had a sort of dresser between us. [REDACTED] wet the bed
8 every night and when [REDACTED] wet her own bed, [REDACTED]
9 would come into my bed and coorie in and she would wet
10 my bed as well.
- 11 Q. So would that mean that both beds in the morning would
12 be wet?
- 13 A. Yes, not necessarily in the morning, during the night as
14 well, yes.
- 15 Q. Would anything happen during the night?
- 16 A. Yes, Sister [REDACTED] LKR [REDACTED] would do bed checks.
- 17 Q. At what time would that be at?
- 18 A. I'm not sure of the time. I didn't learn to tell the
19 time until I went to high school, but it was late on.
20 There was always a bed check.
- 21 Q. And if the beds were wet, what would happen?
- 22 A. If [REDACTED] bed was wet and she was still in the bed,
23 she would be forced out of the bed and sometimes she'd
24 be struck, hit with either whatever was lying there or
25 the back of her hand. Sometimes you'd be dragged down

1 the corridor, which was probably the length of this
2 room, to where the showers, toilets were. If [REDACTED] was
3 in my bed then, nine times out of ten, I would be
4 dragged as well.

5 Q. Can you just describe that process to me, when you say
6 dragged? What physically would be happening?

7 A. I would be hauled, lifted, or forced out of the bed, try
8 and restrain myself from being pulled, but I was
9 physically pulled down the corridor. You would either
10 be muffled to stop you screaming or shouting or begging
11 to be let go, and at the end of the corridor there was
12 the showers, there was a -- we called it a boiler room,
13 I don't know if it was a maintenance store, what was
14 in -- if it was a boiler or what was there. My sister
15 would be locked there. And at the very end there was
16 a fire exit and I was put there in my wet nightdress.

17 Q. How long would you be there for?

18 A. All night, until time to get up.

19 Q. Let's say the weather was cold and wet; would you be
20 there?

21 A. I was cold and wet.

22 Q. Who did this?

23 A. Sister [REDACTED] LKR always.

24 Q. Would she say anything to you when engaged in this
25 particular process?

1 A. Nothing that ... Just go, just get up, if the bed was
2 wet, and I was left there.

3 Q. And how often did this happen?

4 A. Not every time. It seemed often enough.

5 Q. Would there be any physical punishment?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. What would happen?

8 A. We would be struck.

9 Q. Can you again describe that to me? How would that
10 happen?

11 A. Wherever we were grabbed, whether it be by the skin or
12 what was available to be hauled with, our wrists,
13 because I could pull back and my wrists were getting
14 pulled, but once you were along the corridor it was like
15 a polished floor, you just went, there was no fight;
16 I was small and skinny.

17 Q. You have you've told us that you have a recollection of
18 when you were at the age of 4 when you were being
19 baptised and then you left at the age of about 10. What
20 sort of ages are you talking about when this was going
21 on?

22 A. Maybe 8 and 9. Seven, 8, 9.

23 Q. If you were to be hit, what would you be hit with?

24 A. Personally, I was hit with a hairbrush and a tennis
25 racket on the back of the hand or a hair pull.

- 1 Q. You tell us one instance when you remember you were
2 holding on to a radiator.
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Do you remember that episode? Can you tell us about
5 that? What happened then?
- 6 A. My bed was alongside a long radiator at the window and
7 when you thought you were under attack or you were going
8 to get pulled, you would be trying to hold on to your
9 bedclothes or the bed and at the top of the radiator
10 there were like wee holes and I would put a lot of stuff
11 down that radiator that I didn't want found or get into
12 trouble for. On one occasion when I had been grabbed, I
13 grabbed the radiator and the top of the radiator came
14 off -- it was probably maybe twice the length of this
15 table -- and it came with me on to the bed and then
16 I had to let it go.
- 17 Q. Do I understand from what you're saying, Donna, that
18 although you received the treatment you've described,
19 you yourself did not in fact wet the bed, it was your
20 sister who wet the bed; is that correct?
- 21 A. I have never wet the bed. I still check to this day to
22 see if I've wet the bed, because we always woke up to
23 see if the bed was wet, or I would check my sister's bed
24 was wet. It's still something I have a fear of.
- 25 Q. On the occasions when you were put outside the fire

1 escape door and left there, what would happen, how would
2 you get back in?

3 A. Sister LKR would come and get us for church.

4 Q. So that would be later on in the morning, would it?

5 A. Early morning.

6 Q. Would you be able to sit down outside the door?

7 A. Oh yes, it was metal, metal stairs.

8 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that in fact you
9 would joke about the fact that the bed might be wet,
10 in that you say something like you'd joke about who was
11 sleeping in the deep end.

12 A. Yes, "I'll put my water wings on, I'll go in the shallow
13 end".

14 Q. So you had a joke about it at the time?

15 A. With my sister, yeah.

16 Q. You've been telling us about the bed-wetting. Was there
17 also a procedure whereby your pants would be examined?

18 A. Mm-hm.

19 Q. Can you tell me about that?

20 A. When you were getting changed at night there was
21 a laundry basket and the pants would be checked to see
22 if anything was stained or soiled.

23 Q. If they were stained or soiled, would anything happen?

24 A. You would get into trouble, yes.

25 Q. What does that mean, "getting into trouble"? What would

- 1 happen?
- 2 A. Probably the same again. Somebody would be hurt,
3 somebody would be getting into trouble or slapped or
4 shouted at.
- 5 Q. Again, was there any particular person who did that?
- 6 A. Mostly Sister [REDACTED] LKR
- 7 Q. When Sister [REDACTED] LKR you say, left for a period of time,
8 what was the position with regard to bed-wetting? Did
9 it change?
- 10 A. No, bed-wetting always happened, but I don't think
11 anybody was hurt. We were more relieved; none of the
12 other nuns hurt us.
- 13 Q. So was the regime different then when you had other nuns
14 looking after you?
- 15 A. The regime was the same apart from being struck.
- 16 Q. What about when you say it was the same, did you have to
17 do something with the sheets?
- 18 A. There was a laundry basket you could put them in.
- 19 Q. Did you on occasion try to hide the wet bedclothes?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. How would you do that?
- 22 A. Hopefully, if they were dry enough, if it was sweat or
23 whatever, we just made the bed up and got back in it.
24 If we got away with it, we wouldn't let on that it had
25 been wet.

- 1 Q. Can I just look at the position more broadly and look
2 more generally at how you were treated in the home.
- 3 You've been telling us about how you'd be treated if
4 you wet the bed, and I think you say in your statement
5 that you would be beaten most mornings for bed-wetting;
6 is that correct?
- 7 A. Yes. If I didn't, my sister did.
- 8 Q. But can you tell me just generally how regularly
9 beatings took place in the home?
- 10 A. For me personally or other kids?
- 11 Q. Yes.
- 12 A. Me personally, once or twice a week.
- 13 Q. And other children, did you see other children being
14 beaten?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Being beaten, what would that involve?
- 17 A. A slap, back of the hand, or a tennis racket. I have
18 seen other kids being hit with a tennis racket, a
19 hairbrush.
- 20 Q. Are you talking about children within your own group?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. What sister or what person was involved in that?
- 23 A. I would just say Sister [REDACTED] LKR
- 24 Q. Is it Sister [REDACTED] LKR that really features much more --
- 25 A. In my childhood.

- 1 Q. -- clearly in your childhood?
- 2 Can I ask you this? What interaction, what
- 3 connection did you have with the other groups that
- 4 you've told us about?
- 5 A. Out to play in the yard. There was a big field and you
- 6 could mix with the other kids there.
- 7 Q. But so far as within the home itself would be concerned
- 8 then, did you have much to do with the other children?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. Do you know how other children were being treated when
- 11 you were in the home?
- 12 A. No. Unless we were out playing and kids would talk.
- 13 Q. You tell us about one incident when I think you saw
- 14 a cigarette and ashtray and you took a puff from it;
- 15 what age were you at that time?
- 16 A. Eight or 9.
- 17 Q. And what happened?
- 18 A. I denied it. I think it was in the kitchen, it was one
- 19 of the staff's cigarettes, and it was burning away and
- 20 I picked it up and I took a draw of the cigarette and
- 21 Sister [REDACTED] LKR had came in and basically I was grabbed
- 22 and slapped.
- 23 Q. So at that time, when you were 9, Sister [REDACTED] LKR is
- 24 still on the scene then, it would appear?
- 25 A. I don't know if I was as old as 9, maybe 7 or 8.

1 I don't know exactly what age.

2 Q. You also tell us about an incident when there was a girl
3 who was wearing a pretty skirt and you tried it on.

4 A. That's right, yeah.

5 Q. What happened on that occasion?

6 A. It was a swirly skirt that went out when she twirled and
7 that was inappropriate to have your underwear flashing
8 and I thought it would be nice to have a shot of the
9 skirt and then we got caught sort of mid-change. I had
10 the skirt on, and I was told to wait in the room -- and
11 I got caught with the skirt on.

12 Q. Can you tell me what happened?

13 A. I called her a fucking cow.

14 Q. And the "her" here, is that Sister LKR

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: Why?

17 A. Because she was coming for me again. I knew I was in
18 trouble because we had changed skirts and I had my pants
19 flashing and you just shouldn't have had your pants on
20 show.

21 LADY SMITH: Were you twirling round with the skirt on?

22 A. Yes.

23 LADY SMITH: So you're talking about one of these full
24 gathered skirts that would whirl out the faster you
25 turned?

- 1 A. Yes. And I had the skirt on and that was it.
- 2 MR MacAULAY: What happened?
- 3 A. I got a thrashing -- I got slapped across my legs and
4 I got dragged to the toilet because I had called her
5 an effing C. My mouth was washed out with soap.
- 6 Q. And as far as being hit was concerned, was anything used
7 when she was hitting you?
- 8 A. A belt.
- 9 Q. Were you injured at all at this time?
- 10 A. I would have been marked.
- 11 Q. So far as that particular incident is concerned, do you
12 know if other members of staff would have witnessed
13 that?
- 14 A. Absolutely. There were other people that were always
15 around -- not at night-time. At night-time the staff
16 either went home or they weren't there, so bedtime was
17 just us. During the day, yes, I would say there was
18 always staff around.
- 19 Q. And they would see what was going on?
- 20 A. They would hear it if they didn't see.
- 21 Q. In that sort of situation would you be shouting,
22 screaming, crying?
- 23 A. Yes, there would be loud noise.
- 24 Q. And Sister LKR herself, would she be saying anything
25 to you?

- 1 A. I don't know what words she would have been saying,
2 I can't ...
- 3 Q. You also tell us about an occasion when, I think you
4 say, you stole some orange-flavoured jelly crystals.
5 Where did you steal them from?
- 6 A. There was a big pantry in the kitchen. We all went
7 down, it was a big sack, and we took handfuls and we ate
8 them because it was sugar and it was sweets. I was
9 very, very, very ill for a couple of days. I had
10 sickness and diarrhoea in bed, over the floor, I lay in
11 bed for about two or three days, covered in my own
12 vomit -- not so much vomit, diarrhoea. If I didn't make
13 it to the toilet, I was soiled.
- 14 Q. Was that cleaned for you?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. And did anything else happen?
- 17 A. I don't think I was hurt. I cleaned it, I cleaned it
18 up, and I'm sure it was at least two to three days that
19 I was so ill.
- 20 Q. You cleaned the mess up yourself in any event?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. You also tell us about an occasion when you were outside
23 and I think you had your nightdress on, but again you
24 were smoking, you had a cigarette; is that right?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Were you smoking at that age?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What age were you at that time?

4 A. I would say 9. Nine years old was when I started

5 smoking.

6 Q. Were cigarettes accessible to you?

7 A. Oh yes.

8 Q. Where would you get the cigarettes?

9 A. Some of the older kids had cigarettes and some of the

10 priests had cigarettes and the boys were allowed to go

11 and get the cigarettes for the priests and the priests

12 would give the boys a couple of cigarettes. We used to

13 go to the shops and there was a pack of cigarettes you

14 could get with five in it -- they were called "three

15 fives" or "five threes", but there was five in a pack --

16 and I was able to buy those cigarettes.

17 Q. Even at that age?

18 A. Even at that age.

19 Q. On this occasion when you were having your cigarette,

20 I think something happened.

21 A. I was in the field, having a cigarette, and a hand came

22 through the hedge and physically pulled me through the

23 hedge in my nightdress. I had on a nylon nightdress and

24 no underwear and I was pulled through the hedge and

25 slapped repeatedly and dragged back inside by

1 Sister LKR

2 Q. Were you on your own on that occasion?

3 A. There would have been other kids.

4 LADY SMITH: Just looking back at these three incidents --
5 the swearing at the nun, the taking the sweets that you
6 shouldn't have taken, and smoking when it was no doubt
7 against the rules -- looking back, do you accept you
8 should have been punished in some way --

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: -- for these.

11 But the way you describe what happened, it sounds
12 very much as though, even with the benefit of hindsight
13 and realising you were breaking rules, what happened was
14 way, way beyond what would have been fair, reasonable
15 punishment --

16 A. I think you're right.

17 LADY SMITH: -- even at the time.

18 A. Yes.

19 LADY SMITH: So what would you have expected in terms of
20 fair punishment for a child at those times? I know it's
21 hard, but if you can help me with that, it might be of
22 some assistance.

23 A. As a child, you'd be hoping to get off with it! As an
24 adult --

25 LADY SMITH: Okay. You're not going to get off with it as

1 a child.

2 A. What would have been fair punishment? Maybe sent to bed
3 or lose a privilege. Not that we had much.

4 LADY SMITH: Put it this way: what would have worked?

5 A. Nothing. I still would have smoked, I enjoyed smoking.
6 I still smoke. Everyone done it -- I don't know why,
7 but we smoked and we did what we did.

8 LADY SMITH: Take the swearing: what would have made you
9 bite your tongue in the future?

10 A. I didn't even know what the words meant. I'd heard the
11 other kids, you know, and people were getting away with
12 it. I thought I would try. Didn't work out so well.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MR MacAULAY: You tell us about an incident when you went
15 out with a friend and stayed overnight; I think you said
16 it was a Saturday night. Can you tell me about that?
17 I think you were given permission to stay overnight with
18 a friend; is that right?

19 A. The friend's mum phoned and asked would I be allowed to
20 stay over and permission was granted. I stayed over and
21 the next morning was Mass and I didn't have my Sunday
22 clothes on, I must have just had on what I had for the
23 Saturday. On Sunday you would have had your Sunday best
24 on, and I went straight into church and the whole time
25 I was uncomfortable, I was being stared at, and I knew

1 I was in trouble.

2 Q. By whom?

3 A. By Sister [REDACTED] LKR Again, I just thought, this is not
4 going to work out very well.

5 Q. And what happened?

6 A. When we got back to the home, how dare I stay out
7 overnight, I wasn't allowed to be out overnight, and
8 I got another beating, a slap, repeatedly.

9 Q. Did you say that the mother of the child had sought
10 permission and had got permission?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And how did that go down?

13 A. It wasn't listened to. I should have never stayed out
14 and I wasn't ready for church either, so ...

15 Q. Were you called anything at that time? Were you accused
16 of lying or --

17 A. I was always a liar. I was always a liar.

18 Q. Did something -- when something like that happened, did
19 something happen in relation to the use of soap?

20 A. Yes, I've had my mouth washed out a few times with
21 carbolic soap on different occasions.

22 Q. That's not a pleasant experience, is it?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Was that something that happened to other children?

25 A. Yes. It was always a threat if you swore or you were

- 1 nasty or you said something that wasn't appropriate.
- 2 Yes, that happened a lot.
- 3 Q. You also tell us that apart from yourself and seeing
- 4 other children being hit, boys were also beaten.
- 5 A. Mm-hm.
- 6 Q. Was that a regular occurrence?
- 7 A. I'd say so, yes.
- 8 Q. Who by?
- 9 A. There was one or two male staff, but I don't remember
- 10 their names and I don't remember if they were there all
- 11 the time or when they were there.
- 12 Q. Were male staff allowed to hit children?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. So did that happen?
- 15 A. That happened to the boys, yes.
- 16 Q. You also tell us about a [REDACTED] girl who was there when
- 17 you were there. How was she treated?
- 18 A. [REDACTED] was a good friend of mine and -- sorry for the
- 19 words, guys, but [REDACTED] was called [REDACTED]. There
- 20 was a programme called [REDACTED] on and [REDACTED] was as [REDACTED]
- 21 [REDACTED]
- 22 [REDACTED] And [REDACTED] had a hell of a time and she
- 23 had [REDACTED] she had [REDACTED] and she was
- 24 constantly called [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]
- 25 Q. By whom?

