

1 Tuesday, 5 December 2017

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning.

4 For those of who you who have been before, welcome  
5 back this morning. For those of you who are new to the  
6 Inquiry hearing space, I hope you have been able to find  
7 your way around and make yourselves comfortable.

8 There are a number of members of the Inquiry team on  
9 hand and please don't hesitate to ask them if you have  
10 any queries.

11 Last week when we opened this phase of the hearings  
12 I explained the importance of adhering to a restriction  
13 order called General Restriction Order 1 that I have  
14 issued and the detailed text of which is on the website.  
15 It's very important because what it does is it protects  
16 the anonymity of any applicant coming forward -- that's  
17 somebody who comes forward to tell us about their  
18 experiences in residential care as a child -- and they  
19 are entitled to have their anonymity protected if that  
20 is what they want.

21 Inevitably, names slip out on occasions but that  
22 doesn't mean that it is then a free-for-all and anybody  
23 can publicise those names outside the hearing room; they  
24 can't and they certainly can't send details of the names  
25 by electronic means from the hearing room either.

1 I have made a decision that when it comes to the  
2 names of those who are alleged to have committed abuse  
3 but have not been convicted, although they too are  
4 entitled to remain anonymous, it is just not realistic  
5 to stop their names coming out in the flow of evidence  
6 from applicants, and indeed that happened last week on  
7 occasions.

8 But the importance of protecting their identities,  
9 respecting their choice to be anonymous, is just as  
10 important as with applicants, and I repeat that their  
11 names cannot be publicised outside the hearing room by  
12 any means whatsoever.

13 I hope that's clear, but if anybody has any doubts,  
14 please don't hesitate to ask any member of the Inquiry  
15 team about it and they will be only too happy to explain  
16 again.

17 We return to evidence today, further evidence from  
18 applicants this week, and the next step this morning is  
19 to invite counsel to the Inquiry, Mr MacAulay, to call  
20 today's first witness.

21 Mr MacAulay.

22 MR MacAULAY: Yes, good morning, my Lady. The first witness  
23 today is Margaret Crawley

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 Good morning, would you take the oath please.

1 MS [REDACTED] Margaret Crawley [REDACTED] (sworn)

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

3 A. Thank you. Can I do a microphone check? Can everyone  
4 hear me?

5 LADY SMITH: I think everyone is happy. Thank you for doing  
6 that.

7 Mr MacAulay, when you are ready.

8 Questions from MR MacAULAY

9 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, [REDACTED] Margaret [REDACTED].

10 A. Good morning.

11 Q. Are you [REDACTED] Margaret Crawley [REDACTED] ?

12 A. I am, yes.

13 Q. Can I confirm that your date of birth is [REDACTED] 1962?

14 A. Yes, it is.

15 Q. Before I ask you any further questions, can I just say  
16 to you that if I ask a question and you can't  
17 remember -- let's say, for example, a date -- then just  
18 please say so.

19 A. Of course.

20 Q. Likewise, if I ask a question and you remember something  
21 you hadn't remembered before when you gave us your  
22 statement, again if you would just let us know.

23 A. Sure.

24 Q. Talking about your statement, you did provide the  
25 Inquiry with a statement; is that correct?

1 A. I did, yes.  
2 Q. I will ask you to look at it just in a moment. I will  
3 just get the reference for the transcript. It is  
4 WIT.001.001.2410. You have copies of that in front of  
5 you, **Margaret** If I could take you to the last page of  
6 the statement.

7 LADY SMITH: Just while you are finding the last page,  
8 **Margaret**, can I confirm with you because some applicants  
9 coming forward have chosen to retain anonymity and in  
10 your case you have decided to waive your anonymity.

11 A. I have and thank you for clarifying that.

12 LADY SMITH: And, of course, that's why Mr MacAulay used  
13 your full name. You are content that your identity is  
14 known outside the hearing room?

15 A. I am.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you for that.

17 A. Thank you.

18 MR MacAULAY: Can I take to the last page of the statement.

19 A. The very last page?

20 Q. The very last page; that is page 2459 for the  
21 transcript. Can you confirm that you have signed this  
22 statement?

23 A. I did indeed.

24 Q. Do you also tell us at paragraph 216:

25 "I have no objection to my witness statement,

1 photographs, medical information and other documents  
2 I have provided to the Inquiry being published as part  
3 of the evidence to the Inquiry."

4 Is that your position?

5 A. That is correct, yes.

6 Q. You also go on to say:

7 "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
8 statement are true."

9 Is that your belief?

10 A. Yes. Thank you.

11 Q. Can I then take you, **Margaret**, to your life before going  
12 into care. You do provide us with some information  
13 about that in your witness statement. Briefly, can you  
14 give us an overview of what life was like before care?

15 A. I lived with my grandmother, grandfather and my mother's  
16 brother, my uncle. There was a lot of abuse, physical  
17 abuse, from my grandfather, physical and sexual from my  
18 Uncle **[REDACTED]**. **[REDACTED]**  
19 **[REDACTED]** when I was six years old, and started my first  
20 day at school, Sacred Heart School in Parkhead, I told  
21 the teacher something about what my uncle was doing to  
22 me and **[REDACTED]** basically taken out of the school and  
23 placed -- first in a temporary position, I think it is  
24 called, and then at Smyllum. But it was an abusive  
25 childhood.

1 Q. And I think your uncle was prosecuted for the offences  
2 that he had committed.

3 A. I think he got seven years.

4 Q. But so far as being admitted to Smyllum is concerned  
5 then, according to the records that we have seen, you  
6 were admitted on 29 August 1967 --

7 A. Was it 1967? Sorry, I thought it was 1968.

8 Q. If it was 1967 -- and I will just confirm that is the  
9 case. It looks like a "7" to me but it is not very  
10 clear. You thought it was 1968?

11 A. I actually thought it was 1968 because when I was  
12 leaving I was shown a Manila folder with nothing inside  
13 but on the outside was my name and August 1968.

14 Q. I see. You might be right actually. It is not at all  
15 clear.

16 A. Let's say between 1967 and 1968!

17 Q. If it was 1968, and that may be the case, then that  
18 would put you at about six years of age.

19 A. I was six years of age.

20 Q. That's your recollection, that you were six?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 A. [REDACTED]

25 Q. How long were you at Smyllum [REDACTED] ?

- 1 A. I was there [REDACTED] 11 years.
- 2 Q. Does that mean you left in about, what, 1979/1980?
- 3 A. October 1979.
- 4 Q. When you were first admitted, do you have a recollection  
5 of that?
- 6 A. Yes. [REDACTED] taken in a big black car with [REDACTED] social  
7 worker, whose name was Mrs Rioch(?) -- I remember she  
8 had a turquoise bracelet which I thought was really  
9 pretty. [REDACTED] driven right up to this separate  
10 building, which was Ogilvy House. [REDACTED] inside the main  
11 door. To the right was a playroom to the left was  
12 a television room, sitting room, and Mrs Rioch and  
13 Sister [REDACTED] EAC who was the nun who was in charge of  
14 the group, went to the left and we went to the right and  
15 I immediately threw up on the floor, on the playroom  
16 carpet. They came running in and that was the first  
17 time basically that I kind of thought it wasn't a very  
18 nice place.
- 19 Q. What happened?
- 20 A. Initially Sister [REDACTED] EAC said, "That's okay", and she  
21 called over two girls and asked them to start cleaning  
22 it. Then she and Mrs Rioch --
- 23 Q. Was Mrs Rioch still there at that point?
- 24 A. No. Sister [REDACTED] EAC came running in -- Mrs Rioch was  
25 behind her -- and then Sister [REDACTED] EAC was saying,

1 "These two girls can clean it up". Then Mrs Rioch was  
2 with her, they went back into the television room, and  
3 then we were asked to come and say good-bye to  
4 Mrs Rioch, which we did. As soon as we waved her away,  
5 Sister [REDACTED] EAC [REDACTED] dragged me into the playroom and said,  
6 "Clean it up or I will make you eat it". That was my  
7 first day in Smyllum.

8 Q. Did you have to clean it up?

9 A. I did and I didn't really know how to. It was a very  
10 old carpet. It was red. It looked like a Brillo pad so  
11 the vomit had seeped into the carpet so I was having  
12 a difficult time trying to clean it up with the cloth,  
13 but it was cleaned up, yes.

14 Q. Thereafter then were you taken to a particular area  
15 where you would be sleeping?

16 A. It wasn't Sister [REDACTED] EAC [REDACTED] There was a staff member  
17 called [REDACTED] AFM [REDACTED] AFM [REDACTED], who then showed us to our  
18 dorms and our cubbyholes. I was in one room, [REDACTED]  
19 [REDACTED] for the 0 to 6 year olds. There were  
20 about five or six of us in that room.

21 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]



1 Q. So from what you are saying then, there was a division  
2 according to age?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. There has been some suggestion that at a point in time  
5 that Smyllum was divided into family units. From what  
6 you are saying so far, that wasn't the position when you  
7 were admitted.

8 A. Not until 1972. We moved from a separate building,  
9 which was Ogilvy House, to the main building. Then we  
10 were in the top floor there and there the rooms were  
11 smaller and there were four in each room, but we were  
12 still divided according to age.

13 Q. Do I take it then when you went to Smyllum you went to  
14 Ogilvy House?

15 A. I did, which is a slightly separate building, which is  
16 still standing today actually to the main building.

17 Q. Perhaps I can ask you to look at a photograph so we can  
18 maybe get an idea as to the layout. It is  
19 INQ.001.001.2538.

20 A. That will magically appear? That's amazing.

21 Q. I would not say it is magic!

22 A. Well, it is pretty cool.

23 Q. There you have an aerial photograph of Smyllum.

24 I understand the main building is the building which is  
25 towards the centre of the photograph. Can you then

1 orientate us and give us perhaps a guided tour of what  
2 you can recollect?

3 A. You can see the main building where the turret is and to  
4 the right of that there is a building standing by  
5 itself, that; is Ogilvy House. Behind it is the rest of  
6 Ogilvy House where the kitchen, dining room and so on  
7 was.

8 There were three floors. The first floor was  
9 playroom, dining room, kitchen, two toilets and a sink.  
10 On the mezzanine floor were bathrooms and then the top  
11 floor were the three bedrooms.

12 Behind that, which is the long building behind the  
13 entire main building, there is St Kentigern's group.  
14 Underneath St Kentigern's, there was a [REDACTED]'s shed;  
15 [REDACTED] BAC used that. There was a gardener's shed,  
16 which Bertie Forsyth used. Behind that again was a  
17 garage where the Variety Sunshine coaches were kept.

18 Even further up, which is the building you can see  
19 slightly further up there, that's School Hill. That's  
20 where we went to school. The primary school was there.  
21 Further down the lane, away from Smyllum, was St Mary's  
22 Secondary School.

23 Q. I wonder if you could turn round and point to where the  
24 school is.

25 A. This is up here (indicates). This is School Hill. This

1 area here behind here was --

2 Q. You are pointing to where there is a quadrangle?

3 A. Exactly. This was the playground, the play area.

4 St Kentigern's House. Underneath there and behind was  
5 a garage. Up here was the school and this was the older  
6 part of the school. This is where primary 1 and 2 were  
7 and we moved up here (indicates) for 3, 4, 5 and 6.

8 Excuse me. Here is the chapel and here is Roncalli  
9 House, which is another group. Would you like me to  
10 sit?

11 Q. Just to be clear about Ogilvy House, you pointed to  
12 that.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Was there a nursery connected to Ogilvy House?

15 A. Not at my time. When I arrived there was no nursery at  
16 all as far as I can tell.

17 Q. Does that mean that the children were not of an age  
18 where there would be a nursery required?

19 A. When I moved to the main building, when I was on the top  
20 floor, there were two [REDACTED] twins, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
21 [REDACTED] they were 2 years old. They were not in  
22 any kind of nursery; they were in a room in cots,  
23 basically, with other children.

24 Q. In any event, the building to the right in your day was  
25 Ogilvy House?

- 1 A. Exactly.
- 2 Q. Thank you.
- 3 Then, who was in charge then of Ogilvy House when  
4 you were admitted?
- 5 A. There was always one nun in charge of each house and  
6 then there were two laypersons, two lay members of  
7 staff. Sister **EAC** was in charge of my group and  
8 there was a **AFM** and a Miss **IAN** I never got  
9 her second name.
- 10 Q. Did you say a little while ago that at a point in time  
11 you moved from Ogilvy House to another part --
- 12 A. To the main building, yes.
- 13 Q. What was the main part called?
- 14 A. We were still called Ogilvy House, but it was just  
15 called the main building. Ogilvy House was on the top,  
16 St Mary's was under that, and then on the ground floor  
17 were the dining rooms, the kitchens and the washroom.
- 18 Q. How hold were you when you moved from Ogilvy House?
- 19 A. Between 10 and 11, so it was between 1972 and 1973.
- 20 Q. Was Sister **EAC** still there at that time?
- 21 A. She left when we moved to the main building.
- 22 Q. Who was in charge of you then?
- 23 A. We then had a Sister **HAE** who took over at  
24 Ogilvy House. She was there for a short time. Then we  
25 had Sister **AGK**, who was actually the **[REDACTED]**,

1           until we got Sister [REDACTED] IAG [REDACTED]

2           Q. So far as the civilian staff were concerned, did they

3           remain with you throughout your whole time or did the

4           civilian staff change as well?

5           A. I think the longest serving member of staff was [REDACTED] ACV [REDACTED]

6           [REDACTED] ACV [REDACTED]. She came when I was about 8 or 9. She

7           was there until I left, basically. She was a good one.

8           She was a really nice lady.

9           Otherwise there was a Sister Sheila, Sister Helen,

10          another Sister Helen, Sister [REDACTED] [REDACTED] -- sorry staff,

11          [REDACTED] AFQ [REDACTED] there was a Miss [REDACTED] FBO [REDACTED]. I think

12          there were about six or seven different ones in the time

13          I was there.

14          Q. You tell us a little bit in your statement about your

15          first night at Smyllum and what happened, can you help

16          me with that?

17          A. Well, I was on my own in this room with other children

18          I didn't know; [REDACTED]

19          I woke up screaming because I was having a nightmare

20          that a big giant rabbit -- sounds silly -- was coming to

21          get me and I literally woke up screaming.

22          Miss [REDACTED] AFM [REDACTED] came in -- she was kind of through the

23          wall from our dorm -- and she just slapped me across the

24          face and told me to shut up or she would give me

25          something to cry about.

1           That same night I wet the bed, unfortunately, and  
2           the next morning I was dragged out of bed, the sheets  
3           were draped over me, I had to go down a corridor, down  
4           the stairs to the mezzanine floor, and I was put in  
5           a cold shower. I had never seen a shower before. That  
6           was my first 24 hours at Smyllum.

7           Q. Who dragged you out of the bed in the morning?

8           A. Sister [REDACTED] EAC

9           Q. And who put the sheet over your head?

10          A. Sister [REDACTED] EAC

11          Q. Were you given any explanation as to why that was the  
12          procedure?

13          A. I was just told that I was filthy, that I was lazy, why  
14          couldn't I have got up to go to go to the toilet.

15          I remember saying something like, I don't know where the  
16          toilet is, and I was slapped on my bare bottom and told  
17          to take my filthy sheets down and wash them in the sink.  
18          I didn't really get any other explanation than that.

19          Q. But you had -- you were told to have a shower or you  
20          were given a shower?

21          A. I was literally placed in the shower and the water was  
22          turned on full blast. I had never seen a shower.  
23          I didn't know what a shower was. I thought I was going  
24          to drown. I couldn't actually breathe. The water was  
25          really powerful coming down on my little body.

- 1 Q. Did you say earlier it was a cold shower?
- 2 A. It was freezing cold, yes.
- 3 Q. Just in relation to bathing, what was the procedure in  
4 relation to bathing, certainly in this early period?
- 5 A. A little bit draconian perhaps. We were always bathed  
6 on Saturday nights because we had to look nice for  
7 Sunday to go to church. They would fill up the bath  
8 with literally boiling water -- it would be brought up  
9 in big kettles, up from the kitchen, and it would be  
10 poured in, so I imagine it would be scalding for the  
11 first ones in the bath. We would stand into line,  
12 eldest to youngest --
- 13 Q. What sorts of numbers are we talking about?
- 14 A. The entire group, so somewhere between 18 to 20 people.
- 15 Q. Of different ages?
- 16 A. Of different ages. The eldest were 15, the youngest  
17 were as small as 2 or 3. The first one would get into  
18 the bath. They had 1 minute perhaps, out, the next one,  
19 out, the next one. If you were one of the younger ones,  
20 which I was then, the water was cold and it was dirty.
- 21 Q. So did it go by age then?
- 22 A. It did, it went by age.
- 23 Q. Was that a regular process?
- 24 A. That happened until we moved to the main building and  
25 then we had two baths with doors on them and a shower.

1           Then we were able to choose if we wanted a bath or  
2           shower and we could also actually do that a little more  
3           often than just on a Saturday night too.

4       Q.   What about food?  What was your first impressions of the  
5           food at Smyllum?

6       A.   Lumpy porridge.  The very, very, very first impression.  
7           But the food was kind of mixed.  Initially we had  
8           a cook, called Mrs **ACK** and the food came  
9           from the main kitchen in big panigans(?) for lunch and  
10          it was always actually quite good -- from where I came  
11          from I thought the food was good.

12                 Teatime, however, at 5 o'clock, was made by the  
13                 members of staff, and they were usually quite young.  
14                 Sometimes it was burned, sometimes it was inedible, so  
15                 it was really a mixed bag, to be honest.

16       Q.   If it was inedible, were you required to eat it?

17       A.   We were indeed required to eat it and we were forced to  
18           eat it.  I still have two little chips on the front  
19           teeth from where they shoved the fork into my mouth.

20                 Sister **EAC** and Sister **HAE** were particularly  
21                 bad with that: one would hold your nose, the member of  
22                 staff, and then the fork would be shoved into your mouth  
23                 and literally passed your teeth.  If you threw up, which  
24                 a lot of us did, they put your face in the plate and  
25                 told you to eat up the vomit and the food.



- 1 Q. How often did that happen to you?
- 2 A. Personally with me I would say a dozen times during the  
3 time I was there. I learned where to hide the food.  
4 What I did in the end was they would say, if you don't  
5 eat it you will have it for breakfast and then you will  
6 have it for lunch and then you will have it for tea.  
7 I discovered that if I went out to the back bins, which  
8 Mrs **ACK** used, and threw the food there, they would  
9 not notice, so I became a little bit cunning.
- 10 Q. Were there occasions when you came back to the same meal  
11 as had been before you --
- 12 A. Oh, many times actually. I'm quite stubborn, so I just  
13 refused to eat the darn food. I got to an age where  
14 they could not hold me down, so they could not force it  
15 in me, but I was given it -- say it was for tea, I was  
16 given it for breakfast, lunch, tea, the next morning for  
17 breakfast, and it would be -- it would have gone off, it  
18 would be stone cold, it wasn't put in a fridge, so it  
19 became more and more inedible. But, as I say, I kind of  
20 learned how to -- I actually lied for the first time.  
21 I got rid of the food and said I had eaten it.
- 22 Q. You are telling us about your own experience, of course,  
23 but --
- 24 A. This happened to many of us. This happened to virtually  
25 everyone I would say. We were lucky when it was someone

1 else's term. I'm sorry for saying that, but we were  
2 lucky when we weren't the ones being force-fed.

3 Q. You mentioned the school earlier in your evidence. Can  
4 you just tell me a little bit about your experience with  
5 schooling at Smyllum, starting with the primary school  
6 and moving beyond that.

7 A. I'm probably not the best person to ask because I loved  
8 school. I just loved school. I started in primary 1  
9 and there was a [REDACTED] AEW who had primary 1. I went  
10 to primary 2 and 3; Miss Sweeney took care of those.  
11 Primary 4 and 5 were Ms [REDACTED] IAR -- [REDACTED] IAR as we  
12 used to call her, but she wanted to be called [REDACTED] IAR

13 Primary 7 initially was taken by was  
14 Sister [REDACTED] EAA who was Sister Superior, but by the  
15 time I got back to primary 7 from primary 1,  
16 [REDACTED] AEW had been made principal and she then was  
17 teaching primary 7.

18 I personally found the education fine. I thrived,  
19 but I know a lot of children struggled. If you were  
20 remedial in any way there was no kind of expert help.  
21 If you couldn't read or write, then you just kind of  
22 floated through the system. If you were bright, you  
23 were okay; if you weren't so bright, you didn't do very  
24 well.

25 Q. But you managed in fact to graduate to another school

- 1           outwith the Smyllum area?
- 2       A.   When I was 12 I went to Our Lady's High School in  
3           Motherwell and that's probably why I'm sitting here  
4           today; that was a brilliant school.
- 5       Q.   Because I think you tell us you loved that and indeed  
6           you excelled at school.
- 7       A.   I did.
- 8       Q.   Just perhaps looking at that, you got five A grade  
9           Highers, but unfortunately a D for maths.
- 10      A.   D for maths: I was a linguist; I was not  
11         a mathematician.
- 12      Q.   But in due course you went to Glasgow University; is  
13         that correct?
- 14      A.   I did.
- 15      Q.   We will perhaps look at that later.
- 16                 Just staying with the schooling aspect of it, and  
17                 moving on a bit when you were at St Mary's High, and had  
18                 homework to do --
- 19      A.   Our Lady's High, do you mean?
- 20      Q.   Yes.  You mentioned Our Lady's High in Motherwell.
- 21      A.   Yes.
- 22      Q.   So you would have homework to do and preparation for  
23           exams or whatever.  How did you find that when you went  
24           back to Smyllum?
- 25      A.   I tried to do as much as I could on the bus going home.

1 We had an hour's journey on the bus from Motherwell to  
2 Lanark. By the time I got home it was after five.  
3 Teatime was at five, so tea was usually cold; it was  
4 just put on the table waiting for me. I would very  
5 quickly eat that and, because I was one of the older  
6 children by then, I had responsibility for helping the  
7 youngsters to get to bed.

8 We would have to clear the tables, wipe the tables,  
9 wash the dishes, dry them, brush the floor, and then  
10 reset the tables for dinner, and then help the young  
11 ones to get to bed. So by the time all of this was done  
12 it was about 7.30 pm, perhaps, and I had to be in bed by  
13 9, so I didn't have time to do my homework, literally  
14 just didn't have time to do my homework.

15 I would wait until everyone was asleep at night,  
16 about 11/12 o'clock, and go along the corridor to the  
17 toilets, lock myself in, sit on the toilet seat and do  
18 my homework.

19 Q. Did you ask for permission to stay up to do your  
20 homework?

21 A. Many times. "Could I just please finish this?" because  
22 I would do it in the playroom -- there was no other  
23 place where there was a table. I was just told, no, get  
24 to bed, young lady, you are no different to anyone else.

25 Q. You were in your teens at this time?

1 A. I was 16 when I was doing O grades and 17 when I was  
2 doing my Highers.

3 Q. Were you still going to bed at 9 o'clock at that time?

4 A. Indeed I was. The only night that was different for all  
5 of us was Saturday. There was a programme called Cannon  
6 -- I don't know if any old people here remember that, he  
7 was a big, fat detective. We were allowed to stay up  
8 and watch that and that went on until 9.25. That was  
9 the only night we were allowed to stay up late.

10 Q. As far as getting access to books would be concerned,  
11 did you have any access to big books when you were at  
12 Smyllum?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Did you ask for books?

15 A. I loved books. I spent my pocket money on books or  
16 comics and then I would save up to get annuals.

17 **AEW** my teacher at Smyllum, she realised I was  
18 interested in books, she would bring me some from her  
19 own library, so Jane Eyre, Tale of Two Cities. I loved  
20 that. I would sneak them away, read them, and give them  
21 back to her.

22 I didn't even get grammar books, any kind of  
23 dictionaries. I was doing languages mainly -- French,  
24 Spanish, Italian and Latin -- and we were told, you  
25 would need this, this and this, but I never got them and

1           that's why I have a good memory today.

2           Q.   Again, I will come back to how that ended up in due  
3           course.

4                     But you tell us a little bit about the nuns'  
5           clothing in your statement and in particular the fact  
6           that, apart from their habits, they also wore a cross  
7           and that was something that became relevant to your life  
8           at Smyllum; is that right?

9           A.   The cross was a thing of terror, basically, for all of  
10          us.  When I first arrived there were only a few of the  
11          older nuns who still had the cornettes, as they were  
12          called.  By about 1970 most of them were in boxes and by  
13          the mid-70 they just had a veil then so we could see  
14          their fringe.

