

1 Tuesday, 9 January 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome to the resumption of  
4 the hearings in this phase of the inquiry. At the  
5 start of this phase before Christmas I explained to  
6 everybody what was going to happen about preserving the  
7 anonymity of both witnesses who seek to have their  
8 anonymity respected and of people they name as having  
9 been alleged abusers. You'll find the text of exactly  
10 what I said at that time on the inquiry's website.  
11 I mention it now simply to remind everybody, in  
12 particular so far as people who are alleged to have  
13 abused applicants but have not been convicted, that  
14 their names may be referred to in the course of evidence  
15 but that does not mean that they can be mentioned  
16 anywhere outside the hearing room in any way, whether  
17 electronically or orally. The reasons for that  
18 I explained in detail at the time and I would encourage  
19 anybody in any doubt to look again at the text that is  
20 there and of course you're always free to speak to any  
21 member of the inquiry team for any further explanation,  
22 but I can't overstress the importance that those who  
23 have the benefit of anonymity that has been granted to  
24 them by the inquiry have that anonymity respected.

25 We are now going to return to witness evidence and

1 I think Mr MacAulay has a witness to introduce.

2 Mr MacAulay.

3 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, my Lady. The next witness is an  
4 applicant who wants to remain anonymous and he wants to  
5 use the name "Victor" in giving his evidence.

6 LADY SMITH: Victor, I would like you to take the oath,  
7 please, so would you raise your right hand.

8 "VICTOR" (sworn)

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

10 Questions from MR MacAULAY

11 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, Victor. I will be asking you  
12 some questions essentially based upon a statement that  
13 you have provided to the inquiry. Before I do that, can  
14 I just say to you that if I ask a question and it's  
15 something that you can't remember then just say so.

16 A. Okay.

17 Q. Likewise, if I ask about something and you remember  
18 something that you perhaps hadn't mentioned in your  
19 statement, then free feel to tell us.

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. In that red folder in front of you you'll find the  
22 statement that you provided to the inquiry. Just in  
23 order to get the reference into the transcript, I will  
24 give the number of the statement. It's

25 WIT.001.001.2969.

1           Could I ask you to turn to the very last page of the  
2           statement. That's page 2988. Can you confirm for me  
3           that you have signed the statement?

4           A. Yes, I have, yes.

5           Q. Also do you tell us in the last paragraph, paragraph 96,  
6           that you have no objection to the witness statement  
7           being published as part of evidence to the inquiry?

8           A. That's true, yes.

9           Q. Do you also say:

10                    "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
11           statement are true"?

12           A. Yes.

13           Q. Victor, I don't want to know your date of birth, but in  
14           order to have a time frame I need your year of birth;  
15           am I right in saying you were born in 1944?

16           A. That's correct, yes.

17           Q. Looking to your background, I think it's correct to say  
18           that your parents did not come from the United Kingdom.

19           A. No, they were Jewish refugees from the war; my mother  
20           from Poland, my father from Germany.

21           Q. I know it was at a time when you were very, very young,  
22           but do you know when your parents came to this country?

23           A. I believe they arrived in about 1939.

24           Q. So do I take it then that was before you were born?

25           A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And when your parents arrived here as refugees, what  
2 happened to your father in particular?
- 3 A. My father, because the war was on, was interned in the  
4 Isle of Man because he was a German national, even  
5 though he hated the Germans. My mother had an auntie  
6 who lived in Glasgow, which is how we came to be in  
7 Glasgow at the time.
- 8 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that you and your  
9 mother went to Glasgow after your father's internment;  
10 is that right?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Do I take it from what you said that you were actually  
13 born in this country?
- 14 A. Yes, I was born in Glasgow.
- 15 Q. Again, you tell us in your statement that your mother  
16 took ill when you were in Glasgow; is that right?
- 17 A. Yes, she had TB.
- 18 Q. Was that then the background that led you to being  
19 admitted to care?
- 20 A. Yes. My mother tried to find a Jewish orphanage but  
21 couldn't, so they went to Dr Barnardo's, who apparently  
22 put me into Smyllum.
- 23 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that your mother  
24 developed TB in about 1945.
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. We can work out from the records that we've seen that  
2 you were admitted to Smyllum on [REDACTED] 1947.

3 A. Okay. It's the first I've heard of that date.

4 Q. Would that generally accord with --

5 A. Possibly, yes.

6 Q. Because by then you'd be about aged 3 --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- or thereabouts?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I understand from what you say in your statement that  
11 you thought that you left Smyllum in 1956.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. But as far as the records go to show, the suggestion  
14 is that you were taken out of Smyllum by your mother on  
15 [REDACTED] 1955.

16 A. I must have got that wrong.

17 Q. Dates are very difficult in any event.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. I think the point is that by then you'd be aged 11.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So you'd spent a considerable period of years in Smyllum  
22 as a young boy.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What is your first recollection then, Victor, of being  
25 in Smyllum?

1       A. A very regimented organisation, everything was done by  
2       the rules and regulations of the day, you know what  
3       I mean. We were a group of boys who got up in the  
4       morning, had breakfast, went to school on the school  
5       days, came back, played for a while, had some tea, and  
6       went to bed. It was a very regimented set-up. Nothing  
7       changed much during the period of time. Weekends were  
8       different because we didn't have school, but Sunday was  
9       church and then there was a Sunday school as well. It  
10      was all very regimented.

11     Q. In that answer you given us a broad overview of your  
12      picture of Smyllum. So far as your first recollection  
13      goes, I think what you say in your statement is that you  
14      began to have a recollection of matters at Smyllum from  
15      about the age of about 5; is that right?

16     A. Yes, roughly about then.

17     Q. At that time then when you started to have these  
18      memories, these recollections of Smyllum, where were you  
19      within Smyllum?

20     A. Obviously in the boys' quarters -- I didn't even know  
21      girls existed in those times because we never saw any.  
22      There was one large section of dormitories and there was  
23      a forecourt where we played out all together as boys and  
24      this sort of thing, and a dining room. So generally  
25      that was it. In bad weather there was a large hall

- 1           where we congregated.
- 2       Q. Do you remember the name of the section within Smyllum
- 3           that --
- 4       A. No, I'm afraid I couldn't remember what they were called
- 5           at the time.
- 6       Q. Would you be able to identify the area you were in from
- 7           a photograph?
- 8       A. Perhaps, yes.
- 9       Q. Let's see if we can get anywhere with that.
- 10      A. Okay.
- 11      Q. Can I put on the screen -- and you will see this in
- 12           front of you, Victor -- DSV.001.001.4661.
- 13            You'll see this looks like Spaghetti Junction
- 14           because there's been an effort made to try and identify
- 15           different parts within the building, but leaving aside
- 16           the names that have been allocated to different
- 17           sections, can you work out from this aerial photograph
- 18           of Smyllum where you might have been in your time there?
- 19      A. Certainly the back area, the boys' playground.
- 20      Q. We see there are two areas mentioned, "St Vincent's
- 21           Boys" and "St Anthony's Boys" towards the back section.
- 22      A. Yes. I don't recall the names of them.
- 23      Q. Is that the general area you have in mind?
- 24      A. Yes. Yes.
- 25      Q. So far as your dormitory was concerned, were you in the

- 1 same -- once you have a memory, from the age of 5  
2 onwards, were you in the same place throughout your  
3 whole time or were you moved?
- 4 A. I think when I was a bit older, about 8 or 9, I think,  
5 I moved to a different dormitory. I think smaller boys  
6 were, you know, in a different dormitory to the older  
7 boys, so I think we were moved. I have a vague  
8 recollection, memory of being moved to a different  
9 dormitory with older boys.
- 10 Q. Looking at the nature of the dormitories, do you have  
11 a recollection as to what size, how many beds for  
12 example there might have been in each of the  
13 dormitories?
- 14 A. Of course we are talking now 60 years plus away, but  
15 I would think on average about 40 beds in a dormitory.
- 16 Q. You can't remember the name or names of the different  
17 dormitories, but can you remember the set-up in relation  
18 to who was in charge of the dormitories?
- 19 A. No. There was always a nun who had a room at the end of  
20 the dormitory who was always there at night-time. So  
21 she must have been responsible for the people in that  
22 particular dormitory. I certainly didn't remember any  
23 names or ...
- 24 Q. I think the one name you do remember, a nun's name, is  
25 Sister EAA



- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. But you don't know what her role was?
- 3 A. I thought she was more of a Mother Superior.
- 4 Q. You have given us a broad overview of the regime or the  
5 routine at Smyllum. When you got up in the morning,  
6 clearly you'd have to go and have a wash; is that right?
- 7 A. Yes, that's right.
- 8 Q. You touch upon that in your statement. There were  
9 washbasins that you'd go to for that purpose?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. What about showers? Did you have showers?
- 12 A. We generally had a shower about once a week. It was  
13 always cold, I remember that.
- 14 Q. Did you ever have a hot shower when you were there?
- 15 A. I don't recall ever having a hot shower.
- 16 Q. And food then? What can you tell us about the food?
- 17 A. The food was basic, I suppose, you know. I suppose they  
18 didn't -- they couldn't afford much. Like I say, it  
19 seemed to be done on the cheap. But you know, when  
20 you're a young boy you don't think of it like that, you  
21 just -- it's food in front of you and you had to eat it,  
22 you know, because otherwise you'd just go hungry.
- 23 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that you weren't  
24 particularly keen on onions.
- 25 A. No, I didn't like onions at the time.

- 1 Q. Was there --
- 2 A. There was a period where I was -- I wouldn't eat them on  
3 the plate and a nun came and forced me to eat them and  
4 I was sick. So they forced me to eat that as well --  
5 very cruelly I thought at the time. To this day  
6 I cannot stand the sight or smell or taste of onions  
7 because of that.
- 8 Q. When you say you were forced to eat, can you --
- 9 A. We were forced. Sometimes two of the nuns -- one would  
10 hold your head back and the other one would shove it  
11 down the back of your throat. They said if you didn't  
12 eat it now, you'd have it for breakfast.
- 13 Q. How often did this happen to you?
- 14 A. I'm not sure. In numbers it's difficult to say. There  
15 were one or two -- what I would call the younger nuns,  
16 the ones that didn't have the big flaps on their heads,  
17 who were very kind and would say, "Don't worry, I'll  
18 hide that away", so they were kind. But if the more  
19 senior nuns saw it, they would try and force you to eat  
20 it saying, "We can't afford for you to waste food," this  
21 sort of attitude.
- 22 Q. Over your period at Smyllum are you able to give us any  
23 idea as to how often this happened to you?
- 24 A. It's difficult to say. I don't know how often we had  
25 onions in a meal, you know. It's unusual nowadays to

1           see onions as an actual vegetable; you usually put them  
2           in with other ingredients in pies or other things. But  
3           in those days they used to have onions as a vegetable,  
4           like you have peas now, you know.

5        Q. You've been telling us then, Victor, about your own  
6           experience being force-fed. What about other children?  
7           Did you see anything like this happening to them?

8        A. Yes, I did see other children in a similar situation,  
9           maybe someone didn't like carrots and they'd force him  
10          to eat carrots, something like that. Something that  
11          children didn't like, or a bit of meat they didn't like.  
12          They were always shouting and screaming: we can't afford  
13          for you to not eat food that's put in front of you. Do  
14          you know what I mean? There was no menu, you didn't get  
15          a choice of what you ate; this was put in front of you  
16          and that's what you had to eat.

17       Q. Did the force-feeding, as it was with you, involve two  
18          people having to deal with the child?

19       A. Generally unless they saw that you did it on your own.  
20          But if you didn't, then they would force you. One of  
21          them would hold your head back and another one would put  
22          it down in your mouth and tell you to swallow it. It  
23          was a horrible experience.

24       Q. You told us that on one of the occasions that you've  
25          mentioned already that you were sick because of --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- this process. Did you say in passing that you had to  
3 eat the onions and the sick as well?

4 A. Yes. I was forced to do that. It happened on two or  
5 three occasions I seem to remember.

6 Q. You also tell us a little bit about your experience of  
7 schooling at Smyllum. I think we know that there was  
8 a school on site, so to speak; is that right?

9 A. Yes, that's right, yes.

10 Q. I think one of the problems you tell us about, as far as  
11 schooling was concerned, is that you at least began as  
12 being left-handed.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Was that a problem for you?

15 A. It wasn't a problem for me, it was a problem for the  
16 teachers or the nuns because they thought it was --  
17 I don't know whether it was a sin to write left-handed  
18 or whatever. They used to slap me on the hand and on  
19 a couple of occasions they even tied my left hand behind  
20 my back and forced me to write right-handed, you know  
21 what I mean. For some reason they thought that should  
22 not be done and that right-handed was how you should  
23 write and that's what you should do.

24 I suppose after a while I got used to writing  
25 right-handed or forced myself to do it rather than

1 getting whacked across the hand.

2 Q. Was it the nuns who were involved in this process?

3 A. Occasionally. In the school there was nuns and other  
4 sort of -- I don't know how you describe them, non-nuns,  
5 ordinary people, without a nun's uniform, male and  
6 female -- teachers, really, in effect. There was  
7 a priest who taught you religious education, but apart  
8 from that there were other people apart from nuns who  
9 taught at the school.

10 LADY SMITH: That was the school that was in the Smyllum  
11 grounds?

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: So that would be the school you went to when  
14 you were younger?

15 A. Yes.

16 MR MacAULAY: I would imagine that the only school you'd  
17 have gone to while you were at Smyllum because I think  
18 you left Smyllum before you would go to a secondary  
19 school.

20 A. Yes, that's right.

21 Q. You mentioned religious instruction. Looking to your  
22 own background, Victor, you were not a Catholic.

23 A. No. I was born into a Jewish family and I was  
24 circumcised as a Jewish person, but because they  
25 couldn't find a Jewish home when my mother was taken

1           ill, and my father was still in the Isle of Man,  
2           Barnardo's, I believe, got me into Smyllum. But I think  
3           the nuns were told I was Jewish, but I was brought up  
4           very much as a Catholic in Smyllum, taught everything  
5           Catholic and went to church, had communion, had to learn  
6           the catechism, which was a Catholic creed for -- you  
7           know, you have to learn it parrot fashion, basically.  
8           Right up to the day I left Smyllum, I was a Catholic.

9           LADY SMITH: Does that mean as you were growing up to age 11  
10           you knew nothing about the important Jewish festivals,  
11           for example Hanukkah, Rosh Hashana and so on?

12          A. No, I knew nothing about them at all, was never taught  
13           them. I even recall some incidents where if I'd done  
14           something wrong, the nuns would be beating me with  
15           a strap, saying, "We'll knock the Jewishness out of  
16           you," you know what I mean? When you consider that was  
17           just after the World War -- I didn't know anything  
18           different in those days, but when I think about it now,  
19           it was a very cruel thing to do just after the World War  
20           and all that had happened there.

21          MR MacAULAY: This reference that you have just mentioned --  
22           and you do tell us about that in your statement -- of  
23           "We'll knock or we'll beat the Jewishness out of you",  
24           did that happen once or more than once?

25          A. No, a few occasions. Yes. Not that regular, but

- 1           occasionally they did, yes.
- 2       Q.   Okay.  Just again going back to the routine then at  
3           Smyllum, did you have chores to do while you were there?
- 4       A.   Yes.  Yes, we all were allocated various tasks like  
5           sweeping the dormitory and some of us used to gather up  
6           the plates in the dining room and do some washing up and  
7           dishes, et cetera.  So we were given tasks to do -- and  
8           in the play areas pick up things that were left lying  
9           around and that before the end of the day.  Everything  
10          had to be left in a pristine condition and we were  
11          responsible to make sure we did that.
- 12       Q.   You also tell us a little bit about your leisure time  
13          while at Smyllum.  I think you tell us that at that time  
14          at least you had no access to books or toys.
- 15       A.   No, no, no.  I don't remember many toys about the place,  
16          really, you know what I mean.
- 17       Q.   What about sports?  Can you remember anything about  
18          sports?
- 19       A.   We had physical training instruction at school, which  
20          would usually be one afternoon during the week.  That  
21          was more inside a gymnasium where we threw a few balls  
22          around or climbed frames and this sort of thing, trying  
23          to maybe keep us a bit fitter or something.  But nothing  
24          very much, no.
- 25       Q.   You also touch upon trips and holidays.  From what you

- 1 say in your statement, you really never left Smyllum  
2 until you came to leave finally; is that right?
- 3 A. The very first day I walked out of the gates of Smyllum  
4 was the day my mother came for me. I never went  
5 anywhere. I did hear of other boys who went to  
6 Kelvin Hall, which was, I think, in Glasgow, to see  
7 a circus or something like that. Some even went on  
8 a camp to a place called the Trossachs. I was never one  
9 of those who went.
- 10 Q. Do you know why that was?
- 11 A. No, I don't know why, no. No idea.
- 12 Q. Because you were there for quite a number of years?
- 13 A. Yes, I was, yes. Maybe -- I don't know whether it was  
14 because I hadn't quite reached the age where they went  
15 to these things. Maybe it was older boys that went to  
16 them, I don't know, but I never understood why I never  
17 got to go to these places.
- 18 Q. You also give us some information in your statement  
19 about birthdays.
- 20 A. About what, sorry?
- 21 Q. Birthdays. Insofar as you were concerned, was your  
22 birthday celebrated at any time during your time in  
23 Smyllum?
- 24 A. No, I don't recall ever. I didn't even know when my  
25 birthday was. It wasn't until my parents came for me



1           that I found out what a birthday was. I don't think  
2           I or any of the children ever knew any particular day it  
3           was their birthday. I may have been wrong, but  
4           certainly I don't recall ever having been told when my  
5           birthday was.

6           I assume they must have known, but I certainly  
7           wasn't told. Apparently my mother told me afterwards  
8           that she did send me cards and presents for my birthday,  
9           but I never received them -- never, ever -- because  
10          I didn't even know I had a mother until she turned up at  
11          the door.

12         Q. That was something I was going to ask you about:

13           what was your understanding then as to your parents?

14         A. I think I might have asked on a couple of occasions  
15           about my mother and father and they never actually said  
16           to me they're dead, but they just never said they're  
17           gone. I didn't really understand why. Apparently it  
18           took them a long time to get me out of Smyllum.

