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| <p>1 Tuesday, 13 November 2018 2 (10.30 am) 3 WITNESS RC-A31 (affirmed) 4 THE CHAIR: Good morning, Ms Carey. 5 MS CAREY: Good morning, chair. 6 Examination by MS CAREY 7 MS CAREY: For the purposes of these proceedings, you are 8 known as A31. 9 A. Okay. 10 Q. I hope that you have in front of you a bundle containing 11 your witness statement? 12 A. Yes, I do indeed. 13 Q. If at any time you need a break, please just let me 14 know, and we can see that you have got your glasses on 15 and they also have some shades? 16 A. Yes, I have light, sort of, sensitivity issues, yes. 17 Q. There is no difficulty in you putting your shades down 18 if you need to, and if it will help you give evidence; 19 all right? So do that if you need to. 20 A. Okay. 21 Q. A31, I want to take you back, please, to the early 22 1970s -- 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. -- and your dealings with Father James Robinson, as he 25 then was, now James Robinson. I think, when you were</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p> | <p>1 under 13, you first met James Robinson because he was 2 a trainee priest at the church? 3 A. That's correct, yes. 4 Q. You were attending the church, and your family; is that 5 right? 6 A. I was attending the church, but more significantly, the 7 church was attached to my primary school. 8 Q. I think your parents were Catholics? 9 A. Devout Catholics from rural Ireland who moved over to 10 Birmingham in the 1950s. 11 Q. All right. In fact, Father Robinson came to your house 12 on a number of occasions? 13 A. Numerous occasions. He was very, very friendly with my 14 mother and father, who were devout Catholics. My father 15 was on the parish council. 16 Q. I think by the summer of 1970 or 1971, did 17 Father Robinson invite you and your brothers to go for 18 a ride with him in his car? 19 A. My recollection is that's one of the first sort of key 20 incidents where he was developing a strategy, yes. 21 Q. Just help us, before we get to the actual car trip, just 22 tell us, what was Father Robinson like, as far as you 23 were concerned? 24 A. Okay. The problem with this is the nature of memory and 25 recall. It is very hard for me to reconnect with the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p> |
| <p>1 10-year-old boy I was, in terms of how he saw 2 Father Robinson, but I'll do my best, yeah. I was 3 surrounded by Irish Catholic culture, where priests were 4 omnipresent. My mother used to organise what were 5 called house masses, where, instead of just in the 6 church on a Sunday, say on a Wednesday evening there 7 would be a house mass and a priest would turn up and 8 people from the community, the local houses, would be 9 invited and there would be a mass, and afterwards there 10 would be refreshments. I mean, I call it a little 11 Dublin, because if you walked down the street where 12 I lived, there were -- sorry, little Ireland, there were 13 people from every county on the island of Ireland. So 14 for me, as a little boy, he was just another priest. 15 When he first arrived, you know, I didn't see 16 anything evil about his aura or anything like that. It 17 wouldn't have occurred to me. 18 Q. Did you trust him? 19 A. I trusted everyone. I was a 10-year-old boy. 20 Q. Did your family trust him? 21 A. Absolutely and totally. I wouldn't say they just 22 trusted him; I would almost say, if it's not blasphemy, 23 that they worshipped him. 24 Q. So come that summer of '70 or '71, when you and your 25 brothers would go for a ride in his car, did you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p> | <p>1 parents say, "No, you can't go", or anything like that? 2 A. No, why would they? My parents had six children. My 3 dad drove a bus 50 hours a week and my mum worked 4 100 hours a week keeping the house going for all of us, 5 so any help from any source would be -- 6 Q. Was welcome? 7 A. Especially from a Catholic priest who had taken a shine 8 to one of their sons. 9 Q. Now, I think you said in your statement that the first 10 few occasions that you and your brothers went out in 11 Robinson's car, there were no sexual advances or 12 anything like -- do you want to have a look at your 13 statement? 14 A. Yes, this is -- 15 Q. Turn up -- 16 A. I have it. 17 Q. -- tab 1. 18 A. Got it. 19 Q. We are on the second page. 20 A. Okay. 21 Q. This is taken from your statement that you made to the 22 police? 23 A. For the criminal trial, yes. 24 Q. In 1985. 25 A. Ah, right. So this is the statement that a detective</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p> |

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| <p>1 collated from what -- the information I gave him. So 2 I've signed and agreed -- there's nothing in this 3 statement I disagree with, but that's -- they are not my 4 words, they're the police's interpretation of my -- 5 Q. We understand that. 6 A. Okay. 7 Q. But you have said that actually you don't disagree with 8 it and you can see there that you told the police that 9 there was a few occasions where you and your brothers 10 went out in the car? 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. There were no sexual advances, but there came a point 13 when Robinson suggested that you and he went out alone 14 in the car? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. Without going into all of the detail, A31, is it whilst 17 you were in his car on your own that he first started to 18 sexually abuse you? 19 A. Right. Well, the actual first recollection I have of 20 him is when he came -- he was around the house 21 constantly. But there's one particular occasion he came 22 around and I can picture it now: the coal fire in one 23 corner of the room, the settee, coffee table in front of 24 me, with a book about Aztec and Mayan history. My dad 25 used to get all sorts of books from jumble sales for his</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p> | <p>1 kids, you know, whatever he thought we might be 2 interested in. I was interested in this book because it 3 was full of gory executions and, you know, people 4 chopping people's heads off and little boys tend to 5 like, you know, extreme violence, sort of -- so I was 6 looking at this book, anyway. Father Robinson sat down 7 next to me, beside me, my mum brought him a cup of tea 8 with the best china, yeah, and he moved towards me to 9 discuss the contents of this book. 10 My recollection is that under the pretext of sort of 11 following the context of the book, that he, you know, 12 started moving his hand towards my ... yeah. 13 Q. Towards your genital area? 14 A. Yes, towards my genital area, and did indeed, yes. 15 Q. And did indeed touch you? 16 A. Yes, he did. 17 Q. So there was an incident where, effectively, under the 18 guise of looking at the book with you, he sexually 19 abused you? 20 A. He was probing -- you know, that -- he was scouting, you 21 know, am I a prospect? 22 Q. Did that happen before or after the occasion that you 23 were in the car with him? 24 A. Oh, no, that was before. 25 Q. That was before, right.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p> |
| <p>1 A. Definitely. 2 Q. So then there was abuse in the car, where I think you 3 told the police, on that occasion, he touched you over 4 your trousers. You said to him, "No, it's wrong", and 5 he said to you, "It's only a bit of fun"? 6 A. Okay. Again, this is collated -- 7 Q. Is that -- 8 A. That's all perfectly true. But what I want to say is, 9 he actually kidnapped me and took me out onto 10 Staffordshire Cannock Chase Moor and kept me hostage for 11 six hours to break me down. 12 Q. Without going into every single occasion and episode of 13 abuse that was done to you, can I summarise it in this 14 way: I think there were a number of trips in his car 15 between the early 1970s and 1976. Is that about right? 16 A. Okay. So the car trips were part of it. 17 Q. Yes. 18 A. But the key thing people need to understand is that he 19 was actually allowed to stay overnight in the -- 20 Q. Hold your horses. I'm just going to come to that. 21 There are the car trips where he abused you on 22 those? 23 A. Mmm. 24 Q. All right. I think it is also right that he took you to 25 his mother's house?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p> | <p>1 A. He did indeed, and stayed -- we stayed overnight. 2 Q. Was there any sexual abuse at his mother's house? 3 A. Oh, yes. Yes. 4 Q. At your house, you told us he came to visit? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Did he abuse you at your house? 7 A. Yes, he was allowed to stay overnight and share a bed 8 with me, a double bed. 9 Q. What about at church? 10 A. I was an altar boy, which -- an altar boy officiates as 11 part of the religious services of the Catholic Church. 12 So, basically, I used to get up at I think about 7.00 -- 13 it was such a large Irish Catholic community, there were 14 so many masses going on, that there was a whole rota of 15 boys who were allocated. So he would have had access to 16 me via being an altar boy. The primary school was next 17 door. He'd call me in to help with little things and, 18 you know, assault me, molest me. 19 Q. So at church and at primary school? 20 A. At church, primary school, his mother's house, my 21 parents' house, in his car, in lay-bys. He stopped once 22 and said, "Oh, this is Lovers' Lane". 23 Q. Can I summarise it in this way: you told us about him 24 initially touching you? 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p> |

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| <p>1 Q. But did the abuse progress to masturbation?</p> <p>2 A. Yeah --</p> <p>3 Q. And in due course, did he bugger you?</p> <p>4 A. Yes, a kind of sexual grooming over about a period of --</p> <p>5 I would say from 1970 to, my recollection, '73 to '74,</p> <p>6 it had progressed to anal sex.</p> <p>7 Q. Are you able to give the chair and panel any idea of</p> <p>8 when the abuse stopped?</p> <p>9 A. Very clearly. He used to go to California every summer.</p> <p>10 I'm friends with another person involved who was abused</p> <p>11 by him at a later stage. Father Robinson was obsessed</p> <p>12 with trying to get me to go to California. I never went</p> <p>13 with him because I obviously despised him. He came back</p> <p>14 from -- I don't know how he afforded all of this, but --</p> <p>15 his mother lived in a council house. But, anyway, he</p> <p>16 seemed to have the funds to go to California every</p> <p>17 summer for six weeks. And I have learnt in the past</p> <p>18 that, you know, probably with some young boy with him.</p> <p>19 So he became back, anyway, in 1976, summer of '76, the</p> <p>20 boiling hot summer, the summer of punk rock. I was</p> <p>21 very -- as I say, very moved and motivated by the</p> <p>22 cultural developments in punk rock, and he came back and</p> <p>23 he tried to have a go. I was standing outside the</p> <p>24 airing cupboard outside my bedroom door, and he</p> <p>25 basically just had a feel (indicating), and I smacked</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 9</p> | <p>1 him in the face. Bang.</p> <p>2 Q. That was the last --</p> <p>3 A. Oh, then, you know ...</p> <p>4 Q. Now, the abuse stopped by 1976, but can I ask you about</p> <p>5 a letter that he wrote to you, please, in our bundle --</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. -- which is behind tab 6. Can we have on screen,</p> <p>8 please, OHY005312. It is very faint, so I will read it</p> <p>9 out from the copy in our --</p> <p>10 A. I know this almost by heart.</p> <p>11 Q. I will read it out so that everyone else knows what's</p> <p>12 being said.</p> <p>13 A. Yes, yeah.</p> <p>14 Q. This is a letter to you on 10 April 1974, written by</p> <p>15 James Robinson.</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. He says this:</p> <p>18 "My dear A31.</p> <p>19 "A wee note with a small Easter gift. I can't say</p> <p>20 get some cigs with it, but I'm sure it will go towards</p> <p>21 a record or something. I miss you all very much, in</p> <p>22 fact I couldn't even say how much even to my ringing of</p> <p>23 the doorbell.</p> <p>24 "The phone communication is good, but when you can't</p> <p>25 see, it is a different matter. Nevertheless, I guess</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 10</p> |
| <p>1 that this is my lot for a time. The people here are</p> <p>2 very nice though and that is a good lot. I could go on</p> <p>3 for ages maybe, but I just wanted you to get my usual</p> <p>4 gift for Easter. Although Easter and Christmas never</p> <p>5 seem to end for some!!!</p> <p>6 "Bye for now, miss you, love Jimmy, x."</p> <p>7 A. "Kiss".</p> <p>8 Q. I want to ask you about --</p> <p>9 A. Sorry, I just need a sick bucket. Joke.</p> <p>10 Q. Just thinking about that letter for a moment, at the</p> <p>11 time he wrote you the letter, was he still your parish</p> <p>12 priest?</p> <p>13 A. No, no, he'd vanished overnight. He'd been -- you know,</p> <p>14 they'd got wind of it that, you know, he was a danger to</p> <p>15 me or, more likely, I was a danger to him, and they</p> <p>16 spirited him off to Newcastle-under-Lyme, yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Before this letter, had you told anyone in the church</p> <p>18 what Robinson had been doing to you?</p> <p>19 A. Only under the seal of confession, the Catholic -- they</p> <p>20 call it now the sacrament of reconciliation.</p> <p>21 Q. The seal of the confessional, though, as it was known?</p> <p>22 A. Seal of confession, yeah. Various priests at</p> <p>23 Birmingham Oratory -- in and around Birmingham, yeah.</p> <p>24 It is documented in the criminal trial.</p> <p>25 Q. Did you know why he "vanished overnight", to use your</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 11</p> | <p>1 words?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Did anyone tell you why he'd been moved?</p> <p>4 A. Well, in that culture, they don't tell you the facts,</p> <p>5 yeah, they use euphemisms. I remember Father [redacted]</p> <p>6 who was the parish priest -- I think there were about</p> <p>7 four priests there. He just -- I can remember this now.</p> <p>8 He just said, "Are you okay?", yeah.</p> <p>9 Q. Can I just pause you there. Because I think we may need</p> <p>10 to just stop the feed for a moment. There is no</p> <p>11 difficulty.</p> <p>12 A. He's dead.</p> <p>13 MS CAREY: Don't worry, just wait one second.</p> <p>14 Chair, I am just going to invite you to stop the</p> <p>15 feed for a moment and we will resume, I suspect, in</p> <p>16 a minute.</p> <p>17 Chair, I suspect you may need to make a restriction</p> <p>18 order covering the name that's been used, but we can</p> <p>19 attend to that later on. Can I just ask you to confirm</p> <p>20 at this stage that that order will be made.</p> <p>21 THE CHAIR: Yes, I will make the order.</p> <p>22 MS CAREY: Thank you very much. Picking up the story,</p> <p>23 please, A31. So you told some priests in the seal of</p> <p>24 the confessional?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 12</p> |

1 Q. Father Robinson is moved?
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. He wrote you this letter that we have just been looking
 4 at?
 5 **A. There were others, but I don't have them.**
 6 Q. Did you tell anyone about this letter?
 7 **A. Well, my mother and father would have seen it.**
 8 Q. They would have seen it?
 9 **A. But they wouldn't have seen anything sinister in it.**
 10 Q. That's what I was going to ask you.
 11 **A. No.**
 12 Q. At that stage, had you told your mum and dad about what
 13 had been going on?
 14 **A. Absolutely not. The first time my parents became aware**
 15 **of it was when I went to the police in 1985.**
 16 Q. That's what I want to ask you about next.
 17 **A. Okay.**
 18 Q. In your statement, you make it clear that it was on
 19 5 May 1985 that you came back to Birmingham from London
 20 and went to Digbeth Police Station --
 21 **A. Correct.**
 22 Q. -- to tell the police about what Robinson had been doing
 23 to you. I think the plan was, you made a brief
 24 statement that night and they were going to come back
 25 and take a more detailed statement from you?