15                    The cornettes were petrifying if you were a young  
16          child.  They were massive big things.  They would have a  
17          dark blue habit and they would have a blue belt.  On the  
18          belt there would be some kind of rope hanging down on  
19          the left-hand side with a pretty heavy wooden cross with  
20          a metal Jesus on it.  It was one of their weapons,  
21          basically.  They would literally whack you.  That of  
22          course would hit you on the right-hand side of the face.

23                    I really can't describe what it is like to be hit in  
24          the face by Jesus; it is a very bizarre thing.

25          Q.   How often did this happen?

1 A. It was one of their favourite things. I mean, that was  
2 one of the modes of punishment. Whatever they had to  
3 hand -- it would be the cross, a hairbrush, a hanger,  
4 a slipper. But there was something kind of -- about the  
5 cross. It just seemed like that was the first thing  
6 they reached for and it was kind of just hanging there  
7 and they would literally use their right hand and whack  
8 it up. I would say every child at some point would have  
9 been hit with a cross.

10 Q. But regularity, are you able to help me with that?

11 A. It depends how good or bad you were. I quickly learned  
12 that if I was a little goody two-shoes then they would  
13 not have any reason to hit me, so I tried to keep my  
14 head down and do my time. But a lot of the other  
15 children I would say they were -- I would say every  
16 single day they were given a beating of some kind.

17 Q. You tell us also in your statement about visits to  
18 ladies' houses, which I think was an annual occurrence.

19 A. From about 1970 it was an annual occurrence, yes.

20 Q. Can you help me with that? What did that involve?

21 A. There were families -- usually husbands and wives -- who  
22 were Catholic and, through their local parish, if it was  
23 Carluke, Wishaw, Motherwell, sometimes Uddingston,  
24 I think as well. They would agree to take some of the  
25 children from Smyllum for the day. So we would be

1 driven in the Variety Sunshine bus to this location,  
2 which was usually a church hall, and then we were given  
3 a set of parents.

4 They would take us home for the day. It was really  
5 fun. Only the good kids get to go. We would get  
6 clothes from them, money, sweets. I would sing for them  
7 and get claps -- and I never really got claps, so that  
8 was really fun. Ladies' houses were like a reward for  
9 the really good children.

10 Q. You also got gifts from these --

11 A. Yes, actually, on one lady's house in 1974, I was 12,  
12 and I had just then started Our Lady's High School.  
13 I mentioned that I wanted to do French and Spanish and  
14 the lady there had actually studied French and German at  
15 school and she gave me a lovely grammar book and it was  
16 taken away from me as soon as I got back to Smyllum.  
17 I wasn't allowed to keep it.

18 Q. Were you told why that was the case?

19 A. Things were supposed to be shared between everyone.  
20 I never actually saw the book again, so I don't know who  
21 shared that. No one else at Smyllum was studying  
22 languages.

23 But if they were nice things they were taken away  
24 you never saw them. If they were not so nice things,  
25 like older things, filthy things, you were allowed to



1 keep them. So if you brought a bear or a doll with you  
2 and it was kind of yukky, you were allowed to keep it.  
3 But if you received gifts for Christmas, birthdays,  
4 ladies' houses they were taken away -- supposedly to  
5 distribute between all of the children, but we never  
6 really saw them again.

7 Q. Friendships: did you develop friendships when you were  
8 at Smyllum?

9 A. It wasn't encouraged to be honest.

10 Q. How did you come to that view?

11 A. Because sometimes if you were sitting with someone that  
12 you were becoming a little bit close with, they would  
13 literally come and they would say "Separate" and they  
14 would physically pull you apart.

15 By the time I got into the main building, I was in  
16 a four-bed dorm with a [REDACTED], who is now  
17 [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]  
18 [REDACTED] younger sister, [REDACTED] and myself.  
19 [REDACTED] was the youngest. [REDACTED] and I were the  
20 same age; [REDACTED] was one year older. We tried then to  
21 become friends, we were going into puberty, things to  
22 talk about, and we were constantly being separated.

23 Q. Who by?

24 A. Usually Sister [REDACTED] EAC or Sister [REDACTED] HAE The nuns also  
25 would literally try and get you by yourself. They would

1 not want you to be sitting in a group, it was quite  
2 bizarre. I can't really -- I can't get into their heads  
3 to say why, but we just thought that they didn't want us  
4 speaking about what was going on or ganging up on them  
5 or strength in numbers.

6 But I remember several occasions where [REDACTED] and  
7 myself would be playing in the play room with an old  
8 chessboard. We loved chess, we would sit for hours.  
9 Sister [REDACTED] EAC would just come in and kick it. All the  
10 pieces would fly and we would lose where we were in the  
11 game, just a bizarre -- I don't really understand why  
12 she would do something like that.

13 Q. Did she give you any explanation at the time?

14 A. No. It just seemed kind of nasty to be honest.

15 Q. You mentioned puberty. Were you given any instruction  
16 by anyone when puberty came round the corner?

17 A. No. It didn't come round the corner; I went crashing  
18 into it, into a wall. It came suddenly. It was  
19 painful. I was bleeding heavily. I thought I was  
20 dying. I thought I was bleeding. I thought something  
21 terrible was going on.

22 I went and said, "I'm bleeding, I think I'm dying".  
23 I was slapped and told never to talk of that publicly  
24 again and I should always go to her -- this was  
25 Sister [REDACTED] HAE -- and ask for a sanitary towel. I said,

1 "What's a sanitary towel?" and she said, "Just ask for  
2 Dr Whites".

3 So I was given a belt, which sounds a bit draconian  
4 now, but a belt with clips on it and Dr White pads,  
5 which were big thick horrible things. We had to ask  
6 publicly for a Dr Whites and after a while everyone  
7 realised what Dr Whites were.

8 But no one told me this was your period, it is  
9 a normal part of growing up. What I basically heard was  
10 when I had pain, that was the devil's way of punishing  
11 me because I was a bad girl and that it is God's  
12 punishment to have periods, basically, so it is tough  
13 shit -- that's literally the words she said, "Tough shit  
14 if it's painful".

15 Q. What nun was this?

16 A. This was Sister **HAE**

17 Q. Again you are talking about your own experience; did you  
18 witness this behaviour towards any other girls in the  
19 same situation?

20 A. I was relatively young, I was 12/13, so by the time the  
21 other girls had their periods I was able to tell them  
22 a little bit about what it was like, but I just did that  
23 myself, no one else kind of gave them any instruction.

24 It helped a bit by the time one was 14 because then  
25 we started having biology at school so we learned

1 a little bit about reproductive organs and so on. If  
2 you had your period when you were 12 or 13, you were  
3 just left to your own devices, basically.

4 Q. You have mentioned bed-wetting already in your first  
5 night. Can I just move beyond the first night and look  
6 at bed-wetting more generally. Was this something that  
7 you suffered from for a while when you were at Smyllum?

8 A. I did. I would say perhaps the first six or  
9 seven months, when you are six it is quite kind of  
10 difficult to gauge time, but certainly until I was moved  
11 into the next bedroom, which was, you know, for the 7 to  
12 12 year olds, I wasn't wetting the bed then. So I think  
13 it was the first few months of my time at Smyllum -- and  
14 then it came back.

15 Q. Before we come to that. Looking at your bed-wetting  
16 experiences for the first few months then, you have  
17 already told us what happened on the first night.

18 A. It happened every night. Any time any of us wet the bed  
19 they would strip you, they would strip the bed, they  
20 would ask you to -- you would have to have your sheets  
21 under your arm often. If they wanted to be particularly  
22 denigrating they would put the sheet over your head with  
23 the urine part literally on your head and you would have  
24 to walk down to the bathroom and have a cold shower or a  
25 cold bath and wash your sheet -- there was like a big

1 kitchen sink in there, a big, massive sink, and you  
2 would literally have to wash your own sheets. That was  
3 a normal ordinary occurrence. I would say everyone at  
4 some point wet the bed at Smyllum and received that  
5 punishment.

6 Q. You said, I think in passing there, they would strip  
7 you. Would you have to take your nightdress off?

8 A. Literally yes. If you are 10ish, 11ish, and you are  
9 starting to develop, it is really humiliating if you are  
10 having to walk naked down a corridor.

11 Q. You mentioned that when you moved into the 7 year old  
12 dorm, that you stopped -- you had stopped your  
13 bed-wetting, but then it started again; is that right?

14 A. It did.

15 Q. We will come to see why it started again, but when it  
16 started again what was the position?

17 A. It was even more humiliating because I think they kind  
18 of accepted that the 0 to 6 year olds would wet the bed;  
19 that was the dorm where most people wet the bed. By the  
20 time you are 7, 8, 9, they just don't expect you to wet  
21 the bed, so the punishment was more harsh and they would  
22 call you names as well --

23 Q. Can you give us an example?

24 A. "Lazy cow", "stupid", excuse me, "cunt".

25 Q. Who used that language?

- 1 A. That would have been Sister **EAC**, Sister -- sorry,  
2 Ms **AFM** or Ms **IAN**. It would depend who had  
3 responsibility that morning for getting us out of bed.  
4 It wasn't always the same person.
- 5 Q. I mean that's quite foul language, not what one would  
6 expect of a nun, but you are telling us that was the  
7 language that was used?
- 8 A. I normally don't use that word, but I will say it again,  
9 I don't know what cunt was. I didn't know what it was;  
10 I thought it was calling me a stupid cow or whatever.  
11 I didn't know it was actually a really rude word, to be  
12 honest.
- 13 Q. Again, would you be stripped naked?
- 14 A. Totally stripped naked. Yes. Sometimes though, if they  
15 were trying to teach you a lesson, and if you wet the  
16 bed two or three nights in a row, they would then make  
17 you sleep in the soiled sheets. They would dry out  
18 a bit during the day, but they would stink, and then you  
19 would have to sleep in them again. Then they would say  
20 something like, "Rub your nose in it, bitch".  
21 I literally learned later that dogs who wet themselves  
22 -- they rub their noses in it to teach them, so I kind  
23 of felt a bit like a dog --
- 24 Q. But your nose wasn't rubbed in it?
- 25 A. My nose wasn't rubbed in it, but they would -- say, akin

1 to a dog's nose being rubbed in their own urine. But  
2 they would certainly make you sleep in it for two or  
3 three nights as a kind of "I will teach you not to do it  
4 again", but of course it got worse, we got more stressed  
5 by that and we were more afraid of wetting the bed. And  
6 I then ended -- I would get up two or three times  
7 a night to go to the toilet just to make sure I wouldn't  
8 wet the bed.

9 If I did fall asleep, I was petrified when I woke  
10 up: oh my God, did I wet the bed? I would pray to the  
11 angels to come down and blow it dry if I had wet the  
12 bed. There was a constant state of fear around this  
13 bed-wetting and the more fearful we were, the more we  
14 wet the bed.

15 Q. When you walked along the corridor with your sheet and  
16 you were naked at that time, I mean who would -- to whom  
17 might you be visible?

18 A. Initially in Ogilvy House just the girls. By the time  
19 we moved to the main building, girls and boys because  
20 then the rooms were all on the same floor: one girls',  
21 one boys', one girls', one boys', and all of them had  
22 little glass parts on them on the top of the door so the  
23 boys could actually see you walking across the corridor  
24 to go to the bathroom, naked.

25 Q. Were you still wetting the bed when you moved to the --

1 A. Occasionally when I was 12, 13, 14, on very few  
2 occasions I would wet the bed, yes, but not regularly.

3 Q. So this process --

4 You do mention something in your statement about  
5 holidays. Can I just look at that. Because you  
6 remember going to Girvan on holiday; was that once or  
7 more than once?

8 A. Actually from the time I got there we went to Girvan  
9 every year. We went to a place called the Glengarry  
10 Guesthouse and it was actually quite fun to go to  
11 Girvan. I liked the beach and I thought, yay, a little  
12 bit of freedom.

13 It was actually different, it was a little lighter  
14 than Smyllum, but it turned out not to be so great after  
15 all -- and I am sure you are going to ask me about that.

16 Q. Can I ask you about that? In particular, if you are on  
17 the beach on a hot sunny day, what was the procedure?

18 A. Well, I'm a typical pale Scot with freckles and I did  
19 have red hair before I got this colour, so I would burn.  
20 I would burn really badly and I would get huge big  
21 blisters. There was no kind of cardigan, no towel over  
22 your shoulders; we just sizzled. No calamine lotion,  
23 nothing.

24 We had to be on the beach after breakfast until  
25 lunch and then after lunch until 4. We just had to,



1           there was no choice. The nuns on the other hand, you  
2           would have your own group nun, and then the other  
3           group's nun, two groups would go together, so you would  
4           have those two nuns, and then some of the older nuns  
5           would come to get a holiday. They would sit under  
6           a kind of parasol and have ice cream and ice lollies and  
7           cold drinks, and we would kind of just kind of drool at  
8           them as we saw them sitting there in the shade having  
9           a nice cold drink. It was actually quite cruel to do  
10          that.

11         Q. You talk about your own experience and getting --  
12           burning in the sun what about other children?

13         A. We were all Scottish, we were all peely-wally, we were  
14           all really pale. A lot of us burned and I wasn't the  
15           only one.

16         Q. Did you not receive any treatment at all for the  
17           sunburn?

18         A. No. Nothing at all. In fact, the next day we just had  
19           to go back to the beach, basically.

20         Q. Birthdays and Christmas: to what extent were these  
21           celebrated?

22         A. Birthday? I never, ever celebrated my birthday until  
23           I was 17 and one of the -- my friends from school, from  
24           high school, [REDACTED], wanted to give me  
25           a birthday party and Sister [REDACTED] IAG [REDACTED] said, no, you

1 can't, because it's in Motherwell and I don't want you  
2 being here, but I will give you a party here.

3 So we had a little gathering of some of my school  
4 friends, mostly people from the operatic society who  
5 were with me in that. We had Irn Bru, cake, crisps. It  
6 was actually quite nice. We played some music. It was  
7 the only time I celebrated my birthday.

8 When I was 16, I got my first gift from ACV  
9 ACV the nice member of staff. She gave me  
10 some underwear, thank God, my first new underwear, and  
11 some perfume. Other than that I never, ever -- your  
12 birthday wasn't even acknowledged.

13 Q. Christmas? Was Christmas celebrated?

14 A. We would always get a gift at Christmas. I will give  
15 them that. Always, but it would always be something you  
16 needed, so a new pair of slippers, a new nightgown, new  
17 socks.

18 I often got a new brush because they were constantly  
19 hitting me on the head with my brush and it would break  
20 and then they would withhold my pocket money until I had  
21 bought a new one. If I had broken one close to  
22 Christmas, then they would buy me a new brush for  
23 Christmas, woo-hoo, great gift. I hate hairbrushes now.

24 Q. Visits then, what about visits? Family visits? First  
25 of all, did you have any?

1 A. Initially my grandfather, my mother's father, came to  
2 visit us. He was quite elderly, quite frail. I would  
3 say the first couple of years he came on an irregular  
4 basis, but Sister [REDACTED] EAC actually became very friendly  
5 with him. They were both Irish and they really seemed  
6 to get on quite well, so he would sit and chat to her  
7 actually rather than talking to us, and then he died  
8 when I was 11. By then Sister [REDACTED] EAC had left anyway.

9 When I was about 11 or 12 [REDACTED]  
10 [REDACTED]  
11 [REDACTED] came to visit us a couple of times [REDACTED]  
12 [REDACTED] But other than that no  
13 visit.

14 Q. What about the Social Work Department? If we look over  
15 the period, what was the position?

16 A. For the first ten years I saw Mrs Rioch once when she  
17 drove us to Smyllum and I saw Mr Dawson, who over took  
18 from her, twice: once at Pitt Street and once at Smyllum  
19 when he came to say, "I'm your new social worker".  
20 That's all he said. Then he went off to speak to  
21 Sister [REDACTED] EAC

22 Other than that nothing until I was 16 years of age  
23 and then I did get an amazingly good social worker,  
24 Lyndsey Cameron(?) -- really young and straight out of  
25 university. She had studied French, she gave me her

1           grammar book. She was what I would imagine a social  
2           worker would be. She would take me into town, she would  
3           come every month, she would buy me little gifts.  
4           I could talk to her like a normal person. I would think  
5           if I had got a social worker like that much earlier,  
6           there would not have been as much abuse.

7           Q. Did you tell her --

8           A. I tried.

9           Q. -- about what was going on?

10          A. I tried. I think she was young, I think she was afraid  
11          for her job. I think she probably felt a little bit  
12          powerless. What she did say was, I don't know if I can  
13          do very much, but I promise I will treat you well. And  
14          she did. She treated me really well.

15          Q. I think she was supportive in particular in connection  
16          with your schooling.

17          A. She was amazing.

18          Q. You tell us about that in your statement.

19                 Healthcare. You also mention that in your  
20          statement. What was the process at Smyllum in  
21          connection with that?

22          A. There was Sister **FAM** who was -- we called her the  
23          nurse. I'm not sure if she fully was a medical nurse,  
24          but we called her the nurse. She had a little room  
25          beside the community room, which is where the nuns would

1           convene. If you had any cuts, sores, bruises,  
2           accidents, you would first go to Sister **FAM** If she  
3           could fix it, then she would fix it. If she couldn't,  
4           she would make an appointment with Dr Allen, who was the  
5           doctor who came up from town. He would kind of take  
6           care of the more serious things. By the time I was  
7           about 10, 11, 12, I think we had annual check-ups with  
8           him. He would come every year and he would weigh you,  
9           measure you, he would ask if you were menstruating, he  
10          would ask if you were wetting the bed, that kind of  
11          thing. He would look at your teeth. He did write down  
12          notes. I'm not sure if those still exist, but he did  
13          actually write down some medical notes. So from the age  
14          of 10 to 12 nothing, then after that annually.

15        Q. Then you mentioned the social worker, perhaps we will  
16          back to her again. You say she was very supportive of  
17          you; do you know what happened to her?

18        A. When I was 17, I did well in my Highers but I didn't get  
19          O grade maths. Our Lady's High recommended I did  
20          a sixth year, then I could do a Sixth Year Studies and  
21          do my maths again. Smyllum said I couldn't stay there,  
22          they just would not have me for another year. So  
23          a whole campaign started to find me a foster family and  
24          Lyndsey actually fought to have me stay in Smyllum so  
25          that I wouldn't have too many disruptions. But I ended

1 up staying with a woman called Margaret Mary Waters(?),  
2 who was a 55-year-old -- my age now -- spinster. She  
3 didn't know how to deal with me, I didn't know how to  
4 deal with her, and I was constantly calling Lyndsey  
5 asking for advice: what can I do, I'm kind of miserable,  
6 this isn't working at all. Lyndsey was accused of being  
7 too close to me, that she had got too personally  
8 involved, and she was taken off my case and I never saw  
9 her again.

10 Q. Do I take it that you were fostered out to this lady?

11 A. Fostered out to Ms Waters first and then, by about  
12 January of 1980, when I had been there for about  
13 3 months, that is when things started to get difficult  
14 and that's when suddenly Lyndsey -- I was just told that  
15 she got too close to me and she had to be removed.

16 Q. Running ahead, did you move from the foster parent to --

17 A. I was left all to my own devices. By April of 1980 the  
18 Social Work Department said. Sorry, we have found you  
19 a home, you don't want to stay here any more, you are  
20 not our problem any more. I said, what am I supposed to  
21 do, and they said, that's not our problem, you are 18;  
22 I had turned 18 in April.

23 My schoolteacher, Mr Holden, my English teacher,  
24 took me in. He lived in Glasgow in Kelvingrove and he  
25 and his wife, Moira, who was pregnant, took me in and

1 let me stay with them until I did my Sixth Year Studies  
2 and, thank God, I got to university.

3 Q. You mention -- also in your statement you touch upon  
4 religious instruction. You tell us that there were, in  
5 your time, three different parish priests who had  
6 a connection with Smyllum. Were they based in St Mary's  
7 in Smyllum?

8 A. They were all Vincentian. Would you like me to give the  
9 names? -

10 Q. You can.

11 A. Father O'Hare, he was the eldest, he was the actual  
12 parish priest. Then Father ADA . He was quite  
13 elderly, I think, because he had white hair. He had  
14 most to do with Smyllum. Then Father BAK , who was  
15 very young. He came when I was about 10, Father BAK  
16 He was a good guy. Those are the three I remember from  
17 my time.

18 Q. We will come to look at what happened in connection with  
19 a particular priest in a moment. Can I just take you to  
20 your grandfather's death because you do tell us about  
21 that in your statement. When was that first of all?

22 A. We had just moved to the main building. So I was  
23 between 10 or 11. I think I had just turned 11,  
24 actually. I was in the playroom on the top floor of the  
25 main building and Sister AGK came and said -- I think

1 it was Sister AGK came -- and said, there is a phone  
2 call for you. I had to go down to the community room  
3 where the nuns sit, because that's where the only phone  
4 was -- an old white phone I remember -- picked up the  
5 receiver and it was my Aunt [REDACTED], who was my  
6 mother's sister, and she said, "I'm sorry to tell you  
7 dad's died", which is our grandad and I just started  
8 crying. I said, how, what's happened? She couldn't  
9 answer too many questions, but I was just kind of told,  
10 could you please get off the phone now, you have heard  
11 what you need to hear.

12 I went back to the playroom, [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED]  
14 [REDACTED] The nun  
15 wouldn't talk to me about it and I sat in the corner and  
16 cried, to be honest.

17 Q. Did the nuns notice you were upset?

18 A. I think I cried for about a week, daily, every time  
19 I thought about him, and at one point I was just kind of  
20 slapped in the face and told, "Pull yourself together,  
21 young lady", words to that effect.

22 Q. Who was that, do you remember?

23 A. That was one of the staff, AFQ [REDACTED].

24 Q. Running away. I don't think you ever did run away from  
25 Smyllum --



- 1 A. Where could we run? We were in the middle of nowhere.
- 2 Q. But some children did run away --
- 3 A. They did and they were brave souls because there really
- 4 was nowhere to run. I drove to Smyllum yesterday, with
- 5 the Norwegian journalists; it was way out in the sticks.
- 6 I just thought there would be nowhere to go, I was too
- 7 small, I didn't have any friends on the outside. So
- 8 I personally didn't run away. I just decided to do my
- 9 time, keep my head down and just get through it.
- 10 Q. Did you see what happened to children who did run away
- 11 when they came back?
- 12 A. They were normally brought back and they would usually
- 13 be, excuse the phrase, a bit knocked up. There was one
- 14 girl, [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].
- 15 Q. [REDACTED], I think.
- 16 A. Thank you. She ran away and never came back. She was
- 17 always running away. She was in Roncalli House and one
- 18 day she just didn't come back. Of course we were all
- 19 asking, where is she, what happened, and the story was
- 20 she was run over by a car.
- 21 Q. I think that may have been in 1969 --
- 22 A. Thank you. You have a good memory too.
- 23 Q. -- according to records we have seen. She was certainly
- 24 knocked down and killed as a result of a road accident.
- 25 A. That was actually true.

1 Q. Do you say she had run away --

2 A. She had run away several times. She was always running  
3 away.

4 Q. You do tell us in your statement that when children did  
5 run away and were taken back by the police, that you  
6 took the opportunity of speaking to the police.

7 A. Twice.

8 Q. Can you tell me about that?

9 A. They were the same officers both times actually. They  
10 would drive up to the main building outside the big  
11 turret where the main door was -- and Ogilvy House was  
12 to the side so we would see them driving up and they  
13 would normally take the child in and then they would  
14 come back out and on two occasions, two separate  
15 occasions, I don't know exactly when, but I remember two  
16 occasions I ran out and said could I talk to them.

17 I said words to the effect of: the nuns are hurting  
18 me, the nuns are hurting me, I don't want to stay here.  
19 On both occasions I was marched back in: one occasion  
20 marched into Sister [REDACTED] EAC and on another occasion  
21 marched into Sister [REDACTED] AGK who had then become  
22 Sister Superior.

23 So there was no -- it wasn't a case of, okay, we  
24 will make a report, or, we will help you get out of  
25 here, or, we will call your social worker. It was

1            basically, "Stop lying", and on the one occasion I was  
2            just accused of having an overactive imagination  
3            basically and Sister EAC said, "Sorry officer, she  
4            has an overactive imagination. Sorry she has bothered  
5            you".

