

1 Wednesday, 29 November 2017

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning.

4 Today we turn to further witness evidence, I think,
5 but perhaps before I do that I should -- can everybody
6 hear me? Is that better? Yes.

7 I should remind everybody of what I said yesterday
8 about the importance of respecting the anonymity of
9 those who come to this Inquiry as applicants. From time
10 to time names may slip out that could be used for
11 identifying individual applicants. If that happens the
12 general restriction order is still in place and, if they
13 do, they must not be disclosed or published outside the
14 hearing room.

15 Could I add that the same goes for the mention of
16 the names of those against whom allegations of abuse may
17 be made. I have, for the reasons that I explained
18 yesterday, decided that it is not realistic to try and
19 prevent reference to those names in the course of
20 evidence. But the fact that that is going to happen
21 does not mean that those names can be repeated,
22 disclosed or published anywhere outside this hearing
23 room -- and that includes any electronic communication
24 from this hearing room.

25 You may remember, those of you who were here

1 yesterday, that I suspended the permission to allow
2 electronic communication, social media such as tweeting
3 or whatever, from the hearing room. It is too important
4 that anonymity and identities are protected to take
5 the risk of that being a means by which they slip out.
6 Thank you. Mr MacAulay.

7 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, my Lady.

8 The next witness wishes to remain anonymous and
9 wishes to use the name "John" during the course of his
10 evidence.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 WITNESS ABV -- "JOHN" (affirmed)

13 Questions from MR MacAULAY

14 LADY SMITH: John, do sit down and make yourself
15 comfortable. It is quite warm in here -- you may want
16 to keep your jacket on, but if you get too warm and you
17 want to take it off, feel free to do so. It is
18 important that you are comfortable. You will see there
19 is also a red file beside you that Mr MacAulay may ask
20 you to look at, but I will leave it to him to do that.

21 Mr MacAulay.

22 MR MacAULAY: May it please your Ladyship.

23 John, before you came in Lady Smith reminded
24 everyone that your identity is to be protected and that
25 you want to remain anonymous; do you understand that?

- 1 A. Aye.
- 2 Q. The other thing I want to say to you is that you are
3 here to help the Inquiry, but there may be things that
4 you do not remember, and if that's the case just say so;
5 do you understand that?
- 6 A. Aye.
- 7 Q. On the other hand, as Lady Smith has just pointed out,
8 you have given the Inquiry a statement, but there may be
9 things that you now remember that you didn't remember
10 when you gave your statement. Feel free to tell us if
11 that's the case; do you understand that?
- 12 A. Aye.
- 13 Q. Can I begin, John, by looking at your statement, which
14 you will see in front of you. If you just go to the
15 last page in the red folder -- and for the notes I'm
16 going to give the reference of the statement and it is
17 WIT.001.001.2659.
- 18 Can you see there that you have signed the
19 statement?
- 20 A. I have seen it, aye.
- 21 Q. In the last paragraph, if we just look at the last
22 paragraph, do we see that you tell us that you have no
23 objection to your witness statement being published as
24 part of the evidence to the Inquiry; is that correct?
- 25 A. Aye.

1 Q. You also go on to say -- if we just look at what you go
2 on to say:

3 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
4 statement are true."

5 Is that correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. I don't want your date of birth, John, but I need to get
8 a time frame, so I just want the year of your birth. Am
9 I'm right in thinking that you were born in 1940?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Can I just ask you a little bit about your life before
12 you went into care, because we are going to look in
13 particular at what happened when you went into
14 Smyllum Orphanage. But before that, I think you were
15 living with your parents; is that correct?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. Did you have brothers and sisters?

18 A. I had a brother and sister.

19 Q. Where did you fit in the family unit? Were you older,
20 younger, what was the situation?

21 A. I was the oldest.

22 Q. Were they quite a bit younger than you? I don't want
23 their ages but were they --

24 A. Aye. [REDACTED] was about [REDACTED] younger than me and [REDACTED]
25 was about [REDACTED] years younger than me.

- 1 Q. So quite a difference in age?
- 2 A. Aye.
- 3 Q. You gave us some insight into your family life before
4 care and it would appear that there were unhappy times
5 before you were taken into times; would that be fair to
6 say?
- 7 A. Aye.
- 8 Q. In particular, were there problems in relation to your
9 father?
- 10 A. Aye.
- 11 Q. I don't want to go into the detail of that, but did
12 there come a point in time when your mother left?
- 13 A. Aye, she did.
- 14 Q. I think you tell us, because of the circumstances, if it
15 had been you, you would have done the same thing --
- 16 A. I would have, aye.
- 17 Q. -- because life for her wasn't particularly pleasant?
- 18 A. It wasn't.
- 19 Q. But that left you, your brother and your sister with
20 your father; is that correct?
- 21 A. Aye.
- 22 Q. And how was that for you then at that time?
- 23 A. Well, it meant I had to look after [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
- 24 Q. What age were you at that time?
- 25 A. Ten.

1 Q. How were you getting on then for a period of time?

2 A. Good. Really good.

3 Q. Were you able to care for them and yourself?

4 A. Aye.

5 Q. But the situation changed and something happened to

6 change that?

7 A. Aye they come and took me away.

8 Q. If I take you to your statement -- you can just turn to

9 page 3 of your statement that's in front of you. You

10 will notice straightaway that there have been bits that

11 have been blacked out and that's to protect identities.

12 But at paragraph 15, do you say that this person turned

13 up, him and a woman, and that you are told that you are

14 going to be going to Smyllum?

15 A. Aye.

16 Q. What information were you given at that time about

17 Smyllum?

18 A. Well, I was told that I was going to be able to look

19 after [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and I could take them walks in the

20 surrounding area and about the fields and that.

21 Q. Who told you that?

22 A. Barr.

23 Q. That was the -- can we call him the social worker -- who

24 told you that?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. Was it him and this other lady who took you to Smyllum?
2 A. Aye.
3 Q. The three of you?
4 A. They didn't take the three of us to Smyllum. They took
5 me to Smyllum and they took them to [REDACTED] or
6 something -- [REDACTED].
7 Q. Did they then come to Smyllum?
8 A. Then they took me to Smyllum, aye.
9 Q. What about your brother and sister? Did they end up in
10 Smyllum as well?
11 A. They came into Smyllum -- I think it was about a
12 fortnight or so after that.
13 Q. A little bit after you?
14 A. Aye.
15 Q. Do you remember your first day at Smyllum?
16 A. Aye.
17 Q. What can you tell us about it?
18 A. Well when they had taken us in, they had taken us into
19 the big hall, and there was a big room -- it had a great
20 big large table on the right-hand side when we went in
21 and they took me in there and I had to wait for a Sister
22 coming to take me and show me where I was going to go.
23 They kept telling me that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would be all
24 right, I would be able to look after them, we would have
25 no problem, which was lies.

1 But then the Sister come in and took me round to the
2 boys' side of Smyllum and showed me my dormitory, where
3 to get my clothes. She showed me around, basically, and
4 then I was left.

5 Q. I don't know if you remember the date or not, but we
6 know from the records that have been supplied to us that
7 you were admitted to Smyllum on [REDACTED] 1951; would
8 that be about right?

9 A. Aye.

10 Q. And just to run on a little bit, you left Smyllum in
11 fact two years later, [REDACTED] 1953?

12 A. Aye.

13 Q. So you were there for two years?

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. What dormitory were you then taken to? Did it have
16 a name?

17 A. I was taken to Sacred Heart first.

18 Q. When you say first, did you move from there after
19 a short period of time or did you stay there for
20 a while?

21 A. I was in the Sacred Heart dormitory for about four or
22 five months something like that, maybe even three, four
23 months -- something like that anyway. And I wasn't
24 allowed to see my brother and sister. I had asked. And
25 I got quite a whacking for asking because I asked why

- 1 I couldn't see them.
- 2 Q. I will perhaps look at that in a little bit more detail,
3 but just to be clear: when your brother and sister came
4 to Smyllum -- and you have told us that they were quite
5 a bit younger than you -- they went to different parts
6 of the building?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. In the early period then that you are there, let's say
9 the first few weeks, month or so, did you see them at
10 all?
- 11 A. I wasn't allowed to.
- 12 Q. Can you remember when you were first able to see either
13 of them after you yourself had been admitted there?
- 14 A. Well, it was quite a while and, as I say, I wasn't
15 allowed to visit them. I wasn't allowed to see them or
16 speak to them or anything but I went over myself to the
17 infants to see my young brother and I didn't like what
18 was happening to him.
- 19 Q. Again, I will look at that also in a little bit more
20 detail with you. Am I right in thinking though that the
21 girls were quite in a quite separate part of the
22 building --
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. -- whereas, I think, would your young brother be in the
25 nursery area at this time?

1 A. Aye.

2 Q. That was more accessible, was it, than where the girls
3 were?

4 A. It was, aye.

5 Q. Can I just ask you a little bit about some of the nuns
6 and other members of staff that you had contact with.

7 Again if you go to page 5 of your statement, and at
8 paragraph 27, you tell us that Sister -- it was
9 Sister **BAE** that looked after you; is that correct?

10 A. Uh-huh.

11 Q. Was she the sister that you had more to deal with than
12 anyone else --

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. -- in your time at Smyllum?

15 A. She was in charge of the boys' side.

16 Q. But you also mentioned Sister **AFC** and she was,
17 I think, looking after the --

18 A. The infants.

19 Q. So your brother would be in her care?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You also mentioned Sister Patricia, who worked in the
22 kitchen; did you have much to do with her?

23 A. Well, I used to help her. She would ask me to go to the
24 hen run for the eggs and stuff like that. She was quite
25 a nice Sister, that one.

1 Q. And one other person you mention in paragraph 29 is
2 [REDACTED] BAC

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. He was someone who was there a sort of [REDACTED]; is that
5 correct?

6 A. No, he was a [REDACTED]

7 Q. Sorry?

8 A. He was a [REDACTED].

9 Q. But you understood that he himself had been brought up
10 in Smyllum?

11 A. That's what I was told.

12 Q. There is a lady you mention also in paragraph 30. This
13 is a layperson who helped Sister [REDACTED] AFC

14 A. Ms [REDACTED] AFD.

15 Q. You make some points about her. What was the position
16 with regard to her that you talk about in your
17 statement?

18 A. She was in charge of the -- we called them the "wee
19 fellas". She was in charge of the infants as well. She
20 looked after them as well.

21 Q. By "the wee fellas", were they a bit older than the
22 infants? Were they in between?

23 A. No, that was the infants.

24 Q. You tell us about some inappropriate behaviour on her
25 part in your statement.

- 1 A. She was a person who liked to touch you and none of the
2 boys liked that. She just liked to touch you; that was
3 all.
- 4 Q. Where did she touch you?
- 5 A. Anywhere, everywhere.
- 6 Q. I think what you -- you mention that she touched your
7 private parts as well.
- 8 A. Aye.
- 9 Q. Did that happen to you?
- 10 A. It did, aye. Just the once it happened; that was all.
- 11 Q. Did you see it happening to other boys?
- 12 A. Two or three different times.
- 13 Q. Was this apparent? Was this obvious to people that this
14 was happening?
- 15 A. To the boys, aye.
- 16 Q. What about to the nuns?
- 17 A. Well, if it was obvious, I didn't know.
- 18 Q. You say that Sister [BAE] as in charge of you and
19 the other boys that you were with.
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. What age group then? You were about ten?
- 22 A. Well --
- 23 Q. What was the age group?
- 24 A. Ten to 12.
- 25 Q. When did you first meet Sister [BAE] after you had

- 1 been admitted to Smyllum?
- 2 A. I think it was two days later.
- 3 Q. And how did that come about; can you remember?
- 4 A. The first recollection of [BAE] was when I went to
5 see my own brother. I wasn't supposed to go. I wasn't
6 allowed out of there but I wanted to know how they were.
7 And I wanted to see him. It was Sister [AFC] that was
8 laying on him. She gave him a leathering. He was
9 an infant, right, and she gave him a leathering; what
10 for I don't know. But that was my first recollection of
11 [AFC]. She had been flooring [REDACTED] and I had been
12 out of there and that was when I first encountered the
13 pointer.
- 14 Q. Before we look at that, the leathering you mention by
15 Sister [AFC] of your young brother; did you witness
16 that?
- 17 A. I did.
- 18 Q. What did it involve?
- 19 A. She was slapping him in the face, catching his ear, the
20 side of his face with it on. As I say, he was
21 an infant.
- 22 Q. How old was he at that time?
- 23 A. I think he was about eight or nine months.
- 24 Q. But in any event you understand that Sister [BAE]
25 found out you had been to see him?

- 1 A. Aye.
- 2 Q. What happened then?
- 3 A. I was taken to the billiard room and I got a hiding for
4 being out of there.
- 5 Q. From whom?
- 6 A. Sister [REDACTED] BAE .
- 7 Q. When you say "a hiding", can you give us some
8 understanding as to what happened to you?
- 9 A. She used the pointer on me.
- 10 Q. In what way?
- 11 A. Just anywhere she could hit me. If you happened to land
12 on the floor, you got quite a bit of a kicking.
- 13 Q. Did that happen on this first occasion?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Did that leave any marks on you?
- 16 A. It did, aye.
- 17 Q. If we go back to your statement, this is on page 6 in
18 your statement, John. If you just look back to your
19 statement, page 6. There you tell us, towards the
20 bottom, of an incident involving being issued with
21 a pair of socks that had a hole in them; do you see
22 that?
- 23 A. Aye.
- 24 Q. Was that early on in your time at Smyllum?
- 25 A. No, I had been there five or six months.

- 1 Q. Can you tell us about this incident? What happened?
- 2 A. You'd get issued with a new pair of socks on a Friday
- 3 and you couldn't have a hole in your socks. You weren't
- 4 allowed to. And when they issued me with the socks,
- 5 there was a hole in the heel of one of them. So I went
- 6 to Mr **BAC** because Sister **BAE** was in her
- 7 prayer and **BAC** says to me, I'm a bit busy the now,
- 8 but I will sort it out with you tomorrow morning. So
- 9 I put the socks on and it was the following morning when
- 10 we got ready and we were coming down when **BAE**
- 11 spotted the hole in the heel of my sock and she asked me
- 12 how I managed to do that and you couldn't explain. She
- 13 just didn't listen. She just lost it. And that was
- 14 another hiding.
- 15 Q. And --
- 16 A. And I tried to explain to her that I went to see
- 17 **BAC**, he never opened his mouth, he just stood there
- 18 like a dummy.
- 19 Q. Was he there?
- 20 A. Aye, he was there and he just stood there like a dummy
- 21 and let me take it.
- 22 Q. Again, what was involved in this particular --
- 23 A. The pointer. It was always the pointer.
- 24 Q. And was she striking you on any part --
- 25 A. It didn't matter, she didn't care.

1 Q. How long would these -- I think you tell us about
2 a number of these incidents throughout your statement.
3 Can you give us an understanding as to how long these
4 leatherings, as you call them, would last?

5 A. Three or four minutes. Five minutes. Sometimes ten
6 minutes. She just went into a frenzy.

7 Q. You used the words "she lost it".

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. How was she behaving?

10 A. I thought there was something mentally wrong with her.

11 Q. Was she saying anything in the course of these episodes?

12 A. Well, early on I was a devil's disciple.

13 Q. Sorry?

14 A. She kept calling me the devil's disciple and when she
15 found out I was left-handed, I was definitely the
16 devil's disciple.

17 Q. Was she using language like that when --

18 A. Aye. I heard that for nearly all the time I was there.

19 Q. You tell us in your statement -- you give us some
20 information about the routine in relation to mornings
21 and bedtimes and washing and bathing and so on.

22 You also give us information about St Vincent's'
23 dormitory being known as the "wet the bed" dorm?

24 A. Aye, she put in there as a punishment.

25 Q. How long had you been there at Smyllum before that

- 1 happened?
- 2 A. Five or six months.
- 3 Q. I think there was an episode that led to that; is that
- 4 correct?
- 5 A. Aye.
- 6 Q. We will look at that shortly. But you tell us in your
- 7 statement that you were involved in the washing of
- 8 children's bed sheets; is that right?
- 9 A. When they messed them, yes.
- 10 Q. So is this the wee boys, the infants?
- 11 A. Aye.
- 12 Q. Was that a regular chore for you?
- 13 A. Aye, she made sure it was.
- 14 Q. So you did that, not any other helpers or the nuns?
- 15 A. It was the boys that done it; the bad boys that done it.
- 16 Q. The use of cold showers; you mention those as a form of
- 17 punishment.
- 18 A. Aye.
- 19 Q. Can you tell us a little bit about that? How would that
- 20 come about?
- 21 A. It would be quite simple. If she accused you of being
- 22 a liar, you would get a cold shower if you denied it.
- 23 If she said she had seen you doing something and you
- 24 said, it wasn't me, that was a cold shower. Any excuse.
- 25 Q. Getting up in the morning you give us -- tell us some

1 information as to how you might have been woken up in
2 the morning.

3 A. With the pointer across the toes.

4 Q. Clearly you had realised that was coming --

5 A. Oh aye.

6 Q. Would you get up before that time?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Did it happen to you a couple of times before you
9 switched on, as it were?

10 A. It did, aye. It didn't just happen to me; it happened
11 to a few of the boys.

12 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that although
13 there were children there who wet the bed, you were not
14 one of these.

15 A. I wasn't one of them no. I was in there as a punishment
16 because I went to see my brother.

17 Q. But were you, notwithstanding that, accused of wetting
18 your bed?

19 A. Well, on one occasion, yes, and my bed was wet.

20 Q. Did you find out how it came to be wet?

21 A. The boy in the bed next to me told me. She had flung
22 the water out of a vase, wet my bed, and then pulled the
23 covers back over again.

24 Q. When you say "she", do you mean Sister **BAE**

25 A. **BAE**, aye.

- 1 Q. That's what he told you?
- 2 A. Aye.
- 3 Q. When you actually went to wash yourself, were any of the
4 nuns present when that happened?
- 5 A. Aye, there always had to be one of them there.
- 6 **BAE** was always there.
- 7 Q. If something happened, if something went wrong, would
8 anything happen --
- 9 A. Aye. It was a leathering if you did something wrong.
- 10 Q. What sort of things could a boy do wrong?
- 11 A. Well, if you managed to excessively wet the floor when
12 you were washing, things like that. Or if you spoke
13 when you were not supposed to. I mean you were supposed
14 to be quiet in there, you know? It is little kids. It
15 is obvious they are going to talk. But anything like
16 that, any wee excuse at all.
- 17 Q. When you talk about a leathering, are you talk about
18 using the pointer again in the way you have described?
- 19 A. Aye, yes.
- 20 Q. Can I ask you about food in Smyllum? How did you regard
21 the food?
- 22 A. I didn't like it very much.
- 23 Q. Did you have to eat it?
- 24 A. Oh aye.
- 25 Q. What if you did not eat it?

1 A. Well, if you didn't eat it -- say it was the likes of
2 sago, nobody liked it, but they ate it. If you didn't
3 eat it, you got it for your supper. If you didn't eat
4 it at suppertime, it was there for your breakfast. It
5 was there until you ate it.

6 Q. You tell us about an episode where you were involved,
7 I think, with your food falling onto the floor. Do you
8 remember that incident? I will perhaps take you to your
9 statement if that help you; it is at page 10.

10 A. I remember a bit about it, aye.

11 Q. What happened?

12 A. I had to take it off the floor, after everybody had
13 walked up and down on it, and I was to eat it.

14 Q. Did you eat it?

15 A. Well, I ate some of it, yeah.

16 Q. Did anything happen to you for not eating it all?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. What happened?

19 A. I was wasting it, so I paid for it.

20 Q. In what way?

21 A. The pointer.

22 Q. Was that Sister BAE again?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You have been telling us about your own experiences up
25 until now, but what about other boys in your age group?

- 1 What was the position with them and Sister BAE ?
- 2 A. There was very few of them escaped the pointer, very
- 3 few. The likes of her pets. They were ready to run and
- 4 tell her everything that was happening.
- 5 Q. There were boys who did escape the pointer?
- 6 A. Aye.
- 7 Q. You also tell us in your statement about your schooling
- 8 and also religious instruction. I think there was
- 9 a primary school on the premises; is that correct?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Did you attend that school?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. How did you find the schooling?
- 14 A. The only thing I was there for was to learn Latin. That
- 15 was all.
- 16 Q. And Latin in connection with religion, was it?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. What about other subjects like arithmetic and English
- 19 and --
- 20 A. No. I came out of there and I couldn't read or write or
- 21 nothing.
- 22 Q. You got physical education at school. I think you talk
- 23 about that in your statement, getting PE.
- 24 A. Aye, we got PE.
- 25 Q. Was that on a regular basis?

- 1 A. Aye.
- 2 Q. Who was in charge of the PE?
- 3 A. Sister [REDACTED] BAE .
- 4 Q. Can you tell us a little bit about that? How did
5 that -- what happened when you got PE when she was
6 there?
- 7 A. She gave you -- bend and touch your toes, reach for the
8 ceiling, straighten up, hold your arms out. She would
9 come up behind you with her pointer and she would help
10 you. She would tell you to straighten your legs with a
11 whack off her pointer, straighten your fingers with a
12 whack of her pointer. And quite a few times she really
13 got you and you landed on the floor and then she had to
14 use the pointer on you to get you up.
- 15 Q. You are talking there in general terms, but did this
16 happen to you?
- 17 A. Oh aye.
- 18 Q. Did it happen to other boys as well?
- 19 A. It did, yes.
- 20 LADY SMITH: Tell me a bit more about this pointer? Can you
21 remember what it was like?
- 22 A. It was about three foot six in length, roughly. It was
23 a pointer they used for pointing at the board.
- 24 LADY SMITH: Right. Made of wood?
- 25 A. It was made of wood, yes.

