

1 Tuesday, 10 September 2019

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. Welcome back to the resumption  
4 of this case study and its hearings into the provision  
5 of residential care for children at Fort Augustus Abbey  
6 School. I think we have a witness ready to give oral  
7 evidence just now; is that right, Mr MacAulay?

8 MR MacAULAY: Yes, good morning, my Lady, we do. The first  
9 witness today is Hugh Rankin Kennedy.

10 HUGH KENNEDY (affirmed)

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

12 I started by addressing you as Mr Kennedy, but you  
13 may feel more comfortable if I call you Hugh; would that  
14 be all right?

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: Your choice.

17 A. That's fine.

18 LADY SMITH: Hugh, the only thing at the moment I would ask  
19 of you is make sure you stay in that good position for  
20 the microphone that you're in at the moment. I'll hand  
21 over now to Mr MacAulay and he'll explain to you what  
22 happens next. Mr MacAulay.

23 Questions from MR MacAULAY

24 MR MacAULAY: My Lady.

25 Good morning, Hugh. In the red folder in front of

1           you, you'll find your statement. I'm going to give the  
2           reference of that for the transcript: it's at  
3           WIT.001.002.1889.

4           Could I ask you to turn to the very last page. Can  
5           I get you to confirm that you signed the statement?

6           A. Yes, I have signed the statement.

7           Q. Do you tell us in the last paragraph that:

8                        "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
9           published as part of the evidence to the inquiry"?

10           Is that correct?

11           A. That's correct.

12           Q. Do you go on to say:

13                        "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
14           statement are true"?

15           A. That's correct.

16           Q. Hugh, could I just get you to confirm your date of  
17           birth: were you born on [REDACTED] 1963?

18           A. Yes, I was.

19           Q. The statement that I've asked you about is in the red  
20           folder. You'll also find it coming up on the screen and  
21           it's entirely up to you which medium you'd prefer to use  
22           if I ask you to look at the statement. The other thing  
23           I want to say to you is if I put a question to you about  
24           something and you remember something else about it, then  
25           feel free to tell us about that. Likewise, if I ask you

1 a question and it's about something you can't remember,  
2 just say you can't remember. Do you understand?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You begin by telling us, Hugh, in your statement about  
5 your life before you went to Fort Augustus School and  
6 that's what we're going to be asking you about shortly.  
7 In short, I think you tell us you have fond memories of  
8 your life before you went to Fort Augustus; is that  
9 correct?

10 A. Yes, that's correct.

11 Q. You give us some information about your family  
12 background. You have [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED] is that right?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. [REDACTED]

16 A. [REDACTED]

17 Q. I think you tell us your family ran a hotel when you  
18 were a young boy.

19 A. That's correct, in [REDACTED]

20 Q. Then just looking to the background to your going to  
21 Fort Augustus, what was the background?

22 A. My mother was keen on me going to Fort Augustus. We're  
23 from a Catholic family and [REDACTED]  
24 [REDACTED] and it was  
25 something I think she was particularly keen on.

1 Q. Did it become the case then that you went to  
2 Fort Augustus in 1974?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. Was that in the beginning of the summer academic year?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Having regard to your date of birth in [REDACTED] 1963,  
7 can we take it that you'd be aged 11 when you first went  
8 to Fort Augustus?

9 A. Yes, I think so.

10 Q. I think you tell us also in your statement you were  
11 there for about two and a half years, until about 1976;  
12 is that right?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. We have a record that's been recovered from the  
15 Benedictines that you did leave in 1976, although we  
16 don't have a record as to when you went there. But  
17 I think your own recollection is that that's the  
18 position, it was 1974.

19 A. From my recollection, yes.

20 LADY SMITH: Do you remember what age you were when you  
21 started and what age you were when you left?

22 A. Not specifically. I thought I was 10, actually, when  
23 I started.

24 LADY SMITH: Right. And your age when you left?

25 A. Just two years later.

- 1 LADY SMITH: Twelve, thirteen, something like that,  
2 depending on what stage in the year?
- 3 A. Mm-hm.
- 4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
- 5 MR MacAULAY: We know that Fort Augustus in the main was  
6 a boarding school for boys. When you went there, were  
7 all the children there boarders or were there some who  
8 were not boarders?
- 9 A. There was a mixture. Predominantly it was boarders who  
10 were there. But there were a few day pupils from the  
11 local village and some of the teachers' children also  
12 from the village were day pupils.
- 13 Q. So when you were there in 1974, perhaps through to 1976,  
14 were there any girls at the school?
- 15 A. There were, yes. Actually, I think two of the first  
16 girls to be at the school were in our class.
- 17 Q. Were these children of teachers who taught at the  
18 school?
- 19 A. I'm not sure about one of them, but one of the girls was  
20 definitely; she was the daughter of the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
21 teacher, [REDACTED] MIH [REDACTED]
- 22 Q. So far as the physical set-up at the school was  
23 concerned I think we know there was the school but there  
24 was also the abbey that was occupied by the monks;  
25 is that correct?

- 1 A. That's correct.
- 2 Q. So far as the abbey was concerned, were you as a pupil  
3 allowed into the abbey area?
- 4 A. Not into where the monks' accommodation and refectory  
5 was, no.
- 6 Q. So far as the first day is concerned, do you have  
7 a recollection of your first day there?
- 8 A. I didn't enjoy the first day, it was quite a traumatic  
9 experience from where I sat. My father had taken me  
10 down in the car with a very large trunk and I was  
11 a little bit mystified, I must admit, and I didn't  
12 really enjoy the first night, as did many other boys  
13 in the dormitory. It was quite a distressing evening,  
14 I would say. I didn't really want to be there, if I'm  
15 honest, and neither did lot of other people I don't  
16 think.
- 17 Q. In what way was it distressing?
- 18 A. It was quite a shock to the system. I'd gone from  
19 a pretty cosseted environment at home to seeing no one  
20 that I was familiar with and having no idea of when you  
21 would either so it wasn't at all something that I look  
22 back to fondly.
- 23 Q. Were you, when you went to the school, in the youngest  
24 group of boys?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. I think we know the age range went from that sort of  
2 age, 10/11 up to 17/18, although you weren't there up to  
3 that time.
- 4 A. No, I wasn't. The first two form years were all  
5 accommodated in the one dormitory. I was in the lowest  
6 year, the first year.
- 7 Q. Can I ask you just about the set-up then for the  
8 dormitory. What was the situation there?
- 9 A. We were set up in cubicles, really, where each cubicle  
10 was divided by a wooden partition. There was no front  
11 to it. And there would be two bunk beds and two boys to  
12 each cubicle, and a rack of open shelving where you  
13 would hold your clothing.
- 14 Q. How many boys do you think were in that dormitory that  
15 you were in?
- 16 A. Probably about 35, something like that.
- 17 Q. And there were other dormitories as well?
- 18 A. Yes. Those two first years were accommodated in one  
19 dormitory, and then as you moved on to the third and  
20 fourth year, they would be accommodated elsewhere.
- 21 Q. Looking at some aspects of the routine, if you look at  
22 washing, for example, because you do tell us about the  
23 set-up for washing where you had to go to a different  
24 part of the building to get to the washrooms. Can you  
25 help me with that?

1 A. Yes, the washrooms were quite a distance away from the  
2 dormitory, so we would have to walk down numerous  
3 flights of stairs and all the sinks and showers were  
4 lined up and open to all. Everyone would wash at the  
5 same time, really.

6 Q. Just looking at the routine then so far as the morning  
7 would be concerned, were you woken up early in the  
8 morning and required to go to the washrooms?

9 A. Yes, that's correct.

10 Q. What sort of time --

11 A. About 6.30.

12 Q. So it was an early start?

13 A. Yes, it was.

14 Q. So far as the food was concerned, how did you find the  
15 food?

16 A. Average. Acceptable -- if you're hungry. We would get  
17 things, as I've said, like porridge, corn flakes, bread,  
18 butter, jam and tea. That's generally what we would  
19 have for breakfast.

20 Q. Looking at other aspects of routine I think we have  
21 heard before that sport was quite a major feature at  
22 Fort Augustus.

23 A. It was indeed, yes.

24 Q. Were you sporty at all?

25 A. I was sporty.



1 Q. So were you happy with the sporting arrangements?

2 A. I enjoyed all the sport at Fort Augustus. You either

3 excelled there in sport or in academia, really, and

4 I would say I was more keen on sport.

5 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about the personnel and

6 staffing. You mention in your statement at paragraph 7

7 that the SNR when you went there, was a

8 Father MMF.

9 A. Yes, that's correct, he was.

10 Q. We understand that the set-up at Fort Augustus was that

11 it was divided into houses; is that correct?

12 A. That's right, it was.

13 Q. What was the name of the house that you were allocated

14 to?

15 A. I can't remember, but I think it might have been

16 Lovat House.

17 Q. Was there a particular housemaster who was in charge of

18 your house?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Who was that?

21 A. That was MEV

22 Q. Did you refer to him as Father MEV at the time?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You also mention a Father MFG and also I think

25 a Father MRQ were they also --

- 1 A. They were the housemasters of older boys in the third,  
2 fourth, fifth and sixth years.
- 3 Q. So they were all monks that you had come across in your  
4 time at Fort Augustus?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. What about lay staff? Do you have any recollection of  
7 the lay staff?
- 8 A. Yes. Dave Gavine was geography teacher to myself.  
9 [REDACTED] MZV [REDACTED], he was [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] MIH [REDACTED], who  
10 was the head of [REDACTED] and he also taught [REDACTED]. There  
11 was a lady, a French lady, Ms Pottage, her name was, who  
12 obviously taught French. But there weren't many lay  
13 teachers. There was also [REDACTED] MFH [REDACTED] who was the [REDACTED]  
14 teacher there.
- 15 Q. We'll talk about him shortly, but in relation to  
16 schooling then, do I understand that the education was  
17 provided in part by monks, but also by lay teachers?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. And insofar as the religious education was concerned,  
20 would that really fall upon the shoulders of a monk or  
21 monks to deal with that?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Can you remember who taught religious education?
- 24 A. I think it was Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] He also taught  
25 [REDACTED] as well.

1 Q. In relation to holidays, school holidays, I think from  
2 what you've said to us you lived at least in the  
3 vicinity of Fort Augustus. Did you go home for the  
4 school holidays?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Were there some children who did not?

7 A. Yes, that's correct.

8 Q. And half-term holidays, did you go home for half-term  
9 holidays?

10 A. Generally, yes.

11 Q. I want to ask you a little bit about Father MEV  
12 One thing you tell us at paragraph 18 of your statement  
13 is that he had what you call a social list, whereby you  
14 could be invited to his room for butter and jam and tea.

15 A. That's correct. They were just called socials where  
16 a set group of the boys from the house -- there would be  
17 different boys in different weeks who would go to the  
18 housemaster's room. He would play classical music,  
19 generally, and you'd be allowed to have some toast and  
20 tea in the evening.

21 Q. Insofar as Father MEV is concerned, at least in  
22 your initial period at Fort Augustus, were you invited  
23 to these social occasions?

24 A. Initially, and then I was excluded.

25 Q. I'll come and look at that in a moment.

1           One thing you do tell us in paragraph 22 is that you  
2           were required to do some chores, in particular for other  
3           boys.

4           A. That's correct.

5           Q. Can you describe the system to me? I think you refer to  
6           it as a skiv system.

7           A. Yes, it was a bit like Tom Brown's Schooldays, really.  
8           Older boys would normally ask a first year, very rarely  
9           a second year, to do menial chores for them, such as  
10          cleaning their shoes, making their bed, cleaning their  
11          room, doing small errands for them. That was very much  
12          the norm.

13          Q. These would be, what, boys in fifth and sixth year?

14          A. Normally sixth year or prefects. Prefects had quite an  
15          influence over the school. They were used to sort of  
16          police prep times of an evening and also to police meal  
17          lines, et cetera.

18          Q. Would they exact any discipline on any of the younger  
19          children?

20          A. Well, some of them would. They were probably what you  
21          would call bullies, really, because they could be, you  
22          know. It was not uncommon to have boys beaten up by  
23          elder boys in the school.

24          Q. Did that happen to you?

25          A. Not very often, no.

- 1 Q. But did you see it happening to others?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. When you say beaten up, what sort of -- what would  
4 happen?
- 5 A. They would just be thrown to the floor or kicked, things  
6 like that, really.
- 7 LADY SMITH: Hugh, are you telling me that the skiv system  
8 facilitated this if the older boy was prone to being  
9 a bully?
- 10 A. Yes, it would facilitate it, but that wasn't really the  
11 purpose of the skiv system --
- 12 LADY SMITH: No, I'm not suggesting that, not at all. I'm  
13 interested in, I suppose, what the risks were that were  
14 inherent in the system.
- 15 A. Yes, there was definitely risks: if you didn't do what  
16 you were asked, you could get quite a whack.
- 17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
- 18 MR MacAULAY: Just looking generally at the bullying aspect  
19 of life at Fort Augustus, how common was bullying  
20 amongst boys, particularly older boys on younger boys?
- 21 A. Very common. You had to learn really how to stand on  
22 your own two feet pretty quickly at Fort Augustus. If  
23 you were deemed to be weak in any way, emotionally weak  
24 or physically weak, you could be preyed upon. I saw  
25 that go on quite a bit with boys who were maybe

1 particularly intelligent but weren't particularly good  
2 at sport, they would be picked on sometimes -- and in  
3 other ways as well, you know. It depended on really  
4 where you would fit in at the school. You had to find  
5 a way of fitting in very quickly and you either became  
6 particularly good on the academic side or pretty good on  
7 the sports side.

8 Q. Did you manage to fit in?

9 A. With the sports side, yes.

10 Q. To what extent do you think it would have been evident  
11 to the monks that there was the sort of bullying going  
12 on that you've described?

13 A. They would know it was going on. They knew what was  
14 going on. In fact, sometimes I wonder if it was  
15 encouraged, really, with the senior boys as a way of  
16 holding discipline in the dormitories, et cetera,  
17 because the senior prefects would be allowed to wander  
18 round the dormitories late at night. They would exact  
19 some discipline there if there was noise or anything  
20 like that. The senior boys were used to do that.

21 Q. In exacting discipline, did that involve physical  
22 contact with boys?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. In what way?

25 A. Beatings, really.

- 1 Q. In the dormitories?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Did you witness that?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. How regular an occurrence was that?
- 6 A. Very regularly. Exactly how many times, I couldn't tell
- 7 you.
- 8 Q. In relation to the matter of discipline then, so far as
- 9 discipline in the classroom would be concerned, how was
- 10 discipline managed in the classroom?
- 11 A. It would depend on which teacher you had. It could be
- 12 quite fierce. I had a particularly bad recollection of
- 13 the [REDACTED] teacher, who was also my [REDACTED] teacher,
- 14 [REDACTED] MIH [REDACTED] who -- because I wasn't quite getting
- 15 what he was trying to teach on the day, he pulled a golf
- 16 club out of the bag that was at the back of the class
- 17 and held it up against my throat in front of the other
- 18 boys, which was very frightening, obviously, at the
- 19 time. I could see what he was attempting to do. This
- 20 was really to get my attention.
- 21 Q. That just happened on one occasion?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. What about the monks in particular, Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED]
- 24 who you have mentioned already? How did he manage
- 25 discipline in the classroom?

1 A. You would be strapped regularly -- and back then it  
2 wasn't really an uncommon thing for that to be meted out  
3 regularly. If people were disruptive in class you could  
4 be strapped in class in front of the others. That  
5 wasn't uncommon and it was quite acceptable at the time.  
6 Not today, obviously, but it was at the time.

7 Q. So there was a strap that he would use in the classroom?

8 A. All the housemasters had a two-pronged strap.

9 Q. You have mentioned Father MRQ did he  
10 discipline you in any way?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What did he do?

13 A. He strapped me a few times.

14 Q. You describe the set-up at Fort Augustus in paragraph 25  
15 of your statement -- this is a quote from the statement  
16 -- as:

17 "A real dog-eat-dog kind of place."

18 Do you see that?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Can you elaborate on what you mean by that?

21 A. It's as I mentioned, really: you either found a way of  
22 fitting in, where you would be stronger than others,  
23 perhaps, maybe physically stronger, mentally stronger,  
24 or you would wind up being crushed either by other boys  
25 or by the system that was there. It really was



1 a survival-of-the-fittest type of regime, I found.

2 Q. You've already mentioned Father [REDACTED] MEV or

3 Father [REDACTED] MEV who was your housemaster, and I think

4 you've told us that initially you were one of those

5 chosen to go to his social occasions.

6 A. Mm-hm.

7 Q. That initial period, how long did that go on for?

8 A. Probably about the first six months when I was there.

9 Q. So if you were there in 1974, you're going into 1975?

10 Would that be about right?

11 A. That would be about right.

12 Q. Did that change?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Can you just tell the inquiry what the change was and

15 what happened?

16 A. The change came about after he'd come to the dormitory

17 to -- well, he came to the dormitory ... Do we have to

18 go into this bit now?

19 Q. It's entirely up to you to give us as much detail as you

20 like, but it is quite important for us to understand --

21 A. He came to the dormitory one night whilst I was fast

22 asleep and I was on the top bunk within the dormitory.

23 There was another chap underneath -- [REDACTED] his

24 name was. You always knew when he was coming into the

25 dormitory because he wore Segs on his shoes -- and the

1 floor was quite hard, it was that old, hard lino-type.  
2 You would hear his shoes as he would come in from the  
3 monastery.

4 But when he came in, he came right into my cubicle  
5 and he slipped his hand underneath the duvet and started  
6 to interfere with me. At the time, I was very shocked,  
7 as it says in my statement, and I tried to turn my back  
8 on him and I was very frightened at the time.

9 I sort of pushed it out of my mind as if it hadn't  
10 happened, really, the next day. I was really -- I'd  
11 almost convinced myself it hadn't happened the next day.  
12 But this is when I was sort of picked out for different  
13 treatment, really. I noticed after that particular  
14 event that's when I started to get picked out for  
15 different treatment by him.

16 Q. Can you perhaps tell us what that treatment involved,  
17 Hugh?

18 A. Well, I would again get excluded from social evenings.  
19 I was disciplined more often. On one occasion he made  
20 me kneel outside a class facing the wall for about  
21 4/5 hours, I think it was, where all the other boys  
22 could walk up and down and see me.

23 LADY SMITH: Hugh, tell me what surface you were kneeling  
24 on.

25 A. The hard surface, it'd be like -- nearly all of the

1           monastery was this lino.

2           LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3           A. I noticed that I was getting more and more picked on.  
4           Subsequently, obviously, as the years have progressed,  
5           I now understand this to be some form of grooming where  
6           you're being softened up for something that's coming  
7           later.

8           MR MacAULAY: Just looking at the way you were being picked  
9           upon then, what would happen if he picked upon you for  
10          something?

11          A. It could be a number of things, you know. He would pick  
12          me out of the dormitory in the middle of the night if  
13          he'd had a drink and he would cane me and I wouldn't  
14          know what for. So I was finding it difficult to  
15          understand why I was getting regularly picked out to be  
16          caned. There were other boys who have recollection of  
17          this also. They couldn't quite get their heads around  
18          why I was being taken out regularly for this sort of  
19          extra beating. He would cane me on the bare bum and you  
20          would have welt marks and bleed from these beatings.  
21          And still I still couldn't understand why he was doing  
22          this just to me, really. I couldn't get my head round  
23          it.

24          LADY SMITH: Hugh, you mentioned:

25                        "It would be at times when he'd been drinking [and]

1           when he had had a drink."

2                   How did you know he'd been drinking?

3           A.   You could smell the whisky on his breath, really.

4           MR MacAULAY:   The incident you mentioned when he touched

5           your -- made contact with your private parts, I think is

6           what effectively you were saying, did you smell whisky

7           on his breath on that occasion?

8           A.   Yes.   He seemed to have more courage when he was

9           drinking.

10          Q.   These occasions when you were taken out of the dorm

11          in the middle of the night, can I just understand what

12          happened?   Where would you be taken to?

13          A.   I'd be taken to the housemaster's room.

14          Q.   His room?

15          A.   Yes.   Within the school, not within the dorm, not within

16          the monastery, and he'd put me over a chair and cane me.

