

1 Tuesday, 22 May 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. Over the next three days we're  
4 going to continue hearing evidence from oral witnesses  
5 and some statements will also be read in. The first  
6 piece of evidence this morning is going to come from  
7 a witness who's here in person. So. Mr MacAulay, if  
8 you would like to tell us a little bit more about that,  
9 that would be helpful.

10 MR MacAULAY: Yes, my Lady. Good morning. The next witness  
11 is an applicant who wants to remain anonymous and he  
12 wants to use the name "Paul" in giving his evidence.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 "PAUL" (affirmed)

15 Questions from MR MacAULAY

16 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.  
17 You will see that microphone has now been switched on.  
18 As you can probably hear from me speaking into the  
19 microphone, it really helps people to be heard and it's  
20 very important that the stenographers hear you through  
21 the sound system for the important work they're doing.  
22 So if you can make sure you stay in the right position  
23 for it, that's really helpful. Mr MacAulay will explain  
24 all about the red file to you in a moment.

25 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, Paul.

1 A. Good morning.

2 Q. Can I begin by confirming with you the year of your  
3 birth, not the date of your birth. You were born in  
4 1946?

5 A. Yes, that's correct.

6 Q. In that red folder, you'll find the statement that  
7 you've already given to the inquiry.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I'm going to give the reference of it to the  
10 stenographers. That's WIT.001.001.4119. Could I ask  
11 you just, first of all, to turn to the last page of the  
12 statement; that's at page 4132.

13 Can you confirm, Paul, that you have signed the  
14 statement?

15 A. Yes, I confirm that.

16 Q. If we look at the last paragraph, do you say first of  
17 all:

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

20 Is that right?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. Do you go on to say:

23 "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
24 statement are true"?

25 Is that right?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. We're going to look, Paul, at your experiences in  
3 Nazareth House Lasswade -- sometimes Lasswade is  
4 referred to as "Edinburgh" or indeed "Bonnyrigg", but  
5 let's just use the description "Lasswade". My  
6 understanding is that really you have no recollection of  
7 your own background because you went into care at a very  
8 young age.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. So far as the admission and departure details are  
11 concerned that we can take from the registers kept by  
12 the Sisters of Nazareth -- you mustn't assume they're  
13 always correct, but according to the registers you were  
14 admitted first of all on [REDACTED] 1948, so you'd be  
15 over the age of 2.

16 You left, first of all, just under a year later on  
17 [REDACTED] 1949, when you would be about 3, but then  
18 you're back about a week after that on [REDACTED] 1949.  
19 According to the registers, you left again on  
20 [REDACTED] 1950, when you'd be aged about 4.

21 You tell us in your statement that at a point in  
22 time you were adopted; is that right?

23 A. Mm-hm. That's as far as I know, but what you've just  
24 said to me, I never knew. It's all news to me.

25 Q. Do you have any sense as to what age you were when you

- 1 left Nazareth House?
- 2 A. I have a recollection -- I have a first memory of the  
3 place when I was very young.
- 4 Q. And I'll come back to the first memory. But what I'm  
5 trying to establish from you at the moment is whether  
6 you have any sense as to what age you were when you left  
7 and were adopted.
- 8 A. I thought I was about 5 or 6.
- 9 Q. So that's a little bit older than what's suggested?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. That doesn't matter. Is it the case, as you tell us in  
12 your statement, that although you left and were adopted,  
13 you went back?
- 14 A. Yes, at least two or three times, I'm sure.
- 15 Q. Can you explain to the inquiry how that came to be?
- 16 A. I think it was just they couldn't handle me for some  
17 reason or other, something like that. It's not  
18 something I ... I guess, looking back on it, when you  
19 get older, you try to think what could have caused  
20 a thing, you know. I was beaten quite a lot. I think  
21 I was quite outgoing, which I am to this day, you know.  
22 I was quite an outgoing person and I think I was beaten  
23 down, basically, in hindsight.
- 24 Q. I think you suggest that you went back to Nazareth House  
25 after you had left on several occasions.

- 1 A. I think it was at least three, yes.
- 2 Q. Was there a particular time of the year when that --
- 3 A. It was always in the summer.
- 4 Q. And for how long?
- 5 A. It would be for, I would think, until school started
- 6 again, that sort of thing, for the holidays.
- 7 Q. There is one entry to indicate that you went back on one
- 8 occasion. That's on [REDACTED] 1957 when you were aged
- 9 about 11, and left on [REDACTED] 1957, so you were there
- 10 for about six weeks or so.
- 11 A. That's correct, right, yes. I think that ... I'm sure
- 12 I was in before that as well.
- 13 Q. Indeed.
- 14 A. I think so, yes.
- 15 Q. I think, as you tell us in your statement, your adoptive
- 16 mother, and indeed your adoptive father, died.
- 17 A. She died first and then my father died after that,
- 18 within two years or something.
- 19 Q. Could this admission in [REDACTED] 1957 be related to your
- 20 mother's death?
- 21 A. Yes. I was never -- so I don't have great memories --
- 22 I don't have much memories of it. There was no love
- 23 there. It was just, you know -- I was just there,
- 24 basically.
- 25 Q. And we'll come to look at the detail of that, Paul. But

1 just to put this into context, in going in in [REDACTED] 1957  
2 you'd be aged about 11 at that time?

3 A. Uh-huh.

4 Q. So still at primary school, I would imagine?

5 A. Yes, I think so, yes.

6 Q. You were, just a few moments ago, going to tell me about  
7 your first memory of Nazareth House. I wonder if you  
8 could perhaps tell us about that.

9 A. My first memory is when I was sat on one of these sort  
10 of swing things and I know I was crying my eyes out and  
11 it was one of those -- and it was very hot, I remember.  
12 It was just one of those -- the actual place was -- it's  
13 still there ingrained what I saw -- strange how it just  
14 stayed there -- it was like a -- I think it was where  
15 they kept the babies, and it was like a sports hall and  
16 sports field basically, and there was a sort of like a  
17 fence around it. That's the first memory of it.

18 Then the next memories were -- I don't know  
19 (inaudible) became very blurred after that.

20 Q. I'll come to see what memories you do have, but just  
21 looking to that first memory then, you clearly were very  
22 young and I think what you're suggesting is you may have  
23 been in a nursery part of the establishment.

24 A. That's correct, yes.

25 Q. Did you move from there to another part of it?

- 1 A. I'm assuming so, to the main building, yes.
- 2 Q. Do you have a recollection of being, for example, in  
3 a dormitory?
- 4 A. I have very vague recollections of being in dormitories  
5 and I have a sort of small recollection of what the  
6 sleeping was like, and I think it was sort of like in  
7 cot type things, these camp bed type things. I have  
8 that recollection of it being like that.
- 9 Q. And your recollection is this was in the main building?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Can you tell me: do you have any sense as to how many  
12 children were in that dormitory?
- 13 A. I can't recall the dormitory side, but I can recall sort  
14 of like being all together in rooms and that sort of  
15 stuff. There was quite a few -- I'd say at least 30 or  
16 40, in hindsight, yes.
- 17 Q. At that time in, let's say, into the late 40s and early  
18 50s, what was your sense as to the sexes, boys and  
19 girls?
- 20 A. Oh, mixed.
- 21 Q. It was mixed?
- 22 A. As far as I can -- yes. I know when we were getting any  
23 religious indoctrination, that sort of situation,  
24 we were all mixed, you know.
- 25 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about your recollection of

1 the routine then, Paul. So far as bedtime was  
2 concerned, was there a particular procedure when you  
3 went to bed? Did you have to say prayers, for example?  
4 A. Yes, that was definite, yes. That was a forced ... And  
5 then went to -- as far as I can recall, straight to bed.  
6 I don't even know -- can't give you any times or  
7 anything like that, really.  
8 Q. If you didn't say your prayers properly --  
9 A. You were beaten. If you didn't know your catechism and  
10 that sort of thing, that was quite ... It was  
11 indoctrinated. You know, you were ... it was a real  
12 indoctrination of ...  
13 Q. Who would do that?  
14 A. The nuns.  
15 Q. Do you have any recollection of any of the names of the  
16 nuns that you came across?  
17 A. No, not at all, not names, just visuals -- one who was  
18 really, really tall and she always had a stick with her.  
19 Q. What about laypeople? Have you any recollection of  
20 there being laypeople?  
21 A. You mean people who weren't nuns? No, I have no  
22 recollection of that at all, no.  
23 Q. Do you have a recollection of what the food was like?  
24 A. Only one thing always sticks in my mind with the food.  
25 I can't remember. I think things like porridge was

1 a morning ... My lasting and everlasting memory --  
2 excuse me.

3 (Pause)

4 LADY SMITH: It's okay. Take your time, Paul.

5 A. Thank you. It may sound a bit strange and simple, but  
6 it was actually lard on bread, and I just hated it, and  
7 to this day, I can't eat fat.

8 MR MacAULAY: Did you have to --

9 A. It was force-fed on us, basically. You were force-fed.  
10 If you didn't eat it, you were, you know, given a whack.

11 Q. When you say a whack, can you --

12 A. With a stick. One of the nuns and one of them -- the  
13 one I was referring to -- she always -- actually, in my  
14 mind it was like actually a broom handle.

15 Q. What would she do with that?

16 A. Hit you over the back with it.

17 Q. Once or more than once?

18 A. In what way do you mean?

19 Q. Did you just get one stroke?

20 A. It depends on how she felt, I guess. I remember getting  
21 two or three, you know.

22 Q. When you say you were forced to eat the food, was that  
23 it, if you didn't eat it, you'd be beaten in the way  
24 you've described?

25 A. Yes, and especially with that -- that was that one which

1 I hated. I hated it completely. It was really,  
2 really -- I remember trying to run out and try and hide  
3 it. I think a lot of the other children tried to as  
4 well, you know. Most probably there was loads of it  
5 in the bushes and the birds were most probably happy.

6 Q. You do tell us in your statement that one of the things  
7 that could happen to you if you didn't eat your food was  
8 you'd be put into a cupboard.

9 A. Yes, I have a recollection of there being a cupboard  
10 in the room where we always had sort of like religious,  
11 you know, education. That was pretty much every day if  
12 we were not at school. When I was there, when I went  
13 back at that age, there was no real school, so it was  
14 sort of like we were there every day and every day there  
15 was education. I don't recall anything like sports.

16 But the cupboard situation -- I always remember the  
17 situation on the left-hand side and I do have  
18 recollections of being put in this thing for a few  
19 hours. That stuck with me -- something which went away,  
20 which is interesting, if I can explain something to you.

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. That thing completely went away from me until a few  
23 years ago when I actually had a bad shoulder,  
24 I completely fractured my shoulder, and they went to put  
25 me into an MRI scan and I completely freaked out. The

1 nurses asked me if there was anything in my past and  
2 that's when I remembered this, so I have a bit of  
3 claustrophobia with that and that's something that comes  
4 from that I believe.

5 Q. The cupboard, as far as your recollection goes, can you  
6 describe it for me?

7 A. It was like one of these half things, if I can remember  
8 rightly, where you'd sit in it, you know, you'd sit  
9 inside. It'd be sort of like something like that  
10 (indicating) which would be opened up and ...

11 Q. And would it be dark?

12 A. Oh yes, yes.

13 Q. And you mentioned hours a little while ago.

14 A. Yes. It could be a long time, as far as I can recall.  
15 It's one of those things which I put really, really way,  
16 way back of my mind, but it is something that does  
17 occasionally come up and I recall it, you know. And  
18 I recall the room really, really ... It was like --  
19 I think there was about maybe 10 benches like that and  
20 everyone was sat there and the cupboard was basically  
21 there (indicating), and you would get sort of like ...  
22 How can you say? Just force-fed religion and if -- you  
23 had to do your catechisms or you had to do a story from  
24 the Bible, things like that. You were actually -- if  
25 you couldn't do it, then you got a whack.

1 Q. Another aspect of the routine I want to ask you about is  
2 bed-wetting. Was bed-wetting a problem for you?

3 A. I think it was, yes. Yes, I think I did have a problem  
4 with that.

5 Q. Can you just help me with that? What would happen if  
6 you wet the bed?

7 A. I can't remember, I'm sorry. But I know I did. Even  
8 when I was adopted, I had a problem with it. I lived in  
9 fear all my life, all my life, whether I was at home or  
10 at school, because it's sad, but back in those days if  
11 people knew you were illegitimate, you were forced --  
12 you were told you were illegitimate and you were not  
13 worth kind of ... You felt you weren't worth looking  
14 after, you know.

15 Q. If you wet the bed, can you recollect if the nuns would  
16 say anything to you?

17 A. No, I can't recall, sorry. I can't recall. I just know  
18 there was a dormitory and then it's a very sort of thing  
19 where you just -- that was it until the morning. You  
20 didn't do anything. I think I ... If you did wet the  
21 thing, you'd sleep in it, basically.

22 Q. You have touched upon schooling already and you think  
23 you might have been adopted at 5 or 6. Had you received  
24 any schooling before you left to be adopted?

25 A. Just the religious schooling, just the indoctrination,

- 1            basically.
- 2            Q.    What about chores? Did you have some chores to do that  
3            you can remember?
- 4            A.    I can't recall any of that sort of thing at all, no, not  
5            at all. Nothing like that. I can't even -- there's  
6            lots of stuff I find in like ... I don't remember  
7            brushing my teeth or having baths, things like that.  
8            They're the things which you think you would remember.
- 9            Q.    What about chores in the house itself? Do you have any  
10            recollection of having to do some chores in the house?
- 11            A.    Yes, I did a lot, I had a lot to do with that, the  
12            rubbish things and talking the dog for walks. That sort  
13            of stuff.
- 14            Q.    I'm sorry, I think we're at cross-purposes. I'm asking  
15            about chores when you were in the home.
- 16            A.    No, I can't recall any of that, no. There was a lot of  
17            walking, I think, marching. Marching was very -- they  
18            did a lot of marching. If you came from one part of the  
19            building to another, you were all marched together.  
20            There was no sort of freedom in the home. You couldn't  
21            just walk about.
- 22            Q.    Did you build up any friendships with other children  
23            that you can remember?
- 24            A.    Not that I recall, no.
- 25            Q.    Can I ask you about Christmas? How was that celebrated

- 1 at Nazareth House?
- 2 A. I don't think I was ever there at Christmas, to be quite  
3 honest with you. I think maybe when I was very young  
4 and I wouldn't have remembered that.
- 5 Q. You tell us in your statement that you have  
6 a recollection that once, perhaps when your adopted  
7 father was ill and you were back in --
- 8 A. Oh yeah, you're right there. That's something which is  
9 a very vague memory. I think it was just an in and out  
10 type situation, something that was very vague, because  
11 I think he fell ill ... I can't remember now exactly  
12 when he died.
- 13 Q. Did he die after your adopted mother died?
- 14 A. Oh yes, after. I think it was quite a short time  
15 afterwards, within two years, I think, if I remember  
16 rightly.
- 17 Q. I think we focused on at least the entry in the  
18 registers of you being in Nazareth House in 1957 with  
19 a note, I think, that your mother had died.
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. So do I take it your adopted father would have died at  
22 about the time or shortly after that?
- 23 A. I would think within two years because I always remember  
24 when I was 13, 14, I was kind of growing up in a way and  
25 I know I was there with the daughter.

- 1 Q. In any event, on one of your return trips to  
2 Nazareth House, you have a recollection of Christmas?
- 3 A. Yes, very vaguely, very vaguely. My memory of the whole  
4 situation is quite vague. I just know certain parts of  
5 it stick in my mind. Occasionally things will come back  
6 to me, like since this has been going on, things like  
7 the beds and the baths, that type of thing is coming  
8 back slightly when I think about it. I never remember  
9 it happening.
- 10 Q. But you do say in your statement -- and this paragraph  
11 is actually on the screen in front of you, Paul -- that  
12 you thought that on that occasion that you got presents  
13 that had been donated. Do you see that? It's in that  
14 paragraph.
- 15 A. Oh yes, I remember that, yes. The Christmas decoration  
16 situation. I enjoyed doing that. I enjoyed doing that.  
17 We used to use these coloured paper things, you know?  
18 As far as I recall, I wasn't there very long at the  
19 Christmastime, but the toys -- I think people came in  
20 with stuff for the children and it's about the only time  
21 you really had toys. I can't recall having many toys  
22 when I was -- there was not much toys to play with, if  
23 you understand what I mean by that. I think there were  
24 swings there. I remember there were swings. There was  
25 quite a big playing field.

1 Q. So far as toys are concerned, can you remember what sort  
2 of toys these were or what presents there were?

3 A. No. No, not at all.

4 Q. So far as your birthday was concerned, do you have any  
5 recollection of your birthday being celebrated before  
6 you left the home at the age of --

7 A. No, not at all, no.

8 Q. In a particular part of your statement, Paul, you talk  
9 about -- you give us particular details about how you  
10 were treated at Nazareth House. Can I just ask you  
11 that. I know it's not very pleasant for you, but how  
12 would you sum up the way you were treated by the nuns?

13 A. You were treated as someone who's not really worth  
14 anything because of being illegitimate, basically. In  
15 recollection, I feel that they actually punished us for  
16 the sins of the parents, basically. I felt that was  
17 a thing which went on. You were treated that way -- and  
18 even when I left and I went to school later on, I had  
19 that same feeling.

20 Q. Can you tell me a little bit about the aspects of that  
21 treatment then? You've already told us about being hit.

22 A. You were always told what you were, you know.

23 Q. Can you help me with that? What were you told?

24 A. You were always told that you were not -- you always  
25 knew that you were illegitimate, put it that way. You

- 1           always knew that.
- 2       Q.   What would be the language --
- 3       A.   Occasionally the language was the B word.  I got that a
- 4           few times, yes.
- 5       Q.   From the nuns?
- 6       A.   Mm-hm.
- 7       Q.   As a little boy, to what extent would you have any
- 8           understanding of that?
- 9       A.   Sorry?
- 10      Q.   As a little boy, what understanding did you have of
- 11           what was being said to you?
- 12      A.   As a small boy, I guess you just felt that you just
- 13           weren't the same as other people, especially more so
- 14           when you went to school, I guess.  You felt you were,
- 15           you know, in the lowest ranks of the school, all that
- 16           sort of stuff.  You were kept ...  You weren't
- 17           allowed ...  I mean, there's lots of stuff I wanted to
- 18           do I was never allowed to do, especially ...
- 19           Afterwards, you know, one of the major things is I don't
- 20           think there was very much follow-up from Nazareth House
- 21           afterwards.  It was like: here you are, take that kid
- 22           and see what you can do with him, basically.
- 23      Q.   You've already told us about being hit by the nuns.  How
- 24           regular an occurrence was this?
- 25      A.   It was pretty regular, especially when you were getting

- 1 education.
- 2 Q. Would that be the main -- would that be one of the bases  
3 then for being hit, that you had done something that  
4 didn't please --
- 5 A. Yes. If you didn't do something right, if you didn't  
6 say -- religious education was the main -- it really  
7 was. You were force-fed that anyone who wasn't Catholic  
8 was evil. That was one of the other really bad things  
9 that I recall. You were segregated a lot at school,  
10 things like that, in those days, which was pretty bad,  
11 I thought.
- 12 Q. You're telling us about what was happening to you. What  
13 about other children? Did you see how they were being  
14 treated?
- 15 A. Pretty much the same way, you know, pretty much the same  
16 way. I never really got into them, you know.
- 17 Q. You've already told us about being locked in a cupboard.  
18 How often do you think that happened to you in your time  
19 there?
- 20 A. I remember that two or three times, if I remember  
21 rightly, two or three times, that situation.
- 22 Q. You've told us about being hit by nuns. Was there any  
23 particular implement or implements that would be used by  
24 the nuns if they were to hit you?
- 25 A. It was sticks, definitely sticks.

- 1 Q. Any particular part of the body?
- 2 A. It was always on the back. Across the shoulders.
- 3 That's what I always remember. No legs or anything like
- 4 that, maybe so you didn't see the marks, maybe that was
- 5 the reason for that.
- 6 Q. Did you yourself see any marks as a result of being hit?
- 7 A. No, I just felt it all the time.
- 8 Q. One thing you do tell us in your statement is that, by
- 9 way of a punishment, you wouldn't get your dinner if
- 10 you'd done something wrong.
- 11 A. Yes, there was a lot of that went on, yeah. I seen
- 12 a lot -- that's one of the things I noticed with the
- 13 kids. There was a lot of them weren't ... I can't even
- 14 remember a dining hall as such, but I just remember that
- 15 there were children who felt they were not getting fed
- 16 and who wanted food, you know.
- 17 Q. I think, as I understand it, Paul, your recollection
- 18 when you were a little boy at Nazareth House, before you
- 19 went off to be adopted, is as good as you have told us
- 20 about. Are there any other things you can remember now
- 21 that you'd like to tell us about?
- 22 A. Just how sad it was. Fear was the main thing, which
- 23 I always had. I had the fear every day of my life,
- 24 basically, up until I was 15 and I was able to leave.
- 25 I still have -- I'm quite frightened at the moment

1           because of what's around me, you know, if you don't mind  
2           me saying that.

3           Q.   No.

4           A.   It's not because of you or anything like that; it's just  
5           a thing which I have, you know.

6           LADY SMITH:  You talked about not being able to leave until  
7           you were 15; is that when you left your adoptive family?

8           A.   That's correct, yes.  I started to do things like  
9           wanting to go dancing and that sort of thing, and I used  
10          to come to the extent that sometimes I actually had this  
11          place which I used to go and hide if I was late coming  
12          back and wait until the morning to go home --

13          LADY SMITH:  And as you explain in your statement --

14          A.   It was actually a pigsty.

15          LADY SMITH:  That was after your adoptive parents had  
16          died --

17          A.   After, yes -- their daughter was just as bad --

18          LADY SMITH:  -- but your adoptive sister had taken charge of  
19          looking after you?

20          A.   Yes.

21          LADY SMITH:  And she would be about 10 years older than you;  
22          would that be right?

23          A.   I'm not quite sure, but to me she was old -- basically  
24          when you're young people more than ten years older than  
25          you are old.

