

COMMISSION TO INQUIRE INTO CHILD ABUSE

HELD AT 145-151 CHURCH STREET, DUBLIN
ON WEDNESDAY, 16TH JUNE 2004

BEFORE

MR. JUSTICE SEÁN RYAN

CHAIRPERSON OF THE INQUIRY

ORDINARY MEMBERS:

DR. IMELDA RYAN, Consultant Child and Adolescent
Psychiatrist
MR. FRED LOWE, Principal Child Psychologist

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

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION PRESENT

REGISTRAR TO THE INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

MR. BRENDAN REIDY

COUNSEL:

MR. NOEL McMAHON SC

MS. ANNE REILLY BL

MS. KAREN FERGUS BL

Instructed by:

MS. FEENA ROBINSON

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1 THE HEARING COMMENCED, AS FOLLOWS, ON WEDNESDAY,
2 16TH JUNE 2004

3
4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good morning everybody.

5 The reason we are here this
6 morning is we announced on a previous occasion, first
7 of all, on 7th May, we presented proposals on a
8 position paper and then we gave opportunities to
9 respond to those, and we indicated that we would give
10 our decision on the matter this morning. That is
11 what I propose to do now. After that, I think there
12 are some points that we want to clear up, and
13 Mr. McMahon will deal with those, about future
14 hearings and, in particular, our immediate hearings.
15 I think there are one or two other questions that
16 will arise.

17
18 On 7th May last, I spoke at a public meeting of the
19 Investigation Committee on behalf of the Committee at
20 the Shelbourne Hotel and I introduced a position
21 paper which set out a policy for the Inquiry into
22 Child Abuse. The document discussed the question
23 whether naming individual perpetrators of abuse was a
24 practical or realistic option. It came to
25 conclusions and made recommendations.

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27 There are no easy options for an inquiry into child
28 abuse whose remit extends from the 1930's for some
29 60 years.



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The interests and wishes of victims of abuse, even when considered on their own, are sometimes in conflict one with another. In other words, some of the things that people want an inquiry to do may be impossible to reconcile with other desires, even of the same people. When we add extra elements, including fair treatment of people accused of wrongdoing, the equation becomes even harder to balance.

We in the Investigation Committee tried to find a way forward for the Inquiry into Child Abuse, which did a number of things:

- Met the legal requirements laid down by the courts.
- Promised a proper investigation into what happened and why it happened.
- Would not be prolonged to a degree that is unfair, unreasonable and disappointing to everyone involved, as well as to the public.
- Was practical, focused and sensitive to participants.

We tried to look at the point, purpose and value of the Inquiry mandated by the Act of 2000, and whether they were going to be achieved by examining many hundreds of individual cases in a long sequence of



1 trials.

2

3 Speaking on behalf of the Investigation Committee
4 last month, I explained our thinking. It was clear
5 that we had to come to a decision on naming
6 individuals (other than those who were convicted in
7 court) before we began to inquire into particular
8 institutions.

9

10 We were candidly of the view at that time that the
11 best -- indeed the only realistic -- way forward was
12 by abandoning the quest to name individual
13 perpetrators. Let us not forget that the Act of 2000
14 forbids findings in relation to particular instances
15 of alleged abuse of children.

16

17 The position paper contains a full review of the Act
18 and the issues in relation to naming individuals who
19 have not been convicted of abuse. The question was
20 also considered in my introduction of the document.
21 Senior Counsel, Mr. McMahon, discussed at the same
22 time how the Investigation Committee would proceed
23 with its Inquiry and he detailed the submissions that
24 had been received and the consultations that had
25 taken place.

26

27 Following the meeting of 7th May, a round of
28 consultations took place. First, the parties'
29 lawyers were invited to make submissions and then the



1 various groups were invited to comment.
2
3 We have proceeded in this way in order to be as
4 inclusive as possible. Of course, we know that we
5 have to make decisions and to conduct the Inquiry in
6 the most effective and valuable way, and we are not
7 expecting everyone to agree with all our decisions.
8 We have a job to do and we cannot avoid the
9 responsibility of deciding difficult questions.
10 We do want people to understand what we are doing and
11 why, and our approach is to be as open and
12 considerate as possible. We are not passing the buck
13 and abrogating our duty to choose between different
14 options. We hope that all the participants in the
15 Inquiry will understand what we are trying to do,
16 even if some of them do not always agree with us.
17
18 I think everybody will agree:
19
20 - That it is time for the investigation to get
21 underway;
22 - That there have been enough, or even too, many
23 reviews, reports and discussions about ways and
24 means.
25 - That all of the participants are getting older and
26 people are understandably impatient, including
27 ourselves, to see the Inquiry progress.
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29 It is not necessary to re-debate the major issue that



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we set out at our meeting last month and in the documents that we published.

The two essential features of what we proposed are:

1. Not to name individual perpetrators of abuse unless they were convicted in the courts.
2. To call witnesses to give evidence of abuse suffered by them to the extent necessary for the Inquiry.

These questions have been discussed in previous reviews and reports. The actual suggestions will have come as a surprise to nobody. We decided, however, to announce our policy quite specifically so that there would not be any doubt about our intentions and so as to give people an opportunity to coming back with arguments as to why we were wrong.

There is general acceptance of the issues that we have addressed. While there are differences of emphasis here and there, I think it is fair to say that all of the people who responded to our position paper appreciate what we are trying to do and why we made those particular proposals. There were some misunderstandings which we were happy to clear up and once that had been done, a number of people were in substantial agreement with our scheme. The important point about the responses is this. Some people agreed



1 and others did not. Some were enthusiastic and
2 others were reluctant supporters. Everybody
3 acknowledged the conditions that had to be satisfied,
4 and nobody put forward a rival scheme that could meet
5 the requirements we set out in our documents in which
6 I very briefly summarised at the beginning. The
7 challenge was to see whether some other modus
8 operandi could be devised that would better meet the
9 needs of the situation as agreed all round. None was
10 proposed. In the result, our decision was
11 inevitable.

12

13

14

DECISION

15

16

We have decided to proceed in accordance with our
17 position paper, that the Inquiry by the Investigation
18 Committee will not seek to name individual abusers.
19 We will also call witnesses to give evidence of abuse
20 suffered by them but only to the extent necessary for
21 the Inquiry. I will say more about this later.