17          Q.   I think you said you would take your -- your pyjamas

18          would be taken down?

19          A.   Yes.

20          Q.   How many strokes of the cane would you receive?

21          A.   Normally, six to eight, or whatever you could bear

22          without jumping up and getting out of the way.

23          Q.   But these blows, they inflicted injuries?

24          A.   Yes.

25          LADY SMITH:   And that was on your bare skin, you said?

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: You would have been still quite young at that  
3 time.

4 A. Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Mr MacAulay.

6 MR MacAULAY: Yes, you'd be perhaps 11 or so by then, 12  
7 possibly.

8 A. Possibly, yes.

9 Q. I think from what you're saying, you really didn't  
10 understand why these beatings were being inflicted upon  
11 you.

12 A. That's correct. I didn't understand why I was being  
13 singled out for these extra beatings.

14 Q. Do you know if any other boys were being singled out in  
15 this way?

16 A. Not singled out, but as I've recalled here in the  
17 statement, there was this chap -- I think his name was  
18 [REDACTED] -- and we were both queued up outside the  
19 housemaster's room one day for another caning. He also,  
20 I don't think, knew what he was in for or why he was  
21 being caned, but I took some strength from hearing what  
22 he was doing inside the room because he kind of fought  
23 back on that particular occasion and there was a hell of  
24 a commotion going on. In actual fact, by the time it  
25 came for me to be caned on this occasion, [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] was

1 out of breath, he wasn't up for giving me a caning. The  
2 other lad had exhausted him, I think.

3 Q. So this was a caning that was not a dormitory removal  
4 type of thing?

5 A. No, this was another one through the course of the day.

6 Q. During this period when you were being caned, were you  
7 being excluded from his social occasions?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. How long do you think this particular period lasted?

10 A. I couldn't be specific.

11 Q. Did there come a point in time when it did come to an  
12 end?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Can you tell me about that? What happened?

15 A. Well, all of a sudden he started to be nice to me again  
16 and he would suggest one-to-one, things like learning  
17 how to play the [REDACTED] also going to yoga sessions.  
18 He was a keen fanatic for yoga. He took me and another  
19 boy to a session to learn yoga within the monastery,  
20 which was off limits, [REDACTED] and I. On that  
21 occasion, nothing happened, but on the next occasion --

22 Q. Just before we come to the second occasion, the occasion  
23 you went with this other boy, so far as Father [REDACTED] MEV  
24 would be concerned -- and did you engage in some degree  
25 of yoga activity?

- 1 A. Yes, we did.
- 2 Q. And what sort of activity did that involve?
- 3 A. That was learning different postures and poses.
- 4 Q. How were you dressed for that?
- 5 A. We were just dressed in our sports kit.
- 6 Q. What about Father MEV?
- 7 A. He was in a loose pair of shorts and a polo top.
- 8 Q. Normally, how were the monks dressed?
- 9 A. They'd be dressed in their full habit.
- 10 Q. On this occasion when you first went for a yoga session,
- 11 he was in some form of shorts?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And was he wearing a top of some kind?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Did anything happen on that particular occasion when you
- 16 were there with another boy?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. What happened after that? Did you go back for further
- 19 yoga?
- 20 A. Yes, I did.
- 21 Q. How did that come about?
- 22 A. He invited me to go back again. I think I was quite
- 23 relieved that the treatment had gone from being so nasty
- 24 to being quite favourable towards me. He went -- he
- 25 took me back to the same yoga room, loose flannelette

1 shorts he had on, as I've said here, and put me  
2 a headstand and then he started to interfere with me.  
3 He put his penis in my mouth, pulled my head forward.  
4 This sort of came to an end pretty quick for him and  
5 he did apologise to me when I left the yoga room and he  
6 promised me it would never happen again. I specifically  
7 remember he had a bit of a tear in his eye and  
8 I genuinely believed he was sorry.

9 Q. What was your own reaction at that time to what had  
10 happened?

11 A. I was shocked. I didn't know what to think, really.  
12 I really didn't know what to think. You feel very  
13 isolated and alone and you don't -- it's not the sort of  
14 thing you go back to your classmates and tell about  
15 because it would have been a source of an awful lot of  
16 ridicule and bullying, probably, that would have come  
17 from that.

18 LADY SMITH: Hugh, you don't need to go into this detail if  
19 it's too much for you, but when you say that it came to  
20 an end pretty quick for Father MEV did he  
21 ejaculate?

22 A. Yes.

23 LADY SMITH: In your mouth?

24 A. Mm-hm.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.



- 1 MR MacAULAY: You've been telling us about how you felt,  
2 that you couldn't really do very much, but did you do  
3 something ultimately? Did you report what happened to  
4 you?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. How long between the event that you've described elapsed  
7 before you took a decision to do something about it?
- 8 A. It wasn't immediate. I can't remember specifically the  
9 time lapse between one and the other. It was pretty  
10 soon afterwards.
- 11 Q. What did you do?
- 12 A. Reported it to Father **MMF**.
- 13 Q. What informed your decision to do that?
- 14 A. I knew it wasn't right, I knew this was wrong, and he  
15 obviously, by his behaviour, indicated things were wrong  
16 with his apology. It was obviously dirty and it felt  
17 dirty and it felt what it was, really.
- 18 Q. So then you went to see Father **MMF**
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And did he have a particular place in the school where  
21 he was accessible?
- 22 A. You didn't go to his office. I got hold of him during  
23 the mealtimes.
- 24 Q. But you got him on his own?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And what did you say to him?
- 2 A. I said that this had happened and he was quite  
3 dismissive, really. I felt as though I was in the wrong  
4 for telling him, really. He was very dismissive of it.  
5 Nothing actually happened after I told him, nothing  
6 happened at all.
- 7 Q. Did you tell him what you have told the inquiry today as  
8 to what had happened to you?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Are you able to say when in the course of that year --  
11 which I think would take us in the course of 1975,  
12 I think; you went there, I think, in 1974 and we've gone  
13 into 1975 -- what time of the year it was that you  
14 raised this with Father **MMF** ?
- 15 A. No, I can't recall that, but as I've said here in the  
16 statement, I do recall **MEV** being removed for  
17 a period of time, which obviously came as a relief to  
18 me. I did hear another boy had reported things to  
19 Father **MMF** as well.
- 20 Q. Do you know where Father **MEV** went when he was  
21 removed?
- 22 A. Not specifically, but a rumour was he'd gone back to  
23 Australia.
- 24 LADY SMITH: When you say another boy had reported things to  
25 Father **MMF** as well, was that also about

1 Father [REDACTED] MEV or was it about somebody else?

2 A. I think it was about Father [REDACTED] MEV .

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MR MacAULAY: That was a rumour in the school, was it?

5 A. Mm-hm.

6 Q. And do you know what these things were that might have  
7 been reported to Father [REDACTED] MMF ?

8 A. I don't know specifically, but I would imagine it'd be  
9 the same thing.

10 He did -- as I say in my statement, [REDACTED] MEV did  
11 come to the hotel because in the interim period -- quite  
12 a lot happened in my life round about this sort of time.  
13 My parents, at a similar sort of time, had been involved  
14 in a road traffic accident. My mother was killed in the  
15 road traffic accident and my father was pretty badly  
16 mashed up. For reasons I'd rather not go into, he very  
17 quickly remarried a woman who purported to be able to  
18 assist the family with running of the hotel.

19 At some stage, [REDACTED] MEV drove from Fort Augustus  
20 to [REDACTED] to speak with this stepmother of mine to offer  
21 his explanation, I think, about what I had said, because  
22 I had told her as well. I sat outside what we would  
23 call our back dining room in the hotel, waiting to see  
24 how this meeting went, and by the time he came back out  
25 he had convinced her there was nothing to worry about,

- 1 and I was sent back to the school.
- 2 Q. Was this meeting between him and your stepmother after  
3 he had been sent away and came back?
- 4 A. I think so, yes.
- 5 Q. Because I think he came back.
- 6 A. Yes, he did.
- 7 Q. I just want to put a document on the screen to see if  
8 this in any way would fit in with what you've been  
9 telling us. This is BEN.001.001.4010. You will not  
10 have seen this before. This is the chronicle that was  
11 kept at Fort Augustus over the period that you were  
12 there. It's a record of certain events. If we turn to  
13 page 4408, and scroll down a bit, can we just make that  
14 a little bit bigger?
- 15 There's an entry there for [REDACTED] 1975. If you  
16 see:
- 17 "Father [REDACTED] MEV set off to see his parents in  
18 Australia"; do you see that?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. We know from other records that he returned to  
21 Fort Augustus in [REDACTED] 1976. I just wonder whether  
22 that would fit in with your timescale or not.
- 23 A. Yes. What is mentioned there, where Father [REDACTED] MMF  
24 filled in for him, I recall that.
- 25 Q. As we read there:

1 "Father [MMF] [that's Father [MMF]]  
2 will fill in."

3 So you do recollect that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. So it does appear then, whether based on what you had  
6 said to Father [MMF] or another boy, that  
7 Father [MEV] did leave Fort Augustus for a period of  
8 time but returned?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. And he returned when you were there still; is that  
11 correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What did you have to do with him when he returned?

14 A. I had very little to do with him, really. I had a lot  
15 of fear around him returning, but nothing else happened,  
16 and he was quite distant towards me in particular.

17 Q. Did he remain your housemaster?

18 A. As far as I recall, yes, he did.

19 Q. Can I just ask you about what you say in paragraph --

20 A. Because when he went away, my understanding was that it  
21 was for a retreat of some sort; retreats are used to  
22 cleanse oneself of sin or whatever. They had all sorts  
23 of different things like that that went on at the  
24 school.

25 Q. I think you did say that in any event your understanding

1 was that when he went away, he went to Australia?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. If I can take you back to the statement, your own  
4 statement, we'll get it back on the screen.

5 Paragraph 33. That's at WIT.001.002.1897. I just want  
6 to ask you about this sentence that you mention there:

7 "I strongly believe that there was a bit of pass the  
8 parcel going on between the abusers."

9 Do you see that?

10 A. Yes, I do.

11 Q. I think you go on to tell us about other abuse that you  
12 suffered. But what makes you have that strong belief  
13 that there was this pass the parcel?

14 A. Well, because as soon as it stopped with MEV  
15 this lay teacher, MFH, took a keen interest in  
16 me and he was a much more prolific abuser to me than  
17 MEV was.

18 Q. Had you had anything to do with him before?

19 A. Yes. He'd been my teacher. I really liked the guy  
20 an awful lot. I was very fond of him. He used to tell  
21 me, which mystified me, that I was really good at  
22 because I've never been good at I was rubbish at  
23 but he would tell me I was good at He took  
24 myself and a chap, who I believe has passed away,  
25 , to his cottage in .

1           He was a really keen [REDACTED], [REDACTED] MFH was.  
2           Always very, very nice to me. It was something I was  
3           challenged on when I gave my statement as to why  
4           I hadn't really talked about anything about the [REDACTED]  
5           teacher and the reason for that was he was just always  
6           so very nice to me.

7           Q. So you're telling us then that at a point in time when  
8           the abuse that you have told us about by  
9           Father [REDACTED] MEV had finished, this teacher Mr [REDACTED] MFH  
10          became involved with you?

11          A. Yes, that's correct.

12          Q. And you began by saying that in the first instance he  
13          took you and another boy to his cottage?

14          A. Mm-hm.

15          Q. Is that correct?

16          A. Yes.

17          Q. I take it he took you there by car?

18          A. Yes.

19          Q. Was that reasonably feasible for a teacher to take  
20          children from the school to the teacher's home?

21          A. He made it plain that we should go to a certain part of  
22          the village to be picked up. It was almost -- it was  
23          a bit -- as though it was clandestine, he was doing it  
24          outside of the village, really. That would be the same  
25          for when we returned: we'd be dropped off outside the

1 village.

2 Q. Can you tell us what age you think that Mr MFH was at  
3 this time? I know it's difficult through the eyes of an  
4 child.

5 A. I would probably say he was early 40s.

6 Q. And then on the first occasion that he took you to the  
7 cottage, what happened?

8 A. He showed us pornographic photos of other boys. He  
9 asked us, really, about what we thought of these  
10 pictures and if we were aroused by them. The other lad  
11 and I were, again, you know, not very comfortable, and  
12 he could see that, so he sort of backed off on that  
13 first occasion and took us back, really.

14 Q. The other boys' photographs, were these boys naked?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. I think you were taken back by him again to the cottage  
17 is that right?

18 A. Quite a few times, yes.

19 Q. On your own?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Was the set-up as before, that you'd meet him in the  
22 village?

23 A. He ran what was called the [REDACTED]  
24 in Fort Augustus. That was something that he owned and  
25 ran and I would meet him there.



1 Q. Let's go to the next occasion after that first occasion  
2 that you went to his cottage. What happened on that  
3 occasion?

4 A. Well, on that occasion, he asked me to strip naked, got  
5 me into a state of arousal, and took a lot of pictures  
6 of me.

7 Q. What about him? Did he do anything himself?

8 A. Not on that first occasion.

9 Q. Were you shown photographs of other boys?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Were these boys in a state of arousal?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Who did you understand these boys to be?

14 A. Other abbey boys.

15 Q. At this time you'd be aged, what, 11, possibly 12?

16 A. Yes, yes.

17 Q. And were you able to make some assessment as to what the  
18 ages of these other boys might have been?

19 A. Various ages. Older, generally.

20 Q. On this second occasion, were you shown many  
21 photographs?

22 A. Yes. He had hundreds of photographs of boys.

23 Q. Were the boys' faces visible to you?

24 A. Generally not. Generally not. It was genitalia that  
25 was on display or their legs, torso. Not generally

1           their faces, no.

2       LADY SMITH: You said they were other abbey boys; how did

3           you know that?

4       A. I didn't; I assumed they were abbey boys.

5       LADY SMITH: Did Mr MFH say anything about the boys?

6       A. He just said, "All these boys have had their photographs

7           taken, Hugh, why wouldn't you want to?"

8       MR MacAULAY: Perhaps looking to the kind of photograph,

9           were they all the same size or different sizes?

10      A. Different sizes, all developed at home, all black and

11         white. He had his own [REDACTED] and he used to do that

12         at the school as well.

13      Q. Yes, because there was, I think, a [REDACTED] club

14         at the school?

15      A. There was, yes.

16      Q. Thereafter, when you were still at the school, did

17         you have further visits to his cottage?

18      A. Yes.

19      Q. How often did that happen?

20      A. Probably once or twice -- once a month, maybe.

21      Q. Again, on these occasions, can you tell us what

22         happened?

23      A. He would take photographs of me and he would ask me to

24         perform acts on him.

25      Q. Would these be sexual acts?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Would these acts involve you making contact with his  
3 penis?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. You've told us already, Hugh, about the sad fact that  
6 your parents were involved in a car crash and your  
7 mother was killed in the car crash; is that correct?
- 8 A. That's correct, yes.
- 9 Q. Did that have an impact upon your stay at Fort Augustus?
- 10 A. It did, fortunately.
- 11 Q. Because --
- 12 A. Because there was not sufficient money to pay the fees,  
13 I was taken out of the school.
- 14 LADY SMITH: Sorry, you were asked whether it had an impact  
15 on your stay at Fort Augustus and you said -- did you  
16 say fortunately or unfortunately?
- 17 A. Fortunately.
- 18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
- 19 MR MacAULAY: I think I have taken from you already that you  
20 left Fort Augustus in about 1976. By then you'd be  
21 about 13.
- 22 A. Correct.
- 23 Q. In relation to your involvement with Mr MFH did that  
24 continue?
- 25 A. It did.

1 Q. Can you tell me about that? How did that happen?

2 A. He was quite persistent. He would phone the hotel and

3 he would come to our home town and pick me up and drive

4 to Inverness, where he would take me to a hotel. As

5 I say, talking about it right now -- and I didn't

6 realise this was going to be as uncomfortable as I'm

7 starting to feel now, but --

8 LADY SMITH: Hugh, let me know if you want a break at any

9 time.

10 A. I don't want a break.

11 LADY SMITH: Take your time.

12 A. At the time, of course, this didn't feel oppressive to

13 me, it didn't feel nasty to me. As I say, he was always

14 very kind towards me. When you look back on things now,

15 I think possibly ... Maybe I wasn't getting much

16 attention as a child, I don't know. He was showing me

17 a lot of attention. He was always very kind to me. He

18 always bought me a steak dinner and what he was asking

19 me to do didn't seem that awful. When I look back on it

20 now, I see how dreadful it was and what he was up to.

21 But he was always very pleasant towards me and it

22 looks like he was quite a serial predator on many boys,

23 it turns out.

24 MR MacAULAY: On these occasions, then, these hotel visits,

25 what would happen?

1 A. He would ask me to enter the hotel by either a fire exit  
2 or a different exit going in the front of the hotel, go  
3 to a certain room, and he would just do what he did  
4 before.

5 Q. How long did this go on for after you had left  
6 Fort Augustus, do you think?

7 A. I put a stop to this because I could see it was all --  
8 I was coming up to the age of maturity where I could see  
9 this wasn't correct, it wasn't right, and the fact that  
10 it was also what seemed like illegal, I just put a stop  
11 to it.

12 Q. So I think you say in the statement you thought that it  
13 might have gone on for about a year or so.

14 A. Mm-hm.

15 Q. So you'd be perhaps 13 or thereabouts when you put  
16 a stop to it. How did you put a stop to it?

17 A. I just didn't used to answer the calls or ... He would  
18 phone the hotel, he would ask people to put me on the  
19 phone. It was in the days before mobile phones, so  
20 he had to phone the hotel to make contact, and I stopped  
21 answering the phone.

22 Q. At paragraph 36, can I just ask you about this, what you  
23 say here, that you heard that MFH had made a porn  
24 movie called " [REDACTED] "?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. When you say, "I have heard", what is the source of that  
2 information?

3 A. Just other boys from Fort Augustus had spoken about it,  
4 that there was this movie that he'd made.

5 Q. And did this movie involve, so far as you understand,  
6 boys from Fort Augustus?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Were you ever shown pornographic films by Mr MFH when  
9 you went to his cottage?

10 A. No. Nearly always just photographs of other boys.

11 Q. And I think you understand now that Mr MFH is dead.

12 A. So I understand, yes.

13 Q. In paragraph 41, Hugh, you say this:

14 "I was very confused when MEV and MFH  
15 abused me."

16 You say:

17 "They were both very tender and gentle and didn't  
18 hurt me."

19 Do you see that?

20 A. Yes, I do. At the time of the abuse that would be how  
21 I would describe how they were treating me, they weren't  
22 physically trying to hurt me -- but as I say, it's not  
23 normal.

24 Q. You did, I think, consider telling your mother before  
25 she died about what had happened with MEV

1 is that right?

2 A. That's right.

3 Q. Had you decided to tell her?

4 A. Virtually, yes.

5 Q. But in fact you did not, I think.

6 A. I'm quite glad I didn't get the opportunity to tell her,  
7 really.

8 Q. You've told us you did tell Father [REDACTED] MMF --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- and I think you've given us some insight into his  
11 reaction. Do you know if he was going to speak to  
12 Father [REDACTED] MEV about what you had said to him?

13 A. I have no idea if he spoke to him or not.

14 Q. Did he say if he would?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Can I then move on, Hugh, from that part of your life to  
17 your life after Fort Augustus and indeed once you  
18 reached the age of 15. You've told us already about the  
19 accident that your father and mother had, that your  
20 father after the accident had some deficiencies; is that  
21 correct?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. But he did remarry?

24 A. He did. He remarried, much to the displeasure of [REDACTED]  
25 [REDACTED] who tried to prevent this, and my uncle

1 who tried to legally prevent this, who tried to evidence  
2 that he wasn't capable of making such a decision, but  
3 that didn't prove successful and he did marry quite soon  
4 afterwards.

5 Realistically, what happened with the family  
6 business is that this woman, who was my stepmother,  
7 swiftly ran the business down, sold it for a knockdown  
8 price, sold the house that my dad had built for my mum,  
9 and pretty promptly moved to a different part of  
10 Scotland, where she went with [REDACTED] and my father,  
11 until she finally managed to place him in a home,  
12 a Masonic home outside Stirling, and she saw her days  
13 out, I believe, in Northern Ireland.

