

1 Friday, 1 June 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 (Proceedings delayed)

4 (10.08 am)

5 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, what next?

6 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, my Lady. My apologies for the
7 slight delay this morning. The next witness wants to
8 remain anonymous and she wants to use the name
9 "Mari-Anne" in giving evidence.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 "MARI-ANNE" (sworn)

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

13 Mari-Anne, I think you're in a good position for the
14 microphone. I'll let you know if it's a problem because
15 it is important that microphone picks up everything you
16 say. Mr MacAulay will explain what he wants you to do
17 with that red file and I'll pass over to him now.

18 Mr MacAulay.

19 Questions from Mr MacAULAY

20 MR MacAULAY: Hello, Mari-Anne.

21 A. Hi.

22 Q. Can I begin by just taking from you your year of birth,
23 not the date of birth. Can you confirm that you were
24 born in 1967?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. In the red folder in front of you you'll find your
2 statement. That's the statement you provided to the
3 inquiry. Can I ask you to look at it. I'll give the
4 reference to the stenographers and it's
5 WIT.001.001.8976. If I could ask you, Mari-Anne, to go
6 to the last page; that's at page 8981.

7 Can you confirm to me that you have signed the
8 statement?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Do you say towards the end there:

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

13 Do you say that?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. Do you go on to say:

16 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
17 statement are true"?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You can put the statement aside for the moment,
20 Mari-Anne. Can I just perhaps touch a little bit on
21 your background. I think you come from quite a large
22 family and you're the eldest, I think, of six children;
23 is that correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. So far as your mother's family was concerned, I think

- 1 your mother had a sister who was your aunt; is that
2 right?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. You learned at a point in time that your Aunt **LWM** ,
5 because that was her name, was someone who had been in
6 care?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. I think you yourself were in care and indeed you've come
9 to the inquiry in connection with your own case; is that
10 right?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. But we're not looking at that today --
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. -- and you understand that. At a point in your life,
15 when you were much younger, did your aunt take on some
16 responsibility for you?
- 17 A. Most of the responsibility. She understood me better.
- 18 Q. And at what age did that take place?
- 19 A. When I got out of the care home, I was 14 -- I was taken
20 from the family home at age 11 -- so she was at the
21 panels, my Aunt **LWM** , and she got legal guardianship of
22 me.
- 23 Q. Early on after that had happened, did you have some
24 discussions with your aunt about her own time in care?
- 25 A. I do recall her mentioning when I was much younger, but

1 it was more so when I came out of the care home I was
2 in. I couldn't fit in anywhere and it was really
3 upsetting because there was no outlet to speak to
4 anyone. But yeah, I always went with my aunt and
5 I stayed there quite a lot. She could relate to how
6 I felt and why I felt these feelings. Then she told me
7 about her time when she was put in care when she was
8 a little girl.

9 Q. What age were you, do you think, when she started to
10 tell you about her own experiences?

11 A. I think it started when I was 13, before I got out.

12 Q. We're going to come to a point when, much later on, you
13 were able to write down what she told you, and I'll come
14 to that point.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. But before that, what did she say to you about what had
17 happened to her in care?

18 A. The constant memory was -- the most -- I was told every
19 time about how haunted she was about the young -- she
20 named them "bairns", which means little children --
21 screaming and crying, it haunted her up until the day
22 she died. The abuse that she received from -- it was
23 a nun's place, a nun's home, and the nuns ... It was
24 hard to believe because of who they were, but I knew she
25 wasn't lying. Even though she endured all of this

- 1 abuse, she still instilled the Lord into all of us,
2 myself, [REDACTED] -- yeah, she said Jesus saved her.
- 3 Q. You mentioned in passing the name [REDACTED]; was [REDACTED] your
4 aunt's daughter?
- 5 A. That was her biological daughter, yes.
- 6 Q. Did [REDACTED] die in 2010?
- 7 A. Yes, [REDACTED] 2010.
- 8 Q. Did that have quite an impact on your aunt?
- 9 A. Oh yeah, she was told she only had [REDACTED] weeks to live
10 and she'd only turned 50, so it had a massive impact on
11 all of us but, yeah, mostly it had a massive impact on
12 my aunt.
- 13 Q. Did your aunt tell you, before we come to the point when
14 you started writing things down on her behalf, where she
15 had been in care?
- 16 A. Yeah, there were lots of things she said, but most of
17 it -- some of it is in her diary. She told of the
18 beatings that she endured, which is hard to comprehend
19 that any nun or priest would do any harm to any child.
20 She was physically beaten and sexually abused.
- 21 Q. Did she tell you where this had happened?
- 22 A. Yes, she told me it was in Nazareth House and in
23 St Claire's.
- 24 Q. So far as Nazareth House is concerned, did she identify
25 a particular place?

- 1 A. Glasgow.
- 2 Q. I think there came a point much more recently when your
3 aunt herself became ill; is that right?
- 4 A. Yes. Well, to begin with she was getting better --
5 we were at radiotherapy for three weeks to maintain --
6 couldn't operate. It seemed to clear the cancer in the
7 lung, all of it, but she had COPD and emphysema and she
8 was low in oxygen, so I was phoning around trying to get
9 her oxygen. I only thought it was the oxygen, so we
10 couldn't -- they said that you had to wait two days to
11 get oxygen through her GP, but she needed it
12 straightaway. So the only thing I could think of would
13 be an ambulance would carry oxygen, so I phoned them up
14 asking them if they had -- they went to see her, they
15 gave her oxygen and they took her into hospital.
- 16 Q. Can you tell me when that was?
- 17 A. Yes, that was [REDACTED].
- 18 Q. Of this year?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. When she was in hospital, did you discuss again with her
21 her time in care?
- 22 A. Yes. She was writing things down and when she was
23 getting poorly, she asked me to basically finish -- we
24 never got to the end.
- 25 Q. But I think the position is that she kept a diary.

1 A. Yes, she did.

2 Q. Was it in her diary that she was writing things down?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Was it in her diary that you, as it were, picked up from
5 where she had left off to write on her behalf; is that
6 right?

7 A. Yes, she told me to keep it safe. She gave it --

8 I would retrieve the diary from her and no one else was
9 to see the diary. She was open to the inquiry though.
10 She knew I was on the inquiry team and I was letting her
11 know about it and I showed her pathways and about the
12 help that you get and that there is justice.

13 To begin with, she was reluctant. She said it would
14 be no help for her, she thought because of her age. And
15 I says, "I assume that there's other people coming
16 forward that are older or maybe the same age as
17 yourself". So she kind of took that on board and I left
18 her with it for a little while, then that's when she
19 agreed.

20 She asked me many questions and what I'd told the
21 inquiry team. I didn't hide any secrets from my aunt --
22 I couldn't anyway, she would know. So I told her that
23 I told them what happened to me and then she started
24 opening up a lot more.

25 Q. Was the promise you made to her that you would let the

- 1 inquiry know about what she said?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. I don't need a date of birth, but can you confirm for me
4 that your aunt was born in 1939?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Did she tell you what age she was when she first went
7 into care?
- 8 A. It was either 7 or 8, because she moved from my grandma
9 to stay with the great granda in the broch. She was 6
10 when she left my grandma, so it would have been aged 7
11 or 8 years of age.
- 12 Q. Were you able to work out when she left care, what age
13 was when she left care?
- 14 A. She told me she ran away at 15.
- 15 Q. I think what you've been saying to us, Mari-Anne,
16 is that she herself had made some notes in the diary,
17 but there came a point when she found it too difficult
18 to write and she spoke to you and you wrote down what
19 she said.
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And I think your promise to her was you'd try to get
22 justice for her; is that right?
- 23 A. Yes, it was justice for her and for any others that had
24 been through a similar thing like herself.
- 25 Q. Can I just pick up two points with you before we start

1 looking at the diary. I'm picking these points up
2 because it may be they don't appear specifically in at
3 least what you've written.