22

23

24

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES/AMENDMENTS

25

26

In the review that I carried out before I took up
27 position of Chairperson of the Commission and the
28 Investigation Committee, I made a number of proposals
29 for amendments to the 2000 Act. They were accepted

29



1 by the Government. In order to carry into effect the
2 proposals that we have now decided on, some further
3 legislative changes will be needed. We are now
4 finalising those additional requests and they will go
5 to the Government this week for consideration and I
6 hope approval and incorporation into an amending
7 Bill. That, inevitably, is going to take time. I
8 understand that the Parliamentary Council's Office is
9 at present working on the amending legislation, and I
10 do not think that the additional requests we are now
11 making will delay the process in any significant way.

12
13 We made clear previously that we are not going to
14 wait for amending legislation before we get on with
15 the Inquiry. We know that there has been a great
16 deal of delay and it is unnecessary to repeat here
17 what I said before. People have had enough reports,
18 reviews and discussions about the Inquiry and its
19 procedures, and what they want now is for us to get
20 on with the work and to inquire into child abuse in
21 institutions, as we are required to do under the
22 legislation. We must, of course, bear in mind before
23 we get the amendments that we are looking for, that
24 we have to comply with the existing legislation. We
25 will do that by proceeding as we are announcing here,
26 but we do not think it will be possible to produce an
27 interim report before we get the legislation changed.

28
29 The 2000 Act does not compel the Investigation



1 Committee to identify individuals who have committed
2 abuse, but it does permit such naming. We have said
3 we are not going to do that and are looking for an
4 appropriate amendment of the legislation. It could
5 possibly be argued, as set out in the position paper,
6 that the Investigation Committee could be in error if
7 it decided that it would never ever name an
8 individual. Our position is that we are not going to
9 name individuals except those who have been convicted
10 in courts or have pleaded guilty.

11
12 As to the second part of our decision regarding the
13 number of victim witnesses to be called, assuming
14 that persons who came to the Investigation Committee
15 with a view to giving evidence actually had a right
16 to give such evidence, an amendment is also needed.
17 Again, all this is discussed in other documents that
18 are in the public domain and I do not intend to get
19 into a further discussion here. The point is that we
20 need an amendment before we can proceed to the end
21 point of an investigation that is conducted according
22 to our above proposal. Before we issue a report on
23 an institution which we have investigated according
24 to our proposals, we should have the amendments in
25 place. People should not, therefore, expect an
26 interim report concerning any investigation until
27 such time as the legislation has been amended.

28
29 The changes we are making will enable us, as we have



1 indicated in our documentation previously published
2 and as I have mentioned, to emphasise the importance
3 of institutional issues and systems failures. In
4 this connection, it has seemed to us important not to
5 ignore the methods by which children came to be
6 placed in institutions. When I spoke previously, I
7 mentioned the role of the courts and the relevance of
8 that question to the matters that we have to
9 investigate. The Committee had previously rejected
10 such an approach because it felt that this matter was
11 not within the Terms of Reference of the Commission.
12 Our continuing investigations have alerted the
13 Investigation Committee to the materiality of this
14 topic. The importance of the issue to some victims
15 is hard to exaggerate. People were heartened by the
16 reference in my speech to this question and were
17 enthusiastic at the prospect that this area would be
18 followed up by the Inquiry. It seems to us that it
19 would be unsatisfactory to ignore this part of the
20 history that we have to explore. In the
21 circumstances, we propose to seek an appropriate
22 amendment to remove any doubt about the relevance of
23 this area to the Inquiry into Child Abuse.

24 25 26 PROCEDURES

27
28 We envisage approaching each institution separately.
29 We will first ascertain what the attitude of the



1 relevant congregation is to the complaints that have
2 been made. Does it acknowledge the substantial truth
3 of some or most or all complaints? Apart from the
4 complaints, does the congregation/institution know
5 about abuse that happened there? Has it carried out
6 any inquiries of its own? What protocols or systems
7 were in place to prevent child abuse and to detect
8 any abuses which occurred? What training did the
9 teachers/staff have and what training did the
10 managers or supervisors undergo? ... (INTERJECTION)
11 MR. DEMPSEY: None.
12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Sorry?
13 MR. DEMPSEY: There was none.
14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Please be quiet while I am
15 doing this, Robert.
16 MR. DEMPSEY: There was none.
17 THE CHAIRPERSON: I do not want an
18 interruption and I will not
19 tolerate it.
20 MR. DEMPSEY: Are you going to have me
21 locked up again?
22 THE CHAIRPERSON: I never had you locked up
23 before. Please don't
24 ... (INTERJECTION).
25 MR. DEMPSEY: It was the courts that
26 locked us up, now you are
27 covering up.
28 THE CHAIRPERSON: I am going to deliver this
29 and I do not want you



1 putting on a show.

2 MR. DEMPSEY: Excuse me?

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: I do not want you putting
4 on a show, please don't do
5 it.

6
7 How were the religious staff recruited and engaged?
8 Who were they and what education did they have? As
9 for the resident children, how do they come to be in
10 the particular institution? Where did the children
11 come from, what were their backgrounds and was there
12 a particular pattern that was characteristic? The
13 education of the children will be inquired into. How
14 were they taught, when and what subjects? Food and
15 accommodation; questions will be asked to ascertain
16 what the institutions says about the conditions of
17 the residences. In listing these questions, I am not
18 trying to be exhaustive. If the managers or
19 congregation want us to do so, we will be happy to
20 indicate the areas of interest, but, obviously, if
21 something turns up which points us in a different
22 direction or an additional area of inquiry, we will
23 pursue that. That, in our view, is the nature of an
24 inquiry. We do not know at the beginning of our
25 journey where we will end up.

26
27 When we have ascertained a lot of the background
28 information about the institution and we know what
29 attitude is being taken to the suggestion of abuse



1 and what extra information is available about abuse,
2 we will be in a position to decide how many of the
3 complainants we need to call in order to fill out the
4 picture.

5
6 What we have in mind in our approach to the different
7 institutions is as follows:

- 8
- 9 - We believe that there is no single mode of
10 investigation appropriate to every institution
11 irrespective of differences in the nature of the
12 abuse alleged or the numbers of residents or the
13 numbers of complainants and respondents and the
14 nature of the complaints and of the responses to
15 the complaints. "One size fits all" does not
16 apply.