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1 Q. Let me tell you what I wanted to ask you about. You
 2 went to the police station. You then went to speak to
 3 Reverend Grady. Did you tell Reverend Grady about what
 4 Jim Robinson had done to you?
 5 **A. Oh yes, yes, in detail.**
 6 Q. Did he tell you that he was going to try to sort the
 7 matter out with the church?
 8 **A. Well, the reason I went to see Sean is I wanted him to**
 9 **go and talk to my parents with me. I didn't want to**
 10 **just walk into the kitchen and say, "You know what ...";**
 11 **yeah? What I was hoping, I think, was that Sean would**
 12 **actually come with me to my parents and we would just**
 13 **get it all out on the table.**
 14 Q. A couple of days later, I think in fact you made
 15 arrangements to meet Father Robinson?
 16 **A. Yes, and I discussed that with Sean. This is very hard**
 17 **for me to recall the exact, you know, details, but**
 18 **I look back on it, it was pretty clear to me I was**
 19 **having some kind of serious nervous breakdown about**
 20 **this. I hadn't decided to go and do this until the**
 21 **morning -- early dawn before I did it.**
 22 Q. Right.
 23 **A. I didn't have a plan. I literally just did it.**
 24 Q. Taking the events from your statement made back in '85,
 25 you told the police, told Reverend Grady and a couple of

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1 **A. Well, I gave a fairly detailed statement to the --**
 2 **I think you'd call it the desk officer, the reception**
 3 **desk officer, who was absolutely -- you know, couldn't**
 4 **believe what he was hearing. But he wrote down copious**
 5 **notes of what I was telling him. Then I was told,**
 6 **basically, "Go home and someone will be in touch".**
 7 Q. In fact, you went that same night to speak to
 8 Reverend Grady, who was the parish priest?
 9 **A. Was it the same night or the next day? I think**
 10 **probably -- yes, it would have been the same night.**
 11 **I was in a bit of a state, to put it mildly. As I left**
 12 **the police station, I suddenly thought, "Oh, dear,**
 13 **I don't have any evidence about any of this"; yeah? So**
 14 **I went to discuss it with -- I won't say his name, but**
 15 **the priest at the same parish church where**
 16 **Father Robinson --**
 17 Q. In fact, there is no difficulty about saying
 18 Reverend Grady's name at all.
 19 **A. Okay, his name -- then he wasn't a Canon, he was just**
 20 **a Father, Father Sean Grady. Sean was in the adjoining**
 21 **parish, English Martyrs, and then moved around. Then,**
 22 **in 1984, I believe he was assigned to the -- if I say**
 23 **that --**
 24 Q. I'll tell you what I want to --
 25 **A. The parish church --**

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1 days later you set up a meeting with Father Robinson?
 2 **A. I rang him from my parents' house because they had his**
 3 **number. I hadn't -- I think I might have seen him at**
 4 **something in the distance, you know, within that**
 5 **10 years, but I'd had absolutely nothing to do with him**
 6 **from 1976 and I hadn't heard from him: so I rang him and**
 7 **I said, "I'd just like to meet you and go over a few**
 8 **things. Can we meet back at the old house?" And he**
 9 **agreed, thank God.**
 10 Q. Now, I'd like to ask you, please, about that meeting
 11 with him. It might help you to turn up in your bundle
 12 tab 1 behind divider B. Can we have up on screen,
 13 please, INQ002478_007. Have you got it?
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. This is a transcript of a recording that you made of
 16 some of your conversation with him.
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. Just help us. Where did you meet Father Robinson that
 19 day?
 20 **A. We met outside the house that I'd lived in from birth to**
 21 **22.**
 22 Q. Did you stay outside the house or did you move to
 23 another location?
 24 **A. No, because his concern and mine was of being overheard**
 25 **or that it does look rather weird, me and him, you know,**

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| <p>1 talking. 2 Q. Did you go to a park? 3 A. We went to a local park. I won't say the name of it. 4 Q. No, that's fine. Actually, does some of this recording 5 then come from when you and he were alone together? 6 A. Alone together by a lake in the middle of the park using 7 the available technology at the time. I've got it here. 8 Q. You had a tape recorder? 9 A. I had a Sony Walkman recordable, which I bought at 10 Tottenham Court Road. I'm a gadget freak. 11 Q. I want to ask you a little bit, please, about some of 12 the recording that's been transcribed? 13 A. Sure, yep. 14 Q. We won't go through every single line that was said, but 15 can we start, please, on page 1 at the bottom of 16 the page. You had made reference to one of your 17 aunties' daughters. Don't worry about that. Then you 18 said to him this: 19 "I was under 13 years old. The thing is, it's 20 inside me now. Although I am not saying that you're 21 likely to go off and do it to other kids. I know, 22 I know. I just want to know. I need to know these 23 things because, I mean, when we used to make love and 24 you never forced me, you know what I mean like? I'm not 25 turning around now and saying you made me do this and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 17</p> | <p>1 you made me do that or I did anything against my will. 2 It's just that maybe I was the one kid in a few hundred 3 who could possibly cope with anything that intense. 4 What do you think?" 5 If we go over the page, you said: 6 "How did you feel when you embarked on it? You must 7 have thought this is really a dangerous thing to do." 8 And he said: 9 "The thing was, we buried it together." 10 As we go through the transcript, chair, a little 11 later, down on page 2, Father Robinson said: 12 "It was just a phase. A phase that we went 13 through." 14 You said: 15 "Tell me from the bottom of your heart that you are 16 not involved with any other children?" 17 "No, no, no." 18 You said: 19 "If that happened with me, you can see why I have 20 got to ask you." 21 He said: 22 "[A31], [A31], you know that with you and me it was 23 a mistake that just happened, and it was completely 24 buried ages ago and it's finished. Finished." 25 Turning on just to page 3, you said a little later</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 18</p> |
| <p>1 on in the conversation with him, towards the bottom of 2 the page: 3 "Yeah, and I needed to get some space. You must 4 admit that was a pretty strange start in life. Strange 5 as unusual for a child to get involved in a gay affair 6 at the age of under 13 and carry it on for six years." 7 He said: 8 "It wasn't a gay affair, though, was it?" 9 You said: 10 "How do you mean? What, you don't regard yourself 11 as gay then? Well, I don't mind saying I will never 12 know really, will I? I don't mind if I am gay, I don't 13 mind if I am. I fell in love with a woman." 14 He said: 15 "It was just something that happened." 16 A little bit further towards the end of 17 the conversation on page 5, he said: 18 "That is why I'm saying it happened at the time. 19 I can't explain, it happened and it was finished and we 20 put it to bed." 21 And the conversation went on in a not dissimilar 22 vein, if I can put it like that? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. At any stage whilst you were talking to him -- do I take 25 it that he didn't know he was being recorded?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 19</p> | <p>1 A. No, because exactly as I'm showing you here, I had in my 2 inside jacket pocket a recordable Walkman. If he'd have 3 known -- I mean, this is basically me in a state 4 regressing to childhood. He was a trained boxer, 5 butcher -- 6 Q. Bike rider? 7 A. -- blacksmith, bike rider. Yeah, he'd this whole 8 fantasy Walter Mitty life. But he used to shadow box 9 with me. He tried to train me as a boxer because 10 I punched a kid in the playground and broke his jaw and 11 he was very impressed with that. 12 But my fear was that if he figured out I had this, 13 this recording device, yeah, I was in real -- 14 potentially really serious trouble. 15 Q. Just pause there. 16 A. Okay. 17 Q. In due course, was this transcript, or part of it, used 18 at the criminal trial -- 19 A. Yes -- 20 Q. -- in 2010? 21 A. -- it was used in the closing prosecution case. 22 Q. Did you give evidence at that trial? 23 A. I did indeed. 24 Q. I have jumped on ahead slightly but I want to just come 25 back to 1985.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 20</p> |

1 **A. Sure.**
 2 Q. You obviously had made a complaint to the police --
 3 **A. Indeed.**
 4 Q. -- and told them what had happened. Did you hear back
 5 from the police in 1985?
 6 **A. Sorry?**
 7 Q. Did you hear any more from the police about what they
 8 were going to do with your complaint?
 9 **A. Well, that's a very convoluted, complicated timeline of**
 10 **events. Do you want me to go into that?**
 11 Q. Can I summarise it this way and see if you agree, A31?
 12 **A. Okay.**
 13 Q. We obviously know that you went to Digbeth Police
 14 Station, that there was a statement drawn up that we
 15 have just been looking at?
 16 **A. Under duress.**
 17 Q. Did you hear back from the police, though, as to whether
 18 Robinson was going to be charged or prosecuted or
 19 anything like that at that stage?
 20 **A. Not -- oh, let me think. Not directly. But my father**
 21 **had lots to say about this.**
 22 Q. We know in fact there was no prosecution of him in 1985.
 23 **A. No.**
 24 Q. After your meeting with Robinson where you recorded him,
 25 do you know -- did you have any more contact with him?

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1 and Discipline Department over allegations you'd made
 2 regarding James Robinson and DI Higgins?
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. DI Higgins was one of the investigators that you spoke
 5 with in 1985?
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. It said:
 8 "The matter was passed to me to review as regards
 9 any evidence and the possibility of any further
 10 investigation of the allegations which you make against
 11 James Robinson.
 12 "I have listened to the tape recording which you
 13 supplied and which you allege is a conversation recorded
 14 between yourself and James Robinson: I make the
 15 following comments about that tape.
 16 "1. You supply no corroborative evidence that the
 17 voice on that tape is James Robinson beyond reasonable
 18 doubt; and
 19 "2. Even if we were in a position to obtain any
 20 such corroboration, the tape has significant 'breaks' in
 21 the conversation which, in my view, make it unsafe to be
 22 accepted as a true and accurate record of that alleged
 23 meeting.
 24 "Further, the incident(s) about which you make the
 25 allegations occurred some 25 years ago but was not

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1 **A. I've seen that -- supposedly, I rang him the next day**
 2 **and told him to get out, yeah. I have no recollection**
 3 **of that.**
 4 Q. All right.
 5 **A. None.**
 6 Q. Okay.
 7 **A. I mean, it might have happened because, as far as**
 8 **I can -- looking back, I think I was having, as I said,**
 9 **some kind of serious breakdown, yeah, but ...**
 10 Q. All right. I want to move on to 1995.
 11 **A. Ten years later, yes.**
 12 Q. I think it is right that you asked the West Midlands
 13 Police to investigate Robinson and they refused to do
 14 so?
 15 **A. Yeah. My -- one of my brothers is a -- he serves in the**
 16 **Metropolitan Police, and he alerted me to the fact about**
 17 **the document destruction policies in place, that if you**
 18 **were going to do anything about it, you need to do it.**
 19 Q. So you went back to ask the police to investigate.
 20 I want to have a look, please, at a letter that was
 21 written to you behind our tab 2.
 22 **A. Okay.**
 23 Q. Can we call up on screen, please, INQ002478_015. It
 24 refers to a letter that you'd written which concerned
 25 your dealings with the West Midlands Police Complaints

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1 initially reported until 1985.
 2 "I am informed that in 1985 there was no evidence to
 3 corroborate your allegations and there is no suggestion
 4 that in the past 10 years any 'further' evidence has
 5 come to light.
 6 "Given the length of time which elapsed between the
 7 alleged incident(s) and the first report, there may have
 8 been a serious question of 'abuse of process' to be
 9 answered had any prosecution been attempted, even at the
 10 time.
 11 "As it is now, from an evidential point of view,
 12 I can find no reason to re-open any investigation and
 13 could not countenance same unless strong and valid new
 14 evidence were to be presented."
 15 It is signed by the divisional commander.
 16 So in 1995, there is reference in there to the tape
 17 recording?
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. When did you supply that first to the police?
 20 **A. I gave that tape recording to -- I can say his name,**
 21 **can't I? Well, yes, Detective Inspector Higgins in**
 22 **1985.**
 23 Q. In 1985, right. Clearly, it was part of
 24 the decision-making process in 1995?
 25 **A. Yes.**

Page 24

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Q. But the police decided at that time to not investigate 2 further. I want to move on in time, please. 3 A. Sure. 4 Q. To 2003. 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. By this time, had you asked, again, West Midlands Police 7 to re-open the investigation into Robinson? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. If we look, please, behind our tab 3, there is a letter 10 from Sara Bowen. Can we call up, please, INQ002478_019. 11 She refers to the fact that she has met you, the 12 allegations you made. Enquiries were made to trace your 13 previous complaint -- we're in the second paragraph -- 14 but due to the time delay, they had been destroyed. 15 Father Robinson was checked against police systems and 16 a child sex abuse incident room; however, there was no 17 trace of him. This means he has never been 18 charged/convicted of any criminal offences to date." 19 There is reference then in the next paragraph: 20 "In early December 2002, [the officer] visited 21 St Chad's Church, Birmingham City Centre, where [they 22 met] Monsignor John Moran. He was extremely helpful and 23 handed me all the records regarding Robinson's history 24 with the Catholic Church, including Robinson's home 25 address in America. The statement you provided in 1985</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 25</p> | <p>1 was also in this package. It appears that DI Higgins 2 passed your statement to the church for their 3 information and usage in expelling Robinson from the 4 church." 5 Can I ask you this: did you ever hand over your 1985 6 witness statement to anyone in the church or 7 archdiocese? 8 A. Not to the best of my recall, but I signed a number of 9 documents with DI Higgins and it wouldn't surprise me -- 10 well, it would have turned up by now if he got me to 11 authorise the release of it. I don't know. 12 I absolutely have no idea. 13 Q. But it looks there like certainly the church had 14 possession of the statement? 15 A. I didn't send it to the church. 16 Q. They then provided it to the police when the police were 17 investigating in 2003. All right. 18 We know that in due course Father Robinson was 19 extradited and in 2010 he stood trial. You have already 20 told us you gave evidence. He was convicted and 21 sentenced to 21 years' imprisonment? 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. I think it is right that in 2013 you in fact wrote to 24 him. So he had been in prison I think for a few years 25 by then. Can we have a look at tab 4 in the bundle,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 26</p> |
| <p>1 please. 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. Turn up CHC000246_173. I think it is in fact an email 4 from you to Father Robinson? 5 A. I didn't have his email address. I think it must have 6 been to Victim Support or something like that. 7 Q. Do you know was it in fact passed on to him? 8 A. They came back to me and said he won't accept it. 9 Q. What I want to ask you about is why you wanted to write 10 to him. Let's look at the wording first? 11 A. Okay. 12 Q. You said: 13 "Hello Jim. 14 "Thank you for agreeing to accept this letter. 15 "I hope you are being treated well and finding ways 16 to occupy your time. 17 "I am writing because I recently met Father 18 Patrick Joyce and he told me he was not in touch with 19 you and hadn't been since the trial. He wasn't aware of 20 anyone else who was in touch with you. He was a close 21 friend of yours, so I was surprised to hear this. I'd 22 assumed he was in touch with you and would be able to 23 pass on a message. As he isn't in touch, I've asked for 24 this note to be passed to you. 25 "All I want to say is that I hope you come to terms</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 27</p> | <p>1 with your life and your behaviour. I'm writing this as 2 a way to finally let go or any remaining anger about 3 you. 4 "I've built a life beyond my childhood. It took 5 a lot of love and support from other people, especially 6 my family. I thought it might help you to know that 7 things have gradually improved for me since your trial 8 when I was not very well. 9 "When you are released from prison, I hope you will 10 be able to rebuild a life beyond the shame and disgrace 11 of your sentence. 12 "I do not know if you are still a Catholic or 13 religious in any way, but if you are, I hope that it is 14 some comfort to you in your current situation. 15 "Goodbye, Jim." 16 Do you want a moment. 17 A. Can I take a break? 18 MS CAREY: We will just pause for a second. You go with the 19 lady. I suspect we will let you leave and then I will 20 ask the chair and panel to rise. 21 Chair, can I ask you to rise for a moment and we 22 will make some enquiries as to when A31 is able to 23 resume his evidence? Thank you very much. 24 (11.03 am) 25 (A short break)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 28</p> |

1 (11.33 am)
 2 MS CAREY: Just before the break, we were looking at
 3 a letter or an email that you'd asked to be passed on to
 4 Jim Robinson.
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. I just want to ask you this about it before we go on to
 7 a different topic: can you just help us with why you
 8 felt it necessary to write a letter to him?
 9 **A. Right, so March 2013.**
 10 Q. Yes.
 11 **A. When Father Robinson was sent to prison in October 2010,**
 12 **that should have been me letting go of all of this,**
 13 **yeah, moving on. I spent six, seven, I can't even**
 14 **remember how many years, in weekly therapy with the NHS,**
 15 **and I was very, very lucky to get that support. You**
 16 **wouldn't get it now if you turned up; yeah? But that's**
 17 **a separate topic, yeah.**
 18 **But by now, I'd actually been discharged, I think,**
 19 **from the National Health Service as well, or safe, or,**
 20 **you know, not going to harm myself or anyone else.**
 21 **There is a whole sort of therapeutic culture around**
 22 **this of how you actually -- whether recovery is**
 23 **possible --**
 24 Q. Was this part of --
 25 **A. Yeah, yes, it's like -- I decided -- slightly ironically**

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1 **A. Okay.**
 2 Q. So you wrote the letter in 2013. That's all I wanted to
 3 ask about that.
 4 **A. This was through Victim Support. I said, "Can you get**
 5 **this letter to him because I didn't want to carry this**
 6 **anymore".**
 7 Q. Different topic, A31. I want to just go back to a BBC
 8 programme called "Kenyon Confronts"?
 9 **A. "Kenyon Confronts: Secrets and Lies", broadcast**
 10 **in October 2003.**
 11 Q. You're correct, all right. Were you -- did you
 12 participate in the programme?
 13 **A. I did indeed. I participated in the research, planning**
 14 **and I was pseudo-anonymised as "Mark".**
 15 Q. Right, that's fine. But so that we are clear, you are
 16 not the person that went to America to confront
 17 Jim Robinson? Don't name him.
 18 **A. No, I won't name him, but he's become a personal friend**
 19 **of mine and we met during the build-up to the programme.**
 20 **We met again in the court case. He is a later victim of**
 21 **Father Robinson when Father Robinson, in the '80s, moved**
 22 **to Coventry. I can't remember the name of the church**
 23 **but it is all in the records.**
 24 Q. So you're in contact with one of the other victims of
 25 Jim Robinson's. All right.