19         Q. That's your parents?

20         A. Yes. My parents. They had been trying since I was  
21           about 5 years old to have me returned to them, but for  
22           some reason or another the Scottish Government didn't --  
23           or whoever was responsible in those days, it took a long  
24           time for them to actually get the permission to come for  
25           me.

1 Q. But you have already mentioned then that after you left  
2 Smyllum you were told by your mother that she had sent  
3 presents and cards to you?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. On your birthdays?

6 A. Yes. And Christmas.

7 Q. What about Christmas? Did you receive any other  
8 presents?

9 A. Being Jewish -- if you don't know about Judaism, they  
10 don't celebrate Christmas as such, but there are other  
11 festivals like Hanukkah, which is very close to  
12 Christmas, and I think my mother did send cards then,  
13 but again I didn't receive them.

14 Q. When you came to leave Smyllum at the age of about 11 or  
15 so, did you have any personal possessions?

16 A. No. Only the clothes I was wearing.

17 Q. In relation to visits in particular from your mother,  
18 did you receive any visits from your mother during your  
19 years at Smyllum?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Did you discover afterwards whether your mother had made  
22 any efforts to come and --

23 A. She did say she did try to come and see me, but for some  
24 reason or other, you know, it didn't happen. I could  
25 never understand why.

1 Q. Apart from what you've been telling us about cards and  
2 presents, did you discover subsequently from your mother  
3 whether or not she had written letters to you while you  
4 were at Smyllum?

5 A. Yes, she did say she had written letters, yes. My  
6 father went to hospital one period with a very bad  
7 eczema or something, it was called in those days, but  
8 I never got to hear about that. She wrote to tell me --  
9 she told me afterwards when he came out that he was fine  
10 and that, but again I never heard ... Whatever they did  
11 with all these letters I have no idea.

12 Q. What about your mother sending you money? Did she say  
13 anything about sending money?

14 A. No, she never mentioned money.

15 Q. You do tell us in your statement, Victor, about children  
16 who wet the bed and what happened, what the process was;  
17 can you just describe that to me?

18 A. Yes, basically, children who wet the bed -- and I might  
19 have done on a couple of occasions -- were frowned on.  
20 Very much so. You were told to take these sheets off  
21 the bed, wrap them round you, stand there in the  
22 dormitory naked in front of all the other children and  
23 you were made to take them into a washroom and wash them  
24 yourself. Later on that evening you had to put them  
25 back on the bed when they were dry.

1           They would slap you for it, you know what I mean?  
2           It was a sin, you know. Everything -- the nuns used to  
3           say about anything you did wrong was a sin, a sin  
4           against God, so therefore they treated bed-wetting as  
5           being a sin and therefore they punished you for it.

6       Q.   And was anything said at that time when these --

7       A.   Just the fact that it was a sin, you know what I mean?  
8           You have to wash it and you have to stop doing it, that  
9           sort of thing.

10      Q.   You've told us that you yourself wet the bed on perhaps  
11         a couple of occasions.

12      A.   Yes.

13      Q.   So did you receive this treatment then --

14      A.   Yes, I did.

15      Q.   -- from the nuns?

16      A.   Yes, I did.

17      Q.   And other children, did you see this happening to other  
18         children?

19      A.   Yes, yes.

20      Q.   Who meted out this treatment? Was it the nuns or was it  
21         other lay workers?

22      A.   Generally the nun the one that slept in the room at the  
23         end of the dormitory, she was the one that came out  
24         in the mornings to wake you up, sort of thing, and she'd  
25         go around checking the beds. It was her mainly that put

- 1 out the punishment and made you wash them.
- 2 Q. That process of taking the sheets -- and I think you  
3 said you were naked --
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. -- and were you naked when you went to wash the sheets?
- 6 A. Yes. Because we had pyjamas, we had to wash them as  
7 well because they would have been wet as well. So you  
8 had to wash everything that had got wet.
- 9 Q. And what about yourself? Would you have to wash  
10 yourself or have a shower?
- 11 A. Yes. Well, you had to wash yourself down or something,  
12 clean yourself off, this sort of thing, before you got  
13 dressed to go down for breakfast.
- 14 Q. And would you be in time for breakfast after that  
15 process?
- 16 A. Generally, I think. I don't remember or recall ever  
17 missing breakfast.
- 18 Q. I think you say in your statement, at paragraph 48, that  
19 when this happened you would be beaten by the nun;  
20 is that right? You tell us in your statement:  
21 "In this bed-wetting process [you] would also be  
22 beaten by the nuns."
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Can you describe that? What would happen?
- 25 A. The nuns all seemed to have a strap which they could

1           whack you across the backside with or something, you  
2           know what I mean, so they did hit you on a couple of  
3           occasions when you wet the bed, telling you that it was  
4           a sin and it was filthy, this sort of thing. But you  
5           know, when you were young and that age, you didn't know  
6           any different. Maybe ... So it was a sin, you know  
7           what I mean? You were indoctrinated into saying that  
8           wetting the bed was a sin.

9           Q. During your time at Smyllum, you have told us about  
10           perhaps a couple of occasions when you wet the bed. Do  
11           I take it that for a time you were not wetting the bed  
12           at Smyllum?

13          A. Well, there was times, yes, when I wasn't wetting the  
14           bed. I didn't wet the bed every day; for me it was only  
15           two or three occasions at the most, I think.

16          Q. What about other children?

17          A. One or two were more regular. But they were treated the  
18           same, you know what I mean? It was a sin and they were  
19           strapped with a strap.

20          Q. If we look at your statement then, Victor, beginning at  
21           paragraph 50, there's a section there, leaving aside the  
22           bed-wetting you've been telling us about, where you talk  
23           about abuse at Smyllum.

24          A. Yes.

25          Q. One of the things you say is that -- and I'll quote what

- 1           you say -- is that you were beaten a lot.
- 2           A. Yes. Yes.
- 3           Q. Can you just --
- 4           A. In my opinion, thinking back to -- it's a long time ago
- 5           now, but thinking back, my opinion was that I seemed to
- 6           be being strapped a lot. You know what I mean? I don't
- 7           know, once or twice a day. Sometimes less, sometimes
- 8           more. I didn't consider myself to be a particularly
- 9           naughty child but just ... I don't know. It's
- 10          difficult to explain why or how, you know, but I used to
- 11          get strapped, as did other children. I wasn't the only
- 12          one.
- 13          Q. Who did this?
- 14          A. Well, the nuns mainly. It was mainly the nuns, although
- 15          there were a couple of what I call non-nuns. There was
- 16          one woman who was always in either the play area or the
- 17          hallway, if it was wet and cold outside, inside.
- 18          I found she was rather cruel. I don't recall her name,
- 19          but I don't think she was a nun. She certainly never
- 20          wore a nun's uniform and I thought she was a very cruel
- 21          woman.
- 22          Q. Can I just understand the nature of the beatings then?
- 23          You have mentioned the use of a strap.
- 24          A. Yes.
- 25          Q. Was a strap always used or were there any other

1 implements or hands or --

2 A. Generally a strap. Sometimes a hand across it, you  
3 know, but most times a strap. They seemed to all have  
4 a strap. I don't know whether it was part of their  
5 uniform or not, but they all seemed to have one.

6 LADY SMITH: Do you remember anything of what this strap was  
7 like?

8 A. Sort of like a leather belt in some ways. That's all  
9 I recall about it. It was a strong strap, like  
10 a leather belt. I wouldn't have known then it would  
11 have been leather, but that's how I would imagine it  
12 now.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MR MacAULAY: Was there a particular part of the body that  
15 was generally targeted?

16 A. Generally the backside more than anything else -- or  
17 across the legs sometimes.

18 Q. When the backside was the target, did you require to  
19 remove any clothing? What was the position?

20 A. Occasionally when you wet the bed, you had to stand  
21 naked, so they strapped you across your backside with it  
22 being naked. Occasionally, if you were like in a play  
23 area and somebody strapped you, you'd have clothes on,  
24 where they didn't take the clothes down or anything.

25 Q. One of the things you say in your statement at



1 paragraph 51 is that they would take your trousers down  
2 before they whacked you.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. That would be in front of everybody else?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I think you found that quite embarrassing?

7 A. Yes, at the time, yes. It was things like -- as  
8 I mentioned, things like not reciting the catechism  
9 correctly or you missed a word out or something, they'd  
10 strap you for that.

11 Q. The point you make in paragraph 52 about this memory  
12 you have, can you help me with that? What is the  
13 memory?

14 A. Well, it's something I have an abiding memory of -- on  
15 a couple of occasions being strapped by a nun and  
16 falling to the floor, which I ended up underneath their  
17 undergarments, sliding underneath. I remember -- you  
18 know, it's silly how these things stick in your mind,  
19 but they had white, frilly undergarments on, which went  
20 effectively down on their ankles, almost like what  
21 I would call long johns. If any of you know what  
22 a long john is.

23 Q. I think so.

24 A. But they were frillier than that, they weren't just  
25 plain. It just sticks in your mind as something they

- 1           wore, you know.
- 2       Q. I think you also tell us in your statement about how  
3           sometimes, if you were naughty, you would be put into  
4           a cold shower.
- 5       A. Yes, yes. Cold showers were the norm. I don't think  
6           they ever had hot water in the showers, but they  
7           sometimes -- if you were naughty, they'd put you in  
8           a cold shower, just as a punishment.
- 9       Q. In paragraph 54 of your statement you tell us what  
10          you have already told us about the expression, "We'll  
11          beat the Jewishness out of you", being said by the nuns.  
12          Other expressions that they used, can you help me with  
13          that, so far as you were concerned?
- 14      A. No, it's difficult to -- no, not really. They just  
15          called my name for sort of being naughty or, you know  
16          what I mean? This is -- that sort of paragraph there  
17          I remember in hindsight, afterwards. You know, when you  
18          consider what Hitler did in the war, not long after that  
19          period, that the nuns were beating children just  
20          because -- I don't think I was beaten totally because  
21          I was Jewish, it's just the expressions they used  
22          sometimes: they'll beat the Jewishness out of me.  
23          I didn't understand it in those days, but you come to  
24          understand it now.
- 25      Q. You also tell us at paragraph 55 that the nuns used to

1 say to you, "Go to hell".

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Is that something that was said?

4 A. All the times the nuns would say, "If you're naughty,  
5 you will go to hell". The Catholic doctrine -- and I do  
6 apologise to people who might be Catholics here, but  
7 they're very much into heaven and hell situation, you  
8 know what I mean? You either go to heaven or you go to  
9 hell or sometimes the middle thing called purgatory.  
10 They always threatened you that you would go to hell and  
11 damnation, this sort of thing.

12 There was a priest who did religious education at  
13 school, at the school, who was always into hell and  
14 damnation: if you do things wrong you'll go to hell. It  
15 put the fear of God up you; the thought of being sent  
16 down to hell when you died was very frightening.  
17 I think they did that to frighten you into that sort of  
18 aspect.

19 Q. You tell us about an incident when you and, I think,  
20 some other children were playing football outside;  
21 that's at paragraph 56. Can you help me with that, just  
22 describe what happened?

23 A. Yes, we were in a forecourt -- it must have been  
24 a weekend because it wasn't a school day -- and it was  
25 chilly so it must have been in the winter. We went out

1 to play for about an hour or so in the afternoon.

2 Q. What age were you then, Victor, can you tell me?

3 A. I think I was about 7 or 8 then. One of the boys saw  
4 this ball in the corner of the -- it must have been  
5 a Sunday because one of the boys saw a ball in the  
6 corner of the courtyard and we started kicking it about.  
7 The nun -- one of the nuns came along and screamed at  
8 us -- or a couple of nuns really screamed at us, "How  
9 dare you play with that thing on God's day?" We didn't  
10 know at that time that it was a sin to play football on  
11 a Sunday -- tell that to the Premier League now. But on  
12 a Sunday, you know, you were just supposed to run around  
13 and just play tag or something or just talk or  
14 something.

15 Five of us were together and two nuns got us  
16 together, told us to take our clothes off and stand  
17 in the corner -- I remember it was very cold as well --  
18 as a punishment. We all got the strap but then we had  
19 to stand there -- it must have been 2 or 3 hours -- by  
20 which time it started to rain. This is the one very  
21 abiding memory I've got of Smyllum. It's the one thing  
22 that stands out and has haunted me for many years  
23 afterwards, this particular occasion, because it was so  
24 cruel, you know what I mean? When we finally got to go  
25 indoors, we put our clothes on, which were wet, we had

1 missed our evening meal and by that time it was bedtime,  
2 so we had to go to bed, still freezing cold, and get  
3 into bed with pyjamas as best you could. I remember  
4 feeling very cold in the night.

5 One of my friends, I don't know if I'm allowed to  
6 say his name, but --

7 Q. You can say his name because his name will not be  
8 published outwith the inquiry --

9 A. I'm convinced his name was [REDACTED] It might have been  
10 [REDACTED] but I'm sure his name was [REDACTED] I'd been  
11 particularly friendly with him and --

12 Q. Had he been one of your football friends?

13 A. He was one who had been playing football and one of the  
14 ones who would have been stood there for three hours in  
15 the freezing cold. I could hear him crying out in the  
16 night and I actually got out of bed and went over to him  
17 and said, "Are you all right, [REDACTED]" He said, "I'm so  
18 cold", and I think the nun came out and told him to shut  
19 up and I went back to bed and I must have fallen asleep.

20 In the morning I woke up and he wasn't there.  
21 He was nowhere to be seen. I remember saying to the  
22 nun, "Where's [REDACTED]?" and she just told me to shut up.  
23 I never saw him again, ever.

24 I remember, maybe two or three weeks later,  
25 I happened to see a nun, and I said, you know, "What's

1           happened to [REDACTED] is he coming back?" and she just said,  
2           "Never mention him again".

3           It only struck me when I saw these newspaper  
4           articles recently about the people buried at Smyllum  
5           that I thought to myself, I wonder if one of them was  
6           [REDACTED] You know what I mean? Whether he'd died of  
7           pneumonia or something. There had been rumours going  
8           around about the fact that he had pneumonia. I thought  
9           he had gone to hospital or something like that but we  
10          never saw him again, you know what I mean. A nun never  
11          said, oh, he's gone home with his parents; she just  
12          said, "Just don't mention him again". And that still  
13          haunts me to this day, whatever happened to him.

14         Q. And you yourself, did you become ill as a result of the  
15          exposure you had?

16         A. No. I think I had caught a bit of a cold. I didn't go  
17          down with pneumonia, but I had a bit of a cold for a few  
18          days after that. But I recovered from that.

19          It was just that one haunting memory I've got. It's  
20          probably the worst of all the things that ever happened  
21          at Smyllum, that particular occasion, mainly because  
22          I lost my friend and I never knew to this day whatever  
23          happened to him.

24         Q. If I move on a little bit then, Victor, you also tell us  
25          a little bit about someone you call, I think, a [REDACTED]

1 or [REDACTED] who you became aware of at your time in  
2 Smyllum.

3 A. Yes. There was a [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] He was about  
4 the [REDACTED] staff, apart from teachers, that  
5 you could see. Most of the staff in and around the  
6 children were either female nuns or not nuns but  
7 ordinary women. [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED]  
9 Q. Did you know his name?

10 A. No. I don't recall his name, no. No. It's something  
11 I've thought about, trying to remember, but can't.  
12 He had a habit of coming into the dormitories on  
13 occasion under the guise that -- he said he was checking  
14 for people who were wetting the bed. Whether he was or  
15 not, I don't know, but he'd come to you, pull the  
16 blankets down, say, "Have you ..." -- get you to stand  
17 at the side of the bed and he'd actually touch your  
18 private parts and say, "Have you been wetting the bed?"  
19 I'd say, "No, sir". Then you'd get back into bed and  
20 he'd go to a few other people.

21 The nun, you know, who slept in the little room, she  
22 never seemed to come out at that time when he was in  
23 there. It could have happened at least once or twice  
24 a week sometimes. Other times, you know, it didn't  
25 happen for a long time. But when you think about it

1 now, was there an ulterior motive for what he was doing?

2 Q. Were you targeted by this person?

3 A. Not me personally, no, it was other children as well.

4 Q. But were you at any point in time targeted by this --

5 A. Yes, oh yes. Once or twice I had to stand by my bed and

6 he told me to pull my pyjama trousers down and he said,

7 "Have you been wetting the bed?" and I'd say, "No, sir",

8 and he would feel you and tell you to get back into bed.

9 As a young boy you didn't think about it. You didn't

10 think -- maybe that was his duty to come and find people

11 who might have wet the bed, but I wonder about ulterior

12 motives nowadays.

13 Q. When we're looking at the time you spent at Smyllum,

14 when are we talking about, what age do you think it was

15 that this became obvious to you that this was happening?

16 A. It never happened when I was that much older, it was

17 more the younger years -- say 5 to about 8 or

18 something -- this happened. It never happened, as

19 I say, as an older boy. In the second dormitory I went

20 into, which was with the older children, I don't recall

21 it ever happening there.

22 Q. Can you help me with one comment you make in your

23 statement at paragraph 59 in relation to this person

24 you've been telling us about. What you say is this

25 [REDACTED] used to roam around the school and you seemed to



1 think he had carte blanche to hit anyone if he felt like  
2 it.

3 A. Yes, he did have a habit of hitting people for obscure  
4 reasons, I'm not quite sure why, whether he was given  
5 permission by the nuns to do so for any particular  
6 reason ... Like I said, I didn't consider myself in  
7 particular to be a naughty boy and yet sometimes I was  
8 hit for, you know -- sometimes for nothing.

9 Q. By him?

10 A. Yes, by him or by the nuns sometimes.

11 Q. But if it were him, what was the nature of the hitting?

12 A. He would hit you with his hand, across your backside or  
13 something, you know what I mean? He'd never hit you  
14 across the face or anything like that, but the backside  
15 seemed to be the main target of all the people.

16 Q. Was this behaviour obvious to the nuns?

17 A. I'm not sure. Sorry, I don't know.

18 Q. Can I then, Victor, take you to the time you came to  
19 leave Smyllum? I know you think that was [REDACTED] 1956.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Although the records tell us it was [REDACTED] 1955. It  
22 may not matter very much.

