

Thursday, 7 December 2017

(10.00 am)

LADY SMITH: Good morning.

Mr MacAulay.

MR MacAULAY: Good morning, my Lady.

The first witness this morning is an applicant. He wants to remain anonymous and to use the name "Jimmy" in the course of his evidence.

LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

Good morning, Jimmy. I would like you to take the oath please.

"JIMMY" (sworn)

LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.

The microphone will make it easier for you to make yourself heard and the red file is something that Mr MacAulay may refer you to as he is asking questions, but he will keep you right on that.

Mr MacAulay, when you are ready.

Questions from MR MacAULAY

MR MacAULAY: My Lady.

Good morning, Jimmy.

A. Good morning.

Q. I don't wanted your date of birth, but can you confirm for me that your year of birth is 1961?

A. Yes.

1 Q. You have provided the Inquiry with a statement and
2 I will be asking you questions about it and, as you have
3 realised, it is in front of you in that red folder.
4 Before I do that can I tell you that if I ask you
5 a question -- and this may be particularly relevant for
6 dates -- and you can't remember just say so; it is not
7 a problem.

8 Likewise, if something comes to mind that you
9 haven't mentioned before, again feel free to tell us
10 about that.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. If we then just look at your statement -- for the
13 transcript the reference is WIT.001.001.0608.

14 A. That is correct.

15 Q. Can I take you to the last page of the statement; that
16 is at 0637. Can I ask you to confirm that you have
17 signed the statement.

18 A. Yes, I have.

19 Q. If you look at the last paragraph, do you tell us that:

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

22 A. That is correct, yes.

23 Q. Likewise you go on to say:

24 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
25 statement are true."

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Can I go back then, Jimmy, to life before you went into
3 care. Did you have much of a recollection of what life
4 was like before you went into care?
- 5 A. No, not really. The only information that I've come
6 across has been written, of records, so my personal
7 memory of being very young and at home with me mother
8 is -- I haven't really got any memories of that. Very,
9 very vague anyway, if there is any there. So ...
- 10 Q. Do you remember, for example, first of all being in
11 a place called Nazareth House?
- 12 A. Again, that's -- I know I was put in Nazareth House.
13 Again, the memories from Nazareth House are very vague
14 and I know through records that I was taken from me
15 mother's house, put in Nazareth House, back to me
16 mother's, and back to Nazareth House. But my memory of
17 that is very, very vague.
- 18 Q. You have a memory, however, of being in Smyllum.
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. We can work out from the records for Smyllum that you
21 were admitted to Smyllum on [REDACTED] 1965; would that
22 be about correct?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. That would mean that you are aged about four years of
25 age when you went to Smyllum.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Do you remember your first day at Smyllum?

3 A. I do, yes.

4 Q. I will come back to that. You left Smyllum according to

5 the records we have seen and went to Newcastle in

6 [REDACTED] 1970.

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. You would be aged about 5 at that time?

9 A. Going to Newcastle?

10 Q. Sorry, aged 9 rather.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So you spent about five years or so in Smyllum?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. When you were admitted to Smyllum, because I understand

15 you did have brothers and sisters, were any of your

16 siblings admitted with you?

17 A. Am I allowed to say? Yes one of my brothers was

18 admitted at the same time with me.

19 Q. Was he an older brother?

20 A. Yes, he was.

21 Q. I think there was a year or so difference --

22 A. Yes, he was.

23 Q. What was your understanding at that time when you were

24 admitted to Smyllum -- and indeed during your time at

25 Smyllum -- in relation to other brothers and sisters you

- 1 may have had?
- 2 A. I didn't know I had any brothers or sisters at that
3 time. The only brother I knew was -- I'm going to say
4 his name -- was **AAH** So that was the only one.
5 I didn't know I had any brothers or sisters at that
6 point.
- 7 Q. We will look at this in due course. Because you went to
8 St Vincent's in Newcastle in 1970, and did you discover
9 then that you did have other brothers?
- 10 A. Yeah. But also when I was in Smyllum, I discovered that
11 I had a sister, a younger sister, but at the point you
12 says, actually going into Smyllum, I just -- I was
13 always under the impression it was me and me brother,
14 **AAH** .
- 15 Q. When you were actually admitted?
- 16 A. Yes, but when I sent to St Vincent's, that's when
17 I realised I had some other brothers.
- 18 Q. Did you come across your sister when you were actually
19 at Smyllum?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. You met her there?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. You told me a minute ago, Jimmy, that you do have
24 a recollection of your first day at Smyllum; what is
25 that recollection?

1 A. Well, I just remember going there and it just looking
2 like a big massive fort or a castle and getting taken
3 in. Not really knowing anything or feeling any -- what
4 I was there for or anything. Not knowing I was going
5 into a big place full of kids and stuff like that.

6 Q. When you went there to begin with, were you in
7 a particular part of the building?

8 A. Yeah, I was put into -- it was, if you want -- I think
9 there were three or four separate houses, as they call
10 them, and the house that I was put in -- I have got to
11 be honest with you, I don't know if I get this name
12 right -- I think it was called St Kentigern's. I'm not
13 really 100 per cent sure of the name.

14 Q. I think that it is a name we have heard of before,
15 St Kentigern.

16 But at your age were you in a particular age group
17 when you were first admitted?

18 A. Again, I'm not too sure if I was within an age group but
19 when I first was put there, I was just put in a big
20 dormitory. There were beds either side, like
21 an old-fashioned hospital. The younger ones were all
22 sorted together and, as the age groups went up, they
23 would be sort of further up or in another dormitory.

24 Q. Are you saying to me that even in the dormitory you were
25 in there was a range of ages?

- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. Starting perhaps -- were you one of the youngest at the
3 age of about 3 or so --
- 4 A. Yeah.
- 5 Q. -- or 4?
- 6 A. I probably would have been one of the youngest ones but
7 I can remember there being younger people there than me,
8 like babies and stuff, because they would be crying or
9 and whatever. There was definitely younger people than
10 me there.
- 11 Q. Throughout your five years at Smyllum, did you remain in
12 that same dormitory or did you move elsewhere?
- 13 A. Well, what happened was the dormitories used to be like
14 old-fashioned -- if you can get this picture of the
15 orphanage or whatever, big long dormitories, but about
16 probably a year before I left, those dormitories were
17 converted into smaller rooms, if you want, where there
18 was probably four or five, or possibly six, people in
19 these rooms. So that was like -- all the dormitories
20 were converted into separate bedrooms, if you want.
- 21 Q. If that's a year or so before you left, that would be
22 the late 1960s?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Do I take it then it was the same space --
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. -- but it was divided up?
- 2 A. Yes, it was exactly the same space.
- 3 Q. When you went there initially, what about your older
4 brother? Was he in the same dormitory or not?
- 5 A. Again, I don't know if he was in the same dormitory but
6 he was in the same house as me.
- 7 Q. Over the period that you were there, you I think tell us
8 in your statement that you had contact with a Scottish
9 social worker.
- 10 A. Yeah, Mr Miller.
- 11 Q. And indeed that remained the position after you moved to
12 Newcastle?
- 13 A. Yeah.
- 14 Q. He was someone who was a regular visitor?
- 15 A. Yeah.
- 16 Q. I think you tell us that you enjoyed his visits.
- 17 A. Yeah, I did. I used to look forward to him coming. He
18 was the only person who actually showed us any
19 affection, in a sense, and showed any interest in me.
20 So, yes, I used to look forward to him coming down.
- 21 Q. I don't want to know your name, your second name or your
22 names, but when you were addressed by a nun, was it your
23 first name or your second name or something else that
24 was used when you were being addressed?
- 25 A. Well, again mostly it was always me first name followed

- 1 by me second name, it was never just --
- 2 Q. One or the other?
- 3 A. Yes, it was always together. If you had done anything
- 4 or deemed to be doing anything wrong, it was just your
- 5 back name, really, your second name.
- 6 Q. Apart from nuns, were there also laypeople who were
- 7 working at Smyllum when you were there?
- 8 A. Yes, there was I think -- my memory was there was always
- 9 two members of staff on, female members of staff, and we
- 10 used to call them Miss and whatever their first name
- 11 was, so it was Miss [REDACTED] or Miss whatever.
- 12 Q. If I take you then to St Kentigern's where you were, was
- 13 there a particular nun in charge of you?
- 14 A. Yes. That nun, she or they changed probably three
- 15 times, so there were three separate nuns in charge of
- 16 that house.
- 17 Q. Over the period you were there?
- 18 A. Yeah.
- 19 Q. Can you remember any of the names?
- 20 A. I can't, no. It is easy to find out. If you want to
- 21 find out, just go back in the records and when I left
- 22 the nun in charge then, just find out who it was. It
- 23 would be an easy thing, but the names don't come to us
- 24 at all.
- 25 Q. When you addressed a nun, was it simply "Sister" or was

- 1 it "Sister X"?
- 2 A. It would be "Sister" plus her name.
- 3 Q. It may be we can work out for example that there was
- 4 a Sister **EAB** who might have been involved in
- 5 St Kentigern's. Does that name ring a bell with you at
- 6 all?
- 7 A. Sister **EAB** does, but I think she might have been
- 8 one of the ones when I was -- one of the first ones, but
- 9 I don't want to say something that I'm not 100 per cent
- 10 sure of, so I don't know.
- 11 Q. Okay. One of the things you say early on in your
- 12 statement is that -- and you are talking here about the
- 13 people that were looking after you -- is that:
- 14 "None of the people who were supposed to look after
- 15 me ever showed any love towards me or gave me any
- 16 praise."
- 17 A. No, they never did.
- 18 Q. Was that throughout the whole period --
- 19 A. I was never shown any love or any affection. I was
- 20 never congratulated on doing anything good or anything.
- 21 Never ever, ever, ever was shown any affection at all.
- 22 Q. We will look later at things that happened to you, but
- 23 just leaving that aside, if you did something that was
- 24 praiseworthy, no praise?
- 25 A. Nothing. Nothing at all.

1 Q. One thing you do tell us about the dormitories and when
2 you were to go to sleep is that you had to sleep with
3 your hands on top of the blankets.

4 A. Mm.

5 Q. Can you just help me with that: was that a rule that had
6 to be obeyed?

7 A. It was a rule that had to be obeyed. On numerous
8 occasions you went to bed and, like I say, everybody was
9 visible from, if you want, big long dormitories and
10 there was a corridor that connected all of them. That
11 was open right the way through, so there wasn't any
12 doors that sectioned it off. When the nuns came in they
13 would walk straight in, look across, and if you had your
14 hands under the sheets, which you would do normally you
15 were told to take your arms out and put them on the top
16 of the bed.

17 At the time I didn't know what that was about. As
18 time went on, I do understand now what they were trying
19 to do.

20 Q. What is your understanding now?

21 A. They were trying to stop you from touching yourself.
22 That was their perversion. That was their thoughts.
23 That's what they were thinking; that's not what I was
24 thinking. The majority of the people there weren't
25 thinking that. We were too young to know stuff like

- 1 that, but that's their perversions.
- 2 Q. And if your hands were under the blankets, you are
- 3 saying to me you would be told to bring them back up
- 4 above the blanket?
- 5 A. Aye, you would get slapped for that.
- 6 Q. Would you get slapped for that?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. It was a slap?
- 9 A. It was a slap, not a pat or just a little touch; it was
- 10 a slap.
- 11 Q. What about the food at Smyllum; can you tell me a little
- 12 bit about that? How did you find the food?
- 13 A. I found the food -- it was -- it fed us, that was it.
- 14 We got fed regularly, we got our breakfast on the
- 15 morning -- I always remember cornflakes or
- 16 Rice Krispies, never a cooked breakfast, it might have
- 17 been porridge or whatever -- and then you came back from
- 18 school for your dinner. The dinner was brought up from
- 19 central kitchen and at night-time you got your tea and
- 20 that was it.
- 21 Q. As far as a dining area was concerned, was there
- 22 a dining area specific for St Kentigern's?
- 23 A. Yes, there was.
- 24 Q. When you dined when you went for your food, did you mix
- 25 with girls as well or was it simply boys?

- 1 A. Boys and girls together.
- 2 Q. If there was something you didn't like put before you,
3 what would happen then?
- 4 A. You had to eat everything, no matter what it was.
5 I still have vivid memories as well. We used to go away
6 and one time I was given a salad and I didn't want to
7 eat that and I didn't like it and I was physically -- it
8 was physically forced in me mouth, with the nun's hand
9 held over me mouth until I swallowed it.
- 10 Q. Do you know what nun that was?
- 11 A. No, I don't.
- 12 Q. Was it a nun who --
- 13 A. It wasn't a nun who was in charge of me in
14 St Kentigern's; it was just one of the nuns who was
15 there at the time.
- 16 Q. Looking broadly at the routine then at Smyllum, if you
17 take it from the morning towards the evening, you would
18 get up at a particular time in the morning?
- 19 A. There were two sort of routines. On a normal day you
20 would get up 6 o'clock, get washed, brush your teeth all
21 the rest of it, make your bed, stand to attention when
22 they come in, if everything's okay. If everything
23 wasn't okay, you got whatever happened to you until your
24 bed was tidy and all the rest of it.
- 25 You didn't go down to the dining room, it was all on

1 the same level. So we went to the dining area. Got our
2 breakfast. Came back. Went to school. Came back from
3 school. Had our dinner. Went back to school. Came
4 back. Maybe finish about 3 o'clock. Had a bit play
5 about. Get called in for your tea. Had your tea. Went
6 back out for an hour and got called back in and that was
7 basically it.

8 Q. If you start when you were there to begin with in the
9 younger ages, when was bedtime?

10 A. 6.00, 6.30.

11 Q. As you got older did you get longer to stay out?

12 A. Yeah probably 7.00, 7.30 and again, depending how old
13 you were, maybe 8 o'clock.

14 Q. I think you tell us that during Lent your start was even
15 earlier.

16 A. Yes, we were up 5 o'clock getting ready for church.
17 Everybody was there, it was like you had to be there,
18 off you went. I still remember, funny, because all the
19 girls had to wear black headscarves and they were like
20 compulsory for the girls and -- so down there, went to
21 church, done what you had to do in church, and just came
22 back, waited for breakfast, and then again just back to
23 school.

24 Q. You tell us in your statement that there was
25 a television in the home.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Was there one that you in St Kentigern's had to
3 yourselves or was it a shared television area; can you
4 help me with that?
- 5 A. It was in the playroom, if you want, and it was just for
6 the people in St Kentigern's. But I mean it was -- when
7 the telly was on it was like -- it had to be something
8 that was really good. It wasn't on all the time.
- 9 Q. Could you go and sit and watch television if you wished
10 to do that?
- 11 A. No, no. You could go in the room with the telly there
12 but the telly was -- you couldn't put the telly on.
- 13 Q. What were the rules in connection with the television
14 then?
- 15 A. The telly was on when, as I say, when there was
16 something they wanted you to watch. I didn't ever go in
17 and watch a cartoon or anything like that. You couldn't
18 do that sort of stuff.
- 19 Q. I think you have already said to us, Jimmy, religion was
20 an important element in life at Smyllum.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. You do tell us about your own experience of your first
23 communion.
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Can you help me with that? What was that like?

1 A. The build up to the first communion it was -- I forgot
2 what year it was at school, anyway but it started from
3 the very, very start of that year group going into
4 school, educating you on what you should do and all
5 about the Bible and all about God and the Devil and all
6 that sort of stuff. The build up just got bigger --
7 like Christmas is nowadays, it gets bigger and bigger
8 until about a week beforehand. Now all the people who
9 are getting the holy communion were taken -- taken from
10 all the houses -- were taken and put in this what
11 I would only describe as an annexe off the main part.
12 In there we had sheets that were cotton, everything was
13 pristine. We got new clothes. It was just like -- like
14 I said in the statement, it was like getting married.
15 It was like a build-up to that. It was a really, really
16 big thing.

17 The day we got there, the day we actually had our
18 communion again, breakfast, everything, the whole lot.
19 Everything. New clobber, new clothes, all the rest of
20 it. Made to feel really special and done our communion.

21 Next day, that was all gone, back to reality. But
22 not long after that there was -- the year group above
23 us, they were confirmed. I don't know if it still
24 happens, like, but they were confirmed into the church.
25 We led the parade going into church and we got that

- 1 stuff back for that day as well.
- 2 Q. So communion and confirmation dates were special days?
- 3 A. Oh yeah, yeah.
- 4 Q. What about birthdays? What happened on your birthday?
- 5 A. I used to celebrate my birthday on [REDACTED], but it
- 6 wasn't until I went to St Vincent's I found out my
- 7 birthday was on [REDACTED]. There wasn't anything special.
- 8 I can't ever remember getting any birthday cake or
- 9 birthday parties or presents or anything like that.
- 10 Q. How did you have the wrong date?
- 11 A. I don't know, being quite honest with you. Personally,
- 12 myself, this is what I think -- I could be completely
- 13 wrong, but somebody must have known when me birthday was
- 14 but forgot and then just decided, oh, it is his
- 15 birthday, we'd better tell him so it just carried on
- 16 like that.
- 17 Q. What about Christmas? Was there much of a celebration
- 18 at Christmas?
- 19 A. Not very good. Just -- I don't really want to talk
- 20 about it.
- 21 Q. Would you like a break?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. Okay. I was going to ask you next about what physical
- 24 abuse happened to you at Smyllum. Are you happy at the
- 25 moment to discuss that?

1 A. Yes, yes.

2 Q. You do give us quite a bit of detail about that in your
3 statement and you tell us that you were hit by the nuns
4 and by the staff.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Can you just give me some feel for what happened to you.
7 Let's take the nuns; what sort of abuse was that?

8 A. I mean, getting slapped and getting kicked, that was
9 a regular -- that happened on a regular basis and that
10 was for trivial stuff as well.

11 Again, one thing I have pointed out in my statement
12 was I vividly remember -- I joined the Cubs. Why I'm
13 telling you about joining the Cubs is because it started
14 being part of the story. I was given a jumper and in
15 those days, my memory takes us back, it wasn't a green
16 jumper that they get now or a sweatshirt, it was like
17 a dark navy jumper with a big collar on it. That was --
18 oh, I was part of something then.

19 So I really wanted to be part of the Cubs. Anyway
20 I got me jumper and the Cub meeting, everybody who went
21 to the Cubs met in like a yard at the front or at the
22 back, where everybody used to play. They would walk
23 round the side and go down the big long path and go into
24 Lanark and go into the Cubs down there. So you were
25 also getting out of Smyllum in a sense so that was

1 really good.

2 But this time I was late to go to meet them, so
3 instead of going the back way I decided to go round the
4 front way and go down the stairs (inaudible) anyway.
5 I walked past this room that was where they used to keep
6 the boilers, the water stuff like that, and you weren't
7 really allowed in there. But the door was open and
8 I shouldn't have been in, but I went in just to have
9 a look. As I went in there was two nuns in there and
10 one of the nuns had her arms around the other one, at
11 which point she turned around and give me a right good
12 hiding. I'm talking about punching, kicking, pulling me
13 hair, everything you could think of.

14 She literally -- I can distinctly remember there was
15 a boiler and it had a flame coming out of it, like
16 a flamethrower that was directed into where they used to
17 heat the water up. There was a small gap about that
18 (indicates) --

19 Q. About 6 inches you indicate.

20 A. Yes. She put me face really close to that -- and I can
21 still remember me hair getting singed, the front of me
22 hair and my eyelashes. The smell of singeing stayed
23 with us for quite a while after that.

24 She given me a proper hiding, like I'm talking about
25 a really, really aggressively bad hiding. I woke up in

1 there by myself. I don't know how long I was out
2 unconscious for. I woke up, I had blood coming from me
3 ear, like that, blood coming from my nose, I was black
4 and blue and I was grazed. The only thing on the top of
5 me body was the collar from the jumper -- that's why
6 I was telling you about me jumper. That was the only
7 thing that was there.

8 I got up, I don't know what I had done at that
9 point. I hadn't done anything, but I says, "What have
10 I done?" It was obviously because I had gone into the
11 boiler room and that's why she went mad, but I picked me
12 jumper up, I went upstairs, and I hid until they come
13 back from the Cubs, and I had to pinch somebody else's
14 jumper so I wouldn't get wrong or told off for tearing
15 me jumper.

16 For days and weeks after that I was black and blue
17 and really, really painful, like you felt you had been
18 in a boxing match actually.

19 Q. Can I ask you, Jimmy, what age you were at that time?

20 A. Six, seven.

21 Q. You mentioned the collar of your jumper being all that
22 was left on top of you; what about the rest of the
23 jumper, was it there?

24 A. Oh yeah, yeah, I picked that up, I seen it, I picked it
25 up, I took it up, and I hid that and -- but I hid it

1 because -- why when I think -- I hid it thinking that
2 I would have got wrong for tearing it or ripping it or
3 destroying the jumper, so I actually pinched somebody
4 else's. Why would they do that?

