

1 Thursday, 26 April 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. I think, as Ms MacLeod indicated

4 last night, we were moving to one oral witness today,

5 is that right --

6 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, my Lady.

7 LADY SMITH: -- and some statements are going to be read in

8 as well?

9 MR MacAULAY: There will be one oral witness this morning

10 and one oral witness this afternoon.

11 LADY SMITH: Sorry, one oral witness this afternoon. One of

12 the three can't come after all; they can come on a later

13 date.

14 MR MacAULAY: That is so. And your Ladyship is correct,

15 certainly one, if not two, read-ins during the course of

16 the day.

17 The first witness, my Lady, is an applicant who

18 wants to remain anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym

19 "John" in giving his evidence.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

21 "JOHN" (affirmed)

22 LADY SMITH: I think you've found the right position for

23 that microphone. The microphone really does help. It

24 helps you to be able to be heard, because this is quite

25 a big room, and to make sure everyone can hear you

1 properly.

2 I'm now going to hand over to Mr MacAulay to ask  
3 questions.

4 Questions from MR MacAULAY

5 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, John.

6 A. Good morning.

7 Q. Can I just confirm the year of your birth? I don't want  
8 the date of your birth, just the year. Were you born in  
9 1951?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. In the red folder in front of you, you'll find your  
12 statement, the statement you've given to the inquiry.  
13 For the transcript, I'll give the reference number.  
14 It's WIT.001.001.4147. Could I ask you to look at the  
15 last page of the document? That's at 4161.

16 Can I just ask you to confirm, John, that you have  
17 signed the statement.

18 A. Yes, Colin, yes.

19 Q. And do you also tell us in the last paragraph of the  
20 statement:

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

23 Is that correct?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. And you go on to say:

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

3           A. Yes.

4           Q. I will be asking you questions essentially based on your  
5           statement, John, and if I ask you a question, let's say  
6           in connection with a date, and it's something you don't  
7           remember, just say "I don't remember".

8           A. Right.

9           Q. And likewise if something comes to your mind in the  
10          course of my asking a question that you haven't told us  
11          about, just feel free to tell us about that; do you  
12          understand that?

13          A. Yes, I understand, yes.

14          Q. I think your position is that you don't really have any  
15          real recollection of what your family life was like  
16          before you went into care.

17          A. No.

18          Q. And so far as care is concerned, is it the case that you  
19          went to Nazareth House Aberdeen at a point in time?

20          A. Yes.

21          Q. So far as the records go to show, the Sisters of  
22          Nazareth admission records suggest that you were  
23          admitted to Nazareth House Aberdeen on [REDACTED] 1952.  
24          So you'd be aged about 1?

25          A. Yes.

1 Q. I take it you have no recollection of that?

2 A. No, no.

3 Q. But according to their records -- and I think you've

4 been made aware of this, John -- you left on

5 [REDACTED] 1967.

6 A. No, 1966.

7 Q. And I think your position is you left in [REDACTED].

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Can I just say to you that the social work records that

10 we've recovered confirm your position, that you left in

11 [REDACTED] 1966.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So at that time you'd be aged about 15 or so?

14 A. Yes, 15, yes.

15 Q. Were you ever given any explanation as to why you were

16 taken into care?

17 A. No, I can't say ... They never explained it to me, but

18 I can obviously presume the obvious --

19 Q. I think many years later, you did meet your mother; is

20 that right?

21 A. Yes, later on in my early 20s.

22 Q. And did you discuss being taken into care with her at

23 all?

24 A. I tried to get it out of her, but she was very -- kept

25 it close to her chest, you know, didn't give me any

- 1 details.
- 2 Q. Insofar as Nazareth House Aberdeen is concerned then,  
3 being just essentially a baby when you went there --
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. -- would you have been taken into what one might call  
6 a nursery area of the building?
- 7 A. Yes. There was a nursery area for under fives.
- 8 Q. Do you have any recollection of being in that particular  
9 area?
- 10 A. I think one or two recollections, but they're very  
11 vague, you know, they're very -- only a wee child, under  
12 five, you know. But you remember some of the faces that  
13 you grew up with, but they were in the nursery too. But  
14 basically it's vague, you know.
- 15 Q. So what was the arrangement though: you're in the  
16 nursery up to a particular age and are you then moved to  
17 another part of the building?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Can you explain it to me? What was the position?
- 20 A. Well, you went -- obviously, being a boy, you went to  
21 the boys' side. I think they got another boy to look  
22 after you, to show you the ropes.
- 23 Q. Was that when you moved from the nursery to the boys'  
24 side?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Would that be at the age of about 5 that you'd --  
2 A. Yes, about 5.  
3 Q. And do you remember moving from the nursery?  
4 A. I do. Funnily enough, I do remember that because in  
5 a strange sort of way -- I was only about 4 or 5 at the  
6 time, but maybe because I thought I was grown up then,  
7 I don't know.  
8 Q. But at the age of 4 or 5, that would take us to about,  
9 what, 1956 or so that you moved to what's called the  
10 boys' side?  
11 A. Yes.  
12 Q. Can you tell me a little bit about the sleeping  
13 arrangements then?  
14 A. It was big dormitories, like big long rooms. Rows of  
15 beds. I would say about -- you had a door there and  
16 a door at the other end (indicating) --  
17 Q. Yes.  
18 A. -- and a passageway through the middle of it. There  
19 were beds on either side and then there was other  
20 beds -- I can't remember, if there was like two or three  
21 rows on either side of the passageway. Because it was  
22 quite big -- it was like a bed and then a wee locker  
23 thing either at the top of the bed or the bottom of the  
24 bed, I can't actually remember what --and you had a wee  
25 chair, but that was your bed space.

1 Q. Can you remember how many dormitories there were for the  
2 boys?

3 A. I think in the boys' side then there was two big  
4 dormitories because I had to go through one big  
5 dormitory to get to my dormitory. I think there was  
6 a wee -- I think you turned right, there was a wee dead  
7 end, there were about five or six beds in there, you  
8 know, sort of -- just a vague recollection, basically.

9 Q. Have you any idea now, looking back, how many beds would  
10 have been in that first dormitory, at least, that you  
11 were in?

12 A. Well, there's at least, I'd say, probably about 20, 30.  
13 That's what it seemed like, you know. It seemed to be  
14 quite a lot of beds, but I was only a wee boy at the  
15 time.

16 Q. Did you move from there, though, or did you stay in the  
17 same dormitory during your --

18 A. No, no, I eventually moved -- what they did was they put  
19 inner walls in, like these (indicating), and they made  
20 it smaller bedroom type things. It was the same room,  
21 but it was smaller type bedrooms, you know --

22 Q. When did that happen?

23 A. Oh, late 50s, early 60s. But I do remember the man  
24 coming because he had the wood and how he was building  
25 the frames: he put the wood up and then he put the

1 plasterboard or the hardboard over it. But he was  
2 explaining to us what he was doing. He was quite a nice  
3 man, he was explaining how he was using -- he was  
4 a carpenter -- joiner they call them now -- but he did  
5 explain what he was doing. He made about four bedrooms  
6 in each. Four smaller bedrooms in each big ... if you  
7 get what I mean, he made this room into about four  
8 smaller rooms.

9 Q. Did you stay in the same bed space or did you move from  
10 where you were when you went there to another part?

11 A. I think roughly -- it was the same big room only they  
12 made it smaller rooms, if you get what I mean, as far as  
13 I can recall.

14 Q. You've been telling us about the boys' side. There was  
15 also a girls' side?

16 A. Yes, there was.

17 Q. What was the position in relation to being separated  
18 from girls? Did you have any dealings with the girls  
19 during your time there?

20 A. Officially, no. Officially, no, but you did see them at  
21 school, the girls, because you went on the same school  
22 bus. They kept the girls separate. I suppose that's  
23 for obvious reasons, you know, young boys, young girls.  
24 Sometimes at night or in the afternoon in the summer  
25 months you would meet up with them and go down to the



1 beach, but you were allowed to do that. The nuns didn't  
2 like us talking to the girls or the girls talking to us,  
3 but I was just -- I suppose because they were nuns, you  
4 know, but we'd meet up with them, yes.

5 Q. And the meeting up with them, was that when you were  
6 a bit older?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. When you say going to the beach, would you go down to  
9 the beach on your own? By that I mean without nuns.

10 A. Aye, but sometimes there were nuns down there.  
11 Sometimes they would let you walk down to the beach. It  
12 was just about 2 or 3 miles away but -- we didn't mind  
13 that. But you'd meet up with the girls at a prearranged  
14 place. It was just basically kids, you know, just young  
15 ones larking about.

16 Q. What about the nuns themselves? Were you aware if there  
17 was someone, a Mother Superior, who was in charge of the  
18 whole establishment? Was there a Mother Superior?

19 A. Yes. I can't recall the Mother Superior's name. But  
20 there was also a Mother Superior. I don't think we had  
21 anything ... We rarely met the Mother Superior. She  
22 had an office and that, but she didn't have any dealings  
23 with us as such, you know.

24 Q. In your time there when you moved there first of all,  
25 when you moved to the boys' side from the nursery, was

1           there a particular nun who was in charge of you?

2       A.   Yes.  There was a Sister **LFD** and there was a --

3           I think a Sister **LFB** .  Over the years there were

4           different nuns.  And a Sister **LDR** if I remember

5           rightly.

6       Q.   Were these nuns there in charge of you at different

7           points in times?

8       A.   Yes, yes.  I can't recall which year, but when I left,

9           Sister **LFD** was in charge.

10      Q.   So you were older then?  I think you were 15.

11      A.   Yes.

12      Q.   And were there particular nuns in charge of particular

13           age groups then on the boys' side?

14      A.   I can't recall.  I can't recall.  I honestly can't

15           recall if it was an age group.  I just can't ...

16      Q.   Okay.

17      A.   I'd only be hazarding a guess.  I can't particularly

18           recall.

19      Q.   What about civilian staff, if I can call them that?

20           Were you conscious of there being civilian staff?

21      A.   Yes, there was some, yes.

22      Q.   You say this in your statement --

23      A.   Yes.

24      Q.   -- it's on the screen.  In paragraph 7 what you say is:

25           "There were also civilian staff, some of whom were

1 nice while others were nasty."

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can you explain what you mean by that?

4 A. Well, most of them were quite nice, but there was one  
5 man in particular, a Mr LDU. He wasn't a very  
6 particularly nice person.

7 Q. And I think tell us a little bit about him in your  
8 statement.

9 A. I do, yes.

10 Q. So that's who you have in mind in particular when you  
11 make that comment?

12 A. Yes. He wasn't a nice person at all.

13 Q. Can I ask you a little bit then about the general  
14 routine once you've got a memory of how things were. So  
15 we're looking really at when you're on the boys' side  
16 and left the nursery. In the morning you'd be woken up;  
17 is that right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. How did that happen?

20 A. I think one of the nuns just came round and shouted  
21 in the bedroom. I think they just shouted, but you  
22 didn't mind that. About 7ish, say half 6/7.

23 Q. Did you have to go to church in the morning?

24 A. Yes, quite -- I don't think it was every day, but it was  
25 most days we had to go to church before school.

1 Q. What can you tell me about mealtimes then? What was the  
2 position let's say at breakfast when you went for your  
3 breakfast? What was the set-up?

4 A. You just went for your breakfast.

5 Q. And what was the food like?

6 A. It was okay. I suppose eatable. I don't think it was  
7 that bad really, but I mean, you could -- you know ...

8 Q. If you look at paragraph 12 of your statement, you say:

9 "I don't recall much about breakfast time. I recall  
10 that once or twice --"

11 A. About burnt porridge, yes.

12 Q. Yes, about burnt porridge. Was that just one or two  
13 occasions that happened?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And which tasted foul. You go on to say:

16 "I was forced to eat it anyway."

17 Do you see that?

18 A. Yes. I was, yes. On a couple of occasions you were  
19 forced to eat it, the burnt porridge.

20 Q. How did that -- can you explain what happened?

21 A. There was a nun -- well, we said that the porridge was  
22 burnt, it tasted quite foul. It wasn't all the time,  
23 just a couple of times. And then -- but the nun made us  
24 eat it and she would be standing -- you'd be sitting  
25 there and she'd be standing over you watching you eat

- 1           it. It wasn't a very pleasant experience, you know.
- 2       Q. You also say that they could be quite abusive about it,  
3           but they didn't strike you for it; is that right?
- 4       A. Yes. They could be quite abusive in their own way, not  
5           swear words, but just nasty, you know, nasty type  
6           people, you know.
- 7       Q. Can you give me some examples?
- 8       A. Well, they were always letting on that you were useless  
9           and that and you hadn't a clue. In fairness, they said  
10          that to most of the boys. I presume they did the same  
11          to the girls as well. But they were letting on that we  
12          didn't have a brain, only half a brain. But I think  
13          when you're a young child, it does bother you in a way,  
14          you know. It does affect you and you never forget it.  
15          But I have just always thought it was a strange way of  
16          bringing up kids, you know.
- 17      Q. So are you talking more generally now about how nuns  
18          would speak to you?
- 19      A. Yes.
- 20      Q. Did this happen throughout your time there?
- 21      A. Pardon?
- 22      Q. Did this sort of thing happen throughout your whole time  
23          there?
- 24      A. Yes.
- 25      Q. Did you see other children being treated in that way?

1 A. Yes. Yes, I have seen other children being treated that  
2 way.

3 I think I got some comfort from it, knowing that it  
4 wasn't just me being -- they treated everybody like  
5 that, you know. Most of them were like that. So in  
6 a strange way you get a certain comfort out of it. It  
7 was just the way they were, they treated you that way,  
8 you know.

9 Q. But in any event, as far as being forced to eat your  
10 food was concerned, you were treated in that way, but  
11 you were not physically forced to eat your food?

12 A. No, I don't think -- no. When a big nun's standing over  
13 you and you're only a wee boy, it can be quite  
14 intimidating when you're only a wee kid and you're sort  
15 of like that, you're looking at your bowl and you're  
16 looking up at her. It's a strange feeling, yes.

17 Q. You give us an example in paragraph 12 about a young --  
18 about what you describe as a young Spanish female  
19 student, who, I think, you tell us told the nuns that  
20 they maybe shouldn't shout at you; is that right?

21 A. That's correct, yes.

22 Q. Can you say what age you were when that incident  
23 occurred?

24 A. I'd say about 12 or 13.

25 Q. So you were a bit older by then?

1 A. A bit older but -- she was quite nice. I did notice  
2 a certain nun was rather abusive to her as well, which  
3 I found strange, but I think this Spanish girl was  
4 terrified of the nuns too, you know. It's just the way  
5 the nuns had -- but I do remember the Spanish girl was  
6 quite terrified. I don't think I'm allowed to say her  
7 name anyway, but she was quite -- she was in her late  
8 teens, a student type. I think she was over here  
9 learning English. Maybe that's the best way to learn  
10 English, to come over and pick it up here.

11 LADY SMITH: Was she staying in Nazareth House?

12 A. Yes, Lady Smith.

13 LADY SMITH: Was she helping out?

14 A. She was, she was helping out, yes. But I think she was  
15 some sort of -- I think she was over here learning  
16 English. When she first came she couldn't speak  
17 English, she was Spanish, but eventually you could see  
18 her -- because she used to ask us one or two words, what  
19 this and that meant. She was quite a nice person.

20 MR MacAULAY: When you say that the nuns were abusive to  
21 her, can you explain that? What was said?

22 A. A certain Sister [REDACTED] -- I never understood why because  
23 I was young at the time, but you used to see her, she  
24 used to have the Spanish girl in tears, but [REDACTED] wasn't  
25 a particularly nice person. But I don't know

1           100 per cent, I can't recall 100 per cent what it was  
2           about, but she used to have the Spanish girl in tears  
3           quite often and it's a bit off-putting when there's  
4           a big load of kids there and she's getting on to  
5           a grown-up, the nuns, and the grown-up's in tears, but  
6           you're only kids and it's a bit confusing, you know.

7           Q. Did you hear what was being said?

8           A. I can't actually ... I just know that -- I heard the  
9           Spanish girl shouting at her once or twice, I suppose  
10          with a Spanish accent you couldn't really -- and she was  
11          angry, you couldn't really pick up what she was saying.  
12          But **LFD** was quite -- I wouldn't say a foul mouth but  
13          a nasty type person. I don't think she liked anyone.  
14          I can only presume that she was forced to become a nun,  
15          you know, say her parents or something, but she was  
16          obviously a very unhappy nun, you know.

17          Q. You said a little while ago, I think, if I picked you up  
18          correctly, that the Spanish girl seemed to be terrified  
19          of this nun or nuns in general?

20          A. Well, of Sister **LFD** anyway from what I could see.

21          Q. What about you?

22          A. I think I was terrified at first when I was younger but  
23          towards the end, 14, 15, I'd say I was still very  
24          cautious of what you said to them or what you did. You  
25          were still cautious. I think you just learnt to go with



1 the flow. You knew what you could do and you knew what  
2 you couldn't do, if you get what I mean.

3 Q. When you say you were terrified at least up until you  
4 were into your teens, what made you feel terrified?

5 A. Well, they were just always pulling you up. You just  
6 didn't want to get pulled up in particular or sometimes  
7 they would make you stay in at night or in the afternoon  
8 while all your pals are outside playing in the yard. It  
9 was things like that. Or they just told you to go up to  
10 your bedroom, sit beside your bed. Things like that,  
11 restriction of privileges type thing. There was a lot  
12 of that.

13 But the last thing you want when you're a young  
14 boy -- well, you want to go out and play football with  
15 your pals at that age. But you had to watch what you  
16 said to them or what you did.

17 Q. Can I go back to one thing you say in your statement.  
18 I've been asked to ask you about this. This is in  
19 paragraph 10 if we just scroll up the page. You do  
20 mention there that you would watch television; is that  
21 right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Where was the television room?

24 A. We had a big -- we had a sitting room, say about the  
25 first or second floor, because the ground floor of the

1 home, it was like mainly old people, the old men's side  
2 was below us, but the older people were down the stairs  
3 on the ground floor. But we took over the first, second  
4 and third floors, if I remember rightly, and we had  
5 a sitting room, I think it was on the first, maybe the  
6 second. The third floor was all bedrooms.

7 Q. Was that where the TV was?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. How often were you allowed to watch television?

10 A. I'd say most nights and then -- but now and again if  
11 you're a bad boy or something, well, obviously you  
12 weren't allowed. Even in them days, although it was  
13 black and white TV, you still liked your telly, you  
14 know. You watched certain programmes on the TV, which  
15 was quite good.

16 Q. You go on to say in that paragraph if you go back to the  
17 screen, John, some things were good.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And I've been asked to ask you if you can perhaps give  
20 us some examples of what was good.

21 A. Well, like, Top of the Pops. That was quite popular  
22 then. Then there were things like -- was it  
23 Crackerjack? There was a lot of children's programmes,  
24 Crackerjack and ... I think Blue Peter was on then, if  
25 I recall.

- 1 Q. So there were programmes you liked?
- 2 A. They had programmes designed for young kids, you know,  
3 children mainly, yes. But there were some good  
4 programmes. I mean, I didn't watch the news or anything  
5 like that in them days, you know.
- 6 Q. Okay. Can I move on to ask you about bathing. Because  
7 you do tell us -- give us some information about how  
8 baths were organised and I think you tell us you got  
9 a bath perhaps once or twice a week; is that right.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Can you just explain to me how that was arranged?
- 12 A. Yes. You got a bath like, I think it was like  
13 a Saturday and a Tuesday or a Wednesday, I think twice  
14 a week. You'd all get ready for your bath and you  
15 seemed to be together or a couple of youse at the same  
16 time, but I suppose you're all kids. As I said, I don't  
17 know whether it was to humiliate you or what, just to --  
18 I don't know, just like a cattle market, basically. But  
19 I think oddly enough you got used to it.
- 20 Q. What do you mean by a cattle market? What happened?
- 21 A. Well, you were getting bathed, but it seemed to be in  
22 front of everyone, with doors open and that. But  
23 I think you just got used to it after a while.
- 24 You could always tell the strangers, they were all  
25 sort of embarrassed, saying you can't do that, but

1 I think you all grew up with it and you got used to it.

2 It was strange.

3 Q. Did that remain your position throughout your whole time  
4 there, even when you were 14 or 15?

5 A. Yes, yes.

6 Q. Would you be bathed with boys your own age or --

7 A. No, I think at 14/15, I think they let you have a bath  
8 by yourself. Because things were starting to change in  
9 there. I do believe they were getting some more people  
10 coming up and looking about. I remember there was  
11 a door with a wee bathroom -- there were bathrooms all  
12 round. It was a big sort of -- but a lot of them had  
13 doors. I think when we got older we just closed the  
14 door and I don't think the nuns would dare come in.  
15 There was no snib on the door, but I just used to go in  
16 and close the door when I was about 14 or 15. I think  
17 that was just out of arrogance basically, but as I say,  
18 it was a strange way of treating people. But then -- it  
19 was just my way of protesting against it, but they did  
20 leave you alone to a -- once you got a little bit older,  
21 14, 15.

22 LADY SMITH: It would be hard work getting two 14 or  
23 15-year-old boys into the same bath, wouldn't it?

24 A. They weren't in the same bath, but you were there in the  
25 bath and they were there standing beside you.

1 LADY SMITH: So by that time you thought you had the  
2 opportunity to just insist on a bit of privacy for  
3 yourself?

4 A. In the end when I was 14, 15 I just used to close the  
5 door. I think it was just a sort of silent protest type  
6 thing, you know. You were getting a bit older and  
7 saying, "This isn't right".

8 LADY SMITH: And of course, in your case, when you were  
9 younger, you'd have never known anything different but  
10 that you had to share a bath --

11 A. I was brought up on it, yes.

12 LADY SMITH: -- with all these other children and have no  
13 privacy while doing so. Are you pointing out for some  
14 of the children -- I think you referred to them as  
15 "strangers" -- if they had previous home experience of  
16 bathing in their own home, perhaps only with a brother  
17 or sister, who knows, or not even that, it would seem  
18 very odd to suddenly have to bath in this way.

19 A. Yes, it would, yes. But you could always tell the new  
20 ones, if you know what I mean. If you didn't know  
21 someone, they would stick out a mile. You would know  
22 them.

23 LADY SMITH: How?

24 A. Well, they were more embarrassed or shy. You could just  
25 tell. You could just tell. And we were only young kids

1 at the time. You just knew who's the new person here.

2 Trying to say it in a nice way, but you just knew.

3 MR MacAULAY: Are you able to remember how many baths were  
4 available for the boys to use?

5 A. It was about four or five, but I'm only hazarding  
6 a guess there, I can't actually --

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. -- recall for definite. I think ... It's just -- it  
9 was way back in the 60s when I left there, mid-60s.

10 Q. Yes, it's a long time ago.

11 A. It is, yes.

12 Q. Can I ask you about schooling. When you were 5 or  
13 6 years old and of primary school age, where did you go  
14 for your primary schooling?

15 A. A school called St Mary's, if I remember rightly.

16 Q. It was a school that was --

17 A. Actually, it wasn't in the home, it was outside, yes.

18 Q. And then after that, did you go to a secondary school?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Was that St Peter's?