23 A. I don't know why I've got 1956 in my mind.

24 Q. If it was [REDACTED] 1955, you'd be about 11 at that time.

25 A. Yes. That would be about right.

1 Q. Can you just explain to me how it came to be that you  
2 realised that you were coming to leave Smyllum?

3 A. We had breakfast, we were getting ready to go. We were  
4 lined up to go, ready to go to school. We were always  
5 marched in rows of boys up to the school and suddenly my  
6 name was called out and I was told to go and see one of  
7 the nuns in a particular room. At the time I had no  
8 idea why. This nun gave me a pair of trousers -- the  
9 first time I'd ever worn long trousers. I remember  
10 getting long trousers, and a jacket, a shirt and a tie,  
11 but she didn't say anything to me. She just said, "Put  
12 these on", so I put them on, she took me into a room --  
13 it's strange, when you showed me the map earlier on,  
14 I remembered the room, the particular room, at the front  
15 of the orphanage -- quite a big imposing room, very high  
16 roof, this sort of thing. I was told to sit there.  
17 This was about 10 o'clock in the morning by that time.

18 I was sat there and sat there for quite some time.  
19 Nuns came in and out, but didn't speak to me. About  
20 1 o'clock, and just about -- just before my mother did  
21 arrive, one of the nuns came in and said, "It doesn't  
22 look like your mother's coming". Apparently they had  
23 misread in a letter she wrote. They thought she said  
24 10 o'clock when she meant it was 1 o'clock she was  
25 coming for me. So they thought she wasn't coming but

1 just about then, she did arrive at 1 o'clock.

2 So I was sat there from 10 to 1 -- I wasn't given  
3 any food or drink or anything -- and this woman walked  
4 in, a tallish, dark-haired woman. I think it might have  
5 been Sister EAA then came up to me and said, "You  
6 go off with this lady, your mother". I was very  
7 confused. I said, "Go off where?" She said, "Well,  
8 you're going home with your mother", and that was the  
9 first time I knew my mother was even alive or even  
10 existed.

11 My mother took me out, we walked up the long road to  
12 the gates at the top of the orphanage, and we got a bus  
13 from there into Glasgow.

14 Q. I think, as you told us before, that was the first time  
15 you were outside the gates of Smyllum --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- after you'd been there?

18 A. Yes. It was the very first time I'd ever gone out of  
19 the gates of Smyllum, as far as I know, from the day  
20 I went in there.

21 Q. Did you have some conversation with your mother about  
22 the fact that you hadn't been told that she was coming?

23 A. You've got to appreciate, you know, I found it very,  
24 very strange, very difficult to talk to her. I didn't  
25 know what was going on. I had become institutionalised

1 for 10 years or so in Smyllum, had known nothing else,  
2 and suddenly this woman, a total stranger to me,  
3 arrived, took me out into the wide world, and on the bus  
4 into Glasgow I says, "Where are we going?" She said,  
5 "I'm taking you home and we're going to a place in  
6 England called Manchester". I said, "Oh, I've heard of  
7 that". I said, "We learned at school about Manchester  
8 and the cotton mills". She said, "That's right".

9 She said, "Your father will be there to meet us off  
10 the bus", and apparently we were getting a coach leaving  
11 Glasgow at 10 o'clock in the evening, an overnight  
12 coach, to Manchester. My mother took me for tea to one  
13 of these little -- for anybody old enough to remember  
14 them, the Lyons' corner houses. I remember having  
15 a sausage roll and a glass of lemonade, which was a huge  
16 privilege because I'd never had anything like that  
17 before.

18 She said, "We've got two or three hours to kill,  
19 we'll go to the cinema". I'd never been to a cinema  
20 before. The only pictures I'd ever seen were on a small  
21 television screen. Twice I'd seen a television screen  
22 in Smyllum: one was the funeral of King George and the  
23 other one was the coronation of Queen Elizabeth in 1953.  
24 Apart from that we never saw television or anything like  
25 that.

1           So going to the cinema was, again, a totally alien,  
2           but albeit pleasant experience. I enjoyed it. I didn't  
3           quite understand what was going on. But I enjoyed it.  
4           Even now I remember the film, a film called "Partners",  
5           with Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis -- I apologise to all  
6           these young people who have probably never heard of  
7           them.

8           LADY SMITH: Some of us have, Victor -- and some of us  
9           remember the Lyons' corner houses.

10          A. I remember the film, it was funny in parts, but again  
11          I didn't really understand. We went on the coach, again  
12          my mother got me another glass of lemonade, and we went  
13          on the coach at 10 o'clock and we drove off. I have  
14          a recollection of seeing yellow lights on -- the street  
15          lights, they were yellow, which I thought was very odd.  
16          Also there was a lot of fireworks going off because it  
17          was                      so very close to Bonfire Night, and my  
18          mother was explaining what they were, about Bonfire  
19          Night and this sort of thing.

20          MR MacAULAY: But you went to Manchester, where you met your  
21          father?

22          A. We got to Manchester and got off the bus and my  
23          father -- he was a very tall, rather skinny person,  
24          really -- came to greet me and hug me. My mother said,  
25          "This is your dad". Again, very alien, very strange.

1 But it took me quite some time after that to get to know  
2 them and to get out of the habit of what I'd got used to  
3 at Smyllum.

4 Q. I think you told us already that you were told by your  
5 parents that they had made some efforts to get you out  
6 of Smyllum before --

7 A. Yes, much later on they did, yes. Apparently they'd  
8 been trying for some years to obtain my release, if  
9 that's the way -- I know I wasn't imprisoned, but it  
10 sounded like a release from Smyllum. I'm not quite sure  
11 why they couldn't. My father had got himself a good job  
12 in Manchester then, so he was able to afford to look  
13 after me. So maybe it was about when they thought  
14 he was capable of looking after me that they then  
15 allowed me to come.

16 Q. You tell us -- in your statement, Victor, you provide  
17 information about life after being in care. I'm not  
18 going to take you through the detail of that, but  
19 I think you eventually found your Jewish religion;  
20 is that correct?

21 A. Yes. My mother -- because I was brought up as  
22 a Catholic by the nuns for ten years, she thought, well,  
23 I'll take him to a Catholic school. Although I left  
24 school in [REDACTED] of the year you said, which obviously  
25 I got wrong by one year, but they decided not to let me

1 go to school until after the Christmas period,  
2 in January, so I could get used to the area and living  
3 with them and this sort of thing. My mother decided  
4 because she thought basically I'd been indoctrinated as  
5 a Catholic that she should send me to a Catholic school.  
6 But I didn't like being in the Catholic school, mainly  
7 because nuns were there and I thought I was going to get  
8 beaten again. You know what I mean? I used to be  
9 frightened.

10 I think a couple of nuns actually came to visit us  
11 in our home and I hid behind the cupboard when I saw  
12 them coming because I'd become very frightened of  
13 them -- and even now I get frightened at the sight of  
14 nuns. My daughter once wanted me to watch a film with  
15 her called Sister Act and I couldn't watch it, there  
16 were too many nuns in it. It might have been a very  
17 nice film, but I just couldn't watch it. So in other  
18 words, psychologically, they've affected me even to this  
19 day.

20 Q. I think you tell us that you were in fact moved from  
21 that particular school to a more appropriate school.

22 A. Yes. After about a year I went to a more ordinary  
23 secondary type school, a secondary school. I must have  
24 been quite clever because I actually got to grammar  
25 school, by which time my parents had moved from the

1 south of Manchester to the north of Manchester, to an  
2 area called Prestwich in Manchester, which was a very  
3 large Jewish district.

4 We were talking about how I came to return to being  
5 Jewish. My parents used to go to a synagogue on Friday  
6 nights or Saturday. I had stopped going to Catholic  
7 churches and this sort of thing, so I used to go with  
8 them. I'd sit up in the gallery with my mother --  
9 anybody who knows about Judaism knows that in synagogues  
10 the women sit in the gallery at the back upstairs,  
11 normally, and the men do all the praying down below.  
12 Not so much nowadays in the reformed Judaism, but in the  
13 orthodox Judaism, which they were, it was very much  
14 that. So I used to sit in the balcony in the back with  
15 them and I got to know quite a lot about it.

16 One day, it wasn't long after my father died in  
17 a factory accident in Manchester, my mother would go to  
18 synagogue and take me with her. "Could I become  
19 Jewish?" I said to my mother. She said, "Well, you are  
20 Jewish: you were born Jewish, you were circumcised, but  
21 you've never been brought up as Jewish". So she spoke  
22 to the rabbi of the synagogue in Manchester and he  
23 agreed to give me lessons and he was quite happy for me  
24 to return to the flock, so to speak.

25 So after a period of lessons, I had a Bar Mitzvah



1           when I was about 14 and a half -- the regular age for  
2           Bar Mitzvahs is 13, but obviously I wasn't ready for  
3           that.

4           Q. That's an important ceremony --

5           A. Yes. It's an important coming of age in the Jewish  
6           religion. From that moment on, I became Jewish and  
7           I still am. I'm a member of my local community in  
8           ██████████ I even sit on the committee now of the  
9           synagogue. I have become very much into it now. Much  
10          more, despite the ten years of my life I was brought up  
11          as a Catholic.

12          Q. You mentioned in passing, Victor, your father's death.  
13          I think he died when you were still quite young, in  
14          fact.

15          A. Yes. It was only about a year after I left Smyllum that  
16          he died in a factory accident in a place ██████████  
17          ██████████ in Manchester. He was working in  
18          a factory and somebody pulled the wrong knob on  
19          a machine and he got trapped in it and died. I remember  
20          being called -- I went to a children's matinee on the  
21          Saturday morning in a cinema nearby where we lived in  
22          Manchester and suddenly my name came up on the screen.  
23          Could I go to see the manager? And there were two  
24          policemen there, saying, "You've got to go home". So  
25          I walked home, pushed my bike -- I had a bicycle -- and

1 my mother told me my father had been killed in an  
2 accident. It was quite traumatic because I'd hardly  
3 ever got to know him, really. I'd only known him for  
4 about a year and he was gone.

5 Q. Moving on then, I think your career involved you being  
6 in the army for a period of time. Is that correct?

7 A. Yes. When I left school, I was at a bit of a loose end  
8 as to what I wanted to do, really, with my life.

9 I think I saw a poster once about the army, so I joined  
10 the army. Basically I was about 17 and a half when  
11 I joined the army. I first joined the  
12 Lancashire Fusiliers and later transferred into the  
13 medical corps.

14 Q. And I think you have also had a particular interest in  
15 cricket over the years.

16 A. More than a particular interest. It became a career.  
17 When I left the army -- when I was in the army I became  
18 involved in cricket, although I don't think I knew what  
19 cricket meant when I was at Smyllum. I don't think the  
20 word was mentioned apart from the fact that it was  
21 a little animal that jumped about.

22 Cricket was alien. But I got interested in the army  
23 and the sergeant major seemed to think that my A level  
24 maths was a good qualification to be a cricket scorer.  
25 So he volunteered me to the post, but I enjoyed what

1 I did, and within two or three years I was scoring for  
2 the army side itself as well as my own regiment and  
3 camp, and got very much into it.

4 When I left the army I got a local job, but then  
5 started scoring for a club [REDACTED]  
6 and in 1975 I heard that the [REDACTED] cricket scorer  
7 had passed away -- excuse me, I'll just take a drink.  
8 (Pause)

9 So I went along and saw the secretary of [REDACTED]  
10 at the time and he offered me the post of scoring for  
11 the county, a post which I held for [REDACTED] years.

12 LADY SMITH: You will have found the crickets news quite  
13 depressing over the last week, I think, Victor.

14 A. Yes, we're used to it!

15 LADY SMITH: Time to look forward, not back, perhaps.

16 A. Cricket has been basically my life since -- my adult  
17 life, because my son [REDACTED] now works for [REDACTED]  
18 and he has taken over very much where I've left off and  
19 is very much into the cricket now.

20 MR MacAULAY: You do tell us in your statement -- beginning  
21 at paragraph 79, you provide some information about the  
22 impact you think that your life at Smyllum had on you.  
23 Again, I'm not going to spend -- we can read that  
24 ourselves and I'm not going to spend a lot of time  
25 looking at it, but I think what you do say is that you

1 had been institutionalised at Smyllum.

2 A. Yes. It's a bit like you sometimes hear -- when you see  
3 films about people who have been to prison for a long  
4 time and find how difficult it is to come out of prison  
5 and get associated with normal life. I think that was  
6 like me at Smyllum. It might have been for other  
7 children who were at Smyllum. Coming out, they had  
8 become so used to routine and now everything was so  
9 different. It sort of changed, you know. There wasn't  
10 the routine that I was used to.

11 You know, everything was regimented to a fixed time  
12 and place every day at Smyllum. So I found it very  
13 difficult to get into -- get out of that habit. It did  
14 happen in the end, you know, but it took a long time.  
15 I became very insular as a child, I wasn't very friendly  
16 at school. Some children didn't like me because  
17 I tended to sit in the corner on my own and not want to  
18 associate with others. They used to call me names and  
19 this sort of thing.

20 In those days, not long after leaving Smyllum,  
21 I still had a very broad Scottish accent, so I was  
22 called "Jock" and "haggis", and all these words they use  
23 down in England. I apologise to the Scottish people  
24 here, but I did have a very broad Scottish accent when  
25 I left.

1 Q. What you do compare Smyllum with is life with your  
2 parents who you say were very kind and never admonished  
3 you, never hit you --

4 A. Sorry, they were saying what?

5 Q. If you compare life at Smyllum with life with your  
6 parents, you say your parents were very kind --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- they never admonished you, they never hit you.

9 A. No.

10 Q. You did tell, I think, your mother in particular about  
11 what had happened, the treatment you had at Smyllum.

12 A. Yes, I did, yes, later on, because, like I say, it took  
13 me a few years to get into it. After my father died,  
14 I used to talk to my mother at some length. I used to  
15 say to my mother, "How come I ended up in Smyllum?" and  
16 she told me about the TB and my father was interned  
17 in the Isle of Man and this sort of thing. She had no  
18 option but to put me into that orphanage and that she  
19 did try to find a Jewish one but couldn't. She was  
20 always very apologetic about it, but I said, "Well, it  
21 wasn't really her fault". We're talking about the years  
22 very close to the war and there were not a lot of  
23 options.

24 But she was very kind. Like I say, she never  
25 admonished me, I was never in any trouble, although

1 I probably gave them reason to be because, like I say,  
2 I was very insular and didn't mix well with people  
3 outside of Smyllum.

4 Q. What you do tell us also in your statement is that even  
5 now you still get the odd nightmare.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. your experiences of Smyllum; is that right?

8 A. Yes. There's times when it still haunts me a little  
9 bit. Like I say, I'm frightened of nuns. Like I say,  
10 I detest onions with a passion. My wife, when we go  
11 shopping, we study every little box we see to make sure  
12 there's no onions in the contents of the goods we buy.  
13 Obviously, I got out of the way of -- my way of life had  
14 changed quite drastically from one day to the next.  
15 Suddenly I was at Smyllum, in my normal institutional  
16 way, and then I became a free spirit, so to speak,  
17 living with a family, but not knowing quite what it was  
18 all about.

19 It took me quite some time -- and I had to see  
20 a child psychologist on occasions because there were  
21 times when they were worried about how I was reacting to  
22 things at school and to people around me.

23 One day, I walked to school and I wanted to have  
24 a look at something and I got lost. At about 10 o'clock  
25 at night the police found me walking the streets in the

1           centre of Manchester and my mother had called them and  
2           said I'd gone missing because I just didn't know where  
3           I was, I was totally out of my normal fence, you know  
4           what I mean ...

5           Q. Can I take you to paragraph 92 of your statement,  
6           Victor? We'll put it on the screen in front of you.  
7           I'll just read that out. What you say is:

8                        "I realise that the picture I have painted of  
9           Smyllum is that it was a horrific place. In some  
10          respects it was. There was, however, some kindness."

11          A. Yes. I didn't find, you know, that 100 per cent of the  
12          time it was bad. There was some kindness.  
13          I particularly found that the young nuns -- the people  
14          who didn't have the big flowing -- maybe they were  
15          trainees. They were always very kind, very pleasant.  
16          What they grew up to be like later on in life, I don't  
17          know, but the younger ones -- the young trainees  
18          I suppose they were -- the majority of them seemed to be  
19          quite kind.

20                        Like I said, once or twice when they were trying to  
21          force you to eat food and they'd walk away, one of these  
22          young girls would come along and say, "Don't worry, I'll  
23          take it off you", and she had hide it behind the bottom  
24          of the tray and this sort of thing so they didn't come  
25          back and force-feed you. Little things like that. If

1 she'd been found out, she'd have been in trouble. So  
2 there was some kindness.

3 Some of the other children -- we got on, I had quite  
4 a few friends. There were one or two I still remember  
5 to this day that I was quite friendly with. I only  
6 recall one name -- apart from [REDACTED] there was one name  
7 of somebody I actually met later in life in the army  
8 that was at Smyllum, so I do recall him.

9 Q. One thing you do tell us in the next paragraph actually  
10 is that, as we know, you were very, very young when you  
11 went into Smyllum, and you really thought that's what  
12 life was about.

13 A. Well, basically, yes, because we never knew anything  
14 else. I went there when I was about 2 or 3 years old,  
15 basically as a baby, a young child, and brought up for  
16 ten years the way we were. Like I say, it was very  
17 institutionalised, very routine -- living a routine life  
18 in that you didn't know life was different, you didn't  
19 know what was in the outside world.

20 Q. What about the beatings? You have told us about the  
21 beatings and the maltreatment, if you like. Did you  
22 think that was just what life was about?

23 A. Yes, because you didn't know anything else. These  
24 things happened. You saw other children being beaten,  
25 you were beaten. You thought, you know, that's what --



1           maybe you don't think it at the time, but you didn't  
2           know anything else.

3           Q.   Towards the end of your statement, Victor, on  
4           paragraph 94, again you mention [REDACTED] disappearance as  
5           something that's haunted you for many years.