- 1 A. By everyone: children and staff.
- 2 Q. And did anyone try and stop that sort of [REDACTED]
- 3 A. No. It wasn't deemed as [REDACTED] then, sorry.
- 4 Q. But insofar as her treatment from any of the nuns was
5 concerned, did you see how she was treated by the nuns?
- 6 A. Yes, I seen [REDACTED] getting a hell of a beating one
7 night. We'd had our ears pierced during the day and
8 in the dormitory there was a massive teddy bear that was
9 on a chair in the corner. It was as big as us. [REDACTED]
10 got up and kidded on she was sleepwalking and lifted the
11 teddy bear and started to dance with it. We were all
12 laughing. When you looked to the right of the
13 dormitory, there was like a perspex glass all the way
14 along and you could see silhouettes when someone was
15 coming. We warned her Sister [REDACTED] LKR [REDACTED] was coming and
16 [REDACTED] just kept dancing and [REDACTED] was lifted by her
17 head and was beaten with a tennis racket and [REDACTED]
18 vomited blood and I often thought it was because she got
19 her ears pierced.
- 20 Q. Did she require any medical treatment?
- 21 A. Nothing happened. She went to her bed and cried.
- 22 Q. Was she there for the time that you were there or was
23 she --
- 24 A. A lot of my time, yeah.
- 25 Q. You do tell us also in your statement that there was an

1 occasion when your father came and took you back to his
2 home; is that right?

3 A. Mm-hm.

4 Q. When that happened, were you at the home or were you at
5 school when he came to pick you up?

6 A. I was at school.

7 Q. Was it just yourself or was your sister taken as well?

8 A. My sister was taken as well.

9 Q. I know this is an uncomfortable experience for you, but
10 did something happen between yourself and your father
11 when you were at home?

12 A. I never ever deemed him as my father because people
13 don't view someone as their father ... A gentleman
14 arrived at the home and we were in school, and a member
15 of staff came to the school and told us we had
16 a visitor. We were so excited. We came down the
17 grounds of the home and there was a red car and I was
18 told the man that was there was my father and we were
19 going away for the day.

20 Q. Would you have recognised this man as your father?

21 A. No, I didn't know him at all.

22 Q. Do you know what checks, if any, the home had made in
23 connection with this person?

24 A. No, I have no idea. I'd like to know why he was allowed
25 to come and take us.

1 Q. So what happened?

2 A. We went to a house and there was a woman in the house
3 and he said it was our mother. It wasn't our mother
4 either. And there was an Alsatian dog in the house as
5 well and that was really good for us to play with the
6 dog, and I was asked to go and see the other dog, and
7 I went in to see the other dog.

8 He put his arm around me. Bearing in mind nobody
9 had ever put their arms around me, nobody had ever
10 cuddled me or told me they loved me, it was acceptable,
11 and I don't know to this day if sexual intercourse took
12 place or if it was -- he was on top of me and it was
13 sore. I've never thought of being raped because it
14 wasn't violent, I consented, and I felt loved.

15 LADY SMITH: Do you realise you were not old enough to give
16 any consent to anything sexual happening? Do you
17 understand that?

18 A. I couldn't stop him. I went along with it.

19 LADY SMITH: It doesn't mean that anything that happened
20 between you and this man was your fault; do you
21 appreciate that?

22 A. No.

23 LADY SMITH: It's important that you understand.

24 A. I can't say I didn't enjoy the feeling of closeness.

25 LADY SMITH: It doesn't matter. At that age you were not

1 capable of consenting to any sexual act taking place of
2 any sort and there is no way that you should be blaming
3 yourself for anything that happened. Please, if you
4 take nothing else from today, take that with you. All
5 right?

6 A. Okay, thank you.

7 MR MacAULAY: I think at this time you tell us in your
8 statement that you were aged about 9; is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You've told us, Donna, that your sister -- and you've
11 named your sister in your evidence -- was also with you
12 when you were picked up by this man; is that correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I think you've said she was about a year older than you
15 or so, so she'd have been about 10 or so.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Do you know if anything happened in connection with your
18 sister? Did she ever discuss that with you?

19 A. Later on when we were older, yes.

20 Q. What did she say?

21 A. She came to my flat -- and by this time I'd had my
22 children, and my sister is in supported accommodation,
23 she's slow, she's got special needs -- and on this
24 particular occasion she had asked me, "If your dad has
25 sex with you, is it called incest?" And I looked at her

1 and I knew that it went wrong for her as well. I said,
2 "Yeah", and, "What happened?" She said it had happened
3 with her and I called the police. I couldn't protect
4 her -- I always protected my sister, I still do, I still
5 look out for her. The police came to my flat and my
6 sister had a warrant -- not a warrant, a record for
7 soliciting.

8 The police asked me, my sister, "Have you ever had
9 a boyfriend?" and she says no, and they came back and
10 they said she was a liar, and I says, well, she doesn't
11 have a boyfriend, and they says, but she's had sex, she
12 has a record of prostitution. I said, "That wasn't the
13 question you asked; you asked if she'd had a boyfriend,
14 not if she had ever had sex".

15 Q. What happened?

16 A. Nothing.

17 Q. What age were you at that time when you had these
18 dealings with the police?

19 A. About 20.

20 Q. I think what you're trying to do there was to report the
21 man that had put himself forward as your father --

22 A. Mm-hm.

23 Q. -- for having sexually abused you and your sister;
24 is that correct?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. So were both of you prepared to tell the police what had
2 happened?

3 A. Yes, at that point he was still alive.

4 Q. One thing you tell us in your statement is that you
5 don't understand why the nuns allowed you to go out with
6 this man on that day.

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. Why do you say that?

9 A. I was always believed that I was a ward of court, that
10 I should have never have been allowed to go with
11 anybody. But there was other times we did go home to
12 other people's houses, members of staff, and members of
13 the public. A lot of the children went away for
14 weekends with viewers -- basically, people would come in
15 and take kids away for the weekend.

16 Q. But this man was, from your perspective, a stranger?

17 A. Yes. I didn't know him. He never come back after that.

18 LADY SMITH: Did you ever go to a Children's Panel hearing
19 or anything of that nature?

20 A. No.

21 LADY SMITH: And you have no memory of being in a courtroom
22 yourself about matters to do with your care?

23 A. No.

24 MR MacAULAY: Did you consider reporting anything that was
25 happening to you in the home to anybody while you were

1 in the home?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Why not?

4 A. Too scared.

5 Q. From your perspective, what was the atmosphere in the

6 home like? How did you feel when you were there?

7 A. I was always scared. I was a very nervous child, always

8 wondering what was going to happen, always wondering the

9 next step. We had nothing to compare it to. It's not

10 like we had been in a normal home, like your family

11 home, and then been taken out of that environment. We

12 didn't actually know that this wasn't the correct way of

13 living. We had nothing to compare it to, that was just

14 life for us.

15 Q. You have told us about speaking to the police about what

16 happened to you with your father -- let's call him your

17 father -- when you were 9 or thereabouts, and the police

18 reaction at that time. Did you raise that with the

19 police again some years later?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can you tell us what happened then? What did you do?

22 A. I went to -- I worked in a hospital and one day I was

23 just going to work and I was walking by the police

24 station and I went in. It just ... I have grey days

25 every so often, I have days where I'm just not so good.

1 I walked into the police station and there was a young
2 boy on the desk and I says to him, "Can I chat about
3 things that have happened to me?" and he said, "No,
4 there's no female officer here, could you come back
5 another day?" When I was walking down the road,
6 a female officer, who's a friend of mine, was driving by
7 and I was crying and she asked me what was wrong and she
8 took me back in the car and she organised a meeting
9 in the police station.

10 Q. Did you then tell the police station things that had
11 happened to you?

12 A. Yes, I did.

13 Q. When was this?

14 A. I would say about 16/17 years ago.

15 Q. So about 2001 or thereabouts?

16 A. Possibly, yeah.

17 Q. And I think you tell us this was Aikenhead Road police
18 station in Glasgow; is that correct?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. What did you tell the police?

21 A. I'd like to think that I told them what was happening
22 today, the same.

23 Q. What you've been telling us today?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Did you tell the police about how you were treated at

1 Nazareth House?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What about the sexual abuse? Did you tell the police
4 about that again?

5 A. Probably not in so much detail.

6 Q. Okay. Do you know what happened then in connection with
7 that visit to the police?

8 A. Absolutely nothing. I got a phone call maybe about
9 six months later and I was told nothing could be done,
10 it was time barred.

11 Q. But you had provided a statement to the police?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Were you asked to sign a statement? Can you remember?

14 A. I don't remember.

15 Q. But more recently, have you been contacted by the
16 police?

17 A. In October, I think it was.

18 Q. October last year?

19 A. I think it was October. I'd just come back from my
20 holidays and the police had come and asked me was
21 I such-and-such a person, my own name, yeah, were you in
22 Nazareth House. I says yes -- it was a phone call,
23 I was a bit worried because I get phone calls about my
24 sister all the time because she goes missing, and they
25 asked if they could come and have a chat. I was very

1 worried again because my husband was there. My
2 husband's not aware of my history, and neither are my
3 children, and that was worrying for me because they
4 don't know.

5 Q. Was this chat -- we needn't go into the detail -- in
6 connection with your own treatment or was it to do with
7 something else?

8 A. They came to ask about some boys that had been sexually
9 abused and did I know the abuser. We had a good chat
10 and then I told them about myself and they recommended
11 that I speak to youse.

12 Q. Speak to the inquiry?

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. But at that time when you had your conversation with the
15 police and you told them what happened to you, did you
16 give a statement?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I think the person that they were enquiring about is
19 someone who's since been convicted.

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. And that's a Mr Duffy?

22 A. That's right, yes.

23 Q. Did you know Joseph Duffy when you were at
24 Nazareth House?

25 A. I think I knew of him. My sister knew him well. My

1 sister was one of the last to leave Nazareth House. She
2 stayed until she was near on 16. She knew him and
3 I certainly knew the boys.

4 Q. We won't go into that with you. When you came to leave
5 Nazareth House -- and I think I took it from you that
6 that was in October 1979, when you were aged 10; is that
7 correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So do I take it from what you've just said that when you
10 left your sister stayed on?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And you were leaving because you were going to be
13 fostered?

14 A. That's right.

15 Q. Your sister stayed on until she was 16 at
16 Nazareth House?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Have you spoken to your sister about her time in
19 Nazareth House after you left?

20 A. We don't discuss a lot -- [REDACTED] has a lot of mental
21 health issues and when we talk about her childhood --
22 [REDACTED] drinks lots of overdoses, drinks bleach and she
23 self-harms a lot. She has lots of psychiatric issues.
24 When I told her the police had been over about Joe Duffy
25 and I told her what had happened about us, I was telling

1 them, she took an overdose and the police said they
2 weren't coming back to ask her any more questions.

3 Q. You were in foster care for quite some time after that;
4 is that correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I think you're aware that during this case study we are
7 not looking specifically at foster care. We will not
8 lose sight of what you tell us about your experience in
9 foster care, but that's not for today.

10 A. Mm-hm.

11 Q. Can I ask you then to look at your life after care. You
12 provide quite some detail in paragraphs 67 through to 73
13 about your personal circumstances and how you have met
14 your present partner, who you're with now; is that
15 correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And you've got children. Again, we needn't look at the
18 detail of that. Am I right in thinking that your life
19 has come to a reasonably good place?

20 A. Yes, I'm in a good place. My children have all
21 graduated, they've got all managerial positions, they've
22 all bought their own homes, and they've all done very,
23 very well.

24 Q. Good.

25 So far as impact is concerned, you do tell us a bit

1 about what impact being in Nazareth House has had on
2 your life. You begin at paragraph 74 by saying it's had
3 a huge impact on your life and I just want to understand
4 what you mean by that.

5 A. I'll always be a care kid. I have always -- when people
6 meet you, they always ask you, who are you, where do you
7 come from, and it was always you were in a home. It
8 does play a big part in your life and I still have a lot
9 of nightmares.

10 As I say, I have grey days, those days when you're
11 self-doubting yourself and confidence is knocked a lot
12 and -- sleeping patterns, I've always been a really,
13 really bad sleeper. I have a lot of nightmares and I do
14 wake up with sweats.

15 Q. Are the nightmares in connection with things that
16 happened in Nazareth House or are they something
17 different?

18 A. No, definitely Nazareth House. I used to always think
19 it was the Grim Reaper -- there was always a big black
20 silhouette over my bed and for years I thought it was
21 the Grim Reaper; now I do believe it was a nun. There
22 was always something over the bed.

23 Q. You've told us about your sister, [REDACTED] and she is not
24 in such a good position as you are.

25 A. No, she's not. She doesn't even know I'm here. I wish

- 1 you could have met her.
- 2 Q. One thing you do tell us in your statement as well
- 3 is that you make reference to a lady called
- 4 ██████████ LKB --
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. -- who was somebody who worked at Nazareth House;
- 7 is that correct?
- 8 A. She still lives in Nazareth House.
- 9 Q. Was she someone who worked there when you were there?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. How did you get on with her?
- 12 A. Lovely. I still go and visit ██████████ LKB
- 13 Q. So you're still in contact with her?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. To what extent do you think she would have a real
- 16 insight to what you've been telling us about what went
- 17 on in Nazareth House?
- 18 A. I think ██████████ LKB would have known a lot but I think, in
- 19 her defence, she was a child there and then she lived
- 20 there and she owed a lot to the nuns. They homed her
- 21 and then she worked there and she's there now as an
- 22 elderly person, so I think she would have been scared to
- 23 speak against them.
- 24 Q. Can I ask you now, Donna, if you can perhaps tell us
- 25 what lessons you think should be learned from the

1 experience you had. Can you help me with that?

2 A. Lessons to be learned ... For people looking after
3 children in the future?

4 Q. One of the things you tell us for example in your
5 statement is that children should be listened to.

6 A. Yes, absolutely. People should be listened to and
7 believed and if they're telling you something, it's
8 not -- people think it's for attention; it's not. The
9 last thing you wanted was attention, you know.

10 LADY SMITH: What do you mean by that, the last thing
11 children in your position wanted was attention?

12 A. Because attention wasn't always good. It wasn't
13 a loving attention, it was more of -- if your head stuck
14 up or you laughed or you were louder, you were the one
15 that got chastised or ...

16 LADY SMITH: Are you saying that drawing attention to
17 yourself meant you were drawing trouble to yourself --

18 A. Absolutely.

19 LADY SMITH: -- in your experience? So what was it that you
20 needed?

21 A. I needed praise, I needed a cuddle, I needed somebody
22 just to say -- take my hand and just say, "It's going to
23 be okay". I wish then I knew where I was going to be
24 now because I'm fine, but I know there's so many people
25 that haven't made it or are like my sister. Thank God

1 I just got down the right path.

2 MR MacAULAY: Did you think that the nun or nuns that looked
3 after you were properly trained to look after children?

4 A. No. Absolutely not. They've obviously become nuns
5 because they wanted that life, to go and pray and be
6 maybe on their own, and somebody must have just come in
7 one day and said, "There's a crowd of kids, they're
8 yours", and I kind of get that. It wasn't what they
9 wanted either. I never sort of hated Sister LKR
10 I just hated what she did. I kind of get the situation
11 they were put into as well.

12 Q. The other thing you tell us about lessons to be learned
13 is the stigma of having been in a home has to be
14 removed.

15 A. Yes, it's always a stigma, an embarrassment, yes.

16 Q. The other thing you tell us is that children in care
17 really do need somebody to trust; is that correct?

18 A. Yes. A befriender or somebody they can go for a wee
19 private coffee with, or somebody -- we never had
20 a private meeting. If somebody came to visit, like the
21 social work, you were in a room and there was always
22 somebody there.

23 MR MacAULAY: Very well, Donna. Thank you very much indeed
24 for coming today to give your evidence. I have no
25 further questions for you.

1 I don't know if there are to be any more questions.

2 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
3 questions?

4 MR MacAULAY: There is just one point I have been reminded
5 I should put to you. I can say that the inquiry has
6 spoken to Sister [REDACTED] LKR and she doesn't accept that she
7 treated children the way you've described. What do you
8 say to that?

9 A. It doesn't matter any more for me. My life's not going
10 to change, but Judgement Day comes for everybody, so
11 I believe one day we'll all be at some place with
12 judgment. So if she can live, I can live with it.
13 I have no anger, I have no -- I didn't want anybody to
14 get punished or ... I was just here to tell the story.
15 So hopefully your findings will find -- and I'm grateful
16 what youse have done and I think you have done a great
17 job and I hope people will get for they're looking for
18 out of this.

19 Personally, for me, my life won't change, it's still
20 here, and when I leave here today, I'm done. I'm 49;
21 I don't want to be 69 still having the grey days. This
22 was for me today. It was just -- and I appreciate what
23 you said about what happened.