- 1 MR MacAULAY: Can I just look at that part of your life.
- 2 You were, you understand, adopted. Can you tell me
- 3 about the lead-up to the adoption? What's your
- 4 recollection of that? What's the background?
- 5 A. I do have recollections of being lined up quite a few
- 6 times, in lines, and people coming along and looking at
- 7 you.
- 8 Q. Is that within Nazareth House?
- 9 A. In Nazareth -- I do remember that, have a recollection
- 10 of that happening, mm.
- 11 Q. And did that happen more than once to you?
- 12 A. Oh yes. More than once, yeah. It was when I was really
- 13 small. I think I remember I'd just moved into the big
- 14 place and that's when it was all -- we were all round
- 15 about the same ...
- 16 Q. How many children do you think would be lined up?
- 17 A. When I recollect, maybe 10 or so from recollection.
- 18 Q. Boys and girls?
- 19 A. Boys and girls yes.
- 20 Q. Would grown-up people come to look at the boys and
- 21 girls, is that --
- 22 A. From recollection, it wouldn't be like a whole load of
- 23 people, it would be maybe one or two, maybe four at the
- 24 most, that sort of thing.
- 25 Q. But you were chosen by a particular couple to be their

- 1           adopted child; is that right?
- 2       A.   Yes.
- 3       Q.   And what were your feelings at that time when you knew
- 4           you were being chosen?
- 5       A.   I've got no memories of it at all I'm afraid to say.
- 6       Q.   One thing you say in your statement at paragraph 35 is:
- 7           "When I was eventually chosen I remember I was
- 8           happy."
- 9           Do you have that recollection?
- 10      A.   I was happy I was getting away from the home, I guess,
- 11           something new, but that changed very quickly.
- 12      Q.   I think you discovered subsequently that the couple that
- 13           took you in had had a son who had died --
- 14      A.   Yes.
- 15      Q.   -- is that right?
- 16      A.   That's correct, yes.
- 17      Q.   What you tell us in your statement is that your
- 18           experience with that couple was an extremely unhappy
- 19           one.
- 20      A.   Very, yes.
- 21      Q.   And can you summarise for us what made it so unhappy?
- 22      A.   I was not allowed any freedom at all, to the extent that
- 23           I couldn't go into other people's houses, I couldn't do
- 24           things that I wanted to do or go out sometimes, not even
- 25           go out. I remember going into people's houses on my

1 hands and knees so they couldn't see me through the  
2 window, things like that, you know. Also, beating quite  
3 a lot. It was quite regular.

4 Q. One point you're anxious to make, and you do make this  
5 point in your statement, is to do with the procedures  
6 and follow-up processes. Can you help me with that?

7 A. I felt -- especially in hindsight, I felt that there was  
8 no follow-up about what happened to the children after  
9 they were adopted and their state of mind and all that  
10 type of thing, how they got on. I never seen anyone  
11 else, no sort of like they have nowadays -- what do they  
12 have? Social workers and people like that to check  
13 on ... I never remember anything like that, nothing at  
14 all.

15 Q. I think you've already told us that your adopted mother  
16 and then your adopted father died. If we look at the  
17 date 1957, your adopted mother would have died when you  
18 were aged about 11 and you think your adopted father  
19 perhaps a couple of years later when you might have been  
20 12 or 13.

21 A. I think so, yes. Because I do remember those couple of  
22 years of growing up, when you become a teenager, your  
23 thoughts change, things change. I always just remember  
24 that, there was just her there, basically.

25 Q. And her being the daughter?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Was she effectively the person who was responsible for  
3 you then?

4 A. I believe so, yes. I believe so. There was no ...  
5 I think I went ... At that point I did go back once,  
6 around that age or when I was a bit older, I remember.

7 Q. Can I then take you to that part of your life when  
8 you were going back to Nazareth House. You've said  
9 already you thought it was several times you went back.

10 A. Yes, I think at least three, yes.

11 Q. What age were you when you first went back, do you  
12 think?

13 A. I was ... I remember the first time there was the  
14 thoughts of, why am I here, why am I coming back here.  
15 It was just ... It's a bad memory. It was like being  
16 abandoned, an abandonment, you know, like given up.

17 LADY SMITH: Do you have any memory of a visit by  
18 a social worker or an official when you were a teenager  
19 before 15, for instance?

20 A. I only remember once when I was, I think, maybe --  
21 I could have been 8, before my mother died. I'm not  
22 sure if it was, but I've got a feeling it was  
23 a psychiatrist, I'm not sure.

24 LADY SMITH: I'm just wondering whether there was any  
25 official intervention after your adoptive parents died.

1 A. None, no. I know that for sure, definitely not. There  
2 was nothing.

3 LADY SMITH: To use legal speak for a minute, are you  
4 telling me that you can't remember anything that would  
5 tell me who had parental responsibility for you after  
6 your adoptive parents had died?

7 A. Yes, you could be right there, yes.

8 LADY SMITH: I know you say as a matter of fact their  
9 daughter was in the house and she told you what to do  
10 and when to do it --

11 A. Yes, exactly.

12 LADY SMITH: -- but you have no awareness of her being put  
13 in that position through any official intervention?

14 A. No, I don't think so, no.

15 LADY SMITH: And I don't think we've uncovered any paperwork  
16 to that effect, have we, Mr MacAulay?

17 MR MacAULAY: We haven't.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MR MacAULAY: Before I go back to going back to  
20 Nazareth House, one thing you do tell us about your time  
21 with your adoptive parents is that you did run away.

22 A. A couple of times, yes.

23 Q. And can you just tell me about what happened on these  
24 occasions? Where did you go?

25 A. I ran away and I was hidden away from it. I just wanted

1 to get away because -- mainly because of the beatings.  
2 Every time I was doing something I was getting beaten.  
3 It was just for silly things, you know, if I remember.  
4 Just what children would do, especially mixing with the  
5 wrong people, even that type of thing, you know.

6 Q. And what happened on the occasions you ran away? Were  
7 you taken back?

8 A. I went back, the police took me.

9 Q. Did you tell the police why you had run away?

10 A. No, you didn't because you were frightened to do that.

11 Q. Were you beaten when you were returned?

12 A. Yes, yes.

13 Q. I was asking you about your return trips to  
14 Nazareth House. If you can -- and I know it's difficult  
15 because you were so young, but can you remember what age  
16 you were on the first time you went back to  
17 Nazareth House after you had left?

18 A. The first time, to be quite honest with you, no, I can't  
19 remember.

20 Q. We know in any event that -- well, according to the  
21 records, you were there at about the age of 11. Just  
22 looking --

23 A. I'm sure I was there younger than that as well. I'm  
24 sure I was there for a while younger than that ...

25 Q. Can I say the fact that there's no record doesn't mean

- 1           that you weren't there --
- 2       A.   No.
- 3       Q.   -- because you were going there for a temporary period  
4           and it may be that a record wasn't being kept.
- 5           Leaving that aside, what was your recollection then  
6           of the regime when you went back to Nazareth House?
- 7       A.   Regimented.  Completely regimented.  As I said before,  
8           everything was marched, you were marched everywhere.  
9           There was no ...  Even when you went outside to play, on  
10          the field, you were marched out on to there and you had  
11          to stay in a certain way and do certain things, that  
12          type of thing.  I don't recall being able to have any  
13          freedom in the place, in the building at all.
- 14      Q.   What about the way you were treated?
- 15      A.   In what way do you mean?
- 16      Q.   You've told us already about the punishments that you  
17           would receive when you were a little boy.  What was the  
18           position on your return trips?  Were you punished?
- 19      A.   Yes.  I felt I was treated even worse because of being  
20           rejected, that the family didn't want -- wanted to get  
21           rid of me for a while, that sort of thing, you know.
- 22      Q.   What about the cupboard thing?  Did that happen again  
23           when you went back?
- 24      A.   The times that that happened -- I can't remember too  
25           much about the actual times that that actually happened.

1 I just know that there was something happened like that,  
2 definitely, yes.

3 Q. What about other children? Did you see how other  
4 children were being treated?

5 A. Pretty much the same. Everyone was pretty much the  
6 same.

7 Q. What do you mean by that?

8 A. The way they were regimented and the way they were  
9 spoken to and the way -- the indoctrination, the  
10 religious indoctrination, that sort of stuff, basically.

11 I can't remember about any other situations, if you  
12 understand what I mean by that. It was very, very --  
13 a lot of it is very sort of -- one thing sticks in the  
14 mind more than anything else, which you can't -- you  
15 just can't remember, you know.

16 Q. You mentioned the way that children were spoken to. Can  
17 you help me and --

18 A. We were spoken to extremely badly. They were told they  
19 were not worth anything. That was a lot of the thing  
20 that was -- I can't recall exact words, just the feeling  
21 of what was being said was not nice and it was  
22 demeaning, putting you down as someone who was not ...  
23 You were just someone there to ... I guess you had to  
24 be there until you were a certain age and then you were  
25 gone. I felt maybe that was the whole way it worked.

1 Q. Can I just jump ahead a bit and look to life after you  
2 left your adoptive parents. By then they were dead  
3 of course and it was the daughter who was there.

4 I think you went to sea, as they used to say.

5 A. It was life-changing, it was like coming to a different  
6 world. I started off working close to where I was  
7 brought up, basically, started working, and it was like  
8 the freedom -- I ended up having a place to stay,  
9 although at the beginning I did live in a place with  
10 other people, and it was more men. Then -- that sort of  
11 thing. There were a few things happened after that  
12 because you had no life, you didn't know what life was  
13 all about. There were some instances of things  
14 happening which you didn't realise at that time, but  
15 then afterwards, when I did go to sea, I was about 16,  
16 late 16, that was a complete change.

17 Q. One of the things you tell us, and this is on the screen  
18 at the moment, and I think this came from your  
19 experience at sea, is that:

20 "The nuns always taught us to hate the Jews and that  
21 they were evil. When I went to sea, I realised none of  
22 this was true."

23 A. Yes. The whole -- when I left there, I discovered how  
24 bad it was, what they were telling us about, you know.  
25 As you said, the Jews, but not just Jews, but

1 Protestants as well. You weren't allowed ...  
2 I remember being at school and, actually, because of  
3 situations, there was a classroom which was part of  
4 a Protestant school and at break time we were not  
5 allowed to mix with them and they were just like from  
6 here to there, basically, and you couldn't even talk to  
7 them and you weren't allowed to talk to -- that sort of  
8 thing went on and I found that very, you know ...

9 Q. If I come back to your time at Nazareth House and what  
10 the nuns would be saying to you, would they be being  
11 critical of Jews, the nuns?

12 A. In what way? They were critical of everyone who was not  
13 Catholic, let's put it that way. Everyone who was not  
14 a Catholic was a heretic, that sort of thing. That's  
15 the way my life was -- even when I was adopted, the same  
16 way, the adopters were the same way, they had that  
17 thing.

18 Q. Because I think you tell us that they were very staunch  
19 Catholics as well.

20 A. Very, very staunch, yes.

21 Q. I don't think you saw the daughter of your adoptive  
22 parents after you left Edinburgh; is that right?

23 A. No.

24 Q. That's a long, long time ago?

25 A. A long, long time. A long time.

1 Q. You provide us with information about your life at sea  
2 and also other aspects of your life that you set out in  
3 your statement including, of course, meeting your wife.

4 A. Mm-hm.

5 Q. I think you now work in the, how shall I put it, the  
6 entertainment industry?

7 A. Yes, a little bit, yes.

8 Q. But if you look at the impact being at Nazareth House  
9 had on your life, if you are able just to isolate that  
10 part of your life, are you able to help me with that?  
11 What impact do you think that experience had on you?

12 A. In a way, it made me afterwards more appreciative of  
13 other people's beliefs and things like that. To me, it  
14 made me go in the other direction to what they wanted  
15 you to be. What I found very sad was that I did not  
16 even know what a Muslim was until I seen The Message.  
17 That's how bad it was. To me, they were completely  
18 different people. I was quite old by that time, but  
19 that was just like a bombshell and it made me think back  
20 to what I'd been taught about other people, which was  
21 very, very sad, very sad the way they brainwashed kids  
22 back in those days, badly.

23 Q. What you do tell us in your statement -- and this is at  
24 paragraph 72, you say:

25 "It never goes away, it's always there, for me

1 I think about it a lot and every time I see a nun,  
2 though I'm okay with churches."

3 A. I do have that feeling, but I do want to stress that not  
4 all nuns are like that. Not all nuns are like that.  
5 I think it was a period of time in which it happened and  
6 I think things have changed -- they've not changed  
7 completely, but they are changed, but it's something  
8 that never, never goes away. It's always there, it's  
9 always there.

10 Q. But you do tell us that the whole experience has turned  
11 you against religion.

12 A. Completely, yes. Yes. I believe in people's beliefs,  
13 I'm not an anti-religious -- let me put it, I'm not an  
14 anti-religious people. I believe that people should  
15 believe what they believe in, that's their belief.  
16 Everyone should be happy, to let them -- and that's what  
17 they like, you know. I like movies; that's my religion,  
18 basically. But it just works that way. Religions are  
19 all different things, it's what people think, and I've  
20 got -- through my life I've met many different religions  
21 and things, you know ... In the Muslim situation, I've  
22 driven kings and queens of the Arab world, so I know  
23 that, and in that way I've been able to -- what I like  
24 is -- what I think is very ... There should be more  
25 education for children to learn about these things and

1 not just be taught down one line, but to learn what  
2 these people do and how they live.

3 That was a great education for me when I went to  
4 sea. It was unbelievable, you know.

5 Q. And your reference to driving kings and queens is to  
6 your time as a chauffeur?

7 A. That's correct, yes.

8 Q. Can I look at that part of your statement, Paul, where  
9 you provide us with some information as to what you see  
10 the lessons to be learned are from your own experience.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. The one thing you say at paragraph 78 -- and you've  
13 already, I think, emphasised this -- is that:

14 "[You] have to make sure that when children are  
15 taken into a home or adopted, their care has to be  
16 monitored and followed-up."

17 A. Exactly.

18 Q. That's one of your messages?

19 A. That's a very strong message, a very strong message,  
20 because it affects -- I guess I'm very lucky where  
21 I have come out the other side, but a lot haven't.  
22 I presume you know anyway that a lot haven't come out of  
23 that situation very well at all.

24 A lot of them turned to drink, things like that.  
25 I've never been a drinker, fortunately. I guess that's

1           because of the way -- even when I was very young, it was  
2           a secret thing to do and it was discovered -- you know,  
3           even when I was sort of like 14, 15 -- back in those  
4           days you could go out and nobody bothered when you went  
5           to the Palais or that sort of stuff. You could do that  
6           at that sort of age. As I say, when I came back, I used  
7           to hide before I come back.

8           Q. The other point I think you make is the importance of  
9           education.

10          A. Education is extremely important. That's one of my  
11          bugbears about my education. Because of my social  
12          standing, I was never able to learn what I wanted to,  
13          like when -- I always wanted to be in the boys' club,  
14          that sort of stuff, or Scouts. I never, ever got to do  
15          that. Never got to do things like music. I always  
16          sang -- I do sing, I love singing, I love music, and in  
17          hindsight I would love to have been able to learn the  
18          piano, but I never got that thing when I was in the  
19          class, which was in the lowest class in the school, and  
20          that's where you were and that's where you were kept, no  
21          matter how intelligent you seemed to be, and that made  
22          you feel bad as well, made you feel low.

23          Q. Your final thoughts are that you hope that, by you  
24          speaking out, some people will see that there is hope  
25          out there.

1       A. There is hope. There's always hope. It's just  
2       believing in -- believe in people. There is good people  
3       out there, but always be wary of other ... I think  
4       another thing that happens when you're in that  
5       situation, you become very astute with people, if you  
6       understand what I mean by that. You actually can ...  
7       You have a thing about -- when I see somebody, I know  
8       a bit about them just by their demeanour, if you  
9       understand what I mean by that.

10      LADY SMITH: Are you saying perhaps your experiences have  
11      developed a sharp intuition?

12      A. Very, yes. You do. I have known people, two or three  
13      people like that, that have come up like that and they  
14      have the same thing. A lot of people don't understand  
15      what it is, but I can say, "Sorry, I don't like that  
16      person", that type of thing, "There's something about  
17      them", and in time you discover that there was  
18      a situation, you know.

19      MR MacAULAY: The other point you want to stress, I think,  
20      is that what happens to you in childhood is important.

21      A. It's very important because it does stick there, it  
22      stays there, and it's always there. But you have to try  
23      and -- if you have nice, lovely people around you and  
24      you get to that stage where ... I've got to that stage  
25      where now life is pretty much complete. I've now got

1           grandchildren and you never dream of that when you're  
2           that age. At that age it's just, what am I going to do,  
3           what's happening to me. Even when I was 15, 16, before  
4           I went to sea, I was very much like that. I think the  
5           time between 15 and 16, I think I maybe had about six or  
6           seven jobs.

7           MR MacAULAY: Well, Paul, that's all the questions I propose  
8           to put to you. I have no other questions to put to you.

9                    Unless there are to be any applications in that  
10           connection, my Lady, I think that's the end of Paul's  
11           evidence.

12          LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13                    Could I check, are there any outstanding  
14           applications for questions? No.

15                    Paul, there are no more questions for you. It just  
16           remains for me to thank you very much for coming along  
17           this morning --

18          A. Thank you.

19          LADY SMITH: -- and giving us, in addition to the written  
20           statement which you'd already provided, your thoughts in  
21           response to Mr MacAulay's questions today. That has  
22           been really helpful and I'm very grateful to you.

23          A. I would like to thank everyone for their understanding  
24           and their kindness. Thank you.

25          LADY SMITH: That's very good of you. Thank you.

1 (The witness withdrew)

2 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay?

3 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, we have time to have a statement read  
4 in and my learned junior will do that.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Let's do that in a moment.

6 Witness statement of "SARAH" (read)

7 MS RATTRAY: This applicant wishes to remain anonymous and  
8 to use the pseudonym "Sarah". Sarah is unable to attend  
9 to give evidence today due to her poor health. Her  
10 statement can be found at WIT.001.001.3929:

11 "My name is Sarah. I was born in 1966. My contact  
12 details are known to the inquiry."

13 My Lady, at paragraphs 2 to 4, Sarah speaks of  
14 having no recollection of her parents and family life  
15 before she and her younger sister and two younger  
16 brothers were put into care when Sarah was about  
17 18 months old.

18 My Lady, moving on to paragraph 5 at the foot of  
19 page 3929, Sarah recalls entering Nazareth House in  
20 Lasswade in 1967. The admission register for  
21 Nazareth House states that she was admitted in 1967:

22 "The order of nuns was the Poor Sisters of Nazareth.  
23 There were two parts to Nazareth House. There was the  
24 big side and there was Holycot 1 and Holycot 2. These  
25 why joined together. I was in Holycot 1.

1            "There was a main house that you could see from the  
2 end of the drive where the Mother Superior stayed along  
3 with other nuns who worked in the kitchen and with the  
4 hens and animals. The nun that looked after you stayed  
5 in your part of the building. Sister [LTX] stayed in  
6 Holycot 1. The whole place was eventually joined  
7 together. They built a tunnel.

8            "In the convent there could have been over 100  
9 children altogether. The boys generally left when they  
10 were about 12; the girls from babies up to 16 years old.  
11 Kids could be in there short-term if their mum was in  
12 hospital. Some kids were brought in and put up for  
13 adoption. I was eventually put up for foster care with  
14 my sister. My two brothers had left at that point.

15           "Sister [LJS] was the nun in charge of us before  
16 Sister [LTX]. I think she must have been great  
17 because after she left, she visited us and we just  
18 wanted to cuddle her. Sister [LTX] was in her 30s  
19 I think.

20           "There were five nuns looking after 100 children.  
21 The only ones I can remember are Sister [LKI] at  
22 the big side, I can't remember who was in Holycot 2.  
23 I think there was a Sister [LHT] who came after  
24 Sister [LTX]. I had left when this happened, but  
25 I went for a visit. I'm sure there was a Mother Frances

1 but I believe there had there'd been a few  
2 Mother Superiors over my time there. I think  
3 Mother Frances was in charge.

4 "A lot of the nuns were nice. The staff carers were  
5 LTK and LJZ in Holycot 1.  
6 They washed the clothes with the older children helping.  
7 Anne Dawson came in daily and Sister LKD was in the  
8 kitchen.

9 "My earliest memory of Nazareth House is from when  
10 I was 7. I came back from the hospital after getting my  
11 tonsils out. At dinner time the other kids got  
12 ice cream and wafers but I only got ice cream.

13 "This new nun, Sister LTX came in with the  
14 other nun whose name I can't remember and said there  
15 couldn't be much wrong with me because I was eating. So  
16 she was quite bitchy. I didn't really think about it.  
17 I was only 7.

18 "The routine was good, strict but good. I don't  
19 know how Holycot 2 was set up. There were six bedrooms  
20 for the kids in Holycot 1. Holycot 2 looked a little  
21 bit bigger. There were sometimes two, three or four  
22 beds in a room. There were some single beds so you'd  
23 get a bed for yourself if it wasn't too busy. There  
24 could have been 24 to 25 in Holycot 1 at any one time.  
25 It was mixed with boys and girls until the boys were

1 about 12.

2 "Some kids were in Holycot 2 and the rest were  
3 in the big side. We were apart from the other groups,  
4 except when we went out to play. Sometimes, if it was  
5 nice weather, we would go over to the big side and all  
6 play football. Sometimes the nuns would come for  
7 a kickabout. They'd always put on a show for other  
8 people.

9 "I sometimes shared a bed with my sister and we  
10 mixed with our brothers all the time except in the  
11 dining room. All the girls sat together and all the  
12 boys sat together.

13 "We were allowed to go to the shops ourselves. They  
14 were careful not to let us out at night. You couldn't  
15 leave the grounds.

16 "In the morning we would get up about 7 or 7.30,  
17 brush our teeth, and get ready for school. We would go  
18 down and have our breakfast, say our prayers and go to  
19 school. Sometimes we had to go to church if it was  
20 a special saint's day, to do Mass before we went to  
21 school.

