

**COMMISSION TO INQUIRE INTO CHILD ABUSE**

**HELD AT 145-151 CHURCH STREET, DUBLIN**

**ON THURSDAY, 22ND JULY 2004 - DAY 14**

**BEFORE**

**MR. JUSTICE SEÁN RYAN**

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE INQUIRY**

**ORDINARY MEMBERS:**

**DR. IMELDA RYAN, Consultant Child and Adolescent  
Psychiatrist**

**MR. FRED LOWE, Principal Child Psychologist**

**14**

I hereby certify the  
following to be a true  
and accurate transcript  
of my shorthand notes in  
the above hearing.

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MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION PRESENT

REGISTRAR TO INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE: MR. BRENDAN REIDY

COUNSEL FOR THE COMMISSION: MR. NOEL McMAHON SC  
MR. FRANK CLARKE SC  
MS. KAREN FERGUS BL

Instructed by: MS. FEENA ROBINSON

FOR MR. EUGENE A. TRACEY: NO REPRESENTATION

FOR MR. TOM HAYES: NO REPRESENTATION

FOR SISTER CORNELIA WALSH: MS. KAREN FERGUS BL  
Instructed by Jones & Co.

FOR MR. TOM CRONIN: NO REPRESENTATION

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I N D E X

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THE HEARING CONTINUED AS FOLLOWS ON THURSDAY,  
22ND JULY 2004:

MR. McMAHON: This morning we are  
beginning the evidence of 17: 31  
Mr. Tony Tracey who is a spokesperson for the  
organisation known as "Right of Place".  
Mr. Tracey please.

MR. EUGENE ANTHONY TRACEY, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS 17: 31  
EXAMINED AS FOLLOWS BY MR. McMAHON:

CHAIRMAN: Good morning, Mr. Tracey.

1 Q. MR. McMAHON: Mr. Tracey, do you have  
your notes or do you 17: 32  
require some notes?

A. I do, yes.

2 Q. I think, Mr. Tracey, you have been nominated as a  
representative of the group known as "Right of Place"  
to speak to the Committee in response to questions 17: 33  
which were raised to your organisation on 27th May  
1994?

A. That is correct.

3 Q. I think that you wish to speak to us first of all  
about Right of Place and what sort of an organisation 17: 33  
it is?

A. Right of Place is an organisation that was set up to  
help survivors of institutional abuse. We were  
formed officially on 10th July 1999 as a result



1 primarily from the Taoiseach's apology. I know there  
2 is a man down there who I would imagine is the man  
3 who was instrumental in setting up the group, in the  
4 sense that I went to school with him over 40 years  
5 ago in the same institution and I knew that he was 17: 34  
6 researching various things that happened in these  
7 schools. I know he was in two different schools.  
8 He contacted myself and a few other people with the  
9 view to forming a group to see what could be done to  
10 help the survivors of the schools. So we decided to 17: 34  
11 place an advertisement in the Cork Examiner inviting  
12 survivors of St. Patrick's School, Upton to attend a  
13 meeting in Cork on 10th July.

14 4 Q. This is 10th July 1999?

15 A. 1999, that is correct. We met and we elected a 17: 34  
16 committee and we were mandated by the people to  
17 approach whoever, various government departments,  
18 with a view to securing primarily education because a  
19 lot of us people were lacking in education through no  
20 fault of our own. A lot of us needed counselling and 17: 35  
21 we didn't know how to access it, and it was literally  
22 nonexistent. Housing, social housing situations -  
23 people were living, including myself at the time, in  
24 rat-infested bedsit. We took all of these sort of  
25 situations on board. 17: 35

26 5 Q. And you mentioned that the group was mandated to  
27 approach the Government in relation to concerns,  
28 these concerns?

29 A. That is correct. The committee that was elected



- 1 included some people from Dublin but mostly from  
2 Cork. Noel and myself -- that is Noel Barry, who was  
3 the project leader of our group and the chairman of  
4 our group -- approached the then Minister for  
5 Education, Michael Martin. We went to one of his 17: 35  
6 clinics on a Saturday and explained to him what we  
7 were about. He listened to us and I know he believed  
8 us. He put us in contact with the Secretary General  
9 of the Department of Education.
- 10 6 Q. I think you met with members of the Department of 17: 36  
11 Education?
- 12 A. Yes, we met the Secretary General of the Department  
13 of Education, Mr. John Dennehy. He came to Cork  
14 especially to meet us and we outlined our concerns to  
15 him I will you say now that he did on that day 17: 36  
16 apologise on behalf of the Department for the wrongs  
17 that he knew had taken place in the various schools  
18 around the country. And he said 'My predecessors  
19 knew also and if they didn't know they should have  
20 known.' He then put us in contact with his second in 17: 36  
21 command, Mr. Jack O'Brien, who set up a meeting in  
22 the Department of Education with a view to securing a  
23 building so that we would be able to have educational  
24 classes and possibly bring in counsellors and so  
25 forth. 17: 37
- 26 7 Q. Did you have meetings with other bodies in relation  
27 to the educational aspirations of your group?
- 28 A. We did, yes. As a consequence of meeting the  
29 Department of Education we met with Ray McCarthy of



1 Cork VEC and various other members of the VEC.  
2 They have been a great help to us o down through the  
3 years. In recent years they put in an educational  
4 facilitator, Mr. Pat Sheehan, who helps survivors.

5 8 Q. Perhaps we will come back to how you got along in 17: 37  
6 relation to your objectives in a little while.  
7 If we get back to the time when you have described  
8 meeting with various government representatives and  
9 representatives of Cork VEC. In what year did these  
10 meetings take place in? 17: 37

11 A. 1999.

12 9 Q. Did they facilitate your group to move forward in  
13 relation to the establishment of offices?

14 A. They did, yes.

15 10 Q. When did that come about? 17: 38

16 A. In 1999 after we met with Michael Martin and after  
17 meeting the Secretary General of the Department, we  
18 told the Department it was essential that we would  
19 have a building where we could meet and so forth.  
20 And they advised us to go and look for a building. 17: 38

21 11 Q. And you did that?

22 A. We did that, and after a long hard struggle we  
23 secured a premises in Bishops Street, Unit 4.  
24 It was a derelict building. The building was done up  
25 as best as could be. The day we moved in there we 17: 38  
26 had one broken-down chair, one phone, no heater and  
27 no light.

28 12 Q. Did you buy that building or was the building rented?

29 A. No, it was leased by the Department on our behalf.



1 13 Q. I see. What did the provision of the building allow  
2 you to do?

3 A. It allowed us to help survivors find their feet.  
4 It allowed us to advise them on the Commission at  
5 that time. There was no talk of the Redress Board at 17:39  
6 that time; it was just primarily people who wished to  
7 go in front of the Commission and tell their story.

8 14 Q. Yes?

9 A. It also enabled us to hold evening classes there and  
10 to help people with literacy as I say. 17:39

11 15 Q. Can you help the Committee in relation to how that  
12 building was staffed. How many people were working  
13 there and what were they doing?

14 A. There were six people employed there, three on  
15 full-time job initiative and three on part-time at 17:39  
16 20 hours a week. That was the work compliment of  
17 that office.

18 16 Q. How were they paid?

19 A. We were paid through FAS, basically FAS.

20 17 Q. What kind of work did you do in the beginning from 17:39  
21 that building?

22 A. We set in motion certain programmes for survivors.  
23 You must remember at this time now that the emergence  
24 of abuse in institutions was becoming fairly  
25 prominent and we were being flooded day by day 17:40  
26 by people coming into us, people ringing us, people  
27 faxing us. I didn't know how to use a fax at that  
28 that, but that is beside the point. We got phone  
29 calls from all over the world asking us about the





1 Laffoy Commission. We travelled extensively around  
2 the country and to England. Indeed I went to America  
3 myself with other people. We advised people as much  
4 as we could about the up-coming Laffoy Commission.  
5 People were more than anxious to tell their stories. 17: 40  
6 I know there are people down there from various other  
7 groups who have done great work along with ourselves  
8 and they will give evidence at some stage along the  
9 line. They will tell you that if you walked into a  
10 pub at that time, no matter whether it be twelve 17: 41  
11 o'clock at night or ten o'clock at night and people  
12 knew you, they would come over and they would insist  
13 on telling you their life story. It was pretty  
14 harrowing stuff to be hearing these stories.

15 18 Q. Did you identify needs which you felt could be 17: 41  
16 addressed from your discussions with these people?

17 A. I did, yes.

18 19 Q. What sort of needs did you feel were identified?

19 A. I felt -- when I say that I mean we felt that the  
20 truth had to come out as regards to what happened. 17: 41  
21 You see, the major problem that we as survivors had  
22 and still have to this day are the doubters, the  
23 Doubting Thomases in this society. And until such  
24 time as this Commission makes a decision as to what  
25 happened in these hell holes, there will always be 17: 42  
26 these doubters. I know that when this Commission  
27 gives its finding, whenever it does give its finding,  
28 we will be able to hold up what will now be the Ryan  
29 Report and say 'We were telling the truth; do not



1           doubt us now.' Because the report here, which will  
2           be out, will be an official document. People wished  
3           to have their stories heard by a competent Commission  
4           and to get on with their lives. People sometimes say  
5           to you 'Tony, I would like to tell my story but I           17: 42  
6           can't write or I can't read' and this sort of thing.  
7           As I say, we put in train various educational  
8           facilities.

9    20   Q.    Would you like to describe what you put in train.  
10           You have said various educational facilities and you           17: 42  
11           have mentioned the context of their approach to the  
12           Commission?

13           A.    Yes.

14    21   Q.    I think earlier on you mentioned a difficulty with  
15           education generally which was identified by your           17: 43  
16           group and coming from the various people who were  
17           approaching you. Would you like to talk to the  
18           Committee about what facilities you were in a  
19           position to provide for these people?

20           A.    Yes. We got some funding and we set up a computer           17: 43  
21           facility with computer trainers and we set in place  
22           various classes. Some people have various needs and  
23           some people have various abilities and we encouraged  
24           people to do whichever course they felt was best  
25           suited for themselves.           17: 43

26    22   Q.    Are these educational courses?

27           A.    They are educational courses, yes.

28    23   Q.    How did you learn about the courses which were  
29           available and how did you go about making them



1 accessible to your members?