6            Q. Can I get dates for these incidents?

7            A. The first time I was quite young, I think nine-ish or  
8            ten-ish. I was still in Ogilvy House, the separate  
9            building. The second time I would have been about 12  
10           because I was in the main building. Exact dates, I'm  
11           sorry, I can't remember --

12           Q. That gives us an idea.

13           A. -- my age, yes.

14           Q. So far as Sister EAC was concerned, what was her  
15           reaction to you then for involving the police?

16           A. She wasn't happy, let's just leave it at that.

17           Q. Well, did she do anything?

18           A. I was given a real hiding, as we called it back then.  
19           I was told to stop telling tales and, "What goes on here  
20           stays here".

21           Q. If you just -- if you look at the nature of the hiding,  
22           what did that involve?

23           A. It kind of reminded me of when my Uncle [REDACTED] would let  
24           loose on me. It was kind of like an uncontrolled rage.  
25           So I just kind of remember putting my hands up, trying

1 to put my head down. She was literally just flailing  
2 with her hands, trying to hit me wherever she could.  
3 I think she was just furious. It was a rage, just  
4 literally a rage. I was just trying to fend off the  
5 blows, basically. I don't know how long it lasted, but  
6 certainly a few minutes. I know there were several  
7 children around who saw it and I kind of just was in  
8 a little ball on the floor afterwards and just cried and  
9 I remember a couple of children coming up and kind of,  
10 "Are you okay?" It wasn't too popular that I had told  
11 the police.

12 Q. The second occasion that you mentioned with

13 Sister **AGK**.

14 A. Sister **AGK** was more verbal. It was like, "If you do  
15 that again, young lady, I will make you pay" -- that  
16 wasn't the word she used. "I will make you sorry." "If  
17 you do that again, I will make you sorry." I think that  
18 was the word she used.

19 Q. But no physical --

20 A. No, Sister **AGK** never hit me. I actually think she had  
21 an unnatural liking for me, if you know what I mean.

22 Q. So you got on --

23 A. I didn't get on well with her, but she liked me.

24 Q. I now want to focus in a bit more detail on what you  
25 tell us if your statement about abuse at Smyllum.

1 I think you have already, I think, touched upon quite  
2 a number of areas, but I would like to try and pull it  
3 all together.

4 The first thing you tell us about that in your  
5 statement -- and you have already mentioned this -- is  
6 force-feeding. That was something you tell us was  
7 prevalent at Smyllum.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Not just in connection with you but with other children?

10 A. I would say in the years I was in Smyllum, there wasn't  
11 a single child I met who hadn't been force-fed at some  
12 point.

13 Q. You also mentioned if you vomited that something might  
14 happen then.

15 A. Often they would either rub your face in it or they  
16 would say, eat it, and then the fork would be -- you  
17 would have both the food which was on the plate and the  
18 vomit on the fork and they would start ramming it in  
19 again.

20 When I got to a certain age, 14i-sh, I was quite  
21 athletic, quite strong, and they couldn't do it any more  
22 and that's when they started saying, okay, you will have  
23 this for the next meal and the next meal and the next  
24 meal.

25 Q. You give an example of a chicken supreme --

1 A. Oh god, chicken supreme.

2 Q. -- dinner. What happened with that?

3 A. It was Miss FBO, I remember, who made tea that  
4 day. It was chicken supreme and she had burned it. You  
5 could literally taste the burning taste in your mouth.  
6 It was just absolutely disgusting and none of us wanted  
7 to eat it. That didn't go -- a lot of us unfortunately  
8 were force-fed that day.

9 That was just one example. There were lots of meals  
10 they would make, the younger staff, which just were  
11 totally inedible. They obviously couldn't cook.

12 Q. But in relation to that example I think you tell us in  
13 your statement that if you didn't eat it you would have  
14 it before you for breakfast --

15 A. That chicken supreme -- I think there were like two days  
16 where I refused to eat the chicken supreme and it was  
17 just left for me on the table, not in the fridge, not  
18 even in the pantry, which was a little bit cooler, and  
19 I was then met with this the next day for breakfast,  
20 lunch, dinner, and then at dinnertime, after tea, they  
21 would all go do their things, and I was left there and  
22 I suppose there was an amount of trust that I wouldn't  
23 do anything wrong. I then took that out the back, put  
24 it into the bins, and I lied and I said I had eaten it.

25 I learned to do that later too, that I would just

1           let them think I had eaten it and I would actually just  
2           throw it away.

3           Q. Can I look at physical chastisement, if I can use that  
4           description. Again, you have told us about the nuns  
5           hitting you with crosses, that was one of the  
6           implements. I think you also mentioned hairbrushes and  
7           hangers; is that right?

8           A. There were wooden hangers and metal hangers and they  
9           would use both, whichever was to hand. We all had  
10          slippers -- they were usually these old-fashioned  
11          slippers with hard leather on the bottom and then soft  
12          material on the top. That was another favourite because  
13          the hard leather -- it really gave you a slap, it was  
14          really stinging.

15                 Usually they would use their knuckles. So they  
16          would kind of knock you on the head. They would pull  
17          you by the ear, literally pull you so hard that your  
18          feet would be off the ground, and they would be dragging  
19          you along. Aye.

20                 More often than not, it would be their hands. They  
21          were fond of what I call the back slap, so the back of  
22          your hand would hit you in the face. Sometimes you  
23          would have a full hand on your face. Kicking, punching.  
24          We were spat at as well a couple of times.

25          Q. Sorry?

- 1 A. I was spat at.
- 2 Q. By whom?
- 3 A. Sister **AFR**, whom you will probably hear about later,  
4 who called me a whore. She spat at me and called me  
5 a filthy whore, basically. I was the scum of the earth;  
6 I think she was trying to convey that by spitting.
- 7 Q. The type of physical abuse you have mentioned, did that  
8 leave marks on you?
- 9 A. I have a little scar just underneath my nose from where  
10 I was slammed against a wall. I have a scar here  
11 (indicates) just over my eye --
- 12 Q. Just above your left eyebrow?
- 13 A. Exactly, I have a scar here as well (indicates) where  
14 I was slammed into a wall.  
15 I broke a milk tooth, again from being slammed into  
16 a wall. It fell out a year later.  
17 I don't know if you can see this, but I have some  
18 really weird looking fingers because my fingers were  
19 broken by being hit with the a brush. They never  
20 really -- especially these fingers (indicates). They  
21 are really weird.
- 22 Q. You are pointing to your first fingers?
- 23 A. My index fingers, as you can probably see, are going in  
24 two different directions. So both of my index fingers  
25 ... My little pinkie -- I don't know if you can see



1           this -- this was dislocated. So I have, unfortunately,  
2           some physical scars, not just emotional ones.

3           Q. You mentioned your teeth before from force-feeding.

4           A. I have two tiny little jaggy points, little chips on  
5           both my front teeth from where the fork was forced in,  
6           yes.

7           Q. You tell us something in your statement about nuns  
8           seeking to find out what your weaknesses were and trying  
9           to exploit them. Can you help me with that?

10          A. They were quite good at that. I mean I'm a psychologist  
11          now, so we try and figure out what a person's weakness  
12          is so that we can help them with that it. They seemed  
13          to try and figure it out so they could use it against  
14          you.

15                 My particular one was fear of the dark. I was in  
16          the bed with my gran when she died when I was 3 years  
17          old. I woke up and she wouldn't move. I was trying to  
18          shake her to say, "Granny, wake up", and she wouldn't  
19          move and she fell out of the bed. I was screaming and  
20          ran out to my grandad who was making porridge in the  
21          kitchen and said, "Granny won't wake up, she won't wake  
22          up," and everything was pitch black. So since then  
23          I was afraid of the dark.

24                 So they would use that against me: they would lock  
25          me in a dark pantry. They would put the key in the

1 keyhole so not even a tiny little bit of light would  
2 come through there. When I was in the bedroom, they  
3 would lock the big shutters -- we had big shutters on  
4 the window -- and I would say, please, please, can I  
5 open it just a little bit so some light comes in, no.  
6 So with me they used my fear of the dark.

7 Q. How did they get to know of your fear of the dark?

8 A. I think from the first time I was there, when I was put  
9 in the first dorm, and I had the nightmare. I said,  
10 "Could I please have the light on", and they said no.  
11 I said, "But I'm afraid of the dark, I'm afraid the big  
12 rabbit is going to come and get me". I must have  
13 repeated that several times. It became very apparent  
14 I was afraid of the dark.

15 Unfortunately there were many things they didn't  
16 kind of manage to threaten me with, but locking me in  
17 a dark room, that worked every time.

18 Q. And being locked in the pantry then, how often did that  
19 happen during your time?

20 A. Again, by the time I was a teenager, I kind of learned  
21 that, okay, don't say anything wrong, don't look at  
22 them, don't give them any reason to punish you. But  
23 until I was 10, 11, 12, I would say I was locked in that  
24 blasted pantry once a week -- mostly because I would  
25 speak out against them or I would speak out for other

1 kids or I would stop them from hitting other kids and  
2 then they would turn on me instead and I would be the  
3 one who was punished.

4 Q. Who was responsible for this particular --

5 A. A mixture of staff and/or nuns. It just depended who  
6 had duty that day. The staff had three days on and  
7 three days off, so it wasn't the same staff every single  
8 day. The nuns sometimes were there at meals, sometimes  
9 not, so it varied to be honest.

10 Q. How long do you think you would spend in the pantry?

11 A. It was always an hour. It was always an hour. The  
12 staff and children were told -- were instructed not to  
13 dare let me out until they came to get me out.

14 Q. I also mention something about the nuns washing your  
15 mouth with carbolic soap.

16 A. Mm.

17 Q. Why was that done?

18 A. I suppose in their own kind of warped way they thought  
19 it would clean our mouths out literally. So if you said  
20 something they didn't like, if you -- whatever it was,  
21 if they thought you were telling tales, as they would  
22 call it, they would literally physically wash your mouth  
23 with carbolic soap. A big lump of soap would be shoved  
24 into your mouth, literally just shoved in your mouth.  
25 They would force you to close your mouth so your teeth

1 would kind of bite into the soap and then you would spit  
2 that out and they would make you drink a plastic cup of  
3 water so that the soap went down your throat. So the  
4 carbolic soap -- the taste would stay in your mouth for  
5 a couple of days and no matter what you did, you had  
6 carbolic soap in your mouth.

7 Q. Were there any particular nuns who did this?

8 A. Sister **EAC** did it when I told the police what was  
9 happening and I was brought back. Sister **HAE** did it,  
10 mostly because I spoke back to her and stood up for  
11 other children. Sister **AFR** did it after she broke my  
12 arm. So several different ones, I would say, did it.  
13 The staff members would do it on any kind of regular  
14 basis.

15 Q. You mentioned what you I think you describe or said  
16 under the heading "Bullying" in your statement about the  
17 nuns' attitude to you when you were doing well at  
18 school. What was their attitude then?

19 A. Their favourite name was for me was "madam". I was  
20 called snobby, I was called "your highness". They would  
21 say, "Don't get ideas above your station. You think you  
22 are clever, but you shagged your uncle and your mother  
23 is a whore".

24 Q. Who said that?

25 A. A mixture of nuns and staff. That was constantly being

1 flung out at me, particularly if I did well at something  
2 or I won a medal in a race or I was singing in  
3 an operatic society and they all came to see me and  
4 I was excited and there would always be, "You are just  
5 a big fish in a little pond, don't get ideas above your  
6 station", and then they would make denigrating remarks  
7 about where I came from. They didn't need to remind me  
8 of that; I knew where I came from.

9 Q. I now want to move on to the topic of sexual abuse that  
10 you tell us about in your statement.

11 Can we begin looking at that and can you begin by --

12 A. May I ask for a slight break before we go loose on the  
13 sexual abuse? Would that be okay?

14 Q. Yes.

15 LADY SMITH: We can do that. We would have a mid-morning  
16 break some time around now anyway so that would be --

17 A. That's very kind thank you. I just feel a little bit  
18 shaky and I would like to compose myself before speaking  
19 about the sexual abuse.

20 LADY SMITH: If we break for about 20 minutes, would that  
21 work for you?

22 A. Thank you very much.

23 LADY SMITH: We will take a break just now.

24 (11.07 am)

25 (A short break)

1 (11.26 am)

2 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, when you are ready.

3 MR MacAULAY: My Lady.

4 Before the break, Margaret I had been moving on to  
5 ask you about sexual abuse at Smyllum.

6 A. Thank you for the break by the way; I really appreciated  
7 it.

8 LADY SMITH: It was no problem.

9 MR MacAULAY: I just want to look at that with you now. You  
10 mention a priest, Father AFS, at one point in your  
11 statement. What, if anything, happened in connection  
12 with him?

13 A. It was a student priest, actually. He was studying in  
14 at Seminary at . He had  
15 the run of the place, as most of the priests did, and he  
16 would kind of barge into the room -- I think I said  
17 earlier I shared a dorm with and  
18 and and myself. Most of us were in puberty by  
19 then and he would literally shove himself through the  
20 door and we would be shoving the door to keep him out.

21 There was a dressing table straight ahead of the  
22 door and he would be looking in that while watching, for  
23 example, who was just behind the door,  
24 changing. So he was just -- obsequious, I think, is the  
25 only word, I think, to describe him.

1 He would take [REDACTED] with him home. He was at  
2 seminary but he would go home at the weekends to his  
3 parents' house -- I'm not sure exactly where that was --  
4 and [REDACTED] was taken home by him to have a nice  
5 time. She told me on several occasions that she didn't  
6 like it and he was hurting her and she said, will you  
7 come with me.

8 So I was allowed to go one weekend and one occasion  
9 he said, "Could you leave us alone", and I said no,  
10 because [REDACTED] look afraid. And the day after he  
11 said, okay, here's some money, go and get some ice  
12 cream. Again, [REDACTED] look afraid so I said, no,  
13 I'm not going. I never saw him actually do anything to  
14 her, but from what she says he did.

15 Q. Did she tell you what he had done?

16 A. She just said he was hurting her and she didn't like it.

17 Q. What age were you then at that time?

18 A. 12-ish, 12/13. I had breasts, [REDACTED] had  
19 breasts, so we were in puberty. I never went back to  
20 Father [REDACTED] AFS house after that. I was not welcome.

21 Q. You also mention Sister [REDACTED] AGK in this connection.

22 I think you told us earlier that she, effectively, came  
23 after Sister [REDACTED] EAC left; is that right?

24 A. Yes. She came -- she wasn't a house group Sister  
25 initially, she was actually [REDACTED] but when

1 Sister **EAC** left, we then got Sister **HAE** and  
2 Sister **AGK** was [REDACTED] after Sister **EAA** .  
3 But between Sister **HAE** and Sister **IAG** we had  
4 no house Sister so Sister **AGK** also took over  
5 responsibility for our house for about a year.

6 Q. What happened in connection with her, Sister **AGK**

7 A. Well, she had an unnatural interest in me. She was  
8 always trying to touch me. I was in St Mary's operatic  
9 society, so she would drive me into town. She was  
10 always kind of trying to get close to me in ways  
11 I didn't really like. Never anything overt but just  
12 kind of attempts at it.

13 But one particular occasion was when I was about 13,  
14 I was becoming very active at school, I was in the  
15 running team and Mrs Boyle, my PE teacher, said it was  
16 time I got a sports bra -- I wasn't wearing any bra,  
17 I was wearing a little kind of vest. I went to  
18 Sister **AGK** and told her this and she said, come on up  
19 to my room and I will find you one. We went up to her  
20 room up on the top floor, she asked me to take off my  
21 top, my little vest, and she then started to squeeze my  
22 breasts. I pulled away and said, I don't like that,  
23 what are you doing, and she said, I have to see what  
24 size you are. But she seemed to derive pleasure from it  
25 and it just wasn't -- and I ran out without my top on,



1           just ran out down the stairs back to my room. She never  
2           gave me a bra. I told Mrs Boyle what had happened and  
3           she got me a bra.

4       Q. We will come onto look at another priest in a moment,  
5           but I think you do tell us in your statement that at  
6           confession you did mention some of these incidents to  
7           the priest; is that right? Can you help me with that?

8       A. The incident which you are about to talk about  
9           I mentioned it on two or three different occasions, two  
10          different priests, because the answer I got was to pray  
11          for him, pray for them. And I thought okay, I will try  
12          the next priest. Tell him. And I think I just wanted  
13          someone to tell me it wasn't my fault and maybe to do  
14          something about it and instead it was just kind of,  
15          "Pray for them".

16      Q. Can I then look at what happened when I think you were  
17          about 8 or so?

18      A. It was 1970, yeah, it was round about confirmation, so  
19          I had probably just turned eight.

20      Q. Did you have a particular job that you were required to  
21          carry out at that time?

22      A. Because I was always being hit on the head with a brush  
23          and it was always being broken, I didn't get pocket  
24          money, so I asked if there was a little odd job I could  
25          do. Sister HBP who was in charge of preparing the

1 church for Mass, she said she would give me a sixpence  
2 if I went in before Mass and then kind of dusted the  
3 pews, opened the Bible at the right place, put out the  
4 chalice and so on.

5 So I would go down there about 9 o'clock -- Mass was  
6 at 9.30 -- and Father **ADA** who was the priest,  
7 he came every other week -- Father **BAK** was there one  
8 week, he was there the next week -- he was teaching us  
9 catechism for confirmation. He saw me there and he  
10 started chatting to me, invited me into the sacristy,  
11 and he eventually started asking me to sit on his lap  
12 and tried to touch me.

13 We had very short skirts back then and I just didn't  
14 like it at all and pulled away and he said to me, "What  
15 are you learning in catechism?" and I said, what do you  
16 mean, and he said, "What does God want you to be?" and  
17 I said, oh, I'm supposed to be a soldier of God; I knew  
18 my catechism. He said, "I need you to be a soldier of  
19 God, I need you to be a good little soldier". I asked  
20 him what did he mean and he asked me to touch his  
21 soldier. I didn't know what he meant by then and then  
22 I saw he had something erect underneath his vestments  
23 and that was his soldier. He put my hand around his  
24 erect penis and put his hand around my hand and started  
25 rubbing it up and down.

- 1 Q. Was this on the first occasion?
- 2 A. No, I think he probably -- we know it is grooming,  
3 I didn't know it back then, but it probably took three  
4 or four weeks of sitting on his lap before he finally  
5 started asking me to masturbate him.
- 6 Q. How long did that go on for?
- 7 A. Several months, I think. It wasn't always masturbation  
8 either. Sometimes he would masturbate himself and he  
9 would want me to watch. Sometimes he would just want me  
10 to fondle him. Sometimes he would take my hand and put  
11 it round his penis and literally move my hand. He never  
12 had on his green vestment, he only had on the white part  
13 and the rope and his stole, so his penis was quite  
14 visible really. I would say it went on three, four,  
15 perhaps five months.
- 16 Q. And was it regular?
- 17 A. After the first time he would then deliberately come  
18 early because he knew I was working to get the church  
19 ready and he would always kind of come like this  
20 (indicates), just do this with his finger, come on over  
21 here.
- 22 Q. You are giving a beckoning motion.
- 23 A. Yes, just like -- and it was our little secret and I was  
24 a soldier of God and he was a man of God and I was  
25 taking care of God's army and that's kind of how

1 I rationalised it because that's how he explained it to  
2 me. I do remember saying it didn't feel good and  
3 I thought I was doing something wrong. He said, you  
4 can't be doing something wrong because I'm a man of God.  
5 If you are a six-year-old or eight-year-old Catholic,  
6 you believe the priests can't do anything wrong, so you  
7 just believe them when they say this is okay.

8 Q. Did there come a point this time when something  
9 happened?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Could you tell us about that?

12 A. This one particular day, I was sitting on his lap.  
13 I was masturbating him -- or rather he was helping me to  
14 masturbate him. My back was to the door of the  
15 sacristy, so I was facing the other wall. He was  
16 sitting in a big chair -- so they had this big chair  
17 with a leather seat part on it with big arms on it and  
18 a high chair. I remember I used to zone out when he was  
19 doing this, I would kind of try and remove myself from  
20 it a little bit, and suddenly I heard the door, the  
21 sacristy door, which was an old wooden heavy door  
22 creaking open. I turned round as I heard the creak and  
23 saw Sister **AFR** coming in, one of the elderly nuns, and  
24 I was literally in the middle of masturbating this  
25 priest.

1           I thought, praise the Lord, she has seen this, she  
2           is going to be angry at him, she is going to protect me,  
3           she is going to get me out of there. Her whole face  
4           became distorted, I think, is the only word I could use.  
5           She was furious and I thought, good, she is angry with  
6           him. Oh no, she was angry with me.

7           She called me a "hoor" -- that's the exact word she  
8           used, I had never heard it before and haven't heard it  
9           since -- and she took my left arm, because I was sitting  
10          this way (indicates) and yanked me out of his lap and  
11          flung me across to the wall and, "Get out of here, you  
12          filthy hoor!" And I was, "What have I done? What have  
13          I done?" "Get the fuck out of here", excuse my  
14          language --

15        Q. Is that what she said?

16        A. Yes, and I just crawled, I just crawled -- and  
17          I couldn't put my arm down, so I was kind of crawling on  
18          my right hand, on all fours, but three, and got out of  
19          the sacristy and kind of crawled along the corridor and  
20          then just ran to my room. I had to go back to church at  
21          9.30, we had Mass, and when we got to communion -- and  
22          in the Catholic Church we had to put our hands together  
23          and I could not raise my hand, I couldn't raise my left  
24          hand, and he was giving communion. I only had one hand  
25          up and he was glaring at me, he was furious. He looked

1 at Sister [REDACTED] EAC Sister [REDACTED] EAC looked at me, and  
2 I thought, oh Lord, this is not going to be good, but  
3 I couldn't move my arm.

4 I got communion, turned around, went back to the  
5 pew -- and we were in the front at the right-hand side,  
6 Ogilvy House. We were placed according to groups and we  
7 were always the first ones in and the last ones out.

8 We were the last ones out and Sister [REDACTED] EAC ust  
9 pulled me back the ear, pulled me out of the church,  
10 dragged me all along the corridor, took me into the  
11 washroom, and gave me a real hiding. I said, but  
12 I couldn't lift my arm, my arm hurts. I said,  
13 "Sister [REDACTED] AFR broke my arm because I was a good soldier  
14 of God for Father [REDACTED] ADA ". Those were my exact words.

15 She said, "What are you talking about, young lady?"  
16 And I said, "I was helping Father [REDACTED] ADA , I was a good  
17 soldier of God and Sister [REDACTED] AFR saw us and she threw me  
18 and she broke my arm". And she thought I was telling  
19 tales and she told me to stop faking it.

20 I went to lunch, couldn't lift up my knife and fork,  
21 went to teatime, couldn't lift up my knife and fork.  
22 She came in and said, stop faking this, and she lifted  
23 my arm and I was squealing in front of all the children  
24 in the dining room.

25 Went to bed that night, got up in the morning,

1 Monday morning, went to school, and AEW saw me  
2 in the playground and my hand was just hanging down. It  
3 was swollen, it was blue, and she said, "What have you  
4 done?" and I said, "I was a good little soldier for  
5 Father ADA and Sister AFR didn't like it and  
6 flung me across the room and I can't move my arm", and  
7 AEW just -- you could see she just thought  
8 something horrendous had happened and she said, I'm  
9 calling down now, you go right back down the hill, I  
10 will call Sister EAC you need to go to the  
11 hospital. Indeed, I was taken to the hospital.

12 Q. Who took you to the hospital?

13 A. Sister EAC

14 Q. Was she on her own or did somebody else go with her --

15 A. No. I do realise she spoke to Sister EAA, who was  
16 Sister Superior, and she was given permission to take  
17 the coach to drive me into the hospital. In the car on  
18 the way there she said, "Don't you dare tell anyone what  
19 happened, young lady, or I will break your other arm",  
20 basically. Sorry.

21 Q. What happened at the hospital then?

22 A. She wouldn't -- she was constantly there. She wouldn't  
23 let me be by myself with the nurse or the doctor.

24 I remember first one doctor came in and asked me some  
25 questions, he disappeared. Then a nurse came in, she

1           said we would have to take a x-ray.  Sister **EAC**  
2           wanted to come with us into the room and the nurse said,  
3           no, you can't, because of radiation.  She kind of placed  
4           my arm on something and then she also left the room  
5           briefly to take some photos, came back in, and she was  
6           asking me, what has happened here, what did you do.