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1 **at first, but then genuinely -- to try and make Father**
 2 **James Robinson my "forgiveness project", air quotes,**
 3 **yeah, because that's what all the books say, "Oh, write**
 4 **a letter of anger and then don't send it". Well, as you**
 5 **know, I have sent 600 or 1,000 angry letters and emails**
 6 **to everyone I could think of over the years. Then**
 7 **I thought about him in prison and I thought, like, you**
 8 **know, either he's -- he's a pathological narcissist, he**
 9 **still denies it up to this day: it's all a conspiracy,**
 10 **a plot by me and all the other lads against him. But**
 11 **I just didn't want to carry all that crap anymore.**
 12 Q. Did it help, writing the letter, or not?
 13 **A. Initially. The nature -- I mean, basically, these**
 14 **events and what I regard as the coverup following them**
 15 **have systematically destroyed my life and have done so**
 16 **repeatedly. So my illness -- it's episodic. It's not,**
 17 **you know -- I mean, I hope I'm coming across as**
 18 **reasonably coherent today, but I don't know who is going**
 19 **to turn up each day, you know, which part of my brain is**
 20 **going to be activated. I could be here today and not**
 21 **even be able to talk to you; yeah? Because that's the**
 22 **nature of this abuse. Okay, I'm --**
 23 Q. No, not at all. But just pause there, because the
 24 impact that this has had on you may be something we
 25 return to just at the end of your evidence.

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1 I just want to ask you about something you have said
 2 in your statement to the inquiry. If you want to turn
 3 it up to help you, it is behind our tab 1 and at our
 4 paragraph 11.
 5 **A. Tab 1.**
 6 Q. Paragraph 11.
 7 **A. I'm looking in the wrong place here. Right, ah, there**
 8 **are two 1s.**
 9 Q. There will be. It will be behind A, A/1, as it were?
 10 **A. I have it, my witness statement, RC-A31, yes.**
 11 Q. Go to paragraph 11, which is on page 5.
 12 **A. Yes, I'm there.**
 13 Q. You have said:
 14 "Following the Paul Kenyon BBC TV programme in
 15 2002 ..."
 16 It was actually 2003 we know that it was aired:
 17 "... Vincent Nichols pursued complaints against the
 18 BBC which he knew to be bogus in an attempt to stifle
 19 the story."
 20 I want to ask you about this topic of evidence,
 21 okay.
 22 **A. Yes.**
 23 Q. Can you help us with how it is that you think that
 24 Archbishop Nichols tried to stifle the story?
 25 **A. I have sent perhaps 1,000 letters and emails to the**

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1 **Archdiocese of Birmingham. Other than through their**
 2 **legal representatives, no-one has ever replied, as far**
 3 **as I can tell, from memory, no-one. But Cardinal – he**
 4 **was Archbishop Vincent Nichols then. He replied once.**
 5 **What it was, was – I was being a bit mischievous. The**
 6 **tension was building up to the broadcast of**
 7 **the programme. So I sent Archbishop Nichols an email**
 8 **saying, "Oh, I've seen press reports about this**
 9 **"Kenyon Confronts" programme covering historic**
 10 **child abuse in the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Does that**
 11 **include me?" He wrote back to me and said, "No, that's**
 12 **related to other cases". I can't remember the exact**
 13 **details.**
 14 Q. That's fine.
 15 **A. Then he found out that, yes, it did include me and that**
 16 **they'd got the letter from 2003 that Sara Bowen wrote**
 17 **revealing the police had passed over the witness**
 18 **statement.**
 19 Q. We looked at that this morning?
 20 **A. My view is he then he went totally ballistic. He went**
 21 **to the Atheneum in the Mall – it's still all on the**
 22 **internet, obviously – BBC had Catholic bias and –**
 23 Q. Yes, hold on. Just so that you know, the chair and
 24 panel heard a little bit about that yesterday when
 25 I opened the case to them; all right?

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1 **A. Yes, here, in public, on television.**
 2 Q. Final topic, please. We know that very recently there
 3 was an IOPC report that has been finalised?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. You have seen the report?
 6 **A. Right.**
 7 Q. Just "yes" or "no".
 8 **A. Yes, I have seen the report.**
 9 Q. One of the aspects of it was in relation to your 1985
 10 witness statement and the circumstances in which that
 11 came to be in the archdiocese's possession?
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. I just want to know from you, in short order, please,
 14 what you say about the findings of the IOPC report?
 15 **A. They are preposterous. They are ludicrous.**
 16 Q. Why do you say that?
 17 **A. Okay. So the IOPC – I didn't contact them. What they**
 18 **have said is nonsense. I have been complaining to, as**
 19 **they were then branded, the IPCC for decades about this.**
 20 **I've got a file -- you can have another -- there are so**
 21 **many files. You can have a full file of my complaints**
 22 **with the IPCC. After Hillsborough, yeah, they were so**
 23 **disgraced by their behaviour that they rebranded as**
 24 **IOPC; yeah? They found out I'd been designated a core**
 25 **participant in this inquiry and I can give you the**

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. I just want to ask you this: you obviously had some
 3 correspondence with Archbishop Nichols. Did you ever in
 4 fact meet him to discuss Robinson's abuse of you?
 5 **A. No, but in that same email, he wrote back to me and**
 6 **said, "We are so sorry ... forgiveness", et cetera,**
 7 **et cetera, and then he said, "When these matters are**
 8 **concluded, I hope we would be able to meet at some stage**
 9 **in the future", because he'd put out a press release to**
 10 **say, "I've met all the victims of Father Robinson".**
 11 **"No, you haven't, mate"; yes?**
 12 Q. He said, "I hope we might be able to meet when this is
 13 over". Did you in fact meet him?
 14 **A. No, but I replied and said, "Yes, on BBC Newsnight.**
 15 **That's when we'll meet".**
 16 Q. So you have had no private meeting with him, the two of
 17 you, let alone a --
 18 **A. No. Oh, at my local parish, he was there one day. He**
 19 **did a cycle thing for charity.**
 20 Q. No, what I meant was -- it is probably my fault. As far
 21 as you are concerned, you and he haven't sat down to
 22 discuss the events with Robinson and what has gone on
 23 over all the years?
 24 **A. Never, ever, and that's his choice.**
 25 Q. Would you still like to meet him?

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1 **letter:**
 2 **"I realise this letter will be a surprise to you,**
 3 **but we would like to meet you to discuss your historic**
 4 **complaints with regard to ..."**
 5 **Yeah? So I did. I was on video for four hours and**
 6 **I gave them both barrels, yeah. There is a transcript**
 7 **of it somewhere in the supporting documents. They've**
 8 **left loads of stuff out.**
 9 **Last Wednesday, I got an email from the guy --**
 10 **I won't say his name, but the ex-police officer who is**
 11 **working for the IOPC.**
 12 Q. The investigator?
 13 **A. The investigator of "Operation Fennel", if you will,**
 14 **which supposedly spent three years investigating my**
 15 **complaints; yeah? And then, last Wednesday, I got an**
 16 **email from this clown, yeah, basically dismissing**
 17 **everything. What he said was, item 1, if the**
 18 **detective -- oh, he's in the public domain -- "If**
 19 **Detective Higgins was a serving officer now, he would be**
 20 **facing disciplinary action for gross misconduct".**
 21 **That's about homophobic abuse towards me in 1985. So we**
 22 **won't go into any more detail about that.**
 23 **Items 2, 3 and 4 about how the Archdiocese of**
 24 **Birmingham got hold of my witness statement, how the**
 25 **tape was lost, dismissed, dismissed; yeah?**

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1 **Then I got the report on Sunday evening -- I think**
 2 **Sunday evening I got the report from yourselves, yeah,**
 3 **and I read through it and I was just -- I mean, partly**
 4 **laughing and I thought, "I know what they are doing**
 5 **here; yeah? They have deliberately kept this report and**
 6 **they have thrown it at me now to try and throw me**
 7 **a curve ball so that when I come here today, I won't be**
 8 **able to perform; yeah?". They can -- jog on, copper.**
 9 **I'm done with plods. I have had enough of this crap;**
 10 **yeah?**
 11 Q. I just want to finally ask you this, A31. Obviously
 12 this has been going on now for --
 13 A. **33 years.**
 14 Q. -- many, many decades?
 15 A. **Actually, it's been going on since 1970.**
 16 Q. I just want, if you are able, for you to summarise for
 17 the chair and panel in a few words how this has impacted
 18 on you. Firstly, the abuse by Robinson and, secondly,
 19 what you say in relation to what you call the coverup;
 20 all right?
 21 A. **Yes.**
 22 Q. I am going to hand over to you for a moment or two.
 23 A. **A moment or two or 10 minutes?**
 24 Q. No, the 10 minutes is in relation to the legal
 25 representatives making closing submissions at the end?

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1 **A. I'm showing you now the scrawl from my hotel --**
 2 Q. A31, just pause. I suspect that the chair and panel
 3 would like to hear --
 4 **A. Sorry about that, bashing the microphones.**
 5 Q. In your own words, just tell them. You have said you
 6 have been destroyed by this. Tell them about how this
 7 has affected you?
 8 **A. Okay. I think any child who was manipulated, groomed,**
 9 **into a sexual relationship with a Catholic priest at the**
 10 **age of 10 in '70s Birmingham is going to have issues;**
 11 **yeah? In 1985, I wanted to protect other children;**
 12 **yeah? That was all I wanted to do; yeah?**
 13 **Father Robinson was then sent to Los Angeles on £800 per**
 14 **calendar month, yeah, a fugitive from -- I don't even**
 15 **want to go into that; yeah?**
 16 **This has destroyed my life. Not once, not twice,**
 17 **repeatedly, and it is ongoing. J'accuse Cardinal**
 18 **Vincent Nichols. I regard this as a vendetta here.**
 19 **I wish you all well with what you are trying to do, but**
 20 **this inquiry doesn't actually have that many powers;**
 21 **yeah? This inquiry does not define my life; yeah?**
 22 **Whatever you come to, yeah, thank you very much for**
 23 **inviting me. I am here today on behalf of a whole**
 24 **coachload -- I could fill that visitor space with**
 25 **victims of Father Robinson; yeah? Yeah? Those people**

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1 **who are so broken and destroyed by this; yeah? But what**
 2 **I want to say is, I have had no choice. I have been**
 3 **fighting for my sanity; yeah?**
 4 **I have clearly documented extremely dubious**
 5 **behaviour by the Archdiocese of Birmingham and the**
 6 **West Midlands Police and what I want to know is, what**
 7 **I want to say is, this cannot go on. This cannot go on.**
 8 **You cannot have a civilised society based on this kind**
 9 **of nonsense, and it is global.**
 10 **I have got in front of me an article --**
 11 Q. I don't want to stop you, but I suspect you are going to
 12 refer to the Pennsylvania report?
 13 A. **No, I'm not. I'm going to refer to an article that**
 14 **says:**
 15 **"Open letter to the US Catholic bishops: it's over".**
 16 **By NCI editorial staff. That's online in the last**
 17 **couple of days from the National Catholic Reporter.**
 18 **I would advise absolutely every Catholic in the room:**
 19 **read it, digest it. Particularly Cardinal**
 20 **Vincent Nichols and Archbishop Bernard Longley. I sent**
 21 **them an email and I linked this and said "It's over".**
 22 **I have one last thing I want to say.**
 23 Q. All right.
 24 A. **This is a quote from one of my favourite books, so just**
 25 **bear with me.**

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1 Q. You go ahead.
 2 A. **"The hardest thing to bear is human capriciousness. The**
 3 **more difficult, in that the capricious person is,**
 4 **himself, the slave of his whim, so the pain we feel from**
 5 **the humiliation we suffer is increased by the sympathy**
 6 **we feel as we observe his enslavement to his whim. By**
 7 **our great sorrow that people can be like that. Of all**
 8 **human vices, failings and weaknesses, capriciousness is**
 9 **the closest to the animal world of the unawakened heart and**
 10 **the unreasoning mind."**
 11 **Now, I am speaking those words on behalf of every**
 12 **single child who has ever found themselves trapped with**
 13 **a priest looming over them. I'm shaking -- I have said**
 14 **it. If you want to know the emotional impact for me,**
 15 **that's that little children know, yeah, people who they**
 16 **think they are angels turn out to be demons/devils;**
 17 **yeah? And as they are being abused and assaulted, yeah,**
 18 **in their heart is, "Why? Why are you doing this to**
 19 **me?". When I was trapped on Staffordshire moorlands**
 20 **with Father Robinson in 1987, I was saying, "Why are you**
 21 **doing this?" And again from the quote, it's "increased**
 22 **by the sympathy we feel as we observe his enslavement to**
 23 **his whim", to his paedophilia.**
 24 **People say "Forgiveness, forgiveness". You can only**
 25 **have forgiveness -- you can't just go into confession**

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1 and say -- I know this is on tape, I don't care, "Oh,
 2 I fucked a few boys last week, can you forgive me?", and
 3 then go out and do it again. It doesn't work like that.
 4 Enough. It is over. Yeah?
 5 So thank you very much for inviting me today.
 6 I have tried to do the best I can. All right. I want
 7 to thank my mother and father. I want to thank my
 8 family, my wife, my father-in-law, my sister-in-law, my
 9 wife's parents, my children, and all the other victims
 10 of Father Robinson who want to be here, but obviously,
 11 you know, you can't -- this inquiry would go on forever.
 12 You have picked this case because it's -- it captures
 13 the arc of all of this from 1983 to now, to 2018, and
 14 this report, "Open letter to US bishops" actually
 15 sets -- I can't find the quote. We have had this for
 16 33 years. It is over.
 17 Q. Can I tell you what --
 18 A. Sorry, I want the UK Government -- Theresa May has
 19 called this inquiry. I am saying to Prime Minister
 20 Theresa May now, there are some problems with this,
 21 because you're claiming that you're honest and sincere
 22 about investigating past child abuse. You have already
 23 limited the resources of this inquiry. We had an
 24 expectation that this would be for three weeks. It is
 25 only one week. The inquiry into Father Robinson could

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1 we will deal with our next witness.
 2 Chair, if you mind staying in position. We will let
 3 A31 leave and then Mr Saad is going to call the next
 4 witness.
 5 (The witness withdrew)
 6 MS CAREY: Chair, the next witness is A343 and I am going to
 7 hand over to Mr Saad. I think there is a separate
 8 bundle of witness statements in relation to him.
 9 MR SAAD: Chair, yes, you will find his witness statement in
 10 bundle 3.
 11 WITNESS RC-A343 (sworn)
 12 Examination by MR SAAD
 13 MR SAAD: Now, for the purposes of today's hearing, you will
 14 be referred to as A343. When you were under 13, your
 15 father wanted you to go to a Catholic school; is that
 16 right?
 17 A. Yes, before then, I was about 8, 9.
 18 Q. You enrolled at the local junior school, and the
 19 school's parish church was the Church of Our Lady of
 20 the Angels and St Peter in Chains; is that right?
 21 A. Correct. Yes, they were attached to each other.
 22 Q. Who was the priest of the parish, please?
 23 A. Father John Tolkien.
 24 Q. The headmistress of the school was a nun; is that right?
 25 A. Yes, Sister [redacted].