 - 17
18 - The way the Inquiry deals with an institution has
19 to be decided principally by reference to what is
20 in dispute. If a respondent institution
21 acknowledges the essential truth of the complaints
22 that are made by its former residents who have
23 made statements to the Investigation Committee,
24 that obviously reduces the need to establish the
25 existence as a fact of abuse in the institution,
26 and it makes it a much easier task to find out the
27 scale of the abuse. It may be that the
28 institution is also in a position to give
29 information of abuse that it is aware of, even



1 though there may not be a complaint specifically
2 related to that abuse. We have instances where
3 institutions have made known to us information
4 about abuse which was not the subject of any
5 complaint and of which we were completely unaware.

6
7 - Where there is a high level of cooperation as
8 described, so that the fact of abuse is accepted,
9 and the scale is relatively easily established, it
10 is obviously unnecessary to concentrate on hearing
11 a large number of witnesses. How many are heard
12 will depend on what remains in dispute in regard
13 to the abuse after acknowledgments are taken into
14 account and the needs of the Inquiry to get
15 background information as to the detail of the
16 abuse.

17
18 - In a different situation while an institution may
19 say that it is denying one kind of abuse as having
20 been widespread in the institution, it may
21 nevertheless accept that other conduct falling
22 within the definition took place fairly generally.
23 For example, it has been indicated to us that some
24 institutions will accept that violence was a
25 feature of life for the residents, whereas they do
26 not accept that sexual abuse was prevalent. One
27 can anticipate that there may be respondents who
28 will acknowledge that there was little in the way
29 of emotional comfort for residents, but they may



1 point to conditions in society generally or to the
2 exigencies with which they had to contend,
3 including the numbers of their residents and
4 possibly the limited training and instruction in
5 childcare that were available for their teaching
6 and management staff.

7
8 - I am trying to indicate in these examples the
9 range of issues that is likely to be thrown up in
10 the course of inquiring into the different
11 institutions. We cannot lay down a specific
12 procedure. We have to say to people that the way
13 we approach the institution depends on the issues
14 appropriate to that situation. We intend to call
15 as witnesses a sufficient number of complainants
16 to deal with the issues relevant to the particular
17 institution. Once we have satisfied ourselves by
18 considering the necessary quantum of evidence,
19 there will, I expect, remain a body of
20 complainants (and indeed individual respondents)
21 who have not been called to give evidence.

22
23 - As to witnesses who do not give evidence in the
24 formal hearings before the Investigation
25 Committee, we do not, of course, intend to ignore
26 them. The first option that they will have is to
27 transfer to the Confidential Committee. This is
28 not a second class compartment, but is an entirely
29 separate option that is available to any



1 participant in the work of the Commission. A
2 large number of victims of abuse have chosen to
3 take this course. People who have expressed
4 willingness to come to the Investigation Committee
5 have the right under the Act to change their minds
6 and move to the Confidential Committee. In
7 mentioning here that this option is available, I
8 am particularly anxious not to give the impression
9 that it is a consolation prize for somebody who
10 has not "made the cut" for the Investigation
11 Committee.

12

13 - Again, depending on the attitude adopted by the
14 respondent institution, it may be possible to hear
15 the evidence of remaining Investigation Committee
16 complainants in a non-adversarial setting and
17 based on accepting their previous written
18 statements as evidence. This would greatly
19 accelerate the hearing process and would afford
20 the witnesses an opportunity to be heard in a
21 formal setting by the Committee of their original
22 choice.

23

24 - Further options exist by way of participation in
25 peacemaking or reconciliation processes which we
26 hope to facilitate between willing participants
27 and also possibly the inclusion of statements of
28 victims of abuse, when suitably redacted, in a
29 book of remembrance. I will say a little more



1 about the peacemaking process in a moment.

2

3 We will also engage in the inquiries detailed in our
4 meeting of 7th May, which were described by
5 Mr. McMahon, Senior Counsel, in his statement that
6 day.

7

8 We are happy to discuss with the Complainants and
9 Respondents how best to conduct the Inquiry into the
10 particular institution. The decision ultimately must
11 be one for the Investigation Committee as to how to
12 carry out the Inquiry, but in broad terms that is
13 what we intend. The legal requirements are clear as
14 to what protections exist where there is potential
15 for making adverse findings against people. So there
16 is no need for controversy about the law that is
17 applicable. Problems arise in this area because of
18 disputes about applying the law to the particular
19 circumstances. In other countries, it is done by
20 agreement between the parties, and there is no reason
21 why that cannot happen here if people want to do so.
22 We will consider objections or problems that are made
23 known to us by parties whether they are victims or
24 institutions or anybody else. We want to carry out
25 the best investigation possible in accordance with
26 the legal rules. There need be no dispute about
27 that, so any issues that are thrown up should be
28 capable of being dealt with by agreement. In default
29 of agreement, again the duty of the Committee is to



1 make up its mind, and that it will do.

2

3

4

APPROACHES TO THE INQUIRY

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6

This is an inquiry into child abuse in institutions.

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It is not a series of cases that we are bringing

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against individual persons or, indeed, particular

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congregations. We are not laying charges against,

10

for example, the Sisters of Mercy or the Christian

11

Brothers. It is true that complainants have

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furnished written statements to us outlining what

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they say is abuse they suffered at the hands of

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people who were working in institutions in which they

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were residents. We do not take those complaints and

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then marshal them as a bill of indictment against

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institutions or people. The complaints are

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documentary materials which are of assistance to us

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in the course of our inquiry.

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We have made clear in the course of informal meetings

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with the interests groups involved in the work of the

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Investigation Committee that we approach our work

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in a spirit of inquiry. If we take a particular

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institution, say an industrial school, we will begin

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by asking the management and supervisors of the

27

congregation what they know about abuse in the

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institution in the relevant period. We expect that

29

we will get information about this issue in the



1 documentary materials that are provided to us under
2 discovery orders. It is the very essence of an
3 Inquiry to start by asking questions. The approach
4 to the question in this way is more open and
5 inquisitive, I suggest, than one concentrated on
6 specific allegations made by complainants and the
7 answers to those complaints. Complaints and
8 responses are relevant to the Inquiry, but we think
9 we should start off by asking what the institution
10 knows about abuse of children in its care in the
11 various ways that the term "abuse" is defined in the
12 legislation. We will explore that knowledge. The
13 attitudes of the institutions to the complaints which
14 have been made known to them is very important, but
15 it would be wrong to think that this is entirely or
16 even principally a complaint driven investigation.

