

1 Wednesday 2 May 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning.

4 Mr MacAulay, we have a witness ready?

5 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, my Lady. The next witness is  
6 Marion Jane Smillie.

7 MS MARION SMILLIE (sworn)

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

9 It's really important that your voice is caught by the  
10 microphone, just so that people at the back can hear  
11 you, but also so the stenographers pick you up what  
12 you're saying.

13 Mr MacAulay.

14 Questions from MR MacAULAY

15 MR MacAULAY: Are you Marion Jane Smillie?

16 A. I am.

17 Q. Can I take from you that your data of birth is  
18 [REDACTED] 1956?

19 A. It is.

20 Q. In the red folder in front of you, you have your  
21 statement you provided to the inquiry, and for the  
22 transcript the reference is WIT.001.001.4801. If  
23 I could take you to the very last page, 4816, can I ask  
24 you to confirm that you have signed the statement.

25 A. I have, yes.

- 1 Q. And do you say in the last paragraph:
- 2 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
- 3 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry"?
- 4 A. Yes, that's fine.
- 5 Q. And do you also go on to say:
- 6 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
- 7 statement are true"?
- 8 A. I do, yes.
- 9 Q. Indeed, when we have this page in front of us, at
- 10 paragraph 69, do you tell us that, and I'll quote this:
- 11 "I came forward to speak to the inquiry because my
- 12 experience of working with Nazareth House was a positive
- 13 one."
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And in your statement you provide some evidence of that?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Let's then go back to the beginning. I think the
- 18 position is that you had some experience with
- 19 Nazareth House in the 1980s; is that correct?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Can you be a bit more specific about the dates?
- 22 A. As specific as I can be is it was either 1981, 82, or
- 23 83.
- 24 Q. Yes.
- 25 A. From -- it would have been the August of one year into

1 the spring of the next one.

2 Q. So you're talking, although you're not 100 per cent sure  
3 of the actual year --

4 A. No.

5 Q. -- you're talking about a period of about nine months or  
6 so; is that correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Before we look at that, can I just ask you about little  
9 bit about your career and professional qualifications.

10 I think you tell us that you trained as a speech and  
11 language therapist in Aberdeen?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And when did you qualify?

14 A. I qualified in 1976.

15 Q. And can you give us some understanding as to what  
16 a speech and language therapist would do?

17 A. Yes. A speech and language therapist deals with  
18 communication disorders and difficulties, from babies  
19 through to older people. So babies with feeding  
20 difficulties, children with communication difficulties,  
21 adults who have maybe had a stroke, a neurological  
22 condition or indeed some facial injury or facial  
23 cancers.

24 Q. Looking to what you have just told us, you deal with  
25 a wide range of ages.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And does the training involve a degree of counselling?
- 3 A. It certainly involves a degree of having to establish  
4 a good rapport with children or with the adults and  
5 understanding how their difficulty impacts on themselves  
6 and their wider life and their families.
- 7 Q. Does that involve trying to assess personalities and so  
8 on?
- 9 A. It certainly involves trying to assess what is going to  
10 be the best way forward with that particular individual.  
11 You know, what's going to be the thing that will make  
12 them want to, as far as children are concerned, make  
13 a behavioural change, which is what you're asking of  
14 them. They're having to change lip positions or  
15 practice things, so it's actually about trying to get  
16 the message across to them, the difference it will make.
- 17 Q. And when you say change lip positions, so there's  
18 clearly a physical aspect?
- 19 A. Yes, for some of the children, yes.
- 20 Q. Is it important then when you're dealing with a child in  
21 particular that you ingather as much background  
22 information as possible when you're addressing the  
23 child's needs?
- 24 A. Absolutely. Because a huge part, particularly working  
25 with children, is you will be expecting families to

1 practice things at home, reinforce things at home, and  
2 you have to understand what the family background is and  
3 what would be possible, because it's different for  
4 different children, different families, what would be  
5 reasonable to expect them to work on.

6 Q. In paragraph 7 of your statement you provide us with  
7 some information about your work history and for example  
8 you tell us you got your first job in 1977.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And at that point you were working in community clinics;  
11 was that in Aberdeen?

12 A. That was in Aberdeen, yes.

13 Q. There came a point when you decided to specialise in  
14 working with children?

15 A. I did.

16 Q. When was that?

17 A. That would have been in 1979, I think.

18 Q. Was there a reason for that?

19 A. Yes. I just decided hospitals weren't for me.  
20 I discovered -- I wasn't very good with sick people,  
21 I discovered.

22 Q. I think what you tell us is you went to work at what was  
23 called the Sunnybank Speech and Language Unit in  
24 Aberdeen. Was that a unit that was dedicated to looking  
25 after children?

1 A. It was a unit based in a mainstream primary school and  
2 it took children from nursery age up to the age of  
3 transition to secondary school. The children would all  
4 have had communication difficulties. Some of them would  
5 have also had a behavioural difficulty, but at the time  
6 of placement with us, which was deemed to be  
7 a short-term placement, it was sometimes difficult to  
8 know whether their behavioural difficulties were  
9 entirely related to their communication difficulties or  
10 was a separate issue running alongside.

11 Q. Was that a full-time appointment?

12 A. That was a full-time appointment.

13 Q. Perhaps I can just jump ahead a little bit before I come  
14 back to your dealings with the child that we will refer  
15 to as **LKW**, but there came a point in time when you  
16 left Aberdeen and moved to England?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. When was that?

19 A. We moved to Essex in January 1987.

20 Q. What position did you hold when you were down there?

21 A. When we initially moved down, I wasn't working; we had  
22 a 3-year-old and I was expecting another baby. I then  
23 went back to work to a speech and language unit, which  
24 was called Fairway Speech and Language Unit, so it was a  
25 similar unit specialising in children with specific

- 1 speech and language difficulties in a mainstream school.
- 2 Q. How long did you spend working in that particular place?
- 3 A. I was there probably for about five or six years and
- 4 then I took on a more senior management role and ended
- 5 up managing the paediatric service in Southend.
- 6 Q. Did there come a point in time when you came back to
- 7 Aberdeen?
- 8 A. We came back to Aberdeen in 2007. I then, after a bit
- 9 of time settling my mum in, because she lived with us at
- 10 that time, I decided to early retire from the Health
- 11 Service and decided to try and use the skills I gathered
- 12 over those years in a different way and I currently work
- 13 as a pupil support worker for Aberdeenshire Council.
- 14 Q. Can you give me an understanding as to, very briefly,
- 15 what that involves?
- 16 A. I work with children in primary schools who have social,
- 17 emotional and behavioural difficulties. Sometimes I'm
- 18 dealing with children as a result of bereavement or
- 19 loss, sometimes I'm dealing with children who have
- 20 anxiety difficulties, anger management difficulties.
- 21 Q. Do you also come across children who are in care?
- 22 A. I do, as part of that, because some of the children will
- 23 have issues because they've been taken into care, yes.
- 24 Q. And that's residential care?
- 25 A. Often it's residential care, sometimes it's foster

1           placements, yes.

2           Q. Can I then turn the clock back to when you were in  
3           Aberdeen initially and to the circumstances that led you  
4           coming into contact with the child LKW. Can you give  
5           me the background to that?

6           A. He was admitted to the unit and I have to say I am vague  
7           about the dates. Unfortunately, I did have a written  
8           notebook about it, but when we relocated from Southend  
9           I decided a long time had passed and I didn't keep  
10          those.

11                    The referral would have been some time between 1981  
12           and 1983 and the referral was, I remember, unclear.  
13           There were communication difficulties, but he was --  
14           I think his main presenting difficulty at that point was  
15           his behavioural issues.

16          Q. And was he a pupil at the school at that time?

17          A. No, he was at a different school.

18          Q. So he came to the unit then at the school?

19          A. Yes, I believe he'd been excluded from his other primary  
20          school.

21          Q. Can you tell me what age he was when you first came  
22          across him?

23          A. Again, this is not accurate, but about 7 or 8, I would  
24          imagine.

25          Q. And when you --



- 1 A. He might have been younger, actually.
- 2 Q. I think you thought maybe in your statement he might  
3 have been 5.
- 4 A. Yes, he could have been younger.
- 5 Q. He was a young boy.
- 6 A. I think he would have been nearer 5, reflecting now.  
7 He hadn't been at his previous school that long, so I'm  
8 guessing he was in Primary One.
- 9 Q. What were his problems at the time when you first began  
10 to deal with him?
- 11 A. He'd frequently been on the roof of his school building,  
12 throwing bricks at the staff and the other children, and  
13 was a bit of a whirlwind. He had very unclear speech  
14 and so it was quite difficult to understand and he had  
15 quite significant listening and attention difficulties.
- 16 Q. When you first came across LKW was he still living  
17 with his mother at that time?
- 18 A. He was.
- 19 Q. But I think there had been a difficulty with his father?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And was his father in prison?
- 22 A. His father was in prison and then, when his dad was  
23 released from prison, he returned to the family home  
24 intermittently, but became a presence in the family home  
25 and there were concerns about that.

1 Q. The reason he was in prison was because of quite  
2 a serious assault that he had perpetrated on LKW  
3 A. Yes.  
4 Q. And the scarring from that assault was evident, I think.  
5 A. Yes.  
6 Q. Did you become aware at a point in time then that LKW  
7 was taken into care at Nazareth House in Aberdeen?  
8 A. As part of our work with the children, there were  
9 regular review meetings and it would have been discussed  
10 at a review meeting with the child about the child that  
11 Social Services were concerned and that they felt he  
12 needed to be removed from the home until they sorted out  
13 the issues of dad's residency and relationship with mum.  
14 Q. From what you're saying then, was it seen as  
15 a short-term type of placement --  
16 A. Yes.  
17 Q. -- in the home?  
18 A. Yes.  
19 Q. Then, after LKW had been taken into care, did you then  
20 get to know the set-up at Nazareth House in Aberdeen?  
21 A. There were concerns -- because it was a short-term  
22 placement and because he had had changes of school, we  
23 all thought it was important that there was some  
24 continuity for LKW. The issue was raised that  
25 it would be good if there was somebody who knew him from

1           our setting who could visit him and keep contact with  
2           him in a social way, not just in the setting within  
3           school. That was how I came to be involved, because we  
4           volunteered to fulfil almost an aunt and uncle role --  
5           I guess now you'd call it a befriender -- and that's how  
6           we became to be involved in Nazareth House.

7           Q. When you say "we", do you mean yourself and your husband  
8           there?

9           A. Yes.

10          Q. That involved you, I think, going to Nazareth House to  
11          see **LKW** is that right?

12          A. Yes. It involved us going to visit him there and  
13          occasionally we would take him out for the day, back to  
14          our home.

15          Q. If we look at your statement at paragraph 20, you give  
16          us some description there as to what the building was  
17          like.

18          A. Yes.

19          Q. We've seen photographs of the building. It was a big  
20          granite building.

21          A. Yes.

22          Q. But you also say there when you had visited  
23          Nazareth House, you came away thinking that it was  
24          a care setting but there were big comfy sofas, the kids  
25          were charging about, there were toys and it was warm.

- 1 A. That's my recollection of it. It was an institution,  
2 there's no denying that, but at that time it felt to me  
3 as good as you might expect from an institution.
- 4 Q. You've given us a sort of time frame already as to when  
5 you think you became involved with **LKW**, so it's within  
6 that time frame, 1981 to 1983, that you would have first  
7 gone to Nazareth House to visit?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Did you form any impression as to the numbers of  
10 children that were there at the time?
- 11 A. Actually, I didn't. I've thought long and hard about  
12 that and I honestly have no recollection of the numbers  
13 of other children there.
- 14 Q. We have been provided with some statistics on behalf of  
15 the Sisters of Nazareth and I'll just put this document  
16 on the screen. It's NAZ.001.001.0265. What they have  
17 provided is numbers over the years of children at  
18 Nazareth House. You see the first entry, way back in  
19 1925, where they were 86 boys, 134 girls, and 22 babies.
- 20 A. That's a lot!
- 21 Q. When we come to your time on the second page, 0266,  
22 I think we get a picture of dwindling numbers.
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. So that looking to the figures into the 80s, we have --  
25 in 1980, there are 29 children.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. In 1981, 15. I'm not clear what the dashes mean for the  
3 other periods, but you can see, I think, that the  
4 numbers had dwindled quite significantly over the years.
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. If we're talking about 1981, then the numbers could have  
7 been in the region of -- in double figures but of 15 or  
8 so, depending on what we make of these statistics.
- 9 A. I certainly wasn't aware that there were huge numbers of  
10 children there.
- 11 Q. Can I ask you this, because you talk about toys, for  
12 example, in that paragraph. What sort of toys did  
13 you --
- 14 A. What I recall were cars and some fairly tired board  
15 games and puzzles.
- 16 Q. The children, did they seem happy to you, the children  
17 that you saw?
- 18 A. I honestly really only ever interacted with [LKW] So  
19 I really couldn't comment on the other children.
- 20 Q. Can I ask you this then -- and perhaps you can focus on  
21 [LKW] but other children if you can -- did [LKW] or any  
22 other children appear to be in any way fearful or  
23 apprehensive of the nuns?
- 24 A. I never had any feedback from [LKW] that he was  
25 apprehensive. He was quite puzzled and bemused by the

1 situation. I don't think he had ever come across a nun  
2 before and he was quite puzzled by that and, as I say,  
3 quite bemused by the whole setting. But I never had any  
4 feedback -- he was always happy to go back when we took  
5 him back and he was a little boy who was quite open in  
6 terms of talking about his experiences and he never  
7 voiced any concerns.

8 Q. Just again focusing on the premises themselves, if you  
9 were there and it was a cold day, did it appear to be  
10 warm?

11 A. It felt as warm as -- yes, as warm as I would have  
12 expected a big Victorian building to feel.

13 Q. The furnishings that you mentioned there, that there  
14 were actually big, comfy sofas --

15 A. I just remember a big sofa. Again, it was tired, it was  
16 well used.

17 Q. And then the decor, would you say the same about the  
18 decor?

19 A. Yes, it was tired and fairly clinical.

20 Q. So far as having access to different parts of the  
21 building is concerned, were there particular areas that  
22 you had access to when you went there?

23 A. Yes. There was a buzzer and we would be taken through  
24 to -- what I remember is it felt like what I would call  
25 a big scullery, you know, an old-fashioned kind of room.

1 I think there was a sink and a worktop in there and the  
2 sofas, but I don't remember having access to anywhere  
3 else.

4 Q. I think you said in your statement that you did at one  
5 point in time see [REDACTED] bedroom.

6 A. Yes, he wanted to show us his bedroom.

7 Q. And I think you tell us that he appeared to be proud of  
8 his bedroom.

9 A. He was proud of it. He had his own bed, he had his own  
10 things in there. It was small, again it was clinical,  
11 but he felt quite comfortable there.

12 Q. And the furnishings appeared to be comfortable?

13 A. They were basic but they were comfortable.

14 Q. How often do you think over the piece you actually went  
15 to visit Nazareth House?

16 A. We definitely went to visit him on Christmas Day,  
17 because I remember us having a long discussion that  
18 it wouldn't have been appropriate to take him out on  
19 Christmas Day, that it would be more appropriate to go  
20 and visit him there. So we went to visit him on  
21 Christmas Day and we would maybe have taken him out two,  
22 maximum of three times, I would say, because in my  
23 memory he didn't stay there as long as we were  
24 originally expecting him to stay.

25 Q. I think you tell us he went back to his mother at

- 1 a point in time.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. But just looking at the Christmas Day visit then, are  
4 you able to describe the atmosphere to us?
- 5 A. Again, I only really met Sister LHA and LKW but  
6 there was a Christmas tree up. He'd been given a small  
7 gift. I can't remember what it was, but I think it was  
8 a car of some description. That was it, really. But  
9 there were paper decorations, the children had obviously  
10 made paper chains and there was a Christmas tree.
- 11 Q. Did you see what food was being served?
- 12 A. I didn't, no.
- 13 Q. You have mentioned Sister LHA, so can I just focus  
14 on the sisters. It was Sister LHA of course that  
15 dealt specifically with yourself and LKW
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Did you come across any other sisters?
- 18 A. We didn't. It was only ever Sister LHA we  
19 interacted with.
- 20 Q. Do did you understand then that she was the person  
21 within Nazareth House who was in charge of LKW
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And what can you tell us about her? One thing you do  
24 tell us is she was Irish, but can you give us any  
25 insight into her personality?



1 A. She was Irish. She was a very effervescent, bubbly  
2 person. She always came to any of the review meetings  
3 and any follow-up speech and language therapy work that  
4 had to be done. She would practice with [LKW] back at  
5 Nazareth House.

6 Q. And the review meetings, were they outwith  
7 Nazareth House?

8 A. Yes, they took place at Sunnybank Speech and Language  
9 Unit.

10 Q. How regular were these?

11 A. I would guess they would have been maybe once every  
12 six weeks. It was child dependent, really.

13 Q. You tell us in paragraph 27, for example, that from your  
14 interactions with Sister [LHA] she was very  
15 positive, pragmatic, solution-focused and consistent.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You say you have no recollection of ever hearing her  
18 raising her voice, for example?

19 A. No, and [LKW] would have told me that. He said she  
20 never shouted. She had a very strong, quiet way, and  
21 when she came to meetings, [LKW] would come into the  
22 meetings. He would often sit at her feet and lean  
23 against her. He did have a habit of [REDACTED]  
24 [REDACTED], which she took with good  
25 humour and never made a fuss about it, [REDACTED]

- 1 [REDACTED]
- 2 But she didn't make a fuss about it and I think she
- 3 found it quite amusing, but again he was bemused by it.
- 4 Q. And you say in paragraph 28 that, from your perspective,
- 5 Sister [REDACTED] LHA was giving [REDACTED] LKW consistent, positive
- 6 parenting.
- 7 A. Yes. Guidelines and expectations were clear for him and
- 8 it was certainly one of the things he would discuss with
- 9 me in Sunnybank because there were rules, they were
- 10 perfectly acceptable rules about bedtime, bath time,
- 11 teeth, sitting at the dinner table, and, yeah, she
- 12 wasn't overtly affectionate with him, but he would often
- 13 seek out affection from her and she never withdrew from
- 14 that.
- 15 Q. I think you told us that you didn't have other
- 16 interactions with other staff members, but you do say
- 17 you didn't have any concerns surrounding the care that
- 18 Nazareth House was providing --
- 19 A. Not in my experience, no.
- 20 Q. And can I ask you: did you ever observe any corporal
- 21 punishment being administered?
- 22 A. I didn't.
- 23 Q. Or a nun or nuns shouting at children?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. Or in any way belittling or humiliating children?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. You do tell us that LKW would tell you a little bit  
3 about life in Nazareth House. What sort of things did  
4 he discuss with you?
- 5 A. He was quite puzzled by the fact that he had to go to  
6 bed at a certain time and that that was non-negotiable.  
7 He was obviously quite puzzled by the religious  
8 connotations, which were new to him and he spoke openly  
9 about them -- in particular the three friends that he  
10 referred to as "the Father, Son and Holy Ghostie".
- 11 Q. Yes. But you do say he did appear to have formed an  
12 attachment with Sister LHA
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And that he never said anything negative to you about  
15 her?
- 16 A. No, and we could say to him, you know, if we were doing  
17 things in Sunnybank and he was maybe not going to make  
18 the best choice about things, if I said to him, "What do  
19 you think Sister LHA would say about that?", he  
20 would say, "Oh, she wouldn't be pleased". So he viewed  
21 her in a parenting role, I would say.
- 22 Q. What about positive things, do you remember him saying  
23 positive things about Nazareth House in general?
- 24 A. I wouldn't honestly say he said positive things, but  
25 I heard no negative things.

1 LADY SMITH: You have told us about coming across  
2 Sister [REDACTED] LHA ; did you get any impression of how many  
3 other nuns were at Nazareth House in the time that you  
4 were visiting there?

5 A. I didn't. My only recollection would be maybe seeing  
6 groups of six or seven walking near the grounds, but  
7 I didn't get any impression as to how many people were  
8 actually there.

9 LADY SMITH: But there were others?

10 A. There were other nuns there.

11 LADY SMITH: And staff, other staff that you may have  
12 encountered?

13 A. I don't recall meeting other staff, but that may just be  
14 my memory.

15 LADY SMITH: That's helpful, thank you.

16 MR MacAULAY: Did you become aware of whether or not there  
17 was also an old folks' section at Nazareth House?

18 A. I knew there was, yes.

19 Q. Did you come to an arrangement whereby you and your  
20 husband then would take [REDACTED] LKW home with you?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Was that at weekends that that happened?

23 A. It was usually on a Saturday.

24 Q. Would it be for the day?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. He wouldn't stay overnight?

2 A. No.

3 Q. How did that go?

4 A. Yeah, obviously it was challenging because he'd never  
5 been -- first time he'd ever been to our home before and  
6 at that time we had a dog who had had a litter of  
7 puppies and we weren't quite sure what he was going to  
8 do with the puppies. But I would say he was reserved  
9 during the visits, but he enjoyed it.

10 So we would pick him up after breakfast, he would  
11 have lunch with us and maybe an afternoon snack, and  
12 then we would have him back at Nazareth House in time  
13 for tea/supper, whatever they called it.

14 Q. On how many occasions do you think you --

15 A. I think we definitely did it twice. It could have been  
16 a maximum of three, but in my recollection it was twice.

17 Q. One thing you do say in your statement is there was some  
18 issue raised with you, I think by the social work  
19 people, as to whether you'd consider fostering **LKW**.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can you tell me how that came about?

22 A. When we first came forward to say we would be happy to  
23 befriend **LKW** and provide him with some interactions  
24 that were not about an institution, they did ask us if  
25 we'd be prepared to foster him. Our response to that

1 at the time was no because we didn't feel it would be  
2 fair on [REDACTED] LKW because we were planning on having our own  
3 children and we didn't feel he was a little boy who  
4 would have coped with that.

5 At that point, although the plan was that it was  
6 a short-term placement, in my experience sometimes those  
7 things change and, had it become a long-term placement,  
8 we felt it wouldn't have been fair on [REDACTED] LKW

9 Q. You do discuss in your statement what, if any, checks  
10 were carried out before and during your contact with  
11 [REDACTED] LKW particularly when you were taking him to your  
12 home. What was the position on that front?

13 A. As far as I recall, we had one visit from a social  
14 worker at our home. I don't recall any checks being  
15 carried out at all. I guess we would have had what  
16 would have then been CRB checks on our personnel files  
17 for work, but if they were accessed, I didn't know they  
18 were accessed, but that was it. There was never any  
19 followup. After we started taking him out, you know,  
20 nobody checked to see what we were doing and how it was  
21 going.

22 Q. Was that something that surprised you at the time?

23 A. Yes. Which is why I kept a little notebook of what we'd  
24 done for quite some time because I felt at some point  
25 somebody would want to know.

- 1 Q. I suppose both from the perspective of LKW but also  
2 from your own perspective, is it quite important that  
3 you do keep a note as to what --
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. -- happens?
- 6 A. Obviously as a speech and language therapist, if it's  
7 not in the notes, it didn't happen, so I was continuing  
8 in that vein, just keeping a note of here's when he  
9 came, here's what we did, here's how he sounded. But  
10 nobody wanted to see it, so ...
- 11 Q. When you say "nobody", do you include Nazareth House  
12 in that? Did you have any understanding that  
13 Nazareth House wanted to know more about what --
- 14 A. No, other than has he been all right, have you had  
15 a good time. That was it.
- 16 Q. You do provide us with some information in your  
17 statement about the routine on the weekends, for example  
18 you tell us that LKW spent quite a lot of time playing  
19 with the puppies that you had.
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And did he enjoy that?
- 22 A. He did enjoy it. Actually, it was a good experience for  
23 him and we were able to stand back a little bit. We did  
24 make very clear rules and guidelines because he could be  
25 quite firm with things and we didn't want the puppies to

- 1           get hurt, but actually he stuck to those rules and  
2           I think he very much enjoyed the physical contact of  
3           cuddling the puppies.
- 4       Q.    You do tell us you worked quite closely with  
5           Sister [REDACTED] LHA [REDACTED] to determine what the key targets for  
6           [REDACTED] LKW [REDACTED] might have been.
- 7       A.    Yes.
- 8       Q.    Were these on your visits to --
- 9       A.    Yes.
- 10      Q.    -- and also when you had the sessions that you mentioned  
11           before; is that right?
- 12      A.    Yes.  I guess one of the targets would probably have  
13           been something like doing what you were asked to do when  
14           you're asked to do it and basically sticking to the  
15           rules.  So we would reinforce those.
- 16                    I certainly made sure I knew what language she was  
17           using when she was giving a rule or expectation and  
18           I tried to mirror that.
- 19      Q.    There came a point in time when your involvement with  
20           [REDACTED] LKW [REDACTED] came to an end.
- 21      A.    Yes.
- 22      Q.    I think you've mentioned, how long you thought -- maybe  
23           nine months altogether?
- 24      A.    Yes, that's what it feels like in my memory, yes.
- 25      Q.    How did your involvement come to an end?



1 A. He went back to live with his mum. Over the time he was  
2 in Nazareth House, his speech skills improved and he had  
3 much clearer speech. Although there were some residual  
4 difficulties he was more easily understood by his peers  
5 and his family, so he actually moved on from the unit.

6 Q. So far as you can say, was he happy to return to live  
7 with his mother?

8 A. Yes, oh yes.

9 Q. Were you involved in any way at all when he came to  
10 leave Nazareth House?

11 A. No.

12 Q. So how did you know that he had left?

13 A. From the meetings at the speech and language unit.  
14 It would have been discussed as part of a review meeting  
15 that he was being -- he'd been moved.