4 First of all, did she ever mention to you what would
5 happen if a person, particularly herself, wet the bed in
6 care?

7 A. Oh yeah.

8 Q. What did she tell you about that?

9 A. They would put the sheet over her and then they'd call
10 her a wicked child or an evil child -- it was either one
11 or both at separate times or both together. There was
12 this one particular nun who would -- she was just
13 little, but she said it was a board, you'd put soap on
14 the board and she'd have to, with her little hands, wash
15 the sheet.

16 Q. Did she tell you in that connection if anything else
17 happened to her? By that I mean, would she be hit or
18 anything happen to her?

19 A. Yes, she got a lot of beatings in there.

20 Q. The other thing that I think you discussed with her, and
21 you mention this in your statement, and it may not be
22 specifically in what you yourself wrote down in the
23 statement, but she also told you about self-mutilation,
24 is that right, what she did to herself and why she did
25 it?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What did she tell you?

3 A. She did it for a reason, and the reason was so a certain
4 person couldn't fondle her breasts. It's a very
5 difficult one because I got to see her chest. It wasn't
6 a chest. She'd inflicted so much damage, she only had
7 like ... they were deformed. That is the word I can
8 use.

9 Q. What did she do?

10 A. She mutilated her chest -- she didn't want to have
11 breasts.

12 Q. Was this something she did when she was in care?

13 A. Yes. It was something she did after care, too. She
14 just ... she never saw herself as a woman.

15 Q. Did she tell you why she did this to herself?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What did she tell you?

18 A. I don't know if I'm allowed to say names.

19 LADY SMITH: You can say names. Don't feel inhibited.

20 A. She mostly mentioned a nun, [REDACTED] LWV [REDACTED], who made her do
21 things to this [REDACTED] LWV [REDACTED]. The nun, [REDACTED] LWV [REDACTED] made my
22 aunt do things to her, which no child should ever do to
23 an adult, to anyone. This [REDACTED] LWV [REDACTED] would ... (Pause)
24 would fondle here (indicating).

25 MR MacAULAY: And you're pointing to your upper body?

1 A. And then her private parts, her flower. But she wasn't
2 the only one. She did mention a priest and another
3 sister, [LWW]. I don't know any of these people,
4 I never knew about none of this until my aunt told me.

5 Q. So far as what you've been telling us so far is
6 concerned, were these things she told you after she was
7 in hospital?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Was that before she went to hospital?

10 A. I knew about certain things, about Sister [LWV].
11 I never knew the certain extent of all of it until she
12 was in hospital. But mostly it was when we were told
13 how long she had to live, which she already knew because
14 I couldn't lie to her, and she kept asking me,
15 "Am I dying?" and I didn't lie, I just said, "You'll
16 soon be with your mum and [REDACTED]". I didn't have the
17 heart to tell her that, yeah, you are. I couldn't do
18 that. But she knew down in her heart anyway, so she
19 just held on. She had the crucifix in her room.

20 She'd have the crucifix in her room and she'd be
21 holding her chain with her cross. It wasn't a crucifix
22 like I've got, it was just a cross with the diamantés
23 that belonged to [REDACTED], and she would hold on and fondle
24 with that, and we'd have breaks because she would get so
25 distressed with the memories, and she'd cry and we'd be

1 trying to console her. She was never one for, you know,
2 hugging back, she didn't know how to do that, but we
3 always knew how to hug her. But she always put her head
4 down. In the hospital, she just kept crying and asking
5 me, "Why me? Why me? I was just a little girl".

6 Q. When did she die?

7 A. [REDACTED] this year.

8 Q. You've mentioned what she did to herself, to her upper
9 body. Did you see scarring?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Were you involved in preparing her for her burial and
12 is that what you saw the damage?

13 A. No, she opened her nightgown. Because, like I said, she
14 knew that she wasn't going to -- she didn't know how
15 long -- she just knew she wasn't going to be here much
16 longer. "If anything happens to me" -- she told me to
17 make sure to get something that covers all -- from the
18 top of her neck, which I did carry out -- more so after
19 what I'd seen. The doctors and nurses there, they saw
20 it too.

21 Q. Are you able to tell us what you saw?

22 A. It was all scars. She had cut off the ... nipples.

23 LADY SMITH: Are you talking about her nipples? Both of
24 them?

25 A. Yes. There was a lot of scar tissue, like, all ...

1 Like she'd burnt herself with cigarettes and she's used
2 some ... I don't know what implement she used to cut
3 away herself or how she managed to get her nipples off.
4 I have no idea how she managed to do that. I don't know
5 what -- well, I do know why, but ... for her to do that
6 and it's because of these nuns. What makes a person do
7 that to herself?

8 MR MacAULAY: Can I ask you now to start looking at what has
9 been written in the diary? You've handed the diary over
10 to the inquiry team and we will give it back to you, but
11 I think you would prefer to read what was written in the
12 diary from the screen rather than from the diary itself;
13 is that right?

14 A. Yes, because it's not her handwriting and it'd be too
15 emotional for me --

16 Q. To have it from the diary?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can I begin by putting on the screen this page,
19 WIT.003.001.2761. Can we look at that first of all.

20 Can we move down towards the bottom of the page and
21 I'll come back up to the top. We can see there, there's
22 a date.

23 A. 

24 Q. 2018. Is that your handwriting?

25 A. Yes, it is.

1 Q. Do we read there, and I'll just read this bit for you:

2 "My aunt is in hospital and has asked me to write
3 down her memories. She wants to unburden her ghosts."

4 That's what you wrote, isn't it?

5 A. Yes. That's what she said.

6 Q. She has signed that; is that right? We've blanked it
7 out. Do you see the black bit there?

8 A. Yes. I can't see if she signed or not, it's black.

9 Q. But you know she signed it?

10 A. Yes.

11 (Pause)

12 LADY SMITH: Mari-Anne, we can have a break if you need it
13 or, if you want, Mr MacAulay can read from the screen
14 while you're watching.

15 A. Sorry, it's just what I see, where it says:

16 "Justice for me -- it's time now."

17 She should be sitting here, not me.

18 LADY SMITH: I know and I think we all realise how really
19 difficult this is for you. How do you want to proceed:
20 with a break, with Mr MacAulay reading the documents or
21 what, or do you want to carry on? If you need to cry,
22 it doesn't matter. It's quite understandable.

23 A. I was told never to cry in public.

24 LADY SMITH: It doesn't matter. It's not long since your
25 aunt died and you were plainly very close to her.

1 A. No, I'll carry on.

2 LADY SMITH: Okay.

3 MR MacAULAY: If we go up the page a bit, just to look
4 at the handwriting above the page, is that your aunt's
5 handwriting?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. If we go to the previous page before this page, that's
8 page 2760, so we'll go back a page, again can you tell
9 me -- let's move down a little bit. Can you tell me
10 there -- again, are we looking at your aunt's
11 handwriting?