22 "We would come home from school and get changed and  
23 maybe play for a wee while. Dinner was about 5 and we  
24 would then play for a wee while outside depending on the  
25 weather. The wee ones would get bathed early and put to

1 bed earlier. I used to help change nappies and  
2 bottle-feed them. I loved it, I loved the babies.

3 "Bedtime was about 9 pm. We'd put our nightwear on,  
4 have supper, toast and hot chocolate or a piece of  
5 fruit. We would maybe watch TV for a while, give  
6 Sister [REDACTED] LTX a kiss goodnight, then go to bed.

7 "The kitchen was on the big side and the food got  
8 brought over on a trolley to us. All the kids and staff  
9 ate in the dining room. The nun didn't eat with us; she  
10 ate at the big side. The food was okay. We were well  
11 fed and clean.

12 "We had baths twice a week. I got bathed by  
13 a member of staff until I was 12. It wasn't until  
14 I went to high school that I went to a private bathroom  
15 and had a bath.

16 "We wore our own clothes; there was no uniform. I  
17 remember going to Edinburgh at Christmas and Easter and  
18 getting an outfit from C&A. Sister [REDACTED] LTX took us  
19 in the minibus.

20 "We went to St Mary's Primary School in Bonnyrigg.  
21 We walked to school. It was a fair walk and all the  
22 kids walked together. Most of the time I liked it  
23 because it got me away from the convent. We got  
24 homework from school and did it before or after dinner,  
25 whenever it suited us.

1           "One time I ran away with a boy and we got to  
2 Gorebridge. The police caught us and took us back to  
3 the convent. They bought us chips on the way. We  
4 didn't get punished.

5           "When Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] was nice, she was really nice.  
6 I remember being upset one day because one of the  
7 younger kids had ripped my jotter. We were meant to  
8 line up and give her a goodbye kiss before going to  
9 school but I walked past her. She called me back and I  
10 told her what had happened so she gave me the day off  
11 and said she would give me a note to take to school the  
12 next day.

13           "Nazareth House had its own church. We had to pray  
14 every day before we went to school. We were made to go  
15 to church every Sunday. If it was a special day, we'd  
16 get up early, even on a school day, and go to church  
17 early. We had First Communion at the convent and  
18 confirmation at school.

19           "The grounds of the convent were lovely, always well  
20 kept. We played outside if the weather was good.  
21 We would play outside at hide and seek, skipping,  
22 rounders. If the weather wasn't good, we'd stay inside  
23 and play games, we would dance or watch TV.

24           "Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] loved Elvis. It wasn't always doom  
25 and gloom in there.

1            "We were taken to parks. We would go to graveyards  
2 or walk about the streets singing. We went to the  
3 pictures in Dalkeith. I remember going to see 'Grease'.  
4 We saw other films in the home. Somebody would come in  
5 with a projector and we saw 'Benji' and other films over  
6 at the big side in the games room.

7            "Every Sunday the children from Holycot 1 and 2 were  
8 taken to Bonnyrigg swimming pool. They were great  
9 times. But Sister [REDACTED] LTX would always put a dampener  
10 on things with one of her moods. She was very moody.  
11 She would change at the flick of a finger.

12           "I remember a few of the younger boys wet the bed  
13 and they got cold showers. I remember going to bed and  
14 all of them who had done it were lined up in the  
15 corridor waiting to get a cold shower. This was during  
16 the night. It was Sister [REDACTED] LTX who put them in the  
17 shower.

18           "We went to Dunbar every summer and most of the time  
19 that would pass without incident. Sister [REDACTED] LTX would  
20 sometimes sit with some of the younger ones. Because we  
21 had a physically handicapped girl in Holycot 1 we were  
22 put in the cottage hospital which was at one end of the  
23 beach. The kids from the other part of the convent went  
24 to Castle Park Barracks. I think we went for two weeks.  
25 It was good because the staff looked after you more. We

1 used to go to the outdoor swimming pool there.

2 "There was a boy who was 2 or 3 years old and nearly  
3 drowned in the sea. Sister [REDACTED] LTX went into the sea  
4 in her habit and pulled him out by his hair and saved  
5 him. She didn't take him to hospital.

6 "At weekends we would help with the housework,  
7 Hoovering and dusting. We got pocket money unless  
8 we were bad. I can't remember how much we got, but we  
9 always got sweeties. The staff would bring in a big bag  
10 of mixtures. They'd put them in little piles and your  
11 name was called out and you went over and got a wee  
12 pile.

13 "I spent my pocket money at Granny Clarke's in  
14 Lasswade. It was a Mrs Clarke who owned the shop, we  
15 called her Granny Clarke.

16 "Christmas was brilliant. We would get a big  
17 carrier bag filled with presents. I remember getting a  
18 Tiny Tears doll and a watch. I think the presents came  
19 from donations from outside, from shops and things. We  
20 put decorations up, a tree, and the windows were all  
21 frosted. We had a nice Christmas dinner. We also went  
22 to the pantomimes.

23 "On our birthdays we got a card and a present.  
24 I can't remember a cake. I don't know if the staff made  
25 you a cake.

1           "My dad visited every Sunday. He sent my brother to  
2 go and get us a bit of fruit. He punished the one who  
3 needed to be punished. There was always one of us. He  
4 would smack us with a belt in the reception room. He  
5 got the information from the nuns so they would have  
6 known this.

7           "He would then sit and talk about the school and we  
8 had to say good things or he would hit us. We didn't  
9 want him to visit us; we were scared of him. This was  
10 for an hour or an hour and a half.

11           "I vaguely remember my mum coming to see us.  
12 I remember her taking us for the weekend. She was an  
13 alcoholic. She took us to an auntie's down in Leith.

14           "A social worker from the Gorgie Dalry Social Work  
15 Office came to visit us. I remember one called  
16 Anne Bradley. I think that was her name. I can't  
17 remember how many times they visited but we wouldn't say  
18 anything, we were too scared. A social worker took us  
19 for dinner sometimes, Mrs Paisley was her name. We had  
20 a few different social workers. They were always  
21 changing them.

22           "The doctor came in regularly if we weren't well.  
23 We got our injections. A dentist came into the school  
24 to check our teeth.

25           "Those who were in the home the longest got more of

1 the abuse. Those whose mum and dad visited didn't get  
2 it so bad. They were disciplined, but not so harshly.  
3 The children from my family and another family got it  
4 bad. We were long-termers. When my dad came to visit,  
5 Sister [REDACTED] LTX spoke to him first. If she told him  
6 we were naughty, we would get it from him too.

7 "When Sister [REDACTED] LTX was brushing my hair, and  
8 I don't know whether I moved or I fidgeted or something,  
9 but it would be a pull of the hair, then a punch to the  
10 head. The abuse was daily, not so much to myself, but  
11 there was always one of the kids getting it. Punching,  
12 kicking, pulling hair.

13 "At that time my sister and I had long hair. She  
14 threw brushes at kids' heads for laughing. She was  
15 really good at aiming her brushes. It was hard at  
16 times, the physical assaults on the kids. She would  
17 punch with the top of her fingers in a fist.

18 "One time Sister [REDACTED] LTX made my sister drink salt  
19 water until she was sick because she had accused my  
20 sister of taking some Benylin or some sort of medicine.  
21 This was when we were on holiday in Dunbar and I was  
22 about 9 or 10.

23 "One time the girl who was physically handicapped  
24 and couldn't walk and I were the living room and she  
25 shouted because she needed the toilet. Sister [REDACTED] LTX

1 and a member of staff were out in the hall talking.  
2 They weren't paying attention so she wet herself.  
3 Sister [REDACTED] LTX picked her up by the arm and smacked her  
4 bare legs.

5 "Kids got accused of lighting candles and trying to  
6 burn the units. I can't remember the wee boy's name but  
7 he got leathered for that. I don't think he was even  
8 old enough to strike a match. She was funny because  
9 sometimes if you'd been naughty she didn't hit you, even  
10 if you had done something bad. One time I hit someone  
11 with a cricket bat and she only sent me to my room.  
12 I really thought I was going to get it.

13 "She would sometimes send you to Coventry, which  
14 meant nobody was allowed to talk to you or play with  
15 you, family, friends, no one, even at the dining room  
16 table. The longest it lasted was three or four days.  
17 It was horrible being sent to Coventry. We could go to  
18 school but after that you weren't allowed out of  
19 grounds. So you could speak to friends at school. It  
20 was the only time I liked going to school. My sister  
21 used to whisper to me in bed. You had to apologise to  
22 have it stopped. I didn't mean it when I apologised  
23 because I didn't know what I'd done half the time.

24 "There was a time when my sister was in the  
25 bathroom, trying to help the girl who was disabled to

1 walk and he she fell and hurt herself. Sister [REDACTED] LTX  
2 asked everyone to go in and hit my sister but we didn't.  
3 She also punched my sister in the face because the  
4 school had said she didn't have a tie on. She ended up  
5 with a bruise on her face. The school then asked my  
6 sister how she got the bruise on her face -- I think it  
7 was a Mr Mooney. He called the convent to say my sister  
8 told him a nun had done it, so she got punished again.

9 "There was always kids getting slapped about  
10 somewhere; it was just one of those daily things. You  
11 got used to seeing it. Somebody got hit every day.  
12 From when I was 7 until I left, somebody always got it.

13 "The most humiliating thing was when I was told to  
14 strip naked in the laundry room and Sister [REDACTED] LTX  
15 smacked my bare bottom. I was completely naked and had  
16 to lie over a chair while she hit me with a slipper.  
17 She said I'd been to someone's birthday party without  
18 permission. One of the older girls walked in because  
19 they were in the laundry working. I can't remember who  
20 it was. The hitting went on and on. I was grabbing the  
21 chair with my legs so hard I had bruises trying to grip  
22 on to it.

23 "One time she accused me of breaking a set of rosary  
24 beads. I hadn't done it, but she punched me in mouth  
25 and punched me so my head was hitting the wall. I had

1 to say the devil made me do it even though I hadn't  
2 broken them. On one occasion sister [REDACTED] LTX put  
3 a wooden splint on a wee boy's right arm to stop him  
4 sucking his thumb.

5 "My older brother eventually went to Quarriers Home.  
6 My other brother went to a remand centre. He was only 9  
7 when he was accused of setting fire to a locker and  
8 putting a child inside it. She was 3 or 4 years old,  
9 but she wasn't injured. I was 7 or 8 when this  
10 happened. I had been at ballet with my sister and  
11 another girl and we back earlier because we were  
12 laughing at the ballet teacher's socks and she sent us  
13 home. We had to tell Sister [REDACTED] LTX we were back early  
14 and she made us stand in a corner of the hall. We saw  
15 the fire engine in the grounds. A police officer and  
16 a nun took my brother into the reception area. We were  
17 sent upstairs and we heard my brother screaming.

18 "I thought it was the police officer hitting my  
19 brother. Because of this, I hated and couldn't trust  
20 the police until four years ago. I spoke to my brother  
21 and he told me it was the nun, Sister [REDACTED] LTX, not the  
22 police officer, who hit him with a wooden coat hanger.  
23 He was sent to Howdenhall Centre. He was then fostered  
24 and then eventually adopted. I left Nazareth House in  
25 1979."

1           My Lady, the admission records confirm leaving in  
2           1979:

3           "My sister and I were fostered by a couple in  
4           Glasgow. The social worker thought enough was enough  
5           with us being in the convent and wanted to get us out.  
6           Mrs Paisley, our social worker at the time, had the  
7           impression they would have turned us into nuns."

8           My Lady, from paragraphs 54 to 63, Sarah speaks  
9           about her experiences in foster care.

10          At paragraph 61, on page 3939, Sarah says that while  
11          she and her sister were in foster care, they went back  
12          to Nazareth House for a visit. She says:

13          "We stayed for the weekend and we didn't want to go  
14          back. Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] was really nice. She treated us  
15          like princesses. We wanted to stay there. We didn't  
16          want to go back to the foster carers and the social work  
17          held an emergency meeting."

18          My Lady, at paragraphs 62 and 63, Sarah tells us  
19          that she and her sister were taken for a fortnight to  
20          the home of a couple who used to take her and her sister  
21          out for the day when they were at Nazareth House. She  
22          says:

23          "That's what happened. Some people from the outside  
24          would come and take us, sometimes for the day, sometimes  
25          overnight. They were really nice."

1 Sarah then mentions that contact with her dad  
2 fizzled out when she left the convent.

3 Sarah was aged 13 when she left Nazareth House.  
4 From paragraphs 64 to 111, she speaks about her  
5 experiences during the remainder of her childhood which  
6 she spent in the care system. Briefly, after leaving  
7 the couple who looked after her and her sister for a  
8 fortnight, Sarah lived in various care establishments:  
9 Red House Home in Musselburgh for nine months with her  
10 sister. Sarah was then separated from her sister and  
11 went to Midfield Young Person's Centre in Lasswade for  
12 about a year. She says she was angry and upset and  
13 didn't want to be separated from her sister. She then  
14 went to Howdenhall Centre in Edinburgh for six months.  
15 From there she went to Milpark Home in Edinburgh, where  
16 she stayed until she was 16 and a half. Finally, she  
17 moved into foster care until she was aged 18. Some of  
18 those times were relatively positive for Sarah, but she  
19 also experienced further abuse.

20 Although Sarah does not tell us about any specific  
21 contact arrangements with her sister, she tells she was  
22 pleased to be in Milpark as her sister was in  
23 a children's home nearby. She mentions at paragraph 92  
24 that she did not see the older of her two brothers.  
25 Sarah saw her other brother once when he came to visit

1 her sister and her sister brought him over from her  
2 nearby children's home.

3 Also, although she was unhappy in her last foster  
4 placement, Sarah chose to remain there as her sister had  
5 been placed locally.

6 At paragraphs 112 to 114, Sarah speaks of her life  
7 after care and, in particular, the birth of her two  
8 children, who she says have "turned out great". She  
9 tells us that she suffered from post-natal depression  
10 after both pregnancies and was likely diagnosed as  
11 suffering from what she describes as a schizo-affective  
12 disorder.

13 My Lady, I will now move to paragraph 115 at  
14 page 3949 of the statement, where Sarah tells us about  
15 the impact that being in care has had upon her:

16 "I had flashbacks when I was brushing my daughter's  
17 hair. Her hair was right down her back. I felt myself  
18 getting all uptight and I'd have to push her away. She  
19 was nine and I couldn't cope. I threw the brush away  
20 and I told her to do it herself. Looking back, I was  
21 far too strict with my daughter but she turned out  
22 great. She works. She hasn't given me any hassle.

23 "I had a social worker when I was going through  
24 a hard time with my neighbours. Her name was  
25 Moira Tickle, she was a good support. The police were

1 at my door every day. I was being reported for being an  
2 anti-social neighbour. Moira wrote to my doctor about  
3 my moods. I self-harm. I cut my stomach and my legs  
4 when I get worked up and depressed.

5 "As I said, I was diagnosed with depression in my  
6 20s. A lot of anger came out at this time. I was angry  
7 about everything, life. I found it hard to express this  
8 to a doctor, so the social worker wrote to my doctor.  
9 I would go through phases of anger.

10 "I got barred from a shopping centre about two years  
11 ago because I just wanted to fight with everybody. My  
12 granddaughter was having a tantrum because she got the  
13 wrong kiddy meal in McDonald's. I was telling her to  
14 just eat it and she was screaming the place down and  
15 this woman kept looking over, so I thought I'd just  
16 leave. She said something as I was passing her and it  
17 triggered me off. There was a big argument and the  
18 security got involved. I was threatening to punch her  
19 in the face so I just went to Burger King.

20 "I spoke to my community psychiatric nurse and she  
21 said if that carried on while my granddaughter was in my  
22 care then she would have to speak to the social work.  
23 That was enough to calm me down a bit. I still have  
24 a lot of anger.

25 "Sometimes I don't think about it, but it could pop

1 up when I'm watching TV and abuse is mentioned on the  
2 news.

3 "I don't sleep. I used to be great at sleeping, but  
4 when this all comes up, I can't sleep. It's not that  
5 I worry about it, it just goes around in my head.  
6 I close my eyes and I see the nun. I think the worst  
7 thing about the abuse wasn't getting it, but watching  
8 others being abused. That sticks in your mind more.

9 "I hate religion. I hated my kids getting taught it  
10 at school. I stopped being involved with religion when  
11 I left the convent, after I went to a normal  
12 children's home and I wasn't going to church any more.  
13 I thought this is all life is meant to be about.

14 "I hate the Catholic Church. I wouldn't even go to  
15 my daughter's friend's christening because it was held  
16 in a Catholic Church.

17 "I was never a person who sat and cried when I was  
18 depressed. I do now, but not years ago. You just get  
19 used to hiding your feelings.

20 "I was diagnosed with schizo-affective disorder when  
21 I was 37 when I first saw a psychiatrist for  
22 schizophrenia and depression. I started feeling like  
23 this when I was 25. I didn't get help because I was  
24 scared I would get my kids taken away from me.

25 "I'd had the feeling I was being watched by the

1 police. I thought they were watching me through the TV,  
2 that my phone was tapped and that people were laughing  
3 at me, and also that I was being followed and talked  
4 about. I stopped taking my medication between 2007 and  
5 2008 and became an inpatient at a psychiatric hospital.

6 "My mum ended up in Carstairs and then went to the  
7 Royal Edinburgh hospital. She died six weeks after my  
8 dad died. He was 54 and died of stomach cancer.

9 "I think I contacted my dad when I was in foster  
10 care and I went to visit him with my boyfriend. He was  
11 acting like an overprotective father and threw my  
12 boyfriend out the house. I gave him another chance when  
13 my daughter was born. He was brilliant with her and  
14 then I fell out with him about decorating. He was  
15 decorating my house and I told him a bit was squint and  
16 he kicked off. I didn't see him again until he was  
17 dead. My dad didn't mental health problems; he was just  
18 a bad man.

19 "I have had a lot of support from CPNs,  
20 psychiatrists and my own GP. A few years ago they tried  
21 to get me into a group, but I am not one for mixing with  
22 people. I see the psychiatrist every three or four  
23 months now. I see a CPN once a month. I take  
24 antidepressants and get a Depo injection that lasts  
25 a month; it is slow-releasing for the schizo side of

1 things. My daughter tried to me get to go to a group  
2 for people who have survived abuse from care, but  
3 I couldn't go to it.

4 "My sister has her own family in Edinburgh.  
5 I haven't spoken to her for years. I went to see my  
6 brother but I didn't like what I saw. He has his own  
7 problems. My other brother was 53 when he died in 2015.  
8 I hadn't been in contact with him since I was in  
9 Red House. The police told me he died."

10 My Lady, moving on to paragraph 130, where Sarah  
11 speaks about disclosing abuse:

12 "I disclosed the abuse from Nazareth House to the  
13 social worker, Moira Tickle, about 24 years ago. I just  
14 told her I used to get hammered. She took it to her  
15 senior.

16 "I spoke to the police about the abuse by  
17 Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] 17 years ago when I saw it on the news  
18 that people had come forward. I wasn't going to get  
19 involved but I saw people being called liars, so  
20 I decided to give a statement. [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED] The police officer came to my house. Her  
22 surname was McQueen from Livingstone Police Station.

23 [REDACTED]  
24 [REDACTED]  
25 [REDACTED]

1 "I remember one time Sister [REDACTED] LTX accused a girl  
2 of stealing sweeties out of the Easter eggs and she  
3 rammed a [REDACTED] chocolate bar down her throat in  
4 front of everybody in the dining room. [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]  
6 "My CPN and my psychiatrist know about the abuse.  
7 I told my friend 17 years ago and my children know.

8 "My records are in the Gorgie Dalry Social Work  
9 Office. I got to read them when I was in foster care.

10 "There should be no smacking in care. Children are  
11 there for their own protection.

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

16 And the witness statement was signed by Sarah on  
17 27 September 2017.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

19 Before we have the mid-morning break, people will  
20 have noticed there has been reference to Sister [REDACTED] LTX  
21 and her time at Nazareth House in Lasswade during this  
22 evidence.

23 You may recall that there is a restriction order in  
24 place which means that any mention of Sister [REDACTED] LTX 's  
25 involvement with anything that wasn't covered by her

1 [REDACTED] cannot be mentioned outside this  
2 hearing room. So I just remind people of that, but they  
3 may recall I've already explained that before now.

4 Thank you.

5 We'll rise now and sit again at about 11.45.

6 (11.25 am)

7 (A short break)

8 (11.45 am)

9 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is an applicant. He  
10 wants to remain anonymous and to use the name "Mike" in  
11 giving evidence.

12 "MIKE" (affirmed)

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

14 Mike, can I just say something about that microphone.  
15 They're very effective in helping you to be heard, but  
16 you do need to be in the right position, so please make  
17 sure you're close enough to the microphone. Also, the  
18 stenographers pick up what you're saying through the  
19 system, so they need you to be using the microphone all  
20 the time.

21 I think Mr MacAulay will explain what the red file  
22 is there for in a moment.

23 Mr MacAulay.

24 Questions from MR MacAULAY

25 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, Mike.

- 1 A. Good morning.
- 2 Q. I don't want to know your date of birth, but I just want  
3 you to confirm for me, so I can get a time frame, the  
4 year of your birth being 1956?
- 5 A. That's correct, yes.
- 6 Q. In the red folder, you will find your statement. I'll  
7 give the reference of that statement to the  
8 stenographers for the transcript, and that's at  
9 WIT.001.001.4089. Can I ask you in the first place to  
10 go to the very last page? That's at page 4102.
- 11 Mike, can you confirm to me that you have signed the  
12 statement?
- 13 A. Yes, that's my signature.
- 14 Q. Do you say in the last paragraph:  
15 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
16 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry"?  
17 Is that correct?
- 18 A. That's correct, yes.
- 19 Q. Do you go on to say:  
20 "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
21 statement are true"?  
22 Is that right?
- 23 A. Yes, it's true, yes.
- 24 Q. Mike, I want to touch briefly, to begin with, on your  
25 life before you went into care, because we'll be looking

1 at your care in Nazareth House Lasswade.

2 As you tell us in your statement, you stayed with  
3 your parents and at that time you were living in  
4 Wolverhampton; is that right?