14 Q. Insofar as you were concerned then, at the age of 15,  
15 when this was happening, what did you do?

16 A. Well, I was encouraged to make my way in the world and  
17 I joined the merchant navy.

18 Q. And you spent some time in the merchant navy; is that  
19 right?

20 A. I did, yes.

21 Q. Between paragraphs 52 and 55 of your statement, you  
22 provide us with some insight into your working life.  
23 You've been successful in business, you tell us you have  
24 studied about mental health, and what you're working at  
25 now; is that correct?



1 A. That's correct, yes.

2 Q. We can read that for ourselves. Can I ask you about  
3 what impact you would say the first Fort Augustus  
4 experience had on your life?

5 A. I didn't really quite appreciate the sort of impact it  
6 had until about 2000, when I was doing particularly well  
7 at work, life was cruising along quite nicely, and I had  
8 a major mental breakdown, which came completely out of  
9 left field from me, I didn't understand it, I didn't  
10 understand why it was happening, and I had gone from  
11 being someone who was at work every day for 11 years  
12 without a day off to a full year off work.

13 I couldn't really understand what was going on.  
14 I tried a lot -- I now understand this to be pretty  
15 severe depressive disorder that I've learned to live  
16 with now over the years since then.

17 It still impacts on me today but it was a horrific  
18 experience because I'd kept so busy, but being busy,  
19 that had been my distraction in life maybe from  
20 addressing this problem. When I had some time -- I hit  
21 a lull where everything was going well and that's when  
22 this major breakdown came.

23 As I said, I collapsed really. I virtually had  
24 three months where I couldn't come out of the house.  
25 I was examined by a psychologist, who told me I'd had

1 this nervous breakdown, some sort of mechanical  
2 breakdown, he said, that he attributed to unprocessed  
3 trauma.

4 I'd been a workaholic, really, because I liked  
5 working, I still like working today, but this has really  
6 impacted. [REDACTED] he came to try and help my  
7 partner at the time as to -- no one really could  
8 understand what had happened to me because I would be  
9 quite outgoing, quite a gregarious character, to just  
10 a complete mess when this first incident happened, and  
11 it took me a long time to recover from this.

12 Even when I was in a mental hospital, the Ticehurst,  
13 I was also in the Arundel unit, which is an NHS  
14 hospital, where I was administered electroconvulsive  
15 therapy. I had all sorts of attempts to shift this deep  
16 depressive disorder. I was non-responsive to all sorts  
17 of pharmacological approaches and it didn't feel like I  
18 was ever going to get better.

19 One day, fortunately, it lifted. I went back to  
20 work far too soon and virtually that was the end of my  
21 working career with that particular firm. I did quite  
22 well at that firm.

23 I would say, without a shadow of a doubt, that the  
24 mental health issues I've suffered over the years since  
25 2000 I now know to be fully attributable to all of what

1           went on way back in Fort Augustus.

2           I'm very fortunate there is something that I really  
3           must say out loud that has helped me, which is  
4           Future Pathways, who are a great organisation. They  
5           have funded for me personally counselling once a week  
6           and I have that -- I've had it for the last four years.  
7           It works very well for me and I think it should be  
8           offered to everyone who's going through this type of  
9           experience, especially when you have to come here.  
10          I didn't think this was going to be quite what it is,  
11          really.

12          That's been a great help. But I've had bouts of  
13          this deep, deep depressive disorder. Normally, when  
14          I have a quiet period, so generally my family are very  
15          supportive, they keep an eye on me, they don't like me  
16          having a quiet period, so I try to keep myself  
17          relatively busy. But it's been very impacting on me,  
18          the mental health struggles I've had. It also resulted  
19          in periods of heavy, heavy drink abuse because I would  
20          use drink to medicate myself from the feelings of  
21          depression, and this would only just make things even  
22          worse.

23          Q. But you have attended Alcoholics Anonymous?

24          A. Yes, I did, for seven years, yes.

25          Q. Did you find that beneficial?

- 1       A. I did, yes.
- 2       Q. You've provided us, in paragraph 62 to 66, I think, with  
3       some information about your private life and your  
4       personal life. We needn't dwell on that, we can again  
5       read that for ourselves, but essentially I think what  
6       you're saying is there was also an impact on your  
7       personal life.
- 8       A. Yes. As I said, I'm not able really -- I was very  
9       reluctant to trust anybody. The mother of my children,  
10      I probably would have married her, but I wasn't able to  
11      trust anyone enough to form any deep, meaningful  
12      relationships. It was always a barrier, really, and it  
13      has been for a long time. Trust is an issue for me.  
14      It's also hard for people who want to get to know me as  
15      well. I'm very guarded and it's not easy to break me  
16      down, really.
- 17      Q. At paragraph 68, you do say:  
18             "I used to think about my time at Fort Augustus  
19             a lot."  
20             But you now use coping strategies?
- 21      A. Yes, I do. I tend to deal with this particular problem  
22      on a when it pops up basis. I try to not dwell on it  
23      and I talk to other chaps who have survived, where this  
24      has been hugely impacting, even more so than on myself,  
25      you know, where they've had no life and their life has

1           been completely ruined and they've not even been moved  
2           away from their parents; people who dwell on this night  
3           and day, you know. For me, the best coping strategy is  
4           to try and divorce yourself from it during the periods  
5           where you're not dealing with it. By doing that, you're  
6           able to get on with some semblance of a normal life.  
7           I'm very closely connected to my children, so I like to  
8           spend time with my children when they're here.

9           And really, just not dwell on it all the time,  
10          because I'm going to -- this will probably come to its  
11          own natural conclusion when the time is right, but the  
12          experience of actually reporting it has been horrific.  
13          The experience of actually trying to get anything  
14          done ... I can see why the majority of people don't  
15          bother: it's just too difficult. Also the way that the  
16          church deals with you is just an abomination, really.  
17          They do everything they possibly can to avoid engaging  
18          with you.

19        Q. You mentioned others in that answer, Hugh. Have you  
20        been in touch with other former pupils of Fort Augustus?

21        A. Yes.

22        Q. Have they discussed their experiences at Fort Augustus  
23        with you?

24        A. Some have, some haven't. Some have just expressed  
25        support for the fact that I'm doing this and bringing

- 1           this case against this chap.
- 2           Q. Do you know if there are others who have had similar
- 3           experiences to you?
- 4           A. I don't know of them personally, but I know of boys who
- 5           were in my class, for example, who are in touch with me,
- 6           who didn't have anything happen to them but seem to be
- 7           very, very supportive of what I'm doing.
- 8           Q. You do tell us in your statement -- and again we can
- 9           read this for ourselves -- that you've had some
- 10          involvement with Mark Daly of the BBC following upon
- 11          a TV documentary about Fort Augustus; is that correct?
- 12          A. That's correct, yes.
- 13          Q. And in particular, you are anxious that extradition
- 14          proceedings that are in process in connection with
- 15          Father **MEV** do come to fruition and that
- 16          Father **MEV** is **[REDACTED]**
- 17          **[REDACTED]** is that correct?
- 18          A. That's correct. My understanding is he remains in
- 19          custody in **[REDACTED]**,
- 20          **[REDACTED]**
- 21          Q. So that's information you've managed to obtain?
- 22          A. Yes, from the procurator fiscal.
- 23          Q. Can I take you to that part of your statement, Hugh,
- 24          where you talk about lessons to be learned. This is at
- 25          paragraph 73, if we could go back to that. You begin by

1           saying there that you weren't aware of the availability  
2           of counselling --

3           A. That's correct.

4           Q. -- but that's something you became aware of and you have  
5           mentioned Future Pathways, which is there to assist  
6           survivors.

7           A. Mm-hm.

8           Q. Is that --

9           A. Well, in my opinion, it's something that should be  
10          offered right upfront, really, as soon as someone makes  
11          contact to report this type of activity, because it's  
12          hugely beneficial, as is peer support, where people with  
13          similar experience are helping each other, because it  
14          can be a very isolating experience. A lot of chaps deal  
15          with it all on their own or don't talk about it and  
16          consequently that creates even more health problems for  
17          these men.

18          Q. Moving on to your hopes for the inquiry, Hugh, at  
19          paragraph 77 onwards. What are your hopes for this  
20          inquiry?

21          A. Well, I hope that it is useful. A lot of inquiries are  
22          not really looked at as much more than a whitewashing  
23          procedure. I hope it's not like that. I hope it's  
24          similar to what has gone on in Australia, where they've  
25          been very deep and thorough and they've acted upon

1 recommendations.

2 I just really wouldn't want any of this to continue  
3 in Scotland. The learning, really, is just how to  
4 handle the whole procedure. My experience has been  
5 pretty awful and I've kept the inquiry in the loop as to  
6 the type of correspondence I receive, the intermittent  
7 information I get, the lack of information, the bland  
8 nature in which you're dealt with. It's just not --  
9 it's not an experience that someone who is not in  
10 a particularly good way could stomach, I think.

11 There have been occasions where I have felt very  
12 much like throwing the towel in because it just seems to  
13 go nowhere, but then gradually things start to happen.

14 Q. You've mentioned the Catholic Church already and in  
15 paragraph 77 you do direct some criticism at the  
16 attitude of the Catholic Church and, in particular, the  
17 movement of abusers from A to B; is that the message?

18 A. Yes, a known process that they use is to export their  
19 troublesome characters to different -- either different  
20 parts of the country, more isolated dioceses or  
21 different parts of the world. But the problem then is  
22 just exported to another place where the perpetrator  
23 carries on what he was doing here, so it doesn't root  
24 out the problem.

25 For me, it feels like an actuarial calculation for



1 the church in that if you were looking at it from a  
2 profit and loss scenario, they would probably say that  
3 you have to allow X amount each year for the troublesome  
4 30% of priests who will do this. You know, there's 30%  
5 to 40% of priests who are doing this all the time.

6 Q. In paragraph 78 you make a point about the destruction  
7 of records from Fort Augustus. Can I ask you to  
8 elaborate upon what you mean by that?

9 A. When I asked for copies of my records from  
10 Fort Augustus, I got nothing back but a one-page A4  
11 document, with everything redacted other than my name.  
12 That was it, just a whole blank page with redaction and  
13 my name.

14 Q. And were you expecting to get something more than that?

15 A. Yes. I was hoping to get my records, maybe my medical  
16 records, what school year I'd joined and left. Nothing.

17 LADY SMITH: Did you ask them about the redactions, Hugh?

18 A. I didn't bother.

19 LADY SMITH: Why not?

20 A. Because my experience has been -- and probably my  
21 expectations were managed -- that this is what had  
22 happened to everyone else who'd asked for their records,  
23 really.

24 LADY SMITH: Could you work out at all what type of  
25 information must have lain under the redactions?

1 A. It looked like a class list of people's names.

2 MR MacAULAY: Fort Augustus, as we know, was a boarding  
3 school and you have a particular point to make when  
4 you're talking about the hopes of the inquiry in  
5 connection with boarding schools. What's the point  
6 you're making there?

7 A. As I say, I'd hope that better training is involved for  
8 people who work in boarding schools. As I've already  
9 said, to handle people's expectations about this type of  
10 process better, for victims going through the court  
11 process, to map out the journey and really try and be  
12 a bit more empathetic and willing to help and not hinder  
13 the individual. I've found myself hindered at many  
14 points in this journey, really, to the extent that  
15 without the support of others -- and I will pick out the  
16 chaps from the BBC, Mark Daly and Murdoch Rogers on this  
17 who have been very, very supportive and tireless on my  
18 behalf and have encouraged me to keep going sometimes  
19 when I've not felt like it, when I've felt like it just  
20 hasn't been worth it. For other people who may have  
21 suffered similarly to what I have, I think it's going to  
22 be very difficult to go through this process.

23 Really, I feel people just take a -- there didn't  
24 seem to be much learning for me in what was happening.  
25 No matter how much feedback I gave, whether it was the

1           procurator fiscal, the person taking the precognition  
2           information from me, everyone just didn't really know  
3           what they were doing. Nobody's trained in this stuff.  
4           Some people, I thought -- I would deal with different  
5           people from the fiscal because some people were going on  
6           sick and I sincerely suspect they were going on sick  
7           with what they were having to listen to every day,  
8           really. I really do. And I think the process is  
9           just -- it just is so difficult.

10          LADY SMITH: Are you talking there about the prosecution  
11           process --

12          A. Yes.

13          LADY SMITH: -- and the reporting to the police --

14          A. Yes, reporting to the police.

15          LADY SMITH: -- and everything that happens thereafter with  
16           the fiscal and the court process?

17          A. Mm-hm. My time with the inquiry has been -- they have  
18           been very helpful.

19          LADY SMITH: Thank you. We're not a court --

20          A. No.

21          LADY SMITH: -- and I hope you appreciate that.

22                    What about experience with civil court process? Has  
23           that been different?

24          A. I haven't really got that far with that. But someone is  
25           acting for me on that.

1 LADY SMITH: Right. Thank you.

2 MR MacAULAY: Well, Hugh, thank you for engaging with the  
3 inquiry. Can I just say, it is important from the  
4 perspective of the inquiry that persons in your position  
5 do come and tell us their experiences, so thank you for  
6 doing that.

7 A. Thank you.

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

10 Hugh, that completes all the questions we have for  
11 you today. I'm very conscious of the fact that this  
12 follows a process with us that takes time and you having  
13 engaged with us and given your written statement, which  
14 is enormously helpful, and of course we haven't gone  
15 into all details of that today, but I certainly take  
16 account of everything that's in it, and then coming  
17 today and answering questions, some of which I'm sure  
18 were very difficult to deal with. But thank you for  
19 doing it with the dignity and patience that you have  
20 done. I'm very grateful to you and I'm now able to let  
21 you go.

22 A. Thank you.

23 (The witness withdrew)

24 LADY SMITH: I think we could take the morning break now,  
25 Mr MacAulay. Would that work?

1 MR MacAULAY: I think that's about the time, my Lady. Can  
2 I say that after the break, we will have a read-in and  
3 some further oral evidence this afternoon.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

5 (11.25 am)

6 (A short break)

7 (11.45 am)

8 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod, I think we're turning to reading in  
9 some statements; is that right?

10 MS MACLEOD: That's right.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 Witness statement of "TOM" (read)

13 MS MACLEOD: I'll read in a statement of an applicant who  
14 wishes to remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym  
15 "Tom". The statement can be found at WIT.001.002.6929:

16 "My name is Tom. I was born in 1969. I was born in  
17 Dundee and brought up by my mum and dad. My dad was in  
18 the army. I had two brothers.

19 "When I was very young, we moved near Edinburgh. We  
20 then moved to Hong Kong. In 1974, when I was five years  
21 old, we moved back to England.

22 "My upbringing at home was good and my parents were  
23 loving. We had normal discipline and no physical or any  
24 other abuse. We didn't see a lot of my dad, but mum  
25 looked after us well. She also worked in various jobs

1 at different times.

2 "The army had a scheme where the military would pay  
3 for army children to attend boarding school and my  
4 parents took advantage of this. As a result of this,  
5 I attended Carlekemp Priory School in [REDACTED] 1977.

6 "Carlekemp was a feeder school to  
7 Fort Augustus Abbey, which was a school run by the  
8 Benedictine monks in Inverness-shire. I was not due to  
9 go to Fort Augustus until I was 11, but Carlekemp closed  
10 down after I had been there for a year or so. I was  
11 therefore transferred to Fort Augustus at the age of 6  
12 or 7 and remained there until I was 14. When I had been  
13 at Fort Augustus for about a year, my brother also  
14 started at the school."

15 School records, my Lady, show this witness being  
16 admitted to Fort Augustus in [REDACTED] 1977, when he was  
17 7, almost 8 years old, and he was there, it is noted,  
18 until [REDACTED] 1984, when he would have been coming up for  
19 15.

20 LADY SMITH: So the year that he went to Fort Augustus would  
21 be?

22 MS MACLEOD: 1977 --

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MS MACLEOD: -- to 1984:

25 "The staff I can recall at Fort Augustus are

1 Ian Keith and [REDACTED] MZV [REDACTED] who were the teachers and  
2 wore civilian clothes. Mrs Onni or Oggi was an Italian  
3 lady in charge of the lodge where the younger boys and  
4 dormitories were. She later left to become a nun.

5 "The monks wore black habits with hoods. I can  
6 remember Father [REDACTED] MFC [REDACTED] who was the housemaster in  
7 charge of Calder House; he was also a [REDACTED]  
8 teacher for the younger boys. Father [REDACTED] MRQ [REDACTED] was  
9 in charge of Lovat House and Father [REDACTED] MFG [REDACTED] was in  
10 charge of Vaughan House. Father [REDACTED] MFC [REDACTED] took over this  
11 role when Father [REDACTED] MFG [REDACTED] died. Father [REDACTED] MER [REDACTED] took over  
12 at Calder House whilst I was there. I was also in  
13 Vaughan House.

14 "There was a Irish lady who was the matron or school  
15 nurse. She lived upstairs in the lodge, which was  
16 a separate building for the junior school. I can't  
17 remember her name, but she was in her 50s or 60s, small  
18 and stout, with brown, curly hair and she had an Irish  
19 accent.

20 "Fort Augustus had a strong religious theme and we  
21 attended church all the time. I was one of the  
22 candle bearers for the services. We went to confession  
23 from the age of 11 or 12. We were encouraged to talk  
24 about impure thoughts at confession, such as  
25 masturbation.

1 "Father MFC was one of the youngest monks at the  
2 school, but he was one of the more senior ones, probably  
3 [REDACTED]. He had an aggressive  
4 demeanour and most of the boys, including me, were  
5 scared stiff of him. He was in his 40s, 6 foot tall,  
6 well built and had a bald head. He wore glasses.

7 "I have early memories of Fort Augustus from when  
8 I first got there at the age of 6 or 7. Some of the  
9 early memories of Fort Augustus were when I was brushing  
10 my teeth with three other boys. We were making a noise.  
11 Father MFC became very aggressive and said that he  
12 would hit us and hit us bloody hard. Some other early  
13 memories were that if we spoke in the dormitory we would  
14 be made to kneel down in the corridor by Father MFC  
15 and others. It was very humiliating as we had to kneel  
16 down and face the wall whilst other children would be  
17 walking past.

18 "Between the ages of 7 and 11, I was regularly sent  
19 to Father MFC office to get the belt. His room was  
20 situated at the main staircase to the first floor. You  
21 went through the double doors, turned left, and it was  
22 the second door on the right. Inside the office there  
23 was a roll top desk. Father MFG and Father MRQ  
24 also had offices on that floor. Father MFC had the  
25 belt hanging down from the desk out of sight.



1 "You could be sent to see Father MFC for any  
2 reason at all, such as talking class. You could be sent  
3 there by a prefect or another brother as well as by  
4 Father MFC himself. On one occasion you would be  
5 given a minimum of three strikes of the belt on the  
6 outstretched palms of each hand, changing hands when he  
7 gave you the signal to do so. Sometimes it could be six  
8 strikes on each hand.

9 "Sometimes Father MFC would hit you in quick  
10 succession, raising his hand to shoulder level.  
11 Sometimes, if he was in a bad mood, he would use more  
12 force, raising his arm above his head to hit you. The  
13 strikes would sting my hand and leave red marks.  
14 I would try not to cry but sometimes I did.

15 "You could get the belt at lunchtime, in the evening  
16 and at weekends. Father MFC took me for [REDACTED] but  
17 there was no physical abuse during lessons as everybody  
18 behaved because we were scared stiff.

19 "The frequency of the abuse was two to three times  
20 a week. Sometimes there could be nothing for a week and  
21 then it would start up again. It was more frequent when  
22 I was between 7 and 11 years old. It had tailed off by  
23 the time I had left at the age of 14, but it still  
24 occurred.