17
18 We hope that the respondent congregations and
19 institutions will feel able to cooperate as fully as
20 possible with the work of the Investigation
21 Committee. In fairness, it has to be acknowledged
22 that a number of religious congregations have taken a
23 position of spectacular Christian concern for the
24 victims of abuse and for finding out the truth.

25
26 Our Inquiry is not a process to see whether the
27 Committee can come up with evidence which establishes
28 that abuse took place in a particular institution, in
29 the teeth of opposition from that institution which



1 denies everything and which says that every single
2 allegation made by the complainants is wrong. We
3 want to up-end that process, and I hope that
4 congregations will accept that they have
5 responsibilities to the victims of abuse and to those
6 who complain, even if some of them are thought to be
7 in the wrong, and to the community as a whole and
8 also to the congregations themselves and their own
9 members. No devout religious can feel comfortable
10 putting victims of abuse through further trauma and
11 distress if that can be avoided.

12
13 There is a fear among some of those who are
14 cooperating fully with the Inquiry in ascertaining
15 the extent of abuse in their institutions, that other
16 congregations who resist what we are trying to do
17 will fare better in the final result of the Inquiry
18 process. In other words, the fear is that there will
19 be condemnation of the cooperating congregations,
20 while those who oppose and resist the Inquiry will
21 escape any sanction or even a finding that abuse took
22 place in their institutions. I wish that we could
23 dismiss such a fear as being unfounded.

24
25 One very obvious example of real cooperation is when
26 an institution tells the Investigation Committee
27 about abuse which is not the subject of any
28 particular complaint from an individual resident.

29



1 I hope now that we have announced our decision about
2 individuals, it will mean that congregations which
3 were uneasy previously are able to review their
4 attitudes to the Inquiry.

5 6 7 WHAT WE CANNOT ACHIEVE

8
9 Our Inquiry can achieve a great deal and within a
10 reasonable time. There are advantages for all the
11 participants in having these investigations brought
12 to a timely conclusion. Again, these are matters
13 that have been discussed at great deal and we don't
14 need to spend much more time considering them here.
15 I set out previously some skeleton of a vision of
16 what we could achieve and I think everybody involved
17 in this Inquiry knows what the possibilities are.
18 There is, however, something that no Inquiry can
19 achieve and which is often described by victims of
20 abuse as being highly desirable and even necessary.
21 That is reconciliation.

22
23 No matter how searching is our inquiry into each
24 institution and no matter how just and measured our
25 conclusions, there will remain as elusive as at the
26 start of our investigation the issue of
27 reconciliation between victims of abuse and the
28 congregations of which the abusers were members. No
29 process of inquiry can of itself deliver that



1 outcome. It is true that there is a degree of
2 closure and vindication achieved by way of formal
3 inquiry, but it would be a mistake to ignore the
4 potentially enormous benefits to be got from
5 reconciliation. This, in essence, is a process which
6 is engaged in by participants in the issue of abuse
7 often with the assistance of a facilitator. It is
8 unnecessary to set out a precise scheme and it is
9 probably undesirable to do so because one of the
10 features of any scheme of reconciliation is that the
11 participants have an input into how it should be
12 managed and operated. Assuming in regard to a
13 particular institution that the victims or a
14 substantial number of them wished to engage in a
15 process of reconciliation and so were the
16 congregation involved, we, as the Investigation
17 Committee, would be happy to look to see how we could
18 facilitate that process. I think one would have to
19 have victims involved and also the relevant
20 congregation, but the State would also have an
21 involvement because of its position as a stakeholder
22 in the process of the investigation and as a body
23 whose conduct is also under investigation. This is
24 not simply a listening centre or an advice process or
25 a counselling system, which is not to diminish the
26 value of those institutions, but it is rather an
27 exploration by all the participants or most of them.
28 (I am leaving out for consideration actual abusers
29 but that does not necessarily have to happen) and



1 they are all equal participants. There is, in other
2 words, no person in charge of the process, although
3 the facilitator will, of course, play an important
4 role in steering the discussions but he/she is not a
5 participant and does not purport to be a person in
6 charge, because there is no person in charge. The
7 point about this process is that it can yield up
8 achievements that are limited only by the imagination
9 and the capacities of the people who are
10 participating.

11
12 At one level it is possible even that an institution
13 could cooperate with its former residents and with
14 the State personnel who were assigned, and with the
15 facilitator and anybody else with a relevant position
16 as stakeholder in the process, so as to produce an
17 acknowledgment of the amount of abuse and a
18 description of the nature of that abuse and an
19 investigation of the causes of the abuse and what
20 facilitated it and made it possible, and what
21 happened so as to prevent it being discovered and
22 ended. The process could, if appropriate, end in an
23 apology and expressions of understanding all round.
24 There are circumstances in which a process of this
25 kind could achieve far more than a formal
26 investigation could ever do. This is not a situation
27 where participants have to pick either an inquiry or
28 a reconciliation or peacemaking process. There is no
29 reason why the paths of reconciliation and



1 peacemaking cannot be followed as far as possible,
2 and where that is not possible, the issue can go back
3 to the Investigation Committee. If it turns out that
4 nothing can be achieved in a substantial way by the
5 peacemaking process, then the Investigation Committee
6 remains committed and available to proceed in the
7 formal way that I am describing.

8
9 What I am saying here in a word is that if people are
10 interested in investigating the potential of
11 peacemaking and reconciliation, we, as the
12 Investigation Committee, will be very happy to
13 encourage that and to provide as much in the way of
14 facilities as we can. The minimum requirement is
15 that the victims in substantial numbers in respect of
16 a particular institution are interested in this kind
17 of reconciliation and that there is agreement by the
18 congregation involved to pursue the same path.

19
20 I think we can safely assume that the State will wish
21 to promote and participant to the extent necessary in
22 the process. If we have such agreement, then we, as
23 the Committee, will be very happy to explore
24 possibilities with the people involved. It may not
25 be possible to achieve the minimum level of agreement
26 necessary and if that happens, so be it. It is also
27 the case that such agreement may be possible in
28 respect of some institutions and their former
29 residents but not others. Again, that does not pose



1 a problem. If at the end it transpires that it is
2 simply not possible to achieve a degree of
3 substantial reconciliation, I still do not think that
4 anything has been lost and the pursuit of the
5 prospect or possibility is of itself of some value.