5 Q. But coming back to what happened, I think in passing you
6 said it happened because you went into the boiler room,
7 but when you went into the boiler room you saw
8 something.

9 A. Yeah, yeah. The nun she had -- one of the nuns had her
10 arms around the other nun and, again, I don't know what
11 she was doing, but years later -- I'm talking years
12 later -- it always used to be on me mind, what was that
13 about, why would she be so aggressive and nasty towards
14 us at that particular time. It wasn't just for going in
15 the boiler room. I couldn't work out in my mind what it
16 was. But years afterwards there was a programme on the
17 telly -- I don't know if it is still on -- called
18 Brookside and it was one of the first lesbian kisses on
19 the telly at the time. That's when it dawned on us: she
20 was obviously kissing the other nun.

21 That's what I think, there's no other explanation to
22 me that I can come up with, that's what I'm thinking,
23 but she turned on us because of that.

24 Q. And you say she turned on you. There were two nuns
25 there. Was it just one nun?

- 1 A. Yeah, just one nun. I don't know what the other one
2 done.
- 3 Q. Looking to what happened to you, just -- you have told
4 us about the singeing of your hair, but the hitting,
5 what did she use to hit you?
- 6 A. Fists, hands, knees, everything.
- 7 Q. Were you kicked?
- 8 A. Oh definitely kicked, kneed. When she had us down she
9 was bringing her knee up to me face. Just went mental,
10 went ballistic actually.
- 11 Q. You indicated that you had marks of injury on your body;
12 is that correct?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Did you go for any treatment?
- 15 A. No, I didn't see anybody about it.
- 16 Q. Did anybody say anything to you about it?
- 17 A. No, no.
- 18 Q. Were these marks perfectly visible?
- 19 A. On my face they were, especially the blood coming out of
20 my ear, because that continued -- not for days, like,
21 but definitely for part of the rest of that day it did.
- 22 Q. The nun in question, was she a nun you had dealings with
23 before that?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Was she the nun in charge of your section?

- 1 A. She was, yes.
- 2 Q. At that time?
- 3 A. Yes. She was the nun who was in charge of me when
4 I left Smyllum.
- 5 Q. When you left in 1970?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. I would come back to the period after that, but before
8 we do that, can I just go back to when you were in
9 nursery school -- that's going back when you were
10 younger. Was there any physical abuse then --
- 11 A. Yes, I used to get slapped. We used to get slapped,
12 told off and just -- just -- it was normal. It just was
13 normal. That was just how it was.
- 14 Q. When you got slapped, where would you be slapped?
- 15 A. On the face.
- 16 Q. Any other part of your body?
- 17 A. Back of the legs.
- 18 Q. Was there anything used on your legs?
- 19 A. I had a caning and a belt before, but that was for being
20 naughty at school, like.
- 21 Q. You mentioned bed-wetting in your statement. Did you
22 wet the bed on occasion?
- 23 A. Yes, when I was unwell.
- 24 Q. But before we come to that, when you are not unwell
25 generally in the dormitory were you a bed-wetter?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. But were there bed-wetters in the dormitory?
- 3 A. Oh yes, yes. They were all put in -- they weren't in
4 a separate dormitory but they were segregated and all
5 put together in the same part.
- 6 Q. Did you see what happened to them?
- 7 A. They used to get -- they used to get ridiculed, hit,
8 made to strip their beds, marched up and down, and all
9 the stuff that shouldn't happen to them, really, like
10 for --
- 11 Q. The marching up and down, was that in the dormitory?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Did you understand what the purpose behind that was?
- 14 A. No, not really. I mean, you just join in, don't you?
15 Because they wet the bed you called them names as well,
16 you become part of it, part of what --
- 17 Q. Would you be calling these boys names.
- 18 A. Yes, they would come through, everybody, and you were
19 encouraged to do it, actually.
- 20 Q. What sort of names were being used?
- 21 A. "Pissy bed", "tramps" and all that sort of stuff,
22 really.
- 23 Q. You mention being ill and I think there was a time when
24 you got the measles.
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Can you remember what age you were at that time?

2 A. Again, possibly 5 or 6, I can't really remember. But at
3 the time, I got up as normal, was going to go for me
4 breakfast, I was stopped -- somebody said "stop",
5 because my face was really, really red -- in fact my
6 whole body was really, really red, covered in tiny spots
7 and I was told just to sort of stay where I was.

8 A nun came in or a member of staff came in, looked
9 at us, again, don't go anywhere, got really concerned
10 that something was wrong, and then I knew things was
11 going really wrong when the nun doctor came and seen us
12 and then I was put in a separate room.

13 But even from then I had -- the nun who came and
14 seen us first, she slapped us about for being unwell.
15 She hit us for being unwell; can you believe that?
16 It's ...

17 Q. Then you were put to bed were you?

18 A. Yes, yes.

19 Q. After that did you -- were you in a room by yourself, an
20 isolation room?

21 A. Yes, I was segregated. I was put this a room by myself
22 and I was sick in there on a few occasions and I got
23 wrong -- well, I got hit and slapped for being sick.
24 Once I was sick, I was sick in the pillowcase so she
25 wouldn't see it, but she found it and I got -- she got

1 us up in the middle of the night and had to strip the
2 bed, go into the shower, and then go back to bed.

3 Q. What nun was this?

4 A. Again, this was the middle of the three nuns who were in
5 charge. I don't know her name.

6 Q. Was it at this time that you may have wet the bed?

7 A. Yeah, yeah.

8 Q. In relation to that, what happened to you?

9 A. Again, I was ridiculed. I was hit and for a short
10 period of time I was given nylon sheets. That was
11 an insult actually within that group because if you got
12 nylon sheets you were one of the bed-wetters and again
13 you were ridiculed for having nylon sheets as well.

14 At the time I didn't understand that but I now know,
15 or my assumption is that it is a lot easier to dry --
16 wash and dry nylon sheets.

17 Q. But so far as bed-wetting was concerned then was that
18 really it for you when you were ill?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. You mentioned the episode involving the boiler room and
21 the nun that did what she did to you that you have told
22 us about. What about after that, insofar as she was
23 concerned? Did you have much dealings with her?

24 A. Yeah, she used to attack us every -- not every
25 opportunity, but most times she would hit us, slap us

1 when I wasn't expecting it, grab us, kick us.

2 Again, I was given a chocolate Santa, that comes to
3 mind as well, coming up to Christmas time, and I got
4 that and she took it off us and smashed -- and I was
5 actually -- I went into the cloakroom and hid behind one
6 of the coats so I could eat it, but she found us in
7 there and she just lifted her foot up and put it square
8 in me chest and just pushed us back against the wall and
9 really forced herself and pushed -- and really hurt us,
10 actually.

11 Even as time went on, I would walk up the middle of
12 the corridor so it would give us an opportunity to try
13 and avoid, if there was anything coming, so at least
14 I would have at least about a yard of time just to try
15 and duck and get away from the full force of the slap.
16 I still actually do that in life as well. I still walk
17 down the road rather than the path. It is something
18 that stayed with us, that, actually.

19 Q. What you say in your statement is that after the
20 incident you described to the Inquiry, your life was
21 really, as you put it, absolutely horrendous.

22 A. It was just terrible. It was horrendous. It was really
23 bad.

24 Q. Was it because of this particular nun?

25 A. Yes. I felt threatened all the time. Constantly on me

1 toes. Just always, always on guard. Really careful
2 about what I said how I said it. I just wanted to avoid
3 her as best as I possibly could, which was impossible in
4 a sense.

5 Q. The things she did to you -- you have talked about
6 hitting, what else? Did she do anything else apart from
7 that that you can remember?

8 A. No, not really.

9 Q. You mentioned in your statement for example that she
10 would spit on you.

11 A. Oh yeah. She would spit, pull me hair, she would do all
12 that sort of stuff, and even deprive us -- if they were
13 giving out little sweets or stuff like that, I wouldn't
14 get any of them.

15 I would know not to be there. And anyway, once I'd
16 seen that happen, they was giving out little -- the
17 boiled sweets, I wouldn't even go near them because
18 I knew it would just antagonise her.

19 Q. The Christmas Santa episode, how did she deal with the
20 Christmas Santa?

21 A. I got the Christmas Santa off the school teacher. She
22 give everyone in the class one. I knew if I would have
23 gone in into the house it would have either been taken
24 off us or I would have to share it and I was determined
25 I was going to eat this. So I went down, and that's why

1 I was hiding behind the coats in the cloakroom. But she
2 seen us and they took it off us and just smashed it.
3 They are not like that now, but they were thick then and
4 covered in really thick tin foil as well, if you want,
5 but she just took and smashed it.

6 Q. How did she smash it?

7 A. She just put it on the floor and then stood on it.

8 Q. And stood on it?

9 A. She just threw it on the floor and then stood on it.

10 Q. In relation to the treatment that she was giving you,
11 did you give her any cause at all for that sort of
12 treatment?

13 A. No. After a while you get to know what you can and
14 can't do. You just didn't do the things you weren't
15 supposed to do because you got a hiding for doing
16 nothing. And a hiding for -- when you did do something
17 it was a lot more severe.

18 Once I went to -- I was -- on a Saturday, you got
19 your shilling, or whatever it was, and I told them I was
20 going to go into Lanark, but I decided -- because, if
21 you like, boys and girls went to the boating lake that
22 was at the back, you went through a forest and all and
23 you came to it. So I went there.

24 On the way back again she found out and she got the
25 cricket bat out and she gave us whacks with the cricket

1 bat on me hands.

2 That was normal. That was normal, that. If you had
3 done anything wrong, that's what you got.

4 Q. In relation to the treatment that you have been telling
5 us about from this particular nun, would others be aware
6 of this treatment?

7 A. Yes, yes.

8 Q. Would this treatment be in an area where people could
9 see what was going on?

10 A. Normally if it was a punishment getting dished out, like
11 going to the boating lake, that was done in the public
12 arena. But getting punched and spat on and all the rest
13 of that sort of stuff, that was when I was by myself or
14 she would do it in a place where nobody could see it --
15 or at least I didn't think they could not see it anyway.
16 But all the boys and girls knew about it, because we
17 used to talk about it, "Oh, she has given me a hiding
18 again", stuff like that.

19 Q. And as a result of these hidings, did you have marks of
20 injury?

21 A. Yeah, but again that was -- you are talking about
22 normality. That's just normal.

23 Q. What about other children? Did you see any other
24 children being treated in a similar way to you?

25 A. Yeah, yeah. Didn't see anything, you don't want to get

- 1 involve in it really, like. You just keep your head
2 down.
- 3 Q. But you have been talking about a particular nun, what
4 about other nuns? Did you see whether other nuns
5 treated children in a similar sort of way?
- 6 A. I have seen nuns slapping people. Again, you become
7 oblivious to it because it is just what happens. That's
8 just what happens.
- 9 Q. Did you ever run away?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. But were you aware that children did run away?
- 12 A. Oh yes, yes.
- 13 Q. Did you see what happened to any child that ran away?
- 14 A. Yes, when they ran away, they were -- everything got
15 locked down.
- 16 Q. What do you mean by that?
- 17 A. Everything -- you weren't really allowed out, nobody,
18 everybody was kept in or you were just allowed in the
19 yard at the back. You weren't allowed to go any further
20 than that and it was really strict bedtimes and strict
21 getting up and everybody knew the person who ran away --
22 and in fact, I know somebody who ran away once and he
23 got knocked over and killed. That was massive, that was
24 a really big thing then.
- 25 Q. I think that was a girl.

1 A. I will be honest with you, I can't remember if it was
2 a boy or a girl, but they got knocked over and
3 I remember it being really, really big.

4 When the people who ran away did come back, they
5 were -- well, it was bad for them.

6 Q. How do you know that?

7 A. Because everybody knew. They just was -- if you want,
8 they were just followed around by a nun. They weren't
9 handcuffed, but they were really -- it was really
10 strict. They would have to be at a certain place at
11 a certain time and the person who -- they used to be
12 like a bodyguard on them, actually, just walking around
13 with them.

14 Q. Do you know if they received any punishment for running
15 away?

16 A. Oh yeah. Well, I didn't actually see it, but the
17 stories were that they were given the cricket bat
18 treatment and stuff like that.

19 Q. I think you tell us in your statement also that there
20 were priests on the scene from time to time.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. You have indicated the religious aspect of life at
23 Smyllum. Did you have much to do with the priests?

24 A. Well, the priests used to come and come into the -- into
25 each home but they were treated like -- like you could

1 see in the difference in the way they were treated.
2 They put cushions behind their backs, lifted their feet
3 up and put them on an pouffe. We had an actual Celtic
4 mat in front of the television and you weren't allowed
5 to walk on that, but the priests would walk on it.

6 They were just treated differently, massively
7 differently. They even got different food from us when
8 they were sitting in the dining room.

9 Q. Would the priests ever chastise you in any way?

10 A. Not really, no. The priests, they would just come and
11 visit and then go away. I can't ever remember being
12 told off by the priests or anything like that.

13 Q. You mention a man by the name of [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] in your
14 statement.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. You thought he was perhaps a [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] or
17 [REDACTED] Did you have anything to do with
18 him?

19 A. Yeah, well at the time I didn't know he was called
20 [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] I just knew him as [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] but as time
21 went on -- and I have been up to visit the grave and
22 stuff like that of the kids from Smyllum [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]
24 [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] but at the time he was just
25 called [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] .

1 So anyway, he used to be [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED] but
3 he was -- he used to hit us and stuff like that as well.

4 Q. For what reason would he hit you?

5 A. Again, I was in the orchard at the top of Smyllum, again
6 you weren't supposed to be in there, but I was in there
7 with a few other lads getting plums or something. He
8 stopped, he came in and stopped it all, and he was
9 talking to us and I couldn't hear what he was saying,
10 and I went, "Eh?" like that and he just slapped us full
11 on the face. Again, I got up there by myself,
12 unconscious, everybody else had gone, and I just got on
13 with it. But he would hit you and slap you for whatever
14 reason.

15 Q. So on that occasion you are talking to us about, are you
16 saying he knocked you unconscious?

17 A. Yeah, yeah.

18 Q. So when you came round, you simply went your way?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. There was an occasion, I think, when someone broke
21 a window and you got the blame for it.

22 A. I did, yeah.

23 Q. What happened there?

24 A. Again, he said I broke the window, which I didn't, and
25 I got a hiding for that as well.

- 1 Q. From him?
- 2 A. Well, he hit us, but he reported it to the nun and I got
3 another hiding for it.
- 4 Q. He seemed to have some involvement with golf; is that
5 correct.
- 6 A. Oh yeah, yeah, yeah.
- 7 Q. What was that?
- 8 A. The golf -- he used to get his golf clubs out and --
9 I've got a picture in my mind, but you walked down
10 through a little wooded area and then you'd come to like
11 a big field which was flat and he used to set his golf
12 equipment up there. All the kids used to stand -- not
13 right in front of him, but I wouldn't say -- maybe
14 15 yards away then the wee ones a bit further away. If
15 you got the golf ball, you could have a go, and he would
16 whack the ball wherever it went. On a few occasions
17 I have seen the ball hit people and actually I have seen
18 the ball knock somebody's teeth out once. Nothing done
19 about it like, but ...
- 20 Q. So the position was that the boys were close enough to
21 him when he was hitting the ball and you would then
22 chase after the ball if it went some distance?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. And if you got the ball, you would have a turn of the
25 golf club?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. But you are telling us that the golf ball on occasions
3 hit some of the children?

4 A. Oh yeah. Again because the closer you got the more
5 chance you had of getting the ball, so people were
6 getting closer.

7 LADY SMITH: They were getting closer and closer to BAC
8 you say?

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: In the hope they would get the ball just as it
11 was beginning to lift?

12 A. Yes.

13 MR MacAULAY: Quite a dangerous game then.

14 A. Oh yeah.

15 Q. Did you take part in that game?

16 A. Oh yeah, everybody joined in. It was exciting to be
17 part of it, actually. You got the ball and -- if you
18 were lucky to get the ball, because even the balls that
19 came towards you, it was a fight to keep ahold of the
20 ball, so it wasn't often I got the ball.

21 Q. You also tell us about one occasion when he allowed you
22 to use his shotgun.

23 A. Oh yeah.

24 Q. He used to have a shotgun over his arm on a regular
25 basis?

1 A. I wouldn't say on a regular basis, but he had a shotgun
2 on this particular day.

3 Q. What age were you when you were asked to use it?

4 A. Six, seven, possibly eight.

5 LADY SMITH: Can you remember what it looked like?

6 A. It looked like a shotgun. I know that's a bit silly,
7 but ...

8 LADY SMITH: A big one?

9 A. Yeah, yeah. It was not a double-barrelled shotgun, it
10 was a single. When he cocked it, you put the shotgun
11 cartridge in. It wasn't like a double-barrelled
12 shotgun, it was just a single one. I hope that helps
13 you.

14 LADY SMITH: But it was a gun that took a cartridge after
15 you had broken it?

16 A. Oh yeah.

17 MR MacAULAY: What you say in your statement, Jimmy -- and
18 this is at paragraph 60 of your statement on page 13 is
19 that so many things happened "that you could go on
20 forever.

21 A. I could, yeah --

22 LADY SMITH: Just before you leave the subject of

23 [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] I see that in your statement you
24 mentioned that you understand that [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Is that right?

3 A. Yes.

4 LADY SMITH: [REDACTED]

5 A. It is called [REDACTED] I felt like going [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED] It was really, really, really

7 insulting actually.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

9 A. [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]

11 MR MacAULAY: You say that so many things happened, you tell

12 us, you could go on forever but a lot of things happened

13 to you and to others at Smyllum.

14 A. Oh yeah.

15 Q. You have been telling us about the physical abuse that

16 happened to you. Did you see that physical abuse on

17 a regular basis --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- throughout your time at Smyllum?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You do tell us about an incident with the person you

22 call the nun doctor.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Are you able to tell us about that?

25 A. Yeah, again, I still can't quite explain the reasons

1 why -- what was it about. We used to have to go and see
2 this nun, once a year, whatever it was. I went in and
3 she makes you cough and all the rest of that stuff. She
4 took her top off -- I don't know if you remember, they
5 used to have this thick (indicates) chest plate they
6 used to have on -- I don't know what you would call
7 it -- underneath that tunic if you want. She took that
8 off and put me head against her breasts. She didn't rub
9 us on them, but she put us there and held us there and
10 I don't know what that was about.

11 Q. What age were you at that time?

12 A. Again, five, six, seven.

13 Q. You do tell us a little bit about your experience at
14 school at Smyllum. We understand there was an in-house
15 school, if you like --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- a primary school you and you attended that school.

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. How did you find the school?

20 A. Horrible. Absolutely horrible. I was never, ever good
21 at written English or maths or anything like that. So
22 I was always hit. Always ridiculed. Never really
23 educated properly and I just hated school and I was
24 constantly getting the belt for not getting my spellings
25 right and all that sort of stuff.

1 Q. Were the teachers lay teachers?

2 A. Yes, they were.

3 Q. Were there nuns present?

4 A. No. The nuns used to come up maybe once a year and have
5 a look at your books and stuff like that. That was it.

6 Q. Do you remember any family members coming to visit you
7 when you were at Smyllum?

8 A. No.

9 Q. But did you have some contact with other families
10 outwith Smyllum during your time at Smyllum?

11 A. Yes. We used to -- more around Christmastime we used to
12 go -- they used to take us to different places and have
13 parties and -- I don't know who would organise them, but
14 there would be -- maybe a church somewhere would
15 organise a party and we would all go there.

16 I think members of the church, the families, used to
17 take one or two and that was shared out amongst the
18 community. That was always good. But I remember for
19 a short period that I was taken and looked after over
20 the Christmas by somebody and that was a really, really
21 exciting time for me. I remember that.

22 But we used to go with different families, to get
23 looked after, out for a day or something like that.

24 Q. That was an enjoyable experience?

25 A. It was really good, yeah, away from the scrutinisation,

1 the aggressiveness, and all of that. You weren't on
2 your toes as much when you were away with them. It was
3 actually something to look forward to, actually.

4 Q. You mentioned Mr Miller and he came to see you from time
5 to time.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. I think you told us it was an experience you also
8 enjoyed.

9 A. Yes, it was.

10 Q. Did you ever tell him what was happening to you at
11 Smyllum?

12 A. No, I never told him anything.

13 Q. Why not?

14 A. I don't know really. But I never -- it is a good
15 question. I don't know why I didn't tell him.

16 Q. You have mentioned your older brother. Was he somebody
17 then that you had regular contact with during your time
18 at Smyllum?

19 A. Yes. We were together quite a lot actually.

20 Q. But your younger sister, what about her?

21 A. No, she was in a separate house, which I don't know what
22 the name of it was, but I used to see her once or twice
23 a week maybe, if that.

24 Q. Did you not -- you didn't eat together then?

25 A. No, no, no. Like I said, at one point I didn't even

1 know I had a sister there, so I don't even know how
2 I found out.