1 LADY SMITH: Just going back to school, you said after you
2 came out of school you hadn't learnt to read or write.
3 A. I couldn't read nor write.
4 LADY SMITH: You told me a bit earlier you were left-handed.
5 A. Yes.
6 LADY SMITH: Were you allowed to use your left hand to write
7 at school or not?
8 A. No, they tried to stop me. They tried to make me use my
9 right hand and I couldn't.
10 LADY SMITH: When you were back at the home, what about
11 using your left hand instead of your right hand for
12 doing things? Were you allowed to do that?
13 A. When I came home I could do what I wanted. But in the
14 orphanage --
15 LADY SMITH: Sorry, back in the home, in Smyllum, were you
16 allowed to use your left hand rather than your right
17 hand?
18 A. No. I had to use my right hand. I was the devil's
19 disciple. The devil's disciples were all left-handed.
20 LADY SMITH: I see, thank you.
21 MR MacAULAY: You also had some chores, I think, to do while
22 you were at Smyllum; is that right, John?
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. Peeling potatoes, for example, was one chore you had to
25 do.

- 1 A. Aye.
- 2 Q. Can you tell me a little bit about what that involved?
- 3 A. I had the job for collecting the eggs from the hen run
4 and I had the job of peeling the potatoes. Only in the
5 winter time I had the job of peeling the potatoes. One
6 particular morning she sent me round and when I went
7 round, the door was missing off the potato machine. So
8 I started to look for it, I was only a couple of minutes
9 there, but I was looking for it and I couldn't find it.
- 10 **BAE** came in and she asked me where the potatoes
11 were and why wasn't I cleaning them. I said, "The door
12 is missing off the machine". "This is another excuse,
13 you don't want to do them." I said, "The door wasn't
14 here when I came in". "You are a liar; where is the
15 door to the machine?" I says, "I'm telling you I don't
16 know". So she was beginning to loosen up with me and
17 I kept backing away from her and **BAC** came in,
18 Mr **BAC** came in, with the door in his hand, so she
19 says to him, "Where did you find that?" "In the hen
20 run", where I was collecting the eggs, so it is obvious
21 I'm a liar. He never got that in the hen run. He must
22 have took that off there but that was what he said: he
23 got it in the hen run.
- 24 Q. So what happened to you then, John?
- 25 A. She set about me again and she really leathered me. She

1 was using the thick end of the pointer, right, and she
2 caught me between the legs with it and I went down on
3 the floor like a sack of tatties, man. She told me to
4 get up and I was really in agony, so because a wee bit
5 sticks out the machine, I put my hand on that to get up
6 and she came down with the pointer, man. She --
7 (Pause). She cracked me on the back of the hand with
8 the pointer and my fingers went all over the place. So
9 I thought she had broken my hand. So when she had seen
10 my hand, "Go up to the isolation ward and see
11 Sister **FAM**". And I went up but Sister **FAM** was in
12 prayer. That meant she was in the chapel. I had to
13 wait on her coming and I was in agony, it was really
14 painful. When Sister **FAM** came up she says, "What's
15 the matter with you?" I said, "I have hurt my hand".
16 She asked me to let her see it so I showed her. "Come
17 in", She and put my hand on the table and she did that
18 (indicates).

19 Q. You are indicating by putting your hand on the witness
20 table and pressing down on your hand?

21 A. Aye that's what she did and I nearly collapsed with the
22 pain, but there were all disjointed, that's what was
23 wrong.

24 Q. So she was putting them back into joint, basically?

25 A. Aye, I thought they were broken. That was it and she

1 sent me back down. I went back down. I cleaned the
2 potatoes and got them ready for the dinner.

3 Q. Was the potato job something you had to do outside?

4 A. It was in a room, but the door was open all the time and
5 it was cold water, obviously. Sometimes the floor was
6 covered in ice it was that cold.

7 Q. Can I take you to another incident you tell us about in
8 your statement, John. This is on page 13 and I'm
9 looking at paragraph 80 in the statement. If I take you
10 to the statement at paragraph 80.

11 You are telling us there about people handing in
12 toys in the infants and an episode where you went to see
13 your brother and what happened when you went in. Can
14 you tell us about what happened on this occasion?

15 A. Well, as I say, I wasn't supposed to be there, right.

16 I went out there off my own bat and when I walked in
17 through the doors and I seen her -- she gave them some
18 whack, man. She went totally off the wall.

19 Q. Is this Sister AFC ?

20 A. Aye, and I went over and he was playing with a wee -- it
21 was like a wee kind of wooden scooter thing, just a wee
22 thing. I grabbed to hug him and I was cuddling him.
23 She came right down on my back with a scooter. That was
24 meant for my young brother. As I say, he is an infant,
25 for God's sake, he is only a wean.

- 1 Q. But the coming down of the scooter was on your back?
2 She hit you with the scooter for --
- 3 A. Aye. If I hadn't have covered my young brother, she
4 would have hit him with it.
- 5 Q. I think you thought that your brother was only about
6 ten months at that time, just starting to walk.
- 7 A. Aye, I had never even seen him walking. I never seen
8 him when he taking his first steps or anything like
9 that.
- 10 Q. You also tell us in the next part of your statement, at
11 paragraph 83, about birthdays and Christmas and personal
12 possessions. You do remember one occasion when your
13 mother sent you a birthday cake.
- 14 A. Aye, one occasion only.
- 15 Q. What happened on that occasion?
- 16 A. I wasn't allowed it.
- 17 Q. Can you just explain to us what happened?
- 18 A. Well, she said with me being a liar and a load of other
19 crap, that I wasn't allowed it, that I was bad, and she
20 was making an example of me in front of them all. She
21 split the cake up into bits and I asked her if I could
22 get a bit for my brother and sister and she said no and
23 she distributed it round about while I was standing
24 there watching her.
- 25 Q. But apart from that, were birthdays celebrated when you

1 were at Smyllum?

2 A. No.

3 Q. What about Christmas?

4 A. You got an orange and an apple.

5 Q. I think what you tell us in your statement is the first

6 Christmas present you ever got really was from your

7 wife.

8 A. That was my first present; I was 17 years of age.

9 Q. That was from the lady who became your wife?

10 A. I didn't even know what to say.

11 Q. Your mother did come to see you, I think you tell us --

12 A. Twice.

13 Q. -- on a couple of occasions.

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. And your father came to see you once?

16 A. Yeah. He wasn't allowed in.

17 Q. Did you tell your mother or your father what the regime

18 was like at Smyllum?

19 A. There wasn't really any point. I tried telling them but

20 there wasn't really any point because nobody listened.

21 Q. I think you do tell us an incident when your mother took

22 you out and you were with your grandfather --

23 A. Aye, she took me to see my granny. My granny wasn't

24 well and she took me home to see my granny.

25 Q. But you also on that occasion saw your grandfather?

1 A. He asked me where I had got the marks. I was giving him
2 a hand in the garden. He was collecting cabbage and
3 stuff and I was giving him a wee hand and we were in the
4 garden for about an hour and we come in and I went to
5 get washed and I took my shirt off and he asked me where
6 I got the marks.

7 Q. Where were the marks?

8 A. My back and side -- and the side of my neck and I told
9 him and, Jesus, he went for me man. I was a liar again;
10 do you know what I mean?

11 Q. So he didn't believe --

12 A. He didn't believe me. He was old-school Catholic, you
13 know what I mean? These people were God.

14 Q. You also mention in the statement, on page 15, asking
15 Sister BAE if you could take your brother and
16 sister down to see your mother.

17 A. Aye she moved into a house in Lanark as a housekeeper.

18 Q. So she was fairly close by at this time?

19 A. It was straight across through the (inaudible) cafe and
20 went down there to get the milk for the Sisters' tea.
21 And I was down there -- and I didn't know she was there
22 and I went down for the milk and she was standing at the
23 door and she shouted me over and I went over and I spoke
24 to her for a wee while, but I told her I needed to get
25 back.

1 So I told my mother I would ask if I could get [REDACTED]
2 and [REDACTED] to take a walk down -- it was only a few
3 hundred yards down the road -- and when I asked
4 Sister [REDACTED] BAE she said no. I said, why? That wasn't
5 my mother, that was a woman of the night, she was living
6 in sin. You should have heard the rubbish I had to
7 listen to.

8 Q. Did anything happen on that occasion when you are
9 discussing this with her?

10 A. No, it was after that. We had been down -- you go out
11 on a Sunday and you either walked around the loch or you
12 went down through the street. When we went down -- and
13 she was standing at the door and she waved me over and
14 in the biggest mistake of my life, I went and broke the
15 ranks. I crossed the road to talk to her. She nearly
16 took the hair off me, man. She came across the road and
17 grabbed me. She never even acknowledged my mother.
18 When I got back to the home it was the billiard room and
19 another leathering.

20 Q. What about your sister who you have mentioned in the
21 past? During your time at Smyllum did you see your
22 sister?

23 A. I did, aye: I seen her in the playground. Every time
24 I seen her she was limping.

25 Q. Did you understand why that was the case?

- 1 A. I knew why it was; sister **EAA** used to kick the
2 ankles off them.
- 3 Q. Was she somebody who looked after the girls?
- 4 A. Aye, she was on the girls' side, aye. She didn't just
5 do it just with my sister, she did it with most of the
6 girls.
- 7 Q. How do you know that? Did somebody tell you that?
- 8 A. The girl next to me in my classroom told me everything
9 that was happening. She kept me up to scratch with my
10 young brother and my sister and what happens happening
11 to them. But she -- you couldn't say, who told you
12 anything like that? You know what I mean? All they
13 needed was that lassie's name and she would have got
14 some leathering, man.
- 15 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that
16 Sister **BAE** didn't like swearing; is that correct?
- 17 A. She didn't like swearing.
- 18 Q. Did you swear?
- 19 A. When I found that out, yes.
- 20 Q. But if you did, then what would happen to you?
- 21 A. That was an excuse for the pointer again.
- 22 Q. Did she try to do anything with your mouth because you
23 were swearing?
- 24 A. Oh, it was that yellow-coloured soap. She used to rub
25 it in your tongue and teeth, and it would catch on your

1 teeth and come out of your mouth. She was washing your
2 tongue out.

3 Q. Did that stop you?

4 A. No. No, it didn't. I got worse.

5 Q. Did you run away from time to time?

6 A. Two or three times. I always went back, but the last
7 time I ran away I was coming back when a police
8 constable called Sergeant Whitelaw was coming up and, of
9 course, the way I was dressed, they knew where I was
10 from and they took me back to Smyllum. I tried to tell
11 him what was happening and it was imagination. It was
12 all imagination and I was a liar. And I was always
13 fighting and I was always falling down.

14 Q. And if you did run away then and you were brought back,
15 what happened?

16 A. That's when they really gave you a leathering.

17 Q. And when you say "they", who would be involved?

18 A. Well **BAC** would be involved and he loved to use the
19 boot. **BAC** loved to use his new boots. There was
20 one instance when I went -- they sent for me to see my
21 young brother. My young brother didn't like fish. He
22 was allergic to it. He didn't like it. I had tried to
23 give him fish out of a fish supper when I was looking
24 after him at home and he was sick when I tried to give
25 it to him. I champed it up right fine, because he was

1 only a baby, and he couldn't eat it. So when they sent
2 for me because he wouldn't eat this fish, I went out
3 there, and it was AFC that was sitting with a spoon
4 with the fish on it and she was stabbing his mouth. He
5 would be maybe about two, maybe just over two, and his
6 lips were bleeding from where she was stabbing him with
7 a spoon to get him to open his mouth.

8 I'm standing there looking at him, he is looking up
9 at me and he is greeting, and I'm watching her and she
10 was brutalising him. And then she took this -- she had
11 a the wee ladle, a wee cast iron ladle, and she stotted
12 it off the top of his head, and I could see that his
13 neck was going. She had stunned him. I lost it
14 altogether. I says, "He doesn't like fish", and
15 I smashed the plate on the floor and then I set about
16 AFC and I knocked her to the floor, and she sent for
17 Sister BAE.

18 Sister BAE came over and she never asked any
19 questions, she just went straight for me with the
20 pointer, and she got me two or three times. The last
21 time she brought the pointer down, I put my hand up like
22 that (indicates) and I caught the pointer and it came
23 away in my hand.

24 Q. Did it break?

25 A. No, it didn't break. It came out of her hand and I got

1 it, so I used it.

2 Q. What did you do with it?

3 A. I laid on her with it, I had her on the floor and they
4 sent for [BAC] and [BAC] came out. I didn't want to
5 do that, I really didn't, but when [BAC] came over, it
6 was the billiard room. When we went to the billiard
7 room, he took me by the ear, he was pulling me, and he
8 pushed me into the yard and he told me to go into the
9 billiard room and wait on him coming.

10 I went in the billiard room and I was waiting on him
11 and he came in and I was just standing there waiting on
12 him and he walked up to me and he punched me in the
13 stomach and he floored me and the minute I went down he
14 started with the boot. He caught me in the forehead
15 first and my head went back, everything was spinning.
16 He stunned me quite a bit. Then [BAE] came in with
17 a pointer and she was laying on me and he kicked me in
18 the ankle and I thought he had broke my ankle and then I
19 had to go to Sister [FAM] and get repairs done.

20 Q. Before that, so far as Sister [BAE] was concerned
21 and the pointer, did she strike you in any particular
22 part of the body with the pointer?

23 A. She didn't care where she hurt you. She had burst up my
24 mouth and everything with it.

25 Q. She burst your mouth; is that what you said?

1 A. Aye.

2 Q. When they had finished, did you stay there for a wee
3 while? What was the position?

4 A. I must have laid there for about two hours. I laid for
5 a long time on that floor.

6 Q. And then you say you went to see the Sister in the --

7 A. I went to see Sister **FAM**

8 Q. She is the Sister you went to if you needed any --

9 A. Any patching-up done.

10 Q. Did Sister **FAM** ask you what had happened?

11 A. She didn't; she knew what was happening. I had been to
12 Sister **FAM** no end of times because **BAC** had burst
13 out my knuckles with his boot brush and she had to
14 plaster my hands.

15 Q. One of the things you say in your statement -- and
16 I will take you to this. John, this is on page 18 of
17 your statement, we'll go there. It is at paragraph 116.
18 It is the second sentence where you say:
19 "It is hard to explain the beatings. You know, she
20 never knew when to stop and she was in a frenzy."
21 Is that how you saw it with her?

22 A. She would enter a frenzy. She lost her head altogether.
23 There was something mentally wrong with her.

24 Q. So far as any other nuns would be concerned, you have
25 identified Sister **BAE** and Sister **AFC** as those

1 that were involved with yourself and your brother; what
2 about the other nuns?

3 A. I didn't -- the only other nun I had any dealings with
4 was Sister Patricia.

5 Q. You said she was fine?

6 A. Aye, she was a tall Irish Sister. She was good.

7 Q. But you had no other real dealings with the other nuns?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Would the other nuns be aware of what was going on in
10 relation to Sister **BAE**

11 A. Well, the way I looked at it was when this all started
12 happening to me, I went to Sister Superior,

13 Sister **FAZ** That's the top kiddy, she is the head
14 nun, right? I told her what was happening and she sent

15 me back out to the boys' side. And when I got back to
16 the boys' side, Sister **BAE** came in and told her

17 about all the lies I was spinning. She went straight to
18 **BAE** and told her.

19 I told that Barr. I showed him the marks on me and
20 I told him. I said, this is what I'm getting and she is
21 using a pointer on me.

22 Q. That's the social worker --

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. So when he would come to visit, that's when you had the
25 opportunity of telling him?

1 A. That was the only time he came and I told him and he
2 went straight to [BAE]. So who was the boss?

3 Q. Do you know what happened between him and [BAE] then
4 if he went to see --

5 A. He went and told her what I had said.

6 Q. Did anything happen because of that?

7 A. Aye, I got leathered because I was a liar.

8 Q. I think you touched upon earlier something quite serious
9 that happened to your younger brother that caused him to
10 be in the sick area.

11 A. Aye.

12 Q. Can you tell me about that?

13 A. Well, I was sitting in the classroom and this girl was
14 sitting next to me says to me, "Your young brother is in
15 the isolation ward". I says, "What's wrong with him?"
16 She says, "I think he has got a broken leg". She says
17 they lifted him and threw him onto a cast iron bed.

18 Q. Did she say who the "they" were?

19 A. You never mentioned any names in case it got back and
20 I said -- that was my question, who was it that done it.
21 She wouldn't tell me. So I waited until school was
22 finished and I went to the isolation ward and when I got
23 to the isolation ward, I could hear him, he was breaking
24 his heart, man. I went round to the door and I couldn't
25 get in, it was locked because they were in prayer,

1 everyone was in prayer. Anyhow, I went round the back
2 and I smashed the toilet window and I went in through
3 the toilet. When I went in, he was sitting in a big
4 queer thing like a saddle. They had smashed his pelvis.
5 What the lassie was telling me was when they broke his
6 leg, they were lifting him and running about trying to
7 shut him up. How painful must that have been? Anyway,
8 when I got in I says to him, have you had something to
9 eat? No. I says, and no water? No. There wasn't
10 anything there. So I went away and I filled a jug with
11 water and brought it back to the wean. There was some
12 amount of water in it and he drunk it all. And he was
13 breaking his heart and it tore the heart of me, man.

14 Q. Do you know if he went to hospital?

15 A. No. We didn't have hospitals, we didn't have doctors.

16 Q. You are telling us there about your younger brother. If
17 we run ahead a little bit, when you were both out of
18 Smyllum and out of care, did you ever discuss with your
19 younger brother his own experiences in care?

20 A. He won't talk about it.

21 Q. Not at all?

22 A. No, and neither will my sister. I tried to get out of
23 them what happened when I left Smyllum and went to
24 St Ninian's and they wouldn't tell me. All he can
25 remember him was somebody cuddling him and that was me.

- 1 Q. You have already told us about the fish incident and
2 when you were involved with Sister [AFC],
3 Sister [BAE] and [BAC] in the billiard
4 room.
- 5 A. Aye.
- 6 Q. Was it as a result of that that you were moved to the
7 "wet the bed" dorm?
- 8 A. No, that happened early on when I went down to see my
9 brother and I wasn't supposed to --
- 10 Q. I see.
- 11 A. -- and I couldn't use my right hand. Just a lot of
12 things all built up to it. The way she seen things.
- 13 Q. You have been telling us about the pointer that
14 Sister [BAE] used; was there anything else that she
15 used?
- 16 A. She used a hairbrush.
- 17 Q. Can you just help me with that. How did that --
- 18 A. Well, if she said, you are talking, and you said you
19 weren't, you were in trouble, so she took you up and she
20 would catch your hand and bend it up and lay it on the
21 palm of your hand with a wooden brush. Either that or
22 she would stot it off the top of your head.
- 23 Q. Were there occasions when, apart from the occasion you
24 have mentioned with [BAC] already, that she
25 had sent you to [BAC] for punishment?

1 A. Aye. I got sent to [BAC] regular. That's why I was
2 always visiting Sister [FAM] If you went to [BAC]
3 it was serious. It wasn't really anything, but to
4 [BAE] it was serious, and [BAC] would take your
5 hand and hold it up he would take the boot brush and he
6 would lay on the back of your hand with it, maybe six on
7 each hand and your hands would all swell up. Nine times
8 out of ten he would cut you, he would hit you with the
9 edge of the brush. I have scars on my hand today
10 because of him. And then he would send you to
11 Sister [FAM] to patch you up.

12 Q. As you say, you are still carrying these scars with you
13 today?

14 A. Oh aye.

15 Q. So far as [BAC] is concerned, I think you tell
16 us in your statement that he is buried at the
17 cemetery --

18 A. He is buried ahead of the weans in that cemetery. Why
19 was he put there?

20 Q. You are unhappy with that?

21 A. Very unhappy with that. How many of the weans did he
22 butcher?

23 Q. There is an incident you talk about on page 26 of your
24 statement. Can I just take you to that, towards the top
25 of paragraph 167? I just want to understand what

1 happened here. It is to do with swimming trunks having
2 been bought for going into the shower, but they were too
3 big, but you had to put them on?

4 A. Aye, she took you into your office. She picked half
5 a dozen boys and it was new swimming trunks they got in
6 for when you were going for showers and that and she
7 picked six of the big girls to come over and give their
8 version on them. And you would have gone and tried them
9 on and they were to come in and had a look and told you
10 what they thought of it. They were massive, man. They
11 were far too big.

12 Q. But did you have to strip down to put them on?

13 A. Aye, you had to strip naked and put them on and then
14 they came in and examined them. I had them held like
15 that and I was holding them and **BAE** told me to let
16 it go, and I said, I can't, if I do that -- and it was
17 right across the hand with a pointer, man. Of course
18 they fell. That was some laugh! It wasn't a laugh to
19 me. That was some laugh and I ran out and I got
20 a hiding for doing that. The woman was sick.