6
7 Thank you very much.

8
9 MR. McMAHON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 I propose saying just a
11 very short few words in relation to a number of
12 general enquiries or a number of issues which have
13 arisen in the course of enquiries which the legal
14 team have received specifically in relation to the
15 hearings, which are due to commence on 21st June.

16
17 Firstly, in relation to the format of those hearings
18 and the order in which it is intended to call
19 witnesses. The format of the hearing was set out in
20 a little bit of detail in the fifth section, I think,
21 of the address which I delivered in the Shelbourne
22 Hotel on 7th June. The order in which it is intended
23 or proposed calling witnesses at those hearings will
24 follow the following sequence.

25
26 First of all, it is intended to call witnesses who
27 will give a historical background to child abuse and
28 its emergence as an issue in society in Ireland.

29



1 Secondly, it is proposed to move on and to hear
2 evidence from representatives of various Government
3 Departments. The State involvement, in other words.
4
5 Thirdly, it is intended to proceed to hear
6 representatives from various religious congregations.
7
8 Fourthly, it is intended to hear speakers nominated
9 by various victims and survivor groups.
10
11 That is the order in which it is hoped this part of
12 the Inquiry will follow. I must say in relation to
13 this, we have received a lot of interest and there
14 has been a lot of interest expressed in relation to
15 this part of the Inquiry. A considerable number of
16 statements have been received from those wishing to
17 participate. The legal team of the Investigation
18 Committee is currently assessing those with a view to
19 trying to schedule the attendance of witnesses of
20 which it is hoped adequate notice will be given.
21
22 This brings me to the second point, and that is the
23 time frame within which it is envisaged these
24 hearings will proceed. It is anticipated that the
25 historical evidence will take place over a number of
26 days at the beginning of the hearings. The hearings
27 will begin on 21st June, and it is likely that that
28 evidence will continue into 22nd and possibly indeed
29 into 23rd. It is hoped that the Committee will be in



1 a position to begin hearings from Governmental
2 representatives on, perhaps, 23rd June and for the
3 following days.

4
5 We will be giving dates or allocating dates and times
6 for such witnesses as their sequence is determined.
7 It is not possible to give those dates at this point
8 in time with greater precision than that, except to
9 say that parties will, insofar as is possible, be
10 facilitated.

11
12 It is anticipated that hearings of evidence from
13 representatives of the religious congregations are
14 unlikely to commence prior to 28th June, that is the
15 beginning of the second week of these hearings. It
16 is likely that that part of the Inquiry will continue
17 for certainly a week, it may go beyond a week. The
18 sequence which is currently envisaged is that people
19 speaking on behalf of survivor groups or victims
20 groups will then be allocated dates to begin their
21 evidence.

22
23 We are mindful of the fact that institution specific
24 hearings have been scheduled to commence on 7th July,
25 and a mechanism is currently being designed which
26 will ensure that the emergence hearings are permitted
27 to conclude to their natural conclusion.

28
29 As I say, it is intended that dates will be given to



1 assist those, so that those who wish to give evidence
2 at these hearings will be facilitated, insofar as it
3 is necessary to accommodate their needs, insofar as
4 it is possible, that will be done.

5
6 Another matter that has arisen has been the question
7 of the availability of a transcript or a note of the
8 evidence which will be given. First of all, it is
9 necessary to point out that, of course, these
10 hearings will be in public. Furthermore, a
11 transcript of the evidence given during these
12 hearings will be kept. The intention is that the
13 transcript will be available on the Commission's
14 website and the Commission is currently looking at
15 the technical requirements that will facilitate that
16 being done. It is hoped that making the transcript
17 available will provide access to those who wish to
18 follow the proceedings, that it will provide access
19 to the proceedings for those with, for example,
20 hearing disabilities. It is hoped that providing
21 such a facility will obviate the need for parties to
22 be actually present at these hearings other than
23 those parts in which they are directly involved.

24
25 These were the principal queries which have arisen in
26 relation to the actual conducting of the emergence
27 hearings, and we have tried to deal with them as best
28 we can. It is hoped that if other specific
29 difficulties emerge, they can be dealt with as they



1 THE CHAIRPERSON: That is Ferryhouse in
2 Clonmel run by the
3 Rosminian institution.
4 MR. McMAHON: That's correct.
5 THE CHAIRPERSON: I think that our
6 proceedings then will not
7 be long. They are simply to clear out of the way any
8 issues that are necessary or that the institution
9 wants to raise. Mr. McMahon, have you an idea as to
10 who should be represented there or is that something
11 we are in contact with people about?
12 MR. McMAHON: Primarily it is thought
13 that the representatives of
14 the Rosminian Institute will be present for those
15 hearings. We have not specifically been asked in
16 relation to other parties in relation to whether they
17 should be represented or not. Again, it is a hearing
18 which will be in public and it is planned that it
19 will be held here at 10:30 in the morning on Friday.
20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Very good, thank you very
21 much indeed.
22 MR. O' MOORE: Sorry, Chairman, could I
23 just say something before
24 there is a further intervention.
25 THE CHAIRPERSON: I will come back to you in
26 a moment.
27 MR. O' MOORE: On the issue you were
28 discussing with
29 Mr. McMahon, the State interest will certainly be



1 represented on Friday to see what involvement they
2 will have in the substantive hearings in relation to
3 Ferryhouse. I just want to make that quite clear.
4 Thank you, Chairman.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: What I would expect is that
6 we would be inquiring from
7 the representatives of the respondent institution
8 questions of the general nature such as we have
9 indicated here and see what the response is. In
10 other words, the idea will be to try to get a shape
11 on the nature of the Inquiry. As I said, we have
12 indicated that our attitude to each institution -- we
13 will not necessarily follow precisely the same
14 pattern, we will see how much can we find out about
15 what is in dispute, and then we will proceed
16 accordingly to adjust our procedures.

17 MR. McMAHON: Indeed, if I may add to
18 that, some greater detail
19 was given in relation to the hearing proposed for
20 18th June, some information was given on 7th June in
21 the body of the speech which I delivered.

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: That is available on the
23 website.