25 "I recall a matron called Mrs Uttley being in charge

1 when I was a senior pupil in the lodge. She was in  
2 charge of waking everybody up for breakfast. I think  
3 I was about 10 years old at the time. There was a boy  
4 who was mucking around in the line. I told him to get  
5 to the back of the line; I did this in front of  
6 Mrs Uttley. When I got to breakfast Father **MFC** was  
7 sitting at the head of the table on the tables above  
8 ours. I had to report to his room after breakfast.  
9 Father **MFC** was shouting in front of Mrs Uttley.  
10 I could not believe that she wasn't telling  
11 Father **MFC** what had really happened and that she had  
12 witnessed the other boy misbehaving.

13 "I was terrified when I went to Father **MFC** room  
14 after breakfast. He immediately went for his belt. He  
15 would never tell you how many strikes of the belt you'd  
16 receive. He started belting one hand and you had to let  
17 him do it until he told you to change hands. I remember  
18 that I got three on each hand on that occasion.

19 "I had received the belt before from Father **MFC**  
20 but this time it was different. He had never given me  
21 the belt so ferociously before. This time he was very  
22 angry and he hitting me with all his might, raising his  
23 hand above his shoulder.

24 "When I was 9 or 10, I was punished for being cheeky  
25 to a prefect. When I was sent to Father **MFC** office

1 I explained that I had been cheeky. By this time  
2 I realised that Father [MFC] was in a particularly bad  
3 mood. This was one of the times that he beat me so  
4 severely with six strikes on each hand.

5 "I regularly saw other children being physically  
6 abused. This added to the frightening nature of the  
7 place. It meant that I was always scared and on edge  
8 about what might happen next. It was like walking on  
9 eggshells all the time.

10 "There was an occasion when my brother had been  
11 fighting with another boy. They were sent to  
12 Father [MFC] for the belt. My brother told me that  
13 whilst he stood and took the punishment, the other boy  
14 was terrified. He dropped to the floor and grabbed  
15 Father [MFC] by the legs, trying to get him not to belt  
16 him. Father [MFC] went mad and proceeded to belt this  
17 boy all over his body as the boy fell on to his legs,  
18 sobbing and pleading with him.

19 "Another incident I recall is when one boy gave  
20 another boy a kicking. I was reading a book at the time  
21 and recall seeing the boy with black eyes and his face  
22 cut. Father [MFC] was there and went mad. He took the  
23 boy away. It was later rumoured that he gave him  
24 a severe beating with the belt.

25 "I recall Father [MFC] beating a boy up at a social

1 event. These events happened once a week. There was an  
2 event where we would go to the housemaster's office for  
3 tea and toast. While we were in Father [MFC] office,  
4 a boy had been sent up for misbehaving. Father [MFC]  
5 started to belt the boy but he would not take it and  
6 fell to the floor in front of us. Father [MFC] then  
7 proceeded to lay into him whilst he was on the floor.  
8 I remember being absolutely terrified watching this.  
9 Afterwards, Father [MFC] carried on as if nothing had  
10 happened.

11 "On one occasion I got the belt because I had been  
12 fighting with my brother over a rugby ball. We had been  
13 outside and Father [MFC] had seen us from the window.  
14 He shouted at me to get up to his room. He accused me  
15 of bullying my brother and he belted me. I knew I had  
16 to stand and take it. I had witnessed first-hand what  
17 happened to boys when they moved their hands. I knew he  
18 would lay into me if I moved.

19 "The last occasion I can recall getting the belt was  
20 when I was 13 or 14. I had just returned after had the  
21 summer holidays. The third years did not have their own  
22 common rooms. A common room was only available for the  
23 older fourth year children. My friends and I decided  
24 that we would make our own common room. We put tea and  
25 coffee in it. Father [MFC] found out us about this and

1 told us that we were not allowed to use the room.  
2 Somebody else then used the tea and coffee in the room.  
3 Father MFC went mad. He thought that we had  
4 disobeyed him and the four of us were summoned to his  
5 office. Father MFC was shouting. We knew by the way  
6 he grabbed his belt that we were going to get it. He  
7 was uncomfortable and raging with anger. He belted one  
8 of the other boys first. I knew it was going to be bad  
9 and it was. I was left with terrible marks all the way  
10 up my wrists and arms. I think Father MFC must have  
11 known that he had really hurt me on this occasion.

12 "About ten days later I was caught smoking. There  
13 was a set punishment for smoking, which was six strikes  
14 on each hand, a £1 fine, and a letter home to our  
15 parents. I was terrified of facing Father MFC and  
16 decided to run away with another boy. We didn't get  
17 very far and were picked up by the police a few hours  
18 later and returned to the school.

19 "Father MFC took us up to his room. He said to  
20 the other boy that he was a very good friend for  
21 sticking up for me. He said that the other boy would  
22 not be punished as he had only run away because he  
23 didn't want me to go by myself. I thought I was going  
24 to get completely hammered. However, on this occasion  
25 he deliberately gave me the softest belts ever. I think

1 he realised that he had gone too far the week before and  
2 was afraid that I would tell my parents.

3 "In the village I would regularly see  
4 Father [REDACTED] fighting with a man called Joe. Joe had  
5 been shouting at boys going past. Father [REDACTED] also  
6 dished out canings or punishments with the belt in his  
7 room. I never experienced this but was told by the  
8 other lads that they had been caned.

9 "I was also bullied by two of the boys from school  
10 whose fathers were higher ranking officers than my dad.

11 "I experienced sexual abuse at Fort Augustus when  
12 I was about 8 years old. I wet the bed whilst I was  
13 having a dream that I was playing and burst into the  
14 toilet. When I woke up, I realised that I had actually  
15 wet the bed. The [REDACTED] came into the room in the  
16 morning. She realised that I had wet the bed and she  
17 said so in front of all the other boys. She told me to  
18 report to her room before going to bed that night once  
19 I had pyjamas on. I reported to her room which was  
20 upstairs in the lodge. She was sitting at her desk.  
21 She told me to take my pyjamas down, which I did so;  
22 I was naked from the waist down. Then she started to  
23 touch and fondle my penis and testicles while saying to  
24 me, 'Do you know what this is for?' and, 'Do you know  
25 what these do?' She was rubbing and fondling my penis

1 so that I got an erection. I told her that it was for  
2 weeing wee out of. She was grabbing and fondling my  
3 testicles.

4 "The whole thing lasted for about 30 seconds. I was  
5 terrified and thought she was doing it purely for  
6 punishment because I had wet the bed. I therefore never  
7 told anyone about this as it brought more embarrassment  
8 than having wet the bed. I kept it to myself.

9 "During the incident I was mortified and totally  
10 embarrassed and confused. I didn't know it at the time,  
11 but looking back, I look upon it as an incident of  
12 sexual abuse.

13 "During my time at Fort Augustus I felt as if there  
14 was nobody to talk to about what was going on. All the  
15 staff were afraid of Father **MFC** as were the  
16 brothers.

17 "I left Fort Augustus when I was 14 as my parents  
18 could no longer afford for me to stay there. I had also  
19 had enough of the school then anyway, particularly after  
20 the coffee incident.

21 "I went to a normal school in Dundee. It was  
22 totally different. It was nowhere near as severe as  
23 Fort Augustus. There was no physical abuse. I used to  
24 wonder why anybody complained about anything at school  
25 as they had no idea how different my experience had been

1 at Fort Augustus.

2 "I changed after Fort Augustus and turned into what  
3 I would describe as a little shite. I was disruptive in  
4 school and generally not doing what I was told. I was  
5 cheeky and would talk back to my parents and teachers.  
6 There was talk of me being expelled from school because  
7 of my behaviour but I stayed on and did my O levels.

8 "I then left school at the age of 16 and went on to  
9 a youth training scheme in joinery for six months.  
10 I joined the army in 1987 when I was 17. I remained  
11 in the Army until [REDACTED] 1991 and was posted in Berlin  
12 and Belfast.

13 "Later on in life, I moved into sales jobs and  
14 started selling gas and electricity. I worked for my  
15 dad and then we emigrated to Australia in 2007. There  
16 was an opportunity to do well out there because of the  
17 deregulation of energy. However, this was not  
18 a successful time for me and I came back to Scotland.  
19 I am currently working as an energy adviser to  
20 companies.

21 "When I was in the Army, I was posted to  
22 Northern Ireland. I didn't want to go because I didn't  
23 trust my wife to be faithful. I had a lack of trust in  
24 people because of Fort Augustus. In my relationships  
25 I was always nervous around the subject of sex. It



1           caused issues within my marriage. I'm not sure but that  
2           could stem back to what happened with [REDACTED]

3           "When it comes to my daughters, I'm always worried  
4           that I will turn into a bully like Father [REDACTED] MFC .  
5           I have a fear of this because of my past.

6           "I started to drink heavily. I couldn't just have  
7           one or two drinks; I had to drink until I was completely  
8           drunk. I did that frequently. I'm not sure of the  
9           exact reason for this, but looking back it might have  
10          been to block out my childhood.

11          "My sleep has always been poor. I've had several  
12          periods of depression in my life, particularly since  
13          2010. I have a recurring dream that we are having  
14          a school reunion at Fort Augustus. Everyone is there  
15          and knows that I have spoken to the police about  
16          Father [REDACTED] MFC . Father [REDACTED] MFC comes into the room and  
17          puts his hand on my shoulder and speaks softly in my  
18          ear, which terrifies me.

19          "I was in my father's shop in 2014 when a man came  
20          in who looked exactly like Father [REDACTED] MFC ; he had a bald  
21          head and glasses. I had a complete panic attack and was  
22          struggling to breathe.

23          "Until recently, I never told anybody about my past  
24          as I was too embarrassed. I felt guilty and that it  
25          might have been my fault. I didn't want to tell my

1 parents as they would feel guilty for sending me there  
2 in the first place. I didn't want to hurt their  
3 feelings. I thought it was my stuff and I had to deal  
4 with it.

5 "Since being at Fort Augustus, I have believed that  
6 if I am bad something terrible will happen as that is  
7 God's way. For instance, when I was younger I would  
8 believe that if I had a bad game of football it was  
9 because I was misbehaving. Even now as a grown-up,  
10 I believe something terrible will happen if I have done  
11 something wrong. I have issues of not being good in  
12 pressurised or confrontational situations either at home  
13 or work. I tend to beat myself up and get down and  
14 blame myself very easily.

15 "In 2013, I saw a programme called Sins of  
16 Our Fathers'. It was about Fort Augustus. It was  
17 a complete shock to me when I saw it. My dad approached  
18 me and asked what had gone on at the school when I had  
19 boarded there. I told him that I would just get belted  
20 and nothing more. At the time I hadn't even told my  
21 wife what had really been going on. I built up the  
22 courage to tell my mate and then I realised that I had  
23 to tell my parents and my wife. I did tell them.

24 "There is a link to a police investigation. I have  
25 phoned the police in Inverness off my own bat. I gave

1 a statement at Bell Street Police Station in Dundee.

2 I then began to find out more information about  
3 Fort Augustus. I went to see a support worker at Victim  
4 Support through the police in Dundee.

5 "Whilst going through the process with the police,  
6 they told me about compensation that I would be entitled  
7 to. I was more interested in getting it off my chest  
8 and trying to deal with the issues of drinking and  
9 depression that I had. However, I went to a firm of  
10 solicitors and they are dealing with the case.

11 "The police have told me that Father MFC is  
12 currently in Canada and that they are going to extradite  
13 him to press charges. My case has been put on hold  
14 until that occurs. I am hoping that a successful  
15 conclusion to the case will help me to take steps  
16 towards feeling better about myself and moving on with  
17 my life. I think that the more I speak about it, the  
18 more I am able to cope better with my life as I am still  
19 being affected by Fort Augustus to this day.

20 "I came forward to the police as an opportunity to  
21 get things off my chest and to try and take steps  
22 towards moving on. However, since coming forward, I am  
23 still suffering from recurring nightmares and  
24 flashbacks. I sometimes get suicidal thoughts.

25 "I think coming forward has helped me. It has made

1 me feel more open about things now that other people  
2 now, especially my parents and my wife.

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

7 Tom signed the statement on 16 June 2019.

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

9 Do we have time for another one?

10 Witness statement of "RORY" (read)

11 MS MACLEOD: I think we do.

12 The next statement is at WIT.001.002.5928. This is  
13 again a witness statement of an applicant who wishes to  
14 remain anonymous and to use the name "Rory". This  
15 witness did not wish to give live evidence at hearings.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 MS MACLEOD: "My name is Rory. I am giving this statement  
18 on behalf of my brother, Doug, who has now passed away."

19 I should also say that "Doug" is a pseudonym for the  
20 brother.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MS MACLEOD: "Doug was born in 1951. My brother Doug was at  
23 Carlekemp Boarding School from the age of 9. In 1961.  
24 I had left Fort Augustus Abbey School by the time Doug  
25 started there in 1965 or 1966. Doug left the

1 Abbey School in 1967 or 1968.

2 "Around 1986 or 1988, I stayed with Doug for about  
3 a week. Doug and I went for lunch and we got talking  
4 about the school. I don't know which of us brought up  
5 the subject of school.

6 "I told Doug a story about MEV and a kilt.  
7 I had been told that MEV had gone crying down to  
8 the matron's lodge. One of the members of the church  
9 had given MEV a kilt as a present. MEV  
10 told the abbot, who said that anything given to  
11 MEV had to go to the abbey, it wasn't  
12 to keep. MEV had to hand over the  
13 kilt. MEV went down to the matron and burst into  
14 tears over something like that.

15 "Doug mentioned a priest called Father MEZ,  
16 whose nickname was MEZ. He said this priest had  
17 strange ways with the boys, getting them into odd  
18 positions whilst they were sitting on his lap. I never  
19 knew this monk, so I did not concentrate on what Doug  
20 said very well. The main thing was it appeared he never  
21 did anything to Doug. This Father MEZ was an odd  
22 fellow by the sounds of it.

23 "I told Doug about me being flogged at school and  
24 Doug said he had something worse to tell me. Doug spoke  
25 of Father MEV. I did not trust MEV when

1 I was at school. I did not know why. He seemed  
2 insincere and did not involve himself in the school's  
3 extracurricular activities. [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] enjoyed the  
4 company of the younger boys.

5 "Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] was often in the company of  
6 Father [REDACTED] MEY [REDACTED]. They both came from Australia.  
7 Rumours floated around the school about these two being  
8 homos, as they called them in those days. They were  
9 certainly an odd couple. Most of the boys considered  
10 the rumours to be a bit outrageous.

11 "Doug told me that he was at school and was lying  
12 sick in the sickbay. He was the only one in the room.  
13 The door opened and in came [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED]  
14 closed the door. [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] came and sat on the bed.  
15 [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] felt Doug's brow, said that he thought Doug  
16 might have a bit of a temperature and that he had better  
17 check Doug's temperature.

18 [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] told Doug to roll over and he would  
19 check his temperature. Doug diligently rolled over.  
20 I don't know who pulled his pyjamas down, whether it was  
21 [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] or whether Doug was told to pull them down,  
22 but Doug's pyjamas were pulled down. Doug explained it  
23 by saying, '[REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] interfered with me by putting his  
24 finger in my backside'. Doug said [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] held his  
25 finger in Doug's backside for quite some while. I asked

1 Doug if he was sure that it was [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] finger that  
2 he had put in and Doug said that he was sure.

3 "There was a noise outside the door. [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED]  
4 quickly pulled his finger out, stood up and went out of  
5 the room. He didn't hang around. Doug thought the  
6 noise was the school matron because she lived in the  
7 lodge where the sick rooms were. Doug said he felt very  
8 bad about the incident. He felt very uncomfortable.

9 "He and I discussed the audacity of [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED]  
10 doing it while the matron was there and Doug was lying  
11 in bed sick. What sort of creature does that? Doug  
12 said [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] was often hanging around the lodge to  
13 see the matron.

14 "Doug and I talked about the physical abuse. He had  
15 been physically abused at school too. We were  
16 discussing the general floggings we both got. I am sure  
17 that his physical abuses were of the hand strapping kind  
18 and none of the severe canings that I got. The hand  
19 strappings never seemed to disturb him. Doug indicated  
20 that he probably deserved his punishments and there were  
21 none that he had which were grossly unfair.

22 "He spoke of the regularity of the punishments.  
23 Doug said that he could not understand what he had done  
24 wrong to get so many whackings while at that school and  
25 that there was a whacking for everything. He made

1 a joke of it by commenting that he wondered if there was  
2 existed a complete Roget's Thesaurus of Benedictine  
3 whacking methods. I commented about being safer in  
4 prison. Doug also said that he became annoyed at the  
5 way they just doled it out as if it were a blessing.

6 "Doug did not mention the name of any monks who had  
7 physically abused him. Father [REDACTED] MKT would  
8 have been the [REDACTED] SNR during Doug's time at the  
9 school. [REDACTED] MKT, although a violent man, did  
10 not appear to carry out naked canings. I don't think  
11 that Doug would have been subject to any of this.  
12 He was probably left alone more as he was probably not  
13 as strong-willed or defiant as me. My physical abuse  
14 was worse. I had been caned after I had to strip naked;  
15 Doug said he never had any naked canings.

16 "Doug talked to me about Jimmy Savile's frequent  
17 visits to the school. Savile would park his Rolls Royce  
18 car outside the front of the school. Doug said that  
19 Savile was allowed to roam freely about the school, even  
20 in the boys' dormitories. I took it that Doug meant  
21 during the daytime.

22 "Doug said the boys did not like Savile and, even  
23 though he was a big star, they felt uncomfortable in his  
24 presence. Doug wondered why Savile kept coming to the  
25 school. There appeared to be no purpose for his visits.



1 It was many years later that Savile was exposed as  
2 a sexual predator, well after Doug told me this story.

3 "Doug said that he knew that he had been interfered  
4 with by MEV as soon as it happened, but he did  
5 not want to make a fuss. I'm sure Doug never mentioned  
6 this incident to anyone at the school. He never told  
7 our mother. It appeared that I was the only person who  
8 Doug ever told. Doug never told me the year that it  
9 happened, but I would suggest it happened in 1965 or  
10 1966.

11 "I was closer to Doug than I was to my other  
12 siblings. We had the same sense of humour. He was  
13 a self-made man and built his own successful business.  
14 Doug was a hard worker. He was a family man.

15 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
16 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.  
17 I believe the facts stated in the witness statement are  
18 true."

19 The statement was signed by Rory on 8 May 2019.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 Are we moving on to another read-in now, Ms MacLeod;  
22 is there time?

23 MS MACLEOD: We could do another one.

24 LADY SMITH: It's only 12.15. We may as well try to make  
25 use of the time if that would be convenient to you.

1                   Witness statement of "JAMES" (read)

2           MS MACLEOD: Yes. The next statement is from an applicant  
3           who will use the pseudonym "James" for the read-in. The  
4           statement can be found at WIT.003.002.1507.

5                   This is a statement which was provided to the  
6           independent inquiry into sexual abuse in England and  
7           Wales. I will read certain relevant parts of the  
8           statement today.

9           LADY SMITH: Thank you. So what you're focusing on is the  
10          Scottish part of this witness's evidence?

