

1 Friday, 30 November 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. Mr Peoples, I think we're
4 returning to some oral evidence; is that right?

5 MR PEOPLES: That's correct, my Lady. The next witness is
6 an applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and he has
7 chosen the pseudonym "William".

8 "WILLIAM" (sworn)

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

10 You'll see the red light is on the microphone and
11 that means that it's now on and it's really helpful if
12 you can stay in a good position for your voice to be
13 picked up by the microphone so that everybody can hear
14 you and particularly so the stenographers can hear you
15 through the sound system.

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

18 Questions from MR PEOPLES

19 MR PEOPLES: Good morning, William.

20 A. Good morning, sir.

21 Q. In front of you there is a red folder and within that
22 red folder there's a copy of a statement that you've
23 provided to the inquiry and in the course of this
24 morning I will be asking you some questions on matters
25 you've dealt with in your statement. So you're free to

1 use that at any point as a point of reference. The
2 statement itself will also come up in front of you on
3 the screen. Again, if it's easier for you to look
4 at the screen and use it, then please feel free to do
5 that as well.

6 A. Thank you, sir.

7 Q. Before I begin, I'll give, for the benefit of the
8 transcript, the reference number which the inquiry has
9 given to your statement and that number is
10 WIT.001.002.1424.

11 William, if you could turn to the final page of the
12 statement in the folder. Could you confirm for me --

13 A. That is my signature and that's the date I signed it.

14 Q. That's page 1436 of the statement.

15 Can you also confirm that you have no objection to
16 your witness statement being published as part of the
17 evidence to the inquiry and that you believe the facts
18 stated in your witness statement are true?

19 A. That's correct, sir.

20 Q. With that introduction, I can maybe take you to the
21 first page of your statement on page 1424.

22 Firstly, could I ask you to confirm that you were
23 born in the year 1953?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. Just to assist you, having seen your statement, I think

1 your childhood, if I could say, falls into three
2 distinct parts: one where you were at home until about
3 the age of 6; and then you spent several years at
4 a residential school, Craigerne --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- run by Barnardo's; and from about the age of, I think
7 we'll find it was 13 to about 16, you also were also a
8 resident at Blackford Brae.

9 I will probably concentrate today mainly on the
10 Craigerne experience, but I will ask you about the other
11 chapters as well, and maybe a little bit about other
12 matters too.

13 So if I could start with just some general
14 background information, William. For the first about
15 six years of your life, you were living in the family
16 home in Hawick; is that correct?

17 A. Yes, I was with my parents, my mum and dad and my two
18 brothers and sister.

19 Q. I think you had an older brother who was probably born
20 in the year before you.

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. And you had a younger brother who was born around 1955?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. And you had a younger sister who was born in 1958?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. I don't need their names.

2 A. Okay.

3 Q. So far as the background to you going into care is
4 concerned, you deal with that in your statement and
5 we can see that for ourselves. The broad background is,
6 I think, that you did suffer at the hands of your
7 father.

8 A. My father had a really bad time when he was in the army.
9 He was one of the first soldiers in Belsen. Me, being
10 an ex-serviceman myself, I can understand where my
11 father's coming from. Maybe it sounds strange to you
12 people, but to me I can understand it. He used to beat
13 quite violent to me and he used to beat.

14 When I was at school, one of the PT teachers,
15 Bill McLaren to remove a top because he knew there was
16 bruising on my arms and I refused because I knew if
17 I did I would get my father into trouble. I was taken
18 to the headmaster. The headmaster asked me to remove it
19 and I refused again. They got the police in, they
20 looked at me, they got my father up to the school and
21 then, rather than charge my father with assault and
22 that, I was taken to a Children's Panel within a couple
23 of days, and I was told for my own safety it would be
24 better if I was moved to a boarding school, Craigerne,
25 at the time, although my father had to pay a certain

1 amount of money towards my stay there.

2 Q. And I think you think you were about 6 years of age at
3 that stage --

4 A. I was 6 years of age. It was going quite near
5 Christmastime, I think it was.

6 Q. And just for the benefit of the transcript -- and I'm
7 not going to read all of this out -- you tell us about
8 that at paragraphs 3 to 7 of your statement on
9 pages 1424 and 1425.

10 But I think the point you are making is that while
11 there was a history of some violence in the family, you
12 now understand better as an adult, particularly with
13 your army experience, why your father might have
14 behaved --

15 A. I understand because my father must have gone through
16 some horrors that I went through, losing colleagues and
17 friends. I can understand where he was coming from,
18 although my mother had to stop him quite a few times
19 because he used to get a bit past the stage of knowing
20 what he was doing. So my mother used to stop him.

21 I was grateful for the panel to put me into
22 Craigerne because I was terrified to go -- instead of
23 going home at night, I used to stop going home at night
24 and wait until my father went out to the pub and my mum
25 went to the pub, then I could sneak back into the house

1 without having to see them. I was grateful that they
2 sent me to the residential school at Craigerne.

3 Q. William, you told us earlier you had two brothers and
4 a sister.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What happened in their case when you went to --

7 A. They were just part of the family. They obviously got
8 a belt if they did something wrong. They always got
9 a belt if they did something wrong, but for some reason
10 I was the black sheep of the family and I was picked out
11 for the abuse my father used to give me.

12 Q. I think you said that that eventually led you to stay
13 out late and come back to avoid --

14 A. That's what I did. Hopefully I would sneak into the
15 house and my mum -- preferably my father used to go to
16 the pub in the evening and I used to be able to sneak
17 into the house and I knew I would be okay and I wouldn't
18 get a beating because by the time he'd get home, he'd go
19 to bed, sleep it off and then be fine. But the fact
20 that I wasn't there, he probably was thinking I was
21 pushing against him or something like that, which
22 I wasn't; I was more terrified of him than anything
23 else.

24 Q. I think you tell us in paragraph 3 that in fact you can
25 recall, not long before he died, that you saw him crying

1 and you felt that that was something that was related to
2 his wartime experience.

3 A. Yes, it was, because he never talked about -- we used to
4 ask him about what he did in the war because obviously
5 I was interested when I joined the army. He wouldn't
6 tell us.

7 Me and my brother were there the day before he died.
8 He couldn't talk about anything that happened because it
9 was so horrendous. People would probably not believe
10 him. It just affected -- he was a sergeant and some of
11 the men wanted to execute the guards that were there and
12 he told them not to. He told them, if you want to do
13 anything, just beat them up and leave them be, but do
14 not kill them.

15 Q. Okay. So far as your childhood in Hawick was concerned
16 before you went to Craigerne, am I right in thinking
17 that both your parents were working locally?

18 A. Both my parents. My mother was a nurse, my father was
19 a security guard in the Braemar knitwear trade.

20 Q. Okay. You tell us a bit about Craigerne, starting on
21 page 1425 at paragraph 8.

22 As you've told us, you were 6 years old then. You
23 tell us at paragraph 8 you stayed until you were 12.

24 I can maybe help you there a little bit --

25 A. I was 13.

1 Q. Well, I think what we've perhaps learned from other
2 information is that -- and you'll tell us that you did
3 go from Craigerne to Blackford Brae in Edinburgh,
4 another establishment run by Barnardo's. I can tell you
5 that you would have been a member of the first group of
6 children that were admitted to a re-opened
7 Blackford Brae and you were admitted about
8 [REDACTED] 1966 when you were 13 years of age. So I can
9 give you that information.

10 A. Okay.

11 Q. But you were pretty much accurate: you were around about
12 12 or 13 when you made that move. So if we could treat
13 it on that basis, I think you were about 13 --

14 A. I was 13, yes.

15 Q. -- when you went there. And we'll hear a little bit
16 about that perhaps in due course.

17 But if we stick to Craigerne for the moment. You
18 tell us that you were taken there by your parents and,
19 of course, it was a journey from Hawick to Peebles, so
20 it wasn't a long trip --

21 A. It was a fair trip.

22 Q. Maybe it was --

23 A. It was 1959 and the car he had was an old Ford thing
24 with riding(?) boards on the side of it, so it was a
25 very old car.

1 Q. That's very true actually. So you were there and you
2 tell us that you were initially placed in what you call
3 the Craigmuir building. Just tell us: was that
4 a separate place?

5 A. That's a separate -- when you first come to the school,
6 you go to assessment in Craigmuir, which is another
7 house. It was a new built house behind the old house
8 and the football field and the hockey field was behind
9 that.

10 Initially, when you first come to Craigerne, you go
11 to Craigmuir to acclimatise yourself to being in
12 a different place before you moved into the big house.
13 And then the actual rooms that they have in Craigmuir
14 was only like for two or three chaps at a time, whereas
15 in the big house in the school, Craigerne itself, there
16 were usually about 12 guys in each bedroom, because
17 there was a green room, a blue room, the red room and
18 the green. You know what I mean?

19 Q. You initially went to the Craigmuir building --

20 A. Yes, I initially went --

21 Q. -- around about the age of 6 and you were there for
22 a short time before you moved to the main building?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Was it an all-boys school?

25 A. It was an all-boys school, yes.

- 1 Q. And you were aged 6.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Just help us. You don't have to be too precise, but
4 what was the age range of the children when you were
5 there?
- 6 A. When I was there, I think it had just re-opened again.
7 I'm not too sure about that. I think it had just
8 re-opened again. It was -- most of us were about, in
9 age, 6 or 7 when we first started there. And obviously
10 as the years go by, the young boys coming back in, us
11 guys are 10, 12 years old, they were going to Craigmuir
12 and then coming back to the main building when they were
13 used to being in the groups ... so basically, it was
14 from 6 up until 12, 13 -- in my case it was 13 because
15 I was such a wee chap they were a bit worried about me
16 because I was only 4-foot nothing by the time I came to
17 12. They were worried sending me to the secondary
18 because I was a very, very small chap. I just shot up
19 after I was 16, but to that age --
- 20 Q. If the children were generally younger or up to the age
21 of 6 to maybe 12 or 13, was that to do with the
22 difference between primary education and secondary?
- 23 A. Yes, I think it was. I think that's the way it was,
24 because obviously we had two classes -- we had
25 Mr BDS and Mr Campbell and we used to interchange

1 between two classes during the day. Mr Campbell used to
2 take history and geography and maths and that and
3 Mr **BDS** used to take and

4 Q. Is it likely that when a child reached the age of 12 or
5 13, around about the secondary school age, they wouldn't
6 stay at Craigerne, they'd go somewhere else?

7 A. Anybody after that, it was -- you were moved to another
8 school or you moved back home, but in my case obviously
9 I couldn't move back home.

10 Q. No. It was primarily an educational establishment,
11 a special residential school --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- I think it would be regarded as at the time; is that
14 right?

15 A. That's correct, yes.

16 Q. Don't take this the wrong way, but I think that
17 sometimes in those days it was described as perhaps
18 a place for maladjusted children.

19 A. Yes, that's correct. That's what they did say,
20 maladjusted children, children basically being beaten
21 and just didn't know if they were coming or going and
22 what was going on in life --

23 Q. I think to some extent Blackford Brae was seen as
24 a place where maladjusted children could be
25 accommodated.

1 A. Saying that, though, because some of the children at
2 Craigerne came from very wealthy families. One child
3 there, his mother used to look after [REDACTED] There
4 was another child there was a prince in Kuwait. So when
5 they say maladjusted children, I don't know if that's
6 the way it is, but a lot of them there -- some of them
7 were there like myself, were getting problems at home.

8 Q. Yes. I think today we might say some of the children
9 would have behavioural or emotional problems --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- for a variety of reasons.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And they would come -- and that can happen to children
14 in any form of social background.

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. You're telling us that even in those days, it wasn't
17 just one particular background that Craigerne housed.

18 A. No. Like I say, there was people -- the first time
19 I ever saw a coloured chap was this wean. He was from
20 Kuwait and he was a prince in Kuwait, but he came to the
21 school. There was another chap there, like I said,
22 [REDACTED] mum used to be his housekeeper. Because
23 she was obviously in the States, he was put in the
24 boarding school ...

25 Q. William, did the children that you came across at

1 Craigerne tend to stay there the whole time you were
2 there or did they move on?

3 A. Most of the time, most of us were there. Even in summer
4 holidays -- my parents didn't want me back home, so
5 I knew I wasn't going back home anyway. We used to go
6 to -- we had different areas we used to go to. New
7 Year -- at Christmas, sorry, we used to go to Wishaw,
8 there was a thing they used to do in Wishaw where there
9 was a thing they used to do in Wishaw at the Timex
10 factory, they used to have a party there for -- and you
11 would write them a letter saying --

12 Q. Could you slow down a little bit --

13 A. Sorry, I jumped ahead --

14 Q. No, it's not jumping ahead, it's just that to get your
15 words down, to get all your words, which we want to do,
16 if you could speak a little bit more slowly so that the
17 transcribers can get --

18 LADY SMITH: It's all right, William. These two gentlemen
19 here (indicating) are keeping a running record of
20 everything that is said in the hearing room. They are
21 pretty good, but sometimes if it's going too fast, it's
22 a strain for them.

23 A. Sorry.

24 MR PEOPLES: Don't apologise, we all do it. I do it myself
25 and I get told off or told to slow down. Just take your

- 1 time.
- 2 A. Okay. Like I said, a lot of us didn't go home. Like on
3 summer holidays, we used to go to a place called
4 Blairgowrie and do picking -- we used to do
5 fruit-picking there to make some -- to get some pocket
6 money and that and we used to stay in there. We also
7 used to go to a place in North Berwick, to go there ...
- 8 Q. Can I ask you about the North Berwick one. The reason
9 I'm asking you this is we've already heard some evidence
10 of another place run by Barnardo's called
11 Glasclune House.
- 12 A. All the staff used to go with us to stay in this place.
13 It wasn't different staff, it was the same staff at
14 Craigerne, used to come with us and look after us in
15 this place at North Berwick. So there wasn't any
16 different staff there.
- 17 Q. No, but did you actually stay at this place called
18 Glasclune House, do you remember, or did you stay
19 anywhere else in North Berwick?
- 20 A. That place, it was like an old church, I think it was an
21 old church or something like that. It was a church,
22 I think, and we used to stay in the church hall. That's
23 where we used to stay, in there, like.
- 24 Q. Was that when you were at Craigerne or when you were at
25 Blackford Brae?

1 A. That was at Craigerne.

2 And we also went to Ardrishaig in Craigerne. That
3 was another place, it was a village hall we used to use
4 at Ardrishaig --

5 LADY SMITH: Ardrishaig, that was in the north-west,
6 Argyllshire?

7 A. Yes.

8 MR PEOPLES: It's quite near Loch Gilp and Campbeltown .

9 A. No, sorry, that wasn't at Craigerne, that was at
10 Blackford Brae because the girls were there too. Sorry,
11 that was wrong, I apologise.

12 Q. We'll come to that. You did go on various trips when
13 you were at Craigerne?

14 A. Yes, they used to take us -- we used to go to different
15 places. We used to go and visit different schools,
16 different companies, we went to the Cadbury's factory,
17 we used to visit that, the Timex watch factory, we used
18 to visit that, in Glasgow in Wishaw. Some of the papers
19 we used to visit in Edinburgh, like The Scotsman and
20 that. We did different things, it was just like being
21 at school except you were obviously there residential --

22 Q. So you had your schooling there, but you had other
23 activities which you've described?

24 A. Sometimes we used to do trips here, day trips, and
25 that's it. It wasn't every week we did it --

- 1 Q. So part of the schoolwork might involve a day trip?
- 2 A. Yes, that's right.
- 3 Q. And you've told us that Craigerne was all boys in your
4 time. You have indicated different ages, maybe 6 to
5 around 12, 13. Can you give us an idea of how many
6 children were at Craigerne in your time?
- 7 A. If I remember right, I think there was -- when I first
8 went there it was about 32, but by the time I came to
9 leave, I believe there was about 52 children there.
- 10 Q. 52?
- 11 A. 52 children.
- 12 Q. Was it still all boys?
- 13 A. I think you had 24 in Craigmuir and. I'm not too sure,
14 I think it was 38 in the main school. It might have
15 been 32.
- 16 Q. Were they all boys?
- 17 A. They were all boys.
- 18 Q. Okay. As you tell us in your statement, you weren't in
19 Craigmuir for very long before you moved to the main
20 school --
- 21 A. That's correct, yes.
- 22 Q. -- building. And in that building, I think you would
23 have been sharing a room with a number of other boys;
24 is that correct?
- 25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. And I think you say in your statement there was maybe
2 about five or six boys sharing a room?

3 A. That's correct, sir.

4 Q. Although it could be as many as 12, I think you also
5 say.

6 A. Yes. Because there were different sized rooms,
7 sometimes it was like you had seven, eight boys in
8 a room, or maybe ten, 12 boys in a room. It depended
9 what room you were in.

10 What we used to do -- I can't explain it. You had
11 a blue room so you'd wear blue shirts. You had a green
12 room, you would wear green shirts. You had the red room
13 and you'd wear red shirts. So it was like that group
14 and you had to clean your room and make things look nice
15 and you got points for that for every morning when you
16 got an inspection to make sure everything looked tidy
17 and that sort of thing.

18 So basically, your group was the pink group or the
19 red group or the green group or the blue group or
20 whichever one it was and we used to enter competitions
21 to see who was the best for the week and that sort of
22 thing.

23 Q. You tell us your clothing might relate to whichever
24 coloured room you were in.

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Would the room itself be coloured blue if you were --
- 2 A. Yes, the rooms were all painted blue, painted green and
3 painted red.
- 4 Q. And did you stay in one room for the whole time you were
5 there?
- 6 A. Yes, we stayed in that. In Craigmuir -- when we stayed
7 in Craigmuir, there was no coloured rooms there, it was
8 just normal rooms there, but it was usually two or three
9 boys to a room in Craigmuir. It was basically getting
10 yourself acclimatised to being away from home and not
11 being with parents and blah, blah, blah. So you just
12 got on there. Once you had settled in there, they moved
13 to you the big house and then you had the rest of the
14 lads there and --
- 15 Q. In the big house, where there was a blue room --
- 16 A. There was one room -- you stayed in the one room -- we
17 had --
- 18 Q. Throughout your time?
- 19 A. Yes, throughout your time. Because upstairs we had the
20 bedrooms and the showers and bathrooms and down the
21 stairs we had the prep room and our TV room and the
22 dining room and kitchen, and you would take turns about
23 working and helping in the kitchen and stuff like that,
24 cleaning, washing up. We would just basically do the
25 normal things that we'd normally do.