24 MR. McMAHON: It is, indeed.

25 MR. DEMPSEY: I didn't understand, what
26 do you mean by "discrete
27 cases", can you elaborate on that for me?

28 THE CHAIRPERSON: Sorry, where is the
29 reference to "discrete"?



1 MR. DEMPSEY: It's in your letter. You
2 were suggesting that you
3 would deal with hearings from St. Joseph's School,
4 that you would be dealing with "discrete cases", that
5 is your wording.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: I am sorry, I am just
7 trying to put it into
8 context. This is in our letter that went out to
9 everybody, is that right?

10 MR. DEMPSEY: Yes.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Asking people whether they
12 were going to come back to
13 us. Somebody better give me the letter. If there is
14 any difficulty about this, we will be perfectly happy
15 to write to you.

16 MR. DEMPSEY: You did write to me but you
17 didn't answer me.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: If I can answer it, I will
19 answer it now. Equally, if
20 I cannot answer it, I will tell you I cannot answer
21 it, is that okay?

22 MR. DEMPSEY: You used the word.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: I am going to have to ask
24 you ... (INTERJECTION).

25 MR. DEMPSEY: You are sending me a
26 letter, Sir, that I don't
27 understand.

28 THE CHAIRPERSON: I am going to explain the
29 letter to you, but I don't



1 have the letter in front of me because I didn't know
2 you were going to raise this question. I am quite
3 happy to answer your letter. If you have it with
4 you, I will ask you to wait behind.

5 MR. DEMPSEY: I don't, no.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Sorry, hold on a second,
7 let's be reasonable here
8 ... (INTERJECTION).

9 MR. DEMPSEY: I am being reasonable. I
10 asked you a question, a
11 question you gave to us in your letter.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Can you just give me
13 an opportunity of coming
14 back to you on that in a moment?

15 MR. DEMPSEY: Does the word "discrete"
16 mean cherry picking?
17 Please tell me that yes or no?

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: It means separate. Sorry,
19 it depends
20 ... (INTERJECTION).

21 MR. DEMPSEY: Does it mean cherry
22 picking, Sir, yes or no?

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: It means separate. I take
24 it it is D-I-S-C-R-E-T-E,
25 it means separate. Separate is what the word means.

26 MR. DEMPSEY: Does the word "cherry
27 picking" mean anything to
28 you, Sir, at the moment in your mind?
29



1 FROM THE FLOOR: This is a bully tactic
2 approach, it is not
3 acceptable here.
4 MR. DEMPSEY: Absolutely. You cannot
5 explain what the word
6 "discrete" in your mind, in your own wording to me in
7 your letter.
8 THE CHAIRPERSON: The word means separate.
9 MR. DEMPSEY: Separate what?
10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Discrete means separate.
11 MR. DEMPSEY: Mr. McMahon, I can't see
12 the Judge, your head keeps
13 popping left and right of me. I also asked you in a
14 fax, which I am sure Mr. McMahon there has in his
15 folder, I asked you if individuals who are going
16 before the High Court want to have their hearing full
17 and final in the court, do they or can they have
18 their hearing heard by the Investigation thereafter?
19 You didn't respond.
20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mr. McMahon gave you
21 ... (INTERJECTION).
22 MR. DEMPSEY: You asked us for
23 suggestions. We gave you
24 our suggestions, but you ask to talk to us outside in
25 private. I don't want it in private, I want it in
26 public. Yes or no?
27 THE CHAIRPERSON: You have a solicitor?
28 MR. DEMPSEY: I have been told that for
29 five years, I have a



1 sol i ci tor.
2 THE CHAI RPERSON: Just a mi nute. You have a
3 sol i ci tor?
4 MR. DEMPSEY: Who does not respond.
5 THE CHAI RPERSON: The last meeting we had
6 ... (INTERJECTION).
7 MR. DEMPSEY: I have got people coming up
8 to me telling me
9 ... (INTERJECTION).
10 THE CHAI RPERSON: You can shout all you like,
11 but we are getting nowhere.
12 MR. DEMPSEY: I think it is clear that
13 people are getting this on
14 the back of the doors. What I am getting here is
15 people telling me this, that if I settle, if I
16 settle, if I arrange to meet up with the people that
17 I have "alleged", as you people call it, that it can
18 be done so wi thout the incl usion of my sol i ci tor.
19 This is coming from the State sol i ci tors.
20 THE CHAI RPERSON: I am not getting into a
21 hearing just at this moment
22 ... (INTERJECTION).
23 MR. DEMPSEY: No, you are not, of course.
24 We are not getting anywhere
25 for fi ve years.
26 THE CHAI RPERSON: You know why.
27 MR. DEMPSEY: But you are coming up
28 and cherry pi cking
29 "di screte" words, no wonder we are not movi ng on.



1 THE CHAIRPERSON: I am just going to say
2 something to the meeting
3 here.
4 MR. DEMPSEY: We are not moving on,
5 you're covering up.
6 THE CHAIRPERSON: I cannot get into a
7 situation where I am having
8 a battle with somebody... (INTERJECTION)
9 MR. DEMPSEY: I am having a battle for
10 27 years.
11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Who has a big complaint. I
12 am trying to be as
13 sympathetic as possible.
14 MR. DEMPSEY: You're not.
15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Equally, I am not going to
16 be bullied, I am not going
17 to be roared at, I am not going to be beaten down. I
18 am going to conduct this... (INTERJECTION).
19 MR. DEMPSEY: We know all about being
20 beaten down.
21 THE CHAIRPERSON: I am going to chair this
22 Inquiry as best I can.
23 Whether you like it or not, we have decisions to
24 make. I am not looking for a popularity contest, I
25 am not asking for everybody to agree with us. As I
26 said, we are going to make those decisions. On a
27 previous occasion you raised a question, I asked you
28 to wait back. Mr. McMahon spent a long time
29 explaining things to you.



1 MR. DEMPSEY: And he also explained how
2 cheap he wants to run this
3 Commission. He was more concerned about how much
4 this whole issue of investigation was costing rather
5 than giving an answer.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Maybe this is one of the
7 disadvantages of trying to
8 be as available and accommodating as possible.

9 FROM THE FLOOR: I have a few questions,
10 please.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: I will take a question from
12 you, but can I just say
13 this. I do not want to conduct a right riotous or
14 raucous public meeting. I want to conduct this with
15 dignity and appropriateness. I do not want to have
16 ... (INTERJECTION).

