

1 Wednesday, 5 June 2019

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. As explained yesterday, we
4 return to further evidence this morning, and we are
5 about, I think, to hear from the first of three
6 witnesses; is that right, Ms MacLeod?

7 MS MACLEOD: Good morning, my Lady. That's right. The
8 first witness this morning is an applicant who gave
9 evidence at the inquiry previously in relation to his
10 time at Nazareth House Lasswade. He will give evidence
11 using the same pseudonym he used before, "John". This
12 witness will be using a hearing loop.

13 LADY SMITH: That's helpful, thank you.

14 "JOHN" (affirmed)

15 LADY SMITH: John, please take a seat and make yourself
16 comfortable.

17 John, just let me check. Are you comfortable with
18 the hearing loop?

19 A. Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: Please let us know if it's not working properly
21 at any time.

22 Also, it is important that we go at your pace, not
23 Ms MacLeod's pace or my pace. I know you've been here
24 before and I hope you'll remember from that occasion
25 that this is your evidence and it is important that

1 you're able to present it in what is the right way for
2 you and not feel rushed in any way by us. So please let
3 us know if we're not getting it right and we need to
4 slow down at all. Will you do that?

5 A. Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: Very well. Ms MacLeod.

7 Questions from Ms MacLEOD

8 MS MACLEOD: Good morning, John.

9 A. Good morning.

10 Q. Welcome back to the inquiry. You've provided
11 a statement to the inquiry and there is a copy of the
12 statement in the red folder in front of you. The
13 statement will also come up on the screen that you see
14 in front of you.

15 For the transcript, the statement is at
16 WIT.001.001.3850. Can I ask you, first of all, John, to
17 look at the last page of the statement. Have you signed
18 the statement?

19 A. Sorry?

20 Q. Have you signed the statement?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Do you say in the very last paragraph of the statement
23 that you have no objection to the statement being
24 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry?

25 A. Did I say that? Was that read out to me or did I say

1 that?

2 Q. It's there in the final paragraph of your statement,
3 paragraph 104. Do you see that?

4 (Pause)

5 Is that right, John? Are you okay for your
6 statement to be published as part of the evidence to the
7 inquiry?

8 A. There will be no pictures?

9 Q. There will be no pictures and you'll be anonymous.

10 (Pause)

11 Your name will not be published, it'll just be the
12 name you're using today, "John".

13 (Pause)

14 Your statement will be anonymous.

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. You also tell us, John, that you believe what you've
17 said in your statement to be true. You say that in the
18 final paragraph of the statement as well.

19 A. Yes, but I've not read the statement for a while, so --
20 because I felt, when I was with the police, I was under
21 a lot of pressure.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. So I might have said things that -- because we were
24 there for five hours and it was getting a bit much.

25 LADY SMITH: John, if today you think that anything in your

1 statement isn't right or it doesn't cover everything
2 that you think is important, just tell me. That's quite
3 all right. All right?

4 A. Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: Fine.

6 MS MACLEOD: Last time you gave evidence here, John, you
7 were telling us about the time you spent at
8 Nazareth House in Lasswade.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And today what the inquiry is looking at is St Ninian's
11 in Falkland.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So I'll be asking you questions today about your time at
14 St Ninian's.

15 I know, John, that since the last time you gave your
16 evidence at the inquiry you've had a stroke; is that
17 right?

18 A. It's called a mini-stroke.

19 Q. Was that in February of this year?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So it's very important, John, that you tell me if you
22 want me to say something again or you want things to be
23 slowed down. Is that okay? Will you tell me?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You told us last time, John, that you were in

1 Nazareth House from a very young age and that you were
2 there from around age 1, I think, until 7, and then that
3 you went back into Nazareth House for a period when you
4 were between around 8 and 9. Is that right?

5 A. The first place I went to was Clerwood as a baby.

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. Then Nazareth House.

8 Q. Yes. After Nazareth House, did you go to a place called
9 Redhall?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And then to a place, I think you say, Mansfield or
12 Muirfield? If you don't remember that, that's okay.

13 A. I don't remember Mansfield.

14 Q. That's fine. When you were about 13, did you go to
15 St Ninian's in Falkland?

16 A. I can't remember what age I was.

17 Q. Okay. We've seen some records from the
18 Christian Brothers which suggest that you went into
19 St Ninian's in [REDACTED] 1965, when you would have been 13,
20 and that you were there until [REDACTED] 1966, when you
21 were 14. We don't have to worry too much about dates,
22 John, but does that roughly accord with your own
23 recollection?

24 A. I never knew what age I was in these homes. It's only
25 I seen my records that I realised what age I was when

1 I was going about.

2 Q. Okay. That's fine. What's the first thing you remember
3 about St Ninian's? Do you remember arriving there?

4 A. No.

5 Q. What's the first thing you do remember?

6 A. (Pause). I don't know how to answer that.

7 Q. Do you remember if any other children from Lasswade went
8 with you to St Ninian's?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Would you be willing to look at a photograph of the
11 building if I put it on the screen?

12 A. Yes, I've got it in the house. Put it on the screen.

13 Q. The photograph is at CFS.001.006.1186. Is that
14 St Ninian's?

15 A. I don't know.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. It looks a bit like Redhall, on a small scale, I think.
18 Similar.

19 Q. Can I ask you about the brothers at St Ninian's? We
20 know that St Ninian's was run by the Christian Brothers.
21 Do you remember any of the brothers who were in
22 St Ninian's when you were there?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Which brothers do you remember?

25 A. Brother LNC.

- 1 Q. Brother [REDACTED] LNC
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Do you remember any other brothers?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. Do you remember what Brother [REDACTED] LNC role was in the
6 home, what his job was?
- 7 A. I think something tells me he was in charge of [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED].
- 9 Q. Okay. Can you remember what kind of age he was when you
10 were there?
- 11 A. Maybe 40.
- 12 Q. Okay. What did he look like?
- 13 A. He was tall, I think he had dark hair, and the glasses
14 he wore were dark framed.
- 15 Q. Do you remember your dormitory at St Ninian's?
- 16 A. Vaguely.
- 17 Q. How many boys were in your dormitory?
- 18 A. I never counted them, but there was quite a few.
- 19 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about the routine at
20 St Ninian's, what you had to do during the day. Do you
21 remember what time you had to get up in the morning?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. Did you have chores to do in the morning?
- 24 A. I can't remember.
- 25 Q. I should say, John, that if I ask you something and you

1 can't remember, that's absolutely fine, just let me know
2 that, as you're doing.

3 Did you wet the bed when you were at St Ninian's?

4 A. I must have.

5 Q. Can you remember in the morning, when you would wake up,
6 what would happen if you'd wet the bed?

7 A. I can't remember.

8 Q. Okay. Do you remember going to school in St Ninian's?

9 A. No. Was there a school inside St Ninian's?

10 Q. It's really your recollection, John. Do you remember
11 there being a school?

12 A. No. I don't know why I asked that, but I remember doing
13 some kind of homework.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. I don't remember being at school.

16 Q. I think you tell us, John, in your statement that you
17 had to go to hospital while you were at St Ninian's;
18 is that right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Why did you have to go to hospital?

21 A. Looking back, as a child, I was at hospital quite a bit.
22 I did take nephritis, yes.

23 Q. So that may be why you were in hospital?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Do you remember much about discipline and punishment at

- 1 St Ninian's?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Were there rules and regulations, things you could and
4 couldn't do?
- 5 A. Sorry, I can't remember.
- 6 Q. Were you punished while you were at St Ninian's?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Can you tell me about that? In what way were you
9 punished?
- 10 A. A belt.
- 11 Q. Who punished you with a belt?
- 12 A. It depends what brother was in charge. I got quite
13 a lot of the belt from Brother LNC That's why
14 I can remember him the most.
- 15 Q. What do you remember about getting the belt from
16 Brother LNC How often did that happen?
- 17 A. Quite regular.
- 18 Q. Would he hit you with the belt?
- 19 A. No, I had to put my hands out.
- 20 Q. And would he hit your hands with the belt?
- 21 A. Yes. I'll show you. (Indicating).
- 22 Q. So you're stretching your arms out with your palms
23 upturned out in front of you.
- 24 A. Yes. And then (indicating).
- 25 Q. Swapping your hands over?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And how many times would he hit you with the belt?
- 3 A. I really can't answer that because I don't remember,
4 I just remember getting the belt. Obviously, it's going
5 to be twice because I had to change hands.
- 6 Q. Do you remember if there was a reason or if he gave you
7 a reason for hitting you with the belt?
- 8 A. There must be some kind of reason, but I just don't
9 remember what it was. I must have done something that
10 they weren't happy about.
- 11 Q. One thing you tell us in your statement at paragraph 75
12 is you say that:
- 13 "[You] would get belted for trivial things."
- 14 A. Yes. It would have been trivial. Maybe talking or
15 a carry-on with the boys. I'm just surmising. I mean,
16 that's trivial.
- 17 Q. I think you say, John, in your statement that you used
18 to be quite quiet, but as you got older you started
19 talking more; is that right?
- 20 A. I started talking more.
- 21 Q. Were you allowed to talk in the dormitory?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. Were you allowed to talk in the showers?
- 24 A. I tried to talk to get to meet people, but you were
25 a bit afraid in case you got caught because there were

1 always brothers standing there.

2 Q. And if you got caught talking, what would happen?

3 A. You'd get punished.

4 Q. And how would you get punished?

5 A. The belt.

6 Q. You mention there, John, that there would always be

7 brothers standing there.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Is that when you were in the showers?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Can you tell me a little bit about the shower set-up?

12 Was it communal showers? What was it like?

13 A. I think it was communal. I'm not 100% sure. There'd

14 sort of be a few boys in.

15 Q. Did you say there would be a few boys in?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And you mentioned there would be brothers watching;

18 where would they be?

19 A. Just outside the showers.

20 Q. Could they see into the showers?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Were the boys naked in the showers?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What were the brothers doing at that time?

25 A. Looking.

1 Q. You say in your statement, John, that there wasn't a lot
2 of privacy at St Ninian's; is that right?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. You mentioned Brother [REDACTED] LNC giving you the belt. One
5 thing you say is that:

6 "He loved giving me the belt, he thrived on it."

7 A. Yes, I think so.

8 Q. What made you think that, John?

9 A. Just looking at his face. The power he used in the
10 belt, I felt it.

11 Q. Was the belt used in a forceful manner?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Did you see other children get the belt?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Did you see other children get the belt from
16 Brother [REDACTED] LNC

17 A. I can't ... Because whenever I got the belt and then
18 I went to join the rest, so I've got a feeling if he
19 gave anybody ... I can't say, no.

20 Q. When you got the belt from Brother [REDACTED] LNC was it in
21 public or were you on your own?

22 A. I think there were other boys there. I think. I'm not
23 100% sure.

24 Q. Were you sexually abused when you were at St Ninian's?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Who sexually abused you?
- 2 A. Brother [REDACTED] LNC
- 3 Q. Do you know how long you'd been at St Ninian's when this
- 4 sexual abuse started?
- 5 A. Probably almost right away.
- 6 Q. Can you tell me what happened, John? First of all,
- 7 where did this happen?
- 8 A. In the dormitory.
- 9 Q. What time of day or night was it?
- 10 A. Probably evening.
- 11 Q. Were you in your bed?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. What would happen when you were in your bed?
- 14 A. He would get in and put his hands inside my pyjamas.
- 15 Then he would touch me.
- 16 Q. Did he touch you on your private parts?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Did you say he got into your bed?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that his body was
- 21 close to yours.
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. What did you do, John, at this time?
- 24 A. I froze. I just went rigid.
- 25 Q. Did he say anything to you while he was doing this?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Could you see him?

3 A. I could hear him. Well, I could see him.

4 Q. You said you could hear him. What could you hear?

5 A. His footsteps. I knew somebody was in there, in the
6 room. I just knew there was somebody there. I tried to
7 look, see who it was. I seen the glasses, so I knew who
8 it was. So I just turned away from looking at him and
9 you just lay there.

10 Q. How sure were you at the time, John, that it was
11 Brother [REDACTED] LNC who was doing this to you?

12 A. How sure was I?

13 Q. Yes, that it was him.

14 A. Very sure.

15 Q. And how sure are you today that it was him?

16 A. Oh, I am sure.

17 Q. How often did this happen to you, John, in the way
18 you've described?

19 A. Fairly regular. Not every night. Not every night.
20 Fairly regular.

21 Q. When this would happen, John, how would it end? Would
22 he leave the bed or what would happen?

23 A. I don't know. He was touching me, he might have got
24 a response from me, but there was no response from me at
25 all. I think he would just get up and he would go.

- 1 Q. And what did you do then?
- 2 A. I cried.
- 3 Q. I think you mention, John, that at the time you may have
4 thought, at least initially, that he was checking if
5 you'd wet the bed.
- 6 A. Yes. That's what I thought he was doing, but why feel
7 inside my pyjamas? Why not feel the bed?
- 8 Q. You've told me about what happened to you; did you see
9 anything like this happen to other boys?
- 10 A. Yes, I did see ... Whether there were other boys --
11 I don't know about other boys -- because there was
12 (inaudible) I used to see another boy going in beside
13 him -- I don't know if they were feared or what.
- 14 Q. So there was another boy across from you and you saw
15 another boy go in beside him?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Did you ever see Brother [REDACTED] LNC go in beside any other
18 boy other than yourself?
- 19 A. No, because once he left my bed, I just turned round and
20 just let him get away.
- 21 Q. I think you have spoken to the police in more recent
22 times about your time at St Ninian's; is that right?
- 23 A. That's correct.
- 24 Q. I'm just going to ask you a little bit about that. In
25 connection with the sexual abuse, John, what you've told

1 me about today, when you spoke to the police you said
2 you didn't know if it was a brother or a fellow pupil
3 who had abused you in your bed. I just wonder if you
4 can help me to explain that.