- 1 Q. Just one more question about the sleeping arrangements.
2 You have told us that you were in one room throughout
3 your time. Were the children in that room all of
4 roughly the same age?
- 5 A. Yes, we were all the same age. There was a couple of
6 years between us, maybe, but that's it. They tried to
7 keep the children by age groups because it's easier than
8 moving us around. Because when I moved down where the
9 extension was built, where the classes were, it was
10 easier to move us backwards and forwards around there --
11 because there was always a lot of staff during the day
12 because obviously we were at school during the day.
13 Most of the staff were doing other things, doing
14 meetings or whatever it was.
- 15 Q. As it was a school, you'd have teachers?
- 16 A. Mm-hm.
- 17 Q. And were the teachers employed by Barnardo's or do you
18 know?
- 19 A. I don't know. I don't really know that.
- 20 Q. But you also tell us in your statement at paragraph 10
21 on page 1426 that the dormitories, if I could call them
22 that, whether they were the blue room or the yellow room
23 or whatever, were each looked after by a housemaster,
24 so --
- 25 A. Yes. We had a housemaster for each room. If you had

1 any problems, you'd go to see, like, Mr Wright or
2 Mr Campbell, whoever it was at the time, and you'd say,
3 "I have a problem, can I have a talk about it", and he'd
4 take you down, say to the headmaster, "The wean's got
5 a problem here, so I think it'd be best if we have a
6 little talk and see if we can sort it out", like.

7 Q. You tell us your particular housemaster was someone
8 called John Wright?

9 A. Aye.

10 Q. Was he your housemaster for the whole period?

11 A. He was.

12 Q. You tell us he was a really nice person.

13 A. He was a brilliant person.

14 Q. Just so I'm clear, those who acted as housemasters,
15 including John Wright, were they also teachers?

16 A. No. The teachers were separate. Mr Campbell and

17 Mr **BDS** were the two teachers who were there and

18 **BLI** used to -- **BLI** he used to take the
19 Bible study and chapel at the end of the class.

20 Q. So you didn't have a teacher that also doubled up as
21 a housemaster?

22 A. No, no, never.

23 Q. Does it follow that Mr **BDS** that we'll hear

24 a little bit about in due course, was not a housemaster?

25 A. No, thank God.

1 Q. We'll come to that.

2 The other thing you tell us in paragraph 10 of your
3 statement is that the only person allowed into the dorm
4 areas except the housemaster was the headmaster or
5 matron.

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. Was that the rule, the house rule?

8 A. Yes, that was the rule.

9 Q. And how did you become aware that that was the rule?

10 A. Because we were told that. We were told that: this
11 master's in charge of you, you don't go to that master,
12 you go to this master, because he's in charge of you,
13 and if you have any other problems, you want to see the
14 matron or the headmaster, you ask the master and he will
15 arrange a meeting for you with the headmaster or the
16 matron.

17 Q. Do I take it that when you say the only other persons
18 allowed in were the headmaster or matron, therefore no
19 other teacher would be allowed --

20 A. Other teachers used to come and speak to us, but most of
21 the time it was not the teachers -- sorry, the masters
22 used to come and speak to us. We only saw the teachers
23 from 8 o'clock in the morning until 4.30 in the
24 afternoon.

25 Q. During the class hours?

1 A. During the class hours. That's the only time we saw the
2 teachers. The rest of the time it was the masters that
3 dealt with us.

4 Q. Did the masters stay near the dorm? Did they --

5 A. No, no. They had a staff room down the stairs and if
6 you wanted to speak to anyone, you had to go down, knock
7 on the door and wait until somebody answered and said --

8 Q. And at night, was the housemaster in residence?

9 A. No, they used to take turns about doing -- what they did
10 was they had a thing that they used --

11 Q. A rota?

12 A. A box thing, they would plug it into the machine that
13 they carried around with them. It's a timer thing. We
14 used to ask them, "What's that?" "It's just to say that
15 we've done our rounds".

16 Q. Like clocking in?

17 A. Yes, like clocking in, but it's a key thing they put in
18 and they --

19 Q. Just to show they had actually done something?

20 A. They actually walked round to make sure they have
21 checked on each room --

22 Q. This was the night staff --

23 A. The time came up on the clock thing --

24 LADY SMITH: William, can I ask you to do something? Can
25 you let Mr Peoples finish his questions before you

1 speak? You're usually right in guessing what he is
2 about to ask you, but it's a problem for these gentlemen
3 if you speak at the same time as Mr Peoples.

4 A. I apologise, i'm just nervous.

5 LADY SMITH: I know.

6 MR PEOPLES: I think it's maybe like Mastermind: you have to
7 let the questioner ask the question.

8 A. I just want to get out of here.

9 LADY SMITH: I know.

10 MR PEOPLES: That's quite understandable and I don't want to
11 hold you back, but all I was wanting to know is how
12 these things were working.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. So far as the night-time was concerned, there would be
15 a person on duty as the night staff?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. Was that one person or more than --

18 A. Just one person. They used to take turns about doing
19 it.

20 Q. Therefore if we look at your housemaster, John Wright,
21 he wouldn't necessarily be the person on duty at night?

22 A. No, he wouldn't. It might be one the other masters that
23 was on, but none of the teachers ever used to do night
24 shift or any of that.

25 Q. Therefore I suppose my question might be, where did

- 1 John Wright or the other housemasters stay?
- 2 A. They had houses. When you went down towards -- because
- 3 we were outside the town, outside Peebles, if you
- 4 travelled down back the road just as you were coming
- 5 into Peebles, they had about four or five houses that
- 6 were ...
- 7 Q. Staff quarters?
- 8 A. Yes. Most of them, the guys that were married, the
- 9 wives used to come and work there too as well as the
- 10 husband, the wives and that used to work there too.
- 11 Q. If I can go back to your statement on page 1426, I'm not
- 12 going to go through in great detail the routine at
- 13 Craigerne because you describe the normal typical
- 14 weekday routine, getting up, breakfast, classes,
- 15 homework, evening meal and then a bit of free or leisure
- 16 time before bed. Is that right? That would be
- 17 a typical routine?
- 18 A. Yes, that would be the typical routine, yes, sir.
- 19 Q. And then at weekends, you tell us in paragraph 12 on
- 20 page 1426 about a typical weekend and on Saturdays you'd
- 21 be involved in various sports.
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Sundays, you'd be in church. You might go off for
- 24 a trip to the hills and so forth --
- 25 A. Yes, that's correct.

1 Q. You also tell us -- and this is just something I'll
2 touch on in passing -- at paragraph 13 that you were all
3 expected to do some chores; is that right?

4 A. That's correct, sir.

5 Q. Was that during the week or weekends?

6 A. It was mostly at night-times. Mostly at night-times we
7 used to take turns about washing dishes, clean dishes,
8 help the chef, prepare vegetables, stuff like that. It
9 was just generally learning, being part of life and
10 learning to do this and to do that. We had to team
11 together. It was just a bonding sort of thing.

12 Q. You found it a good experience and it helped you in
13 later life?

14 A. It helped me an awful lot. Because I like cooking and
15 the chef taught me a lot of stuff -- he taught me loads
16 and loads of stuff. The only person I had that from at
17 home was my grandmother because my mother was too busy
18 working and my dad was away, so the only person that
19 showed us how to cook or do anything was my grandmother.

20 The chef used to hate me because I used to ask him
21 questions, how do I do this, how do I that, how do
22 I make that, tell me how to do this.

23 Q. That leads me nicely on to food at page 1427,
24 paragraph 15 of your statement. I think your view, at
25 least, was that the food was very good?

1 A. The food was absolutely fantastic. We used to have
2 three meals a day: we used to have breakfast, a cooked
3 breakfast, in the morning, a cooked lunch, a dinner, and
4 supper. So we were well looked after. We never wanted
5 for nothing. Most of the food we had was absolutely
6 fantastic -- except sago, I used to hate sago.

7 Q. Obviously not every child likes everything that's put in
8 front of them. I think that's common experience. But
9 you tell us in your statement at paragraph 15 that if
10 you didn't eat a particular dish or food that was served
11 up, you maybe told to sit at the table until it was
12 finished, but you were never force-fed?

13 A. Never force-fed. They would say, you either finish it
14 or that's it, you're in trouble.

15 Q. You didn't get anything else?

16 A. No.

17 Q. And say you said just said, I can't finish this, it's
18 sago --

19 A. I tried, sago, I did try, and it made me sick, and they
20 decided, you obviously can't eat that, so that was that.
21 So I never, ever got that again.

22 Q. Can you ever recall meals that were served up if someone
23 didn't like it, they would be re-served?

24 A. No, no, because most of the meals were -- everybody ate
25 the meals they were getting. It was all general stuff

1 like mince and potatoes, stews. The food that we had at
2 Craigerne was 100% brilliant.

3 Q. Okay. You tell us a bit about the staff at the school,
4 and you begin at paragraph 18 on page 1427 by telling us
5 that the [REDACTED] was an
6 individual called [REDACTED] BLI [REDACTED]

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. Can I put another name to you just in case at this
9 stage -- was [REDACTED] BLI [REDACTED] the [REDACTED] when you
10 arrived or was there someone before him?

11 A. This is the thing, I can't remember. I remember going
12 to the -- I think [REDACTED] BLI [REDACTED] was brought in about
13 six months after I was there. I'm not too sure about
14 that. But I think he was.

15 Q. Do you remember a [REDACTED]

16 A. Actually, I think I do.

17 Q. And a [REDACTED] as a couple that may have been
18 [REDACTED] If you don't remember that,
19 just say so.

20 A. I think I do.

21 Q. Because you had some doubt whether [REDACTED] BLI [REDACTED] was there
22 when you first arrived.

23 A. I don't think [REDACTED] BLI [REDACTED] was there when I first arrived
24 because the people that were there, we thought they were
25 doctors because they were all dressed in three piece

- 1 herringbone suits and that --
- 2 Q. I'll come to that in a moment, if I may.
- 3 But you think [REDACTED] BLI [REDACTED] wasn't necessarily there
- 4 when you first arrived?
- 5 A. No, I don't think he was there. I think he was brought
- 6 in later on because there was a bit of a problem.
- 7 I don't know what it was. We don't know anything about
- 8 that. But obviously, we knew there was something wrong
- 9 because -- like you said, we'll come to that in a minute
- 10 I suppose.
- 11 Q. If we move on to the next page in your statement at
- 12 1428, William, one of the teachers, and you've already
- 13 mentioned him, was a Mr [REDACTED] BDS [REDACTED] is that right?
- 14 A. That's correct.
- 15 Q. I think in your statement later on he's called [REDACTED] BDS [REDACTED]
- 16 but it's [REDACTED] BDS [REDACTED] is it?
- 17 A. [REDACTED] BDS [REDACTED] it was.
- 18 Q. And he was a teacher who taught various subjects, [REDACTED]
- 19 [REDACTED]
- 20 A. That's correct.
- 21 Q. And you estimate he was maybe in his 30s or around 40
- 22 at the time?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. You also mention at paragraph 20 on page 1428, there was
- 25 a matron as well.

- 1 A. That's correct.
- 2 Q. And you thought she was a really nice person?
- 3 A. She was a brilliant person.
- 4 Q. But I don't think you're able to remember who she was?
- 5 A. I can't remember what her name is, I'm really sorry.
- 6 Q. There was the matron, the headmaster, two teachers,
7 Mr **BDS** and Mr Campbell and then there was the
8 housemasters in charge of particular dorms?
- 9 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 10 Q. And were there also domestic staff that would help to
11 look after the place?
- 12 A. Well, a lot of the masters' wives used to come in and do
13 cleaning and stuff like that and obviously changing beds
14 and blah, blah, blah and that sort of stuff -- although
15 we were expected to keep our beds clean and tidy and our
16 area tidy and all of rest of it.
- 17 Q. We'll maybe discuss some particular things that happened
18 at your time in Craigerne. I think at paragraph 21 you
19 tell us that, generally speaking, Craigerne for you was
20 a good experience except for one teach, Mr **BDS**
- 21 A. That's correct, sir.
- 22 Q. So otherwise you felt it was a positive experience?
- 23 A. It was a very, very good school apart from that one bad
24 apple.
- 25 Q. Just on paragraph 22 -- and I'll touch on this just for

1 completeness -- while you spent maybe six or seven years
2 at Craigerne in all, from the age of 6 to 13, there was
3 a period of about five months, you tell us in
4 paragraph 22, where you were actually at your family
5 home because of the -- I think it was one of these
6 particularly bad winters of 1963 which they show on
7 television from time to time.

8 A. Yes. We couldn't get back to school. We were cut off
9 for about four months, so we couldn't get anywhere.

10 Q. So for that period you were at home?

11 A. I was at home, yes.

12 LADY SMITH: William, can you make sure you don't drift back
13 from the microphone?

14 A. Sorry.

15 LADY SMITH: No, it's not easy, and if you get too close to
16 it it fuzzes. But if you can try and stay in a good
17 position, you'll sense it's picking your voice up
18 clearly.

19 MR PEOPLES: You have told us about Christmas and being
20 taken to the Timex factory at Wishaw and I think
21 Christmas was a good time at the school.

22 A. Yes, it was.

23 Q. Although you don't have the same memories about
24 birthdays, but you describe they weren't anything
25 special, but they were celebrated --

1 A. They were celebrated. Obviously you used to have
2 a birthday cake when we used to have dinner in the
3 evening and they used to sing "Happy Birthday". If it
4 was your birthday, everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to
5 you. Most of the guys would make their own cards and
6 give you a card. That's the way it worked.

7 Q. If I could move on to page 1429, where you deal with the
8 matter of visitors and visiting. You tell us a bit
9 about that. What we seem to see there is that, so far
10 as your parents and family members were concerned, you
11 probably only had a few visits during the time you were
12 at Craigerne; is that correct?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. And you probably didn't go -- I think you tell us you --
15 really go home except for your grandfather's funeral --

16 A. I wasn't allowed to go home for the funeral.

17 Q. I think you said your granny died and you weren't
18 allowed to go.

19 A. My granny died and my grandfather died and I was (sic)
20 allowed to go to both their funerals.

21 Q. Oh, I see, I thought you were allowed to go to your
22 grandfather's funeral --

23 A. I wasn't allowed to go. I wasn't allowed to go. My
24 father came to tell me that my grandad had died and
25 I said, why can't I go the to funeral, and he said they

1 didn't want you to and that was it and then he went
2 away. I only saw my parents roughly three, four times
3 in the six years I was in Craigerne.

4 Q. Your statement suggested you did go to your grandad's
5 funeral, but that's not right?

6 A. That's not right, I didn't go to my grandad's funeral.

7 Q. That's fine. But you were at home for the winter of
8 1963? That was really the only time --

9 A. That was the only time. Like, everything was pretty bad
10 then.

11 Q. And you didn't get that many visits from your mum and
12 dad?

13 A. No, I didn't. Like I said, I had about three or four
14 visits in the six years I was there.

15 Q. Although you did tell us earlier, it was a time when
16 maybe that journey was a bit more difficult.

17 A. I mean, obviously winter and times and that was an
18 absolute nightmare trying to get up and down there, that
19 was terrible. But there were times -- my mum, I don't
20 know ... I just think ... I was a thorn in their side,
21 I think. I think they were glad to see the back of me
22 and I think the fact that I was at Craigerne, and it was
23 such a nice place, and it felt like home, and I enjoyed
24 it. I enjoyed it ever so much.

25 Q. So far as official visitors are concerned, at

1 paragraph 27 I think you don't have any memory of any
2 social workers coming to speak to you or find out how
3 you were getting on; is that correct?

4 A. That's correct, sir.

5 Q. Were you making any kind of appearances before the panel
6 from time to time?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Nothing?

9 A. No, nothing. The panel said to my parents there and
10 then, when I first went to the panel, they said, "Look,
11 he goes and he goes there until he's going to secondary
12 school. He goes and he's away from you guys because
13 we're concerned he may do him permanent damage". That's
14 what they basically said in court and that's why I was
15 happy to be in Craigerne rather than being at home
16 because I knew if I was going to go home, I'd end up
17 getting beat again and I didn't want that. So I was
18 happy to be in Craigerne. If I had any excuse not to go
19 back home, I would do it. If I had any excuse so
20 I didn't have to go back home, I would do it. If they
21 said, go there, I would go there rather than go back
22 home.

23 Q. In relation to the official visitors I think you have
24 a memory that there were maybe people who were looking
25 at the educational side of things who would come to

- 1 check to the teaching and classes?
- 2 A. Yes, they did. The government officials used to come
3 and check the school to make sure how well it was
4 running and that.
- 5 Q. They weren't looking at the social side or the welfare
6 side?
- 7 A. No, they just wanted to know how the school was running
8 ... and all the rest of it.
- 9 Q. You have told us you did like the school and you really
10 didn't want to go back home. But you also tell us there
11 was one occasion when you ran away in paragraph 28.
12 Tell us about that.
- 13 A. I'll have to mention Mr **BDS** then. Obviously ...
- 14 Q. Was it related to Mr **BDS**
- 15 A. Yes, of course it is, he was abusing me. That's why I
16 want to run away. I wanted to get away from it. But we
17 couldn't say anything against the master because they
18 would not accept that from us. We couldn't say, "Excuse
19 me, he's did that". They'd say, "How dare you accuse my
20 master, accuse me of doing that?" We were nothing. If
21 I wanted to talk to a master, I had to stand there with
22 my arm in the air and wait until he said, "Yes, what
23 do you want?" and then I'd answer him. I couldn't say
24 anything. It was a different era then. It was
25 a totally different era. It's nothing like what it is

1 nowadays. When I was there, the masters ruled. They
2 were the rulers, they were the bosses, but that's the
3 way it was.

4 Q. William, maybe the way I'll take this, because I think
5 you're saying that you ran away because things were
6 happening and Mr --

7 A. We ran away -- me and [REDACTED] ran away. We ran away
8 for the simple reason we thought we could get away from
9 the school. What we did was we decided to go to the
10 docks and get on a boat. Stupidly enough, we got on
11 a boat and we got on one of the life rafts, one of the
12 big boats there, and we waited for ever and ever and
13 ever for the blooming thing to move, and when it did
14 move, we thought we'll wait a couple of hours and then
15 we'll give ourselves up.

16 So what in actual fact happened, the boat was
17 unloading stuff there. We got on the boat in the dock
18 there (indicating) and the boat moved round to the other
19 side of the dock, that side, and the other boat was
20 looking out towards the sea, the one we got on. So we
21 presumed we were at sea because obviously the boat had
22 moved around.

23 We decided to give ourselves -- and we went to see
24 -- one of the guys went and got the cook and the cook
25 went mental and he got the captain, the captain got the

1 dock police, the dock police come and got us, and then
2 the dock police got [REDACTED] dad to take us back to
3 Craigerne, and that's when I got a punishment for
4 bringing the school into disrepute.

