

Monday, 11 December 2017

(10.00 am)

LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome to the third week of this part of the hearings. We are going to continue hearing evidence shortly but can I begin by just reiterating what I have said on a number of occasions now about respecting the anonymity that has been granted to a number of the applicants who have come forward and also in relation to anybody against whom allegations of abuse have been made and who has not been convicted.

Details of the explanation for this approach to anonymity were provided by me at the beginning of this phase of the hearings and they can be seen at the beginning of the transcript of Day 1. I'm also hoping that very shortly that part of the transcript will be extracted and put on a separate readily accessible page of the website.

I'm also aware that a number of the press have not been backward in coming forward in asking members of the Inquiry team for guidance as to what names can be publicised and what can't. I'm delighted that you have done that; please keep doing so. If you are in any doubt, they are here to help.

Mr MacAulay.

MR MacAULAY: Good morning, my Lady.

1           The next witness is an applicant who wants to remain  
2           anonymous and wants to use the name "Patrick" in giving  
3           his evidence.

4       LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5           Good morning, Patrick. Would you take the oath  
6           please.

7                               "PATRICK" (sworn)

8       LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.

9           If you position yourself close enough to the microphone  
10          you will find that it makes it much easier to make  
11          yourself heard and, of course, it is important that  
12          everybody can hear you.

13          Mr MacAulay.

14                               Questions from MR MacAULAY

15       MR MacAULAY: My Lady.

16          Good morning, Patrick.

17       A. Good morning, Colin.

18       Q. I don't want your date of birth, but I need the year of  
19          your birth so I can get a time frame. Am I right in  
20          thinking you were born in 1966?

21       A. That's correct.

22       Q. I will be asking you questions based mainly on your  
23          witness statement you have provided to the Inquiry, but  
24          if I ask you something, particularly in connection with  
25          a date, that you can't remember, just say that you can't

1           remember; do you understand that?

2       A.   Okay.

3       Q.   Also, if something comes to mind that you hadn't

4           remembered when you gave your statement, then please

5           feel free to tell us about that.

6       A.   Okay.

7       Q.   The first thing I wanted to do was to look at your

8           statement.  I will give the reference number for the

9           transcript; that's WIT.001.001.2703.  In that red

10          folder, Patrick, you will find a copy of your statement

11          and if you could turn to the last page, that's

12          page 2726.

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

14          statement?

15       A.   It's blank.

16       Q.   It's blank?  Okay, well that's not very helpful.  Let's

17          see if we can get a ... (Pause)

18                 I think if you turn to the screen, is there

19          something on the screen in front of you?

20       A.   It is a blank screen --

21       LADY SMITH:  It is redacted.

22       MR MacAULAY:  What's happened is your signature has been

23          blanked out, but do you remember signing your statement.

24       A.   Yes.

25       Q.   So you have signed it?

1 A. I have signed my statement.

2 Q. Very well, that's fine.

3 LADY SMITH: You can see the date of the signature is given  
4 as 17 October 2017, so it is not very long ago. You  
5 recall doing that?

6 A. Yes, yes.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 MR MacAULAY: While you have that page in front of you, can  
9 we read that you tell us at paragraph 95:  
10 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
11 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry."  
12 Is that correct?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. And also you go on to say:  
15 "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
16 statement are true."  
17 Is that the position?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can I then go back, Patrick, to the time when you were  
20 admitted to Smyllum. According to the records you were  
21 admitted to Smyllum on [REDACTED] 1974.

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. At that time you would be aged about 8; is that right?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Before that, can you just give me some understanding as

1 to what life had been like?

2 A. Basically, I was in and out of care from 1968. I didn't  
3 know that, it was only when I got my files in 2014 I was  
4 able to -- in and out of care.

5 Q. But you have no real recollection of that part of your  
6 life?

7 A. No, too young.

8 Q. Am I right in thinking that you were in Smyllum until  
9 about [REDACTED] 1981?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. So you were there until what the age of about 14 or  
12 thereabouts?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. For about six -- over six years in total?

15 A. Yeah.

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

17 A. Yes, I will never forget it.

18 Q. What do you remember about it?

19 A. We got macaroni for dinner and I had never seen  
20 macaroni, so me and my two brothers, we just sat and  
21 looked at it, wouldn't eat it, and eventually they took  
22 it away and gave us something else to eat.

23 Q. You mention your two brothers there; did you go to  
24 Smyllum with your two brothers?

25 A. Yeah, ABZ and [REDACTED]

- 1 Q. And I think one is younger and one is older; is that  
2 right?
- 3 A. Correct.
- 4 Q. Can I ask you then about the set up at Smyllum, Patrick.  
5 Did you go to a particular part of the building when you  
6 went there?
- 7 A. I can't remember; all I remember was we ended up in  
8 Roncalli.
- 9 Q. So there were a number of different houses at Smyllum.
- 10 A. Four different houses.
- 11 Q. When you say you ended up in Roncalli, is that your  
12 first recollection of being in Roncalli House?
- 13 A. Yes, Roncalli.
- 14 Q. What about your two brothers, were they with you?
- 15 A. Yeah, they were in Roncalli too.
- 16 Q. What was the accommodation arrangements, can you tell  
17 me? Did you have a dormitory or a room?
- 18 A. We were in a room, the three of us together, just three  
19 beds in a room. Basically when we were there we were  
20 climbing down the window and like running away.
- 21 Q. Was that on your first night?
- 22 A. That was the first couple of times after, I know, but  
23 that was -- we were going to climb down the window and  
24 run away.
- 25 Q. But that never happened?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. You mentioned there being four houses. So there was  
3 Roncalli that you were in. Did you spend your whole  
4 time in Roncalli?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And we have heard about St Kentigern's and, I think,  
7 Ogilvy House --
- 8 A. Ogilvy, yes.
- 9 Q. And was there also one called St Anne's?
- 10 A. St Anne's or St Mary's, I can't remember.
- 11 Q. Was St Anne's used by some other organisation during the  
12 time you were at Smyllum?
- 13 A. Yeah, at one time there was a different group of  
14 children in it, but it was also part of Smyllum and all  
15 because there was -- [REDACTED], [REDACTED],  
16 people I can remember, they were in Smyllum, they were  
17 part of Smyllum, they were in that house and then it  
18 changed over and it was some other organisation and they  
19 moved to Carluke, I think it was, but they still ended  
20 up in the same secondary, in St Aidan's.
- 21 Q. In relation to Roncalli, can you tell me, when you went  
22 there in 1974, how many children were in that particular  
23 part of the building?
- 24 A. In Roncalli I would say maybe 20, 20 max maybe.
- 25 Q. At that time, for mealtimes, did you have your meals

- 1           within Roncalli or did you go to some other dining room?
- 2       A.   Always in Roncalli.  There was four dining tables and  
3           a member of staff sat at each table, but there were only  
4           two members of staff that I can remember in the early  
5           time:   **FBN**   and   **AGR**
- 6       Q.   In relation to cooking the food, was that done in  
7           Roncalli or was it done somewhere else?
- 8       A.   No it came from the big kitchen in the early days.
- 9       Q.   Did that change though?
- 10      A.   Yeah, it changed and then the food was cooked in  
11           Roncalli and it improved.  It got better.
- 12      Q.   In relation to food, if you take it over the period,  
13           what was the food like?
- 14      A.   In the early days, horrendous, because a lot of the food  
15           me and my brothers we had never seen, never eaten it,  
16           you know what I mean?  And then later on, once they  
17           started cooking in Roncalli, it became better.  We were  
18           actually asked what kind of food we would like.
- 19      Q.   And how late on was that?  Can you help?
- 20      A.   I don't know.  I couldn't say for definite, but it  
21           definitely improved.
- 22      Q.   But from what you are telling us about the set up, at  
23           least when you were there in the 1970s, Roncalli was, as  
24           it were, geared towards having smaller family-type  
25           units; is that correct?



1 A. There was like four dining tables and [REDACTED] FBN sat at  
2 one and [REDACTED] AGR at another. At my table we never  
3 had the staff, so the oldest lassie that was in  
4 Roncalli, [REDACTED] she was like the head of my  
5 table.

6 Q. Just on that, was there a different range of age groups  
7 then in Roncalli?

8 A. Yeah, we were all different ages.

9 Q. Throughout your time at Roncalli, did you spend the  
10 time, so far as sleeping is concerned, in the same room  
11 as your brothers?

12 A. Yeah. When we first went to Smyllum we were in a room,  
13 the three of us together, and then later on we got moved  
14 into the larger room -- there was seven beds, seven  
15 boys: it was me and my two brothers, [REDACTED]  
16 [REDACTED] and then there were other boys.

17 Q. You have mentioned the food already, I think, and you  
18 used the word "horrendous" to describe it. Did you have  
19 to eat the food?

20 A. Aye, what was put in front of you, you had to eat. But  
21 when we were getting force-fed -- I mean, we were made  
22 to force it. Sister [REDACTED] AEG would come behind you, hold  
23 your nose, and ram it down you. [REDACTED] FBN and  
24 [REDACTED] AGR would do it and all. But we got wise to it  
25 eventually, like. You would hope whoever was at your

1 table, whoever was next to you, they would want it, so  
2 you would give it to them. And if the worst came to the  
3 worst, you used to spoon it into your pocket.

4 Q. You mentioned Sister [REDACTED] AEG --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- was she the Sister in charge of Roncalli House?

7 A. Yes, she was in charge of Roncalli all those days.

8 LADY SMITH: What did you do with it after you put it in  
9 your pocket?

10 A. You just disposed of it, toilet, get rid of it,  
11 whatever.

12 LADY SMITH: Wash your pocket?

13 A. You just had to clean it out with toilet roll or  
14 whatever once it was away.

15 LADY SMITH: And hope you weren't going to get caught?

16 A. Yeah, basically.

17 MR MacAULAY: In relation to what you have described as the  
18 force-feeding, you have said Sister [REDACTED] AEG was involved  
19 in that.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Did she get assistance from someone else.

22 A. Basically she would come behind you and (indicates) --

23 Q. She would hold your nose?

24 A. And it went in, you know what I mean. But [REDACTED] FBN  
25 would do it and all, [REDACTED] AGR -- and it was as if

1           they knew at times what food you didn't like. I'm not  
2           saying they enjoyed doing it but ...

3       Q. So this happened to you, Patrick?

4       A. Yes.

5       Q. Did you see it happening to other children?

6       A. Me and my brothers, we weren't custard/semolina/tapioca  
7           people. And stuff like liver. We had never ate liver,  
8           but you could put liver in your pocket no bother.  
9           Butter beans, green beans.

10      Q. Over the period how often did this happen?

11      A. I don't know. I couldn't give you a specific number but  
12           a few times.

13      Q. As you got older -- you became a teenager when you were  
14           there --

15      A. Yeah.

16      Q. -- did that stop?

17      A. It seemed to stop because when Bob Hay, my social  
18           worker, came to visit us, we would be regimented by  
19           Sister **AEG**. The three of us would all be dressed  
20           smartly and we would be put in a room with him. But we  
21           always told him about the beatings, the force-feeding,  
22           and I don't know if it was through him that he had  
23           a word with them and it changed, it stopped. I don't  
24           know.

25      Q. So you did tell your social worker about force-feeding

- 1           and also about beatings?
- 2       A.   Yeah.   Eventually he would take us out of Smyllum, take  
3           us away.   He would take us to a wee place between  
4           Braidwood and Lanark, the Milky Bar, and he would ask us  
5           how we were.   He even took us to Celtic games ...
- 6       Q.   Do you know how long you had been there before you  
7           raised this with the social worker?
- 8       A.   No, I can't remember.
- 9       Q.   Can I ask you a little bit about other aspects of the  
10          routine, Patrick.   Let's look at washing and bathing.  
11          Was there any difficulty over washing and bathing?
- 12      A.   No.
- 13      Q.   Could you have a bath whenever you wanted to have  
14          a bath?
- 15      A.   Yes -- well, later on I remember having a bath, no  
16          bother, but the only hard time about bathing time was --  
17          you know how when you are young, there's a chance of you  
18          all getting nits because there are that many children.  
19          Every week we would be stripped to our vest and pants,  
20          we would get our hair washed and then we would get the  
21          old metal fine comb through the nut.   But you got  
22          a bath, when you took a bath, you know what I mean.
- 23      Q.   The metal comb through your hair, was that done by one  
24          of the staff?
- 25      A.   Sister AEG or one of the staff, you'd get the

- 1           horrible smelly hair on your nut.
- 2       Q.   That was to deal with the nits?
- 3       A.   Yeah, just because --
- 4       Q.   What about schooling, can you tell me about that? We
- 5           understand there was an in-house type school, first of
- 6           all, primary school.
- 7       A.   Smyllum at the top of the hill.
- 8       Q.   Did you go to that school before you went to secondary?
- 9       A.   Yeah, there was only, I think -- if my memory is right,
- 10           there was only two classes. I just think if you have
- 11           got so many people for the same place, it was hard to
- 12           teach. I felt my education suffered by going to Smyllum
- 13           primary school.
- 14       Q.   What sort of education did you get?
- 15       A.   I just remember doing a project on snakes and they used
- 16           to have the tape recorder and they would play Gypsy
- 17           Rover, you would sing the Gypsy Rover song, "The gypsy
- 18           rover came over the hill", but schooling, the early
- 19           days, wasn't good to me.
- 20       Q.   Do you think that held you back?
- 21       A.   Probably, aye, because when I went to St Mary's when
- 22           Smyllum primary shut down, I went there for
- 23           and I felt as if I was years behind everybody.
- 24       Q.   For secondary, did you go to another school?
- 25       A.   Yeah, I went to St Aidan's High in Wishaw.

- 1 Q. Did you ever catch up, do you think, when you went to --
- 2 A. No, no. Dunderhead, dunce, whatever.
- 3 Q. You tell us in your statement, Patrick, that you were
- 4 never asked to do any chores or work at Smyllum.
- 5 A. I can't remember ever doing a chore, no.
- 6 Q. As far as leisure time was concerned, can you help me
- 7 with that? What did do you in your free time?
- 8 A. Football. Football mad. If it wasn't for football --
- 9 Q. Would you go swimming as well because I think you tell
- 10 us about --
- 11 A. We would go swimming, aye. We used to go to Lanark
- 12 baths swimming, but when the good weather came a few of
- 13 us thought we were cleverer than Sister **AEG** so we
- 14 would get money to go swimming and we would go down
- 15 Castlebank Park, down to the River Clyde, and we were
- 16 down in the river swimming, time goes by, you don't
- 17 realise, and then you would come back. Obviously there
- 18 was no smell of chlorine or Sister **AEG** had phoned
- 19 the swimming or whatever, so she knew you weren't there
- 20 swimming, you just pocketed the money, and you would get
- 21 a beating.
- 22 Q. From her?
- 23 A. From her, aye -- or even the staff, you know what
- 24 I mean.
- 25 Q. And television, could you watch television when you

- 1           wanted?
- 2       A.   Watched the television all the time.  The only thing
- 3           with the telly -- I've told my partner -- was the
- 4           buttons were pushy-in, but they would normally be broke,
- 5           so we would to have a wee bit of cardboard and push it
- 6           in and hold so you could watch the channel.
- 7       Q.   Was there a television available to you in
- 8           Roncalli House?
- 9       A.   Yes.
- 10      Q.   So you could watch that at --
- 11      A.   Yeah, I used to watch Grange Hill all the time.
- 12      Q.   Holidays, did you go on holiday from time to time?
- 13      A.   Holiday all the time.
- 14      Q.   Where did you used to go?
- 15      A.   We used to go to Girvan.
- 16      Q.   Was that for a week or so?
- 17      A.   I think it was a week, I couldn't tell you for definite,
- 18           but we used to go to Girvan, the beach pavilion at
- 19           Girvan, there were amusements.
- 20      Q.   Were you taken out also by members of staff?
- 21      A.   Taken out all the time, down to the beach, played on the
- 22           beach, we climbed the big hill in Girvan.  We got money
- 23           to play the amusements.
- 24      Q.   Was your birthday celebrated?
- 25      A.   Yeah.