7           I had been told to say I had fallen out of a tree.  
8           So I said, "I fell out of a tree", and she just kind of  
9           gave me a funny look.  Later, when the doctor was  
10          putting the plaster on my arm, he had like a bucket of  
11          water, and he said, what happened.  And I didn't want to  
12          lie and I just said, I don't remember.  And he said,  
13          "How can you not remember?  You have broken your arm".  
14          I said, "I don't remember", and I looked down, and  
15          Sister **EAC** was standing there, I was petrified to  
16          tell him what happened because there would be hell to  
17          pay, and I would have to go back with her, so I didn't  
18          want to lie, because I'm Catholic, and at the same time  
19          I couldn't tell the truth.  So I just said I couldn't  
20          remember and then he said words I remember now: "This is  
21          not consistent with a fall; this is a spiral fracture".  
22          The reason I remember those words as an 8 year old -- we  
23          had just seen the movie Vertigo, the Hitchcock movie,  
24          and there was spiral staircase, so I remembered that  
25          word, I saw a spiral staircase when he said that word.



1           Sister **EAC** basically just said, okay, we have  
2           to go, and then in the van again she said, "If you dare  
3           tell anyone about this, I will break your other arm".  
4           I said, "What am I supposed to say?" She said, "You  
5           fell out of a tree". I said, "Sister, I can't lie".  
6           And she said, "You are lying to protect a man of God, so  
7           it is okay to lie".

8           Q. Did you tell anyone after?

9           A. I told  and an older girl called   
10           She was the older sister of .  
11          I basically asked her, what does a hoor mean. She said,  
12          "What?" I said what is a whore? She said, "Who told  
13          you that?" and I said Sister **AFR**. She said, "That is  
14          a prostitute," and I said, "What is a prostitute?" and  
15          she said, "It is someone who will take sex for money".  
16          I said, "But father **ADA** didn't give me any money".  
17          She inferred, of course, that I had given Father  
18          **ADA** sex. Other than that, who could I tell?

19          Q. So far as Father **ADA** was concerned, were you ever  
20          alone with him after that?

21          A. No, I avoided him like the plague. I just refused --  
22          I couldn't work in the church any more because my arm  
23          was broken. I think the cast came off about six weeks  
24          later and it was still quite weak. What I did do was  
25          ask Mrs **ACK** in the kitchen if I could help her

1           instead, so I would wash the pots and pans and get  
2           sixpence from her every week.

3           By the time I was 12 I got into St Mary's choir and  
4           St Mary's Operatic Society down in the town, so I would  
5           go to Mass there instead and just avoided going to  
6           chapel at Smyllum after that.

7           Q. Did you tell Sister **EAC** anything more than what you  
8           have told us about what had happened -- did you say what  
9           had happened with Father **ADA** for example?

10          A. Gosh, I don't think I said I masturbated Father **ADA**  
11          because I actually -- I don't think I knew that word to  
12          be honest.

13          Q. Was there an episode following up on this when carbolic  
14          soap was used?

15          A. That was because when I initially told her she thought  
16          I was lying and she stuffed a bar of carbolic soap in my  
17          mouth and she told me to go back and speak to  
18          Sister **AFR**. I went to Sister **AFR** and, I said  
19          Sister **EAC** sent me to see you, I have done  
20          something to my arm. She said, you must stop telling  
21          tales, and she again just dragged me off and put  
22          carbolic soap in my mouth. Both of that was on the same  
23          day, actually. I had two doses of carbolic soap that  
24          day.

25          Q. Was that before you had gone to the hospital?

- 1 A. That was before I had gone to the hospital.
- 2 Q. You set out in your statement -- and I will perhaps take  
3 you to this, this is on page 28, at paragraph 129 -- the  
4 people who knew that Sister [AFR] had broken your arm.  
5 You provide a list. If you look at the --  
6 unfortunately, it has been blacked out on the statement  
7 on the screen, but if you look at the second version of  
8 the statement, where you have a clean version and  
9 a blacked out version -- if you go further in, if you  
10 move into the next part of the folder, you will come  
11 across --
- 12 A. Sorry, you have two separate ones in here. Ah, thank  
13 you.
- 14 Q. That's at page 28.
- 15 A. There we go, yes.
- 16 Q. You provide us a list of those who knew that  
17 Sister [AFR] had broken your arm. And that's  
18 Sister [AFR] herself, Father [ADA] --
- 19 A. [AEW] of course. I told [AEW].
- 20 Q. Did you tell her it was Sister [AFR] who did it?
- 21 A. Yes, and she asked which one, there were two  
22 Sister [AFR] with two different spellings of their  
23 names.
- 24 Q. I think this one is spelled --
- 25 A. [AFR].

- 1 Q. Did you say she was an elderly nun?
- 2 A. She was older, [REDACTED]
- 3 [REDACTED] I would say she was one of the
- 4 ones who was there as a [REDACTED] We had several nuns
- 5 who were older and I think the younger nuns were taking
- 6 care of them.
- 7 Q. You mention also Sister [REDACTED] EAC she knew --
- 8 A. She definitely knew and she was the one who told me to
- 9 lie about did.
- 10 Q. Sister [REDACTED] FAM --
- 11 A. Excuse me I forgot to mention Sister [REDACTED] FAM . She was the
- 12 first one I went to but she was best friends with
- 13 Sister [REDACTED] AFR so when -- Sister [REDACTED] EAC said, go and see
- 14 Sister [REDACTED] FAM . Sister [REDACTED] FAM was sitting with
- 15 Sister [REDACTED] AFR in their little office, because they were
- 16 best friends, and she told me I was a filthy liar and to
- 17 rinse my mouth out with carbolic soap and that's when
- 18 Sister [REDACTED] AFR took me out to rinse out my mouth with
- 19 carbolic soap. Excuse me I forgot to mention.
- 20 Q. And you mentioned [REDACTED] AEW and you told [REDACTED]
- 21 [REDACTED]
- 22 A. I told [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] by
- 23 inference. Of course I told Father [REDACTED] BAK nd Father
- 24 O'Hare at some point in confession.
- 25 Q. So this was an incident you did go to confession and

- 1            mention?
- 2            A. I tried. Yes.
- 3            Q. You mention, also at page 31 of your statement, which
- 4            you have it in front of you, your relationship with
- 5            Sister HAE. You have mentioned this already, but
- 6            you had difficulties with her in essence.
- 7            A. Mm. Putting it mildly, yes. She just didn't like me
- 8            from the start. She just didn't like me at all.
- 9            I don't know why. She was the one who started calling
- 10           me "madam" and "your highness". She didn't like the way
- 11           I spoke, she didn't like. I was very particular, I was
- 12           very neat. She would constantly move -- I had
- 13           obsessive-compulsive disorder, so I was obsessively neat
- 14           and she would move things just to irritate me.
- 15           So we just didn't get on from the get- and I never
- 16           understood why. I think I may have just rubbed her up
- 17           the wrong way.
- 18           Q. I think you tell us that it was she who hit you with the
- 19           hairbrush and that it broke in two.
- 20           A. That wasn't just her. They all did that though. That
- 21           wasn't just her. That was a common thing.
- 22           Q. But in particular, did it break more than once?
- 23           A. Well, once one was broken, that was it. You had to save
- 24           up and buy a new one, but then she would use another
- 25           girl's hairbrush and then you would have to buy the

1 other girl a hairbrush as well, which is why I virtually  
2 never got any pocket money.

3 But it wasn't just myself. I mean, she lay into  
4 [REDACTED] with a slipper, I would say, for about  
5 10 minutes. She just wasn't -- she had a lot of anger,  
6 that lady.

7 Q. The 10-minute incident you mentioned was there a reason  
8 for that that you could see?

9 A. [REDACTED] had not done something she had been asked to  
10 do. I think she was asked to tidy her cubbyhole or  
11 straighten her bedspread, something along those lines,  
12 because we were in our bedroom at the time, and  
13 Sister **HAE** came in, "Have you done what I asked you to  
14 young lady?" "Oh, I forgot", words to that effect and,  
15 you know, she just took [REDACTED]'s slipper from the  
16 floor and just literally tore into her.

17 I was there, [REDACTED] was there, her  
18 younger sister [REDACTED], however, was not there, she was  
19 in the playroom, and she literally went berserk. It was  
20 like she couldn't control her anger. I have never seen  
21 anyone hit a child with so much force for virtually  
22 nothing.

23 It was -- and I tried to stop her and when I kind of  
24 put my hand on her hand, of course, then she turned on  
25 me. I got into a lot of trouble because I would stand

1 up for the other kids.

2 Q. But you tell us about one occasion when you were sitting  
3 on your hands --

4 A. Oh god.

5 Q. -- I think to keep them warm.

6 A. In the dining room. We had just come in from -- it was  
7 a Saturday, I remember, it was really cold, we had just  
8 come in, I had chilblains literally on my hands and  
9 I sat on my hands so they were -- not even underneath my  
10 buttocks, but under my legs to get warm, which a lot of  
11 kids would do, or they would put them under their arms.

12 She just came in to observe lunchtime. She saw me  
13 sitting on my hands and without any warning whatsoever,  
14 she pulled the seat from under me, and I landed on the  
15 floor, really painfully. She said, "Stop touching  
16 yourself you filthy girl." What, touching myself? I'm  
17 young, I don't even know how to touch myself yet, we are  
18 in a dining room, there are 20 of us here, I'm at  
19 a table with five other people, do you really think I'm  
20 touching myself? I don't understand how she could even  
21 think that. That's just warped.

22 Q. What age were you at that time?

23 A. I wasn't quite 12.

24 Q. What happened then when you fell on the floor?

25 A. I could not then sit down. I could not sit literally

1 and I was kind of trying to go over on one buttock but  
2 that was painful.

3 I got through lunch went to see Sister **FAM** I told  
4 her what had happened, and she said again stop telling  
5 tales, and I said, "But Sister, it hurts, I can't sit  
6 down", so she said, "I'll call Dr Allen and you can go  
7 and see him on Monday".

8 On Monday I went to see Dr Allen and I couldn't bend  
9 forward. I remember I couldn't bend forward to dry  
10 myself when I had been to the toilet. He asked about  
11 the symptoms and then he said stand up and turn round,  
12 and he pushed on my tailbone and I yelped and almost  
13 went to the ceiling, and he said, "You have broken your  
14 coccyx". I had never heard that word and I said, "My  
15 cock?" I thought that's what he said. He said your  
16 tailbone. Ah, what do I do? Well, you will have to sit  
17 on a rubber ring. So for the next few weeks, I had to  
18 sit on one of those, you know, those life belts you had,  
19 both down at school and in the group.

20 Q. I think you already mentioned Sister **EAC** that she  
21 flung you against the wall where, I think, you broke  
22 your tooth; is that right?

23 A. A milk tooth.

24 Q. But you also tell us -- and this is on page 30 of your  
25 statement, can I just take you to this, paragraph 138.



1           You say Sister [REDACTED] EAC [REDACTED] was not all bad.  
2       A.   Actually, I think Sister [REDACTED] EAC [REDACTED] was a really good  
3       woman, I genuinely do. I think she just probably had  
4       some difficulties herself and didn't get the help she  
5       needed, but there were instances where she was very  
6       fair. She liked my grandad, so I liked that she liked  
7       my grandad. She would speak properly to us as well, so  
8       she would correct our grammar. So I would say things  
9       like, [REDACTED] is hitting us", and she would  
10      say, "Who is 'us'?", "Oh, she's hitting me". So she  
11      would correct my grammar and I liked that.

12           But there was on particular instance when I had done  
13      something naughty -- and I can't remember exactly what  
14      it was -- and she told me for the rest of the week  
15      I would have to go straight to bed after school with no  
16      tea. This one particular day I didn't want to go to bed  
17      because it was a nice summer day, everyone was playing  
18      outside, and she came and she saw me unfortunately and  
19      she said, "What are you doing, young lady? I told you  
20      to go to bed", and I said, "I'm sorry, Sister", and  
21      I said, "Genuinely", and I was almost crying because  
22      I thought, "Oh my god, I have done something wrong", and  
23      she did something which astounded me. She said, "That's  
24      okay, you don't have to go". I said, "really?" And she  
25      said, "That's what you get for telling truth". And that

1 was when I learned about justice: that if you apologise  
2 and you are genuinely sorry, then maybe you don't have  
3 to be punished. So there were lots of good elements to  
4 Sister [REDACTED] EAC I think.

5 Q. You also mention another nun in your statement and  
6 that's Sister [REDACTED] IAG, who I think might have been

7 [REDACTED] IAG

8 A. She asked us to call her [REDACTED] IAG

9 Q. Did she come on the scene later on?

10 A. She came when I was 14/15, I think it was.

11 Q. So you had moved from Ogilvy House?

12 A. Oh yes, definitely.

13 Q. Was she in charge?

14 A. She was in charge of Ogilvy House. She was kind of  
15 youngish. I think she was may have been in her mid or  
16 late 20s. She already had just the veil, so we could  
17 see her hair. She had [REDACTED] hair. She was quite  
18 [REDACTED] and she wore a slightly shorter habit as well --  
19 they had got in a shorter habit by then -- and she  
20 seemed kind of trendy and young and hip, and I seem to  
21 remember she said she had studied at [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED] I can't remember exactly what it was, but she  
23 had studied [REDACTED] I think, or something like  
24 that. I kind of liked that because I wanted to talk to  
25 people who had had an education because I wanted to get

1           one myself. So I tried very hard to be friends with her  
2           to get on well with her, but she just did not like me at  
3           all from the very start. I don't know why.

4           She would say that I was very hard and I had a wall  
5           up and she had to break that wall down because it wasn't  
6           good for me. Both when I was on my own and in front of  
7           other people she would use her finger and point into my  
8           chest, right into my ribs, "It is not good for you not  
9           to cry, come on you, you know it is not good for you,  
10          I have to break you down, you should cry, you know it is  
11          not good for you", and I just refused to cry, I refused  
12          to cry. But she did everything she could to make me  
13          cry.

14         Q. Did she say some personal things to you that were quite  
15          hurtful?

16         A. She would say that I had shagged my uncle, my mother was  
17          a whore, don't get above your station, and I would --  
18          yeah. If I told her I had done well, for example, in my  
19          Highers or O grades, it would be, well, you are just  
20          a big fish in a little pond, remember where you came  
21          from, young lady, your mother's a whore, you will end up  
22          one too. I remember saying, "Why are you saying that,  
23          why would you say that, are you not proud of me?" And  
24          of course, no, she wasn't, but I could not reason with  
25          her, I could not get inside her head.

1 Q. The poking on your chest, did that leave marks?

2 A. No. Well, it did at the time, but I don't have any  
3 marks now obviously. But there would be little kind of  
4 petechiae, there would be little circles of bruises on  
5 my chest.

6 Q. But apart from that sort of physical contact, was there  
7 any other physical contact?

8 A. Not physical, she never hit me. I was bigger than her,  
9 I was stronger than her; her thing was more to break me  
10 down psychologically.

11 One of the other boys -- I think I mentioned him in  
12 my statement, [REDACTED] -- there was a lot of physical  
13 abuse with him. She wanted to kind of tame him --  
14 I think that was her exact word -- so she wanted to  
15 break me, or as she called it "make me more human" and  
16 she wanted to tame him and they would just get off --  
17 there would be literally -- he would be kicking and  
18 punching and she would be punching, usually in the  
19 playroom, usually in the one corner of the room. I was  
20 witness to it very often.

21 I don't know why she -- [REDACTED], okay, he wasn't the  
22 best of kids, but he was a troubled kid and all she had  
23 to do was just say, "Right, you, I'm coming", and that's  
24 it, he would be ready, and she would subdue him. That  
25 was the whole point of that: she would win. He would

1 run out of steam, she would subdue him, and then she had  
2 won. It was a really bizarre -- and it happened  
3 frequently, it wasn't just a one-off thing.

4 Q. You mentioned your schooling earlier I think and how you  
5 would have to go to bed at 9 o'clock. Was this Sister  
6 involved in that?

7 A. She was the one who was most involved because she came  
8 when I was about 14. That was when I was going into  
9 third year, so then of course you choose your subjects  
10 you are going to take, and I chose Latin, French,  
11 Spanish, Italian and I was doing music as well and the  
12 usual subjects. So, yes, she was there from the time  
13 when I was having more and more homework to do. And  
14 I tried to do, as I say, some on the bus and then  
15 I would try to do what I could before bedtime.

16 Many, many times when I was sitting in the playroom  
17 by myself trying to finish homework she would come in  
18 and, "Get to bed, young lady, it is past your bedtime",  
19 and I would say, please, I just need to finish this  
20 translation or I just need to finish this essay, "Get to  
21 bed now!" It was like, okay, I'm not arguing, I will go  
22 to bed now.

23 The good thing was she went to bed early. She went  
24 to bed about 11 o'clock and her room was at the end of  
25 the corridor, so I would wait for her to go to bed, wait

1           until her light was off, go past her room to the toilet,  
2           lock it, and do my homework in there.

3           Q. You describe her attitude, I think, in your statement as  
4           someone who was trying to sabotage your schooling.

5           A. It really felt that way. It really did. I don't know  
6           why -- excuse me, I'm a little bit emotional -- but of  
7           all the things which happened at Smyllum that's the one  
8           thing that I really can't fathom. Why not just be --  
9           you don't have to be proud, but just let someone get on  
10          in life. You don't have to tear them down, break them  
11          down, just constantly reminding me where I came from, no  
12          matter what I did, what I won, medals, awards, she was  
13          just constantly, constantly pulling me down.

14                 I almost lost belief in myself, to be honest.  
15          I started to think, maybe I can't get to university  
16          after all, maybe I really can't. When I think of all  
17          the things, the punches and the kicks and the broken  
18          arms and abuse, that was the one thing that I'm still to  
19          this day struggling with. Excuse me.

20          Q. There came a point in time, I think, when your  
21          headteacher told you that you were slipping up at  
22          school.

23          A. Yes, Mr Tully.

24          Q. Was that later on? Near the end of --

25          A. That was coming towards Highers and I was really getting

1 As at everything, I was a little goody two-shoes and  
2 I loved to study and I was doing really well and I had  
3 dropped. I got a B for my Spanish and normally you  
4 would speak to your school year adviser, Mr White, and  
5 he said, "Mr Tully wants to see you," and I was kind of  
6 nervous, oh gosh, what have I done wrong, and he said  
7 I'm a little bit concerned you have started to slip, and  
8 I said, I'm so sorry, I will try to do better. He said,  
9 "Why are you not doing better? This is not like you".  
10 And I told him: things are difficult, I get back at 5,  
11 I have to help the other kids, I have about an hour,  
12 hour and a half to do my homework, there is so much  
13 homework, I have taken lots of heavy subjects. He said,  
14 "You're in bed by 9? But you 16, 17". And I said, "But  
15 I'm in Smyllum; that's just the way it is". And he was  
16 kind of shocked. He said, "I will see what I can do".

17 She disappeared that summer, she disappeared in the  
18 summer of 1979.

19 Q. Who was that, Sister --

20 A. Sister [REDACTED] IAG . I'm not sure if it is because  
21 Mr Tully said something or if Lyndsey, my social worker,  
22 said something, I'm not really sure. But she  
23 disappeared in June/July of 1979 and Sister Vincent then  
24 came and I realised she was there to close down Smyllum.

25 Q. Of course, Smyllum, I think, closed in 1981.

1 A. I have realised that now, yes.

2 Q. You had just left before that?

3 A. I left a year and a half before it closed, yes.

4 Q. You mention in particular two other people -- I think

5 you have mentioned them already in passing -- that's on

6 page 34 -- [REDACTED] AFM [REDACTED], who you mentioned as a member of

7 staff, who you had some dealings with.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I think she was one of the people who told you to stop

10 faking it in connection with your arm; is that right?

11 A. She was.

12 Q. She was a lay helper was she?

13 A. There were several lay workers there. There were the

14 members of staff who worked within the groups and then

15 we had a woman called -- is everyone still hearing me?

16 We had a woman called Mrs Murray, who came into help

17 out. Her son, Mr Murray, was actually my maths teacher.

18 We had [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED], who was [REDACTED]. We had

19 [REDACTED] Bertie, who was the gardener, and

20 [REDACTED], Mrs [REDACTED] ACK [REDACTED] who was the cook.

21 So there were several lay members there, but the

22 actual staff who worked in each group, they had the

23 day-to-day running of the group and they were the ones

24 who had most dealings with us. [REDACTED] AFM [REDACTED] was there

25 from the time I arrived and she left by the time I was



1 about 11. She got married to a gentleman [REDACTED] and  
2 she was -- she's about as aggressive as anyone I ever  
3 met. She could just fly into a rage with no warning.  
4 It wasn't even something that set her off; she just flew  
5 into a rage.

6 Q. Were you the nuns aware of this?

7 A. Of course they were. Of course they were. Many of us  
8 actually told the nuns that [REDACTED] AFM [REDACTED] had done this or  
9 that. At one point she flung a tray at me and it hit me  
10 in the ribs and I couldn't breathe and I realise now  
11 I probably cracked a rib. But for several weeks  
12 I couldn't breathe and I was always running around and  
13 I remember saying to Sister [REDACTED] EAC [REDACTED], I think  
14 [REDACTED] AFM [REDACTED] has done something, I can't breathe, and my  
15 side really hurts," and I showed her a welt -- it was  
16 like a big ... where the tray had hit me. And she said  
17 just said, "That's not my problem". I was like, are you  
18 not the boss? I didn't say that, but I remember  
19 thinking, are you not [REDACTED] AFM [REDACTED] boss? Could you  
20 please just tell [REDACTED] AFM [REDACTED] not to hit me with the  
21 tray?

22 So she had the run of the place. Basically, the  
23 staff did have the run of the place whether the nuns  
24 were there or not because they were the ones who were  
25 there 24/7.

- 1 Q. You mention in your statement about this lady,  
2 [REDACTED] AFM , using the story of Sammy Carr as a threat.
- 3 A. "Mind you don't end up like Sammy Carr." I heard that  
4 all the time. The story of Sammy -- I don't know the  
5 facts, unfortunately, I haven't lived in this country  
6 for so long, but the story was that he had been hit in  
7 the head with a golf club and he had died, and he had  
8 been hit because he was a bad boy so, "Mind you don't  
9 end up like Sammy Carr".
- 10 Q. That was the story that went round?
- 11 A. She constantly said that. I realised it was before  
12 I arrived at Smyllum. There was another incident while  
13 I was at Smyllum -- I think his name was Francis. That  
14 was never used as a threat, it was just we all heard  
15 about it and we were all afraid because we thought we  
16 would end up like him too. But the Sammy Carr thing was  
17 constantly -- if you were naughty, it was, "Mind you  
18 don't end up like Sammy Carr".
- 19 Q. Can I then take you to when you left Smyllum -- and you  
20 have already mentioned this in passing, in that you  
21 went -- you were fostered, I think, to a Mrs Waters --
- 22 A. Miss Waters.
- 23 Q. -- which didn't work out. Then you were accommodated by  
24 your -- I think you said your English teacher.
- 25 A. Mr Stuart Holden, yes.

- 1 Q. Was that when you were doing your final Highers?
- 2 A. I had already done my Highers, didn't get into  
3 university because I had a conditional acceptance, the  
4 condition being that I also passed O grade maths. Did  
5 my sixth year in order just to get the O grade maths and  
6 I was particularly gifted in English, so Mr Holden had  
7 always taken a shining to me, and when I told him what  
8 was happening, he said, Moira and I will take you in.  
9 So I was there from April of 1980 until June of 1980  
10 while I was doing Sixth Year Studies.
- 11 Q. I think, as we mentioned earlier, you eventually did get  
12 into Glasgow University?
- 13 A. Eventually.
- 14 Q. To study languages?
- 15 A. Yes, I did an MA in modern languages and English  
16 literature.
- 17 Q. You tell us about your troubles at that time, I don't  
18 need to go into the detail of that, but in due course  
19 you were able to take your degree?
- 20 A. A little bit late because I had a bit of a breakdown.  
21 I had a reaction to everything that happened and I ended  
22 up leaving for Norway, in fact -- my husband was  
23 Norwegian -- in 1985, missing one subject to get my  
24 degree, and luckily the Dean of the Faculty of Arts let  
25 me take that later and I did get my degree.