6           A.   Yes.

7           Q.   You have told us about that.  You then go on to say in  
8           paragraph 95:

9                       "The vast majority of the perpetrators from during  
10                      my time at Smyllum have probably now gone.  I would just  
11                      like people to know what happened.  I want the inquiry  
12                      to know so that these things won't happen again.  If in  
13                      any way I can make it better for people in the future  
14                      through talking about my time in Smyllum then that is  
15                      what I want to do."

16                     Does that summarise your position?

17           A.   Yes, it's a very similar scenario -- being Jewish, you  
18           learn about the Holocaust and people talk about the  
19           Holocaust as it happened now and say, "Why are we still  
20           talking about it now?"  I believe, just like Smyllum,  
21           that people should always learn about the Holocaust.  
22           I made sure my children learned about the Holocaust and  
23           my grandchildren would learn about it as well because  
24           it's part of the world's history in the hope that  
25           nothing like that could ever happen again.  I don't

1 believe things like this, nowadays, in today's society,  
2 in the places like Smyllum, would happen again. But  
3 maybe I believe the inquiry would help to ensure that  
4 ...

5 Nothing can become of it. Like I said, if there's  
6 anybody of the perpetrators, so to speak, still alive  
7 now they would be at a very old age, 90s to 100. You  
8 know what I mean? So I'm not looking for retribution in  
9 any way, I just want the world to know what happened at  
10 these places and that children's homes of today don't  
11 have to go through what we went through all these years  
12 ago.

13 MR MacAULAY: Thank you, Victor, for coming to give your  
14 evidence. Those are all the questions I have for you.

15 A. Okay.

16 MR MacAULAY: I haven't been sent any questions to put to  
17 you and I don't know if there are to be any questions.

18 LADY SMITH: Could I check whether there are any outstanding  
19 applications for questions of this witness. No?

20 Victor, there are no further questions. All that  
21 remains is for me to thank you for coming along today  
22 and explaining your memory of what happened in Smyllum  
23 and giving us your very astute observations. Thank you.

24 A. Thank you for having me. Thank you.

25 (The witness withdrew)

1 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

2 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is programmed to be  
3 here for quarter to. It is a little bit earlier than  
4 usual, but perhaps we should adjourn --

5 LADY SMITH: We could take the morning break now and start  
6 again at 11.45.

7 We will adjourn just now.

8 (11.23 am)

9 (A short break)

10 (11.45 am)

11 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is an applicant who  
12 wants to remain anonymous and he wants to use the name  
13 "James" in giving his evidence.

14 "JAMES" (affirmed)

15 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

16 Questions from Mr MacAULAY

17 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, James.

18 I will be asking you questions essentially based  
19 upon the statement that you have provided to the  
20 inquiry. There is a copy of your statement in the red  
21 file in front of you. Perhaps we could just look at  
22 that now. I'm going to give the reference number for it  
23 so it can go into the transcript. That's  
24 WIT.001.001.2838.

25 If I could ask you, James, to go to the very last

1 page of that statement, it's page 2864. Can I ask you  
2 to confirm that you have signed the statement?

3 A. Yes, I have.

4 Q. Do you tell us in the last paragraph that:

5 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
6 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry"?

7 Is that correct?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. Do you also go on to say:

10 "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
11 statement are true."

12 A. That's true, yes.

13 Q. As I say, James, I'll be asking you questions  
14 essentially based on your statement, but if there's  
15 something I ask you and you don't remember, just tell  
16 me, just say you don't remember. Likewise if there's  
17 something that you remember now for the first time  
18 in relation to what happened at Bellevue that we're  
19 going to talk about, feel free to tell us that as well.

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. I don't want your date of birth, but to get a time frame  
22 I need your year of birth. Am I right in saying you  
23 were born in 1950?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Before going into care -- and I'm going to talk about

1           your time in care -- you lived with your family in the  
2           Clydebank area; is that correct?

3           A.   That's correct.

4           Q.   That consisted of your parents and you also had a number  
5           of brothers?

6           A.   Yes, four.   Four brothers.

7           Q.   Where did you come in the order, as it were?

8           A.   I was second.   I had an older brother, [REDACTED]

9           [REDACTED] then me, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

10          Q.   And I think, sadly, when your youngest brothers were  
11          very, very young, your mother died; is that correct?

12          A.   That's correct.

13          Q.   That therefore left your father having to deal with  
14          a number of young children?

15          A.   That's correct.

16          Q.   You tell us that your two youngest brothers went to stay  
17          with a paternal aunt --

18          A.   Yes.

19          Q.   -- who had children of her own.

20          A.   I think she had six of her own, five or six.

21          Q.   You and your other two brothers ended up going into  
22          care; is that the background as to how you came to go to  
23          Bellevue?

24          A.   Yes.

25          Q.   In relation to the arrangements for going to Bellevue,

1 can you help me with that at all? Do you know how that  
2 was set up?

3 A. I believe -- I'm not sure, but I believe that my father  
4 went to the local church and someone there put him in  
5 touch with Bellevue. That's what I --

6 Q. That's your understanding?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. I think before you went to Bellevue you were briefly in  
9 another place; is that correct?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. But so far as Bellevue is concerned, the date that  
12 we can get from your records that you went to Bellevue  
13 was on [REDACTED] 1956; does that sound about correct to  
14 you?

15 A. That sounds about right.

16 Q. So you'd be aged about 6 at that time?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Is that in accordance with your recollection?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. The records suggest that you left Bellevue on  
21 [REDACTED] 1960.

22 A. That would be right.

23 Q. You were then aged about 10?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. So you spent about four years altogether in Bellevue;

- 1 is that about right?
- 2 A. Yes, that's about right, yes.
- 3 Q. When you went to Bellevue I think you have indicated you  
4 went there with an older brother and a younger brother.
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Without telling us the years of birth, what was the  
7 difference in age between you and your older brother,  
8 for example?
- 9 A. There's about two years between us or so.
- 10 Q. Two years between you and your older brother and two  
11 years between your younger --
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. So when you went to Bellevue initially then, where did  
14 you go within the establishment?
- 15 A. I went to -- there appeared to be -- to my recollection,  
16 there appeared to be three sections. There was one for  
17 infants, I think between about zero and maybe 3 or 4.  
18 And then there was a middle section between 3 and 4 and  
19 6 and 7. And then there was the older group, and that  
20 was from about 7 until you left at 15 -- I think that  
21 was the age you left in those days.
- 22 Q. And there are you focusing on the boys?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. What about girls? We know there were girls at Bellevue.
- 25 A. Yes. We rarely saw them except maybe at a mealtime

- 1           where they would sit in a different section. But  
2           sometimes you would see them there.
- 3       Q.   So then looking to the division under reference to age  
4           that you have told us about, were you in a unit or  
5           a section with either of your two brothers when you went  
6           there?
- 7       A.   No. No. I think [REDACTED] the youngest, went to the  
8           young section; [REDACTED] went to the older section; and  
9           I went to the middle section.
- 10      Q.   But did there come a point in time when you moved from  
11           the middle section into the older section?
- 12      A.   Yes.
- 13      Q.   Then that would be a time when you'd be in the same  
14           section as your older brother?
- 15      A.   Yes.
- 16      Q.   Were you ever in the same section as your younger  
17           brother?
- 18      A.   Not to my -- honestly, I can't remember being that way.
- 19      Q.   But the section that you went to first of all when you  
20           went there, at the age of about 6, what was that called?
- 21      A.   As far as I can remember, I think it was St Mary's.  
22           I may be mistaken in that. I think this one was  
23           St Mary's; the older one was St Joseph's.
- 24      Q.   That's certainly what you say in your statement. That's  
25           your recollection?



- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Just looking to the numbers then of boys in that  
3 section, can you help me with that? How many boys were  
4 there in the section?
- 5 A. Well, in the younger one, I really can't remember.  
6 There could have been anything from 10, possibly, to 20.  
7 It's hard to say for that one.
- 8 For the other one, everyone was given a number and  
9 sometimes that changed. I remember at one point being  
10 number [REDACTED] And there was other higher ones than that,  
11 so I could possibly say there would be maybe 20/24.
- 12 Q. And that's St Joseph's you're talking about?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. If we go back to St Mary's then, what was the set-up  
15 with regard to sleeping arrangements?
- 16 A. There was a few sort of small dormitories with about, as  
17 I remember it, three or four beds in each, little rooms,  
18 and you had a little single bed and it was maybe three  
19 or four in a row.
- 20 Q. And if you could look at St Joseph's there, when you  
21 moved there, what was the set-up?
- 22 A. Those were bigger, bigger dormitories. I think there  
23 could be maybe half a dozen, ten little beds in a room.  
24 They were all quite close together.
- 25 Q. In the initial period when you were in St Mary's, did

1           you have much contact with either of your two siblings?

2           A. No.

3           Q. Did you have any contact with them?

4           A. Not that I remember.

5           Q. But then you've told us that you did move to the older  
6           boys' group?

7           A. Yes.

8           Q. What age do you think you were when that happened?

9           A. I think I would be maybe 7 going on 8, possibly 8.

10          Q. So after a year or so --

11          A. Yes.

12          Q. -- you moved --

13          A. Yes.

14          Q. At that time, you have told us about the dormitories.

15          Did you share a dormitory with your brother --

16          A. No.

17          Q. -- or not?

18          A. No.

19          Q. Were the boys in your dormitory of a similar age to  
20          yourself?

21          A. Yes.

22          Q. Can we just look at St Mary's for a moment? And I think  
23          from what you said to us you spent about a year or so  
24          there.

25          A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Was there a nun in charge of St Mary's?
- 2 A. There was.
- 3 Q. Do you remember her name?
- 4 A. I can't remember her name, no.
- 5 Q. In your statement you thought she was either called  
6 Sister Mary or Sister Anne. Are these the names that  
7 spring to mind?
- 8 A. Spring to mind, yes, but I couldn't be 100 per cent sure  
9 about that, to be honest.
- 10 Q. You also mention a member of staff called Miss Jeannie;  
11 is that a name you do remember?
- 12 A. Yes, I remember her quite clearly.
- 13 Q. And you describe her as being very kind and gentle?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. You've got good memories of her?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. So far as St Mary's would be concerned, what was life  
18 like when you were at St Mary's, in St Mary's dormitory?
- 19 A. There didn't seem to be too many problems, to be honest.  
20 I don't recall having any real trouble there.
- 21 Q. We'll come on to something you mention later on in  
22 a moment. But then let's look at St Joseph's. Can you  
23 remember the name of the sister in charge of  
24 St Joseph's?
- 25 A. Yes, she was called ... (Pause)

1 Q. Would you like a break?

2 LADY SMITH: It's okay. Take your time. There's no hurry.

3 A. Sister **BAF** she was called.

4 MR MacAULAY: Okay. Did she have a member of staff to

5 assist her?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Who was that?

8 A. She was called Miss **AGC** I think -- excuse me a moment.

9 I think her second name was **AGC** as far as I can

10 remember.

11 Q. If I look at your statement, James, at paragraph 19 --

12 I think it's on the screen -- you have mentioned those

13 two individuals.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. You go on to say:

16 "The best way I can describe it is that she [I think

17 there you're talking about Miss **AGC** was the prison

18 warden if Sister **BAF** was the governor."

19 So that's the way you'd like to describe the set-up?

20 A. Yes, yes.

21 Q. Why do you use these particular descriptions?

22 A. It was the nearest sort of method I could find to, you

23 know -- or it could be she was the headmistress sitting

24 in a room and the other one would be the teacher you

25 dealt with, sort of thing, you know. But it was like

- 1 a hierarchy.
- 2 Q. You describe Sister BAF has someone who had [REDACTED]
- 3 [REDACTED] That's what you say in your statement.
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Can you help me with what you mean by that?
- 6 A. Well, she had a kind of [REDACTED] with kind
- 7 of -- you know, [REDACTED] when
- 8 she spoke to you. She didn't have gentle eyes, if you
- 9 know what I mean by that.
- 10 Q. You describe Miss AGC -- this is at paragraph 19 -- as
- 11 quite a fearsome-looking woman?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And she had a collie dog?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And the lead on the dog was something she made use of in
- 16 other ways; is that what you tell us?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Can you help me with that? What would happen?
- 19 A. Even when the dog wasn't there, she'd be walking in and
- 20 she'd carry the lead in with her. It had a leather bit
- 21 for the handle, and then a kind of spiral metal things
- 22 going down to the clip for the dog. She carried it
- 23 about, holding the metal bit with the little leather
- 24 strap.
- 25 Q. What did she do with it?

1 A. She intimidated -- it was an intimidation tool and if  
2 someone wasn't doing anything, she would just, you know,  
3 sort of hit them with it, whip them with it on the legs  
4 or the backside or whatever -- or the hands.

5 Q. Did that happen to you?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. How regular an occurrence was this?

8 A. Not every day or not every week, but if there was  
9 a problem with something or boys were arguing, she would  
10 just walk by and then just sort of hit them with this  
11 thing, or sometimes she had a little, a wooden --  
12 a little wooden thing in her hand and you would be hit  
13 with that.

14 Q. Okay. You also mention another person who you describe  
15 as being an [REDACTED] who had some involvement.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Was this with St Joseph's?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What was his role there?

20 A. His role seemed to be to come in on -- as far as  
21 I remember, it was a Monday night. I may be mistaken  
22 in that, but he used to come in and give everybody  
23 boxing lessons in the little room where they sort of --  
24 I can't think of the word for it -- a little leisure  
25 room.

1           He would set up a boxing ring. So you'd have the  
2           ropes and the little four corners, and on a Monday night  
3           you'd go down and they would have sets of boxing gloves  
4           and he would choose people to ...

5       Q. And I think you do tell us in your statement about how  
6           such a choice might be made when there was an uneven  
7           match.

8       A. Yes.

9       Q. I'll come on to look at that shortly.

10           Can I just touch upon the daily routine then at  
11           Bellevue. You were up early in the morning; is that  
12           correct?

13       A. Yes.

14       Q. You'd have breakfast. At St Mary's, did you have any  
15           chores to do?

16       A. Yes -- at St Mary's? No.

17       Q. What about St Joseph's then?

18       A. Just to make your bed and tidy up and wash yourself.

19       Q. And St Joseph's, did you have things to do there?

20       A. Yes.

21       Q. What sort of chores did you have?

22       A. Everyone was given a job to do. So for example, one job  
23           would be, after the boys had made their beds and then  
24           they were inspected, you would have to sweep the floors  
25           or sweep the hall or go down to the toilets and clean

1 the sinks and all that sort of stuff. There was various  
2 different chores to do.

3 Q. So far as you could see, were there any domestic  
4 staff --

5 A. No.

6 Q. -- other than the people you have mentioned who would  
7 perhaps bear the brunt of that sort of work?

8 A. No, I don't ever recall seeing any.

9 Q. I think one of the tasks you also tell us about is  
10 being -- I think you call it being the "refectory boy"  
11 or the "revvy boy" and that was, you thought,  
12 a particularly difficult job.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Tell me a little bit about that.

15 A. Mostly, after school, you had to come home and prepare  
16 the dining area or the refectory, as they called it.  
17 You had to get knives and forks and cups and bread and  
18 stuff out for all the other children coming in. Another  
19 part of it was you had to go into the sort of kitchen  
20 area. There was a kitchen area off the refectory -- it  
21 was an extension and at the end of the extension was  
22 a room with a huge potato-peeling machine. So you had  
23 to ... Excuse me.

24 Q. Okay. Take your time.

25 A. You went in, you got the potatoes into the machine, and



1           it seemed to me about 10 feet high -- it may not have  
2           been that height, but it spun the potatoes round and  
3           skinned them all, and then the potatoes came out an  
4           opening into a big basket, where you had to take the  
5           eyes out of them because the machine didn't do that. So  
6           you had to sit and eye them and then clean the machine  
7           out, all the peelings and the muck that fell into  
8           a separate compartment. So you took -- you scraped that  
9           out into a bin.

10          Q. Was this a task for the refectory boy?

11          A. Yes.

12          Q. I can see you're becoming quite emotional, James, when  
13             you're talking about this particular task. Was this  
14             a particular task that you had to do?

15          A. Yes.

16          Q. For how long were you the refectory boy?

17          A. I honestly can't say. I think it was probably maybe  
18             about, possibly three months, maybe six. That's the way  
19             it seems to me now.

20          Q. And the potato peeling task you're telling us about, how  
21             long would that take?

22          A. Maybe half an hour, an hour, possibly. From what I can  
23             remember, it was a job -- because once the potatoes come  
24             out of the machine, they went into a basket and you sat  
25             at a kind of doorway -- it was like an open doorway. So

1           you would take the eyes out of the potatoes.

2       Q. Did you find this an unpleasant task?

3       A. Yes.

4       Q. Can I leave that aside for the moment and just ask you

5           about washing and bathing when you were at -- let's look

6           at St Joseph's where you spent most of your time.

7           I think you tell us that there was red carbolic soap

8           used. Do you have a recollection of that?

9       A. Yes, I can still smell it.

10      Q. How often would you have a bath?

11      A. I think it was once a week -- maybe about every two

12           weeks or so, but certainly not every day or every few

13           days.

14      Q. But you do tell us the water was hot when you had

15           a bath --

16      A. Yes.

17      Q. -- although you may have shared the water with others?

18      A. Yes.

19      Q. What about the food at Bellevue? What's your

20           recollection of the food?

21      A. The food wasn't very good. The breakfast -- we used to

22           get cornflakes or a cereal of some kind, porridge

23           sometimes, but there was never any milk to put in them.

24           So there was also a huge tea urn where you went to get

25           tea, one of these big silver things, so what you done is

1           you took your plate of cornflakes and on quite a lot of  
2           occasions, especially if you were not one of the first,  
3           so you would go in and you would put tea in your  
4           cornflakes to make them soft so you could eat them.

5       Q.   Generally, what was the attitude to you having to eat  
6           your food?

7       A.   You had to eat it.  You had to eat it.  There was no ...  
8           You couldn't say "I don't want that" and leave it.  That  
9           just wasn't an option.

10      Q.   What would happen if you didn't eat your food?

11      A.   You were forced to eat it.  You were really forced to  
12           eat it.

13      Q.   By whom?  Who would force you?

14      A.   By whoever was in charge of -- the nuns that were in  
15           charge of the refectory.  That would be different ones  
16           from the ones in the -- I couldn't remember any of their  
17           names at all.