- 1 Q. Would you have some sort of party or what would happen?
- 2 A. We would have a party because I invited [REDACTED]
- 3 from St Kentigern's for my birthday. He ended up like
- 4 a pal. So he was invited to Roncalli for my birthday.
- 5 Q. What about Christmas, was that celebrated?
- 6 A. Christmas was always celebrated, amazing.
- 7 Q. Would you get presents?
- 8 A. Yeah.
- 9 Q. You have mentioned your social worker already, I think
- 10 you said his name was Bob Hay.
- 11 A. Bob Hay.
- 12 Q. Did he visit from time to time?
- 13 A. Yeah, he came to Smyllum and visited.
- 14 Q. Would you have the opportunity of seeing him on your
- 15 own?
- 16 A. Yeah.
- 17 Q. I think you have mentioned already he actually took you
- 18 out on occasions.
- 19 A. He would take us out. When Bob Hay was coming we would
- 20 be cleaned, smart, and he would be in the room, in the
- 21 telly room, waiting on -- Sister [REDACTED] AEG would take us
- 22 in and then she would move away and then eventually he
- 23 would take us out.
- 24 Q. Can I ask you now, Patrick, a little bit about things
- 25 that might have happened to you at Smyllum. Let's talk



1 about bed-wetting first of all. Were you a bed-wetter?

2 A. I wet my bed not much, not at all. I wasn't  
3 a consistent bed-wetter, like my elder brother **ABZ**.

4 Q. In relation to someone like **ABZ**, what happened to  
5 someone to wet the bed?

6 A. See basically -- see, every night Sister **AEG** would  
7 come into the room, close the curtains and shutters, and  
8 say, "Good night, God bless", and then in the morning  
9 she would come into you -- basically we were in a  
10 seven-bed bedroom. She would come in and her first  
11 words would be, "I can smell the fishes", basically  
12 implying people had wet the bed. She would go down and  
13 open the curtains and the blinds and then the usual  
14 suspects, she would go straight to their bed, like my  
15 older brother, **[REDACTED]** **[REDACTED]** and just pull  
16 their sheets. The odd time that I had wet the bed,  
17 I could get under the radar because the usual suspects  
18 were always ones... She knew who to go to and if I wet  
19 the bed, had an accident, I could just make my bed as  
20 normal and let my sheets dry in.

21 Q. What then happened to those that did get caught?

22 A. It was -- the cold bath would be running, they would be  
23 put in a cold bath.

24 Q. What about the sheets? Did anything happen?

25 A. You took your sheets down the stairs and -- in Roncalli

1           you would come out on the landing, down the stairs, and  
2           there was like a toilet, two toilets at the back, and  
3           that's where the washing was down with the wee sinks.  
4           So they would just put their sheets down there.

5       Q.   So if somebody wet the bed, would that person have to  
6           take his sheets to where --

7       A.   Yeah, take the sheets down.

8       Q.   And would other people see that person?

9       A.   Well, basically me, my young brother, [REDACTED] -- [REDACTED]  
10           never wet the bed -- and whoever was in the room would  
11           see them take their sheets down.

12      Q.   Can I ask you a little bit about anything that happened  
13           to you. You have mentioned beatings already.

14      A.   Aye.

15      Q.   Were you beaten from time to time?

16      A.   Aye. As I say, we weren't saints, you know what I mean,  
17           but there were times we were misbehaving, carrying on,  
18           and you would be in the telly room and the staff would  
19           get -- they used to have rubber sandals, blue ones, the  
20           old Jesus slippers. You would have your jammies took  
21           down, whatever, your pants, and scudded, scudded round  
22           the arse -- the backside, sorry.

23      Q.   That's all right. Who would do this?

24      A.   Sister [REDACTED] AEG , [REDACTED] FBN , [REDACTED] AGR .

25      Q.   Was there some reason why you were receiving this type

1 of punishment?

2 A. We were just basically carrying on, maybe boisterous,  
3 whatever, I don't know, misbehaving.

4 Q. How regular was this type of punishment?

5 A. I don't know. I couldn't count, you know. It  
6 happened -- we were young boys, seven young boys in one  
7 room messing about, whatever, and then they'd go up the  
8 farm, you would be messing about, you weren't meant to  
9 go to the farm, but we would go to the farm, climbing on  
10 the roofs, just being boys. I mean --

11 Q. What would happen then?

12 A. Basically like **BAC** -- **BAC**, he was like  
13 the **BAC**. **BAC** had his wee car so if we  
14 were wandering about the grounds, he knew we would be up  
15 to no good. So basically he would drive up and next  
16 minute we would be up on the roofs whatever, playing  
17 soldiers, we used to watch combat, we used to think we  
18 were these American soldiers, and next minute somebody  
19 would shout "**BAC**" and you would all try and hide.  
20 Then later on that day when we were all back, **BAC**  
21 would come and line you up and say to **ABZ**, my older  
22 brother -- he'd be like that -- "Were you up the farm,  
23 **ABZ**?" and he would be like, "No, it wasn't me **BAC**",  
24 and he would move on to maybe me or whoever was next in  
25 the line and he would ask you the question but, see,

1 before he finished it, he would give me brother a right  
2 backhander because he had seen him, send him flying.

3 We all got it, you know what I mean? Sometimes you  
4 were lucky, he never seen you; sometimes he seen you and  
5 it was you who got the backhander.

6 Q. How often did that happen?

7 A. We would be up the farm all the time, up the woods  
8 whatever, up the hospital, stealing strawberries from  
9 the strawberry bed, just things like that, you know what  
10 I mean?

11 Q. You mentioned already going -- swimming in the Clyde as  
12 opposed to going to the swimming baths --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- and being caught out for that?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What happened then when you were caught out?

17 A. Well, you would get back and we would be lined up,  
18 Sister **AEG** would slap us on the backside again, with  
19 Jesus sandals or whatever -- I don't think it was for  
20 going swimming in the Clyde, I think it was for stealing  
21 the money for the swimming or whatever.

22 Q. You do mention in your statement an incident where you  
23 were involved in stealing sweets from, I think, the  
24 Co-op in Lanark.

25 A. Yeah.

- 1 Q. And you were caught?
- 2 A. Yeah.
- 3 Q. And what happened then?
- 4 A. At the time a few of us -- I said it was -- I think we  
5 thought we were the 40 Thieves. We were going down the  
6 town and basically we were going into the Co-op. There  
7 was one wee woman and we were stealing sweeties and  
8 ginger. Obviously the woman from the shop must have got  
9 in touch with the home, because she knew we weren't  
10 local boys, and we all got caught.
- 11 We never actually got caught stealing, but we all  
12 got lined up in the room. Sister IAG was there  
13 and boys from other houses who were doing the stealing  
14 and all and she would question you, what did you steal,  
15 so you would say I stole a bar of chocolate, can of  
16 juice. But there was one boy, he was  
17 from Ogilvy. he thought it was a competition and  
18 he was reeling, stole that, stole this, and  
19 Sister IAG just attacked him, gave him the hiding  
20 of his life, do you know what I mean.
- 21 Q. Can you describe the hiding?
- 22 A. Just hitting him, face, hands, throwing him about. He  
23 got some doing that day.
- 24 Q. You also tell us in your statement, Patrick, about  
25 a form of punishment that involved you having to stand

- 1           in a dark room?
- 2       A.   Yeah.
- 3       Q.   Can you explain that to me?
- 4       A.   Yeah, it was like say we were in a room, the six or
- 5           seven of youse in the room, talking, carrying on
- 6           whatever, they come in, FBN or whoever, and they
- 7           would make you come out in the hall, stand on it -- like
- 8           there was three doors in Roncalli, a main door, a side
- 9           door and then there was a door to the pantry. They
- 10          would either have you standing at the pantry, against
- 11          the door in the dark, or the one I told you about, where
- 12          the washing was, there was a side door before you went
- 13          into the washroom, you would be left to stand there in
- 14          the dark. So you were -- like, say it was two of you or
- 15          three of you, you would be placed in different bits.
- 16       Q.   How long would you have to stand there for?
- 17       A.   I don't know. It just felt -- because it was so dark
- 18          and -- I mean --
- 19       Q.   How did you feel about that?
- 20       A.   Oh you were scared just being left there on your own,
- 21          not knowing how long you were going to be there.
- 22       Q.   You tell us in your statement about an incident when you
- 23          used a staff toilet.
- 24       A.   Yeah.
- 25       Q.   Can you tell me about that?

1       A.   Aye.   Basically, I needed the toilet.   So the other  
2       toilet was either being used, so the staff toilet down  
3       by -- I went into theirs and I shut the door and  
4       I couldn't well -- I couldn't open the door again, so  
5       I was shouting and all that.   And eventually there came  
6       a lad, "No, you'll need to wait until Sister [REDACTED] AEG  
7       comes, she has the key, I don't know where the key was  
8       kept."   I was in the toilet -- it must have been for  
9       half an hour -- and there was a window, so I basically  
10      I just opened the window and climbed down the drainpipe.  
11      I think it was either [REDACTED] AGR   who was hovering --  
12      when you climbed down the toilet, the living room, the  
13      playroom was there, she must have seen me -- obviously  
14      I got out and the door was still locked and they knew  
15      I had climbed down and when Sister [REDACTED] AEG   came there,  
16      I got the hiding of my life.

17      Q.   What did she do to you?

18      A.   Slapped me about, hit me and that, but basically I have  
19      always said to myself: well, the cutting or anything  
20      could have (inaudible) and I could have ended up dead,  
21      so I probably deserved it.

22      Q.   You also tell us about an incident where [REDACTED] BAC  
23      was involved with your brother [REDACTED] and someone had to  
24      come between them.

25      A.   Yeah, one of the staff, aye.

- 1 Q. What happened there?
- 2 A. [REDACTED] was the usual -- he came into the dining room and  
3 was attacking him and --
- 4 Q. Do you know why?
- 5 A. No, I don't know why. [REDACTED] FBQ had to pull him  
6 away, get him away from him, but it was only one of the  
7 few times I ever seen [REDACTED] BAC in the house, you know  
8 what I mean. But he gave [REDACTED] a right doing for whatever  
9 he got up to.
- 10 Q. Can I then take you, Patrick, to when you left Smyllum.  
11 I think you told us already you were about 14 when you  
12 came to leave Smyllum.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. I think you left with one of your brothers, but not the  
15 other; is that correct?
- 16 A. That is correct.
- 17 Q. Was that because one of your brothers was doing exams  
18 and he stayed on?
- 19 A. [REDACTED] ABZ was in fourth year so he was doing his O grades at  
20 St Aidan's. The home was shutting down -- I mean,  
21 Roncalli was the last house to close.
- 22 Q. I think we know that Smyllum closed in 1981 --
- 23 A. 1981, aye.
- 24 Q. -- which is when you left.
- 25 A. We left in January and [REDACTED] ABZ came to the boys' hostel in



1 Pollokshields in June once he sat his exams, but while  
2 we were in Glengowan, me and [REDACTED] used to go back on  
3 a Friday night and we would stay with [REDACTED] ABZ on Friday,  
4 Saturday and then on the Sunday we would get the 240 bus  
5 back to Glasgow.

6 Q. You went from Smyllum to a place called Glengowan, is  
7 that right, Hostel?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. That was in Pollokshields in Glasgow?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. I don't want to ask you about the detail of that, but  
12 you were there until you were, what, about 17 or  
13 thereabouts?

14 A. 17, yes.

15 Q. By then you had left school?

16 A. Yeah. When I went there I was still at school. Me and  
17 my young brother should never have been sent there. He  
18 was only 13, I was 14. All the other boys were -- they  
19 were -- you went there to get ready to go to work.

20 Q. It was older boys that were there?

21 A. It was all older boys; me and [REDACTED] were the youngest.

22 Q. Were you told why you were going there?

23 A. No. It was just for boys from Smyllum that were older,  
24 [REDACTED] [REDACTED], [REDACTED] [REDACTED] -- older  
25 boys from Smyllum. That was the move: they went to the

1 boys' hostel and the girls went to a girls' hostel in  
2 Maryhill.

3 Q. As you said, your younger brother was only 13 at the  
4 time.

5 A. They just said -- I think, basically because **ABZ** was  
6 going there, they didn't want to split us up, and  
7 I think that's how we ended there and all.

8 Q. You already told us about your social worker Mr Hay and  
9 that you told him things that were happening to you at  
10 Smyllum, like being force-fed and also about the  
11 beatings; is that correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Do you think that had an effect then on what was  
14 happening to you?

15 A. That's the only thing I can think but things improved.  
16 Maybe it was -- maybe it stopped because we were getting  
17 older, I don't know, because we were able to struggle or  
18 whatever.

19 Q. As you were getting older, if you look at the beatings  
20 you told us about, did they stop?

21 A. They stopped and all, the -- on your backside and all  
22 that. You know what I mean? I can't remember getting  
23 that after I was, I don't know, 12, 13. It definitely  
24 stopped, you know what I mean?

25 Q. Can I just ask you a little bit about your life after

1           care then. I think you went to go and stay with one of  
2           your brothers for a while; is that right?

3           A. No, he came and stayed with me. Well, **ABZ** at first --  
4           before I got my own flat, yeah, when I was 17.

5           Q. Then you got a flat of your own?

6           A. I got a flat of my own.

7           Q. Do you think anything that experienced at Smyllum has  
8           had any impact on your life?

9           A. Aye. Aye. Definitely. When my partner and me go for  
10          meals or when she cooks -- like, she will make macaroni,  
11          lasagna, a cheesy pasta -- and the smells, I just have  
12          to get away from it. If her and  are eating  
13          custard I have to go and sit on the couch, I can't be  
14          near it. I can't be anywhere near it.

15          Q. Is that because of your experience at Smyllum?

16          A. Aye, just the force-feeding, but I just can't be near  
17          the smell of the stuff.

18          Q. Okay. But what you do tell us in your statement,  
19          Patrick, is you did have good times at Smyllum.

20          A. If Smyllum was all bad, I wouldn't have taken my partner  
21          and our three kids there. We go to Lanark all the time.  
22          I've taken them down the Clyde, down to the falls, down  
23          the walkway, Lanark Loch. We're never away from the  
24          place.

25          Q. So you have good memories of Smyllum?

1 A. Great memories.

2 Q. You also tell us this, in your statement, that you feel  
3 that [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] was like the father you never had,  
4 that's what you say.

5 A. Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] was like the ma I never had.

6 Q. Although you have told us about how they treated you on  
7 occasions, but nevertheless that's --

8 A. It is just like -- I can imagine you are cooking for,  
9 I don't know how many there were, but counting all the  
10 nuns, 150 people and there was no way we were not eating  
11 food that was put down in front of us when there was  
12 people starving. Do you know what I mean? So --  
13 I just -- I have always said that. That was why they  
14 force-fed you: because there was people dying and  
15 starving in the rest of the world.

16 Q. Did you go back to see Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] after you had left  
17 Smyllum?

18 A. Well, just while [REDACTED] ABZ [REDACTED] -- she was still there with [REDACTED] ABZ [REDACTED].

19 Q. But after that?

20 A. Yeah, about five year ago [REDACTED] ABZ [REDACTED] came and told me he had  
21 seen Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] and I couldn't believe it. I didn't  
22 think she would still be alive and he told us she was in  
23 [REDACTED]. So me,  
24 [REDACTED] my partner, and the kids, we went [REDACTED]  
25 [REDACTED] and chapped the door and a lady came out, and

1 I goes, "I was in Smyllum, could I see Sister [REDACTED] AEG ,  
2 and she goes "What house were you in?" I was like,  
3 "Roncalli". She was like, come on in, but she has  
4 changed her name, she was now Sister [REDACTED] AEG so then  
5 I seen her.