5 A. The time I had the police there, I felt I was under
6 a lot of pressure -- what was your question again?

7 Q. Can you help me to explain why your statement to the
8 police says that you weren't sure whether it was
9 a brother or a pupil?

10 A. I just felt I was under a lot of pressure with these
11 police. I mean it was five hours of questioning me and
12 I thought -- it was getting a bit much and maybe I've
13 just said that. I don't know when this ... It was a
14 hell of a night.

15 Q. I'm sorry?

16 A. It was a hell of a night when the police were there.

17 Q. I see. But John, what I'm interested in today is your
18 own recollection and you've told me this morning that
19 you are sure that it was Brother [REDACTED] LNC ; is that right?

20 A. Yes. It's the only name I remember from St Ninian's.

21 Q. You've told the inquiry in your statement about rugby at
22 St Ninian's. Did you play rugby when you were at
23 St Ninian's?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. I think you tell us that Brother [REDACTED] LNC put you in the

- 1 rugby team.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. And that you didn't have any interest in rugby?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. So how did that come about, how did you end up in the
- 6 rugby team?
- 7 A. He told me I was going into the rugby team.
- 8 Q. What was his involvement with the rugby team?
- 9 A. He taught us how to play it.
- 10 Q. Would he play rugby himself with you?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. How did Brother LNC behave during the rugby game?
- 13 A. It's quite a difficult question because I watch a lot of
- 14 rugby now and I see there's a lot of touch, so maybe
- 15 he was touching us because it's part of a contact sport,
- 16 but he did touch us quite a bit.
- 17 Q. Where did he touch you during the rugby game?
- 18 A. Your backside and ... Because I mean, I understand
- 19 rugby now because I watch it and you can see where
- 20 people grip. So was that normal? At that stage,
- 21 I didn't think it was normal. I watch rugby now and
- 22 I can see where they put their hands.
- 23 Q. You said he touched you on the backside. Did he touch
- 24 you anywhere else?
- 25 A. Yes. He also touched my front.

1 Q. Your private parts?

2 A. Yes. I think it was to indicate how you move -- and it
3 was part of the scrum.

4 Q. You mention in your statement, John, that he touched you
5 during the ruck.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Is the ruck something you were taught about when you
8 were playing rugby at St Ninian's?

9 A. Yes, you were taught that.

10 Q. You say in your statement that it wasn't a mistake and
11 it was his way at getting at boys.

12 A. Sorry?

13 Q. You say in your statement to the inquiry:
14 "It wasn't a mistake and it was his way of getting
15 at boys."

16 A. Yes, I quite believe that. I was one of the young boys,
17 so he would come into your bed and touch you -- that was
18 an awful powerful --

19 LADY SMITH: John, don't think about needing to get too
20 close to the microphone. It'll pick you up at some
21 distance.

22 A. Sorry.

23 LADY SMITH: Don't worry, you don't need to apologise. If
24 you get too close, the sound fuzzes a bit. All right?

25 A. Okay.

- 1 LADY SMITH: We'll help you, don't worry.
- 2 MS MACLEOD: You've told the inquiry in your statement at
3 paragraph 72 that you felt Brother [REDACTED] LNC was always
4 watching you.
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Can you elaborate on that, can you tell me what you mean
7 by that?
- 8 A. After rugby, we had to go and shower. He stood there
9 and watched other boys.
- 10 Q. So the showers that you would be using after rugby, were
11 they open-plan showers or did they have shower cubicles?
- 12 A. Well, we played Scotus Academy and I can't remember how
13 the showers ... But he could see us and I just don't
14 remember how the showers were at Scotus. That's who we
15 used to play.
- 16 Q. You do tell us that, John, in your statement, you say
17 that you played other schools and you were terrified to
18 take your clothes off and come out.
- 19 A. Yes, I was.
- 20 Q. You also tell us in your statement that Brother [REDACTED] LNC
21 was the only brother who acted inappropriately towards
22 you at St Ninian's.
- 23 A. That's correct.
- 24 Q. Did you tell anybody at St Ninian's what Brother [REDACTED] LNC
25 was doing to you in your bed and elsewhere?

- 1 A. No. Who's going to listen to me?
- 2 Q. The sexual abuse that you have told me about, John, you
3 said that that started quite soon after you arrived at
4 St Ninian's.
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Did there come a time when that stopped or did it
7 continue while you were at St Ninian's?
- 8 A. It continued.
- 9 Q. There came a time, John, when you left St Ninian's. Do
10 you remember leaving?
- 11 A. I don't remember leaving, but I remember where I was
12 put.
- 13 Q. Where were you put?
- 14 A. In a working man's hostel.
- 15 Q. Is that Ponton House in Edinburgh?
- 16 A. Is that Magdala Crescent?
- 17 Q. Is that where it was?
- 18 A. That's the house I went to, just across -- the street
19 that goes up the side of Donaldson's. I think it's
20 Magdala Crescent.
- 21 LADY SMITH: You're right with the name of the road, it is
22 Magdala Crescent. It's beside the Donaldson's grounds.
- 23 MS MACLEOD: You were 14 at that time, John, so were you
24 quite young to be in the environment of a working man's
25 hostel?

1 A. I think being in institutions, I had no guidance. It's
2 like I fell out of the sky and landed on the earth and
3 thought, "What's all this?" I felt on my own.

4 Q. Last time you gave evidence, John, you told us a bit
5 about your life after that, and we can also read that
6 in the statement you've provided, but I think you say
7 that there came a change in your life one day when you
8 went into a shop in Edinburgh, when you met your wife --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- or who was going to become your wife.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Are you able to tell me, John, what impact have your
13 experiences in St Ninian's had on your life?

14 A. A big effect. I don't get undressed in the light, even
15 in front of my wife. I get undressed in my bed before
16 she comes in. I don't hold her hand. I don't tell her
17 I love her. I feel sorry for her.

18 I find it difficult to meet people. I find
19 myself ... I find it difficult to meet people.

20 Q. I think another thing you say, John, is that you used to
21 play five-a-side football.

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. And that you never showered beside the team?

24 A. No. I just put my clothes on right away.

25 Q. Is that something you attribute to your time at

1 St Ninian's?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. I think you also say that whenever you have a shower,
4 you lock the door.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. There's one other thing I have to ask you about, John.
7 The inquiry has taken a statement from Brother LNC
8 Brother LNC says in his statement that he doesn't
9 remember you being at St Ninian's and that he doesn't
10 accept the allegations you make against him, the sexual
11 abuse and the physical abuse. He doesn't accept any of
12 the allegations. What do you make of that, John?

13 A. I was devastated when I heard that. Of course they're
14 going to deny it. When anyone is going into a court,
15 they deny things. I was quite dumbfounded. I don't
16 know what to think.

17 MS MACLEOD: That's all I need to ask you today, John.
18 Thank you very much for coming back to the inquiry. I'm
19 not aware of any further questions for John, my Lady.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Are there any outstanding
21 applications for questions? No.

22 John, those are all the questions we have for you
23 today. Thank you very much for coming along to give us
24 evidence again about your memories of being in care and
25 I am pleased to say that I'm now able to let you go and

1 go back home. Thank you.

2 A. Thank you.

3 (The witness withdrew)

4 LADY SMITH: I think we're a little ahead, Ms MacLeod,
5 is that right? We'll have a bit of a longer break
6 before the next witness.

7 MS MACLEOD: That's right. The next witness is scheduled
8 for after the morning break, so not before 11.30.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

10 (10.57 am)

11 (A short break)

12 (11.45 am)

13 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

14 MR MacAULAY: The next witness wants to remain anonymous and
15 he wants to use the pseudonym "Derek" in giving
16 evidence.

17 LADY SMITH: Is this another witness we have heard from
18 before?

19 MR MacAULAY: We have, both orally and as a read-in.

20 "DEREK" (sworn)

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

22 When you're comfortable, if you're ready to begin,
23 I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay and he'll explain to you
24 what happens next. Is that all right with you?

25 A. Yes, no problem.

1 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

2 Questions from MR MacAULAY

3 MR MacAULAY: My Lady. Good morning, Derek.

4 A. Good morning.

5 Q. Can I ask you to look at the red folder that you have in
6 front of you. I'll just give the reference of that
7 again for the transcript: that's WIT.001.001.3054.
8 Could you turn to the last page of the statement?
9 I think as I did before, because you have given evidence
10 before, can you confirm that you have signed the
11 statement?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And can you also confirm that you have no objection to
14 the witness statement being published as part of the
15 evidence to the inquiry?

16 A. No problem.

17 Q. Do you also say here that you believe the facts stated
18 in the statement are true?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Again, Derek, I don't want to know your date of birth,
21 but I simply want to put the year of birth to you so
22 we can get a time frame for your evidence. Am I right
23 in thinking that you were born in 1956?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. And you're now 63 years of age?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. You have already given evidence to the inquiry. You
3 gave evidence in person to the inquiry in relation to
4 your time at Smyllum.
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And just to recap, you were at Smyllum from about 1958
7 to 1964; is that correct?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. You didn't come in person, but evidence that you gave in
10 your statement in connection with Nazareth House has
11 also been presented to the inquiry. Am I right in
12 thinking that you were in Nazareth House between 1967
13 and 1969?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And as you know, of course, today we're going to look at
16 your time in St Ninian's in Falkland.
- 17 A. Mm-hm.
- 18 Q. To recap, as you tell us in the statement, you were
19 abandoned as a baby; is that correct?
- 20 A. As far as I was told, yes.
- 21 Q. You went to, I think, Clerwood Children's Home first of
22 all, is that right, as a very young child?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. And it was from there that you went on to Smyllum?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. I think you also spent some time in foster care; is that
2 right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. I'm not going to be looking at the detail of that today,
5 but just to say to you that foster care is a topic that
6 will be looked the by the inquiry and I think you have
7 got something to say about foster care --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- because you were, I think, sexually abused in your
10 time in foster care by a priest, in fact.

11 A. Mm-hm.

12 Q. So far as focusing on St Ninian's in Falkland is
13 concerned, we can perhaps begin looking at paragraph 88
14 in your statement. If we can have that on the screen.

15 The first thing I want to just confirm with you is
16 the time you spent at St Ninian's. According to the
17 St Ninian's records, you were admitted on

18 [REDACTED] 1969. Would that accord with your own
19 recollection?

20 A. I don't actually remember the dates, but I do remember
21 being there in the late 1960s.

22 Q. According to the records, you left on [REDACTED] 1971, when
23 you were aged 15.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. So you were age 12, I think, when you went there and 15

1 when you left. Before you went to St Ninian's, you'd
2 been at Nazareth House in Aberdeen?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Do you know what the reasons were for why you were moved
5 from Nazareth House to St Ninian's?

6 A. The reason I thought it was was on Saturday mornings we
7 played football and -- after we'd done the chores, you
8 got to play football, and I remember -- can I mention
9 the sister's name?

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. Sister LFZ She was in charge of the group.
12 I asked her on three or four occasions can I go to the
13 football and she just snapped and smashed my head
14 against the bed about four or five times. I think
15 I lost a tooth and got a fat lip. I swore at her and it
16 was not long after that I got sent to St Ninian's
17 because I think I was too boisterous.

18 LADY SMITH: When you were moved to St Ninian's, have I got
19 it right that that was the fifth placement that you were
20 put into at the age of 12?

21 A. Aye.

22 LADY SMITH: And the last one?

23 A. No, I was sent to a boys' hostel in Glasgow.

24 LADY SMITH: You went to boys' hostel, but so far as the
25 care institutions were concerned, in total, in less than

1 15 years, you were in five different types of home?

2 A. Yes.

3 MR MacAULAY: As far as St Ninian's is concerned, I think as

4 you tell us, it was all boys at St Ninian's?

5 A. Yes, it was about 45 boys.

6 Q. And I think that looks to be accurate, looking at the

7 lists that we've got. In relation to the ages of the

8 boys then, where would you say you were?

9 A. I think they had three, first years, second years and

10 third years, and I was second year at the time.

11 Q. So were there boys there who were younger than you?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And I think you say you left at 15; was that generally

14 the age when boys left St Ninian's?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. The building itself, can you describe that for me?

17 A. It was very old and historic -- and I remember when

18 I first went there it was getting dark and I remember

19 seeing Brother **MHJ** -- he was the **[REDACTED]** -- standing

20 to greet us and he had a big black shawl on, a big red

21 belt and you could see the belt behind his back and

22 I thought it was quite scary.

23 Q. We have photographs of it in fact. Can I just put that

24 on the screen for you. You can just look at the screen

25 in front of you, Derek. CFS.001.006.1186 is the first

1 one you may want to look at. Do you recognise the
2 buildings there?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. If we look at the bottom photograph as well, I think
5 that's another view from the back of the building.

6 A. Yes. The playing field was over there.

7 Q. And if we look at CFS.001.006.1188 --

8 A. That's the front door.

9 Q. And there are, we think, five steps leading up to the
10 front door.

11 A. Yes, there's a big massive staircase on the right-hand
12 side.

13 Q. When you get into the building?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. If we move down to the bottom photograph on this
16 particular page, is that the entrance hall?