- 1 Q. So you married sometime in the early 80s?
- 2 A. I married Morten in 1985 and moved for Norway, yes.
- 3 Q. And I think thereafter you took some further
- 4 qualifications.
- 5 A. I did an MBA at UC Berkeley because I wanted to start my
- 6 own company as a linguist. I became a government
- 7 authorised translator and interpreter with a
- 8 specialisation in legal and medical interpreting. Then
- 9 in 1999 I decided to become a psychologist of all
- 10 things. So I studied -- I did the accelerated honours
- 11 program in psychology at Aberdeen and then did my
- 12 doctorate in Oslo University.
- 13 Q. You are now a qualified psychologist?
- 14 A. I'm a clinical psychologist.
- 15 Q. And you practice as such?
- 16 A. I have a private practice.
- 17 Q. Do you have a particular area that you specialise in or
- 18 is it --
- 19 A. Clinical. So anything to do with obsessive-compulsive
- 20 disorder, phobias, anxiety, depression, child problems,
- 21 child-rearing problems, marital problems, sexual
- 22 problems. Basically all of the clinical aspects.
- 23 Q. Without again looking at the detail -- because you tell
- 24 us about this in your statement and we needn't air too
- 25 much of this -- but you too have suffered some

1           psychological problems, without looking at the detail of  
2           that.

3           A. I worked a lot on my myself, let's put it that way, both  
4           as a young adult and as an older adult. Studying  
5           psychology probably was the best thing I could ever do  
6           because it kind of helped me to get things in  
7           perspective. But I was diagnosed, when I first went to  
8           Glasgow University, with obsessive-compulsive disorder,  
9           moderate depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.  
10          I have also had some intimacy problems, as you know,  
11          because of the abuse.

12          Q. One of the things you say in your statement is one of  
13          the saddest things you feel in your life is your  
14          inability to have children. You feel that?

15          A. I had -- I was diagnosed with primary vaginismus, which  
16          is an involuntary contraction of the vaginal muscles.  
17          My marriage was annulled because it was never  
18          consummated and the Catholic Church, through canon law,  
19          says that I have to be able to prove that I have to  
20          consummate a marriage before I can marry again.

21          Q. One of the things you say in your statement is that you  
22          used to feel sad and upset about your time at Smyllum,  
23          but now you feel only anger.

24          A. Recently I have been angry. It's more because of --  
25          because I became so public after the BBC video. People

1 have been contacting me from all over the world and  
2 I have been hearing their stories and I have been  
3 hearing some stories from children from Smyllum, so the  
4 anger is more, okay, I'm okay now, I made it, I got  
5 through it, but many of them didn't. So that's what's  
6 making me angry now.

7 But my own personal tendency is to try and  
8 understand why they would do this, trying to forgive  
9 them if I possibly can, but not everyone can do that.  
10 But I'm angry now at seeing the results of what happened  
11 to all these children who didn't have the opportunities  
12 I had to fix myself, if you know what I mean.

13 Q. Yes. You mention there former Smyllum residents also  
14 making contact with you. I think that was following  
15 upon a BBC interview you gave fairly recently.

16 A. In September, I think. I actually just joined Facebook  
17 in the end of September so I could see the video;  
18 I wasn't on Facebook.

19 I think there are 14.5 million people have seen it  
20 now, literally from all corners of the globe. They have  
21 all been sending me private messages, calling me.

22 I have been trying to do what I can to help, but I have  
23 my own practice too.

24 But my way of -- what I have been trying to say to  
25 them is: come forward to the Inquiry, the process will

1 be good for you, it will be cathartic, they are nice  
2 people here who will take care of you, you might get  
3 some help by going through the process.

4 So I haven't been able to treat all of them but  
5 I have at least given them some courage perhaps to come  
6 forward.

7 Q. You mentioned records early on in your evidence,  
8 **Margaret** you did ask for your records.

9 A. I did.

10 Q. And you were provided with a folder?

11 A. An empty Manila folder.

12 Q. The folder was empty?

13 A. The folder was empty and on it it said " **Margaret Crawley** "  
14 and there was there was a slash and a **[REDACTED]**  
15 **[REDACTED]**  
16 August 1968.

17 Q. Can I just clarify for you, having looked carefully at  
18 the entry in the register, it does appear to be  
19 August 1968.

20 A. Yes, my memory is exceptional. I'm pretty sure it was  
21 1968.

22 Q. Can I take you to that part of your statement where you  
23 talk about lessons to learn; that's on page 48. I'm  
24 interested in paragraphs 211 to 213. Would you mind  
25 reading these out to the Inquiry?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Paragraphs 211 to 213?

3 A. Could the gentleman make it larger for me?

4 Q. We can put it on the screen?

5 A. Thank you. You would like me to literally read out the  
6 paragraphs?

7 Q. Please if you don't mind.

8 A. "I think it is important to that the Catholic Church  
9 figure out who the bad nuns and priests are and have  
10 them removed. I think the church needs to actually  
11 defrock the nuns or priests and get them out of the  
12 Church altogether. It is not enough to just move them  
13 to a different parish or have their records conveniently  
14 lost. They need to have routines and systems in place  
15 where things can be reported in a safe way for the  
16 victim.

17 "There needs to be transparency, accountability and  
18 protection for those coming forward to report abuse.  
19 There needs to be very clear procedures in place for  
20 reporting abuse and dealing with those complaints. The  
21 child should always be believed." I can't stress that  
22 enough:

23 "The child should always be believed until the  
24 opposite is proven. The child should feel safe  
25 reporting what has happened to them. They should see



1 a social worker at least once or twice a year if they  
2 are placed in care. They should be given privacy to  
3 speak to their social worker. They need to be able to  
4 speak to their social worker without the presence of the  
5 people who are actually abusing them."

6 Would you like me to read 213 as well.

7 Q. Yes, please?

8 A. If the gentleman would roll up the screen for me. Thank  
9 you very much:

10 "The nuns of the Daughters of Charity are in denial.  
11 Maybe they don't want to believe that the abuse went on.  
12 Maybe they don't remember. Maybe they are just  
13 bare-faced liars basically and they don't want  
14 a scandal. They still have care homes and they still  
15 have an income from them and even now they don't have  
16 a procedure in place for complaints."

17 By that, by the way, I meant complaints which are  
18 coming up now. Those of us who are complaining they  
19 just say, talk to the police, and there is no route for  
20 us to complain to them through:

21 "I know from my own practice in Norway that if  
22 anyone has a complaint about me, they can go to the  
23 Psychological Society, they can go to their doctor.  
24 There is an entire procedure I have to participate in  
25 and I am obliged to help. I have to show my files,

1 I have to show my patient notes, I have to show  
2 everything. There's total transparency. I can't just  
3 say, no, no, no, we don't believe you, just go away."

4 Q. You go on to tell us about your BBC interview that we  
5 have talked about and that people have been in touch  
6 with you. I think you say that their concern is they  
7 will not be believed.

8 A. Many of them have said to me when they were younger and  
9 they did try to tell someone, if it was a teacher,  
10 a priest, another nun, a member of staff, they were told  
11 to stop lying, stop telling tales, stop over-fantasising  
12 and they are afraid that will happen now.

13 Some of them, unfortunately, are really struggling  
14 with their past, so they may have some dependency  
15 problems and whatever that they are afraid that that  
16 also will mean they won't be believed, that they won't  
17 seem to be credible somehow. We do tend to judge people  
18 according to how they appear, how they speak and so on.

19 I haven't noticed that here, thank the Lord.  
20 I think you have all been absolutely wonderful. I know  
21 some of the people I have encouraged to come forward who  
22 have struggled, they have been treated with the utmost  
23 respect. I think it is important that you let people  
24 know that they are not going to be grilled,  
25 cross-examined. This isn't a trial, it is an inquiry,

1 it is not adversarial, it is inquisitorial.

2 The message doesn't seem to be getting out there and  
3 I am doing what I can. I know you are campaigning  
4 a lot, but if you can let people know it is safe to come  
5 forward, you know, we won't call you a liar, we just  
6 want to hear what you have to say.

7 Q. Very well. Thank you for that.

8 A. Sorry, I rambled on a little bit.

9 Q. Can I just end by telling you that we have spoken to  
10 nuns and in particular nuns who may have been present at  
11 Smyllum over the period that you were there and from  
12 1968 to 1979. In particular we have, we believe, spoken  
13 to the Sister [REDACTED] EAC that you may have been involved  
14 with. We think it is the same Sister [REDACTED] EAC  
15 Sometimes it is difficult to work out names because  
16 names change. But certainly she does not accept the  
17 allegations you have made that have been put to her in  
18 some detail and she simply won't accept that. What's  
19 your reaction to that?

20 A. That's entirely up to her. She can deny as much as she  
21 wants to do. She is free to do so. All I can say with  
22 regard to that is I have no reason to lie. Absolutely  
23 none. May be she has a lot to lose, so on the balance  
24 of probabilities I would probably say I would trust  
25 myself more than Sister [REDACTED] EAC .

1 Q. Similarly we have spoken to IAG [sic] and put --

2 A. Excuse me, that's Sister IAG ; she was called  
3 IAG back then.

4 Q. You are quite right. Broadly speaking she doesn't  
5 accept, for example, that she was seeking to sabotage  
6 your schooling and so on and so forth. Again, what's  
7 your reaction to that approach?

8 A. Can I speak from a slightly professional point of view  
9 here as well? A lot of people who have been abusers,  
10 they are in denial about the abuse. Sometimes they  
11 don't know it is abuse, whether it is psychological,  
12 sexual, whatever. Sometimes they do know it and they  
13 don't want to face it. I would just say I hope she gets  
14 the help she needs.

15 MR MacAULAY: Well, thank you, Margaret , for that and indeed  
16 for giving us your evidence today.

17 No questions have been submitted to me in writing,  
18 my Lady. I don't know if there are any questions for  
19 Margaret .

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you, Mr MacAulay.

21 Could I check whether there are any outstanding  
22 applications for questions? No. Everybody is shaking  
23 their head.

24 Margaret , thank you very much for coming along and  
25 giving us such a clear and articulate account of your

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

2 A. Thank you very much. Am I allowed to take this copy  
3 with me or is this for your own records?

4 LADY SMITH: That is ours, but I am sure we can make another  
5 one available to you.

6 A. I have a digital copy, my Lady, thank you. I will just  
7 leave that here then.

8 (The witness withdrew)

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 Mr MacAulay?

11 MR MacAULAY: May I call the next witness, my Lady. This is  
12 an applicant who wants to remain anonymous and wants to  
13 use the name "Pat" in the course of his evidence.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Good afternoon, Pat.

15 "PAT" (affirmed)

16 Questions from MR MacAULAY

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

18 A. Thank you.

19 LADY SMITH: You can use that microphone to make sure you  
20 are easily heard and it should be more comfortable for  
21 you when you are speaking. Mr MacAulay may refer you to  
22 that red file, but you done need to open it just yet.

23 A. Okay.

24 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

25 MR MacAULAY: My Lady.

- 1 Hello, Pat.
- 2 A. Hi.
- 3 Q. I don't need your date of birth, but can I just confirm  
4 with you that you were born in 1959.
- 5 A. That is correct.
- 6 Q. Can I just say to you, before I ask you any questions  
7 that if I ask you a question and you can't remember --  
8 let's say it is a date, for example -- just say you  
9 can't remember. It is not a problem, do you understand  
10 that?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Likewise, although you have given us a statement, if  
13 something comes to your mind or has come to your mind  
14 since you gave the statement, again, you can let us  
15 know, if it is important.
- 16 A. That's fine, yes.
- 17 Q. Can I then ask you to look at your statement -- and  
18 I will give the reference number for the transcript. It  
19 is WIT.001.001.2166.
- 20 What I want you to do first of all is go to the very  
21 last page of what you have in front of you, which is  
22 page 2183, and can I just ask you to confirm, Pat, that  
23 you have signed the statement?
- 24 A. I have.
- 25 Q. Do you also tell us at paragraph 94, if you look at the

1 very last paragraph, that:

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

4 Is that correct?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. Likewise, do you tell us that:

7 "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
8 statement are true"?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Can I go back to the time before you went into care  
11 because I think you went into care when you were very  
12 young.

13 A. That's right, I was 2.

14 Q. Your mother died when you were very young; is that  
15 correct?

16 A. Yes, she died when I was 1.

17 Q. And you had a number of brothers and sisters?

18 A. Yeah, I had four sisters and two brothers. One brother  
19 has passed away and one sister has passed away since.

20 Q. You were the youngest in the family?

21 A. I was, yes.

22 Q. According to the records that we have seen, you were  
23 admitted to Smyllum on the [REDACTED] 1962.

24 A. That's true.

25 Q. would make you roughly about 3, 2 or 3.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. I think that is in accordance with your recollection.
- 3 Do you remember going to Smyllum?
- 4 A. No, I don't remember actually, you know, obviously the
- 5 first few years, because I was that young. Probably
- 6 I started remembering things when I was about 6 or 7.
- 7 Q. But did you go to Smyllum with any of your brothers and
- 8 sisters?
- 9 A. Yes, I believe they were all there.
- 10 Q. What then is your first memory of Smyllum?
- 11 A. My first memory is really just the cold, the darkness --
- 12 just there was no happiness in the place. That's the
- 13 first memories. I can always remember it being -- and
- 14 it never changed all the years I was there.
- 15 Q. And just on that, I mean, again, according to records we
- 16 have seen, you left Smyllum in about 1974; would that be
- 17 your recollection?
- 18 A. Yes, that's about right.
- 19 Q. So you were there for quite a considerable period of
- 20 time?
- 21 A. Yeah, I think I was there about 14 years, I believe.
- 22 Q. Did you say a moment ago your earliest memory is when
- 23 you are roughly about 7 years or age --
- 24 A. Yeah, I would say roughly about then.
- 25 Q. That's about 1965, 1966 that sort of time?



- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Were you in a particular location within Smyllum?
- 3 A. Yes, I was in a place called Roncalli House. The
- 4 Smyllum Park, they had all different houses. Obviously
- 5 mine was Roncalli House; my sisters and brothers were in
- 6 different houses.
- 7 Q. Were you quite separate from them then?
- 8 A. Yes, very much so.
- 9 Q. Would you have any difficulty looking at a photograph
- 10 for me?
- 11 A. No, not at all.
- 12 Q. I will put it on the screen. You will see it in front
- 13 of you in a moment INQ.001.001.2538.
- 14 A. There's no photograph here.
- 15 Q. It is slow today.
- 16 LADY SMITH: It will appear in a moment.
- 17 MR MacAULAY: There we go. We now have it on the screen.
- 18 A. You do, yes.
- 19 Q. You will see that is an aerial photograph of Smyllum; do
- 20 you recognise it?
- 21 A. I do, yes.
- 22 Q. If you look towards the centre you see the main
- 23 building; are you able to indicate under reference to
- 24 the main building, where Roncalli House was?
- 25 A. It was to the left, I believe.

- 1 Q. I think that's what we heard before, it is to the  
2 left --
- 3 A. As we are looking at it.
- 4 Q. It is to the left?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Was it separate from the main building or was it part of  
7 the main building?
- 8 A. It was separate from the main building.
- 9 Q. So that is where you went when you first went to  
10 Smyllum?
- 11 A. That is correct, yes.
- 12 Q. Can you again -- when I say first went, what I really  
13 meant was that's your first recollection, that's where  
14 you were for your first memory?
- 15 A. I would say so, yes.
- 16 Q. What sort of location was that? Did it have  
17 a dormitory, for example?
- 18 A. We all had a dormitory. The boys and girls had separate  
19 dormitories. We also had a place where we ate, where we  
20 slept basically, where we washed. Basically it was  
21 self-contained. Once we were in there, that was us; we  
22 didn't need to go out.
- 23 Q. In relation to the dormitory that you were in at about  
24 the age of 7, what size are we talking about?
- 25 A. There were about 10 to 12 beds, so about 12 people were

1           in our dorms, so about 12 boys.

2       Q.   If we look at you being 7, what was the age range?

3       A.   Very similar.  I mean, they varied.  I mean there was 7,

4           there was up to 12, maybe 13 years old.

5       Q.   You said there was a separate section for the girls

6           within Roncalli House?

7       A.   That is correct.

8       Q.   Were the girls of a similar sort of age range?

9       A.   I would say so, yes.

10      Q.   Was there a particular person in charge of

11           Roncalli House --

12      A.   Yes.

13      Q.   -- going back to when you can remember?

14      A.   Yes, there was.

15      Q.   Who was that?

16      A.   Her name was Sister AEG

17      Q.   We will come back to her in a moment, but so far as

18           contact with your siblings was concerned, can you just

19           help me with that.  What sort of contact did you have,

20           let's say, in the early period?

21      A.   The early period I never seen any of my brothers or

22           sisters.  In all honesty I was there for about 14 years

23           and I can honestly say I was lucky if I seen my brothers

24           and sisters more than three or four times in that whole

25           time.

- 1 Q. In that whole time?
- 2 A. Yes, and that was sometimes at the play park, sometimes  
3 you would bang into them by chance. It was never  
4 a contact meeting or anything like that, it was just  
5 a chance meeting.
- 6 Q. You have mentioned this already -- and the paragraph is  
7 actually on the screen, paragraph 14. You say that:  
8 "The home was run by the Daughters of Charity. The  
9 place was grim."  
10 Can you help me with that?
- 11 A. Just like I was saying before, it was just -- there was  
12 no happiness. Everybody just -- you looked after  
13 yourself basically. You were just hoping you weren't  
14 going to get slapped or punched that day or beaten that  
15 day for any particular reason. You just very much kept  
16 to yourself.  
17 That's why I call it grim, because, you know, you  
18 didn't really want to talk to anybody, you just felt out  
19 of place. If you said something wrong, you knew what  
20 was going to happen.
- 21 Q. I don't want to know what your second name is, but when  
22 you were spoken to by a nun, did the nun use your first  
23 name --
- 24 A. No, it was always second names. Always second names.
- 25 Q. You have mentioned Sister AEG as being the nun in

1 charge of Roncalli House; is that correct?

2 A. That is correct.

3 Q. During your time, the number of years you spent there,  
4 did you spend the whole period in Roncalli House or did  
5 you move to another place?

6 A. No, I spent the whole time in Roncalli House.

7 Q. Were you in the same dormitory for that whole period?

8 A. The whole time, yes.

9 Q. We have heard that there was a time when Smyllum was  
10 broken into what they called family units. Do I take  
11 it, from what you are telling us, that wasn't the  
12 position at least so far as you were concerned?

13 A. Certainly not. Definitely not.

14 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about the routine then, Pat?  
15 Can you help me with that?

16 A. Yes, well, basically you started -- my personal thing,  
17 I was got up at six o'clock where -- everybody got up at  
18 6 o'clock. We had what was called chores. Mine was  
19 cleaning the laundry, basically. So you done that,  
20 obviously, until you got your breakfast and then after  
21 breakfast you went to the school, which was actually  
22 inside the orphanage. Obviously, after that, you went  
23 and got your tea or your dinner, whatever you want to  
24 call it. You had about an hour where you could sit and  
25 do whatever you wanted, watch the telly, and then you

- 1           were back in bed at 6 o'clock every night without fail.
- 2       Q.   But did that change over the years because as you got
- 3           older --
- 4       A.   No.
- 5       Q.   You were there into your teens?
- 6       A.   No matter what age you were, you were in bed at
- 7           6 o'clock and got up at 6.
- 8       Q.   When you got up in the morning, what would happen if you
- 9           wet the bed?
- 10      A.   Wet the bed? Me, personally, I was a bed-wetter, so
- 11           I can tell you. We were actually made to lie in your
- 12           bed for about an hour after it. It varied. Sometimes
- 13           they would put the sheet over your head and you were
- 14           made to lie, but personally I was made just to lie in my
- 15           bed. I mean, my legs were all chapped and God knows
- 16           what else, red raw, and it is as if you were a leper,
- 17           you know what I mean? They treated you so different if
- 18           you wet the bed. I was brought up that way, so I didn't
- 19           think it was anything different. But I mean I wet the
- 20           bed until I was about 14. It never changed; I was
- 21           always told to lie in bed.
- 22      Q.   You mentioned the sheet being over your head: was that
- 23           something that happened to you?
- 24      A.   Yes, it happened to me quite a few times as well. It
- 25           varied. Like, I say, you were told sometimes to lie in

1           your bed, other times it was, "Get that sheet over your  
2           head", and just left until they decided it was time for  
3           you to get out of bed.

4       Q.    What happened to the sheet?

5       A.    I don't know.  I presume it had gone to the wash.  
6            I mean, we washed our own sheets.  We washed most of us  
7            our own stuff.  You know what I mean?  It was that  
8            self-contained thing: if you wet the bed, you would wash  
9            it, basically.

10      Q.    If you were then kept back in bed for a period of time,  
11            what about breakfast?

12      A.    No, no, you would miss breakfast.  That was it.  I mean,  
13            it was your fault you wet the bed, so you take the  
14            consequences, basically.

15      Q.    So looking to your position as a bed-wetter over  
16            a lengthy period of time, did you miss breakfasts on  
17            quite a lot of occasions?

18      A.    Very much, probably about three or four times a week  
19            I would say.

20      Q.    You have been telling us about your own experience.  
21            What about other boys in your dorm?

22      A.    It would be the exact same.  There was quite a few of  
23            us.  There was probably about five or six boys, you  
24            know, that were bed-wetters and they were just -- exact  
25            same: either they were told to lie in bed or told to put

1 the sheet over them and they would miss breakfast just  
2 the same as us, you know, myself.

3 Q. You also mention hygiene in your statement and in  
4 particular that there was a particular day that your  
5 hair would be checked for lice.

6 A. That is correct.

7 Q. Can you tell me about that process?

8 A. What it was they would bring you into -- where the wash  
9 hand basins were and they would have a metal comb.

10 Q. Who had this?

11 A. Sister **AEG**. She done it all the time. It was  
12 always Sister **AEG** done it. She would put you on  
13 her knee and then she would put this comb right through  
14 your head until you bled, I mean -- and I mean your head  
15 was red. What it was was, there must have been nits all  
16 the time because every time -- she would get her thumb  
17 and you could hear something cracking as if she was  
18 killing the lice. Because no matter what they done --  
19 because they used to put powder on it after it that  
20 nipped like anything, but no matter what happened, the  
21 following week you would have lice again. Every week  
22 without fail you would have lice in your head.

23 Q. Again, as you got older, what was the position once you  
24 were into your teens?

25 A. Not so much teens. Aye, I would say at 12/13 they kind



1 of started backing off a wee bit. They seemed to leave  
2 you and then move on to somebody who was younger. It  
3 always had been that way. I mean, I was there all those  
4 years, so I kind of knew who was going to get picked on  
5 and who wasn't basically because as you get older they  
6 tend to shy away from you slowly but surely.

7 Q. You told us about the age range in the dormitory when  
8 you went into the dormitory when you can remember. Did  
9 that remain the same as you got older? Did the range in  
10 the dormitory remain -- even when you were 13 or 14,  
11 were there still younger boys in that dormitory?

12 A. Still, it never changed. Like I say, it changed  
13 slightly as you got older. But, like I say, when you  
14 were 12/13, they would shy away, but no matter what, you  
15 were going -- you were getting picked on; that was just  
16 the way it was. When you were young, like, I say, 6 or  
17 7, right up to when I was about 12/13, maybe slightly --  
18 I was getting it regularly, beatings, all these kind of  
19 things, slaps, punches, you name it, on a regular basis.

20 Q. I will come to that, Pat.

21 Can I just remain with hygiene and look at bathing  
22 then. What happened when it was the night for a bath?

23 A. A bath was -- when it was -- they ran the bath and they  
24 used to put you in a queue and what happened was if you  
25 were in first you were going to get scalded. I mean,

1           you could hear the kids screaming that were at the front  
2           and see by the time you got to the end of the bath, if  
3           you were at the end of the bath, it was black -- and  
4           I mean black -- and obviously people had been wetting  
5           themselves and God knows what else -- and you learned as  
6           you got older to try and get into the middle of the  
7           bath, whereby the bath would be lukewarm by the time you  
8           got to it. But if you were in first, you were getting  
9           scalded and there was no doubt about it.

10           It never changed. Sister AEG could see these  
11           kids screaming and crying their eyes out and she would  
12           never bat an eyelid. She would not bat an eyelid.

13           Q. Who would generally be in the front of the queue? Would  
14           it be the older --

15           A. Just the younger people. No, as you got older you  
16           learned not to be at the front of the queue or the end;  
17           you would know to get to the middle of the queue. It  
18           was just -- that's the way it was. I mean, I'm not  
19           going to sit here and say, I would say to younger people  
20           don't go to the front queue. No, I let them go to the  
21           front because it meant you weren't going to get scalded.