12 A. Yes, that's her writing.

13 Q. So she had been writing things in the diary before you
14 took over, I think as you told us before; is that right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. For example, I'll just read this to you. From the
17 fourth line down:
18 "When I have time to think ..."
19 And I will read what's blanked out:
20 "When I have time to think of things, my life was
21 destroyed at 6. Since then I could never cope. My
22 chest was so disfigured; no one ever knew I did that to
23 myself."
24 Do you see that's what she has written? And that's
25 what she told you herself. That's right, isn't it?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Okay. Then if we go over to the page we've been on,
3 2761, again, if we just move down a little bit -- 2761.
- 4 A. "Bombs dropping everywhere."
- 5 Q. That's the wrong page. Just move down a little bit,
6 please.
- 7 Again, if I read a few lines down from the top:
8 "Nazareth [it looks like something, it may be
9 'house'], Sister LWV [it has been blanked out but
10 that is what it says]. Evil. I was a child, beaten,
11 sexually abused by them. I give my niece, little [and
12 there's reference to yourself], permission to get
13 justice for me. It is time now."
- 14 So she's written that herself, is that correct?
- 15 A. She struggled.
- 16 Q. But then it's after that that you took over?
- 17 A. I think so.
- 18 Q. I now want to turn on to the next page, 2762. I'll read
19 the first bit and if you are able to carry on, feel free
20 to do that, but I think what you begin by saying is:
21 "I had my aunt sign before I start."
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And as you've told us, she signed the first bit. Can
24 you take it on from there if you can?
- 25 A. "She was 6 years old and she was living at the broch

1 with her granda, [REDACTED] [it doesn't say [REDACTED]] and
2 her sister, [REDACTED]. She loved her time. That was her
3 happy memories. All of a sudden she was taken away to
4 Nazareth House, the beginning of her nightmares. At
5 first she thought of this as God's house and the ..."

6 That's all I can see.

7 Q. We'll try and keep moving as you're reading it.

8 A. "... the beginning of her nightmares. At this time she
9 thought of this as God's house and the nuns as angels.
10 She quickly learned this was not the case. Right from
11 day one Sister [REDACTED] LWV would be the one to leave her
12 mark, many marks. She would have her clean floors with
13 a toothbrush then say, you know that's not clean enough,
14 and kick me all over my little body. She was evil."

15 Q. Turn over the page to 2763.

16 A. "She would grab my hair and remark at how pretty I was:
17 you're a pretty one, aren't you?"

18 Q. And that reads:

19 "You're a pretty one, [REDACTED] LWM, aren't you?"

20 A. "I would say 'No', 'Yes, [REDACTED] LWM', and grab me into her
21 office."

22 I'm just writing what she's saying:

23 "Then I had to sit down -- well, pushed down. To my
24 horror she lifted her garments up and had me do what no
25 child of God's should be doing to her private parts.

1 niece assures me this is not my fault, but I don't
2 understand why this happened to me -- and not just me,
3 other children too. I can still hear them call now to
4 this day, screaming. Such evil goings-on. Why hurt the
5 little children? Why? I was subjected to sexual abuse,
6 daily beatings. Sometimes no food. And I was cold, as
7 was the rest of the children. We were all scared.

8 "Sister LWW was a nasty, wicked nun. She did
9 her share of evil too, but nothing to what
10 Sister LWV did to me. I did try and tell my mum.
11 God bless her, she knew something."

12 Moving on to page 2765, it reads:

13 "She knew something wasn't right. I ran away
14 several times to see my mum, but always the nuns would
15 be so nice to the police when I was taken back, and
16 I paid the price. One time I was so badly beaten
17 I could not move for pain. I was left in my bed, cold,
18 shivering. No one came, but one girl, my friend,
19 [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had food to give me, but she too was
20 scared and beaten just like me.

21 "There was no escaping this hell, and who would
22 believe me? I was told I was ugly and a sinner, forever
23 telling lies. I told my mum I was being beaten when
24 I ran away to her. I know my mum believed me, but also
25 she couldn't understand as they were God's children,

1 too. But I told after a few days [that's on page 2766]
2 past (sic) I can't recall how I got better, well again,
3 but I did. I didn't want to. I wanted to die.
4 I wanted God to come and take me away.

5 "The beatings, the sex abuse, never stopped no
6 matter what I did. Still I kept running away. Then
7 I was put into St Claire's. That was not any better.
8 They ran St Claire's like Nazareth. I once went to the
9 office and then I was taken to Edinburgh to the doctor
10 there. He said, 'Now, LWM, let me see what I can do
11 to rid you of your troubles'. I can't talk about that,
12 it's too painful. I was a child. Why?"

13 Again you have noted that she is crying. Then
14 you have noted:

15 "My aunt needs to stop. I will talk to her
16 tomorrow. This is very difficult. I didn't know how
17 bad she had gotten."

18 So just to stop there, Mari-Anne, you've had a pause
19 there for a few days; is that correct?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And as you've noted, she was --

22 A. I was in for a couple of hours and I left it so she'd
23 have a good day and the visitors would be there. But
24 it's because I stayed every night with her at the
25 hospital.

1 Q. Can I pick it up again -- and this is at page 3750.

2 You've dated this, it would appear, 8 January 2018.

3 Do you see that date at the top?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. I'll just read on:

6 "I had left this a few days as this has been very
7 upsetting, but she wishes to continue in case anything
8 should happen to her. This is not easy, far from it.
9 I never expected all of this: her life, her secrets, her
10 sadness. She seems stronger today, but she talks mostly
11 of Sister [REDACTED] LWV from Nazareth House.

12 "There are records from doctors. She said they
13 still must have them and wishes me to get them for her.
14 What got her through, she tells me, was her faith in God
15 and Jesus. She destroyed her body as it was already
16 damaged, broken, touched. She recalls being touched
17 (sic), but cannot talk of this as it's too painful. She
18 is crying --"

19 A. No, "She recalls being tortured".

20 Q. I see, "tortured". Thank you.

21 "She recalls being tortured but cannot talk of this
22 as it's too painful. She is crying, thinking of those
23 poor souls. The children screaming has haunted her all
24 her days. She never really knew her siblings. That
25 bond was gone, but she still loved them and her poor

1 mum. I ask her, 'Why say that about grandma?'

2 A. Her mum, my grandma. When she said, "My poor mum",
3 I asked her why she said that about grandma, meaning her
4 mum.

5 Q. I think what you say there:

6 "She tells me her mum was 6 years old when her mum
7 died and she was beaten and abused too --"

8 A. Yes. That's correct.

9 Q. "-- like her. I don't understand and my aunt won't
10 discuss her mum. I'm beginning to think my grandma was
11 in a home too, but she, my aunt, tells me I have to keep
12 that to myself."

13 "I promised my mum, my heart is heavy and sad."

14 And you've written:

15 "Mine is too."

16 "I shall never forgive those sisters, nuns, priests.
17 They will be judged by God. Hell is where they all
18 belong. I got away aged 15 and a half. I had no one.
19 But I never could get the memories, horrors, of what
20 happened gone to this day. Tell them the truth. What
21 happened in Nazareth and St Claire's. There were babies
22 there too, neglected, abused. All evil."

23 Then on the next page, it begins at the top:

24 "No one did anything to help. No one opened their
25 eyes to see how sad all the children were. She shows me

1 her hands once [were] so normal, but reminds me at 6
2 I had to do washing, cleaning, buffing. It was a very
3 hard life and evil too. No child should go through
4 hell. My friend [REDACTED] I never saw again. Was she
5 dead or alive? I don't know, but what they did to the
6 bairns that were sick, God forbid. So much evil in that
7 Nazareth went on that I don't believe anyone would
8 believe me. That's why I kept silent as who would
9 believe me over them?

10 "I should never have been born. I never knew what
11 love was. I never could hug anyone. My time destroyed
12 my own kids. I didn't know how to be a mum. I left
13 them with my mum."

14 Then over to the next page:

15 "I didn't know how to love. I was never taught or
16 shown. From 6 years old Sister [REDACTED] LWV took
17 everything from me. I died in Nazareth/St Claire's.
18 I was never the same happy-go-lucky kid since of that.
19 Every day evil, pure evil.

20 "Don't give away my secrets to everyone, little [and
21 that's a reference to you]. Make sure they go into the
22 right hands. Be aware of nuns, priests. Be careful.
23 I am sorry you had to hear all of this, but I do feel
24 a little better talking about my painful secrets. Now
25 swear on this cross, hail to Lord, you will be careful

1 who you tell my secrets to. Do what is needed. Always
2 do good. I have had to stop now as she is very upset
3 and so am I too. Tears all down her tiny face. So much
4 pain."