16 Q. Then did you really lose touch with LKW after that?

17 A. Yes. We made a conscious decision that he was back with  
18 his mum and that had always been the plan. We left it  
19 that if he wanted to get in touch with us any time, we'd  
20 be happy to meet him with his mum, but he didn't, and to  
21 be honest that was what we expected to happen.

22 Q. Was LKW the only child that you were involved with at  
23 that time who was in residential care?

24 A. As far as I remember, yes.

25 Q. I think, sadly, you did learn afterwards that LKW

- 1           when he was still quite young, had had a tragic  
2           accident --
- 3       A.   Yes.
- 4       Q.   -- and was killed?
- 5       A.   Yes.
- 6       Q.   You tell us about that in your statement.  If I take you  
7           to paragraph 56 of the statement, here you're providing  
8           us with -- the heading is "Final thoughts".  On the care  
9           provided to [REDACTED] LKW by Nazareth House, can you summarise  
10          that for us?
- 11      A.   Yes, I felt it was warm and planned and it was  
12          consistent.  I felt it was always delivered with [REDACTED] LKW  
13          best interests.  Sister [REDACTED] LHA was very clear about  
14          the behavioural expectations she had from him, but the  
15          message to him was very much that her expectation was  
16          she knew that he would do that and that he was capable  
17          of behaving in the way she expected.
- 18      Q.   So that's what you mean by her expectations?
- 19      A.   Yes.
- 20      Q.   I think you do say they were delivered with warm  
21          affection.
- 22      A.   Yes.
- 23      Q.   Can you elaborate upon that?
- 24      A.   She just had a way of quietly delivering affection to  
25          him.  Not overly physically affectionate, but you know,

1 a gentle hand on his wrist or nice positive feedback  
2 when he'd done well. You know, "See, I told you could  
3 do it", and a lot of humour. She would share a joke  
4 with him.

5 Q. One thing you say in that paragraph is when you heard  
6 that LKW had been admitted to Nazareth House, as you  
7 put it:

8 "I fell into the trap of a preconceived idea of the  
9 care setting."

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. I just wanted to understand what you meant by that.

12 A. I guess in my head I expected very cold, clinical,  
13 institutionalised care. I wasn't expecting humour and  
14 affection, the way I saw it from Sister LHA

15 Q. I think in hindsight you thought that, on balance,  
16 Nazareth House was probably the right place for LKW to  
17 be in at that time.

18 A. Yes, I do.

19 Q. Why do you think that?

20 A. Because his own personal life had been quite erratic and  
21 unpredictable and, I guess, traumatic at times. It was  
22 a situation that gave him consistency, he knew what was  
23 going to happen next and equally I think he felt safe.

24 Q. There's a section in your statement beginning in  
25 paragraph 58 onwards, where you provide some general

1 thoughts on children in care from your professional  
2 experience. Can you give us some insight into your  
3 thoughts on that?

4 A. Looking back over my speech and language therapy career  
5 and currently in the work I'm doing just now, I still  
6 find that the care delivered is dependent on  
7 individuals. So, you know, one social worker will do  
8 things in a particular way, another social worker will  
9 do them in a different way, and that's kind of -- that's  
10 how it feels to me, that there's no consistency across  
11 the people, although there will be policies and  
12 procedures written down, but how they're delivered still  
13 varies, I feel.

14 Q. And I think you say that you've come across experiences  
15 that are positive?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. But also negative?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And the negative experiences, what drives the negative  
20 experience?

21 A. I guess to me it looks like what drives the negative  
22 experience is staff numbers, staff motivation, people's  
23 attitude towards the job, why they're doing it is kind  
24 of what drives it.

25 Q. But in paragraph 62, in your own experience, you say

1           there has definitely been improvement.

2           A. Yes. I would say there's been an acknowledgement that  
3           through circumstance, for some children, care is going  
4           to be inevitable outwith the family home, but that that  
5           can be delivered in a way that is still supportive and  
6           nurturing to the child as much as possible.

7           Q. So the way you put it is that:

8                        "My own personal view is that we have all got a bit  
9           trapped in providing glossy policies and producing  
10          things that tell us what we should be doing rather than  
11          actually doing the things that we should be doing."

12          A. Yes.

13          Q. That's your position?

14          A. Yes. I still feel that sometimes it's about ticking  
15          a box and having a procedure written down rather than  
16          people looking at the situation and thinking, okay, this  
17          is what we need to do, and, okay, it's maybe not quite  
18          what's written down, but that's what we should do.

19          LADY SMITH: Is there also a strong element of getting the  
20          right people in the first place?

21          A. Yes.

22          LADY SMITH: You can write pages and pages of policy and  
23          indeed give hours and hours of training to somebody who  
24          just doesn't have a feel for children --

25          A. Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: -- or the right attitude to children, and it's  
2 not going to work, and that's where you are going to get  
3 an inherent risk of damage to the children?

4 A. Yes, I would absolutely agree with that. It's about  
5 a mindset and an attitude and all the training in the  
6 world will not necessarily change that.

7 MR MacAULAY: Plain English, you're a believer in plain  
8 English?

9 A. Oh yes.

10 Q. Can you tell us your thoughts on that in this context?

11 A. In this context, I can remember looking at documents --  
12 and I still look at documents and I'm pretty good at  
13 looking at documents and extracting the relevant  
14 information, but I still find that some of them are  
15 written in such a way that I can't begin to imagine how  
16 somebody who's not doing that as their job can possibly  
17 understand what is happening to their child when they're  
18 in care.

19 I was recently given a document for a case and it  
20 was 32 pages. I'm sure it was necessary and relevant  
21 information about the assessment of a child, but it took  
22 me a jolly long time to work out from those 32 pages  
23 what it was we were actually really concerned about and  
24 what was going to happen next.

25 Q. What's the answer then?

- 1 A. What's the answer?
- 2 Q. Yes.
- 3 A. I guess if there's a legal requirement to have great  
4 detail for things, I can't comment on that, but I think  
5 the answer is nice, short, plain English, kind of  
6 writing it from the child's point of view: here's where  
7 I am, what will my next steps be, and keeping that short  
8 and simple.
- 9 Q. You also make a point about the importance of having  
10 a single social worker involved with a particular child.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Can you help me as to what you mean by that?
- 13 A. It kind of goes back to what I said previously where,  
14 despite having the same sets of guidelines, you still  
15 have individuals interpreting them, and sometimes, from  
16 the family's point of view and certainly from my point  
17 of view, I guess it's unavoidable, people go sick and  
18 move on, but certainly as much as possible some  
19 continuity I have always found helpful. Other people  
20 may disagree with that, but I have always found it  
21 helpful.
- 22 Q. The thoughts you're sharing with us over the last few  
23 minutes or so, are these derived from your experience as  
24 a pupil support worker or more general experience?
- 25 A. I'd say they're both from my work as a pupil support

1 worker and from my work as a speech and language  
2 therapist.

3 Q. One point you do make in your statement is what you see  
4 as the importance of seeking the child's views.

5 A. Absolutely.

6 Q. Can you just elaborate upon that?

7 A. Certainly in the 70s, as a speech and language  
8 therapist, we would have sought the child's views, but  
9 I guess we wouldn't have described it in that way. But  
10 the only way to get a 6-year-old to work on their speech  
11 is to try and find language that works in a way for them  
12 to say, yeah, I won't be able to tell my friends I don't  
13 want to play any more. So you had to seek the child's  
14 views in order to put a plan in place.

15 We do now talk actively about seeking the child's  
16 views and I can certainly see a difference with the  
17 children I work with now. I write my notes with them,  
18 but it's written as if they're saying it and they agree  
19 it with me. So: today this is what we've worked on,  
20 I did such-and-such, is that okay? So rather than me  
21 just writing notes of what I have done to the child, we  
22 write down what we've done together.

23 Q. Finally then, if I come again back to the last part of  
24 your statement on paragraph 69, as you've already  
25 explained, you came forward to the inquiry because your





1 LADY SMITH: Yes, Mr MacAulay.

2 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is Neil Smillie.

3 MR NEIL SMILLIE (sworn)

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

5 I think, as you've picked up, we need you to use the  
6 microphone, not just so that everybody can hear you  
7 properly, but the stenographers need to pick up your  
8 evidence through the microphone system.

9 Mr MacAulay.

10 Questions from MR MacAULAY

11 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, Neil.

12 A. Good morning.

13 Q. Are you Neil Smillie?

14 A. I am.

15 Q. Can I take from you that your date of birth is

16 [REDACTED] 1953?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. In front of you in that red folder you will find your  
19 statement. I will provide the reference for purposes of  
20 the transcript and that is WIT.001.001.6958. If I could  
21 get you to turn to the last page. Can I ask you, Neil,  
22 to confirm that you have signed that statement.

23 A. I did, yes.

24 Q. In the last paragraph, paragraph 44, do you say:

25 "I have no objection to my witness statement being

1 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry"?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. And you also go on to say:

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

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. It's perhaps obvious, but you're the husband of the last  
8 witness, Marion Smillie?

9 A. I am.

10 Q. I think you came forward to the inquiry because you  
11 wanted to provide information to the inquiry about your  
12 experience in caring for a child, LKW in the early  
13 1980s.

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. Can you remember more specifically when it was in the  
16 1980s that you were involved with LKW

17 A. When I started thinking about it, my wife and I were  
18 thinking about it, I was trying to work out exactly when  
19 that would have been because it was a while ago.

20 By a process of reasoning, if you like, my son was  
21 born in 84; it was before then. So we were putting it  
22 at 81 to about 83, in that window, round about there.

23 Q. And the period that you had this involvement?

24 A. It would have been about eight or nine months, not every  
25 weekend, but intermittently over that period.

- 1 Q. Just looking at what you yourself were doing at that  
2 time, what sort job were you engaged in at that time?
- 3 A. I was working for British Telecom at that time. I was  
4 what was called a level 1 manager. I was managing  
5 customer services, telephone exchanges. I think I was  
6 also working in marketing for BT at that time as well.
- 7 Q. Had you had any experience prior to that time  
8 in relation to residential care, in particular an  
9 establishment like Nazareth House Aberdeen?
- 10 A. No, none at all.
- 11 Q. If we move on a little bit after your involvement with  
12 **LKW**, did you move away from Aberdeen?
- 13 A. We did. I transferred down to London with  
14 British Telecom and we went to live in Southend in  
15 Essex.
- 16 Q. What sort of work did you get involved in thereafter?
- 17 A. I worked for BT for quite a while and then BT went  
18 through one of its many reorganisations and I took the  
19 opportunity to leave. I then moved into education for  
20 a while and I was teaching management. I taught Health  
21 Service people how to run practices, that kind of thing.  
22 After that, I think I quickly realised I was working too  
23 hard for not very much money doing that job and as I'd  
24 always been on the edges of the Health Service because  
25 of what my wife did and I had taught GPs and GP practice

1 managers during that period and I thought this was quite  
2 interesting and I started looking for jobs in the Health  
3 Service. So I then moved into the Health Service,  
4 always worked in primary care, never worked in the acute  
5 sector, it was always in the community.

6 Q. So you have pursued a career in healthcare really from  
7 the 1990s?

8 A. About that, yes.

9 Q. I think at a point in time you came back to Aberdeen;  
10 is that right?

11 A. That's correct. I kind of worked my way through the  
12 system, various ranks, ended up as director of primary  
13 care, and the Health Service literally reorganised  
14 itself every two years. At that stage, bizarrely, they  
15 said they didn't want any more directors of primary care  
16 but offered me half the job I was doing for more money.  
17 Tried that for a while, didn't really like it, so I took  
18 the opportunity to take early retirement, I suppose you  
19 would call it, and come back to Aberdeen. We had always  
20 intended to come back to Scotland but it was very  
21 difficult to come back.

22 Q. What sort of position did you take up when you came to  
23 Aberdeen?

24 A. Really looking for something just to keep me going,  
25 really. Coincidentally there was a job in

1           Aberdeenshire Council, which involved child protection.  
2           I'd been managing child protection teams in the Health  
3           Service, among other things, and I applied for that and  
4           got that job.

5           Q. Just in broad terms can you tell us what that job has  
6           involved?

7           A. It started -- anybody who's worked in public service  
8           will know that they kind of grow in all kinds of  
9           directions, these jobs. I started doing child  
10          protection. I think they twigged that I'd worked at  
11          a fairly high level in the Health Service so they were  
12          quite interested in my Health Service experience. They  
13          were also interested in my commercial service, as I  
14          suppose I have quite a mixed bag of qualifications and  
15          they were quite interested in that.

16                 So I was doing child protection work, helping -- the  
17          schools were very chaotic at that time. Aberdeenshire  
18          has almost 200 schools and there were probably 200  
19          different ways of doing the same thing. My job at that  
20          stage was to try and get some sort of consistency in the  
21          child protection approach, so I would advise and support  
22          schools on child protection issues.

23          Q. Perhaps I could get a time frame for that: when did you  
24          start that sort of work?

25          A. Where are we now? About 10 years ago.

1 Q. Okay. Can I then look at the circumstances that led you  
2 to your involvement with [REDACTED] LKW [REDACTED] Can you just tell me  
3 about how that came about?

4 A. At that stage my wife -- is a speech and language  
5 therapist, now retired. At that stage she was quite  
6 early in her career, I suppose, and she was working in  
7 a clinic, I can't remember which clinic it was, and  
8 [REDACTED] LKW [REDACTED] was one of the children she was working with.

9 She said that an opportunity -- I'm not sure she  
10 used that word -- how would I feel about this boy coming  
11 home with us? Initially I thought she meant like  
12 a fostering type thing, but that's not what she meant at  
13 all. What she meant was the lad was staying in  
14 a children's home and he would come home with us in the  
15 weekend, not stay overnight or anything like that, but  
16 be with us at the weekend.

17 Q. And I think that happened on occasions?

18 A. Yes, it did.

19 Q. Did you get some insight into [REDACTED] LKW [REDACTED] background?

20 A. Yes. We don't -- both of us have worked in the Health  
21 Service, as you're aware, and we do not talk about  
22 cases. We like to try and get away from that kind of  
23 stuff when we go home. So we never really talk about  
24 that kind of thing. We spoke about it, what was [REDACTED] LKW [REDACTED]  
25 background. He sounded like a real character. I got

1 a little bit of insight into how he'd been treated and  
2 the allegations against his father in particular. I was  
3 intrigued, I have to say, because he sounded like a real  
4 character.

5 Q. I think then you did go to Nazareth House.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Did you go more than once?

8 A. Over the period we would pick **LKW** up and drop him off,  
9 so we would do that. Sometimes it was literally from  
10 the street and he would be met, sometimes we would take  
11 him into a kind of foyer, reception, lounge type area.

12 Q. One thing you do tell us in your statement is being at  
13 Nazareth House at Christmas.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Can you tell me about that?

16 A. We went to drop off a present for **LKW** We went into  
17 a kind of lounge/living room -- when we thought about  
18 it, it felt a bit like a student common room sort of  
19 thing. It was a comfortable enough room, the furniture  
20 was a bit tired. There was a Christmas tree,  
21 decorations. There were some other children, not many,  
22 but there were a few other children there. Presents.  
23 People seemed happy.

24 Q. There was a particular sister, I think, that you came  
25 across; is that right?



1 A. Sister [LHA] . Sister [LHA] was the lady we  
2 dealt with all the time. I got the impression, although  
3 nobody ever actually said, that she was in authority  
4 there.

5 Q. One thing you tell us in paragraph 14 of your statement  
6 is that Nazareth House seemed to provide for [LKW] the  
7 kindness that he needed.

8 A. Yes. [LKW] was a challenge, there's no doubt about  
9 that. He ran the schools ragged. He'd been expelled  
10 from certainly one school, maybe two schools. You know,  
11 [LKW] was the size of nothing, really. He was only  
12 a little lad. One of the occasions he'd been expelled  
13 for being up on the roof chucking bricks at teachers off  
14 the roof, which I found quite funny. I found it very  
15 strange and funny that they were unable to control [LKW]  
16 or manage [LKW] or provide what he needed -- sorry,  
17 I have lost track of your question.

18 Q. I was just pointing you to -- that Nazareth House in  
19 particular seemed to provide for [LKW] the kindness that  
20 he needed.

21 A. They seemed to have the measure of him, not in any kind  
22 of controlled way. Sister [LHA] I kind of likened  
23 her to a granny type figure. She was -- if you were  
24 going to draw a caricature of an Irish nun, she would  
25 have been the person you would draw. She was quite

1 a short lady, quite boxy built, soft Irish accent, quite  
2 nice lady. I got the impression she was a nice lady.

3 [REDACTED]  
4 She wore the old-fashioned type of nun dress, not the  
5 modern to-the-knee type dress.

6 LKW would [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED] There  
8 was this kind of -- I kind of likened him a bit to a  
9 kind of "Oor Wullie" sort of character. So there was  
10 this kind of bouncing back and forward between LKW and  
11 Sister LHA in a pulling each other's leg kind of  
12 way.

13 So I got the impression that there was support for  
14 LKW there and he seemed happy there.

15 Q. You also say she seemed to be full of humour.

16 A. Absolutely. She gave as good as she got. He would pull  
17 her leg and she would give him as good as she got.

18 I remember one occasion where we were dropping LKW  
19 off -- and it's not the kind of environment where  
20 you have pets, you can't have a dog or cat in there.  
21 Somebody must have suggested they could have a fish. So  
22 she had sourced this goldfish from somebody and  
23 I remember the fish had died and I think it had been  
24 dead almost on arrival. Because she was going on in  
25 a kind of Dave Allen sort of way about having paid 50p

1 for a dead fish and she was going to get her 50p back  
2 and it was really, really funny.

3 Q. I think you do say that, from your perspective  
4 Nazareth House generally did a good job for [REDACTED] LKW

5 A. I think so. [REDACTED] LKW background was he'd been  
6 horrendously treated. He had -- his father had poured  
7 boiling water on him when he was a baby -- I'm not sure  
8 what age but a baby. If you had the occasion to maybe  
9 change a T-shirt or something that got wet, you would  
10 have seen his body had the plasticised skin from the  
11 burns, so he had been very, very poorly treated. He  
12 didn't take prisoners, [REDACTED] LKW He didn't suffer fools  
13 gladly. So he had built a good relationship with them.

14 When we worked with [REDACTED] LKW when we had [REDACTED] LKW at  
15 home, you needed to manage him. We had a cocker spaniel  
16 at the time, a long-haired cocker spaniel, which [REDACTED] LKW  
17 was very fond of, but he thought she would look better  
18 with short ears and with [REDACTED] LKW history I was always  
19 very careful never to leave him alone because I thought  
20 he might try and tailor her ears. But we never had any  
21 problems with him at home. We tried to create the  
22 environment that we would have with our nieces and  
23 nephews when they were there.

24 Q. Did you form any impression then as to how happy [REDACTED] LKW  
25 was at Nazareth House?

1 A. Well, as I said, LKW didn't take prisoners and he --  
2 he would look at Sister LHA "What's she wearing?  
3 Imagine that!" and all of  
4 that kind of stuff. So I'm sure he would have said if  
5 anything happened or shown us if there was any bumps or  
6 bruises sort of thing. Certainly when we took him back  
7 there was never any, "Can I stay here, Mrs Smillie?" --  
8 he always called us Mr and Mrs Smillie, I don't recall  
9 him calling me Neil -- "Can I stay here?" none of that  
10 kind of stuff. He always seemed happy to go back,  
11 always seemed to be welcomed in. Never any  
12 interrogation, never any, "Where have you been?", just,  
13 "Did you have a good time?" that kind of thing.

14 LADY SMITH: You seem to be describing a situation where the  
15 starting point is a child who's pretty much out of  
16 control.

17 A. Mm.

18 LADY SMITH: The description of him being on a roof,  
19 throwing bricks and so on at -- I think we've heard  
20 about the age of 5, Primary One age, something like  
21 that --

22 A. Six-ish, about that age according to my remember.

23 LADY SMITH: -- 5 or 6 years old. Taken from home, from his  
24 own home, put into an institution, but between the  
25 institution and you and your wife, the child is managed

1 in a way that the behaviour is not exacerbated, he  
2 doesn't get more and more out of control, but on the  
3 contrary he's behaving, managed by adults who know how  
4 to handle him; is that right?

5 A. That's certainly my impression. There were three major  
6 inputs that I am aware of to [REDACTED] LKW [REDACTED] one was the home  
7 he was living in; there was the little bit we were doing  
8 at home; and don't forget of course he was undergoing  
9 speech and language therapy at the time. So that would  
10 have been moderating and trying to modify his behaviour  
11 as well his speech and language.

12 LADY SMITH: So he was beginning to manage to communicate  
13 better?

14 A. Possibly, yes.

15 MR MacAULAY: One thing you do address in your statement is  
16 the issue of checks and what checks may have been  
17 undertaken before and in your dealings with [REDACTED] LKW [REDACTED]  
18 What was the position there?

19 A. I have no memory of anybody doing any kind of background  
20 checks on myself or my wife prior to [REDACTED] LKW [REDACTED] coming. It  
21 was just a discussion my wife and I had and then she  
22 made arrangements and then we carried them out. I think  
23 in the discussions I had with my wife, Marion seems to  
24 have a memory of a young social worker talking to her,  
25 but I have no memory of that.

1 I think what I was trying to say really to the  
2 people who came up to interview me was now we do PVG  
3 checks on the -- or the precursors of PVG checks --

4 Q. And that's protecting vulnerable groups checks?

5 A. Exactly that, yes. We would take that as being routine  
6 and part of that is about protecting children, part of  
7 that is about protecting staff as well so we're not  
8 putting staff in situations where they could be accused  
9 of something, say.

10 It was a different time. Those checks weren't in  
11 place. We learned as we went forward, we put them in.  
12 So really I guess what I was trying to say to the people  
13 who interviewed me was that, looking back with  
14 director's eyes, if you like, we would have done it  
15 differently now perhaps, and really offer that as an  
16 observation but also trying to offer the observation  
17 that it was a different time and what was put in place  
18 for that boy worked quite well and seemed to be good  
19 enough.

20 Q. Okay.

21 LADY SMITH: Just going back to this matter of checks,  
22 I suppose one might say, well, it was known that your  
23 wife was working as a speech and language therapist and  
24 seemed to be trusted in the Sunnybank Centre and she  
25 worked with children so she must be okay. But they knew

1 nothing about you.

2 A. No, they knew nothing about me. They knew my wife, for  
3 sure, her qualifications and a registered professional.  
4 They possibly asked about me but they never met me.  
5 They never met me, no.

6 LADY SMITH: And they knew nothing about your house or your  
7 home?

8 A. No, nothing at all.

9 MR MacAULAY: I think LKW eventually went back to his  
10 mother --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- after you'd been dealing with him for about  
13 nine months or so; is that correct? Did you lose track  
14 of LKW thereafter?

15 A. Yes. There was a kind of quite proper transition.  
16 LKW had progressed, improved. I didn't really know  
17 what happened to the father, but the father was always  
18 the difficulty. The mother seemed unable to stay away  
19 from the father when he wasn't in prison. So my own  
20 feeling, whether it's correct or not, I'm not sure, was  
21 that something happened to take father out of the scene,  
22 so in prison longer or separated or family or whatever.  
23 Mum seemed to meet up with somebody who seemed to be  
24 quite ordinary, quite normal, and seemed to be getting  
25 herself sorted out, so they were managing LKW back

1 into that environment.

2 We had good working relationship with LKW I felt,  
3 and it would have been quite difficult for the boy,  
4 I think, to have these two competing families, if you  
5 like, so we started to pull back at that point. And he  
6 seemed to transition quite effectively, quite  
7 successfully back to his mum, which was really good.

8 Q. And I think you've told us, we understand, that you  
9 moved south.

10 A. Not long after that we moved south, yes.

11 Q. Although I think you did discover subsequently that  
12 LKW had had an accident.

13 A. Yes, a colleague, a friend of Marion's, had fed back to  
14 her that he'd had an accident -- more than an accident,  
15 really. It sounds as if he'd been a bit wild and both  
16 him and a lad were on a roof, a garage roof, and they  
17 had fallen through the roof. The boy he was with had  
18 the luck to fall on something that broke his fall; LKW  
19 didn't and he didn't survive it.

20 Q. If we come to the final parts of your statement, Neil,  
21 at paragraph 42, for example -- and I think you have  
22 touched upon this in answer, I think, to her Ladyship --  
23 that:

24 "Looking back now I would have thought that  
25 Nazareth House and Social Services would have wanted to



1 be clearer about the arrangement and the environment

2 [REDACTED] LKW was being placed into. They knew Marion but they  
3 didn't know me from Adam."

4 A. Yes, that's my feeling. Lady Smith kind of alluded to  
5 it in the question to me there. They did know Marion.  
6 Marion was a health professional and I guess all that  
7 time ago we maybe had -- we had a different kind of  
8 respect for health professionals, so they must all be  
9 good, mustn't they? We take a more nuanced approach to  
10 that now with PVG checks and stuff, as I said. But it  
11 was different times and things were done differently.

12 Q. In any event, looking to your involvement with  
13 Nazareth House and Sister [REDACTED] LHA in particular, what  
14 you are telling the inquiry is that that was a positive  
15 experience.

16 A. I believe so. Marion used the words that that place  
17 saved [REDACTED] LKW and I'm happy to go along with that.  
18 I think they certainly helped [REDACTED] LKW to get some kind of  
19 perspective. I think they helped him, a challenging,  
20 tough little lad, to put himself in a place he was  
21 comfortable with, and he seemed to be moving on, to put  
22 it that way.

