

1 Thursday, 30 November 2017

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning.

4 Today we resume hearing evidence from this phase of
5 the Inquiry. Before I invite Mr MacAulay to introduce
6 the next witness, could I just remind anybody who is in
7 the hearing room of the directions I gave about
8 confidentiality on the first day and repeated yesterday.
9 They are in the transcript that's on the website and
10 I think those directions have now also been extracted
11 from the transcript so they sit easily accessible on the
12 hearings section on the website. But please remember
13 the importance of maintaining the confidentiality of
14 applicants and the confidentiality and protection of the
15 identity of them and of anyone who is alleged to have
16 abused children but has not been convicted.

17 Now, Mr MacAulay, where do we turn this morning?

18 MR MacAULAY: Yes, my Lady.

19 This next witness is an applicant witness. He wants
20 to remain anonymous and he wants to be known as "John"
21 during the course of his evidence.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 "JOHN" (sworn)

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

25 A. Thank you.

1 LADY SMITH: If you make use of the microphone -- it makes
2 it much easier for you and for us because then you can
3 be easily heard without you having to strain your voice.
4 That red folder that's there, you may be referred to by
5 Mr MacAulay, but just wait until he does that.

6 A. Okay, thank you.

7 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay when you are ready.

8 Questions from MR MacAULAY

9 MR MacAULAY: Good morning, John.

10 A. Good morning.

11 Q. I will be asking you some questions, but if there are
12 things that I ask you about and you don't remember, just
13 say that you don't remember.

14 A. Okay.

15 Q. Likewise, it is the case that you have provided the
16 Inquiry with a statement and that's what's in the red
17 folder in front of you.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. But if there are things that you have remembered since
20 then and now remember, again, please let us know.

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. Can I begin then by looking at your statement. I want
23 to give the reference number for the transcript; it is
24 WIT.001.001.2520. I just want to take you to the last
25 page of the statement on page 2533. Can we see there

- 1 that you signed the statement?
- 2 A. Yes, I did.
- 3 Q. Do you also say in the last paragraph that you have no
4 objection to your witness statement being published as
5 part of the evidence of the Inquiry?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. You go on to say that you believe the facts stated in
8 the witness statement are true.
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. I don't want your date of birth, John, but to get a time
11 frame I need to have the year of your birth and I think
12 you were born in 1948.
- 13 A. Yes, that is correct.
- 14 Q. You have, as I understand it, two siblings.
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. A brother and a sister?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. But you were the oldest in the family?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. We know from the records that we have seen from Smyllum,
21 where you ended up, that you were admitted there for the
22 first time on [REDACTED] 1958.
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Does 1958 look right to you?
- 25 A. I actually thought it was earlier than that, being quite

1 honest with you. I thought I was about 8 years old when
2 I first went in there.

3 Q. Dates are very difficult, I understand that.

4 A. It might be right. It might be correct but I always
5 thought I was about 8.

6 Q. In any event, you were very young?

7 A. And I was there until I was 11, I think. That's the way
8 I think anyway.

9 Q. But it is a long time ago --

10 A. It is a long time ago, yes.

11 Q. -- and dates are difficult to deal with. But in any
12 event you were admitted to Smyllum around about that
13 time?

14 A. Around about then, yes, okay.

15 Q. Just before Smyllum then, I think you stayed with your
16 parents; is that correct?

17 A. Yes, I stayed with my parents.

18 Q. Though I understand from what you have said in your
19 statement that you seem to have travelled around the
20 country quite a bit.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Was that the position?

23 A. Yes, my father was a bit of a wanderer, shall we say.
24 He never settled much in one city. He would just up and
25 move us, you know, from Dundee to London and London to

1 Newcastle and Newcastle to Edinburgh.

2 Q. Eventually, in any event, the position was that you were
3 taken to Smyllum?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What about your brother and sister?

6 A. They were taken to Smyllum as well.

7 Q. Did you all go there together?

8 A. I think we did, yes.

9 Q. Do you have a recollection of your first day at Smyllum?

10 A. Vaguely, uh-huh.

11 Q. What is it?

12 A. It's being taken up to a dormitory and shown around by
13 a nun. That night when I went to bed I cried my eyes
14 out because I never knew where my brother and sister
15 were.

16 Q. Were you separated once you were --

17 A. Yes, we were separated. Yes.

18 Q. Over the course of the time that you are there, did you
19 see very much of your brother and sister?

20 A. No, I never saw my brother at all hardly because he was
21 only about -- I reckon he was about 2. My sister I saw
22 occasionally at school, but she was in a class further
23 down from me, maybe two or three down, and the only time
24 I saw her was at playtime, when we got out to play and
25 you could -- there was a -- part of the playground that

1 you weren't allowed to cross over kind of thing and she
2 wasn't allowed to cross over to me. So we would have to
3 sort of talk sort of, hello, how are you -- you know,
4 that kind of thing.

5 Q. You couldn't get too close to her --

6 A. No, I couldn't go over and cuddle her for instance,
7 stuff like that, because you weren't allowed.

8 Q. Am I right in thinking that after you had been in
9 Smyllum for some time you went home in about

10 ██████████ 1959 and then went back to Smyllum?

11 A. Yes, I did.

12 Q. Again, so far as the dates that we can see from the
13 registers are concerned, you went back in ██████████ 1960;
14 does that fit in with your own recollection?

15 A. Yes. Probably that does, yes.

16 Q. You stayed there until ██████████ 1961?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. So, you had these two periods then at Smyllum, perhaps
19 of about 17 months or so to begin with, and then for
20 about 10 months?

21 A. No, it was two-and-a-half years the first time. I was
22 there for almost three years the first time and then
23 I was there for 9 months the second time. So whether
24 the records are correct or not, I'm not very sure, being
25 honest with you.

1 Q. Anyway, that's your recollection?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. I'm more than happy to accept that.

4 A. I was definitely there for almost 3 years the first
5 time. That's why I think I went there when I was 8,
6 which would be 1956/1957, and I came out when I was 11.
7 I came out 3 years later.

8 Q. And then went back in?

9 A. And then I was out for about, I reckon, maybe 9 months
10 and then I went back for another 9 months into Smyllum.

11 Q. Thank you for that. We will look carefully at that and
12 check that against the records.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. When you went in for the first time then, John, were you
15 put into a particular section?

16 A. Yes, I was in what I call "the little boys' section",
17 but obviously there was a section below me. That was
18 like a nursery section, where my brother was. They were
19 ages from, say, 2 to 5 or something. I was 6. I'm not
20 very sure but I was in a kind of a medium section.
21 There was a little boy -- what I recall was there was
22 a little boys' section, they were at the other end of
23 the building, and then there was a section that I was in
24 and then once you become, say, an age of say 9 or 10,
25 you got moved from there to a medium section where boys

- 1 were from 10 to 12.
- 2 Q. Do I understand from what you are saying then that you
3 went into the second section the first time you were
4 there?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And when you went back the second time, did you go into
7 the --
- 8 A. When I was in the section the first time I became --
9 I was there for about say a year and a half and then
10 I was old enough then to go to the next section up,
11 where you went to a different dormitory, and you were in
12 with different boys because you were older. They only
13 kept you in that section up until a certain age. So if
14 you were say aged 10 they would move you from that
15 section to the further up section, which would be from
16 10 to 12 or 13 or something like that and then there was
17 a section after that, if you were still there, from 13
18 to 16, where there were bigger boys.
- 19 Q. The first section that you were in then, was there
20 a particular name for that area?
- 21 A. I really can't remember.
- 22 Q. Can you remember any names at all?
- 23 A. I remember the name of the Sister that was in charge of
24 that.
- 25 Q. Who was that?

- 1 A. She was called Sister **FAD**, I think. That's my
2 recollection.
- 3 Q. If we look at your statement then again, John, if you
4 turn to the second page of the statement.
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. At paragraph 5 you actually talk about the four
7 departments that you have been telling us about. You go
8 on to say that you were given a number when you went to
9 your dormitory; is that right?
- 10 A. That was the second -- when I moved from that first
11 section into the second section I was given a number.
- 12 Q. If we then look at the bottom where you say:
13 "Sister **AGI** was in charge of my dormitory."
14 Was that in the second section then or the first
15 section?
- 16 A. That was in the second section.
- 17 Q. So it was Sister **FAD** then who you think was in
18 charge when you went there in the first instance.
- 19 A. She was in charge of the little boys, like the section
20 I was in, say from age 4 to 9. Because that's what
21 I told you before: I think I was only 8 when I first
22 went into Smyllum. I wasn't 11. So they have got that
23 wrong in a sense. I think they have got it wrong.
24 I never went there in 1959. I went there in 1956.
- 25 Q. The date I thought I put to you was 1958 so that would

1 make you about --

2 LADY SMITH: 1958.

3 A. Sorry, 1958.

4 LADY SMITH: Yes, the records have you arriving in

5 ██████ 1958.

6 MR MacAULAY: Would you have been about 9 then?

7 A. No --

8 Q. I don't want your date of birth.

9 LADY SMITH: I think we would know you would be 9 then.

10 A. I thought I was younger than that. That's the way --

11 I thought I was younger than that.

12 MR MacAULAY: There's not much in it, anyway.

13 LADY SMITH: John, can I just say: don't worry unduly about

14 these dates. What I'm hearing from you is you remember

15 your longest period was the first period you were there.

16 A. That is correct.

17 LADY SMITH: You think you were about 8 -- it doesn't really

18 matter whether you were 8 or 9.

19 A. Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: You think you were there for -- I think you

21 said earlier about 18 months the first time or --

22 A. It was almost 3 years.

23 LADY SMITH: It was nearly 3 years the first time?

24 A. It was 2 years, 9 months.

25 LADY SMITH: Because you have this memory of being 11, was

1 it?

2 A. When I came out?

3 LADY SMITH: When you came out for about 9 months.

4 A. Yes, it would be about that.

5 LADY SMITH: Then you were back in for about 9 months.

6 A. Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: So we can work with your longest period being

8 that first period. You have a picture in your head of

9 something approaching around 3 years.

10 A. Yes.

11 LADY SMITH: And then your second period being a shorter

12 period when you were a bit older.

13 A. Yes.

14 LADY SMITH: But still before your teenage years, before you

15 were an older boy?

16 A. Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: We can work with that. Don't worry about

18 precise dates. I don't need those. I have the picture

19 of when you were there and the sort of age you were.

20 MR MacAULAY: Just to be clear, John, that what the Inquiry

21 is really interested in is what your experience was at

22 Smyllum.

23 I want to ask you about the routine -- that's when

24 you went there to begin with -- about, let's say,

25 mornings and bedtime. Can you give me some

1 understanding as to what the routine was in that early
2 period?

3 A. At the early period -- well, I don't much remember the
4 routine from the first bit I went into, but I remember
5 the routine when I went up a step to the middle class.
6 That was you got up, you said your prayers at your
7 bed -- well, the sister would waken you with ringing
8 a bell, coming down. The beds were on each side of the
9 room, and she would either clap her hands or waken you
10 with a bell. You got up and you stood by your beds.
11 Then she would ask you to strip your beds back, which we
12 all did. She had a helper, a woman that wasn't a nun,
13 she was just a normal woman. They would go down the row
14 of beds and feel if you had wet the bed or not.

15 Now, I was lucky I never wet the bed. But the boy
16 in the bed next to me, he always wet the bed. I can't
17 remember his name. But whenever she saw or felt he had
18 wet the bed, I remember her grabbing him by the hair and
19 rubbing his face in it, rubbing his face on the sheet
20 and calling him all sorts of names. She would tell him
21 he was a fish, "You are a fish, what are you? You are
22 a fish, you are always wet like a fish", and she was
23 really angry at this. This poor boy would be crying his
24 eyes out and he was a nervous wreck. So the next
25 morning the same thing would happen because he had wet

1 the bed again. That was in the morning.

2 Then, we had to go in and get washed, brush our
3 teeth -- and you had a number -- there was a row of
4 petition in the bathroom with numbers on them, 1 to 20,
5 let's say.

6 I was number [REDACTED] So I had a facecloth and a toilet
7 bag with soap, toothpaste and a brush in it. And you
8 took that and you washed yourself at the sink, after you
9 have done your teeth and that, and the sister then would
10 examine you. If you were not up to her expectations,
11 shall we say, she would twist your ear and slap you or
12 send you back to clean behind your ears or -- stuff like
13 that went on.

14 Q. Can I just look at that again with you in a bit more
15 detail. The person who was rubbing the child's face
16 into the sheet, who was that?

17 A. She was a [REDACTED] woman and I think her name
18 was Ms [REDACTED] HBX or [REDACTED] HBX , one of the two. The sister also
19 did it. The two of them did it. Not just her.

20 Q. And what Sister --

21 A. This is Sister [REDACTED] AGI .

22 Q. So it was one or the other who did this?

23 A. It didn't matter who did it, they did it. It was like
24 they both worked in tandem, like. She would go down one
25 side -- the [REDACTED] HBX would go down one side of

1 the dormitory and Sister [REDACTED] AGI [REDACTED] would go down the
2 other, and if someone was wet across there (indicates),
3 [REDACTED] HBX [REDACTED] -- or Ms [REDACTED] HBX [REDACTED] as we called her -- would rub his
4 face in it over there and Sister [REDACTED] AGI [REDACTED] would rub
5 someone's face in it on this side.

6 Q. From what you are saying then there would be more than
7 the one bed-wetter?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Were there a number of --

10 A. Yes, there would be a number of bed-wetters.

11 Q. How many beds do you reckon --

12 A. In that dormitory I reckon there would be about 20 and
13 most of them were full.

14 Q. I think from what you say I get the impression there's
15 one row on one side of the room and one row on the
16 other; is that correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. With a middle section in between?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. How regular an occurrence was this then, John?

21 A. This was every day. Every day when you got up. The
22 boys that wet the bed got punished terribly every single
23 day. They never got off with it. The Sister never had
24 any compassion or any understanding why the boy was
25 wetting the bed. It was nerves and it was fear.

1 Q. You have told us about the rubbing into the sheet.

2 A. She rubbed his face into the sheet.

3 Q. What about physical chastisement --

4 A. Yes, physical --

5 Q. Was there any physical chastisement --

6 A. She would hit him as well. She would slap him and grab

7 his hair and put his face in the wet bed and rub it so

8 that his nose was probably sore an all that and he would

9 be crying and she would slap him and kick him or

10 whatever and he would be groaning and greeting -- my

11 expression -- he would be crying his eyes out.

12 Q. And the reaction of the other boys who weren't

13 bed-wetters --

14 A. We used to just stand. We were frightened. You could

15 not do anything. You were terrified. It was like

16 a concentration camp regime, you know, in a sense when

17 I think back on it. You couldn't do anything, you were

18 just a child. These were grown women. Even Ms **HBX** or

19 **HBX** whatever her name is, she was a woman in her 40s

20 and she was wicked. Everybody hated her. All the boys

21 hated her.

22 Q. And Sister **AGI**

23 A. And Sister **AGI** they used to be wary of

24 Sister **AGI**. She wasn't as bad as some of the

25 Sisters, but she could still kick and slap and take her

1 hairbrush out of her sleeve and hit you over the head
2 with it if she felt like it.

3 Q. This morning thing that happened in relation to
4 bed-wetters, in this first period that you were there,
5 I mean did that go on throughout that whole period?

6 A. Yes. Yes.

7 Q. Day after day?

8 A. Day after day, yes. They put rubber sheeting, which
9 were the same colour as this book --

10 Q. Red?

11 A. -- under the bed-wetter's sheet to try and save the
12 mattress, I suppose, from the wet going through and they
13 would do that and then put the sheet on top and because
14 he was next to me, this rubber sheet would make a noise
15 all night because he is tossing and turning and I could
16 hear it because it was like a crinkle all the time,
17 because of the rubber, and in the morning he would still
18 be wet, but there would be a puddle in his bed because
19 it never went through to the mattress. It would be
20 soaking wet and Sister would be aggravated by this. She
21 would get into a fury over it. It happened every day.
22 Every day.

23 Q. The sheets themselves then, the soiled sheets --

24 A. They then -- she would pull them off and throw them on
25 the floor or tell them to take them into the place, into

1 the bathroom, but then he was a nervous wreck the boy,
2 he would be crying and shaking and his pyjamas would be
3 soaking wet as well because he has lay in his wet for
4 hours, you know.

5 Q. And then once you were up and organised would you then
6 go for breakfast?

7 A. Yes, we would.

8 Q. Can you tell me a little bit about the food that was
9 available to you?

10 A. Well, breakfast, what I can remember, we had these big
11 metal terrines, I call them a terrine, porridge in one
12 and cornflakes in another. Everybody stood in a line
13 and the cook or one of these ladies -- the nuns never
14 gave you the food, it was always one of the women that
15 helped the nuns -- and it would be like a counter, like
16 that counter there in front of me (indicates), and you
17 would walk down and tell her you wanted porridge and she
18 would dish up porridge to you and you would go and sit
19 and eat it.

20 You would go to the table and in the dining room you
21 always had to sit in the same place. You couldn't, for
22 instance, say, I'm sitting here today and I'm going to
23 sit next to him tomorrow. It didn't work like that.
24 They made sure that you sat -- you were given a chair
25 and that's where you sat every mealtime.

- 1 Q. Were the boys and girls separate --
- 2 A. There was no girls there at all.
- 3 Q. -- at that time?
- 4 A. No girls there at breakfast time. The girls, to let you
- 5 understand, were in a separate part of the home. They
- 6 were -- we never saw girls. They were like through
- 7 corridors and across yards and that was their area. The
- 8 girls area. I was in the boys' area. You never ever
- 9 saw a girl -- the only time you saw a girl was at
- 10 schooltime.
- 11 Q. But the boys in the dining room where you were, was
- 12 there a mix of ages then?
- 13 A. Well, all the boys from my dormitory were there. There
- 14 wasn't really a mix because when you were finished with
- 15 your breakfast, the big boys then would come down. They
- 16 actually slept up above that. Their dormitory was up
- 17 above the dining room. So when you were coming out,
- 18 they were coming in. And they were older than us. They
- 19 were from say 13, 14, 15, 16 years old.
- 20 Q. In relation to food generally, can you give me
- 21 an understanding as to what the food was like?
- 22 A. The food was terrible. Absolutely terrible. The
- 23 porridge was lumpy for a start. The cornflakes were
- 24 okay, because they could not make a mess of them, if you
- 25 know what I mean. But food in general -- breakfast food

1 was terrible. Now and again you got a boiled egg. Now
2 and again. Not every day.

3 Q. But moving on to lunch and tea, what about --

4 A. Lunch and tea was terrible. Lunch was soup -- from what
5 I can remember, soup and you got a slice of brown bread,
6 maybe mince and potatoes, but they didn't know how to do
7 potatoes. The potatoes were whole and they had black
8 eyes in them that needed cut out and they were not cut
9 out and you had to eat the black eye of that potato
10 because the staff didn't let you leave until your plate
11 was cleared completely.

12 Q. What would happen if you weren't able to do it?

13 A. Well they would force-feed you.

14 Q. How would they do that?

15 A. Well, two of them would come over, they never force-fed
16 me, to be honest, because I used to give my potatoes to
17 the boy who sat next to me because he would take them
18 and he would eat them, so that kind of let me off the
19 hook, but I used to see the staff, the nun and one of
20 the staff in the kitchen -- in the dining room sorry, go
21 over and say, right, eat that potato, to somebody and
22 they didn't want the potato and they would force them to
23 eat it. They would open his mouth with a spoon and
24 force it in his mouth. That's what I witnessed.

25 Q. You mentioned a nun in that exercise; was this

1 a particular nun or not?

2 A. No, I'm not very sure about that, sir. Being honest
3 with you, I can't remember if it was the nun from our
4 dormitory, Sister AGI, that oversaw us in the
5 dining room or not. You know what I mean? I can't
6 really remember if it was her but there was always a nun
7 there and there was always, I would say, two or three
8 staff members, but they were ordinary women, they
9 weren't nuns. They were dressed in pinnies and, you
10 know, I don't think they slept with us in the home but
11 I think they just came into work.

12 Q. But this business of forcing a child to eat, was this
13 something that went on throughout your time?

14 A. Yes. Yes, it did. The nuns just did not like waste at
15 all and they used to tell you that you should be
16 thankful to our Lord God for supplying this food for
17 you. So you don't leave any of it. It was a crime, in
18 their eyes, to leave any food. You had to eat it all,
19 whether you liked it or not. Lumpy porridge, you had to
20 eat lumpy porridge and people -- well, boys used to hate
21 lumps. I mean it is -- I know it sounds funny, but it
22 is not funny when you are experiencing it, but you had
23 to eat lumpy porridge and that was it.

24 The same as teatime. You had to eat whatever they
25 gave you: beans that were dried up because they had been

1 left lying too long, they were hard and there was no
2 moisture in them, and you had to eat them along with
3 anything else they gave you. The food was absolutely
4 terrible.

5 Q. What about the school then? Because you mentioned the
6 school earlier on in your evidence. I think we
7 understand that there was a school within Smyllum
8 itself.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did you go to that school?

11 A. I did, yes.

12 Q. How did you find that?

13 A. Very, very strict. The school was a huge room, maybe
14 about the size of this room -- and I'm looking down
15 there and it was -- it had partitions which -- when they
16 pulled the partitions back, you could see all the
17 children right down, but then they closed the partitions
18 because every partition was a different classroom, with
19 different teachers and different ages.

20 So the young people would be at the very far end and
21 so forth. They categorised you into age groups and then
22 they would close the partition. My teacher was
23 an [REDACTED] lady called Ms [REDACTED] AEP [REDACTED].

24 Q. So there were lay teachers there?

25 A. Well, the one I had was a lady teacher. I don't know,

1 I never ever saw a man teacher, really, when I think
2 back on it. They were all kind of women teachers.

3 Q. But were some of the nuns involved in the teaching?

4 A. There was only one nun that I can remember that was
5 involved and she was called Sister [REDACTED] EAA She was --
6 I think she was head of the school, sort of thing.