21 Q. There's another incident you tell us about also where --
22 at paragraph 169 of your statement. Perhaps you can
23 just look at that.

24 A. What one?

25 Q. Paragraph 169. The same page. You were about 12 and

1 BAE sent for you and you went to her office and
2 something happens.

3 A. Aye. I had to go to her office and when I went into her
4 office she was sitting -- it was quite a long desk and
5 she was sitting there facing me. She told me to come
6 over and I went in and I was stood at the corner of her
7 desk and she says, come over here, and I went over. She
8 was looking right at me and all of a sudden she started
9 to touch me. I was really embarrassed, man. She is
10 saying --

11 Q. Touching you in your private parts?

12 A. Aye. She was putting her hand up the leg of my trousers
13 and she kept saying, has anyone ever done this to you
14 since you been here, and I kept saying no. She was
15 starting to squeeze me -- and then you would end up on
16 your knees and then she would say, right, on you go, and
17 that was it all done with. She only ever done that
18 twice with me.

19 Q. Do you know if that was done to any other boys?

20 A. I think so. See, nobody would talk. They were afraid
21 to talk. Every time you opened your mouth, you were
22 a liar, it was a lie.

23 Q. Can you describe the atmosphere, from your own
24 perception in the two years or so that you were there,
25 the atmosphere in Smyllum?

1 A. It was always tense. See, she went to [REDACTED]
2 school before she came to Smyllum and the bit that got
3 me was she would walk into the play area where all the
4 kids were playing and she would put her wee finger up
5 and shhhhh everybody had to be quiet. And God help you
6 if you never saw that finger going up or she would do
7 this (indicates) or that (indicates) for you sit down or
8 stand. Or dummy language or dummy sign. But we weren't
9 dummies man, god help the people, but we weren't, and
10 she was treating us like that.

11 Q. You say the atmosphere generally was a tense atmosphere.

12 A. Aye.

13 Q. There came a point in time when you left Smyllum. I
14 think, as we you have already taken from you, you left
15 in [REDACTED] 1953.

16 A. That was to go to St Ninian's. She told me she was
17 getting rid of me and she sent me there.

18 Q. And you were about 12 or 13?

19 A. 12.

20 Q. You do tell us in your statement quite a lot of
21 information about St Ninian's. I'm not going to ask you
22 about that today because we are focusing on Smyllum as
23 I think you know.

24 But can I ask you about whether you reported to the
25 police, for example, anything that had happened to you

1 at Smyllum at any point?

2 A. I didn't speak to anybody. I learned quick to shut my
3 mouth.

4 Q. But in due course you came to leave St Ninian's?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And where did you go when you left?

7 A. I went to live with my grandmother and my grandfather.

8 Q. What age were you at that time?

9 A. 15.

10 Q. I think you got a number of different jobs.

11 A. Yes. Well, I started in the [REDACTED] Mill because I was
12 living with my granny and grandfather, but I didn't get
13 on too well with my grandfather at the finish up,
14 because he took it all out of me talking like that.
15 I told him it was true, I didn't lie to him, I told him
16 the truth, and when I started kicking up such a fuss
17 I went to stay with my ma. I left that job I had and I
18 went and I started at the abattoir in [REDACTED] and
19 I started as a killer. I was just an apprentice and
20 then I found out that I could get my brother and sister
21 home, so I started to enquire about it.

22 Q. Were they still at Smyllum?

23 A. They were still in Smyllum. But what they told me was
24 I would need to see Mr Barr and I hated that man. I
25 really hated that man.

- 1 LADY SMITH: Was that Mr Barr the social worker?
- 2 A. Yes. Because it was him that put us in. So they told
3 me I would need to get a house, and if I could get the
4 house, I would get my brother and sister home. The only
5 place I could get a house was in the pit, through the
6 Coal Board. So I made enquiries and I got a job in
7 [REDACTED] Colliery and I got a house there and
8 I went to see Barr and Barr okayed it for me to get them
9 home. But he told me if my mother was still living with
10 that man, they would take my brother and sister away
11 again. See? Well he was the on long-distance lorries
12 at the time so he was away, so I got my brother and
13 sister home.
- 14 My mother couldn't believe it, all the things
15 I would been telling him. She got [REDACTED], she stripped
16 him off and, Jesus, you should have seen the marks on
17 him man. She took him to the woman next door -- in fact
18 I think my wife -- I think she was only my girlfriend at
19 that time, but I think she was there at that time -- to
20 show her the marks on my young brother.
- 21 Q. What were the marks?
- 22 A. The pointer.
- 23 Q. Was it bruising?
- 24 A. Bruises, yes.
- 25 Q. Were there many of them?

1 A. Aye, he was covered in them, just the same as I was, and
2 I showed my grandfather and I was a liar.

3 Q. What age do you think your young brother was at that
4 time?

5 A. I think he was about 7. Roughly 7. So he was
6 definitely under [REDACTED] BAE [REDACTED] because once you hit 5, you
7 came into the big side.

8 Q. But as you have told us already, although I think you
9 have asked him, he has never spoken to you about --

10 A. He will not speak about anything. He has blanked it
11 all.

12 Q. But I don't want to go into the details of your personal
13 life, but I think essentially what you tell us is that
14 you have been married now for many, many years, [REDACTED] years
15 or so -- or more -- and you have children and
16 grandchildren.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you are now retired?

19 A. I am, yes, unfortunately.

20 Q. Well, it happens to us all, I'm afraid!

21 Can I just ask you about this: the Inquiry have
22 spoken to nuns, some of whom who have worked at Smyllum,
23 and I just want to put their general position to you.
24 Their general position was that there was no corporal
25 punishment and the broad picture is that children were

1 well cared for, happy, and shown kindness. What do you
2 make of that?

3 A. Who made that statement?

4 Q. These are nuns of the Daughters --

5 A. It wouldn't be.

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. It wouldn't be. There are no records on anything
8 either. Where are they? They are liars, man. They are
9 dirty liars. These are supposed to be our religion,
10 too. That's terrible.

11 Q. Can you tell me, if you look at Smyllum itself, what
12 impact, if any, that part of your life had on you?

13 A. It had a rotten impact on me, a terrible impact on me.

14 Q. Are you able to elaborate upon that if you can? If not,
15 you don't need to.

16 A. Well, it caused me to miss out on an awful lot. I had
17 a family there. I don't think anyone of them knew what
18 it was to have a cuddle off me. I couldn't bring myself
19 to cuddle any wean, I don't know why, I just couldn't.
20 I hate being in a crowd.

21 Q. From a physical perspective, I think you tell us you
22 have arthritis in both your hands.

23 A. Pardon?

24 Q. You have arthritis in both hands.

25 A. Aye, I have.

1 Q. Do you attribute that to anything?

2 A. Aye, to BAC I can thank BAC for that.

3 Q. Because of the striking your hand?

4 A. Yes. That was constant.

5 Q. Do you think about your time in care and particularly

6 your time in Smyllum?

7 A. It never leaves me.

8 Q. Did you make an effort to get your records?

9 A. I did. Aye, I tried.

10 Q. Did you have any success?

11 A. Well, I got a load of crap -- I think you have got it.

12 Look at the rubbish. There are no medical records.

13 There are none.

14 Q. You do set out in your statement the lessons you think

15 ought to be learned from your experience at Smyllum.

16 Can you just help me with that? What lessons do you

17 think we should learn from your experience?

18 A. Learn straightaway how to shut them down, do away with

19 them, do away with these people. I don't care who makes

20 statements there about how well we were looked after and

21 all the rest of it. Lies. That was pure lies. They

22 know it. And all that about how they didn't know what

23 was going on. They knew what was going on. Every time

24 you opened your mouth to talk about it, you were the

25 liar and you paid for it.

1 Q. One of the things you say as well in your statement is
2 don't let kids go into these places.

3 A. No, keep kids away from these places.

4 Q. That's one of your main messages?

5 A. Oh aye.

6 MR MacAULAY: Very well, John. That's all I need to ask you
7 today. Thank you very much indeed.

8 My Lady, I don't understand there to be any written
9 questions submitted --

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

11 MR MacAULAY: -- for John.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Could I just check please with the
13 representatives that are here today whether anyone seeks
14 to make any application now for questions of this
15 witness? I'm seeing Mr Collins shaking his head.

16 Mr Rolfe?

17 MR ROLFE: No thank you my, Lady.

18 LADY SMITH: John, thank you very much for coming this
19 morning, I'm able to let you go now.

20 A. Thank you.

21 (The witness withdrew)

22 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, I think the next witness was planned
23 to come in at 11.30 after the break. This witness is
24 also an applicant witness who wants to remain anonymous.
25 He will use the name "Chief" in giving his evidence.

1 but Mr MacAulay will tell you when you need to look it.

2 Mr MacAulay.

3 MR MacAULAY: My Lady.

4 Can I just say at the beginning, Chief, that I will
5 be asking you questions and if there's something that
6 I ask you about and you can't remember, just say so.

7 A. Okay.

8 Q. Also, you have provided us with a statement, if there's
9 something you can now remember that you couldn't
10 remember when you gave the statement, again, just let us
11 know that.

12 A. Will do.

13 Q. So far as your statement is concerned, there is a copy
14 of that in front of you in the red folder and I want to
15 begin by going to the very last page of the statement.
16 Can I ask you to confirm, Chief, that you have signed
17 the statement?

18 A. Yes, I confirm.

19 Q. That you have signed it.

20 You also say in the last paragraph that:

21 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
22 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry."

23 A. No, I'm happy with that.

24 Q. You also tell us that:

25 "I believe the facts stated in this witness

1 statement are true."

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Is that right?

4 A. Yes. Can I add something onto that, please, something
5 that I forgot?

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. That bit about 122:

8 "I have never received any support or counselling."

9 Well, I had forgotten that when I was on [REDACTED],
10 I had a breakdown, a serious breakdown, and they sent me
11 ashore and obviously they put me in sick bay and on
12 tablets. At the time there was an army colonel over in
13 [REDACTED] and he came to see me and said, yes, you are bad,
14 you need counselling. So they set it up once I was all
15 right with the tablets and I had started to come back to
16 earth, and I believe they helped me great.

17 In fact, it was nearly a year that I was off sick
18 and it wasn't until I showed [REDACTED] my wife [REDACTED], these
19 leaflets that she says, I'm surprised you never told
20 them about [REDACTED] I had forgotten completely
21 because they did such a good job because I went back to
22 the navy.

23 Q. That's why I said to you at the beginning that if
24 there's something you remember now that you had
25 forgotten then if you want to let us know --

1 A. The support I had from the navy was brilliant. Couldn't
2 ask for better.

3 Q. Of course, you have just mentioned there that you were
4 in the navy.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Your career effectively was in the navy?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You spent many, many years there?

9 A. What Smyllum didn't know, and I would love to tell them,
10 is that they helped me in some unofficial way on how to
11 do things, ie wash, iron, clean, shut my mouth, do as
12 I was told without question, and I got on. The things
13 I learned to do when I was there in Smyllum, ie with my
14 hands, from [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED], [REDACTED] he was
15 a great help to me.

16 Q. I will come and look at that with you then, Chief, when
17 we look at your evidence. But can I go back a little
18 bit, can I go back to the beginning?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I don't want to know your date of birth, but I just want
21 your year of birth so we can put everything in a time
22 frame. I think you were born in 1949.

23 A. 1949, aye, [REDACTED].

24 Q. Very well, you have let the cat out of the bag. But it
25 doesn't matter because I think we all know that

- 1 nothing --
- 2 LADY SMITH: We don't need to know your exact date of birth
- 3 and we can take that out of the record of your evidence,
- 4 Chief.
- 5 A. Thanks, ma'am.
- 6 MR MacAULAY: But looking at life before you went into care
- 7 then, Chief, I understand that your mother died when you
- 8 were only about three months old.
- 9 A. Three months old, aye.
- 10 Q. Your father was alive at that time?
- 11 A. He was, aye.
- 12 Q. But do I understand from what you have told us in your
- 13 statement that your home life wasn't a particularly
- 14 happy one?
- 15 A. He wasn't a very good guy, he was "me, me, me", he
- 16 looked after himself, ie he used to go to the pub and
- 17 give them whatever was left. He worked in a sort of --
- 18 not a coal factory, it was somewhere where there's lots
- 19 of ice delivered, you know, frozen goods and that, and
- 20 that got to him and when I was two, he came down for
- 21 breakfast one morning and died at the table.
- 22 Q. You have quite a number of brothers and sisters.
- 23 A. I do, yes.
- 24 Q. Quite a wide spread, but you were the youngest.
- 25 A. I was the baby, aye.

1 Q. So you had, for example, an older sister who was able to
2 look after you a while.

3 A. She was -- aye, she tried. But her husband, he was
4 another selfish man, an alkie, and eventually -- she
5 tried to look after us, but my two older brothers
6 weren't very kind to [REDACTED], I don't know why, I never
7 did find out.

8 Q. But looking to that background, that's the background
9 that really ended up in you going to Smyllum?

10 A. Yes, they took (inaudible) of us.

11 Q. And I can tell you, from having looked at the Smyllum
12 admission records, that you were admitted to Smyllum on
13 [REDACTED] 1952.

14 A. Right.

15 Q. Would that be about correct?

16 A. I would have thought so, yes.

17 Q. So you would be about 3 years of age or thereabouts?

18 A. Aye. Just turning.

19 Q. Were you also admitted along with some of your siblings?

20 A. Yes. My oldest brother [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. So
21 there was five of us.

22 Q. Five of you altogether. Looking to your age, was there
23 a particular part of the Smyllum Orphanage that you were
24 put into at the very beginning?

25 A. Straight into the nursery.

1 Q. Do you have any particular recollections of that?

2 A. No, just all of a sudden I was -- there were lots of

3 bodies round me and I wasn't used to that.

4 Q. But there would come a time when you would move from the

5 nursery to another part of the building?

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. What age were you when that --

8 A. It is difficult. Probably about six or seven, I would

9 have thought.

10 Q. Where did you go at that time?

11 A. It was another dorm, a big dorm with 30 beds in it.

12 Q. Did it have a name?

13 A. No, I can't --

14 Q. You can't remember?

15 A. It's all blank.

16 Q. Do you remember anything that happened before going into

17 the big dormitory in your nursery period, if you like?

18 A. Yes, there was a wee guy called [REDACTED]. He was quiet

19 like me. And --

20 Q. Was he in the nursery with you?

21 A. Yes. He was about a year or two years older.

22 Q. I wonder if you could take the microphone closer to you.

23 A. Sorry.

24 LADY SMITH: No need to apologise. It is a very large room

25 and it is obviously important that everybody can hear

1 you. If you speak into the microphone it is also less
2 effort for you to be heard.

3 A. Yes. One day they beat [REDACTED] up quite a lot and they
4 even closed the curtains so we couldn't see them and the
5 next day, when we were all together, [REDACTED] never showed
6 up and we all cheered because we thought he has got
7 a family and he is all right and he is away. We never
8 saw him again and it was not until I saw the paper, in
9 the Sunday Post that he died -- or he was killed.

10 Q. You tell us a little bit about this in your statement,
11 the paragraph -- it is at paragraph 9 on page 2. You
12 thought [REDACTED] was about, this boy was about four; is
13 that right?

14 A. Roughly about that. Aye, I think so.

15 Q. You saw -- did you see this happen yourself?

16 A. No, we heard it.

17 Q. Pardon?

18 A. We heard it.

19 Q. What did you hear?

20 A. Slap, slap, slap and, "Shut up, shut up".

21 Q. Do you know who was doing this?

22 A. No. It was one of the nuns.

23 Q. You say there they didn't like it when you were quiet;
24 what do you mean by that?

25 A. Because they used to think, what are you planning, are

1 you planning to do something? Then they would slap me.
2 They took great pleasure from that. It wasn't until
3 I was older when [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] -- he says, I know they
4 are not kind to you, he says, but don't let them see you
5 crying because that will annoy them.

6 Q. I think you are the complimentary of the influence of
7 [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] had on your life.

8 A. Yes. Because it was one of the times when I was told to
9 stand in a corner and Sister [REDACTED] EAA [REDACTED] came over and
10 said, what are you doing here? I said, I was told to
11 come and stand here because I'm not saying anything to
12 anybody, I'm quiet. She says, oh right. Then she said
13 to me, she says, "[REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] is going to be needing
14 some help cleaning and doing things; would you like to
15 do that?" I said, oh yes, please, because I felt I had
16 something to offer.

17 Q. Was this later on in your time at Smyllum?

18 A. This was, aye, a wee bit later on, but things started
19 slowly. They took me into the chamber, the steam
20 chamber -- because most of the food was steamed, made it
21 really horrible. So and then other things, and then
22 I met his [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and
23 [REDACTED] they were great. They were [REDACTED] and
24 eventually I got to help them as well, [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED], and that got me out of there and gave me a wee

- 1 bit, you know -- they were really good to me.
- 2 Q. We will come and look at that but if I go back to, again
3 to the time you were in the nursery just to deal with
4 that, on the next page, page 3, you tell us about
5 an episode where your brother brought you a little green
6 wheelbarrow which he himself had made; is that right?
- 7 A. Yes, he did.
- 8 Q. Was that when you were in the nursery?
- 9 A. Yes. Because he was good with his hands and he made me
10 this, about this size (indicates), it was a beauty and
11 it was painted green and I was like, oh brilliant, and
12 started wheeling it about and then and then (indicates)
13 they took it off me and I never saw it again.
- 14 Q. Were you given any explanation as to why it was taken
15 away?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. You have told us about your siblings going into Smyllum
18 with you.
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Did you see much of them in your time at Smyllum?
- 21 A. My older brothers, no, because they were separate. But
22 my two sisters -- we were not allowed to mix at all
23 because they didn't like boys and girls being together.
24 It was a stupid thing they had, a law.
- 25 Q. Did you see your sisters at all when you were younger?

1 A. There was one time they were asking -- we didn't really
2 like to feed the chickens because we had a big chicken
3 run because we got a lot of eggs and that and I put my
4 hand up and I said, yes, I would love to do that because
5 it was over by the lassies' side, up the hill. I used
6 to watch them at the window and I'd say, I'm going up,
7 and so they would come up. If I heard anybody coming,
8 I would get them and hide in the hut, so we tried to
9 chat then and just be together.

10 Q. Again, if we turn back to your statement where there is
11 a heading "Mornings and bedtime" and looking at
12 paragraph 13, I think you still here are dealing with
13 the time that you were in the nursery as to what
14 happened when you got up in the morning; is that right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You had to make your bed at that time?

17 A. Yes. You had to do everything. We just couldn't not do
18 anything. Then I started cleaning my teeth and I was
19 really cleaning them really -- but they didn't like
20 that, bang.

21 Q. Why was that?

22 A. Because they didn't want me -- because I was taking too
23 long.

24 Q. When you say "bang" what happened?

25 A. I got slapped against the wall and then thumped.

- 1 Q. Who did this?
- 2 A. The nuns, the Sister.
- 3 Q. You say there they also gave you a fear of needles how
4 did that come about?
- 5 A. Because you used to get jabs and then they would just
6 (indicates) thrust it in.
- 7 Q. You were giving quite a sort of --
- 8 A. Yes, I still fear needles now. In fact, I won't go to
9 the dentist because I fear needles. In the Royal Navy
10 they had to order me to go to the sick bay to get a jab,
11 or the dentist, and if I didn't go, I got punished,
12 I got fined or stoppage of leave. So, yes.
- 13 Q. How many nuns looked after you when you were in the
14 nursery? Can you remember?
- 15 A. They kept changing. I'm pretty sure they did.
16 Different ones ... because my memory is --
- 17 Q. Your memory is not good?
- 18 A. Not good.
- 19 Q. Well, can I then move on to the time when you left the
20 nursery, when you might have been six or seven, and you
21 went to the bigger dorm. I think you already told us
22 there may have been about 30 boys in that particular
23 dormitory; is that right?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. What was the routine?

1 A. Pretty strict. You were in bed by a certain time. You
2 had to get dressed properly, say your prayers, when you
3 got up out of bed, you made it, and if you wet the bed,
4 you had to wash it, and you had to clear the floor and
5 clean the bathroom. They did nothing; we had to do it
6 all.

7 Q. At mealtimes -- what about mealtimes? What was the food
8 like?

9 A. In fact there was one time when it ran through me and
10 I had to sit there, I couldn't move.

11 Q. I'm sorry, it ran through you? I'm sorry?

12 A. It ran through me and I had to sit there and when I got
13 up, that's when they noticed it, and all hell broke
14 loose.

15 Q. What happened?

16 A. Because I was a dirty little ... (Pause)

17 Q. Just take your time.

18 A. It was not very nice. They really strode me in front of
19 everybody, embarrassed me, and everybody was laughing at
20 me.

21 Q. The food itself --

22 A. Wasn't very good. I was skinny for ages. Even when
23 I left Smyllum. I am skinny now, but that was the navy
24 did that.

25 Q. Were you hungry when you were at Smyllum?

1 A. I didn't know what hunger was, to be honest, because
2 when I used to help Mary in the kitchen, she gave me
3 biscuits, she would slip them to me.

