

1 Wednesday, 28 November 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 (Proceedings delayed)

4 (10.07 am)

5 LADY SMITH: Good morning.

6 MR PEOPLES: Good morning, my Lady. The next witness is an
7 applicant who has chosen to waive anonymity and his name
8 is Killian Steele.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 KILLIAN STEELE (affirmed)

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

12 You'll see that microphone is switched on now and if
13 I can ask you to make sure you stay in a good position
14 for it so that everybody can hear you and so the
15 stenographers in particular can pick up what you say,
16 because they listen through the system.

17 I'll now hand over to Mr Peoples and he'll explain
18 what happens next.

19 Questions from MR PEOPLES

20 MR PEOPLES: Good morning, Killian. Before we start, before
21 I start asking you some questions about a statement
22 you have given to the inquiry, can I just explain there
23 is a red folder in front of you on the table, which
24 contains a copy of that statement, and you're very
25 welcome to use that when I'm asking any questions if you

1 want to refer to it. The statement or any other
2 document that we may refer to will come up on the screen
3 in front of you and you can also use that. I understand
4 you may have your own iPad --

5 A. I do, yes.

6 Q. -- which has, I think, a copy of the statement as well.
7 So feel free to use what suits you best at any point.

8 A. Okay. Thank you.

9 Q. If I could begin, and before I ask you anything, if
10 I could give for the benefit of the transcript, the
11 identification number of the statement that we have
12 given to your statement and that is WIT.001.002.0001.

13 If I could ask you at this stage to turn to the
14 final page of the statement in the red folder, which
15 I think is page 0066. Could you confirm for me that
16 you have signed your statement to the inquiry?

17 A. I have, yes.

18 Q. Could I also confirm at this stage that you have no
19 objection to your witness statement being published as
20 part of the evidence to the inquiry and that you believe
21 the facts stated in your witness statement are true?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. With that introduction, can I ask you to turn to the
24 first page of your statement. The first matter I just
25 want to confirm with you is your year of birth. I don't

1 need the date of birth. The year of birth is the year
2 1964; is that correct?

3 A. That is correct, yes.

4 Q. Your statement deals with a number of matters, but for
5 the benefit of those here today my focus will be on your
6 period of care in the care of Barnardo's at
7 Glasclune House in North Berwick. So a lot of my
8 questions will be directed towards that part of your
9 statement. But you can take it from me that we have
10 read the full statement and are aware of all the matters
11 in it that you have dealt with. I think at the end of
12 the evidence you would like also to make a statement of
13 your own --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- and you'll have that opportunity in due course.

16 So with that introduction, if I could just ask you
17 to look at the statement. I'll just take some general
18 matters first of all. So far as the background to going
19 into care is concerned, I think you tell us on the first
20 page of your statement at page 0001, at paragraph 2,
21 that you lived, prior to going into care, with your
22 parents [REDACTED] at an address in Edinburgh.

23 Is that right?

24 A. That's right.

25 Q. I don't need to go into the detail at this stage,

1 because we can read the background to you going into
2 care, but essentially the principal reason why you ended
3 up in care was to do with [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED]
8 A.

9 Q.

10 A.

11 Q.

12 [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED]
14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What you also tell us is that while you went to
16 Glasclune -- and we'll come to the dates in a moment --
17 around the age of 12, you did spend a considerable part
18 of your childhood in care settings; is that right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. If we go to page 0003 of your statement, Killian, at
21 paragraph 8 you tell us that in your primary years that
22 you think you were in about five or six different
23 children's homes.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And these were all run, you believe, by a local

1 authority?

2 A. Local authority, yes.

3 Q. One consequence of being in these different homes during
4 your primary school years is that you had to change
5 primary school frequently; is that correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Just generally speaking, do you think, looking back,
8 that that experience of moving between homes repeatedly
9 and moving schools, that had an impact, do you think, on
10 your educational achievements?

11 A. Yes.

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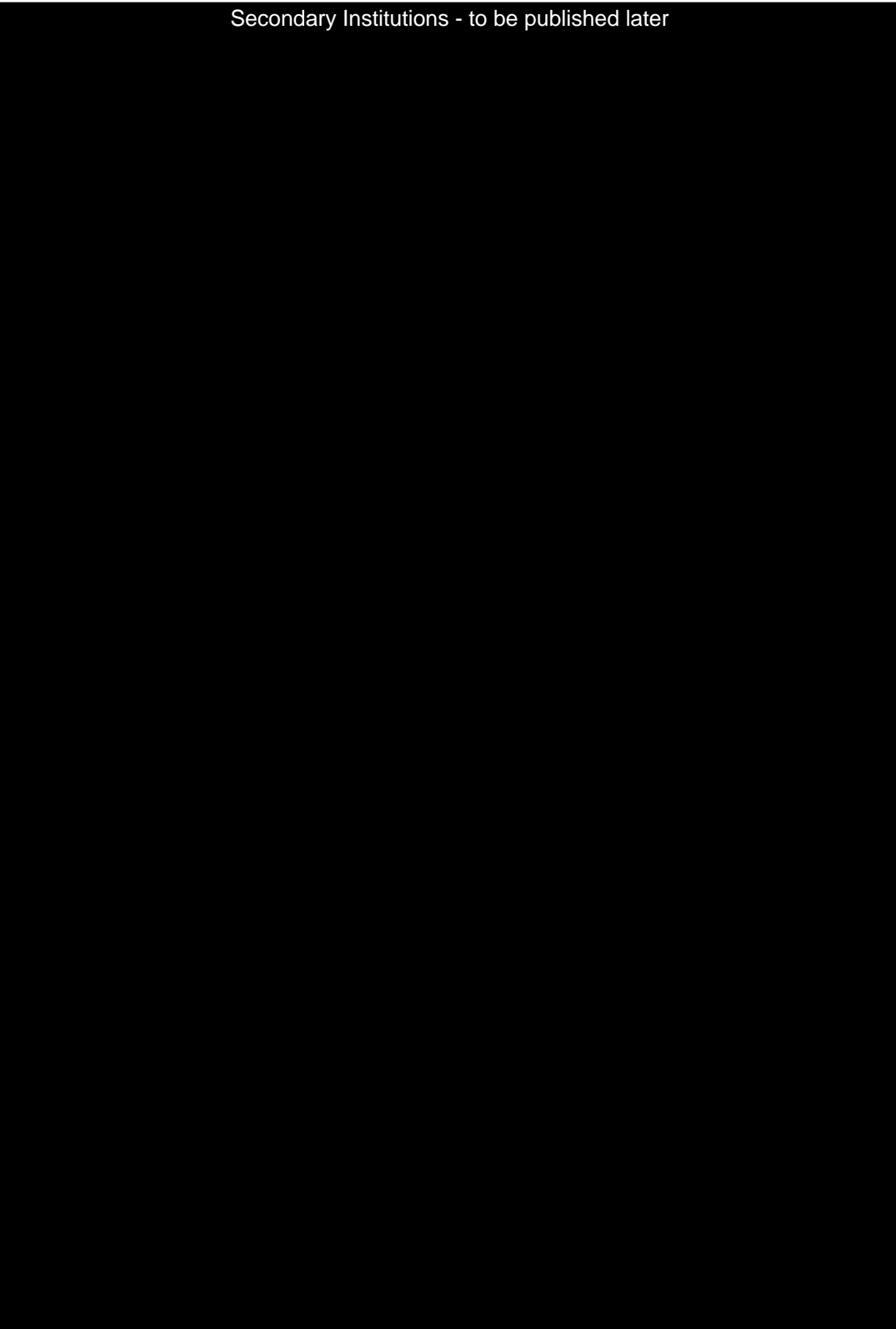
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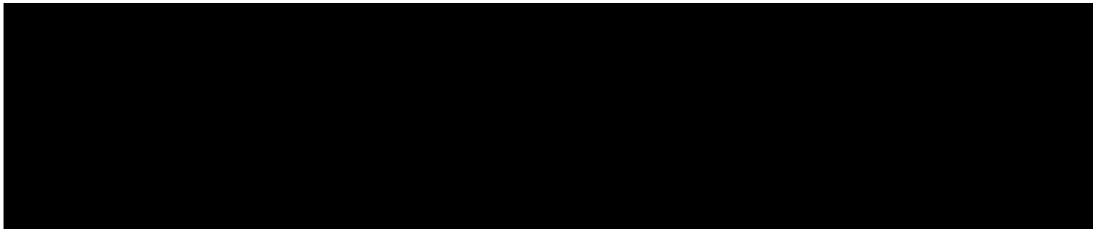
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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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MR PEOPLES: So you had no other life experience to measure it against in terms of good or bad experiences, that was just what happened to you?

A. Yes.

Q. Again, it's probably looking back, I don't think it's something you'd have rationalised as a youngster, but looking back, would you have seen that as a reason why you wouldn't have found it a reason to complain because it wasn't something that was outwith your normal experience?

A. Yes. I wouldn't have had the skills to understand or articulate any of that as a youngster. It's since I've become a kind of life-experienced adult that that makes sense to me. So yes -- no.

Q. So in your case, you wouldn't have really had any point of reference to say, "This is something bad and I'm going to say something to someone and tell them that something bad was happening"?

A. Yes, it was largely part of my life, whilst there were elements of it that were quite brutal and I knew I didn't like, it made me feel uncomfortable, I wasn't able to distinguish between -- that that was something

1 that shouldn't be happening.

2 Q. Again, just picking up on a general point that you raise
3 in your statement, at page 0007 at paragraph 22, you
4 tell us about some of the places you were in, including
5 an assessment centre for, I think, quite a considerable
6 period of time, almost a year or so. But you say in
7 paragraph 22:

8 "I was never told by any of the homes when I was
9 moving on."

10 Is that your recollection, that you didn't get
11 explanations why you were moving from one place to
12 another?

13 A. Exactly. To be honest, I didn't know what was happening
14 from one day to the next, so it wasn't a big surprise
15 that suddenly I'd be evacuated to another institution.

16 Q. And did that also apply at the time you did move to
17 Glasclune, that you didn't get a prior explanation of
18 why you were going there?

19 A. Glasclune was different because I had several visits
20 before. So whilst I was in the assessment centre, there
21 was kind of introductory visits, I think two or three of
22 them, before I actually managed to get a placement in
23 Glasclune. So yes, that was kind of different.

24 Q. So at least there was some process of introducing you to
25 this new setting --

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. -- before you actually arrived?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. At paragraph 23 on the same page, page 0007, you tell us
5 that during your childhood you did attend
6 Children's Panel hearings; is that correct?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. You do tell us what you say was the prevailing attitude
9 then towards children at the panel hearing. Just tell
10 us about how you saw things and how you set them out in
11 your statement.
- 12 A. Well, as an adult, I remember just being present. There
13 was not an opportunity for me to speak -- and I'm
14 talking pre-Glasclune. There wasn't an opportunity to
15 speak or for me to understand the reason that I was
16 there. I had become quite used to adults speaking on my
17 behalf.
- 18 Q. So you were at the hearing but not involved in the
19 process in any meaningful way?
- 20 A. Yes, from what I can remember, yes.
- 21 Q. I suppose one thing that moving around care settings did
22 give you was to some extent an ability to compare
23 settings, is that correct, because you were in a number
24 of places, including an assessment centre?
- 25 A. The comparison between pre-Glasclune and Glasclune was

1 quite profound. But up until that point, they were much
2 the same. They did things differently at school, so
3 when I went to different schools, I was having to
4 relearn the protocols of that school at the time. So
5 that was quite challenging, but you know, largely most
6 of the institutions pre-Glasclune were much the same.

7 Q. Obviously, the final one, the assessment centre at
8 Liberton, I think you tell us at page 0008 that that was
9 a locked unit.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And that you were there for quite a long time, 10 or
12 11 months, I think you tell us in the statement.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So you had a considerable spell at the assessment
15 centre?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. But you say that even given it was a locked unit, it
18 wasn't that different to some of the children's homes
19 you'd been in earlier?

20 A. Yes, I'll just clarify that. The assessment centre was
21 a brutal place to be in at that age and it was very,
22 very different to the number of homes previous to that.
23 But it wasn't a home, this was a kind of young
24 offenders' institution, if you like.

25 Q. But it was different in a significant way to even the

- 1 other homes you'd been in?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Because of the way it was run?
- 4 A. Yes, and the freedom.
- 5 Q. Again, I don't want to dwell on the detail of the
6 assessment centre because we've got it there to read,
7 but you do tell us in your statement about the routine
8 there and I think it's quite a regimented routine that
9 you describe; is that correct?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Would that have applied to the previous children's homes
12 that you were in as well, there were regimented and
13 quite rigid routines? Can you recall?
- 14 A. Well, with things like school and mealtimes it was
15 fairly regimented, but aside of that I remember being
16 allowed to be outside and play with other boys in the
17 sandpit and other things like that, and that gave an
18 element of freedom. I didn't have any of that really at
19 the assessment centre.
- 20 Q. Would that represent one of the big differences between
21 the assessment centre and the previous homes?
- 22 A. It would be part of it, yes.
- 23 Q. But you also talk about a level of brutality that you
24 hadn't experienced before.
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Is that brutality on the part of fellow residents or
2 staff or both?
- 3 A. It was both.
- 4 Q. I'm just going to ask you about one matter you deal with
5 in your statement at page 0014, because I think the
6 significance of this will come in later when I'll ask
7 you about Glasclune. You use a term "flakies" in
8 paragraph 46.
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Can you tell us what that means?
- 11 A. Whether that was a local word that we used, but flakies
12 was how we described expressing frustration. So
13 anything that we might not have agreed with that we were
14 chastised about, it was an expression of sheer anger or
15 frustration about something, so that was termed as
16 "having a flaky".
- 17 Q. What form would the expression take? What would you be
18 doing if you were having a flaky at any one time?
- 19 A. It might be someone saying that I couldn't do something
20 that seemed to me unreasonable or sometimes you would
21 have a flaky because of other things that were going on
22 in your mind at the time, and that was a kind of
23 controlled way to express it, knowing that you weren't
24 going to hurt yourself in that there was a kind of
25 support mechanism there. So flakies weren't always

1 about the brutality of someone kind of sitting on you
2 and pinning you down. It became sometimes, I think,
3 a nice avenue to express anger, frustration, worry,
4 anxiety, a number of things.

5 Q. Could the flaky involve demonstrable anger, shouting,
6 physical aggression --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- at times?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And that might --

11 A. Most of the time it did, yes.

12 Q. And that might cause the kind of response that you
13 describe at least in the assessment centre, where adults
14 would sit on the chests of, as you call it, little boys,
15 pinning their arms down with their knees and then put
16 you, in that place at least, into a padded cell?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. So that was one form of response --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- at least in the assessment centre, to a flaky?

21 A. And in Glasclune. There was part of having a flaky that
22 might have been seen as out of control. So the way that
23 that would be dealt with was to kind of restrict your
24 movement, to kind of pin you down in a way to forcibly
25 calm you down, I guess, or to prevent you hurting

1 yourself.

2 Q. So it was seen as a form of physical restraint to
3 prevent you either harming yourself or other people?

4 A. Yes. I would never -- my whole mindset, I would never
5 harm anyone else, and I would be very unlikely to harm
6 myself as a result of that. I was expressing emotions,
7 but the way that was dealt with was to physically
8 restrain you.

9 Q. The description you give at paragraph 46 of how it would
10 be dealt with in the assessment centre, would the way it
11 was dealt with at Glasclune differ in any way in terms
12 of the way restraint was used?

13 A. I think there was more of a human element in Glasclune,
14 whereas in the assessment centre, it was very much
15 a regimented form of preventing someone from expressing
16 emotion.

17 Q. But would you still have occasions at Glasclune where
18 adults would sit on the chest of children or young
19 persons?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And pin their arms down?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. I take it they didn't have a padded cell though?

24 A. No.

25 Q. No.

1 A. You know, sometimes as a child you needed to have that
2 reassurance that there was some physical protection --
3 I'm not talking about sexually, I'm talking about
4 a physical -- you know, the way I would describe that is
5 a bit like a father hugging the child because of the
6 emotions, and sometimes you kind of needed that and that
7 was sometimes how it just worked out.

8 Q. So in a sense, in a rather curious way, you almost
9 welcomed the restraint?

10 A. Sometimes, yes.

11 Q. I take it, it was a form of seeking to gain attention
12 and to make some point which perhaps you wouldn't
13 articulated necessarily but you wanted to draw attention
14 that something was troubling you?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And on these occasions, just thinking particularly of
17 Glasclune when this happened, was there attempts to get
18 to the bottom of what was troubling you?

19 A. I don't think so, no.

20 Q. It was just to calm you down, using a form of restraint?

21 A. It was an immediate reaction that was endorsed by most
22 members of staff, not -- most male members of staff,
23 actually. So I can't remember that ever happening with
24 a female member of staff.

25 Q. But if the restraint was used and you calmed down, was

- 1 there any attempt at that point to say, "Well, let's
2 have a discussion and talk this through and find out
3 what the problem is"?
- 4 A. I can't remember any incidence when that took place, but
5 I think that probably would have been documented in
6 a file or in a staff meeting that I wouldn't be in
7 attendance.
- 8 Q. But at least from your perspective, you weren't getting
9 these discussions taking place with members of staff?
- 10 A. No. I don't think I would have been able to understand
11 what that would have meant anyway. For me, at that
12 point, it was the only way that I could express an
13 emotion. I probably didn't understand what the emotions
14 were about.
- 15 Q. Because I think, and we'll come to the actual dates, you
16 were at Glasclune from the age of about 12 until, the
17 records suggest, the age of 17. I think you thought it
18 was slightly earlier than 17.
- 19 A. It might have been 17, actually.
- 20 Q. I'll give you dates in a moment.
- 21 So you were of an age when on the face of it some
22 would say you would have a level of understanding if
23 someone did talk to you about issues. But you don't
24 think you would have been equipped to deal with it in
25 that way at the time?

1 A. I don't think I would have been around the time of being
2 12, 13, 14. Maybe as I was becoming a wee bit more
3 engaged with being a 15 or 16-year-old I might have
4 adapted to have those skills, but certainly not up until
5 I was 14. I can't remember any incidence where I would
6 be communicating or trying to express what was going on
7 in terms of that frustration.

8 Q. Are you able to tell us, if you've thought -- and I'm
9 sure you have -- what would it have been that prevented
10 you having those skills at an age when it might be
11 thought generally children would have the ability to
12 speak, to have a discussion about a problem with an
13 adult, if they trusted them? What do you think was
14 holding you back?

15 A. I think probably the fact that I didn't consider that
16 there was anything wrong in anything that had been done
17 to me up until I became a bit older. So understanding
18 what these emotions -- for me, they were explosions that
19 I couldn't explain. It was internal emotion that I was
20 expressing, and however I was able to express it at the
21 time, so I'd become used to doing it that way without
22 thinking about the reasons behind it.

23 Q. If we can move on in your statement to page 0017, and
24 I think at paragraph 54, where you tell us about when
25 you left the assessment centre and, as you've told us

1 earlier, you'd had several visits to Glasclune before
2 you moved there. You had a memory, I think, of meetings
3 with the superintendent and his wife --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- during these visits? Is that right or not?

6 A. The superintendent I am referring to here is from the
7 assessment centre.

8 Q. Oh, sorry, yes. You're absolutely right. So on the
9 visits, did you see the other superintendent at
10 Glasclune?

11 A. I can't remember meeting Eric -- sorry, am I able to say
12 his name?

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. Eric and Doris, who were the superintendents at the
15 time. Yes.

16 Q. You do remember going at least and being shown the
17 place --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- and shown what it looked like and what the facilities
20 were and so forth?

21 A. The enormity of that house was, for a 12-year-old, was
22 incredible. So my actual relationship or the
23 comfortable part of my relationship was with the
24 social worker that took me there. It was a chap called
25 Mark.

- 1 Q. Was that a local authority social worker?
- 2 A. I think that was a Barnardo social worker. He was quite
3 a cool guy, you know, bit of a hippy, young, and quite a
4 kind of free-spirited person. So I kind of took to him
5 quite well. So he was the buffer of visiting this
6 enormous children's home. So that's kind of my memory,
7 really, of the visits.
- 8 Q. Do I take it, if you're right about Mark being attached
9 to Barnardo's, I take it he wouldn't have been in your
10 life before the Glasclune opportunity came up?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. Just at this point, it might be useful --
- 13 A. Sorry just to clarify that: he would have been part of
14 the latter months that I was at the assessment centre.
- 15 Q. Yes. In preparation for the move to Glasclune?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. But otherwise he hadn't been a social worker who was
18 involved with you or your family before then?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. Which would suggest, I think, perhaps he was attached to
21 Barnardo's rather than a local authority or other
22 employer.
- 23 Now, so far as some dates, if I could take them at
24 the moment from you, the records that we've seen suggest
25 that you were admitted to Glasclune on about

- 1 4 August 1976 when you were aged 12.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. And that you were discharged, according to the records,
4 I think, about 29 June 1981, when you were aged 17.
5 Does that broadly accord with your --
- 6 A. Yes, I think that's probably about right.
- 7 Q. Just because we're going to hear about various members
8 of staff, you've told us already that Eric and
9 Doris Falconer were the superintendents when you were at
10 Glasclune; is that right?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And there was another individual who you will tell us
13 about and do tell us about in your statement called
14 [REDACTED] QFB
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Can I tell you at this stage, it may help us understand
17 the time frames, the records that we've seen suggest
18 that [REDACTED] QFB started at Glasclune after you had
19 arrived and the date that he appears to have started was
20 about [REDACTED] 1978. I don't know if that -- you're
21 looking slightly surprised. Do you think it was
22 earlier?
- 23 A. Yes. I'm almost certain he was there when I arrived.
- 24 Q. Certainly the suggestion is he may have started, but you
25 thought he was there from around the time you arrived?

1 It's not critical.

2 A. Yes. I'm almost certain, maybe for a few months, after

3 I got there, but ...

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. But it appeared that he had been around a long time.