24 LADY SMITH: Good.

25 A. Thank you.

1 MR MacAULAY: Thank you very much, Donna.

2 LADY SMITH: Donna, thank you very much. Thank you for
3 giving us your written statement, which has got so much
4 information in it.

5 As Mr MacAulay has explained, the fact that we're
6 not asking you today about your foster care experiences
7 doesn't mean we are not interested in them; we are, but
8 we'll be returning to that topic in a later case study.

9 Thank you for being so frank and open in the
10 evidence that you have given us today, not just about
11 what happened to you but about the thoughts you have as
12 to what might be better for the future. I'm now able to
13 let you go.

14 A. Thank you.

15 (The witness withdrew)

16 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

17 MR MacAULAY: The next witness has been pencilled in for
18 after the break, but I'm hoping we can perhaps have her
19 in before that. Perhaps we can adjourn now and we can
20 see how we stand, and try to be back for maybe 11.30.

21 LADY SMITH: That would be very helpful. I'll rise now and
22 we will try to be back for 11.30.

23 (11.10 am)

24 (A short break)

25 (11.34 am)

1 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is an applicant who
2 wants to remain anonymous and she wants to use the name
3 "Olive" in giving evidence.

4 "OLIVE" (sworn)

5 LADY SMITH: You'll see now the light is on and that
6 microphone is working, and if you stay in the right
7 position for it, that is a great help to us, not just so
8 that everybody right at the back of the room can hear
9 you, but to enable the stenographers to keep a record of
10 what you're saying; they can't pick it up if the
11 microphone isn't picking it up.

12 I'll let Mr MacAulay explain to you what happens
13 next.

14 Mr MacAulay.

15 Questions from MR MacAULAY

16 MR MacAULAY: Hello, Olive.

17 A. Hi.

18 Q. I don't want the date of your birth, but I need the year
19 of your birth so we can get a time frame. Can I confirm
20 that you were born in 1969?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. In the red folder in front of you, you'll find your
23 statement. I'll give the reference for the transcript
24 and that's WIT.001.001.4880. If I could ask you to look
25 at the last page, 4908, can you confirm for me that

1 you have signed the statement?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you say in the last paragraph of the statement:

4 "I have no objection to my witness statement being

5 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry"?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Do you go on to say:

8 "I believe the facts stated in this witness

9 statement are true"?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Can I just touch briefly on your life before you went

12 into care. I think that life was in Glasgow, although

13 you may not have a real recollection of it; is that

14 right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Just looking at the family set-up, you have [REDACTED]

17 sister?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And there are also younger [REDACTED] is right?

20 A. I've two older brothers, myself and my sister, and then

21 a younger brother and sister [REDACTED] yes.

22 Q. I think we understand that there may have been an

23 unhappy family background, which led to you, in the

24 first instance, being taken into care at

25 Smyllum Orphanage; is that right?

- 1 A. Yes, my mum had alcohol problems so, yes, we were taken
2 into care for that.
- 3 Q. We have the admission details from the Daughters of
4 Charity. I'll just put them to you and see to what
5 extent this fits in with your own recollection. You
6 were admitted, according to their records, to Smyllum on
7 [REDACTED] 1975 when you'd be aged about almost 4.
- 8 A. Yes, we would have been -- we would, yeah, have just
9 been turning 5.
- 10 Q. Turning 5. Okay. And you left, according to the
11 records, on [REDACTED] 1979, when you were about 10.
- 12 A. Allegedly, yes. I don't know the dates, but yeah.
- 13 Q. Around then. But 10 fits in with your own recollection?
- 14 A. 10, 11, yes.
- 15 Q. Your statement was signed on 13 February of this year --
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. -- and of course, as you know, we've been looking at
18 Smyllum Orphanage as one of the case studies to the
19 inquiry.
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. In your statement you make quite a number of points
22 about your time at Smyllum. You were there for about
23 five years?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. That is information that the inquiry will take into

1 account in looking at the case study into the Daughters
2 of Charity. But today, of course, we're focusing on the
3 Sisters of Nazareth.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. But I think the position is that Smyllum was closing at
6 a point in time when you were aged about 10 and that had
7 an impact upon where you were to go next.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Can you explain what happened to that?

10 A. Smyllum was closing and we were put into another
11 children's home, so we went to Nazareth House in
12 Cardonald.

13 Q. Was there a particular reason why the focus was on
14 Nazareth House as opposed to on any other --

15 A. My father is [REDACTED] and he is Catholic and he wanted us
16 to be in a Catholic environment, so I think that was
17 probably one of the reasons why we went to
18 Nazareth House rather than a Local Authority home.

19 Q. And when you were in Smyllum, were you there with your
20 [REDACTED] sister?

21 A. In Smyllum, yes, my [REDACTED] sister was there. When we
22 first went there my younger brother and sister weren't,
23 but as they got a bit older, because they were just
24 babies, they came and joined us there.

25 Q. When you were moved to Nazareth House, did you go there

1 with your [REDACTED] sister?

2 A. The four of us went there.

3 Q. Again, just looking at the information provided to us by

4 the Sisters of Nazareth, according to their records,

5 you were admitted to Nazareth House Cardonald on

6 [REDACTED] 1979, the same day you left Smyllum.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. So you went straight from Smyllum to Nazareth House;

9 is that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And you left on [REDACTED] 1984?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So you were aged about 15 at that time?

14 A. Yes, 15.

15 Q. When you came to leave, did your sister leave with you?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can I then just focus on your time at Nazareth House.

18 Was there a particular group that you were allocated to

19 when you went there?

20 A. Yes. We were -- I can't remember the name of it, but

21 we were in a sort of -- it was a -- there was a big main

22 house but there was a building off it, so we were

23 in that.

24 Q. We've had reference in evidence to a building known as

25 "the bungalow".

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Was that the building you were in?
- 3 A. Yes. We were in another building before that and then
4 the bungalow was just being built and then when the
5 bungalow was built we transferred into that.
- 6 Q. The other building that I think you mention in your
7 statement was known as St Basil's.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. So you were there for a short period?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And then you moved to the bungalow?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. When you were in St Basil's, let's just start there, can
14 you say how many were in your group?
- 15 A. I don't remember. I can't ... There was just people.
16 I can't remember numbers.
- 17 Q. When you say people, children of --
- 18 A. Yes, children. Maybe 20 or so, maybe a bit less. There
19 was a good group of children.
- 20 Q. And a mixed group of boys and girls?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. You would be about 10 when you started off?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. What about the age range?
- 25 A. In Nazareth House it was all different. There was us,

1 but my brother and sister who were younger, and then up
2 to maybe 15, 16. So there was a broad range of kids.

3 Q. So a broad spectrum of ages?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Your younger [REDACTED], they were also in your group?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. When you were in St Basil's, was there a particular
8 sister in charge of the group?

9 A. Yes, there was. I think her name was Sister [REDACTED] LMQ
10 when we were in St Basil's. I can't 100 per cent
11 remember, but I think so, yes.

12 Q. And when you moved then to the bungalow, did
13 Sister [REDACTED] LMQ remain in charge or did that change?

14 A. It changed. The nun who looked after us in the bungalow
15 was Sister [REDACTED] LHW but I can't remember when that change
16 occurred.

17 Q. When you were in the bungalow, at least at a point in
18 time, was it Sister [REDACTED] LHW who was in charge?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did she have any help from any lay staff?

21 A. There was. There was staff came in, there was some
22 cleaners came in and there was staff who came in at
23 different times, morning staff and then night staff.
24 So, yeah, there was always other people.

25 Q. You do mention bed-wetting in your statement. Was there

1 any difficulty with bed-wetting at the time you were
2 there, particularly when you were in the bungalow
3 setting?

4 A. In Nazareth House, not so much, no. Most of that was
5 stuff that happened in Smyllum. Nazareth House was ...

6 Q. And you tell us in your statement what happened in
7 Smyllum. So far as bed-wetting was concerned, was there
8 any difficulty with that in the bungalow?

9 A. Not that I can remember, no.

10 Q. Did you yourself wet the bed?

11 A. No.

12 Q. What about your [REDACTED] sister?

13 A. Not that I know of.

14 Q. In the bungalow can you just help me with the set-up in
15 relation to the accommodation? Can you help me with
16 that?

17 A. The bungalow was purpose-built, so when you first went
18 in -- it was like a, if you imagine it was an H-shaped
19 building. So when you went in there was a big kitchen
20 and a sort of dining room and then there were some
21 rooms, there was like a playroom and sitting room, and
22 some toilets and an office. And there was a little
23 corridor and then you had the nun's office there and you
24 went through this glass corridor and it was all
25 bedrooms. There were some to the left and some to

1 right. The bedroom had -- there wasn't an en suite
2 bathroom, but the bedrooms would have sinks in them and
3 then there was a bathroom, like a shower -- not
4 a shower, a bath -- and a sink and then a little toilet
5 separate. But for every couple of rooms there was
6 a bathroom that was to be used for that and there was
7 maybe, I don't know, a dozen or so bedrooms.

8 Q. So how many -- in looking at your own bedroom, how many
9 beds were there?

10 A. In my bedroom there were two.

11 Q. Was that yourself and [REDACTED]?

12 A. No, another girl. My sister and I might -- when we
13 first went there, we were in a room, there was myself,
14 my brother and sister, and my other sister, so were in a
15 little room, and then we got moved -- I got moved up to
16 another room, there was myself and another girl, and my
17 sister had her own room.

18 Q. On her own?

19 A. Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: Are you saying there were maybe a dozen rooms?

21 A. Yes, all different sizes.

22 LADY SMITH: Do I take it from what you said you could have
23 two people in each room?

24 A. Yes, there were two rooms up here and there was two beds
25 in each room. Then there was a single room and then

1 there was a room and it had three beds, I think, and
2 then there was another room with four and then there was
3 a room on this side with two, and then there was
4 a couple of other single rooms further down --

5 LADY SMITH: So as a ballpark, 20, 24 people --

6 A. Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: -- could stay in the bungalow?

8 A. Yes. The nun had a room, it was a little single room,
9 just as you went down the corridor.

10 MR MacAULAY: Can I ask you to look at a photograph and see
11 if this is of any assistance -- it will come on the
12 screen -- NAZ.001.001.0262. We see in the top right
13 what we recognise, I think, as the main building.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. If we move down to the bottom left, is that the bungalow
16 area?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I don't know if that's the front or the back. Can you
19 help me?

20 A. That is -- the front would be here (indicating),
21 wouldn't it, because that's Lourdes school behind it, so
22 ... So that's kind of different because that's got
23 ramps on it. When we were there is, there wasn't ramps
24 on it, I think.

25 Q. I think it became more of an old folks' home after you

- 1 left.
- 2 A. You can see the bit here where -- that's where all the
3 bedrooms were and the glass corridor was where you went
4 through and these rooms were like the playroom. You
5 want to flip that don't you. I think the front would
6 have been down this side (indicating).
- 7 Q. On the right-hand side?
- 8 A. Yes, but you can't -- you can't -- see where the trees
9 are? I think where we went in was down there.
- 10 Q. But that's the building anyway?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Can I ask you then about aspects of the routine. Let's
13 look at mealtimes. Can you tell me what the food was
14 like?
- 15 A. Rubbish -- it wasn't rubbish, that's not fair. It was
16 all made in a central kitchen so it was probably equal
17 to hospital food or any environment where you're getting
18 food made up and it would come over in big -- there was
19 a big trolley thing with wheels on it, and it would get
20 pushed over from the central kitchen and then it would
21 get served up. We had a little kitchen there but at
22 weekends when the big kitchen didn't work, you would
23 make food there or toast or stuff like that at night.
24 It was food, but ...
- 25 Q. Was there any difficulty if you didn't want to eat it?

1 A. Yes, you would be forced to eat it. There were times
2 where you'd get held and your nose held and food put
3 down your throat or if you didn't eat it, you'd get it
4 the next day for breakfast. If it was lunch you'd get
5 it for your tea and so forth. I used to put stuff in my
6 pockets and stuff and hide it so you didn't have to eat
7 it and kid you had an empty place. So, yes, there was.

8 Q. Who would force you to eat it the way you have
9 described?

10 A. Staff, the nuns, whoever was there, just in general.
11 Whoever was in charge at that time, so a mixture.

12 Q. Would the lay staff do this as well?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And nuns, did you have any nuns in -- can you name any
15 nuns --

16 A. The nun that we had there was Sister **LHW** but she'd
17 probably get the staff to do it rather than her doing
18 it.

19 Q. Did this happen to you?

20 A. Yes, on numerous occasions, yes.

21 Q. And to other children?

22 A. Yes. There was a man called **LHM** -- my brother
23 was just a little chap -- and he threw a fork. The
24 room's maybe from here to there (indicating) and there
25 was a little bit of a kitchen --

- 1 Q. You're pointing to the two walls of the hearing room.
- 2 A. That would be the size of the dining room and there was
3 a little bit of a kitchen and then there was like a --
4 not a hatch but it was a big hatch, a big wide worktop
5 and he just chucked a fork at my brother and it landed
6 on his arm and he had a big fork sticking out his arm.
- 7 Q. Why did this man do that?
- 8 A. I think because my brother was not eating or making too
9 much noise or something, you know, and he just chucked
10 this fork.
- 11 Q. Was this a member of staff?
- 12 A. Yes, across the room.
- 13 Q. Did your brother -- what happened?
- 14 A. My brother was only a little tot so I kicked off and
15 I went over and made sure my brother was okay. His arm,
16 he had like four prongs on it, and I kicked off and
17 shouted at them and stuff. [REDACTED] was crying because
18 he was just a little lad so obviously it hurt.
- 19 Q. Did he require some medical treatment?
- 20 A. No, because it was just like four little prongs. I gave
21 it a wipe and told him it would be okay and it would be
22 fine.
- 23 Q. You tell us in your statement you have a particular
24 allergy with oranges; did something happen?
- 25 A. Yes. They used to bring in oranges and I am allergic to

1 oranges. I can't eat oranges and even now I still don't
2 like them. They used to put oranges in a pot and make
3 orange juice out of it. The smell of oranges -- if
4 people eat oranges round about me I still get up and go
5 away because I still don't like the smell of it.

6 They used to make this horrible orange juice and
7 everybody would drink it and obviously I can't drink it
8 and I was forced to drink it, my nose held and this
9 orange juice poured down my throat.

10 Q. Who forced you to eat it?

11 A. The nuns and the staff at the time because it was good
12 for you and you shouldn't be so ungrateful.

13 Q. You say "the nuns" in the plural --

14 A. Sister LHW the nun that was there, and the staff at
15 the time. I can't tell you exactly what staff was
16 there; it would just have been whatever staff were on
17 duty.

18 Q. What happened then?

19 A. I had a reaction to the oranges and then --

20 LADY SMITH: Tell me about that reaction? What happens if
21 you consume oranges?

22 A. When I was younger I would get big blotches and my skin
23 would get really itchy and stuff and just generally get
24 unwell. I hate, even now, I don't like oranges,
25 I don't ... I'm allergic to them. I'm very careful as

- 1 to what I do.
- 2 MR MacAULAY: You say you had a reaction; was a doctor
3 involved.
- 4 A. Yes, I think a doctor came because I went to my bed and
5 the nuns had said that I was lying, that that wasn't
6 what happened. Obviously they didn't want anybody to
7 know that that's what had happened and they made out
8 that I had made it up, that I wasn't forced to drink
9 orange juice.
- 10 Q. Did you tell the doctor you'd been forced to drink the
11 orange juice?
- 12 A. Yes, and they said I was making it up, that I was
13 a liar.
- 14 Q. Who said that?
- 15 A. Whoever was standing -- I can't remember who was there
16 when the doctor was there, if it was one of the staff or
17 one of the nuns. But it hadn't happened, it didn't
18 happen.
- 19 Q. Did you hear the nun having this conversation with the
20 doctor?
- 21 A. Oh yeah, they done it all the time. If you had
22 social workers there, and you said something, they'd
23 just say, och, these kids are just liars, they just make
24 it up. Their job was to discredit you because you were
25 a kid; they were the adult, so they knew better. Their

1 role was to discredit you so that's what they would
2 frequently do.

3 Q. What age were you when this orange incident happened?

4 A. Maybe 12, 13, maybe a wee bit younger, maybe about
5 12ish. Just a kid.

6 Q. Can I ask you about religion: was religion important?

7 A. To me?

8 Q. No, to Nazareth House.

9 A. Yes. We -- yes. We had to go to church, we had to do
10 our chapel, we had to whatever they wanted you -- they
11 wanted you to say prayers. You had to -- yeah, very
12 important. It was rammed down your throat.
13 Everything -- if you ever done anything wrong, we were
14 kids, so of course we done things wrong. You were going
15 to go to hell or you weren't going to get on in life
16 because you had ... you'd done something wrong and it
17 was always because the church was so good and you were
18 always going to disappoint God or things. So, yeah, it
19 was very important to them.

