

1 Wednesday, 31 October 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. I think we start this morning
4 with an oral witness; is that right?

5 MR PEOPLES: Yes. Good morning, my Lady, we do. The next
6 witness is wishing to remain anonymous and she has
7 chosen the pseudonym "Samantha".

8 "SAMANTHA" (sworn)

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

10 You'll see the microphone is on now, Samantha. That
11 will really help you to be heard and particularly help
12 the stenographers to hear you through the sound system,
13 so can you try to see that you stay in the right
14 position for that? I'll tell you if you drift away --
15 people often do -- and get you back. I will let
16 Mr Peoples explain to you what happens next.

17 Questions from MR PEOPLES

18 MR PEOPLES: Good morning, Samantha.

19 A. Hi.

20 Q. In front of you, as perhaps has just been explained,
21 there is a red folder, which contains a copy of the
22 written statement that you provided to the inquiry.
23 I will ask you to look at it in a moment, but I should
24 also say that the statement, or any other document that
25 I may wish you to look at, will also -- the documents

1 and the statement will come on the screen and feel free
2 to either use the screen or the file if I'm referring to
3 the statement.

4 If I could just begin -- and this is for the benefit
5 of the transcript -- by giving the identification number
6 we use for your statement. It's WIT.001.001.4658.

7 If I could begin by asking you to open the red
8 folder and turn to the final page in the folder; it's
9 page 4674. If you have that in front of you, could you
10 perhaps just confirm for me that you have signed your
11 statement on that page.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And could you also confirm that, so far as you are
14 concerned, you're content that your statement can be
15 published as evidence to the inquiry and that the facts
16 stated in your statement are, to the best of your
17 belief, true?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. If I could start with some general background
20 information today. Firstly, can I ask you to confirm
21 your year of birth? I don't want the date of birth.
22 Can you confirm that you were born in the year 1973?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. If we look at the first page of your statement at 4658,
25 I think you tell us that you have two older sisters.

1 A. Yes. I found out, actually, a few months ago that I've
2 got other sisters, but I've got two that was brought up
3 in Quarriers.

4 Q. And I think, as you tell us, the older sisters, one of
5 whom I think was born in 1969?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And the other in 1971?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Were put into Quarriers before you were?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. I think it's fair to say, without going into the detail,
12 we've got the statement about the background to your
13 admission. You had really no contact whatsoever with
14 your mum and dad that you could recall. You only
15 learned this from, I think, information that you've seen
16 from records or other sources; is that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I think you tell us that your older sisters -- this is
19 in paragraph 2, were -- placed in care at an early age
20 against a background of abuse and neglect by your
21 parents.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Indeed, in your case, at paragraph 4, I think you tell
24 us that you were found in a derelict building in Glasgow
25 in 1974 and taken to a homeopathic hospital in Great

- 1 Western Road, Glasgow?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. And you were less than a year old at that time; is that
4 correct?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. So far as Quarriers is concerned, if we move on to
7 page 4659 of your statement, paragraph 8, I think you
8 tell us there that you went into Quarriers when you were
9 3 years old.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Which would be 1976?
- 12 A. Uh-huh.
- 13 Q. I can tell you that so far as records that we've seen
14 are concerned, I think we have a date of admission of
15 [REDACTED] 1976. I think that would accord with your
16 recollection of the age you were when you were placed in
17 Quarriers.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. So far as the period during which you remained in
20 Quarriers is concerned, I think you stayed in Quarriers
21 until around, is it the age of 18, in 1991? Does that
22 accord with your memory?
- 23 A. Yes, 17, 18, yes.
- 24 Q. I'll maybe ask you briefly, and I don't want to look at
25 the detail at this stage, but just for a date. Can

1 I ask you to look at one document at this stage? It
2 should come up on screen. It's GLA.001.002.4216. That
3 should come on the screen in front of you. It's not in
4 the folder, so if you bear with us until we get the
5 document on screen.

6 I'll come back to this document later on in the
7 course of your evidence, but at this stage can we just
8 see there that these, I can tell you, are certain notes
9 relating to you, which were prepared by the local
10 authority, the Glasgow Local Authority. On that page
11 that's in front of you, you'll see that there's a date
12 on the left-hand side, [REDACTED] 91".

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And I think it indicates that, on or about that date,
15 there was some form of childcare review, as it was
16 called, attended by yourself and a person, Mrs [REDACTED] QAH,
17 who we'll find out more about shortly. I think she was
18 your house parent or house mother?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. It says that -- it seems to indicate that you're being
21 formally discharged from care around that time, and
22 I think you would have just turned 18 at that point.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So I think we can say that, at that point at least, it
25 seems that you were still in the care of Mrs [REDACTED] QAH --

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. -- in a particular cottage -- we'll come to that -- and
3 that at about that time you were discharged from the
4 care of the local authority, when you'd reached the age
5 of 18?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. If I could go back to your statement now to page 4660.
8 On that page you tell us a little bit about the cottage
9 that you were placed in. I think that that was --
10 sorry, if you bear with me.
11 You tell us in paragraph 10 on page 4660 that you
12 were placed in cottage number 33.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And that the -- I think they'd be termed
15 house parents -- were QAH/SPO ?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And your sisters, your older sisters, were also in that
18 cottage --
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. -- at the time you went into it.
- 21 A. But I didn't know they were my sisters at that time.
- 22 Q. Okay. You'd have gone there when you were 3,
23 approximately 3 years of age?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. You tell us that your memory is that there were perhaps

1 around 12 or 13 children in cottage 33, boys and girls;
2 is that the approximate number?

3 A. Yes, round about that, yes.

4 Q. So far as Mrs [redacted] is concerned, in paragraph 11 you do
5 tell us a little bit about Mrs [redacted]. Is what you say
6 there based on your understanding from records or
7 otherwise that Mrs [redacted] was quite young when she
8 started the job and didn't have any experience of
9 working with children? Is that something you gleaned
10 from records or was it something someone said to you?

11 A. That's what she had told -- that's what she said, like,
12 later on.

13 Q. When you were living with her in cottage 33?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And I think you certainly learned that her employment
16 background had included working in a mill in Paisley
17 before going to Quarriers; is that right?

18 A. Yes, the old mill in Paisley. She worked in there and
19 he worked in [redacted] the plumbing place, in [redacted] in
20 Glasgow. I think he was [redacted] or something.

21 LADY SMITH: It's a major engineering business. [redacted] Pumps
22 and various divisions of the [redacted] business. They were
23 a big employer.

24 MR PEOPLES: Before we perhaps go into the detailed matters,
25 you begin at paragraph 12 by really describing certain

1 feelings about being in care, that you say:

2 "It was horrible, it made me feel that no one wanted
3 me and all I wanted was a mum, a dad and family."

4 Now, is that how you felt at the time?

5 A. Yes, it was just different. It was like me and my two
6 sisters were treated sort of different. You knew that
7 there was -- like there was a difference between the
8 rest of them than us. I don't know why. I think now
9 it's because of who my birth mother was, that's what
10 I think, because my birth mother was brought up in
11 Quarriers and I think she was quite well-known.

12 LADY SMITH: When did you find that out?

13 A. That my birth mother was brought up --

14 LADY SMITH: Yes.

15 A. When everybody used to say to me, "Oh, you'll turn out
16 just like your mother", "You'll turn up just like your
17 mother", and that's all I ever got drummed into me. It
18 must have been when I was about 11 or something,
19 I remember them saying, "You'll turn out just like her,
20 you'll turn out just like your mother", but obviously
21 I didn't know what my birth mother was like so I didn't
22 know what she was like, but I was always told that
23 I would turn out like her, and then I'm nothing like
24 her, to be fair.

25 MR PEOPLES: Okay. Just in terms of the feelings that

1 you've recorded in your statement about not feeling
2 wanted by anyone and simply wanting a mum, dad and
3 family, did you tell anyone when you were in care that
4 that's the way you felt and that's what you wanted?

5 A. I was always telling people, but we were never allowed
6 to speak to social work on our own. I was never allowed
7 to -- I never had meetings with social work sort of like
8 on my own. She was always there when social work spoke
9 to us.

10 Q. That's Mrs QAH ?

11 A. Yes. She was always there. We weren't allowed to speak
12 to them -- you know, like going and speaking to someone
13 one-to-one or anything. We were never allowed to sort
14 of do that. But me and my middle sister, if you like,
15 ██████████ -- we were -- me and ██████████ always said
16 that we didn't like it. My older sister, ██████████, she had
17 more severe learning difficulties than my sister,
18 ██████████, so she was a bit brainwashed, so sort of done
19 as she was told to do, but my and my sister, ██████████,
20 we didn't like this and everything, because we were
21 always told that we would be like ██████████ -- that's my
22 birth mother.

23 Q. You mentioned -- was it considered when you were in
24 Quarriers that your older sisters had some form of
25 learning difficulties?

- 1 A. Yes. My sister, [REDACTED], went to, as they called it then,
2 a special school, [REDACTED]
- 3 Q. So she didn't go to William Quarriers School?
- 4 A. I think she went to William Quarriers School at first,
5 and then they moved her to, if you like, a special
6 school, which was in Paisley, which was a school for
7 people with learning difficulties.
- 8 Q. But she would still be living in cottage 33?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And travelling back and forth to the school?
- 11 A. Yes. She got a bus, a bus came and picked her up.
- 12 Q. Right. And your other older sister, did she stay at the
13 Quarriers school and attend?
- 14 A. Yes. She went to the Quarriers school and then we got
15 moved. I went to East Fulton in Linwood and she went to
16 Moss Edge in Linwood.
- 17 Q. Do you know the reason why both of you were moved to
18 these schools?
- 19 A. I don't know if the school shut down or whatever;
20 we were just told we were moving. We wanted to go to
21 the same school but we were told we couldn't go to the
22 same school, so she went to one primary school and
23 I went to another primary school, but the two of them
24 were in the same place.
- 25 Q. You mean actually in the same precincts or in the same

- 1 town?
- 2 A. The same town -- a village, Linwood.
- 3 Q. And you say both of you were at primary school age at
4 that stage?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Can you remember approximately what age you were when
7 this change of school occurred?
- 8 A. I don't remember going to the William Quarrier School,
9 I only remember being at East Fulton Primary. That's
10 not to say that I never went. I don't remember going
11 there.
- 12 Q. Okay. Then in paragraph 13, if I move on in your
13 statement, you say:
- 14 "Until a few years ago, you called Mrs QAH 'mum'
15 and you were told to call her mum."
- 16 A. Yes. Well, everyone called her mum, so ... A few of
17 the older ones, a few of the boys, the older boys, and
18 some of the older girls, they called her Auntie QAH.
19 My sister, [REDACTED], called her Auntie QAH, she never
20 called her mum.
- 21 Q. At all?
- 22 A. No, but when I went into Quarriers, obviously, I was
23 young so I just, like, was told: this is your mum, this
24 is your mum. So I suppose I just called her mum.
- 25 Q. I suppose for you, if you went in at the age of 3 and

1 left the cottage at the age of 18, for you Mrs QAH
2 effectively was your mum. She was the only mum you
3 knew. Would that be fair to say?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. Did you have any difficulties as the years went by in
6 calling her mum or were you content enough to call her
7 mum?
8 A. I used to call her Aunt QAH outside.
9 Q. Right. You tell us a little bit in paragraph 14 about
10 those who were in overall charge at Quarrier's Village.
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. And you mention two people in particular: Dr Minto, who
13 was in overall charge, I think, and also someone called
14 Joe Mortimer, who I think was a superintendent.
15 A. Yes. He was under Dr Minto.
16 Q. You seem to have a recollection at least that in the
17 case of both of these individuals that they would
18 regularly visit cottage 33 --
19 A. Yes.
20 Q. -- in your time; is that your recollection?
21 A. Yes. Particularly Dr Minto, he was always there.
22 He was never really -- we saw him all the time. But we
23 never really spoke to him because they went into -- as
24 you came into 33, they had their sort of living room
25 area, which we weren't allowed in. That was to the left

1 of the house. So when you came in, they went in there,
2 into the left of the house, like that was the QAH/SPO
3 sort of -- we weren't allowed in there. That was their
4 sort of living room area where they had their telly and
5 everything else. We weren't really -- but he was always
6 down, and Mr Mortimer would come down but not as often
7 as Dr Minto. They were very pally.

8 Q. The three of them were pally?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. What you're describing is that although you were aware
11 they were coming to see Mrs QAH on a regular basis,
12 they were not, as I understand it, speaking to you as
13 a child and talking to you?

14 A. We weren't allowed to talk to them. I wasn't allowed to
15 talk to anybody unless she was with me. I wasn't
16 allowed to talk to anybody. Like, you couldn't just go
17 to the main office and ask to speak to somebody because
18 she would want to know why you were going or she would
19 need to be with you. It was the same with social work:
20 you couldn't speak to social work unless she was with
21 you.

22 Q. So this sort of restriction on who you could talk to,
23 you seem to be suggesting it really came from Mrs QAH ?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And she was running things, if you like?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And was she telling you the sort of things you've just
3 said, that if you want to see anyone, you have to
4 talk --

5 A. If you were going to Dr Minto, as you were going to go
6 and see Dr Minto or a social worker, she would say to
7 you, "Why? Why? You're not going. You are not going.
8 Why? Why?" So then eventually you just don't bother.
9 You don't really bother.

10 Q. Did she ever go so far as to say you can't go and see
11 them?

12 A. I wasn't allowed to go and see Dr Minto, Mr Mortimer and
13 I wasn't allowed to talk to social work. We were told
14 we weren't allowed to talk to social work unless she was
15 with us.

16 LADY SMITH: Were there things you wanted to go and see
17 Dr Minto about?

18 A. Well, when I was about 11 or so, me and my sister
19 weren't happy because we were treated different.
20 We weren't happy. My older sister -- [REDACTED] who's my
21 older sister, but she's the middle one, she really
22 wasn't happy. Me and my sister, [REDACTED], used to sit
23 and sort of discuss things, and [REDACTED] would say,
24 "I'm going to go and see Dr Minto, I'm going to go and
25 see social work", but we were never allowed to.

- 1 LADY SMITH: Right, thank you.
- 2 MR PEOPLES: In paragraph 15, you tell us that, at least for
3 a part of the time that you were in cottage 33, it was
4 your belief that two of the girls in the house, the
5 older girls, were in fact your older sisters.
- 6 A. Yes, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
- 7 Q. And indeed that all the other children were described as
8 your foster sisters and brothers?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. How did you come to believe that the two girls that you
11 mention in paragraph 15 -- how did you come to think
12 that they were your older sisters rather than your
13 actual sisters?
- 14 A. Because I was always with them. I was kept apart from
15 my sisters, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], and I always believed
16 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were my sisters because I was told,
17 "This is your big sisters". I didn't know at the time
18 that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were my actual sisters, like my
19 real sisters, if you like. So I believed that [REDACTED]
20 and [REDACTED] were my sisters because I was told.
- 21 Q. You seem to indicate that at least your recollection
22 is that you spent a lot of time apart from your actual
23 sisters.
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Although you attribute that, I think, or it might be

1 because they were considered to have these learning
2 difficulties. Do you think that was part of the reason
3 that you were kept apart?

4 A. I don't know why I was kept apart from [REDACTED] and
5 [REDACTED]. Maybe perhaps because they had learning
6 difficulties. I don't know. But I was kept apart from
7 them and I didn't know that they were my sisters until
8 later on, they were my sisters.

9 I didn't have any relationship with my sisters until
10 sort of -- I don't have a relationship with my -- my
11 middle sister, [REDACTED], she's in America, she moved,
12 and my older sister, [REDACTED], she's brainwashed.

13 Q. By whom?

14 A. Mrs [REDACTED] QAH, which ... I contacted her two years ago and
15 then she was phoning me and things because we had been
16 left a bit of inheritance money by our birth father.
17 And I tried to contact her, so I didn't have a number
18 for her, so I contacted her son on Facebook. And
19 I asked her to phone me -- I phoned up [REDACTED] as well
20 and I said to [REDACTED], "Could you get a message to [REDACTED]
21 for me?" and [REDACTED] phoned me, I told her, and we had
22 a wee cry because she said, "You're my sister and I'll
23 always love you". Then two weeks later, I get a phone
24 call from her saying, "Mum told me that you spent all
25 the money and that you got a holiday and you bought a

1 car". I said, "What were you talking about?" "That you
2 stole all this and everything". I said, "Well,
3 I haven't, it's all with the lawyer", "Well, why would
4 mum lie?" That's Mrs QAH. And I said, "I don't know
5 if she would lie but I can assure you. Why don't you
6 phone the lawyer up and ask the lawyer? I can assure
7 you I'm not lying".

8 This went on and on and on and I said to her, "Look,
9 just phone up the lawyer. I don't know, I don't have
10 any money, I never took any money, I don't even want the
11 money, I've told the lawyer the best thing you can do is
12 to give it to a charity for children, underprivileged
13 children and children that were abused. That's the best
14 thing they can do". "I want my money, you've stole it,
15 mum told me that you've stole it, mum told me that
16 you've got a brand new car, mum told me that ..." and
17 that was it.

18 Q. Okay. Just going back to when you were in cottage 33
19 with your older sisters, you do tell us in paragraph 15
20 that you did share a room with them, a dormitory or
21 a bedroom.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Was it just the three of you or was it more?

24 A. To start off with there was -- when the house was
25 full -- there was only four bedrooms in it, so the boys

1 had their dormitory and when they all left, when they
2 all left, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] got a room of their own.
3 [REDACTED] ended up, she was in the dormitory with us, but
4 when [REDACTED] left, [REDACTED] got her own room, and us
5 three were told that we had to share a room because
6 we were sisters. But you know, because we were sisters
7 we had to share a room.

8 Q. So at some point, when you were there, you were told you
9 were sisters?

10 A. Yes, I was told that she was my sisters (sic), I think,
11 when I was about, maybe, 10/11 maybe.

12 Q. Okay. So there did come a time when you were aware
13 that --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- they were your sisters?

16 Nonetheless, even after you were aware of that, are
17 you telling us that it was still the position that you
18 didn't have a lot of time with them and that you spent
19 more time with some of the other girls you've mentioned?

20 A. Yes. I only found that they were my sisters when --
21 I got my birth certificate and then I was told by
22 Mrs [REDACTED] QAH they're not actually your sisters, they're
23 your half-sisters.

24 Q. Okay. She told you that?

25 A. Yes, because they had a different dad, but it turned out

1 that actually they didn't have a different dad. I think
2 because my two sisters had learning difficulties and
3 I didn't, then maybe that's why, because I was different
4 from the rest.

5 Q. Can I just ask you to look in this connection about --
6 look at one document. I think it's a document you in
7 fact obtained after you left care. The document is
8 WIT.003.001.5115.

9 That's a document that relates to you at a time when
10 you were in cottage 33. If I just ask you to look at --
11 it's all to do with entries made, I think by a local
12 authority social worker in 1981 --

13 A. Mm-hm.

14 Q. -- when you'd be about 8 years of age. If we look at
15 the entry, the third last on that page, it says, and
16 your name is blanked out:

17 "Samantha has reacted very favourably to the
18 decision of the case review on 20 October that she is to
19 remain with her sisters in cottage 33 and already this
20 has relieved a lot of her anxiety."

21 That might suggest that by that stage, and you are
22 aged 8, that you had some knowledge that you had two
23 sisters. Does that in any way ring a bell?

24 A. I ... I'm not sure what age I was, but I remember I was
25 a bit older getting told. The thing is, I was led to

1 believe that everybody in there was -- like [REDACTED] and
2 [REDACTED] were my sisters. We were all sort of known as
3 foster sisters or whatever, if you understand. But
4 I didn't realise that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were my real
5 sisters. It could have been then. I don't remember
6 specifically what ages I was, but I know that
7 I wasn't -- I didn't know that they were my sisters.

8 Q. At any rate, Mrs [REDACTED] QAH 's attitude was that you were
9 basically all brothers and sisters and she was your
10 mother?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Is that essentially the way she ran things?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Moving on in your statement, if I may, you tell us
15 a little bit on page 4661 about the food in cottage 33.
16 Certainly, from your point of view, you didn't like it.
17 You say the food was terrible.

18 A. If you didn't eat what was there, you didn't basically
19 eat. Every day when you got up, it was porridge.
20 A Sunday was the only day you got boiled eggs because
21 that was the Lord's day, so you got boiled eggs and
22 toast. You had to get up in the morning and come down
23 the stairs and put on -- eat your breakfast and then go
24 and put on your Sunday best. That was your church
25 clothes because it was the Lord's day. That's what

1 you -- you couldn't like wear a pair of jeans, for
2 example, you had to go respectably dressed because it
3 was the day of the Lord.