6 Q. What we are told is that he certainly was there when you

7 left, because I think he finished his employment at

8 Glasclune on [REDACTED] 1981. If the date I gave you for

9 the discharge is correct, [REDACTED] of that year, he would

10 still be there when you left Glasclune.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And I think that accords with your memory.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You tell us in your statement at page 0018 a bit about

15 Glasclune itself. We've had some evidence already about

16 it, so you can take it we have got a little bit of

17 familiarity about the layout and the fact that it was

18 a grand house on three floors with considerable grounds

19 and there was a wall that surrounded the property.

20 I don't know if that's what you remember.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And it was above the east beach at North Berwick?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You tell us in paragraph 56 on page 0018 that you

25 estimate that there were maybe about 30, 35 children in

1 all at Glasclune in your time.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. I appreciate it's an estimate.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. We understand there were dormitories for girls and
6 dormitories for boys in the upper floors --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- of the property.

9 A. That's right.

10 Q. And there would be various rooms on the ground floor and
11 a reception area and dining room and kitchen and so
12 forth.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You tell us about the age range of the children. It
15 spanned from the very young to about 16 years of age.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. When you say "very young", how young is very young? Is
18 it school age or below school age?

19 A. I think there was a boy called [REDACTED], who would have
20 been about 5 years old.

21 Q. You've already told us about the superintendent,
22 Eric Falconer, and I think you tell us, both in
23 paragraph 57 and indeed in another paragraph later on,
24 paragraph 87, you have a very high opinion of
25 Eric Falconer as an individual; is that correct?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Tell us what your assessment of him was then and is now.

3 A. He was just an incredible man, you know. He was solely
4 responsible for the way we kind of learnt things, the
5 freedom that we had. He empowered youngsters. He had
6 a belief system that involved wanting the best for every
7 boy and girl that was there. I didn't feel particularly
8 that he liked me more than anyone else. He had a very
9 good balance across all the spectrum of children that
10 were there. Of course, I liked him more than I liked
11 some of the other members of staff -- and I'm not saying
12 that I disliked the other members of staff, but he spent
13 a lot of time with me and he was a genuinely decent man.

14 Q. I think on the point of the other staff, at paragraph 57
15 you do say that although you had a particularly good and
16 strong relationship with Eric Falconer, the rest of the
17 staff, perhaps with one exception, were wonderful human
18 beings who genuinely cared for and were interested
19 in the children they were looking after. So that was
20 the impression that was left from your time at
21 Glasclune?

22 A. Yes, they were superhuman beings, you know. They were
23 all there for the -- with the exception of one
24 individual, but they were all there for the same thing,
25 and that was a genuine welfare and belief in children

- 1 that were disadvantaged.
- 2 Q. I suppose it might be said, given your previous
3 experience of other care settings, including a secure
4 accommodation, this would seem like somewhere that was
5 fairly idyllic in comparison. Would that partly have
6 influenced your assessment of the place?
- 7 A. Yes, to be honest, when I arrived there and after maybe
8 a couple of weeks, I was still pinching myself.
9 I couldn't believe the freedom, how nice people were,
10 the kind of management of everything. We had a football
11 field, we had a tennis court, a badminton court,
12 a putting green. It was just incredible. There were
13 dogs, chickens. You know, this was like a holiday camp.
14 Full-time being on holiday. It was idyllic, as you say,
15 it was an incredible setting.
- 16 Q. But not something that you had previously experienced
17 in the children's homes you'd been in or the assessment
18 centre?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. And the other point you make there is you talk about
21 freedom. Now, I got the impression that -- you told us
22 earlier there was quite a lot of regime or regimentation
23 perhaps in some of the previous settings. Was it very
24 different at Glasclune?
- 25 A. Yes. Well, school, breakfast times, mealtimes were all

1 quite regimented but not ruled with an iron fist. But
2 you needed that kind of regimented process at that age
3 to know when you were to eat. Most of the time, things
4 were so good that you would forget that there was a kind
5 of process involved as part of your commitment to being
6 there, and what your role was being there. So to be at
7 mealtimes, to get to school on time, to come home after
8 school and stuff.

9 Q. I take it, I think you're really telling us that you're
10 to some extent an advocate of having some degree of
11 structure and routine to life in a care setting --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- because it's essential to have that?

14 A. Without picking that out, I think they had a perfect
15 balance of regiment and freedom for any child.

16 Q. Okay. We might as well get this out in general terms at
17 this stage so we're clear about the evidence you're
18 giving to the inquiry. The impression I get from your
19 whole evidence of Glasclune is most of the time it was
20 a good experience for you.

21 A. Yes, absolutely.

22 Q. And your relationships with the staff were good
23 experiences generally speaking?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And you had no problems with the routine, such as it

1 was?

2 A. No.

3 Q. And I think another point you make -- and I think you
4 make this in paragraph 62 of your statement when you're
5 discussing routine at Glasclune, this is on page 0022 --
6 you're describing, I think, particularly Eric Falconer
7 in very glowing terms, if I may say. But you also
8 started to trust people. Can you just explain why you
9 started to trust people at that point in time and not
10 earlier?

11 A. I think partly because of the setting, kind of the
12 grandness of the grounds, the facilities that it had,
13 the general attitude of staff, most of which were very
14 young and hippy-ish, and I think largely the feeling was
15 that I was part of something positive rather than what
16 I'd experienced previously. You know, there was a part
17 of that that I really struggled with because, all of
18 a sudden, I had everything that I'd never experienced
19 before and I found that very difficult to deal with.
20 But at the same time, you know, I began to trust that
21 environment and it was right for me at that age.

22 Q. Would you describe the regime as quite liberal?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Liberal in comparison to what you'd experienced before?

25 A. Yes. Well, children were included as part of the regime

1 and not -- it wasn't dictated to them.

2 Q. To what extent was there interaction between the staff
3 and the children and young people there in a positive
4 sense?

5 A. I think 95% of it was positive. The staff championed
6 a real belief in all the children and I think there was
7 a genuine want -- that they really wanted the children
8 to be as comfortable, as happy, and to kind of grow into
9 whatever they needed to grow into. So, yes, it was
10 excellent --

11 Q. Do you feel that you were cared for and valued by the
12 staff?

13 A. Yes, I would probably -- I would say that now. I might
14 not have thought about it that way then, but yes,
15 definitely.

16 Q. It's sometimes said of residential settings that while
17 they provide for the material needs of a child in the
18 sense of physical care, accommodation, a roof over their
19 head, regular meals and so forth, that perhaps their
20 emotional and developmental needs are not well served.
21 What was the position at Glasclune? That may not be
22 a question you could have answered as a child between
23 the ages of 12 and 17, but thinking back, what do you
24 feel about that?

25 A. I think the right thing to say -- because I'm not 100%

1 sure how to answer that question -- but the right thing
2 to say would be that the environment itself and the
3 management of being there probably assisted with feeling
4 that there was a far better support on an emotional
5 level. I certainly can't remember being as anxious
6 about things or as frightened or terrified about life in
7 general. So I think what I'm saying is that there was
8 a far better element of freedom for me as an individual.

9 Q. I suppose then that would raise the issue: well, if that
10 was the climate and you felt comfortable and you'd talk
11 to about people things, if we go back to the problem
12 that you had with one member of staff and the abuse
13 we'll hear about, is the explanation for not disclosing
14 that to other staff the one that you gave earlier, that
15 you simply didn't see it as something that was abuse or
16 something that had to be reported? Because you were
17 a bit older by then.

18 A. I was older and this is a thing that -- it's not that
19 I struggle with it, but when I kind of consider that
20 type of question, the reality is -- and sometimes I'm
21 embarrassed to say this -- but the reality is that I was
22 probably glad to have something to compare sexual abuse
23 with in a nice way than I was to previous years that I'd
24 become used to. So it had been very brutal, violent and
25 aggressive, it had always been that. All of a sudden,

1 while it was the same type of abuse, it was done in
2 a very caressing and loving -- and the reality of that
3 was it was probably 20% or 25% of the relationship that
4 I had with that man; the other percentage was amazing.

5 Q. Life wasn't all straightforward at Glasclune, because
6 I think you tell us -- and I'll just ask you about this
7 now -- that during your time there you tell us you were
8 referred to a psychologist at one point. Are you able
9 to give us in broad terms the reason you understood you
10 had been referred to the psychologist? Was there some
11 issue that was going on at the time?

12 A. I think I was punching doors and self-harm type of
13 things. I remember more specifically doing that when
14 Glasclune had burnt down, so that would be after
15 April 1979.

16 So Barnardo's had adopted a nursing home, which was
17 next door, called St Baldred's, and I think that took
18 probably seven or eight months to retrofit so it was
19 suitable for a home. So I kind of remember being angry
20 quite a lot, punching doors and walls and stuff, and
21 that appears to be the time frame that I'd started to
22 see a psychologist, who I actually think was involved
23 with my family before I had seen her. I seem to
24 remember reading reports from Dr Woolfe [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED] So there was obviously a family

- 1 connection there already.
- 2 Q. So do you think it was more to do with perhaps the
3 family issues and family relationships that may have
4 caused a referral to discuss that?
- 5 A. It might have been. To be honest, I can't remember.
6 I mean, I remember a meeting with her where she was
7 asking about the self-harm and kind of saying to me,
8 "Why don't you cut your hand off the next time?" and
9 I thought that was quite a cool response and it kind of
10 made me realise that it was self-harm that I was doing,
11 that it was only affecting me and that was quite
12 a strong memory about her.
- 13 Q. I suppose then to get to the heart of this point, maybe
14 if you were self-harming in the way you've described and
15 if you were punching doors and being aggressive to the
16 fabric of the place at the time that you were there in
17 this idyllic place where you got on well and you liked
18 the staff, was that, looking back, anything to do with
19 how you were being treated by **QFB** ?
- 20 A. It was all to do with, not just **QFB** but the previous
21 abuses I had experienced. This was them manifesting
22 into a young adult mind and I was clearly exploring the
23 traumas and the difficulties that I was feeling in an
24 emotional sense as a result of my past, but also the
25 troubles that I had with this man, who I actually loved,

1 and an element of that relationship that became very
2 destructive.

3 Q. Do I take it that -- because I think I get the
4 impression from your statement that you didn't disclose
5 to the psychologist at the time the treatment you were
6 receiving from Mr QFB ; you'll tell us about this
7 sexual abuse that occurred.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. But was that explored at all in these referrals?

10 A. It wasn't, and probably because I didn't explore that,
11 but I think, looking back, that would have been because
12 the 80% or the 75% of what was amazing with QFB
13 I didn't want to destroy that. That was such
14 an important part of my life, my existence at Glasclune.
15 So I was probably worried that that might all disappear
16 and that was something that would have been disastrous,
17 I think, for me.

18 Q. But did the psychologist, without getting any kind of
19 hint that there might have been something happening in
20 terms of inappropriate sexual conduct on the part of
21 Mr QFB , did she explore whether there might be
22 problems of abuse at Glasclune that might be
23 contributing to the problems and symptoms you were
24 displaying?

25 A. I don't think -- I can't remember that ever happening.

1 I think it's also important -- whilst I can articulate
2 these things as an experienced adult now, I think I was
3 probably ... You know, backwards is the wrong phrase,
4 but mentally or emotionally, I was probably around 9 or
5 10, even at the age of 14. So being able to explore
6 those things isn't something that I can recall, really.

7 Q. Going back to your statement, you tell us about various
8 individuals that were part of the staff there at the
9 time on page 0019 and also a bit about the layout. Can
10 I just be clear, did all the staff live in
11 Glasclune House?

12 A. No, they didn't. Eric and Gail, I think, they had
13 a flat, a staff -- well, actually, I beg your pardon.
14 There was a flat. When you had initially said there
15 were three floors, I think there were five floors, they
16 were kind of staggered. The children's space was around
17 three floors.

18 Q. You did say at one point that during your time at
19 Glasclune there was the fire in 1979 --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- and it involved having to decamp to somewhere else?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And that would have included moving to a building called
24 St Baldred's Tower.

25 A. Well, as part of the footprint of Glasclune there was

1 a cottage and that was a staff cottage, so it was a --
2 when I say cottage, it was a big, big house, but
3 compared to what Glasclune was.

4 Q. Was it like a lodge house?

5 A. It was like a lodge house, yes.

6 Q. And then there was a tower, a building with a tower?

7 A. That was in --

8 Q. Part of it?

9 A. No, that was in St Baldred's, that was the property
10 adjacent that Glasclune took over afterwards.

11 Q. And that would be higher than the second floor of
12 Glasclune House?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So it might have had extra floors?

15 A. Yes, but the footprint of Glasclune was three floors for
16 the children, a fourth floor for a staff apartment --
17 I think there was two or three members of staff lived
18 there -- and a fifth extension-type floor that maybe was
19 an attic converted into a flat. That's where the
20 superintendent, Eric and Doris would live.

21 Q. Where did, for example -- QFB, did he say on the
22 premises?

23 A. He was in a staff flat.

24 Q. A staff flat?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And can I just ask you a general question. So far as
2 staff quarters and rooms for staff were concerned, was
3 there any rule about children being allowed to go there
4 or were they off limits?
- 5 A. They weren't off limits. In fact, the staff flat is one
6 of the spaces that I was abused in.
- 7 Q. That's what I wondered, whether there was any rule or
8 house rule that staff or children shouldn't go
9 unaccompanied to a particular staff member's own
10 quarters. There was no rule to that effect?
- 11 A. None at all.
- 12 Q. Therefore children, young persons, could freely go to
13 a particular member of staff's room?
- 14 A. Yes. So the way that the flat was arranged was that
15 there was a couple of bedrooms and a sitting room
16 in that flat, but there was a kind of internal door,
17 which isolated it from the main building. So you could
18 go up to the flat, knock on the door, and you would be
19 invited in. But the door wasn't open for you just to
20 walk in.
- 21 Q. No, no. But it wouldn't have been odd to see a young
22 person, male or female, knocking on the door of
23 a particular member of staff's own quarters?
- 24 A. Yes, not at all.
- 25 Q. That would not have drawn any attention or signalled any

1 alarm bells?

2 A. No.

3 Q. But it could have led to a situation where there would
4 be a child and a member of staff in a one-to-one
5 situation?

6 A. Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: Killian, I see from your statement you indicate
8 your memory is that the team that you were allocated to,
9 which was headed by QFB, had, including him, six
10 people in it.

11 A. Yes.

12 LADY SMITH: Did the other two teams have similar numbers of
13 staff, do you know?

14 A. Yes, I think it was equal.

15 LADY SMITH: So that would be about 18 staff plus the
16 Falconers. Were there cleaning staff as well or did
17 these teams include people who did the cleaning?

18 A. There were cleaning staff and a cook.

19 LADY SMITH: So cleaning staff and a cook and about 30 to 35
20 children?

21 A. Yes.

22 LADY SMITH: Do you know how many staff would be on duty at
23 night-time?

24 A. From memory -- when you say night, overnight?

25 LADY SMITH: Yes.

1 A. There would be a staff duty room on the boys' landing
2 and the girls' landing, so there would be obviously the
3 superintendent flat, they would be there most of the
4 time, but there would be a male or female member of
5 staff supervising an overnight stay in each of those
6 floors.

7 LADY SMITH: But otherwise, these team members were
8 available during the day?

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: Which would indicate quite a good ratio of
11 children to staff at that time from 1976 onwards.

12 A. Yes.

13 MR PEOPLES: So do you say that overnight there was one or
14 two members of staff on duty?

15 A. A single member of staff on the boys' landing and the
16 same on the girls' landing.

17 Q. Not two members?

18 A. Well, that would be --

19 Q. Not together, one was looking after the boys' section
20 and one looking after the girls' section?

21 A. Exactly, yes.

22 Q. So they never thought of having at least two members of
23 staff to deal with a night-time situation?

24 A. Generally, there wasn't a lot of night-time stuff that
25 would go on, you know, or I can't remember there being

1 a lot, other than complaining that we had to go to bed
2 at 9.30 or 10 o'clock.

3 Q. I suppose the point I'm getting at, and maybe I'm taking
4 it rather diplomatically, is if you have one member of
5 staff and a lot of boys of different ages alone together
6 at night, then there is an opportunity for things to go
7 wrong, if you like.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Whereas there might be less opportunity if there are two
10 members of staff, one who can see what the other one's
11 doing. Do you get the point?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. I just wanted to check how it was done though at that
14 time.

15 A. I didn't experience -- actually, it's a good point you
16 make because I never experienced any night-time abuse as
17 a result of **QFB** being the sole member of staff
18 responsible for the boys' floor. However, that changed
19 when we were on holiday. But certainly at Glasclune,
20 I didn't experience that.

21 Q. But you would be staying in a dormitory with other boys?

22 A. Yes. Four other boys -- three other boys and me.

23 Q. You tell us -- and we can come to this in due course --
24 that at least some of the abuse you describe in your
25 statement, sexual abuse, took place in **QFB** private

- 1 quarters?
- 2 A. In his private quarters, but also in the staff duty
3 room, which was adjacent to my bedroom.
- 4 Q. And again, going back, the point I was trying to make
5 sure I was clear about is that, leaving aside the
6 night-time situation when there was the night staff as
7 you have described, during the day there was nothing
8 unusual, or it wouldn't have been seen as unusual for
9 a young person to be heading towards a particular staff
10 member's quarters for one reason or another?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. It wouldn't have signalled any concerns?
- 13 A. No, but I think also you need to consider that the
14 entire ethos of what they were trying to do was to
15 replicate a meaningful and family environment, albeit
16 there were 15 mums and 10 dads, and 20 brothers and
17 sisters. But I think generally, the idea was for
18 children to feel as part of a family, albeit it was
19 a big family. So that wouldn't have been identified as
20 anything odd that a child was spending more time than
21 usual with a single member of staff.
- 22 Q. So there was no attempt to discourage one-to-one
23 situations where the staff and a particular child or
24 young person would be together in the staff member's own
25 quarters?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. There was no attempt to deter that or say, "If you want
3 to chat to the staff, at least do it in a public area or
4 with other staff members present"? There was nothing of
5 that kind?
- 6 A. There was no rules, regulations to prevent that. There
7 was not even any understanding given to the children
8 that that might be inappropriate. So we wouldn't have
9 seen that as being inappropriate.
- 10 Q. And if there was any, if I could call it, organisational
11 rule to that effect, then as a matter of practice, based
12 on your recollection, it wasn't being observed. If
13 there was any rule to the effect that staff shouldn't be
14 alone in their own quarters with a young person, then
15 that wasn't a rule that was operating in your time?
- 16 A. Definitely not. I think it's probably fair to say also
17 that some of the staff felt uncomfortable about that,
18 the younger staff, but that was something that Eric had
19 seemed to endorse as the correct family environment. He
20 felt, I think, that that was probably the right way to
21 run things and make kids feel more comfortable. So he
22 might have been quite ignorant of the fact that children
23 could while -- being abused by members of staff or there
24 was a potential for that to happen.
- 25 Q. In some ways it's perhaps, although you extol the

1 virtues of the liberal regime, a sort of open-door
2 policy to private staff quarters where staff can be left
3 alone with a child has its inherent risks?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. As I think no doubt you'll be a case in point.

6 A. Yes. And its advantages -- well, that's how I would
7 have seen it then.

8 Q. Just so I'm absolutely clear, leaving aside these
9 arrangements that might have given opportunities for
10 inappropriate things to take place, so far as the abuse
11 that you tell us about in your statement is concerned,
12 wherever it occurred, whether at Glasclune or on trips,
13 do you consider that any of the other staff were aware
14 of what [REDACTED] QFB [REDACTED] was doing?

15 A. I wasn't aware of it then, I have since become aware
16 that eyebrows were raised about his relationships with
17 boys. So this is something that I've learned about
18 after leaving Glasclune, many years down the road.

19 Q. And I think what you're probably describing is that
20 maybe concerns about how close [REDACTED] QFB [REDACTED] was to certain
21 children, particularly young boys --

22 A. Yes.

23 LADY SMITH: When you say eyebrows were raised, are you
24 talking about the eyebrows of other members of staff?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
- 2 MR PEOPLES: So there may have been signs, and indeed signs
3 that were picked up by some members of staff, that
4 perhaps, with the benefit of hindsight in your case, you
5 think maybe should have been explored further or perhaps
6 more closely monitored?
- 7 A. Yes, I think that when you have an environment where
8 children -- the oldest child is 3 or 4 years younger
9 than the member of staff that's responsible for looking
10 after them, I think there's an impact on that member of
11 staff to be absolutely certain of any allegations that
12 they may bring as a result of how they feel that there's
13 inappropriate behaviour. So what I'm saying, at that
14 time I think it would have been a very committed and
15 independent member of staff that would have raised
16 a concern that **QFB** may have been in this instance
17 inappropriately sexual with children.
- 18 Q. So there might have been some people who had their
19 concerns but might not have felt able to voice them in
20 the appropriate quarters?
- 21 A. Yes, exactly.
- 22 Q. And might have been quite a brave decision if you were
23 a younger member of staff?
- 24 A. It would have been a very brave thing to do, I think,
25 in that regime. But also a very independent thing.

1 Q. You talked about the relative youth of some of the
2 staff. Just to be clear, in the time you were there,
3 between 1976 and 1981, the individual we've been
4 discussing, [REDACTED] QFB [REDACTED], leaving aside his exact period
5 of employment, would have been 20 years old at the start
6 of the time that you arrived at Glasclune and would be
7 about 25 years old when he left in 1981. So he was
8 quite a young member of staff?

9 A. Sorry, did you say that [REDACTED] QFB [REDACTED] was that age?

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. I wasn't 100% sure how old he was, but I knew he was
12 kind of a bit older than the majority of the staff.