2 A. We were working in conjunction with Cork VEC at the  
3 time and we asked for an Educational Facilitator to  
4 be put in place to work with our group, which he did,  
5 and he has done a fine job there. This guy would 17: 44  
6 have a university education. He would be able to  
7 assess people to know what sort of work they will be  
8 capable of doing or what courses they would be  
9 capable of doing. Because some people came in and  
10 they felt that maybe they might want to be a rocket 17: 44  
11 scientist and they weren't really up to it.  
12 Then other people who were capable of doing quite  
13 good things - maybe their self-esteem was gone and  
14 they would say 'I can only do this, I can only do  
15 that.' But this guy, our facilitator teased 17: 44  
16 out... (INTERJECTION).

17 CHAIRMAN: Matching people to their  
18 abilities?

19 A. Matching people to their abilities. The work is  
20 marvelous. We have had people go through university 17: 44  
21 and we have had people do various things.  
22 I Honestly in the last five years have seen marvelous  
23 changes in people because of the courses. Not alone  
24 in Right of Place. I have seen them in other  
25 buildings in this town. I have seen beautiful art 17: 45  
26 exhibitions from people who have never painted in  
27 their life and after a few months they make beautiful  
28 paintings. It is amazing what a few  
29 months... (INTERJECTION).



1 CHAIRMAN: What age range of people  
2 were you dealing with,  
3 Mr. Tracey?  
4 A. Pardon?  
5 CHAIRMAN: What age range of people 17: 45  
6 are coming into you.  
7 Roughly speaking give us some picture of that?  
8 A. We have people as young as their late 30s now right  
9 up to the 80s or 90s.  
10 CHAIRMAN: Late 30s? 17: 45  
11 A. Late 30s, yes.  
12 CHAIRMAN: Late 30s upwards?  
13 A. At this stage coming in.  
14 CHAIRMAN: I understand. But at the  
15 time we are talking about I 17: 45  
16 am just trying to match people. I suppose it is  
17 roughly the same, is it?  
18 A. Yes. There would be people in their 40s at that  
19 time. But the age group seems to have gone down now  
20 because people are coming out of various institutions 17: 45  
21 that are still in place in the State now.  
22 CHAIRMAN: 40s and upwards?  
23 A. 40s and upwards, yes.  
24 24 Q. MR. McMAHON: Were you able to or have  
25 you been able to facilitate 17: 46  
26 people into education or have you been providing  
27 education through your services?  
28 A. We are not education providers ourselves but we point  
29 people in the right direction. We help them in any



1 way we can. As you know now, through the Redress  
2 Board there is an educational fund of X amount of  
3 millions which is a great help to people who wish to  
4 continue with their education, and their children as  
5 well.

17: 46

6 25 Q. What sort of areas of education have you managed to  
7 direct people towards?

8 A. As I have already said, if you feel you are capable  
9 and if a facilitator feels you are capable, the sky  
10 is the limit.

17: 46

11 26 Q. I see. There is a range of courses which are  
12 available across the country?

13 A. Across the country, yes. Universities or secondary  
14 schools or even trades or whatever you feel you are  
15 capable of.

17: 47

16 27 Q. Through the office, apart from educational needs,  
17 have there been other needs, perhaps more short-term  
18 needs initially which have been identified and which  
19 your organisation have been in a position to assist  
20 with?

17: 47

21 A. Yes. Through our meetings around the country and  
22 indeed particularly in England, we found that a lot  
23 of survivors had a yearning to come home. A lot of  
24 them ran away out of this country when they were  
25 16 years of age and some of them hadn't been back for  
26 40 years. I won't say they all, but a lot of them  
27 expressed a desire to come home. They didn't know  
28 how to go about it. It formed an idea in our head as  
29 a committee that we would try and do something for

17: 47



1           these people. So we approached the Department of the  
2           Environment and they gave us a grant to build  
3           ten apartments and our offices on the Lower Glanmire  
4           Road solely for repatriation; for people coming back  
5           from England or America and so forth. These are now 17: 48  
6           in operation since last year. They are full and  
7           there is a waiting list. I am not quite sure if it  
8           is 78 or 87 but there is a waiting list there anyway  
9           and people seem to be very, very happy in them

10   28   Q.    What is the name of that enterprise? 17: 48

11           A.    The name of that is "Right of Place Apartments".  
12                We also have another building called "Welcome House"  
13                which predates the apartments. You see, when our  
14                group was going to... (INTERJECTION).

15   29   Q.    We will come back to the Welcome House in a moment. 17: 48  
16                Your were speaking about the repatriation system or  
17                repatriation scheme and the Right of Place  
18                apartments. Can you talk to us a little bit more  
19                about what they provide?

20           A.    They provide a safe haven for people who wish to come 17: 48  
21                back from abroad -- people who are obviously  
22                survivors of institutional abuse -- for a fairly  
23                longish term of residence. They stay with us for  
24                maybe a couple of years until they get established on  
25                a housing list or... (INTERJECTION). 17: 49

26   30   Q.    Is there a maximum length of time over which they can  
27                stay with you?

28           A.    There is but strictly speaking that is at the  
29                discretion of the committee. I mean, we are not



1 going to throw somebody out on the street because the  
2 council won't house them for another six months sort  
3 of thing.

4 31 Q. So here you have a group of apartments available for  
5 people who wish to come back to Ireland? 17: 49

6 A. That is correct. We also keep three of those  
7 apartments for homeless people, if you like, that  
8 went through the system I will have to explain to  
9 you the workings of Welcome House. They are  
10 intertwined in the sense that we might have somebody 17: 49  
11 staying in a small room in Welcome House for a few  
12 weeks... (INTERJECTION)

13 32 Q. Describe Welcome House to us first?

14 A. Welcome House was set up as a result of, again,  
15 people coming over to this country to access the 17: 50  
16 Commission and access their lawyers and so forth.

17 33 Q. Are these people who are coming over to deal with the  
18 business of the Commission?

19 A. That is correct. As you well know, giving evidence  
20 to a commission is and always will be very traumatic 17: 50  
21 for people.

22 34 Q. Yes?

23 A. And we felt that they were coming over and coming up  
24 to the Commission. That is to the confidential side  
25 of the Commission at this stage. They were saying 17: 50  
26 'Thank you very much for your evidence' and they came  
27 out in shock, nowhere to go and no support as such.  
28 So we decided that we would set up a place where they  
29 could come and stay with us for a few days and come



1 back down to us for a few days afterwards in a  
2 relaxed atmosphere, staffed by survivors themselves.  
3 We felt that would be great therapy for people and it  
4 would be a great comfort for them So it evolved.

5 35 Q. How did you go about doing that? 17: 51

6 A. We approached the Department of Health. We explained  
7 our idea. They agreed with it. It took a little bit  
8 of time thinking about it. They gave us the go ahead  
9 to lease a building, which we have done.

10 36 Q. That is a building in Glanmire Road in Cork? 17: 51

11 A. Yes, it was a former Bed & Breakfast and it is run  
12 basically like a Bed & Breakfast.

13 37 Q. How many people can it accommodate?

14 A. It can accommodate, there are 14 bedrooms in it. It  
15 could accommodate I suppose 28 or 30 people maximum. 17: 51

16 38 Q. And you have said it is a place where people who are  
17 accessing the Commission can come for a number of  
18 days before going to the confidential Commission,  
19 or Committee at this point in time, and then they can  
20 return to you after they have given the evidence to 17: 51  
21 that committee?

22 A. That is correct.

23 39 Q. Does it extend to other people as well?

24 A. It does, yes. We have two rooms in that particular  
25 building for homeless people. They stay for a 17: 52  
26 maximum, I am not quite sure, I think it is three  
27 months, while we try and look for private  
28 accommodation or try and get them a flat or an  
29 apartment from a corporation or a council.





1 We find that we have been very, very successful in  
2 accommodating people through this system. We also  
3 have three of the new apartments for the homeless,  
4 and sometimes they graduate from Welcome House into  
5 the apartment building where they can stay with us 17: 52  
6 for possibly two years.

7 40 Q. I am interested in relation to this. You have  
8 mentioned that the Welcome House provides short-term  
9 accommodation facilities for those coming back to give  
10 evidence in the Commission. Does it also provide for 17: 52  
11 those coming to give evidence before the Residential  
12 Redress Board?

13 A. Of course, yes.

14 41 Q. So that is on the one side. And on the other side  
15 then there is also provision for short-term 17: 53  
16 accommodation for homeless people?

17 A. That is correct, in both facilities.

18 42 Q. Just if I can stay with Welcome House for the moment.  
19 Whilst people are staying in the Welcome House, what  
20 other facilities are available for them to access? 17: 53

21 A. Well, they can access counselling if they so wish.  
22 They can access the educational facilities.  
23 Sometimes they might wish to go back to see the  
24 school that they were incarcerated in or they might  
25 have to go to see their lawyer, or any number of 17: 53  
26 things they may need. And we as a staff will  
27 accommodate them as best can be.

28 43 Q. You have described the Welcome House as operating on  
29 a Bed & Breakfast type principle. Where can they



1 access these additional services from?

2 A. They could access them in our original building in  
3 Bishop Street. They can now access them in our new  
4 building on the Lower Glanmire Road, which is  
5 50 yards away from Welcome House. 17: 54

6 44 Q. The Welcome House opened first?

7 A. That is correct.

8 45 Q. When was it established?

9 A. It was established in 2001.

10 46 Q. Has it been a popular destination for people to stay? 17: 54

11 A. It has been a very, very popular destination for  
12 people to stay.

13 47 Q. Can you give an indication to the Committee as to the  
14 extent to which it has been used?

15 A. I don't know if you have the statistics here for 2000 17: 54  
16 up to 2003. I think we had something like 8,000  
17 phone calls last year alone.

18 48 Q. Is this to your general office?

19 A. That is to our general office. We have a phone  
20 number in Welcome House as well and at night-time 17: 54  
21 people would ring that. The figures are in here for  
22 the number of bed nights that we used in Welcome  
23 House over the last number of years, and they are  
24 astounding. We feel that if we had another Welcome  
25 House in Cork it still wouldn't be enough and we also 17: 55  
26 feel, I may say now, that we feel that maybe the  
27 Government if they have good intentions might provide  
28 one for the survivors groups here in Dublin because  
29 it is very, very badly needed here. I know that



1            maybe one of the groups will take it up with the  
2            Minister because I think it is a bloody disgrace that  
3            they haven't provided a service here in Dublin.

4    49    Q.    You have described Welcome House as having 14 beds?  
5            A.    14 rooms. 17: 55

6    50    Q.    Of which you said three were allocated for the  
7            homeless, for the short-term requirements of the  
8            homeless in the area?