3 Q. She was in a different age group; is that right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. But there were girls also at St Kentigern's?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. I think I already took from you, Jimmy, that you came to
8 leave Smyllum --

9 A. Sorry, you were talking about Christmas and stuff like
10 that.

11 Q. Yes.

12 A. I'm happy to go back and talk about that now if you
13 want.

14 Q. If you don't mind, that would be helpful. I was asking
15 you about what happened at Christmas. Can you -- you
16 have told us a little bit perhaps of going out with
17 families, but apart from that --

18 A. Christmas wasn't really a good experience. I can't
19 really remember anything other than the religious part.
20 Didn't -- it might sound a bit selfish, but we didn't
21 really get many presents and stuff like that. If we did
22 get stuff, it was always like -- if it was like 1960,
23 we'd get a 1965 Beano book. Stuff like that.

24 One year in particular we were told -- the
25 Royal Navy used to come up and used to come and have a

1 bit of a party and dance and stuff like that and they
2 decided that they were going to come and give us some
3 presents at Christmas. So we woke up on Christmas
4 morning and there was nothing, nothing at all on
5 Christmas morning. Not even your usual -- they'd give
6 you a sock with an apple in it or an orange or something
7 like that.

8 So we waited and waited and waited and they came
9 about 5 o'clock in the afternoon, at which point
10 Christmas -- that was the worst Christmas I have ever
11 experienced. But they gave out presents to people and
12 they were in, if you want, like a soap bag that
13 everybody was put there. I was given me soap bag and in
14 it I had a little canon with one of the wheels missing.
15 Again it sounds ungrateful, but when you are young you
16 are just expecting something. Again, the Beano book
17 without any cover on it, and everybody was absolutely
18 gutted and it was just -- we were told to be grateful
19 for what you have got and people who were showing
20 disrespect, if you want in a sense, or what was seen to
21 be disrespect, they were just hit.

22 Q. So that is your memory of that Christmas?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can you remember what age you were at that time?

25 A. Again 5 or 6, maybe 7. I can't quite remember.

1 Q. Very well then. I was going to move on then to when you
2 went to move to St Vincent's in Newcastle. That was in
3 September 1970 when you were aged about 9; is that
4 right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Can you just tell me about how that came to happen?

7 A. Well, I got up as normal, was going for me breakfast,
8 and I was told I was going to Newcastle. That's how
9 I found out. I didn't know why, how I were getting
10 there, anything. Later on, just momentarily after me
11 breakfast had finished, Mr Miller appeared and it is
12 strange because he appeared in the house. He normally
13 went to the front of the building where there was like
14 a posh room. So that again was unusual. But I was just
15 taken away and off I went to Newcastle.

16 Q. I think your older brother went with you at the time.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. But not your sister?

19 A. Not me sister, no.

20 Q. Then so far as St Vincent's at Newcastle would be
21 concerned, what were your first impressions of that
22 establishment?

23 A. We got there and that's when I discovered I had
24 brothers. There were three of me other brothers there
25 and the older brother, he was in a different -- there --

1 there used to be St Vincent's and then St Phillip's, and
2 St Philip's was for the older people, that was in
3 a separate part of -- different part of Newcastle. So
4 he was in there.

5 Me other brothers were in Seaton House in
6 St Vincent's and -- again, more homely in St Vincent's.
7 The rooms were smaller. The dining room was smaller.
8 Less children in the house.

9 Q. So it was a smaller establishment compared to Smyllum?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. But it was run by the same nuns?

12 A. Yes, yes.

13 Q. There is one thing you say -- and I know you talk about
14 this later on in your statement, but I will ask you
15 about it now -- you look back on the day you left
16 Scotland as the saddest day of your life. Can you
17 explain that for me?

18 A. It's funny, because it is the only really thing that
19 really affects us now.

20 Q. Would you like a short break?

21 A. No. It is the saddest day in me life in a sense because
22 I lost something inside us, I lost what I was. I'm not
23 English, I'm not Scottish. I'm British, but I have lost
24 my nationality, which, for whatever reason, they took us
25 out of Scotland. I'll never, ever know why they done

1 that. There is no reason whatsoever in my opinion why
2 I should have been taken out of Scotland for any reason.
3 I now understand, or I have got an inclination of the
4 reason behind that, which I'm not going to go into it,
5 because it is speculation on my part, but I feel my
6 nationality was robbed off us. And it really hurts us
7 actually. I would have loved to have voted in the
8 independence, but I couldn't. I would love to be able
9 to -- when I hear the Flower of Scotland at the rugby
10 matches and when the rugby matches -- Scotland has been
11 being played lately on the telly, I would love to be
12 part of that, but I don't feel I can. It is really --
13 I'm [REDACTED] and I'm happy to be one, but I would like
14 to be Scottish. But I can't go back in time now. I'm
15 settled where I am and that really, really hurts us
16 that.

17 Q. Coming back then to your time at St Vincent's, you were
18 there for a number of years, is that correct, until what
19 age, 14, 15, something like that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Who was in charge at St Vincent's when you got there?

22 A. There was -- when I first went there, there was a nun
23 called Sister [REDACTED] IAG who was in charge. Same set up
24 as in Smyllum. The same set up. A nun was in charge of
25 the house followed by members of staff. The difference

1 between that -- there were four members of staff in
2 Seaton House, where they used to fluctuate and they
3 would sleep the night and have their own bedrooms and
4 that.

5 So there would be two members of staff on for
6 a period of time and then they would -- other ones would
7 come and they would relieve them so it was always two
8 members of staff on.

9 Q. Were you in Seaton House?

10 A. Yes, I was.

11 Q. Who was the sister in charge?

12 A. That was Sister [REDACTED] IAG to start with. Again, as time
13 went on, the nuns changed. There was
14 a Sister [REDACTED] IAG a Sister [REDACTED] AFZ, and then
15 a Sister [REDACTED] HAE

16 Q. You tell us in your statement that St Vincent's was more
17 homely than Smyllum.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. But what about the sort of abuse you have told us about
20 and intimidation you have told us about as far as
21 Smyllum was concerned? What was St Vincent's like?

22 A. Again, you got slapped about and you got punished but it
23 wasn't as severe as what Smyllum was. One of the good
24 things about St Vincent's was you could access the
25 outside world because it was only about 100 metres along

1 the drive and you were outside. I went to school
2 outside, I mixed with kids from outside, and that made
3 it a lot better, and I think it was open to more
4 scrutiny as well. But I used to get beatings in there
5 as well.

6 Q. Was there any particular Sister that was involved in
7 that?

8 A. There was a Sister IAG to start with and, again,
9 she was a [REDACTED] as well and
10 everybody used to play football and I was playing in the
11 yard at the back of St Vincent's -- again, it is a vivid
12 memory, I can picture it in my mind. At one end there
13 was a stone built wall and the other end was a rendered
14 wall, with like a pebble-dash on it. I let a goal in
15 and she came up with the ball once and she rammed it in
16 me face. I was close enough to the wall when she rammed
17 it in me face that to push me head into the wall and
18 I cut me head -- I was bouncing my head off the pebbles
19 that was on there, the pebble-dash. That -- again, that
20 hurt as well. Again -- it is normal.

21 Q. But that's one incident. Were there any other incidents
22 with her?

23 A. Yeah. There were other incidents. As time went on, but
24 Sister AFZ - I never got hit from Sister AFZ
25 and Sister HAE never lifted her arm to us ever. As

1 time went on that scrutiny was opened up and the members
2 of staff were more likely to say something --

3 Q. And you were getting older as well, of course, which
4 would presumably make a big difference.

5 A. It would make a big difference, actually.

6 Q. But as far as Sister [REDACTED] IAG [REDACTED] was concerned, what you
7 say in your statement is that she would, as you put it,
8 tip off the edge every now and then?

9 A. Aye, she would go off her rocker and just for whatever
10 reason, just lose it, and just --

11 Q. And what would happen if that was the case?

12 A. It would all depend how close you were to her at the
13 time. Again, she would just lash out and just hit you.

14 Q. I want to ask you about sexual abuse that you tell us
15 about at Newcastle; are you happy enough to talk about
16 that?

17 A. Yeah, yeah.

18 Q. Can I just ask you what happened in connection with
19 being sexually abused?

20 A. We used to go on holiday once a year and in this
21 particular year I was probably about 10 going on 11. So
22 my birth was in [REDACTED] so it was in the [REDACTED] holidays,
23 so it was about that time.

24 This year we went to a caravan site in Scarborough
25 it was called Wallace's caravan site. In the middle

1 weekend, me two older brothers and myself and two
2 members of staff and a trainee priest at the time who
3 was called Bernard Traynor. We all went to the social
4 club -- and I remember it because I shouldn't have been
5 allowed in, but we managed to tell a few porkies to get
6 me in on me age.

7 Anyway, I got in, had a pint of shandy, went back to
8 the caravan. And in the caravan, the beds -- everybody
9 was sharing beds and everybody took turns in sharing the
10 bed with Bernard because he was in a double bed. So one
11 day it was whoever it was.

12 Anyway this particular day it was my turn to share
13 the bed with him and he just was -- well, I woke up and
14 he had his hand on me penis, rubbing it, his penis was
15 erect, pressing up against me. I didn't really know
16 what to do. I got up, told him I was going to the
17 toilet or whatever it was. Went back -- I had nowhere
18 else to go, so I went back to bed with him. I told him
19 that he was touching us and he said, oh, I didn't know
20 I was having a wet dream, and at the time I didn't know
21 what a wet dream was at the time.

22 But subsequently that was reported to the police and
23 the police followed that through.

24 Q. That's much later on, of course.

25 A. Yes, much later on.

- 1 Q. Before coming to that, you are telling us about this
2 holiday that Bernard Traynor was involved in. Before
3 that, had Bernard Traynor had any involvement with
4 St Vincent's?
- 5 A. Well, Bernard Traynor came to St Vincent's from a place
6 called Ushaw College in Durham, where they used to train
7 their priests, that's where they'd go to learn whatever
8 they learnt. I suppose part of their training was to
9 work with kids or whatever.
- 10 So he would come up -- he wasn't the only trainee
11 priest, there were quite a few who would come and go,
12 but he, for whatever reason, he came back and he
13 became -- not part of the staff, but part of the
14 structure of Seaton House. So he was there regular.
- 15 Q. Before you went on this holiday he was somebody you knew
16 from being a regular person at St Vincent's?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Had anything happened before?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. Did you have some involvement with Bernard Traynor
21 before you went on the holiday?
- 22 A. Involvement as in? Just -- yeah, he used to come or we
23 used to go out and walk about. Not -- we did
24 purpose-walks and stuff like that and he would be part
25 of it. They had a place at Lindisfarne, Holy Island,

1 where we would go there maybe at the weekend and he
2 would be there. He was really like a member of staff in
3 a sense.

4 Q. So far as you are concerned and the episode you have
5 told us about when you were on holiday, is that
6 essentially the only time you had -- any such behaviour
7 happened between you and Bernard Traynor?

8 A. Yes. He would say funny things like, "Have you had any
9 wanking competitions at school?" "Not really, no." But
10 he would say that he did when he was at school. So he
11 would say things like that and he once called -- he said
12 that dorks are homosexuals or puffs. I think that was
13 what his exact words were. Things like that. He would
14 say strange things but nothing -- he never actually
15 touched us up to that point.

16 Q. You tell us that you went to local schools then when you
17 went to St Vincent's, a local primary school and then
18 a local secondary school.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. How did you find the schools there when you were --

21 A. Well, the first school was called St Cuthbert's School
22 and I hated it. I absolutely detested it. The teachers
23 were horrible in there. Just really, really nasty,
24 I felt. I mean in particular once, somebody gave us a
25 little tiny sweet, about this big (indicates), like a

1 lipstick with a bit of liquorice inside it with a hard
2 candy shell. I was eating that and she made us spit it
3 out and she made us stand on the desk and she told
4 everybody in the class, "Don't give him anything because
5 he gets plenty", and, "Just because he is from
6 St Vincent's, you don't have to feel sorry for him", and
7 all the rest of it. For whatever reason she was like
8 that, I don't know.

9 Q. What about the secondary school then?

10 A. Secondary school was completely different. St Aidan's
11 was really, really good. I felt I gained more out of
12 being in St Aidan's than any other education place I was
13 at.

14 Again, really friendly, showed a bit of interest in
15 what I was doing. They also celebrated that -- if you
16 were good at sport, and I was good at sport, so you got
17 a bit of kudos out of that. St Aidan's was good.

18 Actually, I have got some of my school reports that
19 I read through. If you look at St Cuthbert's, the
20 school report, everything is bad. I got Ds and fails
21 and everything, I'm not good at this, I'm not good at
22 that, and I'm lazy. When I go to St Aidan's and read
23 through it, he is a bright boy, wanting to try to work
24 hard, he's does well in this, he does well in that, and
25 me marks have just gone up.

- 1 Q. You are particularly complimentary about a teacher --
- 2 A. Mr Wilson.
- 3 Q. -- who showed you affection and you felt cared for you.
- 4 A. It was Mr Wilson and Mr Douglas. Mr Wilson was my form
- 5 teacher at the time. Just completely different.
- 6 Absolutely massively different.
- 7 Q. When you came to leave care, when you came to leave
- 8 St Vincent's, I think you tell us in your statement you
- 9 went to live with your mother.
- 10 A. That is right.
- 11 Q. Your mother by this time had moved to [REDACTED].
- 12 A. Yes. She had remarried and me stepfather, for whatever
- 13 reason, decided he was going to [REDACTED]
- 14 [REDACTED] get us out of care. His driving force behind it
- 15 actually got us out of care. I don't believe my mother
- 16 -- I think my mother wouldn't have done anything, she
- 17 would still have just left things as they were.
- 18 Q. But nevertheless, because of him then, you were taken
- 19 out of care?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. What age were you at that time?
- 22 A. I was [REDACTED] 14/15. [REDACTED]
- 23 [REDACTED] About 14/15,
- 24 I think.
- 25 Q. So far as your brother that you were with at

1 St Vincent's was concerned, what about him? Did he
2 also --

3 A. No, AAH -- so what happened when -- I was taken out
4 of care and put into the charge and care of me mother,
5 if you want. Shortly after that, me sister she came to
6 live with me mother, but AAH didn't come until later
7 on because he was [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED] I don't know, but
10 anyway, that's where they went. But it wasn't until
11 late that AAH came and lived with us.

12 Q. You mentioned Mr Miller, the social worker that had
13 taken you to Newcastle; did he come to visit also?

14 A. Mr Miller at that point was -- he was off the scene.
15 There was another social worker, if you want, who was
16 based in Newcastle. I don't know what happened, but it
17 was probably easier to get a social worker based in
18 Newcastle. But he was called David Ingram and he used
19 to come and look after -- well, not look after, but come
20 and see me.

21 Q. There is a section in your statement, Jimmy, where you
22 talk about the impact of your experiences in care. You
23 have already, I think, mentioned how sad you feel about
24 what you call the loss of your nationality. I won't go
25 back to that. But you do say at one point that you feel

1 that care did have a -- being in care did have a massive
2 effect on you.

3 A. I don't think it did anything, like.

4 Q. If we look at paragraph 107, it is on page 23.

5 A. Oh right.

6 Q. I think essentially what you said --

7 A. Yeah that's --

8 Q. -- is that with a different background you might have
9 done even better than --

10 A. I would have definitely been --

11 Q. -- what you have done.

12 A. I think I look back and I feel -- other people tell us
13 this as well -- I lack a lot of confidence. I could
14 have been -- I know if I had been myself I could have
15 done something. It was just years and years of just
16 what we have been talking about. It just wears you out
17 and it takes a long time to overcome it. A lot of time
18 to overcome it.

19 Q. You do tell us you get flashbacks as well.

20 A. I do, I do. Things like the Christmas thing and
21 I hate -- I don't hate Christmas but I don't like
22 Christmas. It makes us feel sad in a sense. It's
23 funny, I was just talking to one of the ladies, and it
24 seems a bit hypocritical in a sense, but the only time
25 I feel Christmassy is on Christmas Eve when I go to

1 Mass. But do I. I have always done that. I really
2 feel Christmassy then, but the build up to Christmas and
3 all the rest of it ...

4 I feel sad for other people for what's happened --
5 I walk down [REDACTED] street in
6 [REDACTED] and walk down it and I think that -- I think
7 that person might be getting abused by an alcoholic,
8 that person might be getting -- spending all their money
9 they have got on Christmas presents that they can't
10 afford, that person is going to go home and she is going
11 to get hit by a man, and that's the only I think I can
12 think of at Christmas time. I just think of sad things
13 all the time. I really don't like Christmas up to the
14 point where it actually is Christmas. I hope that makes
15 sense to you.

16 Q. You talk about flashbacks also about the Traynor episode
17 and what happened to you in the boiler room.

18 A. Yeah, the boiler room. That comes all the time, that
19 does. I think of that all the time. I just can't work
20 in my mind why somebody would be so vicious to a little
21 person for something that they didn't even understand at
22 the time. If they had have just chased us out, it would
23 have been all forgotten about and it would have been
24 nothing, nothing at all, but the reaction from her was
25 exceptionally over the top.

1 Q. You tell us also that your wife has been, I think as you
2 put it, very important to you, an absolute rock.

3 A. Yeah, me wife is the person who kept us together,
4 actually.

5 Q. You touched upon this in passing earlier, and that is
6 reporting to the police in connection with
7 Bernard Traynor. Did you report in due course -- years
8 later report to the police?

9 A. What happened was there was a bit of a -- me brother, me
10 older brother, [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED] he just was phoning me up all the time and
12 asking questions about this and about that and he was
13 wanting to get some information from the authorities and
14 he couldn't get it. They were being really obstructive.
15 So he asked me to go and try and get some information.
16 I felt the same obstacles had been put in front of me.

17 So our -- he said that he was going to go to the
18 police and report what Traynor had done. So I says not
19 to do that because I didn't want anybody to know about
20 it.

21 I went again and spoke to the people from
22 Catholic Care, based in Newcastle, explained to them
23 what was going on happen and that's -- that was the
24 first time it was reported to an authority. I asked
25 them not to do anything and they says that they couldn't

1 at that time, they had to report it to the police. It
2 was reported to the police and he was subsequently
3 interviewed, and it was investigated, and he actually
4 admitted his guilt.

5 But that went all the way through to court, but
6 prior to going to court it was -- the dates were
7 constantly being moved, constantly being moved all the
8 time, and it must have taken about two years for this --
9 from the first date I got to him actually appearing in
10 court.

11 Q. Can you tell us what year this was first set in motion?

12 A. 1995, 1996.

13 Q. So some time ago. But it ended up in court in due
14 course?

15 A. It ended up in court.

16 Q. Did you go to court?

17 A. I did actually, I went on the day. Again, the build up
18 to court -- again, I was talking about the dates always
19 getting moved, the reason why I say that is because when
20 he was in court, he stood up in the dock, if you want,
21 and what still annoys us to this day, the judge
22 apologised to him for being late. He turned up late,
23 the judge and he apologised to Traynor for being late on
24 the day. He didn't say anything to me.

25 The questions he was getting asked and his barrister

1 was putting stuff across to the judge. It was
2 Bernard Traynor's cured now because he has been in this
3 place where he has been getting treatment for 18 months,
4 and that's why they done it. They didn't -- that's what
5 they do. That's what this organisation does. They
6 protect themselves the best they possibly can. So that
7 was all prefabricated stuff. He admitted his guilt and
8 they had a little conflagration in the back room with the
9 judge, and then came out and he only got probation.

10 That's why I think this place is a waste of time
11 because nowt will happen. Nowt will happen.

12 LADY SMITH: Which court was it?

13 A. Newcastle Crown Court.

14 LADY SMITH: Is that the one on the river?

15 A. That is --

16 LADY SMITH: The big building there?

17 A. In fact it was a new building at the time, it had just
18 been built.

19 LADY SMITH: It would just have been opened at that time.

20 MR MacAULAY: One thing I want to ask you about the court
21 appearance -- I think you tell us in your statement
22 there were nuns present.

23 A. Yes, there were, because I was in the public gallery, if
24 you want, the public bit. The nuns, though they had
25 their civvies on, you knew they were nuns because they

- 1 had their little hats on and they were praying --
- 2 Q. Were they from St Vincent's?
- 3 A. I don't know where they were from, but they were
- 4 definitely nuns, yeah. And they were praying that he
- 5 was going to get off. When he got probation, they might
- 6 as well have give each other high fives.
- 7 Q. You give us some insight as to what you would like this
- 8 Inquiry to do, Jimmy, in your statement. Can I take you
- 9 to that, to paragraph 132, page 28. You are setting out
- 10 there --
- 11 A. Sorry, is it number 132, did you say?
- 12 Q. Paragraph 132. You begin by saying:
- 13 "What I hope comes out of this is that kids who are
- 14 in care get treated with dignity and respect and are not
- 15 treated like criminals."
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Can you explain to me what your hopes are then for this
- 18 Inquiry and the fact you have come here today to tell us
- 19 about your own experience?
- 20 A. Yes. I would like to think that kids who are in care
- 21 now are treated with dignity and respect and they are
- 22 given every opportunity possible. Every leg up that can
- 23 be given to them, that should be given to them because
- 24 they are on the back foot straightaway. The fact that
- 25 they are on a back foot, that stays with them for the

1 rest of their life. They haven't got the opportunities
2 for their education that a lot of people have had. They
3 always go backwards instead of forwards, so they need as
4 much help as possible.