6 Q. If we look to your statement, Patrick, I just want to  
7 take you to the very last page of the statement again,  
8 if you could do that for me. You say there at  
9 paragraph 94 -- this is the last page:

10 "I really don't think that your Inquiry is going to  
11 change things and stop things like what happened to me.  
12 Institutions are not going to change."

13 So far as what happened to you is concerned,  
14 Patrick, are you really focusing on the force-feeding  
15 and also some of the beatings that you got?

16 A. Yeah I just -- look, I watch the news and the same  
17 things seem to be happening in old folks' homes, you  
18 read about the woman bed-wetting, whatever. I just  
19 don't think -- also, there's bad people everywhere.  
20 I just don't think -- it will never change, you know  
21 what I mean?

22 Q. I can tell you that the Inquiry has spoken to some of  
23 the Sisters who may have been at Smyllum at the time you  
24 were there and indeed to a Sister [REDACTED] AEG or [REDACTED] AEG

25 A. Yeah, [REDACTED] AEG I used to call her [REDACTED] AEG but my

1 brother **ABZ** said her name was Sister **AEG**

2 Q. There is some confusion over that. But the nuns tell us  
3 that children were happy and well cared for at Smyllum.

4 A. I would say 70% of my time was great in Smyllum, as  
5 I got older I got -- I remember asking at Christmas for  
6 "Axe Attack" -- it was an LP -- because I was kind of  
7 getting into heavy metal and sure enough I got it.  
8 I got a leather jacket.

9 The holidays were great. We even went to  
10 Holy Island in Smyllum. I have taken **██████████**, my mum and  
11 dad and the kids. We have gone back to visit  
12 Holy Island. I showed them the house we stayed in.  
13 Times were good; it wasn't all bad at Smyllum.

14 Q. We have also spoken to a Sister **AEG** or **AEG**  
15 and she says she never hit a child. You clearly  
16 wouldn't agree with that.

17 A. That's a lie.

18 Q. That's not true?

19 A. That's not true. That's a lie.

20 MR MacAULAY: Very well, Patrick. Thank you very much  
21 indeed for coming here today to give your evidence.

22 I haven't received any written questions for  
23 Patrick, my Lady, and I don't know if there are to be  
24 any questions.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Could I just check whether there

1 are any outstanding applications for questions? No.

2 Patrick, thank you very much for coming along this  
3 morning to explain to us what your memories of being  
4 a child in Smyllum are. It is really helpful to hear  
5 them and I'm now able to let you go with our thanks.

6 A. Thank you.

7 (The witness withdrew)

8 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

9 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, we can now take an opportunity of  
10 having a statement read into the transcript. My learned  
11 junior Ms MacLeod will do that.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Ms MacLeod, when you are ready.

13 Witness statement of GRAHAM (read)

14 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, this is a statement from an applicant  
15 who wishes for his first name to be used and that is  
16 Graham.

17 The statement can be found at WIT.001.001.2748:

18 "My name is Graham. I was born in 1965. I am  
19 52 years old. My contact details are known to the  
20 Inquiry.

21 The institution I want to tell you about is  
22 Smyllum Orphanage in Lanark. I believe that I was  
23 resident at this institution between 1972 and 1973.  
24 I was only 6 or 7 years old at the time and my memory of  
25 the place is not good. I am unsure exactly how long

1 I was there.

2 "I have lived with my partner for the last 30 years.  
3 I have two children. I have worked at the same job for  
4 the past 29 years.

5 "I was the youngest in a family of 11. My father  
6 died some time ago and my mother passed away last year.  
7 Prior to going into care I was attending St David's  
8 primary school in Johnstone and living a normal happy  
9 family life.

10 "My family was brought up in Johnstone near Glasgow.  
11 In 1970 my father got a job in England and the whole  
12 family moved down there. The job didn't work out and we  
13 had to return to Johnstone.

14 "When we got back to Johnstone we found that the  
15 family home was uninhabitable and needed to be  
16 completely renovated. We could not live in it. My  
17 family was temporarily split up and placed with  
18 neighbours and relatives but it didn't work out for one  
19 of my brothers and me and we were placed into the care  
20 of Smyllum Orphanage. I think it was arranged through  
21 the local council and my mother but I cannot be sure.

22 "I remember my first day at the school. My brother  
23 and me were collected from St David's primary school in  
24 Johnstone by a man I didn't know. I can remember we  
25 were sitting in the back of his car and the song that



1 was playing was 'Top of the World' by The Carpenters.  
2 My brother and I still remember that and often mention  
3 it.

4 "I remember arriving at Smyllum and thinking that it  
5 was a huge castle. It was a bit scary. When we drove  
6 in, there were some people standing in the gateway but  
7 that is about all I can remember.

8 "The home was run by Sisters. I can only remember  
9 Sister **AEG**. There were other caring staff who also  
10 worked there. I can remember being taken to the  
11 pictures by the care staff and also them making me cups  
12 of coffee. One of them had the name Ms **FBN**

13 "I can remember that there were some donkeys in the  
14 grounds of Smyllum in a field which was across the road.  
15 The field was part of Smyllum and I can remember feeding  
16 the donkeys.

17 "I remember a scary story about a 'green lady' who  
18 was connected to Smyllum although I can't recall the  
19 details. When I recently visited the Smyllum website  
20 I noted that one of the streets in the redevelopment is  
21 called Green Lady Avenue.

22 "There was a routine but it was so long ago I can't  
23 remember what it was. I can remember that before we  
24 went to bed we got toast and a cup of hot chocolate.  
25 I can remember going to school and also attending

1 church, but as to the order they came in I can't recall.

2 "I do remember Sister [REDACTED] AEG bending us over a bath  
3 and running a steel comb through our hair. She used to  
4 do it very roughly and it was painful. I might then  
5 have to get my head shaved.

6 "I can't remember being sent home at the weekends.  
7 I am not sure how long I was in Smyllum and would need  
8 to check my records to confirm this. It was less than  
9 a year.

10 "I have to say that during the time I was in Smyllum  
11 I was treated very well by most of the staff. The only  
12 issues I had were with Sister [REDACTED] AEG . A lot of good  
13 things happened to me when I was there and most of the  
14 time I was well looked after by the care staff and the  
15 other Sisters. I was terrified of Sister [REDACTED] AEG .

16 "I can remember that the dormitories were very  
17 small. There were maybe only four of us. I was with my  
18 brother and another boy. I seem to remember having to  
19 load potatoes into a machine that peeled them. It may  
20 have been the job that I was given to do.

21 "The food was fine and I had no problem with it.  
22 I would eat anything and so personally I wasn't aware of  
23 any problems with the food.

24 "Both my brother and I had problems with  
25 bed-wetting. The Sisters didn't treat you well if you

1 wet the bed. I remember Sister **AEG** shaking me. She  
2 also made me stand with my wet sheets outside the  
3 washroom so that everyone passing by knew what was  
4 happening.

5 "I think that the school was contained within the  
6 grounds of Smyllum. I can remember being in the  
7 classrooms. I remember that there was a blackboard in  
8 the front and that the seats were in rows and on  
9 different tiers. I can't remember any discipline at the  
10 school. I do recall being asked to ring the hand bell  
11 which was used to summon the other children to school.  
12 I also remember the uniform had a royal blue jersey.

13 "I don't recall holidays at the home.

14 "I think there was toys and games but I can only  
15 remember playing with the water pistol and the bow and  
16 arrow. We also went out to trips to the cinema and  
17 circus. I can remember buying the cough sweets,  
18 Victory Vs, when we went to the pictures. I also recall  
19 being in the playground with the girls when they were  
20 playing with skipping ropes.

21 "To this day I still remember one of the rhymes. It  
22 went like this: 'Hands up kick the can', then the name  
23 of a girl, 'got a man, if you want to know his name, his  
24 name is Graham'. I can remember the girl giving me  
25 a kiss on the cheek.

1 "I do remember getting pocket money but I can't  
2 remember how much. You would be taken to the cinema or  
3 to the circus and so you were able to spend your pocket  
4 money. You would also go to the local cafe when your  
5 relatives visited. I don't remember birthdays but  
6 I suspect I was only there for one birthday. Christmas  
7 was celebrated and you did get a present. I think I got  
8 a water pistol and my brother got a bow and arrow.

9 "I do remember getting visits from my family  
10 members. I can remember being taken out of the home by  
11 my sister and my cousin. I think that these visits  
12 happened on a Saturday. I do remember being taken to  
13 a circus in Glasgow and seeing some of my brothers and  
14 sisters there. It was a chance meeting.

15 "I do not recall any official visits from the  
16 council and I do not recall any inspections of the home.

17 "I do not think that there was any problems although  
18 I don't remember seeing a doctor or going to a dentist  
19 in the time that I was there.

20 "I never ran away when I was at Smyllum but I know  
21 that my brother did. He told me that he received  
22 a beating for running away from the Sisters but he  
23 didn't say who gave it to him.

24 "The only person that I remember abusing me in  
25 Smyllum was Sister **AEG**. She was very cruel and used

1 to shake you and dig her knuckles into your chest which  
2 was very painful. I never cried and would just look at  
3 her which made her angrier. I think that she thought  
4 I was being defiant. I spent a lot of time trying to  
5 keep Sister [REDACTED] AEG happy so she wouldn't turn on me.

6 "Sister [REDACTED] AEG once came into the television room  
7 where I was with my brother. I was sitting on the floor  
8 and she pulled me up by my hair. She had discovered  
9 that my bed was wet and I had tried to hide it from her  
10 by making it up when it was still wet.

11 "I was bed-wetting so getting up in the morning was  
12 a problem to me. I was scared of the consequences of  
13 being found with a wet bed. There were occasions when  
14 I would make up my bed when it was wet and try to  
15 conceal it from the Sisters. I also used to hide my wet  
16 pyjamas.

17 "Sister [REDACTED] AEG used to get a steel comb and run it  
18 through my hair. She used to do it so that it was very  
19 painful and the comb would dig into your head. She was  
20 inspecting you for nits. You would then be taken and  
21 your head would be shaved.

22 "It might have been the first day that my brother  
23 and I were there when we were sitting in the dining  
24 room. My brother didn't like pudding and couldn't eat  
25 it. I was sitting next to my brother and Sister [REDACTED] AEG

1 told me to stay where I was despite the fact that I had  
2 finished my meal. She then put the pudding onto a spoon  
3 and started wiping it on my brother's face and in his  
4 hair. She was hitting him with the spoon.

5 "When my brother got a bow and arrow for Christmas  
6 there was an unfortunate incident with Sister **AEG**  
7 The arrows had little suckers on the end so my brother  
8 would fire it at me and I would fire my water pistol at  
9 him. We were playing in the dormitory and I went to the  
10 toilet. My brother was waiting for me to come into the  
11 door to shoot me with his bow and arrow. Unfortunately,  
12 first through the door was Sister **AEG** and my brother  
13 fired the arrow at her. When I came back into the room  
14 my brother was lying on the bed crying. The bow and  
15 arrow had been taken off my brother and Sister **AEG**  
16 hit him with it. I can remember my brother both  
17 laughing and crying when he was trying to tell me what  
18 had happened.

19 "I think that both my brother and I left Smyllum  
20 some time in 1973. The reason we got to leave is  
21 because the renovation at our house had been completed  
22 and we could all move back in. All I can remember is  
23 that it was great to be home.

24 "I led a very normal life after I left care. I had  
25 no difficulties coping with my life and I don't believe

1 I was really affected as a result of my time in care.  
2 I have dealt with other issues in life that I would  
3 consider to be much worse.

4 "I never reported any of what happened to me when  
5 I was in Smyllum. I have hardly ever discussed it with  
6 my family members. I have had no contact with the  
7 police in respect of the abuse.

8 "My time in care had little or no impact on my life.  
9 I have had to deal with much worse problems. I did not  
10 require counselling as a result of my time in care and  
11 have never felt the need. I had good experiences in  
12 care and my only bad experiences always involved  
13 Sister **AEG** .

14 "I can still remember Sister **AEG** I am  
15 absolutely confident that if you showed me a picture of  
16 her I would recognise her immediately such was the  
17 effect that she had on me. I couldn't really describe  
18 her because when I was in the home she probably appeared  
19 as an older woman to me.

20 "One of the things that resulted from my time in  
21 care was my hatred of the Catholic Church and of nuns  
22 and priests in particular, which I still feel to this  
23 day. These people were supposed to be people of God and  
24 their behaviour was anything but. They were cruel and  
25 harsh in their treatment of everybody and I spent a lot

1 of time trying to avoid them. There was no love.

2 "I have only now made an application to look at my  
3 records about my time in Smyllum and I think it would  
4 solve the issue I have about when I was actually there  
5 and how long I was there for.

6 "I read a lot of what had happened at Smyllum  
7 online. I got very angry when I read what a former head  
8 nun had said in the press. She stated that no abuse had  
9 taken place at Smyllum during the time that she was  
10 working there. This was not the case and I knew it was  
11 not the truth. I also saw on the news a story about  
12 a woman who had been there for ten years and talked  
13 about all the abuse. I think that the woman was at  
14 Smyllum when I was there. I had to tell my story to  
15 confirm what had happened and so that these people were  
16 believed.

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

21 The statement was signed by Graham on  
22 23 November 2017.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you, Ms MacLeod.

24 Mr MacAulay.

25 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, I have received a message to the



1 effect that the next witness has been confronted with  
2 travel problems --

3 LADY SMITH: Today that's not surprising.

4 MR MacAULAY: -- and probably will not be here before  
5 12 o'clock.

6 LADY SMITH: So shall we rise now and sit once the witness  
7 has arrived and had time to draw breath before giving  
8 evidence, which will be not be before 12. So it will be  
9 probably 12.15 pm, so I will do that.

10 (11.00 am)

11 (A short break)

12 (12.10 pm)

13 LADY SMITH: Yes Mr MacAulay.

14 MR MacAULAY: My Lady the next witness is here now and is  
15 called June Smith.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 Good morning, Ms Smith.

18 MS JUNE SMITH (affirmed)

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Please sit down and make yourself  
20 comfortable. That looks like you are in a good position  
21 for the microphone, it will make it easier for you to be  
22 heard.

23 Mr MacAulay, when you are ready.

24 Questions from MR MacAULAY

25 MR MacAULAY: My Lady.

1                   June, are you June Smith?

2           A.   June Miller Smith.

3           Q.   I think your date of birth is [REDACTED] 1965; is that  
4                correct?

5           A.   Yes.

6           Q.   You will see in front of you there's a red folder and  
7                there is a statement in there that you have provided to  
8                the Inquiry and I will ask you some questions about that  
9                in a moment.

10           But before I do, can I just say to you that if I ask  
11            you a question and you can't remember, just say you  
12            can't remember; do you understand that?

13           A.   Yes.

14           Q.   Likewise, if something comes to mind that you hadn't  
15                remembered when you gave us your statement, feel free to  
16                tell us that.

17           Can I then ask you to look at the statement, June.  
18            For the transcript the reference is WIT.001.001.1864.  
19            If I could ask you to go to the last page of the  
20            statement at 1878.

21           Can you confirm for me that you have signed the  
22            statement?

23           A.   Yes.

24           Q.   If you look at the last paragraph of the statement,  
25                paragraph 73, do you say:

1            "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
2            published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry"?

3            A. Yes.

4            Q. You also say:

5            "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
6            statement are true."