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1 go on a long time. Judge Patrick Thomas --
 2 Q. I am going to stop you, because in fact we have the
 3 learned judge's comments.
 4 A. Fine.
 5 Q. So I am going to --
 6 A. I have to say, these people down there who have called
 7 themselves the CCIICSA, trying to appropriate your
 8 branding, tell them to stop; yeah?
 9 Q. A31, there are other witnesses that are going to have to
 10 come today?
 11 A. Yes, yes, fine. Is Cardinal Nichols well? Has he
 12 recovered?
 13 MS CAREY: I would like to just conclude your evidence by
 14 asking, chair, whether there is anything that you would
 15 like to ask this witness or any of the panel?
 16 THE CHAIR: No, thank you, Ms Carey, but I would like to
 17 thank you very much indeed for coming. We do appreciate
 18 that this is difficult and we are grateful for your
 19 evidence.
 20 A. Well, thank you very much. And I apologise if at times,
 21 you know, the speed goes up, but I have done my best.
 22 I have done my best.
 23 MS CAREY: Just pause there while we make the necessary
 24 arrangements and make sure the video is turned off.
 25 Then I am sure you are going to be assisted to leave and

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1 Q. How was she towards the pupils?
 2 A. Violent, aggressive. You'd now think that she was
 3 probably schizophrenic, looking back. She'd got some
 4 sort of illness, in my opinion now.
 5 Q. How did that violence manifest itself towards the
 6 pupils?
 7 A. She'd throw bunches of keys at people's heads, she
 8 whipped a boy in front of the class. She caned me on
 9 many occasions.
 10 Q. Would it be fair to say that there was a strong emphasis
 11 on obedience to the Catholic Church?
 12 A. Very much so. Very much so.
 13 Q. And in particular to Father Tolkien?
 14 A. Yeah. He was the creme de la creme of the church and
 15 the schools. He was on the board of a few schools
 16 around the area.
 17 Q. So he was much revered as the local parish priest.
 18 Would that be fair to say?
 19 A. Very much so.
 20 Q. When Father Tolkien came into school, firstly, how often
 21 did he do that? How often did he come into school?
 22 A. At least once a week.
 23 Q. How did the headmistress behave towards him?
 24 A. She had a different personality when he was there. It
 25 was like, this is the priest and -- that was probably

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| | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 the only time she did smile. Obviously it was a false 2 smile. 3 Q. Is it right to say that when he came into class, the 4 headmistress would look around at you to see whether you 5 were responding enthusiastically? 6 A. She certainly did. We had to stand, obviously, we 7 couldn't sit down, we had to listen to whatever he was 8 going to go and talk about. 9 Q. If she took the view that you weren't responding 10 enthusiastically, what would the outcome be? 11 A. Whoever was not giving him the due diligence or 12 attention, they'd get a beating. 13 Q. How was Father Tolkien towards you? 14 A. Initially, very standoffish. He had a persona of not 15 being able to -- in my opinion, you know, even as 16 a young child, he didn't make contact with people. He 17 did have, obviously, what you would call jam jar glasses 18 or -- so you didn't actually know where he was looking, 19 in one way, but he didn't make contact with people in 20 a friendly way. 21 Q. But did there come a time when he invited you to his 22 home? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. Why did he invite you to his home? What was the reason 25 given? If it assists you, I'm looking at the third page</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 45</p> | <p>1 of your statement at paragraph 41. 2 A. No, I don't need that. I was an altar boy. You had to 3 serve a mass on a Sunday morning, or during the course 4 of Sunday, and also one in the week. The ones in the 5 week, you wouldn't have as many congregation, for 6 a start. It would be very minimal. But they wouldn't 7 need as many altar boys. So one would be a cross 8 bearer, one would do the offertory, the wine, water -- 9 sorry, the bread and the wine, and one would have to do 10 the readings. 11 Well, I had always struggled -- I'm diagnosed as 12 dyslexic. Back then, you were diagnosed -- sorry, you 13 weren't diagnosed, you were down as having below reading 14 age, which mine was very bad. He insisted that I do the 15 first reading, which meant the reading was done before 16 the priest would then do the gospel. I did ask one of 17 the other lads -- there were three of us on the altar 18 that night, and a certain person, I won't say his name, 19 but he obviously -- he was very good at reading, and he 20 wouldn't swap, he wouldn't do it. Father Tolkien 21 insisted I do the reading. 22 So you'd get up and say, "A reading from", and 23 I just couldn't say anything else. I couldn't see what 24 the letters were or -- not knowing what the problem was. 25 My heart was coming through my chest, it was beating</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 46</p> |
| <p>1 fast, really fast. 2 He then came over and said to get into the sacristy 3 and wait and stay there. He pushed me to one side. 4 Which I did. 5 At the end of the mass, he then told me I had to 6 come to his property on Saturday at his house for 7 special reading lessons. 8 Q. You went home after that invitation was given to you and 9 you mentioned that to your parents. Is that right? 10 A. That's right. 11 Q. What was their reaction to the invitation? 12 A. They thought it was great. 13 Q. Is it right to say that the following Saturday you went 14 to Father Tolkien's house? 15 A. Correct. 16 Q. The housekeeper answered the door and you were taken 17 through the storm porch into a room; is that right? 18 A. Yeah, on the left-hand side, yes. 19 Q. Father Tolkien was there? 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. Where did the housekeeper go? 22 A. She was leaving at that point. She said, "Right, I'm 23 off now". There was nobody else present. 24 Q. Is it right to say that it was a big room? 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 47</p> | <p>1 Q. And you remember that there was a lectern at the far end 2 of it? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. Father Tolkien closed the door; is that right? 5 A. He did. 6 Q. What was the next thing he did after closing the door? 7 A. He then lit candles and pulled the curtains towards, 8 which I thought was a bit strange. 9 Q. What time of day was it? 10 A. It was early morning. It was Saturday morning. 11 Q. Father Tolkien started talking to you, didn't he? 12 A. He did. 13 Q. What was he saying? 14 A. He said I had been chosen and it was between myself, him 15 and Jesus, and it was a very special position I'd been 16 chosen for, and things were going to change and I'd be 17 part of something. I don't know. I don't know what he 18 was on about. 19 Q. What was it that he was saying to you he was conducting? 20 Was it a reading lesson or was he referring to -- 21 A. No, it was a prayer session. It was a special prayer 22 session. The reading was never -- no reading was ever 23 mentioned. 24 Q. What did he say to you about telling other people about 25 what was happening?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 48</p> |

1 **A. You couldn't tell anybody because it was so special that**
 2 **Jesus would know -- they know everything, whatever you**
 3 **do, and if you were to tell anybody, it would not be the**
 4 **right thing to do. It would be like you're breaking**
 5 **something, some code, and it must be kept secret.**
 6 Q. How were you feeling at that stage?
 7 **A. Frightened.**
 8 Q. What did he do to you next?
 9 **A. He then said that I needed to take my trousers down and**
 10 **kneel and start praying and keep my eyes closed and my**
 11 **hands together, in the praying position, and then he**
 12 **took my underwear down.**
 13 Q. So he asked you to adopt that position?
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. Did you feel that you had to comply with his demands or
 16 not?
 17 **A. I certainly did, yes.**
 18 Q. Why was that?
 19 **A. One, because he was the priest; and, secondly, I was**
 20 **frightened.**
 21 Q. How long did the incident last for? Can you say?
 22 **A. I have no idea.**
 23 Q. How long do you feel it lasted for?
 24 **A. A long time.**
 25 Q. Can I pause there and ask you about how you feel your

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1 **A. That's right.**
 2 Q. For how long do you feel you continued to go back, over
 3 what period?
 4 **A. Three to five visits.**
 5 Q. Is it right to say that the same thing happened to you
 6 each time you went?
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. Ultimately, that stopped and you stopped to see
 9 Father Tolkien; is that right?
 10 **A. Towards the end of 1970, my father was getting worse and**
 11 **he was then hospitalised. He'd got cancer of the throat**
 12 **and lungs and he'd also got Parkinson's. I didn't**
 13 **understand that he was dying, at that point. But, yeah.**
 14 Q. I want to move on in time, when you were between the age
 15 of 13 and 18. You saw a psychiatrist, did you not?
 16 **A. Yeah, Dr Phillips.**
 17 Q. You told him about what Father Tolkien had done to you,
 18 and, in actual fact, that had been recorded on the
 19 medical records?
 20 **A. Yeah. I didn't know at the time. I didn't know for**
 21 **quite a few years that it was on the medical records.**
 22 Q. That wasn't discovered until many years later, when your
 23 solicitors obtained copies of those records; is that
 24 right?
 25 **A. That's right.**

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1 education impacted on how you were that day,
 2 particularly when you were 4 or 5?
 3 **A. Sorry ...?**
 4 Q. I'm looking at page 4, paragraph 60 of your statement,
 5 in which you explain about --
 6 **A. Oh, yeah, from early childhood -- I went to Newcastle**
 7 **Convent before going to a C of E school, and it was**
 8 **indoctrinated into us. I could understand the mass in**
 9 **Latin, I could follow everything in Latin during the**
 10 **course of the mass, and the priest was the all -- he was**
 11 **put there via God.**
 12 Q. It was for that reason you felt you couldn't challenge
 13 him; is that right?
 14 **A. That's correct, yeah, he's the be-all and end-all.**
 15 Q. As you left the room that first time, what did
 16 Father Tolkien say to you?
 17 **A. "It must be kept secret. This secret must never, ever**
 18 **be told" and "You have now been elevated" -- well, I was**
 19 **now feeling I was in some sort of different club.**
 20 Q. Did he invite you back to see him again?
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. Is it right to say that you carried on to go to his
 23 house at 10.00 am on Saturdays --
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. -- for weekends after that?

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1 Q. How do you feel what you experienced impacted on your
 2 ability to have relationships?
 3 **A. Impossible.**
 4 Q. Moving to -- are you okay for a moment?
 5 Moving on to the turn of the century now, is it
 6 right that you saw an article in the local paper?
 7 **A. Yeah, the West Midlands Police had placed an article in**
 8 **the local newspaper, yeah.**
 9 Q. Can you remember what the article said?
 10 **A. It was regarding abuse by Father Tolkien towards boys.**
 11 Q. That article gave a phone number for you to contact?
 12 **A. It did. It did.**
 13 Q. You contacted the West Midlands Police?
 14 **A. I did.**
 15 Q. The police didn't come to see you; is that right?
 16 **A. That's right.**
 17 Q. But they said to you that they were looking at various
 18 things and would get back in touch with you?
 19 **A. They said, yeah, they don't need to do anything at the**
 20 **moment and they were doing an investigation and they**
 21 **would get back in touch.**
 22 Q. When they eventually got back in touch, what did they
 23 say to you?
 24 **A. They said it had been deemed that it was not in the**
 25 **public interest to pursue a case against Father Tolkien**

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1 **due to his medical condition.**
 2 Q. Did they also give you the number for an official of
 3 the Catholic Church at the Birmingham Archdiocese?
 4 **A. They did.**
 5 Q. You phoned that person; is that right?
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. Now, you remember that you spoke to a lady. You've been
 8 given the name Jane Jones, which rings a bell, but you
 9 can't be sure who you spoke to; is that the position?
 10 **A. I think when I was talking to her, she came from close**
 11 **to an area where I lived, and that's why the**
 12 **conversation became familiar.**
 13 Q. How was she towards you?
 14 **A. She was jovial, to be honest with you. She was -- you**
 15 **know, she wasn't bad with me. She said that she would**
 16 **get to -- you know, she gave me a phone number then of**
 17 **a Father Gerry, who I could talk to, but she didn't**
 18 **really give me any more information.**
 19 Q. So she put you in touch with a Father Gerry, who she
 20 said was the designated person to deal with these
 21 matters?
 22 **A. Sort of a church liaison officer. I think that was the**
 23 **words.**
 24 Q. Is it right to say that you then spoke to Father Gerry?
 25 **A. I did. I did.**

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1 **time to talk. He carried on, saying how brave it was to**
 2 **do this, but he never mentioned him by name. And he**
 3 **mentioned that "if it did actually happen", he dropped**
 4 **that in at the table, which got my hackles going**
 5 **a little bit.**
 6 Q. Is it right to say that you remember him saying,
 7 "Whether these things happened or not, we can come to
 8 God"?
 9 **A. Yes.**
 10 Q. You paid for the meal. The circumstances that you were
 11 in at the time meant that you felt that you had it --
 12 **A. I felt sorry for him. I felt sorry for the guy. He**
 13 **didn't look in -- from his appearance, he was a bit**
 14 **dishevelled.**
 15 Q. You then went back to Father Gerry's church?
 16 **A. That's right.**
 17 Q. He made a cup of tea and he got some family photographs
 18 out?
 19 **A. That's right.**
 20 Q. At the end of the evening, as you were about to leave,
 21 he said to you, "What do you want?"; is that right?
 22 **A. He did. He looked at me and he said, "What is it that**
 23 **you want? What do you want?"**
 24 Q. What was your answer?
 25 **A. I said I wanted to meet Father Tolkien; not to come**

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1 Q. He invited you out to have something to eat with him?
 2 **A. Yeah, he invited me down on a Sunday afternoon to**
 3 **Birmingham to his local church.**
 4 Q. It was at that point, was it, that you told your then
 5 partner about what had happened to you?
 6 **A. Yes. That was the only person out of the relationships**
 7 **that I'd had prior that I did mention it to. I just**
 8 **thought it seemed -- I don't know. It seemed that**
 9 **things were moving in a good direction, and I wanted to**
 10 **talk to her about it.**
 11 Q. Did she come with you --
 12 **A. She did.**
 13 Q. -- to see Father Gerry? You went to his church and then
 14 you went out for a meal; is that right?
 15 **A. Yes. His church was close to the -- where the Chinese**
 16 **wholesalers are and there's a Chinese restaurant there.**
 17 Q. He said to you that it was very brave of you to tell
 18 your partner?
 19 **A. He did.**
 20 Q. What was he like, though, on the topic of
 21 Father Tolkien?
 22 **A. He didn't really mention his name. We were in a table**
 23 **in the middle of the Chinese restaurant, and the tables**
 24 **are all crowded around, and he's trying to talk about**
 25 **the situation, which I didn't think was the appropriate**