17 A. Yes, and the brothers had their own room to the right.

18 Q. If we move on, the next photograph I want to look at is
19 CFS.001.006.1190 --

20 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, do we have a date for when these
21 photographs were taken?

22 MR MacAULAY: We do. I can provide the date.

23 LADY SMITH: Don't worry about it now. I think we should
24 get it into the record if we could do that.

25 MR MacAULAY: We should do that. They were taken,

1 of course, in connection with the criminal trial.

2 LADY SMITH: Of course.

3 A. They weren't there when I was there: the walls were
4 bare.

5 Q. Just bear with me. We're looking at a photograph
6 that is looking at a large hall. I think, looking at
7 it, the floor would be different in your day?

8 A. Yes, it was just a wooden floor (inaudible).

9 Q. The staircase you mentioned earlier is just off to the
10 left, and if we move down to the next photograph, can we
11 see it's rather a grand staircase leading up to the next
12 floor?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So you recognise these photographs?

15 A. Oh yes.

16 Q. Just some questions about the brothers themselves. Can
17 you remember how many Christian Brothers were there in
18 your time?

19 A. Brother **MHJ** Brother **MBV** Brother **LNA**
20 Brother Rudolph, Brother Ellis and there was
21 Mr **BHB** -- he wasn't a brother, he was a teacher.

22 Q. So there were a number of brothers and you have
23 mentioned a number of them. Were there particular
24 brothers that you were involved with during your time
25 there?

- 1 A. Brother MBV Brother LNA . They were probably the
2 main two.
- 3 Q. And you mentioned Mr BHB . I think he was a teacher
4 who was there; is that correct?
- 5 A. Aye, they called him BHB
- 6 Q. But he didn't live on the premises?
- 7 A. No, he stayed in [REDACTED]
- 8 Q. And as far as people living on the premises was that
9 essentially the brothers who lived on the premises?
- 10 A. They had an old lady, like a cleaner, she -- there was a
11 Brother LHC He was retired but he still stayed in
12 the building.
- 13 Q. So far as the routine was concerned, when you were
14 there, am I right in thinking that the place was divided
15 into houses insofar as the boys were concerned?
- 16 A. Yes, Ramsay and Stuart. They all stayed in the same
17 bedrooms. There were two competitive houses, Ramsay and
18 Stuart.
- 19 Q. Was that so if you were playing sports, for example, one
20 house would play against the other?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Just talking about bedrooms, what were the sleeping
23 arrangements?
- 24 A. They tended to put the younger boys in the same -- by
25 age. In my dormitory there was go three of us and most

1 of the bedrooms would have had about three or four in it
2 and there were about six or seven bedrooms.

3 Q. Again, if I ask you to look at a plan, this is
4 CFS.001.006.8297. I think if you orientate yourself,
5 you see the entrance hall where we looked at the
6 photograph earlier, where it's marked on the plan.
7 Do you see that?

8 A. Yes, the entrance hall is there.

9 Q. And then move into the main hall. We saw a photograph
10 of that. Do you remember seeing that just a moment ago?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Do you see the indication of stairs going up from the
13 main hall? These were the stairs we saw earlier on.
14 I'm interested in the sleeping arrangements and where
15 the dormitories were. If we go to the right-hand side
16 of the plan towards the top, do we see set out there on
17 the plan the dormitories?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. I think although it looks on the same level, but they're
20 actually a floor above?

21 A. Yes, there was a low level and a high level.

22 Q. And in the middle there was a courtyard?

23 A. In the middle, there was Brother LNA room. He stayed
24 there.

25 Q. Could I ask you to stand up and just turn round, because

1 the plan is on the screen behind you. Are you able to
2 point out where your dormitory was?

3 A. Ours was top level. They moved you about every so
4 often.

5 Q. Did that depend on age?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. When you went there and you were in the second younger
8 group --

9 A. I was more or less in the middle.

10 Q. You're pointing to the top level towards the middle part
11 of that.

12 A. Yes, I was about here and in the last year I was just
13 next to Brother **LNA** room.

14 Q. And you're pointing to the top right area of the plan?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You mentioned Brother **LNA**. Are you pointing to an area
17 really adjacent to the room that you were in?

18 A. Yes, because that was over there (indicating).

19 Q. You're pointing to the top right.

20 A. And he was just next to --

21 Q. Is that where it says "Brother's bedroom" on the plan?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Thank you for that.

24 Was there a particular dormitory allocated to
25 children who wet the bed?

- 1 A. Dorm 13. It was the scary one.
- 2 Q. Pardon?
- 3 A. That was the scary dorm.
- 4 Q. Let's come back to that in a moment. Can you point to
5 that dorm on the plan then?
- 6 A. It was near the stairs.
- 7 Q. You're pointing to the left hand, towards the top area
8 of the plan; is that right?
- 9 A. Dorm 13. It'd be over to the bottom there. The biggest
10 dormitory they had. It was there.
- 11 Q. You're pointing to the top left of the plan, thank you.
12 Why was it called the scary dorm?
- 13 A. Because there was no furniture. All it had was two beds
14 in there or three beds with springs only. It was like a
15 punishment dorm as well if you were -- if you were out
16 of favour, they'd put you there for the night. It was
17 quite scary because straight opposite was the stairs
18 that took you to the dungeon and everybody got told the
19 ghost stories down there so we were quite --
- 20 LADY SMITH: Derek, can I ask you to slow down slightly?
21 You have just given me a lot of information, all of
22 which sounds quite important. Let's start with you
23 saying it was where -- just two or three beds, did you
24 say?
- 25 A. Two or three beds, yes.

1 LADY SMITH: No other furniture?

2 A. No, it was basically a bare room and the lino was all
3 broken up.

4 LADY SMITH: Did you say something about the bed springs?

5 A. All it was, there was no mattress. If anyone was bad or
6 wet the bed, they'd put them in there without a
7 mattress.

8 LADY SMITH: So you didn't just need to be a bed-wetter?

9 A. If you misbehaved.

10 LADY SMITH: Something you were being punished for could
11 result in you being put in that dorm?

12 A. Yes.

13 MR MacAULAY: Were you yourself a bed-wetter?

14 A. Oh no.

15 Q. Just looking at aspects of the routine, so far as you
16 were concerned, the food, as you describe it, was
17 normal?

18 A. Yes, just ...

19 Q. You were perfectly happy with it, were you?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So far as education was concerned, was the schooling
22 done on site?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What was your attitude to that, how did you find the
25 schooling?

1 A. I wasn't -- there was not the same as the schooling that
2 I had in the -- when I went to St Mary's in Edinburgh.
3 That was done by teachers, these were done by the monks
4 and some of the monks would teach three or four
5 subjects.

6 Q. In making that comparison, what are you saying?

7 A. It wasn't as good as going to a normal school. It was
8 just basic education.

9 Q. But was sport a big thing?

10 A. Yes, very. That's one of the things I liked about
11 St Ninian's. I was very hyper and active and I played
12 sports.

13 Q. You enjoyed that side?

14 A. Yes, I really enjoyed that.

15 Q. And I think you tell us, actually, that you became the
16 head prefect in the school.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Was that down to the fact that you were pretty good at
19 sports?

20 A. Probably, aye. I would say aye because if you're good
21 at anything, people look up to you.

22 Q. As the head prefect what sort of duties did you have?

23 A. Well, they used to have like wee punishment things,
24 where somebody done something wrong, they would issue
25 a punishment and the monks would say yes or no.

1 Q. What sort of punishments?

2 A. Mainly bed early or you got no tuck.

3 Q. That would be for the head prefect to decide?

4 A. We had a committee and we decided amongst us. This all
5 happened in the last year. It never happened before.

6 Q. So this was when you were about 15 or so?

7 A. 14, 15, aye. And if anybody done anything wrong at the
8 end of the week or somebody got brought up, then you
9 discussed the punishments with them and you just took
10 the tuck away or went to bed early.

11 Q. Who was on the committee?

12 A. It depends. Brother **MBV** Brother **LNA** maybe.

13 Q. So it was a mixture of brothers --

14 A. It was mainly Brother **LNA** and Brother **MBV** They
15 were the two mainly active with the boys.

16 Q. You do mention in your statement the arrangement about
17 showers. How often did you have showers?

18 A. It's funny, the only time I remember having showers was
19 at sporting events. Sometimes we played other school
20 teams and you'd come and you'd get showers after that or
21 after the cross-country runs we'd get showers.

22 Q. Where were these showers located?

23 A. They were on the bottom, the basement near the dungeons.

24 Q. Another I think I want to ask you is about holiday
25 periods because I think when you were there, and for

1 quite a significant part of your life, you thought that
2 you were an orphan; is that right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So you had nowhere to go --

5 A. No, I had nowhere to go.

6 Q. -- during holiday periods? Did children leave the
7 school at holiday periods?

8 A. Yes. Some went back to families.

9 Q. So if you look at the summer, what we would call the
10 normal school summer holidays, would the school close
11 down in the main for most of the children for the summer
12 holiday?

13 A. It was seven weeks because I was sent to Edinburgh.

14 Q. So that was what I was going to ask you. Where would
15 you go?

16 A. They sent me to a working men's bed and breakfast,
17 first, and one time they sent me to a halfway house for
18 seven weeks, which I hated. I had no money.

19 Q. What ages were you when you were sent to these places?

20 A. Probably 14, 15.

21 Q. Were these places that were really for adults?

22 A. Yes. I was in a dormitory with five men, working men,
23 and I was terrified.

24 Q. And who sent you there?

25 A. It must have been the welfare, I don't know.

- 1 Q. Is that something that's really been of concern to you?
- 2 A. Yes. Yes, I don't know why. I couldn't understand it,
3 because it was terrible.
- 4 Q. So how often did this happen, being sent to places like
5 that during your time at St Ninian's?
- 6 A. I remember one Christmastime they sent me to a place
7 called Ponton House. That was a working boys' hostel.
8 In the summer one time they sent me to a place
9 called Minard in Argyll. There was a retired colonel
10 and he would take two boys for two weeks. I loved that,
11 I went there for two weeks. Then they sent me to
12 a place in Claremont Street which was a halfway house
13 for alcoholics and stuff like that and I was in a
14 dormitory with these men and I was terrified.
- 15 Q. And was there an occasion when somebody tried to abuse
16 you?
- 17 A. Somebody tried to attack us in bed so I reported that
18 and after that I stayed with her son in the same room
19 because I wasn't safe in that place.
- 20 Q. At this time in the early 1970s then, would St Ninian's
21 close down completely in the summer?
- 22 A. I don't know if it closed -- I was away for seven weeks
23 so I assume it would be.
- 24 Q. Were there times though when other children were away
25 and you were in the home with perhaps one or two other

- 1 children?
- 2 A. Usually sometimes in September weekends, some people
3 would go away for the weekend. Because I had nowhere to
4 go and I would stay there and there were other people as
5 well.
- 6 Q. Can I ask you about the discipline then at St Ninian's.
7 How would you describe the discipline?
- 8 A. Strict but fair.
- 9 Q. How was discipline meted out?
- 10 A. The belt.
- 11 Q. And who would give the belt?
- 12 A. Whoever. MBV did it, BHB did it,
13 Brother LNA would do it. And Brother MHJ.
- 14 Q. You have mentioned a number of names there.
15 Brother MBV would give the belt.
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. BHB the lay teacher, he would use the belt?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Would that be in the classroom?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And you mentioned -- who else did you mention there?
- 22 A. Brother MHJ
- 23 Q. Was he the [REDACTED]
- 24 A. He was the [REDACTED]
- 25 Q. Anybody else?

- 1 A. It was basically Brother LNA Brother MHJ ,
2 Brother MBV and BHB
- 3 Q. How would it come about that a particular person would
4 give you the belt?
- 5 A. If you'd done something wrong. Sometimes -- for
6 example, we used to smoke and sneak our way down to the
7 cove(?), and if you got caught you would get six across,
8 doublers.
- 9 Q. You have mentioned what was involved. You'd get six
10 with the belt for smoking?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. But what about other offences?
- 13 A. It all depends. If you did something wrong, you got
14 punished for it. If you didn't do something or if you
15 done something wrong in the class, you'd get the belt.
- 16 Q. How many strokes?
- 17 A. I think in general it was about four, and used to go --
18 you'd be bruised up here (indicating). It was right up
19 here. It was like this (indicating). The belt would go
20 right up here.
- 21 Q. You're holding both hands across each other?
- 22 A. And then you swap hands.
- 23 Q. So if it's six, it's three on each and if it was four it
24 would be two on each?
- 25 A. You didn't want to cry because it would embarrass you,

1 but your veins would go bruised because the belt was
2 solid.

3 Q. Was force used in this process?

4 A. No, you just accepted it?

5 Q. Was it used with force, the belt?

6 A. Oh aye, you felt it.

7 Q. I think during your time at St Ninian's, Brother LNA
8 arrived. He wasn't there when you got there?

9 A. No.

10 Q. I think, as I took you to already, you were there from
11 ██████████ 1969 and I think the records suggest that
12 Brother LNA arrived in about ██████████ 1969. So there
13 was about nine months or so before Brother LNA arrived.
14 I think you thought about a year, but does that sound
15 about right?