7 Q. Then as far as the schooling itself was concerned, what
8 was your experience of that?

9 A. Well, you got a lot of religion. Catechism, you had to
10 learn your catechism off by heart, which is a Catholic
11 book and it is maybe about 50 pages thick, and you had
12 to go through that and learn every single sentence and
13 phrase in that book.

14 As far as the other sort of education, like your
15 ABCs, you got writing and reading and things like that,
16 but the catechism is what stuck in my mind as being top
17 priority in the home. If you learned your catechism,
18 you were a good boy, you were good.

19 Q. Did you manage to do that?

20 A. I did, yes. They used to have competitions in the class
21 when Sister [REDACTED] EAA would come in and say, "Right,
22 boys," and she would clap her hands and Ms [REDACTED] AEP would
23 take a back seat and let Sister [REDACTED] EAA then ask the
24 boys about the catechism and it was like a quiz. If you
25 got it wrong, you got hit. She would come up to you and

1 give you a slap. "You are not paying attention", she
2 would say. I, for my part of it, I learned very quickly
3 that the best way to go through this was to learn the
4 catechism and get it right because that way you felt
5 safe.

6 Q. But you have mentioned the slapping, but other than that
7 what sort of punishment --

8 A. Well, Sister [REDACTED] EAA had a leather strap and it was
9 about, I would say, half an inch thick and it was
10 a solid strap. She kept it up her sleeve and when she
11 took it out, it was stiff, it was that thick, the
12 leather. She would get you to hold your hand out and
13 whack you on the hands with this leather strap if there
14 was something the matter like maybe you weren't paying
15 attention or you were giggling in class or something
16 like that.

17 Ms [REDACTED] AEP, she did the very same. She had
18 a pointer like half a snooker cue and she would point at
19 the blackboard and if she was writing something on the
20 blackboard and you were maybe talking to the little boy
21 next to you and maybe giggling or something and she
22 turned round and saw you, she would have you out on the
23 floor and she would whack you with this pointer and it
24 was a solid pointer. It is a wonder fingers never got
25 broken really because it was a stick. It was like half

1 a snooker cue. I always remember that and she would use
2 the thick end of it, not the wee thin end, the thick
3 end.

4 Q. I want to put -- would you mind looking at a photograph
5 in relation to Smyllum. Is that a problem for you?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Could you look at WIT.003.001.1283.

8 A. That's the girls' dining hall.

9 Q. Could we move on to another photograph, I think it is
10 1284 then.

11 A. Where is that then?

12 Q. It is about to come up I hope.

13 A. Sorry.

14 LADY SMITH: You are quicker than the technology, John.

15 Right, here it comes.

16 MR MacAULAY: What about this?

17 A. Yes, that's the school.

18 Q. The partitions you were talking about --

19 A. These are these things that -- I can't remember if you
20 could see through them or not, but they used to slide
21 them down all the way up that hall and partition you
22 off.

23 Q. We can see that the partitions as you have indicated.
24 That's separating the different age groups then from
25 other areas?

- 1 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 2 Q. I think you have told us this already, if we just move
3 away from the photograph, that you were always kept
4 apart from your siblings.
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. But would your sister be in that same classroom or was
7 she older?
- 8 A. No, she would be in the school, but she would be further
9 down. She would be quite far away from me, so you
10 couldn't communicate with her. Like I said, unless when
11 you got out to play at playtime you could see her and
12 she could see you.
- 13 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about hygiene because you do
14 talk about that in your statement -- this is on page 6
15 at paragraph 28 -- and when you had to wash and what
16 that involved. Can you help me with that?
- 17 A. Right. You are talking about in the morning?
- 18 Q. Well, morning or even weekly if you had to have --
- 19 A. You had a big bar of soap in your toilet bag and you had
20 to go in, stripped to the waist, and there was a row of
21 sinks, that I remember, where you would wash. You would
22 use the soap and wash yourself, because as children we
23 would be playing all day -- I'm talking about at
24 night-time obviously -- you would be playing all day and
25 you would be dirty because you are rolling around on the

1 floor and stuff liked that and dust. So you would get
2 this bar of soap and wash yourself and brush your teeth
3 before you went to bed.

4 Now and again, they would make you take a bath. The
5 bath that I remember wasn't a bath, it was more like
6 a trough that was sunk into the floor of this bathroom.
7 It was maybe about 15 feet long and it was sunk down
8 into the floor and the nun or the staff would fill it
9 with water. It could only take so many boys -- maybe
10 we'll say less than 10, 7 or 8 boys at a time -- and we
11 would all have to sit in it with his back there
12 (indicates), sort of, and someone behind me. You always
13 had to have your back towards each other; you couldn't
14 turn round and face each other. You would have your
15 soap and you would wash, as best you could, do your hair
16 and stuff like that. When it was time -- the water
17 would begin to get cold and the nun would be sitting
18 with one of the women, sort of arms folded watching, and
19 then you would come out and you were naked, but you had
20 on a pair of sort of shorts which were sort of like a
21 wool kind of thing. You would take them off to get
22 dried and you would just threw them on the floor at the
23 wash place.

24 If there was someone in the bath before you, say
25 there was five or six people in the bath before you,

1 they would take off these shorts, these woolly shorts,
2 throw them on the floor, and when you stripped naked to
3 go in this bath, you had to put them on. So you would
4 pick one up and they were soaking wet and you had to put
5 these on before you got into the bath.

6 Q. Would the water in the bath be changed for that?

7 A. Well, being honest with you, sir, I don't think it was,
8 but it could have been. They maybe emptied it and put
9 fresh water in, maybe.

10 Q. You mention a nun and member of staff would be there.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. I think in your -- you have already mentioned Ms **HBX**,
13 was there also a lady by the name of Miss **IAQ**

14 A. Yes, she was there.

15 Q. What was her position?

16 A. She was just a helper. I don't know what her official
17 position was, but she was like Ms **HBX**. She just kept
18 control of the children or helped with the chores, shall
19 we say -- you know, like taking maybe the wet sheets and
20 that down to the laundry or -- she was just a like
21 a kind of a housekeeper.

22 Q. And how did she treat you?

23 A. She was bad as well. We used to call her **[REDACTED]**
24 because she had a kind of a **[REDACTED]** and as
25 children you spot things and we used to say she -- her

- 1 face looked like a [REDACTED]
- 2 Q. You say she was bad.
- 3 A. She was bad, she was just as bad as Ms HBX . They were
4 all the same for some reason. There was never any
5 kindness from any of them. They never, ever were kind
6 and gentle with you or loving and caring; they were
7 always wicked and cruel.
- 8 Q. At this bath time, when you were taking the trunks off
9 and so on, did you feel uncomfortable?
- 10 A. Yes, I did because the Sister and Ms HBX -- or the
11 three of them, Ms IAQ as well -- would be
12 standing like this, watching you, get out the bath and
13 you were -- and I used to try and cover up my privates.
14 It was just an instinct. You didn't like to show your
15 body off in front of women and all the boys were sort of
16 similar to me, they would all turn around and you know
17 try to cover themselves up and these three women would
18 sit or stand looking at you.
- 19 Q. Do you know how often you would have a bath?
- 20 A. I think we had a bath maybe once a week or twice a week.
21 It wasn't every day. It was only once or twice a week
22 we had a bath.
- 23 Q. And would your cleanliness be checked after the bath?
- 24 A. Yes. Well, the nun or one of the staff would examine
25 you. They would look at your ears and check that your

1 neck was clean and you had washed your hair and your
2 feet -- if you had dirty feet they would send you back
3 you see, give you a smack, and say, "Your feet are
4 dirty, get back in there", that kind of thing. You had
5 to make sure you had washed between your toes and things
6 like that.

7 Q. You also tell us in your statement that once a year you
8 went to a summer camp in Aberfoyle.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. That was a different sort of regime was it?

11 A. It was, yes. Not everybody went to camp in Aberfoyle,
12 it was only the -- the nuns chose who they wanted to
13 send to camp in Aberfoyle. If you were a bed-wetter,
14 for instance, or you were a bit unruly, as a punishment
15 they would not like you go. These children would stay
16 in the home at Smyllum in that same regime. When I went
17 to camp in Aberfoyle, it was an escape from Smyllum.
18 You thought you were free. It was like getting let out
19 of a prison camp, you know. It was good in Aberfoyle
20 because you never got the same cruelty in Aberfoyle
21 because there were other people -- there were normal
22 people there as well, with their children. Like a mum
23 and dad with his three kids kind of thing and the nuns
24 then wouldn't hit you or kick you or punch you because
25 these ordinary people would see it, the cruelty. So

1 they would refrain from doing that in Aberfoyle.

2 Q. But what about in Smyllum?

3 A. They would not hold back in Smyllum. Once you got back
4 to Smyllum you were in a living hell again. That's my
5 honest opinion, sir.

6 Q. Can I ask you about birthdays and Christmas then. So
7 far as you remember --

8 A. Well, birthdays, you never got anything --

9 Q. Was it celebrated in any way?

10 A. No, it wasn't. The Sisters never told you it was your
11 birthday or wished you a happy birthday or gave you
12 anything for your birthday. A birthday was just another
13 day, it come and went. I knew my birthday and my sister
14 knew my birthday, so when it was my birthday, if I saw
15 ██████████ she would then say, "Happy birthday", and
16 I would say, "Thank you". That was it. You never got
17 any presents, unless your family sent you something like
18 my father sent a toy or something like that, then the
19 Sister would give you it. Apart from that, they
20 wouldn't give you anything.

21 Q. And Christmas?

22 A. Christmas -- we used to like Christmas because you got
23 good food at Christmas. Instead of getting the usual
24 rotten potatoes and porridge and things like that, you
25 got better food. You got a better quality of food. It

1 wasn't burnt and it wasn't lumpy and it wasn't -- it was
2 good. Plus you got extras. You'd maybe get ice cream
3 and jelly or a cake or some fruit, an apple and
4 an orange at Christmas because it was our Lord's
5 birthday, it was a feast day.

6 That happened as well on feast days in the home.
7 Where we used to like -- the boys used to say, oh, it is
8 coming up to a feast day, because the nun would tell you
9 it was coming up to the feast of St Margaret or the
10 feast of the apostle or whatever, and then you got a bit
11 better food, where you would get, like I say, ice cream,
12 custard, you would get a cake, they'd maybe put sweets
13 in a bowl on the table in the dining hall for you
14 because it was a feast day. They treated you
15 differently on feast days than what they did any other
16 days.

17 Q. At Christmas, I think you also tell us in your statement
18 that you could go out to a family for the day.

19 A. Yes, at Christmas. Not everybody again. It was just
20 certain boys or girls -- I don't know about the girls'
21 section, but certain boys -- I can only talk from my
22 experience -- certain boys would be lent out if you were
23 good and the nuns didn't have a problem with you, so to
24 speak, they would then take you to a family in Lanark
25 and give you to this family for a day, Christmas Day.

1 They would take you out on Christmas morning, give you
2 to a family and then come back at night and pick you up.
3 While you were with that family it was heaven because
4 you were in a normal house with normal people and you
5 got normal food and got treated normally.

6 Q. And you were one of the ones chosen for --

7 A. Yes, I was chosen to go out on Christmas Day.

8 Q. Did either of your parents come to visit you while you
9 were at Smyllum; can you remember?

10 A. Yes, my father and -- my mother used to come
11 occasionally. My mother would come but mostly it was my
12 father and he would come maybe once a month, once every
13 six weeks, something like that. My memory was whenever
14 I went close to him, he always smelt nice, he always
15 smelt of chocolate, because you never smelt chocolate.
16 Your senses were affected in the home.

17 Q. Was there a particular place within Smyllum where you
18 and your father, for example, would meet when he came?

19 A. No they would -- my father would be either waiting
20 outside the front of the building or, if it was raining
21 or damp or miserable and that, there would be a room.
22 When you are looking at that building, to the right-hand
23 side, it was like a parlour where there was a piano and
24 a big table and a bookcase and stuff like that. They
25 would come -- the nun would tell me the day before that

1 I was going to get a visitor, I was getting a visit from
2 your father, so you have to be clean and tidy, so take
3 off all those clothes that you have got on, and the nun
4 would take you up to wherever, the lockers, the
5 dormitory, and they would give you fresh clean clothes
6 to put on because they didn't want your father seeing
7 you with holes in your trousers for instance or your
8 toes poking out your sandals, you know.

9 So they would give you decent clothes because your
10 father was visiting so that he would get the impression
11 that you were well looked after and everything was fine.

12 Q. Did you meet with your father when he came on your own?

13 A. On my own, yes.

14 Q. Did you ever mention to your father, or indeed to your
15 mother, during these visits what life was like?

16 A. Yes I did, I told them. I told them it was horrible and
17 I wanted out, I wanted home, and he couldn't take us
18 home. He never had the power because he was living in
19 Salvation Army hostel at the time in Edinburgh, down in
20 the Grassmarket, so he couldn't take us. If he tried to
21 take us out -- he actually told me the nuns had
22 forbidden him to take me or [REDACTED] out of the grounds,
23 so you could only walk in the grounds of Smyllum. He
24 couldn't take me to the town because then they would
25 think he was taking me away.

1 So everything -- my father's visit was done at the
2 front of that building, walking up and down, or, if it
3 was raining, in that parlour where we would sit and talk
4 for about maybe about an hour.

5 Then the nun would come in the room, or come
6 outside, and say, "Right, your time is up", and she
7 would take me back to the back of the building and my
8 sister then would get brought out. So my father would
9 tell me, say, "Right, okay, son, I will see you in
10 a month", or whatever, "I'm going to see your sister
11 now". Then I was taken away then they would bring my
12 sister out.

13 Q. So you weren't seen together?

14 A. No, we weren't seen -- we never saw my father together.
15 It was me first, my sister second, and I don't know
16 about my brother. He was only two, well two-ish, three.
17 Obviously he got brought out as well, you know. But
18 I never, ever saw my brother and my sister and myself
19 with my father on visiting days.

20 Q. I want to focus a bit more on the abuse that you
21 suffered at Smyllum.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You talk about that in your statement, page 9. In
24 particular, you are giving us information there about
25 Sister AGI and her staff.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. The first thing you tell us is that the nuns had wooden
3 hairbrushes tucked into their tunics.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What were these hairbrushes for?

6 A. Just for hitting you with.

7 Q. Why would you be hit? What reasons would there be for
8 being hit?

9 A. Anything. Anything that displeased them. Maybe if you
10 were too loud or too noisy in the hall or -- boys would
11 be hit for the slightest thing, anything. If they
12 answered back for instance to a nun or a member of
13 staff, you know because you were frustrated. The boys
14 were frustrated, so was I. If the nun said, come here
15 you, and you said, no, no, then you would get hit for
16 that for instance, they would pull you, stuff like that.

17 Q. Where would you be hit?

18 A. Why would you be hit?

19 Q. No, where.

20 A. You would be hit all over. She would take this brush
21 out of her tunic, out of her sleeve and just hit you
22 with it. She didn't care where it landed and it wasn't
23 the bristle end, it was wooden end that she made sure
24 she was hitting you with. If you went like that
25 (indicates) she would batter your knuckles as well. You

1 are trying to protect yourself, you see, and if you
2 tried to run away from her, which I witnessed as well,
3 she would actually run after you until she caught you
4 and grabbed you and then you would be in for it worse:
5 you would get kicked and punched and slapped and hit
6 with a brush as well. It's terrible.

7 Q. When you say kicked --

8 A. Yes, she would kick you.

9 Q. -- how often would that happen to you?

10 A. To me? Well, I was kicked quite a few times. Over
11 a period of the time I was in there I would reckon
12 I would be kicked and punched and slapped and my ear
13 twisted and cheeks pulled and my hair I reckon at least
14 a couple of dozen times in the time I was there.

15 Q. What about other --

16 A. Other boys got it -- got the same or worse. It would
17 depend on the temperament of the boy. If you were a boy
18 that was quiet and timid and didn't give them any
19 trouble, then you maybe wouldn't get kicked and punched
20 so much as a boy that was rowdy, you know what I mean?

21 Q. Yes. Was it Sister AGI that you were involved
22 with mainly or were there other nuns as well?

23 A. No, Sister AGI was in charge of my dormitory, but
24 other nuns, at playtime or wherever, if you were out in
25 the yard, or if you were in the hall, they were -- you

1 see they had a rota system where they would swap over.
2 Sister [REDACTED] AGI would maybe be looking after you for
3 say 2 hours and when the 2 hours was up, she would
4 leave, she would go through the door, and another nun
5 would come in, maybe Sister [REDACTED] EAA or Sister [REDACTED] or
6 Sister whatever. She would come in and she would be in
7 charge of you and they would just sit or walk up and
8 down making sure everything was all right, that you
9 weren't fighting or trying to escape or -- you know,
10 things like that.

11 These nuns all had the same cruelty towards you.
12 There wasn't any that were -- that I could say that
13 I could remember that were ever, ever kind and gentle.
14 They all were the same. It was a thing like they had to
15 be cruel. It was as if it was drummed into them for
16 some reason. That's what I think.

17 Q. You tell us, if you look at your statement, at
18 paragraph 41, about an incident involving
19 Sister [REDACTED] AGI and, I think, another boy --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- who tried to see whether or not she had any hair. Is
22 that the background to it?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can you tell me a little bit about that incident?

25 A. That was -- because they wore these big hats, the

1 children, the boys, used to say that they were bald
2 underneath their hats, that they never had any hair
3 because the nuns all got their hair cut off. That just
4 went round. It was a known thing. We thought we knew
5 that all the nuns were baldy. That's the way we were.

6 LADY SMITH: You say that's because what they wore on their
7 heads?

8 A. Yes because you never ever saw any hair.

9 LADY SMITH: Tell me what you remember of what they had on
10 their heads.

11 A. They had a big white hat with wings and you never, ever
12 saw any hair or anything, so you just automatically
13 thought that they were bald underneath.

14 LADY SMITH: Thinking back, what was your reaction to these
15 hats, as you call them, that they had on their heads
16 when you were a little boy?

17 A. I didn't bother about it. They looked like just big
18 white hats to me. I didn't -- I wasn't frightened of
19 them, the hat. I was frightened of the nuns, but
20 I wasn't frightened of the hat. I mean it is only a hat
21 after all. But we all thought that the nuns were baldy
22 under the hat and one --

23 LADY SMITH: So you were telling Mr MacAulay about this
24 incident.

25 A. This incident, yes. Well, in our dormitory the nun had

1 a little cell to the left-hand side and this HBX
2 HBX woman had a cell to the right-hand side.
3 There was a little square window, maybe about a foot
4 square, which was about five feet from the ground, and
5 there was a little pair of curtains on these cells where
6 Ms HBX or the nun could open the curtain and look out
7 and see the dormitory.

8 Underneath this window there was a bed. There were
9 beds on both sides. So one day -- it was one evening,
10 before -- we were in bed actually, but it was still
11 quite light and Sister AGI never closed the
12 curtains properly, so there was about maybe an inch or
13 two-inch gap down the middle of the curtain. This boy
14 decided, oh -- I remember him saying it -- I'm going to
15 look in that window to see if Sister AGI is bald
16 when she takes her clothes -- hat off to go to bed.

17 So he stood on the bed and as he was peering in
18 through the window the HBX woman came out
19 of her room and he couldn't escape because she saw him.
20 Whenever she came out, he was just there looking,
21 standing on the bed looking in the window. He never
22 realised that she had come out, so she caught him.

23 She obviously thought he was looking in the window
24 to see the nun naked, which he wasn't; he was only
25 wanting to see if she was bald or not because the ages

1 we were, sex didn't come into it. We weren't interested
2 in naked women. You know what I mean?

3 Anyway, she grabbed him off the bed and pulled him
4 off the bed and started kicking him and battering him
5 and he was yelling and screaming. Sister [REDACTED] AGI [REDACTED] came
6 out of her room with her hat on and her robes, her dress
7 on, because she heard all the commotion and the [REDACTED] HB
8 [REDACTED] HBX [REDACTED] nun told the sister that, "He has been
9 looking in your window at you getting undressed", and he
10 was trying to tell her, "I wasn't, I was only wanting to
11 see if she was bald", and they both of them then started
12 punching and kicking him and calling him a dirty beast
13 and, you are a this, you are a that. I can't remember
14 all the words, but it was on those terms. He was
15 a filthy -- and "God will punish you" and all that kind
16 of thing. That poor boy got an awful hiding. He really
17 got an awful hiding for that. I think he was black and
18 blue. He must have been by the time the two women were
19 finished with him because he was only about 8 or 9 or
20 10.

21 MR MacAULAY: You have mentioned the likelihood of him being
22 black and blue. Did you yourself ever have marks on you
23 because of --

24 A. Only red when the nun hit you over the knuckles or if
25 you got hit or kicked and you got a bruise on your ankle

1 where she had maybe kicked you but nothing really
2 drastic for me. I wasn't -- the only time I really got
3 a good hiding, which is later on, you might come to
4 that --

5 Q. I'm going to come to that.

6 A. But apart from that I never really got beaten that badly
7 that I was sore all over or I had to get medical
8 treatment because of it.

9 Q. But were there children who were beaten --

10 A. Yes, there were children who were beaten. They were
11 really beaten and I saw boys crippled, they were
12 crippling the next day because the Sister had kicked
13 them in the shin or he was sore and it was sore for him
14 to walk, you know. But me, personally, I only got the
15 odd tug of the ears, the nose, the hair, the hit with
16 the brush, the kick, a slap, a punch in your chest, that
17 kind of thing.

18 Q. Lady Smith asked you about the headgear, I will put
19 a photograph on the screen to see if this rings a bell
20 with you. It is DSV.001.001.0362.

21 A. Yes, yes.

22 Q. Is that the headgear?

23 A. That is the headgear, yes.

24 Q. It looks quite daunting.

25 A. It is daunting yes. It is yes. That's what they wore.

1 We used to call them seagulls because they looked like
2 a big seagull -- well, I did and some of the boys
3 I associated with in the dormitories used to call the
4 Sisters -- they are like big seagulls.