22           Q. Did you, when you were younger, get scalded?

23           A. Very much so, on a regular basis.

24           Q. I mean would this -- would you be left with marks or how  
25           would this manifest itself?

- 1 A. Just the red marks, you know as if you have been burnt,  
2 but they would go away. You know what I mean? But,  
3 aye, I was definitely left with marks. All the time.  
4 But like I say, she learnt to know who to pick on.  
5 It was always the young ones who were at the front,  
6 always the young people, and then the older people in  
7 the middle and new people at the end.
- 8 Q. Can you describe the bath? Is it what one would call an  
9 ordinary bath?
- 10 A. Aye, it was just your standard bath you would see in  
11 anybody's house. It was not like a big huge or  
12 humongous bath that ten or five people could get in. It  
13 was one or two people at the most, just a standard.  
14 Like I say, by the end, it was black -- and I mean  
15 black.
- 16 Q. How many children would have gone through the bathing  
17 process then?
- 18 A. Well there was probably about 20 odd people in our  
19 house, so I would say 20. On bath night everybody got  
20 bathed. It was not so many one night, so many the other  
21 night; it was always on the same night and everybody  
22 would get a bath.
- 23 Q. Would you queue up for the bath?
- 24 A. Yes, that is correct.
- 25 Q. We are talking about boys at the moment, are we?

1 A. Boys and girls would be separate. We would either go  
2 first or -- it varied or we would be the second lot, but  
3 boys and girls were always separate.

4 Q. Was it the same bath that was used?

5 A. Same bath for the boys and the girls. If they were in  
6 first, we would then follow, and vice versa.

7 When I say that, I mean they changed the bathwater  
8 once the girls were finished and refill it and then the  
9 boys would go through basically what the girls went  
10 through.

11 Q. I see. You also tell us something about your underpants  
12 being checked.

13 A. Yes. It was just every week you had to get your  
14 underpants checked.

15 Q. I think you said that was a Thursday.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can you just help me with that? What was --

18 A. It was just once again you were told to go in a queue.  
19 You were actually told you to produce your underpants  
20 and if there was marks on your underpants -- she had  
21 this big -- it was like a thing you hang your habit up  
22 in, a big coat hanger, but it was really thick because  
23 their habits were very heavy. She would just crack you  
24 right across the head with it or right across the face,  
25 whatever was at hand. If you had marks, you were going

1 to get a crack against your face, guaranteed, from  
2 Sister [REDACTED] AEG .

3 Q. Who --

4 A. Sister [REDACTED] AEG . It was always Sister [REDACTED] AEG  
5 always.

6 I know it sounds daft, but we all used to learn to  
7 try and wash your underpants the day before and try and  
8 keep them -- so when you got up you weren't getting  
9 a crack across the face but, as I say, you learnt that  
10 as you got older.

11 Q. Did that work?

12 A. It did, believe it or not. As far as I'm concerned  
13 because I never got -- as I got older, I never got  
14 cracked across my face or my head.

15 Q. So I mean how long -- what age did you think you were  
16 until you got wise enough?

17 A. About 10 or 11. You learn through other people. They  
18 tell you: what you doing ... whatever. You know.

19 Q. You also mention that cleaning your nails --

20 A. Yes, that was with like a cocktail stick, but she stuck  
21 it so far under it was absolute agony and they used to  
22 rip it. They wouldn't do it gently: she would stick it  
23 in, rip, right across. Your nails were bleeding  
24 basically. There was no nice, take your time, come  
25 here, or whatever; it was always just the same, right in

1           and rip.

2           Q. Again, are we talking about Sister [REDACTED] AEG

3           A. Yes, sorry.

4           Q. And how often --

5           A. That was once a week. The bath was always once a week,

6           the clothes were once a week. Everything was -- it was

7           regimented, total regimented. You had certain things to

8           do on certain nights.

9           Q. You have talked about your own experience with the

10          cocktail stick. Did you see other children --

11          A. Yes, everybody got it. Obviously as you are older they

12          left you alone but, oh no, it was everybody. People

13          were crying in the queue they knew what was coming;

14          I mean that's how bad it was. They would just ignore

15          it: if you're crying, it was nothing to them -- well, to

16          Sister [REDACTED] AEG .

17          Q. Clearly it is obvious that if a cocktail stick was put

18          under your nail and drew blood it would be a painful

19          experience.

20          A. Very much, oh aye, I can assure you. But it never

21          stopped them. It sounds terrible, it sounds as if she

22          was getting off on it. That's the only thing I keep

23          saying to people: it sounds as if she was getting off on

24          it. We were screaming and we were scared of her --

25          that's Sister [REDACTED] AEG I'm talking about. That's the

1           only word I could say: she was getting off on the fear  
2           that we produced.

3       Q.   When you say getting off, can I interpret that to mean  
4           she seemed to enjoy it in some way?

5       A.   Definitely.

6       Q.   Is that what you are saying?

7       A.   That's exactly what I'm saying.

8       Q.   Food.   Can I ask you about food then.   What was the food  
9           like during your time?

10      A.   Well, it was inedible to say the least.   I mean in the  
11         morning -- it was called porridge.   It may have been  
12         porridge, but it was just like golf balls.   You just  
13         chewed it.

14                 If you didn't eat it, they force-fed you.   They  
15         would hold you and actually get -- it was usually a big  
16         metal spoon -- and just force-feed you.   We were  
17         choking.   Basically choking at the time and she would  
18         still force-feed that until that porridge was finished.

19      Q.   Again, can I just ask you who was involved in this  
20           process?

21      A.   Sister AEG.

22      Q.   But would she need assistance --

23      A.   Oh no, you knew, if you didn't eat, she would grab you,  
24           it was always at the back of your hair -- I know it  
25           sounds silly, but she knew exactly which bits to grab

1 which would be the most painful and you would submit  
2 right away basically and let her force-feed you kind of  
3 thing. It is like she had a sixth sense, she knew where  
4 to hurt you.

5 Then it was just the same at night. The stuff we  
6 got at night, it was like lettuce or Spam, you know. It  
7 was just disgusting.

8 Q. Were you yourself force-fed?

9 A. Quite a few times, yes.

10 Q. Did you see this being done to other children?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Again, was this Sister [REDACTED] AEG

13 A. Sister [REDACTED] AEG, yes. I can't say it enough, but  
14 Sister [REDACTED] AEG was all the time.

15 Q. But that's in your group, of course.

16 A. Yes, I mean I can't say for the other houses. I mean  
17 I'm only talking about Roncalli House.

18 Q. So far as Roncalli House was concern, at this time did  
19 it have its own dining area?

20 A. Yeah, we had our own area. Like I say, we were kind of  
21 off from the main building.

22 Q. Did you have any real contact with children who were in  
23 any of the other houses? We have heard about  
24 Ogilvy House, for example.

25 A. They had a wee play area, about two or three swings, and



1           you'd maybe pass by. We had an hour after school,  
2           between that and tea, that was your so-called playtime.  
3           But it was two swings so you know you'd just -- that's  
4           when you -- you know, you'd see other people as you are  
5           passing. Like I say, Roncalli House was separate to the  
6           other buildings.

7           The other kids, I think, mingled more with each  
8           other because theirs was in the main building, but  
9           unfortunately ours wasn't. So basically it was the kids  
10          who were in Roncalli House that we kind of spent time  
11          with.

12         Q. Are you okay? You are not too uncomfortable?

13         A. No, I'm a bit warm.

14         Q. There's water there as well if you would like to have  
15          some water.

16          Can I ask you about the school then, Pat. We  
17          understand there was a school attached to Smyllum.

18         A. That is correct.

19         Q. For the primary school?

20         A. Yes, it was run by the nuns.

21         Q. Then there was a secondary school that was not far away?

22         A. That is right. It was actually in Lanark, you know, the  
23          town that Smyllum was in.

24         Q. But looking at the primary school, how did you find the  
25          school?

1 A. I thought school was good -- because you were away from  
2 Sister [REDACTED] AEG . I loved school. I mean, it got me  
3 away for the routines of the home, away from  
4 Sister [REDACTED] AEG and I have no complaints at all about  
5 the school.

6 I mean, the school was run by Sisters as well but  
7 they were fine. There was never any problems with them.

8 Q. Were there laypeople also teaching at the school?

9 A. No, it was always just the nuns.

10 Q. But you went to the local secondary school as well?

11 A. Yes, that is right. I went to St Mary's and then  
12 actually I moved from there to Our Lady's High in  
13 Motherwell, which was very unusual for somebody from  
14 Smyllum to go to them, but they sent me there anywhere  
15 and I was there for about a year and a half maybe.

16 Q. What age were you when you went there?

17 A. 14 or 14 and a half. Something like that.

18 Q. Can I ask you then about birthdays. Were birthdays  
19 celebrated?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Did you know what your date of birth was?

22 A. Believe it or not, they thought my date of birth was  
23 [REDACTED] and it wasn't. I won't say, but it was  
24 a different date. All the years I thought it was  
25 a certain date, until I found out actually when I left

1 it wasn't that date. So I didn't celebrate it. We were  
2 told that was your birthday and that was it.

3 Q. What about Christmas, what happened?

4 A. We used to maybe get sent to the circus once. I mean if  
5 Sister [REDACTED] AEG wasn't there, it was a good day. If  
6 Sister [REDACTED] AEG was there, you could forget it. The  
7 lassie just thrived on the fear. I mean there's not  
8 anything else I can say. That was it.

9 But like I say, it was actually not too bad -- as  
10 far as gifts are concerned, no. I mean there was no --  
11 there was one -- you used to get a blobby ball, we  
12 called it, it was just a ball, and you kicked it and it  
13 would blow away and that was it. I got that for  
14 14 years solid, nothing else.

15 Q. Can I understand was it a light ball then?

16 A. Aye, you would throw it up and the air it would take it  
17 away and that was it, you know what I mean. You used to  
18 just laugh: on Christmas Day, they were all flying down  
19 the hill, do you know what I mean?

20 Q. Was this a standard present --

21 A. For everybody.

22 Q. -- within Roncalli House?

23 A. Yes. What other kids got, we don't know, but that's  
24 what we got personally. You laugh about it now, but in  
25 those days you know, you thought, well, they have gave

1           us something, you know what I mean, they are actually  
2           showing a bit of compassion. But they weren't,  
3           everybody got the same --

4   LADY SMITH: These sound like beach balls --

5   A. Aye, similar to that.

6   LADY SMITH: -- which you blow up through a little rubber  
7           tube.

8   A. Slightly lighter.

9   LADY SMITH: Right.

10   MR MacAULAY: You do tell us that on Christmas at least you  
11           had a chicken dinner.

12   A. Yeah.

13   Q. And might be taken to the circus?

14   A. If you call it a chicken dinner. I've put down a  
15           chicken dinner, yes. It was a dinner, basically. It  
16           was different from the spam you got and the cabbage, so  
17           to us it was brilliant, yeehaw, we were getting,  
18           something different.

19   Q. Could you also spend a day with a local family?

20   A. Yes. We called it Other People's Homes. They used to  
21           take us to people's homes and maybe you would spend  
22           a day with them and at the end you would come back --  
23           I laugh about it now but I mean I didn't at the time.  
24           When I went to the people's home, what it was was people  
25           used to come back on the bus with bikes, you know brand

1 new bikes, skateboards, whatever the presents maybe;  
2 I come on with a packet of marshmallows, you know what  
3 I mean? That sums my day up basically. Everybody got  
4 brand new bikes and I have got marshmallows.

5 Q. Was this would have been a gift from the family?

6 A. At that time I didn't appreciate it, but that's all they  
7 had. But they gave us it. But obviously at that age  
8 you didn't appreciate it.

9 Q. Just going back to food. You have told us about how you  
10 regarded the standard of the food. On a regular basis  
11 were you left hungry?

12 A. Yes, I would say so. Definitely. Because -- see, even  
13 at school you would get what was called a packed lunch,  
14 two sandwiches and maybe a banana or an apple, but they  
15 must have got them for the places in Lanark because the  
16 bananas were soft and black and the pieces were like  
17 a CD, they were that thin, it is God's honest truth, you  
18 know what I mean? But, aye, I would say regularly you  
19 were hungry on a regular basis.

20 Q. What about the Sisters did you see -- did they eat with  
21 you or --

22 A. No, no. It is like they had -- the best I can describe  
23 it is Oliver Twist, the series, when they walk in and  
24 they are sitting up there with a big turkey and the  
25 fresh fruit. That's what it was like. We were sitting

1 here -- basically where you are, the nuns were all  
2 sitting there, and the people that helped in the home,  
3 and they are their like this, and we are sitting there  
4 with the cold chicken dinner on Christmas.

5 Nine times out of ten it was just normal, I would  
6 say, the spam, but they were not getting spam and that:  
7 they would sit there and be getting mince pie or fresh  
8 beans or something like that.

9 Q. So there was differences then in the food between the  
10 Sisters and the children?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Did you get many visitors when you were at Smyllum?

13 A. No. I got -- I think it was a next door neighbour, we  
14 called her Aunty [REDACTED]. She was only woman that ever  
15 came to visit us -- well, visit me. I don't know if she  
16 went to see [REDACTED] and that, my sisters. You know, she  
17 lived next door to us in [REDACTED] and I think because when  
18 my mum and dad died she felt obliged to come and see us.  
19 She came to us about eight or nine then, I don't know if  
20 she passed away. We never got told. But she used to  
21 come up and see us.

22 Q. Do you remember anyone coming from the Social Work  
23 Department?

24 A. No, never.

25 Q. Could that have happened and you don't -- you have just

1 forgotten about it?

2 A. Nobody ever. In the 14 years I was there not one person  
3 asked, outside the nun, how I was, how I kept. You  
4 know? It was a very, very, very closed institution.

5 Q. You tell us that on Saturdays you would go to the  
6 cinema.

7 A. That is correct. I used to go to -- in Lanark there was  
8 a picture hall, we used to go there. We used to go in  
9 single file. We weren't allowed to talk to people in  
10 Lanark. If people were on the side of the pavement, we  
11 were told to cross the road as if we were lepers.

12 I know it sounds silly. We used to go and see  
13 Flash Gordon, or whatever the case may be. It was great  
14 if Sister AEG wasn't there, you know what I mean?  
15 I think they took turns each. I don't know where they  
16 got the thrupenny bit, but we used to get a thrupenny  
17 bit to go into the shops and but something, but they  
18 always took two pennies off you and said, "We'll go and  
19 put that in your savings for you", but you never ever  
20 saw it again.

21 That happened the whole 14 years I was there: every  
22 Saturday we would go to the pictures and they would take  
23 the two pence off us and I don't know whatever happened  
24 to that. They took it off us.

25 Q. I think you do run away once from Smyllum.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Why were you running away?

3 A. I just couldn't handle it any more.

4 Q. What age --

5 A. It was actually my pal at the time. I think we were  
6 about 13, me and [REDACTED], my pal, you know what I mean --  
7 that's not his real name, but you know what I mean. We  
8 ran away, managed to get to a farm, and we went in and  
9 the woman knew with the things we were wearing that we  
10 were from the orphanage, phoned... What they done to us  
11 that day, you know what I mean; heavy duty.

12 Q. What happened that day?

13 A. Just -- they used to take you down the laundrette -- now  
14 this is coming for somebody got it done a few times.  
15 Sister [REDACTED] AEG would make you strip naked and leave  
16 you in the laundrette -- this is at the bottom of the  
17 orphanage -- frozen.

18 Q. Let's just focus on the running away episode.

19 A. Right.

20 Q. We will come back to some other material in a moment,  
21 but on this occasion when you ran away and you were  
22 taken back to Smyllum, can you tell me what happened?

23 A. She just got ahold of us and she used to have this -- it  
24 was like a clothes brush, she used to keep it in her  
25 habit. And they had got it down to a T. What they did



1           was they'd hit you in the head and so you'd  
2           automatically go to protect yourself and then she would  
3           hit you in the elbow and she would just do that  
4           (indicates) and that was constant.

5       Q.   You are moving your arm --

6       A.   You'd move your arm up to protect you and she'd hit you  
7           there (indicates). She had it down to a T, that's what  
8           you need to do, you do it automatically: you'd go up to  
9           protect your head and then she'd hit you in the head and  
10          she done that for a while.

11      Q.   That was the punishment for running away?

12      A.   For running away, yes.

13      Q.   That was Sister AEG ?

14      A.   Yes.

15      Q.   Perhaps I will just ask you, before we move on, about  
16          religious instruction. I think religious instruction  
17          was given to you at school within Smyllum.

18      A.   Yes, that is correct.

19      Q.   What was that like?

20      A.   I mean I don't even know what it was still about now.  
21          I think (inaudible) they used to tell us protestants  
22          were the children of the devil. They are telling us,  
23          kids, 7 and 8 year olds, that protestants were bad  
24          people and, like I said, they were children of the  
25          devil. We didn't know what a protestant was or

1 a Catholic was at that age, but at that age they were  
2 drumming that in, that the people of the protestant  
3 faith were bad people, especially protestants, you know  
4 what I mean? And that was drummed into you. If  
5 I left -- if somebody said they were protestant, I would  
6 have run away. That was how bad it was. We didn't know  
7 what they looked like or anything, but they drummed that  
8 into you constantly.

9 Q. Can we look for a little while at the abuse you suffered  
10 at Smyllum. Perhaps beginning by looking to see first  
11 of all what chores you had. Because you were given  
12 certain chores?

13 A. Yes, I was given -- I cleaned the laundrette, down the  
14 bottom of the -- of Roncalli House. That was my chore  
15 for 14 years: got up at 6 o'clock and do that for  
16 an hour. That was my chore. And then after dinner you  
17 are cleaning the dishes, just standard things, but that  
18 was -- my chore was the laundrette down at the bottom  
19 of --

20 Q. Who supervised that?

21 A. They didn't supervise it, but they would come down  
22 and -- you made sure that was clean. You would get  
23 either the coat brush or the brush right across your  
24 head or the face or your elbow. It was guaranteed from  
25 Sister AEG.

- 1 Q. Did that happen on occasions?
- 2 A. Of course, aye. I mean no matter how good you were, you  
3 weren't as good as them, you know what I mean? She  
4 would find an excuse. You know what I mean? No matter  
5 if you were down on your hands and knees and scrubbed  
6 that she would still think -- if she was in a mood, she  
7 would find something -- nine times out of ten it was  
8 fine, but if she was in a mood, you were going to get  
9 it.
- 10 Q. Was she somebody who went into moods?
- 11 A. Oh very much so, aye. I mean, I think I seen her smile  
12 or laugh twice or something the whole time -- and that  
13 was when Val Doonican was on the telly, believe it or  
14 not. We weren't allowed to breathe when Val Doonican  
15 was on the telly. That was her smiling. That was the  
16 only time I ever seen her smile.
- 17 Q. From what you have been telling us, Pat, it is really  
18 Sister AEG who was the problem for you --
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. -- when you were at Smyllum. And other children?
- 21 A. Yes, definitely.
- 22 Q. You say something about if someone else was being beaten  
23 by Sister AEG it meant that you weren't.
- 24 A. Aye, you were happy. It sounds terrible now, of course,  
25 I mean, but you were happy that somebody else was

1 getting it because you know that was her, she was  
2 getting out her frustration on one of the guys or one of  
3 the lasses, you know what I mean. You knew you were  
4 going to -- that was it, she'd got her frustration out  
5 on one of the kids.

6 It sounds terrible, but we were all, thank God,  
7 that's somebody, blah, blah, blah, got a doing. You  
8 knew that was you. That's what that was.

9 Q. And you say that the Sisters loved the fact that you  
10 were scared of them and living in fear?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Were you scared of her in particular?

13 A. Yes, totally. She could say boo and I would have peed  
14 myself. I'm telling you it was that bad. Your whole  
15 life revolved around Sister AEG It was  
16 terrible.

17 Like I said earlier on, she got off on it. She  
18 loved the fact that she were scared of her. Loved the  
19 fact that we would keep our head down when we were  
20 walking past her. That didn't let up for the 10,  
21 12 years I was there. It was just constant. Not just  
22 me, you know, other kids. I'm just telling you my part.

23 She was an absolutely evil woman. How she's a nun  
24 or whatever the case may be I will never know. You know  
25 what I mean? Disgusting what she done.

1 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, that's 12.59 am. It might be a good  
2 time to have a break.

3 LADY SMITH: Would that be a convenient point to break? We  
4 usually stop about now, Pat, for the lunch break, so  
5 that is what we are going to do. We will start again at  
6 2 o'clock.

7 A. Right, thank you.

8 (1.00 pm)

9 (The luncheon adjournment)

10 (2.00 pm)

11 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

12 MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, my Lady.

13 Pat, I was moving on to ask you quite specifically  
14 about the abuse you say you suffered at Smyllum and you  
15 tell us about the worst beating you ever had. I will  
16 come to that, but I want to talk in more general terms  
17 first of all.

18 You have been pointing to Sister AEG as being  
19 the person that really you dealt with; is that right?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. I think what you seem to be saying is, over a period of  
22 years, until you got a bit older and into your early  
23 teens, you received beatings from her?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. On a weekly basis, if you like, can I get a feel as to

1           how regular these beatings were?

2           A. Well, like I say, it all depended what kind of mood she  
3           was in basically. I mean, you could always just tell  
4           with the atmosphere what kind of mood she was in, when  
5           she come in. If she was in a mood, you were guaranteed  
6           to get a punch, a kicking or something. You were either  
7           running too fast or you were speaking too loud. There  
8           was always an excuse to give you a right good thump.

9           And it wasn't a wee clip round, it was a right good  
10          smack -- or if she had the clothes brush or whatever  
11          came to hand, so I would say on a regular basis.  
12          Definitely a regular basis.

13          Q. And the nature of the beatings, you have touched upon  
14          that, it wouldn't just be a slap?

15          A. No.

16          Q. It would be more than that?

17          A. It was more than that. Like I say, she had this clothes  
18          brush. That was her favourite kind of weapon of choice,  
19          can I say? I mean she had that all the time. She used  
20          to have it under her sleeve and she would take that out  
21          and, like I was telling you, she had it down to a T  
22          where she was hitting you in the head and hitting you on  
23          the elbow. That was a daily occurrence. Not just me,  
24          other people as well.

25          But like I say, I would definitely say it was

1 a regular -- you know, they didn't even need to be  
2 a reason. I mean, if she felt that she wanted to lash  
3 out at somebody, she would lash out.

4 Q. That was the next question I was going to ask you: what  
5 reasons would she have?

6 A. As I was saying, you could be talking too loud, running  
7 too fast, making a noise. Trivial things. You would  
8 think it was trivial and she would really set about you,  
9 you know, give you a good, like I say, hit with a brush  
10 or whatever the case may be. It would be for something  
11 that you'd think would be trivial, but she didn't and --  
12 any excuse and -- I keep repeating myself but it was --  
13 it was any excuse.

14 Q. You have told us that Roncalli House was divided into  
15 boys and girls. What about the girls? Did she deal  
16 with the girl in a different way?

17 A. The girls got the exact same. It wasn't that the boys  
18 got more doings than the girls or vice versa. Like  
19 I say, if you were in the firing line, you got it. It  
20 wasn't like the boys are getting it this week or this  
21 day and the girls are getting it -- it was just who was  
22 in the firing line at that time.

23 Q. You tell us about an occasion when you were on holiday  
24 in Girvan -- was that once or more than once you went to  
25 Girvan?

1           A. No, we used to go to Girvan every year without fail for  
2           two weeks. The first week was brilliant because  
3           Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] wasn't there -- I know I keep going on  
4           about Sister [REDACTED] AEG [REDACTED] but I can't help it. She was  
5           who she was and that was it.

6                     But the second week she would come, the whole  
7           atmosphere changed. Everybody -- you know, the laughing  
8           would stop, the happiness and all that. Then the one  
9           time we were out -- and they never gave you suncream or  
10          anything like that -- and it was a really hot day,  
11          I always remember, I was absolutely burning, my back was  
12          red hot, I think I had these -- I think water blisters  
13          they're called -- and she came in and I must have been  
14          laughing at something, I was talking to somebody, and  
15          she set about me and she slapped me and burst every one  
16          of them on my back, every single one. You know what it  
17          is like if you have got sunburn and somebody just  
18          touches you; she was slapping them and bursting them  
19          just because somebody dared to smile in my company.

20          Q. Was she slapping with her hand?

21          A. This was her hand and then scraping it right down with  
22          her nails, down the back. She knew it was sunburn. You  
23          could see with the blisters. She just done it for the  
24          sake of doing it.

