

1 Thursday, 26 April 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. I think, as Ms MacLeod indicated

4 last night, we were moving to one oral witness today,

5 is that right --

6 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, my Lady.

7 LADY SMITH: -- and some statements are going to be read in

8 as well?

9 MR MacAULAY: There will be one oral witness this morning

10 and one oral witness this afternoon.

11 LADY SMITH: Sorry, one oral witness this afternoon. One of

12 the three can't come after all; they can come on a later

13 date.

14 MR MacAULAY: That is so. And your Ladyship is correct,

15 certainly one, if not two, read-ins during the course of

16 the day.

17 The first witness, my Lady, is an applicant who

18 wants to remain anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym

19 "John" in giving his evidence.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

21 "JOHN" (affirmed)

22 LADY SMITH: I think you've found the right position for

23 that microphone. The microphone really does help. It

24 helps you to be able to be heard, because this is quite

25 a big room, and to make sure everyone can hear you

1 properly.

2 I'm now going to hand over to Mr MacAulay to ask
3 questions.

4 Questions from MR MacAULAY

5 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, John.

6 A. Good morning.

7 Q. Can I just confirm the year of your birth? I don't want
8 the date of your birth, just the year. Were you born in
9 1951?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. In the red folder in front of you, you'll find your
12 statement, the statement you've given to the inquiry.
13 For the transcript, I'll give the reference number.
14 It's WIT.001.001.4147. Could I ask you to look at the
15 last page of the document? That's at 4161.

16 Can I just ask you to confirm, John, that you have
17 signed the statement.

18 A. Yes, Colin, yes.

19 Q. And do you also tell us in the last paragraph of the
20 statement:

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

23 Is that correct?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. And you go on to say:

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

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. I will be asking you questions essentially based on your
5 statement, John, and if I ask you a question, let's say
6 in connection with a date, and it's something you don't
7 remember, just say "I don't remember".

8 A. Right.

9 Q. And likewise if something comes to your mind in the
10 course of my asking a question that you haven't told us
11 about, just feel free to tell us about that; do you
12 understand that?

13 A. Yes, I understand, yes.

14 Q. I think your position is that you don't really have any
15 real recollection of what your family life was like
16 before you went into care.

17 A. No.

18 Q. And so far as care is concerned, is it the case that you
19 went to Nazareth House Aberdeen at a point in time?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So far as the records go to show, the Sisters of
22 Nazareth admission records suggest that you were
23 admitted to Nazareth House Aberdeen on [REDACTED] 1952.

24 So you'd be aged about 1?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. I take it you have no recollection of that?
- 2 A. No, no.
- 3 Q. But according to their records -- and I think you've
- 4 been made aware of this, John -- you left on
- 5 [REDACTED] 1967.
- 6 A. No, 1966.
- 7 Q. And I think your position is you left in [REDACTED].
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Can I just say to you that the social work records that
- 10 we've recovered confirm your position, that you left in
- 11 [REDACTED] 1966.
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. So at that time you'd be aged about 15 or so?
- 14 A. Yes, 15, yes.
- 15 Q. Were you ever given any explanation as to why you were
- 16 taken into care?
- 17 A. No, I can't say ... They never explained it to me, but
- 18 I can obviously presume the obvious --
- 19 Q. I think many years later, you did meet your mother; is
- 20 that right?
- 21 A. Yes, later on in my early 20s.
- 22 Q. And did you discuss being taken into care with her at
- 23 all?
- 24 A. I tried to get it out of her, but she was very -- kept
- 25 it close to her chest, you know, didn't give me any

- 1 details.
- 2 Q. Insofar as Nazareth House Aberdeen is concerned then,
3 being just essentially a baby when you went there --
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. -- would you have been taken into what one might call
6 a nursery area of the building?
- 7 A. Yes. There was a nursery area for under fives.
- 8 Q. Do you have any recollection of being in that particular
9 area?
- 10 A. I think one or two recollections, but they're very
11 vague, you know, they're very -- only a wee child, under
12 five, you know. But you remember some of the faces that
13 you grew up with, but they were in the nursery too. But
14 basically it's vague, you know.
- 15 Q. So what was the arrangement though: you're in the
16 nursery up to a particular age and are you then moved to
17 another part of the building?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Can you explain it to me? What was the position?
- 20 A. Well, you went -- obviously, being a boy, you went to
21 the boys' side. I think they got another boy to look
22 after you, to show you the ropes.
- 23 Q. Was that when you moved from the nursery to the boys'
24 side?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Would that be at the age of about 5 that you'd --

2 A. Yes, about 5.

3 Q. And do you remember moving from the nursery?

4 A. I do. Funnily enough, I do remember that because in
5 a strange sort of way -- I was only about 4 or 5 at the
6 time, but maybe because I thought I was grown up then,
7 I don't know.

8 Q. But at the age of 4 or 5, that would take us to about,
9 what, 1956 or so that you moved to what's called the
10 boys' side?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Can you tell me a little bit about the sleeping
13 arrangements then?

14 A. It was big dormitories, like big long rooms. Rows of
15 beds. I would say about -- you had a door there and
16 a door at the other end (indicating) --

17 Q. Yes.

18 A. -- and a passageway through the middle of it. There
19 were beds on either side and then there was other
20 beds -- I can't remember, if there was like two or three
21 rows on either side of the passageway. Because it was
22 quite big -- it was like a bed and then a wee locker
23 thing either at the top of the bed or the bottom of the
24 bed, I can't actually remember what --and you had a wee
25 chair, but that was your bed space.

1 Q. Can you remember how many dormitories there were for the
2 boys?

3 A. I think in the boys' side then there was two big
4 dormitories because I had to go through one big
5 dormitory to get to my dormitory. I think there was
6 a wee -- I think you turned right, there was a wee dead
7 end, there were about five or six beds in there, you
8 know, sort of -- just a vague recollection, basically.

9 Q. Have you any idea now, looking back, how many beds would
10 have been in that first dormitory, at least, that you
11 were in?

12 A. Well, there's at least, I'd say, probably about 20, 30.
13 That's what it seemed like, you know. It seemed to be
14 quite a lot of beds, but I was only a wee boy at the
15 time.

16 Q. Did you move from there, though, or did you stay in the
17 same dormitory during your --

18 A. No, no, I eventually moved -- what they did was they put
19 inner walls in, like these (indicating), and they made
20 it smaller bedroom type things. It was the same room,
21 but it was smaller type bedrooms, you know --

22 Q. When did that happen?

23 A. Oh, late 50s, early 60s. But I do remember the man
24 coming because he had the wood and how he was building
25 the frames: he put the wood up and then he put the

1 plasterboard or the hardboard over it. But he was
2 explaining to us what he was doing. He was quite a nice
3 man, he was explaining how he was using -- he was
4 a carpenter -- joiner they call them now -- but he did
5 explain what he was doing. He made about four bedrooms
6 in each. Four smaller bedrooms in each big ... if you
7 get what I mean, he made this room into about four
8 smaller rooms.

9 Q. Did you stay in the same bed space or did you move from
10 where you were when you went there to another part?

11 A. I think roughly -- it was the same big room only they
12 made it smaller rooms, if you get what I mean, as far as
13 I can recall.

14 Q. You've been telling us about the boys' side. There was
15 also a girls' side?

16 A. Yes, there was.

17 Q. What was the position in relation to being separated
18 from girls? Did you have any dealings with the girls
19 during your time there?

20 A. Officially, no. Officially, no, but you did see them at
21 school, the girls, because you went on the same school
22 bus. They kept the girls separate. I suppose that's
23 for obvious reasons, you know, young boys, young girls.
24 Sometimes at night or in the afternoon in the summer
25 months you would meet up with them and go down to the

1 beach, but you were allowed to do that. The nuns didn't
2 like us talking to the girls or the girls talking to us,
3 but I was just -- I suppose because they were nuns, you
4 know, but we'd meet up with them, yes.

5 Q. And the meeting up with them, was that when you were
6 a bit older?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. When you say going to the beach, would you go down to
9 the beach on your own? By that I mean without nuns.

10 A. Aye, but sometimes there were nuns down there.
11 Sometimes they would let you walk down to the beach. It
12 was just about 2 or 3 miles away but -- we didn't mind
13 that. But you'd meet up with the girls at a prearranged
14 place. It was just basically kids, you know, just young
15 ones larking about.

16 Q. What about the nuns themselves? Were you aware if there
17 was someone, a Mother Superior, who was in charge of the
18 whole establishment? Was there a Mother Superior?

19 A. Yes. I can't recall the Mother Superior's name. But
20 there was also a Mother Superior. I don't think we had
21 anything ... We rarely met the Mother Superior. She
22 had an office and that, but she didn't have any dealings
23 with us as such, you know.

24 Q. In your time there when you moved there first of all,
25 when you moved to the boys' side from the nursery, was

1 there a particular nun who was in charge of you?

2 A. Yes. There was a Sister **LFD** and there was a --

3 I think a Sister **LFB** . Over the years there were

4 different nuns. And a Sister **LDR** if I remember

5 rightly.

6 Q. Were these nuns there in charge of you at different

7 points in times?

8 A. Yes, yes. I can't recall which year, but when I left,

9 Sister **LFD** was in charge.

10 Q. So you were older then? I think you were 15.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And were there particular nuns in charge of particular

13 age groups then on the boys' side?

14 A. I can't recall. I can't recall. I honestly can't

15 recall if it was an age group. I just can't ...

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. I'd only be hazarding a guess. I can't particularly

18 recall.

19 Q. What about civilian staff, if I can call them that?

20 Were you conscious of there being civilian staff?

21 A. Yes, there was some, yes.

22 Q. You say this in your statement --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- it's on the screen. In paragraph 7 what you say is:

25 "There were also civilian staff, some of whom were

1 nice while others were nasty."

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can you explain what you mean by that?

4 A. Well, most of them were quite nice, but there was one
5 man in particular, a Mr LDU. He wasn't a very
6 particularly nice person.

7 Q. And I think tell us a little bit about him in your
8 statement.

9 A. I do, yes.

10 Q. So that's who you have in mind in particular when you
11 make that comment?

12 A. Yes. He wasn't a nice person at all.

13 Q. Can I ask you a little bit then about the general
14 routine once you've got a memory of how things were. So
15 we're looking really at when you're on the boys' side
16 and left the nursery. In the morning you'd be woken up;
17 is that right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. How did that happen?

20 A. I think one of the nuns just came round and shouted
21 in the bedroom. I think they just shouted, but you
22 didn't mind that. About 7ish, say half 6/7.

23 Q. Did you have to go to church in the morning?

24 A. Yes, quite -- I don't think it was every day, but it was
25 most days we had to go to church before school.

1 Q. What can you tell me about mealtimes then? What was the
2 position let's say at breakfast when you went for your
3 breakfast? What was the set-up?

4 A. You just went for your breakfast.

5 Q. And what was the food like?

6 A. It was okay. I suppose eatable. I don't think it was
7 that bad really, but I mean, you could -- you know ...

8 Q. If you look at paragraph 12 of your statement, you say:

9 "I don't recall much about breakfast time. I recall
10 that once or twice --"

11 A. About burnt porridge, yes.

12 Q. Yes, about burnt porridge. Was that just one or two
13 occasions that happened?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And which tasted foul. You go on to say:

16 "I was forced to eat it anyway."

17 Do you see that?

18 A. Yes. I was, yes. On a couple of occasions you were
19 forced to eat it, the burnt porridge.

20 Q. How did that -- can you explain what happened?

21 A. There was a nun -- well, we said that the porridge was
22 burnt, it tasted quite foul. It wasn't all the time,
23 just a couple of times. And then -- but the nun made us
24 eat it and she would be standing -- you'd be sitting
25 there and she'd be standing over you watching you eat

- 1 it. It wasn't a very pleasant experience, you know.
- 2 Q. You also say that they could be quite abusive about it,
3 but they didn't strike you for it; is that right?
- 4 A. Yes. They could be quite abusive in their own way, not
5 swear words, but just nasty, you know, nasty type
6 people, you know.
- 7 Q. Can you give me some examples?
- 8 A. Well, they were always letting on that you were useless
9 and that and you hadn't a clue. In fairness, they said
10 that to most of the boys. I presume they did the same
11 to the girls as well. But they were letting on that we
12 didn't have a brain, only half a brain. But I think
13 when you're a young child, it does bother you in a way,
14 you know. It does affect you and you never forget it.
15 But I have just always thought it was a strange way of
16 bringing up kids, you know.
- 17 Q. So are you talking more generally now about how nuns
18 would speak to you?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Did this happen throughout your time there?
- 21 A. Pardon?
- 22 Q. Did this sort of thing happen throughout your whole time
23 there?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Did you see other children being treated in that way?

1 A. Yes. Yes, I have seen other children being treated that
2 way.

3 I think I got some comfort from it, knowing that it
4 wasn't just me being -- they treated everybody like
5 that, you know. Most of them were like that. So in
6 a strange way you get a certain comfort out of it. It
7 was just the way they were, they treated you that way,
8 you know.

9 Q. But in any event, as far as being forced to eat your
10 food was concerned, you were treated in that way, but
11 you were not physically forced to eat your food?

12 A. No, I don't think -- no. When a big nun's standing over
13 you and you're only a wee boy, it can be quite
14 intimidating when you're only a wee kid and you're sort
15 of like that, you're looking at your bowl and you're
16 looking up at her. It's a strange feeling, yes.

17 Q. You give us an example in paragraph 12 about a young --
18 about what you describe as a young Spanish female
19 student, who, I think, you tell us told the nuns that
20 they maybe shouldn't shout at you; is that right?

21 A. That's correct, yes.

22 Q. Can you say what age you were when that incident
23 occurred?

24 A. I'd say about 12 or 13.

25 Q. So you were a bit older by then?

1 A. A bit older but -- she was quite nice. I did notice
2 a certain nun was rather abusive to her as well, which
3 I found strange, but I think this Spanish girl was
4 terrified of the nuns too, you know. It's just the way
5 the nuns had -- but I do remember the Spanish girl was
6 quite terrified. I don't think I'm allowed to say her
7 name anyway, but she was quite -- she was in her late
8 teens, a student type. I think she was over here
9 learning English. Maybe that's the best way to learn
10 English, to come over and pick it up here.

11 LADY SMITH: Was she staying in Nazareth House?

12 A. Yes, Lady Smith.

13 LADY SMITH: Was she helping out?

14 A. She was, she was helping out, yes. But I think she was
15 some sort of -- I think she was over here learning
16 English. When she first came she couldn't speak
17 English, she was Spanish, but eventually you could see
18 her -- because she used to ask us one or two words, what
19 this and that meant. She was quite a nice person.

20 MR MacAULAY: When you say that the nuns were abusive to
21 her, can you explain that? What was said?

22 A. A certain Sister [REDACTED] -- I never understood why because
23 I was young at the time, but you used to see her, she
24 used to have the Spanish girl in tears, but [REDACTED] wasn't
25 a particularly nice person. But I don't know

1 100 per cent, I can't recall 100 per cent what it was
2 about, but she used to have the Spanish girl in tears
3 quite often and it's a bit off-putting when there's
4 a big load of kids there and she's getting on to
5 a grown-up, the nuns, and the grown-up's in tears, but
6 you're only kids and it's a bit confusing, you know.

7 Q. Did you hear what was being said?

8 A. I can't actually ... I just know that -- I heard the
9 Spanish girl shouting at her once or twice, I suppose
10 with a Spanish accent you couldn't really -- and she was
11 angry, you couldn't really pick up what she was saying.
12 But **LFD** was quite -- I wouldn't say a foul mouth but
13 a nasty type person. I don't think she liked anyone.
14 I can only presume that she was forced to become a nun,
15 you know, say her parents or something, but she was
16 obviously a very unhappy nun, you know.

17 Q. You said a little while ago, I think, if I picked you up
18 correctly, that the Spanish girl seemed to be terrified
19 of this nun or nuns in general?

20 A. Well, of Sister **LFD** anyway from what I could see.

21 Q. What about you?

22 A. I think I was terrified at first when I was younger but
23 towards the end, 14, 15, I'd say I was still very
24 cautious of what you said to them or what you did. You
25 were still cautious. I think you just learnt to go with

1 the flow. You knew what you could do and you knew what
2 you couldn't do, if you get what I mean.

3 Q. When you say you were terrified at least up until you
4 were into your teens, what made you feel terrified?

5 A. Well, they were just always pulling you up. You just
6 didn't want to get pulled up in particular or sometimes
7 they would make you stay in at night or in the afternoon
8 while all your pals are outside playing in the yard. It
9 was things like that. Or they just told you to go up to
10 your bedroom, sit beside your bed. Things like that,
11 restriction of privileges type thing. There was a lot
12 of that.

13 But the last thing you want when you're a young
14 boy -- well, you want to go out and play football with
15 your pals at that age. But you had to watch what you
16 said to them or what you did.

17 Q. Can I go back to one thing you say in your statement.
18 I've been asked to ask you about this. This is in
19 paragraph 10 if we just scroll up the page. You do
20 mention there that you would watch television; is that
21 right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Where was the television room?

24 A. We had a big -- we had a sitting room, say about the
25 first or second floor, because the ground floor of the

1 home, it was like mainly old people, the old men's side
2 was below us, but the older people were down the stairs
3 on the ground floor. But we took over the first, second
4 and third floors, if I remember rightly, and we had
5 a sitting room, I think it was on the first, maybe the
6 second. The third floor was all bedrooms.

7 Q. Was that where the TV was?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. How often were you allowed to watch television?

10 A. I'd say most nights and then -- but now and again if
11 you're a bad boy or something, well, obviously you
12 weren't allowed. Even in them days, although it was
13 black and white TV, you still liked your telly, you
14 know. You watched certain programmes on the TV, which
15 was quite good.

16 Q. You go on to say in that paragraph if you go back to the
17 screen, John, some things were good.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And I've been asked to ask you if you can perhaps give
20 us some examples of what was good.

21 A. Well, like, Top of the Pops. That was quite popular
22 then. Then there were things like -- was it
23 Crackerjack? There was a lot of children's programmes,
24 Crackerjack and ... I think Blue Peter was on then, if
25 I recall.

- 1 Q. So there were programmes you liked?
- 2 A. They had programmes designed for young kids, you know,
3 children mainly, yes. But there were some good
4 programmes. I mean, I didn't watch the news or anything
5 like that in them days, you know.
- 6 Q. Okay. Can I move on to ask you about bathing. Because
7 you do tell us -- give us some information about how
8 baths were organised and I think you tell us you got
9 a bath perhaps once or twice a week; is that right.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Can you just explain to me how that was arranged?
- 12 A. Yes. You got a bath like, I think it was like
13 a Saturday and a Tuesday or a Wednesday, I think twice
14 a week. You'd all get ready for your bath and you
15 seemed to be together or a couple of youse at the same
16 time, but I suppose you're all kids. As I said, I don't
17 know whether it was to humiliate you or what, just to --
18 I don't know, just like a cattle market, basically. But
19 I think oddly enough you got used to it.
- 20 Q. What do you mean by a cattle market? What happened?
- 21 A. Well, you were getting bathed, but it seemed to be in
22 front of everyone, with doors open and that. But
23 I think you just got used to it after a while.
- 24 You could always tell the strangers, they were all
25 sort of embarrassed, saying you can't do that, but

1 I think you all grew up with it and you got used to it.

2 It was strange.

3 Q. Did that remain your position throughout your whole time
4 there, even when you were 14 or 15?

5 A. Yes, yes.

6 Q. Would you be bathed with boys your own age or --

7 A. No, I think at 14/15, I think they let you have a bath
8 by yourself. Because things were starting to change in
9 there. I do believe they were getting some more people
10 coming up and looking about. I remember there was
11 a door with a wee bathroom -- there were bathrooms all
12 round. It was a big sort of -- but a lot of them had
13 doors. I think when we got older we just closed the
14 door and I don't think the nuns would dare come in.
15 There was no snib on the door, but I just used to go in
16 and close the door when I was about 14 or 15. I think
17 that was just out of arrogance basically, but as I say,
18 it was a strange way of treating people. But then -- it
19 was just my way of protesting against it, but they did
20 leave you alone to a -- once you got a little bit older,
21 14, 15.

22 LADY SMITH: It would be hard work getting two 14 or
23 15-year-old boys into the same bath, wouldn't it?

24 A. They weren't in the same bath, but you were there in the
25 bath and they were there standing beside you.

1 LADY SMITH: So by that time you thought you had the
2 opportunity to just insist on a bit of privacy for
3 yourself?

4 A. In the end when I was 14, 15 I just used to close the
5 door. I think it was just a sort of silent protest type
6 thing, you know. You were getting a bit older and
7 saying, "This isn't right".

8 LADY SMITH: And of course, in your case, when you were
9 younger, you'd have never known anything different but
10 that you had to share a bath --

11 A. I was brought up on it, yes.

12 LADY SMITH: -- with all these other children and have no
13 privacy while doing so. Are you pointing out for some
14 of the children -- I think you referred to them as
15 "strangers" -- if they had previous home experience of
16 bathing in their own home, perhaps only with a brother
17 or sister, who knows, or not even that, it would seem
18 very odd to suddenly have to bath in this way.

19 A. Yes, it would, yes. But you could always tell the new
20 ones, if you know what I mean. If you didn't know
21 someone, they would stick out a mile. You would know
22 them.

23 LADY SMITH: How?

24 A. Well, they were more embarrassed or shy. You could just
25 tell. You could just tell. And we were only young kids

1 at the time. You just knew who's the new person here.

2 Trying to say it in a nice way, but you just knew.

3 MR MacAULAY: Are you able to remember how many baths were
4 available for the boys to use?

5 A. It was about four or five, but I'm only hazarding
6 a guess there, I can't actually --

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. -- recall for definite. I think ... It's just -- it
9 was way back in the 60s when I left there, mid-60s.

10 Q. Yes, it's a long time ago.

11 A. It is, yes.

12 Q. Can I ask you about schooling. When you were 5 or
13 6 years old and of primary school age, where did you go
14 for your primary schooling?

15 A. A school called St Mary's, if I remember rightly.

16 Q. It was a school that was --

17 A. Actually, it wasn't in the home, it was outside, yes.

18 Q. And then after that, did you go to a secondary school?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Was that St Peter's?

21 A. St Peter's, yes.

22 Q. As far as school was concerned, how did you feel about
23 school?

24 A. Funnily enough, I quite liked it. I liked going to
25 school because it was an escape, it was getting me out

1 of the home, if you get what I mean. I looked forward
2 to it because it was like a day out type thing and
3 I quite enjoyed school, oddly enough.

4 Q. What were you escaping from?

5 A. I think the home.

6 Q. Any particular aspects of the home?

7 A. No, I don't think ... I think it was just getting out
8 of the home in general, it was just getting out. But
9 even in my spare time or if they let you out, you
10 knew -- I think half of the excitement was getting past
11 the gate. You know, it was just a form of escapism for
12 an hour or two or for a few hours a day you could feel
13 a bit of freedom, if you know what I mean.