16 A. It sounds right. He was a ██████████ teacher.

17 Q. When he arrived then, was he using that bedroom that you
18 pointed out to us on the plan?

19 A. The first one was Brother MBV, then he took over.

20 Q. When you were there originally, it was Brother MBV

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. For about nine months or so and then Brother LNA

23 A. He took over.

24 Q. And what was the purpose of the brother being in that
25 part of the dormitory?

1 A. I think generally to keep an eye on things. Some people
2 had been known to run away and they got caught. So
3 maybe it was keeping an eye on the boys, making sure
4 everybody's in place in bed and there's no trouble.

5 Q. Then after Brother LNA had arrived, did you see how he
6 interacted with the boys?

7 A. All the younger boys would be in his room, the first
8 years. And Brother LNA put piped music for us -- we'd
9 get the Top 40, which he would play every night for us.

10 Q. Was this when you'd be in your bed?

11 A. Yes. Before we went to bed, most of the first year boys
12 would be in his room, Brother LNA

13 LADY SMITH: Sorry, what was it you said he was doing for
14 you?

15 A. We used to have piped music in the rooms and it'd be the
16 Luxembourg Top 40 music.

17 LADY SMITH: Radio Luxembourg was allowed?

18 A. He would tape the Top 40 and we'd get it. Usually by
19 10 o'clock it was off because most people were sleeping.
20 It helped you sleep.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MR MacAULAY: How many boys are you saying would be in
23 Brother LNA --

24 A. Four or five.

25 Q. Did you see what was happening?

- 1 A. Brother LNA he smoked then and a few of them sat on
2 his knee, some would be on his bed, and generally seemed
3 to be having fun with him.
- 4 Q. How were the boys dressed?
- 5 A. Most were used in pyjama bottoms.
- 6 Q. What about the tops?
- 7 A. They didn't have the tops on. The pyjamas weren't very
8 good anyway because a lot of the boys' privates were
9 hanging out.
- 10 Q. Did you see if anything was happening apart from the
11 boys being on --
- 12 A. I just saw a few of them sitting on his knee and he was
13 smoking.
- 14 Q. And how often did this happen?
- 15 A. Nearly every night.
- 16 Q. What about you? Did you ever go and sit on --
- 17 A. No, he never went near me. I was quite a big laddie
18 then.
- 19 Q. So these were smaller and younger boys?
- 20 A. Yes. I had some photographs. When I compare myself to
21 the boys, I was a giant compared to a lot of these boys.
22 I was about 5 feet 6 and they were about 5 feet, if
23 that. They were quite small.
- 24 Q. Do you know if boys of that age would wear underpants
25 under their pyjamas?

- 1 A. I think we did wear underpants (inaudible).
- 2 Q. You've already told us about the showers and when you
3 might have showers. Were any brothers present?
- 4 A. Mainly Brother **LNA** and Brother **MBV**. They were
5 constantly walking round the showers.
- 6 Q. Did you see anything happen in the showers?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. Can you just describe the shower area to me?
- 9 A. It was just like wee cubicles, about eight of them. And
10 you got a shower and he would just walk round and round
11 and round.
- 12 Q. Was there a shower curtain --
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. -- to give you privacy?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. And when you say he would walk round and round, who
17 is that?
- 18 A. Brother **MBV** and Brother **LNA**. Whoever was taking
19 sports at the time.
- 20 Q. Was there somebody there in your time by the name of
21 **MCS**
- 22 A. I don't remember the name. Faces I'm not too bad at.
- 23 Q. In your statement you say that in the showers
24 Brother **LNA** would be staring at you.
- 25 A. Staring at everybody.

- 1 Q. Can you elaborate on what you mean by that?
- 2 A. Like if I was just washing myself, (inaudible) soap,
3 he'd be watching to make sure, and then he would go to
4 the next person and watch him. There would be a cycle.
5 It would be non-stop.
- 6 Q. And at the time what was your feeling about that?
- 7 A. I just thought it was normal because I was -- I didn't
8 know ... Now I think it's strange, but at that time
9 I didn't question because it happened every day after
10 you had a shower.
- 11 Q. Did that continue to be the case during your time at
12 St Ninian's?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. So far as showers would be concerned, would you be
15 showering with your own age group or different age
16 groups?
- 17 A. Different age groups. In general when -- everybody was
18 playing sport at the same time, cross-country running
19 and football, different teams, so we all got showered at
20 the same time.
- 21 Q. You said earlier that, so far as discipline was
22 concerned, you thought it was strict but fair?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. I think you told us that Brother LNA would be one of
25 the people who would give you the belt?

- 1 A. Mm-hm.
- 2 Q. I think you say in your statement he seemed to enjoy
3 giving the belt.
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. What made you think that?
- 6 A. I think there was a power thing about it. We'd be like
7 shaking and he'd be (indicating). He seemed to enjoy
8 it. Some people would feel guilty afterwards, but not
9 him.
- 10 LADY SMITH: When you say some people would feel guilty
11 afterwards, was your impression that some of the
12 brothers viewed --
- 13 A. Some of the brothers felt they had to do it, but they
14 weren't happy doing it, but he seemed to enjoy it. See,
15 Brother **MBV** he was never one for really giving you
16 the belt so much, not as much as Brother **LNA**
- 17 MR MacAULAY: Did you ever run away while you were at
18 St Ninian's?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. But there were children who did run away?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Do you know what happened to those children?
- 23 A. They got caught. I don't know what happened to them,
24 but I know they got brought back. I don't know whether
25 they got punished or not because we never saw them until

1 the next couple of days.

2 Q. You never thought about running away?

3 A. The only time I ran away was in Nazareth House. That's

4 the only time I ever ran away.

5 Q. Leaving aside what you have been telling us about

6 Brother LNA either in his room or in the showers, did

7 you see any evidence of any abuse --

8 A. No.

9 Q. -- when you were there?

10 I think I have taken from you, Derek, that you left

11 in 1971; is that correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Can you tell us a little bit about your life after care?

14 Because I think what you did was you joined the army;

15 is that right?

16 A. I was sent to Glasgow first, to a working boys' hostel

17 and I was a coalman for about nine months and I joined

18 the army in -- was it 1972? And then when I was in the

19 Army, the couple I had fostered with invited me to stay

20 with them.

21 Q. In your statement, paragraphs 126 through to 133, you

22 provide us with what your life has been like after care.

23 I think I took this from you before when you gave your

24 evidence, and you ended up at paragraph 133 saying that

25 you met your wife in 1980 and she has been your rock;

1 is that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So far as the impact of being in care generally is
4 concerned, let's look at St Ninian's. Do you think
5 being in St Ninian's itself had any particular impact
6 upon your life?

7 A. I would say in general I find it hard to trust people,
8 make really close friends, because you got shifted from
9 pillar to post all the time. You got to know somebody,
10 he left, so it was hard to make any close friends.
11 That's -- when I went to the schools between homes,
12 I was treated like I was stupid or something like that
13 or I was different.

14 Q. I think you have gone to see a counsellor; is that
15 right?

16 A. No, I didn't -- he invited me for a session but I didn't
17 go.

18 Q. But what you did discover is in fact that you were not
19 an orphan as such.

20 A. No. I was told I was an orphan for years.

21 Q. When did you first find out you weren't an orphan?

22 A. It's more or less when I got married, my wife said,
23 "Find out". It just so happens that the person who was
24 my welfare officer at the time in the homes came back
25 with a bit of paper with my life in it and it said I had

1 a sister and my mother was last there in Kings Cross,
2 they didn't know where she is and had nothing to do with
3 my sister because she was legally adopted.

4 Q. Have you had contact then with your sister?

5 A. I later found out I had another sister, so I've got two
6 sisters.

7 Q. And you've had contact with her?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I think you also found out your mother was alive.

10 A. I wrote a letter via my sister in East Kilbride. She
11 knew the address and she went back via her with a letter
12 threatening legal action for harassment.

13 Q. I think the short point is that although you wanted to
14 make contact with your mother, she didn't want to make
15 contact with you?

16 A. No, she had a new life.

17 MR MacAULAY: Very well, Derek. These are all the questions
18 I have for you today. Thank you for coming for the
19 second time.

20 My Lady, I can say that I haven't received any
21 questions to put to Derek.

22 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
23 questions? No.

24 Derek, those are all the questions we have for you
25 today. Thank you very much for coming along to talk

1 about St Ninian's, which is part of our current series
2 of case studies. It's very helpful and I'm grateful to
3 you for doing that. I'm now able to let you go.

4 A. Thank you.

5 (The witness withdrew)

6 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, we have time for a read-in.

7 LADY SMITH: I think we do. Let's do that.

8 (Pause)

9 Ms MacLeod, when you're ready.

10 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, this is a statement of an applicant
11 who wishes to remain anonymous and use the pseudonym
12 "Jack".

13 The witness statement can be found at
14 WIT.001.001.3887.

15 LADY SMITH: Again, this is a witness whose evidence we have
16 already taken in relation to Nazareth House; is that
17 right?

18 MS MACLEOD: That's right. Part of this witness's statement
19 was read in during the case study looking at the Sisters
20 of Nazareth. This statement is a read-in at this stage.
21 My understanding is that the inquiry haven't been able
22 to make contact with this witness in recent times.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MS MACLEOD: Part of the statement was read in on
25 1 May 2018.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

2 Witness statement of "JACK" (read)

3 MS MACLEOD: In the first paragraph of the statement,
4 my Lady, Jack gives some background to his life. He was
5 born in 1951. He was in Nazareth House, he tells us,
6 from the ages of 2 to 7, and he doesn't really remember
7 too much about that.

8 He was moved to Bellsford House in Kilmarnock for
9 a few weeks and then he was moved to Nazareth House in
10 Aberdeen, so he'd been in Nazareth House Kilmarnock
11 initially and was ultimately moved to Nazareth House in
12 Aberdeen.

13 According to the Nazareth House admissions register,
14 he was admitted to Aberdeen in [REDACTED] 1957 and was
15 there until 1960, so approximately when he was between
16 the ages of 6 and 9.

17 He deals with his experiences of Nazareth House
18 Aberdeen at paragraphs 8 to 56 of his statement, where
19 he talks about physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

20 At paragraphs 57 to 70 of the statement, the witness
21 tells us that between the ages of 10 to 13, he was at
22 Red House in Musselburgh and he speaks of some abuse
23 there.

24 At paragraph 71 he tells us he was moved back to
25 Bellsford House as a stopgap until he went to secondary

1 school and he tells us that no abuse happened there.

2 From paragraph 72 onwards he tells us about his time
3 at St Ninian's and I will read from paragraph 72 of the
4 statement:

5 "When I was 12 or 13 I was sent to St Ninian's."

6 The admissions register of St Ninian's, my Lady, has
7 the witness noted as going in in [REDACTED] 1963 when
8 he was 12 and being discharged in [REDACTED] 1964 when
9 he was 13:

10 "St Ninian's was a boys' home run by the
11 Christian Brothers. It was like a boarding school. It
12 was divided into different houses. I was in
13 Ramsay House. We were always competing against the
14 other houses.

15 "I do not remember my first day or the daily routine
16 at St Ninian's. I just remember following the timetable
17 as instructed during the week.

18 "On Sunday we went for a walk. We always had to
19 walk with another boy.

20 "The food was fine. It was edible and there was
21 enough of it.

22 "The school was located within the home. The monks
23 all lived and taught on site. I was head boy. I was
24 also an altar boy and in the choir.

25 "I remember going on holiday to France with the

1 home. We visited prominent Catholic places. We went to
2 Lourdes and Notre Dame. It was exciting. We spent a
3 couple of weeks camping under tents.

4 "I do not remember any Christmas or birthday
5 celebrations at St Ninian's.

6 "I did not have any visits from my family. The
7 Social Work only visited me when I ran away or was being
8 removed. My social workers were called [REDACTED] LHD and
9 John Watson.

10 "I remember having vaccination injections at
11 St Ninian's. I do not remember any other healthcare.

12 "A monk called Brother [REDACTED] LHC was in charge of
13 Ramsay House. He singled me out as one of his
14 favourites. He was always very nice to me. I am sure
15 it was him who arranged for me to be head boy. Being
16 head boy meant that the other boys looked up to me.
17 I was a mischievous boy; I should never have got that
18 privilege. Looking back now, it was all part of the
19 grooming process.

20 "Brother [REDACTED] LHC had his own room in the house. He
21 would invite me to his room regularly. I had begun
22 smoking at that time. We were not allowed to smoke.

23 "To begin with, Brother [REDACTED] LHC would invite me and
24 a few other boys to his room to smoke. After a while,
25 he would invite me to smoke in his room alone. He would

1 tell me to undress. He would watch me take my clothes
2 off and he would masturbate himself.

3 "It was very opportunistic. He would take me to his
4 room at any time of the day or night. It would happen
5 pretty regularly. The abuse started shortly after I had
6 arrived and St Ninian's and ended shortly before I left.
7 On four or five occasions he made me masturbate him.
8 I don't know if he abused any other boys in the same
9 way.

10 "On one occasion, Brother LHC had shown me
11 a tartan tin. The tin was full of rolled up £5 notes.
12 Later, I decided to steal one of the rolls of notes.
13 I climbed out of the common room window ledge next door
14 to his room. I broke in through his room window and
15 I took a roll of £5 notes and left.