21 A. St Peter's, yes.

22 Q. As far as school was concerned, how did you feel about  
23 school?

24 A. Funnily enough, I quite liked it. I liked going to  
25 school because it was an escape, it was getting me out

1           of the home, if you get what I mean. I looked forward  
2           to it because it was like a day out type thing and  
3           I quite enjoyed school, oddly enough.

4       Q.    What were you escaping from?

5       A.    I think the home.

6       Q.    Any particular aspects of the home?

7       A.    No, I don't think ... I think it was just getting out  
8           of the home in general, it was just getting out. But  
9           even in my spare time or if they let you out, you  
10          knew -- I think half of the excitement was getting past  
11          the gate. You know, it was just a form of escapism for  
12          an hour or two or for a few hours a day you could feel  
13          a bit of freedom, if you know what I mean.

14      Q.    But of course you'd have to go back.

15      A.    Yes, of course that made it a bit ... But you just got  
16          into a routine, you know. You knew you were going back,  
17          but it got you out, you know.

18      Q.    Was there a name that other children who weren't at the  
19          home used to describe you? Was there some name that  
20          they used to describe --

21      A.    Yes.

22      Q.    What was that?

23      A.    It was Nazzy, because it was Nazareth House, which was  
24          a rather -- I would say the term -- in them days it was  
25          because there was still a lot of anti-German feeling.

- 1 Q. Were you upset by these names?
- 2 A. Sometimes, yes. You'd get one or two of the boys or  
3 girls in the school saying their father fought in  
4 World War II against the Nazis and they would look at  
5 you -- I think some of them literally thought we were  
6 German, you know. Just because of the nickname because  
7 it's Nazareth House and they called us Nazzies.
- 8 But it's all right having a joke, but when you're on  
9 the receiving end of that, but in them days it's not  
10 very pleasant. It wasn't a pleasant situation. I would  
11 say that to the nuns and the nuns just laughed it off,  
12 but when you're a wee kid it was quite confusing. You  
13 know, it's very confusing.
- 14 Q. Then just looking at the routine, you'd come back from  
15 school, if you were at school, and you'd have your tea.  
16 Is that correct?
- 17 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 18 Q. When normally would bedtime be?
- 19 A. As I say, about -- between 9 and 10. I think depending  
20 on how old you were. I think some of the younger ones  
21 went at about half 8.
- 22 Q. So when you were younger you went to bed a little bit  
23 earlier but when you got older, you stayed --
- 24 A. You would get that bit more because you were slightly  
25 older.



1 Q. Even when you were 14, 15, when were lights out?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. When were lights out when you were 15 --

4 A. I'd say during the week it was about 10/10.30, but  
5 sometimes a Saturday night if something came on TV, they  
6 might let you stay up a bit later. But the TV closed  
7 about 11/11.30 in them days and at the end the old test  
8 card would come up.

9 It wasn't 24-hour TV then. There was no Sky TV or  
10 anything. We had a deprived life, you know! But it was  
11 just like black and white TV, but everyone had that and  
12 it finished about 11. But if it was something good --  
13 sometimes -- we had a old type record player and they  
14 would let you play like records, if you were a good boy,  
15 say about Friday night or a Saturday night, sometimes at  
16 about 11, and then you'd go off to bed then. I think  
17 we were quite happy at that, you know.

18 Q. You do tell us in your statement at paragraph 19, it's  
19 on the screen, what you say is:

20 "A man called LDU ..."

21 And you have mentioned him before.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. "... was always there at night."

24 A. Yes. I'd say every night of the week, yes.

25 Q. Can I just ask you, where was he?

1 A. In the -- well, he was definitely in the boys' side. He  
2 used to come in, say about 7/8 at night. He would show  
3 his face and then he'd disappear for about an hour and  
4 then he'd come back again. It was a bit strange.

5 I think he went into the pub in between sort of times,  
6 and then -- but he was a rather nasty type person.

7 I don't quite know what his purpose was in there.

8 Q. I think you thought he may not have been a member of the  
9 staff.

10 A. Yes. His wife worked in the home; she was [REDACTED] or  
11 something, if I recall rightly. But she worked there.  
12 I remember her working there, but I can't recall her  
13 exact function in the home. But [REDACTED] LDU had a job  
14 during the day.

15 Q. But not in the home?

16 A. No. Elsewhere. He'd come in at night-time and it  
17 seemed a rather strange situation. He just used to walk  
18 about, but all the kids were terrified of him, we were  
19 all terrified. He was quite a big man and we were only  
20 wee kids. I think he loved throwing his weight about.

21 Q. What you say in your statement, and I'll quote what's on  
22 the screen there:

23 "A guy like that should never have been allowed near  
24 a children's home."

25 A. Oh, true -- well, if I was in charge of things.

1 I believe it's different now, I'm not in charge.

2 I believe they assess these people now if they're  
3 working in children's homes, old people's homes --

4 Q. Are you saying that he was allowed to come in and didn't  
5 appear to have a particular job?

6 A. Yes. He would just walk about. Sometimes you'd be  
7 trying to do your homework or something and he would  
8 come in and he'd just -- sometimes you were talking to  
9 the boy next to you but you might be doing a bit of  
10 homework or you might just be watching TV, and the place  
11 just went -- it's like coming in here and we're all  
12 chatting. He'd walk in the door and the place just went  
13 quiet. He put that sort of fear into you.

14 LADY SMITH: How did he do that?

15 A. Just by being there, Lady Smith. He was quite an  
16 arrogant, violent type person.

17 LADY SMITH: How could you tell he was violent?

18 A. Well, I know he was violent because he attacked me one  
19 day. That's how I know.

20 MR MacAULAY: I'm going to come on to that.

21 LADY SMITH: You're saying you would know just at the  
22 appearance of the man, are you?

23 A. Yes. It was that -- he would walk in -- I think if  
24 you'd seen someone like that walk into a pub, or  
25 something, you wouldn't serve him. Put it that way.

1           You'd just ask him to leave, even if he hadn't had  
2           a drink.

3           He just walked and it was as if -- "So-and-so, what  
4           are you going to do about it?" It was that arrogant  
5           type way he walked in. The kids were terrified of him.

6       MR MacAULAY: Can I ask you now a little bit about  
7           bed-wetting because you do talk about that in your  
8           statement.

9       A. Yes, I do.

10      Q. Were there children who wet the bed?

11      A. Yes, there was.

12      Q. What about yourself, did you ever?

13      A. Once or twice, I think, when I was younger.

14      Q. Was that when you moved to the boys' side after nursery?

15      A. Yes.

16      Q. So far as your own personal experience is concerned, the  
17           once or twice you wet the bed, what happened, if  
18           anything, to you?

19      A. They made you stand in a corner and sometimes with the  
20           pyjama trousers off, just the pyjama jacket on. It was  
21           to try and embarrass you. It was a horrible thing.

22           I don't think any of the other boys laughed because it  
23           was quite a cruel situation, but they made you stand  
24           in the passageway with no pyjama trousers on.

25      Q. So would the bottom part of your body be exposed?

1 A. You had your pyjama jacket on and that was it. I used  
2 to always think it was a strange -- well, a very strange  
3 type thing to do, you know.

4 Q. And what about the sheets themselves? Did you have to  
5 do anything with the sheets?

6 A. Well, get new sheets, I suppose, and clean up the bed.

7 Q. Who did that? Who would clean up the bed?

8 A. I think we folded up the sheets and took them to the  
9 laundry, but we got new sheets and that, you know. It  
10 was us, if I remember rightly. But it wasn't -- I just  
11 don't think it was the right way of doing things.  
12 You were living on a knife edge most of the time. You  
13 didn't want to cross the line type thing. But sometimes  
14 that made you even more nervous because you were trying  
15 to do things perfect, but obviously -- I'd try and not  
16 drop this, but that ended up, for talking's sake, you  
17 ended up dropping something because you were that  
18 nervous. It was just a strange way to bring up  
19 children.

20 I would hate to think I'd brought my kids like that.  
21 I've got children and I wouldn't obviously bring up my  
22 children like that.

23 Q. You have been telling us about your own experiences and  
24 you mentioned you perhaps wet the bed once or twice.  
25 What about other children, other boys? Did you see if

- 1 other boys wet the bed?
- 2 A. Yes. The same --
- 3 Q. What happened to them?
- 4 A. The same treatment. Sometimes they would put the pyjama  
5 bottoms over their head -- the nuns did it and made you  
6 stand there. Sometimes they put the pyjama tops on  
7 their head. It was just to embarrass them -- well, they  
8 did succeed in doing that. They succeeded in doing it.  
9 It wasn't a very pleasant situation, you know,  
10 obviously.
- 11 Q. And throughout your period there that you can remember  
12 from, say, the age of 5 up to about 15, was this  
13 a practice that carried on during that period?
- 14 A. It died away towards the end if I remember rightly.  
15 Before I left, the last two, maybe three years -- you  
16 see, you used to get people coming up to visit the  
17 home -- a Mr Leach from Dumbarton, he ran boys' clubs in  
18 Dumbarton, but he used to come up to Nazareth House.  
19 I think he said, if you've got any problems, see me, but  
20 we weren't so sure at first. But it was like one of  
21 these mad comedy things. Everyone went to see him. But  
22 one or two things did get changed. I could see things  
23 changing, you know, like embarrassing the boys if they  
24 were bed-wetting and that, yes.
- 25 Q. As far as the bed-wetting practices were concerned,

1           would things be said in connection with boys who may  
2           have wet the bed?

3       A.   Yes, I believe there was.  I just can't recall -- my  
4           mind's a bit -- I can't recall exactly at the moment.

5       Q.   If you look at paragraph 23 of your statement, what you  
6           say there is:

7                    "I think that when you wet the bed, the nuns would  
8           take pride in humiliating you."

9       A.   Oh yes.  Well, they would.  They would make you stand  
10           there with no pyjama trousers on for a start.  That's  
11           humiliating people.  Well, if I made someone stand there  
12           with no trousers on, that's humiliating.

13      Q.   You go on to say:

14                    "They would bring down those who had wet the bed to  
15           breakfast in their wet pyjamas saying, 'Look at that, he  
16           wet the bed'."

17      A.   Yes.

18      Q.   Did that happen?

19      A.   Yes, and sometimes the pyjama trousers was put over the  
20           head, the elasticated thing, and it was like -- I don't  
21           know what you call it, a veil or something.  You know,  
22           it was a weird sort of experience.

23      Q.   One thing you do tell us in paragraph 21 is that there  
24           was a practice of putting rubber sheets on the mattress.

25      A.   Yes.

- 1 Q. Can you just describe that to me?
- 2 A. There was, I'm glad you brought that up. There was  
3 a rubber sheet and it was connected, believe it or not,  
4 to a battery and there was wires. They put it on most  
5 of the boys' beds. You were scared to go to sleep  
6 because one or two of the boys said they had got a shock  
7 in the middle of the night. I thought that was a very  
8 cruel sort of thing to do to most people in the home for  
9 no apparent reason, even if you didn't wet the bed, and  
10 I used to say, "That's not right". You were scared to  
11 go to sleep, ie you were going to school the next day  
12 and you were falling asleep in the school, which doesn't  
13 help much, you know, when you're trying to get  
14 schooled -- trying to get schooling. Because some  
15 nights you were scared to go to sleep.
- 16 Q. And was there a rubber mat put on your bed?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Did you ever wet the bed --
- 19 A. No, not later on, no. I think it was just their way  
20 of -- I think it was just their way of saying they're  
21 the boss and you're getting a rubber sheet. You were  
22 terrified. You lived in a -- it was a culture of fear.
- 23 Q. This was a rubber sheet that had some mechanism that  
24 would respond in some way?
- 25 A. Yes, I don't think you actually got a shock as such, but



1           one or two of the boys said they did.  When you're lying  
2           in bed at night, you're sort of wondering.  Next thing,  
3           it's about 1, 2, 3, in the morning ...  You're scared to  
4           go to sleep.

5                     I think because I was young I had visions of getting  
6           electrocuted or something.  I suppose that's going  
7           through your mind, my God, yes.

8           Q.  I think, when you were about 12, you did something about  
9           it so far as you were concerned.

10          A.  Yes.

11          Q.  You tell us in your statement that you told them if they  
12          didn't get rid of the rubber mat you'd contact the  
13          police; do you remember that?

14          A.  I think I did, because once or twice I started -- after  
15          that incident with Mr **LDU** the police were called but  
16          I think after that it gave me the confidence to stand up  
17          to them because it was just that thing of fear, you  
18          know.  I might have been getting more arrogant, but it  
19          was just the culture.  If you didn't fight back, they  
20          just walked all over you, the nuns, you know.

21                     I think eventually, it stopped and I said, "I'm not  
22          having that any more".  It was fear -- I couldn't sleep  
23          at night.  I don't think it's the proper situation --  
24          well, it's not a proper situation.

25          Q.  Did they respond to that?  Was the rubber sheet removed?

1           A. Yes, removed, and it never came back. I think when  
2           they'd seen you sticking up for yourself, you know --  
3           see, some of the other boys were lucky because they had  
4           their family visiting them, but I didn't have that. You  
5           had the feeling you were getting walked over, they could  
6           get away with a bit more to me than the rest.

7           But I think in the end you just had to stick up for  
8           yourself and say, "This isn't right, I'm not doing this  
9           or that". Even when I left the home, I didn't know  
10          when -- in [REDACTED] 1966, I didn't know until about  
11          three or four days until I was leaving, I didn't even  
12          know I was going back down to Glasgow. They just told  
13          me and said, "By the way, you've left school now".  
14          I said, "What do you mean?", [REDACTED],  
15          "You're going down to live in Glasgow", and I said,  
16          "What do you mean?" It was just sort of a casual sort  
17          of remark and it sort of hit you for six.

18         LADY SMITH: Had you ever been to Glasgow?

19         A. No, although I was born there --

20         LADY SMITH: I mean, I know you were born down there, but  
21          you wouldn't really have any memory of it.

22         A. I had no recollection of it, Glasgow, at all, obviously,  
23          Lady Smith. And then -- but it's like at that time it  
24          was like sending me to the moon, you know. I didn't  
25          know ...

1 LADY SMITH: You wouldn't know what that meant, going to  
2 Glasgow, what was going to be waiting for you at the  
3 other end.

4 A. Could you say that again, please?

5 LADY SMITH: You wouldn't know what was going to be waiting  
6 for you at the other end, you wouldn't know what "going  
7 to Glasgow" meant.

8 A. No. Although I'd been through Glasgow once or twice on  
9 the train, but that -- I'd been to Edinburgh a few  
10 times, but I didn't know it, it's just a day trip to  
11 Edinburgh for me, but I don't really know it as such,  
12 what the natives are like or anything. I thought it  
13 was -- I spent, I think, the first few weeks wondering,  
14 because of the different accent, you wondered if they  
15 were going to accept me or not accept me.

16 MR MacAULAY: This is when you actually went --

17 A. When I went to Glasgow.

18 Q. I'll come on to that very shortly.

19 Can I go back to the rubber mats because it has been  
20 suggested to me that this device, or whatever you may  
21 want to call it, wouldn't really give you a shock,  
22 it would make a buzz noise and vibrate. Do you know --

23 A. It was meant to make a wee buzzing sound or sometimes --  
24 well, a vibrating in the machine, I think it gave it  
25 a wee buzzing sound. But some of the boys told us they

1 got shocks of it, small electric shocks. But you're  
2 trying to lie in bed at night and you're saying to  
3 yourself, "I wonder if I'm going to get an electric  
4 shock here", and at the same time you're trying to turn  
5 over to get to sleep. It does play up on your mind. It  
6 does sort of play on you, if you get what I mean.

7 Q. I understand that.

8 What about leisure time? Can I ask you about your  
9 leisure time? I think for example you already mentioned  
10 that you could go down to the beach particularly when  
11 you were a bit older. Is that right?

12 A. That's right, yes.

13 Q. Would that be perhaps in the summer, perhaps at  
14 a weekend?

15 A. In the summertime, yes. Mainly in the summer.  
16 Sometimes in the winter, we'd go to the swimming pool.  
17 Obviously because it was too cold outside. Sometimes  
18 the pictures.

19 Q. So there was entertainment available?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And pocket money? Would you get pocket money?

22 A. You did.

23 Q. What would you do with it?

24 A. Sometimes -- well, you could get to the pictures with  
25 it. Sometimes you'd buy a comic. Maybe Colin might

1 know this, Lady Smith, but you used to buy the Commando  
2 comics, which were quite popular at the time for young  
3 boys.

4 LADY SMITH: Not one I read! I was aware of it being  
5 popular with boys.

6 A. Before your time, Lady Smith. But they were quite  
7 popular. We all wanted to be big commandos and we were  
8 shooting at everyone.

9 MR MacAULAY: I'm not confessing to anything, John!

10 A. In a nice type way. I didn't actually shoot anybody.

11 Q. But holidays also, I think, because you did indeed have  
12 the opportunity of going, I think in particular, to  
13 Dumbarton to a family.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And was that enjoyable?

16 A. It was. I must admit, it was very enjoyable, a nice  
17 family; the [REDACTED] family. What I call a big family,  
18 I think there was about six or seven of them, boys and  
19 girls. But to me that's big because I'm an only child.  
20 I think if you've got two in the family that's big. But  
21 I'm an only child, so ... They were asking me, what  
22 it's like being an only child. I'm saying, what's it  
23 like being in a big family, you know.

24 Q. This is something that was arranged for you?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And how long would you spend with --

2 A. About two weeks at a time.

3 Q. Would this be the summer holidays?

4 A. Summer holidays, yes.

5 Q. And how often did this happen during your time?

6 A. I'd say about three or four times. It was quite nice.

7 It was a wee break from the home. I suppose, like --

8 well, there was a certain strictness in the home. I've

9 never been to prison or anything, but I suppose it's

10 like being in prison and coming out. It was a bit more

11 freedom, if you get what I mean.

12 Q. You also tell us about medical treatment and that there

13 was a nun in Nazareth House who was a trained nurse.

14 A. Yes. I can't ... I can't recall her name.

15 Q. But you say she was a pleasant person?

16 A. Very pleasant. Of course she was the one in them

17 days -- I think when you're younger, you get certain

18 injections, polio, measles. She was the one that gave

19 you it. I'd always be fascinated going into the nurse's

20 room because you get the syringe -- I think syringes now

21 are all pre-packed in cellophane, but in them days --

22 there was a wee boiler thing, believe it or not. It was

23 like cooking pot that boiled all the syringes. That's

24 when you did in them days. For some reason I was always

25 fascinated and then she'd fill it up -- you'd fill the

1           syringe up with whatever it was they were putting into  
2           it. I think it was for measles, mumps, things like  
3           that, the usual kids' injections. Maybe my brain was  
4           telling me I'm a doctor or a nurse or something, but  
5           I was always fascinated whenever I went into the nurse's  
6           room because I was always looking about, saying what's  
7           this more, what's that for, for some daft reason.

8           Q. But you also had access to a doctor, if necessary, and  
9           to a dentist?

10          A. Yes, yes.

11          Q. Can I ask you about Christmas. Would you get presents  
12          at Christmas?

13          A. Yes, you got that, yes.

14          Q. And as far as you were aware, did all the children get  
15          presents at Christmas?

16          A. Yes, as far as I was aware.

17          Q. And birthdays, were birthdays celebrated?

18          A. Yes.

19          Q. And I think what you tell us is that on your birthday  
20          you'd be taken to the Mother Superior's office --

21          A. Yes.

22          Q. -- and you'd be given a bag of sweets?

23          A. Yes, that's right.

24          Q. What about a cake or cards?

25          A. Maybe ... I can't ... I know definitely she had this

1           cupboard that was full of sweets, or big jars of sweets,  
2           you know, loose type sweets in the big jars, which you  
3           still get now in certain shops. I think when you're  
4           a wee kid it seems like a big sweet factory, your eyes  
5           popping out of your head, if you can visualise being  
6           a wee child.

7           Maybe there was a cake -- there probably was a cake,  
8           but I do remember there was a thing about -- you always  
9           got a bag of sweets.

10          Q. And other children, as far as you're aware, did they get  
11           something similar on their birthdays?

12          A. Yes.

13          Q. You, I think, touched upon this already, but you didn't  
14           have visitors when you were there.

15          A. No.

16          Q. I think you do say that some of the other children's  
17           parents would take you out for the day as well.

18          A. Yes, that's correct, yes.

19          Q. And so far as social workers or child welfare people,  
20           I think in the early days you did not have any visits  
21           from --

22          A. No, the social, but it wasn't until later that the  
23           social work -- I don't know why that was. I have no  
24           idea why that was, but it wasn't until later that  
25           a social worker came up from Glasgow to see me. In



1           between, I don't know the reason for that. I have no  
2           idea.

3           LADY SMITH: Can you remember how old you were when the  
4           social worker started coming to see you?

5           A. I'd say about 12, 11, 12, 13.

6           LADY SMITH: So that would be early 1960s?

7           A. Yes. I'd say that. Because I did wonder ...

8           LADY SMITH: 1963/1964, something like that?

9           A. I did wonder why other boys and girls were getting  
10          social workers up and I didn't. I used to think, well,  
11          you know... It was hard to say what was going through  
12          my mind, but I used to think it was strange, you're only  
13          a wee boy, and your mind starts doing overtime. You  
14          think that's odd. Then one day a social worker came to  
15          see me. I'll never know why, but just out of the blue  
16          he started to see me.

17          MR MacAULAY: It may be that a particular local authority  
18          decided to take over your care.

19          A. Yes, it could be something like that. Something behind  
20          the scenes that I was unaware of, you know.

21          Q. I can tell you the inquiry has seen social work records  
22          and you're correct in saying that visits did start  
23          in the 1960s.

24          A. Yes, because -- I always remember that because the other  
25          boys and girls would have social workers come up --

1 I don't know every month -- one, two, three months --  
2 I can't recall the times they came up. It was usually  
3 a man that came to see the boys, anyway. A Mr McEwan,  
4 if I remember. But I'll never know why it started --  
5 why there was no social worker and then just out of the  
6 blue there was.

7 Q. In your dealings with this person, what you say in your  
8 statement is that the conversations were like general  
9 chit-chat.

10 A. Yes, just general chit-chat. Just asking how I was and  
11 that, how's school. Asking you things like that.  
12 He was a pleasant person. I think it was just nice to  
13 get a visit off someone. It was just nice to get  
14 a visit.

15 Q. Did he ask you anything in relation to your treatment in  
16 the home, for example?

17 A. I definitely can't recall. I can't recall. My mind's  
18 all -- at the moment. I can't recall offhand.

19 Q. Can I just ask you a little bit more about how you were  
20 treated in Nazareth House.

21 You have already mentioned LDU and what  
22 happened with him. Can I just ask you about that now if  
23 you're happy to talk about that.