20 Q. Can I ask you about visits. Did family members come to
21 visit you when you were there?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Who came to visit you?

24 A. My dad would come every -- I think he came every second
25 week to visit us. Occasionally my older brother would

1 come and he had little kids, so he would bring his
2 little daughters with him when he'd come.

3 Nazareth House -- when we were in Smyllum, my mother
4 would come, but sometimes she wouldn't turn up because
5 she would be drunk and stuff. But by the time we were
6 in Nazareth House I think she wasn't allowed to come and
7 see us.

8 LADY SMITH: Olive, can you turn back towards the microphone
9 so that we can hear you properly? You may need to be
10 a little bit closer to it.

11 MR MacAULAY: What about any social work involvement? Do
12 you remember any social worker come to see you?

13 A. Yes, we had a social worker. Am I allowed to say his
14 name?

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. His name was Graham Boyd.

17 Q. And did he come from time to time?

18 A. Yes, he came occasionally.

19 Q. Did you say anything to him about what life was like in
20 Nazareth House?

21 A. You told him the basics, that you hated it and you
22 didn't like being there. One of the things that we used
23 to complain to him about was clothes because you'd
24 have -- they had a big cupboard where you'd get
25 second-hand clothes and stuff and we knew, from speaking

1 to other kids that were in care, that were in local
2 authority home, that they used to get a clothes
3 allowance and they would go and buy their own clothes,
4 whereas in Nazareth House we tended to just get what was
5 in the cupboard. Occasionally at Christmas you might
6 get to go out and buy some clothes and stuff. So we'd
7 be moaning about things like that.

8 You knew that whatever you said to them they would
9 just disbelieve you because that's what they did, isn't
10 it? You were always be made out to be a liar and stuff.
11 So half the time you got to the stage where you just
12 thought there's no point.

13 Q. Did you at a point in time say anything to the social
14 worker about how you were being treated?

15 A. Yes, we did, but he would just say, yeah, yeah, yeah,
16 we'll deal with it.

17 Q. And did anything ever happen?

18 A. No. We were still there, so no.

19 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about leisure time because
20 I think you do tell us that you went to dancing classes
21 and also horse riding; is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. How often did that happen?

24 A. What happened -- with my dancing classes -- there was
25 a girl came into Nazareth House and she started to want

1 to do some dance classes because she wanted to give
2 something to kids. I started doing that and then it
3 stopped. Then she ran dance classes in Pollock, so
4 I said to her, can I still come and help out. So what
5 I done was I managed to strike a deal that I would go to
6 dance classes, she would teach me, but I would help all
7 the little kids, all the stuff she would teach me
8 I would then work with the kids, so I didn't have to pay
9 for my dance classes. I managed to wangle that. So
10 I used to go every Saturday morning.

11 Q. What age were you then when you did that?

12 A. Eleven, 12, maybe about 12. Maybe a wee bit older,
13 maybe about 12.

14 Q. And the horse riding?

15 A. The horse riding I started because one of my friends at
16 school went and then I kind of just done that myself as
17 well. My dad used to give me pocket money and that's
18 what paid for my horse riding. So I used to do that and
19 I used to try and go every Saturday or every second
20 Saturday.

21 Q. Were you allowed to keep the pocket money your father
22 gave you?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You tell us a little bit about the chores you had to do.
25 Did you have much to do?

- 1 A. At Nazareth House you would have to tidy your room up
2 and latterly we'd have to wash our own clothes and
3 things like that. The cleaners there that would do --
4 we had to maybe help with the dishes and stuff like
5 that.
- 6 Q. But you had cleaners there who would do the bulk of the
7 cleaning?
- 8 A. Yes, yes.
- 9 Q. You say something about taking food to the pigs.
- 10 A. Not pigs. In Nazareth House -- this is an old-fashioned
11 thing -- they had these big metal bins and any food that
12 was wasted would have to get taken down and put into the
13 pigs' bins. Occasionally, a farmer or whatever, would
14 come and they would take these bins away. So all the
15 scraps or any old food would get put in these pigs'
16 bins.
- 17 Q. That was one of the jobs you had to do?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. You didn't enjoy that?
- 20 A. No, they were filthy.
- 21 Q. But birthdays, I think you tell us, were celebrated at
22 Nazareth House.
- 23 A. Not so much in Smyllum but in Nazareth House, yeah, if
24 it was your birthday.
- 25 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about the atmosphere in

1 Nazareth House when you were there. How would you
2 describe the general atmosphere?

3 A. I -- personally, from my point of view, I hated
4 Nazareth House, I hated being there. I hated everything
5 about it. I didn't want to be there. You had a lot of
6 kids, a lot of children there who had a lot of problems
7 and a lot of issues. We were all treated the same,
8 institutionalised, nobody was allowed to be a free
9 spirit or whatever.

10 It's a hard environment, you know. You've got a lot
11 of children looking for love, support, and that's not
12 there. So you had a lot of clashes with children
13 because if there was somebody there that somebody got
14 that affection from, other people, not be jealous
15 because that's probably the wrong word, but there would
16 be a -- they wanted that. So you'd have lots of
17 clashes. But you'd also have lots of clashes for toys
18 and stuff, somebody wanting that toy or somebody wanting
19 that toy. So it was hard.

20 I wouldn't say it was a happy -- you know, as kids
21 you make the best of your situation, so kids would play
22 and have a laugh and a joke, and you would have a lot of
23 fun that way, but there was always that underlying ...
24 disappointment, I think, because you'd be at school and
25 you'd be seeing people having parents in and doing stuff

1 with their kids. That's all you wanted to have, you
2 just wanted that. So when you were in school, you'd be
3 seeing all that and when you went back, you wouldn't
4 have it. So there was always a doom or a gloom in your
5 heart. I don't know the best way to describe it. You'd
6 always have that thing that you wanted that you couldn't
7 have. So you were always probably -- yeah, sad,
8 I think, is probably the ...

9 Q. What about the staff? Do you think, certainly at least
10 on reflection, if the staff -- and I include the nuns
11 there -- were properly trained to look after these
12 children?

13 A. Looking -- from an adult's point of view, looking back
14 now, I don't think so. There were some young girls who
15 were maybe 17, 18, 19, I don't know if they had gone to
16 college or whatever, that were there. In my opinion,
17 I don't think they had the training to deal with kids
18 who had issues that were in care that needed support.
19 I don't think ... I don't think they had enough
20 training to do the job.

21 When you were a kid, when you were there, they were
22 just there, there were people that were there to tell
23 you what to do and just -- you just done it. So, no,
24 I don't think they had good training. I think they
25 lacked a lot.

1 Q. What about the nuns that you had contact with?

2 A. No. I would say they lacked a lot. The nun's role was
3 to be like a headmaster in school. Her job was to
4 oversee it and make sure everybody done what they done
5 in the easiest way possible. Whether that was to lock
6 you in your room or bring down in front of everybody or
7 bully you, that's how they done it. They didn't ...
8 I don't think there was any empathy for anybody to think
9 that these kids are suffering or these kids are
10 struggling, you know. There was none of that. It was
11 just an institution and you done what you were supposed
12 to do and that was it. I don't think empathy -- I don't
13 think there was any of that there or looking to see how
14 you could improve these kids. I don't think anybody
15 actually sat down and said, look, is there anything
16 we can do to help, are you okay. You know, looking at
17 how you're coping with school or how you're coping with
18 being in that environment. In my opinion, they were
19 just there to do a job, do a shift, and then go home and
20 get on with their lives, and that's what they were
21 employed to do, so I think that's how it was.

22 Q. One thing you say in your statement -- and this is at
23 paragraph 73 -- is:

24 "I don't think you get bad kids."

25 And I just wondered what you meant by that.

1 A. Kids to me aren't born bad. Kids are kids, they want to
2 have fun, they want to play, they want to be
3 mischievous. They want to be spoiled, they expect to be
4 loved because you don't know any better and I don't
5 think you get bad kids. I think kids are fundamentally
6 just little people waiting to be cherished and waiting
7 to be -- somebody to show them and teach them. Kids are
8 little sponges, aren't they? They're there to learn,
9 and just to be happy and just exist and just -- life's
10 fun. And I think in care you don't have that. I think
11 it's ... You don't get ... There was nobody ...
12 I don't know the best way to describe it.

13 Kids to me should be cherished and you teach them,
14 don't you? You want to just show them the world and
15 show them everything that's good about the world. In
16 care you don't get that.

17 Q. Can I ask you then about the treatment at
18 Nazareth House. How would you describe how you were
19 treated?

20 A. Nazareth House, as I said, was a hard place. There was
21 a lot of shouting going on, there was a lot of "Just do
22 it", there was a lot of flippant whacks. There was
23 a lot of bullying. I think that's how it was run.
24 I think it was more you just had to do it because you
25 just had to do it.

1 Q. Who were the bullies, according to you?

2 A. Staff, nuns, other kids. There was a big thing, you
3 know, the older kids would bully the younger kids.
4 I think that's the nature of kids. But from the staff,
5 it was just, "Do it", you know, there was no ... You
6 just had to do it. It's hard. It was hard, so you had
7 to ...

8 Q. You tell us in paragraph 74 that, as you put it:

9 "We would get whacks across the head all the time
10 just with whatever they had."

11 Can you --

12 A. Yes. If they had the rosary beads, that was
13 a classic -- or if they had a hairbrush you would get
14 slapped -- they used to wear these Scholl things and
15 you'd get whacked over your butt --

16 LADY SMITH: Are you talking about Scholl sandals?

17 A. The hard things with the leather strappy thing over
18 them, yeah. We would get -- they had something in their
19 hand, you know, it would just get chucked at you,
20 whether it be -- not glasses or anything like that, but
21 a brush or a broom or whatever it was, you know.
22 I can't give you specifics, but just stuff that -- you'd
23 be sort of ducking and diving.

24 MR MacAULAY: Who would do this?

25 A. The nuns. In Smyllum, primarily.

- 1 Q. We're not looking at Smyllum, of course --
- 2 A. In Nazareth House, it would be whoever was in charge,
3 staff or ...
- 4 Q. Was there any particular nun that --
- 5 A. Sister [REDACTED] LHW never really got at me, but I'd seen her
6 at other people, quite viciously.
- 7 Q. And what did she use?
- 8 A. On one occasion, there was a lad, a toy gun, you know,
9 and she was quite ... Yeah, he had a gun and she really
10 went after this lad and was hitting him with like
11 a thing, a toy gun, and she was hitting him over the
12 head with it and just hitting him and stuff, so yeah,
13 quite --
- 14 Q. Do you know why she was doing that at that time?
- 15 A. Probably because [REDACTED] flipped her off and swore at
16 her or something. We weren't perfect, we were children,
17 so I'm sure in any environment where you've got 20 --
18 I was going to say disturbed children, but we weren't
19 disturbed children -- but if you've got 20 kids, I'm
20 sure we were a hard bunch to control sometimes.
- 21 [REDACTED], he did have a lot of problems and stuff,
22 so -- he wasn't even a Catholic and he was in a Catholic
23 children's home, so he straightaway was up against it.
- 24 Q. Why do you say that?
- 25 A. Because he wasn't into going to church so he was already

1 not part of that. He didn't even go to the Catholic
2 school -- he went to a Protestant school in Penilee --
3 and the nun hated him for it because he wasn't
4 a Catholic. I don't know, I can't answer that. But
5 already she disliked this poor lad.

6 Q. What nun are you talking about?

7 A. Sister LHW

8 Q. The gun you mentioned, I think you indicated a size of
9 about 3 feet?

10 A. Yes, it was a toy, a plastic toy gun thing.

11 Q. You do tell us about an incident when someone in school
12 got caught smoking --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- and I think you got the blame.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What happened on that occasion?

17 A. Somebody had caught us going -- they said it was me, and
18 I got brought up and got sent home. To this day,
19 I don't smoke, I've never smoked, I've never picked
20 a cigarette up and I got grounded for smoking. And
21 I was like, "It wasn't me". Obviously I didn't get
22 believed and I got locked in my room.

23 We had sinks in the room, so I thought, well, if I'm
24 getting into trouble I'm going to do something to get
25 into trouble. So I stupidly, now looking back, flooded

1 the room. I thought, if I'm getting into bother, I
2 might as well to do something. I know as an adult
3 that's not the right thing to do.

4 Q. So what happened then?

5 A. I then got into even more trouble.

6 Q. When you say more trouble, what happened to you?

7 A. I got hit and then I got grounded for even longer.

8 Q. When you say you got hit, can you just describe how that
9 happened?

10 A. I think I just got a few whacks and got hit with
11 a Scholl.

12 Q. Who by?

13 A. I think it was the nun, Sister **LHW** that done that.

14 Q. One thing you say is that, at paragraph 77, that there
15 was random hitting by the nuns but you kept your head
16 down and knew the rules. Can you just help me with
17 that?

18 A. We were in care for a long time. We went through
19 Smyllum and you learn there's no point in -- you learn
20 to keep yourself down and just try and just follow the
21 rules and just get on with it and try not cause any
22 trouble, try not be at the front of anything, keep
23 yourself back, be invisible, be anonymous and try and
24 get on with it and try and try to always be behind the
25 trouble so you're not getting caught up in it. The last

1 thing -- you don't want to get hit, you don't want to be
2 in trouble. Life's hard enough without putting yourself
3 there where you're asking to get hit. So you know it's
4 going to happen, so you try and just keep yourself
5 in the radar and just keep yourself behind it so you're
6 just tiptoeing along and you get left alone. So that's
7 what I tried to do.

8 I tried to take myself away by doing my horse riding
9 and doing my dancing and stuff so I could actually get
10 away from it, so that I wasn't in that environment all
11 the time. I hated Nazareth House, I hated being there,
12 I hated it and I just wanted to be away. That's what
13 I tried to do.

14 Q. One word you use to describe the atmosphere was
15 "volatile"; was it a volatile atmosphere?

16 A. I would say so, yeah. I think in the fact that there
17 was always an argument waiting to happen between the
18 kids, you know, yeah, it was -- it was quite a hard
19 environment, you know. I would say it was volatile
20 yeah.

21 There was always somebody waiting to fight, there
22 was always somebody wanting to fight or steal something
23 or -- yeah, it was ... I would say between the kids, it
24 was always quite volatile.

25 You would think in that environment that kids would

1 pull together, but it doesn't. Even my sister and I,
2 when we were growing up, we were played against each
3 other and my sister and I hated each other for a long,
4 long time. We didn't communicate, you know. She was
5 there and I was there. When we were in school we had
6 different friends and we were always clashing. That's
7 from nuns and even from teachers in school: your sister
8 can do this and you can't do that, and vice versa.

9 I think that was set up to separate you rather than
10 allow you to get together because when you're together
11 you're a team and you're more supported, but when you're
12 apart you're more isolated. I don't know if that was
13 done on purpose or if that was just the environment and
14 just how it happened. I can't honestly say whether that
15 was done on purpose. I don't know.

16 Q. Before I move on to another aspect of your life in care,
17 just to come back to Sister [REDACTED] LHW who you have
18 mentioned -- apart from being in charge of your group,
19 you've also said that she did hit you and hit other
20 children.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Sister [REDACTED] LHW doesn't accept -- we have taken her
23 statement and she doesn't accept that. Do you have
24 anything to say about that?

25 A. We called Nazareth House "the Nazi". For children to

1 call the place where you live and you treat it as if
2 it's a concentration camp, that's what we called it.
3 Am I proud of that now as an adult? No, I find it quite
4 difficult to say that. We called her [REDACTED] That
5 was her name.

6 Q. Was that Sister [REDACTED] LHW

7 A. That's what we called her, [REDACTED] So that has to tell
8 you, that's how we referred to her, so that's how we saw
9 her. That's not a nice word to describe somebody, but
10 that's, to us, as children as to what she was. You
11 would be ducking and diving to try and get not caught.

12 So I think -- I'm not surprised that she would say
13 that because nobody wants to admit that that's what
14 they've done. Allegedly, they're people of God and they
15 think that, for whatever in their head, they're doing
16 the right thing. As I say, I'm totally not surprised
17 that she said that. I'd be very surprised if she
18 admitted it.

19 Q. Okay.

20 Can I just, on what you've said about the nickname
21 [REDACTED] if we go back to paragraph 48 of your
22 statement, because I may have misunderstood this or
23 someone's misunderstood it. But in paragraph 48 on
24 page 4888 -- it will come on the screen for you:

25 "One of the nuns that was there was an old bag. We

1 called her [REDACTED] and unfortunately I called her that
2 once to her face and I got leathered."