5 Really and truly, when you look at it, care
6 shouldn't stop at 18. Just because you turn 18
7 overnight doesn't mean you are able to care for
8 yourself. That care should continue until they don't
9 need it. Because if anybody in here has got a family,
10 they wouldn't turf their son or their daughter out at
11 18. Literally just say, there you go, there is a flat
12 over there, go and pay your own bills. That shouldn't
13 happen and it happens all the time. It is still
14 happening now. Even today probably somebody has turned
15 18 and it is just switched off. That's exceptionally
16 bad and it really -- it is a reflection on everybody who
17 lives in this country. We should hang our heads in
18 shame.

19 Sorry, I would really like somebody to recommend,
20 however you recommend it to them, that's what should
21 happen.

22 LADY SMITH: So you are focusing on when children leave
23 care --

24 A. Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: -- particularly if they have no family waiting

1 to help them out as young adults? It is not enough to
2 tick the box and say, well, we looked after them while
3 they are children, they are on their own now?

4 A. Yes, they should be catered for.

5 LADY SMITH: You say in your statement -- and I see things
6 were not great when you went back to your mum's.

7 A. No.

8 LADY SMITH: You left when you were 21, was it?

9 A. I left home -- I might have been 21 or whatever, I can't
10 really remember the exact age I was when I left.

11 LADY SMITH: But a wee bit beyond 18 anyway?

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: Were you given any support of any sort at that
14 time?

15 A. Off the child care authorities?

16 LADY SMITH: Yes.

17 A. No, I wasn't.

18 LADY SMITH: Or local authorities?

19 A. No, nothing. It is tough. It is tough really because
20 you have got to contend with the fact that you feel
21 inferior but also you want to try and move on but you
22 can't because the opportunities are really limited. It
23 is tough. It is a shame because there's so much in
24 people.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes.

1 MR MacAULAY: The other point you make, Jimmy, is that a lot
2 of people who have been in care need to be cared for
3 now.

4 A. They do.

5 Q. That's the other point you make.

6 A. Yes, there is a lot of people I know who are just
7 walking about the streets. There is a lad I knew in
8 St Vincent's and I see him. I knew him from
9 St Vincent's and I see him walking [REDACTED] and
10 he absolutely stinks and his hair is manky. If he was
11 a dog, he would be looked after better. Every time
12 I see him, I give him money, I take him in for a coffee,
13 I give him something to eat, and it is shameful. It all
14 goes back to being in care.

15 The care system doesn't really -- it is not their
16 fault in the sense that they have been put in care, but
17 once they are taken into care it is their responsibility
18 and they should follow through on that. I really
19 believe that they should, that they should follow
20 through until that person doesn't need care and not just
21 turn him off at 16 and 17.

22 I would defy anybody in here who has a family to say
23 to their kids at 16, 17, there you go, and see how they
24 could cope. They would get by, but it's tough. All the
25 opportunities that's put in front of you, they would go.

1 They would be gone. It is really, really bad and I have
2 seen people who have been in care and they are just in
3 jail, drugs, alcohol, everything you want to go. That's
4 why I'm really fortunate. I sit here, I'm healthy, I've
5 got a fantastic -- I'm mortgage free, I've got a lovely
6 wife, my son is phenomenally good at what he does, and
7 I'm really happy with what I have got in life. I'm
8 really fortunate.

9 When I tell somebody me story, they absolutely can't
10 believe at what level I am in society -- I mean that
11 sounds a bit -- but where I am and how I am coping okay.
12 Even looking at me brothers, it's hurtful. It is
13 hurtful to watch them.

14 Q. One thing you say about this Inquiry is you want it to
15 be strong enough to take on the Catholic people.

16 A. Yeah, I don't think you will, like. I wish you all the
17 luck in the world about that. I have seen them operate
18 and I know people in here are working really hard --

19 LADY SMITH: Give as you chance, Jimmy.

20 A. Youse are working really hard and I really do appreciate
21 it -- and a lot of people do as well -- but I think you
22 are just going to (inaudible) you'll come up with a
23 blank. You'll not beat them. I'm telling you now, you
24 will not beat them. Don't get your hopes built up, you
25 will not beat them. Good luck.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MR MacAULAY: Thank you for that.

3 Just one other thing I want to put to you because
4 I can tell you that the Inquiry has been in contact with
5 nuns that may have been at Smyllum when you were there
6 and possibly even at St Vincent's.

7 We have spoken to a number of nuns that cover that
8 general period. Generally what we are being told is
9 that children were well cared for, there was a feeling
10 of warmth within Smyllum, and in Smyllum and Newcastle
11 there was no physical abuse. That seems to be what's
12 coming across from the nuns that we have seen.

13 A. When I came in here, the first I think I done, looked at
14 this lady here when I swore an oath, what I have told
15 you is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
16 truth. They can say what they want, they can stick
17 their heads in the sand, but the fact of the matter is
18 what I have told you is true.

19 Q. I just want to go back to the boiler room episode. You
20 said to me, I think -- and you can correct me if I'm
21 wrong -- that the nun involved with you on that occasion
22 was the last nun in charge of you.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can you remember her name?

25 A. I can't remember her name, no.

1 Q. We have a number of names in connection with
2 St Kentigern's. I have mentioned Sister [REDACTED] EAB
3 already. What about Sister [REDACTED] HCE? Does that name mean
4 anything to you?

5 A. No. Sister [REDACTED] HCE

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. Never ever heard of that one.

8 MR MacAULAY: Be that as it may, Jimmy, thank you very much
9 indeed for coming to give your evidence. It has been
10 very good to listen to you and what you said.

11 My Lady, I can tell your Ladyship that no written
12 questions have been submitted. I don't know if there
13 are any to be questions.

14 LADY SMITH: Could I check whether there are any outstanding
15 applications for questions? No? It appears there
16 aren't.

17 Jimmy, you said there's a lot in people and you are
18 absolutely right about that. I'm glad that there is
19 enough in you to have brought you along today. Thank
20 you for doing that and thank you for coming and telling
21 us so frankly and openly what your memories are of
22 having been in care.

23 I'm now able to let you go.

24 A. Thank you very much.

25 Just before I go I would just like to thank the

1 refer you to that red file, but he will sort that out
2 with you.

3 Mr MacAulay.

4 Questions from MR MacAULAY

5 MR MacAULAY: My Lady.

6 Hello Michael.

7 A. Hiya.

8 Q. I don't want your date of birth, I just want to know the
9 year of your birth. Can you confirm with me that you
10 were born in 1960?

11 A. That's correct, yeah.

12 Q. You have provided the Inquiry with a statement and
13 I will be looking at that with you in a moment. But
14 before I do that, I will be asking you questions really
15 based upon the statement that you have provided but if
16 there are any questions I ask you -- for example, in
17 connection with dates -- and you can't remember, just
18 say so. Also, if there's something that comes to your
19 mind that you haven't told us about already, again feel
20 free to tell us about that.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Do you understand that?

23 Can I look at your statement, Michael. I'm going to
24 give the reference of that for the purposes of the
25 transcript. That's WIT.001.001.0934. I want you to go

1 to the last page of the statement, which is at 0961.

2 Can I ask you to confirm that you have signed the

3 statement?

4 A. That is correct, aye.

5 Q. Can I take you to the last paragraph of the statement.

6 Do you tell us this:

7 "I have no objection to my witness statement being

8 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry"?

9 Is that the case?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You go on to say, if we just read on:

12 "I believe the facts stated in this witness

13 statement are true."

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Can I put that aside for a moment and just ask you

16 a little about your life before you went into care.

17 What recollection do you have of life before care?

18 A. I haven't got any of it, really. I know we lived in

19 Greenock, Port Glasgow somewhere, but that's about it.

20 Q. Am I right in thinking that you go to Smyllum at some

21 point, but before you went to Smyllum you were in

22 a place called Nazareth House?

23 A. That's correct, yeah.

24 Q. I think you have some memories of being in

25 Nazareth House?

- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. I'm not going to ask you about them, but do you have
3 some recollection of being there?
- 4 A. I haven't got a lot of memories. I can remember going
5 there and what it was like, I mean. It is a long time
6 ago.
- 7 Q. It is a long time ago. What I want to ask you to focus
8 on in any event is your life at Smyllum and I want to
9 look at that now.
- 10 I think the Inquiry knows from looking at records
11 that you were admitted to Smyllum on [REDACTED] 1965 when
12 you were aged about 5; is that about correct?
- 13 A. I was about 5 when I went, yeah, yeah.
- 14 Q. You left Smyllum in [REDACTED] 1970 when you were aged 10
15 and went to Newcastle.
- 16 A. That's correct, yeah.
- 17 Q. When you went to Smyllum, did you go there with any
18 siblings?
- 19 A. Me brother, AAF : we were always together, right
20 through the system, until they split us up. In
21 Newcastle they split us.
- 22 Q. He's a [REDACTED] brother?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Can you remember then your first day at Smyllum or what
25 can you remember about your first day at Smyllum?

1 A. I can remember arriving and it was just a daunting
2 building, massive, it just looked like -- I don't know
3 how to -- like a big massive mansion. It was a bit
4 scary, you know. They took us into like a side room --
5 what they called the parlour -- and Miller, the social
6 worker, spoke to the nuns and what have you and that was
7 it. We were just taken across to the house that we were
8 in.

9 I can't even remember -- the name of the house was
10 Kentigern or something like that.

11 Q. You mentioned Mr Miller; he was the social worker in
12 charge of your case at that time?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. He kept contact with you and your brother over the
15 years; is that right?

16 A. Yeah, he visited once every four months or six months or
17 whatever it was.

18 Q. But you have mentioned Kentigern House; that's where you
19 went?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Did you spend your five years at Smyllum in
22 Kentigern House?

23 A. That is correct yeah.

24 Q. Looking at the early period, can you just describe to me
25 the layout of Kentigern House? First of all, were you

1 in a dormitory of some kind?

2 A. Well, I'm involved in the construction industry now so
3 I now realise how it was made up. It was made up of
4 partition walls. You were taken into a dormitory,
5 I can't remember exactly how many beds, but there's
6 quite a few beds in the dormitory, and you were just
7 allocated a bed and that was your bed for the whole time
8 you were there.

9 Q. And what about your brother that you have mentioned,
10 your [REDACTED] brother?

11 A. AAF was taken to a separate dormitory.

12 Q. But was he within --

13 A. He was in the same house, yeah.

14 Q. So, for example, when you had your meals, your brother
15 would be having his meal in the same place as you?

16 A. That's correct, yes.

17 Q. We know that Smyllum was run mainly by nuns; is that
18 correct?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. But were there also civilian people, lay staff, working
21 there?

22 A. Yeah, you had lay staff that worked there and sometimes
23 they would stop over and make -- if anything went wrong
24 through the night, I suppose that's what they are there
25 for.

1 Q. So far as your time in Kentigern House was concerned,
2 and particularly yourself, was there a particular nun
3 who was in charge?

4 A. There was, yeah. I can't remember her name. I don't
5 want to remember her name.

6 Q. Was it the same nun throughout the whole period,
7 Michael, or did she change?

8 A. To the best of me knowledge it was the same nun.

9 Q. You said a minute ago you don't want to remember her
10 name.

11 A. No.

12 Q. Is there a reason for that?

13 A. Aye, it's took me years --

14 Q. Sorry?

15 A. It's took me a long time to get the hatred away from us
16 and just sitting here thinking about it -- sorry.

17 Q. It is okay, take your time.

18 A. They are not worth remembering.

19 LADY SMITH: If you can't remember the name, it's okay.

20 MR MacAULAY: It doesn't matter. As I said to you at the
21 beginning if you don't remember something, just say so.
22 It is not -- this is not a memory test, Michael.

23 One thing you do tell us in your statement is that
24 you were never shown any love or affection by any of
25 them --

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. Was that the position throughout your whole time there?
- 3 A. 100 per cent.
- 4 Q. Can I just ask you a little bit about the routine at
5 Smyllum. When you got up in the morning, would you go
6 and get washed; is that correct?
- 7 A. Aye, you would go for a wash and they had like a little
8 bathhouse thing at the back -- well, at the entrance of
9 it. You would get washed and what have you. Again, if
10 you didn't wash yourself properly, the nun took over and
11 she scrubbed your face raw, she would excessively rub
12 your face with a flannel, or whatever it is.
- 13 You would then go for your breakfast. Porridge, one
14 lump or two. Then you would be off to school. The
15 school -- you never left the home because the school was
16 in Smyllum, so you just walked up the hill to the
17 school.
- 18 Q. Then, at the end of the school day, would you go back
19 to --
- 20 A. You would come back down. You would go -- if I can
21 remember rightly, you had like a playroom at that side
22 of it. You would sit in there. I mean, I was only
23 young so they never let you out. You would be in the
24 playroom and then you would get your tea and then it
25 would be bed, back to bed.

- 1 Q. Looking to the early days when you were there at the
2 beginning, at the age of about 5 or 6, can you tell
3 me -- around bedtime, when would bedtime be?
- 4 A. It would be about 6 o'clock, 6.30, 6 o'clock.
- 5 Q. As you got older did that change?
- 6 A. As I got older, about 8, they started letting me have
7 like an hour or something to play out in the summer
8 nights, when there were light nights.
- 9 Q. In your statement you tell us about religious
10 instruction. Was there quite a bit of religion being
11 taught at Smyllum?
- 12 A. Well, they beat -- aye, that's all I done, religious
13 education all the time. That's all they were concerned
14 about.
- 15 Q. Did you have much to do with the priests who had contact
16 with the home?
- 17 A. We never had that much to do with the priests. You
18 would see them around. They never spoke to you, you
19 never spoke to them really.
- 20 Q. One thing you tell us about in your statement is about
21 medical inspections. You have some recollection of
22 there being medical inspections of the children?
- 23 A. Yep.
- 24 Q. Can you tell me about that? What happened when that was
25 the position?

1 A. Well, they would just tell you that they were going to
2 do a medical check and everybody stripped off. It
3 didn't matter what sex you were, everybody stripped off,
4 stood in the queue, and you took it in turns to walk to
5 the nun who was doing it. What she done to the girls,
6 but I know what she done to the boys: open your mouth,
7 stick your tongue out, cough, she'd put a wooden thing
8 on you, you had to cough, and then the next thing she
9 would have a cold spoon, put it on your testicles, and
10 tell you to cough again. Basically that was it and
11 they'd just check your head for nits and anything like
12 that.

13 Q. Was this process something that happened throughout your
14 whole time at Smyllum or did it change over the years?

15 A. That's the process I went through at Smyllum. That's
16 all -- you never seen a doctor.

17 Q. But this business of stripping naked and queueing up to
18 be examined, did that happen throughout your whole
19 period at Smyllum?

20 A. I can't remember exactly how often it happened but
21 that's what happened all the time I was there.

22 Q. What were relationships like between the children
23 themselves? How did children get on with each other?

24 A. It was just a dog-eat-cat world. A dog-eat-cat world.
25 The strongest survived. But in general, I mean, I can't

1 even remember some of their names but it ... you had to
2 get on. You just had to get on with each other.

3 Q. Of course, you had your younger brother there with you.

4 A. That's right.

5 Q. You would see him on a regular basis?

6 A. Every day I've seen him.

7 Q. Did you see any inappropriate type of behaviour between
8 children that you can now remember?

9 A. The older ones used to -- they used to get into bed with
10 each other and carry on -- I don't know what they were
11 doing at the time -- at the time I didn't know what they
12 were doing.

13 Q. What about school then, Michael? You went to the school
14 that was the in-house school; is that right?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. How did you find that school?

17 A. I've never been the best in the world at paperwork,
18 anything like that, it was just school. There was
19 always like a nun overseeing things. That was just --
20 I don't know, it was just a school --

21 Q. Did you feel --

22 A. -- an old-fashioned school.

23 Q. Did you feel that it was beneficial to you?

24 A. No. No.

25 Q. Did you spend -- in your time at Smyllum, was that the

- 1 only school you went to?
- 2 A. That's right, yeah.
- 3 Q. Can I ask you about birthdays? Was your birthday
- 4 celebrated?
- 5 A. They didn't even acknowledge it.
- 6 Q. And Christmas, what about Christmas?
- 7 A. Christmas was -- you used to -- you had what you called
- 8 your Sunday clothes and you would wear your Sunday
- 9 clothes on the Christmas Day and you would go to church,
- 10 come away, and then you would -- I mean, one particular,
- 11 like, year, we waited until 3 o'clock in the afternoon
- 12 for Santa Claus to come round, and he come round and
- 13 I never got anything.
- 14 Q. Did you get presents at Christmas at any time during
- 15 your time at Smyllum?
- 16 A. There used to be like -- like Celtic Park, they invited
- 17 the kids from Smyllum up to the football ground and you
- 18 would get a present then, but that was off, like,
- 19 independent people, it wasn't off the home itself.
- 20 Q. Can I now ask you a little bit about physical abuse at
- 21 Smyllum? Are you happy for me to ask you something
- 22 about that?
- 23 A. Yeah.
- 24 Q. What was the position in relation to you? Were you
- 25 physically abused when you were at Smyllum?

- 1 A. All the time.
- 2 Q. Can you give me some idea as to what happened, just in
3 your own words.
- 4 A. Forcing us to eat food that I didn't like. Forcing us
5 to eat me sick. When they were trying to force it into
6 me mouth I would be sick, they would pull your hair,
7 pull it back and stuff it in your throat. Then I would
8 be sick on the plate and they would make us eat that as
9 well. And if you done anything else, the answer was
10 just to give you a hiding. There was never, why did you
11 do that -- like I have got grandkids now, I would never
12 lift me hands to them. Why they done it is beyond me,
13 like.
- 14 Q. Who?
- 15 A. The nuns or the civilian staff, whoever was there. They
16 would just give you a hiding and force-feed us all the
17 time. To this day I don't eat meat, I don't eat fish,
18 I live on chips, beans, eggs. That's what I live on.
19 I cannot stand fish or meat because they forced it on us
20 all the time and I just didn't like it.
- 21 Q. And was force-feeding something that happened to you on
22 a regular basis?
- 23 A. Every single day. You got some form of meat, whether it
24 be sausage or what, and they would force it into us.
- 25 Q. If you can, can you help me as to how that was forced on

- 1 you? What actually happened?
- 2 A. They would grab you by the hair and they would pull your
3 head back and shovel it and shovel it in your mouth and
4 make you eat it.
- 5 Q. And I think you said that if you were sick --
- 6 A. They would put your hands over your mouth until it went.
- 7 Q. Who was involved in this?
- 8 A. Sometimes it was the civilian staff and other times it
9 would be the nun herself.
- 10 Q. I think you have told us you can't remember the nuns'
11 names now.
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. Looking at the physical abuse then, just looking at
14 being hit and so on, can you help me with that. What
15 sort of hitting took place?
- 16 A. They would hit you with their hands, but it must have
17 hurt them as much as it hurt me. They would just pick
18 up -- mainly it was a wooden brush, a wooden hand brush
19 or a dustpan, something like that, and they would just
20 whack you with it. Wherever -- they hit you wherever
21 they could hit you. They didn't pick targets, they just
22 hit you anywhere.
- 23 Q. What sort of reasons would there be for this sort of
24 behaviour then?
- 25 A. Well, there was one occasion where I couldn't fasten me

1 shoelaces and at the back of the home we were in there
2 was like an alleyway and that's where the main kitchen
3 area was. You used to get a lot of homeless people and
4 tramps coming for free food, or whatever they got, and
5 I asked this man to fasten me laces for us. Just as he
6 was fastening me laces, the nun come down me back, on
7 the back steps, and she pulled us out, away, she hit us
8 and then dragged us up the stairs and she was hitting us
9 with the wooden brush when she got us in, the wooden
10 hand brush, she was hitting us with that, and then she
11 threw us into the laundry and says, "You'll stay in
12 there until you learn to fasten your laces", and I was
13 in there for a considerable amount of time.

14 Q. How long do you think you were in there, Michael?

15 A. It could have been two days, three days, but I felt it
16 was about eight days or something, I was there for about
17 a week or something.

18 Q. It was more than just a few hours, it was more days than
19 hours?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What about food and so on, were you fed?