5 Is that the end of what you wrote?

6 A. I think so because she got so poorly.

7 Q. You made your promise to her, Mari-Anne, and you've kept
8 it, because you have come to the inquiry with this
9 information. That is the case, isn't it?

10 A. Yes, because she had me swear on the cross with a Bible.

11 MR MacAULAY: Well, thank you very much indeed for doing
12 that. It hasn't been easy for you, but thank you for
13 coming to the inquiry.

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

15 Mari-Anne, thank you very much for coming forward
16 with your aunt's diary, with your memories of what she
17 told you. As I've already said, this cannot have been
18 easy for you. It is quite understandable how difficult
19 it has been. I'm very grateful to you for seeing it
20 through, both for the sake of the inquiry and, as
21 Mr MacAulay has said, you can go away in the knowledge
22 you've done what your aunt asked you to do and you
23 promised you would do. I hope that helps. I'm now able
24 to let you go.

25 A. Thank you.

1 (The witness withdrew)

2 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next evidence is to be taken by
3 video link and I understand that is being set up as we
4 speak. Perhaps we can have a short adjournment and see
5 where we are.

6 LADY SMITH: Yes. Very well.

7 (11.10 am)

8 (A short break)

9 (11.30 am)

10 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

11 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is an applicant and
12 she wants to use the name "Claire" in giving evidence.

13 LADY SMITH: Claire, can I just check whether you can see
14 me?

15 A. I see you.

16 LADY SMITH: I would like you to take the oath, please, and
17 that means raise your right hand and repeat after me.

18 "CLAIRE" (affirmed)

19 (The witness appeared via video link)

20 LADY SMITH: Claire, I'm about to pass over to Mr MacAulay
21 to ask questions of you. Before I do that, can I just
22 assure you that we will have a break at around 12 noon
23 of a few minutes then, and then return to your evidence
24 after that; is that okay?

25 A. Okay.

1 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

2 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, Claire.

3 A. Good morning.

4 Q. I don't want your date of birth, but I just want you to
5 confirm the year of your birth so I can get a time
6 frame. Am I right in thinking that you were born in
7 1957?

8 A. I was.

9 Q. You have in front of you, I think, your statement;
10 is that correct?

11 A. I do.

12 Q. I'll give the reference of it to the stenographers for
13 the transcript. It's WIT.001.001.4827. Could I ask you
14 to turn to the last page of the statement? You'll find
15 that at 4848.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can you confirm that you have signed the statement?

18 A. I have.

19 Q. Do you tell us in the last paragraph:
20 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
21 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry"?
22 Is that right?

23 A. (inaudible).

24 Q. Do you go on to say:
25 "I believe the facts stated in this witness

1 statement are true"?

2 Is that correct?

3 LADY SMITH: Claire, hang on a minute, the microphone is not
4 picking you up quite accurately. I know you've got
5 somebody with you there. Perhaps we can get some help
6 to get the microphone into the right position. If you
7 speak to me and tell me whether or not you're near the
8 microphone. Are you near the microphone, Claire?

9 A. Yes, uh-huh.

10 LADY SMITH: That's better. If you can stay in about that
11 position, I think we'll be able to hear you clearly.
12 I'll let you know if it's not working again and we can
13 shift you or the microphone as necessary; is that all
14 right?

15 A. Certainly.

16 MR MacAULAY: Claire, I think it is the position that you
17 were due to give your evidence to this inquiry much
18 earlier on; is that correct?

19 A. That certainly was.

20 Q. What happened to intervene?

21 A. My son ...

22 LADY SMITH: Claire, you're coming and going from the
23 microphone. I'm sorry to be a nuisance, but it's so
24 important we can hear what you're saying.

25 (Pause)

1 MR MacAULAY: I had asked you about having to postpone your
2 previous date for coming to give evidence. I think you
3 were going to explain why that happened.

4 A. 

5
6
7 LADY SMITH: There's a problem here.

8 MR MacAULAY: We should maybe have a short break.

9 LADY SMITH: Sorry, Claire. We'll have a short break and
10 see if we can give you a practice with different
11 positions for this microphone or with something else so
12 that we can get it absolutely right because it is really
13 annoying for you if I have to keep stopping you.

14 We'll take five minutes just now.

15 (11.35 am)

16 (A short break)

17 (11.42 am)

18 LADY SMITH: I think we've managed to sort things out
19 better, Claire -- I'm hoping so anyway.

20 Mr MacAulay, when you're ready.

21 MR MacAULAY: Claire, I think you had gone on to explain
22 that because your family were involved in an accident,
23 you couldn't come to give your evidence before; is that
24 right?

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. Now because you can't be supported by your family in
2 coming to Edinburgh to give your evidence, you're giving
3 your evidence by way of a video link; is that right?

4 A. (Inaudible).

5 LADY SMITH: I can hardly hear this; I thought it was
6 better.

7 A. I couldn't put the family through (inaudible).
8 I couldn't put the family through this because my son is
9 still quite ill (inaudible).

10 MR MacAULAY: I think we have to revisit this, my Lady.

11 LADY SMITH: I think we're going to have to come back to
12 this.

13 Claire, I'm sorry. I'm going to rise and a decision
14 will be made as to whether we can possibly carry on with
15 this system today or not. I'm really sorry for you to
16 put you through this. We had thought that the system
17 would work, clearly.

18 I'll rise now.

19 (11.43 am)

20 (A short break)

21 (11.54 am)

22 (The lunch adjournment)

23 (2.00 pm)

24 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

25 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, I would recall Helen Holland.

1 HELEN HOLLAND (recalled)

2 LADY SMITH: Helen, I put you on oath just two days ago and
3 I don't imagine you have forgotten it. It still applies
4 today, so please proceed to sit down as you did before
5 and make yourself comfortable. I know that you know
6 about the importance of using the microphone.

7 Mr MacAulay.

8 Questions from Mr MacAULAY

9 MR MacAULAY: Hello again, Helen.

10 A. Hi.

11 Q. You've come back today in particular to speak to matters
12 you set out in a supplementary statement that you've
13 provided to the inquiry. It's in that red folder in
14 front of you and I'll give the reference of it to the
15 stenographers. That's at WIT.001.001.8936.

16 If I could ask you to turn to the last page at 8950,
17 again, as before, can I ask you to confirm that you have
18 signed the statement? Again you have an unsigned
19 statement?

20 A. Yes, but I have signed it, yes.

21 Q. Again, can I ask you to confirm that you have no
22 objection to the witness statement being published as
23 part of the evidence to the inquiry?

24 A. No.

25 Q. I think you also go on to say that you believe the facts

1 stated in this witness statement are true.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. The primary purpose of the supplementary statement was
4 for you to explain how you came into the possession of
5 a tape recording made by your sister; is that right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. As you know, of course, you have waived anonymity, but
8 we are seeking to maintain your sister's anonymity, but
9 within these walls, we can use her name --

10 A. Okay.

11 Q. -- and the name will not be published.

12 LADY SMITH: Yes. Mr MacAulay, let me intervene and explain
13 to those who haven't heard me explain this already that
14 there are a number of witnesses who are entitled to
15 anonymity because of restriction orders that I have
16 issued. Helen Holland's sister is one of these. Helen
17 is going to talk about her sister and it's no doubt
18 going to be more comfortable and natural to her in the
19 course of her evidence for Helen to use her sister's
20 name and I'm more than happy that she does that if that
21 is what she wants to do, but that doesn't mean the name
22 can be used outside this hearing room by anybody in any
23 way at all. I hope that's clearly understood. If there
24 are any doubts about that, please check with the inquiry
25 staff.

1 Mr MacAulay.

2 MR MacAULAY: I'm obliged, my Lady.

3 This tape recording was made by your sister in 2015;
4 is that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Are you quite happy for me to name the particular sister
7 concerned?