9            A.    Yes.

10   51    Q.    So if we take the other eleven rooms, what sort of a 17: 55  
11            take-up, what sort of an occupancy rate has there  
12            been in respect of those rooms. Again we are  
13            confining ourselves to the Welcome House?

14            A.    The figures are here if you care to go through them.

15   52    Q.    In a general sense? 17: 56

16            A.    It is fairly good. At weekends you need to book a  
17            week in advance. When the Commission slowed down,  
18            obviously the numbers of people coming into Welcome  
19            House sort of slowed down with it in the sense that  
20            people didn't have to come over. But now that the 17: 56  
21            Redress Board is going full belt and the Commission  
22            is back in business again, it is picking up again.  
23            There is a staff down three of eight people.

24   53    Q.    Separate to the staffing in your general office?  
25            A.    That is correct, separate. We have security people 17: 56  
26            there more or less 24 hours a day. We have a cook  
27            there. We have a manager there. We have people  
28            making the beds and various other workers.  
29            They are all survivors. I am sure that anybody who



1 has stayed in Welcome House enjoyed their stay there,  
2 and a lot of them wished to come back again.

3 54 Q. Has Right of Place identified a more longer-term need  
4 in the course of -- sorry, I don't think I asked you  
5 when Welcome House opened its doors? 17:57

6 A. I think you did; 2001.

7 55 Q. Subsequent to it getting up and running, was a  
8 further need identified in respect of longer-term  
9 needs?

10 A. Yes. Are you asking me where are we going from here? 17:57

11 56 Q. No, I am not. I am asking you, how did you then move  
12 from there to the apartments which you have  
13 described?

14 A. Originally we recognised the need for somebody to  
15 have a safe place to come when they were giving 17:57  
16 evidence in front of the Commission and subsequently  
17 the Redress Board and visiting their lawyers or their  
18 psychiatrists and whatever.

19 57 Q. Were some of those people coming from abroad?

20 A. Most of them would be coming from abroad. As a 17:58  
21 result of meetings which were held in London and  
22 Manchester, indeed in Boston and New York, we  
23 explained to people that we had Welcome House.  
24 But they said 'Is there any place we could go where  
25 we could stay permanently?' And unfortunately at the 17:58  
26 time we had to say no. So the idea emerged that we  
27 would seek to find semi-permanent places for people,  
28 which we have done with the apartments on the lower  
29 road. We intend hopefully to apply for more money to



1 build more apartments or houses to move these people  
2 who are in the apartments now into full-time  
3 permanent places. And they don't necessarily have to  
4 be in Cork. I mean, we have people from all over the  
5 country. Incidentally very, very few Cork people 17: 58  
6 stay in the apartments or stay in Welcome House.  
7 They are from all over the country, which is a fact.  
8 But we have people from Galway. We have people from  
9 Dublin. We have people from Kerry and all over the  
10 country. We would like to see the Government -- 17: 59  
11 I was looking at an article recently on the  
12 television where the Government have said they are  
13 going to put €22 million into housing for immigrants.  
14 People say 'Oh Jesus, that is great.' How many  
15 houses would you build for €22 million? Only a few 17: 59  
16 in Dublin anyway. What I am saying is that we are  
17 certainly going to apply for some of that funding.  
18 We don't want to be creating ghettos. We would like  
19 to put three houses in Galway and three in Kerry and  
20 a few in County Dublin so people who come from the 17: 59  
21 area can go back to their roots as such. I am not  
22 saying it is going to take place but we hope that  
23 will happen.

24 58 Q. Can you tell the Committee how you set about  
25 establishing these apartments? 17: 59

26 A. Yes. How we obtained the funding?

27 59 Q. How you came up with the idea. Sorry, you have said  
28 how you came up with the idea. I am asking you how  
29 you went about bringing the idea into effect?



- 1 A. Well, as I say, we had various meetings England.  
2 Primarily in England people asked us and begged us  
3 'Please try and get us a place back in Ireland.'
- 4 60 Q. You identified a need?  
5 A. We identified a need. 18:00
- 6 61 Q. How did you go about fulfilling that need?  
7 A. To tell you the truth we have a very friendly  
8 Minister below in Cork and he recognised the needs of  
9 survivors.
- 10 62 Q. You approached government? 18:00  
11 A. We approached government, a member of government.  
12 And the member of government believes what survivors  
13 of institutional abuse tell him, particularly the  
14 Cork survivors of institutional abuse. And we  
15 explained the needs of survivors and what they want. 18:00  
16 They wanted a place, a permanent place if possible to  
17 stay in Ireland. We were put in touch with the  
18 Department of the Environment and the Department of  
19 the Environment put in place €1.4 million for us to  
20 buy an old building, which we demolished and then we 18:01  
21 built it up from the ground to what we have now.
- 22 63 Q. And that building became the apartments which you  
23 have spoken about and it opened for business when?  
24 A. We took possession of it in May of last year and it  
25 was officially opened in July. 18:01
- 26 64 Q. It provided a number of apartments as you have  
27 described?  
28 A. Yes, it provides ten apartments.
- 29 65 Q. How do you allocate the use of the apartments?



1 A. We have a sub-committee set up which goes to England  
2 to assess applicants. There is a waiting list, and I  
3 will say it again, I don't know if it is 87 or 78.  
4 At the moment there is a waiting list.

5 66 Q. These are people who wish to come back and stay in 18: 01  
6 your apartments?

7 A. People who wish to come back and stay in the  
8 apartments. We keep one apartment for people who may  
9 have funds of their own. They might have a house of  
10 their own and they might wish to come back. But they 18: 02  
11 are over in England or America or whatever and we  
12 keep that and you can stay with us for a maximum of  
13 three months if you are one of these people. You can  
14 stay in the apartment. You look around. Do you want  
15 to really stay here or do you want to go back to 18: 02  
16 America or go back to England. And if you want to  
17 stay here, you then go away and buy your own place  
18 and the next person fills that gap. The people who  
19 have council houses in England or private rented  
20 accommodation, they hold on to them in England for 18: 02  
21 three months and they come over here and they see if  
22 they like staying here. And if they do like staying  
23 here, well they then release their apartment or house  
24 in England back to the authorities and they stay here  
25 with us. 18: 02

26 67 Q. For a period of?

27 A. Roughly about two years because it takes  
28 approximately that time to get people into the  
29 system. We have a fairly good... (INTERJECTION).



- 1 68 Q. Do you have facilities to assist people in getting  
2 into the system in Ireland if they wish to stay on  
3 here?
- 4 A. We do, yes. We have contacted every county council  
5 and city council in Ireland with the view to 18:03  
6 providing accomodation for survivors of institutional  
7 abuse. We actually believe and we are actively  
8 pursuing it. We believe that we are a special needs  
9 group. We are a bit like the travellers if you like  
10 in that they have special rights and special needs 18:03  
11 with various councils and they get special  
12 concessions. And we feel that because we had to  
13 leave this country when we were young. A lot of us  
14 came out of these schools and we had nobody. We had  
15 no mothers or fathers. We had no brothers or 18:03  
16 sisters. We ran away to various countries. And on  
17 top of that we were never given our own right on  
18 housing lists and so forth because we didn't know.  
19 We just didn't know. And I know guys today or people  
20 today still living in rat-infested flats and so forth 18:03  
21 because they don't know how to fill in a housing  
22 application form I think it is a bloody disgrace  
23 that we as survivors have not got a special status  
24 from the Government in that regard.
- 25 69 Q. Again, in relation to the mechanics of filling out 18:04  
26 the application forms, of accessing the various  
27 housing sources - your group is in a position to  
28 assist individuals in relation to those things with a  
29 view to them getting local authority housing or





1 housing from whatever other source might be available  
2 for the long-term?

3 A. That is correct. Some of our people went through  
4 literacy courses themselves, so we would be in a  
5 position where if we do go out to meet people, we 18: 04  
6 would be competent enough to help them fill in basic  
7 forms and applications and so forth.

8 70 Q. I think you mentioned that your apartments also help  
9 the homeless. The needs of the homeless also forms  
10 part of the provision of these apartments. Can you 18: 04  
11 tell us about that?

12 A. It does, yes. Under the terms that we received the  
13 funding, Cork Corporation had the right to nominate  
14 people to two of those apartments. And whilst we  
15 accept that, they have never really imposed anybody 18: 05  
16 on us. The unofficial agreement we had with them is  
17 that 'If you are going to look for your rights in our  
18 apartment block, please leave them for survivors of  
19 institutional abuse who are on your housing list.'  
20 And this is the way it has worked. As I say, we 18: 05  
21 opened last May for business and we have had people  
22 who have successfully found their own accommodation.  
23 We have people who have received some redress who may  
24 want to go back to Mayo or Galway or Dublin and some  
25 of the apartments became vacant. And the Corporation 18: 05  
26 have never ever imposed their will on us. They will  
27 say 'Well, we have X amount of people on the list.  
28 Such a chap here is in dire need of accommodation.  
29 Do you mind if we nominate him. He is one of your



- 1 own' and we say 'Go ahead' and that person slots in.  
2 Not alone men, women stay in our place as well.  
3 People tell me that it is the safest place they were  
4 ever in in their life. They feel it is the safest  
5 place they were ever in their life. 18:06
- 6 71 Q. Would it be fair to say that while your Welcome House  
7 provides for more short-term needs of survivors, the  
8 repatriation scheme and in particular the apartments  
9 provide for a longer-term need?
- 10 A. That is correct. That is the idea behind it in the 18:06  
11 sense that we hope to hold on to Welcome House until  
12 the completion of this Commission and the completion  
13 of the Redress Board, which we envisage will be no  
14 later than the end of 2006/2007. We hope to hold on  
15 to Welcome House because people will be there and 18:06  
16 will need those services until that time, until the  
17 completion of the business. I suppose they would  
18 need it afterwards, but whether we have to fund it  
19 after that we do not know.
- 20 72 Q. Speaking of funding, how is the apartment scheme 18:07  
21 funded. You have described how the building was  
22 acquired with a grant from the Department of the  
23 Environment?
- 24 A. Right.
- 25 73 Q. How is it run on a day-to-day basis. How are those 18:07  
26 costs met?
- 27 A. The salaries of five people in the apartments -  
28 we were given a grant of €80,000. We know people  
29 will start laughing and say 'Are you getting that



1 each?' No, there is only one man gets that, but that  
2 is beside the point. We have a total of €80,000 to  
3 pay five salaries.

4 74 Q. That comes from where?