5 Q. You tell us about that on page 1430 at paragraph 29 and
6 you say that you were told that you had brought the
7 school into disrepute.

8 A. And I'd have to be punished.

9 Q. And you'd have to be punished. Of course, it had
10 becomes become a police matter because they had brought
11 you back --

12 A. Yes. We had sneaked into the docks and that to get into
13 the boat.

14 Q. Who was it that told you that you had brought the school
15 into disrepute?

16 A. [REDACTED] BLI [REDACTED] What happened was when we got back, my
17 parents were there. [REDACTED] dad obviously brought
18 us back, so his father was there. There was the
19 [REDACTED] was there and when we got
20 back, [REDACTED] BLI [REDACTED] said, you do realise that we're
21 going to punish you for what you've done. I said, yes,
22 I understand. He said, you've brought the school into
23 disrepute by getting the police involved. I said, yes,
24 sir, I understand that. I knew I was going to get
25 punished. I accepted that. It was just part and parcel

1 of life then. If you did something wrong, you were
2 punished for it.

3 Q. Did you tell them why you had run away?

4 A. No, we were too frightened to.

5 Q. Did they ask you?

6 A. They did ask us, but we just said ... we couldn't ...
7 We couldn't say something against a master because it
8 was just not done.

9 Q. Did anyone tell you couldn't say something against
10 a master?

11 A. No, it's just the way it is. I could not go up and say,
12 "He did that to me", for fear that you were being
13 expelled or sent back to my parents. The last thing I
14 wanted to happen was to be sent back to my parents
15 because I didn't want to get beaten to hell again back
16 there. So we kept our mouths shut.

17 Q. I think you do say in your statement that you were also
18 told what might happen if you said anything by
19 Mr **BDS** is that correct?

20 A. He actually grabbed **██████** about the throat and put him
21 against the wall and he said, if you ever say anything
22 I'll make sure you're out this school and you'll go back
23 to where you don't want to be. And that was enough, to
24 say that. It terrified us. We were 6, 7 years old for
25 goodness sake. We were terrified. I'd never been away

1 from my family. We were terrified. We just kept our
2 mouths shut and put our heads down and got on with it
3 because we were that frightened.

4 Q. Are you able to remember what sort of age you were when
5 you ran away?

6 A. Eight.

7 Q. About 8?

8 A. Yes, and that abuse had been going on since day one from
9 the school -- well, not day one ... you don't start
10 classes for about a week after you get there because
11 they show you around the school, what they do, and where
12 you're supposed to go and how you do this and how you do
13 that.

14 But the fact that Mr **BDS** was abusing me nearly
15 every day apart from Sunday or a Saturday -- sometimes
16 he used to take **█** and sometimes he didn't. And the
17 fact that he was abusing us most days was enough to push
18 us away from the school, push us ...

19 Q. Maybe this is a good point just to get a little bit of
20 information about that, because it's related to you
21 running away, you tell us. You deal with this in your
22 own statement at page 1431 at paragraphs 33 and
23 following, and you tell us a bit about the sort of abuse
24 that you were receiving from Mr **BDS** In
25 paragraph 33 you tell us what would happen in class.

1 Can you tell us a bit about that?

2 A. When we were in class, Mr **BDS** had a desk, maybe
3 a wee bit bigger than this (indicating). It had a space
4 there (indicating) but it had a panel down the back so
5 you couldn't see through it.

6 He'd ask one of us or two of us to come and sit on
7 his knee and to read a book. As soon as you got on his
8 knee, his hands would -- because at that stage we used
9 to wear -- I wore shorts until I was 16, so I had shorts
10 on. So he used to put his hand up your trousers and
11 then he used to fondle you and play with you. At that
12 stage, to be perfectly honest, it was like hanging on an
13 iceberg waiting to fall into the ice. I just froze,
14 I just couldn't do nothing. I was terrified. I was
15 absolutely terrified, so I just froze. I didn't know
16 what to do.

17 Of course -- but he only done it -- he used to do
18 it -- there only seemed to be four or five lads he used
19 to do it with. He didn't use to do it with the whole
20 class, but he always seemed to grab us -- we used to
21 make excuses. If he said, come here, I want you to
22 read, we used to go, sir, can I go to the bathroom
23 first, and then you'd spend as long as you could in the
24 bathroom and get away with it so you didn't have to go
25 back to the class in the hope that somebody else was on

1 his knee and not you. I know it's a bad thing to say
2 but that's the way it was.

3 Q. This happened more than once to you that you were on his
4 knee?

5 A. It happened every day. Every day we were getting it.

6 Q. Certain boys?

7 A. Because mornings were with Mr [REDACTED] BDS [REDACTED] afternoons with
8 Mr Campbell. So it happened every single day.

9 Q. So he would pick out certain boys to come out and sit on
10 his knee --

11 A. He had the guys he knew that he could pull in. Like
12 I said, we were only little kids, man, we were
13 terrified.

14 Q. You can tell me as much as you want to or as little as
15 you want to. You have said fondling. He put his hand
16 up your shorts. Did that mean that his hands came in
17 contact with your private parts?

18 A. Yes, it did.

19 And then at other times before we were leaving the
20 room -- sometimes as you were leaving the room, he used
21 to pull you towards him, to his groin, and he was
22 obviously aroused because you got this hardness on the
23 side of your face and it was a bit ...

24 One of the other lads told us, "Whatever you do,
25 never go into the cupboard with him", "What if we go

1 in the cupboard?" "If he ever tries to get you in the
2 cupboard, never, ever go into the cupboard with him".
3 That was one thing we made sure we didn't do because we
4 heard some stories of what he did to some of the lads in
5 there.

6 Q. What were the sort of stories that you did hear?

7 A. You'd have to ask them. Because I'm not going to a
8 hearsay on what they said and what they didn't say.
9 I presume the guys will still be alive: you can ask
10 them.

11 Q. Was it more than fondling?

12 A. Oh yes, it was a lot more than fondling.

13 Q. And this was something at least that people were saying
14 that was happening --

15 A. "Don't go in the cupboard", they said, "because you'll
16 never, ever forgive yourself for going in there".

17 Q. But you didn't see anything yourself that happened in
18 the cupboard?

19 A. I never saw anything. We heard what happened in there,
20 but we -- did it happen or did it not happen? Like
21 I said, you'd best ask the people who were in the
22 cupboard with him and they'll tell you if they're still
23 alive.

24 Q. Were there occasions when he tried to get you to go to
25 the cupboard?

1 A. Oh yes, "I need to get some pencils", "I need to get
2 some papers", "I need to get some rubbers". Something
3 like that.

4 Q. And where was this cupboard?

5 A. You come into the room -- as you walked into the room,
6 you'd come into the room there, Mr **BDS** desk was
7 there, the class was there, and the cupboard was there
8 (indicating). It was a two-doored cupboard that you
9 used to pull like that and he locked the doors there and
10 he locked the door with a key.

11 But when he walked into the cupboard -- it was like
12 you walked in the cupboard and there was a space there
13 and you have all the shelving in there, all the shelving
14 in there and all shelving in front of you. But it was
15 a very, very big cupboard, like.

16 But like I said, I didn't go in there because
17 I feared for myself for going in there after hearing
18 what happened to the other lads.

19 Q. You tell us that it wasn't just in the classroom that
20 things happened with Mr **BDS** At paragraph 36 you
21 mention that before a new **█** teacher came on the scene,
22 things could happen in the showers. Can you tell me
23 about that?

24 A. At Craigmuir -- because we went to Craigmuir and
25 Craigmuir had the showers. The big house doesn't have

1 showers, but Craigmuir has showers. The football field
2 and the hockey field and rugby field were all behind
3 Craigmuir so we used the showers in Craigmuir to do that
4 and he used to do -- in the mornings he used to do
5 the -- if we had a game of football or a game of rugby
6 or whatever it was, you used to do that and then shower
7 in Craigmuir. But then Mr **BDS** used to come in and
8 he used to pat your bottom and he'd say, "Do you want
9 your back washed, do you need me to come in and help?"
10 and things like that and we were all, no thanks very
11 much, like, you know.

12 Q. Were you completely undressed at that stage?

13 A. We were naked in the shower. He used to come up to us.
14 If you were walking by because you never -- we didn't
15 think anything different in those days. We stripped off
16 our kit and then run through the room and get into the
17 showers. We didn't think there was anything wrong with
18 that. We done it all the time we weren't playing or if
19 we were playing rugby or if we were playing cricket or
20 whatever we were playing. We just didn't think anything
21 different.

22 But it was him. He kept patting you and patting you
23 as you were going by and asking, "Can I come in and help
24 you wash?" "No, thank you, sir, I'm quite capable", that
25 sort of thing and that was it.

- 1 Q. Do you know if other boys reacted differently?
- 2 A. I don't know, sir. I don't know.
- 3 Q. You didn't see anything?
- 4 A. I didn't see anything of the sort --
- 5 Q. Other than the patting on the bottom?
- 6 A. He used to do it to us all. That's all I saw, him doing
- 7 that.
- 8 Q. Did he pat you had anywhere else?
- 9 A. Just on the bottom and obviously because there were
- 10 other guys and sometimes there were the teachers there,
- 11 other teachers, other masters. Usually the masters were
- 12 outside making sure everybody's getting in, getting all
- 13 their stuff done, putting stuff away and all the rest of
- 14 it.
- 15 Q. If I could go back briefly to the cupboard. I know you
- 16 don't want to say too much more than you've said, but
- 17 the cupboard was in the classroom?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. And it was a big cupboard?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And it was big enough to accommodate an adult and
- 22 a child?
- 23 A. You could get half a dozen adults in there, no problem.
- 24 Q. And you heard that things happened beyond the fondling?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. That was something you didn't witness but you were
2 told --

3 A. But I heard about it, I heard what he did.

4 Q. At the time?

5 A. At the time. I heard what he wanted to do, what he'd
6 like to do to you, or what he would like you to do with
7 him. Basically, that's it.

8 Q. And it would go beyond fondling?

9 A. Yes, there was a lot more than fondling.

10 LADY SMITH: William, I should perhaps tell you that it is
11 all right for you to tell me about what somebody else
12 said in this environment, in the inquiry environment, if
13 you want to. You don't have to, but if you want to.

14 A. I presume that you have other witnesses that were at
15 school at the same time as me and I presume there'll be
16 able to tell you what happened.

17 MR PEOPLES: I would like to hear what you were told.

18 A. I believe what the lads were saying is he used to hold
19 them --

20 Q. Hold their private parts?

21 A. By the head, the oral sex term. He fondled the other
22 guys, gave them oral sex too. I don't think there was
23 any penetration or any intercourse or anything like that
24 done, but I think it was mostly just oral sex that was
25 done in that shed -- in that --

1 Q. Would he perform oral sex on them according to the
2 stories?

3 A. He used to perform oral sex on them and he liked them to
4 perform oral sex on him.

5 Q. You don't think it went further than that in terms of
6 penetration?

7 A. None of the other guys said -- none of them said they
8 were buggered or anything like that.

9 Q. But you were told things happened like that?

10 A. I was told -- they described -- because they would say,
11 once you gets you in there, you're trapped because when
12 he goes in, he locks the door.

13 Q. He could lock the door behind him?

14 A. Yes, he had a key in the door and he would lock the door
15 behind him so you would go in the door and he would lock
16 the door.

17 Q. Did you ever get any idea of when these occasions would
18 happen? Because if it was in the classroom and the
19 cupboard was --

20 A. You got an assignment to do, he's got an assignment, and
21 he'd say to somebody, like, [REDACTED] come here, I need you
22 to get all this stuff here, because they've all got --
23 papers and pencils and stuff's got to be put out on the
24 table. So while we're doing an assessment, he's in the
25 cupboard with [REDACTED]

1 Q. So this was happening -- so if you were in the classroom
2 doing an assignment --

3 A. I couldn't hear anything or anything like that in the
4 cupboard.

5 Q. You could see someone going in --

6 A. We all saw him going in with [REDACTED] but then he locked
7 the door. We all looked at each other, saying, oh yes.

8 Q. He locked the door?

9 A. He locked the door.

10 Q. You saw that or you heard it?

11 A. The other guys heard it because he locked the door and
12 we all looked at each other and said, oh, we all know
13 what he's doing.

14 Q. Did you see him go in with more than one boy at a time
15 or only one boy?

16 A. Only one boy at a time.

17 Q. But you would see boys going into the cupboard, the
18 cupboard would be shut --

19 A. There would be boys going into the cupboard or he would
20 say -- when we were leaving the class, he'd say tell
21 Mr [REDACTED] BDS (sic) he'll be there in five minutes because
22 he's going to help me with this, and he'd be away in the
23 cupboard.

24 Q. So this was happening during the school day --

25 A. It was happening every day.

1 Q. -- in the cupboard -- yes, I just want to establish the
2 time of day and the location of the --

3 A. It depended. He never done it exactly the same time.
4 It was all different times. I'm not so sure he done it
5 every single day. But I know he had one of us on his
6 lap every day ...

7 Q. But it wasn't an uncommon occurrence to see Mr **BDS**
8 go to the cupboard with a boy?

9 A. No, it wasn't. You didn't think nothing of it
10 because --

11 Q. And he would shut the cupboard door?

12 A. Yes, he would shut the cupboard door.

13 Q. And it would be heard to be locked and then --

14 A. Yes. Most of the time we probably would be leaving the
15 class when this is happening or something like that, and
16 they'd be doing -- tell them he'll be there in five
17 minutes because he's helping me out, blah, blah, blah.

18 Q. Was there ever an occasion when you saw Mr **BDS** come
19 out of the cupboard with a boy after one of these
20 occasions?

21 A. No.

22 Q. So you never --

23 A. We used to talk to the guys when they came out --
24 obviously we used to talk to them: are you all right,
25 what did he do. But most of them would just say, "The

1 usual, just forget it".

2 Q. What state were they in?

3 A. They were upset, of course they were upset. I mean,
4 you're talking kiddies of 7, 8, 9 years old, man.

5 Of course they were upset. Like I said, what could we
6 do? It was a different era, a different time. You
7 couldn't accuse anyone of doing anything -- especially
8 at 6 or 7 years old. You couldn't accuse a teacher of
9 doing something wrong. It just ...

10 LADY SMITH: William, you told me earlier that when you ran
11 away, another boy was with you.

12 A. That was [REDACTED]

13 LADY SMITH: Was he one of the boys that had been in the
14 cupboard?

15 A. Aye.

16 LADY SMITH: Why did you decide to go to Leith?

17 A. Because it was where the boats were. We read it in
18 a book. If you stow away in a boat you can work as
19 a cabin boy. We were that naive we believed we could do
20 that. It's got to be better than being with him.

21 MR PEOPLES: The other boy, was he from the Edinburgh area?

22 A. Yes, he was.

23 Q. Whereas you were from Hawick, so that might have
24 dictated the choice?

25 A. He knew where the docks were, how to get into the docks

1 and everything.

2 Q. So it might have made sense --

3 A. Because you had to go through a security gate to get

4 into the docks -- at that time, there was a gate you had

5 to go past to get into the docks. It's the only way you

6 could get in. But he knew how to get into the docks

7 differently.

8 LADY SMITH: How did you get to Leith?

9 A. We hitchhiked.

10 LADY SMITH: And how did you get past these gates into the

11 docks?

12 A. We got in the lorry, the back of a lorry.

13 MR PEOPLES: What age do you estimate you were when the two

14 of you did this?

15 A. 7, 8 years old.

16 Q. Was he the same age as you?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. If I could go back to what happened when you got back to

19 the school against what you've told us about the

20 background to this running away. You told us that you

21 were punished, you didn't tell [REDACTED] or anyone

22 else at the time what had happened or why you'd run

23 away.

24 A. No.

25 Q. I know, you've told us. I just want to get the

1 situation clear in my mind. You were given corporal
2 punishment in the form of a caning, is that right, by

3 [REDACTED] BLI

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. In the presence of you recall --

6 A. My parents.

7 Q. Your parents and what you thought was a governor or
8 someone?

9 A. Yes, I think it was one of the governors.

10 Q. And also, was the matron present?

11 A. The matron was present.

12 Q. And this was in the basement?

13 A. Below the [REDACTED] there's a basement below
14 it. The punishment room, it was called.

15 Q. And just to be clear, was your friend who ran away
16 punished also?

17 A. He was punished, but we were done separately; we weren't
18 done together.

19 Q. Were you punished in the same way?

20 A. We were punished in the same way: he got a caning, I got
21 a caning.

22 Q. The way you were caned you describe at paragraph 29 on
23 page 1430 in that you were made to lean over a vault --

24 A. A vaulting horse. They had a vaulting horse, one of the
25 masters held your arms, and he smacked you with a cane

1 on the bottom six times. And then the matron taken us
2 up to her office, put cream on my bottom, and said, "You
3 won't be sitting for a couple of days, but I hope that's
4 taught you a lesson". And that's how it ...

5 Q. What you do tell us at paragraph 30 is that after
6 getting these strikes, six strikes you say, of the cane
7 from [REDACTED] --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- that the legacy was that there were a lot of marks
10 and welts on the back of your legs and buttocks?

11 A. On the back of my bottom, yes. It was red marks.

12 Q. Was this over your shorts you were caned?

13 A. No, it was on my bare bottom.

14 Q. So your shorts were removed?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And it did leave these marks?

17 A. It left red weal marks on there. They stayed there for
18 ages and ages.

19 Q. I was going to ask you: how long did they stay there
20 for?

21 A. A couple of months. You could make them out. When
22 I used to go for a bath, the master used to say, let's
23 have a look at your bottom, see if it's okay, because
24 obviously they used to supervise us having baths and
25 showers. But if the matron said, keep an eye on his --

- 1 because it was quite sore. In fact, it was very sore.
- 2 Q. At the time and for how long after?
- 3 A. For a couple of days. I couldn't sit down for a couple
- 4 of days. So it was just basically when I went to dinner
- 5 and everything I stood at the dinner table to eat my
- 6 dinner. After a couple of days, it eased off a bit and
- 7 it was easier to sit down. At the time, when you first
- 8 have it done, when you first get slapped, you can't sit
- 9 down for a couple of days -- there's no way you're going
- 10 to sit down because it's too painful.
- 11 Q. Did you ever at Craigerne experience something like that
- 12 on any other time? Did you ever have a caning that you
- 13 can recall?
- 14 A. I had the slipper off one of the masters for talking
- 15 back. I talked back to him so he hit me with a slipper
- 16 twice.
- 17 Q. You say one of the masters?
- 18 A. Mr Wright. Mr Wright. It was not on my bare bottom, it
- 19 was over my pyjamas, and he smacked me twice on the
- 20 bottom with a slipper.
- 21 Q. The sort of slipper, soft slipper that you would --
- 22 A. Just a normal slipper when you wear a slipper.
- 23 Q. But nothing like this?
- 24 A. No, no, that was ... I think the thing -- like I said,
- 25 I had brought the school into disrepute, gave it a bad

1 name, and I accepted punishment for it, and that's my
2 punishment.