24 A. Yes. I spent over 50 years thinking about it.

25 Q. Yes. You do give us quite a lot of information about it

- 1 in your statement.
- 2 A. Yes, because I still recall it.
- 3 Q. Can you tell me what age you were at this time?
- 4 A. I believe I was 11 at the time.
- 5 Q. You seem to have been involved with another boy. You  
6 don't have to tell us the name of the boy, but you had  
7 some sort of fight or something?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Can you explain what happened as best you can remember?
- 10 A. I can't remember a fight or an argument, but you're only  
11 wee boys -- you know, I was only 11 at the time. It  
12 wasn't anything serious. But I think Mrs **LHQ**,  
13 **LDU** s wife was there, and she broke us up and  
14 said, "You go that way, you go that way". I can't  
15 recall what I said to her, but she was a strange sort of  
16 person too, so I don't know if I've told her to go away  
17 or what. But anyway, she got her husband to see me.
- 18 Q. Was that later on?
- 19 A. Later on, yes. Her husband came and he was a rather  
20 violent person and he beat me up.
- 21 Q. Can you just describe what happened? I think you say he  
22 grabbed hold of you; is that right?
- 23 A. Yes, he grabbed hold of me.
- 24 Q. What did he do?
- 25 A. He dragged me into one of the -- I can't remember

1           whereabouts he dragged hold of me -- one of the rooms  
2           where the boys are -- and then he dragged me into  
3           a bathroom and battered hell out of me.

4       Q. Did he take your clothes off?

5       A. He did.

6       Q. So were you naked when this happened?

7       A. Yes, and black and blue all over. I think I can safely  
8           say he didn't sexually assault me or anything. He  
9           punched me. I can't recall if he kicked me. I had  
10          a hand mark on my face, you know, like that  
11          (indicating). But I was only 11 and I was all black and  
12          blue.

13      Q. How long did this last for?

14      A. I have no idea but I was black and blue all over my  
15          body. I can't recall. It might have been 5 minutes, it  
16          might have been 10, 15. My mind was a haze. I thought  
17          my time was up, you know.

18      Q. Were you shouting, screaming, when this was going on?

19      A. I was, yes.

20      Q. Did anybody witness this? You don't have to tell us the  
21          names, but did --

22      A. I remember coming out of the bathroom -- LDU left, if  
23          I remember, first. But I came out -- I was picking  
24          myself up from the ground. I think one or two boys came  
25          in to see if I was all right. None of the nuns came

1 near. None of the nuns. It was the boys asking me if  
2 I was all right, but obviously not. I wasn't bruised  
3 then, but you could tell I had a right going over.

4 But next thing I knew, I was just sent up to bed at  
5 bedtime. I didn't get any medical treatment or  
6 anything. I was shaking.

7 Q. Would the nuns have been aware that this was going on?

8 A. Yes, definitely. They were aware. The nuns were aware.  
9 But not one nun approached me that night. The next  
10 morning --

11 Q. Just before I come to the next morning, you say you were  
12 stripped naked. Do you know why your clothes were taken  
13 off?

14 A. I've got no idea. Well, it's not exactly a normal thing  
15 to do, is it, to a young boy? It's a bit peculiar.

16 Q. What would you have been wearing at the time?

17 A. Trousers, maybe a shirt -- I don't think I had a jacket  
18 on or anything, just casual, trousers and shirt --  
19 I can't actually recall for definite what I had on. But  
20 he stripped me naked anyway.

21 Q. Did you say you went to bed?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Did someone tell you to go to bed? What was the ...

24 A. Just bedtime. I think we just all went to bed about the  
25 same time, say 10ish, half 9, 10.

1 I knew I couldn't sleep that night, and then next  
2 morning, got up and -- I don't think I put my school  
3 uniform on because I didn't think I'd be going to school  
4 because I was quite exhausted, plus the fact I'd been  
5 beaten up. I could see the bruises coming through on my  
6 arms and legs and my back. I didn't know about my face  
7 until one of the boys told me, "Look in the mirror", and  
8 there was a big hand mark. I can't remember what side  
9 of the face. You could see the fingers. I looked in  
10 the mirror and thought, "Oh my God".

11 I just presumed I wasn't going to school that  
12 morning. I think we got breakfast and Sister LFD --  
13 LFD we called her, I don't know if it was LFD or  
14 LFD -- said, "Don't think you're getting away with not  
15 going to school, get your uniform on, you're going  
16 in the school bus".

17 Q. Did she know what happened to you?

18 A. Yes, she was definitely aware of the night before and  
19 she had seen my bruises. And I went upstairs and got my  
20 -- I said, "I never slept last night". She said,  
21 "You're not getting off school", and then I went  
22 upstairs and got my uniform on and went on the school  
23 bus. It was a bus just to take us to school from the  
24 home, but there was a bus conductor on it, although he  
25 didn't take your fare, but like a chartered school bus

1 at a certain time of day.

2 So I went on and he took one look at me and said,  
3 "What happened to you?" But he took me up to the bus  
4 driver-- the bus driver must have been the boss of the  
5 bus if you get what I mean. The bus driver looked --  
6 you know, I think you got on the back of the bus then,  
7 it was an old type bus. He asked the driver to come  
8 round and the driver looked. I said, "Will I get off  
9 the bus?" He said, "No. What happened? 'He said I'm  
10 taking you to school, LCN", he was quite nice, "I'm  
11 taking you school, don't worry".

12 He said -- I can't remember the bus driver's name,  
13 but he said, "You see my point, if a boy comes on to my  
14 bus all black and blue and then he comes off my bus,  
15 people are going to want know why". But he's getting  
16 himself right. I said, "Yeah, that's it".

17 I said, "What are you going to do?" he said, "I'm  
18 going to take you into the headmaster's office just to  
19 say this is the way he came on". And I said, "Aye,  
20 that's right, yes, I came on the bus like that".

21 So the headmaster took one look at me -- but there  
22 was a school nurse. It was quite a big secondary  
23 school. She took a look at me and asked me to take my  
24 shirt off. That's when they called the police. I was  
25 quite worried then because I had visions when they said

1 the police. I said, "I've done nothing wrong". I think  
2 I thought I was going to get locked up, but I was only  
3 11. He said, "No, it's not you, LCN". He calmed me  
4 down.

5 But the police came up, they took a look at me and  
6 had a look at my back and that, but the school nurse --  
7 and I said, "No problem". And it was on my legs as  
8 well. I can't recall if he actually kicked me, but  
9 there were definitely bruises all over my face, my back,  
10 my front and my legs.

11 If I recall, the police brought me back to the home  
12 to Nazareth House. The police spoke to the  
13 Mother Superior, I believe, and that wee nun  
14 LFD, she took me into a wee side room and she  
15 pulled me up for getting the police involved, to which  
16 I told her it was the headmaster that called the police,  
17 not me. But she seemed to calm down. She actually  
18 pulled me up for calling the police, but I said, "I'm  
19 black and blue". I mean --

20 Q. When you say she pulled you up --

21 A. She gave me a telling off for calling the police.

22 I said, "Look at my face", but I did reassure her it  
23 wasn't me that called the police, although I think in  
24 hindsight -- I'd have loved to have walked into the  
25 police station, when I look back. As I say, I was only



1 a young boy at the time. I was terrified.

2 Q. What happened then insofar as [REDACTED] LDU was concerned?

3 Did the police do anything with him?

4 A. The police had a word with him. I do know they  
5 interviewed him. I don't believe he got prosecuted.  
6 I don't believe he got prosecuted. But the annoying  
7 thing is, he was back in the home that night, the next  
8 night after he assaulted me. Not a word was said. He  
9 tried to -- he took a look at me and said that he didn't  
10 do that. I said, "You did". And he tried to slip --  
11 remember the old ten bob notes? He tried to slip one of  
12 them into my hand and I said, "No, thank you". I know  
13 it's only 50p now but in them days it was quite a tidy  
14 bit of money.

15 LADY SMITH: You could do quite a lot with 10 shillings in  
16 those days -- and for you to say no to it was you saying  
17 no to quite a lot of money.

18 A. You were getting about 1 and 6 a week pocket money,  
19 which I think was fairly average, but if someone's  
20 offering you a ten bob notes ... I just thought with  
21 hindsight, "No, keep it", I didn't want anything to do  
22 with him. As far as I know, he was there every night  
23 for the four years that I was there. I have heard he  
24 was there and he was still visiting the home in the  
25 early 70s.

1           I believe now if an incident like that happened,  
2           they would take action against the person. I believe  
3           it's all different now -- and obviously for the better.

4       MR MacAULAY: Do I understand from what you've told us,  
5           John, about this particular incident and what you've  
6           said to us, it was quite a violent incident?

7       A. Very violent, yes.

8       Q. Notwithstanding that and notwithstanding the fact that  
9           the nuns in charge of you knew about it --

10      A. Yes. Oh yes. Definitely.

11      Q. -- he was allowed to be --

12      A. The very next night he was there. The only nun that  
13           said anything to me was that Sister LFD and that was  
14           to pull me up for calling the police or getting the  
15           police involved, and I said, "It wasn't me, it was the  
16           headmaster that called the police". The headmaster did  
17           come up and visit me in the home once or twice after  
18           that. He was quite a pleasant type person. I think he  
19           kept an eye on me for a while after that. He used to  
20           come up to the home to enquire how I was. He was quite  
21           pleasant.

22           But I think a lot of kids were terrified of the  
23           headmaster in them days. I think I liked my headmaster  
24           because he sort of looked after me, you know.

25      Q. Can I just then leave that episode aside for the moment

1           and just look at how you were treated generally within  
2           the home. One thing you do tell us is about what you  
3           describe as "the Saturday afternoon special".

4           A. Yes.

5           Q. What was that?

6           A. If you'd been what they call a bad boy or crossed the  
7           line, if you didn't toe the line, it was usually a petty  
8           thing, Saturday afternoon -- and it always stuck in my  
9           mind. They made you kneel down. Sometimes there would  
10          be about three or four of us in a row, kneeling down,  
11          facing the wall, in the passage way, beside the  
12          Mother Superior's office. You never really met the  
13          Mother Superior -- and it was where the nuns lived as  
14          well, where they had their own TV room and the bedrooms  
15          and that.

16                 Anyway, every so often -- I still picture it quite  
17                 clearly -- every so often you would get a clout on the  
18                 back of the head. You'd see the nuns going by, you'd  
19                 see the nuns going by, but it was only nuns that went up  
20                 and down that passageway, but you could see them from  
21                 the corner of your eye. Now and again they would give  
22                 you a backhander on the head, so your forehead hit the  
23                 wall. I don't think it was heavy-heavy, but it  
24                 happened. But every time you heard a nun coming up  
25                 behind you, you were tense, you didn't know -- they

1           didn't hit you all the time, but it's that psychological  
2           fear. You didn't know if you were going to get hit or  
3           what. It did play on your mind. That happened until  
4           I was about 13, 14, I'd say.

5           I think towards the end I used to say, "Right,  
6           enough's enough, I'm not taking this any more", because  
7           you knew it was wrong. But they did it to loads of  
8           boys. It wasn't every week, but there'd be a few boys  
9           the following week.

10          It was just a sort of torture. In fact, once or  
11          twice I was there and I didn't get hit at all, but the  
12          next time I went there you just got a backhander, you  
13          know.

14          Q. Do you know which nun --

15          A. No, because you were always told to face the wall. If  
16          you went and looked, "Face the wall". And the nuns have  
17          got the habits.

18          LADY SMITH: You said this was in the passageway that you  
19          were kneeling?

20          A. Yes.

21          LADY SMITH: So people would be going back and forth in the  
22          passage?

23          A. It was only nuns. It was like the nuns' section. But  
24          you'd see them out the corner of your eye, you'd be  
25          looking that way or that.

1 LADY SMITH: So any footsteps would be nuns' footsteps and  
2 they could be going to clout you as they went past?

3 A. Yes. You'd see the dark robes type thing. I've always  
4 had this phobia about nuns since. I've never spoken to  
5 a nun since. In fact, my wife, she comes from Ireland,  
6 but then again I can't -- there isn't -- there is a lot  
7 of nuns over there and if there's something on like  
8 a wedding or something, you might see one or two nuns.

9 But my wife said to me one day, "Why don't you speak  
10 to the nuns?" and I said, "What do you mean?" She said,  
11 "Everyone else is there speaking and you just sit  
12 there". I told my wife, "I find it hard to speak to  
13 a nun". Psychologically, it's all in the mind. I was  
14 doing it without realising. I said, "I'll make a point  
15 of speaking to one next time". But I just froze the  
16 next time. I just froze. I couldn't. No offence  
17 against poor nuns nowadays, but I find it very hard to  
18 have a discussion with a nun. It's the way it got me,  
19 sorry.

20 MR MacAULAY: One thing you do tell us is, as you put it,  
21 one or two of the boys did cut their foreheads on  
22 hitting the wall.

23 A. Yes. Yes. I think I was all right in a way, just a few  
24 knocks. Sometimes it's just a wee -- other times you  
25 might feel a wee lump. Obviously you can do it on one

1 person and not have much effect but someone could bleed  
2 or have a scratch. It wasn't a pleasant situation at  
3 all. I know people think of nuns and see all the good  
4 things outside, but you see when you're living with  
5 them, you see behind the scenes sort of thing and it's  
6 not a pleasant situation at all. It's not very  
7 pleasant.

8 Q. Would you consider yourself, looking back, to have been  
9 a bad boy?

10 A. No. I suppose I would say that, but, no, I wouldn't  
11 think I was bad, no.

12 Q. Of course from what you've told us, John, you were  
13 really in Nazareth House Aberdeen from when you were  
14 effectively a baby --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- until you were 15, so that was the life you knew.

17 A. Yes, I knew it, so I was into the routine type thing, if  
18 you get what I mean.

19 Q. You've told us about specific events such as the beating  
20 you got from [REDACTED] LDU [REDACTED] you have told us about  
21 bed-wetting and this particular practice that you've  
22 described as a form of torture, I think you said.

23 A. Well, it is a torture.

24 Q. But what about other treatment? Were you hit by nuns  
25 throughout your time there?

1 A. I don't think ... I can't actually recall a nun  
2 actually ... I think one or two of them would give you  
3 a slap now and again, say when you were younger, just  
4 a slap. Although I did see a nun hitting a boy in the  
5 face one day, like a backhand. I don't know why or how  
6 but she just went on. It wasn't a pleasant situation.  
7 I can't actually recall a particular nun hitting me, you  
8 know apart from the Saturday afternoon. There were one  
9 or two nuns we were all terrified of.

10 Q. Can you remember their names?

11 A. Yes. There was a Sister [FAF], strange name, and  
12 [LGY]

13 Q. Why were you terrified of those in particular?

14 A. Well, it was either [LGY] or [FAF], on a Saturday  
15 morning -- there was an old air-raid shelter behind the  
16 home, it was still standing, you're talking about the  
17 60s. They kept it as a store for soap powder, all that  
18 stuff, cleaning material. But now and again a nun --  
19 one of the nuns on the boys' side would send me and  
20 another boy down -- they'd write out a note, how many  
21 bars of soap, et cetera, soap flakes as well, that sort  
22 of stuff, disinfectant, and go down.

23 But what you did -- you waited in the wee queue and  
24 then you handed a nun the note and she'd go and get it.  
25 That was the basic idea. It was quite a simple,

1 straightforward job. But you just knew -- I think it  
2 was [REDACTED] LGY , but I wouldn't argue, it could have been  
3 [REDACTED] FAF -- you're all terrified because she was  
4 a very unpleasant character. She immediately -- the  
5 first thing she'd do -- she'd look at the note and say,  
6 "Are you stupid?" and I remember one day I said, "It  
7 wasn't me who wrote the note out, I'm only picking it  
8 up". But the way she done it, she looked at the note  
9 and said to me, "Are you daft or something?" "I didn't  
10 write the note down, I'm only here to collect the  
11 stuff". She did make a go at me. I think you learnt to  
12 be cheeky, but you watched to what you said to them.  
13 You know, you had to stick up for yourself.

14 A lot of the boys and girls were terrified of going  
15 there on a Saturday morning. In the end, they stopped  
16 me going there because I think when you start sticking  
17 up for yourself, you know -- but it was just fear, it  
18 was fear that made you do it, it was fear that made you  
19 stand up.

20 In the end they gave me another job on a Saturday  
21 morning instead of collecting the soap powder and that.  
22 It was a strange, strange situation, you know.

23 Q. Was fear something you felt during your time?

24 A. Yes. Definitely fear on quite a few occasions. You  
25 didn't quite know where the line was, but you were



1           scared of crossing it because you knew they were just  
2           going to pounce on you. It was a very strange thing  
3           because you're just kids, you know. I wouldn't even  
4           treat my dog like that. So -- but it was a rather odd  
5           type way of treating children. A very strange way, yes.

6           Q. As you've told us at the beginning, John, you left  
7           Nazareth House on [REDACTED] 1966.

8           A. That's correct.

9           Q. And I think you've already told us you didn't know until  
10          quite shortly before you were leaving that you were in  
11          fact leaving.

12          A. A few days before I was leaving, yes.

13          Q. How then did you get to Glasgow from Aberdeen?

14          A. Train. I came down by train.

15          Q. Were you alone on the train?

16          A. No, there was another boy with me.

17          Q. We don't need to know the name, but another boy from  
18          Nazareth House?

19          A. Yes. I know the boy's name, but I suppose it's  
20          immaterial.

21          Q. I think the arrangement was that you were to go to  
22          a hostel --

23          A. Yes.

24          Q. -- in Glasgow; is that right?

25          A. That's correct, yes.

1 Q. After that, I think you joined the army.

2 A. Yes. A year after that -- it was about 18 months after  
3 that, yes, I joined the army.

4 Q. When you were 16 or thereabouts?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. One of the things you tell us about the army -- and this  
7 is in paragraph 65 -- is that when you joined the army  
8 you were asked by a soldier what home you'd been in; do  
9 you remember that?

10 A. Yes, he seemed to know.

11 Q. But you hadn't told him you had been in a home?

12 A. No, even my neighbours and workmates didn't know I'd  
13 been in a home because it was just something I kept to  
14 myself. One day one of the men came up to me in the  
15 room and said, "What home were you in?" I said, "What do  
16 you mean?" This boy was English. I said, "What do you  
17 mean?" obviously because I'm trying to figure out what  
18 he's saying to me, they've got different ways of saying  
19 it. He said, "You can always tell", and he explained  
20 it. I said, "You're joking". He was in a home too.  
21 Isn't it a rather strange thing? He just knew.

22 You see, in the army they shout at you and that -- I  
23 suppose it's just part of the training -- but then at  
24 night-time you go and have a few drinks together, but  
25 it's just part of the thing in the army.

1           He said the screaming and shouting that some of the  
2           other new recruits -- and some were in tears, say like  
3           you're doing like a march or cross country, some of them  
4           were in tears and they were shouting away at some of  
5           them. He said, "When they're shouting at you, it's like  
6           water of a duck's back". I said it doesn't affect me,  
7           they can just shout at me, I'm not bothered. In fact,  
8           someone asked me if I was deaf because they were  
9           shouting away at me. I said, "No, it just goes in one  
10          ear and out the other".

11         Q. At any rate, you spent a number of years in the army.

12         A. Seven and a half.

13         Q. And then after you had a career in the post office?

14         A. Yes.

15         Q. Can I ask you a little bit about any impact you think  
16          that having been in Nazareth House may have had on you.  
17          One thing you do say in your statement is that not  
18          a week goes by without thinking of the [REDACTED] LDU  
19          assault.

20         A. Yes, I'd say at least once or twice a week. I do think  
21          of [REDACTED] LDU in general for what he done to me. I do  
22          think about that but it's in the mind. It's a hard  
23          thing to go away. As someone said to you, your bruises  
24          and that can heal, but you'll never forget what they  
25          done. I never, ever forgot that. In fact, I've been

1 to -- I went up to Aberdeen this year, I was up there  
2 for a long weekend, but that was on the red snow alert,  
3 that time, because I was supposed to go to Portugal but  
4 my plane got cancelled. I had a spare week and funnily  
5 enough I went up to Aberdeen, me and the wife -- it's a  
6 strange place to go in the red snow alert and that, but  
7 we just wanted to get away.

8 I brought my wife up to Aberdeen once or twice.  
9 I quite like Aberdeen itself, you know. It's quite  
10 a nice place. And then we're going along the beach --  
11 I'm not suggesting you go along Aberdeen beach in a red  
12 snow alert, but it was quite cold. But just for old  
13 time's sake, it was just nice for a wee break, but  
14 I should have been in Portugal at the time, but the  
15 flight got cancelled, so I took the next best thing that  
16 came up, a week in Aberdeen, because I couldn't get  
17 a plane that week, and I got my money back from Portugal  
18 because it wasn't my fault.

19 Q. If I just go back to your statement then, John, just to  
20 finish off, as it were, towards the bottom, on page 4160  
21 at paragraph 78, you set out your hopes for the inquiry  
22 there. What are your hopes for this inquiry?

23 A. Well, we're telling the truth. Well, we're simply  
24 telling the truth, what happened in them days. I don't  
25 believe children's homes are run like that now. I think

1           it's a different situation, obviously. But if I could  
2           help in some way -- and not to have religious orders  
3           running children's homes because I don't think it's  
4           right. I don't think a bit of religion harms anyone,  
5           don't get me wrong, there's a God and that, I believe  
6           there's a God, but I think if it's a religious order of  
7           any faith denomination, I don't think it's right.  
8           I think you should get professional people in to look  
9           after children, proper trained people.

10           You see, what I think half the trouble was, you  
11           would get a young nun and she could be in charge of 20,  
12           30 young boys, and she's only in her 20s, never had  
13           children of her own, but suddenly she's in charge of  
14           a big squad of kids. It's not a good mixture. It's not  
15           a good mixture. It's a recipe for disaster, actually,  
16           if I could say so.

17           I've got one boy, but I would tend to think you  
18           gradually learn, obviously, changing nappies and that,  
19           but if someone had put me in charge of about 20 or 30  
20           kids at the same time, I think I would do my nut.

21           I think I'd be a wee bit ... One at a time; 20 or 30  
22           kids? No.

23           Q. And another thing you say in paragraph 79 is that any  
24           council or government homes should have checks done on  
25           a regular basis and children should be spoken to.

1           A. Oh definitely. I think people did come round the homes  
2           then, but they didn't really speak to you as such.  
3           We were just -- I think they would put you into the  
4           sitting room so you were all watching TV or they would  
5           put you outside, so you were all watching football, but  
6           you were doing something you liked, but they didn't  
7           really ask us as such how we felt.

8           But I think -- I do believe, sitting down and  
9           thinking, if I could change things for the better, yes,  
10          the way children's homes are run. But I think they are  
11          run better now anyway and properly trained. Because  
12          I don't think there was one properly trained member of  
13          staff there.

14          And as for [REDACTED] LDU I don't quite know where he  
15          came from. He was there, but I don't think he was  
16          actually employed in the home. [REDACTED]  
17          [REDACTED], but he was never ...

18          Someone told me he was still going there in the  
19          early 1970s, which I thought was rather strange because  
20          no one liked him. But that might have been his job:  
21          just to put the fear of God into the boys. I don't know  
22          what the idea was.

23          MR MacAULAY: John, anyway, that's all the questions I have  
24          for you. Thank you for coming along and giving the  
25          inquiry your evidence today.

1 My Lady, questions were submitted to me and I've  
2 covered the points, I think, raised by the questions  
3 that were submitted. No doubt if I haven't, that will  
4 be challenged. I don't understand there to be any other  
5 questions.

6 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for  
7 questions? No.

8 John, thank you so much for coming along today and  
9 telling us about your quite lengthy experience in  
10 Nazareth House; that's where your childhood was.

11 A. Well, yes. Yes.

12 LADY SMITH: It has been of enormous assistance to hear that  
13 and to have your written statement to help us as well.  
14 So thank you and I'm now able to let you go.