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1 **across in a violent way, I wanted to sit down and talk**
 2 **to him and ask him why.**
 3 Q. What was his response to that?
 4 **A. He said he'd have to speak to the archbishop, who at**
 5 **that time was the now cardinal, Vincent Nichols.**
 6 Q. He said he wanted to show you the church and he wanted
 7 you to pray; is that right?
 8 **A. The church on his -- his particular church was attached**
 9 **straight into the church, and he said, "Right, I think**
 10 **it's a good idea now if we pray". My partner at the**
 11 **time said, "I think this is where it all started. It's**
 12 **a bit inappropriate". But he carried on and he then**
 13 **mentioned again in his prayer, saying, "God, if this**
 14 **happened, or if it didn't happen, please help**
 15 **[redacted]".**
 16 MR SAAD: If we could just terminate the live broadcasting
 17 link for one moment?
 18 THE CHAIR: Yes, we will do that.
 19 MR SAAD: Chair, I think a name was mentioned just a moment
 20 ago. If I ask you to make a restriction order over that
 21 name.
 22 THE CHAIR: Yes, I will make the order.
 23 MR SAAD: It was at that point that you decided to leave; is
 24 that right?
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. Father Gerry told you that you could ring him at any
 2 time?
 3 **A. He did. He said he'd be there for me.**
 4 Q. He rang you once after that and told you that he had
 5 spoken to Archbishop Vincent Nichols about the
 6 possibility of you speaking with Father Tolkien, and
 7 that Archbishop Nichols' response was simply that he had
 8 said no and that was the end of it.
 9 **A. He did.**
 10 Q. Is that what was being reported to you by Father Gerry?
 11 **A. That was right. That was right. He said -- his reply**
 12 **back was, "It's not a good idea", and that was it.**
 13 Q. So the prospects of any meeting at that stage were --
 14 **A. Ended. Yeah.**
 15 Q. Is it right to say that you subsequently rang
 16 Father Gerry a few times?
 17 **A. Quite a few times.**
 18 Q. And left messages?
 19 **A. Yes.**
 20 Q. What was his response?
 21 **A. Nothing.**
 22 Q. In about 2005, you then saw an advert for a local firm
 23 of solicitors; is that correct?
 24 **A. Yeah, it is. I knew that Father Tolkien had died by**
 25 **that time, but it just doesn't go away, it doesn't go**

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1 appointment?
 2 **A. That's right.**
 3 Q. In February 2006, you went to see Father Shannon with
 4 your solicitor and you were able to meet with him?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. How did he describe Father Tolkien?
 7 **A. He described him as a "ball fiddler". He was always**
 8 **playing with himself when they were in private, sitting**
 9 **at night-time. His hands in his pockets playing with**
 10 **himself, he described.**
 11 Q. In the course of the conversation with him, it became
 12 apparent to you that Father Shannon believed that this
 13 had happened to other boys; is that right?
 14 **A. He did. He mentioned one in particular. He kept**
 15 **saying, "Poor ... Poor ..."**
 16 Q. And then the name?
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. Is it right that he said to you that he knew what was
 19 going on?
 20 **A. He said to both myself and the solicitor he knew what**
 21 **was going on, but he couldn't do anything about it. He**
 22 **said the power that Tolkien had got financially and with**
 23 **the bishop was too much and he'd have been thrown out.**
 24 Q. What did he mean by "thrown out"?
 25 **A. He'd have lost his job and been thrown out of the home.**

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1 **away whatsoever, and I did see this advert, yeah.**
 2 Q. You went to see them about the possibility of bringing
 3 a case against the church?
 4 **A. That's right.**
 5 Q. Their initial response was to suggest tracking down
 6 Father Shannon?
 7 **A. Initially, I could only -- at that particular time,**
 8 **I could only speak to ladies about this, and I did**
 9 **have -- the first consultation was with a lady**
 10 **solicitor, and then they gave me a junior, and he**
 11 **suggested that we track Father Shannon down, which we**
 12 **did from the directory.**
 13 Q. He had been Father Tolkien's assistant, a priest up to
 14 1971, and had indeed served mass at your father's
 15 funeral?
 16 **A. Yes, he did.**
 17 Q. You made some enquiries and eventually he was tracked
 18 down in a retirement home, which, oddly enough, was the
 19 same retirement home that --
 20 **A. Sister [redacted] --**
 21 Q. -- your former headmistress had resided at. You went
 22 into the reception room at the home and asked if you
 23 could see him; is that right?
 24 **A. That's right.**
 25 Q. You were told that you could see him by prior

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1 **He said he came from a large family of 15 in Ireland,**
 2 **and no work, and that he would just have got thrown out.**
 3 Q. You then transferred from one solicitor over to another,
 4 Richard Scorer, who we heard from yesterday. You were
 5 informed that the church's attitude -- you were informed
 6 then that the church's attitude, amongst other things,
 7 was that you needed to prove definitively that you had
 8 been in contact with Father Tolkien?
 9 **A. That's right.**
 10 Q. At that stage, you couldn't demonstrate that?
 11 **A. I couldn't. I couldn't give any --**
 12 Q. Physical evidence to demonstrate it?
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. It was explained to you that the archdiocese were
 15 contesting the case on the basis that you had brought
 16 your claim outside of the relevant time limit?
 17 **A. That's right.**
 18 Q. Overall, how do you feel about the church's response?
 19 **A. Towards the claim?**
 20 Q. To your claim and to your reporting of the abuse in
 21 general?
 22 **A. Disgusting. Low level.**
 23 Q. Why?
 24 **A. Well, to deny the truth, which they already knew, that**
 25 **we know about now, to cover up children being abused by**

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| <p>1 paedophiles, it's just beyond words.</p> <p>2 Q. How do you believe the church regard abuse victims?</p> <p>3 A. I think they just see them as a scourge on them,</p> <p>4 third-class citizens who dare to come forward and</p> <p>5 challenge them, the power that they think they have.</p> <p>6 But fear is a short-term motivator.</p> <p>7 Q. Is there anything you wish to add to your evidence?</p> <p>8 A. I just want to talk about the letter that came out that</p> <p>9 I was told about two weeks ago, that in 1968</p> <p>10 Father Tolkien was reported to the archbishop that he'd</p> <p>11 abused two boys, and they sent him for therapy. Knowing</p> <p>12 that two years later he abused me in the same church or</p> <p>13 the same school, and then they had the nerve to deny the</p> <p>14 claim that he did anything wrong when they must have</p> <p>15 known about it for years, and Vincent Nichols, the</p> <p>16 so-called Cardinal of England and Wales, has the nerve</p> <p>17 to start talking to the solicitors on how to cover</p> <p>18 things up. That's not Christian. Unbelievable.</p> <p>19 The impact lasts for a lifetime. Their thrills and</p> <p>20 whatever -- because he's not the only one. But to me,</p> <p>21 it's at the back of my mind all the time. I worked out</p> <p>22 the claim, they gave me £100 a year to get counselling.</p> <p>23 Impossible. But then they gave him the benefit of</p> <p>24 having some therapy at a home in Charlton where they</p> <p>25 send priests, or they did do then. Must be third-class</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 61</p> | <p>1 citizens, the victims.</p> <p>2 MR SAAD: Chair, do you have any questions for this witness?</p> <p>3 THE CHAIR: No, we have no questions, but I want to thank</p> <p>4 you very much, on behalf of the panel, for giving us</p> <p>5 your evidence. It's very important to us. Thank you.</p> <p>6 A. Thank you.</p> <p>7 (The witness withdrew)</p> <p>8 MR SAAD: Can we just make sure, please, that the streaming</p> <p>9 is stopped whilst the witness is allowed to leave, and</p> <p>10 we will move on to some read evidence after that, chair.</p> <p>11 Statement of WITNESS RC-A15's mother (read)</p> <p>12 MR SAAD: Chair, I will now read a number of witnesses to</p> <p>13 you. If we go to our read bundle first, behind tab 1,</p> <p>14 I will read the witness statement of RC-A15's mother.</p> <p>15 You will remember that A15 gave live evidence to the</p> <p>16 inquiry yesterday. It reads as follows:</p> <p>17 "I am the mother of A15, who is a core participant</p> <p>18 within this inquiry. I make this statement concerning</p> <p>19 my dealings with the church following the attempted</p> <p>20 assault on my son by Samuel Penney.</p> <p>21 "I am a Catholic by birth and had a convent</p> <p>22 education and have been a practising Catholic all my</p> <p>23 life.</p> <p>24 "Penney was the only priest at his church and</p> <p>25 therefore there was very little oversight of him,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 62</p> |
| <p>1 although I did not appreciate the significance of this</p> <p>2 until later.</p> <p>3 "After arriving in the area, Penney quickly built up</p> <p>4 a reputation locally.</p> <p>5 "He was incredibly charismatic, funny, witty and</p> <p>6 seemed to be very spiritual, giving inspiring sermons.</p> <p>7 He was intellectually appealing -- he could discuss any</p> <p>8 subject and give his opinion. He was open to anything.</p> <p>9 "He seemed to have regular health problems -- he</p> <p>10 would sometimes be bedridden with an ulcer, but when not</p> <p>11 ill, he was a committed and enthusiastic individual.</p> <p>12 "I started to see him privately for confession and</p> <p>13 chats. I got to know him very well, or believed that</p> <p>14 I did.</p> <p>15 "He became a family friend, occasionally sharing</p> <p>16 meals with us.</p> <p>17 "Penney was very down to earth. Everyone called him</p> <p>18 Sam. Under Penney's nurturing, the congregation</p> <p>19 steadily grew. The church was always full because of</p> <p>20 him.</p> <p>21 "Then in the 1980s, he asked if he could take A15 on</p> <p>22 a camping trip. I was fine with this. A15 had done</p> <p>23 this before. There were six or seven other children</p> <p>24 going on the camping holiday.</p> <p>25 "Not long after the trip, Penney invited A15 to stay</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 63</p> | <p>1 the night at the presbytery. I assumed that A15 would</p> <p>2 be sleeping on the floor in the presbytery along with</p> <p>3 lots of other children who regularly slept there.</p> <p>4 "A15 duly went to stay over. This was on a Friday</p> <p>5 evening. I didn't then see A15 again until the Saturday</p> <p>6 evening.</p> <p>7 "I was sitting in the congregation. I looked at</p> <p>8 A15. I could see that something was very wrong. You</p> <p>9 just have a mother's instinct.</p> <p>10 "At the end of mass, A15 came to me and said, 'Just</p> <p>11 take me home'.</p> <p>12 "As we drove home, A15 burst into tears.</p> <p>13 "I stopped the car and asked him to tell me what had</p> <p>14 happened. Initially, he was reluctant. He said it was</p> <p>15 too awful.</p> <p>16 "I told him I was not driving him home until he had</p> <p>17 told me what had happened.</p> <p>18 "A15 was very upset. He said it was to do with</p> <p>19 Father Penney and I remember him saying 'He is gay'. He</p> <p>20 would not have known the word 'paedophile' at that time.</p> <p>21 "I was terribly shocked that A15 was so upset and</p> <p>22 knew that he would resist me reporting the event to the</p> <p>23 church authorities.</p> <p>24 "Eventually, he told me that Penney had asked him to</p> <p>25 sleep in his room at the presbytery as the space was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 64</p> |

| | |
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| <p>1 limited elsewhere. A15 explained to me that Penney had 2 locked the door all night and tried to cajole him into 3 getting into his bed. 4 "A15 also said that Penney had mentioned that other 5 boys had given in. I realised from this that Penney had 6 persuaded other boys to get into bed with him. 7 "I was totally stunned by what I was being told. 8 I was also very relieved that A15 had told me. 9 I realised that it was very difficult for him. He had 10 been worked on all night by this man who he loved and 11 admired, but had managed to resist him, instinctively 12 knowing it was wrong. 13 "A15 explained to me that Penney had said to him, 14 'I trust you are adult enough not to tell your parents'. 15 I was very proud of A15 and relieved that he had been 16 able to tell us. 17 "I told A15 that I had to report what had happened. 18 A15 didn't want me to do this, but it struck me very 19 forcefully that I had to tell the church authorities. 20 I told him I had to report it because of the other boys 21 involved. I was very clear that we were dealing with 22 a paedophile. He needed to be stopped. 23 "When I got home, I telephoned Penney. I remember 24 saying, 'I need to come and see you, and I think you 25 know what it is about'.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 65</p> | <p>1 "I went to see him immediately. I remember sitting 2 in his living room. He was curled up in an armchair. 3 I said, 'You know what this is about', and Penney said, 4 'What did A15 tell you?'. 5 "Penney then tried to suggest that A15 had been 6 exaggerating. 7 "I remember him trying to persuade me that it was 8 all a storm in a teacup. He was very clever and very 9 manipulative in the way that he tried to do this. He 10 made me feel I was misinterpreting something that was 11 wholly innocent. He said things like, 'What are you 12 implying? It was just for a cuddle and nothing more'. 13 During parts of the conversation, I was quite confused, 14 but ultimately I had no doubt that A15 had told me the 15 truth, and that Penney had a sexual interest in 16 under-age boys. I told him he had underestimated our 17 relationship with our son. 18 "My overriding emotion was anger. I could see he 19 was a liar and an arch manipulator. 20 "As I left, he followed me to the car. I was angry 21 inside but outwardly calm. I said, 'You are never to 22 have anything to do with my son or our family again'. 23 I successfully managed to fend off his protestations and 24 denials. He banged his van violently with his fist as 25 I left.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 66</p> |
| <p>1 "When I got home, A15 was very upset, not just 2 because of what had happened, but also that I intended 3 to report the abuse. I got on the phone straight away 4 and tried to call the archbishop, Couve de Murville. 5 "I was told that he couldn't speak to me but that 6 Dan Leonard, the Vicar General, would talk to me. 7 I spoke to him and I said, 'My husband and I need to see 8 you urgently regarding a priest'. 9 "He offered us an appointment and my husband and 10 I then went to see him a few days later. 11 "At the end of the interview, I was upset and felt 12 I needed to tell him the story of what had happened 13 without identifying the priest. I told him absolutely 14 everything. I was crystal clear that the issue was that 15 a priest of the archdiocese was sexually interested in 16 boys and that other children were at risk. I also 17 emphasised this priest needed help and hoped he would 18 get it. 19 "The Vicar General sat there expressionless. He 20 displayed no compassion, no emotion and no surprise. 21 Right at the end, I said to him, 'You know who I am 22 talking about, don't you?'. He nodded. 23 "I confirmed that it was Sam Penney. He made no 24 response nor showed any surprise. 25 "I said to him, 'This has happened before, hasn't</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 67</p> | <p>1 it?'. 2 "He nodded and looked embarrassed. 3 "He didn't at any stage ask how A15 was coping. 4 However, I do remember him taking handwritten notes of 5 the meeting as I talked. 6 "The meeting concluded on the basis that Leonard 7 would deal with the situation. 8 "Thirty-four years ago, it never crossed my mind to 9 go to the police -- as I would today. I was a loyal 10 member of the church. Father Leonard had assured me 11 that the church would deal with it and I trusted them to 12 honour this assurance. I remember asking him very 13 specifically what they would do and Leonard told me that 14 they would move him from Blackmore and there would be no 15 contact with children. 16 "I didn't see Penney after that. He simply left the 17 parish that week. The parish were told that he was 18 unwell and he was going away to have a sabbatical. 19 "I didn't hear anything further from Leonard. No 20 support was offered. 21 "Penney simply disappeared. One moment he was 22 there, the next moment he was gone. The church put it 23 about that he had left because of his medical condition 24 (ulcers) meaning that he needed treatment. 25 "I was part of the church discussion group and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 68</p> |