5 A. That comes from the Department of Health now. It was 18:07  
6 from the Department of Education. It has been handed  
7 to health. We have other people on FAS schemes that  
8 pay the wages of the employees. We charge €60 a week  
9 per apartment. €20 from the survivor and we get a  
10 subvention of €40 from the Department of Health 18:08  
11 towards the rent. Now as everybody knows, if you go  
12 for a modern, state-of-the-art apartment in Cork or  
13 Dublin it will cost you four or five times that a  
14 week. But we try and keep the rent as reasonable as  
15 we can. 18:08

16 75 Q. That scheme continues?

17 A. That scheme continues to this day, yes.

18 76 Q. Again, can you indicate the extent of the up-take.  
19 Has it been a popular scheme in terms of its up-take?

20 A. I put it this way: If somebody applies today he might 18:08  
21 have a chance of getting a place in two years time.

22 77 Q. I see. I think that you have described in  
23 establishing Right of Place its operation from an  
24 office which you said was in Bishop Street. That  
25 subsequently moved location; is that correct? 18:08

26 A. Yes. We obtained the offices in Bishop Street in  
27 January 2000. We were there right up to when we took  
28 over our building last May 2003. We are there about  
29 three and a half years.



1 78 Q. The office is now based in the same building as the  
2 apartments?  
3 A. That is correct, yes.  
4 79 Q. In addition to that there is also the Welcome House?  
5 A. That is correct. 18:09  
6 80 Q. From the time of the group's establishment, did you  
7 also identify a need for some form of regional bases?  
8 A. Yes. When we formed the Upton group we were also  
9 very aware that the Rosminians who ran Upton also ran  
10 the facility in Clonmel called St. Joseph's, 18:09  
11 Fairyhouse. We knew from contacts we had that they  
12 had no organisation whatever. So we went to Clonmel  
13 and we arranged to meet survivors of Clonmel. We  
14 invited them to come with us, which they did.  
15 We then changed our name from the "Former Upton 18:10  
16 Residents Group" to the "Upton Clonmel Residents  
17 Group".  
18  
19 Following along from that, we had people approaching  
20 us who were not a member of either of these schools, 18:10  
21 who hadn't been at school in either of these places.  
22 Our constitution at the time sort of prohibited us  
23 from helping them officially. So we explained this  
24 to various government departments. The funding at  
25 that time was ridiculously low. We said 'We haven't 18:10  
26 the funding to help other people. What about us  
27 spreading our wings and taking on board other  
28 survivors of various institutions.'  
29 They said 'Let us think about it.' They thought



1 about it and they gave us the go ahead. As a  
2 consequence of that we held meetings in Kerry, we  
3 held meetings in Galway, we held meetings in  
4 Enniscorthy, Wexford, Limerick, Waterford, all over  
5 the place, and we formed various branches of Right of 18: 11  
6 Place around the country. And including London.

7 81 Q. When did the establishment of these branches begin  
8 timewise?

9 A. From 2000 on. I would imagine most of them were  
10 formed between 2000 and 2001. 18: 11

11 82 Q. Did you establish offices in each of the towns that  
12 you have mentioned?

13 A. We established offices in Tralee, Limerick, Galway  
14 and Enniscorthy. We also have branches in Waterford  
15 and Clonmel. 18: 11

16 83 Q. What is the position. Do those offices continue to  
17 operate. Do all of them continue to operate now?

18 A. Yes, with the exception of Tralee. We still have a  
19 group in Tralee. We are going to look at another  
20 premises there. The position is that we have 18: 11  
21 three-man committee set up in each region to help the  
22 people in each area. Once a week somebody from head  
23 office will go down to these areas, if requested, to  
24 help in a clinic-style situation. People might come  
25 in and they might want to know why their son's 18: 12  
26 application to the education board has been refused  
27 and we would explain it to them. You know, various  
28 things like this. It is a fairly well run system in  
29 the sense that people do appreciate what we are



1           doing. We are there are on the ground. Basically  
2           speaking we are not welfare officers but we do that  
3           type of work at times. Somebody might die belonging  
4           to somebody. It is a pretty rare thing for somebody  
5           to die belonging to you and people don't know how to     18: 12  
6           react and so forth. We are there to help people in  
7           any way we can.

8    84   Q.    Are these offices staffed. Are they all staffed or  
9           are they staffed on a permanent basis. Or can you  
10          tell us how they are staffed?     18: 13

11       A.    I will tell you how they are staffed, and it is a  
12          disgrace. It is a disgrace that this government has  
13          never ever allowed any of our regional offices to be  
14          staffed by paid members. We applied through FAS and  
15          so forth but Ms. Mary Harney in her judgment at the     18: 13  
16          time was after cutting down the FAS places and she  
17          wouldn't allow the people in the various regions to  
18          get FAS places. They would have been delighted with  
19          them because they are working down there for nothing.

20       CHAIRMAN:                            I cannot let you make     18: 13  
21    speeches, Mr. Tracey.

22          You know that. There is no point in doing that.

23    85   Q.    MR. McMAHON:                            It is staffed by voluntary  
24    workers?

25       A.    It is staffed by voluntary workers.     18: 13

26    86   Q.    How are the day-to-day outgoings -- postage and  
27           telephone and whatever -- covered?

28       A.    They are covered by Section 65, which is a Health  
29           Board subvention.



1 87 Q. Is it necessary for head office, for the Cork office  
2 to supplement from time to time the payments that are  
3 received under Section 65?

4 A. That would be correct. At times we have to  
5 supplement financially. Some of the offices if they 18:14  
6 run out of money, we have to supplement them of  
7 course.

8 88 Q. Where do you see Right of Place as an organisation  
9 progressing?

10 A. Well, we hope to continue as we are, providing the 18:14  
11 services I have already outlined. We also hope to  
12 access and look after the children who are now in  
13 care. Because we honestly believe that various  
14 things are happening even to this day in  
15 institutions. And we believe that people who will be 18:15  
16 released from these institutions in the near future  
17 will need places like Welcome House and places like  
18 Right of Place Apartments because simply the  
19 Government are not providing them. They are  
20 releasing children out from institutions and letting 18:15  
21 them run wild on the street. We read various things  
22 in the papers now.

23 CHAIRMAN: What can I do, Mr. McMahon.  
24 I have enough to worry  
25 about, Mr. Tracey. We have enough to worry about 18:15  
26 with the inquiry that we have. If you are going to go  
27 on and make speeches, if you are going to say things,  
28 the Government are going to be in here, and they are  
29 going to be right. They are going to say 'We don't



1 agree with what Mr. Tracey was saying. We want to be  
2 coming back here.' I then have a debate on my hands  
3 that I don't want that has nothing to do with what we  
4 have to inquire into. I am sympathetic of course to  
5 people who come in here. I am grateful to you for 18: 16  
6 your help. It is most interesting. Can I suggest,  
7 don't spoil it by getting into a thing where  
8 everybody is going to say 'Your man is only going to  
9 make political points.' That is spoiling it. It is  
10 not doing yourself justice. You know that and I know 18: 16  
11 that. You know there are things I can do and things  
12 I cannot do. Even if we all agreed entirely with  
13 you, somebody else would be perfectly entitled to say  
14 'That has nothing to do with this.' If you get into  
15 government policy, and you have done it twice now. 18: 16  
16 I mentioned it the first time. Now, fair is fair.  
17 Let us carry on. I am very interested. We are very  
18 interested to hear what you have to say. We would  
19 have missed a lot if you hadn't given evidence.  
20 We are very grateful for that but we don't want to 18: 16  
21 spoil it by having me interpreting you as you are  
22 going along

23 A. I don't mean any disrespect to you.

24 CHAIRMAN: I understand that. There  
25 is also no need to 18: 16  
26 apologise. I am just telling you the reality.

27 A. I was asked a question by your Senior Counsel and I  
28 am trying to answer it the best I can, Sir.

29 CHAIRMAN: Let us blame Mr. McMahon.





1 Let us agree with that and let us carry on. It is  
2 not a big deal. It is not a big rebuke. I am just  
3 telling you that there are things we can do and there  
4 are things we cannot do. As long as we understand  
5 that we get Mr. McMahon to understand it as well. 18: 17

6 89 Q. MR. McMAHON: Was there anything else you  
7 wished to say, Mr. Tracey?

8 A. There is one thing I would like to say before it  
9 slips my mind. Right of Place was set up with the  
10 express view of asking the Laffoy Commission, the now 18: 17  
11 Ryan Commission, to investigate the atrocities that  
12 happened in the various schools and institutions  
13 and to investigate the various bodies such as the  
14 various government departments: Education, health,  
15 the religious and other outside bodies such as the 18: 18  
16 ISPCC and St. Vincent de Paul. We hope that you  
17 will, and we know you will, investigate these to the  
18 best of your ability. Because it is vital that the  
19 role of the various cruelty men and so forth is taken  
20 up and investigated by the Commission. I have no 18: 18  
21 more else to say, thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much indeed  
23 for your help, Mr. Tracey.

24  
25 THE WITNESS THEN WITHDREW 18: 18

26  
27 CHAIRMAN: Very Goodman.

28 MR. McMAHON: Perhaps a short break of  
29 15 minutes?



1 CHAIRMAN: Would that suit? Okay, we  
2 will do that.

3  
4 SHORT ADJOURNMENT

5 18: 28

6 THE HEARING CONTINUED AFTER THE SHORT ADJOURNMENT AS  
7 FOLLOWS:

8  
9 CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. McMahon.  
10 MR. McMAHON: Mr. Tom Hayes, please. 18: 49

11  
12  
13 MR. TOM HAYES, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS  
14 DIRECTLY- EXAMINED AS FOLLOWS BY MR. McMAHON:  
15 18: 50

16 90 Q. MR. McMAHON: Mr. Hayes, would you like  
17 to sit down?

18 A. Yes.

19 CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon or good  
20 morning, thanks so much. 18: 50

21 91 Q. MR. McMAHON: I think, Mr. Hayes, you are  
22 a member of a group known  
23 as Alliance Victim Support.