25          Q. What age were you at that time do you think?



- 1 A. I think probably about 10.
- 2 Q. You tell us also about what you describe as the worst  
3 beating --
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. -- you had from Sister AEG Can you tell me  
6 about that?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. What happened there?
- 9 A. What it was I was carrying on with one of the -- I can't  
10 even remember who it was -- and I threw a cushion on  
11 them and I burst a wee lamp or a headlight, a light that  
12 was in or out of the room. I knew right away --  
13 I started crying before and everybody just separated.  
14 They knew what was coming. She would wear segs, the  
15 nuns -- it is like wee things at the bottom of their  
16 shoes and you used to be able to hear them coming.  
17 I still say that they put them there so you can hear  
18 them coming.
- 19 She came, dragged us down to the laundrette, which  
20 is at the bottom of the orphanage where we were in  
21 Roncalli House, told me to strip naked and she left in  
22 there for about three hours.
- 23 Q. What age were you at that time?
- 24 A. 11/10.
- 25 Q. Yes.

1 A. Went down, she come back down -- now my feet were blue  
2 with the cold and she just walked in and stamped right  
3 on my feet and I let out a scream. I kind of touched  
4 her to push her away and that seemed to send her into  
5 overdrive. She pulled out the brush and started to beat  
6 me and I mean it wasn't just a wee -- this was  
7 constantly. She had to actually stop at one point she  
8 was absolutely exhausted, stopped maybe just -- and I am  
9 sort of lying there, crying my eyes out, lying on the  
10 bare floor, naked, and the next minute she just got the  
11 brush and started beating me again.

12 Absolutely disgraceful for somebody that's meant to  
13 be a nun. I mean, this wasn't a chance thing; she knew  
14 exactly what she was doing that day. She knew.

15 Q. Did she cause you any injury on that occasion?

16 A. Yes, well actually the next morning when I got up, my  
17 ear was all red, it was burst. There was blood coming  
18 off it and I went to see Sister **FAM** was -- I don't  
19 think she was a doctor, but she was the nun we used to  
20 go and see if we had falls or injuries. And the next  
21 day they actually took me to hospital -- it was a local  
22 hospital and it was in Carluke to have a look at it.  
23 I'm still totally deaf in that ear still to this day.

24 It is a bit of a coincidence that she set about me,  
25 with that hairbrush, beating me round the face, the

1 head, everywhere that day, and I woke up the next day  
2 and there was blood on my thingummy.

3 But they tried to say it was measles, I had measles  
4 or something like that. I don't ever remember having  
5 measles in the orphanage at all.

6 Q. Did you tell the doctor what had happened to you?

7 A. Oh no, I couldn't have. I wouldn't have told the  
8 doctor -- then you would end up getting another beating.  
9 You know what I mean? You just went with the flow  
10 basically. You just told them what you were told to say  
11 basically.

12 Q. You told us about the laundry episode. Was that the  
13 only time that you were taken --

14 A. That was the most vicious one. I mean I had a few right  
15 good doings -- what I would call good doings with the  
16 hairbrush or the brush they used in the habit, but that  
17 was the most vicious one. But I'm not the only one who  
18 got it. If you were ordered down the laundrette,  
19 everybody -- and I mean everybody -- knew what was  
20 happening next.

21 She used to just pick people at random, like I say,  
22 if you were running too fast, and she was the one in the  
23 mood, laundry right away -- your name, or whatever the  
24 case may be, laundry. You knew right away you were going  
25 to -- it wasn't just me.

- 1 Q. The difference here in comparison to other beatings was  
2 you were told to strip naked before you were dealt with.
- 3 A. Not only that you are left there for three hours,  
4 practically three hours, you know what I mean. You are  
5 blue with the cold. This woman of God comes in sees you  
6 standing there. It beggars belief how she could just  
7 stand on my feet, absolutely crush my toes and set about  
8 me and actually stop for a rest. You know what I mean?  
9 And then start back again. I mean I just -- like I say  
10 it beggars belief how somebody can do that -- just  
11 anybody, not just a nun, but how anybody could do that  
12 to a child.
- 13 Q. I think you told us earlier that as you got older that  
14 the beatings you have been telling us about stopped.
- 15 A. Aye, they subsided.
- 16 Q. It was the younger boys -- children that were being  
17 targeted by Sister [REDACTED] AEG ?
- 18 A. That is correct, by Sister [REDACTED] AEG yes.
- 19 Q. Did they get a similar sort of treatment as you had over  
20 the years?
- 21 A. It was the exact same. She never changed the way she  
22 was the whole time I was there. She would pick on the  
23 younger people because she knew they were vulnerable,  
24 same as I was vulnerable -- I went in when I was 2, so  
25 I was totally institutionalised. I didn't know any

1 better. You could just tell if somebody new came in,  
2 oh, Sister [REDACTED] AEG will soon sort him out, and she  
3 would. You know what I mean?

4 Q. You tell us in your statement, Pat, that when you turned  
5 16 you then left Smyllum.

6 A. That is correct.

7 Q. Were you told you were leaving or how --

8 A. No, I just -- I got told to come to the laundrette and  
9 my bags was packed and I was told that was me finished  
10 at the orphanage. I get put into another -- it was  
11 called a boys' hostel.

12 Q. Before we come to that then, you had spent all these  
13 years at Smyllum, and I think you tell us you were in  
14 the same dormitory throughout the whole period.

15 A. That is correct.

16 Q. Did you move beds or in the same bed?

17 A. Same bed, never moved.

18 Q. You were moving on to tell us you went to a boys'  
19 hostel -- was that [REDACTED] in Glasgow?

20 A. That is correct.

21 Q. Was that run by the Catholic Church?

22 A. It was. It was the priests that run that.

23 Q. I'm not going to ask you about what happened there, but  
24 I think you tell us that there were incidents there that  
25 you have blocked out of your memory.

1 A. Yes, definitely.

2 Q. You were quite keen to join the Royal Marines; is that  
3 right?

4 A. Yes, that is correct when I was younger, but I couldn't  
5 obviously because I was deaf. I passed all the other --  
6 the things they put in front of you, all the tests and  
7 then when I went for the medical they tested my ear and  
8 obviously I failed because of that.

9 Q. I think you also went to another hostel in  
10 [REDACTED] that was run by the Church.

11 A. That is correct; that was run by the priests as well.

12 Q. That was --

13 A. They weren't as bad. I mean you were more clued up then  
14 by the time you went to these places. Don't get me  
15 wrong: if you done something wrong you expected, you  
16 know, a punch off the priest or whatever the case may  
17 be. In the orphanage, you didn't expect it, but you got  
18 it. If you understand -- kind of know what I mean.

19 Q. Then life after care --

20 LADY SMITH: I think, as you put it in your written  
21 statement, your only crime was your mother and your  
22 father had both died.

23 A. That's exactly --

24 LADY SMITH: That's how it felt to you?

25 A. Yes, definitely.

1 MR MacAULAY: I didn't actually ask you about your father,  
2 but he died when you were very young as well at Smyllum.

3 A. Yes, he died when I was 2. My mother passed away when  
4 I was 1. She was giving birth to my little sister who  
5 passed away as well at the same time. My father, he  
6 couldn't have coped because there was seven of us, so he  
7 took us to the orphanage and he was up to visit us on  
8 New Year's Day and got killed by a drunk driver when  
9 I was 2.

10 Q. That was in 1964, I think; would that be about right?

11 A. No about 1961. 1961/1962.

12 Q. He was coming to visit you --

13 A. Visit us in the orphanage and got killed by a drunk  
14 driver.

15 Q. Then life after care, without looking at the detail of  
16 what you went through, I think you do tell us that you  
17 met your partner some [REDACTED] years ago or so, who is with  
18 you today?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. That has been of help to you?

21 A. Oh, [REDACTED] has been totally my rock, aye. When I met  
22 [REDACTED] I was still living my life, my past life. She  
23 has let me move forward in my life. She has been  
24 fantastic. I don't want to build her up too much, you  
25 know!

1 Q. Even at one time I think you were involved with the Hibs  
2 Casuals.

3 A. Aye, that was a period I went through. I have great  
4 times when I support the Hibs -- and I still do to this  
5 day. But I obviously got involved with the crowd that  
6 liked to fight other fans --

7 Q. But you have moved away from that, I think.

8 A. Yeah definitely. I still go to see the Hibs but I don't  
9 go with them.

10 Q. So far as the reporting of abuse is concerned, you tell  
11 us there was nobody to report the abuse when you were at  
12 Smyllum itself.

13 A. No, nobody at all.

14 Q. Your brothers and sisters, who were there at least for  
15 part of the time you were there, I think you told us  
16 already you very rarely saw them.

17 A. Yes, that is correct.

18 Q. You did at some point go to the police.

19 A. I went to the police in Cambuslang and what it was was  
20 the News of World was running a story about  
21 Nazareth House and then they moved onto Smyllum, so  
22 I contacted them, and they told us to go and make  
23 a report to the police, so I did. I went to Cambuslang  
24 Police Station, but I never heard anything after that.

25 Q. That was about 15 years ago or so?



- 1 A. Yes, about that.
- 2 Q. Did you more recently get in touch with the police --
- 3 A. Yes, they got in touch with me actually. They came to
- 4 the door. They have reopened the case regarding
- 5 Sister AEG.
- 6 Q. Did you ask what had happened to the previous report?
- 7 A. I did. They said they didn't know because it was
- 8 a different police station; they are in London Road in
- 9 Glasgow and this was in Cambuslang. But they have
- 10 actually found my report and they are now dealing with
- 11 it, the ones in London Road. I have actually met them
- 12 -- I'm phoning them when I finish here actually to get
- 13 an update on what's happening.
- 14 Q. I think you tell us in your statement -- this is at
- 15 page 17 -- that somebody told you that the case way back
- 16 was marked "no proceedings"?
- 17 A. Yes, that is right. The procurator fiscal decided not
- 18 to go ahead.
- 19 Q. Who told you that?
- 20 A. The second police, but because legislation on new things
- 21 that have come in, they have decided to re-open the
- 22 case. Why, I don't know, but I'm quite happy they have
- 23 anyway.
- 24 Q. Just looking at the impact that being at Smyllum had on
- 25 you, I think one of the things you tell us is that you

1 really had no relationships with your siblings.

2 A. No. I went actually -- I looked after [REDACTED], who was one  
3 of my sisters, she was an alcoholic. I looked after her  
4 when I left the orphanage -- well, after the boys'  
5 hostels -- and I stayed with her for about 10 years.  
6 She has passed away, unfortunately, but I think she was  
7 affected just the same as me. You know what I mean?

8 My brother he was found dead with a bottle of whisky  
9 in his hand. He was an alcoholic.

10 It affected us all. Even though I haven't seen  
11 them, I have heard of different people telling me how  
12 [REDACTED] went down this road, [REDACTED] went down that road.

13 Q. You still have thoughts about Smyllum?

14 A. All the time, yes.

15 Q. What triggers these thoughts?

16 A. Just things on the telly or if I see a nun walking down  
17 the street. It can be anything.

18 Q. What feelings do you have about Smyllum?

19 A. Just -- it sounds terrible but I hate them. I don't  
20 hate nuns in particular, that's terrible saying that,  
21 but when I have -- I just get a feeling of hate and  
22 obviously it is because of Sister [REDACTED] AEG, you know  
23 what I mean, and what they done to me basically.

24 Q. And you do set out for us in your statement, Pat, some  
25 lessons that you say should be learned from your

1 experience. If you turn to page 17 of your statement.  
2 It is on the screen there actually, paragraph 88. What  
3 do you think the lessons are that should be learned from  
4 your experiences?

5 A. From my experience it shouldn't be a closed institute.  
6 It should be -- people from, you know, outside the  
7 Catholic Church should be able to go in and speak to the  
8 children and, you know, get an outlay of what the  
9 situation is, if the beatings are occurring, when and  
10 the questions you have been asking -- basically, the  
11 questions you have been asking me should be asked by the  
12 Catholic Church and the nuns in particular that run  
13 these places.

14 I mean, the whole time I was there, I never once had  
15 anybody saying: how are you getting on, is everything  
16 okay? Nobody. You know what I mean? They could have  
17 done -- well, they did do anything they wanted to me and  
18 I had nobody to turn to. Nobody at all.

19 Q. Can I tell you, Pat, that the Inquiry has been in  
20 contact with nuns who may have been at Smyllum during  
21 the period that you were there and in particular we have  
22 spoken to a Sister [REDACTED] AEG or [REDACTED] AEG it may or may  
23 not be the same person, but certainly she seems to cover  
24 the period that you were at Smyllum.

25 According to her, she never saw any behaviour that

1           was abuse, that you didn't live in fear of her, and just  
2           that your allegations are not true.

3       A. Well, that says it all. I mean this is a woman of God  
4           that beat kids black and blue sometimes. I wouldn't  
5           expect anything else of her, to tell the truth.

6       Q. You would not accept any of that?

7       A. No, definitely not.

8       MR MacAULAY: Very well, Pat. Thank you for coming and  
9           gives your evidence. I have no more questions for you.

10           My Lady, no written questions have been submitted  
11           and I don't know if there are to be any questions.

12       LADY SMITH: Thank you. Could I check whether there are any  
13           outstanding applications for questions? Thank you.

14       A. Can I just say one word?

15       LADY SMITH: Of course you can.

16       A. I want to say thanks to [REDACTED] and to [REDACTED] and to the  
17           people involved in this -- at least they have let me  
18           have a voice and something.

19           [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have went far and beyond. They  
20           have just been fantastic and I can't thank them enough.

21       LADY SMITH: Thank you for that, Pat. I'm reassured to  
22           hear it. One of the important functions of this Inquiry  
23           is to give people like you a voice. We want to hear  
24           from you, we want to listen to what you can tell us.

25           So thank you for coming along today and I'm now able

1 to let you go.

2 A. Right, thank you very much.

3 (The witness withdrew)

4 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

5 MR MacAULAY: Yes my Lady, the next stage is to have one  
6 statement read into the transcript and my learned friend  
7 Ms MacLeod will do that.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. Yes, Ms MacLeod.

9 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next statement to be read in is  
10 the statement of an applicant called George Higgins, who  
11 is content for his anonymity to be waived.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 Witness statement of GEORGE HIGGINS (read)

14 MS MACLEOD: His statement is to be found at  
15 WIT.001.001.1894.

16 "My name is George Higgins. I was born in 1930.  
17 I am 86 years old. What I'm about to talk about, I have  
18 been living with for years and hope this might bring  
19 some closure. I'm also here for the benefit of others  
20 and if what I tell you helps somebody else, then all  
21 well and good.

22 "The individuals involved are now all dead but the  
23 organisation that sponsored what happened to me in care  
24 still exists and that is the Catholic Church.

25 "The institution I was in as a child was known as

1 Bellevue which was a home run by nuns. Personally I  
2 don't know the name of the order although I can see them  
3 now and have nightmares over them with their big white  
4 wimples and a sort of navy blue dress with a rosary  
5 around their waist and a massive big cross. That to me  
6 is the image I have of them. As far as I'm aware it was  
7 never known as Nazareth House but I'm led to believe  
8 that the nuns come under Nazareth House. It was in  
9 Rutherglen in Glasgow. I was there for seven years from  
10 the age of two until nine from 1932 to 1939.

11 "My father was 20 years older than my mother when  
12 they married in 1916. He was born in the 1870s and she  
13 was born in 1894. So when they married she was 22 and  
14 he was already in his 40s. He had no particular  
15 profession but from family history I gather that he was  
16 a steward on the liners with Cunard and my mother was in  
17 service.

18 "My mother and father had no children during the  
19 first few years of their marriage, for whatever reason  
20 I don't know."

21 I now move on to paragraph 7, which is on  
22 WIT.001.001.1895:

23 "From what I have heard from family members my  
24 parent's marriage must have been a sort of acrimonious  
25 arrangement. Though I hesitate to call it a marriage

1 because from what I gather he knocked my mother about a  
2 bit and obviously it fell apart in the early 1930s and  
3 they separated. Due to his religious beliefs he would  
4 not divorce my mother and the day after he died, years  
5 later when I was 16, she remarried.

6 "In those days the law was with the father and the  
7 mother was just a chattel. He had the final say in  
8 everything. [REDACTED] my mother  
9 had absolutely no say in what would happen [REDACTED] My  
10 father was a Catholic and they were married in the  
11 Catholic Church in Glasgow but I never heard the word  
12 church or anything relating to faith being mentioned so  
13 he was a Catholic in name only, very much lapsed like I  
14 am. However, he arranged [REDACTED] to go into Bellevue and  
15 my mother was not allowed to visit [REDACTED]. I think he  
16 arranged it through a man called Mr Deery. I think he  
17 had some sort of connection to the City Council or the  
18 Catholic Church and Bellevue, but he was not a Catholic.

19 "To be put in Bellevue like that between the age of  
20 two and nine years was a disaster for me. Those years  
21 form your personality and that forms the rest of your  
22 life, when you are supposedly and hopefully in a loving  
23 family. But when you were already in a broken family  
24 and you are put into a convent, if that is what they  
25 call it, well, that's how I have ended up the way I am.

1 I don't know that I would have ended up any different  
2 living in an acrimonious family but the word "love" was  
3 never in the nuns' vocabulary at all. So to me it has  
4 been a distinct disadvantage which my family know about.  
5 Love is there within me but to physically show it or  
6 demonstrate it in any way is just not in my nature. And  
7 that to me is one of the things that happened to me.

8 "While ██████ in the convent ██████ 't allowed to  
9 see my mother because she had no say or control  
10 whatsoever. She would sometimes come to the convent and  
11 ██████ would see her at a distance through the gates but she  
12 wasn't allowed in and being an infant I just didn't know  
13 what was going on.

14 "My memories of my time in the convent are not  
15 necessarily in a chronological order. You have to  
16 realise that I was only a young child at the time and  
17 what I have is a collection of memories rather than an  
18 ordered recollection of my time there.

19 "In the convent the boys were segregated from the  
20 girls. Since I was only 2 years old when I went into the  
21 convent I don't think there was segregation at that  
22 infant stage and I can't remember at exactly what age I  
23 was segregated.

24 "My first recollection as a child there was being  
25 scared. I was so scared.



1           "The way that manifested itself was in bed-wetting,  
2           that and soiling the bed as well. The nuns weren't  
3           trained to look after us and I don't know who paid them  
4           or paid for us being there. Their idea of trying to  
5           correct what was in their eyes misbehaviour or mistakes  
6           was rather severe.

7           "The one person whose name I do remember is a woman  
8           called [REDACTED] BAO [REDACTED]. She was in charge of my dormitory.  
9           In my mind her image was straight out of the 1920s with  
10          her fold-over pinafore, [REDACTED]  
11          [REDACTED]. I'd say she was in her mid 30's and was [REDACTED]  
12          [REDACTED]. She slept in our dormitory and was responsible  
13          for us. She wasn't a nun but was a helper and would  
14          report to them. If you wet the bed she was the first one  
15          to know.

16          "If we wet the bed [REDACTED] BAO [REDACTED] would obviously tell  
17          her superiors who would come up to the dorm and see the  
18          wet sheets. I remember when it happened to me the  
19          sisters wrapped the wet sheets round my neck and walked  
20          me down to the laundry. The washing machine there was  
21          like a big perforated drum. It looked a bit like the  
22          deep fat fryers you get in the chip shop. There two of  
23          them lifted me up while still wrapped in the wet sheet  
24          and bundled me into the washing machine. I can still see  
25          myself in the machine looking out through the

1 perforations in the drum at these two women standing  
2 there. They didn't turn it on but I was terrified. If  
3 you want a nightmare, there's one there for you. I think  
4 I was 3 or 4 years old when this first happened to me. I  
5 still have flashbacks to it.

6 "Being bundled into the washing machine was not  
7 an isolated incident, it didn't happen every time I wet  
8 or soiled the bed but it happened at least a couple of  
9 times and perhaps more because if it's the norm then you  
10 don't remember how many times. This was like their cure.  
11 They simply didn't have the training for dealing with  
12 children with problems. I had problems, we all had  
13 problems. We were all from broken homes. The nuns were  
14 unintentionally stupid and hurtful purely because they  
15 weren't trained.

16 "I don't know or at least don't remember seeing if  
17 this happened to others but I am sure it did. Surely  
18 they weren't just going to single me out for such  
19 treatment. I don't know if others saw me being marched  
20 to the laundry wrapped in my wet sheet but I am sure  
21 they would have.

22 "Bed-wetting was an issue for me throughout my time  
23 in the convent and even after I left it continued to be  
24 a problem.

25 "If you soiled the bed you physically moved what you

1 had done and tried to hide it. I even remember one time  
2 hiding it behind a radiator. That shows you how scared  
3 you were in there and nobody to turn to.

4 "You were on your own. There was no-one there to  
5 confide in about anything. I didn't have anybody. █  
6 █. The whole place was about fear.  
7 There was nobody you could complain to about what was  
8 considered a cure in their eyes and not a punishment.  
9 There was no love in the place. There was no "how are  
10 you today George?" and no cuddles. There was nothing  
11 like that. I certainly didn't know what love was or know  
12 what it was for someone to put an arm round me. And the  
13 last place you're going to get it is in a convent, or at  
14 least in that particular convent.

15 "It was not unusual to get a thump in the back from  
16 one of the nuns. This wasn't a casual thump. I don't  
17 know what their reason for doing it was, to grab your  
18 attention maybe or to make you hurry up with your food,  
19 I don't know. It was usually when you were sitting down  
20 at the meal on this sort of long bench. And remember the  
21 size of them to a child was threatening. They would form  
22 a fist and punch you at the bottom of your spine with  
23 their knuckles. I'm sure this is what caused my back  
24 problems in later life.

25 "I remember making my confirmation in the convent.

1 That was a big day in the Catholic Church. The pipe band  
2 came up, the whole lot. I can still see it all. Clothes  
3 that had clearly been worn by other children would come  
4 out of the moth balls and be given to you but taken off  
5 you right after the service and would go straight back  
6 into the cupboard. This was obviously done because you  
7 were on public view that day and they wanted you to look  
8 good, probably to make them look good.

9 "The Catholic religion was a big part of the  
10 convent. It was drilled into you and to this day I can  
11 still recite the catechism. Every Sunday morning we were  
12 taken to church and even at that early age we had to go  
13 to confession too but what the hell I was confessing I  
14 don't know.

15 "We didn't so much have religious instruction, it  
16 was basically the catechism. It was "Who made you? God  
17 made you. Why did God make you?" and answers like that.  
18 It was rote learning and stock answers like that that  
19 you learnt by heart to the extent that I still know many  
20 of them to this day. You weren't given an educated  
21 reason as to why these were the answers, you simply had  
22 to learn them and it stuck with you.

23 "Even when I came out of the convent and we were  
24 evacuated to Rothesay, I was so brainwashed that  
25 unbeknown to my mother I went to St Andrew's RC Church

1           there with the intention of becoming an altar boy. I  
2           received instruction and that was the same principle as  
3           your catechism. You didn't even know what the hell you  
4           were saying as it was in Latin. That was how brainwashed  
5           I'd been left, it was still in me.

6           "The Catholic religion for me, because of my convent  
7           days and the way it was instilled into me, was a  
8           religion of fear. If you didn't go to church on a Sunday  
9           then that was a mortal sin and you were going to Hell.  
10          At that age you believed it. That's how strong that  
11          religion was that it could affect the rest of your life.

12          "There was no intelligent conversation with the  
13          nuns. The only communication was along the lines of "do  
14          this, do that". You were there to do as they told you.  
15          They certainly weren't trained. The nuns that were  
16          there, for them this was obviously a career with three  
17          meals and a bed under the auspices of Him upstairs. That  
18          was their life.

19          "My recollection of the convent was that it was very  
20          Dickensian in the surroundings that were there. They  
21          used big words I hadn't heard before like "refectory"  
22          and "dormitories".

23          "Food in the convent was always a big problem for  
24          me. I'm not saying it was poor quality or badly cooked  
25          as others were able to eat it but to me personally it

1 was of poor quality and inedible. Maybe I just had a  
2 delicate palate but I have no recollection of getting  
3 any pleasure from the food. It would make me sick if,  
4 for instance, it was something I didn't like but was  
5 forced to eat it anyway. I had a particular problem with  
6 meat that had fat on it. It would, and still does, make  
7 me nauseous.