22 A. She used to bring it into us. I think that was one of
23 the very few times I got away without eating meat.

24 Q. Do I understand from what you said you slept in the
25 laundry room --

1 A. Slept on a pile of clothes that was ready to get washed
2 or the sheets and that that were there to be washed.

3 Q. Did you suffer injuries because of what happened to you?

4 A. I did, aye. I was bruised all over. Lumps on me
5 head -- and perhaps that's why she kept us in there that
6 long.

7 Q. So you are talking about a particular episode. What
8 about other incidents when you were hit? Did you get
9 marks? Were there marks left?

10 A. Yeah. When they hit you with a brush, like I say, they
11 didn't pick a target, they didn't hit you somewhere
12 where you weren't going to be seen, they just lashed out
13 and hit you.

14 Q. On any part of your body?

15 A. Definitely, aye.

16 Q. You tell us in your statement about an incident when you
17 broke your leg, you fell and broke your leg.

18 A. Yeah, I was climbing a tree. I would would've been
19 about 7 or something, round about that age. I was
20 climbing a tree and I lost me grip and I fell down.
21 I cracked me shin, but I didn't know it was cracked or
22 anything at the time. But when I went up -- I managed
23 to get back up and by the time I hobbled there, when she
24 seen us, I was covered in mud, so I got a hiding for
25 being dirty, and then took to the hospital. There was

1 a lot of bruises there, that wasn't from the fall, it
2 was off the wooden brush they was using to hit us with.
3 But then they just found out that I had cracked me shin
4 but the doctor never asked us where all the bruising
5 come from.

6 Q. You didn't say anything to the doctor?

7 A. No.

8 Q. You also tell us in your statement about a person you
9 refer to as the [REDACTED]. I think that might be someone
10 by the name of [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] I don't know if that
11 name means anything to you.

12 A. I can't remember his name.

13 Q. But what about that person? What did you see him do?

14 A. There was an occasion where he was chasing a lad around
15 and they used to have a walled garden at the back, and
16 they went in there and you heard a lot of -- I didn't
17 hear anything, but through the grapevine, how kids talk
18 and that, I never seen the kid again. So ...

19 Q. Did you see anything happen to that child?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Did you see this person, this [REDACTED] person do
22 anything to any other children?

23 A. He used to smack kids. [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]

1

2

3

A couple of times when kids went in there and they shouldn't have been getting in and they'd get a crack across the head.

5

6

Q. Were you ever struck by him?

7

A. No. Personally, I never.

8

Q. You mentioned Mr Miller before, Michael, and I think he, as you said, he came to see you from time to time when you were at Smyllum.

10

11

A. Yeah.

12

Q. And how did you get on with him?

13

A. In general I think I got on all right with him but he was a social worker and you know in them days -- nowadays I would imagine a social worker would be somebody -- if somebody is looking after some child they are responsible for, I think there would be a lot of questions asked. But in them days it was just "How are you?" and you were only there a couple of minutes.

19

20

But the nuns were always there, always there, overseeing everything. So if you said anything about what was going on, you would just disappear.

22

23

Q. So you never told Mr Miller that anything was going on?

24

A. No.

25

Q. What about family? Did any members of your family come

1 to visit you when you were at Smyllum?

2 A. Me mother come once in the whole time I was there and
3 she said she would give Miller some presents for us, but
4 we never received them. That's the only time I ever
5 seen me mother until I was about 17, when I seen her the
6 next time.

7 Q. You came to leave Smyllum in [REDACTED] 1970 when you
8 were aged 10; is that the age --

9 A. Well, I don't want to sound cheeky or nowt, but I didn't
10 leave Smyllum; I got hijacked.

11 Q. I understand that. I put it badly. You were moved, if
12 I can put it that way, to St Vincent's in Newcastle.

13 A. That's correct, yeah.

14 Q. I think that was in [REDACTED] 1970 when you were about
15 10.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Can you tell me then about how that came about?

18 A. It was just a normal day, wash yourself, breakfast,
19 school, and then about 12 o'clock, round about that, it
20 was midday, a lad come walking into the classroom, spoke
21 to the teacher, and then she shouted me name out. I was
22 told to go down to the parlour. So I was working me way
23 down to the parlour and I banged into me younger
24 brother. So the two of us were waiting there in the
25 parlour and that's when we were told about going to

1 Newcastle. I was told then that I had brothers. Up to
2 that point I didn't know I had brothers.

3 Q. Were you told about having brothers before you left
4 Smyllum at this time or was this when you got to
5 Newcastle?

6 A. There was an occasion I was playing on a roundabout that
7 was in the yard and one child said to us, oh, your
8 brothers are away in Newcastle, but I never took any
9 notice because I didn't know I had brothers.

10 Q. In any event you learned at about this time that you did
11 have brothers?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And that they were in Newcastle?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Were you given any explanation, Michael, as to why you
16 were being taken to Newcastle?

17 A. No.

18 Q. And was it Mr Miller who took you to Newcastle?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. You and your brother?

21 A. Me and **AAF**, yeah.

22 Q. That was to St Vincent's. What were your initial
23 impressions of St Vincent's?

24 A. It didn't -- it wasn't as daunting as Smyllum. It had
25 like a main house, but it was nowt like the front of

- 1 Smyllum. It felt more like -- I'd never been part of
2 a family at that point, but if there is a feeling you
3 get, you felt you were more in a family environment.
- 4 Q. It was a smaller place?
- 5 A. It was a smaller place, yeah. I mean, the room I was in
6 had four or five beds in it. And just -- it was more
7 warmly. It felt more like home.
- 8 Q. Were you in a part called Seaton House?
- 9 A. Seaton House, yeah.
- 10 Q. The room you were in, you were sharing with other boys;
11 is that right?
- 12 A. There was one particular lad the whole time I was there
13 he was in that room with me, but the other two or three
14 beds, there was kids coming and going all the time.
- 15 Q. What about your brother? Was he in that room or --
- 16 A. He was in a separate room.
- 17 Q. Again though, it was nuns who were in charge of
18 St Vincent's?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. They were the same type of nuns that had been at
21 Smyllum?
- 22 A. Yeah.
- 23 Q. Do you have any recollection of any of the names of the
24 nuns that you dealt with when you were in St Vincent's?
- 25 A. There was three nuns in the time I was there. The first

- 1 one was Sister [IAG] The second one was
2 Sister [HAE]. And the third one was -- the second one
3 was Sister [AFZ] and the third one was Sister [HAE]
- 4 Q. How did you get on with these nuns?
- 5 A. I didn't get on with the first two, but the last one,
6 she liked me, and so basically I got on with her.
- 7 Q. If you look at Sister [IAG], what about her? Did
8 anything happen in connection with her?
- 9 A. Well, she never lifted her hands to me really, but
10 I seen her hitting me other brother, [REDACTED]
11 I seen her giving him a -- but I don't think them two
12 got on like.
- 13 Q. Did anyone lift hands to you during your time at
14 St Vincent's?
- 15 A. Sister [AFZ]
- 16 Q. What happened in connection with her?
- 17 A. Well, again, it is just the same routine again. It is
18 force-feeding and I just -- I can't eat meat, I don't
19 like meat, I don't like the texture in me mouth. Fish.
20 I eat no fish at all. I won't eat anything fish.
- 21 Q. So in that connection then that --
- 22 A. It started off with that and just continued. It was
23 a daily occurrence because I was starting to turn
24 rebellious against them.
- 25 Q. Because you were getting older as time was going on?

- 1 A. I was growing up and I was -- what boys do.
- 2 Q. In your statement, Michael, you tell us about some
3 sexual abuse that you suffered during this period. Are
4 you happy to talk about that today?
- 5 A. Yeah, if you want to talk.
- 6 Q. How did that start? What was involved in that? Can you
7 tell me?
- 8 A. It was later on in life. Me brother [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED] We went to the police and
12 made my complaint.
- 13 Q. That was later on, of course, but what happened to you
14 in connection with sexual abuse when you were at
15 St Vincent's?
- 16 A. He was a trainee priest called Bernard Traynor. And he
17 used to come in me room on a regular basis. It started
18 off he used to just feel us. Then it started he tried
19 to masturbate us and he would do it on a regular
20 basis -- it started off in the caravan actually, in
21 Scarborough. He done it there and then he just
22 continued doing it when he got home. But he was doing
23 it to the other lad in the room with me, so God knows
24 how many kids he was doing it to.
- 25 Q. What age were you when this started?

- 1 A. I would be about 12.
- 2 Q. For how long did it go on for?
- 3 A. It went on for the rest of the duration,
4 two/three years, the time I was in St Vincent's.
- 5 Q. Was it the same sort of behaviour, that he would come
6 into the room and abuse you?
- 7 A. That's right, yeah.
- 8 Q. During your time at St Vincent's did you tell anybody
9 about that?
- 10 A. If I had made a statement against a priest -- I don't
11 expect the people in this room to understand what I'm
12 talking about, like, but I would disappear -- I would
13 have just disappeared, mate. They would have just
14 (indicates) one way or another. They would not let
15 anybody find the truth out.
- 16 LADY SMITH: Can you help me understand what made you feel
17 that? I don't doubt for a moment that that's how you
18 felt. Help me understand it.
- 19 A. If the nuns didn't like you, they got rid of you. They
20 just had the power. They have got the power. They have
21 still got the power -- I feel anyway.
- 22 LADY SMITH: What was particular about the feeling of what
23 might happen if you told somebody a priest was doing
24 something wrong?
- 25 A. Oh, you just wouldn't say anything about a priest, like.

- 1 LADY SMITH: Okay, why not?
- 2 A. Because the priest -- I don't -- they just --
- 3 LADY SMITH: Just tell me in your own words.
- 4 A. In the past there was kids who just disappeared. You'd
- 5 never see them again. You don't know where they are.
- 6 You don't know if they have moved them onto there or
- 7 done -- or done -- I don't know.
- 8 LADY SMITH: I think you said a few moments ago to
- 9 Mr MacAulay that what was happening to you at night when
- 10 Mr Traynor came into the room, when Father Traynor --
- 11 no, you say he was a trainee -- came into the room,
- 12 happened to another boy in the room as well; is that
- 13 right?
- 14 A. Yes, [REDACTED] aye.
- 15 LADY SMITH: Is this something you saw?
- 16 A. Yes. You couldn't not see it. He was in the next bed
- 17 to us.
- 18 MR MacAULAY: Was he similar sort of age as yourself?
- 19 A. [REDACTED] was -- I think he was a [REDACTED] than
- 20 me.
- 21 Q. You have told us that this behaviour, as far as you were
- 22 concerned, went on until you were 14 or 15.
- 23 A. Until I moved to a place called St Phillip's, yes. He
- 24 didn't have access to us then.
- 25 Q. I will come back to Bernard Traynor in a moment but

1 before I look back at that, you also tell us in your
2 statement in this connection, or in your time at
3 St Vincent's, that you thought the way that you were
4 washed by nuns was inappropriate. Can you just help me
5 with that? Were the nuns involved still in washing you
6 when you were into your early teens, let's say?

7 A. Yeah. You weren't allowed to get a bath on your own.
8 There was always a queue to get into the bath, so the
9 nun would be sitting -- there was a toilet next to the
10 bath. She would be sitting on the toilet. If you
11 weren't washing yourself properly she would wash you,
12 but I mean she would -- like rub your genitals and that.

13 At the time, you didn't think it was wrong but you
14 know if you think back and think about it, it was wrong
15 what she was doing. She shouldn't have been doing that.

16 Q. So far as physical abuse was concerned, you have told us
17 that Sister IAG never hit you but that
18 Sister AFZ did.

19 A. Sister AFZ

20 Q. What about Bernard Traynor?

21 A. I had a few run-ins with Bernard Traynor. As I was
22 getting older I was starting to get more rebellious,
23 like, as I was saying before. Obviously I'm turning
24 from a boy to a man and I was getting a bit more
25 strength and I was able to fight back and there was this

1 occasion where I fought back and gave him as good as he
2 give me. Within days of that happening, I was moved to
3 St Phillip's Hostel.

4 Q. That's clearly then you were either 14 or 15.

5 A. Yeah, 14.

6 Q. Essentially you had a fight with Bernard Traynor, is
7 that what it comes to? You say you gave him as good as
8 he gave you.

9 A. Yeah, that is correct. That was all over force-feeding,
10 making us eat meat I didn't want to eat.

11 Q. You do also tell us about an incident that when you were
12 playing outside and you found an old-fashioned cider
13 bottle; can you tell me about that?

14 A. I mean me and **AAF** were just young kids and I found
15 a cider bottle, it was an old, clay cider bottle, and we
16 thought we had found treasure. So we started digging at
17 the bottom of the tree and we woke the bishop up, a man
18 called **AEZ** We woke him up. It was about
19 3 o'clock in the afternoon but anyway we woke him up and
20 a nun was hoeing a bit of garden that was just on the
21 front of the house. She come over, intervened, and she
22 attacked me with a garden hoe and she cut me toe.
23 I have still got the scar to this day.

24 I was only wearing plastic sandals she went straight
25 through the plastic sandal and cut me big toe and it was

1 quite a big cut, like. The bishop just stood there.
2 Thinking back, I think he encouraged her.

3 Q. What age were you at that time, can you tell me?
4 A. I would have been about 13.

5 Q. Do you know the nun who did this, what her name was?
6 A. A nun called Sister **HAH**.

7 Q. Can I ask you about schooling when you were at
8 St Vincent's then. I think I'm right in saying you went
9 to local schools rather than an in-house school like you
10 had at Smyllum.
11 A. Yeah, that is right.

12 Q. You would go to a primary school and then you would go
13 to the secondary school?
14 A. That is right.

15 Q. How did you find school?
16 A. School -- like, when I first come down to England they
17 started trying to learn us how to write italic writing
18 and I just couldn't get the hang of it. So that was the
19 beginning of the end of education for me. I just
20 wouldn't participate in school.

21 Q. What about secondary --
22 A. I only went to school so I could play football.

23 Q. But secondary school, did you -- was that better or not?
24 A. It was the same again. The teachers used to lift their
25 hands quite a bit, but I wasn't the only person they

1 lifted their hands to. But I think a lot of the kids
2 who were in care, they felt easier hitting you because
3 you had nobody to defend you. Because if I had went
4 home and told a nun that Mr [REDACTED] s hit us, she would
5 have given us a hiding. She would have just presumed
6 I'd done something wrong and given us a hiding. So you
7 never referred -- you never spoke about school. You
8 were never asked about school. To be honest with you.

9 Q. You did tell us earlier that you discovered that you had
10 brothers at St Vincent's when you were being moved to
11 St Vincent's.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Did you meet your brothers then for the first time when
14 you got to St Vincent's?

15 A. That's right, yeah. It was the first time I ever met
16 them.

17 Q. You had more than two, but was it two particular
18 brothers you met at that time?

19 A. There was two brothers at the time, [REDACTED] AAG and
20 [REDACTED] AAI who were in Seaton House at the time. Me older
21 brother, [REDACTED] he had been through the system and he was
22 then fending for himself.

23 Q. Do you remember if Mr Miller came to see you when you
24 were at St Vincent's?

25 A. Mr Miller used to come, like I say, every four or six

1 months or whatever up to the age of 14. Then I think --
2 I'm not a 100 per cent sure about this because they
3 never told you anything anyway -- but then a lad called
4 David Ingram took over as my social worker but he was
5 in-house, an in-house social worker. So ...

6 Q. You have told us about the episode with Bernard Traynor
7 and how that led to you leaving St Vincent's. And
8 I think you went to St Phillip's Hostel; is that
9 correct?

10 A. That's correct yeah.

11 Q. That's still in Newcastle?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. You said you were 14, so that would make it about 1974?

14 A. 1974, yeah.

15 Q. How long did you spend in St Phillip's?

16 A. It was there until -- well, it was the day I left
17 school, so it was 1976 I left.

18 Q. So that would mean you were about 16?

19 A. Yeah, that's right.

20 Q. I am not going to look at the detail of what happened at
21 St Phillip's s, but putting it shortly, it wasn't
22 a particularly pleasant time for you, was it?

23 A. No.

24 Q. But after St Phillip's, where did you go then?

25 A. I went to a bedsit, just round the corner from the

1 hostel itself. I went to a bedsit. I just started
2 drinking and taking drugs and just took the wrong road
3 and then I got evicted because I didn't pay the rent.

4 I ended up getting -- me mother had gotten married
5 and me stepfather, he come down and tried to -- he
6 actually did. He got AAF and [REDACTED], me [REDACTED]
7 sister, out of care and lived as a family. I moved in
8 with me mum then. I just couldn't get on with her.

9 Q. I think, as you said a moment ago, you did take the
10 wrong road for a period of time.

11 A. I did, aye.

12 Q. I don't want to go into the detail of this but you were
13 in prison --

14 A. That's right.

15 Q. -- on occasions. But having said that, you then got
16 onto the right road?

17 A. I was about 34 when the penny dropped.

18 Q. In particular, you have had the support of your wife?

19 A. I have, aye. Still got the support as well.

20 Q. You tell us a bit in your statement about the impact of
21 the experiences that you had in care, generally. Are
22 you able to tell me a little bit about that or not?

23 A. There is a lot of people suffered because of the way
24 I was treated in care -- well, I don't know, they tell
25 us anyway, but -- excuse the language -- but I just

1 turned out to be a violent man, a really violent man,
2 and I was good at doing it, if there's such a thing.
3 Very seldom did I lose. Anybody looked at us in any
4 manner, they got it. Because it was always on me mind,
5 whenever I was drinking and that, thinking drink was
6 helping me to forget. It wasn't. It was bringing it
7 back all the time and some of the things I have done to
8 people is -- is wrong and it's the only regret I have
9 got.

10 Q. As you said, because of the support you got from your
11 wife, you are on the right road now.

12 A. Oh aye, definitely.

13 Q. One of the things you do say in your statement in
14 connection with your identity is that you feel that
15 somehow your identity was robbed; can you explain that
16 for us?

17 A. Well, I was born in Scotland. I work away from home
18 a lot of time, a lot of me work is work in Scotland and
19 I have been in situations where -- "You English bastard,
20 what are you doing here?" in a pub atmosphere or you
21 know -- and I would say to them, "I'm more Scottish than
22 you because I was born further up than you". And you
23 know -- I have got no identity: I'm not [REDACTED] I'm
24 not a Scotsman, what am I?

25 Q. You feel because you were moved from Smyllum to

1 Newcastle that that somehow has impacted upon your
2 identity?

3 A. Definitely, aye.

4 Q. You have already touched upon this, but there came
5 a point in time when you did speak to the police about
6 the sexual abuse that you suffered.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Can you remember when that was?

9 A. If my memory is right, it was around about 1996 or 1995.
10 Around about that period. It was in the 1990s. I went
11 to speak to the police, I made my statements and what
12 have you and from that moment on -- call them holy
13 people, call them what you want -- but they are the best
14 liars in the world and they have got it down as well.

15 Q. There were court proceedings against them?

16 A. There was, yes. Yes, but it took a long, long time to
17 get him into court because the bishop -- I don't know
18 what the law is in the country, but apparently from what
19 the police were telling us, it was Campbell Finlay who
20 was the chief inspector, Campbell Finlay who was in
21 charge of the case. He explained to us that he couldn't
22 go and arrest a priest. He had to do it through the
23 proper channels, what he called the proper channels. He
24 had to notify the bishop of his intentions and the
25 bishop gives him his whereabouts.

1 So by the time he went to Newcastle, the bishop's
2 house, told the bishop, the bishop told him where he
3 was -- it was in [REDACTED], which was [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED] But the time they drove from Newcastle to
5 [REDACTED], he was gone.

6 It took the police 18 months to find out where he
7 was. They had him hid in a monastery down in Hampshire
8 and the only reason the bishop let them know where he
9 was is because me brother got a phone call off
10 Campbell Finlay saying, [REDACTED] AAF, I have kept your names
11 out of the paper, but what I'm about to do, I mightn't
12 be able to do it any more, he says, because I'm going to
13 go and arrest the bishop.

14 From the man's own words was, I have never seen --
15 he says, I have dealt with villains all me life, but
16 I have never seen a man turn so white when he actually
17 said it to him, and at that point he told him where he
18 was.

19 Q. And he was taken to court?

20 A. He was, yeah.

21 Q. And were you present in court when that happened or not?

22 A. I wasn't told when the court case was. There might be
23 a reason for that because of me violence. But he
24 pleaded guilty to all charges.

25 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that you were or

1 at least you got a letter from Cardinal Hume. How did
2 that happen?

3 A. My brother wrote a letter to them and he got a reply and
4 basically, in layman's terms, he just called us a family
5 of gold-diggers.

6 Q. Can I take you then to that part of your statement where
7 you are talking about this Inquiry and that's on page 27
8 at paragraph 115. It will be in front of you, Michael.

9 What you say there is -- and I will read this to
10 you:

11 "I hope that no other kid gets treated the way we
12 were. The likes of Traynor should never get the
13 opportunity to do that to kids. It screws the kid up
14 for life."