5 Q. You also tell us -- we can take that off -- about
6 an incident that involved a Sister Superior when you
7 were, I think, involved with another boy.

8 A. Yes. That was it when I really got a bad hiding that
9 day and we were in the playroom -- well, the hall, and
10 me and this other boy started wrestling about and
11 fighting, just playing, we weren't punching each other
12 or hurting each other, we were only playing and we were
13 rolling about the floor trying to get the better of each
14 other. This boy ended up on top of me and he was lying
15 on top of me and the Sister walked in the door and saw
16 this boy on top of me and thought that we were
17 simulating sex, which we weren't.

18 Q. How do you know she thought that?

19 A. Because she rushed over and pulled him off and called us
20 filthy beasts and all that kind of thing. I can't
21 remember the exact words but she dragged both of us into
22 the room -- a room and took a brush and started whacking
23 both of us and kicking us and punching us and telling
24 us, "God will punish you," and, "That kind of behaviour
25 is not allowed", and we weren't doing anything. We

1 weren't doing anything. But she -- afterwards, when
2 I thought about it, she never come right out and said,
3 "You are simulating sex", but after it that's the
4 impression I got that she thought that we were
5 simulating sex with each other.

6 Q. What age were you then, do you think?

7 A. About 9.

8 Q. Do you know -- can you remember the Sister Superior's
9 name?

10 A. No, I don't.

11 Q. You also tell us about another episode involving someone
12 by the name of **AFF** --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- who I think you tell us was brought up in Smyllum.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What happened here?

17 A. The toilet block -- if this was the hall (indicates) you
18 had to go outside to the toilet block, which was
19 outside. It was about 50 yards away. On this occasion,
20 when I was needing the bathroom, I went up to the toilet
21 block and **AFF** was there. Sometimes he would have
22 a bucket and a mop and he would be mopping the floor or
23 whatever. Anyway, he was about 18 or 20 years old,
24 something like that. When I went into the toilet block
25 there was only him there and me. So he grabbed me and

1 pushed me into one of the cubicles and closed the door
2 and -- is it okay to say?

3 Q. Of course.

4 A. He took his penis out and told me to play with it and
5 I didn't want to do it but he said look, "Play with it
6 or else, I will hit you". So I took a hold of his penis
7 and he said, "Right, move it up and down", so I started
8 to do this for maybe about three or four minutes and
9 then we heard someone coming in. It was two boys, they
10 were laughing and giggling. They came into the toilet
11 block. So he quickly put it away, put his penis away
12 and he says to me, "If you tell anybody about what
13 happened in here, I will get you, what's your name?"
14 I told him my name, and he says, "Right, I will remember
15 your name, don't you ever ever tell, not your friends,
16 not the nuns, nobody, what I have just done, okay?"

17 Q. And did you ever tell?

18 A. No I didn't, because you were too frightened of him
19 finding out that you told.

20 Q. Was he around in Smyllum at the time?

21 A. Pardon?

22 Q. Was he around in Smyllum?

23 A. Well, I think he lived there. He was one of [REDACTED]
24 from -- he used to help BAC, the [REDACTED] the
25 [REDACTED] and he was there all the time and what I was

1 led to believe -- and what someone told me -- was that
2 he was brought up in Smyllum and when he turned 16 the
3 nuns offered him a job because he had obviously -- maybe
4 he never had any parents or anything and so he was
5 allowed to stay on at Smyllum and help [BAC] do the
6 chores, the work.

7 Q. Again, you have mentioned [BAC] and that's
8 [BAC] isn't it?

9 A. Yes, it is.

10 Q. What was your experiences with him?

11 A. Can I just say one thing before we go into that? After
12 that incident with [AFF] I was frightened to go to the
13 bathroom for ages and after that I wouldn't go up to
14 that toilet block on my own, I would always ask another
15 boy, could you come with me to the bathroom, because
16 I had somehow had it in my mind that if there were two
17 of us I would be safer, he wouldn't do it again.

18 And that happened -- that was the only time it
19 happened but I always went to that toilet block with
20 someone else. Right, sorry.

21 Q. Not at all. Thank you for that.

22 Then [BAC] what experience did you have
23 of him?

24 A. I never knew his second name; right? I just knew him as
25 [BAC] and to me he was the [BAC], but he was also

1 wicked and cruel. I used to see him slapping boys and
2 he used to have a game that he played where there was
3 a big wooden hut, maybe 30 feet long by 20 feet wide,
4 and occasionally he would get us boys and take us into
5 this hut and make us run around in a circle and he would
6 have a big leather football, one of the old footballs
7 that you tied with a lace. He would stand in the middle
8 of the room and we are all running around in a circle
9 and he would kick this ball at you so it would hit you
10 and if the ball hit you, then it was, "Right, you,
11 you're out", and you would go and sit down at the far
12 end. And he used to do this until there was only one
13 person left standing and he would be the winner and
14 BAC would maybe give him a packet of Spangles or
15 whatever for being the winner, that was the way it
16 worked. Anyway, on this occasion when we were running
17 round BAC kicked this ball that hard it hit me right
18 on the side of my head, this ear (indicates).

19 Q. You are pointing to your left ear.

20 A. To my left, yes, because we were running anticlockwise
21 so my left was always facing the centre and I just felt
22 a sharp pain in my ear and I started crying and he says
23 to me, "Right, go and sit down, you, and stop your
24 bubbling". But my ear -- I was in agony. He had done
25 some damage to my ear with that ball, it was just the

1 way it happened.

2 Anyway, I got an infection in that ear and it was
3 really, really sore and it used to run, my ear used to
4 run, and when I went to the Sister to tell her she sent
5 me down to the Sister -- boys with sores used to go with
6 this other nun to get treatment and this nun, I told her
7 what it was, and she had a look at me and she put -- she
8 got some drops and put these drops in my ear.

9 These drops never stayed there, they'd run down
10 inside my neck as if there had been a hole there where
11 these drops went and went down the side my neck. I was
12 in sheer agony with that because it was really, really
13 painful. So every time boys with sores -- every night,
14 they would come and say, "Right, boys with sores", and
15 they would clap their hands and if you had a sore you
16 would go through to this nun who would give you some
17 kind of treatment and I used to dread -- I used to tell
18 this nun -- I told her a few times, look, I don't want
19 these drops in my ear because they are going down inside
20 my neck, and she was all, "Don't be silly", and she kept
21 giving me these drops. But I had an infection in that
22 ear and to this day I am partially deaf in that ear.

23 Q. So you didn't get any other medical treatment then?

24 A. No other medical treatment, no.

25 Q. You tell us about one incident when you were dealing

1 with a new boy who had arrived at Smyllum.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And you were to take him, I think, to the dormitory.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And something happened?

6 A. Yes. It was his first day, the boy -- can I name him?

7 Q. No, you don't need --

8 A. Right.

9 Q. What sort of age was he?

10 A. About the same age as me. And the Sister told me to

11 take him up and show him where the dormitory is. The

12 dormitory was -- you come out the main building and it

13 was at the back, maybe about 50 yards -- it was above

14 the school, that school that you showed me the

15 photograph of, where they had the partitions, the

16 dormitory that I slept in was right above that.

17 Anyway, I took him up to the dormitory, asked him

18 his name and this and that, and we got to the top of the

19 step, there was stairs going up to this dormitory, and

20 he had messed his pants. He had done a mess in his

21 pants. He was a bundle of nerves, he was shaking

22 because it was his first day, and I could understand it.

23 Now he was -- the mess was all over him because he had

24 a pair of shorts on, no long trousers, it was shorts.

25 So I says, oh dear, to myself -- I says, look, we will

1 have to go and tell the nun, you will have to get
2 cleaned up, I can't take you into the dormitory like
3 that because you will make a mess on the floor.

4 So I took him back down the stairs and back to the
5 main building, where I saw the nun and she looked and
6 saw what had happened and she got him and marched him
7 through to wherever -- I don't know where he went -- but
8 he got cleaned up and I heard him yelling and screaming
9 through this door as if she was giving him a hiding.
10 She was hitting him anyway. So he must have got his
11 clothes stripped off and shoved in a bath through there
12 or something. But it was a shame for him, I felt sorry
13 for him.

14 Q. That was his first day?

15 A. That was his first day at Smyllum, yes.

16 Q. Then you have been telling us about in particular your
17 first visit to Smyllum, this first time in Smyllum.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. As we have already looked at, you were able to leave at
20 a point in time and go back home; is that right?

21 A. Yes, that's correct.

22 Q. But then after a period out of Smyllum you were back in
23 Smyllum?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Albeit this time for a shorter period of time?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What age do you reckon you were when you went back to
3 Smyllum?

4 A. I think maybe about 11 or 12 because I was in the same
5 dormitory; I never stepped up when I went back the
6 second time. I was still in that dormitory with
7 Sister [REDACTED] AGI and the [REDACTED] HBX so I hadn't
8 aged.

9 From the time I left to the time I went back,
10 I think only a few months had passed, maybe 9 months,
11 8 months, something like that.

12 Q. I think the date I put to you before was [REDACTED] 1960 when
13 you were back, would that fit --

14 A. Well, that would make me 12, yes.

15 Q. Would that be about right, do you think?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You were in the same dormitory but I think you had
18 a different bed and a different number.

19 A. I had a different bed and a different number, yes.

20 Q. What was the situation now then when you went --

21 A. It was just the same. The dormitory -- the Sister,

22 [REDACTED] AGI, was there, Ms [REDACTED] HBX was there, Ms [REDACTED] IAQ

23 was still there. Nothing had changed. It was just the
24 same.

25 Q. What about the punishments?

1 A. The punishments were still the same. The regime was
2 still there, it was still in place. There was not any
3 changes.

4 Q. Any love or compassion shown?

5 A. No love or compassion. I was crying my eyes out when
6 I was told, you are going back to Smyllum. It broke my
7 heart because -- (Pause)

8 Q. Would you like a short break, John?

9 A. I'm sorry.

10 LADY SMITH: John, it is quite all right. If you want
11 a break, you tell me. Otherwise, if you just want to
12 pause and stay here, that is fine as well.

13 A. If you just give me a minute.

14 LADY SMITH: That's fine.

15 A. (Pause). Right, I think I'm okay.

16 MR MacAULAY: You were there, I think, for about 9 or
17 10 months in any event on this second occasion.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And then you left. Did you go back to stay with your
20 parents?

21 A. Yes, I did.

22 Q. I think you are now married and I think your wife's with
23 you here today.

24 A. Yes, she is.

25 Q. Are you able to say how you see any impact that Smyllum

1 may have had on you?

2 A. Impact on my life? I just put it to the back of my
3 mind. I feel like for those years I was in Smyllum
4 I suffered and there's nothing you can do about it. You
5 can't sort of dwell on it too much because it is
6 hurtful.

7 It hasn't affected the way I behave -- I mean,
8 I don't need any counselling or -- you know things like
9 that. It was just a bad experience as far as I'm
10 concerned. It was a bad experience and my childhood --
11 well, part of my childhood was lost, really, in there.

12 Q. I don't think you have ever tried to get a copy of your
13 records.

14 A. No, I didn't, no.

15 Q. You have mentioned your sister.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. I think she's now --

18 A. She's deceased.

19 Q. Did you discuss Smyllum with her at all?

20 A. Yes, we did. We discussed Smyllum and she told me it
21 was horrible as well. She never went into any details
22 about how she got treated. I think she got treated just
23 the same. I think the girls got treated just as bad as
24 the boys really. But she never dwelt -- we didn't dwell
25 on it, we were just glad to get out. I was glad to get

1 out the second time as well. The first time we were
2 both glad to get out and go home and get with our mum
3 and dad. That was just -- it became a distant memory.

4 Q. I can tell you John that the Inquiry has spoken to nuns
5 who survive from the time that you were at Smyllum and
6 we are told that they say that Smyllum was a happy place
7 with children well cared for by kind nuns.

8 A. That's a load of rubbish.

9 Q. You are shaking your head.

10 A. That's absolute nonsense. Absolute nonsense. These
11 women were the most cruellest, wickedest people you
12 could ever meet and there was nothing you could do about
13 it because you were in an environment that they
14 controlled and you couldn't go and tell anyone what was
15 happening. You couldn't go and get a policeman and tell
16 the policeman, "That woman assaulted me", or anything
17 like that. You were under their control day and night
18 and they were wicked and cruel. They were called the
19 Sisters of Mercy; they never showed the children or me
20 any mercy. They were horrible. I wouldn't wish any
21 child to go through a place like that that I went
22 through. It was terrible.

23 So they weren't kind and nice. They are only saying
24 that they were kind and nice.

25 MR MacAULAY: Well, John, thank you for your evidence.

1 I have no further questions for you.

2 My Lady, no written questions have been submitted to
3 me and I don't know if there are to be any applications
4 for questions.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 Could I check with those representatives present
7 whether there are any outstanding applications for
8 questions? I'm seeing a lot of shaking heads. Is that
9 right, no applications? No.

10 John, thank you very much for coming along this
11 morning and giving us your evidence.

12 A. Okay, thank you.

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

14 A. Okay, thank you very much.

15 (The witness withdrew)

16 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, although we normally go on until
17 11.30 am, would it make sense to have the mid-morning
18 break now and take the next witness after that?

19 MR MacAULAY: It would, my Lady, because the next witness is
20 programmed to come in at 11.30 am, so perhaps having the
21 break now --

22 LADY SMITH: We will break now with a view of sitting at
23 11.45 or so. Very well, we will do that.

24 (11.25 am)

25 (A short break)

1 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

2 MR MacAULAY: Yes, my Lady.

3 The next witness does not want to remain anonymous.

4 He is an applicant and I will therefore call William

5 Connelly.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 MR WILLIAM FRANCIS CONNELLY (affirmed)

8 Questions from MR MacAULAY

9 LADY SMITH: Do sit down and make yourself comfortable,

10 Mr Connelly.

11 Before I invite Mr MacAulay to ask questions of you,

12 can I just reassure you that we can have breaks at any

13 time if you want a break. I will leave it to you to let

14 me know. All right? Is that okay?

15 A. Okay.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Mr MacAulay.

17 MR MacAULAY: Yes, my Lady.

18 Good morning, Bill. I think your full name is

19 William Frances Connelly.

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Your date of birth, I understand, is [REDACTED] 1948.

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. As you know, I will be asking you some questions. If

24 there's something I ask and you don't remember, just say

25 you don't remember; do you understand that?

1 A. Will do.

2 Q. Also the other side of that particular coin is that,
3 although you have given a statement, if you remember
4 something now that you hadn't remembered then, again,
5 you can let us know.

6 Perhaps I can just begin by taking you to your
7 statement and I will give a reference number and it is
8 in the red folder in front of you. It is
9 WIT.001.001.2460. I want you to turn to the very last
10 page of the statement.

11 Can we see that's page 2474. Can we see -- have you
12 signed that statement?

13 A. I have.

14 Q. And you also say in the previous paragraph, at
15 paragraph 75:

16 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
17 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry."

18 Is that right?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. You also go on to say:

21 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
22 statement are true."

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. Can I then go back a little bit in time and look at the
25 position of your life before you went into care because

1 you know you were admitted to Smyllum at a point in
2 time; is that right? Before that, were you in a family
3 that -- [REDACTED] ?

4 A. [REDACTED]

5 Q. I understand that [REDACTED] .

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. But I believe that your mother died when you were about
8 3 years old; is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. That then left you in the care of your father?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. From what one reads from your statement, it wasn't
13 a particularly happy situation.

14 A. No.

15 Q. When you were about 8, I think your father was arrested
16 and he ended up in prison; is that right?

17 A. (Witness nods).

18 Q. So who looked after you after that?

19 A. For a short while my brother and his wife, [REDACTED]

20 Q. But after that was it then that you went to
21 Smyllum Orphanage?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. The date that we have from the records, Bill, that you
24 were admitted to Smyllum is 10 September 1958 when you
25 would be about aged 10; is that about right, according

1 to your own recollection?

2 A. I thought I was 9 or 10. I didn't know at the time.

3 I don't know how long I was actually in Smyllum. I can
4 only remember by events that happened while I got there,
5 events while I was there and events when I left.

6 I don't know about dates. I don't know how long I was
7 there.

8 LADY SMITH: That would seem to fit with what you have told
9 us of you being about 8 when your dad was taken away by
10 the police and then you living with your brother for
11 a while after that, and that might take you to about
12 10 years old.

13 A. Yes.

14 LADY SMITH: Can I just reassure you that I don't need to
15 know precise dates, so don't worry if you can't remember
16 precise dates. It would be very unusual actually if you
17 could because you would have no reason at the time to
18 fix your mind on them. Thank you.

19 [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]

2 A. Oh yes.

3 Q. Do you remember your first day when you arrived at
4 Smyllum?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What can you tell me about that?

7 A. Well, I remember the day that I was taken away from the
8 house. I mean, do you want to know from then?

9 Q. Yes, please.

10 A. Just what I thought -- there wasn't a lot of cars about
11 in those days and what I thought was a big black
12 limousine I got put into it and there was a woman and
13 a driver who didn't speak [REDACTED].

14 [REDACTED]

15 [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED] There was a couple of nuns [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED], nobody spoke to
18 me, and then a nun took me into the -- to where all the
19 dormitories and so on were.

20 Q. Can you remember what the name of the area that you were
21 going to be based in was? The dormitory?

22 A. The dormitory, yes: St Anthony's.

23 Q. But if we look at your statement -- in fact it is on the
24 screen and it is in front of you there -- at
25 paragraph 8, you had some contact with a staff member.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Do you have a recollection of that?
- 3 A. Oh yeah.
- 4 Q. This person seemed to have said to you -- and this is
5 the quote in your statement:
6 "You look like you will be one of mine."
- 7 A. As I walked from the main building to the -- what
8 I later discovered was the boys' end. You'd walk out
9 through various corridors and so on and so forth and
10 then it came out into a big quadrangle. As I was
11 walking across the quadrangle, this member of staff came
12 towards us and said to me, "You look like you might be
13 one of mine". I didn't fully understand what she meant
14 at the time, and the nun said, "No, he is for
15 St Anthony's", and she looked at me and said something
16 like, "Well, that's a pity", and gave me a little hug
17 and I thought, "Marvellous".
- 18 Q. Although, I think from what you tell us -- and we can
19 all see it on the screen -- that that was the one and
20 only time you were shown any compassion.
- 21 A. That's why I remember it so well.
- 22 Q. So far as St Anthony's dormitory was concerned then, can
23 you give me an understanding as to how large an area
24 that was?
- 25 A. It was on the upper floor of a two-storey building. It

1 was a big size -- the primary school was actually
2 underneath the dormitory -- I'm sorry, what was the
3 question?

4 Q. I was asking you about the size of it. Can you give me
5 a -- for example, how many beds were in the dormitory?

6 A. I think there was roughly about 28, roughly.

7 Q. Would you have any objection to looking at
8 a photograph --

9 A. Not at all.

10 Q. This is an aerial view of Smyllum and it is at
11 INQ.001.001.2538. It will come on the screen in front
12 of you. We are looking -- it is a bird's-eye view of
13 Smyllum and the grounds round Smyllum. You have been
14 talking about this particular dormitory with the school
15 underneath it. Does this photograph help you at all in
16 identifying where this might have been?

17 A. Obviously, I have never seen it from this angle, but
18 I think that's (indicates) the quadrangle I walked
19 through with her --

20 Q. We can't see what you are --

21 A. Sorry. It looks like this -- how can I tell you --

22 Q. If you turn round --

23 A. Is it behind me as well?

24 LADY SMITH: It is behind you as well.

25 A. Can I stand up?

1 LADY SMITH: Yes, do.

2 MR MacAULAY: It is a pity we don't have a pointer, but you
3 can use your finger.

4 A. Is this the front here (indicates)?

5 Q. That's the front there?

6 A. I walked through here (indicates) and then from over
7 here (indicates) I entered the quadrangle.

8 Q. That's the quadrangle to the left of your finger?

9 A. Across this quadrangle, this bit here (indicates) was
10 the dining hall and there's a sort of a close there
11 (indicates), an entry, and it takes you up the stairs --
12 is this trees (indicates)?

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. There were no trees there, no trees. This was the
15 school playground here (indicates).

16 Q. Up at the top; yes?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You are pointing towards the top part.

19 A. This is St Joseph's, this is St Anthony's (indicates).

20 Q. These are the other dormitories?

21 A. This is St Anthony's here (indicates).

22 LADY SMITH: So St Anthony's is the taller building that is
23 obscured by the trees in that photograph?

24 A. There was no trees.

25 LADY SMITH: Okay.

- 1 A. Is that your question?
- 2 MR MacAULAY: That's helpful.
- 3 Did you tell me a little while ago that underneath
- 4 St Anthony was the school? Underneath?
- 5 A. That's the school and that was the school playground
- 6 (indicates).
- 7 Q. That's very helpful, Bill, thank you.
- 8 A. There was no trees.
- 9 Q. Was there a particular nun in charge of your dormitory?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Who was she?
- 12 A. Sister AGI .
- 13 Q. How did you find her?
- 14 A. She was okay. Ironically, I found that the names
- 15 reflected their personality. Sister AGI -- we
- 16 called her AGI -- she was quite nice. She
- 17 could -- she would punish you when you deserved it,
- 18 which was fair enough.
- 19 Q. And how would she punish you?
- 20 A. Because she was small and so on, she would give you
- 21 a couple of slaps but nothing -- I have got nothing bad
- 22 to say about Sister AGI .
- 23 Q. Was there any other person who helped Sister AGI
- 24 in that dormitory?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Who was that?
- 2 A. I can't remember her name -- and I don't know why
- 3 I can't remember her name because I seen her almost on
- 4 a daily basis but she was -- do you want me to describe
- 5 her?
- 6 Q. Yes, please.
- 7 A. She was a bit like [REDACTED] She was [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
- 8 [REDACTED], always seemed to wear a [REDACTED] -- I don't
- 9 know if it was a pinny or what -- and she was sort of
- 10 [REDACTED] and a [REDACTED]
- 11 Q. How did you get on with her?
- 12 A. No, no, no. She was not very nice.
- 13 Q. Why do you say that?
- 14 A. She would hit you for anything, nothing -- and just done
- 15 a lot to humiliate you.
- 16 Q. Would this be in the presence of any of the nuns or
- 17 would this be --
- 18 A. Both.
- 19 Q. Can I then just look at what you tell us in your
- 20 statement about mornings and bedtimes. You give us some
- 21 information about that. You were woken up quite early
- 22 in the morning; is that right?
- 23 A. I say here it was 7 o'clock but once again, you know, if
- 24 it was 7.30, I don't know. If it was 6.45, I don't
- 25 know. It was round about that time except when I was

1 doing a job in what we called "the wee boys", then I got
2 up about 6.