14 Q. But of course you'd have to go back.

15 A. Yes, of course that made it a bit ... But you just got
16 into a routine, you know. You knew you were going back,
17 but it got you out, you know.

18 Q. Was there a name that other children who weren't at the
19 home used to describe you? Was there some name that
20 they used to describe --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. What was that?

23 A. It was Nazzy, because it was Nazareth House, which was
24 a rather -- I would say the term -- in them days it was
25 because there was still a lot of anti-German feeling.

- 1 Q. Were you upset by these names?
- 2 A. Sometimes, yes. You'd get one or two of the boys or
3 girls in the school saying their father fought in
4 World War II against the Nazis and they would look at
5 you -- I think some of them literally thought we were
6 German, you know. Just because of the nickname because
7 it's Nazareth House and they called us Nazzies.
- 8 But it's all right having a joke, but when you're on
9 the receiving end of that, but in them days it's not
10 very pleasant. It wasn't a pleasant situation. I would
11 say that to the nuns and the nuns just laughed it off,
12 but when you're a wee kid it was quite confusing. You
13 know, it's very confusing.
- 14 Q. Then just looking at the routine, you'd come back from
15 school, if you were at school, and you'd have your tea.
16 Is that correct?
- 17 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 18 Q. When normally would bedtime be?
- 19 A. As I say, about -- between 9 and 10. I think depending
20 on how old you were. I think some of the younger ones
21 went at about half 8.
- 22 Q. So when you were younger you went to bed a little bit
23 earlier but when you got older, you stayed --
- 24 A. You would get that bit more because you were slightly
25 older.

1 Q. Even when you were 14, 15, when were lights out?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. When were lights out when you were 15 --

4 A. I'd say during the week it was about 10/10.30, but
5 sometimes a Saturday night if something came on TV, they
6 might let you stay up a bit later. But the TV closed
7 about 11/11.30 in them days and at the end the old test
8 card would come up.

9 It wasn't 24-hour TV then. There was no Sky TV or
10 anything. We had a deprived life, you know! But it was
11 just like black and white TV, but everyone had that and
12 it finished about 11. But if it was something good --
13 sometimes -- we had a old type record player and they
14 would let you play like records, if you were a good boy,
15 say about Friday night or a Saturday night, sometimes at
16 about 11, and then you'd go off to bed then. I think
17 we were quite happy at that, you know.

18 Q. You do tell us in your statement at paragraph 19, it's
19 on the screen, what you say is:

20 "A man called LDU ..."

21 And you have mentioned him before.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. "... was always there at night."

24 A. Yes. I'd say every night of the week, yes.

25 Q. Can I just ask you, where was he?

1 A. In the -- well, he was definitely in the boys' side. He
2 used to come in, say about 7/8 at night. He would show
3 his face and then he'd disappear for about an hour and
4 then he'd come back again. It was a bit strange.

5 I think he went into the pub in between sort of times,
6 and then -- but he was a rather nasty type person.

7 I don't quite know what his purpose was in there.

8 Q. I think you thought he may not have been a member of the
9 staff.

10 A. Yes. His wife worked in the home; she was [REDACTED] or
11 something, if I recall rightly. But she worked there.
12 I remember her working there, but I can't recall her
13 exact function in the home. But [REDACTED] LDU had a job
14 during the day.

15 Q. But not in the home?

16 A. No. Elsewhere. He'd come in at night-time and it
17 seemed a rather strange situation. He just used to walk
18 about, but all the kids were terrified of him, we were
19 all terrified. He was quite a big man and we were only
20 wee kids. I think he loved throwing his weight about.

21 Q. What you say in your statement, and I'll quote what's on
22 the screen there:

23 "A guy like that should never have been allowed near
24 a children's home."

25 A. Oh, true -- well, if I was in charge of things.

1 I believe it's different now, I'm not in charge.

2 I believe they assess these people now if they're
3 working in children's homes, old people's homes --

4 Q. Are you saying that he was allowed to come in and didn't
5 appear to have a particular job?

6 A. Yes. He would just walk about. Sometimes you'd be
7 trying to do your homework or something and he would
8 come in and he'd just -- sometimes you were talking to
9 the boy next to you but you might be doing a bit of
10 homework or you might just be watching TV, and the place
11 just went -- it's like coming in here and we're all
12 chatting. He'd walk in the door and the place just went
13 quiet. He put that sort of fear into you.

14 LADY SMITH: How did he do that?

15 A. Just by being there, Lady Smith. He was quite an
16 arrogant, violent type person.

17 LADY SMITH: How could you tell he was violent?

18 A. Well, I know he was violent because he attacked me one
19 day. That's how I know.

20 MR MacAULAY: I'm going to come on to that.

21 LADY SMITH: You're saying you would know just at the
22 appearance of the man, are you?

23 A. Yes. It was that -- he would walk in -- I think if
24 you'd seen someone like that walk into a pub, or
25 something, you wouldn't serve him. Put it that way.

1 You'd just ask him to leave, even if he hadn't had
2 a drink.

3 He just walked and it was as if -- "So-and-so, what
4 are you going to do about it?" It was that arrogant
5 type way he walked in. The kids were terrified of him.

6 MR MacAULAY: Can I ask you now a little bit about
7 bed-wetting because you do talk about that in your
8 statement.

9 A. Yes, I do.

10 Q. Were there children who wet the bed?

11 A. Yes, there was.

12 Q. What about yourself, did you ever?

13 A. Once or twice, I think, when I was younger.

14 Q. Was that when you moved to the boys' side after nursery?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So far as your own personal experience is concerned, the
17 once or twice you wet the bed, what happened, if
18 anything, to you?

19 A. They made you stand in a corner and sometimes with the
20 pyjama trousers off, just the pyjama jacket on. It was
21 to try and embarrass you. It was a horrible thing.

22 I don't think any of the other boys laughed because it
23 was quite a cruel situation, but they made you stand
24 in the passageway with no pyjama trousers on.

25 Q. So would the bottom part of your body be exposed?

1 A. You had your pyjama jacket on and that was it. I used
2 to always think it was a strange -- well, a very strange
3 type thing to do, you know.

4 Q. And what about the sheets themselves? Did you have to
5 do anything with the sheets?

6 A. Well, get new sheets, I suppose, and clean up the bed.

7 Q. Who did that? Who would clean up the bed?

8 A. I think we folded up the sheets and took them to the
9 laundry, but we got new sheets and that, you know. It
10 was us, if I remember rightly. But it wasn't -- I just
11 don't think it was the right way of doing things.
12 You were living on a knife edge most of the time. You
13 didn't want to cross the line type thing. But sometimes
14 that made you even more nervous because you were trying
15 to do things perfect, but obviously -- I'd try and not
16 drop this, but that ended up, for talking's sake, you
17 ended up dropping something because you were that
18 nervous. It was just a strange way to bring up
19 children.

20 I would hate to think I'd brought my kids like that.
21 I've got children and I wouldn't obviously bring up my
22 children like that.

23 Q. You have been telling us about your own experiences and
24 you mentioned you perhaps wet the bed once or twice.
25 What about other children, other boys? Did you see if

- 1 other boys wet the bed?
- 2 A. Yes. The same --
- 3 Q. What happened to them?
- 4 A. The same treatment. Sometimes they would put the pyjama
- 5 bottoms over their head -- the nuns did it and made you
- 6 stand there. Sometimes they put the pyjama tops on
- 7 their head. It was just to embarrass them -- well, they
- 8 did succeed in doing that. They succeeded in doing it.
- 9 It wasn't a very pleasant situation, you know,
- 10 obviously.
- 11 Q. And throughout your period there that you can remember
- 12 from, say, the age of 5 up to about 15, was this
- 13 a practice that carried on during that period?
- 14 A. It died away towards the end if I remember rightly.
- 15 Before I left, the last two, maybe three years -- you
- 16 see, you used to get people coming up to visit the
- 17 home -- a Mr Leach from Dumbarton, he ran boys' clubs in
- 18 Dumbarton, but he used to come up to Nazareth House.
- 19 I think he said, if you've got any problems, see me, but
- 20 we weren't so sure at first. But it was like one of
- 21 these mad comedy things. Everyone went to see him. But
- 22 one or two things did get changed. I could see things
- 23 changing, you know, like embarrassing the boys if they
- 24 were bed-wetting and that, yes.
- 25 Q. As far as the bed-wetting practices were concerned,

1 would things be said in connection with boys who may
2 have wet the bed?

3 A. Yes, I believe there was. I just can't recall -- my
4 mind's a bit -- I can't recall exactly at the moment.

5 Q. If you look at paragraph 23 of your statement, what you
6 say there is:

7 "I think that when you wet the bed, the nuns would
8 take pride in humiliating you."

9 A. Oh yes. Well, they would. They would make you stand
10 there with no pyjama trousers on for a start. That's
11 humiliating people. Well, if I made someone stand there
12 with no trousers on, that's humiliating.

13 Q. You go on to say:

14 "They would bring down those who had wet the bed to
15 breakfast in their wet pyjamas saying, 'Look at that, he
16 wet the bed'."

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Did that happen?

19 A. Yes, and sometimes the pyjama trousers was put over the
20 head, the elasticated thing, and it was like -- I don't
21 know what you call it, a veil or something. You know,
22 it was a weird sort of experience.

23 Q. One thing you do tell us in paragraph 21 is that there
24 was a practice of putting rubber sheets on the mattress.

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Can you just describe that to me?
- 2 A. There was, I'm glad you brought that up. There was
3 a rubber sheet and it was connected, believe it or not,
4 to a battery and there was wires. They put it on most
5 of the boys' beds. You were scared to go to sleep
6 because one or two of the boys said they had got a shock
7 in the middle of the night. I thought that was a very
8 cruel sort of thing to do to most people in the home for
9 no apparent reason, even if you didn't wet the bed, and
10 I used to say, "That's not right". You were scared to
11 go to sleep, ie you were going to school the next day
12 and you were falling asleep in the school, which doesn't
13 help much, you know, when you're trying to get
14 schooled -- trying to get schooling. Because some
15 nights you were scared to go to sleep.
- 16 Q. And was there a rubber mat put on your bed?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Did you ever wet the bed --
- 19 A. No, not later on, no. I think it was just their way
20 of -- I think it was just their way of saying they're
21 the boss and you're getting a rubber sheet. You were
22 terrified. You lived in a -- it was a culture of fear.
- 23 Q. This was a rubber sheet that had some mechanism that
24 would respond in some way?
- 25 A. Yes, I don't think you actually got a shock as such, but

1 one or two of the boys said they did. When you're lying
2 in bed at night, you're sort of wondering. Next thing,
3 it's about 1, 2, 3, in the morning ... You're scared to
4 go to sleep.

5 I think because I was young I had visions of getting
6 electrocuted or something. I suppose that's going
7 through your mind, my God, yes.

8 Q. I think, when you were about 12, you did something about
9 it so far as you were concerned.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You tell us in your statement that you told them if they
12 didn't get rid of the rubber mat you'd contact the
13 police; do you remember that?

14 A. I think I did, because once or twice I started -- after
15 that incident with Mr **LDU** the police were called but
16 I think after that it gave me the confidence to stand up
17 to them because it was just that thing of fear, you
18 know. I might have been getting more arrogant, but it
19 was just the culture. If you didn't fight back, they
20 just walked all over you, the nuns, you know.

21 I think eventually, it stopped and I said, "I'm not
22 having that any more". It was fear -- I couldn't sleep
23 at night. I don't think it's the proper situation --
24 well, it's not a proper situation.

25 Q. Did they respond to that? Was the rubber sheet removed?

1 A. Yes, removed, and it never came back. I think when
2 they'd seen you sticking up for yourself, you know --
3 see, some of the other boys were lucky because they had
4 their family visiting them, but I didn't have that. You
5 had the feeling you were getting walked over, they could
6 get away with a bit more to me than the rest.

7 But I think in the end you just had to stick up for
8 yourself and say, "This isn't right, I'm not doing this
9 or that". Even when I left the home, I didn't know
10 when -- in [REDACTED] 1966, I didn't know until about
11 three or four days until I was leaving, I didn't even
12 know I was going back down to Glasgow. They just told
13 me and said, "By the way, you've left school now".
14 I said, "What do you mean?", [REDACTED],
15 "You're going down to live in Glasgow", and I said,
16 "What do you mean?" It was just sort of a casual sort
17 of remark and it sort of hit you for six.

18 LADY SMITH: Had you ever been to Glasgow?

19 A. No, although I was born there --

20 LADY SMITH: I mean, I know you were born down there, but
21 you wouldn't really have any memory of it.

22 A. I had no recollection of it, Glasgow, at all, obviously,
23 Lady Smith. And then -- but it's like at that time it
24 was like sending me to the moon, you know. I didn't
25 know ...

1 LADY SMITH: You wouldn't know what that meant, going to
2 Glasgow, what was going to be waiting for you at the
3 other end.

4 A. Could you say that again, please?

5 LADY SMITH: You wouldn't know what was going to be waiting
6 for you at the other end, you wouldn't know what "going
7 to Glasgow" meant.

8 A. No. Although I'd been through Glasgow once or twice on
9 the train, but that -- I'd been to Edinburgh a few
10 times, but I didn't know it, it's just a day trip to
11 Edinburgh for me, but I don't really know it as such,
12 what the natives are like or anything. I thought it
13 was -- I spent, I think, the first few weeks wondering,
14 because of the different accent, you wondered if they
15 were going to accept me or not accept me.

16 MR MacAULAY: This is when you actually went --

17 A. When I went to Glasgow.

18 Q. I'll come on to that very shortly.

19 Can I go back to the rubber mats because it has been
20 suggested to me that this device, or whatever you may
21 want to call it, wouldn't really give you a shock,
22 it would make a buzz noise and vibrate. Do you know --

23 A. It was meant to make a wee buzzing sound or sometimes --
24 well, a vibrating in the machine, I think it gave it
25 a wee buzzing sound. But some of the boys told us they

1 got shocks of it, small electric shocks. But you're
2 trying to lie in bed at night and you're saying to
3 yourself, "I wonder if I'm going to get an electric
4 shock here", and at the same time you're trying to turn
5 over to get to sleep. It does play up on your mind. It
6 does sort of play on you, if you get what I mean.

7 Q. I understand that.

8 What about leisure time? Can I ask you about your
9 leisure time? I think for example you already mentioned
10 that you could go down to the beach particularly when
11 you were a bit older. Is that right?

12 A. That's right, yes.

13 Q. Would that be perhaps in the summer, perhaps at
14 a weekend?

15 A. In the summertime, yes. Mainly in the summer.
16 Sometimes in the winter, we'd go to the swimming pool.
17 Obviously because it was too cold outside. Sometimes
18 the pictures.

19 Q. So there was entertainment available?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And pocket money? Would you get pocket money?

22 A. You did.

23 Q. What would you do with it?

24 A. Sometimes -- well, you could get to the pictures with
25 it. Sometimes you'd buy a comic. Maybe Colin might

1 know this, Lady Smith, but you used to buy the Commando
2 comics, which were quite popular at the time for young
3 boys.

4 LADY SMITH: Not one I read! I was aware of it being
5 popular with boys.

6 A. Before your time, Lady Smith. But they were quite
7 popular. We all wanted to be big commandos and we were
8 shooting at everyone.

9 MR MacAULAY: I'm not confessing to anything, John!

10 A. In a nice type way. I didn't actually shoot anybody.

11 Q. But holidays also, I think, because you did indeed have
12 the opportunity of going, I think in particular, to
13 Dumbarton to a family.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And was that enjoyable?

16 A. It was. I must admit, it was very enjoyable, a nice
17 family; the [REDACTED] family. What I call a big family,
18 I think there was about six or seven of them, boys and
19 girls. But to me that's big because I'm an only child.
20 I think if you've got two in the family that's big. But
21 I'm an only child, so ... They were asking me, what
22 it's like being an only child. I'm saying, what's it
23 like being in a big family, you know.

24 Q. This is something that was arranged for you?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And how long would you spend with --

2 A. About two weeks at a time.

3 Q. Would this be the summer holidays?

4 A. Summer holidays, yes.

5 Q. And how often did this happen during your time?

6 A. I'd say about three or four times. It was quite nice.

7 It was a wee break from the home. I suppose, like --

8 well, there was a certain strictness in the home. I've

9 never been to prison or anything, but I suppose it's

10 like being in prison and coming out. It was a bit more

11 freedom, if you get what I mean.

12 Q. You also tell us about medical treatment and that there

13 was a nun in Nazareth House who was a trained nurse.

14 A. Yes. I can't ... I can't recall her name.

15 Q. But you say she was a pleasant person?

16 A. Very pleasant. Of course she was the one in them

17 days -- I think when you're younger, you get certain

18 injections, polio, measles. She was the one that gave

19 you it. I'd always be fascinated going into the nurse's

20 room because you get the syringe -- I think syringes now

21 are all pre-packed in cellophane, but in them days --

22 there was a wee boiler thing, believe it or not. It was

23 like cooking pot that boiled all the syringes. That's

24 when you did in them days. For some reason I was always

25 fascinated and then she'd fill it up -- you'd fill the

1 syringe up with whatever it was they were putting into
2 it. I think it was for measles, mumps, things like
3 that, the usual kids' injections. Maybe my brain was
4 telling me I'm a doctor or a nurse or something, but
5 I was always fascinated whenever I went into the nurse's
6 room because I was always looking about, saying what's
7 this more, what's that for, for some daft reason.

8 Q. But you also had access to a doctor, if necessary, and
9 to a dentist?

10 A. Yes, yes.

11 Q. Can I ask you about Christmas. Would you get presents
12 at Christmas?

13 A. Yes, you got that, yes.

14 Q. And as far as you were aware, did all the children get
15 presents at Christmas?

16 A. Yes, as far as I was aware.

17 Q. And birthdays, were birthdays celebrated?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And I think what you tell us is that on your birthday
20 you'd be taken to the Mother Superior's office --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- and you'd be given a bag of sweets?

23 A. Yes, that's right.

24 Q. What about a cake or cards?

25 A. Maybe ... I can't ... I know definitely she had this

1 cupboard that was full of sweets, or big jars of sweets,
2 you know, loose type sweets in the big jars, which you
3 still get now in certain shops. I think when you're
4 a wee kid it seems like a big sweet factory, your eyes
5 popping out of your head, if you can visualise being
6 a wee child.

7 Maybe there was a cake -- there probably was a cake,
8 but I do remember there was a thing about -- you always
9 got a bag of sweets.

10 Q. And other children, as far as you're aware, did they get
11 something similar on their birthdays?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You, I think, touched upon this already, but you didn't
14 have visitors when you were there.

15 A. No.

16 Q. I think you do say that some of the other children's
17 parents would take you out for the day as well.

18 A. Yes, that's correct, yes.

19 Q. And so far as social workers or child welfare people,
20 I think in the early days you did not have any visits
21 from --

22 A. No, the social, but it wasn't until later that the
23 social work -- I don't know why that was. I have no
24 idea why that was, but it wasn't until later that
25 a social worker came up from Glasgow to see me. In

1 between, I don't know the reason for that. I have no
2 idea.

3 LADY SMITH: Can you remember how old you were when the
4 social worker started coming to see you?

5 A. I'd say about 12, 11, 12, 13.

6 LADY SMITH: So that would be early 1960s?

7 A. Yes. I'd say that. Because I did wonder ...

8 LADY SMITH: 1963/1964, something like that?

9 A. I did wonder why other boys and girls were getting
10 social workers up and I didn't. I used to think, well,
11 you know... It was hard to say what was going through
12 my mind, but I used to think it was strange, you're only
13 a wee boy, and your mind starts doing overtime. You
14 think that's odd. Then one day a social worker came to
15 see me. I'll never know why, but just out of the blue
16 he started to see me.

17 MR MacAULAY: It may be that a particular local authority
18 decided to take over your care.

19 A. Yes, it could be something like that. Something behind
20 the scenes that I was unaware of, you know.

21 Q. I can tell you the inquiry has seen social work records
22 and you're correct in saying that visits did start
23 in the 1960s.

24 A. Yes, because -- I always remember that because the other
25 boys and girls would have social workers come up --

1 I don't know every month -- one, two, three months --
2 I can't recall the times they came up. It was usually
3 a man that came to see the boys, anyway. A Mr McEwan,
4 if I remember. But I'll never know why it started --
5 why there was no social worker and then just out of the
6 blue there was.

7 Q. In your dealings with this person, what you say in your
8 statement is that the conversations were like general
9 chit-chat.

10 A. Yes, just general chit-chat. Just asking how I was and
11 that, how's school. Asking you things like that.
12 He was a pleasant person. I think it was just nice to
13 get a visit off someone. It was just nice to get
14 a visit.

15 Q. Did he ask you anything in relation to your treatment in
16 the home, for example?

17 A. I definitely can't recall. I can't recall. My mind's
18 all -- at the moment. I can't recall offhand.

19 Q. Can I just ask you a little bit more about how you were
20 treated in Nazareth House.

21 You have already mentioned LDU and what
22 happened with him. Can I just ask you about that now if
23 you're happy to talk about that.

24 A. Yes. I spent over 50 years thinking about it.

25 Q. Yes. You do give us quite a lot of information about it

- 1 in your statement.
- 2 A. Yes, because I still recall it.
- 3 Q. Can you tell me what age you were at this time?
- 4 A. I believe I was 11 at the time.
- 5 Q. You seem to have been involved with another boy. You
6 don't have to tell us the name of the boy, but you had
7 some sort of fight or something?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Can you explain what happened as best you can remember?
- 10 A. I can't remember a fight or an argument, but you're only
11 wee boys -- you know, I was only 11 at the time. It
12 wasn't anything serious. But I think Mrs **LHQ**,
13 **LDU** s wife was there, and she broke us up and
14 said, "You go that way, you go that way". I can't
15 recall what I said to her, but she was a strange sort of
16 person too, so I don't know if I've told her to go away
17 or what. But anyway, she got her husband to see me.
- 18 Q. Was that later on?
- 19 A. Later on, yes. Her husband came and he was a rather
20 violent person and he beat me up.
- 21 Q. Can you just describe what happened? I think you say he
22 grabbed hold of you; is that right?
- 23 A. Yes, he grabbed hold of me.
- 24 Q. What did he do?
- 25 A. He dragged me into one of the -- I can't remember

1 whereabouts he dragged hold of me -- one of the rooms
2 where the boys are -- and then he dragged me into
3 a bathroom and battered hell out of me.

4 Q. Did he take your clothes off?

5 A. He did.

6 Q. So were you naked when this happened?

7 A. Yes, and black and blue all over. I think I can safely
8 say he didn't sexually assault me or anything. He
9 punched me. I can't recall if he kicked me. I had
10 a hand mark on my face, you know, like that
11 (indicating). But I was only 11 and I was all black and
12 blue.