3 Q. What you tell us is you were too scared to say anything
4 about what was happening to Mr. **BDS**

5 A. I couldn't say anything. Who would believe us? Who
6 would believe a 6-year-old who said, excuse me, he's
7 touching me up. Who's going to believe us?

8 Q. I'm going to ask you about something else, but only to
9 try and clear up what was happening.

10 A. Okay.

11 Q. You mention at paragraph 32 a rather curious incident
12 that you recall hatching in your early days at
13 Craigerne. It's at page 1430, where you have a memory
14 of some children, including yourself, being lined up in
15 a room with adults, males, dressed in herringbone suits.

16 You can recall you spoke about this in your
17 statement?

18 A. Yes, sir. We were told -- I presume that's ... What
19 happened was we were told to ... We were in class, come
20 lunchtime, in the afternoon, we were all told to go up
21 the stairs to our dormitories. We were told to drop our
22 trousers to our ankles and to lie face down on the bed.
23 We were going, "What's this?" "It's got something to do
24 with -- the doctor has to come and look at you". These
25 guys all come in --there were a lot of them there,

1 I don't know how many, half a dozen, I don't know. They
2 were all dressed in three-piece suits and it was that
3 really rough material, like herringbone material. It
4 was really rough to touch. Because I remember when I --

5 What they did was they soaked this cotton wool thing
6 in whatever it was and with a stick thing they pushed it
7 in our bottom. Okay? We presumed it must be for
8 tapeworm or something like that, but we didn't know.

9 Q. I think in your statement you were told it was something
10 to do with a tapeworm infection --

11 A. We were told it was to do with tapeworm, but also, we
12 had already done -- they had already done the green room
13 and I was in the blue room and then the red room. And
14 they were in the blue room, and the matron come up, and
15 the matron started throwing a wobbly and telling
16 everybody to get out, and we didn't understand what was
17 going on. What was going on here? We didn't understand
18 what was going on here.

19 And the matron was telling everyone to get out of
20 there, get out of there. And we had never seen the
21 matron -- we knew the matron well and we never, ever saw
22 her angry, she never, ever got angry, but that day
23 we were quite frightened at what we saw because she was
24 very, very angry. She was shooin people out of the
25 room, down the stairs, and we looked out of the window

- 1 and they were all getting into cars, she was shooing
2 them away.
- 3 Q. Who told you to go upstairs to this room to get this
4 procedure?
- 5 A. One of the teachers said we had to go up to the room
6 because the doctors have got to --
- 7 Q. One of the teachers?
- 8 A. Because we were at lessons before lunchtime and we had
9 to go up after lunch to say -- that we had to get this
10 done.
- 11 Q. It rather suggests that the matron's reaction was one
12 that suggests that she wasn't aware that this was going
13 to happen.
- 14 A. I don't think she realised what was going on. She must
15 have realised what was going on because she shooed them
16 all out. She must have asked what was going on because
17 she was the one that dealt with medical stuff in the
18 school.
- 19 Q. It sounds as if you're describing a procedure that might
20 involve an anal swab in the context of some sort of
21 tapeworm infection.
- 22 A. That's what I thought, but what really threw us was the
23 matron went a bit crazy.
- 24 Q. It was the reaction of the matron --
- 25 A. It was only the matron that went crazy.

1 Q. Can I just go back to Mr **BDS** briefly. One thing
2 I don't think I asked you is, you've told us that he had
3 a reputation, the boys knew what would happen if you
4 went into the cupboard.

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. The boys spoke about what happened in the cupboard and
7 you were warned about what could happen, things like
8 that.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You have told us about that in your statement. Have you
11 any reason to believe that other staff might have had
12 concerns about Mr **BDS** or what he might be doing in
13 class or doing in a cupboard?

14 A. No. No, because ... No.

15 Q. Would they have been aware of any of these things or
16 what was happening in the shower?

17 A. No. None of the masters used to come into the
18 classroom. We used to see them in the main school. But
19 in the classroom there it was just Mr Campbell there and
20 Mr **BDS** there and they dealt with that. You never
21 saw the masters until you went for your lunch or your
22 tea or dinner, whatever it is. The only time the
23 masters came out -- unless they had to come and get you
24 to go somewhere, if you had to see someone at reception.
25 That's the only time the master would ever come into the

1 room. So there was never any masters there. Obviously
2 Mr Campbell was doing a class there and Mr BDS was
3 doing a class there and there was only the two teachers
4 there and so obviously they didn't have a chance to see
5 what the other was doing.

6 Q. You can't recall any occasion when, for example,
7 a teacher or a housemaster or the headteacher came in
8 only to find that there were children doing an
9 assignment --

10 A. No, never, never, ever -- that never, ever --

11 Q. If you let me finish my question -- and Mr BDS was
12 in a cupboard with one or more than children, you can't
13 recall an occasion when that happened?

14 A. It never happened. The masters never came to the
15 classroom, like I said, unless he was needed or you had
16 a visitor or something. That's the only reason that ...

17 Q. And so far as the times that he was touching boys who
18 were showering is concerned, would there have been any
19 other adults in the vicinity that would have been able
20 to observe this?

21 A. There might have been -- you see, the masters were --
22 when we were playing cricket, the other masters would be
23 putting the stuff away, all the equipment away, all the
24 bits and pieces. You were only in the shower for five,
25 ten minutes, so you were in and out, basically. So

1 unless a master walked in, he wouldn't have been any the
2 wiser.

3 Q. You don't have a recollection of that happening?

4 A. No, it never. I mean, like I said, we were away from
5 the big house and we went to the showers in the small
6 house. Craigmuir is a smaller house and you had the
7 shower rooms and that in there and the masters would be
8 in the main house at Craigerne.

9 Q. You say that obviously things greatly improved so far as
10 showering was concerned when you got a new [REDACTED] teacher.

11 A. Yes, yes, yes.

12 Q. Did Mr [REDACTED] BDS stay on at the school although he
13 didn't --

14 A. Yes, he still was a teacher. I think he was still
15 a teacher when I left when I was 13.

16 Q. So he lost his responsibilities for the [REDACTED] classes?

17 A. Yes. Basically because of a -- they were looking for
18 a new [REDACTED] teacher anyway because I think he didn't really
19 want to do it any more.

20 Q. Right.

21 A. I think it was something to do with his [REDACTED] moved in
22 with him or something. I'm not too sure.

23 Q. You don't know the background --

24 A. I don't know the background.

25 Q. But he continued at the school?

- 1 A. He continued at the school because he was still
2 teaching. He was there when I left and I'd been there
3 five years, six years.
- 4 Q. On page 1423, I'll just get a reference here,
5 paragraphs 37 and 38, you do tell us about why you
6 didn't report anything to anyone in authority and indeed
7 also what happened when you had said to Mr **BDS** that
8 you would report what happened to your friend.
- 9 A. He said -- well, **████████** said he was going to report it and
10 that's when he pinned him against the wall.
- 11 Q. That's really what you told us earlier, what happened
12 when both of you had suggested that you might tell --
- 13 A. We just decided that we were going to tell about it and
14 then when he done that to **████████** it terrified us,
15 absolutely terrified us, because we'd never seen him
16 like that because he used to be a very quiet and gentle
17 bloke.
- 18 Q. But he changed when you threatened to report him?
- 19 A. He changed and then ...
- 20 Q. And then he threatened you?
- 21 A. He threatened that -- basically he let us know that
22 if we said anything to anybody we were in trouble. And
23 obviously he knew about my parents because he must have
24 known that my mum and dad was beating us because, "You
25 don't want to be going back home, do you?"

1 Q. I suppose in your case it was doubly difficult, apart
2 from the thought that you might not be believed and he
3 was telling you that you wouldn't be believed, you
4 didn't really want to face the possibility of being
5 expelled because you might have to go back home?
6 A. Of course, of course I didn't want to do that --
7 Q. So it made it worse what he was saying?
8 A. It made it worse because I was in a Catch 22 situation,
9 I couldn't do nothing, so I basically kept my gob shut.
10 Q. And your friend did the same?
11 A. We had no option. We had no option.
12 Q. Things improved because you left Craigerne and I think
13 we've established you left in [REDACTED] 1966 or
14 thereabouts.
15 A. Yes.
16 Q. And you went to a different establishment,
17 Blackford Brae in Edinburgh.
18 A. That's correct, sir.
19 Q. In South Oswald Road?
20 A. Yes.
21 Q. And that was a happy time for you, was it?
22 A. That was a brilliant place. It felt like going back
23 home, to my home, because I knew Sheila and Lewis Currie
24 that ran the place and they were the most fantastic
25 couple you could ever meet. They were absolutely

1 brilliant. It was like having a stepmum and dad when
2 I went to Blackford Brae because I could talk to them
3 and his door was always open to talk to them. If you
4 had some delicate matter, Sheila Currie was the one to
5 talk to. They were so nice people. Really, really nice
6 people.

7 Q. Can I take it then that much of -- well, how much of the
8 positive experience you had at Blackford Brae was down
9 to the persons in charge?

10 A. They used to encourage me to do loads, unbelievable
11 things. I excelled at the cornet, the bagpipes, the
12 piano. They used to give me lessons. They had the top
13 trumpet player come in and teach me the trumpet. They
14 did that off their own bat. That to me was, thank you
15 very much, thank you for having faith in me, thank you.

16 Q. Did you tell us, though, that you had seen them before,
17 because were they at Craigerne for a time?

18 A. Yes, they were at Craigerne. Yes, Mr Lewis was at
19 Craigerne. It was the later years at Craigerne and
20 I think he left just before me to open Blackford Brae
21 up, and when they did that, they gave me a chance to go
22 to Blackford Brae, and I said, yes, I'd love to go,
23 especially because I knew who the headmaster and
24 headmistress were.

25 Q. You tell us at page 1433 -- and I'm not going to detain

1 you much longer, I'm conscious that you would obviously
2 want to finish this as quickly as you can -- but when
3 you left Blackford Brae, I think you had a difficult
4 early life in adulthood; is that right?

5 A. That's right. I was in and out of establishments and
6 that for being a naughty boy. And then I joined the
7 army and got my act together.

8 Q. And I think you were in the army for about five years?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. Including service in Northern Ireland?

11 A. I did that, sir.

12 Q. And that was during The Troubles?

13 A. I did Operation Motorman to break down the no-go areas.

14 Q. And I think obviously, as you've told us, and I don't
15 want to go into the detail, but you saw certain
16 experiences then which had a profound effect on you?

17 A. Of course.

18 Q. After leaving the army, during the time you were in the
19 army, I think you also had a tragedy. You got married
20 quite young?

21 A. Aye. While I was in Ireland, my wife was murdered up
22 here in [REDACTED] I got to come and see her for two
23 weeks. They gave me two weeks' leave to get everything
24 in order and then I had to go back to the army again.
25 I didn't get very much time to ... (Pause)

1 Q. Can I perhaps move to a happier time.

2 A. Can we just ... Can we just forget about that bit? Can
3 we not talk about my wife?

4 LADY SMITH: We don't need to do, that William. That's
5 absolutely fine.

6 A. It's okay, I'm fine.

7 MR PEOPLES: I don't need any more, I just want to get that
8 background. We don't need to go into the detail.
9 I just wanted to bring out the difficulties you'd had.
10 I was going to come on to -- life got better in your
11 case; is that correct? Because you met your now wife?

12 A. I met my wife.

13 Q. Who's here today?

14 A. I was 50. I never had -- 21 I got married and I never
15 got married again until I was 50 and met my wife.

16 Q. But you've had a long period together now?

17 A. 16 years we've been married.

18 Q. And in some ways, you've got your life together again;
19 is that correct?

20 A. Mm-hm.

21 Q. Before I ask you to maybe describe in your own words
22 what impact your experiences in care, particularly at
23 Craigerne, had on you, perhaps against the background of
24 your general childhood, I'd ask you one thing about
25 records. You tell us at paragraph 54 on page 1435 that

1 you've never sought your records from your time as
2 a child in care; is that correct?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. Can I just say, because it's something that Barnardo's
5 have asked us to convey to anyone in that position who
6 might wish to see their records --

7 A. I would love to, because, like I said, Mr **BLI** was
8 a prolific photographer. He took photos when I was
9 small and young. I have no photographs of my parents,
10 I've got not photographs of my life was a child. I have
11 nothing to show anyone what I did from the age of 6
12 until 21. I've got nothing.

13 Q. I think Barnardo's, we are asked to convey, would seek
14 to get you any records that they can.

15 A. That would be absolutely brilliant if you can do that.

16 Q. What you have just said and what I can say is one of the
17 particular reasons why you would want your own records
18 is because you would like to see any photographs of
19 yourself as a child because you were engaged in lots of
20 activities that were happy activities.

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. And you'd like to see those if they exist?

23 A. I would love to see them.

24 Q. Well, the only thing left -- and I will just leave it to
25 you to tell us as much or as little as you want to

1 say -- is the impact of the those experiences on you and
2 how it has affected you as a person.

3 A. The major impact it made on me is trust. To trust
4 anybody. Can I trust anybody? I find it very, very
5 hard to trust anyone, even my wife. At times I don't
6 just -- it's trust issues.

7 When we were put in as a young kid, we trusted
8 everybody that was there, and to find that you were
9 abused by someone you trusted and respected as a master.
10 It throws the trust issues right out the window. Who
11 do you trust and who you don't trust? Who do you give
12 yourself to and who don't you give yourself to? That's
13 what it has done to me and I still have these problems
14 to this day, it's trust. Don't I?

15 MR PEOPLES: William, these are all the questions I have for
16 you today, and unless there are any other questions
17 I think hopefully you'll be able to leave. But I would
18 just like to thank you for coming today. I know it has
19 been difficult for you.

20 A. Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Lady Smith.

21 LADY SMITH: William, one moment. Let me check if there are
22 any outstanding applications for questions.

23 MR JACKSON: There are not, my Lady, but I should say that
24 a representative of Barnardo's has picked up the
25 request.

1 LADY SMITH: The record request?

2 MR JACKSON: The record request and we'll deal with that as
3 soon as possible.

4 LADY SMITH: I'm grateful to you for that because I was
5 going to check. Barnardo's will find out how to get in
6 touch with William.

7 William, you mentioned in your evidence that
8 it would be wonderful if the inquiry do do that, but
9 that's not necessary, we don't need to be a middleman or
10 a middlewoman. There is a Barnardo's representative
11 here, she has heard your desire to see what records
12 they've got relating to you, and that will be taken
13 forward by them. Is that all right?

14 A. Thank you very much, Lady Smith. Thank you.

15 LADY SMITH: Good. It simply remains for me to thank you
16 for engaging with the inquiry. Your written statement
17 is very helpful, as is the oral evidence you've given
18 today. I know it's not been easy, but I'm really
19 grateful to you for having come along and done that
20 because it's of enormous help to me in the work I have
21 to do. Thank you.

22 A. Thank you very much, ma'am.

23 LADY SMITH: I think we could now take the morning break and
24 I'll sit again after that.

25 (11.25 am)

1 (A short break)

2 (11.40 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Yes, Ms Rattray.

4 Witness statement of "JOHN" (read)

5 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, at this stage we are going to have
6 a read-in, which is a statement from an applicant who
7 wishes to remain anonymous and is using the pseudonym
8 "John". His statement can be found at WIT.001.002.2075:

9 "My name is John. I was born in 1953. My contact
10 details are known to the inquiry."

11 From paragraphs 2 to 9 John tells us that his mother
12 was aged 16 when she had him and was unable to cope.
13 He was placed in care in 1954 and spent time in
14 Haldane House, Alloa, Ravelrig House, Balerno and foster
15 care before moving to Balcary House in Hawick at the age
16 of 3.

17 My Lady, John has recently signed his statement, so
18 as yet we haven't located his children's files because
19 otherwise at this stage I would confirm what the records
20 of Barnardo's say.

21 Turning now to paragraph 3 on page 2077 -- sorry,
22 paragraph 10 on page 2077:

23 "Everybody who goes through the doors of Balcary
24 think it's lovely or has a happy atmosphere. I think
25 the people who built the house had a happy time there.

1 It was a very happy house and it is still like that.

2 "When you went through the main door, immediately to
3 the left there was a small cloakroom, which we called
4 the clinic. We went in there if we had a scrape or
5 something like that. There was a very spacious hall,
6 and off to the right was the staff lounge. On the
7 left-hand side was the dining room, which was huge, and
8 had a lovely bay window at the end. If you carried on
9 along the hall, there was a little door on the right
10 that would take you into the scullery, the pantry and
11 down to the kitchen.

12 "Each gender had its own playroom. The girls and
13 boys' playrooms were split in half for older and younger
14 children. The older girls could partition it off if
15 they wanted to read or sew or knit. In the early 1960s
16 they removed the roof and put a flat on top of the
17 girls' playroom. That was Miss O'Brien's, or Mamaji as
18 she was known, domain. Every now and again we would be
19 invited in for tea.

20 "It was very much a matriarchal set-up in Balcary.
21 Mamaji was very pragmatic in the way that she dealt with
22 things. We knew when she was cross because she would
23 talk very sternly. She was the first person I ever
24 heard use the word 'presently'.

25 "When Mamaji retired in 1965, everybody was upset.

1 It was like our mum leaving. Stuart Barron took over.
2 He had one child who said to me recently that he was the
3 only person he knew who was an only child and had
4 24 brothers and sisters.

5 "I can't remember all the staff. [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED] BDA [REDACTED] who we called
7 Auntie BDA [REDACTED] She was very stern but very fair. There
8 was a wonderful lady called Cookie Pollok, who was the
9 cook. She made the wonderful Christmas dinners.
10 Cookie Pollok fell ill and then we got another lady,
11 Mrs Summers.

12 "The gardener was Mr Wilson. There were dailies who
13 came in and did the cooking and cleaning. There was
14 Miss Hutchison who was a Paisley girl, we called her
15 Hutchy. She looked after the boys. She could smoke.
16 You never saw her without a cigarette in her hand or her
17 mouth.

18 "There was another girl called Bobby who looked
19 after the girls. When I was about 13, a young lady from
20 Lockerbie started working at Balcary. Her name was
21 Jasmine Bell. She was very young but she had a lot of
22 compassion. I spoke to her many years later and she
23 told me that she was at school on the Friday and started
24 at Balcary on the Monday morning. Going by what Jasmine
25 said, there was absolutely no training whatsoever. She

1 wanted to make a career of it, so she went into
2 social work.