24 A. Yes, I am, sir, yes.

25 92 Q. What position do you hold? 18: 50

26 A. I am the secretary to that group.

27 93 Q. I think you have been nominated to speak to the  
28 Committee --

29 A. For my sins, yes.



1 94 Q. -- in relation to various questions which were asked  
2 by the Committee.  
3 A. Yes.  
4 95 Q. I think you wish initially to deal with the question  
5 of the timing and manner in which allegations and 18:50  
6 the knowledge of child abuse emerged as an issue in  
7 this country.  
8 A. Yes. Some of the Committee may be surprised to hear  
9 me say this but I have been involved in researching  
10 Glynn Industrial School in '95/'96 when the business 18:51  
11 of institutional abuse broke. I went down to Glynn  
12 at the time. I stopped all that. I attended a  
13 meeting in Dublin where I was nominated as secretary  
14 to take over from a previous member to the Alliance  
15 Victim Support Group. 18:51  
16  
17 Having taken over as secretary we attended various  
18 meetings with both government and government agencies  
19 at the time.  
20 18:51  
21 The first meeting as secretary that I attended was on  
22 11th November 1999, as secretary, when I met members  
23 of the Commission which was at that stage under  
24 Laffoy J.  
25 96 Q. Yes. 18:51  
26 A. We pointed out that the terms of reference and the  
27 difficulties which we were likely to have then  
28 because of the time frame, they were very, very  
29 difficult. We weren't satisfied obviously.



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We then attended another meeting with the Minister for Education, Michéal Martin, on 11th January 2000, where we discussed victim support groups and how we, the Alliance, could form part of that.

18: 52

97 Q. Did you identify an approach, as you saw it, in dealing with the issue of abuse which differed from the approach which perhaps other groups may have adopted?

A. I think at the time, Sir, we didn't know a great deal about the other groups, but we did have a different approach.

18: 52

98 Q. What was your approach?

A. Our approach was that all the facilities available at the time for victims should be on a professional basis only. We wanted to set up a one-stop shop for all in Dublin.

18: 52

99 Q. Yes.

A. We wanted a counselling service. We wanted health cards for those of us that had medical issues as a result of being in the institutions.

18: 53

We wanted to raise issues about those people who lived outside of Ireland, mainly in England where the majority were and in America.

18: 53

We wanted to see at that time whether on a voluntary basis -- because our Committee at that time and to this date are still voluntary, whether we might avail



1 of funding that was made available to other groups,  
2 we were not successful either. That is the way that  
3 we saw the Alliance emanating at that time.

4 100 Q. Yes. Would you like to go back to the question of  
5 the emergence of the issue of child abuse in the 18: 53  
6 State. How did you see that unfolding?

7 A. There is no doubt that the issue of child abuse  
8 within the State -- for those of us that came through  
9 the institutions we ourselves knew that there was a  
10 serious issue of child abuse. 18: 54

11 101 Q. Yes.

12 A. It is more honest to say that it was not at that time  
13 child clerical abuse, it was not as a result of those  
14 nuns and brothers. It was mainly as a result of,  
15 certainly in our case, where it was as a result of 18: 54  
16 what took place within the school as a result of  
17 bullying, sexual harassment and other activities.  
18 The emergence of the child sex abuse that we hear so  
19 much about now was mainly as a result of the media.

20 102 Q. Right. 18: 54

21 A. And the continual publications throughout 1999/2000  
22 of those religious who were found guilty through the  
23 courts as a result of child abuse within the  
24 institutions.

25 103 Q. Yes. What effect did these media reports have? 18: 55

26 A. Well, I believe that those media reports confused  
27 quite a lot of those people who were formerly in the  
28 institutions into believing that in order to access  
29 the various facilities then set up by the government



1 from '99 such as the Commission, the redress  
2 counselling, that you had to believe or you had to  
3 say that you were sexually abused as opposed to any  
4 other form of abuse. That is what I believe. That  
5 actually did prove in our dealings with people on the 18:55  
6 ground.

7 104 Q. Can you assist us in relation to where that belief  
8 came from?

9 A. If I look at my own institution it is true to say  
10 that we did not know that any brother within my own 18:55  
11 institute was ever found guilty of any such offences,  
12 although the research that I was doing in England and  
13 in Ireland did say -- did show that sexual abuse did  
14 take place and did take place on a regular basis, a  
15 very regular basis. 18:56

16 105 Q. Yes.

17 A. The issue was much clouded afterwards I believe by  
18 the media who continually mentioned about religious  
19 sex abuse.

20 106 Q. Yes. 18:56

21 A. And that is where I believe that people began to  
22 galvanise their thoughts purely on religious sexual  
23 abuse and not on other issues that were obvious  
24 within the institutions and to those of us who were  
25 part of those institutions. 18:56

26 107 Q. So, when you are suggesting that there was a  
27 knowledge that sex abuse was something which did  
28 occur in institutions, but you are also suggesting  
29 that there was a new component in the introduction of



1 religious sex abuse. What are you saying?  
2 A. I am merely saying I do not believe that the degree  
3 of sex abuse that took place within these  
4 institutions were perpetrated by the religious. What  
5 I'm saying is, and I have knowledge of, that these 18: 57  
6 acts were perpetrated more by those of us that were  
7 in the institutions.  
8 108 Q. Yes.  
9 A. The subject of ... (INTERJECTION).  
10 109 Q. By piers on piers? 18: 57  
11 A. Yes.  
12 110 Q. Yes.  
13 A. The subject of religious sex abuse, it was certainly  
14 new to my ears and I know from those people that were  
15 in the institution with me it was certainly new to 18: 57  
16 their ears also.  
17 111 Q. Yes. Were there factors which in your view led to  
18 this change of viewpoint?  
19 A. I think the main factors were, first of all, the  
20 religious themselves never held, as far as I know, 18: 58  
21 never held any inquiries into the institutions  
22 themselves, so there was no groundwork to ascertain  
23 what did or did not take place.  
24  
25 The other factors mainly was that the religious 18: 58  
26 themselves did not meet nor would meet those people  
27 who did want to raise issues with them. As a result  
28 of that I believe that was a mistake.  
29 112 Q. And how did the issue, in your view, come to a head



1 then in the late 1990s?

2 A. In the late 1990s the public were much more aware as  
3 a result of the publicity. They were indeed made  
4 aware by the various documentary programs. Those  
5 people who were previously not listened to were able 18: 59  
6 to come forward in greater numbers and they actually,  
7 they found a voice that was not previously there.  
8 As a result of that, of course, we now know that the  
9 amount of abuse that did take place, and is the  
10 subject of this investigation and others, is and was 18: 59  
11 much greater than most of us believed at that time.

12 113 Q. Yes. Was there a role, as you saw it, for victims'  
13 groups in this context?

14 A. Well, the victim supports groups in this context were  
15 in the early stage were mainly an advisory role. 19: 00  
16 Each of the groups had their own committees and they  
17 had their own autonomy.

18

19 We, of course, saw things differently. As a result  
20 of course we tried to do things differently. We 19: 00  
21 wanted the professionals to take over. We wanted to  
22 have established those professional bodies, such as a  
23 national office counselling, health cards, help  
24 assistance. We saw no -- and did not take part in  
25 any of the investigative side that other groups did. 19: 00  
26 We did not want to set-up areas or offices. We  
27 wanted people to be fully acclimatised in society,  
28 not to be dislodged from it.

29 114 Q. Yes.





1 A. We believed that the statutory bodies were the best  
2 people to deal with those of us that had needs as a  
3 result of the institutions and I still believe that  
4 to this day.

5 115 Q. And as a group how has the Alliance gone about making 19:00  
6 provision for those factors that you have described?

7 A. The Alliance are a voluntary group.

8 116 Q. Yes.

9 A. What we have done is we have established committee  
10 members in those areas where people normally come to 19:01  
11 seek our advice and our assistance.

12 117 Q. Do you mean in regional areas mainly?

13 A. Mainly regional areas. I cannot believe that  
14 everybody came through an institution came from Cork  
15 or Dublin. 19:01

16

17 What we deal with are those people who live around  
18 the country who are living isolated areas. We visit  
19 them. Our committee visit them. We talk to them. We  
20 help them. We support them, but we do it through 19:01  
21 statutory bodies were who within this State are very  
22 professional, very helpful to us. There is always an  
23 end product in our working with people on the ground,  
24 because they can see the affects within their own  
25 area. 19:01

26 118 Q. Yes. What kind of things can, on a concrete level,  
27 can the Alliance do for those whom it visits and  
28 those who it meets?

29 A. For those people who contact us we establish, first



1 of all, their living conditions, whether they are  
2 getting all of the statutory entitlements.

3 119 Q. Yes.

4 A. We then assist them through the citizens advice  
5 bureau, the health boards, the counselling. Advise 19:02  
6 them to talk to the national office and that is how  
7 we do it.

8 120 Q. Yes.

9 A. We then -- we always visit our -- or one of our  
10 committee members will always visits people as a 19:02  
11 follow up to what we have done initially.

12 121 Q. And how do people learn of the Alliance or of the  
13 activities it engages in or the services it can  
14 offer?

15 A. We have advertised in England and in Ireland. 19:02  
16 Privately I have advertised for the Glynn Industrial  
17 School All Boys, which is outside of the Alliance.

18 122 Q. Yes.

19 A. And it is mainly by word of mouth. They then contact  
20 us, we don't take names and addresses unless they ask 19:03  
21 us for mailing.

22 123 Q. Right.

23 A. We then send the paperwork through a committee  
24 member, they photocopy it and send it out to whoever  
25 wants it on the ground. We find that that is a much 19:03  
26 better system; it allows for privacy and it allows  
27 those people to come back to us rather than we having  
28 to chase them up or to ask them afterwards. Many of  
29 them do not want further contact once they have got



1 what they initially asked for.

2 124 Q. When you say "what they asked for", what kind of  
3 documents are you talking about?

4 A. It is mainly to do with counselling, solicitors,  
5 redress, it can be complaints also, and that is how 19: 03  
6 we deal with them.

7 125 Q. And how does the Alliance go about providing such  
8 services or such documentation?

9 A. The committee is actually on a voluntary basis we  
10 receive about 15,000 Euros a year from the Department 19: 03  
11 of Education.

12 126 Q. Yes.

13 A. We work mainly from my home and then the committee  
14 members on the ground who use their mobiles, their  
15 fax machines and who visit are then paid through our 19: 04  
16 central fund, which is audited also every year. That  
17 amount money is sufficient for our needs because our  
18 numbers are not that great.

19

20 Although at the moment we have our own web site, and 19: 04  
21 the numbers there are beginning to mount up again.  
22 We can e-mail material through that source and the  
23 committee member there in England and in America do  
24 the same as the committee members on the ground do,  
25 there is no difference. 19: 04

26 127 Q. And do you communicate with members through large  
27 meetings with them or do you engage in meetings at  
28 all?

29 A. No, we held a series of meetings around the country,



1 which were not successful. We found that the best  
2 way to deal with people was on word of mouth or  
3 through e-mails.