13 Q. How long did this last for?

14 A. I have no idea but I was black and blue all over my
15 body. I can't recall. It might have been 5 minutes, it
16 might have been 10, 15. My mind was a haze. I thought
17 my time was up, you know.

18 Q. Were you shouting, screaming, when this was going on?

19 A. I was, yes.

20 Q. Did anybody witness this? You don't have to tell us the
21 names, but did --

22 A. I remember coming out of the bathroom -- **LDU** left, if
23 I remember, first. But I came out -- I was picking
24 myself up from the ground. I think one or two boys came
25 in to see if I was all right. None of the nuns came

1 near. None of the nuns. It was the boys asking me if
2 I was all right, but obviously not. I wasn't bruised
3 then, but you could tell I had a right going over.

4 But next thing I knew, I was just sent up to bed at
5 bedtime. I didn't get any medical treatment or
6 anything. I was shaking.

7 Q. Would the nuns have been aware that this was going on?

8 A. Yes, definitely. They were aware. The nuns were aware.
9 But not one nun approached me that night. The next
10 morning --

11 Q. Just before I come to the next morning, you say you were
12 stripped naked. Do you know why your clothes were taken
13 off?

14 A. I've got no idea. Well, it's not exactly a normal thing
15 to do, is it, to a young boy? It's a bit peculiar.

16 Q. What would you have been wearing at the time?

17 A. Trousers, maybe a shirt -- I don't think I had a jacket
18 on or anything, just casual, trousers and shirt --
19 I can't actually recall for definite what I had on. But
20 he stripped me naked anyway.

21 Q. Did you say you went to bed?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Did someone tell you to go to bed? What was the ...

24 A. Just bedtime. I think we just all went to bed about the
25 same time, say 10ish, half 9, 10.

1 I knew I couldn't sleep that night, and then next
2 morning, got up and -- I don't think I put my school
3 uniform on because I didn't think I'd be going to school
4 because I was quite exhausted, plus the fact I'd been
5 beaten up. I could see the bruises coming through on my
6 arms and legs and my back. I didn't know about my face
7 until one of the boys told me, "Look in the mirror", and
8 there was a big hand mark. I can't remember what side
9 of the face. You could see the fingers. I looked in
10 the mirror and thought, "Oh my God".

11 I just presumed I wasn't going to school that
12 morning. I think we got breakfast and Sister LFD --
13 LFD we called her, I don't know if it was LFD or
14 LFD -- said, "Don't think you're getting away with not
15 going to school, get your uniform on, you're going
16 in the school bus".

17 Q. Did she know what happened to you?

18 A. Yes, she was definitely aware of the night before and
19 she had seen my bruises. And I went upstairs and got my
20 -- I said, "I never slept last night". She said,
21 "You're not getting off school", and then I went
22 upstairs and got my uniform on and went on the school
23 bus. It was a bus just to take us to school from the
24 home, but there was a bus conductor on it, although he
25 didn't take your fare, but like a chartered school bus

1 at a certain time of day.

2 So I went on and he took one look at me and said,
3 "What happened to you?" But he took me up to the bus
4 driver-- the bus driver must have been the boss of the
5 bus if you get what I mean. The bus driver looked --
6 you know, I think you got on the back of the bus then,
7 it was an old type bus. He asked the driver to come
8 round and the driver looked. I said, "Will I get off
9 the bus?" He said, "No. What happened? 'He said I'm
10 taking you to school, LCN ", he was quite nice, "I'm
11 taking you school, don't worry".

12 He said -- I can't remember the bus driver's name,
13 but he said, "You see my point, if a boy comes on to my
14 bus all black and blue and then he comes off my bus,
15 people are going to want know why". But he's getting
16 himself right. I said, "Yeah, that's it".

17 I said, "What are you going to do?" he said, "I'm
18 going to take you into the headmaster's office just to
19 say this is the way he came on". And I said, "Aye,
20 that's right, yes, I came on the bus like that".

21 So the headmaster took one look at me -- but there
22 was a school nurse. It was quite a big secondary
23 school. She took a look at me and asked me to take my
24 shirt off. That's when they called the police. I was
25 quite worried then because I had visions when they said

1 the police. I said, "I've done nothing wrong". I think
2 I thought I was going to get locked up, but I was only
3 11. He said, "No, it's not you, LCN". He calmed me
4 down.

5 But the police came up, they took a look at me and
6 had a look at my back and that, but the school nurse --
7 and I said, "No problem". And it was on my legs as
8 well. I can't recall if he actually kicked me, but
9 there were definitely bruises all over my face, my back,
10 my front and my legs.

11 If I recall, the police brought me back to the home
12 to Nazareth House. The police spoke to the
13 Mother Superior, I believe, and that wee nun
14 LFD, she took me into a wee side room and she
15 pulled me up for getting the police involved, to which
16 I told her it was the headmaster that called the police,
17 not me. But she seemed to calm down. She actually
18 pulled me up for calling the police, but I said, "I'm
19 black and blue". I mean --

20 Q. When you say she pulled you up --

21 A. She gave me a telling off for calling the police.

22 I said, "Look at my face", but I did reassure her it
23 wasn't me that called the police, although I think in
24 hindsight -- I'd have loved to have walked into the
25 police station, when I look back. As I say, I was only

1 a young boy at the time. I was terrified.

2 Q. What happened then insofar as [REDACTED] LDU was concerned?

3 Did the police do anything with him?

4 A. The police had a word with him. I do know they
5 interviewed him. I don't believe he got prosecuted.
6 I don't believe he got prosecuted. But the annoying
7 thing is, he was back in the home that night, the next
8 night after he assaulted me. Not a word was said. He
9 tried to -- he took a look at me and said that he didn't
10 do that. I said, "You did". And he tried to slip --
11 remember the old ten bob notes? He tried to slip one of
12 them into my hand and I said, "No, thank you". I know
13 it's only 50p now but in them days it was quite a tidy
14 bit of money.

15 LADY SMITH: You could do quite a lot with 10 shillings in
16 those days -- and for you to say no to it was you saying
17 no to quite a lot of money.

18 A. You were getting about 1 and 6 a week pocket money,
19 which I think was fairly average, but if someone's
20 offering you a ten bob notes ... I just thought with
21 hindsight, "No, keep it", I didn't want anything to do
22 with him. As far as I know, he was there every night
23 for the four years that I was there. I have heard he
24 was there and he was still visiting the home in the
25 early 70s.

1 I believe now if an incident like that happened,
2 they would take action against the person. I believe
3 it's all different now -- and obviously for the better.

4 MR MacAULAY: Do I understand from what you've told us,
5 John, about this particular incident and what you've
6 said to us, it was quite a violent incident?

7 A. Very violent, yes.

8 Q. Notwithstanding that and notwithstanding the fact that
9 the nuns in charge of you knew about it --

10 A. Yes. Oh yes. Definitely.

11 Q. -- he was allowed to be --

12 A. The very next night he was there. The only nun that
13 said anything to me was that Sister LFD and that was
14 to pull me up for calling the police or getting the
15 police involved, and I said, "It wasn't me, it was the
16 headmaster that called the police". The headmaster did
17 come up and visit me in the home once or twice after
18 that. He was quite a pleasant type person. I think he
19 kept an eye on me for a while after that. He used to
20 come up to the home to enquire how I was. He was quite
21 pleasant.

22 But I think a lot of kids were terrified of the
23 headmaster in them days. I think I liked my headmaster
24 because he sort of looked after me, you know.

25 Q. Can I just then leave that episode aside for the moment

1 and just look at how you were treated generally within
2 the home. One thing you do tell us is about what you
3 describe as "the Saturday afternoon special".

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What was that?

6 A. If you'd been what they call a bad boy or crossed the
7 line, if you didn't toe the line, it was usually a petty
8 thing, Saturday afternoon -- and it always stuck in my
9 mind. They made you kneel down. Sometimes there would
10 be about three or four of us in a row, kneeling down,
11 facing the wall, in the passage way, beside the
12 Mother Superior's office. You never really met the
13 Mother Superior -- and it was where the nuns lived as
14 well, where they had their own TV room and the bedrooms
15 and that.

16 Anyway, every so often -- I still picture it quite
17 clearly -- every so often you would get a clout on the
18 back of the head. You'd see the nuns going by, you'd
19 see the nuns going by, but it was only nuns that went up
20 and down that passageway, but you could see them from
21 the corner of your eye. Now and again they would give
22 you a backhander on the head, so your forehead hit the
23 wall. I don't think it was heavy-heavy, but it
24 happened. But every time you heard a nun coming up
25 behind you, you were tense, you didn't know -- they

1 didn't hit you all the time, but it's that psychological
2 fear. You didn't know if you were going to get hit or
3 what. It did play on your mind. That happened until
4 I was about 13, 14, I'd say.

5 I think towards the end I used to say, "Right,
6 enough's enough, I'm not taking this any more", because
7 you knew it was wrong. But they did it to loads of
8 boys. It wasn't every week, but there'd be a few boys
9 the following week.

10 It was just a sort of torture. In fact, once or
11 twice I was there and I didn't get hit at all, but the
12 next time I went there you just got a backhander, you
13 know.

14 Q. Do you know which nun --

15 A. No, because you were always told to face the wall. If
16 you went and looked, "Face the wall". And the nuns have
17 got the habits.

18 LADY SMITH: You said this was in the passageway that you
19 were kneeling?

20 A. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: So people would be going back and forth in the
22 passage?

23 A. It was only nuns. It was like the nuns' section. But
24 you'd see them out the corner of your eye, you'd be
25 looking that way or that.

1 LADY SMITH: So any footsteps would be nuns' footsteps and
2 they could be going to clout you as they went past?

3 A. Yes. You'd see the dark robes type thing. I've always
4 had this phobia about nuns since. I've never spoken to
5 a nun since. In fact, my wife, she comes from Ireland,
6 but then again I can't -- there isn't -- there is a lot
7 of nuns over there and if there's something on like
8 a wedding or something, you might see one or two nuns.

9 But my wife said to me one day, "Why don't you speak
10 to the nuns?" and I said, "What do you mean?" She said,
11 "Everyone else is there speaking and you just sit
12 there". I told my wife, "I find it hard to speak to
13 a nun". Psychologically, it's all in the mind. I was
14 doing it without realising. I said, "I'll make a point
15 of speaking to one next time". But I just froze the
16 next time. I just froze. I couldn't. No offence
17 against poor nuns nowadays, but I find it very hard to
18 have a discussion with a nun. It's the way it got me,
19 sorry.

20 MR MacAULAY: One thing you do tell us is, as you put it,
21 one or two of the boys did cut their foreheads on
22 hitting the wall.

23 A. Yes. Yes. I think I was all right in a way, just a few
24 knocks. Sometimes it's just a wee -- other times you
25 might feel a wee lump. Obviously you can do it on one

1 person and not have much effect but someone could bleed
2 or have a scratch. It wasn't a pleasant situation at
3 all. I know people think of nuns and see all the good
4 things outside, but you see when you're living with
5 them, you see behind the scenes sort of thing and it's
6 not a pleasant situation at all. It's not very
7 pleasant.

8 Q. Would you consider yourself, looking back, to have been
9 a bad boy?

10 A. No. I suppose I would say that, but, no, I wouldn't
11 think I was bad, no.

12 Q. Of course from what you've told us, John, you were
13 really in Nazareth House Aberdeen from when you were
14 effectively a baby --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- until you were 15, so that was the life you knew.

17 A. Yes, I knew it, so I was into the routine type thing, if
18 you get what I mean.

19 Q. You've told us about specific events such as the beating
20 you got from [REDACTED] LDU [REDACTED] you have told us about
21 bed-wetting and this particular practice that you've
22 described as a form of torture, I think you said.

23 A. Well, it is a torture.

24 Q. But what about other treatment? Were you hit by nuns
25 throughout your time there?

1 A. I don't think ... I can't actually recall a nun
2 actually ... I think one or two of them would give you
3 a slap now and again, say when you were younger, just
4 a slap. Although I did see a nun hitting a boy in the
5 face one day, like a backhand. I don't know why or how
6 but she just went on. It wasn't a pleasant situation.
7 I can't actually recall a particular nun hitting me, you
8 know apart from the Saturday afternoon. There were one
9 or two nuns we were all terrified of.

10 Q. Can you remember their names?

11 A. Yes. There was a Sister [FAF], strange name, and
12 [LGY]

13 Q. Why were you terrified of those in particular?

14 A. Well, it was either [LGY] or [FAF], on a Saturday
15 morning -- there was an old air-raid shelter behind the
16 home, it was still standing, you're talking about the
17 60s. They kept it as a store for soap powder, all that
18 stuff, cleaning material. But now and again a nun --
19 one of the nuns on the boys' side would send me and
20 another boy down -- they'd write out a note, how many
21 bars of soap, et cetera, soap flakes as well, that sort
22 of stuff, disinfectant, and go down.

23 But what you did -- you waited in the wee queue and
24 then you handed a nun the note and she'd go and get it.
25 That was the basic idea. It was quite a simple,

1 straightforward job. But you just knew -- I think it
2 was [REDACTED] LGY , but I wouldn't argue, it could have been
3 [REDACTED] FAF -- you're all terrified because she was
4 a very unpleasant character. She immediately -- the
5 first thing she'd do -- she'd look at the note and say,
6 "Are you stupid?" and I remember one day I said, "It
7 wasn't me who wrote the note out, I'm only picking it
8 up". But the way she done it, she looked at the note
9 and said to me, "Are you daft or something?" "I didn't
10 write the note down, I'm only here to collect the
11 stuff". She did make a go at me. I think you learnt to
12 be cheeky, but you watched to what you said to them.
13 You know, you had to stick up for yourself.

14 A lot of the boys and girls were terrified of going
15 there on a Saturday morning. In the end, they stopped
16 me going there because I think when you start sticking
17 up for yourself, you know -- but it was just fear, it
18 was fear that made you do it, it was fear that made you
19 stand up.

20 In the end they gave me another job on a Saturday
21 morning instead of collecting the soap powder and that.
22 It was a strange, strange situation, you know.

23 Q. Was fear something you felt during your time?

24 A. Yes. Definitely fear on quite a few occasions. You
25 didn't quite know where the line was, but you were

1 scared of crossing it because you knew they were just
2 going to pounce on you. It was a very strange thing
3 because you're just kids, you know. I wouldn't even
4 treat my dog like that. So -- but it was a rather odd
5 type way of treating children. A very strange way, yes.

6 Q. As you've told us at the beginning, John, you left
7 Nazareth House on [REDACTED] 1966.

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. And I think you've already told us you didn't know until
10 quite shortly before you were leaving that you were in
11 fact leaving.

12 A. A few days before I was leaving, yes.

13 Q. How then did you get to Glasgow from Aberdeen?

14 A. Train. I came down by train.

15 Q. Were you alone on the train?

16 A. No, there was another boy with me.

17 Q. We don't need to know the name, but another boy from
18 Nazareth House?

19 A. Yes. I know the boy's name, but I suppose it's
20 immaterial.

21 Q. I think the arrangement was that you were to go to
22 a hostel --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- in Glasgow; is that right?

25 A. That's correct, yes.

1 Q. After that, I think you joined the army.

2 A. Yes. A year after that -- it was about 18 months after
3 that, yes, I joined the army.

4 Q. When you were 16 or thereabouts?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. One of the things you tell us about the army -- and this
7 is in paragraph 65 -- is that when you joined the army
8 you were asked by a soldier what home you'd been in; do
9 you remember that?

10 A. Yes, he seemed to know.

11 Q. But you hadn't told him you had been in a home?

12 A. No, even my neighbours and workmates didn't know I'd
13 been in a home because it was just something I kept to
14 myself. One day one of the men came up to me in the
15 room and said, "What home were you in?" I said, "What do
16 you mean?" This boy was English. I said, "What do you
17 mean?" obviously because I'm trying to figure out what
18 he's saying to me, they've got different ways of saying
19 it. He said, "You can always tell", and he explained
20 it. I said, "You're joking". He was in a home too.
21 Isn't it a rather strange thing? He just knew.

22 You see, in the army they shout at you and that -- I
23 suppose it's just part of the training -- but then at
24 night-time you go and have a few drinks together, but
25 it's just part of the thing in the army.

1 He said the screaming and shouting that some of the
2 other new recruits -- and some were in tears, say like
3 you're doing like a march or cross country, some of them
4 were in tears and they were shouting away at some of
5 them. He said, "When they're shouting at you, it's like
6 water of a duck's back". I said it doesn't affect me,
7 they can just shout at me, I'm not bothered. In fact,
8 someone asked me if I was deaf because they were
9 shouting away at me. I said, "No, it just goes in one
10 ear and out the other".

11 Q. At any rate, you spent a number of years in the army.

12 A. Seven and a half.

13 Q. And then after you had a career in the post office?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about any impact you think
16 that having been in Nazareth House may have had on you.
17 One thing you do say in your statement is that not
18 a week goes by without thinking of the [REDACTED] LDU
19 assault.

20 A. Yes, I'd say at least once or twice a week. I do think
21 of [REDACTED] LDU in general for what he done to me. I do
22 think about that but it's in the mind. It's a hard
23 thing to go away. As someone said to you, your bruises
24 and that can heal, but you'll never forget what they
25 done. I never, ever forgot that. In fact, I've been

1 to -- I went up to Aberdeen this year, I was up there
2 for a long weekend, but that was on the red snow alert,
3 that time, because I was supposed to go to Portugal but
4 my plane got cancelled. I had a spare week and funnily
5 enough I went up to Aberdeen, me and the wife -- it's a
6 strange place to go in the red snow alert and that, but
7 we just wanted to get away.

8 I brought my wife up to Aberdeen once or twice.
9 I quite like Aberdeen itself, you know. It's quite
10 a nice place. And then we're going along the beach --
11 I'm not suggesting you go along Aberdeen beach in a red
12 snow alert, but it was quite cold. But just for old
13 time's sake, it was just nice for a wee break, but
14 I should have been in Portugal at the time, but the
15 flight got cancelled, so I took the next best thing that
16 came up, a week in Aberdeen, because I couldn't get
17 a plane that week, and I got my money back from Portugal
18 because it wasn't my fault.

19 Q. If I just go back to your statement then, John, just to
20 finish off, as it were, towards the bottom, on page 4160
21 at paragraph 78, you set out your hopes for the inquiry
22 there. What are your hopes for this inquiry?

23 A. Well, we're telling the truth. Well, we're simply
24 telling the truth, what happened in them days. I don't
25 believe children's homes are run like that now. I think

1 it's a different situation, obviously. But if I could
2 help in some way -- and not to have religious orders
3 running children's homes because I don't think it's
4 right. I don't think a bit of religion harms anyone,
5 don't get me wrong, there's a God and that, I believe
6 there's a God, but I think if it's a religious order of
7 any faith denomination, I don't think it's right.
8 I think you should get professional people in to look
9 after children, proper trained people.

10 You see, what I think half the trouble was, you
11 would get a young nun and she could be in charge of 20,
12 30 young boys, and she's only in her 20s, never had
13 children of her own, but suddenly she's in charge of
14 a big squad of kids. It's not a good mixture. It's not
15 a good mixture. It's a recipe for disaster, actually,
16 if I could say so.

17 I've got one boy, but I would tend to think you
18 gradually learn, obviously, changing nappies and that,
19 but if someone had put me in charge of about 20 or 30
20 kids at the same time, I think I would do my nut.

21 I think I'd be a wee bit ... One at a time; 20 or 30
22 kids? No.

23 Q. And another thing you say in paragraph 79 is that any
24 council or government homes should have checks done on
25 a regular basis and children should be spoken to.

1 A. Oh definitely. I think people did come round the homes
2 then, but they didn't really speak to you as such.
3 We were just -- I think they would put you into the
4 sitting room so you were all watching TV or they would
5 put you outside, so you were all watching football, but
6 you were doing something you liked, but they didn't
7 really ask us as such how we felt.

8 But I think -- I do believe, sitting down and
9 thinking, if I could change things for the better, yes,
10 the way children's homes are run. But I think they are
11 run better now anyway and properly trained. Because
12 I don't think there was one properly trained member of
13 staff there.

14 And as for [REDACTED] LDU I don't quite know where he
15 came from. He was there, but I don't think he was
16 actually employed in the home. [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED], but he was never ...

18 Someone told me he was still going there in the
19 early 1970s, which I thought was rather strange because
20 no one liked him. But that might have been his job:
21 just to put the fear of God into the boys. I don't know
22 what the idea was.

23 MR MacAULAY: John, anyway, that's all the questions I have
24 for you. Thank you for coming along and giving the
25 inquiry your evidence today.

1 statements. I'll start with the first one and see how
2 much time we have and there may be time to read in
3 a second one before lunch.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. The first one will be the
5 last statement that otherwise we'd have read in
6 yesterday; is that correct?

7 MS MACLEOD: That's correct, my Lady.

8 LADY SMITH: Is this one of the statements that I may need
9 to give a reminder to the press about or not?

10 MS MACLEOD: No, not this one, my Lady.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 Witness statement of "MICHAEL" (read)

13 MS MACLEOD: This is a statement of a witness who wishes to
14 remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym "Michael".
15 The statement can be found at WIT.001.001.4048.

16 My Lady, I can say that this witness had every
17 intention of attending hearings to give evidence, but
18 has not been able to do so because he is unwell at the
19 moment and receiving medical treatment.

20 LADY SMITH: Yes. I am sorry to hear that.

21 MS MACLEOD: "My name is Michael. My date of birth is in
22 1946 and my contact details are known to the inquiry.

23 "I don't have a great recollection of family life
24 before I went into care because I was so young. I know
25 that my mother wasn't well and that one of my brothers

1 lived with neighbours because my mum couldn't cope with
2 us all. Me and my other brothers lived with my parents.
3 I remember that one Sunday my brother went in to wake my
4 mum to get money for the church collection before we
5 went to church Mass, but she had died in her sleep.

6 "Shortly after that the three of us were taken up to
7 Nazareth House in Aberdeen. I seem to think it was my
8 dad who took us in the train. We didn't know what was
9 going on [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED] I would have been five or six years old in
11 1952 or 1953 when I went there.

12 "After about three or four years, he came back and
13 took us home, but that only lasted a month and we went
14 back into Nazareth House.

15 "Nazareth House was a big imposing building in its
16 own grounds in Claremont Street, Aberdeen, in
17 a residential area and was run by the Sisters of
18 Nazareth. It was divided into two sides, the boys' side
19 and the girls' side. There were probably about 100 boys
20 and we were in massive dormitories with single beds.
21 The boys and the girls were kept separate and we only
22 really saw the girls at mealtimes when we ate together.

23 "The nun in charge of us was Sister [REDACTED] LDR The
24 only other two nuns I remember were Sister [REDACTED] LDQ and
25 Sister [REDACTED] LJO, but they were not as bad as

1 Sister [REDACTED] LDR [REDACTED] Sister [REDACTED] LDR [REDACTED] was maybe 30 to 40 years
2 old and the other two were a bit younger.