23 Q. And what you tell us in the second last paragraph of  
24 your statement is that you want this inquiry to be  
25 realistic and hope that the inquiry comes to balanced

1 conclusions as to the level of care that institutions  
2 have provided.

3 A. Yes. I think, certainly in our experience of  
4 Nazareth House, the good work that they did with the  
5 boy -- not judge what was done then in terms of how it's  
6 organised by anything other than what would have been  
7 good practice then, not what we would consider to be  
8 good practice now.

9 MR MacAULAY: Well, thank you for these thoughts, Neil. In  
10 asking the questions I've asked, I've also put questions  
11 to you that I've been asked to put to you.

12 My Lady, unless there are any further questions,  
13 I think Neil is probably ready to go.

14 LADY SMITH: Are there any other questions? No.

15 Thank you very much for coming along today, Neil,  
16 and adding your perspective to that of your wife's. It  
17 has been very helpful to hear from you and I am now able  
18 to let you go.

19 A. Thank you.

20 (The witness withdrew)

21 LADY SMITH: Yes, Mr MacAulay.

22 MR MacAULAY: The next oral witness, my Lady, is due at,  
23 I think, midday. I don't know whether we could have  
24 a short break and then have a read-in or the other way  
25 round.

1 LADY SMITH: We would be breaking by 11.30 anyway. Would  
2 that be a bit tight for a read-in or not?

3 MR MacAULAY: My learned junior seems to think about half  
4 an hour for the read-in.

5 LADY SMITH: I think we'd better break now, come back for  
6 the oral witness at 12, and that gets us through the  
7 third witness for today, and we may have time this  
8 afternoon to add a read-in then. We could start that at  
9 11.30.

10 MR MacAULAY: Yes.

11 LADY SMITH: Let's do that and give the stenographers a bit  
12 of a longer break this morning. Thank you.  
13 (11.07 am)

14 (A short break)

15 (11.30 am)

16 LADY SMITH: Yes, Ms MacLeod.

17 Witness statement of "MARGARET" (read)

18 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I'm now going to read in the statement  
19 of a witness who wishes to remain anonymous and use the  
20 pseudonym "Margaret". The witness statement can be  
21 found at WIT.001.001.4178:  
22 "My name is Margaret. My date of birth is in 1949.  
23 My contact details are known to the inquiry."  
24 In paragraphs 2 and 3 of her statement the witness  
25 speaks about being born in Glasgow, being the eldest of

1 a number of siblings, and tells that her mother died in  
2 childbirth when the witness was 8, and that an aunt  
3 moved in to help for a time, and that she and her  
4 siblings were ultimately taken into care.

5 I'll move on to paragraph 4 of the statement, which  
6 is on WIT.001.001.4179:

7 "When I was 10, me and one of my sisters got put  
8 into Nazareth House in Paisley Road West, Glasgow, but  
9 I don't really know why. Looking back, I thought  
10 we were there for about a year, but when I went to  
11 a lawyer a few years ago, he told me that my records say  
12 I was only in there for about two weeks in 1960.

13 "I think we were all supposed to go there, but  
14 I don't know why it was only me and my sister that did  
15 actually go."

16 The register for Nazareth House Cardonald, my Lady,  
17 shows this witness having been admitted in

18 [REDACTED] 1960:

19 "I have no doubt that we all needed some care and  
20 protection, but I am not sure why we were placed there.  
21 Nazareth House Paisley Road West was run by nuns from  
22 the Catholic Church and there were other helpers there.  
23 My sister went to the nursery and I went to a bigger  
24 place. There were a lot of children there, although  
25 I only remember there being girls where I was.

1            "I went to the school, which was directly across the  
2 road. I think it was called Lourdes or The Rosary.  
3 We were in dormitories and we were in individual beds.  
4 I can't really remember much about that house.

5            "I wet the bed when I was in Nazareth House in  
6 Paisley Road West. In fact, I wet the bed before I went  
7 in there and probably started doing it after my mum  
8 died.

9            "I used to wet the bed a lot and when I did, there  
10 was a helper woman, not a nun, who used to hammer me  
11 with a stick. She would put me in the cold bath, then  
12 afterwards I would have to wash the wet sheets in the  
13 bath, then hang them out. They were thick cotton sheets  
14 and my hands used to be cold and all cut from the cold.  
15 After I had done that, the woman then would beat me with  
16 a stick on my back or on my bottom, but I can't remember  
17 if it was through my clothes or not.

18           "I think this happened nearly every day because  
19 I regularly wet the bed. This happened to other  
20 children who wet the bed, although I never saw anyone  
21 else get hit. After I had hung the sheets out, I was  
22 allowed to go down and get my breakfast.

23           "I got taken to the doctor at some point because of  
24 my bed-wetting and I was given some green medicine, but  
25 it didn't stop me.

1            "One time when we were in the playroom and some of  
2            the girls were playing music, one girl dropped a violin  
3            out of the box. I was told by Sister [LFH] who was  
4            second in charge, just below the Mother, to go and get  
5            the stick from behind the toilets. When I took it back,  
6            Sister [LFH] hit the girl on the hands for dropping  
7            the violin.

8            "I decided one day that I had had enough of the  
9            beatings and hanging out my sheets and all the rest so  
10           I ran away to my dad's house.

11           "Dad found me sleeping at the bottom of the stairs  
12           and I told him about what was happening to me at  
13           Nazareth House. He came straight up and took me and my  
14           sister out and we went back home with him."

15           The Cardonald register, my Lady, shows the witness  
16           and her sister -- they're noted as leaving  
17           Nazareth House in [REDACTED] 1960, having been there just  
18           over two weeks:

19           "I am not sure how long we were back living with my  
20           dad, but the police got involved a few times because we  
21           got caught outside on the street playing with friends at  
22           a time we shouldn't have been out at our age. They saw  
23           that my dad didn't have food for us and things like  
24           that. They involved the Social Work Department.

25           "I think it was through an order of court that me

1 and my sister were put to Nazareth House in Aberdeen.  
2 We all sat round a table and I can't remember how many  
3 people were there, but there might have only been one  
4 person, a man, but I don't know even who he was. My dad  
5 was there with my granny, me and my sister. My dad  
6 tried to fight against it because he didn't want us to  
7 go, but the Social Work decided we were going.

8 "My dad's brother and my auntie lived in Aberdeen  
9 and we were told by my granny that if we went to  
10 Aberdeen they would come and visit us. All the other  
11 children stayed in my dad's house and my auntie moved  
12 into the house to look after the other children.

13 "My sister and I were put into a place called  
14 Beechwood House and I think it was in Glasgow. We were  
15 only there overnight, maybe two nights, but nothing  
16 really happened there. I think we were just placed  
17 there until we got taken to Aberdeen.

18 "It was a social worker called Miss Knott who picked  
19 us up and took us on the train to Aberdeen. I think she  
20 was based in Glasgow. Me and my sister, who was the  
21 second oldest child, got taken up and put in  
22 Nazareth House in Claremont Place, Aberdeen, in  
23 [REDACTED] 1960. I remember it was this date because of  
24 something that happened on that day."

25 Indeed, my Lady, the register for Nazareth House

1 Aberdeen shows this witness and her sister going in in

2 [REDACTED] 1960:

3 "I don't remember much about my first day at  
4 Nazareth House in Aberdeen, but I remember going on the  
5 train because we hadn't been on a train before, so it  
6 was nice. The day that we arrived it was  
7 Sister [REDACTED] FAF who met us. First of all, she took us  
8 to a sitting room where she told us not to tell anyone  
9 what we were in for.

10 "She then took us into the dining room and  
11 introduced us to the other children in group 1, because  
12 that was the group we were going to be in. There were  
13 three groups and there were about 30 girls in each.  
14 Sister [REDACTED] LGN had group 2 and Sister [REDACTED] LJD had group 3.

15 "There were boys at Nazareth House too, but they  
16 were across the way in another department and we only  
17 ever saw them at church or on the way to school on the  
18 school bus.

19 "Sister [REDACTED] FAF would probably have been in her  
20 50s then because one time she told me she was the same  
21 age as my granny. The convent had a big, big house  
22 in the grounds and there was a church inside the house.  
23 The dormitories were upstairs and were all linked with  
24 doors between them.

25 "Sister [REDACTED] FAF was in charge of our group and



1 she looked after us. There was another nun under her,  
2 but I can't remember her name. There was one nun in  
3 charge of each group, apart from group 1 which had two.  
4 There was a Mother Superior there initially but I can't  
5 remember her name. She was only there for a short while  
6 until Mother **LKM** came. She was actually nice but  
7 she didn't really have anything to do with us, but would  
8 occasionally come and visit.

9 "There was another lady called **FAJ** who  
10 lived in a house in the grounds, and she came up to help  
11 wash the younger ones and get them ready for bed.

12 "I was in dormitory number 1 with my sister and  
13 there were four of us in this dorm. The other two girls  
14 were older, maybe about 13 or 14, so I would sometimes  
15 go to them for help or advice.

16 "Saturday morning was cleaning day, so we cleaned  
17 the bedrooms and we took turns doing this. My role was  
18 mopping and cleaning the floor. My sister was supposed  
19 to dust but we weren't allowed to do our job until the  
20 dusting was done. I had trouble with my sister getting  
21 her to do it as she was a law unto herself. I had a bit  
22 of a bad temper and a few years later Sister **FAF**  
23 commented on it saying I would end up in jail one day  
24 because of it.

25 "After we had finished cleaning the bedroom we went

1 up to Sister [FAF]'s office and she gave us some  
2 wax to polish the corridor and we used a Ronex floor  
3 polisher and then a mop to shine it. Then we had to  
4 take our turns to clean the toilets in the playroom.  
5 I was also in charge of washing up in the kitchen for  
6 our group.

7 "Food was all right, I suppose, but if you didn't  
8 eat your food you would get hit by Sister [FAF] or  
9 whoever was there. My sister didn't like potatoes so  
10 I ate her potatoes so she didn't get hit. I didn't have  
11 a sweet tooth so my sister ate my pudding.

12 "If you got hit, it would be a slap to the head.  
13 I saw it happening to others too. If you didn't eat  
14 your main course, you didn't get any pudding and you  
15 would get made to stand up at the table.

16 "We got the bus home at lunchtime, had our lunch,  
17 then got the bus back to school. The younger ones got  
18 taken up to get ready for their bed by [FAJ] about  
19 7 o'clock at night. The older ones watched the  
20 television until about 9 o'clock, but Sister [FAF]  
21 was there and if anything came on, like people kissing  
22 she would close the shutters and say that we were not  
23 watching that filth.

24 "At 9 o'clock we all just went up and got washed and  
25 ready for bed. We used to get a hot drink before we

1           went to our beds. The nun would heat up a big pot of  
2           milk and we would get a cup of cocoa and a bun.

3           "I continued to wet the bed in there and it happened  
4           most nights. I used to sit up in my bed and try not to  
5           sleep so I wouldn't wet it. I used to take the wet  
6           sheets off the bed and dry them on the radiators, but  
7           when you put them back on the bed you could see the  
8           stain.

9           "There was one girl who was in bedroom 5 and she  
10          used to wet the bed and the nun would bang on the office  
11          wall, which was between the office and her bedroom, and  
12          the girl would get up. She sometimes got me up and  
13          I went to the toilet too. Often by the time she came in  
14          to get me up it was too late because I had already done  
15          it.

16          "They used to have a book and if you were really bad  
17          they would record black marks in this book. When  
18          Saturday came they would count up the black marks and  
19          take money off your pocket money. I think I got two  
20          shillings a week but the amount you got depended on your  
21          age.

22          "After we got home from school we got changed out of  
23          our school uniform, did our homework, had our tea, then  
24          watched television. We all sat and watched the  
25          children's programmes. On a Saturday afternoon, after

1 lunch, Sister [FAF] would sit and we were given our  
2 pocket money. We were then allowed out in the afternoon  
3 with the other girls to go to the shop to buy sweeties.  
4 I had a nice friend and I would go with her.

5 "I didn't have a sweet tooth so I would buy stamps  
6 and envelopes and paper to write letters to my granny  
7 and my dad. We weren't allowed to go beyond the shop.  
8 The rest of the day we could more or less do what we  
9 wanted, so I read books. I enjoyed reading. We  
10 sometimes played with toys like ropes, spinning tops and  
11 outside there was a big playground.

12 "You were allowed out there on a Saturday after tea  
13 in the summer. I don't really remember playing any  
14 sports, but there was a maypole.

15 "We used to go to the beach every summer and we had  
16 to walk there. We had eight weeks' holiday at summer so  
17 we walked to the beach every day for six weeks. We were  
18 allowed to walk ourselves. I think the nuns went down  
19 in a van. The nuns had two beach huts where we could  
20 get changed. We spent the whole day down there and made  
21 up sandwiches for lunch to take with us.

22 "In the summer holidays most of the kids went home  
23 but we weren't allowed, so my sister and I went to my  
24 aunt's in Aberdeen. We were told we weren't allowed to  
25 go home because my aunt was living in the house with my

1           dad and they weren't married.

2           "I remember at some point, but I can't remember  
3 exactly when it was, we went through to Fraserburgh on  
4 a bus and another time we went to Peterhead, but I can't  
5 remember going anywhere else.

6           "I used to get the bus to school, which was  
7 St Peter's school, but it's not there any more. I think  
8 it was on Nelson Street. It was a primary and  
9 a secondary school. The school was okay and you used to  
10 get the belt but all the schools did that.

11           "At Nazareth House we kept our sand shoes in our own  
12 cupboard with our name on it. If someone stole your  
13 sand shoes and you were late, you got the belt. The nun  
14 would phone ahead and tell the school who was running  
15 late, so the headmaster, Mr LFA would be waiting to  
16 give you the belt when you arrived.

17           "If you turned up and you had PE that day and you  
18 didn't have your sand shoes you got the belt too, so  
19 sometimes you got the belt twice on the same day.

20           "The school was open to people from Nazareth House  
21 and children from outside. We weren't treated any  
22 differently because we were in a home apart from  
23 sometimes we were called the insiders and they were the  
24 outsiders.

25           "Children were punished regardless of where you were

1 from. At school the only practical skill I remember  
2 getting taught was we were given a doll and taught to  
3 wash it as if it was a baby.

4 "We got a hot bath once a week in Nazareth House and  
5 it was on a rota and there were other big sinks we could  
6 get washed in so we were always clean.

7 "A doctor came into Nazareth House every six months  
8 and gave us medicals. There was always a nun there so  
9 you couldn't really say anything. Apart from that, our  
10 medical care was okay. There was a dentist there too  
11 but I hated it because he used to give you fillings  
12 without any injections. I was terrified to go there.  
13 He would say that if you need a break put your right  
14 hand up. There was a nun standing there and if you  
15 tried to put your hand up, she would slap it down and  
16 tell you the quicker you got it done, the quicker you  
17 could get out of there.

18 "At Christmastime, they made us beautiful fluffy  
19 hats, all different colours. I think the nuns would  
20 have knitted them. We also had nice new outfits for  
21 Christmas Eve for going to Mass. On Christmas Eve  
22 we were put to our beds early, then they got us up for  
23 Mass, which was at midnight. We all had our new clothes  
24 and berets on for Mass. When we came back we went  
25 straight to bed.

1            "There were presents for us on Christmas Morning and  
2 I probably got a game or something like that but I can't  
3 really remember. There would be one present each  
4 because there was a lot of us, but I don't know where it  
5 came from. We also had a stocking which had an apple  
6 and an orange in it.

7            "We would get a nice dinner but I can't actually  
8 remember what it was. We had a Christmas tree up and  
9 there were decorations, but it wasn't that much  
10 different really from any other day. Birthdays weren't  
11 celebrated before Mother **LKM** came, which was about  
12 six months after I went there.

13           "I was sent to see her and she spoke to me for a  
14 while then gave me a set of rosary beads and a prayer  
15 book and told me it was for my birthday. I was  
16 delighted. We didn't get any birthday cards or cake or  
17 a special meal. I think there were too many of us.

18           "I ran away once with my sister when I was at  
19 Nazareth House in Aberdeen. We hadn't been there that  
20 long and the nuns came out in a van and found us.  
21 We weren't that far away. We didn't even have any  
22 money. I know that my sister and I planned to run away  
23 and we were back before we knew it. I wanted away  
24 because of the beatings I was getting.

25           "We said the rosary every night at 6 o'clock with

1 one nun who did it with us. On a Sunday we used to go  
2 to a rosary and benediction when the bell went about  
3 6 pm or the Angelus was said at that time.

4 Sister FAF would make sure that we said our  
5 prayers when we got up in the morning and before we went  
6 to bed at night. We all had turns to go to Mass as  
7 well.

8 "My bedroom went on a Monday before breakfast.  
9 There was a lot of emphasis in Nazareth House on  
10 religion. We got religious education at school, but it  
11 wasn't as big a part there.

12 "Miss Knott was supposed to be our social worker all  
13 the time we were in there, but she was based in Glasgow.  
14 After she took us to Aberdeen, I don't think I ever saw  
15 her again. I never saw my brothers and sisters for  
16 five years, they never came to visit us and we weren't  
17 allowed to go home. My dad wrote the odd letter and we  
18 wrote back. Our letters were always opened by the nuns.  
19 I know that because my granny would write regularly and  
20 send us postal orders and they said that they would save  
21 it for us.

22 "My granny visited us a couple of times on her own.  
23 My dad didn't come. I don't know why but supposedly he  
24 didn't have the money because he was too busy drinking.  
25 I'm sure some of the other children in the home got



1 visitors.

2 "Me and my sister used to get out every third  
3 Sunday. My aunt and uncle used to go to church and they  
4 would come to Nazareth House and take us out for dinner  
5 or go to Cove Bay or something like that.

6 "No one ever came to inspect Nazareth House as far  
7 as I am aware and no one came to speak to the children  
8 about how things were in the house.

9 "Sister [REDACTED] FAF would come into our bedroom in  
10 the morning to waken us up and we knelt down besides our  
11 beds and said a prayer. She pulled the beds back and  
12 would see that I had wet it. She made me take the sheet  
13 off and put me in a cold bath in the bathroom. She  
14 would shut and lock the bathroom door, then go away to  
15 Mass and was probably away for between 30 minutes to  
16 three-quarters of an hour. When she came back, she  
17 brought a hairbrush and thrashed me on my body with the  
18 hairbrush in the cold bath. I would have to wash the  
19 sheet I had wet in the bath.

20 "I might have had to hang the sheets up but I can't  
21 remember. I then got dressed and went down for  
22 breakfast. I had to stand and eat my breakfast and  
23 wasn't allowed to sit down. I don't remember any time  
24 when I wet the bed that I didn't get the cold bath and  
25 beaten by Sister [REDACTED] FAF with the brush.

1           "One time my sister was running up and down the  
2 stairs and I think it was Sister [REDACTED] FAF who caught  
3 her and hit her in the face. She would get you to look  
4 to the side and slap you on the face. My sister didn't  
5 get hit very often because she didn't wet the bed. She  
6 would often cry after she was hit.

7           "The other nun, the one younger than  
8 Sister [REDACTED] FAF, hit me once on my arms when we were  
9 at the beach. I can't remember what I did to deserve  
10 that.

11           "At night-time, if you were supposed to be sleeping  
12 and you were talking or carrying on, you would hear  
13 Sister [REDACTED] FAF shouting and asking who was talking or  
14 whatever. You had to admit if it was you and she might  
15 make you go along and kneel outside her room door and  
16 say prayers, like the rosary or something. Sometimes  
17 she would forget you were there and you had to cough to  
18 make sure she knew. You had to stay there until she  
19 told you that you could go back to your bed. You might  
20 be there for a couple of hours and this happened several  
21 times and it was very cold because the floor was tiled  
22 and I would only have my pyjamas on.

23           "Another time we were out in the corridor downstairs  
24 outside the dining room and I have a feeling we may have  
25 been trying clothes on because I only had my vest and

1 pants on. I always used to stand with my knees bent but  
2 I don't know why and Sister [FAF] came up and  
3 punched me on my knees and told me to stand up straight.

4 "Eventually, later on at a school medical, they  
5 found out I had something wrong with my back and I had  
6 to go every week for a while to get physiotherapy."

7 My Lady, the Nazareth House admissions book for  
8 Aberdeen has this witness noted as leaving in

9 [REDACTED] 1964:

10 "My dad just didn't cope with the five us of after  
11 my mother died and he didn't have a clue what to do with  
12 us. No one expected my mum to die and he just turned to  
13 drink and basically forgot about us. I don't think  
14 I have ever got over the death of my mother.

15 "We were well clothed and well fed at Nazareth House  
16 and the only thing that -- my sisters and brothers at  
17 home weren't well clothed but they maybe had the love of  
18 my father, although I'm not sure if they did.

19 I certainly didn't get any love in Nazareth House.

20 "I never saw any affection apart from in November  
21 when I was in the bathroom and Sister [LGN] was there.  
22 I started crying and I told her I was crying for my mum.  
23 She told me not to worry, that my mum and my brother  
24 were in heaven. She was nice and that was the only  
25 affection I remember. I didn't see it from anyone else,

1 especially Sister [REDACTED] FAF , who just beat you with  
2 a brush.

3 "Throughout my working career I have always felt  
4 that I had a difficulty speaking to anyone with more  
5 authority than me and I have always been very nervous.  
6 That's why I have changed my job so often. I worked in  
7 a hospital and I was taken to a room once and someone  
8 didn't really give me a row but explained something to  
9 me and I felt intimidated and after that it just wasn't  
10 the same for me.

11 "Because of what happened to me this affected my  
12 faith in the church and I stopped going for about  
13 eight years or so. I started going back a few years  
14 ago.

15 "When I was in my 30s I started to get depression,  
16 just after I got my gall bladder out. I remember for  
17 a while I really wasn't well and I was lying on the  
18 couch crying all the time. My daughter told me recently  
19 that when I was like this, she was frightened to come  
20 home because she thought I wouldn't be there because  
21 I was talking about committing suicide. I have since  
22 told my daughter what has happened to me and she now  
23 understands.

24 "I did go through a very bad period and I did  
25 consider suicide, but went to see my doctor and then

1 a psychologist to try and help me. One time I remember  
2 lying on the couch and I was breaking my heart crying,  
3 even though my granny had passed away by then, it was as  
4 if she was there and was telling me I was to get myself  
5 and get organised so that she could help me because she  
6 wasn't there any more. That's when I went to my doctor  
7 and he referred me to a psychologist.

8 "I was very strict on my own children. I slapped  
9 them. I wouldn't get away about it now the way  
10 I treated them. I never hit them the way I was hit.  
11 The way I treated them was because of the way I was  
12 treated at Nazareth House.

13 "I know Nazareth House has affected my relationships  
14 with people in authority, but it has also affected my  
15 own personal relationships. It hasn't really affected  
16 my relationships with my friends and I have a few good  
17 friends.

18 "My early life had a big impact on my relationship  
19 with my husband. We have had marital issues but not to  
20 the extent that we would split up. Sometimes I thought  
21 that he didn't love me, but to be honest I think he  
22 loves me more than I love him. I think this has been  
23 caused more by what happened with my father before  
24 I went into Nazareth House. I think Nazareth House has  
25 had more of an impact on my relationship with my

1 children.

2 "I have very low confidence in myself and won't  
3 speak up for myself. I have depression and I am on  
4 medication. I am always anxious and still get very  
5 nervous at times.

6 "I think life before my mum died was fine but then  
7 she died and with what happened in the convents,  
8 everything just went to pot because too much happened to  
9 me to be able to cope.

10 "Sometimes there are triggers like certain  
11 programmes on the television which bring things back to  
12 me and this just really makes me quite angry, usually at  
13 myself.

14 "I went to college and in one of the arithmetic  
15 classes the teacher wasn't shouting, but I felt it was  
16 a bit overpowering. I didn't stay and I think this  
17 related to my dislike of authority and I left after  
18 two weeks and didn't go back.

19 "I went to an assertiveness class when I was in my  
20 early 30s but it didn't work. I have also done other  
21 modules on counselling and psychology and enjoyed that  
22 and thought it was beneficial.

23 "There was no one in Nazareth House who I could tell  
24 what was happening to me. I never told my aunt when I  
25 saw her and later on, she told me that she didn't know

1           what was going on and she asked me why I never told her.  
2           I never told her because there was nothing she could do  
3           about it anyway and there was no point.  If she did try  
4           and do something then it probably would have just made  
5           it worse for us and nobody would have believed us.

6           "I didn't tell my granny because I didn't want her  
7           worrying because she was the sort who would and also she  
8           was a strong believer in the Catholic Church.  I did  
9           tell her when I was about 17 years old, but I still  
10          don't know if she believed me or not.

11          "I couldn't tell the social worker, Ms Knott,  
12          because after she dropped us off at Nazareth House on  
13          the first day I never saw her again.  Nobody came in to  
14          check on us.

15          "When I was 38, I told my close friend what had  
16          happened to me in Aberdeen.

17          "Some time in the 1980s I heard something about  
18          a lawyer willing to fight our case.  I contacted the  
19          lawyer's office, Ross Harper, and I only ever spoke to  
20          them on the phone.  I gave them some details about what  
21          happened and that's when I learned that I was only in  
22          Nazareth House, Paisley Road West, for about two weeks.

23          "I went to another psychologist, who was organised  
24          by the lawyer, and it cost me £250.  She did a report  
25          for the lawyer and she eventually decided I was

1 suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. The case  
2 went on for a while and Mother [FAF] had died by  
3 then and I was told by the lawyer that my case was time  
4 barred.