13 Q. I think you say in paragraph 59, just going to your
14 statement, Killian, that you estimate that [REDACTED] QFB [REDACTED] would
15 have been about 23 or 24, so you're not far out there,
16 and some of the staff would have been 18 or 19 years of
17 age.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So they were quite young?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. There were quite a lot of them, but quite a lot of young
22 people?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And not a huge difference between the older residents
25 and the younger staff?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. I'm not going to dwell on the routine because I think
3 it's a very positive statement you have about the
4 various routines and indeed all I will say in passing
5 is that perhaps, like others that we've heard something
6 from, you considered the food was excellent, for
7 example, and there wasn't any pressure about eating food
8 or having to eat food and things of that nature.
- 9 A. No. There was a kind of uniform pressure, I guess, on
10 a Sunday. That would seem to be the kind of Sunday
11 lunch, it was quite a big event, so I would probably
12 relate that to a Christmas dinner now as being part of
13 a family. So every Sunday that was quite a big deal.
- 14 Q. It was a family event in the home?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. And I think you tell us, and I'm not going to take you
17 to the detail, but at paragraph 71 of your statement you
18 do describe typical Sundays and what was served up
19 routinely. I think, as you put it, it was like a fancy
20 hotel for children, as you saw it.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. In your statement at page 0023 you also tell us a little
23 bit about your schooling. We've already discussed that
24 your schooling was somewhat disrupted by your various
25 changes and you had to move schools various times before

- 1 this, but at least there was some continuity at this
2 stage that you attended the local school; is that right?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And did you go straight to the high school --
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. -- when you were 12? So you weren't at the local
7 primary school?
- 8 A. Actually, to be honest, I can't remember. I don't
9 recall being at the primary school. I think it was just
10 straight to high school.
- 11 Q. I think you tell us quite frankly that you hated
12 school --
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. -- in paragraph 73. And you explain some of the
15 teachers were okay, but quite a lot of them you didn't
16 find okay.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. You tell us that the one class that you perhaps liked
19 more than others was the woodwork class; is that right?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Otherwise you didn't come away with qualifications from
22 this experience?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. One thing you do tell us -- and I'm just interested in
25 this -- at paragraph 76, on page 0024, is you felt you

1 were singled out because you were in Glasclune. Do you
2 mean singled out by the teachers?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And in some way they saw a distinction between the
5 children in the home and the children in the community?

6 A. When you say that I felt that I was singled out, it's
7 almost as though it's a process that kind of happens as
8 a result of a relationship. What I mean by that is that
9 I didn't get to know them, they didn't get to know me.
10 There was just this very stand-offish approach by them.
11 I wasn't an aggressive boy in any way, but, yes,
12 teachers were definitely the aggressors towards me and
13 I couldn't explain that. So there was just this whole
14 thing that some teachers just didn't like me and
15 I suppose I must have thought it was because I had been
16 in a boys' home where bad boys are usually sent.

17 Q. Do you think that your recollection was that they
18 treated other children from the home in a similar way to
19 the way that you perceived their treatment of you?

20 A. I'm not 100% about that. There was no other children
21 in the same class as me from the home, so I didn't
22 witness any favour or favourable kind of relationship
23 with other inmates.

24 Q. One thing you do tell us about school is when you did
25 get into problems or difficulties with teachers, Eric

1 would stand up for you and would intervene and take what
2 he thought was the appropriate action.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So do I take it from that that the home itself was at
5 least paying some attention to what was going on at
6 school and would deal with matters at school as they
7 thought fit?

8 A. I think he was expressing the unjustness of how I had
9 been treated. This was a man that obviously got to know
10 my character very well. I wasn't a bad boy. I wasn't
11 disobedient. So when I told him about things that had
12 happened, this was what any father figure would want to
13 do, to protect the child, and that's what he did and he
14 did that very effectively.

15 Q. In one sense you're almost describing in your particular
16 case there were two father figures in your life at that
17 time, one was Eric and the other one was **QFB**?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And one was an appropriate father figure, as you now no
20 doubt say, in Eric's case, but **QFB** wasn't?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Just going back again, and I won't take up too much time
23 about the positive things, but you do say that it was
24 a place that had lots of facilities, the home. I think
25 that was one of the good things of the place, as you've

1 already told us, they had lots of things to do, and
2 I think they had lots of trips outwith.

3 A. Yes

4 Q. I know there's a problem with certain trips you're going
5 to tell us about, but generally speaking they organised
6 things and they found things for children to do; is that
7 right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. For much of the time you enjoyed those activities and
10 trips?

11 A. Yes, absolutely.

12 Q. I think when you were at the home, is that when you
13 developed an interest in music, or was it later?

14 A. Well, I think I'd always been quite a creative young
15 mind. There was a grand piano in the main foyer
16 entrance of the home that I kind of dabbled on. Some of
17 the staff were quite good at playing the piano, so
18 I would eagerly watch what they were doing and try and
19 copy them and stuff. There was a communal big record
20 player that we would get very used to individual songs
21 that would be played 100 times. But essentially, you
22 could put on whatever record.

23 So it's probably more accurate to say that music to
24 me was my best friend for my entire life at that point.

25 Q. Going back to your statement, I think you've talked

1 about the freedom aspects and you've talked about the
2 leisure activities, which for the most part you enjoyed.
3 You've talked about Eric and how he treated you and
4 other children. Apart from perhaps fighting your corner
5 at school if he thought it was appropriate, at
6 paragraph 89 on page 0029, you make a point that he was
7 alive to the fact that people might stigmatise children
8 from homes.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You give an example where, no doubt for the best of
11 intentions, Cadbury's Chocolate donated a minibus to the
12 home and wanted their logo on the side and he took steps
13 to remove it; is that right?

14 A. Yes, he was very upset that it had been presented with
15 "Donated by Cadbury's Chocolate" written on the side.
16 I think that was his way of ensuring that there wasn't
17 a stigma attached to any of the people, individuals, or
18 even staff that were driving that vehicle. Of course,
19 everyone in North Berwick knew that it was the minibus
20 from the home.

21 Q. Yes, it's a small place.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. So even if you take the logo away, people would get to
24 know if it was a red minibus and there were children in
25 it, they might well work it out anyway.

- 1 A. Yes, definitely.
- 2 Q. But I suppose if you went somewhere else, it wouldn't be
3 so obvious.
- 4 A. Exactly. On holidays, it wasn't quite so obvious.
- 5 Q. I'm not going to dwell on birthdays and Christmas.
6 I think again these were positive experiences generally,
7 but you say personally you had a difficulty with
8 birthdays, but I don't think you're complaining about
9 how they were celebrated in the home.
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. You tell us a bit about visitors on page 0031. I think
12 during your time there, you did have a Barnardo's
13 social worker and I think it was originally -- you
14 mentioned the name Mark -- but then you had another
15 social worker during your time there called
16 Laurie Davidson. Is that right?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Was that the way they assigned or gave you
19 a social worker that was your -- was it like a key
20 worker?
- 21 A. No, the key workers were actually members of staff; we
22 called them special person.
- 23 Q. Who was your special person at that time?
- 24 A. There were several. **QFB** was one of them.
25 Gail Cunningham was the first special person that

1 I recall. Katia Cesari was another one after -- I think
2 **QFB** had moved to a different team at that point. I'm
3 not sure what the dynamic was but --

4 Q. But you'd have a special person then, who we would now
5 maybe term a key worker, within the home. And then you
6 would also have an external -- I say external, external
7 to the home -- social worker who was employed by
8 Barnardo's that you would see from time to time?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And that's one of the persons you mention on page 0031?

11 A. Yes, I think they were more the kind of welfare
12 management between Barnardo's and the local authority.

13 Q. Yes. Did you see much of local authority social workers
14 in this time?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Not at all?

17 A. I can't recall seeing any local authority ...

18 Q. Because they would still be in the background, would
19 they, the local authority in the case of your family?

20 A. I think the set-up was that local authority were
21 employing Barnardo's to do all that for me. So Mark
22 originally and then Laurie would be the kind of go-to
23 individual between local authority and Barnardo's about
24 my welfare. But largely, I think Barnardo's had taken
25 full responsibility for it at that time.

- 1 Q. If you were looking for someone that was completely
2 independent of the organisation who would be keeping an
3 eye on you --
- 4 A. There wasn't any.
- 5 Q. There wasn't anyone that fitted that description --
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. -- in your time that you can recall, having access to?
- 8 A. Definitely not.
- 9 Q. You do tell us on page 0032, Killian, that there were
10 reviews that you can recall taking place on a regular
11 footing, and indeed you were invited to those reviews.
12 I just want to ask you, how did these reviews compare
13 with appearances before the panel? Were they similar or
14 dissimilar in terms of your participation in the
15 process?
- 16 A. It was definitely a lot more relaxed. I was invited to
17 a small section of what would be a review. So that may
18 last an hour, an hour and a half, and I would be invited
19 to maybe 15 minutes of that. So the dynamic around that
20 was asking was I happy with food things, you know,
21 clothing, that kind of stuff. I don't think there was
22 any emotional issues discussed.
- 23 Q. You mean you weren't really asked, what are you feeling
24 like, have you got any thoughts about the way you're
25 being treated? These sort of questions you don't recall

1 being asked?


2 A. I can't recall that, but I don't think I would have been
3 able to answer those type of questions in that setting
4 anyway.

5 Q. Would these reviews, so far as you can recall -- would
6 there have been any external local authority
7 social worker attending those or would that be something
8 you'd have picked up --

9 A. There may well have been. There was probably in the
10 reviews -- I kind of remember that there would maybe be
11 seven or eight people, mostly people that I recognised,
12 but I think there would be a couple that I might have
13 recognised but wasn't 100% sure who they actually were.

14 Q. But you only took part for a limited time in the review.
15 I think you tell us in paragraph 97 that you were only
16 there for part of the review, for maybe 10 or 15 minutes
17 in all --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. On page 0033, you tell us a little bit about your
20 contact with family members. 

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24 A.

25 Q.

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A. [REDACTED]

Q. Am I right in thinking from what you tell us in paragraph 100 that in that period, you didn't have a great deal of contact with either family [REDACTED]

A. Yes.

Q. Was there a reason for that?

A. It may have been that it was felt that the less contact I had that was associated with my past, it would have been better for my mental health or emotional state, I'm not sure. But yeah, I didn't really feel that my mum was my mum anyway, to be honest. I had a far better mum and father figures where I was, so there wasn't a huge need for me to engage with my genetic mother and I didn't have that feeling that I needed my mum in my life. I think it was more out of duty or responsibility that she was my mum rather than a kind of want.

Q. So it was more a personal decision or choice that you weren't necessarily actively trying to maintain contact with your mother [REDACTED], rather than perhaps you being discouraged from such contact?

A. I wasn't discouraged. I remember feeling forced to speak to my mum on the phone and I felt a bit uncomfortable about that. That was in Glasclune. That

1 would have been 1973-ish, maybe 1972 or 1973, and you
2 know, arriving at the office and on the old-fashioned
3 Bakelite phone and having a conversation with my mum,
4 which I felt very awkward about.

5 I think also -- it had appeared to me that I was the
6 one that was making the contact with my mum and that she
7 hadn't made any effort, for her own reasons, to be in
8 touch with me.

9 Q. We talked earlier about restraint in Liberton Assessment
10 Centre and you said at times people had flakies and what
11 the staff might do to restrain. You say that, to some
12 extent, restraint was used at Glasclune when children
13 had flakies, you and others, and that would happen from
14 time to time.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. If we go to page 0038, Killian, of your statement at
17 paragraph 114, what you say there is that:

18 "This method of restraint or controlling children
19 was usually carried out at night when Eric wasn't
20 around."

21 That rather suggests that had Eric been aware of the
22 practice, he wouldn't have been very happy about it.

23 Is that what your sense is?

24 A. Yes, I think that's quite important to say. It's not
25 anything that Eric would have done and I don't think he

1 would have agreed with that. He may have learned about
2 it from other members of staff after it had happened,
3 but I'm not 100% sure that he would have agreed that
4 that was the right tactic to use.

5 Q. But you also say that -- well, it wasn't a big deal, as
6 you put it, the flaky and what happened in response, but
7 you didn't go and clype, you didn't go and complain
8 about anything. There wasn't a lot to complain about.
9 In your case you didn't think there was, but was there
10 a kind of sense that if children had a grumble or
11 a grievance, they just kept it to themselves anyway?
12 Was that the culture?

13 A. You know, I'm not sure that there was a lot to complain
14 about, even in those situations. It was just part of
15 the routine that happened, you know, and when you had
16 exploded with whatever emotion you felt at that time,
17 the result was that they wanted to calm you down and it
18 was done in a physical way. I don't think that it was
19 done in a way where they were being horrible or ... It
20 was just what they did and I think maybe one staff
21 learnt it from another staff and thought, "That's how we
22 deal with that situation".

23 Q. Did staff, including Eric, ever say to you or the other
24 children, "Well, if you have problems or complaints,
25 this is the process that we use and this is how it'll

- 1 work" --
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. -- and, "This is what will happen", things of that kind?
- 4 Did anyone ever explain a process that you might use if
- 5 you had a complaint of any kind?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. There was nothing like that?
- 8 A. Nothing like that.
- 9 Q. Leaving that aside, you may not have said, "I wouldn't
- 10 have needed to know the process", but you didn't know
- 11 what process might be used; is that right?
- 12 A. There was nothing like, "The next time you're feeling
- 13 that, let me know because we can talk about it, or
- 14 we can go out for a run or play the drums or try and
- 15 express it in another way". You were kind of left to
- 16 express that emotion and the result was often that you
- 17 would be pinned to the floor because it was seen as you
- 18 having a flaky.
- 19 Q. Did anyone ever say to you or others generally, "If you
- 20 think something bad is happening or if something like
- 21 this happens to you, which we regard as inappropriate,
- 22 this is what you should do"?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. Did you ever get any kind of education about that,
- 25 including teaching you what was inappropriate?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Because I suppose that might have given you a clue to
3 whether it was normal or not --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- if you'd been told that.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Because to you, it was the norm, but no one told you
8 differently.

9 A. Yes, exactly.

10 MR PEOPLES: I wonder if this is a good point, my Lady. I'm
11 going to move on to a particular topic.

12 LADY SMITH: Yes.

13 Killian, we normally have a break in the middle of
14 the morning and I think it would make sense if we pause
15 now for about 15 minutes.

16 (11.28 am)

17 (A short break)

18 (11.43 am)

19 LADY SMITH: Are you ready to carry on, Killian?

20 A. Yes, I am, thank you.

21 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

22 MR PEOPLES: Killian, can I now turn to the chapter in your
23 written statement that starts at page 0038 where you
24 tell us about sexual abuse by **QFB** during the
25 period you were in Glasclune. Can you tell me in your

1 own words about that? Obviously, you have the passage
2 in front of you and by all means refer to that as well,
3 but are you able to give us a description of this part
4 of your experience at Glasclune and how it happened?

5 A. Yes -- the first time that it happened?

6 Q. Yes, just start from the beginning and take us through
7 as to how it developed and how long it happened and so
8 forth.

9 A. My first memory -- and I get confused over the
10 play-fighting that we had in the dormitory that was
11 adjacent to the staff room on the boys' floor at
12 Glasclune and a holiday experience. So I'll start with
13 the holiday experience because that had certainly the
14 single most impact on me in an emotional sense.

15 So we were on holiday -- that holiday I think was in
16 Berwick-upon-Tweed at a campsite and consisted of three
17 or four members of staff and six or seven children. It
18 was split across a large caravan and a large tent.

19 So on the first evening I was in the tent. I can't
20 recall the time, it was dark, it would have been after
21 bedtime, probably 10.30, 11 o'clock, so everyone was
22 in the tent. I was in the tent with other boys.

23 We were all asleep.

24 Then **QFB** had come in and got into my sleeping bag.

25 This was the first experience that I could recall that

1 was that physical. So he had got into the sleeping bag.
2 I was kind of half asleep, I guess. To cut a long story
3 short, I felt movements behind me, kind of jabbing
4 things, and I felt that my back was all wet after what
5 appeared to be five or ten minutes, where he had clearly
6 ejaculated over me.

7 The following morning, I'd asked one of the other
8 members of staff to clean my pyjamas. In those days it
9 was quite a tight nylon type of pyjama, so it wasn't the
10 best absorbing material, so it left quite a bad stain.
11 What Colin Rodgers must have thought -- I don't know
12 what he thought.

13 Q. He was a member of staff?

14 A. He was a member of staff, yes.

15 I certainly didn't want to have these pyjamas on and
16 I'd asked him to clean them, which he had done. Later
17 on that day, he had come back to me and said -- I was
18 known as James in those days -- he said, "Right, James,
19 you're going to come into the caravan tonight and sleep
20 in the bed".

21 Immediately I had assumed that he had caught on to
22 what had happened and this was him making sure that that
23 might not have happened again. So I felt quite
24 comfortable with that.

25 So later on, we all went to bed. I had a big double

1 bed or -- I don't think it was a double bed, but it had
2 quite a small frame, but it was a large bed, certainly
3 bigger than the space I had in the sleeping bag the
4 following evening. So maybe about 12 o'clock, 1 o'clock
5 in the morning, I woke up to **QFB** performing oral sex on
6 me, and this ... You know ...

7 LADY SMITH: How old were you, Killian?

8 A. I think I was about 12. But with what Mr Peoples has
9 said that **QFB** came to work in 1978, it would mean that
10 I was 14, so I'm quite confused about that age. I'm
11 certain I would be 12 or 13 at the time.

12 So whilst I deal with that image, it's something
13 that always trips me up when I think about it. It's
14 that single image that trips me up of how I felt during
15 that experience, with my eyes closed and my body
16 tightened, tensed, and feeling incredibly, you know,
17 just horrible.

18 So I woke up the next day, and I remember getting my
19 favourite breakfast, which was usually milk and a roll
20 with butter and marmalade, and then having a shower.

21 **QFB** wasn't about; I think he had gone to the shop.
22 I can't remember exactly the time, but it would have
23 been late morning, and I then was in the shower and I'd
24 come out of the shower and he had come in and started to
25 help dry me off, coming into contact with my private

1 parts, bending me over his knee. I think he had
2 indicated that I had a red blotch on my bottom and he
3 wanted to have a look at it. So he had bent me over his
4 knee and he kind of inspected that area quite
5 intimately, kind of drying me off.

6 There was some noise outside and I was kind of
7 quickly forgotten about, essentially, and got dressed
8 and we kind of got on with the rest of the day.

9 MR PEOPLES: You mentioned something else that happened in
10 paragraph 120 at the shower. You talk about digital
11 penetration.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Did that happen?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So really, there were three episodes to this. One was
16 the incident in the tent that you recall and there were
17 other boys in the tent, but you were asleep and then **QFB**
18 came in and got into your sleeping bag?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Had you any understanding where **QFB** was supposed to be
21 sleeping that night?

22 A. No. Well, there would have been a staff member
23 allocated to the tent and a staff member allocated to
24 the caravan.

25 Q. But clearly, it's maybe a bit like the arrangements for

1 night duty, there was only one member of staff for the
2 tent?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And if it turned out to be **QFB**, then if he was
5 the person that was allocated, you tell us what he did
6 on that occasion?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You told us about -- if I go back to paragraph 117,
9 I don't need you to repeat it, but just confirm for me,
10 because you didn't say it in terms, that you said he
11 came into your sleeping bag and was jabbing your back
12 with his erect penis and then he ejaculated. I think
13 you told us that.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. When you asked Colin Rodgers to clean your pyjamas the
16 next day, did he ask any questions or raise any
17 concerns?

18 A. No.

19 Q. No?

20 A. No.

21 Q. He just took them and took them away?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Then the next episode that you described was in the
24 caravan when you were in the bed there and you woke up
25 to find he was performing oral sex.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. You've described the fact that your eyes were closed and
3 your body was tense and tightened. In paragraph 119 you
4 also state your emotions, being absolutely terrified.
5 Was that how you felt at the time?
- 6 A. Absolutely.
- 7 Q. Because you had a good relationship with **QFB** hitherto?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. But this did cause you absolutely terror?
- 10 A. Yes. I wasn't confused about what he had done the night
11 before. I had experienced stuff like that before. The
12 following night, yes, I was absolutely petrified and
13 I can express the pain that I felt as a result of how
14 tightly my eyes were closed and my body, and trying to
15 get into a foetal position to prevent him from having
16 access.
- 17 Q. But you knew it was **QFB**?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Before the eyes were closed, you knew it was him?
- 20 A. I could smell him, I could --
- 21 Q. Was there something about the smell that --
- 22 A. He always wore Old Spice aftershave and a chain around
23 his neck.
- 24 Q. Were these things you were aware of?
- 25 A. Yes. But also, you know, I think it's accurate to

1 account for the fact that I would have known the shape
2 of his body because, before that, it wouldn't have been
3 any intimate parts of the relationship, but it would be
4 very physical and a lot of contact.

5 Q. Yes. I'll come back to that in a moment, if I may.

6 After the occasion in the caravan, were there other
7 people in the caravan at the time?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Other boys?

10 A. I can't remember. There were certainly other staff
11 members. I'm pretty sure that there was a female member
12 of staff and Colin -- Colin might have gone into the
13 tent that night.

14 Q. So would they have been in the caravan when this
15 incident happened?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. But they weren't aware that this was going on?

18 A. They must have been aware that **QFB** was going to share
19 a bed with me because, to my mind, where else would he
20 have been sleeping?

21 Q. That assumes they knew **QFB** was going to come into the
22 caravan and sleep somewhere?

23 A. Yes, exactly.

24 Q. But you are not aware that there were other people awake
25 and being able to hear or see what was going on?

1 A. No.

2 Q. And did you make any noise that would have alerted them?

3 A. I was absolutely petrified, you know. I don't think

4 I would have been able to scream.

5 Q. Did **QFB** say anything at that time?

6 A. No.

7 Q. He just did what you've described?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You say it felt like it went on for hours, but I think

10 you'll probably tell us now that it probably didn't go

11 on for that long.

12 A. No.

13 Q. The next incident was when you were having the shower

14 and you have told us what happened. That was the third

15 episode during this trip --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- that you tell us about? The way you describe it now

18 in your statement at paragraph 119 is that you felt this

19 was a betrayal because you loved **QFB**. Just help us with

20 that. Was that something you felt at the time or

21 something you've since articulated?

22 A. I think I probably reacted to an element of that at the

23 time because I wasn't understanding what was going on.

24 So looking back on it, it's easy to say that now, but it

25 was an absolute betrayal of the relationship I had with

1 him and it became something that was part of -- a much
2 better part of the relationship that I had with him.