3 Q. The group that you were in in St Anthony's dormitory,
4 what was the age group, when you were about 9 on 10?

5 A. I would think round about 9 or 10 was the entrance.
6 That's why the member of staff that saw me thought
7 I might be for her dormitory because she took the ones
8 that were just younger than me and then St Joseph's took
9 you from about 13 and a half.

10 Q. So you were in that other group?

11 A. I was in the St Anthony's, yes.

12 Q. After washing and so on, you would head for breakfast;
13 is that right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What was the food like?

16 A. I have difficulty remembering what the food was like
17 because there wasn't a lot to remember. I just know
18 that you had to eat what you were given. I remember the
19 porridge. I don't like porridge now. But you had to
20 eat it because you'd get a belt if you didn't.

21 Q. Who would give you -- who would belt you?

22 A. Whoever was doing the duty at the time.

23 Q. If you didn't eat it, what would happen?

24 A. Well, I ate it most of the time because you -- you done
25 things to stop you getting a belt because you got enough

1 for nothing, so, I didn't want to encourage them, so
2 I ate it.

3 Q. Other boys, other children, did you --

4 A. Yes, you'd see them getting belted so you didn't want
5 what they got.

6 Q. In the morning was there an issue over bed-wetting?

7 A. Yes. I had a problem -- and a lot of people had
8 a problem -- with bed-wetting.

9 Q. If I just focus on your position first of all.

10 A. (Pause). Sorry.

11 Q. That's okay. At least for some time when you were at
12 Smyllum you did suffer from bed-wetting.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What would happen if you wet the bed?

15 A. Well, you got -- when they found out in the morning, the
16 first thing you got was a belting for it.

17 Q. From whom though?

18 A. It was usually from the little woman I described. But
19 there was also sometimes older boys in charge of you,
20 you know, when there wasn't a member of staff around.

21 Q. And would they belt you as well?

22 A. They would administer punishment, yes.

23 Q. What sort of punishment was being administered? Can you
24 describe the punishment?

25 A. Well, when it was the bed-wetting, and it was just you,

1 there would be a couple of digs then, but they also
2 would be put you in charge of you at other times.
3 I don't know if you want me to tell you about that just
4 now.

5 Q. No, I will come to that.

6 When the lady you mentioned -- you called her "the
7 wee woman" -- was involved, was it simply a question of
8 getting some slaps or whatever --

9 A. No, I mentioned earlier she would do what she could to
10 humiliate you. Things like -- the dormitory was -- when
11 you went in, there was an area from about that desk to
12 that wall and that wall to that wall and then the
13 dormitory started there (indicates) and there was
14 a partition with like a lintel across it -- it didn't go
15 all the way up to the ceiling -- and she would put the
16 sheets over the lintel and call you a dirty animal and
17 so on and so forth and every time you passed her you got
18 a dig.

19 Q. Was this a regular occurrence?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. I mean, did you stop wetting the bed eventually when you
22 were in that dormitory?

23 A. No, I think I was -- I didn't wet the bed every night,
24 but being where I was and the environment I was in,
25 I used to pray every night that I didn't wet the bed.

1 Q. Were there other bed-wetters in the same dormitory?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Was it the same sort of treatment?

4 A. Yes, there was lots of things. People sometimes had to

5 wear their sheets like togas.

6 Q. Did that happen to you?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Why was that done, do you know?

9 A. To humiliate you. It was seen as dirty, you were ...

10 you shouldn't have been wetting your bed.

11 Q. What about bathing and washing? I think baths, you tell

12 us in your statement, were a weekly occurrence.

13 A. I believe so. I couldn't -- yeah. A week sounds about

14 right to me.

15 Q. Can you describe what happened at bath time? Can you

16 describe the situation for me?

17 A. The environment?

18 Q. Yes.

19 A. That entry that I pointed to from the far end of the

20 quadrangle, where you went up the stairs, at the top of

21 the stairs, on the right-hand side was a door which was

22 the entrance to the bathhouse. As you opened the door,

23 the length of the bathhouse was a channel with

24 partitions every 6 feet or whatever. The floor where

25 the channel was went out a couple of feet was like

1 a granite, a reddish granite. It looked rough but it
2 was actually quite smooth. I quite enjoyed the baths
3 because we used to -- you were all in the one channel
4 but in your individual cubicle.

5 Q. But was it the same water that ran through the channel?

6 A. Yes. I didn't see a lot wrong with that at the time; it
7 was nice to have a bath.

8 Q. But you do tell us I think about one episode -- this is
9 on page 4 of your statement -- when you had come out of
10 the bath and you were combing your hair.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Can you tell me about that?

13 A. Well, when you went to the bathhouse it was always
14 a rush and there was always members of staff shouting.
15 So there was loud voices all the time. I was doing what
16 you do, you got out of the water when you were told to,
17 I dried off, and I was getting dressed and combing my
18 hair. There were still members of staff and a nun
19 shouting to hurry up.

20 I wasn't aware this nun was speaking to me, but all
21 of a sudden she come over, pushed me onto those benches
22 round where you'd put your clothes and so on and boots
23 and she started cutting me, digging in -- I didn't
24 realise at the time but she had a pair of scissors in
25 her hand --

- 1 Q. Take your time.
- 2 A. She had me down and she was cutting at my hair and I was
3 putting my hands up and she was cutting my hands, and
4 another nun appeared and held my hands, and I realised
5 I was getting hurt more by struggling, so I just let her
6 get on with it, digging in, and that was it, and my hair
7 was -- I looked like -- and I ended up -- I was going to
8 call it a hospital wing, but it was by no means
9 a hospital wing, more like an isolation ward where there
10 was about eight beds in it. I ended up in there until
11 my head cleared up.
- 12 Q. Did she say why she was cutting your hair?
- 13 A. No. No.
- 14 Q. Just so I can understand, when she was cutting your
15 hair, was she also making contact with your scalp?
- 16 A. Yes, that's what I'm saying: the scissors were digging
17 into me.
- 18 Q. Were you cut?
- 19 A. Oh yeah and my hands were cut.
- 20 Q. You had a number of cuts?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. And what treatment did need to get then?
- 23 A. I got taken to the isolation ward and I got something
24 put round my head and I was left and then over a couple
25 of days the blood congealed and dried up and then a nun

1 come in to -- took me to a washbasin and tried to clean
2 it up, but she was rough and taking scabs off, and it
3 started to bleed again. So I was there for a few more
4 days until it cleared up.

5 The back of my hands were cut as well -- when I say
6 cut, you know skin was lifted from the scissors.

7 LADY SMITH: Do you remember what your hair was like before
8 it was cut?

9 A. Oh, there you are!

10 LADY SMITH: Yes, I'm here.

11 Do you remember what your hair was like before it
12 was cut?

13 A. I think that was one of the reasons why it was done,
14 because I had a sort of a quiff. I thought it was
15 fantastic, but I had a sort of a quiff and I must have
16 been taking too long to comb my hair or something, you
17 combed it back and then you pushed it. For those
18 days -- it was quite short, but long in the top.

19 LADY SMITH: I have got the picture: you had hair on the top
20 when you were a child.

21 A. Yes.

22 MR MacAULAY: But I mean when that was happening to you were
23 you crying?

24 A. Oh yes, yes.

25 Q. Were you saying anything to the nuns that were involved

- 1 with you?
- 2 A. Yes, I was -- I don't know what I was saying, but I was
3 shouting and screaming and then I stopped because
4 I realised, what's the point? As was sort of normal: if
5 you fought against it, you got more.
- 6 Q. Do you know the names of the nuns that were involved
7 with you at that time?
- 8 A. I don't know who it was. There was a lot of nuns that
9 I had contact with that I didn't know their names.
- 10 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about birthdays? Were
11 birthdays celebrated at Smyllum?
- 12 A. I don't remember my birthday being celebrated in any
13 way, no.
- 14 Q. You do tell us in your statement at paragraph 28 about
15 an occasion when you --
- 16 A. The gun, the new aunty.
- 17 Q. You received a parcel from what was called an aunty?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. What was -- it was a toy?
- 20 A. It was a Buntline Special, I believe, and it was
21 supposed to be the gun that Wyatt Earp used, I don't
22 know, but it was a Buntline Special with an extra --
23 I didn't see it out of the box.
- 24 Q. You saw it in the box.
- 25 A. The nun took it away again.

- 1 Q. Did you ever see it again?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. Were you told why it was being taken away?
- 4 A. No, but I know why: it was because I wouldn't write
5 a letter of thank-you to the woman who sent it because
6 I knew what it was all about.
- 7 Q. What was it all about?
- 8 A. It was about finding you a new aunty, whether you wanted
9 it or not. Our belief was that the new aunty -- the
10 organisation would play on their emotions and the new
11 aunty would subscribe money and so on.
- 12 Q. So that was the reasons why you refused to write the
13 letter?
- 14 A. I didn't want a new aunty, no.
- 15 Q. What about Christmas? Was there anything special about
16 Christmas?
- 17 A. There was a lot of going to chapel, I remember that, but
18 there was nothing that stood out in terms of -- I have
19 actually been thinking about coming here for some time
20 and I know my statement looks all negative and I have
21 actually tried and tried and tried to think about some
22 nice things that I could say and there is only two; if
23 you ever want to know, I will let you know.
- 24 Q. Tell me now.
- 25 A. The one time that I went to camp -- I went to camp in

1 Aberfoyle for a fortnight and it wasn't Smyllum staff
2 that was looking after me. I think that's where I got
3 my love of walking. I saw a golden eagle up on the
4 hills, it was fantastic, so that was good.

5 Then there was a time that I was given £1 for my
6 work I had done from picking potatoes and I was allowed,
7 with an older boy, to go to Lanark to spend £1. So that
8 is two things.

9 Q. I think you talk about these things in your statement.

10 A. Yes, because they were the only two things that was
11 quite all right.

12 LADY SMITH: £1 would have been a lot; you must have worked
13 very hard at the potatoes.

14 A. You were getting away from whatever.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes. That would be the October picking season
16 you would have worked through probably, was it?

17 A. All I remember was the weather wasn't too bad and it was
18 actually quite an enjoyable experience.

19 LADY SMITH: Do you remember whether there were other
20 children, children that weren't Smyllum children,
21 picking the potatoes as well?

22 A. No, I don't remember whether there was or not but
23 I don't remember.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MR MacAULAY: You also provide some information about what

1 sort of chores you did when you were at Smyllum. In
2 particular, you had some responsibility for looking
3 after the younger children and the babies in the
4 nurseries; is that right?

5 A. That was only ever -- I think it was for 3-month
6 periods. You didn't do it for a long time; they kept
7 changing the guys that done it. I done it for about
8 3 months.

9 Q. What did that involve?

10 A. It involved getting up at 6 o'clock because you took
11 over -- can I show you?

12 Q. I can give you another photograph actually. If we put
13 up DSV.001.001.0353, it will come on the screen in front
14 of you again first of all.

15 A. That's about the potatoes and so on.

16 Q. I think we are looking here at the front view of
17 Smyllum; is that right?

18 A. Yeah, that is correct.

19 Q. And you are talking about the nursery; is that the
20 building to the right?

21 A. No. I can show you there.

22 Q. If it helps. Turn round.

23 A. I would need to see the quadrangle.

24 LADY SMITH: Would the aerial photograph be helpful again?

25 MR MacAULAY: So INQ.001.001.2538.

- 1 A. So you entered the quadrangle from here (indicates) and
2 the wee boys just one of these buildings here
3 (indicates), right on the corner.
- 4 Q. When you say wee boys, are they beyond the nursery
5 stage?
- 6 A. There was younger kids, but I remember kids from about,
7 I would say, 18 months to about 5 or something.
- 8 Q. So that is where you went in any event. What chores did
9 you do then?
- 10 A. You were really assisting the nuns or the staff, so you
11 would do whatever they told you to do but -- I mean,
12 I have changed nappies, you'd wash kids. The main thing
13 was getting them up, ready, dressed, getting them fed,
14 getting their breakfast, and then you done that up until
15 you had your breakfast over there as well (indicates)
16 and then when that was done, you went to school.
- 17 Q. So far as schooling was concerned, how did you find the
18 schooling?
- 19 A. I loved the school.
- 20 Q. The school was within the building itself?
- 21 A. It was in the --
- 22 Q. Underneath --
- 23 A. Underneath the --
- 24 Q. -- St Anthony's?
- 25 A. I can describe the school in detail because it was the

1 first time I had ever seen anything like it. The layout
2 was -- the desks were tiered.

3 Q. Can we look at a photograph then and see if that's
4 helpful. This is on WIT.003.001.1284.

5 It will come on the screen for you. There we go.
6 Does that ring bells with you?

7 A. Yes, but it doesn't -- to me, I remember it as -- I know
8 the photograph doesn't lie but it seemed, probably
9 because I was younger, but it seemed more tiered, you
10 know, higher.

11 Q. We do note that there is a degree of tiering as we go
12 from right to left across the photograph.

13 A. The partitions weren't like that. They were opaque.

14 Q. This gives us a sense of the size though, does it?

15 A. Yes, that's the general layout.

16 Q. You said you enjoyed the school.

17 A. I enjoyed it because there was teachers that I now
18 believe to be from outside. There was a couple of
19 nuns -- can I say their names?

20 Q. Yes, of course.

21 A. Sister EAA was, if you like, the head -- the
22 principal but there was also women who were teachers
23 from elsewhere, you know, and the only punishment you
24 ever got in the school was with a Lochgelly -- are you
25 okay with that?

1 Q. A belt?

2 A. Yes, for whatever, if you misbehaved.

3 Q. Would that be from one of the lay teachers?

4 A. No, it was usually from Sister EAA.

5 Q. I now want to focus for a little while on some of the
6 abuse you suffered at Smyllum because you do tell us
7 about that in your statement at page 8.

8 Can we just focus in particular on what happened if
9 boys were left -- put this charge of the dormitory?
10 Because you tell us that sometimes that did happen, that
11 older boys were put in charge.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What happened?

14 A. It was usually two of them -- do you mean what happened
15 in general or what happened --

16 Q. Yes, in general.

17 A. They were there and in this place where I told you, when
18 you go up the stairs into the dormitory, the first part
19 was like an attic that was not in the attic. In other
20 words it was full of bits and pieces of everything.
21 They had a table and they put three sticks on the table,
22 and if you had done anything wrong, in their eyes -- say
23 you didn't get back from the toilet quick enough or
24 something -- you would choose two of this stick, three
25 of this stick or four of the other stick. You had to

1 choose which stick you were going to get hit with.

2 Q. And how would you be hit? Where would you be hit?

3 A. Well I think their intention was to hit you in the hand,
4 which was the case most of the time, I think. But there
5 was other times you got hit elsewhere.

6 Q. And this was from these older boys?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What ages do you think they were?

9 A. 14 and a half, 15.

10 Q. And how often were they left in charge of the dormitory?

11 A. I don't know. I mean the honest -- the most honest
12 answer I could give was "now and again".

13 Q. What about anyone else, nuns or other lay persons? What
14 sort of treatment did you get from them?

15 A. In general you mean?

16 Q. In general?

17 A. Getting hit was almost a daily occurrence. You didn't
18 have to do anything wrong to get hit. You just got --
19 it was -- it might sound strange but you sort of
20 accepted it. You accepted it so therefore you tried to
21 work your way round it.

22 Q. In what way? Can you give us some -- a feel for -- in
23 what way would you be hit? Would it be a slap,
24 something else? Can you give me an understanding of
25 that?

1 A. Can I mention who it was --

2 Q. Of course, yes, absolutely.

3 A. (Pause). I can't say her name. (Pause)

4 LADY SMITH: You don't have to say the name, Bill, if you

5 don't want to. But if you do want to, that's okay.

6 A. Sister EAD

7 MR MacAULAY: You mention her, she is mentioned in your

8 statement, yes. Can you tell us about her?

9 A. She's a bad woman, bad woman. (Pause). She used to hit

10 me with a hairbrush and at first, when I got hit with

11 that hairbrush, I must have assumed that she had picked

12 it up from somewhere, but I realised later on she must

13 have carried it with her because she used it on me quite

14 a lot and on other people. So that must have been her,

15 if you will excuse the expression, weapon of choice.

16 She was -- she always seemed anxious to get you down

17 onto the floor. I remember being -- there was one time

18 I was actually getting hit and I was -- I was actually

19 getting hit and I was amazed that -- she was taking me

20 from the washroom down to her office and it was a long

21 narrow corridor and I don't know how, but I ended up on

22 the floor -- she must have pushed me or whatever.

23 I always visualised the nuns as being on castors

24 because they wore stuff right down and they looked as if

25 they were on castors.

1 But I was amazed when I was down on the floor and
2 I looked and she had legs -- and I remember the little
3 black boots and the tights she had on.

4 She was kicking me all the way down to her office.
5 But she had done that regular. That was her mode: she
6 got you on the floor and kicked you.

7 Q. Was there any reason for this behaviour?

8 A. I said to you a minute ago you accepted it because
9 I think initially I must have been saying things like,
10 what's going on, and so on, but you get to the point
11 where you just take it because if you kept quiet, she'd
12 stop sooner. If you complained, it went on longer.

13 Q. Would you be crying as a result of these beatings?

14 A. I think I did in the beginning, but you got hardened to
15 it.

16 Q. Were you left with any marks?

17 A. They always seem to hit you on the back, kick you on the
18 back. Now and again I would have -- they would mis-kick
19 and I would have a wee bruise here or there.

20 Q. You have mentioned the hairbrush, you were describing
21 the use of the hairbrush and you said that was her
22 weapon of choice, but it wasn't just the hairbrush,
23 there was also the feet being --

24 A. Yes and sometimes other things. It is hard to -- it
25 happened a lot, so it was just the way things were.

- 1 Q. You say a lot: daily, more than once a day? Can you
2 give me any understanding as to how regular this was?
- 3 A. It was very regular, but I am sure there must have been
4 days when I got through it without it, but you expected
5 it as you were walking from one place or another for
6 somebody to give you a belt on the back of your head --
- 7 Q. You are focusing on Sister [REDACTED] why was she there,
8 what was her connection with where you were in Smyllum?
- 9 A. Nobody ever told me this officially but I think --
10 because Sister [REDACTED] had an office and others didn't,
11 I think she was like in charge of the boys' section, of
12 the boys' side. I don't know much about -- if you look
13 at that map, I only know to the left of the main
14 building. The other side was the girls' side. Very
15 rarely did I see that side.
- 16 So I think Sister [REDACTED] was in charge and things
17 would be fed back to Sister [REDACTED] about things that
18 I had done so she would be the one that would -- you
19 know, you would get a belt in the dormitory if you had
20 wet your bed, but you knew what she saw you you were
21 going to get it again, whether it be an hour later or
22 2 hours, 4 hours.
- 23 Q. For the same thing?
- 24 A. For the same thing, yes.
- 25 Q. If we go back to your statement, I'm just looking at

1 paragraph 45 -- well, 44 first of all -- where you
2 say -- and I will just read this out:

3 "Sister **EAD** was the worst of the nuns because of
4 her regular beatings. She enjoyed hitting us."

5 A. Yes, she did.

6 Q. What makes you think that?

7 A. Because there was no -- she enjoyed it.

8 Q. That was your impression?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You remember her boots because she was always kicking
11 you with her boots?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What sort of boots was she wearing? Can you describe
14 them?

15 A. They didn't look like boots that I would wear. They
16 were like pantomime boots, you know, thin leather but
17 they went up to about mid-calf, laced.

18 Q. Were they pointed at the front?

19 A. Not pointed like winklepickers.

20 Q. Not as pointed as that?

21 A. No.

22 Q. You describe one day that she hit you with
23 a hairbrush --

24 A. Not just one day.

25 Q. But I think this was the episode you were talking about

1 earlier on.

2 A. Sorry.

3 Q. You say that there was so much venom in her face.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You obviously looked at her and saw that she was --

6 A. Yes, yes. You could see it. You could see that -- just

7 to give you a comparison, when you had done something

8 wrong and Sister **AGI** was given it to you, you

9 could see she wasn't enjoying it, she just wanted to get

10 it over with and get you to do whatever you were

11 supposed to do. Sister **EAD** prolonged it. From what

12 I know now, my understanding of human nature, she

13 enjoyed it.

14 Q. You do say in your statement, Bill, that you would ask

15 why she was beating you, but she never said a word.

16 A. Not by way of explanation.

17 Q. Did she say anything at all during these regular

18 beatings?

19 A. Yes, she would call me things. I can't remember the

20 exact words. But I could explain, if you like, why

21 I tended to get more beatings from her than others.

22 Q. Yes.

23 A. Once I had been there a while, I became an altar boy and

24 that involved quite a lot of work, as you would imagine,

25 round about the chapel and so on. This corridor that

- 1 I told you about, that was how you got to the chapel.
- 2 So I regularly got in contact with Sister EAD on my
- 3 way to the chapel, on my way back, and then in general.
- 4 Q. So you would meet her, as it were, as you were making
- 5 your way there and back?
- 6 A. And she would find some reason to --
- 7 Q. It wasn't just her, because you tell us in your
- 8 statement a lot of nuns hit you and other children.
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Did you see Sister EAD hitting other children?
- 11 A. Yes, we all spoke about it. No one understood why she
- 12 was the way she was.
- 13 Q. You mention in your statement BAC who was the
- 14 [REDACTED]
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. I think we understand that to be BAC
- 17 A. I didn't know; I knew him as BAC .
- 18 Q. How did you get on with him?
- 19 A. Well, I didn't get on with him at all in the sense that
- 20 you might mean, no.
- 21 Q. Can you tell me what experience you had of him then?
- 22 A. I had personal experience of him and I had experience
- 23 knowing what he was like within the -- he was just a guy
- 24 that once again lashed out at any opportunity.
- 25 Q. What's your personal experience of him?