5 A. Yes, that's correct.

6 Q. There came a point in time when your mother moved to  
7 Edinburgh and you went with her; is that right?

8 A. That's right. I'm not 100 per cent of the year or  
9 whatever, like; I believe it was before I was 4 years  
10 old.

11 Q. So you'd be very young --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- and your memory would be poor.

14 What about any siblings? Did any siblings move with  
15 you with your mother to Edinburgh?

16 A. No, I had a brother and a sister who stayed with my  
17 father.

18 Q. Were they younger or older?

19 A. Older.

20 Q. And I think your mother's intention in coming to  
21 Edinburgh was to go and stay with your grandparents; is  
22 that right?

23 A. I believe so.

24 Q. But I think what you tell us in your statement is that  
25 there came a day when your mother took you to

1 Nazareth House and you were left there; is that right?

2 A. That's what I'm led to believe, yes.

3 Q. Do you have any recollection of that yourself?

4 A. Not really, no.

5 Q. But perhaps I can try and get your recollection of  
6 dates. Can I approach it in this way: so far as the  
7 Nazareth House registers are concerned -- and can I say  
8 they're not always correct -- you were admitted to  
9 Nazareth House Lasswade on [REDACTED] 1960 when you'd be  
10 aged about 4.

11 A. Mm-hm.

12 Q. Does that fit in with your own recollection?

13 A. It does, yes.

14 Q. You left, first of all, on [REDACTED] 1961, so you'd been  
15 there for a few months. Do you have any recollection of  
16 leaving and going back out?

17 A. No.

18 Q. You have no recollection?

19 A. No recollection, no.

20 Q. In any event, you were back in Nazareth House in  
21 [REDACTED] 1961, and you finally left, according to the  
22 records they have, on [REDACTED] 1965 when you'd be about  
23 9.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. How does that fit in with your own recollection?

1 A. That's when I thought it was. I thought I was about 10,  
2 9 and a half, 10, more or less.

3 Q. Do you have a recollection of when you got to  
4 Nazareth House for the first time?

5 A. No, not really ... very young, I was only 4.

6 Q. I wonder if I could ask you, Mike, to --

7 LADY SMITH: Yes, Mike, we're losing your voice. I think  
8 you need to move around a bit to get nearer to the  
9 microphone.

10 A. Is that better?

11 LADY SMITH: The microphone might come a little bit nearer  
12 you and it'll swing right or left if that makes it more  
13 comfortable for you.

14 A. Is that better?

15 MR MacAULAY: That's an improvement.

16 LADY SMITH: It'll take you speaking quite close to it, but  
17 not so close as it buzzes.

18 A. Okay.

19 LADY SMITH: That's great, thank you.

20 MR MacAULAY: One thing you say in your statement is that,  
21 when you were there for the first time, all your  
22 personal possessions and clothes were taken off you;  
23 do you have a recollection of that?

24 A. That's right, yes.

25 Q. That's something you do remember?

- 1 A. Yes. I was never allowed any personal items.
- 2 Q. Generally, did you begin to form an impression as to  
3 what the place was like after you got there?
- 4 A. Not really, not when I was first there, when I was only  
5 4, like, because childhood memories like that are sort  
6 of wiped out.
- 7 Q. Let's say, as time goes by, did you form an impression  
8 as to what the place was like?
- 9 A. As I got more and more ... I was staying in the place,  
10 like, I formed the impression that it was not a very  
11 nice place, like.
- 12 Q. Can I try and look at aspects of the set-up and the  
13 routine with you. First of all, let's look at the  
14 set-up and the sleeping arrangements. What was the  
15 position there?
- 16 A. We usually slept in a dormitory with other people, other  
17 boys -- I believe it was just boys, I don't think it was  
18 a mixed dormitory. You'd go to bed early, you get up  
19 early for breakfast, if you got school and that. I had  
20 no real recollection of what day of the week it was,  
21 really. It never meant anything to me because there  
22 were nothing special about them.
- 23 Q. So far as the sleeping arrangements, you're telling us  
24 that there were dormitories for the boys. And can you  
25 tell me how many boys there might be in your dormitory?

- 1 A. I thought it was maybe about 20 or so. Maybe less,  
2 maybe more, I didn't really count them. But I know  
3 there was -- it wasn't just one or two.
- 4 Q. As time went on, did you know if you were in  
5 a particular group of children or -- how was it set up?
- 6 A. It was mainly people of your own age, so sort of same  
7 age group, maybe a year or two older, a little bit  
8 younger sometimes. It was mainly that.
- 9 Q. Was there someone in charge of the group?
- 10 A. I suppose there was a nun, like, who was responsible for  
11 that dormitory, or particular nuns.
- 12 Q. Can you remember the name or names of any nuns?
- 13 A. No, not really. I have difficulty remembering my own  
14 name sometimes!
- 15 Q. So far as the nun that might have been in charge of the  
16 dormitory would be concerned, can you remember what the  
17 sleeping arrangements were for her?
- 18 A. No. I don't think she slept in the dormitory; I think  
19 she was somewhere else. I think there was like a night  
20 shift, sort of somebody who would be responsible at  
21 night and someone during the day, but I don't think they  
22 slept in the same room.
- 23 Q. Looking at the routine then over the period, can you  
24 tell me when you would have to go to bed?
- 25 A. It was fairly early, I believe, I think more in the

1 winter -- it would be earlier because it got dark  
2 earlier. You'd have your supper or tea, and then maybe  
3 a couple of hours later you'd be back in bed, about  
4 7 o'clock, something like that.

5 Q. Once you were in bed, were you allowed to speak?

6 A. No, or get out of your bed.

7 Q. Or get out?

8 A. Once you were in bed, that was it, you were supposed to  
9 stop there, no speaking, no getting out.

10 Q. If you wanted to go to the toilet could you get out?

11 A. You weren't supposed to, you were supposed to ask, you  
12 had to wait for the nun to come and ask them. You were  
13 not allowed to wander around the place at night.

14 Q. If it's the middle of the night and there wasn't a nun  
15 to be seen, were you allowed to --

16 A. You were not supposed to, but I suppose we did,  
17 generally, sometimes if we woke up. But sometimes you  
18 wet the bed and then other consequences happened.

19 Q. We'll look at that in a moment.

20 What about speaking then? Were you allowed to speak  
21 once you were in bed?

22 A. Not really, no. You weren't supposed to. If you got  
23 heard, there was consequences for that as well.

24 Q. What were the consequences if you got caught?

25 A. Well, the nurses usually carried belts or ropes under

1           their habits and it was not unknown for them to use them  
2           on you.

3       Q. Did that happen to you?

4       A. A couple of times, yes. More than a couple of times.

5       Q. What was it that happened?

6       A. They'd just belt you with it under the bed, on top of  
7       the bed or whatever, drag you out of the bed or  
8       whatever. If you had wet the bed, they'd drag you out  
9       and beat you, and sometimes make you stand in the  
10       corner.

11      Q. I'm going to look at that in a moment.

12                 Dealing with if you were caught talking in bed,  
13                 you've told us about your own experiences. What about  
14                 other children, did you see that happening to them?

15      A. Yes, it was often. Obviously you can imagine like  
16                 a group of young people, young boys, talking about the  
17                 events of the day or whatever. It's quite hard to --  
18                 especially if you're not tired, not to speak.

19      Q. Can I ask you about the food? What was the food like to  
20                 your recollection?

21      A. It was very basic, like. I can't really recall what  
22                 meals -- what sort of thing we had for meals. I don't  
23                 suppose it was very appealing. The only one I can  
24                 remember is on a Sunday we had a cheese sandwich for  
25                 supper and that was it. The only reason I remember

- 1           that is because I didn't like cheese at the time.
- 2       Q.   So what did you do?
- 3       A.   I'd give it away if I could.  There was other times
- 4           I was made to eat it.
- 5       Q.   If you couldn't give it away, would you be made to eat
- 6           it?
- 7       A.   Yes, you were always made to eat it.
- 8       Q.   How would that happen?
- 9       A.   They'd just stand there and watch you, threatening you
- 10           sort of thing, in a threatening manner, making you eat
- 11           things that you didn't like.
- 12       Q.   Can you give me an idea as to what threats would be
- 13           used?
- 14       A.   After the first time, if you didn't eat anything --
- 15           you'd probably get a beating after the first time, and
- 16           then if you didn't eat it after that, you'd know that if
- 17           you didn't eat anything you were going to get the
- 18           beating again.  So I just ate things for the sake of it,
- 19           to save me having that, get away from it.
- 20       Q.   When you talk about beatings in that context, Mike, can
- 21           you help me with that?  What sort of beating would it
- 22           be?
- 23       A.   It would be with a strap or a rope that they carried
- 24           because most of them carried a piece of rope on their
- 25           belt on the habit thing, or a piece of rope.  Sometimes

1           it was just their hands as well; it wasn't always with  
2           a belt or whatever.

3       Q.   And where would you be hit?

4       A.   Everywhere.  On the head, body, legs.  Most likely, say,  
5           young boys, with short trousers, you'd get it on the  
6           legs because it would sting a bit more, hurt a bit more.

7       Q.   And if you just didn't want to eat something, would  
8           anything happen?

9       A.   Yes, like I say, you'd get a beating.  Sometimes you'd  
10          get took out the room so it weren't public, like, sort  
11          of thing.  It was in another room, like, behind closed  
12          doors sort of thing and get beaten.  That wasn't always  
13          the case; sometimes they'd just beat you anywhere.

14      Q.   Was there any way that they would make you eat the food?

15      A.   I don't think I was ever force-fed anything.  You know,  
16          after suffering the consequences of earlier on events,  
17          you just imagine, being a young lad, like, you wouldn't  
18          want to receive the same treatment again, so you'd  
19          swallow it, swallow your pride, and eat it sort of  
20          thing.

21      Q.   What was the set-up at mealtimes in relation to who  
22          would be there?  You'd have nuns who would be there  
23          looking after the; children, is that right?

24      A.   That's right, yes.

25      Q.   And what about the age groups of children?  Was there

1 any way that was divided up?

2 A. It was usually sort of into your age group, more or less  
3 the separation of how you was in what sort of dormitory  
4 you was in and things like that, you were with the same  
5 sort of age group. You got the younger ones and then  
6 moving backwards to the older ones at the back.

7 Q. What about girls? Do you have any recollection of there  
8 being girls?

9 A. I believe there were girls there, but we weren't allowed  
10 to associate with them in any sort of form or way.  
11 I think they was all kept separated. I think the  
12 nearest we ever got to coming together with girls was  
13 the occasion when we had a bit of play time, but even  
14 then they was in a separate playground, I believe.

15 Q. What you tell us in your statement, Mike, is that you  
16 went to the local primary school at Lasswade; is that  
17 correct?

18 A. That's correct, yes.

19 Q. How did you find school?

20 A. Well, I didn't really find it very good, actually,  
21 because obviously you got the local children there and  
22 then you got us from the home, Nazareth House. I don't  
23 know why I'm calling it a home; I didn't really feel it  
24 as a home. Basically, we was all more or less dressed  
25 in the same sort of thing, so different from the local

1 children, so we just got treated different, like. We  
2 was the orphans in the back, like, and, again, the other  
3 children didn't seem to associate with us as much.

4 Q. Generally, did you enjoy school?

5 A. No, not at all.

6 Q. Looking at leisure time, was there a television that you  
7 can remember?

8 A. I can't remember ever seeing a television or radio or  
9 anything.

10 Q. What about toys and games?

11 A. There may have been the odd one or two, but not very  
12 many.

13 Q. So far as your birthday would be concerned, was that  
14 celebrated in any way?

15 A. Not at all. I never knew what date my birthday was when  
16 I was in there.

17 Q. Was it after you left when you found out when your  
18 birthday was?

19 A. It was, yes.

20 Q. And Christmas, do you have any recollection of what  
21 happened at Christmas?

22 A. Nothing special for us, like. It might have been an  
23 extra for the nuns celebrating it, but we never really  
24 celebrated it.

25 Q. Did you have visits from family members when you were

- 1           there?
- 2       A.   Occasionally.
- 3       Q.   Who were these family members?
- 4       A.   I think my mother come a couple of times and I had a few
- 5           aunties that come a few times.  They took me out for the
- 6           day or a few hours or whatever during that time.  I was
- 7           never informed if they was coming or whatever, when they
- 8           turned up I was told.  It wasn't something that was
- 9           planned or anything.
- 10      Q.   I think you tell us in your statement that there came
- 11         a point in time when you were getting no visitors.
- 12      A.   That's correct, yes.  They believed that I'd been taken
- 13         away out of there and I wasn't any longer in the place.
- 14      Q.   When you say "they", is that your mother's side of the
- 15         family?
- 16      A.   That's correct, yes.  My father was Polish, so he's
- 17         only -- he didn't have any family in the UK and he was
- 18         in Wolverhampton, so ...
- 19      Q.   So the confusion was that your mother's side thought
- 20         your father had taken you back to Wolverhampton?
- 21      A.   That's what I'm led to believe, yes.
- 22      Q.   What about someone like a social worker or a children's
- 23         officer?  Do you have any recollection of that sort of
- 24         person visiting?
- 25      A.   Never, ever seen any social worker or anyone else.

1 Q. Was religion a big thing?

2 A. A very big thing.

3 Q. Can you perhaps elaborate upon that? How did that  
4 impact on your life?

5 A. Well, they were Roman Catholic and sort of celebrated  
6 like the Easter and Christmas, although I didn't really  
7 understand and there was Christmas and Easter and things  
8 like that. Probably the Friday you weren't allowed to  
9 eat any meat or whatever, you just ate fish. Something  
10 else that I didn't really like at the time. I do like  
11 it now, you know, but I'm not forced to eat it now, so  
12 I can eat it when I choose.

13 But, no, nothing really special, like, you know, for  
14 us. Maybe the religious celebrations were there for the  
15 nuns and that, but we weren't really told what they were  
16 or anything like that. I didn't really understand about  
17 Easter or Christmas at the time. It wasn't anything  
18 special to us because -- well, we never got nothing,  
19 so ...

20 Q. Did you understand that it was important to the nuns?

21 A. It seemed to be, yeah, because there was always --

22 I think they had extra church and things like that.

23 I think we had to go to the church as well for the extra  
24 things like that.

25 Q. Can I now focus on some aspects of the way you were

1 treated at Nazareth House, Mike. Let's just look at  
2 that for a moment or two. Can you give me an overview,  
3 if you like, as to how you say you were treated by the  
4 nuns when you were there?

5 A. Well, like I say, we weren't allowed to speak.  
6 We weren't really allowed to associate with anybody,  
7 form close friendships or anything. Speaking inside the  
8 building was like a no-no. At any time you're not  
9 allowed to speak -- even in the dining halls or  
10 anything, it was always you've got to be quiet.

11 Like I said, if they caught you talking and that,  
12 they'd punish you in any way, shape or form with their  
13 belts or ropes or whatever, sometimes with just the  
14 hands.

15 Occasionally, if you wet the bed -- I don't know if  
16 you want to go back to that or you are going to come  
17 across that.

18 Q. Just looking at the way you were being hit, you're  
19 talking about a belt and hands.

20 A. Mm-hm.

21 Q. Were those the main methods?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What reasons would there be for that sort of treatment?

24 A. Sometimes there wouldn't have to be any reason. If you  
25 were just talking to somebody, even if it was quiet,

1           like, and you're not supposed to, or you just upset  
2           something or made a noise about anything, even if it  
3           wasn't just talking, especially in the church -- like,  
4           the prayer areas and that -- and things in the corridors  
5           when you're not supposed to be talking.

6           Q. Was anything being said to you by nuns? Can you help me  
7           with that?

8           A. They just said, "You're not supposed to be talking", and  
9           they'd punish you. "You know the rules, you're not  
10          supposed to talk, keep quiet", and they'd whack you with  
11          whatever, the hands or the belt.

12          Q. One thing you do tell us in your statement at  
13          paragraph 30 is that you'd also be made to stand and  
14          watch while other children were being beaten.

15          A. That was quite a regular thing as well. I think that  
16          was sort of to act as a deterrent to make you understand  
17          that you're not allowed to do it, sort of thing, by  
18          witnessing other people, other boys getting a punishment  
19          in front of you. It was sort of like a deterrent or  
20          something. I think they used it as an example.

21          Q. What ages of children are you talking about here?

22          A. The same age as me at the time, like, so they'd be  
23          between 4 and 10, 4 and 9, whatever, 9 and a half, 10.

24          Q. Just looking at the nuns who would be involved in this,  
25          was there a particular nun or not who would be engaged

- 1 in this sort of behaviour?
- 2 A. It was mainly the -- I think they were more middle aged  
3 nuns, not the newer nuns. Having said that, it was  
4 difficult to differentiate between the nuns because of  
5 the habit, uniform, whatever you want to call it, that  
6 they used to wear. Because in those days they used to  
7 wear the thing what covered their face and the veils and  
8 all black habit. All you could really say is just see  
9 their faces like, so you couldn't really tell what  
10 age ... You knew they -- well, they was a lot older  
11 than me. You couldn't really see any hair or nothing.  
12 It is really difficult to really explain them, difficult  
13 enough to remember their names at the time.
- 14 Q. And now you don't remember names?
- 15 A. Not really. A lot of this, it's 50-odd years ago.
- 16 Q. Was there a particular nun, do you think, that had more  
17 to do with you and the boys in your group than any  
18 other?
- 19 A. There probably was, but I couldn't recall.
- 20 Q. Can I ask you now about bed-wetting then. Did you wet  
21 the bed?
- 22 A. Occasionally, yes. Obviously, especially when I was  
23 first there, I wasn't really trained that way, and then  
24 moving into a situation where you're into a strange  
25 environment, away from your mother, it's going to be

- 1 a bit upsetting and this, that and the other, like.
- 2 Q. So what then would happen to you?
- 3 A. Well, we've been made to stand in the corner with a wet  
4 sheet on our heads. Occasionally, I've been -- well,  
5 a lot of the time -- sometimes I'd be made to sit in  
6 a bath with cold water for hour after hour and nobody  
7 would come and get you out. Just things like that.  
8 Plus, obviously, you'd get the odd beating for doing it.  
9 No sympathy or anything or trying to understand why or  
10 what was the reason behind it. There was no  
11 consideration whatsoever.
- 12 Q. On these occasions when you were given this treatment  
13 that you've described, would you be crying?
- 14 A. I think so, yes. Being a young person like that, yes.
- 15 Q. Did you see other children receiving the same --
- 16 A. Yes, I think we all got the same treatment regardless of  
17 age or anything. There was a few times when many of the  
18 boys were standing in corners, but mainly -- I never  
19 recall seeing anybody else sitting in a bath of cold  
20 water, like, but it could have happened. I think I was  
21 the only one singled out for that treatment.
- 22 Q. Another thing you tell us about is this procedure of  
23 being made to kneel in corridors.
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Can you just help me with that? When would that happen

- 1           and why?
- 2       A.   If we was waiting for something, like, maybe going to  
3           church or waiting to go into the meals, instead of  
4           standing like, they'd make us kneel down and be quiet,  
5           basically, you know.  Again, you wouldn't be allowed to  
6           speak or anything.
- 7       Q.   Would you be kneeling in a corridor?
- 8       A.   Yes, it would be a corridor on the way to the church or  
9           the mess hall or the dining room, whatever.
- 10      Q.   And would you be facing the wall?
- 11      A.   Sometimes, yes.
- 12      Q.   And how many would be kneeling at a given time?
- 13      A.   The corridor would be full, like, so there'd be quite  
14           a lot.  It'd be nearly everybody who was ever waiting  
15           there.  I couldn't really recall the numbers myself,  
16           like.
- 17      Q.   For how long could you be in that position?
- 18      A.   I never had any recollection of time at the time, so  
19           I never knew what time of day it was anyway.  I couldn't  
20           tell the time for one thing.  It'd be quite a while.  
21           I wouldn't have any -- be able to call minutes or half  
22           hour or an hour because at the time I wouldn't know what  
23           a half hour or an hour was.
- 24      Q.   Can I ask you this: would anything happen to you when  
25           you were kneeling down?

1       A. Yeah, if you was making a noise or shuffling about  
2       because you were uncomfortable and a nun happened to  
3       come past, you'd sort of get a slap across the head or  
4       wherever and told to keep still or keep quiet. That was  
5       quite a regular thing and the nuns were walking up and  
6       down quite regularly.

7       Q. Did you have some chores to do when you were there?

8       A. I think we had a bit of cleaning to do, cleaning the  
9       dormitories, cleaning the halls, the corridors, things  
10      like that. Mopping floors and things like that,  
11      kneeling on the floors.

12     Q. If you didn't do it properly, would there be some  
13      consequences?

14     A. There'd be lots of consequences and punishments again  
15      handed out. Maybe everybody would get a -- if they  
16      didn't give you a beating, they'd make you all go to bed  
17      if you didn't do something right and you'd miss out on  
18      any recreation time that was available that day. That  
19      was a regular thing: you'd miss out on that as  
20      a punishment or a deterrent.

21     Q. Can I ask you about bath times because you do tell us  
22      a little bit about that in your statement. At bath  
23      times would the nuns be involved with you?

24     A. They would, yes.

25     Q. And can you tell me what happened?

1 A. It's a bit embarrassing, this, but you was given a cloth  
2 of some sort of material or whatever to cover yourself,  
3 but most of the time you wouldn't be able to keep hold  
4 of that and basically having nuns washing you all over  
5 your body, things like that.

6 There was no dignified way of doing it, I don't  
7 think, whether they was doing it for any other reason  
8 than trying to bathe you or what ... It could be a case  
9 that they were getting some sexual gratification out of  
10 it, I don't know.

11 Q. Would they be making contact with any particular parts  
12 of your body?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Which parts?

15 A. Your private parts, if you want to call them that. They  
16 didn't ask us to wash them ourselves; they'd wash all  
17 our bodies all the time.

18 Q. Another area you do tell us about in your statement is  
19 to do with sexual abuse. I wonder, if you don't mind,  
20 if I could ask you a little bit about that.