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| <p>1 I told one or two people within the group what had 2 happened. I thought I was telling them in confidence 3 but, unfortunately, my confidence was breached and it 4 got around. I started to experience personal hostility 5 from a few people in the congregation, implying I must 6 have been wrong -- Penney was not guilty -- they were in 7 denial. 8 "Then out of the blue in late 1992, A15 got a letter 9 from BBC "Everyman" programme asking if he could take 10 part in a documentary about Sam Penney. I assumed that 11 the BBC researchers would have done some digging locally 12 and our family name had cropped up. 13 "The letter actually came to A15. 14 "This was after Penney had been convicted. 15 "My motivation in doing this was about trying to 16 make the church better. I did not want to attack the 17 church. I wanted the church to adhere to the values 18 which it constantly professes. I felt I couldn't not do 19 it. I felt that the truth had to come out. 20 "I remember watching the interview with Archbishop 21 Couve de Murville. In this interview, he disputed my 22 account that I had told Dan Leonard about what had 23 occurred and that I had given Dan Leonard all the 24 details. The archbishop tried to suggest that I had 25 simply complained about 'too close an association; she</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 69</p> | <p>1 never complained about sexual abuse'. That was 2 incorrect. I had been clear with Leonard that we were 3 dealing with a paedophile and that other children had 4 been named by Penney himself to A15 during that night. 5 I remember the archbishop's words: 'That is not the 6 truth as we see it'. I was appalled that an archbishop 7 could twist the truth of what I had reported in such 8 a way. 9 "I would like to add that I am fully aware that the 10 majority of priests are good, sincere people, but even 11 they never fully grasped the seriousness of 12 the paedophile scandals during the Penney crisis. 13 Whether it was closing ranks, not understanding the 14 criminal nature of the abuse, or maybe of lack of 15 training in seminaries with reference to the importance 16 of understanding sexuality. 17 "Because I was not taken seriously by the 18 Archdiocese of Birmingham, the real scandal was that 19 many more children were abused and that could have been 20 avoided. I am not bitter against the church -- just 21 saddened, disillusioned and disengaged with the 22 institution." 23 Statement of WITNESS RC-A491 (read) 24 MR SAAD: Chair, the next statement I will read is behind 25 tab 2 of your reading bundle and it is the witness</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 70</p> |
| <p>1 statement of A491: 2 "I was at St Joseph's at Croome Court in the 1950s. 3 Croome Court was a very violent place and very bad for 4 me in particular." 5 Chair, I'm looking at page 5, paragraph 38: 6 "I believe I was often singled out for physical 7 abuse. 8 "I think that I was singled out for abuse, both 9 physical and sexual, because I did not have a family to 10 go back to and I was on my own. 11 "The nuns were very cruel. They would take me to 12 a room at the top of the building that had a bed and 13 a chair in it, lock me in, and leave me on my own for 14 two weeks at a time. They often did not give a reason 15 for why I was there. The nuns would come up to me one 16 day and say, 'Come with me' and just take you there. 17 I did not ask them, as I was too afraid. 18 "I felt that I had to do whatever the nuns demanded. 19 They spoke with the authority of someone who had 20 a God-given right to treat me as they did. They were, 21 in a sense, the representatives of God at Croome Court, 22 and I was made to know and feel that. They behaved and 23 acted as if right and wrong was simply as they dictated 24 and so there was no room for disagreement. This control 25 was total and continued throughout the time I was at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 71</p> | <p>1 Croome Court. 2 "The next form of physical abuse was the cold baths 3 and beatings. I would be taken from the dining room 4 after tea by a nun upstairs to a dormitory and there 5 were nuns already there stood by a bed and waiting for 6 me. They stripped me naked and held me down across the 7 bed, one on each arm and one on each leg. The other 8 nun, with either a strap or slipper, strapped my bottom 9 so hard that I was black and blue. 10 "I was screaming and shouting and I remember she hit 11 me so hard with the strap it made me defecate at one 12 point, and then they carried me into the bathroom where 13 the bath had been filled with cold water and they threw 14 me into the bath. I was in for about five minutes to 15 wash off the faeces and the blood from the beating." 16 The next section is headed "Sexual abuse at 17 Croome Court", and that's on page 8, chair, of 18 the witness statement: 19 "The first time I was abused I was under 13 at the 20 time. The first time I was abused, this was by F213. 21 His position was as a priest who lived with his sister 22 who was a housekeeper in the house. I am not sure what 23 his role was at the school exactly. He would preside 24 over the mass in the school chapel inside Croome Court 25 and he would always give mass.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 72</p> |

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| <p>1 "The details of the abuse is as follows: 2 "One of the nuns, I do not remember which one, 3 ordered me to go to F213's house to do his chores. 4 I was made to gather the logs from the woods, saw them, 5 and then chop them into sticks for his paths and his 6 garden. 7 "I had to weed his garden and fill coal buckets up 8 and empty all the rubbish from his house into the 9 compost heap. I had to do all these for the last three 10 years of my life at Croome Court. 11 "I would have to do these chores every Monday to 12 Friday from when I was under 13 and when I was between 13 13 and 18. 14 "I was always doing chores or learning Latin or 15 serving mass on the altar. It was very hard. 16 "We had to go to confession on a Friday, and one 17 Friday I was cutting logs after confession. F213's 18 sister had gone shopping into the village and so F213 19 took me into his downstairs bedroom and told me to sit 20 on the bed. He told me that I had not been confessing 21 my sins and then he took my pants down and sexually 22 abused me. 23 "He would fondle with my genitals and then make me 24 fondle with his, but nothing else. 25 "He then put me over his knee and smacked me very</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 73</p> | <p>1 hard, and I was crying, shocked and traumatised. I did 2 not go back the next day to do his chores like I was 3 supposed to. 4 "I was especially afraid of F213 because he was 5 a priest. When he acted, it was as if God were acting. 6 He was the person I was supposed to confess my sins to, 7 to take spiritual guidance from, but also he was more 8 than that. He was supposedly the arbiter of all that 9 was right and wrong, and so, when he asked me to do 10 this, I felt I had no choice. 11 "A nun, I do not remember which one, came to find me 12 and told me to go back to F213's house, and I had no 13 option but to go back. If I had told the nuns what had 14 happened, then I would have been beaten black and blue 15 for telling lies, and so my life carried on at 16 Croome Court, and I was made to carry on doing F213's 17 chores. 18 "F213 continued to abuse me until I left 19 Croome Court. I therefore lived in fear for the best 20 part of three years. Because F213 was a priest, he was 21 one of the most senior people at Croome Court. I felt 22 I could not tell anyone, because who would believe that 23 a priest could do such an evil thing? They were seen as 24 the most holy people at the school, and I would be 25 accusing them of the most wicked sin. I knew I would</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 74</p> |
| <p>1 not be believed so I did not speak out. 2 "It would happen every Friday after confession when 3 his sister was away, which was usually every month or 4 two. 5 "At the time, I did not tell anyone about the abuse 6 because I was afraid of the nuns and because of 7 the Catholic faith that I was raised in. I was also 8 terrified of accusing a priest of sexual abuse because 9 I thought it would result in a beating or a cold bath, 10 or even some form of religious punishment, like being 11 condemned to hell or some other such punishment. 12 "In 2009, I had been thinking more about 13 Croome Court and my time there and wanted to show my 14 wife about the school. We decided to visit Croome Court 15 which was at that point a National Trust property. 16 "In terms of correspondence with the 17 Archbishop of Birmingham, somebody had given the number 18 of someone called Jane Jones, who was the safeguarding 19 coordinator of Birmingham, and told me that I could get 20 these documents from Jane Jones, so I rang her and asked 21 for them. 22 "On 1 October 2009, I then received a letter from 23 the Archdiocese of Birmingham's safeguarding 24 coordinator, Jane Jones. I am also aware that this was 25 the precise day Bernard Longley was named as the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 75</p> | <p>1 Archbishop of Birmingham. Jane Jones' letter stated 2 that my records were available. It said: 3 "In light of the recent publicity, I felt that 4 I should write to let you know that the Archdiocese of 5 Birmingham has retained a range of records from that 6 time and that I and my staff would be happy to help 7 anyone who would like information or who feels that they 8 need to talk about their experiences'. 9 "I then proceeded to share my account with 10 Jane Jones and wrote to her detailing the abuse that 11 I had suffered at Croome Court. 12 "I was then astonished to receive a personal reply 13 from the Archbishop of Birmingham, Bernard Longley, who, 14 as I understand it, remains the archbishop. 15 "The reply was titled 'Without prejudice' and went 16 on to say: 17 "I was deeply moved and felt very sad when Jane 18 shared with me your account of your early life at 19 Croome Court. I know how significant childhood 20 experiences can be and how difficult it may be to leave 21 painful memories behind, even in later life. Perhaps 22 being able to have a copy of the record the school kept 23 on you with its photographs of you as a boy will be of 24 some help. 25 "The church deeply regrets that any child committed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 76</p> |

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| <p>1 to its care may have suffered abuse or been subject to 2 harsh treatment. 3 "It may also help you to know we now have very 4 clear measures in place to protect children and 5 vulnerable people and, to ensure that if anyone needs to 6 speak about any form of abuse, either current or 7 historic, there are people, like Jane, who will not only 8 listen but who will be in a position to take action. 9 "I will keep you and your family in my thoughts and 10 prayers and I do hope that you will be able to find some 11 peace of mind. 12 "Yours sincerely in Christ, 13 "Bernard Longley'. 14 "I do not understand why this letter was written 15 'Without prejudice', as I was not engaged in litigation. 16 "This apparent acknowledgement of the truth of what 17 I said to Jane Jones was a surprise. 18 "I then spoke to Jane Jones again, sometime in 19 either 2014 or 2015. I cannot remember. I told her 20 that I was not happy with the archbishop's letter. 21 "Then I was met with a further reply dated 22 5 August 2015. 23 "In this further letter, Bernard Longley restated 24 what he had previously said. He wrote: 25 "It is some time since we wrote to one another at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 77</p> | <p>1 the end of 2010 and I hope that everything has been 2 proceeding well for you and those who are close to you 3 in the intervening years. 4 "Some time ago, Mrs Jane Jones kindly gave me 5 a copy of your account of your life story as a former 6 pupil at Besford Court and Croome Court. I realise how 7 important it was for you to record your experiences in 8 this way and I hope that it will contribute to your 9 well-being and peace of mind that you are able to share 10 your insights with many people through the medium of 11 writing. 12 "As I said in my letter of 16 December 2010, the 13 Catholic Church deeply regrets that any child committed 14 to its care may have suffered abuse or been subject to 15 harsh treatment. With that in mind, I assure you that 16 I continue to pray for you and your intentions with 17 gratitude for all that you have achieved over the years. 18 "I will keep you and your family in my prayers and 19 I hope that all continues well for you in the years 20 ahead. 21 "With every kind wish. 22 "Yours sincerely in Christ, 23 "Bernard Longley'. 24 "Almost 18 months later I decided to write to the 25 archbishop again personally. In a handwritten letter</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 78</p> |
| <p>1 dated 22 March 2017, I set out that I had been, in my 2 words, 'systematically abused by F213 over a period of 3 four years from when I was under the age of 13 and to 4 between the ages of 13 and 18'. 5 "I explained to Archbishop Longley that I had 6 reported this to the police, that I was sharing my story 7 with the Truth Project of IICSA and, further, that 8 I also believed I was entitled to compensation for the 9 abuse that I suffered. I wrote: 10 "After taking legal advice, I do understand that 11 a claim for compensation is out of time, but that the 12 courts do have discretion to allow historical abuse 13 claims to proceed out of time. 14 "This will not go away. I will fight for justice 15 for myself for the suffering I endured whilst under the 16 care of the Catholic Church. I will not let it be 17 pushed under the carpet any longer ...' 18 "I then enclosed copies of my correspondence with 19 Worcester Police and my written account of my 20 experiences at Croome Court and posted the letter to the 21 archbishop. 22 "The reply I received from Archbishop Longley was 23 very dismissive of what I had shared with him. It 24 contained no acknowledgement of the church's 25 responsibility, nor any apology, and put aside the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 79</p> | <p>1 possibility of any compensation. 2 "Archbishop Longley's letter was dated 3 29 March 2017. It stated: 4 "I know that you have been in touch with Jane Jones 5 for some time and that she has explained various things 6 to you, including the way that claims have to be 7 progressed. This can seem complicated and harsh, but it 8 is the way that the law works. I know that Jane will be 9 happy to do what she can to help you'. 10 "I was extremely disappointed with this response 11 from the current Archbishop of Birmingham and I feel 12 that he has ignored me, as a survivor of child sexual 13 abuse. Bernard Longley has failed to take 14 responsibility on behalf of the church for the sexual 15 abuse that I suffered in their care. 16 "When I explained to Jane Jones what had happened, 17 she gave me the number of the police at Worcester Police 18 Station. 19 "This is because, whilst at Croome Court, I believe 20 a boy had been killed. 21 "I then decided to ring the police. 22 "Therefore, in 2011, I contacted the police at 23 Worcester Police Station to see if a boy had ever been 24 reported missing. It would have been in the 1950s, as 25 I would have been approximately under 13 years old at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 80</p> |