3 "There were mainly nuns there but there were some
4 priests as well, but we didn't have a lot to do with
5 them. There were other civilian staff there too,
6 presumably employed to work there to do the garden or
7 the coal, things like that. We had some contact with
8 them because we helped them sometimes.

9 "I never had any previous dealings with nuns, so it
10 was all quite strange to me seeing them all walking
11 about wearing their habits. My first memory is probably
12 getting taken to and shown my bed in the dormitory and
13 I was also given my number. We weren't allowed to use
14 names and we were just known by our numbers. I can't
15 remember what my number was.

16 "The nuns would scream and shout at us to get up.
17 I think this was usually some time between 6 and 7
18 in the morning. We would get up and get washed and
19 dressed. At night-time I think we were probably in our
20 beds by 6 or 7 o'clock.

21 "We washed in the morning in a communal washroom
22 where there were sinks and toilets. Sunday night was
23 bath night and we all had to wait in a queue. If you
24 were in the front of the queue you got scalded because
25 the bath was so hot or if you were at the end of the

1 queue, you had dirty cold water. That was just the way
2 it was. It was great big baths like footballers used to
3 use and there were maybe 10 to 12 of us in there at any
4 time. The girls bathed in their own bathroom in
5 a different part of the home.

6 "The clothes we wore were all hand-me-downs but I'm
7 not sure where they came from. There was no uniform but
8 I do remember I wore shorts until I was 16 years old.
9 I don't think our names or numbers were sown into the
10 clothes. Our shoes were second-hand too.

11 "The boys and girl ate together in the main
12 refectory. For breakfast we got porridge and
13 occasionally bacon and eggs or things like that. We
14 didn't get much time to eat it and the nuns used to walk
15 around behind us and were always telling us to hurry up.
16 If you didn't eat your food at mealtimes they would
17 stand behind you and force you to eat it. If you were
18 sick you would be made to eat your vomit.

19 "We were shipped to school on the bus which was
20 about a 20-minute journey. I went to St Mary's primary
21 school and then to St Peter's secondary school. We were
22 treated differently at school and the other children
23 called us the 'home boys' because we lived in a home,
24 but we stuck together at school.

25 "We would get the bus home at lunchtime, have

1 something to eat, then return to school for the
2 afternoon. At the end of the school day the bus would
3 pick us up again. I actually liked school and looked
4 forward to going there probably because it was a break
5 from the home. I got on quite well at school and there
6 were never any issues with the way the teachers treated
7 us. Back in the home the nuns would sit us all down and
8 make us get on with our homework, although they never
9 really helped us if we were struggling.

10 "When we got home from school we would be given
11 daily tasks to do, like collect the coal or do some
12 cleaning. On a Sunday morning we got to polish the
13 refectory floor. We put cloths on our feet and if you
14 weren't going fast enough by running up and down the
15 floor with these cloths on our feet then the nuns would
16 beat us with sticks.

17 "At Nazareth House we were never taught how to cook
18 or budget our money. Anything we learnt like that was
19 only at school. I learnt more when I was in the army.

20 "There were toys to play with but don't actually
21 remember playing with them. I don't remember there
22 being any books, comics or anything to read. There
23 wasn't a television or radio. At the weekend, once we
24 had done all our chores, we may be allowed to go outside
25 to play in the grounds.

1 "I didn't have any personal possessions, absolutely
2 none. We never got any pocket money. The home may have
3 been given pocket money for me by my father but I never
4 saw it.

5 "We had to go to Mass all the time and we were
6 totally indoctrinated into the Catholic religion. You
7 had to go to church whether you wanted to or not.
8 I became an altar boy just to get away from sitting in
9 the main chapel.

10 "I didn't have much interaction with the priests at
11 Nazareth House and I can't remember any of their names.
12 The only real dealings we had with them was when we had
13 done something wrong and the nuns sent for them and they
14 came and beat us up.

15 "I never wet the bed, but one of the symptoms of my
16 brother's illness was wetting the bed. Every morning
17 the nuns would parade the bed-wetters wrapped in their
18 wet sheets and then beat them with their sticks.
19 I think there were maybe 10 to 15 boys some mornings.
20 I saw the nuns doing this to other boys.

21 "Birthdays and Christmases were depressing. I don't
22 remember anything special happening on birthdays and it
23 was just another day. Some other boys got presents on
24 their birthdays and their families came in to visit
25 them, but on my birthday no one came to visit me.

1 "Christmas was depressing and the only present
2 I remember getting from my dad was a pocket watch which
3 he sent to share between all four of us. The only other
4 present I remember getting at Nazareth House was an
5 orange.

6 "I don't remember every going on any holidays when
7 I was there or even going on any sort of day trip.

8 "During the first spell that I was at Nazareth House
9 I had no contact with anyone in my family. I never saw
10 any of my aunties, uncles or grandparents, nobody.
11 I wasn't encouraged to write to my father and he never
12 wrote to me. I remember that my older brother came back
13 to visit us some time after he had left during our
14 second stay there. My brothers thought that he had come
15 to take them home. They were both really upset and
16 distraught when he didn't and he went away. He was the
17 only visitor I ever got.

18 "I am not aware of any health visitor, doctor,
19 council staff or anyone else coming in to do any kind of
20 inspection. I'm not saying there wasn't, but I don't
21 remember that happening.

22 "I slept in the same dormitory as two of my brothers
23 but we were not allowed to talk to each other. In fact,
24 I wasn't allowed to speak to any of the other boys, but
25 if we were out of sight of the nuns we did. If they

1 caught you chatting, they would come and break you up
2 and give you a skelp with a cricket stump. The nuns
3 enforced this no talking quite vigorously. I got quite
4 a few beatings for talking to my brothers. We could
5 chat in the dorms or if we were somewhere where there
6 was no nuns.

7 "I don't remember ever going to the dentist and
8 I don't remember ever seeing a doctor when I was in
9 Nazareth House. I don't recall ever getting any kind of
10 medical inspection or health check at any time. I never
11 had any broken bones when I was beaten and only had
12 bruising really. I never got any medical attention
13 after any of the beatings, but probably should have.

14 "It would have been in 1957, when I was about 11,
15 that the nuns came and told me that I was going home.
16 I had a sense of elation and was looking forward to
17 getting out of Nazareth House. Our youngest brother had
18 joined us at Nazareth House by that time so all four of
19 us went home. We stayed with my dad for about a month
20 and it was apparent that my stepmother didn't want
21 anything to do with us. We were getting in the way of
22 their socialising.

23 "My dad was a foreman in a steel foundry and he was
24 involved in a lot of scams there. He was a bit of
25 a fly-by-night and moved in quite illustrious circles

1 and he was a heavy drinker as well. It was obvious
2 we were not wanted so my dad took us back to
3 Nazareth House in the car.

4 "When we arrived back at Nazareth House my dad just
5 dumped us and left. There were no big goodbyes or
6 anything. When we got back, Sister [REDACTED] LDR greeted us
7 and told us that obviously nobody wanted us. I don't
8 remember if I was in the same bed as before but I was
9 in the same dorm and it was with the same group of boys.

10 "I remember my eldest brother was the first to leave
11 Nazareth House. It was quite traumatic knowing I was
12 going to be left there to look after my two brothers.
13 I was the next to leave about a year later and I went
14 back to my father's in East Kilbride. I was 16 years of
15 age and this was 1962.

16 "We were never made to feel welcome at
17 Nazareth House and part of that, I am sure, was because
18 we were from Glasgow. The nuns always wore their habits
19 and used to walk around holding a cricket stump up their
20 sleeves.

21 "I was given a number when we arrived at
22 Nazareth House and we were always referred to by our
23 numbers. We were not allowed to use each other's names
24 and it was only when we were at school that we used
25 names because there were no nuns there.

1 "I got several beatings for trying to talk to my
2 brother. My brother had [REDACTED] at the time and
3 was very ill and in fact nearly died. Several times
4 I went to try and see him but I was dragged outside by
5 the nuns and they sent for the priests who came and give
6 me a hiding. They would tell me it was nothing to do
7 with me and I was to go away and they would look after
8 him.

9 "The nuns intentionally split me and my brothers up.
10 They didn't like any boys sitting talking, but they
11 definitely split us up to stop us being a family.

12 "The nuns would generally deal with the discipline
13 and the day-to-day running of the house and if you did
14 something they would give you a quick skelp. If you did
15 something more serious and would showing dissent against
16 their regime or something like that, they would send for
17 the priests who would come and beat you. The priests
18 only hit me with their hands or fists.

19 "Sisters [REDACTED] LDQ and [REDACTED] LJO were usual quite
20 pleasant when I was on my own with them and they were
21 quite chatty, but when Sister [REDACTED] LDR was there, they had
22 to do what they were told and they were quite different.

23 "My brother got beaten by Sister [REDACTED] LDR and
24 I remember once she was beating him with a stick because
25 he had wet the bed. I grabbed the stick to stop her but

1 a priest came in and slapped me with his hands. I was
2 about 11 or 12 at the time. I think it was more of
3 a beating than my mother or father would have
4 administered to their own child.

5 "Every morning the nuns would parade the bed-wetters
6 wrapped in their wet sheets in the dormitory, then beat
7 them with their sticks. It was humiliating and
8 embarrassing for them.

9 "The nuns were quite devious and sometimes if I had
10 bruises they would send me to school with a note saying
11 I was not well and couldn't do PT. This was so that the
12 teachers couldn't see the bruises. As far as I am aware
13 the teachers never saw my bruises or at least they never
14 said anything.

15 "When we were in our beds at night we weren't
16 allowed to sleep with our hands under the sheets or the
17 nuns would batter us and accuse us of touching or
18 interfering with ourselves and say that we were filthy.

19 "We were forced to eat food that we didn't like.
20 I hated Brussels sprouts and was forced to eat them.
21 Sometimes the nuns would put the food on a fork and
22 actually force-feed you. If you were sick at the table
23 they would make you eat your vomit. That happened to
24 me.

25 "I would have been about 8 or 9 when a nun died and

1 she was laid out in the chapel. We were all forced to
2 kiss her. That was horrible and it was a really
3 daunting thing for a child to be made to do.

4 "The nuns used to come round and cut our nails, but
5 they were brutal and they would cut your nails so short
6 your fingers would be bleeding. The blood would be
7 pouring out of your fingers.

8 "When we went back into Nazareth House for the
9 second time I remember the nuns kept telling us that
10 we were worthless and that nobody wanted us.

11 "When I left Nazareth House I went back to live with
12 my father and stepmother and her daughter. I got myself
13 a job at a supermarket and loved the job but hated going
14 back home at night. I couldn't stand it because of my
15 stepmother. Sometimes she was waiting outside the
16 supermarket for me to finish on a Friday and she took my
17 pay packet off me. I was there for about six months but
18 I was in contact with my older brother and he got me
19 a job in Edinburgh as a commis chef and I went and lived
20 with him. I had a proper life after that.

21 "I didn't really know what happened to my other
22 brothers, but I found out that my younger brother died
23 in an accident. He had been visiting friends and slept
24 in a car in a garage overnight. He had the engine on to
25 keep warm and never woke up. My brother had to force my

1 dad to go down to Gravesend to identify him.

2 "I joined the army when I was 21 years old and
3 served for 22 years as a soldier with the Scots Guards.
4 I found the army life so easy because I was
5 institutionalised and I was used to the discipline
6 in that I was used to doing what I was told when I was
7 told. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in the army.

8 "I met my first wife when I was in the army. She
9 was the sister-in-law of another soldier. We were
10 married for 24 years and had two children but
11 subsequently divorced. I never really discussed my past
12 life with my first wife.

13 "When I told her for the first time because two CID
14 officers were coming to see me she didn't believe me and
15 told me I was making it all up. That was probably the
16 start of a slippery slope for our marriage.

17 "I married my second wife in 2003. My second wife
18 had two children from her previous marriage. We now
19 have seven grandchildren.

20 "I lost touch with another brother about 50 years
21 ago, but my wife made it her mission to find him.
22 Through an organisation called Family Finders, we all
23 met about 18 months ago. Unfortunately, it was then
24 that I learned he had cancer and he died about a year
25 ago.

1 "There was no one in Nazareth House that I felt
2 I could talk to or tell what was happening to us. The
3 impression I got at the time was that the nuns were in
4 charge and they did what they wanted. I was young and
5 didn't know any different. You just take it as a fact
6 that they knew what they were doing was right because
7 I didn't know if it was normal or not. I couldn't have
8 told any of the teachers at school.

9 "Around 2000, I contacted Cameron Fyfe and, through
10 him, I got in contact with the police. Two female CID
11 officers from Aberdeen came and took a statement from
12 me. They were in tears when I was telling them about my
13 experiences in Nazareth House. I never heard any more
14 about it after that.

15 "At the time the Catholic Church were saying that we
16 were all in collusion and making it up. The police told
17 me that they had spoken to two or three hundred people
18 and they were all telling them the same story.

19 "There was no one at Nazareth House who I could have
20 told about the abuse. To be honest, I didn't even think
21 it was wrong; I just thought it was the way it should be
22 and was normal.

23 "After I left the home and when I joined the army,
24 I pushed everything that happened to me as a child out
25 of my mind and I really thought very little about it.

1 It was only when I was put in contact with Cameron Fyfe
2 that things started coming back to me. I started
3 getting flashbacks and when I went to a psychologist
4 I remembered more and more.

5 "The time that the nun died and was laid out in the
6 chapel has always stuck in my mind. Ever since then
7 I have had a real aversion to visiting any relatives
8 that have died and are in the chapel of rest. I have
9 a vivid memory of parading in front of and kissing the
10 dead nun.

11 "Because the nuns used to be so brutal when they cut
12 your nails, I started biting my nails so that they
13 didn't have to cut them. My nail biting continued after
14 I left care, probably until I joined the army. I also
15 have a thing about shoes and clothes now. Because we
16 never had our own stuff and only got second-hand
17 clothes, I now have loads of pairs of shoes and loads of
18 clothes.

19 "We used to get battered if we slept with our arms
20 under the sheets when we were in our bed and accused of
21 touching ourselves. I still sleep with my arms out of
22 the covers. My wife has often said to me that it was
23 cold and to put my arms under the covers but I can't.
24 I just can't stop it.

25 "I never had a proper childhood and I was never

1 allowed to be a proper child and I was never happy.
2 I was wearing horrible different clothes and being the
3 butt of jokes. I am now very anti-church because of
4 what happened to me and I don't want anything to do with
5 them. I think it is an institution that has festered
6 and until they admit it, the abuse will carry on.

7 "For a while my daughter said she wanted to go to
8 boarding school because one of her friends was going.
9 I point-blank refused because of what happened to me and
10 I didn't want her to experience what I did. It broke
11 her heart that I wouldn't send her, but within a month
12 she found out that her friend wasn't happy at boarding
13 school, so that made me feel better and I was
14 vindicated.

15 "I have never tried to get my records. My brother
16 apparently has a copy of my records and he is arranging
17 for me to get a copy of them. To be honest, I don't
18 really want them. My brother has had a look at the
19 records and he said they don't even have our dates of
20 birth correctly recorded.

21 "Around 2000 I contacted Cameron Fyfe because he was
22 dealing with no-win-no-fee abuse compensation claims.
23 He referred me to a psychologist for examination but the
24 psychologist didn't take any money from me. It all kind
25 of petered out after that and I have never received any

1 compensation.

2 "I went to Glasgow to take part in a BBC programme
3 about abuse in care. [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED]. There was a lot of other people
5 there and some of them were in a terrible state. It was
6 obvious that some people who had been abused had turned
7 to drink and drugs as a result of their abuse. My
8 brother recognised a lot of them from Nazareth House but
9 I didn't. The programme director spoke to us later and
10 told us that we were the only sane ones there.

11 "I have never been to any sort of counselling and
12 feel that the army was the best help for me. I know
13 that my brother has been for counselling. I have also
14 been to a few of the INCAS meetings.

15 "The whole purpose for me is to get the
16 Catholic Church in Scotland to admit that they were
17 wrong and that the abuse did go on. Children shouldn't
18 have to go through what we went through. The main thing
19 for me is that it does not happen again.

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

22 I would be more than happy to give oral evidence at any
23 future hearing should it help. I believe the facts
24 stated in this witness statement are true."

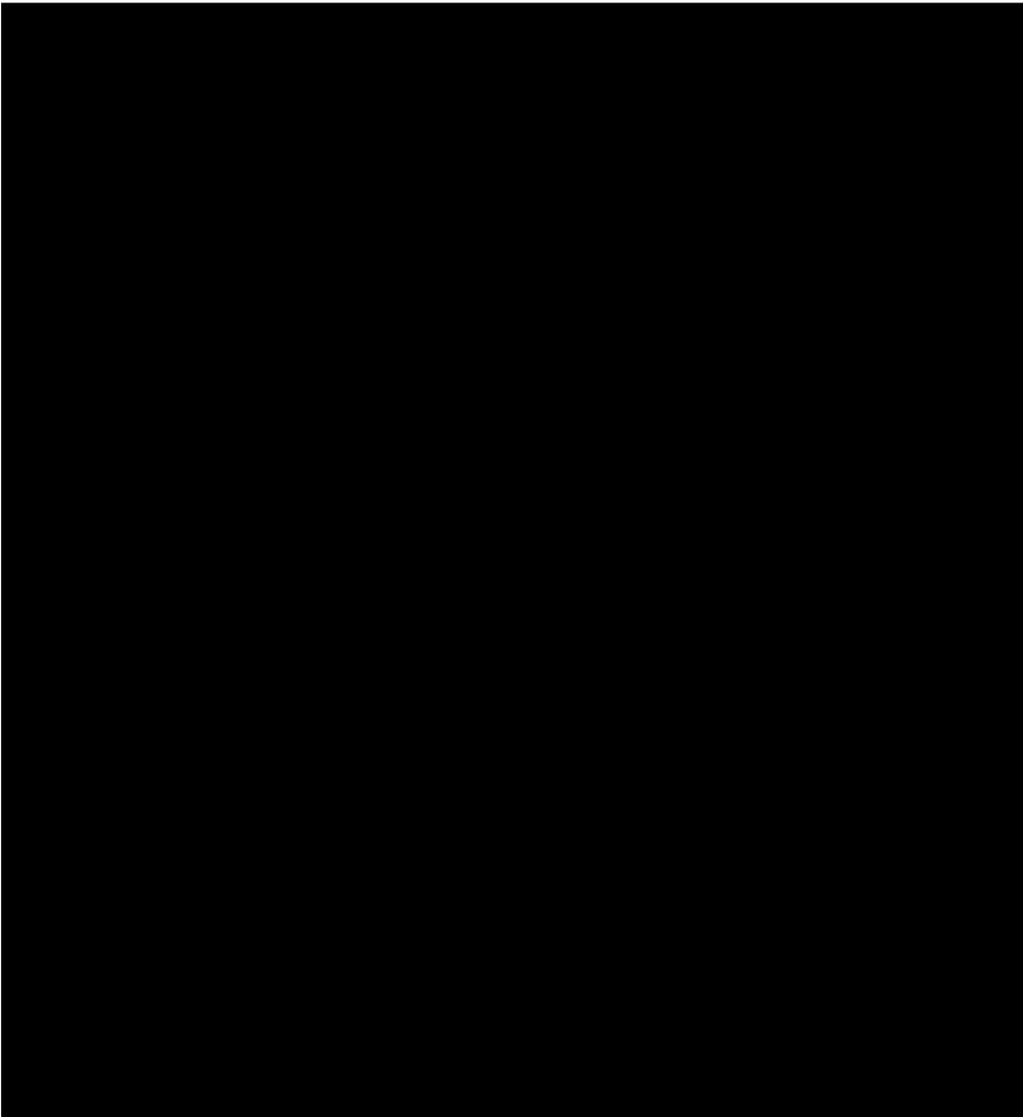
25 The statement was signed by Michael on 15 May 2017.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you, Ms MacLeod.

2 MS MACLEOD: I can also confirm that, according to the
3 admissions register, this witness was admitted, first of
4 all, to Nazareth House Aberdeen in [REDACTED] 1954 and
5 discharged in [REDACTED] 1956. Then readmitted in [REDACTED] 1957
6 and finally discharged in [REDACTED] 1963.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

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Ms MacLeod.

1 Witness statement of "TERENCE" (read)

2 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next statement is from a witness
3 who also wishes to remain anonymous and to use the
4 pseudonym "Terence".

5 This witness is not able to attend due to his
6 health. He had also hoped to be here to hear the
7 statement being read in, but that wasn't possible either
8 because of his health situation.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, this witness does in his statement
11 name a sister whose identity is protected by
12 a protection order.

13 LADY SMITH: Let me deal with that before Ms MacLeod reads
14 the statement. The sister she's talking about is
15 a sister who was known as Sister [REDACTED] LTX at
16 Nazareth House. That name is subject to a restriction
17 order and her identity, as referred to in this
18 statement, cannot and must not be disclosed or published
19 outside this hearing room.

20 I have spoken to you all already about restriction
21 orders and my restriction order must not be breached, so
22 the fact that it is Sister [REDACTED] LTX who is referred to
23 by this witness cannot be repeated.

24 Miss MacLeod, when you're ready.

25 MS MACLEOD: This statement is to be found at

1 WIT.001.001.4133:

2 "My name is Terence. My date of birth is in 1951.
3 My contact details are known to the inquiry.

4 I lived with my parents in a tenement flat in
5 Greenock."

6 In paragraphs 2 to 5 of the statement, my Lady, the
7 witness describes his family situation, including some
8 unhappy background leading to his grandmother looking
9 after himself and his siblings before they were put into
10 care. I now propose to move to paragraph 6 of the
11 statement, which is on WIT.001.001.4134:

12 "Ron Clayton was our children's officer. He
13 initially took me to Ravenscraig Children's Home in
14 Greenock. It was good there. I was only there for six
15 months.

16 "My brother had been taken to Nazareth House in
17 Aberdeen. I was then taken to Nazareth House in
18 Aberdeen after Ravenscraig. Before I went to
19 Nazareth House, Ron took me to a large department store
20 in Greenock, Prentice's. He bought me a wardrobe full
21 of clothes. He bought me two of everything including
22 shoes and toiletries. This was for my move to
23 Nazareth House. I never received them or saw them
24 again. At Nazareth House all I got were cast-offs."

25 The witness then goes on to discuss the arrangements

1 that were made for his sister to stay with a member of
2 their family:

3 "I was five years old when I was taken to
4 Nazareth House in Aberdeen. Ron Clayton, my children's
5 officer, took me. He was a nice fella. He was from
6 London."