18      Q.   How would they make you eat it?

19      A.   Oh, they would just hold your head and tell you to eat  
20           it or else you'd get sent to Sister **BAF** or ...

21      Q.   Were you ever sick because of this approach?

22      A.   No, because you would try to put it in your mouth and  
23           then everyone learned to take a hanky or a rag in their  
24           pocket so it would never get to the point that they  
25           would -- only at the beginning when you couldn't eat it.

1 But normally you got wise to it and you would take your  
2 little rag and put the stuff in that and then throw it  
3 away when you got out.

4 Q. You're talking about your own experiences; did you see  
5 other children being made to eat their food?

6 A. Yes, they were held and they would lift the spoon --  
7 trying to force it into their mouth, you would be  
8 gagging with that. That was one method of doing it.

9 Q. When you finished your meal then, was there some  
10 procedure whereby you had to do something with your  
11 plates?

12 A. You took your plates up to a table, a hatch -- I can't  
13 remember exactly, but you took them and you left them in  
14 there and there was someone took them away to wash them.

15 Q. And if you had left something on the plates, then what  
16 would --

17 A. You couldn't leave anything on the plate because as soon  
18 as you brought it up, a plate with stuff in it, they  
19 would indicate to the person in charge of the refectory  
20 and you would be made to sit down and finish it.

21 Q. Was there ever a time when you were just not able to  
22 finish or do something with the food that was on your  
23 plate?

24 A. No, because -- at the beginning, yes. At the very, very  
25 beginning, you'd be forced to eat it and, you know,

1           stuff you couldn't really eat, it was sort of boiled  
2           cabbage and mutton, you couldn't even chew it. But  
3           afterwards, you just learned as soon as somebody -- as  
4           soon as you weren't being watched, you just emptied it  
5           into a hanky, put it in your pocket, and then there was  
6           a big -- outside the refectory there was a big  
7           stone wall, about 8 feet high, and you used to throw it  
8           over that. I don't know what was over the wall.

9           Q. Okay. You do say in your statement that you were  
10          forever hungry when you were at Bellevue; is that  
11          correct?

12          A. That's right.

13          Q. What did you do to try and help the hunger?

14          A. Well, there was a couple of things you could do. One  
15          was -- if you were, as I was, the refectory boy, you  
16          were able to get something after school when you come  
17          home to put out what they called the supper -- it  
18          wasn't -- it was something to eat after school and there  
19          was bread there, so you were able to maybe get some of  
20          that and try and hide it and keep it.

21          Q. You also found Woolworths to be a useful place to go;  
22          is that right?

23          A. Yes.

24          Q. Why was that?

25          A. It was because it was -- all the other shops had someone

1           who owned the shop, but Woolworths -- all the shelves  
2           were just open. So two or three of us, sometimes four  
3           of us, would go in and wander around and try and get  
4           stuff that was -- you know, sweets or biscuits or  
5           whatever was there. You would try and -- I say steal  
6           it, but it's maybe not -- that's too strong a word.

7           Q. I think you tell us that one of the ladies who worked  
8           there possibly realised what was going on and she would  
9           actually give you --

10          A. She was quite sympathetic. She'd give you a bag of the  
11          broken biscuits.

12          LADY SMITH: Would that be in the era of Woolworths pick and  
13          mix sweet selection trays, was it?

14          A. I don't ever remember it being pick and mix as such as  
15          later, but there would be rows of Mars bars or things  
16          like that, and it would all be laid out on an angular --  
17          with a lady behind serving. She would have to serve  
18          a counter at this side (indicates).

19          LADY SMITH: So you're explaining it was easy to help  
20          yourself compared to the small sweetie shop where the  
21          sweets would be in jars behind the counter?

22          A. Yes.

23          MR MacAULAY: You also tell us a bit about your schooling.  
24          There are a number of paragraphs in your statement  
25          dealing with schooling. You began, I think, in a school

1           that was actually in-house; is that right?

2           A. Yes.

3           Q. And you moved to a school called St Columbkille's?

4           A. Yes.

5           Q. And then another school after that; is that correct?

6           A. Yes.

7           Q. So far as the other school was concerned, that's  
8           a little bit further away from Bellevue?

9           A. Yes.

10          Q. Was there something of an ordeal, if you like, when you  
11          went to that school?

12          A. When we first went, yes.

13          Q. What was the problem?

14          A. We'd gone to St Columbkille's, which was right across  
15          the road, and then for some reason, I have no idea why,  
16          we got sent to a school called Fairy Street School,  
17          which was about a quarter, half a mile away, I can't  
18          exactly get -- it took us a while to walk down to it,  
19          crossing a main road. Apparently, this was what we  
20          called in those days a Protestant school, and  
21          St Columbkille's was a Catholic school.

22                 When we went, they separated it, the Catholics  
23          at the top or the Catholics at the bottom, I can't  
24          actually -- I think the Catholics took the bottom half  
25          of the school and the non-Catholics took the top half,

1 if I'm remembering right.

2 But sometimes when we all walked down, there would  
3 be maybe ten of us, we would all walk down together and,  
4 when we got near the school, some of the local people  
5 didn't like the idea of this, you know, us taking their  
6 school sort of thing, and they would throw things out of  
7 the tenements -- there was tenements on both sides of  
8 the street going down -- and they would shout things out  
9 and throw things at you.

10 Q. I think you tell us you were known as "the convs", from  
11 the convent?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Did that quieten down? Did that sort itself out?

14 A. I think it did, yes. At the beginning we had to all  
15 keep together and we used to stay together. After  
16 that -- after we adopted that tactic, as it were, we  
17 weren't sort of bullied so much -- in the school,  
18 that is. At the beginning we were. I think it was the  
19 clothes and all that sort of stuff.

20 Q. And was this school -- was this a primary school?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You have already told us a little bit about the chores  
23 that you had to do and you have mentioned, I think,  
24 cleaning the dormitories.

25 A. Yes.



- 1 Q. You tell us about one particular incident, I think  
2 involving Sister **BAF** in your statement. Can you  
3 just describe that for me?
- 4 A. What happened was, you had to -- someone had to clean  
5 the corridors, you know, the landing. The corridors  
6 from the upstairs dormitory led to a set of -- a big  
7 wooden old-fashioned staircase and someone, after  
8 cleaning the dormitory, they had to clean the  
9 passageways and the stairs. So if, for example, the  
10 passageways weren't cleaned right or swept right,  
11 whoever it was would be in trouble for that. So they  
12 would have to do it again.
- 13 So if you were to mop --
- 14 Q. Sorry, you do the sweeping first, then you do the  
15 mopping?
- 16 A. The mopping after.
- 17 Q. So if you're coming after the sweeper with the mop and  
18 you're having to wait until that person's finished?
- 19 A. If they haven't done it right, they would be in trouble,  
20 and then they would have to do it again, so you would  
21 have to wait until they'd finished and then you would  
22 then mop that and then mop the stairs.
- 23 On one occasion I remember the stairs weren't done  
24 right -- I don't know what the problem was -- but after  
25 having done it all --

- 1 Q. After having done all the mopping?
- 2 A. Yes, you know, you mopped it -- there was a wet mop and  
3 a dry mop to dry it. Sister **BAF** would come up, look  
4 at the stairs, and then just get the bucket of water  
5 that you'd used and just empty it down all the stairs  
6 again, so you'd then have to go over and do it all  
7 again. The water would be dripping everywhere and you'd  
8 only own a pair of short trousers and, you know, you  
9 still had to get to school for 9 o'clock. So you could  
10 end up in trouble again for being late for school.
- 11 Q. I think what you tell us -- did this happen once or more  
12 than once?
- 13 A. No, that incident was just one that I actually  
14 remembered.
- 15 Q. And you were late for school?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And you got the belt for being late?
- 18 A. Yes. But everyone got the belt for being late in those  
19 days.
- 20 Q. You also tell us that you were an altar boy.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Therefore you had to learn the Latin Mass; is that  
23 correct?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. You also give us an example of a funeral that you had to

- 1 attend, I think, as an altar boy; is that right?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. What sticks in your mind about that?
- 4 A. What sticks in my mind about that -- we got taken --
- 5 I think it was two or three of us, I can't remember, but
- 6 we went to ... I remember we put the uniforms on before
- 7 we left in a car -- it was quite a large car, it might
- 8 have been a van, a minibus type thing with a lot of
- 9 seats in it.
- 10 Q. When you say uniforms, what you had to wear for the
- 11 Mass?
- 12 A. The red -- in this case it was black. It was normally
- 13 a red kind of tunic with a white blouse thing over it.
- 14 But on this occasion they brought in black ones. So
- 15 we were, you know -- this was unusual. We went in a car
- 16 and we went to another home somewhere. I have no idea
- 17 where it was. Just no idea. It was about maybe half
- 18 an hour in the car, possibly. It wasn't too long; you
- 19 know, it wasn't hours and hours. So we went to say
- 20 a Mass, to be the altar boys at this place. So it
- 21 was --
- 22 Q. And I think it was a funeral for a dead nun; is that
- 23 right?
- 24 A. That's right, yes.
- 25 Q. Was there something that you had to do in connection

- 1 with the nun?
- 2 A. We had to go in and see the body. We had to file past  
3 the body and we went up the stairs and we went up  
4 a bit -- not marble, but a stone fancy staircase to  
5 a room, and the nun was lying in a bed. Everybody went  
6 back -- there were other nuns there as well. She was  
7 lying with ... (Pause). Sorry.
- 8 Q. That's okay.
- 9 A. She was lying with a set of rosary beads wrapped around  
10 her hand ...
- 11 Q. Round her hands?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Clasped?
- 14 A. Yes. They asked us to kiss the rosary beads, which was  
15 quite disturbing.
- 16 Q. You didn't find that particularly pleasant?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. You give us some information about your leisure time and  
19 also about pocket money. I think you tell us  
20 in relation to pocket money, for example, your father  
21 would visit.
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. He would leave money for you?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. But would that be to the nuns, the money would be given?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Would you get the money back for pocket money?
- 3 A. Well, on a Saturday, once you got to -- I think it was  
4 once you were 8 or possibly 9, you were allowed to go  
5 out on a Saturday afternoon for a couple of hours. So  
6 they would give you some of your money, sixpence or  
7 something, I can't remember how much.
- 8 Q. What about possessions? Did you have any possessions  
9 when you --
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. -- came to leave?
- 12 A. No, I never had any possessions.
- 13 Q. You tell us about holidays and trips. I think you did  
14 have visits to the Kelvin Hall, is that right, to the  
15 circus or the funfair?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Was that on an annual basis?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. You also tell us about being taken out by a particular  
20 couple; is that correct?
- 21 A. That's right.
- 22 Q. How did you find that?
- 23 A. That was very good. There was myself and another young  
24 girl. That was the only contact that we ever had with  
25 any of the girls, basically.

- 1 Q. So there was another young girl from Bellevue?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Was she approximately the same age as yourself?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. What was the contact with this couple?
- 6 A. Well, apparently -- obviously I don't know the real ins  
7 and outs of it -- families would come up at this time of  
8 year and ask -- maybe they didn't have children of their  
9 own -- and they would ask to take a couple of the  
10 children out for a day or two, and they would take you  
11 to -- you know, you would go out, they had a car,  
12 I remember that. On one occasion they took us to the  
13 Kelvin Hall and the art gallery across the road, all  
14 that sort of thing.
- 15 Q. So these were enjoyable visits?
- 16 A. Very, very.
- 17 Q. And did you have a number of these visits?
- 18 A. I can remember two. I can remember two. I think that  
19 would be about all.
- 20 Q. Having had the visit, what was it like going back?
- 21 A. Oh, it was horrible. It was horrible going back.
- 22 Q. Would you be upset?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Would the couple be aware of this?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Were you ever asked why you were upset?
- 2 A. Probably, but I can't remember. I can't remember what  
3 I would have said.
- 4 Q. Did you discover subsequently that this couple were  
5 interested in adopting you and this other girl?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Can you tell me about that? How did you find out about  
8 that?
- 9 A. It was my older brother that told us about this.  
10 I don't know how he learned about it. But apparently,  
11 they'd wanted to adopt myself and the girl -- and  
12 I can't remember her name, to be honest. The nun in  
13 charge of Bellevue had approached my father about it but  
14 he was not for it at all. He wouldn't hear of it under  
15 any circumstances.
- 16 Q. I think your father was paying visits to you while you  
17 were at Bellevue.
- 18 A. Yes. I would say possibly every six months.
- 19 Q. I think he was working in England; is that correct?
- 20 A. He was working in Liverpool, yes.
- 21 Q. But he had retained contact with you?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. So he would not consent to the adoption --
- 24 A. No, no.
- 25 Q. -- of you?

- 1 A. No. No. I only learned this from my older brother.
- 2 Q. Did that have some impact then on how you were treated  
3 by any of the nuns?
- 4 A. It was mentioned all the time -- not all the time, but  
5 it was mentioned for a while.
- 6 Q. What was mentioned?
- 7 A. Just the idea of: you're too good to go elsewhere.  
8 I don't know if they wanted rid of us or -- but it was  
9 as if you were getting a row because we didn't go to the  
10 family. That's -- it was kind of held against you.  
11 That's the impression that I got.
- 12 Q. If you look at paragraph 64, which is on the screen at  
13 the moment, it would appear that after this episode in  
14 connection with the adoption you ended up staying in  
15 Bellevue for a further two years.
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. This is about halfway through your time there?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. "I remember the nuns and staff saying to me over those  
20 years there's the one that refused decent people."  
21 Was that the sort of thing being said?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. How did you feel about that?
- 24 A. Well, I just felt -- you just didn't like getting a row  
25 all the time, but apart from -- I didn't have any



1 feelings about not going. I always felt we'd go back to  
2 my father at some point, you know.

3 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about birthdays and also  
4 Christmas? You were there for about four years or so;  
5 was your birthday ever celebrated?

6 A. No.

7 Q. You tell us that for some reason you received some  
8 punishment on one of your birthdays.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. What's your recollection of that?

11 A. It was something that had happened, I don't know if it  
12 was maybe fighting with one of the boys or breaking  
13 something. I can't remember what exactly. But I was  
14 sent to a room and told to wait there for punishment  
15 later on.

16 Q. And that was on your birthday?

17 A. Yes. Because I remember thinking at the time, it's my  
18 birthday, you know, and nobody cares. That was my  
19 thought.

20 Q. And Christmas, what about Christmas?

21 A. Christmas was more a religious kind of ceremony.  
22 I don't recall much happening. I do remember there was  
23 a man who took us all out to the Kelvin Hall -- a bus  
24 came for us, took us to the Kelvin Hall, where we went  
25 in, had a meal, and you got a little present, and then

1           he gave you a little box or a little wee purse thing  
2           with half a crown in it to go and spend on shows. So  
3           that was a great day. I believe he'd been some kind of  
4           philanthropist in Glasgow. His name was Mr Smith, but  
5           I don't know if that would be ...

6           Q. But so far as presents at Bellevue were concerned, did  
7           you get any particular presents that you remember?

8           A. Not that I recall, no.

9           Q. Your father did visit; I think you've mentioned this  
10          already.

11          A. Yes.

12          Q. When he came to visit, would he take you out?

13          A. Yes.

14          Q. So in the course of these visits then would you be with  
15          your two brothers?

16          A. Yes.

17          Q. So at least you'd have contact with them at the time of  
18          those visits?

19          A. Yes.

20          Q. What about other family members? You have mentioned an  
21          aunt who took two of your younger brothers.

22          A. Yes.

23          Q. Did they come to visit; do you remember?

24          A. No, never. I had another aunt, my mother's sister. She  
25          stayed in Shettlestone.

1 Q. Did she visit?

2 A. She never came to the home, no, but on a couple of

3 occasions she came to Fairy Street School at playtimes.

4 Q. So you saw her then?

5 A. But only -- she worked, so it was only maybe at holiday

6 time or something. A few times.

7 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about what you tell us in

8 your statement about abuse at Bellevue, James. You've

9 already touched upon some aspects of this. Insofar as

10 the time in St Mary's was concerned, what was the

11 position in connection with any form of abuse?

12 A. I don't recall any there at all.

13 Q. You do mention in your statement -- this is at

14 paragraph 71 -- inspections in connection with your

15 underwear.

16 A. Yes, yes.

17 Q. Was that in St Mary's?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What was that about?

20 A. That was every week. I don't know what day. It was

21 always a weekend. But you had to go down, stand in

22 a line at the toilets, and take off your underwear and

23 hold it out for inspection. If there was any marks or

24 soiled in any way, you had to go and clean them. You

25 had to go to -- it was an outside toilet, a way down the

1 bottom of the playground thing. You know, it was kind  
2 of dirty wee toilets and you went down and cleaned them  
3 there so you wouldn't have dirty things ...

4 Q. Who inspected the underwear?

5 A. Normally it was the nun in charge. Miss Jeannie would  
6 be there, but on a number of occasions there was some of  
7 the older girls who looked, I would have said maybe 14  
8 or 15, that kind of age.

9 Q. Young girls who were resident at Bellevue?

10 A. Yes. They would come down and that was excruciating, as  
11 you can imagine.

12 Q. So you'd have to take your underpants off?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Would you put something to cover yourself up with?

15 A. You learned how to take your underpants off without  
16 taking your trousers off.

17 Q. Okay.

18 LADY SMITH: That sounds like quite a skill. You would have  
19 been, what, about 6 years old then?

20 A. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: And you had to go and wash your own underpants?

22 A. Yes, rather than -- you didn't have to, you could show  
23 them the soiled ones, but I don't remember ...

24 LADY SMITH: Yes.

25 MR MacAULAY: If they were soiled you had to go and wash

1           them is what you're telling us?

2       A.   Yes.

3       Q.   Once you washed them, what happened then?

4       A.   You put them back on again.

5       Q.   Would you have to show anyone they were clean?

6       A.   Yes, you'd go back up and show them that they were clean

7           and then put them back on again?

8       Q.   When you put them back on, would they be wet?

9       A.   Yes, they would be, but it was just before bedtime, so

10           you wouldn't have them on for very long.  You would put

11           them on in your --

12       Q.   And would you have them then dry for the morning;

13           is that the way it worked?