15 Do you see that?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. There you are talking about the sexual abuse,
18 effectively?

19 A. That is right, yeah.

20 Q. So far as you are aware, did anyone else -- and by that
21 I mean anyone in authority -- within St Vincent's know
22 that Traynor was doing what he was doing?

23 A. I never told anybody, I just kept to me self. I would
24 speak to **AAF** about it because he was doing it to **AAF**
25 as well and -- but I again, I can't stress this enough,

1 if you speak up against a priest, I don't know you --
2 they have got a lot of power, the Catholic Church.

3 Q. But one of the things you say in your statement,
4 Michael, at 116 is:

5 "I also hope that there will be more understanding
6 towards children in care. The children didn't do
7 anything wrong. Their mother and father maybe made
8 wrong decisions, but the children themselves are
9 innocent parties and should be treated as such. They
10 should be treated a hell of a lot better than I was."

11 That's your hope?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. You then provide us with some information about what
14 should happen about asking children questions and so on
15 and so forth. That's your feeling, is it, this should
16 be more done, children should be given more of a say?

17 A. Just because I went into care when I was very young, but
18 I feel the social workers should be speaking to the
19 child, involved with the child. At the end of the day
20 these people are making decisions for somebody's life,
21 future life, and that's what was done to me.

22 I think a lot of decisions were wrong: one, moving
23 us from Scotland to England. Me education just got
24 knackered. Like I say, I wasn't interested because
25 I had been taught one way up here and then I was took

1 down there and taught their way and I just couldn't get
2 me head round it.

3 I think the child should be involved more. There's
4 no harm in asking children, you know. You don't have to
5 agree with them, but at least they feel involved.

6 Q. This is something else you say on the next page,
7 page 28. This is at 119. I just want to ask you about
8 this. What you say is:

9 "Whether it was a Catholic-run organisation or
10 whatever, it was the state system we went through and
11 they should pick up the consequences of what they
12 created. Properly focused treatment to help with the
13 mental effects should be provided for people who have
14 been in care."

15 You are focusing on the state's responsibility
16 there?

17 A. Well, at the end of the day, I pay me taxes, I do
18 everything, the state should -- you are a future member
19 of society, although you are in care. Just because you
20 are in care you are just not -- whether it be Catholic
21 or protestant or whatever, you are still part of the
22 system, you are still part of society.

23 But you are treated different. You are treated as
24 if you are nothing: you are in care, you don't matter,
25 you haven't got a say. I just feel it ... going through

1 the care system like that, you know, like ... I went to
2 school. On me last day I come home, what I thought was
3 me home, and the suitcase is sitting at the front door:
4 right, that's it, we can't make any more money off you,
5 you are finished with the system, out, go round the
6 corner, there is a bedsit waiting for you, see
7 Mr Such-and-such. You know?

8 Q. So you are saying children in that situation should get
9 more support?

10 A. Definitely. They need support. Because I was
11 institutionalised -- and that's why I liked prison
12 because I was back in between four walls. I didn't have
13 to worry about anything. I didn't have to worry about
14 where I was getting me dinner from, I didn't have to
15 worry about anything: I got put to bed, I got woke up in
16 the morning, I got a shower once a week, I got clean
17 clothes once a week, and I got fed. And I got to sleep
18 as much as I wanted. Easy life. So anybody that says
19 prison is hard, I don't know where they get that from
20 like, because it is not hard. It sounds stupid, but
21 I loved it.

22 Q. The other thing you say towards the end of your
23 statement is that you think it is important to teach
24 children to be independent.

25 A. That is right, because you are institutionalised. You

1 have always had -- all your decisions are made for you
2 in the home. You're not involved in any decisions
3 whatsoever. Everything is made for you. You go down
4 the road they pointed to.

5 When you come out of care, you are in the big, bad
6 world and you are just -- I went the wrong way. I went
7 down the road of drink and drugs and violence.

8 Q. Okay, Michael, thank you for that.

9 Can I just say this to you as well that the Inquiry
10 has been in touch with some nuns who may have been at
11 Smyllum when you were there and possibly at Newcastle.
12 So far as they are concerned, children were well cared
13 for in a happy environment. What do you say to that?

14 A. I just can't -- you know, you get a Catholic upbringing
15 and it is rammed down your throat that you don't lie,
16 you don't do this, you don't do that, you say this --
17 and they are just hypocrites. They are just -- there is
18 a lot more things I could say, but not in front of
19 women. I'm not going to say it.

20 LADY SMITH: Well, if you want to say them --

21 A. No, no, no, no.

22 LADY SMITH: You don't have to say them but you mustn't be
23 unduly shy about telling us what you feel.

24 A. I'm not being shy. I just don't like swearing in front
25 of women because there is a lot of -- I have got a lot

1 of hatred for them --

2 LADY SMITH: Michael, I have heard a lot over the years,

3 I wouldn't worry about that.

4 A. Aye.

5 LADY SMITH: Is there anything else you want to say?

6 A. No.

7 LADY SMITH: Okay.

8 MR MacAULAY: Well, Michael, can I thank you for coming here

9 to give your evidence. I can see it has been quite

10 difficult for you to do that, so thank you for coming.

11 I can say, my Lady, that no written questions have

12 been submitted and I don't know if there are to be any

13 questions.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 Are there any outstanding applications for questions

16 of this witness? Thank you.

17 Michael, thank you very much for coming along today

18 and talking to us about your experiences as openly as

19 you have done. It is very helpful to hear them and I'm

20 pleased I'm now able to let you go.

21 A. Thanks very much. Thanks for listening to us.

22 LADY SMITH: We seem to be making good progress,

23 Mr MacAulay, are we?

24 MR MacAULAY: We are, my Lady. There is one more piece of

25 oral evidence to be led today and that has been

1 programmed for this afternoon. So that is the next
2 stage. Whether there will be any evidence read in will
3 depend on timings.

4 LADY SMITH: We will see how that timing goes.

5 Just before I rise for an early lunch break then,
6 I would just like to take this opportunity to remind
7 people who are in the hearing room of something that
8 I have said on a number of occasions now and that is the
9 importance of respecting the anonymity of all the
10 applicants to this Inquiry who have come forward so far
11 to give evidence about their experiences.

12 As I explained last week, it is very important that
13 that choice to remain anonymous is respected where that
14 is the choice of the individuals. You know that most of
15 the people that have come forward have chosen to do
16 that. That's their right and it must be respected.

17 And in similar vein, where people's names have been
18 used as being persons against whom allegations are made,
19 but there have been no convictions in relation to those
20 people, they too are entitled to have their anonymity
21 protected.

22 So, once more, these names cannot be disclosed
23 outside this hearing room. I gave the direction last
24 week that I was in the meantime suspending any form of
25 electronic communication from the hearing room because

1 of the importance of these anonymity directions.
2 I haven't spotted anybody with their phone out --
3 I think everybody is remembering that and I thank you
4 for it, but I make no apologies because it is very
5 important.

6 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, before your Ladyship adjourns, I can
7 confirm in fact that there will be one statement read
8 this afternoon.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. We will rise now and sit
10 again at 2 o'clock please.

11 (12.45 pm)

12 (The luncheon adjournment)

13 (2.00 pm)

14 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. Ms MacLeod, a slight change of
15 plan, is it, if you are in place?

16 MS MACLEOD: It is, my Lady. We are now going to begin the
17 afternoon with reading a statement.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 Witness statement of "GREIG" (read)

20 MS MACLEOD: This is a statement, my Lady, from a witness
21 who wishes to remain anonymous and he would like to use
22 the pseudonym "Greig". The witness statement is to be
23 found at WIT.001.001.2075:

24 "My name is Greig. I was born in 1964. My contact
25 details are known to the Inquiry.

1 "I was the youngest of seven children. I was 3 or 4
2 when I went into care and I have no memory of my life
3 before care. My sister told me things subsequently. As
4 far as I'm led to believe, my dad was an alcoholic and
5 my mum couldn't cope. We lived in Springburn in
6 Glasgow. My brother was taken into care as well, but
7 I'm not sure if we went in together. My sister was also
8 in Smyllum, but she was in a different part.

9 "I think there were a couple of hundred children in
10 Smyllum. It had its own primary school. It was mixed,
11 boys and girls, but the dormitories were segregated.
12 The ages ranged from my age to sixteen.

13 "In the morning we were told to get up. It was like
14 a regime. They woke us up about 7 o'clock. We made our
15 beds, had our breakfast, brushed our teeth, combed our
16 hair, put on our school uniform, and then walked to the
17 bus for school.

18 "We were told when to go to bed. I remember getting
19 to stay up to watch the A-Team. At the weekend, I think
20 we went to bed at about 8 o'clock. It was earlier on
21 a school night. There were dormitories with about 6 to
22 8 beds on one side and rooms with 4 beds on the other
23 side. They would come in and check we were sleeping.
24 It was just like that every day.

25 "The food wasn't bad. It was actually better than

1 when I was on holiday three weeks ago. The nuns used to
2 make it themselves, in the big kitchen downstairs. If
3 you didn't eat your food, it would be sitting there in
4 the morning for you to eat. You had no choice but to
5 eat it and you didn't get any other breakfast.

6 "There was a primary school in Smyllum itself. It
7 was run by nuns. I hated it. The regime was the same
8 as in the home. It was part of their land and they
9 could do whatever they wanted. I think it was just one
10 big classroom with seats going right to the back.

11 I recall that Sister **FBE** was one of the teaches.
12 I remember there was a box called the 'black samba baby
13 box' being passed around to collect money for charity.

14 "When we reached secondary school age, we had to go
15 to Motherwell to the nearest Catholic school. We got
16 the number 240 bus. There was a school in Carluke and
17 there was a school in Lanark, but because they weren't
18 Catholic, we weren't allowed to go to these schools.

19 "We went to Our Lady's High School. We wore
20 a purple school uniform. I got the belt a lot there
21 too, except there it was big, strapping men belting me.
22 The staff and pupils knew we were from Smyllum. People
23 would know where we got the bus. We were the poor
24 relations and we were treated differently. I did quite
25 well at school.

1 "We wore a uniform for school. I don't remember
2 a uniform at Smyllum. I do remember that our other
3 clothes were always hand-me-downs.

4 "We had a laundry and we washed the clothes
5 ourselves. I remember using the big wrangler.

6 "I think we had a bath about three times a week.
7 I remember the oldest or tallest would go first in the
8 bath. We would share the water so it was always dirty
9 by the time it got to me.

10 "After dinner we could catch television or go
11 outside. We had a black-and-white television.
12 I remember some protestants moved into another part of
13 the home. I don't think the nuns were in charge of
14 them. It was as though the nuns had rented out a part
15 of the home to them. I remember they had a colour
16 television. I couldn't understand why they could afford
17 a colour television and we had to put up with the
18 black-and-white one.

19 "The grounds were huge. The orphanage had its own
20 land. I remember there were swings. We had our own
21 football pitch and I played football. I am sure we used
22 to play matches at the weekends.

23 "When I got older, about 11 or 12, I was allowed to
24 walk into Lanark itself as long as I told the nuns and
25 let them know when I would be back.

1 "We went on the Sunshine Bus into the Variety Club.
2 We went to Girvan for a week. The nuns ran a place
3 close to Girvan shore. I think that happened a few
4 times.

5 "It was all religion at Smyllum. We had to say our
6 prayers in the morning and say our prayers at night. We
7 had to kneel by our beds and the nuns would walk by and
8 check we were doing it. We had to say the rosary. We
9 had to make our first confession, our first communion,
10 and get confirmed. We had no choice in the matter. We
11 had to be dying before we didn't go to chapel on
12 a Sunday. I was an altar boy. It was, 'God's this,
13 God's that, God's great'. I don't believe any of it.
14 I haven't been to the chapel since I left.

15 "I remember helping the handyman out, doing some of
16 the gardening. I think we did washing in the kitchens
17 and scrubbing the floors with a brown brush. We got
18 pocket money for doing that.

19 "I remember being given a second-hand bike by my
20 social worker, Mrs Henry. I think it was for my
21 birthday. I can remember somebody saying 'Happy
22 birthday', but that's as far as I can remember.

23 "I remember spending Christmas at Smyllum. It was
24 just a normal day. The presents weren't up to much.
25 You got a tangerine in a sock, but back then half the

1 world got that.

2 "I remember there being a Christmas tree but I don't
3 remember it being decorated. I didn't get any visits at
4 all. I remember an old bag lady turning up at the home,
5 pushing a pram. Somebody said, 'That's your mum'.
6 I never thought anything of it. Years later my sister
7 told me that my mum had actually turned up but the nuns
8 wouldn't let her see us. My oldest brother had also
9 turned up but the nuns wouldn't let him see us either.

10 "Mrs Henry, my social worker, would turn up once
11 a year.

12 "I think the nuns did the healthcare. I remember
13 falling and getting a plaster put on. The nuns just
14 yanked it off. There was no one-two-three or anything
15 like that. I don't remember seeing a doctor when I was
16 younger.

17 "I remember my brother being there at the same time
18 as me. He was in the same building but he wasn't in the
19 same room as me. He's older than me by two years.
20 I would see him every other day. I remember getting
21 into fights and he would stick up for me. My sister was
22 also there. I don't think we had any contact within the
23 home. I just knew she was there.

24 "when I was about 10 or 11 they tried to foster me
25 out a couple of times, but it never worked. One of the

1 foster carers was in Uddingston. He was a scout leader
2 and he took me to Peebles for a scouting trip. It
3 lasted about 2 weeks. Then they tried to foster me to
4 somebody else and it lasted about the same length of
5 time.

6 "My brother came with me to one of the foster
7 carers. You didn't have a choice. I think people would
8 turn up and say they wanted to foster a child and the
9 nuns would tell them to pick. I remember being told
10 I was going to stay with these people and I remember
11 being back in the home. I don't know why because nobody
12 told me anything. One day, I was with the foster carers
13 and the next day, I wasn't.

14 "if we didn't do what the nuns wanted, then it
15 wasn't a nice regime. The first time I was leathered,
16 I was about 6 years old, but I didn't know it was going
17 to continue. The way I felt was that I couldn't do
18 anything right. I had a stutter for quite a few years.
19 I couldn't pronounce one of the nun's names, so I got
20 hit by a belt. The nun whose names I couldn't pronounce
21 was called **FBE** or **FBE** She was quite old, but it
22 was another nun who belted me. It was a two-pronged big
23 leather one. When we got leathered it wasn't just
24 a hit, it was a proper beating. They hit us all over
25 our bodies but 99% of the time it wouldn't be on our

1 faces. It wasn't just a wee skelp, we would be red raw.

2 "If we didn't make our beds properly every day, we
3 got leathered. The bed had to be made like an army bed.
4 The four corners had to be folded down at an angle,
5 almost like you could bounce a coin off it. I had to
6 learn how to do it.

7 "There were old radiators with the pipes running
8 along the side of the wall. If we wet the bed we had to
9 put the sheet over our heads and stand next to the
10 radiator until we dried. That was a regular occurrence.
11 Basically they would react violently to everything we
12 did. Because I started when I was young, I wet the bed
13 a lot.

14 "I lost my slippers one day. Being a good Catholic
15 boy, I kneeled and prayed to God saying I had lost my
16 slippers. I got absolutely leathered. Then I found
17 them the next day and I got leathered for finding them
18 because I shouldn't have lost them. Everything was just
19 a leathering no matter what we did. It was either by
20 a belt, a stick or whatever they had to hand.

21 "The nuns used to put books on us when they belted
22 us. If the books fell, they belted us again.

23 "Back then, they wore the old habits. If we saw
24 a nun's hair, it resulted in the worst leathering we
25 ever got. If we went to a nun's door because we needed

1 help, we would get leathered if she answered the door
2 and we saw her hair. This happened to me about three
3 times. I keep telling myself there must have been some
4 good nuns. There must have been. I just never met any
5 of them.

6 "We went to the pictures to watch Herbie. I cracked
7 my teeth. My two front teeth were chipped and knocked
8 out. Because I missed the picture and one of the nuns
9 missed it as well, I got leathered for that. It took me
10 years to get my teeth fixed.

11 "We had to go to Motherwell for secondary school
12 because it was the nearest Catholic secondary school.
13 It was a 40-minute bus journey. One day I missed the
14 bus. I got a proper leathering. That's why I'm never
15 late for anything. I don't remember any good times.
16 There must have been good times, but I don't remember
17 the good times. The bad times just outweigh them.

18 "There was a [REDACTED] called [REDACTED] BAC I don't know
19 his last name. He would ask me to look at his hand and
20 then skelp me with the other one.

21 "They had to discipline people but what they did
22 wasn't discipline; it was putting the fear of God into
23 you. And the fear of God did go into you. It was
24 a regular occurrence. Physical abuse happened to me 3,
25 4, 5 times a month and I saw it happen to others as

1 well. It was quite sad, because I would be grateful if
2 I saw somebody else getting hit because it wasn't me.
3 If we didn't do as we were told, we got skelped by
4 whatever was to hand. Just as somebody might have milk
5 in their coffee, that was what they did. It was as
6 routine as that. By the end of it, I just did what
7 I was told to stop that happening.

8 "I think the beatings stopped as I got older.
9 I think they laid off and started on the younger ones.
10 Maybe it was because I was bigger or because I could
11 talk back. They started to leave you alone and move on
12 to the next lot. The overall emotion I remember feeling
13 was hatred.

14 "When I was 6 or 7, older girls started having sex
15 with me. They were about 14 or 15 years old. It didn't
16 happen every night, but it happened regularly until
17 I left Smyllum. I just thought it was normal and
18 everybody did it. I don't remember the girls' names.
19 We would have sex in the dormitories and in the
20 cupboards.

21 "I remember a female member of staff also started
22 having sex with me. I'm not sure when that started but
23 it continued until I left. I don't remember her name.
24 She was between 25 and 35 and she worked [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED] within the home.

1 "I started having sex with another girl in Smyllum
2 when I was about 14. She was a similar age to me.
3 I just thought it was normal and didn't realise there
4 was anything wrong until I was an adult.

5 "I don't remember any of the nuns coming across
6 anybody having sex. However it was going on so much
7 that the nuns must have known about it.

8 "I left when Smyllum when I was 14. I went to stay
9 with my sister. She had married. My brother stayed at
10 Smyllum because he was doing things at school. He got
11 out about a year later. My sister came to fetch me in
12 a car with her husband. I don't know how it came about.
13 I was just glad.

14 "At the time I didn't feel I could go to anybody.
15 The nuns were gods and that was it. My social worker
16 would pop up and say hello once a year, but I didn't say
17 anything to her. I'm sure it was at the back of my mind
18 that she would tell the nuns and then I would get left
19 there and I would definitely get leathered. I didn't
20 tell anybody for years because there was nobody to tell
21 and I didn't think anybody would listen. I told my
22 ex-partner years later.

23 "I have never reported any of the abuse to the
24 police. I joined a group from Smyllum that tried to
25 take a prosecution against the nuns. There were 450/500

1 of us. It was time barred so I was really annoyed about
2 that. I gave part of a statement to a solicitor,
3 Cameron Fife, in Glasgow. Then the case was time barred
4 so there was no point in going further. I think
5 I prepared the statement myself and sent it in.

6 "After Smyllum I started school in the town my
7 sister lived in. I got into two fights in my first
8 48 hours because I was the new guy. One guy came up and
9 just punched me. So I just kept on kicking him. The
10 next day his pal did the same, so I kicked him as well.
11 I put both of them in hospital and nobody bothered me
12 again. My best subjects were chemistry and biology but
13 they couldn't fit me into those classes, so I left
14 school with nothing. After being there for six months
15 I thought there was no point, so I left school.

16 "I did odd jobs when I left school. I worked in the
17 amusements in town for a few years. Then I went to
18 college and trained as a chef. I worked in an old
19 folks' home for about 11 years. Then I thought, I have
20 grown up in a home and worked in a home. I didn't want
21 to die in a home so I just packed the job in. I have
22 been a postman for nearly 12 years.

23 "I have lived in the same house for 25/30 years.

24 I have a son [REDACTED] He lives with [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED] but I see him all the time.

1 "Every day of my life being in Smyllum impacts upon
2 me. Up until now I was able to put everything into
3 a box that I didn't want to open. I have forgotten
4 quite a lot and I'm pleased about that. I don't think
5 I want to remember the nuns' names. I could shut the
6 box and I would be fine. But once the box is open you
7 start realising that it's not a healthy way of thinking.
8 It's taken me years to learn that.

9 "I was always violent when I was younger. I think
10 that when you are brought up with violence, you
11 retaliate with violence. Smyllum was a violent place.
12 I think they should have burnt the whole building down,
13 but they turned it into flats.