3 And I will come back to that:

4 "I think her name was Sister [REDACTED] LMQ There was
5 another called Sister [REDACTED] LHW who was okay."

6 So I'd understood from that that [REDACTED] was
7 Sister [REDACTED] LMQ and not Sister [REDACTED] LHW

8 A. She was called [REDACTED] as well.

9 Q. Was it Sister [REDACTED] EAA who leathered you for calling her
10 that to your face?

11 A. Yes, that was in Smyllum, yes. It was in Smyllum that I
12 got that when I called the nun that to her face.

13 Q. That wouldn't be Sister [REDACTED] EAA then, that was another
14 nun? Okay.

15 Can I then look at another aspect of your life in
16 care and that's your involvement with one of the
17 volunteers who helped at Nazareth House, and that's
18 Joseph Duffy. Can you just tell me about how you came
19 to know that Joseph Duffy was a volunteer?

20 A. When we were in Nazareth House, there was -- in the main
21 building there was a group there and he was part of that
22 and then I think that group closed down and then he came
23 over to our group. So he came -- he was just there,
24 it's like he was just there. I don't know how he came
25 about to be there, but we all knew he was there.

- 1 Q. What was his job?
- 2 A. He was just -- he came in and we used to go swimming on
3 a Friday night and he would drive the minibus, we would
4 just be there. He was there on Fridays and he would
5 bring videos and things. He was just there.
- 6 Q. Okay. I think you tell us he actually stayed in
7 Nazareth House.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. In paragraph 83 I think you said that he shared a room
10 with one of the boys who was a child there; is that
11 right?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. So he slept in the same room as this child?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And I think you tell us that this particular child was
16 about the same ages you; is that right?
- 17 A. I think about a year, round about -- maybe a year or so
18 difference between us.
- 19 Q. What age do you think you were when you first came into
20 contact with Joseph Duffy?
- 21 A. Twelve, 13 -- maybe younger actually. He might have
22 been in Nazareth House earlier than that. It might be
23 about 12, yeah.
- 24 Q. Apart from yourself, was he involved with a number of
25 the children --

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. -- from your group?
- 3 A. Yes, everybody, the whole group. He was there because
- 4 he was involved in there and we used to go swimming on
- 5 a Friday night, so he would -- we had one of these like
- 6 one of these Variety Club minibuses that had been
- 7 donated to Nazareth House, so he would drive the bus
- 8 with all the kids and we would go swimming or if he was
- 9 in the group, he would bring, as I say, videos and stuff
- 10 and we would all sit in this big living room. So all
- 11 the kids that were in the group at the time, yes.
- 12 Q. Insofar as your own involvement with him was concerned,
- 13 did matters develop to a point in time when he was
- 14 touching you and so on?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Can you tell me about that? How did that happen?
- 17 A. It happened when I was quite young and then it just sort
- 18 of gradually ... It developed from being little hugs
- 19 and stuff like that to more sexual behaviour and stuff.
- 20 Then when I left Nazareth House, he took me to his house
- 21 and obviously raped me that night and then dropped me at
- 22 my dad's house after I left.
- 23 Q. You were under 16 at that time?
- 24 A. I was 15, yes.
- 25 Q. Before that, when you went to the swimming pool, for

- 1 example, had he done anything to you?
- 2 A. It went on for -- Joseph Duffy and I went on for a long
3 time. He probably started when I was maybe about 13,
4 right through until I was 15. He would touch me in the
5 morning before I went to my dance class. He would take
6 me to a room and touch me and kiss me and stuff and it
7 just went on for two or three years, and then -- until
8 the time I went to his house when I left, that day I was
9 leaving Nazareth House. So it happened over two or
10 three years.
- 11 Q. I think one thing you tell us is that you went on summer
12 holidays to Girvan every year.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Did Joseph Duffy go with you on holiday?
- 15 A. Yes, one of the years he went there with us, yes. It
16 might have been more than one year, I can't remember,
17 but I can definitely remember he was there. That must
18 have been the last year that we went that he was there,
19 yeah.
- 20 Q. Did he do anything to you on that occasion?
- 21 A. Yes, when we were there.
- 22 Q. What happened?
- 23 A. Again, just the usual: inappropriately touching me,
24 kissing me.
- 25 There was an incident then when we went to Girvan

1 that year -- we would have been 15 and there was one
2 night where we all went out and we were supposed to be
3 home, I don't know, 9 o'clock or something, but we were
4 teenagers and there was a bit in Girvan and they had a
5 big play park and it had one of these big witch-y hat
6 things and we were all there and we pushed the limits
7 a little bit and we stayed out later than we should
8 have. Then he came back to get us and was absolutely
9 furious with us because we were playing with these lads
10 and we all got dragged back and Joe had a right go at me
11 that night because he was most displeased with me
12 personally because I shouldn't have been hanging about
13 with boys and stuff. So that was a bit ...

14 Q. In any event, he was allowed to go on these trips?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And he was allowed to take you to the swimming baths?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And to be involved with the children?

19 A. Yes, definitely. He was encouraged, I would say, by the
20 nuns. There's a strange -- Sister **LHW** hated
21 Joseph Duffy. I don't know why she hated him. She
22 hated him. When she would see him, she would sort of
23 draw her eyes off him and stuff and she made it clear
24 that she didn't like him. She didn't make it clear --
25 we were kids and she didn't make it clear to us why she

1 didn't like him. I can't tell you what she said to the
2 other staff or whatever because I don't know. But I was
3 aware that she disliked this man for whatever reason,
4 I don't know. I don't know if she knew he was up to no
5 good. I don't know. But she genuinely disliked this
6 man.

7 Q. How evident would it be to someone like her or any adult
8 the way in which he was interacting with the children?

9 A. There was one incident -- I would say, as an adult,
10 looking back now, it must have been so obvious, but
11 there was one incident where we were standing in the
12 corridor and something got said and there was a nun and
13 some other people there and Joe Duffy was there and
14 I was there. I was accused of being infatuated with him
15 and I was told that I was -- I'm trying to think of the
16 right word. Basically, it was all my fault and I was
17 encouraging this and I was infatuated and I was to stay
18 away from him and I was to start behaving myself.

19 As an adult now, looking back, you think, wow, you
20 knew there was something there, so why wasn't that man
21 removed. Why wasn't I taken aside and put into a room
22 and asked by somebody, what's going on here, is there
23 anything you want to tell us. That's not what happened.
24 It was made to be that it was my fault and I was in the
25 wrong, but nobody actually asked me what was going on,

1 it was just I was being a silly little child and I was
2 infatuated and I was to stop following this man about
3 and I was to stay away from him.

4 Q. At this time, had he been touching you in an
5 inappropriate or sexual way?

6 A. Yes, uh-huh. I would probably say at that point it had
7 been going on for quite a while, yeah.

8 Q. Did you ever think of saying to an adult that this
9 behaviour was going on?

10 A. Ashamedly, no. At the time ... We were in care. We
11 were -- we had nobody -- and I think everybody was vying
12 for attention, so you took attention from wherever it
13 came.

14 Dogs get abused and they still run up to the person
15 that's abusing them and wag their tail and look for that
16 attention from them. That's what we were. Basically as
17 best I can describe how we were, you know, we were just
18 kids. Yeah, we were teenagers but we were just kids,
19 and wherever you got attention, you took it. If
20 somebody told you they loved you, you believed it and
21 you took it.

22 So even when you were getting that abuse, you
23 didn't -- from Joe Duffy, Joe Duffy groomed me for many
24 years. At the time I probably didn't see it as abuse,
25 I believed his hype, and I believed everything that he

1 said to me, that he loved me and I was special and all
2 that that went on, and he told me not to tell anybody --
3 and, no, I didn't tell anybody.

4 Q. You have told us that -- did you say it was the day you
5 left Nazareth House that he took you to his own house?

6 A. Yes. My dad's house was a bit away, so he was going to
7 drive me over, and then he took me to his house via --
8 going that way, so he took me back to his house first,
9 and then back to my dad's house.

10 Q. And you say he raped you?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. I think we know you left Smyllum in December 1984 --

13 A. Nazareth House, yeah.

14 Q. I'm sorry, Nazareth House. Thereafter, what happened
15 then between yourself and Joseph Duffy?

16 A. Joe stayed in my life for a long time after. For all
17 the time that we were in care, we were never allowed to
18 go back to my dad's house to live. My dad was -- he
19 didn't speak that good English, he thought that if women
20 wore red lipstick or if you wore nail polish or whatever
21 you were a hoor or whatever. So he had this, you know,
22 very sort of strange attitude and he had mental health
23 problems.

24 So the whole time we were in care we were never
25 allowed to go back to sort of my dad's house, and then

1 all of a sudden, we were told, at 15, this place is
2 shutting, where are you going to go. We were studying
3 for our O grades and our O grades were in May and we
4 were being thrown out of care in December. We had just
5 started our prelims and stuff. Our whole world was up
6 in the air. They were putting us in a home where -- he
7 was still -- my dad died a few -- and I couldn't call
8 him dad to the day he died. He was a stranger to me.
9 He was just this man that was there.

10 So there was no great love there. I'm sure he loved
11 us in his own way. So we were -- my sister got put into
12 a flat in Govan -- I think she might have went to my
13 mother's, actually, for a while, who was an alcoholic,
14 and then we got put there. So we kind of just got
15 dumped at this house. So Joe Duffy was the only
16 constant, if you want, in my life. So all these things
17 that he said and he would come and he would take me out
18 to dinner and stuff like that. So Joe stayed in my life
19 right through my teenage years and eventually I went
20 away and then I come back and when I was 24, I ended up
21 stupidly having another relationship with him. But
22 again, believing all the hype from where that came.

23 Then it sort of -- I found some photographs and
24 I thought, wow, and then that's when I got rid of him.

25 So Joe and I ended up engaged for a while when I was

- 1 24, but --
- 2 Q. The photographs that you mentioned, I think these were
3 photographs and I think you mention them in
4 paragraph 128 of your statement -- perhaps it wasn't
5 128; I think 126. Yes. You found photographs. Do you
6 know where these photographs were from?
- 7 A. Joe Duffy and his friend used to go to Thailand, so it
8 was photographs of young children, teenagers in
9 Thailand. I had my own flat at the time and Joseph had
10 some stuff in my flat and there was a box with these
11 pictures in it and I found the pictures of all these
12 young girls. I think then I thought -- I think reality
13 struck home as to what I was involved with or who I was
14 involved with, and I said to him, "Look, when I get
15 back, just don't be here", and I went out.
- 16 Q. Did the police come to speak to you about him shortly
17 after that?
- 18 A. Yes. The police came to speak to me in 1995. I had --
19 I've worked really hard all my life to try and better
20 myself because when you're brought up in care, they're
21 always putting you down, and you'll never amount to
22 anything. So I worked really, really hard. When the
23 police came to me, I had just sold my flat and I had
24 just bought a new flat, and I had just started a new
25 job. I said to the police, look, I know what you're

1 talking about, but at this time I don't want to get
2 involved in it, because I was scared about it being all
3 over the press and all this stuff that came with it. So
4 I said to them I knew what they were talking about but
5 I didn't want to get involved with it then.

6 Q. And I think that was in 1995 when you were about 26;
7 is that correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Thereafter, there came a point in time when you did want
10 to do something about it.

11 A. Yes. I think it was about 2006. You sort of watch the
12 world and you sort of learn and you think this was
13 wrong. And then I did go to the police in 2006 and
14 I gave them a statement. Unfortunately, the police said
15 to me that they would get back to me and then they
16 didn't get back to me until 2017.

17 Q. Did they give any explanation as to why they had not got
18 back to you after your 2006 statement?

19 A. They said that it had been filed and got lost basically.
20 They did apologise, the police officers that came to see
21 me, they did apologise, and said that for whatever
22 reason it had just been filed, and now -- because they
23 were starting to look at different things that had come
24 back up and then they had come to speak to me.

25 Q. I think you tell us in paragraphs 149 through to 157 of

1 your statement that in fact you attended the High Court
2 in a prosecution against Mr Duffy; is that correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And you gave evidence in the High Court?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Was that in connection with what had happened to you --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- particularly when you were at Nazareth House?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I think it is the case that there were other people who
11 also gave evidence at that trial; is that correct?

12 A. Yes, my sister and another lad. Unfortunately, when the
13 police came, I never knew anything about Joseph Duffy or
14 another lad, [REDACTED] and when the police came
15 to me in 1996 and told me that Joseph had made
16 allegations, I think it made me sick.

17 Q. I'm sorry, Joseph?

18 A. Joseph Duffy -- [REDACTED] sorry. That was the
19 other lad who was at the court. It made me sick to my
20 stomach and I realised how foolish I had been in
21 allowing Joseph Duffy to manipulate me and stuff. Then
22 I didn't find out about my sister until the day we were
23 in court, because my sister and I had never spoken about
24 it, so I didn't know that he had raped my sister until
25 the day we were in court.

1 Q. And he was in fact convicted of serious sexual offences
2 involving a number of people --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- including yourself?

5 A. There was myself, my sister, and [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED], unfortunately, killed himself so he wasn't
7 there to give any evidence, and a couple of things
8 he was acquitted for because one of the boys -- Joseph's
9 brother had said when they went to see him in 1996, he
10 said, I don't know, it never happened because I think
11 he's ashamed or whatever, so they acquitted Joe Duffy
12 for those.

13 Then there were two other people, but they acquitted
14 them in the trial as well. I don't know why they done
15 that. The judge had said that.

16 LADY SMITH: What was the age gap between you and Joe Duffy?

17 A. I would have been 13 and Joe Duffy was 26. He was
18 13 years older than me.

19 LADY SMITH: 13 years older than you?

20 A. Yes.

21 MR MacAULAY: But he was convicted of serious offences and
22 he was sent to prison for a long time?

23 A. Yes, he was convicted for 12 years.

24 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about your life after care.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You've already touched on that in relation to your
2 dealings with Joseph Duffy. You have, I think, managed
3 to get on with your life?

4 A. Oh yeah, I've got a great life.

5 Q. We won't go into the detail, but you run your own
6 business; is that correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Insofar as the impact of being in care, can you help me
9 with that? What would you say the impact has been?

10 A. The impact of care is that you are ashamed of yourself.
11 You're always being brought up that you're useless.
12 Nuns -- Nazareth House was great for telling you how
13 you'd never achieve anything, how bad you were and how
14 it was your fault you were there and you were worthless.
15 So they put a great onus on that and that's obviously to
16 keep you down. But unfortunately for them, I've got
17 a brain in my head and I'm quite driven, which I didn't
18 realise. I just thought, you know, this is not my
19 fault, I wasn't here because of anything I done wrong.
20 I was a child, I was put there because my parents messed
21 up for whatever reason; that was their problem.

22 I never told anybody for a long, long time that
23 I was in care. I am quite a -- I'm an independent
24 person but I'm also a bit of a loner. I don't let
25 people into my life very easily. I've worked really,

1 really hard and I was going to say -- I did lie to
2 people when I'd go to jobs and stuff like that -- not
3 lie as in make things up, but when they'd ask about your
4 parents and stuff and I'd say, oh yeah, my mum died when
5 I was a kid and my dad's there. I would never get into
6 it. If they were having conversations they would and
7 saying they'd done this with their parents, I just
8 wouldn't get involved in it unless they pushed me. You
9 would say, oh, I done this or that, not lies, but we
10 went to Girvan, but you'd say I went with my parents
11 rather than the children's home.

12 It makes you a bit ashamed of who you are because
13 you don't want to be different from people and you don't
14 want them to know that you had such a rubbish childhood,
15 because people, unfortunately, judge you. The minute
16 they hear you were brought up in care they think you're
17 a thief, they think that you have done something wrong,
18 that you were there for a reason. So people don't take
19 you as they find you. Your first impressions count,
20 isn't it, so you've got to try and make a good
21 impression so people will allow you to interact in their
22 life. If you tell them you're in care, they would shut
23 the door on you.

24 Q. But do you have thoughts of your time in Nazareth House?
25 Do you think back to those times?

1 A. Yes, a lot of times. Recently, I was in France skiing
2 with my friends and we were in the -- they've got
3 a villa and we were there. They've got a daughter who's
4 12 and a son who's 14. I watched them two playing,
5 I watched them laughing and stuff, and you just think
6 wow. It dawned on me that I was that wee girl's age
7 when Joe Duffy started. That, it kind of blew me away
8 because I just thought wow. I watched and they were
9 throwing snowballs at each other and falling over and
10 racing and stuff. So it has a huge impact.

11 You look back -- you know, I look at people with
12 kids and you see how happy people are and stuff, so
13 yeah, you think back a lot and you think wow. So yeah,
14 you do.