11          MS MACLEOD: Exactly, my Lady. I will provide a little bit  
12          of background and then focus on the parts to do with  
13          Fort Augustus:

14                   "My name is James. I was born in 1956. I was born  
15          and raised in Glasgow. It was a family of six  
16          in addition to my mother and father. [REDACTED]

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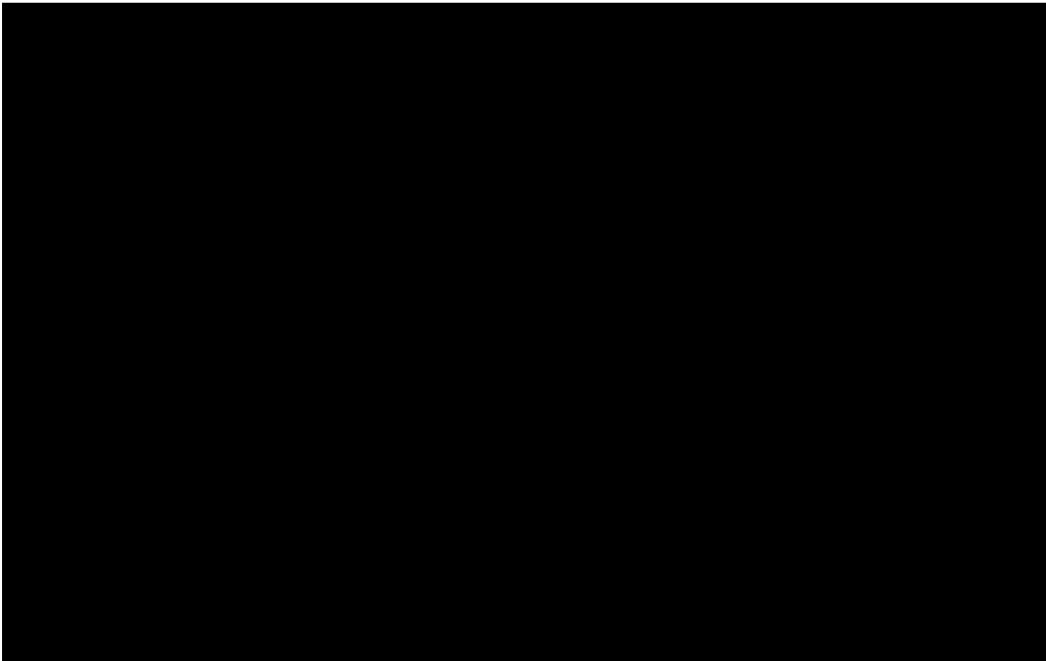
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23                   I'll read from paragraphs 37 to 50 of the statement,  
24          where the witness describes abuse that he suffered on  
25          trips to [REDACTED] and Fort Augustus Abbey.



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"I was then, I think, transferred to another abbey in the Highlands because the surroundings did seem different the next day. I think this may have been a place called Fort Augustus, which is in the Highlands, about 80 to 100 miles away.

"I remember there was a house there. They had a swimming pool and there was a disused railway line behind the school. I also recall there was a statue of a blackbird over a fireplace.

"I remember I was put into a dormitory room which had 16 to 18 beds. This was a boarding school and during term time these beds would normally have been used by pupils, but because this all happened in school holidays, there was no one else there other than me.

"When I was there, I was introduced to two monks:

1 Brother [REDACTED] MEZ and Brother [REDACTED] MEY? . I can never forget  
2 their faces and I still clear remember them now.

3 "I remember the abuse at Fort Augustus was very  
4 similar to the abuse I suffered at [REDACTED] in that  
5 I was taken into one of the monk's own rooms and was  
6 locked in. Once the door had been locked and I could  
7 not escape, the two monks came in and they buggered me.  
8 This is the first time I recall that I suffered any  
9 penetrative sex.

10 "I believe that I still may have been drugged or  
11 given more alcohol and I really only clearly remember  
12 this one incident when I was abused by the two monks,  
13 but there could have been other times during the time  
14 I was there where other things may have been done to me.

15 "I remember that whilst I was at the abbey, I was  
16 taken to the sea -- I think around the area of  
17 Lossiemouth -- and I was told there were sharks in the  
18 water and they would throw me to the sharks if I ever  
19 told anybody about what happened. Fort Augustus is also  
20 near the shore of Loch Ness and I think I was also taken  
21 to Loch Ness to intimidate me with a threat that I would  
22 be thrown into the loch if I ever told anybody about  
23 what had happened at Fort Augustus.

24 "I never mentioned any of this abuse to anyone.  
25 I was absolutely terrified by the monks by this stage,

1 given what was happening to me at [REDACTED] and at  
2 the [REDACTED] but I do think that I came back from the  
3 [REDACTED] in the Highlands a changed person. I think this  
4 more severe abuse finally did spark some kind of  
5 rebellion in me.

6 "I started to avoid school an awful lot. I would  
7 abscond and run home and I became more resistant to the  
8 abuse that I was suffering at the school. I became more  
9 aggressive and violent generally towards other pupils.  
10 I would steal from other pupils and also physically  
11 resisted the advances from the monks who tried to abuse  
12 me.

13 [REDACTED]  
14 [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED]  
16 [REDACTED]  
17 [REDACTED]  
18 [REDACTED]  
19 [REDACTED]  
20 [REDACTED]  
21 I will now move on to paragraph 89 of the statement,  
22 which is on WIT.003.002.1523:

23 "In addition to contacting the Scottish police over  
24 the abuse I suffered at the [REDACTED] I have  
25 now also contacted them and given interviews about what

1 happened to me at [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED]

14 I'll now move on to paragraph 94 on

15 WIT.003.002.1524:

16 "After the 2013 exposure of Cardinal O'Brien, as

17 well as going to the police, I also went to the

18 Catholic Church and I am pleased to say their response

19 to me in recent years has been much better. I am now in

20 regular communication with the Bishop of Paisley,

21 John Keenan, he has been very helpful in providing me

22 with spiritual guidance and has apologised on behalf of

23 the Catholic Church for what happened to me.

24 "I have had about a dozen meetings with the bishop

25 up to now and through largely his efforts, I went before

1 the Bishops' Conference of Scotland in December 2016.  
2 There were nine bishops and other representatives of the  
3 Catholic Church. I gave them a lecture on what it  
4 really means for a survivor of child abuse. The  
5 Bishops' Conference also gave an apology to me at that  
6 meeting.

7 "I have also been in contact with Abbot Richard Yeo.  
8 He is the present head of the English Benedictine  
9 Congregation.

10 "Also at the time I was abused in the 1960s,  
11 [REDACTED] Fort Augustus were run by the Scottish  
12 Benedictines. As I understand it, over time the  
13 Scottish part of the order has been run down and merged  
14 with the English Benedictines and it is now the English  
15 Benedictines who are responsible for any matters  
16 appertaining to the former Scottish premises.

17 "As I understand it, Fort Augustus was closed down  
18 as a monastic retreat quite a few years ago and has been  
19 sold off to a private investor. [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]  
21 "The meeting with Abbot Yeo was arranged through the  
22 Bishop of Paisley. Abbot Yeo travelled 400 miles to  
23 meet me and at the meeting I told him what had happened  
24 to me at Pluscarden and Fort Augustus and he apologised  
25 on behalf of the English Benedictines.



1           "I am still in communication with the English  
2           Benedictines as they have indicated that they would be  
3           prepared to help me, although at the moment I am unclear  
4           as to the nature of the help that they have in mind.  
5           Abbot Yeo also sent me a Christmas card last year."

6           Towards the end of the statement, my Lady, from  
7           paragraphs 102 to 110, the witness describes the impact  
8           he says the abuse he suffered has had on his life and  
9           that includes a number of comments about Fort Augustus.

10           I can confirm that the statement was signed by James  
11           on 28 April 2017.

12           LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

13           MS MACLEOD: I think, my Lady, we should leave it there.

14           LADY SMITH: We've done very well with read-ins. Thank you  
15           very much, Ms MacLeod. If I rise now, the next witness  
16           will be ready for 2 o'clock; is that right?

17           MS MACLEOD: That's right.

18           LADY SMITH: Very well, I'll do that.

19           (12.27 pm)

20                           (The lunch adjournment)

21

1

2

3 (2.00 pm)

4 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. I understand the next witness  
5 is ready; is that right, Ms MacLeod?

6 MS MACLEOD: Yes, he is. The next witness is an applicant  
7 who wishes to remain anonymous and he'll use the name  
8 "Peter" in giving his evidence.

9 "PETER" (affirmed)

10 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.  
11 Before I hand you over to Ms MacLeod, can I just ask you  
12 to make sure you stay in that good position you're in  
13 now with the microphone because it makes it easy for  
14 everybody to hear you properly.

15 I'll hand you over to Ms MacLeod and she will  
16 explain what happens next.

17 A. Thank you.

18 Questions from MS MacLEOD

19 MS MACLEOD: Good afternoon, Peter. Were you born in 1963?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Are you now 56?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You've provided a statement for the inquiry, Peter, and  
24 there's a copy of that statement in the red file in

1 front of you, so I'll begin by giving the reference for  
2 the transcript: WIT.001.002.7756.

3 If you could open the red file in front of you,  
4 Peter, you'll see there's a blue divider in the file.  
5 If you go to just before the divider at the end of your  
6 statement, the very last page of your statement before  
7 that, have you signed the statement?

8 A. I have, yes.

9 Q. In the last paragraph do you say:

10 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
11 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry"?

12 A. I agree, yes.

13 Q. Do you go on to say:

14 "I believe the facts stated in the witness statement  
15 are true"?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You begin by telling us a little bit about your early  
18 childhood, Peter. Did you spend your very early  
19 childhood in Penicuik near Edinburgh?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. I think that was with your mum and dad and three  
22 sisters.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Do you have two older sisters and one younger sister?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. I think you tell us that you attended primary school in  
2 Penicuik.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Did there come a time, Peter, when your family moved to  
5 Brussels?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. I think you tell us that was in around 1972 or 1973.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Did you go to a European school --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- in Brussels?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And then after a time did you move to a school there  
14 which was run by the Jesuits called  
15 Collège Saint-Michel?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. I think you mention in the statement you provided to the  
18 inquiry that things didn't quite work out for you at  
19 that school.

20 A. No.

21 Q. And that a decision was then taken by your parents that  
22 you should be sent to Fort Augustus Abbey School?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. I think you tell us it was decided this would be a good  
25 thing for you because it was a prestigious Catholic

- 1 school and they could pay the fees.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. How old were you when you went to Fort Augustus Abbey  
4 School?
- 5 A. Thirteen.
- 6 Q. So do you think that was in around 1976 or so?
- 7 A. 1975, probably.
- 8 Q. 1975?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. We have a record that indicates that it may have been  
11 [REDACTED] 1976, but it's your own memory that it was  
12 1975?
- 13 A. I was 13, so I was born in 1963, so ... I'm trying to  
14 do the maths, sorry.
- 15 Q. It may be 1976 then?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Okay. What do you remember, Peter, about your initial  
18 arrival at the school? Who took you there and what was  
19 it like?
- 20 A. My mum and dad took me and I was shown round the school,  
21 just the dorm area for the younger boys, and the common  
22 room and the cafeteria.
- 23 Q. Did you meet the [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] when you first arrived?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Who was that?

- 1 A. Father [REDACTED] MMF
- 2 Q. Did you also meet the priest who was going to be your  
3 housemaster?
- 4 A. Yes, Father [REDACTED] MEV
- 5 Q. What's your recollection of the number of boys that were  
6 at the school at that time?
- 7 A. About 300.
- 8 Q. And the age range, do you recall?
- 9 A. It started in the first year -- sorry, repeat the  
10 question, please.
- 11 Q. Do you remember the age range of the boys at the school?
- 12 A. From 13 to 18.
- 13 Q. So you would have been among the younger boys when you  
14 arrived?
- 15 A. Yes, but Carlekemp closed and they sent even younger  
16 boys to Fort Augustus.
- 17 Q. So after you'd been there for a period --
- 18 A. A year.
- 19 Q. -- actually younger boys arrived from Carlekemp?
- 20 A. Yes. But they were kept separate from the school.
- 21 Q. I see. They were in a different part of the building?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. We understand that there were different houses within  
24 the school.
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Can you tell me about that and which house you were in?

2 A. To start with, I was in Calder, and then I was in  
3 Vaughan, and there was a house, Lovat House, run by  
4 [REDACTED] MRQ [REDACTED], and Vaughan was run by [REDACTED] MFG [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED] MFG [REDACTED] and the Calder House was Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED].

6 Q. And Calder House run by Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED], was that for  
7 the younger boys?

8 A. First and second years.

9 Q. So do I understand you correctly that when you first  
10 arrived at the school you went into Calder House and  
11 then you moved on to Vaughan House when you were older?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You have mentioned already Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] and  
14 Father [REDACTED] MMF [REDACTED]. Can you remember roughly how many  
15 priests there were involved with the school?

16 A. About six.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Seven, sorry. Seven.

19 Q. So Father [REDACTED] MMF [REDACTED] we've mentioned as the [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED].

20 Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] as the housemaster for Calder, did he  
21 also teach [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] ?

22 A. [REDACTED], he taught the [REDACTED], and he went on to play  
23 the [REDACTED].

24 Q. And you have mentioned Father [REDACTED] MFG [REDACTED],  
25 I think.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. He was the housemaster for Vaughan House?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And you have mentioned as well Father [REDACTED] MRQ , the  
5 housemaster for Lovat.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Did he also teach in the school?

8 A. No, [REDACTED] MRQ didn't, but [REDACTED] MFG did -- oh  
9 sorry, [REDACTED] MRQ did teach in school, he taught  
10 [REDACTED]

11 Q. You have mentioned Father [REDACTED] MEW --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- and also a Father [REDACTED] MFA --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- and a Father [REDACTED] MFC .

16 A. Yes, but I only knew [REDACTED] MFC briefly because I was  
17 transferred to -- well, I was no longer in Calder. He  
18 took over Calder from [REDACTED] MEV .

19 Q. So he took over Calder House from Father [REDACTED] MEV --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- quite shortly before you left Calder House?

22 A. Yes -- after I left.

23 Q. After you left?

24 A. It was after I left.

25 Q. I see. You tell us in your statement --



- 1 A. After I left -- I mean he took over from [REDACTED] MEV , but  
2 he was there for ... it must have been four years.
- 3 Q. Yes. So when Father [REDACTED] MEV left the school,  
4 Father [REDACTED] MFC took over the running of  
5 Calder House?
- 6 A. He did, yes.
- 7 Q. What was your first impression of the school, Peter,  
8 when you arrived? What did you think?
- 9 A. Scary. Scary. A lot of the boys were crying when their  
10 parents left but I didn't cry. It was only months later  
11 that I was really homesick and I used to cry at night.
- 12 Q. Were you in a dorm that was for the younger boys?
- 13 A. Yes, first and second.
- 14 Q. Can you remember how many boys were in your dorm?
- 15 A. Twenty, 25.
- 16 Q. How was the dormitory arranged? Was there a separate --
- 17 A. We used to call them horseboxes because it was just  
18 a cubicle and a double bed in the cubicle and a couple  
19 of chests of drawers for your clothes.
- 20 Q. How did you find the atmosphere in the dorms at night?
- 21 A. I was scared at night.
- 22 Q. Do you remember why that was?
- 23 A. Just ... just scared, really.
- 24 Q. Was there anybody in charge of the dorm at night?
- 25 A. Yes, a prefect, but he never, ever spent the night in

- 1 a dorm; he always went back to the east wing or west  
2 wing, it was called, where all the prefects slept.  
3 He was meant to sleep overnight in the dorm, but he  
4 never did.
- 5 Q. I think you mention as well that there was a doorway  
6 from the dorm --
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. -- to where some of the priests stayed; is that right?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Was that to a particular priest's room or ...?
- 11 A. Just Father MEV. He was the only one that used  
12 it.
- 13 Q. So did he sleep in an area where he could enter your  
14 dormitory through a doorway?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. You set out, helpfully, in your statement for us, Peter,  
17 a lot of information about the routine at the school and  
18 the timings of everything --
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. -- and we can read that for ourselves. But one thing  
21 you do mention is in relation to religion, that when you  
22 were in church, if you fell asleep in church, you'd be  
23 punished for that.
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Can you tell me about that?

1 A. Well, a lot of us were -- we were considered rebels and  
2 we used to put our hands on the seat in front of us and  
3 fall asleep, and they used to -- if it was ... The  
4 church was divided into Vaughan and into Lovat and if  
5 you slept in at Vaughan you were caned for falling  
6 asleep in church.

7 Q. So who would cane you?

8 A. MFG

9 Q. Would that happen later on in the day.

10 A. Yes, yes. He didn't cane everybody, he just picked out  
11 a few people.

12 Q. Did that happen to you when you were in Vaughan House?

13 A. Yes, it did.

14 Q. Your parents were still in Brussels at this time. Did  
15 you see your parents during the school holidays while  
16 you were at Fort Augustus?

17 A. I did, yes.

18 Q. So you went home, for example, during the Christmas  
19 holidays, the Easter holidays, the summer holidays?

20 A. Yes. My mum missed us so much that my dad flew us home  
21 at half-term for five days so we had to go home.

22 Q. Would that be in October, possibly, and February?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Do you remember if bed-wetting was an issue?

25 A. Yes, it was at one point. A young boy, he was in second

- 1 form, I think, he used to wet his bed, but it was  
2 treated very sympathetically, it wasn't -- he wasn't  
3 told off or scorned or anything.
- 4 Q. So this was another boy in your dormitory?
- 5 A. Yes, that used to wet the bed.
- 6 Q. Who dealt with it? Who treated him sympathetically?
- 7 A. Father [REDACTED] MEV .
- 8 Q. I think you mention in your statement that  
9 Father [REDACTED] MEV would tell the boy that it wasn't his  
10 fault.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Can I ask you now a little bit about discipline at the  
13 school, Peter --
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. -- and how discipline was managed. Were there school  
16 rules that were explained to you when you arrived?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. So how were you to pick up or learn what the rules were?
- 19 A. I mean, if you were caught smoking you got caned. If  
20 you used bad language, you got caned. If you had your  
21 hands in your pockets, you were sometimes caned.
- 22 Father [REDACTED] MFG took a real dislike to me. He did  
23 actually pick on me quite a bit, I don't understand why,  
24 but I don't think he liked me.
- 25 Q. So was that when you were in Vaughan House or was that

- 1           just generally during your time in the school?
- 2       A.   Just during my time in the school, just in
- 3           Vaughan House.
- 4       Q.   So who did the disciplining in the school?  Who would
- 5           administer punishment?
- 6       A.   Well, for Lovat it would be [REDACTED] MRQ .  For Vaughan,
- 7           [REDACTED] MFG .  And then for Calder, it would be
- 8           Father [REDACTED] MEV .
- 9       Q.   So it would be the housemaster and it would depend on
- 10           which house you were in?
- 11      A.   Yes.
- 12      Q.   If we look at Father [REDACTED] MEV first of all, because
- 13           you've told me that was the house you went into first of
- 14           all, Calder House --
- 15      A.   Yes.
- 16      Q.   -- how did Father [REDACTED] MEV administer punishment?
- 17           What would he do?
- 18      A.   He used to belt you on the hands.  Sometimes he'd belt
- 19           you so much, three times, that the wrist used to be all
- 20           bruised and sore because he would hit the wrists and not
- 21           the hands sometimes.
- 22      Q.   Did he do that to you?
- 23      A.   Yes, he did, yes.
- 24      Q.   Were your wrists injured?
- 25      A.   Yes.

- 1 Q. Were there marks on your wrists?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. What sort of things would one have to have done to merit  
4 this sort of punishment from Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED]?
- 5 A. Smoking. Bad language. Just ... If you had messed  
6 around in prep hall, where you did your homework, the  
7 prefects used to send you up to the housemaster for  
8 misbehaving and they used to cane you or belt you.
- 9 Q. If Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] was belting you, where would that  
10 take place?
- 11 A. In his office.
- 12 Q. In his office?
- 13 A. Yes, on the first floor.
- 14 Q. You've mentioned your wrists; would he belt you on any  
15 other part of the body?
- 16 A. No, no. But [REDACTED] MFG [REDACTED] used to use a cane.
- 17 Q. Did Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] use the cane?
- 18 A. Not that I can remember, no.
- 19 Q. Did you see -- you have told me that Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED]  
20 used the belt on you. Did you see him or hear of him  
21 using the belt on other boys?
- 22 A. Yes, yes.
- 23 Q. Did you see injuries on other boys?
- 24 A. I did, yes.
- 25 Q. And Father [REDACTED] MFG [REDACTED] then, when you were in

- 1           Vaughan House, how did he discipline boys?
- 2           A. He'd give them the cane on the backside.
- 3           Q. Did he give you the cane on the backside?
- 4           A. Yes, he did.
- 5           Q. Where did he do this?
- 6           A. In his office. He made you bend over on a chair and he
- 7           used to cane you on your backside.
- 8           Q. Would that be over your clothes or on your bare
- 9           backside?
- 10          A. On my trousers.
- 11          Q. Do you recall how many times he would strike you with
- 12          the cane?
- 13          A. For the whole time I was there?
- 14          Q. Well, yes, if you tell me roughly how many times while
- 15          you were there.
- 16          A. Sixty, 70 times.
- 17          Q. On the occasions that you were caned by him, how many
- 18          times did he strike you on each occasion with the cane
- 19          or could it vary?
- 20          A. Three, four, six. At one point I had 13 of the cane in
- 21          one day on the backside.
- 22          Q. And indeed you tell us about that, Peter, in
- 23          paragraph 53 of your statement. Could you tell me
- 24          a little bit more about that occasion when you tell us
- 25          you got 13 of the cane? What happened?