17 MR. DEMPSEY: Sorry, Sir, you also
18 suggested that the
19 religious were not taking an adversarial route, of
20 course they are.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: I did not say that.

22 MR. DEMPSEY: Yes, you did.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: If you read it again, you
24 will see I did not.

25 MR. DEMPSEY: You just said it in your
26 statement.

27 THE CHAIRPERSON: I did not say it.

28 MR. DEMPSEY: They are taking a very
29 adversarial route about



1 this, the very legalistic. They are denying they
2 were in the schools.

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: There is a gentleman in the
4 middle

5 Mr. Kelly, stop a second. Just a minute now. We are
6 not going to end up here as a farce.

7 MR. KELLY: No, I agree with you. What
8 I am saying is maybe you
9 should answer people by letter, because you can't
10 answer like that. I think it is inappropriate and we
11 don't expect you to answer in that way.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.
13 However, there is a
14 gentleman in the middle who has patiently and
15 politely waited and who has sat down when anybody
16 else has spoken, and I am going to take his question
17 and if I can deal with it, I will deal with it, and
18 after that we will respond by letter. Thank you very
19 much for your suggestion, Mr. Kelly. I will take
20 Mr. Hanahoe after that.

21 MR. WATERS: Thank you, Chairman. The
22 question is in two parts.
23 The first part is if you are going to use the
24 scenario where there is no naming and shaming of the
25 people who committed abuses in the institutes, surely
26 we are going to land up with one major problem at the
27 end of the day, because if I for one had a brother or
28 a sister that worked in an institute and that
29 institute was blamed for the sexual abuse and all the



1 sorts of abuse that has been dished out during the
2 times that these cases were in operation, I would
3 certainly be taking that challenge into any court
4 that I could to defend the name of my brother and
5 sister or any of my family, because they would be
6 blamed and because if you do not identify the people
7 that have committed these abuses, these atrocities,
8 you are going to paint everyone with the same brush,
9 and people are not just going to sit down and take
10 that. Whatever is discussed here today, whatever
11 decisions that your Committee and your good self are
12 taking will only land up with one almighty challenge
13 at the end of the day, and all our talk and
14 everything that has been tried to put into operation
15 will totally come to a full stop by the law itself.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.

17 MR. WATERS: On the second point
18 ... (INTERJECTION).

19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Can I say that is not a
20 question, it is a
21 submission.

22 MR. WATERS: On the second point, Judge,
23 we have four very dark
24 periods in the Irish history ... (INTERJECTION).

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: I am sorry to interrupt you
26 now.

27 MR. WATERS: Judge, this is what is out
28 there. We have a dark
29 period ... (INTERJECTION).



1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Please, do not make a
2 speech.
3 MR. WATERS: It is not a speech.
4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Please, do not make a
5 speech.
6 MR. WATERS: It is not a speech, there
7 are four points I want to
8 make to you.
9 THE CHAIRPERSON: I am sorry, I am not going
10 to listen to four points.
11 If you want to ask us questions, write down your
12 questions, send them (INTERJECTION)
13 MR. WATERS: There is no point, because
14 you don't answer them.
15 THE CHAIRPERSON: I am not going to answer
16 them this way, sorry. I
17 have one final thing which I will take from
18 Mr. Hanahoe, who has wanted to make a point or ask a
19 question.
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1 MR. HANAHOE: Chairman, good morning.
2 As the Committee knows, I
3 represent a good few of the victims. After or during
4 the initial process where, as I gather, and this is
5 to clear it up in my own mind as much as anything,
6 you will be calling witnesses from the Government
7 Departments and various religious institutions. Is
8 there in the process a method of cross-examining
9 those people or are they just replying to your
10 inquiry?

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much,
12 Mr. Hanahoe. Good morning,
13 Mr. Clarke. Mr. Clarke is Senior Counsel also to the
14 Investigation Committee. Do you want to respond to
15 Mr. Hanahoe's point?

16 MR. CLARKE: Yes, I think the position
17 that was outlined in the
18 past, but I fully understand that it may not have
19 been made exactly clear, was that it was not
20 generally intended at this stage that there would be
21 cross-examination of any one. The purpose of this
22 phase of the hearing is to enable the Commission to
23 get as full a picture as possible as to what the
24 position of the various groups against whom
25 accusations might be made is. Clearly if anything is
26 said that might be relevant to findings that the
27 Commission might make in the fullness of time in
28 relation to a particular institution -- I know, for
29 example, Mr. Hanahoe represents a number of persons



1 who make allegations arising out of Artane, so there
2 will clearly have to be a substantive phase of this
3 Inquiry into the events of Artane. What is said next
4 week by the Christian Brothers will be, I suppose,
5 taken as an indication of where they stand, but
6 insofar as they may make exculpatory statements, they
7 will be matters that will be fully inquired into in
8 the Artane phase, when there will be appropriate
9 opportunities to cross-examine any witnesses on the
10 facts.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: In other words, it is
12 simply to find out, first
13 of all, how did the issue of child abuse emerge as a
14 major issue in Ireland, how did that emerge? Then
15 what do people have to say about what their knowledge
16 is of how it emerged. As I understand, and also from
17 Mr. McMahon, the evidence will be available on the
18 website and if there is a question of dispute about
19 that, that will be revisited at a subsequent stage,
20 as I understand it.

21 MR. CLARKE: Could I say one further
22 thing, Chairman. I think
23 it was indicated in the past that if something
24 emerged unexpectedly that really did require further
25 questioning, the Commission or the Investigation
26 Committee would be prepared to consider having the
27 witness back at some subsequent stage to be
28 cross-examined.

29 THE CHAIRPERSON: Presumably the witness



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would need to be told as to the topics that were likely to be covered.

MR. CLARKE: Precisely. So it is not ruled out, but I think it is not envisaged that there would initially be any cross-examination. If some compelling reason for someone being cross-examined now, rather than when that institution came up, emerges, then it can be considered.