8 "We ate in what I thought at the time were big  
9 refectories. You'd sit on long benches at long tables.  
10 If you refused to eat what they gave you, you got a  
11 thump in the back and if you left anything they would  
12 make you stand on a stool in the middle of the refectory  
13 with the remains of your food until you did eat it. I  
14 remember many a time standing on the stool crying while  
15 holding a plate of congealed soup or congealed dinner.  
16 When I felt it the most would be when everyone else had  
17 finished and gone away and I was left alone still  
18 standing on this stool in the middle of the refectory.  
19 But I never did eat it if I didn't like it as I would  
20 have retched and they always gave up in the end.

21 "Bathing was communal. There was no interest taken  
22 in our personal hygiene. You could maybe share your  
23 bath with up to 20 others. I have no recollection of  
24 getting into a bath, on my own, in crystal clear water.

25 "I have no memory of any particular nun being solely

1 responsible for our health or any particular nun being  
2 referred to as the nurse. They were all equal as far as  
3 I was concerned, you didn't know what the hierarchy was  
4 or who was who. I don't recall any particular system of  
5 healthcare being in place for us.

6 "To clean wax out of your ears it was standard  
7 practice for them to pour peroxide drops into your ears  
8 to cure the problem. This happened to me and to  
9 everybody. This practise has affected my ears all my  
10 life and I now have two hearing aids. Whether it was  
11 a direct result of that I don't know.

12 "Lice were not an uncommon problem and the treatment  
13 they used was awful. It was BAO or a nun who  
14 treated us for that. She would have a tin full of  
15 paraffin and she would dip a comb in and then run it  
16 through your hair to try and get rid of the lice.

17 "I remember on one occasion lying in isolation in  
18 the convent and nobody was allowed near me. They must  
19 have had an area, a mini-infirmary or something. I can't  
20 recall what disorder I had. Maybe it was measles or  
21 something like that.

22 "There was no dental care provided and no interest  
23 given to our dental hygiene Due to neglect, not on my  
24 part but through whoever should have been looking after  
25 them, my teeth were in a poor state when I left the

1           convent and I had to get several of my teeth taken out  
2           when I joined the army and get partial false teeth.  
3           Later I had to have all my teeth taken out. So I was  
4           left with false teeth for most of my adult life as a  
5           result.

6                     "It was the same with my eyesight. An optician has  
7           told me that if things are not caught before the age of  
8           eight forget it. This too was neglected in the convent.  
9           No care was ever given to it and this is the reason I  
10          ended up wearing glasses at 14 years of age, because of  
11          neglect.

12                    "I put my dental, eyesight and hearing problems down  
13          to neglect at the convent.

14                    "I used to bite my nails right down to the quick  
15          till they were bleeding. This started when I was in the  
16          convent and I think stemmed from anxiety. I only  
17          stopped this habit in my 50s:

18                    "There was a visitor's day in the convent. I can  
19          still see the room we were in and sitting on the floor.  
20          I remember the low bench seating and watching other  
21          children with their parents. I don't think it was as  
22          much as weekly otherwise it would be more imprinted on  
23          my memory so I reckon it was maybe once a month if that.  
24          I only recollect my father coming once, that's the one  
25          that stands out in my mind and with my mother not being



1 allowed in. [REDACTED] vision of the outside world was standing  
2 at the gate looking at her outside through the bars.  
3 That was the norm and that was all [REDACTED] saw of her. I  
4 don't know if that had been the convent's decision or my  
5 father's.

6 "I have no happy or fond memories of that place or  
7 any of the individuals responsible for my care. If  
8 I was to suggest I had any pleasant memories about  
9 Bellevue it would be the few times when we got hold of  
10 stolen bread. I don't know where it came from or who  
11 stole it but I loved it, especially if you were able to  
12 make toast on the wee stove. Imagine that, the only  
13 pleasurable thing I can think of is a bit of stolen  
14 bread.

15 "In terms of Christmas and special occasions  
16 I vaguely recall making paper chains in the classroom.  
17 I do not recollect a Christmas tree and I don't recall  
18 ever being given a present. I think the first present  
19 I ever received in my life was a copy of "The Merchant  
20 of Venice" and I think I was about 14 by then. I didn't  
21 even know when my birthday was.

22 "The school was within the convent grounds although  
23 I have little or no recollection of school, teachers and  
24 classes until I came out of the convent and started at  
25 St Francis' school in the Gorbals. Only a few bits stick

1 out in my mind, for example I do remember being in class  
2 in the convent and as I mentioned at Christmas time  
3 making those paper chains to hang up. I remember there  
4 was a communal sort of toy box and playing with the  
5 equivalent of Lego except it was tin metal and you put  
6 together little houses with roofs on them. It was German  
7 made. That was in the school not the convent itself. I  
8 remember at visiting times some children would receive  
9 some toys, well of course that never happened to me but  
10 to see others getting toys when I got none it was hard.

11 "In the convent there were no books or magazines or  
12 comics and no radio. I didn't know any of these things  
13 existed until I left the convent. There was nothing  
14 educational nor any toys or games. You got accustomed to  
15 it, so to come out into the world of Glasgow and the  
16 Gorbals was such a culture shock to me.

17 "There was no organised sport or anything like that  
18 in Bellevue. The only recreation that I remember was  
19 getting out into the very small playground which had a  
20 shed to keep you out the rain. But I think that was when  
21 we were at school. I don't remember being able to kick a  
22 ball about.

23 "I do recall getting taken to Langbank for a few  
24 days. I think it was like our annual holiday. Whether  
25 it was for a week or a fortnight I don't know. It was a

1 wooden structure internally like a sauna with I think  
2 bunk type beds. It was still quite religious and you had  
3 to say your prayers before you went to bed. It was our  
4 one escape. What I recall is that it was near the beach  
5 and that the regime from the convent didn't follow us. I  
6 just recall it was a more open atmosphere.

7 "I have no great recollection of the routine in the  
8 convent and don't remember being forced to do any manual  
9 work but that may be because I was too young or perhaps  
10 I have put it out of my memory. I have no recollection  
11 of there being anybody at the time that I could talk to  
12 or confide in. The problem is that I'm trying to look  
13 back on the time of my life when not only was I just a  
14 child, it's a time of my life I've spent most of my life  
15 trying to forget. [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]  
17 [REDACTED]  
18 "I was never able to tell anyone or talk to anyone  
19 about what happened either at the time or after I came  
20 out of the convent. Just as love was missing due to my  
21 early life experiences, so too was the power of  
22 communication. Between the age of nine and probably 14,  
23 I doubt if I could have held an intelligent conversation  
24 or even strung two sentences together. Coming out of the  
25 convent and going to St Francis' school my education

1 wasn't just lacking, it was non-existent. I had no  
2 prospect of passing the 11 plus or "qualie" as we knew  
3 it. When I joined the army the sergeants in the  
4 Education Corp found I was totally out of it, I'd  
5 learned nothing.

6 "I don't know why [REDACTED] came out of the convent in  
7 1939, but to come out into the Gorbals in Glasgow with  
8 its lifestyle and all that that entailed was pretty  
9 horrific for me. We lived in a single end, in  
10 a tenement in the Gorbals which has since been  
11 demolished. We were in one room which had one bed and  
12 one table and every night my father would put a mattress  
13 on the table and [REDACTED] would sleep on that and [REDACTED]  
14 on the bed. In those days all the other kids of my age  
15 who stayed round there were streetwise and I was  
16 a sitting duck for them and I have got the scars to  
17 prove it. I was completely naive about life and this  
18 was entirely because I had spent my formative years in  
19 the convent.

20 "After the war started in 1939 my father got  
21 evacuation papers to send us to America or Australia. My  
22 mother got wind of this [REDACTED]  
23 [REDACTED] I don't know why I was left with my father who  
24 was in his 60s and by then working as a night watchman  
25 whenever he could. I remember going to owners of big

1 building companies and him pleading to get a job. When  
2 he got a job I was out with him all night and I'd be  
3 filling up paraffin lamps and God knows what. I'd be  
4 about 10 at this time.

5 "We stayed in the Gorbals until an incident when my  
6 father came home one day and this drunk man was in a  
7 room with me. My father picked up a billy stick which  
8 is an American police truncheon and laid into this  
9 fella, he really laid into him and left him for dead.  
10 After that we scarpered to Townhead.

11 "At some point after the war started my mother came  
12 up and demanded that I go with her. She took us to [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED], where she was back in service cleaning  
14 for a doctor. We stayed in rooms there until the end of  
15 the war when we came back.

16 "Both my parents died shortly after that [REDACTED]  
17 [REDACTED]  
18 [REDACTED] at the age of  
19 17, I went to Maryhill Barracks and joined the army in  
20 1947. It was a means of escape. I actually tried to  
21 join the Navy but because of the state of my eyesight  
22 and hearing they wouldn't take me. I spent five and  
23 a half years in the army, mostly in Germany.

24 "I never did go back and report what happened at the  
25 convent to anybody, mainly because I spent my life

1           trying to repress it. I didn't see any value in doing  
2           so and certainly I have never been interested in any  
3           financial gain. But when I read about these cases  
4           happening in Scotland it was then I took an interest.  
5           I started reading newspaper articles and that's when  
6           I heard about the group "In Care Abuse Survivors"  
7           (INCAS) who I got in touch with and learned who was  
8           acting on behalf of the survivors.

9           "Prior to that, obviously, my wife knew all about  
10          it, but it was not every day conversation. The only  
11          other time it cropped up was when I spoke with [REDACTED]  
12          [REDACTED], when reference may have been made to it,  
13          but certainly not a detailed conversation. When I tried  
14          to have a detailed conversation about it over the past  
15          few years, purely for the benefit of this, it's not been  
16          forthcoming. So I suppose, apart from my wife, the  
17          first person I spoke to about it was the solicitor  
18          Cameron Fife, about ten years ago.

19          "I don't have any records from my time in Bellevue  
20          and I think it unlikely that any exist after so long.

21          "I frequently suffer flashbacks, dreams and  
22          nightmares of my convent days which sometimes even cause  
23          me to fall out of bed. Sometimes it also causes me  
24          sleepless nights. Bellevue is a part my life that's  
25          followed me all the way through. My father has a lot to

1 answer for.

2 "I was in Bellevue for seven years was never  
3 prepared for the outside world and therefore, when  
4 I eventually left at the age of nine, I was already at  
5 a great disadvantage. I suffered emotional cruelty.  
6 I never had anyone that I could trust.

7 "The big effect my early life experiences have had  
8 on me is that it has given me an inferiority complex  
9 that I've had to live with all my life. This was  
10 particularly bad when we left the convent and I was  
11 exposed to challenges of life in the Gorbals.

12 "The problem continued to pursue me even when I went  
13 into the army where I was still in a convent frame of  
14 mind. I was vulnerable and still not streetwise and I  
15 had a rough time when I went into the army. Physically I  
16 just couldn't defend myself.

17 "I had very little confidence and poor self-esteem.  
18 I was never shown how to play or provided with an  
19 atmosphere for exploring or stimulation and never given  
20 any affection or caring.

21 "My wife and my own early experiences impacted upon  
22 how we parented. Our children suffered with parents who  
23 didn't know what the word love was. As a result I have  
24 never been able to show affection to my own family or be  
25 tactile with them, which causes me great sadness.

1           "For most of our married life it has been extremely  
2 difficult for me to communicate my feelings towards my  
3 wife and it's only in our latter years, after 60 years,  
4 that I think we now know each other. But she has had to  
5 take the brunt of my poor upbringing and inability to  
6 communicate what I feel.

7           "I've never sought any professional help for what I  
8 endured as a child. It's been lying dormant for years  
9 and is all sort of coming out again now and nearly  
10 80 years later it's still part of my life. But much of  
11 my not recalling all of it is partially because I was so  
12 young at the time and partially because I've tried to  
13 repress it.

14           "It also left me with no religion now.

15           "I have had the stressful effect of all this  
16 suffering [REDACTED] on my mind all my  
17 life. I ultimately worked as a salesman for  
18 Cadbury's Fry. This was a high pressure environment and  
19 it got to me. I developed high blood pressure and  
20 accepted the offer of early retirement at 55, which was  
21 the biggest relief of my life. Otherwise I don't think  
22 I'd have survived it. For me it relates back to things  
23 such as not having self-assurance, having an inferiority  
24 complex and lacking the power to communicate properly,  
25 which is what sales is all about. If I'd had a normal



1           upbringing, I might have turned out differently. I  
2           might have had the resilience to cope better in that  
3           pressured environment where there's so much  
4           responsibility but I was fractured both mentally and  
5           physically.

6           "As a result of all the problems over food and being  
7           forced to eat unpalatable food I have suffered  
8           continually with stomach problems and eventually  
9           suffered a duodenal ulcer, which haemorrhaged, resulting  
10          in surgery. I have a restricted diet and lack of  
11          enjoyment of meals, which caused many problems within  
12          our household.

13          "I believe that the continual prodding and poking to  
14          my back by the nuns when I was a young child caused a  
15          weakness which meant I was unable to participate in any  
16          sports activities and eventually culminated in severe  
17          problems when I began work initially as a driver for  
18          Cadbury's Fry, which involved heavy manual labour. My  
19          back has always been my physical weakness. I put that  
20          down to what the nuns did as I can't think of any other  
21          reason that I would have had a back complaint.

22          "After years of suffering, I had a laminectomy  
23          surgery to remove a slipped disk pressing on a nerve.

24          "I still have back problems from time to time and it  
25          limits my activities and has always prevented me from

1 playing with my children and now my grandchildren.

2 "In addition to these physical problems are the  
3 problems I have had with my teeth, hearing and eyesight  
4 which I have already mentioned.

5 "In terms of lessons to be learned, I think that  
6 things are different now from what it was like when I  
7 was a child given that social workers are empowered to  
8 investigate and do what should have been done back then  
9 but which didn't exist in my day. I feel it is time and  
10 the publicity of what happened back then that has  
11 allowed change to happen. What I would recommend is  
12 what I understand is actually happening now anyway.  
13 That is change and learn to bring to the public  
14 knowledge any wrongdoing against children.

15 "However, with social workers you are still dealing  
16 with individuals who are humans and when you deal with  
17 humans things go wrong.

18 "I don't expect to get anything out of this Inquiry,  
19 but I hope that hearing about my experiences will help  
20 others and prevent children suffering what I went  
21 through. I would look for retribution, not justice or  
22 truth, because hopefully they will follow retribution.  
23 I didn't want to be involved with this, but it was my  
24 wife who convinced me in he in the hope that it will  
25 help others and that things will improve.

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

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

5           The statement was signed, my Lady, by George Higgins  
6 on 1 September 2016.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

8           It is 2.50 pm; I know there are still other  
9 statements waiting to be read in. I can't sit beyond  
10 4 o'clock today and we will of course need to have  
11 a 5-minute break. You probably have a better feel than  
12 I do for whether it would be possible to read in another  
13 statement.

14 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, there is another statement that  
15 I could read in, so it may be that we could break now  
16 and then --

17 LADY SMITH: If we broke now and then started again just  
18 before 3.00; shall we do that?

19 MS MACLEOD: Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: Very well, thank you.

21 (2.50 pm)

22 (A short break)

23 ( 3.00 pm)

24 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod, before I invite you to resume  
25 reading statements, I see one or two members of the

1 press I think are still here. I make no apologies for  
2 repeating what I have already said once today about the  
3 importance, not only of respecting the anonymity of  
4 those applicants who wish to continue to protect their  
5 identity, but also the anonymity of anyone who is  
6 alleged to have abused but have not been convicted.

7 I'm repeating the direction at this stage because  
8 I'm conscious of the fact that this morning quite  
9 a number of names came out in evidence. As I explained  
10 before, I decided that it would be artificial and  
11 probably unproductive to try and prevent that happening  
12 but that doesn't mean that those names can now be  
13 disclosed or made public. They remain private,  
14 protected and cannot be repeated outside the hearing  
15 room. I am sure you understand. Thank you.

16 Ms MacLeod.

17 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next statement to be read in is  
18 the statement of a witness who wishes to remain  
19 anonymous and she wishes to be known as Theresa.

20 The witness statement is to be found at  
21 WIT.001.001.2289.

22 Witness Statement of "THERESA" (read)

23 "My name is Theresa. I was born in 1939. I was  
24 born in Lanarkshire. My mother and father are both now  
25 dead. I have three older sisters. I also have three

1 brothers.

2 "I was only young before I went into care so I can't  
3 remember much. My sister told me that the reason we  
4 were first put into care was because we were left in the  
5 house on our own. My mother went to the cinema and my  
6 father was also out. One of the neighbours phoned the  
7 child cruelty people and told them about this. At this  
8 time my brother wasn't born yet.

9 "Myself and some of my siblings were put into care  
10 at Smyllum in Lanark. Others were looked after by my  
11 aunty.

12 "When I first arrived at Smyllum, in 1944, I didn't  
13 like it. There were over a hundred children there.  
14 I was given a number when I arrived. When I first went  
15 to Smyllum there were French children there as well who  
16 were evacuees. The war was still going on at that time.

17 "It was a big building. The boy's dormitory was on  
18 one side of the house and the girls' was on the other  
19 side. I remember there was a big dining room and  
20 a toilet area. Some of the girls were okay, but there  
21 was a lot of bullying.

22 "The home was run by the nuns, the  
23 Sisters of Charity. I remember a couple of their names,  
24 Sister **BAF** and Sister **EAB**.

25 "Every morning we had to get up at six thirty. You

1 had to make your bed. Sometimes you were expected to  
2 polish the floors on your hands and knees. We would go  
3 to church every morning. After church we went for  
4 breakfast before going to school.

5 "After school we went back to the main building for  
6 afternoon tea or dinner. You went to bed at eight  
7 thirty.

8 "The nuns would get you up at midnight for the  
9 toilet but I still wet the bed. When you wet the bed you  
10 had to take the sheets off and go to the laundry room to  
11 wash them. There was a woman, Miss HBO who ran  
12 the laundry room. She used to hit us with a stick when  
13 we went in with wet sheets. The stick was like the leg  
14 of a chair. If you had to go to the laundry you might  
15 miss your breakfast as you had to go straight to school.

16 "I thought the food was okay at Smyllum. I can't  
17 remember a lot about what we were served. I think it was  
18 porridge for breakfast. Lunch was sometimes at the  
19 school. If you didn't eat your lunch you were given it  
20 for your dinner. I can remember getting bread and jam in  
21 the afternoon after school. I think that the nuns were  
22 given the same food as us but they ate in a different  
23 part of the house.

24 "There was a bath night. You had to get in the bath  
25 after someone else had been in. It wasn't very healthy

1           doing this.

2           "The nuns took the lessons at school. If you spoke  
3           in class you were given the belt by the nuns. This  
4           happened to me quite a few times. I didn't think that  
5           I deserved it.

6           "I don't remember any holidays or going home at  
7           weekends. When you were older you went for a week or a  
8           fortnight to camp at Aberfoyle. The nuns still kept an  
9           eye on you and made sure you were under control.

10          "I ran away from Smyllum twice by climbing out of  
11          a window. One time I went to my father's at Coatbridge  
12          and the other time I got as far as Glasgow. The police  
13          seen me in the street and took me back to Smyllum.  
14          I was locked in the attic for a couple of hours as  
15          a punishment.

16          "They would have a party for everyone whose birthday  
17          was that month Christmas wasn't too bad. You were sent  
18          presents from people outside. Smith's Clocks, a local  
19          factory, would send in presents for us. We were provided  
20          with a Christmas dinner.

21          "When I was in Smyllum my mother and father had  
22          split up, but both would come and visit. My father came  
23          more than my mother. My father would give me pocket  
24          money when he came. This was the only time that I saw my  
25          brothers and sisters.

1 "I can't remember any social workers coming to see  
2 me or any inspections by the authorities at Smyllum.

3 "There was no doctor resident at Smyllum. There was  
4 a doctor who came to the home regularly to check if  
5 anyone needed to see him.

6 "One day I was in a queue and my sister was in front  
7 of me. She turned around and stuck her tongue out at  
8 me. I pushed her and told her not to be cheeky.

9 Sister [REDACTED] EAB hit me with a stick on my left elbow.  
10 I had seen Sister [REDACTED] EAB carrying a stick about with  
11 her before. I didn't see other children getting hit by  
12 the nuns.

13 "I went to the doctor about my elbow when he came to  
14 the home. I told him how it had happened and he said it  
15 was tennis elbow. I was punished for telling the doctor  
16 about my elbow. I was locked in the bathroom in the  
17 loft. This shouldn't have happened to me.

18 "The first time I left Smyllum was in 1945. My  
19 grandmother came and took us out. My father had to work  
20 in England so that's where we moved to. At this time my  
21 younger brother was born.

22 "We eventually ended back in Scotland. I think that  
23 I was 8 when my grandmother died and as we were staying  
24 in her house we were put back into care. We were put  
25 into another home; Tom Donnachie(?) Children's Home."



1           My Lady, in the next few paragraphs the witness goes  
2 on to discuss her experiences in a different home. So  
3 I will now move on to paragraph 34, which is on page  
4 WIT.001.001.2295, when the witness describes returning  
5 to Smyllum.

6           "Everything was the same, it was the same staff and  
7 the dormitory were still there. As I was now a bit  
8 older I would go and help pick potatoes and milk the  
9 cows at the local farms. You didn't get paid but you  
10 always got a nice meal after. I think the nuns got the  
11 money for us working there:

12           "I can't remember any inspections. The social  
13 worker would come and visit. When she met with me there  
14 wasn't any of the nuns there.

15           "We would sometimes be taken to the local cinema.  
16 If I had pocket money I would sneak out to the cinema.  
17 There were still holidays to Aberfoyle for camping.

18           "I passed my eleven plus and went to a secondary  
19 school in Lanark. I managed to get some good grades.  
20 I left with history, geography and domestic science.

21           "When I was at Smyllum the second time I had  
22 pleurisy, chicken pox and mumps. If I was ill the nuns  
23 would keep me off school until I was better. I don't  
24 think it was because I was at Smyllum that I had all  
25 these illnesses.

1           "When I was 15 I was boarded out with a foster  
2 family for a trial period from Smyllum. My father knew  
3 them but that wasn't the reason I was put with them.  
4 I was only there about a week.

5           "I was accused of stealing a book from their  
6 daughter. It was all a mistake as I thought the book  
7 was a present for me. Even though I apologised the  
8 family told Smyllum and because of this they decided to  
9 send me to Bishopton. I felt that this was  
10 a punishment."

11           The witness then goes on in the next few paragraphs  
12 to describe the time she spent in the home run by the  
13 Good Shepherd Sisters in Bishopton.

14           I will now go to paragraph 50 at WIT.001.001.2297  
15 where the witness speaks about her life after care.

16           "In 1958 my father got a house and I was able to go  
17 and stay with him. All my siblings were there. I told my  
18 father about being hit with a stick by the nun at  
19 Smyllum. My father wanted to go and see the nun. I told  
20 him not to as I didn't want him to end up in jail.

21           "My father died in 1966. After this I moved to  
22 Glasgow and then London. I met my husband and we moved  
23 back to Scotland. We never had any children. My  
24 husband died almost 20 years ago."

25           The witness describes again in paragraphs 52 and 53

1 some things relating to her time in Tom Donnachie  
2 Children's Home, so I will move on to paragraph 54 and  
3 that's on page 10.

4 "I used to have terrible nightmares about Smyllum.  
5 My doctor suggested I went to a psychologist. I went to  
6 the psychologist a few times and she was very good. She  
7 has retired now.

8 "I used to meet up with some of the girls from  
9 Smyllum. I would not call them friends, just people  
10 I knew from Smyllum.

11 "I have never looked into getting my records of my  
12 time in care. I thought they would all be destroyed now  
13 as the places are closed down.

14 "We should have been looked after better. They  
15 shouldn't have been hitting people for wetting the bed.  
16 They should have been helping you more. I don't know if  
17 the staff were sufficiently trained to look after us.

18 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
19 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.  
20 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
21 true."

22 That statement was signed by the witness "Theresa"  
23 on 17th August 2017.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 Thank you very much, Ms MacLeod. That's the second

1 of the two statements we planned to read today I think.  
2 Unless you wish to persuade me to any different course,  
3 I propose to rise now until tomorrow morning and then we  
4 will resume with the evidence of a witness who will be  
5 here first of all, is that right?

6 MS MACLEOD: That is right, my Lady. We will resume with  
7 the oral evidence of an applicant in the morning.

8 LADY SMITH: And then there will be some more reading in of  
9 statements of those who aren't coming to give oral  
10 evidence, is that right?

11 MS MACLEOD: There will my Lady, yes.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. I will now adjourn until  
13 tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

14 (3.16 pm)

15 (The Inquiry adjourned until  
16 10.00 am on Wednesday, 6th December 2017)

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