5 "I think it was the lawyer who told me that I should  
6 report what happened to me to the police, so I did.  
7 They came to my house and took a statement from me.

8 "Because I had turned 15 late on in the year, that  
9 meant that I could leave school at Christmas. I wasn't  
10 clever enough to stay on at school and I'm not sure  
11 I would have stayed on longer at Nazareth House anyway.  
12 When I left Nazareth House, I couldn't go back to live  
13 with my dad so I lived with my aunt for a while and got  
14 a job in a shop. There was no meeting to tell me  
15 anything and I just remember getting told that I was  
16 under their care until I was 18 and that was all.  
17 I didn't get asked if I wanted to leave;  
18 Sister [FAF] just told me that I was leaving.  
19 I never saw the Social Work before I left.

20 "I was 15 years of age when I left, but I still wet  
21 the bed sometimes when I went to stay with my aunt. She  
22 would often tell me in the mornings that I must have  
23 been having nightmares and shouting in my sleep. That  
24 was when I told her what happened to me in the convent.  
25 My aunt believed me and after that she often got me up



1 through the night to go to the toilet."

2 My Lady, in paragraphs 75 and 76 of the statement  
3 the witness speaks about going back to Glasgow, moving  
4 in with her gran for a while, and ultimately meeting her  
5 husband, getting married and going on to have two  
6 children.

7 I'll pick the statement up, my Lady, at  
8 paragraph 78, which is on WIT.001.001.4194:

9 "I have been back up to Aberdeen to visit my aunt  
10 and when I was there I went to Nazareth House and found  
11 out that it had been closed and made into flats.

12 "In my 30s I went to see my doctor and told him what  
13 had happened to me and he sent me to a psychologist, who  
14 I saw for about six months. I hadn't told my husband by  
15 then and the psychologist wanted me to tell him, but  
16 I couldn't. I think I was worried he would leave me.  
17 I think at that time I felt seeing a psychologist was  
18 helpful, but now I don't know because it is all still  
19 with me."

20 My Lady, I'm now going to move on to the final page  
21 of the statement and pick it up again at paragraph 83,  
22 which is on WIT.001.001.4195:

23 "I don't have any of my records but I wrote to the  
24 Social Work to see if they could send me any records,  
25 but I never got an answer from them. I think things

1 have changed for the better and protection has been put  
2 in place and children do get help now. I think a lot of  
3 the problems relate to their parents being on drugs or  
4 stuff like that. I think a lot of children aren't being  
5 brought up well in their own home.

6 "I would like to think that things are put in place,  
7 like the thing Esther Rantzen has set up, where children  
8 can phone in anonymously to get help or advice.

9 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
10 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.  
11 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
12 true."

13 The statement was signed by Margaret, my Lady, on  
14 18 January 2017.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

16 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, Margaret White is the next witness.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MS MARGARET WHITE (sworn)

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

20 You've probably noticed the microphone picks you up  
21 quite easily if you get into the right position and stay  
22 there. We do need you to use the microphone.

23 Thank you.

24 Questions from MR MacAULAY

25 MR MacAULAY: Hello, Margaret. Are you Margaret White?

- 1 A. I am.
- 2 Q. And can I take from you that your date of birth is
- 3 [REDACTED] 1954?
- 4 A. It is.
- 5 Q. You have in front of you, in the red folder, your
- 6 statement, the statement you have given to the inquiry.
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. I'll give the reference for the transcript:
- 9 WIT.001.001.8360. If I can ask you to turn to the very
- 10 last page. Can I get you to confirm, Margaret, that
- 11 you have signed the statement?
- 12 A. Yes, I have.
- 13 Q. And do you tell us in the last paragraph:
- 14 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
- 15 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry"?
- 16 A. No objection at all.
- 17 Q. And you go on to say:
- 18 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
- 19 statement are true."
- 20 Is that correct?
- 21 A. Indeed it is.
- 22 Q. You tell us in your statement that originally you were
- 23 from Glasgow; is that correct?
- 24 A. Yes, I was born in Glasgow.
- 25 Q. But there came a time when you went to

1           Aberdeen University to study for a Bachelor of Science  
2           degree in geography?

3           A.    Correct, yes.

4           Q.    Would you be about, what, 18 or so at that time?

5           A.    I would be about 18, yes.

6           Q.    Did you find out that Nazareth House in Aberdeen were  
7           looking for volunteers to help them?

8           A.    Yes, I found out through the Catholic chaplaincy,  
9           a place where I would go to Mass on a Sunday. I cannot  
10          honestly remember whether it was on a poster but I think  
11          more probably the priest would have announced it at the  
12          end of Mass if there was anyone willing to help, and I  
13          was one of the people who volunteered.

14          Q.    So did there come a day then during your time in  
15          Aberdeen when you went along to Nazareth House?

16          A.    Yes.

17          Q.    Can you remember that first day and what happened?

18          A.    Very vaguely, but I do recall going in the main entrance  
19          as opposed to the side entrance, which became very  
20          familiar to me, because that was where I entered in and  
21          out had I went to work with the young people, the  
22          children.

23          Q.    And when you went on that first occasion, who did you  
24          meet?

25          A.    I probably met the sister who was in charge of the

1           parlour area, which is the entrance, the main entrance  
2           into Nazareth House, but it's a very vague memory of  
3           that and then I would have been introduced to  
4           Sister [REDACTED] LJI who was the sister that I was  
5           allocated a group to.

6           Q. I think you tell us that you were there -- that began in  
7           about 1974?

8           A. Yes. I'm pretty certain it would be after  
9           Christmastime, so therefore that would take me into  
10          1974, yes.

11          Q. And you did your volunteering work until 1977?

12          A. Yes, when I graduated on 7/7/77 --

13          LADY SMITH: Were you interviewed before you started as  
14          a volunteer?

15          A. No, I was not interviewed, my Lady, no.

16          LADY SMITH: Did you have to provide any personal details?

17          A. No. Well, my name --

18          LADY SMITH: Your name obviously and --

19          A. No, as far as I remember, no. It wasn't an official  
20          interview process that I can recall at all.

21          LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22          MR MacAULAY: Did you come across the Mother Superior at any  
23          point in time?

24          A. I probably did, but I cannot remember who it was, sorry.

25          Q. Just looking at the accommodation, if you like, I think

1 we've seen photographs of Nazareth House and it's  
2 a large granite --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. The main building is a large granite building. When you  
5 came to go there, which part of the building were you  
6 in, can you tell me?

7 A. I tended to come in the back route as opposed to the  
8 front route. Everybody sees the facade of the building,  
9 but I'm sure I would have come in a back route and gone  
10 to a side door. So I can't remember the gate or  
11 anything coming in, but I would come in a back route,  
12 and very rarely come up the main entrance, the driveway.

13 Q. Was there a particular area within the establishment  
14 that you would be based?

15 A. Yes. I was on the first floor initially and then in the  
16 latter year, I was in the second floor. There were two  
17 groups one on top of the other, two floors.

18 Q. Did I understand you a moment ago to say you were  
19 allocated to a particular group?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And did you mention Sister [REDACTED] LJL ?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Was she in charge of the group?

24 A. She was.

25 Q. How many children were in the group?

- 1 A. Maximum, I would say at one time, was 18, but I think  
2 probably a capacity of 20 for that particular group.
- 3 Q. Did you have a mixture of boys and girls?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Can you help me with this: were these groups family  
6 orientated, by that I mean did you have members of the  
7 same family within the group?
- 8 A. Yes. They tended to be four, families of four, three,  
9 two. I don't remember any singletons, but there could  
10 have been.
- 11 Q. Just looking to your commitment then as a volunteer, how  
12 often in a week would you be involved with  
13 Nazareth House?
- 14 A. During the week, term time, it would be a Saturday.
- 15 Q. And a particular time on a Saturday?
- 16 A. Well, where the halls of residence and where I was  
17 living would be at the other end, at old Aberdeen, the  
18 other end of Aberdeen, so it would be like most  
19 students, we would want to sleep in in the morning, so  
20 I would say probably lunchtime onwards.
- 21 Q. Would you leave at a particular point then?
- 22 A. Probably when we had taken the kids out during the day  
23 and came back and helped maybe getting them ready for  
24 bed or whatever, and then about -- post teatime I would  
25 say.

- 1 Q. You've mentioned the numbers you thought to be in the  
2 group. Perhaps I should ask you this: the age range  
3 within the group; can you help me with that?
- 4 A. Well, in Sister [REDACTED] LJI 's the youngest would be  
5 about 3 and the oldest would be at that time about 13,  
6 maybe 14.
- 7 Q. You've mentioned that group. How many groups were there  
8 altogether that you can remember?
- 9 A. There were definitely five, of which I can remember four  
10 for sure, the names of the sisters.
- 11 Q. What names do you remember?
- 12 A. The names were Sister [REDACTED] LJI -- the first year  
13 I don't know who the sister in the second floor was, but  
14 the year after that it became Sister [REDACTED] LRB because  
15 I worked with her. Sister [REDACTED] LKH had a house which  
16 backed on to the complex of Nazareth House, it was  
17 actually in a parallel street, I can't remember the  
18 name, but the house backed on to Nazareth House. Then  
19 there was either -- I think it's [REDACTED] LDX, but it  
20 could have been [REDACTED] LDX -- and she was in a kind  
21 of new build area, which was in the ground, on the  
22 ground floor. It was a newish looking part. Then there  
23 was a fifth group, but I'm not 100 per cent -- I think  
24 they may have been in the ground floor as well, but  
25 I can't remember. I don't remember that sister either,



1 but I remember Sister [REDACTED] LDX / [REDACTED] LDX , but  
2 I can't remember which way round it was.

3 Q. How autonomous were the groups then?

4 A. They were autonomous in the sense that the sisters were  
5 over in charge of each group. So they were in charge,  
6 basically. So they ran the groups.

7 Q. What about the children within the group, did they  
8 remain as a group or did they --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- so far as you're aware, mix with other children to  
11 any extent?

12 A. Probably they would mix going to school. I don't know.  
13 I'm just surmising that. But they went as a group  
14 together to Mass, because there was a chapel obviously  
15 in the house, so they stayed together as a group, but  
16 they could have at other times of the week, as I said,  
17 going to school, mixed with other youngsters from other  
18 groups within Nazareth House. I couldn't tell you one  
19 way or the other if they did, but I presume they would  
20 have done.

21 Q. What about mealtimes?

22 A. Mealtimes -- on Sister [REDACTED] LJI 's floor there was  
23 quite a largish dining area and in actual fact it is in  
24 one of the pictures you can see. There's a hatch where  
25 the food, from what I can remember, would come from

1 a general kitchen area and would be brought up and  
2 served through that hatch to the youngsters. We'd go to  
3 the other side of the hatch and make sure they ate their  
4 dinner and, how would you say, we just sort of served  
5 them, looked after them, depending -- if they were quite  
6 small, they would need help, obviously, to eat.

7 Q. Can I then just understand your role as a volunteer:  
8 what would you do in connection with assisting  
9 Sister [REDACTED] LJI ?

10 A. Well, I'm talking two different sort of times. I'm  
11 talking about Saturdays mainly. I would just go there.  
12 My remit basically was to take the youngsters out and  
13 have fun and do fun things with them.

14 Q. When you'd take them out, do you mean take them out  
15 within the grounds?

16 A. No, out as in out of Nazareth House to places like  
17 Duthie Park and there were swings and things there that  
18 they could play, feed the ducks. That sort of thing.

19 But when I worked there in the two summers of  
20 certainly 76, I lived in Nazareth House on the attic,  
21 which was right at the very top of the building, and  
22 I would come down the various flights of stairs to the  
23 appropriate group, let's say Sister [REDACTED] LJI 's group,  
24 and be there for different shifts, you know, like  
25 morning, afternoon, that's all I can remember.

1           I don't know the exact timings, but for them getting  
2           up in the morning would be the morning shift and then  
3           the afternoon.

4       Q.   So just to understand then, if you leave aside the  
5           university term when you were going on a Saturday  
6           afternoon, I think you've been telling us --

7       A.   Yes.

8       Q.   -- during the university holidays then did you also  
9           spend time there?

10      A.   No, well, in the summertime yes.  But during like  
11           Easter, Christmas, I would go back home and like at  
12           Christmastime I would work for the post office,  
13           delivering the mail in the village that I lived in,  
14           working in shops, that sort of thing.  But in the  
15           summertime, I definitely -- for those two years, I did  
16           stay in Nazareth House.

17      Q.   So just to be clear then, for the summer vacation you  
18           would stay in Nazareth House; for how long?

19      A.   Well, until the term would start up again or just before  
20           term would start up, I would go back home to Ayrshire to  
21           see my family.  I couldn't actually give you a date I  
22           finished as such.

23           I'd go to Tombae, which would be in July, and then  
24           come back from there, maybe, I don't know, I'm guessing  
25           a week or something like that, then I would travel down

1 by train to Ayrshire.

2 Q. Did you say that there were two summers --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- that you did that? What years were they?

5 A. 76 and 77.

6 Q. Right. In the summers then that you worked there and  
7 you lived in, I just want to understand what your role  
8 was. You still are a volunteer, so you're not being  
9 paid?

10 A. We got paid board and keep in a sense, you know.

11 I can't remember if there was any pocket money or any  
12 money distributed. I can't remember, but if there was  
13 it would be very little.

14 Q. Then looking to your role, what did you do?

15 A. As I described earlier, that's where I think the  
16 discrepancy would be. When I went on a Saturday it was  
17 just to take the youngsters out and have some fun and be  
18 a bit of a help, if need be, when they came back. But  
19 during the summertime it was more structured in the  
20 sense that you had roles to do and I took the lead from  
21 either the sister in charge or indeed the staff members  
22 that were employed by Nazareth House that said,  
23 Margaret, we need some more help doing so-and-so,  
24 whatever the job was.

25 It didn't involve things like cleaning because they

1 had cleaners coming in that were paid, people who came  
2 in and did the Hoovering, the cleaning, et cetera.

3 Q. Then looking to the commitment at that time, would  
4 you have days on, days off, how did it work?

5 A. Yes. I can't remember how many days on and off but,  
6 yes, I did have days off. It wasn't seven days a week.  
7 We had days off but I can't remember if it was five days  
8 on, two days off or whatever.

9 Q. Okay. I think in your statement you do give us  
10 information about the families and the names that you  
11 remember. We needn't dwell on these, but from  
12 paragraphs 14 to 17 I think you give us some detail  
13 about that.

14 So far as Sister [REDACTED] LJI was concerned, you were  
15 with her for a period of time and then I think you tell  
16 us you moved to Sister [REDACTED] LRB .

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Was there a reason for that?

19 A. Well, I can only -- my feeling was that I had, how would  
20 you describe ... There was some sort of incident with  
21 a youngster where I told the girl off and  
22 Sister [REDACTED] LJI wasn't happy with that, and I think  
23 that may have contributed to the fact that I was moved  
24 to another group, or it could be that Sister [REDACTED] LJI  
25 had enough helpers and a new sister coming in called

1 Sister LRB , who was taking over the floor above where  
2 Sister LJI was, needed more help. I cannot  
3 honestly remember. It could have been both or either of  
4 those things that led me moving from one to the other  
5 between 76 and 77.

6 Q. How long do you think you were with Sister LJI ?

7 A. From 74 to 76 at least --

8 Q. So --

9 A. -- possibly -- yes. By 77 it would be the turn of the  
10 year, so, yes, probably 76 --

11 Q. Do I take it that most of your time there when you were  
12 helping out was with Sister LJI ?

13 A. Definitely, yes.

14 Q. How did you get on with both these sisters?

15 A. They were both different for different reasons.

16 Sister LJI was ages -- I didn't realise that  
17 at the time, but looking back with my late father, so my  
18 father would be about 94, if he was still living. She  
19 was sort of more traditional, I would say, by  
20 traditional I mean older in many ways.

21 Sister LRB was the opposite. She was a younger  
22 sister and more energetic and fun in a way, whereas --  
23 straight-laced perhaps Sister LJI could be  
24 described.

25 Q. In Sister LRB 's group, was it the same sort of set-up,

1 a number of children, let's say 18 or so, girls and boys  
2 and different ages?

3 A. I think the youngest one was younger than what  
4 Sister [REDACTED] LJL had. I think there was a wee girl  
5 who was about a year and a half. I've got pictures of  
6 her that I took at the time and she came in with her  
7 brother, I remember. I think roughly the same ages: 11,  
8 12, maybe.

9 Q. Can I just ask you a little bit about the sleeping  
10 arrangements. You talk about that in your statement.  
11 Can you help me with that: what were the sleeping  
12 arrangements, if you look at your whole experience?

13 A. Right. Well, the children were obviously kept by sex;  
14 all the girls would be in one room, all the boys would  
15 be in another room. Therefore if you had a family of  
16 four girls they would be in the same room as a family.  
17 Likewise, if you had two boys from one family and two  
18 boys from another family, they would be in another room,  
19 or four boys in a room, which was unlikely. It's  
20 usually mainly girls. Quite a lot of girls seemed to be  
21 in Sister [REDACTED] LJL 's.

22 Q. If you are looking at Sister [REDACTED] LJL 's group, how  
23 many rooms would be available to her group for --

24 A. I'm guesstimating about five, but I cannot remember the  
25 exact number. Going by the maths, I would say there

1           were four in each room, four by five is 20, so that's my  
2           guesstimate, but I can't remember the rooms. Other than  
3           looking at the pictures, I remember the rooms, seeing  
4           them in the photographs that I took, which I brought  
5           with me.

6           Q. Let's look at mealtimes then. Am I to understand from  
7           what you said that your group, Sister [REDACTED] 's  
8           group, would have its own mealtime and had its own  
9           dining area?

10          A. Yes.

11          Q. So you wouldn't be mixing with other groups at that  
12          time?

13          A. It was like a family approach. But the food came from  
14          downstairs. It came up the stairs from a central  
15          kitchen. But for breakfast, I think, we just did cereal  
16          and the usual sort of breakfasty things, but the main  
17          dinners and that came up from upstairs.

18          Q. What you say in your statement in paragraph 21 is that  
19          the food was generally good; is that correct?

20          A. Yes. I would say the food was fine, yes.

21          Q. Did you get any sense that there were any children that  
22          disliked the food?

23          A. I can't remember offhand if any particular children  
24          liked or disliked the food. I've got children of my  
25          own, they can be fussy, but I don't remember anyone



1           particularly being fussed over food. They certainly  
2           weren't asked -- in my presence they were never forced  
3           to eat anything that they didn't like.

4       Q. Did you have any sense that children tried to hide food  
5           that they didn't like or anything of that sort?

6       A. I didn't see that, no.

7       Q. Did you observe any children being punished for not  
8           eating food?

9       A. No. No.

10      Q. Did you eat with the children?

11      A. I think we ate after the children, except when we were  
12           in Tombae, when we went on holiday for the three weeks,  
13           and then we tended to all eat together.

14                In 1976 it was a very lovely summery time and we had  
15           trestle tables outside and we ate outside in the open  
16           air together.

17      Q. Can I ask you about chores then: were the children asked  
18           to do any chores?

19      A. Let me think. Things like making their beds. It tended  
20           to be the older children that would be looking -- they  
21           would want to look after their -- I presume they'd want  
22           to look after their own belongings and beds and would  
23           make their beds.

24                When you were in Tombae you had to sort of muck in,  
25           I suppose. Peeling potatoes might be a chore but most

1 of the time they were out having a great time.

2 Q. In paragraph 26 you talk about the children being well  
3 dressed.

4 A. They were.

5 Q. Can you elaborate on that?

6 A. You mean well dressed as in --

7 Q. What do you mean?

8 A. They were always clean and tidy. They had ordinary  
9 run-of-the-mill clothes, but on a Sunday they'd have  
10 their Sunday best and we would do dressing up when it  
11 was Halloween or at Christmas they'd have their  
12 Christmas frocks and that. There was an array of  
13 clothes they would wear.

14 Q. You do give an example of children in Sister LRB's  
15 group being taken to Esslemont & Macintosh's in Aberdeen  
16 for --

17 A. Yes. There was a couple of youngsters returning to  
18 Drumchapel and myself and one of the staff went to  
19 Esslemont & Macintosh, which is a big store in Aberdeen.  
20 It is probably gone now, but I think that's where you'd  
21 get -- I certainly went there to get my gown when  
22 I graduated, so I think they did things like uniforms.

23 But they certainly went there and I think they may  
24 have had an account because I never spent money to  
25 buy -- anyway, I had the job of trying to get this young

1           lad dressed and the other members of staff went to the  
2           girls' department to sort out the young girl to make  
3           sure that they had a nice smart outfit to go back to  
4           Drumchapel.

5           Q.   Pocket money.   What was the arrangement with pocket  
6           money?

7           A.   It would be the sister that gave them the pocket money,  
8           but I don't know how much they got or any details  
9           about -- but they got pocket money, yeah.

10          Q.   Can I just ask a little bit about leisure time because  
11          you talk about that in your statement at paragraph 32.  
12          You say there was lots for the children to do in the  
13          home; is that right?

14          A.   Yes, there was an sitting room and in the sitting room  
15          there was a television and lots of seats, obviously, and  
16          it was as homey as they could make it, I suppose.  There  
17          were board games, there were books.

18          Q.   You mention toys.  What sort of toys?

19          A.   There were toys.  They're in the pictures again.  I've  
20          just had a look again at them this morning.  They had  
21          their dollies and teddies and wee cots and things for  
22          the baby dolls to go in and things like that for the  
23          girls.  So, yes, they had toys.

24          Q.   And did religion play an important part in the  
25          children's lives?

1       A. Well, they went down to Mass in the church, roughly  
2       about 10 o'clock on a Sunday, and when we were at Tombae  
3       we stayed in a Chapel House, which was adjacent to the  
4       church, so we went to Mass in morning -- I can't  
5       remember if it was 9 o'clock, 10 o'clock, possibly  
6       earlier, 9 o'clock would be my guess. I can't be  
7       100 per cent sure there. So yes, they would go to Mass  
8       and that would depend whether they were Catholic or not.  
9       They went as a group to Mass.

10      Q. You have mentioned Tombae on more than one occasion.

11      A. Yes, I have.

12      Q. Was that a large house in the country?

13      A. It's a Chapel House. I did say in my statement, I think  
14      -- I would have to check, but I think I said three  
15      groups, but I think looking back it was maybe only two  
16      groups. One stayed in the Chapel House, which was next  
17      to the chapel in the small hamlet called Tomnavoulin,  
18      where, for those that like their whisky drinking, that's  
19      where there's a distillery. Then there was an old  
20      school house which, from my memory, was one of these  
21      like Portakabin type things. It was wooden. So that's  
22      for another group. So there was usually two groups, but  
23      I did say two or three groups, but I think it is  
24      actually two groups.

25      Q. Was this in the summer then?

- 1 A. Yes, three months. It's usually July, I seem to recall.
- 2 Q. For how long do you say that would be for?
- 3 A. I think about three weeks.
- 4 Q. Would the whole group go as a group?
- 5 A. As far as I can remember, yes. There might have been  
6 others that went off, but I would say the whole group  
7 went.
- 8 Q. Can I ask you about birthdays. Were birthdays  
9 celebrated?
- 10 A. They were when I was there they were. There's pictures  
11 of one of the young girls enjoying a birthday party.  
12 So, yes, they had parties.
- 13 Q. And presents?
- 14 A. Yeah. I would buy presents so, yes, presents were  
15 given.
- 16 Q. Christmas. Were there parties at Christmas?
- 17 A. There was, and the Christmas party tended to be on the  
18 ground floor, because there was a much bigger hall down  
19 on the ground floor, so that's probably where all the  
20 kids would come in from the other groups. There would  
21 be dancing and disco dancing and that sort of thing.
- 22 Q. Were you conscious of there being visitors coming to see  
23 the children?
- 24 A. Visitors? Um ... I think it would have been easier for  
25 those who had family in Aberdeen to come and obviously

1 visit the young people. There probably were, but there  
2 were a couple of examples -- one that I've mentioned  
3 possibly in there would be [REDACTED], whose  
4 half-brother's dad would come, but [REDACTED] wouldn't get  
5 visited because the brother would go out with the dad  
6 because he was mixed race and obviously the mother had  
7 two different partners. So sometimes they did come out  
8 and when that happened -- and that was in Sister LRB's  
9 group -- we always made a wee bit of a fuss of [REDACTED]  
10 because he was left behind and his brother went away  
11 with the dad, if you see what I mean.

12 So, yes, there were visitors but I -- just a couple  
13 of examples that I can think of off the top of my head  
14 at the moment.

15 Q. One thing you touch upon in your statement at  
16 paragraph 52 is bed-wetting and you do have something to  
17 say about that. Can you help me with that? What did  
18 you see about that?

19 A. Well, there was a young lad who did wet the bed and he,  
20 I think, was probably very harshly done by the sister --  
21 that was Sister LJI at that time. It was  
22 40 years ago. He was never physically in a sense hurt,  
23 but she would be verbal and, from what I know now,  
24 looking back, it was very wrong.

25 But he obviously -- a 9-year-old wetting the bed and

1 being punished verbally was wrong. So we used to -- if  
2 I was working there in the morning we would make sure we  
3 would check [REDACTED] first to make sure that he was dry  
4 and if he wasn't dry, we'd clear away the sheets so  
5 Sister [REDACTED] LJI wouldn't speak to him.

6 To me there was like double standards because one of  
7 the younger girls, who also used to have accidents,  
8 [REDACTED], she was about 5 at the time, she didn't get the  
9 same verbal -- do you see what I mean? It's a double  
10 standard in my view and it was wrong, but you sort of  
11 just accepted it because that's what they did about  
12 40 years ago.