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| <p>1 the time and he would have been about my age. 2 "Two police officers, Terri Booth and 3 PC Sarah Woods, came to see me in my house. I told them 4 everything that happened at Croome Court, including the 5 sexual abuse. 6 "The police wrote to me on 23 July 2015, stating: 7 ""We have been able to work through the list of 8 pupils at Croome Court provided by the Diocese of 9 Birmingham with those born in the 1940s and we are as 10 satisfied as we can be from the information provided 11 that we have accounted for all the children'. 12 "I believe the police should have got more records 13 of the boys there at the time and see if any had dropped 14 out. 15 "The police wrote to me again on 20 April 2017, 16 stating: 17 ""These enquiries have known that F213 died a number 18 of years ago, as well as the nuns who assisted in the 19 running of Croome Court while you were there. 20 ""In light of this, the crime record remains on 21 police systems which reflects the abuse you have 22 reported, but there will be no further investigation'. 23 "As my abuser was dead, the investigation proceeded 24 no further. 25 "I contacted Slater & Gordon and Simpson Millar who</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 81</p> | <p>1 both said I was out of time because of limitation. I do 2 not have copies of the correspondence. I raised the 3 issue of civil compensation with both the 4 Archbishop of Birmingham directly and personally and 5 also with Lancashire County Council. I have detailed 6 both of these exchanges above. I still wish to pursue 7 a civil claim if possible, but I realise this may be 8 very difficult. However, I think that the church should 9 not require a victim of abuse like me to go through the 10 civil system or hide behind limitation dates. If they 11 are truly men of God, they should investigate my case 12 and if they are satisfied that I was abused while in 13 their care and by one of their priests, they should 14 atone for it and provide me with an apology and 15 a gesture by way of fair compensation." 16 Can I suggest, chair, that we break for lunch and 17 I will move on to the statements that are behind tabs 3 18 and 4 after lunch, chair. 19 THE CHAIR: Thank you. 20 (12.54 pm) 21 (The short adjournment) 22 (2.00 pm) 23 THE CHAIR: Mr Saad? 24 25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 82</p> |
| <p>1 Statement of WITNESS RC-A493 (read) 2 MR SAAD: Chair, the next witness statement to be read can 3 be found behind tab 3 of your main read bundle. It is 4 the witness statement of A493, and I will start from 5 page 5 of his witness statement, at paragraph 34: 6 "I arrived at Croome Court in the 1960s or 1970s. 7 I was a resident at Croome Court for about two and 8 a half to three years from the age of under 13 and left 9 when I was between the ages of 13 and 18. I was 10 resident there because of the care order put on me for 11 truancy. 12 "St Joseph's School at Croome Court was 13 a Roman Catholic institution which I believe was 14 officially under the management of the Archdiocese of 15 Birmingham and staffed by an order of nuns. 16 "From records, I believe that the order of nuns that 17 staffed Croome Court were the Sisters of Charity of 18 St Paul. This order is still based in the Archdiocese 19 of Birmingham at a centre in Selly Park." 20 At paragraph 42, on the following page: 21 "The first time I was sexually abused was six to 22 nine months into my time at Croome Court. I was under 23 13 years old at the time. I was abused by F262, 24 Croome Court's PE teacher and football team coach. The 25 abuse happened on my bed in the school dormitory.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 83</p> | <p>1 "F262 would always pick me for the football team and 2 made me captain of the team. 3 "F262 would try to be nice to me and put his arm 4 around me, calling him his 'star man'. He would always 5 make me sit next to him whenever we were in the mini-van 6 travelling to and from other schools to play football 7 games. I would be wearing football shorts in the 8 mini-van and F262 would pat me on my bare thigh and call 9 me his 'star man'. 10 "The first incident of sexual abuse occurred in 11 Croome Court after I had played in a football match with 12 the school team against another Birmingham school. 13 "I was in the changing rooms and I was on my own. 14 I came out of the shower with a towel around me to go 15 upstairs to my dormitory to get changed. I was sitting 16 on my bed in the dormitory with just a towel around me, 17 getting changed on my own. Three other boys slept in 18 that dormitory, but no-one else was there with me at the 19 time. 20 "F262 came up and sat on my bed next to me and 21 started touching my private parts. F262 did not say 22 anything and he then pulled my trousers down and made me 23 sit on his lap and he penetrated me. F262 raped me for 24 about five minutes. It hurt a great deal and I was 25 crying.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 84</p> |

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| <p>1 "When he had stopped raping me, F262 said to me that 2 I must not tell anyone or I would never play for the 3 football team ever again. I love football even today 4 and at the time I was captain of the school football 5 team. Therefore, F262's threat had a great effect on 6 me. 7 "I was therefore too scared to tell anyone about the 8 abuse at the time as I did not want to lose my place in 9 the football team. I was frightened at what had 10 happened to me. 11 "About two weeks after F262 first abused me, we had 12 another football match against a Birmingham school. 13 F262 made me stay behind in the changing rooms to put 14 the kit in the bag. 15 "As I put in the last kit, F262 grabbed my arm and 16 told me to sit next to him on the changing bench. I was 17 pulling away and said, 'Leave me'. 18 "I slipped and banged my head very hard on the 19 bench. I was knocked unconscious. I believe that F262 20 brought some nuns and they took me to the infirmary. 21 I just remember waking up in the infirmary. 22 "When I woke up in the infirmary, I remember feeling 23 pain in my anus. Therefore, I believe that F262 might 24 have sexually abused me while I was unconscious. 25 "I decided that I had to tell Sister, the Mother</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 85</p> | <p>1 Superior and headmistress of the school, that I had been 2 abused by F262. 3 "When I was out of the infirmary, I went to the 4 office of Mother Superior, the headmistress. I was 5 crying and she asked me what the matter was. 6 "I told her that I had been raped by F262. She 7 suddenly became incredibly angry and I saw real hatred 8 in her eyes. I felt incredibly scared, especially as 9 she was a woman. 10 "When I told her that I had been abused, she became 11 very angry and called me a liar and I could see real 12 evil and hatred in her eyes. 13 "She said that I would rot in purgatory, which in 14 Catholic doctrine is a place where souls go after death 15 to atone for sins before being allowed into heaven, for 16 telling lies, and she bent me over her desk and severely 17 beat me on my backside with her slipper. I was crying 18 terribly and I did not know why she did not believe me. 19 "I did not disclose being sexually abused by F262 to 20 anyone again for 45 years, until I disclosed the abuse 21 to my psychologist in 2015. 22 "Two days after I told the headmistress about the 23 abuse by F262, I was called up at the front of 24 the school assembly and I was beaten in front of 25 the whole school. She said that "This is what happens</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 86</p> |
| <p>1 to children who commit mortal sins' and they made an 2 example and a spectacle of me. 3 "F262 and another teacher at Croome Court then 4 severely beat me in front of the whole assembly with 5 thin, leather-soled slippers. They were hitting me so 6 hard that I could see that they would get tired. When 7 one of them got tired, they would swap over and take 8 turns hitting me. There was real anger in their faces 9 as they hit me. 10 "I was begging for mercy and crying my eyes out for 11 F262 and the other teacher to stop beating me, but the 12 blows kept raining down and they would not stop. I was 13 black and blue all over. 14 "I believe that had I been allowed to go home, my 15 mother would have seen my bruises and she would have 16 become extremely concerned about how I was being treated 17 at Croome Court and stepped in to stop it. 18 "I believe that this beating in front of the school 19 assembly was designed to teach me to never disclose 20 sexual abuse at the school and also to make an example 21 of me to frighten all the boys into never speaking up or 22 complaining either. 23 "Two weeks after that was bonfire night, and we 24 would get a week's holiday with our families. I was not 25 allowed to go home. The school told my parents that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 87</p> | <p>1 I had misbehaved, so was being punished by not being 2 given holiday. Really, I believe that school staff did 3 not want my parents to see the extensive bruises on my 4 body. 5 "After I told the sister about being raped, I would 6 get beaten every day by various nuns at the school. As 7 well as that sister, there were three other nuns who 8 would beat me. This treatment was different to their 9 previous behaviour towards me. 10 After I had disclosed, I was taken off the football 11 team, taken out of another school group and no longer 12 allowed to be an altar server and was no longer 13 a prefect. I was not told why at the time, but 14 I believe that this was a punishment for my disclosure 15 of abuse. 16 "I would like the inquiry to understand just how 17 much of an impact the physical and emotional abuse by 18 the nuns had on me as a Catholic child. I had been 19 brought up in the Catholic Church, having become 20 a choirboy and an altar server, and was raised to have 21 respect for nuns as people doing God's work. 22 "Therefore, because I had been brought up to have 23 this religious respect for the nuns, getting abused by 24 the nuns was shocking, confusing and extremely 25 demoralising. The nuns' abuse towards me was extremely</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 88</p> |

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| <p>1 emotionally damaging and terrifying because it was being 2 directed through people who I had believed were God's 3 representatives. 4 "Being beaten and verbally attacked by people who 5 I thought were supposed to be doing good was 6 particularly hurtful as it made me feel like my 7 situation was completely hopeless and no-one would help 8 me. Seeing such evil being done by people who I thought 9 were meant to be giving their lives to God made me 10 question everything I thought I knew about the world. 11 "I believe that F262 knew that I would not let him 12 sexually abuse me again because I had resisted him when 13 he had tried to abuse me for a second time in the 14 changing rooms and I had told the headmistress. I think 15 F262 could see I had become such an angry child who got 16 into fights, so I would not take abuse anymore." 17 I move on, chair, to page 16 of this witness 18 statement at paragraph 122: 19 "About a year ago, A494, a fellow survivor of abuse 20 at Croome Court, who is also a core participant in IICSA 21 and is represented by Howe & Co, said to me that 22 I should report the sexual abuse to the police. 23 "I went to the police station and told the officer 24 there that I wanted to report F262 for child sexual 25 abuse against me and the police took the details of my</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 89</p> | <p>1 experiences. 2 "The police did not seem interested in what I had to 3 say. I left my telephone number with the police and 4 they said they would be in touch, but after a year, 5 I still have not heard anything back from them. 6 "About a year ago, I rang up the Archdiocese of 7 Birmingham seeking my records from being in their 8 schools. 9 "The woman who answered my telephone call said that 10 there would be things in my files that would upset me 11 and tried to persuade me to leave them. I said I would 12 be the judge of that, of whether or not the records 13 would be upsetting, and demanded that they be sent to 14 me. 15 "When the records arrived, I was only given records 16 for Besford Court and no records for Croome Court. 17 "Therefore, I called the archdiocese again and asked 18 for my Croome Court documents. The woman who answered 19 said that builders threw the Croome Court records out 20 during renovations. 21 "I believe that the archdiocese may not be being 22 truthful about the Croome Court records and I would like 23 the inquiry to insist that the archdiocese produce their 24 records of Croome Court and to explain why they said 25 these records were lost."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 90</p> |
| <p>1 That concludes the reading for that witness 2 statement. 3 Statement of WITNESS RC-A1 (read) 4 MR SAAD: The next and final witness statement to be read 5 today is behind tab 4 of your main reading bundle and it 6 is the statement of A1, which I will start to read, 7 chair, from page 2, paragraph 7: 8 "I was abused at Croome Court Residential School, 9 the junior school, and Besford Court Residential School, 10 the upper school. These are both schools which were 11 owned and controlled by the Archdiocese of Birmingham. 12 I started at Croome Court when I was under 13 years old 13 in the 1970s. I moved to Besford Court when I was under 14 18 years old, also in the 1970s. I left Besford Court 15 when I was under 18 years old, also in the 1970s." 16 I move, chair, to page 4, paragraph 13: 17 "At Croome Court, my first teacher was F267. In 18 order to improve our reading skills, F267 would ask each 19 boy in turn to go to the front of the class and sit next 20 to him behind his desk and read from a book. I sat with 21 this teacher doing reading about two or three times 22 a week. F267 would call me to his desk and ask me to 23 read to him at the front of the class. Whilst doing 24 this, F267 would touch me sexually through my trousers. 25 This happened every time I read to him. He was my</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 91</p> | <p>1 teacher for about a year and a half. I remember that 2 his desk was a large wooden one that was solid all 3 round. Each time when I was sitting with him doing 4 reading, he would place his hand on top of my leg near 5 my genitals. He would pinch me on top of my leg and 6 then he would move his hand across to touch my genitals. 7 This was always over my clothing. 8 "On one occasion, he told me to pull my trousers and 9 pants down in front of the class. He then smacked me 10 and he said I had done something wrong. The only reason 11 I can think of for him hitting me was because I had 12 moved away from him when he touched my genitals. This 13 incident was painful and humiliating." 14 The next section is "Abuse by F268": 15 "For about a two-year period in the later years that 16 I was at Croome Court, about once a week around 12 boys, 17 including myself, were taken for lessons by minibus to 18 a college. The teacher who took us was F268. In the 19 college, there was an open changing room. All the boys 20 changed together. F268 sent the other boys into the 21 area but told me to wait behind. Then he sexually 22 assaulted me. 23 "He put his hands down my swimming shorts and was 24 also touching himself. This happened many times. 25 I would say it was probably every other week and this</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 92</p> |

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| <p>1 was why I didn't like going there. I tried to get out 2 of it by saying I wasn't well. I would be hit with 3 a slipper by F268 and forced to go. I did not tell 4 anybody about this abuse, which went on regularly until 5 I left Croome Court and went to the upper school at 6 Besford Court." 7 The next section is, "Abuse by F269": 8 "F269 was a caretaker at Croome Court. He was about 9 50 to 60 years old. I remember that my dad bought 10 a camera for me and I took it to school. From memory, 11 I was under 13 years old at the time. I was going to 12 take pictures of the school and the playing fields for 13 my dad. F269 took the camera off me. He said he would 14 take the pictures for me and pay for the film to be 15 developed. I think there were 24 shots on the film and 16 I had taken about 12 before he took the camera off me. 17 He used to call me by a nickname. I didn't like him 18 giving me a nickname, but I did not feel that I could 19 complain, so I didn't say anything about it. 20 "There was a church in the school grounds and near 21 to the church was a barn. A week or two later, he took 22 me to the barn. I didn't feel that I had any choice but 23 to do what he told me to do. He told me to take my 24 trousers and pants down. He took pictures of me facing 25 away from him and facing towards him with my hands in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 93</p> | <p>1 the air. I never saw the camera again, or any photos. 2 I did ask for the camera back, but he said I could not 3 have it back. This happened once." 4 Next, chair, on page 6 at paragraph 22, "Abuse by 5 F270": 6 "F270 abused me. It started about a term after 7 I first joined Besford Court. I think I was around 8 under 18 years of age at the time. It first started 9 after my bike was brought to school. I had left it at 10 home and the son of someone else went and fetched it for 11 me. It was rusty around the wheels and F270 offered to 12 help me to clean it up. He dismantled it at first near 13 the school. He used a wire brush fitting to a drill to 14 clean off the rust on my bike. He was also working on 15 a trailer at that time. This took place outside the 16 classroom using the drill with an extension lead. The 17 trailer was too big to fit into [a place that's 18 redacted]. This was taking place during a lesson. The 19 other boys were inside. 20 "Whilst F270 was cleaning the bike with me, he 21 touched my bum and legs. This was over my clothing. 22 I didn't like it as it made me feel uncomfortable. He 23 said to me words to the effect of, 'I have got you out 24 of a couple of beatings'. I did not know what he meant 25 by that. When he touched me, I kept on moving away from</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 94</p> |
| <p>1 him, but he kept on doing it. 2 "The bike cleaning took two lessons to complete. He 3 touched me both times. It was at this time that he also 4 offered to pay me to clean his car on a weekly basis. 5 He said he would pay me £4.50 a week. I remember this 6 amount because it wasn't coins, but paper money. It was 7 a lot of money. I held onto this money myself. I was 8 able to use some of it to buy things when we were able 9 to go to the village on the weekends. After this, he 10 paid me every week until I left Besford Court." 11 The next section, chair, is at page 11, 12 paragraph 45. The paragraph reads: 13 "The sexual abuse stopped at Croome Court when 14 I left the school. The sexual abuse stopped at 15 Besford Court when I left that school (I was expelled 16 from Besford Court when I was under 18 years old)." 17 I now go, please, to page 19, paragraph 83: 18 "Whilst I was at the Besford Court and being 19 sexually abused, I was self-harming. I would rub 20 nettles into my private parts and would get a stick and 21 hit my bum with it. I could never explain why I was 22 acting in this way and never spoke to anybody. When 23 I was expelled from school and the sexual abuse stopped, 24 I stopped self-harming." 25 Chair, if we go back, please, to page 14, to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 95</p> | <p>1 paragraph 59. It says: 2 "Throughout the time that I was at the two schools, 3 both Croome Court and Besford Court, apart from what is 4 set out below, I did not tell anyone about the abuse 5 that was happening. I did not know who to turn to. 6 I daren't speak to a nun as they would just whack you. 7 Also, all the teachers hit the boys regularly. I was 8 fearful of all the nuns and teachers. We boys were so 9 afraid that when we saw the nuns, we would hide till 10 they had passed. Just being seen could lead to a whack. 11 The abuse first started at the hands of the teachers so 12 I just thought that all the teachers were the same and 13 no-one would listen to me or do anything about it." 14 Chair, the next page is page 21, please, 15 paragraph 88. This section is titled "Reporting matters 16 to the police": 17 "In around the 2000s, a lady went on the 'Friends 18 Reunited' website and I asked her to look up 'Besford 19 Boys' in the school search. With her help, I started to 20 reach out to other boys who might have been at the 21 school. I can't remember when, but I received an email 22 from a man who was older than me and left school before 23 I went to Besford Court. 24 "He told me he had also been subject to brutality at 25 the school. He did not tell me about any sexual abuse,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 96</p> |