8 A. Yes, that's fine.

9 Q. Your sister's name was [REDACTED] LVX ?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Just to go back a little bit, you and your
12 Sister [REDACTED] LVX were in the care of Nazareth House
13 Kilmarnock for a period of time at the same time?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. According to the records that the inquiry has seen, your
16 sister left Nazareth House [REDACTED] when you
17 would be aged about [REDACTED]. Would that fit into your own
18 recollection?

19 A. About that, yes.

20 Q. She would be about [REDACTED]

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. I think you told us the other day that you didn't know
23 that she was leaving and that you came home from school
24 and she wasn't there; is that right?

25 A. Yes she just disappeared.

- 1 Q. I think, for a while, you thought she may have been
2 dead, you just did not know.
- 3 A. I didn't know.
- 4 Q. But as you told us on Wednesday, you did witness to some
5 extent how she was treated by Sister [LHZ]; is that
6 right?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. You did tell us on Wednesday about certain incidents,
9 [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED]
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. -- and also the fact that she sometimes wet the bed.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. When you left Nazareth House, Helen, I think you tell us
15 in your statement that you did have some contact with
16 your sister, [LVX].
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. What sort of contact did you have in that early period
19 after you left Nazareth House?
- 20 A. It was really just a couple of visits. I had found out
21 where she lived, so I went [REDACTED] to see her. She lived
22 in [REDACTED] at that time in [REDACTED], so I was
23 able to go and visit her and spend some time with her.
- 24 Q. I'm right in saying she'd be roughly [REDACTED]
25 than you?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You, as you told us the other day, moved to London at
3 a point in time?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. But then you came back to Scotland. I think in your
6 supplementary statement, which is on the screen in
7 paragraph 6, the suggestion is that you returned to
8 Scotland at the end of 1991; should that be 1981?

9 A. 1981, yes.

10 Q. When you came back to Scotland at that time, did you
11 make further contact with your sister?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Again, what sort of contact did you have at that time?

14 A. Well, to be honest with you, more contact in the sense
15 of support. [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED] sometimes she would come
17 and she wouldn't have any food, so I'd empty out my
18 freezer and give her food [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

20 Q. [REDACTED]

21 A. [REDACTED]

22 Q. [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 A. [REDACTED]

25 Q. [REDACTED]

1

A. 

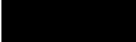
2

3

Q. Then after that, for a period of time, am I right in thinking you had no contact?


4

5

A. I didn't have any contact for about --  years after that.

6

7

Q. I think you explain in your statement how it came to be that you renewed contact with  LVX. Can you set that out for us?

8

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A. 

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d

1 [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED]
7 So [REDACTED] then phoned and [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] got in touch.

8 Q. [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]

10 A. [REDACTED]

11 Q. Do you tell us then that you did renew contact with
12 [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- after many years? [REDACTED]

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Did you go [REDACTED] to see her?

17 A. I did because when [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED] got in contact,
18 unfortunately, she had [REDACTED]. So when I knew
19 that, I just [REDACTED] went [REDACTED]
20 to visit her.

21 Q. For a time, did it seem that she had got over [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED]

23 A. Yes. Initially, [REDACTED]
24 [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED]

- 1 Q. I think you tell us in paragraph 14 of the statement
2 that you thought it was around [REDACTED] that [REDACTED]
3 back in a really bad way.
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. I'll look at the detail of some of this in a moment.
6 Did you keep going back to visit her after you were
7 aware that [REDACTED]?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. In paragraphs 15 through to 23 of the statement you
10 provide us with details about experiences that you both
11 had at Nazareth House. We've covered those experiences
12 in the main already when you gave your evidence.
- 13 There is one point I just want to raise with you
14 that I didn't deal with the other day and that is at
15 paragraph 19, if we can look at that, where you talk
16 about contact that your sister [REDACTED] LVX was having with
17 a Father [REDACTED] LQH.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. I think on the screen Father [REDACTED] LQH name has been
20 blocked out, but reading paragraph 19, that's under
21 reference to her contact with Father [REDACTED] LQH; is that
22 right?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Can you tell me about that?
- 25 A. She used to go out for the weekend. Sister [REDACTED] LHZ would

1 call her and say that she was going out and then
2 [LVX] would go out with Father [LQH], and then she
3 would come back and she'd say she'd been at Glasgow or
4 she'd been to visit his parents. Sometimes she wouldn't
5 come back until the next day, but she was happy, you
6 know. She had sweets, I think he taught her how to
7 smoke.

8 Q. What age was she when this began, do you think?

9 A. I think she would have been about [REDACTED].

10 Q. Am I to understand that this was with the approval of
11 Sister [LHZ]?

12 A. Yes, she would tell her to go and get ready.

13 Q. Just to be clear, Father [LQH], what was his first
14 name?

15 A. [LQH] or [LQH].

16 Q. Did she refer to him as [LQ
H]?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Another thing you tell us about in your discussions with
19 your sister is that she told you at one point that she
20 had had a visit from the police.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. I think this is in paragraph 25 of your statement;
23 can you tell me how that came into the conversation?

24 A. It was actually very early when I first made contact
25 with her. She told me that a couple of police officers

1 had come to visit her some years previously and she said
2 they wanted to know about Nazareth House in Kilmarnock.
3 So I then explained to her that that was probably my
4 fault and she asked me why. I explained to her that at
5 that time I was already involved with INCAS and we were
6 trying to get a public inquiry for children who had been
7 abused in care. She said, oh well, they came but
8 I never, ever heard from them again.

9 Q. Do I take it that you had not been aware before that
10 that the police had sought to make contact with your
11 sister or indeed had made contact with her?

12 A. No. If I'd known I could have made contact with her
13 a lot earlier.

14 Q. In the discussions at that time, did you tell her
15 anything about the abuse that you had suffered from
16 Sister LHZ ?

17 A. No.

18 Q. But later on, did you have any discussions about the
19 abuse from Sister LHZ

20 A. No, that's the last thing I wanted to talk to her about
21 in the condition she was in.

22 Q. Okay.

23 There then came a point in time when your sister was
24 ill, where the thought occurred, I think, to you that it
25 may be possible to record her own experience. Can you

1 just help me with the background to that?

2 A. To be honest with you, I'd been speaking about that for
3 a long time. I'd asked for it to happen when the
4 Shaw report was done and the Time To Be Heard, the pilot
5 forum. I was asking for that to happen then.

6 Q. Who were you asking at that time?

7 A. I was asking the government because I was conscious of
8 the fact that a number of even our INCAS members were
9 terminally ill and I didn't know, to be honest with you,
10 at that time whether or not we would get a public
11 inquiry, if ever, but at least if something was there on
12 record then it could be used if we ever did get a public
13 inquiry. That was my thought process.

14 Q. So your thinking at that time -- this is before your
15 dealings with your sister -- was that the elderly, if
16 I can call them that, would have the opportunity of
17 having their voices heard and recorded?

18 A. Yes. Because I was told by the -- promised by the
19 government that would happen during the time of Time To
20 Be Heard. I actually was on one of the advisory groups
21 for Time To Be Heard so I brought it up numerous times,
22 and initially I was told that, yes, that would
23 definitely happen. Then, just before Time To Be Heard
24 was launched, I was told, no, it wasn't going to happen,
25 it would only happen for people who had been abused in

1 Quarriers and were terminally ill, because Time To Be
2 Heard was all about Quarriers.

3 But the reality is because I'd been told that
4 it would happen, I had already told about six members
5 who were terminally ill that someone would come and take
6 a statement or a recording from them.

7 Q. Were these people who had not been at Quarriers?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So their statements then were not taken?

10 A. No.

11 Q. The promise -- you say this was a promise made by the
12 government that these statements would be recorded; who
13 made the promise?