4 Q. She was kind to you then?

5 A. Aye, Mary was. Mary didn't need to be like that; she
6 was good.

7 Q. Was she someone, a layperson who helped?

8 A. She did the cooking for the men, Tony the boilerman,
9 **BAC** ...

10 Q. But did you have to eat your food?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What happens if you weren't able --

13 A. You wore the bowl.

14 Q. I'm sorry?

15 A. You wore it. It got thrust at you.

16 Q. Can I touch upon the schooling. There was a school
17 within the orphanage itself.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Did you attend that school?

20 A. Yes. I attended it but I never learned anything. Us
21 being orphans, we had to sit at the back and never got
22 any books. There was one time I got caught stealing
23 a book -- I wasn't quick enough getting it in the drawer
24 so I could try and learn. I got whacked for that. My
25 hands were sore for ages. "You will not steal", "I'm

- 1 only borrowing it", says I, "because I want to learn".
- 2 Q. You make a difference -- you draw a distinction in your
3 statement between the orphans and what you call the
4 part-timers.
- 5 A. Yes, they are the ones who caused most of the trouble
6 for us because they were streetwise.
- 7 Q. But who were they?
- 8 A. They were -- either their mother was in jail or she was
9 doing something she should not have been doing or the
10 father was a drunk or in jail. So they were there part
11 time and they caused most of the trouble for us.
- 12 Q. So they were in for a period of time and then got to
13 leave?
- 14 A. Because they were streetwise and they could do things,
15 you know, and we got the blame for it. And they were
16 always calling us -- excuse my word, ma'am -- effing
17 orphans.
- 18 Q. When you say "they", who were they?
- 19 A. The part-timers.
- 20 Q. When you reached secondary school age, did you then go
21 to the local Lanark secondary school?
- 22 A. Aye.
- 23 Q. How did you find that?
- 24 A. That was brilliant. They didn't look at us as
25 an orphan; we were people and we were there to learn.

1 I did -- I must admit I did learn. Yes, I enjoyed that.
2 Yes. But in between that time, I mean there was --
3 **BAC** was helping all the time. He was giving me
4 advice. Especially when I was in the boiler at Smyllum
5 and that, learning to use my hands which helped, because
6 my first ship was a steamship and I thought, this is
7 an absolute doddle, you know. Then I kept thinking, you
8 know, what is this discipline they keep talking about?
9 I could not see it. Because if they say, do this, I did
10 it; I didn't think about it, I just did it.

11 Q. I think that's what you have mentioned earlier, that
12 what had happened to you in Smyllum in a way put you in
13 good stead when you were --

14 A. Yes and they didn't know it.

15 Q. But the impression I have got from you so far is that,
16 as far as **BAC** was concerned, he sort of took you
17 under his wing? Would that be a fair --

18 A. Well, he took a few of us, because he could see some of
19 us who were weren't that brilliant, especially us quiet
20 ones, and eventually he would tell me, when the
21 part-timers were bullying me, he would say, "Hit them".
22 I would say, "I can't do that". He said, "Yes you can,
23 whack, and see what happens". And eventually I just --
24 I got so mad and I just kept doing it and eventually he
25 says, I'm going to teach you boxing, boy, and so he got

1 a pair of boxing gloves and that and we would play
2 about, just the two of us, just batter about and
3 eventually that did me good for when I went in the navy.
4 They saw a wee bit of that when we did some sport and
5 they asked if I wanted to box for the navy and I was
6 quite chuffed, oh my, somebody is asking me to do
7 something, and they put me up against this big fella,
8 and he was a light middle, he hurt me. It was only
9 three three-minute rounds, but he hurt me, but I won
10 because I was better, because I could nip in and out a
11 bit and I says, no, I don't want to do this, thank you.

12 Q. That was the end of your boxing career?

13 A. That was it, I just didn't want to do that.

14 Q. Washing and bathing. Can I just ask you about that at
15 Smyllum because you do tell us a little bit about that
16 on page 6. We are talking now about when you are in the
17 bigger dorm, perhaps 7 years old.

18 A. We got a bath once a month and you shared the bath. You
19 didn't get your to yourself and they were watching us --

20 Q. When you shared, how many boys would you share with?

21 A. Well, they would just -- we would go in the bath, there
22 would be two of us, or one, and then you would get out
23 and somebody else would go straight back into the same
24 water. So they never changed the water and if you were
25 the last one, you would get dirty water.

1 Q. Would the water be cold by then?

2 A. Aye. It depended what you ... what they thought of you

3 at the time, whether you were first or last.

4 Q. The nuns would be watching you when you were having your

5 bath?

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. Do you remember the names of any of the nuns that were

8 in charge of you at that time?

9 A. I've blacked them out, they are gone. I don't want to

10 know their names.

11 Q. I want to ask you about what you say in paragraph 34 --

12 that's towards the top of page 7 of your statement. You

13 say:

14 "There was one nun in particular, [you] can't

15 remember her name, she used to love beating me because

16 she said I killed my mum."

17 A. I killed my mum. (Pause)

18 Q. Would you want to have a break, Chief?

19 A. No, let's carry on.

20 Q. I just wondered if you can tell us about that.

21 A. She would come up to me and whisper in my ear, "Mum

22 killer, you killed your mum, you shouldn't be here".

23 I will tell you what, if the Big Man had come into the

24 room when I was there and asked me, me or mum, I would

25 have said take me because the family -- she would have

1 still been there and the family would have been together
2 and we would not have had to go into that bloody awful
3 place. Yes. I would have done that for ma.

4 Q. But did you understand -- at that time when this was
5 being put to you in this way, did you understand what
6 she meant by that?

7 A. Yeah, because I got so much grief from everybody else
8 because they were listening as well, especially the
9 part-timers. They loved it and that's when I had to
10 really get useful with these (indicates).

11 Q. You held up your fist there.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. But what I'm asking you is, when this nun was saying to
14 you that you killed your mother --

15 A. She was laughing.

16 Q. Do you know why she was saying that?

17 A. No. She was just being cruel.

18 Q. Did you believe her?

19 A. Yes. Of course I did, because I -- you don't know why,
20 do you? You have nobody to talk to, nobody to ask.

21 I couldn't ask my brothers, I couldn't ask my sisters.

22 So I believed because I thought it was true because she
23 was a nun and therefore what she says must have been
24 true. Why did she do that?

25 Q. I think if we run ahead a bit you find out much later on

1 that your mother died from a perforated ulcer after you
2 were born.

3 A. Yes, but then what was my dad thinking of? She was
4 45 years of age. She had a problem; why did he put
5 another baby in?

6 Q. But it wasn't having the baby that had caused her death;
7 it was the perforated ulcers some time after you were
8 born --

9 A. Yes, but having me must have been a trauma as well to
10 her body surely. Come on.

11 Q. But apart from her saying that, do you also tell us that
12 she belted you this particular --

13 A. Yes. She just loved it and the more naked I was the
14 better.

15 Q. And why was she doing this?

16 A. She didn't ever tell me. She said, you never talk to
17 anybody, you are planning things, and I wasn't because
18 I didn't know what to do.

19 Q. And where would she belt you, which part of your body?

20 A. Mostly my arse, but a lot on my back and my hands. And
21 across my head, she would slap me.

22 Q. Was this a particular nun that did this?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What about other nuns?

25 A. Others were not as nasty as her. But there was one good

1 thing about that one that kept coming and saying that
2 about my ma: she eventually disappeared. One day she
3 wasn't there and she was replaced by somebody else. Who
4 wasn't equally as nasty but still -- not carried on the
5 work, but ... just kept doing it.

6 Q. Again, you tell us in this part of your statement that
7 [REDACTED] BAC did provide you with a bit of strength;
8 is that right?

9 A. Yes. [REDACTED] BAC yes. He was great. He would say, don't
10 let them see you crying, he says, that will get them
11 mad, just draw strength from it, just try and not do it
12 if you can.

13 Q. What you do say in your statement as well was that some
14 people used to say that [REDACTED] BAC beat the kids but you
15 say you never saw that.

16 A. I never saw him do anything like that at all because
17 I could not believe it because of the way he treated me.
18 He treated me -- you know, and a few others -- so
19 (inaudible) because I never heard or saw him do anything
20 and [REDACTED] BAC was an instigator in me learning to play
21 football, to box, a wee bit of rugby, a bit of golf. He
22 took us to the playing fields, all down there, and we
23 played, you know, five-aside football and full games.
24 So you know, if he was like that, why did he -- he
25 wouldn't have done that. He was just a very nice man.

1 Q. You have already touched upon his influence and also the
2 connection you had with [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED], they were local

4 [REDACTED].

5 A. [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]

8 Q. Close to Smyllum?

9 A. [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED] and that and I used to help. I loved that,
11 that was great. And that was all through [REDACTED] BAC and
12 Sister [REDACTED] EAA doing that for me.

13 It wasn't just me, there were other guys doing it.
14 I wasn't there on my own.

15 Q. If I ask you about birthdays and Christmas --

16 A. I don't remember my birthdays at all.

17 Q. Wasn't your birthday ever celebrated at Smyllum?

18 A. No, not that I remember.

19 Q. What about Christmas?

20 A. Christmas? When I was younger we would all get a card,
21 and with [REDACTED] BAC we would do up the room and put the
22 lights up and do all that, and then we would get a wee
23 prezzie from somebody we didn't know.

24 Q. What happened to the present?

25 A. It was taken off me, I never saw it again.

- 1 Q. Do you know why that was?
- 2 A. No. I wasn't told.
- 3 Q. You do tell us that on one occasion someone donated
4 a present that was a stethoscope?
- 5 A. I got that wrong, by the way, it was not a stethoscope
6 it was a microber(?). It was a beauty, it had its own
7 box and everything. She said, that's too good a present
8 for you. I had it for a day or two and then they took
9 it off me and I never saw it.
- 10 LADY SMITH: I'm sorry, could you tell me again what it was?
- 11 A. It was a micro -- you know, you look through it and --
- 12 LADY SMITH: Oh, yes, yes.
- 13 MR MacAULAY: A magnifying glass?
- 14 A. That's it. I got the word wrong and I knew it when
15 I saw it and I thought --
- 16 LADY SMITH: Something scientific?
- 17 A. Aye. It was sent by somebody from London, so I remember
18 that. That was the bit I remember. Then I never saw it
19 again. When it came to me leaving Smyllum, I asked, can
20 I have it. She said, I will go and have a look. She
21 said, I can't find it.
- 22 Q. You also talk about bed-wetting in your statement,
23 that's at page 10. You do tell us that you had
24 a problem with bed-wetting for a bit.
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Can you tell me what happened?
- 2 A. Because I was so nervous and because we went to bed
3 a bit earlier, then you had to go for a pee then, and
4 you couldn't get up during the night. Because if you
5 were caught during the night you would get whacked
6 because there were no lights on. You were not allowed
7 because our dorm was there and the toilet was there
8 (indicates). Eventually, we got to sneak because we
9 would wait up something and we would know when to touch
10 the bed, when we were at the next one, when we were at
11 the next one, when we were at the next one, so we
12 learned.
- 13 Q. So you could sneak to the toilet?
- 14 A. But when I had wet the bed, oh boy, that was -- in front
15 of everybody, look. Get everybody laughing at me and
16 make me feel ashamed.
- 17 Q. Did anything physical happen to you?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. What happened?
- 20 A. Stripped naked and then battered bathed.
- 21 Q. By whom?
- 22 A. By the Sister.
- 23 Q. When you say "battered" what --
- 24 A. The belt.
- 25 Q. What about the sheets themselves?

1 A. I had to wash them. Change them, change the whole bed,
2 and then remake the bed.

3 Q. Would the beds be inspected in the morning by --

4 A. Yes, every morning you had to pull back your sheets and
5 then put it back, and tighten it up, and make it up and
6 go and wash and clean.

7 Q. But you are telling us about your own experience. Were
8 there other boys --

9 A. Yes, aye, there were some more who had to do that.
10 Eventually we guys got together and were speaking and
11 talking to each other and saying, let's not worry about
12 this, and eventually it has done me a lot of good
13 because I can go hours now and it helped in the navy as
14 well because obviously you were watch-keeping you had to
15 not get up during the night.

16 Q. You tell us that religion was a big thing in Smyllum.

17 A. Oh aye.

18 Q. But you also say, I think, you were an altar boy.

19 A. Yes, because I could remember what to say and that.
20 They had a wee get-together and that, you know, and they
21 stayed (inaudible) and, right, "Would you like to come?"
22 And I was like, oh, right that's different. Actually,
23 I quite enjoyed that because I was away from the crowd.
24 And if I got it right, I got "well done" and that, you
25 know, so --

- 1 Q. You do tell us about one incident involving a priest.
- 2 A. A priest, aye.
- 3 Q. What happened there?
- 4 A. We were in the back room where we was changing and he
- 5 came over towards me and was touching me and, again, I
- 6 was thinking about [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] I said, "Don't do that,
- 7 don't touch me again".
- 8 Q. Was he touching you in an inappropriate way?
- 9 A. Yes. And he was trying to get me to do things to him.
- 10 I said, "No, I don't do that". Oh. He backed off and
- 11 then Sister [REDACTED] EAA [REDACTED] brought the coffee in, so we sat
- 12 and had a coffee, and I said to him, "Don't touch me
- 13 again".
- 14 Q. Did that work?
- 15 A. Aye. It worked great. Even when we were in the camp at
- 16 Aberfoyle, nothing. He would say, how you do doing, and
- 17 I would say, I'm fine.
- 18 Q. What about visits to you? Did you receive --
- 19 A. I don't remember many of them at all.
- 20 Q. Were there any occasions where you were told you
- 21 wouldn't be getting a visit?
- 22 A. Yeah, because I was standing in a corner, saying nothing
- 23 to anybody, and just being quiet. "What are you
- 24 planning? Right, you are not getting any visitors."
- 25 Q. You have mentioned already standing in the corner, being

1 quiet; was this a regular thing with you when you were
2 at Smyllum?

3 A. I didn't often stand in the corner, I only stood in the
4 corner when I was told to. You know. But a lot of time
5 I would just be sitting quietly, sitting by myself, and
6 just thinking and trying to think, I should maybe try
7 and get in and play games with everybody, but I just
8 couldn't get the courage. The fact that they kept
9 calling me an effing orphan all the time and I had to
10 punch them.

11 Q. Sorry I didn't hear that?

12 A. Because they kept calling me a effing orphan all the
13 time.

14 Q. When you say "they" --

15 A. They were the part-timers.

16 LADY SMITH: When you are talking about part-timers, this
17 would be other children at the school --

18 A. No, not school. The school was good because at Lanark
19 school because --

20 LADY SMITH: Sorry, I shouldn't guess. You tell me what you
21 mean when you say "part-timer".

22 A. The ones where they come in and out from the council
23 because their mothers are either on the game or -- and
24 their father is in jail or drunk. They were streetwise,
25 as I say, so they were quite nasty.

1 LADY SMITH: So would a part-timer maybe only be in Smyllum
2 for a short time, a short period, but you were there for
3 much longer?

4 A. Three weeks or a month, six weeks something like that,
5 aye.

6 MR MacAULAY: Can I then just look again perhaps more
7 carefully at the abuse that you suffered at Smyllum,
8 Chief.

9 If I could take you to page 13 of your statement.
10 You tell us, first of all, about visitors coming to the
11 nursery and saying, mum is here, and so on, and you
12 wondered where your mother was.

13 A. Where is my mum, yes. Because I ...

14 Q. But the worst thing you tell us, as you have already
15 mentioned, is being told that you killed your mother.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You used the word "constantly" there. Was this
18 something that this nun regularly raised with you?

19 A. Just that, because she was just a nasty person. You
20 know. Because she didn't like me being withdrawn and
21 not saying anything, not being cheeky.

22 Q. But did this continue even when you were in the bigger
23 dormitory?

24 A. No, that stopped. That was because of **BAC** I think.

25 **BAC** again, as I have said, he was a big influence

1 and because I was helping him, then things started to
2 ease off for me that way. You know, and I started to
3 get a wee bit, what can I say? A wee bit more
4 confident.

5 Q. Was that as you got older?

6 A. Aye. But I was still quiet in my own way. I'm not
7 a conversationalist, I can't -- because I have been told
8 to shut up so many times I just don't know how to, you
9 know, start a conversation. Because I'm no good at it.
10 But if somebody talks about something that I know about,
11 then I will join in, you know, and give my opinion, but
12 no. I think a lot of that -- if I could just on that
13 note -- when I met my wife, [REDACTED], and we got together
14 and she took me to see her family, she told me that they
15 were afraid to say things to me in case they hurt me
16 because I was so quiet. It took me a while to realise
17 that there is a good family here, who want to know me,
18 and that was a wee turning point for me. A good turning
19 point.

20 Q. I want to take you to page 14 then, Chief. At
21 paragraph 72, you talk about the one nun that made you
22 strip before she belted you; was this the nun you
23 mentioned before?

24 A. Aye, yes.

25 Q. But you say here there would be two of them there.

- 1 A. Yes, there would be. They would be --
- 2 Q. They would be talking to each other?
- 3 A. And laughing and saying, let's see if we can get his wee
4 man hard.
- 5 Q. What age -- did this go on for a while, did it?
- 6 A. No, that only happened once.
- 7 Q. In that particular period?
- 8 A. And that was done in the television room, so luckily for
9 me then **BAC** was in the yard kicking a ball about
10 with the other guys and that and he heard it. You know,
11 so again he -- "Don't let them see you cry, don't let
12 them win".
- 13 Q. You think you were maybe 8 or 9 when this particular
14 episode --
- 15 A. Yes, pretty sure.
- 16 Q. But you got beatings with the belt --
- 17 A. Aye, quite regular, just for being quiet. What the
18 hell --
- 19 Q. I mean, over your time there, how many nuns do you think
20 were responsible for giving you beatings?
- 21 A. About half a dozen and some of them are -- all right,
22 they were a wee bit nasty with their tongue, but you
23 know, on the whole, yeah, just -- Sister **EAA** was
24 brilliant.
- 25 Q. Was she the Mother Superior when you went there?

1 A. Aye, she was brilliant. Absolutely brilliant. When
2 I started doing the chapel thing, she would chat to me
3 and that and say, "How you getting on?" but I could not
4 tell her.

5 LADY SMITH: So that was Sister EAA ?

6 A. Aye. I just couldn't tell her.

7 MR MacAULAY: So you never told her what was happening.

8 A. I just wanted to -- how do you start it? I was too
9 ashamed.

10 Q. I have already asked you about mealtimes and food. You
11 say in this page of your statement, towards the bottom,
12 that food -- the food was forced down you.

13 A. Yeah, if you didn't eat it, somebody else came in,
14 whack, put it straight on your -- down you.

15 Q. Do you say that --

16 A. Because they were saying, this is a charity, you will
17 eat your food.

18 Q. You say that the older and bigger children would force
19 the food down the throat of the younger ones?

20 A. Aye, because they would bring them in.

21 Q. Did you see that happening?

22 A. No, they didn't do it to me.

23 Q. They didn't do it to you?

24 A. No, but I had heard. You know, if it is not true, then
25 I'm sorry. But you could hear the gagging going on, but

- 1 I couldn't see it.
- 2 Q. Again you tell us that [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] helped a lot.
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Did the beatings eventually stop while you were there?
- 5 A. Aye.
- 6 Q. What age do you think you were when that happened?
- 7 A. When was it? I was maybe about 9 or 10. Because
- 8 I started to do more things with [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] Again, he
- 9 just kept reiterating -- in fact, the one before that
- 10 really stopped was one was giving me a slapping and
- 11 I thought, I have had enough of this, and I faced her,
- 12 and I was right in her face and I said, you think you're
- 13 hurting me, but you're not, and she backed away. She
- 14 never touched me again. So I was glad of [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED]'s
- 15 advice for that.
- 16 Q. You left Smyllum, according to the records on
- 17 [REDACTED] 1963, when you were aged about 13 or 14.
- 18 A. Something like that, aye.
- 19 Q. So for the last number of years, when you were at
- 20 Smyllum then, had the beatings stopped?
- 21 A. Yes, completely. Yeah because I was more integrated
- 22 with everybody then and they stopped calling us orphans
- 23 and -- and I stopped beating them up because they soon
- 24 learned not to mess with me.
- 25 Q. When you say you stopped beating them up --

1 A. The part-timers.

2 Q. I see.

3 A. I didn't beat any of the other guys, no, because there
4 was no need, unless they gave me a derogatory remark,
5 then they just got a slap from me.

6 Q. Can I then take you, Chief, to the time when you left
7 Smyllum, moving on a bit. Unless there's anything else
8 you want to tell us about your life at Smyllum.

9 A. Just before -- I think I was about 12 and I was with --
10 I used to call them [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
11 that's [REDACTED], I asked them if
12 they would adopt me. They said they would like to.
13 I thought, oh great. I told my big sister, [REDACTED],
14 and she says, no chance, because that would split you
15 from us, but little did I know that she was cooking up
16 with my Aunty [REDACTED] to take us out of there and live in
17 Castlemilk in Glasgow. I didn't know this Aunty [REDACTED].
18 Her husband was a drunk and an idiot, and she had a son
19 and he was just nasty.