15 (The witness withdrew)

16 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, that might be a good time to have  
17 a short break. The next stage is to have a statement  
18 read in.

19 LADY SMITH: Yes. Thank you very much. We'll break now for  
20 the morning break and sit again at about 11.45, please.  
21 (11.31 am).

22 (A short break)

23 (11.50 am)

24 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

25 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, there may be time now to read in two

1 statements. I'll start with the first one and see how  
2 much time we have and there may be time to read in  
3 a second one before lunch.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. The first one will be the  
5 last statement that otherwise we'd have read in  
6 yesterday; is that correct?

7 MS MACLEOD: That's correct, my Lady.

8 LADY SMITH: Is this one of the statements that I may need  
9 to give a reminder to the press about or not?

10 MS MACLEOD: No, not this one, my Lady.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 Witness statement of "MICHAEL" (read)

13 MS MACLEOD: This is a statement of a witness who wishes to  
14 remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym "Michael".  
15 The statement can be found at WIT.001.001.4048.

16 My Lady, I can say that this witness had every  
17 intention of attending hearings to give evidence, but  
18 has not been able to do so because he is unwell at the  
19 moment and receiving medical treatment.

20 LADY SMITH: Yes. I am sorry to hear that.

21 MS MACLEOD: "My name is Michael. My date of birth is in  
22 1946 and my contact details are known to the inquiry.

23 "I don't have a great recollection of family life  
24 before I went into care because I was so young. I know  
25 that my mother wasn't well and that one of my brothers



1 lived with neighbours because my mum couldn't cope with  
2 us all. Me and my other brothers lived with my parents.  
3 I remember that one Sunday my brother went in to wake my  
4 mum to get money for the church collection before we  
5 went to church Mass, but she had died in her sleep.

6 "Shortly after that the three of us were taken up to  
7 Nazareth House in Aberdeen. I seem to think it was my  
8 dad who took us in the train. We didn't know what was  
9 going on [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED] I would have been five or six years old in  
11 1952 or 1953 when I went there.

12 "After about three or four years, he came back and  
13 took us home, but that only lasted a month and we went  
14 back into Nazareth House.

15 "Nazareth House was a big imposing building in its  
16 own grounds in Claremont Street, Aberdeen, in  
17 a residential area and was run by the Sisters of  
18 Nazareth. It was divided into two sides, the boys' side  
19 and the girls' side. There were probably about 100 boys  
20 and we were in massive dormitories with single beds.  
21 The boys and the girls were kept separate and we only  
22 really saw the girls at mealtimes when we ate together.

23 "The nun in charge of us was Sister [REDACTED] LDR The  
24 only other two nuns I remember were Sister [REDACTED] LDQ and  
25 Sister [REDACTED] LJO, but they were not as bad as

1 Sister [REDACTED] LDR [REDACTED] LDR [REDACTED] was maybe 30 to 40 years  
2 old and the other two were a bit younger.

3 "There were mainly nuns there but there were some  
4 priests as well, but we didn't have a lot to do with  
5 them. There were other civilian staff there too,  
6 presumably employed to work there to do the garden or  
7 the coal, things like that. We had some contact with  
8 them because we helped them sometimes.

9 "I never had any previous dealings with nuns, so it  
10 was all quite strange to me seeing them all walking  
11 about wearing their habits. My first memory is probably  
12 getting taken to and shown my bed in the dormitory and  
13 I was also given my number. We weren't allowed to use  
14 names and we were just known by our numbers. I can't  
15 remember what my number was.

16 "The nuns would scream and shout at us to get up.  
17 I think this was usually some time between 6 and 7  
18 in the morning. We would get up and get washed and  
19 dressed. At night-time I think we were probably in our  
20 beds by 6 or 7 o'clock.

21 "We washed in the morning in a communal washroom  
22 where there were sinks and toilets. Sunday night was  
23 bath night and we all had to wait in a queue. If you  
24 were in the front of the queue you got scalded because  
25 the bath was so hot or if you were at the end of the

1 queue, you had dirty cold water. That was just the way  
2 it was. It was great big baths like footballers used to  
3 use and there were maybe 10 to 12 of us in there at any  
4 time. The girls bathed in their own bathroom in  
5 a different part of the home.

6 "The clothes we wore were all hand-me-downs but I'm  
7 not sure where they came from. There was no uniform but  
8 I do remember I wore shorts until I was 16 years old.  
9 I don't think our names or numbers were sown into the  
10 clothes. Our shoes were second-hand too.

11 "The boys and girl ate together in the main  
12 refectory. For breakfast we got porridge and  
13 occasionally bacon and eggs or things like that. We  
14 didn't get much time to eat it and the nuns used to walk  
15 around behind us and were always telling us to hurry up.  
16 If you didn't eat your food at mealtimes they would  
17 stand behind you and force you to eat it. If you were  
18 sick you would be made to eat your vomit.

19 "We were shipped to school on the bus which was  
20 about a 20-minute journey. I went to St Mary's primary  
21 school and then to St Peter's secondary school. We were  
22 treated differently at school and the other children  
23 called us the 'home boys' because we lived in a home,  
24 but we stuck together at school.

25 "We would get the bus home at lunchtime, have

1 something to eat, then return to school for the  
2 afternoon. At the end of the school day the bus would  
3 pick us up again. I actually liked school and looked  
4 forward to going there probably because it was a break  
5 from the home. I got on quite well at school and there  
6 were never any issues with the way the teachers treated  
7 us. Back in the home the nuns would sit us all down and  
8 make us get on with our homework, although they never  
9 really helped us if we were struggling.

10 "When we got home from school we would be given  
11 daily tasks to do, like collect the coal or do some  
12 cleaning. On a Sunday morning we got to polish the  
13 refectory floor. We put cloths on our feet and if you  
14 weren't going fast enough by running up and down the  
15 floor with these cloths on our feet then the nuns would  
16 beat us with sticks.

17 "At Nazareth House we were never taught how to cook  
18 or budget our money. Anything we learnt like that was  
19 only at school. I learnt more when I was in the army.

20 "There were toys to play with but don't actually  
21 remember playing with them. I don't remember there  
22 being any books, comics or anything to read. There  
23 wasn't a television or radio. At the weekend, once we  
24 had done all our chores, we may be allowed to go outside  
25 to play in the grounds.

1           "I didn't have any personal possessions, absolutely  
2 none. We never got any pocket money. The home may have  
3 been given pocket money for me by my father but I never  
4 saw it.

5           "We had to go to Mass all the time and we were  
6 totally indoctrinated into the Catholic religion. You  
7 had to go to church whether you wanted to or not.  
8 I became an altar boy just to get away from sitting in  
9 the main chapel.

10          "I didn't have much interaction with the priests at  
11 Nazareth House and I can't remember any of their names.  
12 The only real dealings we had with them was when we had  
13 done something wrong and the nuns sent for them and they  
14 came and beat us up.

15          "I never wet the bed, but one of the symptoms of my  
16 brother's illness was wetting the bed. Every morning  
17 the nuns would parade the bed-wetters wrapped in their  
18 wet sheets and then beat them with their sticks.  
19 I think there were maybe 10 to 15 boys some mornings.  
20 I saw the nuns doing this to other boys.

21          "Birthdays and Christmases were depressing. I don't  
22 remember anything special happening on birthdays and it  
23 was just another day. Some other boys got presents on  
24 their birthdays and their families came in to visit  
25 them, but on my birthday no one came to visit me.

1           "Christmas was depressing and the only present  
2 I remember getting from my dad was a pocket watch which  
3 he sent to share between all four of us. The only other  
4 present I remember getting at Nazareth House was an  
5 orange.

6           "I don't remember every going on any holidays when  
7 I was there or even going on any sort of day trip.

8           "During the first spell that I was at Nazareth House  
9 I had no contact with anyone in my family. I never saw  
10 any of my aunties, uncles or grandparents, nobody.  
11 I wasn't encouraged to write to my father and he never  
12 wrote to me. I remember that my older brother came back  
13 to visit us some time after he had left during our  
14 second stay there. My brothers thought that he had come  
15 to take them home. They were both really upset and  
16 distraught when he didn't and he went away. He was the  
17 only visitor I ever got.

18           "I am not aware of any health visitor, doctor,  
19 council staff or anyone else coming in to do any kind of  
20 inspection. I'm not saying there wasn't, but I don't  
21 remember that happening.

22           "I slept in the same dormitory as two of my brothers  
23 but we were not allowed to talk to each other. In fact,  
24 I wasn't allowed to speak to any of the other boys, but  
25 if we were out of sight of the nuns we did. If they

1 caught you chatting, they would come and break you up  
2 and give you a skelp with a cricket stump. The nuns  
3 enforced this no talking quite vigorously. I got quite  
4 a few beatings for talking to my brothers. We could  
5 chat in the dorms or if we were somewhere where there  
6 was no nuns.

7 "I don't remember ever going to the dentist and  
8 I don't remember ever seeing a doctor when I was in  
9 Nazareth House. I don't recall ever getting any kind of  
10 medical inspection or health check at any time. I never  
11 had any broken bones when I was beaten and only had  
12 bruising really. I never got any medical attention  
13 after any of the beatings, but probably should have.

14 "It would have been in 1957, when I was about 11,  
15 that the nuns came and told me that I was going home.  
16 I had a sense of elation and was looking forward to  
17 getting out of Nazareth House. Our youngest brother had  
18 joined us at Nazareth House by that time so all four of  
19 us went home. We stayed with my dad for about a month  
20 and it was apparent that my stepmother didn't want  
21 anything to do with us. We were getting in the way of  
22 their socialising.

23 "My dad was a foreman in a steel foundry and he was  
24 involved in a lot of scams there. He was a bit of  
25 a fly-by-night and moved in quite illustrious circles

1 and he was a heavy drinker as well. It was obvious  
2 we were not wanted so my dad took us back to  
3 Nazareth House in the car.

4 "When we arrived back at Nazareth House my dad just  
5 dumped us and left. There were no big goodbyes or  
6 anything. When we got back, Sister [REDACTED] LDR greeted us  
7 and told us that obviously nobody wanted us. I don't  
8 remember if I was in the same bed as before but I was  
9 in the same dorm and it was with the same group of boys.

10 "I remember my eldest brother was the first to leave  
11 Nazareth House. It was quite traumatic knowing I was  
12 going to be left there to look after my two brothers.  
13 I was the next to leave about a year later and I went  
14 back to my father's in East Kilbride. I was 16 years of  
15 age and this was 1962.

16 "We were never made to feel welcome at  
17 Nazareth House and part of that, I am sure, was because  
18 we were from Glasgow. The nuns always wore their habits  
19 and used to walk around holding a cricket stump up their  
20 sleeves.

21 "I was given a number when we arrived at  
22 Nazareth House and we were always referred to by our  
23 numbers. We were not allowed to use each other's names  
24 and it was only when we were at school that we used  
25 names because there were no nuns there.



1            "I got several beatings for trying to talk to my  
2 brother. My brother had [REDACTED] at the time and  
3 was very ill and in fact nearly died. Several times  
4 I went to try and see him but I was dragged outside by  
5 the nuns and they sent for the priests who came and give  
6 me a hiding. They would tell me it was nothing to do  
7 with me and I was to go away and they would look after  
8 him.

9            "The nuns intentionally split me and my brothers up.  
10 They didn't like any boys sitting talking, but they  
11 definitely split us up to stop us being a family.

12           "The nuns would generally deal with the discipline  
13 and the day-to-day running of the house and if you did  
14 something they would give you a quick skelp. If you did  
15 something more serious and would showing dissent against  
16 their regime or something like that, they would send for  
17 the priests who would come and beat you. The priests  
18 only hit me with their hands or fists.

19           "Sisters [REDACTED] LDQ and [REDACTED] LJO were usual quite  
20 pleasant when I was on my own with them and they were  
21 quite chatty, but when Sister [REDACTED] LDR was there, they had  
22 to do what they were told and they were quite different.

23           "My brother got beaten by Sister [REDACTED] LDR and  
24 I remember once she was beating him with a stick because  
25 he had wet the bed. I grabbed the stick to stop her but

1 a priest came in and slapped me with his hands. I was  
2 about 11 or 12 at the time. I think it was more of  
3 a beating than my mother or father would have  
4 administered to their own child.

5 "Every morning the nuns would parade the bed-wetters  
6 wrapped in their wet sheets in the dormitory, then beat  
7 them with their sticks. It was humiliating and  
8 embarrassing for them.

9 "The nuns were quite devious and sometimes if I had  
10 bruises they would send me to school with a note saying  
11 I was not well and couldn't do PT. This was so that the  
12 teachers couldn't see the bruises. As far as I am aware  
13 the teachers never saw my bruises or at least they never  
14 said anything.

15 "When we were in our beds at night we weren't  
16 allowed to sleep with our hands under the sheets or the  
17 nuns would batter us and accuse us of touching or  
18 interfering with ourselves and say that we were filthy.

19 "We were forced to eat food that we didn't like.  
20 I hated Brussels sprouts and was forced to eat them.  
21 Sometimes the nuns would put the food on a fork and  
22 actually force-feed you. If you were sick at the table  
23 they would make you eat your vomit. That happened to  
24 me.

25 "I would have been about 8 or 9 when a nun died and

1 she was laid out in the chapel. We were all forced to  
2 kiss her. That was horrible and it was a really  
3 daunting thing for a child to be made to do.

4 "The nuns used to come round and cut our nails, but  
5 they were brutal and they would cut your nails so short  
6 your fingers would be bleeding. The blood would be  
7 pouring out of your fingers.

8 "When we went back into Nazareth House for the  
9 second time I remember the nuns kept telling us that  
10 we were worthless and that nobody wanted us.

11 "When I left Nazareth House I went back to live with  
12 my father and stepmother and her daughter. I got myself  
13 a job at a supermarket and loved the job but hated going  
14 back home at night. I couldn't stand it because of my  
15 stepmother. Sometimes she was waiting outside the  
16 supermarket for me to finish on a Friday and she took my  
17 pay packet off me. I was there for about six months but  
18 I was in contact with my older brother and he got me  
19 a job in Edinburgh as a commis chef and I went and lived  
20 with him. I had a proper life after that.

21 "I didn't really know what happened to my other  
22 brothers, but I found out that my younger brother died  
23 in an accident. He had been visiting friends and slept  
24 in a car in a garage overnight. He had the engine on to  
25 keep warm and never woke up. My brother had to force my

1 dad to go down to Gravesend to identify him.

2 "I joined the army when I was 21 years old and  
3 served for 22 years as a soldier with the Scots Guards.  
4 I found the army life so easy because I was  
5 institutionalised and I was used to the discipline  
6 in that I was used to doing what I was told when I was  
7 told. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in the army.

8 "I met my first wife when I was in the army. She  
9 was the sister-in-law of another soldier. We were  
10 married for 24 years and had two children but  
11 subsequently divorced. I never really discussed my past  
12 life with my first wife.

13 "When I told her for the first time because two CID  
14 officers were coming to see me she didn't believe me and  
15 told me I was making it all up. That was probably the  
16 start of a slippery slope for our marriage.

17 "I married my second wife in 2003. My second wife  
18 had two children from her previous marriage. We now  
19 have seven grandchildren.

20 "I lost touch with another brother about 50 years  
21 ago, but my wife made it her mission to find him.  
22 Through an organisation called Family Finders, we all  
23 met about 18 months ago. Unfortunately, it was then  
24 that I learned he had cancer and he died about a year  
25 ago.

1           "There was no one in Nazareth House that I felt  
2 I could talk to or tell what was happening to us. The  
3 impression I got at the time was that the nuns were in  
4 charge and they did what they wanted. I was young and  
5 didn't know any different. You just take it as a fact  
6 that they knew what they were doing was right because  
7 I didn't know if it was normal or not. I couldn't have  
8 told any of the teachers at school.

9           "Around 2000, I contacted Cameron Fyfe and, through  
10 him, I got in contact with the police. Two female CID  
11 officers from Aberdeen came and took a statement from  
12 me. They were in tears when I was telling them about my  
13 experiences in Nazareth House. I never heard any more  
14 about it after that.

15           "At the time the Catholic Church were saying that we  
16 were all in collusion and making it up. The police told  
17 me that they had spoken to two or three hundred people  
18 and they were all telling them the same story.

19           "There was no one at Nazareth House who I could have  
20 told about the abuse. To be honest, I didn't even think  
21 it was wrong; I just thought it was the way it should be  
22 and was normal.

23           "After I left the home and when I joined the army,  
24 I pushed everything that happened to me as a child out  
25 of my mind and I really thought very little about it.

1           It was only when I was put in contact with Cameron Fyfe  
2           that things started coming back to me. I started  
3           getting flashbacks and when I went to a psychologist  
4           I remembered more and more.

5           "The time that the nun died and was laid out in the  
6           chapel has always stuck in my mind. Ever since then  
7           I have had a real aversion to visiting any relatives  
8           that have died and are in the chapel of rest. I have  
9           a vivid memory of parading in front of and kissing the  
10          dead nun.

11          "Because the nuns used to be so brutal when they cut  
12          your nails, I started biting my nails so that they  
13          didn't have to cut them. My nail biting continued after  
14          I left care, probably until I joined the army. I also  
15          have a thing about shoes and clothes now. Because we  
16          never had our own stuff and only got second-hand  
17          clothes, I now have loads of pairs of shoes and loads of  
18          clothes.

19          "We used to get battered if we slept with our arms  
20          under the sheets when we were in our bed and accused of  
21          touching ourselves. I still sleep with my arms out of  
22          the covers. My wife has often said to me that it was  
23          cold and to put my arms under the covers but I can't.  
24          I just can't stop it.

25          "I never had a proper childhood and I was never

1 allowed to be a proper child and I was never happy.  
2 I was wearing horrible different clothes and being the  
3 butt of jokes. I am now very anti-church because of  
4 what happened to me and I don't want anything to do with  
5 them. I think it is an institution that has festered  
6 and until they admit it, the abuse will carry on.

7 "For a while my daughter said she wanted to go to  
8 boarding school because one of her friends was going.  
9 I point-blank refused because of what happened to me and  
10 I didn't want her to experience what I did. It broke  
11 her heart that I wouldn't send her, but within a month  
12 she found out that her friend wasn't happy at boarding  
13 school, so that made me feel better and I was  
14 vindicated.

15 "I have never tried to get my records. My brother  
16 apparently has a copy of my records and he is arranging  
17 for me to get a copy of them. To be honest, I don't  
18 really want them. My brother has had a look at the  
19 records and he said they don't even have our dates of  
20 birth correctly recorded.

21 "Around 2000 I contacted Cameron Fyfe because he was  
22 dealing with no-win-no-fee abuse compensation claims.  
23 He referred me to a psychologist for examination but the  
24 psychologist didn't take any money from me. It all kind  
25 of petered out after that and I have never received any

1 compensation.

2 "I went to Glasgow to take part in a BBC programme  
3 about abuse in care. [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED]. There was a lot of other people  
5 there and some of them were in a terrible state. It was  
6 obvious that some people who had been abused had turned  
7 to drink and drugs as a result of their abuse. My  
8 brother recognised a lot of them from Nazareth House but  
9 I didn't. The programme director spoke to us later and  
10 told us that we were the only sane ones there.

11 "I have never been to any sort of counselling and  
12 feel that the army was the best help for me. I know  
13 that my brother has been for counselling. I have also  
14 been to a few of the INCAS meetings.

15 "The whole purpose for me is to get the  
16 Catholic Church in Scotland to admit that they were  
17 wrong and that the abuse did go on. Children shouldn't  
18 have to go through what we went through. The main thing  
19 for me is that it does not happen again.

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

22 I would be more than happy to give oral evidence at any  
23 future hearing should it help. I believe the facts  
24 stated in this witness statement are true."

25 The statement was signed by Michael on 15 May 2017.

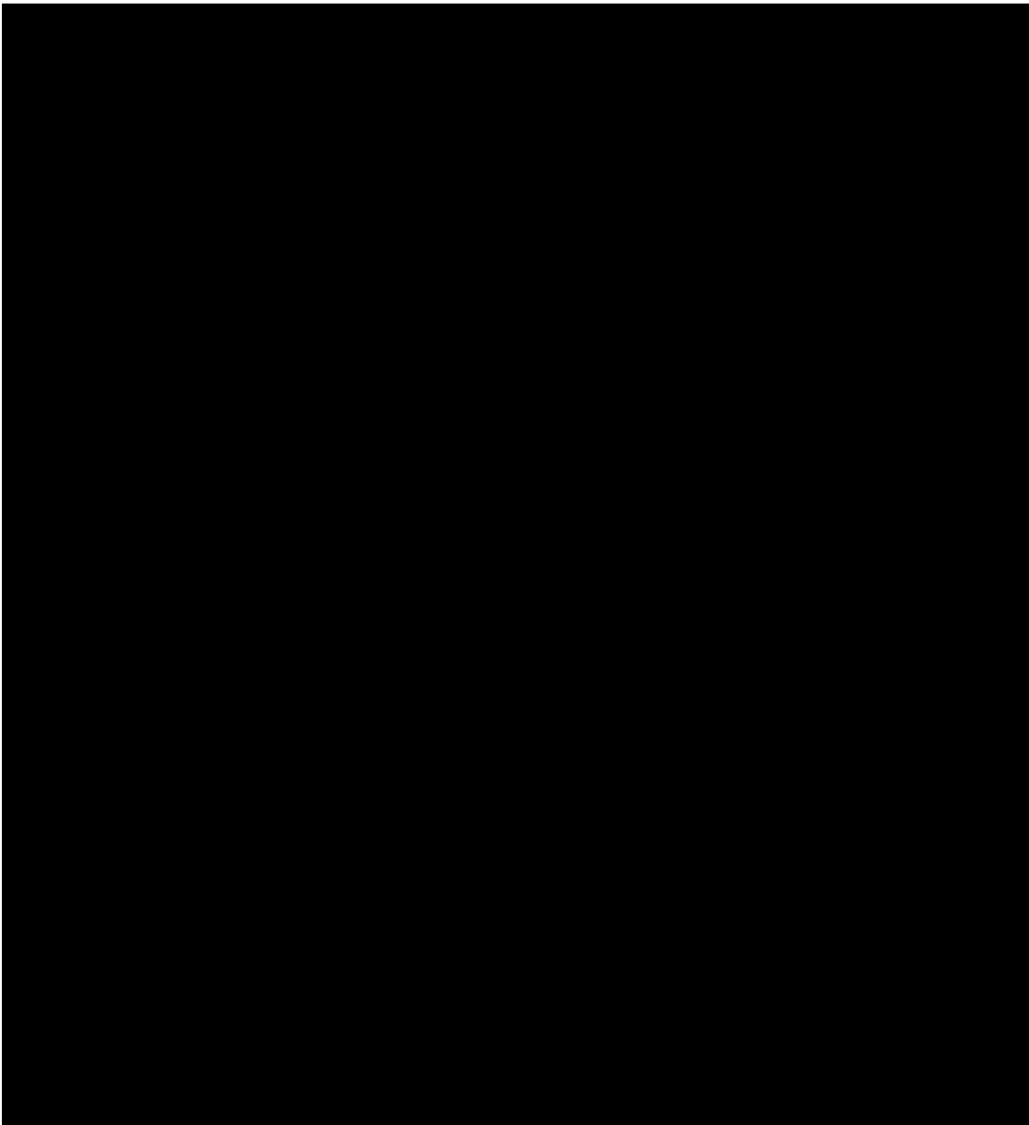


1 LADY SMITH: Thank you, Ms MacLeod.

2 MS MACLEOD: I can also confirm that, according to the  
3 admissions register, this witness was admitted, first of  
4 all, to Nazareth House Aberdeen in [REDACTED] 1954 and  
5 discharged in [REDACTED] 1956. Then readmitted in [REDACTED] 1957  
6 and finally discharged in [REDACTED] 1963.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

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Ms MacLeod.