13 Q. When you say it was verbal, what sort of things were  
14 being said?

15 A. "You stupid boy", "you dirty boy", that sort of thing,  
16 they would ridicule them basically, as far as I'm  
17 concerned, but the same wouldn't be issued out or dished  
18 out to others.

19 Q. You say he would be ridiculed. Would the other children  
20 hear this?

21 A. Probably, yes, but I couldn't be 100 per cent sure.  
22 Probably yes.

23 Q. How did the child himself respond?

24 A. He was upset. That's why we wanted to protect him from  
25 that in the sense of getting there first before the

- 1 sister would spot that he had wet the bed. He would  
2 cry, he was distressed, yes, definitely.
- 3 Q. Did you say anything to Sister [REDACTED] LJI about this?
- 4 A. No, because, as I said, at the time it was just what  
5 happened in a sense. It was 40 years ago and  
6 bed-wetting was perhaps not as well understood as it is  
7 nowadays, where it's a sign of distress, a sign of  
8 upset, a sign of leaving home or being placed in  
9 a children's home, missing your parents, whatever.
- 10 Q. You thought it was wrong?
- 11 A. I didn't like it, no.
- 12 Q. Because you thought it was wrong at the time?
- 13 A. I didn't like it, I thought it was the wrong thing. But  
14 I have to say I didn't -- I mean, you've got to bear in  
15 mind I would be about 19 myself at the time, 20, and I'm  
16 dealing with a sister whose age is with my father and  
17 mother, and you accepted that was the way it was. But  
18 we were canny enough to try and make his life as easy as  
19 we could by doing as I described.
- 20 Q. The reason you were removing the sheets in advance was  
21 so that you would protect the boy from --
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. -- the sort of verbal --
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. -- humiliation --



- 1 A. Yes, and it wasn't just me. The staff did that. The  
2 full-time staff did that as well.
- 3 Q. Okay. And these were older people, were they, the  
4 full-time -- they were older?
- 5 A. They were older than I. I don't know what age they  
6 would be. I know their names and I've put their names  
7 on the statement. But they would take the lead in  
8 a sense as well.
- 9 Q. You're also asked about punishments and what you  
10 witnessed in that connection. Did you witness any  
11 corporal punishment?
- 12 A. No. Absolutely not.
- 13 Q. Were children shouted at?
- 14 A. Well, probably I would shout as well, and if they were  
15 running along the corridor you'd shout for them to stop  
16 running along the corridor. So yes, I would be guilty  
17 of that in a sense. But shouted at? Not any different  
18 from any family would shout at one of their youngsters  
19 that's messing around or whatever.
- 20 Q. And leaving aside what you've been telling us about  
21 bed-wetting, were horrible and demeaning things said to  
22 children? For example, "You're here because nobody  
23 wants you"? Did you ever hear anything like that being  
24 said?
- 25 A. No, I never heard anything like that, no.

- 1 Q. Were children ever locked in a cupboard or in a small  
2 room?
- 3 A. Not to my knowledge, no.
- 4 Q. So when you look at punishments then, what sort of  
5 punishments were there?
- 6 A. Well, you would notice when you'd go on a Saturday and  
7 you're taking the youngsters out and you'd say, "Why is  
8 so-and-so not coming?" and it would be obvious that they  
9 had done something, whatever, during the week and they  
10 didn't get out to the park, you know, they didn't come  
11 with us, they stayed behind. So I suppose that would be  
12 a punishment: they didn't get to go to whatever it was.
- 13 Q. You give us information about your knowledge of children  
14 who were there. Again, we needn't look into the detail,  
15 but there were children who were quite distressed,  
16 I think you tell us, who would need a bit more care?
- 17 A. Yes. Which child are you thinking of?
- 18 Q. I think you talk about a particularly distressed child,  
19 without looking at the name, who might have been hitting  
20 her head off the walls and so on.
- 21 A. Oh yes, yes. Well, that particular young girl, you  
22 know, she was very much a wee bit of a loner, I would  
23 say. She would disappear and we'd say, "Where is ...?",  
24 and, "She's in her room". Sometimes you'd hear the  
25 banging and you wondered what that banging sound would

1 be, and she would be banging her head off a wardrobe or  
2 just being a bit distressed. We would try and coach her  
3 to open up and come out. I think she may have had  
4 a hearing problem as well, that wee girl, but I could be  
5 wrong about that.

6 Q. So far as sisters are concerned, you've mentioned  
7 Sister [LJI] and also, I think, Sister [LRB].

8 A. Mm-hm.

9 Q. Can you remember the names of any other sisters that may  
10 have been there when you were there?

11 A. Well, I named the ones I could remember. Sister Andrew  
12 Joseph I actually met in Cardonald Nazareth House when  
13 my grandmother was there -- my gran died in 1971 -- and  
14 she was the sister that was in charge of the elderly at  
15 that point. But she came up to Nazareth House and we  
16 clicked we knew each other because I used to go  
17 regularly with my family to Nazareth House Cardonald to  
18 visit my granny, so she was there. There was  
19 Sister [LJI]. I have mentioned Sister [LRB].  
20 Sister [LVA] or [LVA] came afterwards. I'd only  
21 met her maybe a couple of times, but I didn't ever work  
22 with her. There was a Sister [LJS]. Sister [LKH].  
23 Sister [LDX] or [LDX], I can never  
24 remember which way round, sorry.

25 Q. Were these all sisters that were dealing with the

- 1 children?
- 2 A. Well, not Sister Andrew Joseph in the sense that she  
3 worked downstairs in the parlour. She was a bit more  
4 elderly, I would say, but then it is difficult to work  
5 out sometimes ages of sisters. But she worked in the  
6 parlour, so she didn't have direct -- she probably saw  
7 the children, but you know, no, she wasn't one of --
- 8 Q. She wasn't in charge of a group or anything of that  
9 sort?
- 10 A. No, no.
- 11 Q. I think it is right to say there was also an old folks'  
12 section.
- 13 A. There was.
- 14 Q. Did you have anything to do with that?
- 15 A. I never set foot in there, no. I think it was another  
16 wing, but, no, I never went there.
- 17 Q. Were there sisters who had an involvement with that  
18 part?
- 19 A. I would expect so, but I couldn't tell you who they were  
20 or anything about that.
- 21 Q. In paragraph 66 you say:  
22 "I never witnessed any abuse at Nazareth House."
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. And what I want to ask you is this: did any of the  
25 children complain to you that anything was happening to

1           them?

2           A.  No.  There -- no.

3           Q.  I think you tell us that in 1977, when you finished your

4           studies, you moved away from Aberdeen.

5           A.  I did.

6           Q.  And I think you qualified as a teacher in geography?

7           A.  Yes, I did in Glasgow.

8           Q.  From Notre Dame College in Glasgow?

9           A.  Yes, I did.

10          Q.  Can I ask you about records.  Were you aware of any

11          records being kept while you were at Nazareth House?

12          A.  I didn't keep any records of Nazareth House and I don't

13          know who kept any records in Nazareth House.

14          Q.  Did you see any records being kept?

15          A.  No, I didn't.

16          Q.  So, for example, if you look at, say,

17          Sister [REDACTED] LJL, who was in charge of the group that

18          you were mainly connected with, do I take it from that

19          you never saw her keeping a record of any kind?

20          A.  No, I never saw her writing in a book or keeping a

21          record or asking me to witness anything, no.  I never

22          saw her keeping notes of anything.  Same with

23          Sister [REDACTED] LRB.

24          Q.  I think what you did was take photographs and keep an

25          album of photographs?

1 A. Yes, I did.

2 Q. And that's what you brought today?

3 A. Yes. It's just a sample of what I took because I was  
4 doing a geography degree, as I mentioned earlier, and  
5 I took lots of pictures, geographical pictures as well,  
6 slides, and some of them are a bit faded because they  
7 were slides originally. So yes, I did like photography  
8 back in the day and I did take lots of pictures.

9 Q. These are pictures of children in particular which we  
10 don't want to put in the public domain, but I understand  
11 that you would like Lady Smith to have a look at the  
12 album.

13 A. Yes, she's very welcome to have a look. It is  
14 contemporaneous in the sense that the album is falling  
15 apart, Lady Smith, but I have glued them back in best  
16 I could. On the reverse side of them I've handwritten  
17 in detail who the youngsters are, their ages, where  
18 we were, and then I've written on a sticky label on to  
19 the photograph album the gist of what's behind some of  
20 the photographs, what I wrote at the time.

21 So you're very welcome to have a look at them.

22 I have sent them to the inquiry by electronic mail.

23 (Handed)

24 LADY SMITH: I think we've got copies of these --

25 A. Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: -- that have come by email.

2 A. You're very welcome to have them.

3 LADY SMITH: I wouldn't want to deprive you of your album.

4 (Pause)

5 I can see this must have helped trigger some of your  
6 memories, such as Halloween or Christmastime.

7 A. It did, yes, indeed. And it does have dates on them.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes.

9 A. But if you look, Lady Smith, since I found the album  
10 again, I put little red stickers -- and where there's  
11 little red stickers those are the photographs that on  
12 the reverse side is my actual handwritten bit that  
13 I wrote at the time. The reason I have the album,  
14 I think, is because I'd so many of them, I thought I'd  
15 just put them in an album out of the way. That's when  
16 I put the white stickers with the black writing on to  
17 sort of give an idea of who's who.

18 LADY SMITH: I see we have one of you as well with your very  
19 long plaits.

20 A. Yes, I had long hair in the day.

21 There is one picture that is not to do with  
22 Nazareth House but because it was there, I left it in  
23 there, and that is when I was a student -- during my  
24 time as a student it was Aberdeen University Charities  
25 Campaign, so there's a picture of me with a collecting

1 can.

2 LADY SMITH: I think I see it, yes. That's pretty  
3 impressive.

4 A. That was in the Press & Journal, which is a newspaper in  
5 Aberdeen.

6 LADY SMITH: Are the outdoor photographs from your time  
7 going to Tombae up at Tomintoul with the children?

8 A. Some are there, yes.

9 LADY SMITH: Some of look like that sort of terrain.

10 A. Yes, you can see them climbing hills and things.

11 Some were taken -- the pictures of the sisters  
12 paddling at Stonehaven and they didn't want me to take  
13 pictures of them paddling in case presumably the sisters  
14 got into bother, but you can see their shoes and they  
15 are paddling in the water. That's the two sisters I've  
16 been talking about, Sister **LRB** and Sister **LJI**,  
17 paddling away. That would be in 77, when I was with  
18 Sister **LRB**'s group.

19 LADY SMITH: That's towards the end of the album and I can  
20 see they're in chronological order.

21 A. They're not necessarily in chronological because when  
22 I turned them over to look at the other side of them  
23 I found a 1975 one, which was, I was out and about with  
24 the youngsters then, so they're not necessarily all in  
25 chronological order but most of them are. The more



1 faded ones towards the back were the ones I think I took  
2 as slides.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. Thank you for sharing  
4 that. That's very helpful.

5 MR MacAULAY: As you have said, you've sent copies of these  
6 photographs to the inquiry.

7 A. I have, yes.

8 Q. Then, looking towards the end of your statement,  
9 Margaret, in paragraph 71, you say that in your opinion,  
10 the children at Nazareth House were happy, well fed and  
11 looked after.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. I've been asked to ask you to explain why did you  
14 consider the children were happy? What made you come to  
15 that conclusion?

16 A. Well, we had a lot of fun and there was a lot of  
17 laughter and that's just what I viewed, what I saw.  
18 They seemed happy. Admittedly, when it was a Saturday,  
19 I was only there for a window on a Saturday, but bearing  
20 in mind I was there for the two summer holiday periods,  
21 we had a lot of fun, playing in the River Livet,  
22 climbing up in the hills, going to Tomintoul for trips.  
23 They had fun.

24 Q. You go on to talk about your hopes for the inquiry then.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And what you say is that you think it's right that both  
2 good and bad are looked at by the inquiry.

3 A. Oh yes, yes. I agree.

4 Q. You do leave this final thought that you do have, that:  
5 "If the nuns were covering things up, why would they  
6 have us there as volunteers and allow [you] to take  
7 photographs?"

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. That's a thought you had.

10 A. That's something that I thought when I was doing my  
11 statement. If they weren't happy and they wanted to  
12 cover things up they wouldn't have let me -- I had no  
13 restriction taking any of those photographs. The  
14 sisters weren't keen to be seen with their shoes and  
15 socks off, paddling around, obviously, but they didn't  
16 have any qualms about me taking photographs.

17 There are spaces, I meant to say to Lady Smith,  
18 in the album because I gave the photographs away because  
19 over time I have since met some of these youngsters in  
20 places such as teaching establishments of which I met  
21 two youngsters when I was teaching, teacher training in  
22 Drumchapel. I mentioned a young lad earlier and I met  
23 him when I was doing my teacher training there the  
24 following year. When I went down to teach in Dumfries  
25 I met a young girl down there and again I gave a lot of

1           photographs away and that's why there's gaps in my  
2           album.

3           Q. Another thing you do say is, from your perspective,  
4           Nazareth House tried to make it a family life for  
5           children.

6           A. That's the feeling I got. They did try to make it  
7           a family group feeling and that's what I found.

8           Q. Again, can you explain --

9           A. What a family group is?

10          Q. Yes.

11          A. The head of the family was the sister, and then you had  
12          like a hierarchy I suppose, and then you'd have the  
13          full-time helper -- well, full-time workers who were  
14          down below that, and then people like me who were  
15          volunteers, particularly in the summertime when the  
16          children weren't at school, and obviously they would  
17          need more hands -- a "many hands make light work" sort  
18          of thing.

19          Q. Were there other volunteers apart from yourself?

20          A. Yes, there were other volunteers who came during the  
21          term time and there were others who came in the  
22          summertime, and again they're in the pictures there.

23          MR MacAULAY: Okay. Very well, Margaret, thank you very  
24          much indeed for coming to give your evidence today. In  
25          asking you the questions I've put to you, I have also

1           asked the questions I've been asked to put.

2           My Lady, unless there are any further questions,  
3           I think Margaret will be able to go.

4       LADY SMITH: Are there any other applications for questions?

5           No.

6           Margaret, thank you very much for coming along today  
7           and helping us with your recollections of the times that  
8           you volunteered when you were a student. It's very been  
9           helpful. I am now able to let you go.

10       A. Thank you very much.

11   (The witness withdrew)

12       LADY SMITH: Yes, Mr MacAulay.

13       MR MacAULAY: My Lady, it's a little bit earlier than usual  
14           for the lunch break, but the next witness is due to come  
15           in for 2 o'clock.

16       LADY SMITH: Even if she wasn't and she was ready now,  
17           I think just ten minutes of evidence before the lunch  
18           break probably wouldn't be very fruitful. So we'll rise  
19           now for the lunch break and sit again at 2 o'clock,  
20           please.

21       (12.48 pm)

22   (The lunch adjournment)

23       (2.00 pm)

24       LADY SMITH: Yes, Mr MacAulay.

25       MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, my Lady. The next witness

1           wants to remain anonymous and wants to use the name  
2           "Caroline" in giving her evidence.

3       LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4                               "CAROLINE" (sworn)

5                               Questions from MR MacAULAY

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

7           You'll see that microphone is now switched on and it's  
8           important that you use it so that everyone can hear you,  
9           in particular so the stenographers can pick up what  
10          you're saying for keeping the transcript right.

11          Now, Mr MacAulay.

12                               Questions from MR MacAULAY

13       MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, Caroline.

14                I don't want to know your date of birth, but to get  
15                a time frame I just want to know your year of birth.

16                Am I right in saying that you were born in 1962?

17       A. That's correct.

18       Q. In the red folder in front of you, you'll find your  
19           statement. For the transcript, the reference is  
20           WIT.001.001.8200. If I could ask you to look at the  
21           last page of the statement, can I ask you to confirm  
22           that you have signed the statement?

23       A. That's correct.

24       Q. Do you say in the very last paragraph:

25                "I have no objection to my witness statement being

1 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry"?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. Do you go on to say:

4 "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
5 statement are true?"

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Caroline, I'm going to ask you questions essentially  
8 based on your witness statement. If I ask you  
9 a question that, say, for example is about a date and  
10 you can't remember, just say that you can't remember.

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. Likewise, if I ask you something that triggers another  
13 memory that you want to tell us about, again feel free  
14 to do that.

15 A. Thank you.

16 Q. Can I then go back to your life before care because  
17 I think we're going to look at your life in care at  
18 Nazareth House in Aberdeen. But before that, did you  
19 live with your family in Glasgow?

20 A. I lived with my family in Glasgow before I went to  
21 Aberdeen, yes.

22 LADY SMITH: Caroline, can you just move a bit nearer the  
23 microphone? If you play around with it, you will get to  
24 a point where you can hear your own voice is being  
25 properly amplified.

1 A. Is that any better?

2 LADY SMITH: That is much better, thank you.

3 MR MacAULAY: So far as siblings were concerned, did

4 you have a younger brother and a younger sister?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. Was there also another younger brother or half-brother

7 later on?

8 A. No, there was a younger half-brother before we ever came

9 back to Glasgow, in Wales, when I lived in Wales with my

10 mother.

11 Q. He was younger than you?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. In the first part of your statement, Caroline, you

14 provide us with some details about your family

15 background. There was some unhappiness there; is that

16 right?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. In particular, so far as you were concerned, as an

19 individual, were you abused by an uncle?

20 A. [REDACTED] yes.

21 Q. And that was sexual abuse?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What age were you then when that happened?

24 A. Probably in Primary Six, so I'm not 100 per cent sure,

25 probably about 11.

- 1 Q. At a point in time do you remember being taken into  
2 Nazareth House, into care?
- 3 A. My father kept saying he was going to put us into  
4 a children's home and one day when he was under the  
5 influence of alcohol, he said it and I asked him could  
6 he do that.
- 7 Q. And that's what happened?
- 8 A. We went to the Social Work Department in Easterhouse in  
9 Glasgow and he asked for us to be put into care.
- 10 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that it was  
11 a Miss O'Hara.
- 12 A. As far as I remember.
- 13 Q. But you were taken to Nazareth House by a social worker?
- 14 A. Initially we were taken to a home in Glasgow that  
15 I can't remember the name of or where it was, and then  
16 Miss O'Hara took us to Nazareth House Aberdeen.
- 17 Q. The first entry we have for you being admitted to  
18 Nazareth House Aberdeen, looking to their registers --  
19 and they're not always correct, as we've discovered --  
20 is that you were admitted on [REDACTED] 1974.
- 21 A. That could be correct if I was in Primary Six.
- 22 Q. So you'd be about 11 or so at that time. I know you  
23 were there again, but at this time, according to the  
24 records, you left on [REDACTED] 1975, so you were there  
25 for six or seven months?



- 1 A. I'm not sure of the dates, but I was in Primary Seven  
2 when I left, I believe.
- 3 Q. We'll come later to look at what happened when you left,  
4 but you were then admitted again, according to the  
5 records, a few months later on [REDACTED] 1975.
- 6 A. I was still in Primary Seven when we were readmitted.
- 7 Q. So that would fit in with that?
- 8 A. I think so.
- 9 Q. There isn't a precise date for when you left  
10 Nazareth House finally in the records, but I think in  
11 your statement you thought it was in 1978.
- 12 A. I believe I left during fourth year at school, during  
13 the O levels, so it would probably have been about [REDACTED]  
14 in my fourth year at school.
- 15 Q. In 1978?
- 16 A. I think so. Unless I was a year behind or further  
17 forward in school, because we'd moved from England to  
18 Wales and then from Wales back to Glasgow, but I was  
19 definitely in fourth year at school.
- 20 Q. So far as Nazareth House is concerned then, you provide  
21 us with a description of that in your statement, and it  
22 was, at first impression, a large granite building that  
23 you come across; is that correct?
- 24 A. When we got to the door it was scary because it was  
25 a big building, and the taxi driver -- I couldn't

- 1 understand what he was saying in the taxi, but  
2 Miss O'Hara could understand him. I suppose it's  
3 because he was speaking Aberdonian.
- 4 Q. Were you put into a particular group once you had been  
5 introduced to the set-up?
- 6 A. Once we went in, we went into a parlour and then I think  
7 Sister [REDACTED] LJI came down to meet us. Once we were  
8 in the parlour, we had something to eat. It only really  
9 seemed scary at the front door. Once I was in I didn't  
10 seem scared. It's hard to explain, but it was scary  
11 when she opened the door.
- 12 Q. Did you understand then that you were to be in  
13 Sister [REDACTED] LJI 's group?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And are you able to tell me how many children were  
16 in the group?
- 17 A. I think about 20.
- 18 Q. Can you give me an idea as to the mix? Was it boys and  
19 girls?
- 20 A. It was boys and girls, brothers and sisters. There was  
21 a few children who were just brothers and then there was  
22 some who had brothers and sisters. I had a brother and  
23 a sister.
- 24 Q. Were you all kept together?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Perhaps I can ask you about the sleeping arrangements  
2 then. Can you tell me what they were at this time?
- 3 A. I think there was probably about five bedrooms and some  
4 of the rooms had three beds and some had four. I shared  
5 a room with my sister and another girl. The boys would  
6 be in other rooms -- we didn't share bedrooms with your  
7 brothers, you said, girls and -- brothers slept in the  
8 boys' rooms and girls slept in the girls' rooms, but you  
9 did share your room with your sister or your brother.
- 10 Q. I may have asked you this. What about the age range of  
11 the group? You were about 11 or so, I think.
- 12 A. Yes. I think when I first went, there were a couple of  
13 girls older than me, but then they left and I think  
14 I became, with another girl, one of the older ones. The  
15 age groups varied, but there were some children who were  
16 there longer than others. There were children on  
17 occasion who didn't go to school but most of the  
18 children were school age, but there were other  
19 children -- there was a little boy there who was under  
20 school age, so there were times when there were younger  
21 children.
- 22 Q. Your younger sister, without looking at the dates, she  
23 was about six years younger than you?
- 24 A. She was born in 1968.
- 25 Q. And you were 1962?

- 1 A. Yes, and my brother was 1965.
- 2 Q. So she'd be one of the younger ones then?
- 3 A. Yes, but not the youngest. There were a couple of  
4 children younger than her.
- 5 Q. You have been telling us about Sister [LJI]'s  
6 group. Were there other groups that you became aware?
- 7 A. I think there were five groups altogether. As you came  
8 in the front door to the left, there was another group;  
9 that was Sister [LRC]'s group. And then above our  
10 group was Sister [LHA?]'s group. That was when  
11 I first arrived. And then I'm not quite sure where  
12 Sister [LDX]'s group was when I first came.  
13 I think she was in the main part of the house further  
14 up, but when I went back, Sister [LDX]'s group  
15 was in an extension to the main house, it was a more  
16 modernised group. Then Sister [LKH]'s group -- you  
17 went through the side door and her group was kind of on  
18 the main street. You could get to it from the grounds,  
19 but it wasn't actually part of the main building.
- 20 Q. Okay. So we have these different groups that you've  
21 mentioned. What interaction was there between the  
22 different groups?
- 23 A. We interacted more with the group above us, which was,  
24 when I arrived, Sister [LHA?]'s group, but the  
25 sisters did change while I was there. When we went to

1 Tombae we would go with the group above us and when we  
2 went to the beach, we would go with the group above us.  
3 We didn't have much interaction with the other groups.  
4 We saw them at church, and if they were at school with  
5 you, because the non-Catholic children went to the local  
6 school nearby, so the children would meet, and then the  
7 other children went by bus to the Catholic primary  
8 school.

9 Q. So are you saying that, in the main, subject to the  
10 qualifications you've given about the group above you,  
11 the groups really kept to themselves?

12 A. Yes, you would maybe know the names of the children  
13 in the other group and like on Bonfire Night and things  
14 like that, we would all meet up, but we didn't regularly  
15 have contact with the other children.

16 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about the routine so far as  
17 you can remember. Let's look at the mornings when you  
18 woke up. What was the routine then?