16 "When we went on the school trip to France, I had
17 the £5 notes converted into French francs. I bought
18 lots of sweets and cigarettes. I told some of the other
19 boys. They must have told the monks. From that moment
20 on, I was vilified as a thief. I was seen as the lowest
21 of the low for stealing. The abuse stopped after the
22 French trip. Brother LHC wanted nothing more to do
23 with me.

24 "There was another monk who would physically abuse
25 me and other boys. I can't remember his name. He was

1 in charge of [REDACTED] He was also in charge of
2 punishments.

3 "When you were caught doing something wrong during
4 the day, he would tell you to remind him later. He
5 would be in the bathhouse when you lined up to get
6 washed. When you reminded him of what you had done, he
7 would take out a leather strap. He would hit you very
8 hard with it. I was always sore after a hiding from
9 him.

10 "He would hit you for pretty much anything. If you
11 had been caught smoking, if you had wet the bed.

12 "He would also check for any masturbation or arousal
13 when you were in bed. He would wake you up in the
14 middle of the night. He said he was checking for impure
15 thoughts. He had a very deep voice. I will never
16 forget hearing that voice in the middle of the night.

17 "I wet the bed at St Ninian's too. It wasn't as
18 often as at Nazareth House and Red House because I was
19 a little bit older. The same monk that dealt with
20 punishments would deal with the bed-wetters. He would
21 creep around the boys' rooms at night checking for wet
22 beds. You would be ridiculed if he found you had wet
23 the bed.

24 "The social work department were told to remove me
25 from St Ninian's. I left under a bit of a cloud because

1 the police were involved again. I had been caught
2 running away a few times.

3 "My social worker, [REDACTED] LHD was fed up with me.
4 He said it caused him hassle having to do the paperwork
5 every time I ran away. He said I was causing him
6 trouble. He slapped me two or three times. He arranged
7 for me to be moved.

8 "I didn't trust anyone. I didn't know what would
9 happen if I told anyone about Brother [REDACTED] LHC When the
10 staff asked why I had run away, I would say, 'I don't
11 know'. I was scared that whoever I told would start
12 abusing me too. I didn't report the abuse to the home,
13 the social workers or the police."

14 From paragraphs 97 to 100, the witness speaks of his
15 time at Orchardton Boarding School and then
16 Crichton Hospital. He does not speak of any abuse of
17 these places. From paragraph 101 onward he speaks about
18 the impact on his mental health, his life, his family
19 relations and faith.

20 At paragraph 112 he says he hasn't recovered records
21 in relation to his time in care, but that he has passed
22 his details to Future Pathways, who he hopes will be
23 able to recover his records.

24 At paragraphs 113 and 114 he gives some information
25 about police involvement. I'll read from paragraph 115:

1 "I hope the inquiry fulfils its purpose. If there
2 is anyone still working in care abusing children, I hope
3 the inquiry finds them. I hope the inquiry stops them
4 from ruining anyone else's life.

5 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
6 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.
7 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
8 true."

9 The statement was signed by Jack on
10 8 September 2017.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

12 What's the plan now?

13 MS MACLEOD: The next witness, my Lady, is scheduled for
14 after the lunch break.

15 LADY SMITH: Very well. I'll rise now until 2 o'clock.
16 (12.27 pm)

17 (The lunch adjournment)

18 (2.00 pm)

19 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. Mr MacAulay, who next?

20 MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, my Lady. The next witness is
21 another witness who wants to remain anonymous and he
22 wants to use the name "Steve" when giving evidence.

23 "STEVE" (affirmed)

24 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable,
25 Steve.

1 If you're ready, I'll pass you over to Mr MacAulay
2 and he'll explain what happens next.

3 Questions from MR MacAULAY

4 MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, Steve. I'll be asking you
5 questions based upon your inquiry statement and you'll
6 find that statement in that red folder in front of you.
7 I'm going to give the reference of that for the
8 transcript. I'll ask you to look at it in a moment.
9 The reference is WIT.001.001.4210.

10 If I could ask you to turn to the very last page of
11 the statement. Can you confirm that you have signed the
12 statement?

13 A. Yes, I can.

14 Q. Do you tell us in the last paragraph that you have no
15 objection to the statement being published as part of
16 the evidence to the inquiry?

17 A. No.

18 Q. And that you also say you believe the facts stated
19 in the statement are true?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You have been here before, of course, Steve, and I'll
22 come back to that in a moment. I don't want your date
23 of birth, but can I confirm with you that the year of
24 your birth is 1959?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. You gave evidence to the inquiry on 29 May 2018, last
2 year, in connection with your experiences at
3 Nazareth House in Kilmarnock. Do you remember doing
4 that?
- 5 A. That's correct.
- 6 Q. It is fair to say, I think, that in the course of your
7 younger life, and particularly your childhood, you were
8 in a number of institutions before you finally left
9 care; is that correct?
- 10 A. Up to the age of 15.
- 11 Q. I think you spent most of your younger life in care,
12 although I don't think you've got a very clear memory of
13 dates and so on; is that right?
- 14 A. I was just moved around so often. At the last count
15 I remember counting the homes and it was about 18.
- 16 Q. We certainly have a number of these listed in your
17 statement. I think the first you mention is a place
18 called Ardeer Children's Home and you thought you might
19 have been aged about 8 when you went there.
- 20 A. Round about 7 or 8, yes.
- 21 Q. Was that because of your background family life that you
22 were taken there?
- 23 A. Unfortunately, yes.
- 24 Q. I think as we discussed before, you did go to
25 Nazareth House Kilmarnock. We do know when, at least

1 according to their records, that was. According to
2 their records, you were admitted on [REDACTED] 1968 when
3 you were aged about 8. You left on [REDACTED] 1970 when
4 you were aged about 11; is that about right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What you told us when you came to give evidence before
7 is that you were sexually abused and you were aware of
8 sexual abuse that was taking place at Nazareth House in
9 Kilmarnock.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What you did is you went and reported that sexual abuse,
12 first of all, to the Mother Superior, I think, and also
13 to a priest?

14 A. Yes, the priest was brought in because they said that
15 I needed to speak to him at the time. I had to speak to
16 the priest at the time.

17 Q. But the end result of having done that was that you were
18 moved from Nazareth House Kilmarnock to a Nazareth House
19 in Newcastle?

20 A. Yes. They split me and my family up.

21 Q. That's what happened and you were moved shortly after
22 you made the report about the sexual abuse?

23 A. Yes, I think I reported it -- I definitely know
24 I reported it twice. I might have done it three times
25 and it was the third occasion that's when they said --

- 1 they moved me out.
- 2 Q. And you don't know what happened to the person who
- 3 abused you?
- 4 A. No. He was just a [REDACTED]
- 5 Q. Nevertheless he abused you and others?
- 6 A. Yes, I seen him abusing other children. That's why
- 7 I reported it.
- 8 Q. You mentioned your brothers there. Am I right in
- 9 thinking that at that time you had two brothers with
- 10 you?
- 11 A. Yes, two younger ones.
- 12 Q. Two younger brothers?
- 13 A. We were together all the time -- we were put into care
- 14 about -- I was about 4 or 5, I remember, the first time,
- 15 and from then it was just care, care, care.
- 16 Q. Did you see yourself as a sort of protector for your
- 17 younger brothers?
- 18 A. It totally destroyed my family. They looked on me as
- 19 a father figure and they don't talk or anything ...
- 20 Q. But that was a key moment, I think, that particular
- 21 separation that moved you away from them to
- 22 Nazareth House in Newcastle?
- 23 A. Most definitely. I couldn't see why I was taken into
- 24 another country at that time, you know.
- 25 LADY SMITH: Steve, can I just invite you to sit a little

- 1 further away from the microphone? I know it's a bit
2 sensitive.
- 3 MR MacAULAY: Having spent some time in Newcastle, I think
4 you were then, at least according to your statement,
5 moved to Cardross Park Assessment Centre.
- 6 A. I believe so, yes.
- 7 Q. That may have been about 1971/1972 that you spent there?
- 8 A. Most probably.
- 9 Q. You then went to a place called Bellfield Remand Home in
10 Dumbarton?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And that might have been about 1972?
- 13 A. I must have been about 12, yes.
- 14 Q. Was it after that that you went to St Ninian's in
15 Falkland?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Let's put St Ninian's aside for the moment because we're
18 going to look at that in a little more detail. But
19 after St Ninian's, did you go to another -- at least two
20 other places, and that was Redheugh Adolescent Unit in
21 Kilbirnie?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And also St Mary's Kenmure in Bishopbriggs?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Was that a List D school at the time?

- 1 A. Yes, that was a List D school.
- 2 Q. Do you know why you were sent to a List D school?
- 3 A. Because I ran away, I kept running away.
- 4 Q. Was there a secure unit attached to that particular
5 establishment?
- 6 A. No, not at the time.
- 7 Q. What I want to do now, having established these
8 different places -- and they may not be all the places
9 you were at, but even in that list there's about seven
10 or eight institutions that you went to --
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. -- in your younger years. If I can focus now on
13 St Ninian's, and so far as your statement is concerned,
14 if we can begin at paragraph 54, where I think you start
15 discussing your time at St Ninian's in the statement.
16 It'll come on the screen, Steve, so you can either look
17 at the hard copy or look at the screen.
- 18 If I can just identify when you were there, first of
19 all. This is according to the records that they have
20 provided. According to the records, you were admitted
21 on [REDACTED] 1971, when you were aged 12.
- 22 A. Correct, yes.
- 23 Q. And you left on [REDACTED] 1972 when you were aged 13.
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. I think it was then that you went to the Redheugh

- 1 Adolescent Unit that we mentioned before?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. In your statement you, I think, refer to those that ran
4 St Ninian's as "the Jesuits", but we know it was the
5 Christian Brothers, it's a different order. It was
6 a Catholic religious order, but it wasn't the Jesuits.
7 What I want to begin by asking you is: do you remember
8 the names of any of the brothers that you dealt with
9 when you were there?
- 10 A. Brother **LNA** and Brother **LMZ**
- 11 Q. Were there other brothers there as well?
- 12 A. There were other brothers there, yes.
- 13 Q. So far as dealing with you, were these the two main
14 brothers that you dealt with?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Were you able to work out if there was a particular
17 brother who was in charge of St Ninian's?
- 18 A. Brother **LNA**
- 19 Q. So far as the boys were concerned, because it was all
20 boys, did you form any view at the time as to how many
21 boys there were?
- 22 A. I reckon there must have been -- there were two teams,
23 Ramsays and Stuarts, they were called. So obviously
24 there was 24, more than 24 boys there, because you used
25 to make up rugby teams and football teams and hockey

- 1 teams. So I reckon there must have been 30/35 boys.
- 2 Q. Can I ask you then a little bit about the aspects of the
3 routine. First of all, the food I think you thought it
4 was okay.
- 5 A. Yes. I'd done the breakfasts because I was the altar
6 boy. I used to get extra corn flakes because I had put
7 them out. I remember that.
- 8 Q. So far as schooling was concerned, the school was on
9 site?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And so far as teaching was concerned, who bore the brunt
12 of the teaching?
- 13 A. The brothers. We had a woodworker, joiner, we used to
14 go to a workshop and do things. He wasn't a brother,
15 he was just a civilian.
- 16 Q. Did he live on site?
- 17 A. To be honest, I can't remember. I don't think he did.
- 18 Q. The brothers did live --
- 19 A. Oh yes, yes. Next door to me.
- 20 Q. And I'll come on to that in a moment.
- 21 So far as sports were concerned, I think you thought
22 that the sports that were available were very good.
- 23 A. Yes, I enjoyed them.
- 24 Q. Was sport a big thing?
- 25 A. Oh, it was a massive thing. As I say, we done all sorts

- 1 of field sports. They tried to find out what you were
2 good at and tried to push you forward that way.
- 3 Q. Holidays, did you -- just focusing on your own position,
4 did you get to go on holiday?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. What did you do then during holidays?
- 7 A. I got taken on one holiday and that was with
8 Brother LMZ down to his family. I believe it was ...
9 I always remember Blackburn for some reason, round that
10 area.
- 11 Q. Were you the only boy that was taken?
- 12 A. I was the only boy there.
- 13 Q. How did you travel to wherever it was?
- 14 A. I think we went by train.
- 15 Q. And where did he take you on that occasion?
- 16 A. Down to his family.
- 17 Q. Did you stay with his family for a period of time?
- 18 A. What I can remember is just sitting in his house and it
19 was very short, it wasn't long. I remember feeling
20 uncomfortable and I asked to get taken back up to the
21 school.
- 22 Q. Is the picture this, that there were boys who were able
23 to go home for holidays?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. But you were not at this time?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. Were there other boys in the same position as yourself
3 who really remained on site?
- 4 A. All I remember is maybe one other boy that had to stay
5 there, but I don't remember his name. I just remember
6 we were the only people in that big house.
- 7 Q. So far as holidays would be concerned, are we focusing
8 on the summer period?
- 9 A. The summer period.
- 10 Q. What about the Christmas period and perhaps the Easter
11 period?
- 12 A. The boys went home at Christmas and that, yes.
- 13 Q. Did you?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. Was Christmas celebrated then when you were there?
- 16 A. It was celebrated for Jesus Christ, but not for us. You
17 know, Mass. You had to do Mass. Twice a day I was
18 doing Mass.
- 19 Q. What about presents?
- 20 A. We got given small gifts.
- 21 Q. Birthdays. Were your birthdays celebrated?
- 22 A. I don't remember celebrating a birthday. It was all
23 discipline.
- 24 Q. Did you receive visits from anyone when you were at
25 St Ninian's?