- 1 A. My personal experience is that if I got too close to him
2 and said something out of place I would get a punch from
3 [REDACTED] BAC , a few punches from [REDACTED] BAC
- 4 Q. And were these forceful punches?
- 5 A. Oh yeah.
- 6 Q. What I think you tell us was that it was with so much
7 force, it was like he was hitting another grown man.
- 8 A. Yes, he punched you. He didn't slap you, he punched
9 you.
- 10 Q. Do you know if this behaviour was known to the nuns?
- 11 A. Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. Look, that's what -- I mean
12 obviously I have read some things since this come out
13 and I have read -- and everybody knew. That's why there
14 was no point in telling anybody; everybody knew.
- 15 Q. You tell us you got used to the beatings.
- 16 A. In the sense I knew I couldn't do anything about them.
- 17 Q. I don't think you ever reported any of the abuse for the
18 reasons you have explained.
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. Well, when you came to leave Smyllum then, did you go
21 back home?
- 22 A. It wasn't a house that I had ever lived in, but I went
23 back to the house that my brother had. The reason that
24 my brother got us out at that point was my dad was due
25 for release from prison and he wouldn't have been too

1 happy. So my brother got us out because he was
2 frightened of my old man.

3 Q. There is one other thing I did want to ask you about, if
4 I may, Bill, and that's what you talk about in
5 paragraph 43 of your statement, if I can just take you
6 to that.

7 Because as you already said you were an altar boy
8 and you would be helping the priest with saying Mass; is
9 that right?

10 A. And a lot of other things.

11 Q. You tell us about what a particular priest would ask you
12 to do or get you to do; can you tell me about that, if
13 you can?

14 A. Well, it was common knowledge that he was a bit dodgy.
15 The guys -- we all knew that he was a -- so you just
16 done what you could to -- likes of -- my job as an altar
17 boy was not just to serve the Mass it was also to go
18 over and prepare, so it wasn't always just on a Sunday.
19 And then there was always some saint's day or stations
20 of the cross. I apologise to anybody who is religious,
21 but it was rammed down your throat.

22 So I was there a lot. It actually became my after
23 school job. I was there a lot -- I have lost the
24 thread, by the way.

25 Q. There was a particular priest that you tell us behaved

- 1 in a particular way.
- 2 A. Yes. He would say that things like being an altar --
- 3 I can't remember the exact words, but he would say
- 4 things like being an altar boy was a gift and
- 5 a privilege and so on and we had to be pure. So there
- 6 was times you would strip off and he would rub holy
- 7 water. He never actually -- he would give you a hug now
- 8 and again and say how well you had done and the hug went
- 9 on for a bit too long at times and then he would also
- 10 hug you now and again from behind. But personally he
- 11 never did anything that would be deemed as overtly
- 12 sexual.
- 13 Q. To you?
- 14 A. But what he did do was talk to you about things. He
- 15 would say that in order to be pure and say Mass you had
- 16 to go to confession, and if you didn't confess something
- 17 that he would like to hear -- in other words that you
- 18 had been masturbating or whatever or you had bad
- 19 thoughts and so on and so forth -- he would get annoyed.
- 20 If he got annoyed and the nuns found out, you were for
- 21 it. So you used to make things up to please him and you
- 22 knew that he was masturbating behind the screen. We all
- 23 knew. We all knew it.
- 24 Q. How did you know that?
- 25 A. His breathing, the way he was talking, the way he would

1 get excited, the way he was asking you questions, and so
2 on. It was common knowledge. I don't know whether he
3 ever done anything else to anybody else but I could cope
4 with what he was doing with me.

5 Q. But did this happen often or --

6 A. Yes, more or less all the time. He was the [REDACTED]
7 priest, but he wasn't the only one at our -- there were
8 one or two that turned up on one or two occasions and
9 they were all right.

10 Q. Now --

11 LADY SMITH: Could I just take you back, though. You said
12 there were times you got stripped naked by this priest.

13 A. No, you didn't strip naked. You would be getting --
14 sorry if I have misled you. You would be going over to
15 say Mass or whatever and he would make out that the
16 clothes you had on weren't pure.

17 LADY SMITH: I see.

18 A. So when you were putting your vestments on to say Mass,
19 you were naked for that period, or nearly naked for that
20 period.

21 LADY SMITH: So you had your clothes off, down to your
22 underwear?

23 A. Yes, and now and again he would rub holy water on you or
24 whatever.

25 LADY SMITH: Whereabouts on your body did he rub the holy

1 water?

2 A. He didn't ever touch me in my private parts or anything
3 because I would try and get away from him and the way
4 I looked at it, there was easier prey and that's the
5 truth of the matter.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 MR MacAULAY: I want to take you then to when you came to
8 leave Smyllum. I think you tell us in your statement
9 you went to a place in Langbank first of all; is that
10 correct? If you go to your statement on page 9, you say
11 there:

12 "After I was in Smyllum, I was placed in Langbank.
13 It was only for about two weeks."

14 So you went there for a brief period of time?

15 A. I think when I say "placed", that gives a wrong
16 impression. Langbank was down the Clyde -- it was --
17 I'm trying to think where it would be near -- opposite
18 Helensburgh, on the other side of the water. I knew it
19 had nothing to do with Smyllum or whatever. I think it
20 was where kids from poor backgrounds -- or it might have
21 been through Social Services or whatever -- were given
22 a holiday in Langbank but Langbank was run by Catholic
23 priests and nuns.

24 Q. So you spent a couple of weeks there and then you go
25 back home, was that the situation?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And you are back home and staying with your father?

3 A. Yes, sometimes and sometimes with my brother and

4 sometimes -- yes.

5 Q. Again it wasn't a particularly happy time for you, this

6 particular time of your life?

7 A. Not at all, no.

8 Q. You had a number of jobs --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- once you had left school?

11 A. Yes, yes. When I left school, my old man -- I was the

12 only one left after he got out of prison, everybody else

13 had -- I think I used the analogy about our family being

14 like an automatic tennis ball machine: as soon as they

15 got to a certain level, they were away but I was the

16 only one that was left.

17 We stayed in this house that was now the family home

18 and I was the only one in the house. I got some

19 beatings there and I had run away now and again, [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED] the old man was a bit

22 of a -- he used to be a booth boxer, he was a -- quite

23 a guy.

24 Q. But --

25 LADY SMITH: Was that a booth boxer?

1 A. Aye, he used to be.

2 LADY SMITH: What's a booth boxer.

3 A. Somebody that goes round in carnivals and fights
4 all comers.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 MR MacAULAY: If I take you to your statement and look at
7 paragraph 58, I just want to understand what you are
8 saying here, Bill. You say:

9 "I met a guy who was a teacher and a priest or
10 something similar. I was jealous of them and others
11 because of their education. I couldn't compete and
12 kicked the priest in the shin. The teacher taught me
13 about the power of education which led me on
14 a qualification kick."

15 A. This is later on.

16 Q. What age were you by now?

17 A. I would say I was about 17 then.

18 Q. You have had a number of jobs and you have this --

19 A. I moved -- from the time -- my first job -- because the
20 old man and I were the only ones in the house and we
21 moved from Coatbridge to Birmingham, because I had
22 a brother in Birmingham, and we moved to stay with him.
23 But within a couple of weeks [REDACTED] had flown because the
24 old man was a -- so once again it was me and the old
25 man. He got me a job. For some reason, he knew

1 somebody, and he got me a job as an apprentice weaver in
2 Kidderminster. I worked two weeks in that job because
3 you had to wait two weeks, you had to work a week's
4 (inaudible) time. So when I got my first wages, I was
5 off.

6 Over the years I lived in London, Manchester,
7 Bristol, I just moved around, and I worked here and
8 I worked there. I tried to figure it out later on in
9 life and I think what I was doing was I was always
10 worried when -- maybe it was paranoia to an extent, but
11 I was worried when people got too close to me. I always
12 thought someone was going to put a hand on my shoulder
13 and I moved around loads of times, all over the place.

14 From 15 to about 19 and I went to borstal, and
15 I done 18 months in borstal. I came out and within
16 a short -- I come out -- I remember my home leave was my
17 21st birthday. So I met [REDACTED] when I was 23 -- my wife,
18 [REDACTED] -- and from the time I met [REDACTED] we have actually
19 had 17 or 18 houses, the majority of them being in the
20 early part of our marriage because I was still --
21 I don't know how she put up with me -- but I was still
22 running away all the time.

23 Q. But there came a point in time when you decided to do
24 some training?

25 A. Yes, sorry. So this kicked in when I was about 17 and

1 it was a pub that I used to go to and it was just
2 a crowd and this guy was -- I was frustrated because
3 I couldn't -- I didn't have the education or the
4 language skills to compete with him -- and that's the
5 way that I was in Smyllum -- and I would lash out. And
6 this other guy over a period of time used to talk to me
7 and I went on a -- I didn't do it right away because
8 I went into borstal and I didn't take full advantage
9 because once again I was trying to beat the system,
10 trying to rebel against the authority again. I didn't
11 trust nobody. But when I got out I went on an education
12 kick and I got qualifications coming out of me ears now.

13 Q. If we look at that now on page 11, paragraph 59, you
14 tell us you became a trainer and an NVQ assessor, is
15 that National Vocational Qualification?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Was that a job?

18 A. It was a job. You got the qualification then the job.

19 Q. You have been to university three times, the first time
20 when you were 38 years of age?

21 A. About that, yes.

22 Q. And you also volunteered with NACRO. Is that a --

23 A. I worked with NACRO -- sorry, you are right, I started
24 off as a volunteer with them and they offered me a job.

25 Q. I'm reading it --

1 A. You are reading it.

2 Q. They are a national social justice charity; is that
3 right?

4 A. They are the -- they don't call themselves NACRO now by
5 the way -- well they do, but it is slightly different.
6 They are the National Association --

7 NEW SPEAKER: Criminal Rehabilitation --

8 A. I have forgotten, I have gone blank. It is about the
9 rehabilitation of offenders.

10 MR MacAULAY: Did that become your occupation or did you
11 move on to something else?

12 A. No. I worked there for a while, yes. I worked there
13 for a while and I became a trainer in literacy and I got
14 more interested in literacy and I enjoyed it because
15 I could see -- to me, education is power. It is a very
16 equalising thing.

17 Q. If I take you to page 12 of your statement, Bill, you
18 tell us, first of all, that you have never tried to get
19 your records; is that right?

20 A. Records from Smyllum?

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. No, I thought that I will put it all away.

23 Q. You focus in the next paragraph on a photograph you have
24 seen on the internet about Smyllum showing a group of
25 children with toys, and you make a comment about that.

- 1 A. Have you seen that photograph?
- 2 Q. I think I may have actually, yes.
- 3 A. It is an out and out lie. It is an out and out lie.
- 4 Francis McColl is actually in that photograph --
- 5 Q. You do mention him too and I will come onto him in
- 6 a moment. You said it is an out and out lie; why?
- 7 A. Because I was all over the boy's side in Smyllum and
- 8 that room was a room that I had never been in and the
- 9 way -- if you -- I don't -- when I was looking at the
- 10 photograph, it has been staged. Everybody -- and
- 11 there's toys all over the place. We didn't even have
- 12 a ball.
- 13 One of the reasons I'm here today, by the way, is --
- 14 my wife, a few months ago -- my wife likes to sit in her
- 15 armchair and she can do this thing about watching the
- 16 television and the computer at the same time and she
- 17 scanned the news and so on and found something about
- 18 Smyllum and of course I was curious but I wasn't all
- 19 that -- but then when I started to read some of it
- 20 myself and there was the lies and the denials, that's
- 21 why I'm here and that photograph upset me.
- 22 Q. You mention Francis McColl and you tell us in your
- 23 statement he was in your dormitory for a while at
- 24 Smyllum.
- 25 A. Yes, I don't have a great recollection -- I know he was

1 there but, yeah, yeah. But I think he moved to
2 St Joseph's. I'm not sure.

3 Q. Was he a friend?

4 A. No, he wasn't a friend but Francis was hard of hearing
5 and people used to take the Mickey out of him for
6 several things. One of the things was his name Francis
7 and my middle name was Francis, so we had that
8 connection if you like. But also Francis was hard of
9 hearing so therefore when he spoke, he spoke loud and it
10 was -- I would not call it an impediment but it was --
11 and I remember something about Francis the Talking Mule.
12 There was a programme on the television, Francis the
13 Talking Mule and people used to make sounds to him,
14 hee-haw, you know. And now and again I would try and
15 help him out.

16 Q. But you know he died --

17 A. I do, yes.

18 Q. What did you know about that?

19 A. I knew that he had been hit with a golf club. We were
20 told that -- where the golf club -- I had never seen
21 a golf club all the time I was there, but we were told
22 that there was a person, another boy positioning up to
23 take a shot and Francis was standing behind him and we
24 were told that as he swung he hit Francis in the back of
25 the head. That's what we were told. I have read

1 different since, but I don't know.

2 Q. But one thing you do say in your statement, Bill, if you
3 look at paragraph 70.

4 I will read it out to you:

5 "As I grew older, I began feeling sorry for the nuns
6 and the staff and forgave them for their abuse."

7 A. I must have said that but not so much the staff, but the
8 nuns because as I got older, now and again, I would
9 visualise faces, the nuns' faces, Sister [REDACTED] AGI for
10 instance. And sometimes they weren't happy. Not
11 sometimes -- I mean they weren't happy, in my opinion.
12 Some of them were actually quite young, so as I got
13 older I tried to understand what their problem was
14 because they obviously had problems because I never once
15 saw a nun in a conversation with me or anybody elsewhere
16 that was jovial. Never. So I never seen them happy
17 either.

18 Q. Is that why you are prepared to forgive them for their
19 abuse?

20 A. Well I was probably being a bit sanctimonious in as much
21 as I wanted to put it to bed, you know what I mean?

22 Q. I can tell you that the Inquiry has spoken to a number
23 of nuns as part of its investigation. We have also
24 spoken to a Sister [REDACTED] EAD it may or may not be the same
25 one. We assume it may be. She certainly says she never

- 1 witnessed any form of corporal punishment.
- 2 A. It is another one of the reasons I'm here. I read the
3 other day that, through the legal representatives, they
4 have made this blanket apology and yet on the same
5 paragraph virtually they are saying it never happened;
6 it did happen.
- 7 Q. She, I think, says she is shocked to hear of the
8 allegations -- you are shaking your head.
- 9 A. Can I be blunt? She is a liar. One of the reasons
10 I made the decision today to forego the -- I can't
11 pronounce that word.
- 12 NEW SPEAKER: Anonymity.
- 13 A. Thank you. Was because I wanted ... (Pause)
14 She is a liar. And I want them to know it is me,
15 not some anonymous guy. It is me that's telling them
16 that.
- 17 MR MacAULAY: Yes. You would not agree with the notion that
18 Smyllum was a happy place and children were well cared
19 for and treated with kindness?
- 20 A. I said to you a minute ago I looked to try and tell you
21 some nice things about it, there wasn't. There wasn't.
22 And it wasn't just the responsibility of the nuns, by
23 the way. I think everybody will understand what I'm
24 saying.
- 25 Q. Just to make it plain: we are quite happy with plain

1 language here.

2 A. Well, I didn't know why I was placed there and I was not
3 unique in any way whatsoever. All the time I was there,
4 nobody ever discussed any -- nobody asked me how I was
5 or any issues or -- and nobody thought about when I left
6 what sort of -- there were probably people ended up --
7 I mean I was fortunate, I ended up in a borstal for
8 a short time, but I was lucky enough to meet [REDACTED].
9 There was no -- I mean if that -- today, I have worked
10 with NACRO and the Probation Service and so on. The
11 first thing we do is find out who we are working with
12 and I'm not telling you anything you do not know, I know
13 that.

14 Q. Can I ask you, Bill, finally to read for the Inquiry
15 paragraph 74 of your statement. It is on page 13. Can
16 you do that for me? It is on the screen. Paragraph 74.

17 A. Sorry. Did you say 74?

18 Q. Yes. I can read it for you if you like.

19 A. I was hoping she would be dead. You have just told me
20 she is still alive.

21 Q. Will I read the last paragraph for you?

22 A. She's a liar. Sorry. I apologise.

23 LADY SMITH: There's no need to apologise, Bill.

24 NEW SPEAKER: Do you want to take a break?

25 LADY SMITH: Would it be easier to have Mr MacAulay read

1 that paragraph?

2 A. Yes.

3 LADY SMITH: I'm quite happy to have him do that; you don't
4 have to do it.

5 MR MacAULAY: This is what you have said then, Bill:

6 "I want acknowledgement about my life, but do not
7 want revenge. The changes needed can't be done on the
8 cheap. They will cost and the money must be made
9 available."

10 That's your view, isn't it?

11 A. The first part is about me.

12 Q. Yes.

13 A. Yeah, what could I have been? That's my question. What
14 could I have been with the right support? What could
15 a lot of other people have been? But as I sort of said
16 before, I sort of looked at them and they had their own
17 problems, so I don't want revenge, but what I also don't
18 want is some lawyer apologising on their behalf.
19 I would like one of them to come up to me today in the
20 corridor out there and just whisper in my ear, "We are
21 sorry". Nobody has apologised to me.

22 Then -- of course I'm trying to go on my high horse
23 here -- because of where I have worked -- and I have
24 seen and I have worked in prisons and so forth --
25 everything seems to get done on the cheap. But that's

1 probably me getting political.

2 I mean, when I said it wasn't just the nun's
3 fault -- and, please, stop me if I'm going -- because my
4 wife told me not to go off at tangents -- it is
5 a societal issue and we know that. How many people
6 living out there know where their nearest children's
7 home is?

8 I'm aware that there is a thing called the
9 independent visitors' scheme I was an independent
10 visitor for seven years. How many people are aware of
11 that scheme? That scheme has been run on a piecemeal
12 basis throughout the country and it has been charities
13 that are having to do it. I used -- it used to cost me
14 to do it. Wrong. Yet, as you know, kids have got
15 a legal right to independent visitors.

16 There needs to -- we shouldn't ever allow these
17 closed societies to develop. There needs to be outside
18 contact. Sorry. That's it.

19 Q. And I think you tell us that in your statement.

20 A. Yeah, that's what I'm saying but it is very hard to say
21 that. I could go on for a wee while.

22 Q. What you have said is very helpful and the Inquiry will
23 take that on board.

24 A. But I don't think I'm saying anything that people don't
25 know.

1 Q. These are all the questions I have for you Bill and you
2 are probably pleased to hear --

3 A. No, I'm fine, thanks.

4 MR MacAULAY: I haven't been sent any written questions for
5 Bill and I don't know if there are to be any questions.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Could I just check with the legal
7 representatives that are here whether there are any
8 questions that they want to make application in relation
9 to? Everybody is shaking their head.

10 Bill --

11 A. I was looking forward to a challenge.

12 LADY SMITH: That's all the questions we have for you and
13 I'm very grateful to you for coming along today to give
14 your evidence. Thank you very much.

15 A. Thank you for the chance.

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

17 A. Thank you very much.

18 (The witness withdrew)

19 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, it is now 1 o'clock so perhaps we can
20 adjourn and come back for 2.

21 LADY SMITH: Certainly. We will adjourn now for the lunch
22 break and sit again at 2 o'clock please. Thank you.

23 (1.00 pm)

24 (The luncheon adjournment)

25 (2.00 pm)

1 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

2 MR MacAULAY: Good afternoon, my Lady. The next witness is
3 also an applicant witness who wants to remain anonymous
4 and he wants to use the name "Paul" in giving his
5 evidence.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

7 "PAUL" (sworn)

8 Questions from MR MacAULAY

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 Paul, sit down and make yourself comfortable. You
11 see there is a microphone in front of you, Paul, if you
12 pull your chair maybe a little bit nearer you will find
13 it easier to speak to the microphone. It will pick you
14 up from some distance and then we won't need to ask you
15 to shout. Thank you.

16 Mr MacAulay.

17 MR MacAULAY: My Lady.

18 Good afternoon, Paul. I'm now going to ask you some
19 questions. But before I begin to do that can I just say
20 to you that if there is a question I ask you and you
21 can't remember what the answer might be, just say you
22 can't remember; do you understand that?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Also, if I ask you something that isn't in your
25 statement and you do remember that now, then you can

- 1 tell us what it is.
- 2 A. Right.
- 3 Q. As I have said there, you provided a statement to the
4 Inquiry. There is a copy of that in front of you in
5 that red folder. I want to take you to the last page of
6 the statement. Can you do that? Do you see that you
7 have signed the statement?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. If you look at the last paragraph, at 142, can we read
10 that you have said:
11 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
12 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry."
13 Is that right?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And:
16 "I believe the facts stated in this witness
17 statement are true."
18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Can I go back and look at your background before you
20 went into care. I think indeed the position is you have
21 no recollection of life before going into care; is that
22 correct?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. You were extremely young when you first went into care.
25 A. 4 days.

1 Q. If we go back -- if you go to the front page of your
2 statement, in that bottom paragraph, paragraph 3, you
3 tell us that:

4 "I have never been told why I was in care. Never
5 told anything about Nazareth House, which seems to be
6 where I was from very young."

7 Do I take it from that that you know at least that
8 you started off in care in Nazareth House?

9 A. That's what I have been told.

10 Q. That's what you have been told. And you moved to
11 Smyllum after that; is that what you understand?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And then to a home called Dunavon House in Strathaven?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Do you remember moving there?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And eventually you went to a place called Calder House
18 in Hamilton; is that correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that you don't
21 know what age you were when you went to Smyllum.