1                   Witness statement of "TERENCE" (read)

2           MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next statement is from a witness  
3                   who also wishes to remain anonymous and to use the  
4                   pseudonym "Terence".

5                   This witness is not able to attend due to his  
6                   health. He had also hoped to be here to hear the  
7                   statement being read in, but that wasn't possible either  
8                   because of his health situation.

9           LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10          MS MACLEOD: My Lady, this witness does in his statement  
11                   name a sister whose identity is protected by  
12                   a protection order.

13          LADY SMITH: Let me deal with that before Ms MacLeod reads  
14                   the statement. The sister she's talking about is  
15                   a sister who was known as Sister [REDACTED] LTX at  
16                   Nazareth House. That name is subject to a restriction  
17                   order and her identity, as referred to in this  
18                   statement, cannot and must not be disclosed or published  
19                   outside this hearing room.

20                   I have spoken to you all already about restriction  
21                   orders and my restriction order must not be breached, so  
22                   the fact that it is Sister [REDACTED] LTX who is referred to  
23                   by this witness cannot be repeated.

24                   Miss MacLeod, when you're ready.

25          MS MACLEOD: This statement is to be found at

1 WIT.001.001.4133:

2 "My name is Terence. My date of birth is in 1951.  
3 My contact details are known to the inquiry.

4 I lived with my parents in a tenement flat in  
5 Greenock."

6 In paragraphs 2 to 5 of the statement, my Lady, the  
7 witness describes his family situation, including some  
8 unhappy background leading to his grandmother looking  
9 after himself and his siblings before they were put into  
10 care. I now propose to move to paragraph 6 of the  
11 statement, which is on WIT.001.001.4134:

12 "Ron Clayton was our children's officer. He  
13 initially took me to Ravenscraig Children's Home in  
14 Greenock. It was good there. I was only there for six  
15 months.

16 "My brother had been taken to Nazareth House in  
17 Aberdeen. I was then taken to Nazareth House in  
18 Aberdeen after Ravenscraig. Before I went to  
19 Nazareth House, Ron took me to a large department store  
20 in Greenock, Prentice's. He bought me a wardrobe full  
21 of clothes. He bought me two of everything including  
22 shoes and toiletries. This was for my move to  
23 Nazareth House. I never received them or saw them  
24 again. At Nazareth House all I got were cast-offs."

25 The witness then goes on to discuss the arrangements

1 that were made for his sister to stay with a member of  
2 their family:

3 "I was five years old when I was taken to  
4 Nazareth House in Aberdeen. Ron Clayton, my children's  
5 officer, took me. He was a nice fella. He was from  
6 London."

7 The admissions register, my Lady, shows this witness  
8 being admitted to Nazareth House Aberdeen in [REDACTED] 1957.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS MACLEOD: "I don't know why I was taken to  
11 Nazareth House. My dad was a Protestant and my mother  
12 was a Catholic. My mother brought me up as a Catholic,  
13 however my dad wished me to be Protestant and in my mind  
14 and my beliefs I was a Protestant, as my dad wanted me  
15 to be. I was a Protestant so I didn't understand why  
16 I was taken to a Catholic institution. I was treated  
17 differently because I was a Protestant.

18 "I remember arriving at Nazareth House. Ron Clayton  
19 and I were met at the main door of the place by  
20 Sister [REDACTED] LDR She was nice to me when Ron was there.  
21 Ron left and Sister [REDACTED] LDR took me to a dormitory.  
22 There were about 18 to 20 beds in the room. I was given  
23 a bed. It had one sheet and one blanket. It was a thin  
24 mattress on the bed. I was given a stripy pillow. All  
25 the beds were occupied. There was a curtained off bit

1 to the dormitory where the nuns slept. There was a big  
2 picture of Jesus on the wall. You were made to sleep on  
3 your back with your hands by your sides at all times.  
4 You weren't allowed to move.

5 "The nuns provided me with clothes. I was given  
6 short trousers and a random grey jumper. I was also  
7 given a pair of girl's shoes to wear. They were too  
8 small for my feet. My little toes are still curled  
9 under because I wore shoes that were too tight the whole  
10 time I was there. A lot of the boys wore girls shoes.  
11 We were just given them.

12 "Sister **LDR** told me that I had a job to do.  
13 I had to polish the floors. I had to use a tool called  
14 a 'thumper'.

15 "We were woken at 6 am every morning. We had to  
16 sleep on our backs in our beds. The nuns would do  
17 checks at night so you couldn't turn in your bed. The  
18 nun that was sleeping in the curtained-off area would  
19 wake us up in the morning. We then got washed and  
20 brushed out teeth. Then we were made to go to chapel to  
21 do the stations of the cross in the chapel. This lasted  
22 for about an hour. We also had to go to chapel after  
23 breakfast. Then I had to get my thumper out and do my  
24 job.

25 "If anyone had wet the bed they were made to stand

1 in the corner with their wet sheets. When we took our  
2 sheets to get washed, the nuns would hit us with what  
3 looked like industrial dry rods. We were hit on the  
4 legs with these rods. We were called 'filthy urchins'.  
5 We were degraded. If I wet the bed at 6 pm the night  
6 before, I was made to lie in my own urine until the next  
7 morning. I was told to lie in my own piss. That's the  
8 word they would use. The nuns would check the beds  
9 in the middle of the night.

10 "We would have to go to Mass again after dinner.  
11 When we returned from Mass, we had to shower and then  
12 got our pyjamas on. We were in bed every night by 6 pm,  
13 even in the summer.

14 "We were segregated from the older boys. The only  
15 time we were together was in the shower area. The older  
16 boys would bully the younger ones in the showers.  
17 I don't remember seeing a nun watching over us in the  
18 showers. The older boys would flick the younger boys  
19 with their towels and they would push us out of the way.

20 "There was no privacy anywhere in Nazareth House.  
21 The showers were not curtained off. It was four blocks  
22 of shower bases. There was a nun who stood at the door  
23 at all times, Sister **LHJ** and Sister **LHK**

24 "I was taken to the showers for wetting the bed  
25 early on at Nazareth House to be placed in a freezing

1 cold bath. Five people tried to force me in using  
2 physical violence but I refused and they didn't get me  
3 in. They didn't try that again. I could hear lads  
4 screaming and crying.

5 "It was just boys in the dorm. The boys in my dorm  
6 were aged between 5 and 11.

7 "The food was not great. We used to get very little  
8 to eat. At breakfast we were given burnt bacon and  
9 lumpy porridge. The food was inedible but I was always  
10 starving so I ate it. I used to steal food. I saw men  
11 delivering food to a part of Nazareth House where the  
12 elderly residents lived. I saw them delivering pies and  
13 cakes. I would crawl along the concrete pipe, chase  
14 into the pantry and steal some food.

15 "The pipe was 15-foot high and 4-foot wide. I would  
16 crawl back along the pipe and eat it. I didn't share my  
17 food with anyone as I was always starving. I think  
18 I was the only one that did that.

19 "There was a song we used to sing about the food in  
20 Nazareth House. We would sing: 'There is a dirty place  
21 far, far away where you get pig's delight three times  
22 a day; ham and eggs you never smell; burnt bacon made in  
23 hell; if you want to call on me, come to Nazzy House'.  
24 I remember the song well.

25 "The food was not sustainable. We used to get ill

1 quite a lot as we were undernourished. We would get  
2 eye, ear and nose infections. There were no vitamins  
3 in the food to keep us healthy. I used to see food  
4 going elsewhere. The nuns would also look after elderly  
5 people and they seemed to get the better food.

6 "The dining room was a big room with big long  
7 tables. We sat on benches with the other boys from my  
8 dorm. We were not allowed to talk to the other boys.  
9 If you did talk you were hit with a stick. You were  
10 then made to stand up and you didn't get any breakfast.

11 "I always ate my food. I did see other boys not  
12 eating. They would be force-fed or hit with a stick.  
13 I was never force-fed, I just ate it.

14 "I spent very little time at school. I was supposed  
15 to go to school but I got ringworm and I wasn't allowed  
16 to go near anybody. The nuns put iodine on my arms to  
17 treat the ringworms. I never received any medical  
18 treatment from a doctor or nurse.

19 "Then I had an abscess on my heel. The nuns poured  
20 boiling water with [a] kaolin poultice on it straight  
21 out the kettle, and burned a hole in my foot. The  
22 abscess was caused by my shoes being too small. I had  
23 difficulty walking so I could not get to school.  
24 I still had to clean the floors. They didn't send for  
25 a doctor.



1            "I mainly cleaned and polished the floors the whole  
2 time I was there. I was expected to start at the main  
3 door and go up and down the corridors until lunchtime  
4 using the thumper. I was only five when I first started  
5 this job; I wasn't very strong. The thumper was a big  
6 heavy device but I just had to manage it. It was  
7 awkward to move.

8            "It was on a pivot and as you pushed it it would  
9 fall back on you. I'm not sure what the other boys  
10 would have to do. It was only me polishing the floors.  
11 I did it all day, every day.

12           "When I was about 7 years old I decided that I had  
13 had enough of the way the nuns treated me and the  
14 constant floor cleaning. I would run away and hide in  
15 the big dustbins in the grounds.

16           "I didn't get an education at Nazareth House. Later  
17 on in life at another home I got a private tutor and  
18 I was educated. Due to my physical appearance caused by  
19 being hit by the sticks, my general state of health and  
20 the ringworms and bruises, I was deprived from going to  
21 swimming baths.

22           "I remember the local newspaper ran a competition.  
23 They had buried £10 notes on the beach in Aberdeen.  
24 We were taken down by the nuns and we looked for the  
25 money. No one found any £10 notes.

1 "I was also sent back every so often to  
2 Ravenscraig Home in Greenock to stay for about four to  
3 six weeks. This was during school holidays as I had  
4 nowhere to go.

5 "I was sent to Ravenscraig. The staff at  
6 Ravenscraig were really good. It felt like a family  
7 home. We were allowed to wander about freely. When  
8 I was there I would see my sister regularly. My brother  
9 went sent to my aunt's instead.

10 "The religious side of Christmas was celebrated at  
11 Nazareth House. We would go to Mass and celebrate  
12 there. We did not receive any present or cards.  
13 Birthdays were not celebrated at all.

14 "I didn't receive any social work visits the whole  
15 time that I was there. I do not remember anyone coming  
16 in to inspect the place.

17 "Our everyday routine was organised round our  
18 attendance at chapel. We had to attend chapel before  
19 breakfast and after breakfast. We also had to attend  
20 Mass after lunch and dinner. It was constant  
21 brainwashing. The nuns would take Mass every day.  
22 I think a priest would come in once a week and take Mass  
23 on a Sunday.

24 "When I was at Nazareth House three nuns died.  
25 A bishop came in and took the Mass for their funeral.

1 I remember we all had to stand in line and kiss the dead  
2 nun's hands as they were lying in their coffins.

3 "Nazareth House was like a religious factory. It  
4 was constant religious instruction. There was no time  
5 for playing. They were brainwashing us.

6 "The thing that hurts me now is that my brother is  
7 dead. He took up the Catholic religion. In later life  
8 we became estranged because of religion. He was married  
9 in a Catholic church. I refused to go into the chapel  
10 because I felt so strongly against the Catholic  
11 religion. I sat on the wall outside. At Nazareth House  
12 he accepted the faith and studied the catechism, the  
13 rules and the laws of the Catholic Church. He could  
14 speak Latin.

15 "We did not receive any medical care, the nuns would  
16 treat us. We also never got any check-ups. I never  
17 went to see a dentist when I was there. I used to get  
18 earache. My ears were bad for ear wax. The nuns would  
19 just wash out my ears.

20 "All vaccinations were given by a nun. These nuns  
21 I think came from outside the home. They wore a grey  
22 uniform. I think they may have been medically trained.  
23 We did not receive any check-ups or medical care from  
24 medical practitioners. If we had received a check-up,  
25 they would have seen the injuries on us all.

1 "I never really got to see my brother. We were kept  
2 apart. He had arrived at Nazareth House before me and  
3 he had been an altar boy. He appeared to enjoy all the  
4 religious education. He was better accepted by the  
5 nuns.

6 "Sister LDQ and Sister LDR were the nuns  
7 that mostly looked after me. They were animals. They  
8 hit all the boys with the dry rod industrial sticks.

9 "When I was about 7, I started to rebel. I decided  
10 I had had enough of doing what I was told and the nuns  
11 started to lock me in the boiler room. Mr LDS was  
12 [REDACTED] for the home. He would come and find me  
13 and tell me that the nuns had told him that I was to be  
14 locked in the boiler room. This happened regularly over  
15 a two-year period when the others were at Mass.

16 "It was a dark room with no light. Every so often  
17 a flame would appear from the boiler. I would be  
18 scared. Mr LDS would then come back for me. He  
19 used to say that he had been told to give me a spanking.  
20 He would take my pants down and spank me over his knee.  
21 He would sometimes fondle me. I just remember him  
22 touching me and that he had a dirty old blanket.  
23 Sometimes when I would see Mr LDS he would give me  
24 a two bob bit. I used to ask him what it was for. He  
25 told me he gave it to me because I'd been a good boy.

1 This happened quite a few times. I would buy sweets  
2 with the money.

3 "The nuns would make us stand in a line and they  
4 would hand out pocket money. I was always put to the  
5 back of the line. This was the only time I would see my  
6 brother. I would only see him, we were not allowed to  
7 talk to each other. By the time I got to the front of  
8 the queue, I was always told that I wasn't to get any  
9 pocket money. The whole time I was there I was put to  
10 the back of the line. I was told 'none for you'.

11 "The boys all had to buy their own shampoo and soap  
12 with their pocket money. I never got any pocket money  
13 so I had to steal shampoo and soap. I would also use  
14 the money Mr [REDACTED] LDS gave me to buy shampoo and soap.

15 "I remember seeing a lot of marks on the other boys'  
16 legs. I had marks on my legs from where the nuns hit me  
17 with the wooden rod sticks. They would take you below  
18 the knee. I still have scarring on my legs from where  
19 the wounds would be from the assaults with the sticks.

20 "I remember Sister [REDACTED] LTX She was a bully and  
21 a cruel woman. Thinking back now, I think she must have  
22 had a lot of personal problems. She was not the full  
23 shilling. She appeared to take pleasure in hitting the  
24 boys. I think she was quite young, maybe in her 20s.  
25 Sister [REDACTED] LTX was an evil person. She would call you

1 a dirty brat and make you lie in your own urine when you  
2 wet the bed. Sister LTX [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED]  
4 [REDACTED].  
5 "I was singled out for abuse because I was  
6 a Protestant and I would not accept the Catholic faith.  
7 I did not fit in. My brother did all the religious  
8 practice and he was still hit. He was not hit to the  
9 extent that I was. I was informed by my sister that  
10 he had been hit as she had seen the extent of his  
11 injuries.

12 "The abuse we received was degrading. There was not  
13 one isolated incident. Being hit by the nuns was  
14 constant, it was constant cruelty. The nuns spoke to us  
15 like we were animals. We were not human beings to them.  
16 They took pleasure in hurting us. They enjoyed hitting  
17 us with the sticks and walloping us with their ropes.  
18 The nuns didn't need a reason to hit us, they just hit  
19 us. It was constant. They also liked to grab us by our  
20 ears and pull them hard. They did this if they heard  
21 you laughing. I laughed a lot to annoy them.

22 "I feel like the nuns' sole outlook on life was to  
23 cause misery. They were all evil, they were not women.  
24 There was no one to check up on them. I couldn't  
25 understand why there were no regulators. They got away

1 with what they liked. In my opinion, the  
2 Catholic Church has not changed. They will deny that.  
3 I watched a programme about the Spanish Inquisition.  
4 I feel like the methods used then were not very  
5 different to the treatment we received from the nuns.

6 "There were a couple of nuns that were nice. They  
7 wore a light blue uniform. I think they were trainee  
8 nuns. They were young and they were nicer to us than  
9 the older nuns.

10 "I told my sister about the abuse at Nazareth House.  
11 I told her when I would see her when I was staying at  
12 Ravenscraig Children's Home. She would see the marks on  
13 my legs and my back. I also told Rosalind Nicol. She  
14 worked at Ravenscraig Children's Home. I don't think  
15 anyone believed me. I think the local people knew  
16 what was going on in Nazareth House. There was no one  
17 to police the nuns. No one went in and checked on the  
18 place. None of my children's officers checked what was  
19 going on. I thought the abuse was my fault because  
20 I had rebelled against their religion. My brother took  
21 to the religion and he was also abused.

22 "Nazareth House had had enough of me. I was  
23 supposed to be sent to Fort Augustus Abbey School in the  
24 Highlands. Ron Clayton, my children's officer, told me  
25 that he was going to try his damndest to not have me

1 sent to another religious place. I think he knew  
2 what was going on there. He said that he had heard  
3 stories from other boys about Fort Augustus Abbey  
4 School.

5 "Two days before I left Nazareth House I went into  
6 the boiler room and I bent back the steam pipe. I had  
7 hoped that it would blow the place up. I was about  
8 10 years of age when I did this. Unfortunately it  
9 didn't work."

10 The register from Nazareth House Aberdeen has this  
11 witness noted as leaving the home in [REDACTED] 1960.

12 LADY SMITH: 1960, was that?

13 MS MACLEOD: Yes.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MS MACLEOD: In paragraphs 49 to 51 of the statement, the  
16 witness then speaks about being sent again to  
17 Ravenscraig Children's Home for a short time, then going  
18 to Kirkmichael House in Ayrshire and then going to stay  
19 at Turners Court.

20 I will now move on to paragraph 53, which is on page  
21 WIT.001.001.4143. In the next few paragraphs the  
22 witness talks about life after being in care. My  
23 apologies, I'll pick it up at paragraph 54:

24 "I have had some good jobs in my life. I have  
25 worked on the puffers, trawlers and fishing boats out



1 in the North Sea. I have already worked at the  
2 Queen Mother's Lodge in Great Windsor Park. I also  
3 worked at the Duke of Cumberland's Lodge. It was  
4 a great place to work."

5 In the next few paragraphs the witness describes  
6 meeting his first wife, having his daughter, the fact he  
7 drank a lot during that period, and then goes on to  
8 explain that he hasn't seen his daughter in a long time  
9 and that's something he still finds very hard. He  
10 continues the description of his family circumstances up  
11 to the end of paragraph 58, so I'll pick the statement  
12 up again at paragraph 59, which is on WIT.001.001.4144,  
13 where the witness is speaking about the impact of his  
14 experiences in care and his brother's experiences in  
15 care:

16 "My brother ended up an alcoholic and homeless.  
17 He is dead now. I believe his time in care had a huge  
18 impact on his life. He wasn't as strong as me and he  
19 couldn't handle it. His time in care affected him more.

20 "I turned to drink and drugs but I eventually just  
21 stopped taking them.

22 "After I gave up my daughters, I hit the drink. One  
23 night I got a knife and I slit my wrists. I wouldn't  
24 get in the ambulance. They had to wait until I had  
25 passed out before they could get me in the ambulance.

1 The wounds were stitched up."

2 In the next two paragraphs, my Lady, the witness  
3 speaks about meeting his second wife and how they've now  
4 separated, but that she still looks after him. I will  
5 now move to paragraph 63 on the same page:

6 "I feel like I can't get close to anyone now.  
7 I have no feelings. When someone dies, I feel no grief.  
8 This all stems back to my time in Nazareth House. My  
9 time there devastated me. I still think back to my time  
10 in Nazareth House. I wake up in cold sweats. I wake up  
11 angry and agitated.

12 "I don't have my records. I was told that there was  
13 a fire and all my records were destroyed in the fire.

14 "I would hope and wish that what happened to me and  
15 my brother does not happen to anyone else, that someone  
16 else's life is not bugged up. The abuse and its  
17 effects on me cost me my brother, my wives and my  
18 daughters.

19 "I was shown no love and no affection by the nuns.  
20 These nuns should not have been dealing with children.  
21 They treated us like they were dealing with vermin.

22 "I would like there to be something put in place  
23 that checks up on these places. I would hope it doesn't  
24 happen any more. What makes it worse in my mind is that  
25 it was women who were abusing us.

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

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

5           The statement was signed by Terence on  
6 16 August 2017.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

8           One thing popped into my mind. You read a part of  
9 that statement where there was a reference to a local  
10 newspaper hiding £10 notes in the beach. I'm wondering  
11 if that's a mistranscription for 10 bob notes. The  
12 timescale it would seem to fit would be early 1960s at  
13 the latest and I very much doubt that any -- with all  
14 due respect to any members of the press present, I very  
15 much doubt that any newspaper would have been giving  
16 away a plethora of £10 notes and hiding them in the sand  
17 on the beach. Ten bob notes might fit -- and they were  
18 the same colour.

19 MS MACLEOD: Noted, my Lady. That would have been very  
20 generous.

21 LADY SMITH: Yes. If it matters, we can check that up.

22 I suspect it's not material.

23 MS MACLEOD: That completes the two readings. There is  
24 a witness coming in for the afternoon who will be ready  
25 to give evidence at 2 o'clock.

1 LADY SMITH: Very well. I'm going to rise now and sit again  
2 at 2 o'clock.

3 (12.37 pm)

4 (The lunch adjournment)

5 (2.00 pm)

6 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. Mr MacAulay, where next?

7 MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, my Lady. The next witness is  
8 an applicant, but he does not want to be anonymous, and  
9 that is Joseph Andrew Currie. Can I say, my Lady, that  
10 he may require the odd break or two when giving his  
11 evidence.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

13 MR MacAULAY: He will let us know.

14 MR JOSEPH CURRIE (affirmed)

15 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.  
16 You'll get used to where to be to maximise the benefit  
17 of the microphone. That should help you to be able to  
18 just speak normally, but still be heard even by the  
19 people in the back of the room.

20 One other thing, before I hand over to Mr MacAulay:  
21 we can have a break at any time if you need that, but  
22 I'll need you to let me know --

23 A. I will do.

24 LADY SMITH: -- if you want a break; will you do that?

25 A. I will, cheers. It's just I've got some medication with

1 me, but I shouldn't have to take it.

2 LADY SMITH: It's no problem. If we have to stop to let you  
3 do that, we can do so.

4 Questions from MR MacAULAY

5 MR MacAULAY: Joseph, can I just take from you that your  
6 date of birth is [REDACTED] 1953?

7 A. Yes, that's correct. [REDACTED] I'll be 65.

8 Q. The first thing I want to do is to ask you to look at  
9 your statement, which is in front of you in that red  
10 folder. I'm going to give the reference of the first  
11 page for the transcript.