19 A. Well, when it was Sister [REDACTED] LJI, and I can't  
20 remember all of the time, but I do remember when she  
21 used to come up, she would say, "Rise and shine, rise  
22 and shine". She would open the curtains and we'd all  
23 get up. Then we would go -- I can't remember if we got  
24 dressed first or went for breakfast first, but the  
25 bigger ones would just get themselves dressed and the

- 1 younger ones would get help to get dressed.
- 2 Q. So far as Sister [REDACTED] LJL is concerned then, what you  
3 say in your statement at paragraph 29 is she was always  
4 jolly.
- 5 A. She was really nice, yes.
- 6 Q. You got on well with her?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. The other person you mentioned, just in passing, was one  
9 of the Mother Superiors who I think you called -- was it  
10 Mother [REDACTED] LKO ?
- 11 A. Mother [REDACTED] LKO , she was the superior when I went to  
12 Aberdeen.
- 13 Q. Did you have much to do with her?
- 14 A. Not a great lot, but we did know who she was and she was  
15 very kind, yes.
- 16 Q. What you say is -- "She was lovely" is what you say in  
17 your statement. Can you give us some --
- 18 A. Well, you would meet her -- she would sometimes come up  
19 to see how things were in the group or I used to help  
20 in the parlour, so I would see her around downstairs  
21 when she would be coming back and forward, and she was  
22 always nice to me.
- 23 Q. Just looking at your bedroom, you describe the bedroom  
24 that you were in as "a lovely bedroom".
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Again, can you help me with that?
- 2 A. The bedrooms all had different colours. So one of the  
3 bedrooms would be orange and it had like an orange  
4 quilt, the frill on it was orange and then there was  
5 a pattern on the top of it and it had like a fancy  
6 pillow. We all had our own wardrobes and the wardrobes  
7 had little drawers attached to them. I think there was  
8 a chest of drawers as well and there was a chair in the  
9 rooms.
- 10 Q. We have been looking at the morning times when  
11 Sister [REDACTED] LJI would come and essentially invite you  
12 to get out of your beds. Were you aware of any  
13 bed-wetting problems in --
- 14 A. I know from other things that I've read that there is  
15 issues around bed-wetting, so I'm not 100 per cent sure  
16 about it. As far as I remember, if the beds were wet,  
17 the sheets would just get taken to the bathroom, but we  
18 didn't have -- the laundry was actually downstairs so at  
19 some point then they must have gone from there to the  
20 laundry. But I don't remember there being -- if a child  
21 had wet their bed, when I -- because I was older, when  
22 we were going to bed in the evening, sister would say,  
23 "Can you get whoever", like, say, [REDACTED], "Can [REDACTED] go  
24 to the toilet?" So you would get -- those who were  
25 likely to maybe wet the bed would go to the bathroom

- 1 before the bigger children went to bed so they'd  
2 probably be dry in the morning.
- 3 Q. You, as one of the older children in your group, would  
4 you have some responsibility in connection with the  
5 younger children?
- 6 A. Not a responsibility, but sister would be going to bed  
7 at that time as well, so like the older -- me and maybe  
8 [REDACTED] would go with sister and they would toddle off,  
9 they wouldn't even be fully awake, they would be going  
10 to the bathroom and then they would go back to bed. If  
11 they were already wet at that point, then sister would  
12 change their pyjamas, change their sheet, and then just  
13 let them go back to bed and then they would have a bath  
14 in the morning.
- 15 Q. Did the younger ones then go to bed at a different time  
16 to the older children?
- 17 A. Yes, the younger children went to bed before the older  
18 children. I don't know what times.
- 19 Q. Can I ask you about mealtimes then, Caroline. How did  
20 you find the meals there?
- 21 A. I don't like macaroni cheese and I don't like celery,  
22 but I can't remember there being a big thing about --  
23 I'm sure we would have been told, you know, eat your  
24 food because it would be wasting the food, but I can't  
25 remember having to eat food that I didn't like.



1 Q. I think you tell us in your statement, so far as lunch  
2 was concerned, at your time you had lunch at school;  
3 is that right?

4 A. Except during the holidays, and then we would have lunch  
5 at home.

6 Q. You do tell us that Marks & Spencers would donate food  
7 to the home; is that right?

8 A. That's correct. If food was -- it wasn't past its sell  
9 by date, but if it was getting close to its sell by  
10 date, some of the older children would go with the  
11 kitchen sister to Marks & Spencers to collect the food  
12 and we would have that. They were like little treats as  
13 well because they would be like yogurts and things like  
14 that. They weren't out of date but if Marks had kept  
15 them any longer, they would have passed their date.

16 Q. If we look back then to the standard of the food, are  
17 you able to provide any description to us in connection  
18 with the quality and the quantity of the food that was  
19 available?

20 A. I think for breakfast we would have Rice Krispies or  
21 cornflakes, something like that, and toast. At the  
22 weekend we would sometimes have bacon and egg and things  
23 like that, but on a school day I don't remember us  
24 having bacon and egg; I think it was mostly cereal and  
25 toast before you went to school.

1 Q. But were you quite happy with the food?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Did you see if any children disliked the food?

4 A. I can't remember.

5 Q. Or tried to hide it in some way?

6 A. Not that I can remember.

7 Q. Did you ever see a child or children being punished for

8 not eating their food?

9 A. No. I think they would have been encouraged to eat

10 their food, but I can't remember anybody -- I can't

11 remember anything about people not wanting to eat their

12 food.

13 Q. Or being force-fed?

14 A. No, definitely not.

15 Q. So far as bathing was concerned, did you have regular

16 baths?

17 A. I don't think we had a bath every day. It was probably

18 every other day. I think the little ones would go for

19 their baths first so they would just be in the living

20 room and when it was bath time sister or the staff would

21 help to bath the little ones and the bigger ones would

22 just bath themselves.

23 Q. You tell us, I think, in your statement at paragraph 38

24 that you would get new clothes, essentially from C&A;

25 is that right?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And would that clothing be donated?
- 3 A. No, when I first went to Nazareth House I don't think  
4 I had any clothes, so Sister [REDACTED] LJI gave us some  
5 clothes from a store cupboard. And then she took --  
6 well, we got taken to C&A, but the clothes were --  
7 sometimes C&A sent clothes in; I think they might have  
8 been slightly damaged or just end of season. They were  
9 extra clothes. The clothes that we had, we went and  
10 they were bought for us, like your school clothes and  
11 your Sunday clothes.
- 12 Q. Can I ask you about chores. Were you given particular  
13 chores to do during your time?
- 14 A. I helped in the parlour, so I don't think -- the  
15 dishes -- the older children helped with the dishes but  
16 I didn't help with the dishes as much because I helped  
17 in the parlour, so I would be off helping in the  
18 parlour, I think, when they were doing the dishes.
- 19 Q. And you do provide some information about waxing floors;  
20 is that something that you did?
- 21 A. When I first went, our group floor was just -- it was  
22 like tiles. I can't describe them, but they were all  
23 patterned and they did get waxed. We used to just put  
24 dusters on your feet and run up and down. But then we  
25 got carpet tiles, so we didn't do that. But I still

1           helped sometimes on the downstairs floor. I didn't have  
2           to do it, but it was quite fun.

3           Q. Were there cleaners there then whose job it was --

4           A. Yes, our group had two cleaners and one I can remember  
5           her name, the other one I can't, but there were two  
6           cleaners that came in to clean and the staff also helped  
7           with making the beds and things like this.

8           Q. When you talk about staff, are you there talking about  
9           lay staff?

10          A. Yes, the cleaners were lay staff as well, but they came  
11          to just help with the cleaning. We had lay staff who  
12          helped with the care of the children.

13          Q. If you look at your group, you have Sister [REDACTED] LJI  
14          who was in charge.

15          A. Yes.

16          Q. Was there another nun beneath her or was it really lay  
17          staff after that?

18          A. We just had one sister in charge of each group as far as  
19          I remember and it was lay staff that were under  
20          Sister [REDACTED] LJI .

21          Q. Can I ask you also about leisure time because you do  
22          tell us a little bit about that in your statement. You  
23          could watch television, for example.

24          A. Yes, when you came home from school you could have  
25          a biscuit and a drink and then you would go and watch TV

- 1           if you wanted to.
- 2       Q.   And there were games and toys and so on available to
- 3           those who wanted to --
- 4       A.   They were in the playroom, yes.  I was a bit older so
- 5           I didn't really bother with the toys.
- 6       Q.   Did you get pocket money?
- 7       A.   Yes.
- 8       Q.   What could you do with the pocket money?
- 9       A.   Sister [REDACTED] used to save part of your pocket
- 10           money.  I think you could buy a stamp and then when the
- 11           stamp book was full you could exchange it and we used to
- 12           save that for going to Tombae and things like that.  And
- 13           then the rest of your pocket money you could just buy
- 14           sweets or comics or whatever you wanted with it.
- 15       Q.   You also mention in your statement that you had trips,
- 16           for example to the cinema, to His Majesty's Theatre in
- 17           Aberdeen, and so on.  Were there any excursions of that
- 18           kind?
- 19       A.   We went to the cinema regularly and we went swimming
- 20           regularly.  We went to His Majesty's Theatre when they
- 21           had final dress rehearsals for things like Joseph and
- 22           His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and the Christmas
- 23           pantomime -- we always went for the Christmas pantomime
- 24           to His Majesty's Theatre.  But if there was anything
- 25           else that was on that was suitable for us, I think His

1 Majesty's Theatre used to contact the sisters and all  
2 the groups would go for the final dress rehearsal.

3 Q. You mentioned Christmas then. Were Christmases  
4 celebrated when you were there?

5 A. They were. I didn't spend a lot of Christmases at  
6 Nazareth House because I went with my Auntie [REDACTED] and  
7 Uncle [REDACTED] to Peterhead, but I can remember Christmases  
8 with a tree and we did the Nativity play and things like  
9 that.

10 Q. Would you receive presents at Christmas?

11 A. Yes, but I don't remember the presents. Presents --  
12 they were there, but I was in Peterhead most of the time  
13 so my presents would have come mostly from when I was in  
14 Peterhead but we did have presents.

15 Q. What about birthdays? Were birthdays celebrated?

16 A. There was a chart that had all the birthdays on it --  
17 because my sister's birthday is [REDACTED] and the chart  
18 said [REDACTED], and we said that's not right and her birthday  
19 was changed on the chart. So we'd have like a cake and  
20 a card or whatever.

21 I don't think birthdays in those days were -- the  
22 way birthdays are celebrated now in a really big way, we  
23 knew it was everyone's birthday, but gifts were -- they  
24 were gifts but not like they are nowadays because times  
25 are different now.

- 1 Q. You've already mentioned trips to Tombae.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. And you went on a number of these trips, did you?
- 4 A. Yes, we went every summer and sometimes at Easter
- 5 because sometimes you'd get snowed in nearly trying to
- 6 get back.
- 7 Q. And what was that like?
- 8 A. Tombae was lovely. There was a schoolhouse, so one of
- 9 the groups would stay in the schoolhouse and the other
- 10 group would stay in the main house and then we would all
- 11 meet up at the schoolhouse and you'd walk in your
- 12 jammies up to the schoolhouse and we all helped with the
- 13 cooking and things when we were at Tombae. We would go
- 14 walking up the hills and ...
- 15 Q. Did you mention earlier that two groups would go at one
- 16 time?
- 17 A. When I went two groups went -- I'm not sure when the
- 18 other groups went how that went, but whenever my group
- 19 went to Tombae there was another group there as well.
- 20 Q. And would the sister in charge of the other group also
- 21 be there?
- 22 A. Yes, she'd be there with her group.
- 23 Q. So you'd have generally two sisters?
- 24 A. Yes, and sometimes the sister who was taking you didn't
- 25 drive, so the kitchen sister or someone else would drive

- 1 the minibus to take us to Tombae.
- 2 Q. One thing you do tell us in your statement, and  
3 certainly this seems to have been quite a privilege,  
4 is that you had a trip to Switzerland --
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. -- when you were at Nazareth House. Can you tell me  
7 about that?
- 8 A. The school asked if I would like to go to Switzerland.  
9 I'm not sure if they spoke to the sisters beforehand or  
10 if they asked me first, but they said that they would  
11 fund my trip to Switzerland and the sisters, if they  
12 could give me the spending money, and that's what  
13 happened.
- 14 Q. How long was this trip?
- 15 A. I think it was probably ten days or something, but I'm  
16 not sure.
- 17 Q. What was the purpose of the trip?
- 18 A. It was just the school were going to Switzerland. We  
19 went to Lake Lugano and we went to Zurich.
- 20 Q. What age were you then what that happened?
- 21 A. I think either second or third year, but I'm not  
22 100 per cent sure.
- 23 Q. Did other children from Nazareth House go with you or  
24 was it just yourself?
- 25 A. No, it was a school organised trip and it was just



1           myself that went -- with the rest of the children from  
2           school.

3           Q. Can I just ask you a little bit about your relationship  
4           with the staff, including Sister [REDACTED] LJI . You've  
5           already told me, I think, in connection with  
6           Sister [REDACTED] LJI that she was somebody that you liked.

7           A. Yes, I did like Sister [REDACTED] LJI .

8           Q. Was she good to you?

9           A. She was, yes. There was only one occasion I can  
10          remember of Sister [REDACTED] LJI -- everybody was going  
11          out and Sister [REDACTED] LJI , I don't know why she  
12          suggested I wear my red dress and I said, "I don't want  
13          to wear the red dress", and Sister [REDACTED] LJI said  
14          something like, "Well, if you don't wear the red dress  
15          you'll not be going", and I was, "I'll not be going  
16          then". And I thought, well, Sister [REDACTED] LJI will  
17          come round and I'll get to wear whatever I want to wear,  
18          but I looked out the window and saw all the other  
19          children were toddling off and I was left and I thought,  
20          next time I'll wear the red dress.

21          Q. But had she been there for some time, as far as you  
22          could make out?

23          A. I think so, yes, because there were other children who  
24          had been there a bit longer than me and they had been  
25          with Sister [REDACTED] LJI .

1 Q. During your time there was she replaced by another nun?

2 A. She was replaced with Sister [REDACTED] LVA [REDACTED].

3 Q. Where did Sister [REDACTED] LJI [REDACTED] go then? Did she go

4 somewhere else?

5 A. I am not sure. I think Sister [REDACTED] LVA [REDACTED] may have

6 come from [REDACTED], but I'm not sure and I'm not sure

7 if they just exchanged. I'm not sure.

8 Q. How did you get on with her?

9 A. I didn't really like Sister [REDACTED] LVA [REDACTED].

10 Q. Why not?

11 A. She was different. I don't think I would have really

12 liked any other sister that replaced Sister [REDACTED] LJI [REDACTED].

13 But Sister [REDACTED] LVA [REDACTED] was just more stern and she

14 wasn't jolly like Sister [REDACTED] LJI [REDACTED].

15 Q. Was she there for long, so far as you can remember?

16 A. I can't remember, but I don't think she could have been

17 there that long because then Sister [REDACTED] LJS [REDACTED] came.

18 Q. What was she like?

19 A. She was lovely.

20 Q. You've been describing sisters in the main in an

21 attractive way, particularly Sister [REDACTED] LJI [REDACTED] and

22 Sister [REDACTED] LJS [REDACTED]. Any of the other sisters -- were there

23 other sisters that you came across during your time?

24 A. We came across -- like, I would bump into

25 Sister [REDACTED] LKH [REDACTED] in the corridor or bump into

1           Sister [REDACTED] LDX . I knew all the other sisters just  
2           to say hello to and they all seemed nice.

3           Q. Can I then ask you about discipline, because you do talk  
4           about discipline in your statement. Were there any  
5           rules about what should or should not be done in the  
6           home?

7           A. I can't remember discipline as such, but I would --  
8           well, you had to keep your room tidy and keep your  
9           wardrobe tidy. There must have been discipline about  
10          being in the dining room. I can't remember rules as  
11          such, but there must have been.

12          Q. If a child misbehaved, can you tell me what might  
13          happen?

14          A. If you were going swimming, you wouldn't be going  
15          swimming, or if you were going to the cinema, you  
16          wouldn't be going to the cinema, or you could get sent  
17          to your room.

18          Q. Did you see any corporal punishment when you were there?

19          A. I've tried to think really hard and, no, I can't.

20          Q. Were children shouted at from time to time?

21          A. I would have thought if -- yeah, I would have imagined  
22          so, yes.

23          Q. Do you have any recollection of that?

24          A. No.

25          Q. Do you have any recollection of horrible and demeaning

1 things being said to children, for example, "You're here  
2 because nobody wants you"?

3 A. No, only another child said that to me. She was  
4 slightly younger -- we were both 13 and we both got on  
5 really well, but for some reason she must have been in  
6 a bad mood and she said to me, "Your mum doesn't love  
7 you, that's why she's left you". I said, "She's gone to  
8 find a house in London and she'll be coming back". But  
9 that was another child; the sisters never said anything  
10 like that to me.

11 Q. Were any children locked away in a cupboard or small  
12 room?

13 A. Definitely not, no.

14 Q. You have mentioned the sort of deprivations that there  
15 could be by way of punishment, not going to the swimming  
16 baths and being sent to the room. Was there any other  
17 form of punishment that you can remember?

18 A. Not that I can remember and I can only speak for what  
19 I remember happening in my group, but I can't remember.

20 Q. Yes.

21 A. I remember something -- when the boys -- when we went to  
22 the other group, some of the boys ran away to London --  
23 you're maybe going to come on to that, sorry.

24 Q. I will come to that. That was a bit later on, I think.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. But can I ask you about visits and inspections. Did you  
2 receive visits from family members when you were in the  
3 home?

4 A. I think a very odd time my gran came. One of the times  
5 she came was when my Aunt [REDACTED] and my Uncle [REDACTED] were  
6 bringing us back and there was a bit of a disagreement  
7 because my granny didn't like that we were going with  
8 another family. I think my dad only came once and that  
9 was to take us back when we were in Nazareth House the  
10 first time and the Social Work Department decided  
11 we were to go back to Glasgow. My dad came and took us  
12 back.

13 Q. Did you receive visits from the social worker?

14 A. My recollection is that I never -- apart from when  
15 Miss O'Hara took us to Aberdeen and then when  
16 Mrs Whannel took us back, I don't ever recall a social  
17 worker coming to visit.

18 Q. I think I've already touched upon bed-wetting with you.  
19 One thing you tell us at paragraph 76 is that children  
20 who were likely to wet the bed would have a plastic  
21 sheet on the bed.

22 A. Yes. I'm not sure if we all had a plastic sheet on the  
23 bed. But the children who were likely to wet the bed,  
24 they had, so that that could be just changed quickly.

25 Q. I may have touched on this, but I've been asked to

1 clarify this with you: did you see any children who may  
2 have wet the bed being punished or humiliated because  
3 they wet the bed?

4 A. I have a vague recollection and I'm not even sure if  
5 it's a true recollection, but I recall a boy by the name  
6 of [REDACTED], and something to do with a white  
7 nightie that had orange flowers on it, but I'm not sure  
8 of the whole story associated with that. But I think  
9 that may have been something to do with wetting the bed.

10 Q. Do you know who was involved with that, what sister was  
11 involved or ...

12 A. The sister that was there at that time would have been  
13 Sister [REDACTED] LJI .

14 Q. But that's all you remember?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You're also asked specifically when you gave your  
17 statement whether there was any abuse at Nazareth House.  
18 One thing you tell us, for example, is you don't  
19 remember any children being smacked.

20 A. No.

21 Q. So there was no physical chastisement that you can  
22 remember?

23 A. No, not at all.

24 Q. And there was none given to you?

25 A. No, definitely not.

- 1 Q. We already touched on this at the beginning, that you  
2 did go back to Glasgow for a few months --
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. -- when you were in Primary Seven, I think you said;  
5 is that right?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Can you just tell me how that happened?
- 8 A. I'm not quite sure, but Sister [REDACTED] LJI said that  
9 we were going back to Glasgow and that my dad was coming  
10 to take us, and that's what happened. No one from the  
11 Social Work Department or anyone said, "Do you want to  
12 go back to Glasgow?"; we were just told we were going  
13 back to Glasgow and my dad came and took us back.
- 14 Q. I think I put a date to you at the beginning that that  
15 may have been in early 1975.
- 16 A. I was in Primary Seven, so that may be correct, yes.
- 17 Q. You were in Glasgow, according to the records, until  
18 about [REDACTED] 1975.
- 19 A. I think that's correct because I was still in  
20 Primary Seven when I went back, but almost ready to go  
21 into first year, so I think that could be correct, yes.
- 22 Q. When you went back to Glasgow for these months, what was  
23 life like?
- 24 A. It was just the same as it was before. My family  
25 weren't bad people but they drank and when they drank

1 they fought with each other and it was scary. My granny  
2 would sometimes take us and we would sit up the close  
3 waiting for them to be sober. But other times she would  
4 just leave us thinking that that would keep the peace if  
5 the children were there, but that was more scary when  
6 she did that, and I wanted to go back to Nazareth House.

7 Q. I don't want to go into the detail of this, but you've  
8 already told us that you were sexually abused by your  
9 uncle. Did the sexual abuse start again when you went  
10 back?

11 A. It did. I wouldn't have told the Social Work Department  
12 why I didn't want to go, I wouldn't have told them about  
13 my Uncle [REDACTED] and the abuse because I didn't tell  
14 anyone. If I had been asked if I wanted to go back to  
15 Glasgow I would have said no and I would have just said  
16 it was because of the fighting, but we weren't asked.

17 Q. How did it come about then that you went back to  
18 Nazareth House?

19 A. Well, my granny -- they were all getting their money,  
20 and I knew then that they would be drinking, and my  
21 granny had said that she was going to leave us that day  
22 to keep the peace. And I decided that I wasn't -- I'd  
23 been at school that day and my legs were shaking and  
24 I thought, no, I'm going to run away. So I asked my  
25 brother [REDACTED] LVB, who was a bit younger than me, did he want



1 to come, and he said no. And I said, well, if you tell  
2 my granny, I'll kill you, but I'm taking **LUA**, and me  
3 and my young sister -- I didn't realise that the social  
4 work department weren't open all the time and we tried  
5 to call them on the way but nobody was answering. We  
6 got to -- it was near Hogganfield Loch, it's a long walk  
7 from where we lived in Cranhill to where the Social Work  
8 Department is. It was closed and we stayed all night in  
9 this little garage nearby waiting for the Social Work  
10 Department to open, and in the morning the cleaner let  
11 us in -- I think she was the cleaner. I said we wanted  
12 to go back to Nazareth House and that's what happened.  
13 We sat outside until they were ready to take us back and  
14 we went back.

15 Q. In the months you were back at home, was there any  
16 social work involvement with your family?

17 A. No. Once we were back in Glasgow, I don't ever  
18 seeing -- because if the social worker had come to say,  
19 "How are you getting on?" I would have said I wanted to  
20 go back. We had to run away to get back.

21 Q. What you say in paragraph 89 of your statement is that  
22 when you got back to Nazareth House, after being in  
23 Glasgow, it was just like you were going home.

24 A. It was and I said that. I said when I went back that  
25 time, "I'm not going back to Glasgow".

1 Q. When you went back then, and this was only a few months  
2 after you'd been there, were you back in the same group  
3 as you had been in?

4 A. Mm-hm. It was Sister [REDACTED] LJL just took us back to  
5 that group and that was -- it was just like being back  
6 at home because we went back to where we were. Most of  
7 the same children were all there.

8 Q. And I think we've looked at what happened over your time  
9 there. And I think we're covering both the first period  
10 and also the second period in relation to trips and so  
11 on and so forth.

12 A. Yes. The trips and everything were still the same.

13 Q. Can I then look at when you came to leave  
14 Nazareth House. That was in, I think -- did you say [REDACTED]  
15 of 1978?

16 A. I was doing my O levels at school, yes, so I think it  
17 was [REDACTED] 1978.

18 Q. What was the lead-up then to you coming to leave  
19 Nazareth House?

20 A. I'd been going to Auntie [REDACTED] and Uncle [REDACTED]'s -- it  
21 was some prison officers' families who had thought that  
22 it would be nice to take some children -- and I think  
23 they had got together and so we ended up going with  
24 Auntie [REDACTED] and Uncle [REDACTED] and they had a daughter  
25 called [REDACTED], nine months older than me. I was out

1 with her and she was more grown up than me, I suppose;  
2 she was in the bedroom with one of the boys and I was  
3 a bit ... didn't want to be in that situation. Then  
4 back in Nazareth House, there was some older boys coming  
5 into the group. I don't think they were meant to be  
6 there and I don't think sister knew they were there.  
7 I'm not sure if it was their younger brothers that were  
8 letting them into the house, but I decided I was going  
9 to leave. That's what I did. I went back to Glasgow  
10 for the weekend during my exams and never went back.

11 Q. I'll just trying to understand: why did you do that,  
12 what was it about the presence of these boys?

13 A. I was scared. I didn't know -- I can't remember what  
14 they were saying or what they were doing, but we were  
15 in the room and we were worried about going to sleep.

16 Q. Why were these boys in the home at all?

17 A. I don't know, and we didn't tell sister they were there,  
18 but I don't think she could have known they were there  
19 because otherwise she probably would have told them not  
20 to be because I think they were older brothers of some  
21 of the boys who were still in the home.

22 Q. Were you worried about their presence there?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And you left?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. You did tell us, I think, that by this time it was  
2 Sister **LJS** that was in charge of your group.
- 3 A. That's correct.
- 4 Q. Was this at a time after the boys that you mentioned  
5 before ran away to London?
- 6 A. Yes. Not the older boys that were coming into the  
7 house. As I say, they had finished school, those boys,  
8 I think. The other boys were of school age, at high  
9 school, and one day they got the train to London and got  
10 caught when they got to London and the Social Work  
11 Department flew them back to Aberdeen.
- 12 Q. These were boys who were residents in the home?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. The other boys who weren't residents and who were older  
15 boys, how would they get into the home?
- 16 A. Maybe their brothers opened the door to let them in.  
17 I don't know. I don't know where -- how they were  
18 there, but sister couldn't have known they were or she  
19 would have asked them to leave.
- 20 Q. But you were concerned enough to leave yourself?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Although you said you wouldn't go back to Glasgow, you  
23 did go back to Glasgow?
- 24 A. That was a mistake but, yes, I did go back to Glasgow.
- 25 Q. Where did you go when you went back?

- 1 A. I stayed with my dad's sister, my aunt.
- 2 Q. Did you have any dealings with the Social Work  
3 Department after that?
- 4 A. I think when I went back during my exams, I think it was  
5 a Mr Macfarlane, I'm not sure, and the school suggested  
6 I should go back and finish my exams, but I wouldn't go  
7 back.
- 8 Q. Why not?
- 9 A. Because I wanted to stay in Glasgow, because -- I should  
10 have told somebody about what was happening in Aberdeen  
11 because I would have rather stayed in Aberdeen. I had  
12 two jobs that I could have gone to, but I didn't tell  
13 Sister **LJS**, so to get out of the situation I returned  
14 to Glasgow.
- 15 Q. What was happening in Aberdeen?
- 16 A. The boys.
- 17 Q. But do you know what was happening, if anything?
- 18 A. No. There was just -- it was just uncomfortable.
- 19 Q. Can I just ask you a little bit then, Caroline, about  
20 life after care, back in Glasgow. I think at a point in  
21 time you went to stay in a hostel; is that right?
- 22 A. Yes, with the Sisters of Charity.
- 23 Q. That was in Wilton Street?
- 24 A. Yes, they helped to look after older children.
- 25 Q. And what was life like there?