21 What you do say is that you were sexually abused by  
22 other --

23 A. Can I just have five minutes?

24 MR MacAULAY: Of course, yes.

25 LADY SMITH: We'll have a five-minute break just now. If



1           until I met the support workers, about the goings-on  
2           in that place --

3       Q.   Okay.

4       A.   -- Nazareth House, or you can call it "Pit of Misery",  
5           whatever.

6                    But occasionally, a few times, I was forced by older  
7           boys -- it's not easy for me to say -- to do things that  
8           I wouldn't want to do.  It wasn't just touching, I was  
9           forced -- I had my head forced down on to the penis or  
10          whatever, things like that.

11      Q.   What age were you when that started?

12      A.   About 7, I think.

13      Q.   And these older boys, what --

14      A.   They were a lot older, bigger and stronger than myself,  
15          you know.  I think going into their teens, early teens,  
16          14, maybe 15 or something like that.

17      Q.   Where would this happen?

18      A.   Occasionally, you just got dragged off if you was  
19          walking down a corridor, and there was a little room or  
20          somewhere, a shower room, toilet area, things like that.  
21          I remember one particular one, one boy was alone on  
22          a table and a group of boys was there and -- when they  
23          got close enough, they just grabbed me and pulled me  
24          into the room and made me do things to them.

25      Q.   How long did this go on for during your time at

- 1 Nazareth House?
- 2 A. Probably the last couple of years, I think, when I was  
3 about 7 until I left. At the time when my father, I was  
4 led to believe, come and collected me, I never really  
5 knew him, who he was, but say if for the sake -- say if  
6 the devil had come to me and said, "You're going home,  
7 I'm taking you away from this place", I would have gone  
8 with him just to get out of there.
- 9 Q. You're telling us about your own experience, and I'll  
10 come on to ask you something else about that in  
11 a moment. Do you know if this abuse was inflicted on  
12 any other smaller children by older boys?
- 13 A. I never witnessed it, but that's not to say that  
14 it didn't happen.
- 15 Q. Did any child mention it to you, any younger child, that  
16 anything was happening to him?
- 17 A. No, I don't think so. I think we was too ashamed,  
18 guilty, to admit it was happening to other people, you  
19 know, to ourselves, like. When I did mention it to the  
20 nuns, about things happening like that, they said, "No,  
21 it doesn't happen in here", and you'd get a beating for  
22 it and punished.
- 23 Q. And that's what you're telling us, you did tell the  
24 nuns?
- 25 A. Yes, at first, yes.

1 Q. And was there a particular nun or nuns that you spoke  
2 to?

3 A. I couldn't recall, really. Just like I said, they all  
4 looked the same, I'm sorry to say, but that's the case.  
5 They was all in the same sort of outfit.

6 Q. This is when this abuse started that you told the nuns?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And what did you tell them?

9 A. I just told them I was being made to do things to older  
10 boys and priests and things, touching and things like  
11 that. And they said, "No, that doesn't happen here".  
12 It's like they whitewashed the walls and hid it away.

13 Q. Did you say you got beaten for raising the matter?

14 A. That's correct, yes.

15 Q. I think you also say in your statement that you told  
16 a priest or priests about what was happening to you.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can you tell me about that? When do you think you first  
19 told a priest?

20 A. Just in passing, I think. He was probably asking about  
21 how things were, what was it like, but you told him  
22 about the abuse and that, and again, some of it was done  
23 by the priests as well, like, so you didn't know if  
24 he was a part of ... that one particular priest, I can't  
25 remember his name, but I don't think he ever abused me.

1 He just didn't want to know about anything like that  
2 happening, just tried to whitewash it, ignore it, sweep  
3 it under the table sort of thing.

4 Q. I'm going to ask you about abuse by a priest or priests,  
5 but the priest you told about the abuse, he was somebody  
6 who had not abused you?

7 A. That's correct, yes.

8 Q. And he just -- what did he say?

9 A. He just denied all knowledge that anything like that  
10 ever happened.

11 Q. Were you alone when you spoke to that priest or were  
12 there nuns present?

13 A. No, I was alone. I wouldn't dare raise anything like  
14 that in front of nuns because of the consequences of  
15 what you got.

16 Q. Had you raised it with the nuns before you spoke to the  
17 priest?

18 A. I had spoken to some nuns, yes. That's when I got  
19 the -- well, disciplined, if you like, what you call it,  
20 beaten, told to stop telling lies and being wicked and,  
21 "Things like that don't happen in this organisation".  
22 Maybe they didn't use that word, like, but that's sort  
23 of the information that you got: "That's not what we do  
24 here, that's not what we're here for, that's not the  
25 sort of thing that happens".

1 Q. Did you try or did you tell a priest at confession what  
2 was happening to you?

3 A. I believe so. That's probably where it was, in the  
4 confessional thing, like, where I was, again, told to  
5 stop telling lies and go away. As I say, what he used  
6 to say is, "Say your Hail Marys and Our Fathers and stop  
7 being wicked and don't tell lies about people again".

8 Q. Did anything happen to you on any occasion when you were  
9 at confession with a priest?

10 A. Because the confessionals were split, but you'd  
11 sometimes be pulled into the same side as the priest and  
12 made to touch them and they touching you and things like  
13 that.

14 Q. Are you able to give us some information about that?  
15 What happened?

16 A. Just basically touching their penises and things like  
17 that and them touching yours, making you do things.

18 Q. How often did this happen at confession time?

19 A. To me, it happened quite regularly. Not every week,  
20 like, but once a month or whatever sometimes.

21 Q. And was this the same priest that abused you?

22 A. I think we had different priests at different times,  
23 like. I wouldn't say we always had the same priest.  
24 There seemed to be different priests milling about in  
25 and out all the time. Like I say, it's hard to try and

1 remember faces and things like that at the time, or  
2 names. I can't really ... Like I said, it's not easy.  
3 I tried to erase all memory of this out of my mind. You  
4 can understand, I don't know if ... Those years of my  
5 life were not the best. Childhood's supposed to be  
6 a happy time, but I got no happiness out of my time  
7 in that place.

8 Q. You've been telling us about the abuse that you suffered  
9 at confession. Did you suffer any abuse from a priest  
10 other than in the confessional itself?

11 A. Yes. There was a few times when you'd be walking and  
12 they'd walk with you and start moving you in the  
13 directions of maybe the wash area or something, or  
14 a private room, and they'd take you in there and pretend  
15 to be talking to you, caring, asking about things, and  
16 one thing -- then they'd start touching, making you  
17 touch them and saying it's all right, not to tell anyone  
18 else, "It's our secret", sort of thing.

19 But at the time when you're a child and adults are  
20 telling you things, and especially when you've told  
21 people in the past and you've received a beating, it's  
22 something you don't want to keep raising and telling  
23 people about because you don't want another beating. So  
24 I think it was a case of just accepting it -- well, not  
25 accepting it, but having to accept it, I should say.

1           Something I didn't want to really accept, but there was  
2           nothing in my power that I could do to stop it.

3           Q.   So far as you know, were any other children being abused  
4           by priests when you were there?

5           A.   It wasn't a thing that was done openly -- could well  
6           have been, but I never witnessed anything, so ... You  
7           know, it's something that I think they tried to keep as  
8           secret as they can.

9                     Maybe occasionally other boys might have mentioned  
10           something, but like I say, it wasn't something that we  
11           openly talked about, like, in the private of the  
12           bedroom, sometimes ... Even though you weren't allowed  
13           to form close associations with other boys, like, get  
14           too friendly, occasionally you would make friends with  
15           people and form associations, you'd sort of stick  
16           together because you had nobody else, like, you know, so  
17           occasionally people would talk about things, what was  
18           going on. Like I say, nobody ever believed you, no  
19           adults ever believed you.

20          Q.   Did any children speak to you about anything that  
21          happened to them involving priests?

22          A.   There may have been occasions where one or two did  
23          mention things and you would say, "It happened to me as  
24          well", like, so that would probably be the basis of why  
25          you'd form a little bit of a friendship with people.

1 But it wasn't something that you openly talked about  
2 in the bedrooms or dormitories or anywhere because, like  
3 I say, if the nuns or -- well, if the nuns -- mainly, if  
4 they heard you talking about any sort of sexual abuse  
5 like that, you'd end up being beaten and put in  
6 isolation or some sort of isolation and refused  
7 recreational privileges and occasionally you'd probably  
8 have to miss meals as well.

9 Q. You also tell us in your statement, Mike, about the fact  
10 that there were care assistants who helped out at  
11 Nazareth House and you had some problems with them;  
12 is that right?

13 A. Yes, they wouldn't be shy giving you -- dishing out  
14 punishment as well and occasionally maybe they heard  
15 that you was being sexually abused and maybe they  
16 thought they could have a go as well, like.

17 Q. Are you talking here about men or women?

18 A. Both. I'd say there was men and women. I don't recall  
19 any women actually abusing me, but certainly getting  
20 beaten or punished.

21 Q. And what about men who were there as helpers?

22 A. They were just people who turned up to do whatever they  
23 did. I didn't know exactly what they were supposed to  
24 do or who they were --

25 Q. What did they do to you?

1 A. Much the same as what the others did, like, making you  
2 touch them. I'm sorry, it's just ... I'll carry on in  
3 a minute.

4 Q. Okay.

5 (Pause)

6 A. You've got to remember, I tried to remove all these  
7 memories out of my head, but it's not possible. I mean,  
8 they're there, they're there and that's it. Sitting  
9 here discussing them is not the easiest thing in the  
10 world that I've ever done --

11 Q. No.

12 A. -- a room full of strangers and people. I probably know  
13 I shouldn't worry about what they think because I wasn't  
14 the guilty one, I was the -- but that doesn't help.

15 LADY SMITH: Mike, you were a child.

16 A. Yes. It doesn't make it any easier, sorry.

17 LADY SMITH: Just thinking back generally to the experience  
18 of the sex acts by the other boys and by the priests  
19 that you've told us about, what was the worst thing from  
20 your child's perspective to handle at that time?

21 A. People who are supposed to be looking after you and  
22 caring for you and making you do things. Probably  
23 I didn't, how old I was at the time, understand what it  
24 was, but probably knew it wasn't right. It's hard to  
25 explain, I'm sorry.

1 LADY SMITH: No, you're explaining it very well.

2 I go back to you explaining, first of all to us,  
3 that you were between 7 and 9 years old, and the people  
4 that you have been describing as engaging in these  
5 activities were considerably older than you, whether it  
6 was the other boys or the adults.

7 A. Mm-hm. Yes. You just feel ashamed that it did happen  
8 to you, although I couldn't do nothing about it. Now,  
9 because I'm a lot older and you understand that it was  
10 wrong, but you think that there's children out there who  
11 are still in the position I was in and it's still  
12 happening now as it was then. It still doesn't make it  
13 any easier to reflect on it and go over it and  
14 understand the reasons why it happened and by who it  
15 happened, especially now when you find out that the  
16 people that were doing it mainly are supposed to be  
17 religious.

18 I understand that priests are supposed to be  
19 celibate at the time and nuns maybe, I don't know.  
20 Everything seems to have just been whitewashed and  
21 hidden and not allowed to come out into the open.  
22 I understand that now, but back then I had no  
23 recollection of what a priest was or -- I knew what  
24 a nun was, like, some woman dressed in black. And  
25 whenever you seen one, it was usually a reason for

1           keeping quiet and scuttling out of the way, like  
2           children should be seen and not heard, because if you  
3           got heard you would get a beating.

4       LADY SMITH:   Mr MacAulay.

5       MR MacAULAY:  Can we just finally finish off the contact you  
6           had with what we call care assistants, whether that's  
7           the right description or not.  Can I just take it from  
8           you that you were sexually abused by a care assistant or  
9           assistants when you were there?

10      A.  Yes.

11      Q.  Thank you.

12                 Did you have any sense as to what supervision these  
13           individuals had when they were there?

14      A.  None at all.  I think they may have been looking at  
15           coming into the priesthood or becoming nuns or whatever,  
16           like, you know, and some of them might have just been  
17           cleaners or ancillary workers, as they're called  
18           nowadays.  I think some of them might have been trainees  
19           coming from -- what is it they go to? -- college before  
20           they go to the priesthood and things like that.

21      Q.  Can I just move on to a different aspect of the  
22           treatment that you suffered.  This is what you talk  
23           about in your statement as being mentally abused, and in  
24           particular you provide us with some information of how  
25           you were isolated.  Can you just describe that for me?

- 1           What happened?
- 2           A.   You'd be removed from association with the other  
3           children at the time, not allowed to go out and have the  
4           regular play time sort of thing, recreational, even  
5           having to eat your food on your own, maybe even sleeping  
6           on your own away from everybody, locked up in a room on  
7           your own, not allowed to do anything with the other  
8           children.
- 9           Q.   Can I then move on to when you came to leave  
10          Nazareth House.  As we understand it, it was your father  
11          who came and took you back to Wolverhampton; is that  
12          correct?
- 13          A.   That's what I was told, yes, it was my father, but like  
14          I said, I didn't recognise him as anything.  Like I said  
15          earlier, had the devil turned up, I probably would have  
16          gone with him if he had told me he was taking me away  
17          from that place, just to get away, escape if you like.
- 18          Q.   By then you're 9, 9 and a half or thereabouts?
- 19          A.   9 and a half, I believe.  You gave me the dates --  
20          I wasn't really 100 per cent sure of the dates.  
21          I thought it was when I was 10, like 1965, but yourself  
22          told me I was only 9, 1966, or you said it was 1965,  
23          so ...  Six months' difference, I think.
- 24          Q.   You've already told us in evidence, Mike, how you told  
25          the nuns in particular what was happening to you about

1 way of sexual abuse. But apart from that, so far as the  
2 police is concerned, I think I understand from what you  
3 said a little bit earlier, you never, ever mentioned  
4 this to anybody else since then.

5 A. Not until [REDACTED] and -- sorry, if I'm allowed to say  
6 their names, but my support worker, I should say.

7 Q. And the support worker --

8 A. I contacted them.

9 Q. The support workers you're talking about are the inquiry  
10 support workers?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So until you came to the inquiry, you hadn't mentioned  
13 this to anyone before?

14 A. No. Never, ever. Not even my partner or anybody. Just  
15 part of my life that I wanted to forget.

16 Q. In the next part of your statement -- and I'll just go  
17 through this quite briefly with you, Mike -- you give us  
18 information about life after care and in particular you  
19 went back to Wolverhampton and stayed with your father  
20 and also indeed your other siblings; is that right?

21 A. That's correct, yes.

22 Q. You left school at 15 and you've had a number of  
23 different occupations.

24 A. I have, yes. When I left Nazareth House at 9 and a half  
25 and went to the school back in Wolverhampton,

1           ██████████ where I lived there, the junior school,  
2           I couldn't read, I couldn't write, I couldn't do sums,  
3           arithmetic, anything, really. It was very, very poor.

4           Q. Did that hold you back?

5           A. I believe so, yes. I didn't even know I was supposed to  
6           wear glasses at the time, like. It wasn't until I got  
7           back into Wolverhampton that I found out that I was  
8           supposed to wear glasses and things like that.

9           Q. I think you lost contact with your Scottish relatives  
10          until you were about 18.

11          A. That's correct, yes.

12          Q. But you met your mother again later on; is that correct?

13          A. Yes, I was a bit older than 18 when I met my mother  
14          again.

15          Q. Can I just take you to paragraph 57, not beyond that,  
16          just to look at that particular paragraph, and here  
17          you're touching upon the impact your experience at  
18          Nazareth House has had on you. What you're saying there  
19          at the beginning of that paragraph is you try to put  
20          your time at Nazareth House to the back of your mind but  
21          you can never do it.

22          A. No, it's always there when you hear about other children  
23          suffering abuse -- not that it's just children nowadays  
24          who are subject to abuse, sexually or physically. It's  
25          hard to escape. You hear about it, read about it, every

1 day, near enough. There's not a week goes past without  
2 there being some recollection to some child abuse or  
3 adult -- even ... not just children, I suppose,  
4 teenagers, in the news a lot of the time ...

5 I wouldn't say all of the time, but a lot of time,  
6 sometimes, it's relating back to the Catholic Church as  
7 well. So you seem to hear a lot of stories about  
8 priests, bishops -- maybe not so many nuns nowadays --  
9 but there's hardly a week goes past without some story  
10 about priests and the Roman Catholic Church and the  
11 abuse that they're dishing out to children, not  
12 necessarily in this country, because it's a lot more  
13 reported now, but in other poorer countries in the  
14 world, like, you hear where the Catholic Church is  
15 prominent, about them being abused and things.

16 So it's not something that you can forget. You  
17 think you can relate to their experience or what they're  
18 experiencing. You just think it's not right, but there  
19 ain't a lot I can do about it. But I have come here and  
20 maybe explained my story. If it helps other people,  
21 other children or whatever, then there might be some  
22 good come of it.

23 Q. If I can take you to page 4100, at the very top of the  
24 page, paragraph 63, that's the one I want to focus on.

25 What you're telling us there is:

1           "Over the last ten years, [you] have been thinking  
2           about [your] time at Nazareth House. When [you were]  
3           young [you] didn't think about it, but now [you] do."

4           And you go on to say:

5           "I think why did it happen to me and why not to  
6           someone else? Then I realise it did happen to others,  
7           it wasn't just me."

8           So that's the realisation you've come to now;  
9           is that correct?

10          A. Yes.

11          Q. You go on to say:

12           "I think of the perpetrators and I wonder why they  
13           did it. The nuns and priests were religious people."

14           So these are the thoughts you have now from time to  
15           time --

16          A. Yes.

17          Q. -- as to why what was done to you was done at all by  
18           religious people?

19          A. Exactly. You're in a place where you're a young boy,  
20           young person and, like I say, you just wonder why people  
21           who are supposed to be looking after you, caring for  
22           you, would subject you to such a treatment, physically,  
23           mentally, sexually. Like I said earlier, at the time  
24           it's hard to -- I don't know the word -- understand,  
25           I suppose, about it.

1           Back in the 60s as well, like, it wasn't something  
2           that was widely reported because we didn't have the  
3           media that you have now. You've got Facebook and the  
4           newspapers, Internet and everything. Back then, as  
5           a child, you had no contact with anybody outside the  
6           organisations apart from occasionally when your family  
7           visited you. I do recall actually saying something to  
8           one of my aunties and maybe she's gone in and spoken  
9           with the nuns, I don't know for sure. But they've  
10          probably assured her that that doesn't happen here.  
11          Being a child and they not seeing you a lot of the  
12          time ... I'm not saying my family didn't love me or  
13          anything at the time, but ...

14         Q. Can I take you to paragraph 74 -- this is towards the  
15          end of your statement -- where you're thinking about  
16          what lessons could be learned from your experience.  
17          This is at the bottom of page 4101. What you say  
18          there is:

19                 "I think that adults need to start listening to  
20                 children instead of brushing what they say off."

21                 Are you there reflecting on your own experience --

22         A. Yes.

23         Q. -- when you say you weren't listened to?

24         A. Yes, exactly.

25         Q. Then you go on to say:

1           "Religious and professional people get up to things  
2           and the authorities turn a blind eye."

3           A. Yes.

4           Q. You want people to realise that that shouldn't happen;  
5           is that your message?

6           A. I believe it still happens. It's whitewashed, brushed  
7           under the carpet a lot of the time. It's not just  
8           institutionalised care homes where the abuse took place  
9           back then. But nowadays you hear about it happening,  
10          a certain Mr Savile, Mr Glitter, other people, prominent  
11          people, television stars and things like that. It all  
12          sort of comes out into the open, but again a lot of  
13          it is, I believe, sort of brushed under the carpet and  
14          whitewashed and hidden away, hoping that people will  
15          forget it. But it's something I hope and wish will  
16          never be hidden away and brushed under the table.  
17          Hopefully, people will learn to understand that treating  
18          children or young adults or anybody in any sexual or  
19          mental abuse is not really permissible and should never  
20          happen.

21          Q. The particular point you make in the next paragraph  
22          is that people in care, in particular, must be listened  
23          to.

24          A. They should be, yes.

25          MR MacAULAY: Well, thank you, Mike, for coming here today

1 to give your evidence. It has clearly been quite  
2 a difficult thing for you to do and thank you for that  
3 and for having answered my questions.

4 My Lady, I have no other questions that have been  
5 submitted to me to be put to Mike.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Can I check if there are any  
7 outstanding applications for questions?

8 Mike, that completes the questions we have for you.  
9 It just remains for me to add my thanks to you for  
10 taking what must have been a very big step in contacting  
11 the inquiry at all and then in helping us with your  
12 written statement and in the oral evidence you've given  
13 today, which I can see hasn't been easy for you.

14 Thank you for that. I'm now able to let you go.

15 A. All right. Thank you very much.

16 (The witness withdrew)

17 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

18 MR MacAULAY: That's now 1 o'clock, my Lady, and we can  
19 possibly adjourn for lunch.

20 LADY SMITH: We will adjourn for lunch until 2 o'clock.

21 (1.00 pm)

22 (The lunch adjournment)

23 (2.00 pm)

24 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

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

1 an applicant who wants to remain anonymous and to use  
2 the name "Kenny" in giving his evidence.

3 "KENNY" (affirmed)

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

6 You may have sensed that the microphone is now  
7 picking up sound, which sounds as though you're in  
8 a good position for it. We do need your voice to be  
9 picked up by the microphone all the time, so if you can  
10 keep yourself there, that'd be very helpful.

11 A. Okay.

12 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

13 Questions from MR MacAULAY

14 MR MacAULAY: Hello, Kenny. I'll be asking you questions  
15 essentially based upon your statement. But if there's  
16 something I ask you about and you can't remember, just  
17 say so. Again, if I ask you something and you want to  
18 say more than you've said before, feel free to tell us.

19 The first thing I want to confirm with you is the  
20 year of your birth, not the date of your birth.

21 Am I right in thinking you were born in 1957?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. In that red folder in front of you, you'll have your  
24 statement. I'll give the reference to the stenographers  
25 for the transcript: it's WIT.001.001.3906. Can you turn

1 to the last page of the statement? Can you confirm that  
2 you have signed the statement?

3 A. Yes.

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

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

7 Is that correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You go on to say:

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

12 Is that right?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. Kenny, can I begin at the period prior to you going into  
15 care because you went into care, into Nazareth House at  
16 Lasswade.