14 A. The civil servants at the meetings that we had because
15 at that point I was still involved with the National
16 Reference Group. So every time I was going to meetings,
17 I was talking about the lost opportunities because there
18 were a number of elderly people who were phoning the
19 helpline and I was aware of them, I was aware of who
20 they were, I was contacting them, and I just felt that
21 it wasn't fair that their voices were not going to be
22 heard if there ever came a time that there was an
23 inquiry.

24 Within the Time To Be Heard, when I was finally told
25 that they weren't going to be doing it, I then had to go

1 back to all of those terminally ill people and apologise
2 and say that it wasn't going to happen.

3 Then the civil servant said to me, maybe we could do
4 it another way, maybe we could use CELCIS to take
5 statements from the people who were dying. And my
6 attitude to that was, no, that's not right, because just
7 because somebody's dying doesn't mean to say that
8 they're less important than someone from Quarriers who's
9 not, because at that time there was the three
10 Commissioners, there was Tom Shaw, Anne Carpenter and
11 Kathleen Marshall, so if it had been a case of one of
12 them were going to take a statement from the survivors
13 then, yes, that would have been acceptable, but it was
14 almost like they didn't matter.

15 Q. So in short then, those statements were never taken from
16 those survivors you had in mind?

17 A. No, they weren't.

18 Q. Did this line of thinking come to your mind when you
19 were dealing with your sister [REDACTED]?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can you just explain that?

22 A. At that time I was already involved with the Scottish
23 Human Rights Interaction Group and Dr Jennifer Davidson
24 was the chairperson of that group. At the time when
25 I found out how ill my sister was, because I kept

1 bringing the subject up at every meeting, I think
2 Jennifer actually said to me, Helen, maybe you could use
3 a Dictaphone and we could transcribe it for you, but I'm
4 hopeless with technology so I said I wouldn't know how
5 to work it.

6 But it put the thought into my head and then I did
7 approach Jennifer and said would it be possible to
8 borrow a Dictaphone, but they actually purchased
9 a Dictaphone and sent it to my home when they knew I was
10 going [REDACTED] to see my sister, so I took the Dictaphone
11 with me.

12 Q. Against that background did you talk to your sister
13 about making a recording?

14 A. Yes. She knew she had [REDACTED] at that time.
15 I explained to her what was happening with the Time To
16 Be Heard and the fact that I was hoping to go on and
17 still keep campaigning for a public inquiry, no matter
18 how long it took. I said that at that time we were
19 looking so that if people wanted to provide evidence for
20 the inquiry, they could do in an alternative format. At
21 that time that's when she talked a little more about the
22 police having been [REDACTED] and said, "I never heard
23 anything more from them", and I said to her, "You can do
24 it if you want but you don't need to. The opportunity's
25 there if you want to take it".

1 Q. Did there come a point in time [REDACTED] when she did
2 say to you that she was going to make a recording?
3 A. Yes. I'd been going back and forward every six weeks or
4 so, sometimes for a long weekend, sometimes for a week,
5 sometimes ten days, just depending how she was. [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED] things were getting progressively
7 worse for her, so [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED] she'd said to
9 me, "I think I might do it", and I said, "Well, only if
10 you want to do it".

11 But in the meantime, because I was already in
12 counselling myself, I'd been talking to the counsellor
13 and she said to me, Helen, whatever you do, don't be
14 there when she's doing it because you may disassociate
15 or you may get really, really upset, so don't be there.
16 I explained that to my sister. I said, "Look, I'll
17 probably get really, really upset, so if you're going to
18 do it, are you okay just to do it yourself?" and she
19 said, "Yes, that's fine, I'll just do it myself".

20 Q. And when you visited, as you tell us in your statement,
21 [REDACTED], did she tell you something about what
22 she had done?

23 A. She actually told me before that. She told me [REDACTED]
24 [REDACTED]. She said, "Helen, I've already spoken into the
25 Dictaphone", and I said to her, "I'll leave it with

1 you", [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED] because I didn't know if she'd finished.
3 She didn't say she'd finished at that point; she just
4 said she had been speaking into it.

5 [REDACTED] she really
6 wasn't well at all and she said, "I think I've said all
7 I'm going to say", and I said to her, well, what we'll
8 do -- because I didn't know what to do, what the proper
9 procedures were or anything like that, and I said, "What
10 we'll do is we'll put it in an envelope, we'll seal the
11 envelope and then we'll put it in another one, and you
12 sign it and I'll sign it and we'll date it. I'll seal
13 that envelope as well and then if it comes to it and we
14 get a public inquiry, I'll ask them if it's okay to
15 produce it. If we don't get a public inquiry, the
16 batteries will probably kill it anyway". And that's how
17 it was left.

18 Q. If I can ask my Lady's macer to hand over this envelope
19 to you. I want you just to identify what's in it.

20 (Handed).

21 A. It's a little purple envelope. Like a little Jiffy type
22 bag.

23 Q. The external envelope?

24 A. At the time I'd only taken that one with me but [REDACTED] LVX
25 had a Jiffy bag so I cut it and we put the little bag

1 inside it and [REDACTED] LVX signed it on the left-hand side
2 and I've signed it on the right-hand side and put the
3 date on it.

4 Q. And perhaps you can tell us what the date is.

5 A. [REDACTED]

6 Q. In that you have put the little Jiffy bag with the
7 purple bag, and was the Dictaphone inside the purple
8 bag?

9 A. Yes. It's the Olympus Dictaphone that CELCIS purchased
10 for me.

11 Q. If I could put this on the screen. It's 001.003.3574.
12 I think we have a view of the envelope with your
13 signature -- your sister's signature has been blanked
14 out -- and we can just about read the date, which is in

15 [REDACTED]

16 A. [REDACTED]

17 Q. [REDACTED] After the envelope had been sealed,
18 did you take possession of it?

19 A. Yes. I brought it back home with me when I left.

20 [REDACTED] my sister died on

21 [REDACTED]

22 Q. [REDACTED] So she died she shortly
23 after this had happened?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What did you do with the bag and the Dictaphone?

- 1 A. It's the last thing I had from my sister, so I kept it
2 beside my bed in a drawer. I still didn't know at that
3 time whether or not we were going to have a public
4 inquiry, so I just kept it; it was a piece of her.
- 5 Q. Did she ever tell you what she had said?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. Did you at any point open the sealed envelope to see
8 what was said or listen?
- 9 A. No, I didn't want to know. It wasn't for me; it was for
10 the inquiry.
- 11 Q. That was the next point I was going to ask you about.
12 There came a point in time when you handed that sealed
13 envelope over to the inquiry team; is that right?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. The date I have is 7 May 2018.
- 16 A. Yes. I didn't want to hand it over before then because,
17 I know this sounds maybe a bit stupid, but I didn't want
18 it sitting in a drawer not meaning anything to anybody.
19 It meant too much to me.
- 20 Q. In so doing, in handing it over to us, do you consider
21 that you have fulfilled the promise that you made to
22 your sister?
- 23 A. Yes. I promised her I would do it and no matter how
24 difficult, I've done it.
- 25 Q. I think it's right to say that after you handed this

1 over to the inquiry, the inquiry team set up a visit
2 with you and played the recording for you; is that
3 correct?

4 A. They played a little bit at the beginning of it, just so
5 that I could identify [REDACTED] LVX voice.

6 Q. And that's my next question. Were you able to identify
7 her voice?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. There are two other points I want to take up with you
10 before we listen to the recording, which we're going to
11 do very shortly.

12 The first is this: you have also made available to
13 the inquiry a poem that you wrote at some point; is that
14 right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Do you wish to read that poem or not?