12 A. Let me get my glasses on first.

13 Q. It's WIT.001.001.3866.

14 Joseph, could I ask you to turn to the last page.

15 A. Right.

16 Q. Can I ask you to confirm that you have signed that  
17 statement?

18 A. Well, it would appear that I've done so, yes, on  
19 27 October 2017.

20 Q. That's your signature?

21 A. If not, it must be a good forgery.

22 Q. Can I also ask you to look at that last paragraph,  
23 paragraph 113, and do you tell us that:

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

1                   Is that the case?

2           A.   Yes, that's correct, yes.   That's correct.

3           Q.   Do you also say:

4                   "I believe the facts stated in this witness

5                   statement are true"?

6           A.   Sorry, could you repeat that?

7           Q.   You can see what's written there:

8                   "I believe the facts stated in this witness

9                   statement are true."

10          A.   Aye, that's 113.   That's correct, yes.

11          Q.   You can put the statement aside for the moment because

12               I'm going to ask you some general questions.

13                   We know that you were placed in Nazareth House

14                   Aberdeen when you were very young; is that right?

15          A.   That's correct, about 1955.

16          Q.   We'll look at the dates in a moment.   Do you have any

17               recollection at all of what life was like before you

18               went to Aberdeen?

19          A.   No, not really, no.   Not really.

20          Q.   I think you yourself have investigated your background

21               and looked at some of your records; is that right?

22          A.   That's correct.   I was lucky, I managed to get my

23               records through Cameron Fyfe via the Mitchell Library.

24               Because I was under the care of Glasgow Corporation,

25               which was based then, the children's department, in

1 73 John Street, but there was a fire later on in  
2 John Street and all what was salvaged by the  
3 Salvage Corps -- and I'm giving my age away here -- was  
4 taken to the Mitchell Library.

5 I managed to get most of my records. They did two  
6 searches, they found the first lot, which went from  
7 about 1953 to 1963 and then later on they did another  
8 search and they found more records.

9 Q. I think putting the matter shortly you were able to look  
10 at your records and you could see that there was an  
11 unhappy family background.

12 A. Yes, I'm not ashamed. Sadly, my mother was a chronic  
13 alcoholic. I never knew my father. [REDACTED]  
14 [REDACTED] She told me he ran  
15 a -- he was Polish, [REDACTED] [inaudible], and he ran  
16 a launderette in Eveline Street. She had only met him  
17 once that and that was all.

18 Q. You were placed in Aberdeen, which was a long way from  
19 Glasgow.

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. Did you find out why it was Aberdeen was selected as  
22 opposed to somewhere closer to hand?

23 A. Well, I understand -- and it was also the same with  
24 Edinburgh because there was a Nazareth House in Lasswade  
25 in Edinburgh and it was mostly Glasgow and Edinburgh

1 people that were in there. Because when the children's  
2 officers came up you had all the Edinburgh boys on one  
3 side and girls and Glasgow -- anyway, they are sent up  
4 there because they didn't want their parents turning up  
5 at Cardonald, as the Nazareth House was, and demanding  
6 a bit drunk, Saturday night, wanting to see their sons  
7 and daughters and that kind of thing.

8 Q. So you were placed in Aberdeen so you were far away from  
9 Glasgow?

10 A. I was still under the care of Glasgow Corporation,  
11 though. They still came up -- they paid the nuns their  
12 keep and all that kind of thing.

13 Q. So far as your first admission to Nazareth House was  
14 concerned, you said 1955. I think we know from the  
15 records that we've seen that you were admitted on  
16 12 September 1955, when you were at the age of 2.

17 A. That's correct, that would be right, yes.

18 Q. Would I be correct in thinking that you really wouldn't  
19 have any real recollection of that?

20 A. No, not really. I have some recollections of the  
21 nursery area, but that's about it.


22 Q. You left Nazareth House, according to the records, on  
23 2 January 1959, and you went into foster care; is that  
24 right?

25 A. That's right. That was a Mrs Middleton in Crown Street,



1           Aberdeen, yes.

2           Q.   And looking to that date, you'd be about 5 years of age  
3           when you went into foster care?

4           A.   That's right. 

5

6

7           Q.

8

9

10          A.

11          Q.

12          A.

13          Q.

14

15          A.

16

17

18          Q.

19

20

21          A.

22

23          Q.   You go into foster care.  Do you have a recollection of  
24          life in foster care?

25          A.   Yes, it was okay.  The woman, Mrs Middleton, she was an

1 older lady. [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED]

3 Q. In any event, having spent two or three years in  
4 Nazareth House, you go into foster care.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You spend a number of years in foster care and then you  
7 go back to Nazareth House?

8 A. That's right. About two years [REDACTED].

9 Q. And do you know why the foster care arrangement came to  
10 an end?

11 A. Well, because the woman wanted to go to New Zealand.  
12 She lost her husband. Bill was bedridden, I remember  
13 that much, and he passed away and Uncle Frank -- I only  
14 knew him as Uncle Frank -- came over from New Zealand  
15 and he talked her into going to New Zealand. I didn't  
16 know this at the time. [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED]

19 Q. What you do tell us in your statement is that this  
20 foster care arrangement was a pleasant one for you.

21 A. It was pleasant enough, yes. It was a lot better than  
22 the children's home, let's put it that way.

23 Q. So far as dates are concerned then, if we look at the  
24 Sisters of Nazareth records, according to their records  
25 you're back in Nazareth House Aberdeen on 1 June 1961

1           when you were almost 8 years of age.  Would that accord  
2           with your own recollection?

3           A.  That would probably be right.  That's what it says in my  
4           report anyway, and I got -- I should have pointed out,  
5           I think you know that, on the records it's got the  
6           children's officers' report and although they've deleted  
7           a lot of it for legal reasons and it has been printed  
8           out -- they didn't give us the actual book, it's been  
9           taken out of the book, but the good thing about  
10          Glasgow Corporation was they date stamped everything.  
11          They had a hand stamp.  So some of the letters that  
12          I got, the letters I wrote to my children's officer are  
13          all date stamped as well, even if I hadn't put a date on  
14          it myself.

15          Q.  Can I take from you now, because there's a slight  
16          confusion in the records -- according to the Sisters of  
17          Nazareth records, you left them in July 1968, but  
18          according to the Glasgow Corporation records you left on  
19          22 December 1967.

20          A.  22 December 1967.  What was the 1968 date?

21          Q.  That was July 1968.

22          A.  They're probably thinking that's [REDACTED],  
23          you see.  That's when I was due to leave Nazareth House.  
24          But I told my children's officer -- that's one of the  
25          letters I brought today -- I wrote it on 18 December.

1 He wanted me to finish my schooling in Aberdeen, but  
2 I said, no, I want to go back down to Glasgow, you know.

3 So that's what the nuns -- that's where the  
4 confusion will be. The nuns, because I was 15 on  
5 [REDACTED] they would have me done there staying until  
6 then, but of course I left before that.

7 Q. So you are, what, 14 then when you left?

8 A. 14 and a half, yes. About 14 and a half.

9 Q. I take it then, looking to the time frame we've been  
10 looking at, Joseph, that on the second stint you were  
11 there from the age of 8 to the age of 14, about six  
12 years?

13 A. That's right, the second stint, yes.

14 Q. What can you tell me about the layout at Nazareth House?  
15 We know there were boys and girls there; is that right?

16 A. Yes. The boys' section, you had a boys' section and you  
17 had the girls' section. There was also an annex for the  
18 girls called St John's and that was a house that had a  
19 back entrance to it onto Alpine Grove.

20 Q. So far as the annex was concerned, was that for  
21 a particular age group of girls, can you tell me?

22 A. I don't really know because I'm not a girl. I wasn't in  
23 there.

24 Q. You don't know?

25 A. [REDACTED]

1

2 Q.

3 A.

4

5 Q.

6

7 A.

8

9 Q. So far as you're concerned then, you're in what's called  
10 the boys' section.

11 A. Mm.

12 Q. We also understand that there was a section in  
13 Nazareth House -- that was effectively an old folk's  
14 home; is that right?

15 A. Yes, there was the older men and older women, too.

16 I don't remember many older women, but there was older  
17 men.

18 The Nazareth House in Aberdeen -- a wee history  
19 lesson for you -- was actually the biggest in the UK.  
20 Or was; it's demolished now of course, but it was the  
21 biggest home in the UK and they had a good mixture in  
22 there. The me -- the older men and women were all kind  
23 of kept separate.

24 Q. Looking at the layout, if you look at the boys' section,  
25 am I right in thinking that the older men were at the

1 bottom?

2 A. That's right. The older women were kind of on the  
3 second, third floor. Of course you had the nuns'  
4 accommodation too.

5 Q. What about your accommodation? Where was that?

6 A. We were right at the top. We were right at the top.

7 Q. Can you help me with the sleeping arrangements? What  
8 were the sleeping arrangements when you went back at the  
9 age of 8?

10 A. It used to be big dormitories then. There was maybe 20  
11 to two dozen people in a dormitory. But that was only  
12 for a few years and then it all changed later on.

13 Q. So far as the dormitories were concerned, as far as you  
14 can remember, how were they arranged? By that I mean  
15 were they arranged in relation to age group or was there  
16 some other way of setting --

17 A. No, no. There was no age group ...

18 Q. Could you have different ages in the one --

19 A. Yes, different ages. There was no thingummy there.

20 Q. One thing you tell us in your statement, Joseph, is that  
21 you were given a number when you were there.

22 A. Oh yes, I was number 4.

23 Q. If you were to be addressed by one of the nuns, would  
24 she call you Joseph or would she use the number?  
25 What was the position if you were being spoken to by one

1 of the nuns?

2 A. It depends what she wanted off me. If she was looking  
3 for something she would call me Joseph but if it was --  
4 officially she would call me number 4. We were all used  
5 to it. It was very regimented. Nazareth House was set  
6 up by the Jesuit order. Everything was all regimented.

7 Because I remember when I first arrived, we used to  
8 stand by the side of the bed and the bed had to be made  
9 properly. We all had to stand there and it was to  
10 attention and all that sort of thing, although it  
11 changed later on in life, you know.

12 Sometimes, I must admit, we used to bugger the bed  
13 up deliberately because the breakfast was rotten anyway  
14 so it didn't make any difference.

15 Q. Can I ask you this: we've already talked about the boys'  
16 and the girls' sections; did you have contact with the  
17 girls within Nazareth House itself?

18 A. No, you weren't allowed any contact. It was only when  
19 we were at church we used to see one another. But  
20 of course there was the school -- you see, I missed  
21 this, but when I first --

22

23

24 Q. But that had changed by your time?

25 A. That had changed by the -- well, it was

1           Aberdeen Corporation that changed it.  Actually, I think  
2           it was the government that actually changed it.  So they  
3           had to start schooling outside.  A bus used to take us  
4           to school, St Peter's Roman Catholic school.  We had the  
5           uniforms as well.  We were the only ones that actually  
6           wore the uniforms.

7           Q.  So on the bus then you would see the girls?

8           A.  Aye, they were up the stairs though.

9           Q. 

10

11

12          A. 

13

14

15

16

17

18          Q.  One thing you do tell us in your statement, in  
19          paragraph 27, if I move the screen down a bit, and  
20          that is that things did start to change in  
21          Nazareth House during your time there; is that right?

22          A.  That was 1965, the Second Vatican Council.  That was  
23          when they changed the Mass from Latin to English.  And  
24          they also started bringing in younger nuns because a lot  
25          of the younger nuns who were coming in, the



1 Catholic Church realised they weren't prepared to put up  
2 with the discipline. It was the era of the Beatles,  
3 Hollies and the Rolling Stones, all that kind of thing,  
4 teenagers were changing, and the Catholic Church knew  
5 they had to adapt and they couldn't stop it.

6 To cut a long story short, it did change it and  
7 things started to improve slightly. Slightly, you know.

8 Q. We'll look at what happened in a moment. Just looking  
9 at these changes you mention, you do talk about in  
10 paragraph 27, for example --

11 A. Say that again, sorry?

12 Q. Paragraph 27. If you look at your screen, this is from  
13 your statement.

14 A. Oh yeah.

15 Q. You mention that you witnessed what you call a catfight.

16 A. Yes, that was outside the church. That was me and

17 [REDACTED] if I remember correctly. It was the  
18 first time I'd seen a nun with her gown, you know, her  
19 hood off.

20 Q. What happened on that occasion?

21 A. It was two women, the older nun and the younger nun  
22 having a fight. I was shocked because I'd never seen  
23 a nun with a big bun in her hair. I often wondered how  
24 they thingummied that. That wasn't the only time.  
25 I was an altar boy. Even going up for communion, the

1           older nun would go like that (indicating) to the younger  
2           nun. They didn't even kneel beside them, you know, when  
3           I was going round with the plate, you know, for the  
4           bread -- if you're a Catholic, you'll know what I'm  
5           talking about -- but they would -- the older nuns would  
6           pass, you go and -- they wouldn't even kneel beside the  
7           other nuns.

8           Q. Are you saying there was a degree of friction then  
9           between the younger nuns and the older nuns?

10          A. Yes. There was one day one of the younger nuns said to  
11          me, "Don't bother going to rosary during the day,  
12          Joseph, I want to teach you how to ride a bicycle". And  
13          we went down to -- and one of the nuns said to me,  
14          "I didn't see you at rosary", and I said, "See,  
15          Sister Clement", whatever her name was, and that was it,  
16          end of story. She wasn't happy about it, the older nun  
17          wasn't happy because I had missed rosary, but at least  
18          I had a genuine excuse this time.

19          Q. I think what you re saying is that as the years went on,  
20          there were that were changes taking place within the  
21          home.

22          A. Yes. The Catholic Church had to adapt. They've always  
23          been good at adapting, you know, because they knew the  
24          era was up for looking after boys too. That was coming  
25          to an end. So then you started looking after older

1 people and various other people.

2 Q. If I take you to paragraph 29 of your statement, which  
3 is now on the screen, you mention there the  
4 Mother Superior, whose name you give in the statement as  
5 Mother Superior [REDACTED] LDT What you say there is:

6 "She did a lot of good things about the school."

7 Can you tell me a little bit about that?

8 A. About the school?

9 Q. That's what is written, maybe you meant something  
10 different.

11 LADY SMITH: If you look at the screen you will see it.

12 It's your statement there that Mr MacAulay is referring  
13 to.

14 A. Yes. Are we on the bit about the Mother Superior?

15 I can remember the Mother Superior was called [REDACTED] LDT  
16 She did a lot of good things. It wasn't about the  
17 school; it was about the home.

18 Q. What sort of things are you talking about?

19 A. She shortened the bedrooms so instead of having 20 to a  
20 bedroom, she brought them into units of four and that  
21 kind of thing, and she had a lift installed, a big  
22 double lift, not just a normal lift. There was a lot of  
23 older people in there with carriages, so they needed  
24 beds to be moved and that.

25 She did other minor things. She got the gym done up

1 and that, and she did the living room up. Some of the  
2 older boys, the teenage boys, at one time the social  
3 place was all the one room. She got that divided into  
4 two and the boys who were in their teenage years, say  
5 13, 14, they went into another room. And they got  
6 television as well too -- black and white I might say  
7 though.

8 Q. When you got to that age, you would get the benefit of  
9 those changes, when you became a teenager?

10 A. That's right, yes.

11 Q. You mentioned also a Sister [LFB] who was in charge of  
12 the boys; was she then in charge of you?

13 A. Yes. She was in charge -- she came after [LDR] she  
14 came after Sister [LDR] was moved. Sister [LDR] was  
15 moved for a ...

16 Q. So when you went there then as an 8-year-old, what nun  
17 was in charge?

18 A. It was [LDR] that was still there. I'm not exactly  
19 sure what year that incident happened with [LDR] with  
20 the alcoholic, when she beat that boy up, and they had  
21 to put her into a -- they had to do something about it.

22 Q. I'll come on to that. You also mention a

23 Sister [FAF]

24 A. Yes. She was the girls'. She was nothing to do with  
25 us.

1 Q. Would you have anything to do with her at all?

2 A. No, she would just stand at the playground with the boys  
3 and girls, just to make sure the boys didn't go into the  
4 girls' bit.

5 Q. Also, if we look on, you talk about some lay staff.  
6 You have a recollection of there being lay staff there;  
7 is that right? Non-nuns, in other words. You needn't  
8 look at the statement for the moment. Are you able to  
9 answer generally if there were people there who were  
10 laypeople?

11 A. Laypeople?

12 Q. Not nuns.

13 A. Oh yeah, there was a Mr LJM He came out of  
14 Craiginches Prison. He was a sort of He  
15 helped around -- and there were a few others as well,  
16 too.

17 Q. There's one person you do mention in your statement, and  
18 that is someone called LDU

19 A. He stayed in .  
20  
21  
22 . He used to help out in the home.

23 Q. Do you know what his job was in the home?

24 A. I don't think so. I don't know what his job was.  
25 I know later on he left when Nazareth House stopped

1 taking boys in and he then got a job in the court system  
2 as a warden or something like that.

3 Q. But he was --

4 A. Something like that guy there (indicating).

5 Q. You're pointing to Her Ladyship's macer.

6 A. Something like that. He helped out the courts, except  
7 he probably had a hat on and a kind of uniform.

8 Q. Was he there during your time in Nazareth House?

9 A. Yes, he was there, yes.

10 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about the routine then that  
11 you can remember. Was Mass a regular thing that you had  
12 to attend?

13 A. Mass was every day, morning and night-time, except on  
14 a Saturday morning. We got an hour longer in bed on  
15 a Saturday morning.

16 Q. What about chores? Did you have chores to do?

17 A. Oh yes, but I was lucky that way, I had a good number  
18 in the church. I cleaned the church, waxed the floor,  
19 that kind of thing.

20 Q. I think you tell us there was a particular nun that was  
21 in charge of that.

22 A. That was Sister **LGR**. She was all right. She was good.  
23 She used to give me some money and that, extra pocket  
24 money and that kind of thing. At my birthday she gave  
25 us a 10 shilling note which was a lot in those days you

1 know.

2 LADY SMITH: Why do you say you were lucky when it came to  
3 the chores that you had? You said you had a good number  
4 doing the church.

5 A. Aye. Because that was considered a good number rather  
6 than -- if the boys were up the stairs polishing the  
7 floors and that kind of thing, the nuns would be  
8 watching them and if they didn't do it properly, they  
9 would give them a wallop. That kind of thing.

10 They were being watched all the time, whereas I was  
11 in the church and if I made a mistake, Sister LGR just  
12 said, it's not done properly, Joseph, go over it again,  
13 something like that. It was kept quiet if I made  
14 a mistake, but if it was one of the other jobs it was  
15 different.

16 LADY SMITH: Were the polishing jobs with the blockers, the  
17 machine, harder to do than the job you had to do in the  
18 church?

19 A. The what?

20 LADY SMITH: Some people have referred to them as blockers  
21 or bumpers, polishing the wooden floors.

22 A. Oh, you're talking about the machine?

23 LADY SMITH: Yes. Was that hard work?

24 A. Aye. They had machines there, but sometimes they had to  
25 be done by hand. Sometimes it was done by hand, you

1 know, the thing. I still don't know what blockers --  
2 I've heard the name before.

3 LADY SMITH: But you were in the church, you didn't have to  
4 deal with them?

5 A. Yes. I do remember hoovers coming in. Hoovers came in  
6 later on, but I'm giving my age away because some of  
7 there were ACME and that kind of thing, before actual  
8 hoovers, names of things you'd never get nowadays.

9 LADY SMITH: Of course.

10 Mr MacAulay.

11 MR MacAULAY: Can I ask you about bed-wetting. I think you  
12 tell us in your statement that you did not have  
13 a problem with bed-wetting.

14 A. No, I didn't have a problem with that.

15 Q. But there were boys who did?

16 A. The boy across the bed from me when we were in four  
17 beds, he was, what do you call it -- he had a problem  
18 with the bed-wetting.

19 Q. And what happened then?

20 A. They used to put the brown mattress -- it was like  
21 a brown mattress thing, made of -- I'll have to think --  
22 it was made of plastic or something like that over it.  
23 If they peed the bed. But sometimes they would get  
24 a slapping for it.

25 Q. What about the wet sheets? Did anything happen about



- 1 the wet sheets that you can remember?
- 2 A. Well, as far as I know, they were just washed. That was  
3 it. They were just washed.
- 4 Q. But you weren't a bed-wetter so you weren't exposed to  
5 that?
- 6 A. No, it didn't bother me at all. It didn't bother me at  
7 all.
- 8 Q. When you say sometimes there was slapping, who would do  
9 the slapping?
- 10 A. It would be one of the nuns probably, but it depends on  
11 the mood. It didn't happen all the time, but maybe the  
12 odd time she would ... I think they were happy if the  
13 wet bit was just on the rubber bit. But if it hit the  
14 sheets or the mattress probably they wouldn't be too  
15 happy about that, you know.
- 16 Q. Can I ask you about the food at Nazareth House. How  
17 would you describe the food?
- 18 A. I do remember a Thursday, we used to get a piece and  
19 grease on a Thursday. They had a dumb-bell and  
20 a sausage would come up on a big tray thing. We used to  
21 get one sausage each and we would dip our bread in that,  
22 you know. It was a piece and grease on a Thursday.
- 23 But as I say, the food was nothing great. The only  
24 time we got really decent food was at Christmas and  
25 New Year -- Christmas and Easter, sorry.

- 1 Q. What sort of food were you provided with then?
- 2 A. The nuns would make it then because you would get the  
3 normal, you know, chicken, turkey, whatever it was,  
4 trimmings and that. Because that's when they brought  
5 the visitors around. The visitors, they were obviously  
6 donating money to the church. I remember sitting there  
7 at Christmastime and these people would come in with  
8 mink coats on and that kind of thing: "And this is John  
9 and this is Joseph", "Are you enjoying your dinner?"  
10 They would talk to you, "Are you enjoying life?" and all  
11 that kind of thing.
- 12 Q. I think you've provided us with a little rhyme that you  
13 had at Nazareth House in paragraph 44.
- 14 A. Oh yeah, that's right, yes.
- 15 Q. Can you tell us what it is?
- 16 A. I'll give you the Glasgow version of it rather than the  
17 Aberdonian version as I don't think there will be many  
18 Aberdonians amongst us here -- although I could be  
19 wrong --
- 20 LADY SMITH: You could always give us both if you know them  
21 both.
- 22 A. I can't give you a Gaelic version.
- 23 LADY SMITH: We won't push our luck!
- 24 A. "I know a funny place not far away where you get mince  
25 and tatties every single day. Ham and eggs you never

1 smell. Burnt bacon made in hell. If you want any, come  
2 to Nazzy House."

3 The cook we used to have -- I know people think I'm  
4 winding them up, but that was her name: Maria Chipolata.  
5 She had a lisp thing too, she had problems with her  
6 thing. She was excused at Christmas and New Year --  
7 I keep saying New Year -- sorry, Christmas and Easter.  
8 It might have been the New Year as well, I don't know.  
9 Aye. But she couldn't really cook to save herself.

10 The nuns' food was cooked separate. That was  
11 Sister LTU. She used to do a lot of the cooking for  
12 the nuns, although I never saw any of the meals the nuns  
13 got in all fairness. I never saw any of the meals the  
14 nuns got.

15 MR MacAULAY: Were there some boys though who couldn't eat  
16 the food?

17 A. There was. Sometimes I couldn't eat it myself actually.  
18 I just used to give it to the dog, Rebel. That's how  
19 the dog was kind of --

20 Q. So there was a dog around?

21 A. Yes. A dog wandered into the home one day. They tried  
22 to chase it away, but we kept feeding it all the time so  
23 of course dogs kept coming back. We named it Rebel,  
24 too.