3 "There was a girl called BHR who was vile.
4 I don't know if she was in the employ of Barnardo's.
5 I don't think I ever saw her smile. She was quite vile
6 to the younger kids. It got to the point that wherever
7 BHR was, other people weren't.

8 "When you reached the head of the stairs there were
9 three rooms on the right-hand side. Those belonged to
10 the younger girls, the older girls and a member of
11 staff. If you continued down the passageway, the
12 younger boys were on the first left. Jasmine stayed
13 over the hall and then it was the older boys. Along the
14 passageway, the first room on the right was the nursery,
15 which was Mamaji's bedroom. At the end of the
16 passageway was Mamaji's flat.

17 "The grounds at Balcary were wonderfully and
18 impeccably maintained. Unlike other Barnardo's Homes,
19 there was nowhere that was off limits. We could go
20 where we wanted when we wanted. I used to stand in the
21 sunflowers and hide until the gardener found me.

22 "There were between 24 and 26 children at Balcary.
23 It was mixed boys and girls. The children ranged from
24 pre-school to school years. Once you turned 15 you went
25 off into the big wide world. There were children who

1 were from broken homes or who had so many siblings that
2 their parents couldn't manage. There were also children
3 like me whose mothers were so young they were incapable
4 of looking after them.

5 "Most of the children were there long-term. There
6 was the odd transient person who came in for two or
7 three weeks or months and then disappeared again.
8 I think I might have been the last of a dying breed of
9 complete Barnardo's from start to finish. I think my
10 friend was as well. Some of the other kids came from
11 Stirling Council.

12 "Miss O'Brien ran Balcary. She was a spinster. She
13 was known as Mamaji. One of the older boys came to
14 Balcary when his mother died on the passage back from
15 India. His father had been stationed in India with the
16 British Army. He and his sister spoke Urdu fluently and
17 when he arrived at Balcary he would point at
18 Miss O'Brien and say the Urdu word for mother and turned
19 it into Mamaji.

20 "I remember going up the drive to Balcary. It was
21 a lovely, bright sunny day. There were all these people
22 there, a bit like clucky hens. When I turned round to
23 see the foster mother she had gone. She delivered me to
24 Balcary and left. When I arrived at Balcary, I was told
25 that a boy I knew at Ravelrig was coming. I wouldn't

1 have remembered his name at that age. I remember an
2 ambulance arriving. My friend had been getting
3 treatment for his ears.

4 "I was wearing dungarees and I had a wheelbarrow
5 that was green and red. The foster father had made it
6 for me and I took it everywhere with me. This lad came
7 out of the back of the ambulance and I realised I knew
8 him. We went to bed that night looking at each other.
9 We've never been in each other's pockets but we've
10 always been there for each other.

11 "The staff slept on site within earshot of the
12 children. I was in the nursery when I first arrived.
13 When I got older, I went into the little boys' bedroom.
14 I think there were five of us. We had single beds.
15 Originally, it was the old National Health Board style
16 steel beds. Balcary then got a consignment of more
17 modern beds with little wooden headboards and a foot
18 board.

19 "A member of staff woke us up if we weren't awake
20 already, but nobody ever woke us up on Christmas
21 Morning. We normally got up at 7. We got ourselves
22 organised, we went up to the bathroom for our ablutions,
23 got ourselves dressed, and went downstairs for
24 breakfast. When we got older we were expected to tidy
25 and generally look after things. We swept under our

1 beds and that kind of thing.

2 "Whatever it was that triggered my night terrors at
3 the foster home also came into Balcary. There was
4 a period of time when I'd be on the headboard of the
5 bed, screaming the whole place down. I can't remember
6 it because I was asleep. Auntie **BDA** said it couldn't
7 go on, so I went and slept in her room to give the other
8 kids a rest. She was on hand. Maybe the fact that
9 there was another adult there helped because after
10 a while I settled.

11 "I didn't wet the bed at Balcary. If children did
12 wet the bed I don't remember there being any issue.

13 "When I became a senior boy I was demoted down the
14 back stairs. We had a bit more privacy at that age.
15 The senior girls were promoted to the top floor. The
16 attic space ran from one end of the house to the other.
17 Barnardo's converted it into rooms. Most of the staff
18 slept there with the exception of the two who slept with
19 the small boys and girls. The senior girls were right
20 at the top of the house where they were away from all
21 the noise. There were two rooms for older boys on the
22 back stairs. My friend and I were in the first room
23 down the stairs and then we moved to the next one, which
24 was almost at the back door. I remember joking that the
25 next room we got wouldn't be at Balcary because they

1 were moving us towards the door.

2 "We all ate our meals together, including the cook.
3 There was a big large table and several satellite
4 tables, each with a staff member and three kids. If you
5 think about what a middle class family would eat that
6 was the sort of thing we would eat. We were very well
7 looked after. On a Sunday we had what we called
8 a Sunday breakfast, which was cereal, boiled egg and all
9 sorts. I was never a big lover of pork steak. There
10 were certain things I couldn't and wouldn't eat.

11 "Balcary was lucky because it had an orchard. It
12 was up at the back garden so it was quite sheltered. We
13 had raspberries, gooseberries, blackberries and
14 redcurrants. It was all fenced off, but I lifted the
15 fence and snuck in. I loved raspberries and
16 redcurrants.

17 "One day we were having redcurrant pie. As much as
18 I like fruit, I don't like jam; it makes me sick.
19 I couldn't eat the redcurrant pie. Eventually I was
20 told to clear off and that I was getting nothing else.
21 I went into the orchard and ate redcurrants until I was
22 sick.

23 "If we didn't like something, we weren't forced to
24 eat it, but there was nothing else. There were 30-odd
25 meals to make. I think it stopped us being faddy.

1 I can't think of any children who were faddy about
2 eating.

3 "I didn't have a shower until I went to Craigerne.
4 I didn't even know what one was; it was all baths at
5 Balcary. My friend would probably have a bath first
6 then they would draw another one and I would get in.
7 While I was having a bath, my friend would sit on the
8 top of the water tanks. The two of us would be there
9 with a member of staff. I think we took a bath about
10 three times a week. When we got older, we were allowed
11 to have a bath ourselves.

12 "There was a wonderful woman called Mrs Mair. She
13 was tiny. We saw her at 9 o'clock in the morning and we
14 never saw her again until she went home. Would sit in
15 a room right at the top of the house and she would sew.
16 She repaired clothes. When you were little and started
17 to explore the house, you went into this fair-sized room
18 and came across this little old lady in the window with
19 a sewing machine. She had asked you who you were and
20 said you could sit quietly and let her get on with what
21 she was doing. There was a drawer two-foot long and
22 a foot deep and it was absolutely full of buttons
23 I used to sit for hours running my fingers through the
24 buttons. Everything was recycled. If you had a
25 cardigan, it could be repaired. It could be repaired,

1 Mrs Mair would repair it. If it couldn't be repaired,
2 she would remove all the zips, the buttons and the
3 fasteners.

4 "I remember we got a consignment of ladybird clothes
5 for play clothes. They were really bright stripy
6 T-shirts for summer. They were really lovely because
7 they were cotton. Mostly, we wore Marks & Spencer
8 clothes. I had no idea who this St Michael fellow was.
9 Our underwear and socks were Marks & Spencers. You
10 could spot a Barnardo's kid in the street because of how
11 smartly turned out we were. We didn't really have any
12 choice over our clothing, but it was all new.

13 "The sheets and things were sent out to Victoria
14 Laundry as were the white shirts we wore on a Sunday.
15 They came back starched and you could actually stand
16 your shirt up. If there were accidents during the night
17 the sheets were washed at Balcary. I remember the first
18 time I saw an automatic washing machine. It was
19 a top-loader. I spent about three hours watching it.
20 I thought it was amazing.

21 "We went to school en masse so there was no need for
22 a member of staff to walk with us. Mamaji went with me
23 on my first day but after that I went with everybody
24 else. At that time the primary school was attached to
25 the high school because they were rebuilding the primary

1 school up the loan. It was called the Hawick High
2 School Primary School. When the other school was
3 rebuilt, it was called Drumlanrig St Cuthberts. It had
4 a great rugby team. I adore ruby, but I didn't like the
5 idea of taking my clothes off on a frosty morning on
6 a playing field.

7 "I thought I did reasonably well at school, but when
8 I was 6 or 7 I had an issue with one of the teachers.
9 She was called Miss or Mrs [REDACTED] and she absolutely
10 detested me and I have no idea why. It ended up
11 becoming mutual. I really couldn't stand the sight of
12 her. I don't know what I had been doing but I remember
13 this duster bouncing off my head. I was so incensed.
14 I asked her why she had done that and she said I hadn't
15 been paying attention. I threw it back and as it was
16 in the air I left the classroom."

17 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray, I'm imagining that's a blackboard
18 duster which had a wooden backing to it.

19 MS RATTRAY: Yes, I would expect so:

20 "I went home and told Mamaji. Whether she phoned
21 the school or not, but that was me out of the class.
22 I went to another class and I got on really well.

23 "When I was 8 I went to Craigerne Residential School
24 during term time. Craigerne was a primary school so
25 I left at the age of 12. I returned to Balcary

1 permanently and attended Hawick High School.

2 I absolutely loved it. I did have some educational
3 issues, I still can't count, but I aced physics when
4 I was at the high school. Even at 65, I have never
5 memorised the times tables. We were encouraged to do
6 our own homework as soon as we came home from school,
7 but there was nobody there to assist us."

8 I'm now moving to paragraph 40:

9 "We had to tidy our own living space. I felt sorry
10 for the girls because they were lumbered with most of
11 the domestic chores. They did all the washing-up,
12 except on a Sunday when boys were expected to do it.
13 Girls and boys didn't go into each other's playrooms but
14 we mixed outside. There were a lot of toys; we shared
15 them. I liked aeroplanes. We had books and comics.
16 A lot of the kids used their pocket money to buy comics.
17 We would be accompanied to the shop. If you came out of
18 Balcary on to main street there was a shop on the
19 left-hand side of Buccleuch Street called Jenny's
20 Sweetie Shop where I spent all my pocket money.

21 "There was a large tree on the grounds. It was in
22 excess of 50 feet at all. It was a giant red sequoia
23 tree. Apparently, the seedlings were brought from
24 Canada when the house was built. It was right in the
25 middle of the driveway and it was almost like a rite of

1 passage to climb it. The view up there was incredible.
2 You could see most of Hawick.

3 "My friend was always the more adventurous one. He
4 found a Spanish flag in the garage and stuck it on top
5 of the tree. Mamaji got a call from someone across the
6 valley telling her to get the German flag off the tree.
7 She told the person it was something one of the children
8 had done and it was Spanish, not German. It stayed up
9 there until eventually it blew away.

10 "There was a dog at Balcary called Bruce. He was
11 a golden Labrador. He was absolutely as daft as a
12 brush. I was about 9 or 10 when he died. He was
13 getting on and they realised they needed to get a vet.
14 He was put to sleep. Mamaji never put in an appearance
15 that day. She was always at the head of the table and
16 for her not to be there meant it was something
17 important. She broke the news to us when we came home
18 from school for lunch. We could see that she was upset.
19 He was a lovely dog and I have had a black Labrador of
20 my own as an adult.

21 "We went to the Saturday matinee. We always went
22 en masse. We went upstairs to a designated area where
23 we sat and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Otherwise
24 we were more or less left to our own devices. From the
25 age of 8 or 9, Mamaji told us that if we wanted to go

1 somewhere, we could as long as we let somebody know
2 where we were going.

3 "We went to church every Sunday. Unfortunately, it
4 was in the rulebook we had to regularly attend church.
5 We could go to any church we liked, as long as we didn't
6 go to the Catholic church. I went to the Congregational
7 church at the far side of town. Some went to Trinity,
8 which was halfway down the high street. Others went to
9 the old parish church, which was literally at the end of
10 the drive and on the right. I don't know why I didn't
11 go there. Eventually we went to St George's West. We
12 used to leave halfway through and disappear.

13 "When we were younger, we were encouraged to say our
14 prayers at night, but the older we got it fizzled out."

15 At paragraphs 47 to 50, John tells us about holidays
16 at Glasclune in North Berwick, St Anne's and
17 Blackford Brae in Edinburgh. I'm now moving to
18 paragraph 51:

19 "At Christmastime we came to Edinburgh to go to the
20 pantomime. We always went from the station to the
21 Bruntsfield Hotel and then walked down to the theatre.
22 We used to get the bus back to Waverley station and then
23 home again.

24 "One year I was messing around on the platform.
25 I slipped between the platform and the steam engine.

1 I was lucky enough to turn myself round so I had my back
2 to the steam engine. A railway worker came out and gave
3 me the biggest dressing-down I've ever had. I was
4 looking at Mamaji expecting her to come over but she
5 didn't. She came over and told me my knees were dirty."

6 At paragraph 53 John says:

7 "I think Miss O'Brien decided fairly early on that
8 Christmas was for the children and New Year was for the
9 adults. About a fortnight before Christmas a tree would
10 arrive. It was too tall so the gardener came along and
11 cut 6 inches off the top. He was very embarrassed when
12 it was drawn to his attention that he could have cut it
13 off the bottom. It was a pine tree and you could smell
14 it up the stairs. It was incredible. We would go to
15 bed at night and unbeknownst to us the staff and the
16 older kids would decorate the house. When we woke up in
17 the morning it was like Hollywood."

18 Then John gives us a detailed description of a very
19 positive experience of Christmas involving presents,
20 a Carol service and Christmas dinner. He also tells us
21 that birthdays were also celebrated at Balcary.

22 I'm now moving to paragraph 59 on page 2088:

23 "Everybody had their own little locker in the
24 bedroom. I never had anything in mine because it was
25 all in the playroom. Some of the other kids did have

1 things in their lockers and you didn't dream of going in
2 somebody else's locker. A lot of children had bikes of
3 their own. I couldn't ride a bike so I quickly gave
4 that idea up. There were a lot of toys, but we shared
5 them. The toys must have gone round in circles.

6 "Everybody got pocket money. We had two shillings
7 in saving stamps. I had no idea where the money came
8 from or what it did. I spent my pocket money on
9 sweeties.

10 "Everybody had an auntie or uncle who would come and
11 take you out at the weekend. I had an auntie who lived
12 up the back of Balcary. Her name was Betty Wilkinson.
13 I used to go and see her every Saturday and Sunday.
14 That's where I picked up my dreadful Hawick accent. I'm
15 not aware of people spending the night at their auntie's
16 or uncle's.

17 "There was a group of friends of Balcary. There was
18 A lady from the Red Cross and there were people from
19 Hawick such as Don Ormerston who would do anything for
20 Balcary.

21 "On Christmas Eve when we came down the stairs and
22 stood on the main staircase, it was like the great and
23 the good were there, although I had no idea who these
24 people were. They would want us to sing 'Away in
25 a Manger'. It wasn't my favourite Christmas carol so

1 I didn't sing and would be asked to stand at the back.

2 "Betty Trembath was the chief executive officer for
3 Barnardo's in Scotland. Sylvia Massey was the deputy
4 chief executive regional officer for Barnardo's in
5 Scotland. I used to call her Auntie Sylvia. I'm quite
6 honoured to say that I think that I was the only person
7 in Barnardo's who was allowed to call Betty Trembath
8 Auntie Betty.

9 "Betty Trembath's predecessor was called Miss
10 Garland. I have met some great people in my time, but
11 Miss Garland took the biscuit. She drove a grey car and
12 wore a grey coat, black shoes and a black beret.
13 Everything about her was grey. She was an appalling
14 woman. I went to speak to Mamaji one day and
15 Miss Garland told me that children should be seen and
16 not heard.

17 "The difference when Betty Trembath arrived was like
18 going from 1950s movies to 1960 Technicolor. Betty
19 Trembath was colourful. When they visited, I think they
20 were just seeing how things were going. They used to
21 speak to the children. Miss Garland was very difficult
22 to approach, but Betty Trembath was wonderful; we could
23 go and speak to her about whatever it was she did.

24 "If I had a social worker at Balcary I was unaware
25 of it. I don't remember any social work visits.

1 "The garden fête was usually held in June. Balcary
2 threw open its doors to the public. People wandered
3 through the house and saw how the kids lived. It was to
4 raise funds for holidays. If there was any money left
5 over, it went to London. The big fête was in 1966,
6 which was Barnardo's centenary. It was usually opened
7 by a celebrity like the Duchess of Dalkeith, Michael
8 O'Halloran or Bill Tennant. Michael O'Halloran and Bill
9 Tennant did the continuity announcing on Scottish
10 Television. I think Michael O'Halloran stayed for tea
11 and didn't go back to Glasgow until about 8 o'clock.

12 "Hawick was very much a mill town. Places like
13 Peter Scott would donate seconds. There would be
14 a stall for that, which was always busy. You were only
15 allowed to buy two or three items so everybody could get
16 a chance. Half the town would turn up. It was
17 incredibly busy. Don Ormiston set up his tombola stall,
18 shouted 'Roll up, roll up', and you couldn't see him for
19 all these women. Everybody won a prize.

20 "I had no concept of my family when I was young.
21 I didn't make any enquiries about my family until I was
22 about 13. I was sitting on the front steps during one
23 of Betty Trembath's visits. It was about 9 pm. Betty
24 commented that I seemed very deep in thought. I told
25 her I was just wondering who my mum and dad were.

1 She asked me if I would like to find out. Stuart
2 Barron, who was in charge by then, suggested we leave it
3 for another time, but she said, 'No, Stuart, we'll do it
4 now'. That was the kind of woman she was.

5 "It was gone 11.30 at night when I actually found
6 out that I had a mother whose name was [REDACTED] I had no
7 idea what it meant. I remember going upstairs and
8 discussing it at great length with my friend. I found
9 out all this stuff about me that I didn't know, like
10 I was born in Glasgow.

11 "Betty asked if I wanted to get if touch with my
12 mother and I said I did, I think out of curiosity more
13 than anything else. What I thought and what the reality
14 actually was were two entirely separate things. It
15 didn't end well. It very rarely does. I still maintain
16 that every child has a right to find out where he or she
17 comes from, regardless of the circumstances. If the
18 child asks, he or she should be told. If the child
19 doesn't ask, he or she isn't interested.

20 "I wasn't aware of any children at Balcary having
21 contact with their family. I thought I was the only
22 one. I have since found out that there were several
23 people who did. There was one lad to turned up with his
24 brother. He kept asking where his sister was. He
25 turned out he did have a sister and all three of them

1 were reunited at Balcary. All siblings were kept
2 together at Balcary as much as they possibly could be.