1 A. Just my probation officer -- not probation officer, but
2 it was a Mr Stansfield who was looking after the family.

3 Q. Let's call it social worker.

4 A. Yes, social worker, yes.

5 Q. You have mentioned already, Steve, that you ran away
6 from St Ninian's.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And I think the inquiry can look at records to show that
9 you did run away on several occasions. Can I ask you
10 now why you ran away so often during that period that
11 you were there?

12 A. I just ... I didn't feel right there with the priests,
13 with two of them. And I felt as if I was getting picked
14 on constantly because I used to get the ruler over the
15 hand and things and get the cane.

16 Q. If I can put it in a broad way, are you saying that you
17 ran away because of the way you were being treated by
18 the brothers?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. We'll come and look at that in a few moments then.

21 But you mentioned being hit with a ruler and I want
22 to ask you a little bit now about discipline. Can you
23 tell me about the discipline? How was that managed at
24 St Ninian's?

25 A. We had the choice of the cane, the ruler or the strap.

- 1 Q. When you say the choice, who made the choice?
- 2 A. It depends on what level of discipline you didn't adhere
3 to. Different punishments for different things.
- 4 Q. So can you just explain the use of the ruler then? How
5 was that used?
- 6 A. In the classroom I remember getting taken to the front
7 and hurt with a ruler along the edge of the fingers
8 there (indicating).
- 9 Q. So that's on the hand?
- 10 A. Yes, because when they strapped us I just laughed.
- 11 Q. Who did this?
- 12 A. Brother **LNA** and Brother **LMZ** used the thing as well.
13 Brother **LNA** had a special strap.
- 14 Q. So far as the use of the ruler was concerned, how often
15 did that happen to you?
- 16 A. Looking back, it probably happened to me on a few
17 occasions because I kept running away.
- 18 Q. What about other children? Did you see the ruler being
19 used --
- 20 A. Yes, yes. I seen them get caned as well over the
21 backside as well as the legs.
- 22 Q. Again, let's look at that. Were you caned in that way?
- 23 A. Yes, and punched.
- 24 Q. Let's for the moment leave aside the running away bit.
25 So far as generally being there, was the cane used on

1 you?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Where was it directed then?

4 A. On the buttocks and on the back of the legs and the

5 bottom of the calves.

6 Q. Was it over your clothing?

7 A. Sometimes it would be over the clothing, sometimes

8 they'd take the trousers down. I remember it happened

9 twice or something. That's when I ran away as well.

10 Q. Okay, we'll come to look at that. Who did that?

11 A. Brother **LNA**

12 Q. You mentioned Brother **LMZ** Did he use the cane?

13 A. He used the cane, yes, but I think Brother **LNA** had the

14 cane, the strap and the ruler. Brother **LMZ** used the

15 ruler and the strap.

16 Q. The use of the strap then. Can I just understand how

17 the strap would be used? How would, let's say,

18 Brother **LNA** use the strap?

19 A. If you were talking or anything, he would pull you out

20 and give you the strap. Then the strap became nothing.

21 Do you know what I mean? And then he moved on to the

22 ruler and that was really sore. The ruler was worse

23 than the strap.

24 Q. Can I then look at the times that you ran away. You ran

25 away several times, but you were taken back, isn't that

1 right?

2 A. Yes, each time.

3 Q. What happened? What would happen if you ran away?

4 Would you get caught or would you just go back yourself?

5 How did it happen?

6 A. I remember the first occasion I ran away, I only ended

7 up two miles away and it was in a turnip field, and

8 it -- that area was Auchtermuchty, around that area.

9 That's as far as I got the first time and the police

10 came out and were looking for us. They sent people to

11 look for us and they found us.

12 Q. And then you were taken back to the home?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What happened when you got back?

15 A. I got a doing.

16 Q. Can you describe though what that was?

17 A. I was pulled, punched, kicked.

18 Q. Who by?

19 A. Brother LNA .

20 Q. And were any of the other brothers present?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Who else?

23 A. All I can remember is Brother LMZ and another

24 brother, but they were all there. There was four

25 brothers all together in the room.

- 1 Q. And where did this particular incident take place?
- 2 A. In the courtyard. As soon as they got me in the
3 courtyard they started throwing me about.
- 4 Q. That's outside?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. So on this occasion, can you just describe what happened
7 to you?
- 8 A. When I got taken back in, I remember going through the
9 courtyard doors and going through there and Brother **LNA**
10 just pushed me. I fell and I got back up and he started
11 shouting and bawling because of what we had done, you
12 know, we've caused all this trouble and they had to
13 close the school and get everybody accounted for and
14 they had to get search parties and things. And I think
15 I spoke back and that's when he started hitting me.
16 I just wouldn't give in.
- 17 Q. When you say he started hitting, what did he do?
- 18 A. He pulled me and I'd try and get away and he punched me
19 a couple of times. I remember him kicking me. I was
20 down on the ground and the other boy that ran away with
21 me, he was standing crying because he thought he was
22 going to get it next, but it all seemed to be aimed at
23 me. I think the other boy was younger. The reason we
24 ended up at the Tay Bridge was because that boy was from
25 Dundee.

- 1 Q. That's another occasion, is it?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Let's look at the other incidents then when you ran
4 away. I know it's causing you a little bit of stress
5 and I'm sorry if I'm asking you too many questions --
- 6 A. No, it's all right.
- 7 Q. -- but it's quite important for us to try and get some
8 of the detail as to what happened. On the other
9 occasions when you ran away, can you describe what would
10 happen to you on your return?
- 11 A. I'd always get a doing. Always get beaten up. And then
12 you got put into your room and stayed into your room.
13 No food. Didn't get fed. Because I ran away, I don't
14 know if I'm digressing here, but I was tied to
15 Brother **LNA** all the time I was there. Every morning
16 going to chapel, I was an altar boy, everywhere I went
17 he was there, until they eventually moved me on to
18 St Mary's.
- 19 Q. In your statement at paragraph 68, what you say is that
20 you thought you ran away from St Ninian's at least four
21 times. And certainly the records bear that out:
- 22 "The furthest I got was over the Tay Bridge when
23 I ran away with another wee boy. I can't remember his
24 name. The police would bring me back after farmers
25 grassed me. After I was caught, I would have to drop my

1 trousers and I would get caned by Brother LNA ."

2 Did that happen?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You say that would happen in his room.

5 A. Yes. He'd take you into his room and then he would bend
6 you over because it's only a wee tiny room with a bed in
7 it, just the same as the boys', more or less. When
8 I ran away I got moved from one part of the dormitory
9 right up to the bedroom right next to him, as I say,
10 because from then onwards I was doing chapel every
11 morning.

12 Q. What you say there is:

13 "He would take me into his room and gave me six or
14 seven until he saw blood."

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What --

17 A. There would be welts. Obviously you'd be bleeding
18 at the top. I mean, that's what my memory is of him.

19 Q. Did you seek to get any treatment then for these
20 injuries?

21 A. No. It was just self-healing.

22 Q. I now want to ask you some questions about other things
23 that might have happened to you at St Ninian's. Were
24 you abused in any other way in your view when you were
25 at St Ninian's?

1 A. The first occasion it was when I went fishing with
2 Brother [LNA] We were left in the -- obviously the boys
3 were away on holiday, it was only myself and I think
4 there was another boy staying there and Brother [LMZ]
5 took him somewhere. I believe they were the only two
6 brothers that were left in the home along with us. And
7 it was on the fishing trip they went. It was raining
8 and we were sitting and he comes around to me --
9 I thought he was trying to keep me dry but then the
10 hands started going down my leg and that's when
11 I refused, I pulled back.

12 Q. On that occasion how did that come to an end?

13 A. We went back to the home because the fishing trip
14 finished and I was crying.

15 Q. Why were you crying on that occasion?

16 A. Because I felt like I should have been making an effort
17 to get on with Brother [LNA] because Brother [LNA] was
18 taking me out fishing. He made me feel that guilty when
19 I came back. What I felt then, it's in my mind, you
20 know, it'll never go. From the fishing, the reason why
21 we left is because I refused to let him go any further
22 than what he was trying to go.

23 Q. I think you're saying he was putting his hand up your
24 leg?

25 A. Yes, inside my thigh.

- 1 Q. Do I take it he didn't make contact with your private
2 parts?
- 3 A. I wouldn't let him, no. After what happened, no.
- 4 Q. Did something like that ever happen again with
5 Brother LNA with you?
- 6 A. I think he tried it again on an occasion -- I'm trying
7 to remember. I just remember running away and get
8 caned, and then just being punched, kicked, whatever,
9 each time I ran away.
- 10 Q. Did you see how Brother LNA interacted with any other
11 boys?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Could you tell us about that?
- 14 A. We spoke about it, everybody spoke about it, we all did.
15 You'd see him walking along and you'd just kid on you
16 were sleeping because he would look in each dorm and if
17 you were awake it'd give him an excuse to pull you out,
18 so as soon as you heard him walking -- he had slippers
19 that were really hard and you heard him walking and you
20 just had kid on you were sleeping because if you didn't
21 he would pull you out of bed and get you a bit of
22 trouble.
- 23 Q. Did that happen to you?
- 24 A. A couple of times, yes. I was quite -- I was -- I
25 rebelled quite hard against him. That's why I kept

- 1 running away.
- 2 Q. Let's look firstly at what you remember happening to you
3 and we're now focusing on the dormitories. Did
4 Brother **LNA** make any contact with you in the
5 dormitories?
- 6 A. He tried. And that's when he was caning me. He tried.
7 I just remember him saying, "I've got to do this, this
8 is what's got to happen", and then he put his arm round
9 me and said, "Now, listen, we're here for your care",
10 whatever. Give us a load of bullshit. And that's
11 just -- because what he had done to me at the banks,
12 that just brought memories back to what happened in
13 Nazareth House.
- 14 Q. Because that's where you had the previous experience of
15 sexual abuse.
- 16 A. Unfortunately, yes. That's the first time.
- 17 Q. Let's look at how Brother **LNA** interacted with other
18 children then. Let's just begin by focusing on the
19 dormitory area. I think we know that there was an area
20 where there were dormitories where children would be
21 allocated.
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. What about Brother **LNA** Did he have a room in that
24 area?
- 25 A. As I said there, when I ran away, I got moved from one

- 1 dorm right up to the -- so I was next to him and he
2 would keep his eye on me, 24 hours.
- 3 Q. So he was in that area?
- 4 A. Yes, he slept along with the boys. He was in that area
5 at the end. What I remember is going up, turning to the
6 left-hand side, he was at the very end, I was second,
7 and I think there were about six or seven at the side.
- 8 Q. And were there any other brothers who slept in that area
9 during your time?
- 10 A. During my time? No, it was Brother [REDACTED] LNA [REDACTED] area.
- 11 Q. Then when you were in bed, let's take a situation when
12 you were in bed, so far as Brother [REDACTED] LNA [REDACTED] was concerned,
13 did he ever come to your bed to take you out --
- 14 A. Not after I refused his advances.
- 15 Q. Did you see Brother [REDACTED] LNA [REDACTED] interacting with any other
16 children once the children were in bed?
- 17 A. We spoke about it. We would speak about it the next
18 day: did he come in to you, did he come in to you?
- 19 Q. But what I'm asking is: did you actually see that
20 happen?
- 21 A. No. I knew things were happening but I didn't see it,
22 because the boys would talk the next day and would say,
23 "Did he come into your room?" "No, he came into my
24 room".
- 25 Q. And did boys say that Brother [REDACTED] LNA [REDACTED] had come into their

1 rooms?

2 A. Uh-huh.

3 Q. And did anyone say to you what had happened?

4 A. No, nobody actually admitted openly, but they said that

5 he was wanting -- you know good people and bad people.

6 You realise he's a bad person at night. During the day

7 he was a great person, but night-time, that's when he

8 made his moves on people, I believe.

9 Q. One thing you say in your statement is:

10 "Certain boys were picked all the time."

11 Is that something you were being told rather --

12 A. Told rather than seen. I didn't actually see any boys

13 indulging in any things. He would go into his room and

14 if they're not out within 10, 15 minutes, you don't know

15 what's happening, why they were in there for that

16 length, then the boy would talk the next day and say,

17 "Just the usual advances", or whatever.

18 Q. Did you see boys going into --

19 A. Yes, because I was right next door.

20 Q. Did you on any occasion go into his room?

21 A. Not after I ran away and he caned me.

22 Q. One incident you gave in your statement is that you

23 thought that -- you say in paragraph 71:

24 "He took me to his room one night but I think he

25 bottled it."

1 A. Yes, nothing happened. He took me in and he would drink
2 a lot of wine. He drank a lot of red wine and I think
3 it's when he drank at night, that's when his urges came
4 out.

5 Q. But nothing happened to you on that occasion in any
6 event?

7 A. No. The only thing that happened to me was the
8 touching.

9 LADY SMITH: How do you know he drank a lot of wine?

10 A. Because I was an altar boy and he used to take the wine
11 up the stairs with him. He took Mass every day, you
12 take wine with the Mass, but he would take his cravat
13 (sic) or whatever. I think it was in the cravat bottles
14 and he'd take it up with a wee glass to his room.