17 A. I don't mind.

18 Q. It's WIT.003.001.3555. Before you start reading it, can
19 I ask you about the background to you writing the poem?

20 A. Yes. I wrote that because when I went to the police in
21 Kilmarnock, initially I was told that they weren't going
22 to do anything, they weren't going to investigate. So
23 at the time I didn't know what to do and I thought, I'll
24 go and speak to my MSP, but I didn't know how to put
25 into words -- how could I go and see somebody in their

1 surgery for a 10-minute visit and be able to explain
2 what it was that I was asking the government for? So
3 I thought I would write the poem. But I wrote the poem
4 in the context of I was writing it to Sister [REDACTED] LHZ, just
5 my way of trying to bring everything together so that
6 the survivors' voices could be heard.

7 Q. Right. Are you happy reading the poem from the screen
8 or would you prefer to read it off the page?

9 A. If it's all right, I can see it on the screen if they
10 move it up when it comes to the point.

11 Q. Very well. Perhaps you could start to read it, Helen.

12 A. "I was only a little girl when I came into your care,
13 never to realise how much of my life you would impair.

14 "You couldn't even see me as I sought compassion in
15 your eyes; I was just another child for you to
16 manipulate and victimise.

17 "You made me suffer agony in every way you could
18 whilst doing things to my body that an adult never
19 should.

20 "I tried to understand your reason or what you had
21 to gain by making my life a misery and inflicting so
22 much pain.

23 "Why didn't you once stop and look at me to see the
24 damage you had done? You were supposed to be a nun
25 representing God's own Son.

1 "That's what really hurt me in a strange kind of way
2 because Jesus introduced himself to me on my communion
3 day.

4 "He folded his arms around me, he placed me on his
5 knee, he filled my heart with so much love he helped my
6 blind eyes see.

7 "That he would never leave me, in life forever he
8 would be there, and any time I called to him, he would
9 always hear my prayer.

10 "To me he was my one true friend and never left my
11 side, and no matter what mistakes I made, from his mercy
12 I needn't hide.

13 "So now through God's grace accept forgiveness from
14 me as I speak out in one voice to set His children free.

15 "Please let the truth be told now and together let's
16 end this story, with compassion and forgiveness, thus
17 giving God the glory."

18 Q. Thank you. The final question I have for you today,
19 Helen, is this: is there anything else you'd wish to say
20 to the inquiry?

21 A. I've got the INCAS hat on now. From the point of
22 view -- I know that there must be people out there who
23 will have statements from survivors and I think it's
24 important that they know that it is possible for them to
25 come forward and provide that to the inquiry because

1 I know, even through the campaigning side of things,
2 that some of our members, before they died, had actually
3 given statements of their own experiences to MSPs,
4 et cetera, because they too were going to their MSPs and
5 trying to get the public inquiry up and running.

6 So I don't know if that's possible or not, but maybe
7 it's something that deserves some thought.

8 MR MacAULAY: Thank you, Helen. Those are my questions for
9 you.

10 My Lady, the next stage -- and it may be after
11 a break -- will be for the recording to be played. Can
12 I just, again, say the recording does identify the names
13 of children who were children at the time and whose
14 identities are protected.

15 LADY SMITH: Their identities are of course protected by
16 restriction orders as well, yes.

17 Let me formally check whether there are any
18 outstanding applications for questions in relation to
19 the evidence we've heard about, the provenance of this
20 recording. No?

21 Very well. Helen, what I'll do now, I think I'll
22 have a short break, so that we can check the technology
23 for playing this recording and then we will play it
24 after that.

25 But before I leave the bench -- I don't think I will

1 forget, but in case I do -- thank you very much for
2 sharing that very special poem with us. A very
3 impressive piece of work. Thank you.

4 A. Thank you.

5 (2.33 pm)

6 (A short break)

7 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

8 MR MacAULAY: I understand, my Lady, that we are ready to
9 play the tape recording. Can I just say there is
10 a transcript of the recording and I'll put that on the
11 screen, and it can be followed on the screen. It's
12 WIT.003.001.3048.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 Witness statement of "NATALIA"

15 (Audio recording played)

16 "Hello. If you are listening to this, it means two
17 things: it means I'm dead and it means that my sister
18 has persevered and succeeded with getting a public
19 inquiry into institutional abuse. If she has done that,
20 I am not surprised. She doesn't give up easily.

21 "Anyway, my name is [REDACTED] LVX [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED] I was born in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED],

24 [REDACTED] I was taken to Nazareth House in Kilmarnock
25 after the death of my grandmother. My parents had

1 already split up and I was taken, I think, along with [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED] Helen. [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]

4 "From the minute we arrived at Nazareth House I
5 hated that place. The nun that looked after us was
6 Sister LHZ. She was a wicked, evil, vindictive witch.
7 She got pleasure out of torturing the children in her
8 care. We were really upset the first day and nobody
9 told us what was happening. I think we were all kind of
10 crying a little bit. I remember her turning us around
11 and she had Helen by the collar and said, 'Stop your
12 sniffing or I will give you something to sniffle for'.
13 She told me I was a brazen hussy. [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED]. She obviously hated Helen
15 though. She told her hell was in her name and the devil
16 was inside her so we were scared stiff.

17 "We're now in [REDACTED], but a good few years back I had
18 a knock at the door from two police officers. I opened
19 the door and there they were and they said that they had
20 come to take a statement from me about Nazareth House in
21 Kilmarnock. I was a bit taken aback to tell you the
22 truth. But I gave them a statement about that place and
23 about how cruel it was.

24 "I told them about how if you wet the bed you would
25 be absolutely humiliated. I was one of the unlucky

1 ones, I did wet the bed. Every single night. No matter
2 how hard I tried I couldn't stop. I told them about the
3 fact that Sister LHZ would rub the soaking wet bed
4 sheets into your face and make me stand with them over
5 my head. If she checked the bed late at night and you
6 had already peed it by then you would have to lie in
7 the whole night long, and then you would be shoved into
8 a freezing cold bath with Jeyes fluid. I hate the smell
9 of that stuff.

10 "I would be called all sorts of names like 'pee
11 bed', all sorts. She was always telling me that I was a
12 brazen hussy and that I would come to nothing and nobody
13 loved us and nobody cared, don't even think about
14 complaining.

15 "I told them about the food and the fact that if you
16 didn't eat it, it would be forced down the back of your
17 throat. Sometimes the fork or the spoon or whatever it
18 was would hit the back of your throat and make you
19 retch. You would end up puking but you would end up
20 being forced to eat that as well. Sometimes she would
21 hold your nose and tilt your head right back and then
22 just shovel it down the back of your throat.

23 "I hate fish to this day. I used to hate a
24 Friday -- every Friday without fail. Sometimes in the
25 morning it would be lumpy porridge; I hated that as

1 well. I didn't mind the mornings if it was cereal. You
2 can't really go wrong with cereal, can you? Sometimes
3 on a Sunday it would be like fried bread or tinned
4 tomatoes or something like that. I didn't really mind
5 that either, but on the whole it wasn't very great, the
6 food.

7 "I assumed that the police would come back but they
8 never ever did.

9 "I wasn't ever really told that I was leaving
10 Nazareth House either. I was just told one day that
11 I was going somewhere else and I ended up in a place [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED] which was also run by nuns, but it was like a
13 half-way house type thing. I didn't really like that
14 place either.

15 "We would have a bath once a week, on a Friday
16 night. You would be lined up there and you had these
17 bloomer things that you would have to put on. I hated
18 them as well. Somebody would step out of them in front
19 of you and you would have to step into these soaking wet
20 bloomers and pull them up over your dry skin and they
21 would stick to you. They were disgusting.

22 "Then you would get into the bath. There would be
23 like a curtain between the boys and the girls but it
24 didn't really matter. We would all just line up there
25 like cattle. I hated bath nights. The scum would be

1 all the way around the bath and then you would have to
2 get in it. It was disgusting. But I would smell
3 anyway.

4 "I would smell all week because of peeing the bed.
5 I was always smelly. I used to be so ashamed going to
6 school stinking. The other kids didn't want to sit
7 beside me but what could you do?