7 The admissions register, my Lady, shows this witness
8 being admitted to Nazareth House Aberdeen in [REDACTED] 1957.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS MACLEOD: "I don't know why I was taken to
11 Nazareth House. My dad was a Protestant and my mother
12 was a Catholic. My mother brought me up as a Catholic,
13 however my dad wished me to be Protestant and in my mind
14 and my beliefs I was a Protestant, as my dad wanted me
15 to be. I was a Protestant so I didn't understand why
16 I was taken to a Catholic institution. I was treated
17 differently because I was a Protestant.

18 "I remember arriving at Nazareth House. Ron Clayton
19 and I were met at the main door of the place by
20 Sister [REDACTED] LDR She was nice to me when Ron was there.
21 Ron left and Sister [REDACTED] LDR took me to a dormitory.
22 There were about 18 to 20 beds in the room. I was given
23 a bed. It had one sheet and one blanket. It was a thin
24 mattress on the bed. I was given a stripy pillow. All
25 the beds were occupied. There was a curtained off bit

1 to the dormitory where the nuns slept. There was a big
2 picture of Jesus on the wall. You were made to sleep on
3 your back with your hands by your sides at all times.
4 You weren't allowed to move.

5 "The nuns provided me with clothes. I was given
6 short trousers and a random grey jumper. I was also
7 given a pair of girl's shoes to wear. They were too
8 small for my feet. My little toes are still curled
9 under because I wore shoes that were too tight the whole
10 time I was there. A lot of the boys wore girls shoes.
11 We were just given them.

12 "Sister LDR told me that I had a job to do.
13 I had to polish the floors. I had to use a tool called
14 a 'thumper'.

15 "We were woken at 6 am every morning. We had to
16 sleep on our backs in our beds. The nuns would do
17 checks at night so you couldn't turn in your bed. The
18 nun that was sleeping in the curtained-off area would
19 wake us up in the morning. We then got washed and
20 brushed out teeth. Then we were made to go to chapel to
21 do the stations of the cross in the chapel. This lasted
22 for about an hour. We also had to go to chapel after
23 breakfast. Then I had to get my thumper out and do my
24 job.

25 "If anyone had wet the bed they were made to stand

1 in the corner with their wet sheets. When we took our
2 sheets to get washed, the nuns would hit us with what
3 looked like industrial dry rods. We were hit on the
4 legs with these rods. We were called 'filthy urchins'.
5 We were degraded. If I wet the bed at 6 pm the night
6 before, I was made to lie in my own urine until the next
7 morning. I was told to lie in my own piss. That's the
8 word they would use. The nuns would check the beds
9 in the middle of the night.

10 "We would have to go to Mass again after dinner.
11 When we returned from Mass, we had to shower and then
12 got our pyjamas on. We were in bed every night by 6 pm,
13 even in the summer.

14 "We were segregated from the older boys. The only
15 time we were together was in the shower area. The older
16 boys would bully the younger ones in the showers.
17 I don't remember seeing a nun watching over us in the
18 showers. The older boys would flick the younger boys
19 with their towels and they would push us out of the way.

20 "There was no privacy anywhere in Nazareth House.
21 The showers were not curtained off. It was four blocks
22 of shower bases. There was a nun who stood at the door
23 at all times, Sister **LHJ** and Sister **LHK**

24 "I was taken to the showers for wetting the bed
25 early on at Nazareth House to be placed in a freezing

1 cold bath. Five people tried to force me in using
2 physical violence but I refused and they didn't get me
3 in. They didn't try that again. I could hear lads
4 screaming and crying.

5 "It was just boys in the dorm. The boys in my dorm
6 were aged between 5 and 11.

7 "The food was not great. We used to get very little
8 to eat. At breakfast we were given burnt bacon and
9 lumpy porridge. The food was inedible but I was always
10 starving so I ate it. I used to steal food. I saw men
11 delivering food to a part of Nazareth House where the
12 elderly residents lived. I saw them delivering pies and
13 cakes. I would crawl along the concrete pipe, chase
14 into the pantry and steal some food.

15 "The pipe was 15-foot high and 4-foot wide. I would
16 crawl back along the pipe and eat it. I didn't share my
17 food with anyone as I was always starving. I think
18 I was the only one that did that.

19 "There was a song we used to sing about the food in
20 Nazareth House. We would sing: 'There is a dirty place
21 far, far away where you get pig's delight three times
22 a day; ham and eggs you never smell; burnt bacon made in
23 hell; if you want to call on me, come to Nazzy House'.
24 I remember the song well.

25 "The food was not sustainable. We used to get ill

1 quite a lot as we were undernourished. We would get
2 eye, ear and nose infections. There were no vitamins
3 in the food to keep us healthy. I used to see food
4 going elsewhere. The nuns would also look after elderly
5 people and they seemed to get the better food.

6 "The dining room was a big room with big long
7 tables. We sat on benches with the other boys from my
8 dorm. We were not allowed to talk to the other boys.
9 If you did talk you were hit with a stick. You were
10 then made to stand up and you didn't get any breakfast.

11 "I always ate my food. I did see other boys not
12 eating. They would be force-fed or hit with a stick.
13 I was never force-fed, I just ate it.

14 "I spent very little time at school. I was supposed
15 to go to school but I got ringworm and I wasn't allowed
16 to go near anybody. The nuns put iodine on my arms to
17 treat the ringworms. I never received any medical
18 treatment from a doctor or nurse.

19 "Then I had an abscess on my heel. The nuns poured
20 boiling water with [a] kaolin poultice on it straight
21 out the kettle, and burned a hole in my foot. The
22 abscess was caused by my shoes being too small. I had
23 difficulty walking so I could not get to school.
24 I still had to clean the floors. They didn't send for
25 a doctor.

1 "I mainly cleaned and polished the floors the whole
2 time I was there. I was expected to start at the main
3 door and go up and down the corridors until lunchtime
4 using the thumper. I was only five when I first started
5 this job; I wasn't very strong. The thumper was a big
6 heavy device but I just had to manage it. It was
7 awkward to move.

8 "It was on a pivot and as you pushed it it would
9 fall back on you. I'm not sure what the other boys
10 would have to do. It was only me polishing the floors.
11 I did it all day, every day.

12 "When I was about 7 years old I decided that I had
13 had enough of the way the nuns treated me and the
14 constant floor cleaning. I would run away and hide in
15 the big dustbins in the grounds.

16 "I didn't get an education at Nazareth House. Later
17 on in life at another home I got a private tutor and
18 I was educated. Due to my physical appearance caused by
19 being hit by the sticks, my general state of health and
20 the ringworms and bruises, I was deprived from going to
21 swimming baths.

22 "I remember the local newspaper ran a competition.
23 They had buried £10 notes on the beach in Aberdeen.
24 We were taken down by the nuns and we looked for the
25 money. No one found any £10 notes.

1 "I was also sent back every so often to
2 Ravenscraig Home in Greenock to stay for about four to
3 six weeks. This was during school holidays as I had
4 nowhere to go.

5 "I was sent to Ravenscraig. The staff at
6 Ravenscraig were really good. It felt like a family
7 home. We were allowed to wander about freely. When
8 I was there I would see my sister regularly. My brother
9 went sent to my aunt's instead.

10 "The religious side of Christmas was celebrated at
11 Nazareth House. We would go to Mass and celebrate
12 there. We did not receive any present or cards.
13 Birthdays were not celebrated at all.

14 "I didn't receive any social work visits the whole
15 time that I was there. I do not remember anyone coming
16 in to inspect the place.

17 "Our everyday routine was organised round our
18 attendance at chapel. We had to attend chapel before
19 breakfast and after breakfast. We also had to attend
20 Mass after lunch and dinner. It was constant
21 brainwashing. The nuns would take Mass every day.
22 I think a priest would come in once a week and take Mass
23 on a Sunday.

24 "When I was at Nazareth House three nuns died.
25 A bishop came in and took the Mass for their funeral.

1 I remember we all had to stand in line and kiss the dead
2 nun's hands as they were lying in their coffins.

3 "Nazareth House was like a religious factory. It
4 was constant religious instruction. There was no time
5 for playing. They were brainwashing us.

6 "The thing that hurts me now is that my brother is
7 dead. He took up the Catholic religion. In later life
8 we became estranged because of religion. He was married
9 in a Catholic church. I refused to go into the chapel
10 because I felt so strongly against the Catholic
11 religion. I sat on the wall outside. At Nazareth House
12 he accepted the faith and studied the catechism, the
13 rules and the laws of the Catholic Church. He could
14 speak Latin.

15 "We did not receive any medical care, the nuns would
16 treat us. We also never got any check-ups. I never
17 went to see a dentist when I was there. I used to get
18 earache. My ears were bad for ear wax. The nuns would
19 just wash out my ears.

20 "All vaccinations were given by a nun. These nuns
21 I think came from outside the home. They wore a grey
22 uniform. I think they may have been medically trained.
23 We did not receive any check-ups or medical care from
24 medical practitioners. If we had received a check-up,
25 they would have seen the injuries on us all.

1 "I never really got to see my brother. We were kept
2 apart. He had arrived at Nazareth House before me and
3 he had been an altar boy. He appeared to enjoy all the
4 religious education. He was better accepted by the
5 nuns.

6 "Sister LDQ and Sister LDR were the nuns
7 that mostly looked after me. They were animals. They
8 hit all the boys with the dry rod industrial sticks.

9 "When I was about 7, I started to rebel. I decided
10 I had had enough of doing what I was told and the nuns
11 started to lock me in the boiler room. Mr LDS was
12 [REDACTED] for the home. He would come and find me
13 and tell me that the nuns had told him that I was to be
14 locked in the boiler room. This happened regularly over
15 a two-year period when the others were at Mass.

16 "It was a dark room with no light. Every so often
17 a flame would appear from the boiler. I would be
18 scared. Mr LDS would then come back for me. He
19 used to say that he had been told to give me a spanking.
20 He would take my pants down and spank me over his knee.
21 He would sometimes fondle me. I just remember him
22 touching me and that he had a dirty old blanket.
23 Sometimes when I would see Mr LDS he would give me
24 a two bob bit. I used to ask him what it was for. He
25 told me he gave it to me because I'd been a good boy.

1 This happened quite a few times. I would buy sweets
2 with the money.

3 "The nuns would make us stand in a line and they
4 would hand out pocket money. I was always put to the
5 back of the line. This was the only time I would see my
6 brother. I would only see him, we were not allowed to
7 talk to each other. By the time I got to the front of
8 the queue, I was always told that I wasn't to get any
9 pocket money. The whole time I was there I was put to
10 the back of the line. I was told 'none for you'.

11 "The boys all had to buy their own shampoo and soap
12 with their pocket money. I never got any pocket money
13 so I had to steal shampoo and soap. I would also use
14 the money Mr [REDACTED] LDS gave me to buy shampoo and soap.

15 "I remember seeing a lot of marks on the other boys'
16 legs. I had marks on my legs from where the nuns hit me
17 with the wooden rod sticks. They would take you below
18 the knee. I still have scarring on my legs from where
19 the wounds would be from the assaults with the sticks.

20 "I remember Sister [REDACTED] LTX She was a bully and
21 a cruel woman. Thinking back now, I think she must have
22 had a lot of personal problems. She was not the full
23 shilling. She appeared to take pleasure in hitting the
24 boys. I think she was quite young, maybe in her 20s.
25 Sister [REDACTED] LTX was an evil person. She would call you

1 a dirty brat and make you lie in your own urine when you
2 wet the bed. Sister LTX [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED].
5 "I was singled out for abuse because I was
6 a Protestant and I would not accept the Catholic faith.
7 I did not fit in. My brother did all the religious
8 practice and he was still hit. He was not hit to the
9 extent that I was. I was informed by my sister that
10 he had been hit as she had seen the extent of his
11 injuries.

12 "The abuse we received was degrading. There was not
13 one isolated incident. Being hit by the nuns was
14 constant, it was constant cruelty. The nuns spoke to us
15 like we were animals. We were not human beings to them.
16 They took pleasure in hurting us. They enjoyed hitting
17 us with the sticks and walloping us with their ropes.
18 The nuns didn't need a reason to hit us, they just hit
19 us. It was constant. They also liked to grab us by our
20 ears and pull them hard. They did this if they heard
21 you laughing. I laughed a lot to annoy them.

22 "I feel like the nuns' sole outlook on life was to
23 cause misery. They were all evil, they were not women.
24 There was no one to check up on them. I couldn't
25 understand why there were no regulators. They got away

1 with what they liked. In my opinion, the
2 Catholic Church has not changed. They will deny that.
3 I watched a programme about the Spanish Inquisition.
4 I feel like the methods used then were not very
5 different to the treatment we received from the nuns.

6 "There were a couple of nuns that were nice. They
7 wore a light blue uniform. I think they were trainee
8 nuns. They were young and they were nicer to us than
9 the older nuns.

10 "I told my sister about the abuse at Nazareth House.
11 I told her when I would see her when I was staying at
12 Ravenscraig Children's Home. She would see the marks on
13 my legs and my back. I also told Rosalind Nicol. She
14 worked at Ravenscraig Children's Home. I don't think
15 anyone believed me. I think the local people knew
16 what was going on in Nazareth House. There was no one
17 to police the nuns. No one went in and checked on the
18 place. None of my children's officers checked what was
19 going on. I thought the abuse was my fault because
20 I had rebelled against their religion. My brother took
21 to the religion and he was also abused.

22 "Nazareth House had had enough of me. I was
23 supposed to be sent to Fort Augustus Abbey School in the
24 Highlands. Ron Clayton, my children's officer, told me
25 that he was going to try his damndest to not have me

1 sent to another religious place. I think he knew
2 what was going on there. He said that he had heard
3 stories from other boys about Fort Augustus Abbey
4 School.

5 "Two days before I left Nazareth House I went into
6 the boiler room and I bent back the steam pipe. I had
7 hoped that it would blow the place up. I was about
8 10 years of age when I did this. Unfortunately it
9 didn't work."

10 The register from Nazareth House Aberdeen has this
11 witness noted as leaving the home in [REDACTED] 1960.

12 LADY SMITH: 1960, was that?

13 MS MACLEOD: Yes.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MS MACLEOD: In paragraphs 49 to 51 of the statement, the
16 witness then speaks about being sent again to
17 Ravenscraig Children's Home for a short time, then going
18 to Kirkmichael House in Ayrshire and then going to stay
19 at Turners Court.

20 I will now move on to paragraph 53, which is on page
21 WIT.001.001.4143. In the next few paragraphs the
22 witness talks about life after being in care. My
23 apologies, I'll pick it up at paragraph 54:

24 "I have had some good jobs in my life. I have
25 worked on the puffers, trawlers and fishing boats out

1 in the North Sea. I have already worked at the
2 Queen Mother's Lodge in Great Windsor Park. I also
3 worked at the Duke of Cumberland's Lodge. It was
4 a great place to work."

5 In the next few paragraphs the witness describes
6 meeting his first wife, having his daughter, the fact he
7 drank a lot during that period, and then goes on to
8 explain that he hasn't seen his daughter in a long time
9 and that's something he still finds very hard. He
10 continues the description of his family circumstances up
11 to the end of paragraph 58, so I'll pick the statement
12 up again at paragraph 59, which is on WIT.001.001.4144,
13 where the witness is speaking about the impact of his
14 experiences in care and his brother's experiences in
15 care:

16 "My brother ended up an alcoholic and homeless.
17 He is dead now. I believe his time in care had a huge
18 impact on his life. He wasn't as strong as me and he
19 couldn't handle it. His time in care affected him more.

20 "I turned to drink and drugs but I eventually just
21 stopped taking them.

22 "After I gave up my daughters, I hit the drink. One
23 night I got a knife and I slit my wrists. I wouldn't
24 get in the ambulance. They had to wait until I had
25 passed out before they could get me in the ambulance.

1 The wounds were stitched up."

2 In the next two paragraphs, my Lady, the witness
3 speaks about meeting his second wife and how they've now
4 separated, but that she still looks after him. I will
5 now move to paragraph 63 on the same page:

6 "I feel like I can't get close to anyone now.
7 I have no feelings. When someone dies, I feel no grief.
8 This all stems back to my time in Nazareth House. My
9 time there devastated me. I still think back to my time
10 in Nazareth House. I wake up in cold sweats. I wake up
11 angry and agitated.

12 "I don't have my records. I was told that there was
13 a fire and all my records were destroyed in the fire.

14 "I would hope and wish that what happened to me and
15 my brother does not happen to anyone else, that someone
16 else's life is not bugged up. The abuse and its
17 effects on me cost me my brother, my wives and my
18 daughters.

19 "I was shown no love and no affection by the nuns.
20 These nuns should not have been dealing with children.
21 They treated us like they were dealing with vermin.

22 "I would like there to be something put in place
23 that checks up on these places. I would hope it doesn't
24 happen any more. What makes it worse in my mind is that
25 it was women who were abusing us.

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

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

5 The statement was signed by Terence on
6 16 August 2017.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

8 One thing popped into my mind. You read a part of
9 that statement where there was a reference to a local
10 newspaper hiding £10 notes in the beach. I'm wondering
11 if that's a mistranscription for 10 bob notes. The
12 timescale it would seem to fit would be early 1960s at
13 the latest and I very much doubt that any -- with all
14 due respect to any members of the press present, I very
15 much doubt that any newspaper would have been giving
16 away a plethora of £10 notes and hiding them in the sand
17 on the beach. Ten bob notes might fit -- and they were
18 the same colour.

19 MS MACLEOD: Noted, my Lady. That would have been very
20 generous.

21 LADY SMITH: Yes. If it matters, we can check that up.

22 I suspect it's not material.

23 MS MACLEOD: That completes the two readings. There is
24 a witness coming in for the afternoon who will be ready
25 to give evidence at 2 o'clock.

1 LADY SMITH: Very well. I'm going to rise now and sit again
2 at 2 o'clock.

3 (12.37 pm)

4 (The lunch adjournment)

5 (2.00 pm)

6 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. Mr MacAulay, where next?

7 MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, my Lady. The next witness is
8 an applicant, but he does not want to be anonymous, and
9 that is Joseph Andrew Currie. Can I say, my Lady, that
10 he may require the odd break or two when giving his
11 evidence.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

13 MR MacAULAY: He will let us know.

14 MR JOSEPH CURRIE (affirmed)

15 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.
16 You'll get used to where to be to maximise the benefit
17 of the microphone. That should help you to be able to
18 just speak normally, but still be heard even by the
19 people in the back of the room.

20 One other thing, before I hand over to Mr MacAulay:
21 we can have a break at any time if you need that, but
22 I'll need you to let me know --

23 A. I will do.

24 LADY SMITH: -- if you want a break; will you do that?

25 A. I will, cheers. It's just I've got some medication with

1 me, but I shouldn't have to take it.

2 LADY SMITH: It's no problem. If we have to stop to let you
3 do that, we can do so.

4 Questions from MR MacAULAY

5 MR MacAULAY: Joseph, can I just take from you that your
6 date of birth is [REDACTED] 1953?

7 A. Yes, that's correct. [REDACTED] I'll be 65.

8 Q. The first thing I want to do is to ask you to look at
9 your statement, which is in front of you in that red
10 folder. I'm going to give the reference of the first
11 page for the transcript.

12 A. Let me get my glasses on first.

13 Q. It's WIT.001.001.3866.

14 Joseph, could I ask you to turn to the last page.

15 A. Right.

16 Q. Can I ask you to confirm that you have signed that
17 statement?

18 A. Well, it would appear that I've done so, yes, on
19 27 October 2017.

20 Q. That's your signature?

21 A. If not, it must be a good forgery.

22 Q. Can I also ask you to look at that last paragraph,
23 paragraph 113, and do you tell us that:

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

1 Is that the case?

2 A. Yes, that's correct, yes. That's correct.

3 Q. Do you also say:

4 "I believe the facts stated in this witness

5 statement are true"?

6 A. Sorry, could you repeat that?

7 Q. You can see what's written there:

8 "I believe the facts stated in this witness

9 statement are true."

10 A. Aye, that's 113. That's correct, yes.

11 Q. You can put the statement aside for the moment because

12 I'm going to ask you some general questions.

13 We know that you were placed in Nazareth House

14 Aberdeen when you were very young; is that right?

15 A. That's correct, about 1955.

16 Q. We'll look at the dates in a moment. Do you have any

17 recollection at all of what life was like before you

18 went to Aberdeen?

19 A. No, not really, no. Not really.

20 Q. I think you yourself have investigated your background

21 and looked at some of your records; is that right?

22 A. That's correct. I was lucky, I managed to get my

23 records through Cameron Fyfe via the Mitchell Library.

24 Because I was under the care of Glasgow Corporation,

25 which was based then, the children's department, in

1 73 John Street, but there was a fire later on in
2 John Street and all what was salvaged by the
3 Salvage Corps -- and I'm giving my age away here -- was
4 taken to the Mitchell Library.

5 I managed to get most of my records. They did two
6 searches, they found the first lot, which went from
7 about 1953 to 1963 and then later on they did another
8 search and they found more records.

9 Q. I think putting the matter shortly you were able to look
10 at your records and you could see that there was an
11 unhappy family background.

12 A. Yes, I'm not ashamed. Sadly, my mother was a chronic
13 alcoholic. I never knew my father. [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED] She told me he ran
15 a -- he was Polish, [REDACTED] [inaudible], and he ran
16 a launderette in Eveline Street. She had only met him
17 once that and that was all.

18 Q. You were placed in Aberdeen, which was a long way from
19 Glasgow.

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. Did you find out why it was Aberdeen was selected as
22 opposed to somewhere closer to hand?

23 A. Well, I understand -- and it was also the same with
24 Edinburgh because there was a Nazareth House in Lasswade
25 in Edinburgh and it was mostly Glasgow and Edinburgh

1 people that were in there. Because when the children's
2 officers came up you had all the Edinburgh boys on one
3 side and girls and Glasgow -- anyway, they are sent up
4 there because they didn't want their parents turning up
5 at Cardonald, as the Nazareth House was, and demanding
6 a bit drunk, Saturday night, wanting to see their sons
7 and daughters and that kind of thing.

8 Q. So you were placed in Aberdeen so you were far away from
9 Glasgow?

10 A. I was still under the care of Glasgow Corporation,
11 though. They still came up -- they paid the nuns their
12 keep and all that kind of thing.

13 Q. So far as your first admission to Nazareth House was
14 concerned, you said 1955. I think we know from the
15 records that we've seen that you were admitted on
16 12 September 1955, when you were at the age of 2.

17 A. That's correct, that would be right, yes.

18 Q. Would I be correct in thinking that you really wouldn't
19 have any real recollection of that?

20 A. No, not really. I have some recollections of the
21 nursery area, but that's about it.

22 Q. You left Nazareth House, according to the records, on
23 2 January 1959, and you went into foster care; is that
24 right?

25 A. That's right. That was a Mrs Middleton in Crown Street,

1 Aberdeen, yes.

2 Q. And looking to that date, you'd be about 5 years of age
3 when you went into foster care?

4 A. That's right. 

5

6

7 Q.

8

9

10 A.

11 Q.

12 A.

13 Q.

14

15 A.

16

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18 Q.