4  
5 Also, this year we spent ten days visiting all those 19:05  
6 people who looked to us for an element of support. We  
7 then went to England to deal with the same number of  
8 people and to try and ascertain if the Alliance --  
9 what level of support the Alliance had.

10 19:05  
11 We were disappointed to some degree to find that a  
12 lot of people that looked to Alliance for support  
13 also looked to all of the other groups. Whilst we  
14 have no problem with that it can be disconcerting to  
15 see another group's paperwork sitting on the kitchen 19:05  
16 table when you are talking about Alliance matters,  
17 but that is how we work.

18 128 Q. Is all of this work done from your home or is it done  
19 from a more wide spread network?

20 A. I am sorry to say it is actually mainly done from my 19:05  
21 home and from the homes of the Committee members.

22 129 Q. And how many committee members are actively involved?

23 A. Actively involved: nine.

24 130 Q. And how do committee members keep in contact with one 19:06  
25 another and perhaps update one another on what the  
26 others are doing?

27 A. We meet once a month, we meet here in Dublin or if we  
28 are visiting areas we will bring the committee  
29 members to whichever area we have a problem at that



1 time.

2 131 Q. Are all of the services, which your committee members  
3 can provide, are they confined to Ireland?

4 A. No, the services are -- the committee members both in  
5 England and America do it voluntary. We do not pay 19:07  
6 them, we cannot pay them.

7  
8 They do it voluntary, they distribute the  
9 information, they distribute our leaflets, they use  
10 our internet, they download from our site and that's 19:07  
11 how they do it.

12  
13 They, of course, are mainly working as members of the  
14 Alliance committee, but do not come to Ireland for  
15 committee meetings at the end of the month. We send 19:07  
16 the minutes of our meetings.

17 132 Q. What kind of services can you provide and do you  
18 provide to those who come to you?

19 A. All of the statutory services is an area that we are  
20 best able to help clients with. 19:07

21 133 Q. How can you help clients with those?

22 A. Most of the clients that come to us do so, because  
23 either they have to approach solicitors, counselling  
24 or the redress board. All these require forms, they  
25 require information that they themselves may not be 19:07  
26 able to access.

27  
28 In some cases it is to do with letter writing, in  
29 other cases it has to do with housing. In some cases,



1           regrettably it has to do with family tracing of which  
2           Barnardos have been very helpful in that respect.

3   134   Q.   Is there an educational facet to your work?  
4           A.   We work through the national office solely for the  
5           educational -- through the educational fund. We           19: 08  
6           believe that that is the best mechanism for those  
7           people who are desperate to raise their educational  
8           standards. We do not believe that we ourselves are  
9           the best people to provide it or indeed our local  
10          EECs. We believe the national office through --           19: 08  
11          because of the age group of these people and because  
12          of the stigma that it sometimes attracts, we believe  
13          that it is best dealt with through the national  
14          office through the educational fund.

15   135   Q.   Yes. Are there other areas of referral or of           19: 08  
16          professional support that you are in a position to  
17          provide?  
18          A.   At the moment a lot of the referrals has to do with  
19          the counselling and the redress board.

20   136   Q.   Yes.   19: 09  
21          A.   And of course the assistance with board travel and  
22          overnight stay for attendance at commission or at  
23          redress. There is no doubt that there is a need, as  
24          was mentioned earlier, for a place here in Dublin for  
25          those people who are travelling over from England and           19: 09  
26          from around the country and who sometimes stay on  
27          floors of the committee members and other places. But  
28          I am not too sure whether the Simon Community would  
29          accept that on a long-term basis, but nonetheless we



1 see it as a need.

2 MR. McMAHON: Thank you very much.

3 A. I wonder whether I might say two other things.

4 137 Q. Yes.

5 A. One would be to thank my committee members who are 19:09  
6 here today and who support those of us and, of  
7 course, our families.

8  
9 Lastly, if I could say that if there could be a  
10 benevolent type of fund set-up at the end of all this 19:10  
11 that it might continue to help and support families  
12 who went through the institutions, I believe it would  
13 be a legacy that would be quite appreciated by those  
14 families who are in desperate need at the moment.

15 MR. McMAHON: Yes, thank you very much. 19:10

16

17 END OF DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. McMAHON OF

18 MR. HAYES

19

20 MR. LOWE: Just one question, when you 19:10  
21 said you were refuse

22 searching back in '95 and '96 into Glynn, what was  
23 the purpose of the research?

24 A. It was purely and simply as a result of my own  
25 schooling. I was looking for -- because I had failed 19:10  
26 to have answers from the Christian Brothers  
27 throughout some years, I was doing my own research  
28 and hopefully to publish a book on the industrial  
29 school structures



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MR. LOWE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Very good, thank you so much, Mr. Hayes, thank for coming to us.

A. Thank you, sir. 19: 11

THE WITNESS THEN WITHDREW

CHAIRMAN: Very good. 2 o'clock. Thanks so much.

19: 11

LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT





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THE HEARING CONTINUED AS FOLLOWS AFTER THE LUNCHEON  
ADJOURNMENT:

MS. FERGUS: I would like to call  
Sister Cornelia from the  
congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth.

20: 57

SISTER CORNELIA WALSH, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS  
EXAMINED AS FOLLOWS BY MS. FERGUS:

20: 57

138 Q. MS. FERGUS: Sister Cornelia, you are  
the Sister Superior of the  
congregation of Sisters of Nazareth; isn't that  
correct?

A. I am the Sister Superior of the Sisters of Nazareth  
at Nazareth House in Fahan. I am not the Superior  
General.

20: 58

139 Q. Could you give us a short outline of the history of  
your congregation and how they became involved in  
child care in Ireland?

20: 58

A. The congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth was  
founded in 1851 at Hammersmith in London by a French  
girl called Victoria Lamanier. That was at the  
request of Cardinal Wiseman. Together with some  
other devout women, some from Ireland and some from  
England, they undertook as requested by Cardinal  
Wiseman to provide care for the destitute elderly and  
destitute and abandoned children in and around  
London. We became known as the congregation of the

20: 58



1 Sisters of Nazareth in 1857. As I told you, we were  
2 founded to provide care. We have 42 houses to date  
3 and six of those houses are here in Ireland. The  
4 constitution of our Order provides that its objects  
5 are to be attained inter alia through the collecting 20:59  
6 of alms. We came to Ireland in 1876 when we opened a  
7 house at Ormeau Road for girls and the elderly.  
8 Years later other houses were opened in Derry, one of  
9 which was for girls; Termonbaca for boys at Fahan in  
10 County Donegal with a nursery and a home for the 21:00  
11 elderly; at Mallow in County Cork, a home for the  
12 elderly.

13  
14 From 1952 to 1984, when it closed, there was a  
15 nursery in Portadown. The last house to be opened in 21:00  
16 Ireland was at Malahide in Dublin, and that is a  
17 nursing home for the elderly. That opened in 1970.  
18 We have only one house in the south and that is in  
19 Sligo.

20 140 Q. That is the only institution that the investigation 21:00  
21 committee are considering?

22 A. Yes, Chairman. Sligo opened in 1910. The first boy  
23 recorded as having been received there was on  
24 14th June 1910.

25 141 Q. How many children passed through? 21:00

26 A. A total of 1851 children were received, boys and  
27 girls. The last children to be there left on  
28 25th June 1993 and they were housed in a social  
29 services purpose-built home in the town of Sligo.



1 During those 83 years children were received into  
2 Sligo via various sources. They came through the  
3 parents, through extended family, very often on the  
4 request of the local priests or priests in the west  
5 of Ireland seeking care for these children.

21:01

6 A little later they came through the State agencies  
7 including the courts and various state welfare  
8 agencies.

9

10 Those children who were received and cared for by the  
11 sisters were children who had generally no place to  
12 go and no-one else to turn to and no means of looking  
13 after themselves. As all of you are aware, part of  
14 the 20th Century in Ireland was a time of great  
15 poverty and deprivation especially in the west of  
16 Ireland and there was little or no social support.

21:01

21:02

17 The new state after the War of Independence had  
18 limited resources and relied heavily on the provision  
19 of care already offered by our congregation and other  
20 congregations, not being able in itself in a position  
21 to supplement and supply that care.

21:02

22 142 Q. Would you like to tell the Committee about how the  
23 issue of child abuse emerged for your congregation?

24 A. Yes, Chairman. For the congregation the allegations  
25 of abuse that have been made have been shocking and  
26 distressing. Complaints were received initially from  
27 the mid 1990's onwards in the form of letters of  
28 claim requiring compensation with a threat of legal  
29 action. Those letters made allegations against

21:02



1 persons other than the sisters who had lived and  
2 worked in Sligo. Those complaints have now been  
3 supplemented by complaints to the Commission and to  
4 the Redress. It can now be seen that those  
5 complaints covered the range of physical and sexual 21:03  
6 abuse by those other than the sisters, the  
7 administration of harsh discipline by certain sisters  
8 and others and a complaint about the life of the home  
9 generally over the years.

10  
11 The arrival of the letters of claim to the State's  
12 various bodies have dismayed the congregation in  
13 Ireland and throughout the world. The leadership of  
14 the congregation has never been apprised of such  
15 widespread complaints. Certain residents have 21:04  
16 complained of being sexually and physically abused,  
17 usually by older residents. The leadership of the  
18 congregation was unaware until recently of such  
19 allegations and was most certainly unaware of such  
20 allegations at the material time. 21:04

21 143 Q. Arising from that, Sister, what type of records would  
22 your Order have kept?

23 A. Regarding general records?

24 144 Q. General records.

25 A. We would have had a huge big book. It was no 21:04  
26 notebook, it was a huge big book. On that would have  
27 been the date, the name of the child, the name of  
28 their parents, where they were born, where they were  
29 baptised, who recommended them to Nazareth House, the



1 date they came, the date they left. And very often  
2 in some places would be the reason why they came to  
3 care. That would be one. Then you would have a sort  
4 of observation book. When the children left, very  
5 often there would be writings about so and so went to 21:05  
6 work in Dublin and so and so came back to visit and  
7 so and so is doing well or so and so is not doing  
8 well. That sort of thing. That would be on  
9 practically every child especially up to the mid  
10 1960s. Then you have a book on admissions and 21:05  
11 discharge signed by those people who discharged them  
12 at the time they were discharged.

13 145 Q. Did you keep discipline books or punishment books?