14       A.   Yes.

15       Q.   So far as St Joseph's was concerned, you were a bit

16           older then.

17       A.   Yes.

18       Q.   You've already told us about what happened at mealtimes

19           in connection with having to eat your food.

20       A.   Yes.

21       Q.   If you were to be punished in St Joseph's for whatever

22           reason, how was that organised?  Can you tell me?

23       A.   Well, normally, you would be sent to your dormitory and

24           you just sat in your bed or waited until someone came to

25           administer the punishment.

- 1 Q. How long could you be waiting for?
- 2 A. Sometimes for hours.
- 3 Q. And who would administer the punishment?
- 4 A. Normally Sister BAF
- 5 Q. And what would the punishment consist of?
- 6 A. You'd have to lie over the bed and she would hit your
- 7 backside with whatever it was. I don't really know what
- 8 it was because you would lie over the bed and then you
- 9 would feel yourself getting whacked with whatever it
- 10 was.
- 11 Q. How long would the whacking last for?
- 12 A. I suppose it would depend on the offence, but maybe half
- 13 a dozen or ten.
- 14 Q. Would this be -- would you be struck with your clothes
- 15 on?
- 16 A. With your pyjamas on. Your pyjama trousers would be on.
- 17 Q. And how did you react to this sort of treatment?
- 18 A. Well, you just -- you just got on with it, basically,
- 19 because it's just what happened. There was nothing else
- 20 you could do. You couldn't ...
- 21 Q. But the waiting, you've told us about the waiting that
- 22 could be for a number of hours.
- 23 A. Hours, yes. I can remember that always being actually
- 24 the worst part of it because sometimes -- certainly on
- 25 more than one occasion at least -- the incident would

1           happen maybe about 4 o'clock or so and you'd be sent to  
2           your room, so you'd have missed your dinner, your tea as  
3           well, and then you would get sort of smacked with  
4           whatever it was they used and then you went to bed.

5           But to be honest, by the next day, it had kind of  
6           gone out of your head. It wasn't the actual whacking  
7           that was the worst bit; the worst bit was sort of  
8           sitting and waiting for somebody to come and see you,  
9           you know. I always felt that was the worst part of it.

10          Q. But were you upset, would you be upset or distressed,  
11          when you were waiting?

12          A. I think, yes, yes, yes.

13          Q. And this sort of procedure whereby you're sent to your  
14          room and had to wait for some considerable time, how  
15          often did that happen to you then during your time at --

16          A. Only about two, three, four times. Not regularly. But  
17          it just depended on who had done what and why. Other  
18          boys would be sent at times.

19          Q. So this happened to other boys as well?

20          A. Yes.

21          Q. I think you tell us about an incident when you had --  
22          you may have been fighting with another boy and you were  
23          both sent to different bedrooms to wait.

24          A. Yes. Yes. That was the way it ...

25          Q. You also tell us about an incident where a window got

1           smashed.

2           A.   Yes.

3           Q.   Can you tell me about what happened there?

4           A.   Yes.  We were outside -- there was a veranda at the  
5           front of this house -- I think it was an extension with  
6           a veranda and it was glass panes.  Boys were playing  
7           football, everybody was all playing, and someone smashed  
8           one of the windows with the ball, but no one would own  
9           up to doing it.  Sister **BAF** and **AGC** got everybody  
10          into the playroom to ask who -- sort of who broke the  
11          window.  Nobody would own up.  I remember I didn't know  
12          who it was, I hadn't really been watching there.  So  
13          they took us all into -- there was a scullery at the  
14          back of St Joseph's that led out towards a football  
15          park.  It was a kind of outbuilding.  It had big wooden  
16          boxes where clothes were kept and football boots and all  
17          that sort of stuff.

18                 They made us kneel on the floor.  It was stone  
19          flagstones and they made us all kneel on the flagstones  
20          and put your arms out (indicates) --

21          Q.   You're holding your arms out in front of you.

22          A.   Yes, so you're in short trousers and you're kneeling on  
23          that with hands out in front of you, and Sister **BAF**  
24          was walking up.  She had a little cane thing,  
25          a little -- just like a fishing rod kind of thing.  And



1 she was walking up. And if your hands started getting  
2 tired and falling, she'd sort of whack your hands until  
3 you tried to put them back up again. But obviously, you  
4 couldn't keep this up. So I think someone owned up to  
5 doing it, from what I remember. I don't know what  
6 happened to them. They got taken away.

7 Q. But how long did this last until somebody decided to own  
8 up?

9 A. About five or ten minutes, I think.

10 Q. How many boys were involved in this process?

11 A. About ten, maybe, maybe eight, ten.

12 Q. When somebody owned up, was that the end of the --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- of the process?

15 A. Yes. They took the boy away. I don't know what  
16 happened there.

17 Q. Was there a threat that was made to you that you'd go  
18 somewhere if you didn't behave?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. What was that?

21 A. They used to say, you know, if you didn't behave  
22 yourself you would be sent to a place called -- they  
23 called it "the Dalton", whatever that was. So we were  
24 led to believe it was a, I don't know, a lunatic asylum  
25 or something like that. I don't know if it was or even

1 if it existed, but that was always the threat that you'd  
2 be sent there. The older boys would probably embellish  
3 it a wee bit by saying once you go there you never got  
4 out again for the rest of your life, sort of thing. So  
5 that was always a kind of worry.

6 Q. Were you scared of that?

7 A. Yes. Yes.

8 Q. Was this a regular threat or ...?

9 A. Not regular, just, you know, when boys were -- what  
10 young boys do, you know. They would say, "Right, the  
11 next time you're going to the Dalton", "No, no, not the  
12 Dalton". You didn't know what it was. I still don't  
13 know even if it existed. But that was a threat that you  
14 did take on board.

15 Q. You mentioned earlier, James, the [REDACTED] who helped  
16 out --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- at Bellevue. You do tell us in your statement about  
19 an arrangement whereby Miss AGC used this [REDACTED] as  
20 a sort of punishment; is that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Can you just help me with that?

23 A. I never thought about it at the time as this, but later  
24 on, you know, in years, I realised that what would  
25 happen was that anyone misbehaving -- and one occasion

1 it was myself -- on Monday night this AHB would come and  
2 say, "Right" -- he would always try to pair weight with  
3 weight because, according to him, he'd been [REDACTED]  
4 Whether he had, I don't know. He certainly looked like  
5 [REDACTED]

6 But after an incident where a cupboard -- the door  
7 had opened to a cupboard and we'd been carrying on and  
8 broke the hinge of the cupboard, that following  
9 Monday -- I don't know the day that happened -- but the  
10 following Monday AHB paired me in with one of the senior  
11 boys.

12 Q. Was he asked to do that?

13 A. As far as I know, as far as I know, because always you  
14 were paired -- it wasn't age but weight --

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. -- or size, because there was wee guys. And Miss AGG  
17 I remember her saying, "Ah, just you wait until Monday.  
18 Just you wait". So I assumed -- you know, there was  
19 never anything said specifically saying, "This is  
20 because you've done that", but that was the kind of  
21 impression I got.

22 Q. So she said that to you?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Against that background, on the Monday, you were paired  
25 with a bigger boy?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. What happened then?
- 3 A. Well, I was really pretty terrified because this boy was  
4 I think about 14.
- 5 Q. And what age were you?
- 6 A. I would be maybe 8, possibly 9. But he was a big lad.  
7 We went into the ring and really I was, in those days,  
8 very, very small and skinny, you know, really thin, and  
9 he was quite a strong boy. So I was just trying to keep  
10 out of his way and defend myself. The rounds were only  
11 a minute or so, they weren't rounds, but I think we done  
12 three rounds, but I was kind of caught in the corner and  
13 one punch, right in the nose, and my nose was pouring  
14 with blood, so he stopped it and **AHB** attended to it, but  
15 it was never right. A couple of days later I had to go  
16 to a clinic somewhere not far from ... If that's my  
17 recollection of it. Eventually I had to go there and  
18 they said my nose -- a bone had been broken.
- 19 Q. Was that something you had to get sorted out later in  
20 life?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. A bone had been broken?
- 23 A. Something had happened to my nose and when I was 24 --  
24 so it was a good long time -- I'd always trouble  
25 breathing, I couldn't breathe right, and eventually

1 I went to the doctor's and I went into the  
2 Western Infirmary and they ...

3 Q. They sorted you out?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Do I understand then the problem had been caused because  
6 of the punch that you --

7 A. Yes. I don't remember any problem before. I had a lot  
8 of trouble at the time, it kept bleeding. So I think it  
9 had a lot to do with it, if not everything.

10 Q. There's another topic I want to ask you about, James,  
11 and that's bed-wetting. I know you probably find that  
12 upsetting, but were you a bed-wetter when you were in  
13 St Joseph's?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And were other children also --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- bed-wetters?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can you tell me what the practice was if somebody wet  
20 the bed?

21 A. The practice was in the morning when you got up, you  
22 turned your bed down for either Sister **BAF** or  
23 Miss **AGC** to inspect. If your sheets were wet, you had  
24 to take them off, carry them across, across to where the  
25 laundry was. The laundry was, as I remember it, just

1           above the refectory, certainly in the same building. So  
2           if there was one or two bed-wetters for the boys or the  
3           girls, you walked through the refectory with the sheets.

4       Q.   What about your pyjamas? Were you wearing pyjamas?

5       A.   No, you were dressed at this point. You got dressed,  
6           and then when everybody went to breakfast, they all went  
7           first and you walked behind them -- or later on when  
8           they were sitting -- with the blankets, with the sheet,  
9           and walked sort of through the refectory and out another  
10          door, which led you to the girls' area of the home.

11       I seem to remember going up the stairs to a laundry area  
12       and you left them there in a big kind of box and went  
13       down and had your breakfast.

14       Q.   This process then of walking through the refectory, what  
15       was the response from those in the refectory?

16       A.   Well, a lot of times some of the boys -- not all of  
17       them, but some of them -- would, you know, kind of jeer  
18       and laugh at you, which didn't help matters at all. It  
19       didn't seem to be frowned on for them to do that,  
20       no one -- I don't recall anyone ever saying, you know,  
21       "Don't do that". It seemed to be a ritual.

22       Q.   These other boys, was anything being said that you can  
23       remember?

24       A.   Just "Peed the bed" and all of that sort of stuff, you  
25       know.

- 1 Q. How did it if you were one of the boys who had to walk  
2 through the refectory in this sort of background?
- 3 A. Yeah, it wasn't very nice, you know. You were kind of  
4 dreading it because you knew you were going to get, you  
5 know, a wee bit of abuse. Not all the time, but if  
6 someone didn't like you, then they would shout things.
- 7 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that you were  
8 a regular bed-wetter.
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Did that ease off before you left?
- 11 A. Yes, it did, it did.
- 12 Q. But there were other boys too who regularly wet the bed  
13 in the dormitory?
- 14 A. Yes. There were some that just couldn't stop.
- 15 Q. When you got to the laundry, did you have to deal with  
16 the nuns when you got to the laundry?
- 17 A. There was nuns who worked in the laundry. All you had  
18 to do was -- there was a kind of big basket, a metal  
19 basket, and you just put the sheets into the basket and  
20 then went away. They never -- some of them would kind  
21 of look at you.
- 22 Q. Would anything be said that you can remember?
- 23 A. I'm finding it hard to remember that, actually, if ...  
24 I don't know whether it was just looks that you were  
25 given or whether they actually said something. I'm not

- 1           100 per cent sure about that, to be honest.
- 2           Q. You do tell us that there were occasions when you woke
- 3           up in the middle of the night --
- 4           A. Yes.
- 5           Q. -- and realised that you had wet the bed.
- 6           A. Yes.
- 7           Q. Can you tell me about that? What happened on these
- 8           occasions?
- 9           A. Well, I remember at least a couple of occasions where --
- 10          the first time I went into the next dormitory where my
- 11          brother was, my older brother --
- 12          Q. So there came a point in time when you were in the same
- 13          dormitory then as your older brother?
- 14          A. No, never in the same dormitory.
- 15          Q. Sorry.
- 16          A. The same -- there was a landing with a couple of
- 17          different dormitories. I got him to come and we took it
- 18          down to the sinks downstairs.
- 19          Q. So you've woken up and realised you've wet the bed?
- 20          A. Yes.
- 21          Q. So you've gone and got your brother, who was an older
- 22          brother?
- 23          A. Yes, and him and I have taken the sheet down to the
- 24          washbasin just to try and clean it up a wee bit and
- 25          then -- the first time was in the middle of the winter,



1           so I remember we hung it over the radiator and waited  
2           for -- there was a huge radiator in the wash place, one  
3           of these big metal, you know, six-foot long radiator  
4           things and we hung it over there to dry it.

5           Q.   And did that work?

6           A.   Yes.

7           Q.   So in the morning, you didn't have the problem?

8           A.   We put it back, it was all kind of crushed a bit, you  
9           know, and we maybe tried to get it all looking as if  
10          nothing had happened.

11          Q.   And I think you said that might have happened on  
12          a couple of occasions?

13          A.   Yes.  The other time we tried to put them out the  
14          window.  There was no heating on, it was in the  
15          summertime, so we were sort of opening the window and  
16          kind of shaking it outside the window to try and dry it.

17          Q.   And this is in the middle of the night this is  
18          happening?

19          A.   Yes.

20          Q.   So the nuns aren't around or were unaware?

21          A.   No.  I don't know where they slept.  Once we went to  
22          bed, we never ever saw them again.

23          MR MacAULAY:  That's 1 minute to 1, my Lady.  I have not  
24          quite finished with James' evidence.  We haven't long to  
25          go -- I can tell him that -- but it may be best to start

1           again at 2 o'clock.

2       LADY SMITH: I think we should. We'll have a break now,

3           James, and start again at 2 o'clock. All right?

4       (1.00 pm)

5                               (The lunch adjournment)

6       (2.00 pm)

7       LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

8       MR MacAULAY: James, can I ask you about whether you ever

9           gave any thought when you were at Bellevue to running

10          away?

11       A. Yes.

12       Q. Why did you want to run away?

13       A. Well, occasionally we used to -- as I say, we went out  
14          on a Saturday afternoon and what we would do is we would  
15          go to watch a football match normally. So there were  
16          two local parks: Clyde Football Club, which was about  
17          a mile away, and Celtic Football Club, which was about  
18          two miles away.

19                So we would go out and we would jump on a tram to  
20          take us into Glasgow, go to the game, and then sometimes  
21          some of the boys, they lived near the football grounds,  
22          and you would go to their houses. You weren't supposed  
23          to, it was not allowed, but maybe instead of going to  
24          the game and after the game they would go to see if  
25          their parents were there and they would go up a close

1            somewhere and they would invite you in and they would  
2            have a television, which we didn't have, and they would  
3            give you lemonade and you would think, maybe this is the  
4            way life should be.

5                       You'd go back and sit and maybe try to work out  
6            a way that you could go away and jump on a train or  
7            a tram or something to take you away. But usually, you  
8            kind of bottled out of it. Some boys did.

9            Q. You tell us in your statement there were some boys who  
10           ran away quite regularly --

11           A. Yes.

12           Q. -- and were taken back.

13           A. Yes.

14           Q. Do you know what happened, if anything, when they were  
15           taken back?

16           A. Well, you never ever saw anything, but they used to say  
17           they'd get punished physically, hit with whatever  
18           implements were at hand. They used to sort of describe  
19           it, you know, tell you what happened. It was their  
20           word, you know, so they might have embellished it a wee  
21           bit to make themselves important, but certainly they  
22           were taken away and on occasion came back quite  
23           distressed about it all.

24           Q. You do tell us about one particular individual who had  
25           a particular nickname --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- who ran away on quite a regular basis.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. I think you tell us about one instance where in fact  
5 he hadn't gone very far, he was hiding in the furnace  
6 room at --

7 A. In the furnace room, which was at the very sort of  
8 bottom, at the end of the big Victorian part of the  
9 building, and he was hiding in there.

10 Q. And you knew he was there?

11 A. Yes. Yes. We knew. We used to try and take him some  
12 food, but he wouldn't come out. He was -- I think  
13 he was just too terrified to come out.

14 Q. But he eventually came out?

15 A. He eventually came out.

16 Q. There was some incident where some man --

17 A. Came -- this man came and he was in there and this  
18 boy -- am I allowed to say his name?

19 Q. It won't be published. You can tell us his first name,  
20 for example.

21 A. [REDACTED] was his first name. [REDACTED] was in the boiler room  
22 and this guy came and, of course, [REDACTED] got the fright  
23 of his life -- that's what actually chased him out  
24 because this guy came. Later on -- and I don't know  
25 whether it was true, it could just have been rumour, but

1           they were saying there was a murderer that had murdered  
2           people not far from the home.

3           Q.   So there's some speculation that this individual was  
4           this murderer?

5           A.   Yes, so this was all -- you know, I don't know if  
6           it's -- I honestly don't know if that's true, I couldn't  
7           say.  But that was the speculation at the time.  So he  
8           came out then and of course when he ran out and he ran  
9           back to St Joseph's and his face was black and all he  
10          had was white eyes because he'd been in -- it was  
11          a furnace room with coke, the charcoal, big piles of it,  
12          and on occasion you had to go -- some of the boys were  
13          taken to move the charcoal from one bit.  I think the  
14          people that delivered it delivered it to one part of the  
15          furnace and sometimes we moved it nearer the actual  
16          fire.

17          Q.   Do you know what happened to this boy?

18          A.   Well, we do know he got quite badly beaten.  We know  
19          that.

20          Q.   How do you know that?

21          A.   Well, he told us.  It was just -- you know, you just  
22          knew.  He'd been away for a while and come back and he'd  
23          been badly beaten because of running away.  So ...

24                 The other thing was for some reason he was always in  
25          trouble and his nickname was "the hellish devil".

1           That's what everyone called him. It was just a  
2           nickname, "the hellish devil". One time Sister BAF  
3           overheard us saying that and she flew into a rage.

4           Q. When you say "us", who --

5           A. The boys, the other boys.

6           Q. Were you involved in that?

7           A. Yes. She would say -- we'd say, "The hellish devil done  
8           this", and she'd flew into a rage because -- and she  
9           started shouting and bawling, really, really screaming.  
10          She thought we'd said "the Irish devil", and she said --  
11          she had a very strong Irish accent. She was saying,  
12          "There's no devils in Ireland", and she started going  
13          wild, really.