7            A. Yes.

8            Q. Can I go back to the time before you went into care  
9            because you are going to tell us about your time at  
10           Smyllum, but before that did you live with your family,  
11           before you went to Smyllum?

12           A. No, I was actually in -- I think it was Chapel House.

13           Q. But do you have a recollection of being -- of living  
14           with your family before you went into any form of care?

15           A. No.

16           Q. I think you tell us in your statement at least that you  
17           were initially in Nazareth House; is that right?

18           A. Yeah.

19           Q. Do you remember how long you were in Nazareth House?

20           A. I don't know.

21           Q. You were very young.

22           A. I was young.

23           Q. But in any event, you moved to Smyllum and, according to  
24           the records that we have seen, you were admitted there  
25           on [REDACTED] 1969.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Would that be about right?

3 A. Mm.

4 Q. So you were about 3 or 4 at that time?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED] ?

8 A. [REDACTED] .

9 Q. [REDACTED] ?

10 A. [REDACTED] .

11 Q. When you went to Smyllum initially, what particular part

12 of the building did you go to?

13 A. The main entrance, the house.

14 Q. Within the building itself was there a particular area

15 that you went particularly for sleeping?

16 A. A dormitory?

17 Q. Yes.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can you remember what it was called?

20 A. The house itself was called Ogilvy, but I wasn't in that

21 house; I was actually in St Joseph's, but I thought

22 I was in Ogilvy because it was in Ogilvy that I sort of

23 remembered. Then we moved to Roncalli.

24 Q. So the first place you were in then you realised now was

25 St Joseph's not Ogilvy?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. [REDACTED]

3 A. [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED].

6 Q. At that time when you went into Smyllum you went into

7 a dormitory; is that correct?

8 A. Yeah, it was --

9 Q. How large was the dormitory?

10 A. I can't really remember. I know it was quite small.

11 There was about four children in the one sort of

12 dormitory.

13 Q. You indicated you were moved to Roncalli House at

14 a point in time.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. How long had you been at Smyllum before you were moved?

17 A. I think we moved to Roncalli when I was either 7 or 8.

18 Q. So you had been there for a little while then?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]?

22 A. [REDACTED]

23 Q. [REDACTED]

24 A. [REDACTED].

25 Q. [REDACTED]?

1 A. [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED]  
3 [REDACTED]  
4 [REDACTED]  
5 Q. [REDACTED] ?  
6 A. [REDACTED] .  
7 Q. [REDACTED]  
8 A. [REDACTED]  
9 Q. Can I then take you to when you were in St Joseph's.  
10 Was there a particular nun in charge of you?  
11 A. Yes.  
12 Q. Who was that?  
13 A. Sister **AEG** .  
14 Q. Did she remain in charge of you when you went to  
15 Roncalli?  
16 A. Yes.  
17 Q. Am I right in thinking, June, that you left Smyllum in  
18 [REDACTED] 1981?  
19 A. Yeah.  
20 Q. Smyllum was on the point of closing down at that time;  
21 is that right?  
22 A. That is right. I think it closed down in the June.  
23 Q. You were one of the last children --  
24 A. I was the fifth member to leave.  
25 Q. So that would mean that you were in Smyllum for, what,

- 1 11/12 years altogether, something like that?
- 2 A. Yeah.
- 3 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about the routine at Smyllum.
- 4 Because you tell us a little bit about this in your
- 5 statement. Was there a problem if somebody wet the bed?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. What was the problem?
- 8 A. Basically if you wet the bed, which I did -- I was
- 9 a bed-wetter right up until I was 15 -- she would come
- 10 in in the morning, pull you out your bed, run you a cold
- 11 bath, put you in the cold bath, sometimes she would
- 12 throw disinfectant over you, she done that. She would
- 13 put her knuckles -- when she came in to get you out of
- 14 bed, she would put her knuckles right into your head.
- 15 I got that every morning and that was sore, really sore.
- 16 Q. When you say she --
- 17 A. Sister AEG.
- 18 Q. It was she who was regularly involved?
- 19 A. Yeah, she was the one who used to get you up in the
- 20 morning.
- 21 Q. How often did this happen to you?
- 22 A. Every morning because I was a bed-wetter even -- as
- 23 I say, all the way up until 15.
- 24 Q. Even when you were into your teens was this the process?
- 25 A. Mm.

1 LADY SMITH: Can you show me what she did when she put her  
2 knuckles into your head?

3 A. She just done that (indicates) and put it right into  
4 your head like that (indicates).

5 LADY SMITH: Onto the top of your head?

6 A. Yeah, and she'd dig right in and lean on you like that  
7 and hit you like that with her knuckles (indicates).

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 MR MacAULAY: That's yours experience; did you see this  
10 happen to anybody else?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Were there other bed-wetters in the area where you were  
13 sleeping?

14 A. I take it there was but, as I said, I didn't see anybody  
15 else getting it.

16 Q. You mentioned the cold bath.

17 A. Mm.

18 Q. Was that the process?

19 A. That was just the process every morning.

20 Q. This business about disinfectant, can you tell me about  
21 that? Do you know what it was?

22 A. It was floor disinfectant because she had washed the  
23 mattress with it.

24 Q. But you mentioned that she did something with the  
25 disinfectant to you.



- 1 A. Yes, she threw it over me in the bath.
- 2 Q. Did that -- was there any reaction?
- 3 A. Yeah, it stung. And then when she seen it was all red,  
4 she told me to put talcum on it, and it didn't help, it  
5 made it worse, because the talcum was actually sticking  
6 to it.
- 7 Q. And what about the sheets? Did you have to do anything  
8 with the sheets?
- 9 A. We had to wash our own sheets.
- 10 Q. And did you have to hang them out as well?
- 11 A. Yes, we had -- she made us walk up the hill, about maybe  
12 20 to, quarter to 9 every morning so that the other  
13 children would see that you wet the bed and you had to  
14 hang your own sheets up. It was like -- where the  
15 school was, it was like a hill, and it was a sort of --  
16 there was a sort of house, but you had to go round like  
17 the back of the house, so there's no way for them to not  
18 see you, if you know what I mean, because you had to  
19 walk right up the hill, because that's where everybody  
20 was going, so they actually saw you.
- 21 Q. Was this the procedure up until really you came to leave  
22 Smyllum?
- 23 A. Yeah.
- 24 Q. Did you feel embarrassed about that?
- 25 A. Obviously, humiliated because you knew that they all

1           knew. And you used to get slagged over it as well, like  
2           "wet the bed", "pee the bed", whatever, do you know what  
3           I mean, off other kids.

4       Q. You have been telling us about the position when you  
5           were at Smyllum itself. When you went on holiday what  
6           was the position there? Did you wet the bed?

7       A. Yeah.

8       Q. And do you have any particular recollections of what  
9           happened to you then?

10      A. When we went on holiday there wasn't baths, it was  
11         showers and she threw me into a cold shower and when  
12         I turned round she just laughed. She was wee -- one of  
13         the staff. Am I allowed to say her name?

14      Q. Yes.

15      A. She was with [REDACTED] AGT and the two of them just  
16         laughed. I slept on the floor.

17      Q. What age were you then?

18      A. I must have been about 11.

19      Q. Can I ask you a little bit about the food at Smyllum:  
20         how did you find the food?

21      A. The food wasn't that good. When you never ate your food  
22         at night, you used to get it in the morning because she  
23         said that you weren't to waste any.

24      Q. Again when you say "she" --

25      A. Sister [REDACTED] AEG . She made sure that you ate everything

1 and if you didn't, you got it in the morning. Like  
2 vegetables. A lot of the children didn't like  
3 vegetables and if you didn't eat that you got it in the  
4 morning. She used to hold your nose and just put it  
5 down.

6 Q. Can I just understand that when you say "she" that's --

7 A. Sister **AEG**. She used to hold your nose and just  
8 open your mouth and just put it down.

9 Q. Did that happen to you?

10 A. Mm.

11 Q. Was that a regular thing or can you help --

12 A. It could be a regular thing but sometimes I just ate  
13 what -- basically what I could or sometimes I used to  
14 get a hanky and just put some stuff into a hanky and  
15 just kid on about it so I can bin it.

16 Q. What about other children? Did you see if this happened  
17 to them?

18 A. Yeah, it did.

19 Q. You have mentioned holidays. Did you have other  
20 holidays that you had when you were at Smyllum?

21 A. We used to go to Girvan quite a lot. That's where we  
22 normally always went.

23 Q. How was that?

24 A. Sometimes it was okay and other times it wasn't. She  
25 put me in a room with this wee boy called **█** He

1 snored -- and believe me he snored -- so basically  
2 I never got any sleep and she knew that I couldn't sleep  
3 if somebody was snoring, obviously. She done that  
4 deliberately because we were in -- it was like four or  
5 five days into the holiday and I was walking about like  
6 a zombie because I hadn't slept and then she decided to  
7 move me into another room with girls because it was boys  
8 that was in the room with me in the beginning and then  
9 she decided to move me in with the girls.

10 Q. You tell us in your statement about an incident when you  
11 were reading a book in bed; do you remember that?

12 A. Yeah. I was reading the book in bed -- [REDACTED] had  
13 bought me a book and there was like shutters and you  
14 could see the light coming in because my bed was sort of  
15 at the side and there was light coming in from the  
16 shutters. She came in and caught me reading the book  
17 and she ripped the book up in front of me and then  
18 slapped me in the head for reading it. She says I  
19 shouldn't be reading it, I'm straining my eyes, but  
20 I could see, but she thought I couldn't.

21 Q. You say "she" again. Was it Sister --

22 A. Sister [REDACTED] AEG, yes. She took the book off me and  
23 ripped it.

24 Q. Birthdays. Was your birthday celebrated when you were  
25 at Smyllum?

1 A. Again sometimes. One year it didn't get celebrated, she  
2 actually forgot. Another boy -- his birthday was on the  
3 [REDACTED] and mine was the [REDACTED] and she got him a present.  
4 So when mine has come up, obviously he turned round and  
5 said, "What did you get?" and I said, "Nothing". I  
6 said, "She forgot", and she heard me telling him and so  
7 I got battered for that.

8 Q. When you say you got battered --

9 A. She just took me into the staff room and just kept  
10 hitting me because she says I was talking about her and  
11 I told the other children that I never got anything for  
12 my birthday.

13 Q. When you say she kept hitting you, can you just  
14 describe --

15 A. Slapping me, pulling me hair, hitting me round about the  
16 body, kicking me.

17 Q. I see. Can I ask you about visits. Did any members of  
18 your family visit you when you were at Smyllum?

19 A. Sometimes. Sometimes they would arrange to come up but  
20 we weren't told about the visit. But they were told and  
21 then they would make plans for us to do something else  
22 and we didn't get to see them. [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]

- 1 Q. Was this [REDACTED] who had come to visit you?
- 2 A. Mm.
- 3 Q. Do you know why you weren't allowed to see them?
- 4 A. Because she said they had made other plans to do  
5 something other.
- 6 Q. When you say "she"?
- 7 A. Sister [REDACTED] AEG said we were planning something else.
- 8 Q. Do you know why you weren't in fact being allowed to see  
9 [REDACTED] ?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. I mean did you on occasion see people who came to visit  
12 you?
- 13 A. Yes. She was always -- Sister [REDACTED] AEG was always  
14 present when anybody came to see us anyway, but if other  
15 members -- like somebody else's children, maybe -- had  
16 come up maybe at the same time, she would go there and  
17 just not let us see them. Because she likes to be in on  
18 the visit. She liked to sort of be there so that she  
19 could obviously hear what was being said and what's not.
- 20 Q. Were you visited by a social worker?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. How often did that happen?
- 23 A. Not very often.
- 24 Q. But that did happen --
- 25 A. It did happen, but not very often.

1 Q. When the social worker came to visit what about  
2 Sister **AEG**? Would she be present or not?  
3 A. Present all the time.  
4 Q. Did you tell anyone that things were happening to you at  
5 Smyllum?  
6 A. I tried to tell **[REDACTED]**  
7 **[REDACTED]** she  
8 phoned and I was really upset and I asked her if she  
9 could get me out of there and they overheard me in the  
10 big house and I got hit for that again, for telling her  
11 to let me out.  
12 Q. You got hit by?  
13 A. Sister **AEG** again. Because every phone call that was  
14 taken, they could hear what was going on, they could  
15 hear every phone call. So whatever -- whoever phoned,  
16 they knew that they were phoning you because it went to  
17 the big house first, and then they would transfer it  
18 into whatever house it was, whoever the call was for.  
19 Q. What about the social worker you mentioned? Did you  
20 mention to the social worker --  
21 A. No, because Sister **AEG** was always present.  
22 Q. Can I ask you -- you have been telling us, as you've  
23 been going on, June, about things that happened to you.  
24 Can I ask you a little bit more about the abuse you say  
25 you suffered then at Smyllum.

1           You tell us in particular in your statement about  
2           an early memory when you were about 6 years old when you  
3           were being given tablets; is that right?

4       A.   Yeah, I was woke up through the night by the older ones  
5           and they would give me tablets.  They would sit me on  
6           like -- it was a banister.  They would sit you on the  
7           banister and try and balance you on the banister and  
8           then give you tablets.

9       Q.   Do you know what the tablets were for?

10      A.   To stop wetting the bed.

11      Q.   How often did this happen?

12      A.   Every night.  I'm not a good sleeper, I wake up every  
13           night.

14      Q.   You are talking about now?

15      A.   Mm.

16      Q.   Do you relate that to this particular practice?

17      A.   Yeah, definitely.  I have -- I haven't been -- I barely  
18           sleep.

19      Q.   Was there any bullying by older children of younger  
20           children?

21      A.   Sometimes.  Sometimes the staff would get them to bully  
22           you.

23      Q.   Can you explain that?  Why would that be?

24      A.   Just for the sake of it.  They liked conflict.  They  
25           liked to see everybody falling out.  When I had my hair



1 washed one day, one of the staff, **FBN**, hid my glasses  
2 so I would get into trouble. She would get **[REDACTED]** to  
3 hide them and then she told the Sister that I couldn't  
4 find my glasses, so I got hit for that.

5 Q. Again this is sister --

6 A. Sister **AEG**.

7 Q. When you say you got hit -- you've told us about slaps  
8 and so on, was that the sort of behaviour, was it  
9 slapping?

10 A. No, sometimes she used to use a belt. She used a belt  
11 and she used a brush. It was like a clothes brush but  
12 on the clothes brush there was no brush, it was just  
13 like -- the best way to describe it it is like the  
14 Quality Street sweet, see, the one that's dead flat.  
15 That's the way to describe it: it was round and flat and  
16 it had a wee handle on it that size (indicates) and she  
17 used to hit me with that.

18 Q. About six inches or so you indicate?

19 A. Mm.

20 Q. She used that, did she?

21 A. Mm.

22 Q. Where would she hit you with that?

23 A. On your back and round about your stomach, your arms --  
24 basically wherever she could hit you.

25 Q. Did that leave any marks?

- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. How often do you think you were getting physically hit  
3 by Sister **AEG** ?
- 4 A. Basically all the time.
- 5 Q. What reasons were there for that so far as --
- 6 A. Basically wetting the bed, that was the big issue.  
7 Sometimes we used to go up the town and shoplift, get  
8 hit for that. Being cheeky, get hit for that.  
9 Basically anything.
- 10 Q. Was it essentially her and not any other nun that --
- 11 A. Aye, definitely. It was just her.
- 12 Q. You tell us in your statement about being locked out of  
13 the house one night.
- 14 A. Yeah, she locked me out the house because I was cheeky  
15 to one of the staff. I can't remember what one. It was  
16 either **FBN** or **AGT**, I can't remember. Anyway, this  
17 particular night she had locked me -- she came over for  
18 her prayers at 7 o'clock and she stood me out on the  
19 front porch. In the front porch there was a white door,  
20 she locked the white door, and just closed the porch  
21 door over. Where the playroom over, there is a lock  
22 there as well, so she locked that as well and she forgot  
23 about me.
- 24 Q. Were you outside?
- 25 A. I wasn't outside, I was on the porch. It was like --

1 the floor was marble -- I remember it, orange, it was  
2 an orange colour -- I was standing in there and the only  
3 reason she remembered I was there was because the light  
4 was on and the light from the porch goes up the stairs  
5 form her room so she would have been able to see.