14 A. No. At no time -- no, there is no evidence of a  
15 punishment book particularly here in Ireland. But it 21:05  
16 would be within our Order as I worked in England for  
17 many years and we did have such a thing. From 1965  
18 it was mandatory. We had such a thing as a  
19 punishment book and any child who committed an  
20 offence, that was written in. It was signed by 21:06  
21 whatever staff in this case had administered the  
22 punishment, which was normally deprivation of  
23 privileges. People were not allowed to smack  
24 children in 1965.

25 146 Q. This is in the UK? 21:06

26 A. In the UK, yes. But there is no record, there is no  
27 record in our head quarters in London, our head  
28 quarters here in Ireland which happens to be in  
29 Malahide Road in Dublin or in the records in Sligo.





1 London - how far back would that go with regard to  
2 Sligo?

3 A. They have gone right from the very time Sligo was  
4 founded.

5 149 Q. How often would that happen? 21:08

6 A. Every three years. It would probably take a week to  
7 get there.

8 150 Q. Your Order made a contribution to the Redress Fund.  
9 You might like to comment on that?

10 A. Yes, we did, we joined. As a congregation we are a 21:08  
11 member of CORA and have been for many years. And as  
12 such we were aware of and involved in the contacts  
13 between CORA and the government representatives,  
14 which culminated in the setting up of the scheme.  
15 As I said, we are one of the contributing 21:09  
16 congregations. We welcome the Government's  
17 initiative and have been dismayed at the obvious pain  
18 felt by so many of the countries citizens recalling a  
19 period in their lives when the pain of poverty,  
20 abandonment and loss was worsened. We consider that 21:09  
21 the Government's initiative in recognising the shared  
22 involvement of the State and those who sought to  
23 supplement and provide care which the State could  
24 not, was a very worthy one, particularly as it  
25 offered a non-adversarial and speedy avenue for those 21:09  
26 seeking and needing redress. We felt that the desire  
27 to heal and provide help was defeated by the  
28 necessary vigours of the adversarial process which  
29 was neither in the interests of the genuinely hurt



1 and also the elderly and sick sisters who would have  
2 been required to attend hearings. And it is for that  
3 reason that we joined the scheme.

4 151 Q. Thank you, Sister. I wonder if the Committee has  
5 questions?

21: 10

6 DR. RYAN: Sister Cornelia, as I  
7 understand you to say, you  
8 said that the mother house visited every three years  
9 and there were visitation reports compiled?

10 A. That is correct.

21: 10

11 DR. RYAN: You have those reports  
12 available?

13 A. Yes, they have gone within the books of discovery.

14 DR. RYAN: Is there anything within  
15 your perusal of those  
16 reports that suggested anything untoward happening at  
17 the time of visitation?

21: 10

18 A. There is only one. I am only going to mention it.  
19 It is only one incident. One of these visitors  
20 said that the children were to have soup when they  
21 came home from school. Obviously they hadn't had it  
22 before. It is a very minor thing but it is very  
23 major for some people.

21: 11

24 MR. LOWE: I have a couple of  
25 questions, Sister.

21: 11

26 The dormitory system which was in use for most of the  
27 last century - do you know when that was phased out?

28 A. I am not actually positive but I think it was after  
29 1965. It might be coming on in to 1970.





1           It was phased out and the children were given rooms.  
2           The whole place was remodeled. It was a bit of a  
3           makeshift set up but it was remodeled. Children  
4           probably had two to a room. Some people had a single  
5           room and they had their own play facility. They had 21:11  
6           their own playroom and they had their own dining room  
7           and their own kitchen and all that. I think that was  
8           in the 1970s.

9           MR. LOWE:                               How many would be in a  
10   dormi tory?                               21:12

11          A.    In the days past -- off the top of my head I have to  
12           tell you this because the children were divided into  
13           juniors and seniors -- I would think it might be  
14           20 or 25.

15          MR. LOWE:                               Per dormi tory?                               21:12

16          A.    I think but I cannot be exact on that.

17          MR. LOWE:                               Were they supervised  
18   overni ght?

19          A.    Over night and every night a sister had a makeshift  
20           room at the end of their dormitory. And whatever 21:12  
21           sister was responsible for the group of children,  
22           she slept there every night for the whole time she  
23           was living there. There would be more than one of  
24           course because there was more than one dormitory.  
25           In that case there were three sisters I think in 21:12  
26           charge of the children in Sligo. Those three sisters  
27           slept in the dormi tory, in the same room as the  
28           children. As a matter of fact, when I looked after  
29           the children in the 1960's I never slept in the



1 convent until I came to Ireland nine years ago.  
2 MR. LOWE: Again you say there were  
3 about 67 boys in Sligo and  
4 by the 1960s that number had increased to 115.  
5 What was the sort of average in the period of the 21: 13  
6 20th century that you were functioning within?  
7 A. That would be about the number, yes. That is about  
8 115. But with those 115 children I gather -- you  
9 see, they had opened the nursery. You had boys and  
10 girls in the nursery. Then you had a group for girls 21: 13  
11 and then you had three groups of boys. I gather with  
12 the three groups of boys that you had two groups of  
13 juniors and you had one group of older boys, and  
14 those older boys were looked after by another sister.  
15 But those were boys who were apprentices in the town. 21: 14  
16 They were at college. So there would have been  
17 probably 20 or 30 of those. That would comprise the  
18 numbers.  
19 MR. LOWE: Did the older children have  
20 responsibilities in regard 21: 14  
21 to looking after the other children?  
22 A. Yes. I gather that some of the older boys would take  
23 turns looking after the younger children together  
24 with the sister. The sister would be there I would  
25 say, but they would have helped. 21: 14  
26 MR. LOWE: Thank you.  
27  
28 THE WITNESS THEN WITHDREW  
29



1 MS. FERGUS: We will be hearing from  
2 Tom Cronin next.  
3 He is a representative of the Irish Survivors of  
4 Institutional Abuse International.

21: 15

5  
6 MR. TOM CRONIN, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS EXAMINED AS  
7 FOLLOWS BY MS. FERGUS:

8  
9 152 Q. MS. FERGUS: Mr. Cronin, I think you are  
10 going to tell the Committee 21: 15  
11 a little bit about how your group was formed?

12 A. We formed in 2002. We were a group that was formed  
13 [because] we had major differences with the group  
14 that we had been affiliated to or with previously.  
15 So we decided in 2002 that we should form our own 21: 16  
16 group.

17 153 Q. Where was that formed?

18 A. In Hammersmith in the UK.

19 154 Q. Was it yourself and a number of others?

20 A. Yes, there was a general consensus and decision at 21: 16  
21 the time that there were major differences and major  
22 problems. It was decided for the best interests of  
23 survivors, of those that were involved, that a split  
24 was necessary.

25 155 Q. Can you give the Committee any idea of the size of 21: 16  
26 your group, the membership and how it is made up?

27 A. Initially we sent out an application form to those  
28 that wished to be a member of our group. I think we  
29 have already furnished you with a copy of this?



1 156 Q. Yes.

2 A. It covered survivors, children of survivors and  
3 relatives. Those that decided to fill out  
4 application forms sent them back and we corresponded  
5 with them from thereon. Those that didn't, we 21:17  
6 didn't any see point in carrying out correspondence  
7 with those people. I suppose maybe 150 to 200  
8 applications came back to us.

9 CHAIRMAN: Between the two groups,  
10 Mr. Cronin, between the 21:17  
11 members and the families and so on of people who had  
12 been... (INTERJECTION)?

13 A. Yes, I have to say that the up-take on families  
14 wasn't very high. It was mostly, Category A is what  
15 we classed it at the time. The up-take from the 21:17  
16 others was not so big.

17 157 Q. MS. FERGUS: Category A that you  
18 mentioned there, you have  
19 restricted that membership to people who are  
20 survivors. Category B are family and support 21:18  
21 members?

22 A. Yes.

23 158 Q. How do people come. Do they come to you and make  
24 application. How do you get in touch with people?

25 A. We usually send a news letter out once a month. 21:18  
26 Well, we have endeavored to do that since our  
27 formation. As you can understand, most of them are  
28 in the UK so they wouldn't have access to what is  
29 going on or what was going on in the media here.



1           We have tried to cover as best we can with newspaper  
2           cuttings just general news to keep them up-to-date on  
3           what was going on with the Commissions and what was  
4           happening with Religious Orders and stuff like that.

5   159   Q.    You are talking there about people who are members of   21: 18  
6           your group?

7           A.    Yes.

8   160   Q.    How do people become members of your group.   How do  
9           they hear about your group?

10          A.    We did also for a time put an advertisement in the   21: 19  
11          Irish Post in the UK flagging up when our meetings  
12          were due to take place.   People would have rang the  
13          numbers that would have been given and they were free  
14          to come along to our meetings if they so wished.

15   161   Q.    And since its formation what are the aims of your   21: 19  
16          group and how have they gone about achieving those  
17          aims?

18          A.    Initially when we started, most of the survivors that  
19          came to the meetings didn't actually know each other.  
20          They were very slow to communicate with one another.   21: 19  
21          They were quite suspicious and didn't really want to  
22          tell much about their background and what happened to  
23          them in the various institutions that they had been  
24          incarcerated in.   However, over a period of time that  
25          changed and a lot of them actually are now friends   21: 19  
26          and became friends with each other.   A lot of these  
27          survivors were elderly ladies and gentlemen that had  
28          actually nobody else in the world.   They used these  
29          meetings -- it was an outlet for them and still is



1 and they still come to the meetings just for that  
2 reason alone, to meet their new friends really.  
3 That is what they found. So even at that level alone  
4 it was quite good.

5 21: 20

6 Also then there was the fact of what was going on,  
7 what happened to these children and how maybe they  
8 could best as a group dictate or try and direct a  
9 policy.

10 162 Q. And if the members of your group needed something 21: 20  
11 more than this friendship, have you the facilities to  
12 refer them to counselling?

13 A. Yes. I can see even at our meetings recently that  
14 there is quite a lot of people who could do with some  
15 counselling but for one reason and another haven't 21: 20  
16 availed of it or maybe feel that they don't need it  
17 themselves, I don't know. There are certainly a lot  
18 of other areas that they could be helped with.

19  
20 I know this is not the remit of the Commission, but 21: 20  
21 the educational fund is one area that is huge. It is  
22 not getting through, certainly to our members in the  
23 UK and they are not availing of it and it is not  
24 being made available to them to a large extent.

25 And this is a huge problem that we have at the 21: 21  
26 moment. We have already said this and spoke about  
27 this to the Department already and something needs to  
28 be done radically for survivors in the UK on this  
29 front. I think this would be very, very helpful to



1                   them.