- 1 A. I was caught stealing out of the tuck shop sweets and  
2 I got six of the cane on the backside and I swore and he  
3 gave me another three, and I was using bad language and  
4 it was another two. Just ... sorry.
- 5 Q. Were you injured as a result of that?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Did you have marks?
- 8 A. Yes, stripes across my bum. Bleeding sometimes too. It  
9 depends how many of the cane you got. I got six of the  
10 cane and it did bleed a wee bit.
- 11 Q. Did you cry on these occasions that Father **MFG** caned  
12 you?
- 13 A. No, but I cried once I got out of the office. I didn't  
14 want him to have the satisfaction of knowing.
- 15 Q. You mention in your statement, Peter, an occasion when  
16 Father **MFG** was going to give you six of the cane, he  
17 gave you three on the backside and three on your  
18 testicles?
- 19 A. He did, yes. That was for stealing out of the tuck  
20 shop. He gave me three of the cane on the backside and  
21 I says, can we stop, please, and then he deliberately  
22 caned me so my testicles got the brunt of it three  
23 times.
- 24 Q. Were you injured on that occasion?
- 25 A. Yes.



- 1 Q. Was that over your clothing?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Did you have to seek any medical attention at any time  
4 as a result of any of the canings?
- 5 A. We told the nurse but it was just ignored it was  
6 forgotten about. It wasn't even addressed, you know.
- 7 Q. So did you go to the nurse on occasions?
- 8 A. Yes. And she just gave you lotion to rub, you know.  
9 But a lot of people didn't go because she was useless,  
10 she did nothing -- and neither did the doctor either.  
11 Everybody thought a doctor was really good, but he knew  
12 what was going on and he did nothing.
- 13 Q. I think you tell us you went to the nurse on more than  
14 one occasion with injuries.
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Can you remember what the cane was like that  
17 Father MFG used?
- 18 A. Yes, it was about, I would say, 15 inches long, thin.  
19 The irony is, when he used to [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED] the  
20 [REDACTED] as a [REDACTED] he used to have the  
21 cane under his arm and it was the same cane that he used  
22 to beat boys with.
- 23 Q. Was there an occasion when the cane broke?
- 24 A. Yes. An American boy was staying at the school, he went  
25 to his office and broke his cane at three places, and

1 another friend went to get the cane and he found that  
2 his cane had been broken, and he said, "Who's done this  
3 to my beloved cane?"

4 Q. And did he replace it?

5 A. Yes, he replaced it, yes.

6 Q. What about Father **MRQ**? How did he administer  
7 punishment?

8 A. He used to belt people.

9 Q. Did he belt you?

10 A. No, he never belted me, but he belted a lot of friends  
11 who were in Lovat, and some of the injuries ... He was  
12 a big man, you know, he used to jump up when he caned  
13 you on your wrists.

14 Q. Did you see him belting other boys?

15 A. I did, yes. One time his door was open and I did  
16 actually look in and he was belting a boy on the wrists.  
17 Again, he used to hit the wrists, so it would do the  
18 maximum damage, I suppose.

19 Q. Did you see if boys were injured as a result of being  
20 belted by Father **MRQ**?

21 A. Yes, there were injuries, yes.

22 Q. I think you mention in your statement that it would draw  
23 blood.

24 A. Yes. At one point, a friend of mine, he showed me his  
25 wrists and they were all bloody.

- 1 Q. Did he say that was as a result of punishment by  
2 [REDACTED] MRQ [REDACTED] ?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. You tell us in your statement, Peter, about an occasion  
5 when you recall a boy being beaten up badly by  
6 Father [REDACTED] MRQ [REDACTED] .
- 7 A. Yes, [REDACTED] -- sorry, I shouldn't say his name.
- 8 Q. That's okay. What happened on that occasion?
- 9 A. [REDACTED] MRQ [REDACTED] -- I think it was in the swamp that he  
10 found him and he bashed his eye, and his eye was all  
11 swollen and cut. He was the boy of one of the masters  
12 that used to teach [REDACTED] at the school.
- 13 Q. So the boy was the son of a teacher?
- 14 A. A teacher, yes.
- 15 Q. Did you see this incident?
- 16 A. We all saw it afterwards. We all saw the black eye and  
17 the bruising.
- 18 Q. So you didn't see the actual incident happening but you  
19 saw the aftermath?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. I see. You mention discipline being administered by  
22 some of the lay staff at the school as well.
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. I just want to ask you a little bit about that.
- 25 A. Sure.

1 Q. A Mr [REDACTED] .

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can you tell me who he was?

4 A. He was the [REDACTED] teacher.

5 Q. How did he administer punishment?

6 A. One time, I got a poem wrong and he brought his knuckle

7 down on my head and it was excruciatingly painful and it

8 made my eyes water and made me cry.

9 Q. Did you see him do anything like that to other boys?

10 A. I think so, yes.

11 LADY SMITH: Were you able to recite the poem at the time?

12 (Pause). You say you got the poem wrong. Were you

13 having to speak it out in class?

14 A. I can't remember, sorry.

15 LADY SMITH: I just wondered. Thank you.

16 MS MACLEOD: You mention another teacher, [REDACTED] MIH .

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. How did he discipline boys?

19 A. On the whole he was quite good, but there was one

20 point -- he used to say, "What's [REDACTED]?" and you'd

21 say X, you know, and I got it wrong and he came over and

22 he started beating my head about with his hands

23 (indicating).

24 Q. I think you're indicating -- was he using both hands to

25 hit your head?

1 A. To hit my head, yes.

2 Q. Was that painful?

3 A. Yes, it was, yes, but it was more embarrassing and  
4 humiliating.

5 Q. Was that something that happened as a one-off or was  
6 that something that happened more than once?

7 A. If I remember, more than once, but not just me.

8 Q. So you saw it happen to others as well?

9 A. Yes. I know a case where the year before me -- I was in  
10 first form and in the year before me a couple of boys  
11 couldn't -- the French teacher couldn't keep control of  
12 the boys and they started fighting. MFG came along  
13 and grabbed them both by the collar, took them both to  
14 his office and caned them. The French teacher was  
15 hopeless, she just couldn't keep control of the class.

16 Q. So that was Father MFG coming into the class to do  
17 that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You mentioned a Mr MIG as well.

20 A. Mr MIG yes. MIG -- no, MIG.

21 Q. MIG ?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Did he ever physically punish you?

24 A. He humiliated you in the class. One of his favourite  
25 tricks was, "What's that in the sink?" and you leaned

1 over and he grabbed your hair and soaked you with the  
2 water, and then he smacked you a bit, and then told you  
3 to sit back down.

4 Q. So he grabbed your hair and soaked you with water; which  
5 part of you did he soak with water?

6 A. My whole head with the tap ... put my head under ...

7 Q. He grabbed you by the hair, put your head under a tap,  
8 and soaked you with water?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Again, was that a one-off or --

11 A. No, that happened to a lot of boys.

12 Q. Another priest you mention in relation to some  
13 discipline is a Father [REDACTED] MEZ [REDACTED].

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Was he the [REDACTED] teacher?

16 A. He was, yes.

17 Q. Was he your teacher? Did he teach you [REDACTED]?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can you tell me about that and what might happen during  
20 his lessons?

21 A. Oh, sometimes -- if you were told to [REDACTED], some  
22 boys got it wrong or deliberately got it wrong, so he  
23 would grab them by the lapels and pull them out  
24 backwards out of the church and once they got outside he  
25 used to give them a good kicking.

1 Q. When you say "give them a good kicking", what would he  
2 do to them?

3 A. He used to kick them.

4 Q. Where would they be?

5 A. On the ground.

6 Q. Which part of their body would he kick?

7 A. In the abdomen.

8 Q. Did you see that happening?

9 A. No, but I heard about it afterwards, but I saw him drag  
10 the boy out of the church into the hallway.

11 Q. What about the [REDACTED]? Would anything happen while you  
12 were [REDACTED]?

13 A. No, sorry, I can't remember -- oh yes, I was [REDACTED]  
14 [REDACTED] and I think it was -- was it MFG  
15 MFG -- came along and said, "You're very good", or  
16 something like that, so ...

17 Q. Okay. You have mentioned prefects before and that  
18 prefects could send a boy to the housemaster.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Could prefects themselves administer any kind of  
21 discipline?

22 A. They did to me, yes. A guy called [REDACTED], who  
23 was a prefect when I was in first form, he took me down  
24 to the shower room and he gave me a cold shower and then  
25 he took me to the drying room and started to beat me up.

- 1 Q. We'll come on to look at that specific incident, Peter.  
2 But generally, were prefects allowed to administer  
3 discipline to the other boys or were they supposed to  
4 refer --
- 5 A. No, they were. They used to beat them up and stuff like  
6 this.
- 7 Q. Do you know if the priests knew that prefects were doing  
8 that?
- 9 A. Yes, they had carte blanche, you know.
- 10 Q. Something you tell us in paragraph 64 of your statement,  
11 Peter, is that -- you've told us a little bit about  
12 injuries that you sustained yourself as a result of some  
13 punishment.
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. You mention that you would see other boys in the showers  
16 and that you would notice that they had bruises or red  
17 marks on their bum.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. You say that you could see cuts and scrapes on their  
20 wrists as well.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Can you give me an idea, was that a regular thing, was  
23 that normal to see that kind of thing, or was that --  
24 how often would you see that?
- 25 A. No, it was normal. It was accepted. You never talked



1           about it, not very much talk about it, you just accepted  
2           it and got on with it.

3           Q. Is that something you recall seeing during the majority  
4           of your period at the school?

5           A. Yes, yes.

6           Q. I should have asked you about this earlier, but you have  
7           told us that you were 13 when you first attended  
8           Fort Augustus.

9           A. Yes.

10          Q. How old were you when you left the school?

11          A. Eighteen.

12          Q. So you were there around five years or so?

13          A. Five years, yes.

14          Q. You've mentioned that you think the nurse and the doctor  
15          knew about the physical punishments in the school.

16          A. Yes.

17          Q. Did you ever tell your parents about the physical  
18          punishments at the school?

19          A. No. But they were quite crafty, you know. They stopped  
20          giving you the cane about three months before or two  
21          months before you left for holidays, so there would be  
22          no marks on you at all. So you'd have no redress, you  
23          know.

24          Q. Your recollection is that when it was coming up to  
25          holiday time, the physical punishments would lessen?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. I now want to ask you about the part of your statement  
3 where you discuss sexual abuse.
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. That's from paragraph 65 onwards. You tell us that you  
6 think this started with a trip you went on --
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. -- in your first year.
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Can you tell me just a little bit about that trip.  
11 What was the trip?
- 12 A. It was to go up a river, a river valley, and we came to  
13 a waterfall, and then we started to bathe ourselves  
14 in the waterfall.
- 15 Q. Can you recall roughly when during your first year this  
16 might have been?
- 17 A. That's the very first month that I started school.  
18 I started school in [REDACTED] and it was the very first  
19 month, [REDACTED].
- 20 Q. So soon after you started?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Were there a number of boys on the trip?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Which staff or monks were on the trip?
- 25 A. Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED].

- 1 Q. Just Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] ?
- 2 A. Just Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] .
- 3 Q. Can you tell me then what was it that happened on that
- 4 trip that alerted you to something?
- 5 A. He looked at me, he started looking -- I was bathing
- 6 under the shower and he started to look at me.
- 7 I didn't -- I felt really uncomfortable, how he was
- 8 looking at me, you know. I mean, it wasn't just
- 9 a stare, he was examining me. Very, very uncomfortable.
- 10 Q. Were you wearing anything at the time?
- 11 A. I think shorts or boxer shorts.
- 12 Q. After that trip when you got back to the school, did
- 13 something happen? What was the next thing that happened
- 14 that caused you concern?
- 15 A. What, the abuse?
- 16 Q. Yes. How did that start? What was the next thing that
- 17 happened when you got back to the school?
- 18 A. He took me into his office.
- 19 Q. Do you remember roughly how long after the trip that
- 20 was?
- 21 A. It was still before Christmas because I remember when he
- 22 abused me, he shut his curtains. I think it was in the
- 23 evening and he shut his curtains before he abused me.
- 24 Q. So did somebody come and ask you if you would go to
- 25 Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] room?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Can you just tell me about that? Where were you and who  
3 came to ask you?

4 A. I think I was in prep and I think a prefect -- I can't  
5 remember -- told me to go to his room and I went to his  
6 room. He told me to sit down and we sat down on the  
7 settee and he started to feel me up, and then he says,  
8 "We'll give you a bit of a rub", so he took my penis out  
9 and started to masturbate me, and then I said to him,  
10 "Oh, something's happening", because it was the first  
11 time that I ever came, and I said, "Something's  
12 happening", and then I came and he put his mouth over my  
13 cock and gave me oral sex.

14 The stench, the smell, was horrible, and it  
15 tasted -- oh ... he wiped his mouth with his hanky and  
16 I said to him, "What does it taste like?" He said,  
17 "You're a very intelligent boy", and I got up and he  
18 told me to kneel down and he got his penis out. He had  
19 a cassock on, but he rolled it up, and then I was forced  
20 to put my mouth on his -- his penis into my mouth and  
21 then he came. I remember it tasted like chicken soup.  
22 I didn't know what to make of it. When he finished, he  
23 told me, "Get out of here, you bastard, don't tell  
24 nobody". And then the third time, he made me masturbate  
25 him off while sitting on the sofa.

1 Q. Okay. So the first occasion then in his room that  
2 you've told me about there, how long after that were you  
3 then back in his room when something similar happened?

4 A. It was the same time I gave him oral sex.

5 Q. Yes.

6 A. It was about a week later, I think, when he made me  
7 masturbate him off. He said, "You haven't told  
8 anybody?" and I said no. He said, "Okay, it's a secret,  
9 don't tell anybody". I did tell a couple of boys.  
10 I was told by one of them, "Don't make up lies like  
11 this, you'll really get into trouble".

12 Q. Was that after the first time you'd been in his room and  
13 the abuse happened?

14 A. Yes -- sorry, can we take a break?

15 LADY SMITH: Peter, there's absolutely no need to apologise.  
16 Do you want me to let you have a break out of the  
17 hearing room?

18 A. Yes.

19 LADY SMITH: Let's do that. Very well.

20 (2.40 pm)

21 (A short break)

22 (3.07 pm)

23 LADY SMITH: Peter, are you ready for us to carry on?

24 A. Yes, thank you.

25 LADY SMITH: Is it okay with you that we do that now?

- 1 A. Yes, thank you.
- 2 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.
- 3 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.
- 4 Peter, before we took the break, you told me,
- 5 I think, that after the first occasion when you went to
- 6 Father **MEV** room and you were abused, that you
- 7 told some boys at the school.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. As a result of that, as I think you tell us in your
- 10 statement, rumours and gossip started circulating around
- 11 the school; is that right?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. I think what you say is the whole school knew.
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. So what did that mean for you?
- 16 A. Well, it meant any young boys joining the school would
- 17 know about it. I mean, everybody knew what had
- 18 happened.
- 19 Q. And how did the boys express their knowledge? What did
- 20 they say to you?
- 21 A. They used to tease me about it. At one point they wrote
- 22 a poem about me and **MEV** which was quite
- 23 horrible.
- 24 Q. Is that a poem that they used to -- would they say that
- 25 or would they write it?

1 A. Write it and say it, yes. I don't have it, you know.

2 Q. Would that poem be referring to --

3 A. Sexual abuse from [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] yes.

4 Q. Did boys in the school say anything to you --

5 A. All the time.

6 Q. What kind of things would they say?

7 A. They used to say, "[REDACTED] suck, suck. Suck [REDACTED]

8 suck, suck, suck".

9 Q. Were you upset by this?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. I think you describe it in your statement as a vicious

12 time.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So were you really being bullied by other boys as

15 a result of this?

16 A. In the first year, yes. Yes.

17 Q. Do you think staff and priests were aware of what boys

18 were saying to you?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did any staff or priests ask you about this or speak to

21 you about it?

22 A. No, but one time I told [REDACTED] MFG [REDACTED] about it, [REDACTED] MFG [REDACTED],

23 about it. He just smirked at me.

24 Q. What did you tell Father [REDACTED] MFG [REDACTED] ?

25 A. I told him that I'd been abused by [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED].

1 Q. Did you tell him that you had been sexually abused?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Did you give him some of the detail that you've told me

4 about today?

5 A. Yes, he just smirked. Another time I told a priest in

6 confession that I'd been abused, and I said, "Do you

7 want to know my name?" and he said, "No, I don't want to

8 know your name, please get out of here".

9 Q. Was that a priest that you told in the abbey that was

10 attached to the school?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Was the priest a monk?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What did you tell the priest in confession?

15 A. I just said that he'd made me suck his cock and he

16 sucked my cock.

17 Q. Did you tell him who had made you do this and who had

18 done this to you?

19 A. I told him MEV had done it but he said he didn't

20 want to know and he told me to leave. Another boy told

21 me, "Don't repeat it, you'll get into trouble for

22 telling lies like that", and then the next year he was

23 no longer there, his parents had removed him.

24 Q. So was this one of the boys that you told about the

25 abuse after the first occasion?



- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And he said to you not to tell lies?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Did you say that boy was removed?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Who removed him?
- 7 A. His parents removed his from the school.
- 8 Q. Why did they remove him?
- 9 A. They didn't want him to be involved in the scandal.
- 10 Q. When you say "to be involved in the scandal", how was he
- 11 involved in the scandal?
- 12 A. Because I told him what happened.
- 13 Q. I see.
- 14 A. A lot of -- it was funny because a lot of boys that were
- 15 actually in the school and after, the year after it
- 16 happened, school numbers went down. Parents removed
- 17 them because everybody knew and they told their parents
- 18 and their parents removed them.
- 19 Q. So the other boys who knew told their parents and as
- 20 a result of that boys were removed, you think?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. You've told me about the two occasions on which you went
- 23 to MEV room and he sexually abused you.
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. After those two occasions in his room, did he sexually

1 abuse you again?

2 A. Yes, once again.

3 Q. Can you tell me about that?

4 A. It was when I came into his room and he told me to sit  
5 down on the sofa. He said, "Give me a bit of a rub", so  
6 I masturbated him.

7 Q. Is that the third time you were abused in his room?

8 A. Yes, the third time.

9 Q. The third occasion you went to his room?

10 A. No, the second occasion.

11 Q. The first time you went to his room you were abused and  
12 you've described that to me.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And then the second occasion?

15 A. Yes, the same time. I gave him oral sex as well. And  
16 the third time, he told me to masturbate him off.

17 Q. Were there three times then you went to his room and  
18 were abused?

19 A. No, two.

20 Q. Two?

21 A. Two.

22 LADY SMITH: Did one of these incidents take place somewhere  
23 else then? They were all in his room?

24 A. All in his room, yes.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MS MACLEOD: The first occasion you were abused in his room,  
2 you have given us a description of what happened.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And then the second occasion --

5 A. Was in his room.

6 Q. Was in his room again?

7 A. Yes, and the third occasion in his room again.

8 Q. But the first two times you were abused, they were on  
9 the same visit to his room?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And then the third time was a different visit?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Something you mention in your statement at paragraph 71,  
14 is that you say:

15 "Just after the first occasion of abuse,  
16 Father MEV told me he'd done it to another boy."

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can you just tell me exactly what he said?

19 A. I says to him, "Have you done it to anybody else?" and  
20 he said, "Yes, a boy before you".

21 Q. Did he give you the name of that boy?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Did you come to learn at any time who that may have  
24 been?