19

20

21 A.

22

23 Q. You go into foster care. Do you have a recollection of
24 life in foster care?

25 A. Yes, it was okay. The woman, Mrs Middleton, she was an

1 older lady. [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED]

3 Q. In any event, having spent two or three years in
4 Nazareth House, you go into foster care.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You spend a number of years in foster care and then you
7 go back to Nazareth House?

8 A. That's right. About two years [REDACTED].

9 Q. And do you know why the foster care arrangement came to
10 an end?

11 A. Well, because the woman wanted to go to New Zealand.
12 She lost her husband. Bill was bedridden, I remember
13 that much, and he passed away and Uncle Frank -- I only
14 knew him as Uncle Frank -- came over from New Zealand
15 and he talked her into going to New Zealand. I didn't
16 know this at the time. [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED]

19 Q. What you do tell us in your statement is that this
20 foster care arrangement was a pleasant one for you.

21 A. It was pleasant enough, yes. It was a lot better than
22 the children's home, let's put it that way.

23 Q. So far as dates are concerned then, if we look at the
24 Sisters of Nazareth records, according to their records
25 you're back in Nazareth House Aberdeen on 1 June 1961

1 when you were almost 8 years of age. Would that accord
2 with your own recollection?

3 A. That would probably be right. That's what it says in my
4 report anyway, and I got -- I should have pointed out,
5 I think you know that, on the records it's got the
6 children's officers' report and although they've deleted
7 a lot of it for legal reasons and it has been printed
8 out -- they didn't give us the actual book, it's been
9 taken out of the book, but the good thing about
10 Glasgow Corporation was they date stamped everything.
11 They had a hand stamp. So some of the letters that
12 I got, the letters I wrote to my children's officer are
13 all date stamped as well, even if I hadn't put a date on
14 it myself.

15 Q. Can I take from you now, because there's a slight
16 confusion in the records -- according to the Sisters of
17 Nazareth records, you left them in July 1968, but
18 according to the Glasgow Corporation records you left on
19 22 December 1967.

20 A. 22 December 1967. What was the 1968 date?

21 Q. That was July 1968.

22 A. They're probably thinking that's [REDACTED],
23 you see. That's when I was due to leave Nazareth House.
24 But I told my children's officer -- that's one of the
25 letters I brought today -- I wrote it on 18 December.

1 He wanted me to finish my schooling in Aberdeen, but
2 I said, no, I want to go back down to Glasgow, you know.

3 So that's what the nuns -- that's where the
4 confusion will be. The nuns, because I was 15 on
5 [REDACTED] they would have me done there staying until
6 then, but of course I left before that.

7 Q. So you are, what, 14 then when you left?

8 A. 14 and a half, yes. About 14 and a half.

9 Q. I take it then, looking to the time frame we've been
10 looking at, Joseph, that on the second stint you were
11 there from the age of 8 to the age of 14, about six
12 years?

13 A. That's right, the second stint, yes.

14 Q. What can you tell me about the layout at Nazareth House?
15 We know there were boys and girls there; is that right?

16 A. Yes. The boys' section, you had a boys' section and you
17 had the girls' section. There was also an annex for the
18 girls called St John's and that was a house that had a
19 back entrance to it onto Alpine Grove.

20 Q. So far as the annex was concerned, was that for
21 a particular age group of girls, can you tell me?

22 A. I don't really know because I'm not a girl. I wasn't in
23 there.

24 Q. You don't know?

25 A. [REDACTED]

1

2 Q.

3 A.

4

5 Q.

6

7 A.

8

9 Q. So far as you're concerned then, you're in what's called
10 the boys' section.

11 A. Mm.

12 Q. We also understand that there was a section in
13 Nazareth House -- that was effectively an old folk's
14 home; is that right?

15 A. Yes, there was the older men and older women, too.

16 I don't remember many older women, but there was older
17 men.

18 The Nazareth House in Aberdeen -- a wee history
19 lesson for you -- was actually the biggest in the UK.
20 Or was; it's demolished now of course, but it was the
21 biggest home in the UK and they had a good mixture in
22 there. The me -- the older men and women were all kind
23 of kept separate.

24 Q. Looking at the layout, if you look at the boys' section,
25 am I right in thinking that the older men were at the

1 bottom?

2 A. That's right. The older women were kind of on the
3 second, third floor. Of course you had the nuns'
4 accommodation too.

5 Q. What about your accommodation? Where was that?

6 A. We were right at the top. We were right at the top.

7 Q. Can you help me with the sleeping arrangements? What
8 were the sleeping arrangements when you went back at the
9 age of 8?

10 A. It used to be big dormitories then. There was maybe 20
11 to two dozen people in a dormitory. But that was only
12 for a few years and then it all changed later on.

13 Q. So far as the dormitories were concerned, as far as you
14 can remember, how were they arranged? By that I mean
15 were they arranged in relation to age group or was there
16 some other way of setting --

17 A. No, no. There was no age group ...

18 Q. Could you have different ages in the one --

19 A. Yes, different ages. There was no thingummy there.

20 Q. One thing you tell us in your statement, Joseph, is that
21 you were given a number when you were there.

22 A. Oh yes, I was number 4.

23 Q. If you were to be addressed by one of the nuns, would
24 she call you Joseph or would she use the number?
25 What was the position if you were being spoken to by one

1 of the nuns?

2 A. It depends what she wanted off me. If she was looking
3 for something she would call me Joseph but if it was --
4 officially she would call me number 4. We were all used
5 to it. It was very regimented. Nazareth House was set
6 up by the Jesuit order. Everything was all regimented.

7 Because I remember when I first arrived, we used to
8 stand by the side of the bed and the bed had to be made
9 properly. We all had to stand there and it was to
10 attention and all that sort of thing, although it
11 changed later on in life, you know.

12 Sometimes, I must admit, we used to bugger the bed
13 up deliberately because the breakfast was rotten anyway
14 so it didn't make any difference.

15 Q. Can I ask you this: we've already talked about the boys'
16 and the girls' sections; did you have contact with the
17 girls within Nazareth House itself?

18 A. No, you weren't allowed any contact. It was only when
19 we were at church we used to see one another. But
20 of course there was the school -- you see, I missed
21 this, but when I first --

22

23

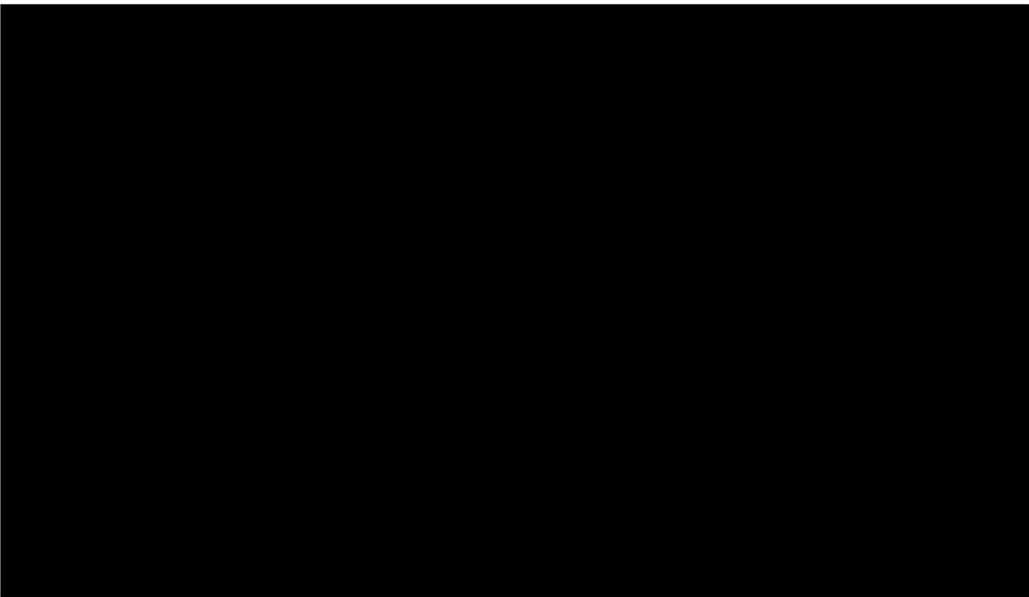
24 Q. But that had changed by your time?

25 A. That had changed by the -- well, it was

1 Aberdeen Corporation that changed it. Actually, I think
2 it was the government that actually changed it. So they
3 had to start schooling outside. A bus used to take us
4 to school, St Peter's Roman Catholic school. We had the
5 uniforms as well. We were the only ones that actually
6 wore the uniforms.

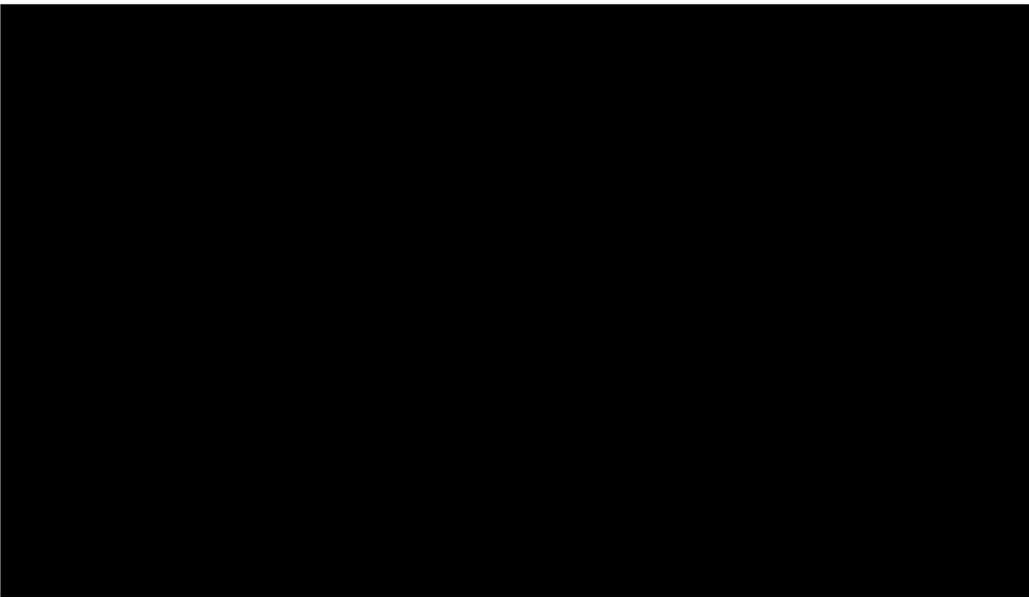
7 Q. So on the bus then you would see the girls?

8 A. Aye, they were up the stairs though.

9 Q. 

10

11

12 A. 

13

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16

17

18 Q. One thing you do tell us in your statement, in
19 paragraph 27, if I move the screen down a bit, and
20 that is that things did start to change in
21 Nazareth House during your time there; is that right?

22 A. That was 1965, the Second Vatican Council. That was
23 when they changed the Mass from Latin to English. And
24 they also started bringing in younger nuns because a lot
25 of the younger nuns who were coming in, the

1 Catholic Church realised they weren't prepared to put up
2 with the discipline. It was the era of the Beatles,
3 Hollies and the Rolling Stones, all that kind of thing,
4 teenagers were changing, and the Catholic Church knew
5 they had to adapt and they couldn't stop it.

6 To cut a long story short, it did change it and
7 things started to improve slightly. Slightly, you know.

8 Q. We'll look at what happened in a moment. Just looking
9 at these changes you mention, you do talk about in
10 paragraph 27, for example --

11 A. Say that again, sorry?

12 Q. Paragraph 27. If you look at your screen, this is from
13 your statement.

14 A. Oh yeah.

15 Q. You mention that you witnessed what you call a catfight.

16 A. Yes, that was outside the church. That was me and

17 [REDACTED] if I remember correctly. It was the
18 first time I'd seen a nun with her gown, you know, her
19 hood off.

20 Q. What happened on that occasion?

21 A. It was two women, the older nun and the younger nun
22 having a fight. I was shocked because I'd never seen
23 a nun with a big bun in her hair. I often wondered how
24 they thingummied that. That wasn't the only time.
25 I was an altar boy. Even going up for communion, the

1 older nun would go like that (indicating) to the younger
2 nun. They didn't even kneel beside them, you know, when
3 I was going round with the plate, you know, for the
4 bread -- if you're a Catholic, you'll know what I'm
5 talking about -- but they would -- the older nuns would
6 pass, you go and -- they wouldn't even kneel beside the
7 other nuns.

8 Q. Are you saying there was a degree of friction then
9 between the younger nuns and the older nuns?

10 A. Yes. There was one day one of the younger nuns said to
11 me, "Don't bother going to rosary during the day,
12 Joseph, I want to teach you how to ride a bicycle". And
13 we went down to -- and one of the nuns said to me,
14 "I didn't see you at rosary", and I said, "See,
15 Sister Clement", whatever her name was, and that was it,
16 end of story. She wasn't happy about it, the older nun
17 wasn't happy because I had missed rosary, but at least
18 I had a genuine excuse this time.

19 Q. I think what you re saying is that as the years went on,
20 there were that were changes taking place within the
21 home.

22 A. Yes. The Catholic Church had to adapt. They've always
23 been good at adapting, you know, because they knew the
24 era was up for looking after boys too. That was coming
25 to an end. So then you started looking after older

1 people and various other people.

2 Q. If I take you to paragraph 29 of your statement, which
3 is now on the screen, you mention there the
4 Mother Superior, whose name you give in the statement as
5 Mother Superior [REDACTED] LDT What you say there is:

6 "She did a lot of good things about the school."

7 Can you tell me a little bit about that?

8 A. About the school?

9 Q. That's what is written, maybe you meant something
10 different.

11 LADY SMITH: If you look at the screen you will see it.

12 It's your statement there that Mr MacAulay is referring
13 to.

14 A. Yes. Are we on the bit about the Mother Superior?

15 I can remember the Mother Superior was called [REDACTED] LDT
16 She did a lot of good things. It wasn't about the
17 school; it was about the home.

18 Q. What sort of things are you talking about?

19 A. She shortened the bedrooms so instead of having 20 to a
20 bedroom, she brought them into units of four and that
21 kind of thing, and she had a lift installed, a big
22 double lift, not just a normal lift. There was a lot of
23 older people in there with carriages, so they needed
24 beds to be moved and that.

25 She did other minor things. She got the gym done up

1 and that, and she did the living room up. Some of the
2 older boys, the teenage boys, at one time the social
3 place was all the one room. She got that divided into
4 two and the boys who were in their teenage years, say
5 13, 14, they went into another room. And they got
6 television as well too -- black and white I might say
7 though.

8 Q. When you got to that age, you would get the benefit of
9 those changes, when you became a teenager?

10 A. That's right, yes.

11 Q. You mentioned also a Sister [LFB] who was in charge of
12 the boys; was she then in charge of you?

13 A. Yes. She was in charge -- she came after [LDR] she
14 came after Sister [LDR] was moved. Sister [LDR] was
15 moved for a ...

16 Q. So when you went there then as an 8-year-old, what nun
17 was in charge?

18 A. It was [LDR] that was still there. I'm not exactly
19 sure what year that incident happened with [LDR] with
20 the alcoholic, when she beat that boy up, and they had
21 to put her into a -- they had to do something about it.

22 Q. I'll come on to that. You also mention a

23 Sister [FAF]

24 A. Yes. She was the girls'. She was nothing to do with
25 us.

- 1 Q. Would you have anything to do with her at all?
- 2 A. No, she would just stand at the playground with the boys
3 and girls, just to make sure the boys didn't go into the
4 girls' bit.
- 5 Q. Also, if we look on, you talk about some lay staff.
6 You have a recollection of there being lay staff there;
7 is that right? Non-nuns, in other words. You needn't
8 look at the statement for the moment. Are you able to
9 answer generally if there were people there who were
10 laypeople?
- 11 A. Laypeople?
- 12 Q. Not nuns.
- 13 A. Oh yeah, there was a Mr LJM He came out of
14 Craiginches Prison. He was a sort of He
15 helped around -- and there were a few others as well,
16 too.
- 17 Q. There's one person you do mention in your statement, and
18 that is someone called LDU
- 19 A. He stayed in .
20
21
22 . He used to help out in the home.
- 23 Q. Do you know what his job was in the home?
- 24 A. I don't think so. I don't know what his job was.
25 I know later on he left when Nazareth House stopped

1 taking boys in and he then got a job in the court system
2 as a warden or something like that.

3 Q. But he was --

4 A. Something like that guy there (indicating).

5 Q. You're pointing to Her Ladyship's macer.

6 A. Something like that. He helped out the courts, except
7 he probably had a hat on and a kind of uniform.

8 Q. Was he there during your time in Nazareth House?

9 A. Yes, he was there, yes.

10 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about the routine then that
11 you can remember. Was Mass a regular thing that you had
12 to attend?

13 A. Mass was every day, morning and night-time, except on
14 a Saturday morning. We got an hour longer in bed on
15 a Saturday morning.

16 Q. What about chores? Did you have chores to do?

17 A. Oh yes, but I was lucky that way, I had a good number
18 in the church. I cleaned the church, waxed the floor,
19 that kind of thing.

20 Q. I think you tell us there was a particular nun that was
21 in charge of that.

22 A. That was Sister **LGR**. She was all right. She was good.
23 She used to give me some money and that, extra pocket
24 money and that kind of thing. At my birthday she gave
25 us a 10 shilling note which was a lot in those days you

1 know.

2 LADY SMITH: Why do you say you were lucky when it came to
3 the chores that you had? You said you had a good number
4 doing the church.

5 A. Aye. Because that was considered a good number rather
6 than -- if the boys were up the stairs polishing the
7 floors and that kind of thing, the nuns would be
8 watching them and if they didn't do it properly, they
9 would give them a wallop. That kind of thing.

10 They were being watched all the time, whereas I was
11 in the church and if I made a mistake, Sister **LGR** just
12 said, it's not done properly, Joseph, go over it again,
13 something like that. It was kept quiet if I made
14 a mistake, but if it was one of the other jobs it was
15 different.

16 LADY SMITH: Were the polishing jobs with the blockers, the
17 machine, harder to do than the job you had to do in the
18 church?

19 A. The what?

20 LADY SMITH: Some people have referred to them as blockers
21 or bumpers, polishing the wooden floors.

22 A. Oh, you're talking about the machine?

23 LADY SMITH: Yes. Was that hard work?

24 A. Aye. They had machines there, but sometimes they had to
25 be done by hand. Sometimes it was done by hand, you

1 know, the thing. I still don't know what blockers --
2 I've heard the name before.

3 LADY SMITH: But you were in the church, you didn't have to
4 deal with them?

5 A. Yes. I do remember hoovers coming in. Hoovers came in
6 later on, but I'm giving my age away because some of
7 there were ACME and that kind of thing, before actual
8 hoovers, names of things you'd never get nowadays.

9 LADY SMITH: Of course.

10 Mr MacAulay.

11 MR MacAULAY: Can I ask you about bed-wetting. I think you
12 tell us in your statement that you did not have
13 a problem with bed-wetting.

14 A. No, I didn't have a problem with that.

15 Q. But there were boys who did?

16 A. The boy across the bed from me when we were in four
17 beds, he was, what do you call it -- he had a problem
18 with the bed-wetting.

19 Q. And what happened then?

20 A. They used to put the brown mattress -- it was like
21 a brown mattress thing, made of -- I'll have to think --
22 it was made of plastic or something like that over it.
23 If they peed the bed. But sometimes they would get
24 a slapping for it.

25 Q. What about the wet sheets? Did anything happen about

- 1 the wet sheets that you can remember?
- 2 A. Well, as far as I know, they were just washed. That was
3 it. They were just washed.
- 4 Q. But you weren't a bed-wetter so you weren't exposed to
5 that?
- 6 A. No, it didn't bother me at all. It didn't bother me at
7 all.
- 8 Q. When you say sometimes there was slapping, who would do
9 the slapping?
- 10 A. It would be one of the nuns probably, but it depends on
11 the mood. It didn't happen all the time, but maybe the
12 odd time she would ... I think they were happy if the
13 wet bit was just on the rubber bit. But if it hit the
14 sheets or the mattress probably they wouldn't be too
15 happy about that, you know.
- 16 Q. Can I ask you about the food at Nazareth House. How
17 would you describe the food?
- 18 A. I do remember a Thursday, we used to get a piece and
19 grease on a Thursday. They had a dumb-bell and
20 a sausage would come up on a big tray thing. We used to
21 get one sausage each and we would dip our bread in that,
22 you know. It was a piece and grease on a Thursday.
- 23 But as I say, the food was nothing great. The only
24 time we got really decent food was at Christmas and
25 New Year -- Christmas and Easter, sorry.

- 1 Q. What sort of food were you provided with then?
- 2 A. The nuns would make it then because you would get the
3 normal, you know, chicken, turkey, whatever it was,
4 trimmings and that. Because that's when they brought
5 the visitors around. The visitors, they were obviously
6 donating money to the church. I remember sitting there
7 at Christmastime and these people would come in with
8 mink coats on and that kind of thing: "And this is John
9 and this is Joseph", "Are you enjoying your dinner?"
10 They would talk to you, "Are you enjoying life?" and all
11 that kind of thing.
- 12 Q. I think you've provided us with a little rhyme that you
13 had at Nazareth House in paragraph 44.
- 14 A. Oh yeah, that's right, yes.
- 15 Q. Can you tell us what it is?
- 16 A. I'll give you the Glasgow version of it rather than the
17 Aberdonian version as I don't think there will be many
18 Aberdonians amongst us here -- although I could be
19 wrong --
- 20 LADY SMITH: You could always give us both if you know them
21 both.
- 22 A. I can't give you a Gaelic version.
- 23 LADY SMITH: We won't push our luck!
- 24 A. "I know a funny place not far away where you get mince
25 and tatties every single day. Ham and eggs you never

1 smell. Burnt bacon made in hell. If you want any, come
2 to Nazzy House."

3 The cook we used to have -- I know people think I'm
4 winding them up, but that was her name: Maria Chipolata.
5 She had a lisp thing too, she had problems with her
6 thing. She was excused at Christmas and New Year --
7 I keep saying New Year -- sorry, Christmas and Easter.
8 It might have been the New Year as well, I don't know.
9 Aye. But she couldn't really cook to save herself.

10 The nuns' food was cooked separate. That was
11 Sister LTU. She used to do a lot of the cooking for
12 the nuns, although I never saw any of the meals the nuns
13 got in all fairness. I never saw any of the meals the
14 nuns got.

15 MR MacAULAY: Were there some boys though who couldn't eat
16 the food?

17 A. There was. Sometimes I couldn't eat it myself actually.
18 I just used to give it to the dog, Rebel. That's how
19 the dog was kind of --

20 Q. So there was a dog around?

21 A. Yes. A dog wandered into the home one day. They tried
22 to chase it away, but we kept feeding it all the time so
23 of course dogs kept coming back. We named it Rebel,
24 too.