25 Q. What would happen if a boy didn't eat his food?

1 A. Sometimes they would force it down them, that kind of  
2 thing. I didn't see much of that, to be honest with  
3 you. I do know that that went on in the girls' section  
4 quite a lot, that the nuns -- [REDACTED]  
5 [REDACTED] -- that's all hearsay, I'm not  
6 getting into that side of it.

7 Q. So far as what you yourself witnessed, did you see boys  
8 being force-fed?

9 A. The odd time, yes. The odd time. It's just like the  
10 bed-wetting: it happened occasionally. It just depends  
11 on the mood they were in. If they were in a bad mood  
12 the nuns -- it was mostly [REDACTED] LDR , not so much [REDACTED] LFB .  
13 [REDACTED] LDR was the problem nun when we first came in --  
14 although I actually feel sorry for her because she was  
15 a chronic alcoholic. She went and got -- [REDACTED]  
16 that was his job, he used to tidy her room up and he  
17 used to find the bottles of gin. Because she caught him  
18 one day having a slug of it himself and there was still  
19 some left in it.

20 Q. If I can just understand, when you talk about boys being  
21 force-fed on the odd occasion you have mentioned, can  
22 I understand how it was done?

23 A. They just opened their mouth and shoved it down there.  
24 They would probably regurgitate it again. But I only  
25 saw it occasionally.

1           You see, there was a lot of things happened in  
2 Nazareth House before I arrived, there was things  
3 happening in the 1940s, 1950s. Everybody's got their  
4 own story and version of things. There was a lot of  
5 things I heard about Nazareth House, but that's all  
6 hearsay; I'm only giving you what I saw --

7 Q. Indeed.

8 A. -- what I experienced myself. I don't want to delve  
9 into the hearsay side of things.

10  
11  
12  
13

14 Q. One thing you tell us about food though is that you were  
15 always hungry.

16 A. That's right, yes. I was usually always hungry, that's  
17 right. I do remember getting the oranges and the  
18 tangerines and we used to eat the skin off them  
19 actually, you know. We used to eat the skin off them.

20           But also, another thing I forgot to mention, Marks &  
21 Spencers -- we used to go down in the van every Friday  
22 and they would give us their out of date stuff. There  
23 was only maybe a day running on it, and they were very  
24 generous that way. But it was mostly cakes and that  
25 kind of thing, cakes, biscuits, that sort of thing.

1 Q. Can I ask you about the discipline then at  
2 Nazareth House because you tell us about discipline in  
3 your statement. Can you just describe to me what the  
4 discipline was like?

5 A. I do remember LDR when she went on the warpath, because  
6 the word would go round the room, LDR on the warpath  
7 again. She had this stick -- and again I'm going back  
8 to the ACME cupboards, drying cupboards. The nuns had  
9 very big, long pockets and they used to keep the sticks  
10 in there. That was the drying cupboard sticks. They  
11 had these big, huge, tall drying cupboards.

12 She used to go on the warpath at night -- usually if  
13 you had been bad, done something during the day or  
14 brought attention to it, she would come in. We always  
15 knew there was something wrong with her because her face  
16 was very debauched, very enraged.

17 Q. When you say she went on the warpath, what happened?

18 A. She would come round -- she'd go for a slug of gin,  
19 probably, when the lights went out and then she would  
20 come round the rooms a bit, at maybe 1 or 2 in the  
21 morning, and switch the lights on and go over to maybe  
22 beat somebody with a stick, you know, while they were in  
23 their bed.

24 Q. Did that happen to you?

25 A. I think it happened once. But I do remember one

1 occasion the dog was lying there and the dog grabbed the  
2 stick and ran down the stairs, and LDR went running  
3 after it and she fell on her backside down the stairs  
4 and Sister LFD had to pick her up, like there was  
5 blood coming from her nose, and Sister LFD had to put  
6 her to bed.

7 Q. I think you are going to tell us about one incident  
8 when, as I think she put it in your statement, she went  
9 over the score.

10 A. She went over the score and the doctor had to be called  
11 and the doctor said -- I don't know if it was the  
12 regular doctor or a younger doctor and he said, "I am  
13 going to have to report this" --

14 Q. I'll come on to that. Before I do that, I want to go  
15 back to the routine.

16 Schooling. I think you have told us already you  
17 went to St Peter's in Aberdeen; is that correct?

18 A. St Peter's Roman Catholic school in Nelson Street,  
19 that's correct, which is sadly no longer there any more.

20 Q. What about holidays? Did you have holidays when you  
21 were there?

22 A. Yeah. Again, what do you call it, there was a family  
23 down in Troon, Mr and Mrs Hardy, they took us there. [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]. I've

1 got some of the letters about that. They took [REDACTED]  
2 on holiday. They were very good. The only thing was  
3 they weren't Catholics. They had to make sure that we  
4 went to Mass, you know. I also found out later on in  
5 life, much later on, they actually wanted to adopt [REDACTED],  
6 but they weren't allowed to because they weren't  
7 Catholics. They would have to have become Catholics in  
8 order to adopt [REDACTED]

9 Q. One thing you do tell us is that there was plenty of  
10 time for recreation and playing with the other boys;  
11 is that right?

12 A. Oh yeah, you mean playing football and that kind of  
13 thing? Yeah.

14 Q. One thing you also say is there were plenty of toys and  
15 books, although they were mainly religious books.

16 A. Yes. A lot of the toys were donated by people.

17 Q. What sort of toys are you talking about?

18 A. Matchbox, Disney, AirFix. That sort of thing. But  
19 there was plenty of them. There was no problem that  
20 way, you know.

21 Q. Your birthday, was your birthday acknowledged and  
22 celebrated?

23 A. Yes, when it was your birthday you went down to the  
24 Mother Superior, you told her it was your birthday, and  
25 she would give you I think some stuff -- I don't know,



1 sweets and that kind of thing. She'd tell you to go and  
2 see Sister [LTU] in the stores. And Sister [LTU] would  
3 give -- we used to get a big coffee cake, that kind of  
4 thing.

5 Q. Christmas. You have told us the food was good at  
6 Christmas time.

7 A. Yes, because one of the nuns cooked it.

8 Q. And did you get presents at Christmas?

9 A. Yes, there was. You'd get a tangerine and a Matchbox  
10 toy, aye, but that was it.

11 Q. Can I just ask you about visits that you may have had.  
12 First of all, looking at family visits, were there any  
13 family visits to you during your time there?

14 A. Sorry, what do you mean, family visits?

15 Q. Members of your family coming to visit you.

16 A. No, no. There was no mother or father, nothing like  
17 that.

18 Q. But you do say that, I think, the children's officer  
19 would come to visit.

20 A. Yes, he came every three months. It was a Mr McEwan at  
21 first -- a Ms Hamilton first, then a Mr McEwan, the  
22 Glasgow man.

23 Q. Can I turn to that part of your statement that begins at  
24 paragraph 69. You touch upon Sister [LDR] again and,  
25 as you tell us there, she was known as [LDR] is that

1 right?

2 A. You're still on 66 just now.

3 Q. We'll soon come on to 69, I hope.

4 A. No, you're back the way. That's 62. That's 68. 69

5 now. That's it, yes.

6 Q. I'll read that first sentence:

7 "Sister [REDACTED] LDR, known as [REDACTED] LDR would regularly beat

8 you with a stick for doing very little."

9 That's what you've said in your statement?

10 A. That's right, yes.

11 Q. Did that happen to you?

12 A. A couple of times. A couple much times, yes.

13 Q. Did you see that happening to other boys?

14 A. I saw it happening to other boys, yes. I did see it

15 happening to other boys. Sometimes she didn't -- she

16 didn't always do it when she was on the warpath.

17 Sometimes she might do it on another occasion, do it

18 when she'd go to the wash house or something. She

19 wasn't on the warpath every night. It depends how drunk

20 or sober she was.

21 Q. You have mentioned already this particular incident when

22 a particular boy was beaten, I think.

23 A. Aye, it was [REDACTED]

24 Q. Can you tell us about that?

25 A. I don't know what he had done, but she went over the

1 score with him and the boy was in agony and they called  
2 the doctor. They had to call the doctor. I can't  
3 remember if it was the regular doctor -- I don't want to  
4 slam the doctor profession, favouring one doctor over  
5 the other, but whatever doctor it was, he might have  
6 been a standby doctor. I think it was the regular  
7 doctor away on holiday and it was a younger doctor, and  
8 he said, "Well, I'm going to have to do something about  
9 this", and he threatened to go to the police about it.  
10 That was when they got rid of her. We just woke up one  
11 day and she was gone.

12 Q. Did you see the incident that involved [REDACTED]

13 A. I didn't see that particular -- I heard him screaming  
14 and that but I didn't see the particular incident. I  
15 was in a different bedroom at the time.

16 Q. Do you know what happened to him?

17 A. To who?

18 Q. To [REDACTED]

19 A. I think the doctor came and they were going to take him  
20 to hospital, but I think they just let him convalesce  
21 in the home. I'm not 100 per cent sure about that one.

22 All I know is that [REDACTED] disappeared. We woke up one  
23 morning -- because normally we would have to go down to  
24 Mass one morning. It was maybe a Tuesday or Wednesday  
25 and we woke up and we couldn't understand why we weren't

- 1 getting woken for Mass.
- 2 Q. Did you ever see her back again?
- 3 A. No, she never came.
- 4 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that you also  
5 witnessed another assault. I don't want the name of the  
6 person who was assaulted, but the person who did the  
7 assaulting was [REDACTED] LDU is that right?
- 8 A. Yes. That's the [REDACTED] LCN incident, that's correct,  
9 yes.
- 10 Q. Did you witness that incident?
- 11 A. I witnessed it, yes. I don't know what it was over, but  
12 I did witness -- it's one of these things that'll stay  
13 with me until the day I die because his face was all  
14 bruised, a black and blue stripe down there  
15 (indicating).
- 16 Q. What did you see happening?
- 17 A. I saw [REDACTED] LDU beating him with a stick in the wash  
18 house. I was there at the time and I saw it happening.  
19 I was actually surprised they sent him to school because  
20 -- but they did.
- 21 Q. And were the police involved?
- 22 A. The police were called, yes. The headmaster called me  
23 down to his office and there were two police officers  
24 there, a police sergeant and a police constable, and  
25 they said, "You're not in any trouble, Joseph". They

1 took my name right enough and said, "We just want you to  
2 tell us what happened". I told them what had happened  
3 because I'd witnessed that, and that was it. He told me  
4 to go back to my lessons.

5 Then [REDACTED] LDU disappeared for about three or four  
6 weeks, but then he came back again. He came back again.  
7 I don't know, I can only surmise that perhaps the police  
8 had a word with the Mother Superior and maybe -- again,  
9 I don't like -- it's conjecture, I think I can only  
10 assume that they must have said, "Oh, we'll deal with  
11 this", the Nazareth House nuns would deal with it  
12 themselves, you know. "Aye, we'll get rid of  
13 [REDACTED] LDU, that way there's no charges.

14 Obviously, if he had been charged and gone to court,  
15 it would have looked bad on Nazareth House, you know,  
16 especially with these donation people, people donating  
17 money, the last thing they would want to read is  
18 somebody from Nazareth House getting charged with  
19 assault for beating one of the boys, you know. But  
20 that's only conjecture.

21 Q. In any event, you witnessed the assault?

22 A. I did witness the assault.

23 Q. Was anyone else there?

24 A. There might have been other boys there. I'm not

25 100 per cent sure. I don't think so. I don't think

1           there was. I'm not 100 per cent sure.

2           LADY SMITH: Can you remember how old you were at that time?

3           A. We tried to pinpoint the actual incident and I think it  
4           was around 1963 or 1964. It could even have been 1965.  
5           It was definitely the second part when I went back into  
6           Nazareth House, so 1961 onwards. So we're taking  
7           a guess. It was investigated by the lawyers,  
8           Cameron Fyfe. They did write to Grampian Police.  
9           Grampian Police said they no longer had any records left  
10          because it had changed into another police force.

11          MR MacAULAY: You also tell us in your statement about  
12          another occasion when you were playing football and you  
13          didn't get to church on time for the rosary. This is at  
14          paragraph 78. Do you remember what happened on that  
15          occasion?

16          A. Yes. Well, they locked all the doors and we were made  
17          to kneel, you know, and the nuns coming past would slap  
18          us in the face. We had to kneel like that (indicating)  
19          one of them dug their heels into the back of my leg,  
20          there (indicating).

21          Q. In the calf area?

22          A. Eh?

23          Q. You are pointing to your calf area?

24          A. Yes, this bit here, yes. Because the nuns had quite  
25          stiletto heel types -- not the same stilettos they've

1 got nowadays. They're big bloody huge things they've  
2 got now.

3 Q. Just to be clear, there were a number of you playing  
4 football?

5 A. Yes, there was quite a few of us, there was about six or  
6 eight of us.

7 Q. And you should have been at the rosary?

8 A. We should have been at rosary and we just carried on.  
9 We knew we were in trouble because I remember seeing one  
10 of the nuns up at the window and, what do you call it,  
11 they'd locked all the doors and so we had to come in the  
12 front doors.

13 Q. Where were you made to kneel?

14 A. That was punishment for what we did.

15 Q. Where were you made --

16 A. In between the kitchen and where the nuns come out --  
17 just before the church.

18 Q. Just to be clear, you were made to kneel -- were you in  
19 a particular position?

20 A. Oh, you were off -- you would kneel against the wall.  
21 The nuns would come out and some of them would slap you.  
22 One of them dug their heel into us, you know.

23 Q. Did this just happen the once to you, the one occasion?

24 A. That's the only occasion I remember of that, yes.

25 Q. One thing you say in paragraph 80, it is just on the

1 screen now, is that you always got the odd slap from the  
2 sisters if you did something wrong; is that right?

3 A. It was just accepted because you probably deserved it.  
4 There were probably -- boys will be boys, you know. Are  
5 you allowed to say that nowadays or is it supposed to be  
6 girls will be girls or people will be people? But  
7 anyway, in those days, before PC-ness, it was boys will  
8 be boys, and we were no angels. I remember getting  
9 a police sergeant writing my name in a book for shaking  
10 the tree and knocking the apples off a tree, and he  
11 said, "That's you, you've got a record for life", you  
12 know.

13 Q. You go on to say there was no love from the sisters.

14 A. Oh, there was no love from them at all. There was no  
15 love. There was one nun called Sister **LGN** To give  
16 her her due, she hated the girls and yet she was one of  
17 the nuns in charge of the girls. I can talk about her  
18 because she used to come through to the boys' section.  
19 When we were getting ready for bed, she used to sit one  
20 of the boys on her knee, it was bedtime story time, and  
21 she would read us a nice story at that time.

22 She was very good to the boys but I discovered later  
23 on in life, **[REDACTED]** -- I haven't mentioned  
24 this in my statement, but she said that before she came  
25 into the nunnery she had a boy, she'd had a child and



1 the boy was killed in a hit and run accident or  
2 something. That was why she quite liked the boys, you  
3 know.

4 Q. Now --

5 A. Sorry, I digressed off the path you were going.

6 Q. I was going to move on to ask you something that's much  
7 more personal to you and that's in connection with  
8 sexual abuse.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You do tell us in your statement that you were subjected  
11 to sexual abuse by [REDACTED] LDU is that right?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. I know you don't want to talk about the details of it,  
14 but can you say for how long this lasted?

15 A. I would say maybe three or four years.

16 Q. And what sort of ages are you talking about?

17 A. Well, I remember 12 -- it happened roughly around when  
18 I was 12/13. But towards the end, I began to realise  
19 what was happening was wrong, you know.

20 Q. I think you did report this later on to the police;  
21 is that correct?

22 A. I told the police, yes, and I also told a certain priest  
23 down in --

24 Q. I'll come to that. Let's just deal with the police. At  
25 a later point in time you did go to the police and tell

1           them about the sexual abuse?

2       A.   That was in 1997 --

3       Q.   Yes.

4       A.   -- when the Nazareth House cases first started.

5       Q.   You gave them a statement?

6       A.   That's correct, yes.  It was because I had been up in

7           Nazareth House, walking round, and I saw there was

8           a nursery built at the back, which wasn't there before.

9           They had built a nursery and I was beginning to think,

10          maybe this guy who was sexually abusing me is maybe

11          sexually abusing younger children, you know.

12       Q.   Insofar as the statement to the police was concerned,

13          did you tell the police about the sexual abuse?

14       A.   Yes, I told them about it.

15       Q.   I think you have provided the inquiry with a copy of

16          that statement; is that right?

17       A.   That's correct, yes.  I think it was June 1997.

18       Q.   Indeed.  And what you told the police on that occasion

19          was the truth?  You told them the truth as to what had

20          happened to you in connection with the sexual abuse?

21       A.   That's right.  I told them what had happened and that

22          sort of thing, yeah.  I'm trying to -- is the statement

23          there?

24       Q.   No.  It's not in the folder, but you have handed a copy

25          to us --

- 1 A. Yes, okay.
- 2 Q. -- so we have a copy. Can I ask you: what happened  
3 then, after you had reported this to the police, that  
4 there had been this sexual abuse by [REDACTED] LDU Was  
5 there an investigation so far as you're aware?
- 6 A. Yes, they said they would look into it and that sort of  
7 thing and then six months later I hadn't heard anything  
8 and I phoned up the same woman who was in the Child  
9 Protection Unit and she told me -- she said [REDACTED] LDU  
10 must be dead now. Words to that effect. So I believed  
11 that he was dead. If somebody from the Child Protection  
12 Unit tells you that, you obviously -- I just believed  
13 it. [REDACTED]  
14 [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED]
- 16 Q. If we leave that aspect aside. You were in Aberdeen  
17 in the year 2000 and you met with other people who,  
18 I think, gave you some information about [REDACTED] LDU  
19 is that right?
- 20 A. That's correct. When I told them that I told them that  
21 the police had told me that he was dead, they looked at  
22 me as if I was daft and said, "We've been at his funeral  
23 two weeks ago", or something like that.
- 24 Q. Was that in the year 2000?
- 25 A. That was in the year 2000, yes.

1 Q. So was your conclusion then that when you had made your  
2 report to the police that he was not dead in fact?

3 A. Could you say that again, sorry?

4 Q. You understood when you made your report to the police  
5 in 1997 that [REDACTED] LDU [REDACTED] may have died; is that right?

6 A. No, they told me six months later that he had died.

7 I phoned them. That was June. I phoned them

8 around December and they said to me, the same woman

9 said, "I think [REDACTED] LDU [REDACTED] must be said now".

10 Q. But you discovered two or three years later that was not  
11 the case?

12 A. That's correct. [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED] we were meeting in the pub afterwards,  
14 the Tilted Wig pub, and, what do you call it, one of the  
15 women there said to me, when I mentioned that about

16 [REDACTED] LDU [REDACTED] she said, "We were at his funeral a couple  
17 of weeks ago".

18 Q. Going back to paragraph 82 of your statement, if I can  
19 jump back to that, you tell us there about an incident  
20 when you wanted to go to the pictures but you had no  
21 money.

22 A. I don't think that was -- I didn't have any money, but  
23 one of the boys went up to [REDACTED] LDU [REDACTED] and got some. I'd  
24 need to see it, sorry.

25 Q. It's paragraph 82. What you say is:

1            "I recall one day that I wanted to go to the  
2            pictures but I had no money --"  
3            A. That's correct.  
4            Q. "-- but another boy went to [REDACTED] LDU "  
5            A. That's correct, yes. I see it now. 82, that's correct,  
6            yes.  
7            Q. And he got money?  
8            A. I don't know if it was 10 shillings. It could have been  
9            half a crown, but we'll just say it was 10 shillings  
10           anyway.  
11           Q. He gave you a basis as to why he got the money?  
12           A. He just said it was for favours, that was all. I didn't  
13           think anything sexual-wise, I just thought it might have  
14           been something else, you know.  
15           MR MacAULAY: My Lady, I'm going to move to a different  
16           chapter; I know it's earlier than usual --  
17           LADY SMITH: We could give the stenographers a break now and  
18           the rest of us a break.  
19                      We always have a break in the middle of the  
20           afternoon.  
21           A. I was going to ask anyway for a small break. I'm dying  
22           for a cup of your tea, by the way.  
23           LADY SMITH: Just before we break, can I mention two  
24           things -- and let me reassure you, this is no criticism  
25           of you.

1           There are two names that have been mentioned, one is  
2           [REDACTED] LCN the other is Sister [REDACTED] LTX These  
3           names are both subject to restriction orders and that  
4           means that they cannot be disclosed outwith the hearing  
5           room.

6           I think that covers all that I needed to mention,  
7           doesn't it, Mr MacAulay? We'll break now.

8           A. I am sorry for mentioning his name. I forgot.

9           LADY SMITH: As I said, it's not your fault. It's easily  
10          dealt with.

11         (3.00 pm)

12                                 (A short break)

13         (3.16 pm)

14         LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, when you're ready.

15         MR MacAULAY: My Lady.

16           Joseph, before we had our break, you had told us  
17           about the fact that you had reported to the police in  
18           particular the abuse you'd suffered from [REDACTED] LDU  
19           is that right?

20         A. This is Grampian Police, as it was then, in June 1997.

21         Q. Yes.

22         A. Correct, yes.

23         Q. As you told us, it doesn't appear that anything was done  
24           and you learned later in 2000 that he had died shortly  
25           before you discovered that.

- 1 A. That's correct, yes.
- 2 Q. Did the police come back to you after that to apologise  
3 for not having taken action?
- 4 A. Yes. I did a bit of diary research last night.  
5 I thought it was September, because that was when the  
6 BBC -- Eric Crockart, BBC Scotland. It was actually  
7 DI Thorburn and a colleague of his, a female colleague,  
8 Grampian Police, 11.30 am on Friday, 27 October, was the  
9 Nazareth House apology, 2000.
- 10 Q. I just want to be clear. Are you saying they came and  
11 spoke to you and said what?
- 12 A. Well, they apologised on behalf of Grampian Police.  
13 They said they're a public body, they had responsibility  
14 and all that thing. They just showed me my statement  
15 and all of that sort of thing and somebody had written  
16 "not traced" or something like that. I said to them,  
17 I don't understand it, all you had to do was check the  
18 register of births, deaths and marriages, which, I could  
19 be wrong, I think it's in Edinburgh, the register, or is  
20 it not, or is it London?
- 21 Q. In any event --
- 22 LADY SMITH: You're right, it is here in Edinburgh.
- 23 A. You've got one good thing going for you. There you are.
- 24 MR MacAULAY: There was an apology for no action having been  
25 taken; is that what it comes to?

1 A. That's correct, yes. They were probably worried in case  
2 I sued them, you know, which I didn't.

3 Q. I want to turn the clock back a little bit. This is  
4 looking at paragraph 94. Because when you were at  
5 Nazareth House, you did speak to a priest about the  
6 abuse; is that correct?

7 A. That's correct, yes. Just give me a second.

8 Q. It's on the screen.

9 A. Yes, on 1 July -- that's right. It's around the time --  
10 I'm not exactly sure. I thought at first it was around  
11 1961, but I think it was later than that. I think it  
12 was around -- again, I am not -- my memory's gone, I'm  
13 getting older now. I think it was around  
14 January/February 1967 that I spoke to Father Conti in  
15 the confessional box.