17 A. Yes, that's right.

18 Q. Before that, did you stay with your mother?

19 A. No, I was in a baby's -- like a hospital thing in  
20 Claremont in Edinburgh.

21 Q. Well, so far as you can remember, did you spend any time  
22 with your mother at all?

23 A. I think up to the age of several months or something  
24 like that.

25 Q. You went into a home called Claremont; is that correct?

- 1 A. Yes, it was in Corstorphine, somewhere that way.
- 2 Q. Do you have any recollection being there?
- 3 A. No, I was just a baby.
- 4 Q. We can see from your records that you were there in  
5 different periods in 1957 but you went back to your  
6 mother after that. That's at a time when you couldn't  
7 remember what was going on?
- 8 A. No, no.
- 9 Q. But was it the case that your mother couldn't look after  
10 you?
- 11 A. Yes. She had to work, obviously, to make a living, she  
12 couldn't take me with her when she was working, so the  
13 social services got involved and it was a -- I don't  
14 know if I'm allowed to mention names or not.
- 15 Q. You can.
- 16 A. It was a Miss Sinclair got in contact with my mother and  
17 advised her to put me in care, which happened to be  
18 Nazareth House in Lasswade.
- 19 Q. If we just look at the records that we've covered from  
20 the Sisters of Nazareth, according to their records you  
21 were admitted on [REDACTED] 1958. You would only be  
22 a little bit over 1 at that point. You'll have no  
23 recollection?
- 24 A. Not at all, no.
- 25 Q. Do you have any date in mind from any sources that you

- 1 had as to when you might have gone there?
- 2 A. My mother told me it was [REDACTED] that year, 1958.
- 3 Q. [REDACTED] 1958?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. According to the Sisters of Nazareth records, you left  
6 in [REDACTED] 1964, when you'd be aged perhaps over 7. What's  
7 your own recollection as to when you left?
- 8 A. I do know I went to stay with Mrs Reid; that was 1966  
9 when I was 9.
- 10 Q. So there's two years of difference between --
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. -- your recollection and what's been recorded?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. I'll come to speak to you later about Mrs Reid. What is  
15 your first recollection then, Kenny, of being in  
16 Nazareth House?
- 17 A. There was two sides, there was a side called the babies'  
18 side and a side called the big side. Obviously after  
19 five years of age you went to the big side as they  
20 called it. So I obviously moved from the babies side  
21 when I reached five to go to the big side and live with  
22 other children --
- 23 Q. And did you --
- 24 A. -- and started school.
- 25 Q. Do you have any recollection of being in the babies'

1 side, as you call it?

2 A. Vaguely. I do actually, yes, I do remember that.

3 Q. I think what you tell us about that is you don't

4 remember anything untoward happening.

5 A. No, not there, not at all.

6 Q. When you moved, I think at the age of 5, to the big

7 side, did the situation change?

8 A. Yes, it did.

9 Q. When you came to move, let's just focus on that period,

10 was there a particular nun that dealt with you?

11 A. Yes, she looked after our dormitory. She was in charge

12 of the dormitory I was in with the other boys.

13 Q. And can you remember her name?

14 A. Yes, Sister **LFJ**.

15 Q. What you say in your statement -- we have it on the

16 screen actually paragraph 9 -- is that:

17 "There were two or three young nuns at

18 Nazareth House. I don't remember the names of any of

19 the nuns other than Sister **LFJ** "

20 A. That's correct, yes.

21 Q. Because she was the one you dealt with the most; is that

22 right?

23 A. Yes, she was staying at the dormitory that we were in.

24 She had what we called a cell, like a bed and things

25 like that, but it was boxed in.

1 Q. I'll come to that in a moment. The other thing you say  
2 here is that -- it's over the page. This is the way you  
3 put it:

4 "Some of the nuns you had to be wary of [I'll come  
5 back to that] and others were very nice."

6 A. Yes, they were.

7 Q. Can you remember any of the names of the nice nuns?

8 A. There was a Sister Mary, if I remember. She was young.  
9 I only remember Sister **LFJ**, but there were one or two  
10 others but I can't remember the names, I'm really sorry  
11 about that.

12 Q. Are you able to describe to us how they were nice and  
13 good to you?

14 A. When we had play time in the back -- there was a sort of  
15 back area where the kids used to play, especially on  
16 a Saturday and Sunday when you were off school and  
17 things like that, so a couple of the nuns would come out  
18 and play with us, get us up and things like that. They  
19 were really good. There was no problem at all. And  
20 we'd go back and get our lunch, things like that. They  
21 were okay.

22 Q. Remember to be as close as you possibly can to the  
23 microphone or pull it towards you if you have to.

24 A. Sorry.

25 LADY SMITH: It also moves side to side if that helps you.

1 MR MacAULAY: Then you've told us about the set-up with the  
2 dormitories. Were you in a dormitory with other  
3 children?

4 A. Yes, there was about 20 in the dormitory.

5 Q. And was it boys, just boys?

6 A. Just boys in our dormitory, yes.

7 Q. What about the age range?

8 A. I went over there when I was five, but I think the boys  
9 stayed up to 12 and then they went somewhere else. When  
10 they reached 12 years of age they were taken out of  
11 Nazareth House and went through somewhere on the west,  
12 I was told, but I'm not exactly sure there. When you  
13 turned 12, you went somewhere else. I think you were  
14 looked after by brothers or something like that.

15 Q. Were you given a name as to what the place would be?

16 A. No. I just got told you were going to get taken away  
17 when you reached 12, but obviously I wasn't there at  
18 that age.

19 Q. No. Were you aware of there being girls?

20 A. Yes, in the dormitory next door. We were next door to  
21 them.

22 Q. You have mentioned Sister [REDACTED] 's cell and --

23 A. That's what it was called. I don't mean like a prison  
24 cell but that's what they called it. Obviously she had  
25 her own bed and things like that, her own personal

1 belongings and things like that. It had a door which  
2 she locked and shut or whatever and her own light thing  
3 and all that.

4 Q. Where was the cell in relation to the dormitory?

5 A. It was sort of in the middle, on the right-hand side as  
6 you went through the door.

7 Q. So just so I can get a picture of it, was this an area  
8 that was partitioned off then from the rest of the  
9 dormitory?

10 A. Yes. Aye. Yes, it was.

11 Q. Did the partitions go all the way up the ceiling or not?

12 A. Yes, right up, yes.

13 Q. Were there other dormitories for boys that you remember?

14 A. I think there was for the older boys, away from us. My  
15 age group was around about 5 to about the 8/9 mark and  
16 the other older ones were elsewhere.

17 Q. The cell you've been telling us about, would there be  
18 occasions that you'd go into the cell to --

19 A. No, nobody was allowed to go in there. That was off  
20 limits for everybody. Nobody was allowed to go in.  
21 That was made clear. Nobody would open that door,  
22 nothing like that. Nobody went near it unless she  
23 called you for something. I was never called -- one or  
24 two times she'd ask people to get her a hot water  
25 bottle, a little message, that kind of thing, but that

1           was it. You never actually went into the cell.

2           Q. Again, if I can ask you -- I don't know how the voice is  
3           being projected to the back.

4           LADY SMITH: It's also very important for the stenographers  
5           because they need to pick up everything through the  
6           system.

7                     Just going back to the cell, I've got the picture of  
8           something that creates a little room within the big room  
9           of the dorm --

10          A. Yes.

11          LADY SMITH: -- probably using partition type walls. Were  
12          there any windows in the partition type walls?

13          A. At the top of the partition, there was like a -- you  
14          could see the light when she put the light on. But that  
15          was it. It was about that size (indicating) all the way  
16          round. So you knew when she was in because if it was  
17          dark the light would go on --

18          LADY SMITH: Did she have any means of seeing out of the  
19          cell?

20          A. Not to us, no.

21          LADY SMITH: Not to the dormitory, but was the partition  
22          around the window to the outside --

23          A. It was on a wall -- there might have been a window in  
24          her cell too because there was windows all the way  
25          round.

1 LADY SMITH: So she might have had natural light and a view  
2 of whatever it looked on to outside?

3 A. Yes, the garden outside, yes.

4 MR MacAULAY: The window that she would have, she had  
5 a window that she could look into the dormitory, did  
6 she?

7 A. No, just coming through the door would take her into the  
8 dormitory.

9 Q. You say in your statement that the dormitories were not  
10 locked at night.

11 A. No, no, because if you needed the toilet, you had to go  
12 to the toilet.

13 Q. That was my next question.

14 A. Sorry.

15 Q. Carry on. If you wanted to go to the toilet then --

16 A. You could.

17 Q. -- you just got up and did that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And you didn't require to get permission --

20 A. No.

21 Q. -- during the night?

22 A. Not at all, no.

23 Q. Can I ask you with some aspects of the routine then.

24 Let's look at bath times first of all. What can you  
25 remember about how that was arranged?

1 A. Well, you got bathed either on a Saturday or a Sunday  
2 for school on the Monday, so people would take it in  
3 turns to have a bath. The nuns would be there bathing  
4 people, that kind of thing. They were quite -- larger  
5 baths than normal, so you could get maybe two or three  
6 boys in at the same time.

7 Q. How many baths were there?

8 A. I think there was about six.

9 Q. Quite a number then?

10 A. Yes, because there were quite a lot of kids to bath,  
11 obviously, you know.

12 Q. Who would be engaged in bathing the children?

13 A. Sister [LFJ] was there, there was a woman called  
14 [LFK] and a couple of other nuns that I can't  
15 remember -- I'm really sorry about that. But they'd  
16 all be waving the kids and that, washing them, whatever,  
17 you got dry, you got changed, you went to your  
18 dormitory, and that was you for the night.

19 Q. You mentioned there was a lay worker; I think you called  
20 her [LFK]

21 A. Yes, that's right.

22 Q. Was she attached to Sister [LFJ]? Did she work with  
23 her?

24 A. I think she was a person that helped out. She lived  
25 there because her son was there too, a guy called [REDACTED],

1 [REDACTED] the same age as me. He was a pal actually  
2 because he was in the dormitory too where I was. So  
3 that was his mother but she obviously had somewhere else  
4 to stay in the building. But she helped out with  
5 domestic stuff, things like that.

6 Q. You tell us about one of her practices about having her  
7 legs and feet rubbed.

8 A. Yes. That happened quite a lot. If we were in the  
9 playroom, there was a door looking on to the hallway,  
10 like a corridor, on the ground floor, and she would have  
11 kids doing -- massaging her feet and her legs, only up  
12 to her knee, nothing else higher up. Because when  
13 I told the police and that, they thought it was maybe  
14 something sexual, but I don't think it was that.  
15 I think it was just pleasure getting her legs rubbed and  
16 that, you know.

17 Q. This is something happening outwith the presence of the  
18 nuns?

19 A. Yes, it was, because she'd have a boy or two boys  
20 watching the door for anybody coming along to warn her.  
21 If somebody was coming along, she would put her slippers  
22 back on, whatever, and just look normal, that she was  
23 playing with the kids, you know.

24 Q. Can I ask you about mealtimes and the food. What was  
25 the food like?

1 A. It wasn't great at all.

2 Q. Was there food that you didn't want to eat?

3 A. Yes, I do remember once I got a boiled egg and there was

4 like an embryo in the egg that had been cooked,

5 unfortunately, and she tried to make me eat that and

6 I wouldn't as no one in their right mind would eat that

7 but she tried, but I just refused. For doing that

8 I used to get hit and that kind of thing.

9 Q. When you say she, who is the "she"?

10 A. Sister **LFJ**.

11 Q. Generally, you have given us that example when there was

12 an embryo --

13 A. That's what it was.

14 Q. -- or a baby chicken inside the egg --

15 A. Yes, that's what it was.

16 Q. And she wanted you to eat that?

17 A. Obviously the egg became fertile and it had been boiled

18 with the rest of the eggs and that's what happened.

19 Q. And you refused?

20 A. Of course, yes.

21 Q. Did anything happen?

22 A. Well, she hit you.

23 Q. How would she hit you?

24 A. She would hit you with a cane or slapped you on the back

25 of the head. Things like that.

- 1 Q. Did she carry a cane with her?
- 2 A. She did, yes.
- 3 Q. How did she carry the cane?
- 4 A. It was on her side, on her right-hand side.
- 5 Q. But generally, leaving that incident aside, if you
- 6 didn't eat your food, didn't like your food --
- 7 A. She would make you -- she would bring it back to the
- 8 next mealtime and try you again, but obviously after
- 9 a while you couldn't do it anyway, nobody could eat
- 10 that, and I just refused, and that was it.
- 11 Q. And what then?
- 12 A. We got punished again.
- 13 Q. And the punishment would be what?
- 14 A. Well, you'd be hit with a cane on the back of the, legs
- 15 several times maybe. I don't know. It just depended
- 16 how they felt, she was a kind of moody nun. One day she
- 17 would be all right and then another she wouldn't be and
- 18 she would take it out on the kids -- any kids, not just
- 19 myself, but others.
- 20 Q. I was about to ask you in relation to mealtimes, were
- 21 other children treated in the same way?
- 22 A. Very much so, yes.
- 23 Q. So far as schooling was concerned, you went to the local
- 24 school, St Mary's?
- 25 A. Yes, St Mary's in Bonnyrigg, yes.

- 1 Q. How did you find school?
- 2 A. Well, not very great at all because -- well, I found the  
3 school all right -- don't get me wrong, it was okay, but  
4 we weren't really getting taught as such. We were sort  
5 of put at the back of the class and sort of forgotten  
6 sometimes. Then the teacher we had, I can't remember  
7 her name, but she got the headmaster and said, "They  
8 haven't done their homework", things like that.
- 9 Q. Was that the case? Had you not done your homework?
- 10 A. Because there was nobody to sit with us to go over the  
11 homework, like a normal father and mother would do.  
12 We didn't have that because the nuns didn't seem to  
13 bother. Sorry, Mr Carney, the headmaster of St Mary's  
14 at the time, he went up to see the superior nun,  
15 Mother Superior sorry, and to have a word with her and  
16 for a while it was okay, but it all of a sudden just  
17 stopped again so there was no help at all.
- 18 Personally, myself, when I look back I think the  
19 teachers had an idea there was something going on but  
20 nobody was saying anything about it, you know.
- 21 Q. But what you're saying is that the headmaster did make  
22 some effort to get the nuns to assist with the homework?
- 23 A. He did, yes.
- 24 Q. And that did happen for a while?
- 25 A. It happened for a couple of weeks and then it just died

- 1           off, you know.
- 2       Q.   Can I ask you about birthdays.  Was your birthday
- 3           celebrated?
- 4       A.   Yes.  Well, my birthday -- all the kids' birthdays were
- 5           celebrated.  What was it?  I used to get presents from
- 6           my grandfather and my mother for my birthday or
- 7           Christmas time, but then it was taken off you and given
- 8           to another child because she would suddenly say, "You've
- 9           got a mum and grandfather coming to visit you, these
- 10          kids don't have anybody, so I'm going to give the
- 11          present to whoever it may be".  So that left you in
- 12          limbo, "What's the hell's going on here?"
- 13       Q.   Let's take the example of a birthday present being given
- 14          to you.  The visitor, if it be a family member --
- 15       A.   My grandfather and mother used to visit me every
- 16          fortnight.
- 17       Q.   And they would give you presents?
- 18       A.   Yes, they would take me down to Bonnyrigg for the day,
- 19          go to the café for a meal, go to the park and play,
- 20          things like that.
- 21       Q.   Did you tell anyone that the presents that you were
- 22          given, that you weren't able to keep them?
- 23       A.   No.  Because you were too frightened to because she'd
- 24          say if you say anything, you'll get much the same as you
- 25          got before.  Everything seemed to change when my mother

1 and grandfather came to see me. She used to be --  
2 I think she was very moody, that's the idea I get,  
3 because when my mother was away for the two weeks, my  
4 grandfather and that, she would start up again and do  
5 things like that to hurt you and things like that.

6 On the times when my mother was going to see me on  
7 the Saturday, she would leave you alone, she didn't  
8 touch you. It seemed to me when they were not around  
9 for a while, maybe a week or so.

10 Q. If you look at paragraph 31, you're telling us about  
11 these incidents when your mother and your grandfather  
12 and other relatives would give you presents.

13 A. Mm-hm.

14 Q. And as you've told us, Sister [LFJ] would take the  
15 presents off you and give them to someone else; is that  
16 correct?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. You suggest there you did tell your grandfather.

19 A. I told my grandfather, but for some reason he didn't ...  
20 He actually mentioned something to Sister [LFJ] but it  
21 didn't make any difference. She still did what she did  
22 and that was it. And I got to the stage where I was too  
23 frightened to say anything to anybody, to be honest with  
24 you.

25 Q. At Christmas, did you have anything special happen at

- 1 Christmas?
- 2 A. Christmas Day you got the breakfast and Christmas meal  
3 in the afternoon. There was presents, like I think -- i  
4 think we got things -- maybe things like selection  
5 boxes, fruit, fresh fruit, oranges, that kind of thing,  
6 nuts, a big Christmas tree. You got to play for  
7 a while, but then that was it, that was the Christmas  
8 over. But it was okay. It wasn't a great Christmas,  
9 but it wasn't bad either.
- 10 Q. Would you call the meal a traditional Christmas meal?
- 11 A. Well, you got -- I think it was turkey and the usual  
12 trimmings that go with it. You got Christmas cake or  
13 pudding. But Christmas normally was okay. It wasn't  
14 that bad, actually.
- 15 Q. Just going back to mealtimes, where you say in  
16 paragraph 19 that if you didn't eat vegetables at  
17 teatime you wouldn't get the sweet?
- 18 A. Yes, that's right, that did happen.
- 19 Q. Were you ever force-fed by a nun?
- 20 A. No, I was never force-fed. I just didn't eat it and  
21 that was it.
- 22 Q. Again, just to pick up another point, you've told us  
23 that you could go to the toilet at night from the  
24 dormitory.
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Were you in any way discouraged from doing that?
- 2 A. No, not at all. I got up to go to the toilet, but some  
3 of the kids unfortunately wouldn't get up at all.  
4 Obviously, eventually, they wet their beds, things like  
5 that, but I must admit, thank God, I never wet the bed.
- 6 Q. You have told us already about what visits you'd have  
7 from family members. What about from the Social Work  
8 Department? Did you have any visits from --
- 9 A. Not in Nazareth House, no.
- 10 Q. I think what you say in paragraph 34 is that you have  
11 some recollection, I think, that Miss Sinclair did come  
12 and see you.
- 13 A. Sorry, I apologise. Yes, she was a social worker, but  
14 it was her that got my mother to put me in there in the  
15 first place.
- 16 Q. I see, so that's where the confusion is.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. But did Miss Sinclair then come and see you?
- 19 A. Not very often. Once in a blue moon, if that.
- 20 Q. You do give us information about your leisure time.  
21 What did you do in your free time?
- 22 A. We would just -- if it was nice weather we just played  
23 out in the back of the building. There was a field,  
24 a couple of swings. There was a ball for kicking  
25 around. People used to go round catching bees with

1 a glass and a lid. I think that was quite popular in  
2 those days in the summertime. Things like that. That's  
3 all you could do. There was nothing else to do.

4 Q. What about summertime and bedtime? Was that something  
5 of a problem for you?

6 A. Well, you were normally in your bed by 6 o'clock in the  
7 evening. That was like every evening. But I think it  
8 was worse because of the summertime when you're off  
9 school, there were long summer nights, they seemed to  
10 drag. Of course, the kids wanted to play, so we used to  
11 have things like pillow fights, that kind of thing to  
12 obviously burn off energy, but we weren't allowed to do  
13 that, so you did things you shouldn't have done, that  
14 kind of thing.

15 Q. In your time there, until you left, was bedtime at about  
16 6 o'clock?

17 A. Yes, it was.

18 Q. Whatever time of the year it was?

19 A. Whatever time, it was always 6 o'clock.

20 Q. You do tell us in your statement about something about  
21 your health and in particular that you had this problem  
22 with passing out at a point in time.

23 A. Yes. I took ill when -- I must have been about 6 years  
24 of age. I can't remember very much of it because I had  
25 passed out and I don't remember very much about it.

1 I did feel ill, I was drained. I couldn't stand -- the  
2 daylight or the light in the house, in the building,  
3 used to make my head throb, very sore. My legs were  
4 very weak, I had no energy at all, so I just fell down.  
5 When that happened, Sister [LFJ] thought I was just  
6 playing about and she hit us with her cane -- that's  
7 what the other boys told me -- and I do remember it was  
8 like autumn time. But when I came back round -- the  
9 daffodils were starting to come out of the ground, so  
10 I was obviously ill for a while.

11 Q. When you were ill, did you remain within --

12 A. I was in Nazareth House, yes, in the dormitory.

13 Q. Were you ever told what was the matter?

14 A. No, I wasn't.

15 Q. Are you talking about being ill for --

16 A. Quite a while. It was a long time, I do remember that,  
17 yes.

18 Q. Did you see a doctor?

19 A. I can't remember, to be honest. I can't remember seeing  
20 a doctor. I might have been out for the count.

21 Q. What treatment did you get that you can remember?

22 A. Sister [LFJ] used to make you drink salt water so you'd  
23 be sick, you know.

24 Q. And did that happen then?

25 A. Oh yes. I used to be sick with salt water, yes.

- 1 Q. How often did this happen?
- 2 A. This happened a few times. She says, it'll make you  
3 better, clear out your stomach -- obviously it would  
4 make anybody sick, but that's what happened.
- 5 Q. Well, can I now look at the way that you tell us in your  
6 statement that you were treated by Sister [LFJ] in  
7 particular, because I think it's her that you focus on.  
8 How would you summarise the way that she treated you in  
9 your time there?
- 10 A. Very cruelly -- not just to me, but to all the other  
11 children too. I think myself, she was a sad old woman.  
12 When I look back, I don't know why she was like that,  
13 why she turned out to be cruel, but she was.
- 14 Q. Can you give me some examples as to in what way she was  
15 cruel to you?
- 16 (Pause)
- 17 LADY SMITH: Kenny, it's up to you. I'm happy to wait here  
18 with you or we can have a break if that would help.
- 19 A. No, I'm just sorry, I find it hard.
- 20 LADY SMITH: There's absolutely nothing to apologise about.  
21 Take your time. I'll leave it with you. If you want  
22 a break out of the hearing room, we can do that.
- 23 A. When she was cruel and that, she did a lot of bad  
24 things. Things like being ducked under water, soap put  
25 in your eyes and mouth -- and pepper -- so they'd bleed.