25 Q. What would happen if a boy didn't eat his food?

1 A. Sometimes they would force it down them, that kind of
2 thing. I didn't see much of that, to be honest with
3 you. I do know that that went on in the girls' section
4 quite a lot, that the nuns -- [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED] -- that's all hearsay, I'm not
6 getting into that side of it.

7 Q. So far as what you yourself witnessed, did you see boys
8 being force-fed?

9 A. The odd time, yes. The odd time. It's just like the
10 bed-wetting: it happened occasionally. It just depends
11 on the mood they were in. If they were in a bad mood
12 the nuns -- it was mostly [REDACTED] LDR , not so much [REDACTED] LFB .
13 [REDACTED] LDR was the problem nun when we first came in --
14 although I actually feel sorry for her because she was
15 a chronic alcoholic. She went and got -- [REDACTED]
16 that was his job, he used to tidy her room up and he
17 used to find the bottles of gin. Because she caught him
18 one day having a slug of it himself and there was still
19 some left in it.

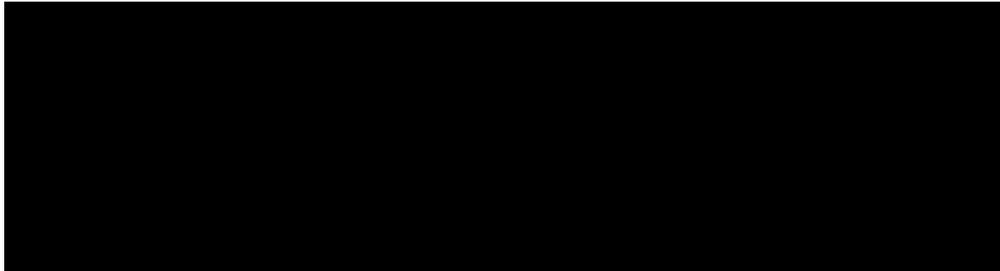
20 Q. If I can just understand, when you talk about boys being
21 force-fed on the odd occasion you have mentioned, can
22 I understand how it was done?

23 A. They just opened their mouth and shoved it down there.
24 They would probably regurgitate it again. But I only
25 saw it occasionally.

1 You see, there was a lot of things happened in
2 Nazareth House before I arrived, there was things
3 happening in the 1940s, 1950s. Everybody's got their
4 own story and version of things. There was a lot of
5 things I heard about Nazareth House, but that's all
6 hearsay; I'm only giving you what I saw --

7 Q. Indeed.

8 A. -- what I experienced myself. I don't want to delve
9 into the hearsay side of things.



10
11
12
13
14 Q. One thing you tell us about food though is that you were
15 always hungry.

16 A. That's right, yes. I was usually always hungry, that's
17 right. I do remember getting the oranges and the
18 tangerines and we used to eat the skin off them
19 actually, you know. We used to eat the skin off them.

20 But also, another thing I forgot to mention, Marks &
21 Spencers -- we used to go down in the van every Friday
22 and they would give us their out of date stuff. There
23 was only maybe a day running on it, and they were very
24 generous that way. But it was mostly cakes and that
25 kind of thing, cakes, biscuits, that sort of thing.

1 Q. Can I ask you about the discipline then at
2 Nazareth House because you tell us about discipline in
3 your statement. Can you just describe to me what the
4 discipline was like?

5 A. I do remember LDR when she went on the warpath, because
6 the word would go round the room, LDR on the warpath
7 again. She had this stick -- and again I'm going back
8 to the ACME cupboards, drying cupboards. The nuns had
9 very big, long pockets and they used to keep the sticks
10 in there. That was the drying cupboard sticks. They
11 had these big, huge, tall drying cupboards.

12 She used to go on the warpath at night -- usually if
13 you had been bad, done something during the day or
14 brought attention to it, she would come in. We always
15 knew there was something wrong with her because her face
16 was very debauched, very enraged.

17 Q. When you say she went on the warpath, what happened?

18 A. She would come round -- she'd go for a slug of gin,
19 probably, when the lights went out and then she would
20 come round the rooms a bit, at maybe 1 or 2 in the
21 morning, and switch the lights on and go over to maybe
22 beat somebody with a stick, you know, while they were in
23 their bed.

24 Q. Did that happen to you?

25 A. I think it happened once. But I do remember one

1 occasion the dog was lying there and the dog grabbed the
2 stick and ran down the stairs, and LDR went running
3 after it and she fell on her backside down the stairs
4 and Sister LFD had to pick her up, like there was
5 blood coming from her nose, and Sister LFD had to put
6 her to bed.

7 Q. I think you are going to tell us about one incident
8 when, as I think she put it in your statement, she went
9 over the score.

10 A. She went over the score and the doctor had to be called
11 and the doctor said -- I don't know if it was the
12 regular doctor or a younger doctor and he said, "I am
13 going to have to report this" --

14 Q. I'll come on to that. Before I do that, I want to go
15 back to the routine.

16 Schooling. I think you have told us already you
17 went to St Peter's in Aberdeen; is that correct?

18 A. St Peter's Roman Catholic school in Nelson Street,
19 that's correct, which is sadly no longer there any more.

20 Q. What about holidays? Did you have holidays when you
21 were there?

22 A. Yeah. Again, what do you call it, there was a family
23 down in Troon, Mr and Mrs Hardy, they took us there. [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]. I've

1 got some of the letters about that. They took [REDACTED]
2 on holiday. They were very good. The only thing was
3 they weren't Catholics. They had to make sure that we
4 went to Mass, you know. I also found out later on in
5 life, much later on, they actually wanted to adopt [REDACTED],
6 but they weren't allowed to because they weren't
7 Catholics. They would have to have become Catholics in
8 order to adopt [REDACTED]

9 Q. One thing you do tell us is that there was plenty of
10 time for recreation and playing with the other boys;
11 is that right?

12 A. Oh yeah, you mean playing football and that kind of
13 thing? Yeah.

14 Q. One thing you also say is there were plenty of toys and
15 books, although they were mainly religious books.

16 A. Yes. A lot of the toys were donated by people.

17 Q. What sort of toys are you talking about?

18 A. Matchbox, Disney, AirFix. That sort of thing. But
19 there was plenty of them. There was no problem that
20 way, you know.

21 Q. Your birthday, was your birthday acknowledged and
22 celebrated?

23 A. Yes, when it was your birthday you went down to the
24 Mother Superior, you told her it was your birthday, and
25 she would give you I think some stuff -- I don't know,

1 sweets and that kind of thing. She'd tell you to go and
2 see Sister [LTU] in the stores. And Sister [LTU] would
3 give -- we used to get a big coffee cake, that kind of
4 thing.

5 Q. Christmas. You have told us the food was good at
6 Christmas time.

7 A. Yes, because one of the nuns cooked it.

8 Q. And did you get presents at Christmas?

9 A. Yes, there was. You'd get a tangerine and a Matchbox
10 toy, aye, but that was it.

11 Q. Can I just ask you about visits that you may have had.
12 First of all, looking at family visits, were there any
13 family visits to you during your time there?

14 A. Sorry, what do you mean, family visits?

15 Q. Members of your family coming to visit you.

16 A. No, no. There was no mother or father, nothing like
17 that.

18 Q. But you do say that, I think, the children's officer
19 would come to visit.

20 A. Yes, he came every three months. It was a Mr McEwan at
21 first -- a Ms Hamilton first, then a Mr McEwan, the
22 Glasgow man.

23 Q. Can I turn to that part of your statement that begins at
24 paragraph 69. You touch upon Sister [LDR] again and,
25 as you tell us there, she was known as [LDR] is that

1 right?

2 A. You're still on 66 just now.

3 Q. We'll soon come on to 69, I hope.

4 A. No, you're back the way. That's 62. That's 68. 69

5 now. That's it, yes.

6 Q. I'll read that first sentence:

7 "Sister [REDACTED] LDR, known as [REDACTED] LDR would regularly beat

8 you with a stick for doing very little."

9 That's what you've said in your statement?

10 A. That's right, yes.

11 Q. Did that happen to you?

12 A. A couple of times. A couple much times, yes.

13 Q. Did you see that happening to other boys?

14 A. I saw it happening to other boys, yes. I did see it

15 happening to other boys. Sometimes she didn't -- she

16 didn't always do it when she was on the warpath.

17 Sometimes she might do it on another occasion, do it

18 when she'd go to the wash house or something. She

19 wasn't on the warpath every night. It depends how drunk

20 or sober she was.

21 Q. You have mentioned already this particular incident when

22 a particular boy was beaten, I think.

23 A. Aye, it was [REDACTED]

24 Q. Can you tell us about that?

25 A. I don't know what he had done, but she went over the

1 score with him and the boy was in agony and they called
2 the doctor. They had to call the doctor. I can't
3 remember if it was the regular doctor -- I don't want to
4 slam the doctor profession, favouring one doctor over
5 the other, but whatever doctor it was, he might have
6 been a standby doctor. I think it was the regular
7 doctor away on holiday and it was a younger doctor, and
8 he said, "Well, I'm going to have to do something about
9 this", and he threatened to go to the police about it.
10 That was when they got rid of her. We just woke up one
11 day and she was gone.

12 Q. Did you see the incident that involved [REDACTED]

13 A. I didn't see that particular -- I heard him screaming
14 and that but I didn't see the particular incident. I
15 was in a different bedroom at the time.

16 Q. Do you know what happened to him?

17 A. To who?

18 Q. To [REDACTED]

19 A. I think the doctor came and they were going to take him
20 to hospital, but I think they just let him convalesce
21 in the home. I'm not 100 per cent sure about that one.

22 All I know is that [REDACTED] disappeared. We woke up one
23 morning -- because normally we would have to go down to
24 Mass one morning. It was maybe a Tuesday or Wednesday
25 and we woke up and we couldn't understand why we weren't

- 1 getting woken for Mass.
- 2 Q. Did you ever see her back again?
- 3 A. No, she never came.
- 4 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that you also
5 witnessed another assault. I don't want the name of the
6 person who was assaulted, but the person who did the
7 assaulting was [REDACTED] LDU is that right?
- 8 A. Yes. That's the [REDACTED] LCN incident, that's correct,
9 yes.
- 10 Q. Did you witness that incident?
- 11 A. I witnessed it, yes. I don't know what it was over, but
12 I did witness -- it's one of these things that'll stay
13 with me until the day I die because his face was all
14 bruised, a black and blue stripe down there
15 (indicating).
- 16 Q. What did you see happening?
- 17 A. I saw [REDACTED] LDU beating him with a stick in the wash
18 house. I was there at the time and I saw it happening.
19 I was actually surprised they sent him to school because
20 -- but they did.
- 21 Q. And were the police involved?
- 22 A. The police were called, yes. The headmaster called me
23 down to his office and there were two police officers
24 there, a police sergeant and a police constable, and
25 they said, "You're not in any trouble, Joseph". They

1 took my name right enough and said, "We just want you to
2 tell us what happened". I told them what had happened
3 because I'd witnessed that, and that was it. He told me
4 to go back to my lessons.

5 Then [REDACTED] LDU disappeared for about three or four
6 weeks, but then he came back again. He came back again.
7 I don't know, I can only surmise that perhaps the police
8 had a word with the Mother Superior and maybe -- again,
9 I don't like -- it's conjecture, I think I can only
10 assume that they must have said, "Oh, we'll deal with
11 this", the Nazareth House nuns would deal with it
12 themselves, you know. "Aye, we'll get rid of
13 [REDACTED] LDU, that way there's no charges.

14 Obviously, if he had been charged and gone to court,
15 it would have looked bad on Nazareth House, you know,
16 especially with these donation people, people donating
17 money, the last thing they would want to read is
18 somebody from Nazareth House getting charged with
19 assault for beating one of the boys, you know. But
20 that's only conjecture.

21 Q. In any event, you witnessed the assault?

22 A. I did witness the assault.

23 Q. Was anyone else there?

24 A. There might have been other boys there. I'm not

25 100 per cent sure. I don't think so. I don't think

1 there was. I'm not 100 per cent sure.

2 LADY SMITH: Can you remember how old you were at that time?

3 A. We tried to pinpoint the actual incident and I think it
4 was around 1963 or 1964. It could even have been 1965.
5 It was definitely the second part when I went back into
6 Nazareth House, so 1961 onwards. So we're taking
7 a guess. It was investigated by the lawyers,
8 Cameron Fyfe. They did write to Grampian Police.
9 Grampian Police said they no longer had any records left
10 because it had changed into another police force.

11 MR MacAULAY: You also tell us in your statement about
12 another occasion when you were playing football and you
13 didn't get to church on time for the rosary. This is at
14 paragraph 78. Do you remember what happened on that
15 occasion?

16 A. Yes. Well, they locked all the doors and we were made
17 to kneel, you know, and the nuns coming past would slap
18 us in the face. We had to kneel like that (indicating)
19 one of them dug their heels into the back of my leg,
20 there (indicating).

21 Q. In the calf area?

22 A. Eh?

23 Q. You are pointing to your calf area?

24 A. Yes, this bit here, yes. Because the nuns had quite
25 stiletto heel types -- not the same stilettos they've

- 1 got nowadays. They're big bloody huge things they've
2 got now.
- 3 Q. Just to be clear, there were a number of you playing
4 football?
- 5 A. Yes, there was quite a few of us, there was about six or
6 eight of us.
- 7 Q. And you should have been at the rosary?
- 8 A. We should have been at rosary and we just carried on.
9 We knew we were in trouble because I remember seeing one
10 of the nuns up at the window and, what do you call it,
11 they'd locked all the doors and so we had to come in the
12 front doors.
- 13 Q. Where were you made to kneel?
- 14 A. That was punishment for what we did.
- 15 Q. Where were you made --
- 16 A. In between the kitchen and where the nuns come out --
17 just before the church.
- 18 Q. Just to be clear, you were made to kneel -- were you in
19 a particular position?
- 20 A. Oh, you were off -- you would kneel against the wall.
21 The nuns would come out and some of them would slap you.
22 One of them dug their heel into us, you know.
- 23 Q. Did this just happen the once to you, the one occasion?
- 24 A. That's the only occasion I remember of that, yes.
- 25 Q. One thing you say in paragraph 80, it is just on the

1 screen now, is that you always got the odd slap from the
2 sisters if you did something wrong; is that right?

3 A. It was just accepted because you probably deserved it.
4 There were probably -- boys will be boys, you know. Are
5 you allowed to say that nowadays or is it supposed to be
6 girls will be girls or people will be people? But
7 anyway, in those days, before PC-ness, it was boys will
8 be boys, and we were no angels. I remember getting
9 a police sergeant writing my name in a book for shaking
10 the tree and knocking the apples off a tree, and he
11 said, "That's you, you've got a record for life", you
12 know.

13 Q. You go on to say there was no love from the sisters.

14 A. Oh, there was no love from them at all. There was no
15 love. There was one nun called Sister **LGN** To give
16 her her due, she hated the girls and yet she was one of
17 the nuns in charge of the girls. I can talk about her
18 because she used to come through to the boys' section.
19 When we were getting ready for bed, she used to sit one
20 of the boys on her knee, it was bedtime story time, and
21 she would read us a nice story at that time.

22 She was very good to the boys but I discovered later
23 on in life, **[REDACTED]** -- I haven't mentioned
24 this in my statement, but she said that before she came
25 into the nunnery she had a boy, she'd had a child and

1 the boy was killed in a hit and run accident or
2 something. That was why she quite liked the boys, you
3 know.

4 Q. Now --

5 A. Sorry, I digressed off the path you were going.

6 Q. I was going to move on to ask you something that's much
7 more personal to you and that's in connection with
8 sexual abuse.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You do tell us in your statement that you were subjected
11 to sexual abuse by [REDACTED] LDU is that right?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. I know you don't want to talk about the details of it,
14 but can you say for how long this lasted?

15 A. I would say maybe three or four years.

16 Q. And what sort of ages are you talking about?

17 A. Well, I remember 12 -- it happened roughly around when
18 I was 12/13. But towards the end, I began to realise
19 what was happening was wrong, you know.

20 Q. I think you did report this later on to the police;
21 is that correct?

22 A. I told the police, yes, and I also told a certain priest
23 down in --

24 Q. I'll come to that. Let's just deal with the police. At
25 a later point in time you did go to the police and tell

1 them about the sexual abuse?

2 A. That was in 1997 --

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. -- when the Nazareth House cases first started.

5 Q. You gave them a statement?

6 A. That's correct, yes. It was because I had been up in

7 Nazareth House, walking round, and I saw there was

8 a nursery built at the back, which wasn't there before.

9 They had built a nursery and I was beginning to think,

10 maybe this guy who was sexually abusing me is maybe

11 sexually abusing younger children, you know.

12 Q. Insofar as the statement to the police was concerned,

13 did you tell the police about the sexual abuse?

14 A. Yes, I told them about it.

15 Q. I think you have provided the inquiry with a copy of

16 that statement; is that right?

17 A. That's correct, yes. I think it was June 1997.

18 Q. Indeed. And what you told the police on that occasion

19 was the truth? You told them the truth as to what had

20 happened to you in connection with the sexual abuse?

21 A. That's right. I told them what had happened and that

22 sort of thing, yeah. I'm trying to -- is the statement

23 there?

24 Q. No. It's not in the folder, but you have handed a copy

25 to us --

- 1 A. Yes, okay.
- 2 Q. -- so we have a copy. Can I ask you: what happened
3 then, after you had reported this to the police, that
4 there had been this sexual abuse by [REDACTED] LDU Was
5 there an investigation so far as you're aware?
- 6 A. Yes, they said they would look into it and that sort of
7 thing and then six months later I hadn't heard anything
8 and I phoned up the same woman who was in the Child
9 Protection Unit and she told me -- she said [REDACTED] LDU
10 must be dead now. Words to that effect. So I believed
11 that he was dead. If somebody from the Child Protection
12 Unit tells you that, you obviously -- I just believed
13 it. [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED]
- 16 Q. If we leave that aspect aside. You were in Aberdeen
17 in the year 2000 and you met with other people who,
18 I think, gave you some information about [REDACTED] LDU
19 is that right?
- 20 A. That's correct. When I told them that I told them that
21 the police had told me that he was dead, they looked at
22 me as if I was daft and said, "We've been at his funeral
23 two weeks ago", or something like that.
- 24 Q. Was that in the year 2000?
- 25 A. That was in the year 2000, yes.

1 Q. So was your conclusion then that when you had made your
2 report to the police that he was not dead in fact?

3 A. Could you say that again, sorry?

4 Q. You understood when you made your report to the police
5 in 1997 that [REDACTED] LDU [REDACTED] may have died; is that right?

6 A. No, they told me six months later that he had died.

7 I phoned them. That was June. I phoned them

8 around December and they said to me, the same woman

9 said, "I think [REDACTED] LDU [REDACTED] must be said now".

10 Q. But you discovered two or three years later that was not
11 the case?

12 A. That's correct. [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED] we were meeting in the pub afterwards,
14 the Tilted Wig pub, and, what do you call it, one of the
15 women there said to me, when I mentioned that about

16 [REDACTED] LDU [REDACTED] she said, "We were at his funeral a couple
17 of weeks ago".

18 Q. Going back to paragraph 82 of your statement, if I can
19 jump back to that, you tell us there about an incident
20 when you wanted to go to the pictures but you had no
21 money.

22 A. I don't think that was -- I didn't have any money, but
23 one of the boys went up to [REDACTED] LDU [REDACTED] and got some. I'd
24 need to see it, sorry.

25 Q. It's paragraph 82. What you say is:

1 "I recall one day that I wanted to go to the
2 pictures but I had no money --"

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. "-- but another boy went to [REDACTED] LDU "

5 A. That's correct, yes. I see it now. 82, that's correct,
6 yes.

7 Q. And he got money?

8 A. I don't know if it was 10 shillings. It could have been
9 half a crown, but we'll just say it was 10 shillings
10 anyway.

11 Q. He gave you a basis as to why he got the money?

12 A. He just said it was for favours, that was all. I didn't
13 think anything sexual-wise, I just thought it might have
14 been something else, you know.

15 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, I'm going to move to a different
16 chapter; I know it's earlier than usual --

17 LADY SMITH: We could give the stenographers a break now and
18 the rest of us a break.

19 We always have a break in the middle of the
20 afternoon.

21 A. I was going to ask anyway for a small break. I'm dying
22 for a cup of your tea, by the way.

23 LADY SMITH: Just before we break, can I mention two
24 things -- and let me reassure you, this is no criticism
25 of you.

1 There are two names that have been mentioned, one is
2 [REDACTED] LCN the other is Sister [REDACTED] LTX These
3 names are both subject to restriction orders and that
4 means that they cannot be disclosed outwith the hearing
5 room.

6 I think that covers all that I needed to mention,
7 doesn't it, Mr MacAulay? We'll break now.

8 A. I am sorry for mentioning his name. I forgot.

9 LADY SMITH: As I said, it's not your fault. It's easily
10 dealt with.

11 (3.00 pm)

12 (A short break)

13 (3.16 pm)

14 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, when you're ready.

15 MR MacAULAY: My Lady.

16 Joseph, before we had our break, you had told us
17 about the fact that you had reported to the police in
18 particular the abuse you'd suffered from [REDACTED] LDU
19 is that right?

20 A. This is Grampian Police, as it was then, in June 1997.

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. Correct, yes.

23 Q. As you told us, it doesn't appear that anything was done
24 and you learned later in 2000 that he had died shortly
25 before you discovered that.

- 1 A. That's correct, yes.
- 2 Q. Did the police come back to you after that to apologise
3 for not having taken action?
- 4 A. Yes. I did a bit of diary research last night.
5 I thought it was September, because that was when the
6 BBC -- Eric Crockart, BBC Scotland. It was actually
7 DI Thorburn and a colleague of his, a female colleague,
8 Grampian Police, 11.30 am on Friday, 27 October, was the
9 Nazareth House apology, 2000.
- 10 Q. I just want to be clear. Are you saying they came and
11 spoke to you and said what?
- 12 A. Well, they apologised on behalf of Grampian Police.
13 They said they're a public body, they had responsibility
14 and all that thing. They just showed me my statement
15 and all of that sort of thing and somebody had written
16 "not traced" or something like that. I said to them,
17 I don't understand it, all you had to do was check the
18 register of births, deaths and marriages, which, I could
19 be wrong, I think it's in Edinburgh, the register, or is
20 it not, or is it London?
- 21 Q. In any event --
- 22 LADY SMITH: You're right, it is here in Edinburgh.
- 23 A. You've got one good thing going for you. There you are.
- 24 MR MacAULAY: There was an apology for no action having been
25 taken; is that what it comes to?

1 A. That's correct, yes. They were probably worried in case
2 I sued them, you know, which I didn't.

3 Q. I want to turn the clock back a little bit. This is
4 looking at paragraph 94. Because when you were at
5 Nazareth House, you did speak to a priest about the
6 abuse; is that correct?