25 A. No.

- 1 Q. Did Father [REDACTED] MEV tell you something about his own  
2 family?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Was that on the first time you were in his room and he  
5 abused you?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. What did he tell you about his family?
- 8 A. He said his father owned a ranch in Australia and he was  
9 talking about the times he had in Australia and stuff.
- 10 Q. Did prefects become involved in some way in what was  
11 happening to you? Do you tell us that Father [REDACTED] MEV  
12 perhaps spoke to some prefects?
- 13 A. He told them to beat me up, to make a man of me, they  
14 were told. At the end of the term, the first year,  
15 a boy -- he said to me -- he apologised for all the  
16 prefects that beat me up all the time, but they were  
17 told to do it by Father [REDACTED] MEV
- 18 Q. So one of the prefects told you that he had been told to  
19 do it by Father [REDACTED] MEV
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And did he tell you what Father [REDACTED] MEV told him to  
22 do?
- 23 A. He told him to make a man of me and not a whimpering wee  
24 boy. He wanted them to harm me, you know, and the  
25 prefects did harm me quite a bit.

- 1 Q. And we'll look at that in a moment. When was this?
- 2 A. It's the end of summer term.
- 3 Q. The end of the summer term?
- 4 A. When I was due to go on holiday.
- 5 Q. So the two incidents of abuse, the incidents of abuse in
- 6 Father MEV room, was that in your first term?
- 7 A. Yes. Yes, before Christmas.
- 8 Q. And then when was the incident with the prefects?
- 9 A. During -- after I came back -- before -- no, before
- 10 I left for summer.
- 11 Q. I see. So it was the following year?
- 12 A. The same school year. MEV was still there until
- 13 the end of the summer and the prefects beat me up.
- 14 Q. So how many prefects were involved in this?
- 15 A. Several. Several.
- 16 Q. Can you tell me then how did it start and what did they
- 17 do?
- 18 A. The first time, I was taken down to the showers by
- 19 [REDACTED] and he gave me a freezing cold shower
- 20 and then took me to the drying room and he started to
- 21 beat me up, and then went back to the shower and beat me
- 22 up, back to the shower. About six or seven times and
- 23 eventually I broke down crying and I heard him going
- 24 through the doors to leave me alone.
- 25 Q. Were you injured?

1 A. Yes, I was bruised and slapped about. And another time,  
2 a guy called [REDACTED] -- I was standing in the queue to go  
3 into lunch and he told me to come forward and then he  
4 punched me in the stomach. That winded me and I was  
5 lying on the floor winded and this other prefect came  
6 along and he grabbed me by the lapels and he dragged me  
7 into the common room. As I was being dragged into the  
8 common room, Father [REDACTED] MFG and [REDACTED] MZV -- I think  
9 it was [REDACTED] MZV -- were coming down the corridor --  
10 you know, [REDACTED] MEV and [REDACTED] MZV -- [REDACTED] MFG, I think it  
11 was, I can't remember. Anyway, they saw it and they  
12 pretended it never happened.

13 Q. So this was either Father [REDACTED] MFG or Father [REDACTED] MEV ?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And a Mr [REDACTED] MZV ?

16 A. Yes, or both of them.

17 Q. And are you saying they saw what the prefect was doing  
18 to you?

19 A. Yes. I saw them looking at them, you know, but they  
20 said nothing. They just walked past as if nothing had  
21 happened.

22 Q. How did that incident come to an end for you?

23 A. Me being in the common room trying to get my breath. It  
24 was a case of fear and viciousness and fear, you know.  
25 Everybody hated to be sent to the housemaster because

1           they'd know that they were going to get the cane, you  
2           know, but we just accepted it and we got on with it.

3           Q. Did you start to struggle in school, in class after the  
4           abuse?

5           A. Yes, yes.

6           Q. I think you mention at paragraph 37 that there came  
7           a time you started to hear voices after the abuse.

8           A. Yes.

9           Q. Were you given any kind of support?

10          A. No.

11          Q. You mention an [REDACTED] teacher by the name of [REDACTED] MFH [REDACTED].

12          A. Yes.

13          Q. Can you tell me about him and what you know about him?

14          A. He was the [REDACTED] teacher for the first and second form.  
15          There was one time we were watching The Poseidon on  
16          a big screen in the hall and a boy called [REDACTED] came  
17          in and he was crying. I didn't know why he was crying,  
18          but a friend told me that [REDACTED] MFH [REDACTED] had taken him back  
19          to his house, showed him pornographic films, and then  
20          took his penis out and told him, "You'll be a big boy  
21          when you grow up".

22          Q. So this was a boy that you saw crying?

23          A. Yes.

24          Q. And another boy told you that this boy had been taken to  
25          [REDACTED] MFH [REDACTED] house and that had happened to him?

1 A. Yes. I've since learned that he was quite a prolific  
2 paedophile, which I didn't know at the time, just when  
3 [REDACTED] told me about him, that I knew he was -- you  
4 called them child molesters.

5 Q. Were you aware of any inappropriate sexual contact  
6 between boys at the school?

7 A. With [REDACTED] MFH ?

8 Q. Just between boys themselves.

9 A. Yes, sometimes, yes.

10 Q. Is that something that you saw or that you experienced  
11 yourself?

12 A. I did on a couple of occasions experience it. This boy  
13 asked me if I wanted to come for a wank and I went for  
14 a wank, but we just -- we didn't do very much, we just  
15 had a wank, you know.

16 Q. Is that a boy of a similar age or older?

17 A. Older, an older boy.

18 Q. In relation to the sexual abuse you have told me about  
19 with Father [REDACTED] MEV , his sexual abuse of you,  
20 you have told me that you reported that to a priest at  
21 confession when you were in the school.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you've also told me that you told Father [REDACTED] MFG on  
24 an occasion.

25 A. Yes.



1 Q. Do you know the name of the priest that you told?

2 A. No, no, no. There was a screen. You couldn't tell who  
3 it was.

4 Q. Did you try to run away from Fort Augustus after the  
5 abuse?

6 A. I did, yes.

7 Q. Can you tell me about that?

8 A. I got my stuff together and I was walking down the dorm  
9 and then this boy says to me, "Where you going,  
10 [REDACTED]?" I said, "I'm getting the fuck out of here".  
11 So he woke up this guy that was huge, he was called  
12 [REDACTED] and he grabbed me, pinned me against the door,  
13 and somebody else went to get [REDACTED] MEV, and [REDACTED] MEV  
14 took me down to his room and he asked me if I had told  
15 anybody what had gone on between us, and I said  
16 I hadn't, and he said, "Good".

17 Q. He asked you if you had told anybody about what had gone  
18 on between you and him?

19 A. Yes, and I said I hadn't. I had, but I just said  
20 I hadn't. I was too scared to say anything else.

21 Q. Was that the end then to your attempt to run away?

22 A. Yes. As years went by, I became quite -- people really  
23 didn't really mess with me at all. I wasn't a bully,  
24 but I was considered to be a hard bastard or something  
25 like that, you know, but I never bullied anybody at all,

1           you know.

2           Q. Was this after the first year when you were a bit older?

3           A. Yes.

4           Q. One thing you tell us in paragraph 94 of your statement,  
5           Peter -- you say:  
6                     "I thought I was gay for a while at school."  
7           A. Yes.

8           Q. And you say that you were prohibited from certain  
9           activities.

10          A. Yes, yes.

11          Q. Can you just develop that for me?

12          A. The hockey, I was a defender in the hockey, we went and  
13          we played matches together, and then -- I think it was  
14          about the last year, the last year I think it was I was  
15          there -- my name was taken away from the rugby and the  
16          football and everything because I was considered  
17          a homosexual and they didn't want me there.

18          Q. Who didn't want you there?

19          A. I don't know who it was, but one of the masters and  
20          MFG ... I don't know.

21          Q. You also say that you were prohibited from going to the  
22          showers with other boys.

23          A. Yes, sometimes, yes.

24          Q. Who prohibited you from going to the showers?

25          A. Again, MFG, I think, MFG.

- 1 Q. I think what you say is that you don't know how they  
2 came to the opinion that that they thought you were gay?
- 3 A. No, no.
- 4 Q. And you don't know -- do you know why you were  
5 prohibited from doing certain activities and showering?
- 6 A. Because they thought I was gay, you know.
- 7 Q. How did being prohibited from these things make you feel  
8 at the time?
- 9 A. Ostracised. I mean, the fifth form -- I was in fifth  
10 form, and I was okay, you know. But the last year, in  
11 fifth form, it's all sort of a blur, really. I remember  
12 all the sports, I was never, ever put on any of the  
13 sports. My name used to go up on the board for the team  
14 and then for that last year, I never played on any team  
15 whatsoever.
- 16 Q. Going back to your first year, Peter, did there come  
17 a time when you told your parents about what  
18 Father MEV had done to you?
- 19 A. Yes, I told them that he'd sucked me off, but I didn't  
20 tell them the rest.
- 21 Q. When did you tell them that?
- 22 A. What, the rest?
- 23 Q. No, when did you tell them anything at all?
- 24 A. It was when I was home in summer, that first year, when  
25 I was back home in Brussels.

- 1 Q. Is that the end of your first year?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Did you tell your mother or your father or both
- 4 together?
- 5 A. I just told my mum and my mum told my dad.
- 6 Q. Did you tell her verbally or in writing?
- 7 A. Verbally.
- 8 Q. What was your mum's reaction?
- 9 A. She was horrified. My dad threatened to sue the school
- 10 but MMF talked him round and said -- arranged for
- 11 a meeting. So I went back to the school --
- 12 Q. Just to take you back there, when you say your father
- 13 threatened to sue the school, how did he do that, was
- 14 that in a phone call or a letter?
- 15 A. He phoned them up and told them.
- 16 Q. This was during a school holiday and your father phoned
- 17 the school?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Do you know who he speak to?
- 20 A. I think it was MMF.
- 21 Q. And did you mention then there was a meeting?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Was a meeting arranged?
- 24 A. Yes. I went back to the school.
- 25 Q. Was that during the holiday?

- 1 A. No, after the holidays.
- 2 Q. After the holidays. So who went to the school?
- 3 A. Me, my mum and my dad.
- 4 Q. Did you have a meeting?
- 5 A. Yes, with MMF .
- 6 Q. Who was at the meeting?
- 7 A. Me, my mum, my dad and MMF . But MMF -- he
- 8 went to interview him and MMF said, "He might have
- 9 enjoyed it", and my dad was furious, but he talked him
- 10 down again.
- 11 Q. Was that him suggesting that you might have enjoyed what
- 12 had happened?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And your father was furious?
- 15 A. He was, yes. He shouted at him. He told me to leave
- 16 the room and he was shouting at him.
- 17 Q. And did you leave the room?
- 18 A. I did, yes, but I heard my dad shouting at him.
- 19 Q. So you left the room and where were you then?
- 20 A. Outside in the corridor.
- 21 Q. Could you hear some of the things that were being said?
- 22 A. I could hear everything, yes.
- 23 Q. So what was being discussed at the meeting then between
- 24 Father MMF and your parents?
- 25 A. He was saying that, "He's best to come back to the

1 school, he'll be safe at the school".

2 Q. Who was saying that?

3 A. MMF. He was saying, "He'll be safe at the school  
4 and he should come back". If I went to another school,  
5 these things would spread because other people would get  
6 to know that I'd been abused through the grapevine.

7 Q. Is this if you went to a different school?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So he was saying if you went to a different school, this  
10 thing would spread?

11 A. It would follow me. That was MMF saying that.

12 Q. At that meeting, did you or your parents tell  
13 Father MMF what had happened to you?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Who told him?

16 A. My dad told him. But he knew already, you know.

17 Q. He knew already?

18 A. Yes, MEV had -- when my dad first phoned him  
19 about MEV -- MEV I think, was interviewed  
20 by him and he admitted to it.

21 Q. So that was before your meeting?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. I see.

24 A. I presume. I'm not 100%.

25 Q. So when did you find out that Father MEV

1 [REDACTED]

2 A. When he [REDACTED] ...

3 Q. So at that meeting with Father [REDACTED] MMF, did you know  
4 that?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You did?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Who told you that?

9 A. Told me what?

10 Q. You said that Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED]

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Is that something that you knew at the meeting you had  
13 with your parents and Father [REDACTED] MMF?

14 A. My parents knew what he'd done before the meeting and  
15 then he told us that Father [REDACTED] MEV had been removed  
16 from the school.

17 Q. I see. So Father [REDACTED] MMF told you at that meeting that  
18 Father [REDACTED] MEV had been removed from the school?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did Father [REDACTED] MMF say where Father [REDACTED] MEV had  
21 gone?

22 A. He said back to Australia.

23 Q. Did you see Father [REDACTED] MEV at the school again?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Do you know if at that time Father [REDACTED] MMF discussed

- 1 any investigation? Was there going to be any  
2 investigation within the school?
- 3 A. No, but when I went back for the meeting I was taken  
4 into the cloisters, where I met the abbot, and he was  
5 surrounded by other priests advising him and stuff.
- 6 Q. You tell us about that in paragraph 82 of your  
7 statement. So you've told us about the meeting with  
8 your parents, yourself and Father **MMF**. Was there  
9 also a separate meeting with the abbot?
- 10 A. Yes, in the cloisters.
- 11 Q. Who was at that meeting?
- 12 A. Father **MMF**, my mum and dad, me, the abbot and about  
13 12 other priests.
- 14 Q. What was the purpose of that meeting?
- 15 A. To apologise to me.
- 16 Q. And did someone apologise to you?
- 17 A. No, they didn't, no.
- 18 Q. So what happened at that meeting?
- 19 A. I was just -- I can't really remember, sorry.
- 20 Q. Okay. Do you remember who spoke?
- 21 A. Yes, it was -- the abbot didn't say anything, it was one  
22 of his laymen that spoke. I can't remember ...
- 23 Q. Do you remember the abbot's name?
- 24 A. No, no.
- 25 Q. Was the allegation you had made discussed at that



1 meeting with the abbot?

2 A. Yes, briefly.

3 Q. So was it your understanding that those people who were  
4 in the room knew --

5 A. They knew about it, yes.

6 Q. Were those two meetings on the same day, do you  
7 remember?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. One after the other?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. The meeting with Father **MMF** first?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And then the meeting with the abbot?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Where was the meeting with Father **MMF** ?

16 A. In his office.

17 Q. And where was the meeting with the abbot?

18 A. In the cloisters.

19 Q. Do you remember if there was discussion at any point  
20 around that time of involving the police in this?

21 A. No, no.

22 Q. So what then happened after those two meetings? You've  
23 told me that you were told that Father **MEV** had  
24 left the school and that you didn't see him again.

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. What about you? What happened to you?
- 2 A. My mum and dad left and then I was just left to get on  
3 with it, you know.
- 4 Q. How did you feel about being left at Fort Augustus?
- 5 A. It wasn't their fault, mum and dad, but I felt betrayed.
- 6 Q. You mention in your statement that you hadn't told your  
7 parents at that time that other boys knew what had gone  
8 on.
- 9 A. No, I hadn't, no.
- 10 Q. And I think you say that your dad told you at a later  
11 stage that if he'd known that then --
- 12 A. He would have removed me, yes.
- 13 Q. Okay. You tell us that after your parents left on that  
14 occasion that you cried a lot.
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Obviously, from what you told us, it appears that  
17 Father MMF knew what had happened --
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. -- and that others in the school and the community, the  
20 abbot, knew.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. What were you offered in terms of support or guidance to  
23 assist you?
- 24 A. None. None.
- 25 Q. Did any of the staff or priests discuss it with you

1           again at all?

2           A. No. But they all knew what happened. The whole school

3           knew. I had to put up with people saying, [REDACTED]

4           [REDACTED] suck, suck". They couldn't leave it alone --

5           especially young guys coming in, they thought it was

6           a joke.

7           Q. This is younger boys that were arriving and being told

8           by older boys?

9           A. Yes.

10          Q. For how long do you think that kind of language and

11          treatment of you continued?

12          A. Probably right up until fifth form, even fifth form.

13          I had a few friends at school, I mean friends that stuck

14          by me, but a lot of people, especially young ones, they

15          knew and they'd just take the crap, you know. But I had

16          a few friends that stuck by me. They were good.

17          Q. [REDACTED]

18          A. [REDACTED]

19          Q. [REDACTED]

20          [REDACTED]

21          [REDACTED]

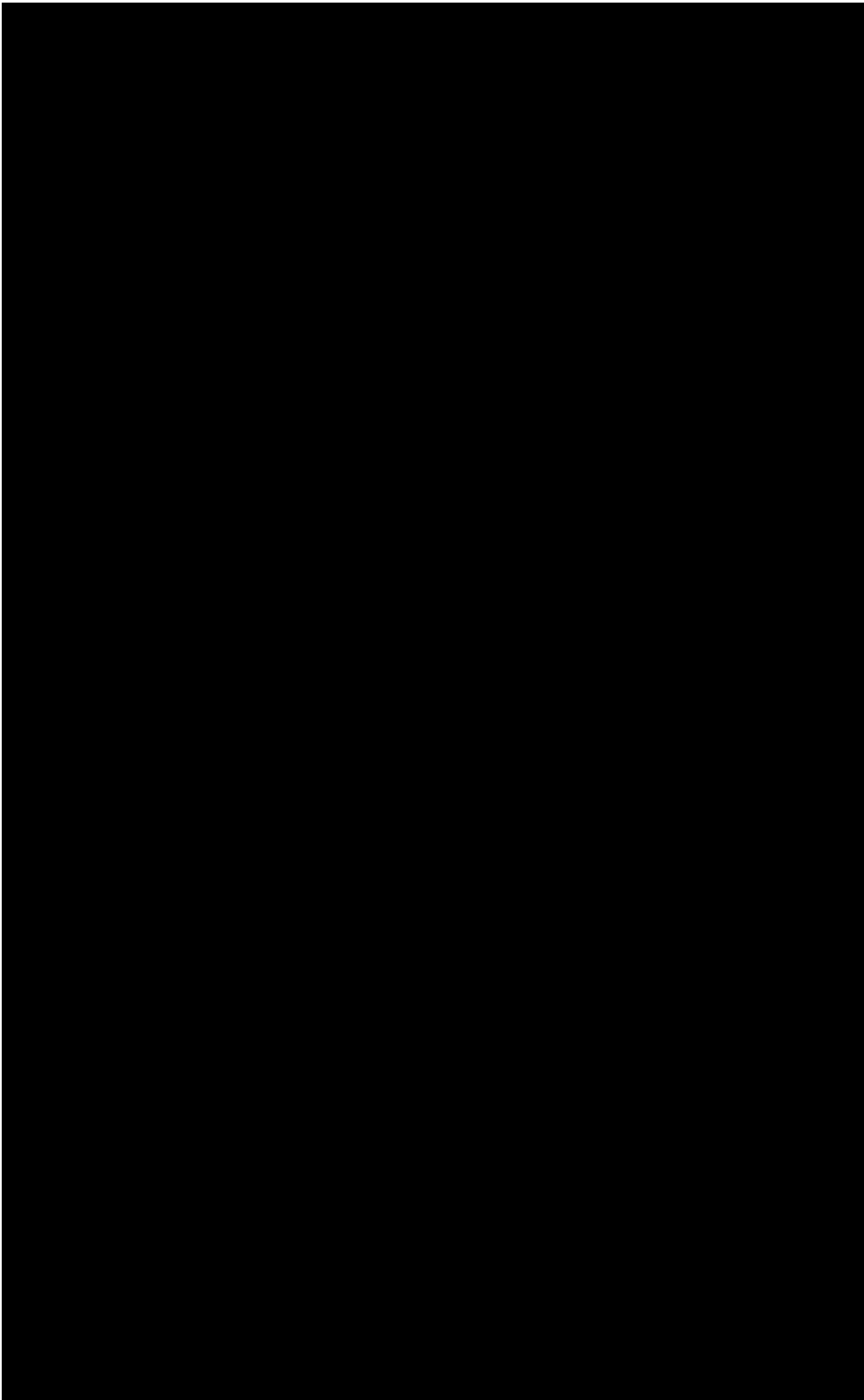
22          A. [REDACTED]