16 Q. And he became Bishop Conti and then Archbishop Conti?

17 A. That's correct, later on in life. I'll just refer to  
18 him as Father Conti, if you don't mind, because that's  
19 all I know him as.

20 Q. You went to confession and it was Father Conti who heard  
21 your confession?

22 A. It was Father Conti, yes.

23 Q. And certainly it was 1967 when you were still at  
24 Nazareth House?

25 A. I was still at Nazareth House, that is right, yes.



- 1 Q. What did you tell Father Conti at confession?
- 2 A. I told him about the abuse and he asked me who it was,  
3 how long it had been going on for and he told me to pray  
4 for my abuser and to say three Hail Marys or something  
5 like that, two Our Fathers.
- 6 Q. And did you then mention the name of [REDACTED] LDU
- 7 A. Oh yeah, I mentioned -- he asked me who it was.
- 8 Q. And did you tell him what the nature of the abuse was?
- 9 A. Yes, I told him it was sexual, yes. I told him, yes.
- 10 Q. Did you give him any more details?
- 11 A. No, I didn't mention the [REDACTED] LCN incident, if  
12 that's what you meant.
- 13 Q. I'm concerned about the sexual abuse that you suffered.
- 14 A. That's right.
- 15 Q. You told him it was sexual. Was that essentially what  
16 you said? Did you provide him with any details of what  
17 was involved in the sexual abuse?
- 18 A. I told him a couple of things, you know.
- 19 Q. You draw attention in your statement to comments made  
20 subsequently by Bishop Conti as he then was, I think.
- 21 A. In what year?
- 22 Q. If you look at your statement, you see towards the  
23 bottom of the page what you say is:
- 24 "Conti later denied in the press that he was aware  
25 of any abuse at Nazareth House."

1           A. He would say that of course. He would say that.  
2           I don't know why he never acted on it. He could easily  
3           have had a word with the Mother Superior discreetly and  
4           said, you know, "Get rid of this man, he's abusing one  
5           of the boys", sort of thing. But then again, I suppose  
6           it's a grey area, the confessional box, you know. It's  
7           not the sort of thing the government can interfere in  
8           and say, "We're going to change the law", that sort of  
9           thing. The Catholic Church -- the priest should, if  
10          it's a child being abused, then the priest should do  
11          something about it. I don't know, it's a grey area.

12         LADY SMITH: Did I catch you right earlier that when you  
13          confessed to Father Conti, two things happened: one he  
14          said you should pray for your abuser, but the other was  
15          that you ought to say three Hail Marys and two  
16          Our Fathers?

17         A. It might have been the other way round.

18         LADY SMITH: But why? You were a child when this happened.

19         A. I know. I was 13 and a half when I went into there to  
20          that confession, around 13 and a half.

21         LADY SMITH: You were a child.

22         A. I was still a child, yes. I don't know. You would have  
23          to ask -- the whole thing surrounding the confessional  
24          box, it's not governed by the church -- by Parliament  
25          I mean, it's a church thing.

1 LADY SMITH: I know.

2 A. I personally think if somebody underage walks into  
3 a confessional box -- this is my own personal view --  
4 and says to a priest, I'm being sexually abused by  
5 so-and-so, whatever it is, I think the priest has a duty  
6 to do something about that, to report it to the police  
7 or do something about it. But it's a grey area, I don't  
8 know how the law stands on that.

9 MR MacAULAY: Why did you go to confession to tell  
10 Father Conti that you were being abused?

11 A. Because I wasn't having much luck in our own  
12 confessional box in Nazareth House. That was the  
13 cathedral I went to, to see Father Conti, in  
14 Huntley Street.

15 In Nazareth House, the priest that was there,  
16 Father Ashworth, no disrespect to him, he was a nice  
17 fella, but he was very deaf.

18 Q. Had you mention the abuse to him?

19 A. No, I was too frightened. People outside would hear  
20 you. It's not the sort of thing that was a private  
21 thing. I didn't want to -- he used to say, "Speak up,  
22 boy, speak up, boy", and then you'd come out and people  
23 would say, "Was that you who stole that apple the other  
24 day?" and that kind of thing.

25 Q. Am I to understand then that you made a sort of special

1 trip down to the cathedral to see Father Conti in the  
2 confessional?

3 A. I didn't just decide to do it, I think it was more --  
4 see, we used to do Mass down there, they would borrow  
5 some of the altar boys and we would go down to help out.  
6 I was an altar boy, you know, swing that bloody incense  
7 thing and ring the bells and all that. Anyway, I think  
8 I was down there one day and I just said, "There's  
9 confession on there, I'll speak to Father Conti about  
10 it". We just knew him as Mr Mafia -- it was just boy  
11 talk here, I don't think he's connected with the Mafia  
12 in any way at all, but we called him Mr Mafia because  
13 he was Italian. That's what all we knew as boys:  
14 everyone Italian must have been connected with the  
15 Mafia. We called him Mr Mafia and that's how I knew it  
16 was him.

17 Q. Did you hope that he would do something about it?

18 A. Pardon?

19 Q. Did you hope that he would do something?

20 A. I was hoping, yes, that he would do something about it.  
21 I think he could have. He could easily have had -- just  
22 like the incident happened with LDU the police,  
23 he disappeared for a while. You know what I'm talking  
24 about. I think he could easily have gone to -- and he  
25 knew who I was. Although, they've got holes in the

1 thing, and the curtains are back, he knew who I was  
2 anyway, I'd just done Mass with him or something like  
3 that. What do you call it? He could easily have done  
4 something about it.

5 Q. Did he know that you were a boy from the home?

6 A. Oh he knew who I was period. He knew who I was period.

7 Q. I took from you earlier this afternoon, Joseph, that you  
8 left Nazareth House in December 1967.

9 A. Correct. 22 December 1967, yes.

10 Q. And you left because you went to a boys' hostel in  
11 Glasgow; is that right?

12 A. That's correct, Lochaber, yes, in --

13 Q. And I think you spent some time at a school in Glasgow.

14 A. Yes. St Thomas Aquinas in Scotstoun, that's correct.

15 Q. I think so far as your time in Lochaber boys' hostel,  
16 that was a perfectly fine time for you?

17 A. Oh yeah, there were two others that's boys there,

18 [REDACTED] LCN and [REDACTED] I think [REDACTED] came  
19 down with me; [REDACTED] LCN was already there earlier  
20 on. But it wasn't a -- it was a Glasgow Corporation  
21 youth hostel. There's where the mix-up with the names  
22 came up there.

23 Q. It says Loch Garry in your statement, but it was  
24 actually Lochaber.

25 A. Lochaber, yes. There was probably a children's home in

1 21 Cleveden Drive called Loch Garry but the one we were  
2 in, Lochaber, I thought it was a children's home, but it  
3 came under a Glasgow Corporation youth hostel. They  
4 only took boys between 13 and 18.

5 Q. You spent a couple of years there, I think, is that  
6 right? You were there for a couple of years?

7 A. I was there for a couple of years yes.

8 Q. And in due course you had a career in the Post Office?

9 A. I started in the Post Office in 1968, correct.

10 Q. You've already mentioned that you did have some  
11 conversations with [REDACTED], who has since died,  
12 about her experiences in Nazareth House.

13 A. That's correct, yes.

14 Q. Can you sum up what her experience was?

15 A. I can't, really. I mean, she talked about [REDACTED] FAF  
16 and the belt and that kind of thing, you know, but  
17 I can't remember it all. It's not really the sort of  
18 thing I can remember because that was her own --  
19 everybody's got their own experiences, personal  
20 experiences. I don't feel right talking about what  
21 someone else said to me. I would rather just do what  
22 I witnessed and what happened to me.

23 Q. Very well.

24 A. I'm not being greedy or anything like that.

25 Q. I'm not suggesting you are.

1           Can I then ask you this: what impact do you think  
2           life in Nazareth House may have had on you?

3           A. Well, it drove me away from religion. That was the one  
4           thing. It had the opposite effect of religion. Later  
5           on in life, I suffered from depression and I lost my job  
6           in the Post Office. I haven't worked for 20 years --  
7           well, I retire next month anyway. I was successful in  
8           getting a private pension a few years ago from the  
9           Royal Mail because of my health, deteriorating health,  
10          because I was on antidepressants for a while, so I got  
11          that private pension and then in a few months' time  
12          I get my big government state pension.

13          Q. Yes.

14          A. It's very generous now, by the way. It's just gone up.

15          Q. And I think you said you're turning 65 quite soon.

16          A. On            yes. Don't forget the birthday cards!  
17          Thank you.

18          Q. There is one other thing I do want to ask you about,  
19          however, and I want to put some documents on the screen.  
20          Just wait until they come up. This is WIT.003.001.2835.

21                 While we're waiting for this to come on the screen,  
22          when you were at Nazareth House did you write some  
23          letters?

24          A. Yes. Well, that was following on from the -- that's it.  
25          That was following on from me around the Father Conti

1           confessional box time. Because, again, I wasn't having  
2           much luck in the Nazareth House confessional box about  
3           **LDU** because I couldn't report it. I wasn't  
4           having much luck in St Mary's Cathedral with Conti, so  
5           I just turned to God and wrote these notes myself.

6           Q. They were letters to God you were writing?

7           A. They were letters to God. Sadly, you haven't got the  
8           originals.

9           Q. But I think we have good copies.

10          A. You have copies, but there's things on the left-hand  
11          side that are all kind of blacked out, plus there's  
12          another one that was found later on as well too,  
13          I understand, and I don't know what's on that.

14          Q. Can I just understand this, so we've all got an  
15          understanding of what it was. You wrote these letters  
16          to God after you had spoken to Father Conti?

17          A. To Father Conti in the confessional box, that's right.

18          Q. Why did you write the letters having spoken to  
19          Father Conti?

20          A. Because I thought -- what do you call it, the dirt --  
21          I felt dirty and that kind of thing with the abuse that  
22          had been going on. I wanted God to stop it, if you know  
23          what I mean.

24          Q. Let's look at the letters then that we have. If we move  
25          up to the top, if we could, please, on the screen.



- 1           We can see the date on this is 2 April 1967.
- 2           A. That's correct, yes.
- 3           Q. So this was after you'd seen Father Conti.
- 4           A. That's correct. I'm not sure of the exact time when
- 5           I saw Father Conti, you know.
- 6           Q. What you say is:
- 7                     "I, Joseph Currie, promise from today onwards that
- 8           I will keep these six promises seen here."
- 9           A. That's right.
- 10          Q. The first one is:
- 11                     "NO DIRT AT ALL."
- 12                     In capital letters.
- 13          A. That's right.
- 14          Q. What did you mean by that?
- 15          A. That was the abuse that was happening to me. I started
- 16          avoiding that man. You'll notice in one of the other
- 17          letters, there's another bit I've written on it, "To
- 18          keep away from bad company", and that was referring to
- 19          [REDACTED] LDU as well too.
- 20          Q. You then provide some other information there, for
- 21          example to do with savings, and then you say at 3:
- 22                     "No swearing or calling boys names at all."
- 23          A. That's what I'm saying, boys will be boys. We weren't
- 24          all angels.
- 25          Q. Can you explain the next one:

1                   "Not to play at fire engines"?

2       A.   That was because I was growing up and I just thought it  
3           was daft to get ridiculed by the girls for playing at  
4           fire engines all the time.

5       Q.   If we go on to the next page at 2836, we can see:  
6           "5. To keep my clothes tidy at all times."  
7           So that was another promise you were making?

8       A.   Yes.

9       Q.   Was there a reason behind that or ...?

10      A.   I don't know. I don't know to be honest. To keep my  
11         clothes tidy at all times. Some things I can remember,  
12         some things I'm not too sure of.

13      Q.   The next one at 6:  
14         "Not to take food off little boys unless they  
15         offer."

16      A.   That is right. That shows you how bad the food was when  
17         you had to steal it off someone else, you know.

18      Q.   And you have written "Parliament House".

19      A.   I know. That was -- to understand, it's a pity  
20         really -- two things -- we haven't got the originals of  
21         these and, secondly, we don't have the photographs.  
22         There were photographs taken as well too.

23                 Sadly, four or five times -- it was our lawyers who  
24         took this, Cameron Fyfe. When you say to people you put  
25         them in a cupboard, they think it's a cupboard on

1 wheels. It wasn't. It was a stone cupboard --

2 Q. I'm coming to where they were in a moment, but just to  
3 finish off the document, although your signature's been  
4 blanked out, you signed this and you have timed the time  
5 that you signed it; is that right?

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. What then did you do with these letters once you had  
8 written them?

9 LADY SMITH: Can we just go back to the statement,  
10 "Parliament House"? What is that all about?

11 A. I don't know, Parliament House. That would just be my  
12 own wee parliament. I don't understand. As I say,  
13 there's another bit on the left-hand side, you don't see  
14 it in that note, it's kind of blacked out because  
15 they're not the originals. It says "Currie's  
16 Co-operative Society" or something like that -- that was  
17 my co-operation with God. Don't forget, I was 13 when  
18 I wrote these.

19 LADY SMITH: You're trying to make a bargain with God?

20 A. That's right, yeah. It's just childish things. If  
21 you'd seen the photographs and the cupboard where they  
22 were hidden in, you would maybe -- a child psychologist,  
23 no disrespect to yourself --

24 LADY SMITH: Oh, I'm not a child psychologist.

25 A. I know that -- would probably understand the meaning of

- 1           them, you know.
- 2       MR MacAULAY: Can I then come to -- after you had written
- 3           the letters, what did you do?
- 4       A. This was before the Scottish Parliament, by the way.
- 5       Q. Yes.
- 6       A. Parliament House, you know.
- 7       LADY SMITH: There is a building in Edinburgh called
- 8           Parliament House. There is only one building called
- 9           Parliament House.
- 10      A. Yes. The one in Aberdeen is obsolete now, I presume,
- 11           yes.
- 12      MR MacAULAY: So what then did you do with the letters,
- 13           Joseph, once you had written them?
- 14      A. I just put them through the gap in the plywood.
- 15      Q. Where? Where was that?
- 16      A. In this cupboard, in this stone cupboard. Again,
- 17           I haven't got the photographs. I just -- the roof went
- 18           at an angle like that (indicating) and plywood came down
- 19           at the back, and in this particular one, instead of
- 20           having the one big sheet of plywood, there was a gap and
- 21           they put two bits in and there was a gap and you pushed
- 22           them behind there.
- 23      Q. Was this in a particular part of Nazareth House?
- 24      A. That was my bedroom, yes.
- 25      Q. You did that then in 1967; is that right?

- 1 A. That's correct, yes. That's what it says on the date,  
2 so I presume.
- 3 Q. We now have them, so how did you get hold of them again?
- 4 A. I didn't remember about them straightaway. When the  
5 Nazareth House cases started, it wasn't until I was  
6 watching a film about a year and a half later, some time  
7 in 1999, and it was just a flashback. I saw this woman  
8 putting a jar in a cupboard. It was a Canadian film and  
9 she was putting a jar in a cupboard. I think it was the  
10 wood in the back. The penny dropped, you know, that  
11 I remember posting notes to God or something in one of  
12 the cupboards up there.
- 13 Q. What did you do then?
- 14 A. Then I told the lawyers about it, I told Cameron Fyfe  
15 about it. They started a search for them, you know.  
16 They started applying to Stronachs for them.
- 17 Q. Stronachs were the solicitors acting for the Sisters of  
18 Nazareth?
- 19 A. That's correct, yes. The reason, by the way, I haven't  
20 got the originals is because it was part of the  
21 condition that Stronachs imposed on us. They said,  
22 "Whatever we find, we'll keep the originals and give you  
23 copies only".
- 24 Q. So they have the originals?
- 25 A. They have the originals, yes. And there's another one

1 that was found as well too later on, which was kind of  
2 ripped up and they taped it together, but I've never  
3 seen that one. It was mentioned in The Guardian  
4 article, The Guardian newspaper, that one of these notes  
5 was published in.

6 Q. So when then did you go to see whether or not they were  
7 still there? When was that?

8 A. It was a long process, but eventually it was June 1999,  
9 24 June. Give me a second, I'll tell you -- yes,  
10 24 June 1999 they were recovered.

11 Q. So that's some, what, 30-odd years after --

12 A. 32 years.

13 Q. -- after you'd written them.

14 A. I had asked the police, by the way, to get involved in  
15 it. First of all, they said that, well, it's not really  
16 a police matter. I said, "Well, it could be to do with  
17 child abuse", but they said, "Well, we're busy dealing  
18 with [REDACTED], but if your lawyer could ..."  
19 I'm sure by "lawyer" they meant Cameron Fyfe could come  
20 to an arrangement with Stronachs and save us getting  
21 involved in it, which I thought was a bit strange at the  
22 time, actually. I thought the police would've maybe  
23 done something about that.

24 Q. In any event were you surprised to find that they were  
25 still there, 30-odd years after you'd put them there?

1 A. No, I had a funny feeling they would still be there,  
2 because the policewoman who I spoke to up in Grampian --  
3 I phoned her. Sorry, I jumped the gun there. She had  
4 said to me, when I first remembered about the notes --  
5 this is the same policewoman I gave the statement to in  
6 Bucksburn, Grampian, in June 1997. She said to me,  
7 "I doubt very much, Mr Currie, if the notes will still  
8 be there because Nazareth House was totally renovated in  
9 1982", and the floorboards would have been dug up and  
10 all that sort of thing, but of course that hadn't  
11 happened.

12 Q. So there they were, they were recovered?

13 A. They were still there. The only thing that had changed  
14 in the room was there was a carpet in the room, which  
15 was split in two, and new pipes had been put in, a thin  
16 pipe.

17 Q. So you went there when the documents were being  
18 recovered?

19 A. Oh yes, I had to be there. I didn't see a nun in sight,  
20 by the way. There was no nuns. I think they were all  
21 praying in the chapel. But the lawyer's people were all  
22 there. We went up the stairs, and the room I'd hidden  
23 them in, the guy said to me, "They cannae be in that  
24 room there, Mr Currie". I says, "I know that's the room  
25 I slept in." It turned out it was now the

1 Mother Superior's room.

2 Q. If I could go back then to the first page of the  
3 document on 2835. We'll get that back on the screen for  
4 you.

5 A. Sorry, could you say that again?

6 Q. It'll come back to the screen. It's the first page.  
7 If we scroll to the top, there's a bit cut out, but  
8 we also see:  
9 "Health and Hygiene Department, Aberdeen."  
10 Is that just your imagination?

11 A. That's right, same as Parliament House, same as Currie's  
12 Co-operative Society. A 13 year-old boy, you know.  
13 I haven't said anything wrong, have I?

14 LADY SMITH: No, not at all. We're just interested, that's  
15 all.

16 A. It's just the mind of a 13 year-old boy.

17 LADY SMITH: Fascinating.

18 MR MacAULAY: Going back to the first statement that you  
19 make there, "No dirt at all".

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. As I understand from what you've said, that's  
22 in relation, really, to the sexual abuse?

23 A. To the sexual abuse that [REDACTED] LDU was causing, because  
24 I was starting to avoid him then, you know. I was  
25 starting to avoid him. That's why I -- you notice I've



- 1 scribbled under the word "no". No dirt.
- 2 Q. You've emphasised that?
- 3 A. Emphasised it, and I think you'll see in the other  
4 notes, the same thing happened as well too. We haven't  
5 got on to them yet, sorry.
- 6 Q. When you saw Father Conti, when you spoke to  
7 Father Conti in the confessional, were you still being  
8 abused at that time by [REDACTED] LDU
- 9 A. I'm not 100 per cent sure. I'm not 100 per cent sure.  
10 I was either being abused by him or I was making him  
11 aware -- I had become aware that what he was doing to me  
12 was wrong. You know what I mean? If I remember  
13 exactly, I think I remember saying to Father Conti,  
14 I remember saying, "I've got this man who plays with my  
15 willy", something along that line. I don't want to go  
16 into too much detail. Something along that line. It'd  
17 be something along that line.
- 18 Q. But in any event, [REDACTED] LDU was still there at  
19 Nazareth House?
- 20 A. He was still there, yes. He was still there when I left  
21 as well too.
- 22 Q. I think you told us earlier he may even have been there  
23 in the 1970s?
- 24 A. Yes, that's correct. He was there in the 1970s, yes, as  
25 far as I understand.

1 Q. But you have no direct knowledge of any other sexual  
2 abuse by [REDACTED] LDU in connection with any other child?  
3 You have no direct knowledge?

4 A. No direct knowledge, no. No, no.

5 Q. Can I then go back to your statement, Joseph, and the  
6 last page. It's on page WIT.001.001.3886. I just want  
7 to ask you -- this is the second last paragraph of your  
8 statement where we can read:

9 "Bishop Conti of Glasgow learned about these letters  
10 and 'rubbished' them in the press, accusing me and the  
11 other survivors of being gold diggers and trying to get  
12 money out of the Catholic Church."

13 Can I just understand what that's all about?

14 A. That's the press cuttings. I didn't bring them all with  
15 me, sorry.

16 Q. So far as you're aware, did Bishop Conti, as he then  
17 became, become aware of the letters?

18 A. I presume he must have because it was in the media, they  
19 were mentioned. It was on BBC Scotland: a Glasgow man  
20 seeks access to Nazareth House to recover his notes. So  
21 he would know -- oh yes, he would have known about them,  
22 yes.

23 Q. When you talked about him rubbishing the letters, what  
24 do you mean by that?

25 A. I don't really know, to be honest. It might have been

1 something I heard somebody saying maybe, or notes or  
2 something, a piece of nonsense or something like that.  
3 I don't know. I didn't actually -- I don't remember  
4 seeing anything in print about that, but I think that's  
5 probably maybe something I heard. I'm not 100 per cent  
6 sure about that.

7 Q. In any event, these were your personal letters, you tell  
8 us. These were personal letters by you to God.

9 A. That's correct, yes.

10 Q. That's what they were.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Joseph, that's all I want to ask you. Thank you very  
13 much for coming to give your evidence and in particular  
14 for telling us about your letters. Any other questions  
15 that I have been asked to put to you, I have done that,  
16 I think, as I've been leading the evidence, and I don't  
17 think there are any other questions that have been  
18 submitted to me.

19 LADY SMITH: Let me just check. Are there any outstanding  
20 applications for questions? No.

21 Joseph, thank you very much for coming along today  
22 to give your evidence to the inquiry. It has been  
23 enormously helpful to hear from you in person about your  
24 time there and I'm now able to let you go.

25 A. So I can go for a drink now?

1 (The witness withdrew)

2 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

3 MR MacAULAY: That's, I think, probably enough for today.

4 There are two oral witnesses coming for tomorrow and  
5 certainly one statement could be read in if required.

6 I think we're hoping to finish a little bit earlier  
7 tomorrow.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes, we'll see how we get on. I'm planning,  
9 hopefully, to finish here by lunchtime tomorrow. To be  
10 absolutely open with you for the reason for that, it's  
11 not that I'm taking tomorrow afternoon off, but I have  
12 another provisional professional commitment that I don't  
13 want to have to cancel if I don't have to. So it may be  
14 that we'll finish at lunchtime tomorrow in the hearing  
15 room. Thank you very much.

16 (3.45 pm)

17 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am  
18 on Friday 27 April 2018)

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