15 You know, obviously this has all been over the
16 newspapers and stuff and it brings it all back.
17 I personally don't let it drag me down because it's in
18 the past -- and I don't hate the nuns, I don't hate
19 Joseph Duffy, because if you carry hate about with you,
20 that becomes who you are. I leave it behind me because
21 I want to be happy, I don't want to be lugging all that
22 hard, sad baggage about with me. You get one life and
23 you've got to try and make the best of it.

24 So yeah, I do think about it, but I try and not
25 think about it. I try and look at it sometimes as

1 positive, that if I hadn't been there, I might not be as
2 driven and as strong a person as I am now. So you've
3 got to try and look at the good bits out of it, if there
4 are any.

5 Q. You do say that you do have bad dreams.

6 A. Yes, at night and stuff you'll dream about things and
7 stuff.

8 Q. Is that about nuns?

9 A. About nuns. It's like the Catholic Church, I am so
10 anti-Catholic Church and that's quite sad because
11 I shouldn't feel that angst against them. When people
12 are telling me to go to chapel, I'd be like ...
13 I shouldn't feel that, you know. I don't have a lot of
14 good to say about them, which is sad because they do so
15 much good in the world, but my experience of them,
16 there's been no good. They've not really done me proud
17 in any shape or form. So yeah, I do have a lot of
18 things that way, but you try and rationalise it and put
19 it away.

20 Q. Under the heading "Lessons to be learned" in your
21 statement -- and I think you may have covered this
22 in the main already -- one of the things you say at
23 paragraph 144 is:

24 "The whole ethos towards the kids was to keep them
25 down and treat them as if they weren't human beings."

1 A. Mm-hm.

2 Q. Is that your --

3 A. Yes. I genuinely believe that. I think, looking back
4 as an adult, if you've got 20 or 30 kids in a group,
5 what is the best way to keep them controlled? It's to
6 keep them down and demoralise them and break their
7 spirit. I genuinely believe that that's what they did.
8 I don't think they wanted little individuals blossoms or
9 whatever; I think they just wanted you to do as you're
10 told and just be there. If they could have taken our
11 batteries out and just had us sitting, that would have
12 been very convenient for them, and unfortunately they
13 can't do that.

14 Q. What you say at paragraph 145 is:

15 "We can't change the past but we must be more
16 careful who is employed and make it harder for people to
17 be left alone."

18 A. I think, yeah, I think they've got a lot of lessons to
19 learn. I work with kids and we're all PVG checked,
20 we've got all our qualifications and stuff like that.
21 We're very careful about who we let in. That should
22 have happened. You don't -- people unfortunately --
23 there are bad people in the world and you should presume
24 that when you've got kids, you should presume that --
25 why do these people want to work with kids? That makes

1 you negative, but you should do that and make sure that
2 before you allow that person to be there, that you have
3 thoroughly looked under every stone and made sure that
4 they are squeaky clean and that the reason for them
5 wanting to do it -- see, if somebody wants to work with
6 kids just for money and it's just a job, I don't think
7 they should be working with kids.

8 You've got to have an affinity, to want to nurture
9 them and I think Nazareth House and Smyllum -- and even
10 the Catholic Church -- have got to look at that and move
11 forward on that, you know, and think: why do we want to
12 be in this environment? Well, we want these kids to
13 flourish. I think they've got a lot of lessons to
14 learn.

15 MR MacAULAY: Okay. Well, thank you for that, Olive.

16 Thank you for your evidence.

17 I have asked all the questions I think I require to
18 ask of you, and unless there are more questions,
19 my Lady, I think that would finish Olive's evidence.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Are there any outstanding
21 applications for questions? No.

22 Olive, there are no more questions for you. It
23 simply remains for me to thank you very much indeed for
24 coming forward and giving us your statement, covering
25 both your experiences in Smyllum and Nazareth House

1 Cardonald, and coming look today to talk specifically
2 about Nazareth House.

3 As Mr MacAulay indicated, what you've provided for
4 us in terms of evidence regarding Smyllum will certainly
5 not be ignored and it will be taken into account in the
6 context of our Smyllum case study. So thank you for
7 that. I'm now able to let you go.

8 A. Okay, thank you.

9 (The witness withdrew)

10 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

11 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, that's now 12.45, it's a little bit
12 earlier than we would normally finish, but the next
13 witness is due in for 2 o'clock.

14 LADY SMITH: Very well. We'll rise now and sit again at
15 2 o'clock.

16 (12.43 pm)

17 (The lunch adjournment)

18 (2.00 pm)

19 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. Mr MacAulay.

20 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is an applicant who
21 wants to remain anonymous and she wants to use the name
22 "Christina" in giving her evidence.

23 "CHRISTINA" (affirmed)

24 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself
25 comfortable -- are you cold?

1 A. No, I'm ...

2 LADY SMITH: There is a bit of a cold draught. We can try
3 and stop that. Let me know if you are because it does
4 vary a bit.

5 I think you've picked up that the microphone in
6 front of you -- it's important you keep using the
7 microphone both so that everybody right at the back can
8 hear you, but the stenographers work through the
9 microphone system and they need to be able to pick up
10 everything you're saying.

11 Mr MacAulay.

12 Questions from MR MacAULAY

13 MR MacAULAY: Hello, Christina.

14 A. Hello, Mr MacAulay.

15 Q. I don't want your date of birth, I just want to know
16 what year you were born in. Were you born in 1969?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. In the red folder, you'll find your statement. I'll
19 give the reference for the transcript and that's
20 WIT.001.001.4264. If I could ask you to turn to the
21 very last page, that's at 4285, can I ask you just to
22 confirm, Christina, that you signed the statement?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. Do you say in the last paragraph:

25 "I have no objection to my witness statement being

1 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry"?

2 Is that right?

3 A. That's correct, yes.

4 Q. And do you also say:

5 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
6 statement are true."

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. I'll be asking you questions essentially based on your
9 statement. If I ask a question about something that you
10 can't remember, just say that you can't remember.

11 Likewise, if something comes to mind because of what
12 I've asked you that you haven't mentioned before, just
13 feel free to tell us. Do you understand that?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Before you went into care, I think you lived with your
16 family in Glasgow; is that right?

17 A. That's right.

18 Q. As I understand it, you were the oldest of a number of
19 children; is that correct?

20 A. The eldest of three children.

21 Q. You had a sister who was about 18 months younger than
22 you?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And a brother who was perhaps about three years younger?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Taking this shortly, you had a fairly troubled family
2 background; would that be fair to say?

3 A. Yes, that's correct.

4 Q. And I think in fact there was some social work
5 involvement in particular; is that right?

6 A. That's right, yes.

7 Q. At a point in time, because of that background, were you
8 taken to Nazareth House in Cardonald?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Do you yourself remember what age you might have been
11 when you first went there?

12 A. I think I was 8. I'm pretty certain I was 8.

13 Q. According to records that the inquiry has seen that have
14 been produced by the Sisters of Nazareth, you were first
15 admitted on [REDACTED] 1977 when you would have been
16 about 8 or so. Do you remember if that was the year
17 that you first went into care?

18 A. I can't recall that that was the year; I actually
19 thought it was the following year, in 1978.

20 Q. It's interesting you should say that because, according
21 to the Sisters of Nazareth records, you were really only
22 in care in Nazareth House Cardonald for just over
23 a month, because according to the records you left on
24 [REDACTED] 1977. I understand that doesn't accord with
25 your own recollection.

- 1 A. No. No, I've got pretty strong memories of being there
2 in 1978.
- 3 Q. Is your memory that you were also admitted in 78 or
4 could you have been admitted before that?
- 5 A. I could have been admitted before it. It's just because
6 of a particular occurrence that I remember in 1978.
- 7 Q. But in relation to the time you spent there, do you have
8 a memory as to how long you were there?
- 9 A. A few months, I would think, yeah, a few months.
- 10 Q. Well, let's then look at what you can remember about
11 being in Nazareth House; that's the one in Cardonald.
12 When you went there at the age of 7 or 8, whatever it
13 might have been, what's your first recollection?
- 14 A. I just remember somebody coming to the school and taking
15 us out of school and being taken to a big building that
16 I thought was quite scary, that had a chapel in the
17 grounds, as I can recall, and being left there by nuns.
- 18 Q. On your first night there, were you taken to
19 a particular place where you had to sleep?
- 20 A. Yes, it was like a dormitory and it was only females
21 that were in it.
- 22 Q. When you went to Nazareth House, did your younger sister
23 and brother go with you?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. So your brother, who was about three years younger than

- 1 you, he would have been about 4 or 5?
- 2 A. That's correct, yes.
- 3 Q. When you went to your dormitories then, were you with
4 your sister when you were in the dormitory or were you
5 with other people?
- 6 A. I can't remember my sister being in the same dormitory
7 as me, but I know there was other people in the
8 dormitory.
- 9 Q. Can you remember how many beds there were in the
10 dormitory?
- 11 A. No, I couldn't tell you. I think -- I don't know. More
12 than half a dozen, but I couldn't tell you exactly how
13 many.
- 14 Q. What about your younger brother? Do you know where he
15 went in that first night?
- 16 A. He went to another dormitory -- I'm sure it was on the
17 same floor because I heard him crying, so it couldn't
18 have been too far away.
- 19 Q. Let's just look at that. You heard your younger brother
20 crying?
- 21 A. Mm-hm.
- 22 Q. Was that at some point during the night?
- 23 A. Yes, during the first night, yeah.
- 24 Q. And did you do something?
- 25 A. Yeah, I went along the corridor and went into the room

- 1 that he was in and got into bed beside him to comfort
2 him.
- 3 Q. Can you remember how many beds there were in that room?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. But there were other beds in the room?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Did anything happen then after that?
- 8 A. Yes, I got into bed with my brother, to comfort him, and
9 the nun came into the room and dragged him physically
10 through the bed and said I was dirty and a slut and that
11 what was I doing in the bed with my brother, and you
12 didn't sleep in the same bed as boys and that type of
13 thing. They dragged me out of the bed and physically
14 beat me.
- 15 Q. Just to be clear, had you fallen asleep or had you been
16 in the bed for long? What was the position?
- 17 A. No, I don't think I was in the bed for long. I think
18 possibly my brother's crying attracted the attention --
19 although I heard him crying all the time, I don't know.
20 I don't know to tell you the truth. I just remember my
21 brother being upset and going to him and trying to
22 comfort him.
- 23 Q. In any event you say this nun dragged you out of the
24 bed, is that right?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. What did she do to you?
- 2 A. She slapped me and she beat me. As I say, she called me
3 names. We were called names all the time -- it was
4 things I hadn't heard before.
- 5 Q. What sort of names were you called?
- 6 A. Slut, Jezebel, harlot, spawn of the devil. I couldn't
7 say exactly what I was called that night, but things
8 like that. We were called that type of thing all the
9 time.
- 10 Q. When you said she beat you, what did she do to you?
- 11 A. She dragged me out of the bed and she was slapping me
12 and physically -- and punching me about the body and
13 dragging me by the hair. I remember getting dragged out
14 of the room.
- 15 Q. And where were you taken to?
- 16 A. I don't know if that was the night I was made to stand
17 in the corridor all night or ... I can't remember,
18 I just remember being upset and her physically
19 assaulting me and being taken out of the room and my
20 brother being really upset.
- 21 Q. This was a nun who did this to you?
- 22 A. Mm.
- 23 Q. Had you met the nun in the course of the day before or
24 not?
- 25 A. I had seen her. She seemed to some sort of position in

1 authority within the convent, although she wasn't the
2 Mother Superior.

3 Q. Do you know her name?

4 A. I think her name was Sister LHZ yeah. We called her
5 "the big sister" or "big sister" because to me she was
6 quite tall and I think the other kids called her that as
7 well, "the big sister" or "big sister".

8 Q. Was she somebody you came across later on as well when
9 you were in Nazareth House?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. If we then jump ahead a little bit, when you went in
12 there, were you put into a particular group?

13 A. I can't remember, to tell you the truth.

14 Q. But can I ask you this: were you together with your
15 sister and your brother when you were there?

16 A. I remember seeing them at mealtimes and also I went to
17 school with my sister -- my sister and I went to primary
18 school together. So I remember seeing them. But
19 I don't think that we were in the same group or
20 anything. I don't think I saw a lot of my brother and
21 sister apart from when we were going to school or at
22 mealtimes. I can't remember everything.

23 Q. Okay. Was there a sister in charge of any group that
24 you might have been part of?

25 A. I don't know. I can't remember.

- 1 Q. You've mentioned Sister LHZ
- 2 A. Uh-huh.
- 3 Q. Was Sister LHZ someone who featured quite a bit?
- 4 A. Yes, she featured quite a bit. I don't know if she was
- 5 supervising our area or whatever, but the particular
- 6 nun, she was about -- round about quite a lot, aye.
- 7 Q. Do you remember the names of any of the other nuns who
- 8 featured so far as you were concerned?
- 9 A. Sister LGD and I think there was
- 10 a Sister LGC but as I've explained before, I had
- 11 nuns that taught me at school and I've also been to
- 12 residential school for a number of weeks where there was
- 13 nuns and I don't know if all these nuns' names that
- 14 I recall are actually from Nazareth House or from other
- 15 instances that have happened in my life.
- 16 Q. But Sister LHZ is somebody you can focus on being
- 17 there when you were there?
- 18 A. Aye, uh-huh.
- 19 Q. Can I look at some aspects of the routine with you.
- 20 Let's look at the mornings. When you woke up in the
- 21 mornings, what was the regime?
- 22 A. Well, we got up about -- I think it was about 6.30 and
- 23 we would have to make our beds and get washed and what
- 24 have you. I can remember a few chores in the morning.
- 25 I know we had breakfast before we went to school and we

1 had to leave for school quite early and walk along to
2 school.

3 Q. You do tell us a little bit about bed-wetting in your
4 statement. Was there some procedure in connection with
5 bed-wetting?

6 A. If you wet the bed, they really made you feel ashamed,
7 called you pishy. They checked the beds when you got
8 out of bed in the morning. You were asked to pull your
9 covers right back -- in fact, that has just come to me
10 this minute that that's what they did. They would pull
11 your covers right back so they could have a look at
12 them. If you had wet the bed, then they ridiculed you.
13 They just shouted at you and called you pishy and made
14 you stand in the middle of room. I can remember being
15 made to hold my sheets up so everybody could see I had
16 wet them.

17 Sometimes they made you just -- you'd sleep in the
18 wet sheets for days at a time or they would be dry but
19 they would be smelling of urine.

20 They would slap you with a sandshoe. If you didn't
21 want to wet the bed -- and on some occasions when I wet
22 the bed, I wouldn't get up through the night if I wet
23 the bed, I would just lie in the bed, in the wet, in the
24 hope that maybe it would dry by the morning and they
25 wouldn't notice it.

1 Q. Were you a regular bed-wetter?

2 A. Not before I went in there.

3 Q. But when you were there?

4 A. Uh-huh.

5 Q. So this treatment you've described something, was this
6 something that happened to you on a regular basis?

7 A. Yes. And other people as well, other children, aye.

8 Q. In relation to standing with the sheets, just tell me,
9 where would you stand with the sheets?

10 A. In the middle of the dormitory (indicating).

11 Q. And you're holding your arms up in the air.

12 A. Yeah, with the sheets, and in my nightdress, which would
13 still be wet.

14 Q. But you'd be wearing your nightdress at that time?

15 A. Mm.

16 Q. What about other children? Would there be more than one
17 child then doing this if more had wet the bed?

18 A. It was anybody that had wet the bed. And -- I don't
19 know. There was other people that wet the bed. I don't
20 know, but I really remember what happened to me more
21 than what happened to them.

22 Q. What about physical punishment? What happened to you
23 physically?

24 A. Oh, I'd get set about with a sandshoe. We had sandshoes
25 that we used to wear indoors. I'd get slapped about the

1 head and what have you.

2 I can remember a nun on an occasion, I don't know
3 how -- I think this is maybe why I started hiding the
4 bed-wetting -- I think that must have been the first
5 time they dragged me out of bed in the middle of the
6 night when I said I'd wet it and battered me with
7 a sandshoe and rosary beads or something that was
8 hanging from their belt and stood me in the corridor and
9 I'm sure I stood in the corridor for most of the night.

10 Q. Who did that to you?

11 A. One of the nuns. I can't remember for certain if it was
12 Sister [REDACTED], but it was one of the nuns.

13 Q. Apart from nuns, were there other people involved in the
14 home, and by that I mean laypeople who worked there?

15 A. Yes. There were people who came in as volunteers. They
16 did bits of gardening and handiwork, things like that.
17 There was never any privacy, they just wandered wherever
18 they wanted to wander, even if you were in the bath or
19 whatever, the toilet, getting ready, whatever. You
20 couldn't say, "Don't look at me, shut the door", they
21 wanted to see what you were doing all the time. There
22 was nowhere to hide and there was nowhere to be private.