14          Q. What did she do?

15          A. She started hitting anyone that was close to her  
16          what was saying that, screaming at the top of her voice,  
17          "There's no devils in Ireland, there's no devils in  
18          Ireland". And everybody was all ...

19          Q. So she was clearly confused by the reference to the  
20          hellish devil and thought it was the Irish devil?

21          A. She thought we said "Irish devil", but in fact it was  
22          his nickname, the hellish devil. It was just -- I don't  
23          know who gave him that name but that's what everyone  
24          knew him as.

25          Q. Can I then take you, James, up to the point where you

1           came to leave Bellevue. I think we established earlier  
2           that was in [REDACTED] 1960 when you were aged 10. Was it  
3           your father who came you take you back?

4           A. Yes.

5           Q. When I say "you", did that also involve your older  
6           brother and your younger brother?

7           A. Yes.

8           Q. So far as your younger brother was concerned, had he  
9           during his time at Bellevue been in St Mary's throughout  
10          the whole period?

11          A. No, he came to St Joseph's right at the end. I couldn't  
12          say how long he was there. But it wasn't very long.  
13          Maybe six months. I couldn't actually say how long it  
14          was.

15          Q. But in any event, your father came and took you away?

16          A. Yes.

17          Q. I think you tell us a little bit about life after care,  
18          but I think effectively your family were together again.  
19          I think your father remarried; is that correct?

20          A. Yes, yes.

21          Q. You give us some evidence about what you've done in your  
22          life. You ended up, I think, becoming a self-employed  
23          person.

24          A. Yes.

25          Q. We needn't go into the details of that, but that's what

1           you did?

2           A. Yes.

3           Q. Insofar as reporting any of the abuse that happened to  
4           you at Bellevue, you do tell us in your statement that  
5           you did tell your father at one point what Sister BAF  
6           did in relation to the time you were mopping the floor.

7           A. Yes.

8           Q. I think in particular you told him that you'd got the  
9           belt at school for being late.

10          A. Yes.

11          Q. Did he do anything about that?

12          A. Yes, he went and caused quite a complaint, a stir, about  
13          it. Afterwards, after he'd left, I remember they went  
14          into this kind of boardroom place with the superior  
15          nun -- I only assume it to be, I don't know what her  
16          name was, but my father was there and this superior nun  
17          and another one. My father said about this happening  
18          and they more or less said it wasn't quite like that, it  
19          was maybe an accident or something and played it down.  
20          It kind of appeased my father a wee bit, to be quite  
21          honest with you.

22                 After he left, when he went away, they came and  
23          got -- it was me and my older brother that were there  
24          and they came and gave us -- not physical punishment  
25          but, "How dare you say these things against us", and



1           this went on for quite a while. It was like keeping  
2           going on about it.

3           Q. Over a period of time?

4           A. Yes. Yes, for sort of daring to, how would you say,  
5           grass them in, would be a term, "How dare you go behind  
6           our backs and say these things".

7           Q. And you tell us in your statement, paragraph 94, that  
8           the nuns and staff would be saying things like, "Oh here  
9           he comes", and, "Your father's not going to help you  
10          now". Was that the sort of thing that was being saved?

11          A. Yes, that kind of -- there was an atmosphere of ...  
12          After all we've done for you, how could you sort of dare  
13          to say these things -- as if they weren't true.

14          Q. And was it after that that you were made a refectory  
15          boy?

16          A. Yes.

17          Q. Did you think there was some connection between the two  
18          events?

19          A. I think so. It was too much of a coincidence. It was  
20          just maybe a short period after that. It could have  
21          been two, three weeks or so.

22          Q. And as far as -- sorry.

23          A. I think it was a punishment.

24          Q. You think it was a punishment?

25          A. Yes.

1 Q. So far as life after care would be concerned, did you  
2 speak to anyone else about your experiences at Bellevue  
3 after you had left?

4 A. No.

5 Q. I think you tell us in your statement in due course you  
6 came to speak to your wife.

7 A. Oh yes, I thought you meant just after leaving.

8 Q. In due course.

9 A. In due course I spoke to my wife about it, yes, after  
10 I got married, which was 20 years after leaving. That's  
11 probably the first time I ever spoke about it. In fact,  
12 my children didn't even know until this inquiry came up.

13 Q. What about your older brother? Did you speak to him  
14 about life at Bellevue?

15 A. Yes. Whenever we met. He moved abroad and lived most  
16 of his life in the Civil Service. He worked all over  
17 the world.

18 Q. We needn't go into the detail of that, but you did speak  
19 to him about it?

20 A. Yes. We used to sort of ... sort of remember and talk  
21 about certain individuals and always taking a wonder how  
22 they've got on in life.

23 Q. How about your younger brother then, did you --

24 A. When we speak to him about it, he doesn't really  
25 remember. You know, he's got no kind of --

1 Q. He had just gone to St Joseph's just before he left,  
2 I think you told us --

3 A. Yes, yes.

4 Q. -- so he had spent his time effectively in St Mary's.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And insofar as any impact you feel that your experiences  
7 at Bellevue have had on your life, do you have anything  
8 that you can tell us about that?

9 A. On a personal level, I just feel it affected me in my  
10 nervous system, you know.

11 Q. We can read what you've told us about it. You also,  
12 I think, wondered whether there was some connection  
13 between your health and the peeling of potatoes that you  
14 seemed to have done for a period of time.

15 A. Yes. After I'd done it for, I don't know, maybe a month  
16 or whatever, I took not well. I was really sick and it  
17 turned out it was a kind of jaundice, my eyes and my  
18 skin went yellow and I was unwell for quite a time.  
19 Since then it's reoccurred two or three times, maybe  
20 more, in my life. It's like jaundice.

21 Q. Do you think there's some connection or have you been  
22 told there's some connection?

23 A. I've not been told, it was just -- it was while I was  
24 doing these things, because when you cleaned out all the  
25 rubbish from the machines, you usually just scooped it

1 out and you had a tin or a bucket and then you emptied  
2 it, but I don't ever recall there being wash hand basins  
3 or soap there or anything to clean yourself with.  
4 I don't remember anything like that. You just done it  
5 and then you went away and you'd go for your dinner or  
6 whatever.

7 LADY SMITH: Are you saying these potatoes still had a lot  
8 of dirt on them, earth, when they went into the cleaning  
9 machine?

10 A. They had all the earth and the -- and sometimes the  
11 greenery from them. They came in big sacks, so they had  
12 obviously just come straight from the farm. They came  
13 in big sacks. You took them out and put them into your  
14 little bowl to empty into the top of the machine --

15 LADY SMITH: So they weren't washed before they went into  
16 the machine?

17 A. No.

18 LADY SMITH: And then you were cleaning out the machine with  
19 your bare hands afterwards?

20 A. The water came into them, in the machine, and then the  
21 lid went on, and the thing started spinning. It was  
22 like lava or the stuff on the side of houses, like rough  
23 cast. The inside of it was all like that and they would  
24 spin, I think the bottom spun one way and the sides spun  
25 round and the water sprayed in and then --

1 LADY SMITH: And that would rub the skins off because it was  
2 scouring against --

3 A. You then had to sit with a knife and take all the eyes  
4 out.

5 LADY SMITH: So your point is it was a pretty dirty job --

6 A. Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: -- and you did it with your bare hands and no  
8 washing facilities.

9 A. No, no gloves or anything like that.

10 MR MacAULAY: If I could take you back to your statement at  
11 paragraph 115 -- we'll put that on the screen. You talk  
12 there about an incident where you heard a church  
13 spokesman speaking on the radio and saying that all the  
14 allegations of abuse were rubbish --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- and you had a particular reaction to that. What was  
17 your reaction to that?

18 A. The first time I heard it, I was sitting in my car and  
19 the radio was on and they were talking about -- I don't  
20 know what home it was. I think it was Nazareth House,  
21 I may be mistaken. Someone came forward to say that  
22 they'd been kind of badly treated there. And it was  
23 starting to take a bit of national -- become ...  
24 I think it was on the news or something.

25 I heard this guy who was a spokesman for the

1 church -- I don't know what department or anything --  
2 and I just heard him saying that basically this is  
3 a load of rubbish, this never happened, these people are  
4 kind of making it up, and I was so angry. I couldn't  
5 believe it. I thought, what right has this guy got?

6 Q. How long ago was this, James, that this happened?

7 A. I'm trying to -- I'm kind of losing the timescales here.  
8 It could be as far back as 2005, maybe even slightly  
9 before that.

10 Q. So it was a number of years ago?

11 A. Yes. I was that angry. I didn't know how I'd be able  
12 to get back to say to these people: this is exactly what  
13 happened. So much so that I actually felt like phoning  
14 up the newspapers and putting an article in. That's  
15 how -- that someone could just stand and say, "They're  
16 all talking rubbish" ...

17 Q. What you do tell us in your statement in the next  
18 paragraph is:

19 "I'm not interested in seeing people punished.  
20 I really don't blame the individuals. I don't really  
21 blame the nuns. I look on them as victims of their  
22 institutions and the era."

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. "They weren't quite forced to act the way they did, but  
25 they were put in a position of power."

1                   That's your approach?

2           A.   Yes.   Yes.   Not at the time.

3           Q.   No.   But now?

4           A.   On reflection, yes.   I feel that it was an  
5               institutionalised sort of --

6           Q.   And you're angry, as you say, towards the system that  
7               allowed --

8           A.   Yes.

9           Q.   -- that sort of environment to exist?

10          A.   Yes, especially someone who obviously couldn't have  
11               possibly known anything about it, to come up with  
12               a statement that people -- he basically said everyone  
13               was a liar.   That's what he basically said.

14          Q.   Coming then finally towards the end of your statement,  
15               paragraph 120.   Again, I'll read this out.   What you say  
16               is:

17               "I spoke to the inquiry because I want to get it all  
18               out.   I don't really have an agenda.   I hope that I am  
19               believed.   I just hope that this won't happen again.   If  
20               there is a change that means institutions can't be run  
21               without oversight again then I will be happy."

22               That summarises your position?

23          A.   Yes.

24          MR MacAULAY:   Well, thank you, James, for coming to give  
25               your evidence.   It has been quite stressful for you,

1 I can see that. I haven't been sent any questions to  
2 put to you. I don't know if there are to be any.

3 LADY SMITH: Let me just check. Are there any outstanding  
4 applications for questions of this witness?

5 James, those are all the questions. It only remains  
6 for me to thank you, as has Mr MacAulay, for coming  
7 along and talking to us today. As he says, it has  
8 obviously not been easy for you, but thank you for  
9 coping and doing it. I'm now able to let you go.

10 (The witness withdrew)

11 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness, is also an  
12 applicant who wants to remain anonymous. He wants to  
13 use the name "Derek" in giving his evidence. I think  
14 I can say, my Lady, this will be a relatively short  
15 witness, and the plan then is to read into the  
16 transcript a statement.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

18 "DEREK" (sworn)

19 Questions from Mr MacAULAY

20 MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, Derek.

21 A. Good afternoon.

22 Q. I will be asking you questions based upon your statement  
23 and in particular that part of the statement dealing  
24 with your time at Smyllum. Before I do that, can I just  
25 take you to the statement itself. I'll give the number



1           for the transcript: WIT.001.001.3054. You will see that  
2           on the top right.

3           A. Yes.

4           Q. Just to begin, if I take you to the last page, which is  
5           3078, can I ask you to confirm that you have signed the  
6           statement.

7           A. Yes.

8           Q. Just looking at the last paragraph, do you say:

9                     "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
10           published as part of the evidence to the inquiry."

11                    Is that correct?

12           A. That's correct, yes.

13           Q. You go on to say:

14                     "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
15           statement are true."

16           A. Yes.

17           Q. I don't need to know your date of birth, but to get  
18           a time frame I need to have your year of birth. Can  
19           I confirm with you that you were born in 1956?

20           A. Yes.

21           Q. I'm going to ask you some questions focusing in  
22           particular on your time at Smyllum and a particular  
23           incident, but if I ask you something and you can't  
24           remember, just say so. Likewise, if something crops up  
25           that you can remember and haven't thought of before,

1 just let us know. Do you follow that?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can I then just look at your time before Smyllum and in  
4 particular at your life before you went into care?

5 I think you went into care at a very, very early age.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You probably have no recollection of that because of  
8 your age, but can you tell us now, with the benefit of  
9 hindsight, what age it was you reckon that you went into  
10 care?

11 A. Three months.

12 Q. Were you in different establishments that are aware of?

13 A. All I know is my mother couldn't look after us and I was  
14 put into a home in Edinburgh when I was three months.

15 Q. But you have no memory --

16 A. No.

17 Q. -- of that particular place?

18 A. No.

19 Q. So far as Smyllum is concerned, the information we can  
20 glean from your records that we have is that you were  
21 admitted to Smyllum on [REDACTED] 1958. So you'd be  
22 almost three years of age. Does that fit in with your  
23 own memory?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What you tell us in your statement in connection with

1 Smyllum is that you don't have a great recollection of  
2 life at Smyllum; is that right?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Do you remember at a point in time being in a dormitory  
5 area --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- with other boys? Did that section have a name that  
8 you can remember?

9 A. All I can remember is there was big dormitories in there  
10 and I remember one time I was crying my eyes out and  
11 I must have been carried by a nun back to my bed. For  
12 years I thought it was an angel but it must have been a  
13 nun.

14 Q. But I think we know that the boys and girls were kept  
15 separate.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. During your time at Smyllum, did you have much contact  
18 with any of the girls that were there?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. When you went to Smyllum, were you the only member of  
21 your family who was at Smyllum?

22 A. At the time in question I didn't know (inaudible) myself  
23 so I must have been the only person.

24 Q. Can you remember what age you were when you left  
25 Smyllum?

- 1 A. I must have been nearly 8.
- 2 Q. That would take us up roughly to about 1964.
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. I'm not going to be looking at the detail of other  
5 places you went to, but as you tell us in your  
6 statement, you were in a number of other institutions --
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. -- after Smyllum. But so far as Smyllum is concerned,  
9 I think you tell us that you have no real recollection  
10 of the food, for example, what the was food like.
- 11 A. There is only one incident I ever remember when they  
12 forced me to eat butter beans and I couldn't stand  
13 butter beans and you had to eat them. That's one of the  
14 only food issues I've ever had.
- 15 LADY SMITH: That's butter beans?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 MR MacAULAY: When you say they forced you with butter  
18 beans, can you remember what happened at all?
- 19 A. I wouldn't eat them so they made me eat them and I was  
20 sick afterwards. That's the only food issue I can ever  
21 remember.
- 22 Q. Can you remember how you were made to eat them?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. But you do have some recollection of holidays and trips  
25 that you had --

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. -- at Smyllum? I think you also said you recollect  
3 going to the pictures on a couple of times.
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. What about birthdays? Do you remember anything about  
6 your birthdays?
- 7 A. The only birthday I remember was when I was 8 and it  
8 must have been around about Easter time because  
9 I remember getting chocolate eggs.
- 10 Q. You got that as presents for your birthday?
- 11 A. I think it was when I was 8 years old.
- 12 Q. Do you have much recollection of Christmas?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. I think you thought in your statement there would be  
15 presents. Would there be a scramble for presents?
- 16 A. I do remember one particular -- there were a lot of  
17 presents there and we were all dying for them, so there  
18 was a bit of a mismatch --
- 19 Q. So far as visits from anyone concerned, you say that  
20 no one came to visit you when you were there.
- 21 A. Once I was in, smartened up, someone was going to visit  
22 me, but no one turned up. I was there for about four  
23 hours, I remember, Brylcreem in my hair, looking very  
24 smart and nobody turned up.
- 25 Q. What age were you then?

- 1 A. I didn't realise until I was 8.
- 2 Q. When you were 8?
- 3 A. The only time I knew how old I was, I was 8 years old.
- 4 Q. I want to ask you about a particular incident, Derek,  
5 and you're probably aware what the incident is. It is  
6 an incident that involved a young boy by the name of  
7 Sammy Carr. You tell us about that in your statement at  
8 paragraph 17 onwards. First of all, can I ask you about  
9 Sammy: was he a friend of yours?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Were you approximately the same age or was he a bit  
12 younger than you?
- 13 A. We used to call him "Wee Sammy Carr" because he was  
14 small and he was younger. I don't know how much  
15 younger, but he was younger.
- 16 Q. But he was a friend?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. The incident you remember and you tell us about, is that  
19 when you were playing outside the home; is that right?
- 20 A. They had a chicken coop in the grounds and we were  
21 playing in there.
- 22 Q. Can you tell us in your own words what you saw, what  
23 happened?
- 24 A. Sammy found a dead rat.
- 25 Q. Where did he find it?

1 A. In the chicken coop, it was dead. He threw it to  
2 somebody, I can't remember if it was a boy called  
3 [REDACTED] he threw it to him and he threw it back to me.  
4 I looked at the rat and it was covered in lice and stuff  
5 like that and I threw it back to him.

6 Q. You threw it to whom?

7 A. To Sammy. He put in his mouth and I remember when he  
8 pulled it out there were bits of dried blood here.

9 Q. What part of the rat did he put in his mouth?

10 A. Mainly the tail, the back end.

11 Q. Was there some sort of carry on --

12 A. We were shocked. I had never seen anything like that  
13 before. He was a bit of a daredevil. We were totally  
14 shocked. Never seen it before.

15 Q. Did you say you saw blood on his --

16 A. Just a wee dry speck (indicates).

17 Q. In the area of his mouth you're pointing to. You said  
18 you were shocked; did you speak to anybody about it?

19 A. I probably did. I probably (inaudible) because I had  
20 never seen anything like that before, somebody doing  
21 something like that. When I saw the rat, I was  
22 disgusted. It looked horrible.

23 Q. Can you remember what happened next then because I think  
24 we know that Sammy did become ill. Did you have any  
25 knowledge of that?

1 A. After that, I never saw him again. They told he was  
2 dead. I think at the time in question there was  
3 a quarantine going on. Some people were put in  
4 quarantine and some people weren't and he might have  
5 been there, I don't know.