20 Q. Is that where you went though when you left Smyllum?

21 A. Yes, went there.

22 Q. At about 13 or 14?

23 A. Yes. It was --

24 Q. But it was -- it wasn't a pleasant time?

25 A. No it wasn't because she just sat down and did nothing

1 and he just got drunk all the time. And the son wasn't
2 any help, but eventually he left and it wasn't until one
3 time -- my sister [REDACTED] used to visit once a week,
4 and I thought, is she checking up on me, me and [REDACTED]
5 And then I saw, one time, Aunty [REDACTED] pass money over to
6 her, and so every week I would try and see if I could
7 see this happening and it was -- and when I was 18
8 Glasgow City Council called me and the councillor said,
9 congratulations, he says, your dad left you some money,
10 and he gave me a fiver. He says, I'm sorry it is so
11 little, but we have been paying for your care, so
12 inadvertently my dad had this insurance policy and it
13 kept us there in Smyllum and at Aunty [REDACTED] s all that
14 time.

15 Q. But I think what you did eventually though was to take
16 the exams to join the navy?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You passed these exams?

19 A. Yes, I did, oh my god. When I decided that I wanted to
20 join the navy, I went into the recruiting office and
21 there was a [REDACTED] marine sergeant there, [REDACTED] and
22 he said, we'll sit down and we'll have a chat. We must
23 have been talking easy a quarter of an hour, 20 minutes
24 and of course I -- by then I was ready to say some
25 things about Smyllum and then he says, you have got two

1 exams to take, maths and English, and I went oh, because
2 in school I was no good. He says, take them anyway and
3 see how you get on. Then I had a medical to go through
4 and an x-ray and all that, but after the -- we were all
5 sitting in the office, there was about 20 of us and the
6 lieutenant commander started calling out names and they
7 called out 14 of the 20 and we were left sitting and we
8 thought -- they took them through an internal door and
9 we looked at each other and says, we are gone, we are
10 out of here. And [REDACTED] came back in and says,
11 congratulations, you have passed. And of course
12 I was ... I got a chance to speak to [REDACTED] later and
13 I said, [REDACTED] how did I pass?"

14 Q. But you did?

15 A. He says, I marked your papers. He says, when we were
16 chatting earlier, he says, I saw something in you, he
17 says, and I knew the discipline of the navy would be
18 nothing for you. So he says -- after that he says, come
19 back at 16.00 and we will get the paperwork signed, and
20 as I walked into the recruiting office, he was counting
21 money and some rolled towards me and I picked it up and
22 it was the Queen's shilling. I don't know if you know
23 the importance of the Queen's shilling; that was then
24 the official coin of the Royal Navy. He stuck out his
25 hand and says, "Welcome to the Royal Navy".

- 1 LADY SMITH: Have you still got it?
- 2 A. No, somebody pinched it off me. Otherwise I still would
3 have.
- 4 MR MacAULAY: But then you made a career of the Royal Navy?
- 5 A. Oh yes. I found it -- within two weeks I was gone. But
6 there were 30 of us in this big hut, and all the bunks
7 were all there, bedding was there, and the petty officer
8 come in and says, okay then, folks, the first thing we
9 have to do is to make a bed, who can make a bed. And
10 I'm waiting and there are no hands going up and
11 I (indicates) and he says, okay then, and so I made the
12 bed and he was, perfect, spring. He says, can you wash?
13 I says, aye, and I can iron and clean up. He says, oh
14 you're class leader then!
- 15 Q. This is what I think you touched upon before, that the
16 experiences you had in Smyllum were of benefit.
- 17 A. Smyllum inadvertently helped me and they didn't know it.
18 The guy I met, [REDACTED] on the train going down -- he was
19 from [REDACTED] -- we got to know each other very well --
20 in fact we still do, we are still friends to this day --
21 he was my deputy.
- 22 Q. You rose, I think, to the position of [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED].
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Can I take you to this section in your statement. It is

1 on page 19. It is paragraph 100 because you did find
2 out -- I think you say it was in your middle twenties --
3 that you had nothing to do with your mother's death.

4 A. We sailed into the Isle of Man for a weekend off and
5 I went to see [REDACTED], who was living there with his good
6 lady. We were maybe drink and, you know, I started
7 greeting and that and talking about mum and he says,
8 wait a minute, son, you didn't kill her. And that was
9 when I found out. I was waiting to find out.

10 Q. But you tell us, I think, Chief, in your statement that
11 there have been two major positives in your life and
12 that has been the navy and your wife.

13 A. My wife, [REDACTED] yes, when I met her -- because I couldn't
14 afford to go up to Glasgow every weekend, we had a wee
15 private club in the camp where I was training. One
16 weekend -- we stayed for the weekend and one weekend
17 I went into the club and she was sitting in the
18 cloakroom and I remember saying, cor, this lovely [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED]. I said, look at her, she is gorgeous. The guys
20 behind me said, you have got no chance, son, she is
21 [REDACTED] you are just a Glaswegian.
22 I says, watch this space. It took me about a month to
23 win her over and eventually [REDACTED] and I were -- we got so
24 well-known in the camp that we were invited to
25 everything. Through her, I came up another wee notch,

1 you know, and started to meet people and people got to
2 like me through [REDACTED] but eventually through myself once
3 I settled down and ...

4 Q. You in fact spent some [REDACTED] in the navy.

5 A. Yes, [REDACTED].

6 Q. As you have told us, you are now retired.

7 A. Yes. Because you only originally sign up for 9, 12 or
8 22. I remember when [REDACTED] was close, I remember the
9 captain calling me into his office and I thought, oh no,
10 what have I done, and [REDACTED] was sitting there. He says,
11 sit down and have a wee tot of rum. He said, I have got
12 some good news for you, he says, I want to offer you

13 [REDACTED], because the job I was doing was [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED],

15 [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]. I loved that job, I thought it was
17 brilliant, it was so easy. Again "Smyllum". And I says
18 to him, does that mean I still have to go to sea; he
19 says, your choice. I says, I don't want to. I says to
20 [REDACTED] -- [REDACTED] only had five years left then, because she
21 was a [REDACTED] and she looked at me and she says, take
22 the ten and if you want to quit after five, that's fine.
23 When it was due, [REDACTED] got a job with the [REDACTED] and I was
24 really happy with the job and she said, just stay and do
25 your 32, which was coming up.

1 Q. And that's what you did?

2 A. That's what I did, aye.

3 Q. There's only one other thing I want to ask you about,
4 Chief, and it is really what you say towards the end of
5 your statement on page 23. It is one of the final
6 things you tell us and it is at paragraph 124. You say:
7 "I want to see the Sisters of Charity disbanded,
8 never to be a unit again or have the chance to touch
9 anybody or to look after anybody ever again. That's
10 what I want."
11 A. I would like the Pope to do something to them as well,
12 you know. Yes. I don't want them touching anybody ever
13 again. They were not all cruel, so maybe I'm wrong, but
14 the ones that were did it to every one of us and they
15 enjoyed it. They are so -- they were supposed to be
16 holy, but why did they have to be so nasty?

17 MR MacAULAY: Thank you for coming here today, Chief, to
18 give your evidence. I can see it has been quite
19 stressful for you.
20 My Lady I have received no written questions for
21 Chief.

22 LADY SMITH: Let me check whether there are any outstanding
23 applications to ask questions of this witness? No? I'm
24 seeing a lot of shaking heads.
25 Chief, that's all the questions we have for you.

1 I'm very grateful to you for coming this morning, thank
2 you, and you are now able to go.

3 A. Thank you.

4 (The witness withdrew)

5 LADY SMITH: Am I right in thinking we have made quite good
6 progress this morning?

7 MR MacAULAY: We have, my Lady. The next witness is
8 programmed for 2 o'clock. Again, it is an anonymous
9 applicant who is to use the pseudonym "Dexter" for his
10 evidence.

11 LADY SMITH: So that is a witness coming at 2.00. Otherwise
12 this afternoon, what's the plan?

13 MR MacAULAY: Otherwise, depending on how long this witness
14 might take -- and he might take a bit longer than the
15 witnesses this morning -- if there is time, we will read
16 in another statement.

17 LADY SMITH: But we can be flexible about that I suppose
18 since it is a reading?

19 MR MacAULAY: It will depend on the time.

20 LADY SMITH: Very well, thank you. We will rise now until
21 the afternoon session and that will start at 2 o'clock.
22 Thank you.

23 (12.30 pm)

24 (The luncheon adjournment)

25 (2.00 pm)

1 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

2 MR MacAULAY: Yes, my Lady.

3 Before lunch I said that the next witness is
4 an applicant who wants to remain anonymous and he will
5 use the pseudonym "Dexter".

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Good afternoon.

7 WITNESS IAP -- "DEXTER" (affirmed)

8 Questions from MR MacAULAY

9 LADY SMITH: Please do sit down and make yourself
10 comfortable.

11 Mr MacAulay.

12 MR MacAULAY: My Lady. Before I begin any questions, can
13 I just tell you, Dexter, that if there are things you do
14 not remember, just say so.

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. Likewise, if there are things that you now remember that
17 you hadn't remembered before, again, if you could just
18 let us know. Do you understand?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I don't want your date of birth, but to get a time frame
21 I need to know the year of your birth. Am I right in
22 thinking that you were born in 1943?

23 A. That is indeed correct, yes.

24 Q. I think that you were admitted to Smyllum on
25 [REDACTED] 1946.

- 1 A. Correct.
- 2 Q. Can I just ask you a little bit about the time before
3 Smyllum, before you were admitted to Smyllum?
- 4 A. The problem, Mr MacAulay, is that I have no recollection
5 of what happened before Smyllum. Right up to 8 years
6 old, I have absolutely no recollection. What I do have
7 is -- it is bit like daylight that peeps through the
8 smallest holes. So what I have are shafts of light
9 gleaned from my elder sister, who said that I was born
10 at [REDACTED] I was a blue baby -- and
11 I never quite understood what "blue baby" meant, but it
12 meant something to do with my heart. And that I was
13 a sickly kind of boy. I was removed and -- partly my
14 life was in danger and it was -- and it was thanks to
15 the good work of the consultant that I was called after
16 him.
- 17 Q. I see. You are perfectly entitled to let us know what
18 you have been told by your older sister.
- 19 A. Yes, indeed. That's the only record I have.
- 20 Q. That older sister and I think a younger --
- 21 A. I have got a younger sister too, yes.
- 22 Q. And an older brother?
- 23 A. Correct.
- 24 Q. Were they admitted with you to Smyllum?
- 25 A. Yes, indeed. The four of us at the one time, yes. We

1 were admitted and then we were split up.

2 Q. I think we know now that for children of your age going
3 into Smyllum at the age of about three --

4 A. I was 3, yes.

5 Q. -- you would, as likely as not, go into the nursery
6 section, but you tell me you have no recollection of
7 that.

8 A. Well, I am quoting my sister again, that we were
9 dispersed immediately. I went into the nursery side, my
10 younger sister went into the girl's nursery, my elder
11 sister went into the senior girls and my elder brother,
12 he went into the junior boys. So immediately we were
13 fragmented and that was the last time that we were
14 together as a unified family; the bonds were split.

15 Q. Again, we, the Inquiry, know from the records that you
16 left Smyllum on [REDACTED] 1958. Does that fit in
17 with your recollection?

18 A. That would be about right. It was the [REDACTED]
19 Yes indeed, that would be correct.

20 Q. So you were there really up until the age of 15?

21 A. I was there until 15, yes.

22 Q. Over that period then, did you have much contact with
23 your siblings?

24 A. None. Not once. Not at any time. You see, I lost --
25 the time that I was compos mentis as an eight year old,

1 I was totally unaware that I had any siblings, none. It
2 was once I moved from what was the junior section to the
3 senior boys, which embraced the demographics of -- that
4 would probably be eight year olds to 15 -- and I was put
5 in a dormitory of mixed groupings in terms of their age.

6 Q. Not in terms of sex?

7 A. No, no, no. The sexes -- that was taboo. There was
8 demarcation lines, big white lines, that separated boys
9 from girls. That was too-too -- and --

10 Q. Can I just interrupt you there.

11 A. Yes, indeed.

12 Q. You mentioned you never saw your siblings before you
13 left at 15.

14 A. No.

15 Q. I think, rather sadly, one of your siblings, a brother,
16 died at Smyllum.

17 A. Yes, my brother apparently died after six months.

18 Supposedly he died of pneumonia, but my eldest sister
19 had said that it was -- there was a second reason, and
20 to me it was more conclusive, that he died of a broken
21 heart.

22 Q. Again, we will look at these aspects of your testimony
23 in due course, but coming back then to your first
24 recollection, if you like. You have already told me
25 that at that time you had been moved, apparently from

- 1 the nursery section, to another area of bigger boys.
- 2 A. The junior boys, yes.
- 3 Q. I think you reckon that you are what maybe seven or
4 eight years of age?
- 5 A. I think to be moved, I would have to be about -- yeah,
6 about that, yes.
- 7 Q. Did the place that you were moved to have a name?
- 8 A. The junior boys.
- 9 Q. But was the building itself or the dormitory known as --
10 we know for example from other evidence there are places
11 like St Anthony's --
- 12 A. Well, St Anthony's -- well, most of the -- you were
13 talking about the senior section and each dormitory had
14 its own patronal saint. It was in St Anthony's, for
15 example, but in the junior section I don't recollect any
16 saints or whatever. I just don't have that because my
17 mind is cloudy on that one. I just don't know.
- 18 Q. Did you know at the time when you went into the junior
19 section then, the 7/8 year olds plus, who the Mother
20 Superior at Smyllum was?
- 21 A. No, I do not.
- 22 Q. Was there a particular Sister in charge of the section
23 that you were put into?
- 24 A. Yes. It was -- each section, so to speak, had its head.
25 It is a bit like a head of department. So they got this

1 hierarchical structure and so in the junior section we
2 would have a Sister, then she would have subordinate
3 Sisters, and then she would have the laypeople as well.
4 But --

5 Q. Who was the Sister? Was there a particular Sister in
6 charge?

7 A. Not in the juniors, I don't know. My recollections are
8 primarily with a Sister in overall charge of the senior
9 boys. That's it.

10 Q. And who was that?

11 A. That was Sister BAE

12 Q. If I take you to your statement -- and you have a copy
13 there in front of you, Dexter. You will see, by the
14 way, as you look at it, there are bits of it that have
15 been blacked out and that's to protect identities.

16 A. Yes, indeed.

17 Q. If you turn to page 2, you provide us there with some
18 information under the heading "Mornings and bedtimes".

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You provide a description, I think, of the dormitories
21 and indeed the beds as well. Can you summarise that for
22 me?

23 A. Well, the analogy I would use would be if you can think
24 of a Dickensian set-up, a workhouse scenario where
25 the -- there is a kind of shabbiness about everything,

1 the decor in particular, it was the yukky, as I would
2 say, browns, the institutional colours, the yellows, the
3 greens, wooden floors. The only decoration was those of
4 the pantheon of the saints and of course if it was
5 St Anthony's, there would be a portrait of St Anthony,
6 but there were no curtains as such.

7 It was a kind of stoical kind of Spartan existence.
8 Very frugal, very frugal. The beds were as hard as
9 nails. You know, I think it must have come from the
10 Boer War, I think, because they were hard, like the
11 nuns, hard as iron.

12 Q. But during the night, you tell us, many of you would be
13 awake during the night.

14 A. Yes. Well, if we were able to have a look at the
15 youngsters in that dormitory, they are all from
16 a similar sort of background, a background of
17 deprivation, poverty, a lot of them had mental
18 handicaps, physical handicaps, physiological problems.
19 You had the whole gamut, the whole range of disabilities
20 there, and each particular child would have its own
21 particular demons. So that would express itself either
22 in terms of bed-wetting or in terms of shouting and
23 crying and -- I mean it was really -- as I say, it is
24 Dickensian.

25 Q. But you tell us that, for example, bed-wetting was

1 an issue.

2 A. Bed-wetting was a cardinal sin. That was a mortal sin
3 because the nuns frowned upon bed-wetters. They were
4 a separate caste altogether. They were persona non
5 grata. There was something evil or malevolent about
6 bed-wetters for some reason. These boys had
7 physiological, psychological problems and of, course
8 today, we can put labels, we can attach a label, he has
9 that particular disability and so on, but the nuns took
10 us as if we were all homogeneous bars of chocolate, we
11 were all normal, which we weren't normal.

12 Q. So what happened then? If you take a normal day --
13 morning if you like, when you were getting up and there
14 are bed-wetters, what was the routine?

15 A. It depends on the particular dormitory you were in.
16 Each particular nun had a particular weapon of choice or
17 a particular form of punishment that she dealt out. But
18 for me it was always Sister [BAE] and
19 Sister [BAE] would flail the poor lad. I was in
20 charge of the dormitory over goodness knows how many
21 years and it was my job to ensure that that the
22 dormitory was clean and every morning the beds had to be
23 stripped down. And we had to all stand like sentinels
24 at the end of our bed and Sister [BAE] would inspect
25 each bed in turn.

1 Sister **BAE** was the sort of person who would,
2 if she got to a bed and found some fault there as
3 well -- she was always hunting for faults, particularly
4 those of the bed-wetters or anyone who had soiled the
5 bed -- that was it.

6 There was a few occasions when it was my job to take
7 the wet bedclothes off and drape it over that poor lad
8 and he would have his what, I would call, his Wullie
9 Winkie nightshirt -- it was a long kind of -- that would
10 be removed and I would have to drape this wet sheet over
11 the poor boy and then she would flail him and we would
12 have to stand and watch that. This was a kind of lesson
13 to us. Cruel, cruel, you know, barbarity. It is not
14 nice at all.

15 Q. You were not a bed-wetter?

16 A. I was not a bed-wetter, no, no.

17 Q. What did she use to beat --

18 A. It depends what instruments she had to hand and

19 sometimes she would have the -- flail the boy on the
20 bed, and he was in like a St Andrew's cross, one boy
21 sitting on each -- and then she would use a belt or
22 sometimes indeed she used that notorious hairbrush of
23 hers and she would whack at the poor lad's bottom.

24 Q. You are the pointing here to one lad, but was this
25 something that happened on a regular basis?

1 A. No, this was a daily occurrence. You have to understand
2 that this happened not just in St Anthony's, but in the
3 Sacred Heart and in the other -- but that was the
4 regime, this was expected punishment, and the boys knew
5 that, especially the bed-wetters.

6 Q. But you give us some information about the boy -- a boy
7 who wet the bed being made to stand for some time.

8 A. Yes, that is right. That particular boy in question,
9 who happened to be a friend of mine -- and the
10 maltreatment of that poor boy was absolutely astounding.
11 He was made to stand in the middle of the dormitory with
12 the sheet, his soiled bedclothes, and he was derided,
13 obviously. Sister BAE would point out to this
14 poor lad his "crime" and she would beat the poor boy and
15 then she would force Epsom salts down his throat.

16 We were all crying -- and especially me because he
17 was a friend of mine -- and we were shaking, we were
18 really shaking. It was -- a kind of a schoolboy
19 terrorism, if I can use that term.

20 Q. In relation to boys generally who wet their beds, you
21 have given the particular example of your friend, but
22 I think you do say in your statement that the boys who
23 wet beds would be paraded in some way.

24 A. Yes, I do. But as I said before, it depends on which
25 dormitory the boys were in. I mean it varied. For

1 example, some would have their soiled sheets over their
2 right arm and standing in the dining hall, for example,
3 and Sister BAE would deride the poor boy. "This
4 is an example, this is what's going to happen if you
5 soil the bed, you with me?" We were supposed to be --
6 and obviously we were and that was it.

7 So there were all these psychological type things
8 that the poor -- it is inhumane what these boys endured.
9 It really is not on.

10 Q. You do say also the nuns encouraged you to laugh at
11 the --

12 A. That is right. That was enforced laughter. I never
13 laughed at all. There was no way I could laugh at that,
14 but I suppose the weaker-minded individuals, the
15 individuals that didn't have any moral spirit or fibre,
16 and who would just go like sheep and just do what she
17 would say, you know, that was it. Because if she caught
18 a glimpse of you and you weren't laughing that was it.

19 Q. What would happen?

20 A. You were getting thrashed.

21 Q. Washing and bathing is also something you tell us about
22 in your statement.

23 A. Washing and bathing. This is my first recollection
24 going back to when I was eight years old, was being put
25 in a bath -- there was four baths and I recollect the

1 water was absolutely filthy. I'm not quite sure whether
2 it was a nun, I think it was a lay helper, who had used
3 the Jeyes fluid. I'm not quite sure what the purpose of
4 that was; I believe it was to dilute or disinfect the
5 bath.

6 LADY SMITH: That's Jeyes fluid you are talking about?

7 A. Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: It is very strong.

9 A. Very strong. This was a dilute form, Lady Smith, but
10 that was like some of the modern products that you have
11 today that can kill every known germ sort of business
12 and that was the proprietary brand --

13 LADY SMITH: I think to this day some people use Jeyes fluid
14 to disinfect their greenhouses in the autumn.

15 A. Well, obviously, yes, you are right. Yes, I can --
16 I remember that, yes. But we used it in bathwater, in
17 floors, or whatever. But it was -- that was the
18 product.

19 LADY SMITH: A very strong smell.

20 A. It is like some of these bleaches that kills every known
21 germs. It's a great product, but the nuns appeared to
22 swear by this product. It had an awful taste by the
23 way. It is not nice.