4 Q. Was that the position right until you were 18 years of
5 age?

6 A. That was it up until you left: you had to go to church.

7 Q. So whatever the teenagers wanted to do, they still have
8 to abide by those rules?

9 A. It didn't matter. You had to go to --

10 Q. And dress up in a certain way?

11 A. You got -- on an Easter Sunday, every Easter for
12 Easter Sunday you got new clothes and that would be to
13 go to the church and then you'd get your winter clothes
14 to go to the church -- like every Sunday you would have
15 to walk from the house sort of like in a line and walk
16 from the house and you would have to go into the church
17 and sit on your seat, your specific pew.

18 Q. Did that happen right up until you left?

19 A. That happened until the church closed down. We then
20 went to Linwood Baptist.

21 Q. With Mrs [redacted] QAH ?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And Mr [redacted] ?

24 A. Mr [redacted] was a [redacted], so he would go round
25 different churches, but when the Quarriers church shut

1 down, they went to Linwood Baptist Church.

2 Q. Are you able to, just by reference to the sort of age
3 you were, tell us when this change happened, going to
4 the Mount Zion church?

5 A. I think I must have been around about 12 because
6 I remember ... I remember going to the -- after the
7 church on Sunday, we had to go home and have the Lord's
8 dinner on the Sunday afternoon after the church service
9 was finished. Then we got picked up and we went to
10 Crusaders, which was in Kilbarchan. We got taken in
11 a minibus. So we went there. So I must have been about
12 12, I think, when we went to Linwood Baptist because
13 Linwood Baptist, we went there in the morning, and then
14 we came home and had the Lord's dinner in the afternoon,
15 and then we went back at night. It was 6 o'clock and
16 then, after the service at night, we had to stay and go
17 to the YF, which was the youth club, and that was up to
18 about half nine, and then we came home. And then, on
19 the Monday, it was a Bible class.

20 Q. Just going back to the food, you make the point at
21 paragraph 18 that you got the same meals every week;
22 is that your recollection?

23 A. Every week was the same. There was like a menu every
24 week. So like a Friday was fish, a Thursday might have
25 been mince or whatever. Every week was the same sort

- 1 of -- a Sunday was always the Lord's dinner.
- 2 Q. You say:
- 3 "If you didn't eat your food you got into trouble
- 4 and didn't get anything else."
- 5 What do you mean, you got into trouble?
- 6 A. We were told to eat it or we wouldn't get anything else.
- 7 So it was like, "I don't like that", "Well, you'll eat
- 8 it".
- 9 Q. What happened if you didn't eat it?
- 10 A. You got nothing.
- 11 Q. What happened the next meal?
- 12 A. If you didn't eat it -- you had to eat the food.
- 13 Q. So did you ever --
- 14 A. You had to eat it.
- 15 Q. So you don't remember saying, "Well, I'll just leave it
- 16 and wait and see what happens next time round", you just
- 17 ate it?
- 18 A. No, obviously you're hungry so you had to eat it. You
- 19 didn't have a -- it's not like with my kids, I'll say to
- 20 my kids, "What do you want to dinner?" and they'll maybe
- 21 say, "Mum, I want a pizza", or, "I'm wanting this or
- 22 that". You didn't have the choice. You got what was
- 23 put down to you. If you didn't eat it, then that was
- 24 just tough luck. That was it.
- 25 Q. So your recollection is that basically, on that basis,

- 1 people just ate what was put in front of them as best
2 they could?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. You have a memory of saying grace in the morning before
5 breakfast. Is that every morning?
- 6 A. Every single mealtime, not just at breakfast. Every
7 single mealtime. It wasn't just at breakfast, it was
8 every mealtime; we had to thank the Lord for our dinner.
- 9 Q. And you tell us in paragraph 20 what would happen if you
10 weren't praying or indeed if you talked during these
11 prayers.
- 12 A. You got sent away from the table because you
13 disrespected -- you had to -- it was a big long table,
14 so you had to sit there and sit like that (indicating)
15 and say grace. And different people would be told to
16 say it different days.
- 17 Q. You mention, and just in this regard, that if you
18 happened to use the word God in a certain way, something
19 happened to you; can you tell us about that?
- 20 A. I used to say things like, "Oh, for God's sake", or,
21 "Jesus Christ", when I got older. You daren't say that.
- 22 Q. What would happen when you did say it?
- 23 A. You would get (indicating). "Don't take the Lord's name
24 in vain."
- 25 Q. You're gesturing that a hand was used?

- 1 A. Uh-huh.
- 2 Q. And how was it used when you said things --
- 3 A. She would just clip, like, your head, "Don't take the
4 Lord's name in vain".
- 5 Q. And you say "she would"; who are we talking about?
- 6 A. Mrs **QAH**. "Don't take the Lord's name in vain", she
7 would say.
- 8 Q. You mentioned a little bit about clothing and I will
9 just at this stage maybe just ask you generally: was
10 your clothing provided for you by Quarriers or did
11 you have -- were you allowed to choose your own
12 clothing?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. You weren't?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. Did that remain the position or did there ever come
17 a time where you were allowed to choose your clothes?
- 18 A. No. We weren't allowed to wear sort of like a short
19 skirt. It had to be sort of like underneath your knees.
20 Even our school clothes, we couldn't wear what we
21 wanted. You know when you're about 13, 14, you go to
22 school and you have people in your school all wearing
23 the latest this or that, we were never allowed to.
- 24 I remember one time, it was when the Bermuda shorts
25 came out, when I was in school, and I wanted to be like

1 everybody else in school. I sneaked a pair of navy blue
2 Bermuda shorts in my bag because I had this sort of like
3 horrible black school skirt on. I sneaked a pair on and
4 I changed when I got, like, in school. I was in my
5 English class and I got -- somebody came in from the
6 office and said, "You've to go to the school office and
7 see Dr Laurie". And I thought, what have I done? And
8 there was Mrs **QAH**, she caught me. Somebody had seen
9 me changing my stuff and she came to school and took my
10 Bermuda shorts and made me put on my horrible school
11 skirt.

12 Q. So did you have to go back to the class in your skirt --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- having removed these shorts --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- you had changed into?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. At this time can you give an approximate age?

19 A. I think I must have been in second or third year.

20 I think maybe second year.

21 Q. So far as --

22 A. It was embarrassing because it was in the summer and

23 everybody had them and I just wanted to be like

24 everybody that had them.

25 Q. At this stage you would be attending a school in

1 Linwood?

2 A. No. I wasn't put to the same school as anybody. I was
3 put to, for whatever reason, I don't know, but I got put
4 to a school in Port Glasgow.

5 Q. I see, sorry. But you were in a state school in
6 Port Glasgow at this stage?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you think it was maybe second year of --

9 A. I think it was when I was in second or third year.

10 Q. And you describe a situation where a lot of the other
11 pupils at that time were wearing these shorts because it
12 was warm weather?

13 A. It was the fashion then. It was just the fashion.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. I remember the time when we went up -- I think she got
16 vouchers for -- there was a C&A in Glasgow, and me and
17 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] went up to get our
18 Sunday clothes because it was coming into winter.
19 I must have been about 10, 11, maybe younger, and there
20 was this skirt that she bought that she wanted me to
21 wear and I didn't want to wear it. It was like red, it
22 was a sort of woolly skirt, but it was patchy, so it had
23 different colours of patches on it, so it was like red
24 and then it was green and brown. It was just horrible,
25 it was awful. And [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were saying to her

1 "Oh, don't buy her that, don't buy her", and she said,
2 "No, I'm buying it for her". So I kicked off in the
3 shop and I said, "I'm not trying it on, I don't want it,
4 I'm not wearing it, it's horrible, I want to wear that,
5 I want that". And she said, "You'll get what you're
6 told to get", and she took me to the car park and
7 smacked me because I embarrassed her in the shop.

8 Q. What did she do in the car park?

9 A. She smacked my bum.

10 Q. And was that just over your clothing?

11 A. No, my pants were down and just walloped me because
12 I embarrassed her in the shop because I didn't want to
13 wear this skirt.

14 Q. She took you outside --

15 A. In the car park -- there was a big car park and she took
16 me there and she just walloped me because I said
17 I didn't want to wear that skirt. It was absolutely
18 awful, it was horrible.

19 Q. She took your pants down before she walloped you?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. How forcibly did she smack you?

22 A. It was really sore. I ended up -- I was crying and
23 I remember [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] saying to her, "She
24 doesn't want to wear that skirt, she doesn't want to
25 wear that skirt", and my sister [REDACTED] was saying,

1 "Why are you hitting her?" and it was because I didn't
2 want to wear that skirt. It was absolutely horrible.
3 They got vouchers for C&A so that's where we went for
4 most of our clothes -- I don't know whether Quarriers
5 gave them or social work or C&A gave them as charity,
6 I don't know.

7 Q. Okay. If I move on in your statement to paragraph 21,
8 the way you saw things, as you describe in paragraph 21,
9 is that you felt that your sisters and you were always
10 the black sheep in the house and treated differently
11 from others. And I think you've mentioned that already,
12 that that was your perception of things, that you didn't
13 feel that you were treated as well as some of the other
14 children.

15 I think you offer a possible reason for that
16 treatment in paragraph 21 related to your mother and her
17 background in Quarriers, is that right --

18 A. Yes. That's what we believed.

19 Q. -- and her apparent reputation in Quarriers?

20 A. Yes. But I don't really know what her reputation was.
21 From what I was told, she was a horrible, nasty person,
22 she was a drunk and that's what we were --
23 a troublemaker. That's what we were told.

24 Q. In paragraph 22, and again you're trying to get,
25 I think -- help us with your general recollections. You

1 say:

2 "Other children were allowed to do a lot more things
3 than us."

4 When you say "us", do you mean --

5 A. Me and my sisters, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

6 Q. And that:

7 "Other children were allowed to go out with pals and
8 have pals."

9 And you say you weren't?

10 A. Yes. We weren't even allowed to have a phone call. Me
11 and my sister used to dial -- I think it was 141, you
12 know, when the phone -- you dial the phone and you put
13 the phone down and the phone rings back. I think it
14 was -- 140, I think. You dial the phone, that number,
15 and you put the phone down, the phone rings. So me and
16 my sister used to do that so she would think it was the
17 phone, but we actually just put the phone down and
18 dialled our friends.

19 Q. Could I just ask you this: you mentioned already your
20 sisters were considered to have learning difficulties --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- and indeed one sister attended a special school. Do
23 you think this difference you felt was there was in any
24 way related to that situation, their difficulties, their
25 perceived difficulties?

1 A. I don't know. I just think it was our backgrounds,
2 perhaps, that I think we were just children that were
3 there for money and we were just different. We were
4 treated just different, even like we weren't allowed
5 pals over, we weren't allowed sleepovers, we weren't
6 allowed to go to the cinema with our friends or, like --
7 we didn't have McDonald's then, but just different
8 things. School trips, we weren't allowed to go on them,
9 but [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] got on them, but
10 we weren't allowed to go on the school trips.

11 Q. Did anyone explain why you weren't --

12 A. Because they didn't have enough money. But they had
13 money for [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], but they didn't
14 have fun for me and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were
15 the same age and there was two years between [REDACTED]
16 and [REDACTED]. And [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] went to the
17 same school, which was Linwood High. So when the trips
18 came along for the activity weeks, [REDACTED] got to go on
19 the trip, but [REDACTED] wasn't allowed to go on that
20 trip because they didn't have enough money for [REDACTED]
21 to go, but yet [REDACTED] got to go.

22 Q. You say they didn't have enough money; were they saying
23 that to you?

24 A. Yes, they didn't have enough money to go on that trip.
25 But [REDACTED] kicked off because [REDACTED] couldn't

1 understand why [REDACTED] was allowed to go, but she
2 wasn't allowed to go. And then I was never allowed to
3 go on any school trips.

4 Q. Okay. Just reverting back to clothing and hairstyles,
5 you deal with that matter again in paragraph 24 and say:

6 "[You] weren't allowed to get your ears pierced or
7 have stylish clothing and hairstyles and that [you] and
8 [your] sisters were dressed in horrible clothes."

9 Is that the way you saw it?

10 A. That's the way it happened. We were told that --
11 we weren't allowed -- if God wanted to give us holes in
12 our ears, we'd be born with holes in our ears, so we
13 weren't allowed to get our ears pierced when we were 16.
14 So I got my ears pierced when I was 16 and then I got
15 them done again when I was 17 two times and I got them
16 done again when I was 18.

17 Q. I think the point you're making there is that as a
18 teenager growing up --

19 A. I rebelled a wee bit.

20 Q. Just as a teenager, you felt you weren't allowed to wear
21 what you describe as fashionable clothing or have your
22 haircut in a stylish way and so forth. Is that because
23 you weren't allowed to do that?

24 A. I wasn't allowed to -- I wanted a spiral perm, you know
25 one of these spiral ones, and I wasn't allowed a spiral

1 perm. There was a hairdresser in Quarriers which
2 Dr Minto's daughter owned at the Bethesda. She said she
3 would give me a perm and I thought, oh -- I was telling
4 everybody in school I'm going to get a perm tomorrow,
5 I'll have curly hair. She gave me this perm and I don't
6 think there was any perm solution in it. It didn't look
7 like a perm and I hated it and I started crying and
8 I said, "That's not a perm", she said, "Well, that's
9 what I was told to give you".

10 Q. Who did you understand was the person --

11 A. Mrs QAH told her. Everything that we done, we had to
12 get clearance from QAH. Everything.

13 Q. You seem to be describing with these examples someone
14 that was quite a controlling individual, controlling
15 over what you wore, how your hair was styled --

16 A. Even now, and I'm 45, and she controlled my sister a few
17 years ago by saying to her by saying -- I wrote her
18 a letter. When my sister had phoned me and told me that
19 I had stolen the inheritance money, I thought I'm not
20 having any more of this, I'm absolutely sick of it.
21 I had been saying to her for years and years and years,
22 why did you treat me and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] different?
23 "Shut up, shut up." That's all you got, "Oh, shut up".

24 And I though no -- I started the letter off and I
25 said:

1 "For your information, [REDACTED] did die and for
2 your information, no, I didn't steal any money, and for
3 your information the money's with the lawyer. I went on
4 holiday before I went and I bought a new car before
5 I even knew about the inheritance money. I didn't even
6 have to contact [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] about the inheritance
7 money, I could have let a lawyer do it, but you've
8 decided to tell my sister that I stole the money.
9 You've never been there, you've always put -- we've
10 always been the black sheep. You were never there for
11 me, for my wedding, or anything. It was always [REDACTED]
12 and [REDACTED] not [REDACTED] and me. You brainwashed my
13 sister."

14 I wrote her a letter and I told her all that, put it
15 recorded delivery, and I put one through her door --
16 well, my husband did.

17 Q. What was her response?

18 A. Nothing.

19 Q. She never replied to it?

20 A. She never replied to it and I know she got it because it
21 was a recorded delivery letter and my husband worked
22 in the Chinese and he was doing deliveries in Quarriers
23 and it was late on on a Sunday night and I said to him,
24 could you just go and put that through her door, and he
25 put it through the side door and I posted the letter the

1 next day, so I know she got the letter.

2 Q. Just help me again so I'm clear. When did you send this
3 letter to her then? Not exactly --

4 A. It would have been about two years ago after -- when my
5 sister phoned me up and told me that mum had told her
6 that I had stolen the money, I decided that I had had
7 enough and I was going to write her a letter.

8 I actually met her when she was coming back to the
9 church -- she goes to the church in Bridge of Weir, and
10 it was the Co-op and I know the church is from
11 11 o'clock to 12 o'clock, and I said to [REDACTED], we'll
12 go down to the Co-op, and I had my boy with me, my son
13 -- and I said, we'll go down the Co-op and I'll sit in
14 the car park and I'll wait until she comes out the
15 church. I sat and sat and sat and I waited, and I went
16 up to her and I said, "Why are you doing all this?" and
17 she just went away.

18 Q. She didn't make a response?

19 A. No.

20 Q. If you go back to your statement on page 4663, you've
21 got a section which is headed "Physical and emotional
22 abuse by Mrs QAH". You tell us a number of things
23 that you recall happening when you were in cottage 33
24 in the care of Mrs QAH. But before you give the
25 specific examples, I think you make a general -- you

1 give a general description of how Mrs QAH was, so far
2 as you were concerned -- and you say she was quite an
3 abusive and aggressive person. Would that in your mind
4 sum her up quite well --

5 A. You didn't ever say no to or ever argue with her or
6 disrespect her in any way, honest to God. As true as
7 I'm sitting here, you just didn't do it, honest to God.

8 Q. And you say indeed you were frightened of her. Did you
9 feel frightened at the time?

10 A. Me and my sisters were terrified of her because she was
11 just -- we weren't allowed to do -- everything that we
12 done had to go through her. Everything.

13 Q. And did that sense of fear -- how long did it last? You
14 went into the cottage at age 3 and you came out at
15 age 18. For how long did you have this fear?

16 A. We had it all the time but we didn't know any different.
17 We didn't know -- it's only when you realise and you
18 grow up and you have your own family or whatever that
19 you realise all the things that happened to you weren't
20 right.

21 When I got my records 10 years ago, I went up to her
22 house and I confronted her over just about everything on
23 my records. I went up with my husband and then I went
24 back up with my daughter and everything in my records is
25 a lie. Everything.

1 Q. What did she say when you confronted her about certain
2 things that you read in your records?

3 A. I asked her why it said that social work had grave
4 concerns about me staying there and the [REDACTED] family name girls.
5 I asked her why it was they said that she was
6 manipulative, and it was all, "I don't know, that's
7 a load of rubbish, it's nonsense, nonsense, rubbish".

8 Q. I suppose when you've described Mrs [REDACTED] QAH and the
9 realisation that in your view she wasn't a nice person,
10 I suppose at the time you were living with her, having
11 been there since the age of 3, you had nothing to
12 compare it with?

13 A. I didn't know any better. I didn't know any better.
14 That was just the way it was.

15 Q. At paragraph 27 I think you give some specific examples
16 of how Mrs [REDACTED] QAH treated you. You say if you didn't do
17 what she wanted, you got sent to bed. How often did
18 that happen?

19 A. Well, later on when I turned maybe 11 or 12, I was
20 forever getting sent to my bed.

21 Q. You say:

22 "On these occasions, the lights were put out and
23 no one was allowed to come to speak to you and you never
24 really got any warning when this was going to happen."

25 Is that the way things happened?

- 1 A. The only people that were allowed in the room was me,
2 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
- 3 Q. You say there were other what you describe as:
4 "... routine punishments [in paragraph 27] involving
5 clips round the ear, small or wee nips, elbows to your
6 body and wee slaps."
7 Who was doing that?
- 8 A. Mrs QAH .
- 9 Q. What about Mr [REDACTED]
- 10 A. He was never really around, to be fair. When I was
11 there. Because he worked for -- I'm sure it was [REDACTED]
12 pumps, he worked for [REDACTED] Pumps and we remember him
13 going out in the morning and then coming back at night
14 and then, when he left there, he used to work in the
15 epileptic centre and he would work as a [REDACTED], I think
16 that's what it was, a [REDACTED] with epileptic patients.
- 17 Q. [REDACTED]?
- 18 A. No, [REDACTED].
- 19 Q. A [REDACTED]?
- 20 A. A [REDACTED]. So he had a unit up at the epileptic
21 centre up there where he would leave the house in the
22 morning and go and work with the patients and then come
23 back. And then at night, he would go up into his study
24 and he would sort of study because he was a [REDACTED]
25 and he went round about all different churches.

- 1 Q. So effectively you saw a lot less of Mr [REDACTED]?
- 2 A. Yes, but I was -- when I did see him, I was very close
3 to him. He used to take me -- like, we used to have
4 one-to-one days because I really liked the football, and
5 he was a St Mirren supporter and I was a Rangers
6 supporter, so we used to have a wee bit of banter about
7 that. She was awful jealous of the relationship that
8 I had with him because I was the only one out of
9 everyone that got to meet his family, like his sisters
10 and his dad and my cousins.
- 11 Q. Do you think Mr [REDACTED] would have known what Mrs [REDACTED] QAH
12 was doing?
- 13 A. Definitely.
- 14 Q. But did he attempt to do anything to stop it?
- 15 A. If you ask anybody, she controlled him. If you ask
16 anybody. He ... I don't think you'll hear many people
17 have a bad word to say about him, in my own honest
18 opinion. I know my sisters really don't, but he was
19 controlled by her. She, like, wore the trousers,
20 basically.
- 21 Q. Okay. You tell us at paragraph 28 on page 4663 what
22 happened when Mrs [REDACTED] QAH was brushing knots out of your
23 hair. Just tell me about that.
- 24 A. When you're getting your hair brushed and your hair's
25 tuggy, and you go, "Ow, that's kind of sore", she used

1 to go like that (indicating) with the back bit of the
2 brush -- it used to be a brown brush and it used to have
3 like metal, like spikes -- not spikes, but the comb-y
4 bit, the metal comb-y bit (indicating). "I'll give you
5 something to cry about, I'll give you something to cry
6 about." It happened all the time.