22 A. No.

23 Q. What's your first recollection of being in Smyllum?

24 A. Sleeping under a cot.

25 Q. Are you quite satisfied that that recollection is for

- 1 Smyllum and not for example for Nazareth House?
- 2 A. No, it is Smyllum. I don't remember a lot about
3 Nazareth House. I just -- I was told that's where I was
4 taken to first.
- 5 Q. And moving on from that then, can you tell me how you
6 remember things at Smyllum? You have told us about
7 under the cot, that recollection. What's your next real
8 recollection from Smyllum?
- 9 A. Fear.
- 10 Q. Okay. Can you elaborate upon that for me? (Pause).
11 Can I leave that to one side for the moment then because
12 I see it is causing you a little difficulty, Paul.
- 13 Perhaps I can ask you about the routine at Smyllum.
14 What's your recollection of the daily routine at Smyllum
15 once you are able to put it together?
- 16 A. You got up in the morning -- it depended really on what
17 nun was in charge of the dorm.
- 18 Q. Do you have a recollection of being in different dorms
19 or is your recollection just being in the one place?
- 20 A. No, as you got older you moved to a different dorms.
- 21 Q. Do you have a memory of the first dorm you were in?
- 22 A. Aye.
- 23 Q. Did it have a name that you can remember?
- 24 A. I think it was -- I'm not a 100 per cent, I think it was
25 Tiree.

1 Q. Can you remember what age you were when you were in that
2 particular dorm?

3 A. To be honest with you, I had no concept of age, what my
4 age was -- I didn't even know what a birthday was.

5 I mean I never -- I didn't realise -- I didn't know what
6 age I was because I had no -- I had no concept of what
7 age I was.

8 Q. Can I say -- and I should have asked you about this
9 before -- I don't want to know your date of birth but do
10 I understand that the year of your birth is 1959?

11 A. As far as I know, I have got three dates of birth.

12 Q. And is 1959 one of the three years?

13 A. Yes, [REDACTED] 1959, [REDACTED] 1959 and [REDACTED] 1960.

14 Q. If we run with the 1959 date then, that can give us
15 a feel for different time frames when we look at
16 different times and points in time.

17 You are talking about this, the first dorm you have
18 some recollection of, and I think you indicated at
19 a point in time, although you can't give me the age you
20 were, you moved to another dorm?

21 A. As you got older you moved, but when I got older I got
22 moved from -- I was in -- when I first went into Smyllum
23 I was in, like, a nursery. As you got older you got
24 took out of nursery and then move to one of the other
25 dorms.

1 Q. How many moves do you think you did during your time at
2 Smyllum? You moved from the nursery to a dorm and then
3 you moved to another dorm after that?

4 A. In Smyllum I was moved about quite a bit.

5 Q. Then I was asking you about the daily routine. Can you
6 give me an understanding of your recollection, that's
7 all we are interested in, as to what happened on a daily
8 basis?

9 A. You got up, 6-ish, up at 6 o'clock in the morning. You
10 made what was called a bed block. Your bed had to be
11 made a certain way, had to be laid out a certain way,
12 and it was always inspected. If it wasn't set up in the
13 way you were told to set it out and everybody else has
14 set it out, you got a slap or a punch or a kick. So it
15 was basically like prison as a regime.

16 You got up, got up in the morning. You would have
17 your breakfast. Depending on your age, if you were
18 youngish, you weren't school age, you were left in
19 a dorm until they would come back for you. But once you
20 get to school age, school was inside Smyllum but it
21 wasn't education, it was just religious catechism.
22 Religion was hammered into you. It was battered into
23 you.

24 Q. If I can go back to the morning and when you get out of
25 bed, Paul, you have mentioned that if there was anything

1 wrong with the way you had made your bed you would get
2 a slap or a punch or a kick; that is what you said,
3 I think.

4 A. Right.

5 Q. Who would do this to you?

6 A. Whatever nun was on. In the morning when you got up
7 there was two nuns in the dormitory. One would always
8 stand at the door and the other one would inspect the
9 beds.

10 Q. And how often did this sort of treatment happen to you
11 over your time at Smyllum?

12 A. Every day. My abuse wasn't bits and pieces, with spaces
13 between it; my abuse started and continued right through
14 my time in care.

15 Q. And were different nuns involved in that abuse?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Do you remember any particular names?

18 A. **BAN** Sister **BAN**

19 Q. Any other names apart from that one?

20 A. Not really.

21 Q. We have been talking about the morning and I think you
22 also tell us in your statement that there were people
23 who wet their beds.

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. What about yourself? Was that something you did or not?

- 1 A. I still do sometimes.
- 2 Q. So were you then -- did you then wet the bed on
3 occasions when you were at Smyllum?
- 4 A. Aye.
- 5 Q. What would happen if in the morning you had wet your
6 bed?
- 7 A. You would wear your sheet for a day.
- 8 Q. I'm sorry?
- 9 A. You would have to walk about with your sheet over your
10 shoulders all day and then at night you would take the
11 sheet and put it back on the bed.
- 12 Q. Would there be any point -- if it was during schooltime,
13 for example, would you take the sheet off?
- 14 A. No, the sheet went everywhere with you.
- 15 Q. So do you have a recollection of going to school with
16 the sheet over you?
- 17 A. I would go to school and I wasn't the only one.
- 18 Q. I'm sorry?
- 19 A. When I was going to school, I wasn't the only one.
20 There was quite a few with sheets. It was --
- 21 Q. I think what you are saying is there were other boys who
22 wet the bed as well.
- 23 A. Aye.
- 24 Q. Did they then get the same sort of treatment that you
25 have just been telling the Inquiry about?

- 1 A. Aye.
- 2 Q. You went on, I think, to say something about what
3 happened when you went to bed at night. What happened
4 to the sheet?
- 5 A. The sheet that you had wet, you would wear it for the
6 day, and then at night you would put it back on your
7 bed. So they just -- until it got -- laundry was done
8 once a week, but if you wet the bed on the Monday that
9 sheet would stay with you until washday.
- 10 Q. If you were a regular bed-wetter, then would the sheet
11 get more and more soiled as the days went on?
- 12 A. Aye, it was -- after a few days the smells -- you'd get
13 used to the smell.
- 14 Q. You touched upon the school already and the nature of
15 the education. You mentioned religion. Was there a lot
16 of religion being taught at the school?
- 17 A. The school was just religious catechism. If you weren't
18 at Mass or confessions then you were at school and there
19 was -- there was no education, it wasn't about educating
20 you, it was about brainwashing you, basically.
- 21 Q. Can I ask you about mealtimes then. Let's say you go
22 down to your breakfast in the morning after you get up?
23 What was the procedure there?
- 24 A. Somebody would say grace. Somebody was always picked to
25 say grace. After they said grace, you sat down. Every

1 morning you would get porridge -- I mean you could have
2 dropped a bowl and the bowl would have smashed and the
3 porridge would have stayed the way it was.

4 Q. Did you eat your porridge?

5 A. Eventually. Because I had no choice.

6 Q. And what do you mean by saying you had no choice?

7 A. Two nuns would hold you and the third nun would force it
8 down your throat. If you was sick and brought it back
9 up, they would put it back in a bowl and continue until
10 you actually ate it.

11 Q. You say this happened to you. Was this a regular
12 occurrence with you?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Did you see this happening to anybody else?

15 A. It happened to a few people.

16 Q. We have been looking at breakfast, but what about the
17 rest of the meals at Smyllum? Can you help me with
18 that?

19 A. Well -- are you asking me about the food?

20 Q. Yes, you have told me about the breakfast, I'm now
21 looking more generally, like lunch and teatime, and what
22 the food was like.

23 A. I wouldn't give it to a dog; a dog wouldn't eat it.

24 Q. But you had to eat it, is that what --

25 A. You didn't have a choice.

- 1 Q. For the reasons you have already explained.
- 2 A. If you didn't -- they started to force-feed me because
- 3 I wouldn't eat anything, they told me. I kind of
- 4 rebelled against them because I didn't understand why
- 5 these people were doing what they were doing.
- 6 Q. In the course of the force-feeding you have told us
- 7 about, would anything else be done to you?
- 8 A. I spent a few days in a basket, like laundry baskets --
- 9 Q. I will come to that, Paul, in a moment.
- 10 But just generally, when you said you didn't want to
- 11 eat your food, what would happen apart from being made
- 12 to eat it? Would you be struck, for example? Would
- 13 anybody hit you?
- 14 A. It depended what nun was on. Each nun had their own way
- 15 of punishing you.
- 16 Q. Can you give me some examples then, Paul?
- 17 A. They wore a crucifix on their waist. They would stab
- 18 you with it in your head, your back, your stomach.
- 19 Another nun used a cricket bat. They would tie you to
- 20 a radiator and she would hit you with a bat. Another
- 21 one used the small sweeping brushes you get with the
- 22 dusting pan, another one would use one of them and you'd
- 23 get a rap to the knuckles. Each and every one of them
- 24 had their own way of punishing you.
- 25 Q. Would these implements leave marks on you?

1 A. Aye. That's -- I don't know -- but I, yeah, you were
2 marked. Sometimes quite seriously. I mean these people
3 were animals.

4 Q. Well, I want to ask you about bathing because you tell
5 us -- you give us some information in your statement
6 about that as well. I think you say that Sunday night
7 was when you would have a bath.

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. Can you just tell me what happened in that particular
10 process?

11 A. Every Sunday you would get a bath. The boys would line
12 up one and the girls would line up the other side.

13 Q. If I can just stop you there. Are you saying that the
14 boys and girls were in the same area?

15 A. No, separate, but on a Sunday you would see the lassies
16 lined up for baths and the boys lined up for the baths.

17 Q. I understand. Carry on; I interrupted you.

18 A. There was three baths and they were quite high up, three
19 steps up to them. If you were first in the queue, you
20 would get a hot bath with clean water. If you were
21 fourth, fifth, you would get somebody else's bath; they
22 never changed the water. They would do 15, 20 people
23 and then change the water. But you could stand outside
24 the toilet for two and a half, three hours sometimes.
25 If you had a towel you were fortunate because you could

1 put a towel round you. If you didn't have a towel, you
2 had to stand there naked until the weans up. You know
3 what I mean?

4 When you got into the bath, it was the nuns that
5 bathed you and they would wash you with a deck scrubber.
6 You would get into the bath pink and come back bright
7 red. They used a deck scrubber to clean you.

8 Q. Was that painful for you?

9 A. Aye. Very.

10 Q. What sort of range of ages would be involved in this
11 bath time process then and that you would also be
12 involved in yourself?

13 A. Everybody. On a Sunday. A Sunday was a clean day.
14 That was when you went -- everybody got a bath. When
15 you come out the bath, you would get your head checked,
16 to see if you had picked up lice or anything like that,
17 even if you never had hair. And then bone combs. They
18 were about that size (indicates), metal bone combs, and
19 they would go through your head. But by the time you
20 were finished, your head was -- it was ripped to pieces
21 because they would dig this in and pull it back to
22 front, back to front, and then down the back of your
23 neck.

24 Q. When you say "ripped to pieces", would there be marks,
25 would it --

1 A. They used force. Every nun, when they were doing
2 anything, they used force. But the comb was out on your
3 head and it was ripped. I never had any hair. So why
4 would they put a bone comb on my head when I never had
5 any hair? So how can I have nits or anything like that
6 if I haven't got any hair. But it would still go
7 through my head and basically rip my head to pieces.

8 Q. And clearly that was a very painful experience.

9 A. Aye.

10 Q. You say you never had any hair. I think you do tell us
11 in your statement that your head was shaved at a point
12 in time.

13 A. Aye. A nun shaved my head with a razor, like that,
14 an open razor because I swore at her. She shaved my
15 head, shaved it. There was nothing, no hair on my head,
16 and I still had to go through the process of getting my
17 head checked with the bone comb to see if I had anything
18 on my head.

19 Q. Do you know what point in time -- I know you can't tell
20 me dates and so on, but do you remember if you were in
21 the first dorm or the second dorm when this incident
22 happened with the shaving of your hair?

23 A. I would have been in the dorm with -- most of the kids
24 that were in my dorm were -- thing is, I have got no
25 concept of age. I have got -- there's nothing I can say

- 1 what my age because I didn't know what age I was.
- 2 Q. Can I ask you this then: you have told us about having
- 3 your hair shaved because you swore at a nun and the
- 4 business with the comb after the bathing. The comb
- 5 episode, was that just once or did that happen more than
- 6 once --
- 7 A. Every Sunday.
- 8 Q. Did your hair start to grow in at a point in time when
- 9 you were there?
- 10 A. My hair grew in, but every time my hair grew in, the
- 11 same nun shaved it again.
- 12 Q. The same nun?
- 13 A. Aye.
- 14 Q. Can you remember who she was?
- 15 A. I don't have a very good memory of names and nuns. It's
- 16 like when I was giving my statement they asked, could
- 17 you identify -- it is like putting me in a room with
- 18 200 penguins and asking me what one has laid an egg.
- 19 I mean these people they were just penguins. There was
- 20 no face, there was nothing.
- 21 Q. Again, I said to you at the beginning if you don't
- 22 remember anything, as you just said, just say so. It is
- 23 not that important. What we want to know is what your
- 24 experiences were at Smyllum.
- 25 I now want to turn to focus in particular then on

1 punishment and the other abuse because you have talked
2 about abuse already, other abuse that you suffered.

3 One of the things you say in your statement is that
4 it was only in recent years that you have been able to
5 look people in the eye. Can you tell me first of all,
6 is that the case?

7 A. Yeah, the nuns didn't like if you looked at them. Your
8 eyes were always on the floor. If you raised your head
9 and looked at a nun, you'd get a slap, a punch, a kick.
10 If they had something in their hand, you'd get that. So
11 you learned to keep your head down.

12 For years after I left care, that's what I continued
13 to do. I'm sitting here and I have got eye contact with
14 you.

15 Q. Indeed.

16 A. A year ago I wouldn't have looked at you, I wouldn't
17 have done this, you know what I mean?

18 Q. Can I take you -- are you okay?

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. Can I take you to page 6 of your statement. You will
21 see that in front of you.

22 A. Aye.

23 Q. Towards the top of the page, paragraph 26, you make
24 a comment about what you thought your name was for
25 a number of years.

1 A. Aye.

2 Q. Can you just explain that to me?

3 A. I was calls known as "the wee bastard".

4 Q. Who called you that?

5 A. Practically every nun I knew. Every nun I was involved
6 with, if they were looking for me it was, "Where is our
7 wee bastard?" "I am going to kill our wee bastard",
8 "I will slap our wee bastard". I thought that was my
9 name. I had to go and ask what a bastard was because
10 I didn't know what a bastard was and it is just the way
11 it was. I have never used my first name, never. Only
12 in the last year I have started using -- in the last two
13 years I have started using my name because I have always
14 been known as somebody else.

15 Q. Take your time. Are you okay?

16 A. Aye.

17 MR MacAULAY: We can have a break if you would like a break.

18 LADY SMITH: Any time you want a break, Paul, we can do
19 that. You just let me know what would suit you.

20 A. No, I'm all right.

21 LADY SMITH: Do tell me; we can break as and when you need.

22 A. Thanks.

23 MR MacAULAY: You have been telling us that it is only in
24 recent years that you have been using your own name.
25 That's where I think we had got to.

1 Can I ask you about other punishments that you
2 suffered when you were at Smyllum? Can you help me with
3 that.

4 A. They had big laundry baskets, I don't know if you
5 remember them, big kind of wooden laundry baskets, about
6 twice the size of this table lengthwise (indicates).

7 LADY SMITH: Was the material woven like shopping baskets,
8 big wicker material?

9 A. Yes, the old wicker they used to use in hospitals and
10 that, in laundries.

11 LADY SMITH: Were they on wheels, these baskets?

12 A. No these ones weren't on wheels, these ones were
13 stationed --

14 LADY SMITH: They stayed still?

15 A. -- stationary all the time.

16 LADY SMITH: I have the picture, thanks.

17 MR MacAULAY: What were you going to tell me about the
18 laundry basket?

19 A. Nuns are -- I found a way to annoy them, to get back at
20 them, so I used to swear at them all the time. If they
21 asked me to do something, I would get a wee bit bold --
22 if they asked me to do something, I would say, "Oh, fuck
23 off, you do it".

24 I told a nun -- a nun told me to do something and
25 I told her I wasn't doing it. So I was taken into the

1 laundry room, as I say these big baskets, I get my
2 battering, and then I got put in a laundry basket.

3 Q. Can we take that in stages. You talk about getting
4 a battering, what did the nun do to you?

5 A. She hit me on the head with a cricket bat.

6 Q. Is this the cricket bat you mentioned before? Was it
7 just one nun involved in this incident?

8 A. Three. Two nuns held me; she hit me with the bat.

9 Q. Once?

10 A. Three times.

11 Q. Where did she hit you?

12 A. On the head.

13 Q. What happened to you when that happened?

14 A. I lost consciousness and when I woke up I was in the
15 basket and that's where I spent the next four days.

16 The only time you got out of the basket was to go to
17 the toilet -- not a pee, but a number two, as they say.
18 That was the only time you got out of the basket.

19 Q. So if you were going to pee, did you pee in the basket?

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. And did that happen over those --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What about food? Were you fed?

24 A. They would bring in what was left, open the lid of the
25 basket, and just drop it in.

1 Q. Were you able to move about in the basket? Just explain
2 to me how you weren't able to get out of the basket.

3 A. No. It had a lid and two straps, the big straps, and
4 they were locked. You couldn't get out.

5 Q. Were you upset?

6 A. I was at a stage where I just accepted what was done to
7 me because there was nothing I could do about it. So --

8 Q. Do you know who knew?

9 A. Pardon?

10 Q. Do you know who knew you were in the basket? You have
11 talked about the three nuns that were involved with you;
12 what about the other people in the home? As far as you
13 were aware, did other people know of this?

14 A. When you were punished, you were put in a basket.
15 Nobody knew anything about it. As far as you were
16 concerned, you'd just disappeared and then reappeared.

17 Q. Did this happen just on this one occasion then, this
18 basket treatment?

19 A. No. I spent quite a bit of my time in a basket. That
20 was the way they controlled me.

21 Q. Were there other reasons for -- you have told about the
22 reason for the first occasion; were there other reasons
23 why you were being put into the basket or was the for
24 the same sort of behaviour?

25 A. As I say, it just depends what nuns were on. Each nun

- 1 had their own wee way of punishing you.
- 2 Q. Were you put into the basket by different nuns? You
- 3 told us about the three nuns that were involved with you
- 4 first of all. Were there other nuns involved in putting
- 5 you into the basket?
- 6 A. Each time I was in the basket, aye.
- 7 Q. Different nuns?
- 8 A. Mm. It just depended who was on and what had been done
- 9 and what had been said.
- 10 Q. But would it be linked to you swearing at nuns or what
- 11 was the sort of behaviour they looked upon as requiring
- 12 to put you into the basket?
- 13 A. I wouldn't read my Bible. I refused to go to
- 14 confessions. And basically noising the nuns up. Trying
- 15 to get back at them in some way because -- I didn't
- 16 understand why -- I didn't understand why I was in
- 17 there. Nobody has ever sat me down and told me why
- 18 I was in care. Nobody. I don't even know who I am.
- 19 What -- I mean, I don't know, nothing about myself.
- 20 I've got three dates of birth and I can't get a birth
- 21 certificate. If I wanted to go on holiday, I can't get
- 22 a passport. These people destroyed me. Even know, they
- 23 are still destroying me.
- 24 Q. From what you are saying to me Paul, being in the basket
- 25 didn't just happen once or twice, it happened on

1 a number of occasions --

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. -- during your time at Smyllum is that a fair summary of
4 that?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You tell us in your statement about an incident where --
7 or maybe more than one incident -- where nuns would
8 check your nails at breakfast time. Did that happen?

9 A. Every morning before you started your breakfast, the
10 nuns would check your nails. You had to put your hands
11 flat on the table. Do you see this (indicates)?
12 I can't put my hand flat on the table.

13 Q. That is your right hand?

14 A. Aye. You had to put your hands flat on the table and
15 they would check your nails. They were checking the
16 nails on this day and, as I say, I had my hands like
17 that, and I heard a swoosh, the noise you get with
18 a stick through the air. You get that sound, that
19 swoosh. I had my hands on the table and I heard that
20 sound and then the pain was really -- they broke my
21 fingers.

22 Q. This swish you heard was an implement coming down on
23 your fingers?

24 A. A brush shaft.

25 Q. And you had to go to hospital, I think, in connection

1 with that?

2 A. Aye.

3 Q. Did you tell at the hospital what had happened to you?

4 A. When I went into the hospital there was a nun with me

5 all the time until they took me into the x-ray place.

6 The doctor asked me what happened and I told him that

7 the nuns had done it with a brush shaft and he says,

8 "Leave that with me, I will get something done about

9 that".

10 Q. What happened?

11 A. Nothing.

12 Q. Did anything happen to you for telling the doctor?

13 A. I got another hammering when I got back to the home.

14 Q. Who gave you this hammering?

15 A. Pardon?

16 Q. Who gave you the hammering?

17 A. A couple of nuns.

18 Q. I think what you say in your statement at

19 paragraph 32 -- and I think it is on the screen in front

20 of you -- is that you got a battering for telling the

21 truth:

22 "There was a room next to the laundry. All

23 mattresses and stuff. I was taken in there and beaten

24 with a bit of hosepipe. I was told that I had better

25 keep my mouth shut in future."

1 Is that what happened?

2 A. Aye, I was told I should be grateful. You see in
3 Smyllum there was a group of us, six of us. We were the
4 ones nobody wanted. I mean, most of the other kids in
5 the home they had people, family outside. We, as
6 a group, had never had anything. Nobody we could go to,
7 nobody we could talk to, nobody came to see us. You
8 know what I mean?