1           On many occasions at night, she'd come in the dormitory,  
2           out of her cell, come up to you and take your pyjama top  
3           off and scratch your back, your bare back. That's what  
4           happened.

5           MR MacAULAY: Okay. Can I try and pick up one or two of  
6           these points with you, Kenny, just in your own time.

7                     This business of coming into the dormitory at night  
8           and scratching your back; can you just describe that to  
9           me?

10          A. It was frightening. You were frightened. I think any  
11          child would be frightened of that, no matter who  
12          you are.

13          Q. Would you be wearing your pyjamas?

14          A. Yes.

15          Q. So would you have to --

16          A. She would just take your top off, your pyjama top off,  
17          and just go like that (indicating) with her nails on  
18          your back.

19          Q. You're sort of indicating on the table itself.

20          A. She scratched you.

21          Q. Was this painful?

22          A. Of course it was.

23          Q. So far as you know, did it cause any --

24          A. There was bleeding, because I've noticed in the morning  
25          and looked in the mirror and seen the scratch marks.

1           She didn't just do it just to me, there were other  
2 children too, but it seemed to happen to me more than  
3 the others for some reason. I don't know why she did  
4 this to me.

5 Q. Do you have any idea as to --

6 A. All I can think of is she was -- just didn't like me  
7 maybe. I don't know. As a child, I just don't know.  
8 I can't really answer that. But she was pretty cruel.

9 Q. How often would you say this happened?

10 A. Maybe two or three times a week.

11 Q. Would this be when you were in the bigger boys' section?

12 A. Yes, that's when it happened.

13 Q. After the age of 5?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. We know you were there for a number of years after that;  
16 did this go on for that whole period?

17 A. Yes, it did.

18 Q. Was it Sister [REDACTED] LFJ who was there?

19 A. It was Sister [REDACTED] LFJ who did this to me. There were  
20 other children being abused, too. I think they were all  
21 being abused, but she seemed to have the ones that she  
22 picked out. I got the impression that she liked to do  
23 it to them, liked to hurt them.

24 Q. Would other children in the dormitory be aware of this?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Were you aware of this happening to other children?

2 A. Yes, I was. I heard children crying in the middle of

3 the night.

4 Q. Were you crying?

5 A. Yes, of course. I was only 6/7 years of age, you know.

6 I think any kid would cry, wouldn't you?

7 Q. Because, as you've said, it was painful for you?

8 A. Yes, it was, and it's painful to think about now.

9 It is, really.

10 Q. You've also mentioned that she had this cane that she

11 kept at her side.

12 A. Yes, she did.

13 Q. Did she use that cane on you?

14 A. Yes, she did use it.

15 Q. Can you give us some understanding as to --

16 A. If you did something wrong -- I remember we were playing

17 cowboys and Indians and we had a rope, like a lasso, and

18 we were playing about in the playroom. And there was

19 a statute of -- I think it's called the Prague -- the

20 statue where he holds the ball and there's a little

21 cross on top of it. I can't remember what it was

22 exactly -- I think it was called the Child of Prague, if

23 I remember, and I accidentally knocked it off its stand

24 and it came crashing down and smashed into bits. So

25 I got a right doing for that.

- 1 Q. When you say "a right doing", can you give me  
2 a understanding of what she did?
- 3 A. She thrashed me with the cane.
- 4 Q. Which parts of the body?
- 5 A. My legs, back legs, backside, and maybe a couple of  
6 times on the arm.
- 7 Q. That's a particular example. Were there other instances  
8 when that happened?
- 9 A. Yes, there was. When I look back on it, it seems to me  
10 that this woman was -- hurt herself for some reason,  
11 there was something wrong. She was very sadistic.  
12 I don't know if she got pleasure out of doing it,  
13 I don't know, but she did hurt a lot of kids all the  
14 time I was there. And she was well hated, nobody liked  
15 her.
- 16 Q. Would other nuns be aware of this behaviour?
- 17 A. I think so, but nobody said nothing.
- 18 Q. You've been telling us about the cane. Was there  
19 anything else she used if she was to be hitting you?
- 20 A. No, there was just a cane.
- 21 Q. What about her hands?
- 22 A. Oh, you used to get hit on the head, the back of the  
23 head sometimes. She'd go like that (indicating) --
- 24 Q. A slap?
- 25 A. Clout you, you know.

- 1 Q. Did Sister [LFJ] or any of the nuns say anything to you  
2 to put you down, so to speak?
- 3 A. Yes, I used to get told I shouldn't be walking on God's  
4 earth and I shouldn't have been born and things like  
5 that, you know. Shouldn't be walking on God's good  
6 earth, she would say.
- 7 Q. Why would she say that?
- 8 A. I don't know. I couldn't understand what she meant.
- 9 Q. Would she say anything to you about your family?
- 10 A. Things like my mother's not coming back, you're going to  
11 be here until you're big and you go to that other place  
12 and that's even worse than what this place is, that kind  
13 of thing. It was just really, really hard, you know.  
14 It was very hard, very hard to be there as a child, you  
15 know.
- 16 Q. You've told us about the fact that your mother and your  
17 grandfather in particular would visit you on a regular  
18 basis.
- 19 A. Yes, that's right.
- 20 Q. How would Sister [LFJ] respond to these visits?
- 21 A. Oh, she was all nice and polite and, "[LCA]'s this and  
22 [LCA]'s doing this", and making out I was okay and she  
23 was happy to look after us, that kind of thing. That  
24 was her front, you know, when they came to get me. When  
25 I went back to Nazareth House after being out for the

1 day, everything just went back to normal. Just back to  
2 normal. And I always looked forward to my grandad and  
3 my mother to take me out because it got me away from  
4 that miserable existence, you know.

5 Q. But when you went back --

6 A. Well, you just felt: here we go again. Just have to  
7 grin and bear it sort of thing, and it'd just start up  
8 again. So when I went out with my mum and dad -- my  
9 grandfather, it was like an escape, like getting away,  
10 a bit of freedom. I could run about, things like that,  
11 go to the park, go to the café for a meal, things like  
12 that, like a normal child and it felt really good. But  
13 then going back in the evening, just felt really -- here  
14 we go, that's it.

15 Q. Did the fact that you were out with your relatives in  
16 any way change her approach to you?

17 A. I think so, because I think maybe she -- when I look  
18 back now as an adult, and I look back, I get the  
19 impression that she didn't like me having family or  
20 something, I don't know. That's the impression I get  
21 now when I actually look back and see what happened,  
22 that she was maybe envious or ... I don't know. I just  
23 can't put my hand on it, but it was something she wasn't  
24 happy about with me personally. I don't know.

25 Q. How would that show itself then?

1 A. Well, just being hit and called names, you're a B, and  
2 all this, and that kind of thing, which I didn't  
3 understand at the time.

4 Q. Would she use that word though?

5 A. Yes. I didn't understand what it was, so I didn't know  
6 what she meant, that kind of thing.

7 Q. You have, I think, touched on this in passing and that's  
8 bath times.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I think Sister **LFJ** had some involvement with you  
11 during bath times.

12 A. Yes, she did.

13 Q. Can you describe that to us?

14 A. It was hellish. You didn't want to get bathed because  
15 you knew what was coming up. You got changed and got  
16 into a bath of hot water. When you got in the hot  
17 water, she'd start bathing you with soap, then she would  
18 put your head under the water and try and hold you down  
19 for a certain amount of time. And of course ... You'd  
20 come up fighting for breath. You couldn't breathe. So  
21 you were fighting for breath and then she would put soap  
22 in your mouth -- pepper in your gums and soap in your  
23 eyes, so you're in a stressful state, trying to get out  
24 of the bath, you couldn't get out because she kept you  
25 in there, and she just kept ducking you down, keeping

1           you down as much as you could until you popped back up.  
2           It was a hellish experience and I dreaded it every  
3           Saturday or Sunday for that to come. But this is what  
4           happened, this is what she did to me and other children.  
5           That's what happened. Yes, it was terrible,  
6           a nightmare.

7           I often think about what happened to me. It still  
8           comes to me. It's not something I can get rid of --  
9           I don't suppose I'll ever get rid of -- but it's there.

10          Certain things trigger might it off, maybe you see  
11          something on the telly, hearing something, and it comes  
12          back to you and it's there, like I'm watching a movie,  
13          and it's all in front of you. I can feel -- I can smell  
14          the atmosphere, the noise, the water, her shouting and  
15          bawling, things like that, other kids screaming too.

16          Q. You've been telling us about your own experience; did  
17          she do this to other children?

18          A. Yes, she did.

19          Q. Did she explain why she was, for example, putting soap  
20          into your mouth?

21          A. No -- well, she'd say things like, "You've been bad,  
22          you're getting punished, the devil will get you", that  
23          kind of thing, things like that, "You'll end up going to  
24          Hell", and all that kind of thing. Because as a child  
25          you don't understand what that's about. How can a child

1 of 5, 6, 7 years of age understand that? You didn't  
2 know what it was, but that's what happened. That's what  
3 they did. That's what she did. She was a very cruel  
4 person.

5 Q. Okay. And the use of the pepper?

6 A. Yes, they put that in your gums.

7 Q. Did she say why she was doing that?

8 A. Just things like, "This is punishment, you've been bad".  
9 I couldn't understand why. I tried to think what have  
10 I done wrong. I couldn't understand why this person  
11 would do this, when she knows it's not true, and saying  
12 some terrible things about how you're this or you're  
13 that, and you shouldn't be here, and that kind of  
14 thing: the devil's waiting for you when you die. Some  
15 evil stuff coming out from a woman who's supposed to be  
16 a nun.

17 A nun, as far as I know, is somebody that is full of  
18 kindness and helps, just like a priest or whatever.  
19 That's what I see as a proper nun, but this wasn't a nun  
20 at all. I don't know what it was, but it wasn't a nun.

21 Q. Would other nuns be present when this was going on?

22 A. ██████████ LFK, I think, was there; she knew what was going  
23 on.

24 Q. What about other nuns?

25 A. I think so, yes. There was other nuns there, but nobody

1           said nothing. I think everybody was too frightened. It  
2           was a hellish atmosphere. As time went by, it just got  
3           worse and worse. So you got to a stage where what was  
4           the point in saying anything? It didn't help, you know.  
5           That's how I felt about it all.

6           LADY SMITH: Are you trying to explain you just felt  
7           trapped?

8           A. Well, basically, yes. Yes, you couldn't get away  
9           because there was nowhere to go. There was only that or  
10          the school and the school wasn't much better either, you  
11          know. It was a hellish place, too: using the belt,  
12          things like that, you know, just for nothing.

13          MR MacAULAY: Well, can I ask you about bed-wetting then.  
14          You just touched on that in passing before, Kenny.  
15          I think you did say that you didn't wet the bed.

16          A. No, I didn't. I can honestly say that I did not wet the  
17          bed.

18          Q. Were there children who did wet the bed?

19          A. Yes, there were other kids, through no fault of their  
20          own -- because they were all abandoned, they were all  
21          nervous wrecks, poor souls, and unfortunately that was  
22          one of the side effects, that they were frightened to  
23          get up to go to the toilet or whatever. They had things  
24          like rubber mats on the beds between the sheets -- there  
25          was a rubber sheet thing to save the mattress from

1 getting soiled. More's the pity, the kids that did do  
2 it, they had a hard time in the morning when they got  
3 up.

4 Q. Can you tell me what would happen to a child who wet the  
5 bed?

6 A. Well, there was a lassie, she wet her bed quite often  
7 because she was a nervous wreck, and Sister [REDACTED] LFJ would  
8 take the wet sheets off her bed and wrap it round her  
9 head and make her go up and down the corridor of the  
10 dormitory and have all the other kids ridicule her,  
11 laugh at her and push her, things like that. That's  
12 what she did. And the poor lassie, in a stressful  
13 state, crying, you know. This is what happened. This  
14 is what these people did. I mean, shocking, really.

15 Q. You're talking there about an incident involving a young  
16 girl?

17 A. Mm-hm and there were boys that got the same treatment  
18 too and got hit with a cane, saying it was wrong.  
19 I must admit I did go to the toilet myself, I didn't  
20 want to go through that in the morning, so I just got up  
21 and went to the toilet. I can't remember being  
22 restricted not to go to the toilet, but I made sure  
23 I got up if I needed the toilet -- not always, but if I  
24 needed to, I would get up, go and that, come back and go  
25 to bed, go to sleep, you know.

1 Q. If then children wet the bed and --

2 A. They were severely punished. They got caned or hit on

3 the head or things like that and called names and that

4 sort of thing.

5 Q. What sort of names were being used?

6 A. Kind of rude names like they were pishing the bed, that

7 kind of thing, and the other kids laughing at them, to

8 make them feel worse, which was sad, really. If

9 somebody could enjoy doing this to children, it makes

10 you wonder why a person would do that, but that's what

11 happened. When I see what goes on in the world, you

12 know ...

13 Q. Some of these children that were subjected to this --

14 A. They were treated pretty bad.

15 Q. Would they be upset?

16 A. Crying and things like that -- because you're talking

17 about kids of 6, 7 years of age.

18 Q. Do you know what they had to do with the sheets?

19 A. There was a washroom in the other part of the building.

20 They were made to take them down to the launderette,

21 what they called the launderette, but it was a rather

22 antique place, it was pretty old, and there was a big

23 tub with water, and they would steep them in that, and

24 they were made to wash them sometimes themselves, but

25 not always. They were washed by whoever and hung out of

1 the back on a washing line and then, of course, it would  
2 happen again, you see, and this was a regular  
3 occurrence.

4 Q. You are talking here principally about Sister [REDACTED] LFJ  
5 because she was in charge of your --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Were there other sisters involved in this process?

8 A. I think there was, but I just can't -- I'm sorry,  
9 I can't remember the names. But there were other nuns  
10 walking about at the time, yes. But the one that stands  
11 out to me is Sister [REDACTED] LFJ but she was the one that  
12 looked after our dormitory, so therefore we had contact  
13 with her all the time, morning, noon and night. When we  
14 came back from school, she was always there.

15 Q. I think you mentioned one particular episode where you  
16 witnessed this young girl being subjected to this  
17 process.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Was she somebody from another dormitory?

20 A. Well, she was. She was the lassie from the building  
21 next door to us because the boys were in one dormitory  
22 and the girls in another.

23 Q. So some other nun --

24 A. I think -- if I remember now, Sister [REDACTED] LFJ was in  
25 charge of the two dormitories. That's what it was.

1           Because they were all aged -- roughly the same age,  
2           6/7 years old.

3       Q.   Do I take it that you stayed in that same dormitory  
4           throughout your whole time in the big side?

5       A.   Yes, that's right.

6       Q.   I think you've told us, as you've been giving your  
7           evidence, about what happened to you, but you also saw  
8           other children being beaten.

9       A.   Yes.  Yes, I did.

10      Q.   What you've been talking about, with the bed-wetting?

11      A.   Yes, the canes and things like that.

12      Q.   The bathing?

13      A.   Yes, that happened to other children too, not just  
14           myself.

15      Q.   And the scratching behaviour that you've mentioned?

16      A.   Yes.  That happened to other children, but myself too.

17      Q.   You give one example of a boy who had had his head  
18           damaged on a coat hook.  Can you help me with that,  
19           what was that about?

20      A.   I think the laddie's name was ██████, if I remember, and  
21           it was when we were going to school and in class he was  
22           sitting opposite me where I was, and I seen this sort of  
23           like grey stuff, what you call maybe pus or something on  
24           the side of his head, and I realised there was like  
25           a hole there.  I thought, my God, and the teacher saw it

1 and went rushing to the headmaster, who got an ambulance  
2 and they took the laddie away and I didn't see him for a  
3 while after that. I asked him myself what happened and  
4 one of the other boys said to me a nun bashed his head  
5 on one of these coat hanger that was in the changing  
6 room in Nazareth House. So it was the hook of the coat  
7 hanger that hit the laddie's skull and that's what  
8 caused his --

9 Q. You didn't witness that yourself?

10 A. I didn't witness it myself, but one of the boys told me  
11 about that. I do remember in the actual school seeing  
12 the stuff on his head, which was pretty bad. It was  
13 coming out, like, and that's why the teacher sort of  
14 panicked and went to the headmaster and an ambulance  
15 came and took the boy away.

16 Q. So he had been allowed to go to school, though, after  
17 the event with the coat hanger?

18 A. Yes, he was away -- we didn't see him for a couple of  
19 months after that, but then he came back and he started  
20 school again.

21 Q. I follow, but something had happened to him in  
22 Nazareth House involving the coat hanger; is that right?

23 A. Yes, that's what we were told.

24 Q. Were you told who had done that?

25 A. One of the nuns but they didn't say who it was, it was

1           just a nun.

2           Q. The boy, [REDACTED], had then been allowed to go to school  
3           before you noticed --

4           A. Yes, that's right, he went with us in the queue to  
5           Lasswade, into Bonnyrigg.

6           Q. And he was away then for some time?

7           A. A couple of months I reckon because it was quite a bad  
8           injury. It looked pretty bad. When you actually see  
9           the skull actually cracked, it was obviously pretty bad.  
10          It's a wonder he didn't -- I mean, it was obviously  
11          life-threatening too, I don't know.

12          Q. Do you know if there was any police involvement in that?

13          A. No.

14          Q. Apart from the sisters and the lady, [REDACTED] LHK, that you  
15          mentioned, were there other lay staff attached to the  
16          home when you were there?

17          A. You maybe got in the summertime people coming from  
18          abroad, Italy or Spain, young women coming to help who  
19          would look after the kids.

20          Q. You say from abroad?

21          A. Yes, because they spoke foreign -- I think it was like  
22          Spanish or Italian.

23          Q. And how did you get on with them?

24          A. They weren't much better because they used to hit you  
25          too, do you know what I mean, they would kind of abuse

1 the children too.

2 Q. Can I then come to look at when you came to leave  
3 Nazareth House.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And I think your own understanding is that that was in  
6 1965. Is that --

7 A. 65 or 66. I think 65 because I was 8 going on 9, yes.  
8 1965.

9 Q. Certainly in your statement what you say is you thought  
10 it was [REDACTED] 1965.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Can you tell me how it came about that you came to  
13 leave?

14 A. Yes, there was a man and woman that came to see me and  
15 a couple of the other kids. That's when they were  
16 deciding to take kids out of these places and put them  
17 in smaller home groups. Their names were Mr and  
18 Mrs Reid. I saw them a couple of times and then never  
19 thought anything about it. Then she came the third time  
20 and said, "You're coming with us, LCA, give you  
21 a chance for a better life, get you out of here".  
22 Of course -- we went to Tranent. It took me a long time  
23 to settle in Tranent because everything was different.  
24 I'd been that used to living in a regime sort of thing,  
25 you had to do this, you had to do that all the time, so

1           that was buried in you for several years, so it took me  
2           a long time to undo that.

3       Q.   Just to be clear, you actually left Nazareth House and  
4           you went to another place in Tranent --

5       A.   Yes.

6       Q.   -- with this couple?

7       A.   Mr and Mrs Reid.

8       Q.   Did other children go as well?

9       A.   Not to Tranent, but I went to Tranent with them.  She  
10          took me, she said, "I'll take LCA and I'll give him  
11          a chance".

12      Q.   What was that like?

13      A.   At first it was a bit daunting because for some reason,  
14          believe it or not, I cried to go back to Nazareth House  
15          because I had become so institutionalised.  That is  
16          true: I actually cried to go back.  Mrs Reid said, "No,  
17          you're not going back there.  You've been that used to  
18          all these rules and regulations, you don't know anything  
19          different".  So that's why I found it kind of  
20          frightening too.  But as time went by, I gradually got  
21          away from that feeling and started to open up a little  
22          bit and act like a normal boy, had a bike and things  
23          like that and played in parks, you know.

24      Q.   Do you understand how Mr and Mrs Reid became involved in  
25          this process?

1 A. I think it was to do -- it could have been to do with  
2 Miss Sinclair, maybe the Social Work Department.  
3 I think they were based in Edinburgh at the time.  
4 I think they were down in an old building in Leith --  
5 it's no longer there, it has gone, but I think that was  
6 where the head office was, in Leith, and I think maybe  
7 she had something to do with that, I don't know.

8 When I went to Tranent, Miss Sinclair was still  
9 appearing now and then, coming to see me, so she was  
10 still my social worker there.

11 Q. What about Sister **LFJ**, did she say anything to you  
12 when you --

13 A. She wasn't very happy. She says, getting out and things  
14 like that -- I don't think she was very pleased that  
15 I was getting out of it.

16 Q. What made you think that?

17 A. Well, I just had that feeling that she wasn't happy that  
18 I was getting away. Maybe like escaping, I don't know.  
19 That sort of idea went through my mind: I'm getting away  
20 from you, I don't have to suffer you any more.

21 Q. But did Mrs Reid explain to you at any point why it was  
22 that you were being taken out then?

23 A. She said they were taking the children out of these big  
24 places to make it a little bit more homely for kids,  
25 a little bit more normal upbringing rather than this

1 institutional stuff, groups of kids. A family  
2 atmosphere rather than this.

3 Q. So this was to be a general approach then, not just --

4 A. Yes, I think there were other places that were doing it  
5 too.

6 Q. Did she say to you why that was happening?

7 A. Well, I think probably -- she didn't actually say  
8 herself to me personally, but I think maybe they  
9 realised things were going on and they had to stop. It  
10 would make life a little bit better for the kids; it was  
11 not fault of their own being there. That's the  
12 impression I get. When I look back, I think that's what  
13 it was. Just to make life a little bit better for them.