14 "Being in Smyllum affected my health. A few years
15 ago I drank too much. I also gambled. It took me two
16 years to go to my doctor and ask for help. I saw
17 a psychiatrist about 18 years ago, but there's not much
18 help out there. Recently, I have been struggling to
19 cope with everything. I have been asking for help from
20 my work [REDACTED] but they have done nothing.
21 I didn't want to go to my GP but I knew I had to ask for
22 help. I asked to get signed off work because I needed
23 time to process everything. The GP told me I needed to
24 go to work because that's what I get paid for.
25 I wouldn't leave without getting a sick note and

1 eventually he signed me off for four weeks. When I gave
2 the sick note to my employer it said that I had stress
3 related to childhood abuse. Now those managers are
4 aware that I was abused when I did not want it known.

5 "I didn't know my parents. I met my dad at his
6 funeral. I met my mum on the same day and by that time
7 she had dementia. She died about two years later.
8 I met my oldest brother at my dad's funeral as well. It
9 was strange at the funeral because people were crying.
10 He was my dad and I didn't have any feelings at all.

11 "My sisters live in [REDACTED]. I have contact with
12 one of them. My other sister lives in [REDACTED], as does
13 my brother. I have no contact with some of my siblings.

14 "I find it very hard to trust people. I am not very
15 good at communicating. Instead of showing my anger,
16 I will just go quiet and I don't say anything. That
17 bothers other people but it doesn't bother me because it
18 is my way of dealing with things: I just shut down. It
19 has affected me negatively as I don't think it is
20 a healthy way of dealing with things.

21 "Being in Smyllum has had an effect on my
22 relationships. I find it easy to walk away from things.
23 There were things done in the home to me and things
24 I did in the home that I didn't realise were wrong at
25 the time. When I was older and realised what actually

1 happened I thought that one day the police would chap on
2 the door and I would go to jail. I would get into
3 a relationship and then I would think, 'Somebody's going
4 to chap on that door one day, I need to finish this'.
5 So I would end the relationship and move on to the next
6 one. Then the same thing would happen. It's
7 a disaster. It's always at the back of my mind and it
8 will never go away.

9 "I tried to find my dad through the Salvation Army.
10 They helped me try to obtain my records but Glasgow City
11 Council told me they didn't have them.

12 "I wouldn't want it to happen to anybody else.
13 Children should be asked what they want and what they
14 need. What a document thinks a child needs is not
15 always what the child wants.

16 "There was no duty of care of me when I was in the
17 home. For the next generation, please let there be
18 a duty of care.

19 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
20 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
21 I believe the facts stated in the witness statement are
22 true."

23 My Lady, the witness statement was signed by Greig
24 on 5 September 2017.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness an applicant who
2 wants to remain anonymous and wants to use the pseudonym
3 "Steaphain" while giving his evidence.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 "STEAPHAIN" (affirmed)

6 LADY SMITH: Do sit down and make yourself comfortable.

7 That microphone looks as though it is in the right
8 position for you now, but if you use it it will make it
9 easier for you to be heard.

10 Mr MacAulay, when you are ready.

11 Questions from MR MacAULAY

12 MR MacAULAY: My Lady.

13 Good afternoon, Steaphain. I don't want your date
14 of birth, but I do require your year of birth so I can
15 get a time frame for you. Can you confirm that the year
16 of your birth is 1960?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. In front of you you have a statement that you have
19 provided to the Inquiry and I will ask you to look at
20 that in a moment. But before I do that, can I just say
21 to you that I will be asking questions and if I ask you
22 something, particularly in relation to dates, that you
23 don't remember, then just say so.

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. Likewise, if something comes to mind that you hadn't

1 mentioned before, again feel free to tell us that.

2 A. Okay.

3 Q. Can I just take you to your statement first of all.

4 I will give the reference for the transcript as

5 WIT.001.001.2201.

6 If I could ask you, Steaphain, to go to the last

7 page of the statement, 2214.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Can I ask you to confirm that you have signed the

10 statement?

11 A. I have signed it, yes.

12 Q. If you look at the last paragraph, do you tell us that:

13 "I have no objection to my witness statement being

14 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry"?

15 A. Absolutely.

16 Q. Likewise you go on to say:

17 "I believe the facts stated in this witness

18 statement are true."

19 A. Yes, I do.

20 Q. Can I go back to the time before you went into care

21 because we know you were eventually admitted to Smyllum

22 and you were in care in Smyllum. Before that, what

23 recollections do you have of life before that?

24 A. Well, as a child -- I think I have said in the statement

25 and I would refer, you know, to that. It was -- in

1 terms of family life, it was relatively happy. Not even
2 relatively happy, it was happy. It was a happy
3 childhood that I had with parents and siblings.

4 Q. So far as siblings are concerned, you had an older
5 brother and sister?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. I think your older sister died very young.

8 A. Yeah, she died within six months of -- she was born in
9 1959 and she died -- [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED] towards the end of
11 that year.

12 Q. You also had a younger sister as well.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. You tell us this in your statement: that, rather sadly,
15 your mother took her own life at some point in time.

16 A. Yeah. I was four years old and, my mother committed
17 suicide and I was the person that found her apparently.

18 [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25

[REDACTED] Again, I was recovering from
chickenpox. I think my sister would have been at home.

1 She was a toddler. So she's a couple of years younger
2 than myself. I do recall trying to get in, wondering
3 what's going on, kind of late afternoon time, [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]. I think my sister might
5 have been sleeping, it might have been that she was
6 being kept away from me because of the chickenpox. [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED] I probably
9 blocked what happened next in terms of who came to help,
10 who discovered.

11 Again, on the death certificate it says that she
12 passed between the hours of [REDACTED] so I mean
13 I have a reference point as to when exactly she passed
14 exactly, [REDACTED], 1965 [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED] I mean I'm probably
16 digressing from the statement.

17 Q. No, it is important background information. But I think
18 your thinking is that she may have been suffering from
19 postnatal depression and, of course, a child had also
20 died.

21 A. Yes. I'm putting together the pieces from a modern
22 perspective. Thinking about it, she was a young mum, my
23 dad worked away -- and in this case I think he was
24 working abroad, he did work [REDACTED]
25 in various locations. He went where the work was. He

1 was a [REDACTED] and I think it might have been
2 quite a lonely existence for her. We lived in
3 [REDACTED] on the outskirts of Glasgow.
4 Don't get me wrong, I loved being on the edge of the
5 countryside as a small kind of child, being able to
6 ramble about, relatively freely and safely, I hasten to
7 add. But I think my mother was probably, despite the
8 fact that you know I had a younger sister, a toddler,
9 she had lost a young girl before me. You know a lot of
10 that information you discover as you move on through
11 life. These things are kind of kept relatively quiet, a
12 kind of family secret. I had a sister who had passed
13 away within six months. And I think my mother may well
14 have been suffering from absolute loneliness, looking
15 after a few kids, postnatal depression potentially
16 coming into it from my younger sister, but obviously the
17 previous bereavement.

18 Q. Carry on.

19 A. I mean, again, I have got this folder full of all sorts
20 of photographs. I have a picture of my mother and
21 myself and my sister in the background, a family kind of
22 situation. So the memory of my mother between the ages
23 of when I was born to 4 are happy until that point in
24 time when I discovered ...

25 Q. Okay. I will take it on from there because I think,

1 after your mother died, you were looked after, for
2 a while at least, by an aunt and an uncle; is that
3 right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. But not for too long?

6 A. I have spoken to that particular aunt. Unfortunately,
7 my uncle in that connection had passed away a number of
8 years ago. Fairly recently. But I have spoken to my
9 aunt and there's always been a sense of shame, I think,
10 from my mother's side of the family in as much as they
11 didn't really do anything, they didn't really appreciate
12 what was actually happening -- and I'm referencing
13 Smyllum at this point -- and I think potentially -- it
14 is not even potentially, my aunt was grieving for her
15 sister. So for a time we did -- the kids were taken
16 into the care of that particular aunt and uncle.

17 I can give names, if you wish, but you know --

18 Q. I think you have given us the name in your statement, so
19 you needn't give them to the hearing. I take it the
20 three of you were taken into the care of that aunt and
21 uncle?

22 A. My understanding was that the three of us were taken
23 into care by that particular aunt and uncle and at some
24 point thereafter, myself and my brother were taken to
25 Smyllum -- because I don't have any recollection of my

1 sister being in Smyllum at the same time. To be
2 perfectly honest, I don't have that many memories of
3 being in the company of my brother at Smyllum. I don't
4 think that we lived in the same dormitory because that's
5 the kind of way it was. I think you were kind of split
6 up from family.

7 Q. Can I take you then to the time that you went to Smyllum
8 and move on to that. Do you remember the day that you
9 were taken to Smyllum?

10 A. I think previously in this statement I have suggested
11 that I can remember being taken away in the winter and
12 that's simply because my mother passed away in the
13 winter. I certainly know that when we were taken away
14 from my aunt and uncle, my brother and I were clinging
15 onto each leg of my uncle. I mean, again from that
16 perspective, I was four years old, my mother had
17 committed suicide, I had no clue what was going on,
18 I had no understanding of death at that point. I didn't
19 know why we were being taken away. I was obviously
20 happy to be in the company of my aunt and uncle and kind
21 of the two cousins that I have through the aunt and
22 uncle. But I remember being taken away and bundled in,
23 as I say in my statement, into a Commer van, basically
24 the forerunner of a minibus. It had seats and glass
25 windows and we could see through. I remember it was

1 dark. Whether it was winter or just a dark night I'm
2 not entirely sure.

3 Q. Did your aunt and uncle go with you to Smyllum?

4 A. No. My aunt has spoken to me she said she was
5 heartbroken. Again, that aspect of the shame. She
6 didn't want it to happen. My uncle certainly didn't
7 want it to happen. I didn't want to be taken away. It
8 was just a really distressing experience. A horrible,
9 horrible feeling of being taken away into the unknown.
10 I didn't know where I was going.

11 I have said in my statement -- and I will use the
12 Glasgow vernacular -- I was screaming and crying,
13 "I want my mammy, I want my mammy", and my brother was
14 probably crying the same. As I say, I don't recollect
15 my sister coming along with us. But again --

16 Q. What's your understanding now?

17 A. My understanding was that, from my aunt, that my sister
18 was kept with them for a period of time and then she was
19 located with another aunt and uncle from my dad's side
20 of the family.

21 But both our parents had large families. My dad had
22 [REDACTED] sisters my mother [REDACTED] sisters, [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED] brothers, so potentially we could have been retained
24 within the family circle and that seemed to be what was
25 happening with my sister. I just don't have any

1 recollection of her being at Smyllum.

2 I was going to backtrack there to something or other
3 about just kind of family life but my train of
4 thought --

5 Q. If it comes back to you, just let us know.

6 Coming then to your admission to Smyllum. We have
7 been able to locate records both from the admission
8 registers from Smyllum and also from the Children's
9 Department that were responsible for placing you in
10 Smyllum and it would appear from those records that you
11 were admitted to Smyllum on [REDACTED] 1965 when you were
12 aged between 4 and 5. That's the starting date we have
13 from the records. That may or may not accord with your
14 own recollection as to the time of the year but it
15 accords broadly, I think, with what age you were when
16 you were admitted there.

17 A. Yes, absolutely.

18 Q. I think you tell us you don't have any recollection of
19 arriving at Smyllum.

20 A. Well, I think in my statement what I had suggested was
21 that I probably cried myself tired and I probably was
22 unaware of how I was taken into the physical building
23 structure. If there was some sort of processing that
24 was to be done, recording, I don't remember any of that
25 at all.

1 Q. Do you remember getting any -- being offered any comfort
2 for the state you were in at an early stage when you
3 were at Smyllum?

4 A. There was no comfort. There was absolutely no comfort
5 at Smyllum. It was an absolutely unforgiving,
6 unwelcome, threatening environment. My recollection of
7 the place is, you know, a really -- a really dark place.
8 I know that over the years -- we are talking about this
9 happening 52 years ago. That's half a century. I know
10 that I have stored a lot of this away in the dark
11 crevasses of my mind. I absolutely know that it was not
12 a fantastic experience of life, especially given that
13 I was four, four and a half. I didn't realise my mother
14 had committed suicide. So in terms of comfort, you
15 know, care, there was none of that, you know,
16 potentially put a little head on a shoulder experience.
17 I do not recall any of that.

18 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about what recollections you
19 have then about Smyllum. Let look at, first of all,
20 where you slept, the dormitories. Were you in
21 a dormitory?

22 A. Yes. I'm pretty sure. I can remember certain features
23 of the actual dormitory, the kind of shape of the bed,
24 the head rest and things like that, the kind of rows of
25 beds. It seemed to be that -- there were no girls in

1 that dorm. If I was in any company it would be in --
2 I'm talking about company of children -- the company
3 I was in would be with a group of young boys. So that's
4 potentially why I don't have any recollection of my
5 sister being there. I'm told that she was there. I'm
6 also told that she was taken away potentially by another
7 aunt and uncle.

8 I think potentially there was a kind of realisation
9 that there was something amiss, the way that we were
10 being treated. That's simply by conversations that
11 I have had with aunts. I have to say none of those
12 conversations have been over a long period of time.
13 I have kept a lot of this stuff in my background.

14 Q. One thing you do tell us about in your statement is your
15 recollection of a trip you had to St Andrews.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What can you tell me about your recollection about that
18 particular trip?

19 A. Well, I will backtrack. I do remember that my aunt and
20 uncle who I was clinging onto, my uncle's leg, I do
21 remember them coming to visit at Smyllum and being
22 turned away. I can remember effectively -- I'm now
23 going back into the St Andrews visit --

24 Q. Did they come to visit before the St Andrews visit?

25 A. They came to visit at Smyllum and they were turned away

1 apparently.

2 Q. Was that something you have learned?

3 A. It is not something I have learned; it was something
4 that -- I was kind of inside and recognised my aunt and
5 uncle and they could tell when they were being
6 effectively dismissed that there was something not quite
7 right with the expression. When I recognised my aunt
8 and uncle, it was a certain amount of, I suppose, joy or
9 happiness, but I was taken away and my aunt and uncle
10 were basically escorted off the premises.

11 Q. Did you actually speak to them on that occasion?

12 A. No, I never spoke to them.

13 Q. Did they see you?

14 A. I think I was kind of passing by with a group of people
15 being escorted from one place to another and my aunt and
16 uncle were kind in some sort of a reception area and
17 I could see them, recognise them, I was acknowledging
18 them and was just ushered away. That's that experience
19 within Smyllum itself.

20 The St Andrews incident -- there was a couple of
21 things that kind of happened at St Andrews, one that
22 I wasn't really that aware of where that same aunt and
23 uncle who were dismissed, they knew that we were either
24 on some sort of a trip at St Andrews, whilst they were
25 holidaying in St Andrews in a caravan and they tried to

1 again make some sort of arrangement to visit myself and
2 brother, possibly my sister.

3 But that particular school trip -- I wasn't even at
4 school at that particular point in time, but that
5 particular trip I do remember running away, getting
6 away, and basically hiding and watching for the bus to
7 just drive away without me and just hope -- and I was
8 hiding.

9 My wife and I have been to St Andrews on a few
10 occasions, day trips, et cetera, I have been out there
11 for a conferences as part of work, and I know exactly
12 the place where I was hiding. It is that kind of
13 dèjà vu feeling where, if I pass that place, I can see,
14 behind the iron gates, the little kind of sandstone
15 terraced houses looking down a little brae at the bus
16 and just willing the bus to move on, longing for it to
17 leave, and the person who lived in the house came out
18 and was asking: what's going on here, what are you doing
19 here? Effectively that alerted the nuns to me hiding
20 away and trying to escape effectively.

21 Q. So you were caught?

22 A. I was caught and I was bundled down the street, down the
23 pavement. There was a confrontation where a couple of
24 people were sent up to get me or had spotted this
25 confrontation with me and this kind of -- with what

1 a seemed to be an elderly person, wondering what this
2 young child is doing in his property, in his garden. So
3 he alerted people and that alerted the nuns to come up
4 from down the brae -- or up the brae. I was bundled
5 away down the street onto the bus, sat at the front of
6 the bus, and a nun sat beside me and again I was
7 distraught. Absolutely distraught, emotional. And
8 I was crying, upset, struggling to kind of get away, but
9 basically been penned in against the window, you know,
10 on one of the front seats of the bus.

11 Q. What happened with you got back to Smyllum?

12 A. I was beaten. I was beaten up. It was a regular
13 feature. I don't think I was an unruly child but I do
14 think I was extremely psychologically and emotionally
15 mixed up with the experience of losing my mother and
16 I was beaten up.

17 Q. On that occasion, if you can, can you just tell us what
18 that involved.

19 A. Well, I can recall being beaten up on frequent
20 occasions.

21 Q. I will ask you about these but this particular --

22 A. This particular instance I was taken away. I don't even
23 know if it was a case of when we arrived back at Smyllum
24 or if it was in a place in St Andrews, but I do remember
25 that when I was taken back that I was taken away and

1 I was kicked and beaten with some sort of an implement.

2 On other occasions I remember being beaten by
3 heavy-duty wooden coat hangers. On that particular
4 occasion I was basically kicked and beaten, probably
5 because I was still struggling to try and get away.

6 Q. Who was involved in this particular beating?

7 A. The people that were always behind the beatings were
8 nuns. The people who were supposed to be looking after
9 myself, my brother, my sister. They were -- they were
10 absolutely unforgiving. My overarching memory of
11 Smyllum is the people who were supposedly there to care
12 for a young family that were going through trauma, it
13 was the exact opposite treatment that we got. You know?
14 I can remember wetting the bed frequently --

15 Q. I will ask you about that as well, but you carry on tell
16 us about that.

17 A. Well, again, potentially I'm four years old, four and
18 a half years old and I'm probably not that long out of
19 nappies and being -- I probably have been toilet trained
20 but I'm going through some sort of stress, trauma, and,
21 you know, I just remember at Smyllum that I wet the bed
22 frequently and to be perfectly honest it happened -- it
23 continued after I was out of Smyllum.

24 Q. Can you tell me what the procedure was then when you wet
25 the bed at Smyllum? What happened?

1 A. Well, I do remember that the nuns -- when we were tucked
2 up into beds, they did the rounds to see that there
3 was -- people were supposedly trying to get off to sleep
4 and what have you. They were very strong on discipline
5 and the kind of order that they wanted to impose.

6 But I would waken up having wet myself and the
7 bedding and I would probably be causing a bit of
8 a commotion. I would be upset that I have wet myself
9 and that would have alerted somebody to come and deal
10 with the situation.

11 The situation usually was that I would be carted
12 away and the clothing would be removed from the bed and
13 a kind of frequent occurrence was basically to put me
14 into a cold bath. I don't know if that was punishment
15 for the bed-wetting or what. I really don't.

16 Q. What about any physical abuse? Would anything happen to
17 you as a result of the bed-wetting?

18 A. Yeah, they would -- you know, it would be meted out.
19 You would be slapped about. You would be kicked. They
20 wore little kind of boots -- again, as I probably refer
21 to my statement, I was quite a curious child and the
22 nuns wore long dark, dark clothing and I was -- they
23 seemed to float, I was really curious as to -- but you
24 know, on one occasion, I remember a nun passing by and
25 having the temerity to have a look to see if these

1 people really got feet. I discovered, yes, they do have
2 feet they have dark brown or black boots and they can
3 use them to kick you.

4 Q. On that occasion what happened, when you looked to see?
5 Did something happen?

6 A. Yeah. I would get taken away and I would get -- going
7 into the vernacular again -- I would get kicked and
8 punched and again, perhaps not on that occasion, but
9 I do remember wooden coat hangers being used to kind of
10 beat myself.

11 Q. You do tell us about the use of wooden coat hangers in
12 your statement. How often was that sort of implement
13 used on you?

14 A. It seemed to be relatively frequent.

15 Q. How was it used?

16 A. How was it used?

17 Q. Yes.

18 A. You are talking about a relatively arched piece of
19 equipment like the shape of this microphone curvature
20 (indicates). One end would be used and the other end
21 would be applied to me, applied on the back of the legs,
22 applied on the hip, applied on the buttocks. You know,
23 and if you were trying to protect yourself, you were
24 raising your arms, you would be getting hit across the
25 arms.

1 I don't know if I should mention at this point,
2 I take painkillers for a condition that was discovered
3 later on, after my experiences in Smyllum, where the
4 condition was known then, back in the 1960s, as Perthes.
5 Effectively what had happened was, either through some
6 sort of trauma, my hip on the right-hand side -- I will
7 put it this way -- it is not a perfect hip socket, it is
8 worn, it is jagged, and it actually had come out of the
9 socket. At one point, according to the doctors, because
10 of whatever trauma, the blood supply is lost to that
11 area and potentially my leg on the right-hand side is
12 slightly shorter because of lack of growth or lack of
13 blood going to that area.

14 Q. Do you associate that condition with anything that
15 happened to you at Smyllum?

16 A. Well, yeah, when I think back I do. I contribute a lot
17 of the beatings that I got to trying to escape and
18 curling up, foetus-like, and you would be getting
19 battered across the back of your legs, your backside,
20 potentially your lower back and that side of the hip,
21 that side of my body, the right-hand side.