3 "There was one family of five within Balcary. There
4 were [REDACTED] there. Auntie [REDACTED] was a first-aider and
5 very good at looking after us if we had cuts and
6 scrapes. When I was about 9, I climbed over a fence and
7 was left dangling by my hand. I still have the scar.
8 I managed to detach myself from the fence and ran into
9 the house. I just sat there and looked at it. I said,
10 'Auntie [REDACTED] I think I've cut myself'. She made sure
11 it was clean and put it in a sling. The ambulance came
12 and I went to Dr McAllister. He stitched it up.

13 "Dr McAllister was the local doctor. He lived
14 across the valley. He was brilliant. I had pneumonia
15 when I was 12 and he very quickly said what we had to
16 do. I was ill for weeks. He was the sort of person who
17 never got old.

18 "The dentist was in Bridge Street in Hawick.
19 Everybody went to the dentist. We were always
20 accompanied. I had too many teeth so the dentist had to
21 extract five teeth. I told the staff I didn't need
22 anybody to come with me. When I came out from under the
23 anaesthetic, I didn't walk to the home by myself. I was
24 never brave again after that about going to the dentist
25 by myself. We were just treated like any other child

1 at the dentist.

2 "I would say discipline was dealt with fairly. The
3 worst that happened was that we were sent to bed early
4 without any supper, which was a wee snack before bed.
5 I can't remember the circumstances, but I do know that
6 one of the kids was given the strap when I was about 13.
7 We thought it was out of order and we told Stuart so.
8 He told us it was in the Barnardo's rulebook. We asked
9 what the rulebook was and he told us to read it for
10 ourselves. I'd never heard of the rulebook before then.
11 I sat and read it. The main thing that struck me was
12 the insistence that we went to a place of religious
13 instruction, preferably Methodist but definitely not
14 Catholic. The rest was exactly as you'd expect -- even
15 by today's standards.

16 **BHR** who worked at Balcary, used to bully some
17 of the younger kids. I remember my friend and I came
18 out into the backyard. There was a path that ran down
19 the side of the house to the main drive. We were up
20 a tree and trying hard to keep quiet. We listened to
21 what was being said but we didn't want to be seen. We
22 heard **BHR** and she absolutely terrorised one of the
23 other lads.

24 "Jasmine Bell told me that she remembered **BHR**
25 telling her that you had to keep them in line and give

1 them a good slap. Jasmine said she wouldn't be doing
2 that. It's hearsay, but it's indicative of what the
3 woman was capable of.

4 "Myself and some others complained to Mamaji about
5 **BHR** Once her husband had finished what he was
6 doing in the RAF, she left. There was nobody there to
7 say goodbye to her because everybody as just glad to see
8 the back of her. I think she left around 1964 or 1965.

9 "I went to Craigerne Residential School between the
10 ages of 8 and 12. I went home to Balcary and I never
11 referred to it as anything else. I had been finding it
12 very difficult to settle at primary school. I had the
13 difficulty with the teacher and I was quite unsettled at
14 night-time. They thought that a residential school
15 would help. Craigerne was the only boarding school
16 Barnardo's had in Scotland.

17 "I got on well at Craigerne, I absolutely loved it.
18 It wasn't like Balcary. There were very strict rules
19 about where you could and couldn't go. Craigerne was a
20 school for boys. I was the only child from Balcary at
21 Craigerne. Lewis Currie told me there was another boy
22 from Hawick, but I didn't know him. He took me round to
23 the back of the school where there was a huge adventure
24 course with rope swings. He asked if I could spot him.
25 I was looking at all these kids and as soon as I heard

1 him talk, I said, 'That's him'.

2 "When I went there initially it was run by Mr and
3 Mrs Nicholson. That man was as old as Methuselah. He
4 was very gruff, although not unpleasant. His wife was a
5 lovely lady.

6 "I remember the transition between what I call the
7 old school and the new school in terms of the way it was
8 run. The old school was run along the lines of the
9 older generation telling people how they thought things
10 should be done. I was appalled when I was a child and
11 we all went to the local church. We had to put on these
12 tweed suits, which had short trousers. You could spot
13 the Barnardo's kids a mile off with these ridiculous
14 suits.

15 "Peter Norris came as headmaster after the
16 Nicholsons. He was way ahead of his time. It was as if
17 somebody had opened a window and let in some fresh air.
18 The first week he was at Craigerne he looked through the
19 window and saw the boys in their tweed suits. The
20 following week he told us that he wouldn't going to
21 church. Instead, we had an ecumenical service in the
22 school and then we would all do our own thing.

23 "What I found out many years later is that same
24 week, he phoned the rag and bone man, who took all the
25 tweed suits. He went through all the kids' play

1 clothes, which were darned at the elbows or had patches,
2 and everything went out with the rag and bone man.

3 "Craigerne was two entities. There was the school
4 which Peter Norris ran. He also ran the residential
5 side of it as well.

6 "There were two teachers. One was BDS
7 and the other was Pat Campbell. Pat Campbell was
8 ex-RAF. He could make planes out of balsa wood and he
9 could play the clarinet. His great love was Acker Bilk.

10 "There were two other staff members. John Wright
11 and Lewis Currie. Lewis' wife, Sheila, is still alive.
12 Lewis Currie was one of these people that I warmed to
13 because he could listen. He was brought up on the Isle
14 of Lewis. He had children of his own. He understood
15 the way children behaved and the way they reacted. He
16 could see things from our point of view.

17 "We called the housemasters uncle and auntie. Lewis
18 was Uncle Lewis and his wife was Auntie Sheila. I could
19 never understand why Lewis used to get quite annoyed by
20 that and would say that he wasn't my uncle. It wasn't
21 until I had kids of my own that it clicked that he would
22 be somebody else's uncle and that was important to him.
23 He brought a realism to a child in a way that a child
24 could understand. He taught us how the real world works
25 and it wasn't a Hollywood movie where the credits rolled

1 out at the end.

2 "Lewis was deeply religious. He felt that
3 everything had a purpose and it was all for the greater
4 good. The thing I liked by Lewis was that he didn't
5 thrash religion into you whether you liked it or not.
6 I owe Lewis Currie a great debt of gratitude. The man
7 pointed me in directions I didn't even know existed.

8 "My path crossed with Lewis and Sheila again before
9 I left Barnardo's care when and I stayed at
10 Blackford Brae.

11 "Although the Barnardo's rulebook said that we had
12 to attend church regularly, I think Peter Norris found
13 a loophole. Peter was a Quaker and he dealt with
14 religion in the broadest strokes possible so as not to
15 offend anyone. He put a stop to us traipsing down to
16 the local church in Peebles every Sunday and covered
17 himself by having an ecumenical service.

18 "Barnardo's didn't take Catholic children, but there
19 were two or three Catholic lads at Craigerne. On
20 a Sunday, the priest could come up and take them away to
21 do whatever it was they were doing whilst we had our
22 service foyer 40 minutes or so.

23 "After the service we would go out in the back of
24 the van. That's where I got my love of the outdoors
25 from. The problem I had then, as I do now, was that

1 I couldn't get up the hills. Even then I remember
2 wandering up the hill and stopping because I couldn't go
3 any further.

4 "Our imaginations were encouraged at Craigerne.
5 I went through a few years back and took my eldest son.
6 I pointed various things out. A chap tapped on the
7 window and asked if everything was all right. I told
8 him I used to live there and his wife and two kids
9 turned up. He asked questions about Craigerne and I
10 showed them a tree with wooden platforms. We had built
11 it in 1961. We had watched a programme with the
12 Tokyo Tower being built in Japan. We went out and built
13 our own. It took months to do. It's still there.

14 "We used to go to summer camp in Mid Lothian for a
15 week or two and then we would all go back to Craigerne.
16 All the children went to Craigerne in term time and went
17 home for the Christmas, summer, autumn and Easter
18 holidays.

19 "I was only aware of corporal punishment on one
20 occasion. As an adult, I think it was well deserved.
21 Craigerne had a huge walled garden which was out of
22 bounds. Next to that there was a shed which overlooked
23 it. Several boys and I decided to throw snowballs at
24 the gardener. He lost it. He said he wasn't putting up
25 it and went to speak to Mr Norris. We were summoned to

1 the office and we got a slipper over the backside.
2 I never did that again. To add insult to injury, we
3 were told to go and apologise. You could tell that
4 Mr Norris really hated doing it and wasn't into it at
5 all. It was a short, sharp punishment that happened now
6 and again but that was the only time.

7 "There was a teacher called [REDACTED] BDS I was
8 always uneasy around him. He is the only teacher I have
9 ever known who wanted you to sit on his knee. He would
10 massage your back. I don't know whether there have been
11 complaints levelled at him, but I wasn't aware of other
12 boys having concerns about [REDACTED] BDS at the time
13 but I learned things subsequently.

14 "I left Balcary in 1967. I wasn't happy about
15 leaving Balcary but it made more sense when I read my
16 file. Things hadn't gone well after getting in contact
17 with my mother. I was placed in the adolescent unit at
18 Bangour mental hospital. At the time I couldn't figure
19 out why because I definitely wasn't mentally ill.
20 Nobody actually told me why I was going there.

21 "It was only when I read my file that I realised
22 why. Because of what happened when I was in touch with
23 my biological mother and the aftermath of that, I turned
24 into a very angry young man. Something had to be done.
25 They did what they thought was best and put me in this

1 new, special adolescent unit, which in my case was an
2 absolute unmitigated disaster."

3 John tells us about his experience in
4 Bangour Hospital in West Lothian. He said that
5 Stuart Barron visited him once and Betty Trembath
6 visited about once a month. He went back to Balcary for
7 Christmas. John speaks of physical abuse at Bangour.

8 I am now moving to paragraph 105 on page 2099.

9 LADY SMITH: And I think at that time Bangour was an NHS
10 hospital, is that right?

11 MS RATTRAY: I'm not sure, my Lady. That may have been the
12 position.

13 LADY SMITH: I certainly know, come the 1970s and 1980s, it
14 was. I don't know if it was something else beforehand.

15 MS RATTRAY: "I spoke to Sheila and Lewis Currie about what
16 had happened and what I had seen at Bangour. I think
17 they would have been between a rock and a hard place
18 because Barnardo's had placed me there. Shortly before
19 I left, I was sitting in the day room gazing out of the
20 window. This couple walked past and waved at me.

21 I recognised them. I realised it was Lewis and
22 Sheila Currie. She said that they had come to see me
23 because I was getting out a week on Monday. There had
24 been no discussion about me leaving before that.

25 "I was at Bangour for a year and a half. It was

1 almost like an age much realisation from what I had been
2 used to at Balcary to the way things were. I was
3 talking to somebody who I met in Bangour recently. He
4 said that shortly after I left, there was an absolute
5 uproar and they closed the unit.

6 "I arrived at Blackford Brae in [REDACTED] 1968. I had
7 been to Blackford Brae on holiday previously, but it was
8 a completely different beast when I went back. All the
9 flowers were gone and they didn't have a gardener.
10 There was a piece of grass laid lower than the main
11 house. We found it when we were on holiday there. The
12 gardener chased us and told us that we weren't allowed
13 to play on it. When I went to live there, Lewis told me
14 the kids used it for football. The kids used to play
15 football from 6 o'clock at night until midnight if they
16 could get away with it.

17 "I had known Lewis and Sheila Currie prior to going
18 to Blackford Brae. There was a film made by the BBC
19 called 'Hard to Love'. It was about children being
20 brought up in care and had a whole section on
21 Blackford Brae. Sheila and Lewis were interviewed. The
22 film crew were there for about three days. I got to
23 know the film crew because that's where my interests
24 lay.

25 "The children at Blackford Brae ranged from 9 or 10

1 right up until school leaver age. Most of the children
2 were damaged goods and had a lot of stuff going on.
3 Unlike Balcary, it was more transient. It was
4 a different ball game by then. Children weren't there
5 for their whole childhoods. A lot of them had been
6 victims of abuse. I didn't talk to the children there
7 about that kind of thing.

8 "I loved when I was on a day off at Blackford Brae.
9 The other kids would go off to school and I had the
10 whole place to myself. I would hang out with the staff.
11 They were great. They were all trained. They had all
12 been to Moray House. They knew what to look for and
13 signs of stress. There was much more discussion about
14 how children were feeling. That didn't happen so much
15 at Balcary, but it was of its time.

16 "Lewis realised what kids would be doing if they
17 were living at home. Rather than getting the kids to
18 sit down and have a meal when they got in from school,
19 he would let them make themselves some sandwiches; the
20 meal was later on. It was a great idea.

21 "We were expected to go to church on a Sunday.
22 I was working six days a week. One day I said I wasn't
23 going. They all went to church and I went back to
24 sleep. When I came downstairs later, Lewis said he
25 wanted to speak to me. He asked me why I wasn't at

1 church. I told him I worked Monday on to Saturday and
2 Sunday was the only day off I got. I didn't want to get
3 up at 9 o'clock in the morning on my one day off. He
4 said I was making a good point. That was the sort of
5 man he was. The older kids were then excused. Fairly
6 rapidly it became a question of who wanted to go to
7 church. Children were given the choice. It was
8 a breath of fresh air.

9 "Bed-wetting was more prevalent at Blackford Brae
10 than at Balcary, even though it was for older kids.
11 There was a lot more going on there than at Balcary.
12 They do say that if a child is still enuretic at that
13 age then there is an underlying cause. I think
14 Sheila Currie was well aware of what the cause was.
15 These young adults weren't as secure as they could have
16 been.

17 "When I initially arrived at Blackford Brae, I was
18 told by Sheila to enjoy myself because I was on holiday.
19 I just wandered around. The first thing I did was
20 climbed Blackford Hill. After a while, Lewis found me
21 the job. I had always wanted to be a television
22 cameraman. I went for an interview to be a cinema
23 projectionist and started the following Monday. I went
24 there by bus.

25 "I remember the first time I got on a bus in

1 Edinburgh. I got on the bus, put out my hand, and the
2 driver picked out the change. I had no idea about bus
3 fares or anything like that.

4 "In 1972 I went back to Hawick. We wandered up the
5 road to Balcary. Stuart insisted that we stay for tea,
6 which we did, and then we got the bus home. It was just
7 like going home and visiting the rellies.

8 "At Balcary I wasn't given any preparation for
9 leaving care and moving on to independent living. At
10 Blackford Brae there was more preparation. Lewis would
11 point out that we couldn't do certain things and provide
12 reasons. Things had moved on by that point. There was
13 some discussion about whether I'd given any thought to
14 what I wanted to do. I still had no idea because I had
15 no practical experience. I did have an aftercare worker
16 who I could touch base with about my concerns.

17 "I left Blackford Brae when I was 17. I moved into
18 a house in Edinburgh."

19 Then to paragraph 121:

20 "I wasn't officially discharged from Barnardo's
21 until I was 21. Sylvia Massey called me into the office
22 and told me she needed to talk to me. She told me they
23 were officially discharging me from their care. I told
24 her that I was 21 and she told me she knew but she had
25 to close the file. I looked at her and said that

1 I thought I'd always be a Barnardo's kid."

2 Moving to paragraph 129 on page 2105:

3 "I would have loved to have continued with my
4 education. My education stopped when I went to Bangour.
5 I didn't get any qualifications at school. One thing
6 I didn't understand about Barnardo's was that you
7 weren't encouraged to stay on at school. You left at
8 15. A lot of the older kids went into the forces from
9 one institution into another.

10 "I didn't have anything to go by when I left care.
11 The thing that got me about Balcary was that some of the
12 older kids didn't leave, they just weren't there any
13 more. You went to school and came back and they would
14 be gone. They never came back. Some had horrendous
15 experiences when they left because they had nothing to
16 base it on.

17 "Someone said to me that we were very lucky to have
18 a middle class upbringing without the money. I never
19 thought about it that way but he was right. It was also
20 a downside of living in Balcary. The expectation of how
21 things were on the outside didn't match up to the way
22 we had been brought up. Balcary was a very happy place
23 when I was there and I still refer to Hawick as my home
24 town."

25 John then says that struggles with family structures

1 and at paragraph 134 on page 2106 he says:

2 "I'm really lucky because I've two families. I have
3 the family that I'm biologically related to and I have
4 my Barnardo's family and I don't make any difference
5 between the two. A lot of the kids I was at Balcary
6 with are like family to me."

7 At paragraph 138 on page 2107 John says:

8 "When people asked how my upbringing was, I tell
9 them I had a ball. I loved my time at Balcary."

10 At paragraph 140 John speaks about records:

11 "A couple of other Barnardo's kids had their
12 records. I realised I could do it too. I spoke to the
13 aftercare section at Barnardo's earlier this year. It
14 wasn't difficult to get my records. They were posted up
15 to me. They came with a letter reminding me that they
16 were written in the style of the time and as if you were
17 never going to see them. After reading my Barnardo's
18 file I thanked Sheila Currie for being so kind.

19 "Seeing my records didn't bother me at all. I think
20 you develop safety mechanisms when you grow up in care.
21 One is to detach yourself from what's going on. You can
22 detach physically and emotionally. I think it's
23 inherent in children who are brought up in the care
24 system. It prevents anybody from hurting you. It took
25 me nine hours to read through the whole thing."

1 At paragraph 143:

2 "I was 47 years old when I found out I was
3 asthmatic. I had this argument with the doctor but he
4 sat there and told me to carry on doing what I was
5 doing. I didn't know what he meant and he said I had
6 asthma. I told him I didn't. I thought he had the
7 wrong patient records. He went out and got my file and
8 opened it up. I had been diagnosed with asthma when
9 I was a child but I had no idea. I was gobsmacked."

10 From paragraph 144 John speaks of lessons for
11 learned:

12 "My view of Balcary is that I had a great childhood.
13 It wasn't just Balcary, it wasn't just Mamaji, it wasn't
14 just Stuart Barron, it wasn't just Hawick, it was all of
15 it together. If I had been anywhere else, I don't think
16 it would have been as positive. Although I had a very
17 positive experience, not everybody did. On one occasion
18 I was coming up the staircase in Balcary. The aftercare
19 worker Gladys Fraser was having a forthright
20 conversation with an older girl. She was saying that
21 she only had one coat. Gladys Fraser turned around and
22 told her that she was the same as everybody else. She
23 reeled off what everybody left with. It was the
24 security the girl was scared of losing, she wasn't
25 worried about whatever else was in the suitcase. If she

1 had been moving to a house across the road it wouldn't
2 have been as much of an issue.

3 "I remember a girl telling me that she got the train
4 from Hawick to Edinburgh to start work. She got off at
5 Waverley station and just stood there. She said that if
6 it hadn't been for a lady who offered to help her she
7 reckoned she would still be there. There was no
8 preparation, it was a minefield.