15 LADY SMITH: So that's the communion wine that he took?

16 A. Yes. It could have been anything in that glass.

17 MR MacAULAY: You have also mentioned Brother **LMZ** You
18 talk about him in your statement. You have also
19 mentioned him as someone that dealt with you on
20 a regular basis. Leaving any physical issues aside out
21 of the equation, did Brother **LMZ** do anything else to
22 you?

23 A. As I say, he took us to his home. We'd be on the settee
24 or whatever and he would be cuddling right up to me and
25 I thought, "I don't like it, I want to go home". And we

1 went back to the home at the time and I told him that
2 and he said, "All right", and he took me back home. He
3 was one person for touching all the time. As soon as
4 he was there, he would just put his arm round you and
5 pull you into him.

6 Q. Did that happen in the home?

7 A. Yes, it happened in the home.

8 Q. To you?

9 A. It happened on a few occasions, yes. That's when I was
10 left alone with the two of them. You see, back after
11 Brother **LNA** made his advances, they obviously must have
12 been speaking to each other because Brother **LMZ**
13 a couple of days after that, I was taken away down to
14 his family's house.

15 Q. And when you say he was "cuddling into you", can you
16 just describe to us what --

17 A. A normal cuddle would be like round your -- he'd be like
18 with his hand there and his hand down here and he'd be
19 pressing your knee, doing that (indicating),
20 "Everything's okay" -- you know what I mean?

21 LADY SMITH: Part of Mr MacAulay's problem is he can't see
22 what you're demonstrating from where he is standing.

23 A. If you were sitting and say he'd be here and he'd
24 putting his arms round you, saying don't worry, and then
25 next thing before you know it's getting -- and that's

1 when I stopped the advances. Obviously because of what
2 happened to me previously.

3 MR MacAULAY: You've given a description of patting the side
4 of your knee and then --

5 A. Inside my knee.

6 Q. Inside your knee and then his hand moving up your inner
7 thigh?

8 A. Yes, yes, yes.

9 Q. When you went to his family home, did that happen to
10 you?

11 A. Yes, it happened to me. That's why I wanted to go home.

12 Q. Did you see how Brother **LMZ** interacted with other
13 boys?

14 A. Brother **LMZ** came across as a sweet man, you know.
15 The round spectacles, the round face. He was like --
16 how could you say? Friar Tuck or something. Quite
17 a robust man. But he was very, very touchy, very
18 touchy. See, because I ran away -- I was only there for
19 a year and I ran away on four occasions. I was more
20 interested in what was going on in my life at that time.
21 I was more concerned about me. I just -- I didn't like
22 it, you know?

23 Q. I did ask you near the outset of when I was asking you
24 questions about running away, and I think you said it
25 was because of the treatment.

- 1 A. Mm-hm.
- 2 Q. I now want to ask you: well, what treatment are you
3 pointing to?
- 4 A. The advances from Brother LNA on that occasion, that
5 night on the riverbank, and then Brother LMZ taking
6 me down to his house. I just felt something wasn't
7 right and each time he came near me I think I cried and
8 that's why he took me back to the home.
- 9 Q. In your statement, just talking about crying, you also
10 mention that you did see boys crying, who had been into
11 Brother LNA room.
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Can you tell me about that then?
- 14 A. I had to lie on the bed -- I think normally we'd all
15 sort of say, "Did he come in your room?" As I say,
16 we would all kid on we were sleeping and if he caught us
17 with our eyes open he would take them into his room, but
18 you don't know what's happening because --
- 19 Q. Just to be clear, because we have to be clear of the
20 evidence, did you see Brother LNA taking a boy from
21 that boy's bed to Brother LNA room?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And how often did you see that?
- 24 A. On different occasions, different boys.
- 25 Q. Just in that connection, did you see the boys coming

- 1 back after they had been in Brother [REDACTED] LNA room?
- 2 A. On occasions I'd hear the boys walking back out and on
3 other occasions I fell asleep and I don't know what
4 happened.
- 5 Q. On occasions when you saw the boys, is that when you may
6 have been some boys crying?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Did you ever speak to these boys?
- 9 A. No, they just used to give us a look and the next day
10 you would see them and ask, "Are you okay?" "Yeah,
11 fine". You're not going to go into these things.
- 12 Q. And insofar as the boys being taken to Brother [REDACTED] LNA
13 room would be concerned, how would that be done by
14 Brother [REDACTED] LNA What would he do?
- 15 A. He would walk around the dorm and see if you were awake
16 and if you were awake he'd say, "You, in the room". You
17 know what I mean? He'd find a excuse to take you into
18 the room.
- 19 Q. You heard and saw that happening?
- 20 A. Yes, on different occasions. My memory of it, we used
21 to talk -- "Just shut your eyes, don't open your eyes,
22 if you're asked your name, just don't answer, kid on
23 you're sleeping".
- 24 Q. Was that the sort of discussion --
- 25 A. More or less we'd discuss that during the day when we

1 were working in the workshop or whatever. We knew
2 something was going on, but nobody ever really spoke
3 about what was happening to them. We just knew -- this
4 day you'd call it abuse, but back then, I don't know.
5 You just tried to -- as I said, we all had cold and warm
6 hands, nice and warm hands all over you.

7 But I did see boys going into his room, I don't know
8 what happened in his room because -- on occasions
9 I heard them crying because he gave them the strap or he
10 gave them the cane or whatever.

11 Q. But as you have said, you saw the boys go in and
12 sometimes you saw boys coming out and they had been
13 crying or were crying?

14 A. Yes, yes.

15 Q. Did you ever report to anybody anything that had
16 happened at St Ninian's when you were there?

17 A. No. Because I thought I'd maybe get sent away back down
18 to England probably. That's probably why I didn't say
19 anything.

20 Q. I think you said when you reported something before you
21 were sent away.

22 A. Yes, from Scotland down to England.

23 Q. Then as I've already taken from you, Steve, you left
24 St Ninian's on [REDACTED] 1972 when you are aged about
25 13; is that correct?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And do you know why you had to leave at that time?
- 3 A. Because I kept running away.
- 4 Q. And was it then that you went to the Redheugh -- was it
- 5 after that you went to Redheugh?
- 6 A. I believe ... No, Redheugh came later.
- 7 Q. That was later?
- 8 A. No, I went to Cardross.
- 9 Q. Indeed, you went to Cardross. Today we're not looking
- 10 at these particular establishments, we're focusing on
- 11 St Ninian's, but we won't lose sight of what you say
- 12 happened to you at Cardross and other places, although
- 13 I think at some of the places, like Redheugh, there were
- 14 no problems there.
- 15 A. Didn't have an issue at Redheugh, but Redheugh had
- 16 an issue with me.
- 17 Q. Again, we'll hold back on that. Can I ask you about
- 18 your life after care. You start talking about that in
- 19 paragraph 87 of your statement. We did cover this
- 20 before. It's paragraphs 87 through to 92, where, in
- 21 short, you began with a life in crime; is that right?
- 22 A. Yes. I was introduced -- it was criminals that were in
- 23 St Nary's. I thought it was a care home, but it wasn't,
- 24 it was a List D school as well.
- 25 Q. And you ended up in Polmont Young Offenders' Institution

- 1 at one point?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. As we have heard from other evidence, you did put that
4 behind you; is that correct?
- 5 A. Yes, I tried my best to put that behind me.
- 6 Q. And I think what you say also is that you met your
7 partner and she showed you the error of your ways?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Can I ask you this: if you just focus on St Ninian's --
10 and I know it's difficult to separate one place from
11 another -- is it possible to say what impact on your
12 life being in St Ninian's had on you or is it really the
13 whole care process that's had an impact?
- 14 A. I think if things didn't happen in Nazareth House, if it
15 happened differently then, it would have been
16 a different picture, but because of what happened in
17 Nazareth House I think I was looked upon as someone that
18 could be dangerous to them, and that's why I got moved
19 around so often to so many different places.
- 20 Q. But I think what you've already told us, and you told us
21 this before, is that it was the separation from your
22 brothers that really changed the dynamic of your life?
- 23 A. Yes, after I came back from Newcastle, everything was
24 changed, everything changed.
- 25 Q. But you did have contact with your brothers after that?

1 A. Up to the age -- they were about 18, 19. And even then,
2 they blamed me for everything that happened to them.
3 Even to this day.

4 Q. And so far as reporting or telling anybody about what
5 happened to you at St Ninian's --

6 A. There's no point in reporting it.

7 Q. I think so far, you did tell your partner, did you, what
8 had happened to you?

9 A. The only person that knows anything about my life is

10 [REDACTED] I kept that -- and she only found out about
11 15 years ago.

12 Q. But of course now you've come forward to the inquiry and
13 you've given us your evidence.

14 A. Yes, I phoned about three or four times and hung up
15 before and eventually got the guts to come here ...

16 MR MacAULAY: Well, thank you for doing that, Steve, and
17 thank you for coming for a second time to give your
18 evidence. I think those are all the questions I plan to
19 ask you.

20 My Lady, no questions have been submitted to me to
21 put to Steve.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Are there any outstanding
23 applications for questions? No.

24 Steve, that completes the questions we have for you.
25 Thank you very much for coming and expanding on the

1 picture you've given us of your history in care. It's
2 very valuable to me to have this evidence and I really
3 appreciate you doing it.

4 A. I understand.

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

6 A. Thank you very much, Lady Smith.

7 (The witness withdrew)

8 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

9 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, we have ample time for a read-in.

10 LADY SMITH: Let's do that.

11 Witness statement of "JOHN" (read)

12 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, this is a read-in of a statement of an
13 applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and use the
14 pseudonym "John".

15 For health reasons, John was unable to come to the
16 inquiry to give evidence as part of this case study.

17 The witness statement can be found at

18 WIT.001.002.2807:

19 "My name is John. I was born in 1957. My contact
20 details are known to the inquiry.

21 "I was born in Edinburgh. I had six brothers and
22 four sisters. We all had the same parents. My father
23 was an alcoholic and my mother couldn't cope with all
24 the children. I was taken into care in 1958 when I was
25 six months old."

1 Between paragraphs 4 and 44 of his statement, John
2 describes his experiences at Nazareth House in Aberdeen,
3 where he says he was physically, emotionally and
4 sexually abused. John tells us that he ran away to
5 Edinburgh when he was aged 14 and stayed with relatives.

6 I will read the statement from paragraph 45 on
7 page 2818:

8 "I was placed in Liberton Remand Home for a couple
9 of weeks and from there I went to St Ninian's in
10 Falkland in Fife. My social worker, Mr Thompson, drove
11 me there in his car. He told me they played sport there
12 every day and I would like it. He didn't ask me why
13 I had run away from Nazareth House.

14 "I arrived in St Ninian's in [REDACTED] 1971 when
15 I was 14 and stayed for nine months until [REDACTED] or
16 [REDACTED] 1972."

17 Indeed, the records recovered from the
18 Christian Brothers show John's admission in
19 [REDACTED] 1971 to St Ninian's and his discharge in
20 [REDACTED] 1972:

21 "St Ninian's was quite a foreboding place. It was
22 quite dark. The house had been built in 1860. It had
23 huge front doors, which were answered by one of the
24 brothers. I thought, 'I'm not going to like it here'.
25 It had a bad atmosphere. It was like a sad depression,

1 like a fear.

2 "St Ninian's had originally been built for a wealthy
3 landowner in Falkland. Years down the line, when it
4 fell into rack and ruin, it was gifted to the brothers
5 who received money to install heating during and after
6 the war.

7 "When you went into St Ninian's, there was a huge
8 hall which had a grand piano. There were highly
9 polished floors. There had been paintings left on the
10 walls. There was a winding staircase in what would have
11 been a ballroom. The rest had been changed but they
12 kept the original appearance through the front doors.

13 "Off to the left was a dining room and just ahead of
14 it was a kitchen. Off to the right you went up a small
15 stair which took you to the chapel. Along the corridor
16 from the chapel was one of the brother's rooms. Then
17 you had dormitories, right around in a square shape.
18 There was another floor you went up to by the back
19 stairs. The winding staircase took you up to the top
20 floor and that is where the classrooms were. You went
21 to school in the building. There was a laundry and
22 sewing room which had two civilian staff. All the
23 laundry was taken in and if clothes were ripped they
24 would be mended.

25 "Adjacent to the building there were stables where

1 they used to have horses in the late 19th century.
2 There was a small chapel. There was no religious
3 instruction whatsoever, except chapel on a Sunday.
4 A priest came in to do the services.

5 "There were dormitories on the first floor. One of
6 the brothers slept nearby. There were three floors. It
7 was much smaller than Nazareth House and it was just
8 boys. There were about 50 boys aged from about 10 to 14
9 and a half.

10 "It was run by brothers who wore a cassock and
11 a priest type of collar. Brother **LHC** was overall in
12 charge of St Ninian's. Then Brother **BHD** then
13 Brother **LNA** then the music teacher brother, then the
14 sports brother and a trainee brother.

15 "Brother **BHD** and Brother **LNA** were in charge of
16 the discipline. Brother **LHC** was the figurehead of
17 the home. He was 70-odd then. He was quite old.
18 I feel like I could have spoken to him. There were
19 civilian staff: there was a **██████████** teacher called
20 **BHB** and a gardener and a groundsman.

21 "On my first day there Brother **BHD** opened the
22 door and spoke to Mr Thompson, my social worker. Then
23 Mr Thompson left me to get on with it. Brother **BHD**
24 told me the dos and don't. He told me where I would
25 sleep and what the routines were.