7 Q. So you're describing I think with the gestures there
8 that she would use the brush --

9 A. The back bit of the brush.

10 Q. Not the bit about the comb?

11 A. No, back bit of the -- the brush. She would go, "I'll
12 give you something to cry about. You'll sit there"
13 (indicating) --

14 Q. She would strike you on the -- it looks as if your
15 describing the side of the head?

16 A. Wherever she was brushing your head. So if she was
17 brushing it at that side, because if your hair was
18 tuggy, you know when you've got tuggy hair, when you're
19 brushing it and it's a bit tuggy, you're kind of pulling
20 it, you'd say, "That's sore".

21 Q. When you said it was sore, this was the reaction you
22 would get from Mrs. QAH and she would use this brush --

23 A. Yes, "I'll give you something to cry about".

24 Q. How many times did she strike you if this happened?

25 A. Just whenever you -- when she was pulling your hair and

- 1 you were telling her.
- 2 Q. Would it be more once or not? Was it just you said it
3 and she'd hit you once or more than once?
- 4 A. When she was pulling your hair, she'd go, "I'll give you
5 something to cry about", and then she would do it again
6 and the other part would get tuggy so she'd do it again.
- 7 Q. So on the same occasion you might be hit several times?
8 If you said ouch more than once you might be struck more
9 than once?
- 10 A. Mm-hm.
- 11 Q. You say that that happened to your sisters but did you
12 see that happen to them?
- 13 A. Yes, because we used to all have to -- when you came
14 down the stairs in the morning, there was like, as
15 I said, they had their living room and then you came
16 through and you passed and there was like a big room,
17 but we used to call it the playroom. So we used to go
18 in there and that's where you got your hair brushed.
19 That's where sort of like you had your hair brushed.
- 20 Q. When you were getting your hair brushed, what time of
21 day was this, do you remember?
- 22 A. In the morning, before you would go to school, or when
23 you were going to church.
- 24 Q. Okay. Then paragraph 29, I'll not go back to that
25 because you told us about the incident at C&A in

- 1 Glasgow. The only thing I might just take from you is
2 I think you tell us there that you actually reported
3 that matter to Social Services --
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. -- but you have not seen any reference to it in records
6 you've obtained from the Social Work Department; is that
7 right?
- 8 A. No. I phoned the social worker when I was older as
9 well --
- 10 Q. I'll come to that, but on this occasion, you're saying
11 you did tell Social Services about this incident, but
12 you've not been able to find a record of it?
- 13 A. I'm still waiting for records that I've not obviously
14 received.
- 15 Q. And then in paragraph 30 -- you think the C&A incident,
16 you said in your statement you estimate you were around
17 about 13 when that occurred.
- 18 A. Yes, 12, 13.
- 19 Q. You seem to have a recollection also of another occasion
20 when you were maybe around 14, when you say something
21 happened when you were, in your own words, being cheeky.
22 Can you tell us about that one?
- 23 A. I became a wee bit cocky, if you like, a wee bit cheeky,
24 I was kind of answering back and saying, "I'm not going
25 to do this, I'm not doing that". I was a wee bit of

1 a rebel, to be fair. I remember we had a shed at the
2 back of the house and we all used to do it, we all used
3 to sneak in and out the shed because it was really dark
4 and there were no lights in the shed. It was all -- we
5 all used to do it. We used to go out because at the
6 back of the house there was kind of like a lot of trees
7 and a lot of things like that, and we used to all go
8 down there and meet up and have a laugh, and then she
9 would always stand at the door of the shed when we were
10 coming in because she must have known that we kind of
11 sneaked out.

12 I got cheeky with her one night and she just whacked
13 me across the face.

14 Q. Can you describe how she did that?

15 A. (Indicating). A whack across the face.

16 Q. With a hand, bare hand?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. But across your face?

19 A. Mm-hm.

20 Q. And I think you tell us that you also reported that
21 incident to social work, but nothing happened?

22 A. I wasn't the only person that reported it to
23 social work. There was quite a lot of children reported
24 it to social work, or reported them through the school,
25 but nothing was done about it. I don't know why nothing

- 1 was done. I don't know whether they had to go to
2 Dr Minto first or go to her, but I wasn't the only
3 person that reported it to social work.
- 4 Q. How do you know that, that other people made reports?
- 5 A. Because I know that my sister reported it to
6 social work. My sister [REDACTED] reported it to
7 social work. I know that [REDACTED] reported it to
8 social work. I know that she had ... When I was about
9 maybe 15 she had another five children in under her care
10 and they went to Gryffe High and the teachers in
11 Gryffe High reported it to social work, and I remember
12 her saying to me that -- I had Miss [REDACTED], reported me
13 to social work for flinging a cup at her, and that
14 [REDACTED] reported me to social work. So we all
15 kind of ganged up on [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
- 16 Q. Was it Mrs [REDACTED] QAH told you that these two girls had
17 reported --
- 18 A. They also told me as well --
- 19 Q. They told you separately?
- 20 A. -- They told me as well but she told us first. She
21 would tell us first before --
- 22 Q. And the sort of reports they were making was to do with
23 her throwing some sort of crockery at them?
- 24 A. Uh-huh, throwing cups. But we weren't the only people
25 that reported her but nothing --

- 1 Q. What about your sisters? Are you able to help us with
2 what sort of reports they were making to Social
3 Services?
- 4 A. She used to get my sister [REDACTED] in the playroom and
5 get her to fight, like [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] -- or she would
6 say to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], "Give her a smack", because
7 [REDACTED] was really cheeky, really cheeky, but
8 [REDACTED] rebelled really badly. [REDACTED] had a really
9 hard time because she got really badly bullied as well
10 and everything at school, so she was really finding it
11 difficult. But my sister [REDACTED] would be able to
12 tell youse more. She ended up -- she moved to America.
13 She takes nothing to do with anybody. She doesn't even
14 like anybody mentioning Quarriers to her.
- 15 Q. This sort of situation with your older sister that
16 somehow she was getting involved in, is it some sort of
17 fight with other girls?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. At the instigation of Mrs [REDACTED] QAH ?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Is that what was happening?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Did you see this happen?
- 24 A. We were all in the living room. I used to stick up for
25 my sisters, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I used to stick up for

1 them all the time, like when I was older, I used to
2 stick up my for sisters all the time.

3 Q. Moving to page 4664, you tell us at paragraph 31 of
4 a memory of perhaps running away four times to get away
5 from Mrs **QAH**, I take it.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And you tell us that on each occasion you maybe were
8 away for two or three hours at a time.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. But you've not been able to find any record of those
11 occasions --

12 A. No. I specifically remember because I can specifically
13 remember as well I hid under a car and I was laughing
14 because she came out and it was dark and I went right
15 under her car and she couldn't find us. I heard her
16 saying, "She's gone, she's gone, where is she this
17 time?" And I couldn't stop laughing because I was right
18 underneath her car. And was laughing because
19 she could see me. But then I had to come out from under
20 the car because I heard the car starting up.

21 Q. In terms of these occasions when you ran away for two to
22 three hours at a time, you seem to be describing
23 something where you didn't go very far and you came
24 back, so it wasn't as if you made a break from
25 Quarrier's Village --

- 1 A. No, it was just a break to get away from the house.
- 2 Q. It wasn't like you ran away and went to Glasgow or ran
3 away and went somewhere else?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. It wasn't that type of running away?
- 6 A. It wasn't that. That's maybe the wrong word I used. It
7 wasn't that; I suppose it was just to get out and have
8 a bit of freedom, I suppose.
- 9 Q. In paragraph 33 you tell us that hurtful things were
10 said about your mother.
- 11 A. My birth mother.
- 12 Q. Your birth mother, yes. You recall that being said.
13 Could you just tell me the sort of things that were said
14 about your mother, your birth mother?
- 15 A. Well, as I said, I didn't know her, so I didn't know
16 what kind of person she was like, but she used to say,
17 "You'll just end up your like mother, you'll just end up
18 like her, you'll never get anywhere in life. You'll end
19 up like here, a horrible, nasty, drunk". She was ...
20 And then, "No wonder, no wonder that you were left. No
21 wonder your mother and father didn't want you. No
22 wonder ..." It was just really, really hurtful things.
23 But that's just her, she just says what she likes and
24 she can get away with things, to be fair.
- 25 Q. You say in paragraph 34 that you think that Mrs QAH

1 regarded you as a troublemaker and you say you've seen
2 records to the effect that you were described as
3 a problem child. Is that the basis on which you think
4 Mrs QAH must have seen you as a troublemaker?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What's written in the records?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Did she say that to your face?

9 A. She was just always -- she used to say a lot of things
10 to us, a lot of things to me and a lot of things -- she
11 wasn't -- you don't realise when you're younger because
12 it's the only people that -- it's like my kids. I'm the
13 only mum they've ever known, so if they want to go with
14 somebody else, they would maybe say, "Oh well, my mum
15 never done that", because you don't know when you're
16 younger because you've only been used to having like
17 a mum and dad, if you like, so you think that that's
18 just the normal behaviour.

19 Q. If I could move on to 4665, you touch upon another
20 individual at paragraph 38 that you knew of.

21 A. Oh my God.

22 Q. You mention there John Porteous.

23 A. Mm-hm.

24 Q. And you say you were scared of him. Can you describe
25 why you felt that way towards him?

1 A. He always walked -- I can remember that he always walked
2 in Quarriers with his hands behind his back. He was
3 always prowling about. But he wouldn't walk, he would
4 sort of like (indicating), you know, that kind of thing.
5 And when he was looking at you, he would always sort of
6 like undress you. That sort of thing.

7 He just was a horrible, horrible person. He was
8 just creepy. I didn't like him. He was always there,
9 no matter where you were. Not me in particular, but no
10 matter where children -- he always seemed to be -- he
11 was just a horrible person.

12 Q. At paragraph 40 on page 4665, I think you describe
13 a situation where you were being bullied at school and
14 that you tried to tell Mrs QAH about that.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What was --

17 A. I was really badly bullied at school because I didn't
18 have any family and I was brought up in a home. I was
19 really badly bullied at school. I used to tell her
20 because I used to have to give my dinner money away to
21 people and do people's punishment exercises because
22 I didn't want to get battered in school, and I used to
23 tell her and I used to say I wasn't well and I didn't
24 want to go to school, so I used to kind of skip off of
25 school and then I used to tell her that I was getting

1 bullied. I told [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I was getting
2 bullied at school and they tried to say to her that
3 I was getting bullied and then there was a karate class
4 on a Monday night in Port Glasgow about 8 o'clock. Once
5 I came back from the youth club, the YF, the Bible
6 class, sorry, I used to go there with [REDACTED] and do
7 karate and then -- but she never listened whether
8 we were getting bullied or not. She didn't care whether
9 I was getting bullied.

10 Then I remember when I was in third year, this girl,
11 [REDACTED], she bullied the life out of me,
12 constantly, constantly, and I just lost the plot with
13 her when I was in third year and I battered her when I
14 was in third year and it was a Friday and I went home
15 and I said to her, "I've to go to Dr Laurie's office on
16 Monday morning and you have to come because I was
17 fighting after school", and that was just a whole big
18 rigmarole because I had embarrassed her for fighting,
19 but I said, "I've had enough, I've had enough, I can't
20 take any more of this, I've had enough", and she came
21 with me to the school on the Monday and I told Dr Laurie
22 that I'd had enough, but after I battered the girl,
23 I never got any more trouble.

24 Q. Mrs QAH, when she heard of this, did she show any kind
25 of sympathy or try to talk to you --

1 A. No, nothing. It was me. Even though I used to take
2 money because I used to get told to give the people in
3 the school money, like [REDACTED]. I used to have
4 to give them money. We didn't get money for school, we
5 got dinner tickets. So I used to take money because
6 I had to give them money because if I didn't give them
7 money, I would get battered and I had to do their
8 punishment exercises, but I just had had enough when
9 I was in school. When I was in third year, I just had
10 enough.

11 Q. Can I move to page 4667, where you tell us a little bit
12 about contact with social services, that's the external
13 social workers I think you've mentioned earlier today.
14 Your recollection at paragraph 49, I think, is that you
15 didn't see a lot of the social workers from outside,
16 from Glasgow --

17 A. Yes, we never really seen them much, but we weren't
18 allowed to talk to them anyway.

19 Q. Because you --

20 A. I remember a Robert Winters. That's about the only
21 social worker that I can -- I don't know why his name
22 sticks in my head, but that's the only social worker
23 that I can remember.

24 Q. You see at paragraph 50:

25 "I remember being told that the social worker was

1 coming and I had to be on my best behaviour and keep my
2 mouth shut."

3 Who was telling you that?

4 A. Mrs QAH . We weren't allowed to talk to social work
5 without her being there.

6 Q. You tell us that:

7 "When they visited, Mrs QAH would make out you'd
8 been doing things that you weren't allowed to do."

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you give us an example: going out with pals.

11 A. Mm-hm.

12 Q. Then at paragraph 53 on page 4668, this is going back
13 to, I think, the incident you told us about earlier
14 today when Mrs QAH smacked you across the face when
15 you were 14 years of age and you told us that you
16 reported that matter to Social Services. You say:

17 "They spoke to her but nothing happened."

18 You wouldn't presumably be aware of what, if any,
19 discussion took place between the social workers and
20 Mrs QAH after this incident you've talked about?

21 A. I just know that they came down and they spoke to her,
22 but they spoke to her quite a lot to be fair, they spoke
23 to her quite a lot. I don't think you're understanding
24 that we weren't allowed to talk to social work on our
25 own.

1 When social work came round, we were always smartly
2 dressed and we were ... smartly dressed and -- what's
3 the word I'm looking for? Sort of like as if we were in
4 a really happy place and really ... we were enjoying
5 ourselves. A lot of things that she was saying that
6 we were doing, we weren't doing.

7 Q. How did you manage to report to social services this
8 incident though?

9 A. I phoned them.

10 Q. You phoned them? Okay. Then someone came down, but
11 they didn't speak to you?

12 A. I phoned them and I told them and nothing was done about
13 it. Nothing was ever done about whatever. See, because
14 this is what annoys me, because of the type of person
15 people think she is, then she gets away with a lot of
16 things because everybody's a liar apart from her because
17 that's just the way it was always. It was always the
18 people in Quarriers, it was always the same.

19 John Porteous, Bill Dunbar, Mrs QAH, the QBS/QBT.

20 They seemed to get away with quite a lot of things.

21 I don't understand, but they seem to get away with loads
22 of things.

23 Q. Just on this matter of reporting, I'll just take from
24 you at paragraph 56, if I may, that you have seen
25 certain records and you say your records show that you

1 reported Mrs QAH to Social Services in 1990 when you
2 were about 17 years of age.

3 A. Mm-hm.

4 Q. You phoned and told them she'd hit you and had been
5 saying hurtful things to you about your mother, your
6 birth mother, and you don't recall anything happening as
7 a result of that report. Is that the position so far as
8 you're aware?

9 A. That's right, mm-hm.

10 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, I wonder if this is a convenient time
11 to have a short break because I think I'm reaching
12 a natural point to maybe look at some documents.

13 LADY SMITH: Very well. Let's take the morning break now.
14 We'll resume in about 15 minutes or so.

15 (11.21 am)

16 (A short break)

17 (11.40 am)

18 LADY SMITH: Are you okay, Samantha? Ready to carry on?

19 Mr Peoples.

20 MR PEOPLES: Samantha, can I just ask you about two matters
21 at this stage? Are you aware of whether Mrs QAH kept
22 any kind of record of your care in cottage 33? Did she
23 have any folder or file that you were aware of?

24 A. We had a -- it was like an orange photo album with stuff
25 in it that was designed for us, but I never got that.

- 1 Q. No, I wasn't really thinking of that, I was thinking
2 more of like a log or a record that someone like
3 Mrs QAH as a house parent would have been writing up.
- 4 A. I don't know if she had one or not.
- 5 Q. You didn't see anything if she did?
- 6 A. I don't know if she had one or not.
- 7 Q. When you turned 16, were you ever offered the option of
8 going to the hostel in Quarrier's Village? I think
9 there was a hostel unit, we understand, at some point in
10 Quarriers within the village.
- 11 A. No, I was never offered that. I applied for a council
12 house -- I'm not sure when I moved into it, but my first
13 place after Quarriers was [REDACTED] Renfrew.
- 14 Q. Don't worry, I just wanted to check. I think we're
15 aware generally that, certainly at some point, Quarriers
16 established a hostel within the village.
- 17 A. Yes. It was in the main part, the middle of the village
18 at the back.
- 19 Q. And older children in preparation perhaps for leaving
20 the village and maybe going into the wider world may
21 have spent a period there, but you didn't do that and
22 you weren't offered that?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. Okay. Can I perhaps just then look briefly at some
25 records, if I may. Could I have in front of you

1 GLA.001.002.4207. This is a record which appears to
2 have been written by, we think, a social worker from the
3 local authority, and the entries here appear from the
4 dates in this document to be around 1985/1986. You'd be
5 about 11 or 12 years old at that stage.

6 I just want to start with this page, 4207, and
7 scroll down towards the bottom. The writing's not maybe
8 that easy to make out. I think this is a record you've
9 seen. Is it? Do you recognise this? Maybe not.
10 Perhaps not.

11 A. No.

12 Q. I'll just read you what it says at the bottom of that
13 page going on to the following page, 4208. It says --
14 this is writing in 1985 when you're about 11 years of
15 age, Samantha. The writer says:

16 "There is frankly little scope for social work
17 input, certainly not in the foreseeable future and
18 indeed the agreed social work input at the present is
19 monthly visiting only. When I first contacted the
20 girls, I could only see them if I was prepared to give
21 an assurance that they could not be fostered."

22 Moving to page 4208:

23 "This request came from Mrs QAH, the house mother,
24 who seemed to have made the girls very uptight about
25 leaving Quarriers."

1 Do you see that?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Then if we go down a little bit on that paragraph
4 towards the end of that paragraph on page 4208, there's
5 another entry that reads -- and this is in reference,
6 I think, to you and your sisters:

7 "They always tended to be heavily chaperoned by
8 Mrs QAH and had been conditioned into thinking of
9 fostering as something akin to transportation."

10 Do you see that?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Then if we move on to page 4210 of this record, about
13 two thirds of the way down, we're now in 1986,
14 April 1986, where there's some form of review taking
15 place involving the Local Authority. We see there's
16 a paragraph that starts:

17 "The social worker and the senior social worker have
18 concerns about the placement, but agree the children
19 have been totally absorbed/institutionalised and
20 previous attempts to alter or discourage this have
21 failed."

22 Do you see that?

23 A. Yes. I haven't seen any of these before, so I'm reading
24 it.

25 Q. And I think you were about 13 by that time, Samantha --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- when this record was written.

3 Then if we go on to page 4212, we've now got some
4 typed notes. Again, moving down to two thirds of the
5 way down, these notes appear to have been written by
6 a local authority social worker in 1988. I think
7 there's a date to that effect towards the bottom
8 right-hand corner. I'll just read you what it says:

9 "Repeatedly, childcare reviews have confirmed that
10 visits should be on a statutory basis. That is, one
11 visit every 3 months. A childcare review is held on
12 a 6-monthly basis. This is basically on the basis of
13 fulfilling our responsibility. The reality is that
14 Mrs QAH deals with everything on a day-to-day basis
15 and makes all appropriate arrangements for the children.
16 I have been unable to visit three-monthly, in fact, but
17 successive seniors have been aware of this and because
18 of the low priority of the case and the lack of focus
19 for the case worker, it has been accepted that visits
20 have not been possible, as agreed."

21 So that has been written then and I think you'd be
22 about 15 years of age at that time.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Then if I could ask you to look at another page,
25 page 4213. Again, I think we're still in 1988 and these

1 are handwritten notes by a local authority
2 social worker. We see there's an entry on
3 6 October 1988, where the social worker appears to have
4 called as planned to introduce himself or herself to
5 **QAH/SPO** and the girls. That's yourself and
6 your sisters:

7 "Mrs **QAH** at home alone on my arrival. She was not
8 very welcoming and I had to make a great deal of effort
9 to keep conversation going."

10 Do you see that?

11 A. Mm-hm.

12 Q. Then if we move about halfway down that page, there is
13 another sentence which reads:

14 "Mrs **QAH** stated that they had been forced to
15 attend the last review and had not liked the
16 experience."