3 Q. So do I take it that whatever was the norm for you
4 historically before you went to Glasclune and whatever
5 had happened in the way of sexual abuse, which you tell
6 us about in your statement, you weren't expecting this
7 to happen with **QFB**

8 A. No. If **QFB** had done it in a brutal way, I would
9 probably have been able to deal with that. But it was
10 the betrayal of the relationship that I had with him
11 that had crept in.

12 Q. I'll say at this point, at paragraph 124, on page 0041,
13 again you're looking back here, but you say it really
14 was what you describe as a process of grooming, the
15 culmination of which was this incident; is that right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Just on that subject, before we move on to what you tell
18 us in your statement, you talked earlier, just briefly,
19 about play-fighting. I just wanted to know a little bit
20 about this. Was this something that **QFB** engaged in with
21 you and with others?

22 A. Yes, with me and with other boys.

23 Q. When you talk about play-fighting, because I think
24 you're not suggesting it went as far as anything that
25 you describe in the tent or the caravan --

- 1 A. No, it did.
- 2 Q. It did?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Can you describe what happened during the play-fighting?
- 5 A. Play-fighting was things like he would come in with
6 a bag of sweets and say, "I've got some sweeties", and
7 he would kind of hold them up and tease you with a bag
8 of sweeties and he would do things like, "You need to
9 help me make the bed in the room next door", which was
10 adjacent to my dormitory. So I would be in my dormitory
11 playing with cars or whatever -- I spent quite a lot of
12 time on my own in that space.
- 13 So I would go through and I'd be jumping on the bed
14 and he would pull my shorts down, so the momentum of
15 bouncing on quite a thick, bouncy mattress would allow
16 him access to my undergarments and he would pull them
17 off. This was all part of the play process.
- 18 Q. So the play-fighting that he started to do -- and you
19 talk about "on the bed in the room; is this his room?
- 20 A. It's the staff room.
- 21 Q. But it had a bed?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And he would do this. Was anyone else present when this
24 happened?
- 25 A. No.

- 1 Q. What time of day did it happen?
- 2 A. This would be late morning, some afternoons.
- 3 Q. Was he not --
- 4 A. I can't recall it being in an evening.
- 5 Q. Was he taking a risk if he was doing it in daylight?
- 6 A. He would, probably. It's one of the things I was saying
7 to the police about this: the staff room had a key that
8 was in a locked cabinet in the office, but I think **QFB**
9 must have made a copy of that key. He seemed to have
10 that key on him all the time. He always walked around
11 with a big bunch of keys that opened everything, so the
12 key for that staff room was always on his bunch, and
13 I don't think it should have been part of his bunch of
14 keys.
- 15 Q. Well, just on that, on these occasions when this
16 happened and he pulled down your -- when you say your
17 undergarments, did he pull down your trousers and your
18 pants?
- 19 A. Usually shorts.
- 20 Q. And your pants?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. So he basically exposed the lower half of your body?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. On these occasions, do you recall whether he locked the
25 room?

- 1 A. Yes, the door was always closed.
- 2 Q. So that no one could just come in spontaneously and
3 interrupt what was going on?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. When he did pull down your shorts and underpants, how
6 far did the play-fighting go on these occasions?
- 7 A. The extent of the play-fighting would probably be
8 20 minutes or so. So it was a run-up to the point where
9 he would then start to access a more intimate part of
10 that play game. So it would be things like I would
11 bounce on the bed, he would then suddenly turn me upside
12 down so his head was in between my legs, I would be
13 turned up so that my head was in between his legs. So
14 there was a lot of physical contact, but with our
15 clothing on.
- 16 So that was -- I didn't see that as inappropriate at
17 that time because it was all part of the game of
18 play-fighting.
- 19 Q. But it was his way of foreplay to something more
20 serious?
- 21 A. Yes, it certainly seemed accidental to me. Looking back
22 on it, you would assume it would be accidental, but it
23 was definitely part of a process.
- 24 Q. And what did it lead to on these occasions? Did it lead
25 to anything further happening?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Can you describe the sort of things that would happen on
3 these occasions?
- 4 A. He would end up with his head between my legs, but not
5 as a deliberate attempt -- not like the night where
6 I woke up and it happened, it would all be part of
7 a game. So he would pretend to trip on me, lie on top
8 of me on the bed, but his head would be very close to my
9 genitals. One occasion, he had kind of flipped me
10 over -- so the bed was quite bouncy, so my small
11 frame -- he would be able to bounce me like a ball on
12 the floor off the bed.
- 13 Q. Was there contact between his head and your private
14 parts?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Did it extend to oral sex?
- 17 A. It didn't extend to ... no.
- 18 Q. But there was contact?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. What form did the contact take then?
- 21 A. It was his bare head on my genitals, but it wasn't
22 performed as oral sex.
- 23 Q. Was he using his mouth or his tongue in any way?
- 24 A. I don't think so, no.
- 25 Q. But he was contacting those areas?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Was that the sort of thing that would happen during --
- 3 and also your head was touching his --
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Was your head touching his private parts?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Did anything further happen? Did he encourage you to do
- 8 anything more?
- 9 A. No, not at that time.
- 10 Q. When you're trying to put the order of events here,
- 11 do you consider that it may be that the play-fighting
- 12 preceded the incident in the tent or not?
- 13 A. Yes, that is definitely an area that I'm confused about
- 14 because the impact of the first experience that
- 15 I remember of him performing oral sex is huge to me.
- 16 However, it may have been that this play-fighting had
- 17 taken place before that event.
- 18 Q. And whatever the sequence of events, are you quite clear
- 19 in your mind the play-fighting did happen and the
- 20 incident in the tent and the caravan and the shower all
- 21 happened?
- 22 A. Absolutely, absolutely.
- 23 Q. In terms of the regularity of the play-fighting
- 24 incidents you've described, how often did these happen?
- 25 I'm trying to get a broad estimate.

1 A. Actually, normally, it would be broken up by another
2 child arriving on the scene or maybe a member of staff
3 or some noises in the background that would prevent it
4 from going any further. But it was a fairly regular
5 occurrence.

6 Q. And did it always occur in this room that he could lock
7 or did it occur in other parts of the building?

8 A. The play-fighting would start in the dormitory and then,
9 yes, generally end up with the offer of sweeties.

10 Q. But did it always happen in the -- did you say it
11 happened in the ...

12 A. It would start in my bedroom.

13 Q. But you'd move to somewhere else?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. To the room that was locked?

16 A. To the room that was locked, yes.

17 Q. Would it ever go to any other place? We have talked
18 about he had quarters of his own and I thought you --

19 A. Not from the dormitory to another place, but there was
20 another occasion where he invited me up on the pretence
21 that he had a surprise for me. So I was outside playing
22 in the sandpit and he came out and he said, "I've got
23 a surprise for you, come up to the staff flat", which
24 was in the original Glasclune building.

25 He had actually indicated to wait 10 minutes. Now,

1 10 minutes to me at that time wasn't "Give me 10
2 minutes", it was two or three walks around the perimeter
3 of the house would equate to 10 minutes. So that was
4 the instruction: you've got to walk around the house
5 twice or three times and then you come up. So that was
6 the delay of the time frame that was important for him
7 to prepare for me arriving up to his flat.

8 Q. You talked about this staff room that had a bed in it
9 that could be locked and **QFB** had a key.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Where was that staff room? Just remind me. Was that on
12 the ground floor?

13 A. No, it was at the end of the corridor of the boys'
14 floor, so it was the first floor. It's probably more
15 accurate to call it a sleepover room rather than a staff
16 room because it was only used at night-time by whoever
17 was on duty overnight.

18 Q. So people wouldn't necessarily have occasion to go there
19 during the day?

20 A. Exactly, no occasion at all. It was a multiple
21 occupancy room for whoever was -- and that's why the bed
22 sheets were changed daily because it was a new member of
23 staff that would take it.

24 Q. Was it for the night duty staff to sleep in, that room?

25 A. Yes, yes.

- 1 Q. The single person that was looking after the night duty?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. But during the day it wouldn't be occupied?
- 4 A. It wouldn't be occupied.
- 5 Q. So we have this room that you described that could be
- 6 locked. You've got your own dormitory, where things
- 7 might start, where he would be encouraging you to
- 8 perhaps go somewhere, is that right, go to this room?
- 9 But did anything ever happen in **QFB** own quarters?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. What happened there?
- 12 A. So as I was describing with the walk around the
- 13 building, that was about his own living quarters, so
- 14 that was the staff flat that he had. That's where he
- 15 lived. He had a dog, **[REDACTED]** I think
- 16 the dog was called **[REDACTED]** or there were several dogs
- 17 around. He was part of a group where he was involved in
- 18 looking after dogs that had been abused. So it was
- 19 a great setting for that to happen.
- 20 Q. Like rescue dogs?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. So there was the occasion you recall that you went to
- 23 his room and you were told to spend 10 minutes walking
- 24 until he was ready?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You went to his room?

2 A. I went up to the flat that he had a room in, so the door
3 was kind of left open with the snib, so the lock had
4 been forcibly left in the locked position so the door
5 didn't -- it had an automatic closer on it, so it was
6 quite a tough door. So my small frame would be
7 struggling to open it and it would slam behind.

8 Immediately on the left would be the sitting room
9 that was associated to that staff flat. So that's where
10 I -- on this occasion, that's where I went to, opened
11 the door and here was this big gorilla standing at the
12 window. At first I got quite frightened because
13 I wasn't expecting to see a gorilla in the room, so this
14 was **QFB** dressed up in a gorilla suit.

15 I think I kind of was quite startled. He obviously
16 saw that and said, "It's me, it's me", and I was
17 immediately elated by the fact that he had dressed up in
18 a gorilla suit. He was pretending to act like
19 a gorilla, chasing me around the sofa, which was like
20 a three-seater sofa, and I would be jumping over it.
21 I would get quite animated and very, very excited, and
22 at that point -- I always got really, really excited and
23 probably more excited than most boys would get, so not
24 able to control my behaviour at a point. He would take
25 me over and then I would be forcibly restrained -- I'm

1 not talking about the flaky situation we spoke about
2 earlier.

3 Q. He'd hold you or make contact with you and restrain you?

4 A. He would grab me -- yes, and put me on -- so on that
5 occasion he grabbed me by the arms and the full body and
6 lay me on the sofa, "Right, calm down", that kind of
7 thing.

8 Q. What state of clothing were you --

9 A. He was completely naked outside the gorilla suit.

10 Q. What about you at this point when he put you on the
11 sofa?

12 A. I had shorts on.

13 Q. Was it face down or back down?

14 A. It was face up, yes, so back on the sofa.

15 Q. And what happened on this occasion when it got to that
16 point?

17 A. I'd kind of calmed down a wee bit and then he would say,
18 "Gorillas eat bananas and this is how we peel them", and
19 at that point he would identify his penis, which was
20 erect, and he would then be stroking it as if it was
21 a banana. So this was a kind of game that I would
22 obviously engage with. He would then encourage me to
23 eat the banana, because that's what gorillas do, they
24 eat bananas, and this is where he performed -- or
25 I performed oral sex on him.

- 1 Q. That happened on that occasion?
- 2 A. That happened on that occasion.
- 3 Q. How often did that happen?
- 4 A. Only once on that occasion.
- 5 Q. On that occasion?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Did anything else happen on that occasion? Is that your
8 memory?
- 9 A. It was stopped by the dog scratching on the door
10 outside. At that point he wasn't aware of what the
11 noise was. He was clearly startled and he zipped
12 himself up because there was noise outside and it turned
13 out to be the dog scratching on the door. Then the dog
14 came in and that was the big distraction.
- 15 In all honesty, within two minutes, you just forgot
16 about everything that had just taken place.
- 17 Q. It was all over?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. At any point on that occasion was any part of your
20 clothing removed?
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. But clearly, he must have removed part of the gorilla
23 suit --
- 24 A. Yes, it was a kind of zip. Not quite in the middle or
25 the side but it was just --

1 Q. To expose his private parts and do as you described --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- as part of what he was trying to say to you was
4 a game?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Were there any other occasions where you went to his
7 private quarters and things happened or is that the
8 occasion you can remember?

9 A. That is the -- at the moment that is the only occasion.
10 One thing that's important is there are quite a lot of
11 memories that I have about things like that and I'm very
12 careful not to just blurt them out because I need to be
13 sure that they actually happened and it's not my mind
14 playing tricks.

15 So I kind of deliberate on that for quite a bit and
16 try and work out -- associate these things with other
17 associations that I can identify with at that time and
18 space or with other things that have happened. So I'm
19 very careful not to associate things unless I'm 100%
20 sure of what I'm saying.

21 Q. So we've got the incident in his private quarters with
22 the gorilla suit. We have the incident in the tent, the
23 caravan, the shower. We've got the play-fighting
24 episodes, which were a regular occurrence you have
25 described.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So these are things that you are quite clear in your
3 mind --

4 A. Very clear.

5 And another clear incident, it took place in the
6 staff sleepover room as part of the play-fighting, was
7 penetrative sex.

8 Q. On one occasion that you can recall?

9 A. On one occasion. 100% accurate.

10 Q. Anal penetration?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. By [REDACTED] QFB ?

13 A. By [REDACTED] QFB And the reason that this is important and that
14 I can identify that that actually happened was,
15 I remember going to the toilet, bleeding over my shorts,
16 lying on the toilet floor, the cold floor was assisting
17 with the pain that I was experiencing, which must have
18 been what felt like an hour or more.

19 I then started to clean myself. I was covered in
20 blood, my shorts were all covered in blood. I felt
21 extremely uncomfortable in a lot of pain and one of the
22 other boys -- I hadn't locked the toilet door, it was
23 a single toilet with a sink and toilet basin. My head
24 was very close, as I was lying to the floor, to the
25 door -- and it was a boy called [REDACTED] -- he opened

1 the door and banged on my head and he was like, "What is
2 it you're up to, what are you doing?" He had obviously
3 witnessed the state I had been left in as a result of
4 that.

5 Q. Did you seek any attention after that other than going
6 to the toilet to try and clean things up?

7 A. I got new shorts from **QFB** I went back to the staff
8 room where a female child had come along and asked to
9 see **QFB** and **QFB** was a bit panicky -- this is
10 corroborated independently by her. She felt that there
11 was something wrong with me at the time because of my
12 behaviour, blah, blah, blah, but I was standing outside
13 the staff sleepover room waiting on **QFB** And you know,
14 quite simply, it was like, "Let's go for a jaunt in the
15 van", and that's what we did. We got in the van as if
16 nothing had happened.

17 Q. So this had happened in the sleepover room, you had gone
18 to the toilet because you were bleeding, someone had
19 come in and opened the door and seen you in that state?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And then you'd gone back to the sleepover room and --

22 A. I had washed myself and gone back.

23 Q. And at that point, **QFB** as if nothing had happened, took
24 you out for some treat?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Did you say it was a girl who heard something or --
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. What did she see?
- 4 A. She felt that I was in a bit of a state outside the --
- 5 this was after this had happened. So she had witnessed
- 6 whatever state I was in and felt that it was strange.
- 7 Q. And this was witnessed after you came back from the
- 8 toilet or on your way back from the toilet?
- 9 A. This was once I'd got new shorts and underwear on.
- 10 Q. Was any other member of staff made aware of what had
- 11 happened to you or things that were observed? Were you
- 12 aware that this was reported to anyone other than QFB
- 13 A. I didn't make anyone aware of it. Whether [REDACTED] or
- 14 [REDACTED] did, I'm not sure.
- 15 Q. Did QFB say anything before he suddenly took you off on
- 16 this trip?
- 17 A. That's how it happened. It was that one minute, and the
- 18 next minute it was though nothing had happened.
- 19 Q. So you have told us about that occasion. If I go back
- 20 to your statement, Killian, at page 0040, one place
- 21 you haven't talked about is QFB parents' house in
- 22 [REDACTED].
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Did you go there with QFB?
- 25 A. I did.

- 1 Q. How often?
- 2 A. I can recall once, maybe twice. The occasion that I'm
3 recalling is associated with additional abuse.
- 4 Q. I was going to ask you. Can you tell us, on at least
5 the occasion you remember at his parents' house, what
6 happened?
- 7 A. So again, it was while I was sleeping, he came through.
8 This would have been after 10 o'clock, 11 o'clock at
9 night. He came through. It was the feeling of his
10 erect penis stabbing me in the back and on my side.
11 I distinctly remember turning so that my back was
12 towards the wall so that he couldn't get access. I'm
13 assuming that's why I turned my back to the wall, but
14 I remember physically turning myself around so that
15 I wasn't going to experience --
- 16 Q. So you were facing him at some point?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. If you turned your back to the wall, then your front
19 would be away from the wall.
- 20 A. Sorry, I beg your pardon. Originally, when he got into
21 the bed, I'd be facing him -- no, I would be facing the
22 wall.
- 23 Q. And he would come in?
- 24 A. He would come in and then I would turn around so that
25 my -- he basically couldn't get access.

- 1 Q. But he was trying on this occasion to have access, to
2 penetrate you?
- 3 A. He ejaculated within seconds.
- 4 Q. Was there penetration on that occasion that you are
5 aware of?
- 6 A. Not on that instance. So he disappeared out of the room
7 after 30 seconds and I'd fallen asleep and he'd come
8 back and the whole thing started again.
- 9 Q. On the same --
- 10 A. Same night. Literally, 20, 30 minutes later.
- 11 Q. He repeated what he was trying to do, but did he go
12 further on this occasion?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And was there penetration?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Is that why you tell us in paragraph 121 that your bum
17 was sore for days?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. You also say that he did something afterwards?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Was he aware that you were complaining of soreness or
22 did he just do this spontaneously?
- 23 A. I think that was a helpful thing for him to do
24 afterwards, whether it was because he felt bad about
25 what he had done or whether he was getting additional

- 1 gratification from doing that, I'm not sure, but it
2 helped me.
- 3 Q. You say he rubbed cream on your anus.
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Was that on this occasion he did this?
- 6 A. Yes. And again, the nightclothes in these days were all
7 nylon, so they would have been -- they were sticking to
8 me and everything. So they would have been messy and
9 his mum would have cleaned them the next day.
- 10 Q. At some point in this episode if you were wearing
11 nightclothes, did he remove the nightclothes to --
- 12 A. They weren't fully removed.
- 13 Q. Partially?
- 14 A. Partially, yes.
- 15 Q. That was one occasion that happened away from
16 Glasclune --
- 17 A. Mm-hm.
- 18 Q. -- when he took you away, I think you recall, for
19 a weekend?
- 20 A. Yes, it would have been Friday evening or early Saturday
21 morning and then back on the Sunday. So it was from
22 North Berwick, 60 or 70 miles, it wasn't a big journey.
- 23 Q. And you shared a double bed, you say, on that occasion?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And this is what happened?

1 A. Yes. This would have been his bedroom as he was growing
2 up as a child, I think. It was the same flat.

3 Q. Was anyone else in the house at the time?

4 A. His mum and dad.

5 Q. How many bedrooms were there, do you recall?

6 A. I can't recall.

7 Q. Was there any reason why you had to share his bedroom?

8 A. I don't think it was a big flat, but --

9 Q. But that's where you were told you were sleeping?


10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Who made that arrangement?

12 A. So that would be QFB QFB had put me to bed.

13 Q. 

14

15  I think that causes you difficulties in many
16 respects because it was different and you liked --
17 indeed you said you loved QFB at the time, I think you
18 said.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Were you loving him like a son at the time?

21 A. Yes. Well, I don't know if I would have understood what
22 a son was about. But I absolutely adored, worshipped,
23 him. As I say, the awful part of that relationship was
24 quite a small percentage in comparison to a lot of
25 lovely things and times that I had with him.

- 1 Q. Because I think you say 80 per cent of the time, the
2 relationship was amazing, is the way you describe it.
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. So these were the bad times?
- 5 A. Yes. Well ... They're bad times now, but at the time
6 they were difficult --
- 7 Q. Looking back --
- 8 A. I might not have described them at the time as bad. It
9 was just part of the sum of the relationship that I'd
10 had.
- 11 Q. But there were moments of terror?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. At least the episode in the caravan was a moment of
14 terror.
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. It may be that generally speaking you didn't have those
17 feelings, but you did have moments of terror because of
18 this at the time?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. But you also say in some ways what maybe made it
21 difficult was, after it was all over, he gave you
22 treats, took you on trips, as if nothing had happened,
23 it was all very normal and you got on with life.
24 Is that the way it was?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. I think you make a comment now at paragraph 127 at
2 page 0042 that you call it damning that he was allowed
3 the freedom to take an individual away to his parents'
4 house, particularly if, as you now understand, people
5 had concerns or thought that he was being
6 inappropriately close to some of the children.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. So if that was the situation, you feel that that is
9 a damning criticism of --

10 A. Yes. Now it is when I understand the wider aspects of
11 what he was doing.

12 Q. How many times approximately did you actually go to his
13 parents' house? Leave aside what happened. You have
14 this one recollection that's clear that something
15 happened. But how many times generally did you go to
16 the house?

17 A. I think it might have been twice. I think I might have
18 also appeared at his parents on a trip back from
19 somewhere else and we kind of unexpectedly slept over.

20 Q. You will not know, I take it, what, if any, arrangements
21 were made to assess the suitability of you staying at
22 a member of staff's parents' house in [REDACTED] or what
23 risk assessments, if any, were made? You wouldn't know
24 any of that?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Moving on, I'm just going to mention this. You mention
2 that there was other abuse at Glasclune and we can read
3 that abuse. I think you suffered both bullying and
4 sexual abuse perpetrated by other male residents.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You deal with that at page 0043. What I want to ask you
7 is, would any of the members of staff have known that
8 this form of abuse was going on, that you were being
9 bullied and indeed you were being sexually abused by
10 other residents or another resident that you mention?

11 A. Sexual abuse, probably not. But I do struggle with
12 thinking how can these things go on without anyone
13 noticing them, because they were blatantly obvious to
14 all the younger boys that these two individuals were
15 very forceful with the way that they behaved towards us.
16 I can't understand how that wasn't acknowledged or
17 witnessed by members of staff.

18 Q. You say forceful, you mean in a bullying, in a physical,
19 aggressive sense?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You say it would be difficult not to notice that?

22 A. Yes. They would push you aside, they would walk past
23 you and slap you, they would kick you. There would be
24 quite a lot of physical torment.