6 Q. You were being locked out as a punishment in the first  
7 instance?

8 A. That is right.

9 Q. Did you say she forgot about you?

10 A. Mm. She come down about 11.30/11.45, and said, oh,  
11 I forgot about you and don't tell anybody.

12 Q. How long had you been --

13 A. For -- she came over for her prayers.

14 Q. So a number of hours then?

15 A. Mm.

16 Q. Apart from Sister **AEG** I think you are saying that  
17 no other nun hit you when you were at Smyllum.

18 A. No.

19 Q. If you look at the members of staff then --

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. -- were there any particular members of staff that --

22 A. This one incident, **FBM** her name was, she  
23 actually hit me that hard that I ended up with  
24 appendicitis.

25 Q. How did she hit you?

- 1 A. She kicked me and she kept kicking me, pulling my hair,  
2 slapping me. I had my glasses on at the time and she  
3 whacked the glasses off my face and she said, "Good,  
4 they're off", and she just kept ladling into me --
- 5 Q. Was there a reason for this behaviour?
- 6 A. Because I was cheeky.
- 7 Q. Cheeky to her?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. You mentioned appendicitis; did you have to go to  
10 hospital for that?
- 11 A. No, it went away, but I was ill for four or five days  
12 and Sister **AEG** kept saying to me, "What happened?"  
13 but I couldn't tell her because if I told her I would  
14 get it again for telling. She had already threatened me  
15 that she would do it again.
- 16 Q. In your statement you talk about the civilian staff and  
17 hearing what they were saying about what they were going  
18 to be doing in the day. In particular you tell us that  
19 you heard them say things like, "Who can we pick on the  
20 day?"
- 21 A. Mm.
- 22 Q. Can you explain that to me?
- 23 A. Basically they used to pick on somebody every day and  
24 they used to discuss who they hadn't picked on and who  
25 they hadn't picked on they would pick on that day.

- 1 Q. Was there any rhyme or reason for this?
- 2 A. No, they just liked to pick on -- they just seen it as  
3 a joke, I think.
- 4 Q. So far as Sister **AEG** was concerned you have been  
5 telling us about your own experiences with her. What  
6 about other children? Did you see her hit other  
7 children?
- 8 A. Yeah. I seen her hitting this wee girl, **[REDACTED]**. **[REDACTED]**  
9 had run a bath at night-time and she had let it overflow  
10 and the ceiling had come in and she gave her some  
11 hitting. It's a shame.
- 12 Q. What did she do to her?
- 13 A. She actually really, really ladled into her and then she  
14 apologised. She actually apologised. She says she went  
15 over the score with here.
- 16 Q. Did she go over the score?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. What did she do?
- 19 A. She kept hitting her, punching her, kicking her. She  
20 just kept hitting her. She didn't stop.
- 21 Q. How old was the girl do you know?
- 22 A. She was either 10 or 11.
- 23 Q. You tell us in your statement that when Sister **AEG**  
24 was on holiday you were looked after by  
25 a Sister Vincent.

- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. How did you find her?
- 3 A. She was really nice.
- 4 Q. You also became friendly with a Sister Eileen; is that  
5 right?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Was that later on when you were at Smyllum?
- 8 A. I was in Ogilvy -- sorry, I was in Roncalli when I came  
9 pally with Sister Eileen. I must have been about 12 or  
10 13.
- 11 Q. You obviously got on well with her, then.
- 12 A. Yeah.
- 13 Q. Did you tell her about what was happening with you in  
14 connection with Sister AEG
- 15 A. No, she had actually seen it.
- 16 Q. Was it obvious?
- 17 A. Well, she was taking driving lessons and I would go in  
18 the car with her and on this particular day she asked me  
19 to put the seat belt on and I couldn't put the seat belt  
20 on. I had been marked right round and I was in pain and  
21 she knew and she just lifted my jumper up and she says  
22 to me, "That won't happen to you again", and it didn't.
- 23 Q. Did the beatings stop after that?
- 24 A. Mm.
- 25 Q. That's when you were, did you say, about 13 or so?

- 1 A. 14.
- 2 Q. Apart from that then did you tell anybody else about  
3 what had been happening to you?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. You have already told us, June, that you left Smyllum in  
6 1981 when it was closing down; is that correct?
- 7 A. Mm.
- 8 Q. I think you would then be -- were you about 15 at that  
9 time?
- 10 A. Yeah I was 15. I would be 16 in the June.
- 11 Q. You went to stay with your sister; is that right?
- 12 A. Yeah.
- 13 Q. Then I think you moved to live with another sister.
- 14 A. Yeah.
- 15 Q. You have mentioned your sleeping pattern and that being  
16 part of the impact that Smyllum has had on you; is that  
17 right?
- 18 A. Yeah.
- 19 Q. Do you relate that to being woken up after you had gone  
20 to bed to be given these tablets?
- 21 A. Yeah.
- 22 Q. What is the position then? Do you just have difficulty  
23 in sleeping?
- 24 A. I have difficulty like -- when I get to sleep, I'm all  
25 right and then I wake up and then I wake up about

- 1           2 o'clock and that's me, about six or seven.
- 2           Q. You also tell us in your statement -- I am not going to
- 3           go into the detail of it -- that you do suffer from
- 4           depression.
- 5           A. Yeah.
- 6           Q. Do you associate that with your time at Smyllum?
- 7           A. Yeah.
- 8           Q. Do you?
- 9           A. Yeah.
- 10          Q. Can I then take you to the last page of your statement
- 11          again -- you have that in front of you there -- at
- 12          paragraph 71 -- that's on the last page, June, the very
- 13          last page.
- 14          A. All right, sorry. Aye.
- 15          Q. You say in paragraph 71 that:
- 16                 "My hopes for the Inquiry are that no one else will
- 17                 have to go through what I went through as a child."
- 18                 Is that correct?
- 19          A. Yeah.
- 20          Q. You go on to say:
- 21                 "I would like to think that adults that are put in
- 22                 charge can be trusted and that they are not there to
- 23                 abuse children."
- 24          A. Yeah.
- 25          Q. You then say at 72:



1 "I came forward to give my evidence to the Inquiry  
2 as I saw something on the television about Smyllum.  
3 There was a man talking about the abuse he received as  
4 a child and there were people denying that the children  
5 were abused. I'm coming forward to tell the Inquiry  
6 about the abuse. I want to verify the story of others  
7 that the nuns and civilian staff did hit us and we were  
8 abused."

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. That's your position, you were abused when you were at  
11 Smyllum?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. The Inquiry has had the opportunity of speaking to nuns  
14 who were at Smyllum when you were there and in  
15 particular to Sister AEG She says that she did not  
16 hit a child.

17 A. No, she did.

18 Q. And she hit you?

19 A. Yes.

20 MR MacAULAY: Very well, June, thank you for that.

21 My Lady, no written questions have been submitted  
22 and I don't know if there are to be any questions.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Could I check whether there are any  
24 outstanding applications for questions? No.

25 June, there aren't any other questions that the

1 Inquiry has for you. It just remains for me to say  
2 thank you very much for coming along this afternoon and  
3 explaining to us your account of what happened to you  
4 when you were in Smyllum for such a long time. That's  
5 very helpful to have heard from you and I'm now able to  
6 let you go.

7 A. Right, thank you very much.

8 (The witness withdrew)

9 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

10 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is programmed for  
11 this afternoon for 2 o'clock.

12 LADY SMITH: Very well. We are going to rise now and sit  
13 again at 2 o'clock for the next witness who is going to  
14 give evidence. Thank you.

15 (12.40 pm)

16 (The luncheon adjournment)

17 (2.00 pm)

18 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

19 MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon my Lady. The next witness is  
20 an applicant who wants to remain anonymous and he wants  
21 to use the name "Duncan" when giving his evidence.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 Good afternoon, Duncan. Would you take the oath,  
24 please.

25

1 "DUNCAN" (sworn)

2 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.

3 The microphone should help you in making yourself heard  
4 and Mr MacAulay will keep you right about using the red  
5 file.

6 Mr MacAulay, when you are ready.

7 Questions from MR MacAULAY

8 MR MacAULAY: My Lady.

9 Good afternoon, Duncan. I don't want your date of  
10 birth but I need your year of birth so I can get a time  
11 frame. Am I right in thinking you were born in the year  
12 1966?

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. You have in front of you in the red folder the statement  
15 that you have provided to the Inquiry and I'm going to  
16 be asking you some questions based on that statement.

17 Can I say to you that if I ask you a question and  
18 you don't remember something, just tell me you don't  
19 remember.

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. Likewise, if you remember something now that you hadn't  
22 remembered before, then feel free to tell us.

23 A. Okay, thank you.

24 Q. Can I then just look quickly at your statement for  
25 a moment. I will give the reference for the transcript

1 as WIT.001.001.2727.

2 If I could take you to the very last page of the  
3 statement, Duncan, which is 2736. Have you signed this  
4 statement?

5 A. Yes, I have.

6 Q. At the very end do you say:

7 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
8 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry"?

9 Is that right?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. You also go on to say:

12 "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
13 statement are true."

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. We know from the records that we have seen that you were  
16 admitted to Smyllum on [REDACTED] 1973.

17 A. Right.

18 Q. Does that feel about right to you?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Which would mean that you were roughly about 6 years of  
21 age when you were admitted.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You left, according to the records, towards the end of  
24 that year, [REDACTED] 1973; is that about right?

25 A. Yes, I thought I was in for longer but --

1 Q. On the basis of that information it looks you were in  
2 for about a year.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. But you thought it might be a bit longer than that?

5 A. I thought it was just about a year, yeah.

6 Q. Do you have much recollection of life before you were  
7 admitted to Smyllum?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What do you recollect?

10 A. Basically just staying in Govan. When my mother and  
11 father split up, we got taken into Smyllum. I don't  
12 think there was a Catholic Church, but my father went to  
13 the Catholic Church and asked for us, me and my sister,  
14 to actually be put into Smyllum. I do remember staying  
15 in Govan. I have several memories of staying in Govan  
16 beforehand.

17 Q. Are you suggesting then that it was through the  
18 Catholic Church that you went to Smyllum?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Would that be through a local parish priest?

21 A. Yes, it would have been.

22 Q. I think you went with a sister; is that correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Was she older or younger than you?

25 A. 18 months older.

- 1 Q. Do you have any recollection of your first day at  
2 Smyllum?
- 3 A. I remember getting dropped off in front of the big  
4 house, basically, with the stairs, and taken in. After  
5 that, no. Just at the --
- 6 Q. But when you went with your sister, did you go to  
7 a different part?
- 8 A. Separated totally.
- 9 Q. Totally separated?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Did you go to a particular dormitory when you were at  
12 Smyllum?
- 13 A. Yes, I did.
- 14 Q. Do you remember the name of the section?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. What about the dormitory itself, can you give me some  
17 idea as to what size it was?
- 18 A. I would say there was maybe ten beds in it from  
19 recollection. Everybody had a unit next to their beds.
- 20 Q. All boys --
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. -- in that dormitory?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. What about the age ranges then?
- 25 A. I would say it'd go up to maybe early teens.

1 Q. It was across the board, really.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You mention your sister who was older than you; did you  
4 see much of her during your time at Smyllum?

5 A. No. As I said in the statement, I think I'd seen her  
6 maybe on a Saturday and things like that or at Mass in  
7 the morning or maybe at school, which I don't have many  
8 memories about, but I would have seen her definitely at  
9 the weekend.

10 Q. So on a daily basis you would have no contact with her?

11 A. I wouldn't remember.

12 Q. If I look at mealtimes, so far as mealtimes were  
13 concerned, were you in a large dining area or a smaller  
14 area?

15 A. I remember it being large.

16 Q. Was it large?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Was it a mixture of boys and girls?

19 A. I haven't got any recollection of that. It is just  
20 I can't remember seeing my sister, so --

21 Q. You don't remember seeing --

22 A. I don't remember seeing my sister very often, no.

23 Q. What about the food then? Can you tell me about the  
24 food?

25 A. As I said in the statement as well, in the morning I was

1           made to eat salted porridge, which I hated. I found it  
2           used to made me sick.

3       Q. You say you were made to eat it.

4       A. Made to eat it, yes.

5       Q. How were you made to eat it?

6       A. I was sat there until I finished every last bit of it.

7       Q. Who would be making you to eat it?

8       A. The Sisters.

9       Q. Do you remember any of the names of the Sisters that you  
10       came across?

11      A. None at all.

12      Q. But was there anything physically done to you --

13      A. Yes, I'd be slapped on the back of the head if I never  
14      ate it.

15      Q. By whom?

16      A. By the Sisters.

17      Q. That's the porridge; what about the rest of the meals?

18      Have you any recollection of what they were like?

19      A. They weren't too bad. The evening meals were okay. It  
20      was like your meat and your veg and your potatoes and  
21      things like that. I didn't have any problem with them;  
22      it was just breakfast because I hated salted porridge.

23      Q. But you do tell us in your statement that your  
24      recollection is that you were always hungry.

25      A. Always hungry, always hungry all the time, yep.



- 1 Q. What about washing and bathing then? Do you have  
2 a recollection of what the procedure was there?
- 3 A. Yes, we would be lined up to get a bath --
- 4 Q. What would happen?
- 5 A. We would be lined up individually to -- told it was your  
6 bath time and that was it.
- 7 Q. Are we to imagine there is a queue of boys going to the  
8 bath?
- 9 A. Yes, definitely.
- 10 Q. Was there any particular system? Was it by age or how  
11 was it organised?
- 12 A. I don't think there was any system; it was just your  
13 turn and that was it.
- 14 Q. Did you share the same water as the person before you?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. What sort of size of queue are we talking about?
- 17 A. I don't know, maybe the size of the dormitory. Maybe  
18 ten boys or whatever.
- 19 Q. What about the water? Was it hot, warm, cold?
- 20 A. I have not got any recollection of that kind of thing,  
21 so I don't know.
- 22 Q. You mention the school a little while ago, have you any  
23 recollection of the school at all?
- 24 A. No, just it being really big classes, that was it.  
25 Unfortunately, I was so young that the memories aren't

- 1           there, you know, but I do remember very large classes.
- 2       Q.   And leisure time? I think you tell us in your statement
- 3           that you had access to a television.
- 4       A.   Yes, we did on a Saturday, yes. It used to be we would
- 5           watched television on a Saturday, kind of mid-afternoon
- 6           to evening.
- 7       Q.   I think you tell us that was the opportunity -- one of
- 8           the opportunities you had of speaking to your sister.
- 9       A.   To see my sister, yes.
- 10      Q.   Your birthday would have happened in the year that you
- 11           were there.
- 12      A.   Yes.
- 13      Q.   Do you remember if it was celebrated?
- 14      A.   No recollection at all. Nothing sticks out. No
- 15           memories of that, no.
- 16      Q.   So far as your dormitory was concerned, you have told us
- 17           about the age range of boys. Do you know if any of
- 18           these boys were siblings?
- 19      A.   I have no recollection, sorry. I couldn't be able to
- 20           tell you that, no.
- 21      Q.   And you have no recollection of the name of the area?
- 22      A.   No.
- 23      Q.   Because we have heard that there were areas with
- 24           different names.
- 25      A.   Different names on them yeah, no recollection,

1           unfortunately. I was just too young to remember.