17 So she was saying that to the local authority
18 social worker.

19 A. But that's what she done, though. We weren't allowed --
20 as I explained, we weren't allowed to speak to
21 social work or anything. We just went with the flow,
22 really.

23 Q. I think, if I go on in that page towards the foot, it
24 says that:

25 "[Your sisters], who attend the same college [this

1 is 1988] came home together and were very chatty towards
2 me. When I discussed review with them, they were quite
3 eager to attend, which Mrs QAH said surprised her.
4 Samantha arrived and was not very forthcoming with me.
5 She did not seem keen on attending review, but this was,
6 I think, due to Mrs QAH 's interference in discussion
7 as Samantha was almost told by Mrs QAH that she
8 shouldn't attend review."

9 Does that accord with the way Mrs QAH was?

10 A. That's what I've been trying to say. That's what I've
11 been telling youse. We weren't really allowed to talk
12 to them or speak to them. My sisters wanted to, but we
13 always kind of -- "Why do you want to talk to them, why
14 do you want to speak to them?" It was always -- she
15 always had to be there and you had to watch what you
16 said and what you done and the way you acted as if
17 everything was rosy.

18 Q. It might be said, I suppose, that what the social worker
19 was getting was Mrs QAH 's voice, not yours?

20 A. Yes, that's what I've said: we were not really allowed
21 to speak to them.

22 Q. If I just move on in this bundle of documents that
23 we have before us, at page 4215 we have here some
24 handwritten notes by a social worker and we're now in
25 late 1990, and you're aged 17 by now, Samantha.

- 1 A. Mm-hm.
- 2 Q. Do we see there at the top of page 4215 the
3 social worker's received a phone call from you. You
4 were working then, I think, at that stage.
- 5 A. I was at a placement thing in Johnstone. It was a kind
6 of, sort of like a YTS sort of thing, where you go and
7 you did sort of typing and ... It was in Johnstone, in
8 one of the back streets in Johnstone.
- 9 Q. I think the social worker records about this call
10 that -- she records that:
11 "Samantha's unhappy at home, has been thinking about
12 leaving. She feels that the difficulties with her
13 mother over a long period have got to a serious stage.
14 She says that her mother has hit her, has threatened to
15 phone her employer ..."
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. "... has kept her in and has made hurtful references to
18 her real parents."
- 19 Is that the sort of thing you reported at that time?
- 20 A. Yes. That's what I've been -- that's what happened.
- 21 Q. Indeed, to some extent, you seem concerned that I think
22 that a relationship you were having at that stage --
23 it's recorded that you state that your mother has ended
24 all previous relationships that you were having with
25 other persons; is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Towards the foot of that page at 4215, it appears that
3 the social worker is recording that:

4 "It was agreed between us [I think that's perhaps
5 between you and the social worker] that since Samantha
6 has made serious allegations about her mother [that's
7 Mrs QAH], I should hear the mother's version."

8 A. Mm-hm. And I was a liar, that never happened.

9 Q. Then if we pass on to page 4216 of these notes, we're
10 going towards the end of your period in care, this was
11 the page we looked at earlier today. It seems that the
12 matter continued on [REDACTED] 1990 -- well, it says:

13 "The phone call was followed up by a visit to
14 Samantha, followed by a visit to [an address in
15 Linwood]."

16 I think that's perhaps where you --

17 A. That was her mum's house. That's where she went for her
18 days off, was [REDACTED] Linwood.

19 Q. There seemed to be a visit to the QAH/SPO property
20 following this report?

21 A. Mm-hm.

22 Q. It's hard to read the next sentence. It says:

23 "The responsibilities of the department and my
24 [something] of the responsibilities was given over [or
25 'was told', I think] and the three of them left to get

1 on with things."

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. By "the three of them", does she mean you --

4 A. Me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

5 Q. And then on 1 August --

6 LADY SMITH: Is it "my version of their responsibilities"?

7 MR PEOPLES: I think it's "version", probably. It's hard to

8 make out. Yes.

9 But the upshot is the social worker seems to be

10 saying the three of them are left to get on with things.

11 You think "the three of them" was a reference to you and

12 yours sisters --

13 A. Me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. We were the only ones that,

14 when we left, if you like, were just left, like ...

15 [REDACTED] moved to Erskine, I moved to Renfrew, and

16 [REDACTED] moved to -- [REDACTED] stayed there until she got

17 married and she moved away to Inverkeithing in Fife.

18 Q. Given the date of that entry and that call, it wasn't

19 long after that that I think you did leave.

20 A. I left. The council got me a house in

21 [REDACTED] Renfrew. It was a wee

22 one-bedroomed flat. When I left, I didn't get anything.

23 I got a community care grant and that basically that's

24 how I started off. I didn't even have a lot of clothes.

25 I wasn't allowed to take any pictures or any, like my

1 photo album or anything. I wasn't allowed to take any
2 of that with me. So I basically left with a black bin
3 bag, got the house, and the community care grant people
4 furnished it and decorated it.

5 Q. Okay. So you left shortly after this report, and we've
6 seen there was some sort of visit to Mrs QAH .

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Just before I deal with Mrs QAH and how she has
9 actually responded to the things you've said in your
10 statement, I'll give you a flavour of her response in
11 a moment, but did you have happy times with Mrs QAH in
12 cottage 33? You've mentioned all the things that
13 obviously -- your experiences that were not good
14 experiences for you. But were there times when the
15 relationship was okay and that you got on all right and
16 she treated you well or not?

17 A. She tended to treat us better when there was other
18 people around, to be fair. I suppose you could say it
19 wasn't always bad, if you like. I suppose you could say
20 that it wasn't always bad. I mean, we had things, we
21 went swimming and we went to the gymnastics, we went to
22 the Fuzzy-Wuzzy Club. We done Hallowe'en parades,
23 Thanksgiving was in September. There was quite a lot of
24 fun times, if you like. So we could say it wasn't
25 always bad.

- 1 Q. Okay. I'm just going to put to you Mrs QAH 's --
- 2 A. I can imagine what she said, so --
- 3 Q. I'll just put it to you, if I may, and I'll take
4 a number of points that she seeks to make in her
5 response to the evidence that you've given today and in
6 your statement.
- 7 Firstly, her position is that she brought you up and
8 indeed, I think, your sisters as if you and they were
9 her own children. That's I think that she's telling us.
- 10 A. I've got two children and I wouldn't bring them up the
11 way she brought me up.
- 12 Q. Secondly, her position is that she always told you,
13 Samantha, who your sisters were.
- 14 A. No, she never.
- 15 Q. She also says in relation to the question of difference
16 of treatment that you and your sisters were treated the
17 same way as all the other children.
- 18 A. No, we weren't.
- 19 Q. In relation to discipline, in particular corporal
20 punishment or using her hand or other implements, her
21 position is she has never once lifted her hand to any
22 child. What do you say to that?
- 23 A. I say she's a liar. I have no reason to lie. I've
24 asked her on many occasions, for years and years and
25 years and years, I said to her, my sisters said to her,

1 and I know that there's other children that have said to
2 her, I know that there is other children that were
3 brought up in her house that have asked her the same
4 questions. And she's told every one of them that
5 they're a liar. And as true to God as I sit here, she's
6 a liar.

7 Q. I will just put the rest of what she says for your
8 comment. She actually says that people -- she can
9 recall people saying hurtful things about your mother,
10 but she wasn't one of them.

11 A. Yet again, she's a liar.

12 Q. I think she says she never referred to you as a problem
13 child, but that maybe something you've picked up from
14 the records. I think you did say she never said to your
15 face --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. She doesn't recall you running away, but again, I think
18 you indicated what you meant by running away --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- so you may not be at odds with each other on that
21 point.

22 As regards allegations that were reported to the
23 social worker, her recollection is that no social worker
24 spoke to her about an allegation that she hit you. That
25 is the one I think we've seen in the records. She says

1 a social worker didn't raise the matter with her. You
2 won't be able to tell.

3 A. I reported it, so I can't tell you whether they did or
4 whether they didn't, to be fair.

5 MR PEOPLES: That's really all the questions I think I've
6 got for you, Samantha. All I would just add is to
7 thank you very much for coming today and giving your
8 evidence about your experiences as a child in care at
9 Quarrier's Village.

10 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
11 questions of this witness? No.

12 Samantha, there are no other questions for you
13 today. As Mr Peoples has already indicated, we're very
14 grateful to you for coming along to add your evidence to
15 the written statement you've already provided.

16 Thank you for all of that and I'm now able to let you
17 go.

18 A. Thank you.

19 (The witness withdrew)

20 LADY SMITH: Yes, Mr Peoples.

21 MR PEOPLES: The plan is to have some reading in, but
22 perhaps we could have five minutes just to sort that
23 out. Ms Rattray will be dealing with the read-ins.

24 LADY SMITH: Just five minutes?

25 MR PEOPLES: Yes.

1 (12.02 pm)

2 (A short break)

3 (12.06 pm)

4 LADY SMITH: Yes, Ms Rattray, when you're ready.

5 Witness statement of THOMAS HAGAN (read)

6 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady. This is a statement of an

7 applicant, Thomas Hagan, who has waived his right to

8 anonymity. Mr Hagan's statement can be found at

9 WIT.001.001.1491:

10 "My name is Thomas Bremner Hagan and I was born in

11 1936. I am 80 years of age. My contact details are

12 known to the inquiry.

13 "I have no recollection of anything before I was put

14 into care. I don't know where we lived but I know from

15 the records that Ayr Council put me into

16 Quarrier's Village near Bridge of Weir on 24 March 1938

17 because my mum fell on hard times and she could not look

18 after me and could not cope.

19 "I don't remember arriving at Quarriers but

20 I remember there were massive cottages and the girls and

21 boys were separated and lived in different cottages.

22 I think there were about 13 or 14 cottages and there

23 were about 70 children in each cottage. The kids were

24 aged between two and probably about 16. The girls and

25 boys lived in separate cottages.

1 "In the grounds there was also a school and
2 a church, and a big building called 'central', and
3 people were working in there, but I don't know what they
4 were actually doing.

5 [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED] I remember a couple called QKJ/QKK
7 were the house parents for number 25 and the QAB/QCL
8 were the house parents for number 34. There was no
9 other staff in the cottage, although someone would fill
10 in if they were on holiday. I slept in a dormitory with
11 about eight or nine other boys.

12 "I think when I first went there at two years old,
13 I was in a kindergarten and then at some point went to
14 cottage 34 with the QAB/QCL. After I went to the
15 sanatorium for two and a half years, I went to live with
16 QKJ/QKK in cottage 25."

17 My Lady, Quarriers' records state that Mr Hagan was
18 admitted on 24 March 1938 and that he was discharged to
19 the sanatorium on 7 December 1943. He was readmitted on
20 24 July 1944 and then discharged to his mother on
21 11 April 1952:

22 "We got up just after 6 o'clock and had our
23 breakfast. I remember waiting in a big long line in the
24 morning for my breakfast and we sat round a big table to
25 eat it if we got any. We didn't get a big breakfast,

1 maybe some porridge or a sandwich or something.

2 "After breakfast and before we went to school at
3 9 o'clock we did some scrubbing and polishing or did the
4 bed mats or cleaning or other chores. We went back to
5 the cottage for our dinner.

6 "After school, I went to work with an old man who
7 came from a nearby town and we used to chop up wood
8 in the stick shed and then tie it into bunches. We
9 never got paid for this because we weren't allowed any
10 money at all in the orphanage. Nobody had any money.

11 "At night-time when we were in our beds, someone
12 would come round and put the lights out.

13 "The food was not very good at Quarriers. Sometimes
14 you might just get a slice of bread and butter for your
15 tea if you were lucky.

16 "At mealtimes, the house parents sat in a different
17 room at a different table and they had all the best food
18 compared to us. There was a boy who had finished at
19 school who came in to do the cooking for us.

20 "We didn't have our own clothes and we just had to
21 wear what they gave us. We were not allowed to wear
22 hats and scarves. We were given tackety boots and rough
23 gear. Our names were not on any of the clothes. Our
24 hair was shaved off and we were like convicts.

25 "We went to church. We had to hold hands on the way

1 there and we could not choose not to go.

2 "I went to school but I missed out a lot because of
3 all the beatings. I just was not picking anything up
4 when I was there. When I went to the sanatorium for two
5 and a half years I didn't go to the school at all.
6 I had to self-teach myself how to read. The teachers at
7 the school were okay, I suppose. We didn't get any
8 practical work to help us when we left.

9 "I just remember when we were bathing we would all
10 be told to undress and stand in a line and wait. There
11 was only one bath. When it was our turn, two other boys
12 had big floor scrubbers and they would scrub your legs
13 in the bath. Mrs QCL told them what to do. Your
14 legs got all red when you were in the bath. We got a
15 bath nearly every day after school.

16 "We didn't really get any leisure time or playtime.
17 We didn't have any books, comics, toys, not even
18 a radio. We did play a wee bit of sport, but I was not
19 very good. I liked playing football, but we didn't get
20 to do it very often.

21 "I never got taken anywhere on holiday when I was
22 there and we didn't go on any day trips or anything like
23 that.

24 "At Christmastime they tried to make it look good
25 for the visitors and put a couple of Christmas trees up

1 in the church. We would get a present on Christmas Day,
2 but after two weeks ██████████ QKJ/QKK would just throw the toys
3 one at a time into the fire. We got things like board
4 games, snakes and ladders, and things like that.

5 "We didn't get any special food on Christmas Day,
6 not even an orange or an apple. We might have got an
7 orange and apple in our stockings, but the older boys
8 would replace them with a set mousetrap so it would snap
9 your fingers.

10 "They didn't celebrate our birthdays, no cards or
11 presents. In fact, they didn't even tell you when it
12 was your birthday.

13 "There was a hospital on the grounds that we went to
14 if we were not well. There were no regular medicals or
15 anything like that. We didn't go to a dentist and they
16 didn't even give us a toothbrush. That is why we lost
17 our teeth.

18 "Apart from the time I was taken to the sanatorium,
19 I never had to go and see anyone because of any
20 injuries. They covered things up so that no one knew
21 what was going on.

22 "For a while I was going back and forward to the
23 hospital within the grounds because I was having
24 problems breathing. I was telling them that they were
25 giving me cold baths and I burst out crying. I was

1 hysterical and I told them all about it.

2 "I used to run away from the orphanage but didn't
3 get very far because the police picked us up at the
4 nearby towns, maybe in Kilmacolm, which was the nearest
5 town. I ran away because of the beatings. I used to
6 get beaten when we went back to the orphanage. Nobody
7 ever asked why I ran away.

8 "There was one time when I was about 15 years old.
9 I didn't really run away but I hid in the loft of the
10 cottage next door and I hid there for a month. The
11 other kids used to pass food to me through the wee
12 window. I could have stayed there longer. When I came
13 down, I got another hammering from the QAB/QCL

14 "Every Saturday it was visitors' day for those that
15 were allowed to have visitors. I never had any visitors
16 and my mum never visited me all the time I was in there.
17 When other kids had visitors we were not allowed to
18 speak to their visitors and we had to just sit with our
19 arms folded all the time like dummies.

20 "No one ever came to inspect us as far as I'm aware.

21 "There was no written rules and they just pleased
22 themselves. They belted us when they wanted. This
23 didn't just go on in the cottages I was in, but I didn't
24 see it happening. I just got told that it was going on.

25 "The house parents had full control over us. If you

1 were late for school, you would get the belt. By the
2 time you got back to the cottage at the end of the day
3 after school, the school would have phoned the
4 house parents and told them so you would get beaten
5 again.

6 "If you were sitting at the table at lunchtime and
7 you didn't like the food, you would get walloped on the
8 face from behind until you ate it.

9 "At supper time if you had not done your chores or
10 if you had holes in your socks, you would just get sent
11 to your bed and you didn't get anything to eat or drink.

12 "I started to wet my bed when I was about 4 or 5.
13 In the mornings, because I wet my bed, Mr QAB used
14 to drag me out of my bed, remove my bedclothes, pin me
15 to the floor with his foot, then beat me with a heavy
16 leather belt. The belt had two tongues and he used to
17 beat me on my bare backside. He then put me in a bath
18 of cold water right up to my neck and left me in there
19 for ages. He would go away and then come back and make
20 me tramp on the sheets that I had wet. I was freezing
21 and my legs were red and blue.

22 "He did this to me every morning because I would wet
23 the bed nearly every night. I would lie in my bed
24 in the morning, scared and shaking, waiting for him to
25 come in to batter me.

1 "Because of the cold baths, I was having problem
2 with my breathing and I was going back and forward to
3 the hospital within the grounds. In the hospital I told
4 them about the cold baths and what Mr QAB was doing
5 to me. I told them to come in some time and they would
6 see for themselves.

7 "One day someone from the hospital, I can't remember
8 who it was, came into the cottage through the back way
9 when I was in the bath. Mr QAB was upstairs. She
10 felt the water and it was cold. She got me out the bath
11 and tried to warm me up in lukewarm water in a foot
12 basin, but I just collapsed and it was then I got taken
13 into hospital, then got transferred to the sanatorium
14 the next day. I think I was about 4 or 5 when this
15 happened. I was in the sanatorium for about two and
16 a half years.

17 "When I was in the hospital waiting to get
18 transferred to the sanatorium, Mr QAB appeared.
19 He was wearing a bunnet and the staff didn't notice him.
20 He was pretending he was bleeding the radiators. He
21 came up to my bed and I hid under the sheets. He said,
22 "Wait until you get you". I never told anyone about
23 this.

24 "The sanatorium was just outside the orphanage. It
25 was separate from the orphanage. I went into

1 a sanatorium for two and a half years, then when I came
2 out, I went to [REDACTED] in cottage number 25.

3 "When I got out of the sanatorium I was still
4 wetting the bed and [REDACTED] used to belt me on my
5 hands on the tiles and then make me tramp my wet sheets
6 in the bath in cold water.

7 "Everyone used to get a penny poke of sweets but
8 I never got one because I was a bed-wetter. Sometimes I
9 would be dying for a sweetie but I never got one. Mine
10 were just thrown in the bucket.

11 "When you were in your bed at night, you weren't
12 allowed to speak or make a noise or they would come in
13 and you would get the belt.

14 "In the house when we were putting our boots on
15 in the morning in the open shed, Mrs [REDACTED] would come in
16 and she would ask who was talking, then she would belt
17 us. She would make us put our hands over the tiles
18 in the bathroom and when she belted us, our hands would
19 stot off the tiles. That's why the boys called it
20 'stotting off the tiles'. I think I was about 8 at that
21 time and this happened quite a lot.

22 "Mrs [REDACTED] gave one boy a real beating when we were
23 in cottage 25 at the bottom of the stairs and she was
24 hitting him everywhere on his body with a big
25 two-tongued belt. He had not done anything. He then

1 had some sort of seizure and collapsed. I remember
2 Mrs QKK face went chalk white and the boy was rushed
3 to the hospital in the grounds.

4 "I remember one boy who was in cottage 34 who got a
5 terrible beating one day from the QAB/QCL. I saw him
6 getting the beating. He was about 12 years old. His
7 dad came to visit him, I think it was the day after the
8 beating, and I told him he should tell his dad. His dad
9 came and took him for a walk round the grounds and
10 checked him for bruises. There was a big row in the
11 office after that, and his dad straightaway took him
12 away from Quarriers.

13 "You were not allowed out of the gates and we were
14 confined to the grounds. You were not really allowed
15 out in the grounds either especially anywhere near the
16 girls' cottages.

17 "I saw others in my cottage getting belted on the
18 back of the legs. When I spoke to the boys in the other
19 cottages, they used to tell me that it was happening to
20 them too.

21 "I felt it was like a prison camp and the QAB/QCL
22 and QKJ/QKK were terrible.

23 "The QAB/QCL had at least two sons who sometimes
24 came to the orphanage at the weekends and they used to
25 bully us. One time they tried to make a boy run but he

1 didn't want to, so they dragged him to the ground and
2 pulled him along and his knees were all grazed.

3 "I can't think of any happy memories or good
4 experiences in the Quarriers cottages. I just remember
5 crying most of time. I had no visitors to look forward
6 to. I had nothing to look forward to.

7 "When I was running away, I would tell people in the
8 villages nearby what was going on in the cottages and
9 they saw how nervous and shaky I was and they said it
10 sounded terrible but it never went anywhere. I never
11 really told anyone else, apart from other people after
12 I had left the home and when I moved into digs.

13 "We could never tell anyone when the visiting was on
14 at the orphanage because we were not allowed to speak to
15 any of the visitors. We just had to sit with our arms
16 folded. There was no one else in the orphanage that we
17 could tell.

18 "If you tried to tell Mr QBK
19 anything he would just give you the belt. Then he would
20 tell your house parents and you would get beaten again.
21 They would always cover things up.