25 Q. In public places or places people would be moving

- 1 around?
- 2 A. In the house in general.
- 3 Q. There's a lot of staff, as we discovered before the
- 4 break. Would they have been generally around the place
- 5 then when these things were going on?
- 6 A. Yes. I'm not sure if the staff might have felt fearful
- 7 over the boys as well, because I definitely recall that
- 8 they had both ended up in quite violent fights with some
- 9 of the members of staff, the results of which were very
- 10 clear afterwards, with black eyes and stuff.
- 11 Q. Would they have been much younger than some of the
- 12 younger members of staff? Because you said some were 17
- 13 or 18.
- 14 A. Probably, yes. The eldest of the two brothers --
- 15 Q. Don't mention the names.
- 16 A. -- yes -- would have been probably 16/17. So they'd be
- 17 fighting with staff members that were just two or three
- 18 years older. But they both had a very physical presence
- 19 there. They were very well built and very capable of
- 20 delivering heavy punishment and looking after
- 21 themselves.
- 22 Q. These sort of occasions, these aren't flakies, are they?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. This is something different?
- 25 A. Yes. Very different.

1 LADY SMITH: You said a moment ago that the way these two
2 brothers behaved was general behaviour in the home and
3 I think you were explaining that's why you think the
4 staff must have been aware generally of how they were.
5 You did say in your written statement that the bullying
6 was all done behind closed doors --

7 A. Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: -- so the staff didn't get to know about it.
9 Can you help me understand how those two things fit
10 together?

11 A. The specific incidents that I've talked about in the
12 statement were out of sight, but generally I would walk
13 in the same space as them and you would get hit or
14 kicked, and that would be in front of members of staff.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MR PEOPLES: Yes, it's particular specific occasions that
17 you include within your general description of bullying
18 and abuse by peers --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- were not in the presence of others, but general
21 bullying behaviour of the type you've described was
22 perpetrated towards a number of children and perhaps in
23 open view of others?

24 A. Not to the same degree as it was in the Nissen hut, for
25 instance, because that was out of sight, so they would

1 have the freedom to do whatever they wanted to.

2 Q. I take it that -- and you obviously wouldn't have been
3 necessarily thinking along these lines at the time, but
4 between 1976 and 1981, am I right in thinking that some
5 of the children that were accommodated at Glasclune were
6 accommodated there because of their behavioural issues
7 and problems? You might in fact have been one of them
8 because if you'd been in an assessment centre and before
9 panels, you might have been classified in that category.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So there would have been quite a -- people with quite
12 significant behavioural issues and problems --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- in the home?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So that should have been recognised?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You think you left Glasclune when you were 16, but maybe
19 we could say it's either 16 or 17. I think the records
20 suggest it may have been when you turned 17, but you
21 left. There are some points I want to bring out about
22 that.

23 You felt you weren't really ready for the outside
24 world, you felt you had been institutionalised by the
25 lifestyle and didn't have the skills for adulthood.

1 You've described a lot of good things about the
2 place, but was one of the deficiencies in your
3 estimation that that wasn't -- you weren't equipped for
4 life after care?

5 A. I wasn't, that's correct.

6 Q. What sort of things would you have welcomed before you
7 were set loose on the wider world?

8 A. Even if I had gone to a similar environment, like
9 a children's hotel in Edinburgh, I probably would have
10 felt uncomfortable about it. This had been my home and
11 a place that I had learned quite a lot of -- and kind of
12 grew into a teenager from. So to suddenly be ousted out
13 as a result of -- whether it was politics, I can't quite
14 remember what the reason was, but I ended up in a very
15 different environment that I wasn't ready for.

16 Q. Again I think you tell us that you ended up in a flat
17 in the West End of Edinburgh --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- which you shared with other young people.

20 One point I would bring out, just so that I'm clear,
21 I think you do recognise that while you may not have
22 been given the preparation for that experience, you do
23 tell us, I think, that Barnardo's did give a measure of
24 support to you after you left.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Because they helped you in relation to the flat you were
2 living in and I think that they did try to give you some
3 assistance at that point; is that correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Indeed, you tell us that they in fact bought you your
6 first piano.

7 A. Yes. I'm not sure if that was Barnardo's or the
8 social worker, but it was definitely through --

9 Q. I think you give credit to Barnardo's, but okay.

10 A. It may well have been Barnardo's. I just remember
11 arriving back and a piano being in --

12 Q. But you were getting some assistance at least at that
13 stage from the Social Work Department and Barnardo's.
14 Maybe it's hard to allocate --

15 A. It would be the social work staff from Barnardo's and
16 not the local authority.

17 Q. I know you're going to give us a statement and you're
18 going to deal with some of the matters that you deal
19 with in your statement, so I'm not going to steal your
20 thunder too much, but there are one or two things I want
21 to ask before you give us the statement.

22 So far as disclosing or reporting about the
23 experiences you've told us about today, I think you --
24 in order to give us a point of reference I think you
25 accessed your records after the Freedom of Information

1 Act 2000 came into force. You made a request to see
2 your records?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. That caused you to take certain steps at that time and
5 also it involved subsequently some of the things that
6 you told us about became known to the police --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- in the early 2000s.

9 Indeed, you told Barnardo's about some of the things
10 that had happened to you when you were accessing your
11 records, is that the case --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- in the early part of 2000, just after the millennium?

14 A. 2001, I think it was.

15 Q. My understanding is that around 2001 or 2002, there was
16 some police involvement in relation to the allegations
17 or matters you've talked about, and in fact you were
18 spoken to by police officers as part of that enquiry
19 process at that time.

20 I think in your statement you have some comments on
21 that whole process because I think you did have
22 a subsequent -- you made a subsequent report much later
23 on in about 2011 or 2012; is that right?

24 A. Yes. The time frame ...

25 Q. There was a renewed investigation, if you like?

1 A. It was about a decade, yes.

2 Q. And the upshot of that, ultimately, was I think you got
3 a letter from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal
4 Service telling you that there were to be no criminal
5 proceedings.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. I'm just going to raise a few points with you because
8 I've been asked to raise them with you.

9 At page 0049, just to start off with, you have
10 indicated -- you have stated you think **QFB** was an
11 ex-police officer. I have to say, we have got
12 a statement from **QFB** in which -- while he is not
13 prepared to comment on some of the allegations that
14 you have told us about today, he has given his
15 employment history and there is no indication in that
16 that he's ever been a serving police officer or had
17 a connection with a force in Scotland or elsewhere, so
18 far as our researches go.

19 So I'm wondering, was that something -- I don't know
20 how you got the idea that he might have been, but I'm
21 just putting this to you, and I think I'm told that's
22 apparently not the case.

23 A. Yes, from him.

24 Q. **QFB**

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Did he say that?

2 A. Yes, he said he was highway patrol police and that's
3 where he had come from. He also had a police hat in the
4 back of his car all the time.

5 Q. But he had a gorilla suit as well.

6 A. He had a gorilla suit, yes.

7 Q. Do you see what I'm getting at?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. He might have used these as props.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. It just might be his way of part of his grooming
12 process.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Because other than what **QFB** told you and what you saw,
15 you won't know whether in fact he was truthful when he
16 said he was a police officer.

17 A. I have always believed that he was a policeman until
18 I was told by the police otherwise, whereas when he was
19 dressed up in a gorilla outfit, I knew the difference.

20 Q. I take your point. Fair point. That's just one matter
21 I was asked to raise with you.

22 There is another matter which I just wanted to deal
23 with. You may have something to say about the
24 investigations and indeed the handling of these matters
25 by the police and other agencies. At paragraph 147 of

1 your statement, page 0049, so far as that is concerned,
2 we are given to understand -- you say there that the
3 that may have dealt with your case originally after the
4 millennium you thought had been sacked. I don't know
5 where that information came from or who gave it to you.

6 A. I'm certain that was Kenny Gray that provided that. If
7 not, it would have been one of his colleagues.

8 Q. What I understand -- and obviously we can no doubt look
9 at this further if we think it's necessary to do so --
10 is that in February of 2013, following what was treated
11 as a complaint by you about the police and their actions
12 in 2002/2003, you received a letter about that matter
13 informing you that there had been an investigation and
14 that it had been considered that a complaint that your
15 report had not been properly recorded had been upheld
16 and that an officer concerned had been dealt with under
17 the Police Conduct Regulations, and that was, I think,
18 the extent of the information you got.

19 So it appears that what the police did was they did
20 carry out some investigation into the matter as
21 a complaint and informed you of what they had done,
22 there had been an investigation, a certain view had been
23 formed, and certain action had been taken. So do you
24 recall getting a letter --

25 A. I don't recall any letter. I do recall having several

1 conversations with Kenny Gray about this, though.

2 Q. Your recollection is you can't recall getting a letter.

3 Is it possible you did at the time? There was a lot

4 going on maybe. It's something we can see --

5 A. If I got it, I would have put it in a file.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. I don't have it.

8 Q. So you don't recall getting a letter to that effect?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Certainly, I'm given to understand you should have got

11 a letter to that effect, so maybe we'll have to

12 proceed --

13 A. I'm not saying they didn't send it, but if I had got

14 a letter, I'm very meticulous about things like that, so

15 I would have that now.

16 Q. Okay. That's fair enough.

17 Just on a separate matter. We understand, at least

18 you tell us in your statement, you understand that the

19 police did, at some point perhaps around 2011 or 2012,

20 interview QFB and there were certain charges and

21 that stage he was arrested and charged.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What you tell us, I think, in your statement is that you

24 received a letter in 2012 from the procurator fiscal or

25 the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service -- this

1 is at paragraph 153 at page 0051. You received
2 a letter, which you took to be saying that they didn't
3 feel that it was appropriate to take further action
4 in relation to the matter that you had reported.

5 You make the point at paragraph 153 that there was
6 no explanation in the letter as to why they thought
7 it would not be appropriate to prosecute and that you
8 really felt that the letter wasn't sufficiently
9 explanatory and you felt a bit let down by the
10 prosecution service.

11 But you also say, I think -- this is at
12 paragraph 155 on the same page -- that at the time --
13 and this isn't a criticism, I'm just trying to get the
14 facts -- you didn't contact the prosecution service for
15 a more detailed explanation of why the decision was
16 taken. Is that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. My understanding from the inquiry making some enquiries
19 into this matter is that the reason that there was no
20 decision to prosecute was that there wasn't legal
21 corroboration of the matters that you've talked about
22 today. And for that reason alone, there was not a legal
23 basis to bring a prosecution. There was a letter
24 sent -- and I think it was sent to you on
25 13 November 2012 by the Crown Office and

1 Procurator Fiscal Service -- which I think does say what
2 you said. It says that they decided no further action
3 is appropriate in this case, but it doesn't spell out
4 the reason I have just given you.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. It does say if you have questions to contact, and you
7 say you didn't do it, in fact. But you're correct to
8 say the letter doesn't spell out the basis. But I'm
9 telling you today that the basis is a legal basis, not
10 because of anything you said to the police as part of
11 the report, but it's just that they have to find
12 support, and I think you've attempted to help them find
13 that support, but so far that support hasn't been
14 unearthed.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Do you understand what I'm saying on the matter?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. It may have been better had they spelt that out in the
19 letter or had it been explained to you at the time, but
20 just for your benefit, I'm trying to tell you what the
21 situation was.

22 A. The way that that phrase was introduced to me was
23 a brick wall. That's how I saw it. Whether there had
24 been paragraphs of other information after that phrase,
25 it probably wouldn't have made any difference to me --

1 and I'm being perfectly honest that my life was ripped
2 apart when I saw that because everything up until that
3 point had been validated as a result of direct input
4 from me, other members of staff, the fact that **QFB** had
5 been charged. All of that was rubber-stamped and that
6 was completely ripped away from me.

7 Q. I don't think any validation you took from that should
8 be diminished by what I'm telling you.

9 A. No, I know.

10 Q. I'm just saying -- and perhaps with the benefit of
11 hindsight it may be said that the letter might have been
12 more informative or indeed that it shouldn't have just
13 been left to you to make the running about a further
14 explanation. But what I am just trying to do just now
15 is tell you there was a -- it wasn't just a matter of
16 whim or caprice, there was a basis that there was not
17 the corroboration that the law requires to take the
18 matter forward to a trial.

19 But I can also say -- and I say this generally, it's
20 not to do with what I've just said -- that we know from
21 the Crown in this inquiry that they do conduct reviews
22 of cases and if evidence does come to light that would
23 afford a basis for prosecution, then we understand that
24 they will pursue the matter in the appropriate way. So
25 if that's any comfort to you, you may not think so, but

1 I raise it with you.

2 A. No, I appreciate that. I also think that if I had
3 understood the reasons behind -- in other words, the
4 corroboration law that is required in Scotland is not
5 required in England, and these offences, two of which
6 actually happened in England ... so at some point you
7 would have considered that a prosecution could have been
8 looked at.

9 Q. Well, in fairness to the Crown Office, I'd better say
10 again, and maybe I didn't make that clear, that insofar
11 as offences occurred in England and Wales, it wouldn't
12 be a decision for the Crown Office necessarily. They
13 would have to consider -- it would be a matter perhaps
14 for the Crown Prosecution Service in England and they
15 would have to no doubt determine what basis there was
16 and whether there was a sufficiency, even if
17 corroboration isn't technically required, which I think
18 you're correct in saying.

19 I can't speak for them, but I'm just trying to speak
20 for the reason why in the case of at least the matters
21 that occurred in Scotland, why that didn't result in any
22 proceedings at the time. So I hope that provides you
23 with at least an explanation. I'm sure you'd still have
24 observations to make on whether that explanation should
25 have come earlier, but I hope that gives you some

1 understanding of perhaps the background to the statement
2 and the letter.

3 A. I think also a letter like that doesn't allow me to
4 explore other avenues like the Moorov doctrine or the
5 corroboration --

6 Q. I think I can assure you that the Crown, when they look
7 at these matters -- and indeed Crown counsel do look at
8 these matters -- will always have in mind, in cases of
9 this kind, whether there's this Moorov corroboration.
10 It's something that they will take into account, they
11 will see if there's other corroboration of other people
12 making similar complaints about the same person in time,
13 place and circumstances that would afford corroboration
14 of each individual complaint.

15 So again, it's not always easy, and perhaps these
16 things should be better understood and the public should
17 be better informed, but that is something that is taken
18 into account. They are looking to see if there is
19 a sufficiency in law if there is corroboration, whether
20 forensic evidence or Moorov or whatever.

21 LADY SMITH: Killian, just picking up on what you said about
22 two of the offences taking place in England, and these
23 are the [REDACTED] offences, I take it, you're referring
24 to. Did the police here suggest to you that you report
25 them to the police in [REDACTED]?

1 A. To be honest, I didn't know anything about the
2 corroboration law in Scotland or the Moorov doctrine
3 until I met with the police four months ago.

4 LADY SMITH: I wasn't specifically thinking about that,
5 I was just wondering about the time, 2000 or so, when
6 you started reporting to the police --

7 A. No.

8 LADY SMITH: Did you tell them at that time that some of the
9 incidents were in [REDACTED] ?

10 A. Yes.

11 LADY SMITH: Did they ever suggest to you that they were,
12 off their own bat, liaising with their counterparts
13 south of the border?

14 A. No, I didn't have any of that information.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 Mr Peoples.

17 MR PEOPLES: I'm conscious that you've got a statement, and
18 I think it'll be probably after lunch before we actually
19 hear your statement. I had hoped that there would have
20 been a chance to start it before lunch. There is
21 another matter I want to raise before you get to that
22 point.

23 I suspect that in your statement you will say
24 something about your dealings with Barnardo's as an
25 organisation and how they responded to the disclosure of

1 the abuse that you've told us about today.

2 I think to some extent you deal with that in your
3 statement, but I think you're probably going to deal
4 with it in the statement you've prepared. What I'm
5 asked to at least put to you at this stage is that
6 I think you got your records, or you got to see records
7 following the legislation, and I think you had dealings
8 with Barnardo's aftercare service and you have dealt
9 with, I think, at least two individuals that spring to
10 mind, one of which was a Kate Roach. Does that ring
11 a bell?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. There's also a colleague, Heather Drysdale?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And I think you have a dissatisfaction, you feel, about
16 the response of their organisation. No doubt you'll
17 articulate for us what that dissatisfaction is, but what
18 I'm asked to raise with you is that so far as the
19 disclosure is concerned, you were at least sent on
20 9 February 2012 -- I know it's a long time ago --
21 a lengthy letter from Kate Roach, really seeking to give
22 a full response to the matters you had raised.

23 I think she does apologise in the letter -- they had
24 taken time to provide with you that response. I wonder
25 if you can confirm, did you get a letter along those

1 lines? Can you recall?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And indeed, I think it does seek to reassure you that
4 they recognise the pain you experienced is evident from
5 the terms of the letter you wrote and that they take all
6 allegations very seriously, however long has passed
7 since the abuse reported has occurred. They do tell you
8 something about the involvement of the police and what
9 Barnardo's policy was at the time.

10 So I think these are matters that you probably can
11 recall were raised with you. You might still have
12 observations, but I'm being asked to put that, that they
13 did try to put, as it were, their response and their
14 explanation of how they responded to you in writing in
15 this letter. Is that fair to say at least?

16 A. It's fair to say it for the letter that I had written to
17 them. That was one response.

18 Q. Indeed, they also say that they do seek as part of their
19 practice, normal practice at the time, to offer ongoing
20 support to individuals who may be involved in a police
21 investigation and so forth. At least they were saying
22 that. I don't know what you're going to say in the
23 statement, but I'm just raising on their behalf that
24 that is something that they did. I think that they also
25 gave you some information about what they know about the

1 police and what actions the police took at the time.

2 I think they were trying to tell you what they knew of
3 that matter and indeed that they were keen to cooperate
4 with any police investigation and be aware of how it was
5 going. So this is what you were being told.

6 I think they also gave you some background to --
7 access to records and how there had been some changes
8 because of the legislation but also some issues because
9 of data protection laws.

10 A. Yes. Not quite in that order, but yes.

11 Q. No, no, absolutely. The Data Protection Act was 1998,
12 and Freedom of Information, 2000.

13 I think they tried to make the point that at least
14 in cases of some types of abuse -- and I think you might
15 share this -- that some abuse is carried out in secret
16 and may not ever be reported or recorded, although
17 I think we have discussed some of the perhaps
18 opportunities today.

19 I think there's an acknowledgement in that letter
20 also -- I'm just looking at it because I've been given
21 a copy recently -- that they do acknowledge that abuse
22 does take place even with such arrangements as are put
23 in place to prevent it and they feel it's important that
24 they report any disclosures to the police as a matter of
25 policy and that was their position at the time.

1 I think they feel they tried to give you a response.
2 It may be at the end of the day you didn't feel that
3 response was sufficient, but at least you are, I think,
4 acknowledging to me that they did send that letter and
5 they did raise these matters with you in the response
6 that they gave. Is that correct?

7 A. I think it's fair to say that they raised responses to
8 a letter that I had sent them -- is what has taken
9 place. My experience of what they did after that is
10 very, very different to what you're describing and what
11 they're claiming.

12 Q. And you're going to tell us about that in the statement
13 you want to give us?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. I think at this point -- I'm inclined to take the view
16 that you're likely to cover the other matters in your
17 written statement in the statement you're going to give
18 us and maybe the best plan now would be for us to break
19 early.

20 LADY SMITH: Perhaps if we take the lunch break now and
21 start again at 1.55, Killian. I know that you've given
22 a lot of thought as to what you want to volunteer by way
23 of a statement and I would like to hear that, and if
24 there's anything that we realise at the end we still
25 wanted to pick up with you, we can do it after your

1 statement. Would that work for you?

2 A. That's fine.

3 LADY SMITH: For everybody here -- Killian, this isn't
4 anything you need to worry about, in terms of whether
5 you've done something wrong -- the name [REDACTED] QFB as
6 somebody who is an alleged abuser is subject to my
7 general restriction order and it must not be disclosed
8 outside this hearing room in that context. Thank you.

9 (12.55 pm)

10 (The lunch adjournment)

11 (1.55 pm)

12 LADY SMITH: I think we're going to ask Killian if he is
13 ready to address us.

14 MR PEOPLES: Yes, my Lady, I'm quite happy that we now
15 proceed to the statement.

16 LADY SMITH: Before the break, Killian, I indicated that if
17 you liked, you could at this stage read the statement
18 you prepared. Is that what you would like to do now?

19 A. Yes, if that's okay.

20 I would like to first point out the point of this
21 document. It's my open, honest and frank account of
22 a scuffle that I've had with a lifetime of sexual abuse
23 and the things that it imposes. I have always struggled
24 with the state that things might offend or hurt people,
25 and as a result of that, I tend to deal with very

1 negative things with a positive spin, which ends up
2 diluting the meaning of the negative things.

3 So I haven't applied any positive spins on this
4 document at all. It's a very frank and open expression
5 of how I feel today. I have written it two days ago --
6 or I spent two days writing it and it's an expression of
7 my frustration with the system that I feel I have had to
8 have a battle with, and that's really what the document
9 is.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you for that preface to it. Please go
11 ahead.

12 A. Okay.

13 So I have been thinking about how best to transport
14 a factually accurate impact statement, one that can that
15 actually capture the untold and hidden impacts of sexual
16 abuse in one's childhood as well as the permanent
17 effects that this can have.

18 To be honest, while this is something that I live
19 with on a day-to-day basis, it has been the hardest
20 thing that I've ever put down on paper and I've had to
21 revisit some very dark places. The true impact of child
22 sexual abuse travels an entire childhood simply cannot
23 be condensed into a 10 or 15-minute impact statement.

24 How does one start, what does one talk about? What
25 should come first? Is it my night terrors, the

1 consequential illnesses, my daily struggles, or the fact
2 that the first thing in my head each morning can be a
3 collection of uninvited horrors. But in some way it's
4 better that these arrive first thing in the morning so
5 I can medicate and try and deal with them, get them out
6 of the way, so I can get on with the rest of my day. So
7 I really struggled with this a lot.