23          Q. [REDACTED]

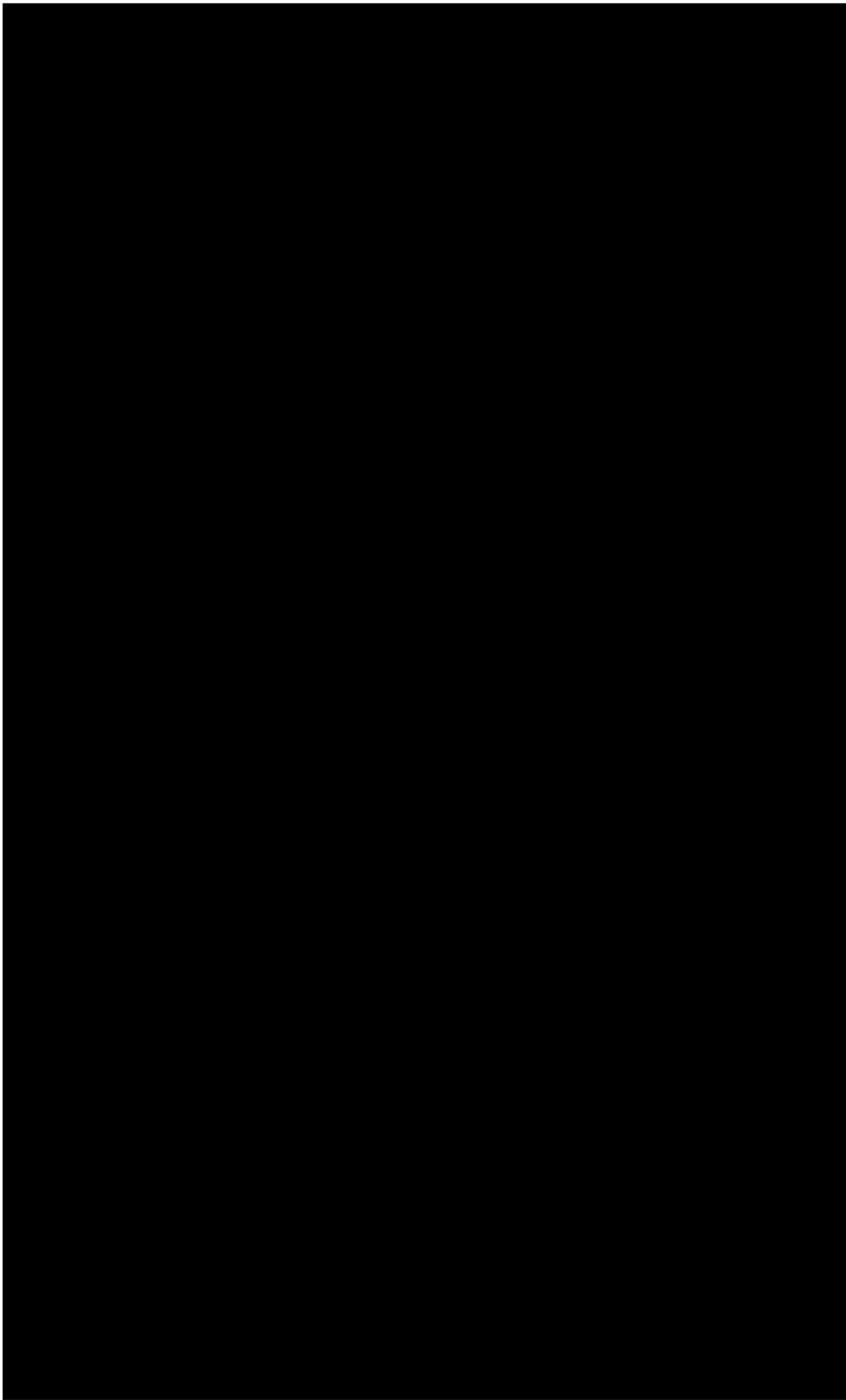
24          A. [REDACTED]

25          Q. [REDACTED]

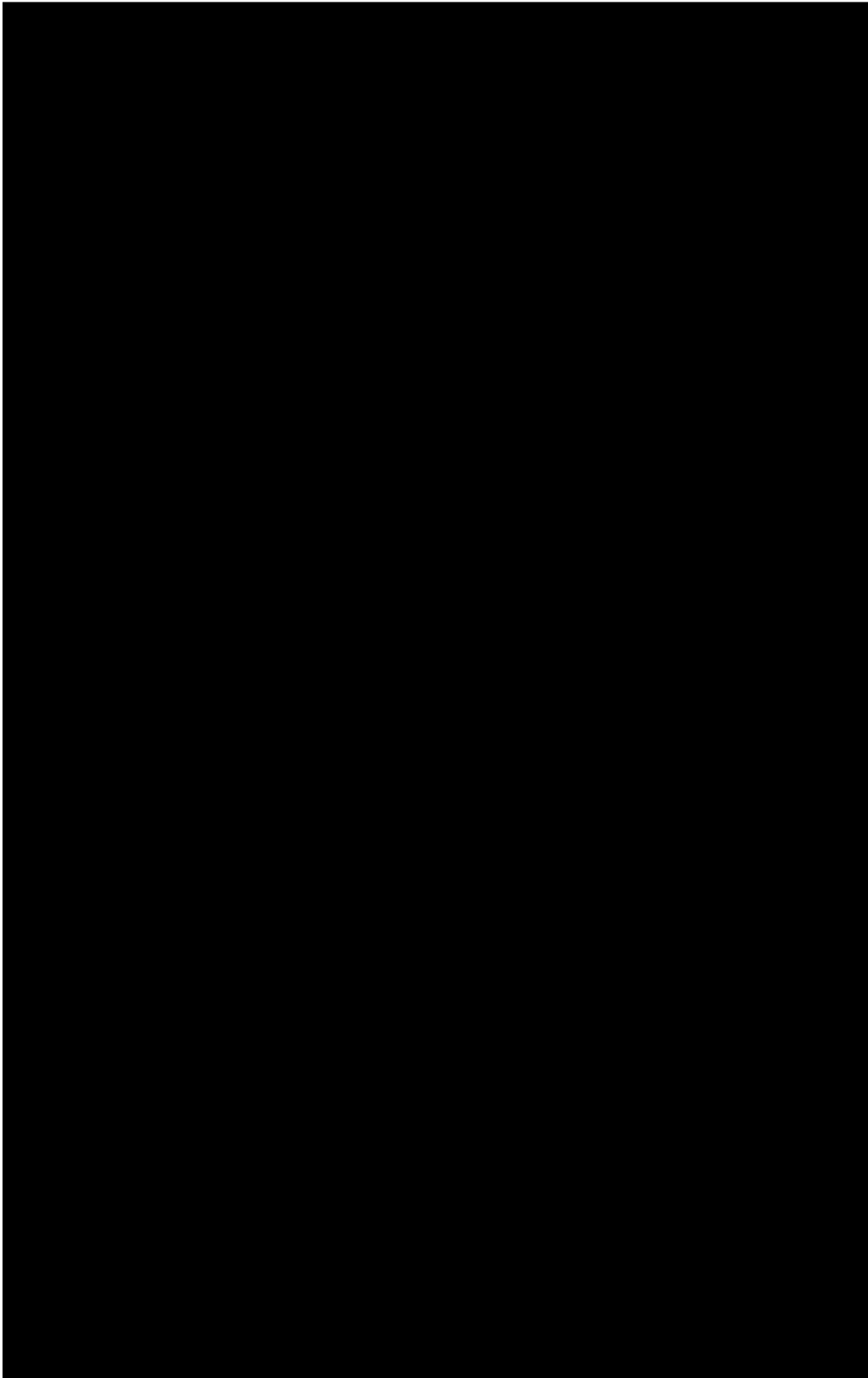
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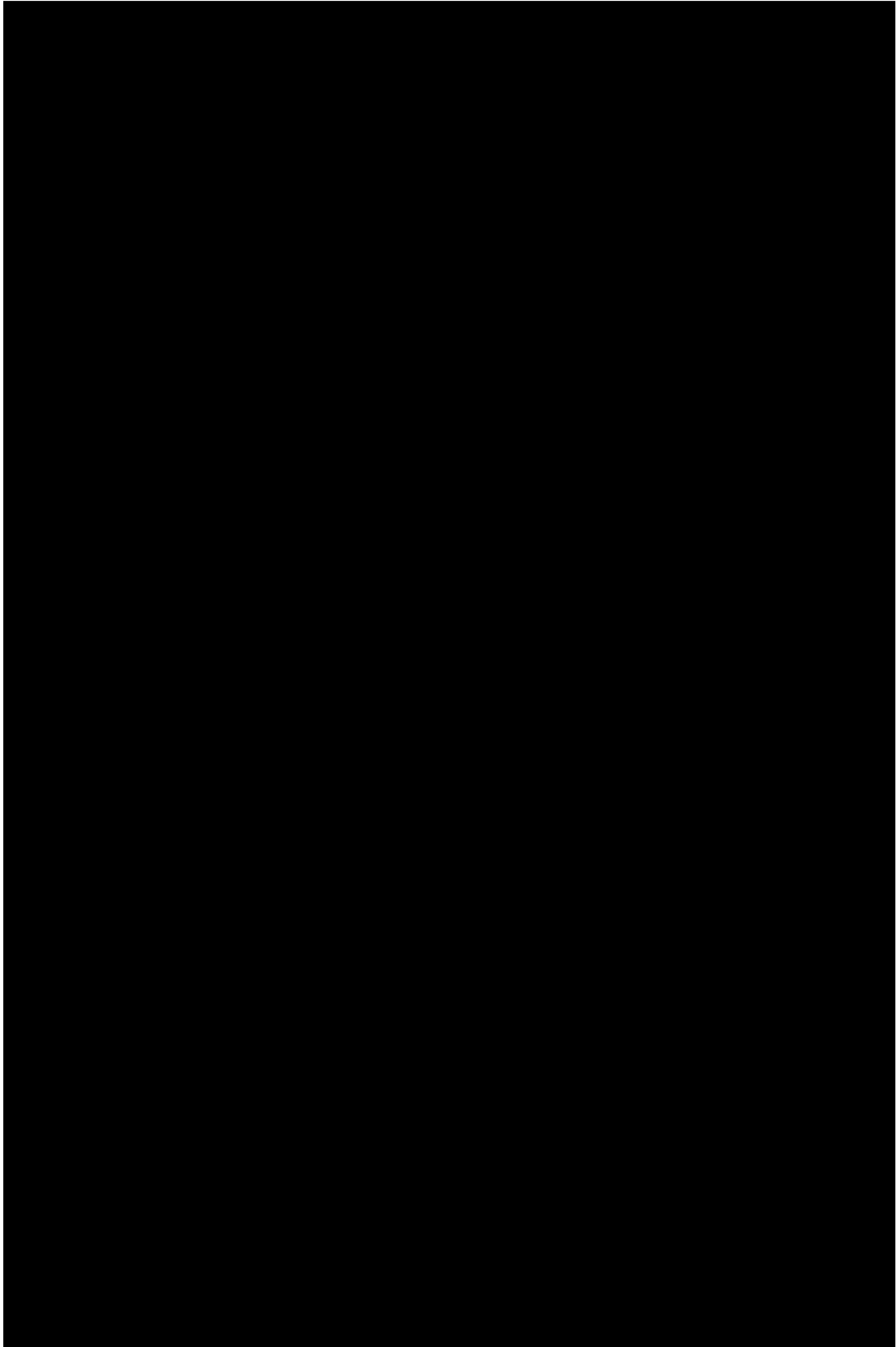
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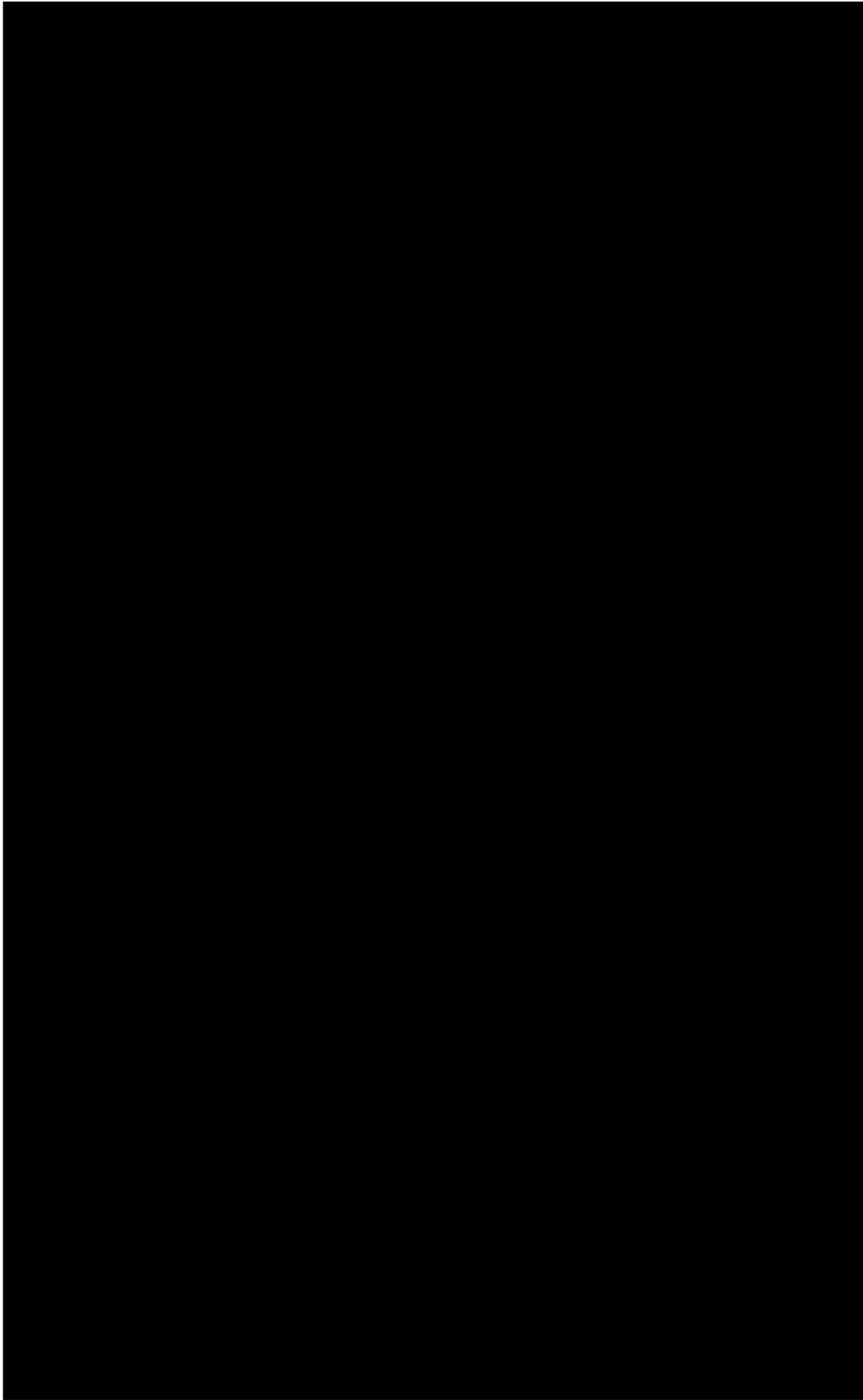
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A.

Q. There came a time when you left Fort Augustus.

A. Yes.

Q. You have told us, I think, that you were 18 when you left.

A. Yes.

Q. At that time I think you went back to Brussels.

A. Yes.

Q. And then I think you did some jobs there in gardening and art; is that right.

A. No, that was when I was in Edinburgh.

Q. I see. Once you returned to Edinburgh?

A. Yes. I went back to Brussels and then I was back in Edinburgh. We used to stay in a flat in Edinburgh, with

1 my three sisters, and I went to college, and then I got  
2 an unconditional on the portfolio of art, so I went to  
3 Wolverhampton School of Art, which I never finished  
4 because the voices then started to come back and  
5 I couldn't cope, so I didn't finish. But I was doing  
6 a BA honours in fine art.

7 Q. In Wolverhampton?

8 A. Yes, but I didn't finish.

9 Q. Did you come back to Edinburgh at that time?

10 A. Yes. And then back to Brussels. And then I was  
11 diagnosed with schizophrenia in Brussels, so I was  
12 treated.

13 Q. Do you remember roughly when that was?

14 A. 1985.

15 Q. Then I think your family ultimately moved back to  
16 Edinburgh?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. In the mid-1990s or so?

19 A. Yes, 1996.

20 Q. And I think you tell us that you started to see  
21 a psychiatrist in Edinburgh?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And I think you continue to use some of these services  
24 now?

25 A. Yes. I see my psychiatrist now every -- it must be

- 1 every five months.
- 2 Q. You tell us that photography and art are still your  
3 focus?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And that [REDACTED]
- 6 A. Yes, paintings, yes.
- 7 Q. Was there a point at which were you were interviewed by  
8 the police in relation to Fort Augustus?
- 9 A. There was, yes.
- 10 Q. When was that?
- 11 A. It was a while back, a couple of years, two or three  
12 years ago the police interviewed me.
- 13 Q. Did you give a statement to the police?
- 14 A. I did, yes.
- 15 Q. And did you tell the police what you've told us today  
16 about Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED]?
- 17 A. Yes. The procurator fiscal from Dundee, she phoned me  
18 up and she asked me if I would like to take the case  
19 forward and I said, no, I don't want to do the case any  
20 more. She said, okay that's fine, but if you change  
21 your mind, just ring me, but I haven't, not yet.
- 22 Q. And I think you tell us that you hope Father [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED]  
23 is extradited and that you don't care how old he is.
- 24 A. Yes, I don't care how old he is.
- 25 Q. What impact, Peter, do you think the events and the

- 1 abuse at Fort Augustus have had on your life?
- 2 A. Oh, a major part. A major part. I mean, apart from the  
3 schizophrenia, there was ... I don't know.
- 4 Q. Something you say is that you would change everything if  
5 you could?
- 6 A. I would do, yes. Yes. I'd do things different.  
7 I wouldn't let it happen to me in the first place.  
8 I mean, I'm a victim, I know I'm a victim, but if only  
9 I'd been stronger and told him to fuck off and leave me  
10 alone, but I didn't.
- 11 Q. You give us some insight in your statement, Peter, about  
12 lessons you think should be learned for the future.  
13 This is at paragraph 101 of your statement where you  
14 say:
- 15 "Children need to talk to someone and know they're  
16 not alone."
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And you say that the people in charge need to speak the  
19 truth and not hide it any longer?
- 20 A. Yes, absolutely.
- 21 Q. You say:
- 22 "The abusers from school need to be brought back to  
23 trial and I don't care how old they are."
- 24 A. I don't, no.
- 25 Q. And you say that victims need closure?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Finally, you tell us that you hope that what happened to  
3 you never happens to anyone else.

4 A. Absolutely, yes.

5 MS MACLEOD: Peter, I don't have any further questions for  
6 you. Thank you very much for giving your evidence to  
7 the inquiry.

8 A. Thank you.

9 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for  
10 questions? No.

11 Peter, that completes all the questions we have for  
12 you. I'm very conscious of the fact that I'm talking  
13 not just about the questions today but those that were  
14 asked of you when you gave your very helpful statement  
15 to the inquiry as well, which is a big piece of work for  
16 you to engage in. I'm very grateful to you, both for  
17 your written statement and for coming here today and  
18 going through in person your evidence about what  
19 happened. I can see that it's not been easy for you,  
20 but thank you very much for doing that. I'm now happy  
21 to say it's all finished and I don't need anything more  
22 from you and you're free to go.

23 A. Thank you.

24 (The witness withdrew)

25 LADY SMITH: That completes today, I take it, Ms MacLeod?

1 MS MACLEOD: It does, my Lady. We have three witnesses  
 2 lined up to give oral evidence tomorrow, starting at  
 3 10.00.

4 LADY SMITH: I'll rise now.  
 5 (3.50 pm)

6 (The inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am  
 7 on Wednesday 11 September 2019)

8

9

I N D E X

10

11 HUGH KENNEDY (affirmed) .....1

12

13 Questions from MR MacAULAY .....1

14

15 Witness statement of "TOM" (read) .....53

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17 Witness statement of "RORY" (read) .....68

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19 Witness statement of "JAMES" (read) .....74

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21 "PETER" (affirmed) .....82

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23 Questions from MS MacLEOD .....82

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