23 Q. I've been asking you about what happened in the
24 mornings. At a point in time what would you have to do
25 with the sheets? What would happen to the sheets?

- 1 A. They went in a big laundry basket in the middle, but
2 I think we all took turns washing them. I seem to
3 recall it was us who washed the wet sheets that were
4 covered in urine -- I don't know where I would have
5 washed them but I see to recall it was us that washed
6 the sheets because it was our mess, we were filthy,
7 we were dirty, we were pishy, we were to clean up our
8 own mess.
- 9 Q. Would this happen before breakfast?
- 10 A. Yes, you wouldn't get breakfast. If you peed your
11 sheets you were highly unlikely to get breakfast.
- 12 Q. Why was that?
- 13 A. You were too busy doing whatever you had to do with the
14 sheets and you were stood in the floor being ridiculed
15 and I suppose it was some kind of punishment.
- 16 Q. Well, let's then look to bedtime. You've been telling
17 us about the mornings. Can you remember what time
18 bedtime was at when you were there?
- 19 A. No. I would be lying if I said I could remember exactly
20 when it was.
- 21 Q. Was there any procedure at bedtime that you had to
22 comply with?
- 23 A. Just you went when you were told. That was it. I can't
24 remember -- I don't think everybody went to bed at the
25 same time. I don't know if that was staggered because

1 of ages but I think that people that were particular
2 favourites got to stay up. I don't know exactly what
3 time I went to my bed, but I can remember going to bed
4 earlier than other people.

5 Q. Did you have to lie in bed in a particular way?

6 A. Yes. I still lie that way to this day.

7 Q. Can you describe it to us?

8 A. They told us to lie with our arms crossed, across our
9 chest -- and I always used to pull my knees up and turn
10 to the side as well, and they told us it was so that we
11 couldn't be dirty and touch ourselves. I didn't know
12 what they were talking about, that it was dirty to touch
13 yourself, but as time went on, to me it was merely
14 a protection because if people came into the room and
15 they tried to touch you under the covers -- and I mean
16 other kids would do this as well -- if you had your
17 hands over your chest and your knees tight together and
18 up towards the chest, it was hard for them to get access
19 to your private parts.

20 Q. Did people come into the room to try and touch you?

21 A. I don't know. I don't know why I said that there. It
22 just came into my mind.

23 Q. Okay. But you were told that's how you were to lie in
24 bed?

25 A. Aye.

- 1 Q. Did you do that?
- 2 A. I still do it.
- 3 Q. Can you remember who it was that told you to lie in bed
4 in that way?
- 5 A. No, I think all the nuns told you to lie like that.
6 I don't know. I just remember always we had to lie like
7 that and that was why they said that it was dirty to
8 touch yourself and that type of things.
- 9 Q. Can I ask you about washing and bathing. As far as
10 bathing is concerned, can you tell me what the routine
11 was if you were to have a bath?
- 12 A. I think we went for baths on certain nights, certain
13 people went for baths on certain nights, as far as I can
14 remember. The water wasn't very warm, the baths were
15 quite old and deep and cold, as I can remember. We
16 didn't get a bath all the time. I don't know how often
17 it was. I don't know if it was once a week or whatever.
18 But people would be wandering in and out putting up
19 towels or whatever, laundry. The toilet door wasn't
20 shut when you were in the bath or anything. Anybody
21 could see what you were doing or could wander in and
22 out.
- 23 Q. Did people wander in and out?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. What people are you talking about, nuns or lay staff?

1 A. Lay staff as well as nuns. People would come in and out
2 and pick up laundry or things or we would need put our
3 laundry in baskets and we would come out and take
4 baskets or whatever. People would just wander about and
5 I didn't know what any of them did. But they weren't
6 all nuns; some were ordinary people.

7 Q. So far as the baths were concerned, how many baths were
8 there? Can you remember?

9 A. No, I can't remember, but I don't think it was one bath
10 in the bathroom. When I think about it -- that's the
11 first time anybody's ever asked me that. No, I can't
12 really remember.

13 Q. Well, can I ask you about mealtimes and the food.
14 What's your recollection as to what the food was like?

15 A. The food wasn't very good. I think we got porridge
16 in the morning, if I can remember rightly. I think
17 that's what we got in the morning, porridge. The food
18 wasn't of a good standard. It was plain food. Just ...
19 You had to eat it. There was no ifs and buts about it:
20 you had to eat what was in front of you.

21 Q. What if you weren't able to eat it?

22 A. They forced you to eat it.

23 Q. How would that be done?

24 A. They grabbed your jaw, forced your mouth open and forced
25 you to eat it.

- 1 Q. Who would do that?
- 2 A. The nuns, whoever was around at mealtimes.
- 3 Q. Did that happen to you?
- 4 A. No, but it happened to my brother.
- 5 Q. And what was his reaction to that?
- 6 A. He was crying and screaming and I'm sure I went to them
7 and said something about it or tried to do something
8 about it and got punished myself for it. He was my wee
9 brother, he was only 3 or 4, and I think he was being
10 sick because they were trying to force it in his mouth.
- 11 Q. You have mentioned already that you may not have been in
12 the same group as your brother but you can't remember.
13 What sort of contact did you have with your brother and
14 your sister?
- 15 A. I went to school with my sister -- people went to the
16 same school, so I saw her every day. My brother, I can
17 only remember seeing him at mealtimes and I remember,
18 I think, one Saturday my mum was supposed to be coming
19 to visit and we were all together around table waiting
20 in a room for my mum to come and visit, but I don't
21 think she came. I don't think she came that day.
- 22 Q. You tell us at one point in your statement that you came
23 home from school one day with a brown envelope.
- 24 A. Mm-hm.
- 25 Q. And that was to do with the healthcare that you had at

- 1 the home. Can you tell me what that was about?
- 2 A. I didn't realise at the time what it was about when the
3 school nurse handed me the brown envelope. When I got
4 took in and I gave the brown envelope to the nuns,
5 a particular nun, she called me filthy and dirty. They
6 scrubbed my head with a scrubbing brush. When I look
7 back on it I think I got head lice. I think that's why
8 I got a letter from the school nurse, because I got head
9 lice, and I got called dirty and filthy and scrubbed
10 with soap and what have you because I had got this brown
11 envelope.
- 12 Q. Do you know who did that to you? Who was that?
- 13 A. No, I couldn't tell you what particular nun it was.
- 14 Q. Apart from having your head scrubbed in the way you
15 described, did anything else happen to you?
- 16 A. About the brown envelope?
- 17 Q. Yes.
- 18 A. Not that I can remember, no. Just punished for being
19 dirty and just what they always did.
- 20 Q. Can I ask you other questions about how you were treated
21 in your time at Nazareth House. You've already told us
22 that there were certain names that you'd be called;
23 is that right?
- 24 A. That's correct, aye.
- 25 Q. What were the situations that would cause a nun to call

- 1 you that sort of name?
- 2 A. Well, I had always been used to looking after my wee
3 brother and my wee sister, so if I stuck up for
4 somebody, if I was insolent or answered back, just
5 anything. I mean, they expected you to just be obedient
6 all the time and in a place with that many kids and that
7 many things going on, you couldn't be obedient all the
8 time. You tried to be obedient all the time, but even
9 just laughing too loudly, anything at all -- I don't
10 know, they were always having a go at us physically,
11 beating us for the least excuse and calling us dirty
12 names.
- 13 Q. If you're looking at a physical beating, can you just
14 give me some insight into what that might involve? What
15 would happen to you?
- 16 A. I've been punched and knocked off my feet physically.
17 I remember -- and I don't know if all the sisters had
18 them, but I think it was Sister LHZ in particular had
19 a big set of wooden rosary beads or keys or something --
20 it might have been rosary beads and keys -- around her
21 waist and she used to swing them and hit you with them
22 and it would quite often be the buttocks or the legs
23 or -- dead, dead early it was the face, but quite often
24 you would get dragged by the hair and -- aye, it was
25 like getting beaten by a grown person.

- 1 Q. Would these beatings leave any marks?
- 2 A. Aye, bruises and things, but nobody ever said anything
3 about them.
- 4 Q. When that happened, would other people see what was
5 happening?
- 6 A. Aye, they didn't bother to hide it from the other kids
7 or anybody round about. No, they didn't.
- 8 Q. Did you see other children being beaten in that way?
- 9 A. Aye, I saw other children being beaten in that way.
- 10 Q. How often were you beaten in the way you've described?
- 11 A. Quite regularly. Never a week went past when you
12 weren't beaten a couple of times for something. It was
13 a regular occurrence.
- 14 Q. You've mentioned Sister **LHZ** and I think you are saying
15 she was one of the people who was involved in that. But
16 do you say there were other nuns as well?
- 17 A. Aye, definitely other nuns.
- 18 Q. What about the lay staff? Did they get involved in this
19 behaviour?
- 20 A. I can't remember too much, really, about the lay staff.
21 I just remember them wandering in and out. I can't
22 remember any particular experience myself, but I've got
23 a lot of difficulty in recalling what happened because
24 I suffer from PTSD, so sometimes I won't recall things
25 unless there's a trigger or I've had a nightmare, and

1 then things will come back to me that I've not
2 remembered previously.

3 Q. One thing you do tell us about in your statement is
4 about [REDACTED] LJE

5 A. Mm-hm.

6 Q. There was a particular behaviour that involved him which
7 I think you tell us about in your statement. Can you
8 tell us what happened there?

9 A. It was because I had my -- ran away, which sounds daft,
10 but -- are you talking about what he did to me?

11 Q. I think you ran away and I'll come to that shortly, but
12 before that did you have some involvement with this boy.

13 A. Aye. Mm-hm. He was [REDACTED] LJE quite
14 cruel. When I think about it now, he used to quite
15 often bully me at mealtimes.

16 Q. How old was he do you think?

17 A. Maybe 13 or 14 then.

18 Q. You're talking about -- you'd be, what, 7 or 8?

19 A. That's right.

20 Q. What would he do to you?

21 A. Well, if I had bobbles in my hair, he would pull them
22 out. He was quite cruel -- not just to me, to other
23 kids as well. If I had bobbles in my hair, he would
24 pull them out and I would chase him to get them. And
25 we would go into a quiet area and a few times he put the

1 bobble around his penis and told me if I wanted it,
2 I was to take it off his penis. So we didn't have
3 much -- a bobble was a big deal. It might not be now,
4 but it was to us then because we didn't have anything in
5 the world. So if I wanted it, I had to take it off his
6 penis because I suppose he got some kind of thrill from
7 that.

8 Q. Was this evident to other people that this behaviour was
9 going on?

10 A. It was evident that he bullied us because he did at the
11 dining table, but I don't know if it was evident about
12 the sexual harassment and that type of thing.

13 I couldn't say if it was. But what I can say is that
14 the nuns didn't -- there was a lot of it went on with
15 kids, bullying and older boys touching younger -- and
16 that type of thing, and I don't really think the nuns
17 bothered too much about it.

18 Q. I'll come on to someone you did tell, but did you tell
19 any of the nuns about this particular type of sexual
20 behaviour you've been telling us?

21 A. Aye, I think I did, but you were always just called
22 a liar and you were making trouble and not to tell lies
23 or you were a slut or a whore and it was your fault that
24 you done some type of thing to encourage it, that type
25 of thing.

- 1 Q. I think you tell us about an episode when you went to
2 confession and you told [REDACTED] LHS some things at
3 confession; is that right.
- 4 A. That's correct, yes.
- 5 Q. Can you tell me about the first time you told a priest?
- 6 A. The first time I told [REDACTED] LHS, I told him about the
7 nuns, about them hitting us and dragging us out of bed
8 and maltreating us. I can't even remember what he said
9 to me, I can't remember specifically, but what I can
10 remember is a day or two later the nuns knew what I had
11 told him. He'd obviously told the nuns what I had told
12 him.
- 13 Q. So what happened?
- 14 A. The nuns called me a liar, said nobody would believe me,
15 I was a wee slut, I was this, I was that, I was spawn of
16 the devil -- that was another favourite one -- that
17 I was to keep my mouth shut, nobody would believe me,
18 what they did.
- 19 Q. Did you receive any physical punishment?
- 20 A. Oh aye, the usual. I feel as if I'm constantly saying
21 the same thing to you about what they did to us, but it
22 was always like (indicating).
- 23 Q. You're motioning with your hand from side to side in a
24 sort of --
- 25 A. That's the crucifix and the keys that they would slap

1 you with. Quite often they did that with something that
2 was around their waist.

3 Q. You went back to confession?

4 A. I did.

5 Q. And on this occasion you had something you were going to
6 give to [REDACTED] LHS ; is that right?

7 A. I drew him a picture.

8 Q. What was the picture?

9 A. The chapel next to Nazareth House, the wee chapel next
10 to Nazareth House in the grounds. I've never been back
11 to Nazareth House but in my mind's eye I can see
12 a chapel to the right of Nazareth House when you got up
13 to the end of the drive. That was what I drew a picture
14 of.

15 Q. I should have asked you this: where was the
16 confessional, where were you going to confession?

17 A. When we came out of Nazareth House, we turned right and
18 walked along the road, which I assume was Paisley Road
19 West, and then we turned right somewhere along the road
20 and that was where the school and the chapel was and it
21 was Our Lady of Something, but I can't remember the full
22 name of it.

23 Q. So that's possibly the local parish church?

24 A. I think it would have been, yeah, next to the school.

25 Q. That's where you went for confession, but I think

1 Nazareth House had its own chapel.

2 A. It did.

3 Q. On this occasion you went to confession and you had this
4 picture of the Nazareth House chapel with you; is that
5 right?

6 A. Mm-hm.

7 Q. Did you draw the picture yourself?

8 A. I did, aye.

9 Q. What was your intention behind doing that?

10 A. Because I wanted somebody to like me. I wanted somebody
11 to praise me for something, I suppose, and show us some
12 attention, some positive attention for a change,
13 I suppose.

14 Q. Can you tell me what happened?

15 A. Well, I went to confession and said the usual, "Forgive
16 me, Father, for I have sinned", and about lying to the
17 nuns or not doing what I'm told and what have you. As
18 far as I could remember, after the confession was done,
19 I told him I had a picture for him and then in the
20 confessional box there was a kind of grille that
21 separates the two doors where you go in. I don't know
22 how but he ended up in the part of the confessional that
23 I was in. I was showing him the picture and he was
24 saying it was lovely and he was praising me and what
25 have you.

1 He was behind me and I think he still had the
2 picture in his hand, but I could feel him, his trousers
3 and a (inaudible) cord and I can remember him lifting up
4 my skirt and putting his hands inside my underwear and
5 rubbing himself against me. I don't know if he had
6 lifted his cassock, unzipped his trousers or something,
7 but I remember him rubbing himself against me and
8 I could feel something sticky on my bare legs after
9 that, and that I felt sore down below and I think I seem
10 to recall after it I was bleeding a bit as well. So
11 that's what [REDACTED] LHS [REDACTED] done.

12 Q. Do you remember the name of [REDACTED] LHS [REDACTED] ?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Well, I think you say in your statement that you were
15 bleeding down below --

16 A. Mm-hm.

17 Q. -- and you had to go to the doctor.

18 A. That was when I came out of Nazareth House. I went to
19 the doctor's; they never took me to the doctor's.

20 Q. So what happened when you were in Nazareth House then
21 after this particular incident you're telling us about?
22 Did you tell the sisters?

23 A. Nuh-huh, because they would have said it was my fault
24 and they wouldn't have believed me, and also I've never
25 really admitted this to anybody, but any kind of

1 attention -- anything ... The fact that LHS took
2 an interest in me -- I liked it when they showed an
3 interest in me and I didn't like what he was doing to
4 me, but he kind of made me feel that I wasn't just a wee
5 slut or a ... When I look back then, that was how
6 he was treating me at the time, and I'm ashamed to admit
7 this, I actually liked the interest I was getting from
8 LHS because I thought he cared. I thought he
9 cared about me. He was speaking nicely to me and being
10 kind.

11 LADY SMITH: Would I be right in thinking you decided to
12 draw him a picture of the chapel because, being
13 a priest, you thought the chapel would be what he'd
14 like?