8 With each new memory, a new emotion occurs, which
9 impacts other things from my past. It's truly like
10 living in a war zone where I'm constantly fighting what
11 appears to be, at times, a losing battle in a lifelong
12 conflict management of me. I don't think I'll ever know
13 or understand the full impact of this because it changes
14 each day and sadly that means that you won't either.

15 What I do know is that I didn't rape or abuse
16 myself. I also know that some will cope better than
17 others; coping is all we have. There is no pill to take
18 the pain away, there is no antidote to remove the
19 memories. All we have is time. Time to relive those
20 experiences in adulthood and try to prove that they
21 actually did happen.

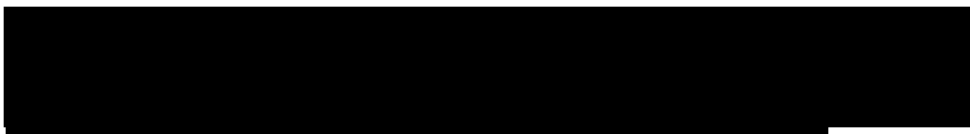
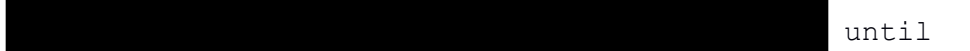
22 Whilst I can embellish phrases and use colourful
23 words to better assist in identifying the real impact of
24 such things, the true collision here is a visual one and
25 it's written over the faces of each and every brave

1 life-experienced adult who openly talks about his or her
2 historic sexual abuse experiences as the result of
3 guardianship, love and power.

4 My whole childhood, adults were attracted to me. My
5 whole childhood. When I went to Glasclune at the age of
6 11 or 12, if an adult hadn't been attracted to me,
7 I would have wondered why, and probably felt out of
8 place.

9 I didn't know anything about sexual abuse until
10 I was an adult myself. I knew I didn't like it, it made
11 me feel sad, it made me cry at night, it made me feel
12 very alone. It caused me a lot of physical pain. It
13 made me feel ashamed and it made me want to kill myself,
14 but it also made me who I am today.

15 I was 3 years old when I first experienced cruelty

16 
17  until

19 I was 5. I was then enlisted into several local
20 authority children's homes where further abuses were
21 fashioned by what seemed to be very angry men and women
22 as well as older boys who were alongside me in the home.

23 I genuinely believed that this was just part of life
24 and I never questioned it. How on earth at 5 years of
25 age would I have been able to articulate this to anyone

1 anyway?

2 By the time my 11-year-old frame got to Glasclune,
3 I had been violently, mentally and sexually abused by
4 three male members of the local authority staff, two
5 female members of the local authority staff, four local
6 authority boys, and a monster. Why is this important to
7 this inquiry? It's important because it sets the scene
8 of vulnerability at the time I arrived at Glasclune.

9 Here was a young life with multiple battle scars
10 being injected into yet another institution where I was
11 fully expecting to be treated no differently than I had
12 been previously. I'm certain that if I hadn't been
13 sexually relevant here too, I would have worried about
14 that. I would have worried that there was something
15 wrong with me or that I had been sent to the wrong
16 place.

17 I wasn't surprised at all at a male member of staff
18 being drawn to me. In fact, I was certain this
19 attraction would have made me feel more at home in this
20 unusual and lavish setting. Here was an adult who let
21 me drive his car, albeit sitting in between his legs
22 while he purposely helped me steer over the bumps in the
23 road which would permit a disguised and intimate
24 connection. A man who could play-fight with me for
25 hours just to gain my trust and then in an instant turn

1 that into a platform of many sexual encounters. A man
2 who could be completely naked inside a gorilla suit and
3 then ask me to help peel his banana and eat it. A man
4 who was permitted to take me away to his parents' house
5 for a full weekend of sexual indulgence, who then
6 believed that the exchange of sweets on the way home
7 would somehow help me overcome the atrocity of what
8 he had just done. The man who gained sexual pleasures
9 inside my sleeping bag one night and my bed the next
10 whilst on holiday under the watchful eye of other staff
11 members without detection, suspicion or scrutiny.

12 A man that caused my 12-year-old bottom to bleed
13 in the toilet floor after he had thrust himself into me.
14 I lay there with my face in the cold floor so I didn't
15 pass out, all alone, for what seemed to be hours in
16 excruciating pain. I truly thought I was going to die
17 that day. I know that I wanted to.

18 A man who could orchestrate desires around my young,
19 sexy body at the same time as managing to conceal this
20 distortion even amongst his closest colleagues. He was,
21 in fact, a perfect hunter, a predator. And yet despite
22 all this, I worshipped him. I mean I actually loved
23 this man and would have done anything for him.

24 This was affection I had never experienced before
25 and although I feel embarrassed and unbelievably ashamed

1 to admit that now, I know that despite the pain and
2 conflict it caused, I wanted and needed it for it to
3 continue.

4 Generally speaking, sexual abuse is a human
5 sickness, it's an infected wound that heals over, but
6 the infection remains inside. When you catch a cold
7 from someone, you usually have a few days of feeling
8 unpleasant but then you start to feel better and within
9 a week you hope to be back to normal. But when you
10 catch sexual abuse from someone, it's a lifelong
11 illness. There are no cures and people like me are left
12 to rummage about looking for something that they can use
13 in any attempt to self-administer wellness remedies for
14 conditions that directly relate to a time in their young
15 lives where there was a lack of governance.

16 I experienced PTSD, immune-mediated dysregulation,
17 immune deficiencies, anxiety, as well as many other
18 things, previous illnesses which are now directly linked
19 and associated with child sexual abuse I have also
20 experienced, and these include ulcerative colitis. This
21 is an inflammatory illness now directly related to child
22 sexual abuse and the condition affected me for years.
23 In 1991, at the age of 27, it included in me losing my
24 colon. I had to wear a colostomy bag for over a year,
25 I then went through another year of several painful

1 surgeries to have an ileo-anal pouch fitted. This
2 process essentially removes the colostomy bag from being
3 on the outside of the body and places it inside the
4 body, utilising about half a metre of one's small
5 intestine to make a pouch.

6 Anal fissures and other inflammatory illnesses also
7 directly linked to child sex abuse. This condition
8 affected me at that age of 3 and I was hospitalised for
9 almost a month as a result. Asthma, another
10 inflammatory illness which affects the respiratory
11 system, also recognised now and linked to child sexual
12 abuse.

13 These life-changing injuries are accompanied by an
14 assortment of psychological and physiological conditions
15 all directly connected to my past and again the one
16 thing I surely know is the fact that I did not rape
17 myself.

18 Being forcibly orally and anally entered against
19 your will is by far the worst infringement of all. It
20 is an incomprehensible engraving on the inner walls of
21 one's mind and yet, whilst I cannot forget, I can
22 forgive. I forgive because of what I am and who I have
23 become, even though it leaves a sickening destructive
24 illness behind without medicine or cure.

25 There are also my teeth. I want to tell you

1 a story. It's a story about my teeth. My whole life,
2 I have never looked after my teeth. I have never wanted
3 to brush them, I have always hated them, wanted them to
4 die. I mean I just couldn't stand them being in my
5 mouth. My main objective has always been for them to
6 rot away, have them ripped out in favour of implants.
7 I have utterly despised my teeth my whole life and never
8 understood why until recently. This profound
9 significance was the result of a lifetime of oral sex
10 abuse and I think this precisely underlines just how
11 difficult it is to define the impact of sexual abuse and
12 just how long it can take to understand and recognise
13 some of the consequences associated with it. But it
14 also means that I will likely spend the rest of my life
15 in recovery.

16 Of course, it is now too late for me as my oral
17 health is very poor and largely beyond rescue. I have
18 literally had to spend thousands of pounds trying to
19 maintain a healthy oral state, another battle I am
20 losing. That said, I have found an incredible dentist
21 who has been immensely understanding of this disclosure
22 and thankfully hasn't seen me as a dirty, uncaring, lazy
23 individual who can't be bothered to clean a simple thing
24 like his teeth. This is indeed a significant
25 development over previous experiences with dentists.

1 I was 50 when I realised this, almost 40 years
2 later. If you apply this demolition to other parts of
3 one's disorientated mind and valuable body, only then do
4 you start to peel away the complexities and
5 characteristics that child sexual abuse presents.
6 Trying to filter these out is a bit like attempting to
7 separate an orange from an apple and a banana in
8 a blender.

9 As I sit here today, as a 54-year-old adult, I feel
10 as though I've only lived for the last ten years. The
11 rest of that life I have simply survived repeated car
12 crashes.

13 Being a Barnardo boy was something I'd always been
14 very proud of. After all, they gave me a brilliant
15 start to my teenage years, despite the sexual abuse by
16 the single staff member -- oh, and one of the other boys
17 too.

18 That said, I'm going to feel very angry at
19 Barnardo's and probably for the rest of my life. This
20 is because the way I feel they treated me after I had
21 informed them of abuse allegations, even knowing that
22 these allegations were made against a man that they had
23 previously reprimanded, issuing him with a verbal
24 warning and then a further written warning for his
25 inappropriate relationships with boys.

1 These two strikes cemented a decision that it was
2 time for this man to move on. His parting gift was an
3 employment reference from Barnardo's that simply stated,
4 "We would not employ this individual again".

5 Yet through my claims and allegations, Barnardo's
6 chose to protect him over me as it seemed. This
7 organisation, this national organisation, whose main
8 purpose, in my mind, was to safeguard and represent
9 disadvantaged children actually ignored detailed
10 allegations of sexual abuse and believed that the most
11 important component to consider was their reputation and
12 how best to protect it no matter what.

13 To me, this disgusting defiance is something that
14 will stay with me for my entire life. This was
15 Barnardo's abusing me again but in a more sinister
16 fashion by camouflaging factual accounts of abuse and
17 refusing to acknowledge it, particularly when there were
18 so many glaring identifiers that this man posed a real
19 and serious risk to children. It sickens me to the core
20 but illustrates perfectly how insignificant my young
21 life felt.

22 This had triggered, again, a profound conflict
23 within me, which caused me much disorientation, anxiety
24 and anger, all leading to a further three failed
25 attempts of suicide. From 1979 at the age of 15 to 1984

1 at the age of 20, I had attempted suicide eight times as
2 a direct result of sexual abuse conflict. I am still
3 being discriminated against today as a result and cannot
4 get life insurance simply because when asked, "Have you
5 ever tried to self-harm or take your life?" I must
6 answer yes, despite pointing out that this was some
7 34 years ago.

8 The most alarming and perhaps arrogant thing of all
9 is the fact that after 42 years of struggle, Barnardo's
10 still haven't considered any form of apology to me and
11 I find this exceptionally tormenting as it confirms the
12 serious lack of title, acknowledgement and
13 responsibility over these events.

14 In 2001, I spent several days giving evidence to the
15 police. This was emotionally draining and physically
16 demanding. Somehow they lost both this written
17 statement and audio recording that were taken at the
18 time and for the next nine years or so, a senior police
19 officer led me to believe that he had been investigating
20 my complaint, but as it was complicated, it was taking
21 longer than usual. Who was I to challenge this process,
22 something I knew nothing about?

23 But as I had become suspicious of him, I decided to
24 write to the Scottish Office asking for consent to
25 contact Strathclyde Police and request that they inherit

1 this investigation on the grounds that I'd lost all
2 confidence in Lothian & Borders Police, as they were
3 known as the time.

4 This sparked some knee-jerk reactions within Lothian
5 & Borders and I was invited to an immediate meeting with
6 senior police officers. Here I met a very decent senior
7 police officer who took charge of this miscarriage and
8 opened the entire investigation process from scratch for
9 the second time.

10 It took 12 years for the police to comprehend that
11 a child who had alleged rape and other sexual
12 misconducts was in fact reporting a despicable crime.

13 The fact that I had been given an opportunity to
14 repopulate my original misplaced statement a decade
15 later, focusing around frustration, anger, new life
16 experiences, including other people's thoughts and
17 perspectives, to add into the pot to ensure this time
18 round this man will not get away. People think I'm
19 crazy for considering this, but the simple fact is I do
20 consider it because in fairness to everyone and the
21 wider structure of getting to the truth on time, it is
22 the most important factor.

23 The fact that the police can fail so spectacularly
24 in carrying out fundamental duties after receiving
25 a one-to-one account of genuine sexual abuse allegations

1 is disturbing. It also means that people might look at
2 alternative routes in order to be heard, make things up,
3 use their imagination to introduce other elements,
4 things that may not have taken place but would raise
5 eyebrows. This places anyone who's experienced the same
6 discriminating conduct at a serious disadvantage.

7 However, a thorough investigation did take place,
8 which resulted in this Barnardo agent being charged.
9 This was a monumental day in my life. The news came as
10 I lay in a hospital bed after being admitted under
11 emergency circumstances -- ironically, because of the
12 stress this new investigation was having, which resulted
13 in serious inflammatory issues with my ileo-anal pouch.

14 I remember lying there soaked in overwhelming
15 elation. My integrity had suddenly become instantly
16 validated and officially rubber-stamped. I could now
17 raise my head with confidence that all of a sudden my
18 life had actually meant something to someone. Here
19 I was, laid out at the age of 49 and at the end of
20 a very long battle, the offspring of catastrophic
21 failures, but I had finally won.

22 Sadly, this result caused many different emotions
23 and I became very angry and frustrated with my adult
24 self. With this new power I felt responsible for
25 everything that had happened in my life and that I had

1 allowed it to happen.

2 This was an unbelievable minefield of emotion that
3 I wasn't prepared for and simply couldn't comprehend.
4 Unfortunately, neither could any of the professionals,
5 who became easily defeated and perplexed with me as
6 a result.

7 Some weeks after these charges, I received a letter
8 from the Crown Prosecution Service. This gigantic empty
9 white piece of official letterhead contained what
10 I believed to be a single sentence essentially
11 stating: it is not appropriate to take this matter
12 further. This literally took all the power away from my
13 legs and uncontrollably I fell to the ground where
14 I remained for an hour or so, powerless in absolute
15 disbelief. It ripped my very being apart.

16 In conclusion, I believe that a zero-tolerance
17 should be in place so that wherever there is enough
18 evidence that leads to charges, people should
19 automatically face prosecution. Failure to prosecute
20 sends entirely the wrong message and allows any
21 perpetrator to continue. The risk of not prosecuting
22 a child sex abuser who has been charged is, frankly, too
23 high. It is therefore, in my opinion, essential for
24 society to adopt a zero-tolerance approach to all child
25 sexual abuse, to prosecute each and every case. The

1 cost to a child and society of failing to go to court is
2 far greater than the long term if a child is ignored and
3 let down by a system for fear of not reaching the
4 correct threshold, which in Scotland is corroboration.
5 A child ignored, even if that child now occupies an
6 adult frame, is a victim all over again, yet the
7 perpetrator is free to continue their life and maybe
8 commit other further abuses.

9 When you think someone can be jailed for stealing
10 a phone from a shop, here we have a man who stole a very
11 important section of my childhood, most of my adult life
12 and nearly all of my sleep, yet he continues to function
13 freely in society. This is the most shameful atrocity
14 on any human, especially children. The lack of strong
15 measures against abusers and institutions who have
16 facilitated this abuse in order to protect their own
17 reputation needs to be exposed and remedied at any cost.

18 You enquire on the impact of sex abuse. Well, it's
19 a very different once upon a time and there is very
20 little happy ever after. It's my full-time job. It's
21 my strength, it's my weakness. It's life-threatening.
22 It's a landing strip of pain, suffering, anguish,
23 injustice, blame, competition, torment, and a million
24 other horrid things, including a life sentence. But all
25 in all, it's been my life and I've tried to make the

1 best of it.

2 Lastly, I would like to sincerely thank members of
3 this inquiry for their patience, understanding, guidance
4 and professionalism. I stand firmly alongside your
5 objectives and pay tribute to the way you have adopted
6 my experiences. I thank you for that kindness.

7 I particularly want to thank [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for
8 providing me with a space where, for the first time, in
9 a very long time I have been able to recall heinous
10 childhood experiences and felt equally respected and
11 safe. Thankfully, what has always been silent noise for
12 me -- and I am sure for many others -- has finally got
13 a voice.

14 Thank you.

15 LADY SMITH: Killian, thank you very much for sharing that
16 with us.

17 Mr Peoples.

18 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, I don't think I have anything to add.

19 Obviously we've dealt with the police matter and that
20 may be something for another day as well if we are
21 looking at the way that the system handles complaints.
22 So it's maybe something we can take on board at that
23 point as well.

24 I would just like to thank Killian for coming today
25 and I wish him well again.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 Are there any outstanding applications for
3 questions? No.

4 Killian, there are no more questions for you. It
5 just remains for me to thank you, not only for coming
6 here today, but, as you've already alluded to, engaging
7 as you have done with the inquiry in providing your
8 written statement, which will have been a lengthy
9 process.

10 It's enormously helpful to me to have your evidence,
11 both in that written form and having heard you and
12 having heard your elaborations of it and bringing your
13 evidence to life today.

14 Thank you very much. I'm now able to let you go.

15 A. Thank you very much.

16 (The witness withdrew)

17 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, I wonder if we can have a few minutes
18 to have a quick handover. Ms Rattray will take the next
19 witness.

20 LADY SMITH: Yes. Five minutes for the changeover.

21 (2.23 pm)

22 (A short break)

23 (2.30 pm)

24 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray.

25 MS RATTRAY: The next witness has waived her right to be

1 anonymous and she is Marjorie Myles.

2 MARJORIE MYLES (sworn)

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

4 It's really important that we can hear you through
5 the sound system; I'm sure you understand that. I'll
6 tell you if we're losing you and you can adjust your
7 position.

8 Ms Rattray, when you're ready.

9 Questions from MS RATTRAY

10 MS RATTRAY: Good afternoon, Marjorie.

11 A. Good afternoon.

12 Q. In front of you, you'll see there's a red folder, and
13 in the folder you will find a paper copy of the
14 statement which you gave to the inquiry. For our
15 purposes, the statement has a reference, which is
16 WIT.001.002.0732.

17 You have a paper copy in front of you but also
18 a copy of your statement will come up on the screen in
19 front of you before that.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So if you prefer to use the paper version or you're fine
22 with the screen, whichever --

23 A. The paper is fine, thank you.

24 Q. -- is best for you.

25 In that case, to start with, could you turn to the

1 very back page of your paper copy? Page 0748. Can you
2 confirm that you have signed your statement?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And do we see that you say above that, at paragraph 115
5 that you have no objection to your witness statement
6 being published as part of the evidence to the inquiry
7 and that you believe the facts stated in your witness
8 statement are true?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I'm not quite sure it was the right statement up there:
11 it was 110 and I'm seeing 115 on the screen.

12 Could you confirm the year in which you were born?

13 A. 1952.

14 Q. At the front page of your statement, you gave us a bit
15 of background, your family background --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- about the reasons why you ended up being in care.

18 I think you tell us generally that your parents
19 separated and, after that, you stayed with different
20 family members.

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. And you spent a year in care when you were aged 4 to
23 5 years old?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Then you went back to live with family members and then

1 you were living with your mum and your stepfather.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. 

4

5 A.

6 Q.

7 A.

8 Q.

9 A.

10 Q.

11

12 A.

13 Q. And following upon that, you were taken into care?

14 A. That's correct, yes.

15 Q. Can you remember how old you were when you were first
16 taken into care?

17 A. From there, about 9, about 9 years old.

18 Q. And I think you tell us that when you were first taken
19 into care, you spent a few months in Craiglockhart
20 Children's Home in Edinburgh?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And after that you were admitted to Balcary
23 Children's Home?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And that's in Hawick?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And what age were you then, do you recall?

3 A. I must have been about 10. I was a year at the primary
4 school there, so ...

5 Q. We've actually seen your children's records, which
6 record certain dates. So from the dates on your
7 children's file, it appears that you were admitted to
8 Balcary on 19 March 1963, that you spent a period of
9 time in hospital in 1963 for three weeks, from 3 until
10 24 October --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- and then you went back to Balcary and you remained
13 there until you were discharged on 27 October 1966.

14 A. Okay.

15 Q. Does that generally fit in with your memory?

16 A. Uh-huh, yes.

17 Q. Okay. At page 0735, paragraph 26, you describe
18 Balcary House to us.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Can you tell us a bit more about what it was like, just
21 in terms of its physical layout and so forth?

22 A. It was a beautiful house. You went in, there was -- on
23 the ground floor, there was the dining room, the staff
24 sitting room, the playroom. There was also the matron's
25 office. You went through the door, you went outside and

1 there were outbuildings, and there was also the boys'
2 playroom. When you went in the front door, you went
3 upstairs, there was a big stained glass halfway up the
4 stairs, and when you went up again and there's bedrooms
5 off there.

6 Q. In your statement, you mention that when you walked
7 in the front door of the house there was a hall with
8 a tiled floor and a big rocking horse.

9 A. That's correct, yes.

10 Q. Was the rocking horse just for show or did you ever get
11 to play on it?

12 A. No, we could go on it.

13 Q. What do you remember about your first day and your first
14 impressions when you first went there?

15 A. The people seemed very happy. Everyone was friendly
16 when I went to speak to them and so on. One of the
17 girls showed me round the place and round the
18 outbuildings and the older children were allowed to keep
19 small pets, rabbits and so on, so I was shown where they
20 were, and up to my bedroom. It seemed really nice.

21 Q. I think in your statement, at paragraphs 32 to 33, you
22 mention things about the staff being lovely and you
23 heard children laughing --

24 A. That's correct, yes.

25 Q. -- and children playing games?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And you mention as well, as you said, children keeping
3 pets.
- 4 A. Uh-huh.
- 5 Q. So who was in overall charge there?
- 6 A. Miss O'Brien.
- 7 Q. And what was she called by the children?
- 8 A. The children called her Mamma G.
- 9 Q. Do you know anything about the background as to why she
10 was called that?
- 11 A. No, it's just ...
- 12 Q. And what was she like?
- 13 A. She was lovely. She was very fair. She could be firm,
14 but she made everyone feel special. She took an
15 interest in you, organised things for you, and roughly
16 once every month, every couple of months, you'd go along
17 to her flat -- she had own flat there -- and we would
18 have afternoon tea and she would go through etiquette
19 and table manners and how to use things properly and
20 she'd chat to you, so you really felt comfortable with
21 her. You'd also be able to joke with her a little bit
22 but not too much because she was ...
- 23 Q. If we just go there just now, we see the reference to
24 that in your statement at 0737, paragraph 44 -- sorry,
25 0738, paragraph 44. You tell us, as you said, about

1 once a month being invited into Mamma G's flat for
2 afternoon tea. You say there that not only would she
3 teach you etiquette and table manners, but if you had
4 any problems, that was your time to chat with her in
5 person?