8 "You didn't have anything that you could call your
9 own. You didn't really have any toys. There was broken
10 ones in the cupboard; sometimes we would get to play
11 with them. There was a television in the recreation
12 room and you would get to watch like the Little House on
13 the Prairie or films like that. News -- Sister LHZ
14 liked to see the news before she went to prayer, that
15 kind of thing. There was a lot of trouble going on in
16 Ireland at the time. Sometimes we would be told to pray
17 that certain people would die if something came on the
18 news that she got really angry about. Mind you, if
19 somebody talked at that time, it would be an excuse to
20 batter them.

21 "She would batter you with a switch. It would
22 appear miraculously from the sleeve of her habit and she
23 would just whack you with it. She got you on the bare
24 skin. Sometimes there would be big welts coming up --
25 oh god, they were painful. The switch was like a bamboo

1 cane. We called it the switch because it made a
2 swishing noise when it went through the air. Other
3 times it would be like a hard plastic bat or a brush, a
4 hand brush. Sometimes it would be her keys, the keys
5 that used to hang from her waist. She would get them
6 and pound them on your head, pound them so hard that
7 sometimes your head would bleed but she didn't care.

8 "I used to suffer so badly with headaches. I used
9 to faint in the church all the time as well. I don't
10 know what it was but I always used to faint and then
11 I would get battered because she would say that I was
12 only doing it for attention. I don't know why I was
13 like that. I just, I could feel myself going and there
14 was nothing that I could do. I don't know whether it
15 was because I was hungry or what, but I fainted quite a
16 bit as a child.

17 [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED] Sometimes we would
20 walk to school or sometimes we would go in the van, it
21 just depended if there was someone there to drive it.

22 [REDACTED].
23 [REDACTED]
24 "You didn't really make friends with anybody either.
25 There was no point. If you made friends with anybody

1 loved me too.

2 [REDACTED] I wasn't allowed back
3 to see Helen [REDACTED]. I was told I was a bad influence
4 [REDACTED] so I wasn't to go back. I never, ever went back
5 to Nazareth House but I guess that was my own fault.

6 "I left care at [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED]

15 [REDACTED]. Sometimes I

16 would go back to [REDACTED] LQH and he would make me feel better.

17 [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] I had lost all contact with
2 family. But then [REDACTED] I was diagnosed with
3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED] but I managed to overcome
5 it and I went back to work again.

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12 Helen contacted me.

13 "The minute she found out that I had had [REDACTED], she
14 was [REDACTED] here to look after me
15 and to see how I was. I was doing okay for a little
16 while but then I got [REDACTED] --

17
18
19

[REDACTED] only this time it is terminal so there is no
going back."

20 LADY SMITH: Helen, we're going to have another break before
21 we go on to the last section of the transcript --
22 a short break or a bit longer if you want that. Keep in
23 touch and let me know.

24 (3.14 pm)

25 (A short break)

1 (3.36 pm)

2 LADY SMITH: Helen, if you and Pippa and Willow are ready,
3 we'll move to the last section of the recording.
4 Is that all right?

5 A. Yes.

6 (Continuation of audio recording)

7 "Helen has been coming back and forward. She told
8 me that she was trying to get some kind of investigation
9 for what had happened to children in these children's
10 homes. She told me she was campaigning the government.
11 She is that strong she would take on anybody. I don't
12 know how she does it, to be honest with you. The thing
13 is she looks after me so much and I have let her down so
14 badly.

15 "You see, when the police came, a few years back,
16 they asked me about sexual abuse in Nazareth House, but
17 I said I didn't know anything about that. But that was
18 a lie, you see. I never ever thought of what **LQH** was
19 doing as being sexual abuse. I thought he loved me. He
20 made me feel special. I thought it was okay and the only
21 reason I left Nazareth House early was because
22 Sister **LHZ** used to come up at night sometimes and she
23 would wake Helen up and take her out of the dormitory,
24 and one night I decided to follow.

25 "I went down the fire exit to the ground floor and I

1 looked in the window to the downstairs changing room.
2 Sister [LHZ] was tying Helen to a stool. She had
3 already tied her legs and she was pulling her over and
4 tying her hands and then she stuck one of the wash bags
5 over her head. I didn't know what was happening to her
6 but Sister [LHZ] went up the little corridor and when
7 she came back there was three men with her and one of
8 them was [LQH]. My heart was pounding in my chest.
9 I watched him. He started having sex with Helen and
10 I felt so angry towards her. I hated her. He was my
11 [LQH], I was the one who was special, and now he was
12 having sex with Helen.

13 "Sister [LHZ] went out. At one point she just
14 seemed to let them do whatever they wanted. She left to
15 go to prayer and they were taking it in turns but all I
16 could see was [LQH]. I got scared and I went back up to
17 bed. I heard Helen coming up a little while later with
18 Sister [LHZ] and I could hear her crying in bed and
19 I said nothing. Not to her anyway.

20 "A couple of weeks later when I was out with [LQH],
21 I asked him why he had sex with Helen. He got very
22 angry with me. He told me I was to keep my mouth shut.
23 A couple of days later, that is when I went to [REDACTED].
24 I thought that was punishment because I had said
25 something. I still wanted to see [LQH] so I never said

1 anything else.

2 "That needs to be my dying confession. You see,
3 I know I've only got a few weeks left. I can't tell
4 Helen this face to face. I am so ashamed I picked my
5 love for **LQH** over her and I never ever checked that she
6 was okay and I never asked but everything that I have
7 said is the absolute truth.

8 "I am saying this before God and what I told you is
9 the truth of what happened in that place. I don't know
10 if this happened to anybody else, I can't say. I just
11 hope my sister can forgive me. I am so sorry."

12 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, that's the end of the tape recording.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

14 Helen, there are two things I want to say to you.
15 First, thank you for sharing that recording with us.
16 You had a choice. You didn't have to make it available
17 to us and you didn't have to share it. It has been of
18 tremendous help to our work here at the inquiry that
19 you've done that, so I thank you for it.

20 Secondly, I want to check whether you feel you've
21 covered everything that you wanted to say in the
22 inquiry. You don't have to explain anything else to me,
23 but I just wanted to give you this last opportunity to
24 add anything.

25

1 HELEN HOLLAND (continued)

2 A. I just want to say that nobody would go through this
3 process just for the sake of it. Every single survivor
4 that's come in here and relived all the horrors that
5 they went through, that's -- the only reason they're
6 doing it is for the truth to come out and to make sure
7 that the system changes so that children don't go
8 through this again.

9 To be accused of doing this for money -- no amount
10 of money in the world can make a difference to what
11 happened. That's the horrible thing about all of this.
12 The onus is always put on the survivors: it's them who
13 have been after money, it's them who are lying, it's
14 them who are making this up. Why would anybody go
15 through this torture if it wasn't true? That's what
16 I would say on behalf of survivors.

17 LADY SMITH: And for yourself, you don't have to tell me
18 that what you've done on Wednesday and today has been
19 a personal torture for you, but I thank you for being
20 prepared to go through with that to assist us in the
21 work. I'm now able to let you go along with Pippa and
22 Willow. Thank you.

23 (The witness withdrew)

24 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

25 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, that concludes the evidence for this

1 week. Next week we return to oral evidence. Can I just
2 make clear that the inquiry is not sitting next Friday.

3 LADY SMITH: Yes.

4 MR MacAULAY: I think there has been some confusion over
5 that: we are not sitting next Friday.

6 LADY SMITH: Otherwise we'll start at 10.00 on Tuesday as
7 usual?

8 MR MacAULAY: Yes.

9 LADY SMITH: Very well.

10 That's all the evidence for this week. For anybody
11 who wants to be here on Tuesday, you're welcome to come
12 back then for a 10 o'clock start.

13 Thank you.

14 (3.45 pm)

15 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am
16 on Tuesday 5 June 2018)

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