1 A. Well, I worked for BT, British Telecom, there so it was  
2 a Sister Anne that was there and I answered the  
3 telephone in the house and for doing that I didn't have  
4 to pay any digs.

5 Q. I think you did go back to Aberdeen, particularly  
6 because your sister was still in Aberdeen; is that  
7 correct?

8 A. Yes, that's why when I left Aberdeen, I felt I abandoned  
9 my sister and I would never have really done that if  
10 I hadn't felt I had to. But in hindsight I should have  
11 told somebody, and then I wouldn't have had to have  
12 left.

13 Q. I think, subsequently, you in fact went to see the  
14 Sisters of Nazareth in Hammersmith in London.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What was the intention behind that?

17 A. I thought that the sisters, they did good work and that  
18 maybe I could do what they did. So I contacted the  
19 Mother General, I think, in Hammersmith. I was still  
20 working at BT, and they suggested I go for a visit and  
21 I went to visit Hammersmith.

22 Q. And I think you say that was in 1984.

23 A. I probably went to visit slightly before that because  
24 I actually went to join in 1984.

25 Q. And did you join?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. How long did you spend in the order?
- 3 A. From 1984 to 1989.
- 4 Q. At that time did you consider that it probably wasn't  
5 the life for you?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. I think you say that when you came to leave, there was  
8 no ill feeling with the other sisters?
- 9 A. No. I spoke to -- the Mother General had previously  
10 been a Mother Austin and she was now, I think, the  
11 Regional Superior in the house that I was in in  
12 Cheltenham. And I said to her, "I think I'd like to  
13 leave", and she said to have a think about it, and she  
14 contacted the present -- who was the present  
15 Mother General, who was a Mother Bernard Mary or Mary  
16 Bernard, and she came to visit, or I went to visit her,  
17 and we had a talk and they realised that it was a big  
18 decision for me to go back to Glasgow because I didn't  
19 have the stability of a family, but my friend [REDACTED],  
20 she was there and I left and went and stayed with her.  
21 There was no ill feeling; it was whatever I felt was for  
22 the best.
- 23 Q. We haven't touched very much on your mother, but I think  
24 you mentioned in passing that you had been in Wales for  
25 a period of time. Was your mother living in Wales?

1 A. My mother left my father and took myself and my brother  
2 and sister with her, because my father was violent when  
3 he drank, so she left London and took us to live in  
4 Wales. That's how we ended up in Wales. My dad found  
5 us in Wales and that's why my mother left us.

6 Q. You went back to Glasgow with your father?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. I think it's the case that you hadn't seen your mother  
9 for quite some time.

10 A. I didn't find my mother until 1990.

11 Q. If we look at paragraph 118 of your statement, you begin  
12 that paragraph by saying:

13 "Nazareth House was a positive experience for me."

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And that's your position?

16 A. It is, yes.

17 Q. And I think what you do is you contrast that experience  
18 with what life might have been like if you'd stayed at  
19 home.

20 A. Well, when I was at home, at school my legs and  
21 everything would be shaking thinking, "Gosh, what's it  
22 going to be like when I get home today?" As I say, my  
23 family weren't bad people, they just drank and they  
24 fought with each other when they had been drinking.  
25 They never hit us but it was scary to witness them



1           hitting each other.

2       Q.   Except your uncle did abuse you.

3       A.   Yes, he did, but I couldn't tell my dad; that would have

4           made the violence even worse.

5       Q.   Did you telling anyone about that abuse?

6       A.   Not until I was an adult.

7       Q.   Who did you tell?

8       A.   My sister and my grandmother before she died.

9       Q.   You say at paragraph 125 that being in care isn't the

10           same as being at home.

11      A.   No. My first choice would have been to have been

12           brought up with my mother. My second choice would be to

13           have been in Nazareth House. Because you could go to

14           bed at night and still be there in the morning and not

15           get dragged out of your bed in the middle of the night.

16           It felt safe in Nazareth House.

17      Q.   On the last page of your statement, there's a section

18           that's headed "Lessons to be learned". It's at

19           paragraph 128. Can I just ask you about the comments

20           you make there. One of the things you say, for example,

21           is that you think the Social Work Department needs to

22           visit children more.

23      A.   I think so, because even before we ended up in care,

24           there had been instances -- before my mother left,

25           I believe she tried to contact the social work to tell

1           them she was leaving and she was leaving us with my  
2           father. There was then an incident where my father  
3           brought a man into the house and he came in looking for  
4           a knife and I ran to the neighbours and asked them to  
5           help but and we got put into a home for a brief period  
6           of time but not long enough to go to school. We went  
7           back to my dad and then went back to Glasgow and then my  
8           granny took my young sister to Northampton and left me  
9           and my brother with my dad and that's how Uncle [REDACTED]  
10          had access to me. My aunt didn't know about that. But  
11          she reported the situation to what she called the  
12          cruelty. But the Social Work Department never, ever  
13          became involved, they only ever were involved when my  
14          dad actually said, "I'm going to put you in care", and  
15          I said, "Can you just put us in care?"

16                 Then even after he did that, he could still come  
17          back and take us back out of care and the Social Work  
18          Department never came.

19          Q. And I think you've told us that you only got back into  
20          care because you went to them.

21          A. We ran away. We went to the Social Work Department and  
22          asked them to take us back and they did.

23          Q. And if we look at the second last paragraph of your  
24          statement, Caroline, what you say in the second sentence  
25          is:

1            "If people are saying that things happened to them  
2            when they were children and they remember those things  
3            happening, then their memories are their memories."

4            A. Yes. I can only give my experience. But other people  
5            have different experiences and I believe that their  
6            experiences are important to them. If they had a less  
7            positive experience then they have to be listened to  
8            because everything has to be out in the open and be  
9            dealt with fairly.

10          Q. You end that paragraph by saying:

11                        "I think they all need to be heard."

12          A. I think, yes.

13          MR MacAULAY: Very well, Caroline. Thank you very much  
14                        indeed for coming to tell us about your experience and  
15                        giving your evidence. In asking my questions I have put  
16                        questions to you that I have been asked to put to you as  
17                        well.

18                        My Lady, unless there are any further questions,  
19                        then I think that's Caroline's evidence finished.

20          LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for  
21                        questions? No.

22                        Caroline, there are no more questions for you.  
23                        Thank you so much for coming along today and sharing so  
24                        openly with us the experiences you had, both at home and  
25                        in care and afterwards. It has been of tremendous help

1 to hear them. I'm now able to let you go. Thank you.

2 (The witness withdrew)

3 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, this is proving to be quite

4 a productive day because we can have another read-in.

5 It may be that we should have the break early and have

6 the read-in after that.

7 LADY SMITH: Yes. I think that would probably make sense.

8 Let's break until 3 o'clock and have the read-in then.

9 (2.51 pm)

10 (A short break)

11 (3.08 pm)

12 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod, when you're ready.

13 Witness statement of "ANNEMARIE" (read)

14 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I'm going to read a statement of

15 a witness who wishes to remain anonymous. She wishes to

16 use the pseudonym "Annemarie". The statement is to be

17 found at WIT.001.001.2031.

18 "My name is Annemarie. I was born in 1960. My

19 contact details are known to the inquiry."

20 In paragraphs 2 to 5 of her statement, Annemarie

21 speaks about her life before care in Glasgow and tells

22 that she had two older sisters and a younger brother,

23 and that they were ultimately taken into care.

24 Between paragraphs 6 and 12 of her statement

25 Annemarie speaks about time spent in Smyllum in Lanark,

1 where she says she was when she was around 6 or 7 years  
2 old.

3 Between paragraphs 13 and 15, Annemarie speaks about  
4 being in Castlemilk in Lockerbie, and I'll pick the  
5 statement up at paragraph 16 where she speaks about  
6 Nazareth House Cardonald. That's on WIT.001.001.2033:

7 "As you went into the front of Nazareth House  
8 Cardonald, there was a big statue of Mary. We got taken  
9 in and put into our dorms. There was nothing specific  
10 about Nazareth House Cardonald that I particularly want  
11 to talk about. I was there with my sisters and my  
12 younger brother came to join us.

13 "We all went back home to live with my dad for  
14 a while."

15 The admissions registers for Cardonald show this  
16 witness being admitted in [REDACTED] 1966 and being  
17 discharged in [REDACTED] 1966.

18 The witness then goes on to speak about her time at  
19 Nazareth House Kilmarnock:

20 "The next place we went to was Nazareth House  
21 Kilmarnock. It was a similar set-up to the other  
22 Nazareth Houses. There was nothing that happened there  
23 that I remember and want to talk about."

24 The admissions registers for Kilmarnock show the  
25 witness going in in [REDACTED] 1968 and being discharged in

1 [REDACTED] of 1968.

2 In paragraphs 19 to 21 of the statement the witness  
3 speaks about her time in Castlemilk Lockerbie where she  
4 was for a second time.

5 I'll pick the statement up at paragraph 22 where the  
6 witness goes on to speak about Nazareth House in  
7 Aberdeen. That's on WIT.001.001.2034:

8 "We went to Nazareth House in Aberdeen in 1969."

9 I can confirm, my Lady, that the admissions  
10 registers for Aberdeen show the witness going into  
11 Nazareth House Aberdeen in [REDACTED] 1969:

12 "I would have been 8 years old. A male social  
13 worker who drove us there told us we were going to a big  
14 house in the country for two weeks. He said it was to  
15 give my mum a rest. Nobody told us before we went where  
16 we were going or why. By the time we got to  
17 Nazareth House in Aberdeen, we knew exactly what to  
18 expect. All the Nazareth Houses were run exactly the  
19 same way. We knew how to behave.

20 "Nazareth House was quite near Aberdeen city centre.  
21 There was a wall round the perimeter. There was  
22 a driveway and at the end a massive building and a big  
23 statue. It was run by the Poor Sisters of Nazareth.

24 "There were two boys' groups and three girls'  
25 groups. The age range was from babies right up to about

1 14 or 15 years old. I think some boys stayed until they  
2 were older if they said they were going to be priests.

3 "Nazareth House was run by nuns and there were other  
4 non-religious staff who worked there doing domestic  
5 stuff. Up on the top floor of the main building was an  
6 old people's home and that was run by the nuns too.  
7 There were dorms in the main building where the children  
8 slept.

9 "There was a Mother Superior in overall charge. She  
10 was in the main house and we hardly ever saw her.  
11 Beside the big house was a row of ordinary houses. If  
12 you were looking at them from the street, you would  
13 think they had nothing to do with the main house. These  
14 houses were called 'the hostel'.

15 "The hostel was run by Sister [FAF]. There  
16 were two other non-religious staff who worked in there  
17 doing the cleaning and stuff like that. One I think was  
18 called Cathleen and had a strong Aberdonian accent. The  
19 other was called [FAJ] and she lived in a house in  
20 the grounds.

21 "I think there would have been about ten bedrooms  
22 in the hostel and each may have had three beds in them.  
23 If there was there would have been about 30 girls in the  
24 hostel. I shared a bedroom with my two sisters in the  
25 hostel.

1           " My sisters weren't there for very long. One sister  
2 left and she went to a hostel in Glasgow. My other  
3 sister followed her a short while after. When they both  
4 left, I got a bedroom to myself. We didn't have  
5 anywhere in our bedroom to store our stuff; we just had  
6 a bed and a chair.

7           " I just remember going into the building on the  
8 first day and me and my two sisters went up the stairs.  
9 I turned around and I was looking for my brother, but he  
10 had been taken away. I heard him shouting on me. I was  
11 closer to my brother than I was to my sisters. I became  
12 upset and was crying. I was asking where my brother was  
13 going and I was told that I would see him after. I was  
14 told to stop crying and me and my two sisters carried on  
15 into the hostel.

16           " We were shown into a room. They then put us in  
17 a bath with disinfectant, just like we had at  
18 Castlemilk. We settled in quite quickly because we were  
19 used to how the other Nazareth Houses were run and they  
20 were all the same.

21           " Sister FAF made you lie a certain way when  
22 you were in your bed. You had to be on your back with  
23 your arms out of the covers and crossed over your chest.  
24 She would patrol at night and if you had rolled over on  
25 to your side she would prod you and tell you to lie on



1 your back.

2 "In the mornings, probably about 6 am, when it was  
3 time to get up, Sister [FAF] would stand in the  
4 lobby and start to say 'In the name of the Father' and  
5 you had to be out of your bed and kneeling at your  
6 bedside before she got to the end of the Hail Mary.

7 "After you said your prayers in the morning you  
8 would get washed and then go down for breakfast. After  
9 breakfast everybody went to Mass, taken by  
10 Father [LHL]. We then got ready for school.

11 "Bedtime was according to your age. I was usually  
12 in my bed by 7 o'clock. At bedtime, it would be the  
13 same thing with Sister [FAF] and prayers.

14 "We ate our food in the dining area within the  
15 hostel. There was a kitchen in the hostel but the meals  
16 were made in the main house. The food wasn't nice. We  
17 had our breakfast, lunch and dinner in the hostel.  
18 Often by the time it was brought over to the hostel it  
19 was cold. I dreaded mealtimes so much because I was  
20 afraid I wouldn't like the food. I think I have blocked  
21 mealtimes from my memory. I can't actually remember  
22 sitting in there along with the other girls.

23 "Sister [LKH] came and replaced Sister [FAF]  
24 in the hostel. Sister [LKH] would be fine if you  
25 didn't like the food; she would offer you toast or

1 something else.

2 "Inside the main building was the chapel that we  
3 went to regularly. We had to go to chapel every day  
4 before school and after school. We had to say our  
5 prayers as soon as we got up in the morning and last  
6 thing at night before we got into bed.

7 "There were two Masses on Saturday. On Sunday we  
8 had Mass three times. We also got religious studies at  
9 school. We had to go to confession once a week; we  
10 didn't get a choice. I could never think what to say  
11 and just made things up. We also said grace before  
12 every meal.

13 "After Sister LKH came it was far more relaxed  
14 and we didn't go to the chapel on school mornings. We  
15 still had to go at night-time though.

16 "We used to get the bus to St Peter's school. It  
17 was a primary and a secondary school. That was the only  
18 time that I got to see my brother, in the passing. The  
19 boys were downstairs on the bus and the girls had to go  
20 upstairs. We weren't even allowed to mix on the bus.  
21 If we were caught talking, we would get into trouble.  
22 They made us sing on the bus.

23 "At school we weren't even allowed to mix. The boys  
24 and girls had separate playgrounds. In the classroom,  
25 the Nazareth House children were put at the back of the

1 class. We weren't given the education we should have.  
2 The other children were all scared of us because if  
3 something happened, the Nazareth House children stuck  
4 together. If any of the other children were naughty the  
5 teacher told them to behave or they would get sent to  
6 the bad nuns' home.

7 "One time we went to the harbour with the school  
8 because we were doing a project about fish. I was  
9 mucking about and one of my shoes fell into the harbour.  
10 The teacher knew that I would get into trouble when  
11 I got back to Nazareth House so she bought me another  
12 pair of shoes.

13 "We may have been given homework at school, but if  
14 we were I never about it. I don't remember anyone  
15 sitting in the hostel with me in the evening to help me  
16 to read or even sitting down with me one-to-one to do  
17 anything.

18 "We washed our faces and brushed our teeth every  
19 morning in the sink. We would brush our teeth at night.  
20 Once a week, on a Sunday, we would get a bath.

21 "Sometimes when nits were about they would comb our  
22 hair with these fine-toothed combs. That left your head  
23 and your hair feeling sore. They made you wash with  
24 carbolic soap. It really nipped your eyes.

25 "They used to cut our hair at Nazareth House. They

1 put a bowl on our head and just cut round it.

2 "We would wear our school uniform and our other  
3 clothes for a week and then they would get washed.

4 "Every day we had to fold our clothes and have  
5 everything folded as small as possible just like they do  
6 in the army. Sister [FAF] would come round at  
7 night and check your clothes and if they weren't folded  
8 correctly, she would fling them on to the floor, get you  
9 out of your bed, and make you do it again.

10 "Clothes and bedding were taken away and I presume  
11 were washed in the laundry by the non-religious staff  
12 in the main house. Sister [LGR] was in charge of the  
13 laundry.

14 "I know that on a Saturday some of the older  
15 children had to go to the old folks' home that was in  
16 Nazareth House to help out there. I never did that.  
17 I do remember putting dusters on our feet and dusting  
18 the corridor floor in the main building. I had chores  
19 to do in the hostel, like cleaning the shoes or clearing  
20 the table after meals.

21 "We never got paid or got any pocket money when  
22 Sister [FAF] was there. When Sister [LKH] came  
23 we did get some pocket money.

24 "We all wore the same clothes and they were all  
25 second-hand clothes. It wasn't a uniform as such but it

1 was all dull colours. Everybody walked around with the  
2 same haircut and the same clothes and we all looked the  
3 same. We stood out like sore thumbs and it was obvious  
4 that we were from Nazareth House.

5 "We were taken to a place in Aberdeen and we got our  
6 school uniforms there. Your clothes were taken away to  
7 get washed every week and you got clean clothes given to  
8 you. It wouldn't be your own clothes you got back.  
9 Someone else would have been wearing them the week  
10 before and the clothes were just circulated around  
11 everyone. We did get our own school uniform back  
12 because every item had a label with our name on it.

13 "There was a little black and white television  
14 in the hostel and we were allowed to watch that.  
15 We were only allowed to watch certain programmes.  
16 We wouldn't dare try and change the channel on the  
17 television. Occasionally we would all get taken into  
18 the big hall in the main building and we would get to  
19 see a film. It was something like The Sound of Music,  
20 whatever it was there was always nuns in it. The only  
21 leisure time we had was watching TV for a wee while.

22 "There were no toys apart from a few broken bits.  
23 They boys got to play outside; we could see them.  
24 Sister [FAF] wouldn't let us play outside.

25 "Father [LHL] used to be our priest and he had

1 a house in Tomintoul. In the summer the girls would go  
2 to his house for three weeks. The boys would go to it  
3 on different weeks. When Sister [FAF] was alive  
4 and went with us, it was just the usual routine. When  
5 Sister [LKH] was there, it was really good fun. She  
6 would take us for walks up the hills. It was in the  
7 country and we had to wash ourselves in the stream. It  
8 was freezing. These trips are one of my happy memories  
9 from Nazareth House in Aberdeen.

10 "We weren't allowed to go to the shops until  
11 Sister [LKH] came and then we were given a bit more  
12 freedom. Sister [LKH] would give us pocket money on  
13 a Saturday and we could go to the shops or swimming. We  
14 were never taken to the pictures or anything like that.

15 "Christmastime was just prayers, prayers, prayers  
16 and thanking Jesus Christ that we were born. It wasn't  
17 a happy time. It was probably worse than normal. The  
18 children used to line the spiral staircase and sing  
19 Christmas carols. In the main house there was a  
20 Christmas tree. There was nothing in the hostel. There  
21 was no special meal on Christmas Day. Children who had  
22 family outside got to go home for Christmas. I never  
23 got to go home for Christmas.

24 "At Christmas there used to be toy appeals  
25 advertised on the television. People with unwanted toys

1 were asked to donate them. I know these are the toys  
2 that came to us. One Christmas, when I was about 13,  
3 I got a Jackie album as a present. Inside where it says  
4 'This books belongs to such-and-such', there was already  
5 another girl's name in there. I knew it was  
6 second-hand.

7 "If anyone came to hand in presents for someone in  
8 particular, they didn't reach the children that they  
9 were supposed to be for. This was to be fair to all the  
10 children who didn't have anyone outside. All these toys  
11 were put away somewhere but I don't know where.

12 "Birthdays were not celebrated when  
13 Sister [FAF] was there. When Sister [LKH] came,  
14 she gave me some pocket money on my birthday and I got  
15 to go to the shops to spend it.

16 "There was one girl who was in the bedroom next to  
17 me. She regularly wet her bed. Sister [FAF] would  
18 come in every morning and, when we were praying, she  
19 would check to see if the sheets were wet. If the sheet  
20 was wet, the girl would have to strip the whole bed.  
21 She would then be made to stand there with the wet  
22 sheets above her head or just stand there holding them.  
23 The child would then be put in the bath. Sometimes the  
24 bathwater would be roasting, but most of the time the  
25 water was freezing. I think this stopped when

1 Sister [FAF] died and Sister [LKH] took over.

2 There was no way Sister [LKH] would do this to  
3 humiliate anyone.

4 "I remember now and again my auntie, who was my  
5 mum's sister, came in to visit us. We were sitting  
6 in the same room as we were when we first arrived in  
7 Nazareth House. Sister [FAF] sat beside us and was  
8 always there when my aunt was. I didn't get to speak to  
9 my aunt on her own.

10 "I didn't get any visits from any social workers  
11 when I was at Nazareth House Aberdeen. I'm not aware of  
12 any inspectors or anybody like that coming either.  
13 Nobody ever came to ask us how we were getting on.

14 "I remember I was taken to hospital in Aberdeen  
15 because of my appendix. I had to lie there waiting for  
16 over a day until someone from the Social Work Department  
17 came and signed papers allowing them to operate on me.  
18 I should have been rushed in to have this done, but  
19 I had to wait for the signature. I was 13 at the time.  
20 I asked the social worker who came to the hospital why  
21 I didn't have my own social worker and the social worker  
22 just said they were looking into it. That social worker  
23 spoke to me for less than a minute.

24 "When my sisters moved to Glasgow, I didn't see them  
25 again at Nazareth House. I only saw my brother when



1 we were getting on the bus to go to school. All of  
2 a sudden he wasn't on the bus and he must have been  
3 taken away from Nazareth House. Nobody told me he was  
4 going and I never got a chance to say goodbye to him.

5 "I never got taken to see a doctor when I was at  
6 Nazareth House Aberdeen. I was taken to the hospital  
7 once when I had the issue with my appendix.

8 "We were taken to the dentist probably once a month  
9 and I'm sure he pulled teeth out that didn't even need  
10 to come out. My earliest experience of abuse at  
11 Nazareth House Aberdeen was the food. I was given cold  
12 meat with egg in it. I told them I wasn't going to eat  
13 it. Sister [FAF] told me that if I didn't eat it  
14 for supper, I would get it for my breakfast. She served  
15 it up for my breakfast but I didn't eat it. This kept  
16 on every mealtime until the third day when my sister  
17 quickly snapped it off my plate and ate it. They didn't  
18 give me anything else to eat in these three days.

19 "There was another time when stovies were served up.  
20 I wouldn't eat it. Sister [FAF] started shouting  
21 at me and said she was fed up with me not eating. She  
22 got two other female members of non-religious to help  
23 her. One held my legs and the other held my arms. One  
24 of them was [FAJ], who was one of the  
25 non-religious staff that worked in the hostel.

1 Sister [FAF] then forced the food down my throat  
2 with a fork. I kept being sick but she kept forcing it  
3 into my mouth. That was my first memory of getting  
4 forced to do something. She said, just because you're  
5 being sick doesn't mean you aren't going to eat it.  
6 Everyone else had left the table and I was left on my  
7 own when this happened. I didn't have any choice, I had  
8 to eat all the stovies. These two incidents were the  
9 only ones that happened to me but similar things  
10 happened to other girls.

11 "After these two incidents with Sister [FAF]  
12 and food, I just forced myself to eat whatever was  
13 served up. I knew what would happen if I didn't eat it.  
14 I know that other times there were girls who didn't eat  
15 their food. When we finished eating we went out and  
16 left them sitting there on their own. I imagine the  
17 same thing happened to them that happened to me.  
18 I didn't see it happen and we didn't discuss it later.

19 "One time part of my chores was to polish the shoes  
20 which were kept under the stairs. I polished them but  
21 Sister [FAF] said I hadn't done them properly.  
22 I think I must have answered her back because she  
23 grabbed me. She put me in a really dark cupboard under  
24 the stairs and locked the door. There were no windows.  
25 I was banging on the door asking what I had done.

1 I don't really know how long I was in there for but it  
2 must have been a couple of hours. I wasn't particularly  
3 scared but I was just confused why I was there.

4 I started singing 'Nobody's Child'. This only happened  
5 to me once. I didn't see it happen to anyone else. My  
6 sister heard me and let me out of the cupboard.

7 "On a couple of occasions nuns died at  
8 Nazareth House Aberdeen. The first time we all queued  
9 up but didn't really know what we were queueing for at  
10 the chapel. When we got to the front of the queue, we  
11 had to kiss the dead nun on the forehead. I had never  
12 seen a dead body before and she was just lying there  
13 in the box. We were told if we didn't give her a kiss,  
14 she wouldn't go heaven. Sister **FAF** lifted me up  
15 to kiss her and another nun was lifting the younger ones  
16 up. All the children in the home had to do it.

17 "The second time a nun died I knew what was coming  
18 at the end of the queue and I didn't want to kiss the  
19 dead nun. I remember when I got to the front I was  
20 screaming and saying I didn't want to do it. I was  
21 crying. Sister **FAF** grabbed me by the arm, which  
22 was what she often did, and told me that I had to kiss  
23 her and I eventually did.