9 You learn to accept -- I learned to accept the
10 abuse. The quicker it was done, the quicker it was
11 over. It was done. Who am I going to tell? You know
12 what I mean? I told people. Nothing happens. "Leave
13 it with me." That was a sentence I heard quite a bit.
14 "Leave it with me, I will get look into that". "Leave
15 it with me, I will look into that." It didn't happen.

16 Q. What sort of people did you tell then, apart from the
17 doctor you mentioned?

18 A. I told a priest in confessions how I felt and what was
19 happening and he abused me.

20 Q. I'm coming to what happened with the priest in a moment,
21 but was there anybody else in positions of authority
22 that you told what was happening?

23 A. No because I didn't know what a social worker was.
24 I had never seen a social worker until -- I was 11
25 before I'd seen a social worker. There was nobody you

1 could tell. You couldn't go to another nun and tell
2 a nun for the simple reason she would just batter you
3 and then go and tell the other nun that you had grassed
4 her up and then she'd batter you.

5 Q. You do tell us about an incident when you swore at a nun
6 and your punishment was to kneel at the side of a nun
7 who had died; can you help me with that one?

8 A. I told a nun to fuck off. My punishment was they took
9 me into a room in the chapel and there was a nun laid
10 out in a coffin. I had to kneel at the end of the
11 coffin for what seemed like hours.

12 I had never seen a dead body. I had never seen
13 a dead body, but my punishment was to kneel in there, on
14 the concrete store, on the concrete floor. No heating,
15 freezing, and all I had on was a nightshirt.

16 Q. You do say in your statement that you thought when this
17 happened you might have been six or seven years of age.
18 You have a rough notion there of what age you might have
19 been when this happened.

20 A. I have thought it was round about that because the boys
21 in the dormitory I was in, that's what age they were, so
22 I took it that's what age I was.

23 Q. You do admit in this part of your statement, Paul, at
24 paragraph 35 that you have been in prison --

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. -- and you have met some pretty dreadful people in
2 prison.

3 A. I have been in prison with some of the most evil people
4 in this country and I would rather sit in their company
5 than sit in the company of a nun.

6 Q. You also give us some information in this statement
7 about sexual abuse at Smyllum. I want to ask you about
8 that now. Can you just tell me what happened to you in
9 that connection?

10 A. It was a priest. He was always touchy-feely, always
11 saying "Don't worry about it" -- he was somebody who
12 showed you friendship. It was a strange feeling because
13 you never had friends. If somebody was nice to you or
14 somebody was good to you, you accepted that.

15 I was -- I went to confessions and after confessions
16 the priest asked me to hang back --

17 Q. Was this the same priest or a different priest?

18 A. No, this is the priest that abused me.

19 Q. Okay, carry on.

20 A. He asked me to stay back to help him out with stuff at
21 the back of the chapel. We had to keep all the stuff,
22 the uniforms and all that that the priests wear, all
23 that stuff was in the room. He asked me to give him
24 a hand. So I went in and I had to put books up on the
25 shelf -- it was quite high, the shelf. I stood on --

1 I can't remember if it was a chair or steps, but I stood
2 on this rack to put the books in and he was holding my
3 legs. I thought he was holding my legs in case I fell.
4 He started -- sorry.

5 (Pause)

6 He started rubbing my leg and his hands were getting
7 higher all the time. He got -- he got his hands down my
8 leg and my groin, I tried to push his hand away. He
9 told me to get down off the steps. Pushed me against
10 the wall. He grabbed me by the throat. And he held me
11 against the wall by the throat and he started touching
12 me. He started touching my penis and rubbing me --
13 I had my trousers on. He was rubbing under my legs and
14 he started to touch me.

15 He told me if I didn't do what he told me he would
16 fucking kill me. So I let him do what he wanted to do.

17 Q. Was that the end of that incident then, you let him do
18 what he wanted to do?

19 A. Aye. I let him go on me until he was happy and then
20 I just walked away.

21 Q. What you tell us in your statement was that you then
22 went to confession after that.

23 A. I went to confession a couple of days after it.

24 Q. And what happened there?

25 A. I told the priest in confession --

- 1 Q. This was a different priest?
- 2 A. I told them -- I told a priest what had happened. He
3 asked me to stay back. After I had been to confession,
4 he asked me to stay behind. I thought something was
5 going to be done. I thought he was going to do
6 something about it. When he took us into the back room,
7 he locked the door, so I knew what was coming. He raped
8 me after I confessed, I told him.
- 9 Q. Can I leave that there then, Paul, and move on to
10 something else. You told us in your statement that you
11 were fostered out to foster parents while you were at
12 Smyllum.
- 13 A. Aye.
- 14 Q. That's when you think that happened, while you were
15 still at Smyllum, and you were sent out from Smyllum.
16 After that fostering then, where did you go? I will
17 come and look at the fostering in a moment, but where
18 did you go after that?
- 19 A. I think I went to Dunavon.
- 20 Q. Do I take it then you didn't go back to Smyllum?
- 21 A. No, I went -- I am sure I went to Dunavon.
- 22 Q. Was the fostering out then really with a view to you
23 moving on and away from Smyllum and possibly being
24 fostered for some time, but in any event going somewhere
25 else?

1 A. I thought I was out the fire. I thought, when I get
2 fostered, that's me, I have escaped, I have got away
3 from them. Which was a big mistake.

4 Fostering at that time, it was like a cattle market.
5 You would be told somebody was coming to see you and you
6 would go to the hall with a balcony, which ran around
7 the top, and you sat on the stairs and the foster
8 parents would come in and, "We will take him". What do
9 you say -- it was like a cattle market.

10 Q. But you were taken by prospective foster parents?

11 A. Aye.

12 Q. And you went to stay with them for a period of time?

13 A. Mm-hmm.

14 Q. I understand from what you tell us in your statement
15 that that was not a good experience.

16 A. The people that picked me, they come up and the first
17 week they took me down to Lanark, went shopping. The
18 second week they took me to their house and -- this was
19 a Sunday away from the home -- and they showed me
20 a bedroom. I thought this was my bedroom because I had
21 been sleeping in dormitories for years. I thought,
22 brilliant, this is my bedroom, I don't need to share
23 with anybody. But as soon as the papers were signed and
24 I became their property, that wasn't my room; that was
25 for their drunk pals.

1 Q. I think there was an incident involving the foster
2 father, one of the foster parents, that caused you some
3 distress; is that right?

4 A. Aye. He gave me that (indicates).

5 Q. You are pointing to the right side of your face?

6 A. The scar.

7 Q. What did he do?

8 A. You remember the wee sets you used to get for your
9 fireplace and we (inaudible) it, you did it with a poker
10 and a brush, and it was like, we are cleaning up, when
11 we're putting the fire. He stuck the poker in my face
12 because I wouldn't take his boots off.

13 When he fostered me I thought I had escaped.

14 I thought, this is brilliant.

15 The pubs at that time would open at 11 o'clock, they
16 shut at 3, and then open up at 6 and then shut at 10.
17 When they went out for a drink, I was put to my bed,
18 which was a cupboard under the stairs where they threw
19 old coats and that -- that was my bed, that was my
20 bedroom. They would lock me up, I would stay there
21 until they came home drunk, and they would always
22 brought people home with them drunk.

23 So when they brought them home drunk, they used to
24 get me out and he would go, get me a beer, go and get
25 this, go and get that. I was made a gofer.

1 So one night he wanted me to take his boots off, he
2 was drunk. Wanted me to take his boots off and I told
3 him I wasn't doing it. These people were supposed to be
4 looking after me, they were getting paid to look after
5 me; every penny they were getting they were drinking.
6 That's what I was, I was just an extra carry-out to
7 them.

8 I told him I wasn't taking his boots off. He
9 grabbed my hair and forced my face down towards his
10 boots. And because I wouldn't take his boots off,
11 that's when he stuck a poker in me.

12 Q. And that's what left the scar you have mentioned?

13 A. I have a scar there and I have another one on my side.

14 Q. I think you ran away at this point in time.

15 A. Aye, I ran away and -- I run away and I was sleeping on
16 Glasgow Green.

17 Q. I think you thought at this point in time you might have
18 been about 8 or 9 years of age; is that right?

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. How long did you spend at Glasgow Green?

21 A. A couple of days.

22 Q. But you were found by the police; is that correct?

23 A. Aye, the police found us in a bush.

24 Q. And were you still in your pyjamas?

25 A. Aye. My pyjamas were covered in blood.

1 Q. What did the police do?

2 A. Took me back to the foster parents.

3 Q. Did you tell the police what had happened?

4 A. Aye.

5 Q. And when you took --

6 A. He took me back and he said I had attacked him.

7 Q. I think you tell us in the statement that he said that

8 he had acted in self-defence.

9 A. Aye.

10 Q. Did the police believe that?

11 A. The police weren't interested.

12 Q. What happened to you then?

13 A. I went back into care.

14 Q. I think you ran away again, you escaped again; is that

15 correct?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. Where did you go on this occasion?

18 A. The second time I ran away I slept the night in

19 The People's Palace, and then I come out of there and

20 the polis were sitting -- they got me in a van and they

21 told me they were taking me back to this foster parents.

22 I told them, if you take me back, I will just run away

23 again. And he says they were taking me back. He asked

24 why I was running away, I told him, and then after that

25 I don't know what happened, but I ended up in Dunavon.

1 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, that might be a good point to have
2 a short break because we normally do at this point in
3 the afternoon.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you, Mr MacAulay. That makes sense.

5 Paul, we break in the afternoon so the stenographers
6 can have a breather because it is quite hard for them.

7 So I will rise and sit again in about 5 minutes or so.

8 (3.00 pm)

9 (A short break)

10 (3.09 pm)

11 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

12 MR MacAULAY: My Lady.

13 Paul, before we had the break I had taken you to the
14 point where you went to Dunavon.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You spent a number of years at Dunavon; is that correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I think that you probably left Dunavon in about 1975,
19 would that be about right, so you would be about 15 or
20 16?

21 A. I had just turned 16.

22 Q. You moved to a place called Calder House. The date
23 I have is [REDACTED] 1975; does that sound right?

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. You were there until about [REDACTED] 1976; is that

1 correct?

2 A. Mm.

3 Q. And then you were effectively out of care?

4 A. I just walked out.

5 Q. Before I look at other aspects of your life thereafter,
6 I just want to take you back to some final thoughts that
7 you provide in your statement about Smyllum.

8 If you turn to page 10 of your statement, you will
9 see at paragraph 49 -- it is just going to come up on
10 the screen now, just towards the bottom -- you provide
11 us with some final thoughts on Smyllum. Do you see
12 that? That's the heading.

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. What you say is that:

15 "I found out that nuns don't like to you swear but
16 they are happy to swear themselves. That's basically
17 where I learned to swear, from the nuns."

18 That's your position?

19 A. That's where I learned to swear, from the nuns.

20 I didn't know -- I didn't know what a swear word was.

21 The nuns -- that's -- the nuns talked to you like you
22 were a dog. You would probably treat a dog better.

23 Q. But the way you put it is that:

24 "They would call you names and say that they had
25 wiped better things off their shoes."

- 1 A. Aye.
- 2 Q. That's what you say.
- 3 A. I was the lowest of the low.
- 4 Q. Apparently, you tried to hang yourself when you were at
5 Smyllum.
- 6 A. Aye.
- 7 Q. On more than one occasion?
- 8 A. The first time I tried I was 7. There was an incident
9 and there was a (inaudible) incident and I had got to
10 the stage in my life where I didn't want to be here,
11 I wanted to kill myself, I wanted to die.
- 12 So the first time it was in the toilet, I put
13 a sheet up, put it round my neck, stepped off
14 a radiator. And it snapped. And I tried it again.
15 I got to the stage I stopped trying to hang myself
16 because I was no good at it.
- 17 Q. But you did suffer some injuries and you had to get
18 some --
- 19 A. Aye, I got stitches and that.
- 20 Q. Can I then just ask you a little bit about life after
21 care, if you don't mind. Are you happy to discuss that
22 with me?
- 23 A. Aye.
- 24 Q. If you turn to page 24 of the statement, there's
25 a section there beginning at paragraph 117 that talks

1 about life after care; do you see that?

2 A. Aye.

3 Q. Towards the bottom you do tell us that you had been in

4 prison.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I think you had been in prison on more than one

7 occasion.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You also I think tell us that when you came out of

10 prison you were addicted to heroin.

11 A. I was addicted to heroin before I went in. I had a drug

12 and alcohol problem when I was in care.

13 Q. If you turn to page 26 of the statement then, at

14 paragraph 127 you provide us there with some

15 information, Paul, about the impact that your life in

16 care has had on you. Is that right? You have got

17 a number of medical conditions. I don't want to go into

18 the detail of them, but you set them out for us in your

19 statement.

20 A. I have got ADHD, attention -- I don't know if that's --

21 Q. Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder.

22 A. Aye. Post-traumatic stress, suicidal tendencies.

23 Q. And you are on medication to keep you on an even keel,

24 if I can put it that way.

25 A. Aye.

- 1 Q. You are also recovering from your drug addiction
2 problem.
- 3 A. Aye.
- 4 Q. Can I look at that section of your statement where you
5 talk about -- this is on page 27 -- looking for help.
6 In particular, at paragraph 132, in looking for help you
7 have come across Speak Out Scotland.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And, in particular, you have a support worker, Paul.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Who is with you today, in fact?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And that has been beneficial to you?
- 14 A. If I hadn't have got involved with Speak Out Scotland
15 and [REDACTED] I would be dead. [REDACTED] and Speak Out Scotland
16 are the first people who have actually ever helped me in
17 any way. (inaudible) I owe my life to Speak Out
18 Scotland. I owe my life to that man there (indicates).
- 19 Q. I do know you want the opportunity to say something
20 about that and I'm more than happy to give you that
21 opportunity.
- 22 A. Yeah.
- 23 Q. What would you like to say about that?
- 24 A. Firstly, I don't know if I'm -- am I allowed to say
25 a name?

1 Q. Is it a name of someone who has helped you?

2 A. Aye. He is dead now.

3 LADY SMITH: Yes.

4 MR MacAULAY: Yes, you can tell us that.

5 A. The man's name is Frank Docherty. Now Frank Docherty --
6 Frank Docherty got me here today. Frank Docherty
7 done -- died getting this up and running. He told me
8 years ago, when I first met him, he says, "They'll not
9 have an Inquiry, they want us all dead before it happens
10 so they can sweep it under the carpet". He is now dead.

11 I should not be here. I should not be here. I have
12 committed suicide seven times, I have succeeded seven
13 times, and I have been brought back seven times.
14 I didn't want to be brought back. They brought me back.
15 I have been brought back for a reason. I don't know
16 what the reason was. I haven't got a clue. I think
17 maybe this is the reason I have been brought back.
18 I don't know. But my life to now is not great. My life
19 has never been great. It is not a life; it is
20 an existence.

21 I have tried to get help everywhere. I phoned the
22 Samaritans, they hung up on me. I was on the phone for
23 an hour, I thought I was talking to the Samaritans, and
24 I asked them a question there was nobody there. They
25 hung up on me! I phoned -- I don't know many places

1 I have approached for help, we will help you, we will do
2 this. I wrote to Jack McConnell, got nothing. I wrote
3 to the cardinal -- what's his name?

4 Q. Cardinal O'Brien or Cardinal Winning?

5 A. No Cardinal O'Brien. I wrote a letter to him, and
6 two weeks after I wrote a letter to him, he sent me a
7 letter apologising. Two weeks after he's getting done
8 for what he got done for, you know what I mean.

9 I went everywhere asking for help. I begged people
10 for help. I even tried to sign myself into a nuthouse
11 because I can't live outside, I struggle out there. I'm
12 better off in jail. In jail, I can survive, I can
13 live -- I would rather be in jail than out here because
14 there's nothing out here for me, apart from Speak Out
15 Scotland.

16 Q. That's the point you make that Speak Out Scotland have
17 helped you and managed to get you here today?

18 A. Aye. I wouldn't have done -- went through any of this,
19 done this statement or anything without [REDACTED]. He has
20 been there every step of the way with me and he has
21 done -- that man has done more for me than anybody has.
22 I'm not talking -- he is chasing up housing for me, he
23 is chasing up doctors, he is chasing up psychiatrists to
24 try and get me help. And there's no reason for him to
25 do that. All he has to do is see me once a week, talk

1 to me for half an hour, right, I'll see you in two
2 weeks, or, I'll see you in a week. That man is on the
3 phone -- on the phone to see how I am. He has done more
4 for me than -- he has done more for me than my da even
5 done for me. I can't praise that man enough.

6 Q. What you are telling us I think is that you are looking
7 for help and he is providing that help at the moment.

8 A. Aye.

9 MR MacAULAY: Well, thank you Paul for coming today to give
10 your evidence.

11 I myself don't have any more questions for you. No
12 one has sent in written questions for you and I don't
13 understand if there are any other questions for Paul.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 Paul, I just need to check whether anyone else has
16 any applications to ask questions of you.

17 Are there any outstanding applications for
18 questions? No, I think everybody is shaking their head.
19 There aren't.

20 MR MacAULAY: I think Paul may have covered the point,
21 because it had been mentioned to me that he wanted to
22 say something at the end of his evidence. He may or may
23 not have covered what he wanted to say.

24 LADY SMITH: Was there anything else you were expecting to
25 be able to say that you haven't done, Paul? If you

1 think you have said everything that's fine -- and
2 remember we have the statement that you signed, that's
3 also evidence that's before the Inquiry. That won't be
4 forgotten about.

5 A. No.

6 LADY SMITH: So that is it for today.

7 Paul, thank you very much for coming along today and
8 talking to us and dealing with the questions that
9 Mr MacAulay has put to you.

10 I am now able to let you go and I am sure Paul will
11 go with you. Thank you.

12 (The witness withdrew)

13 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, where are we going now?

14 MR MacAULAY: We have time, my Lady, to read in a statement
15 and I will invite my learned junior Ms MacLeod to do
16 that.

17 LADY SMITH: Can I check, is this one of the statements that
18 was scheduled for reading in yesterday?

19 MS MACLEOD: Yes, my Lady.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 Witness statement of FRANK (read)

22 MS MACLEOD: This next witness statement, my Lady, is from
23 a witness who wishes to be known by [REDACTED]
24 [REDACTED] Frank.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MS MACLEOD: This statement is to be found at
2 WIT.001.001.0428.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MS MACLEOD: "My name is Frank. I was born in 1934 and my
5 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

6

"

7

8

My father didn't beat my mother but we were
9 very poor and had no house.

10

We came from the slums of

11

Glasgow.

12

"When we lived with my mum and dad they were the

13

happiest days of my life. We also lived near

14

Glasgow Green and they were also happy days.

15

16

I had love when I was there. I also remember being

17

evacuated to Busby near East Kilbride. The house had

18

gas mantles. I remember sitting round the fire with mum

19

and dad. It was a great feeling.

20

"I remember things during the war. I used to go out

21

and watch the soldiers marching and I remember the

22

blackout blinds. I remember going for messages for my

23

mother and getting them wrong. It was a normal life.

24

"I went into Smyllum -- I think this was 1945.

25

I was in four care homes. The first home was called

1 Towerwood. I remember having my birthday in Towerwood.
2 I think I was there for about 9 months. The second home
3 was Maybole. This was during the war. I don't know how
4 long I was there for. The third children's home I went
5 to was Bellvue. This was run by the Sisters of Charity.
6 I ran away from that home with another boy and ended up
7 in the Smyllum because of it. I think I was in the
8 Bellvue for more than a year.

9 "I went into the Smyllum at the end of the war.
10 I was coming up for 12 years old then and stayed until I
11 was 15. I left in [REDACTED] 1949. When I got out of
12 Smyllum, I was sent to a working boys' home."

13 I now move to paragraph 15 of the statement,
14 WIT.001.001.0430:

15 "All my care records will be held with the Glasgow
16 Corporation. [REDACTED]
17 When I was living in London, Glasgow Corporation told me
18 that they had my records but they never sent them to
19 me."

20 I now move to paragraph 23 which is at
21 WIT.001.001.0431:

22 "Bellvue was about half the size of Smyllum. I ran
23 away from Bellvue. The nuns had made me and a boy
24 called scrub a big wooden floor. We decided to run away
25 and planned to jump on the back of a train. The home

1 was in Rutherglen, Glasgow. We slept at the bottom of
2 the football pitch that night and then went into town.
3 We broke into a hut at St Columbkille School and the
4 janitor must have seen the broken padlock. The police
5 came and took us back to Bellvue. There was no bullying
6 from the [start] there but there was punishment. The
7 punishment was harsh. You could be deprived of football
8 or sent to bed early but there was no violence. If I
9 hadn't run away from Bellvue, I would have stayed there
10 and not gone to Smyllum.

11 "At Bellvue two other boys ran away. The miss there
12 caned them six times on their bare backsides. This
13 would have happened in the miss's room and wasn't i
14 front of others. I was told about it.

15 "There was one cruel nun in Bellvue. She was called
16 Sister **AFG** She would hit your head or anywhere.
17 She would sometimes cane you and hit you mostly on your
18 legs as we all wore short trousers. Mealtimes there
19 were different. You were called out by table to collect
20 your food. You would line up. Girls and boys ate
21 together in one dining hall, but they had separate
22 quarters. I had a girlfriend. She used to put a half
23 bar of chocolate under my cup. We were in love.

24 "I remember there was a girl who was in the same
25 class as me. There was a Sister **AFH** there who

1 would smack you too. But Bellvue was a paradise in
2 comparison to Smyllum.

3 "I remember a boy who was at Bellvue. I knew his
4 whole family. He stayed at the same digs that I stayed
5 in. He stayed there with his big brother. I remember
6 the air raids at Bellvue and going to the air raid
7 shelters.

8 "I remember I once ran after my dad when he was
9 visiting and said I wanted to go with him. The Sister
10 Superior, Sister [REDACTED] FAC, gave me a telling off but
11 she didn't hit me. I think I ran away from Bellvue just
12 to be adventurous.