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| <p>1 but I thought he might well be too embarrassed to say. 2 I found a documentary on the internet called 'Besford 3 Boys' by Tyne Tees Television, which talked about abuse 4 suffered by pupils at Besford Court before my time 5 there. This upset me deeply and it made me angry. 6 I discussed what I had discovered with Margaret Lee. 7 She was concerned about the impact this information was 8 having on my health. She again persuaded me to go to 9 the police. 10 "I think it was West Mercia Police that I told about 11 the abuse and then a lady from Derbyshire Police came to 12 my house. I gave a written statement in the 2000s. The 13 records show that a crime report was made to West Mercia 14 Police in that period. 15 "I did not mention the incidents involving F270 to 16 the police at the time. I had received money from him 17 and this was different from the other abuse. I felt 18 that it would be thought that I had agreed to it and 19 went along with it. I had not been able to talk about 20 the abuse by F270 until I mentioned it to my 21 psychologist in around the 2010s. I think the reason 22 I have not been able to talk about this is because 23 I received money each week. I have always felt 24 responsible and to blame. It was like I was 25 a prostitute and I have always worried about what people</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 97</p> | <p>1 would think of me. 2 "After I had made the statement, the police told me 3 that they were not going to prosecute anybody, although 4 there had been other complaints made by other ex-pupils. 5 "In early 2018, I heard that [a child] was no longer 6 in hospital. I contacted West Mercia on 5 February 2018 7 by phone and asked them to re-open my case. I wanted 8 him to be interviewed and the investigation to be 9 re-opened. 10 "A review was opened by DCI Reakes-Williams, who 11 decided that that person should be questioned. I chased 12 again for information and I was told that that person 13 had been questioned. He had denied the allegations, 14 including each of my allegations, and I was told that 15 the matter was 'not being pursued any further' (this 16 decision is recorded in the police records). I was 17 deeply frustrated and disappointed by this decision. 18 I remember being told on the phone that this was an old, 19 historic case, and the officer said something like, 20 'Boys will be boys'. This made me and my wife very 21 upset. It made me angry and I felt like I again was 22 being dismissed by the police." 23 He gives evidence of serious incidents of 24 peer-on-peer abuse, ie, abuse by other children in the 25 care of the archdiocese in his witness statement.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 98</p> |
| <p>1 In the next section, entitled "Contact with the 2 Catholic Church" at paragraph 97: 3 "It was following the statement that I made to the 4 police in 2005 that I also contacted the 5 Catholic Church. I wanted to see my school records. 6 The first time I contacted them they said they were not 7 available. They said their records had been burned. 8 However, the police told me that there were records 9 available. I also spoke to another person who told me 10 that he had obtained his record and he had also been 11 given an apology. 12 "On the second time I think I contacted the 13 Catholic Church, I was put in contact with Jane Jones in 14 Birmingham who was involved with safeguarding for the 15 church. At this time, I told her some of what happened 16 to me, but not everything. I did not feel that I was 17 treated appropriately by Jane Jones. She was very 18 dismissive and difficult. I remember her telling me, 19 'They're all dead. Just get on with your life', or 20 words to that effect. She said that we could see the 21 original records in Birmingham but that we would have to 22 go to the cathedral to see them. 23 "I went with my wife and Jane Jones met us in the 24 centre of Birmingham. She walked us about a mile to the 25 cathedral. She took us to a room which I think was in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 99</p> | <p>1 the basement. It was a room with wood and old-fashioned 2 files along the back wall. It was like a library or 3 a classroom. It smelled like a school and I felt 4 uncomfortable in there. This was not a private room but 5 a big space with other people in it. I don't remember 6 exactly how many people were there, but there were more 7 than two groups. There was a man who looked like 8 a priest in the room, wearing a dog collar. He was just 9 sitting in the corner. There were at least two other 10 people looking at records and reading. It was not 11 explained to me who these other people were. However, 12 Jane Jones told me in this room that my records would 13 only be open to the public after 100 years. 14 "Jane brought the records out and put them on 15 a table in the middle of the room. My wife read parts 16 of the records to me which I found very upsetting. 17 I had told Jane Jones that I could not read or write and 18 that I would need help to read and understand the 19 records. I remember seeing a picture of myself as 20 a boy. I was very upset and I cried. 21 "Whilst this was going on, Jane came back into the 22 room and, as I was upset, she said that she could take 23 us down the corridor to another room which would be 24 private. This would take us away from the other members 25 of the public who were in the same room looking at other</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 100</p> |

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| <p>1 records. We went to this other room, but the experience 2 of looking at the records was really upsetting for both 3 of us. We decided that we just wanted to get out and 4 told Jane this. She said she would send copies of 5 the records to our home. 6 "The records arrived after around three weeks. 7 I think I remember that we had to call to chase them 8 a few times, but they came. They were a bundle of 9 photocopied papers about a few inches thick. They might 10 have filled a big file. I think there might have been 11 some papers which were doubles. Someone helped me read 12 them. I kept these copied records for a number of 13 years, but I burnt them sometime between 2005 and 2015. 14 A new file of copied records was provided to my 15 solicitors in 2017. I am still not sure if I have 16 copies of all of my school records. 17 "I do not remember Jane Jones or anyone else from 18 the church contacting me again after I received the 19 copied records in 2005. Following the announcement of 20 this inquiry, my mental health team wrote to this 21 inquiry and to the church on 28 October 2015 on my 22 behalf to ask for an apology. I do not know if a reply 23 was received. I don't think so. 24 "After my legal team told me that Jane Jones might 25 attend hearings at the inquiry and might be called to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 101</p> | <p>1 give evidence, I called and managed to contact her 2 through the church. I don't remember exactly when 3 I called, but I know that it was earlier this year and 4 before the last hearing at the inquiry. I don't think 5 I should have done this, but I was angry and frustrated. 6 I wanted answers and at the time I thought that 7 Jane Jones would have that information. 8 "This was a very difficult phone call. I knew that 9 many of the people who I had made allegations against 10 were dead or unreachable from my contact with the 11 police. I asked Jane Jones about the nuns and whether 12 any of them might be alive. I just wanted to know 13 because I'd heard that one of the head nuns might still 14 be alive. She said, 'Oh, so now you are saying the nuns 15 abused you'. I thought that she was being sarcastic and 16 this made me more angry and frustrated. I am shocked 17 that someone supposed to support survivors treated me 18 like this and spoke to me in this way. 19 "I think that I shouted at Jane about this comment. 20 I couldn't continue the conversation and passed the 21 phone to my wife who was also frustrated and angry. 22 "During this conversation, Jane Jones mentioned our 23 trip to see the records in 2005. She said that I had 24 upset the priest in the room that day and had, with my 25 crying, left him terrified and very disturbed. I was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 102</p> |
| <p>1 gobsmacked to hear this. I couldn't believe that she 2 was talking about his hurt feelings. This was the first 3 time it was suggested that my visit had caused upset for 4 anyone but me. We were not asked to leave that day. We 5 left the cathedral because it had been too difficult for 6 me to continue. I don't believe for one minute that the 7 priest -- or anybody -- was upset or frightened by my 8 actions that day. I now feel that if Jane did know 9 about the abuse I suffered or, does know about it, then 10 she would help hide it. 11 "I am angry with the church for what happened to me. 12 They dismissed me and everything that went on at 13 Croome Court and Besford Court. I have never been 14 treated with kindness or sensitivity by them. I don't 15 believe that they are open and honest about what 16 happened. I am frustrated and very upset about how 17 I have been treated by the church when I've tried to get 18 answers and an apology. They have devastated my life." 19 Chair, that concludes the witness statements to be 20 read this afternoon. I will hand over to Ms Carey to 21 discuss timetabling. 22 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Saad. 23 Discussion re timetabling 24 MS CAREY: Chair, following yesterday's hearing, the inquiry 25 received a report from the cardinal's general</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 103</p> | <p>1 practitioner, and that stated that the cardinal is unfit 2 to give evidence this week. Whilst the report could not 3 give a definitive timescale, the cardinal's general 4 practitioner envisages that the cardinal will be unable 5 to give evidence for a period of three weeks. 6 Chair, so that you can make a final decision as to 7 the scheduling of the cardinal's evidence, the inquiry 8 has requested some further information from the GP. 9 A number of core participants have made it clear that, 10 whilst they understand why it may not be appropriate for 11 them to see the cardinal's private medical records or be 12 provided with that kind of confidential information, 13 they do ask that you, chair, satisfy yourself that you 14 have sight of the relevant information. 15 The archdiocese's legal representatives are taking 16 instructions in relation to that and the inquiry will 17 consider the information as soon as it has been 18 received. 19 As I foreshadowed yesterday, the only available date 20 on which it is possible for you and the panel to hear 21 the evidence from the cardinal is 13 December. Whilst 22 we recognise that that falls within the inquiry's 23 accountability and reparations investigation hearing, in 24 which I think at least two of the core participants 25 involved in this hearing are also involved in that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 104</p> |

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| <p>1 hearing, we are sure that all here today will recognise 2 the importance of ensuring that the cardinal attends and 3 gives evidence as soon as is possible. 4 Can I just say a word about the accountability and 5 reparations hearing, because the inquiry appreciates 6 that 13 December had been set aside in that hearing for 7 anyone to prepare their oral closing statements that 8 they may wish to make in that hearing. We appreciate 9 and understand there will be less opportunity for them 10 to do that if they are now to attend the cardinal giving 11 evidence in relation to this hearing, but there is 12 a notice of this change of timetable and we hope that 13 all may be able to deploy their teams to accommodate 14 this as they see fit. 15 This is not an ideal situation, chair, for anyone, 16 least of all you and the panel, but the core 17 participants in the A&R investigation will be able to 18 make an oral closing the following day, on the 14th, if 19 they wish, and they can provide written closings, if 20 they wish, after that hearing. 21 That procedure has been followed successfully 22 following hearings in the EBC hearings last year, where 23 there was a day set aside for reading, but the testimony 24 overran and so that day was taken up to hear the 25 testimony.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p> | <p>1 Therefore, subject to any further information that 2 is received that substantially changes the position, we 3 propose to proceed with the hearing this week as 4 timetabled, with Mrs Jones giving evidence tomorrow. 5 All core participants will be provided with an 6 opportunity to make a closing statement of up to 7 10 minutes in duration on Friday afternoon. Whilst core 8 participants will be provided with an opportunity to 9 make any additional brief oral closings on the 13th 10 after the cardinal has given evidence, it is unlikely to 11 be possible to allow core participants as long as they 12 would like, and so, therefore, we would urge all core 13 participants to make use of Friday afternoon this week 14 and advance their closing submissions on the evidence 15 that we have heard during the course of this week. 16 The date for the core participants to provide 17 written closings will be extended, therefore, from 18 30 November, which it currently is, to 20 December, so 19 that can take into account any evidence given by the 20 cardinal and consideration thereof. 21 Clearly, chair, if there are any further updates on 22 the cardinal's position, we will be provided with it and 23 we will provide that to you and, indeed, all core 24 participants in due course. 25 I know that we foreshadowed the date yesterday and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p> |
| <p>1 there was an indication from some core participants 2 certainly that they may wish to address you about the 3 proposed timetable, and so can I invite, chair, that we 4 adopt the order that was used yesterday and that if any 5 core participant wishes to make representations, they do 6 so this afternoon. I think that firstly, chair, leads 7 to any representations by Mr Scorer or Mr O'Donnell? 8 Submissions by MR SCORER 9 MR SCORER: Chair, simply to say, in relation to that, that 10 we see absolutely no point in having oral submissions by 11 the parties this Friday, given the centrality of 12 Cardinal Nichols and his evidence to this part of 13 the investigation. So we suggest that that is dealt 14 with on the Friday, when he gives evidence. I think 15 others will address you at greater length on that point, 16 but that's our position. 17 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Scorer. 18 MR O'DONNELL: Chair, we will not make any submission. 19 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Ms Gallagher? 20 Submissions by MS GALLAGHER 21 MS GALLAGHER: Just to say, we also support Mr Scorer. 22 Whilst it is not ideal, we cannot see any sensible 23 reason for us to make closing submissions on Friday when 24 a key witness has been missing. It is a little Hamlet 25 without the prince. On the timetable, we currently have</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p> | <p>1 the closings due to take place from 2.00 pm on Friday, 2 so for the afternoon, and we suggest that on the 13th, 3 it could be possible to hear from the cardinal in the 4 morning, perhaps even sitting slightly early to 5 accommodate that, and then to have closings from 6 2.00 pm, so to transpose what would be this Friday to 7 the afternoon of the 13th, rather than you having to 8 hear from us twice in a piecemeal way. 9 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms Gallagher. Mr Jacobs? 10 Submissions by MR JACOBS 11 MR JACOBS: I would endorse the points that you have just 12 heard from Mr Scorer and Ms Gallagher. 13 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Mr Horwell? 14 MR HORWELL: Nothing today. 15 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Mr Mant? Mr Smith? 16 MR SMITH: No. 17 THE CHAIR: Ms Griffiths? 18 Submissions by MS GRIFFITHS 19 MS GRIFFITHS: Thank you, chair. We endorse the comments 20 already made. There seems little value in having 21 submissions made on Friday, bearing in mind the 22 importance of the evidence of the cardinal. Thank you. 23 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Ms Hewitt? 24 25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p> |

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| <p>1 Submissions by MS HEWITT 2 MS HEWITT: I agree, madam. We are not directly affected by 3 the cardinal's evidence, but overall I agree with what 4 has been said. 5 THE CHAIR: Ms Gallafent? 6 Submissions by MS GALLAFENT 7 MS GALLAFENT: From our perspective, there wouldn't be any 8 point in making submissions until we have heard from the 9 cardinal, so in any event I will only be making 10 submissions on the 13th, I'm afraid. 11 THE CHAIR: Thank you. 12 MS CAREY: Chair, it was an invitation by myself and the 13 investigation team. It is clearly a matter for the core 14 participants if they wish to take up the opportunity of 15 using the time on Friday afternoon. There are matters, 16 it seems to me, that could be properly addressed, 17 namely, the 2018 safeguarding arrangements, but that is 18 entirely a matter for those acting for the core 19 participants. If they don't wish to use Friday 20 afternoon, then we will obviously make arrangements for 21 the 13th to timetable the cardinal's evidence as best we 22 can and allow time on the afternoon of the 13th to make 23 the closing submissions, but, as I am sure you are aware 24 and everyone else is aware, that could make for a very 25 long day.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 109</p> | <p>1 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms Carey. I appreciate everyone's 2 contributions. We will of course keep the matter of 3 the cardinal's position under review and we will now 4 conclude today and reconvene tomorrow. 5 MS CAREY: Thank you very much. 6 (2.40 pm) 7 (The hearing was adjourned to 8 Wednesday, 14 November 2018 at 10.30 am) 9 10 11 I N D E X 12 13 WITNESS RC-A31 (affirmed)1 14 15 Examination by MS CAREY1 16 17 WITNESS RC-A343 (sworn)43 18 19 Examination by MR SAAD43 20 21 Statement of WITNESS RC-A15's mother62 22 (read) 23 24 Statement of WITNESS RC-A491 (read)70 25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 110</p> |
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