24 "Afterwards I went back to the hostel and  
25 Sister **FAF** came in and took me upstairs. She hit

1 me with her hands first but I didn't cry, so she hit me  
2 with a bit of wood. She would usually keep hitting you  
3 until you cried. The bit of wood wasn't a ruler, it was  
4 more like a pointer, and she hit me on the body several  
5 times. Eventually I did cry and she stopped.

6 I couldn't say how long it lasted for. This was the  
7 worst beating I ever got from Sister [FAF] There  
8 was no one else in the room when she was beating me.

9 "We used to have to stand in a row when we went to  
10 school. Sister [FAF] or Sister [LTX] would walk  
11 along the row and if anyone did anything wrong, they  
12 would get hit with the wooden pointer. I had a really  
13 bad time with my socks and quite often one would be up  
14 and one would be down. I would get punished for that.

15 "One time Sister [LTX] was on the bus and  
16 I remember she spoke to my sister, but my sister mustn't  
17 have heard her and she didn't reply. Sister [LTX]  
18 walked up the bus and grabbed my sister by the hair,  
19 then dragged her along the floor to the back of the bus  
20 and made her sit on the floor. She treated her like  
21 a rag doll. Another girl didn't hear Sister [LTX]  
22 either and she was hit by Sister [LTX] and was also  
23 made to sit on the floor of the bus. My sister would  
24 have been about 10 or 11 years old at the time.

25 "There was one time when it was time to go to chapel

1 but I wasn't feeling well. I told Sister [FAF]  
2 that I felt unwell, but it didn't matter, she made me  
3 go. During the Mass at one point we stood up and  
4 I fainted. I'm not sure what happened after that and  
5 the next thing I remember I was in my bedroom. When  
6 I was in my bedroom Sister [FAF] came in with her  
7 pointer and accused me of being disrespectful of the  
8 church. She didn't believe that I was unwell and  
9 thought I had done it to get out of Mass. She hit me  
10 with the stick.

11 "We used to have a choir at Nazareth House Aberdeen.  
12 There would be choir practice once a week. If you  
13 didn't get it right, the pointer would come out.  
14 Sister [LGR] ran the choir and she would poke you with  
15 the pointer. If she didn't poke you, she would hit you  
16 on the knuckles or on the head with the pointer. It was  
17 really degrading.

18 "One time when I was about 9 or 10 years old, I used  
19 the word bloody. Sister [FAF] made me stand up on  
20 a table in the sitting room with a bar of soap in my  
21 mouth. There must have been other people there but  
22 I can't remember. I have no idea how long I was  
23 standing up there for. All I know is that it was  
24 daylight outside when I went up there and it was dark  
25 when I came down. Sister [FAF] just sat on a chair

1 in the corner twiddling her thumbs and watched me. This  
2 happened to me once, but they threatened it regularly.  
3 I was really confused because I didn't even realise  
4 bloody was a swear word. Eventually she told me I could  
5 come down.

6 "I remember there was a girl going around singing  
7 a song that was in the pop charts. For some reason  
8 Sister [FAF] pulled her aside and told the girl she  
9 was nothing but an orphan and that she didn't appreciate  
10 everything the nuns did for her. She went on saying  
11 that all the children were in there because they were  
12 orphans and that nobody wanted us. I felt like I was  
13 just a number. I never got a cuddle or got any praise  
14 for anything.

15 "When my mum died Sister [FAF] told me.  
16 I burst out laughing. I ran into my bedroom and they  
17 chased me. I hid under my bed and they were trying to  
18 get me so they could hit me because I laughed. It was  
19 more a sort of nervous thing that I laughed, even though  
20 my mum dying meant nothing to me. They got me by my  
21 legs and pulled me out.

22 "Sister [FAF] died when I was about 12 years  
23 old. After that, Sister [LKF] came in and things  
24 improved.

25 "I remember one time I was off school because I was

1 unwell. Sister [REDACTED] LKF had arranged for the painter to  
2 come into the hostel. I could hear the male voice in  
3 Sister [REDACTED] LKF's room and they were making a noise.  
4 I later found out that she was sleeping with the  
5 painter. She got put order of the order. She later  
6 married the painter.

7 "Sister [REDACTED] LKF wasn't there very long and then  
8 Sister [REDACTED] LKH came in. I was 13 when she came in and  
9 she was absolutely lovely. She spoke to you nicely and  
10 she didn't hit you. She never raised her voice. She  
11 wasn't like the other nuns. She didn't come round and  
12 check you at night. You didn't have to pray as much.  
13 You were allowed to play more often. Basically, she was  
14 normal and she would call you by your name.

15 "When I was 14 years old, I came back to the hostel  
16 one day after school and Sister [REDACTED] LKH was waiting for  
17 me. She asked me how I felt about leaving the hostel  
18 and going back to live in Glasgow. She said that my  
19 auntie wanted to look after me."

20 My Lady, the registers for Nazareth House Aberdeen  
21 note that this witness left in [REDACTED] 1974.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 MS MACLEOD: "In 1974 or 1975, my aunt and uncle came and  
24 took me away from Nazareth House in Aberdeen. They  
25 lived in Glasgow. I was told later by my friend at

1 school that all the children left Nazareth House and it  
2 was full of old people. They obviously wanted the  
3 children out to make it exclusively an old folks' home."

4 In paragraph 84 of the statement Annemarie speaks  
5 about going to live with her aunt and uncle, which she  
6 says didn't go particularly well for her, and then she  
7 goes on to speak about her time in Wilton Street hostel  
8 in Glasgow, so I will pick the statement up at  
9 paragraph 85 on page WIT.001.001.2047:

10 "I went to the hostel where my sisters were. It was  
11 called the Wilton Street hostel in Maryhill. I tried to  
12 stay there but initially they said I couldn't because  
13 I was only 15. They eventually allowed me to stay  
14 overnight. I was too young to be in there but I was  
15 apparently under the social work. There was no one  
16 available to come and see me. They accepted me because  
17 there was nowhere else I could go. I stayed there from  
18 the age of 15 until I was 17. I still went to school  
19 sometimes when I stayed in the hostel.

20 "I had no contact with the social worker at this  
21 time. When I was at the hostel I didn't get any help  
22 from anybody about how to move on. The Wilton Street  
23 hostel may have been connected to Nazareth House because  
24 my sisters went there from Nazareth House. I also saw  
25 Sister LTX there one time, so there may have been



1 a link but I'm not sure.

2 "The hostel was run by a nun, Sister Rosalie.  
3 I wasn't forced to go to church but Sister Rosalie  
4 encouraged me to go.

5 "In the hostel when you turned 16 you were not  
6 allowed to sign on as unemployed. You had to go out and  
7 get a job. I got a job for a year in a lawyer's office.  
8 I had to pay some money for my lodgings. The hostel was  
9 all right and you were generally left alone. I didn't  
10 really settle well in Glasgow and after that I went to  
11 Aberdeen.

12 "In 1996 I went to college and I did a medical  
13 receptionist course. I then worked as a medical  
14 receptionist at a doctor's surgery until 1998. I gave  
15 this job up because all the Nazareth House stuff had hit  
16 the papers. Journalists were turning up at my work and  
17 no one knew about my background, so I left."

18 In paragraphs 90 to 93 of the statement Annemarie  
19 speaks about various other jobs she has had including  
20 explaining that she went to Aberdeen University and did  
21 a counselling skills course for a couple of years. She  
22 speaks a little bit about her family life as well in  
23 those paragraphs. I'll pick the statement up at  
24 paragraph 94 on WIT.001.001.2048.

25 "I never saw any social workers when I was at

1 Nazareth House in Aberdeen. There was no one else there  
2 that I could tell what was going on.

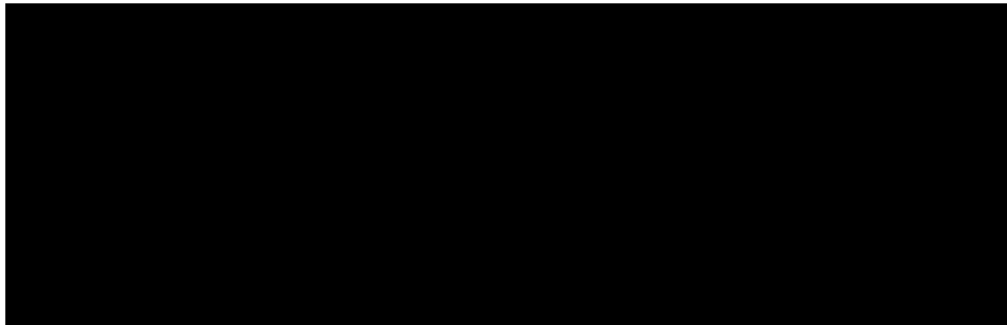
3 "My auntie did visit me but Sister [FAF] was  
4 there the whole time and sat right beside me. Every  
5 time I started to speak, Sister [FAF] nipped my  
6 leg. I told her to stop it but she just said she wasn't  
7 doing anything. Every time my auntie asked me  
8 something, Sister [FAF] nipped me as if to warn me  
9 to be careful what I said. I was never left alone with  
10 my auntie to tell her anything in private.

11 "When Sister [LKH] came, I was allowed out with  
12 my auntie and she would take us out for the day to  
13 Stonehaven or somewhere like that."

14 In paragraph 97, Annemarie speaks about being  
15 admitted in 2003 to hospital and being there for three  
16 weeks. She comes back to speak about that later on in  
17 her statement. I'll pick the statement up at  
18 paragraph 98, WIT.001.001.2049:

19 "A few years ago, I had just got home from work one  
20 day when my sister phoned me. She said that two people  
21 were going to be coming to see me about my time in  
22 Nazareth House Aberdeen. A couple of days later, two  
23 plain clothes police officers came to my door. They  
24 said an ex-resident had made a complaint of abuse.  
25 I gave a statement about what went on at Nazareth House

1 but not as in-depth as I have told this inquiry. The  
2 police promised me that the information I gave would be  
3 confidential, but shortly after it came out in the  
4 newspapers. I was visited at my work by journalists.  
5 It just all kind of blew up after that.



6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11 "Because of the incidents at Nazareth House  
12 Aberdeen, when I was force-fed the stovies, this has had  
13 an impact on me. I still can't eat it and if I see  
14 stovies, it makes me feel physically sick. It still  
15 really upsets me.

16 "When I left Nazareth House I couldn't read or  
17 write. The first job I got was as an office junior.  
18 I worked as a receptionist in a lawyer's office in  
19 Charing Cross. I had to bluff my way in that job so  
20 that nobody noticed. It was really embarrassing.  
21 I think that if I'd been given a proper education then  
22 things possibly could have turned out better for me.

23 "I always thought I was in care because I had  
24 a squint in my eye and I had a Glaswegian accent.  
25 I still think that today. I thought it was because

1 I was ugly and nobody wanted me. It was built into me  
2 in Nazareth House that I was in there because nobody  
3 wanted me.

4 "They teach you that you are nothing so you think  
5 you are nothing. I just feel that I have done something  
6 bad to deserve the life I have. If somebody pays me  
7 a compliment I just act negatively and take it the wrong  
8 way. This has drastically affected my self-confidence  
9 and self-esteem."

10 In paragraphs 103 to 107 of the statement, the  
11 witness, Annemarie, speaks about her family life and  
12 children, including some difficult times. I'll pick the  
13 statement up at paragraph 108 on WIT.001.001.2051:

14 "The first time I ever got a birthday cake was on my  
15 29th birthday. I got it from the people at my work and  
16 everyone was singing 'Happy Birthday'. I was so  
17 embarrassed because the focus was on me. I just wanted  
18 the ground to open and swallow me up. The nuns taught  
19 me that you have always got to think of other people,  
20 never think about yourself because that is selfish. I'm  
21 still like that now. I could be dying inside me but  
22 I don't think about myself. Jesus Christ said you have  
23 to look after everybody else.

24 "I remember when I was in a woman's aid place and  
25 they told us that for Christmas they were going to give

1 us a spa treatment each. That absolutely terrified the  
2 living daylight's out of me. The thought of me sitting  
3 there and people doing things for me was wrong. I had  
4 been taught to make sure everybody else was all right  
5 before myself. I would feel guilty for looking after  
6 myself and for me feeling okay with myself. I was  
7 nothing and shouldn't have been thinking of myself.

8 "Being in care has impacted on me in respect that  
9 I have an issue with trust. I just don't trust anybody.  
10 I am a bit of a loner. I'm very much my own person.  
11 I do things on my own. I don't make friends easily  
12 because I'm worried they will go away and leave me.  
13 I absolutely hate myself and avoid looking at myself in  
14 mirrors. I hate looking in the mirror.

15 "I stopped going to church as soon as I could, which  
16 was probably when I left Nazareth House. I didn't even  
17 get married in a church. I got married in a registry  
18 office. I don't believe in God. If God did exist, he  
19 wouldn't have let things happen to me like they did.  
20 Nuns are supposed to be good.

21 "I have great difficulty settling down and doing  
22 anything for a long period of time. I always seem to be  
23 getting ready for the next move. I think that has been  
24 down to my time in care. I could go home now and be  
25 ready to leave in minutes. I have a small case packed

1 and some money in it. I could walk out of the house and  
2 leave everything else behind me.

3 "People may think I'm confident but inside I'm in  
4 bits. I just hate my life and have always felt like  
5 that. Sometimes I feel like an extra piece of a jigsaw  
6 puzzle. I don't know where to go and I don't know where  
7 I fit in. I just don't feel like I fit in anywhere and  
8 float about. If there is a wee space somewhere I will  
9 try and get in. I am dying inside but I don't want  
10 people to see it, so I carry on, put a smile on my face  
11 and try my best to hide it.

12 "Since I was in Nazareth House, I have been an  
13 obsessive cleaner. I couldn't sleep at night for  
14 cleaning. I would always clean my house in a certain  
15 way. If I was cleaning and I saw something out of place  
16 or found a bit of fluff, I would have to start all over  
17 again from the beginning. Sometimes I would be up all  
18 night cleaning. Everything else in the world was going  
19 on but I was obsessed with cleaning my house.

20 "This was the same when I was getting my children  
21 ready for school. This goes back to when we used to get  
22 inspected by the nuns before we went to school.  
23 Sometimes I would make my children get changed three or  
24 four times, but they were never, ever perfect. There is  
25 no doubt that this relates to my time in

1 Nazareth House."

2 In paragraphs 116 and 1176 the statement Annemarie  
3 speaks about what she calls her anxiety, being anxious,  
4 and she tells about a nervous breakdown she had in 2003,  
5 and that she was admitted to hospital as a voluntary  
6 patient for three weeks.

7 I'll pick the statement up at paragraph 118, on  
8 WIT.001.001.2053:

9 "I think about what happened to me in care quite  
10 a lot. I know what happened to me is never going to go  
11 away. It's always going to be part of me. I just don't  
12 see any answer and I don't seem to have any closure.

13 "I blame a lot of what happened to me on my mother  
14 and father. Their drinking and violence played a big  
15 part in how it all turned out for me. If I'm watching  
16 the television and I see a couple starting to argue or  
17 fighting, it gives me flashbacks to my parents arguing  
18 and I don't like it. I don't like things like that on  
19 television."

20 In paragraphs 120 and 121, Annemarie speaks about  
21 her sleep patterns being erratic, that in the past she's  
22 tried to commit suicide and again refers to the period  
23 she spent in hospital in 2003.

24 I'll pick the statement up at paragraph 122 on  
25 WIT.001.001.2054:

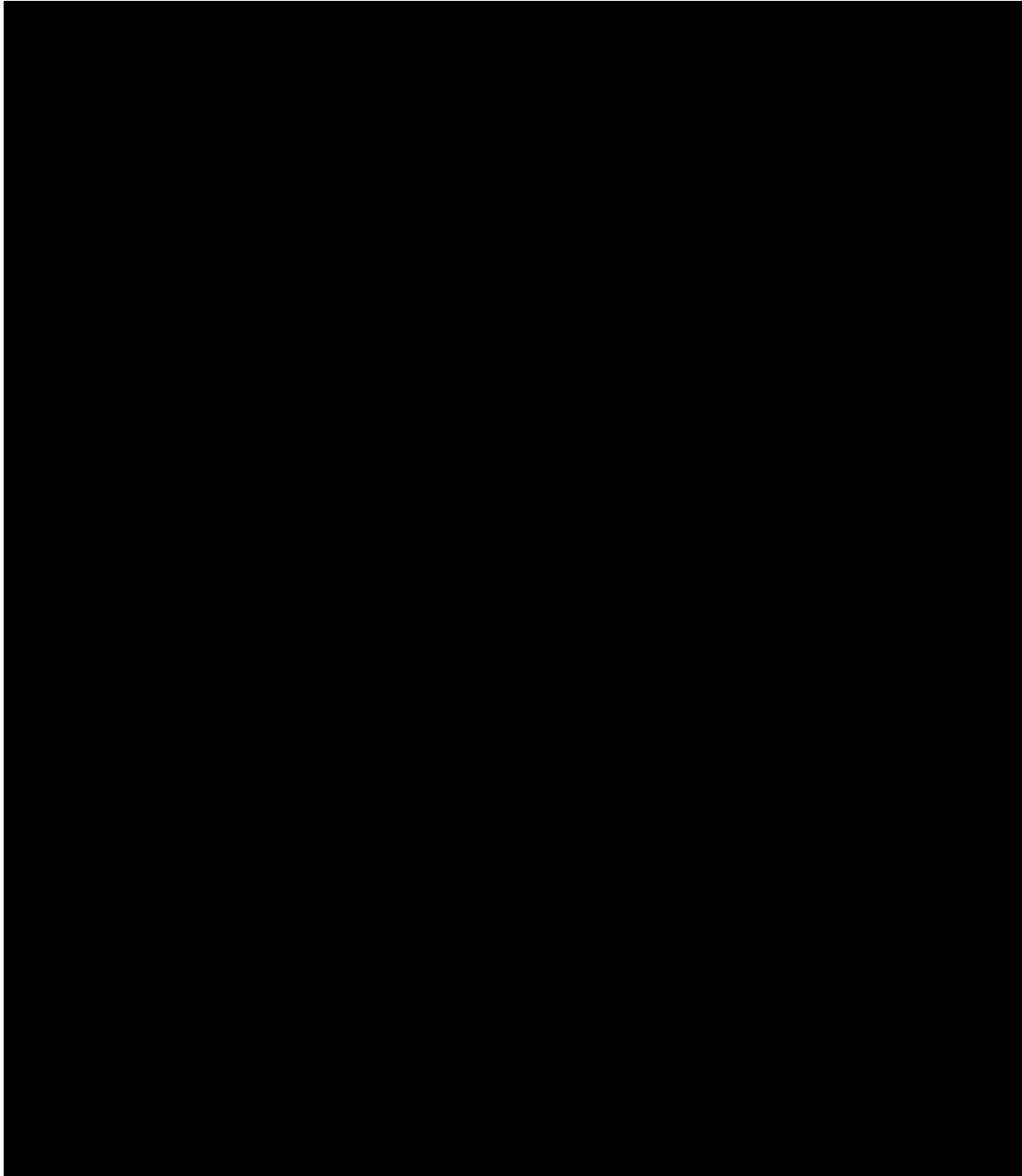
1 "Because I was separated from my sisters, they  
2 became strangers to me. We were all treated horribly.  
3 Because I was never loved, I didn't know how to love  
4 anyone. My two sisters were together, so they got on  
5 more like sisters. My brother was taken away from me as  
6 well.

7 "My brother came to see me in 1996 when he was on  
8 the run from something. I don't exactly know what  
9 he was running from. That was the first time I saw him  
10 since Nazareth House. The gap would have been about  
11 25 years. I was married at that time and living in  
12 Aberdeen. He stayed with me for three months. I last  
13 saw him last year after my father died. That would have  
14 been another 20-year gap. I have not seen my sisters  
15 since I left Wilton Street hostel about 40 years ago.  
16 I did have brief contact with one of my sisters [REDACTED]  
17 [REDACTED] in 1998.

18 [REDACTED]  
19 [REDACTED]  
20 [REDACTED]  
21 [REDACTED]  
22 [REDACTED]  
23 [REDACTED]  
24 [REDACTED]  
25 [REDACTED]



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25



"I am on anti-depressants for my anxiety and other medication for my blood pressure. I am currently seeing a psychiatrist, which came about as a result of contacting this inquiry. I was put in touch with Future Pathways. I saw [REDACTED] initially and he referred me to [REDACTED], a psychiatrist. I see him [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in Govan. I haven't seen him long enough yet

1 to see if it's helpful for me. I'm not a member of any  
2 support group.

3 "I felt that we kept getting moved from place to  
4 place and had no stability. It was ridiculous.  
5 I thought it was because I had done something wrong and  
6 I had been a really bad child. I thought it was because  
7 I had a squint and a Glaswegian accent.

8 "When Nazareth House in Aberdeen closed so it could  
9 be made exclusively an old person's home, they just  
10 shipped the children out of there anywhere. I met  
11 another girl some time later who had been at  
12 Nazareth House. She said that she had been put back  
13 with her mum even though she was an alcoholic but there  
14 was nowhere else to put her.

15 "My brother was put back to live with my dad, who  
16 abused the living daylights out of him. This was  
17 because his supervision order had expired. They just  
18 didn't care. I have no idea who made these decisions.

19 "I blame a lot on the Social Work Department in  
20 Glasgow. I got moved around place to place, basically  
21 because they didn't know what to do with us. I never  
22 went to any Children's Panels. I have no idea who  
23 decided when and where I got moved to all the different  
24 institutions.

25 "Children have to be listened to in the future.

1 Children couldn't make stuff up like what happened to  
2 me. They have to be believed. Things have probably  
3 changed since I was there in the 1960s but we have to  
4 make sure.

5 "Children should be treated with some respect too.  
6 They should be spoken to nicely, even a nice 'Good  
7 morning, how are you today' makes all the difference.  
8 It is so much better than getting locked in a cupboard  
9 and being made to eat horrible food.

10 "We can't change what has happened in the past, but  
11 we can make it better for children now. They shouldn't  
12 be subjected to what we were.

13 "I have obtained my records from Glasgow  
14 City Council. I tried Aberdeen City Council first but  
15 they referred me to Glasgow. I finally got them in  
16 2012. There is very little in there about my time in  
17 care. Most of it relates to my time with my parents.  
18 There is nothing in my records about my time in  
19 Nazareth House. [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED] my  
21 Nazareth House records had been lost.

22 "My records say why we were put in care and there  
23 are records about our transfers from one place to  
24 another. There is no mention of what my life was like  
25 in care.

1           "When I got my records, they said that my dad was  
2 a bus driver and my mum was a drunkard. This is  
3 a horrible word to use. I asked if they could change  
4 it, but was told no because that was the expression used  
5 back then.

6           "My records also indicate that there had been  
7 a conversation with Sister Rosalie at the Wilton Street  
8 hostel. She had said that I got sacked from a job for  
9 stealing. This is not true. I have never been sacked  
10 from a job. Apparently someone had said that  
11 I shouldn't be trusted with money. I think I had been  
12 mixed up with someone else. I asked if they could sort  
13 that out but they said they couldn't change the records.

14           "I am happy for my details to be shared as necessary  
15 for the purposes of this inquiry. I do not feel that  
16 I need anonymity throughout this process.

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

21           The witness statement was signed by Annemarie on  
22 17 August 2017, my Lady. I would note that although it  
23 does say that at the end of the statement, this witness  
24 does wish to be anonymous and has used a pseudonym.

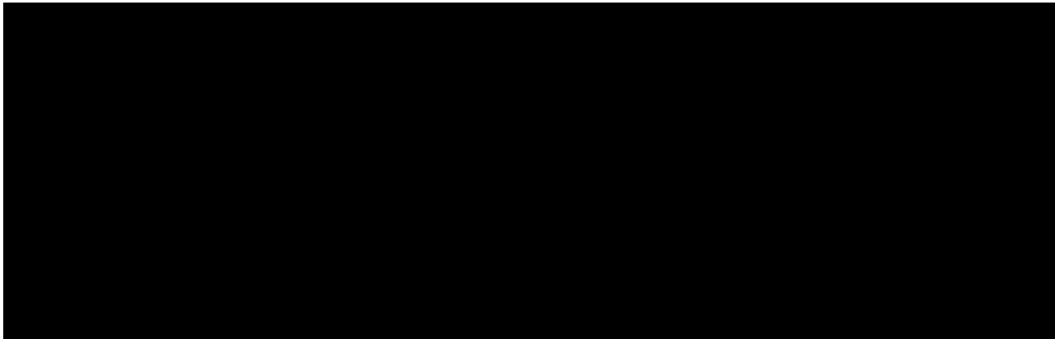
25           LADY SMITH: Yes, I picked that up from you at the

1 beginning. Of course, a witness can make the final  
2 decision on anonymity right up to the last minute.

3 Thank you.

4 MS MACLEOD: That concludes matters for today, my Lady. The  
5 plan is to have three oral witnesses tomorrow, starting  
6 at 10 o'clock.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much for that.



8

9

10

11

12

13 [REDACTED] That is all for today until 10 o'clock tomorrow  
14 morning.

15 Thank you.

16 (3.52 pm)

17 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am  
18 on Thursday 3 May)

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

I N D E X

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

MS MARION SMILLIE (sworn) .....1

    Questions from MR MacAULAY .....1

MR NEIL SMILLIE (sworn) .....34

    Questions from MR MacAULAY .....34

Witness statement of "MARGARET" .....51

    (read)

MS MARGARET WHITE (sworn) .....74

    Questions from MR MacAULAY .....74

"CAROLINE" (sworn) .....109

    Questions from MR MacAULAY .....109

Witness statement of "ANNEMARIE" .....148

    (read)

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6