24 Q. For bath times -- you have just mentioned a layperson,
25 were there laypeople involved in bath times?

1 A. Yes indeed, in the junior section only. The junior
2 section, yes. And my first recollection as
3 an eight-year-old boy was -- she was a very coarse,
4 forceful -- what's the expression? Dooking my head,
5 like dooking for apples and keeping me submerged and
6 I remember grabbing the side of the bath -- and it
7 wasn't the bath I grabbed, it was a big cake of red
8 carbolic soap and down I went. She would keep me
9 submerged for an inordinate time and I'm flailing around
10 and that has always struck me as -- that was a painful,
11 painful memory. The rough way they handled you. They
12 just pulled you out, that was it, as if you were just
13 a piece of trash.

14 Q. There were a number then of laypeople who helped the
15 nuns at bath times?

16 A. Yes, they had different roles and invariably these
17 laypeople were old members of the orphanage, for
18 example, you know? And some indeed were coming from
19 Ireland -- a lot of them had Irish names and -- I always
20 kind of suspected their background, but they were very
21 compliant, they just did -- you know, these nodding dogs
22 in the back windows of the cars, they would just do
23 exactly what the nun -- but they were cruel because they
24 were brought up in that system, that's all they knew.
25 Yeah? They were so unfeeling.

1 Q. Having showers, do you also --
2 A. Now showers is another thing. The shower room was
3 perhaps about 30 metres long, it was like -- if you can
4 visualise an animal trough about 30 metres long, about
5 a foot and a half deep, filled with this same Jeyes
6 fluid in the water. That trough, so to speak, I think
7 it would be at least used about five or six times by
8 different groups of boys. So they didn't actually
9 change the water. It reminds me of the old expression:
10 the clartier, the better; you with me? So they each had
11 a shower head controlled, from memory, a central point.
12 Invariably when that was put down, it was frozen,
13 absolutely frozen. Not a nice experience.

14 So when you came out, you had to get a towel and
15 invariably the towels were all wet -- there was
16 insufficient of them -- and you had to line up shivering
17 and Sister [BAE] would go up and down and then if
18 you covered your front -- it means anywhere up from your
19 waist right up -- so you couldn't use your name for
20 genitalia or whatever because that was a bad name,
21 anything to do with the toilet or -- you were belted for
22 that, yes.

23 Q. And food, what was the food like?

24 A. Food. If I say the name Oliver Twist that would give
25 you an idea of what the food was like. The food was

1 very basic. It was, in many respects, more like swill
2 than food. If I can use -- for example, the breakfast.
3 The breakfast was porridge and we had a wee refrain --
4 from memory it was to Camptown Ladies --and we used to
5 sing:

6 "Dumps in the porridge and the breads too thin,
7 doodah."

8 To translate that from the vernacular, it meant
9 there are lumps in the porridge and the bread is too
10 thin, in other words the bread was cut like salami.

11 The porridge itself, if I can use the analogy of
12 a bucket of paste, wallpaper paste. It had that
13 consistency in the lumps. So the paste itself is
14 inedible and so the porridge was inedible and it varied
15 every day. It depended -- sometimes it was boys who
16 were actually making the porridge and half of it was
17 uncooked or undercooked and you couldn't digest this
18 stuff.

19 Q. And --

20 A. The meat in particular was scrawny. I'm very
21 susceptible, as my wife will tell you, to fatty foods
22 and invariably we had the same diet every week without
23 fail.

24 Q. I think you give us an example in your statement of
25 being sick because you were eating gristly, cheap meat.

- 1 A. That is right.
- 2 Q. What happened on that occasion?
- 3 A. The problem was the meat had come from Lanark. It was
4 the cheapest, nastiest, scrawny bits and so on. The
5 bacon was full of -- I used to call them warts, I'm not
6 sure what the term is today -- and the meat was all fat
7 and gristle, inedible. And I was forced -- I had to eat
8 this stuff and it just came up.
- 9 Q. So you vomited?
- 10 A. I vomited, yes, indeed. So I had to -- Sister BAE
11 forced me to eat it and then she sent me to a room to
12 get a bucket of water, the Jeyes fluid, and clean up my
13 own mess. It is like the dog going back to his vomit
14 kind of business.
- 15 Q. What were you forced to eat?
- 16 A. It was gristle, fat. Fat. As I say, it was the
17 cheapest, nastiest cuts available. It was the same --
18 the pudding was the same. It was sago, tapioca --
19 I called it frog spawn -- semolina with some jam in it.
20 The only -- we got Spam as well. Spam. We called it --
21 what did we call it? Corned yuck.
- 22 Q. You gave the example of your own experience of vomiting.
- 23 A. Yes, I did.
- 24 Q. But what about other children, did you see anything?
- 25 A. A lot of children obviously who had medical problems,

1 that didn't matter, they were forced into eating as well
2 and they paid the ultimate penalty too. That was really
3 sad.

4 Q. When you were sick, as you told us, was anything done to
5 you when you were sick?

6 A. No. We had no -- in my time anyway, and that was
7 12 years, I never saw a doctor once.

8 Q. I think I meant -- you say that in your statement:

9 "I was sick in the dining room. I was thrashed for
10 that."

11 A. Yes, indeed, I was thrashed. That was a daily
12 occurrence. That was it. That was expected. As I say,
13 the kind of Poor Law type of attitude to that.

14 Q. Was that Sister BAE who --

15 A. Oh yes.

16 Q. On this occasion, can you remember what she did? Have
17 you a recollection of that?

18 A. It was either thrashed or her infamous tortoiseshell
19 brush which she kept in her gown. That was her --
20 I think that was her favourite weapon of choice really.
21 It was fine and handy, you see, and had a nice flat base
22 so that you can inflict the maximum pain on you.

23 Q. You tell us also in your statement about your leisure
24 time and sometimes you would go for a walk in Lanark.

25 A. Yes, the walk primarily, as far as I could see, was

1 primarily for the benefit, not for the orphans
2 themselves, but primarily it was kind of window dressing
3 if you like so the good people of Lanark, the good
4 citizens of Lanark could see what a well-turned out
5 people we were. We weren't allowed to speak to any
6 Lanarkians. You weren't allowed to do that at all.

7 Q. But in that same section of your statement you make
8 mention of a man by the name of [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED].

9 A. [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED]

10 Q. He had some involvement in your leisure activities.

11 A. [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] was the -- [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] -- and his background
12 was [REDACTED] He was brought up in the
13 school of hard knocks and a very talented man in his own
14 kind of way. He ran the football team and I was the
15 captain of the football team, not because I was the best
16 player, I certainly was not, but I was kind of a thug
17 and he used to parade us first and ask us to pull down
18 our stockings. The idea of that was he was looking, as
19 he said, for the "mark of the gladiator". That was it.
20 In other words, he wanted to see the bruises. And if
21 your strip hadn't any grass stains on it, you weren't
22 playing. So he was cruel.

23 If he didn't like you, he went against you, he would
24 put you in the opposite team and would go out to tumble
25 you down and then you know he really then would stand on

- 1 your foot or your leg or whatever.
- 2 Q. Did you see him inflict any punishment?
- 3 A. That was always the case. Even in the pavilion you got
- 4 the tawse of his tongue. He was unable to string
- 5 a sentence together without an expletive of some sort of
- 6 kind. That was cruel. It was a cruel way to speak to
- 7 boys.
- 8 Q. But I think you gave us an example of what he would
- 9 do -- and this is in paragraph 42 on page 6 of your
- 10 statement.
- 11 A. Sorry, I'm at 41 here.
- 12 Q. You can see it on the screen. It is 42 on the screen.
- 13 A. Sorry, yes. Yes. That is --
- 14 Q. "Pulling down on your left earlobe", can you explain
- 15 that?
- 16 A. Yes, indeed. So, any boy that perhaps got in his road
- 17 or whatever, who had committed some sort of
- 18 misdemeanour, the first reaction was to take your -- it
- 19 was always the left lobe he would yank down. Then, with
- 20 his big [REDACTED] hands, he would whack you in the
- 21 right ear. That was it, you know.
- 22 Q. Did that happen to you?
- 23 A. That happened lots of times, yes.
- 24 Q. What about schooling? Can I ask you about schooling?
- 25 A. Schooling, now there's a thing.

1 Q. Did you go to the school that was within the building
2 itself?

3 A. The school was basically in two parts. It was the
4 juniors, the nursery, or junior section, and then there
5 was the senior which was from primary 1 through to -- it
6 followed the same system as the secular ... My
7 schooling, from what I can remember of it, was based
8 on -- there is an old adage which says:

9 "Ram it in, cram it in. Children's heads are
10 hollow. Reading, writing, arithmetic, soon there's more
11 to follow."

12 So that was three, but there was a fourth and that
13 fourth R -- the three Rs and the fourth was religion.
14 The "more to follow" was the belt. So they were
15 disciplinarians. It was a very -- it was not
16 an education. It didn't prepare me for life outside the
17 orphanage. I was a functional illiterate and
18 innumerate. I think, primarily, because of the low
19 expectations: you know, if you aim at nothing, you get
20 nothing, that kind of business. That was a problem.

21 They had already -- give a dog a bad name sort of
22 thing. This is the low expectations, this is what we
23 expect, we don't expect anything of you, so that is what
24 we had.

25 Q. But were some of the nuns teachers in the school at

1 Smyllum itself?

2 A. Yes, from memory there were three: Ms [REDACTED] AEP

3 Ms [REDACTED] IAR They were teachers --

4 Q. They were laypeople, of course.

5 A. They were laypeople. Their personalities, you know --

6 how can I explain that to you? They were of the

7 no-nonsense brigade, are you with me? They were

8 strap-happy. They would use the threat of corporal

9 punishment on you. There was no love in this. No, no.

10 Really bad.

11 Q. Can I ask you about birthdays and Christmas. Do you

12 have any --

13 A. Well, I didn't know what my birthday was, believe it or

14 not. When I was eight years old, I hadn't the foggiest

15 idea how old I was. It is really quite sad. I got no

16 birthday cards. Birthdays weren't celebrated because

17 the idea was to totally phase the idea of birth, the

18 idea of family, so that was a concept that went out the

19 window.

20 Christmastime was the same. If there were any

21 presents, they were given to the orphanage from the good

22 people of Lanark. That's where they came from, but

23 myself I got no Christmas presents. Okay, occasionally

24 I would get a parcel, but the parcel invariably had been

25 opened by Sister [REDACTED] BAE. She would check first to

1 see the suitability of whatever that present was, you
2 see.

3 Q. You do tell us I think in your statement that at about
4 Christmastime you were taken to the cinema in Lanark.

5 A. Yes. That was, I suppose, the highlight of the
6 Christmas for us. Invariably it was the White
7 Christmas, Bing Crosby, that kind of thing, which
8 I thought was -- when you contrasted the luxury and the
9 real feeling of Christmas and you went back to the
10 Dickensian workhouse, it was night and day. The cinema
11 was closed off lest little boys like me absconded.

12 Q. So especially for the children from Smyllum?

13 A. Yes. We were like sheep, shepherded, the dogs there
14 were -- oh yeah.

15 Q. Visits or inspections: do you remember visits from
16 anyone when you were at --

17 A. Visitors in terms of the inspectorate you mean?

18 Q. No visitors in terms of whether it is family --

19 A. Family. The visitors -- I had one visitor. The visitor
20 was my Uncle [REDACTED]. Now I didn't know who Uncle [REDACTED] was
21 and this gentleman would -- I think he appeared about
22 three or four times and he was a [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED] so I presume that was the reason for the
24 infrequency of his visitations and the problem was that
25 the nuns deliberately made it difficult for any parent

1 to attend. It was always on a Sunday and they had to
2 conform to certain rules. There was a geographical
3 area, a kind of area where they were penned in like
4 sheep, and you had to stay in that, you see. At no time
5 were parents or friends allowed in, for example, to the
6 boys' section, to the girls' section. That was it, you
7 see. So there was always a nun on duty with
8 a subordinate. So she oversaw the whole thing. The
9 idea was then was to discourage visitations, because the
10 less family interference there was in the running of the
11 orphanage, the organisational convenience of the
12 orphanage, the better for them.

13 Q. Did you receive any visits from a social worker during
14 your time?

15 A. Well, the only social worker -- I don't think they were
16 called social workers then, I think --

17 Q. Welfare officers?

18 A. Indeed, I think the first was -- there seems to be
19 a reformation, a change through time two years before
20 I left the orphanage. I remember I was about 12 when
21 I got this letter and it was from Santa Claus and it
22 said, "Santa Claus, Kilmarnock". I said, "I don't know
23 a Santa Claus in Kilmarnock I thought he lived in
24 Greenland somewhere". It had a hanky and a postal
25 order, that's all it said. So Sister BAE took the

1 envelope from me and I took the card out and I didn't
2 know there was -- I think it was a five or ten bob
3 postal order. It fell to the ground and she took it.
4 Now there is no way I was going to be allowed to spend
5 that anyway because Lanark was about a mile away and
6 there's no way that I would transgress any boundary and
7 certainly not going to Lanark to spend ten bob, I mean
8 that was a fortune.

9 Q. But what happened to the postal order?

10 A. It disappeared.

11 Q. Did you understand this postal order in this card to
12 have come from the welfare department --

13 A. That happened twice. That happened twice. And
14 I still -- it wasn't until I was 15 years old where
15 I understood "Santa Claus, Kilmarnock" and it was my
16 final day in the orphanage where I was called to the
17 front hall and there were two gentlemen there and they
18 were called children's officers. Of course I hadn't the
19 foggiest idea of what a children's officer was. They
20 were the forerunners of the social workers, yes, indeed.

21 Q. But had a children's officer been to see you --

22 A. No, I had never seen a --

23 Q. -- before that?

24 A. No never. To me, Sister **BAE**, she ran it like a
25 kind of a medieval kingdom. She was, as I said in my

1 statement, she had the authority of a Stalin. So that
2 was it. So there was no way anyone else could infringe
3 on her reign, so to speak.

4 LADY SMITH: Did you say she had the authority of Stalin?

5 A. A Stalin, meaning that she would -- there was no way
6 that anyone other than herself because the other nuns
7 were all subordinate to her, and answerable to her and
8 I believe that she would perhaps select them for certain
9 qualities that they had that she had. Are you with me?
10 It was like a birds of a feather kind of thing -- and
11 likewise with the lay members of staff as well. She
12 would be selective in terms of -- it is just like me
13 running any organisation, you would select the people
14 who best reflect your ideas and your values, and she was
15 the same.

16 Q. Your phrase, "the authority of a Stalin", you use that
17 in your --

18 A. I do, yes.

19 Q. I'm going to come to that very shortly, because I think
20 you are anxious to tell us about that.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Before we do that, can I ask you about running away.
23 Did you run away at any point?

24 A. Yes, I did. I ran away once. I was belted by

25 Sister BAE because I was in control as the head

1 boy, if you like, of the particular dormitory. Some of
2 the boys -- the toilet was overflowing with faeces and
3 things like that, you see. Invariably I would have got
4 one of the less able youngsters who did -- to clear it,
5 but he didn't do a good job, see, and I should have done
6 something about it. And he hadn't cleaned up so that
7 was my responsibility and so she belted me for that so
8 I decided to run away.

9 Q. What age were you then, do you think?

10 A. I was about 11. Roughly about 11, it would have been.
11 So I thought, right, okay -- I think I was -- I was
12 becoming a wee bit more streetwise, if you like. I had
13 a kind of spark of nature's fire and I was beginning to
14 understand my own self and I decided to run away --
15 I thought it was a good idea, an impulsive kind of
16 thing. So I got as far as the barracks, the army
17 barracks, which was the Cameronians. It was about what,
18 7 o'clock, 7.30.

19 Q. At night?

20 A. Yes, indeed. Well it was the summertime. So I'm
21 sitting under this tree, it was at a plantation which
22 was the boundary of the army camp. And I thought,
23 Dexter, what are you going to do? And for the first
24 time in my life I realised I was all alone. I couldn't
25 call on anyone to come to my aid. Where was I going to

1 go? What was I going to do? I had no concept of life
2 outside an institution. That was the problem and the
3 tears started to (indicates).

4 Q. Would you like a break, Dexter?

5 A. I've started to calm down.

6 So anyway, I hotfooted it back to the orphanage and
7 luckily for me, because I had been in charge of
8 a particular dormitory, so therefore I already knew the
9 nooks and crannies, and the windows I could slide in
10 because a lot of them were sash and cord and a lot were
11 broken. I had to clean every window, so I knew --
12 I thought, right, I can shimmy up this drainpipe and in
13 the window and no one would know any better and that is
14 what I did.

15 It taught me a fundamental lesson that I was always
16 alone in the world and loneliness was a problem for me.

17 Q. What would have happened if you had been caught?

18 A. If I had been caught -- well, I presume I would be --
19 the police would be involved in that and that was the
20 ultimate crime, somehow, that I would have let the side
21 down, so to speak, the orphanage down, and of course the
22 Sisters would give an opinion of me as an abscondee and
23 of course they would use the tar brush that I was an
24 errant schoolboy or whatever, you see.

25 Of course, the system -- and the police would

1 believe the nun because, well, he is just a wee orphan
2 boy, you know, he has to go upstairs. So I would be
3 thrashed and made to stand in splendid isolation on one
4 of the flags and that would be -- I was persona non
5 grata. That was it.

6 Q. Did you witness that happening to boys?

7 A. Yes. Sad, sad, sad.

8 Q. I just mentioned a moment ago, Dexter, that you sent
9 into the Inquiry a document prepared by yourself. You
10 call it -- the title of it is "Submission of Boy [REDACTED]".

11 A. [REDACTED] was my number. When I attained the chronological
12 age of eight year old and I moved from the juniors to
13 the seniors, the first thing I was given was a number.
14 I always make this recollection -- it always stays, it
15 is as clear today as it was 60-odd years ago -- the
16 first thing I was asked to do was to find myself a pair
17 of boots. Boots, because it was the autumnal period
18 there. The boots were spread out in front and
19 Sister [REDACTED] BAE told us to find a pair that fitted.
20 The problem was when I looked at them there was some boy
21 who was tying them up didn't know his left from his
22 right, so sometimes he had tied two lefts together and
23 sometimes two rights. So some boys were actually
24 putting ill-fitting shoes on, the shoes themselves --
25 the boots were old tackety boots, the leather was hard,

1 it wasn't very supple. And the pair I sadly chose was
2 the only pair that fitted me and it had a kind of
3 greenish kind of tinge on or mould or some kind of
4 thing, but the right foot in particular was not quite
5 right. Then I got -- also I was asked to pick a jumper
6 for myself because these were all hand-me-downs from the
7 senior boys and so on. So they looked at your age, your
8 build and said ... they were all spread out in front.

9 So the boots then -- Sister BAE chalked on
10 the side of the boots and it then went up to the
11 cobbler, who was a Mr Skully, and he would stamp and
12 likewise with all the clothing, and in Indian Ink, .

13 Then I was taken to a room where you had pigeonholes,

14 So I was then referred to as -- a bit like
15 Belsen, for example, the number on the ... That was it.

16 Q. But would you be addressed by the number or was that
17 simply your identification number for clothing and so
18 on?

19 A. Well that was -- it was a bit like your register, you
20 know, the number in -- your acquisition number in the
21 school. I would know just who you were by -- in the
22 school there it would perhaps be your entrance date.
23 I don't know what the logic was behind these numbers,
24 but you are talking about a population in the seniors --
25 when I was there it must have been in excess of 150, so

1 you are talking about five different dormitories. So
2 that is a fair range of boys, you see.

3 Q. Very well. You have provided the Inquiry with this
4 submission and I understand that recently you have
5 revised it a little bit. I think you have made it --
6 pruned it a bit and made it a bit more -- tidied it up.

7 You have a copy of that in front of you and her
8 Ladyship has a copy of that as well and I have a copy.
9 The original version -- I will just give the reference
10 for that -- that is at WIT.003.001.1271. That is the
11 reference for the previous version.

12 A. Right okay.

13 Q. I think you are quite keen to read this out to the
14 Inquiry.

15 A. Well, the reason I'm keen to read this out, because this
16 represents the boy -- as the Jesuits would say:

17 "Give me the boy at eight years old and I will give
18 you the man."

19 So this is the boy to the man, so this is the man
20 now speaking in hindsight, okay, going back in time.

21 What I tried to do, obviously given my background,
22 I know all about the other submissions from my departed
23 colleagues and when I attended with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
24 and [REDACTED], I thought to myself, right, okay, how will
25 I explain that to them?

1 I didn't want just facts, facts, facts, facts. So I
2 thought to myself, okay, teacher, pupil -- and primarily
3 for my son in particular, who was concerned about his
4 father's mortality, you know, when you get to a certain
5 age and I have seen my six colleagues shuffle off the
6 mortal coil and so I thought, how best can I help my son
7 to understand what his father has gone through.

8 Q. When you are talking approximate about "your
9 colleagues", are you --

10 A. I am talking about Mr Frank Docherty, Jim Kane --

11 Q. A number of others who have died?

12 A. I have a photograph on my desk and there are seven of us
13 in that photograph and I'm the last man standing. Now
14 that fairly puts your mortality in front of you. So
15 I spent hour after hour revamping this with my wife's
16 help, her superior knowledge of these things, and so she
17 was able to arrange it for me in a sensible order,
18 otherwise it would be all over the place.