2           Q. What about contact with your family? Did you have any

3           visits from members of your family?

4           A. I think my father visited a couple of times, but no

5           contact whatsoever from my mother.

6           Q. Can I ask you now about bed-wetting then, Duncan. Was

7           that something that you did?

8           A. No, I didn't.

9           Q. But did you see that there were some boys who did wet

10          the bed?

11          A. There was people who wet the bed, yeah.

12          Q. Can you remember what happened if that was the case?

13          A. No, I don't. I was asked about this as well, but

14          I can't remember. I can't remember what happened.

15          Q. If we look at your statement, Duncan, if you turn to

16          page 5 of the statement.

17          A. Yes.

18          Q. At paragraph 24, this is what you say:

19                 "The dormitory smelled constantly of urine and

20                 carbolic soap."

21                 You remember that?

22          A. Mm.

23          Q. You go on to say:

24                 "If someone had wet the bed, the nuns would give

25                 them a beating in front of [you]."

1 A. Yeah, they were always getting hit.

2 Q. You do remember that?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You then say that they would then be escorted off to the  
5 bath and the sheets would be changed.

6 A. Uh-huh.

7 Q. Then you say:

8 "I saw this loads of times and lived in constant  
9 fear."

10 Why were you in constant fear?

11 A. Because of the beatings that people would get for no  
12 reason, basically. Fortunately, as I said at the bottom  
13 there, I never wet the bed.

14 Q. So that didn't happen to you?

15 A. That didn't happen to you no.

16 Q. Were you hit when you were at Smyllum?

17 A. Oh yes, very much so.

18 Q. Can you tell me a little bit about that. What sort of  
19 circumstances would that entail?

20 A. There was one on statement if you come across it,  
21 I don't know what page it is on, we were away for the  
22 day, we were at a harbour and a Sister gave me a coin to  
23 put in me hand and a bit of bread in the other hand, but  
24 unfortunately when I threw the bread, the coin went in  
25 with it --

1 Q. Into the water?

2 A. Into the water, yes. There might have been laughter  
3 from the Sisters as well, but when I got back to  
4 Smyllum -- I was given a beating when I got back to  
5 Smyllum for it.

6 Q. I know you can't remember the names of the Sister, but  
7 it was a nun who gave you --

8 A. Definitely, yes.

9 Q. Can you just describe the nature of the beating to us?

10 A. It was always on the back of the head. It always slaps  
11 at the back of my head all at the time.

12 Q. Did you expect to get a beating --

13 A. Yes, definitely. I constantly lived in fear in the  
14 place, so you knew you were going to get something.

15 LADY SMITH: Whose coin was it?

16 A. It was -- a Sister had given me it to maybe buy ice  
17 cream or whatever it was, but when it was in my hand, I  
18 threw --

19 LADY SMITH: So it was your money and it was your loss?

20 A. It was my loss, yeah.

21 LADY SMITH: Okay.

22 MR MacAULAY: You tell us in your statement, Duncan, at  
23 paragraph 26 that the nuns would hit you on the back of  
24 the head or the backside with a wooden paddle or  
25 something like that.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. You have a recollection of that?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. What sort of implement was this?
- 5 A. I don't know, to tell the truth, if it was a leather  
6 belt or -- it felt more heavy than a leather belt  
7 against your skin. I can still feel it, but I can't say  
8 if it was a paddle or a belt, but it was very, very  
9 sore.
- 10 Q. You had to take your shorts down --
- 11 A. Shorts down, yeah.
- 12 Q. -- to get hit?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Why would you being hit?
- 15 A. For the slightest little thing out of place or whatever,  
16 you know, anything at all.
- 17 Q. There you talk about nuns in the plural; was there more  
18 than one nun involved in this?
- 19 A. Yes, definitely.
- 20 Q. Over the period of about the year or so that you were  
21 there, how regularly were you hit by nuns?
- 22 A. Do you know, I can't honestly answer that. I don't  
23 know. It just seemed to be all the time. I can't put  
24 specific times on it.
- 25 Q. Were there nuns that were kind to you?

- 1 A. Yes, very much so.
- 2 Q. I think you do tell us at one point in your statement  
3 that there were nuns who would comfort you and give you  
4 cuddles.
- 5 A. Yes, and that would feel sympathetic towards you, yeah.
- 6 Q. You also tell us in your statement, Duncan, about  
7 a practice that involved a person you call the  
8 [REDACTED].
- 9 A. Mm.
- 10 Q. Can you just help me with that? What happened?
- 11 A. Basically the beds were made to tightly -- the very  
12 first night I was there, I don't know if it was  
13 an initiation ceremony or whatever it was, a ceremony  
14 when you went in, but the beds were made so tightly --  
15 and the first night I went to my bed I was pushed under  
16 the covers, where the older chap would sit on top of  
17 where my pillow would be. He would get several boys to  
18 sit round the bed as well.
- 19 Q. When you say "the older chap", you mean the person you  
20 referred to as [REDACTED]
- 21 A. [REDACTED] yes.
- 22 Q. You never found out his name?
- 23 A. Never found out his name, no.
- 24 Q. Can you just help us understand what is happening now?  
25 What are they doing?

1       A. Basically he was sitting where my pillow was. He would  
2       push me down in the bed that was already tight. I would  
3       find myself in the middle of the bed and I would get so  
4       disorientated when I was in, I didn't know what was the  
5       upside or downside of the bed, losing breath, I'd start  
6       sweating -- I still remember it to this day. Then  
7       eventually, after a couple of minutes, I would be let  
8       out, totally breathless, with him standing there  
9       laughing at me. It didn't just happen once, it happened  
10      several times.

11      Q. But you are telling us that not just [REDACTED] but  
12      also other boys are involved in this?

13      A. It was older boys involved in it, yeah, so I couldn't  
14      wriggle that as much when I was in the middle of the  
15      bed.

16      Q. Did you ask for any sort of explanation as to why this  
17      was --

18      A. I was just too young, I didn't know where I was, or  
19      whatever, but it has affected most of my days because of  
20      it. Sorry.

21      Q. I think we see this later on in your statement, but you  
22      actually went back to Smyllum --

23      A. Yes, I did.

24      Q. - you were an adult.

25      A. Yes, I did, me and my sister.



- 1 Q. You were going back for what reason?
- 2 A. I went to Smyllum itself, the building, but there was  
3 some kind of religious cult in it at the time and they  
4 said I could get the Sisters involved in Smyllum [REDACTED]  
5 [REDACTED] Me and my sister  
6 went [REDACTED] and we started talking to some nuns.  
7 When I brought this up in front of the nuns they  
8 basically said, no, he was a lovely man, he wouldn't  
9 have done that kind of thing, you know, as if I was  
10 telling lies at the time -- and that's going back 20-odd  
11 years.
- 12 Q. But did you go back with a view to finding out why that  
13 practice was being done to you?
- 14 A. Yes, why.
- 15 Q. You are saying you met some nuns who said he wouldn't do  
16 that?
- 17 A. He wouldn't do that, he was a lovely man, nice man.  
18 That kind of thing, you know. They actually produced  
19 photographs, black and white photographs of when I was  
20 in Smyllum as well, me and my sisters in a big group.
- 21 Q. What year was that; can you remember?
- 22 A. I would say it must have been before -- it was over  
23 20 years anyway. Over 20 years.
- 24 Q. You also tell us about a memory that you have of being  
25 very young and your shorts being at your ankles.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Was that at Smyllum?
- 3 A. As I said in the statement I can't say -- you know,  
4 I can't say if it was or if it wasn't, kind of thing,  
5 you know, but I can't imagine it being anywhere else,  
6 that's the thing -- although I was fostered after I came  
7 out of Smyllum.
- 8 Q. I think you say the fostering was a happy experience for  
9 you.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. But what is this memory then that you have?
- 12 A. The memory is my shorts were at my ankles --  
13 unfortunately at the time my memory is I had an erection  
14 at the time and there was a chap standing at the side of  
15 me. But I can't tell you if it was [REDACTED] in  
16 Smyllum or if it was outside Smyllum. I don't know what  
17 it was, but it is a very early memory I have got, but  
18 I think I try to black it out, to be honest.
- 19 Q. You have told us about being hit, I think you say, on  
20 a regular basis by nuns. Were you ever hit in public by  
21 the nuns?
- 22 A. No, never. Never. They wouldn't get away with it.
- 23 Q. You have given us the example of the harbour incident --
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. Nothing happened to you --

- 1 A. Nothing happened there and then, no.
- 2 Q. Can I then go to when you left Smyllum, which is the end  
3 of that particular year. You have already told us you  
4 were fostered on a couple of occasions; is that right?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Then I think you went to live with some relatives.
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Did you ever tell anyone what had happened to you at  
9 Smyllum?
- 10 A. No, because I think my father, if I'd have told him  
11 that, I'd be talking nonsense and probably get a beating  
12 off him as well.
- 13 Q. You did have some sort of difficult times in your life,  
14 but I mean eventually you got yourself together and  
15 I think you tell us actually that you got a degree in  
16 metallurgy; is that right?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. The work you have done, I won't go into detail of it,  
19 has involved helping people, effectively.
- 20 A. Yes, I worked offshore for several years and then we  
21 came back down from the place we were staying and  
22 relocated to [REDACTED] I worked for the [REDACTED] for  
23 several years and then went onto --
- 24 Q. You needn't give us the detail of where you were in case  
25 it might identify you. But in broad terms your work has

- 1           involved helping people?
- 2       A.   In the last 10 years, yes.
- 3       Q.   Do you think your experience at Smyllum has had
- 4           an impact on you?
- 5       A.   Definitely, yes.
- 6       Q.   Are you able to tell us what you think it is?
- 7       A.   It stopped me being who I was meant to be, basically,
- 8           when I was younger.  It held me back for several years.
- 9           I got into trouble with the police at 16 to 18 year old,
- 10          took drugs, definitely on my way to being an alcoholic
- 11          at the time as well.  Just living my life the roughest
- 12          possible way I could -- until certain things changed.
- 13       Q.   You have told us about your sister and indeed the trip
- 14          that you and your sister took to go back to Smyllum.
- 15          Have you discussed your experience at Smyllum with your
- 16          sister?
- 17       A.   Unfortunately, me and my sister are estranged now for
- 18          the last five years, but we did discuss it beforehand,
- 19          yeah.
- 20       Q.   Did she tell you what her experience was?
- 21       A.   Yes, she went through some horrific times as well at
- 22          Smyllum.
- 23       Q.   She has told you about these times?
- 24       A.   Yes, she has.
- 25       Q.   Can you give us some understanding as to what her

1           experience was?

2           A.   Just not a very happy one.  She got beatings like I did  
3           and other things happened to my sister as well.  One day  
4           I might have the courage to contact her again and maybe  
5           contact yourselves to speak about what happened to her.

6           Q.   If you go back to your statement at the very last page  
7           again, page 2736, you tell us there in paragraph 52 that  
8           you think:

9                         "There should be regular meetings with children in  
10           care by the Social Work Department."

11                        Can I ask you, do you have any recollection of  
12           a social worker coming to see you when you were at  
13           Smyllum?

14           A.   Although I was very young, I have got no memories of  
15           anybody from the council or anywhere coming to see me.

16           Q.   "I am not saying there should be physical examinations  
17           but children should be closely monitored.  Care  
18           establishments should be open to scrutiny and  
19           monitoring.  It is amazing how much abuse hurts people."

20           A.   Especially in children.  They carry it for the rest of  
21           their lives.

22           Q.   We have spoken to nuns who may have been at Smyllum when  
23           you were there.  Their position is that children were  
24           not abused and it was a happy place.

25           A.   Yes, I have heard that.

1 Q. What do you say to that?

2 A. It is total lies.

3 MR MacAULAY: Well thank you, Duncan. That's all I propose  
4 to ask you.

5 There have been no written questions, my Lady, and  
6 I don't know if there are to be any questions.

7 LADY SMITH: Could I check whether there are any outstanding  
8 applications for questions? No.

9 That's all the questions we have for you, Duncan.  
10 Thank you very much for coming along to talk to us  
11 today. It has been very helpful to hear your evidence  
12 in person and I'm now able to let you go.

13 A. Thank you.

14 (The witness withdrew)

15 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

16 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, that in fact is the last applicant  
17 witness for this phase. We are now going to move on to  
18 the last reading for this part of this phase.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

20 Whenever you are ready, Ms MacLeod.

21 Witness statement of "MEG" (read)

22 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, this is a statement from a witness who  
23 wishes to be anonymous and will use the pseudonym of  
24 "Meg". The statement is to be found at  
25 WIT.001.001.2087:

1           " My name is Meg. I was born in 1939. My contact  
2 details are known to the Inquiry. I lived with my  
3 mother and father when I was born. I had a sister and  
4 three brothers. My mother and father were married. We  
5 originally lived with my paternal grandmother but my  
6 mother got a new house later on. We lived there with my  
7 father. We were practising Catholics.

8           " I have papers that say my father was in the Cameron  
9 Highlanders during the Second World War. My father had  
10 to do what my parental grandmother wanted. She didn't  
11 like my mother and us. She didn't want us. As it  
12 turned out, my father didn't want us either.

13           " My father wasn't around the house much because he  
14 was a womaniser. He would come in with his pals and  
15 take money from my mother for his drinking. The money  
16 was meant to be used for buying us food. My father used  
17 to take an unfair share of the food ration.

18           " He took the bread out of our mouths. If my mother  
19 couldn't find my father any food, she would get kicked  
20 stupid.

21           " We weren't allowed in the living room. That room  
22 was for my father and his pals. My father kept a Luger  
23 gun in the room. I went into the cupboard when he was  
24 out and got it out. My sister told my father on me. My  
25 father kicked my mother up and down the lobby for that.

1 She got it because she was supposed to have locked the  
2 living room door. I got kicked as well.

3 "I remember my father whipping my eldest brother  
4 with electrical cables. He pulled off the outer rubber  
5 bit on the end so that the metal prongs stuck out.  
6 I also remember him kicking my mother with his size 10  
7 boots. He would crack me round my head for looking too  
8 much like my mother. He once knocked my sister's teeth  
9 out and burst her nose. My father was a very violent  
10 man. It was a house of horror.

11 "The reason I ended up in care was because my mother  
12 had to go into a sanatorium. She had TB. My father and  
13 my paternal grandmother should have looked after us. At  
14 the time, we were going to an infant school in  
15 Johnstone. We were taken out of the infant school by  
16 Renfrewshire Council and taken to Smyllum. I was 6 or 7  
17 when that happened. We were bundled into a car by  
18 Mr Johnson. He was the head man for children at  
19 Renfrewshire Council.

20 "One of my brothers wasn't put into Smyllum but my  
21 other two brothers and my sister were. When we went to  
22 Smyllum, I was about 6 or 7. My sister was 7 or 8. My  
23 brother was 4 or 5. My other brother would have been  
24 a baby.

25 "I didn't see Mr Johnson in Smyllum after we were



1           dropped off. I remember going in. We were just bundled  
2           into a dorm. I would say that I was in Smyllum for  
3           about 1 month. We were put in an isolation dorm in case  
4           we had TB. We just sat in the dorm and looked at each  
5           other. We were too frightened to move. We were scared  
6           stiff. We had never experienced anything like that  
7           before.

8           " All I can remember is an experience of the  
9           isolation dorm and getting in and out of there. I don't  
10          know much about what else happened inside the place.  
11          All I really remember is that I never liked it there.

12          "The only person we had any contact with was  
13          Sister AGU. There were no other nuns we had  
14          contact with. It was just her.