6 A. Yes, it was time to just relax and chat with her and if
7 there was anything worrying you, anything at all, she
8 would listen to you and she would always be there to
9 help.

10 Q. Was she a person that you thought, if you did have
11 a problem, you would be able to speak to her?

12 A. Yes, absolutely.

13 Q. In terms of the numbers of children at Balcary, about
14 how many children were there, do you think?

15 A. I think there was about 28, maybe 30, something like
16 that. I don't know.

17 Q. Was it boys and girls?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What were the general ages of the children there?

20 A. There were some younger ones, but I can't really
21 remember much of them, up until 16, 17. I remember more
22 obviously about the people who were my own age and just
23 a little bit younger, a little bit older, round about
24 that area.

25 The younger ones had a different carer and they did

1 their own things. We didn't really -- in the big
2 playroom, the younger children would be there, but again
3 they'd be with their carer, who would be playing games,
4 reading and so on with them, so we didn't really
5 interact a lot with the younger ones.

6 Q. You've told us a bit about Mamma G. Can you tell us
7 a little about other staff there? You have mentioned
8 other carers.

9 A. The one who had looked after us or was there for us was
10 called Bobby. She had a room just off our bedroom that
11 she used when she was there. And again, if there was
12 a problem or anything else, if you were feeling unwell,
13 you could knock on her door at any time and whatever it
14 was, if you were feeling unwell or were upset about
15 something, she would be there to listen or deal with it.
16 The other one I remember was called Jasmine. They were
17 both young, friendly, outgoing but you could approach
18 them for things, so ...

19 Q. Am I right in my understanding your statement that staff
20 were assigned to particular groups of children?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. How were children organised around the house? Were boys
23 and girls together, were the age groups together? Were
24 they divided up in some way?

25 A. In the bedrooms, the girls -- you were with people your

1 own age. As you got older, maybe you could go up to the
2 top floor and get a single bedroom, but before that
3 you'd be with three or four girls of your own age. The
4 boys were the same: they had their own places, own
5 rooms.

6 Q. So in general terms, maybe sort of younger girls would
7 be together --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- and then older girls and then the oldest girls?

10 A. Yes. You'd be with the ones in your own age group.

11 Q. And presumably, the same kind of arrangements were made
12 for the boys?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So were there particular times that you did mix with the
15 boys?

16 A. Yes. Outside and sometimes they came into the big
17 playroom for parties, music and so on, care of pets and
18 so on, going to and from school. So we knew them fairly
19 well too.

20 Q. Although you generally lived in different parts of the
21 house, you did still mix?

22 A. Yes, and also in the dining room as well.

23 Q. Right.

24 A. There would be about eight children around the table,
25 six to eight children, and it would be a mixture of boys

- 1 and girls.
- 2 Q. So you mentioned the sleeping arrangements. The
3 bedrooms, were they bedrooms or were they dormitories?
4 Can you --
- 5 A. They were big rooms, they were bedrooms. There was
6 four, occasionally five in the room that I was in. And
7 again, it was the same for the boys. There were smaller
8 rooms in the nursery. But I only really have a good
9 recall of the area I was in.
- 10 Q. What were the bedrooms like? Did you have any space
11 that was your own, that you could keep your own
12 belongings?
- 13 A. Yes, we all had a bedside table that we could keep
14 things in. You weren't allowed to go into each other's
15 bedside table unless they had said. There was
16 a wardrobe where our clothes were kept. We did have
17 places. We also had a locker downstairs in the playroom
18 for our things or books or whatever else we wanted ...
- 19 Q. So it was possible -- when you say a locker downstairs,
20 did each child have their own locker?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. So you were able, if you had your own toys, to keep your
23 own toys if that's what you wanted to do?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. You tell us a little about the daily routine at Balcary.

- 1 When you got up in the morning, were you expected to
2 make your own bed?
- 3 A. Yes, we made our own beds. The younger ones, I imagine,
4 would have their beds made for them, but our age, 10,
5 11, we'd do our own beds and keep the room tidy.
- 6 Q. Were you expected to make your bed in any particular
7 fashion at all?
- 8 A. As long as it was tidy, it didn't have to have hospital
9 corners or anything. As long as it looked tidy when
10 they came in.
- 11 Q. You mentioned that the children had various chores to
12 do.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. What kind of chores did the children do?
- 15 A. Sweeping the hall, sweeping the stairs, setting the
16 breakfast tables, clearing the tables afterwards, taking
17 things through to the kitchen, help prepare the
18 vegetables. There was a big machine that you put the
19 potatoes in and that could peel the potatoes.
- 20 Q. The chores, did they take up a lot of the children's
21 time?
- 22 A. No, not really, no. If it was your job to set the
23 table, once you had set the table, that was it, you
24 didn't need to go and do something else afterwards. If
25 you were on stair duty or hall duty, you wouldn't be

1 expected -- no, it was just one thing was allocated to
2 everybody and you did that for a couple of weeks and
3 then changed round.

4 Q. So everyone had a turn of doing different chores?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. In terms of washing and having a bath, I think you tell
7 us at page 0738 that there were three bathrooms and two
8 separate toilets.

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. You thought you maybe had a bath three times a week
11 in the evening?

12 A. Three to four times a week, uh-huh.

13 Q. You say at paragraph 45 that you just had to say when
14 you were going to have a bath.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So can I take it from that that it was up to you, it was
17 your choice whether you had a bath on a Wednesday or
18 a Tuesday or --

19 A. Yes, as long as you were ... You couldn't --

20 LADY SMITH: Could you come a little closer to the
21 microphone? Thank you.

22 A. As long as you had regular baths, there wasn't a set
23 routine that one person had a bath every Monday with
24 everybody else. You'd say, "I'm going up for a bath".

25 MS RATTRAY: Did you have to share the bathwater with other

- 1 children?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. As an older child, did you have privacy to have a bath
4 on your own?
- 5 A. Absolutely, yes.
- 6 Q. And in relation to younger children, do you know what
7 the arrangements for bathing were?
- 8 A. I really couldn't say for certain.
- 9 Q. I think you tell us as well that the time that children
10 went to bed depended on their age.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. So the younger ones went earlier and the older ones
13 could stay up longer?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Are you aware whether any of children had a problem with
16 bed-wetting?
- 17 A. I think maybe the younger ones, some of the younger ones
18 did, or one or two girls when they first came in
19 occasionally, but there wasn't a big fuss made about it.
20 You were just told -- for instance, if it had been one
21 of us in our room, we would say to Bobby and we'd take
22 our sheets down to the laundry and there'd be fresh
23 linen left out. But there wasn't any big fuss made
24 about it and you weren't made to feel an idiot.
- 25 Q. Were children ever told off or punished in any way for

- 1 wetting the bed?
- 2 A. Not that I'm aware of, no.
- 3 Q. You mentioned earlier on about you had a big cupboard
4 in the bedroom or a wardrobe where you all kept your
5 clothes. You contrast that with your experiences at
6 Craiglockhart Children's Home.
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Can you tell me more about the differences between that?
- 9 A. In Craiglockhart the staff would just take an item out
10 and say, that's for you, that's for you, without looking
11 to see what size it was. So you might have a dress or
12 whatever that was too long or ... In Balcary we had our
13 own clothes and if we wanted to borrow someone else's,
14 we'd say to them, can I borrow your whatever.
- 15 Q. I think you mention that sometimes you would come back
16 and there was something new there?
- 17 A. Yes, occasionally, yes. Very rarely. It was so many
18 children, but I remember a couple of times coming in and
19 there was a dress on the bed or something with a little
20 note saying, "Saw this and thought it would suit you",
21 and it would usually be Miss O'Brien who had went out
22 and bought some new clothes for us.
- 23 Q. Right. So how did that make you feel when you came back
24 and found that?
- 25 A. Excited, it was lovely. It didn't happen often enough

1 for it to be taken for granted, so it was always
2 a lovely surprise.

3 Q. Turning now to food and mealtimes, you have told us
4 a bit about the children helping prepare vegetables but
5 there was a big machine for peeling potatoes. You had
6 your meals with the boys --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- all mixed together?

9 You tell us about that at page 0737. In
10 paragraph 38, you describe the layout of the
11 dining room. Can you tell us a little about that?

12 A. It was a big room with big bay windows. There was
13 tables round the edges, so it was more like a restaurant
14 rather than the previous place where it was a big long
15 bench where we all sat. We all sat just at the table
16 and usually sat at the same table with the same people,
17 maybe about six or eight at the table.

18 Q. So you're contrasting that with Craiglockhart?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. That was long benches and long tables, and you describe
21 it as a bit like a restaurant?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What was the food like?

24 A. The food was fine. You didn't have any choice or
25 anything else, you weren't asked what you would like.

1 The meal was set down for you. That's what you had.
2 There wasn't a fuss made if you left any, but if you
3 left things regularly then you wouldn't be allowed
4 a pudding or whatever: if you can't finish that, you
5 don't get a pudding. But there wasn't any fuss made
6 about -- if you really didn't like something, you
7 wouldn't be forced to eat it and you wouldn't be
8 punished for not liking it.

9 Q. Were you ever aware that if a child didn't like what
10 they were eating it would then be re-served to them at
11 the next meal?

12 A. No. Not in there, no.

13 Q. Were you ever aware of a table referred to as perhaps
14 the naughty table, that if a child wasn't eating or for
15 another reason perhaps, they were sent to sit at
16 a different table?

17 A. I think so, but I really can't say for sure. Yes, I do
18 remember them vaguely saying about being at the naughty
19 table and if somebody had been disruptive or whatever
20 else, then they were removed from the table and would
21 have to sit at another table.

22 Q. Do you know whether a child might be sent to that table
23 if they weren't eating their food?

24 A. No, I don't think so. I think it was if they were being
25 disruptive.

- 1 Q. You also tell us that you were able to go into the
2 kitchens and sometimes bake?
- 3 A. Yes, that's correct, yes.
- 4 Q. What kind of things would the children bake?
- 5 A. Rock cakes, biscuits, sponges. There were cooking
6 lessons at school and if there was an exam coming up,
7 you'd say, "I've got to do such-and-such, can I practice
8 making a sausage pastry", or whatever it was, and you'd
9 be allowed to do that.
- 10 Q. You say in your statement, when you tell us about that,
11 it was more like being in a family home than in the
12 previous places you had been in?
- 13 A. Yes, absolutely, yes.
- 14 Q. At page 0739 you tell us about school. You were
15 attending a local school in Hawick; is that right?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. I think one of the points you make here is that you felt
18 that the children from the home felt accepted --
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. -- in the local primary school?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Can you tell me more about that?
- 23 A. I had friends, obviously, in Balcary but I also had some
24 friends outwith the home and I'd occasionally go to
25 their homes for tea and so on. I'd visit them on

1 a Saturday afternoon and I'd go to the cinema with them.
2 So there wasn't any difference made between you, whether
3 you were in the home or not, it wasn't sort of, as there
4 had been in previous places, where the children from the
5 home were laughed at. We were just one of the
6 schoolmates and that was it.

7 We played together at school in the playground and
8 we all played together. It wasn't sort of being
9 a clique, the ones from the children's home playing in
10 one group and the others in another group. There was
11 nothing like that.

12 Q. What do you think made the difference in your primary
13 school in Hawick such that children from the home were
14 accepted and mixed with other children?

15 A. I think one of the things was that we were happy in
16 ourselves and so we didn't ostracise ourselves so much.
17 I know that in the previous place, in Craiglockhart, you
18 felt differently from the others, so you would be
19 more -- you'd approach other people with more
20 trepidation because you weren't sure whether you would
21 be accepted or not, but in Hawick you were one of the
22 group and that was it. There was no difference made.

23 Q. What interest or otherwise did Mamma G take in the
24 children's education and schooling?

25 A. When you met her, she'd ask how we were going on and so

1 on. I remember at one particular time I was having
2 terrible with one of my homework things and she said,
3 it's okay, leave it, I'll contact the school tomorrow
4 and tell them you're having problems with it, this is
5 obviously far too hard for you. The next day, the
6 teacher took me aside and told me what it was -- I was
7 having problem with the maths -- and explained it to me
8 so I understood.

9 Q. Did you get any support or help at Balcary with doing
10 homework if you were struggling with it?

11 A. Yes. We had a poetry competition and the staff were all
12 helping the children to enter it and making up stories,
13 making up poems and everything else. You could go to
14 them and say, can you explain this to me, and if they
15 were able to do so, they would.

16 Q. I think you tell us that your end of school year or end
17 of term reports would be sent to Mamma G?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And what happened when the report came in?

20 A. I can't really remember her saying anything about them.
21 I think if they had been particularly good or
22 particularly good, she would take you into the office
23 and speak to you about it. I can't really remember.

24 Q. I think in your statement, at page 0740, you tell us
25 that she would -- at the top at paragraph 54 -- that:

1 "When we got our school reports, Mamma G would take
2 us into her office individually and go through them with
3 us."

4 A. Yes, if they were particularly bad or particularly good,
5 bad, yes, she would.

6 Q. Turning to the subject of your leisure time, were you
7 allowed time to play --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- or do other activities?

10 A. Yes. We got in from school, got changed. We would
11 clean our shoes for the next day, school shoes for the
12 next day -- excuse me, my mouth's a bit dry.

13 Q. Take a drink.

14 A. We would help with the evening meal, either clearing,
15 setting or preparing, and then afterwards, do our
16 homework.

17 From about 6 to 7.50/8 o'clock, we could do what we
18 wanted for play or whatever, go outside.

19 Q. I think you mentioned your lockers with toys. Were
20 there toys available for everyone?

21 A. Yes, there were general toys and games and puzzles and
22 things.

23 Q. And I think you describe having lots of freedom?

24 A. Yes. Yes, we did.

25 Q. You mentioned that there was, as well as a big playroom,

- 1 there was a quiet room --
- 2 A. That's correct.
- 3 Q. -- so that if you were wanting to study or read a book,
- 4 there was a place for that as well?
- 5 A. That's correct, yes. It was a small sitting room with
- 6 a sofa, a bookcase and a desk and you could go in there
- 7 and do your homework or just study or just sit and read
- 8 if you didn't want to join in with everything.
- 9 Q. You mentioned reading. Was that a book that you'd been
- 10 specially given as a gift or were there books available?
- 11 A. There was a bookcase with books and with games and
- 12 Scrabble and so on there. So you could sit and play
- 13 them and do that. We also had our own personal books
- 14 if we wanted to use them or library books or whatever.
- 15 Q. So was there an arrangement whereby they could use the
- 16 local library --
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. -- in Hawick?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And you've told us about when you first arrived, being
- 21 shown the pets.
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. What kind of pets did the children keep?
- 24 A. Any small pets, the girls usually had rabbits, guinea
- 25 pigs, hamsters. The boys sometimes had frogs or snakes

- 1 or ...
- 2 Q. And when you say keeping a pet, was each child allowed
- 3 to keep their own pet?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Were they communal pets?
- 6 A. No, it was our own personal pet.
- 7 Q. What pocket money were you given?
- 8 A. I think I got 3/6 a week, which nowadays is about 17p or
- 9 something like that.
- 10 LADY SMITH: Yes, 17.5p, I think. It went further then.
- 11 A. It did, very much so, yes.
- 12 MS RATTRAY: Were you encouraged -- were you free to spend
- 13 it on what you wanted to?
- 14 A. Yes. You'd put some aside for saving, which you got
- 15 back at Christmas, and also at the fair (inaudible) and
- 16 so when the fairs were going to be on you got some of
- 17 the money back. And also we went to North Berwick on
- 18 holiday, we swapped with another home, and we got our
- 19 savings then. The rest, I think, about two shillings,
- 20 that was ours to do with as we wanted, to spend as ...
- 21 Q. And on the subject of holidays, you said you swapped,
- 22 and was that with Glasclune in North Berwick?
- 23 A. Yes, North Berwick, yes.
- 24 Q. And when that happened, would you go and stay in
- 25 Glasclune with the children and staff there or would

1 they all decant over to --

2 A. Yes, we just swapped homes.

3 Q. Entirely?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. All the staff and the children?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. Was that something the children enjoyed?

8 A. Yes, very much.

9 Q. When you tell us about trips and holidays at page 0742

10 of your statement, paragraph 71, you make another

11 comparison with your experience at Balcary as opposed to

12 at Craiglockhart --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- when you're talking about going ice skating in Kelso.

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. Can you tell us about the difference in approach?

17 A. They hired a minibus and we'd go through to Kelso and go

18 ice-skating. This is something I'd never experienced

19 before, being taken as a small group. I can remember

20 another occasion when Bobby and myself went to Melrose,

21 we went to Melrose Abbey, saw around it -- we were

22 encouraged to experience different things as well as

23 within the home. So again, you could talk about -- we

24 went ice-skating, we did this, we did that.

25 Q. I think you refer to it in your statement as every so

- 1 often you had special time with your carers --
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. -- and that was allowed. And I think the comparison you
4 mention that you were able to go ice-skating in smaller
5 groups?
- 6 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 7 Q. And you're comparing that to Craiglockhart where you
8 said we were never sent out as one big crocodile line of
9 children anywhere?
- 10 A. The only time we went out was to and from school -- and
11 it was a big crocodile with one person at the front and
12 one at the back and we had to hold hands with whoever it
13 was and stay together and go there and back and that was
14 it.
- 15 Q. In relation to religion, was attending church a regular
16 part of life at Balcary?
- 17 A. Yes, every Sunday, yes.
- 18 Q. So what happened on Sundays? Was there a particular
19 routine on a Sunday?
- 20 A. Yes, on a Saturday it was more or less our day to do
21 what we wanted, go to the cinema in the morning,
22 swimming in the afternoon or whatever. On Sunday you
23 got up, got ready, went to church and in the afternoon
24 we'd go for a walk, a supervised walk. I say
25 supervised, but there may be about four or five of us

1 with a carer, going for a nature walk or a stroll.

2 Then in the evening there would be like Sunday
3 school type thing in the sitting room where we'd talk
4 about stories in the Bible and we'd all choose a hymn,
5 a child's hymn, to sing. We'd talk about the Bible
6 studies.

7 Q. And you say in your statement that you could talk about
8 stories in the Bible and ask questions?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you also say that you were encouraged to talk and
11 pray about anything you were worried about?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And was that a sort of place or a time where you felt
14 able to share your worries or did you find that quite
15 difficult?

16 A. I personally would find it difficult. Some of them
17 would say yes and whatever else, but Miss O'Brien would
18 also say, if anyone wants to stay at the end and talk
19 over something with me, then please do. So if there was
20 something, you could do it then.

21 Q. Did children have any choice as to whether they wanted
22 to participate in going to church?

23 A. No, we were all encouraged to go to church and I don't
24 think there was anybody who didn't go. We did
25 occasionally try to get out of it by saying that we're

- 1 going to another one and playing truant, but
2 Miss O'Brien would always know what the text was going
3 to be so she would ask you about it.
- 4 Q. So children had an element of choice at least --
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. -- in that if they didn't go to the church everyone else
7 was going to, if they said they were going to
8 a different church, they could do that?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. You tell us about visits and inspections when you were
11 asked about that. You personally never had any family
12 visitors coming to see you, but you tell us that if
13 a child wanted to speak to their visitors on their own,
14 that was something that could happen?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Was there a particular place in the home that visitors
17 would go?
- 18 A. Either the quiet room or the bedroom. If I remember
19 correctly, whatever room you were in, the door had to be
20 left open, so somebody couldn't just take a child into
21 one of the rooms and shut the door and whatever else.
22 You could also -- some of the girls went out with their
23 mother or an aunt or whatever and maybe went out for the
24 afternoon, go away somewhere for the day.
- 25 Q. You don't remember any social workers coming to see you

- 1 or anything of that nature?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. In relation to discipline, what happened if a child
4 didn't behave?
- 5 A. The pocket money was stopped, they would go to bed
6 early, be sent to their room. That was the usual types
7 of punishment. If you had done something really
8 naughty, then you might be told to go and clean -- as
9 a punishment, you would go and clean the cooker in the
10 kitchen, which was a huge big range, and to go and clean
11 that ... But you know, we didn't have any -- there was
12 never any physical punishment or anything. There was
13 never any food -- we were never sent to bed without
14 supper or anything like that. We were mainly ...
- 15 Q. Yes. I think you mention in your statement that you
16 might be given an extra chore like preparing
17 vegetables --
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. -- which was quite hard work because there were a lot of
20 children.
- 21 A. That's right, yes, if you were doing Brussels sprouts
22 for 32 children, children and staff, yes, there was
23 a lot to do.
- 24 Q. You also mention that you might be confined to your room
25 and told to read the Bible.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. When you say confined to your room, were you ever locked
3 in your room?
- 4 A. No, no, no.
- 5 Q. Which room?
- 6 A. The bedroom.
- 7 Q. Okay. And I think you describe the worst punishment as
8 getting your pocket money stopped?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. What kind of behaviour would result in a punishment?
- 11 A. If you were cheeky to one of the staff, if you refused
12 to do your chores, that kind of thing. I can't really
13 remember us being particularly naughty. We did silly
14 things and so on, but we respected the staff and
15 respected Mamma G, so we didn't want to upset her
16 because her giving you the look was enough to -- I'm
17 sorry, I don't mean to ...
- 18 Q. Were you ever aware of other children perhaps being hit
19 with a cane for a punishment if they were especially
20 bad?
- 21 A. No, they never -- I didn't hear of or experience any
22 physical punishment in Balcary while I was there.
- 23 Q. Did you ever hear of a child being hit with a dog lead?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. Was there a dog?