19 Q. Would you be kind enough Dexter to read this out to the
20 Inquiry --

21 A. The other point I was trying to make. What I was trying
22 to do -- this is not strictly speaking in terms of the
23 facts. I want you to think in terms of my inner
24 history, so the inner history allied with the facts and
25 then a wee bit kind of judgement. So I was hoping this

1 kind of composite picture would help the lay reader or,
2 for example, the future historians, maybe the social
3 workers and other related disciplines. And that was the
4 reason behind that.

5 This cost me a lot of time and effort, the tears
6 that I -- it's really ... (Pause)

7 Q. Actually, I'm looking at the time. We tend to have
8 a little break at 3 o'clock --

9 A. I'm fine. I don't mind going on --

10 LADY SMITH: Dexter, if I can just explain. There are two
11 other people here who will need a break.

12 A. Sorry.

13 LADY SMITH: Two people here tapping away for the transcript
14 need a break about an hour in and it might be suitable,
15 if we have that now, then if it took more than 8 minutes
16 for you to read your piece --

17 A. I think this will take more --

18 LADY SMITH: -- then we would not break it. I think, having
19 looked at it myself, it is better if we are able to get
20 this in one flow without an interruption.

21 A. Fine.

22 LADY SMITH: Would that be okay with you if we broke now?

23 A. That's perfectly -- obviously the comfort of the
24 stenographers is superior. Yes, indeed.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you. It is not superior, but it is

1 something that has to be --

2 A. Maybe I have used the wrong word.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 We will have a break now.

5 (2.57 pm)

6 (A short break)

7 (3.10 pm)

8 LADY SMITH: Yes, Mr MacAulay.

9 MR MacAULAY: Yes, my Lady.

10 Before the break, Dexter, I had asked you to begin
11 reading your submission. Just one point about it: in
12 the submission you mention your late brother's name; you
13 needn't mention his name and you can just say "my late
14 brother" or something along those lines.

15 A. Thank you:

16 "I have reached my 74th year. And over the decades,
17 many things and experiences have quietly slipped into
18 oblivion. Sadly, some evil things from my childhood are
19 never forgotten and by the subtle touch of some
20 association the incidents live again. And with
21 a vividness that it is impressive and at the same time
22 debilitating.

23 "There are feelings of anxiety, worry, shame, guilt,
24 hopelessness, grief, sadness and anger. These events in
25 my past are emotionally painful and, at times,

1 overwhelming.

2 "Each child knows its own sorrow and we cannot
3 minimise their pain. There is a scar still left, which
4 bleeds afresh from the merest touch. A sadness that
5 perpetually lingers around these painful childhood
6 memories.

7 "There is a loneliness and bitterness of sorrow
8 which no human can describe and no parliamentary report
9 or Commission can fully comprehend.

10 "There is also the burden of guilt that weighs like
11 a mountain upon your spirit. We have all wept with
12 broken tears, like a bird with a broken wing!

13 "Now living with internal scars is not easy. I have
14 often wished that the Smyllum nuns could see what was
15 done to the inside of me. And if I can use what I might
16 call a transparent slate and show you the interior
17 history of this survivor who, as a three-year-old
18 infant, was placed in Smyllum Orphanage, Lanark, in 1946
19 and left twelve years later at the age of 15.

20 "My story is typically that of all the other
21 survivors. It is a story of inequalities, injustices,
22 brutality, the sting of poverty, the blight upon
23 childhood, and wrongs long endured where the rights of
24 the child have been forgotten, and especially the right
25 to a family life.

1 "The most beautiful thing that God made, so the
2 Bible tells us, was the family. We were instructed that
3 the Holy Family should always be a model for our own.
4 And when Jesus came to save us, he was born into
5 a family, and that is why we call the orphanage 'Smyllum
6 Home'.

7 "The family is often called the principal cell or
8 building block of human society. And the Fourth
9 Commandment is addressed expressly or specifically to
10 children. The church designates itself the 'family of
11 God' and has a multitude of saints to look after and
12 protect abused children.

13 "The crisis in a child's life or history is reached
14 when a mother ceases to be part of her child's life.
15 The motherless child hasn't had a fair chance in the
16 world: that child has run the race with a handicap.

17 "One has to wonder what kind of Christianity was it
18 that justified, contrary to the teachings of Jesus,
19 inflicting barbaric child-rearing practices that
20 separate a child from its siblings on entry to the
21 orphanage.

22 "From where in the human soul comes a willingness to
23 maintain that shockingly cruel edict for the duration of
24 the child's stay in the orphanage? And forbid any
25 contact whatsoever at any time -- even in the church!

1 And at what cost to themselves?

2 "This must surely be an aberrant form of
3 Christianity. These nuns were so indifferent to the
4 needs of the defenceless child who were in loco
5 parentis, that they became less than human and confirms
6 that humans are most cruel to their own kind; and one
7 that is almost non-existent in the animal world.

8 "We use a phrase 'a dagger in the heart' to express
9 the hurt of a great injustice. This is a crime that
10 time cannot erase. This was a crime against humanity.

11 "The true essence of motherhood is love. And a nun
12 can never be a satisfactory substitute for a mother.
13 She is but a poor reflection. And, if I can use the
14 analogy, they do not make good 'mother hens'.

15 "By their vocation and background, they are totally
16 devoid of a true mothering instincts and are mere
17 cardboard cut-outs and incapable of providing the
18 warmth, the love and the compassion and a safe and
19 loving environment that a child needs to thrive in. To
20 love a child means to see them as God intended!

21 "Neglect, plain simple neglect, has bred more havoc
22 in almost more ways than any other causes combined. It
23 matters not whether the neglect arises from
24 indifference, wilfulness or ignorance. The result in
25 most instances is always the same: a child who is

1 considered utterly worthless.

2 "Bishop Fulton Sheen --

3 Now Bishop Fulton Sheen -- I think he is on the
4 second rung to becoming a saint and he was
5 a philosopher, educator, one of the Princes of the
6 Church in America and he said:

7 "A church that owns pearls has no time for shells."

8 "A church that owns pearls has no time for shells."

9 In other words, a child or children who are
10 considered utterly worthless, the shells.

11 "This neglect and unkindness has caused me great
12 pain to look back on. I have suffered deep wounds for
13 which there is no healing. A sorrow that found no
14 friendly ear in which I could pour the story of my woes.
15 A grief that has become a withering desolation -- a
16 desolation of hopelessness.

17 "Throughout my twelve years in the home I have never
18 been hugged or held by a nun or any female member of
19 staff. Never sat on anyone's lap. Never held
20 an adult's hand. Never been read to. We were treated
21 like the untouchables -- Bishop Fulton's shells.

22 "The nuns were separated from the children
23 physically, emotionally and spiritually. They seem to
24 be in denial that conscience is the faculty of
25 recognising the distinction between right and wrong in

1 one's own heart.

2 "At every turn they violated the precepts of their
3 Christian beliefs. Psalm 9:11 in particular has the
4 divine charge, 'To guard and keep His children'."

5 "To guard and keep his children."

6 "At an early age the children learned unconditional
7 obedience to authority at the hands of compliant nuns
8 and lay staff. Punitive and harsh disciplines were the
9 norm in both secular and religious institutions.

10 "Inflexible harshness was naturally inflicted in
11 a decidedly un-Christian manner. There was a callous
12 indifference to the suffering of children and the
13 orphanage staff were thus unable to deliver
14 compassionate care.

15 "In Smyllum, the nuns were godlike authority figures
16 with their own 'thou shalt not' commandments and they
17 acted more like prison guards.

18 "Children growing up in a hostile environment and
19 under constant stress can't develop loving attachments
20 with cold, remote, monumental saints, who have faces set
21 in concrete.

22 "Sister BAE was one such nun. She had the
23 authority of a Stalin. She had a slow, measured walking
24 place that didn't even jingle-jangle the silver rosary
25 and crucifix that hung from her waist. Hers was the

1 gravitas of a very important person and she was the
2 implacable enemy of every boy in the orphanage between
3 the ages of 7 and 15.

4 "I was mortally afraid of this Sister for the best
5 part of eight years in the seniors. I was terrified of
6 her. Especially so when she approached me. I was
7 always wracked with anxiety and weak at the knees. Her
8 reputation struck almost permanent terror into the boys
9 under her charge.

10 "She was credited with murder and mayhem after
11 lights out by the older boys. And as a new recruit to
12 the senior ranks, I took that literally as gospel truth.
13 I tossed and turned and screamed as the yelling
14 sharp-clawed, forky-tailed, squint-eyed nun rained down
15 her deadly blows on my crumpled body."

16 "Her armoury of weapons included her boots, the
17 belt, the pointer, ruler or any object to hand. She hit
18 with a fierceness of someone who was born with a weapon
19 in her hand. Her favourite weapon of choice was her
20 tortoiseshell hairbrush. It nestled in a kind of large
21 marsupial pouch in her blue habit.

22 "Of all the weapons at her disposal, none was more
23 fearful in its power to destroy human happiness and the
24 human dignity of a child than that hairbrush.

25 "Most of all she favoured collective punishment --

1 a kind of mass saturation attack. No child was safe.
2 Transgressions were rigorously punished. We were
3 marshalled in lines and made to bend and stretch in time
4 to the rhythm of a green frog-like metronome ... click
5 ... click ... click ... click. Suddenly, in the
6 barbarous wickedness of this exercise, she caught me
7 with the first salvo on the back of my legs. Then she
8 moved to my hands -- dead on target. The remorseless
9 pattern of this brutality was inflicted on every boy.
10 There was not a dry eye among us!

11 "I was now a trembling psychiatric case who feared
12 to walk in her shadow. I had that abstracted look of
13 a child who cannot understand why he is being punished.

14 "You would be appalled by the casualness of it all;
15 the inevitability, the amoral negativeness of it all.
16 The endless punishment, the sufferings and the slow
17 psychological and emotional damage and the certain
18 destruction of the children who succumb to it.

19 "Ours was a voice crying in the wilderness!

20 "Sister **BAE** was shifty and cruel. Her purpose
21 was evil and her methods unspeakable. My eyes moisten
22 as I write these words: a nun who was a saint on Sunday
23 and a devil during the week.

24 "It is a strong statement but not stronger than the
25 facts demand. Hers was a strict but 'effective' regime

1 to manage behaviour and it was a regime that was
2 unsuitable for a boy of any age.

3 "Another hurtful and inhuman approach was to those
4 children who had physiological problems, the
5 bed-wetters -- and there were many of them. And here
6 was the worst type of wickedness: language can't
7 overstate the depravity of it all.

8 "The boy was forced to stand in isolation, his
9 soiled bed clothes were draped over him like a church
10 statue on Good Friday. It broke our hearts and moved us
11 to sympathetic tears as Sister **BAE** thrashed the
12 poor unfortunate boy.

13 "He stands for hours. No one dare approaches him.
14 We watch with tears rolling down our eyes as he is
15 forced to swallow Epsom salts. The silence is complete.
16 The only sound is of him sobbing. He is shaking on his
17 feet. There is vomiting, diarrhoea -- the last dregs of
18 shame gone.

19 "This was not an isolated case by any means. It was
20 a daily occurrence.

21 "For Sister **BAE** Christ had been a stranger to
22 her. Here was a nun who had forgotten her vows. Here
23 was a nun who had forgotten what he said about little
24 children and particularly the words, 'Suffer little
25 children to come unto me and forbid them not'.

1 "Now there is no justification for thrashing
2 a child. You could ask how could human beings of
3 average moral capacity be so indifferent to a child who
4 is being thrashed unlawfully. These were crimes that
5 would make even the most hardened criminal recoil in
6 horror.

7 "How could Sister **BAE** reconcile her conduct
8 with her religious vows? Was she claiming authority
9 from a higher power? Could she quote holy script in her
10 defence?

11 "Now the Bible states that 'The house that is built
12 to God must be exceedingly magnificent'. Smyllum Chapel
13 lived up to that description. It was a fair
14 representation of the medieval heavenly Jerusalem. It
15 housed the pantheon of saints, each in its own niche and
16 canopy. And each duly worshipped and celebrated on its
17 annual feast day.

18 "Now as a choirboy, I was in church three out of
19 seven days and a fourth -- a Sunday. A great deal more
20 of enforced times, aspiring to learn the Latin Mass and
21 hymns. This was real purgatory for boys who had very
22 little education and who were functional illiterates.
23 Latin to us was Double Dutch. It was simply
24 incomprehensible.

25 "Sister **EAA** the choir mistress, considered our

1 inability to master the rudiments of the Latin tongue
2 was due to our lack of mental capacity. Ours was not
3 ordinary stupidity, it was worse. It would require
4 a surgical operation to get 'Ave Verum' into our skulls.

5 "By way of example and encouragement, she pointed
6 out that Mr Mulligan, the school janitor, had a canary
7 that could recite the whole of the Celtic team of the
8 time. We were mightily impressed. Was there a lesson
9 to be learned?

10 "And so it proved. Constant repetition and the
11 strap-happy use of the tawse three nights every week and
12 the threat of eternal damnation in that vast torture
13 chamber called Hell spurred us on to squawk out our
14 Latin like parrots. It was all mumbo-jumbo and Greek.
15 It was like learning our times tables. We had to
16 overlearn them for instant recall.

17 "Now the Grim Reaper hovered over both young and old
18 in the orphanage. His scythe cut down many a child in
19 bloom. Including my six year old brother. He had just
20 been admitted to the home some six months earlier and
21 his death certificate stated the principal cause as
22 pneumonia. Now a second reason, and one I believe more
23 probable, was he had died of a broken heart.

24 "Sister BAE had told all the boys that my
25 brother had eaten a black slug and died. There was no

1 funeral service in the chapel, no prayers for a life
2 that was short, sharp and brutal. He was buried like
3 a dog with no family or children to weep over him -- and
4 to say a last farewell. He lies in a spot only known to
5 God, a field of craters, undulations and lost souls.

6 "In all the 12 years that I was incarcerated in the
7 orphanage, I do not recall one Requiem Mass being said
8 for a dead child. In contrast, there was a weeping and
9 wailing and gnashing of teeth for a departed nun. The
10 nun lay in state, flowers in abundance and lots of
11 candles lit as a token of silent prayers for the repose
12 of the soul of the departed nun as it winged its way to
13 heaven. But for me there was no redemption from hell.

14 "In the choir loft I stood throughout the whole
15 dismal Requiem Mass. It was like a five-mile long prayer
16 and incantation of Kyrie, Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus
17 Dei. It was never ending! My mind was always wandering
18 and preoccupied with less deathly and heavenly things
19 and, to me more important, football and rounders! And at
20 all times the sun shone on the righteous children in the
21 playground. The angelic multitude.

22 "Our dormitories were long and cheerless. Wooden
23 floors and no curtains. The colours of the walls were
24 what I call "institutional colours" old greens, yellows,
25 and browns. There was a permanent drabness about it all.

1 The wooden panelling was stained with centuries of what
2 looked like creosote. Our beds were a standard army
3 issue from World War I. And, like the previous owners,
4 were hard as nails! There was a total lack of decoration
5 and warmth and it was guaranteed to make an unhappy
6 child- more unhappy!

7 "Thirty boys were housed in a dormitory and each
8 dormitory had its own patronal saint. My dormitory was
9 called after St Anthony, the patron saint of lost
10 articles. I thought its naming was quite absurd and out
11 of place, as we had no personal possessions, what could
12 get lost? We had our own boyish chant, when we played
13 hide and seek:

14 "Tony Tony look around, something's lost and must be
15 found."

16 "Everything in the dormitory was spotless. Every
17 bed made up fastidiously and according to custom and
18 pattern. The floor was highly polished and mirror-like.
19 It had an all-pervading antiseptic smell. And all the
20 handiwork of the child slaves with their big polishing
21 blockers!

22 "Mr [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED] As a [REDACTED] he had been well schooled in
24 the dark arts of violence. His speciality was 'clouting
25 yer lug' with his agricultural hands. He would pull

1 down your left ear lob and wham the right ear. I was
2 always stung and deeply wounded by his verbal
3 humiliations, especially if we lost at football to
4 a local team.

5 "He was notorious for his brutality, but it was at
6 football time that his reputation for small boy
7 terrorism rows to its climax. A small kick in the shins
8 can be very painful and I have never fully forgotten its
9 destructive value. This malevolent use of the boot was
10 fairly commonplace.

11 "He had a dark side to his nature. Sadly, the mind
12 just cannot grasp what is laid at this man's door. In
13 its scale, it is almost incomprehensible.

14 "Books interest me. A man's library, if he uses it,
15 is often a quick guide to his character.

16 "What say you of a young boy who filled his mind
17 with 'penny dreadfuls', comics and old annuals? I read
18 everything I could get my hands on and, according to
19 Sister BAE, it was trash, that's what the nuns
20 called it anyway. Some bookworm remarked that comics
21 were a gateway to drug literacy. And so it was for me.
22 Reading was my escape for a brief literary moment, when
23 I could dream like Walter Mitty or Billy Liar. I was in
24 the same line of business as Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.
25 I was an amateur Sherlock Holmes. The Red Indians in

1 the Tinto Hills in Lanark were reading my smoke signals.

2 "Now comics let the sunshine into the dark places of
3 Smyllum. If you read a comic you can live several lives
4 and bond with the antics of Donald Duck and Mickey
5 Mouse! You are not alone. Your life is filled with
6 "real" paper characters! I did titanic things on the
7 football pitch with the help of Roy of the Rovers of
8 Tiger comics. The Dandy and the Beano were compulsory
9 reading for all boys: and just the right reading age for
10 semi-literate children like me! I loved it all!

11 "I particularly liked the crime and horror comics.
12 Creepy Crawley was my favourite. I had a morbid
13 acquaintance with him. He was as evil and dirty as the
14 chimney of hell. He opened the dark gates of death for
15 any boy foolish enough to meet with him! After reading
16 his ghastly deeds I was mortally terrified of going to
17 bed. He was always in my worst nightmares. All night
18 long a thunderstorm rumbled and flashed and I screamed
19 in horror as I snuggled up in my grave. RIP.

20 "As Groucho Marx used to say, "a likely story."

21 "Smyllum was a cultural desert! Most children are
22 extraordinarily receptive to a good story book. The
23 simple pleasures of childhood being read fairy tales
24 were denied to them by these expert patronizers who
25 mouthed limitless Christian homilies about family life!

1 They were all rotten judges of human nature!

2 "Hope is what gives life to dreams, it is kind of
3 making the fairy tale true for the child.

4 "Now I did not have a favourite book, there was no
5 library or bookcases filled with the knowledge that
6 a child is to learn about anything or everything. You
7 don't have to burn books to destroy a culture, just keep
8 books from children and that's what the nuns did.
9 I consider that another heinous crime against children.

10 "The orphanage had its own garden or orchard or
11 Garden of Eden. It was self sufficient in fruit and
12 vegetables. It housed two glass houses where exotic
13 fruits and other hothouse plants were grown. I was
14 press-ganged into labouring and harvesting the fruit
15 crops. This was a delight for me as I took advantage of
16 the biblical injunction which stated: "God helps those
17 who help themselves. And I certainly did.

18 "Now the walled enclosure had high climb proof
19 walls, especially to boys who were skilled in the monkey
20 arts of tree climbing. There were notices forbidding
21 entrance! Against the orchard wall and abutting the
22 cobbler's workshop was a miniature slag heap. It had
23 stood there for years in all weathers. In this dump
24 there were things like rusty nails, ancient pram wheels,
25 bits of wire broken old chanties, paper and rags, old

1 cast-off boots and warty frogs! And nettles galore. The
2 gardeners would on occasion cast their garden rubbish on
3 top of it. Through time it resembled a mini haystack!
4 The whole area of the orchard was hidden by ancient
5 trees. It was a perfect place for robbery and violence
6 to go unnoticed!

7 "Now, at this spot, crab apples were hanging low and
8 heavy over the wall. The midden heap reduced the height
9 of the wall by some three or four feet. The apples were
10 just about within our reach! Could we be tempted like
11 our first parent, Adam, for a wee bite of the apple? By
12 hurling large sized sticks into horse chestnut trees, it
13 was possible for us to bring down a substantial shower
14 of coveted conkers. There were bows and arrows that
15 would scare King Kong, and then there was the
16 traditional art of throwing stones and breaking windows!
17 And I was an expert at that one. Which of these well
18 honed skilled should be used to plunder the apples?

19 "Three choir boys with devilment in their hearts
20 argued argy bargy style for their favourite weapon of
21 choice in the holy precincts of the chapel. We left the
22 church on the Lord's Day with the intent of breaking
23 into the orchard and violating the eighth commandment:
24 Thou shalt not steal:

25 "Sunday afternoon was the ideal time to keep holy

1 the Sabbath. There were few nuns and lay staff on duty
2 as it was their day of rest. Fate had it all fixed up.
3 We were storming the barricade using a human ladder,
4 with me atop. All was going to plan. My left hand had
5 gripped the top edge of the wall head. My head touched
6 the fruit. The smell and taste of the apples raced
7 round the back of my nose.

8 "The forbidden fruits were in reach of my greedy
9 hands. Suddenly the two boy sinners fell in crumpled
10 heaps among the jaggy nettles. I had used their bodies
11 as springboards and down they went like skittles. I was
12 left dangling unceremoniously by my left hand. Survival
13 instincts set in as I was an accomplished tree climber
14 and as agile as a monkey. So I swung over to grab the
15 wall head with my right hand and pull myself up.