15          "There were about four or five iron beds in the  
16          room. We had a bed each. That was new to us. We had  
17          been used to all sleeping in one big bed together.

18          "I don't remember anything about washing facilities.  
19          I suppose there must have been a toilet and a sink but  
20          nothing comes to mind.

21          "I don't remember anything about the food at  
22          Smyllum.

23          "We didn't have any education during the month we  
24          were there.

25          "When we went into the isolation dorm, we had

1 a plaster put on our backs. We were left there for  
2 about a month. After the nuns took the plasters off,  
3 they found out there was nothing there. That meant we  
4 were all right. I think we were kept at Smyllum for  
5 about a week after that.

6 "After they took our plasters off they allowed us in  
7 the playground. We did that for about a week. There  
8 were no other children there. I played with my brothers  
9 and sisters. We had to go back into the same dorm. We  
10 were never allowed in the main home.

11 "My youngest brother was crying all the time. My  
12 sister took him in beside her. Sister [REDACTED] AGU then  
13 came in. My sister got it because she had a boy in her  
14 bed with her. Sister [REDACTED] AGU squealed and shouted at  
15 us. I can hear that woman's high-pitched voice now. We  
16 were used to doubling up. That's just what you did in  
17 those days. It was a different time.

18 "My mother recovered from her TB for a while.  
19 I think it was our mother who got us home again.  
20 I can't remember who it was that actually took us home  
21 from Smyllum. After getting home, my mother took ill  
22 again. That's when my father and paternal grandmother  
23 put us into the court to get us really put away. We  
24 were then taken to Paisley Sheriff Court. It was my  
25 father and my paternal grandmother who signed us away

1 through the courts. They swore our lives away.

2 "During the hearing they made out my mother was  
3 a bad woman. My mother wasn't a bad woman. I know the  
4 beatings that we got off my father and I know the  
5 beatings we got off my mother. I remember the court  
6 asked us who we would rather stay with; I said my mum.  
7 My brothers and sisters said my father. They said that  
8 because they were frightened of him. I was scared of  
9 him too, but I was always mouthy.

10 "Later on I discovered from my mother that she had  
11 fought to get us all back. She went to the court and  
12 asked for us back. She wasn't successful. We weren't  
13 part of that process. We didn't go back to court. I'm  
14 not sure when she tried to do that.

15 "My brother got sent somewhere else before we went  
16 to Crossleas. I found out later that he was sent to  
17 a farm run by the people who ran Smyllum. I'm not sure,  
18 but I think it was down Carluke way. They sent the  
19 bigger boys there to work on the produce."

20 My Lady from paragraph 24 to 51 the witness provides  
21 evidence in relation to her time at Crossleas. So,  
22 therefore, I will move to paragraph 52, which is on  
23 WIT.001.001.2096 where the witness speaks of being moved  
24 to Bellevue following her time at Crossleas:

25 "My sister and I were put into Bellevue. I was

1 about 7 or 8 years old when I went there. I must have  
2 started around 1947. I know I was definitely at  
3 Bellevue by the time I had my first holy communion on  
4 [REDACTED] 1947.

5 "My sister was put into the year above me.

6 "The home was run by nuns from the  
7 Sisters of Charity. It was a hard regime. The boys and  
8 girls were kept separate. We were kept in different  
9 areas. We had nothing much to do with the boys.  
10 Looking back, I realise that the Sisters of Charity  
11 would have been paid by the council to look after us.  
12 They would have held our ration books. I think it would  
13 have been Mr Johnson overseeing the payments.

14 "There wasn't much supervision. The nuns were  
15 about, but you knew what you had to do. You just got on  
16 with things.

17 "Sister [REDACTED] AEX was one of the nice nuns. She was  
18 nice to everybody. If you got the cane off her, you  
19 would deserve it. She wasn't like the rest of them;  
20 they would give you the cane for nothing. I got on all  
21 right with Sister [REDACTED] AEX She worked all over with the  
22 girls. She was also in charge of the refectory when it  
23 was her turn.

24 "I found out later that my mum had cleaned for some  
25 nuns when she was about 15. She cleaned for some nuns

1 at a home in Glasgow. My aunties and uncles were in the  
2 home at that time. Sister [AEX] was at that home  
3 during that time. One of my aunties was her favourite  
4 child there. That's why Sister [AEX] took to me.

5 "Later on during my time at Bellevue, Sister [AEX]  
6 got a retirement job as a Mother Superior in Dundee.  
7 Sister [AGU] replaced Sister [AEX] when she went  
8 to Dundee. She was transferred from Smyllum. When  
9 I saw Sister [AGU] for the first time, my feet stuck  
10 to the ground. She knew my sister and I straightaway.  
11 When she saw us she pointed at me and squealed, 'I know  
12 youse very well'. I think she had it in for us. She  
13 did not like us. She called us 'filth'.

14 "The Mother Superior's name was Sister [EAB].  
15 Sister [FAM] was in charge of the laundry. She also had  
16 to do her turn in the refectory. There was a nun called  
17 Sister [BAH] I think Sister [BAH] looked after the  
18 boys. She wasn't too bad. There was a nun called  
19 Sister [BAF] There was also a lay helper who I can't  
20 remember the name of.

21 "You got up at 7 o'clock in the morning. You would  
22 then kneel at the side of your bed and say your prayers.  
23 Then you would get washed and dressed. You would then  
24 go to Mass in the nuns' private chapel, then you went to  
25 your breakfast. In the evenings you would have your

1 dinner. You would wash up after that. You did your  
2 prayers before bedtime. You were in your bed for  
3 7 o'clock.

4 "I was originally put into the smaller girls'  
5 dormitory. My sister was put into the middle girls'  
6 dormitory. I couldn't say how long I was in the smaller  
7 girls' dormitory. The beds in the smaller girls'  
8 dormitory were too small for me. I would sleep with my  
9 knees up to my chin. The beds were very little.

10 "I later got a bigger bed in the middle girls'  
11 dormitory when one of the older girls left. I was still  
12 classed as one of the smaller gills when I went there.  
13 Sister **FAM** had a room next door to the middle girls'  
14 dormitory.

15 "We had very thin pillows. Some of the children had  
16 to sleep without them in order to straighten out their  
17 backs. I didn't have to do that though.

18 "You had your own pigeonhole with a number on it  
19 where you kept your toilet bag, toothbrush and comb.  
20 You had your own tin of toothpaste. There were  
21 bathrooms and baths.

22 "Bath night was a Friday night. You had to share  
23 the same water with the other children but not at the  
24 same time. If you were lucky, you would get into the  
25 water first. Some of the other children would wee in

1 the water.

2 "There was a nun who would flip between all the  
3 bathrooms but really we had to supervise ourselves. As  
4 long as we weren't squabbling, we were left to get on  
5 with it. Generally, the smaller ones got the baths  
6 first. Outside of the bath night you 'top and tailed'  
7 in a wash basin.

8 "You had all your meals in the refectory. It had  
9 big long tables and benches. Later on the benches were  
10 replaced with wooden chairs. You had tin mugs and  
11 plates for your meals. They would bring in a big bowl  
12 of water for you to wash your plate, mug and cutlery  
13 after your meals. Sister AEX would stand and watch  
14 you as you were eating. You had to eat in silence.

15 "The nuns didn't eat with us. You could smell the  
16 food coming out from where they ate. There were lovely  
17 smells that came out of there. We never got anything  
18 they got.

19 "On a Sunday morning breakfast we got a wee Scotch  
20 round sausage and a slice of bread. We made a sandwich  
21 out of then. That was our treat. On other days you got  
22 porridge and bread and margarine for breakfast. I have  
23 never taken to milk. When I was born I wouldn't take to  
24 breast milk. I used to run away before the nun poured  
25 milk from a big jug onto my porridge. One time a girl

1           who didn't like me told on me. The Sister in charge  
2           made me take milk on my porridge. She made me eat it.  
3           As I was eating, I was being sick. I was as sick as  
4           a dog. The Sister made me clean it up.

5           "I remember that the girl who dobbed me in got  
6           a right kicking. The nuns didn't like the children  
7           telling on each other. After that incident, nobody else  
8           told on me when I ran away before the milk was poured on  
9           my porridge.

10          "At mealtimes you used to get malt and Virol.  
11          Everybody was given it off the same spoon. I didn't  
12          mind the Virol but I hated the malt. One time, because  
13          I wouldn't go up for the malt, I got the cane off  
14          Sister AGU.

15          "We all got dressed in either blue or pink floral  
16          dresses. Everybody had those dresses. They generally  
17          liked to keep the pink dresses for Sundays. All the  
18          dresses were dolled out to you from the laundry. You  
19          didn't get any pocket money in there. There were no  
20          savings books or anything like that.

21          "The Sisters of Charity did all the education for  
22          the younger children. There was a classroom inside the  
23          home. It was next to the refectory. One of the nuns  
24          was the teacher. I can't remember the nun's name,  
25          I didn't like her. She was very strict. You had to



1 keep your head down and your mouth shut otherwise you  
2 would get caned.

3 "My sister didn't go to the classroom with me  
4 because she was older. It was all right for the  
5 children who could read and write, they could understand  
6 what was being written on the board. I didn't have  
7 a clue what the teacher was writing. I do remember  
8 sometimes being made to print out letters that the nun  
9 had written on the board when the other children were  
10 reading. That was so that I could learn my ABC. I felt  
11 like a baby. It didn't really help me. It just didn't  
12 connect.

13 "When you were older you went to the big school  
14 called St Columbkille's School in Rutherglen. You went  
15 there about the age that you sat the eleven-plus.  
16 I didn't know anything. I was put at the back of the  
17 classroom. My sister was put in there too. We used to  
18 get laughed at by the other school kids. We were  
19 dunces.

20 "Before we went to St Columbkille's we had to learn  
21 the Catholic catechism in the classroom during the day.  
22 I was quite good at religion. I would say I was better  
23 than anyone else in my class. When the priest came in  
24 to ask questions my hand was always up. Other people  
25 would always get picked to answer. They would get the

1 answer wrong. There was a prize for religion. I didn't  
2 get that prize. I got a prize for 'effort'. I thought  
3 that was disgusting. They gave me a pair of black  
4 rosary beads. I would've preferred it if they'd given me  
5 nothing at all. They knew I was good but they didn't  
6 want to give the religion prize to me. They had it in  
7 for me.

8 "We had to go to Mass in the mornings. It was in  
9 Latin. There was a resident priest who took Mass.  
10 I can't remember his name.

11 "I remember my first holy communion. It happened on  
12 [REDACTED] 1947. They gave me a white dress and a veil.  
13 It didn't fit me because I was tall. You had to know  
14 a bit of catechism, then they put your holy communion  
15 wafer on your tongue.

16 "The chores were done on a daily basis. It was  
17 a four-storey building. You had to kneel down and scrub  
18 the stairs from top to bottom. We had to do that every  
19 week. We had these big dummies with shafts on them. We  
20 had to polish the wooden floors in the big dormitories.  
21 You would have to go up and down. You also had to  
22 polish and lace the boys' boots. Some of the other  
23 children had to do sowing. We also had to do the  
24 bathrooms. All the taps and knobs were brass so we had  
25 to polish all of them.

1           "When you were a wee bit older -- maybe between 10  
2 and 12 -- you got sent down to work in the laundry it  
3 was nothing but darn right hard work. You weren't  
4 allowed to speak when you were doing your chores.

5           "We were allowed out into the yard. They had a  
6 couple of swings. There was a big playroom. We weren't  
7 allowed in there if it was nice outside. There was a  
8 choir. The home put on plays. One Easter time, we had  
9 to do the Passion. My friend got to be Our Lady. I was  
10 the soldier. I had to go on stage and say, 'Indeed this  
11 man was the son of God'.

12           "After Mass on Sundays, the nuns would take you out  
13 for a walk. We would go on long walks. We had to hold  
14 each other's hands in long lines.

15           "During the summer holidays you just played in the  
16 playground. It was all the same thing all year round.  
17 We did get one or two trips though. There was a family  
18 called, the Smiths. They were very good to Bellevue.  
19 They would take us on day trips 'doon the water' on the  
20 Clyde. We would get on the boat at Clydeside. We would  
21 then go to Mill Port or some place. We would get our  
22 dinner and an icecream and play on the beach. We would  
23 then get back on the boat and go back again.

24           "At Christmas time the Smiths hired the Kelvingrove  
25 for the shows. They would hire the whole fair for all

1 the boys and girls in the home. We all went. They gave  
2 you half a crown and you got to go on anything you  
3 wanted to. We got a fish and chip tea and an icecream.  
4 That was a good day.

5 "When we went out on our trips we went on old buses  
6 with wooden seats. The Smiths had arranged a trip to  
7 Glasgow to go to the zoo. We were coming back. I was  
8 sitting on the top deck of the bus. All of a sudden a  
9 big branch hit the front of the bus. It smashed all the  
10 windows. I ducked but left my hands on the seat in front  
11 of me. All the glass came in. My hands got filled with  
12 splinters of glass.

13 "I remember one of my birthdays. The nuns had  
14 brought in a wee television to watch the funeral of King  
15 George VI. It would have been 1952. Somebody said to  
16 Sister **FAM** that it was my birthday. Sister **FAM** had a  
17 bag of sweeties. She came in and said "Here you are,  
18 that's your birthday present" and gave me the bag of  
19 sweeties. Not one sweet did I take out of that bag. I  
20 had my principles. I don't remember any of my other  
21 birthdays. You'd be lucky if you got a piece and jam.

22 "I think Christmas Day was just a normal day. There  
23 was midnight mass the night before. The nuns got  
24 presents. The only thing I got was a book off of  
25 Mr Johnson. It was useless because I couldn't read. My

1 sister got a book as well.

2 "Before visits we would sit and wait in the playroom  
3 upstairs. One of the bigger girls, who didn't have  
4 a visitor, would come in to get my sister and I when our  
5 visitor arrived. If you didn't get a visitor you were  
6 supposed to be given a McCowans toffee instead.  
7 I remember my sister and I being denied that when my mum  
8 didn't come to visit.

9 "You were watched by the nuns when you had visitors.  
10 You had to watch what you said in case the nuns heard.

11 "The only person that really came was my mum. She  
12 visited us after she came out of the sanatorium. She  
13 came to visit us once a month if she could manage it.  
14 She had to find the bus fare to visit us. I know that  
15 sometimes she borrowed the bus fare off of my Aunt. It  
16 took her over an hour to get to Smyllum from where she  
17 lived. I think I only remember mum not visiting us only  
18 once. She must have been poorly or she couldn't afford  
19 to come.

20 "Mr Johnson visited every three or six months.  
21 I think he just showed his face. One Sunday we were  
22 walking in the park in Rutherglen. We always passed  
23 these bungalows with gardens on the way out. As  
24 I passed one of the bungalows I saw this man bending  
25 down. He lifted his head. Who should it be but Mr

1 Johnson. I said, "Hello Mr Johnson." His face changed.  
2 He said hello and then he ran away back into his house.  
3 That's when I thought to myself, "He lives so near to  
4 where we are and yet we never see him."

5 "The only relative, other than my mother, that was  
6 interested was my aunt. When I was ten she got in  
7 contact with Sister **AEX** to see whether she could  
8 have us for the weekend. We were allowed to go. She  
9 collected us. She was a sick woman. She had TB.

10 "She found out that I couldn't tell the time. She  
11 taught me how to do it. Within an hour she had me  
12 telling the time. I could do it because she taught me in  
13 a different way. It just clicked. She also tried to help  
14 me with my reading and writing as well.

15 "There was no real healthcare. You got on with it.  
16 There were no injections vaccinations or BCG. There  
17 wasn't a nun that was always in charge of the sickbay or  
18 looked after children in that way. It was just whoever  
19 was on duty on that particular day.