- 1 A. Yes, we did have a dog, a Labrador called Bruce.
- 2 Q. You had never heard of Bruce's lead being used as
3 a means of punishment?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. At page 0745, you tell us about leaving Balcary. You
6 say that Mamma G had just retired --
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. -- and new people were brought into the home to be in
9 charge.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Who were the new people?
- 12 A. Mr and Mrs Baron.
- 13 Q. What was your general experiences or impression of
14 Mr and Mrs Baron?
- 15 A. I didn't really know them that well and I didn't really
16 understand why Mamma G had gone away and somebody else
17 was there at that time. It took me a long time to trust
18 people because of experiences in the past, so I was sort
19 of held back a bit from them because I didn't know them
20 and they had taken Mamma G away, who I trusted. They
21 seemed very nice and they chatted to us and everything
22 else.
- 23 Q. I think you left Balcary because your mum said that she
24 wanted you to come home.
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. But you tell us in your statement that perhaps
2 Barnardo's thought otherwise and wanted you to stay.
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Why was that?
- 5 A. Because I suppose they had known about my previous home
6 life and didn't think that going back would be
7 beneficial to me. They'd also spoken about me staying
8 there and then going from -- because I wanted to become
9 a nurse. They had spoken about me becoming a cadet
10 nurse when I was 16, then doing my nurse training, and
11 that that would be organised for me. Obviously, if
12 I went home, they couldn't -- it would be up to my
13 parents to say what I was going to do in the future, and
14 said that I really should think carefully about it and
15 maybe it's not advisable.
- 16 But at the age of -- well, my mother had said that
17 really, we are really sorry, we really want you to come
18 home, so I believed that.
- 19 Q. I think you say in your at the same time that your mum
20 had said, if you come home, you can still train to be
21 a nurse?
- 22 A. That's correct, she did.
- 23 Q. But sadly, you tell us that didn't happen?
- 24 A. That's correct.
- 25 Q. And I think you left school when you were -- left the

1 home when you were 16?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You do tell us about some of your life after care, which
4 I won't go into in too much detail, but you tell us that
5 you were married, you became the stepmother to your
6 husband's children, and you've been with your husband
7 for 44 years.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. In fact, when your children started to grow up and they
10 were old enough, you went back and trained as a nurse,
11 and you worked as a nurse for 33 years before retiring?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. We've obviously seen your children's records, as you're
14 aware, and I would like to ask you about something which
15 is of interest to us. It seems to be that in 1970 you
16 might have got in touch with Barnardo's and told them
17 about your positive experiences at Balcary and enquiring
18 as to whether it would be possible to go and work there.

19 A. Uh-huh.

20 Q. Do you remember doing that?

21 A. I don't really remember it, but I know that at that age
22 I wasn't sure what I was going to do and I knew I really
23 enjoyed being at Balcary and I enjoyed being with
24 children and working with children, so it would seem
25 a natural thing for me to do.

1 Q. From your records it appears that Barnardo's wrote back
2 to you, and we can perhaps have a look at that just now.
3 It is at BAR .001.004.9422. It should come up in front
4 of you and certain bits have been blacked out, but what
5 it seems to be is a letter of 20 November 1970, to you.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. From, over the page, we see it was from Mrs Trembath,
8 who is said to be the divisional children's officer in
9 Scotland, and I think that's for Barnardo's. She says:

10 "I was glad to hear from you and to know that your
11 memories of Balcary are centred around the kindness
12 which was shown to you by the staff there. I am not
13 surprised therefore to learn that you would now like to
14 work in a children's home."

15 What she says is:

16 "We could not consider taking you to work as an
17 assistant house mother in a children's home really
18 because we are now finding that we need staff to be
19 either experienced or to have had some training before
20 taking up this work."

21 And that shows us that for reasons at the time that
22 it would appear that in 1970 Barnardo's were looking for
23 staff who were either experienced or had some training.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Indeed, in the letter she goes on to suggest that if you

1 want to follow this route, there are various courses
2 perhaps that you could do in Edinburgh and in Glasgow
3 and she gives you some information about that.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. We obviously know that you, in the longer term, followed
6 your path to be a nurse.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Turning to records, you tell us that you wrote twice to
9 Dr Barnardo's in London to try and see your records, but
10 you didn't pursue it.

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. Can you tell us a bit about what happened there?

13 A. The first time that I applied for it, my son-in-law
14 unfortunately was killed in Afghanistan, so it's not
15 something I decided to follow. The second time,
16 unfortunately, my daughter developed cancer, so again
17 it's something that -- I'll get back to that and deal
18 with that later, I'll deal with whatever's happening
19 just now.

20 Q. So the reasons for not doing it were major personal
21 reasons, it wasn't anything to do with the Barnardo's
22 process or whatever?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Because Barnardo's have obviously seen your statement in
25 advance of today and they would like you to know that

1 your records are available for you and, if you'd like to
2 see them, then they would certainly fast-track that
3 process for you, so you can obtain a copy.

4 A. Good.

5 Q. Generally speaking, you tell us that your experience in
6 Barnardo's was a positive one for you.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. In your own words, can you tell us what effect your
9 experiences in Balcary have had upon you in adult life,
10 do you think?

11 A. Well, prior to being in Balcary I was very ... I didn't
12 like to be touched, I didn't like contact with people.
13 I was very suspicious of people. I didn't make friends
14 easily. But after Balcary, I realised that, yes, you
15 can become friendly with people, you can have good fun
16 and everything else, you don't need to be on your guard
17 all the time, you can actually relax and have fun and do
18 things. But prior to that, I was a very quiet, lonely
19 child, and scared to say the wrong thing to the wrong
20 person. So it took a lot of me from Mamma G to get me
21 to trust and confide in her.

22 Q. I think you tell us at paragraph 101 of your statement,
23 page 0747, that whilst Mamma G was an amazing person,
24 and a positive inspiration, she wasn't someone that you
25 could go and sit on her knee.

1 A. No, you couldn't go there for a cuddle or whatever. If
2 when you went to your room and found a present, you
3 could go up and say thank you very much and give her
4 a hug.

5 Q. You said:

6 "There wasn't much physical contact in Balcary.
7 There was a lovely atmosphere but there was no one you
8 could go to for a cuddle."

9 Is that something which would have been important to
10 you? Was important to you?

11 A. It would have been important for me as a child,
12 especially coming from the background that I did, and to
13 learn that physical contact didn't need to be horrible,
14 it could be actually quite pleasant and it's not
15 something you had to flinch away from if an adult came
16 near you or touched you.

17 Q. You also tell us in your statement that what was very
18 important for you is that Mamma G made you feel as if
19 you were special.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What difference did that make to you, do you think?

22 A. It was an adult who was interested in me, just sort of
23 for me, not for what I could do or what I would do for
24 them, and not somebody who was just there to be horrible
25 to you, you know.

1 Q. I think you do say, though, that you had a friend who's
2 told you that she felt she was being thrown out and
3 there wasn't enough follow-up care.

4 A. That's correct, yes.

5 Q. But you say that you felt that you had no information on
6 how to manage money and to budget when you left?

7 A. No, we didn't. Balcary was a lovely place, but when you
8 were cooking there, you were cooking for all these
9 people, you didn't do any shopping, you didn't have any
10 worry about any bills or anything else. So if you went
11 from there at that time and then one of the girls we
12 knew who left there and went to a bedsit, she had no
13 knowledge about budgeting or managing money. If she was
14 off sick at work and couldn't work and couldn't pay her
15 bills, what could she do, how would she cope. We had no
16 information and no knowledge about how to live in the
17 real world, kind of thing.

18 Q. Just finally, you tell us that you've been back to
19 Balcary a few times.

20 A. Yes, I have, a few times.

21 Q. And it's a place that you want to keep returning to;
22 would that be fair?

23 A. Yes. We're having a reunion next year and Balcary is
24 now a hotel. So yes, we'll be returning.

25 Q. When you have a reunion with friends from there, is it

1 the hotel you go to?

2 A. Yes.

3 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, I have no further questions for this
4 witness.

5 I would just like to thank you for answering my
6 questions.

7 I'm not aware of any other questions.

8 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
9 questions?

10 Marjorie, it just remains for me to thank you very
11 much for engaging with the inquiry with your very
12 helpful written statement and for coming along today to
13 talk to us a little bit more about your experience
14 in the Barnardo's home at Balcary. It's really of great
15 assistance to me in the work I have to do here. So
16 thank you for that, and I'm now able to let you go.

17 A. Okay, thank you.

18 (The witness withdrew)

19 LADY SMITH: Yes, Ms Rattray.

20 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, that concludes the oral witnesses.

21 There are read-ins which are available to be read,
22 although we are ahead of time on those in any event, so
23 either we could give a break to the stenographers or
24 finish for the day.

25 (Pause)

1 LADY SMITH: We'll have a five-minute break and then a
2 read-in.

3 (3.23 pm)

4 (A short break)

5 (3.33 pm)

6 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray.

7 Witness statement of "MICHAEL" (read)

8 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady. This is a statement of an
9 applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and has chosen
10 the pseudonym "Michael". His witness statement can be
11 found at WIT.001.001.6058:

12 "My name is Michael. I was born in 1970. My
13 contact details are known to the inquiry."

14 Michael has few memories of his life before care.
15 He tells us that he went into care as a baby and was
16 placed in different establishments: St Helen's in
17 Edinburgh, Clerwood House in Edinburgh, before moving to
18 Barnardo's on South Oswald Road at the age of 6 or
19 7 years.

20 I now move to paragraph 43 on page 6065. Michael
21 speaks about leaving Clerwood and he tells us [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED] Leaving

25 Clerwood, he then went to Barnardo's:

1 "I was 6 or 7 years old when I left Clerwood.

2 I think it was winter because I remember being in the
3 field and trying to build an igloo. I saw a van coming
4 up the drive. I went back into the house and I remember
5 people saying goodbye. I remember getting into the van
6 to leave with a man called Sandy. I was taken to
7 Barnardo's on South Oswald Road in Edinburgh.

8 "Sandy was in charge of the Barnardo's home. I felt
9 comfortable and safe at Barnardo's. It was strange
10 being somewhere where abuse didn't happen. I think
11 I was there from the age of 7 until I was 13 or 14 years
12 old."

13 My Lady, Barnardo's records indicate that Michael
14 was admitted to South Oswald Road on [REDACTED] 1977 and
15 then moved to Barnardo's school at Craigerne on
16 [REDACTED] 1979, and he remained there at Craigerne until
17 [REDACTED] 1982, with the exception of a short period from [REDACTED]
18 to [REDACTED] 1981, when he went back to South Oswald
19 Road.

20 But at Craigerne he remained there until
21 [REDACTED] 1982, when he went back to South Oswald Road and
22 eventually was discharged on [REDACTED] 1983:

23 "Sandy was in charge of Barnardo's home. I felt
24 comfortable and safe at Barnardo's. My siblings didn't
25 come with me to Barnardo's. I know from my file that

1 moving my brother with me had been considered, but it
2 was thought that both of us together would be too much
3 of a handful.

4 "I had my own single room in Barnardo's. I have
5 read my file that there was an occasion when a female
6 member of staff was reading me a book at bedtime and
7 I acted inappropriately. She said she was finishing the
8 reading and not continuing. I asked her why and she
9 told me it was because what I had done wasn't very nice.
10 The social worker has also written in my file that the
11 key worker later asked me about the incident and I said,
12 'That's just what our family do'.

13 "I remember the female member of staff reading the
14 book Flat Stanley to me as I was lying in bed. I had a
15 black and white panda cuddly toy that had been ripped.
16 A sewing lady had sown a felt green patch on to it that
17 looked like underwear, which was quite funny. I can't
18 remember what I had done that was inappropriate. It
19 must have been something sexual because of the abuse.
20 Nobody investigated why I had said it was what our
21 family did. There are lots of things in my file that
22 could have been picked up as clues.

23 "I continued to go to Restalrig School while I was
24 at Barnardo's. A boy shared a room with me for a couple
25 of nights because he also went to Restalrig School.

1 "I used to have contact with my brothers who were in
2 other care homes, but that slowly fizzled out. One
3 brother was in a family group home for a while, near to
4 Howdenhall Assessment Centre in Edinburgh.

5 "Barnardo's was the most stable place I had while
6 I was being brought up in care. It was the place where
7 I felt most comfortable. Towards the end of my time in
8 Barnardo's, I was put into a residential school in
9 Peebles called Craigerne.

10 "Craigerne was basically a boarding school. I felt
11 very comfortable in Craigerne. A housemaster who was in
12 charge had an office on the ground floor. He had boxes
13 and boxes of toys cars in his office. The door was
14 always open so you could go in and play whenever you
15 wanted to, even if he wasn't there.

16 "He used to let off fireworks on Bonfire Night and
17 we would be told to go and find them the next day.
18 We would then be given a Smartie sweet for every one of
19 we found. That was a ritual every year, which was good.

20 "There was a massive woodworking shop in a converted
21 garage attached to the house. The housemaster would
22 take us there to make things. It was always with other
23 people so there was nothing fishy about it.

24 "They used to have something that was called the
25 rideout, where they would ride the boundary of Peebles

1 on horseback. I felt more comfortable and relaxed
2 around the animals than I did around people.

3 "There was a member of staff called Bob Zobaneska,
4 or something like that, who lived in a flat within the
5 main grounds of Barnardo's Craigerne school. He had
6 a couple of horses in the field and he would let us ride
7 them every so often.

8 "There was also a teacher called Claire Truda(?) who
9 had a cottage and smallholdings just outside Peebles
10 with a lot of horses. She would pick me up at weekends
11 and take me riding.

12 "One time week there was a week-long activities week
13 and each member of staff was in charge of one or two
14 children for the whole week. You would stay with them
15 for the week at their house and they would take you to
16 do activities such as canoeing. On one occasion we
17 covered a fair length of the River Tweed and ended up
18 camping out. We had taken camping stuff in the canoe
19 with us.

20 "I did a lot of outdoorsy stuff with the school like
21 horse riding and cycling. I felt really comfortable at
22 Barnardo's.

23 "I was also part of a thing they called befriending
24 while I was at Barnardo's, which they arranged.
25 I specifically remember a husband and wife couple who

1 lived in Musselburgh. They worked at the really snobby
2 school out there, which I think was called
3 Loretto School. The woman ran the tuck shop at the
4 school and I don't know what the man did. They lived
5 near the racecourse in Musselburgh. I would spend the
6 whole day with them at their house every other weekend.
7 I don't remember if they had their own children and
8 I don't remember if I ever spent the night. I went by
9 myself and it was absolutely brilliant. That lasted
10 a couple of years, if that. It was a good experience.

11 "I then had another set of befriending foster
12 parents. I think they were a man and his wife. The man
13 had worked at a Barnardo's home and was maybe still
14 working there. They had a German shepherd dog who
15 I immediately took to. We used to go out for the day to
16 places like Peebles with the dog and we would walk
17 around and see things and we went to a place called
18 Jean's for ice cream.

19 "There was a Barnardo's fostering or adoption type
20 thing in Glasgow just off Byres Road, where the market
21 was. There was a social worker there called
22 Eilidh Grain, I think, who arranged for me to go on
23 radio. It was a publicity thing about adoption for
24 Barnardo's on Radio Clyde. I think Steve O'Donnell was
25 the presenter and he interviewed me on the radio about

1 how I was looking for a foster family.

2 "A large part of me wanted a foster family but
3 a small niggly part of me thought that I didn't want one
4 because I had a family somewhere. I went along with it
5 though because being on the radio was a big thing back
6 then.

7 "Towards the end of my time at Barnardo's, I had
8 behavioural problems. Looking back, they probably
9 stemmed from the abuse. I would act out. It was just
10 silly things with other kids. I was getting quite
11 strong and the staff reckoned I was getting too physical
12 for them. I was sent to stay at an assessment centre at
13 Howdenhall. It was like a borstal which was locked
14 down. They kept telling me I was only there to attend
15 school."

16 Michael then tells us of his experiences at
17 Howdenhall Assessment Centre, Dr Guthrie's List D
18 school, foster care and Dean House.

19 Moving now to paragraph 92 on page 6075 where
20 Michael is talking about life after care:

21 "After care, I stayed in different bedsits and
22 housing. I was between 16 and 18 years old. I'd
23 occasionally go back to see Mary at Barnardo's. They
24 had set up an aftercare club, which they plugged me
25 into. I would go to that every week. We would drink

1 tea and talk about any problems that they could help
2 with. I didn't talk about the abuse, but they'd help me
3 with housing issues and things like that."

4 Now to paragraph 121 on page 6080 where Michael
5 speaks about records:

6 "I asked for my records from Lothian Regional
7 Council, as they were called back then. They said I had
8 to travel up to Scotland to get them. They refused to
9 send them down. I have no records from social services
10 at all.

11 "I managed to retrieve my Barnardo's records a few
12 years back. I went to their head office in Barkingside
13 to get them. Someone read them with me and then I was
14 allowed to take them away. They covered my time at
15 Barnardo's in South Oswald Road, Craigerne and bits and
16 pieces about being in other places. There were a few
17 things in it that I think should have rang alarm bells
18 to social workers. I have destroyed my files, which
19 I think was a mistake. I'll probably try and get them
20 back again."

21 Finally to paragraph 131 on page 6081:

22 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
23 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.
24 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
25 true."

1 He signs the statement on 22 August 2017.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, we have another read-in. Once again,
4 it only relates to a short time of someone's time in
5 care.

6 LADY SMITH: Let's hear that now then.

7 Witness statement of "CHRIS" (read)

8 MS RATTRAY: This is also a statement from an applicant who
9 wants to remain anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym
10 "Chris". His statement can be found at
11 WIT.001.002.1171:

12 "My name is Chris. I was born in 1974. My contact
13 details are known to the inquiry."

14 At paragraph 2 of his statement, Chris lists six
15 different establishments in which he spent parts of his
16 childhood in care. The first of these is Barnardo's
17 children's home at South Oswald Road, Edinburgh, where
18 he thinks he was for about a year in 1986 to 1987.
19 However, it can be confirmed from his records that Chris
20 was admitted to South Oswald Road on [REDACTED] 1985 and
21 left on [REDACTED] 1986.

22 At paragraph 3, Chris says that he can't be sure of
23 exact dates or the periods of time he was in these
24 establishments, but his statement is to the best of his
25 memory of these events.

1 At paragraphs 4 to 10, Chris describes a chaotic
2 home life before being placed in South Oswald Road, and
3 I'll now move to paragraph 11 on page 1173:

4 "My first thought of Barnardo's was that I was in
5 a home where most of the children had been orphaned and
6 yet still I had both my parents. It was a big house set
7 in its own grounds and I remember how dusty the house
8 was. There was loads of space in the grounds to run
9 about.

10 "I was about 12 when I first went there and I stayed
11 for about a year. I think there were about 11 or 12
12 other children in the home. It was run by a married
13 couple who stayed in the annex. I can't remember their
14 names. There was another man called Sandy, who was also
15 involved in running the home. He lived in the attic.
16 I don't know which authority had overall responsibility.
17 I think there were maybe eight or nine staff that
18 covered for 24 hours.

19 "Halfway through my time at Barnardo's, the person
20 in charge changed. I recall the new man getting
21 everyone together and telling everyone that there would
22 be lots of changes. I remember thinking that he was
23 addressing an bunch of children who didn't really
24 understand and wanted to get outside to play. The staff
25 were all very caring and I felt cared for.

1 "Barnardo's was a very nice place and I was not
2 abused there. I felt cared for.

3 "There were four children to each room. I just
4 didn't have any issues with Barnardo's and I was treated
5 very well. It was very different to my home life.
6 Because I had parents, I was able to go home at
7 weekends, although a lot of the other residents were
8 orphans.

9 "I attended James Gillespie's High School and had no
10 issues with the school apart from the fact that we were
11 dropped off most mornings by the blue Sherpa van from
12 Barnardo's and everyone in the school knew that I was
13 from a home. The children in the school thought I was
14 in a home because I was in trouble and I felt sometimes
15 that they were very patronising to me.

16 "I felt that I was treated differently and if
17 I wanted to go a friend's house after school, it
18 involved a lot of phone calls back and forward to
19 organise. I didn't experience issues with the other
20 pupils, although on one occasion two pupils from the
21 school called at Barnardo's and asked me to come out and
22 fight. That was an exception.

23 "The food at the home was very good and I had no
24 issues that I can remember.

25 "I think that my birth father came to visit once.

1 He told me that he was going to get me out, but I think
2 he went back on the drink and I never saw him again. My
3 mother visited a couple of times, but after I'd been
4 there for a month, I was allowed home at weekends. My
5 stepfather used to pick me up on a Friday and bring me
6 back to the home on a Sunday night.

7 "I don't think that I had a visit from my
8 social worker the whole time I was at Barnardo's.
9 I can't remember going to any Children's Panels and
10 I don't recall any inspections being carried out.

11 "I think that my social worker was still
12 Lesley Wilson, but I didn't see her at Barnardo's.
13 I seem to remember there was a discussion between the
14 home and my mother every three months. It was a review
15 of my circumstances."

16 Chris then describes his experiences in other
17 establishments, and moving now to paragraph 100 on
18 page 1190, where Chris speaks of lessons learned:

19 "I think that the places where a lot of the
20 children's homes were sited was wrong. The homes were
21 situated in the middle of rough housing estates where
22 you would stick out as being a person from the home.

23 "The best times was when I was in care where when
24 I was in a place that was separated and there were
25 grounds and places to play nearby without being under

1 the scrutiny of the locals. South Gyle, Howdenhall and
2 Danderhall were all places that were situated in the
3 middle of housing schemes, whereas Milne Park and
4 Barnardo's were great places for children to be brought
5 up."

6 Chris then tells us that he has volunteered to help
7 with some of the people attending Barnardo's and at
8 paragraph 103 on page 1191 he says:

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

13 Chris signed the statement on 4 September 2018.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 Thank you very much.

16 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, that concludes the evidence for today.

17 LADY SMITH: Good.

18 MS RATTRAY: Tomorrow we expect to have three oral
19 witnesses.

20 LADY SMITH: Starting at 10 o'clock as usual.

21 I will rise now until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

22 (3.49 pm)

23 (The inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
24 on Thursday 29 November 2018)

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