22 "I was interviewed by the police in March 2011 just
23 after the Time To Be Heard forum. I was contacted the
24 next day after I spoke to the police and I was told that
25 they were all dead, so there was nothing they could do.

1 I told them that I was still alive and I still had to
2 carry this burden with me. I also spoke at the National
3 Confidential Forum but I have heard nothing from the
4 government after these forums.

5 "I didn't really know what was happening when I was
6 getting beaten all the time. I just suffered the pain
7 and got on with it. I think I could have died when
8 I was in the cold baths and could have gone under the
9 water at any time.

10 "Because of the beatings, I get very, very nervous
11 and I shake a lot. I still go to my doctor's because of
12 my nerves. I was shaking like a leaf when I left the
13 cottages.

14 "I never got a proper education when I was at
15 Quarriers, so when I left I could not apply for any jobs
16 because I could not fill in the forms. A lot of jobs
17 went past me because I could not apply. For a lot of
18 years I could not read and write and I lost a lot of
19 jobs because I was too embarrassed to tell anyone
20 I could not read and write. After I left the orphanage,
21 I have tried to self-teach myself to read and write, but
22 my spelling is still not very good. I had to stick to
23 labouring type jobs.

24 "Because of what happened to me, this has had
25 a serious effect on my confidence and I am not good at

1 speaking to other people, especially people that I do
2 not know. I get very nervous and shaky. I have
3 difficulty trusting people and am always wary about
4 asking people to help me.

5 "I don't have baths now because I am too nervous to
6 have one. I just have a sponge down. I don't think
7 I have had a bath since I was at Quarriers. I would
8 like a hot bath, but I am a bit scared about it and the
9 water would have to be hot. I don't have a bath where
10 I am currently living.

11 "I get depressed sometimes and think about what
12 happened to me quite a lot. I have flashbacks often.
13 I still have a vision of when I was in the sanatorium
14 and I was lying there and I'm sure I heard screams
15 coming from the orphanage.

16 "Because we never went to the dentist, and they
17 never even gave us toothbrushes, I think that's why
18 I have lost my teeth.

19 "When I was 16 years old, the orphanage told me it
20 was time for me to leave and they said I was to go to
21 Edinburgh. I refused to go, so I got a beating.

22 "The following day I left and went to my mother's --
23 at least I think she was my mother. I only stayed for
24 a very short time because there was too much drinking
25 and fighting between all the caravan type people, so

1 I left.

2 "I went round some of the farms after that and
3 worked on the farms and also did some gardening work.
4 I went to agricultural college and did gardening and
5 farming, working on the potatoes and turnips.

6 "I then worked at a mill and after that I worked for
7 the council doing labouring work, road work, or in the
8 winter it was gathering leaves. I went back to the
9 farms, then stopped work when I was about 65 years old
10 and now just really look after my garden.

11 "I married when I was about 44 and we lived at an
12 address in Prestwick. We didn't have any children. My
13 wife has recently had four strokes and she is now in
14 a care home. I try and visit her as often as I can.
15 I now live in sheltered housing.

16 "About five years ago, I gave my story to the Time
17 To Be Heard forum and about two years ago, I gave my
18 story at the National Confidential Forum. A friend came
19 with me and supported me. I never heard any more from
20 either.

21 "I have felt like going back to Quarriers, but I've
22 been too frightened.

23 "The only support I have had is from people I have
24 told and my doctor. Through my niece in England, I got
25 in touch with In Care Survivors Service Scotland.

1 I don't want or need any sort of counselling. I still
2 have bother with chest colds, especially in the
3 wintertime, and I blame it on the cold baths I got when
4 I was in the orphanage. Sometimes I get dizzy too and
5 sweat a lot. My doctor is aware and I get lots of
6 medication to help me for my nerves and for my chest.

7 "I think I have lost out because of the time bar and
8 believe, because of the beatings I got, I should be
9 entitled to some compensation.

10 "A lady from the Carers' Trust phoned for me and
11 arranged for my care records to be delivered to me.
12 I got my records without any problem.

13 "I hope that things have changed since I was at the
14 orphanage and that what happened to me cannot happen to
15 anyone going into the care system now.

16 "I think the **QAB/QCL** and **QKJ/QKK** were terrible
17 and should never have been in that position. I hope
18 that more checks are done on these people so this cannot
19 happen again.

20 "I would like to think I could get some compensation
21 for trying to help you and what I have been through.
22 I have had a terrible life what with the bullying and
23 the beatings. They have ruined our lives.

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

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

3 My Lady, the statement is signed by Thomas Hagan on
4 1 November 2016.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 What's the plan now, Ms Rattray?

7 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, there would be time for another
8 read-in before lunch.

9 LADY SMITH: Yes. Let's do that.

10 Witness statement of "RUTH" (read)

11 MS RATTRAY: The next statement is from an applicant who has
12 been given the pseudonym of "Ruth". Ruth's records have
13 not been traced. Ruth's a statement can be found at
14 WIT.001.001.0368:

15 "My name is Ruth. I was born in 1934. I have two
16 older brothers, who are three and five years older than
17 me. Our family lived in the Gorbals.

18 "My mother died. My dad was on his own and he had
19 five sisters and two brothers, but nobody wanted to take
20 my two brothers and I, so we all went into Quarriers.

21 "I remember my dad leaving us there. I remember
22 pleading with him to take me home. He said, 'I can't',
23 and walked away. I know that my father went to war but
24 I'm not sure what happened to him. I never saw him
25 again after he dropped us off. I was just young and

1 never thought to bring it up with his sister.

2 "I was 4 when I went into Quarrier's Village in
3 Bridge of Weir in 1938. My brothers were aged 9 and 7.

4 "I was in number 5. My brothers were in
5 number 40-something. The houses didn't have names, they
6 were just known by numbers.

7 "I stayed in number 5 for the whole time. Most
8 children stayed in the same place.

9 "I never really saw my brothers. I got a glimpse of
10 them at school now and again but that was all.

11 We weren't encouraged by Miss QBJ to talk to our
12 brothers or about our family.

13 "There was a school and a hospital. You name it and
14 they had it. It was like a village with all the
15 amenities all spread out.

16 "I don't know why I was put in number 5. There must
17 have been a vacancy or something.

18 "There was maybe 16 to 20 of us in number 5, going
19 by the dormitories. There were three dormitories.
20 There were girls from about age 5 up to 13 or 14. The
21 houses all had about the same amount of girls.

22 "Miss QBJ was in charge of number 5. We had to
23 call her 'mummy'. She was a bitter spinster. She
24 didn't have a husband or children, no surprise. We used
25 to call her ' QBJ '. There was no other adult in

1 number 5.

2 "All the girls' cottages were on one side of the
3 river and all the boys were on the other side of the
4 river.

5 "The boys' houses had a couple, a man and a wife.
6 It was and [REDACTED] QAF/QAG who were in charge of my
7 brothers. They called them ' [REDACTED] QAF/QAG '.

8 "There wasn't anyone in charge of Miss [REDACTED] QBJ . She
9 could do what she liked. There was a Miss [REDACTED] QAV .
10 I don't know what she did, but she ought up in the
11 balcony of the church to make sure nobody moved. She
12 had a flat above the shops in the village.

13 "There was Dr Kelly. He was the head
14 something-or-other. He had a big, fancy house just
15 outside the village.

16 "There was a Mr Munro and his wife. They were
17 something or other as well. Superintendent or
18 something. They had something to do with running the
19 homes, the whole place, more on the office side. You
20 only time you saw them was in church.

21 "Church was a big part of life. We went to church
22 twice on a Sunday, morning and night, and a Wednesday
23 night.

24 "There was a Miss [REDACTED] QBM . She was in charge of
25 number 13 or something like that. She had a bad

1 reputation. She was very cruel. We all saw it, you
2 could tell. They used to talk about her at school. She
3 was awful cruel to the children, belted them. Just
4 cruel.

5 "I remember Miss QNG My brother was with her
6 for a while. She was nice. She had a good reputation.

7 "I liked the school. I didn't have any problems.
8 I just hated when it was the summer holidays.

9 "The teachers were all nice. They lived mostly in
10 Bridge of Weir or Kilmacolm and would travel in.

11 "That's when I saw my brothers. Now and again I'd
12 speak to them but not for very long because the school
13 bell would go. They didn't speak about how they were
14 getting on, they were just used to it.

15 "In the summer holidays, we were all day with
16 Miss QBJ. We had to do all the spring cleaning. All
17 we did was clean. It was all child labour, Quarriers,
18 summer and winter. They didn't have people coming in to
19 clean, the children did it: making their beds, washing
20 their clothes, washing their bed sheets, ironing,
21 dusting, cooking. There was a kitchen girl one of the,
22 older ones. There was a kitchen fire and one in the
23 playroom that had a big guard on it and one of the older
24 girls would tend to the fires. I don't know what
25 Miss QBJ did apart from sitting in her parlour. She

1 didn't help with the chores. All the houses were the
2 same.

3 "Then she'd take us for a 5-mile walk. We got that
4 used to it, we would walk miles. She never said why she
5 walked us. We had to line up in twos and she would say,
6 'We'll go the 5-mile today', or, 'We'll go the 3-mile
7 today'.

8 "There was a play area at number 5, gravel with
9 a railing round it and tarmacadam. You got a chance to
10 play some of the time. When we came home from school,
11 we all had a chore to do so there wasn't much leisure
12 time. You had to polish the shoes, peel the tatties,
13 set the table, all these sorts of things. There wasn't
14 a lot of time for play. It was more in the summer
15 holidays and we played out in the playground.

16 "There were no books to read. We didn't do
17 homework, we didn't get any from the school. They must
18 have been told not to give us homework.

19 "There might have been Ludo at some time, but they
20 never lasted long. They probably got torn up.

21 "We got a trip once a year. We just went as far as
22 Paisley. We would walk round the Woolworth's and back
23 again. Paisley is not far from Bridge of Weir but there
24 was a lot of excitement. It was like freedom.

25 "We also had a trip to Dunoon. Quarriers had

1 a house there. I can't remember how long we were there,
2 maybe a couple of days. That was with Miss QBJ

3 "There was a farm. The older boys worked there. My
4 brother worked there. The girls didn't. The girls
5 worked in the laundry. That wasn't in number 5; it was
6 a general laundry. It wasn't explained why the children
7 had to work. That's just what happened. No one got
8 paid.

9 "My aunties would give me some pocket money and
10 Miss QBJ said she would put it away, but I never saw
11 it again. I don't know what happened to it. They would
12 maybe give me a sweetie or something. I ate them before
13 Miss QBJ would take them.

14 "You didn't have personal possessions, they weren't
15 allowed. You had a locker, but there was nothing in it.

16 "The Second World War didn't make much of
17 a difference except that before it we used to get fruit
18 one day a week and that was stopped.

19 "If Miss QBJ was in a bad mood you got the belt.
20 Carrying on outside or upstairs, talking in bed. Silly
21 wee things would get you the belt. It depended what
22 mood she was in. She used it on me often. It happened
23 to others as well, but I got it worst. I was the
24 scapegoat.

25 "I was the pretty one, without being big headed, it

1 was a problem for her because she was an old maid.
2 I suffered for it because of my looks. I got more
3 beltings than the others.

4 "She would belt you on one hand, then the other.
5 You'd get maybe two or three on each hand. It depended
6 what mood she was in. Sometimes you got put over her
7 knee and you got it on the bare backside. She had to
8 take your pants down. That happened quite a bit.

9 "Another form of punishment was hard slapping on the
10 left-hand side of the head. This slapping took place on
11 a regular basis. I left Quarriers stone deaf in my left
12 ear.

13 "I always had to wear shoes that were far too small.
14 This was a type of punishment only given to me. My feet
15 are terribly misshaped and gave me problems ever since.

16 "If Miss QAV saw you move in church, she would
17 phone number 5 and report you. If you moved your head,
18 she would report you and you would get the belt from
19 Miss QBJ. The phone would go and you were all
20 looking at each other wondering who and she would come
21 in and say who it was and you got the belt. You went
22 into the parlour and you got the belt. It would be just
23 her and me. It wasn't just me, it was other girls too.
24 If she was in a bad mood, she heated the belt in the
25 fire to make it sting. We didn't know that at the time,

1 but when we got older we found out that that made it
2 sting. It was a black leather belt, the same as what
3 you got at school. It was sore. It didn't leave marks,
4 but it left redness on your arms. I can't remember how
5 long the redness was there, maybe about four days or
6 something like that.

7 "I mind a minister that I met in Glasgow telling me
8 that he'd preached once in Quarriers. The church was
9 big and full of children. He told me he couldn't
10 believe that there wasn't a movement, not a sound. It
11 wasn't natural.

12 "I spent most of my childhood on a chair under the
13 stairs. If I spoke out of turn or did something to get
14 in there, I sat many an hour in there. It was a wee
15 dark cupboard with a chair thing. I sat there for
16 hours, sometimes in my nightie. I was frozen. Because
17 I spoke in bed. If you were upstairs, it was the
18 landing. It was linoleum in these days and you sat in
19 your nightie on the cold linoleum for hours. She'd come
20 up and walk by you and go into her bed, and when she was
21 in the mood she would shout, 'Get to your bed'. By that
22 time you were frozen.

23 "Some of them maybe wet the bed sometimes. They
24 were just young. She wasn't so bad with some of them,
25 she had favourites. If it was me, you had to strip the

1 bed, take it down to the wash house, and wash it out.
2 In my nightie.

3 "There was one night when I was sick on the bed, all
4 over the bed. She said, 'You can get up and take all
5 that down to the wash house'. So I had to get up and
6 strip my bed -- I was only about 6 or 7 -- and go down
7 to the wash house and stand there trying to run it under
8 the tap. She came down and told me to leave it and get
9 back to my bed. The wash house was downstairs in
10 number 5 in the bathroom. By that time, I was frozen.
11 I went back to bed with no sheets and one wee blanket.

12 "At the back of my bed was a chimney. There used to
13 be fireplaces. We never used them, but the wind used to
14 come down the chimney. I was right in front of it and
15 you could feel the draught. I was frozen lying there.
16 That's when I ended up with double pneumonia in the
17 hospital, very ill.

18 "I didn't want to come out of the hospital. I loved
19 it in the hospital. They put me into my bed in the
20 sitting room where the nurses were. In these days there
21 was no central heating, so they put me in where the
22 nurses would sit round the fire. It was lovely and the
23 nurses spoiled me. They were Quarriers nurses. I was
24 in the hospital about 6 weeks, I think. That was the
25 only time I was in the hospital.

1 "Miss QBJ left number 5 when I was about 11. She
2 was shifted to this other house and we got a Miss [REDACTED].
3 She was nice. She wasn't related to QAF/QAG
4 QAF/QAG She never used the belt.

5 "Miss QBJ never spoke nice or kindly. It
6 was: get there, do that. You never got your name even.
7 It was: get up the stairs, get to your bed. That sort
8 of tone. She had a favourite. She was treated well,
9 but that's because her mother was in there, brought up
10 in Quarriers. She'd been with Mrs Miss QBJ and the
11 mother left her child and wanted her to go to
12 Miss QBJ, so she was the favourite. So Miss QBJ
13 treated her as the favourite. She got favouritism
14 because of her mother.

15 "At Christmas when you went downstairs she had
16 a whole lot of presents and you maybe got one. I think
17 the presents were handed in, charity. Nothing very
18 exciting anyway. Christmas wasn't really made into
19 a special day. I can't mind getting a special meal; we
20 just used to go to church.

21 "There was no celebration on your birthday. You
22 forgot that it was your birthday. It probably never
23 dawned on us it was our birthday.

24 "If you misbehaved, you never got any meal. I liked
25 the food, it was good, plain food. You had to eat it.

1 Nobody would dare not eat it. If you didn't eat it, you
2 got it at teatime. If you didn't eat it then, you got
3 it for breakfast. That happened to me once. You just
4 ate it. You just had to get it down.

5 "You came home from school and into the bathroom to
6 take your turn in the bath. You queued up, youngest
7 first. It was all the same bathwater. If you were the
8 last, it would be frozen.

9 "I should imagine that the ones that were in charge
10 knew what was happening. I think they were all doing
11 the same. We were all treated the same. Miss QAV
12 would know certainly, but I don't know about Dr Kelly.
13 Miss QAV would send for you and give you the belt.
14 I didn't get the belt from her, but some of them did
15 because they'd moved their head or something in church.
16 She sent for them and they got the belt.

17 "Two of my dad's sisters used to visit sometimes.
18 My aunt used to come now and again and another aunt came
19 now and again, but I didn't really know them. Visiting
20 was only once a month. I saw them maybe once every two
21 months, one or other of them. I didn't tell them about
22 Miss QBJ. It never dawned on me to tell them.
23 I didn't have any other visitors.

24 "I never saw anyone official inspecting Quarriers.
25 I never saw anyone come in to see how the children were.

1 We didn't get visits from doctors or nurses to check how
2 we were or from anyone else to check how we were doing.

3 "My aunt took me out when I was about 13. You left
4 school at 14 in those days. She must have asked
5 Quarriers to take me out. I think she wanted me to
6 clean her house. Some of the girls who didn't have
7 family went on to live in a flat in the village and stay
8 working in the laundry after they left school, and stay
9 there until they were pensioners.

10 "I was just glad to get away. I didn't miss
11 Quarriers at all. I was glad to see the back of it.
12 I had freedom. Everything you did in there was: do
13 this, do that. You didn't think about it at the time
14 because you didn't know any different.

15 "I don't think I ever thought about whether I was
16 safe in there. You're just a child and you just get
17 through every day. It was a regime. You got up and did
18 this, that, and the next thing. It was a kind of
19 regime, the life there.

20 "My brother rescued me from my aunt, my oldest
21 brother. He was very clever and if you were very clever
22 in Quarriers they sent you to Paisley Grammar School to
23 do your Highers. He was still living in Quarriers and
24 he travelled back and forth. He left at a certain age.
25 The science teacher there took an interest in him and

1 they got pally. My brother came up to my aunt to visit
2 me one day and I was covered in black lead from leading
3 a range in her flat and he wasn't very happy, so he told
4 this teacher and they got me out of there and got me
5 a job in a children's home in Paisley. On my day off,
6 I would visit the science teacher and his wife. I was
7 happy after that.

8 "I spoke to people at the Apex Hotel in Edinburgh
9 about 12 years ago or maybe longer. I don't know who
10 organised it, I just took it that it was organised by
11 the government. People stood up and told what happened.
12 Some got emotional and ran out. There was quite a lot
13 of people there, talking about their experiences. There
14 were two elderly men, a lot older than me, so they'll be
15 gone now. And I was asking them if they knew my
16 brothers in Quarriers. It was a woman that was on the
17 platform.

18 "There was a smaller group meeting in Buckhaven. My
19 memory's not that great.

20 "Then two other people came to my house. I told
21 them the detail, what happened to me, but I never heard
22 anything further. I think they were from the
23 government. That was round about the same time.
24 I imagine it was all connected because people were all
25 sitting up and starting to take notice. It was called

1 Time To Be Heard. The name Tom Shaw rings a bell.
2 I think the meetings were all connected. The Apex was
3 probably to do with that and the people that came to see
4 me. I had to tell them what happened to me but I never
5 heard anything after that.

6 "I thought what I told them would be on record.
7 I saw something in the paper asking people to come
8 forward to the inquiry and I thought, 'I went forward
9 about ten years ago'. I couldn't believe it.

10 "I didn't tell anyone about the beatings and
11 Miss QBJ at the time they happened. You just learned
12 to live with it.

13 "I haven't told the police. How could I speak to
14 the police? I never thought to. I don't know if
15 anybody would. You'd have to prove it as well.

16 "I've never been to lawyer, but I'm thinking about
17 it now.

18 "I have never tried to recover my records.

19 "Why is Scotland so behind other countries? Europe
20 paid out, so did Ireland, so did England, so what's up
21 with Scotland? We're not getting anywhere. It's not
22 something Scotland's proud of.

23 "I just hate Miss QBJ. She's a horrible woman.
24 She shouldn't have been allowed near children. There
25 was nothing nice about her, she wasn't gentle or kind or

1 anything. She was a bitter old spinster. They got
2 their job through the church. A good Christian woman.
3 I didn't know that at the time, but when you get older
4 and look back you hear rumours.

5 "It's hard to say how my time in Quarriers affected
6 me. I was just glad to get out, to get freedom.

7 "I used to think back on it, but not now. I used to
8 wonder how a woman who treated you that way got that
9 job. Looking after children when she was a nasty
10 person. I would like an answer to that.

11 "Having said that, it was a very healthy place to
12 live, in the country. You got good plain food, that was
13 the upside, and a good education.