14 Q. I think you thought Mrs Reid was a lady in perhaps her  
15 late 20s at that time.

16 A. Yes, she was. She had a daughter herself, Jacqueline,  
17 who was three years -- she was six years younger than  
18 me. I was 9, so yes, that's right.

19 Q. The house in Tranent, that was --

20 A. Just A normal house. Just a normal house, an up and  
21 down, three bedrooms I think it was.

22 Q. Was there physical punishment when you were with the  
23 Reids?

24 A. No, not at all.

25 Q. What about your homework? Did you get any help with

- 1           your homework?
- 2       A.   Yes.  There was me and three brothers related to each  
3           other.  There was about five boys in Tranent, so like  
4           two bedrooms.  I think the two older ones were in  
5           a bigger bedroom and me and couple of other laddies my  
6           age were in that bedroom and there was one at the front.
- 7       Q.  Did these other boys come from somewhere else?
- 8       A.  I think so, but I don't know where.
- 9       Q.  Not from Nazareth House?
- 10      A.  No, not Nazareth House.
- 11      Q.  After Tranent, did you go somewhere else?
- 12      A.  Yes, I went to Penicuik.
- 13      Q.  Was that a home that --
- 14      A.  Yes, that was just built -- it opened in 1967,  
15           Windsor Square.
- 16      Q.  Who was in charge of that?
- 17      A.  That was Mr and Mrs Reid because she was offered another  
18           position to run the new home in Penicuik, which was  
19           going to be a bit bigger, like maybe 12 kids rather than  
20           six or whatever was in Tranent.  So there was 12 kids or  
21           13 kids, I'm not sure, and her and her husband and  
22           daughter.  They had a cook and they had a couple of  
23           cleaners and somebody that did the laundry and  
24           a gardener who came every week to do the garden.
- 25      Q.  And what was life like in that home?

1 A. Oh, it was great, absolutely fantastic. Sort of --  
2 well, we all sort of blossomed in the sense that I could  
3 start learning things, you know, because she said that  
4 herself: "There's a big difference to you coming here,  
5 LCA and going to --" I couldn't settle in Tranent,  
6 I wasn't happy at all.

7 Q. How would you compare the home in Penicuik compared to  
8 Nazareth House?

9 A. Oh, heaven. Heaven was Penicuik. She was very, very  
10 good. A very understanding person. She would sit with  
11 you, talk to you if you had any problems. If you had  
12 any problems you could go and speak to her. She was  
13 very nice, just a genuine lady. Really nice.

14 Q. I think you tell us that the Reids ran this home until  
15 about 1970.

16 A. 1970, she went to -- they moved to Ravelston in  
17 Edinburgh. It was not a bigger home, but it was  
18 a bigger house in the sense that it was an old, heavy  
19 houses.

20 Q. And another couple took over, i think you tell us.

21 A. Yes, that was the Connorboys.

22 Q. How was that?

23 A. They were all right, they were okay. They weren't the  
24 same as Mrs Reid. It was never the same after Mrs Reid  
25 and George moved out. It never was. Of

1 course, Mrs Connorboys wasn't keeping good health  
2 herself, she eventually had a brain haemorrhage, poor  
3 soul, and she died, and of course by that time we were  
4 into our teenages and you know what teenagers are like  
5 and we were a bit rebellious, you know.

6 Q. Eventually, I think, just for a while, you go back to  
7 your mother; is that correct?

8 A. Yes. I stayed with my mother. What happened, I moved  
9 to -- actually, I had to move out when I was 16 from  
10 Penicuik because when you reached 16, the care system  
11 naturally finished, like, that's you done. Because for  
12 some reason in Scotland you can actually live on your  
13 own in Scotland, whereas in England it's 17/18, I'm not  
14 too sure. There's a slight difference. But when you  
15 turn 16: there you go, that's it, there's the world, get  
16 on with it.

17 Q. Up to that point in time, did you still have some input  
18 from the Social Work Department?

19 A. Yes, there was a guy -- the last social worker I had  
20 with a Mr Bell, Ian Bell. He was a very nice man.  
21 He was based in Tranent, his office was in Tranent, so  
22 he used to come from Tranent to Penicuik maybe once  
23 a fortnight, something like that, to see how I was.

24 Q. As far as that social work contact, really, throughout  
25 your time in the care system, did you ever tell the

1 social workers --

2 A. Yes, I did.

3 Q. -- what had happened to you in Nazareth House?

4 A. Yes, I told Mrs Reid too because Mrs Reid asked me and

5 I told her what happened.

6 Q. We'll look at Mrs Reid in a moment, but what about the

7 social workers?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What did you tell them?

10 A. What happened to me, the things that were done, the

11 things I saw. Mr Bell, Ian, said, "Just tell me

12 everything that happened and how you feel, [REDACTED] LCA ",

13 that kind of thing. He'd write it all down in a report

14 and he'd come to see maybe me once a fortnight. I just

15 told him how I felt and what happened.

16 Q. Would you tell him about the beatings?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. The baths?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. The bed-wetting?

21 A. Yes. I did, yes. He says, unfortunately, how it's

22 affected you, [REDACTED] LCA it has made you -- you're not mad

23 or anything like that, but you've become emotionally

24 disturbed in the sense that you can't handle things as

25 you should do as a normal person would, but now that



- 1 did that?
- 2 A. Well, when my grandfather spoke to Sister [LFJ], when  
3 he went away, I got quite badly hit and told not to tell  
4 lies, things like that. I think I was about 6 years of  
5 age when that happened.
- 6 Q. Do you know if your grandfather was able to follow that  
7 through?
- 8 A. He said he had spoken to the Mother Superior. That's  
9 what I got told, but I don't know if that happened  
10 because I wasn't there, just what he told me himself.  
11 He did actually mention to Sister [LFJ], is anybody  
12 hitting this boy here because he's a nervous wreck, he  
13 won't speak, he's not the same as he was when he was on  
14 the small side, he can hardly talk. And I wouldn't talk  
15 -- when he used to take me out and that, I just didn't  
16 want to speak at all, I just clammed up, you know.
- 17 Q. Do you know if Sister [LFJ] gave him any explanation  
18 for that?
- 19 A. No, she just said, oh, not at all, things like that, we  
20 don't do that to kids.
- 21 Q. You tell us also that when you left Nazareth House and  
22 went to the Reids, that you told Mrs Reid what had  
23 happened to you.
- 24 A. Yes, I did.
- 25 Q. Did you tell her the sort of detail you've been telling

1 us today?

2 A. Yes, I did, and I told her that time when I was ill --

3 I think she had been a bit of a nurse herself at one

4 point -- and she said it sounded like meningitis.

5 Q. Did you also tell your mother at some point?

6 A. Well, my mother went down to London when I was 7, so

7 that would be 1964, so I didn't see my mother after that

8 until 1968, when she came back four years later from

9 London.

10 Q. And by then, I think, you had left --

11 A. No, no, I was 11 years of age when she came back.

12 Q. No, but you had left Nazareth House.

13 A. Yes, sorry, yes.

14 Q. At any point did you tell your mother what the treatment  
15 was for you at Nazareth House?

16 A. Not really, not really, because when -- she went away  
17 when I was 7, things got really -- started to get worse  
18 for all of us, but more so for me. I started to really  
19 lash out at people.

20 She'd say, "Oh, your mother's away to London", and  
21 she'd come out with things like, "Your mother's not  
22 coming back, she'd finished with you, and when you leave  
23 here to go to the other place, you'll get the same  
24 treatment". I don't exactly know what she meant by the  
25 "other place", but I assume it's -- when the laddies

1           turned 12, they would go to another place, I think it  
2           was brothers or something, something through the west --

3           Q. The "she" we are talking about is Sister LFJ ?

4           A. Yes.

5           Q. As you've mentioned already, you did move to live with  
6           your mother, I think, in 1973; is that correct?

7           A. That's right, yes.

8           Q. And you then tell us in your statement about various  
9           jobs that you had.

10          A. Yes.

11          Q. You then go on to tell us a little bit about what you  
12          say the impact on you was --

13          A. Yes.

14          Q. -- from your life in Nazareth House.

15                 This point you make in paragraph 87 about raising  
16                 your hands to protect yourself, can you help me with  
17                 that?

18          A. Yes. When I went to Tranent with Mr and Mrs Reid, I had  
19                 a terrible time of putting my hands like this  
20                 (indicating).

21          Q. You're indicating to the side of your head --

22          A. Up like that.

23          Q. -- in a protective way.

24          A. Yes, because I expected to get hit on the head because  
25                 that's what happened all the time I was in

1 Nazareth House. So it took me a long time to get used  
2 to the idea that not everybody does that, but it took me  
3 a long time to get that into my mind: I'm okay, nobody's  
4 going to hit me. Mrs Reid, I must admit, said,  
5 "Nobody's going to get hit here, I don't believe in  
6 hitting". If you did anything wrong, she'd maybe give  
7 you 100 lines or something like that, laborious.

8 Q. In that part of your statement you set out for us how  
9 you've tried to cope with the impact that life in  
10 Nazareth House has had on you; is that right? You get  
11 worried sometimes, for example, but you seem to cope.

12 A. Yes. I seem to have that in me. I'm a survivor in the  
13 sense that I don't want to let it rule my life, you  
14 know, because I don't want that to happen because then  
15 I would give into them or they've won. I'm that kind of  
16 person -- I'm a fighter and a survivor. I've always  
17 been like that. I've been through thick and thin but  
18 I've always managed to come through.

19 Q. If we look through that section of your statement where  
20 you talk about your hopes for the inquiry, at  
21 paragraph 99, there you tell us that the reason:

22 "I picked up the phone to the inquiry because I felt  
23 I had to tell somebody --"

24 A. Mm-hm.

25 Q. "-- about what had happened."

1 A. That's right.

2 Q. That's why you came forward?

3 A. Yes, that's why I came forward. Not for any financial  
4 gains or anything like that. Just to come and let  
5 people know exactly what happened, what I experienced  
6 in that establishment, and other children too, but just  
7 to ... I felt a lot better actually telling because  
8 I had it in my system for over 50 years, and these  
9 people that have been helping have been fantastic.

10 Q. What are your feelings towards the people at  
11 Nazareth House?

12 A. Well, anger. I didn't want to hate anybody. That's not  
13 going to answer anything. But I did have a lot of hate  
14 for -- not so much the Catholic Church but the people  
15 who were there. I don't know if there's a God, I just  
16 don't know at all, I can't answer that. But the people  
17 that actually did this and committed these abuses and  
18 that, I had a lot of hate for them, yes.

19 But as time's went by now, I gradually -- well,  
20 there's no point in going on because most of them are  
21 dead anyway, so it doesn't make any difference. But for  
22 myself, I feel a lot -- I don't feel as angry as I used  
23 to. When I was a young man, I was a very angry man, I  
24 used to get in a lot of fights and things like that and  
25 doing drugs, that kind of thing. I actually feel a lot

1 better now, that kind of thing. But I did feel angry  
2 towards them, yes, of course, but not any more. There's  
3 no point.

4 Q. But you do say at 102 that it is your thinking that the  
5 nuns, especially Sister [REDACTED] LFJ [REDACTED], were out to destroy your  
6 life?

7 A. Yes. I believe that's what she wanted to do. Not just  
8 myself but other children too were getting the same  
9 treatment, you know. I think they didn't want to teach  
10 you, to learn, because they wanted you to get out into  
11 the world and do all the rotten jobs, you know, and have  
12 no education at all.

13 Q. Finally, Kenny, can I pick up this point you're making  
14 in the last paragraph, 104. You say that you were told  
15 that people who stayed in their own houses were good and  
16 that you were being punished because you were bad. Were  
17 you told that?

18 A. Yes. Well, when I look back and I look at that and  
19 I see ... I think a lot of the children, but myself  
20 personally, speaking for myself, I got the impression  
21 that we had done something wrong for being there, you  
22 know. That was the impression I got, that I shouldn't  
23 have been there, and the reason why I was there is  
24 because I was getting punished. But I couldn't  
25 understand where that was coming from, from

1 Sister [REDACTED] LFJ , but that's what she was trying to --  
2 that's what I saw, you know, because I'd done something  
3 wrong, but I couldn't understand why she would do that.  
4 But there you go.

5 Q. I think you say that Mrs Reid was able to convince you  
6 that it wasn't your fault --

7 A. Exactly.

8 Q. -- that you were in care.

9 A. But #coming from Nazareth House and Sister [REDACTED] LFJ , it  
10 was my fault as far as she was concerned. As I say,  
11 when I settled with Mrs Reid in Tranent and in Penicuik,  
12 it was okay, she'd explain everything to me.

13 MR MacAULAY: Very well, Kenny. Those are all the questions  
14 that I have for you. Thank you for coming to give your  
15 evidence. It hasn't been that easy for you.

16 A. No, it still brings a lot of bad unhappiness, but I just  
17 have to go on. It's a long time ago and, as I say,  
18 I don't have any hatred for the church or anything like  
19 that. It just should never have happened.

20 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, I haven't any further questions that  
21 I'm aware of that I need to put to Kenny.

22 LADY SMITH: Can I check whether there are any outstanding  
23 applications for questions? No.

24 Kenny, that's the end of the questions. It just  
25 remains for me to thank you for coming forward, for

1 giving your written statement and coming here today to  
2 talk to us. I do understand that's not an easy thing to  
3 do.

4 A. No, it's not.

5 LADY SMITH: But you've done it and I really appreciate the  
6 way in which you have done it. That has been really,  
7 really helpful. I can now let you go.

8 A. Thank you.

9 (The witness withdrew)

10 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay?

11 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, at the risk of overworking the  
12 stenographers, it would be possible to have a reading  
13 done this afternoon. I'm not pushing for that, but we  
14 do have the time.

15 LADY SMITH: Well, we do have the time available. How long  
16 will it take, do you think?

17 MR MacAULAY: 20 minutes, my Lady.

18 LADY SMITH: Yes, we'll move on to reading in a statement.

19 Witness statement of "JIM" (read)

20 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, this is a statement of an applicant  
21 who wishes to remain anonymous and is using the  
22 pseudonym of "Jim".

23 He's unable to attend today because of work reasons.

24 His statement can be found at WIT.001.001.7602.

25 "My name is Jim. My date of birth is 1961. My

1 contact details are known to the inquiry."

2 At paragraphs 2 and 3, Jim speaks of his life before  
3 care when he lived with his parents and three younger  
4 brothers in Dundee. He says that his father was an  
5 alcoholic who beat up his mother and the children. Jim  
6 didn't see his mother again after being taken into care.

7 At paragraphs 4 to 7, Jim speaks briefly of being in  
8 Nazareth House Aberdeen and then being placed in foster  
9 care. However, the records that we have recovered tend  
10 to suggest that in fact Jim was at the Aberdeen  
11 Children's Shelter rather than Nazareth House in  
12 Aberdeen before being placed in foster care in 1969.

13 Jim remembers that two of his younger brothers were  
14 then moved from foster care to Nazareth House in  
15 Lasswade. Jim and his younger brother followed a short  
16 time later.

17 My Lady, I will now move to paragraph 8 at the foot  
18 of 7603, where Jim speaks of his experiences in  
19 Nazareth House Lasswade.

20 "Between my tenth and eleventh birthday we moved  
21 from Glasgow to Nazareth House in Lasswade."

22 My Lady, Jim is mentioned in the Nazareth House  
23 records, but a date of entry has not been recorded  
24 there. However, correspondence that the inquiry has  
25 recovered, being correspondence between Nazareth House

1 and the Corporation of Dundee Children's Department,  
2 refers to Jim being admitted in 1973. Both  
3 Nazareth House and the Children's Department have  
4 recorded Jim leaving Nazareth House in Lasswade in 1974,  
5 such that he would have been there for a period of about  
6 18 months.

7 LADY SMITH: So that will be from about age 12 or so, 11 or  
8 12, for about 18 months?

9 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady.

10 Jim states:

11 "I don't know why we moved. When we arrived there,  
12 I remember it being a really long building. As you  
13 entered the door, there was a reception area. There was  
14 a long corridor leading to the chapel where we had to  
15 attend Sunday service. Off the corridor were three or  
16 four sections where everybody was separated into groups.

17 "Each group had a nun allocated to look after them.  
18 My group was looked after by Sister LFZ. I'm not  
19 sure of the names of any of the other nuns. Each of the  
20 groups had a TV room and their own dining room. From  
21 the corridor there was a set of stairs leading to the  
22 accommodation upstairs, which were rooms as opposed to  
23 dormitories. There was a mix of boys and girls, but  
24 we were separated in different rooms.

25 "Food was brought to the groups in their respective

1 dining rooms by a series of heated food trolleys.  
2 We were not allowed to leave the tables until we had  
3 finished our food. I did not like eating vegetables and  
4 would hide them in my pockets. When I got to the toilet  
5 I would flush them away. I can't remember if there was  
6 any punishment for not eating your food.

7 "We attended a Catholic primary school at Bonnyrigg,  
8 despite the fact that we were all Church of Scotland.  
9 I was in primary seven at the time. After Bonnyrigg  
10 when I went to secondary, it was Lasswade High School.  
11 We would walk from Nazareth House to school, which was  
12 fine for primary, but Lasswade High School was a much  
13 longer distance. I was at the high school for a year.

14 "One of the chores we had was to take the food waste  
15 and feed it to the pigs on the land as swill. I  
16 remember the pigs quite well as they were affected when  
17 there was an outbreak of foot and mouth disease. At  
18 Christmas we were given a gift, which I assume was  
19 donated. I don't remember birthdays being celebrated at  
20 all.

21 "One of the punishments we were given by the nuns  
22 was if someone was caught swearing. The whole group  
23 were made to stand in the bathroom and we had toothpaste  
24 smeared down the side of the face and soap was put into  
25 our mouth. I can't remember how many times this

1 happened.

2 "I did try to leave the home once and walked off to  
3 some fields with one of the other boys. We didn't know  
4 where we were going and eventually just walked back.  
5 Nobody seemed to have noticed we had gone.

6 "Life there was not what could be described as  
7 enjoyable, but it was still better than being with my  
8 father."

9 My Lady, at paragraphs 16 to 23, Jim goes on to tell  
10 the inquiry about his experience at St Ninian's in  
11 Falkland where he was transferred from Nazareth House.

12 At paragraphs 24 to 28, Jim speaks of his life after  
13 care. Initially, he lived with an aunt when he left  
14 St Ninian's at the age of 15. He then obtained a job as  
15 a bakery van driver and then joined the army and had  
16 a successful career in the army. He married and had two  
17 children. After the army, he became involved in the  
18 catering industry and is currently a head of catering  
19 in the oil industry.

20 At that stage, my Lady, I'll move on to page 7607 at  
21 paragraph 29, where Jim speaks of reporting of abuse and  
22 says:

23 "I have never reported any abuse to the social work  
24 department, the police or any other authorities."

25 In relation to impact, Jim says:

1            "I feel that my life in the various homes showed  
2            that I missed out on many life skills, such as how to  
3            relate to other people. I always keep myself to myself  
4            and do not mix very well. I do not have many people  
5            I can call friends other than one in Dundee.

6            "I particularly struggled in my family life at  
7            Christmas because it was not celebrated in the homes.  
8            As this was something I was denied throughout my  
9            childhood, I had difficulties showing any enthusiasm to  
10           celebrate it with my family. Steadily, as I grew older  
11           in my married life, this became a bit easier.

12           "Life in care had a huge impact on my brothers and  
13           I lost two of them through addictions to drink and  
14           drugs. One of my brothers collapsed and died in 2010.  
15           Another of my brothers died in 2011 through HIV while  
16           he was in prison in Perth. Another brother has been  
17           in the social system throughout his life because of  
18           issues with drink and drugs. He stays in Dundee and  
19           I go down and see him and offer him some help if  
20           required. I have never taken any drugs during my life.

21           "In 1985 I got into trouble and was charged with  
22           drink-driving. It had been raining this particular  
23           night and I drove home. I was only just over the limit,  
24           but it may as well have been ten times the limit. On  
25           another occasion a friend challenged me to see if

1 I could punch a hole in a fence. I took up the  
2 challenge, punched a hole in it, and ended up being  
3 charged with criminal damage.

4 "I try not to think much about my time in care.  
5 I have made sure that my children would not have this  
6 kind of life and ensured they would never end up in  
7 care. I did find it difficult to show affection to my  
8 kids as this was nothing I had been shown through my  
9 experiences in care. They have both done really well in  
10 their education and will have a great future. My  
11 daughter got a degree at university and my son qualified  
12 as an instrument technician.

13 "The way we were treated in the care homes and at  
14 times kept separate had an impact in that my brothers  
15 and I did not have a close relationship.

16 "I have never had any interest in seeing my records.  
17 I know what happened to me by my parents and do not need  
18 to know anything else from the care homes.

19 "Years ago I heard about some of the issues with the  
20 care homes where I had been placed. I compiled a letter  
21 to send to the solicitor involved but never actually got  
22 round to sending it.

23 "I would like to see improvements in the education  
24 system in care. Properly trained teachers, instead of  
25 the permanent members of staff filling in. As I said

1           previously, the staff were teaching things a year behind  
2           where everyone else was at, which, having already  
3           listened to those subjects for a year, detracts you from  
4           any willingness to learn. I would like more life skills  
5           shown to kids in care, especially in building  
6           relationships and how to react to the big world outside  
7           the care system.

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

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

12                 The statement was signed by Jim on 27 March 2018.

13   LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. Very well. We'll rise  
14                 there for today. Nothing more up your sleeve for us?

15   MS RATTRAY: Tomorrow I believe we have three witnesses who  
16                 are coming to give oral testimony and there may be  
17                 a further read-in.

18   LADY SMITH: Good. Very well. I'll stop there for today and  
19                 we'll sit again tomorrow morning at 10.00. Thank you.

20                 (3.31 pm)

21                 (The hearing adjourned until Wednesday 23 May at 10.00 am)

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"PAUL" (affirmed) .....1

    Questions from MR MacAULAY .....1

Witness statement of "SARAH" (read) .....37

"MIKE" (affirmed) .....58

    Questions from MR MacAULAY .....58

"KENNY" (affirmed) .....100

    Questions from MR MacAULAY .....100

Witness statement of "JIM" (read) .....154