6 Q. Do I take it then the last you saw of Sammy until he was  
7 dead was when you saw him with the rat --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- in the way you have described?

10 A. Mm-hm.

11 Q. But do you remember that there was a funeral for Sammy  
12 at Smyllum?

13 A. I remember his coffin was lying -- a wee, wee coffin and  
14 he looked like an angel. We had to kiss him and it was  
15 in the church.

16 Q. We know Sammy died in 1964. That would be roughly when  
17 you were about aged 8 or so. So does that fit in with  
18 your own time frame?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Can I go back to your statement at paragraph 20, where  
21 you say:

22 "I am not aware of being abused when I was in  
23 Smyllum and I don't remember seeing anybody else getting  
24 beaten. Maybe I'm blocking things out."

25 Do I take it from that you have no recollection of



1 anything really happening to you or seeing anything  
2 happening to anybody else?

3 A. No. No recollection.

4 Q. You do tell us that children were warned to stay away  
5 from [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

6 A. We all knew -- the children knew to stay away from him.

7 Q. But how did you know to stay away from him?

8 A. Because everybody said, he's got a bad temper, stay away  
9 from him, so we avoided him. Probably it got passed on  
10 through the people: stay away from [REDACTED] he's got  
11 a temper on him.

12 Q. And did you?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. That's really all I want to ask you about Smyllum,  
15 Derek, that particular episode.

16 When you came to leave Smyllum, you went -- I think  
17 you were taken to foster care; is that correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Again I'm not going to dwell on that, but you also,  
20 apart from being in foster care, you were in other  
21 places such as Nazareth House and St Ninian's in  
22 Falkland; is that correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. When did you come to leave care? What age were you?

25 A. Fifteen.

1 Q. You do provide us in your statement, at paragraph 126  
2 onwards, with some evidence about your life after care  
3 and in particular that you joined the army for a while.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Again, you tell us that you married your wife and that  
6 she has been your rock, effectively?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. That is what you tell us in your statement.

9 A. Yes, mm-hm.

10 Q. If we just look at the last page then of your statement,  
11 Derek, again, at paragraph 142, you come back to the  
12 position with regard to Sammy Carr. In particular, your  
13 point is that really you think very much that the fact  
14 that the rat's tail was in Sammy's mouth is connected  
15 with his death?

16 A. Yes.

17 MR MacAULAY: Very well, Derek. That's all I propose to ask  
18 you just now.

19 No one else has submitted any questions for you and,  
20 my Lady, I don't know if anyone else wishes to ask any  
21 questions.

22 LADY SMITH: Let me check if anyone has any outstanding  
23 applications. No, a lot of shaking of heads.

24 Thank you very much, Derek, for coming along to help  
25 us with your evidence today. I'm now able to let you

1 go.

2 A. Thank you.

3 (The witness withdrew)

4 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, as I indicated, the next stage  
5 involves reading in the evidence of an applicant and my  
6 learned friend Ms MacLeod will do that.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 Witness statement of "MARGARET" (read)

9 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, this is a statement of the witness who  
10 will remain anonymous and use the pseudonym "Margaret".

11 The statement can be found at WIT.001.001.2865.

12 "My name is Margaret. I was born in 1953. My  
13 contact details are known to the inquiry. I was brought  
14 up with my siblings. We stayed with my parents in  
15 Paisley in a ground floor maisonette.

16 "My older sister was brought up by my grandmother.  
17 Our house had three bedrooms. Mum and dad had the first  
18 room, my sister and I shared a room, and my older  
19 brothers had the third room.

20 "My father worked as a foundry worker and my mother  
21 was a conductress on the local buses.

22 "When I was about 5 years old my parents split up  
23 and my mother moved to England and left us in the care  
24 of my father. My father could not cope with looking  
25 after us and for a while my aunt and my uncle moved into

1 the house to help out. This lasted for a short period  
2 until my aunt became ill and then a friend of our family  
3 attempted to carry out this role, again without success.

4 "I attended St Anne's Infant School and did not  
5 settle and sometimes I would fall asleep in the class.  
6 I believe a neighbour upstairs heard my father getting  
7 more and more angry with us as he was not coping or  
8 looking after us and, along with the problems at school,  
9 reported this to the social work department.

10 "We were in our house around teatime, possibly  
11 during school holidays, when two social workers arrived  
12 at the house. They told us my mother was not coming  
13 back and we were being taken away to be looked after at  
14 a better place. They told us we would be kept together  
15 at the new place. This was when I was about 5 years  
16 old. I had already started in primary school and think  
17 it was during the holidays when we were moved.

18 "The social workers transported us to Smyllum Park  
19 in a small A40 white coloured van. We thought it was  
20 going to be a new adventure and we still hoped we were  
21 going to see our mother. The only clothes we had were  
22 the ones we were wearing.

23 "On arrival I saw this massive building and was  
24 a bit scared. As soon as we were handed over to the  
25 nuns, the social workers left and we never saw them or

1 any of their colleagues again.

2 "Against what we were told by the social workers  
3 about keeping us together I was separated from my  
4 brothers right away. The boys were taken away by one  
5 nun and I was taken away by Sister [REDACTED] AFU I was  
6 taken to the bathrooms and she forcibly took the clothes  
7 off me. She then made sure I was put in a hot bath,  
8 washed. I was scrubbed really hard with the carbolic  
9 soap. She cut my finger and toenails and then cut my  
10 hair short. She told me to forget about my brothers  
11 because I wouldn't be seeing them while I was at  
12 Smyllum. The more I asked about my brothers, the more  
13 she got angry.

14 "Sister [REDACTED] AFU took me to the dining hall and put  
15 a plate in front of me. It was the first time I saw  
16 spaghetti. I had never eaten this before and thought it  
17 was worms. She told me I had to eat it but I refused.  
18 She forced a large spoon into my mouth for me to eat.  
19 I was still trying to refuse and she grabbed me by the  
20 arm and forced the spoon into my mouth. I was retching  
21 so much she eventually gave up. She was slapping me on  
22 each arm to try and make me eat it.

23 "There were between 12 and 16 beds in the dormitory  
24 and Sister [REDACTED] AFU slept in the room situated near the  
25 door.

1           "The girls were all in their beds when I got to the  
2 dormitory. They were still awake at the time but  
3 speaking. I was made to lie with my hands clasped to  
4 the sides of my head or to lie on my back with my hands  
5 crossed under my chest. If Sister [REDACTED] AFU found  
6 anyone sleeping in a different position she would hit  
7 you until you learned to do as you were told.

8           "I later learned some of the girls managed to avoid  
9 punishments from Sister [REDACTED] AFU as she liked some of  
10 them. They would be allowed to grow their hair long and  
11 were never punished as we were.

12           The first night when Sister [REDACTED] AFU went to her  
13 room I got out of the bed to look out of the window.  
14 I was trying to see if I could see my brothers. The  
15 other girls were telling me to go back to bed. They  
16 told me I would be murdered if I was caught. They were  
17 really anxious for me.

18           "As I looked out the window, I saw a man with  
19 a cart. As he emerged from the cart, I saw this man  
20 carrying something into the field. I could not see what  
21 he was carrying but I think it was larger than a dog.  
22 Whatever he was carrying he dumped into the field.  
23 I was always scared this was him dumping a body.

24           "The next morning I woke to find for the first time  
25 in my life I had wet the bed. Sister [REDACTED] AFU saw the

1 mess and dragged me out of bed and made me take the  
2 sheets with me. She made me stand still in front of  
3 everyone. I was taken to the bathroom and told to wash  
4 the bed sheets in the small basin. Every time the water  
5 spilled out of the basin she hit me again.

6 "Every morning we were woken about 6 o'clock. We  
7 got washed and were dressed in our good clothes to  
8 attend church. After church it was back to the  
9 dormitory, change into school clothes, which were more  
10 scruffy, and then down to the dining room for breakfast.  
11 After playing in the afternoon we went to the dining  
12 hall for tea and were in bed for 7.30.

13 "The only thing I remember about food at Smyllum was  
14 you ate what you were given. As in the first day if  
15 there was anything I did not like or had not eaten  
16 before, I would try and avoid it. Sister AFU  
17 would use the spoon or a ladle and force-feed me. She  
18 was always in my vision and any time I caught her eye  
19 she took that as an excuse to slap me and threatened to  
20 hit me on the knuckles with the ladle. If she could not  
21 hit you on the knuckles, she would aim for your legs.  
22 Eventually, I learned to either the food whether I liked  
23 it or not. It saved me from her abuse.

24 "We were given a bath once every two weeks. There  
25 were only a couple of baths and we took turns to use it.

1 The water was not changed. Sister [REDACTED] AFU would scrub  
2 us with the carbolic soap and check our hair with a nit  
3 comb. There routines were drilled into me for the first  
4 couple of months after arriving. Everybody was aware of  
5 the routine and, as I was the new girl, I had to accept  
6 the punishments.

7 "Our school was within the grounds and the only kids  
8 that went there were the residents. The older kids went  
9 into the school in the town. When we finished school  
10 between 3.30 and 4.00, we went to church. After church  
11 we were to play in the cobbled yard. The only thing was  
12 there was nothing there to play with apart from a broken  
13 roundabout.

14 "At school there was a metal fence separating the  
15 boys from the girls. I used this time to try and speak  
16 to my brothers. It was one of the few times we could  
17 speak together. I would spend any free time I could to  
18 speak with them and I would even forego using the  
19 bathroom.

20 "During the day you were limited as to the number of  
21 occasions you could use the toilet. Sister [REDACTED] AFU  
22 restricted your bathroom time to wakening up, prior to  
23 school, lunchtime, teatime, and before going to bed. If  
24 you wanted to go outwith her restrictions she would make  
25 you stand and wait. All the others were allowed to use



1 the toilet before me. She warned me that if I was to  
2 allow one drop of pee out she would hit me for my  
3 troubles.

4 "One time I missed going to the bathroom so I could  
5 speak to my brothers and wet myself. Not only did  
6 Sister [REDACTED] AFU hit me, but I was given the strap at  
7 school by Sister [REDACTED] BAH the headmistress.

8 "There was never any happiness with the nuns and the  
9 only time we saw the priests was at church, after  
10 school, and on Saturdays and Sundays.

11 "One time I managed to sneak out of the dormitory  
12 and heard noises coming from one of the rooms. When  
13 I looked through the keyhole I saw many of the nuns and  
14 priests within and they were all laughing and having  
15 fun.

16 "I never thought of nuns wearing items like  
17 brassieres. One day I approached Sister [REDACTED] AFU to  
18 ask her if I could use the bathroom. I thought as  
19 I approached her she was looking at a dirty book, but  
20 I later found out it was a catalogue. I asked her if  
21 I could go to the bathroom and I was immediately struck  
22 by her. I am not sure if it was for asking or because  
23 I startled her.

24 "The only time I was allowed out was one day around  
25 Easter time. We wore pyjamas and went on a parade

1 through the town. I was around 7 years old at this  
2 time.

3 "At Christmas my great uncle gave us all presents.  
4 My brothers and I were shown the presents on  
5 Christmas Day and were allowed to play with them for  
6 a while that day. After he left, the presents were  
7 removed and we never saw them again. If any of the  
8 presents were dolls or similar, we were told not to  
9 remove the clothes from them and we had to ensure none  
10 of the presents were damaged in any way.

11 "There were no formal visits or inspections while  
12 I stayed at Smyllum. The only visit was from my great  
13 uncle. He visited about once a month and made lots of  
14 donations to the church. As a result they allowed him  
15 to visit us at the home. He was also allowed to take us  
16 out of the church but not out of the grounds.

17 "The nuns still put restrictions on us and we were  
18 not allowed to speak to our uncle about anything in the  
19 home. He was to be kept in the dark about how we were  
20 treated.

21 "On one occasion he gave me a hat with pompoms.  
22 I used to swing them about as I shook my head. When  
23 I came back from his visit, Sister AFU cut them  
24 off. At his next visit my uncle asked what happened to  
25 the hat. I couldn't tell him she cut them off and just

1 told him they must have fallen off.

2 "Sometimes my uncle left money for us at the home.  
3 This meant we were able to buy some sweets on  
4 a Saturday. If he did not leave any money then there  
5 were no treats.

6 "At one point my uncle wanted me to join the local  
7 Brownies and he persuaded the nuns to allow me to go but  
8 I only went once, twice at most. I was in the gnomes.

9 "Sister [REDACTED] AFU was so scared I was going to tell  
10 someone of the abuse and how unhappy we were at Smyllum.  
11 She eventually stopped me going. Although I stopped  
12 attending, Sister [REDACTED] AFU told me to pretend to my  
13 uncle that I was still going.

14 "I did not have any health issues while I was at  
15 Smyllum. The only time I needed anything was when I was  
16 stung by bees. In the cobbled play area there was  
17 always bees and the other girls regularly got stung but  
18 I managed to avoid them.

19 "We had to scrub the floorboards of the dormitory  
20 and this would be done every weekend. We were given  
21 polish to finish floors. The cloths we used were all  
22 hessian type. We were always getting splinters on our  
23 knees from the hessian. The girls from the dormitory  
24 were allocated this on a rota basis. We were not  
25 allowed to clean the dishes in the kitchen; that was

1 a chore kept for older children.

2 "I was given a treat once where I was allowed to  
3 shell the peas from the garden.

4 "Sister [REDACTED] AFU would regularly grab me by the  
5 hair and drag me around the rooms. Her usual method was  
6 to use the ladle and wooden spoons to grab us by the  
7 arms and hit us over the knuckles, arms and legs.

8 "The whole day from the moment you woke until the  
9 time you went to bed you were disciplined. I felt like  
10 I was targeted by Sister [REDACTED] AFU the entire length of  
11 time I stayed at Smyllum.

12 Around Christmas when I was about ten years old  
13 we were taken out of Smyllum with various aunts and  
14 uncles and later gathered at my grandmother's house in  
15 Paisley. She told us my mother was on her way from her  
16 home in England and we would be staying with her. She  
17 arrived at the house with a well-dressed man, but we did  
18 not recognise her. We all boarded a coach and moved to  
19 England.

20 "We never had any visits at Smyllum from social  
21 services or any other professionals and had no  
22 opportunity to report anything to them. Even after  
23 I left Smyllum and to this date I have not reported  
24 anything to the authorities.

25 "Life with my stepfather was not good. My mother

1 had a boy with him. I stayed with them in Salford until  
2 I was about 17. While I stayed with them I was made to  
3 clean his many boarding houses and would have to babysit  
4 for them. He would call us his 'Scottish heathens'.

5 "The priest from the Catholic school I attended was  
6 always asking for money and donations and as a result  
7 I was moved to a different school. Initially I did well  
8 at school but lost interest as I was treated differently  
9 for being Scottish. I left school when I was about 14.

10 "I had many jobs as I grew up and worked at making  
11 lampshades and also for a van hire company. I got  
12 engaged when I was about 16 and married my first husband  
13 at 19. I married him as he was over six foot tall,  
14 a rugby player, did not drink or smoke too much.  
15 I believed if I was with him, I would be protected.

16 "My marriage broke down when I was around 22.  
17 I previously suffered from post-natal depression after  
18 the birth of my first child. I left my eldest son with  
19 my husband and his parents.

20 "I continued working in many places including the  
21 catering industry. During my spare time I tried to see  
22 my son as much as possible. I could not build  
23 a relationship with him because I was scared to love  
24 him. This was as a result of how I was brought up in  
25 Smyllum where I was scared to have close or emotional

1 contact with anyone.

2 "I married again and had two children to my second  
3 husband. I was married this time for around nine years  
4 before I left him and moved back to Scotland.

5 "In Scotland I met and married my daughter's father.  
6 He was always telling me how long he knew me from my  
7 previous life in Scotland, but I never recognised him as  
8 he was involved in an accident and he looked much older  
9 than I would have expected for someone around my age.

10 "In the mid-70s I was admitted for depression to the  
11 hospital in Prestwich, then Birchall in Rochdale, after  
12 I lost a child. Part of the treatment involved  
13 receiving electric shock therapy. After being released  
14 from hospital, my son was born. Only then did I really  
15 start having a better relationship with my children.

16 "I stopped being angry with everything and was  
17 determined to look after my children and make sure none  
18 of them ended up in care. Unfortunately, through  
19 circumstances outwith my control, I could not stop my  
20 grandchildren going into care.

21 "I get on well with my brothers. One of my brothers  
22 died through drink, which I believe was brought on from  
23 his experiences in Smyllum.

24 "The manner I slept in as a child led me to be  
25 almost paralysed when I slept. I would lie in bed aware

1 of what was happening around me but unable to move.  
2 I am not able to breathe properly until I am stirred by  
3 someone. Only then do I become fully awake.

4 "My mum used to put a glass bottle on the bed and  
5 told me to kick it off the bed and she would come to my  
6 room. The only problem was I could not move my feet.  
7 This all started when I was in the home and continued  
8 into my adult life. I was diagnosed by my family doctor  
9 soon after the birth of my child.

10 "My life in Smyllum affected how I related to  
11 people. I never discussed my life there with anyone  
12 because I did not know want them to know what I went  
13 through. I was always looking for someone to look after  
14 me and protect me. It never bothered me at the places  
15 I worked because I never had to tell them anything about  
16 my previous life.

17 "I have never looked for my records relating to my  
18 time in Smyllum and I am unsure if this would help me.

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

21 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
22 true."

23 The statement was signed by "Margaret", my Lady.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

25 Where does that take us, Ms MacLeod?

1 MS MACLEOD: That concludes matters for today, my Lady.

2 Tomorrow morning we start again with oral evidence from  
3 applicants. There will be three applicants giving  
4 evidence tomorrow and hopefully, if time allows, another  
5 reading.

6 LADY SMITH: Good, thank you very much for that.

7 Very well, I'm going to adjourn now until 10 o'clock  
8 tomorrow morning for the next witness.

9 (2.55 pm)

10 (The inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on  
11 Wednesday, 10 January 2018)

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I N D E X

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2 "VICTOR" (sworn) .....2

3 Questions from MR MacAULAY .....2

4 "JAMES" (affirmed) .....51

5 Questions from Mr MacAULAY .....51

6 "DEREK" (sworn) .....112

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9 (read)

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