14 "I came from the Gorbals, so it was a much better
15 atmosphere and surroundings. That was the upside. But
16 I was probably happier in the Gorbals. You were with
17 your mum and dad. You maybe didn't have much, but you
18 had that. It's sad that your childhood's been ruined by
19 some bitter old spinster. It's not nice. She should
20 never have been allowed near children.

21 "I have been back to Quarriers. I took my oldest
22 son down with me to show him where I was brought up. My
23 other son was in the army at the time. They're all
24 private houses now.

25 "I have no objection to my witness statement being

1 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.

2 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement to
3 be true."

4 The statement was signed by Ruth on 18 May 2016.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

6 So we'll take the lunch break now and maybe try and
7 start again at 1.50 if we stop now.

8 Just before we break for lunch, repeating what I've
9 said a number of times already: my restriction order is
10 still in place. There has been mention of a series of
11 names as being alleged abusers this morning, including

12 [redacted] QAH, [redacted] QAF/QAG, [redacted] QAB/QCL
13 [redacted] QBK, [redacted] QBJ, [redacted] QKJ/QKK, [redacted] QAV
14 and [redacted] QBM. The restriction order is in place

15 and so those names cannot be disclosed outside the
16 hearing room, but I'm sure those of you who have been
17 here before now will remember that.

18 Thank you.

19 (12.50 pm)

20 (The lunch adjournment)

21 (1.50 pm)

22 LADY SMITH: Yes, Mr Peoples.

23 MR PEOPLES: Good afternoon, my Lady. The next witness
24 wishes to remain anonymous and she has chosen the
25 pseudonym "Jennifer".

1 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon, Jennifer. I'm going to stand
2 up and ask you to take the oath.

3 "JENNIFER" (sworn)

4 LADY SMITH: In a moment, Mr Peoples will start asking you
5 questions, and what I'll need you to do then is stay
6 in the right position for your microphone, but we really
7 need to hear everything that you have to say properly.

8 You've got your file ready. That's good.

9 Mr Peoples.

10 Questions from MR PEOPLES

11 MR PEOPLES: Good afternoon, Jennifer.

12 A. Hello.

13 Q. There is a folder in front of you, which I hope contains
14 all the documents that we may need to look at when
15 you're giving your evidence today. I'm just going to
16 give a number for the document that's your statement for
17 the benefit of the transcript. You don't have to worry
18 about that because we'll just deal with the statement as
19 it appears in front of you. I'll give the number for
20 the benefit of those taking notes today and the number
21 of your statement is WIT.001.002.0955.

22 My Lady, I perhaps should indicate, I will probably
23 just use the paragraph numbers on this occasion because
24 the witness' copy is in large print and therefore the
25 numbering might be a little bit out of sync if I start

1 mentioning pages.

2 LADY SMITH: I've got a thumbs up for that from the
3 documents team. Thank you.

4 MR PEOPLES: If I do that, that's perhaps the easiest way
5 for everyone to find the right part of the statement.

6 Jennifer, can I begin by asking you to turn to the
7 final page of the statement in front of you that you
8 prepared. Can you confirm, and it's just after
9 paragraph 123 of the statement, that you have signed
10 your statement?

11 A. Yes, that's correct, that's my writing.

12 Q. I think you tell us that you have no objection to your
13 statement being published as part of the evidence to the
14 inquiry and that you believe the facts which you state
15 in your witness statement are true.

16 A. Yes, that's correct.

17 Q. Jennifer, if I could turn to the first page of your
18 statement, I'll start by just giving a little bit of
19 background information from you. Can you confirm that
20 you were born in the year 1959? I don't need your date
21 of birth, just the year.

22 A. Yes, I was born in 1959.

23 Q. If we look at your statement that's in front of you, you
24 tell us at paragraph 3 that you have an older sister,
25 who's about 14 months older than you, who went into

1 Quarriers with you.

2 A. Yes, that's correct.

3 Q. I think you've got another sister that you found out
4 but, but she wasn't in care with you and your older
5 sister.

6 A. No, she wasn't.

7 Q. I don't want to take this in too much detail because
8 we have your statement in front of us and we've read it
9 carefully already. But I think the background to your
10 admission to Quarriers was that you were taken into care
11 at quite an early age, I think around 1960, because your
12 parents had separated.

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. And I think indeed at some point your father actually
15 went to prison; is that right?

16 A. That's correct as well, yes.

17 Q. And that really there was no one to look after you and
18 you were put in the care of a number of foster parents?

19 A. I started off with my Aunt [REDACTED], then she couldn't
20 keep us any more, and she kept [REDACTED], my eldest
21 sister, who now lives in Canada, and I didn't know
22 [REDACTED] at all, so I have no recollection of having any
23 older sister. She was never in care with us. It was
24 always just my middle sister and myself that was in
25 care. And we got put into care by my aunt, together, in

- 1 different places.
- 2 Q. Yes. I think when you say "different places", as you
3 tell us in your statement, you were placed with
4 different foster parents before you went to Quarriers?
- 5 A. That's correct, sir, yes.
- 6 Q. There were a number of places before you went there?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Just to get the background, I think certain things
9 happened in the foster homes, and I'm not wanting to
10 discuss these today, we can read them for ourselves.
11 I think some terrible things happened to you in foster
12 care and we can read those for ourselves.
- 13 But your final foster home before Quarriers,
14 I think, was with a single lady in Dumbarton.
- 15 A. That's correct as well.
- 16 Q. And she was a lady who at the time had no children of
17 her own?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. She was unmarried --
- 20 A. Yes, sir.
- 21 Q. -- but she had, I think, what's described as "private
22 means" and wasn't working, so she was able to take you
23 into her home.
- 24 A. That's correct, sir.
- 25 Q. But I think, towards the end of 1967, I understand that

1 you and your sister were taken into a local authority
2 home.

3 A. We'd been in a few local authority homes -- moving into
4 Quarriers we actually got taken away from school, the
5 social worker had done -- we just called her our mum
6 because that's what -- she'd asked us what we wanted to
7 call her. She'd asked us if we wanted to call her our
8 mum and I said no and my sister said yes. I always
9 said, no, I don't like mummies, aunties are always nicer
10 than mummies. That's why I wanted an aunt, not a mummy.
11 But she was what I later considered my mum. And as
12 a result, that's what I talk about when I talk about my
13 mum: it was actually my foster mother in the last foster
14 place I was in.

15 Q. The lady I have just been mentioning to you is the
16 person you call your mum?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And although I said she was unmarried when she first had
19 you in her home, she did get married when you were in
20 Quarriers and I think when you left Quarriers you went
21 to live with her and her husband; is that right?

22 A. That's true, yes.

23 Q. Now --

24 A. Can I just add this bit: going to Quarriers with my
25 sister and I got -- well, more me than my sister. She

1 went quietly crying, but I went kicking and screaming
2 because we were literally taken in the middle of
3 a school day. We never got to see her, she never got to
4 see us, and when we arrived at Quarriers, the
5 social worker we had at the time just left us and just
6 sort of like -- she said to the cottage parents at the
7 time, "There's the new ones, you can take them now", and
8 the social worker left.

9 That was my initial meeting into Quarriers and I was
10 crying and crying and crying for my mummy, and the
11 QDW/QDX, who lived in cottage 13, which was the
12 cottage I was in, that was the cottage I got placed in,
13 was cottage 13, and cottage 13 was run by a Mr and
14 Mrs QDW/QDX My first --

15 Q. Don't worry, Jennifer, I'll maybe take that from you.
16 Just to piece together a few things you've told us
17 a moment ago, I think what you're telling us, and if
18 you have your statement in front of you, if you would
19 like to go to paragraph 44, and just confirm for me that
20 what you've been telling us about was a day that you
21 remember a teacher coming to your classroom and that you
22 were basically taken out of school and then you were
23 taken from your foster mum to Quarriers. That's what
24 you remember?

25 A. No, sorry, I never got to go to my mum's; I went

- 1 straight from school.
- 2 Q. I see, sorry. You were just taken straight from school
3 to Quarriers?
- 4 A. Yes, sir.
- 5 Q. Right. I think you've just told us, and we maybe could
6 move to paragraph 45 of your statement. If you have
7 that in front of you, I think you tell us there that you
8 were crying when you arrived and you've explained why
9 you were crying. You were being taken away from your
10 foster mum without any chance really to say anything to
11 her.
- 12 A. Mm-hm.
- 13 Q. You say you were put into cottage 13?
- 14 A. That's correct, yes.
- 15 Q. We can see, I think, from paragraph 47 that you tell us
16 that the house parents in that cottage were an Irish
17 couple called Mr and Mrs QDW/QDX
- 18 A. Yes, sir.
- 19 Q. Can I at this point maybe just get some dates for the
20 benefit of our transcript. Because I think you say that
21 you think you stayed in Quarriers from about 1968 until
22 1972; that's in paragraph 48.
- 23 A. Mm-hm, yes.
- 24 Q. I can tell you, Jennifer, we've been given some records
25 by Quarriers, which indicate that you were admitted to

1 Quarriers, as you say, in 1968 on [REDACTED] 1968, when
2 you'd be aged 9.

3 A. Right.

4 Q. 9 years of age. And the records indicate that you
5 stayed in Quarriers until [REDACTED] 1970, when you were
6 aged 11. So you weren't there quite as long as you
7 think, but according to the records -- now, you were
8 maybe there around -- I think I make that two years and
9 three months.

10 LADY SMITH: What Mr Peoples is explaining is that the
11 written records held by Quarriers show that you were
12 there for just over two years, from a date in 1968 when
13 you were about 9 years old, and you'd be about 11 years
14 old when you came out of Quarriers. I know from your
15 statement you thought it was longer. Can I just say,
16 please don't worry about that. A lot of people find it
17 difficult to get clear in their head exactly what
18 happened at what dates -- and it's not unusual for
19 people to think they were in a children's home for
20 longer than they were actually there.

21 A. Thank you, Lady Smith.

22 One of the reasons I thought that was because
23 I remember getting taken away when I was in
24 Primary Three, and not getting back to my mum until
25 I was in Primary Seven. That's where I got four years

1 from, which would make me 11 --

2 LADY SMITH: Right. Primary Seven would fit with about
3 11 years old. There may be some difference in the stage
4 that you went in, but it's not terribly important.
5 Don't worry. You were plainly in Quarriers for quite
6 a time in a child's life.

7 A. Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: So you'll have a memory of being there for
9 quite a while, and of course when you went in, you
10 didn't know how long it was going to go on.

11 A. No.

12 LADY SMITH: Right.

13 MR PEOPLES: I think you tell us that in your statement,
14 I can just take -- Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] you were with
15 them for the whole of your time in Quarriers --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- in cottage 13?

18 So these are the people you would have the biggest
19 memory of --

20 A. Mm-hm.

21 Q. -- in your time there? Can I just say, Quarriers have
22 given us some information about Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] and
23 I'm just going to mention it now for the benefit of our
24 transcript, that we are told that Mr [REDACTED] QDW and
25 his wife, [REDACTED] QDX, began working at Quarriers, and

1 you won't know this, on [REDACTED] 1954 and retired
2 after you left on [REDACTED] 1973.

3 The other piece of information that Quarriers have
4 provided us with is that Mr [REDACTED] QDW was born in 1908
5 and Mrs [REDACTED] QDX was born in 1912. So when you went to
6 Quarriers, by my reckoning, Mr [REDACTED] QDW was around
7 60 years of age, and his wife was 56 years old. You
8 were a young child so you wouldn't know exactly what age
9 they were.

10 A. I just knew they were old.

11 Q. I think that perhaps is consistent with what you
12 remember, that they were quite old by the time you were
13 placed in Quarriers --

14 LADY SMITH: I suppose, given your age, you might have felt
15 that they were more at the age of people's grandparents
16 than they were their parents.

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: It would fit the broad feel a lot of people
19 would have of age gaps at that age.

20 A. It's hard to -- like when you're a child, when you're
21 a young child like that, anybody over the age of 10 is
22 old.

23 LADY SMITH: Yes. That's very well put, if I may say. Do
24 you remember what colour their hair was?

25 A. Grey.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MR PEOPLES: You tell us a little bit in your statement --

3 in fact, you tell us a bit more than a little -- about

4 the routine in cottage 13, and I could maybe just ask

5 you at this point to tell me a little bit about that.

6 At paragraph 51 of your statement, if you've got that in

7 front of you, you'll see that you tell us that you'd be

8 woken up by Mr and Mrs QDW/QDX in the morning.

9 A. Yes, that's correct.

10 Q. Can you tell me something about what happened in case of

11 children who had wet the bed? Can you tell us what you

12 remember about that?

13 A. Oh yes, I can indeed. If you were what was considered

14 a pee-the-bed, you were taken up first, you were then

15 having to strip your bed, you then had to take your

16 sheets down to the laundry, you then had to wash your

17 sheets in a big tub with a scrubbing board. You then

18 had to hang them out on the wash line, and if you were

19 small it was tough because if they fell on the ground,

20 you then had to wash them all over again, all before

21 breakfast, which meant that other children who didn't

22 wet the bed got a lot of breakfast before you did.

23 Sadly, I fell into the pee-the-bed category, which meant

24 I didn't always get a decent breakfast. There was many

25 a morning I had to wash my sheets two or three times

- 1 because of my height --
- 2 Q. Because they fell off the line?
- 3 A. Because they fell off the line.
- 4 Q. And you tell us, Jennifer, that after breakfast in the
- 5 **QDW/QDX** household or cottage, you would have some
- 6 chores to do before you went to school. Apart from
- 7 having to wash the sheets if you wet the bed, you had
- 8 chores to do; is that right?
- 9 A. Yes, that's true.
- 10 Q. Was that a regular occurrence, you had to do chores?
- 11 A. Daily. It was a daily occurrence.
- 12 Q. And I think one of the chores you had to do that you
- 13 remember was cleaning the bathrooms or bathroom?
- 14 A. Yes. It was about eight sinks or something, and two
- 15 baths, and you had to scrub all the limescale off the
- 16 baths and you had to clean all the sinks, but you had to
- 17 clean them to a standard that the **QDW/QDX** set.
- 18 As a young child, cleaning a bathroom doesn't come
- 19 naturally, and they wanted all the taps to be shiny and
- 20 all the baths scrubbed to be all nice and clean, and you
- 21 had to do that before you went to school every morning.
- 22 LADY SMITH: Do you remember what they gave you to clean the
- 23 baths and sinks with?
- 24 A. As far as I can remember, it was a tin of pink stuff,
- 25 pink rough stuff.

1 LADY SMITH: Slightly powdery, was it, creamy?

2 A. It was pink -- and it was in like wee sweetie tins.

3 LADY SMITH: And you had a cloth, did you?

4 A. And a cloth, yes. I remember like my foster dad had it:

5 it was like cleaner, it was like a cleaner, and some of

6 the other homes had it as well, and it was a tin of it

7 -- sorry.

8 LADY SMITH: It's all right -- I need the microphone to hear

9 you so don't put your hand over it.

10 A. It was like a tin about that size (indicating). It had

11 a lid, a wee screwy bit lid tip thing, where you'd open

12 the lid, and then you took a cloth and you took a big

13 dab of it out towards the sinks and the baths and that.

14 And then the QDW/QDX had to inspect it and only then,

15 if it was up to their standard, would you then -- they

16 would only then let you get organised for school.

17 LADY SMITH: Okay, thank you.

18 MR PEOPLES: When you were cleaning the bathroom, did you

19 have any help to do this?

20 A. No, sir.

21 Q. So you were asked to do it on your own?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. But you said that the QDW/QDX would inspect the

24 cleaning that you had done?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. What did they didn't think it was up on their standard?
2 A. If it wasn't up to their standard, I had to do it all
3 over again.
4 Q. Did that happen from time to time?
5 A. Yes, sir, sadly it did. I wasn't a good cleaner.
6 Q. Well, they didn't think so.
7 A. No, they didn't think so.
8 Q. Just another point that you mention about the routine at
9 Quarriers in your time there. You tell us at
10 paragraph 52, if you could have a look at that, and I'll
11 just maybe deal with this at the moment, that when you
12 finished your school day, you would play outside perhaps
13 or in the playroom of the house; is that right?
14 A. Yes. That's true, sir, yes.
15 Q. But you say that friendships were not encouraged; why
16 was that?
17 A. I think -- well, personally what I think, why
18 friendships weren't encouraged was because they then
19 could have total control over each individual child and
20 there would be no child be able to collaborate stories
21 or like come up with -- I stuck to my sister at that
22 point, but my sister wasn't the one that tried to speak
23 up. My sister was smart, I was dumb, and I was the one
24 that got it. Maybe that's why she was so smart. One of
25 the reasons I thought why they didn't encourage

1 friendships was for that very reason: they could then
2 control each individual child to do what they wanted
3 them to do or treat them how they wanted to.

4 Q. You tell us, at paragraph 54, a little bit about the
5 food that you were served. I think you didn't
6 particularly like the food that was served; is that
7 right?

8 A. No.

9 Q. And why was that?

10 A. It was yucky, it was full of gristle. It wasn't well
11 cooked. On one occasion -- can I talk about this
12 occasion?

13 Q. You can talk about it all you like, yes.

14 A. On one occasion, because the school was in the actual
15 premises, we all went home for school and on one
16 particular day it was stew and it was all gristly, and
17 I refused to eat it. I spat it out first of all. Then
18 Mrs [REDACTED] QDX came up to me and asked why I spat it out
19 and I said because it was horrible and gristly. And she
20 says, well, you'd better eat it because that's all
21 you're going to get. She actually started spoonfeeding
22 it and I vomited it back out, and I vomited it back out
23 on to my plate, and then she continued to force-feed me
24 this vomited stew. And she says, right, you'll get --
25 I vomited it again and she says, you're going to get

1 this for the next -- every meal now until you finish
2 this plate. At every meal this plate of stew sat on my
3 side of the table. She spoonfed me this vomited-up stew
4 and this continued at every meal for three days until
5 I actually threw the plate away. Once I threw the plate
6 away, that was the end of that particular meal.

7 But for me, it couldn't have come quick enough, had
8 I thought about it quicker, I didn't realise ...
9 However, because I hadn't done that, I then got quite
10 a beating after that for doing that.

11 At that particular point, the rest of the children
12 got dismissed to go back to school and then they took me
13 upstairs -- and you knew if you were getting taken
14 upstairs, you were in real trouble. That's when they
15 asked me to strip and they stripped me down until I was
16 naked and then they flogged me with a wet towel. They
17 hit me on the back of my legs, my buttocks and my back.

18 When I actually started crying, they would wrap the
19 towel around my neck and wrapped it tightly until
20 I passed out and then Mr QDW would pour a bucket of
21 cold water over me just to make sure I was still alive.

22 That's what happened.

23 Q. When you said "they", it was -- Jennifer -- when you say
24 "they", it was Mr and Mrs QDW/QDX that you are
25 describing?

1 A. Yes. Both of them. The boys got punished in the toy
2 room and the girls got punished upstairs in the
3 dormitory.

4 I don't eat stew now. I can't eat stew for my life,
5 I just can't touch it or smell it. I can't bear to eat
6 it or look at it or smell it.

7 Q. If I could ask you about something different, Jennifer,
8 for the moment. If we move to paragraph 63 of your
9 written statement, you there tell us a little bit about
10 birthdays. In your case, what was the situation when
11 your birthday came round?

12 A. When my birthday came about, what happened on -- my mum
13 would come and visit me, but like you weren't allowed
14 a visitor for the first month, and what happened was, my
15 mum would hand in a present or presents for me, but it
16 was up to the **QDW/QDX** if and when they gave that to
17 me. And sometimes you wouldn't get it and sometimes
18 they would actually confiscate it completely. Sometimes
19 I used to get -- I wouldn't actually ... They would
20 actually take it off you if you managed to get it off of
21 them. But then if you then fought them to get your
22 present, that was another incidence of punishment.

23 Q. On your birthday, when it came round, did they make you
24 a birthday cake or have a birthday party?

25 A. No, there was nothing like that for anybody.

1 Q. You have just mentioned there that after the initial
2 month at Quarriers when you first moved there -- you say
3 this in paragraph 64 of your statement -- that you were
4 not allowed visitors. You say your foster mum, or your
5 mum as you called her, was visiting you but that the
6 **QDW/QDX** banned your mum from visiting at one point
7 because they said your behaviour was always getting
8 worse after you'd seen her.

9 A. That's correct. They banned her for three months.

10 Q. I don't know if it's in the file.

11 A. I don't know, sir, but I read it in mine, I read my copy
12 of my records.

13 MR PEOPLES: I'm not sure, my Lady, that the document that
14 I was about to mention is actually in the red file.
15 Perhaps I could refer to it. I don't think we need to
16 look at the document.