2   163   Q.    On a similar vein, do you get any funding. Does your  
3                   group get any kind of funding?

4                   A.    The short answer to that is no.

5   164   Q.    How do you resource yourselves then? 21: 21

6                   A.    With difficulty. Let me say that it is a struggle  
7                   constantly. We have had to withdraw our  
8                   advertisement from the Irish Post because we didn't  
9                   have any money to continue with that. It is not a  
10                  huge expenditure as such. I mean, we don't do any 21: 21  
11                  work as regards to visitation because we can't afford  
12                  it. However, some of the members do visit each other  
13                  on more of a social type effort. So I suppose they  
14                  don't look for expenses in that case. We certainly  
15                  would be able, or we have the people that are 21: 22  
16                  available to do a lot more work on a professional  
17                  basis. We had one psychotherapist within our group  
18                  who was prepared to take a small number of people,  
19                  maybe eight, as a group and help them with  
20                  counselling. This was mooted to the Department of 21: 22  
21                  Education and the Department of Health but they both  
22                  declined that offer, which I think was a golden  
23                  opportunity missed.

24   165   Q.    With regard to the timing and manner in which the  
25                   issue emerged, the issue of child abuse emerged in 21: 22  
26                   Ireland, how would you see it emerged for your group?

27                  A.    I suppose for each individual it is going to be  
28                  different. I can only speak for myself personally.  
29                  It was always an issue with me. It was always in my



1 head. I always knew that there was wrong done.  
2 I would think that it possibly would have been the  
3 same for each of the members. However, I will also  
4 say that those that went to the UK I do believe  
5 blocked out their past life we will say -- the period 21:23  
6 that they had spent in Ireland -- and when they left  
7 the shore I think they tried to start a new life for  
8 themselves in the UK. I think in a lot of cases it  
9 was probably unsuccessful.

10 166 Q. What about the Taoiseach's apology. How do you feel 21:23  
11 about that?

12 A. Personally to me, no, I don't get anything from it.  
13 We did at our last meeting ask each of our members  
14 for their opinions, not just on that issue but on  
15 every issue. Every one of our members was asked for 21:23  
16 their opinion, if they have one. The general  
17 consensus there was that it really meant little or  
18 nothing to them.

19 167 Q. I think there are a number of items that you would  
20 like the Committee to consider and there was a wish 21:24  
21 list for want of a better word?

22 A. A chance would be a fine thing. We said at the onset  
23 that we felt that the mothers of survivors of  
24 children that were institutionalised should be  
25 included somewhere in the Commission -- and maybe not 21:24  
26 just mothers, maybe fathers as well -- to give just  
27 an overall or a bigger picture as to what actually  
28 happened. You may understand that the children were  
29 taken from the mothers, and I do know a few of these





1 ladies personally. They have suffered a huge amount  
2 of guilt and they have taken on the guilt I do  
3 believe of what was probably a State and religious  
4 matter. They have been left with that guilt. Some  
5 of them have died with the guilt and some of them are 21:25  
6 actually still living with it. It would be a very  
7 good duty on the part of the Commission to take these  
8 ladies and gentlemen in and look at that very  
9 seriously.

10  
11 Secondly, we would like to see the people who carried  
12 out the medical work -- the dentists, nurses etc. --  
13 within the industrial school system I would like to  
14 see them maybe before the Commission as well, maybe  
15 giving their ideas and angles on what happened and 21:25  
16 how they proceeded and carried out their duties also.  
17 We would also like, if we could, to find out the  
18 amount of money that was given by the State to the  
19 religious orders in decapitation and what value that  
20 would be at today's prices. What it would cost today 21:25  
21 if they were paying out that kind of money.

22  
23 I also believe that some of the religious groups have  
24 since received money from insurance companies. They  
25 actually had insurance taken out in the 1940s or 21:26  
26 1950s against this type of thing happening.

27  
28 We would like to see maybe the ISPCC and the NSPCC as  
29 well as maybe St. Vincent de Paul brought and asked



1 to come before the Commission as well and give their  
2 slant on things and how they perceived things to be  
3 and how things were happening. Especially the ISPC  
4 who had a huge amount of authority to be able to go  
5 to people's homes, take children, go before the 21:26  
6 courts and then dispatch the children into these  
7 schools. I think they really have some questions to  
8 answer.

9  
10 Also the lay people who worked for the religious 21:26  
11 orders. I do believe that in some of the schools  
12 there were whole societies and a whole area that were  
13 dependent on the school itself for their livelihood.  
14 And it would be interesting to see some of these  
15 people and they can give their perspective on how 21:27  
16 they came to be in that position. And if they did  
17 see wrong being done, maybe why they didn't report it  
18 or for what reasons they didn't report it.

19  
20 I do believe that if people were sent or went to an 21:27  
21 industrial and may not be now heard -- a number of  
22 people that went to that institution -- if there is  
23 some type of a sampling within the Commission.  
24 That those that are not heard should be recognised  
25 in some way or form by the Commission. 21:27

26  
27 Finally the vaccine trials, which is an area that we  
28 are hugely interested in. Some of our members have  
29 unwittingly taken part in these trials and I am



1 really interested to see where that is going or is it  
2 parked up or what is happening or who is going to  
3 take it up. Because it is an area and I don't think  
4 it is something that you can separate from an  
5 investigation because it was an atrocity of huge 21: 28  
6 proportions that went on in the schools and it needs  
7 to be found out about.

8 CHAIRMAN: That has been the subject  
9 of a court action,  
10 Mr. Cronin. We are bound obviously by what happens 21: 28  
11 in that regard.

12 A. I know.

13 CHAIRMAN: We have to take our  
14 instructions from what the  
15 courts about that. You understand that of course? 21: 28

16 A. I do.

17 CHAIRMAN: Just in regard to that  
18 particular point.  
19 The other points obviously require consideration.  
20 That one is one that effectively is out of our hands. 21: 28  
21 But the other points of course I understand.  
22 Could I just ask you, if I may Mr. Cronin. These are  
23 suggestions you are making as to how the  
24 Investigation Committee should be looking at things,  
25 and they are useful ideas as to how explorations 21: 29  
26 might be made to see if there are people with a  
27 useful and interesting perspective other than  
28 religious orders or people accused of abuse and  
29 actually separate from complainants about abuse.



1           These are people who would be outside either of those  
2           categories. Okay, and that is obviously interesting  
3           from our point of view. From your point of view and  
4           your own organisation, the social element obviously  
5           is an important one. People just meeting and getting 21:29  
6           to know each other and sharing their experiences.  
7           That is obviously a useful thing?

8           A. Yes.  
9           CHAIRMAN:                           Your funds do not allow you  
10   to travel far and wide 21:30  
11           obviously?

12          A. No, but we do get requests from people as far as  
13          Manchester and some parts of Scotland and we try to  
14          send them out any bit of information that we may  
15          have. It is not very much but we do our best in that 21:30  
16          area. The first comment that you made about widening  
17          out the thing - I think that is very interesting  
18          because I don't think that to narrow it down just to  
19          the two groups we are speaking about will give you  
20          the overall or proper picture of what actually 21:30  
21          happened in the society as a whole. And I think it  
22          is most important that you get all those little  
23          pieces together to maybe get a fuller picture.

24          CHAIRMAN:                           We will be happy to  
25   consider in the light of 21:30  
26          those very useful ideas how we can use them to  
27          progress our investigation. There is no question  
28          about that. The educational area as well - I know  
29          that is not, as you acknowledge, within our remit.



1           You see that as being something that you  
2           can. . . (INTERJECTION)

3       A.    May I say that I find the Department of Education  
4           negligent in this totally because I believe this is  
5           money that was put in from the religious orders and I 21:31  
6           believe that the Department had a duty to actually  
7           maybe put a similar amount of money in. Because I do  
8           believe this is ongoing. It is not just for  
9           survivors. I do believe long-term that the goodness  
10          that may come out of this would be the education of 21:31  
11          survivors and maybe their children or even their  
12          grandchildren. This is where maybe long-term good  
13          work can be done. I feel very, very strongly about  
14          this.

15       CHAIRMAN:                            You see that in the area of 21:31  
16    recommendations really,  
17          what we should be looking at long-term?

18       A.    Very much so. I think it would be a huge help to  
19           survivors and their children or even their  
20           grandchildren. Because even to this day they are 21:31  
21           actually disenfranchised and don't have the  
22           confidence. A lot of them have the ability to go  
23           forward and put themselves forward into popular area  
24           of education where they could be doing some very,  
25           very good work. 21:31

26       CHAIRMAN:                            Just a practical point.  
27    How do you organise this.  
28          Do you do it from home or how do you manage?

29       A.    I do it from home. I send out the letters once a



1 month. I organise the hall in London and then get  
2 myself over there on maybe the Saturday or the Friday  
3 beforehand. I have a good committee there. They do  
4 help as much as they can, but obviously they can only  
5 do so much as well. As I say, with the lack of 21:32  
6 funding -- and I don't want to be raising this with  
7 you because it is an old thing as far as I am  
8 concerned. Its sell by date is long since gone at  
9 this stage. It is very disappointing and I am  
10 unhappy about the way things went. Maybe it can be 21:32  
11 rectified at some stage, I don't know.

12 MR. LOWE: Just one question. If the  
13 Taoiseach's apology wasn't  
14 adequate, is any form of apology going to be adequate  
15 for you? 21:32

16 A. I am not saying for me. The justice asked me a  
17 question and for me I have to say that he didn't  
18 apologise to me personally. And nobody did. I have  
19 never even met that man. Maybe that is the way these  
20 people feel as well. Maybe if he met them 21:33  
21 individually and he apologised, but maybe then he is  
22 not the man to apologise or person to apologise to  
23 these people too. Maybe it is the institutions or  
24 the people that are heading up these religious groups  
25 who should now be apologising, I don't know. I have 21:33  
26 never met the Taoiseach so he has never apologised to  
27 me. I would love to say it means a great deal to me  
28 but it doesn't. I cannot say that I feel anything  
29 for it. And the members in the UK probably feel even



1 more pushed away from it I would think. But that is  
2 my opinion. But having asked them, it didn't seem to  
3 make much of a difference to them

4 MR. LOWE: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much indeed, 21:33  
6 Mr. Cronin. That is very  
7 helpful.

8

9 THE WITNESS THEN WITHDREW

10

21:34

11 CHAIRMAN: 10:30 tomorrow.

12

13 THE HEARING WAS THEN ADJOURNED TO FRIDAY,

14 23RD JULY 2004 AT 10:30AM

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'95 - 47:22  
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