9 "Every child is different. You can't homogenise
10 everybody and send them in one door and expect them to
11 come out the other door several years later and they'll
12 just cope. They don't because a lot of people don't
13 have the correct tools or social skills. If you've
14 never been aware of social cues before, you will have no
15 idea how to read them. You learn those in a normal home
16 environment. If you've been brought up in a controlled
17 environment it doesn't always work although there are
18 people who manage perfectly well.

19 "I think Barnardo's would have had a worse time when
20 the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry started had it not been
21 for the likes of Lewis and Sheila Currie, Peter Norris,
22 and Stuart and Joan Barron. They brought childcare into
23 the 20th century, albeit a bit late in the day. The
24 change in childcare went from a business to a vocation.
25 Before, Barnardo's employed people because they didn't

1 know any better.

2 "Barnardo's grew up in the 1960s. It could not
3 continue the way it had been going, being run by
4 middle-aged spinsters. A lot of people didn't like the
5 way things changed at Balcary when Mamaji retired. The
6 best people to deal with children are people who have
7 had children themselves. They know just what to look
8 for and so forth. Then it was a job when the door was
9 open to just about anybody because they didn't have the
10 checks and balances that they do now."

11 Paragraph 152:

12 "Nowadays anybody going into childcare is vetted and
13 police checked. They should also be asked why they want
14 to go into childcare. I think it should be instilled in
15 children from a fairly early age that if something is
16 wrong and they tell someone, they will be believed. You
17 only get one crack at it. If you tell the child it's
18 nothing and he should run along, it's gone. It needs to
19 be looked at. Unfortunately, it's all down to money and
20 resources nowadays. The likelihood of the care system
21 reverting back to the way it was is probably less than
22 nil. I think everybody has learned that given a certain
23 set of circumstances there will be people who will
24 manipulate things for their own purposes.

25 "I have no objection to my witness statement being

1 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.

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

4 The statement was signed by John on 31 October 2018.

5 My Lady, next we have an oral witness who should
6 have arrived by now, and if we could take a short break.

7 LADY SMITH: Just before we do that, the name BDS

8 has been mentioned a few times this morning and for
9 those who hadn't already noticed it, that name is
10 protected by my general restriction order, so he cannot
11 be named as being the subject of abuse allegations
12 outside this hearing room.

13 Thank you.

14 (12.28 pm)

15 (A short break)

16 (12.37 pm)

17 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, the next witness is an applicant who
18 is retaining his right to anonymity and has chosen the
19 pseudonym "Kenneth".

20 "KENNETH" (sworn)

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

22 Kenneth, if you're comfortable, I will hand over to
23 Ms Rattray in a moment. Do you see that microphone
24 that's close to you? If you can try and stay in the
25 right position for that, please, that would be really

1 helpful.

2 Questions from MS RATTRAY

3 MS RATTRAY: In front of you in the red folder is a paper
4 copy of the statement you have given to the inquiry.
5 For our purposes I'll read out the reference which
6 we have given to it and that's WIT.001.001.5347.

7 If I could ask you to look at the second back page
8 of that paper statement, which will be at page 5354. If
9 you go to the very back page and then move one page
10 forward, the next page forward. That's the one. It's
11 really just to ask you to confirm that you have signed
12 your statement.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. At the paragraph above your signature, paragraph 50, you
15 say you have no objection to your witness statement
16 being published as part of the evidence to the inquiry
17 and you believe the facts stated in your witness
18 statement are true.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. When we're looking at your statement, Kenneth, you can
21 either look at the paper one if that's better for you.
22 It's also going to appear on the screen in front of you
23 if I ask you something and you want to remind yourself
24 about what you told us.

25 To start, could you confirm the year of your birth?

- 1 A. 1960.
- 2 Q. Kenneth, in your statement, you give us a little bit of
3 the background to you going into care. You tell us that
4 you had a chaotic home life as a child when you were
5 living with your mum and your two brothers and three
6 sisters.
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And that it was said that you were maladjusted; that was
9 the word used in your statement.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And that was the reason, as you understand now, that you
12 were taken into care.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Is that right? And you remember being taken to
15 Kilmarnock by your mum?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Can you tell us a wee bit about that, being taken to
18 Kilmarnock by your mum?
- 19 A. I just remember the probation officer and my mum coming
20 up and taking me to Kilmarnock. We went into this home
21 and all I remember is basically my mum crying and then
22 going away. That's all I can remember of that day.
- 23 Q. And your mum was crying; how about you? How were you
24 feeling at the time?
- 25 A. I couldn't really tell you. I think I was just

- 1 basically in shock, I suppose.
- 2 Q. Your memory of going there is -- you think you were aged
- 3 12?
- 4 A. Yes. 12, 12 and a half.
- 5 Q. You haven't seen your records before, but we've been
- 6 able to recover your records. When we look at your
- 7 Barnardo's records, what they say, Kenneth, is that you
- 8 were admitted to Thorntoun School in Kilmarnock on
- 9 [REDACTED] 1975 and you left on [REDACTED] 1976. So the
- 10 records suggest you might have been about 14 when you
- 11 went in.
- 12 A. I may have been about 13.
- 13 Q. 13 or 14, thereabouts, you think?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Okay.
- 16 Can you remember your first day, your first
- 17 impressions of Thorntoun School?
- 18 A. (Pause).
- 19 Q. If I can help, I can take you to what you tell us in
- 20 your statement, which is at page 5348, paragraph 6. You
- 21 see there -- you tell us about being in the dining hall.
- 22 Can you tell us what happened?
- 23 A. As soon as I went in, went to the dining hall -- back in
- 24 those days -- still in these days -- you had long hair,
- 25 the boys. And the boy behind me kept pulling my hair,

1 you know? And that was me just in. So I ended up
2 fighting with him and then one of the staff grabbed me
3 and he bent my fingers the way back. The way he done it
4 was awful sore, I'll never forget it. Basically, that's
5 what I remember of my introduction to that place.

6 Q. Before you ended up fighting with the boy who was
7 pulling your hair, did anyone tell that boy not to pull
8 your hair or intervene?

9 A. No.

10 Q. You tell us that Thorntoun School had boys and girls
11 there.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Do you remember an impression at all about how many
14 children there might have been at the school? Can you
15 remember that at all?

16 A. There might have been about 40.

17 Q. About 40 children you think?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. Was it equal numbers of girls and boys or more of
20 one of the other, do you think?

21 A. More boys.

22 Q. You tell us that you were divided into houses.

23 A. Yes. Units, housing units.

24 Q. And they were given names?

25 A. Yes: Skye, Jura, Iona.

1 Q. So they were named after Scottish islands?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Which unit were you in?

4 A. I think it was Jura. I was in two. You go in one and

5 then as you're in a wee bit longer, you go to another

6 one.

7 Q. And you also tell us that you slept in dorms,

8 dormitories.

9 A. That's when you just went in, yes.

10 Q. And how many children -- you tell us the boys were

11 separated from girls. How many boys were in the

12 dormitories?

13 A. About eight to ten, I'd say.

14 Q. Right. So it was quite a big room with a lot of boys in

15 it?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Then you tell us that there would come a time when you

18 were given your own room?

19 A. Yes. That's when you basically were about to leave.

20 LADY SMITH: Kenneth, did you notice when you just turned

21 nearer the microphone, we could hear you really well?

22 Everything you've got to tell us matters and we want to

23 hear it. So try to keep in the right position for that

24 microphone, please.

25 MS RATTRAY: You also tell us that there wasn't a uniform at

1 this school.

2 A. No.

3 Q. So did they give you clothes or did you bring your own
4 clothes in? How did that work?

5 A. You had to bring your own clothes.

6 Q. But I think you tell us that they were all named?

7 A. Aye, they tagged them for you.

8 Q. Right, okay. In your statement, we asked you maybe to
9 tell us about the routine at Thorntoun School. You
10 start telling us about that at page 5348, about you got
11 up in the morning and so forth. You go and tell us
12 about that over the page.

13 When I see your statement, it seems the main message
14 coming through from you there is when you tell us about
15 the daily routine at Thorntoun School, it's that you had
16 the freedom to do what you wanted to do.

17 A. Yes. Basically, yes.

18 Q. And you also talk about the lack of time that you spent
19 in the classroom.

20 A. Yes. It wasn't really a classroom, though, it was
21 basically a place to go, you know, you had to be. It
22 was just a carry-on.

23 Q. So it was a carry-on because --

24 A. There was no education in it. We never got any
25 education. I think it was too ... Too much carry-on,

- 1 I suppose, with everybody.
- 2 Q. So when you say there was too much carry-on, what do you
3 mean by that? Can you help us?
- 4 A. The teaching, I suppose, basically just sat with two or
5 three people. You just done your own thing, if you
6 went.
- 7 Q. Did anyone do anything if you didn't go to the class?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. Because I think you say in the statement that you were
10 never marked into school.
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. So by that, do you mean that there wasn't a sort of
13 roll, no one called out your name to check who was
14 there?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. And so if you weren't going to the class, what were you
17 doing with your time?
- 18 A. You used to go up near the woods. There was like a play
19 pen, you used to swing about -- there were swings and
20 that, we used to hang about up there all the time.
- 21 Q. Was there a staff member with you who was keeping an eye
22 on you when you were up at the swings in the woods?
- 23 A. No. No. Because we used to go down to the incinerator
24 and stand there and smoke.
- 25 Q. And what view did the staff take about the children

- 1 smoking?
- 2 A. You weren't allowed to smoke, but everybody did.
- 3 Q. I think you suggest in your statement that they kind of
- 4 turned a blind eye on the smoking.
- 5 A. Yes, basically, yes.
- 6 Q. Except if you were smoking inside?
- 7 A. You couldn't smoke inside. Outside.
- 8 Q. Okay. But you do tell us that there were certain
- 9 activities that you were able to do. If we look at
- 10 page --
- 11 A. Things like badminton?
- 12 Q. Yes, 5349, paragraph 12. You tell us that after lunch,
- 13 you went back into school, or in your case you didn't go
- 14 back into school, and after school was finished, you had
- 15 your tea and then there were various things that you
- 16 were able to do.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. What kind of things were you allowed to do?
- 19 A. You could play badminton and darts and that, but you had
- 20 to get a staff watching you at badminton.
- 21 Q. Right.
- 22 A. The likes of darts and that, that was it.
- 23 Q. I think you also mention there was a gym there; is that
- 24 right?
- 25 A. Yes. But that's where the badminton was, in the gym.

- 1 Q. Right, okay. And table tennis, I think you mention.
- 2 A. Yes. Table tennis and there was a pool room, but the
3 staff had to be there when you done it, so it was
4 basically the chosen few.
- 5 Q. Right, okay. So basically, you were only able to do
6 these things if there were staff there?
- 7 A. Staff there and if they liked you.
- 8 Q. And if you weren't one of the chosen few, were you
9 allowed to do these things?
- 10 A. No, they wouldn't supervise you.
- 11 Q. You tell us in your statement that you got on all right
12 with the staff.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And you thought they were quite good, but they did tend
15 to have their favourites?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Were you one of their favourites?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. You'd be one of the ones that did really get a chance to
20 play pool or badminton or something?
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. You also tell us about visits. You remember your mum
23 came to visit on one occasion.
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. But you don't remember any social workers coming to see

- 1 you?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. When you tell us about that at paragraph 17 on
- 4 page 5349, you say you're not aware of any official
- 5 reviews about being in care there and you say:
- 6 "In fact, I never did find out why I was put in that
- 7 place."
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. So although you use the word "maladjusted "--
- 10 A. Yes, because I went to see a psychiatrist on Great
- 11 Western Road about six months before and he said I was
- 12 maladjusted and I think that's what I was in there for.
- 13 Q. But no one came when you were there to sit down and see
- 14 how you were doing?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. Or to have a talk with you or explain how you were going
- 17 to benefit from this?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. You also tell us that you were allowed home every second
- 20 weekend.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. How did you get home?
- 23 A. By train.
- 24 Q. Did a member of staff go with you?
- 25 A. No.

1 Q. Because I think in your statement, you tell us that you
2 were given the train fare and then you just made your
3 way --

4 A. Made your own way home.

5 Q. In relation to outings, you mention maybe you went to
6 London, but you don't --

7 A. Yes, there was a exchange --

8 Q. Right.

9 A. -- with people from ... a Barnardo's down in London. We
10 swapped, their tenancy for our tenancy.

11 Q. And what do you remember about London?

12 A. Going up and down the streets picking dog ends up.

13 Q. So the ends of a cigarette, looking for those?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And you also mention you went on a survival weekend?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And that was after a fairly traumatic event in your
18 life?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. What happened?

21 A. My mum died when I was on the survival course.

22 Q. What support were you given --

23 A. None.

24 Q. -- when your mum died?

25 A. None.

1 Q. Were you offered any counselling?

2 A. No. No, I just went home. I went home for the weekend.

3 Q. When you came back, did any staff sit down and ask you

4 how you were?

5 A. No.

6 Q. You tell us, when we asked you or you were telling us

7 about experiences of abuse, you tell us about that in

8 your statement at page 5351. I think the first thing

9 you told us at paragraph 25 was to stop you -- there was

10 a time when you were fighting with another boy and

11 a member of staff came in to try and stop you.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And what did the member of staff do?

14 A. He started choking us.

15 Q. He started to choke you?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And how --

18 A. He had me on the ground, he was sitting on top of me

19 choking me.

20 Q. Where were his hands on you?

21 A. On my neck.

22 Q. Round your neck?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You were choking?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And how long did he hold you like that for?
- 2 A. I can't remember. It's just something I remember
3 happening. I can't remember how long.
- 4 Q. Okay. On another occasion, at paragraph 31, at the foot
5 of that page, you tell us that you were out and you'd
6 broken in somewhere and you'd poured paint all over the
7 place.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Is that something you did?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And the police were involved?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And I think when the police asked you what you were
14 doing, you tell us you told them it was the kind of
15 thing you did in art class.
- 16 A. Yes. And because I says that, the [REDACTED] whose
17 name was [REDACTED] BEF [REDACTED] he ended up hitting me for doing that
18 and basically saying the paint had came out of his
19 class.
- 20 Q. So the member of staff called [REDACTED] BEF [REDACTED] was the [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED]
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And he hit you?
- 24 A. Yes. He slapped me across the face.
- 25 Q. How many times did he slap you?

- 1 A. Oh, I don't know. I can't remember.
- 2 Q. Was it more than once, do you think?
- 3 A. I think it might have only been once.
- 4 Q. Because the expression you use in your statement is he
- 5 "battered you". Are you using that just as an
- 6 expression, a general expression?
- 7 A. Just an expression.
- 8 Q. But do you remember if he hit you across the face,
- 9 what --
- 10 A. Yes. I remember him slapping me and grabbing me and
- 11 all.
- 12 Q. When he hit you in the face, was it with an open or a
- 13 closed hand?
- 14 A. Oh, I couldn't tell you. It was a long time ago.
- 15 Q. Okay. Were you left with any marks on your face?
- 16 A. Yes, a red mark probably.
- 17 Q. You also tell us at paragraph 32 on page 5352 that you
- 18 don't remember any real bullying in the home.
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. But you did have to stand up for yourself?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Is that how it was?
- 23 A. Yes. That was the way it was. It was accepted. You
- 24 had to stand up for yourself because nobody else would
- 25 help you -- no staff anyway.

- 1 Q. So if there was a problem, the staff wouldn't come in
2 and intervene or help?
- 3 A. No, I don't think so. I don't know. I can't tell you.
4 They never done it to me anyway.
- 5 Q. From what you're saying, it sounds like the staff were
6 intervening if things had perhaps got out of hand and
7 boys were fighting each other.
- 8 A. It wasn't kind of like that, it wasn't if there fights
9 all the time, you know. It was ... The staff allowed
10 -- it was units, the likes of Skye, Jura. I suppose if
11 the staff was on Jura, they would like their own people
12 that they were watching in that unit. And there would
13 be a different staff in the other unit and they would
14 prefer their people more --
- 15 Q. Okay.
- 16 A. -- so they would stick up for the person who was living
17 in their unit.
- 18 Q. Okay. So the staff might be more loyal or stick up for
19 the children in their unit?
- 20 A. Yes. It's like, if you were arguing with a girl and it
21 was a girl staff, the girl staff would take the girl's
22 side --
- 23 Q. So it wasn't necessarily treated very fairly then?
- 24 A. No, if we wanted to play badminton and you went and
25 asked the staff, and if it was a female staff and

1 a female girl wanted to play, she would let the female
2 girl play and wouldn't supervise you.

3 Q. You tell us that if you ran away, then you might be
4 threatened that you'd be sent to a worse place --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- than Thorntoun School. But you tell us that you ran
7 away on three occasions.

8 A. Yes, I think so.

9 Q. But there wasn't any fallout from that?

10 A. No.

11 Q. And why was it you ran away?

12 A. I couldn't tell you.

13 Q. You said there weren't any repercussions. Was there any
14 punishment or anything of that kind for running away?

15 A. No.

16 Q. You tell us at paragraph 34 that you recall getting the
17 odd slap from members of staff.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You also say that you don't think they had a discipline
20 system in place.

21 A. No.

22 Q. Why is it you think that?

23 A. Because you basically done what you want, what you could
24 get away with. There was no control, no education.

25 Nothing. Nothing to do at night.

1 Q. You have told us about you being slapped and grabbed and
2 choked. Did you ever see things like that happening to
3 other children?

4 A. No.

5 Q. No?

6 A. No.

7 Q. What I would like to ask you about now is the occasion
8 that you tell us about when you tried to give yourself
9 a tattoo because I think it was something the children
10 were doing --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- to themselves. Can you tell us in your own words
13 what happened following upon that?

14 A. The staff says that we'd be getting treatment that night
15 for it, and when night-time came, they shouted me in,
16 and (inaudible) **BDP** grabbed my arm and held my arm and
17 grabbed my arm and holded my arm and -- put a cloth into
18 the boiling water -- I didn't even know it was
19 boiling -- and just put it on my arm. I was up all
20 night with it.

21 Then Mr **BDP** came up in the middle of the night
22 and put a bandage on it. And then it was him I went to
23 the next day, I think.

24 Q. I think you went home for the weekend.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And I think you were out at a supermarket with a friend.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And what happened there?

4 A. I was shoplifting, caught stealing a pair of shoes, and
5 the security guard grabbed my arm. When he grabbed my
6 arm, he grabbed the scar bit on my arm with the burn, so
7 the police says they'd have to take me up to my mother's
8 to get permission to go to hospital, and I think they
9 thought my mum done it. I managed to get away, out of
10 the police, and I just ran away. And then the police
11 came out to the home for me.

12 Q. And I think Mr **BDP** was actually charged by the
13 police --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- in relation to that and he went to court.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And I think you tell us that you went to court to give
18 evidence.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. What happened in court?