17 LADY SMITH: Don't worry. What's being referred to is
18 a document that you haven't got there in the red file.
19 Is it a Quarriers document?

20 MR PEOPLES: Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: It's a document that's from Quarriers' records.

22 MR PEOPLES: I have a copy. I don't know how easy it is for
23 the witness to read. I'm happy to pass a copy over.

24 LADY SMITH: It's not very big print.

25 MR PEOPLES: I was going to read it anyway. I'm happy to do

1 aware of this letter being sent, but I think you had
2 some idea that there was --

3 A. I certainly never knew about a letter. This is actually
4 brand new to me.

5 Q. Well, I'll maybe --

6 LADY SMITH: Just to recap, Mr Peoples has given you the
7 date. It's a date in September 1968. You went into
8 Quarriers in [REDACTED] 1968 when you were just about 9 years
9 old. So you went in at the beginning of the summer,
10 springtime, and this is a letter that's written in the
11 autumn. All right? So it's about four months later.
12 You've been in Quarriers about four months by the time
13 this letter is written and the summertime will have
14 taken place in the meanwhile. You'd have had the summer
15 holidays from school in the meantime and I think this
16 letter is picking up once you're back to the normal
17 routine of the cottage and school. Have I got that
18 right, Mr Peoples? Something like that.

19 MR PEOPLES: Yes.

20 You had been there a few months. I think it's
21 correct to say that in that time you were getting some
22 visits from your mum --

23 A. Mm-hm.

24 Q. -- as you call her. But this letter is written to her
25 on 26 September of the year that you were admitted and

1 the letter reads, and I will take it slowly:

2 "I am somewhat concerned about Jennifer being
3 unsettled since the summer holidays."

4 This is the superintendent writing:

5 "In view of this and after careful discussion with
6 the house parents [that would be Mr and Mrs QDW/QDX]
7 and Miss Pollock ..."

8 And she was the childcare officer for Dumbarton, and
9 I think you know that name --

10 A. Aye, she was my social worker.

11 Q. So the superintendent then goes on:

12 "In view of this and after careful discussion with
13 the house parents and Miss Pollock, we feel that
14 it would be best if you [that's your mum] could confine
15 your visits meantime to once per month."

16 Then he goes on to say:

17 "Our normal visiting day is the first Saturday of
18 each month, from 2 pm until 4 pm."

19 So that's the normal visiting time and he then goes
20 on, he finishes the letter by saying:

21 "I may add that this decision has been made with the
22 full approval of the Children's Department in Dumbarton
23 County."

24 So it bears to be a decision that your mum should
25 confine her visits meantime to once per month rather

- 1 than more regularly.
- 2 A. I only knew that because -- well, they used to say ...
- 3 How that came about, I didn't know about that letter,
- 4 but how that came about was because they reckoned I got
- 5 so upset by my mum's visits, they thought I was
- 6 misbehaving even more because of my mum's visits. They
- 7 then thought, well, if she doesn't visit, I won't
- 8 misbehave. But in actual fact, it had an opposite
- 9 effect.
- 10 Q. I'll just read you what your mum replied.
- 11 A. Oh right. That'd be good.
- 12 Q. You probably haven't maybe seen this before either.
- 13 A. No, I haven't.
- 14 Q. On 30 September, about four or five days after the
- 15 letter was sent by the superintendent, who I think was
- 16 Mr Mortimer -- I don't know if that rings a bell, that
- 17 name, Mr Mortimer?
- 18 A. No, sir.
- 19 Q. It doesn't matter. It's his initials that are on the
- 20 letter so I think we can take it it was him. She writes
- 21 back, your mum, to the superintendent, and she says
- 22 this:
- 23 "Dear sir. The girls' health and happiness [this is
- 24 you and your sister] mean a great deal to me. If you
- 25 think my visits are upsetting Jennifer by all means once

1 a month. At my last visit to the girls, Saturday,
2 21st September, I told them I would only come to visit
3 them once in two weeks [I think it was]."

4 And she goes on to say in this letter:

5 "I felt Mrs QDX wasn't very pleased to see me.
6 Of course, I didn't say that to the girls. I made an
7 excuse that I could not come each week. My previous
8 visit was on Saturday, 7 September."

9 And then she goes on:

10 "Thank you for all you are doing for Jennifer and
11 her sister."

12 And that's written by your mum.

13 A. Right.

14 Q. Jennifer, I'll just mention the fact that what your mum
15 says in that letter is that she is mentioning that she
16 thinks that Quarriers are saying that her visits are
17 upsetting you, but in fact in the letter from
18 Mr Mortimer, the word is "unsettled", not "upsetting",
19 but she takes it you were being upset by these visits.

20 A. That wasn't the case at all, no, it wasn't.

21 Q. I think you've told us that very clearly. You were not
22 upset and in fact you liked the visits?

23 A. Yes, I did. Can I just add at this point, one of the
24 things my mum did for us both -- and it was the only
25 sort of like solace I got from Quarriers -- was every

1 week, she used to send us both a magazine and a letter
2 rolled up in brown paper. I got the Topper and the
3 Beezer and a wee letter I wrote myself and my sister got
4 the Judy and the Bunty, and I felt so pleased to get
5 these wee magazines because they were sent specially to
6 me and the **QDW/QDX** couldn't stop me from getting them
7 because they were sent through the post. I just loved
8 to get those things, even though I couldn't read the
9 letters because I was illiterate at the time and my
10 sister used to read the letters for me.

11 Q. These were being posted by your mum?

12 A. Yes.

13 I'm sorry, can I take a five-minute break?

14 MR PEOPLES: By all means.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes, we can do that. You take a moment and let
16 me know when your ready to carry on.

17 A. I'm sorry about this.

18 LADY SMITH: There's absolutely no need to apologise.

19 A. Why did they need to be so cruel?

20 (Pause)

21 That's me better, my Lady.

22 LADY SMITH: Okay. Jennifer, which did you like best, Judy
23 or Bunty?

24 A. Oh, that was the ones my sister got. I got the Topper
25 and the Beezer.

1 LADY SMITH: Did you read your sister's Judys and Buntys as
2 well?

3 A. I only read the pictures.

4 LADY SMITH: Because they were all picture stories, weren't
5 they?

6 A. Yes. I read them by -- I managed to get a story out of
7 it by the pictures that were in it, because I couldn't
8 read.

9 LADY SMITH: Yes, they were well drawn, if I remember
10 rightly.

11 A. Yes, they were, they were like real pictures, unlike the
12 Topper and the Beezer, which were like cartoon
13 characters. I identified mostly with Minnie the Minx.

14 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

15 MR PEOPLES: Can I take you to paragraph 67 of your
16 statement, please. You tell us about an occasion you
17 remember when you were playing football and something
18 happened to you. Can you just tell us in your own
19 words?

20 A. Yes. I can tell you about that one. It was quite an
21 embarrassing one, actually. Once again, I was --
22 because friendships weren't actually encouraged, I was
23 playing football with myself, but I wasn't actually
24 playing footy against a garage wall, which I would have
25 got into trouble for, but I was kind of dribbling the

1 ball in the backyard sort of thing and then I fell over
2 the football. Once I fell over the football I landed on
3 my knee on the concrete and I actually broke my knee.
4 I had to -- my knee just all swelled up and I went in to
5 see if I could get taken to hospital.

6 Once again, it was, "You're always moaning about
7 something, there's always something the matter with you.
8 If you want to go and get it seen to, you'll need to
9 walk to the Elise yourself". Can I actually explain at
10 this point that the Elise, as it was called, was the
11 hospital based within the premises. But it wasn't
12 called the hospital, it was called the Elise. And I had
13 to walk up there myself. Nobody would take me.
14 I walked up by myself, which didn't help the swelling or
15 didn't help my knee, and when I got there, they actually
16 X-rayed me and that's when they told me that I'd
17 actually broken my kneecap and would need to be in
18 plaster from my ankle to my hip for at least six weeks.

19 That's what happened. That must have been about the
20 happiest six weeks of my life in Quarriers because when
21 my mum used to visit, she used to come and bring me
22 sweeties. I got my sweeties all to myself and then it
23 was up to me if I wanted to share them or not.

24 That's something I remember from the questions you
25 were asking earlier about birthdays. I've just

1 remembered what you were on about. On my birthday, my
2 mum would bring me sweeties, but Quarriers would
3 confiscate my sweeties and put them into a big communal
4 tin for everybody to get a sweetie, and I wouldn't get
5 to keep them. Whereas when I was in the Elise for those
6 six weeks that my mum used to come and visit me, I got
7 my sweeties entirely to myself. And then it was up to
8 me if I wanted to share them. That's what I done.
9 Because for the first time, it was my choice, it wasn't
10 theirs.

11 Q. Jennifer, you tell us actually about another time when
12 you remember being in hospital with what you recalled to
13 be a kidney infection.

14 A. That's right, yes.

15 Q. You've got a memory of that as well?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can you tell me what your memory is of that?

18 A. My memory of that is I had a really bad kidney infection
19 and I was again admitted into the Elise with it and the
20 nurses had told me not to go to the toilet on my own,
21 that I had to call the nurses any time I needed to go to
22 the toilet. And I remember shouting and shouting and
23 shouting but no nurse came. So I got up on my own and
24 went to the toilet because I was so desperate.
25 I thought if they don't come any minute, I'm going to

1 wet the bed again and I was terrified to wet the bed.

2 I went to the toilet and just about got myself back
3 into bed when a nurse appeared and asked me what I was
4 doing out of bed. I said, well, I went to the toilet.
5 She said, why did you do that, you were told not to go
6 to the toilet without anybody. And then she punched me
7 in the very kidney that I had the infection in.

8 Q. That was one of the nurses?

9 A. That was one of the nurses. I don't know her name.

10 I can't remember her name. I just knew she was one of
11 the nurses.

12 Q. Can I ask you about another memory you have? It's at
13 paragraph 74 of your statement. It's to do with your
14 sister's teddy bear. Can you tell me something that
15 happened with the teddy bear?

16 A. Yes. One year, my mum gave us both a teddy bear. My
17 sister's teddy bear was golden and my teddy bear was
18 freckled, and I called it Potato Face and [REDACTED] called
19 her teddy bear Goldy, and the boys in the cottage got
20 hold of her teddy bear and they started ripping it to
21 bits. I was so indignant at this, that my sister's
22 teddy bear was getting pulled apart because she loved
23 that teddy bear, it was one of the first teddy bears
24 either of us had ever had. I was just so angry and
25 furious at them at destroying her teddy bear. When they

1 ripped the head off the teddy bear, I started fighting
2 with them all and that was me in trouble again by
3 protecting my sister's teddy bear.

4 But for some reason, they would never actually touch
5 my teddy bear.

6 Q. How did you get into trouble? What did they do when
7 they saw you fighting about the teddy bear?

8 A. Basically, they took all my toys off me for a while.
9 That was my punishment, which was a light punishment.

10 Q. I think in your statement you say at the end of
11 paragraph 74 --

12 A. I got a beating. I got a beating. That's right, sir.
13 I hid behind a chair.

14 On Christmas Day, we all had a chair and behind each
15 chair was some presents. I knew once I started fighting
16 with them, the other children went and got the
17 QDW/QDX, and from that they then dragged me again back
18 up those stairs. My teddy bear got confiscated off me,
19 but as well as that, I got a beating that day as well,
20 which was Christmas Day.

21 Q. What sort of beating did you get?

22 A. A similar beating like before when I got whipped with
23 white towels. All the towels were white and again it
24 was a wet towel. They always whipped you with a wet
25 towel. They would strip you naked and whip you with

1 a wet towel and it was the back of your legs, your
2 buttocks, until they were bleeding, your back, and
3 finally they would put the towel round your neck and
4 squeeze it to the point you passed out, and then you'd
5 get a bucket of cold water flung over you and that would
6 be it, they just left you lying there.

7 Q. To be clear about this, the beatings were given by
8 Mr and Mrs QDW/QDX ?

9 A. Mrs QDX did most of the beatings.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. He came in and did the -- he actually just threw the
12 bucket of water over you.

13 Q. So it was Mrs QDX that would generally do this with
14 the wet towel?

15 A. Yes, sir, yes.

16 Q. Yes, if I move on to, paragraph 77 of your statement,
17 you tell us there that you ran away from Quarriers maybe
18 four or five times --

19 A. Mm-hm.

20 Q. -- but you were just picked up fairly quickly afterwards
21 on the same day, I think, is what you tell us.

22 You mention one occasion when a couple picked you up
23 and asked where you'd been and where you'd come from and
24 you told them you had come from the home, that's
25 Quarriers presumably. You say:

1 "I told them that I didn't want to go back."

2 Do you remember that?

3 A. I do remember it, sir, yes.

4 Q. What I want to ask you is: why did you not want to go
5 back? Why were you not wanting to go back?

6 A. Because I hated the place. I was always getting
7 beatings that I didn't understand. I hated the
8 QDW/QDX as much as they hated me. And I knew even --
9 it was at night-time that time I ran away and I ran away
10 in my nightie. I don't know -- I can't remember what
11 I'd done, but I ran down the stairs from the dormitory,
12 the front door was open, and I ran and ran and ran and
13 ran.

14 I ended up at the quarry, which wasn't that -- well,
15 to a child running and running, getting to a quarry that
16 may be only like a mile away, it may feel like 10 miles
17 away, and I sat down in the quarry and I cried and cried
18 and cried. This couple in a car stopped and asked me
19 where I'd come from, and I told them that I'd been --
20 I came from the home but I didn't want to go back to the
21 home because they didn't treat me right and I didn't
22 want to go back. And they kept saying -- I kept asking
23 them, can you not keep me, can you not keep me, please
24 keep me, please keep me. He kept saying, we're really
25 sorry, but we can't keep you, we've got to take you

1 back, and he did.

2 Q. Jennifer, can I move on to some more memories you have
3 of Mr and Mrs QDW/QDX . If I could go to paragraph 79
4 in your statement. This is a memory of your first day
5 in Quarriers. The background, I think you tell us, and
6 I don't want to go into the detail of this, is that on
7 that first day --

8 A. Excuse me, sir, can I stop you? Can I get a toilet
9 break?

10 MR PEOPLES: Absolutely.

11 LADY SMITH: We need that just now, do we?

12 A. I'm afraid so.

13 LADY SMITH: That's fine, we can do that.

14 (2.42 pm)

15 (A short break)

16 (2.47 pm)

17 LADY SMITH: Are you okay to carry on now, Jennifer?

18 A. Yes, my Lady.

19 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

20 MR PEOPLES: Jennifer, I was just coming to your first day
21 and something that happened with Mrs QDX . I was
22 just saying the background is, and I don't want to go
23 into the detail of it, but you were taken out on your
24 first day by an ordinarily girl in the cottage and
25 something happened, there was an incident, you said you

1 were assaulted, I think, and I'll not go into the detail
2 of that, it's there for us to read.

3 You say that when you got back to the cottage,
4 Mrs [REDACTED] QDX appears to have been told that you were
5 screaming in the street, presumably related to this
6 incident that happened.

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. What did Mrs [REDACTED] QDX do when she heard that you'd been
9 screaming in the street? Can you tell us in your own
10 words?

11 A. That's when the abuse first started. That was my first
12 day and because I'd been told -- because she had been
13 told by this older girl that I'd been screaming in the
14 street, she then took me up the stairs for the first
15 time and she whipped me with a wet towel on my legs.
16 That's when I first got in to getting the beatings with
17 wet towels. That was the first day.

18 Q. Jennifer, in paragraph 79, you do mention the wet towels
19 and how they were used. But you've also mentioned that
20 there was a leather belt involved as well; is that
21 right?

22 A. Yes. Sometimes they would use a leather belt, but not
23 always.

24 Q. Was a belt used on that occasion though?

25 A. Yes, it was, sir. I can actually state that the belt

1 was used less often than the towels were.

2 Q. But when the belt was used -- you say:

3 "On that occasion she [that's Mrs QDX] used
4 a leather belt with a buckle on my backside and my
5 legs."

6 Is that what happened on that occasion?

7 A. Yes, sir, that was true.

8 Q. Right. She also used the wet towels in the way you've
9 described today?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. The wet towel punishment happened again, I think you
12 tell us, in paragraph 80, on an occasion when apparently
13 you lost your shoe and a coat in the burn that ran close
14 to the grounds of Quarriers; is that right?

15 A. That's true as well, yes.

16 Q. And you tell us, and I don't think we need to go into
17 the detail, because you basically say that Mrs QDX ,
18 when she found out about that, used the wet towel in the
19 way that you've described, wrapped it around your neck,
20 squeezed it, and you had the bucket of water thrown over
21 you to wake you up. Is that --

22 A. That's correct, sir.

23 Q. So far as the frequency of beatings was concerned that
24 occurred upstairs in the cottage, as you've told us, you
25 tell us in paragraph 81 that these beatings were

- 1 happening on a weekly basis. Is that as you remember
2 it?
- 3 A. Yes, it is exactly as I remember it.
- 4 Q. Indeed, you tell us that Mr [REDACTED] QDW would also beat you
5 with the belt. Is that the belt -- in the way that you
6 told us about Mrs [REDACTED] QDX ?
- 7 A. Yes, sir.
- 8 Can I also state at this point, he actually took
9 a lesser part in the actual beatings than she did. She
10 was actually the instigator of it and she was the
11 more -- how can I put this? Although he would get
12 involved sometimes, it was Mrs [REDACTED] QDX that did the
13 majority of the actual beatings.
- 14 Q. With either the belt or the towel?
- 15 A. Aye, or with a combination of both, depending on how bad
16 the punishment was or how bad the crime was that I'd
17 supposedly committed.
- 18 Q. Jennifer, if I could move to something else. It starts
19 at paragraph 83. Again, you tell us something that
20 happened -- the older girl that you mentioned before
21 would make you do something with another boy --
- 22 A. Yes, sir.
- 23 Q. -- when you were in the bath together. I don't want to
24 go into the detail here, we can read what you tell us
25 happened on that occasion or indeed happened on a number

1 of occasions, but what I would like to ask you, though,
2 is did you ever tell the QDW/QDX that this was
3 happening, that this older girl was doing this? Did you
4 ever try to tell them?

5 A. No, sir.

6 Q. Okay. Then you tell us about being abused sexually by
7 a older male resident over a prolonged period of time at
8 paragraph 85 and following. Do you see that?

9 A. Yes sir.

10 Q. Again, we can read for ourselves what you tell us about
11 this abuse. You say the boy was a bit older than you,
12 there was an age difference, and you describe what he
13 did and over what period he did it. But can I again ask
14 you this question: did you ever tell the QDW/QDX that
15 this boy was doing these things to you?

16 A. No, sir.

17 Q. Was there any reason why you didn't feel able to tell
18 Mr and Mrs QDW/QDX either about what the girl was
19 doing, the older girl, or what the older boy was doing?

20 A. The reason I couldn't tell them was that with the boy
21 that was sexually abusing me, he used to say, "If you
22 tell anybody I've done this, I'm just going to say you
23 asked me to do this".

24 Q. Right.

25 A. And it was his word against mine. And him being older

1 than me and me being young and not very smart, he would
2 be the one that would be believed and I would have got
3 a beating for being a dirty, filthy, clarty bitch.

4 Q. If I move on, I'll just refer to this for the notes,
5 I don't think I need to go back over it. At
6 paragraph 88, you've told us about the occasion with the
7 stew and what happened when you were forced to eat the
8 stew and it was re-served and so forth over a period of
9 days. You've told us that already, so I won't need to
10 ask you about that again, it's just more for the benefit
11 of our transcript, that that's the occasion I think you
12 told us about earlier this afternoon with the stew.

13 Do you see that?

14 A. Mm-hm, yes, sir.

15 Q. And then just on the next paragraph, paragraph 89, you
16 tell us that when you were at Quarriers you did witness
17 what you call abuse and assaults against other children
18 and you give an example of what you remember. Indeed,
19 you seem to remember one occasion when you saw a group
20 of boys outside.

21 A. Yes, that's correct.

22 Q. What did you see on that occasion?

23 A. We were actually going to church on that occasion. It
24 was in the winter, and there was like -- I'm in the
25 wrong place. It was in the winter and there was like

1 a group of four boys and they were all huddled together
2 for warmth because they were all naked and all these
3 four boys were huddled in this wee tight corner,
4 huddling each other, and what you could see was like
5 their backs, their bare buttocks and their legs because
6 they were all huddled together. Don't ask me what
7 cottage they were in, I don't remember that. All I know
8 is that it was a cottage that was near the church, but
9 I don't remember -- I don't know the cottage number.