13 "When I was at Smyllum it was called
14 Smyllum Orphanage. Its name was later changed to
15 Smyllum Park School. The building is still there.
16 I went there once afterwards, and it brought back a lot
17 of memories.

18 "I have been shown a photograph of
19 Smyllum Orphanage. I recognise the front of the house
20 and there were parks to the top left. There were
21 farmers who lived on the grounds. We went to the chapel
22 in Smyllum which was quite big. This photograph is
23 familiar but it looks like it has been taken at a
24 different time from when I was there."

25 "There were about fifty boys in my dorm. There were

1 about fifty in St Joseph's dormitory. In St Vincent's
2 there were about thirty boys. In Sacred Heart
3 dormitory, the children were about 7 or 8 years old.
4 There were maybe thirty of them.

5 "There were more boys than girls there. I think
6 there were at least three or four hundred children at
7 Smyllum. The nursery also had the babies.

8 "Some of the nuns at Smyllum would hit you. One had
9 a cane. She would hit you on the face or anywhere on
10 your body, especially your legs.

11 "I was lucky because I was older. I was 11 years
12 old and stayed there until I was 15. But I saw awful
13 things. We were not called by our first names; we were
14 just called by our numbers. My number was [REDACTED] "

15 "The staff would sometimes call me by my surname.
16 Only my friends used my first name. We called staff
17 'Sister' and you put your hand up to speak. You would
18 hold your arm out and it looked a bit like a Nazi
19 salute.

20 "The nuns were quite severe. They also hit you in
21 the face. There was a man [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED]. He had been
22 in Smyllum as a boy and had stayed on there. He lived
23 there in his own quarters. He was paid to be in charge
24 of the boys. He was cruel. [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] was in his thirties
25 at the time. I saw awful things.

1 " BAC would blow a whistle for dinner.
2 I ate in the refectory with over a hundred other boys.
3 We would stand, say grace, and then sit down. You could
4 sometimes talk during meals, but when you were told to
5 stop, you must stop. If you spoke, you were told to get
6 out. The bigger lads in BAC club would
7 make you go over to a corner of the refectory. Once you
8 were in the corner you had to stand with your head to
9 one side. BAC would hit you on both sides of the
10 face with the flat of his hand. He would hit you maybe
11 two to six times. BAC was a big man. This happened
12 every single day. Sister BAH was also present at
13 mealtimes.

14 "I was in BAC 's club. I got into the club
15 because I was older. The older boys could hit the other
16 boys. I perhaps did it too.

17 "I was an altar boy. When I came home from school
18 I would go to the refectory with Sister BAH and darn
19 the children's socks. I also learned Latin as Mass was
20 said in Latin then.

21 "We would help layout the breakfast in the morning.
22 There would be one or two slices of bread and a very
23 small disc of butter. It was a size of a small coin,
24 maybe a bit thicker. BAC would ladle out
25 the porridge and we'd get a wee drop of milk. If you

1 were lucky, you would get the thick end of the bread,
2 called the 'cudger'. The boys would ask me for one and
3 I would just give it to them.

4 "At meal times, if a child didn't want to eat, they
5 were made to eat their food. But that very seldom
6 cropped up because everyone was always hungry. If they
7 didn't want to eat, they would maybe slip their food to
8 someone else.

9 "We went to St Mary's Roman Catholic school which
10 was near St Mary's Cemetery and Church. It was close
11 by. Lots of the Smyllum boys and girls went there. It
12 was a school for older children. The staff at St Mary's
13 knew what was going on at Smyllum.

14 "The local children also went there and we had
15 friends at the school. We looked different because the
16 Smyllum boys were all dressed in corduroy green jackets
17 and short trousers. The local children sometimes gave
18 us a comic like the Beano, Wizard or the Dandy. We
19 would have to hide them from [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] BAC
20 wouldn't allow that. We'd go and read them in the
21 lavatory. I remember one day I sneaked out of Smyllum
22 and ran into Lanark to buy the Wizard which was a
23 periodical. I wasn't missed.

24 "There was not much play time. When you came in from
25 school, we went out to the yard to play football until

1 teatime. I did play football for Smyllum.

2 "On a Tuesday and a Friday, [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] took the
3 boys in his club to the gym where we would play
4 badminton, ball games and do boxing.

5 "One time the boys in the club were to go into the
6 gym hall. Approximately twenty of us sat on the floor.
7 There were 4 inches of snow outside but it wasn't
8 snowing. I passed wind. [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] put me outside
9 for 2 and a half hours and I was wearing short trousers.
10 The door was shut and I had to stand there.

11 "Once a year we were taken to Portobello or to
12 Port Seton for the day. We came back on the bus at
13 night. We could paddle in the sea. We would hide eels
14 and other things in our pockets. [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED]
15 wouldn't allow us to take them back but we did it
16 anyway. It was one day out in the whole year.

17 "I remember before I left Smyllum we went to
18 Aberfoyle for a week. It was like staying in an army
19 camp and we enjoyed it. This was the last year I was
20 there. It was excellent.

21 "I remember every Sunday we were made to go for
22 a two-hour walk which we looked forward to. We went
23 with Sister [REDACTED] BAH [REDACTED] or another nun. It was not Sister
24 Patricia because she would stay in the kitchen. It
25 would maybe be Sister Vincent who was a good sister. We

1 walked in rows of fours like a march."

2 "If you were in [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] s club, you had to
3 comb the boys' hair in the morning and made sure they
4 were tidy for school. This took place in the drill
5 hall. The boys stood in 4 rows. [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] would tell you
6 if you got into his club. It was known as [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] s
7 club'. It was a privilege to be in it. If you were in
8 it, the rest of the kids would be a bit frightened of
9 you. You could hit others across the ear. You could
10 take someone out at mealtimes and put him in the corner
11 and [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] and Sister [REDACTED] BAH [REDACTED] would hit them.
12 I think that some of the children preferred

13 [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] to hit them rather than Sister [REDACTED] BAH [REDACTED]

14 "Once I got into the club, I was not hit so much.
15 I was about 13 or 14 years old when I joined.

16 [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] picked me.

17 "There were some good points about [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] .
18 He would sometimes pick you for football. We played at
19 the big park on a Sunday.

20 "We got that bit extra, for example sports. If you
21 were not in the club you had breakfast, your dinner, tea
22 and then went to bed. The only football would be in the
23 yard with a tennis ball. You could also play hide and
24 seek. Young and old boys mixed in the yard. We would
25 use the nursery wall and the dining room wall as goals.

1 I would try and see through the nursery window.

2 " BAC didn't kick you, but he would hit
3 you below the waist. He was a big strong man.

4 BAC was sixteen years older than me. [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED]

7 "I was shown a bit of favouritism by

8 BAC He put on a play and I was the second
9 shepherd. We performed the play in Lanark. We got some
10 chocolates and coffee once or twice for taking part.

11 "On reflection, I think all the staff knew about and
12 the way he treated us. BAC would sometimes
13 bring up his [REDACTED] friends. One friend came and
14 stayed with BAC. There was only one bed in
15 his quarters. Thinking back on it now, I wonder where
16 he slept. This man was a good singer. He was only
17 visiting. He didn't do anything to us.

18 "I remember BAC used to make us sing
19 wartime sings. I don't know why. It was just for
20 something to do.

21 "Sister Patricia was the nun who worked in the
22 kitchen. She was very good. We would hope that she was
23 working. She was a perfect lady. She wore long rosary
24 beads, a long habit and a wide, white hat.

25 "Sister Patricia was loved and was perfect. She

1 worked in the kitchen. She was pleasant and kind. We
2 would go in and there would be 8 places at each table.
3 We were to put a slice of bread on each plate at dinner
4 time and put out a spoon. Sister Patricia would make
5 sure that everyone got a thick 'cudger'. This was a
6 thick slice of bread. She would make sure that the
7 slices were not too thin.

8 "Sister Patricia wouldn't have seen what was
9 happening in the refectory, as she was in the kitchen
10 and made the meals. But she would have known what was
11 happening. There was a civilian called who worked with
12 Sister Patricia. She only worked in the kitchen and
13 didn't deal with the boys at all.

14 "Sister Anthony was also good. She was in charge of
15 the clothes, but she was not always on duty.

16 "I will never get Sister **BAH** out of my mind. She
17 was there the whole time I was at Smyllum. She hit you
18 on the head and legs. We wore short trousers then. You
19 could be hit for talking in the queue. If someone did
20 that today they'd be charged with cruelty.

21 "I think there has to be ex-Smyllum boys who are
22 deaf or nearly deaf because of Sister **BAH** hitting
23 them on the head. She would also do it to the younger
24 ones who were 9 or maybe younger. She would use her
25 open hand and you would put your head to the side and be

1 hit. You would be hit 6 times if you were bad or maybe
2 twice or 4 times. You felt it all day. People got hit
3 so hard that they sometimes they fell down. I saw that
4 happen.

5 "Sister BAH had a room at the bottom of the
6 dormitory near the sinks. When the lights were out she
7 would sit on the bed nearest her room. I swear she was
8 kissing a guy there. He was from [REDACTED] He was one of
9 the older boys in Smyllum and he was ready to get out.
10 There might be other things which took place between
11 them or others.

12 "There was a civilian woman. We called her the
13 'miss'. She covered for Sister BAH when she was on
14 retreat. She was an employee. She was all right. I
15 have nothing to say against her.

16 "Before I left Smyllum, Sister BAH was good to
17 me. She talked to me. She slapped me when I was
18 younger, but it was usually BAC who hit me.
19 Once I got into Club, that didn't happen either.

20 "Sister BAH would go on retreat. Another Sister
21 would come for one day or so to cover. Sometimes they
22 would do the same but they weren't there for long.

23 "I think Sister BAH was in her 30s was in her
24 thirties. She was just a little bit older than

25 BAC I will never get Sister BAH out of

1 my mind.

2 "The Sister Superior was in charge of the home, but
3 she was in the offices. Sister [BAH] was in charge of
4 the boys. You wouldn't dare to tell on Sister [BAH].

5 "I only saw the Sister Superior once. They were
6 sending children to Australia and she asked if anyone
7 would like to go. My father didn't let us go. I wanted
8 to, but he didn't let me.

9 "My [REDACTED] told me things about when she was in the
10 girl's part of Smyllum. The girls would get their
11 periods and they wouldn't know what it meant. They were
12 never told about periods. [REDACTED] said she was made to
13 display her bed sheet in front of others if she had
14 stained it. They were made to do this so that they
15 wouldn't do it again and would use the necessary things.
16 She would have to wash the sheet herself. I think the
17 girls got it worse.

18 [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]. I
21 became an alcoholic but I have been years sober. I got
22 help from Alcoholics Anonymous. I stayed at I got sober.
23 I did have a slip once when a girl I was living with
24 left me but I got help again and I have been sober
25 since.

1 "You would get hit if you were to dare to try and go
2 and see the girls. We were well separated. [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED]
6 "I saw sexual things at Smyllum. It was done by
7 older boys. They would try stupid things on younger
8 boys. There was no rape. They would try and masturbate
9 others and there was a bit of oral sex. All of it was
10 forced on the gullible. They couldn't do it to me
11 because I was older. I could look after myself. The
12 younger boys were frightened.

13 " [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] did not know that this was going
14 on. He was against anything like that. Once told
15 everyone in the drill hall about an older boy who had
16 been there before us and what he had done. [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] had
17 made an example of him so he would never do it again. He
18 more or less threatened us not to do sexual things like
19 that. He was against all of that.

20 "I never saw a doctor when I was at Smyllum. I
21 never needed any medical treatment after being hit at
22 Smyllum. I broke my arm but that was my own fault and I
23 went to the hospital and got a stookie on it. You would
24 go and see Sister Anthony and she would deal with any
25 injuries or if it was bad you went into the sanatorium

1 at Smyllum.

2 "Several boys died in Smyllum. I remember talking
3 to a boy the day before he died. He died the next
4 morning. We later heard that he died of TB. He was in
5 the dormitory. I have wondered why he was not in
6 hospital. That sister wouldn't have known if he had TB.

7 "I also remember another boy, he was aged 12. He
8 was a good guy. I remember he was at the sanatorium in
9 Smyllum. He died but I don't know how. If a child died
10 he was just taken away. We were never told anything.

11 "I was in the big dormitory near [REDACTED] BAC
12 room. Because of my age I was moved from there and put
13 in charge of the younger boys. I had a bed near the
14 door.

15 "People who wet the beds were cruelly whacked. [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED] I saw others getting slapped.

17 I didn't like it.

18 [REDACTED] BAC would talk to us all in the new
19 dormitory which was called Sacred Heart. He would tell
20 us all about the bed wetters and that we were to shame
21 them. If a bed was really wet the boy had to hold up his
22 sheet in front of the rest of the boys.

23 "There was a guy from Dundee who wet the bed. These
24 boys were all lined up and were called "the wet the
25 beds". In the morning [REDACTED] BAC would ask the boys

1 to put their hands up if they had wet the bed. They
2 would also have to sleep in the dirty sheets that night.
3 I don't know what happened to the sheets after that.

4 "The bed-wetters were in St Joseph's dormitory. In
5 the morning they were checked and they suffered for it.

6 [REDACTED] BAC and Sister [REDACTED] BAH shamed the kids who
7 wet the bed.

8 "At night there was a night light on all the time.
9 Sister [REDACTED] BAH's room was at the bottom of the dormitory.
10 Facing her was where a civilian woman slept. She was
11 called the "Miss" and she didn't hit us.

12 "No one checked on us at night. If you needed a
13 toilet at night you could go yourself. You were left
14 alone. You would never knock on the door to get the nun.
15 They could not be seen without their habits.

16 "When we had to bath there was a stone trough and
17 there was about five places in it with a curtain. There
18 were about 4 or 5 inches of water in the trough. The
19 trough was 1,1/2 feet wide. The whole trough was about 5
20 feet long. We used the same water. Two boys went into
21 the trough at a time. The water was mild not hot. We had
22 to put on a very small costume to cover ourselves up. We
23 would wash each other's back and be inspected by Sister
24 [REDACTED] BAH. Sometimes you stood on the boards next to the
25 trough to show Sister [REDACTED] BAH you were washing yourself

1 with soap. Then you would rinse yourself off. If you had
2 not washed properly you were made to go back in, but you
3 were not hit. [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] would usually have
4 finished by this time unless he was working overtime.

5 "Across from the trough was a proper bath. I had the
6 privilege of using the bath when I had left school. I
7 was doing manual work there before I left the home. I
8 don't know why the proper baths were not used. No-one
9 else used them.

10 "We washed like that every evening. We went
11 dormitory by dormitory. It took a long time. We all used
12 the same water so if you were getting washed at the end
13 you had to use dirty water.

14 "If it was your birthday you would be the only
15 person who knew about it. Maybe you told your pal.
16 Maybe your father and mother would send you a card but
17 that was it. Staff didn't know about the birthdays. They
18 didn't care because there were so many of us.

19 "Christmas was a bit special. We got goodies like a
20 couple of buns or custard and a bit of dumpling. Sister
21 Patricia and the staff made these.

22 "You only got Christmas presents if your parents
23 sent them in. If you were an orphan you would get
24 nothing from the staff. It was just another day but I
25 don't think there was any slapping that day.

1 "When your parents came to visit they would maybe
2 give you two bob and you had to hand it in. It was a
3 lot of money those days. Once a month Sister BAH and
4 BAC would bring sweets in. They would take a
5 price off of them. They were paid for out of our money.
6 No one ever knew how much money they had left. But there
7 were many people there who had no parents so didn't get
8 money at all.

9 "Mum only came to Smyllum once or twice. Dad and Mum
10 were still together. When we were in Smyllum, they
11 moved around as they didn't have a house.

12 [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED]

18 "Visiting Sunday was once a month. The room could
19 get packed as we were all in one place. Dad managed to
20 see us most times.

21 "I didn't tell dad what was happening in Smyllum. It
22 was so nice to see him and we were interested in what he
23 was giving us, for example a bar of toffee. That's what
24 was on our minds. I didn't say anything and in my case
25 beatings were rare. Others got beaten daily. I was

1 older. I was more focused on what he brought us like
2 money or sweets.

3 "I never heard of children telling their parents
4 about Smyllum. When I was at Smyllum I didn't tell
5 anybody how I was being treated. I never went to the
6 police. I couldn't tell [REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] because he was
7 the one who was doing it.

8 "I never saw any official visitors from the
9 Corporation or anywhere else. I remember that there were
10 some inspectors who came. The kids there were from all
11 over Scotland, even the Islands. So inspectors would
12 come from Glasgow and all the Glasgow children would
13 stand in front of them. They would be asked if
14 everything was ok and we would say yes. The same thing
15 would happen with Ayrshire. The Ayrshire kids were
16 brought in and would say everything was ok. This
17 happened only occasionally. There were no individual
18 conversations with the boys. The staff including Sister
19 [REDACTED] BAH [REDACTED] were there and could hear what was being said.

20 "My mother got TB and died when I was in Smyllum.

21 [REDACTED] I went to the funeral but [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED]. I found out afterwards that
23 my mother had been in the local hospital. I could have
24 walked to the hospital from Smyllum. She died there. I
25 wasn't allowed by Smyllum to go to the hospital and see

1 her. I didn't know she was in hospital.

2 "When my mother died she was buried in Bridgeton. [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED].

5 "I did consider running away from Smyllum but I was
6 scared. I had nowhere to go and no one to come with me.
7 I was scared of being on my own.

8 "On reflection I realise that I didn't know what
9 love was. I didn't know my parents' love. I would
10 qualify that and say it was the same for everyone in
11 Smyllum. It was the want of love. There was no affection
12 in Smyllum.

13 "I was deprived of the love of my parents and
14 a normal life. I had to live under these regimes. Maybe
15 this caused me to become a tough guy. I know from being
16 sober all these years that I'm not capable of doing what
17 I did in the past. It is not my way of thinking.

18 "[REDACTED] BAC [REDACTED] comes to my mind a lot. He was a
19 bully. It was not just me who was bullied. There were
20 hundreds of boys there before me. I got the same as
21 them.

22 "I wonder if being in four different homes and not
23 being brought up in a house with my parents led me to be
24 the way I was. Maybe this also broke my marriage up and
25 turned me into an alcoholic. I saw my father drinking

1 but he wasn't an alcoholic. I was though.

2 "When I watch television and see pictures of
3 children smiling at their parents, I can get emotional.
4 It is the way the kids are looking at their dad. I think
5 I had my chance of that and I didn't take it.

6 "I can get past the other homes I was in, but not
7 Smyllum. If they treated children that way today they
8 would be charged by the police.

9 "When I was younger I was ready to fight anyone.
10 Any copper. Now I only have respect for the police. I
11 don't know why I had no respect for them at the time. I
12 wonder whether it was all the homes. It was the way I
13 had to live under their regimes. For example, we
14 couldn't go to Mass with clothes unbuttoned and our
15 shoes had to be polished in Smyllum. Otherwise you would
16 get a slap.

17 "I was an altar boy. After school I went to the
18 refectory where the cutlery was kept. Sister **BAH**
19 would be there and **BAC** would be outside. We
20 darned socks and learned Latin at the same time so we
21 knew how to answer the priest at Mass. This has never
22 left me. I consider that a good thing because once I got
23 sober I became spiritual because of that. That's
24 something good that came out of Smyllum. But the
25 treatment was bad. It would be closed down today. You'll

1 hear similar stories from others who were there."

2 I now move to paragraph 112 which is at page
3 WIT.001.001.0446.

4 "I am a member of INCAS. I speak to Frank Docherty
5 over the phone. I sent a wee donation of £20.00 once to
6 INCAS. My contact is through Frank. He gives me
7 information on what is going on. I admire Frank for what
8 he does for INCAS. He sends me pictures of the members.
9 I have known him for about 10 years.

10 "I have never received support for what happened in
11 my childhood. I haven't been given counselling.

12 "I would talk about other things rather than say
13 I had been this a children's home. Being in
14 a children's home was something to be ashamed of and
15 I had been in four of them.

16 "You are the first to talk to me about what happened
17 in Smyllum. I have also spoken to Frank Docherty.
18 I don't tell people that I've been in a home. Now
19 I feel that this is off my chest.

20 "I could have had a loving family if I had had an
21 ordinary life or upbringing. I could have had my wee
22 girl hold me and I could have walked with my kids. I
23 think it was being in these homes and learning their
24 regimes that was the cause.

25 "In Smyllum and Bellvue I was an altar boy and can

1 quote Latin. It was a good thing. I found that the
2 religious upbringing stayed with me despite the life I
3 led. Since I stopped drinking I turned to spirituality.
4 We didn't get religious instruction but I was in and out
5 of the church all the time. I was also in Catholic
6 schools and I said prayers. Religion has stayed with me
7 and made me a good Celtic supporter!

8 "I am spiritual and my parish priest visits me.
9 There is also a lady who comes to do a service with me.
10 If they can't visit I do a little service myself. The
11 contact with my priest gives me help. It is so true and
12 right and it helps me think.

13 "Frank Docherty took me to Smyllum to see somebody's
14 grave. We took a trip around Smyllum as it was closed
15 by then. I saw the front of the building. That was where
16 we stood waiting for the visits. I have seen a picture
17 of the memorial put up in the cemetery in Smyllum. Frank
18 works hard for INCAS.

19 "A number of years ago my story about Smyllum was
20 published in a [REDACTED] The editor interviewed me. He
21 sent me about six copies of the [REDACTED]

22 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
23 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
24 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
25 true."

1 And this witness statement was signed by Frank on
2 28th June 2016.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you. So does that close the evidence
4 that we are going to hear today, Ms MacLeod?

5 MS MACLEOD: It does, my Lady, and tomorrow we will hear
6 from another three applicants.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Possibly space to read in again or
8 not?

9 MS MACLEOD: Possibly, my Lady.

10 LADY SMITH: We will play it by ear, very well. That's the
11 end of the evidence for today. We are going to rise now
12 and I will sit again at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

13 (4.00 pm)

14 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on Friday,
15 1 December 2017)

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