21 A. I don't know, I think he got a not proven. I'm not
22 sure.

23 Q. You tell us in your statement that he may have got a not
24 proven because he said he didn't mean it, he didn't
25 intend to hurt you.

1 A. He didn't realise how hot the water was, no.

2 Q. I'm going to have a look at one or two records.

3 My Lady ...

4 LADY SMITH: Timing?

5 MS RATTRAY: Maybe another 10 minutes.

6 LADY SMITH: I think we should have the lunchtime break.

7 Kenneth, we normally take the lunchtime break at

8 1 o'clock, and rather than rush you through this last

9 section of evidence, I think we will take the break now

10 and start again at 2.00.

11 (1.05 pm)

12 (The lunch adjournment)

13 (2.00 pm)

14 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. Are you ready to carry on and

15 finish your evidence now, Kenneth?

16 A. Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: We'll do that.

18 Ms Rattray.

19 MS RATTRAY: Yes, Kenneth, before lunch we were discussing

20 the occasion where you had self-tattooed something on

21 your arm and Mr **BDP** had said it was a form of

22 treatment and he had applied a hot cloth.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And had applied a very hot cloth from boiling water and

25 he didn't seem to appreciate how hot it was. Is that

1 essentially what you're saying?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. He was in fact charged by the police and went to court.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You gave evidence, but I think you say in your statement
6 that you think it was found not proven.

7 You also say in your statement at paragraph 30 on
8 page 5351 that there were no repercussions following
9 upon this and you say that your time at the home --
10 because your time at the home was almost up. If you'd
11 had to stay longer at the home, do you think there'd
12 have been some form of consequence or repercussions
13 about this incident involving Mr BDP

14 A. I couldn't really tell you, to tell you the truth, no,
15 because I don't really know what happened to him at the
16 end of the day.

17 Q. What I'm going to do now is look at some of the records
18 that we've seen in your children's files. I know
19 you haven't seen your children's files, so you probably
20 won't be able to help us very much with these because
21 you won't have seen them before. But what I'm going to
22 look at first is a record at BAR.001.004.9432.

23 What this seems to be is a memo of some description
24 from a social worker, who we know from the next page is
25 someone called Sue Lodge. From the context of your

1 records, it appears that she's probably the
2 social worker who works for Barnardo's. What appears
3 from this record is that she has gone to see your
4 parents in relation to your arm having been scalded to
5 hear what they're saying about it.

6 What is reported at paragraph 2 of this record
7 is that she spoke to your mum and your mum told her that
8 your arm was raw, bleeding and suppurating, and
9 indicated that this was over the entire surface of your
10 arm, from wrist to elbow. That's what your mum told
11 Sue Lodge, the social worker.

12 Is that what you remember about it, your arm being
13 raw and bleeding and blisters and so forth over your
14 entire -- the inside part of your arm?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Was it the inside of your arm or was it the outside of
17 your arm?

18 A. The outside.

19 Q. The outside of your arm, okay.

20 Next, if we look at the third paragraph of this
21 report, about halfway down the third paragraph we see
22 that the social worker has also been speaking to your
23 dad and your dad has taken the view that he seemed to
24 regard the incident as a malicious assault on you and
25 said that you had told him that you were struggling and

1 screaming when it happened. Do you remember, were you
2 struggling and screaming when Mr BDP put the cloth on
3 you?

4 A. I couldn't tell you. I can't remember.

5 Q. Your dad also referred to the policeman who went to the
6 house as saying that wild animals wouldn't do such
7 a thing to a child. If we move further down that
8 paragraph, we see that the social worker suggested to
9 your dad that hot water could have been a treatment for
10 a wound inflicted by you yourself when tattooing, and
11 your dad was adamant that only a doctor should have
12 treated your arm. Do you see that?

13 Do you remember when you or other children in
14 Thorntoun were trying to do your own tattoos, whether it
15 was ever suggested that perhaps if your arm ever became
16 infected at all, you ought to see a doctor rather than
17 a member of staff trying to do something to your arm?

18 A. No, they just said to us we'd be getting treatment that
19 night, but I thought it was cream we were getting.

20 I didn't know it was going to happen until it happened.

21 Q. Okay. If we see at the start of the final paragraph on
22 that page, your mum and dad told the social worker that
23 the police had told them that if they, your mum and dad,
24 didn't press charges, then they would. So essentially,
25 the police were saying, even if you don't want to make

1 it a criminal matter, the police were wanting to do
2 that.

3 If we turn over, and it'll come up on the screen, to
4 the next page of this note, at page 9433, what we then
5 find out is that the social worker, Sue Lodge, having
6 spoken to your parents, then goes and speaks to the
7 police to find out what they're saying about it. I will
8 simply read out the last two paragraphs of that note
9 when Sue Lodge is reporting her contact with the police.
10 She says:

11 "From the family, I went directly to the police
12 station to see if I could clarify the official position
13 regarding the incident and to try to ascertain fuller
14 details of the weekend. I met the constable,
15 J McDonald, who had seen Kenneth on the Saturday and had
16 expressed grave concern over the state of Kenneth's arm.
17 Apparently, he had been called to a local supermarket,
18 where the manager had taken hold of Kenneth by the arm
19 and the boy had let out such a yell of pain that he had
20 looked at the arm and, I understand, called the police
21 on account of the state of it. Constable McDonald said
22 that the arm was raw, bleeding and suppurating and this
23 had caused him grave concern. Kenneth had eventually
24 told him that this had been done by a member of staff at
25 Thorntoun School, who had put boiling hot cloths on his

1 arm. Kenneth then apparently ran off and the constable
2 had gone to the family to check Kenneth's story."

3 Then the social worker goes on to state:

4 "I explained to him the purpose of Thorntoun School
5 and mentioned the tattooing and that I was unable to
6 give any further information as to the reasons for the
7 fact of the hot cloths."

8 So here we see, although the social worker is
9 suggesting to your mum and dad maybe it was a treatment,
10 when she comes to speak to the police, actually she says
11 she didn't know the reason for applying the hot cloths.

12 She then says:

13 "I said I would pass on the parents' concern to the
14 school and assured him that the incident would be fully
15 investigated within Barnardo's organisation. As he was
16 so concerned, I offered to report back to him and said
17 that I felt sure that the school would welcome a visit
18 from him if he wished to do so. He felt that he had to
19 present a report of the incident at the weekend to his
20 superior and that it would then be decided whether to
21 follow up the case by police investigation, but that he
22 would be pleased to hear further from me. He did not
23 seem sure that it could be left as an internal matter
24 for Barnardo's, despite my assurance that the matter
25 would be fully investigated. At this stage, I did not

1 feel capable of taking things any further due to my lack
2 of information on the whole subject."

3 So here we see that whilst the social worker seems
4 to be suggesting that Barnardo's could deal with
5 whatever happened themselves and the police needn't be
6 involved, it looks like the police were taking a very
7 different view of things. Was that your understanding
8 at the time or did you know anything about that?

9 A. I didn't know anything about this until I looked at
10 this.

11 Q. If we now turn to a memorandum, which is also in your
12 Barnardo's children's records, at BAR.001.004.9428.

13 LADY SMITH: Kenneth, just while we're waiting for the next
14 document to appear, you'll have seen on that one that
15 the wound on your arm is described as raw, bleeding and
16 suppurating. Is that how it was?

17 A. Yes.

18 MS RATTRAY: Now we see that the document that has come up
19 is entitled "Memorandum" and it appears to be
20 a memorandum of a meeting that took place on
21 2 December 1975. It seems to have been sent by John
22 Scott, who was the principal of Thorntoun School to
23 a Miss S Massey, who I think is Acting DCO Edinburgh.
24 I think the "DCO" might refer to divisional childcare
25 officer. So it looks like John Scott is reporting to

1 someone more senior in Barnardo's.

2 The memo tells us who was present at the meeting.

3 It looks like your mum and dad were there. Someone
4 called Mr Finlay Matheson was. Can you remember who
5 that was?

6 A. That was a social worker.

7 Q. Was that the social worker from Glasgow?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Miss Sue Lodge was there and she was the lady who
10 prepared the last note that we looked at, and
11 Miss Massey was there, and there's reference to
12 Mr Hughes being there, and that's the member of staff
13 who applied the cloths. And the principal was there,
14 Mr Scott. It records that you were there as well. Do
15 you remember being there?

16 A. I can't really remember it.

17 Q. That's not something you remember, okay. We see that
18 the meeting has been arranged at the request of your mum
19 to enquire into incidents surrounding the tattooed arm.

20 It looks like the principal outlined the events at
21 the school before you went home for half-term on Friday,
22 21 November. So I think from that, we can see that the
23 incident at the supermarket took place some time
24 probably on 22 November, I think there's reference to
25 being on a Saturday or thereabouts, but around that time

1 in 1975. We can see from this that your mum expressed
2 her feelings of anger when she was faced with your
3 bleeding arm, and Mr Scott, the principal, emphasised
4 the concern regarding tattooing and his apologies that
5 in this case it had unfortunate repercussions with one
6 child. So it looks like the principal was saying sorry
7 for what had happened.

8 I think further down, we see that Mr **BDP** is
9 suggesting that everyone looked at your arm and that it
10 was almost healed.

11 At the foot of the page we see that Mr Scott, the
12 principal, informed the parents:

13 "We had asked the police to call at Thorntoun and
14 they would do this."

15 And they may possibly question you at Thorntoun, but
16 that would simply be to complete their own enquiries.
17 So we see that following upon the police being involved
18 and the concern of your parents, it was your mum who
19 asked for a meeting because of her concerns about you
20 and what happened.

21 If we now turn to BAR.001.004.9427, what we see here
22 is a copy of a letter from John Rea, the divisional
23 children's officer for Scotland in Barnardo's, and the
24 letter is dated 20 February 1976. He has written
25 a letter to your mum and dad.

1 At the first paragraph, we see that he talks about
2 the additional danger that the tattoos can easily
3 become septic and poisoned. This had already happened
4 in two or three cases when the practice was discovered
5 by staff.

6 "To safeguard against the danger of any further
7 infection, the principal of the school instructed his
8 team leaders to apply a hot poultice to the affected
9 areas of the children involved."

10 So we see from that that the instruction to apply
11 cloths actually came from the principal of the school.

12 At the next paragraph he says:

13 "Arising from this action, one of the team leaders
14 is currently charged by the police with wilful assault
15 upon the boy."

16 So by this stage, we know that in fact Mr BDP had
17 been charged.

18 At the third paragraph, John Rea goes on to say:

19 "Normally, this treatment of the tattooing would
20 have been accepted as part of the care and help given by
21 all staff at Thorntoun School to the children there.
22 Indeed, as parents of one of these boys and girls, you
23 may well feel that you would have done exactly the same
24 with your own child in the circumstances. Nevertheless,
25 in view of the charge made against the member of staff,

1 which is still to be heard in court, Barnardo's have
2 investigated this incident thoroughly and are entirely
3 satisfied that the member of staff was acting
4 responsibly and following the instructions given to him
5 by the head of the school. We are also satisfied, as
6 the organisation employing him, that he intended no harm
7 to the child involved."

8 So we see from that that it would appear arising out
9 of Mr BDP being charged by the police, Barnardo's
10 then carry out their own enquiry and they reach the
11 conclusion that Mr BDP was acting in a responsible
12 way in response to an instruction given by the head of
13 the school and he didn't intend to cause you any harm.

14 At the next paragraph, Mr Rea says:

15 "You may be sure that if we had felt that this
16 member of staff had acted in any way against the
17 interests of the children, the school or Barnardo's, he
18 would not have been allowed to continue in the
19 responsible position he holds. Along with the staff
20 in the school, I felt it was only fair to bring this to
21 your attention."

22 So this appears to be a report to your parents, and
23 it may well be from the terms of the letter this
24 was sent to -- it seems in very sort of general terms.
25 It talks about "the boy", it doesn't talk about you, so

1 this may indicate it was a form of letter that was sent
2 to perhaps all the parents in the school, including your
3 parents, saying that they'd carried out their own
4 enquiries into it and they were satisfied, essentially,
5 that their member of staff in Barnardo's hadn't done
6 anything wrong.

7 But I think, if we look at this letter, Kenneth,
8 you'll see that -- would you agree there is nothing in
9 here to suggest whether the principal of the school had
10 given any guidance about how to treat a tattoo or
11 whether or not there was any training of the staff?

12 A. No. I didn't really even know the principal.

13 Q. Right, okay. But it seems that even if Mr BDP was
14 acting with the best intentions in response to an
15 instruction, he didn't seem to know what he was doing
16 properly.

17 A. He didn't know. He didn't know the water was boiling,
18 I don't think.

19 LADY SMITH: I suppose we have no indication of what was
20 meant by instructing team leaders to apply a hot
21 poultice.

22 A. Yes.

23 LADY SMITH: It would depend what they thought was meant by
24 hot --

25 A. I think it was just cream we were getting for the

1 infections that ...

2 LADY SMITH: Do you remember whether boys had been warned
3 not to do it, not to tattoo themselves with pins and
4 ink?

5 A. No.

6 MS RATTRAY: Finally, Kenneth, I'm going to look at another
7 record and this time it's a record which we've seen
8 in the children's files that is held by your Glasgow
9 social worker, so it's not a Barnardo's file, it's held
10 by your local authority social worker. That's at
11 GLA.001.002.4634.

12 When that comes on the screen, I just want to look
13 at the foot of the page. What this tells us is that
14 your local authority social worker, who we know was
15 at the meeting in December 1975 -- this records what
16 happened later. We see a few lines from the bottom of
17 the third last paragraph there that the incident
18 resulted in one member of staff at Thorntoun being
19 charged with assaulting you, which we know from the
20 letter as well, and then we see the final full paragraph
21 there:

22 "In the event [it's talking about your parents, that
23 your parents didn't press charges as such] she did not
24 charge anybody and said that she did not wish to, but
25 the police pursued a charge on Mr BDP at Thorntoun.

1 This case lay for several months before it came to
2 court."

3 Your dad attended the court appearance and when it
4 did arise at the end of 1976, the sheriff found there
5 was no case against Mr BDP and he was completely
6 cleared. It makes reference that you attended this
7 court appearance and you were quite anxious that
8 Mr BDP be found not guilty. Do you remember that
9 being what you felt at the time?

10 A. Yes. Yes, because I liked him, though, and he didn't
11 mean it. It wasn't him that boiled the water, he didn't
12 know the water was hot.

13 Q. So it could have come about because obviously, as
14 Lady Smith has said, we don't know what the principal of
15 the school meant by "hot poultice", but it seems to be
16 that it may well be that Mr BDP with the best
17 intentions, was doing what he was asked to do but didn't
18 know how to do it --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- without causing injury to you.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Kenneth, I'm going to now ask you about leaving
23 Thorntoun School. You tell us in your statement at
24 5352, that's WIT.001.001.5352, that you left
25 Thorntoun School after you had turned 16.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. In your statement here and when you talk about the
3 impact that your experiences at Thorntoun had upon you,
4 you make a point about there being no preparation for
5 you leaving Thorntoun --
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. -- and going out into the big wide world. Can you tell
8 us a bit more about that?
- 9 A. Basically, once you turned 16, 16 and a half, your time
10 was up and you had to leave, so you just left.
- 11 Q. Did you feel that you left with the skills you needed to
12 make it in the outside world?
- 13 A. No. No, because I was very immature, basically. I came
14 out with nowhere to go because my mum had died and this
15 happened while I was in there. So basically, I came out
16 to nothing.
- 17 Q. And I think you say in your statement that you didn't
18 actually know your dad very well.
- 19 A. I didn't really know him, no. I just remember my dad
20 for being really in hospital all the time. He was
21 always in that Erskine Hospital because he was in
22 service in the war, he was always in the Erskine
23 Hospital. That's all I can remember about my dad.
- 24 Q. You tell us that you felt you left without any education
25 or qualifications.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And you also say that you weren't even taught how to
3 cook.
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. So you didn't know how to go and cook a meal for
6 yourself when you left?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. And you say that you didn't know how to handle money?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. Can you tell us how that affected you when you left?
- 11 A. Just basically, when I left, I didn't know what to do
12 for money, except for go and look for a job. I didn't
13 know anything about rent, you know, because I had to go
14 and find somewhere to stay, in a flat, and food and all
15 that.
- 16 Q. You tell us at paragraph 40 that your memory is that you
17 didn't have any help from the home, from
18 Thorntoun School, or from the social work department.
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. You've also been very open in your statement that at the
21 age of 24, you got caught up in drug use.
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Can you tell us how that's had an impact upon your life?
- 24 A. Well, it's basically destroyed it.
- 25 Q. You say in your statement -- you seem to make

1 a connection between falling into the use of drugs and
2 your experience in leaving care without support.

3 A. I don't know. See, I went in there, when I went in
4 there, I went in there for being -- it says I was ...
5 I forget that word.

6 Q. Maladjusted.

7 A. Maladjusted. But I used to sniff glue and all that
8 before I went in. When I came back out, I think that
9 was still in my mind or whatever because I never got any
10 education about nothing.

11 Q. So whatever problems you had, which were the reason of
12 going into Thorntoun School --

13 A. I still had when I came out.

14 Q. And you weren't provided with any support to address
15 them as a teenager or young adult?

16 A. No.

17 Q. You say at paragraph 47 that you thought it was that,
18 and I think leaving care without support as much as
19 anything, that led you into a way of life that resulted
20 in you getting into drugs.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Finally, Kenneth, you tell us about records and you say
23 that you have thought about trying to obtain your
24 records but you don't really know how to do that.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. There is someone here from Barnardo's today and I think
2 Barnardo's have been saying to the people coming to
3 share their experiences with us that if you need help to
4 recover the records, that's something they will help you
5 do.

6 A. Thank you.

7 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, I have no further questions for this
8 witness. It just remains for me to thank him very much
9 for answering my questions.

10 A. No problem.

11 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
12 questions?

13 MR JACKSON: No, thank you.

14 LADY SMITH: Kenneth, those are all the questions we have
15 for you today. Thank you very much for helping us with
16 your evidence, both in the written statement that
17 we have and by coming along today, and I'm now able to
18 let you go. Thank you.

19 A. Thank you.

20 (The witness withdrew)

21 LADY SMITH: Yes.

22 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, that concludes the evidence for today
23 and this week. I think we're due to return on Tuesday
24 at 10 o'clock when I think the first witness we're
25 expecting to hear by video link.

1 LADY SMITH: Very well. I will rise now until Tuesday
2 morning. Thank you very much.

3 (2.26 pm)

4 (The inquiry adjourned until
5 Tuesday 4 December 2018 at 10.00 am)

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