16 "As I pressed down on the wall head one of my
17 fingers was pierced by a large shard of glass. My chin
18 also came in contact with another and so did my left
19 eyebrow. The gardeners had cemented broken lemonade
20 bottles on the top of the perimeter walls. My chin and
21 eyebrow were both bleeding profusely, my longest finger
22 had a big lump of flesh detached and it hurt like
23 a surgeon's knife.

24 "I clambered down the wall and down the fan like
25 fruit trees on the other side. I released the sneck and

1 bolt of the entry door and let my pals in. They wrapped
2 my injured finger in a docken leaf and tried to stem the
3 blood from my chin and eyebrow. To no avail!

4 "What were we going to do? What were we going to
5 say? It was beyond our wit dream up a "cock and bull"
6 story. We knew all about the ghastly stories of revenge
7 that Sister **BAE** took on boys who were lurking out
8 of bounds-and particularly those who were caught
9 stealing.

10 "I was sent to Lanark Hospital to be patched up and
11 stitches inserted. If the doctor asked how I came to
12 receive these injuries, I was to say that I had fallen
13 on a broken bottle of lemonade.

14 "On my return I was summoned to Sister **BAE**'s
15 office. She had that menacing look that disturbs your
16 peace of mind and has you quaking in your shoes. Boy
17 **■** felt like a jailbird who must be securely pinned
18 down. I was a condemned prisoner. Perhaps she might go
19 easy on me because of my injuries. Could there be a tiny
20 place for pity in her heart? But the realities of her
21 brutal power cannot be erased by sympathy!

22 "She was like a hurricane leaving its fallen
23 witnesses behind to mark its track! I was a thorn in her
24 flesh; a disciple of Satan for stealing on the Sabbath
25 and breaking boundary rules, and my punishment was the

1 unavoidable result of divine will: Spare the rod and
2 spoil the child!

3 "I was the ringleader of this crime and was guilty
4 on two counts: being out of bounds and stealing apples
5 from the orchard. I apologised to her for my actions.
6 That was a fatal mistake! The obscene preparations for
7 the sickening climax had already been made. The sentence
8 of my fate had been passed and was duly ushered in.

9 "First, she whacked me on the head with a book.
10 That caught me off guard. I put my injured hand up to
11 protect my head. Blow after blow rained down on me.
12 The grubby follow up was a true appraisal of her
13 contemptuous feelings for this penitent boy. She took
14 hold of my uninjured hand and thrashed down on it with
15 the belt. She gave me what she called: six of the best!
16 Her arithmetic was obviously faulty- it was nearer
17 twelve!

18 "Some 65 years later I still have the scars of
19 a brazen boy, that's what Sister **BAE** called me,
20 The raid on the orchard was a failure for which I paid a
21 high price. But for me my wounds were a badge of daring
22 and courage and straight out of an adventure comic.
23 Jesus suffered five wounds of martyrdom, this brazen boy
24 had three wounds only and was scarred for life.

25 "Nothing comes fairer to light than what has been

1 long hidden."

2 "The grim reaper hovered over both young and old in
3 the orphanage..."

4 Sorry I have read that one. I have got mixed up
5 there.

6 LADY SMITH: It is quite all right, Dexter, I think that, as
7 we all do with word-processing, part of page 7 has been
8 repeated on page 14.

9 A. I blame my -- mea culpa, My wife. My wife is my
10 secretary. She doesn't get any~--

11 LADY SMITH: We are all capable of it. It may be the last
12 box on page 14, I do not think was on page 7. If you go
13 right down to the last box there I think that's a new
14 one.

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: So do read that if you want to.

17 A. Sorry, which?

18 LADY SMITH: The one that starts:

19 "Boys will be boys."

20 A. Yes.

21 "Boys will be boys and our souls, black as the
22 devil. Consequently no crocodile tears were shed for
23 the nuns. We had nothing in common with them, except
24 humanity. De mortuis nil bonum. Concerning the dead,
25 say nothing... Deo gratias."

1 MR MacAULAY: Thank you for that Dexter. There is one
2 particular point I wanted to ask you about the death of
3 [REDACTED] From what I understood from what you
4 said, were you suggesting there that he was buried at
5 St Mary's Cemetery --

6 A. He was buried, yes, I think that by -- Les Askan(?),
7 that we were talking about, gone to the BBC, you were
8 talking in excess of 450. There was probably more
9 because recording was not quite their strong point at
10 the orphanage.

11 Q. But you weren't involved in any funeral taken place?

12 A. Well, I was unaware that [REDACTED] I was first
13 acquainted when I moved up from the juniors to the
14 seniors in the dormitory and the boy in the next bed to
15 me happened to know [REDACTED] because they were
16 a similar age. Because the dormitory contained boys
17 from the wide spectrum of a boy like me, at eight years
18 old, right through to 15. So this boy had actually been
19 with [REDACTED] in the juniors as well. So it was he
20 that told me and then I asked the nun and she told me it
21 was a black slug. Now, you know, if a nun said
22 something to you that was sacrosanct, you believe
23 everything you were told.

24 Q. So that is where the black slug suggestion comes from?

25 A. That's where that comes from, yes. Obviously that was

1 fabrication.

2 Q. Now, you left Smyllum at the age of 15?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. In the last year or two prior to leaving, did the
5 physical abuse you have told us about, did that cease or
6 did it lessen?

7 A. Well, for me -- when I was abused it was primarily
8 because of something that somebody had not owned up to
9 and collectively I was part of the flock and I would be
10 fleeced, if I can use that term.

11 And I was -- I don't know -- I would make sure that
12 I didn't get involved with boys who were naturally
13 trouble makers if you like, who were continually in
14 trouble. The scallywags as BAE used to call them.
15 And I was always kind of circumspect about that and
16 I would make sure that I had nothing to do with them,
17 because I learnt early on to avoid trouble at any cost
18 because having lived in that period of time I knew what
19 the results were.

20 Q. But what I'm trying to establish, as you got older, did
21 the abuse directed to yourself --

22 A. For me, yes, it did because -- it did and
23 notwithstanding the fact that I was a senior boy in the
24 natural, I was the oldest boy in terms of the duration
25 of the orphanage. Not the oldest in terms of

1 chronological age, but in terms of my seniority. In
2 other words, my pedigree was fine. They knew what to
3 expect from me. And so, therefore -- I remember one nun
4 saying to the other that "Young Dexter would run the
5 house down." That was the phrase used and I never quite
6 understood what that meant. But what I think it meant
7 was that if the nuns gave me a job to do, I did a good
8 job and I would do a wee bit extra. Are you with me?
9 Now the logic behind that was this, that I kind of
10 endeared myself to them, so if there was going to be
11 a job to be done, I had to do it or I would put my hand
12 up because then it took me away from the confines of the
13 barrack square and it would allow me -- I could be
14 trusted.

15 Q. You moved from Smyllum to St Columba's in Larks?

16 A. Yes, that's -- that was an another dreadful, dreadful
17 time for me.

18 Q. Can I stop you there because we are not looking at
19 St Columba's at present, so I don't want to go --

20 A. It was just the fact that I had gone there without
21 consultation.

22 Q. Indeed. I think you tell us it sort of came out of the
23 blue?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And you left without saying goodbyes to any friends?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. You left St Columba's I think when you were 16, is that
3 correct?

4 A. Would be about that, yes. I think so. It was a very
5 stressful time for me and so yes.

6 Q. But thereafter I think, as we understand, that you were
7 anxious to learn and you self educated at least
8 initially?

9 A. Yes, what happened was that -- I don't know -- I had run
10 away, did I mention that? I was in a -- I ran away from
11 St Columba's and finished up in Kilmarnock.

12 Q. You mention that in your statement.

13 A. I do, yes, because that's important. And I escaped.
14 I was like the bird flying from the cage so to speak.
15 My problem was that I couldn't survive because the
16 orphanage hadn't prepared me for life outwith because
17 I was an institutional child. I knew nothing else.

18 Q. And you were in different places after you left
19 St Columba's.

20 A. Yes. I went to Kilmarnock. The reason I went to
21 Kilmarnock was primarily because I knew I had an uncle.
22 I didn't know what his surname was. I was so naive and
23 I wasn't worldly wise and I presumed that I would just
24 get on the train from Largs and go to -- and I would
25 find him. I was a very feeble minded individual at that

1 particular time.

2 And so, as I say, I had saved up all my money
3 because I could not spend it on anything because that
4 institution that you referred to was exactly -- mirrored
5 Smyllum in terms of its discipline and so on. So I had
6 to obey the rules.

7 Q. There came a point in time in your life when you
8 realised that you wanted to get some further education.

9 A. Yes. Well, what happened was I was put into -- the
10 police took me from a telephone kiosk which I had spent
11 about a week in it, avoiding the police and I had run
12 out of money. And I'm sitting on this park bench and
13 this kindly lady sat and said, "Are you all right, son?"
14 I said "Yes". And because I was so simple, and if
15 someone asks me a question I will give you the right
16 answer and I won't lie, I didn't have that ability. She
17 said, "Where are you from?" And I told her where I was
18 from. I said Largs. She said, "Where have you come from
19 today?" I said Largs. She said, "Where are you
20 staying?" And I pointed to a telephone box. "What are
21 you doing in there?" And she gave me money. Then she
22 said, by the way, there is another Catholic institution
23 in Kilmarnock and it is called the Nazareth House, go up
24 there.

25 So, Dexter goes up the hill, knocks on the big door.

1 I was amazed by the big knocker, it was something out of
2 Dickens and this nun -- it was a different Order, and
3 I explained could I have accommodation for the night.
4 She just slammed the door in my face and I went back to
5 the telephone kiosk.

6 About 12.30 pm, I didn't have a watch obviously,
7 these policemen -- I was in a feart position under the
8 big black box, the A and B, and I always pressed the
9 B button to see if there was any money. And these two
10 torches shone down on me. And rigor mortis I think had
11 set in and I was lifted out and taken to a police
12 station. Is that relevant to --

13 Q. You say --

14 A. It is a lead up to the education part. It is part and
15 parcel of that.

16 Q. The children's department do find accommodation for you?

17 A. Well --

18 Q. With different families --

19 A. Yes, that was later on.

20 Q. -- over a period of time but if we move on to the
21 education part. I'm interested in that.

22 A. Well, the education started when they put me back into
23 an orphanage. This precursor of the social work,
24 children's officer chap, who I think in a way he was
25 a kind of fatherly figure. He was a nice chap.

1 I forget what his name was. I think he saw some sort of
2 merit in me or whatever, and he had a sister who had
3 connection with the local academy. He asked me what
4 kind of job would I like to do. He gives me a whole
5 host of occupations. He said to me: would you like to
6 be a glazier. I hadn't the foggiest idea what a glazier
7 was. And I said "I don't know sir". "What about a
8 mechanic?" "I don't know sir". He gave me a whole host
9 and then he says, "I have got a friend who manages a
10 shop and he is looking for a junior, would you like to
11 work in a shop?" I said "I don't know sir." So that
12 was my first job. I got this job in a tailor shop.
13 I was still working -- I was still staying in the
14 children's home in Kilmarnock.

15 So the children's officer had spoken to his sister
16 and spoke about me and could I go up and see this lady
17 who happened to be the head of the department at the
18 time. I forget what her name was. So she took a kind
19 of motherly interest in me and asked me to write
20 an essay. So she gave me two sheets of paper. I went
21 back to the orphanage, I'm sitting in my bed, it was
22 a one room cell. It was very scantily adorned I sat
23 there and I didn't know what to write. I hadn't the
24 foggiest idea what to write.

25 Q. Is that what triggered your interest in self education?

1 A. Yes, so I write a paragraphed story. I think the topic
2 was something to do with a sport or something like that.
3 The only sport I knew was football. So I wrote about
4 the Smyllum team. That was it. So she saw something of
5 worth or merit whatever I had written. I think that's
6 the secret of a good teacher, it is to spot the
7 potential in a child.

8 Q. I'm interested in the fact that -- if we can move
9 through it -- that you eventually studied a degree in
10 teacher training at the University of Dundee?

11 A. I did a whole host of things. The first was I have got
12 a -- I think it was a Royal Society of Arts, an O Level
13 in economic organisation. I don't know how I managed to
14 pass that because I was just quoting chapter and verse
15 of that. There was not much writing in that. And I got
16 that and at the other end of the spectrum, over the
17 period of years, I got a Fellowship as well. Between
18 that I did correspondence courses. My first
19 correspondence course was the International
20 Correspondence School and I had to give that up because
21 I didn't understand the questions. I didn't have the
22 vocabulary, the comprehension, my reading age there
23 I was about 16 and I was at a reading age of perhaps
24 a 10 year old and my spelling was even worse --

25 Q. Through a process of self education you got to a point,

1 did you not, where you got a degree in teacher training
2 at the University of Dundee and you also studied
3 archaeology and history --

4 A. The fellowship is -- I'm an Indiana Jones, that's the
5 fellowship.

6 Q. I think you became a teacher?

7 A. I have been a teacher and I did a stint at the
8 college --

9 Q. We don't need to know the detail, but that became your
10 occupation?

11 A. Indeed yes, but it was a hard, hard struggle. I have
12 climbed my own personal Matterhorn and I am on the way
13 down. I have got all the bits of papers and the gongs
14 and everything like that. They really have no
15 consequence. To me the ultimate achievement was that
16 first bit of paper, economic organisation. The problem
17 with that one was the loneliness came in again. I had
18 no one to celebrate this with. I had no one to share it
19 and that caused me a lot of distress, you know.

20 I had no mother or father or anyone because I was
21 virtually isolated between the age that I left the
22 orphanage at 15 right the way through to when
23 I graduated. So that was by myself. No mentor. And
24 that always caused me -- I had problems also with
25 relating to girls. That was another problem I had, was

1 one of the girls took a fancy to me or vice versa, or
2 whatever, and she asked me out to the cinema and I said
3 no. So she kept pestering me. So I said I would meet
4 her in the cinema. And then she said, "Would you like
5 to come and meet mother and father?" And I said no.
6 Then she begs. So I goes to this house, went through
7 the back door into the kitchen and the family are
8 sitting around and I knew instantly what was going to be
9 asked of me: where are you staying Dexter? I'm staying
10 in an orphanage. Now you get -- that then raises
11 a whole lot of issues. You know, why are you there?
12 What about your mother and father? And so on. So what
13 did Dexter do? I just got up and left. I left.

14 Q. I think it is also right to say that you haven't had any
15 counselling or treatment?

16 A. I haven't. Perhaps that's my own worst enemy as such.
17 I found it difficult to relate to people who are senior
18 to me, who have got some sort of dominance over me, and
19 not being able to share anything. So I found in life
20 just to be my own boss and I will go where I want to go,
21 kind of business. That was my problem. Not being able
22 to share some -- because I had no parents, there was
23 nobody that could help me.

24 Q. Can I take you to page 25 of your statement, Dexter. It
25 is paragraph 184.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Now here you are dealing with your hopes for this
3 Inquiry.

4 A. Yes.

5 "I would just like to see some justice. Not through
6 financial reward but through restitution and honesty.
7 There has been a cry in the wilderness for too long."

8 In other words, the logic behind that was I was
9 actually quite infuriated by one of the Princes of the
10 Church who had said that chaps like me and
11 Frank Docherty and the rest were the "searchers after
12 gold". Now that was an affront to me. They had used
13 the tar brush on us and the usual kind of white wash
14 over themselves. In other words, they were kind of --
15 what would I say? -- they had Christianity on their lips
16 but not on their deeds. Their servants were active in
17 the church but not active in its Gospel, and that's what
18 that relates to. There was a lack of honesty. It goes
19 back to Bishop Fulton's saying about the church, the
20 pearls and the shells.

21 Q. Can I put this to you then, so that you understand the
22 position, nuns who have been at Smyllum have been spoken
23 to by the Inquiry.

24 A. Yes, indeed.

25 Q. I think the nuns that may have been involved with you

- 1 are probably long gone.
- 2 A. They would need be about 150, in a Biblical sense.
- 3 I don't know.
- 4 Q. But on behalf of the Daughters of Charity there is not
- 5 at present any acceptance that there was abuse at
- 6 Smyllum. Do you understand that?
- 7 A. Well, we have had that from other Commissions in other
- 8 countries and you know the problem is does the de'il
- 9 tell the truth? I really don't know about that one.
- 10 Q. And the message that we seem to be obtaining from the
- 11 statements taken from the nuns is that they were kind
- 12 and caring and Smyllum was a happy place.
- 13 A. Well, they must be reading from Hans Christian Anderson,
- 14 it must be a fairytale. I don't quite know where they
- 15 get this because these nuns weren't there 60 odd years
- 16 ago. They were not walking in my shoes. But the nuns
- 17 today are presenting a picture today. It is different.
- 18 You are talking about six decades ago, and they weren't
- 19 even pieces of protoplasms, so how could they come out
- 20 with such an absurd statement?
- 21 Q. Indeed. It is one you say is absurd and you totally
- 22 disagree with that?
- 23 A. Not just myself, but the whole opus of studies from
- 24 other countries and so on, you know. So we can't all be
- 25 lying. That's a problem, you see.

1 I don't think the nuns or the Catholic Church
2 understand the concept of truth, that's my problem that
3 I have with it, because I have been lied to all my days.
4 All my days.

5 The institution is protected, the child is not. It
6 is a bit like the army. The army will come round and
7 protect the senior officers, so if I as a NCO or
8 whatever you know, they will screw me down.

9 And it is also I think to do with this infallibility
10 concept that they have. Everything they say is cloaked
11 with infallibility and I'm wrong or everybody else is
12 wrong and they are right. But it is to do with the
13 nature of the institution. That's the problem.

14 They should actually have a wee bit introspection,
15 do their mea culpas, flagellate themselves, go on their
16 hands and knees and say, "Well, look, this happened."
17 Recognise that and let's go on and move...

18 I have got nothing -- I extend a hand of friendship,
19 warm and sincere, to these nuns. I don't have a problem
20 with that, but their interpretation of something that
21 happened 60 years ago is really not on. A wee bit of
22 charity required there: is it possible? It goes back to
23 Sister BAE, is she on her hands and knees there in
24 supplication? And saying: well, look, does my religion
25 vouchsafe what I'm doing? Is there anything in there?

1 You are flogging a young child. For what reason?
2 Because that child has got original sin. It is all
3 about sin. You see?
4 Q. That is a very interesting note to finish on.
5 A. Sorry.
6 Q. Dexter, thank you very much indeed for coming here to
7 give your evidence, and I'm just going to let Her
8 Ladyship know there are no written questions that have
9 been submitted for Dexter and I don't know if there are
10 any questions.
11 LADY SMITH: Thank you. I will just check to those
12 representatives who are still present in the hearing
13 room, and if you could tell me audibly because I can't
14 see whether you are shaking your heads or not, please.
15 Has anyone any application for any questions of Dexter
16 now?
17 NEW SPEAKER: No thank you, my Lady.
18 LADY SMITH: Anybody else?
19 NEW SPEAKER: No my Lady, no thank you.
20 MS O'NEILL: No thank you, my Lady.
21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
22 Dexter, thank you for coming to give evidence today.
23 Before you go, could I thank you for all the work that
24 has gone into your own submission. I can see that that
25 is the product of probably many long hours.

1 A. It is indeed.

2 LADY SMITH: And also commend you on how articulate it is
3 and what a beautiful use of language, even without
4 an early education of the sort that some children have
5 had, you have plainly now managed to accomplish --

6 A. Well if I can interject, my Lady, I'm a great fan of
7 Burns, you see, and I have got on my wallet it says:

8 "The triumph of the truly great is never never to
9 despair."

10 Get knowledge all you can -- and that's what I did.

11 Can I also, and I have to give thanks to the team
12 who were very supportive of me, what I call the
13 equivalent of the helper saints and we have one here and
14 also [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I can never get that, sorry.
15 It went through my mind a bit, an automobile or
16 something, I was trying to find a connection but
17 I couldn't grasp it. If it wasn't for these nice people
18 I would not be here this evening.

19 It is very difficult for a chap like me, at my age,
20 to speak to young people who have no conception of what
21 happened six decades ago, and my testimony in a sense
22 was like opening Pandora's box and it all came out. And
23 at times I was silent, I was like a river that was
24 running low; at other times I was like a river in full
25 spate, gushing through a broken dyke. So, you know, for

1 ██████████ in particular, how he could possibly write down
2 what I was saying because, it might make future sense,
3 but at the time opening a box after 60 years and just --
4 that was very difficult, very difficult.

5 They did an excellent job and I commend them all to
6 you.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Thank you for that Dexter. I know
8 it will mean a lot to the team to hear it and all I have
9 to say now is that you can go, you are free to go and
10 I hope you manage to keep enjoying books. You have got
11 time to do that now.

12 MR MacAULAY: Now, my Lady, that's all the evidence for
13 today. Tomorrow there are three oral witnesses lined up
14 and of course we also have the issue about reading in
15 statements. We keep a watching brief on that and if the
16 opportunity arises that will take place.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you, yes. As I said earlier, we can be
18 flexible about that and I will be guided by you as to
19 when you think we can best fit them in. Thank you very
20 much.

21 We will finish at that point for today and we will
22 resume the evidence at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

23 (4.05 pm)

24 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
25 on Thursday, 30th November 2017)

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