1 MR. HANAHOE: Chairman, just to be of
2 assistance, there is a
3 sister Tribunal, as we all know, going on and there
4 is an unsatisfactory situation where for right or
5 wrong, and I am not making a judgment on that at the
6 moment, written submissions are being made without
7 representatives being available to be cross-examined
8 relative to the documents that are produced. Some of
9 those documents are in total denial of anything ever
10 happening, so they are totally unrealistic to that
11 extent. That is why I am coming back to my point
12 here and perhaps we might have another meeting or
13 submission, but what I am saying is I am just
14 wondering, even initially or laterally, will the
15 personnel who are going to give such evidence be
16 available to some form of cross-examination as to the
17 veracity of what they are saying?

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: It depends on what evidence
19 they are giving, as I
20 understand it, Mr. Hanahoe. If somebody is giving
21 evidence as to what motivated, let's say, a
22 Government Department to take a particular policy
23 decision, then I would not anticipate any
24 cross-examination on that issue. That is simply
25 background information and will not be the subject of
26 a disputed finding of a resolution of a dispute by us
27 at the end of the day. If somebody is representing a
28 congregation, let's say, that is a respondent, that
29 person might well turn up at a subsequent stage



1 specific to that congregation. In the first
2 instance, the intention is simply to say, if that is
3 appropriate, 'why did you apologise' or, 'what is
4 your role in this', 'how did you discover it'? I do
5 not anticipate that. If my understanding is correct,
6 that is the position. If that changes, if fairness
7 dictates that somebody's interest is suddenly
8 imperiled, then obviously the rules will dictate that
9 that be revisited. Assuming that no particular
10 person's interest is being impugned or reputation
11 adversely affected in any way, then we would
12 anticipate that this would proceed seamlessly, simply
13 by asking a series of simple questions.

14 MR. HANAHOE: There is a lot of
15 confusion and I have to
16 explain a lot of things, as you have to explain a lot
17 of things. The situation, as perceived by the
18 ordinary man in the street, is that we have
19 overwhelming, in some instances, apologies on the one
20 hand and yet some of us know there are total legal
21 denials on the other hand. We are somewhere in the
22 middle of all this, and I welcome and wish the
23 Inquiry every success.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: That is one of the things
25 we want to do.

26 MR. HANAHOE: I also would like to be
27 able to satisfy the people
28 that I represent that they are going to have a
29 reasonable input into the whole thing.



1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, I understand,
2 Mr. Hanahoe. Can I just
3 clarify this and maybe simplify it and put
4 everybody's mind at rest by saying we intend to
5 explore those questions, but in a completely
6 non-controversial and non-confrontational way.
7 Whatever somebody wants to say, they can say. If
8 they do not want to answer a question, the worst that
9 will happen to them, as I understand, is that they
10 might be asked, 'why do you not want to answer the
11 question'? We will proceed in that way and see how
12 we get on. That is the first issue, and I am not
13 going to take any more, Mr. Hanahoe.

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MR. HANAHOE:
... (INTERJECTION).
THE CHAIRPERSON:

The second question
That is what is going to
happen.



1 MR. HANAHOE: I accept that, I take it
2 that we will be able to
3 come back in a legal sense to talk legal matters.
4

5 The second question is as far as the victims who have
6 indicated that they do want to come before the
7 Investigation Committee are concerned, where do their
8 legal representatives stand in that instance? I know
9 you have taken a decision to write directly to these
10 people, which is your entitlement, but let me say
11 that on the ground there is still huge confusion
12 about the Commission, the RIRB and the Four Courts
13 amongst the victims themselves. I say this by way of
14 being helpful, but I would like to know what the
15 position is or what is envisaged, because it not
16 clear in my mind if these people want to give
17 evidence before the Investigation Committee, if they
18 want to confront their opposition -- let's use any
19 word you like -- what is the situation in that
20 instance?

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Hanahoe, you will
22 understand that what I said
23 on the previous occasion, on 7th May, is available in
24 full on our website. The discussion document that we
25 produced is available and we have now given a
26 decision of some length. I am not going to try to
27 summarise that, if you don't mind my taking that
28 position. If I do, I may get something wrong and I
29 may have to come back and correct it. We have



1 committed ourselves to a very specific posture on
2 that. If there is some particular thing, may I
3 suggest that you might discuss it with Counsel or
4 even write to us. I think myself we have set out our
5 position pretty clearly, but it does depend on the
6 attitude of each particular institution. There is no
7 simple absolute answer to that. We have tried to
8 give it as fully as we can. If we can clarify it,
9 maybe I can suggest that you contact Counsel.

10
11 I am sorry, I am going to adhere to the policy that
12 was suggested by Mr. Kelly, I think it was, a good
13 deal earlier and I think it made a good deal of
14 sense. I am not going to take any more questions, I am
15 sorry to disappoint people. Otherwise I will get
16 into a general debate. Like I said to Mr. Hanahoe,
17 if we have not made it clear in our documents, I am
18 scarcely going to make it clear here. If we have not
19 made it clear, then I am more likely to get into
20 trouble by saying something now that I should not. I
21 think we have made our position pretty clear. If
22 people have further difficulties, I think they should
23 go to their own solicitors, to be honest. If they
24 still have problems, they can write to us and we will
25 respond formally in letter form.

26 MR. O'CONNOR: There is one question, I
27 will not be controversial,
28 but some people have made controversial comments. I
29 will not be controversial, I can assure you, and I



1 will not name names on this occasion. My name is
2 Rory O'Connor, I am a former De La Salle Brother. I
3 sent you a submission naming names, which I will not
4 name here, but they are names of people who made
5 allegations of murder and mass murder against the
6 Christian Brothers, and they are also making
7 allegations of child abuse. Now, you are saying you
8 will choose who to speak to, who to ask questions,
9 but I would like to know are you going to speak to
10 these people who have accused the Christian Brothers
11 of murder, because those allegations certainly
12 reflect on their credibility in relation to child
13 abuse?

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Can I stop you there for a
15 second. I am not going to
16 conduct the Inquiry here at a meeting to deal with
17 procedures. I am sorry, I am not going to take any
18 more, I am not going to respond. I understand that
19 people have concerns and people have points. We are
20 going to rise now, we have made our position as clear
21 as we can. I am not going to take any more
22 interventions from the floor. I understand that
23 people have strong feelings, of course they have, and
24 people have queries. I am going to close the meeting
25 now and we will resume on Friday for the specific
26 purpose, and let me emphasise, the specific purpose
27 and only the specific purpose of dealing with issues
28 relating to our upcoming Ferryhouse hearings. Thank
29 you very much indeed.



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