7 A. That's correct, yes. Just give me a second.

8 Q. It's on the screen.

9 A. Yes, on 1 July -- that's right. It's around the time --
10 I'm not exactly sure. I thought at first it was around
11 1961, but I think it was later than that. I think it
12 was around -- again, I am not -- my memory's gone, I'm
13 getting older now. I think it was around
14 January/February 1967 that I spoke to Father Conti in
15 the confessional box.

16 Q. And he became Bishop Conti and then Archbishop Conti?

17 A. That's correct, later on in life. I'll just refer to
18 him as Father Conti, if you don't mind, because that's
19 all I know him as.

20 Q. You went to confession and it was Father Conti who heard
21 your confession?

22 A. It was Father Conti, yes.

23 Q. And certainly it was 1967 when you were still at
24 Nazareth House?

25 A. I was still at Nazareth House, that is right, yes.

- 1 Q. What did you tell Father Conti at confession?
- 2 A. I told him about the abuse and he asked me who it was,
3 how long it had been going on for and he told me to pray
4 for my abuser and to say three Hail Marys or something
5 like that, two Our Fathers.
- 6 Q. And did you then mention the name of [REDACTED] LDU
- 7 A. Oh yeah, I mentioned -- he asked me who it was.
- 8 Q. And did you tell him what the nature of the abuse was?
- 9 A. Yes, I told him it was sexual, yes. I told him, yes.
- 10 Q. Did you give him any more details?
- 11 A. No, I didn't mention the [REDACTED] LCN incident, if
12 that's what you meant.
- 13 Q. I'm concerned about the sexual abuse that you suffered.
- 14 A. That's right.
- 15 Q. You told him it was sexual. Was that essentially what
16 you said? Did you provide him with any details of what
17 was involved in the sexual abuse?
- 18 A. I told him a couple of things, you know.
- 19 Q. You draw attention in your statement to comments made
20 subsequently by Bishop Conti as he then was, I think.
- 21 A. In what year?
- 22 Q. If you look at your statement, you see towards the
23 bottom of the page what you say is:
- 24 "Conti later denied in the press that he was aware
25 of any abuse at Nazareth House."

1 A. He would say that of course. He would say that.
2 I don't know why he never acted on it. He could easily
3 have had a word with the Mother Superior discreetly and
4 said, you know, "Get rid of this man, he's abusing one
5 of the boys", sort of thing. But then again, I suppose
6 it's a grey area, the confessional box, you know. It's
7 not the sort of thing the government can interfere in
8 and say, "We're going to change the law", that sort of
9 thing. The Catholic Church -- the priest should, if
10 it's a child being abused, then the priest should do
11 something about it. I don't know, it's a grey area.

12 LADY SMITH: Did I catch you right earlier that when you
13 confessed to Father Conti, two things happened: one he
14 said you should pray for your abuser, but the other was
15 that you ought to say three Hail Marys and two
16 Our Fathers?

17 A. It might have been the other way round.

18 LADY SMITH: But why? You were a child when this happened.

19 A. I know. I was 13 and a half when I went into there to
20 that confession, around 13 and a half.

21 LADY SMITH: You were a child.

22 A. I was still a child, yes. I don't know. You would have
23 to ask -- the whole thing surrounding the confessional
24 box, it's not governed by the church -- by Parliament
25 I mean, it's a church thing.

1 LADY SMITH: I know.

2 A. I personally think if somebody underage walks into
3 a confessional box -- this is my own personal view --
4 and says to a priest, I'm being sexually abused by
5 so-and-so, whatever it is, I think the priest has a duty
6 to do something about that, to report it to the police
7 or do something about it. But it's a grey area, I don't
8 know how the law stands on that.

9 MR MacAULAY: Why did you go to confession to tell
10 Father Conti that you were being abused?

11 A. Because I wasn't having much luck in our own
12 confessional box in Nazareth House. That was the
13 cathedral I went to, to see Father Conti, in
14 Huntley Street.

15 In Nazareth House, the priest that was there,
16 Father Ashworth, no disrespect to him, he was a nice
17 fella, but he was very deaf.

18 Q. Had you mention the abuse to him?

19 A. No, I was too frightened. People outside would hear
20 you. It's not the sort of thing that was a private
21 thing. I didn't want to -- he used to say, "Speak up,
22 boy, speak up, boy", and then you'd come out and people
23 would say, "Was that you who stole that apple the other
24 day?" and that kind of thing.

25 Q. Am I to understand then that you made a sort of special

1 trip down to the cathedral to see Father Conti in the
2 confessional?

3 A. I didn't just decide to do it, I think it was more --
4 see, we used to do Mass down there, they would borrow
5 some of the altar boys and we would go down to help out.
6 I was an altar boy, you know, swing that bloody incense
7 thing and ring the bells and all that. Anyway, I think
8 I was down there one day and I just said, "There's
9 confession on there, I'll speak to Father Conti about
10 it". We just knew him as Mr Mafia -- it was just boy
11 talk here, I don't think he's connected with the Mafia
12 in any way at all, but we called him Mr Mafia because
13 he was Italian. That's what all we knew as boys:
14 everyone Italian must have been connected with the
15 Mafia. We called him Mr Mafia and that's how I knew it
16 was him.

17 Q. Did you hope that he would do something about it?

18 A. Pardon?

19 Q. Did you hope that he would do something?

20 A. I was hoping, yes, that he would do something about it.
21 I think he could have. He could easily have had -- just
22 like the incident happened with LDU the police,
23 he disappeared for a while. You know what I'm talking
24 about. I think he could easily have gone to -- and he
25 knew who I was. Although, they've got holes in the

1 thing, and the curtains are back, he knew who I was
2 anyway, I'd just done Mass with him or something like
3 that. What do you call it? He could easily have done
4 something about it.

5 Q. Did he know that you were a boy from the home?

6 A. Oh he knew who I was period. He knew who I was period.

7 Q. I took from you earlier this afternoon, Joseph, that you
8 left Nazareth House in December 1967.

9 A. Correct. 22 December 1967, yes.

10 Q. And you left because you went to a boys' hostel in
11 Glasgow; is that right?

12 A. That's correct, Lochaber, yes, in --

13 Q. And I think you spent some time at a school in Glasgow.

14 A. Yes. St Thomas Aquinas in Scotstoun, that's correct.

15 Q. I think so far as your time in Lochaber boys' hostel,
16 that was a perfectly fine time for you?

17 A. Oh yeah, there were two others that's boys there,

18 [REDACTED] LCN and [REDACTED] I think [REDACTED] came
19 down with me; [REDACTED] LCN was already there earlier
20 on. But it wasn't a -- it was a Glasgow Corporation
21 youth hostel. There's where the mix-up with the names
22 came up there.

23 Q. It says Loch Garry in your statement, but it was
24 actually Lochaber.

25 A. Lochaber, yes. There was probably a children's home in

1 21 Cleveden Drive called Loch Garry but the one we were
2 in, Lochaber, I thought it was a children's home, but it
3 came under a Glasgow Corporation youth hostel. They
4 only took boys between 13 and 18.

5 Q. You spent a couple of years there, I think, is that
6 right? You were there for a couple of years?

7 A. I was there for a couple of years yes.

8 Q. And in due course you had a career in the Post Office?

9 A. I started in the Post Office in 1968, correct.

10 Q. You've already mentioned that you did have some
11 conversations with [REDACTED], who has since died,
12 about her experiences in Nazareth House.

13 A. That's correct, yes.

14 Q. Can you sum up what her experience was?

15 A. I can't, really. I mean, she talked about [REDACTED] FAF
16 and the belt and that kind of thing, you know, but
17 I can't remember it all. It's not really the sort of
18 thing I can remember because that was her own --
19 everybody's got their own experiences, personal
20 experiences. I don't feel right talking about what
21 someone else said to me. I would rather just do what
22 I witnessed and what happened to me.

23 Q. Very well.

24 A. I'm not being greedy or anything like that.

25 Q. I'm not suggesting you are.

1 Can I then ask you this: what impact do you think
2 life in Nazareth House may have had on you?

3 A. Well, it drove me away from religion. That was the one
4 thing. It had the opposite effect of religion. Later
5 on in life, I suffered from depression and I lost my job
6 in the Post Office. I haven't worked for 20 years --
7 well, I retire next month anyway. I was successful in
8 getting a private pension a few years ago from the
9 Royal Mail because of my health, deteriorating health,
10 because I was on antidepressants for a while, so I got
11 that private pension and then in a few months' time
12 I get my big government state pension.

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. It's very generous now, by the way. It's just gone up.

15 Q. And I think you said you're turning 65 quite soon.

16 A. On yes. Don't forget the birthday cards!
17 Thank you.

18 Q. There is one other thing I do want to ask you about,
19 however, and I want to put some documents on the screen.
20 Just wait until they come up. This is WIT.003.001.2835.

21 While we're waiting for this to come on the screen,
22 when you were at Nazareth House did you write some
23 letters?

24 A. Yes. Well, that was following on from the -- that's it.
25 That was following on from me around the Father Conti

1 confessional box time. Because, again, I wasn't having
2 much luck in the Nazareth House confessional box about
3 **LDU** because I couldn't report it. I wasn't
4 having much luck in St Mary's Cathedral with Conti, so
5 I just turned to God and wrote these notes myself.

6 Q. They were letters to God you were writing?

7 A. They were letters to God. Sadly, you haven't got the
8 originals.

9 Q. But I think we have good copies.

10 A. You have copies, but there's things on the left-hand
11 side that are all kind of blacked out, plus there's
12 another one that was found later on as well too,
13 I understand, and I don't know what's on that.

14 Q. Can I just understand this, so we've all got an
15 understanding of what it was. You wrote these letters
16 to God after you had spoken to Father Conti?

17 A. To Father Conti in the confessional box, that's right.

18 Q. Why did you write the letters having spoken to
19 Father Conti?

20 A. Because I thought -- what do you call it, the dirt --
21 I felt dirty and that kind of thing with the abuse that
22 had been going on. I wanted God to stop it, if you know
23 what I mean.

24 Q. Let's look at the letters then that we have. If we move
25 up to the top, if we could, please, on the screen.

- 1 We can see the date on this is 2 April 1967.
- 2 A. That's correct, yes.
- 3 Q. So this was after you'd seen Father Conti.
- 4 A. That's correct. I'm not sure of the exact time when
- 5 I saw Father Conti, you know.
- 6 Q. What you say is:
- 7 "I, Joseph Currie, promise from today onwards that
- 8 I will keep these six promises seen here."
- 9 A. That's right.
- 10 Q. The first one is:
- 11 "NO DIRT AT ALL."
- 12 In capital letters.
- 13 A. That's right.
- 14 Q. What did you mean by that?
- 15 A. That was the abuse that was happening to me. I started
- 16 avoiding that man. You'll notice in one of the other
- 17 letters, there's another bit I've written on it, "To
- 18 keep away from bad company", and that was referring to
- 19 [REDACTED] LDU as well too.
- 20 Q. You then provide some other information there, for
- 21 example to do with savings, and then you say at 3:
- 22 "No swearing or calling boys names at all."
- 23 A. That's what I'm saying, boys will be boys. We weren't
- 24 all angels.
- 25 Q. Can you explain the next one:

1 "Not to play at fire engines"?

2 A. That was because I was growing up and I just thought it
3 was daft to get ridiculed by the girls for playing at
4 fire engines all the time.

5 Q. If we go on to the next page at 2836, we can see:

6 "5. To keep my clothes tidy at all times."

7 So that was another promise you were making?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Was there a reason behind that or ...?

10 A. I don't know. I don't know to be honest. To keep my
11 clothes tidy at all times. Some things I can remember,
12 some things I'm not too sure of.

13 Q. The next one at 6:

14 "Not to take food off little boys unless they
15 offer."

16 A. That is right. That shows you how bad the food was when
17 you had to steal it off someone else, you know.

18 Q. And you have written "Parliament House".

19 A. I know. That was -- to understand, it's a pity
20 really -- two things -- we haven't got the originals of
21 these and, secondly, we don't have the photographs.
22 There were photographs taken as well too.

23 Sadly, four or five times -- it was our lawyers who
24 took this, Cameron Fyfe. When you say to people you put
25 them in a cupboard, they think it's a cupboard on

1 wheels. It wasn't. It was a stone cupboard --

2 Q. I'm coming to where they were in a moment, but just to
3 finish off the document, although your signature's been
4 blanked out, you signed this and you have timed the time
5 that you signed it; is that right?

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. What then did you do with these letters once you had
8 written them?

9 LADY SMITH: Can we just go back to the statement,
10 "Parliament House"? What is that all about?

11 A. I don't know, Parliament House. That would just be my
12 own wee parliament. I don't understand. As I say,
13 there's another bit on the left-hand side, you don't see
14 it in that note, it's kind of blacked out because
15 they're not the originals. It says "Currie's
16 Co-operative Society" or something like that -- that was
17 my co-operation with God. Don't forget, I was 13 when
18 I wrote these.

19 LADY SMITH: You're trying to make a bargain with God?

20 A. That's right, yeah. It's just childish things. If
21 you'd seen the photographs and the cupboard where they
22 were hidden in, you would maybe -- a child psychologist,
23 no disrespect to yourself --

24 LADY SMITH: Oh, I'm not a child psychologist.

25 A. I know that -- would probably understand the meaning of

- 1 them, you know.
- 2 MR MacAULAY: Can I then come to -- after you had written
- 3 the letters, what did you do?
- 4 A. This was before the Scottish Parliament, by the way.
- 5 Q. Yes.
- 6 A. Parliament House, you know.
- 7 LADY SMITH: There is a building in Edinburgh called
- 8 Parliament House. There is only one building called
- 9 Parliament House.
- 10 A. Yes. The one in Aberdeen is obsolete now, I presume,
- 11 yes.
- 12 MR MacAULAY: So what then did you do with the letters,
- 13 Joseph, once you had written them?
- 14 A. I just put them through the gap in the plywood.
- 15 Q. Where? Where was that?
- 16 A. In this cupboard, in this stone cupboard. Again,
- 17 I haven't got the photographs. I just -- the roof went
- 18 at an angle like that (indicating) and plywood came down
- 19 at the back, and in this particular one, instead of
- 20 having the one big sheet of plywood, there was a gap and
- 21 they put two bits in and there was a gap and you pushed
- 22 them behind there.
- 23 Q. Was this in a particular part of Nazareth House?
- 24 A. That was my bedroom, yes.
- 25 Q. You did that then in 1967; is that right?

- 1 A. That's correct, yes. That's what it says on the date,
2 so I presume.
- 3 Q. We now have them, so how did you get hold of them again?
- 4 A. I didn't remember about them straightaway. When the
5 Nazareth House cases started, it wasn't until I was
6 watching a film about a year and a half later, some time
7 in 1999, and it was just a flashback. I saw this woman
8 putting a jar in a cupboard. It was a Canadian film and
9 she was putting a jar in a cupboard. I think it was the
10 wood in the back. The penny dropped, you know, that
11 I remember posting notes to God or something in one of
12 the cupboards up there.
- 13 Q. What did you do then?
- 14 A. Then I told the lawyers about it, I told Cameron Fyfe
15 about it. They started a search for them, you know.
16 They started applying to Stronachs for them.
- 17 Q. Stronachs were the solicitors acting for the Sisters of
18 Nazareth?
- 19 A. That's correct, yes. The reason, by the way, I haven't
20 got the originals is because it was part of the
21 condition that Stronachs imposed on us. They said,
22 "Whatever we find, we'll keep the originals and give you
23 copies only".
- 24 Q. So they have the originals?
- 25 A. They have the originals, yes. And there's another one

1 that was found as well too later on, which was kind of
2 ripped up and they taped it together, but I've never
3 seen that one. It was mentioned in The Guardian
4 article, The Guardian newspaper, that one of these notes
5 was published in.

6 Q. So when then did you go to see whether or not they were
7 still there? When was that?

8 A. It was a long process, but eventually it was June 1999,
9 24 June. Give me a second, I'll tell you -- yes,
10 24 June 1999 they were recovered.

11 Q. So that's some, what, 30-odd years after --

12 A. 32 years.

13 Q. -- after you'd written them.

14 A. I had asked the police, by the way, to get involved in
15 it. First of all, they said that, well, it's not really
16 a police matter. I said, "Well, it could be to do with
17 child abuse", but they said, "Well, we're busy dealing
18 with [REDACTED], but if your lawyer could ..."
19 I'm sure by "lawyer" they meant Cameron Fyfe could come
20 to an arrangement with Stronachs and save us getting
21 involved in it, which I thought was a bit strange at the
22 time, actually. I thought the police would've maybe
23 done something about that.

24 Q. In any event were you surprised to find that they were
25 still there, 30-odd years after you'd put them there?

1 A. No, I had a funny feeling they would still be there,
2 because the policewoman who I spoke to up in Grampian --
3 I phoned her. Sorry, I jumped the gun there. She had
4 said to me, when I first remembered about the notes --
5 this is the same policewoman I gave the statement to in
6 Bucksburn, Grampian, in June 1997. She said to me,
7 "I doubt very much, Mr Currie, if the notes will still
8 be there because Nazareth House was totally renovated in
9 1982", and the floorboards would have been dug up and
10 all that sort of thing, but of course that hadn't
11 happened.

12 Q. So there they were, they were recovered?

13 A. They were still there. The only thing that had changed
14 in the room was there was a carpet in the room, which
15 was split in two, and new pipes had been put in, a thin
16 pipe.

17 Q. So you went there when the documents were being
18 recovered?

19 A. Oh yes, I had to be there. I didn't see a nun in sight,
20 by the way. There was no nuns. I think they were all
21 praying in the chapel. But the lawyer's people were all
22 there. We went up the stairs, and the room I'd hidden
23 them in, the guy said to me, "They cannae be in that
24 room there, Mr Currie". I says, "I know that's the room
25 I slept in." It turned out it was now the

1 Mother Superior's room.

2 Q. If I could go back then to the first page of the
3 document on 2835. We'll get that back on the screen for
4 you.

5 A. Sorry, could you say that again?

6 Q. It'll come back to the screen. It's the first page.
7 If we scroll to the top, there's a bit cut out, but
8 we also see:
9 "Health and Hygiene Department, Aberdeen."
10 Is that just your imagination?

11 A. That's right, same as Parliament House, same as Currie's
12 Co-operative Society. A 13 year-old boy, you know.
13 I haven't said anything wrong, have I?

14 LADY SMITH: No, not at all. We're just interested, that's
15 all.

16 A. It's just the mind of a 13 year-old boy.

17 LADY SMITH: Fascinating.

18 MR MacAULAY: Going back to the first statement that you
19 make there, "No dirt at all".

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. As I understand from what you've said, that's
22 in relation, really, to the sexual abuse?

23 A. To the sexual abuse that [REDACTED] LDU was causing, because
24 I was starting to avoid him then, you know. I was
25 starting to avoid him. That's why I -- you notice I've

- 1 scribbled under the word "no". No dirt.
- 2 Q. You've emphasised that?
- 3 A. Emphasised it, and I think you'll see in the other
4 notes, the same thing happened as well too. We haven't
5 got on to them yet, sorry.
- 6 Q. When you saw Father Conti, when you spoke to
7 Father Conti in the confessional, were you still being
8 abused at that time by [REDACTED] LDU
- 9 A. I'm not 100 per cent sure. I'm not 100 per cent sure.
10 I was either being abused by him or I was making him
11 aware -- I had become aware that what he was doing to me
12 was wrong. You know what I mean? If I remember
13 exactly, I think I remember saying to Father Conti,
14 I remember saying, "I've got this man who plays with my
15 willy", something along that line. I don't want to go
16 into too much detail. Something along that line. It'd
17 be something along that line.
- 18 Q. But in any event, [REDACTED] LDU was still there at
19 Nazareth House?
- 20 A. He was still there, yes. He was still there when I left
21 as well too.
- 22 Q. I think you told us earlier he may even have been there
23 in the 1970s?
- 24 A. Yes, that's correct. He was there in the 1970s, yes, as
25 far as I understand.

1 Q. But you have no direct knowledge of any other sexual
2 abuse by [REDACTED] LDU in connection with any other child?
3 You have no direct knowledge?

4 A. No direct knowledge, no. No, no.

5 Q. Can I then go back to your statement, Joseph, and the
6 last page. It's on page WIT.001.001.3886. I just want
7 to ask you -- this is the second last paragraph of your
8 statement where we can read:

9 "Bishop Conti of Glasgow learned about these letters
10 and 'rubbished' them in the press, accusing me and the
11 other survivors of being gold diggers and trying to get
12 money out of the Catholic Church."

13 Can I just understand what that's all about?

14 A. That's the press cuttings. I didn't bring them all with
15 me, sorry.

16 Q. So far as you're aware, did Bishop Conti, as he then
17 became, become aware of the letters?

18 A. I presume he must have because it was in the media, they
19 were mentioned. It was on BBC Scotland: a Glasgow man
20 seeks access to Nazareth House to recover his notes. So
21 he would know -- oh yes, he would have known about them,
22 yes.

23 Q. When you talked about him rubbishing the letters, what
24 do you mean by that?

25 A. I don't really know, to be honest. It might have been

1 something I heard somebody saying maybe, or notes or
2 something, a piece of nonsense or something like that.
3 I don't know. I didn't actually -- I don't remember
4 seeing anything in print about that, but I think that's
5 probably maybe something I heard. I'm not 100 per cent
6 sure about that.

7 Q. In any event, these were your personal letters, you tell
8 us. These were personal letters by you to God.

9 A. That's correct, yes.

10 Q. That's what they were.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Joseph, that's all I want to ask you. Thank you very
13 much for coming to give your evidence and in particular
14 for telling us about your letters. Any other questions
15 that I have been asked to put to you, I have done that,
16 I think, as I've been leading the evidence, and I don't
17 think there are any other questions that have been
18 submitted to me.

19 LADY SMITH: Let me just check. Are there any outstanding
20 applications for questions? No.

21 Joseph, thank you very much for coming along today
22 to give your evidence to the inquiry. It has been
23 enormously helpful to hear from you in person about your
24 time there and I'm now able to let you go.

25 A. So I can go for a drink now?

1 (The witness withdrew)

2 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

3 MR MacAULAY: That's, I think, probably enough for today.

4 There are two oral witnesses coming for tomorrow and
5 certainly one statement could be read in if required.

6 I think we're hoping to finish a little bit earlier
7 tomorrow.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes, we'll see how we get on. I'm planning,
9 hopefully, to finish here by lunchtime tomorrow. To be
10 absolutely open with you for the reason for that, it's
11 not that I'm taking tomorrow afternoon off, but I have
12 another provisional professional commitment that I don't
13 want to have to cancel if I don't have to. So it may be
14 that we'll finish at lunchtime tomorrow in the hearing
15 room. Thank you very much.

16 (3.45 pm)

17 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am
18 on Friday 27 April 2018)

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