1 "In the morning you got up and got washed and went
2 down for your breakfast. Then you went straight up the
3 stairs to your classroom for about 9.

4 "There were about three or four in a dorm. Bedtime
5 was around 8.30 pm to 9 o'clock. You had to be washed
6 and in your bed by that time. You weren't allowed to
7 talk, but people would whisper.

8 "Breakfast was cereal, like Kellogg's corn flakes.
9 The kitchen was next to the dining room. There was
10 a hatch where you queued up and got your meal. All the
11 boys ate together. It was quite a big dining room. You
12 were allowed to talk at mealtimes. After sport finished
13 at 4 pm you went into the dining room and had bread and
14 jam and a cup of tea. At 7 pm you got your dinner.
15 A lot of the food was tinned, like spaghetti bolognese
16 and macaroni and cheese. There was no home cooking and
17 I don't recall fresh potatoes and vegetables.

18 "There were bathrooms and showers. I don't remember
19 how often we showered. I think each dorm would go and
20 get a shower when it was their turn. I think this was
21 at teatime after sport.

22 "There was no school uniform. We wore the same
23 clothes all the time. The brothers taught us. You were
24 called by your last name. I hated school. I just
25 didn't like being there.

1 "You would fall out with the boys your own age and
2 they would gang up on you. It was very threatening.

3 "There were about 15 in each class. I can't recall
4 ever getting homework. Everything was done in class.
5 Exams were never mentioned. There was no report or
6 a report card. You were never pushed or encouraged.
7 You were terrified to say you didn't understand
8 something or you would be singled out.

9 "You didn't get breaks in the morning or afternoon
10 and you got half an hour after lunch. You finished at
11 3 pm and did sport until 4 pm. Sport was compulsory
12 every day, so whether it was raining or sun you had to
13 do some type of sport for an hour. There was rugby,
14 football and athletics.

15 "There was a trip to Fife for a rugby thing and
16 I remember getting chips afterwards.

17 "In the afternoons and at weekends, we could play
18 in the grounds. There used to be cross-country running.
19 After dinner, some people went to the gym. I would try
20 to do flips.

21 "There was a separate TV room. We could watch
22 whatever was on. If the chores were done you got your
23 pocket money of a shilling.

24 "I never had any visits. I never saw any doctors or
25 dentists.

1 "About ten of us ran away together. We went to one
2 of the boys' parents' houses in Dundee. Then we went to
3 a derelict house where we were arrested by the police
4 and taken to Dundee police station. We were away for
5 a couple of days. Then we were taken back to
6 St Ninian's. We were put in isolation for punishment:
7 no pocket money, no sport, no communication with this
8 one or that one. I just ran away once. This was before
9 the abuse happened. I was quite easily led in those
10 days.

11 "The brothers used to shout and scream constantly,
12 like maniacs. They lost their tempers so quickly. They
13 ruled by fear. They would punish you for minor things
14 like not listening. Brother **BHD** would crack you
15 across the hands or the head with this big ruler thing.
16 Brother **LNA** was the same. He was evil as well. They
17 also had belts around their cassocks and they would pull
18 them out and crack you with them.

19 "The classroom was ruled by fear. There was total
20 silence. If you were caught speaking you got whacked
21 big time. I witnessed physical abuse of others. There
22 were rumours of sexual abuse.

23 "One Christmas there were a few of the brothers
24 left, maybe three. I remember Brother **LNA** and myself
25 and another boy -- I actually think it was David Sharp.

1 I was given a can of beer, thinking it was Christmas and
2 all this. I can't remember if I had one can or two.
3 I was sitting in the brothers' sitting room where they
4 relaxed, I went to bed and the next thing I knew I woke
5 up in Brother LNA bed. His room was right next to
6 the dorm. I think I was drugged. I woke up in my own
7 bed after being in his bed. I don't know how I got from
8 his bed to my bed. I had a horrendous headache the next
9 day. I thought, surely it can't be like that if you
10 just have one beer. I know he definitely raped me
11 because I was bleeding. I was painful, bleeding and
12 confused.

13 "A couple of weeks later, Brother BHD give me
14 a can of beer and I went to bed. I think they were
15 drugging me. I went to bed and then I got woken by him
16 saying, 'You have to come up, I need to speak to you',
17 or something like that. I was half dazed and I went up.
18 As he was talking, I must have drifted off to sleep.
19 The next minute, I woke up and he was actually raping
20 me. By this time, I became aware, I was screaming
21 at the top of my head, I kicked him and jumped off the
22 bed. I came out into the corridor and as I came out
23 into the corridor, Brother LHC became aware of the
24 commotion. He came out to see what was going on and
25 I told him what happened.

1 "Brother [BHD] was ready to attack me physically.
2 Brother [LHC] was the [] brother but you very rarely
3 saw him. He told Brother [BHD] to get back into his
4 room and he would deal with him later. He got me
5 a blanket and covered me up as I had no clothes on. He
6 calmed me down. He told me not to worry and that he
7 would definitely get this sorted out. I was really
8 upset and crying my eyes out. I never saw
9 Brother [BHD] again after that. Somebody told me
10 he had been shipped out back to wherever they go when
11 they get these mad urges.

12 "Brother [LHC] assured me he would deal with it
13 personally. It didn't cross my mind to get the police
14 involved. He said I would never have to see
15 Brother [BHD] again, and in many respects that was
16 sufficient.

17 "When I was 15, I fell into the school leaving age
18 category. I got told I was leaving two or three days
19 beforehand. I was met by Mr Thompson and he told me
20 he had a place in a hostel. He took me to Ponton House
21 in the West End of Edinburgh. I just had the clothes
22 I had on.

23 "I was ferried from one institution to another. It
24 was more relaxed. Everything was done for you and
25 I just accepted it. I shared a room with a boy around

1 the same age as me but slightly older. A man and wife
2 ran the hostel and their job was to feed you. It was
3 a stopping-off point for people waiting for a more
4 permanent place. People used to come and go. I was
5 there for three or four months.

6 "I was then taken to Cephas House in Ravelston Park
7 in Edinburgh. This was quite a posh area. I stayed
8 there from 1972 until 1973. The house parents were
9 a man and wife. They had a daughter. There were nine
10 boys and girls there altogether. Three of us shared
11 a room. There was a more homely atmosphere. There was
12 a family-like atmosphere. There was a very relaxed and
13 very comforting atmosphere. It was really good and
14 I liked it. We had meals together and always spoke at
15 the table. They encouraged me to try and get a job and
16 I got a job in a garage earning £5 a week. They took
17 you out and helped you fill in forms for jobs. This was
18 the first time I ever earned any money.

19 "I did overtime on a Saturday, so I ended up with £6
20 a week. This was my money and they didn't take it away.
21 This was a really good feeling.

22 "I decided to join the merchant navy because I had
23 heard stories about people going to foreign countries.
24 I joined the merchant navy programme in Leith in 1973.
25 I did my training in a training ship in Leith. I went

1 to sea as a deck boy aged 15 and a half. This was with
2 the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. They were naval supply
3 ships. I felt older than I was. I felt like a survivor
4 and I was streetwise. This is when I started to go to
5 different countries. The discipline of the navy suited
6 me because I was used to that. I enjoyed my time in the
7 merchant navy. I had a happy wee life there for the
8 first time in many years. The abuse went completely out
9 of my head. I managed to forget about the horrendous
10 things that happened. The mind acts as a safety valve
11 until something triggers it and then it all comes
12 flooding back.

13 "My social worker, Mr Thompson, got in touch while
14 I was at sea. I think he wrote me a letter. He managed
15 to get me into a place in Crescent House in Edinburgh.
16 It was run by an elderly couple. They had young people,
17 girls and boys. I just used it when I was stopping off
18 from sea, maybe for three or four weeks at a time when
19 I wasn't at sea.

20 "I hadn't lived a teenager's life. I had missed out
21 on a lot of things. I had my first steady girlfriend at
22 17. This was like catching up for me.

23 "When I was 18, that was my time up at
24 Crescent House. The care system no longer needed to
25 look after me and I was more than capable of looking

1 after myself. When I turned 18, Mr Thompson had written
2 to me and said I was no longer part of the care system.
3 I just stayed on boats after that. I enjoyed being away
4 and seeing new places. I had met up with cousins and an
5 aunt and uncle in Edinburgh and I stayed with them when
6 I was home for two weeks.

7 "I worked for different shipping companies. I went
8 into a shipping pool and you went there where there were
9 vacancies like Singapore or whatever and you could fly
10 over there. I did this for four to four and a half
11 years.

12 "I had been in the Persian Gulf for six months and
13 it was absolutely boiling as usual. When the contract
14 was up I came ashore and they wanted me to go back.
15 I said I wasn't going and they were going to put me in
16 front of a committee to explain why I wasn't going, so
17 I left.

18 "I joined the army the following week. I went
19 straight into 24 weeks' training. I spent six years in
20 the army. There was more routine. On reflection,
21 joining these places was a life saver for me. I felt as
22 though I couldn't operate unless it was regimented.
23 Unbeknown to me, I was institutionalised."

24 In the following paragraphs, my Lady, the witness
25 gives some information about his family and other

1 careers he has had.

2 I will pick up the statement at paragraph 83 on
3 page 21. Before I do that, my Lady, in relation to the
4 witness's time at Nazareth House in Aberdeen, I should
5 have mentioned that he speaks in his statement of being
6 sexually abused by [REDACTED] LDU while he was there.

7 "I have osteoarthritis and I have had a stroke.
8 Mentally it is very difficult. The abuse in care is
9 like a dirty little secret you carry with you in case
10 people think you could have done something about it.
11 There's always that element of guilt.

12 "I was in jail 35 years ago. I couldn't settle when
13 I first came out of the army before I got the job in
14 telex. I ended up getting involved in crime and daft
15 things. I ended up getting 12 months in prison and
16 I had been full of drink and drugs.

17 "Before 2007, I had a major drug problem. I was
18 taking all sorts of drugs and was drinking heavily.
19 I don't know what the cause of it was. My head was
20 turning a lot of things and I was taking lots of cocaine
21 and heroin. I was blocking out a lot of feelings.

22 "I had a stroke in 2007, possibly as a result of the
23 stress I was going through and because I was taking
24 drugs. My body was saying, 'Enough is enough'.

25 "I ended up going to a rehabilitation centre weekly.

1 The stroke kind of changed my life. I no longer wanted
2 to drink or take drugs again. It saved my life in a lot
3 of respects. I turned my life completely around after
4 that. I was getting flashbacks when I was sleeping and
5 I realised there was something seriously wrong. I tried
6 to tell my doctor about it one day and I broke down.
7 I told her about the rape when I was 8 and I hadn't
8 realised it had happened again when I was at
9 St Ninian's. That was still to come out down the line.
10 Over the last few years, these things have come back to
11 me.

12 "I don't trust people a lot. I trust women more
13 than men. I have never been close to a male and I get
14 on with women a lot better. I will never trust males
15 the way other people can. I will never have that trust
16 and it has affected me big time.

17 "When I hear stories about children being abused, it
18 really gets to me. It does my head in. I can't watch
19 programmes about it on telly.

20 "I don't handle thoughts in my head great these
21 days. Lately, I haven't been able to cope with a lot of
22 things. My head feels done in and I am on
23 anti-depressants.

24 "I am not religious at all. I believe in a higher
25 power. I believe in spirit, a divine power. I believe

1 that we are all energy and you can't kill energy.
2 I don't believe in Jesus Christ. I don't believe the
3 rubbish they tell you in Bibles. It's all manufactured.
4 I have never set foot in a chapel since. I don't like
5 priests. I'm not saying they're all bad, but they know
6 what's going on and they've hidden it for so long.
7 I certainly don't believe in popes. The Catholic
8 religion is the most corrupt religion on this earth,
9 having seen it with my own eyes."

10 In paragraphs 89 and 90, the witness speaks about
11 reporting to police, mainly in relation to his
12 experiences at Nazareth House and also in relation to
13 records relating to Nazareth House.

14 I'll pick the statement up at paragraph 91:

15 "Institutions that committed abuse need to be held
16 accountable. People need to be punished. There has to
17 be some sort of redress or compensation. People's lives
18 have been ruined. Money will never change things, but
19 people could have a more comfortable experience for
20 whatever years they have left. There should be no
21 loopholes in the system where something can go amiss or
22 not be noticed. There should be deeper disclosure
23 checks.

24 "Social work departments need to let care
25 institutions know that children can speak to them openly

1 and that it won't be divulged. There should be places
2 where people can go to speak about things. Homes should
3 have regular inspections. There should be checks and
4 balances and regular feedback about how things are
5 working.

6 "I hope that accountability comes out. There should
7 be changes for future generations. Religion-based
8 institutions should not be watching children. Care
9 should be geared towards a family home life rather than
10 institutions.

11 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
12 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.
13 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
14 true."

15 John signed the statement on 27 November 2018.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

17 Is that going to be the end of statements for today?

18 MS MACLEOD: That is going to be the end of statements for
19 today. We have two witnesses lined up to give oral
20 evidence tomorrow and some read-ins.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. That will be one witness
22 in the morning and one witness in the afternoon,
23 I think; is that correct?

24 MS MACLEOD: I think so, my Lady, yes.

25 LADY SMITH: Very well. I'll rise now until tomorrow

1 morning at 10 o'clock.

2 (3.05 pm)

3 (The inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am

4 on Thursday, 6 June 2019)

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"JOHN" (affirmed)1

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