22 Don't get me wrong, I haven't investigated it to any
23 extent, but the health records will be there, you know,
24 to figure out when this trauma started to appear. But
25 you are talking about not that long after I was at

1 Smyllum. Potentially I missed my third year of primary
2 school because I was hospitalised.

3 Q. With that condition?

4 A. With that condition.

5 Q. Going back then to the beatings, you have told us about
6 particular instances where beatings were triggered by
7 what had happened, but more generally during your time
8 at Smyllum, were there regular beatings of the type you
9 have described?

10 A. Yeah, for kind of minor misdemeanours. Yeah. Again, in
11 my statement I have said that I remember being beaten up
12 by the nuns, it happened on a regular basis. I don't
13 know if I was out of hand, being -- showing a lack of
14 courtesy or whatever. I don't understand why the
15 beatings had to be so frequent, suggesting that
16 potentially, yeah, I might have -- perhaps I was trying
17 to run away again.

18 Again, I will reference -- my mother committed aside
19 when I was four years old, I didn't know what was
20 happening. I had been in the care of family, I had been
21 taken away from that and I was put into this strange
22 place where the behaviour of the people looking after
23 you was just callous.

24 MR MacAULAY: We normally have a short break at this point,
25 my Lady, for --

1 LADY SMITH: We will take a five-minute break just now?

2 MR MacAULAY: Yes.

3 LADY SMITH: Steaphain, we will take a five-minute break
4 just now and resume your evidence after that.

5 (3.03 pm)

6 (A short break)

7 (3.10 pm)

8 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

9 MR MacAULAY: My Lady.

10 You have been telling us, Steaphain, about the abuse
11 you suffered at Smyllum, particularly the physical
12 abuse. I think you have told us that the main culprits
13 were the nuns, more than one nun; is that right?

14 A. Yeah. I'm actually very conscious here -- I'm aware of
15 Lady Smith, yourself, Colin, and a couple of solicitors,
16 the -- I'm aware of who the people are and I'm just not
17 looking this kind of way towards the public gallery.
18 I will take the opportunity. I have an absolute fear of
19 nuns, an absolute fear. A couple of weeks ago my wife
20 and I were Christmas shopping and we were in a store and
21 we were looking at some cards and what have you and
22 I noticed an elderly nun come in the shop. This is
23 probably totally irrelevant, but I immediately walked
24 across to my wife, probably the same distance as you and
25 I are, and I just asked, "Please tell me when she goes

1 away", and the woman was just minding her own business,
2 looking at Christmas cards, but I disappeared out of the
3 shop. That's not -- so I'm conscious that I'm not
4 looking over here --

5 LADY SMITH: Steaphain, can I assure you there are no nuns
6 in here.

7 A. I knew that in any case, Lady Smith. I knew that. But
8 I'm just conscious that my vision, my concentration is
9 to the screen, my evidence, and to yourself.

10 MR MacAULAY: This is something you tell us about in your
11 statement that you have this aversion to nuns and you
12 have had experiences in the past, similar to the one you
13 have just mentioned that you had recently.

14 A. Yes. The nuns -- I cannot remember faces exactly.
15 There's no way I could put any names to any of the
16 people. They are probably long gone but I am sure there
17 are -- like the people who were in Smyllum, there are
18 survivors on both sides. I just -- I have mentioned the
19 punishments were frequent and the beatings were
20 thunderous.

21 Another thing that I did not quite appreciate was
22 having a bath because I associate the cold bath
23 treatment as a form of punishment and the water seemed
24 to be freezing cold. It may well be I was a child, you
25 know, but I remember that you were forced into the bath.

1 There was no negotiation. It was you were pushed,
2 prodded into the cold water.

3 Again I'm looking at the statement here, I don't
4 know why the water seemed to be so cold. When we had
5 our kind of morning routines at Smyllum, you know, there
6 was warm water. You could wash yourself in the morning
7 and last thing at night and it was -- the thing that you
8 should be doing, using pleasantly warm water, but the
9 baths were freezing cold. The bath tubs I can remember
10 being ceramic or tin, kind of an enamelled tin. Those
11 bathrooms where that seemed to happen, they were kind of
12 smallish. It seemed to be the baths were pre-prepared
13 and there was buckets of additional water there.

14 Q. And I think earlier, to some extent at least, you
15 associated the cold baths with the bed-wetting that you
16 told us about as a form of punishment for the
17 bed-wetting.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What I was interested to know from you is when you were
20 being beaten, for example, would there be one nun or
21 more than one nun involved in that process?

22 A. There would be potentially two, you know, because it was
23 not a situation where I was co-operating fully. Yeah,
24 okay, I will accept having a cold bath at four years
25 old, that was not a good experience. You were being

1 pushed in, forced in, and effectively they needed --
2 an individual could not contain one child who is
3 basically asserting a certain amount of "this is not
4 right, this is just not right".

5 So there would be at least -- whenever I was beaten
6 up, I do recall that there was one, probably two,
7 people: one trying to hold you down or trying to get you
8 up so they could strike a particular place and the other
9 was kind of striking. Potentially I can remember being
10 kicked on occasion by a couple of nuns. Just kicking
11 out, just lashing out.

12 Q. You have been telling us about what you suffered. Did
13 you see in relation to other children what was happening
14 to them?

15 A. You could hear it. You could hear it.

16 Again, I'm suggesting that potentially if I had been
17 in a situation where I was needing a bit of discipline
18 or I had done something untoward, you were taken away
19 and you were kind of beaten elsewhere, but I can recall
20 hearing other people.

21 Again, that's an experience, I can remember as
22 a small child lying at night thinking about, this is
23 just happening to me, this is just happening to me.
24 But, no, there were occasions when somebody else might
25 have wet the bed and they were taken away and dealt

- 1 with.
- 2 Q. Can I take -- sorry, carry on, you were going to say
- 3 something.
- 4 A. I just -- I do, remember -- yes, I don't remember seeing
- 5 a great deal of other people being beaten, as a witness
- 6 or as a third party, but I could remember -- I can
- 7 remember hearing beatings happening elsewhere.
- 8 Q. Can I take you to paragraph 32 of your statement.
- 9 That's on page 7. You begin there by saying that your
- 10 lasting memory of being in Smyllum is just the utter
- 11 loneliness that you felt.
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Does that summarise your lasting memory, if you like?
- 14 A. Reading that statement, that utter loneliness, I felt
- 15 like the loneliest person in the world, whatever that
- 16 was at that time, but, you know, I was surrounded by
- 17 other young people and I do appreciate that. There were
- 18 nuns and priests there. I don't know if I could recall
- 19 what the difference was. It was nuns that beat me up.
- 20 I don't remember any kind of priest being involved in
- 21 anything to me.
- 22 Q. If I can pick up one point from that paragraph which we
- 23 can all read and understand, but you go on to say
- 24 towards the end:
- 25 "The nuns would say things like, 'Your ma has left

1 you for good.'" "

2 Can I ask you about that? Was that said to you?

3 A. It was said to me. I can remember it, yeah. Earlier
4 when I mentioned that these people were callous, that's
5 another lasting memory: "Your ma has left you for good,
6 she's not coming back". It's like I had no idea really
7 what that meant apart from the obvious fact that she was
8 not there. I could not turn around and cuddle her or
9 seek that maternal comfort. Again, that kind of
10 loneliness, that feeling of loneliness and that being
11 reinforced by "Your ma has left you for good". It is
12 a horrible, horrible feeling you know. That's why
13 I referred to it as, you know, that loneliness.

14 You kind of knew that it was happening to other
15 people. You could hear the beatings when it wasn't your
16 turn, as it were. So there are other people out there
17 that have had this experience.

18 Just, you know, it was -- I have mentioned it in the
19 statement. Being there at Smyllum, it was just
20 physical, emotional and mental torture.

21 Q. Can I perhaps take you to the point in time, Steaphain,
22 when you came to leave Smyllum. We will look at how
23 long you were at Smyllum in a moment. Just take me to
24 a date you came to leave; do you have a recollection of
25 that?

- 1 A. I don't actually remember leaving the place. I don't
2 actually remember that.
- 3 Q. What do you remember then in relation to, as it were,
4 being in another place apart from Smyllum?
- 5 A. Potentially what I do remember is when my brother and
6 I were removed because my recollection is my sister
7 wasn't there. She went to live with another aunt in
8 another part of Glasgow and it was there that, you know,
9 I remember meeting up with my sister and, as I have said
10 in the statement, that she was like a stranger. She was
11 a toddler. I didn't know her. It was like I was having
12 to get to know her all over again and there was
13 a certain amount of unease about kind of meeting your
14 younger sibling and her being a bit confused: who are
15 you and who is this other guy, I haven't seen you for
16 a long time, or I don't really remember you that well.
17 That's just -- but in terms of was there a date
18 where again you were processed and you were put in
19 a vehicle, transported to your aunt and uncle, I don't
20 recall that.
- 21 Q. You don't remember that, but do you remember having left
22 Smyllum and being then with your aunt and your uncle?
- 23 A. Yes, I remember that.
- 24 Q. That's where you went after you left Smyllum?
- 25 A. Aye.

1 Q. What about your father? Was he involved in that process
2 as far as you can remember?

3 A. Again, perhaps I should relate it back to the earlier on
4 in the statement when I mentioned my dad worked [REDACTED].
5 [REDACTED] away and I don't think he could cope and that
6 was the reason -- the reason that we were taken to
7 Smyllum was potentially he could not cope for a long,
8 long period of time. Again, it's 1965, your wife
9 commits suicide, how do you deal with that? We have all
10 sorts of things in place these days where you have a lot
11 of support around about you, whether it is family,
12 whether it is the NHS. There's support mechanisms in
13 place, but there was nothing like that or -- if there
14 was, you know, they were certainly not adhered to.

15 So, in terms of my dad, we were parcelled off to one
16 aunt and uncle, another aunt and uncle, and then
17 potentially, for whatever other stresses that were on
18 their family type situations, [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED] and they lived in an area of
22 Glasgow with multiple levels of deprivation and big
23 families kind of looking out for each other, his father
24 was not around much.

25 So, in terms of an extended family, [REDACTED]

1 kind of brought him up and that particular woman, [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED], it

4 was decided that, well, yeah, he is not coping, the
5 family are finding it difficult to kind of look after
6 these kids, they have got kids of their own, another two
7 or three kids to be looking after, on top of -- most of
8 my aunts and uncles have potentially two cousins in each
9 kind of family unit as it were, so it probably was quite
10 difficult.

11 Q. But did there come an point in time when you went back
12 to stay with your father?

13 A. Yes, there was a point in time.

14 Q. What age were you?

15 A. I don't recall my dad being around that much when
16 I actually started school, which potentially was again
17 in the wintertime, when schools at that time took
18 a winter intake.

19 I just think it was a case of he just -- he could
20 not cope. But, it seemed to be that he had recovered
21 sufficiently enough that he met a woman who I refer to
22 as my mother. She was a divorcée and they -- they kind
23 of started going out and they basically decided that
24 they were going to live together and my mother, my
25 stepmother -- she's only been my mother to me -- she

1 took us on. She took the three kids on. So within
2 a couple of years or so, we were back as a kind of
3 family unit.

4 Q. I think your father had another child in fact.

5 A. Yes, I have got a younger brother, which -- I have
6 misspelt his name in the statement actually.

7 Q. That doesn't matter. But you have already mentioned to
8 us the Perthes disease which was something you had to
9 have dealt with as a child and how you relate that to
10 what happened at Smyllum.

11 But moving on, if I can, to your schooling and your
12 education post-school. I think it is right to say that
13 you went to university; is that correct, Steaphain?

14 A. Yes. Myself, I think I was the first person in our
15 family to go to university. It is something I'm quite
16 proud of. My son and daughter are in the public
17 gallery; they are the second and third to have went to
18 university. My daughter has just got a masters there.

19 Q. But so far as your own position is concerned, you
20 studied information science and librarianship and you
21 became a [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED].

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. You mentioned your wife and family. You tell us you are
25 a close family.

1 A. Yeah, the most important people on the planet are my
2 wife -- I'm not going to mention names, please forgive
3 me, but my wife and my son and my daughter.

4 You know, my dad was an important person as was my
5 natural-born mother and the woman that became my mother.
6 My dad passed away [REDACTED] and my stepmother looked after
7 him for the last 12 years of his life, having suffered
8 with dementia.

9 But again you were asking me about school. There
10 were some situations when my dad got together with his
11 second partner. It was not an easy time for him and
12 her. In fact, probably when I go back to my
13 natural-born mother, my dad -- it was not a great time
14 for them because they were from both sides of the
15 religious divide, in Scotland, so they were crossing
16 that divide and so there would be situations where one
17 side was Catholic, one side was protestant, so there was
18 also kind of frictions there.

19 But if I move back to when I came out of Smyllum and
20 there was this renewed family unit, it was happier
21 times, but there was a lot of pressure from the local
22 church, Catholic Church, and within the kind of local
23 primary school that I went to and we were treated quite
24 poorly. My mother -- my dad's second partner was
25 castigated as being a divorcée.

1 They were in a relationship, so effectively things
2 like the kids getting sent to the local church -- my
3 brother and I tended to kind of take the collection
4 money and bunk off and I remember an occasion in primary
5 school where -- Catholic primary school where I, on the
6 kind of Monday, was asked by the teacher, "Right, so
7 hands up, who went to church?" and me, being an honest
8 person, you know, basically everybody was kind of
9 putting their hand up when asked. "Hands up who went to
10 church?" "Hands up who didn't go to church?" And, of
11 course, me being the honest person, put my hand up and
12 I was taken out, put into a corner of the class, stood
13 on a chair and told basically to face the corner.

14 Q. I think you had a rather unhappy experience, we needn't
15 go into the detail of that, when that happened.

16 But coming back to when you were an adult, and what
17 you have achieved, one thing you did at one point was
18 write a letter of complaint to the Bishop of Paisley and
19 did that complaint relate to your treatment at Smyllum?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. What response did you get to that letter?

22 A. I got a letter -- unfortunately, I don't have it with
23 me, I have this packet of information. So, Bishop
24 Tartaglia, I think, wrote back to say effectively --
25 obviously I'm paraphrasing, but basically, sorry, we

1 will get you some counselling if you wish.

2 Q. When you say you don't have the letter in your pack, do
3 you actually have the letter?

4 A. I do have the letter, yeah. I have got it filed at home
5 somewhere. I just couldn't put my hand on it to bring
6 with me. I brought this pack of information as
7 a support (inaudible) for me basically.

8 Q. You sent that letter to the bishop, but I think you tell
9 us you have never reported to the police --

10 A. No.

11 Q. -- the abuse.

12 A. I have never reported it to the police. I have emailed
13 recently -- when I got in touch with the Inquiry, it was
14 earlier this year before Easter, and I decided I needed
15 to do something about this.

16 You know, I cannot speak to my dad about this
17 experience because he has got dementia. I couldn't
18 speak to my stepmother, my dad's second partner -- my
19 mother for all intents and purposes -- because she did
20 not know exactly what the experience was. I haven't
21 really had any great conversations with family members
22 on both sides because I have tucked it away.

23 There have been snippets of information -- I can
24 remember when my older brother -- we had a family
25 gathering for him and there was a variety of aunts and

1 uncles there and the aunt and uncle whose legs I had
2 been clinging onto had been on holiday visiting, again
3 another aunt [REDACTED], and there
4 apparently had been a book published by somebody about
5 their experiences at Smyllum and she was apologising
6 profusely, "I'm really sorry, I'm really sorry. The
7 treatment that those people must have put you through".

8 Again, so as part of the ongoing Inquiry, I decided
9 that I was going to email because I don't exactly know
10 how long I was in Smyllum. You are telling me it was
11 six weeks, my recollection is it was a much longer
12 period of time than that.

13 Q. I think you have been told before you came into give
14 your evidence that, so far as the records we have are
15 concerned, that it suggests the period is perhaps six to
16 seven weeks. But that doesn't matter hugely in a way
17 because of what you have experienced.

18 A. I would dispute that in any case.

19 Q. Indeed, absolutely.

20 A. The experience, regardless of what time frame that was,
21 as a four year old, having gone through what I went
22 through, my recollection was that that was never-ending.

23 Q. And it is the experience that counts so far as the
24 Inquiry is concerned.

25 I want to take you, Steaphain, to a particular

1 paragraph that you have in your statement and if I may
2 ask you to read it to the Inquiry. It is paragraph 67
3 on page 14. Would you mind reading that to us?

4 A. Before I do that, I mean, I was going to -- I had
5 emailed, as part of the Inquiry, the archdioceses,
6 asking if there were any records of when myself, my
7 brother and sister went into Smyllum, and they emailed
8 me back to say that we don't keep those records,
9 effectively.

10 So, I emailed the Order -- and I am being kind when
11 I say that --

12 Q. What was the response to that?

13 A. What did it say? At the third point of prompting them,
14 I got a response by email to say that because of the
15 ongoing Inquiry, they didn't have the records. They
16 were basically -- the suggestion was they were in the
17 hands of the Inquiry.

18 MR MacAULAY: It is correct to say that they have sent us,
19 for example, admission registers and it is from that
20 source we can get some information as to when you were
21 admitted, for example, to Smyllum. So that seems to be
22 correct.

23 Again, then, against that background, if I could ask
24 you then to look at paragraph 67, Steaphain, and, if you
25 don't mind, if you would read that to us.

1 A. Yes, I might even have something to add. The paragraph
2 says -- it relates to "Hopes for the Inquiry":

3 "I am well aware that the people involved in the
4 mistreatment have long since died or are extremely
5 elderly, but I wonder who is going to take
6 responsibility for their actions. Would it be the
7 Catholic Church? Abuse at that time seemed to be
8 institutionalised. It was allowed to happen due to many
9 factors. For example, poor or no child care training,
10 inadequate people skills, lack of monitoring or
11 regulation, incompetency, complacency and, worst of all,
12 covering up by organisations who are meant to be
13 intrinsically good and care for the health and
14 well-being of fellow humans."

15 I don't mind getting emotional here -- I got
16 emotional at the break, but to get back to ...

17 "I was four years old when they did this to me.
18 That's no way to treat vulnerable human beings. People
19 should be asking questions about what is going on."

20 I'm going off message here. I think that the press
21 have known about this, the mainstream media have known
22 about this for a long, long time and it could have been
23 investigated long ago. I'm pretty sure the press will
24 take maybe a keener interest as the Inquiry moves on.

25 So back to complete the paragraph -- and I may well

1 add. The paragraph finishes off:

2 "I'm disappointed in myself for doing nothing, for
3 not seeking out about my past".

4 Q. You want to add to that, Steaphain?

5 A. I want to add to it, what I want to add is lots and lots
6 of things but I know that I won't be able to articulate
7 it here.

8 This process for me has been exorcising this whole
9 experience, absolutely exorcising it from my system, if
10 I possibly can. There's lots of things that I would
11 like to add.

12 In my pack I have a selection of photographs of
13 a particular cemetery in Lanark where there's rows upon
14 rows of headstones dedicated to the nuns over a long
15 period of time, a couple of marble chairs to the
16 Vincentian Fathers and the Order who have changed their
17 name over the years. In that particular graveyard,
18 there's a variety of different kind of plots named after
19 a variety of saints. My hopes for the Inquiry are that
20 potentially the people who have passed away in the care
21 of those people at that institute, those people should
22 be remembered as appropriately as the nuns and priests
23 have been remembered in that particular graveyard.

24 There's more that I want to say but, you know, my
25 fear is that -- and this is not just a particular church

1 or religion, it's a variety of different kind of orders.
2 The way that they treated people in the past and covered
3 things up has been just an absolute disgrace. It really
4 is. I believe that the Order have -- still hold land
5 round about where Smyllum is. It's nice a nice little
6 modern housing estate. The main building is still
7 there. I can remember the structure of the physical
8 building but I believe they are trying to sell that land
9 and I think any of that proceeds should be going to
10 remember the people who passed away in their care. I'm
11 not suggesting these people were necessarily mistreated,
12 died of natural causes, but I do not think these people
13 should be allowed ...

14 I will give you one example: I take painkillers; who
15 pays for that? The Scottish taxpayer. You know, there
16 are lots of people who went through much more trauma
17 than me over a longer period of time and who is picking
18 up the tab for that? It is not these Orders. It is not
19 that particular church or a particular religious
20 organisation. But I just would like the people, you
21 know, who have suffered the most to be remembered in
22 that churchyard, in that graveyard, I should say.

23 I don't seek anything from this other than to exorcise
24 that whole experience from my system. People need to
25 know what went on there and in other places obviously.

1 MR MacAULAY: As usual.

2 LADY SMITH: Very well.

3 I will adjourn for today at this point and sit again
4 at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning for further oral
5 evidence.

6 (3.50 pm)

7 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
8 on Friday, 8 December 2017)

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