10 Q. But it wasn't cottage 13?

11 A. It wasn't cottage 13.

12 Q. A different cottage?

13 A. Yes. That was the boys' cottage, a boys-only cottage.

14 Q. Okay. At paragraph 90, you mention a dark room. You
15 say that whenever you ran away, you'd be punished when
16 you returned and you'd be put in a dark room for several
17 days. Do you see that?

18 A. Yes, sir. Can I actually ... Can I actually say
19 something at this particular point?

20 Q. Yes.

21 A. I actually feel at this point that I'm actually -- I've
22 got mixed up between Quarriers and another home where
23 I got put into a dark room. Quarriers didn't have
24 a dark room. It was another children's home I was in.
25 Can I apologise for putting that in at Quarriers when

- 1 that actually happened in another children's home?
- 2 Q. That's very fair of you to say and to bring that up. So
- 3 that was a different place?
- 4 A. That was a different place, yes.
- 5 Q. I won't need to ask you any more about that one then.
- 6 Just in terms of the matter of reporting what had
- 7 been happening to you, at paragraph 91 I think you tell
- 8 us that you didn't tell anyone about what was happening.
- 9 A. No, sir. On occasions -- like my mum would ask me, "Did
- 10 Mrs [REDACTED] QDX give you any supper?" And it was like,
- 11 I said, "No, she doesn't", so my mum would say to me,
- 12 "You ask Mrs [REDACTED] QDX, you tell Mrs [REDACTED] QDX that I said
- 13 you're to get supper". So I went back and told
- 14 Mrs [REDACTED] QDX, "My mummy says I have to get supper", and
- 15 Mrs [REDACTED] QDX's response to that was she gave me three
- 16 fried egg rolls in a oner and made me eat all three
- 17 fried egg rolls and said, "You won't be asking for
- 18 supper in the future, will you?" And I never, ever did
- 19 after that. And I never, ever told my mum that I didn't
- 20 get supper after that.
- 21 Q. I think you tell us on paragraph 92 that you did
- 22 finally, before your mum died, tell her a bit about what
- 23 was going on in Quarriers.
- 24 A. I did, yes.
- 25 Q. And you tell us that when you did so, she started crying

- 1 and asked why you hadn't said anything to her before
2 about these matters.
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. I think the reason you gave is you didn't think she
5 would have believed you.
- 6 A. No, sir.
- 7 Q. Why do you think she wouldn't have believed what you
8 were telling her?
- 9 A. I think because at that point in time nobody -- it was
10 an age when nobody would have believed a child, that
11 adults were always correct. I was always scared that my
12 mum wouldn't believe me. When I told her -- I told her
13 just before she died when I came back home to look after
14 her, I think she was more heartbroken by the fact that
15 I didn't trust her enough to tell her and that --
16 I think, had she known what had been going on, she would
17 have taken us out of Quarriers a lot sooner than she
18 did.
- 19 Q. At the time you felt that if you said something, even to
20 your mum, you wouldn't be believed; is that the way you
21 felt at the time?
- 22 A. Yes. Or I felt I'd get taken away again.
- 23 Q. Something else might happen that --
- 24 A. Yes, I'd get taken away again.
- 25 Q. Just to be clear, you tell us a bit about your adult

1 life and you've had a difficult spell and I don't want
2 to go into it and we can read it for ourselves and
3 you've very fully set out what happened as you became an
4 adult and what happened in your early years -- although
5 I think things improved in later life.

6 A. Uh-huh, yes, sir.

7 Q. Just to get a date about your mum or your foster mum,
8 I think at paragraph 107, do you tell us that the person
9 you regard as your mum died in 2007.

10 A. That's correct, yes.

11 Q. So it would be a little time before that that you told
12 her fully or more fully what had gone on in Quarriers?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I don't want to go through the detail of the impact
15 which you set out very fully in your statement, but at
16 paragraph 111 I think you tell us that the time in care
17 had a terrible effect on you and that there was a lot of
18 things that it had an effect upon, particularly
19 relationships with other people; is that right?

20 A. Very much so.

21 Q. And we can read that for ourselves about what you mean
22 by that. I think that in recent years, as you tell us,
23 you've been getting some support, valuable support, on
24 a regular basis from the In Care Survivors?

25 A. Yes, sir. That was [REDACTED], [REDACTED] was my support

1 worker.

2 Q. Do you think that has helped you a lot?

3 A. Yes, totally, yes. I don't know where I'd be without
4 it, I really don't. If I hadn't got counselled by it,
5 I wouldn't be here today to tell you about it.

6 MR PEOPLES: I'm very glad that you are here today to tell
7 us and I would like to finish by saying thank you very
8 much for coming. I have no more questions for you, but
9 I thank you for attending and wish you well.

10 A. Thank you very much, sir.

11 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding questions? No.

12 Jennifer, thank you very much for coming along today
13 and for engaging with the inquiry in the way that
14 you have done because you had a lot of detail to give to
15 us. It has been carefully recorded in your statement
16 and that's really helpful. It has been very helpful to
17 have you here today. Thank you very much for all that
18 you've contributed.

19 A. Thank you very much.

20 LADY SMITH: I'm now able to let you go.

21 A. Thank you very much.

22 LADY SMITH: We'll have an adjournment just now because
23 we'll be going on to other business but you take your
24 time in getting out, whatever's comfortable for you.

25 (3.00 pm)

1 (A short break)

2 (3.07 pm)

3 LADY SMITH: Yes, Ms Rattray.

4 Witness statement of DORIS WALKER (read)

5 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, next we have another read-in of
6 a statement, this time a statement of Doris Walker, who
7 was a former employee of Quarriers. Her statement can
8 be found at WIT.001.001.9773:

9 "My name is Doris Walker. I was born in 1945 and my
10 contact details are known to the inquiry.

11 "I worked at Quarriers when I was 18, going on 19.
12 I lasted a month. I got five Highers at school and
13 I needed a summer job so I looked around for something
14 to do. I must have been between school and college.
15 I thought I'd write to Quarriers to see if they needed
16 some help. I got the job as a mother's helper. This
17 was in 1964.

18 "I grew up in Gourock. I didn't know anyone in
19 Quarriers at the time. My mother was in the Mothers'
20 Union at church and they had links with Quarriers. They
21 used to fundraise and suchlike. My sister wrote to me
22 while I was working at Quarriers and it was addressed to
23 cottage 30. I can't recall if that's the one I worked
24 in or the one I lived in, as there was a staff cottage
25 where I slept.

1 "I went to Jordanhill College studying to be
2 a teacher. I thought this would give me good experience
3 working with children. I had taught in Sunday school
4 and helped out if there were any children around.
5 Quarriers didn't ask if I had any experience.

6 "After writing the letter to Quarriers, I can't
7 recall what happened next, but presumably they wrote to
8 me telling me they had accepted me and I had the job.
9 I did not get an interview.

10 "Quarriers was like a small village. It had an
11 office building, a small shop and a church. The
12 cottages were like old Victorian houses, big houses. On
13 the surface, it was quite a nice-looking environment:
14 a lot of open space, it was spread out and airy.
15 I can't remember how many cottages there were.

16 "When I wrote the letter to the inquiry, I kind of
17 had the number of children in the cottage as 12 in my
18 head, but thinking about it later, it couldn't have been
19 as many as that because my mental picture is not of that
20 big a number. Twelve is a lot of children in a house.
21 It must have been nearer 8, that kind of number.

22 "There was an upstairs and downstairs in the
23 cottage. I can't remember ever being upstairs. The
24 children's bedrooms were upstairs as well as the house
25 mother's bedroom. Downstairs was a big, big kitchen

1 with a big pantry off it and an old-fashioned wood
2 range, which was a nightmare, and a dining room. There
3 must have been a sitting room but I can't remember being
4 in it.

5 "My role was to help the house mother with the
6 children and the cooking. She must have had a cleaner,
7 because I never had to do housework, either that or the
8 children did it, but I don't remember seeing someone
9 else coming in. I had to prepare the food, help with
10 the cooking and serving of it. A lot of the time I was
11 just entertaining the children and keeping them out of
12 the house.

13 "There was another cottage in the grounds where the
14 staff slept. I was in there. I didn't see any other
15 staff in the cottage that I stayed in. It was kind of
16 nerve-racking because it was out in the country and I'd
17 never lived away from home. I was aware that there were
18 other people around but I never saw anyone else. I let
19 myself in. I had my own room and that was it.

20 "There was a young couple who were in charge of the
21 next cottage to us. I saw them a few times but in
22 retrospect, people kept themselves to themselves in
23 Quarriers, looking after their own cottage.

24 "I had one day off a week while I worked at
25 Quarriers and I went home. I was paid for my time

1 there. It was a summer job.

2 "The children in our cottage were aged between 3 and
3 I think the oldest was 12 years old. They were all
4 primary schoolchildren. There were two 3-year-old boys
5 and I remember the name of one boy. I can't remember
6 any other names. It sounds terrible but all through my
7 teaching years I was able to remember the children's
8 names for that year and then move to the next year. I'm
9 very poor with names.

10 "It was mixed with boys and girls. I'm not aware if
11 there were family members together. I had to take them
12 out. There was a school in Quarriers so the children
13 would have gone to that, but I was there during the
14 summer holidays.

15 "One little boy came part-way through my time there
16 just before we went on holiday. He came from
17 Gordonstoun. He was on a scheme to help deprived
18 children, I think. I got the impression children were
19 at Quarriers for a long time.

20 "I believe they were adequately clothed. I don't
21 remember being put out in any way by how they were
22 dressed. There must have been a laundry system.
23 I can't remember the house mother washing clothes and
24 I certainly didn't do it. I was very much under the
25 thumb and at that age, being quite a naive youngster,

1 I didn't have the gumption to question anything or stand
2 up to her.

3 "I remember my first day very vividly. I must have
4 gone to the office or reception area because when
5 I finished there I'd go to the office. I suppose now
6 you would call them human resources. The lady there
7 that I spoke to later must have directed me, but
8 I honestly don't remember.

9 "I started on the first week of July. I was told to
10 go to the cottage I was working at. I can't remember
11 what number it was. It was a lovely summer's day. The
12 house mother was an elderly looking lady in my eyes; she
13 was in her late 50s. She was certainly a lot older than
14 I expected her to be. She was talking to the couple who
15 ran the cottage next door, the young couple, and was
16 bemoaning the fact that she was given another child to
17 look after, ie me, instead of sending her some proper
18 help, so it wasn't a good start.

19 "I don't even remember if I went into the cottage
20 because she was talking to them outside. In my head her
21 name was Miss **QEH** but that could be wrong. I can't
22 remember if that's her name. I don't know because
23 around about that time, or shortly after, I befriended
24 an elderly lady in the church and I used to visit her
25 and I quite honestly can't remember if I have confused

1 the two names. I know **QEH** is the name of one of them
2 but I couldn't tell you which one.

3 "She told me to look after two three-year-old boys
4 who were playing outside.

5 "I went over to the cottage to help get the
6 breakfast ready for the kids maybe about 8 o'clock and
7 I'd have breakfast with them. Breakfast was something
8 else again. I can't recall the food, what they had for
9 breakfast, but I don't remember any sort of cheerfulness
10 or banter at the table.

11 "The children daren't drop a crumb. After breakfast
12 we all, including myself, had to stand with our backs to
13 the wall and stand there for however long it took her to
14 walk round the table while she checked for crumbs or
15 mess and then check their bedrooms for any untidiness.
16 I can't imagine how I could have allowed it.

17 "I had a bit of experience at home when I used to
18 help my mother on days when my mother was working. As a
19 teenager I would help to get the meal ready with my
20 sister.

21 "I peeled endless potatoes, et cetera. They had
22 full cream milk delivered that had to be poured into
23 a big bowl and then put into the pantry so she could
24 skim off the cream. The kids had milk puddings most
25 days. The milk from the morning was put in a big pot

1 left on the range to heat up gradually during the course
2 of the day.

3 "There was a big table they all sat round. They
4 didn't speak. The food was good. Good wholesome food.
5 It was delivered to the house.

6 "During all mealtimes the children had to sit
7 quietly and eat and they daren't make a mess. They
8 would have to sit at the table until they ate it. That
9 was normal in those days. I remember as a child at
10 school being made to sit and eat dinner.

11 "I wasn't involved in bedtime routines. I finished
12 work after dinner time.

13 "I can't think of toys or books in the cottage.
14 There were no toys outside; they just ran around and
15 played. It was a big age range. Most of the time the
16 children had to be outside. I can't actually remember
17 entertaining them inside.

18 "Our cottage went to a holiday home in Ayrshire.
19 Apparently some wealthy person donated the use of this
20 house or cottage to be used by Quarriers. Our
21 house mother seemed to know him quite well. It must
22 have been a couple of weeks into my time there. We were
23 taken down by minibus. There was the house mother, me
24 and the children.

25 "It was a nightmare because I was living with her.

1 I spent the whole time trying not to put a foot wrong or
2 let the children put a foot wrong. You didn't know when
3 she would flare up about something.

4 "For example, one of my duties after breakfast was
5 to rinse out the tea towels and hang them out. One
6 morning I did this and when I went in, I got a torrent
7 of abuse from her because apparently this wealthy man
8 had arrived at his house and she accused me of trying to
9 attract his attention. She lambasted me in front of the
10 children.

11 "I have this memory of it being next to a disused
12 airfield and of the children running around this big
13 concrete area. The children just had to keep out of her
14 way. The house mother took the view that this was her
15 holiday. She wanted her own time in the house. I took
16 the children to the beach and I was given a time to
17 return and I daren't be home early.

18 "I must have had to be up to help with breakfast.
19 I assume we must have brought food with us because
20 I just had to help in the preparation and serving of it.
21 We went to the beach, sat on the beach, and played
22 around.

23 "I have no happy or good memories while I was there.
24 I had nice times with the children on their own, but
25 in the cottage and in the holiday home everyone was too

1 uptight. We were too scared that we would upset or
2 offend her to relax.

3 "On holiday she had a room of her own. I shared a
4 room with, I think, three other girls. There were two
5 sets of bunk beds and I was on the top bunk.

6 "When we were on holiday, the other little
7 3-year-old boy injured himself. He was running with
8 a stick and it went through the roof of his mouth when
9 he fell. It was awful. She got a taxi and took him to
10 the doctor but she was very unsympathetic. He was in
11 real pain.

12 "On the way down, one girl was terribly travel sick.
13 Again she was very unsympathetic. She made her sit on
14 a newspaper and she daren't be sick again. My mental
15 picture puts her at about 5 or 6 years old.

16 "In the cottage I don't know about religious
17 instruction. We had to go to church on Sunday, which
18 was in the village. The children had to look their
19 Sunday best.

20 "Moving to Australia was lauded as being something
21 wonderful. I have a vague memory of the minister at
22 Quarriers mentioning Australia at the service. I was
23 aware that children were in Australia.

24 "The children had to do chores, which was
25 acceptable. If you have a big family, housework is

1 acceptable. They would wash dishes, clear up. They had
2 to leave their bedrooms immaculate or the house mother
3 went ballistic.

4 "I can't recall children having visits or seeing
5 their family. I can't recall any external inspections
6 while I was there.

7 "I can't recall if the children got pocket money and
8 I don't know if they had had their own possessions.

9 "The house mother would regularly go ballistic. She
10 had the temper of the devil. She would shout and bawl
11 at the children and she would hit them with anything she
12 had in her hand. I was really frightened of her. This
13 was regularly done.

14 "Thinking back to those days, that was 50 years ago
15 and parents did smack their children. I didn't grow up
16 in that kind of house. My parents didn't smack my
17 sister or myself and also we didn't get a lot of
18 shouting in our house. We had a very happy, pleasant
19 childhood, but a lot of families didn't have that and a
20 lot of children were smacked. But even allowing for
21 those days, I was shocked by her behaviour. It was
22 quite excessive. I was very frightened of her.

23 "I didn't discipline the children any more than
24 telling them off for misbehaving. I would say the
25 children were quite cowed. I didn't have a problem

1 disciplining them. Normally with a group of children
2 they are high-spirited but I can't remember high spirits
3 with these children.

4 "I've told you about standing with their backs to
5 the wall. This could be used as a punishment. I can't
6 recall any rules as such, just everyone doing their
7 damndest not to upset her.

8 "She was very handy. One example of this was when
9 one of the older boys didn't do something properly in
10 the kitchen and she was coming out of the pantry with
11 one of the big industrial size tins of fruit in her
12 hand. She hit him several times about the head and
13 shoulders with it. You don't know how to react. What
14 can you do? She struck him several times. This was
15 before the holiday. After the holiday, I realised
16 I couldn't continue to work there and I was quite
17 distressed about the way the children were treated.

18 "The boy's arms must have been bruised from the tin
19 of fruit. He had them up defending himself. I can
20 actually picture it. If she happened to be carrying
21 something and someone annoyed her she would strike them
22 wherever she could reach. It was indiscriminate.

23 "The one thing that I saw as strange was the way she
24 treated the little boy from Gordonstoun, who could do no
25 wrong in her eyes. She took him up to her bedroom to

1 talk to him I presume. If that boy had any allegations
2 to make about her, even at that age, I was uncomfortable
3 about her singling out one of the older boys and
4 entertaining him in her bedroom. This would be in the
5 afternoon and I think it was for quite a while. It
6 happened a number of times. It didn't happen on
7 holiday. He never got shouted at and he didn't get hit.

8 "It was not a nurturing environment in the cottage.
9 I felt it was quite a damaging environment. The lack of
10 love and care really distressed me. I don't recall any
11 of the children talking to me about it. I would
12 consider her treatment of the children as abusive, even
13 in that day and age. I knew friends who got a skelp for
14 misbehaving but this was over and above this.

15 "The children seemed to unite and come together.
16 They spent most of their time trying to avoid her or not
17 upset her. I am appalled to say that I was frightened
18 of her and maybe didn't intervene when I should have.

19 "After the holiday I had a couple of days off
20 because I hadn't had any time off. I didn't come back
21 in the minibus and I went home. When I came back to
22 Quarriers I had to get a meal ready for the house mother
23 and the children coming back. I had to start up the
24 stove but she hadn't showed me how to do it. I had to
25 go next door and ask how to do it.

1 "The next day I went to the human resource lady and
2 told her of my concerns for the children. She was
3 probably in her 30s or 40s. She wasn't elderly but not
4 very young. I remember getting quite upset and a bit
5 weepy. I remember her hearing me out but saying what
6 should I expect, this was a grandmother doing a mother's
7 job, it was hard enough, and I obviously wasn't cut out
8 for it, so I should leave and I did.

9 "When I left, I talked about the abuse with my
10 parents and my husband's sister. It was a really bad
11 experience that I was glad to put behind me. It altered
12 my view of Quarriers, fund-raising and all the rest.

13 "I'm pretty sure there was no action taken about me
14 telling the HR lady, apart from getting rid of me.
15 I didn't report it to the police.

16 "I'm not aware of the house mother keeping notes or
17 records.

18 "I went on to become a primary schoolteacher.
19 I taught in Canada for 18 months, I taught children with
20 major psychological issues and learning problems.
21 I also taught for five years at Langlands Park List D
22 School in Greenock. It was for girls aged 12 to 16.
23 I taught English and needlework. I had four days and
24 alternate weekends as care staff as well as two nights
25 per week as care staff. It was a combined job.

1 "I taught for all my working life apart from when
2 I had my children. I had a break for five or six years
3 then.

4 "I thought it might add to the background of what
5 the inquiry is doing and contribute in a small way as to
6 what Quarriers was like. Presumably, all the cottages
7 weren't run in the same way. Some would have been well
8 run. I don't know, it's just my experience of that one.
9 The behaviour of the house mother towards the children
10 was condoned and the management were aware that this is
11 what it was like. If you keep quiet and don't say
12 anything, that seems a really negative thing.

13 "There would have to be more monitoring of the
14 people that are in charge. There should be more care
15 given, more love given. I don't know why someone who so
16 obviously disliked children was in charge of taking care
17 of children.

18 "I don't like being anywhere near Quarriers or
19 talking about it. Once I had spoken about it to human
20 resources, and I left Quarriers, I just put it out of my
21 head. When I saw something in the newspaper I wrote to
22 the inquiry.

23 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
24 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.
25 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

1 true."

2 The statement was signed by Doris Walker on
3 22 June 2018.

4 My Lady, I think that concludes the evidence for
5 today. Tomorrow we will have three oral witnesses.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

7 That's it for today in terms of the evidence that's
8 going to be laid before the hearing. Can I just mention
9 that in the course of other evidence, the evidence this
10 afternoon, the [REDACTED] have been mentioned and
11 Miss [REDACTED] has been mentioned but these are, of course,
12 names that are protected by my restriction order and
13 they cannot be disclosed outside the hearing room.

14 That's it for today and I'll rise now until
15 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

16 (3.30 pm)

17 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am
18 on Thursday, 1 November 2018)

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