15 A. Mm-hm.

16 LADY SMITH: And that he would like you because you'd drawn
17 him a picture of the chapel?

18 A. Yes.

19 LADY SMITH: Okay.

20 MR MacAULAY: Was this fairly shortly before you left
21 Nazareth House?

22 A. Yes, I think so.

23 Q. You tell us in the statement that you did go to see
24 a doctor.

25 A. After Nazareth House, yes.

- 1 Q. How long after you left?
- 2 A. I don't know. I don't know, but I remember I was on
3 a bike and I'd started bleeding again. I was only about
4 8 or 9, so I wasn't menstruating, I know it wasn't that.
5 I remember my mum saying it was because I must have done
6 something to myself with the bike or something. I went
7 to the doctor's and I can't recall what happened when
8 I went to the doctor's, but I'm sure it'll be in my
9 medical records.
- 10 Q. Did you tell the doctor what had happened with [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED] LHS ?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. But have you had gynaecological problems?
- 14 A. Yes, all my life.
- 15 Q. To what do you relate these gynaecological problems?
- 16 A. I don't know if it's because it happened to me when
17 I was younger, but when I did get examined by
18 a gynaecologist, I had badly scarred fallopian tubes and
19 scarring inside, and I found it really difficult to
20 conceive. I had fertility treatment for a number of
21 years in my early 20s. When I did fall pregnant, my
22 gynaecologist was amazed.
- 23 Q. I think you have one child?
- 24 A. I have one son, yes.
- 25 Q. Going back to the episode with [REDACTED] LHS , did that

1 happen just once so far as you can remember?

2 A. I don't know. That sticks in my mind, that one time

3 when I gave him the picture. I don't know if it went on

4 again after that. I feel as if -- I've undergone

5 therapy just now and I feel there's a lot that's going

6 to come back to me that I'm going to find difficult to

7 deal with that I've shut out of my mind.

8 Q. You did eventually run away --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- and you tell us about that in your statement. Can

11 you tell me about the background because something

12 happened, I think, that you decided, right, I'm leaving.

13 A. It was daft when you think about it, what it is that was

14 the final straw, because after everything that happened

15 with the nuns and [REDACTED] LHS . But I was sitting at the

16 lunch table or dinner table and [REDACTED] LJE

17 [REDACTED] LJE kept hitting me on the head with a spoon,

18 just kept hitting me and hitting me, and I kept asking

19 him to stop it. Obviously there were people supervising

20 in the room at lunchtime and nobody did anything and

21 I just remember getting up off my chair, my chair

22 clattering, and running down the corridor and out of the

23 front door of Nazareth House. I seem to recall people

24 chasing me but I ran down the drive on to the main road

25 and started running along the main road.

- 1 Q. Where did you run to?
- 2 A. I can't remember how far I ran, but I was still on the
3 main road and I stopped at a bus stop and stopped a
4 woman in the street and asked her would she give me the
5 bus fare to get home, a stranger, a woman. And I think
6 she knew where I was from (inaudible) worst home. She
7 gave me the bus fare and saw me on the bus. I think
8 quite a lot of people round about felt sorry for us
9 because they knew we were the convent weans.
- 10 Q. Can you help me with when you think that was then,
11 Christina, when you think you ran away in the way you've
12 described?
- 13 A. I think it was in 1978.
- 14 Q. But any particular time of the year?
- 15 A. It must have been after the summer because -- I've
16 discussed this in my statement -- at school we had
17 undertaken a big project on Argentina. We all did the
18 different countries, because the World Cup was going on
19 that year, and it was all about imports and exports, and
20 I took quite a pride in it, and Argentina won the World
21 Cup that year, but I wasn't at school in the run-up to
22 the World Cup, just before it happened -- the Word Cup
23 is over the summer and when I went back in the August or
24 the September I was heartbroken because they'd given my
25 project away to somebody else in the class. Argentina

- 1 did win the World Cup --
- 2 Q. Is this the school you were at before you went into
3 Nazareth House?
- 4 A. Aye, St Kentigern's. That's how I know I was there in
5 1978.
- 6 Q. Have you reported to anybody what happened to you at
7 Nazareth House?
- 8 A. I told my mum, my uncle and my stepfather when I ran
9 away what had happened to me.
- 10 Q. And what was their reaction?
- 11 A. My mum said she didn't believe me, that I was a dirty,
12 rotten, selfish wee bastard for running away and leaving
13 my brother and sister at the home and she refused to
14 take me back in.
- 15 Q. Did you tell your mother not just about the treatment
16 you received from the nuns but also the sexual abuse?
- 17 A. Yes, mm-hm.
- 18 Q. So she didn't believe you?
- 19 A. Aye. I said she didn't believe me.
- 20 Q. What about your uncle?
- 21 A. My uncle didn't say much. I think he believed me
22 because he took me in, although him and his partner had
23 three sons and only two bedrooms, he took me in so
24 I didn't need to go back to Nazareth House.
- 25 Q. And you didn't go back?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. What about your younger brother and sister? Did they
3 stay on at Nazareth House for a period of time?
- 4 A. Yes. Aye, they stayed in Nazareth House but I don't
5 know how long for.
- 6 Q. Did you have some dealings with them afterwards?
- 7 A. Yeah, when my brother and sister came out the home, my
8 mum let me move back in because I suppose I was the main
9 childcarer and whatever around the house ... So ...
- 10 Q. You've told us about telling your mother and your uncle
11 what had happened. At one point did you go to the
12 police much later on?
- 13 A. Yes, I did. I did. I actually went to the archdiocese
14 to report to them, St Andrew's in the Square in Glasgow.
15 I felt they were very unsympathetic. Didn't even get an
16 apology. There was no follow-up. I phoned them
17 six weeks later and ranted and raved about how they
18 hadn't even been in touch or whatever. Because my
19 mental health was breaking down so much, I started
20 seeing a psychiatrist and she told me about the inquiry
21 and I phoned -- once I started seeing Dr [REDACTED],
22 I phoned last July, or just before that, to talk to the
23 inquiry about it.
- 24 Q. So far as going to the police is concerned, was that
25 something you did in the last couple of years?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And did you tell the police what had happened in
3 connection with [REDACTED] LHS [REDACTED] ?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. What about the other treatment you've told us about, did
6 you tell the police about that?
- 7 A. Yes, I told them about everything.
- 8 Q. Did they take a statement from you?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Do you know what's happened in connection with that?
- 11 A. Well, they were actually out a couple of weeks ago
12 because they lost my medical consent forms and had to
13 ask to see me again. I don't like them coming to the
14 house so I had to arrange to see them somewhere else.
15 They said they don't think -- they're still looking for
16 [REDACTED] LHS [REDACTED], that possibly Sister [REDACTED] LHZ [REDACTED] might have passed
17 away, but not much progress had been made on it, type
18 thing.
- 19 Q. Can I just touch very briefly with you, Christina, on
20 your life after care. Putting it very shortly, you had
21 a fairly disruptive family life --
- 22 A. I did.
- 23 Q. -- after you left care; is that correct?
- 24 A. Uh-huh.
- 25 Q. In that family life, there was violence and alcohol?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Is it the case that your mother in fact was murdered --
- 3 A. That's correct, yes.
- 4 Q. -- in, I think, 2002?
- 5 A. That's correct, yes.
- 6 Q. And they never found who did it?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. But having said all of that, did you yourself go into
- 9 education?
- 10 A. I did. When I eventually gave birth to my son when
- 11 I was 25, he was my world -- too much because I wouldn't
- 12 let anybody near him, I wouldn't let anybody look after
- 13 him, I wouldn't let my family keep him at night,
- 14 I couldn't sleep myself unless I had my hand on his
- 15 chest and I could feel him breathing. So that [REDACTED]
- 16 had a better life than I did, I went back into
- 17 education, he went to school and I went to college and
- 18 on to university and got an honour's degree and
- 19 a masters in education and became a lecturer at the
- 20 college I had studied at. But this was also so I could
- 21 get the school holidays off, weekends off and I didn't
- 22 work nights and nobody had to look after [REDACTED] all
- 23 that type of thing.
- 24 Q. And you tell us that you held that position as lecturer
- 25 for about seven years or so.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. I think eventually you decided to take voluntary
3 redundancy from that; is that right?
- 4 A. That's correct.
- 5 Q. I think that was after the breakdown of your marriage?
- 6 A. Yes. My marriage broke up and I lost my home.
- 7 Q. Again, I don't want to go into the detail of the impact
8 that having been in care might have had on you, but
9 can you summarise what you see the impact of having been
10 in care to be on you?
- 11 A. It's a life wasted, you know. I did try my best when
12 I was bringing [REDACTED] up to make life normal for him.
13 When it all started coming up in the news and then
14 I told my husband what happened to me, and he said he
15 wouldn't have married me if he knew I was like that as
16 if it was my fault. Then I was ashamed to tell other
17 people. But I had a nervous breakdown. I've been
18 cleared unfit for teaching, diagnosed with PTSD. It
19 cost me my marriage, my home, my career. My son's now
20 got social anxiety problems and he's seeing a therapist
21 because he finds it hard to mix with other people
22 because I've wrapped him in cotton wool so much all his
23 days.
- 24 Q. You did mention that you had made some contact with the
25 church --

1 A. Mm-hm.

2 Q. -- in more recent times; is that correct?

3 A. Mm.

4 Q. Who did you make contact with?

5 A. I don't know, but something happened that day, I don't
6 know if I'd seen it or it was something on the news or
7 I'd heard something or read something. I went to the
8 chapel, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception in
9 Maryhill Road. The priest actually there was away and
10 there was an African priest that was there, so he didn't
11 know me. But I was upset and he took me in and gave me
12 a cup of tea. Archbishop Conti was actually there
13 saying a Mass for somebody who had passed away and he
14 came into the chapel and saw me there drinking a cup of
15 tea. I don't know why -- I hadn't been in that chapel
16 for years. I don't know why I went. Then they came in
17 and asked me what was wrong and I kind of started
18 explaining to him and all he said to us is, "Times were
19 different then", and walked out. He didn't even sit
20 down or ask how I was or offer any sympathy or anything.
21 It was the African priest that took me to the
22 archdiocese.

23 Q. Was Archbishop Conti an archbishop at that time?

24 A. I think so; it was only a couple of years ago.

25 Q. And when you say the African priest took you to the

- 1 archdiocese, was that that day?
- 2 A. Aye, but he actually phoned. I was in a bit of a state
3 and I didn't really think much about what was going on.
4 He phoned a parishioner to come and give us a lift down
5 and when I think about it now I don't think that was the
6 right thing to do. That parishioner must have known
7 what was going on, somebody that lived in the same area
8 as me.
- 9 Q. So far as Archbishop Conti is concerned, you started to
10 tell him, did you, about your life in Nazareth House?
- 11 A. Well, I told him that I had been, aye, in Nazareth House
12 and that I'd been abused and he just tried to brush it
13 off. In fact, he couldn't leave fast enough. He didn't
14 even have a cup of tea or anything, he just left.
- 15 Q. Can you remember exactly what he said?
- 16 A. The main thing I can recall him saying is that, "Times
17 were different then, people should move on". To pray.
18 He advised me to pray. I was hysterical, practically.
- 19 LADY SMITH: You said that the African priest phoned
20 a parishioner and you didn't think that was the right
21 thing to do. Can you explain what you're telling us
22 about?
- 23 A. I actually thought, although he was African, and
24 probably wouldn't have known about the way things
25 happened here, I thought he might have -- I don't even

1 know what I think would have happened. When he decided
2 to take me to the archdiocese, I think maybe he should
3 have phoned a taxi or something.

4 LADY SMITH: Oh, he got a parishioner to give you a lift;
5 is that what you're saying?

6 A. Aye.

7 LADY SMITH: Right. Did you know this parishioner?

8 A. I knew his face, but I didn't know him very well, no.

9 LADY SMITH: Did the priest go with you to the archdiocese
10 as well?

11 A. Uh-huh. Aye, he just took us in and dropped us off and
12 that was that.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you. That explains now to me what you
14 were telling us about.

15 MR MacAULAY: Who did you see when you went --

16 A. Two counsellors.

17 Q. Were these ladies, female counsellors?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Did you have some discussions with them?

20 A. I told them what had happened to me and I thought they
21 would -- I don't know what I thought they would do.
22 They said they would inform the police about it and that
23 they would get in touch with another appointment or
24 whatever for me to go back in and see them, although
25 I was really upset. I think they phoned me a taxi to go

1 home. I think they actually phoned me a taxi to go
2 home, but six weeks later, I hadn't heard anything from
3 them. Although they'd taken my number and what have
4 you. That's when I phoned back and I kind of got angry
5 and shouted and what have you. I went back down to see
6 them and took a friend with me and I got angry and
7 shouted and told them they were useless and that
8 I thought they were covering up for the chapel more than
9 helping people.

10 Q. Why do you say that?

11 A. Because -- I don't know why I said that. It was just
12 a feeling I got from them, that they didn't signpost me
13 to any outside agencies. They didn't signpost me to any
14 agencies or anything. Like, when I went there
15 I thought -- I don't know. I don't know what I thought.
16 I thought they would have offered more help than what
17 they did.

18 Q. One thing you do tell us in your statement is that you
19 get flashbacks.

20 A. That's correct, yes.

21 Q. Are these flashbacks to Nazareth House and life there?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Are there any particular episodes of your life in
24 Nazareth House that come back to you?

25 A. When I peed the bed, what happened with [REDACTED], what

1 happened with my brother. These are the things.
2 Sometimes -- I don't know -- if I smell incense or
3 things like that, I get really upset. Certain perfumes,
4 tunes, even music from that time. I don't know.
5 Just ... Aye, things trigger me.

6 Q. Now, you've told us already about the fact that when you
7 went to Nazareth House, you went there with your younger
8 brother and sister. Have you had some conversations
9 with them in more recent times about their experiences?

10 A. I haven't spoken to my brother for 15 years. I speak to
11 my sister; I hadn't spoken to him for a long time. She
12 nearly died. She kind of had a nervous breakdown as
13 well. It's only recently that we've admitted to each
14 other what happened. Although we don't discuss the
15 actual sexual acts, I couldn't -- a family member, my
16 sister, I know she's been abused as well.

17 Q. Sexually abused?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. When she was in Nazareth House?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. But you don't know who by?

22 A. I don't know who by or where it took place, but I know
23 it's happened in Nazareth House. She told me that she'd
24 been abused.

25 Q. The other thing you tell us towards the end of your

1 statement, Christina, is that you hope that the
2 Social Work Department and City Councils are all brought
3 to task as well as the perpetrators of the abuse.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And are you also blaming the social work --

6 A. Yes, certainly.

7 Q. Why is that?

8 A. Because they were supposed to take us from danger.

9 I mean, that's what social work -- obviously, they're
10 taking us away from our mum because she was a threat to
11 our health and they've put us in there and I can't
12 remember them checking to see if we were all right --
13 and obviously this has happened to a lot of kids.
14 People must have complained about this before me. It
15 seems to me they've just shut their ears to what the
16 kids were saying and continued to put children into that
17 home. Obviously, it's been funded by the City Council,
18 hasn't it? And I think that the council and the
19 Social Work Department, and probably the police as well,
20 have got a lot to answer for, aye.

21 Q. One thing you do say towards the end of your statement,
22 Christina, is that you think that children should have
23 a say --

24 A. Yes, definitely.

25 Q. That's your view?

1 A. Aye, definitely, yeah. Maybe if they asked me who I
2 would feel safe with or where I wanted to go. I was
3 just taken and put in Nazareth House. We didn't even
4 know where we were going until we got there. Nobody
5 told us anything.

6 MR MacAULAY: Very well, Christina. Thank you very much
7 indeed for coming to give us your evidence today.

8 My Lady, I think I've asked all the questions that
9 I had to ask unless there are further questions to be
10 asked.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 Are there any outstanding applications for
13 questions? No.

14 Christina, there are no more questions for you this
15 afternoon. It just remains for me to thank you very
16 much for coming to the inquiry, both to give your
17 written statement that we have and for coming along here
18 today to tell us about what happened to you yourself.
19 It's very helpful to me in the work we have to do and
20 I'm grateful for you. I'm now able to let you go.

21 A. Thank you.

22 (The witness withdrew)

23 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

24 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, I think that is it probably for
25 today.

1 Tomorrow the plan had been to have two oral
2 witnesses and I think two read-ins, but in fact one of
3 the oral witnesses can't come tomorrow, so that means
4 that we'll only have one oral witness and I don't think
5 that witness can come before 11 o'clock. So we could
6 perhaps begin tomorrow with a read-in and take it on
7 from there.

8 LADY SMITH: If that would neatly fit in in the hour
9 available, let's do that. I'm going to rise now for
10 today and we'll sit again at 10 o'clock tomorrow
11 morning. Thank you.

12 (3.03 pm)

13 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am
14 on Thursday, 10 May 2018)

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"DONNA" (sworn)1

Questions from MR MacAULAY2

"OLIVE" (sworn)52

Questions from MR MacAULAY52

"CHRISTINA" (affirmed)102

Questions from MR MacAULAY103

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