20 "I once had the mumps. I wasn't the only child who  
21 had them. The nuns just tied a bandage around my neck.  
22 They kept me off school and put me in the playroom.

23 "The one time I got any sort of bed rest was the  
24 time when I had sick and had diarrhoea at my bedside. I  
25 threw up green bile. I had terrible stomach problems.

1 Sister **FAM** made me go and get a bucket to clear it all  
2 up. I was having diarrhoea as I was cleaning up. I  
3 remember taking the sluice into the bathroom whilst  
4 being sick and having diarrhoea. Sister **FAM** let me go  
5 back to my bed after that.

6 "The next thing I knew Sister **FAM** was pulling my  
7 head up and putting a pillow under my head. I thought  
8 what's going on here? Then Mr Johnson walked into the  
9 room. I think the pillow was given to me to make it look  
10 as if I was nice and comfortable for Mr Johnson. He  
11 said "You're not so good. I hope you get better soon."  
12 I daren't say anything to him. I was then given the  
13 beaten whites of an egg. As soon as Mr Johnson walked  
14 out the door, Sister **FAM** came up to my bed and whipped  
15 the pillow back. That was all the treatment I got. It  
16 was all about letting folk think they were treating you.  
17 I would've felt better if Sister **FAM** hadn't given me  
18 the pillow.

19 "After the visit to the zoo when my hands got filled  
20 with splinters of glass, the nuns didn't take me to the  
21 hospital. They picked out the bits of glass themselves.  
22 It was awful. My fingers got damaged.

23 "I never saw a dentist, I don't know whether other  
24 children saw a dentist.

25 "You weren't allowed to get out of bed at night to

1 go to the toilet. You weren't allowed to go to the  
2 toilet before your prayers in the morning. I remember  
3 crossing my legs. I was bursting to go to the toilet  
4 during my morning prayers. I had to wet myself and take  
5 the consequences. If you wet yourself during prayers  
6 you would get slapped. You were then sent to get  
7 a bucket to clean the floor. That happened many times  
8 to me.

9 "if you did something wrong you got caned by the  
10 nuns. The cane was always in the corner or in their  
11 hands. I really don't know what was considered bad  
12 behaviour. I think they just caned us if they were in  
13 a bad mood. They just took their bad moods out on you.  
14 If you were in the way you got it. You didn't ask  
15 questions. If you did ask questions the response would  
16 be, "Why do you want to know? You're nobody to ask  
17 questions, you're nobody."

18 "One of the things I do remember people getting  
19 caned for was not sitting up straight. After you got  
20 caned you would just go back to how you were sitting  
21 before.

22 "After the time I visited my aunt I went back to  
23 Bellevue. The following Monday I was in the classroom.  
24 I can't remember the name of the nun who was teaching  
25 us. She was evil. She said "What's the time?" I didn't



1 answer. I was determined not to tell her that I knew the  
2 time. The nun then got on with the lesson. All of a  
3 sudden she turned to me and asked again. I said "Ten  
4 minutes to eleven". She almost lost her coronet. She  
5 shouted at me "How do you know that?" I said that my  
6 aunt had taught me. She then gave me the cane for not  
7 telling her the time when I knew it.

8 "One time we were sitting at the table in the  
9 refectory. There was a bowl placed at the end of the  
10 table for washing your cutlery. You had to take your  
11 turn to take the bowl, once everyone was done, to the  
12 kitchen to empty out the dirty water. I got up to lift  
13 the bowl. A girl pushed her chair back. I got caught in  
14 the spar on her chair. I went flying. All the water went  
15 everywhere. It was an accident. Sister **FAM** caned me  
16 six times on each hand for that. She made me get down on  
17 my knees on the floor and dry the water up. She made me  
18 clean up with a pair of old green knickers. Everybody  
19 was laughing at me. My hands were stinging.

20 "About the time we started going to St Columbkille's  
21 school, my sister ran away with another girl. My sister  
22 had her own friends. I didn't know they were running  
23 away. I remember sitting at the back of the class and  
24 realising my sister was not there. Sister **AGU**  
25 pulled me up when I went back to Bellevue. She asked me

1 where my sister was. I said I didn't know that my  
2 sister had been planning to run away and that I didn't  
3 know where she was. I got caned and slapped because  
4 I wouldn't admit to knowing my sister and her friend  
5 were running away. My sister and her friend came back  
6 the following day. They got beaten. I told my sister  
7 that I had got beaten as well.

8 "When I was a wee bit older, maybe between 10 and  
9 12, I got sent to work in the laundry. Sister **FAM** was  
10 in charge of the laundry. There was washing and  
11 starching to do. They had these big steam iron presses  
12 to iron out the washing. I pulled down the press and it  
13 fell right across my hand. I squealed. Sister **FAM**  
14 then ran across to me with a big sweetie jar that was  
15 filled with seawater and seaweed. The nuns were great  
16 ones for remedies and that was one of the ones they had  
17 made up. She took my burnt hand and put it into the jar  
18 with the seaweed and seawater. She then made me hold out  
19 my other hand and give me three canes at the same time.  
20 I daren't say anything otherwise I would have got  
21 another caning. I was punished for burning myself.  
22 I wasn't careful enough. I got big blisters. It went  
23 right to my veins.

24 "One time I was running around with some other  
25 girls. In the kitchen they were piling up the bread and

1 the butter. There was a hatch that went from the  
2 kitchen out to the outside. The bread and butter was  
3 put on the hatch. One of the girls said to me, 'Come  
4 on, let's steal a bit of bread'. We weren't hungry.  
5 The girl said to do it as 'a bit of devilment'. We went  
6 up to the hatch. As I put my hand up to steal the piece  
7 of bread, Sister [REDACTED] EAB saw me. I was the one who  
8 was caught. I was caned by her and classed a thief.  
9 The other girls weren't caned because they weren't  
10 caught. I was marked a thief until I left Bellevue. It  
11 followed me to Crossleas when I went back there. It had  
12 just been a prank.

13 "Another time, I was cleaning the house chapel as  
14 one of my jobs. Sister [REDACTED] EAB asked me whether  
15 I would like to clean her office. I said I will do it.  
16 She told me to just dust around things. There was  
17 a roll-top desk in the office. I dusted it. I cleaned  
18 the office, then went. Later on I discovered that a £5  
19 note had gone missing from the office. I was blamed  
20 because I was the thief. I was given six of the best  
21 and punched in the face for that by Sister [REDACTED] EAB .  
22 I was called a liar. They took my bed apart looking for  
23 that £5 note. I was stripped naked to see if I had  
24 planted it somewhere.

25 "The nuns made me go to the priest to confess that

1 I had taken the money. I couldn't confess to something  
2 that I had never done. I had never even seen the money.  
3 I went into the confessional and said, 'Excuse me,  
4 Father, but they are making me go into confession here.  
5 I never saw any £5 note. If there was a £5 note there,  
6 it should still be there. I didn't take it'. The  
7 priest said that he believed me. He didn't tell the  
8 nuns what I said. What happens in the confessional is  
9 not talked about. He saw how upset I was.

10 "I was then accused of stealing the £5 note to give  
11 to my mother on the Sunday. That was their theory.  
12 When my mother came to visit on the Sunday a girl was  
13 made to sit beside us to see if I handed across the  
14 money. A nun was standing in the doorway to also see if  
15 I slipped my mother any money. I told my mother what  
16 had happened. I said, 'Mammy, they are accusing me of  
17 stealing £5. They are saying that I'm going to slip  
18 that to you". My mother then went and played up merry  
19 hell. She told the nuns that I had not stolen anything  
20 or slipped anything to her. I didn't see what the nun's  
21 response was because they went through a door to talk.

22 "I think the Sister who took the money was  
23 Sister BAF There was also a helper who was  
24 a layperson. She was supposed to look after us like  
25 a guard. I suspect it was one of them who took the

1 money. To this day, I have suffered for what they did.

2 "My niece gave me a newspaper article about the  
3 abuse that happened in Bellevue. I read through the  
4 article. What half of the folk were saying in the  
5 article was true. In the article there were two  
6 brothers who said their sister had died whilst she was  
7 in Rutherglen. I knew her. She was my best friend in  
8 Bellevue. She was a beautiful girl.

9 "One day the girl had gone. Her bed was empty.  
10 I didn't see her for ages. I kept on asking where she  
11 had gone. She wasn't in the sick bay. When I asked  
12 about her, the nuns just said 'none of your business' or  
13 'mind your own business'.

14 "One day I went back into the dormitory and there  
15 was the girl in her bed. Her head was all shaven at the  
16 back of her head. Looking back maybe she had a tumour  
17 or something. I don't know. She didn't say anything to  
18 me at that time. I came back up later in the afternoon.  
19 I asked her whether she was all right. Then she  
20 whispered, 'Water, can I get some water?' There was  
21 a jug of water and a glass in the dormitory. Then  
22 Sister **FAM** came through the dormitory. She asked me  
23 what I was doing. I said, 'I'm only talking to her'.  
24 Sister **FAM** said, 'Don't you go giving her any water'.  
25 Sister **FAM** then left the dormitory. What I then did

1 was put my finger in the water and moistened the girl's  
2 lips.

3 "The next day the girl was done. That was her away.  
4 She must have died. She was dying when I saw her.  
5 I realise that now. I don't know where she was buried  
6 or what happened to her. I was crying but the nuns  
7 didn't take any notice. I had compassion but I was told  
8 that it was none of my business. I think it is wrong  
9 that I wasn't told anything about what happened to her.

10 "We were given no reason at all as to why we had to  
11 leave Bellevue. We were just told that it was time to  
12 leave. It was sprung upon us. We were then given  
13 clothes and a pair of dark stockings. It wasn't new  
14 stuff. We were then taken back to Crossleas. One of  
15 the other social workers came for us. She was a blonde  
16 woman. It was just my sister and I who were moved."

17 My Lady, from paragraphs 116 to 136 the witness  
18 provides evidence about her second stay at Crossleas.  
19 So I will pick up reading from statement at  
20 paragraph 137, which is on WIT.001.001.2114, when the  
21 witness goes on to discuss the reporting of abuse.

22 "You couldn't really tell anyone how you were  
23 treated. You wouldn't tell people because you were  
24 scared of getting duffed up again. I did tell my aunt  
25 what was happening the weekend I went to visit her. She

1           said to me, 'You are not happy there, are you?' I said  
2           no. I told her I was getting caned.

3           "I couldn't have told Mr Johnson about the abuse.  
4           Mr Johnson never asked us. I couldn't have said  
5           anything to him when he visited anyway because  
6           Sister **FAM** and Sister **EAB** were always there.  
7           How could I say they were caning me when they were  
8           standing there? There was no opportunity to speak to  
9           Mr Johnson alone. Mr Johnson knew what was going on.  
10          How could he not?

11          "I told my mother and my aunt everything that  
12          happened to me after I left Crossleas for the second  
13          time. My aunt never spoke of getting beatings at the  
14          homes when she was in them. My mother was never in the  
15          homes. She had only worked in them.

16          "In 1989 I had my bladder removed in a hospital in  
17          Preston. I was in for three months. I was very ill.  
18          I got depression. I went to see a psychiatrist in the  
19          hospital. I wouldn't speak. I eventually spoke to him.  
20          It was the best thing that ever happened to me. He had  
21          a different way of speaking to me and getting through to  
22          me. He opened it right up. If I hadn't spoken to him  
23          it would have still all been locked away.

24          "Later on a social worker came to my house. She  
25          helped me to bring myself out of myself again. She

1 wanted me to write a book it all. I didn't speak to  
2 anyone else about it again until I spoke to the Inquiry.

3 "I was 18 or 19 when I got married to my husband.  
4 I regretted that marriage. It was a violent marriage.  
5 We moved down to England. I got an annulment at Preston  
6 Crown Court in either 1967 or 1968. The annulment was  
7 put down to failing to consummate the marriage but it  
8 was really because I had been battered. During a later  
9 visit to the Holy Land in 2004 a priest told me that  
10 I wasn't divorced in the eyes of the Catholic Church.  
11 I then had to go to the diocese and go through it all  
12 again. My brothers had to give testimony as to how  
13 I got beaten by my husband. It took about a year for  
14 all of that to come through.

15 "When I left care I was nervous and I had no  
16 confidence in myself. If I think I'm all right, I will  
17 stick up for myself. I have had to be strong for myself  
18 to get where I have got today. When you were down,  
19 nobody wants to know you. I just ploughed my way  
20 through it and taught myself how to read and write.  
21 I wonder sometimes how I have still got my faith. There  
22 are times now that I think to myself that I could just  
23 walk away. I would have no qualms with that.

24 "I couldn't do a lot of jobs in later life because  
25 of the injuries to my knee and my fingers. My hands are



1 not what they used to be. I can't kneel down. That has  
2 affected me. I have to use pain patches for pain in my  
3 back.

4 "I don't think being in care stopped me being close  
5 to my sisters and brothers in later life. When we got  
6 back together, that was us back together. That was it.  
7 We were close.

8 "The only thing I have is a document entitled  
9 'Remembrance of Holy Communion'. The document says  
10 I had my first communion on [REDACTED] 1947.

11 "You weren't supposed to have any feelings in any of  
12 the places I was in care. I had feelings. You were  
13 told to shut up and go about your own business when you  
14 asked about other people. You daren't show your  
15 feelings. You didn't go looking for trouble; it just  
16 came to you. It felt as if one form of cruelty to  
17 another when we went into care and when we were in care.

18 "In 2015, I went through to the cathedral in  
19 Edinburgh for Easter. Cardinal O'Brien talked about the  
20 sexual abuse children had suffered. I sat there  
21 thinking that he wasn't saying anything about us  
22 children who had been battered. After the Mass he came  
23 outside to shake people's hands. I grabbed his hand and  
24 said, 'You just wait a wee minute there. You're talking  
25 about sexual abuse but not about us who were mentally

1 and physically abused? There's no apology for us'. He  
2 went as white as a sheet. He then said, 'I will pray  
3 for you'. I just said, 'Yeah, you do that. It was not  
4 that long after that that he got defrocked.

5 "When I heard Archbishop Mario Conti say that we  
6 were only after pots of gold, I just thought about his  
7 big fat belly and them living off the donations we give  
8 on Sundays. It made me angry. I would like the  
9 Catholic Church to come out with an apology. I don't  
10 think the Church is going in the right direction. There  
11 is too much covering up going on. I hope that what  
12 happened does come out. I hope that we are believed.

13 "I'm not in for the money. I just want to tell my  
14 story. It has taken all these years for me to be able  
15 to tell my story. If what I have said helps someone  
16 else, then fair enough.

17 "I would really like to let the brothers of the girl  
18 I mentioned know, if they are still alive, that she did  
19 have a friend. She really was my friend. There was no  
20 compassion given to her. She shouldn't have been  
21 brought back from the hospital to die. There would have  
22 been nobody there when she died. I think that was  
23 terrible.

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

1 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
2 true."

3 This statement was signed by Meg on 17 August 2017.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Ms MacLeod.

5 Where do we go now? Is that the end for today?

6 MS MACLEOD: That is the end for today, my Lady. That  
7 concludes the evidence from applicants for this part of  
8 the hearing. Tomorrow we will hear evidence from  
9 DCI Graham MacKellar, Professor Anthony Busuttil,  
10 Janet Bishop and Dr Tom Turner.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. We reckon that that  
12 evidence will be able to be completed, is that right,  
13 the four witnesses?

14 MS MACLEOD: We do, that's the plan.

15 LADY SMITH: And after that we will pause until January?

16 MS MACLEOD: Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: Very well. I'm going to rise now until  
18 tomorrow morning and we will sit again at 10 o'clock.

19 (3.05 pm)

20 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am  
21 on Tuesday, 12 December 2017)

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